What a way to spend Halloween. As I shoved a tarp into my pack and grabbed my rain jacket for what promised to be an exceptionally soggy stint in the woods, I thought of all of the people who had made "other plans" for the weekend. Maskerade balls, art openings, theme parties—but, I wondered, what could be more appetizing than facing something scary on Hallowe’en—the proposed logging of more than 220 acres of mature and old growth forest within a 10 minute drive of my hometown? Bight in my backyard, the Forest Service plans to make over $100,000 from selling the Globe Forest to timber companies, including trees 100-300 years old. Of all 300 plus year-old stands in the US, only 1.92 percent of them exist on the East Coast. And the Forest Service is coming for them. I knew exactly where I wanted to be.

The direct action camp started on Friday evening, October 30, when about 40 people from all over North Carolina crunched their way through the leaves to set up camp in the Globe Forest, right outside Blowing Rock in the NC mountains. My friends and I made our way to the “Backyard” and the coniferous trees behind a stone’s throw of the forest. As we followed the sounds of laughter and the itinerant clouds of wood smoke to the camp’s kitchen that morning, the anticipation of community action and the magical allure of the forest engulfed me.

Smiling faces around the fire, pots and pans clinking and kitchen stirring murmuring in the background...fartened into introductions, avowing snapshots of action and passions from around the state. We outlined the workshops centered around de-fense of the Globe, local ecology, medic and legal roles, light backpacking, orienteering, climbing, media outreach, and various direct action and forest defense skills.

The sipping of hot tea fadded into the light pitter-patter of raindrops echoing over the leaves, and the woods welcomed the commencement of workshops. While several members of my party scurried off to the climbing skills area for the morning, I sought shelter under a nearby tarp to brush up on my blockading skills. I had previous experience with this sort of direct action in the streets, but after an hour of role-playing I realized what a different scenario forest defense presents, and how indispensable this exposure was. I have a much clearer picture of where one might find themselves if they were to choose to protect a habitat from destruction. In the afternoon, I learned how to respond to injuries incurred in the wilderness. My friends learned wilderness survival skills, about the local imperiled species, how to tie knots, and how to use local media outlets to spread awareness and gain support for actions. We each grew with one another, became aware of the Earth around us, and learned countless requisite skills. I became more empowered to stand up for what I believe in and against what I cannot bear to see transpire.

As the day drew to a close, the dampened bodies found themselves huddled around the warmth of a campfire. People played guitar and sang. We shared stories, played stealth games (where we practiced skills learned from the day's workshops) and formed connections with the encroaching night. It rained, and still, the woods sent a message to those who had endeavored to assemble at this place and time: if not you, then who—if not now, then when?

The cold hours under the stars crept by and at daybreak, more discussions of action, infrastructure and roles gave way to carob-chip pancakes and walks in the woods. Perhaps, with these people, I might stand. Perhaps, in this place, we might prevent destruction of an essential, rare, mature and old-growth habitat. Protecting local biodiversity, sensitive species, soil, water sources we would save an essential section of our ecosystem from a profit-seeking machine. Perhaps, all of this would happen in my backyard.

We said our goodbyes and parted, knowing that we’d be seeing each other again...and soon.

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**Globe Forest Direct Action Camp Report Back**

**BY BRIGAL**

As politicians all over the world glide from city to city, bioregions to bioregion, in a seemingly effortless drive to exploit the Earth and human and nonhuman residents, activists lock down. They set up centers of dissent and resistance, and they refuse to accept the intervention of the alienated authorities. No matter where the global elite meet to decide the future, they find opposition to their plan and sick attempt to subjugate the planet.

Typically, opposition forms around the business concerns of the World Trade Organization (WTO), talks, and Group of 8 (G8) meetings to draw attention to the devastation that otherwise goes ignored by the media. The most famous intervention of this sort occurred ten years ago, at the WTO protests in Seattle, where protesters from all over the world blockaded the convention and effectively shut down the corporate profit machine talks to commemorate that action. On November 30, 2009, activists collected their organizing powers to interrupt the flow of capital in the global economy.

Refusing to wait for the corporate trade organizations to act, people organized in their own bioregions, and shook the devious structure of global trade by its pillars. November 30 (deemed N30 by organizers) and, later, December 5 (D5), marked not only days for trade justice activists protesting the WTO, but coextensive days of climate action—the latter having been called by Rising Tide along with numerous non-profits under the moniker, "Mobilization for Climate Justice (MCJ)."

As dawn broke over the eastern seaboard of the US on N30, the MCJ went into effect. Protesters rallied in Boston at City Hall Square, delivering an open letter to Senator John Kerry, which outlined the crucial problems of climate change and the need for political solutions that extend beyond corporate compromises and false solutions. The rally then peacefully laid down on the wet concrete and a mass "die-in" ensued, drawing public attention to the prospect of impending mass-extinction. Nobody was arrested in Boston, and a wake-up call was sent to authorities that would be repeated in rural and urban locales across the US—only in other places, interaction with the police would not go as smoothly.

Rising Tide Asheville rose up on Duke Energy, locking down to a 1.5 million pound generator being shipped to that company's Cliffside coal plant. Two protestors used lockboxes to prevent the moving of the generator so it sat atop its 300 foot trailer, and activists hung a banner from the monstrosity, itself, reading "Stop Cliffside." Earth First! and former Journal short-terminer, Attila Nemecz, put it simply: "Since politicians and corporations refuse to take serious action to stop climate change, we will.

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**N30: International Round up of Actions**

**BY REDNECK OMEMER**

As politicians all over the world glide from city to city, bioregion to bioregion, in a seemingly effortless drive to exploit the Earth and human and nonhuman residents, activists lock down. They set up centers of dissent and resistance, and they refuse to accept the intervention of the alienated authorities. No matter where the global elite meet to decide the future, they find opposition to their plan and sick attempt to subjugate the planet.

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Vol. 30, No. 2

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

Submission deadlines are during the odd-numbered months in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs should be in black and white, in color, labeled with artist's names and titles. Authors should include a short bio and their physical address.

No submission will be returned until the date 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.

Earth First! is indexed in the Alternative Press Index, Earth First! is recorded on microfilm by ProQuest, Inc.

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Next Submission Deadline: January 22

Addressee Deadline: February 19

Editorial Collective: grizzmell, nelson, WMI: Jannah—we love you! Poet: Dennis Rittmeyer Voluntary Zone: Dennis, Dean, Dwight, Huffman, James, Tim, Jason, Kevin, Kim Mears, Luke, Peter, Randy Serraglio, Rodin, Toby, 7 Front Cover: Hungry Knife Artist Collective: Back Cover: Robert Eggby

Earth First! (ISSN 1055-8411) January 1, February 2010, Volume 30, Issue 2, it is published bimonthly by Daily Planet Publishing, 2380 S. Hemisphere Upl., Ste 186, Tucson, AZ 85704, US subscriptions are $25. Outside the US, subscriptions are $40. Non-US subscriptions, over 50 worldwide, are $50 everywhere else. Send subscriptions to PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Periodical postage paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Earth First! PO Box 8083, Tucson, AZ 85702-0833.

Page 2 Earth First! Brigal 2010
By Maine Earth First!

On the first day of Fall, Maine Earth First! occupied the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC)’s meeting in Bangor, Maine, in protest of the agency’s planned approval of Plum Creek’s controversial development proposal in the Moosehead Lake region. Six people were arrested for disrupting the planned vote, which gave a green light to the largest development proposal in Maine’s history.

For the last five years, the country’s largest land holder has been courting LURC, a regulatory agency of the Department of Conservation, for a zoning change regarding more than 20,000 acres on and around Moosehead Lake. The zoning change process has experienced an unprecedented rate of public participation. The vast majority of Mainers are expressing strong disapproval for the plan. For example, critics of the plan noted that LURC received more than 1,700 comments in 2008 in opposition to a resort development on Lily Bay as part of the Plum Creek Concept Plan, whereas only six comments expressed support.

In anticipation of a “yes” vote, four EF!ers rushed to the front of the meeting room demanding a chance to have the last vote. The audience, stunned as the four, jolted by others in the crowd, rallied against the LURC commissioners for failing to do their job and selling out the state’s resources and biodiversity to corporate interests instead. After refusing to leave, they sat down and linked arms. While these activists were being forcefully removed and arrested by the Bangor police, two others were arrested. Six EF!ers were charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing. All six later pled not guilty and are seeking a jury trial.

“Plum Creek has really put the ‘con’ into conservation,” said Ryan Clarke of Maine Earth First! “The hundreds of thousands of acres that Mainers believe will be conserved under this plan are in reality still subject to harmful extraction projects. Plum Creek will still be able to make millions by retaining their rights to spread sewage sludge, build roads, cut forests with genetic engineering trees, extract gravel and build cell phone towers. This plan will do nothing for Maine people and just line the pockets of corporate CEOs from away.”

continued on pg. 6

Industrial Wind Power Threatens Maine’s Mountains

By Meg Gilmartin

Industrial wind power is on the fast track to damage the remote mountain ridges of Maine. Mainstream environmental groups would have you believe that wind power is the next “best solution to climate change.” However, many Maine residents are beginning to realize that the only thing green about industrial wind power is the money that lines the corporate CEOs’ pockets. Activists from around the state are calling Earth Firsters to fight the most recent “green-washed” corporate attempt to pilfer the mountains of Maine.

This threat is particularly relevant and frightening in the face of our current climate crisis. Wind power, amongst mainstream environmental groups stands as the answer to the crisis. Industrial wind power is not the answer to our current climate situation. Most wind power projects actually use more energy for their construction than they are able to produce, not to mention the energy needed to manufacture all of the elements for such projects. (To manufacture one of the cement pads that the average industrial wind turbine is mounted upon produces 250,000 pounds of carbon.) However, nothing compares to the ecosystem destruction necessary to implement these projects in remote areas. Conservation, preservation and restoration of protected lands and wilderness areas is one of the most valuable solutions to the effects of climate change on this planet’s non-human inhabitants. Yet the thousands of acres of clear-cutting, miles of new road-building, grading and clearing of sensitive alpine forests necessary for industrial wind power is being justified in the name of climate change. Allowing these sensitive mountain ecosystems to remain intact as wilderness corridors and carbon sinks provides an opportunity for these forests to regenerate; to eventually be capable of rewilding the North Woods to its natural forested state, stretching from Maine to Minnesota, adding to this plight overall viability. Mountain ecosystems are also extremely important in the role they play in the hydrological cycle, with snow melt acting as a head water to rivers, streams, and ponds. Erosion and sedimentation that are often associated with wind power has the potential to contaminate these fresh water supplies, poisoning the life blood of this planet.

Corporations and the Maine government have been pushing through tough industrial wind power proposals around the state, following the creation of the “Wind Power Law,” signed in 2008, which placed two-thirds of the state within expedited wind power development areas. In the last five years, wind power projects require little to no environmental regulations and can be placed on mountain ridges and cleared of the plants and animals that inhabit these areas. Two agencies—the Department of Environmental Protection (LURC), infamous for its part in the Plum Creek proposal to develop Moosehead Lake (see EF! January-February 2009) and the Department of Environmental Protection—have been given the authority to expand these expedited areas at the industry’s request despite having no qualifications or experience in making such decisions.

TransCanada is a 35 billion-dollar oil company from Alberta, Canada, responsible for the environmental devastation associated with tar sands (the most resource-intensive form of fossil fuel extraction). They have submitted an application to LURC to expand the expedited areas to include 631 acres on Sisk Mountain (they have already built 22 of 44 turbines on nearby Kibby Mountain). Sisk Mountain is located in the Boundary Mountains of western Maine in the Chain of Ponds area. Sisk Mountain and the Boundary Mountains are habitat to the Canada Lynx (listed threatened species), historic nesting grounds for the golden eagle, and home to the Bicknell’s Thrush, yellow-rumped warble, rock shrew, northern bog lemming, and thousands of migratory birds that pass through the range annually. Sisk Mountain is above 2,700 feet in elevation, placing it within the mountain protected zone because of the fragility of alpine ecosystems and their susceptibility to erosion. The fate of this remote mountain is being decided by LURC, the same commission that determined the fate of the Moosehead Lake area (the largest area of undeveloped land east of the Mississippi); zoning it to be developed as a playground for the rich.

Luckily, local community groups have formed around the state in opposition to wind power development. One of these groups, Friends of the Boundary Mountains (www.boundarystones.org), works to safeguard the Boundary Mountains from development and to conserve the area for traditional uses of wildlife, recreation and forestry. The group formed in 1995 when the protected mountain tops were threatened by rezoning for wind power development. The Friends of the Boundary Mountains has been particularly influential in the fight to protect Sisk Mountain from corporate driven ecological devastation. Many of the lines from “not in my back yard” (NIMBY) driven opposition to industrial wind power to more bio-centric, no compromise messaging. These groups have recently formed a coalition called “The Citizens Task Force on Wind Power” to protect Maine’s mountain tops.

Because of Maine’s unique geography and “wealth” of natural resources, corporations like TransCanada are always running around the next mountain ridge waiting to cash in this year’s federal stimulus package check in exchange for their role in ecological devastation. That is why Maine Earth First! is working to restore, re-wild and regenerate the shattered ecosystems that exist here and create long lasting means of protection for the North Woods ecosystems and all of this planet’s interconnected neighbor ecosystems. Maine Earth First! will continue to take a no compromise stance in our eco-defense!
Dear Editor,

To the Editorial Collective: Many thanks for two years of subscriptions and columns. Reading your newsletter, I do not get from any other source and take nothing in return. I will reciprocate through contributions more free. Thanks, as well for the many heartening notes from the Roadshow with their insights and emotions.

To Siri: You claim that "our children will have the answers to the problems of the future." However, we already know what these answers must be, at least well enough to begin acting on them. Because the problems of the future will be the problems of today exacerbated. With regard to climate change, the time for inaction from now may be too late to avert truly catastrophic conditions, because we will have to make the sacrifices that Hamilton and many others describe as the tipping point, beyond which positive feedbacks in the climate system will ensure us up to 9°C increased temperature according to some estimates. This would have been the fault of "making the greater part of the Earth uninhabitable for human beings, raising the sea level by at least 25 meters, and causing the extinction of 90 percent of species and a possible reduction of the wealth of mankind by 90% per cent." Indeed, researchers are not agreed as to whether we have not passed the tipping point already. As Chomsky wrote last month, "The picture might be much grimmer even than what the Stern report [which he calls "very highly regarded for its science, although it is criticized for setting a temperature increase of 2 degrees in the next 100 years" to avoid Stern himself acknowledged "will result in the destruction of most ecosystems] predicts. A group of MIT scientists have just released the results of what they describe as "the most comprehensive study carried out on the likelihood of how much hotter the Earth's climate will get in this century." They say that without rapid and massive action, the problem will be about twice as severe as previous estimates from 10 years ago and could be even worse than that." The main solution must be to reduce consumption below the level that entails a net contribution to greenhouse gas concentration, which also approaches the level necessary to stabilize industrial civilization. This issue also requires a majority reduction in the first-world human population (visions of salva- tion through biological miracle technology are unsubstantiated).

I gather from your let- ter that the fact that certain oppressed nations is important to you. If that is to say, or if simply care whether the biophere is decimated, you should be for consumption and popula- tion reduction, primarily in the First World, because to overconsumption the more it will be oppressed nations that get the short end of the stick. Since you have a solidarity with those, many of whom are survivors of a Holocaust that they, in many cases, resisted with armed struggle, I can you not also solidify for the resistance to the linked, emblematic consumption and the modernism at the core of empire? My address is in the back of the journal if you care to respond.

For life,

-GRANT BARNES

Dear Shit for Brains,

As always, it was the highlight of my day to see that the latest issue of the Journal is about the climate and I would like to congrat- ulate everyone involved for releasing another great issue. I am, however, concerned about the issue sur- rounding Ben Rosenfeld's article. I do believe that there are certain ways in which he could have written the article, many which may have been more acceptable to many. However, I have to say that I didn't find the article all that offensive, and thought it part of a discussion that very much needs a place in the movement. The fact that it wasn't pub- lished in the latest issue of the Journal, I feel, was a mistake.

This is especially true since it seems to have had what must be the smallest Dear Shit for Brains section ever recorded with, I believe, which obviously needed more than the paragraph about Ben, a blow up DMEF and the others explanations. What I don't understand is why the article wasn't published alongside either a piece by the journal or someone else giving a counterargu- ment and opening up the floor for more discussion in future issues. It seems like this is a problem that never needed to be created and it's a shame that it was. I've been meaning to write in to thank you all for your hard work on the journal for a while now, and it stinks that the push that got me to do so ended up being this. I look forward to the next issue and hopefully some good discussion from many viewpoints in its pages.

