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# Earth First!

Brigid

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

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## A Disturbing Absence of BC's Coastal Grizzlies

BY CHRISTOPHER GENOVALI, RAINCOAST CONSERVATION SOCIETY

In the Raincoast Conservation Society's field work and reconnaissance in the remote river valleys of the Great Bear Rainforest on Canada's Pacific Coast, we are finding a disturbing absence of grizzly bears, even along salmon producing systems during the fall runs when predation activity should be high. Another troubling sign is that black bears are proliferating in areas that are historically grizzly bear strongholds, something which grizzlies (if present) would never tolerate. Independent wildlife biologists are in consensus that hunting overkill is seriously impacting coastal grizzly bear populations on the central and north coast.

Raincoast has conducted preliminary grizzly bear studies in close to 100 river valleys in the Great Bear Rainforest. These river systems once contained some of the highest concentrations of bears in Canada, but a

long history of unsustainable grizzly bear "sport" hunting, poaching and clearcut logging has left grizzly populations at serious risk.

In an exhaustive scientific review of the British Columbia (BC) government's flawed approach to grizzly management, wildlife biologists Dr. Brian Horejsi, Dr. Barrie Gilbert and Dr. Lance Craighead concluded that, "there is evidence to suggest that grizzly bear density estimates for coastal BC represent populations suffering from substantial decline."

Dr. Gilbert has pointed out that the relatively small size and young age now prevalent among coastal grizzly populations is a sure indicator of hunting overkill, and given the lack of credible population studies and biological information generated by the government, there is no scientific management of coastal grizzlies in BC. Dr. Horejsi has stated that there should be three to five times the number of grizzlies on BC's coast and that this dramatic decline is due to hunting

overkill and the continued destruction of the grizzly habitat by industrial forestry and clearcut logging.

The sport hunting of coastal grizzly bears can often resemble some sort of high tech war effort. Drs. Horejsi, Craighead and Gilbert report that "outfitters and resident hunters charter float planes, fly along the coast, land at road staging areas, and drive roads or take jet boats up salmon spawning rivers; some use permanent, illegal, elevated stands overlooking salmon spawning sites. This type of hunting has been characterized, reflecting its dependence on technology, as a search and destroy



The threatened coastal grizzly bear.

mission, referring to the speed and efficiency with which a hunting party can arrive at a stand, shoot grizzly bears where they are known to aggregate and leave the area."

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## From Vacant Lots to Garden Plots

BY MORE GARDENS! COALITION

Once again, in their winter sleep, our beloved New York City community gardens are being threatened by short-sighted, quick profiting developers and politicians. Over the past three decades, local New York City residents have reclaimed neglected, rubble strewn empty lots and turned them into living green oases where people meet and children play. Despite our victory last spring when over 114 community gardens were preserved through the hard work of gardeners, activists and supporters, over 500 are still threatened. This is in a city with an enormous budget surplus and over 10,000 vacant lots which could be made into homeless housing, fixed income housing and more gardens. So far 50 community gardens have received an immediate "notice to vacate" by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (a.k.a. Housing Prevention and Destruction, or HPD). The same department was used by the mayor last year to transfer the gardens from community control to the auction bloc for purchase by private developers.

Most of New York's community gardens were created by working class residents in struggling neighborhoods, where criminal landlords would burn down buildings to collect insurance money, where vacant lots were allowed to become hazardous dump sites, where city services were severely cut, and where city administrations have put the people's money into incinerators, power plants, dumps and highways. Vibrant community gardens in the South Bronx combat the highest incidence of asthma in the United

States, while community gardens in Brooklyn provide some of the only open spaces in the borough that has the least amount of green space in the city. These tiny green living spaces are the start of a revolution where land has been reclaimed with no heroic assumptions. They have freed the land from its manmade confinement, pushed away the danger, crime and other destructive elements creating a place for residents of all ages to relax, play, and socialize. Gardens continuously work for the city at large, creating oxygen, teaching school children about the environment, and promoting diversity and celebration of life.

One of the community gardens in imminent danger is *El Jardín de la Esperanza*. The Garden of Hope rose from the ashes of a burnt-out building over 22 years ago in a neighborhood plagued by landlord neglect. Alicia Torres, with the help of her family and neighbors, worked for months clearing the rubble and debris to make room on the scarred Earth to plant sunflowers and roses. The land was reborn. After three generations of sweat, labor and healing, the garden is rich with the bounties of the Earth. Roses as tall as trees bloom until late December; medicinal plants are nurtured by neighbors to make healing teas; kids come off the street to play hide and seek behind the tool shed, while others finish their homework under the *casita* built by Alicia's son, Moses. A rooster crows just before dawn. Puerto Rican culture is integrated into the life of the Lower East Side with a rich history of struggle and growth.



Giant Coqui guarding the garden entrance.

photo courtesy More Gardens! Coalition

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## BACK ON THE GROUND

AN INTERVIEW WITH JULIA BUTTERFLY

BY JAMES JOHNSTON

Josh Laughlin and I interviewed Julia "Butterfly" Hill on January 7, three weeks after she came down from Luna, an 800-year-old redwood that had been her home for 788 days. Her two-year treesit has drawn international attention to the issue of old-growth logging, and she descends from Luna as a genuine celebrity. Pacific Lumber (PL), who "owns" the land on which Luna lives, agreed to protect the tree and three adjacent acres in exchange for \$50,000 from Julia and her supporters, which will be donated to Humboldt State University's forestry studies program.

**EFIJ:** First question, and I'm sure you're getting tired of answering this one, but what's it like to have your feet on the ground again?

**Julia:** You know, the moment my feet touched the ground, I was hit with a wave of emotions of bliss and joy, and at the same time an intense ache of pain and sadness. It was the realization I was leaving the best friend I've ever had, the most incredible awakening transformative experience I've ever had, you know, the list goes on and on. But, it was, just to feel the Earth, whoooooo... I hiked barefoot down the mountain. I felt like I was floating, it was such a high.

**EFIJ:** So, was your treesit a success? What do you think is going to come of all this?

**Julia:** Well, I personally think it's incredible. Number one, I think it was *our* treesit, not *my* treesit. It was an incredible, incredible effort on a lot of people's part. From my wonderful ground support crew—or team, because we are a team—to the media support team, to the local community, to the surrounding community, to the world community that was all a part of it in one way or another.

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# EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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## BYE-BYE SUNSHINE STATE

So it's the new year, and after all that Y2K hype, nothing happened. No major computer crashes, no end of the world, nothing. I must say I was a little disappointed. After all, I did stockpile all those fireworks—and when nothing happened, all we could think to do was shoot them off at each other. Oh well, it made for a fun New Year's party. Then, after all the smoke cleared, I found myself having to make a choice—stay in Eugene or move back to Florida.

Well, I decided to stay here in Eugene. And I know this goes without saying, but here it goes anyway. Oregon is a lot different from Florida; the people, the landscape, the climate—all different. Even time seems to flow a bit different out here. It all hasn't quite sunk in yet. It's more than just palm trees; it rains all winter (instead of all summer, and it's been virtually bugless out here, so far. Some of it even seems quite foreign to me. For instance, Eugene is a bike-friendly city, complete with bike paths—a far cry from Florida, where sidewalks are an uncommon sight. And lastly, one of the nicest things about Oregon is

the changing seasons, all four of them. Florida only has the summer season, unless you count the hurricane season. But they kind of blend together.

Of all the differences I noticed, industry is one of the most prominent. Back in Florida, most everything revolves around tourism and construction. The wetlands are always being threatened by another mall/condo/road. Coming to Oregon however, gave me my first experience with the large and powerful timber industry. I was aware of the devastation that was caused by clear-cutting. However, seeing it first hand was really a life-changing experience. But that's another story.

Florida has some nice attributes though. There is the year-round growing season, beach weather that practically never ends, and a really rad activist community. Even with all these things going for it, I felt it was time to get out of there. Maybe being in the same state as Disney World and Jeb Bush got the better of me.

Of everything I left behind, my family and friends were the hardest to say

goodbye to. Luckily I've met some really awesome people out here—even if most of them give me shit for being from Florida. I was even fortunate enough to get the chance to work on this and the last issue of the *EF! Journal*. It has given me the chance to work along side of some really great people, as well as the chance to learn a lot about what's going on out there in the world. There's so many e-mails to read from so many places. It never seems to end. Overall I've had a great time—even if it can get stressful and hectic. I'd strongly suggest short-termining to those out there looking to get involved. I urge you to send in your articles, stories, letters, poems or art. It helps make the *Journal* more diverse, and it's an easy way to get your voice heard.

I must say that I'm quite looking forward to the upcoming Organizers Conference, as well as the Rendezvous this summer. Hope to see some of you there.

—ADAM VOLK

### POETRY-INSPIRED COVER

BY BILL OHRMANN

*In the forest without leaves  
Stands a birch tree  
Slender and white*

These lines from the book *The Owl in the Mask of the Dreamers* by John Haines inspired the paintings on this month's issue of the *Journal*. In fact, Haines' poems have inspired many of my paintings, and I can say I wouldn't be painting as I do, if I had never been exposed to his surprising, inspiring work.

His poetry covers a wide range of subjects. In "The Forest Without Leaves," he describes the areas of the world covered by twisted steel, cables and rust and of how we treat each other:

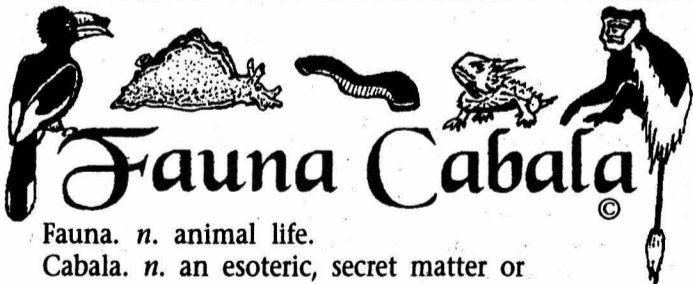
*Those who write sorrow on the earth,  
Who are they?  
Whose erased beginnings still  
control us—sentence by sentence and phrase by phrase  
Agents and clerks, masters  
of sprawl—  
playful men who traffic in pain.*

And there is another side of John Haines, who writes about the Earth—the owl, the mole, the insect on a floating leaf or a convincing poem about how life might seem to a blade of grass!

I don't know that my paintings need a lot of explanation. Most people understand them well enough and in some cases interpret them with more originality than I had in mind. And that's good! What drives me to paint is concern for the Earth and its inhabitants. William Blake, the English poet said, "All life is sacred." I'll go along with that and hope we may be humble and wise enough to realize, no one among us has the wisdom to deliberately wipe out a species. And yet as a rancher, I see neighbors willing to wipe out a species of plant or animal, simply because with chemicals, it is convenient and easy to do.

I hope my paintings reflect my concern with our tolerance of cruelty, chemical misuse, and our lavish mismanagement of resources. I keep hoping that people will come to see that saving the Earth and all inter-related life is the only hope for human survival.

In the poem "Rolling Back," Mr. Haines says it all:  
*For a long time now  
We have heard these voices  
singing along eroded wires, murmurs from veiled partitions  
of clouds, little whispers  
tracing the dust...  
They tell us what we partly know  
hidden by the noise we make:  
the land will not forgive us.*



### BY FAITH WALKER

beau's blue 'do is enduring. Because it is extremely energetically costly to sport blue feathers (especially in winter), only the most fit males can maintain blueness for a long period of time. The most successful males are those who begin their blue displays at least two months prior to the beginning of the breeding season; only the studliest of the studs can molt directly from old breeding plumage into new come the end of the breeding season in February. A female can thus, by noting how long a male is blue, assess vigor, which translates into genetic quality when making a mating decision. The result of this means that 72 percent of the chicks from her seven or so annual clutches are fathered by males other than her mate. This has, in turn, led to intense sperm competition among males. They lug around huge sperm storage containers called cloacal protuberances which, together with testes, comprise up to 10 percent of their bodyweight. When a male is lucky enough to receive a cloacal kiss, he can release a massive ejaculate, possibly swamping out the sperm of his rivals. These small, libidinal birds thus have the dual honor of being the most polyamorous of socially monogamous vertebrates and having the greatest sperm reserves, relative to the weight, of any bird or mammal.

Fauna. *n.* animal life.  
Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Superb fairy wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*) are true blue in color only. These tiny residents of eastern Australia are socially monogamous, meaning that breeding pairs cohabit and raise young, yet enjoy more romances outside this union than any other species. A male will maintain a year-round territory in which he lives either with just his mate or with subordinate males as well who assist with chick-rearing. At the commencement of the five-month breeding season he sheds his drab brown winter feathers and dons brilliant, luxurious, multi-hued blue plumage and flits about to other territories. With a yellow petal in his bill, and crown, cheek and back feathers flared, he displays with fervor to all females except for his mate.

A female is usually quite unimpressed but occasionally solicits copulation. She finds it particularly endearing when a

## Earth First! Journal Brigid

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

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

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### Earth First! Journal

POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440

Phone: (541) 344-8004

Fax: (541) 344-7688

E-mail: earthfirst@igc.org

<http://www.earthfirstjournal.org>

Business Manager: Brian Wilga

Merchandise Goddess: Isabella

Staff Lobotomist: Frog

Office Gofer/Fundraiser: Jim Flynn

Editorial Staff: James Johnston, Rebecca

Reynolds, Adam Volk, Josh Laughlin,

Kris Maenz

Web Weavers: Jeff and Steven

Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzing

Volunteers: Sax, Sass, Dug, Katie,

mArtin, James, Jim, Sasha, Ayr, Jeff,

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Spotted Horse

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February 17

# Where To Next? A Post-WTO Analysis

BY WOLVERINE

Heads up! By now we've been thoroughly debriefed about what happened in Seattle during the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial. But it's time to examine the significance of what happened in terms of strategic planning to end not only the WTO but the whole system of corporate rule that it represents.

What was different about Seattle? It wasn't a standard, regimented protest—more yelling at buildings. As an insightful activist wrote before that week: "Unless the struggle against the WTO shows itself to be more than a reformist request to respect the sham of the democratic nation state, it will just be a bigger and more stressful example of the same 'direct action' we have been doing with diminishing returns in recent years. Alternatively, if we move beyond tactical stagnation, we show that our demands go beyond tweaking labor laws or saving a particular species." In Seattle we started moving beyond tactical stagnation—the actions we took were diverse and fluid, yet there was overall coordination to achieve tangible goals.

Logistically, what did we do right? Our plan to disrupt the ministerial by preventing the delegates from entering the meeting worked. Why? The explanation that security forces underestimated our will and numbers doesn't make much sense. The cops had infiltrators in our big Direct Action Network spokescouncil meetings—our plans were completely out in the open, and our numbers were obvious. Our presence in the street empowered delegates from so-called "Third World" countries to block the meeting's negotiations from going forward, giving us an unexpected victory—no agreement coming out of the meeting at all. Our role in this development indicates the susceptibility of the global financial system to psychological tweaking and pressures pitting one set of delegates against another. Unifying tolerance and solidarity helped bring Seattle closer to a general strike than at any time since 1919. Such a general cessation of "business as usual" is the necessary precondition to establishing alternative society.

November 30 was not just activists on the street. Thousands of Seattle residents, not dissuaded by tear gas, joined the ranks. It is dramatic evidence of successful movement building where "non-activists" cross the line and become "participants." The movement must take on a life of its own—a critical mass when each individual realizes that they have a stake in the process, has the power to participate in the process and have a responsibility to get involved though there could be dire consequences. This signifies the potential for a true grassroots, evolutionary change in the dominant paradigm. Paradigm shifts are an exciting but also frictional time. The shift we saw in Seattle marked the end of "safe" but ineffectual mass protest. While we can diminish the number of injuries and

deaths by maintaining our nonviolent stance, serious action to stop the dictatorial empire builders will elicit heightened repression. We can't expect our necessary escalation of effort and numbers to result in a bloodless or sanitary revolution.



Photo by Marisa Price

Activist says it all in Seattle.

Yet without entering this next stage, nothing substantive for saving the natural world, indigenous cultures—and each other—will be accomplished. Seattle was a beacon for organizers illuminating the direction we need to go, but there were no single leaders—part of the beauty of the event. Everyone in Seattle created a ferment. Like

worker bees, we contributed to the final outcome by fulfilling different roles within a grand scheme. There's a limit to what "organizers" can do. If we give endless teach-ins and not enough respond with sufficient action, we all lose. Everyone needs to be an activist.

The corporate globalization system (internationally fused capitalism to benefit the rich at the expense of the made-poor) is balanced precariously in a non-real world of electronic pulses—money exchanges based in turn on CEOs' ability to deceive the people as to their real aims, the real meaning of life, the ecocidal consequences of mass consumerism and

neocolonialist resource exploitation. Transnational corporations don't have real homes, a community or reciprocity with others beyond a narrow circle. Their base of support is shallow and must be bolstered by military force through take-over of national governments' sovereignty. This is an old story, as old as feudalism, empires, slavery and oppression of the many by the powerful few. The WTO and the larger system of which it is part are just the latest innovations to consolidate political/economic power. On a global scale, this consolidation is now so pervasive in its power that it completely destroys indigenous cultures, wipes out species and disables fundamental ecological systems. Countering the headlong rush of corporate rule toward the end of cultural and ecological diversity and global ecological collapse must be the dominant, overarching activism of our time if virtually anything real that we value (the Earth, real community, meaningful life, peace, etc.) is to survive.

"Using armored vehicles, tear gas—which even made the delegations staying in hotels queasy—and, on top of that, pepper gas. Brutal methods, dragging people through the streets. Six hundred arrested. What would happen if such behavior took place in Cuba? What would they say if they saw an army, the National Guard, occupying the city? Tons of masked men with horrifying outfits to scare people, thousands of police in all directions, men being dragged, horses and other animals to attack people? They would say that it was a flagrant and massive violation of human rights and that, therefore, they had to use the NATO formula to conduct a 'humanitarian' intervention."

—FIDEL CASTRO, RECEIVING THE CUBAN DELEGATION UPON ITS RETURN FROM SEATTLE

So where do we go from here? The power of direct action has been reaffirmed, but is only meaningful in the context of a larger, fleshed-out campaign. The WTO protest's success was built on the strength of teach-ins across the country, cooperation across movements, nonviolence trainings and educated respect for diversity. Unlike the antiwar protests of the '60s, this time we have the added leverage of finally focusing on the overarching system causing all the problems, not just a single issue. Now diverse movements are acting together. Labor and environmental activists, for instance, did not often come together this way in the '60s protests.

We need to keep the momentum of the WTO Seattle experience going. There is no magic button to push to end corporate rule. Instead, we need to organize face to face. But we must also focus on the slower work of building trust and solidarity across movements. We need to reach across color and cultural barriers, not by token representation or agenda takeovers but by getting involved in each other's causes and taking the time to talk at length, listen to each other and help each other without obtrusive grandstanding.

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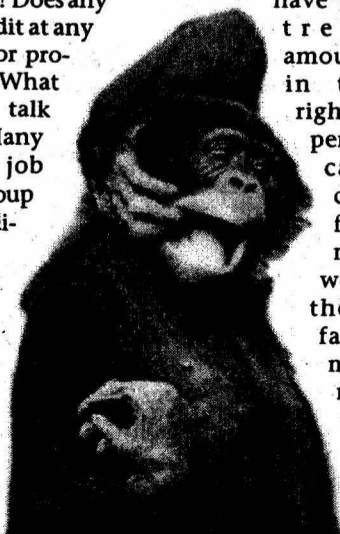
## DEAR SFB, WE ARE NOT MONKEYIN' AROUND, PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS UNDER 300 WORDS.

Dear SFB,  
We are interested to find out about job opportunities in tree sitting, convention shut downs, picketing and other related jobs. How much do you pay, what are the hours, do you provide work uniforms, training, etc.? Does any of this work lead to credit at any universities, chances for promotion or book deals. What about web sites and talk show appearances? Many of us need new job opportunities as your group assists in making traditional jobs obsolete.

—CHUCK

Ed note: No money, no uniforms, no credit, but lots of cold, wet nights in the wilderness. Dumpstered food usually available.

—KM



Dear SFB,  
I was excited to see the article about sexism within Earth First! Sexism exists everywhere; Third World countries, our society, all governments, other social change organizations and EF! I

have experienced a tremendous amount of sexism in the animal-rights movement personally. This can be seen clearly by the fact that the number of womyn within the movement far outnumber men, yet men represent animal issues far more than womyn. At conferences there are al-

ways more men speaking on issues that womyn know just as well, if not better. Too much is placed on names status which is created by our patriarchal recognition of things. The saddest thing about this sexism that plagues every movement/person is that when confronted on the issues—backlash is the answer. The simple answer should be listening and analyzing your behaviors and oppression. This is what we expect from others on issues we fight for—it just makes sense to do the same for others, especially those who you work closely with to make change in our society.

Womyn are not being heard. When interviewing womyn about their experience with sexism within movements, they always say they are not listened to—not respected. This is bullshit and it is the responsibility of men to change this. This

means educating yourself on the issues—educating other men, supporting womyn, confronting others and opening your mind for when you are confronted with issues. For a zine on sexism within movements please contact: FAR, POB 175, Corvallis, OR 97339; veganfeminists@yahoo.com.

—CHELSEA LINCOLN

Greetings Earth First!

I've just finished listening to *Who Bombed Judi Bari?* What an excellent CD it is. Judi is a very powerful and knowledgeable speaker. She's certainly made me more aware of environmental issues in the US and also around the world. What happens in one place is replicated world wide by nasty corporations.

Here in Australia one (among many) issues is that of *insitu* leach mining of uranium at beautiful Southern Australia. In this pro-

cess sulfuric acid is pumped into the ground water in the uranium extraction process. This method is so risky that it is banned almost everywhere in the world, including the US and Europe. Only two other countries allow it—Bulgaria and Khazakastan. The environmental laws in these countries are virtually non-existent.

Our fragile desert ecosystem is dependent on the groundwater, as are many farms, yet the government promotes this practice and is even considering a nuclear waste dump in the middle of the continent!

Anyway, I thought I'd let you know what was going on around the other side of the world. Please send me an *EF! Journal* as mentioned in the CD cover notes.

Thanks and take care,

—PAUL

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# Wolf Reintroduction on the Northeast Horizon?

## THE ADIRONDACKS' SIX MILLION ACRES PROVIDE SUITABLE HABITAT

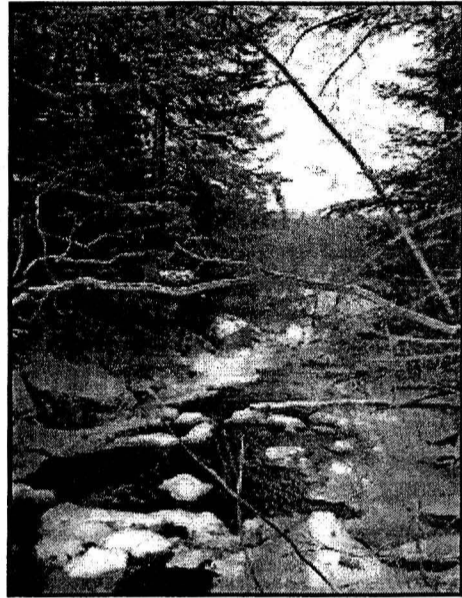
BY ERICA SWEETWATER

On December 6, a highly publicized press conference was set to air the results of a long awaited feasibility study regarding reintroduction of wolves into the northeastern United States. It was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, NY. On the day before the meeting, a press notice was quietly e-mailed to all area newspapers simply stating that the press conference was canceled and would most likely be rescheduled sometime within the next two weeks.

Although wolf reintroduction is being studied for a large swath of land in the Northeast including portions of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, the Adirondack Park has been deemed the most promising area to begin with. It is, after all, a six-million-acre block of land designated "Forever Wild" by the Constitution of the state of New York. The feasibility study which was to have been made public on December 6 was one of two being conducted specifically on wolf reintroduction into the Adirondacks. This first study contained the biological component. Another component concerning the socio-economic issues was being conducted separately by Cornell University and had also been originally scheduled to be released before the end of 1999. The biological study was paid for by the Defenders of Wildlife, at the pricey sum of \$114,000, and was supposedly commissioned to a team of impartial scientists at a place called The Conservation Biology Institute in Corvallis, Oregon.

A group calling itself the Citizens Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of so-called "stakeholder groups," (i.e. hunters, trappers, private land rights organizations, the tourist industry and environmentalists) had been formed to oversee the process and make sure the feasibility study was produced with impartiality and without any undue pressure. The group was also charged with the responsibility of making certain the study was released in a timely, fair and appropriate fashion. One of the anti-wolf members just couldn't wait, however, and released to an *Albany Times*

reporter selected portions of the study which cast the reintroduction plan in an unfavorable light. By the next day National Public Radio was tied onto the story tighter than a canoe on a car. Defenders of Wildlife was accused of postponing the airing of the study because it didn't say what they wanted it to say. They countered with a reason for postponing the study that did somersaults over the top of the Jedediah Purdy irony scale. (The lead presenting scientist was unable to make the conference due to being attacked by a German shepherd dog.)



Potential reintroduction terrain for the gray wolf

When the study was finally released on December 21, it did prove to be a great disappointment to those of us who would like to see the top predator restored to this ecosystem. According to the study, the biggest problem is that this supposedly "Forever Wild" Adirondack Park has been so decimated by logging, so chopped up by snowmobile trails and highways and so widely populated with towns and villages, that the wolf would not be able to survive here. The packs would be isolated and genetic inbreeding would occur, making for unhealthy populations. Of course, the study was disputed by other wolf biologists. Dr. L. David Mech, who is arguably the country's leading wolf authority, claimed the study was seriously flawed and contained factual inconsistencies.

When interviewed by Bryan Mann, the Adirondack Park's full time North Country Public Radio reporter, the day after the study was released, Dr. Mech said the genetic inbreeding argument was a "straw man's" argument. Dr. Mech has been studying wolves for over 40 years and is the author of "The Arctic Wolf, Ten Years with the Pack."

Another interesting tidbit from the study was the disclosure that the huge packs of coyotes roaming the Adirondacks have traces of red wolf DNA in their makeup, a theory which had already been studied extensively by Bob Chambers of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry that featured in the October 1999 issue of *Adirondack Life Magazine*. The possible incidence of red wolf DNA in the coyote population led the Corvallis scientists somehow to extrapolate that the gray wolf had never been here and therefore, cannot be "re"-introduced. A search through historical records of the area, however, provides an arm load of bounty payments for wolf hides.

Prior to the release of the biological component of the wolf reintroduction feasibility study, opponents to reintroduction had been especially vocal. A huge gulf exists between two factions of people in the Adirondacks. On one side are people who have labeled themselves "natives." Not to be confused with Native Americans, these are people whose roots in this part of the country go back sometimes one or two generations. Inundated with news of a booming national economy and dot com millionaires, they feel left behind and are vitally interested in increasing the economic potential of the Adirondacks. On the other side stand a large group of people whose environmental concerns run all across the map but who have been lumped together simply as "tree-huggers." The wolf has become the poster child for the schism that exists inside the park.

Most of the small town elected officials are against the idea of wolf reintroduction. In fact, the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages unanimously passed a resolution at its annual meeting opposing wolf rein-

roduction. The association claims membership of roughly 75 of the 100 small towns located at least partially within the park's boundaries. The wolf opponents argue that wolves would decimate the deer herds, which are, after all, intended by God as sport hunting targets for humans. The other big fear was that if a wolf pack established itself on private land, the Endangered Species Act might possibly be invoked to prevent logging.

The Adirondack Park is a patchwork quilt of state owned land, about two and a half million acres; the rest, and majority, is privately held land. The largest private landowners in the area are the giant paper companies who not only log the lands they own but lease the properties at a pretty penny to the towns and villages for snowmobile trails. Considering the amount of logging, snowmobiling, pesticide use (over one half of the towns inside the park treat their streams and lakes with *bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, or BTI, for black flies) and the constant variances for development granted by the Park's governing body, the Adirondack Park Agency, one could wonder if Forever Wild is not one of the more oxymoronic, if not totally meaningless monikers ever applied. Many supporters of a more natural environment had hoped that restoration of the wolf might be a step toward reinserting some wildness into the Forever Wild. Great numbers of other wildlife species, including the loon, which the area is famous for, have had their numbers reduced due to the effects of acid rain.

Nina Fascione, who has spearheaded the Defenders of Wildlife's Northeast wolf reintroduction program for five years, said that the battle for wolves in this area is far from over. She noted that the much publicized and now successful reintroduction program in Yellowstone was a 20 year effort. Anyone wishing to spur on the efforts to pursue wolf reintroduction in the Northeast may contact Defenders of Wildlife at 1101 14 St. NW, Suite 1400, Washington DC 20005; (202) 789-2844, 682-1331 (fax); NFascione@Defender.Defenders.org.

BY GIGANTHROPITHICUS

This article is reprinted from the Brigid 1986 edition of the Earth First! Journal.

*Pseudomonas syringae* is a naturally occurring bacteria which exists on virtually all plants, where it triggers the formation of ice, or frost, by providing a nucleus for ice crystals to form around. This bacteria is known to travel in the wind and survive high in Earth's atmosphere, causing ice crystals to form in clouds, which causes rain. This phenomenon is little understood today.

Advanced Genetics Sciences, Inc. of Oakland, California, has developed genetically altered strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* (Ice-minus) that retard the formation of frost on plants, and plans to release it into the environment on a plot of strawberries in the Salinas Valley. This would be the first release ever of a genetically altered organism into the environment and would set a dangerous precedent for further research of this type.

The EPA's Hazard Evaluation Division concluded that the new microbe will probably get outside the strawberry patch despite precautions, and could survive indefinitely on plants outside the plot.



**EARTH FIRST!**

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL TWO DOLLARS

**EF! Attacks Genomes**

Adequate study into the possible adverse effects on the weather if the bacteria does escape, as well as on other plant communities and their naturally occurring bacteria, has not been undertaken. The Chairman of the EPA's key advisory board on the topic told the EPA that the company should not be allowed to go ahead without more tests to determine what would happen to the microbe once it gets into the environment.

The kudzu plant, native to Asia, has covered millions of acres of land in the deep South, killing large trees and causing millions of dollars in damage. This genetically altered bacteria, if established on kudzu, could render thousands of acres of agricultural land virtually useless within a few years, and might enable kudzu to eventually dominate the eastern landscape.

Dutch Elm disease accidentally escaped into the North American environment decades ago and caused

the killing of millions of elm trees. The great chestnut forests disappeared over a century ago when a similar disease, for which scientists still do not have a cure, went on a rampage. History has shown us that once they escape, one-celled organisms can cause even greater death and destruction than wars.

While risks of accompanying an experiment of this type may appear small, if something does go wrong it could wreak havoc on the environment. Unlike radioactive, or petrochemical-based toxics, genetically altered bacteria are able to reproduce and multiply once they have escaped. Being microorganisms, they would be impossible to monitor or contain, and could continue to spread indefinitely.

To draw attention to these risks, as well as the reckless research that has made this technology possible, Earth First! and the newly formed Bay Area Greens held a protest at the Oakland offices of Advanced Genetic Sciences...

To see how this protest turned out, as well as to look at EF! history, order the Brigid 1986 issue of the EF!J. Or, order an almost complete set of back issues for \$400.

# Yosemite Today: Muir Would Be Ashamed

BY GREG ADAIR AND JOYCE EDEN

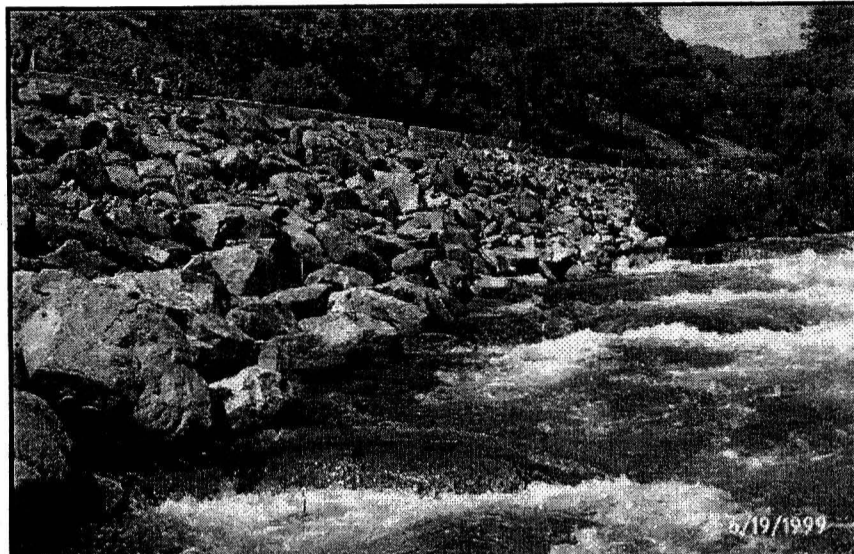
The most important showdown in a century is unfolding in an over-developed Yosemite. Will Muir's incomparable valley now become an exclusive resort, meadows and woodlands newly hammered to fit expanding hotels with \$200 rooms, vast new parking areas, new luxury restaurants and monstrously widened roads for gigantic tour industry diesel busses? Or will growing outrage, legal leverage and grassroots pressure push through a major re-greening in Yosemite?

While it is not pristine, Yosemite today is closer than ever to a big restoration. This is because, to the Interior Department's dismay, a judge has ordered the Yosemite Park Service to produce a Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (RMP). The problem for developers is that the Merced River—key to all life in the watershed—runs right through the hotels and profit centers of Yosemite Valley. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) could give teeth to long-held and long-ignored plans to restore the valley and other areas. For the concessionaire, tens of millions in annual profits are at stake. The concessionaire, big business, and the Interior Secretary who loves them have squared off against activists pushing for restoration in the valley. It's a once-only opportunity for Yosemite, the chance of a lifetime.

The current campaign follows what could have been a breakthrough for Yosemite. Flooding in 1997 led Congress to release \$178 million in disaster relief money, and the park service promised to enact portions of its long-stalled General Management Plan (GMP). Yosemite's GMP calls for reduction of commercialism and development. It's worth mentioning that a broad section of the public supports the idea of "undeveloping" Yosemite—60,000 people participated in Yosemite's GMP process in the 1970s. But now it has become clear that the '97 "flood of money" was the real curse and that business interests were working to leverage the public pie onto their plate. The flood money, concession fees and Fee Demo have combined to create one-quarter billion dollars in funds, *six times* the amount ever available to any national park in history!

