



Environment & Society Portal

Suggested citation: Justice, et al., eds., *Earth First! Journal* 20, no. 6 (21 June 2000).
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Indigenous Brazilians March Against 500 Years of Oppression

BY CHRISTINE HALVORSON

April 22 marked the 500-year anniversary of the "discovery" of Brazil. In collaboration with other social movements, indigenous groups there decided to counter the official government hype with a cross-country march and a gathering on the shores of Bahia, where the Portuguese first landed.

The march began one month earlier with caravans leaving from all corners of Brazil. Most of the caravans met in the capital city of Brasilia for protests on April 13. The caravans then moved to Bahia where more than 2,000 people came together for a historic indigenous conference from April 19-21. The largest march was planned following the conference in Porto Seguro where government celebrations with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and other officials were also planned.

Leading up to the march, organizers brought together various social movements: the student movement, the environmental movement, and the Landless Workers Movement (MST). Over the past several years, through direct action and land occupations, the MST has worked to counter the unequal distribution of land in Brazil, where the richest 20 percent hold 90 percent of the land, and the poorest 40 percent own just one percent. The MST is perhaps the most important and radical social movement in

Brazil today. With all of these movements coming together, the Brazilian government feared what might happen on April 22.

On the morning of the 22nd, the march made its way into Porto Seguro, where marchers were met with militaristic anti-riot police using tear gas, concussion grenades and rubber bullets. Thirty people were injured, and another 70 were arrested. That day Brazil and the world saw the rights of Brazil's minorities trampled once again.

The indigenous peoples of Brazil continue to grow and organize 500 years after Cabral first landed. They have made significant gains in the demarcation of land, respect for their rights and building international solidarity. Unfortunately, these are too often only on paper. Indigenous lands are routinely invaded by loggers, miners and ranchers. Major infrastructure development projects, roads, dams and pipelines threaten not only the forest but the people who live there. While so much of the news coming from Brazil is about deforestation and violence, the 500-year anniversary also gives us the chance to look at some of the struggles and victories of indigenous peoples in Brazil today.



Indigenous people march through tear gas, concussion grenades and rubber bullets.

One of the major struggles is over the demarcation of Raposa/Serra do Sol, the traditional land of the Macuxi, Wapixana, Taurepang and Ingaric, in the northern state of Roraima. Raposa/Serra do Sol has taken on tremendous importance in the fight for indigenous rights in Brazil. Local ranchers and state government officials have stepped up their efforts to prevent the demarcation and to defame indigenous leaders and activists, contributing to a tense and potentially violent atmosphere in the state.

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Sea Lions Slaughtered by BC Salmon Farmers

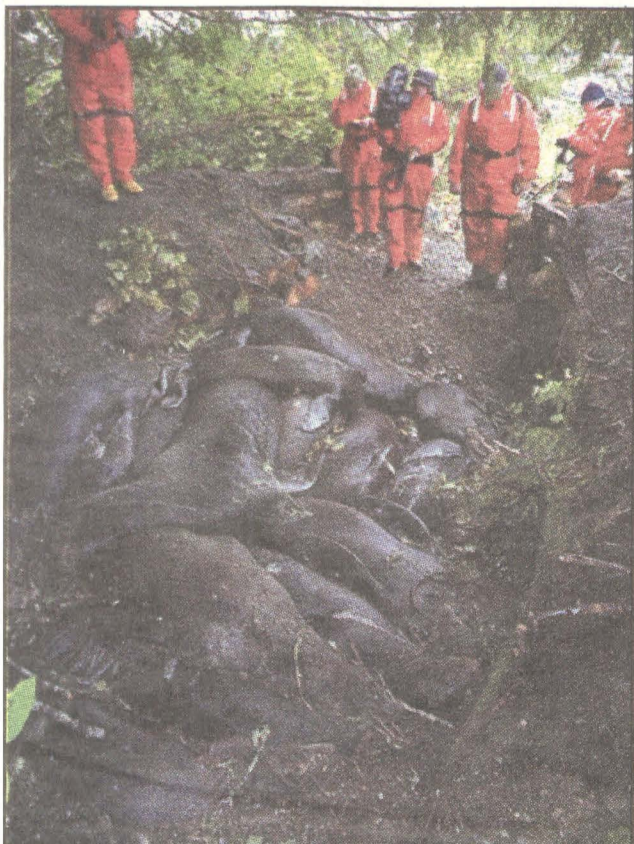


Photo courtesy Friends of Clayoquot Sound

The discovered pile of sea lion carcasses

BY EDWARD MAY

On a recent spring morning, a group of tourists was kayaking through the southern end of Tofino Inlet in Clayoquot Sound of Western Vancouver Island. They marveled at the wildlife on the coast and especially at a group of eagles flying in and out of a small cove. Remarking at their large number and unusual activity, the kayakers and a local tour operator decided to investigate. What they found in the little cove was abhorrent.

