A climber traverses tree-to-tree. Traverse lines are a tool that is used to save large groves of trees.

Humboldt Earth First!

Canopy Communique

#1

One tree can harbor a whole world of wildlife. If you look from a distance across the McKay Tract in southern Indiana, you'll see nothing but flat plains. Closer inspection, however, reveals a wide diversity of species. If we could see the McKay Tract at the scale of a bird, for instance, we'd notice the different layers of trees and foliage. The canopy at the upper level might seem like a solid mass of green, but upon closer inspection, we'd see that it is actually a patchwork quilt of different species, each with its own unique characteristics. The canopy is like a living, breathing organism that is constantly changing and adapting to its environment. It is a place where life flourishes, where new species are born and old ones die. It is a place where we can find sanctuary from the harsh realities of the world. It is a place where we can escape from the stresses of daily life and find peace and tranquility. It is a place where we can learn from the wisdom of nature and gain a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Free Hugh and Tiga

BY CHAD BRANDLER

Those who've followed resistance to Interstate-69 (I-69) in southern Indiana over the last 20 years are familiar with the Indiana State Police (ISP)'s outrageous antics and zealous repression of protesters. On April 24, in an over-the-top move by the ISP, two activists were arrested in what is obviously the culmination of years of surveillance, harassment, and repression (see EPI/September-October). Tiga and Hugh, two longtime Indiana residents, are each being charged with two counts of intimidation (misdemeanors), two counts of conversion (i.e. theft, misdemeanors), and one count of corrupt business influence (i.e. racketeering, a class C felony). If convicted, they would each face 12 years in prison.

Tiga was arrested on the morning of April 24, following a court date in Evansville, Indiana, for a prior anti-I-69 action this last Summer. A few hours later, the car Hugh was traveling in pulled off at an ice-cream stand just north of Indianapolis. Minutes later, he was arrested by a plainclothes US Marshall, tazer drawn, in front of families and children enjoying their ice cream. Both were interrogated by Feds and/or the ISP, including the n'er-do-well Brad Chandler, a recurring character in our saga who's employed full-time to harass activists.

While felonies and jail time aren't anything to snicker at, it's hard not to snicker when one looks into the nature of the charges. The main felony of racketeering stems from an antiquated mob-era charge, part of Indiana's version of the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Business Act. This law was enacted to suppress "organized crime," and the current charges claim that Tiga and Hugh are known to be "leaders of the criminal enterprise Roadblock Earth First!, and that they "have conspired to commit an office eviction, tree cutting, lock down, threatening blog postings and meeting disruptions." The misdemeanor charges are in reference to a staged "eviction" of two I-69 planning offices in July 2007. To recap, furniture and records from the planning offices were seen in reference to a staged "eviction" of two I-69 planning offices in July 2007. To recap, furniture and records from the planning offices were pulled off at an ice-cream stand just north of Indianapolis. Minutes later, he was arrested by a plainclothes US Marshall, tazer drawn, in front of families and children enjoying their ice cream. Both were interrogated by Feds and/or the ISP, including the n'er-do-well Brad Chandler, a recurring character in our saga who's employed full-time to harass activists.

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tree sitting is not yet a matter of course, but it is a matter of necessity. Tree-sitting has been used to defend forests in Humboldt for decades, and traverses enable a few humans to defend a large number of trees without leaving the canopy. We chose this grove because the trees stand directly against the march of Levithatan in the form of suburban development, and the neighbors (in house down below) stand with us, and give us love and support. We chose this grove, also slated to be clearcut, features an osprey nest, at least one spotted owl nest, flocks of turkey.
The Road to Short-Terming

I feel like I have landed in a wonderful, meaningful place. When I joined up with the Earth First! journal, I had already befriended the collective, attended my first EFi gathering, other EFi events in Tucson, and was familiar with a few of the EFi procedures. After spending about eight months in Tucson, I have found that the journal has become a part of my everyday life. Last issue, I took up the role as a "super volunteer," and short-terming was a natural progression.

Spending time in the office while the collective was searching for another person to short-term with me, I was looking forward to a cool two months of working at the journal with the coming short-term—a person who expressed much enthusiasm to come out to "Abbay Country." Things in the Sonoran Desert are never that cool, though. The other short-termer totally bailed on us without warning. Still, even with the other short-term editor gone, our collective bonds grow stronger.

Working with the EFi has affirmed my sense of community through our hard times. People we know are being arrested, and we are all persecuted. None of us can presume to have any privacy. We are regularly slated by a patriarchal culture that has pervaded the mass media, and labels our feelings immature or irrational, while its cruelty dominates our whole social environment. Still, we are free together. We fight with our comrades; we fight with our homemade Kenduguchi; we fight with the strength that a million dollars worth of food stamps could never buy (trust us, we know).

Most of all, in tough times, we have to stay focused. I feel like this issue has an especially balanced selection of content in the context of a very tumultuous time. The prisoner support section is exceptionally important, as we feel the pressing urgency of community calling to us from the other side of legal institutions now more than ever. At the same time, the cultural richness of this issue represents the strength of the EFi community on the outside. We included a song, an explanation of the significance of Lughnasadh, and the long-awaited return of Ned Luof in the middle. I hope you will find a pleasing array of sound EFi reports.

When we howl, "Earth First!," we take up the strength of conviction that this world, on which we live can never be dominated. If we try to dominate the world, we only subvert our nature, and extinguish the great fire of freedom that burns in the heart and arteries of this Earth. Whether or not it's too late is not the point. Struggle is a way of life. Let our accomplishments, our pride and our shame all be forgotten. Whether behind bars or hitch-hiking on an 18-wheeler in California, from those of us who know what it is to live in service of the wild (no matter what the cost), to those of us who are still considering picking up the proverbial monkeywrench, I hope we'll all agree by the end of this issue that this movement is unstoppable. It will not be stopped. Our best years are yet to come.

- SFEm@

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Lughnasadh July-August 2009

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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, poems, art that put the Earth first, aid in healthy debate shaping the growth of the movement, and that aid in the creation of a world free of speciesism, classism, racism, sexism, violence, religious oppression.

Submission deadlines are the tenth of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly handwritten. Submissions may be submitted to any of us or 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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By WILLIE

In the past several months, three efforts that Earth First! (EF) has contributed action and energy to in Virginia have gained significant victories. Despite the encouraging infection of our involvement, there has been relatively small compared to the efforts of other groups, and all credit is due to them for doing the un-sexy, demanding, and drudgery of these industries through the courts and regulatory processes where these victories were ultimately won. While we envision and celebrate the end result of these destructive projects are stopped by sheer force of grassroots direct action, we do indeed believe in using every tool in the toolbox. Here’s a brief overview of the two main tools being put to work over the past two years:

The first action taken by the current incarnation of Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREE) was a demonstration at the home of a developer driving efforts to build a Wal-Mart in Blacksburg, Virginia. There was never a long-term direct action strategy hashed out to defeat this project. While an emerging community group developed support and momentum towards legislating and later litigation, their effort to move into law, our action served chiefly as a reminder that civil discourse with those who would desecrate our environment. A similar demonstration was the coming-out party for a new EF chapter ready to give some teeth to the environmental movement in the hills of Virginia.

As BREE shifted our focus to other projects, efforts to stop the Wal-Mart through any well-managed, government-sanctioned and truly boring means necessarily persisted and ultimately reigned triumphant by way of appealing a local zoning ordinance all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia. While the parade of Earth Firsters making merry in developer Jeannie Stosser’s front yard played a small part in the whole turn of events, the BREE demonstration was a story for our more well-behaved allies and a pleasant reminder that, when pressure builds, it can indeed break.

On the mountaintop removal (MTR) front, a bit of victory was won on May 7, when the Army Corps of Engineers, responding to a prompt by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), rescinded a permit for A&G Coal’s Iron Rock mine. Over the past several years, the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, a local community group, have targeted the regulatory processes and spoken loudly against this mine. In 2004, A&G’s failure to conform to the laws for exactly how a mountain is supposed to be removed resulted in a boulder rolling off of a MTR mine and killing a three-year-old boy asleep in his bed, prompting Katina Earth First! to chain, lock and glue the gates to A&G’s mining site closed. A&G’s permit was revoked and the corporation’s derivative was the target of sabotage at one of its Wise County mountain-top removal sites by an group calling itself the “Committee to Defend the Land and People.”

The Iron Rock mine would have totaled 1,300 acres in scope and would have buried three miles of streams. This is the first time that a MTR permit has ever been rescinded due to intervention by a federal regulatory body—evidence that the mounting and increasingly duplicitous opposition to MTR of the past several years is having an effect on policy decisions. The EPA and Army Corps reasoned that A&G’s current plan would violate the Clean Water Act if it dumped mining waste into streams, a practice that always accompanies MTR operations known as “valley fills.” This win comes with the fact that, shortly after Obama’s EPA rescinded this and five other permits, the coal industry applied pressure for the administration to give word on 42 other pending MTR permits, which resulted in the EPA declaring that they’re all fine to proceed. Why are we putting valley fills in violation of the clean water act and 42 aren’t? Politics. They’re throwing us a bone here. We’ll take that bone, and then we’ll eat them senseless with it. All MTR permits are revoked, we won’t stop!

In another case of the Clean Water Act finally being enforced, Dominion Power’s plans to add a third reactor to its Lake Anna nuclear power plant was thwarted by a lawsuit brought forth by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and the Southern Environmental Law Center. This suit was an effort supporting environmental justice struggles throughout the southeast, proved in court that operations at the plant are camouflaged under permits issued by regulatory bodies and that the permits are not on the scale of the Derbyshire site, but we felt that it was worth a try.

Over the course of the week in September 2005 a single, low tree house was constructed in a Poplar tree overlooking King Saebert’s burial on a narrow, 200-yard-long patch of land located between the existing road and the now buried lake line. Two people’s tunnels and still 15 feet in the air didn’t seem likely to lead to much, but something remarkable happened, as well as the specific points of impact resulting from our actions that we contribute to the environmental movement in the mountains of Appalachia.

By SQUIRES ON BEHALF OF CAMP BLING

This is the story of the Camp Bling road protest which took place between Sept. 26 and Oct. 7, 2005, and the history of the People’s Project, in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Despite being some ten years after the British anti-road movement’s heyday, it is not totally unfashionable part of the world, something resulted that we believe was much bigger than the original issue it stood for - a small but vibrant community centered around locuming to their way of art and more importantly, a conservation movement was born in the middle of the London commuter heartland.

The road scheme, plans to widen the A127/A159 Priory Crescent/ Cockoo Corner to dual carriageway status were never welcomed by local people, with over 12,000 signing a petition against it in the early 1970s. Under threat was the famous and historical Priory Park, donated by local benefactor Robert Arthur Jones. The 30-acre site of the park was to be completely demolished and was bounded by an area rich in local archaeology discovered over previous years. In the spring of 2001, the public became aware of the latest proposals by Southend Borough Council to widen the 870-yard stretch of single carriageway between Cockoo Corner and the A127/A159 Priory Crescent railway line. On the table was a plan to build a new traffic junction scything off the northern section of the park and land to the east, plus a new railway bridge to connect to the east of town. The campaign soon sprung into life with Parklife and the Priory Park Preservation Society forming to convey public dissent and to put pressure on the local authority to cancel the plans.

You would probably be familiar with much of what then followed: More than 14,500 signatures collected against the scheme by the date of the local public inquiry in early 2005. The road was rubber stamped at each stage of the decision making process, and the wishes of the great majorities public opinion. People marched, tied yellow ribbons, joined hands around the park, wore masks, scared trees, and temporally occupied the site.

This was all to no avail. The inquiry inspector voted in favor of the scheme, and all seemed lost - until two activists from Parklife attended the Earth First! Summer gathering in Derbyshire later that year. The Parklife strategy had always been to try everything to influence the decision making process. A visit to the Bronze Age stone circle, the Nine Ladies, quarry protest site provided inspiration for a final walk off at the site, where the East Saxons King’s burial had been discovered late in autumn 2004 during investigations on the route of the proposed road widening. Could people of similar persuasion come south? Maybe not on the scale of the Derbyshire site, but we felt that it was worth a try.

Over the course of a week, in September 2005 a single, low tree house was constructed to add a third reactor to its Lake Anna nuclear power plant was thwarted by a lawsuit brought forth by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and the Southern Environmental Law Center. This suit was an effort supporting environmental justice struggles throughout the southeast, proved in court that operations at the plant are camouflaged under permits issued by regulatory bodies and that the permits are not on the scale of the Derbyshire site, but we felt that it was worth a try.
Dear Shit fer Brains,

After not receiving the *Journal* for some time, I was excited to find the Beltane issue in my pile of mail and catch up on movement happenings. I was especially glad to see the ink devoted to coal—the TVA protests, debunking of clean coal and the critical analysis of the D.C. Climate action in particular. Thank you for the coverage of continued Animal Enterprise Terrorism Activism and representation in Utah and for the blurb on where I currently live—Littleton, Colorado—“or the Communication Management Unit (CMU) at Marion United States Penitentiary. Those who want to know more or join the struggle to close the CMU should check out www.supportdan.org/cmu.

The topic of *Ask an EFF Lawyer* (the Good Time Bill) was spot on but allowed me to give some further background. This bill would benefit 13 of the 16 current environmental and animal liberation prisoners (the three state prisoners wouldn’t benefit) and roughly 10 of the political prisoners on the Anarchist-Black Cross Federation/Jericho movement list and a significant majority of the 204,000 people in the Bureau of Prisons (people with life sentences and those sentenced pre November 1, 1987 wouldn’t benefit). You can sample letters, statistics, the bill itself, links and your representative’s info at www.goodtimebill.info. Stu is right. The bill is part of a trend toward more rational sentences and reductions in prison populations (this includes the recent crack sentencing guidelines change, the repeal of New York’s Rockefeller drug laws and passage of the second chance act in 2007). Yet, without consistent pressure and advocacy, this bill won’t pass. It’ll just be another good idea. While I share an antagonism toward asking politicians to do anything. This represents a conventional stance toward more solidarity for environmental and animal liberation prisoners and address the severe overfunding in federal prisons.