The betrayal of promised restoration was immediate. Quickly, the cash went in hot pursuit of big development projects. The Park quickly unveiled plans for a \$60-million expansion of one of the valley's three hotels, the Yosemite Lodge. The Delaware North Company, Yosemite's concessionaire (and contributors to Secretary Babbitt and Bill Clinton), met early with planners. Soon the hotel expansion, with enormous luxury rooms, business-conference rooms, new restaurant, valet area and

employee dormitories was planned. The expansion was set to squash the only walk-in campground in Yosemite, destroy a woodland and plow roads along a meadow. The newly-formed Friends of Yosemite Valley (FoYV) sued to stop the project in 1998, followed by a broader lawsuit by Sierra Club which won a quick victory. The hotel plan was withdrawn.



Widening the road for tourism has dumped rubble into the Merced River, destroying and violating the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Immediately, another multi-million dollar development plan hit the ground running, the widening of 7.5 miles of the El Portal Road. Like the lodge plan, the road widening plan was not about flood repairs but was all about big profits for the tour industry while funneling more customers to view spots and gift shops. The old meandering road along the Merced River from the west was too small for the giant parlor buses. The road project started off suddenly and worked around the clock, cutting trees and bulldozing hillsides, blasting tons of granite and dumping the fill and cement into the river. The destruction was horrifying, the worst desecration in Yosemite since the Tioga Road was built across Tuolumne Meadows 40 years ago.

The FoYV, Green Party, Sierra Club activists, Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth (MERG), outraged local residents and David Brower convened at protests during winter 1999-2000 over the destruction in the Merced Canyon. This was soon

followed by an all-out lawsuit to stop the destruction. Although 11 sensitive species of bats, peregrine falcons, rare insects, yews and rare oaks, all in a rare pristine canyon were being destroyed, and even though the river was "protected" under the WSRA, the judge failed to grasp the enormity of it. A restraining order was denied. The destruction accelerated. The government was caught in an outrageous situation with no excuse, trying to outrun the law.

The law caught up. A handful of activists and a relentless legal battle ended in the summer of 1999. The judge stopped the last quarter of the project, declaring it illegal on all main points, and put the Interior Department under a decree: "Prepare a plan to protect and enhance the entire Merced drainage, in compliance with WSRA." No other development plans are to be considered until this happens. WSRA seems to put an absolute stop to new development, and pushes restoration. The beginning of a new day in Yosemite, right?

It's not over. Vast profits are at stake. The Draft RMP

was released January 4. Yosemite, pressured by Babbitt, has forced this crucial three-year plan into four months. Clinton, Gore and Babbitt want a massive re-development plan for Yosemite nailed down before they leave office. National environmental groups are fronting, especially the Wilderness Society, and have praised the lodge, cheered the road and slammed activists repeatedly in the press. In the compressed time frame, no new scientific study was conducted. Outrageously, narrower protective corridors are being gerrymandered to add and not lose hotels and development. They even created "special" zones to allow enormous parking areas in a pristine part of the valley near El Cap Meadow. The signs are ominous: one-quarter billion *public* dollars are still trying to breed with plans to completely re-develop Yosemite Valley into a new upscale resort. We need your help! Mark your calendars, tell friends, newsletters and radio about the public comment from January 7-

March 17. Send comments to the Yosemite National Park, attn: Merced River Plan, POB 577, Yosemite, CA 95389; (209) 372-0456 (fax); yose\_planning@ups.gov; www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

For more information contact Friends of Yosemite Valley, POB 702, Yosemite CA, 95389; (209) 379-9337; yojo@batnet.com and gregadair@aol.com; www.yosemitevalley.org



This is how they "save" ancient black oaks and the bat that roosts in them. This well is supposed to be dug around the base to "save" the tree from the fill which has been dumped on the formerly rich habitat slope. A sad joke which would not save the tree in any case. The tree which was marked to be saved has been bashed to smithereens by heavy equipment.

Photo courtesy Friends of Yosemite Valley

## Wolves & Poodles



A big glossy picture of a wolf to *Time* magazine. The December 20 issue of *Time* named the campaign to protect British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest the number one environmental issue on the planet for 1999. "You don't have to be a conservationist to know trees that have stood tall for centuries should not be cut down to make paper and bookshelves," wrote *Time*.

A rat, mouse, rabbit, cat, monkey, dog and wolf to Yossi Sarid, Israeli Minister of Education, who recently banned all animal experimentation, including dissection, in all Israeli schools. *L'chayim*.

A stumbling, beer-soaked wolf to unknown perpetrators who dropped a high voltage power transmission tower outside of Bend, Oregon, on December 30. Police found beer cans and other drunk sign and believe the crime was carried out by partiers. Cheers.

An incompetent bungling poodle to Treasury Department lawyers who "accidentally" shredded 162 boxes of documents about government leases on Native American reservations. The boxes contained evidence that the Treasury Department hid money it owed tribes for grazing, mining and logging leases on Native land. Come on guys, recycle at least.

A really bitter poodle to all the dumb-asses who convinced us civilization was going to collapse from Y2K problems at the stroke of midnight. Fuck you.

A fur coat made of poodles to the Burlington Coat Factory, who was recently exposed by Dateline NBC for selling fur coats made out of domesticated dogs. Beats selling coats made of wolves.

A spray-painted green poodle to Willamette Industries, who got "independently certified" for their "sustainable forestry" by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC's certification standards were written by... guess who? The industry.

A peroxide-blond poodle to our favorite poodle, the US Forest Service. The Freds are planning to switch their 15,000 vehicle fleet from the traditional Forest Service pea-green paint scheme to dumb, boring white. What little character this rotten agency had is going the way of the buffalo. Plus, it'll be a lot harder to spot the bastards.



# The Pure Politic

## An interview with Chellis Glendinning

BY ERROL SCHWEIZER

Chellis Glendinning is an unusual person: a European-American working for environmental justice. Hailing from a 40-year history of activism, she has participated in the civil rights, peace, feminist, ecology, antinuclear and indigenous rights movements. Author of the bold "Notes Towards a Neo-Luddite Manifesto," (*Utne Reader*, March 1990), she is a founding member, along with Kirkpatrick Sale, Vandana Shiva, Stephanie Mills and others, of the Washington DC-based Jacques Ellul Society. Glendinning is also a psychologist and the author of four books, including the hot-off-the-press *Off the Map (An Expedition Deep into Imperialism, the Global Economy and Other Earthly Whereabouts)*. Others include *My Name is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization* and the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *When Technology Wounds*. She lives in a Chicano land-based village in northern New Mexico.

**EF!J:** Please give us a little overview on the types of issues that you're working on in terms of environmentalism and sovereignty in the southwestern United States.

**CG:** I'm interested in the land grant issue, and that means that I'm interested in issues of sovereignty. We're living in a nation-state that was founded by a process of violence of oppression, conquering, take-over, colonization and consumption. The laws that we are operating under and the spaces we assume to be our homelands are part and parcel of that history. That can't be forgotten. Yet it is forgotten: Most people buy the myths of democracy, freedom and nationhood in the United States. Thankfully, it's a tenet of the bioregional movement, Native rights movements and here in New Mexico, the land grant movement to break the empire down, to return to our place in watershed-based, sustainable communities.

**EF!J:** What do you mean by land grant? What is that movement about?

**CG:** In 1848 the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War, which was basically a war of aggression. The US took over what became California, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and southern Colorado. We took over half of Mexico.

Before that, the lands on these places had been divided into communal parcels among the Native and Spanish cultures. I say cultures because the people known as "Spanish" were in fact largely Mexican Indians who had been enslaved by the conquistadors, then mixed with local Native folks: Tewa, Keres, Diné, Apache. All the cultures were land-based and sustainable. For many, the land was divided into villages, often in the valley, and then there were the communal lands in the forests. Each land grant was just large enough to sustain a cluster of villages. So, things were operating much as visionaries in today's bioregional movement would like them to be.

But the US government came in and stole the communal lands from the people. In the treaty the government had agreed to honor the land grants. By then they brought in their lawyers and surveyors and the Court of Public Land Claims and just took it. For instance the Truchas Land Grant, which served the three villages of Chimayo, Truchas and Cordova, was originally 49,000 acres. After the official "survey," it suddenly was reduced to 7,000. Next, these lands became US government-owned "public lands"—Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands—to be used for whatever activities served, not the health of the land-based communities... You can see how clashes between conservationists and the indigenous communities could arise from such a confused set-up. To some environmentalists, public lands are a legal construction that can be used in the here and now to protect wilderness.

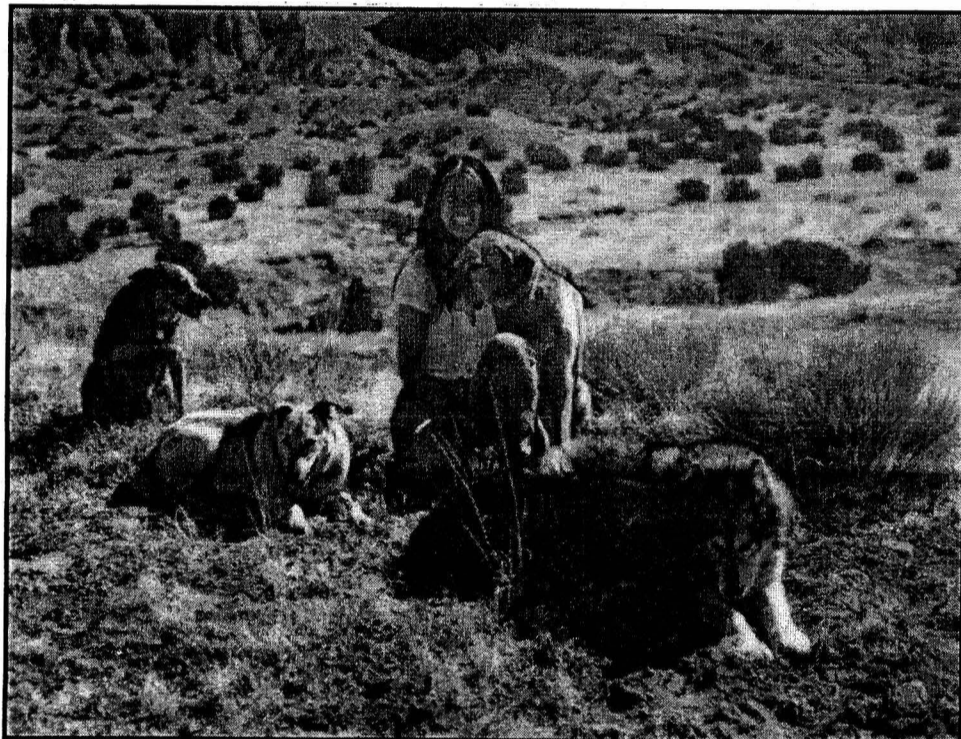
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**EF!J:** Do you think the land grants movement poses a threat to efforts to preserve public lands?

**CG:** Some conservationists see the return of the land grants as a form of privatization of land. But I see it as a return to something that is more basic to the question of how humans can get off the global economy and behave as respectable, sustainable humans again: communal, watershed-based ownership of the land, nurtured from generation to generation, where people are the participants in the unfolding of the natural world. It's astounding to me the ecological knowledge I've encountered being around people from the villages of northern New Mexico and its land grant communities. And their dedication to the health of the forests and rivers.

**EF!J:** How do you see the Zero Cut proposal posing problems for the communities that you work with? What kind of solution do you think would help?

**CG:** Given the state of the planet, I think that Zero Cut is a really interesting politic. I've always admired it. Having lived in a land-based commu-



Chellis Glendinning and friends

nity where people know the forest, know the river, know their place and are willing to fight for it, I've come around to what I call "almost Zero Cut." I know that the Zero Cut activists find that idea to be a travesty, as if I was a clearcutting corporate manager myself. But I'm in favor of softening Zero Cut to accommodate indigenous peoples with prior claim to the land who are practicing sustainable forestry in the interests of their communal survival.

**EF!J:** In your book, *My Name is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization*, you refer to this notion of recovering from unsustainability. How can non land-based peoples recover from mass technological civilization? What can we learn from land-based peoples?

**CG:** Human beings literally evolved in unmediated participation with the natural world. We came to be who we are, not in a city, not surrounded by concrete or in a room, but in nature. In essence, we are as natural as a deer or a pine tree, and this realization I think offers a launching place for remaking our reunion with the natural world. You know that in Native languages there is no word for "wilderness" or "wild." The separation of human from nature is an artifact of Western urban-based thought. So, we begin with knowing we are *not* a cancer on the planet, but rather its sons and its daughters.

And then we move to survival. Living in a land-based community we have learned that the basis of relationship between human and nature begins with food. All legitimate human culture originates with the process of finding, growing, preparing and sharing food. In my village people hunt for their meat, they fish for dinner, grow their own

corn, chile and squash, dig the irrigation ditch to support their growing and expand the riparian habitat into the desert. I know that in the cities people go to conferences to hash over every little aspect of the spiritual experience of being in nature. But here, where people live sustainably, our place on this planet does not appear to be so esoteric. It's not something you need to grasp for or be bewildered by. When your food and culture and the meaning of your life come from the Earth, gratitude to Creation, connectedness with life and humility before death are so intrinsic, you don't even have to talk about them.

**EF!J:** How can such ideas become a praxis in a place like New York City? Is it possible?

**CG:** Cities are unsustainable by nature and unecological by definition. But there is indeed something archetypal about cities, and herein I think we can discover the enthusiasm and defensiveness that many people bring to their place in urban life. It goes back to the fact that when we lived as gatherer-hunters, we would roam around in bands of 40 or 50 people. But every summer

there would be a grand gathering that would last maybe a month, and everybody would come together to form a temporary "city." A lot of wonderful, exciting things would take place. People would meet their lovers, trade things they'd made or found, and there would be games and competitions and storytelling. But it was temporary and therefore sustainable. Like so many things in mass technological society, the urge people have for cities is right-on, but truncated from its original source.

So how do we deal with this. I think we address it, individually and in our communities, by becoming as locally-based as we can. Tea is the ultimate food of the empire: Pick herbs instead. Grow sprouts. Preserve. Restore. Trade. Think of ways to get off the corporate economy. Farmers' markets are important. In Havana, Cuba, where sustainability is no luxury, every apartment has its own garden.

In Oakland, California, inner-city folks are experimenting with growing enough food for a family of four in a cast-off bureau drawer.

This urge to sustainability brings me to what I call pure politic. This is a politic that reflects what is really, truly happening to us at this late-stage of global capitalism-racist imperialism-patriarchy—you know—this system that is encroaching upon every person's life, every community's survival, every forest's health. A pure politic confronts the predicament directly. One reason I like living in New Mexico is that it's still a world of pure politic. The multinational comes in to do copper mining, and the people rise up and say, "You can't mine here. This is where we get our clay to make our pots. We're going to declare war on you!"

The Luddites were engaged in a pure politic. They were protecting their sustainable village life. As soon as the colonies have been conquered, the capitalization has been amassed, the factory has gone up, the mass technologies are in place and you're a wage-slave, you have a secondary politic, a catch-up politic. Such efforts are important for the sake of peoples' lives and ecologies. But they're removed from the original source of injustice. You've already lost the land, your community has already been decimated, the environmental degradation has already been wrecked. I feel that if we can negotiate a pure politic, then we have the basis for a vision. People who have the capacity to live sustainably on this Earth, you know. But as long as we are fighting against a stoplight or where exactly the Walmart will be situated, we're pretty far removed from what the real issues are about. Our job is to understand what we are fighting for: We're fighting to be people loving the Earth and living upon it the way we were meant to be.

Photo by Lindsay Holt II

# Dineh Elders Speak About February Eviction Deadline

BY BLACK MESA INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

The New Year began with the first major snowstorm of the season. No precipitation had fallen for over 100 days, and everyone welcomed the moisture that the snow brought, crucial to the health and vitality of the people's flocks of sheep and goats, particularly during the winter and spring lambing season. The roads were nonetheless difficult to drive on, and subzero windchills humbled all.

Whilst the passing of Y2K proved relatively calm and nothing like the apocalypse many expected, the people of Black Mesa are facing the "final" threatening forced-relocation deadline. February 1, 2000 is the date when all Dineh (Navajo) living on the so-called "Hopi Partition Land" (HPL) who didn't sign the Accommodation Agreement are subject to unconditional removal from ancestral homelands at the hands of federal and tribal agents.

On January 5, 2000, a public announcement issued by Navajo Nation president Kelsey Begaye, Hopi Tribal Council (HTC) chairman Wayne Taylor, Jr., US Attorney for Arizona Jose deJesus Rivera and Christopher Bavasi, mayor of Flagstaff and director of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, stated that no forced evictions would take place on February 1; while the HTC could legally evict the Dineh as of February 1, they've pledged to allow the case to run through federal courts. Since resisters have already been subjected to periodic harassment by HTC and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials for many years, February 1 could very easily usher in a new phase of intensified pressure against them that may persist for months or years.

Regardless of the untrustworthiness of bureaucrats, families facing relocation refuse to leave their ancestral homeland. February 1 will not change their beliefs; it is simply another tactic initiated by the government to erode the strength and morale of resisters. The following are statements from resisting Dineh Elders given to Big Mountain Indigenous Support (BMIS) volunteers during a fact-finding expedition to the Traditionals' homes in early January.

Kee Watchman: "For those coming it may be expected that the BIA, Hopi Tribe and state police will put up road blockades, as they have done in the past (during the annual spring gatherings and Sun Dances). Bring video equipment please. People here are expecting a good snow! Go through the (BMIS) support group before coming."

Roberta Blackgoat: "We have no choice. Everything is out of our pockets. Emptying ourselves. Digging our Mother Earth, killing, making weapons. Money is also part of Mother's precious body and now turning around and trying to kill her. Now children are not respectful.

(They) wanted to get rid of all these human beings; to take (Mother Earth's) hearts, intestines, which (we're) supposed to be living on.

This is how it's been set by Indians' prayers; taken care of by Indians' Holy Songs and this is not being respected. Visitors not respecting this. This has to be stopped! We need our children

to respect the Earth. Write to congressional leaders in Washington and call them too. Their hearts have to be touched. I hear McCain is running for president. Not good! To be stopped! Also, Hopi say they will do nothing but people do not believe it.

The Creator has sent us here to take care of the land. If they want us to leave then *sue the Creator first!*"

Pauline Whitesinger: "I have no formal education to move to the city, to pay bills. Here is simple life, I need no money to live here..."

We borrow this land from Mother Earth. Nobody on Earth can say it's their land. Father Sky is looking at us saying we shouldn't be saying 'this is our land.'

Nobody on Earth can say it's their land! Father Sky is looking at us saying we shouldn't be saying that this is our land. They have no right impounding (livestock) because I told them not to come over to my house or to even come to the top of the hill to look at my house or even to write to me.

What do they want? We just borrow (the Land) and live here."

Glenna Begay: "We the Navajos have been living here for generations and generations and the bad things that are going on are really going on! What's the real reason we are being threatened? My ancestors lived here. I was born and raised here... peace and quiet! The land was beautiful at that time.

We (once) had rain and snow. Now, we don't have snow.

Everything we live in belongs to us. House... animals. Why do the Hopi and BIA impound? We are not doing anything. They are the ones doing things.

It's been 21 years the land disputes been going on. That's too long. And that 75-year lease they added on—I ask 'why?' Are they going to be threatening people that long? We live here! The table is here; we eat here. They come here taking our food away from us. They take the animals. I want the whole thing to end so we can live a happy life. So we can live the way we used to when I was very young.

It's good to apply pressure on McCain and all the others; the UN, too."

Rena Babbitt-Lane: "There's a lot of pollution from Peabody Coal Mine and a lot of the people are sick from it.

It's our land on this Mesa—they don't need to bother us. They cannot impound anymore. What they are doing to us is making us sick. There has been destruction of grave sites. They're crushing cement foundations of people's homes that have been abandoned because of relocation. They are taking. It shows you how they are greedy. They're erasing all evidence of genocide. Two burials of our family were destroyed. They were torn down and taken away somewhere.

Let them all come! Whoever can come, come! Supporters can put tents up at the roads for lookout."

Louise Benally: "It's (the use of direct action) up to the people who have to live with it every day, and some Navajo are scared. Apply public pressure at all levels, churches, students—an uprising in the universities.

November 30: In a vision there were possibly 1,000 teepees in the clouds in

the East. Later that day the sun had horns, like buffaloes, meaning 'war.' It shows that the universe knows there's an imbalance.

It's a global matter. Burning fossil fuel is depleting not only our culture but the planet too. People who went to Seattle we give high honors too because they stood up to... the beast. We felt we were there in spirit too. They (WTO) are disregarding the planet. This is a global issue; WTO is a big contributor."

We can't guarantee shelter for everyone. Know when coming here you are taking a risk in regards to shelter."

Let a O'Daniel: "I know supporters have their own lives, and they put that aside to help with us here and I wanted to show my appreciation. Sitting down with me and even just talking helps a lot. Supporters

are always welcome into my home. Civil disobedience is good. It shows the world that our ancestral lands are being taken away. I believe if there are supporters they're (BIA) going to hold back and wait for them to leave. They don't want to be on the news, in the media, because they don't want to be exposed like that. I really appreciate their support... 'If it wasn't for supporters, we'd be thrown out a long time ago'... as my mother Maryrose Bedoni has said. The BIA is supposed to be taking care of us but instead they're working against us. We borrow this land from Mother Earth."

The struggle will continue long after this "deadline." Just as the Battle of Seattle opened the eyes of the world to the fact that the people can effect change, so the world will realize people can prevent the extermination of indigenous peoples, cultures and ecosystems.

If you plan to come in support act under the guidance of families! Self sufficiency is a must! BMIS has supporter packets including cultural sensitivity and outfitting/preparation information. Communications/scanning equipment is a priority.

There is concern throughout the

land that if everyone shows only for January-February, the authorities will move in once support has waned—a strategy utilized in the past. It's suggested that support stagger in during the coming months. Remember, lambing season's busiest months are March through May.

Demonstrations are being planned around the February deadline in Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Demonstrations are encouraged in all other cities where relevant offices exist. Please consult our web page for more information.



EF! in solidarity with resisters during a 1997 deadline.

Off-land support: Plan demonstrations/direct action at key offices; office/media/computer assistance (our office currently is two organizers' small bedroom); outreach/fundraising; letters/phone calls to key officials.

On-land support: shepherding and household help; homesteading and construction work; auto repair and maintenance; permaculture projects; fence-building; BIA/tribal ranger monitoring, human rights; transportation; medical, video and communications support;

Prospective supporters are requested to contact BMIS first. Rides to and from the land available. Gas money (\$40) and supporter packets are mandatory; no housing accommodations available in Flagstaff, Arizona. Stay posted for updates, historical information, etc. We have all the necessary information for contacting appropriate public officials. *The world is watching!*

For more information, Black Mesa Indigenous Support, POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (520) 773-8086; granmonta@hotmail.com; www.blackmesais.org.

This is a nonviolent effort! No weapons, alcohol or drugs!

## Happy Birthday to logging on National Forests

One hundred years ago last month, logging on the first timber sale on national forest land began in the Black Hills, near Nemo, South Dakota. In the century that's past since this historic event, over five billion-board-feet of old-growth yellowbark pines have been ripped from the land sacred to the Lakota people and converted to decking, railroad ties and two-by-fours. Almost all of the forest that functioned as an old-growth ecosystem has been destroyed, replaced by monoculture tree farms ravaged by insects, disease outbreaks and catastrophic forest fires in the tightly packed stands. The forest of 100 years ago was dominated by two-foot diameter pines containing 1000 to 2000 board feet of saw timber per tree. The average tree today is eight to 10 inches in diameter and produces little more than 70 board feet. This publicly owned forest has sold for as little as \$5 per thousand board feet for most of the past century. Every day, an average of 100 acres of national forest land in the Black Hills is "highgraded"—the largest remaining trees removed.

The tragedy of the Black Hills is mirrored in the national forests across the country, where less than five percent of the original native forest cover remains. A century of unsustainable logging ("management" in US Forest Service parlance) has left a legacy of denuded hillsides, dirty drinking water, endangered and extinct species, and dependent human communities. Every year the Forest Service logging program costs the taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion in below cost timber sales. Hundreds of timber sales continue to be logged.



# GE Activists take on Frankentrees

BY BIOENGINEERING ACTION NETWORK

On October 26, 1999, two institutions near Seattle practicing genetic mutilation of trees were dealt a blow by anti-biotech foresters. Genetically engineered (GE) poplar trees were trampled, a greenhouse and saplings destroyed, and captive squirrels released. One week earlier, "The WTO Welcome Committee" euthanized hundreds of fruit trees at Okanagan Biotechnology Inc. (OBI) in Summerland, British Columbia, where mad scientists are working to develop genetically modified varieties of tree fruits that will be more attractive to consumers and more profitable to retailers. This highly necessary research amounts to producing fruit that will not turn brown once it is cut.

Nighttime lumberjacks, calling themselves "Reclaim the Genes," chopped, broke and stomped 500 trees and seedlings on tree breeding company, Silvagen, Inc.'s test plots at the University of British Columbia, causing an estimated \$250,000 worth of damage and wiping out five years of research. The company reports that it will have to start the project all over again if the Forests Ministry (collaborator in their breeding program) wishes to continue the research. Four days later, the "Genetix Goblins" trashed 1,000 assorted conifer saplings at Western Forest Products in Saanich, British Columbia.

What was once a mildly expressed disdain for the replacement of native forests with monoculture tree plantations, has escalated to a campaign of preemptive attacks on a fast growing field of biotechnology that promises an entirely new type of monoculture—genetically improved and engineered trees. Don't forget—trees are considered as much of a crop as potatoes and soybeans. And just like their vegetable counterparts, the risks of genetic pollution and toxicity to wildlife pose a real threat to. But the personal responsibility revolution has completely missed the scientific community. One Oregon State University tree geneticist announced at a biotech conference last year, "Those issues (genetic pollution, etc.) are not of concern to hard science—they are to be determined by public policy." When's the last time the US Department of Agriculture asked *you* how they should implement new technologies? The USDA is actually a full fledged supporter of new genetic technologies and is cooperating with industry in forestry research stations around the country to bring these frankentrees to market. With an agenda as heinous as theirs (Animal Damage Control, US Forest Service, endless meat and dairy industry subsidies, GE crop regulation, the development of the "Terminator" genes) is it really any surprise?

Scientists believe GE forestry will not only boost forestry and reduce pollution but will also mark the beginning of a new era when forest trees can follow animals and crops in becoming more fully domesticated.

Unlike many food crops which have been hybridized beyond recognition, the plantation tree species being genetically "improved" and field tested by unique collaborations between the timber industry and government/university

researchers are still fairly close to their wild relatives. This makes the problem of cross-pollination with wild species an even greater risk. While hybrid vegetables and tree monocultures wreak plenty of havoc on native prairie and forest ecosystems, the powerful force of wildness has been known to reclaim colonized areas in time. But as any ecologist will predict, genetic pollution from GE plantation monocrops threaten the stability of native ecosystems in a completely unpredictable and potentially permanent way.

Tree geneticists working on the poplar family (cottonwoods and aspens) at Oregon State University wrote in their 1994-95 report: "Unlike crops such as maize, which cannot spread in the wild, poplars have undergone little domestication and can thus spread and establish readily. Both male and female gametes can disperse large distances, the latter by water as well as wind transport. Transgenes and transgenics could thereby readily introgress into wild populations with possible ecological impacts."

Governments have tried to appease the concern by setting limits beyond which a crop cannot cross-pollinate safely. If this is a reality for vegetable crops, then trees, whose seeds and pollen are distributed by wind, insects, birds and animals, can potentially cross-pollinate with native forests hundreds of miles away. Researchers are trying to avoid this problem by creating cottonless cottonwoods and allowing GE tree field trials of only young, pre-pollinating trees. "Terminator" sterile seed trees are being proposed as another possible solution. The development of such mutant species could amount to a bio-colonialization with frightening implications.

The list of ecological risks posed by GE trees is long. Tolerance to herbicides such as Monsanto's Round-Up would ensure higher doses of the toxic weed killer in plantations, where the delicate balance of age and species diversity is simply not attainable or even desirable. In native forests where the resistant trait may have cross-pollinated, such herbicides could eventually provoke "superweeds" that choke undergrowth and compete for nutrients.

Insecticidal genes such as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) are intended to maintain productivity in pest ridden plantations, but scientists fear quick adaptation to the toxins could threaten the complex interactions between insects and plants and render the tree's novel defenses useless. Researchers have already found Bt cotton decomposes faster, thereby releasing nutrients to soil micro-organisms more quickly than ordinary leaves. External alterations such as fast rotting leaves could have tremendous impact on the forest floor ecosystem.

While decades of selective plantation breeding have already produced fast-growing trees, industry seeks to speed up the breeding process with GE growth acceleration and control of flowering. This could easily lead to an even faster depletion of nutrients and water than occurs in conventional tree farms, not to mention the suppression of other younger species and understory should these mutants escape to natural forests. Where heavily irrigated plantations (i.e. eucalyptus) have turned the soil salty, salt tolerance is a possibility. Similarly, bioremediating genes for nitrogen fix-

ing and uptake of heavy metal contamination will help industrial polluters continue to profit off their bio-disasters.

Lignin alteration is a favorite in GE forestry, as it increases yield and growth rate, and subsequently allows the pulp and paper industry to avoid environmental laws and cut costs associated with the lignin-removal process. This is a commonly heralded "environmental aim" of GE forestry, yet like all such manipulations of natural processes, it comes with an ecological price. Scientists report that lignin reduces digestibility of plants by herbivores, which could adversely affect feeding and population growth rates of leaf and tree eaters. The chemical also slows leaf and wood decomposition, thereby threatening soil structure and fertility.

The development of GE tree fruits such as apples, pears and plums is truly frightening. Citrus fruits are the target of a scientific program to neutralize the bitter liminoids that lower the quality and value of commercial juices. But these substances are essential to the tree's defenses against insects and are also known to possess some anti-cancer properties. Delayed ripening is another popular trait for fruit and has already been used experimentally on grapes, berries and tomatoes, as well as commercially on melons. An especially disturbing trend is the development of tree fruit engineered with vaccines to provide medications to the poor and undernourished—another excuse to avoid the social causes of poverty and disease.

The socio-economic implications of GE forestry are huge as well. This is especially true in Southern countries where forest-based cultures are more directly impacted by increased production and bio-colonialism. Tropical fruit plantation economies will be dragged further into the dead-end development model invoked by the green revolution rather than re-establishing sustainable community-based autonomy. Do you think it's a coincidence that sugar cane, coffee, bananas, papaya, kiwifruit and cocoa are all receiving huge research grants to improve and alter varieties that have lost their ability to adapt to plantation sterility? Planned obsolescence doesn't just apply to computers!

For obvious reasons, the international timber industry is all over GE. Already, a \$60-million research partnership has been forged among Monsanto, Fletcher-Challenge, International Paper and Westvaco to produce higher-yielding and more uniform GE trees.

International Paper is planting GE eucalyptus in Chiapas. A Canadian tree breeding company, Silvagen, Inc., the American company InterLink and the Chile Foundation, recently formed GenFor, Inc., a new multinational company devoted to producing transgenic plants resistant to insects and fungi, with greater wood production, as well as improving the process of pulp and paper production.

Industry-university collaborations are leading the way in GE tree research. ForBio Inc., an Australian forest biotech company, recently established its first US branch on the North Carolina State University campus. ForBio and



Sorry for your loss....

Monsanto entered into a joint agreement in 1998, creating the Indonesian company Monfori Nusantra, which has developed a robot to automate tree cloning.

The poplar family is seen as ideal for genetic engineering, due to its small, simple genome. Research at University of Washington and Oregon State University is rapidly bringing these species toward the commercial market. Round-Up Ready (engineered with herbicide resistance) and Bt (engineered with an insecticidal bacteria) cottonwoods are currently undergoing large-scale industrial plantation trials on Potlatch Corporation land in eastern Oregon. This experimental project is a result of Oregon State University's renowned Tree Genetic Engineering Research Cooperative (TGERC). TGERC members include Alberta Pacific, Boise Cascade, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Georgia Pacific, International Paper, James River, MacMillan Bloedel, Potlatch, Shell, Union Camp, US Department of Energy (DOE), Westvaco and Weyerhaeuser.

Patent applications have been filed on the transgenic (mostly low lignin) aspen, with prominent research collaborations between Iowa State University and Nippon Paper company. Michigan Tech is negotiating GE aspen licensing agreements with an unnamed major wood-products corporation.

Researchers at North Carolina State University are mapping the genome of the loblolly pine, as part of the USDA Plant Genome Project. Information gleaned from the mapping will enable plant scientists to determine which genes control various traits, such as disease and drought resistance, growth rate and wood strength among others, leading to "improved" breeding and genetic enhancement.

And just about every other tree seems to be barreling through the research pipeline almond, walnut, chestnut, birch, scots pine, whitespruce, sweetgum, larch, sandalwood, black spruce, pines and elm are currently undergoing some kind of genetic mutilation. Luckily, and unlike most GE crops, the majority of GE trees are not yet commercialized. Convincing investors that GE forestry is an unsound investment seems like a strategy with infinite possibilities.

For more information contact Bioengineering Action Network at POB 11703, Eugene, Oregon 97440; (541) 302-5020; ban@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~ban.

# A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR THE SHY GARDENER

BY NIGHTTIME GARDENERS

The following primer was put together to instruct folks coming to the WTO on the finer points of nighttime gardening. For a complete how-to guide and to give us your input please email us at [nighttimegardeners@angelfire.com](mailto:nighttimegardeners@angelfire.com) or visit [www.tao.ca/~ban](http://www.tao.ca/~ban).

## Evening attire for the nighttime gardener

Gardening is a very dirty job. For the least hassle, wear a complete set of old clothes that can be discarded easily. Don't be cheap, and don't be afraid to waste perfectly good gear. Throw stuff away or you'll go to jail. Black evening attire is best for shy gardeners.

A forensic scientist can tell roughly where you've been from the dirt and soil that you pick up on your travels. Say, for instance, you've been gardening at a Monsanto test site of GE corn. The traces of earth will be upon you, as will traces of plant life, such as pollen that you may have brushed against.

On soft surfaces such as mud, earth, dog shit, etc., shoe impressions will be left behind. These impressions can be traced back to a particular pair of shoes. Shoes will also pick up traces of oil, glass, etc. Throw away your shoes.

Gardening just after a spraying of RoundUp, Liberty or other toxic herbicides may pose a grave threat to the health-conscious gardener. Gore-Tex or rubber rain gear (easily stolen from Wal-Mart), medical masks, and chemical-protective gloves may be necessary.

## The best time to go

The best gardening time for the shy gardener is obviously at night; the new moon is better than when it is full. For the most part you have two choices. Early a.m. is quite dead, but remember how long the job will take. Starting earlier in the evening will give you more of an excuse to be out. Agricultural areas or neighborhood garden plots can be a busy place as farmers usually get an early start on the day, sometimes before dawn. At these hours a light of any sort will draw attention. Cover flashlights with blue or red saran wrap, tinted tape, or a gel to mute stark white light.