As I was turning the lights off in the Friends of Clayoquot Sound office, we received a tip regarding dead sea lions and their location. Immediately, a local resident, a videographer and I took a trip out to the site without knowing what to expect. The eagles perched in the trees gave away the exact spot where we discovered the mass grave of executed sea lions. Fifteen bodies lay piled with who knows how many below them. They were lying freshly killed in an uncovered pit just above the high tide line. A remnant of a tow line was still tied to an overhanging tree, and a portion of a matching rope was still wrapped around a sea lion's throat.

As we reported this to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and began to publicize the massacre to the press, what we had suspected became confirmed.

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UK "Eco-terrorism" Bill Around the Corner

BY BARRY PATTERSON

Over a quarter of a century ago, the British Parliament enacted The Prevention of Terrorism Act, the then-Labor government's reaction to an IRA bombing campaign on the British mainland. This law was subject to annual scrutiny and renewal by Parliament, a renewal which was never refused. Under this old law, terrorism meant "the use of violence for political ends" and included "any use of violence for the purpose of putting the public or any section of the public in fear." The powers only applied to Irish and international terrorism.

In the new Terrorism Act, "terrorism" will mean the use or threat, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, of action that involves serious violence against any person or property, endangers the life of any person, or creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public. It will also apply to people accused of planning or aiding such "terrorism" in other countries.

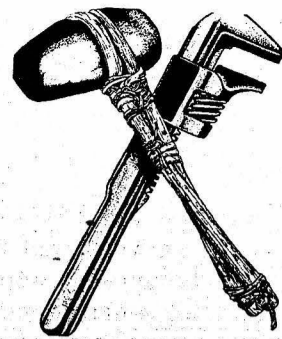
Many people are under terrible threat from these proposals. What does this mean to campaigners? How will it affect people who support Greenpeace or Earth First!? There are new risks. The main threat to such campaign groups is the extension of the definition of "terrorism" to include damage to property, to include ideological causes, and to include action against people or property in other countries.

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

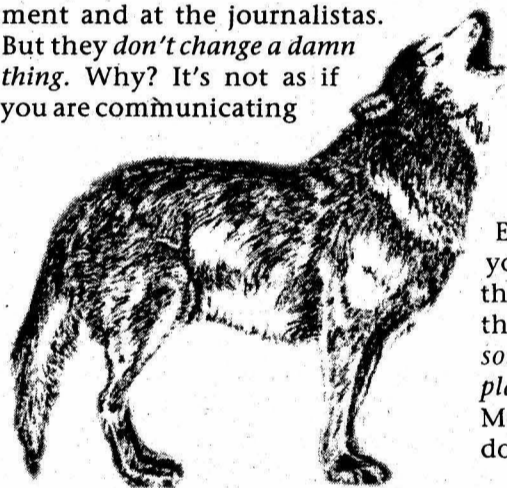
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Repeating Ourselves Redundantly

During the last month, while short-terming here at the *Journal*, I have witnessed more than anyone's fair share of criticism on how the paper's either not radical enough or not multi-movement inclusive. These criticisms come via letters, emails and telephone calls, as well as in personal bitch-fests I've had with my friends and peers. While I tend to agree that we need to be publishing more direct action and monkeywrenching in hopes of encouraging others to do the same and that maybe it's time to reevaluate ourselves to see if we should redefine what the EF! movement really is, let me just share a few thoughts on how the *Journal* might accomplish this.

Send us your articles. No, really—send us your articles. SFBs are entertaining and (obviously) the place to vent your frustrations at the movement and at the journalists. But they don't change a damn thing. Why? It's not as if you are communicating



to deaf ears—I often feel the same (okay, maybe I'm not as hostile). But in case y'all haven't noticed, the *journal staff doesn't write many articles*. We print what you send us (hopefully). Each of the five editors—ultimately four longtermers and one short-termer—reads every last submission sent here and through the consensus process, we determine what goes in and what gets cut. We only cut things irrelevant to the EF! movement, very outdated info, unformattable stuff (packets of highlighted information, occasional newspaper clippings, etc.) and stuff that for some reason, someone on the collective has a serious problem with. Oh yeah, we only have 36 pages to play with, so often we have to cut for length. These are very tough decisions to make, because we love most of your stuff! Rest assured that during this issue, nobody here has blocked anything on direct action or monkeywrenching, or anything that is multi-movement sensitive.