The quick update is that I’m doing well, keeping busy with school, correspondence, reading and exercise. And I just hit my two year mark in prison. Legal efforts to challenge the CMU continue and if you can show some love for the lawyers at the Civil Liberties Defense Center (www.cluc.org) for all the help they’ve given me and other prisoners.

—David McGowan
Dear Folks at Daily Planet Publishing,

Thanks so much for the book sent to me here, *What We Leave Behind*, by Derick Jensen. I’m just starting to read it and am enjoying it a lot. One of my first environmental campaigns was to block the construction of a trash-incinerator (at the time, the worlds largest). The campaign went on for ten years, with some temporary and some minor victories, though in the end we lost to disponable culture. I’m looking forward to learning and enlightenment (and often tangential inspiration) that I always get when I read Jensen’s writing. Thank you again for sending it.

Thank you for all that you do to make people think!

Solidarity,

—Marti Mason

Letter to the people,

I am an inmate at the Idaho Correctional Institute-Orofino. I have been incarcerated in Idaho since November, 2004. Recently, I was moved to the “Gran- du Hall Work Camp.” This is a minimum-security unit where inmates are sent on work crews. The incentive pay, which is discretionary, is to be housed here under the understanding that any attempt to not participate in “work projects” will lead to our being sent to the closed-custody unit regardless of our custody levels. There we will be housed with a prison gang member and other minimum security inmates. In essence, we are housed here under duress, forced to accept minimum security wages. These things disturb me, particularly that at any time they may ask me to work a job that is contrary to my political views. This is the most recent about my forced housing situation is that they do not have a vegan or vegetarian diet available to us. Another inmate and I recently requested transfer to the medium security unit where we can get a vegetarian meal for religious or political reasons. We never received an answer from our unit sergeant.

Today (April 16, 2009) I put in a concern form requesting an answer to my previous request. If I do not receive an acceptable response by April 24, I feel my only available option will be to hunger-strike and refuse to participate in all work projects and programs.

My proposed alternative was blown off. This is only a temporary solution to a permanent problem. Unfortunately, this will not make vegan diets available here and it may or may not fix my situation. My goal is to create a permanent policy change at this prison.

I am Matt Harris, I have been known for many years as Moses and lent my support to various causes while advocating for human rights and re-wilding. I now ask for support of anyone willing to show me solidarity. I have no family backing or means. I rely on being steadfast and stubborn. I will pursue this issue doggedly. I ask that anyone with a spare moment call the prison (Idaho Correctional Institute Orofino) and speak with Warden Carlin about forcing labor under the duress of closed-custody housing and forcing inmates to eat meat products or starve over their religious or political beliefs. Hopefully, through persistence, we can affect a change in the policy of this prison.

Any letters you wish to send personally may be addressed to Matt Harris 74357, IC-O- GVH-A-25-B, Hospital North Drive #23, Orofino, ID 83544.

All support is greatly appreciated.

—Marc Haas
Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hey I am getting mixed signal from all the old time EFF folks I know about the

*Journal* moving to Ashville—actually they are not mixed at all but pretty point blank. I am not in the communication loop on this at all. So what I am about to write is a lot of "ifs." But if the *Journal* for some reason cannot make Ashville work I believe here in Knoxville we have the assets to keep the *Journal* going. We have the cheapest printing on the East Coast as we are home to the 3rd largest printing press on the East Coast.

Unlike Ashville, Knoxville is not a hizzy Mecca—though it is much larger and has a much larger music scene. Our housing is cheap—half what you pay in Ashville. We are also dead center between the North and the South and, the Mississippi and the East Coast. We also have five major interstates which converge here—all roads lead to Knoxville which is why so many major communication hubs move here. We are also have the largest purchaser of coal in North America here—Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and are
smack in the middle of the fight against mountain top removal for coal—which is not happening in Knoxville. But there is a lot more going on in Knoxville. Also we have two former short-term editors of the Journal that live in Knoxville. It’s just another option—choices are beautiful. I think it will be an interesting loop completely on the discusions all I am hearing from this old time EFF folks who have been very active in Asheville for a decade or so—nothing from the new people. We even have an empty trailer at our disposal on a farm here. Consider us a last option if you need it. I have been going through my wife’s complete set of Journals and its renewed my determination that the Journal should not stop printing. I have no doubt that if you all needed this option that the community here in Knoxville would have to—meet—and would have some conditions. Mainly they would be based on the software programs we use to print at our press—less of a margin I think on the edges—tweaks in that comes from switching a press and a community. But no need to get into this if the Ashville thing is a go. I just wanted the Journal staff to know there is another workable option. If the subscriptions and info was handed off we might be able to do it without any of the previous Journal staff having to move to Knoxville as we are a gritty little industrial town that might not be as attractive as the hilly Mecca of Ashville.

Just a backup plan I would mention if Asheville doesn’t work out. —Cmmm Ives

Dear Shit Fer Brains, Thank you so much for covering The Good Time Bill, aka H.R. 1475, in Ask an EFF Lawyer. It seems in real world terms, the ideal world of environmentalism and prison reform would be entirely separate issues, but recently and unfortunately the two are very connected. With the help of federal prisoner and activist Daniel McGowan, we have set up www.goodtimebill.info to provide updates on the bill and provide some basic facts about the federal prison system and its dangerous state of overcrowding. We encourage anyone with an interest in political reform or with a friend serving time to look closely at the history on the issue of prison overcrowding, and how many unjust political factors have created a prison system where a large percentage of non-violent convicts, including some of our activist friends, are serving sentences without the possibility of parole (while illogically, prisoners convicted of violent crimes in the state and country systems are eligible for parole, or time off for good behavior). The bill was submitted for Judiciary Committee review in March, 2009. We urge you to contact your local representatives—especially if they are on the Judiciary Committee—and insist on the importance of this bill passing. More info on action you can take is available at www.goodtimebill.info/news.html. Thanks again! —ALEXANDRA FLETCHER, BROOKLYN NY

Dear SFB, Hello, hey I think you can take me off as a contact for the Journal. I wish you all the best, and still consider myself an Earth Firster, committed to deep ecology and biocentric anarchism, but I have been growing more and more discouraged by the way the Journal is handled and when I read the editor comments, I can’t say I agree with them more often than I don’t agree with them….I would not use [Journals] or the newer primer as a tabling tool, because I don’t agree with much that is in it…. In its current state I think it harps the global radical environmental movement, more than it helps….what I see is not radical environmentalism, but immature punk rock politics….maybe I have changed but as I try to find a place for myself in this movement today, many an even slide shows of the road show seem to be very exclusive, telling many that they are not part of the. thing itself. It seems unless you are a traveler youth without a job, you are not an EFFer. I think this is sadening and silly. I think Earth First! was most strong when it exceeded everyone from the recycling housewife to the pseudoculturalist to the insurrectionist/primitivist to the animal rights, nonviolence advocates, even those folks with mainstream religious views. It seems more about punk lifestyle now and being so “radical” not having or remembering its roots. EFF was started by frustrated lobbyists from NGO’s, many of which went on to found other NGO’s. These non-governmental organizations are just as essential as the lobbyists, EFF, the Earth Liberation Front, and the earth conservation environmental groups—together they make a holistic environmental movement—all essential, are all strategic, all having there place…with people that may cross often between them…putting on the proper hat for the essential movement of each campaign. Maybe encourage folks to pick up some of the books on EFF out there and radical environmentalism, including strategy like Earthfirst. Maybe you all need to try being more inclusive, not try so hard to separate from everyone else, because it is very alienating to many that are trying to do good work.

I wish you all the best. Love and donuts. —OCHROMAT

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It’s time for urban and wild foraging of ripening fruits and grains! The July-August issue of Earth First! coincides with Lughnasadh, a festival associated with the sun and seed collecting. It is celebrated during the first day of August in the Celtic solar/lunar calendar. The date is the first of three harvest dates of the year. It is also a festival of gratitude.

If you want to celebrate this year’s harvest, gather what you have in abundance, as Lughnasadh (of Lammas, as it is also referred to) is traditionally the time to take a break from our labors and enjoy the ripening seeds of the sun. We suggest visiting your favorite bakery dumpster; and harvesting enough bagels and loaves to share with your community. If this is not how you gather your grains, make some fresh loaves in time to eat them warm with your loved ones! You could also bake a cake and include the first-harvested berries from your neighborhood.

This is a time for feasting, traveling, trading and making the most of good weather! Many of us will be traveling to the Cascade Mountains for the Round River Rendezvous in early July! While adventuring, take this time to visit farmer markets (ask them if they have seeds to share, community spaces, in festivals and instigating camp outs! Help all ages together to find the true heart of your community. Take time from cities and projects to share songs and stories. Liberate yourself from routine time, and reeds in the goodness of the sun. This time you take this summer to connect with your community and those with whom you are active can strengthen bonds and create more sustainable relationships. Lughnasadh reminds us to take the time to celebrate what we achieve as a group, the importance of community and, in turn, solidarity.

Lastly, a great way to celebrate the abundance of summer’s harvest is by collecting the first seeds of your next harvest or by giving those nifty genetically-altered crops out from under the biotechnology giants’ feet. When collecting seeds, pick the least-toxic seeds you have access to a day, separate them from the seed cases and place them in envelopes to keep for sowing in the spring. Include information on the envelopes to help you get the best harvest. Early planning is away—mark the spot so you don’t lose them. Remember, every year, we lose species of crops to the modernization of the food industry. Empower yourself and your community by sharing seeds and planting gardens together.
As economic pressure builds, the year 2009 has proven that anything can happen. Ecological movements continue to demonstrate against the international power elite, and repression is only building against dissent and direct action. The outcomes of the G20 Summit, the Summit of the Americas, and the Business Summit on Climate Change show that politicians are continuing to move in the wrong direction, against the popular outcry.

One could feel the spirit of the Greek revolt sweeping through Europe like emojis from a social media page. A large police state, drawing on the tension through the streets of London as protesters met the G20 Summit on April 1. In previous years, Woodrow Wilson drew on the 20 richest nation-states of the world to convene on otherwise important matters.

Regardless of the electric storm of controversy brewing outside, they pleaded to increase support for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, a kind of globalized bail-out program for international financial institutions to tighten their chokehold on the developing world. Meanwhile, thousands of demonstrators—the dispossessed, anarchists, labor supporters, environmentalists and animal rights activists—converged outside the meeting grounds. Through clashes with an intimidating and ruthless police force, their exuberant chants and marches sent challenges to the elites from the square outside of the Bank of England.

The protesters held their ground in the streets for the most part, though the police brutality loomed tall, claiming in the end an innocent bystander named Ian Tomlinson. As Tomlinson strode home from work, hands in his pockets, agitated police officers randomly harassed and shoved him, eventually pushing him to the ground. Witnesses said that Tomlinson seemed successful.

After being helped to his feet and trying to walk for a moment, Tomlinson fainted to the street, never to reawaken. At 47 years old, he died of serious internal bleeding, leaving a wife and nine children.

In spite of the sheer danger lurking behind the riot shields, protests continued. Hundreds of barricades and took the street outside of the Carbon Exchange in order to stage a climate camp. With music, workshops, and festivities, the Climate Camp addressed sustainable models for ecological change until, at 7 pm. Totally unprovoked and by surprise, riot police attacked. Beating people who, with their hands in the air, chanted, “This is non-violent,” the police battered their way through a crowd of initially busily drawing tight the last of the protesters after five hours of abuse. Of course, mass media deemed the summit a success, ignoring most of the disturbing police violence.

On April 24, almost immediately following the G20 Summit, the slightly-less-publicized Summit of the Americas (with the ironic acronym of SOA) convened in Port of Spain, Trinidad. To prepare for the summit, authorities in the Port of Spain walled off the poorest district, Beetham Gardens, from the capital, evicting hundreds of squatters and cutting off the community from the rest of the city. As the summit approached, all unions, environmentalists, and other protesters were denied permits to protest, rendering demonstrations against the billion-dollar summit illegal. One group was given the right to express itself: a coalition of small farmers and environmentalists called the Truth Drummers. However, the moment the drums began, the riot police ordered them silenced. The government even banned the counter-summit, named the Peoples’ Summit, from taking place within the city. Instead, activists convened elsewhere, at the nearby University of the West Indies.

With the repressive preparations in place, the SOA became embroiled in the crisis of relations between the US and Latin America, ending with the Prime Minister of Trinidad, the host of the event, as the only signatory of the summit’s final declaration. Obama used tactful scheduling to reach out to leftist leaders of Venezuela and Bolivia, Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales, but his talk of restoring ambassadors between Colombia and the US, few conclusive decisions were made.

Engaging in talks on loosening regulations against Cuba, Obama seemed to be soaring to new heights of Grandeur, in the eyes of many leftists. Still, the corrupt mismanagement coming from the corporate economics of the past eight years hung amiss over the talks and leaked into the ether of public discourse after the close of the SOA.

In spite of President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe’s, complicity in the assassinations of union leaders and his plan to turn eight percent of Colombia (including the region of El Choco, which environmentalists consider one of the top nine ecological hotspots in the world) into a massive palm-oil plantation, the Obama administration charged out of the gates with forceful rhetoric pushing the passage of the Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements (FTA) before the end of the year. As the neo-liberal government of El Salvador faces a challenge from the left on the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) from a mining firm for delaying contracts and California faces an immanent North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) challenge for refusing to accept fuel from the Canadian Tar Sands, free trade seems to be continuing the regime of environmental impunity. Labor and environmentalists—disenfranchised, the US saw an FTA with Colombia as the worst possible initiative. Meanwhile, with Obama supporting the militarization of Mexico and Colombia, exploitative trade practices seem like only the tip of the iceberg.

Underneath the elitist pomp and circumstance, where rhetoric overshadows the continuing disintegration of real, political solutions, breakthroughs in social change continue to gather steam. The preposterous grounds of arrest in the case of two Earth Firsters in May indicate that the environmental destruction of development on the NAFTA superhighway in Indiana is an increasingly sensitive issue. With the Panama FTA looming in the wings, the completion of the so-called “Plan Pueblo Panama”-infrastructure project to build free trade routes throughout North America has become paramount among the US’s para-international-secrecy plans. Without the passage of the Panama FTA, the Colombia FTA may be dead in the water, and, with it, the accelerated devastation of crucial forest and wetland areas.