-ANONYMOUS

Dear Shit for Brains,

Postmodern jello mold with multicoloored chunks of glassy glaze, the sheen of consumerism and, let's face it, y'all, capitalism is on the ropes worldwide. The spiritual crisis is materialized, mirrored by hordes of vacant-eyed teen-agers walking through enormous shopping malls while the parents fret over home foreclosures. That's materialism on steroids con- tinuing, like climate destabilization gets more dangerous, which most folks just don't give a hoot about, because too just can't be just too complex. Hey, just keep shopping, right?

Adrift in the world of appearances like charac- ters in a third-rate movie, chronicled by racks of celeb- rity photo magazines de- tailing the divorce rate, the post- popping and an occasional murder, the fame machine is a miserable producer.

-Where's my money, OH Lywood?

A half-billion dollars to make a feature-length movie? What happened to acting as an art form? I shudder at the theater (in financial decline as usual) still offers the real talent! And, by the way, why does it cost a hundred bucks for an evening of jazz with a date at The Spaghetti Club? Where's the free trumpet player, the electric piano lady and the guy who drummed on the pavement when we really need them?

CUT to Copenhagen, Denmark—the last oppor- tunity to actually do stop to ecological tipping point from being reached. A sane world was in the house! Scheniers, political dreamers, multina- tional corporation agendaz, the green-badgers of the fourth-world country politi- cals goin' for a larger piece of the pie that doesn't exist, and the tiny of babbling lob- byists crowd, which always

follows the military-indus- trial movable conclave, all the way to the end of the year.

The United States mili- tary command at the penton- gau has publicly stated that the future will be defined by "catstrophe management." And my relatives wanna know why I spend so much time reading Vedanta phi- losophy, sitting in media- tion, doing yoga, or looking toward the spiritual universe. What was the question?

-CRAIG LUSIS THEO

Dear Shit for Brains,

Hello to all my connec- tions. Many thanks, you know who you are! What an amazing issue of the Journal to return to after a spell away because of long-time direct-action elders and families on Black Mesa and surrounding areas: Big Mountain, coal mine mess, low mountain on Hopi Partitioned Lands and Peabody lands. I just wanted to send you all a quick note of grati- tude. This issue is special. I haven't even read through all of the current issue, but I wanted to give a shout out to Luke. Luke: The "Listening to Our Institute" piece, not to mention the one on "extinction." It is beautifully and tactfully written.

It's a lot of humble work getting a publication like the Journal together, and I thank you all for being a part of it's creation.

Love and support,

RAYVANE

Dear Shit for Brains,

I was talking for the Earth First! Phoenix for the ever first Seattle Anarchist Bockfair this weekend, and I had some spare time to read the latest Journal, including "Practical Ideas For an Anti-Racist Rad- ical Ecological Movement."

What was interesting was that, moments before I started reading this piece, a young woman of color brought up the topic of birth and breeding as rep-
Dear SFB, Loved the latest... And I got feedback.

First, Christian Williams’ article was great, but why was there no bio? This author has written great stuff; the Journal should be flaunting it when we get someone willing to use their name and lend their rep to the paper. He has written so many articles from pen names and pseudonyms; it gives more legitimacy to his work and helps him promote his great books (such as Our Enemies in Blue, published by Soft Skull Press). Also, there were a few bad typos in the “Approaches to Informants” side bar on the same page. We were in the “Umpqua” not “Lumipqua” and it’s the CLDC, not the CCLDC; another important piece of new info.

At the root, if everyone follows suit with their lifestyle and don’t take the personal responsibility to affect their surroundings from an authentic understanding of their own relationship to the Earth, the results will be, negative no matter what the population-count.

With that in mind, I found that those stickies can be reformatted to read “Thank you for being.”

—PROFANE STEPHANE, Seattle

The 2009 EarthFirst! Journal Reader Survey Results

In the September-October 2009 Mabon edition of the EFi Journal we included a Reader Survey to get some feedback about the publication and some of the operations. The EarthFirst! Journal is produced and put out by a collective of editors, some of whom are members of the EarthFirst! Journal board and others are short-term—who work on a single issue of the Journal.

1. Are you currently subscribed to the EFi Journal?
   a. Yes ................................ 80%
   b. No ................................ 20%

2. Have you subscribed in the past?
   a. Yes ................................ 80%
   b. No ................................ 20%

3. Do you buy your copies of the EFi Journal for a bookstore, co-op or independent seller?
   a. Yes ................................ 14%
   b. No ................................ 86%

4. For how many years have you been reading the EFi Journal?
   50% said 10 years or more
   1 person said “since it started”

5. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest) of what importance do you place the EFi Journal among other environmental publications?
   90% rated us a 7 or above

6. Do you personally believe print is dead or should it be saved?
   a. Yes ................................ 10%
   b. No ................................ 90%

7. Do you get the majority of your news from the internet?
   a. Yes ................................ 19%
   b. No ................................ 81%

8. What are a couple other publications and/or media you seek out...

9. Would your support of the EarthFirst! Journal change if it was produced on a quarterly basis?
   a. Yes ................................ 52%
   b. No ................................ 48%

10. Do you wish the EFi Journal was?
    a. A monthly newsletter (printed, on 8.5x11 paper, in black and white, staple bound) 14%
    b. In magazine format 38%
    c. Continuing in its current newspaper style 29%

11. Do you wish the EFi Journal website was?
    a. Updated more regularly ................................ 19%
    b. Downloadable in PDF format ................................ 5%
    c. Set up an open-publishing news website (like Indymedia sites) where people submit content and are able to see their posting that day ................................ 19%
    d. Completely replacing the print version of the EFi Journal ................................ 5%
    e. Other ideas: computers suck, I hate the internet, smash your computers before the feds do, would Ned Ludd approve ................................ 5%

12. If the EFi Journal was available online in its entirety as well as able to be downloaded and printed, would you subscribe or donate to the project?
   a. Yes ................................ 33%
   b. No ................................ 62%
   Maybe ................................ 5%

13. Do you think that a de-centralization of the production of the EFi Journal, if done right, could be a good opportunity to find a more sustainable model then the one we are currently working with?
   a. Yes ................................ 48%
   b. No ................................ 52%
   Maybe ................................ 5%
   Don’t know ................................ 14%

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Climate Alarm in Brussels
Activists Shut Down European Business Conference

BY LEIGH PHILLIPS

British-style “climate camp” activists shut down the annual conference of European Business in Brus- sels on the morning of Wednesday October 28, occupying and blockading the European Commission building where indus- trialists were due to talk about global warming.

“Corporate lobbyists have no role to play in deciding how to deal with the climate crisis,” said spokeswoman Anna Martin.

“These firms all lobby hard to obstruct strong action on climate change... At the same time, they have made windfall profits from a falling carbon market.”

A few dozen campaigners from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and other nations swooped into the commission’s Charlemagne building a few minutes before 9:00 am. EU officials had lent the building to the employers’ group, Business Europe, for free for the duration of the conference.

Some protesters chained the entrance closed while others deliberately trapped themselves inside the large glass revolving doors by jamming wooden door stops into it, thus preventing any delegates from entering.

“This is the second time the European Commission has hosted Business Europe’s annual conference. It shows how close the EU institutions are to business when it comes to climate change,” Martin explained.

Such radical direct action has been on the increase over the last couple of years in the UK, where activists have occupied or tried to disrupt two coal-fired power stations and stop the ex- tension of Heathrow airport. In April, activists blocked streets in London’s financial district to protest the EU emissions trad- ing directive.

Though it lasted two hours before police pepper spray to disperse some of the activ- ists, and arrested 20, the October 28th blockade was the first time climate campers had taken such action in the European capital.

Martin warned that closer to the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, there will be more and more of this sort of activity.

“We will see some very strong actions in Copenhagen. In terms of international attention, Cop- penhagen will easily match Seville,” she said, referring to the demonstrations that shut down the World Trade Organization ten years ago, the protest that saw the birth of the anti-globali- zation movement.

The major environmental Non-Governmental Organiza- tions (NGOs) and development groups in Brussels regularly en- gage in showpiece stunts out- side the EU buildings. On the same day, at the EU Commission action, hundreds of miniature tents were set up in Brussels Central Station as well as in London, Berlin, Dublin and Madrid to symbolise the plight of climate refugees, while ActionAid cam- paigners “hammered” on the doors of the European Summit of premiers and presidents on Thursday, October 29.

These actions are almost always carefully co-ordinated with po- lice and building security. But the Climate Action alarm was not authorised by the Brussels police, which the campaigners believe is why the police took the unusual step of using pep- per spray.

The activists, who formed the new organisation at a climate camp on the Belgian-Dutch bor- der this summer, are linked to Climate Justice Action (CJA), a global network of groups with a strong presence from NGOs in the developing world, which say that emissions reductions targets do not match what scientists are demanding and that the range of climate solu- tions on offer actually exacer- bates global warming and only benefits business.

Emissions trading, carbon cap- ture and storage, carbon offsets, biofuels and nuclear power- enhanced by the EU and to a lesser degree by some of the more mainstream green outfits as the only way to make climate change—have been denounced by CJA as “false solutions.”

They also say that industri- alized countries need a “de- environmental debt” to developing countries for creating the climate crisis.

“Climate Change is Every- One’s Business”

The action managed to pre- vent a crowd of some 200 delegates from entering the building. Hans Kornvert, a sec- retary manager with Forotrans, the European Atomic Forum, told this website, “One of their banners says: ‘Our climate is not your business,’ but climate is everyone’s business, includ- ing business.”

“Business absolutely has a role to play—we have the solutions available, the technology we can transfer and the money to invest,” he added. “They should come into the meeting and de- baté, not shut it down.”

Similar-actions expected in the coming months.

“Everyone is well aware that the emission reduction targets are not enough,” said a prominent member of the group.

“With the financial crisis, the developing world has even more to lose. We have enormous amounts of money to invest.”

“If not about lobbying: There is already worldwide acceptance that emissions must be reduced. There is no serious debate on this anymore. Now it is just a question of coordination. That is what is being discussed.”

A bemused researcher on en- ergy policy at the European National Research Council, who was also stuck outside, was more relaxed about the situation. Leaning against his luggage and pulling out a pack of cigarettes, Vincenzo Antonucci said the ac- tivists had a point.

“It’s difficult. On the one hand, what they are saying is true about the likes of Shell and Daimler, of course. This is a correct point of view. But on the other hand, even inside these companies, there are some who are seriously about climate change.”

“And green energy is expen- sive; it’s big business. The revolu- tion isn’t going to pass.”

Maine
Update on Plum Creek Development
continued from page 3

Jessie Dowling, of Rising Tide North America and Earth First! Explained, “In times of great crisis, we need leaders, not visionaries, and not to small companies. The North Woods and Moosehead Lake are a part of the largest undeveloped region east of the Mississippi River. This area plays a significant role in the global community as a carbon sink. Development for second homes and resorts should not be a priority at this time.”

Maine Earth First! has been critical of Plum Creek’s pro- posal from the beginning and is pleading continued resistance to the plan as it moves forward.

“Maine Earth First! is concerned that the company, when purchasing Glimmart, of Earth First! said, “We are completely dedicated to doing what LUCRF has refused to do: preserve biodiversity, promoting climate stability and preserving the culture, which will lead us in the direction of climate and eco- nomic sustainability.”

Plum Creek is proposing to buy 20,000 acres for develop- ment of high-end resorts and second homes as part of its Moosehead Lake Concept Plan. The plan includes 90,000 acres of public forest conservation easements to satisfy LUCRF’s requirement for a conserva- tion bank. An additional 266,000 acres worth of develop- ment rights on Plum Creek land will be sold to The Nature Conservancy and The Appalachian Mountain Club for $35 million. This conservation is being hailed by many as an unprecedented opportunity to protect a large tract of land in northern Maine.

The company has offered to further develop- ment. They still allow plenty of ecologically destructive prac- tices, such as the spraying of sewage sludge, as well as commercial water extac- tion, road building, power-lines building, and industry-defined “sustainable forestry.”

Several of the environmen- tal groups who have been insistently fighting, Plum Creek have announced plans to ap- peal the decision. The citizens of Maine have lobbied, all of the legal hoops, too, and shown unprecedented opposi- tion to this development, and LUCRF has shown where they stand. Maine Earth First! will not back down, and will be there every day of the week to make sure that the eco-yuppy resorts are not built and that the Moosehead Lake region continues to be Plum Creek’s irresponsible ownership.

Join us next Summer at the RIR in Maine, where we will be opening a wrench in Plum Creek’s development plans and any other corporate interests that dare to threaten the North Woods.
Weather or Not...

In the December edition of Environmental Science and Technology, Georgia Tech City and Regional Planning Professor Brian Stone published a paper that suggests that policymakers need to address the influence of global deforestation and urbanization on climate change, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions. A synopsis of this paper and the issues surrounding it appeared in an article in the November 11 issue of Science Daily entitled, "Reducing Greenhouse Gases May Not Be Enough To Slow Climate Change." According to Stone’s paper, though the international community met in Copenhagen in December to craft a new framework for responding to anthropogenic global heating, policymakers need to work to extensively broaden the range of management strategies beyond just greenhouse gas reductions alone.

Duh! There are EPIs—and a few others—who have been talking about this for more than 20 years, and they’ve experienced the frustration at the difficulty many people seem to have in understanding and incorporating this issue into their worldviews and strategies. There are Indigenous peoples who have known this for centuries, often because they learned the lesson the hard way: the Mayan civilization cleared and eroded the land itself in its form to land use change.

Stone states in his paper, "Most large US cities, including Atlanta, are warming at more than twice the rate of the planet as a whole, a rate that is mostly attributable to land use change. As a result, emissions reduction programs—like the cap-and-trade program under consideration by the US Congress—may not sufficiently slow climate change in large cities where most people live and where land use change is the dominant driver of warming."

According to Stone’s research, slowing the rate of forest loss around the world and regenerating lost forests could significantly slow the pace of global heating. A common misconception regarding anthropogenic global heating (much more accurate terminology than global “warming”) is that it began during the so-called "Industrial Revolution" with the attendant exponential rise in "greenhouse gas" emissions. Rather, that’s when global heating rapidly accelerated. It actually began more than 6,000 years ago, when humnity began clearing forests and woodlands, as well as draining wetlands to large- scale monoculture agriculture, build cities and establish empires. The vast region that is now the Sahara Desert was already experiencing a natural cycle of warming and drying, but this was greatly exacerbated by the wholesale clearcutting of forests and draining of wetlands by the Egyptians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans as they strove to expand their respective empires. The desert we see there today is far more extreme than it was when it was otherwise.

Current climate science research—both that of on-the-ground observation of current climate change as well as that projected by increasingly refined and sophisticated climate models—indicates that what is happening now and that which is to come will likely be considerably worse than what has been projected even in recent years. While most everyone in moderate, liberal, left, progressive, and radical circles are now jumping on the anti-emissions bandwagon (a worthy effort, to be sure), very few—even in green activist communities—are talking about this other facet of humnyn-caused global heating, much less tackling it. A handful of us beat our heads against the wall trumpeting this message continually, and that’s saying nothing about Indigenous peoples’ efforts (who almost nobody else on Earth cares to listen to anyway) regarding this. This oversight is particularly mind-boggling in ecocentric movements like ours where we have people questioning Earth First’s overall relevance in the 21st Century (as if the other essential underpinnings of EPI have somehow vanished...

In a world where virtually nobody else is acknowledging—much less grappling with the role of shabby land-use policies in destabilizing the Earth’s climate—it would seem that we in EPI have our work cut out for us. Our adversaries are very aware of this issue, however. It is no accident that people like Al Gore won’t touch it with a 10-foot pole (can’t alienate all of the special-interest cliques now, can we?). It’s no accident that this issue is so “overlooked” by so many and that those scientists—as well as the world’s native peoples—who are onto this issue are barely audible in the cacophony that is the “global change” craze has created. The toxic coal, oil and gas outfits probably know their dark day is coming to a close and want to gobble up every penny that they can before the curtain falls (been to Appalachia lately? How about Black Mesa, Arizona?). The timber industry is already launching claims that “global warming will take out these forests, so let’s landscape them now before it’s too late.” Even if they are correct, these current ecosystems will serve as compost for the new ones that replace them, but not if Wal Street desecrates them (remember aforementioned Sahara Desert?). Vegetative ecosystems not only sequester carbon, they sequester water, and water is life. Any questions?

This article was written in Maine, which is home to—among other interesting things—the largest undeveloped wilderness in the Lower 48, east of the Mississippi River. The Moosehead Lake Region of the Great North Woods, the southern buffer of the great Canadian,jaiga, is in the crosshairs of none other than Plum Creek Timber & Real Estate, the largest private landowner on Turtle Island. Its abysmal land-use practices are legendary. Scum Creek Plunder seeks to develop large tracts of the Moosehead Lake Region into a fifty-yapper “outdoor” resort—complete with gated communities, golf courses, manicured landscaping, swimming pools, resort shopping malls... the works. This is for people who have one or not several homes already, where so many humym and non-humyn creatures are homeless.