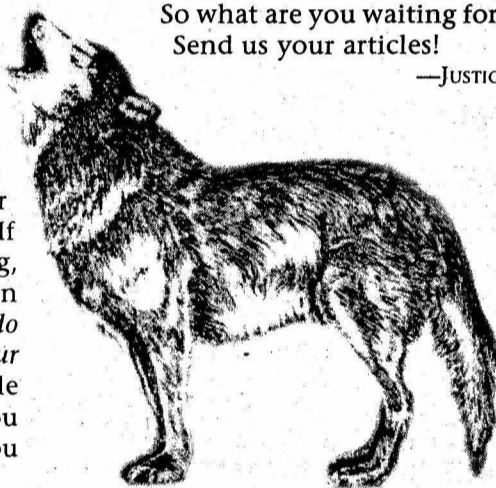
If you have an incredible Mother Earth-saving story, send it in! If you don't and you're still bitching, then maybe you should put down the *Journal* for a minute and go do something productive like helping our planet. Then send us your incredible Mother Earth-saving story. If you don't feel like doing either, and you

still feel like whining, why not let the journalists know that you want to short-term an issue? Short-termers come from all over the country and (as some put it) prevent the *Journal* from getting stale. At least then you will either make the "radical" changes you feel are needed at the *Journal*, or you will come to the realization that the paper is only as good as the submissions.

Okay, maybe you're venting your frustrations at the *Journal* without realizing it's the EF! movement you're truly frustrated with. If this is the case, talk to other EF!ers about how the movement needs to be redefined and then (guess what?) send us your articles. A terrific time and place to do this is at the RRR from July 2-9. (Get all the details for this EF! week of bliss in the previous issue of the *Journal*).

So what are you waiting for? Send us your articles!

—JUSTICE



• Earth First! Journal •

DELUXE 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The *Samhain* (November 1) 2000 issue of the *Earth First! Journal* will be the 20th anniversary issue of the paper. The deluxe issue will include articles from a diverse collection of authors, a list of EF! victories, memorials to fallen places and comrades, top-10 lists, EF! action records and firsts, an EF! movement timeline, and much more! Send your writings, drawings, nominations, musings, photos, poetry, proposals, pontifications and poophead-bound letters to: EF! 20th, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.

ATTENTION
POTENTIAL
JOURNALISTAS

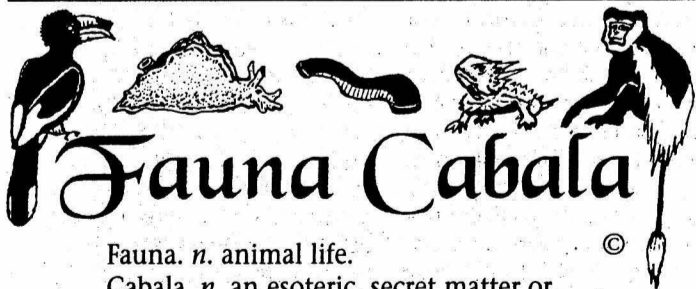
We are currently taking applications for a long-term editor. If you can commit at least a year, can tolerate computers and starvation wages, have a sense of humor, understand movement history and enjoy people, send us a résumé.

Be sure to include movement references and a writing sample.

BY FAITH WALKER

benefit, since females never carry their own eggs and males often carry eggs they didn't fertilize. It is clear that males get the brunt of the task; their backs are a field of eggs and eggshells.

Carrying eggs, however, is risky. These perfectly cryptic and leaf-shaped insects are more visible to predators because the eggs, which look like flowers of the host plant, sparkle in the sun. And they're heavy, sometimes making it impossible for males to become airborne, and gooey, sticking wings together. Wasp parasitoids frequently espy and catch these encumbered beasts and lay their own eggs within them or inside the ornaments that bedeck their backs. Those that are laid inside bug bodies hatch and begin feasting, inevitably killing the bug that lays the golden egg. The chances of being occupied by an alien being, however, must have been sufficiently low in the course of their evolution to allow development of parental care, which is rare among insects.



Fauna. *n.* animal life.

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

Female golden egg bugs, *Phyllomorpha laciniata*, aren't shy. While couples of this Mediterranean species copulate, an event that lasts 20 hours, other females clamber on top of them and plaster eggs to their backs. The bugs lug the pegged eggs about until hatching, whereupon the larvae crawl off, leaving their eggshells behind. Eggs can also be laid on the host plant itself but are seen as caviar by the local ants. Thus carrying them increases survival. It isn't clear how individual males and females

Earth First! Journal
Litha

June 21, 2000
Vol. 20, No. 6

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Earth First! Journal is a forum for the non-compromise environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this newspaper, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth First!ers.