Though it is difficult to continue through the adversity presented by apparently impervious forces of power, Earth First! plays an important role in expressing what the politicians continue to misrepresent within the currents of public opinion. We have the opportunity to prove that we will not be terrorized or play their game! Together, we have a chance to stop I-69, the FTAs and the global meltdown.

[St] Ster supports fair trade and self-reliance.

SOA is the acronym for the Summit of the Americas where the corporate right seizes millions to torturing and massacre...
BY EVERGLADES EARTH FIRST!

A couple of us have been working hard on building up the Everglades Earth First! website; you know, adding the bells and whistles and the videos and the swamp swinger stories and campaign zine pdfs. Go to our site and you’ll find out who we are, what our past actions have been, whose on our shit list, what we think folks interested in Florida ecology, history, and politics should be reading, as well as links to other campaigns. You can even listen to tracks from our EEF music comp. True, the rev won’t flow through the interwebs, and we’d damn sure rather be picking daisies than lurking around online, but it is a great way to outreach to lots of folks we’ve never have the chance to touch base with. We get a good bit of our legal defense funds through our paypal link on the site to host.

About a month ago, we decided to put a web tracker on the site. It was free and it offers lots of weird statistical analysis: this nameless user used such-and-such web provider, used these search terms or clicked this hyperlink to access the EEF site, they went to these pages, downloaded these documents, and then exited through such and such a portal. Wow! It’s actually really creepy and sort of makes you feel like a cop to go through the lists. Of course actual names aren’t given. We can see the city and country as well as the web host. This is where it gets interesting. It turns out that most big corporations use their own self-titled host. So, when we read through the visitors’ path logs, we started seeing some near and dear arch enemies. Florida Power and Light has visited our site over 20 times on various occasions. The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s office, as well as the Delray Beach police, have stopped in. We’ve been looked in on by Florida Municipal Power, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Road Development LLC, Penspen Onshore and Offshore Drilling, Phoenix De-watering (a “clean coal” slurry thickening company), and various city and county government hosts. Two brand protection service providers, Ketchum Communications and New Media Strategies, which function to protect corporations “from the effects of negative perceptions or attacks,” have visited on a pretty regular basis.

And now it gets creepier. Scripps Research, a biotech and virology corporation headquartered in La Jolla, California, has dropped by our site at least a hundred times and downloaded all of our info on their virology labs at a Florida Atlantic University campus in Jupiter, Florida. Another visitor, Global Assets Tactical LLC, which trains law enforcement agencies in “counter-terrorism” (aka state terrorism) and hosts a five day course on informant training, has left the creeps on us pretty heavy.

But who is paranoid? It appears that each and every one of these dubious visitors are checking the playing field. Perhaps Scripps is searching to see if we’ve crossed that bullshit line created by the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) by creating “threatening” flyers. Perhaps Penspen is thinking about the financial repercussions of setting up offshore drilling any where near an eco-resistance movement. Sure anything, those PR corporations are checking out our info, our angles and arguments, and coming up with media campaigns to counteract them. And you know what the cops are doing at our site! They must have misspelled the web address of their favorite porn site and stumbled on us... those creepy, lazy scumbags.

So should EEF be paranoid? Uh, sure, why not. But we can’t let it stop us from spreading our message, from carrying out our resistance to the murderers that are attacking us all through their attacks on the wild. The US government and the vile corporations that prop it up and run it will keep their eyes on us. We must continue to hide them in our scopes. We must continue to set the record straight on the ground and across the web.

So check out our site, email us and tell us what you think, and update us with info from your campaign that you’d like us to post. We want to carry the information war forward.

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Repression in Indiana Continues

continued from page 1

the offices and plopped themselves down on the sidewalk, and an eviction notice appeared on the office doors. This was a response to the commencement of evictions of hundreds of farmers and landowners on the proposed new route of I-69.

These arrests appear to be nothing more than an attempt to intimidate and harass those who dare to build communities of resistance and oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement. It’s painfully obvious that the state had to dig awfully deep and use obscure outdated laws to pull these charges out of whatever dark place they had been lurking.

However, the government’s harassment isn’t really proving to be effective. The community has come together stronger than ever, and the $30,000 needed to bail Tiga and Hugh out was put up in slightly more than week. Support (financial and otherwise) has been pouring in from across the US and overseas. This said, estimated legal costs are in the tens of thousands of dollars and benefit electioneering. It’s up to all of us to make sure that the ISP really has bitten off more than they can chew.

Chad Bronfier doesn’t want these folks to go to jail. For more information on Tiga and Hugh’s case, to read their arrest warrants and to find out how you can support them, visit: www.moderneveryday.org

I-69 will result in at least 400 families being evicted from their homes, the destruction of more than 7,000 acres of wild land, the increased globalization of capital, depleted resources, increased sweatshop goods and the deaths of thousands of animals.
By GatewayGwacks.org

Shouts of "Don't need it! Don't want it!" rang out from the working-class dock land where Surrey, British Columbia, Canada on Coast Salish territory, as a diverse group of protesters gathered at the riverfront in January to oppose the Gateway Project. A $10 billion freeway and port expansion plan, Gateway includes a ten-mile "superbridge" to replace the five- lane bridge over the region widening of the Trans-Canada Highway, a new truck freeway dubbed the South Fraser Perimeter Road, and a colossal fossil-fuel scheme to spread global trade via the west coast.

The chant in Surrey was led by Ned Jacobs, the twinkle-eyed son of revered freeway-fighter and mother of Jac, after Jerry Jacobs. In 2005, Ned was one of 24 heroes arrested in the standoff against the Sea-to-Sky Highway proposal when they blocked the Bluffs off West Vancouver, the first major act of resistance connected with the Vancouver (then) Floyd Brothers. (Also arrested at Eagleridge were First Nations elder Harriet Nahane, who died shortly after her arrest, and "grandma of the woods" Betty Krawczyk, who served nine months for civil disobedience against the blockade.) The Bluffs were ultimately bulldozed in spite of widespread protest from the First Nations, by British Columbia's megalomaniac Transportation Minister, Kevin Falcon, who is now hell-bent on building the behemoth Gateway. However, a local awards ceremony to acknowledge the discovery of the East Saxon burial which would soon be crossed by a road embankment. Embarrassment is possibly a key factor here, and this, combined with the fact that the proposal led to the council revising the scheme significantly in June 2006 to cut it in more than half from $45 million to $27 million to "protect" the burial. This move was rejected by campaigner, and was left on the road in its entirety. Meanwhile, as radicalized as we had become, it was clear that the local council was ignoring public opinion. The local council appeared unable or, at least, unwilling to do anything about our presence. The camp continued to grow steadily throughout the first winter leading into 2006, and as the new thicket, and a trip from Brighton led to the start of Camp 1 more near Westworld. Development down on the south coast which continues to this day. Although much of the energy was still being directed into building up the camp as a very direct threat, various other campaign activities took place at strategic points around the region, including a sit-in at the Government Office for the East of England in the spring of 2006, and a major march. In September 2008, on the third anniversary of the camp, www.camping.org went live specifically with this intention. The third factor that enabled success of this campaign was a core group of experienced people throughout the campaign, maintaining the continuity and learning that we needed to pick up along the way. People were always both our biggest strength and weakness. The internal politics can be difficult to manage when people who have never lived this way come together. For us, consensus decision making was always part of the decision-making process. Without these rules in place, people would not have been able to work together, to come up with a lasting movement. For us, consensus decision making was always part of the decision-making process. Without these rules in place, people would not have been able to work together, to come up with a lasting movement.

Early on the High Burial: The Making of Camp Blythe Park

The decision to build a freeway on the Bluffs was a core group of experienced people throughout the campaign, maintaining the continuity and learning that we needed to pick up along the way. People were always both our biggest strength and weakness. The internal politics can be difficult to manage when people who have never lived this way come together. For us, consensus decision making was always part of the decision-making process. Without these rules in place, people would not have been able to work together, to come up with a lasting movement. For us, consensus decision making was always part of the decision-making process. Without these rules in place, people would not have been able to work together, to come up with a lasting movement.
How Foraging Can Set You Free

BY WILDGIRL

For five days at the end of May, I lived exclusively on wild food in Portland, Oregon. There was no dumpster diving, nothing from gardens—instead, I ate weeds and wild plants growing in yards, wilderness, and sidewalks within the city limits. My purpose was to explore questions of sustainability and survival while indulging my desire to experience what it feels like to be a wild person in an urban environment in 2009. Before this project began, I sometimes fantasized about being a feral hunter-gatherer. I thought of it as a romantic possibility suspended in the annals of eras past and perhaps awaiting me at some uncertain point in the future, post-collapse. After this experience, I see that we can create the reality we want to live in right now. We are as free as we ever were, and as limited by the plants and animals offering themselves as nourishment and medicine, beckoning us to rediscover our primal relationship with them, even in the city, even with all the concrete and asphalt.

Foraging is not to say that we have enough wild land to support foraging exclusively on a large scale, especially living in a city. Still, wild food can be a supplement to an otherwise-local diet, and knowing about it could save your life in a crisis. Besides, to eat a weed is to honor it—and your own wild nature—in a most intimate way. It is a positive, direct action that realigns one's place in the web of the great Gaia.

I lived on stinging nettles, dandelion, burdock root, thistle, and wild carrot; the saw greens, chickweed, and red clover; and teas made of wild radishes, pine needles, wild chamomile, cleavers and lemon balm. I had wanted to last a full week but because the project took place after the mushrooms disappeared and before the berries and nuts came out, there was very little in the way of calories. I did not want to hunt or fish, so I found myself too weak to continue on day five and had to stop. At first, I felt disappointed and discouraged by the early ending. However it was a fantastic turn of events, because it gave me an opportunity to reflect on what I had learned: the importance of knowing your local terrain, storing food, studying the native ways and embracing community. I might not have recognized these things if I had made it the whole way through with ease.

Meet Your (Plant) Neighbors

If you want to be able to survive on wild food, pay attention to where each plant species grows and its availability. Looking for food can waste valuable time in a crisis. So, I write down what I find in my 'food log' and pinpoint the intersections. I also note growth patterns that could offer lessons for foraging.

For instance, pineapple weed flowers at the end of May. It is a positive, direct action that realigns one's place in the web of the great Gaia.

Foraging in action

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Community

Foraging is fun, yet surprisingly tedious. It has a low return for the amount of energy you have to put into both locating and gathering food. This is where community can help. While one person might spend four hours looking for and gathering burdock root, three others can use that same time to go out and get three other kinds of foods in three other places. Together, we can do so much more than one person can accomplish alone. The opportunity to share our knowledge and barter or share goods are also huge benefits. Maybe you didn’t save enough acorns last fall, but your neighbor has more than she can use. Maybe you don’t know where to go to catch bass, but your friend knows. When it comes to naturalist skills, there is an overwhelming amount of information to grasp. That’s good news, too—it means you don’t have to know everything to survive. You just need a group of people who are all in it together.

The more you learn about ancestral ways, the more powerful you will become. You will acquire the ability to recognize hidden abundance, to see things that were previously invisible to you. For instance, when I once saw a nondescript mass of wildflowers, I now recognize cough medicine, fiber to weave mats with, and even emory boards. Where I once saw unkept yards, I now see salad greens. These weeds coming up through the cracks in the sidewalk? Tea. Every single plant on Earth has a gift to offer. Some are medicinal, some are nutritional, even poison hemlock is homeopathic in small doses. What might be growing in your backyard?

For information on safety, plant identification and further resources on wild food in general, such as books, photos and other learning opportunities, visit my wilderness-skills blog at www.firstways.com. And check out the fantastic primer called “Feral Forager: A Guide to Living Off Nature’s Bounty in Urban, Rural and Wilderness Areas,” available for download at www. zinelibrary.info.
Ensooned in the beautiful arms of the Santa Rita mountains, Earth Firsters from around the country rubbed the sleep out of their eyes, cracked their knuckles and hunkered down for an epic strategy session at the 2000 Earth First! (EF) Organizers Conference (OC). Through games and activities set up by the workshop facilitators, heated conversations, and breakout groups, we broke down where we have been and where we want to be going in our continuing struggle to defend the planet.

We did several exercises, one of which helped us unpack an issue that has been a source of tension. We were asked to identify whether we lived in urban or rural spaces, and whether we prioritized wilderness defense or infrastructure campaigns. While most people who identified as urban prioritized infrastructure campaigns, and the smaller rural contingent prioritized wilderness defense, some didn’t fit the mold. Several people saw no conflict of priorities, in the “diversity of tactics” tradition, some people think all campaigns are possible.

Infrastructure campaigns are based in rural areas, and others pointed out that wilderness defense is an urban issue, as it is the resources of wild places that are stripped to build and fuel cities. In any case, it was good to talk about the different positions from which we do this work, and help those who feel tension around these issues understand the perspectives and campaigns of others.

After these activities, we broke up into four groups, each with a major goal for the Earth First! (EF) movement that we hope to work toward: bridging the urban/rural gap, increasing membership and participation in the movement, shaking off our racist and classist baggage and reputation, and becoming a leader in the environmentalist movement. From here, the workshop organizers split us into two groups, each with a broader goal for the movement, and four sessions were discussed: How can we broaden and diversify the movement? Through child care, data entry and cooking meals. Sponsored community building events such as potlucks, barbecues or public hikes is also a great way of bringing people together. Sharing spaces with other groups has been a fiscally and politically successful tactic, such as when an infoshop shares a rental space with a labor union. By becoming interested and involved with the struggles of others, we can begin to cross the race, class and urban/rural divides that have given our movement a bad name and has left us feeling isolated and alone.

Taking Care of Each Other in Order to Prevent Burnout

A movement that continually loses its elders and experienced members has to reinvent the wheel over and over. Providing logistical support for people, like helping in times of financial crisis and providing child care for families are ways to alleviate some of the burdens that cause people to drop out. Practicing good conflict resolution and being courageous enough to face up to personality conflicts and power struggles within our working groups helps retain our members, and that’s worth taking some time out of the new process. Making sure people aren’t taking on too much is important, as is recognizing where our boundaries are in regards to our workloads. Honest, loving communication, and mutual support, whether that looks like a midnight crisis call or a loan to cover the rent, can get a long way of keeping us fighting together.