Two years ago, Maine Earth First! and Native Forest Network-Gulf of Maine participated in several weeks of public hearings, sponsored by Maine’s Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) regarding this extremely controversial project. Radikal environmentalists brought to the table this issue (along with many others) during these hearings. In doing so, they raised the eyebrows of many people (including LURC officials) who were largely unaware of this crucial component to the climate equation. LURC finally made its decision at the beginning of this Autumn, and, after throwing us a rubber bone in the form of a footnote, stating that climate might be an issue, ruled in favor of Scum Creek Plunder’s proposed playground for the rich on Moosehead Lake. We are appealing this decision, and we’re not stopping there—too much is at stake.

As EPI continues to fight for wild places, timber and wild cultures, we must continue to push the climate/land-use connection to the forefront as part of our efforts. Along with the defense of all remaining ecosystems must come mass, wholesale eco-restoration projects—in semi-wild, rural, suburban and urban realms—to help animals and humyns to both survive and mitigate the oncoming climate catastrophe. The United Nations had its party in Copenhagen and the attendant protestors disrupted it. Now, let’s bring this to equal footing with the emissions-reduction bandwagon—much as we did 10 years earlier in Seattle when we camed ecocentrism into the streets alongside labor, humyn rights and economic justice. We may be the only ones doing so.
The World Trade Organization: Pirating the Planet

BY DANDY LION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) formed quietly in 1994 as a result of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Over the past six years, it has spread across the world, committing to adhere to many heinous rules regulating international trade. The WTO must be shut down because it is unelected, unaccountable and has to answer to no one who is not a corporate power. These rules are imposed through laws that protect the environment and labor from exploitation. Non-elected corporate panels act as judges over economic issues disputes brought before the WTO. Corporate influence is shaping and binding international trade rules. In 100 cases over the past four years at the WTO, all decisions on these panels have favored corporations over labor, corporations over public health and corporations over the environment.

US Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman, in remarks to the President’s Export Council, said agriculture was the one issue that could “make or break” the negotiations at the WTO Ministerial in Seattle, Washington, happening November 30-December 3. According to US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefski, the US plan involves making changes to be in place for new rules in 1999. The US also wants to reduce tariffs, particularly in the area of agricultural exports and ensure that science-based rules govern trade in genetically engineered (GE) crops and other products of biotechnology. Review of the Accord on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS) and the Trade Related Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) are all on the agenda.

In February 1998, negotiations for a biotechnology protocol to regulate the use of and trade in GE products were blocked dead in the free trade concerns. The Miami Group, made up of the US, New Zealand, Ecuador, Argentina and several other countries that are pre-competitors, opposed the US biotechnology fightings and labeling of GE products as opposed to other nations, who see the “precautionary principle” as crucial to societal sovereignty. As a result of this deadlock, biotechnology protocol probably has no more than a 50/50 chance of being enacted. A US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 1992 rule precludes the FDA from regulating GE crops, so it is unlikely that the US will ever support such a protocol. Mandatory labeling of GE products has been enacted in several countries and is also threatened by WTO rules.

Here is a brief look at upcoming topics:

The TRIPS Agreement

Neat, bald, pepper, harz, barlera, agila, ippia, bannner, cania, ammum all have been patented and are victims of a western style Intellectual Property Rights system. Such biopiracy is a stage that can be bypassed. The implementation of TRIPS, which is based on the US style patent regimes, should be stopped immediately.

The WTO’s Agreement on TRIPS creates a significant barrier to encouraging less intensive agriculture in non-industrialized areas of the world. Under the current TRIPS agreement, all countries that sign must ensure the “effective” protection of plant varieties including trees. TRIPS is coming up for review in 1999, and corporate pressure from industrialized nations is coming down on countries who don’t want to accept patents onBio.

In international trade law, health and environment standards and regulations, and even labeling can be considered technical barriers to trade. One of the main purposes of the existing labeling of GE ingredients in the UK could be threatened. The US has sent papers to the WTO saying that the mandatory labeling of GM food, which is an unilateral act, by Britain, can amount to a barrier to trade.

The SPS Agreement

The SPS agreement regulates movement of biological goods internationally. It limits the rights of national governments to impose import restrictions on goods such as food that may be contaminated or_timer that may carry diseases. The “precautionary principle” is not accepted under the agreement because it is considered a barrier to trade. The WTO declared an obscure agency, Codex Alimentarius (influenced heavily by corporate interests), as the authority on food safety standards for the world. This agency poses a significant threat to consumer protections and drastically limits consumers’ right to know.

The Global Free Logging Agreement

The Global Free Logging Agreement is an attempt by the US and Canada to remove remaining import taxes, known as tariffs, on processed wood products in order to penetrate Asian markets. A study by the Forest and Paper Association shows that reduction of tariffs could result in a three to four percent increase in global wood consumption (clearly their goal). Increased consumption means increased logging, making this a virtual “Global Free Logging Agreement” (FLA). In Britain, the introduction of non-trade measures into the agreement could lead to the outlawing of forest protection schemes. The FSC prohibits the use of GE trees while providing independent and international wood certification for the labeling of well-managed forest products.

This sinister FLA is being pushed by Monsanto, big timber, big oil and others with interests and investments in GE trees in hopes that it will produce faster growing plantations and thus make their plantations a more valuable commodity in the future international marketplace. Patents on GE trees are already mounting, providing monopoly ownership by transnational corporations.

The Agreement on Agriculture

The Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) pits small farms against larger, more efficient agribusinesses in both industrialized and non-industrialized parts of the world, with disastrous consequences for small-scale agriculture and rural communities. GE agriculture is especially pervasive in so-called “third world” nations (with the most forests). Regardless, how much American farmers decide to grow, biodiversity faces intense threats. Further AOA negotiations will be launched at the Seattle Ministerial. According to the UN, roughly 1.4 billion people depend on farmed-saved seed for their crops. Under patent law, Monsanto has the right to take farmers to court if they collect and use seeds from its patented plant varieties— including GE seeds. Monsanto has opened more than 475 seed piracy cases nationwide.

This article originally appeared in the EF! (San Francisco) edition, November/December, 1999. Back issues of the EF! are available for $5 each.

Page 8 Earth First! Bridgit 2010
Finally, in Seattle, people from all over the Northwest convened in Seattle to attend the People’s Summit from November 27-29. Keynote speakers, Amy Goodman, spoke on grassroots organizations, and other workshops convened covering issues from immigration to employment and climate change. On November 30, a contingent of protesters followed up the Summit with demonstrations against Bank of America and Chase Bank. At the last location, two demonstrators were arrested as they attempted non-violent civil disobedience, locking down to Chase Bank.

In other protests, activists made their voices heard. In New York City, hundreds gathered outside of Bank of America to protest the bank’s investment in fossil fuels (climate policy lobbying) and exploitation of natural resources (mountain top removal, oil & gas exploration, etc.) NASA climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, spoke on the “privatization of the atmosphere” via cap and trade to the rally, which then chanted until a marching band broke out, leading the protest to its next destination, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC). At the NRDC building, protesters acted out a street theater performance of activists chasing corporate lobbyists, politicians, the NRDC’s own protest organizers, and the grim reaper down the street. Briefly taking the street, the march of over a hundred-like minded activists stood up to the police ranks, vans and motorcyclists present. A team entered the NRDC to engage officials in a discussion, but were prevented from climbing the stairs by police. One dedicated protestor was arrested for allegedly attempting to chain themselves to the front doors, but the protest continued undeterred for some time.

Further rallies took place throughout New England—in Portland and Bangor, Maine and Burlington, Vermont—but the Midwest topped the list. In Chicago, 200 climate activists throned to the financial district, targeting the Chicago Climate Exchange. Angie Vliands, of Rainforest Action Network (RAN) Chicago, explained the relevance of local action to international struggles like the December 15 climate talks in Copenhagen which the US will attend. In Copenhagen, powerful companies are cashing in on the climate crisis, taking advantage of a loophole in the Kyoto protocol which allows them to offset their carbon emissions by funding other peoples works to make a buck. Carbon trading institutions like the Chicago Climate Exchange are privatizing the air we breathe and handing over rights to the atmosphere to the biggest and worst polluters. Carbon Trading is a fraudulent market that intensifies social injustice, does not reduce emissions in a meaningful way, and acts as a dangerous distraction from the real climate solutions we urgently need.

“A Battle of Seattle”-style lockdown took place, as 12 people—arms locked together through cement tubes—blockaded a central intersection and shut down Chicago’s financial district. RAN staff was arrested. This is a message that we will not allow officials and negotiators to forget from now on,” Vliands declared. “We will be back until we are heard.”

MCJ West sprung into action in similar fashion. After careful and cautious planning, over 300 activists in San Francisco locked themselves to the post office in the morning, and marched down Market Street chanting “System Change Not Climate Change!” The crowd halted outside of Bank of America, while two dozen activists locked down to each entrance. The protest ended at 2:30 pm, but not before 22 people were arrested. One of the protest statements had been sent to the establishment on the urgency of action to contra-vene climate change.

Finally, in Seattle, people from all over the Northwest convened in Seattle to attend the People’s Summit from November 27-29. Keynote speakers, Amy Goodman, spoke on grassroots organizations, and other workshops convened covering issues from immigration to employment and climate change. On November 30, a contingent of protesters followed up the Summit with demonstrations against Bank of America and Chase Bank. At the last location, two demonstrators were arrested as they attempted non-violent civil disobedience, locking down to Chase Bank.
More on Coal in West Virginia

Between the dates of October 8 and October 12, a 25-mile long Senior Citizens March coursed through Appalachia, beginning in Charleston, West Virginia, and ending in Massey Energy's Mammoth mine outside of Cedar Grove. Organized by Roland Micklem, an 85-year-old from upstate New York, the march raised awareness for the anti-mountaintop removal campaign. Encountering a diverse array of opinions from spectators along the selected path of Route 60, the march ended briefly without any significant interference.

Greenpeace Climbers Make Headlines

On October 12, 50 Greenpeace activists scaled the walls of Parliament in London, England. Activists unfurled a banner proclaiming: "Change the Politics, Save the Planet," and occupied the roof for over 28 hours, making it clear that the talks going down in Copenhagen are not sufficient to change the ecological direction of mass extinction and climate change. Only a few weeks later, 19 more Greenpeace activists took the roof of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, Canada, hanging banners off the building stating, "stop the tar sands," and "Harper/Ignatoff, climate inaction destroys lives," in other actions this past year, Greenpeace activists locked down to four conveyor belts in a Fort McMurray Suncor Site and briefly occupied two other tar sands sites.

Tiktktikto Movement Makes It Big in the Philippines

On December 12, an international day of action in support of COP15 protests, some 300 protesters brought a barrel of drums, music and festivities to the Raised Gardens of the Philippines, Global Climate Change Alliance, Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund helped program the entertainment—which included the screening of the apocalyptic film, "The Age of Stupid."

This action comes after a successful hunger strike by an estimated 25 Filipino farmers from Mindoro Island, who was present for the FAO and Agriculture Organization's World Summit on Food Security in Rome to protect the Mindoro Nickel Project, a nickel mine and one of the largest processing plants in the world. There was previously a mining concession in Mindoro on large-scale mining and the project has been rejected by the people and authorities for 15 years called for the relocation of 20,000 citizens before the popular revolt.

Indigenous People of Mexico Throwing Down

After recent teror strikes against indigenous people by paramilitaries in October, resistance to the state bloomed in Mexico. Around 150 Tzotzil farmers took over the UN office in Chiapas, Mexico on October 5. The Emiliano Zapata Campesinos' Organization (OCEZ) claims that the farmers occupied the building to free three political prisoners and to bring attention to the need for land rights in Mexico's poorest state. The police claim the three imprisoned activists played a role in the Sinoloa drug cartel, but Indigenous groups claim they are actually important activists. The occupation occurred after a week of political tension and mobilization lead by the "community of Faith (Pueb- lo Xeyente-Tzotzil) Region, The Other Campaign, and the Emiliano Zapata Campesina Organization-Carranza Region (OCEZ-RC)," inhabitants of San José del Progreso who are affiliated with the Assembly of People United for the Valley of Ocotlán in Defense of Nature and Popular Autonomy got a boost with the Assembly of People United for the Valley of Oaxaca (APPO), occupying the town hall (Palacio Municipal) on November 18 in an attempt to evict the municipal president Oscar Venancio Martínez Riveria. Rivera supports a mine owned by residents in the area. The next day, at nine in the morning, security guards armed with sticks, ropes, and machetes guarded the occupied town hall, taking five councilors and seven municipal police as prisoners, capturing a municipal police vehicle, and demanding that Martinez Rivera resign his position. The rebels released all hostages safely and negotiated with police after hours of occupation.

Finally, Indigenous Mayans blockaded a road leading to Cancun on November 27. Police arrested 200 ejidos (communal farmers) for their action, which drew attention to the Mexican Government's neglectful failure to compensate small farmers for the failure of this year's monsoon season.

Fur Free Friday Reaches Out

This year's Fur Free Friday occasioned more than 50 events, occurring around 25 US states as well as in Canada, Germany, Spain and other countries. Raising the old chants of "Compassion is the fashion! Don't buy fur!" and "Fury dead animals! One fur coat!" thousands of activists around the world united to decry the fur industry's use of millions of hurting animals. Seeking out big targets like Nordstrom, Sak's Fifth Avenue, and Neiman Marcus, protesters hit the mall with black Friday shoppers, ensuring that the truth would be heard. Two hundred protesters took the streets in a Portland march, 100 advocates marched down Rodeo Drive in LA, and street theatre performances took place in San Francisco's Union Square as well as other cities, from Johannesburg, South Africa to Zaragoza, Spain.
Dear Ned Ludd,

We live in a subdivision (not a place to live if you value animals and the earth). Behind our house is approximately 300 plus acres that was owned by Exxon and then sold to some of the wealthiest go-getter real estate buyers. The area is teeming with wildlife, and I have been doing my best to encourage that as well. Presently, the land is zoned for commercial development, and the present owners are trying to get it switched to residential as residents have been furious about the possibility of commercial development. I do not want any development. So much of the land in this town is destroyed daily, and yet there are so many empty stores. It is but always about dollars, as usual, and zero thought for the animals. I have written to attorneys—no one has been prepared to help. This is something through the floods full time commitment, and I am unable to give it 100 percent as I work and do animal rights stuff as well as write and do environmental work. I have solicited my environmental attorneys willing to help—willing to stop the destruction? I have no idea who they will be. The local supermarket, Walgreens, the owner of the opossums, skunks and many others will go when the developers start their destruction.

Sincerely,
—Earth Animal Defender

AMP Coal Plant Construction Canceled

The proposed construction of an American Municipal Power (AMP) coal plant in Racine, Ohio, was cancelled on November 25. The AMP Ohio corporate office in Columbus was the target of the Earth First! post-Round River Benders rejoice on July 7, 2003, when 100 Earth First! supporters, these, four locked down and two ascended the flag poles out front—delivering messages via chains, songs, banners and signs (see EFF! / September-October 2000). The closing of the local infoshop and if a talk about this crisis, or put out a call to your area for an EFF group to meet there. We envision a band of rebels-rovers organizing, yet you can put fire under their ass, ideally, you have found several other folks interested in supporting you, and you have formed an affinity group around a common purpose. These contacts are key for what you are going to accomplish in the not-too-distant future! There is a time for petitions and calling city hall, and a time for direct action.

The first step to a good old fashioned eco-campaign is disinformation, and nothing off the dignity of the Earth like a banner drop. Primitive writing is a plus, as you can include a succinct, incendiary slogan on a patch-work banner of dropcloths, bedsheets and other available recycled materials. Massive Development" might turn some heads, for instance, but the kids today love more catchy slogans. Either way, you will be rewarded for your small interruption of the daily mill.

Make your presence known to the developers by locking them out of their own office. If they think your office is too remote, try locking down to one of their financial backers. Now, lets all reach into our back pockets and pull out our Earth First! Direct Action Manual. Skip past all that stuff about affluence and legal issues, and open up to page 51: here's the stuff to help you plan your lock down. You can lock your neck to just about anything using Kryptonite-U locks. Combine your affinity group together to occupy the office's lobby, forming a human octopus by locking each others necks together in a circle. If you have a little extra time to plan, lock boxes might be a better way to go. A lock box is a steel pipe, cut for two people, sitting or lying side by side, to chain their arms together within a protective circle. Lock box have been used throughout the 1990s and 2000s, because they are more difficult to saw through than U-locks or exposed chains. Of course, the Direct Action Manual goes into more detail about such techniques, which nothing shows with the help of the Earth First! with its top tip on ecosabotage.