Bear in mind that a hard rain will wash away most traces and provide visual and audio cover.

Reconnaissance is imperative. Make sure the garden is right for you. There may be security. There may also be cameras at university test sites/greenhouses or biotech corporation sites. For the main part, these cameras serve to deter potential "gardeners," and instill a healthy sense of paranoia. Those who are careful stay free!

## How to spot your crop

The timing of your harvest is important if you want to actually sabotage their research and cause economic damage. Acting too early could allow them to replant; acting too late could harvest their crop for them! Harvesting just before flowering prevents the mutant genes from escaping through the plant's pollen, and if you can't get it by then, you can cut down the plant before the seeds are fully developed. Don't just harvest the beans or corn cob either, harvest the whole plant from the stems, or better yet, pull it right up out of the ground.

It's important to research *what* you are targeting and *who*. Considering how pervasive commercial GE crops are, it's a good idea to target research, both at universities and corporate facilities (is there really any difference?). Industry collaborates with local farmers to grow seed and test varieties in their fields, often in return for advertising their more impressive trials with big signs plugging the company and the variety. The basic reality is that commercial GE crops cover 20 million acres of American farmland. Attacking random commercial fields is simply not strategic, especially when there are so many better research targets. If a research project is "nipped in the bud," so to speak, it may never make it to the commercial market!

## The nighttime gardener's toolbox

The tools you'll use for gardening will vary, but for some crops you won't need any at all. Your hands in good work gloves (fingerprints can be lifted from *anything* these days) will do just fine. Night gardeners have had success with rolling their bodies over the crops as well, but this may only bend certain crops at certain ages, instead of damaging them beyond repair. Some GE crops (like older trees) are nearly impossible to take out without tools. Some people like to use saws, scythes, machetes, hoes, shears or other tools, but it's really



Sickle-wielding GE saboteur

a personal preference. Think simple and streamlined. Ever try to carry a machete over barbed wire? Not easy! They can sometimes be too much trouble, too time consuming or difficult to part with after gardening. One group reported that a long metal pole pushed across one or two rows of corn (dubbed the "California Corn Cutter") worked well for quick, convenient and energy-efficient gardening. Be creative. Practice beforehand if you are using any fancy methods.

Bolt cutters are good for getting through locked gates or into greenhouses. Another technique for gaining access into glass greenhouses is to duct tape a square one could crawl through, and then punch it in. The tape will muffle the sound of breaking glass by absorbing the blow and will also keep the glass from scattering all over the ground. Paramedics use hand-held, spring-loaded punches to break glass on car windows that work very well. Corrugated plastic greenhouses can be cut with a sharp knife.

Another tool for some crop rows is a strong board with holes in both ends through which a rope is strung. The board is placed on the ground, and then the gardener puts a foot on top of it and lifts up the rope to a comfortable waist height. The gardener can go step by step stomping down the crop and avoid stooping or kneeling on the ground, which can get very tiring.

If you do use tools, make sure they are cleaned of all fingerprints before taken onto the site. A good way to clear up those pesky fingerprints is with warm, soapy water. In a time crunch, extensive rubbing with cloth can work. But remember to be thorough. Don't forget anything even the batteries inside a flashlight have been touched, and you wouldn't want to drop anything while you were out and about!

## Getting in and out

Insertion and egress of the site is often the most risky aspect of nighttime excursions. If you need to use a vehicle, it's worth parking away from your target and walking in, as tires leave distinctive marks and can accumulate soils that are easily identified. Leave someone with your vehicle, as there can be unexpected people about, and make sure the driver has a reason to be where s/he is. A pair of people making out can be a good excuse. Better yet, have a driver who can quickly pick you up when you're done.

A drop-off may look suspicious in a residential or other heavily used area. Therefore, it may be appropriate to have two different pick-up and drop-off points, and alternate sites in case access is cut off in one place. It is also essential to plan an emergency pickup time and place where a crew can run to and hide all night if the heat is on.

When you're waiting by the road for a car, you can't make out what kind of vehicle it is until the last second because of the headlight glare. One technique is to leave some distinctive marker, such as a bag of trash (not yours) or a can at a certain place by the road. When the driver comes by, if the marker is no longer there, s/he knows to pull over and pick up the crew. Another method is for the driver to flash a turn signal during the approach if there is clearly no place a regular vehicle would turn, that way the crew can identify them. Some gardeners communicate with radios (for all tools and equipment: no fingerprints, remove serial numbers and buy discreetly with cash from another town). Remember when you get home to vacuum and clean the whole car. Get rid of your directions, too!

## What to do when you get there

Most sites can be gardened quite happily with two to four gardeners. The actual work could take an hour, or all night. For larger sites you may need many gardeners, but it's harder to avoid detection in larger numbers. Remember, a well-placed sheet over a camera can have a rather numbing effect on their security. A well-placed kick or spray paint shot over the lens can do the same.

The goal is to destroy the plants. You will either have to snap them off at the stem, or pull them apart after they are uprooted. At a release site in East Anglia England, sugar beet was uprooted and left lying on the site. It was later replanted by the farmer (and later still, dug up by concerned gardeners and removed from the site). In 1987, the Strawberry Liberation Front in the US pulled up a crop of strawberries that were to be sprayed with ice-minus bacteria. For the photo opportunity the next day, the scientist placed the strawberries back in the holes from which they'd been pulled.

Remember, the test sites are experiments (with our future). If your aim is to disrupt misguided experiments, destroying 50-75 percent of the research plants will call into question any data collected. It will also disrupt the experiment if all the markers and identification tags are scattered or removed. Make the garden messy, and it is less likely to be considered salvageable. Scattering bags and bags of organic or non GE seeds can also ruin a test site and spread a little bit of consciousness as well. A good idea is to scatter seed in the beginning of the season and not issue a communiqué about it until a month later. By that time, your seeds have wrought havoc on the GE varieties and the integrity of the experiment.

Don't forget to target irrigation equipment, greenhouses and the like. Groups like Reclaim Seeds and the Future Farmers have sabotaged thousands of dollars of this sort of equipment in different actions. It is suggested that computers, data files, clipboards with research information and other documentation should be removed for our own research, or quietly destroyed.

Send information about your actions to POB 3992, San Diego, CA 92163; (619) 584-6462; 528-1449 (fax); [jeffrey@towardsfreedom.com](mailto:jeffrey@towardsfreedom.com).

# Calling for a Tribal Way of Life

BY TIM DOODY

December 4, 1999: One hundred and fifty feet in the air, the billboard outside New York City's Lincoln Tunnel demands consumption with lights and revolving slats. One side reads, "Honk if you love digital." The lower right corner registers the perpetual count-down to Christmas.

Shop 'til you drop. Shop 'til Indonesia's sweatshops grind small children to death. Shop 'til wilderness is plundered, the Earth's blood is sucked by mechanized mosquitoes and all the landfills swell and burst. Shop 'til you can fill those cracks in community and seal them with holiday cheer. Shop 'til we all drop.

4:00 a.m.: Three harnessed climbers begin the ascent to the billboard's top, carrying a 100-pound bundle. They work diligently despite an unexpected down-pour. Amidst blue lips and chattering teeth, they huddle together against the cold, biting wind, watching as the passing pre-dawn squall unfurls a rainbow off to the west.

11:00 a.m.: Saturday's shoppers grind to a gridlocked halt—bumper to bumper and lanes thick. The billboard tells this captive audience what to buy—tells them to buy. Suddenly, a massive 100 by 30-foot banner is edged down by the climbers. In bold letters, the banner says, "Don't Buy into Consumerism! Spare the Earth from Overconsumption!" The persons claiming responsibility for the action call themselves "People of Earth."

People of Earth gathered several weeks earlier to launch a movement unabashedly calling for a return to a tribal way of life. We look to hunter-gatherers as the

only human societies that ever lived sustainably on Earth; we demand that humans give up dominion.

Thousands of years ago some folks decided that we should not rely on Earth's gifts. They wanted complete control. So they cleared some space, and began to domesticate animals and plants. All this control required so much labor that freedom would not suffice. They needed someone to guard the grain, someone to clear more space, someone to eliminate all competition.

To this day we are still clearing space without any sense of checks and balances. We still do not have enough. Under our current paradigm, we will never have enough.

11:15 a.m.: The police arrive in blue swarms with blazing lights. The police also want to control. From 150 feet in the air, they are only as big as a thumbnail. It's hard to gain control when you're only as big as a thumbnail. Even their loudest shouts can barely reach the climbers' ears. They keep pouring into the parking lot: Port Authority Emergency Services, precinct cops, ambulances, Fire and Rescue, a local fire department. Even our old friends from NYPD "Intelligence" are here, photographing us by helicopter and ground. We are on the New Jersey side of the tunnel and out of their jurisdiction, but they pay no mind to rules and regulations.

We've got a case pending in court against them. New York Intel was involved in arresting us about a month ago for painting a large piece of cloth on a rooftop even though we had permission from the building's tenants. The message, in plain view read, "100 Species Extinct Each Day! Don't Buy

Rainforest Wood!" (This is a very conservative estimate.) They came at us with two helicopters whirling above while nine Task Force officers stormed the roof without a warrant and arrested three of us who were painting at the time. Down below, plain clothed detectives and police awaited.

Norm Siegal of the American Civil Liberties Union and Ron Kuby, a criminal attorney and radio personality, are fighting for us and everyone's Constitutional rights in this case. Charges and counter charges are still pending. Incidentally, a similar occurrence happened two months ago when four of us were arrested for being in a public space of a commercial building.

Wind gently sways the billboard's foundation. Fists raise and horns honk as the folks on the highway give their excited approval. Maybe some even began to stretch, yawn and wake up from their millennia slumber.

Later, the climbers lower a rope and hoist up a police radio for negotiations.

4:00 p.m.: After an 11 hour siege, we come down to the rattle of handcuffs wielded by angry officers.

Days later: The Mistletoe Three were released from the violent Hudson County Correctional Facilities on \$5,000 bail per person. Allegedly they

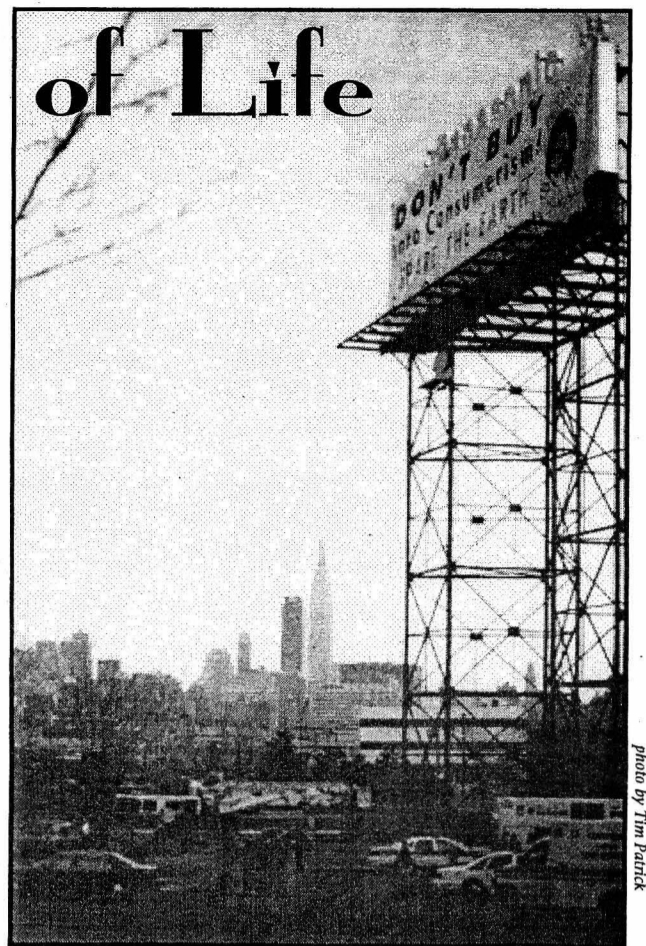


photo by Tim Patrick

One-hundred pound banner that reads: Don't Buy Into Consumerism! Spare the Earth.

caused thousands of dollars in damage to the mechanical billboard. We can only guess at the outcome of the case as NYC Intel seems to be working behind the scenes to help push this New Jersey case against us.

To correspond with a re-emerging tribal culture and the various peoples already involved, contact People of Earth, c/o Joan Roney, 304 E. 83rd Street #4D, New York City, NY 10028; timdog18@hotmail.com. We could use your financial support. Send checks or money orders made out to Rainforest Relief to People of Earth, c/o Rainforest Relief, POB 150566, Brooklyn, NY 11216.

## NEVADA SAGEBRUSH REBELLION

BY ANNE MARTIN

It all started with a heavy spring runoff in 1995 that blew out a mile-and-a-half section of the South Canyon Road leading to the edge of the Jarbridge Wilderness on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in northeastern Nevada, near the town of Jarbridge.

Elko County attempted to rebuild the road along the Jarbridge River in 1998, but the work was halted by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Following a federal bull trout listing in August 1998, the Forest Service decided not to rebuild the road because continued erosion threatened the fish. Since then, local residents have been protesting the agency's decision.

This is one of those rare instances when the Forest Service has been on the same side as the conservation community, upholding the law to protect endangered species without giving in to local control advocates despite hostile treatment.

Two studies have been done to determine the impact of the road on Jarbridge River bull trout. Both studies determined that the road would be detrimental. Despite this, outraged county residents, lead by Nevada Assemblyman John Carpenter (R-Elko), organized a volunteer party to rebuild the road. The Forest Service chose not to send their law enforcement personnel due to concerns that violence would ensue. On October 9, as volunteers

were beginning to convene on the road, US District Judge Hagen ordered a temporary restraining order (due to public pressure), naming three defendants, including Carpenter. Judge Hagen's order prohibited any type of repair along the road.

On November 13, following the federal temporary injunction to stop the vigilante reconstruction of the South Canyon Road, Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage (R-ID),



photo by Matt Hofford

The rebuilt road collapsing into the Jarbridge River.

Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage (R-ID), Chair of the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health and Representative Jim Gibbons (R-NV) held a congressional hearing in Elko. With only one conservationist asked to speak on behalf of the bull trout, this hearing was an attempt to continue to foster anti-government fervor and mistrust by appeasing a vocal minority. Nevada conservation

groups argue that this hearing helped to escalate hostility against the Forest Service for maintaining its position to not reconstruct the road.

Unfortunately, the actions by Elko County led Gloria Flora, the respected Supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, to resign at the beginning of January in protest of hostility toward and harassment of federal employees. As the supervisor of the largest national forest in the lower 48, the loss of her presence in Nevada will be felt. Stating in a letter to her employees that she resigned in protest of an "anti-federal fervor" in Nevada, she also stated that, "officials at all levels

of government in Nevada participate in this irresponsible fed-bashing."

With 87 percent of the land in Nevada being publicly owned, increased public land protections have awakened the anti-government sentiment and sagebrush rebellion mentality. We have seen bombing attempts and threats of violence and intimidation toward federal employees in Nevada.

The attitude of defiance toward public land laws continues in Elko County. Local residents still insist that the South Canyon Road must be rebuilt. *The Las Vegas Sun* has strongly opposed the road rebellion in Elko County. The *Reno Gazette-Journal* opined that local residents were going beyond civil disobedience. "It is a civil war, an active refusal to obey federal laws designed to protect the environment, simply because they come from the despised federal government."

Jim Hurst, a sawmill owner from Eureka, Montana, recently announced an effort to ship up to 10,000 shovels to Elko to show support for re-opening the flood-damaged road. The road cannot be rebuilt by hand. The flood blew out a bridge and would require major equipment. If they were to do the work legally, it would require a Clean Water Act Section 404 water quality permit from the Corps of Engineers in order to place material in the flood plain.

At the time of the temporary injunction, Judge Hagen required that all of the parties involved participate in an arbitration hearing. A search has begun for arbitrators. There is also a lawsuit pending against Elko County for illegal attempts to reconstruct the road. The Forest Service is still strongly opposed to reconstruction and intends to create a trail to allow public access to the wilderness boundary.

For more information contact Anne Martin, Nevada organizer for American Lands Alliance, 3135 Industrial Rd., Suite 223, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-650-6542; annem@americanlands.org.

# The Corps of Engineers Fights the Flow of the Mississippi Delta

BY BIG CAT

In the Mississippi Delta, an entire watershed is in danger of destruction. The US Army Corps of Engineers stands ready to proceed with a \$62 million flood control project that will dredge 130 miles of the Little Sunflower River. A second part of the project will create a pump at the lower end of the Yazoo River to pump floodwaters from the area at a taxpayer cost of over \$119 million. All for the benefit of a few farmers who have to make no financial contribution to this project.

## Little Sunflower/Yazoo Country

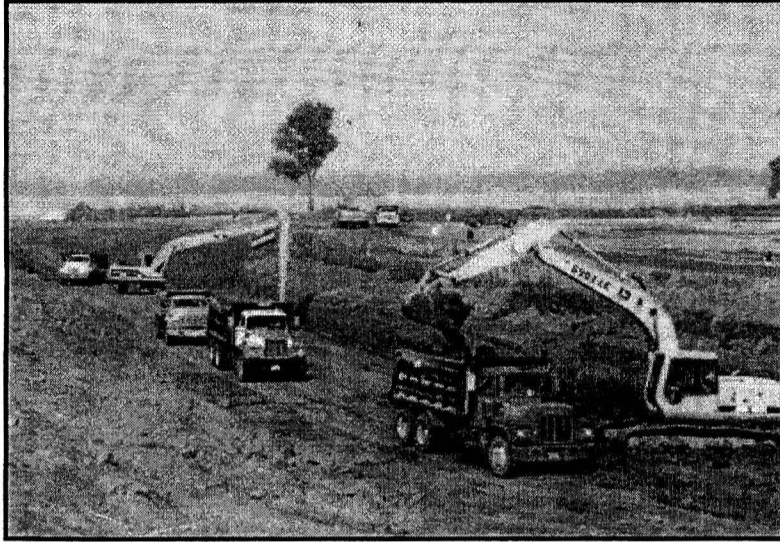
The Mississippi Delta is one of the US's most historic regions. Thousands of people visit this famous area for its unique cultural and recreational opportunities. Its landscape is a rich alluvial plain extending from Memphis, Tennessee to Vicksburg, Mississippi that receives fertile soil from the seasonal flooding of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Most of its hardwood forests and swamps have been cleared for farmland, but the lower end of the delta above Vicksburg contains the remnants of what had been some of America's wildest country.

The lower delta is home to a complex of some of the South's finest and most overlooked public lands: the Yazoo and Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuges and the Delta National Forest. These lands contain a diverse mixture of bottomland hardwoods—bald cypress, tupelo gum, ash, locust and several species of hickories and oaks. Some of the greatest populations of migratory waterfowl in North America rely on this area's bayous for their winter passage south. Deer, alligator, bobcat and perhaps some remaining black panthers and black bear make this region their home. The waters of the Yazoo, Little Sunflower and Big Sunflower Rivers wind their way through before flowing into the Mississippi.

## The Corps of Engineers' Pork Barrel

What has always kept this part of the Delta forested has been the extreme lowness of its terrain. As one local put it, people never referred to the yearly overflow of water as a "flood," but simply as "high water." The swelling of the bayous was an accepted part of the landscape. In the past, it made common sense for cotton farmers to leave the bottom of these lands

alone. But in recent years, farmers have begun to plant these areas. This has led to the current flood control proposals by the Army Corps of Engineers. Other interests, such as the powerful Delta Council and local levee boards, have added to the pressure. Federal law requires that local governments pick up 35 percent of the tab for federal public works projects. Yet Senator Thad Cochran managed to attach a rider to a 1996 budget bill that exempted locals on the pump project.



Construction work on a levee in the Mississippi Delta

## One Problem Starts Another

To keep seasonal floodwaters from the Mississippi River from backing up the Yazoo, levees have been built over the years, keeping Mississippi waters out on three sides. Unfortunately, this mixture of levee building, dredging, clearing and channeling has had the unintended effect of keeping delta runoff in. This is the purpose of the proposed pump at Steele Bayou, to force the water out of the lower delta at a rate of 14,000 cubic-feet-per-second.

This project depends on the upstream dredging of the Little Sunflower River, which the Corps explains would provide adequate flow for the pumping. The Little Sunflower is one of the waterways in the area to escape most of the river control mania of this century. Besides its recreational and wildlife qualities, the river has some of the richest mussel beds to be found anywhere.

In dredging the river, hundreds of acres of wetlands would be destroyed. In the portions of the river where the Corps will dredge with a dragline, the riverbank will be cleared for 150 feet on one side. The history of dredging also shows a likelihood of collapsed riverbanks and the very strong possibility of making flooding worse. Another possible side effect would be that years of DDT runoff would be stirred from the bottom, further endangering wildlife downstream.

There has been opposition to this project from a variety of sources. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has urged the Corps and farmers to consider alternatives, such as wetlands restoration, land purchase and growing hardwood timber instead of soybeans in the bottom areas. Several engineers have doubted that this project will ever work. The Mississippi River is untamable, and the solutions proposed by the Corps will do little and probably make matters worse.

The Corps of Engineers needs to be budgeted to bringing an end to its pork spending mentality. It has seen earthmoving as a solution to things for long enough. It needs to hear the voices of citizens. Congress must hear citizen input. The Sierra Club has a lawsuit against the project in Mississippi State Courts. In a separate case, the National Wildlife Federation is planning to appeal a recent federal court decision to allow the dredging.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has the power to issue or deny a clean water permit to allow the dredging project to go ahead. Let them know of your opposition. On the federal level, contact the EPA and let them know how the dredging would stir up a century's worth of pesticide residues. There is no need for this public works proposal. The Little Sunflower and its forests need to be protected as the remnants of the Delta's wild country.

You can contact the US Army Corps of Engineers, Attn. CEMVK-PR-Y, 4155 Clay St., Vicksburg, MS 39810; or the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Center, 100 Alabama St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303; and Senator Thad Cochran, 188 E. Capitol St., Suite 614, Jackson, MS 39201.

For more information, contact Mississippi Sierra Club, POB 4335, Jackson, MS 39296; (601) 352-1026.

# EVICTION AT MINNEHAHA

BY JIM ANDERSON AND MARSHALL LAW

On December 11 the Minnesota Department of Transportation, with support from the State Highway Patrol and the Minneapolis Police Department, moved forward with their plans to remove the Four Oaks Spiritual Encampment, to kill the four sacred oaks and to desecrate Mother Earth. All this destruction to prepare the way for their unneeded reroute of Highway 55.

At 10:30 p.m. on December 10 the camp received several tips that the state troopers would be gathering at 5:00 a.m. to stage the raid at 7:00 the next morning. Several helicopters with infrared sensors hovered over camp around 11:00 p.m. Immediately, the emergency phone tree was activated and the media contacted. Consistent with their inability to tell the truth, the Department of Transportation (DOT), had promised us that they would be contacting the media to ensure that the raid would be handled differently than the December 20th, 1998 raid in which 802 state troopers, cops and sniper units pepper sprayed and tortured nonviolent activists already in custody and destroyed sacred items including a ceremonial drum of the American Indian Movement. At around 5:00 a.m. the media told us

that they had heard nothing, so many people became skeptical that anything would happen.

At 4:15 a.m., mobile security units of our encampment spotted the state troopers gathering a mile south of camp at a DOT storage yard by the airport. Word of this build up was relayed back to camp. We called the media again, and they promised they would arrive soon. People had been filtering in to camp all night and soon a gigantic bonfire was raging.

At around 6:00 a.m. people began to prepare themselves ceremonially by smudging with sage and circling around the four sacred oaks. At 7:05 a.m. a lookout, high in an oak tree shouted to the people around the trees, "They're coming," and around the hill came four unmarked white rented trucks with their lights off. Immediately following the trucks was a long line of trooper vehicles, and from the north end of camp the Minneapolis Police Department began to set up a cordon around the entire woods and camp.

Captain Kevin Kitridge approached the 70 or so people gathered in prayer around the four sacred oaks, and was told that we were in ceremony and that the ceremony should not be interrupted. Kitridge was informed



Police surrounding the ceremony

that we would be singing two more songs on the drum and that the sacred chanupa would be smoked by the entire circle. He was obviously taken off guard, but he agreed to let us finish the ceremony, but asked us if there was "some kind of problem," because we were taking so long. We were in ceremony before the troopers arrived and not everyone wanted to get arrested, so Kitridge said that people who did not want to get arrested could go west outside of the police cordon when the ceremony was completed. Those who remained would be arrested.

Thirty-three people were carried

away that morning, and immediately the camp was destroyed by their bulldozers. Later that day the four sacred oaks were killed by one man with a chainsaw.

We are still fighting to save Camp Coldwater Spring that has flowed for over 9,000 years. It is medicine to our people, and should be sacred to all. We need your help and prayers now more than ever. All of our elders have told the truth about this sacred water, and we cannot let it be destroyed for commuters convenience.

For more information contact the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community Office; (651) 452-4141

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## Frontlines

### Meringue for Moore

At 8 p.m. on December 14, Dr. Patrick Moore, the co-founder of Greenpeace and current industry apologist, was awarded a pie by the Santa Cruz Biotic Baking Brigade (SCBBB). This is his second taste of an angry pastry in the face. He is opposing changes to the land-use code that will protect county residents from the physical dangers and environmental destruction associated with logging in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

According to Agent Sequoia Berry of the SCBBB, "Dr. Moore is a prime candidate for a tactical pastry. His actions in defense of the British Columbian timber industry are nauseating. He calls them science-based, but with over 90 percent of their logging done by clearcut, it is clear he is not working in the name of sustainable forestry."

Dr. Moore represents the British Columbia Forest Alliance, an industry front group. He is using his status as co-founder of Greenpeace to encourage unsustainable logging practices in line with the timber industry and the WTO's free trade agenda.

He received his just desserts. He got a taste of lemon meringue, since he has been such a lemon for the environmental movement. The pie was sprung on Moore as he finished talking about the proposed land-use changes. Moore reacted quite physically, punching Agent Sequoia Berry before leaving the building. Sequoia Berry was restrained by an unidentified man and then was kindly asked to leave by a woman who appeared to work for the Board of Supervisors.

According to Dr. Moore, "Not one species has gone extinct as a result of logging." He has also stated that, "Clearcuts are temporary meadows."

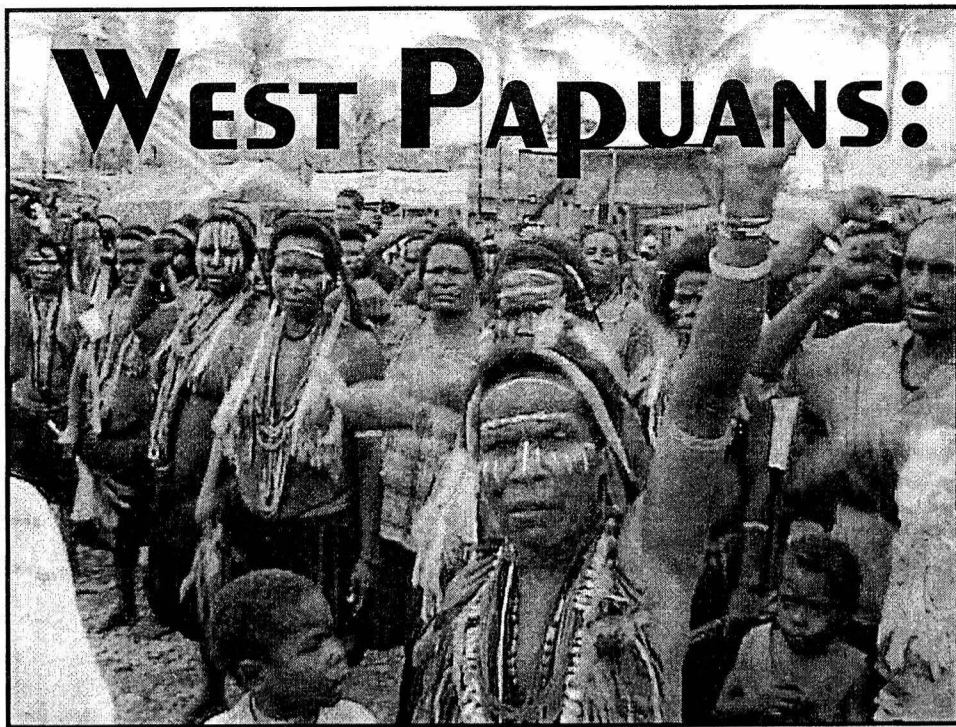
### Plowshares bleed on Warthog bolt planes

Plowshares vs. Depleted Uranium activists disarmed two A-10 Thunderbolt planes, nicknamed Warthogs, at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Essex, Maryland, in the early morning hours of December 19.

Philip Berrigan, Susan Crane, Reverend Steve Kelly and Elizabeth Walz were arrested at the National Guard base by Federal Air Police as they were disarming two Warthogs. Phil and Elizabeth worked together on one plane, hammering on the Gatling gun in the nose of the plane and on the pylons under the wings while pouring their blood into the engines. Meanwhile, Steve and Susan did a similar transformation to a second plane. They also hung their banner which read, "Plowshares vs. Depleted Uranium" on the site.

Depleted uranium is a dense radioactive waste used in munitions. It's a radioactive heavy metal that poisons the environment and people. It has a half life of 4.5 billion years. Stockpiles of depleted uranium have accumulated since the 1940s (about 500,000 tons), leftovers of the nuclear industry. The government has been looking for a use for this radioactive waste to reduce storage difficulties and costs. Depleted uranium has physical properties that are useful to the military so it is used in the bombs on the planes targeted by the Plowshares.

For more information, contact Swords to Plowshares, 995 Market, San Francisco, CA 94103 or Military Project, 471 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Lewiston, ME 04240; mtp@igc.org.



photos courtesy: Dr. or Die

Standing up against December's violence in Timika

BY AMUNGGUT TABI, TPN/OPM

On January 1 one of the Indonesian national newspapers, *Kompas Online* reported the following: "President KH Abdulrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) agreed to change the name Irian Jaya to Papua. This agreement is not because of pressures from anyone, but it is because the name was manipulated in Arab language, which means naked."

This is a second step forward shown by Mr. Wahid since the previous week when he released all 64 Free Papua Movement (OPM) political prisoners from West Papua. Over the past 35 years, there has been a bloody war waged by the Indonesian military on the people and environment of West Papua.

The history of the Melanesians (West Papuans) in the western half of New Guinea island can be traced back to 1511 when Spanish traders reached the island. The traders gave the name "New Guinea" to the island because the people looked to them similar to Guinea people in Africa. Afterwards, many people from the West lived there, including Columbus. Christianity started officially in February 1558 when two German missionaries, Ottow and Geissler (known as the Apostles of Papuans), stepped on the New Guinea land and declared, "In the name of the Lord, we step on this land."

The island's name changed to Dutch New Guinea in the late 1800s, after the Dutch declared its administrative role in the western half of the island. About the same time, Germany made the northern part of East New Guinea into its colony while Britain claimed the southern part. Both Germany and Britain gave their colonies to Australia, and Papua New Guinea became a nation on September 15, 1975.

The Republic of Indonesia was created in 1949 when the Netherlands granted independence to the colonised peoples of the former Dutch East Indies. West New Guinea, however, due to its distinct Melanesian population and cultural characteristics, was retained as a colony by the Dutch, and during the 1950s the government prepared the territory for independence. Indonesian President Sukarno, meanwhile, consistently maintained his country's claim to all former territories of the Dutch, and when his demands were not met, armed conflict ensued in 1962.

Under pressure from the United States to come to terms with Indonesia, the Dutch agreed to secret negotiations. In August 1962 an agreement was con-

cluded in New York called the "New York Agreement" between the Netherlands and Indonesia, under which the Dutch were to leave West New Guinea and transfer sovereignty to the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) for a period of six years until a national vote to determine Papuan preference for independence or integration with Indonesia. Almost immediately, however, Indonesia took over the administration from UNTEA, and the oppression of the West Papuan people intensified.

A sham referendum called "The Act of Free Choice" was held in 1969, and the UN sanctioned a vote by 1025 hand-picked electors, coerced into unanimously choosing to "remain with Indonesia." The UN representative sent to observe the election process produced a report which outlined various serious violations of the New York Agreement. In spite of the "duly noted" report and testimonials from the press, the opposition of 15 countries and the cries for help and justice from the Papuans themselves, West Irian (as it was then known) was handed over to Indonesia in November 1969.

It was during the Cold War that the United States' politicians supported the Indonesian takeover of West Papua. At the time, the US was at war with Vietnam, and realised it was losing. They didn't want communism to gain power anywhere else in the region, so they supported anyone who could stop the communists. Hence their support of the Suharto regime's invasion of West Papua and East Timor. Also, with the Dutch in control, the USA had no access to the vast resources in West Papua. When Holland was preparing West Papua for independence, the US saw that this would still leave it under Dutch influence, so they supported Indonesia instead.

Armed resistance to this oppression started in colonial times and can be traced back to the 1500s from a movement in Biak Island (off the north coast of West Papua) against foreign colonialism. The people of Biak have proven themselves a rebellious tribe to the colonial powers ever since. In April 1964, a Biak gentleman called Penehas Awom formally declared an independent nation of West Papua. Since then,

## FIGHTING

the armed struggle under the name of *Organisasi Papua Merdeka* (OPM—Free Papua Movement) started its fight. Up until now, it is really difficult for West Papuan people to draw a clear line between the people and the OPM; there is one mission: to get rid of Indonesia.

Much of the struggle is rooted in the environmental exploitation of the island. New Guinea contains seven percent of the world's species of flora and fauna, 22 percent of the world's languages and rich mineral resources such as gold, copper, oil/gas, timber and fisheries. It is now estimated that only 75 to 80 percent of Irian Jaya's forests remain. The 1993 Bio-diversity Action Plan for Indonesia stated that over 90 percent of the forest cover still remains.

From the article "Irian Jaya Leads in Its Bio-diversity": "Irian Jaya still provides a rare opportunity to apply the difficult environmental lessons we have learned... located in the western half of the Indonesian archipelago, is perhaps the biologically richest and most diverse assemblage of the ecosystem in the tropical Pacific. In the towering treetops and tangles of vines, the sloth waits for the cover of night to dine on flowers and leaves. The forest also is home to a unique array of plant and animal species including birds of paradise, birdwing butterflies, tree kangaroos, cuscus, orchids, Araucaria trees and rhododendrons... a new calculation indicates that Irian Jaya may have at least 20,000-25,000 species of vascular plants... Furthermore, with at least 164 species of mammals, 329 reptiles and amphibians, some 650 birds, about 250 freshwater and 1,200 marine fishes, an estimated 150,000 insects and many hundreds of other freshwater and marine invertebrates, the island contains nearly one half of Indonesia's total bio-



Victim of the massacre in Timika in December

diversity. As the country's last great rainforest wilderness, Irian Jaya provides a critical opportunity and challenge for planning sustainable development and conservation initiatives."