Mentoring and Giving Space to Grow

One of the concepts discussed at the OC was the idea that we need to train our replacements. Simply put, we need to get better at mentoring people who come into the EF movement. That means not only providing trainings and workshops, but having the patience and compassion to walk folks who are new to activism through tasks, whether it be a press release, a banner drop, or how to set up an outdoor kitchen. Mentorship does not mean that there is a hierarchy. Having a monopoly on knowledge doesn’t give you the right to act as a boss. Helping people learn the ropes and taking on fulfilling exciting new roles in your community means giving people the space to make mistakes and learn on their own. Yeah, maybe the banner is illegal, but learning from our mistakes is far better than learning from a teacher’s lecture. Experienced activists must learn to walk the thin tightrope between being a resource for others and controlling the process. Conversely, throwing new folks into situations they aren’t prepared for can lead to failure and disenchantment. New people need to be challenged with important roles in order to feel invested in the work, but this needs to be done with compassionate mentorship and guidance.

Back into Wild Spaces

Public hikes, picnics and campsouts are a great way to get people connected to the wild. It’s one thing to participate in theoretical discussions about biocentrism, it’s another to stand on top of a rugged mountain or to see a moose for the first time. People are more likely to defend land that they have a relationship with, and it is easier for others to understand our commitment to the earth when they have opportunities to connect with her. Also, public hikes and events are wonderful ways to build community, as well as positive media opportunities.

Finding Balance Without Alienating People

It helps to have working groups who have a diversity of appearances; that way the folks who look “normal” can be the face at town meetings and the folks who have the blue hair can hang with punks at the teen center. More seriously, the question of hiding our identity came up often in our discussions. In the post 9/11 nation and in the face of the Green Scare, the name EF is sometimes seen as synonymous with violent eco-terrorism to those who don’t know who we are. But, EF is a network of determined individuals who have
chosen to defend the only home we know and the fauna and flora who have every right to live on this beautiful planet free from human destruction. Our biocentrism is the core of this movement, and we shouldn’t hide it. It is a place of strength, strategically, because it occupies a place in discourse that would be unheard otherwise, and most major social issues and struggles of this time can be traced back to the lowest common denominator of human greed and excess, which in turn, is why the Earth and her children are in peril. Last, while we do not want to alienate new communities by not being inclusive, there are elements of this movement that can be incredibly inspiring to those who first see it. Among our midst we have artists, poets, musicians, and more. Some of our first moments of connection to this movement were around the campfire, hearing inspirational songs about the struggle that we longed to be a part of. A big part of recruiting new folks and retaining old ones is staying inspired and in love with each other by revitalizing EFl culture through music and art. We don’t want to alienate folks through insider/outsider dynamics. But being proud of who we are and our movement, is essential to organizing inspiringly.

From Theory to Practice!
An important desire that came out of the OC strategy session was a motivation to move from the theoretical to the concrete. We laid out goals for the following year using the tools at hand: the Earth First! Journal, the Roadshow, and the Summer Round River Roundtables. Besides the printing of this article, one idea was to use the “blank wall” (the center four pages of the EFJ) to showcase bioregional campaigns as an outreach tool and to illustrate the way these strategies have played out in the field. The Earth First! Roadshow, while revitalizing EFl culture around the country, can research what other environmental hot spots are happening out there and bring them back to the table.

It was suggested that the Rondy have two specific workshops to address burnout and recruitment, how to start your own EFl Group, and how to retain activists as they age. It was also suggested that anyone organizing with the Summer Rondy make an extra effort to invite our movement elders and local community groups to the event.

Long-term goals give us something to work toward. Having a national strategy gives us a sense of cohesiveness and purpose that it can be hard to find alone. With the sun setting, and the air growing cold, we tucked out notebooks and note-filled cardboard under our arms, feeling tired, but with a sense of purpose and satisfaction. Listening to the creek wash by through the desert-mountains, it was easy to remember what we’re fighting for.

Mamaspitfire is a North Woods dweller who loves wildcrafting, midnight strategy sessions and stopping greedy corporations from destroying her forest ecosystems.

Humboldt Earth First!
Canopy Communique

continued from page 1

vultures circling overhead, a trail and campsite used frequently by bears, and a creek that serves as watershed for the Humboldt Bay’s healthiest population of Coho salmon. These critters have also shown much love to the treesitters, particularly the flying squirrels who share our food at night and the owls who hang out, provide moral support and watch us climb.

GD, is now the most-active transnational timber corporation remaining in Humboldt. They have clearcuts scheduled every year across the Northwest, and have largely escaped public scrutiny by a process of 21st-century greenwashing and alliances with the state. For example, the GD Habitat Conservation Plan for spotted owls gives the owls a vague, constantly shifting zone of “habitat” on GD land and a few remaining “wildlife trees”, usually of low monetary value, on land that they clearcut. In return, GD gets a bunch of “incidental take” permits for owls, which is a license to kill them at will. The GD plan for the McKay Tract is clearcutting, followed by residential development to double the size of Cutten, California, adding more residents to the near city of Eureka.

So far, no chainsaws have fallen upon the McKay this year. However, Summer operating season is upon us, logging could begin any day of any week. Neighbors are continuing to raise their voices in support. They hike, bike, and ride horses along the logging roads in solidarity with residents of the forest. Treesitters are still needed to live in the canopy, protecting this last refuge of wild creatures from the perpetual war that is human progress. Anyone wishing to spend part or all of the summer up in trees is encouraged to contact Earth First! Humboldt at (707) 834-5170; www.efhumboldt.org.

“May the forest bewitch you,” the canopy ninjas of EFl Humboldt.

Nestled up in their home, putting the Earth First!
Brazilian Landless Movement Wins Victory

The Brazilian Landless Movement (MST) won legal rights to tens of thousands of acres of unused land for 700 landless families. After six years of demonstrations, the MST finally secured what some consider to be their most crucial victory in 40 years. The farmers who will occupy this land will likely utilize it for sustainable, subsistence purposes, as opposed to the eucalyptus-pulp corporations, which have pillaged Brazil's natural wilderness for generations.

Squatter Movement Still Blowing 'Up

On May Day, the squatted island of Ravens Ait was evicted by 100 commandos arriving in 27 black zodiac inflatables. Ravens Ait is a small island in the River Thames, London, England, and has been officially "abandoned" since December. Squatters had converted a tree house, installed do-it-yourself solar panels, and were making plans for conference center promoting "moving off the grid.

In Montreal on May 30, about 100 squatters from Centre Social Autogere (CSA) occupied an abandoned building in attempts to create Montreal's first permanent autonomous social center. Their intentions of building a community based on sustainable ecological practices like urban permaculture and free bicycle maintenance were thwarted by riot squads, who, breaking their promises of diplomacy, brutally evicted the peaceful demonstrators by surprise. In the presence of riot squads, the squatters moved the demonstration outside, and were joined by more folks before occupying another building. The second squat was evicted quickly, and the crowd finally dispersed.

Rising Tide Brings the Ruckus to the Parliament House Down Under

In a particularly poignant demonstration of nonviolence, 10 members of Rising Tide Newcastle disrupted a post-budgerigar televised live from the House of Parliament in Australia on March 13. Demand increased finances for environmental programs, two activists loudly interrupted Treasurer Wayne Swan's speech to the high-brow bunches. Seven women then staged a sit-down protest in the foyer, arm-in-arm, chanting "We won't walk away from climate change.

Two testers climbed down the front edifice of the historic building and hung a 24-foot-long banner reading "carbon budget blow-out" just below the national coat of arms that adorns the peak of the facade.

In a nice gesture, Agenda 21 left a short note at the site of the sinking, explaining, "We came to Henningsvaer. We saw the Falk. We sank the bastard Agenda 21."

Saboteurs Shock Telemex

Environmental saboteurs, under the title Earth Liberation Front and the Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature, sabotaged thirty telephone lines by placing small incendiary devices in three Telemex control boxes in different towns around the State of Mexico. Taking place in late April, the actions were deliberate attacks on the telecom empire of billionaire Carlos Slim, who has cooperated with governmental authorities to pollute the environment and spy on the Mexican public.

ALF Gets Very, Very Busy in Latin America

On April 17, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) of Mexico, better known as the Frente de Liberacion Animal (FLA), continued to pressure cock-fighters, breaking the window of a notorious breeder. On May 6, the FLA sabotaged 15 Telemex phones in light of its support of cock-fights. A day later, FLA folks smashed the windows of a bank, and painted "our words are not lies" on a McDonald's before burning it to the ground.

A week later, the group, Tierra Salvaje (Wild Land), painted slogans on the door of Izquierda Unida (United Left) headquarters, reminding leftists of the imminent threat of animal liberation. In the next two days, the aptly named Autonomous Cells for Propagation of the Anti-authoritarian and Anti-spezisist Offensive smashed windows at two BBVA banks, completely melted a BBVA ATM and threw red paint on the hood of a Lala milk truck, all in solidarity with human and nonhuman animals.

Meanwhile, the FLA of Guadalajara reduced a butcher's shop to ashes. Less than two weeks later, the FLA splinter group, Constipacion por Verguenza, set fire to a leather expo, exbibing, dedicating the action to Chilean activist, Mauricio Morales, who died on May 22 when his incendiary device prematurely exploded. The FLA is growing in Chile, claiming responsibility for the arson of a SalmoñChile building and the destruction of 17 locks at an animal market in the month of May.

Green Condos" Attacked in Solidarity with Anti-I-69 Campaign

On May 2, the night of the arrests of Earth First! activists Hugh and Tiga, activists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, struck back against the destruction of "development." Calling themselves "the wild ones," these anarchists smashed some of the windows and glued the locks of four condos in the neighborhood of Riverwest. Explaining in a communiqué posted on socialrupture.blogspot.com that "the most revolutionary form of solidarity is to deepen the conflict," the wild ones do not claim any connection to Hugh and Tiga excepting autonomous affinity with the cause of eco-defense. "We have identified the same faults," they declare, "and are glad to be the contradiction that will rip them wide open."

Actions in Anticipation of 2010 Olympics

Resistance to the scramble of development on unceded indigenous land of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh in Canada.

On April 19, Santa Cruz anarchists smashed five windows of a McDonald's, citing, as their main reason, McDonald's sponsorship of the 2010 Olympics, projected to take place on indigenous land in British Columbia. Another action took place in Santa Cruz on May 1 against a Wells Fargo bank in solidarity with First Nations, breaking at least 13 windows and a glass door to demonstrate against investment in the ICE detainment centers, the products of a violent, ecocidal North American hierarchy.

Can't Kill Whales Without a Boat, Can You?

On April 23, the clandestine group, Agencia 21, used a monkey-wrench for what it's worth. They disassembled the salt-water intake valve on the whaling ship, Skarvik. Effectively scuttling the ship and sending major losses to the ship's Norwegian owners and international investors. This is the forth vessel that Agenda 21 has scuttled since it took over the privilege from Sea Shepherd Captain, Paul Watson, in 1996.
Action “Developing” in the First World, Too!

On a dark night in late April, the ALF liberated several lambs from captivity in an animal breeding farm amidst piles of dead and rotting lamb bodies and forcibly inseminated mothers, trapped in narrow pens no wider than their bodies. On May 6, a young piglet was liberated from an intensive farm, and, two days later, the ALF totally destroyed a pheasant pen and a birdcage belonging to a shooting estate in the UK. That same day, Aussie ALFers glued locks and painted slogans on the walls of Ralph’s Meat Exporters in Melbourne, Australia. More recently, ALF activists left messages on the garage door, sidewalk and street of the furrier, Michel Grama, in Bordeaux, France. The messages read, “Grama=furrier=murderer” and “ALF hasn’t forgotten you,” and “Grama, furrier, murderer at number 16,” respectively. Meanwhile, in Finland, during the months of April and May, activists attacked two furshops and two fur-furniture companies with paint bombs and hammers. (These furniture companies use feathers ripped from living birds, and have become subject to attack since a televised expose.) Californians Get Down Unfortunately, it wasn’t out of this world, but the husband of notorious primate vivisector, Edythe London, was temporarily an electrician to a fellow anti-EEF campaigner, a member of the EEEF, in a Los Angeles high-rise building. London was exposed for accepting bribes from Phillip Morris while addicting primates to nicotine, amphetamines, and other drugs before killing them, but has not been met with legal accountability. Not to be outdone, ALF San Franciscans glued the locks and/ or smashed the windows of two meat markets and 10 fast-food restaurants in May. More Than 2,000 March Against Vivisection The streets of London resonated with the chants and cries of more than 2,000 marchers during the World Day for Animals in Laboratories on April 25. For 15 years, anti-vivisec tionists have commemorated this day, attracting a growing crowd for the annual march through London. In attendance, of course, were members of the ALF, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty and various prisoner support groups. High Country EFI Gets Crackin’ High Country EFI in the Rocky Mountains declared the start of the anti-I-70 campaign. The expansion of I-70 in Denver would destroy over 300 acres of habitat for bald eagle wintering grounds, prairie dog homes, and much more. To protest, activists hung a banner over the Colorado River Overpass reading, “Stop I-70 Expansion,” on May 26 during rush hour traffic.

Dear Ned,

I’ve been reading about people taking direct action against agribusiness, and I must confess that I’m intrigued. How does one go about “crop-pulling”?

—Sandra

Dear Sandra,

It just so happens that there is a wonderful publication called The Nighttime Gardener: A Guide for the Sky Gardener in North America that can answer all your questions. You can find it online via the North American Earth Liberation Press office resources page.

Sections include: evening attire for the nighttime gardener, the nighttime gardener’s toolbox, the best time to go, how to spot your crop, what to do when you get there, and appendices. Wow, what a read!

I also want to share a few snippets about this subject from a recent conversation I had with a brave cropper, who said, “It’s really amazing how easy it is to sabotage a genetic engineering research crop. The test site can be found through Internet research without much difficulty, the locations are usually remote or at least afford good access, and the actual ‘decontamination’ process, though at times physically grueling, is straightforward, empowering and just good clean fun!”

She added that there are two critical elements to success: foresight and boldness. By the first, she meant that people need to carefully consider every aspect of an action prior to carrying it out; from acquisition of tools to the entry/exit of a site. Regarding the second element, she said, “We think like guerrillas and strike where and when we want.”

And so can you and your friends, Sandra.