On the 1-Ehj Arrests of Summer 2008

There is finally an end in sight for those arrested nearly two years ago in southern Indiana (see EFF! / September-October 2000). The eight arrests from the June 2008 tree sit eviction, three pleaded guilty to misdemeanor trespass, and enjoying pizza and hot chocolate sent by supporters who were unable to attend. The court made the arrests, and made and was worked half for hours. Visit: www.gatewatchucks.org, for additional updates.

RNC "Milwaukee 3" Sentencing

Two of the "Milwaukee 3" defendants were sentenced on November 10 and Chris- tina Viana and Karen Metescher each got seven years of probation, eight hours of community service each month for two years, a $100 fine and an order to pay standard court costs. They were fortunate to avoid spending any more time in jail, during the next seven years, they will have to abide by restrictive conditions, including obtaining permission to leave Minnesota and participating in whatever educational or vocational programming that is required. As is usual in felony cases, DNA samples were also taken. The issue of restitution will remain open for 90 days.

Judge Teresa Warner decided to dole out a lengthy probation and community service instead of a jail sentence because she thought it to be more useful for rehabilitation. Warner stated that a jail sentence could be completed relatively quickly, while a long probation with extended supervision will provide plenty of time for them to see the consequences of their actions. Warner's audacity to imply that being incarcerated is "easy" is unreal, and her decision to sentence Chris- tina Viana to community service more vindictively clearly represents what the "justice" system is all about—controlling people's lives and establishing authority over them.

British Columbia Doesn't Want Gate- way's Truckin' Freeways

In East Vancouver, December 7, around 500 folks from across the region showed up to shut down construction at a Gateway site. The Gateway Project is a $10 billion freeway and port expansion that will replace indigenous lands, homes, farmland and wildlife with pavement in the interest of furthering Canada's global endeavors (see EFF! / July-August 2000). Despite the below-freezing temperatures throughout the evening, protesters maintained warm dancing. Marches were held and enjoying pizza and hot chocolate sent by supporters who were unable to attend. The court made the arrests, and made and was worked half for hours. Visit: www.gatewatchucks.org, for additional updates.

The final arrestee will—at last—to go to trial on January 8.

Of the folks who were arrested at the June 2008 local citizens' committee on phalt and Construction (GAC), 11 signed plea agreements in August 2009, admitting guilt and waiving the right to includ- ing conversion and restituting arrest, were dropped; on March 29 one more will likely take the same plea. One arrest is scheduled for a progress hearing on January 14 and will potentially join two others in trial on March 25. There is still an active restraining order on all of the lockdown arrestees and they are still fighting a lawsuit filed by GAC.
Unsettling Minnesota
An Introduction

By Courtney

Unsettling Minnesota (UM) is a collective in Minneapolis that formed in the spring of 2009. We were initially brought together by UM Dakota Decolonization: Solidarity Education for Allies," taught at the Twin Cities Experimental College (EXCO). At this point we were comprised of people of European descent; we work to support Dakota-led struggles for liberation, justice and decolonization.

So far, one of our main projects has been putting together, "Unsettling Ourselves: Reflections and Resources for Deconstructing Colonial Mentality," a source book that includes history, analysis, and practical suggestions on everything from how rape culture and colonialism intersect to eco-defense and spiritual appropriation. Our hope is for the compiled works to be an active reference for those who want to undo colonial mentalities and their subsequent institutions. UM will continue to use it for these exact purposes.

UM advocates that social transformation can only take place if some of us who identify as settlers get up and get out of the way, so to speak. That doesn't mean inaction—it means understanding our privileges. It also means having a relationship with our privileges and opening a new dialogue so we can better know our roles and our places here on this continent. UM was born from the colonialized understanding that we are here because of genocide. Dakota people are still displaced on their land and treated as substandard citizens, or worse. That reality doesn't go away. Part of our work is to identify and unlearn our own colonial disposition and behavior. It is this sort of mind-set that manifests in while supremacy, class privilege and normalized hetero-patriarchy. The personal work feels like baby steps at times—especially when we look around and there is so much to be done overall. Still, it is fundamental to enact transformative justice and to know our place in revolutionary struggles for justice and decolonization. The solidarity education that came out of the initial EXCO class made these points very clear.

Solidarity education has come up in our own internal group structure. Part of our goal as aspiring allies is to be very solid in our own group's culture. Even the formation of UM has been a major un/learning process. If our desire is to be good allies to indigenous communities, then we must also be allies to ourselves—across class, gender, race, and age. Part of our solidarity work, then, also involves defining our settler identities and creating a sustainable culture of accountability. For me, it's a balancing act of challenging assumptions and thinking critically while we make space for change from our own collective-socialized ways of interacting with the history, culture and people our ancestors oppressed through colonization.

Transformation of society doesn't happen if we're operating from assumptions that were bred into us by our capitalist, colonial society. Doing the internal work of understanding and defining our own identities—how our privileges and learned assumptions play out—and then unlearning and dismantling them, is essential. It informs the actions we take. We are working toward action. So that's why the source book was such a major project for us.

Some of the actions our group has taken—and these are things that can happen anywhere—is what Waziyatawin, the leading voice in the local DakotaDecolonization, calls "truth-telling." Waziyatawin describes truth-telling in her book, What Does Justice Look Like?, Living Justice Press, 2008.

Fort Snelling, just south of Minneapolis, is a place of particular importance because it is a site where the Dakota were held in a concentration camp. It is also the location of a mass hanging of 38 Dakota men at the hands of colonial generals by order of then President, Abraham Lincoln, in 1862. The Minnesota Historical Society frequently offers tours at Fort Snelling, but does not mention the term genocide and don't mention it was a concentration camp. The tour barely pays homage to the fact that people were hanged there. UM went to ask probing questions. Adding our voices to the tour guide's, we provided the factual information about what actually took place there, and that, since Dakota people still live here and want their land back, its return to the Dakota would be a step toward justice. It is, of course, rightfully theirs. A part of solidarity work is being vocal about truth-telling—or mythbusting, if you will. What we have today is largely a society of people operating from the basis of false history and false identity, a hallmark of our colonial government. The Minnesota Historical Society reinforces the idea that the settler presence—and the settler state—is legitimate.

In Minneapolis, streets, neighborhoods and even stores all over the city are named after army generals—Ramey, for example—many whom are responsible for the deaths of Dakota. Some of us involved in Unsettling Minnesota plan on embarrassing the process of removing these names from our streets and other shared spaces.

As settler-identified individuals we feel that we can do our best to learn our history as it was experienced and work to raise awareness, but that in itself still isn't justice. For those involved in UM, land restoration is a part of our intentional work to be an ally in the Dakota Oyate's effort to take back what was wrongfully stolen from them.

During the Fall of 2009, much of our focus went into planning and organizing a fundraiser event called, An Eve of Reparations. So far we have raised $2,000 that will go toward purchasing land in southern Minnesota for a Dakota-led land project, traditional wild rice and sugar bush camps and cultural center. The project will focus on pairing Dakota youth with elders in learning language and other traditional life-ways.

We've been in contact with other local groups who share similar desires to understand settler privilege and the illegitimacy of the settler and colonizer state. We are in a collective-socialized way of interacting with the history, culture and people our ancestors oppressed through colonization.

Understanding Minnesota points of unity

Unsettling Minnesota shares these points of unity to guide our affinity and activism.

1) All people not indigenous to North America who are living on this continent are settlers on stolen land. In particular, the vast land base and confusion of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers is the homeland of the Dakota Oyate—the original people of this land. We acknowledge that the state of Minnesota was founded through the colonization of indigenous peoples—which continues today and from which settlers directly benefit.

2) All settlers do not benefit equally from the settler-colonial state, nor did all settlers emigrate here of their own free will. Specifically, we are talking about the intersection of settler privilege. We note that native peoples are often split into a Solidarity education that came out of the traditional communities in which we identify ourselves to be part. As people within communities that maintain and benefit from colonization, we are intimately positioned to do this work. We work to build anti-colonial movements that actively combat all forms of oppression.

3) We acknowledge that settlers are not entitled to live on this land. We accept that colonization means the revitalization of Dakota sovereignty, as well as an end to settler domination of life, lands and peoples in Dakota territories. All decisions regarding human interaction with this land base—including those who live on it, are rightfully those of the Dakota Oyate and the Ootkak Lakota.

4) As settlers and non-Dakota people acting in solidarity, it is our responsibility to proactively challenge and dismantle colonialist thought and behavior in our communities in which we identify ourselves to be part. As people within communities that maintain and benefit from colonization, we are intimately positioned to do this work. We work to build anti-colonial movements that actively combat all forms of oppression.

5) We understand that allies cannot be self-defined; they must be claimed by the people with whom they seek to ally. We organize our solidarity efforts around direct communication, responsiveness and accountability to Dakota people fighting for their land, food, and culture and to our community. This is not the forum to discuss how, or if, we might work with other communities. We believe that the concept of "shared spaces" is only meaningful within the context of other shared spaces.

6) We are committed to dismantling all systems of oppression, whether they be found in institutional racism, power imbalances, market imperialism, and capitalist class structures as some of the primary tools of colonization. These phenomena divide communities and determine perceptions of relative access to power. Therefore, anti-oppression solidarity between settler communities is necessary for decolonization. We work to build anti-colonial movements that actively combat all forms of oppression.

7) We are committed to supporting one another as we work toward action. So that's why the source book was such a major project for us. Some of the actions our group has taken—and these are things that can happen anywhere—is what Waziyatawin, the leading voice in the local Dakota Decolonization, calls "truth-telling." Waziyatawin describes truth-telling in her book, What Does Justice Look Like?, Living Justice Press, 2008.

8) We are in contact with other local groups who share similar desires to understand settler privilege and the illegitimacy of the settler and colonizer state. We are in a collective-socialized way of interacting with the history, culture and people our ancestors oppressed through colonization.

9) Unsettling Minnesota shares these points of unity to guide our affinity and activism.

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Dakota Land Seized by the IRS

The Dakota of Crow Creek Reservation in Minnesota have occupied their land in defiance of a federal scheme to snatch it. Owning $3 million in taxes, due to faulty advice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Dakota had their land seized by the IRS and auctioned off for a portion of its real value. Developers are especially excited because this land has prime wind-power potential, but the Dakota have other ideas! Call Tribal Chairman Secretary, Carol Quilt at (605) 245-2221, or visit http://WWW.PETITIONLINE.COM/CROWCREEK, if you'd like to help the Dakota in their fight for their land.

Anti-Mining Organizer Murdered

On November 27, Mariano Abarca, one of the most prominent organizers in the resistance to mining in Chiapas, Mexico was shot in his lifetime. Abarca’s territory. Of its real value. Developers are exerting pressure to privatize and monopolize the land and resources where Indigenous communities are resisting development. The Navajo Transmission Project, which has been in the works for 10 years, proposes massive extraction of resources, such as coal and natural gas from Navajo territory. Another project, that has spent two decades in the making, is a proposal (completed in its victory) for Las Vegas to own the water rights to half of the Snake Valley in the Great Basin desert of Utah. Water is on the rise, wherever it can be privatized.

Bio-warfare on Our Public Lands

The Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to increase toxic herbicide use on BLM public lands in Oregon from about 17,000 acres herbicide use to almost three times as much—45,000 acres a year, in an effort to control invasive plants. Most of the herbicides proposed for use are highly toxic to native, non-targeted plants. They are known ground-water contaminants, and the herbicides will most likely damage food and threaten wildlife. The Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project, among many others, has been fighting the BLM and its efforts to poison the land.

Tribal Government Claims That We Are Their Threat

Former President of the Navajo Nation, Joe Shirley, was recently quoted stating that environmental activists are a threat to tribal sovereignty. Shirley was working in cahoots with coal thieves, such as Peabody Energy, for nearly 20 years and ultimately for the waste and destruction of Navajo land—land that is being protected by the Indigenous community. For that, we will thrive. Coal mining will continue to threaten sacred places until we make it stop.

The Unsustainable West

Government officials in the Las Vegas and Phoenix regions of the West are looking for sources of water and electricity to serve their energy-starved, unsustainable cities. Los Angeles also joins these cities in their effort to privatize and monopolize the land and resources where Indigenous communities are resisting development. The Navajo Transmission Project, which has been in the works for 10 years, proposes massive extraction of resources, such as coal and natural gas from Navajo territory. Another project, that has spent two decades in the making, is a proposal (completed in its victory) for Las Vegas to own the water rights to half of the Snake Valley in the Great Basin desert of Utah. Water is on the rise, wherever it can be privatized.

Bad News Nukes

In Bracelvice, Illinois, tritium has been released into the ground for more than three years. During this time period, six million gallons of tritium has leaked into the groundwater and atmosphere in Bracelvice. The chemical is heavily radioactive, though the operators of the Exelon reactor claim that the release does not pose a threat to the environment or public health. It is, however, a radiation hazard when inhaled or ingested via food or water, or absorbed through the skin.

When Will the Wild be Left Roadless

What was once the most widespread campaign to protect US wild spaces, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule is once again on the chopping block. A judge in Wyoming, just last week, appears to be disregarding the crucial tipping point our environment is resting upon. He recently issued a series of decisions against the current roadless statutes, which can only mean one thing: Big Industry is interested in a path free of obstacles. While 30 percent of our national forests remain roadless, some 386,000 miles of roads exist and continue to allow pollution and erosion to threaten delicate animal and plant species.

A Small Concession for the Everyday Destruction

The Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative secured $90 million—$50 million more than last year’s budget. The new increase in funding will be used to rebuild what the Bush Administration helped destroy of our national forest roads. Wildlands CPR, based out of Missoula, MT, has been working on a roads reduction program to help protect threatened endangered salmon and clean drinking water for thousands of communities and wildlife that depend on large blocks of intact habitat to survive.

New Roads for GMOs

Industrialized agriculture is creeping further across the lands. Biotech industries are getting their hands dirty with the Global Food Security Act, which is supposed to double the amount of supported crops to the world’s one billion subsistence farmers. Essentially, this would be a way to dispose of unwanted agricultural surpluses on poor farmers. While Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Germany and Luxembourg have the cultivation of genetically modified (GM) food completely, and the European Union holds some of the toughest legislation on GM crops in the world, Turkey has passed new legislation to allow imports and exports of GM crops, a contract they recently signed with the US.

In Other GMO News...

Just for the record, GM sugar beets have been commercially farmed since 2006 and currently produce 95 percent of the sugar grown in the US. Candy giants Hershey’s and Mars are the main growers of the GM beets, but this could change. A judge in California has ruled that the Department of Agriculture approved the crop without a required environmental impact statement to assess how Monsanto’s Roundup Ready sugar beet will affect groundwater, soil and native species.

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Orientation

Wheeling in the post-spring storm sky
Ravens and magpies fuel the black cape of death
Above an elk carcass swollen grey in snow.
Great bear grizzly feeding
Hungry, demanding scavenger
Massive like King Kong
Traverses the hillside
With the swiftness of an ocean-gone ship,
Wind harnessed to its back,
Then rolls in the snow
Enormous claws slashing in the air,
Rocks giddily back and forth
On the joy of the elk’s life,
The late spring,
Deep, wet snow
And most of all
The open land
Where things can still happen
Completely.

—Jenny McBride

John Calvin’s Ghost

Oil and gas companies from the U.S., Canada, Russia and Denmark are circling the Arctic like scavengers circling a wounded animal anticipating its death, exposing petroleum riches hitherto buried beneath Arctic ice.

Mother Earth isn’t dying at once, but as a diabetic, a part at a time. The Arctic is the first to go, thus the vultures.

Mother is dying from the greed of her children.

Scientists predict inundation of Pacific Islands, Bangladesh and half of Florida. Killer droughts in Africa. Drying rivers in India, China and Vietnam due to disappearing glaciers in the Himalayas. All a boon for disaster capitalists.

This all happens to the preterite, not the chosen, in the Calvinistic corporate view. The chosen will be raptured to a gated community guarded by Blackwater Security. The Valhalla for corporate warriors.

The chosen will live on with the approval of the strange God they believe in, and think he believes in them, while immigrants from the South clamor at the gate for work. Price evicted from their land by low priced corn produced by agribusiness.

The revenant of John Calvin lives on in every corporate structure. It is the driving force of the rapacious corporate faith and philosophy. It is the real ghost in the machine.