Freeport MacMoRan, Inc. is the company most responsible for the exploitation of the environment and people in West Papua since the 1960s. It has completed its first 50-year contract and has recently started a second 50-year contract (Phase II). Anglo-American Rio Tinto Zinc and AMRO Bank injected their shares to continue operations in the area. The US Secretary of State at the time of the invasion, Henry Kissinger, is now an executive of Freeport, earning hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Other companies such as Shell and a few Asian companies are now active in

# FOR TRIBAL LAND AND SURVIVAL

Frontlines

gas and oil exploitation in the area. Some operations are going on, and some have just started. Logging companies, owned by the army (TNI), are now clearing the forests very rapidly, and the destruction they have created is significant. Siemens (a German company) and Mamberamo Pty Ltd. (Australian) are now starting to destroy the whole population of Mamebarmo by building a huge dam in the Mamberamo River. At least six tribes will be moved out of the area, and more than 5,000 new families will be relocated from overpopulated islands like Java and Bali to help "Indonesianize" West Papua. The dam will produce hydro-electric power for housing and for processing silver, gold and copper produced by mining operations in the Timika region.

It is estimated that 30,000 West Papuans have died fighting for independence. A recent testimony to this occurred on May 8, 1996, when 22 civilians and 15 alleged guerrillas were killed or disappeared by the Indonesian army aided by security forces employed by Freeport MacMoRan. Others were beaten, arrested, tortured and had their houses burned and gardens destroyed. The villagers were demonstrating against the expansion of Freeport's huge copper and gold mine in Tembagapura. The abuses are the latest in a history of bad relations between Freeport and the local Amungme people whose lands were appropriated when the mine commenced in 1967. Recently, the Indonesian government announced plans to relocate 2,000 people away from the mine area in an attempt to further lure British-Australian and American mining interests. Already, the Freeport MacMoRan consortium's operation dumps around 110,000 tons of mining waste into the Aykwa River every day. The river is biologically dead as are the trees on its banks. The Amungme, as a result of their relocation to lowlands areas, have a high incidence of malaria, a disease that did not affect them in their original Highlands home.

More recently, the brutality has accelerated. On December 2, three civilians were killed by the Indonesian military in Timika. Timika is the most troubled area, where military tanks and Indonesian special forces have been placed. This is where the giant copper and gold mining activities have been going on for the last 50 years. Before this, two people were killed in Manokwari during a peaceful demonstration that led to rioting.

In addition to the armed resistance, ongoing diplomatic effort has been made. The first effort in the 1960s failed because Indonesia won the game to invade West Papua with the support of the US and the UN. Another effort was made on February 26, 1999, when a team of 100 West Papuans went to Jakarta and met Mr. B.J. Habibie, the president of the Republic of Indonesia, to say a simple thing: "Give us back our independence that you robbed from our hands in 1969." They got no clear response to their demand. His reply was, "Go back and reflect on the demand, because the reply to the demand is not easy..."

In the past few years, further violations of the rights of the people have continued. For example, on May 9, 1996, the TNI used a helicopter booked in the name of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to kill more than 15 civilians and destroy villages and crops in Mapenduma. Women were raped and villagers were intimidated and tortured. Some disappeared. The British SAS (elite special military force) was believed to be involved in the incident together with the Dutch army. The SAS claims it was in an operation to release British hostages held by the OPM. The SAS gave military assistance, mercenaries and were even involved in the act of murder against innocent civilians. However, the SAS and ICRC have denied these allegations so far.

The political map of Indonesia has been shaken by its economic crises and political turmoil since 1997. This led to



West Papuan warrior

the resignation of former military dictator General Suharto. The crises have become more uncontrollable and unpredictable under Habibie's presidency, as he allowed East Timor to practice their democratic self-determination, that saw more than 80 percent in favour of independence. Since East Timor's independence, other provinces, including West Papua, have been in line to demand the same right to self-determination.

In line with the progress and dynamic of the political atmosphere in Indonesia in general and in West Papua in particular, West Papua people abroad and international governments have stated their support for resolving the "unresolved land, people and nation." One of Australia's MPs stated in a press release held by the OPM that he supports re-examining the case of West Papua.

At the same time, the West Papua People's Front in Holland held a peaceful demonstration asking the Dutch and Indonesian governments to re-examine the Act of Free Choice and the New York Agreement. In response, the foreign minister of the Netherlands said at the end of last century, "The problem is an unfinished business."

Meanwhile, another peaceful demonstration was held in Jakarta on November 15, 1999, by hoisting the West Papuan flag in the House of Representatives' building and submitting demands from the Papua Students Alliance. In response, Mr. Amin Rais, Chairman of Indonesia People's Assembly, signed the demands and said he personally, as a fellow human being, understands the problems and the demands and he approved the demands

as reasonable saying they need further discussions at the national level. There was also a rumour that the second president of Indonesia, General Suharto, had made several promises to previous Papuan leaders that he will give the chance for the people of West Papua to determine their future in a "democratic manner." He was quoted by one of the leaders, "I am morally responsible for your problems. I need to make sure that they are resolved."

This atmosphere of unity in struggle was furthermore proved by a delegation that went to Jakarta in mid-December. Led by its Chairman, Mr. Kaiway, People's Representatives from West Papua presented these demands: 1) An international dialog as a follow-up to the national dialog between the Irian representatives and former president B.J. Habibie at the State Palace in February; 2) The release of all Irianese [Papuan] political prisoners; 3) The Irian Jaya provincial and regency councils be allowed to hold a general session to channel the Irian people's demand for West Papuan independence; 4) The withdrawal of all military and police personnel from the territory; 5) A thorough investigation into human rights violations from 1961 through to 1999 in the territory; 6) The recognition of a West Papuan state with Port Numbay (Jayapura) as its capital; and 7) The hoisting of United Nations, Indonesian and West Papuan flags as of May 2000 in the territory until a comprehensive solution to the problem is found.

The struggle for West Papuan autonomy is rooted in the modern civilized world. Modern life is characterised by dependence on money. This is what tribal people do not like. Tribal people see money as Satan, as described in the Holy Scriptures of any religion. Once you become dependent on it, you cannot get rid of it; you will always need it, and you will never avoid wanting it. Without it you will die. Modern life is characterised by individualism; a nation consists of individuals. Tribal life sees humans as social beings. One action is always taken by considering the whole society. It is not like modern society where only a group of people plan and act against common wills for the sake of their political and economic gaining. Human beings are devalued in modern society when profits become the focus. This is one of the reasons why this world has started to die.

There is a series of considerations that can be raised from the political tactics and steps of Jakarta. Is this Mr. Wahid's new millennium champagne to West Papua as a people, as a land and as a nation? Is this a genuine response to the demands from West Papua people? If so, is this the price that Jakarta is supposed to pay to the Melanesian tribal peoples and their troubled lands, their robbed rights, their exploited resources and their violated integrity and dignity as human beings? If not, "Why?"

For more information visit [www.eco-action.org/opm/](http://www.eco-action.org/opm/) or [www.fpcn-global.org/](http://www.fpcn-global.org/).

*Amunggut Tabi is the spokesperson for the TPN/OPM in the jungle.*

## 4,408 arrested at School of the Americas

Calling for the shut down of the US Army School of the Americas (SOA), 4,408 human rights activists were arrested November 21 when they crossed the line onto the Ft. Benning military base in protest of the school's long, bloody association with human rights atrocities and massacres throughout Latin America. The demonstration honored the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter on the 10th anniversary of their murder in El Salvador at the hands of SOA graduates.

The line crossing action was led by a solemn procession of protesters in black mourning shrouds and white "death masks." They carried full-sized coffins and tiny, white, child-sized coffins to symbolize the thousands of men, women and children killed and "disappeared" by graduates of the military training school. Thousands carried white wooden crosses bearing the names of SOA victims as the names of the victims of SOA violence were called aloud. Actor Martin Sheen and long-time peace activist and Catholic priest Daniel Berrigan led a wave of protesters across the line drawn on the pavement marking the entrance to the army post.

The action was the culmination of a weekend of protest at the Ft. Benning military camp, which drew more than 12,000 people from around the country.

This is the ninth year that the national advocacy group SOA Watch has organized a mass demonstration in Ft. Benning.

## Actions to liberate Vieques

Demonstrators, demanding that the US Navy leave the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, set up a permanent vigil in early December blocking the gates of Camp Garcia, the Navy's main headquarters on the island. The protesters locked the gates with chains and padlocks. As of this writing the site is still occupied.

On December 7, a group of 10 Vieques supporters were arrested after forming a human chain to block the entrance to the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York City. Those arrested included former world boxing champion Jose Chegui Torres and Father Luis Barrios, an Episcopal minister.

A few days later, four protesters were arrested as they walked through a training camp on Vieques. They had left one of the protest encampments inside Navy land and were headed for the main gate of Camp Garcia when they reportedly got lost.

A group of about 65 Vieques cancer patients and property owners recently filed a \$109 million suit against the Navy, charging they had been "exposed to toxic and hazardous substances by the naval and aerial bombardment" on Vieques. The cancer rate on Vieques has been reported to be 26 percent higher than that of the rest of Puerto Rico. The class-action lawsuit was filed on the same day that two University of Georgia marine biologists reported finding large numbers of live or leaky bombs on the ocean floor off the Navy range, as well as two wrecked ships carrying nearly 1,300 drums containing unidentified chemicals. The Navy recently confirmed that it had used napalm and accidentally fired more than 250 cannon rounds tipped with depleted uranium on the range.

# CELEBRATION IN THE GLEN OF THE DOWNS



BY ÉANNA DOWLING

An ancient woodland in Wicklow County, Ireland, hosted a carnival celebration on January 2 that had nothing to do with millennial indulgence. Activists and artists entertained supporters with music and stories. Families walked through the woods that had been declared closed to the public less than two weeks earlier by Sile De Valera, the Government Minister with responsibility for protecting natural heritage sites. Revered retired Irish folk singer Christy Moore sang at the campfire.

The camp at the Glen of the Downs has been continuously occupied since the summer of 1997. Hundreds of people have stayed there and thousands more have visited or expressed their support. The campaign has caught the imagination of the Irish people. The Glen of the Downs ecosystem has been under threat since the late 1980s when the Wicklow County Council were granted European Union for money to widen the existing two-lane road linking Larne in northeast Ireland to Rosslare in the southeast. The Glen's steep sided quartz-filled valleys are home to beech, oak and ash-hazel woodlands. Some say this is one of the last surviving stands of natural forest in Ireland. The threat to the Glen has become a potent symbol about the unprecedented economic growth in Ireland. Now established as a vibrant dynamic European growth centre, Ireland boasts the world's fastest growing economy. Unemployment dropped from 18 percent to six percent in six years and 28 percent of all US' European investment is in Ireland.

Coming up to Christmas, activity in the Glen increased. Wicklow County Council made two raids on the woodland. On December 7 workers felled about 50 trees—a beautiful ash grove at the entrance to the car park—before determined activists forced them to back off. Tree houses were occupied, lock-ons activated, tunnels shut from the inside. By nightfall more than 60 activists were in the Glen, prepared to stay.

Every morning brought the possibility of further felling. Defenses were strengthened and donations

poured in. As the camp dwellers' resolve grew stronger, the legal team attempted to find a way to stop the felling. On December 9 they were refused a judicial review in the High Court. The following day the council's contract workers once again attempted to fell trees. This time they only managed to cut three before the activists' presence intimidated them sufficiently to back off. That night the legal team was granted an injunction to stop felling, and a High Court hearing was set for December 13.



Looking into the trees at Glen of the Downs, circa 1998.

The legal initiative was unsuccessful. The legal team sought to invoke the protection of the European Union Habitats Directive. The Glen of the Downs was listed by the State Heritage Service as Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)—the designation for land protected by the Habitats Directive. The High Court judge ruled that the directive could only be invoked to protect the Glen if an application to protect the area was received on the same day it was designated! This in effect renders

environmental legislation in Ireland—and throughout Europe—impotent. An earlier Supreme Court decision made it clear that the Glen's status as a National Nature Reserve—Ireland's first—would not protect it either. This ridiculous High Court decision was appealed to the Supreme Court which upheld it on December 21. On the winter solstice the highest court in Ireland ruled that legislation to protect the environment had no power.

During Christmas week Minister Sile De Valera announced that the Glen was closed to the public on grounds of safety. She told the media that the activists had made the woodland dangerous to the public. She is responsible for ensuring the preservation of national heritage and has abdicated that responsibility in favour of compliance with the government's economic-growth-at-all-costs policies. However, the closure of the Glen was a media event—no physical presence attempted to enforce it, and the general public showed their disgust by turning up in droves.

January 14 is the second anniversary of the first attempt by council workers to fell trees in the Glen of the Downs. Since January 14, 1998, activists have stopped four attempts to cut trees. Their case has been represented four times in the Supreme Court, and they have won a number of points in a High Court Judicial Review. The cost of the project has rocketed from Ir£18.5 million (circa \$23 million) to Ir£ 35 million (circa \$41 million). Sections of the pop media have championed the campaign—the "eco-warrior" label has been accepted as part of the national psyche.

Although there are no legal obstacles to stop Wicklow Council workers from felling trees, the campaign is a huge success. It has drawn attention to a new generation of activists and highlighted serious problems in Irish national law and politics. Most importantly, the trees are still standing and that damned motorway is still just a series of lines on an engineer's chart.

For more information, contact Eanna Dowling, Brownstown Little, The Curragh, Co. Kildare, Ireland; glenofthedowns@ireland.com.

## MEHESHWAR DAM RE-OCCUPIED

In spite of heavy police protection, Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activists walked throughout the night and occupied the destructive Maheshwar Dam site early in the morning on January 11 and stopped work. Nearly 4,000 affected people and activists captured the site. About 1,500 people were prevented by the police from moving toward the dam.

More than 1,500 people who were on dharna (sit-in) at the dam site were arrested by the Madhya Pradesh Police. Police misbehaved, beating some people inside the bus while taking them to the police station.

Earlier in the morning as the people started dharna at the site with slogans and songs, the officials came forward to persuade the activists to withdraw their agitation. Talks went on for four hours without result. At about 1:00 p.m. the 1,500 people were forcefully arrested.

For the past three years strong agitation has been going on against the destructive Maheshwar Dam, and it was exactly two years ago on January 11, 1998 that the dam was occupied for more than 20 days (see EPIJ March-April 1998). That occupation led the Madhya Pradesh Government to set up a Task Force. After a 10 month study, the Task Force has recommended a comprehensive review of the Maheshwar Project to reassess its cost-benefit ratio and the viability

and desirability of the project. However, instead of acting on this recommendation, the government allowed the private company South Kumars to continue with the project, unleashing repression on affected people. The occupiers are demanding complete a stop of work on the project and a comprehensive review as recommended by the Task Force.

Although the project will have a proposed installed capacity of 400 megawatts, the average amount used will be only 82 megawatts, and power production in the eight non-monsoon months will be no more than one and one half hours a day. Yet the cost of power from this project will be prohibitively high. The project was privatized in 1994 and handed over to South Kumars and that company has, even prior to the financial closure, inflated project costs five folds in the course of just five years.

NBA, along with its vast number of supporters from the state and all over the country, warns the government that truth and reality cannot be suppressed through the repressive methods of forceful arrests upon nonviolent agitators, and it will carry on strong agitation against the destructive Maheshwar Project.

For more information contact International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 848-1155; [www.narmada.org](http://www.narmada.org).

## BURMA DAMS MUST BE STOPPED

Plans to build giant dams on the Salween River in Burma must be stopped. The planning has now reached a critical decision making stage, beyond which it will become ever more difficult to stop this nightmare project.

The feasibility study for the largest dam, the Tasang (188 meters tall, 3,300 MW), has already been completed. It is believed that governments and financiers are now evaluating this study with a view to approve or reject it. The smaller Hutgyi Dam (37 meters tall, 300 MW) is in pre-feasibility studies.

Damming the Salween River would have extraordinarily harmful consequences. The nearly 600-foot-high Tasang will flood about 24 miles up the Salween River destroying miles of forest, killing wildlife and destroying natural habitat. Increased sedimentation downstream will kill fish, destroy mangrove estuaries, and change water temperatures, while still water will increase the risk of malaria in the area and have a drastic affect on marine life. The damming will also force the eviction without compensation of tens of thousands of villagers. The construction of the dam has far-reaching implications as well. The dam and related infrastructure will require a huge work force which will inevitably lead to sewage problems, forest clearance and road construction at the dam site.

The Salween runs through the heartlands of indigenous peoples who have been suffering in what has been described as the longest continuously running civil war in current history.



On the shore of the Salween

Some 1,400 villages have recently been forced from their lands in the context of a so-called anti-insurgency program. Many Karens and Karenni people are already living in refugee camps in Thailand, driven from their lands by previous military operations in projected flood and dam site areas.

The dams will benefit few people other than those in the privileged business, bureaucratic and military circles. They will deepen the suffering of many who already have far more than their share of misery. We therefore request that you add your voices and written words to ours to try to stop these plans from advancing further.

For more information contact Salween Watch at [salweenwatch@hotmail.com](mailto:salweenwatch@hotmail.com).

# Horror in Paradise:

## How the quest for Aluminum has corroded the Caribbean's golden crown

BY HUMBLE ANZAN

Since the late 1940s, the bauxite industry in central Jamaica has clearly, undeniably and intentionally released and mismanaged mass quantities of environmentally destructive materials—all in the name of profit.

Many internationally owned companies operate significant mining and/or refining operations in Jamaica. A full third of the world's alumina (refined bauxite), a white powder which is the principle ingredient in making aluminum, comes from the hilly central region of Jamaica.

Mandeville, approximately 50 miles northwest of Kingston, is at the very epicenter of the Jamaican bauxite world. Its crowded marketplace is patronised by hundreds of locals; the employees work around the clock in the hazardous conditions of the refineries and mines. Paid the equivalent of only \$50 to \$75 per week, these economically deprived people struggle to make ends meet in a country suffering from 40 percent unemployment. Internal ALPART documents clearly indicate that the environmental hygienist has recommended that "employees working in operations should, at minimum, wear a paper filter mask while on the plant site." Although provided, they are kept under lock and key and only a few employees have access to them.

The oldest of the companies operating in Jamaica is JAMALCAN, owned by Aluminum Canada of Quebec. It has contributed to the deforestation of hundreds of hillsides and created huge lakes of contaminated mud saturated with chemicals used in the refining process. Although JAMALCAN touts its dedica-

tion to the preservation of the natural environment, I uncovered documents that clearly show spills of hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel from storage tanks less than 500 yards from the Caribbean Sea at Port Esquivel!

JAMALCAN has air quality monitors set-up around its Ewarton plant to record levels of toxic emissions, but the 40-year-old facility is a ticking time bomb. A technician has been measuring the levels of greenhouse gasses emitted by the plant. The emission levels recorded since the time of installation three years ago have shown an annual increase.

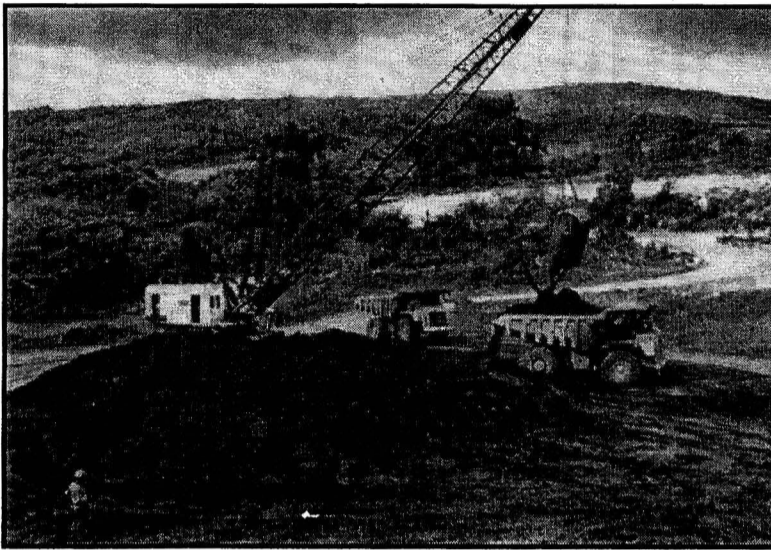
Pipes carrying superheated waste water from a JAMALCAN plant to a collecting pool ruptured, creating a never ending deluge of scalding hot, diluted caustic solution and water cascading through a nicely landscaped and hand-manicured lawn area along the back road. Trees, grasses, insects, humans and eventually low lying farmlands below the factory's hilltop vantage point were exposed to the liquid which is used in the process at nearly all of the alumina refining plants worldwide. It is mostly a solution of caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) and superheated water. The release of this solution directly into the ecosystem acts as a defoliating agent by "steaming" the plants like vegetables.

Curious as I am, I decided to look exactly where this run off was heading. I went to the plant to have a look around and discovered that the leak had been "repaired" by slowing (not stopping) the flow. I could easily track the flow as it descended the hillside along the curb of the road, then into a drain, down a ditch. I thought the ditch would lead to a containment pond, but

problem. Since the beginning of plant operations in the late 1960s, ALPART has dumped 1,400 gallons of equal parts sulfuric acid and caustic soda daily into the Glory Hole, a limestone cavern under the plant's power generating station. It is unknown to ALPART if this acid is neutralised by the caustic soda or the limestone or if it is heading into the water table. Environmental people fear that this could be a rather significant problem in the future. No plans are in the works to rectify this situation.

Most disturbing to me, was my discovery that several hundred gallons of sulfuric acid was spilled by ALPART. Documents indicate that restricting access was the only treatment for the spill area. Due to costs, no efforts were made to clean up, recover or lessen the impact of the spill. Actually, no one realised the extent of the spill in gallons, but when I asked how much it cost ALPART, the representative knew the dollar amount lost.

Our society has a love affair with improving things and striving for higher profits. Lighter, faster and more economical operating costs for automobiles, lighter aircraft and more convenient packaging have led to more invasive and determined mining and refining techniques for the aluminum industry. Since the 1940s the industry has done everything in its power to capture the elusive white dust from the red dirt of Jamaica. Please help recycling efforts throughout the world. But more importantly, stop using aluminum.



ALCAN bauxite mining near Mandeville, Jamaica

Photo by Michael Koonin

rather it flowed directly into a tributary of the Salt Island Creek, a direct feed into the Caribbean.

The vast amount of chemicals (millions of gallons of caustic soda alone) used in the alumina refining process is mind boggling. Lists indicate that the total number of chemicals are in the thousands. ALPART internal documents indicate that the majority of these chemicals are flushed into the plant's sewer (for waste and storm water) and sent to the North Lake.

ALPART admits to having a storage

## Aussies Still Defending Kakadu

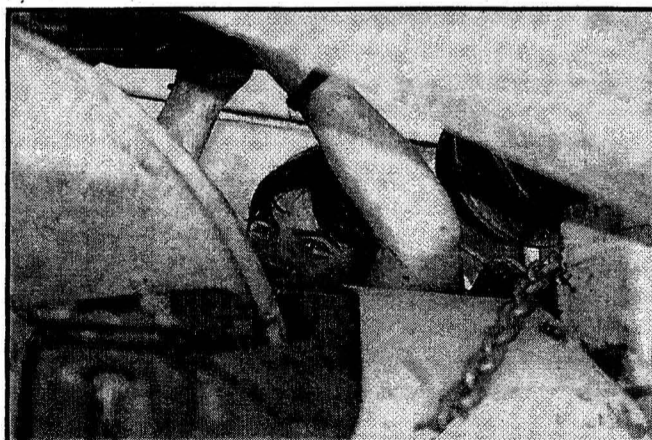
BY AUSTRALIA EF!

The campaign to stop the Jabiluka uranium mine in Australia's Kakadu National Park has become a huge national issue. The granting of mining leases in the 1970s when the boundaries of Kakadu were drawn up were controversial in themselves, and the issue has been an emotional one since.

Ranger uranium mine has been in operation for some time now, on a separate lease about 25 kilometres from the Jabiluka site. The Jabiluka mineral lease lies within the land of the Mirrar people who are recognised as the traditional owners. Represented by Yvonne Margarula, the senior traditional owner, the Mirrar have fought the mine every step of the way. Yvonne's father gave permission for the mine in the late 70s after incredible pressure and promises of economic support for his community. None of this economic support was forthcoming and the people in Kakadu still live in appalling conditions.

Energy Resources Australia (ERA) which bought the lease from Pan Continental planned to commence construction of the Jabiluka mine in 1998. A blockade camp was established within Kakadu and 17 kilometres from the lease site. Set up throughout the eight-month dry season in 1998, the camp saw over 2,500 visitors. Regular buses from all major cities ran up to the camp throughout the year. Entry to the lease was prevented for several months using dragons and a constant presence of campaigners. There were constant actions after the dragons were removed, and over 500 people were arrested trespassing on the land including Yvonne Margarula (see *EF!* August-September 1998).

In addition to the blockade, huge demonstrations took place in cities all around Australia as people showed their support for the Mirrar and their anger toward ERA for mining in Kakadu. As well as continued blockades of North Limited, the parent company of ERA, there have been successful corporate campaigns against businesses investing in North and ERA.



Protester locked onto mining equipment.

Photo courtesy Friends of the Earth Sydney

The Mirrar have taken the campaign to an international level. Kakadu is a designated world heritage site, both because of its natural beauty and its cultural heritage. The Australian government, led by Environment Minister Robert Hill, lobbied UNESCO not to list Kakadu as "in danger." This lobbying cost the Australian government millions of dollars, showing how far they are prepared to go in support of big business.

ERA has been planning to truck the extracted ore from the Jabiluka site to the Ranger mine to use the existing mill. This would further threaten the area with a 20 kilometre road through the heart of

Kakadu and many sacred sites.

The Northern Land Council, on behalf of the Mirrar, have announced there will be no discussion of the Jabiluka Mill Alternative between the Mirrar and ERA until January 2005, seriously challenging the likelihood of completion at Jabiluka. It will cost ERA \$150 million (Aus) to construct a mill at Jabiluka, a cost some suggest will be prohibitive to the project. Jabiluka has been condemned as an environmental and cultural disaster, but now appears to be an economic disaster as well.

The first phase of construction is completed, with surface facilities, excavation to the ore body and drill core samples recovered for geological excavation. But now if it is economically unviable perhaps ERA will abandon the project. Although it is too soon to celebrate, this is certainly heartening news after the disappointing result at UNESCO. The campaign is not over yet, but things are finally turning our way, and we're going to stop Jabiluka!

There are two other new mines that have received government approval—Honeymoon and Beverley mines in South Australia. These mines will employ insitu leaching as the means of extracting the ore. There is also a radioactive waste dump in South Australia proposed. All of these are on aboriginal land with no regard for their spiritual connection to the land or to their health. The nuclear cycle must be stopped here, at its very beginning. Lobby your government not to buy Australian uranium.

For more information contact Friends of the Earth-Sydney, Suite 15, 1 Floor, 104 Bathurst Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000; (61) 2-2673-6101, 2-9283-2005(fax); <http://vic.jag.org.au/>.



**Javelina activists disrupt Mining Hall of Fame**

The American Mining Hall of Fame Awards were disrupted by the "Javelina" activists in response to Peabody Coal's mining activities in Northern Arizona on traditional Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi land. The banquet was held December 4 to induct Irl Engelhardt, CEO of Peabody Group, into the Mining Hall of Fame. Attendees jeered and physically attacked the demonstrators during the protest which lasted only a matter of minutes before security personnel removed the banquet busters.

A Javalina group member was handing out information when he was attacked by several banquet delegates, knocked to the floor, and punched several times in the face and body. He was arrested and released on his own recognizance while police ignored his requests to press charges regarding the violence.

The action brings attention to the ongoing cultural and religious violations caused by Peabody's mining operations. As the mines continue to expand, more people will have to be relocated. The group said that they felt it was inappropriate that someone with such a tarnished human rights and environmental record be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Approximately 9,000 Dineh people have been forced from the traditional sacred lands they have occupied for centuries, to make way for the mines.

Peabody is also responsible for the destruction of over 2,400 archaeological and burial sites and for using 61 percent of the water withdrawn annually from the deep water tables.

Human rights and environmental organizations worldwide have protested the continuation of the Black Mesa and Kayenta mining operations since 1972.

**Cows against Genetic Modification**

BOCM Pauls, a company which manufactures more animal feed than any other company in the UK and uses genetically modified (GM) ingredients in most of its products, was the latest target for Newcastle-based anti-genetics group GeneNo! The company's cattle feed mill at Chilton Industrial Estate, County Durham, was visited December 14 by three cows who scaled two large grain silos and suspended a banner with the words "No GM Animal Feeds." The rest of the herd remained on the ground holding banners reading, "We don't need animal feed!"

It was only after 15 minutes a very irate security guard marched over to the group and forcibly removed a placard from a surprised cow before destroying it and calling the police.

Having made its point, the herd soon decided it was time to leave but found themselves unable to get out of the gates, which had been padlocked. The police arrived, and there was some confusion when the cows claimed to have shut the factory down. However, the gates were quickly unlocked by security guards (GeneNo! have decided not to press charges for false imprisonment), and the animals have returned to their organic green pastures.

BOCM Pauls is one of the companies involved in the contaminated animal feed scandal which led to the mad cow crisis.

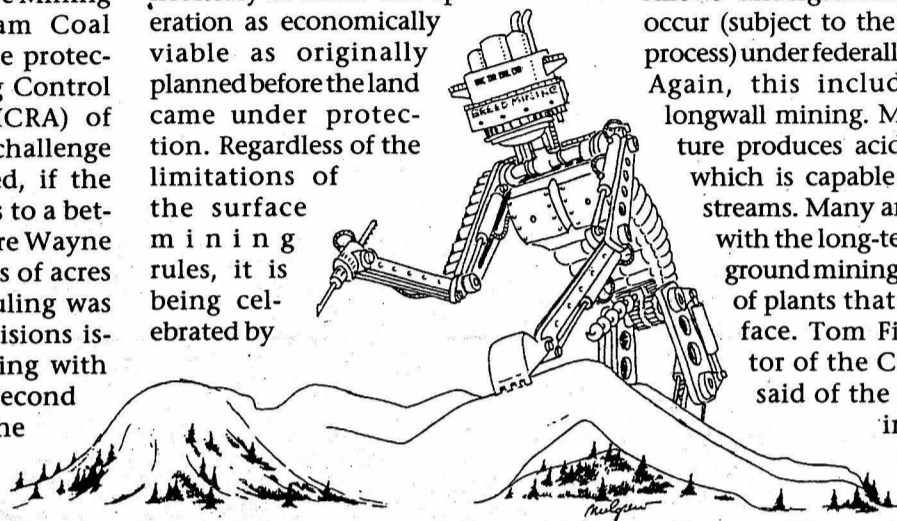
**Surface Mining Curtailed in Ohio's Wayne NF**

BY JASON TOCKMAN

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has finally curtailed virtually all surface coal mining on Ohio's Wayne National Forest and millions of acres of other protected federal lands by developing a definition for the phrase "valid existing rights" (VER). The term's ambiguity had left the door open to interpretation, which has allowed companies like Belville Mining Company and Buckingham Coal Company to circumvent the protections of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. Although an industry challenge to the new rule is expected, if the decision stands, it translates to a better future for the 229,000-acre Wayne National Forest and millions of acres of public lands. The VER ruling was one of two companion decisions issued on December 17 dealing with underground mining. The second ruling is as disastrous as the first is promising. The OSM estimates the latter decision will put extensive tracts of state and federal lands where the mineral rights are privately held at risk of the adverse effects of underground coal mining.

The new regulations define when a coal mining operation can avoid the protections of Section 522 of the SMCRA. While this has positive implications for many millions of acres of federal lands, it is the Wayne National Forest that will most benefit by this rule. This is due to the heightened level of coal stripmining that the Wayne has experienced as a result of ambitious coal companies that have used the courts to twist SMCRA in knots. The OSM's ruling effectively undoes these knots. In its ruling on surface mining, the OSM has defined VER to preclude coal stripmining unless a coal company can demonstrate that it has

made a "good faith effort to obtain all necessary permits" prior to the land coming under federal protection. While the "Good Faith-All Permits" standard is the most stringent and protective ruling it is not without loopholes. The decision allows coal exploration on protected federal lands, as well as stripmining on federal lands immediately adjacent to existing mines, if a company can show that the mining is necessary to make the operation as economically viable as originally planned before the land came under protection. Regardless of the limitations of the surface mining rules, it is being celebrated by



those who have fought against coal mining on the Wayne.

Had the new standards been in place over the last 10 years, bids by Buckingham, Belville and Avis Coal Company to stripmine on the Wayne would have been unsuccessful. The rule-making serves as a vindication for environmentalists and coalfield citizens, who have for years argued that the coal mining is illegal.

The underground mining decision concludes that the prohibitions on surface mining do not apply to the "surface impacts of underground mining." As a result, coal companies will not be required to seek permission from the surface owner before mining underneath their homes or property. The decision does the fol-

lowing: 1) Assures that almost two million families will be put at risk from the impacts of underground mining, including longwall mining, where all the coal is removed and the collapse of the surface is a certainty. Of the millions of homes at risk, the OSM conservatively assessed that about 30,000 residences will sustain actual damages, including cracking walls, buckling floors and collapsing houses; 2) Allows underground coal mining to occur (subject to the standard permit process) under federally protected lands. Again, this includes devastating longwall mining. Mining of this nature produces acid mine drainage, which is capable of killing entire streams. Many are also concerned with the long-term effects underground mining has on the health of plants that live on the surface. Tom FitzGerald, director of the Coal Law Project, said of the new rules: "The irony of the final rule is that the Clinton administration

has extended the greatest degree of protection to homes, churches and parks from strip-mining damage by narrowing exemptions from the buffer zones created under federal law, yet has placed those same homes, families, community buildings and public parks at risk of being undermined. It is a cruel and illogical reading of the law that will be challenged in court."

Environmental and coalfield citizens groups plan to appeal the new rule on underground mining and will work to protect surface mining rules from the anticipated challenges from the coal industry. For more information on either of these rules, contact the Buckeye Forest Council at (740) 594-6400; bfc@frognet.net.

**HUNTERS BEWARE—MAD DEER IS COMING FOR YOU!**

BY JAMES

Three young hunters contract a mysterious disease that leads to dementia and death... Shadowy government officials extract brains from deer heads in Maine... Elk farms in New England hold the key to a deadly disease that government officials warn could spread to thousands...

Sounds like the dust jacket of the latest techno-thriller, huh? But it's actually a real life drama being played out in government labs and in woods across the United States.