—Ned

Dear Ned,

I’m pretty upset about genetic engineering. It seems that these crazy scientists are hell-bent on twisting and manipulating Mother Nature, no matter what the cost. I’m at the point where I’m ready to put a bit of heat on those jerks, if you know what I mean. How would I learn to do such a thing?

—Franklin P.

Dear Franklin P.,

I think I know what you mean. It’s pretty upsetting to read about how those scumbag doctors are creating glow-in-the-dark monkeys and super trees that can withstand massive doses of Monsanto’s Roundup. As you know, arson was a favorite tactic of mine, along with equipment sabotage way back when our merry band struggled against the old Industrial Revolution in England. About the same time on this continent, Native Americans often used fire against US Army forts and outposts because it helped to level an uneven playing field. However, these days, even in the Earth First movement, it remains a controversial tactic. Setting inanimate objects afame.

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Dear Ned,

Let’s all give our buddy, Ned, a big, humble “welcome back” to the EEF. “Dear Ned (Ladd) has been an irregular column in the EEF for many years, and the material in this book, Ecelebrity, largely comes from this space. It serves as a forum for the discussion of creative and diverse means to effectively defend the Earth. Neither the EEF movement nor the EEF necessarily encourages anyone to do the things discussed on this page, which should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment.”

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The Adventures of PLANE STUPID:
Bringing the Aviation Industry Back Down to Earth!

BY BARRY WILTON

On September 24, 2006, I found myself with 24 friends, listening to a Baptist minister give a sermon on the victims of climate change in 2005. I'm not a religious man, but that wasn't what made the situation unusual. What was unusual was that 50 yards away was a huge aeroplane waiting to take off that had stopped on the taxiway because of a display blocking its path. This was my introduction to taking direct action with Plane Stupid, and I felt great. No more would we politely march from A to B, asking nicely if perhaps the government might not sell our future to the highest bidder. Our future was definitely not for sale.

I listened to the service over the roar of jet engines slowing to a halt, with a police helicopter overhead and airport security all around them. We wanted to show that aviation was the fastest-growing cause of climate change. According to the UK's government, aviation accounted for at least 13 percent of the UK contribution to climate change in 2005 and the same government had plans to treble the size of the industry by 2030. This would mean that sometime between 2030 and 2050, aviation would use up the UK's entire carbon budget by itself. That is before we'd produced any food to eat, power our homes, or switch on the lights in our schools and hospitals.

Since that day on that taxiway, the aviation industry has become one of the major targets of the UK eco-justice movement and other environmental parishes in the eyes of the British public. Polls show an increasing number of people need to collectively restrict the amount we fly in order to avoid runaway climate change. There is an unprecedented opposition to the key feature of the UK's expansion plans, the building of a third runway at Heathrow Airport west of London. The opposition ranges from the right-wing, pro-business Conservative Party to the Government's Institute, as well as every major candidate in the London mayoral elections of 2008—not to mention the UK's fast-growing, grassroots eco-justice movement.

The question is how did we do this and how could we have done it better? How did we finish the job, not just of stopping the aviation industry from carrying on with its carbon pollution, but of building a grassroots, global eco-justice movement that will rebuild a better future on this planet?

First, Plane Stupid did not do it on our own. An assortment of anti-airport campaigns had been doing much of the hard work in setting things up, gathering all the arguments and building support years before Plane Stupid blocked any airports. These groups coalesced under the banner of Airport Watch and included a number of local airport-residents groups worried about noise, local air quality, traffic and community destruction; some conservation and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with the plight of birds and the rural landscape; and a handful of environmental NGOs worried about climate change. These groups worked so hard that their trump card was the climate-change argument that was fast emerging as a key political issue that could unite all of their more-specific areas of concern.

They had learned from the successful UK anti-roads movement of the 1990s that a united front was essential to avoid being labelled Not In My Back Yard. Despite this, Airport Watch was not getting the attention it needed for success, and it was missing the vital ingredient that had made the anti-roads campaign so successful. Direct action in the 1990s by networks like Earth First! and Reclaim the Streets kept the issue at the top of the political agenda, increased the cost of building the roads and attacked the corporate profits of the contractors. Direct action had made fighting road building and capitalist car culture sexy and radical. Plane Stupid hoped to do the same thing in the fight against climate change, but this time, the target would be the consumer bonanza in the growth of short-haul flights.

Even though Plane Stupid wasn't first to the party, we'd like to think we livened it up and attracted lots more people to come and dance. Once the direct action started, we'd find more NGOs started to work on aviation or commit more resources to it. The diversity of the coalition was its strength. Every ecologist knows that diversity builds resilience. Those that would deride our tactics as too radical that extreme had to accept the more-conservative tactics, yet similar array of arguments, from the other groups. Whilst Plane Stupid drew the more reactionary fire as it attacked the industry and the government, the rest of the coalition could quietly slip into the radical space that we'd moved from.

By using direct action from the outset, we gave the tactic a legitimacy that other, more-traditional campaigns could begin to use. We worked with residents groups and others with advice and training that they requested. One of our aims was to create a direct-action movement capable of stopping airport expansion even once outline plans had been approved. We were inspired by the way that the 1990s anti-roads movement did this making it economically un-attractive for investors, in part made possible by preventing construction of new infrastructure. Yet we wanted to win the campaign before construction began on any expansion, and so we had to use direct action to make it politically impossible to support airport expansion in general and plans for the Heathrow third runway in particular.

In order to do this, we resorted to direct action to cultivate spectacular actions that would both communicate the issues and inspire others to become part of a direct-action movement. We would design actions that would identify and explain our key targets. Early on, we targeted the airports publishing for expansion and the short-haul flights that were creating the demand for expansion but could be realistically replaced by less damaging forms of transport such as road, rail and boat. We blockaded the offices of Heathrow owner BAA and the short-haul company, Easyjet, and shut down airport runways that served short haul destinations. Later, on, we would target government ministers and departments responsible for approving expansion plans. We would use our speeches at aviation conferences, throw green slime over ministers with key influence and dropped banners from the roof of the House of Parliament. Each time, we conveyed the point that key government action was being colluding with the industry rather than acting in the public interest. All of our actions would always be framed and justified in terms of commonly held values, such as the dangers of excessive consumption, in terms of corruption and collusion between the government and the industry.

To successfully use spectacles to communicate our messages, we required the media to get our message across. Sections of the anti-roads movement and the anti-nuclear movement in the UK had their fingers burned by the mainstream media's negative portrayal of their activities that undermined their set movements over time. As a result, excellent alternative media has been developed as a necessary way of breaking the control of the mainstream media. In addition, the movement often chose to campaign on the very week the media were talking about it, arguing that to do otherwise would only strengthen its corporates. However, just because we ignored the media did not mean that they would ignore us. If we didn't communicate with them, that we were violent extremists, we knew we would have to use the mainstream media rather than be used by them. We had to understand how it worked and how we could manage it. Understood just how of how the media industry works has enabled us to navigate a path that has, for the most part, communicated the messages we want rather than the messages the industry would want. There is a need to build relationships with journalists that will interrelate with the internal politics of various media institutions and know what day of the week your action is likely to get the best coverage. In any action we planned, we would often spend just as much time on our media strategy as our lock-on strategy. The result has been a very large and well-recognized media profile. With this we have been able to communicate our key messages to a wide audience, but we have also linked others to set up Plane Stupid groups all over the UK and Ireland. Furthermore, international campaigns invite us regularly to come and make links with those fighting airport expansion all over Europe. We even had a Plane Stupid action two out in Australia. We get invited into schools to talk to kids about using direct action to fight climate change, and we get donations from all manner of sources. Additionally, it has proved a powerful defense against repression. When we wanted to help our friends in the UK, we used our media contacts to set him up and run a number of press releases which meant the industry was embarrassed worldwide by the underhand tactics it tried to adopt.

Now, Plane Stupid is not one group but a decentralized network of autonomous groups heavily linked into the wider
The Ins and Outs of Prisoner Support

BY NORTH AMERICAN EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS’ SUPPORT NETWORK

While originally printed in the Earth First! Journal (EFJ) Yule 2001, not a whole lot has changed about how to support prisoners. Perhaps the only thing that has changed is the immense amount of support due to prisoners currently. With hopes of aiding in the process of supporting our prisoners better the EFJ collective has chosen to re-run this story.

Leafing through the EFJ, most readers have probably seen the page devoted to Earth and animal liberation prisoners. The page contains names, addresses and short descriptions of individuals being held captive by the state for acts of Earth and animal liberation. The question that may be asked is: Why does the Journal list political prisoners, and why should I do anything more than give a short glance to its contents?

As the EFJ and larger ecological defense movements have grown, more militant and direct actions have occurred, particularly in the last four years. The introduction of genetically engineered crops, the continued decimation of the last old-growth forests and the expansion of development projects into the last wild places have spawned a new generation of warriors more likely to physically destroy the opposition’s machines and buildings than to hold signs or petition the government for change.

The proliferation of actions taken against industry (claimed by the Earth Liberation Front, Animal Liberation Front or unclaimed) is enough to warm the heart, especially after the reactionary stances taken by many radicals post September 11. As we have seen in the US Pacific Northwest, every action has a separate and equal reaction. The state apparatus is expanding rapidly in order to hunt down “terrorists” wherever they rear their heads. The FBI/ATF budget is expanding exponentially, and we have to come to terms with the fact that this war being fought against industry will yield prisoners of war. It would behoove us to do more than just cheer when we hear of wild horses being freed by elves in the night, McDonald’s burning down or a beheaded Columbus statue.

The point is simple: No serious political struggle which has any chance of attaining revolutionary potential can afford to ignore its prisoners. To turn our collective backs on prisoners is to ensure that our movement will stay small, relatively mild and will never be a threat to industrialized industry. Who would want to take action if they knew their support would be minimal if they got nicked?

Below are some ideas on the many ways we can support the prisoners that are listed on the Journal/prisoner page, as well as some guidelines for doing support work.

Corresponding with Prisoners

Letters quite simply help bridge the gap between the “inside” and “outside” worlds. They help inform the prisoner of what is going on in their movements, the world and even their community. The penal system exerts a massive strain on prisoners to break ties with the outside world. Communicating with prisoners helps work against that strain and ensures that they do not feel completely isolated.

Often people say, “What would I write to someone in prison? I wouldn’t know what to say.” It’s simple. Remember: They are human. They have needs and interests like anyone on the outside. Share something about you and your efforts with them. Ask yourself what likely goes on the inside and what they plan to do when they get out. Offer some assistance. An unexpected letter from a supporter can be a welcome break from the daily monotony of prison life. Don’t feel intimidated by the person you are writing to—they are not a superman; just someone that had the courage to act for what they believe in.

Consistency is paramount when communicating with prisoners. Commit to writing to one prisoner and do it well—they will appreciate it more than a short, hastily written letter. The examples of people attempting valiantly to keep up with writing to 10 prisoners and then having to scale down to one or two are innumerable. Consistent support is always better than short, long “flash-in-the-pot” support. That being said, people should not feel the responsibility to commit to writing to prisoners for the length of their sentence. Prisoners will generally appreciate a letter with some kind thoughts and may even have the time to keep a steady correspondence with everyone who writes them.

Keep in mind that there is a very good chance that what you write will be read by any or all of the above: prison guards, wards, other prisoners, FBI, CSN (Canada), the new Office of Homeland Security. You should assume that what you write can be used against the prisoner, yourself and your community, so be careful and have discretion.

Many prisoners are targeted by prison guards for being political, receiving large amounts of mail or for the “subversive” content of the mail they receive. It is important to know the guidelines concerning prisoners’ mail. The First Amendment states that the prisoner is entitled to receive anything that they may or may not receive. Usually, they have a fairly good idea of what is appropriate to send and what will not make it past the censors. Prisons are known for having strict regulations for what a prisoner can receive, i.e. new books only, first-class mail. If that does not work, write to the warden of the prison requesting a list of regulations.

A tool commonly used to disrupt prisoner support is the “Mail Violation Notice.” They can (and sometimes do) reject mail for any reason they want, including the presence of a “circle A” on a zine or the use of the word “anarchy” in a letter. Don’t be discouraged by these tricks—either file an appeal (which you have little chance of winning), modify the package to appease them (easiest and most likely to work) or send it again (hoping a different mail censor sees it). Whatever you do, do not give up and allow them to further alienate the person inside.

Funding

If there is one thing that all prisoners and those on trial need, it is a large amount of financial assistance. Legal fees are exorbitant and many political individuals will not receive any reduction in these fees based on their principles or the action they took. Prisoners often need assistance in setting up legal funds that will be maintained by trustworthy individuals who are prepared to make hard choices with little money. Because of their imprisonment, the act of setting up a bank account is a privilege for a prisoner. It is important to set up a way for people in the movement to help out financially. Ideally, these accounts would already exist in cases of emergencies, but that is rarely the case. Setting up a bank account, a post office box for people to send checks to and a person/name who will act as a recipient of those checks is key and should be a high priority. The prisoner needs to be fully informed and in control of the money that is raised on their behalf. Never underestimate the generosity and solidarity of our movement and your own community. Thousands of dollars have been raised for people facing imprisonment from small benefit shows, zines and t-shirt sales.

Keep in mind that prisoners are always in the position of having to buy from the incredibly expensive (and monopolistic) prison commissary, which is the only place a prisoner may buy envelopes, stamps and even soy milk. A consistent flow of funds is one of those things that makes prison life bearable. A contribution of $1 a week can cover a prisoner’s postage fees, thus allowing them to communicate with supporters and friends on the outside. Often funds can be sent directly to the prison and deposited into the prisoner’s account.

Solidarity Actions

Many people feel drawn not to writing letters or setting up funds but to continuing the struggle that the prisoners are fighting. Some call this concept revolutionary solidarity—an action committed in solidarity with a prisoner that may or may not focus on a similar target.
In light of continuing repression within the radical environmental movement we bring you an interview with the political prisoner support group, Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan (FAP). Brendan and Andrew, both members of FAP, provided separate insights on their work with FAP. FAP has been providing support for Green Scare political-prisoner—Daniel McGowan (with Daniel’s help) since Daniel’s initial arrest in 2005. In 2007 the EFF collective interviewed Daniel (at EFF November-December/January/February). It is our hope that this interview can help de-mystify the task of facilitating a political-prisoner support group.—Jezzabel

Earth First! Journal: Could you give a little background on your support group, such as when it originated and why?