—Sid Bridges

The Mystery

something calls us out of our houses toward a place of deeper shadows, through undulating moonlit fields, past vulture roost in eucalyptus,

where roots reach in wet black soil and this night again we stand by the creek that ran through childhood where darkness is still alive,

where the waters of fear and love snake trembling through the streambed night, where bare limbs are antler dancers and the stars look back with bright buck-eyes,

something rustles the underbrush, a wind pushes back branches— while more silently than owl wings the dew stores up its blessings

—Kirk Lumpkin

I Know You Wild Skykomish

I know you wild Skykomish River I know you
glaciers melting in the warm spring air
and you - rushing down the mountain full of snowmelt
roaring and shaking the ground, the granite boulders,
the granite mountains

I know you too my wild Skykomish
wide and quiet in a mountain meadow
flanked by a million tiny flowers
singing in the dawn with crystal notes
murmuring through starry nights

I know where you come from my wild Skykomish
deep in the turquoise heart of translucent ice caves
following a serpentine trail through the grandfather hemlocks
past carpets of tiny liberty cap mushrooms
glistening like jewels in the dew

I come to you when I’m done with the rushing traffic,
the clatter of machines, the rough scream of chain saws,
the endless slap slap slapping of my windshield wipers

I come to you my wild Skykomish
and touch my soul again.

—Rebecca Swan
May 2008
THE AMERICAN GENOCIDE OF THE GRAY WOLF
How Delisting Species Endangers Their Ability to Prosper

By GREENE

The gray wolf is an awesome form of life that originated 300,000 years ago and survived the ice age. However, due to the expansion of human population, gray wolves had all but disappeared from the US by 1974. That year, the Endangered Species Act granted privileges to the gray wolf, and its population has gradually recovered. Today, there are an estimated 4,000 gray wolves thriving in the Western Great Lakes region, 1,300 in the Rockies and around 8,000 in Alaska. Even still, the gray wolf is fragile and threatened by human intervention. For this reason, federal courts struck down three attempts by the Bush administration to remove gray wolves from the endangered species list.

Facing tooth-and-nail opposition from groups like the National Resource Defense Fund and Defenders of Wildlife, the Bush administration failed three times to grant its cadre of ranchers and farmers the right to hunt down and mercilessly slaughter packs of gray wolves. In a final act of cowardly backbiting that any wolf would shatter at, Bush pulled a cut and run, one foot out of the door of the White House, delisting gray wolves one more time in 2009. And wouldn’t you know it, the new Obama administration, under the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar’s leadership, upheld Bush’s atrocious war against wolves (see EJ/ J May-June 2009).

Federal protection of the gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes region was reinstated on July 1, after a lawsuit challenging the ruling was won. However, their kin to the west are not as fortunate. Although, only 200 breeding wolves exist in the Northern Rockies, Idaho and Montana have officially initiated a wide-scale, regional wolf hunt. Idaho and Montana have set quotas for the number of wolves to be shot as trophy game, to supposedly manage their populations. Neither state takes into account that the alpha animals within a pack are usually the only ones who breed, thus self-regulating their population.

Idaho extended its wolf-hunting season three months longer than planned, through March 2010, to reach its kill quota of 220. This extension could have devastatingly negative effects on Idaho’s wolf population, considering mating season is between January and April. Conversely, Montana’s quota of 75 was nearly fulfilled two weeks prior to the end of their wolf-hunting season, causing it to be closed early. In addition to permitted hunting, virtually limitless killing in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is excused if humans feel themselves or their livestock are threatened.

Any jerk who wants to win a trophy for having a big gun simply has to go to the Fish and Wildlife Department to obtain the proper permit and license to kill. For residents of each state, the fee for a hunting license is around $10, a permit to take a wolf’s life is $19 in Montana and $11.50 in Idaho; tags for non-residents cost $350 in Montana and $186 in Idaho. Even though the state gives these amazing creatures a very low monetary value, a definite motivation for the hunts is to generate revenue.

Montana collected $325,859 for their state license fund, selling 15,600 wolf-hunting permits in their shortened season. At the beginning of the season, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission estimated that 70,000 permits would be sold, which would bring in upwards of $800,000.

The nastiest form of gray wolf, the Mexican gray wolf, exists in the Southwestern states of New Mexico and Arizona. Ironically, it is fortunate they are still bred in captivity, hence giving them protection. Under the anti-wolf administration of the Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Oversight Committee (AMOC), the population has dwindled from 102 wolves in 2006 to 52 in January 2009. Outraged over the mishandling of the Mexican gray wolf, conservationists filed suit. On November 13, in an out of court settlement, the US Fish and Wildlife Service repessed jurisdiction from AMOC.

Today, conservation groups like the Center for Biological Diversity see the November settlement as “a pivotal step in the right direction” for the Mexican gray wolf, a recovery on the way to rewilding the species and further creating protections under the Endangered Species Act. In the Northern Rockies, several conservation groups have an ongoing lawsuit putting pressure on the courts to reinstate federal protection for the wolves in this region.

The Ballad of Macho B
he was looking for a lady jaguar; he had come up north to see if there were any ladies for a jaguar such as he. he had come up desert canyons, and slipped away from desert drawn; he was young and liked adventure, and had time on his paws, by night and the stars he hunted; he rested during the day, he knew how to keep well hidden, or so the papers say.

yet a rat in the snow took his picture as he passed, and all the wildlife biologists said, ‘there’s a jaguar here—at last!’ for they knew that down in mexico the mighty cats still roamed, and they figured that arizona wasn’t that different from their home. sure, there had been sightings—early in the century— but no one had seen one in a while, till along came macho b.

for that was the name they gave him—it’s silly, and that’s a fact—yet that was the name they gave him, and they couldn’t take it back. all the reporters loved it, the wildlife biologists too; so macho b’s reputation just grew and grew. there grew, yet humans also are hunters, of a grim and deadly sort; and sometimes they hunt for science, and sometimes they hunt for sport. the hunter becomes the hunted, and then a casualty; and that, dear friend, i’m afraid is what happened to macho b.

somebody set up a trap out— we don’t know who, just where—ostensibly for lions, or maybe to catch a bear. at first, according to their story they related on the phone, they neglected to say the bait was a female jaguar’s pheromone; after months of wolf-hunting for a female with which to mate, macho b thought he smelled one and fell for the trap. as he approached the trap without caution; his hormones were running wild; the thought he had found a mate at last had him totally off— he was caught and in an instant he knew he had made a mistake; yet no matter how much he snarled and fought, from the trap he just couldn’t break. they decided to euthanized him; they said he was sick and old; they said in a good—least, that was the story they told. america’s only jaguar seen in 30 years, or more— just another casualty in the humans vs. wildlife war. so when you’re eating your dinner, and listening to the six o’clock news, and you hear all the commentators tell the stories and give their views, let your mind drift down to the desert, now less wild than it ought to be— and resolve that you’ll tell your co-workers the story of macho b.

—DENNIS FITZINGER

Macho B was the last known jaguar in the US, until it was euthanized in March 2009 following a botched capture by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. It was officially blamed kidney failure due to old age, but independent forensic analyses indicate tranquilizing drug used in the capture procedure likely led to the big cat’s death. The Center for Biological Diversity has sued the Department for further capture of jaguars in the US, and also sued the federal government under the Endangered Species Act to develop a recovery plan that will ensure that all management decisions regarding the jaguar are based on the best available science.

Randi singers, conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, read this poem for accuracy.
December's Copenhagen climate conference failed before it even started. In the weeks leading up to the event, the African Group (Algeria, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Gabon, and South Africa) made the position of the global south absolutely clear: any climate treaty requiring serious emissions cuts would face rejection unless wealthy nations offered adequate financial compensation. Meanwhile, somewhere between 50,000-100,000 demonstrators flocked to the city to protest the false solutions under-writing the conference. Also known as the "Earth Summit Plus," the 15th Annual Climate Change Conference that took place from December 11-18 fell apart in one of the most embarrassing displays of police repression in recent memory. For weeks prior to the conference, despite the foolishness within the Bella Centre, where the talks took place, protesters could not shut down COP15 and neither could the African Group. COP15 failed because the developed world refuses to share its wealth for the greater good of the Earth.

The conflicts, in particular, divided the conference—the first is economic and the second is ecological. First, poor nations cannot afford to implement any of the proposed programs, whether financial, support, and second, the rich nations refused to provide financial support unless the poor agreed to insufficient emissions cuts. Calling this the "nuclear option," Klim Klein observed the beginning of "climate structural adjustment," wherein developing nations sacrifice effectiveness for financial reasons.

Representing 18 percent of the world's population and 60 percent of the gross world product, the Group of Eight (G8) richest countries in the world refused to address concerns of the poorer nations—namely, complaints about adherence to Kyoto Protocol requirements and reforming the EU climate constituencies. In the Copenhagen climate talks, after the African Group walked out of the conference all together. The G8 also backed out on the originally agreed upon 80% cut in carbon emissions by 2050 (based on 1990 levels), projecting a much slower start, with the EU conceding only 20-30 percent in cuts by 2020, and the US insisting on an exiguous four percent cut over the next 10 years. These numbers proved insulting to the Group of 77 (G77) poorer nations, which openly stated intentions of cutting global emissions 50 percent by 2050.

The Copenhagen climate talks failed to meet any kind of standards, because the US used finance as leverage to swing their vote in the balance of the bargain. Although deep emissions cuts underline the G8 model of "economic development" forced on the G77 through debt, militarization, urbanization, and rising prices, the G8 seemed to expect developing countries to juggle ecological and economic expectations without asking questions. To wit, since COP15 authorized only corporate false solutions, and admitted an "inevitable" two-degree centigrade increase in global temperature from the start, it already exhibited a work of "climate cynicism," to which the attempted bribery only added frustration. Protesters, descending on the conference with chants like, "our climate is your bottom line," and "climate justice not climate change," argued that the G8's lip service about cuts in emissions only pay heed to a system that expects to fail. Partly because of COP15's limited and indirect control over Denmark's borders, and, in Copenhagen, targeting street medics for arrest during opening protests on December 11. The next day, police in Copenhagen/Thule Justice Action (CJTA) rallies, along with a December 12 International Day of Action demonstration and a Flood for Climate Action rally, were arrested against upwards of 100,000 participants. Filling the streets with banners, signs, and chants, the demonstrations turned into an ecstatic social convergence, with individuals addressing the time aspect to police, a couple of exuberant marchers allegedly smashed two windows of a bank, warranting the sudden arrest of a huge, arbitrary section of the protest. Surrounding over 900 innocent people, police forced the protesters to kneel on frozen pavement, where many of them waited for up to eight hours. Many protesters fainted, while others had to relieve themselves in their clothes in the sub-zero temperatures.

The demonstrations without charges in cages within specially created "climate prisons," called Retortey and Valby, referred to by police as "Guantanamo-Junkie. There, police met the complaints and cries of confined detainees with streams of pepper spray. After pepper spraying entire crowds of detained prisoners, police entered their cages, pushed the detainees into a corner, and removed their water to make them suffer for longer periods of time. Rockside, a High Country Earth Firster and journal correspondent, counted among those who faced arcane conditions and sentences, including weeks of solitary confinement.

In spite of mass arrests, protests persisted. A No Border demonstration came together, along with dozens under the names, "Stop the Production" and "System Change Not Climate Change." Led by Indigenous groups like Via Campesina, whose Perspective on agriculture production and commercial consumption the G8 regularly ignore, protests drew attention to the insufficiency of the corporate structures entertained by COP15. A strategy of separating protesters into a massive "blue block" and a smaller, agile "green block" went into effect with better results. However, the repression continued, as police made aggressive incursions into Christiania, a squatted "free town" within Copenhagen, under the cover of night, breaking through burning barriers, shooting tear gas into surprised crowds, dispersing rallies, blocking off entrances and exits to the area, unleashing police attack dogs and searching everyone around the perimeter. By the morning of Tuesday, December 15, dubbed "agriculture action day" by organizers, the climate prisons held over 1,600 people.

As Copenhagen transformed into the police state so familiar to seasoned G8 protesters, the talks within the Bella Centre fell apart. Chairman of the G77 delegation, Sudanese diplomat, Lumumba Di-Aping stated, "it has become clear that the Danish presidency—in the most undemocratic fashion—is advancing the interests of the developed countries at the expense of the balance of obligations between developed and developing countries.

In the final days of demonstrations, marches continued as the atmosphere of repression intensified. Raising a DIY bicycle workshop, the Candy Factory, police confiscated two bicycles without

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*Hopenhagen, What the Fuck!? How Climate Talks Turned into Mockery*

**BY THE INSANE CLIMATE PRESS**

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Reclaim the Power on December 16 says, "No Deal, Assaults!"
What Kills You Stops for One Moment

BY DEA G.

The two rows of blasting holes had a singular purpose: dismantle the contours of Coal River Mountain, the last high elevation remnant of the Appalachian Mountains—a key that hadn't been mined by mountaintop removal (MTR). MTR was an industrial form of mining that uses explosives to get to the coal beneath the surface of mountains and result in fatter barren plateaus in the place of peaks. News of blasting on Coal River Mountain in October. A drill rig parked at the edge of the rows had bored the Earth, creating pockets in which to leach ammonium nitrate explosives. It was just after sunrise in late November, and that drill rig, looming over a big cliff at the site of the MTR site, was the goal.

Climbing onto it, four of us set about our work. One activist locked himself to the drill casing; I climbed up inside the machine. Two others hung a banner reading "Over friend, range poisoning head—flow" on tree branches above the local police station, where we had stopped work on Coal River Mountain's Bee Tree permit site for almost six months and briefly blasted for the day. "Those few square feet of land were on this Earth for a long time. What kills you stops for one moment," my friend, Zoe, told me once, referring to her ground-support role in a protest move to keep a southern West Virginia MTR site this past August. I can and will write about strategy and maintain tangible victories, but I think she's on to something about this gang of tree huggers and mountainmen crux enough to take on the government; it's blowing up Appalachia's mountains, dumping the debris in tailings and poisoning headwater streams that flow out across the eastern US.

"A lot of (local) folks understand and support the direct action more than they do the other important legislative, regulatory and legal work that we think is needed because it's clear to us now and people around here have respect for that," said Mt. Louie, one of the key organizers with the Climate Ground Zero (CGZ) campaign of civil resistance to MTR. They understand direct action around here because they've been doing it longer than all of us combined.

Resistance is an Appalachian tradition, and mountain people have stood up to protect their land, health and communities from strip mining since the mid-20th century. To save the Land and the People, a group operating out of the coalfields of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio fought against strip mining in the 1960s and 1970s. Laying down in front of a bulldozer set to strip her farm in 1961, elderly Kentuckian Ollie "Widow" Combs became one of the heroes of the stiffest pushback the coal industry has ever faced.

The activist campaign began in February with a lockdown on Coal River Mountain and a rally at the gates of Marsh Fork Coal Company in the hollows below. Since then, there have been 18 actions in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. "In between this year and 2005, not much has happened, except for ground work, which was important," Grace reflected. "In some ways, this is the vision we had years ago.

Nonviolent civil resistance is at the core of CGZ's campaign strategy. A diversity of tactics has been employed, including direct action, civil disobedience, protests and consciousness raising—we do not participate in property destruction. Some of our actions, such as a six-day treestand and lockdowns to mine site equipment, stop work directly. Others, including the Senior Citizens Walk to End MTR as well as banner drops, play the role of attracting media attention and engaging new participants and supporters. CZG activists do not flee the scene, and they aim to be "open, honest and friendly" with everyone they encounter during an action.

Our position is that we are doing nothing wrong, we are trying to protect communities," said Mt. Louie. "Accepting responsibility for our actions [allows us] to continue to spread the message and access the media, the courts and the increased attention that rallied activists receive."

"Environmental nuts" are easy to recruit for the Blankenship, CEO of Massey Energy—a primary driver of MTR in Appalachia—at his company's Friends of American Labor Day. "They're easy to recognize because they're the ones chained to your equipment and hanging from your trees."

A month later, Steve Walker, CEO of machining company Walker CAT, targeted two activists who dropped a banner off of his building in Belle, West Virginia, to suicide bombers. "People fill their broken bodies with this dogma and use them to do their dirty work," he said in a radio interview with West Virginia Metro News. "They're involved in that group down in Raleigh County, North Carolina, with roots tied to ecoterrorists. We worry they may have been in here to sabotage some of our machinery."

Stalwarts of the West Virginia coal and energy industries have taken to fearing mongering about nonviolent civil resistance. Their comments follow in the footsteps of increased media attention (The Washington Post, The New York Times, Reuters, most local news outlets), drummed up community support and a minor, but increasing, interest on local and national politics. The pressure on the media and government to cover this work, a testament to deeply rooted local activism and strong coalitions fighting MTR through a myriad of channels. But I keep thinking back to what Zoe said. Part of what's worth the court dates, fines and potential jail time is being able to pass down the word for a day—the destruction of a mountain. When we take action, what kills us stops for a moment."

"Dea G. is a writer and organizer based out of the coalfields of southern West Virginia."

Mountainstop Removal, Civil Resistance, & the Climate Zero Campaign

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Damn Cars & the Carnage of Dams
Introducing Diablo Earth First!