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.

ISSN 1055-8411 *Earth First! Journal* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. The *Earth First! Journal* is recorded on microfilm by University Microfilms, Inc.

All correspondence regarding subscriptions, merchandise orders, donations, letters to the editor, articles, photos, graphics, etc., should be directed to:

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SCHEDULE

Earth First! Journal is published eight times a year on the solstices, equinoxes and cross-quarter days, on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox) by Daily Planet Publishing, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. US subscriptions are \$25. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *EF! Journal*, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. Application to mail at periodicals postage rates is pending at Eugene, OR 97401.

Deadline for the next issue is:

July 16

A16—An Analysis of Our Tactics

BY SOLSTICE

The same strategy used last year in Seattle to successfully shut down the World Trade Organization's (WTO) meetings was attempted this April 16 in Washington DC for the International Monetary Fund/World Bank (IMF/Bank) meetings. From a military standpoint, it is unwise to repeat a strategy when up against an enemy who learns quickly. Predictably to some, an actual shutdown of the meetings failed. Fortunately, this was not our only strategy.

While police forces were spending millions frantically focusing single-mindedly on preventing a shutdown, organizers in DC and across the country were working on a long-term strategy utilizing the Mobilization for Global Justice (MGJ) effort to build and strengthen movement relationships.

After the fallout over tactics in Seattle, the FBI made concerted efforts to further drive a wedge between activist groups. In classic COINTELPRO style tactics, its organized crime division and counter-insurgency division reportedly paid visits to labor unions and student groups in an attempt to scare them away from participating in A16, citing probable property destruction couched in the terms of violence. This "black-scare" was recognized early on for what it was—divide and conquer—and a determined commitment from individuals and groups on all ends of the spectrum prevented this age-old oppressors' tactic from succeeding.

There are undeniably great tactical and philosophical differences between the various groups that mobilized for A16. To sweep these under the rug in order to create a united front is no long-term solution, but a determination to address these differences in open, constructive dialogue internally, instead of in front of news cameras, is what enabled us to avoid repeating some of the mistakes seen in Seattle.

The tone of this dialogue was overall non-hostile and was not intended to convert or convince anyone of anything but rather to raise awareness about the diversity of critiques and tactical inclinations within our movement. The forums for this dialogue ranged from informal conversations to listserves, working group meetings to skills trainings. During direct action preps, participants would stand somewhere along a line on a "controversy spectrogram" indicating their feelings on the appropriateness of property destruction. A "reporter" would then interview people all along the line asking them to explain their position,

fostering much understanding. In media preps participants brainstormed on how to articulate their particular critiques (whether pro-debt relief, IMF/Bank abolitionist or entirely anti-capitalist) and how to stay on message and to avoid digressing into tactical debates with hostile reporters.

Arguably the most important factor contributing to the success of this dialogue was that the MGJ took a non-marginalization position toward people using tactics outside of the action guidelines. The on-camera



Folks blockade a street in Washington DC.

condemnations of fellow activists in Seattle contributed significantly, if not primarily, to the post-Seattle fallout, which DC organizers had to deal with the aftermath of. In Seattle some activists mistakenly judged that they could opportunistically condemn "window smashers" because they numbered so few and because they acted outside the guidelines. However, it was quickly learned that those participating in the direct action (within the guidelines) were motivated by deep solidarity politics, and—regardless of their feelings on the appropriateness or effectiveness of the property destruction—a large portion of them would not tolerate the marginalization of their comrades. Many of the very same people who in Seattle condemned the property destruction were in DC on board with the non-marginalization position. When approached in a non-hostile manner, people and organizations are making positive changes to accommodate these emerging powerful alliances.

Early on, a call was put out, autonomous from the official MGJ, for groups/individuals who were explicitly anti-capitalist and anti-hierarchical to form the Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist Bloc (RACB). Concerns

ranging from action guidelines to peacekeepers (which eventually the MGJ consented not to include for the direct action) to reformism were articulated in a widely circulated statement. With more than two dozen active groups endorsing the call, it became clearer to "mainstream" organizers that this was a legitimate dissenting faction. By committing themselves to open and principled dialogue, the organizers for the RACB (comprised mostly of, but not limited to, anarchists) created an atmosphere in which anyone attempting to marginalize the RACB would have found themselves isolated.

Non-marginalization enabled everyone to explore tactics strategically instead of debating them morally. Creative tactics, such as guerrilla gardening, humanized the black block to many people without the block having to dilute anything. Many black block affinity groups chose to play a support role for other direct action participants, communicating their commitment not only to autonomy, but to mutual aid. Non-marginalization became not only a MGJ media policy but a deeper reality of solidarity. Because groups were not knocking each other's efforts, there was no impassable divide at any point along the spectrum, and the result was a working continuum for radicalization.