The story begins with two young men and a woman—two dead and one dying—who contracted a condition identified as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopath (TSE), more commonly known as Mad Cow Disease. All of the victims had recently consumed wild venison that they'd hunted.

TSEs are known to afflict the brains and nervous systems of a variety of mammal species including deer, elk, sheep, cattle, cats, mink and humans. TSE is caused by prions—little understood protein-like substances. Here's the bad news: Prions are extremely difficult to detect and even harder to kill. Here's the really bad news: Prions can remain infectious on correctly sterilized surgical instruments and have been transmitted through corneal transplants, growth hormones and meat—even meat that has been thoroughly cooked.

There isn't really any good news here. The really, really bad news is that everyone who gets bum prions dies an extremely grotesque death marked by memory loss, disorientation, dramatic mood swings, delusions, violence, loss of motor control, convulsions and other weird behavior. It is not a pleasant way to go.

Before Mad Cow Disease ravaged England and scared hamburger aficionados shitless worldwide, there was no evidence

that TSE could be passed from one species to another. But the Mad Deer Disease that seems to be infecting hunters may indicate, make that probably does indicate, that there are some really nasty TSE lurking in the woods of North America. A mysterious "chronic wasting disease" has infected four to eight percent of the deer in Colorado and Wyoming and one percent of elk. Department of Agriculture officials recently took brain samples of 299 deer shot in Maine last November, presumably looking to see if the TSEs have spread to the Northeast. "They used a fancy spoon thingy," reported Mark Caron, a Maine wildlife biologist.

Of particular concern to officials are deer and elk that are captured from the wild and shipped from western states to New England animal farms where their velvet is harvested for the Asian aphrodisiac market. "Elk farming is the recipe for introducing chronic wasting disease into areas where it has not existed before," said Dr. Victor Nettles, director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. The state of Massachusetts has gone so far as to ban elk farming.

Officials from the Department of Agriculture and Center for Disease Control have been typically cautious in asserting that there is in fact a Mad Deer Disease that can jump from deer and elk to humans. But if I were a hunter, I wouldn't be shooting any deer or elk that behave erratically. And I sure as hell wouldn't eat 'em. Have a nice day.



*You talkin' to me?*

# DEFENDING ALLEGHENY FORESTS

A Special Publication of the Allegheny Defense Project



## Corporate Giants Threaten Eastern Public Forests

The heart of the Allegheny forests lies along the Allegheny Plateau - an ancient geological uprising that spans across much of western and northern Pennsylvania and southern New York. Before the arrival of Europeans these forests were dominated by towering eastern hemlock, american beech, and white pine and through them roamed Eastern Cougar, Gray Wolf, Fisher and Indiana Bat.

100 years ago, corporate "pioneers" moved their way through the Allegheny forests of Pennsylvania and New York. Modern day timber giants such as Collins Pine of Portland, Oregon, got their start clearcutting the old growth white pine hills that would later become part of the Allegheny National Forest. Oil giants such as Rockefeller's Standard Oil would build monopolies on Pennsylvania's "vast" deposits of crude. The forests of the Alleghenies were decimated, timber and oil companies closed shop, and severely depressed economies would dominate the landscape for years to come.

After the timber and oil giants moved on, the forests began to recover. However, as the trees grew back and newer oil extraction technologies were developed, opportunities to exploit these resources for wealth would once again arise.

### The Rise and Fall of the Oil Industry

The first commercial oil well in North America was drilled in northwestern Pennsylvania in 1859 by Colonel Edwin L. Drake. By the early 1900s Rockefeller's Standard Oil was staunchly entrenched in the oil fields of northwestern Pennsylvania. The oil boom, however, would not last.

Today, the exploitation of our forests for oil continues. Using newer technologies the oil industry continues to exploit the Allegheny bioregion for its resources. But time is running short. The Allegheny region has seen two of its major refineries threaten closure in less than five years. While communities struggle to salvage jobs the industry looks to exploit the remaining crude deposits. The situation looks more grave with each passing day. Roads to access the oil, oil spills, and poor drilling techniques threaten both wild and human communities.

### The Return of Big Timber

In 1923, in response to large-scale clearcutting of our forests and subsequent flooding and catastrophic wildfires, Congress created the Allegheny National Forest. By this time the timber industry had mostly disappeared. For the next 40 years the primary emphasis of management on the Allegheny would be to leave it alone - thereby allowing the forests to restore themselves. But by the 1960s, the forests that were originally clearcut in the 1880s would be reaching economic "maturity" virtually ensuring that big timber would return.

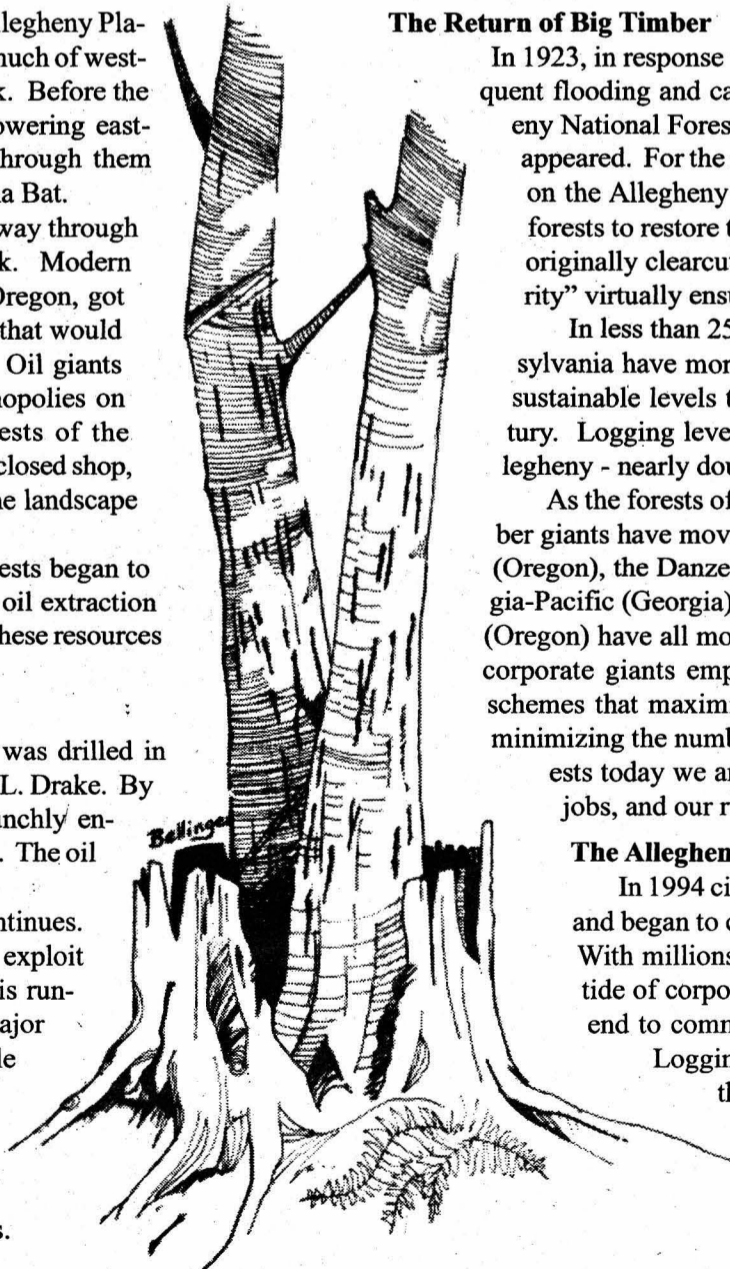
In less than 25 years, from 1969 to 1992, logging levels in Pennsylvania have more than tripled and are rapidly approaching the unsustainable levels that marked the devastation at the turn of the century. Logging levels on Pennsylvania's only national forest - the Allegheny - nearly doubled in the 1980s.

As the forests of the Alleghenies grow to economic "maturity" timber giants have moved in from across the globe. Willamette Industries (Oregon), the Danzer Group (Germany), Temple-Inland (Texas), Georgia-Pacific (Georgia), International Paper (New York), and Collins Pine (Oregon) have all moved in to our region over the past 20 years. These corporate giants emphasize large scale, highly-automated production schemes that maximize the amount of land that can be clearcut while minimizing the number of workers needed. If we don't defend our forests today we are sure to see our biodiversity, our watersheds, our jobs, and our rural culture disappear.

### The Allegheny Defense Project

In 1994 citizens from throughout the region gathered together and began to create a movement to defend the Allegheny forests. With millions of acres of public forests at risk due to the rising tide of corporate timber, citizens have quickly moved to put an end to commercial logging on the Allegheny National Forest.

Logging levels on the national forest have dwindled but threats to clearcut these public lands remain. Today we are poised to defend the Allegheny National Forest from all forms of industrial extraction while moving forward to restore state and private forest lands as well.

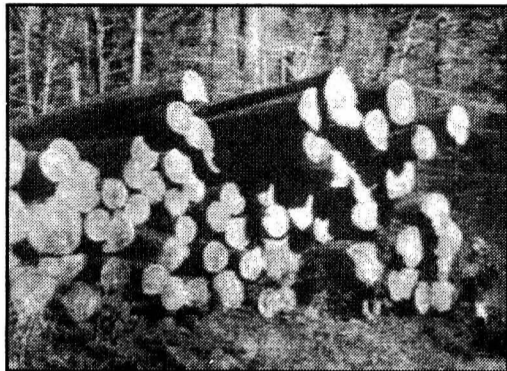


# STOP THE BIGGEST TIMBER SALE IN THE EAST!

In 1995, the U.S. Forest Service launched a "salvage" clearcutting plan for the Allegheny National Forest called "Mortality II." This plan called for logging on over 5,000 acres of the Allegheny (including more than 2,000 acres of clearcuts.) The pseudo-logic for the Mortality II Timber Sale was the idea that if the Forest Service did not log these forests they would become old and decadent - like old growth forests - and die! Citizens organized against this monstrous plan and in 1997 a federal court ruled that the Mortality II Timber Sale was illegal.

## East Side is Mortality II Too!

In April of 1998 the Forest Service re-introduced the Mortality II Timber Sale and re-labeled it "East Side." It is called East Side because it will thoroughly destroy vast expanses of the eastern portion of the Allegheny.



## East Side Clearcuts

The East Side Timber Sale calls for cutting of 6,906 acres of the Allegheny. That includes 3,156 acres of clearcuts (nearly 5 square miles of forest) and 3,500 acres of even-aged thinning

cuts (i.e. pre-clearcut 'weeding'.) Plans include the logging of areas previously designated as protected to grow into old growth forests and some of the Allegheny's smaller and unprotected roadless areas!

## East Side Herbicides

East Side also calls for the use of herbicides on 3,082 acres. The Forest Service uses the highly toxic herbicides Roundup (developed by Monsanto) and Oust (developed by DuPont) to destroy what they define as "interfering vegetation" - which equates to tree and plant species that are not valuable to the industry.

## East Side Road Construction

East Side calls for road construction on 90.5 miles of logging roads including 17.2 miles of new roads. This construction is done primarily at the tax-payers' expense, causes serious sedimentation and erosion problems, and relies upon stone dug out of gravel pits created on the forest.

## What you can do!

The timber industry is especially interested in the Allegheny because of its large composition of black cherry - an extremely valuable hardwood veneer species. Because of the black cherry's value the Allegheny has been the heaviest cut national forest in the northeast. Only you can stop the East Side Timber Sale. Send letters of protest to: John Palmer, Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA 16465, Palmer\_John/r9\_allegheny@fs.fed.us, (814) 723-5150.

## Round 'em Up, Oust 'em Out

From 1996 to 1998, 4,406 acres of the Allegheny National Forest (our public land) were sprayed with the toxic herbicides Roundup (made by Monsanto) and Oust (DuPont.) The Forest Service does this as part of their "reforestation treatments"—treatments to reforest the cash crop black cherry, that is.

These two chemicals have been shown to be highly toxic to human and wild life. Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, has been shown to kill fish at concentrations as low as ten parts per million. Roundup has the ability to drift 400 to 800 meters from its site of application, and residues can remain in the soil for over a year.

Sulfometuron methyl, the active ingredient in Oust, is notorious for leaching out of soil into water supplies, and has also been shown to cause cancer. It too can drift far from the source of application.

Even more frightening, the synergistic effect of the two chemicals mixed together has never been tested. Indeed, no one knows if the two chemicals, which the Forest Service often applies in combination, have a greater effect than either one alone.

Both herbicides act to reduce the biological diversity of the forest. The chemicals are sprayed in order to destroy any vegetation that may compete with black cherry seedlings. These "nuisance" species include valuable food sources like american beech trees.

Herbicide spraying on our public lands is a threat to the health of the forest, wildlife, human visitors, and those who get their drinking water from the forest.



Clearcut at Four Mile Run in the Allegheny National Forest.

## Black Cherry: Cash Crop of the East

The Pennsylvania hardwood industry brags that the Allegheny Plateau supplies about 75% of the black cherry used in the world. The unglaciated plateau provides the most ideal growing conditions for black cherry anywhere. Today in the Allegheny National Forest black cherry is one of the dominant tree species - but this wasn't always the case.

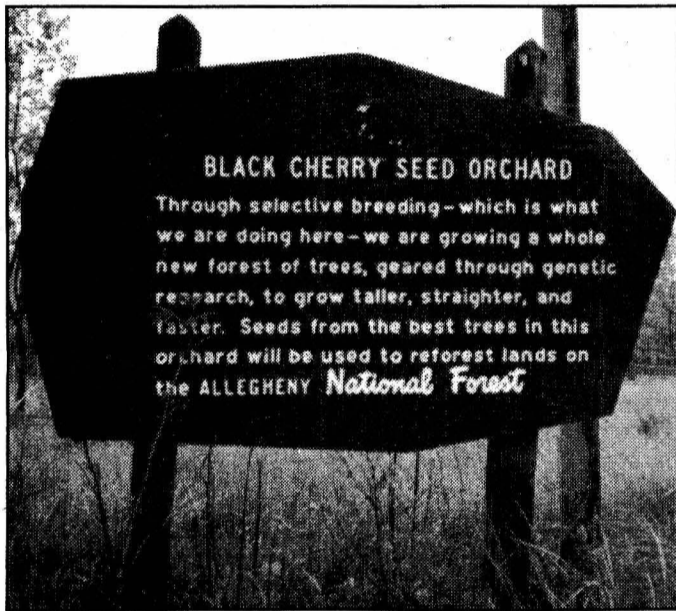
These forests were once dominated by 200 to 400 year old eastern hemlock, american beech, white pine, and sugar maple. Massive clearcutting at the turn of the century destroyed almost all of that legacy and in its place grew black cherry.

Before Europeans settled here, black cherry made up only 1% of the overstory canopy. Today, black cherry makes up 28% of the Allegheny forest canopy.

But the proliferation of black cherry isn't simply an accidental result of historical clearcutting. Today the Forest Service spends millions of dollars trying to determine new and more efficient means to create a black cherry monoculture. Clearcutting and herbicide application methods are specifically designed to promote more cherry.

The Forest Service uses deer fencing and seed tubes to protect black cherry trees from deer browsing that other species are subjected to. They maintain orchards for genetically "superior" seed propagation. The result is that nearly half (~45%) of the understorey, or future forest canopy, is now made up of black cherry.

The dominance of black cherry is reducing biodiversity at an alarming rate. Other species, such as hemlock, beech, and hickory, that provide far better habitat and food sources for forest wildlife, are compromised. Furthermore, the proliferation of native ferns and non-native grasses is exacerbated by the use of clearcutting and herbicides to promote the cherry. Unfortunately, all of this is done for a species that is used solely for luxury items such as costly veneer and paneling.



This swamp, that the Forest Service claims is not a wetland, would be cut as part of the East Side Timber Sale.

# CORPORATIONS V. FOREST COMMUNITIES



## Willamette Off the Planet!

Willamette Industries is a multinational corporation based in Oregon. Having devastated the ancient forests in the West, Willamette, along with other timber giants Collins Pine, Georgia-Pacific, Temple-Inland, and International Paper, has turned toward the regenerating hardwood forests of Penn's Woods. They have brought with them chip mills, medium-density fiberboard plants, hydro feller-bunchers, and experience in destroying communities and forests. The result has been shattered lives, rampant health problems, polluted rivers, and fields of stumps.

In 1993, Willamette built the "Keystone Chipping" facility in Lantz Corners, near Kane, PA, "The Black Cherry Capital of the World." The facility was built on a wetland without a permit or public notification. The ramifications for the community of Lantz Corners have been severe. Intense noise pollution, stream pollution, and dry wells are just a few of the problems these folks have faced.

The community here has fought Willamette long and hard. Their frustrations are voiced in giant lawn signs reading "Willamette: Your Noise is Harming our Families" and "Willamette: How Many Acres of the Allegheny National Forest Chipped this Year?" posted along a several-mile section of Route 6.

In October 1998, Allegheny Earth First! activists blockaded the entrance to the chip mill, forcing the plant to close for a day. The action brought widespread attention to the plight of the people at Lantz Corners and the forests of the Allegheny.

## Cutting Forests, Cutting Jobs

"Loggers: The Next Endangered Species," reads a sign prominently displayed outside a shop. Another store sells t-shirts saying, "Hug a logger. You'll never go back to trees." Sound like Northern California?

Nope. This is Northwestern Pennsylvania, where the timber beast has been roaring for over a century. But, while a hundred years ago the clearcutting was done with large teams of loggers and horses, today it takes only two or three workers using heavy machinery a matter of weeks to reduce a large swath of forest to stumps.

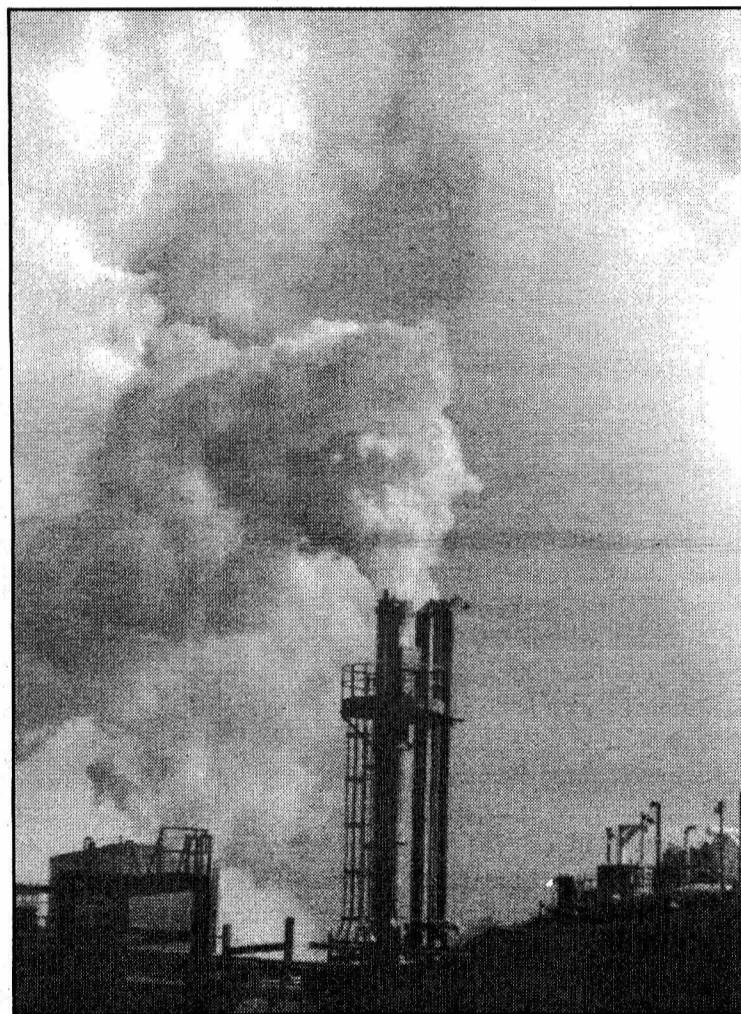
With the rapid decrease in jobs due to mechanization, and the unsustainable logging practices taking place throughout the region, the first slogan may be all too accurate—but not as a result of "preservationists," as the timber industry has tried to persuade folks.

"Value-added industries" are also decreasing. From 1980 to 1990, the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry of the Allegheny region decreased by about 25%, though logging increased during this period. More and more, we are seeing job-destroying technologies such as high-capacity chip mills and increased exportation of raw logs to other countries—particularly Germany and Japan.

Meanwhile, recreation jobs are threatened by unsustainable logging and oil and gas development in the region. Recreation provides almost three times as many jobs as timber extraction in the Alleghenies.

In order to sustain the human populations of the region, the area must diversify. Worker retraining will be vital to any plan to create sustainable economies. The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act would help by shifting timber subsidies in part to worker retraining. But mostly, the people of the region need to come together and focus energy on solving these problems rather than on resuscitating the dying timber beast.

## WHAT'S IN THE STACKS WILLAMETTE?



Meanwhile, the Willamette paper mill in Johnsonburg, PA, has been dousing residents with noxious gases since the early '90s, and folks in the community have been fighting the giant as long. Willamette bought the mill from Pentech over ten years ago, and tripled its capacity without increasing pollution control measures. Curiously, this increase in capacity has not increased jobs.

In May 1999, The Allegheny Defense Project and PROACT (another group fighting the chip mill) filed a request with the Pennsylvania State Attorney's office to revoke Willamette Industries' charter to do business in PA. This came after the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) April 1999 citation for violations of the Clean Air Act. Willamette had been releasing about six times as much sulfur dioxide and about three times as much nitrogen oxides from its Johnsonburg, PA, pulp mill than it was permitted to. Unfortunately, this is far from Willamette's only violation in Pennsylvania. The community suffers from chronic exposure to toxins spewed from the pulp mill. Asthma, cancers, and other problems prevail in

this little town on the Clarion River. Toxic dioxin-laden gunk spills into the beautiful Clarion River which, several miles down from the plant, is designated a Wild and Scenic River. More dioxin and other toxic chemicals issue from the smokestacks towering over the town.

Willamette also takes full advantage of cheap public land timber. It has been estimated that on any given day, up to 50% of the logs chipped at their Keystone chip mill are from the Allegheny National Forest and nearby state forests. These chips in turn supply the Johnsonburg pulp mill.

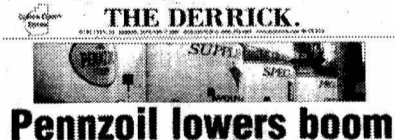
## Oil and Gas = Boom and Bust

While the big boom days of oil are over and the industry is mostly moving out, they are still looking to drill for every last crude reserve that they can.

Unfortunately nearly 95% of the mineral rights on the Allegheny National Forest are privately held, meaning that under antiquated mining laws private developers can cut roads into the forest and drill virtually at their will. Today, hundreds of active wells and thousands of abandoned wells are scattered throughout the Alleghenies leaving a long trail of toxic spills.

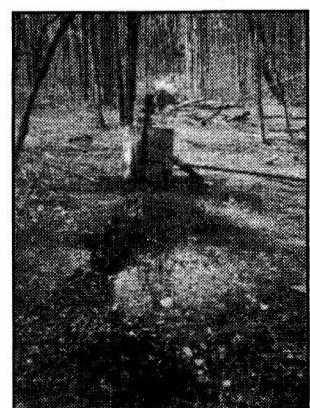
Oil-related spills and leakage introduce toxins such as benzene, toluene, and xylene into forest streams. The EPA characterizes northwestern Pennsylvania as having a chronic oil spill situation resulting of small discharges from thousands of wells, tanks, and ponds. Likewise, natural gas pipelines can have serious leaks (the kind that evacuate city blocks) that go on without notice for months.

These spills threaten the drinking water of local residents, the streams used by trout fishing enthusiasts, popular hiking trails, and core wildlife habitat with little to no oversight. The Allegheny Defense Project is looking for unique, creative means to put an end to these hazards but we need your help!



### Pennzoil lowers boom

Oil giant reveals it will close Rouseville refinery



## Temple-Inland Moves In

With the arrival of the new millennium many folks wished for grand prospects such as world peace and an end to world hunger. Temple-Inland, Inc., a Texas based multi-national timber giant, had a different vision. Temple-Inland, Inc. brought in the new millennium by obtaining control over the operations of the Allegheny Particleboard and Allegheny MDF (medium density fiberboard) plants in Mount Jewett, PA, thereby becoming a leading polluter and wood consumer of the Allegheny National Forest region!

Temple-Inland's three plants in the Alleghenies produce a combined 430 million square feet of MDF and particleboard, consume thousands of acres of forests, and release over 300,000 pounds of the toxic chemical formaldehyde annually. Their MDF plant in Clarion, PA, operated for three years on a start up permit before they installed an incinerator to "solve" pollution problems, but the pollution continues.

Since obtaining the Clarion plant from its previous owners MacMillan-Bloedel, Temple-Inland has become North America's largest producer of MDF and operates plants ranging from Chiapas, Mexico, to Ontario, Canada.

## Contacts

### Allegheny Defense Project

P.O. Box 245  
Clarion, PA 16214  
(814) 223-4996  
(814) 223-4997 fax  
adp@envirolink.org  
http://www.enviroweb.org/adp

### Appalachian Restoration Campaign

P.O. Box 2786  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
(804) 971-3898  
arcmaps@firstva.com

### Communities For Sustainable Forestry

Box 172B, RD 1  
Kane, PA 16735  
(814) 778-5173

### Heartwood

P.O. Box 1424  
Bloomington, IN 47402  
(812) 337-8898  
info@heartwood.org  
http://www.heartwood.org

### National Forest Protection Alliance

Eastern Field Office  
P.O. Box 1891  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(804) 971-5990  
scurry@firstva.com

### Pennsylvania Environmental Network

P.O. Box 92  
Fombell, PA 16123  
pen@envirolink.org  
http://www.penweb.org

### Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter

Pennsylvania Forest Protection Campaign  
P.O. Box 606  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

### Student Environmental Action Coalition

P.O. Box 31909  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 222-4711  
seac@seac.org  
http://www.seac.org

## Support ADP!

Help Protect Allegheny Forests. Put your energy into the grassroots movement by supporting the Allegheny Defense Project!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

A donation of a mere \$20 or five hours volunteer time will get you a year's subscription to our newsletter, *The Hellbender Journal*, Action Alerts, and will help keep the defense of the Allegheny alive! Of course, additional donations are always appreciated.

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to donate \_\_\_\_\_ hours work.

### Allegheny Defense Project

PO Box 245  
Clarion, PA 16214  
(814) 223-4996  
adp@envirolink.org  
www.enviroweb.org/adp

## Clearing the throat

by Theresa Darling

Excuse me. Time there was a place called PA  
Under these signs, water-towers, seed trees

A home life on track, fox tracks, deer  
Big antlers on forest tracts. Time with a trail

Now called babble, my PA riding down the bent arc  
Of a mean summer dream, so hot, who can say

Where the birds have flown. Looking up is like  
Staring sun in the eye. It only takes once

They say. There was a countrygirl's time in trust  
Tales told about the insects, air, the world we breathe

And break. Long-winded words told by wisemen  
Dark about the deep edges before they fall

Hard, without a sound. You've heard the one  
About whether a tree really makes a noise

When no man is there to hear it? There's a divided sense,  
Blood-red double-talk dazzling. Tray of tools like surgeon

Stubbled beard of a land. Never mind, now. Pay attention.  
Look in the mirror, PA, lathered and ready for the blade,

Chin up and humming  
These hills were made for shaving.

## Allegheny Wild!

The forests that cover the Allegheny Plateau throughout northern Pennsylvania and southern New York provide exceptional opportunities for ecological restoration and habitat recovery in the east. The state and federal public lands in this region provide one of the last best chances for vast expanses of wild forests in the bioregion.

North of and adjacent to the 513,000-acre Allegheny National Forest is New York's 86,000-acre Allegany State Park. Northern Pennsylvania also boasts 1.2 million acres of state forests forming one largely contiguous block. The Appalachian Restoration Campaign (ARC) identifies the Allegheny region as providing one of the best opportunities for Eastern Cougar recovery in the Central Appalachians.

But the threats to these state lands are perhaps greater than those to the federal lands. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry (BOF) manages the state forests primarily for timber. In fact, 81% of the state forest land is considered open to cutting. Similar to the Allegheny National Forest, the BOF uses primarily "even-aged" (clearcutting) methods on the state forests. Between 1985 and 1997, approximately 193,000 acres of state forest land was logged! Of that, over 90% were slated for even-aged cutting.

The Allegany State Park is currently protected from the chainsaws, but threats from industrial recreation continue to plague the park. In addition, several times in the past, New York governors, coveting the large black cherries growing throughout the park, have proposed to open the area to logging. Fortunately, enormous public opposition has squelched these plans.



## - Allegheny Facts -

- Clearcut logging is emphasized on more than 75% of the Allegheny National Forest. From 1996 to 1998, 4,753 acres were clearcut.

- Recreation is the leading industry in the region. One third of the U.S. population is within an 8-hour drive of the Allegheny.

- Timber expenditures on the Allegheny are three times the amount spent for recreation, wildlife, fisheries, and watersheds combined!

Between 2000 and 2003, the Forest Service plans to cut over 38,000 acres of the Allegheny National Forest!

## Zero-Cut on Public Lands!

As more people realize the damage being done to our forests and watersheds due to taxpayer-subsidized logging, more and more



folks are calling for an end to this wasteful program. In fact, poll after poll (including a poll done by the Forest Service!) shows that a vast majority of Americans want to see the timber sale program on our national forests end.

The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPRA,) introduced into Congress by Representatives Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and Jim Leach (R-IA), seeks to end the commercial logging program on all federal lands, and redirect the \$1.2 billion timber sale subsidy in several different ways.

NFPRA would:

- Create jobs by redirecting funds to badly-needed forest restoration and worker retraining. Hiring preference for restoration jobs is given to any displaced loggers.

- Provide funds for research and development of alternative fibers (like kenaf, hemp, and agricultural residues) and building materials (like straw bale.)

- Stabilize payments to counties. Currently, funding for schools and townships within our national forests is tied to the timber sale program, and fluctuates widely from year to year. This bill would de-link and stabilize those payments.

- Save taxpayers over \$400 million per year.

Of course, there's a lot more that needs to be done to protect our public lands, and many different ways to do it. But this bill is a solid start.

**Contributors:** Bill Belitskus, Mike Bellinger, Kelly Compeau, Theresa Darling, Alexander Denmarsh, Tim Doody, Mike Dwyer, Gina Giazzoni, Kirk Johnson, Jonah McGreevy, Josh Raisler Cohn, Chris Strohm, and Tommy Watkiss.  
**Editors:** Rachel Martin and Jim Kleissler.

# SHOSHONE FIGHT MOBILE CHERNOBYL

BY WINONA LADUKE AND FAYE BROWN

What weighs 30 tons, has as much radiation as 200 Hiroshima bombs and is projected to pass within a half mile of your home? That would be a canister of high-level radioactive waste, traveling from one of the 109 aging nuclear power plants in this country to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the proposed final resting place for America's most deadly garbage.

The Department of Energy (DOE) released its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed Nuclear Waste Repository at Yucca Mountain in August. It is to this mountain, at the heart of the Western Shoshone Nation, a place of deep spiritual significance to Shoshone and Paiute peoples, that the federal government hopes to send 98 percent of the burden of the radioactivity generated during the entire Nuclear Age.

Despite heated criticism by Native and environmental forces, the Yucca Mountain proposal remains the only site under government study for permanent disposal of high level nuclear waste. The DOE has already dumped three billion dollars into the project and wants to spend \$35 billion more to complete it. The release of the EIS marks another DOE step towards opening the dump by the projected completion date of 2010.

More than 200 grassroots groups have been organizing over the past few months to seek broad participation in the EIS process. As a result, the rushed public comment period has been extended to

180 days, but still severely limits the ability of impacted people to testify.

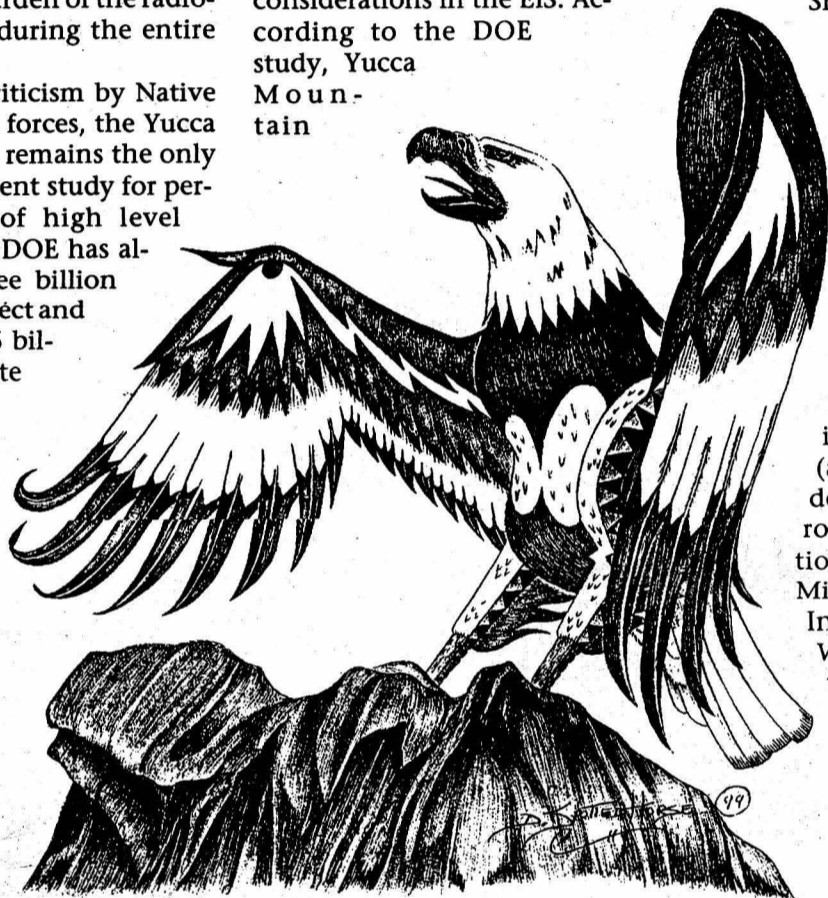
That's because the Yucca Mountain EIS largely sidesteps the issue of transport. High-level waste designated for Yucca Mountain will be moving on US highways and train routes near the front yards of more than 50 million Americans. The transportation of this waste poses a huge health risk. DOE studies project a rate of one accident per 343 shipments. That translates into, at the very minimum, 268 accidents over the next 30 years as up to 90,000 shipments of nuclear waste make their way to Yucca Mountain.