BY DEEMS WOLF AND MARGOOLD SPOON

The Carnage of Dams

Here in the East San Francisco Bay, a quiet storm rages over the proposed building of a new 450-foot tall dam in our barely-wild Montara State Natural Preserve. Known as "Our" East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has announced plans to consider this dam in anticipation of future population growth. The dam would block more than two miles of popular free-flowing river, which is habitat for the California spotted owl, foothill yellow-legged frog and goshawk, and a potential restoration area for chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Flashback to 1922—Tulare County, the last California grizzly bear, the official state animal, is extinct. Today, California has lost 95 percent of its salmon and wild fisheries. Mills, suburbs and mega farms steadily march on our remaining wilds as an increasingly grave environmental literacy slowly seeps into our consciousness.

The dam physically blocks the fish's journey to their traditional breeding ground, but many fish don't even make it that far. Jerry Neuburger from the California Sportfishing Alliance on the state of the salmon in the Mokelumne stated, "the problem is that the young salmon trying to reach the ocean never make it. Instead they're sucked up, ground into fish paste in the SWP State Water Project and CVP (Central Valley Project) pumps and their flesh washed down the aqueducts."

It's almost as if they are trying to drive these species to extinction.

A glance at EBMUD's web page trumpets that to "Promote Environmental Responsibility and Sustainability." Yet there is no serious support of the surging local water movement and its greywater, rainwater and permaculture strategies, whose widespread implementation could more than offset the need for new dams. It is only through localizing our community dependencies that we have a snowball's chance in hell at reversing this plague of ecosystem collapse. It's been said that California's projects consist of the most altered ecosystems on the planet. It is incumbent upon California to admit the errors of our ways and implement the world's largest ecosystem resurrection.

Days before the action we gathered in preparation, the chilliness outside only increasing the coziness inside, and excitedly scrawled the expected conditions on a whiteboard farr from the plan. Arrows, anonymous stick figures and approximated distances all began to appear, while an old canvas sign was sliced into appropriate sizes for the anticipated ascent. Our graffiti artist tried their skillful hand at drawing legible letters, and to our great joy, produced lovely composition of neon yellow-green. Our nimble tree-person ensured that the signs climbed were taught the necessary skills, while our resourceful host cut a long plywood slab and prepared it to hang. The evening's preparations complete, we parted ways to re-converge on the morning of our planned action.

On October 13, cold, grey rain had found us again inside with tea: we struggled with a stubborn geomnetic kit, stepped into harnesses, and stuffed bags with our "no" and "dams" signs, double checking that each climber had their appropriate sign so as not to arrive on the platform and shout to the world, "Dams No." We piled into a pickup truck and made our way through streets of falling fresh water towards the center of the city. We arrived around the corner, hopped in and approached the scene of 30 or 40 likely citizens with salmon-hats and signs, shouting loudly over the rain, hoping to be heard.

We approached the entrance of the EBMUD with a ladder, and someone shouted, "Hey what are you doing?" before ushering all the other protesters inside, causing an unnecessary divide in the dissent. Up went the ladder, then us and the signs. Some in suits quietly advanced behind us, but by then we were all the way up, which rendered their bulky demand for us to "get down from there this instant!" hopeless. I looked over at my vibrant and passionate comrades, we reached across the Pardee Dam image and each took a side of our six-foot red, wooden disapproval sign. Other signs, bigger than ourselves, emerged from our Mary Poppins-style backpacks and we made our ways across the beams of the building's entranceway.

The news cameras found us and numerous pictures were taken. Our team's knowledgeable police liaison reported that the police were being surprisingly calm and agreed that, if upon our descent, we took everything down with us, no charges would be pressed. The signs had been big this time. We were already to have accomplished our goal of displaying a part of the strong conviction we felt, so we agreed to reground. We untied knots and passed bags down. As we took a last glance at Oakland from this unlikely police lake tower, we climbed down the canvas signs, they caught the up-flowing wind in a jaunty little swing—convincing us momentarily that they were the overlooked sails of a great ship upon a vaste concrete ocean.

During the public portion of the meeting that took place inside, about 70 people gave their allotted 3-minute comments. There were people from neighborhood organizations, river protection alliances, fishing groups, greywater collectives, engineers and other concerned citizens who gave a myriad of reasons why building a new dam was entirely unnecessary. The meeting lasted about 6 hours, the longest in EBMUD history.

The board dutifully listened as we gave our informed pleas, and then made the decision they were going to make regardless—to include the dam. At least if they did decide to go ahead with construction, it wouldn't be 15 years from now, providing plenty of time for the importance of rivers to contigously sprout.

Meanwhile, the SWP that pumps fresh water from the San Francisco Bay Delta to southern California is not only implicated in the demise of the 176 threatened and endangered species of the bay, it is also the largest single user of energy in the state. The Edmonston Pumping Plant at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains is the largest, and boasts that each of its fossil fuel guzzling pumps weigh 400 tons and stand 65-feet tall.

Damn Cars

From a climate justice perspective, pumping water may be California's largest contributor to atmospheric carbon, but in our everyday reality car culture is the most tangible perpetrator of social and environmental carnage. Time and time again highways are built through poor communities, polluting the air with foul gasses. The automobile's constant assault on our senses—the noise, lung-clogging smoke and psychological pollution—cause not only epidemics of respiratory disease, but destroy the social fabric of neighborhoods. The supreme reign of these high-velocity, metallic death machines over our cities needs to be checked in a systemic way, but the automobile-roadway industrial complex has a death grip on our economy.

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Dams

The truck demolished in the Bay area as a part of the 350.org International Day of Action.
As bicyclists and pedestrians we often have to fight against the almost psychic sense of entitlement that car drivers wield. In places like Boulder, Colorado, Americans commute to work daily, every day is "bike to work day." As the pre-COP15 climor reached near fever pitches, we decided to sponsor a 350.org event by symbolically inverting the carnage that car culture inflicts on our planet. We hitched a plan to annihilate a car in public, an act that epitomized the concept and a handful of sledgemen. October 24 was the perfect day to destroy an old pickup that had been polluting since 1982, in the name of the Global Day of Climate Action. All sorts of people came to ask what we were doing when they heard the calculus of the event. We explained our action, invited them to join us and almost everyone did. Surprisingly unhindered by the presence of the law, women, men, girls, boys, old, young, nationalities, and the truck slowly became unrecognizable. As it reached a satisfying state of disarray, we attached rope to its raised front bumper and to five bicycles then started pulling!

We pulled from South Berkeley to West Oakland, occasionally stopping to switch riders or explain our intentions to bystanders. Upon arriving at the truck's temporary resting place in West Oakland, a few kids came over to check out the commotion. We explained why we demolished this specific car and their immediate reaction was, "Can we? Can we?" Armed with the appropriate tools, they began to swing. As the sound echoed better our activation, they reluctantly handed us the hammers pounding, raised our line of cycling activists, and we set to work. We had never smashed an unwanted car with strangers before—or any car for that matter—but a subtle, ephemeral union of community gave the整车an catharsis. (The word "movement" started to enter into our conversation, and we began to wonder how to dimensionalize and span the gap between activists, tired workers, farmers, fisherman, immigrants, frustrated students, medicated children, heroic teachers, elders, alternative health care practitioners and disgruntled veterans. A vast array of people all bear the brunt of a dysfunctional government.

As disparate groups, we make minor modifications to acceptable things. In previously non-communicating groups, we become a large body of concerned citizens—the greater number of people organized, the smaller any act appears to be, and an act can suddenly become an unlikely ensemble, spanning multitudes of outlooks and backgrounds. The act of harnessed the ample strength of diversity and shaped like waters through cracks. On a map of resistance there are many dots, but it's not clear where and under if it isn't the vigorous drawing and redrawing of lines between those dots—ever the unexpected ones—that will help us to unleash an unbreakable net of unbearable might.

Diablo E3F is a new group. You can reach them at diabloearthfirst@gmail.com. To view footage of the October 17 action visit http://agrolocal.co/ko/coo/0763187.

What If?

A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 350.ORG INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

BY KEVIN MORAN

On October 24, hundreds of thousands of people in 181 countries came together in an international day of action against climate change. Organized by Bill McKibben's 350.org, the event is being reported as the largest and most widely-coordinated political day of action in the history of the modern world. The organization aims to mobilize around the world to demand action on climate change. Banners dropped from national monuments on every continent, proclaiming a car-free Earth Day. 3500 groups in 150 countries celebrated the international day of action, The People. Aerial photos depict clusters of people all around the world forming giant "350." configurations to highlight the issue in Boulder, Colorado, we called for a Critical Mass bike ride and joined the line of cyclists to the reviled Valmont Coal Plant, demanding an end to coal-fired power. Still, when I looked back across the seemingly endless line of cycling protests and actions taking place in Boulder, were motivated by a new interest and never participated in any form of protest—I found myself wondering: "Is this really the best way to approach this issue? Haven't we tried this before? What if all these people showed up to participate in direct action, rather than symbolic action?" The assumption put forward by the 350.org campaign—and the logical basis of displaying immense global support for this unifying issue of climate change—is that the movement can "unite" an inspiring and diverse group of people all around the world to rattle the system. It is argued that we need to be able to impeach the real threat of global warming, and that the way to do this is by creating a sense of urgency, and putting pressure on the government to do something. Therefore, it is argued, we need to organize large numbers of people, and we need to do so in a way that will be visible, and that will attract media attention, and that will be able to mobilize a large number of people. In this way, it is argued, we will be able to create a sense of urgency, and put pressure on the government to do something.

Let us not forget that Mr. Inconvenient Truth himself, longtime activist and leader of the Kyoto Protocol on behalf of the US government, Al Gore sat on top of the war-and-profit machine for eight years of dissolves and false solutions toward environmental crisis. Even Barack Obama, who has used strong language to favor action on climate change, has been hesitant to join global climate talks (largely because the tech rich developed countries pay for their irreplaceable damage of the ecosystem). There is no reason to expect anything but more of the same from the sociopolitical elite—false solutions, commitments of inconsequential sums of money toward research and development of "cleaner" forms of energy, concurrent with the perpetual destruction of mountain ranges, clear-cutting of forests, pumping deadly chemicals into the air and dumping waste into the oceans.

The objective of the October 24 International Day of Action was to raise the number "350"—a number that even James Hansen, climate scientist and originator of the 350 ppm carbon dioxide level, has contended is likely too high. McKibben and friends intended to make the number stick. By employing the number with as many people in as many places and as many ways as possible. The campaign strove to shun the false stigma cast by energy-industry-funded climate change deniers, and to build the awareness of the reality that is unfolding. To this end, the campaign was inarguably a success, displaying global solidarity against climate change that undoubtedly resonated during the Copenhagen negotiations (COP 15). Indeed, the discussion has shifted from whether the climate is changing to much longer-term concerns about the same path without disaster—global warming has become a political reality. However, as the COP 15 talks will likely have no serious impact, and Kyoto is the least of our development goals. Those of us who are seriously trying to alter the disastrous trajectory of industrial society are forced to ask ourselves the question, "What if?"

What if—instead of wasting precious time in the futile game of representative politics—we came together, not in symbolic action, but in the world's largest day of direct action? What if the wealth of the social networks today—the vast potential for communication and organization among people—is not used to empower people to participate in directly modifying the world around them? What if 350 people, instead of just riding bikes through downtown Boulder, were motivated to disrupt every vehicle on the road? What if at the same moment, a thousand people in Denver, instead of rallying around the capitol holding "350" signs, began to demolish their local Super Wal-Mart in favor of an urban garden? What if our friends and neighbors came to our defense with rocks and bricks when the police came to stop us? What if in DC, hundreds of people gathered, not to form a photo opportunity in front of the White House, but a road blockade in front of the coal plant? If we can do it, we shut down industrial polluters, or in India, we drove out Monsanto? What if millions of people around the world came together on one day in defense of a dying planet—not to ask the rich to voluntarily tend to their possessions of health, education, and luxuries that are killing the Earth and us? What if The People simultaneously dedicated their every remaining effort to restore the conditions that are necessary to make the world liveable and we organized ourselves, not under the umbrella banner of celebrity activists, but out of a unified understanding that we cannot continue this way of life? What if we rejected the fallacy and false solutions of representative, authoritarian government, and resolved to act on behalf of ourselves and to stand in solidarity with the countless others who are perpetually misrepresented, marginalized, or disenfranchised. The answer to this question, of course, would be a worldwide revolution.

This is not to say that the 350 actions were a waste. Personally contributed time and effort to the campaign, working with committed, mired and passionate people to campaign to create like justice, would never have done this had the thought the campaign was a completely misdirected effort. In many ways, the decentralized organizing and impressive attendance was the most impressive mass action to happen in Boulder in years. A powerful and powerful formal assistance provided by 350.org showed participants—and power holders—that we have the potential to organize on a scale that the world has never seen. It proved, at least to me, that we were willing to work to surpass expectations, defy contrived norms and create a better world. Most importantly, it forged networks and connections that can be utilized toward greater ends.

What should follow is an analysis as to whether our desired goals are truly attainable through symbolic means. If not, we should consider a more direct approach. And maybe next year, on October 24, we can try again without asking—only acting.

A new world is ours to create and the sooner we start, the better. Kevin is a writer, artist, organizer, aspiring revolutionary and disgruntled student at the University of Colorado, in Boulder. Visit him at Left Hand Books.

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November-December 2010 officially celebrates 30 years-in-print for the Earth First! Journal. We have good reason to start the year off with a big heads up to all who have stories, photos, songs, original artwork or, perhaps, an article about how you found yourself organizing with a rambunctious crew of monkeywrenchers—those who make no compromises in defense of the Earth!

In addition to gathering stories from the three decades of direct action to commemorate the international movement of Earth First!, the Journal collective would also like to run a 2011 Direct Action Calendar and release a compilation album. However, we will not be able to achieve any of this without your help! Please start thinking about your photos and stories—how you want to capture a piece of the history—and send them to us in a timely fashion. Send your suggestions for song picks and artists to contact! We need your well captured high-resolution action shots! Each issue this year we intend on asking folks to contribute and hope that our mailbox starts to burst from the seams with exciting letters and packages!

Donations are, of course, also needed to help us have a good year and hopefully save some cash for the proposed anniversary trinkets. We appreciate all the contributions that were made in 2009; we thank you for effectively keeping the Journal going! If you donated $50 or more during the Summer donor drive we are still planning to get trinkets out, as soon as we have two long-term editors back in the office.

Help is also needed in other ways at the Earth First! Journal. If you are interested in working at the Journal, fundraising, making merchandise, tabling, doing edits/layout from a far (other suggestions are welcomed) get in touch and we can get the ball rolling!

The Winter fundraising letter has been included in subscriber copies of this issue, if you don’t see a donation form and would like to contribute please visit us online at www.earthfirstjournal.org and click “Donate” on the home page. Alternatively, donations can be sent to our PO Box or by calling the Earth First! Journal office to place a debit/credit card donation. Thanks for your readership and support!

For the Wild,
—The Earth First! Journal Collective

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Earth First! Journal
RELEASE PARTIES

While the January-February 2010 Bigpig edition of the Earth First! Journal teaches readers far and wide, organizers from the Earth First! movement in the US will be meeting in southern California to discuss current campaigns, problems within our movement and solution-building, hold discussions and workshops that encompass our tactics and analysis, as well as take time to talk about the Journal. Here in the office of the EFJ Journal we have brainstormed various ideas about the future of the publication; some thoughts we have appeared in the 2009 Reader Survey, other ideas will appear as they become firm. As of yet, nothing is set in stone. Though, as we’ve said before—one thing is certain, there is no end in sight for the radical environmental journal!

Another clear notion is that we need to get more Journals out in the world and into the hands of folks who are looking for a movement as dedicated to stopping the destruction of our planet as those who have known about Earth First! for years.

We are very interested in helping EFers and allies host Earth First! Journal mailing parties in their bioregions and would like to encourage anyone who feels they can initiate the project of organizing a mailing party in their region to get in contact. Mailing parties only happen once every two months, so there is not a huge time commitment. With good planning and publicity you could easily use the Journal mailing party as an outreach tool for your community! Anyone who is interested in the development of this concept, whether you live in the US or Indonesia send us an e-mail, letter or phone call (Our information is listed on the contents page.)
This is a time to express our deepest concerns, which can lead to healing and action! While most of us are still hibernating away, we can take the time to research campaigns that need our attention and organizing skills.

In February, Earth Firsters in the US will be traveling to the Organizer Conference and Winter Rendezvous to do just that. If you are not able to make the journey to the west coast this Winter consider organizing a regional gathering. Pick a place where the Wild is being threatened and plan a weekend campout! Regional gatherings are a great opportunity to discuss, analyze and strategize. During the Brigid season it is also an important time to sit around campfires and share stories and songs with your community.

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**Song: EF! For the Wilderness**

Words by B.N. Kohler

To the tune of "Your Cheatin' Heart"

G C
This timber sale will make you weep
D G
The soils are thin, The slopes too steep
G C
The elk will hide, the moose will too
D G
This timber sale will make you blue

This oil well rig will make you mad
It's such a crime, it's so damn bad
The bighorns will run, the bears will, too
This oil well rig will make you blue

**Chorus:**

G C G
As we gather here on this mountain top
D
It's time to stand—it's time to make them stop!