Aside from the FBI's trumped ace card of divide and conquer, it and other intelligence/police forces engaged in a variety of sophisticated and illegal techniques to sabotage our efforts. Midway into the week-long convergence, they pulled over two vehicles, arresting seven organizers (trial pending) and seizing protest supplies and equipment. On the morning before A16 they significantly stepped up repression by raiding the convergence space. On the flimsiest pretext imaginable of a minor fire code violation, 100-200 cops were on the scene only minutes after the fire marshal's unannounced inspection. Many believe that the intention was to force a confrontation far away from our targets. They got no such response, and to their surprise we already had back-up spaces available. With national and international media on the scene nearly instantly, along with a contingent of people from the global South (who were quick to connect that this is the same repression they face daily for opposing these undemocratic institutions), the raid backfired in a big way and harmed *them* much more than us overall. They also looked really stupid when they were forced to admit that the allegedly discovered "bomb-making materials" consisted of rags and a recycling bin.

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Dear Shit For Brains. Please keep those letters under 300 words. Or else..

Dear SFB,

I was glad to see *Journal* support for monkeywrenching. I'm sure you'll receive a fair share of PC hate mail. Screw 'em! This movement has become so overloaded with passive-aggressive lily-white upper-middle-class liberal "activists" that it is all but meaningless. Our enemies don't fear us, and everybody else is bored by us. And why not, sitting in a tree gets pretty old after awhile. I am not against trees but they seem to be our only tactic. All the upper middle class property owners get worried when we start talking about fucking shit up. I've been involved to one degree or another since 1987, and it was that stuff you wrote about in the editorial that brought me to *EF!* Why do I stay? Because I'm a pain in the ass. Starting in 1990 this movement began falling apart. The old gang were gone and discredited, and if a tactic didn't spawn from California it was considered worthless. There may be more people, but we are doing less with more when we used to do more with less. Nobody fears a bunch of scrawny hippies running around the forest whining about the trees! Gypsy died because our ludicrous passivity

made it safe to kill him! We are not respected. Those beer guzzling rednecks of the early days were respected. The next time we are all sitting around a campfire swilling over-priced hippie groovy "microbrew" beer whining about the closure of our favorite sushi bar, ask this question: If ten logging trucks have all their tires flattened, how many logs can they haul?

Viva the 'rench,

—STAN WILSON

May 3, 2000
Re: Highland Enterprises Inc.
Earth First

Present balance: \$1,149,996.00

Dear Sir or Madam,

Sometimes our clients will accept settlements on the outstanding balances.

If you have a reasonable offer and available funds, please contact me at the toll-free number listed below.

Sincerely,
David Schlaegel, NCO Financial Systems, Inc., POB 2180, Boone, NC 28607; (800) 729-8766

(This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained

will be used for that purpose.)

Ed Note: This is in reference to a 1993 SLAP suit against Earth Firsters involved with the Cove/Mallard campaign in Idaho. The suit was based on alleged damage to a logging road and lost time. Obviously, the words "non-hierarchical" and "decentralization" mean nothing to these folks.

Dear *EF!* Journal,

I am an Afrikan-Amerikan male prisoner here in the Texas prison system. I've been receiving the *EF!* since the beginning of this year—I've received three issues, and I hope the journals keep coming throughout these last three years of my incarceration. I'm receiving a generous free/complimentary issues of *EF!* from you due to me being an indigent prisoner—thanks, I love the *Journal*.

Anyway, during the seven years of my imprisonment I've become conscious (enlightened). This means I'm a political activist, revolutionist, animal liberationist, speaker/lecturer, atheist and vegan. But after reading the *EF!* the few times I've received them, I discovered that the revolutionist/activist I claim "to be" was not complete without fighting for our

Mother Earth—although I always was an advocate for a clean and harmonized environment on our planet. It seemed the *EF!* opened a door of a new world informing me that humans (the guilty) are destroying the Earth. Whether the culprits intentionally or unintentionally mean to terminate the Earth/environment isn't the case, the point is, eradication of our planet is happening and people here in the US and the world must end destruction of nature, if not, I'm afraid we *Homo sapiens* will experience chaotic repercussions of karma from Mother Earth. I am sure we've all heard of the sayings, "What you sow is what you reap," and "For every action, there is a reaction." But as a warrior against wrongdoing, I will [use] "any means to see that righteousness is established here on our world." People like us are labeled as militants, radicals, extremist and even terrorist, but these names are given, or shall I say forced upon us, because the enemy is threatened due to their incompetence of mischief. Not to incriminate you, others or myself, but I understand why there were, are and will be people like Timothy McVeigh and David Koresh. If