The hearings, which began on September 27 and continued through January now include eight Nevada towns, one community each in Idaho, Utah, Missouri, Colorado, California, Georgia and a hearing in Washington DC. These hearing sites did not allow easy access for communities in other states who are endangered by the transportation proposals.

The Shoshone are asking people to support Native land rights issues raised by the EIS. What is glossed over by decision makers and ignored in the EIS is the fact that *Newe Sogobia*, land

guaranteed the Western Shoshone Nation by treaty, includes Yucca Mountain. Even study of the site is a violation of the treaty. The Shoshone want the DOE off their land and their mountain restored. Upholding the treaty can be an important tool for organizers to stop the dump, but the Shoshone face extreme geographic and political isolation and, without sufficient public support, fear their voice will not be heard. That isolation is reflected in a statement by representative Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who said "God made Yucca Mountain for the express purpose of storing high level nuclear waste. There's nothing within 100 miles of the place." Add racism to low level logic and you get a high level waste dump.

Perhaps as alarming as the absence of transportation issues and a concern for justice are the obscured health considerations in the EIS. According to the DOE study, Yucca Mountain



and the steel canisters in it will eventually leak. The DOE is planning to store more than 70,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel in miles of tunnels 1,000 feet underground. At least one storage canister of the more than 10,000 canisters envisioned would fail within the next 1,000 years. And after 10,000 years, according to a *New York Times* report on the proposal, all the canisters may degrade.

What may be worse is that an earthquake at Yucca Mountain could cause groundwater to surge up into the storage area forcing dangerous amounts of plutonium into the atmosphere and contaminating the water supply. This is not an unlikely scenario given the area is a seismic minefield. More than 621 earthquakes of magnitude 2.5 or higher have been recorded in the area in the last 20 some years. It is not surprising that the nuclear industry has fought against any groundwater radiation standards for the facility, saying it could threaten the entire project.

According to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1992, radiation standards for the facility would need to be set by the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA). The EPA has proposed a standard of 15 millirem per year as the exposure limit for people living near the site which, according to environmental groups is inadequate for the protection of human health. The EPA also suggested a 10,000 year compliance period for the standards, while the DOE estimates that the peak dose of radiation will occur 300,000 years after the waste is stored. "The Yucca Mountain EIS simply does not allow for the development of a repository that insures containment from the biosphere over the required period of time," stated George Crocker, an energy policy activist and director of the Prairie Island Coalition in Minnesota.

Shoshone groups are adamant that any additional radiation risk in their community is unacceptable. The Shoshone Nation is already the most bombed nation on Earth and suffers from widespread cancer, leukemia and other disease as a result of fallout from more than 600 atomic explosions in their territory.

In the meantime, pending legislation before Congress to rewrite the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) would strip the EPA of all authority to set any standards at Yucca Mountain. Government and industry changes to the NWPA (appearing before Congress and defeated now five years in a row), pretty much throw radiation standards out according to Michael Marriot of the Nuclear Information Resource Service in Washington DC. Such legislation would miraculously overcome most of the public health hurdles to the Yucca Mountain project with the stroke of a pen.

This year's revision of the NWPA also allows on-site storage of nuclear waste outside power plants until Yucca Mountain or an interim dump site is ready. That interim dump may be on a Utah reservation (Skull Valley Goshute land). The on-site storage authorization is handy for utilities who don't want to have to fight citizen groups over turning their nuclear reactors into *de facto* nuclear waste lots. The bill also provides for the federal government (meaning taxpayers) to take ownership of the waste and liability for it. What this means is that the utilities, as might be expected, will be abdicating responsibility for waste they created over the past 30 years. Summarizing the legislation, Crocker states that, "It's the latest in a long line of stop-gap measures by the industry to continue operations and accommodate the production of more nuclear waste—despite the fact that the industry doesn't know how to deal with the waste it has."

As the NWPA of 2000 is metamorphosing in Congress, electrical utility industry contributions to elected officials are turning into policy. Over the past few years, the members of the Nuclear Energy Institute, i.e. your utilities, have sent about \$12.8 million to their congressional delegation to assure an end to their nuclear waste dilemma.



## BARE BONES

### Mercury rains on Midwest

A new report reveals that the rain and snow falling on cities in the American Midwest contain levels of mercury that far exceed what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers safe.

The report by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) compares mercury contamination levels in rain to EPA safe levels for human health in 20 Midwestern cities and towns. Among the report's findings are mercury levels in rain over Chicago, Illinois, that are 42 times higher than EPA safe levels; rain in Detroit, Michigan, with 65 times safe levels; and rain along the Illinois/Wisconsin border as high as 56 times safe levels.

Mercury is a potent toxin. When ingested in even tiny amounts it can cause devastating effects on the human nervous system. Associated illnesses include brain, lung and kidney damage and even death in humans. In wildlife, mercury is a reproductive hazard that can cause harmful effects to species such as frogs, rainbow trout, zebra fish, mallard and American black ducks, loons and terns.

"With so much at stake for both people and wildlife, decisive action is needed right now to limit mercury emissions, because once mercury pollution goes up into the atmosphere, rain carries it right back down into the very water humans and wildlife depend on," said Peter Morman, of the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

"We usually think of rain as pure and clean, and that's the way it should be," said Mark Van Putten, president and CEO of the NWF. "But this report reveals that rain falling over Midwestern cities such as Detroit, Chicago and Duluth contains as much as 65 times the EPA 'safe' level of mercury, which holds out extremely serious health implications for both humans and wildlife."

Coal contains trace amounts of mercury that are released into the air as it is burned for energy.

The technology to measure the traces of mercury captured by raindrops has only existed since the mid-1990s.

"A drop of mercury as small as one-seventieth of a teaspoon can contaminate a 25 acre lake to the point that the fish in it are unsafe to eat," said Beverly McClellan of the Lake Michigan Federation. "When you consider a typical 100 megawatt power plant emits about 25 pounds of mercury a year, the potential for tremendous ecological and human health problems becomes alarmingly clear."

### Victory #1 on GE Seeds

Johnny's Selected Seeds, based in Albion, Maine, has pledged to not knowingly buy or sell genetically engineered seeds. Johnny's was targeted earlier this year by anti-biotech activists in the Northeast, under the umbrella of Northeast Resistance Against Genetic Engineering for publishing a statement in their 1999 seed catalog suggesting that they might offer genetically engineered varieties in the future. The company received hundreds of letters from its regular customers and other concerned individuals suggesting that Johnny's had severely damaged its reputation as a supplier to organic growers in the region. Several major growers in New England said they would not buy from Johnny's until they took a firm stand against the use of genetically engineered seeds.

Johnny's is one of eight companies in New England and 40 in the US and Canada, to sign the Safe Seed Initiative, a project launched by heirloom seed grower Tom Stearns (High Mowing Organic Seeds, Wolcott, Vermont), with the assistance of Vermont Northeast Organic Farming Association and the Boston-based Council for Responsible Genetics.

# JULIA BUTTERFLY TOUCHES DOWN WITH THE *EARTH FIRST!* JOURNAL

*continued from front page*

I think the greatest success, though, is one we'll never be able to quantify: The shifting of consciousness and the inspiring of people to become conscious, to step out of that numb complacency into a realm of consciousness and begin to take responsibility for daily actions because they felt inspired. To realize that they too can make a difference. I feel that's the greatest success, that's the ripple effect that we'll never be able to sit down with a graph and chart. It'll just keep happening forever.

I know that a lot of people within the activist community are not necessarily satisfied with the way I went about coming to this agreement, but at the same time, I was trying to recognize that we're talking about two people on completely opposite sides of a spectrum. A corporation that would never, in their own words, "give in" to a treesitter. Yet they did... And my focus, the whole time, was to look past my frustration, my disgust, my sadness and anger at what they're doing to the world and look at them as human beings and try and find a way to find common ground and empower them to protect not only the tree and the three acres around it but what I believe has come to symbolize to the world...

**EFIJ:** A lot of the criticism I've heard's been directed at the payoff, the fact that you paid off PL, to the tune of \$50,000.

**Julia:** That is the biggest concern in a lot of people's eyes. And number one, the grove is worth more than \$50,000. And number two, the reason the company asked for it was that they had to save face in their local community... They had to have something to hold up to the timber community to make it look like they didn't do what they actually did, which was capitulate to someone who was trespassing on their property and holding an act of civil disobedience against their practices. And number three, a lot of people aren't thinking about what that area was to the world. That it became such a symbol with so many people's beliefs and hopes and attachments that just as the people who are upset with the \$50,000 and had attachments to what I did, so are the thousands of people who I've been receiving responses from that are happy about... what I did...

**EFIJ:** Some people would say that what you did was acknowledge that PL had a right to own the tree. How would you respond to that?

**Julia:** No, I did not. What I did was acknowledge that our government and people's consumer actions are acknowledging that company's right. I have stated, and will continue to

state, that there are certain things in the public that belong to the public trust, including our old growth, including the air we breathe and the water we drink and the species we all share this planet with... The \$50,000 was an acknowledgment that our government and enough people in our society are not to the place yet to hold the corporations accountable. And that's why I'm on the ground continuing to work my butt off...

**EFIJ:** I don't think anyone's going to argue that the Luna treesit's been huge in terms of focusing public attention on old-growth logging. And that begs the question: What sort of tactics and strategies do you think work? What strategies and tactics would you recommend to the environmental movement in the next millennium?

**Julia:** Well, the first strategy begins for me maybe on a little more of a philosophical level, but it was the core of what gave me the strength to live in a tree for two years and go through what

I went through and learn what I learned. And that is, that it is more than a tactic, it is a way of life, in coming from a place of love and respect. Because I learned real quickly how easy it is to get caught up in the energy of what we're against. You know, when they were cutting down trees all around me, I died. It was like watching my loved ones dying, all day, every day, and it killed me, it broke me on so many levels. And before I knew it I was being driven by anger and hate and sadness and frustration, and all of those energies that don't allow us to be our higher selves. And our higher selves is where we can truly be effective. Not only on the symptoms, but on the disease that's causing things like deforestation and wrongful imprisonment and nuclear proliferation and all the issues facing the world. And so even though it is a philosophical understanding, it is a very real tool in being an effective activist. But it has got to be more than a tactic, it has to be a way of life.

Then, the next step is that, I know some people think it's a sell-out or cop-out or whatever, but to try and place ourselves in the shoes of those who we are against. In that, in the outreach that I did, whether I was talking to a three year old, a 33 year old, people in Princeton or a logger underneath my tree revving up his chainsaw, I did my best to place myself in that person's shoes so that I could try and speak words that that person could hear. And I was not always successful, but I did my best. The other thing about tactics is that it all changes from place to place to place. Because the planet and the people on it are extremely diverse...

**EFIJ:** Well, let me throw something out to you. I think one of the more important developments in the radical movement in the last 50 years or so has been the events up in Seattle.

**Julia:** Oh yeah.

**EFIJ:** And this new breed of activist, who've adopted a more militant and confrontational response to what they see is wrong with the world. What do you think of the black-clad anarchists? Folks breaking windows, that sort of thing?

**Julia:** Number one, once again, I'm going to try and put myself in their shoes. But I am not them, so anything I say is conjecture and opinion and idea, but not necessarily who they are or what they are. I don't know these people. What I feel, number one, the key thing, is where we're coming from. If we're coming out of a place of hate and anger, we're never going to create the world we want to see. No lasting change in the history of time has come from a place of anger and violence. That's why we see wars continuing to happen. You can't bring about peace through violence. It doesn't last... The black-clad anarchists in Washington chose to do something that allowed the media, with all of its spin and corruption and the police with all their spin and corruption, to have the violence they perpetuated lessened...

**EFIJ:** Do you think maybe the property destruction in Seattle was what brought the acronym WTO to the living rooms of your average American?

**Julia:** I think the WTO acronym would have



Photo by Penelope Andrews

Julia, glad to have her feet firmly on the ground.

gotten out there anyway. Because the police were bent on being violent. As you know, they started the violence long before the property damage even began. One of the greatest things to come out of it was the alliances. How long has it been in history since this diverse amount of people came together in such an organic way and created a scene that reached peoples' minds and accomplished the goal of shutting down the WTO? And I think that that would have gotten out anyway.

**EFIJ:** Where do we go from here? I think we're going to see even more of these more confrontational, property-destruction kind of actions. What do you see as the appropriate direction for the environmental resistance movement?

**Julia:** I think the most effective thing we can do is build bridges. Because as long as we stick within our labels and our categories we're separating ourselves from the very real fact that all of life is connected whether we like it or not. We are connected to those who are destroying life, just as we are connected to those who are protecting it... And I think that our hope for the future is building. Setting aside our differences that divide long enough to focus on common goals. And that's where my concern about things like more violent forms of protest come in—that there's no bridge building there.

**EFIJ:** Last question. In your writing and in what you've said today, in terms of love and respect and bridge building—are there any bridges you just want to blow up? Anyone you just fucking hate?

**Julia:** (Laughter) I am doing everything in my power not to hate. Because I see what it did to me. I have no way to describe to you how it ate at the very essence of my being. How the hate and anger turned me hollow. And there was more than one occasion when I sat up in that tree in the fetal position rocking back and forth, bawling my eyes out because I was *dying*. I was dying emotionally, spiritually, physically... And one of the things I learned was that I cannot go back there. I have to rise above... And I am going to, every day, get my guidance through prayer. And I know that's not what some people would like. But that's where I come from. And in my anger, and in my desire to blow bridges up, I'm going to take it to prayer and I'm going to see how I can most effectively dismantle that bridge. Blowing it up is too violent for me to create the world I want to see. But I definitely believe I can dismantle it if I just try hard enough.

**EFIJ:** Well you gotta promise, just once, you'll come up to Eugene and get rowdy with us.

**Julia:** Yeah, I was actually in Eugene right before I came down to the redwoods. But I was not conscious yet... But I was there, right before I climbed into Luna. So I'm definitely coming back. I can't wait to hug you and say thank you.

**EFIJ:** Yeah, and smash a window or two.

**Julia:** (Laughter) I'm going to find a way to *clean* it!

**"I think the greatest success, though, is one we'll never be able to quantify: The inspiring of people to become conscious, to step out of that numb complacency into a realm of consciousness and begin to take responsibility for daily actions because they felt inspired."**

(A)

(A)

# Two Proposals to Move the Journal

## A RETURN TO TUCSON, ARIZONA

BY TURTLE, ROD AND FELLOW TUCSON EARTH FIRST!ERS

*Earth First! Journal* editorial collectives are to be commended for enduring criticism from within our movement, while not allowing it to prevent production of a cutting-edge publication that contributes to a larger movement. In our opinion, the *Journal* has successfully remained open to participation by our diverse ranks and has reflected our movement in each incarnation with a degree of democracy rare among environmental organizations. Issues once considered "not Earth First! issues" have been represented and integrated into our movement in the forests, streets and through the pages of the *Journal*. The benefit is a broader struggle, one that breaks down walls and brings us closer to preserving a worldview where humans are not at the center.

In publishing the *Journal*, every tactic and strategy legitimately employed by our members and allies should be given equal respect and representation, regardless of the opinions of the editorial collective. We consider this principle to be one of the *Journal's* most important responsibilities, to remain personally unbiased while endeavoring to present the Earth First! movement as those participants who keep its spirit alive today see it.

As Earth First!ers in Tucson we request to move the *Earth First! Journal*. We propose that the *Earth First! Journal* move to Tucson to represent the Earth First! movement as its own members freely determine. The Earth First!ers behind this proposal reflect a lot of the growth and diversity within our movement. We have worked with and are aware of the stability, responsibility and commitment required to publish the *Journal* and welcome it. After a year of consideration, we are prepared to provide a strong foundation for the *Journal*.

Should the *Journal* move to Tucson, the defense of biodiversity where Earth First! is not established would be promoted and publicized. In Mexico, Central and South America, environmental battles continue to be largely ignored by the US environmental movement. The *Journal's* presence in Tucson would give voice to the struggles to protect these regions threatened by multinational corporations, while continuing with the strategies of the present editorial collective through increasingly publicizing ideas, promoting actions, and evolving as a loud voice of opposition to the wars waged through corporate imperialism.

Borders may separate environmentalists politically, but they do not separate

citizens of a bioregion under represented by environmentalists in the United States. Having the *Journal* in the Sonoran Desert would strengthen the ties Arizona's environmental community has with this region's dispossessed, poor, working class and indigenous peoples. This would sustain the *Journal* and include activists from outside the Earth First! community. It's not just about reporting on other similar struggles, but about becoming an active part of them from the society largely responsible for the world's ecological problems.

Earth First!ers seeking to work with the *Journal* in Tucson include former short termers at the *Journal*, editors of other environmental publications, people with extensive fundraising and sub-boosting backgrounds, volunteer coordinators, artists, photographers, videographers, web designers, lawyers, as well as activists with knowledge of bulk mailings, computer repairs and accounting. All are prepared to volunteer for the *Journal*. We believe that the structure, makeup and strategy in this proposal would lead to a more efficient process of publishing the *Journal*, resulting in an increased readership.

In the spirit that this proposal is just a proposal, we are simply expressing that qualified individuals are prepared to make a long-term commitment to the *Journal* in Tucson. We remain committed to the process employed by the *Journal* when hiring editorial collective members.

The *Journal* should not move only in response to a crisis. Like change within Earth First!, a move should be initiated when a collective of Earth First!ers exist who can take our struggle forward to a larger constituency. We believe that we are capable of improving the paper in a way that only a new location and new blood can accommodate. Here in the Southwest, we believe it's time to reignite the fires of resistance and make the *Journal* a publication to chronicle the blaze of radical environmentalism into the new century.

We do not pretend to know what's best for the future of the Earth First! movement, though we believe we can carry its torch for a period of time until another Earth First! community is prepared to do so. We respectfully ask the Earth First! movement to let us show you what we've got.

For a complete version of this proposal, please contact Rod at (520) 903-9404; rodhasan@yahoo.com or Turtle at (520) 623-5252 x303; tortuga@sw-center.org.

## Eastward HO!

BY ERROL SCHWEIZER

*The future of mankind lies waiting for those who will come to understand their lives and take up responsibilities to all living things.*

—VINE DELORIA

*The same power that manifests itself as resource extraction in the countryside manifests itself as racism, classism and human exploitation in the city.*

—JUDI BARI

The *Earth First! Journal* is the only publication that combines conservation biology and wilderness preservation with a radical social agenda.

The *EF!J* could be a bridge to greater alliance building between radical ecologists and other activists who are envisioning a shift from a capitalistic world to a ecologically and socially just world. A move to the East Coast, where there is a much denser human population, and where many of the ecological issues are intrinsically interconnected to socio-political issues, would give the *EF!J* that much more leverage in making its mark. And as this country becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse (by 2050, white people will be in the minority), radical ecologists need to connect to communities of color and working class communities who are struggling against McWorld. A great deal of biodiversity may not survive without a culturally diverse movement to protect it. There would not be a lessening of the importance of wilderness preservation, but maybe instead a greater understanding of how that struggle is connected to struggles against environmental racism and class oppression. Having the *Journal* on this side of the country would catalyze more activism in the belly of the beast.

By relocating to a community of color or a working-class community, the *Journal* would have the opportunity to be involved in the day-to-day struggles that revolutions are really all about—connecting the local issues with the global forces behind them.

It is this community aspect that is of utmost importance. Many community groups have strong roots in their neighborhoods but lack the information and motivation of a radical analysis. Likewise, many radicals are not rooted in the day-to-day struggles of communities but nonetheless have great ideas and energy for confronting the problems that face the biosphere. If radical ideas are not accepted by people outside of the activist subculture, then our cause is lost.

Some logistics: The proposal suggests that present members of the collective should come out here to

produce the *Journal*. The current collective is doing a great job and the shit would just get better if more people were reading the *EF!J* and contributing. But if that is not the case, then at least one or two other long-termers besides myself would be needed to come on for at least a year apiece. It would be ideal if someone(s) from out West, down South or the Northeast, and with experience in wilderness preservation, would come to add bioregional and ideological balance to the collective. Another possibility for some oversight could be to appoint some sort of editorial advisory board composed of longtime activists from all over the country.

Some ideas about the New York area: Community support is essential to the *Journal's* production. If it were to move to NY, there are numerous communities and support networks that would be available to keep the *Journal* running smoothly. Volunteers, short-termers and other staff could be recruited from the local communities, as the *Journal* presently does in Eugene. Making a bilingual Spanish section of the *Journal* would also be an outcome of this move.

Also, with all of the colleges in the area, perhaps getting some grants to get interns to research specific environmental issues or articles could be a possibility. One other idea, if we were to move close to an urban or economically depressed area, would be to set up "activist exchanges" where the *Journal* could sponsor sending some neighborhood activist out to an EF! campaign for a small time, in exchange for some EF!ers coming to the hood for a while.

I have done some research into office and living space in one community in NY. (Let me stress that I am not set just on moving it to NY; I feel that there are a lot of places in the east that would be great, anywhere from Maine to Miami; other people would just have to step forward with ideas, though). In Hunts Point, South Bronx, we could get a four-bedroom apartment in a townhouse for \$750-800, that could serve as office space (another apartment could be living and crash space). There are other neighborhoods, such as Bed-Stuy and Red Hook, that also offer possibilities.

If this sounds like the beginning of something cool, please contact me. This does not have to be an immediate move and the ideas in here are applicable for a move to Tucson, Arizona, as well.

Errol Schweizer is a Bronx-based organizer, a former editor of the *Journal*, and a former editor of OFF! Contact him at commonsense@graffiti.net or csecology@yahoo.com.

**Editors' Note:** The present editorial collective and staff of the Earth First! Journal believes that Eugene, Oregon, is an ideal location to continue producing this ever-evolving, continually growing newspaper. We strive to cover issues from the many spectrums of the Earth First! movement and work very hard to present the internationally diverse philosophies that keep our movement strong. We love Eugene dumpsters and free health care and would like to thank the many volunteers from this community that make producing this fine rag possible and so much fun.



## BARE BONES

### Fewer dams in Arizona

A recent settlement to remove two hydro-electric plants and water diversions from Fossil Creek in central Arizona has been successful. According to the settlement signed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Arizona Public Service and other environmental groups, the plants will be decommissioned and full flows will be restored to the river by 2005. Fossil Creek which stems from a spring with a constant flow of 43 cubic feet per second is one of the best potential native fish restoration areas in the Southwest. It has been diverted and abused for 90 years by an antiquated and redundant system of canals and power plants.

### Cougar in the East?

A new study released this past December details potential habitat for the federally endangered eastern cougar (*Puma concolor*) in the Central Appalachians. "The purpose of this study is to help elevate the debate over the existence of cougars in the eastern wilds. Our study shows there is plenty of habitat and abundant food for cougars. Thousands of people claim they see cougars in Central Appalachia every year, but state and federal agencies insist there are none left" said Kristin Taverna, the study's principle author. "Whether cougars exist in the East is still in question but, contrary to agency opinion, there is strong evidence that some cougars survive in the wild. These cats are highly elusive," she continued.

Using GIS software, this analysis identified suitable cougar habitat in Central Appalachia according to landscape characteristics of prey density, road density, human population density and land use. In addition, the study provides a natural history of the cougar in Appalachia and discusses challenges to its taxonomic status and consequent management implications. "Our study identified excellent cougar habitat in several states including portions of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The habitat is there, the sightings are there and verified tracks have been found. It's only a matter of time before we re-discover the animal," said Jason Halbert, Appalachian Restoration Campaign Coordinator.

### Ten percent of the Pacific Coast named plover habitat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has published a final rule designating critical habitat for the Pacific Coast populations of the western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*). This action fulfills the service's obligations under a 1998 court order, which was the culmination of over four years of litigation by conservation organizations, following the listing of the snowy plover as a threatened species on the Pacific Coast on March 5, 1993.

These 28 critical habitat locations total 20,000 acres and span 210 miles of coastline, about 10 percent of the coast of the western continental US.

The service now indicates that a recovery plan for the threatened snowy plover will be available by spring 2000. This final critical habitat went into effect on January 6.

While Judge Rafeedie acknowledged that the service required 12 months to complete the final designation, he indicated that there was no reason for further delay in complying with the law. At last, after almost 12 years since the snowy plover was first petitioned for listing, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has finally complied with the law to extend full protection of the Endangered Species Act.

## GRIZZLY HUNTING CONTINUES



Grizzly bears fishing for salmon in British Columbia, Canada.

continued from front page

Grizzly bears have the lowest reproductive rate of any land mammal on the North American continent. One reason for this is the late sexual maturation of female grizzlies, as they do not start breeding until five to eight years of age. If optimum conditions exist breeding females will produce only one to three cubs at two to three year intervals. In addition, there is a relatively long two to three-year attachment of young grizzlies to their mothers. Grizzly bear populations are especially susceptible to the impacts of sport hunting because of these reproductive limitations. Grizzlies do not have the biological characteristics of a prey species; they reproduce slowly, and their populations recover slowly from human induced mortality.

The Kitlope Valley, located in Haisla territory on the north coast, is a prime example of the toll being taken on coastal grizzlies by hunting. A vast intact drainage, the Kitlope's grizzly bear population was decimated by years of excessive sport hunting. As a result of the Haisla First Nation's efforts to stop the unrestrained killing of grizzlies in the Kitlope, the province finally implemented a ban on grizzly hunting in the valley. However, a prolonged grizzly population depression is still evident there.

When Cathy McGregor was deposed as environment minister and replaced by Joan Sawicki, Raincoast hoped it was a sign that the government might take a more enlightened approach to grizzly bear management.

But by all indications, the utter neglect for the coastal grizzly bear issue that earmarked McGregor's reign is going to be continued under Sawicki. Meet the new boss, same as the old boss; hunting overkill and habitat destruction in the Great Bear Rainforest continues unabated.

In BC, grizzly bear management emanates from the barrel of a gun, as evidenced by the recent killing of numerous grizzlies in Rivers Inlet by provincial conservation officers. Government negligence in failing to protect grizzly bear habitat and wild salmon stocks has now become a human safety issue as grizzlies desperately search for food in coastal communities such as Oweekeno Village.

Minister Sawicki refuses to meet with conservation groups to discuss the coastal grizzly bear issue. Sawicki's excuse? Her calendar is "fully committed" in the coming months. The decline of grizzly populations apparently is not a concern to the new minister. This derelict attitude prevails despite the fact that one of the BC government's own

biologists, Dionys DeLeeuw, has plainly exposed the pseudo-scientific rationale behind the government's grizzly hunting policy. De Leeuw says that "there is no evidence suggesting any sport hunting of grizzlies is sustainable in BC. In fact, there are strong indications that past and continuing population declines are due to excessive sport hunting."

In a strongly worded petition recently submitted to the BC government, 68 biologists are calling for the enactment of a five to 10-year moratorium on all sport hunting of grizzly bears pending completion of long-term population studies in the province's six bioregions. Yet the BC government clings to the voodoo science of its pro-sport hunting Wildlife Branch in order to cater to the extremist special interest groups that favor killing grizzlies for fun and profit.

Sawicki recently wrote that "the biggest impact on grizzly bear populations by far is habitat loss due to human activity..." This is an incredibly ironic statement given that the BC government is facilitating the widespread destruction of coastal grizzly habitat in order to serve the agenda of four multinational timber companies (Interfor, Western Forest Products, West Fraser Timber and MacMillan Bloedel-Weyerhaeuser).

Since 1990 thirty-four intact valleys have been roaded and clearcut in the Great Bear Rainforest. Fifteen of those valleys have had logging roads punched into them since September 1997.

In the entire Great Bear Rainforest there is only one park, the Khutzeymateen, that is legislated as a fully protected sanctuary for grizzly bears. Since the province announced its so-called "Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy" in 1995, no coastal grizzly bear core habitat has been protected.

BC has no Endangered Species Act or any other substantive legislation to protect species at risk such as the grizzly bear. The BC Environmental Assessment Act specifically excludes forest practices from environmental scrutiny. The minimal wildlife provisions under the Forest Practices Code have never been implemented. The code's "Identified Wildlife Management Strategy" is meaningless in the case of a wide ranging apex predator such as the grizzly as it sets an arbitrary one percent cap impact on the "annual allowable cut" as a constraint on any grizzly bear management initiative.

Large carnivore ex-

pert Dr. Paul Paquet recently stated that current provisions under the code governing forest practices are not compatible with the long term survival of grizzly bears. Enshrining clearcut logging and an unsustainable rate of cut, the code is ultimately a death sentence for grizzlies. Yet the BC government continues to claim that the code obviates the need for endangered species legislation in BC.

The BC government claims it has "a provincial strategy to manage grizzly bear populations conservatively." But according to provincial biologist De Leeuw, "grizzly bears have been extirpated from most of North America. The species is presently declining and listed as vulnerable in BC. This disturbing fact by itself ought to be sufficient reason to stop all sport hunting of grizzly bears. Unless extremely solid evidence can be provided, which unequivocally demonstrates that continued hunting does not exacerbate already vulnerable and declining bear populations, all sport hunting of these animals should be stopped."

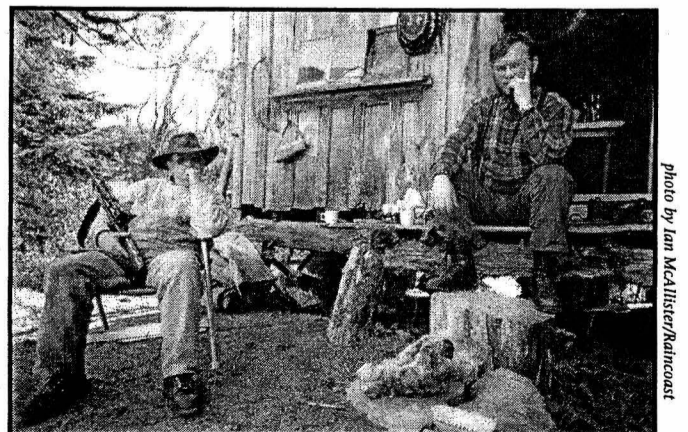
The reality is that the BC government has never carried out an accurate census of coastal grizzlies, yet rationalizes the ongoing issuance of kill tags by using a scientifically unsound "habitat suitability" model to calculate its inflated grizzly population estimates.

De Leeuw has revealed that the Wildlife Branch calculates "a theoretical potential huntable grizzly bear surplus based on inappropriately applied habitat suitability indices... virtually all grizzly bears could be exterminated in BC by sport hunters, while government habitat suitability measurements alone would continue to calculate a theoretical potential bear abundance and continue to establish a harvestable surplus."

A recent poll conducted by Viewpoints Research Ltd. showed that over 70 percent of BC residents agree that large geographic areas should be set aside as habitat for grizzly bears. Another poll commissioned by the province revealed that a strong majority of British Columbians also support protecting far more wilderness beyond the BC government's arbitrary 12 percent cap. Another recent Angus Reid poll showed that 76 percent of British Columbians favor a ban on grizzly hunting.

Please write, fax or e-mail today! Let Environment Minister Joan Sawicki know how important you think it is to protect the remaining intact river valleys in the Great Bear Rainforest and that placing a moratorium on the sport hunting of grizzly bears is essential.

Write to Minister Joan Sawicki, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, Canada; (250) 387-1356; joan.sawicki.office@leg@bc.ca. For more information contact Raincoast Conservation Society, POB 8663, Victoria, BC V8W 3S2; greatbear@raincoast.org; www.raincoast.org.



Grizzly hunters in British Columbia.

# ARMED WITH VISIONS

*i stood at the facility  
where buffalo are locked in  
and sent off to slaughter  
the warm winter sun  
sent snow heaps  
dropping from trees  
a dripping rhythm on leaves*

*you guarding the facility  
approach me from your truck  
you ask why i am here  
i slide forward on skis  
and tell you*

*i have come because there is suffering  
friends of the Earth  
Buffalo brothers and sisters  
are dying  
and the Montana Department of Livestock  
is trapped in illusion*

*for you  
and Buffalo  
we have compassion  
and the Earth Mother calls to us  
to heal these wounds  
can you hear her calling us  
to transform our Greed and illusion  
i ask you  
but you tell me  
all you hear are snowmobiles*

*and they come roaring down the road  
Four Buffalo cantering  
in front of police vehicles.  
snowmobiles and yahooing livestock men  
we shout and invite drums to sound  
for the Earth spirits  
offer tobacco and osha  
but the gates are shut  
the Buffalo are in your death camp  
and you grin and laugh  
i ask you how you can kill a buffalo  
icannot you see yourself in them  
but you do not identify  
and say it is 'easy, i just pull the trigger!'  
you tell me i failed today  
but it is obvious  
who is failing  
who is blinded*

*the wind picks up  
the sun is high  
a raven circles  
soaring overhead  
these are the voices of Gaia calling  
feel her rhythm  
dance her song*

—Silent Sunday

**Clear as cut glass  
& just as dangerous**

## AND I WAS THERE

Once there was a planet  
With water and sky blue  
Clouds were white  
With snow on the mountains  
Jungles green  
Where every color flew by as bird  
Swam through as fish  
A planet breathing in a million shapes  
And I was there

Seasons came and changed  
Followed weather's beaten path  
Warmed in spring till flowers burst  
Open for the bees  
Summer fed mosquitoes and goldenrods  
Autumn got trees ready for bed  
And winter blanketed the sleep  
Where snowshoe hares dimpled silence  
A planet enraptured by its seasons  
And I was there

Water ran past in rivers  
Thundered in serious play with waterfalls  
Hid turtles in creeks  
Backed up huge and deep in lakes  
Held down oceans for whales  
Fell in tiny drops from all over the sky  
Bubbled from the ground in clear, cool springs  
Water fed the million shapes of life  
And I was there

Trees blended into squirrel  
And I was there  
Plants gave of food  
To feed the lowly who fed the next  
Who raised a family  
And I was there

The stars looked down, lonely  
The sky danced its prettiest blue  
Angels came as butterflies  
It's hard to describe  
Just lucky

I was there

—Jenny McBride

## NOT SO LONG AGO

A million years or so ago  
Up until not so long ago  
We lived in our natural habitat  
Like any other animal  
Where we evolved to belong  
Our food plants lived there with us  
We didn't need clothing  
Or constructed shelters  
We made comfortable nests of soft materials  
Under trees and the open sky

Maybe we inhabited only a small portion of the planet  
Maybe we were comparatively few in number  
Maybe we possessed only what we needed  
Maybe we did only what came natural  
Maybe we felt more alive

—Lynn Jacobs

## SOUL WITCHING IN THE LAND OF WANT

*Under a greed stained sky  
in the Land of Want  
the cowled stranger leaned on his  
staff and looked down the  
concrete road to the city  
in the distance  
After many days of travel  
he had come to the capital  
city of the Hungry Ghosts  
Ghosts with insatiable cravings  
never satisfied  
They drank, but never quenched  
their thirst, ate but never felt  
the absence of hunger, buried  
themselves in goods but never  
lost their wanting  
Their true souls had been  
taken by the Wizards of Want  
leaving only an unbalanced  
neomantoneed turned to greed  
with no memory of the edenic  
time of want of want  
The stranger wandered through  
a district of towering buildings  
Attaching two green willow sticks  
to his staff a divining rod was fashioned  
Holding a stick in each hand the staff  
pulled him in a semi-circle and pointed  
him toward the Building of Forbidding  
This was the National Depository  
of Souls kept as collateral  
for purchases driven by cravings  
This was the dooming Fort Hocks  
Entering, he went to the main  
vault and struck it three times  
with his staff releasing the  
pellet sized shrunken souls  
which regained their size  
in open air to fly free there  
Neomesis to the Wizards of Want  
He was the Witcher for Lost Souls.*

—Sid Bridges

Send poems to:  
Warrior Poets Society  
PMB 361  
108 MLK Jr. Student Union #4510  
Berkeley, CA 94720-4510

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# MORE OF YOUR SFBs



Dear Shit fer Brains,

As one of the 240 Sea Turtles let loose in Seattle during the WTO protests and a known Peace Nazi, I'd like to commend the editorial, "The People Must be United," in the Yule 2000 issue.