We'll stand by you, Oh, wilderness
We'll fight the tide, we'll fight this mess
We'll guard your life, no matter what they do
Oh, wilderness, we're gonna stand by you

*Repeat Chorus*
There is a shocking lack of awareness and opposition, in both the mainstream environmental and the EP movement, to current legislation that will usher in what industry executives are joyfully calling a “nuclear renaissance.” As Craig A. Severance explains in his 2009 report, Business Risks and Costs of New Nuclear Power, “An entire generation has passed since nuclear power has been seriously considered in America. Ne West. Face now are on utility boards, and new reporters are covering the energy beat. After so much time, a particular amnesia about the record of the nuclear industry is evident in discussions.” Nuclear power and the resulting nuclear waste is the most deadly stuff on the planet and the latter will remain that way for the next 500,000 years or so. Coupled with that scientific reality, the gross history and current practices involving Native Americans in uranium mining and waste storage provides one of the most glaring and ongoing examples of environmental racism in United States history. It is critical that this “nuclear renaissance” be resisted and refused before another reactor goes online.

From companies that have a stake in nuclear energy’s future. The Braidwood Plant—located outside of Chicago—is owned, by Exelon Corporation, which has donated $275,000 to Obama’s presidential campaign. Politicians, industry executives and mainstream environmental groups maintain that nuclear power is cost-effective, non-polluting “green energy.” On every point, they are wrong—either very much misinformed, influenced by nuclear money or just plain lying. The reality is much, much more slender a matter of opinion—the subject is not up for debate. Clear scientific and historical fact demonstrate that there is absolutely nothing cost-effective, pollution-free or “green” about nuclear energy.

What is most seldom discussed is exactly where the uranium that will power these proposed plants will come from. However, this is a subject of ongoing debate. Public Citizen’s Nuclear Information and Research Service explains, in a report entitled “Radioactive Racism: The History of Targeting Native American Communities with High-Level Waste Dumps,” that any uranium mines were, and continue to be, on Navajo lands throughout the Grants Mineral Belt (Arizona and New Mexico) or Laguna Pueblo land in New Mexico and tribal lands in the Northwest, as well as on and near Sioux Indian and Inuit land in the western U.S. and Canada. These mines have taken a particularly hard toll on the communities near them. Native American miners, most of whom were never informed of the dangers of uranium, were exposed to its particulate and radioactive gases in the mines for decades. They have suffered large numbers of lung cancer fatalities, a disease whose causes are unknown among the Navajos and Pueblos before uranium mining. Mining debris and mill tailings, as milling often takes place near the mines to minimize transport of waste rock, were put into unlined disposal ponds or open air. In the high country, air, where often they leaked into nearby soil and water. Groundwater that entered into the mines, and thus contaminants that were regularly pumped out into rivers and lakes.

The same issue applies to what is possibly the hardest position to defend in the greenwash of nuclear power—nuclear waste. High-level nuclear waste is deadly now and it reaches its most deadly phase about 300,000 years from now. It is inconceivable to plan or construct anything made with human hands that will remain safe and safe for that long; we do not have the ability to deal with it. No matter where we put nuclear waste, it will always be safe. It will never, ever cease to be a serious threat to the planet, the plants and the species. No amount of greenwashing can change that fact.

In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which mandated that a permanent waste repository be in place by 1998. It is now 2010, the US government is twelve years late, and it has no current prospects for a long-term solution for nuclear waste. The waste is now being stored onsite at the nuclear plants where the waste was produced. Due to the proximity of these plants to large population centers and natural resources (like rivers, lakes and oceans), this is not a tenable solution for storage. In addition, if one was to believe the government’s own fear-hype, these massive above-ground waste storage areas would

The Nuclear Renaissance & the Necessary Resistance

by Mac Lojowsky

The Western Shoshone were largely ignored by the US government. Thirty-state high-level waste—either civil or nuclear fuel or defense program high-level waste,’ says Edward S. F. Sprott III, who was the DOE (Department of Energy) official in charge of the Yucca Mountain project for the last ten and half years of the Bush administration. The waste “is all designed to go to Yucca, and there’s no other place to send it.” (August 3, 2009)

The nuclear debate largely focuses on “invisible” places, completely outside the public scrutiny of mainstream media. Yucca Skull Valley, Utah—where the hell is that? Church Rock, New Mexico? Grants Mineral Belt? Idaho Falls? Nevada? New Mexico? The DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico is one of the few places in the world where the Western Shoshone and thousands of people who have become “invisible” populations—the Goshutes, the Utes, the Western Shoshone, the Mescalero Apaches. The people that are fighting and continue to fight the long fight against the nuclear industry: These groups include: the Navajo, the Hopi, the San Ildefonso, the Isleta, the Laguna, the Jemez, the Zuni, the Hopi, the Picuris, the Ute, the Western Shoshone, the Mescalero Apaches. The people who have been fighting and continue to fight the long fight against the nuclear industry: These groups include: the Hopi, the San Ildefonso, the Isleta, the Laguna, the Jemez, the Zuni, the Hopi, the Picuris, the Ute, the Western Shoshone, and the Mescalero Apaches. These groups have joined together to draft their own energy legislation within the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (www.intertribalccp.org). There are numerous other groups and sources of information available, including Beyond Nuclear (www.beyondunder.org).

It is important to remember there are no victories in one hour, or one round, or one battle. The nuclear industry was in many ways contained by the hard, consistent work of the people who have done this work for so long against the nuclear industry. These groups include: the Hopi, the San Ildefonso, the Isleta, the Laguna, the Jemez, the Zuni, the Hopi, the Picuris, the Ute, the Western Shoshone, and the Mescalero Apaches. These groups have joined together to draft their own energy legislation within the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (www.intertribalccp.org). There are numerous other groups and sources of information available, including Beyond Nuclear (www.beyondunder.org).
ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Weather or Not, They’re Wrong

The most recent issue of the Compendium Newsletter, based out of Los Angeles, states that 89 percent of the weather stations under the National Weather Service’s own requirements. Positioned next to exhaust fans, surrounded by asphalt and situated amidst the concrete-heated environs of the inner-city, most weather stations are, like the planet itself, artificially heated by urban development. If you can’t trust the National Weather Service, who can you trust?!

Greenwashed Lego World

The modern sustainability movement has modeled itself on the three Rs, but what do you do when the shadow of those requirements really start becoming onerous? Take for example, the Dwellbox: a house made out of recycled shipping containers. If you want to know how a commodity authenticity feels, try living like one, in the 14-gauge steel hull of a shipping container.

Hey Ranchers, Go Hunt Yourselves

A new ruling in favor of Farmers for Animals has outlawed hunting endangered species on the historic Y.O. Ranch in Texas. Prior to this decision, Y.O. was breeding endangered Scimitar-horned oryx antelopes and Dama gazelles to be hunted in captivity at the price of $5,300 a head. These kinds of “hunting ranches” exist perfectly legally in 40 U.S. states, where psychotic killing frenzies are deemed “manly” and “exciting.”

Plain Stupid False Solutions

Another macabre contribution to Environmental News of the Weired was introduced by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, who has recently decided to capture and gas 2,000 geese in Lower Canada Geese. They supposedly present a clear and present danger to national security. No, seriously, these “terrorist” geese are in danger of flying into the engines of airplanes, so instead of protecting them with sound waves, which would remove them from harm’s way, the benevolent Mayor has decided to execute them. But look on the bright side: at least they won’t be detained in some bizarre, privately owned military prison, tortured and moved to Afghanistan, Egypt, and Syria before being executed. They won’t even be microwaved by the military’s brand new “pain ray.” Not this time, at least...

Operation Parasol to the Rescue

In an homage to false solutions to climate change, here’s a glance back at the brunt and bravest of the worst ideas of 2009. We should all be familiar with these great ideas: creating an enormous algae bloom in the middle of the ocean, pumping more pollution into the sky to provide heat, or cutting down the forest, and replacing trees with synthetic carbon dioxide converting machines. But what about EV/F’s parasol over at the University of Arizona? Obviously not readers of the journal, they intend to launch “Operation Parasol”—a project to send trillions of spaceships into orbit to reflect the sun’s rays away from the earth. What is this, a science fiction novel?

You Can Take the Woman Out of the Wild, but...

Readers might be more sympathetic to Rochom Pwiging, the so-called “jungle woman” of Cambodia, who emerged in 2007 after 18 years in the wild, only to go on a month-long hunger strike against civilization. Living alone in the jungle from age 5 to 26, Pwiging was captured after attempting to steal, and is currently under the custody of her father. After two years, she refuses to learn language, speak, or eat rice. Her father has explained, “Her condition looks worse than the time we brought her from the jungle. She always wants to take off her clothes and crawl back to the jungle.”

SHORTS

* Obama appointed the former pesticide lobbyist, Islam Siddiqui, to the post of Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the U.S. Trade Representative’s office, ensuring DDT and other pollutants a special spot in trade agreements—sounds like a change we can believe in!
* A new vehicle Barbie is being built using 56 miles of U.S. border with Mexico in Cabeza Eneta National Wildlife Refuge, employing 125 massive machines, from bulldozers and road graders to hole diggers and dump trucks the size of houses.
* No migratory birds hosted on Alcaraz Island this year; as opposed to the 1,782 counted in 2007, because their food source, anchovies, has moved south to follow fluctuations in the California Current concomitant with the global increase in ocean temperature.
* The Greenwich Neutral Foundation is calling for a ban of plastic shopping bags, citing that only two percent are recycled, and their content of consumption now reaches nearly 1 million pounds per minute.
* The Animal Protection Agency of England is sounding the alarm about the South Staffordshire Council’s failure to enforce laws against the sales of pet animals at market stalls.
* The so-called “flying fox,” a species of bat, has been hunted into near extinction in its native Malay peninsula, in Malaysia, while another grouping of bats in Arkansas are developing a mysterious syndrome that is killing them off by the thousands.
* In the invasion of Big Head Carp led Chicago officials to poison 30 kilometers of the sanitary and ship canal, massacring the fish and killing only one carp in the process.
* Research on the 2007 Lick Fire in Henry W. Coe State Park shows that the fire recovery has generated the regrowth of plants that had not been seen in Coe in decades.
* Recent reports show new evidence that the condition of the U.S. is on the rise. Hot commodities, indeed.

January-February 2010 Earth First! Page 23
CARRIE & SCOTT TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE STATE!

BY FRIENDS OF CARRIE AND SCOTT

Carrie Feldman and Scott DeMuth are activists from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who were subpoenaed to a federal grand jury investigating animal rights vandalism from 2004. They both were put in jail. Carrie is still being held on civil contempt of court. She had a hearing regarding a motion for her release on December 8, and, as of this writing, is still awaiting a ruling from the judge. On November 19, Scott's civil contempt was dropped and he was indicted for conspiracy under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Scott was released on November 30, pending trial. What follows is an account of their arrest prior to Scott's release.

On November 17, Carrie Feldman and Scott DeMuth refused to testify in front of a grand jury in Davenport, Iowa, and were found to be in contempt of court. They were immediately handcuffed and hauled off by US Marshalls. According to District Judge John Jarvey, who presided over the contempt hearings, both will remain incarcerated until they agree to testify. The state can lock them up for the duration of the grand jury—another 11 months.

For reasons all too familiar and valid to anyone who has followed the escalation of Grand Jury threats against political activists, Carrie and Scott will not cooperate with the grand jury by providing information about themselves and their comrades. We stand in solidarity with them for refusing to be complicit in their own oppression. We will stand with them every day until they are free.

While the law does not compel the US Attorney's Office to disclose the subject of the grand jury investigation, supporters believe that it is likely related to an animal liberation front action in 2004 at the University of Iowa. At the time, Carrie was only 15 years old and Scott was only 17 years old—but both were residents of the Twin Cities.

However, they have more recently been involved in supporting political prisoners, specifically those incarcerated as a result of the government's targeting of animal-rights and environmental activists. Carrie, Scott and their communities feel that this support work has now made them targets, as well.

Prior to their grand jury appearances today and the contempt hearings that followed, between 30 and 40 supporters rallied outside the Federal Courthouse in Davenport. The support rally was characterized by a disproportionate law enforcement presence, and the proceedings themselves by a sense in the courtroom that the state's actions were perfunctory at best. District Judge John Jarvey dismissed out-of-hand arguments offered by both Carrie and Scott's continued on the next page

Prior to appearing before the grand jury, Carrie and Scott prepared statements regarding the repression they are facing:

Today I have my second appearance before a federal grand jury that is investigating animal rights acts that occurred at the University of Iowa in 2004. Last month—after being subpoenaed in Minneapolis with one day's notice—I appeared before this grand jury and pled the Fifth Amendment right to remain silent. Today, that right will be sidestepped with technical legal "projections" that have little or no substantive value. I will once again be put in front of a grand jury with no lawyer present in the room, and once again they will attempt to coerce me to testify.

The prosecutor has tried to grant me immunity. I do not need immunity from prosecution for a crime that I was not involved in and have no reason to believe that this will result in any change in my decision to refuse to cooperate with the grand jury. I stand here today in solidarity with everyone who has stood up to resist the exploitation of the environment and animals, the repression of the state, and the abuses of the justice system.

In anticipation of my refusal to cooperate, the court has scheduled a contempt hearing for today at ten o'clock. And they've got it— I don't have a right to refuse a grand jury to refuse to testify. I am an animal rights activist that prosecutes people for property damage that is done in defense of life, while the state will commit crimes of violence against the environment and animals, the repression of the state, and the abuses of the justice system.

I decided to cooperate with the state to support the creation of a grand jury. I am an activist and I want to see the creation of the Davenport Grand Jury take place.

Before anything else, I want you all to know that I am not a political prisoner, and I have no reason to believe I will be taken to jail. We have been threatened, coerced and jailed. However, no punishment could be worse than surrendering our values, and this decision to remain silent is the only way we can cooperate or resist—is the only thing we, as individuals, have control of in this process. Lastly, this is the choice that allows these grand juries to succeed or to fail.

Our willingness to stand up and to be convicted, our willingness to be intimidated and to be scared, not only serves to legitimate those processes, but it also empowers the tactics of state repression. However, when we as individuals—with the strength and backing of our communities, are too scared to risk arrest, we no longer have the strength and backing of our communities, and we no longer have the goodwill of our friends and families. We refuse to work through that illusion.

So thank you all for giving me that strength. I only hope to give back as much as they have given to us.

-Carrie Feldman

Scott DeMuth

Support & Resource website: Hostagethrown.com


Hello all my relatives. With a good heart, I greet you all with a handshake. It is good to see you again today. My name is Scott. My place name in Dakota is Bepan. I am from Bdept, the community of the Minnesota and Mississippi River bands. The Dakota, they are many of the environment and animals, the repression of the state, and the abuses of the justice system.

In anticipation of my refusal to cooperate, the court has scheduled a contempt hearing for today at ten o'clock. And they've got it—I don't have a right to refuse a grand jury to refuse to testify. I am an animal rights activist that prosecutes people for property damage that is done in defense of life, while the state will commit crimes of violence against the environment and animals, the repression of the state, and the abuses of the justice system.

I decided to cooperate with the state to support the creation of a grand jury. I am an activist and I want to see the creation of the Davenport Grand Jury take place.

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So thank you all for giving me that strength. I only hope to give back as much as they have given to us.

-Carrie Feldman

Scott DeMuth

Support & Resource website: Hostagethrown.com
counsel, regarding the need for them to remain free. For instance, Carrie is the caretaker of her ailing grandmother, and Scott is currently a graduate student whose intellectual and professional integrity would be irreparably damaged by participating in a sealed investigation. In response, the judge simply read verbatim the legal language about contempt charges and then ordered the two taken into custody immediately.

For his part, US Attorney Cliff Cronk ignored the calls that flooded his office on Monday demanding that the subpoenas be quashed, and that Carrie and Scott be allowed to continue their lives. Then he went substantially further down the rabbit hole: in Carrie's case, in particular, his arguments and implications were egregiously over-the-top. Cross-examining Carrie's father, for instance, Cronk cynically implied that the elderly grandmother she cares for was a sort of pawn in an elaborate ruse to avoid incarceration. He suggested that a shirt Carrie had been photographed wearing, in which the letters "L" and "F" were visible, was evidence of "membership" in either the ALF or ELF. He even cited the fact that she has a white rat companion animal as evidence of something suggestive. It would all be a rather inspired piece of satire if he were kidding, but as Carrie and Scott are currently incarcerated, it's unfortunately clear that he is not.