one notices, people have begun fed up with Amerika and the world. Some feel that direct action by either "peaceful means" or "violent means" can/will bring change—I guess it depends on one's tolerance level. But as I read the *EF!*, I know there are soldiers, both women and men, young and old, fighting for a righteous cause in defense of Mother Earth. And while I read the *EF!*, not only do I become informed/educated, but I'm inspired and motivated to declare and wage war against tyrants/infidels who hideously create atrocity throughout the land. As a human, I'm ashamed of the imbalance on the scale of humanity. As I sit here in a prison cell I ask myself, what will it take to awaken humans?

Well, that is all I wanted to say. Thanks for sending the *EF!*s and I wish I'll keep receiving them. And to all troops of righteousness, smash our oppressors until they cease to exist.

Thoughts and reflections are welcomed. Contact me.

—PATRICK GREENLEAF, #679426,
9601 SPUR 591, AMARILLO, TX
79107

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May Day 2000 Hey There Capitalism!

On May Day 2000, revolts against capitalism occurred on six continents and over 100 cities worldwide. A remembrance of workers and a pagan celebration of fertility, the traditional "spring revolts" as they're called in Korea, were celebrated with marches in Africa, massive rallies in Turkey, police riots in Korea and Germany, shit getting smashed in London and in America, street parties and police repression.

A sampling:

Africa

Luanda—Thirty-thousand people paraded through the streets, demanding the end of the war and better salaries. The event, one with official approval, marked a return to the old style parades with floats, that were common after independence.

Mozambique—The celebrations took a more adversarial tone. Fifteen thousand people participated in a demonstration in Maputo, convened by the "Confederaçao de Sindicatos Livres e Independentes/Confederation of Free and Independent Unions". The marchers focused on unemployment (8,000 public sector workers lost their jobs in 1999 due to privatization and bankruptcy), and on the minimum wage (the workers organizations want it raised from \$30 US to \$130 US).

Europe

Karnten, Austria—Approximately 20 people built a wall of strain packages in front of the Chamber of Commerce in Klagenfurt and handed them over to the Government including statements for each package. These statements pointed out the global aspect of the neoliberal reorganization of economy and society, though the main attention has turned to the actual political processes.

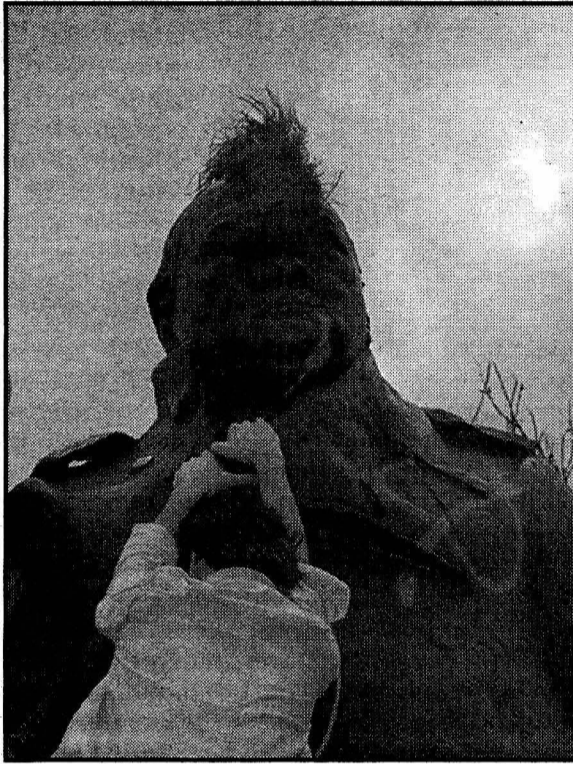
Berlin, Germany—Over 100 police and 25 protesters were injured in demonstrations when neo-Nazi marchers charged anti-fascists in the east Berlin district of Hellersdorf. Police used teargas, water cannons and billyclubs against a crowd of 10,000(!) people. Police arrested at least three-dozen "leftists." One person arrested was a vacationing cop from Leipzig, who got caught up in the riots and was throwing bottles at a watercannon.

Hamburg, Germany—"Leftists" clashed with police. "Nazis go home, Nazis go home," anti-fascists chanted at the 750 neo-Nazis who gathered, many of them skinheads.