It will always be touchy when nonviolent direct action and the breaking of things happen simultaneously. We should all know that by now. It is my conviction that true and active nonviolence is both the most effective and the most militant path to change. That said, I'd like to say a few words in defense of the "Anarchists from Eugene."

First, the media did not distinguish between the anarchists and the opportunistic looters in their wake. And isn't it interesting that if an individual disregards civil law, breaks a window and takes a bag of Starbucks coffee, they are called a violent criminal, but if a corporation disregards civil law, desecrates an entire ecosystem and compromises the health and well being of countless thousands, it is called world trade?

During the protest, Seattle media reiterated again and again what a pity it was that a few violent marauders (yes, a Seattle reporter for KIRO TV News used the word "marauders") had compromised the message of thousands of peaceful protesters. In fact, wasn't it the violent police who did their best to squelch our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and assembly?

It is true that the "Anarchists from Eugene" have been scapegoated. In my opinion to take heat away from the police and the WTO itself. Let's not use that as a reason to marginalize the anarchists' contribution or to condemn activists who are committed to a path of nonviolence.

Let's keep the dialog open.

—PEGGY SUE

Dear SFB,

I have been part of Earth First! in Seattle for a few years now. I wanted to share my observations on the WTO event: 1) I don't think that the property destruction did one bit of good except for peoples egos. Let's get *real* here. You don't want to see a *real* riot. I would wager that more than 90 percent of the property destruction was carried out by people that don't live anywhere near, say, a *real* burned-out inner city. There is a reason why the *journal* comes out of Eugene and not Detroit; 2) One of the first things I learned when I started doing this stuff was that nonviolent civil disobedience and property destruction in the same space is a bad mix. You show me any

campaign around that would find this acceptable. Well believe it or not, we actually have a campaign going on in Seattle. It may not have a brand name, but that's OK. We all know or at least should know by now when it's time to fuck shit up. People's lives were put in danger, without their knowledge or consent, by not only the fucking cops, but by the people carrying out the destruction. There is no way around this fact. I was there; 3) All this flies against what Anarchism really is. Anarchism is a global movement that is challenging and dismantling the institutions that oppress us all. We need to present a *real* alternative to corporate rule. In order to do that, we need to be organized. This means that we need to realize as individuals how our actions can have an impact on someone else's life and be held accountable for it. Hats off to the good folks organizing the neighborhoods in St. Louis, Newark and L.A.

—PATRICK

To all the defenders of sustainable eco-love,

You all are blessed angels! I personally thank you all for what you do. I wish we could all at once awaken from this illusion that requires so much waste, poison and rape of the land.

I pray for you all. The infinite one is watching through you and over you always. You all have a special gift and are obligated to it, as we all are.

Thank you, and love on,

—BRIAN EDGAR

Hola EF!

Saw yer excellent coverage of the WTO protests in the December-January, 2000 issue. But I did notice in the "International N30 Roundup," that you didn't include Austin, Texas. Many Austin environmental, labor, peace and justice groups came together to launch a massive education campaign about the WTO. Our efforts paid off with some 40 Austinites traveling to Seattle and an anti-WTO protest to the state capitol on N30 with some 500-700 people. When people returned from Seattle, we did a speak-out where we told our stories of what happened in Seattle. From there, several ongoing discussion groups and alliances have started, and an Art and Revolution collective has begun. Its first mission was making puppets for the N30 march. Thanx to the evil that the WTO does, many people that normally don't work together are starting to make connections and alliances. Remember, we are the city, and we shut it down!

—SKOT

Dear SFB,

A Berkeley expatriate, I abandoned the *SS Amurika* in 1994 for Australia, only to find that the United Snakes multinational monster is rapidly devouring us here as well. Not only is rampant commercial-

ism and California-type suburbanization swimming across the vast Pacific spoiling the human habitat. Government has aligned itself, as usual, with big business, and in the past four years of a Liberal (read "Republican") regime we have suffered the following: 1) A legislative reversal of the High Court's holdings on Native Title, resulting in divesting all the gains aborigines have made in land rights under Labor (read "Democrat") governments; 2) Opening of two new uranium mines on native title land, in flagrant disregard of World Heritage law and specific findings by UNESCO experts that uranium mining does not respect either Native Title or World Heritage values; 3) An "exploratory" lease granted to mine shale oil in Bundaberg, Queensland, with grave potential of damaging the southernmost Great Barrier Reef; 4) A cyanide heap-leach gold mine in Timbarra Forest, New South Wales, in midst of Australia's only high-elevation wetlands; 5) Kanadian-Amurikin conglomerate Pangea's license to



site world-wide nuclear waste in Western Australia on native title land, as Australia's "contribution to international security," in the words of Robert Galucci, of George Washington University in DC, one of Clinton's special advisers; 6) A double-cross by the state Labor government on local north coast forests, granting timber fellers open slather to Stihl penis-old-growth trees (for us "old" is 300 years); 7) Massive clearfelling in Queensland by graziers to raise cattle.

Well, that's only a partial list of jobs needing attention by people willing to work for little or no pay, to be ignored or ridiculed by the media, to persist in pushing papers through courts, to blockade at key sites.

Wendy and I were shocked to see *Fire in the Eyes* and to hear that Judge Vaughn Walker actually found such tactics Constitutionally permissible. Couple that with the Seattle

police riots, and you can imagine that from overseas, to intelligent folks with integrity, Amurikan police look like the *Schuts Staffel* of yesteryear. That ain't no news to this warrior—I was beaten, tear-gassed and jailed at Berkeley for standing alongside my black brothers and sisters and for opposing the draft and Vietnam. Yessuh, we's deffintly on de list at Langley or wherever!

Please keep us informed of the fight to save the old-growth redwoods and the court battle against pepper gas.

Cheers,

—RONALD WOLFF

Dear SFB,

I am writing in response to a letter which appeared in your August-September, 1999 issue of *EF!*. To which I would like to say... Fuck you, Dan Longcore! It's people like you who got us here in the first place! "Hey don't worry about it, just keep sprawling, there will be forests for me to enjoy!" What a fucking great mentality! You're so ignorant. You think the forests of this Earth exist strictly for human enjoyment. Wrong! The forests of this Earth existed long before modern man decided he had a "better way." We should protect nature simply because it has a right to exist.

Oh, and by the way. My woman does shave her legs and pits. She's also hotter than hell! But, regrettably, we are both vegetarians so we can't go to Taco Bell and play asinine games like *Defeat the Darkside*. As far as "enjoying modern society" is concerned, whatever you say man.

—MATTHEW KIRK

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

I recently purchased three Earth First! T-shirts and was shocked and angry to learn the shirts were manufactured in Honduras. This is bullshit! Earth First! should be embarrassed. You could have found T-shirts made from organic cotton made with non-slave labor in the United States. I don't care if they cost more, at least we would be supporting the organic cotton industry and not slave labor. Your motto is "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth." Well, this is a big compromise. This is about as hypocritical as it comes.

Please respond,

—MACE ROBERTS

*Ed. Note: Although the Journal sells T-shirts from Honduras, prints on dead trees, uses a non-union printshop, buys mailing party food at Costco, purchases envelopes at Office Max and sometimes wipes with only 20-percent recycled t.p., we try to be as PC as possible. Thank you for this SFB—it will be discussed at our next staff meeting. Hopefully we will soon have all organic/local tees on our shelves!*

—JL

Dearest shit for brains,

Today I went down to the River Faction POB to check on mail and found a bundle of primers waiting for me from the *Journal*. I grabbed them and threw them in the back of my

pickup and took off, glad that they had arrived. The group here is new and enthusiastic, but at times it can be intimidating trying to explain what Earth First! is all about when it's just two of us that have been involved for any time. I thought of this and how the *Journal* had supported organizing efforts in the past in other towns and realized how much it helps to have a clearinghouse like the *Journal* to assist in organizing efforts with info and *Journals* and shirts. So I wanted to write just to say thanks to the *Journal*. Sometimes it's late, but it always arrives. You all do an invaluable service to the movement, and I wanted to take a moment to say so.

On another note, I encourage everyone to pencil in the rendezvous this summer on your calendar. Almost every weekend folks have been out scouting sites and actions and are hard at work to make this a great gathering. We're very serious about the rendezvous and regionally are spending lots of time organizing, refining and preparing for it. Already we have Ramona Africa of the MOVE organization coming and are approaching others like Howard Zinn to attend, if just for a few days. We are preparing train, trail and road route descriptions for folks to get here. Though it may be a bit of a trip for the West Coasters to come, we think it will be worth your time. And in terms of population density, it's a fact that we have a lot more people on the East Coast to recruit from. So buy your tickets, plan your carpools, get your bike tuned up, whatever, however. Just plan on getting here. Cause though it will be the year 2000, we're going to party like it's 1999. Plus we have a lot of work to do together to get Earth First! into the new century with a bang.

Y'all come,

—CHRIS IRWIN,

RIVER FACTION-KATUAH EARTH FIRST!

Earth First!

Greetings and salutations! Having read your magazine a few times before, I am relatively familiar with your ideologies, and I support your calls for environmental and social justice.

Recently, I've received a copy of Judi Bari's *Revolutionary Ecology* and a tape of her spoken word (*Alternative Tentacles*), and I am blown away by her commitment and passion towards justice and Earth First!

Now, my curiosity and interest in Earth First! has increased even further, and I can resist no more! Please send a subscription.

Thanks,

—LAURA

Dear SFB,

Rather than asking for a huge space in the *Journal* to address the attacks on sabotage by nonviolence dogmatists, I have put my essay "Nonviolence and Its Violent Consequences" on a web page: [www.iiipublishing.com/nonviol.btm](http://www.iiipublishing.com/nonviol.btm)

For those of you lucky enough not to have access to the net, send \$1 to III Publishing, POB 1581,

# THOSE LONG SFBs ARE DRIVING US BANANAS— KEEP THEM UNDER 300 WORDS YOU GORILLAS

Gualala, CA, and I'll send you a copy (it's a 12-page pamphlet). Please feel free to make your own copies if that is convenient.

—BILL MEYERS

Dear SFB,

Hypocrisy: one word describes you and all of your kind. Get a new hobby or get a job and leave decent people alone. Think about what you are doing. Find a new agenda. This Earth and everything on it was here before you and it will be here when you, and I are gone. You are not the only radicals out there!

—ERIN WELCH

Greetings comrades and fellow warriors for the spirit of the wild:

I am writing you from deep inside the tombs of the Amerikan injustice system as a hostage of the Evil Empire—one of nearly two million political prisoners of war currently detained in concentration camps across the country.

Long before I became a captive of the state in 1998, I was very active with many causes and spent a good 10 years subverting the system on various levels. As disempowering as imprisonment is, I have still found ways to remain active by networking and writing letters to corporations, politicians, etc. Unfortunately, 99 percent of those in prison adhere to the lowest common denominator and truly become exactly what the system wants them to be. I will be out in 2002 and cannot wait to get back to the frontlines—all prison is for me is a brief detour and break from society—an opportunity to purge myself of any remaining attachments to Western culture.

My purpose in writing is to ask if you could send me the most recent copy of the *Earth First! Journal*. (I have Samhain, November-December 1999.) I was recently transferred and currently have no job, thus no money, so I was wondering if I could get a subscription temporarily and pay later. I am being moved again in March and will have a job then and be able to afford it. The *EF! Journal* is the only source for real news, and I miss having it terribly.

Thank you for considering this. The struggle continues. I wish you all much peace...

Solidarity,

—DESERT WOLF

Hello neighbors,

Suppose you found yourself in a lifeboat with a large number of people. Among you are a small group of individuals known to be highly intelligent and motivated, and the crowd relies on their expertise to survive.

Now, suppose these experts began to drill holes in the hull of the lifeboat. The water is rushing in, yet they continue to work and assure everyone that nothing harmful will happen.

What would you do? Would you continue to watch and wait until the boat sank and everyone drowned, or would you take immediate and direct action to stop them and repair the damage?

You certainly would not pay them for doing it! Yet that is what we, as a capitalist society, do everyday!

By purchasing the consumer goods that we do everyday, we condone the payment of an elite few to punch holes in our lifeboat, the planet Earth.

Let's talk about life, about your life and mine and the collective life of humanity and all the other species which inhabit this planet. From animals and insects to trees and fungus. We are all equally dependent on our lifeboat, and yet we, humanity, are allowing members of our own species, operating within our own societies, to systematically destroy our home! Why is this?

We call these collectives of misguided humans corporations and governments. These collectives serve the needs, not of the whole, but of the few, driven by the greed of capitalism and the need to stay in power—over you!

As a human being born on the planet Earth, you and I, and every single individual life, has the inherent right of clean air, clean water, a healthy ecosystem and the ability to walk the face of the Earth as a free entity.

These are not privileges to be partitioned out by the few; they are your birthright! Whenever you buy bottled water instead of demanding that the water in your local ecosystem be clean enough to drink, you reinforce the corporate choke-hold. Since the Industrial Revolution, these inherent rights have degraded and are slipping away, one by one.

Due to the greed and mismanagement of governments and corporations in the last century the overall situation on our planet has become critical and threatens our very existence. How did we let it come to this?

Yet, I am one who still believes there is time to take direct action in order to turn things around on this planet; Mother Earth can still regenerate herself if we act soon. I can sum up what you can do in the popular saying: *think globally, act locally.*

Think about it,

—COYOTE

Attention: Earth First!,

I would like to bring to your attention a matter that greatly concerns me. I recently have heard about a new TV show CBS plans to air in the summer of 2000. They are in the application process of recruiting 16 strangers to be marooned on a deserted island. It sounds innocent enough until you hear the details. The island is in the Malaysian state of Sabah off the coast of Borneo. There are no humans living on this island, but it is home to sea turtles, monitor lizards, macaque monkey, pythons, wild pigs and coral snakes. The CBS web site says it all in the same breath:

"Covered with a lush rain forest and surrounded by stunning blue waters, this island has been untouched by humans for centuries." The very next paragraph goes on to say, "The sixteen marooned castaways will be forced to band together and carve out a new existence, find food, build shelter and create an island society." This is all a contest that lasts seven weeks. Every moment will be taped, and America will watch as all but one castaway is voted off the island. The winner of this contest gets \$1 million. But at what expense to the environment? Seven weeks, shelter and food for 16 people (not to mention the TV crew and all of their equipment or the issue of human waste). Do they actually think this will have no impact on the environment? Was an environmental impact study done? I am writing to you at Earth First! because I hope you will see the ignorance in this whole idea. It's just unnecessary, and I am hoping there is something that can be done. Thank you for your attention with this e-mail. I am writing to you from a friends computer...

Thanks again,

—JC

Dear SFB,

Seattle may have been the best resistance to corporate culture, monopoly capitalism, poli-economic psychosis and future shock experienced in the North American sector. But lets be honest, resisting nukes in space with broken windows and chants is not a winning strategy. Corporate culture must be replaced by a green (left enhancing) culture... green values, life long commitment and creature brilliance. "How do you stop a charging elephant? You take away it's credit card." Yes, we all fund corporate culture and yet we want a sustainable positive future. This can't be! To get rid of corporate insanity, we must starve it!

The idea is to withdraw (hit by

hit) from corporate economics and politics by co-creating a green culture and breaking our dependency on banks, oil cartels, insurance companies, Safeway, Walmart/Home Depot and rape of the Third World, etc. We must bite the hand that currently feeds us! Capitalism is rushing us all to ultimate destruction. *Life first* must challenge *profit/power first*.

Print these green values, think cooperation, land, hard work, peasant pleasures, permacultural ingenuity, genuine sensitivity, trust, integrity, community, etc.

Imagine... John could! He died for it. Can we do less?

—NAMASTE GREEN FIRE VIA  
BRUCE SHEARER

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

An epiphany inspired by recent events: Multinational capitalism is the new Communism, and the first pitch of the new Cold War was tossed in Seattle in late November. Like Communism, multinational capitalism led by its Big Brother, the World Trade Organization, wants international revolution, and they hope to achieve it by capturing the hearts and minds of the people through propaganda, if possible, and by force, if necessary. Too bad if it tears societies apart or bastardizes rich cultural heritage or destroys the environment. These are the operating costs of perpetual profits. At the peak of the so-called Cold War, in the late 1950s, the brilliant self-taught philosopher Eric Hoffer seemed to anticipate this very state of affairs. In an essay called "Imitation and Fanaticism" contained in his indispensable book *The Ordeal of Change* Hoffer writes: "Ever since Capitalism came into its own we have caught glimpses of the Capitalists' dream of omnipotence. It is a dream of total noninterference of a "company state" rather than a company within a state. Some Capitalists tried to realize this dream in distant colonies where they were unrestrained by the mores and traditions of their homeland. But only a Communist regime succeeds in making the wildest Capitalist dream come true right in the home country. A monolithic company, the Communist party, takes possession of a whole country. It not only owns every acre of land, every building, factory, etc., but has absolute dominion over the bodies and souls of every man, woman, and child. The aim of this super-Capitalist company is to turn the captive population into skilled mechanics and so shape their souls that they would toil from sunup to sundown, thankful to be alive and blessing their exploiters. It is only natural that such a "company state" should aspire to turn itself into a holding company of the planet." Sincerely,

—ALAN BISBORT

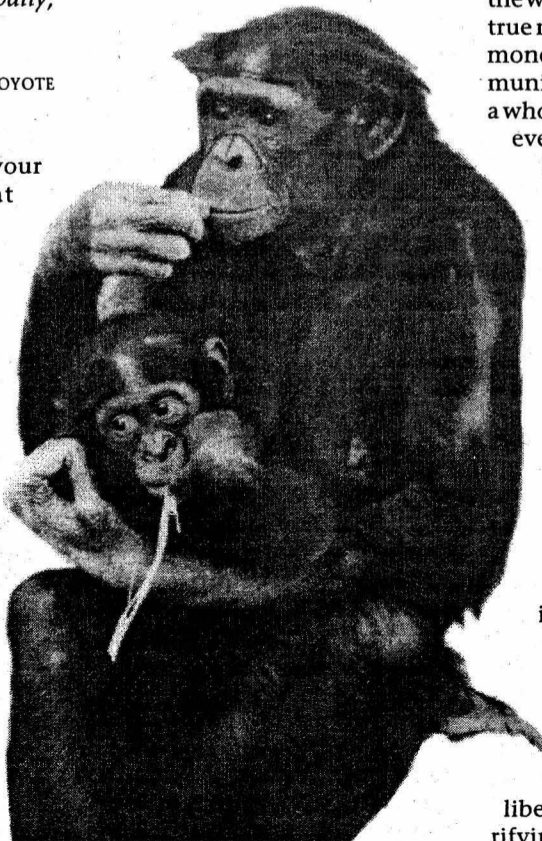
Greetings from the ALF!  
The last weekend of August 1999, 46 dogs were liberated from behind the horrifying walls of a lab supply pro-



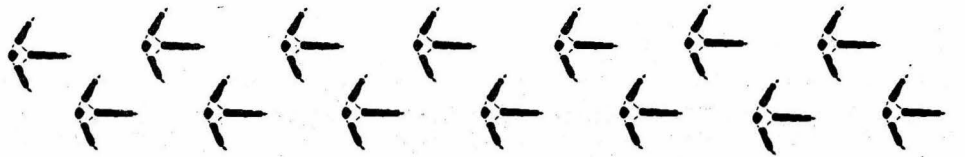
vider called Biodevices. Every animal at the facility was taken and placed in loving arms leaving the prison empty of all life. If it had been up to those carrying out the action, Biodevices would have been burned to the ground, never to reopen. Unfortunately, and I mean that with all the rage and passion conceivable, part of the underground railroad that was accepting the dogs was unwilling to follow through with their part, if fire was involved. So, those inside did as much damage as possible by means of spray painting, smashing, destroying records and flooding by leaving all faucets turned on. The jars with formaldehyde holding hearts, brains and other organs were left alone.

This action took years of recon and preparation. I arrived knowing very little about the logistics but expected to be challenged mentally, emotionally and physically. I am familiar with cities and how they operate, but my first time encountering the area in which Biodevices was located provoked a fear in me that took a while to accept. There were video cameras on nearly every streetlight, a police communication center a few doors down, a police training center across the wash and a handful of 24-hour businesses with security on surrounding streets. My heart and spirit believed the liberation was possible, but my mind was overcome by the amount of work, organization and planning that still needed to be perfected in such a short amount of time. There were many details to be covered and new ones constantly forming. Each moment of each day needed to be carefully utilized. Each person's ideas, strengths and input were crucial. There were arguments and misunderstandings. These things helped us to know ourselves and each other better and to trust that we were each 100-percent ready. Thank you all for working so hard, for believing, for putting aside your differences and fears.

I encourage all you warriors, new and experienced, to go underground and follow what is strong in your hearts. Often an idea or action seems impossible to carry out, but there are cracks in the cement and others out there who feel the same as you. Maximum destruction often takes no more time or energy than minimum damage. As I reflect back I smile to know that 46 dogs are free and have a bright dog future. But there is also a deep aching to know that Biodevices will reopen and acquire more dogs to enslave, torture and kill. Fire is a good tool. Use it wisely. I wish we had.



# Earth Nite News



November 20: The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) entered the Poultry Research Facility at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman and proceeded to destroy every piece of equipment they could find. This marks the second raid at a research facility in Washington state within a month, the first one occurring at Western Washington University in Bellingham on October 24. Thirty-seven rats and four rabbits were liberated in that raid. "This is the fourth ALF raid against vivisection this year," comments ALF spokesperson David Barbarash. "The ALF are indeed increasing the pressure on researchers to stop their outdated and barbaric torture of sentient animals. If the researchers don't stop voluntarily, the ALF will help make their decisions for them."

December 25: The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for a Christmas Day fire that destroyed a

Boise Cascade timberlands management center in Monmouth, Oregon. The sabotage, initially estimated to exceed one million dollars in damages, was in retribution for deforestation in the Pacific Northwest and as a warning against the company's plans to begin clearcutting in Chile. "Let this be a lesson to all greedy multinational corporations who don't respect ecosystems. The elves are watching," an ELF communiqué concluded.

December 30: Nine luxury automobiles were set on fire in the space of 25 minutes across Berlin. Experts estimate the damage at several million DM (one million US dollars). Investigators suspect the attacks were politically motivated and were carried out by

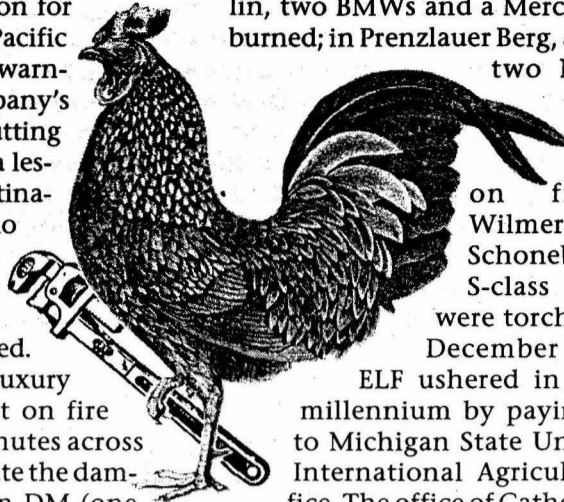
autonomous groups, perhaps the group "Class Against Class." The cars burned were BMWs, Mercedes and Porsches. In the Mitte District of Berlin, two BMWs and a Mercedes were burned; in Prenzlauer Berg, a Porsche, two Mercedes and a B M W were set on fire; in Wilmersdorf and Schöneberg, two S-class Mercedes were torched.

December 31: The ELF ushered in the new millennium by paying a visit to Michigan State University's International Agricultural Office. The office of Catherine Ives, Melba Lacey and Susan Gibbons was destroyed by fire. The office was targeted because it is the center of a

large research effort to genetically modify sweet potatoes, maize, cucurbits, tomatoes, pineapples and bananas. This project is focused on increasing the use of and overseeing the management and commercialization of agricultural biotechnology in developing countries and transitional economies. This research is also being conducted at other sites on campuses across the US.

January 5: In its first raid of the new millennium the ALF rescued 23 rabbits from certain torture and death at the R&R Rabbitry, a research facility and laboratory breeder in Stanwood, Washington.

January 11: Reclaim the Seeds slashed their way into a greenhouse at the US Department of Agriculture's Western Regional Research Center in Albany, California and destroyed over half an experimental crop of transgenic wheat.



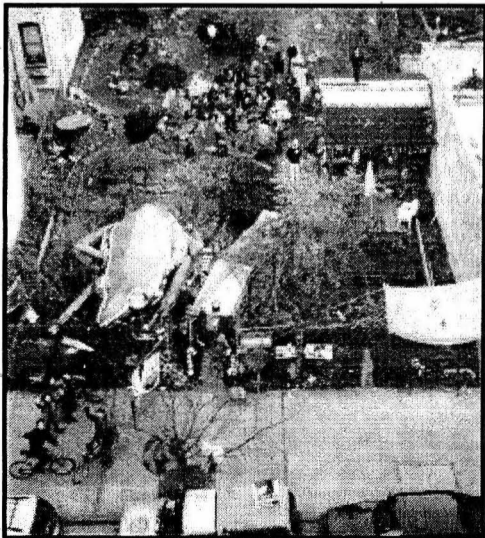
## MORE NY GARDENS

*continued from front page*

At *El Jardin de la Esperanza*, on East 7th street and Avenue C in Manhattan's Lower East Side, Esperanza gardeners, the More Gardens! Coalition and many other activist supporters have bonded together to create a grassroots community of resistance. At the front gate of Esperanza, they have erected a giant sculpture in the shape of a *coqui*. The *coqui* is a thumb-sized frog which is the national symbol of Puerto Rico. In one myth a monster approaches the forest and intends to destroy it. The *coqui* steps up and is able to scare away the monster with the loudness of its voice, an apt analogy for community gardeners facing bulldozers.

In the interior of the *coquille*, activists next to a pair of concrete encased "black bears" look out 10 feet up over Esperanza's fence, into the street. Beneath them, protecting the front gate, rests a "sleeping dragon." Both devices are for activists to lock themselves to in the event of an attack by bulldozers. Soon after the *coqui* was completed, the lot and the wall behind the garden was torn down with a huge crane and bulldozer which then parked inches away from the Garden of Hope. Esperanza responded (with help from local welders and engineers) by constructing a high tower in the shape of a beautiful sunflower. Seeded amidst the petals, 26 feet above the ground, is a chair where a garden defender can lock down. Two more sleeping dragons and a tripod are now planted in the back of the garden. Amongst the plants dormant in the cold of winter is a full time encampment, with tents, a kitchen and bonfire to keep the bustling people warm.

Alicia Torres, who just turned 76, talks to the plants and prays to them. She also prays for the prospective developer, Donald Capoccia, so that the Creator will open up his heart and change his plans on destroying the community garden.



Overview of Esperanza

den and Maria's Garden (all deemed "vacant lots" in the HPD register), all only a few blocks away. These gardens were turned into government subsidized condos for high-income tenants. Since 1992, Capoccia's firm has received over \$20 million in construction contracts from HPD. NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has been instrumental in the wholesale destruction of community gardens and spaces in favor of speculative real estate interests funding his political machine. Most of the city council has also disregarded public demands that community gardens be made permanent. Capoccia got the Esperanza garden after a deal with a local councilwoman, Margarita Lopez, for "80-20" housing, meaning that that 80 percent of the dwellings are rented at full market value which runs up to \$3,000 per bedroom. The other 20 percent is reserved for "low-income" tenants; though after 10 years those spaces are then rented at full market value. The 80-20 equation allows developers to receive millions in subsidies, tax exempt bonds and loans from the city. Thus the mayor and council members help this developer to destroy all of Esperanza and much of *El Jardin Bello Amanecer Borinqueno* (Beautiful Puerto Rican Dawn) without

any benefits to the majority of those who have voted for them. At present, Capoccia's construction company has an open case from the Department of Labor for violations of fair labor standards. The company is notorious for unfair labor practices, denying positions to unionized workers, creating unsafe work sites and authorizing shoddy construction; his building practices have three times sent cracks through adjacent buildings, compromising their structural integrity and endangering inhabitants.

More Gardens! advocates a long-term strategy to make all community gardens into permanent public parklands. At present, the most promising avenue is the Sampson's Bill, a piece of legislation in the New York State Senate. The city must first pass a resolution to allow the bill to be considered at the Senate level. An integral part of preserving threatened gardens in the short term is garnering the support of our environmentally friendly State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer. He has the power to call for an injunction against the destruction of community gardens that are now in danger.



Children playing in reclaimed community space on a giant sunflower.

Unhindered by the failings of "urban renewal," gardeners have begun a renewal of the Earth in the concrete and congestion of New York, returning land to the hard working hands of dedicated people and nature. The re-greening of the urban landscape is underway. The city's community gardens host migrating ruby-throated hummingbirds and monarch butterflies as well as bumble bees, squirrels and hosts of soil sustaining insects. New York City has seen a return of peregrine falcons, red tail hawks, great blue heron and even coyotes. This is a fragmented ecosystem beginning to heal. More Gardens! Coalition promotes the development and preservation of the community gardens. They are committed to revitalizing and enhancing existing community gardens and cultivating fallow land in our city.

Alicia, born on the island of Vieques, said, "We

have to save Esperanza for the children, for everyone!" Today, instead of deterioration and neglect, community gardeners, people and activists join in to protect our sacred green space from a larger danger of fast pace, quick money, short term consumer developers and politicians. Each petal of the huge sunflower towering above Esperanza reads, "*Esperanza/Hope, Lindo/Beauty, Comunidad/Community, Oxygen/Oxygen, Comida/Food*"—the gifts of the Earth. Here we draw our line. Join the turning of the tide!

For those interested anywhere in the world, we urgently seek a crew of responsible activists who can help us with organizational tasks such as outreach, legal, legislation and direct action. The encampment requires dedicated persons to camp out, maintain the fire and/or run the kitchen.

For more information contact the More Gardens! Coalition, 79 Clinton St. #17, New York, NY 10002; (212) 330-6851; aj9@is3.nyu.edu or call the Esperanza hotline at (917) 673-8762, Housing Preservation and Development (212) 788-7210, 788-7207 (fax); www.panix.com/~jayed.

# HONORING THE TRUE LEGACY OF THE HUNGER STRIKE

"I see our resistance as a strong weapon for the revolution. Because our resistance has already created a public opinion which has to be taken seriously, in our country, as well as abroad, and it mobilized our peoples for the struggle. It's not sufficient yet, but serious steps have been taken. I'm convinced, the resistance of the hunger strike till death will advance the struggle for the revolution. With this conviction I'm prepared to sacrifice myself. I consider this a duty towards our peoples. I want to say once more, I'm ready for this task."

—YEMLIHA KAYA, A VOLUNTEER WHO DIED ON A HUNGER STRIKE, TURKEY 1996

When looking at the tactic of a hunger strike, there is a long history of people giving their lives to perpetuate their belief of revolution and freedom. From Kurds in Turkish prisons to activists in Albania, Ireland, Iran and other countries, this history is full of determination and strength in the prisons, in the homes and in the face of extreme torture.

In 1981, Irish prisoners of war from the Irish Republican Army initiated a hunger strike following years of blanket and dirty protests. While on the "blanket," prisoners went for years living in cells with their feces and urine spread along the walls and only a blanket for warmth. Because they were fighting for political status, they refused to wear the uniform of a criminal and added pressure by refusing to clean their cells. Bobby Sands was the first of 10 who died of starvation.

August 20, 1995, saw the end of a hunger strike launched by 10,000 Kurdish prisoners in Turkish jails. Four people died.

In May 1996, Another Kurdish hunger strike began. Twelve political prisoners gave their lives.

On July 14, 1997, a hunger strike among Iranian political prisoners lost its first, Kamran Yazdani, 15 days into a dry hunger strike. He was 22 years old. Strikers in Shiraz, one of the prisons involved, were blindfolded for three days, given 20 lashes with a cable for every meal they refused to eat, and on the fourth day, were taken one by one for interroga-

tions that included torture and mock executions.

On December 13, 1998, Barry Horne, an animal rights activist, ended a 68-day hunger strike. Four days after the hunger strike ended he was witnessed writhing in pain, screaming for help constantly for three hours. He is slowly recovering.

This is but a brief account of the recent historical context of the hunger strike. There are many more examples of those who have made the commitment and those whose names have been added to the death toll of the state.

Across the Earth First! movement many of us at one time or another have chosen to go on a hunger strike to express our beliefs and give weight to our demands. A question we are not asking is whether we are willing and prepared to take this protest to the end. And if from the beginning we are not, do we honor the legacy of those who have fallen by saying we are prepared?

There are many facets that comprise the decision to hunger strike. First, is it a political fast with a definitive end, or is it a hunger strike with one of two ends in sight? Calling political fasting a hunger strike lessens the seriousness of such a decree. If you choose to hunger strike is the demand and the goal worth dying for? Will it be an effective means to strengthen your struggle? Is the structure there to let the public know? Because the state is more than happy to just let you die. Are you prepared? Are your family and friends?

Many of these decisions are extremely personal ones. We put ourselves in positions where we risk our lives for our beliefs. However, the commitment to die for one's cause takes us to a new dimension. When it

comes to the greater picture and the effectiveness of achieving your goal, is it an avenue of last resort? Will you be supported through this decision and the slow breakdown of your body? Are there people to stand by you through negotiations, media work and all other forms of getting your struggle to the public? Only through public outcry will the system take the steps necessary to satisfy your demands and stop your imminent starvation and death.