The community members who attended the morning's rally, as well as those who publicly gathered in support from Minneapolis to Dallas, TX, aren't laughing. They have vowed to mount pressure on Cronk, demanding Carrie's and Scott's immediate release. Since the grand jury process gleams much of its power from its secrecy, supporters instead draw attention to the Orwellian proceedings Carrie and Scott are facing.

Tragedy in the Sweat Lodge Ceremony

By James "Coyote" Anderson

Most of us are aware by now about the devastating tragedy that occurred on October 8, at Angel Valley Retreat Center, near Sedona Arizona, when motivational speaker James Arthur Ray held a so-called "spiritual warrior" event that has so far cost the lives of three people and will forever change the lives of 64 more. The facts are slowly emerging. The first bit of investigation is in regards to what actually happened that day. Investigators found that the lodge used in the sweat lodge ceremony that claimed these lives was made of plastic tarps, which can be very dangerous and can be fatal. Still, the investigation continues in determining the cause of death. What people don't seem to understand is that the real problems lie with forensic teams refuse to look or examine. This tragedy is far deeper than some might realize and will not only affect the 67 people involved, but now has the potential to affect many others, both directly and indirectly.

I ask all Mother Earth's children, spiritual people, Indigenous peoples, traditionalists and people seeking a spiritual foundation to read this and think for a while as I share some truth forensics will never find. I personally write this as a traditionalist, and as a prisoner within the federal system who has been doing sweat lodge ceremonies for many years. As we are coming into the Aquarian age, a time of healing, many people are starting to wake up, remove the blinders, and realize the need to strive for higher consciousness. Much of the time people are turning to spiritual advisors and people of Indigenous cultures with hope for guidance. They come with open minds, open hearts and trust in the spiritual advisor. Some people seek out wisdom in motivational speakers to help them in the financial, intellectual and spiritual lives.

In the self-help book entitled The Secret, by author Rhonda Byrne, page 195, James Ray claims to be an expert on many Eastern, Indigenous and Mystical traditions, I have to disagree for many reasons. The first reason is that the reason one human who is an expert in indigenous traditions. Only Creator is the expert. Second, as spiritual people or advisors or medicine men, it is far from proper to charge people for your services. It is okay to accept donations, due to the belief of life, but to try to get rich off of spiritual advice is bad medicine in itself. James Ray was charging approximately $10,000 per person. That's roughly $670,000 for his services. Third, I will say this: if you want to know the story of the book The Secret, but they're just words. It's a whole different setting when you start tamping with sacred ways. To walk the Red Road is a very precious and sacred path and there is much healing power in the ceremonies if you utilize them in a humble way. However, if you abuse these ways, you will suffer and so will those around you.

On October 8, Ray abused the sacred ways and the results of his actions are shattering. If Ray, who claims to be an "expert," had spent any time around traditional sweat lodge ceremonies he would have known that the lodge was not properly built and plastic and metal are forbidden. Also, Ray had the participants in the event endure a 36-hour fast then fed them a breakfast buffet before the lodge ceremony. This whole procedure was done completely backwards. Once inside the lodge, as the guide or sweat lodge leader, it was his job and responsibility to take care of every other person within that ceremony. Reports say many people were crying and screaming to get out, yet he made them suffer beyond the limit of even the hottest lodges. It has also been stated that other participants who attended prior lodges run by Ray have been sickened, as well. Ray is not some spiritual guru. He is a fake and now he has sold his soul along with others for $670,000. He took the little bit of knowledge he had been blessed with for granted and abused it, and now it is affecting more than just him and the 67 people involved in this ceremony. Ray should never be allowed near another sweat lodge or any sacred item again.

If one knows their history even a little, they will see that Native Americans as well as all other Indigenous peoples have been in a constant struggle for their rights to keep their religious beliefs and practices. For hundreds of years, Native Americans have fought just to survive as a whole. The government looked for any reason to justify the genocide of Indigenous peoples. Because of the power of our spirituality, sacred ways and the sacrifices and lives of our ancestors and elders, our ways still exist.

As a Native American and chief prisoner in the federal system who walked the Red Road to the best of my ability, I take my spirituality very seriously and I am truly grateful for these ways and the people who fought for them. It wasn't until the late 1970s and early 1980s that the sweat lodge ceremonies were allowed inside the penitentiary walls. Thankfully, with the help of the American Indian Movement and the Native American Rights Fund, and through the grace
Prisoner and Legal Updates

• The Arrow, Released to a halfway house in Oregon. Was serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson. For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

• Julien Coupal, released from Paris, France. Was awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

• Matt DePalma, #14126-01, moved to FCI Fairton POB 420 Fairton, NJ 08320, USA. Served three and a half years in prison for unlawful possession of destructive devices at the 2008 Republican National Convention.

• Linda Greene, #1300927, transferred to FCI Terre Haute Detention Facility, 11705 S Alameda Street, Lynwood, CA 90262, USA. Being held on charges related to stalking and harassment.

• Joshua Harper, "Free" Luers, has been released. For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

• PI Noordzintel, Peter Jansen, S102880, Postbus 37606, 2001 LB Rotterdam, Accused of freeing a hog from a fur farm.

• Kevin Olliff, #1300913, transferred. Her new address is WERDC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shorting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

• Fran Thompson, #1009015, transferred. Her new address is WERDC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shorting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

• Maria Abu-Jamal, #AM8355, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting resentencing to either life in prison or death. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

• Dean Cain, WI4309, and Luke Steele, WI4308, HMP Lincoln, Greentree Rd, Lincoln, LN2 4BD, UK. Awaiting trial on three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

• Daniele Casarini, Casa Circondariale, Via Butia 59, 43100-Parma PR, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Casarini is a member of Il Silvestre, an Italian eco-anarchist group and frequent target of state repression.

• Francesco Gioia, Casa Penale, Via Lamaccio 1, 67039 Sulmona (AQ), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Frazzofoco.

• John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 301 West Street, Can, SD 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on murder charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Anna Mae Pictou Acoos.

• Bryan Griffiths, XW8892, HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, B97 6QJ, UK. A hunt monitor on remand who is falsely accused of murdering a hunt supporter. Despite this, Griffiths was monitoring a hunt when he élèves run. A hunt supporter was hit by the motorcyclist and died. Despite this being a clear accident, Griffiths has been charged with murder.

• Steve James Murphy, Central Detention Center, 630 East Rialto Ave, San Bernardino, CA 92401, USA. Awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a plant and placing an incendiary device in a housing development construction site.

Animal Liberation

• Jon Ablinwhite, TB4885, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4846, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

• Dan Amos, NVN818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO20 9DE, UK. Amos is serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

• Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-01, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Swift River, MN 55702, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.supportvin.com.

• Heather Nicholson, YM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Midway, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

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

• Dan Wadhams, A5705AA, HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3LJ, UK. Serving five years in connection with the campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences.

• Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 15 months for burglary charges after releasing an abused beagle from a dangerous home and nine additional months from a prior suspended sentence for releasing more than 100 animals from a pet breeder while wearing a false police uniform on animal abuse. For more information, visit www.myspace.com.

Ecodefense

• Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) anus of SUV. For more information, visit GRANTBA.RNES.WORDP.ES.COM.

• Nathan "Exile" Block, #X33359-086, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF ans of a SUV dealer after being later prosecuted for this.

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

• Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-01, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Swift River, MN 55702, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.supportvin.com.
of a sweat lodge. You should have stuck with your faux-Asian symbols. At least you know to never use plastic. If you’re not a firm believer in karma now, you will be, in this life or the next. I pray Creator humbles you as well.

To all the people seeking a higher consciousness or a spiritual path: please, do not let this incident scare you away from what you are searching for. The sweat lodge may very well be what your spirit needs. I only ask that before you jump out there and trust someone to be your spiritual advisor, take the time to check their credentials. Take great caution of those who claim to be an expert or professional in the realm of spirituality. Always remember, just because someone has some fancy sounding Native American name such as “Two Bulls” or “Feather Feather,” it doesn’t mean that they are legit. Be very skeptical of those charging standard rates to get closer to God. Creator doesn’t charge rates for his love. Respect our sacred ways. This is our way of life and anyone with a good heart of love and compassion is welcome to walk down this path.

Now, I ask anyone who reads this to take a few moments to acknowledge and pray for these people who lost their lives, and for those who were traumatized in all this. Pray for their loved ones, for their children, for them to understand that what I see people abuse these ways, but I also write for the sake of others who are being mistreated by people who are Satanists. I only pray for the prisoners who sweat and suffer in the sweat lodge ceremonies behind the walls. We may have made some mistakes in our loves—no one is perfect. We’re all in here for a reason but we’re not all bad people. The brothers in the Native American circles sweat and suffer for the people, for the earth, for all relations and to help better themselves. We pray for those involved in the October 8 tragedy. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your families. I personally have shed many tears over this and I pray that God will forever leave scars on my heart.

You thank for taking the time to read this and hopefully for your patience and understanding. I believe there are many lessons to be learned from all of this. I only hope people will take the time to listen and see the message behind this tragedy.

Much Love and Respect,
Sami Feathers
ANTI-WA-YA TSA-LA-GI
Cherokee Nation/Wolf Clan

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**Support Political Prisoners!**

continued from previous page

- Eric McDavid, #16299-097, FCI Firestone, 2500 E. Missionary Road, P.O. Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for conspiracy to destroy, injure, and misappropriate property of the United States Services. For more information, visit www.supportedmc.com.
- Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, USP Marion, POB 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA. Serving 13 years for ELF arson at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdmg.com.
- Jonathan Paul, #01761-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4 years for the Animal Liberation Front/ELF arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.
- Michael Sykes, #69569-003, Haldor Correctional Facility, 1728 W Buffalo Ave, La Pine, IA 50846, USA. Serving four to 10 years for the arson of a two-story wagon with a horse in the trunk. For more information, visit www.supportmichael.org.

- Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM497, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426, USA.
- Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.
- William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Folies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Other Political Prisoners
- Helen Woodson, #03231-945, FMX, Camp Winder, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a truckload of waste into the refinery of an effluent apparatus of a federal court and making warnings (“threats”) against their operation. In 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman. Her silloio with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

**Prisoner Support Groups**
- Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elp42318@hotmail.com; www.earthliberatprisoners.org.
- North American Earth Libera- tors, Prisoner Information, naelipn@mutualaid.org; www. ecp.org.
Glad I’m Not a Tree—
or a Coyote or a Heron

BY BETH R. JACOBS

Over the past decade, everywhere within fifty miles of where I live has become almost completely deforested—roads widened; endless developments and parcels of land sold, stripped and just left bare. The town has never been obstructed in its ceaseless destruction of marshland, where more concrete is laid for more condominiums and over priced houses, driving up property taxes and leaving the police station complaining about constantly having to answer their private alarm systems. I assume there is some sort of kickback going on because there is no other way of getting authorities settle for higher traffic and taxes and flooding in the streets, yards and basements caused by this overdevelopment.

I called the county about a month ago, as a neighbor was cutting down a young tree. With huge flood lights in the school yard behind us we need all the trees we can get to block the glare at night, to absorb the increasing exhaust fumes, and to help stop the increasing streams of water that run by the fence. A few houses around here have been destroyed by fire, to improve drainage from developers. The county said the tree was out of their jurisdiction—this tiny ten-year-old was cut down to widen the road away. Oh, to be in Westminster, New York where one can be fined for cutting down a tree.

Within a week of my complaint I got a call, “There is a limb on your tree in your yard which is breaking off and needs to be removed...” — someone called the county. A rainstorm had knocked pieces into the road. Several times I ran out and removed much larger sections of this oldster before.) Then it got worse—the county wanted the entire thing gone or our homeowners’ insurance would be notified, and we would not be covered for it. Two experts refused to sign papers saying they could save it. And this past Saturday the county came and took it. It was possibly dangerous, but with certified arborists who also advertise tree removal, I wonder what could’ve been done.

That phone call makes me feel so responsible and worried. The county moved the road over in front of my home a few years ago on the side which the tree was rotting. I assumed the moss couldn’t spread out. All around the capital region roads in upstate New York more trees are rotting the same way, on the side facing the streets. My tree was cut down in an hour and its stump grinded in less time.

The morning they came for the stump, I eased over the edge of the sink—the landscape was coming toward my house. It looked just like the one in the car manual I’d been studying over the weekend. I’d hoped to at least count the rings, but they came at 8 a.m. I ran out the door in my pajamas and bare feet, to ask if they could wait, but they just started right in, and I didn’t put up a fight. It had measured two feet and a half in circumference. There are pictures of my family near it from my childhood, and this past weekend it was taken. Now it will be a good ten degrees hotter in the summer, and with new buildings in the school yard (built on a marsh), I fear our homes’ foundation will be eaten away by rain that flows on no place else to go.

The change in eminent domain laws has made it so one can see the landscape being destroyed daily. There have been a few groups fighting this, but with little success. One intersection where land was stripped hasn’t even sold yet. It just stands bare of its former thicket, causing flooding as the rain washes right over it into the busy street. New York has been cited as one of the most horrible, if not the worst, abuser of eminent domain.

Another road intersection was widened so much it is now dangerous when rain falls. Driving on it this past Saturday, there was a healthy herd of coyotes! I’d seen it once about twenty miles away. My heart began to hurt—a builder, also an assemblyman, was bulldozing it. I constantly see the homeless herons, dead coyotes, and must, with increased frequency, decide if water is too deep to drive through. In an area where men wear camouflage, have gun racks and bumper stickers of female silhouettes with deer heads, a hand painted sign stands testament to the carnage. There will soon be no more open spaces.” I’m glad I’m not a tree or heron or coyote, but what does this mean for me?

Beth is a lifetime resident of Niskayuna in Schenectady County, New York.

Flodding caused by a lack of trees and brush that once absorbed the rain.

 announcements

Anti-Olympics Convergence—February 10-15

Join the resistance to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada to confront the colonial and capitalist forces behind the Olympic Games and the Games last through February 28. For more information on how to help disrupt this multi-billion dollar event, contact olympicresistance@riseup.net or visit www.so2010.org.

2010 Earth First! Organizers’ Conference and Winter Rendezvous—February 11-15

Santa Barbara, California will be hosting the 2010 Organizers’ Conference (OC) and the Winter Rendezvous this year. The OC in Thursday, February 11, through Saturday, February 13. The yearly OC brings together EFers representing local groups and bioregions around the country to discuss strategy, campaigns and other movement issues in spokes-council style meetings. There is a writing process for the Organizers’ Conference, so please get in contact with the OC committee if you or a representative from your campaign or group is planning to attend. The Winter Rendezvous will follow, beginning on Saturday night, running through Monday, February 15, with the traditional post-Rondy action likely on Tuesday, February 16. No need for advance notice for the Rondy as it is open to all. Be prepared for mild-but-rainy weather, warm campsites, great company and an absolutely spectacular time! For more details, including location, workshops, the OC agenda, a ride board and other information visit www.2010OC.org. If you have large tents, tables, extra cots or other space, please let us know.

Help the Beehive Design Collective & The True Cost of Coal Campaign This Spring!

A Swarm is coming! This spring the Beehive Design Collective, a non-profit, volunteer driven, political arts organization based in eastern Maine, is touring the US with its newest graphics campaign. The Beehive will be presenting a large reproduction of The True Cost of Coal graphic, about 80 percent complete, to explore the true cost of “cheap” mountaintop removal coal mining—from its devastating local impacts, to the larger context of systems, which both drive the industrial tyranny and suffer the repercussions. Being The True Cost of Coal to your community, school or collective living space and help the Beehive fundraise to print the photo for mass distribution this spring. To learn more about fundraising with the Beehive poster and how to book a presentation, visit their website at www.BindTogetherBookstore.com.

15th Annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair—March 13-14

Book Marcos presents two days of anarchist and alternative bookstores, distributors, independent presses and political groups exhibiting materials for folks of all ages. There will also be food, speakers, panel discussions and much more. Go to http://www. anarchistbookfair.org for specifics, or just go to the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park in March.

New Free Literature Distress for Prisoners

East Bay Prisoner Support (EBS) is a brand new prison abolition group and a member of the Anarchist Black Cross Network. They serve as a resource center, providing information about Bay Area prison abolition and prison support work and some information on national and international prisoner support. The Long Hall Infoshop in Berkeley, California hosts the EBS prisoner support night every Wednesday from 7-8:30pm. Envelopes and stamps are available for pen-pal writing and sending research materials out to prisoners. To get in touch, visit www.ebsherison.net or e-mail EBShersroup.net.
We Couldn't Agree More!

While we are renowned in the marketplace for our sincere passion in advancing organic agriculture and pesticide-free foods, this only represents the first step towards chemical free living and a world without pesticides. For our food, our families, and our future, we encourage you in joining Mountain Rose Herbs in our struggle to abandon the use of chemicals and pesticides within our homes and gardens.

For the very best in organic herbal products you can find all you need at www.mountainroseherbs.com.

mountain rose herbs
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