Zurich, Switzerland—Riot police used water cannons to disperse the crowd of masked youths, who staged a separate march to the main parade in the center of the city. Several hundred people participated in the second May Day parade, organized by "Revolutionärer Aufbau" (Revolutionary Construction). Police estimated the number of demonstrators at 500 and the number of hangers-on at another 500. Six policemen were slightly hurt and several of the demonstrators needed medical attention. At about 2 p.m. stones were thrown at the district court building after rallying cries of "International Solidarity". Thirty-eight youths were arrested. The damage is estimated at close to 100,000 Swiss francs (\$40,000 US). The "official" parade went smoothly and attracted 13,000 people according to organizers and 5,000 according to police.

London, England—Parliament Square was occupied, and large groups of people occupied the 600m of Whitehall leading up to Trafalgar Square which was packed with participants. Guerrilla gardening actions happened here. The turf was removed and gardeners turned the square into a garden, replacing the grass with vegetables and flowers. After some isolated clashes with riot pigs guarding Downing Street and the Ministry of Defense, a group of anonymous people hol-

lowed out the McDonald's on Whitehall, located about halfway between the two squares. At this stage a thin group of riot cops cordoned off the two groups, stretching across the road from the trashed McDonalds, blocking one square from the other. After a couple more hours, the body of protesters left Parliament Square and headed down to Kennington Park in South London. After numerous adventures (emptying a Texaco of goodies, and getting penned in a narrow road!) they arrived in Kennington Park. At 7 p.m. that the cops entered the Park. Tally: Sixty-seven arrests, nine injuries, nine cops injured three hospitalized, 5,500 cops deployed with 9000 on standby. Roughly 25,000 to 30,000 protesters at the start of the day with 800 in Kennington Park



Winston Churchill gets grassy mohawk in London.

Manchester, England—Twenty people were arrested at a similar anti-capitalist rally in Manchester. A demonstration by 250 people in Piccadilly gardens dispersed into small groups who then targeted shops, fast food restaurants and the city's metrolink system. Cross city trams were halted as a result of a sit down protest on the main junction, and protesters attempted to reach a McDonald's restaurant on Oxford Street. A huge police presence, backed up by 30 mounted officers and a police helicopter, kept the protesters contained in small ar-

reas and then led them from the city center.

Australia

Sydney—Police tackled anti-globalization protesters to the ground in a lunchtime stand-off. The 200 celebrated May Day by marching to Martin Place, where they were stopped by 16 mounted police and dozens on foot. They attempted to enter Martin Place to demonstrate outside Westpac for its involvement in the Jabiluka uranium mine, but police lining the Macquarie Street entrance pushed back protesters trying to rush past the formation. Several were tackled and knocked to the ground but none were seriously injured. Protesters blamed Olympics-driven restrictions on political activity.

United States

Beverly Hills—The gathering began at 3 p.m. at a park a block away from Rodeo Drive. The police were waiting with riot squads, undercover, and the most police SUVs ever seen. The group began to march toward Rodeo around 4 p.m. behind a huge banner that read "Capitalism Stole My Life." Participants in the carnival consisted of people from various walks of life, including "passive consumers" wearing blindfolds that read "Consumer" following a businessman with fake hundred dollar bills, puppets, anti-capitalist warriors with shields and monkeywrenches, anti-fur activists and a brass marching band of superheros in capes who provided a lively soundtrack to the active disruptions.

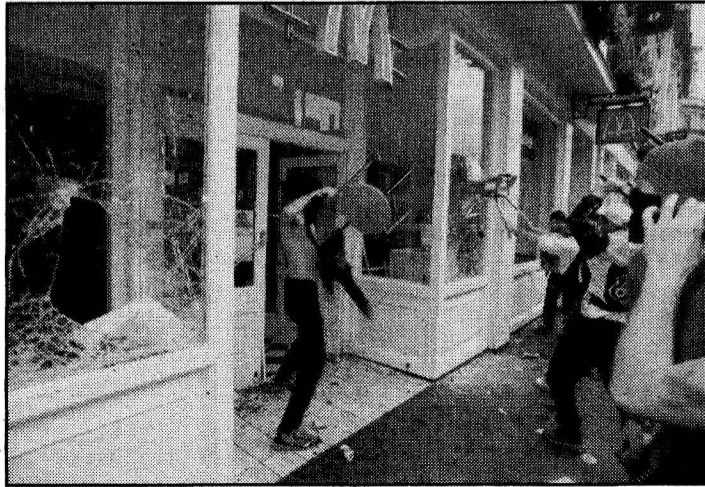
Boston—More than 200 anarchists, environmen-

talists, workers, students, and assorted radical-left activists descended on Boston's financial district in a spirited and disruptive celebration against capitalism. Taking to the streets and bringing downtown traffic to a standstill, protesters made their way through the city, making stops at some of Boston's largest capitalist financial institutions—including the Boston Stock Exchange, the headquarters of Fidelity Investments and Fleet Bank. Despite a fairly heavy police presence, protesters were successful in controlling the streets throughout the demonstration, with minimal confrontation or arrests. At Fidelity, protesters pushed past police lines and brought the "festival of resistance" inside the building, touching off minor skirmishes with police and brief panic on the part of security (which was forced to lock the doors and bring down the security gates after protesters were ejected). Continuing on through the financial district, a handful of anarchists managed to enter Boston Safe Deposit & Trust before police sealed off the entrance, forcing the group to leave.