Brendan: Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan originated on December 8, 2005, the day after the arrests, when people who had come to his bail hearing went across the street to a diner to get on the same page about what we were doing. The support group originated for the same reasons as any other—so our friend who was (and is) getting targeted by the state for believing in a better world could get some organized support.

Andrew: Well, while not official, the group (Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan) started on December 7, 2005—the day Daniel was arrested. It was at home and received a call from Jenny (with whom Daniel is partners). It didn’t take long to realize that Daniel was not in jail for something petty. The first meeting of what would become Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan took place in a diner across from the courthouse where Daniel was arraigned, before he was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, New York.

how Daniel supported Free and knew that in turn, the most important thing we could do for Daniel and the movements to which he was connected was to quickly organize support for him.

EFF: Since the Green Scare, prisoner support groups have become a meaningful part of our movement. What were your experiences with gaining access to resources for starting a political-prisoner support group?

B: It took a lot of haggling and all of us were lucky, especially in the beginning when his case was getting loads of attention. I had some access to the political-prisoner support world from doing the work before, and other people had plenty of friends and connections, but being part of a support group for Daniel meant that suddenly, in a whole new world of people and organizations came out of the wood-work to help. It was wonderful.

EFF: Facilitating a specific prisoner support group is a delicate and exacting task. What did you learn?

A: I feel like it is easy to have a rough idea as to how these types of groups work, but how does your support group actually operate? Is it more collectively-run? Do you feel as though work is distributed equally?

B: For us, anyway, I think it would be impossible to distribute tasks equally. People have different skill sets, different kinds of things they like to do, and different amounts of time to devote to this work. For example, we have people full-time and part-time; some are overburdened with personal commitments, or political, or community work, and some aren’t. Among ourselves, we are very collective and democratic, and we make decisions that way. Some decisions are up to Daniel or up to his partner. Sometimes, Daniel will ask a certain person to do something specific. We are a collective when we can be, but we are also accountable to Daniel, his partner and his family. We all do what we can, when we can, and that means understanding that work needn’t always be distributed equally as long as our relationships with each other are caring, principled and respectful.

A: Part of this group’s success is due to the diversity of the involved folks’ backgrounds. How does this mix benefit your group?

B: We have been really good at playing at our respective strengths—some are better at design work, some at talking to state officials, some at fundraising. Regardless, we have built enough trust in each other that most any decisions come easily. For the most part, we make decisions based on consensus and consultation. Daniel has been really good at that, as he is possible and lawful.

EFF: Proper exposure to your group seems like one of the key factors in successful advocacy for prisoners. Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan has made a large presence for itself. What do you mainly attribute this to?

B: Daniel is a pretty popular guy and has a lot of friends. He’s working-class, but, through his work and his life style, he is well connected to all kinds of resources through his friends and supporters. So, that has been extremely helpful. We tried to strategize around this, mapping out our connections to the resources we had available and trying to figure out how to make these most useful to our goals.

A: We’ve also for a long time had the attitude that we’d do best by challenging ourselves with the real problems of relationships and subcultures—to think beyond the activist scene—and to organize like hell, and put our name and message out to the broadest possible audience to run his trial like a public-relations campaign or as if Daniel were running for office. Certainly, not everything we’ve done has been consistent with that idea, but I think that all of the best things we’ve done have been a result of that kind of attitude.

B: We’ve also simply passed out tons of flyers and stickers, showed up to countless events and had thousands of conversations with people.

A: Again, a lot of this comes from Daniel knowing so many people and known as a principled and dedicated person. Not to be belittling, but without Daniel and all of us being there, it didn’t take long for Daniel to lose his support, but without the work Daniel had put into supporting other prisoners, we probably wouldn’t have had the support.

B: The fact that Daniel and his co-defendants were among the first wave of the Green Scare roundups also played to our advantage.

EFF: What do you think is most important for political prisoners today, both here and abroad?

A: I think the most important thing is continuing to support Daniel. We’ve been able to continue supporting him in a Communication Management Unit (CMU) Daniel’s specific needs have shifted significantly. How does your group try to support Daniel? We’ve also found different paths—especially at times when it may be a completely new task at hand for prisoner support groups.

B: Despite the intense limiting and management of Daniel’s communication in that unit, he is almost always able to tell someone what he needs. Supporting Daniel has always meant writing letters, visiting, raising money and getting the word out. It used to be we’d be working on something franticly, we’d make a big push, and then it would be quiet, not a whole lot of noise. Now things are more in the realm of organizing in the long haul. Now they’ve passed the stopgap and are beginning to see somewhat-mysterious CMU, and his needs are bound up even more than before with other targets of the government’s overreach. We’ve been talking to federal and state prisoners and other political prisoners. Besides the usual state support and keeping up with our friends, the tasks at hand are…

A: …and running our own group. We’ve been able to support groups throughout the country to support Daniel, trusting that his perspective from the inside provides a lens that we are otherwise not privy to.

EFF: What has been your most effective way of disseminating information about these needs?

B: So far, it has been email, the web, the media, word of mouth and our own group. EFF: What types of hurdles have you encountered since initially setting up your support group? Do any of the same ones still exist, and how have you navigated through them?

B: We’ve had our share of interpersonal drama, misunderstandings and frustrations. All of that is a lot better now just because we’ve been dealing with it for a while now. The big hurdles that still exist are the fact that Daniel is in a CMU, and the fact that Daniel’s phone service and the government is still rounding up and, in some cases, locking up activists on flimsy pretexts and at any cost, whether they’re old school 1970s mugs or people in a communication demonstration, or so-called conspiracies for crimes that never happened. These are hurdles around which we have not been able to navigate.

B: Some of the hurdles have been losing core members to attrition and continuing to hold down day jobs while also being political prisoners. Earth liberationists and political-prisoner supporters, attention spans are short. Keeping Daniel on their radar is a persistent challenge. Members feel pressure to do their part, not to let the work go cold for the past year and a half or so, adding one person, but there was a period of time, right around when Daniel reported
prison, that several people faded away. That is not only hard in terms of having fewer people to share the work, but emotionally, too. People become less committed.

E: If I understand you correctly, Daniel has definitely been a long-term project. How have you kept momentum going for your support group over the past four years?

B: It's tough. Not everyone who was aware of the event being around now. We can't get the kind of attention or raise the kind of money we could in the early days. Doing primary support for years takes a toll on the participants. They take a toll on you. To keep it going, we have to remember to show each other lots of love and we have to continually reinvent our approach to supporting Daniel. We have to try not to stagnate and drag our feet. Keeping the momentum going is definitely a challenge, especially for people who have been supporting a loved one and/or comrades in prison for decades, especially the ones with life sentences.

E: It seems to me that some of it has been building a certain routine. We know that twice a year we are having big events in New York City (NYC). Just as we find out how much work is involved in the preceding one, it's time to start on the next. Tabling more conventional events, like the NYC Earth Fair, really helps also, as the attitude toward Daniel's case and radical environmentalism in general has noticeably changed in the three years we have tabled there. We've learned to get a strong response, and in him I told a story of a letter he just received from someone who met me at his year Earth Fair. He had never heard of Daniel or the prison work centers around folks who have been in prison for decades, they are great resources. We have a unique way to connect political prisoners from various movements and across generations.

E: From a different angle, what contributions do you think your group has added to the movement?

B: I think it's great we were able to help make it possible for his lawyers to negotiate that global peace agreement, so that everyone in his case who wasn't cooperating with the FBI could plead out of prison. We've also decided to write Daniel a letter. Knowing that a simple conversation with a stranger on a sidewalk by Grand Central Station can lead them to write to a prisoner certainly keeps me motivated to work on novel ways to talk with more folks about Daniel's case and the deep politics in keeping the migrant Earth and animal liberation movements.

E: The radical environmental movement talks a lot about supporting its prisoners in the movement. What role has the movement at large played in Daniel's support group? Do you feel like your support has been adequately supported by the movement?

B: It's a complicated question. On one hand, the radical environmental movement seems to really be supporting its prisoners and seems to recognize prisoner support as part of what it means to be in the movement. I enjoy the deep politics in keeping our movements and the strange politics and the momentum and the energy that has been generated. I think what we've been best at adding to the movements we are a part of and resources, ad of experiences. Daniel has been really good about relating his experiences every step of the way, and we, in turn, have been able to offer this experience to other support groups. I hope we have been able to offer "the movement" and those working late at night the piece of mind that if, by some bad luck, they get captured, there are folks outside to support them—that their actions are not in vain and that they won't be34 martyred, left behind, valorized and forgotten. 

E: Providing active support in peoples lives who we care about can have a significant impact on our own. Looking more at the members of radical environmental movements, what has your experience of supporting a prisoner affected your lives? Has it led to any day-to-day or longer-term changes in your lives?

B: I think my support has been a small part of my life and my activism. Now, it's nearly everything to me. I have friends I haven't had before, and they're some of the best friends I have.

E: There is certainly been a lot of support for a prisoner in your case that has made a lot of people more involved in the movement. That has certainly been the case for a number of people in federal prisons by increasing the "good time" credit all federal prisoners receive. Include any and all of the information and campaigns mentioned above in the organizations you're a part of, the work you're doing, the messages you send out, and the conversations you have.

A: For all of the talk of family and friends of Daniel McGowan being largely composed of law students and other current or former law enforcement getting to piece of legislation passed. Fragmentism is the rule of the day. The bill is called HR 1475, "Federal Prison Work Incentive Act of 2002," congratulate myself and our friends for their successful campaign. This legislation would increase the number of days federal prisoners could earn toward early release. This is the only thing that is going to get Daniel home sooner. Folks can check out www.goodtimebill.info for more information. Otherwise, the best ways to support Daniel are to write to him, put up posters, and keep the momentum going you are part of militant and uncompromising.

E: For anyone that reads this interview, there are a few things you would like to add?

B: Feel free to get in touch at friendsdanielmcg@yahoo.com.
When anarchist prisoner Nikos Maziotis was sentenced to 15 years for the attempted bombing of the Greek Ministry of Development, multitudes of actions were committed in solidarity with him.

Similarly, when Rod Coronado was sentenced for action relating to the ALF’s Operation Bite Back, many felt that his jailing would stifle actions taken for animal and Earth liberation. The ALF responded with a series of fur farm liberation dedicated to him. Former prisoners have commented that the only thing that freed them was the pressure on the streets and the threats of continued action. A former Black Panther and political prisoner had this to say about this premise: “But I learned that the movement in the streets determined whether you languished in prison or were released, not the state. If it becomes strong enough, it can compel a favorable outcome, even if the officials swear that you will be executed or die in prison.”

Here comes the tricky part: There really is no way to know the effect that an action or a communiqué can have on a prisoner’s case. For example, three days prior to Jeffrey “Free” Loer’s trial last spring, 36 SUVs were torcht at the same car dealership that he took action against a year prior. The communiqué that came out stated that the action was done in solidarity with Free and Critter and against their unjust imprisonment. There is no way of knowing the impact of this statement prior to Free’s trial, but these are Free’s observations (from Break the Chains #9): “My critique is this: This act would have been just as significant and more beneficial to me if my name was not mentioned in the communiqué. That said, I would like to extend my revolutionary thanks to those persons unknown. To those responsible for these actions, please know my gratitude.”

This is not meant to be a criticism of this action—just a reminder to people that we all need to proceed with caution when it is other people’s freedom that we are dealing with.

Work on Projects That are Prisoner Directed

The most successful prisoner support projects are those that are conceived of and directed by the prisoners themselves. Two examples of such projects are the Victory Gardens Project in Maine (started by NY3 political prisoners) and the Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network (APLAN—started by anarchist prisoner Rob Thaxton). They are successful and long-term because the prisoners themselves are leading them and working in conjunction with outside support to achieve their aims. Another prisoner-directed project is the publishing of prisoners’ writings and artwork through zines. This could include receiving the letters, typing, copying, distribution and fundraising. It’s a big task, but many examples exist of excellent prisoner-directed zines.

No serious political struggle which has any chance of attaining revolutionary potential can afford to ignore its prisoners.
Free
Hugh & Tiga

AS THE STATE'S WEB OF REPRESSION WIDENS
OPEN YOUR ARMS OF SUPPORT WIDER
IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL I-69 RESISTINSCE

WWW.MOSTLYEVERYTHING.NET
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BERKELEY WATER

The farmers’ market is breaking down; freckled peaches fold inward like the Renaissance. Wrestlers & jugglers enter the park; slightly soggy boxes are being flattened as pineapple goaves finally relax & a chill comes over the waist of autumn. From Happy Bay Organic Farms come bottles of thick-as-infinity apple juice with the ankles of pulp. Early tangos, late plums, Shinko pears cut into tender cedalon wedges, mute maiche. Women in oversized aprons wash knives in Berkeley tap. Tap, Berkeley tap-tap. The run-off joins culverts of the creek & hurries to the Bay. Mists of elemental sense hover over crates of fruit as hybrids cohabitiate. Men too smart to pray talk with men too smart not to. Terraces of almonds, piles of ridged hazelnuts & tubs of hot dal. Marjoram, stalks of lavender & lisp dill. Chips for sampling tomatillo salsa. You have entered the market with your beloved, your souls like drops of water easily merged. Water tumbles from the cast, tickles under the huge blond radishes, dark pansy, big broccoli rabe & mustard greens, beneath only slightly popular bitter melons, baskets of trench-coat gray sunflower seeds, flat & curly kale, unruly rainbow chard, under raising balsamic vinegar from Sonoma & tables of Big Paw Olive Oil, violet grapes, girls with yo-yos, boys doing Tai Chi, beneath smart, worried-looking Berkeley babies slumped in very expensive strollers while their mothers eat carob-coated pretzels & their fathers eat floppy artichoke pizza slices. The inside of a dream is itself; the world is ways to have considered it.