\* Another vital role in the hunger strike is that of the family. It was the family members who stood and watched their children die for the freedom of Ireland in 1981. It was also the families who took their children off the strike. In Turkey, Kurdish family members supported their loved ones by joining them on strike. Here, in America, we often leave our families out of our struggles. In many cases they don't share our beliefs, nor play a role in our lives at all. But when they do, are there steps we can take to create this stronger front in which our out-



Migrant workers in Florida before a hunger strike.

reach extends into our biological circles, providing the ultimate support in the face of such a decision?

We as a movement—in the debates of violence versus nonviolence, to breed or not to breed—often lose sight of how our decisions and terminology affect the rest of the world. As activists we cannot continue to perpetuate the state of denial about the commitment of other liberation movements by considering a half-assed, undedicated fast a hunger strike. People around the world have died and are dying while taking this noble tack as their last stand. Honor their memory. Honor the history.

Thank you to all hunger strikers around the world who have given their lives and who have made such a commitment to break the shackles of oppression that bind all life on this planet. *La lucha sigue.*

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

continued from page 3

Dismantling the mechanisms of corporate control entails identifying targets for nonviolent action: the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Trade Advisory Councils, Business Round Tables and the Federal Court system (which gives corporations the rights of people). We need to research in order to identify these bodies, where they meet, how they operate, where their weak points are, how to effectively dissolve these bodies and prevent the emergence of their clones by other names. Collectively, we need to get on with the task of asking the right questions and dog our targets with the spotlight of public exposure. We must build networks of like-minded groups across the country and the world and set our strategic agenda (based on unifying common goals). We must work with an eye towards corporations' assumed roles as "citizens," "players" and "persons" and reassert their true subservient status as mere instruments to serve the public welfare. All along the way, we must foster conditions that build a movement to the point of critical mass that can change the political climate and the future of the earth. We must conscientiously avoid divisive tactics, labeling (such as saying "the anarchists" destroyed property in Seattle) and using the co-opting language of the oppressors. Armored tanks in the street are not "peacekeepers," there was no "battle" or "riot" in Seattle. "Battle"

implies two sides engaging in violence (which is usually defined as harm to life, not property) and "riot" implies unorganized, unfocused disruption.

### WTO UPDATE

Of all the arrestees from the WTO protests in Seattle, only one person remains in jail on an unrelated warrant. Last week, the county attorney dismissed 250 cases, leaving 70 to 100 cases to go to court. Unfortunately, those cases were dismissed without prejudice, allowing the cases to be recalled if the attorney so chooses. Of the cases left, 17 are felonies, nine of which were charged after the protests based on video tapes of property destruction. The Direct Action Network (DAN) legal team has recently chosen to support everyone arrested in the protests, including the felonies. Money is needed at the DAN office, and donations are more than welcome. Feel free to send checks to Direct Action Network, c/o CAN, POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145. For information contact DAN at (206) 632-1656; [www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution](http://www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution).

No matter how appealing physical action (breaking windows) is, we need to recognize that the success or failure of revolutions hinge on the effective, uncompromising use of language and the building of a mass movement. Despite the isolated incremental victory in Se-

attle, the WTO is still operating. Even if we abolished the institution tomorrow, we would still have the rest of the system of global corporate rule to defeat. We still have a lot of basic outreach to do (most of the country still doesn't know or understand what the Seattle WTO non-round really means), a lot of alliance building to begin or solidify and much strategic thinking to do.

For instance, how will we deal with the likelihood of the WTO holding its next meeting in a police state where protest is put down with massacres? What other ways can we use to bring down the WTO and other institutions of corporate governance? How do we prevent the emergence of similar institutions in their wake? How do we stem public demand for cheap goods made through sweatshop labor, unsustainable exploitation of lands and processes driving the extinction of species? How do we work with "Third World" delegations so that workers' rights, social welfare and environmental protection are seen by them as necessary to their countries' well-being and future? How do we reconcile the need to protect small countries from transnational corporate governance with the need to avoid installing and perpetuating political dictatorships (i.e. make real the guiding ideals of anarchism in an ever more difficult geopolitical context)? And how do we do all this fast enough and in coordination with other efforts to prevent more irreplaceable losses of culture, species and ecological integrity while not losing the democratic values of consensus process, gradual trust-building across movements and the preservation of a nonviolent praxis along the way? From a purely pragmatic perspective, we lose

real fast if we give the weapons-rich state the excuse in the public eye to murder us *en masse*.

We have a lot to think about. We need to start doing this thinking together, to come out of closets of pacifying technology and meet face to face so real discussion of ideas can take place—not just in the elitist choir of CIA-monitored e-mail, but out in the real world where everyone else works, talks and takes action. We must move from the bottom up, from deep currents based on masses of unified thought waves, like riptides and tsunamis. It will take a lot of us. Leaders denote followers and become targets in isolation. We must all be leaders.

Some tangible steps:

Direct Action: The next big day of resistance currently under planning is May Day 2000, a significant day in labor history, so work with labor activists! As with June 18, planning is decentralized.

Outreach: Set up a venue and participants for workshops and strategy discussion on ending corporate dominance in your area. Networks and organizations focusing on ending corporate rule are forming study groups and speakers bureaus, including facilitators for workshops and more intensive training.

Join an existing labor/environmental alliance. Write Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and Environment, POB 3536, Eugene, CA 95502.

Come to the next End Corporate Dominance conference in Portland, Oregon, in late May to hook up with like-minded folk and learn more.

For more information, contact Wolverine c/o Earth First! Journal, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS... ANNOUNCEMENTS...

## BIG WOODS EF! RENDEZVOUS May 19-21 (Not Memorial Day Weekend)

At the last Big Woods Rendezvous, over 100 people from eight states spent Memorial Day weekend on the shores of Lake Geneva in southern Minnesota. They shared stories and skills, learned to climb and built friendships. The Big Woods Rendezvous is a three-day action gathering for new and long-life activists working for peace and environmental justice. The Big Woods Rendezvous will offer people opportunities to build affinities and put tools in our direct action tool box. The Rendezvous will bring together a diverse community to develop new skills while sharing time-tested tactics to affect social change. Nonviolence workshops, tree climbing, tree sits, banner hangs, blockades, as well as issue discussions and campfire revelry.

For information contact Big Woods EF! at POB 580936, Minneapolis, MN 55458; (612) 362-3387; eco-action@geocities.com.

### ••Organizers Conference Correction••

•correct directions: from Baker, take Kelbaker Rd. south 34.5 miles to Kelso, go through Kelso and continue on Kelbaker 7.2 miles to a signed dirt road, turn right go to the end of the road.

•correct ride contact number: (541) 617-1620.

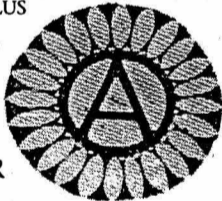
## EXPERIENCED ACTIVIST NEEDED FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

This is a paid (minimum wage salary) position with the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. Experience with legal timber sale monitoring required and also interest or background in ending corporate dominance. Office and hiking skills necessary. No computer use involved. Must be self-motivated and willing to live in eastern Oregon. Minimum one year commitment. Send resume and extensive activist references with your phone number and mailing address to the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, HCR-82, Fossil, Oregon 97830; (541)468-2028.

## GREEN ANARCHIST #59

DIRECT ACTION NEWS INCLUDING N30 IN LONDON/END OF HUMANITY? CORE THEME/LEWIS MUMFORD'S "ENCAPSULATED MAN"/"ONLY CONNECT" TECHNOLOGY SUPERCEDING HUMANITY/JOHN MOORE "THE SIXTIES"/ROB LOS RICOS "IMPOSED IMBICILITY"/BLACK BLOCK COMMUNIQUE AND SEATTLE N30/ JOURNO WATCH/PLUS

LETTERS, REVIEWS, PIRATE RADIO AND MORE/\$2 FROM GA POB 11331, EUGENE, OR 97440



## Do or Die

Voices from the Ecological Resistance



Do or Die No. 8 is 350 A5 pages crammed with reports and analysis from the worldwide ecological frontlines. From tribal resistance against Indonesia to the festive attack on the financial heart of London on June 18th these are the voices, not of outsiders, journalists or academics, but of those involved in the struggles themselves. In these times of concrete alienation these voices shine hope from movements that aim to defend nature, create revolution and re-wild humanity...

We no longer take subscriptions but for a copy of Do or Die Number 8 send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Do or Die' for £5.00 UK or £6.00 elsewhere (including postage) to: Do or Die, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2GY, UK. E-mail: doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

Back issues have sold out but are on the web at: <http://www.eco-action.org/dodi>

## UNDERGROUND PUBLISHER'S CONFERENCE

June 10-11, Bowling Green, Ohio

Last year readers and writers came together to talk about the culture of independent publishing. Participants proposed and conducted panel discussions, workshops and mini lectures covering the politics, economics, ethics and aesthetics of the zine world.

We are planning to do the same thing in June, and the scope of the conference has been expanded to include an even wider range of underground publishing projects. We are taking suggestions for proposed panel discussions, workshop and speakers so let us know what you would like to see.

For more information contact Jason at 216 South Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402; upcon2000@hotmail.com; (419) 353-7035.

## DRAGONFLY-CONSEJO de VISIONES

FEBRUARY 14-21, Full Moon 2000

TEPOTZLAN, MOR. MEXICO

•Benefit Event for alternative and Indigenous communities in the US and Mexico. A gathering of souls in solidarity with and benefiting the Mayan Zapatistas of Chiapas, Mexico, the Sovereign Dinah Nation of Big Mountain, Arizona, flood relief in Oaxaca and the Tukupa Land Trust.

•A reunion of peace to honor the spirits of the Muse as manifest in all beings and cultures through art, music, poetry, dance and magical ceremony. A building of crystal bridges to dissolve the barriers of classism, racism and sexism; Uniting the diverse families of labor, environmentalists, women's rights, progressive politics, and indigenous self-determination, free from the chains of corporate colonialism once and for all.

A caravan is going to depart from San Francisco in early February.

Located on a beautiful 300 acre mountain park in the international arts and indigenous community of Tepotzlan, Mexico, 1.5 hours south-east of Mexico City.

Discussions will include: Grassroots Democracy, Permaculture/Organic Agriculture, Healing Arts, Community, Sustainability, Ecology, Activist Networking, Indigenous Skills and much more.

For tickets, directions and information contact (707) 869.3114; deluix@hotmail.com or lumeneye@hotmail.com; www.dragonfly-consejo.org.

## pickAxe Now Showing

The eleven month blockade of the Warner Creek arson fire timber sales lives on in the memories of *Journal* readers now nearly five years later. We are happy to announce a world premiere of *pickAxe* at the ELAW Conference in Eugene, Oregon, on March 3 at 3 p.m. Get there early because seats will be limited.

Help with the Warner Creek Movie Tour. If you are able to screen a showing of *pickAxe* in your community contact us at pickAxe productions, 1430 Willamette, PMB 506, Eugene, OR 97401; 1-888-PICKAXE; pickaxeprod@igc.org.

## GOT AN EXTRA PHOTOCOPIER?

Have a spare or are about to upgrade? contact the *EF!* for arrangements.

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## TREE-SIT



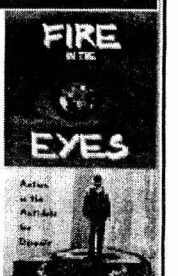
Headwaters Action Video Collective is nearing the completion of a feature length film called "Tree-Sit". Help support this grass-roots, non-profit effort by ordering an organic "Tree-Sit" tee-shirt \$25-\$100 (suggested donation) sizes S M L XL or order one of our videos below.

Send donations to:  
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Redway CA 95560

\$3.50 shipping (USA) \$8.00 (worldwide)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS... ANNOUNCEMENTS...

## Mayday 2000: The Next Action Against Global Capitalism

### Global Day of Action, Resistance and Carnival against Capital. Start Plannin'!

The two Global Days of Action against Capitalism on June 18 and November 30 last year were generally very successful. Our networks grew, we learned much, and we saw many new people engage themselves. Now many groups around the world are preparing for a new Global Day of Action in the same spirit on May 1 next year (M1), in recognition that the capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people, societies and the environment for the profit of a few, is the prime cause of our social and ecological troubles. This day will continue the process of building up a strong, bold, and creative grassroots movement for a society in which people do not exploit or oppress each other, communities or the environment, but one that is based on solidarity, cooperation, grassroots democracy and ecological sustainability.

May 1, which offers a perfect symbolic and real opportunity to do this, has been endorsed as a day of action by the Peoples Global Action (PGA) international conference in India in August. Coordinative efforts are already being undertaken in major cities like Sydney, Toronto, London, Chicago, New York, and Washington DC. As on previous occasions, people of different movements and different countries will join forces for a day against the social, political and economic institutions of the capitalist

system. Workers, the unemployed, students, trade unionists, peasants, the landless, fishers, women groups, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, peace activists, environmental activists, ecologists and so on will work in solidarity with one another in the understanding that their various struggles are not isolated from each other. The simultaneous occupation and transformation of the capitalist social order around the globe—in the streets, neighbourhoods, fields, factories, offices, commercial centres, financial districts and so on—will strengthen mutual bonds at the local, national and international levels.

As before, the day will be organised in a non-hierarchical way, as a decentralised and informal network of grassroots groups that employ non-authoritarian, grassroots democratic forms of organisation, struggle independent of the social, political, and economic institutions of the capitalist system, and seek to effect change directly through their own action. Each event or action will be organised autonomously by each group, while coalitions of various movements and groups can be formed at the local, regional and national levels.

Get ready global capitalism, here comes another blow from the fists of true democracy.

Send inquiries to [mayday2k@email.com](mailto:mayday2k@email.com) and to join the discussion group subscribe at [mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com). Also check out [www.freespeech.org/mayday2k](http://www.freespeech.org/mayday2k).

## Natural Building & Social Justice

### A talk and slide presentation, western US tour

Rob is looking for contacts all over the United States, but in particular, in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Iowa and Wisconsin. *Natural Building & Social Justice* takes about 80 minutes. It is presented using two projectors placing images on side by side screens thereby allowing for the comparison and juxtaposition of images and ideas. This also enables the presentation to "leapfrog" through about 300 slides in a fast paced and stimulating way.

*Natural Building & Social Justice* can be shown in places ranging from a living room to an auditorium. Robert arrives with his own projectors with zoom lenses to accommodate a variety of room sizes and situations. In order to meet costs associated with doing a slide show tour, a minimum fee of \$100 per presentation is requested. Of course, if more money is available, it will be cheerfully accepted. A video of *Natural Building & Social Justice* is available free of charge for those serious about setting up an event.

From straw bale to cob and adobe to the earthship concept, the presentation shows a broad overview of natural building including passive solar design, photovoltaics, gray water, catch water, appropriate technology and permaculture.

Any help in setting up this Western US tour would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Robert at 888 Almaden St., Eugene, OR 97402; (541) 344-7196; [robtb@efn.org](mailto:robtb@efn.org); [www.efn.org/~robtb/](http://www.efn.org/~robtb/).

## Help out Cui Bono Fanzine

*Cui Bono* fanzine from Malaysia will meet you all as soon as possible. I need contributions from all of you to make this fanzine exist in so-called Hc/Punk scene. You can send your articles, scene reports (I hope to get the latest news from your scene), columns, info/activity about anarchist groups/squats that you form or join, direct action/protest/demo with photo please, etc. Classified ad is for free. So labels, distros, bands, fanzines, anarchist groups/squats and individuals, please get in touch. Please no racist/fascist/sexist/homophobic fucking shit!

Contact us at *Cui Bono Zine*, c/o Din, No 80 Blok 4, F. Kledang 81900 Kota Tinggi, Johor, Malaysia; [cui\\_bono81@hotmail.com](mailto:cui_bono81@hotmail.com).

## CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

MAY 5-7, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY-SACRAMENTO

CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Wilderness advocates from across California will come together in Sacramento to learn, celebrate and take action on behalf of the last wild places in the Golden State.

In May, the California Wilderness Coalition intends to unveil plans to gain permanent protection for millions of acres of additional California wilderness.

For more information contact CWC at 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616; (530) 758-0380; 758-0382 (fax); [info@calwild.org](mailto:info@calwild.org).

## A HUNTER'S VOICE:

### SUPPORTING WILDLANDS AND BIODIVERSITY

A Hunter's Voice is a new organization of hunters and non-hunters formed to provide an identified hunters voice on a host of natural resource issues. A Hunter's Voice, in the tradition of Aldo Leopold, will be an articulate spokesperson for ecological integrity. A Hunters Voice supports greater wildlands protection, and the restoration of native ecosystems, native species, including predators, and natural ecological processes.

Executive director, George Wuerthner, a former hunting guide, says that many hunting organizations are perceived to be anti predator, pro roads, anti park and wilderness protection, and supporters of anything that someone calls "hunting." This has allowed right wing politicians and anti-wildlands opponents to claim they represent all hunters. Says Wuerthner, "Many hunters, including myself, see wildlands protection and native species restoration as a prerequisite to a quality hunting experience. Nothing thrills me more than to come upon a wolf track when I'm out stalking a deer or elk."

A Hunters Voice will work for the restoration of predators like wolves and grizzlies. We will be a hunter's voice supporting parks, refuges, and wilderness. We will support road closures on public lands, and other measures that provide greater protection for all wildlife. We will even oppose some forms of mindless killing like prairie dog contests and indiscriminate predator control.

Among the positions A Hunter's Voice supports is the continued restoration of wolves in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and the Southwest. We also want wolves restored to Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah, Texas, California, New England and the Adirondacks. We oppose the efforts of groups now forming in Montana and Idaho that promote wolf eradication and control in Yellowstone and Central Idaho. We endorse creation of a Maine Woods National Park in Maine, a Hells Canyon National Park in Oregon, protection of southern Utah Canyon country and wilderness protection for all BLM roadless lands in Alaska. We support restoration of grizzly bears to Idaho's Central Idaho Wilderness. Recognizing the keystone influence of prairie dogs to grassland ecosystems, we are opposed to prairie dog hunting and indiscriminate control.

For more informations contact George at POB 3156, Eugene, Oregon 97403; (541) 684-7872; [wuerthne@teleport.com](mailto:wuerthne@teleport.com).

## KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE

Four Days of Protest Events

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## Donate to the Earth First! Journal

The *Journal* needs your help! We're poor and in need of a financial boost. We have tired, old hardware and a grossly underpaid staff. Also, if you can help acquire hardware donations (G3s, G4s and large monitors), we'd love it.

If you would like your donation to be tax-deductible, send checks to the Earth Defense Education Project at POB 134, Eugene, OR 97440. (All other donations can be sent directly to POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.)



# Butt Raisin Loves Bug Guts: A Music Review

BY BUTT RAISIN

"When you suck ass in a vacuum of greed there's just shit at the top of the fuck that you find."

Ah yes! Last fall we rolled wildly like puppies in autumn's colorful leaves to the irreverent, anti-corporate, depraved, witty and eco-revolutionary musical madness of Bug Guts' new CD release, *Great Spangled Fritillary!* Like the classic works from their previous CD, *Big Bowl of Warm Fur*, we are treated to wailing, gothic incantations dished up with raw, electric guitar jams, driving drum beats, pulsating bass tones and funky, melodic, transcendental riffs that'll guarantee your alternative satisfaction and make you writhe in pleasure.

Two songs of extra-special note are "Butterfly Feat" and "Gypsy Free-State." "Butterfly Feat" is a tribute to Julia Butterfly's nearly two year, steadfast occupation of the threatened ancient redwood tree, Luna. "She 200 feet high/ancient forest goddess/sweet peace warrior/pure heart she capture..." Hyper-electric guitar and drums liquefy the lyrics of this tribute in a remembrance of slain forest defender David "Gypsy" Chain, to the charismatic spoken word of late Earth First! organizer Judi Bari: "Butterfly brigade/kick down peacelove grenade/blow this canopy of clear-cut legislation/and when her feet kiss ground/the raging giants sound/Sequoia's victory breath/beyond sweet Gypsy's death/cuz nothing lasts forever/never remember forever./Resist much, obey little, resist./Serve some civil disobedience..."

—BUG GUTS



Whining guitar jams and hypnotic vocals intensify the brutally chilling authentic audio cuts taken from activists' video tape documenting the violent threats of homicidal logger, big A. Ammons, less than one hour before he felled a tree on Gypsy in the Gypsy Free-State. "Gnawin' on the mutha's ancient bones/clear-cut you another Maxxam haul/stumblin' thru the stumps/the loggers bawl/clear-cut you a coffin, one and all..." This song starkly reveals the intensity of fighting the greed and insanity of the timber industry on the frontlines, something all too many forest activists have experienced first hand.

Each track on this nugget is complete with artistic illusion. It is a naked celebration of free thought delivered with a Blair Witch Project-esque sense of suspense and anxiety. Samples of speeches, distorted sheep bleatings, the guttural teeth-gnashings of trolls, answering machine messages, creaking doors and assorted computer-automated voices are mixed like fine spices into this fiery brew with tender loving care by Rosebud and Scott Ireland, two amazing DIY anarcho-pagan, sage-scrub warrior musicians. With *Great Spangled Fritillary*, Bug Guts masterfully blend the obscurity of Ween, the instrumental wizardry of Jane's Addiction, the sarcasm of Negativland and the politics of Consolidated into a truly awesome form of hard Indy rock. Touch it. Feel it. Know it. Love it. Buy it! To order the *Great Spangled Fritillary* CD, send \$12 to Vinyl Communications, at POB 8623, Chula Vista, CA 91912; www.vinylcomm.com.

## A BOOK TO READ—*Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World*

BY THOMAS HANDY LOON

Colombia's Gaviotas is a community only dreamers could visualize, and only outcasts could build. Surrounded by rebel-infested llanos (savannas) and vast coca plantations, the presence of its peaceful rhythms and homegrown technologies is as hopeful as it is unlikely. A super-efficient pump fills water cisterns every time children play on the teeter-totter. Innovative lunar collectors have been designed for refrigeration. Ostracism, not jail, punishes criminal behavior but is rarely needed in this society of no police and no politicians.

Alan Weisman's *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World* furrows deeply the soil of sustainability that is both the premise and promise of Gaviotas. A veteran journalist, he first encountered this model community while living in Colombia in 1988 and has been returning ever since as part of a personal and professional quest to find and publicize points of light that could illuminate a path out of impending ecological overload. Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez calls Gaviotas founder Paolo Lugari the "inventor of the world." Lugari himself shuns suggestions that he has created a utopia, saying "Utopia means, literally, no place. We call Gaviotas a topia, because it is real. We've moved from fantasy to reality." And it's a rural reality, reflecting a disillusionment with cities. Sixteen lonely hours of bumpy roads—more when mud or guerrillas slow passage—separate this topia from Bogota and the outside world.

Gaviotas was not hatched in an ivory tower, an idea perpetuated by interminable scholarly papers and conferences. It is a functioning, hands-on, socio-ecological work in progress, designed and constructed cooperatively by a patchwork ensemble of refugee-seeking urban visionaries, resourceful tinkers, and indigenous Guahibo Indians. Engulfed in non-linear, barrio-meets-boondocks wisdom, they eschew blueprints and discover solutions first; documentation and structure, if it arises at all, comes later. "Something from the Third World, by the Third World," explains Lugari, describing the homegrown technology of his vision. "When we import

solutions from the United States or Europe, we also import their problems."

And Colombians know about problems. They've been enduring the injustice and brutality of a narcocratic system for decades. In chronologically choppy but colorful prose, Weisman presents a tumbling mountain waterfall of this community's ideas and inspirations. He skillfully weaves the story of each significant participant into Gaviotas' tapestry; what inspired their involvement, what they brought and learned there, how they came to stay, or moved on.

Against the unavoidable backdrop of Colombia's insurgents as well as its opportunistic politicians, Gaviotas is constantly portrayed as a scrappy survivor always one step away from being consumed by fires unrelated to its mission but integral to its context. Visionaries are often cast fictionally. *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, *We, Brave New World*, and even *Atlas Shrugged*, show that in model societies the implausible is always possible. Weisman makes Gaviotas sound almost fictional; sometimes writing like a novelist, he folds reality into surreality and back again. Projects on the brink of failure are suddenly fine-tuned into successes. Just as the money runs out, angels with checkbooks swoop

in to save the day. People facing handicaps are nurtured instead of ridiculed. More nonfiction should look—or better yet, *be*—like this. The progression of their topia from vision to viability constantly forces Gaviotans to pay heed to the delicate ideological lines of Colombia's turmoil.

Founder Lugari says, "We're not communists. And we aren't a commune either... We're not ideologues. All ideologues do is start trouble." Practically, this ambiguity is an asset. During a visit by armed rebels seeking their support, confrontation seemed imminent until the rebel commander said, "We have orders not to touch you... what you're doing is too valuable." Weisman occasionally discusses Gaviotas' precarious finances, and its past funders, who range from individuals to the United Nations.

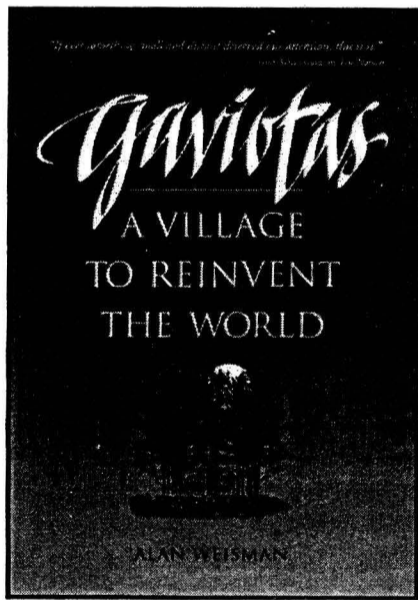
But from the beginning, its founders have said if they cannot evolve true sustainability and ultimately pay their own way, they would fail. Early experiments with appropriate technology coalesced into a cottage industry for the construction of low

cost water-heating solar panels and wind turbines. A Bogota factory extends the Gaviotas mission into the urban wasteland by employing dozens of former street kids in the construction and sale of such renewable energy hardware. Current components in their evolving economy include cultivation of organic coffee and selling purified water to nearby communities. A recent and ambitious endeavor is intended to lure coca growers into legitimacy through the growing of medicinal plants that can sell for up to \$500 a gram. They also require little of the political baggage and weaponry that *narcotraficantes* normally must lug to protect their profitability.

Perhaps their most significant triumph clearly illustrates the beauty and synergy of Gaviotas. They discovered that Caribbean pines held the key to their future. Fast-growing exotics, the pines were planted years before when Gaviotas was treeless, following long discussions of the ecological implications of their planting. Resin from the maturing trees provides a natural alternative to petrochemical solvents, and growing world-wide demand for it was outstripping supply. A new industry was born as they began tapping the trees for this renewable resource. Suddenly, they had a long-term economic base and began planting more trees across the savanna. Besides providing an economy, Weisman writes, "the pines have also created what biologists call an unimaginable miracle. In their sheltered understory, a tropical forest not seen for millennia in these savannas has regenerated, restoring the habitat of already proliferating deer, hawks and anteaters." Noting the vast expanses of similarly treeless savannas in other tropical regions of the world ripe for similar rebirth, Lugari explains, "Everywhere else they're tearing down the rainforests. We're showing how to put them back."

Weisman generally avoids discussion of personal conflicts and other negatives that could reflect poorly on this community. Even paradise has its imperfections. But why not overlook the shortcomings—none of which have been fatal—and portray Gaviotas as positively as possible? Progressives well-versed in the rhetoric of skepticism sometimes need to be reminded that though all that glitters is not gold, we're still allowed to celebrate victories. In a world dominated by linear thinking and specialists, the fact that the creative generalists of Gaviotas are succeeding—and inspiring others to emulate their innovations—is clearly reason to cheer.

To purchase the book check [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Thomas Handy Loon, Leech Lake Tribal College, Rt. 3 Box 100, Cass Lake, MN 56633; (218) 335-2828.



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#### *A Season in the Wilderness*

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### Do or Die #8

#### *Voices from Earth First!*

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### Earth First!

#### *Direct Action Manual*

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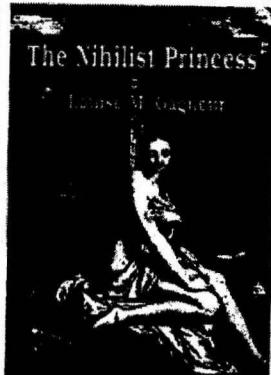
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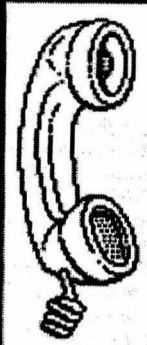
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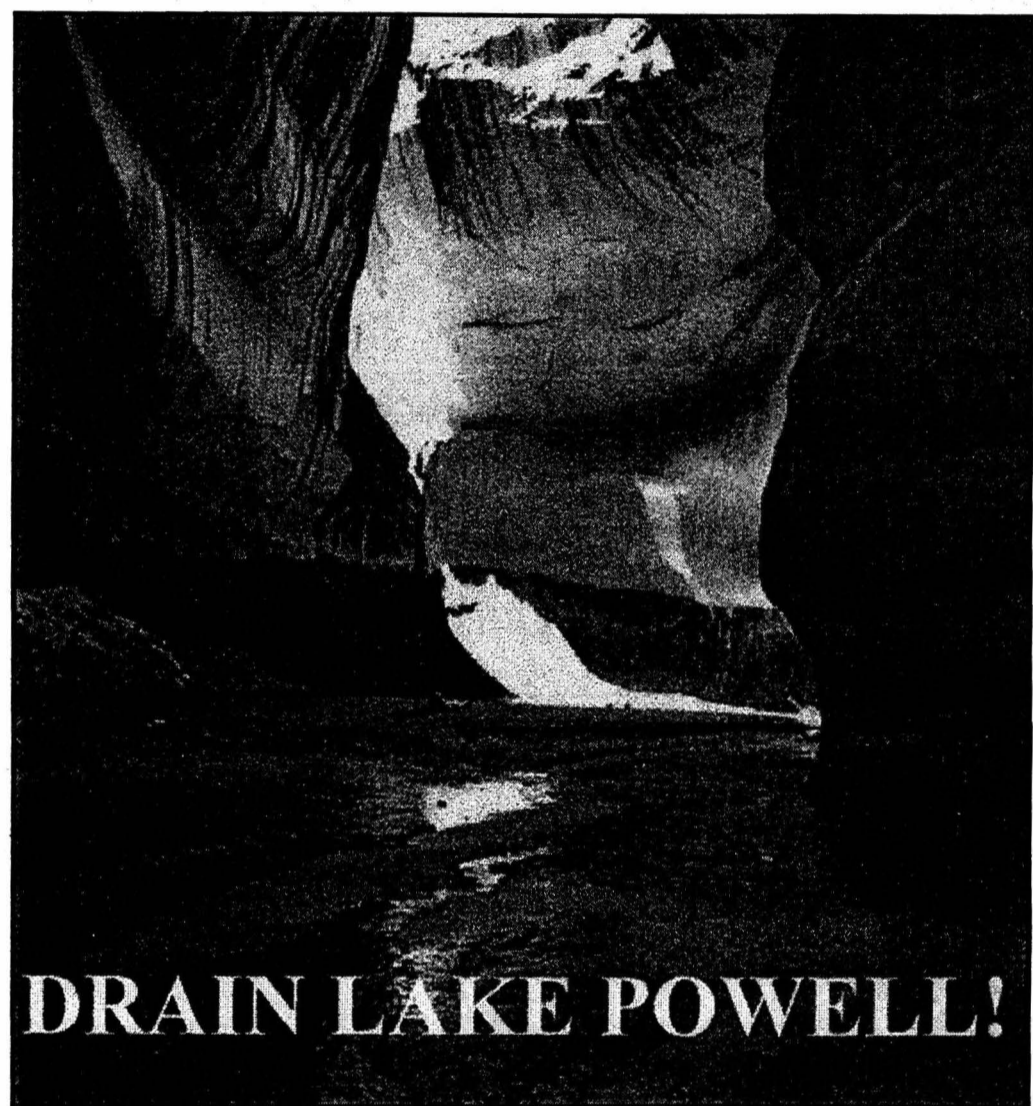
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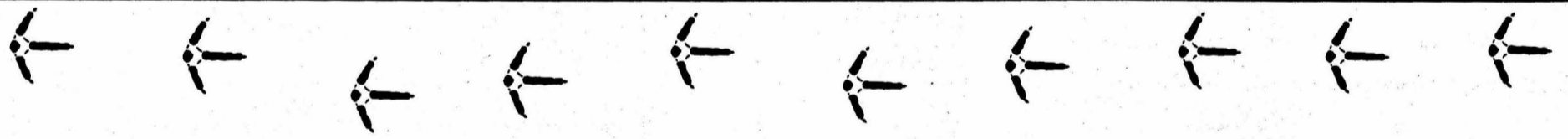
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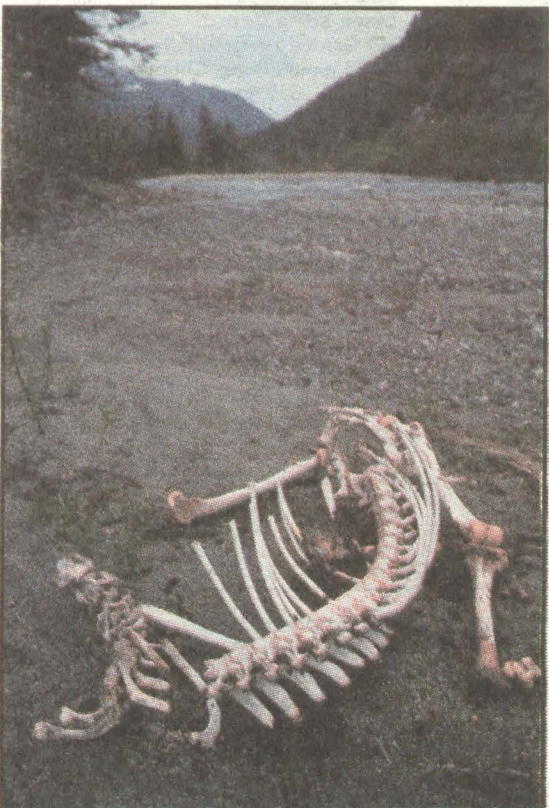
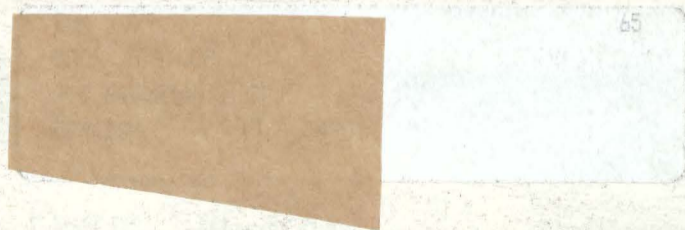


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Remains of a grizzly skeleton shot by hunters in the Mussel River Valley in the Great Bear Rainforest, British Columbia.



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