Down goes Berkeley water under jars of twice-born tan-ask & Sierra wildflower honey, trays of porcini mushrooms, calm Shitakes & gold parasol chanterelles from secret locales. Everything that happens is so odd; it enters matter over & over as mystical names. Blue Heron Farms, Phoenem in water join sixteen kinds of Napa tomatoes all glitter & tobacco need to nets of persimmons—the big kind that will ripen, the squat kind that can’t. Wings of purple & green, cabbages the size of musicians’ heads open next to squashes with spiders pretending to be speckles. Sexy peaceful spinach will be new next week as will the fenestral smelling of licorice, lyric Fulis from Bluum Bluff Orchards round as depictions of time in dreams, globs of baby eggplants, pools of cardamon, planets of pock ed oranges, chestnuts, & radical fabric hearts of pomegranates covered by motiveless fog.

—Brenda Hillman

FRIENDLY TAKEOVERS

It happens as soon as you turn your back the eminent domain seizure of “your” land Nature filing the void.

If I stop lighting fires in the woodstove as the weather first warms by the next cold snap it may be too late—bluebirds or blackbirds nesting in the stovepipe the little ones already peeping if I leave a wheelchair overturned in the lower garden because a tire’s gone flat the next time I think of resurrecting it, casually flip it over as if I’m in charge, there’s a thriving ant colony underneath filling the entire space and I have to flip it back over when I return from a week in the forest and go to the outhouse the next morning two yellowjackets buzz at me warily from newly created hexagons of hive so I have to use the old outhouse up the hill after my next time away I can’t open the small cooler any more because during three days an enterprising mama spider wove three nursery webs out from the handle and the little ones, so tiny I have to strain my old eyes to see them, are already unfolding their legs for the exodus to take over the whole place. Of course there’s also the small green tree frogs resting with the wild mushrooms in the cool damp root cellar, sometimes the big brown toad or the yellow and red-striped garter snake in the water trough the thirty or so deer feeding in the grass all night leaving pressed down grass beds for me to find, the cottontail rabbit I see if I’m up early enough in the morning scavenging left over dogfood down by the trailer, the woodrat once again making chaos of spilled compost, gnawed bread loaf fallen dishes, leaving a characteristic stink in the kitchen the huge great horned owl roosting somehow inside the chicken coop after his feast staring at me with bewitching gold eyes clinging firmly to the wire mesh with talons that could rip my face off but don’t.

what else should I expect? I’m over half a century old, reassured by thoughts of leaving the earth for the next generation—of birds, ants, yellowjackets, spiders, frogs, toads, snakes, deer, rabbits, woodrats and owls.

Written on July 8th, 2008

—Karen Coulter

You’re walking down the street
And the people that you see
Have that apathetic look of total defeat
Well the TV blares and their poor minds freak
Can’t anyone feel earth pulse beneath their feet

Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

The land is alive
Its passions its embers
Warm a big city night
With a mossy kind of splendor
But the corporate state
Has the means and will
To suck up life and vomit swill
They climax yelling KILL KILL KILL

Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

still feel withdrawn from mass culture ya ya?
Need a car chase bad or some dialing for dollars
Well there’s adventure to be had
That’s wild, a little bad
An emerging activist culture
This ain’t no short lived fad
We fight the good fight
For what’s left that’s wild and free
We party every night and get as primal as can be

Yeah
Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

—Andrew Rodman

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

Page 20 Earth First! Lughnasadh 2009
by L'ARCHERAS

One of the foremost authors of US counter culture, Franklin Rosemont, passed away on April 12, leaving us a breadth of brilliant work. With Paul Garon and wife, Penelope, he founded the Chicago Surrealist School, in solidarity with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) traditions and synchronized with the libertarian currents of the 1960s. Making contributions to a variety of movements—not least of which being Earth First! (EF)—Rosemont shared his special talent for writing with folks of all walks of life, deepening the struggles for ecstatic emancipation in keeping with the surrealist credo, "Revolution in Service of the Marvelous."

As writers, both Franklin and Penelope, struggled to bring together an often fragmented counter culture. The two's projects in developing radical unity included the creation of Solidarity Bookshop, the Chicago Surrealist School, and the journal, Rebel Worker (for more, see Penelope Rosemont's wonderful book, Dreams & Everyday Life). In their writing, the Rosemounts worked to transcend the theoretical and emotional boundaries that divide activists.

Writing and editing books on topics ranging from Haddon Durham to T-Bone Slim, from civil rights to surrealism, Rosemont's contribution to radical thought can not be overestimated. Among his most essential works are Dancing in the Streets, Haymarket Scrapbook, and Revolution in Service of the Marvelous. His devotion to human emancipation rivaled only his devotion to the Earth, and he proved it by participating in writing about EF! The Rosemounts participated in EF! struggles to save wolves, to stop the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago from imprisoning whales, and to protect Siskiyou Forest, using their notoriety to publicly defend direct action tactics like tree spiking.

In perhaps his greatest work, Joe Hill: The IWW & the Making of a Revolutionary Workingclass Counterculture, Rosemont dives deeply into the radical connections that so many activists share. He highlights EF! in particular, drawing connections to other counter cultural currents—for example, links formed between EF! organizers and the Wobbler (IWW) as well as the unique, historical bonds represented by the connections between the IWW's Big Red Singbooks (which Rosemont co-edited) and EF! and the Lil' Green Songbook— in order to bring to light the importance of radical solidarity and historical remembrance.

As the Earth First! journal will be including The Hawaiian Song Book in this issue, and hopefully future issues, of the journal, it becomes important to recognize the traditions from which these songs flow and to remember the folks who worked to keep those traditions alive. Let's raise our voices for Franklin Rosemont, and to life-wild and free.

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BY DANNY DOLINGER

G C9 G - C9
I've got a job and I've got a lot to do
G C9 G - C9
Think in this life my work will never be through
Em D
When folks are aware and they just don't care
C
How much is consumed by so few
G C9 G - C9
And I like to soak my feet in the Morning dew
Oh I like to sing and take time to play my guitar
Like on a bank and watch for a falling star
Forget all the mayhem and utter destruction
That's tearing the planet in two
And I want to spend the end of the world with you
Well it's hard on my heart to see people who should have the best
give up so much to improve life for all the rest
Well I feel your heart ache and I'm proud that you don't break
And if your dream for the earth don't
Then I want to spend the end of the world with you

BRIDGE

Em D
Well there's so little hope, almost no way to cope
C
and often crying's the right thing to do
Am C
Or shouting in anger at the temples of power
G D
but laughter's important too ...

So let's take today and go out and play in the sun
Dedicate one single day to nothing but fun
This may be the last Spring that we get a chance to
sing songs of gratitude
And I want to spend the end of the world with you

G C9 G - C9
I want to spend the end of the world with you... With you

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...
Chimps Suffering Big Time
A recent survey conducted in the West African nation of Cote D’Ivoire shows that the chimpanzee population fell from around 8,000 to 2,000 individuals in the region to only 1,200 over the past 20 years. The destruction of habitat in the area is cited as the primary reason for the steep fall, and primates are not alone in their trouble.

In the 60s, 100,000 chimps coexisted with a myriad of animals in this dense and lush ecosystem. Today, nothing remains but the tragic ghost of human civilization. The case of Cote D’Ivoire, which has seen a population growth of 50 percent in the past 20 years, is repeated throughout West Africa. Similar declines in animal population are likely.

Two New Victories in Alaska
Alaska is this year’s two new victories for wilderness. After a federal district court ruled to close the notorious 50-mile, $374-million Juneau Road project, saying that the Federal Highway Administration’s judgment was less ecologically invasive alternatives, Congress decided to halt the subsidizing of the so-called “Tongass Timber Pipeline.” For ten years this pipeline has routed the forests of Tongass, thanks to the “soft market.” Meanwhile, activists won a case against the Flathead National Forest in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, forcing the protection and maintenance of areas frequented by grizzly bears. If it comes down to roads or grizzlies, the court says, the grizzlies win.

Polar Bears Win Popularity Contest, Local Government Resists
In a May 8 decision to maintain limitations on polar bear protection, the Obama Administration ensured that George Bush’s legacy of ignorance, scientific uncertainty, and denial of the bed of extinction it has made the rule, which exempts all hazardous activities occurring outside of the polar bears’ range from environmental review. In response to the decision, a group of more than 1,300 scientists, 50 prominent legal experts, dozens of lawmakers, 130 conservation organizations, and hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens.

The decision is seen by many as a gift to big oil and industry, whose lack of friends may lead the public to the role that carbon emissions play in the imminent destruction of the entire world, not to mention polar bears’ natural habitat.

Indigenous Global Summit on Climate Change
Kicked off a summit season with a subversive popular assembly, indigenous representatives from all across the world met in Anchorage, Alaska, to express solidarity and a forward direction. In April 20-24, in a dispatch, they proclaimed, “We are experiencing profound and disproportionate adverse impacts on our cultures, human and environmental health, human rights, well-being, traditional livelihoods, food systems and food sovereignty, local infrastructure, economic viability and our very survival as Indigenous Peoples.”

The resolution that the summit produced calls for, among other things, an international just transition, the phasing out of fossil-fuel development, international recognition of the importance of indigenous culture, intellectual property, and participatory representation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Sheel Oil Let Off the Hook in Historic Case
In a 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court agreed that Shell won’t have to pay for the clean-up of its toxic chemicals, spilt in the town of Alvin, California, while in transit to the now-abandoned Brown & Fish Commission distribution. The State and federal officials attempted to charge Shell and two railroad companies for the fall costs of the clean-up, but the Supreme Court ruled that only 10 percent of the pollution cleaned up in the Alvin site was caused by the actual spill, so the costs would have been excessive.

In the sole dissenting opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg explained, “Relieving Shell of any obligation to pay for the clean-up... is surely at odds with [the law’s] objective, to place the cost of remediation on persons whose activities contributed to the contamination rather than on the taxpaying public.

Many say that this case will set a precedent for corporate unaccountability. Others say that the precedent was set hundreds of years ago.

Public Notified That They Own the Allegheny National Forest
On April 12, a federal judge upheld a prior decision forcing corporations to give public consent before drilling in the half-million-acre Allegheny National Forest in Northwestern Pennsylvania. This decision will make the Forest Service conduct environmental analyses on proposed oil and gas drilling projects, postponing the exploration of about 440 oil and gas wells in the interim. Still, this is a mere drop in the bucket of the approximately 11,500 oil and gas wells already in production, none of which have elicited public consent or even been officially analyzed from an environmental perspective.

Legislation Sticks Up for Migratory Birds
The Act for Songbirds was officially signed into existence on May 7, 2009, for International Bird Day. According to the report, “U.S. State of the Birds,” released last year, more than 250 American bird species are in decline or face severe threats. It supports the belief that ensuring the safety of migratory birds involves the prevention of barriers to migration like power lines and communication towers as well as the increasing of food sources, and expansion of habitats like migratory stop-off points.

Wolf-Hunter Hunting Season Begins!
Gray wolves are going to have a tough year, as their removal from the endangered species list in the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes region went into effect on May 4. Even though only 200 breeding wolves survive in the Northern Rockies, hunters are already salivating over their new firearm catalogues, as the state of Idaho has repe- atedly declared its intentions to facilitate the killing of hundreds of wolves. However, the wolves are radio-collared, and the government will probably gallantly notice them in wolves down and bravely snipe them from their chivalrous helicopters. Ironically, one reason for delisting the wolves was the le- gal state policy towards wolves in Wy-oming that exists in spite of extant federal protections. Apparently, violating federal law works. Hmm.

Meanwhile, environmentalists filed suit in Federal Court in Missoula, Montana, for the restoration of protections to wolves in Montana and Idaho, “keeping up their side of this ongoing débâcle.”

Cougars to be Exterminated by Ass-Backwards Preservationists
Also known as pumas, mountain lions and panthers, a branch of cougars evolved in the distinct environment of the Sonoran Desert, becoming a crucial part of that eco- system. In a move that might best be de- scribed as genocidal, officials in charge of the 665,000-acre Kofa Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Arizona have plotted to wipe them out of their native habitat. The powers-that-be at the Arizona Game and Fish Commission set the slaughter number at 31. Apparently, they are waiting for their name to officially be changed to Kofa Wild- life Death Camp.

Hooray for the Pinneg Ban!
In a bold move, the European Union (EU) officially banned the importation of products made from seal skins and other pinnipeds’ walruses and sea lions. Although Canada insists it deserves exemption since it “follows strict guidelines in place for hu- mane and sustainable sealing practices” (e.g. not clubbing seals while they still have their white coats), the EU insists that bludgeon- ing a living creature over the head with a spiny club isn’t humanitarian. Recent rev- olutions showing that some seals are slain alive did not help Canada’s case. However, the seal clubbers’ “bloody” trade will likely be protected (or at least averaged) once Canada sue the EU for violating World Trade Organiza- tion (WTO) laws.

Indigenous Resistance Rocks Peru
Speaking of the WTO, Peruvian indigenous leaders declared a hunger strike in Congress in early May to protest the Free Trade Agree- ment (FTA) recently signed with the US. Peruvian President Alan García has expropri- ated huge tracts of indigenous lands for the FTA, which protects multinational corpora- tions like Oxycrdent and Conocophills while they loot of the natural resources of the Amazon.

Supported by eight catholic bishops and countless environmentalists, the hunger strike of indigenous leaders was followed by the mobilization of 30,000 people in 65 tribes blocking roads, waterways, and pipe- lines throughout the Amazon. After halting more than 41 energy industry vessels, the indigenous stepped up a notoriety, Peru- vian army under a state of emergency, which suspended the constitution for the expressed purposes of state repression. Going as far as denouncing the existence of various threatened indigenous tribes, García has moved forwards with a military invasion of the Amazon, kill- ing dozens of activists already in attempts to silence resistance. Much more was de- veloping as of press-time. For up-to-date in- formation, visit www.upidedownworld- org/main/content/category/538/767/
An existentialist wolf to nuclear whistleblower, Vanunu Mordecai, for following in the footsteps of Sartre by refusing a Nobel Prize nomination, Vanunu, who served an 18-year prison sentence for exposing Israel’s nuclear secrets, cannot leave Israel without police permission or to contact foreign news media. As a price for his refusal, Vanunu said that he could not join the list of laureates that includes his sworn enemy. Simon Peres, who has mastered mind several atomic weapon programs in multiple countries.

A less-pretentious-more-wild wolf to Karta, the orangutan, who built her own ladder, short circuited some electrical wires, and then climbed the fence that separated her from freedom. Tired zoos raised the alarm, and a caretaker quickly responded to the call, engaging Karta in a stand off that lasted for half an hour. Finally, the ingenious orangutan decided against the pre-mature breakout, and climbed back down into confinement to further plot his escape.

A dam-the-man wolf to Klamath Justice Coalition activists, who dropped banners off a local bridge to demand the removal of four hydroelectric dams from the Klamath River. As a sign of their power, the activists unfurled three banners from Highway 101 to send their message to 24 stakeholder groups to follow the settlement of dam removal.

As the stakeholders travelled by motor boat down the river to the meeting of the Klamath, the advocating material to analyze, reading, “Open the river, close the deal,” they held the Klamath, the event, and “Enough is Enough, Bring the Salmon Home,” the main banners were accompanied by mini-boats that circled the signs, “Who builds the dam, closes the river, closes the deal? Let the Klamath River heal!” Downriver, activists stood with another banner, stating “These Kill Innocent Beasts and Communities.”

A completely-underestimating-climate-change-poopie to SkyBalls for produc- ing the most controlled parasail to tug 10,000-ton cargo ships across oceans. We guess the chief engineer, Steven Wragge, doesn’t realize that the majority of emissions comes from the commodities on the tankers along with the ships themselves.

Unless paraisals can turn raw materials into unicorns and sprinkle Western Civilization with fairy dust, it looks like we’re still up shit creek, parasail or no parasail.

A zero-solidarity-for-zero-emissions-poopie to bankers who have extorted the 2010 Olympics as “the Hydrogen Olympics.” Amidst the support for an $18 million project to produce hydrogen for four transit buses, a car wash, and eight utility trucks, ignorance fingers over the byproduct, co, and Asia.” These quotations are difficult to inscribe within this journal—like the Earth First! Journal itself, Abbey’s writing has done much to inspire the environmental movement to direct action. We should recognize his contribution. Be sure, he was not alone in his oppressive beliefs; it was a different time, and they pervaded the whole ELF movement. Evidence of this can even be seen in some old issues of the journal as they reflect Abbey’s own writing.

Remember, the revolutionary presence that drove Abbey and his minions away created space for the philosophical in-troductions of eco-feminism, deep ecology and bio-centrism. We should never return to the petulant and puerile egoism of certain old traditions. Face it, as a movement, we’ve made some great strides. We should be proud of everyone in the movement, and stop blaming the youth, whose communications allegiance to anti-oppression would have impressed Abbey, himself. I definitely would not be a part of ELF if it weren’t for the strong female body, to mention LGBQT+ folks like me who aren’t afraid to raise their voice and express themselves to a self-described "older generation."

I know what’s up—not all the older folks are down on the "younger folks," and lots of older EFlers know the past and the present, and they support it all. Like them, I am all about the traditions and culture of ELF, but as for those that say the younger generation should "be good, and shut up and listen," I say, "No deal, assholes!" Patriotry is one tradition that I don’t want to continue.

alated by the industrial process of hydrogen creation, and a totally blind eye is cast on the exploitation of uncultivated indigenous lands being snapped up by developers, as preparation for the warped event.

A what’s-wrong-with-this-poopie: pooh from the West Texas county of Andrews. The county voted not only to allow a Dallas company to build a coal plant on its lands in its vicinity, but to fund the waste site as well. The company, Waste Control Specialists, is getting $75 million in financing from Andrews County, which they promise to pay back. They stand to profit from past Waste Control Specialists’ agenda by three votes.
The group's resolution was denied, and they were asked to leave. They were told to send one representative back in five minutes. However, the consulatives officials lied, and the collective was met with five Phoenix police cars and one Homeland Security vehicle. Consulate security guards surrounded the entrance, and Phoenix police informed the group that anyone returned to the consulative ground, they would be arrested for trespassing. The action ended with traditional O'odham songs around 11 a.m.

On May 6, in San Francisco, California, a diverse group of around 50 people were mainly networked from Greenaction, an organization that has worked closely with many Indigenous communities for environmental justice. The group demonstrated in front of the Mexican consulate for almost an hour before initiating a march to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office, taking over a lane of traffic on the way. Lots of police and Homeland Security cops were waiting for them, along with two EPA officials who were present with bodyguards. The group blocked traffic in front of the office for a few minutes and railed in the street for a half hour. The message was sent that this is only the beginning if our concerns are not met.

Tucson, Arizona, activists visited the local Mexican consul on the first Friday of April after the gathering at Quitocva. They burst signs and creative chants. On the May 6 day of solidarity, Tucson returned, this time with 25 people, who were watched over by a lone cop car. Informational flyers were handed out to everyone who approached the gates to conduct business. Anyone who arrived at the consulate had to be let in with a key, after the office was informed of the events that occurred that day in Phoenix. Eventually, two consulatives officials came out and were presented with the resolution from the March Quitocva gathering.

Ofelia Rivas, of the organizations, O'odham Voice Against the Wall and O'odham Rights Cultural and Environmental Justice Coalition, has been instrumental in building opposition to the dump, and has spoken at various events around Tucson. These events have been met with opposition and solidarity was organized outside the Municipal Office of Sonya, where about 50 supporters shared speeches, held banners and delivered the resolution to the mayor of Sonya. An election is approaching and we want to make sure the government officials know where the people stand. No matter how it turns out, though, one thing is clear: efforts to stop the dump will only continue to strengthen until the plans are once again halted—this time for good.

** PLANE STUPID **

continued from page 14

linked into the wider grassroots, eco-justice movements such as the Climate Camp that appear to be growing at an unstoppable pace. The network seeks to share resources, experience and ideas to help collectively contraband from fundamental targets. Plane Stupid is an open-source brand that other affinity groups can adopt without having to be already inside the network, as long as groups commit to using it for nonviolent direct action against the aviation industry. Thus, different groups have used different approaches that suit them. Plane Stupid encourages linking the dots between climate change and climate refugees. The Heathrow campaign has often been an example of how immediate local communities will be bulldozed by expansion plans. Finally, all groups need to collaborate to two basic demands of ending UK airport expansion and ending short-haul flights. So, why did they approve the third runway? Does this mean that out movement has failed? From the beginning, we always expected and prepared for the worst, but we also went for the best. The third naysayers the crown jewel of the UK government's aviation white paper, and it was always going to be approved. However, the success of the campaign has meant that it is allowed to widespread and public discussion, and that caused huge ruffles, even in the Cabinet Office itself. The approval was much more limited in nature than what was being asked for, and many other expansion plans around the UK either been watered down, shelved or dropped altogether. All the government has done is give permission to the airport operator, BAA, to draw up detailed plans for the third runway at Heathrow. The final decision still has to be given by the next elected government that is likely to be different. All other parties are committed to scraping expansion plans.

The announcement has undermine the government's credibility and has massively swelled the ranks of those publicly committing to take direct action against it. Finally, Heathrow is one of the world's most famous and busiest international airports just outside of London, the capital of global finance and the potential global capital of carbon markets. If the third runway is not dropped, the campaign offers a great opportunity to create an international beacon that calls for global climate resistance movements around the world to unite in solidarity with each other. For us, nothing less than this will do. The above represents the personal thoughts of Barry Wilson and not the Plane Stupid network as a whole.

Barry Wilson is a truck driver for a well know potato chip company in the UK. During the 2000 UK fuel crisis he left his job as one of those being paid against the global ecology and he also realized the power of direct action when he helped bring the country to a stand still by helping blockade UK oil refineries. Since then he has worked tirelessly to use direct action to stop the government and big business from exploiting the working people and planet on the name of money and power.
National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit
Serious Organized Crime and Police Act
Failure in the UK

By Judit Pataki

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the National Extrem­
ism Tactical Coordination Unit (NETCU) investigated a series of
raids in 2006 by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) on rabbit breed­
ers. Despite the clear evidence of animal rights activism and the
widespread coverage of the events, the CPS concluded that there
was insufficient evidence to charge the perpetrators.

The CPS’s failure to act on this evidence has been criticized as
a failure of the justice system. The CPS has been subjected to
increased scrutiny in recent years, with a number of high-profile
cases failing to result in convictions.

In 2008, the CPS again failed to bring charges against the
ALF for a series of raids on rabbit breeders. The CPS stated that
there was insufficient evidence to support the charges.

The CPS’s repeated failures to bring charges in high-profile
animal rights cases have been widely criticized as a failure of the
justice system. The CPS has been subjected to increased scrutiny
in recent years, with a number of high-profile cases failing to result
in convictions.

The ALF has been involved in a number of high-profile
cases, including the 2006 raids on rabbit breeders. The
ALF’s actions have been widely condemned, with many
bystanders suffering injuries as a result of the activists’
techniques.

The ALF’s tactics have been praised by some activists, who
see them as a necessary means of protest in the face of
humanitarian injustice.

In conclusion, the CPS’s failure to act on evidence of animal
rights activism has been widely criticized as a failure of the
justice system. The CPS has been subjected to increased scrutiny
in recent years, with a number of high-profile cases failing to result
in convictions.
Prisoner and Legal Updates

John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 S. Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Serving time for conspiracy to buy blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Diane Caslini, Case 174/33/2, 120 W 14th st, New York, NY 10011. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Natalia Mora, 1143 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Fred A. Schaefer, 414 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

John Smith, 2000 South 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Joe D. Thomas, 414 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Teri Kay, 1143 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Joshua Harper, 414 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Animal Liberation

Jon Aberle, 24885, 856 Michigan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94114. Serving time for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Dan Amos, 2080 Bryant, 400 North Main Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Joshua Harper, 414 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Jared Halverson, 24885, 856 Michigan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Garrett Zabala, 414 North 10th Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Ecodefense

Grant Barnes, 13929, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 5, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of SVGs. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Nathan "Expire" Block, #36289, 9101 Deirtingen, San Diego, CA 92116. Serving 12 years for Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of SVGs. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #139767, Columbus River Correctional Institution, 5001 NE, Underwood 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.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.

Marie Mason, #04672-061, SCI Wasco, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 1731, Wasco, OR 97065. USA. Serving 21 years and 10 months for a series of ELF actions against genetic engineering and development. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

Eric McDaid, #16099, FCI Taravella Medium 1, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.daid.org.

Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, USP Marion, POB 1000, Marion, IA 52305, USA. Serving 7 years for ELF arson at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportgrandeproc.
Huntington Life Science (HLS) has been getting beat over their head with the short end of the stick lately. Multiple businesses have been selling their shares of HLS stock and withdrawing financial involvement with HLS. International action against them has been non-stop and holes in prosecutions against Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC) have arisen. A recent communication from SHAC bore the encouraging news of Barclays Global Investors, Barclays PLC, Hartford Investment Management Company, Rice Hall James and Associates LLC, BNY Mellon and Wells Fargo all selling their shares in HLS. This came after much relentless dedication to shutting down HLS. Taken from www.shac.net:

HLS are now (once again) in breach of their agreements outside the building where GlaxoSmithKline originated. Later that week, a crowd of 500 marched in the streets against vivisection. In Detroit, they took the heat to Pesco, where Novartis and Bristol-Myers Squibb have their Finnish headquarters side-by-side. In New York City, informational booths were set up on the sidewalk for a day. Later in the week, they took their crowd of friends to the offices of James Connelius, chairman and CEO of Bristol-Myers Squibb; Michael Grobstein, director of Bristol-Myers Squibb; and Robert Pelzer, president and CEO of Novartis. Phibs were released for the animals with multiple tours of demos throughout the week. The first round of demos was at the GlaxoSmithKline world headquarters. They next stopped at a Staples and finished off the demonstrations by visiting Bank of New York Mellon. Three days later, it was on to the home of Lisa De- tweiler, a corporate lawyer for the Bank of New York Mellon; then James Cecere, an asset manager for Vanguard, which is the second-largest investor of HLS and finished it off with visits to the homes of John Americks, a senior investment analyst at Vanguard, and Stacie Calab, a scientist for GlaxoSmithKline. On their last day of action that week, they posted an informational booth outside of Staples. The May week of mad science brought out SHAACers all across the world once again for action against HLS investors. (Visit www.shac.net for action report-backs.)

Another recent celebration for those in solidarity with SHAC and the animals came with the recent court ruling in favor of four activists who were caught on video purpleing at a rabbit farm that supplies animals to HLS (see page 25).

All and all, things are looking up and up for SHAC. Good news for us, bad news for Brian (HLS managing director), who recently responded to business dropping support from HLS, saying, "Revolution is down from last year and the outlook remains uncertain." We can safely say that SHAC is certain to one day shut you down, Brian! Done and done!
Two Earth First! Roadshow "Fires Arrested"

Two Earth First! activists were arrested at a Home Depot the morning of May 27 in Glenendale, Colorado. The activists followed a banner drop from the roof of the store, saying, "Duct Home Depot, NOT Patagonia!"

The banner-drop action was intended to remind both the public and the company, "We’ve been fighting Home Depot before and won." Almost 10 years ago, EP! groups across the country, with Rainforest Action Network and others, forced Home Depot to remove old-growth from their shelves. Today their work on the HidroAyas project in Patagonia, Chile shows their commitments to "nonviolent action practices" are only empty Public Relations.

The Earth First! Roadshow has been tracing its way through the US with the Round River Rendezvous as it’s last stop. Many updates or to see if these wide-eyed-eco-warriors will be near your town soon, visit www.earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com.

BUttles in the Coal Fields

The past few months have shown us that the battle against coal is still only heating up. On April 20, 44 activists were arrested in Charlotte, North Carolina, protesting Duke Energy’s plans to add massive additional coal burning capability to the company’s Cliffside plant. A month later, on May 23 through 26, anachronistic protesters saw seventeen arrested West Virginia, eight people were arrested at the "No More Again" banner and locking down to a dump truck at a mountain Removal of the People (Summer) who were arrested for blocking onto the Brushy Fork Impoundment point in Kentucky, another arrest was reading "No More Toxic Sludge" on it. Lastly, seven people were arrested for attempting to enter Massey Energy’s Machfork mining complex.

On the front lines of the legal battles, in Mingo County, West Virginia, 760 residents filed a class action suit against Massey energy and its subsidiary Kanawha Mining, which the suit is reading "No More Toxic Sludge" on it. Lastly, seven people were arrested for attempting to enter Massey Energy’s Machfork mining complex.

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