Chicago—At 8 a.m. a protest outside the Board of Trade drew about 100 anarchists, socialists and Wobblies. The protesters marched up and down the financial district protesting with songs and chants. Afterwards they marched to meet with other protesters for the main march down Michigan Avenue. After numerous speeches at the main rally, a march set out for Daley Plaza to address police brutality. Police brutality appeared when anarchists at the front of the march tried to break police lines. The police responded by hitting people with their nightsticks, and in one instance, with a patrol bicycle. Once at Daley Plaza, CPD officers took pictures and video. Food Not Bombs served refreshments during the speeches.

Gainesville, Florida—Prior to May Day, a three-day gathering was held in the Ocala National Forest. There, workshops and speakers got folks ready for the May Day festivities in Gainesville. May Day started with an open house labor history display at the Civic Media Center (CMC), the local infoshop. Later in the day, cops showed up at the CMC to warn people that if they marched in the street they would be arrested. When time came for the march, the 100-150 people began to take the sidewalk then went right into the street. They took over both lanes of one of downtown Gainesville's busiest streets. The police could not force the procession back onto the sidewalk despite attempts from horse-mounted officers as well as a squad car being driven into the crowd. After marching a few blocks, they congregated in the Downtown Plaza. Speakers from around the state came to talk of labor organizing, a maypole dance was held and fire-breathers performed for everyone's enjoyment. The festivities ended around 10 p.m. with no arrests.

Minneapolis—Over 600 activists reclaimed the streets of downtown Minneapolis. Giant puppets decorated city blocks while a bottomless shopping cart filled with free organic food (thanks, Sisters Camelot!) kept hunger at bay as the Radical Cheerleaders rallied the crowd. Despite the cops preventing folks from deploying the blockades, due to sheer numbers and determination, they couldn't stop them from holding the downtown business district for more than four hours. Traffic was snarled as the protesters paraded around the business center of the city. The crowd remained peaceful while the Minneapolis police forced them out of inter-



You want fries with that? McDonald's is smashed in London

sections several times, and brutally attacked a crowd protecting the sound system, but the "puppet shield"-wielding folks on the front lines kept the police batons at bay. Of course, the day would not be complete without the notoriously brutal Minneapolis PD making over two dozen illegal and violent arrests. Those targeted, most of whom were associated with the now-

Your Ship is Sinking! May Day 2000

bulldozed Minnehaha Free State, were nabbed by snatch squads either before the action started or while standing in vigil with others in jail.

New York City—May Day activities began early in the day, centered around the Undocumented Workers March from Union Square to City Hall. The NYPD was on full alert, outnumbering the protesters at Union Square, shutting off whole areas of Wall Street, "Because the WTO is going to march and shut down the Stock Exchange," one officer explained. The cops also mysteriously occupied Tompkins Square Park and removed trash cans in a two block radius. Underneath the Manhattan bridge, in a Department of Environmental Protection site long promised (and never delivered) as park land, the marchers met the Reclaim the Streets advance crew who had "opened" the site. For two and one-half hours, nearly 200 guerrilla gardeners turned the lot into a garden. Gardeners were greeted by a 40-foot banner emblazoned with "Free the Land" that hung from the Manhattan Bridge, facing the site. A vegetable patch was dug and seeds were planted. Maypoles went up and a maypole dance began. A bulldozer pinata was knocked down. Drummers drummed. People danced. And squad after squad of riot police surrounded the site. As the sun fell over the site, and the lights of the Manhattan skyline came up, the garden party wound down.

Olympia, Washington—Approximately 1,000 people liberated some of the busiest streets of the capital city's commercial district in a street festival. The atmosphere remained high-spirited and non-violent throughout the all-day event. Just after noon, an assembly of several hundred activists came together at a busy uptown intersection, rallying toward a drum circle that formed under the traffic lights. State, county and city police diverted traffic away from the mass of pedestrians. Before long the assembly marched toward the Capital Mall District, a sprawl of shopping centers. The first intersection off the interstate exit became the rallying point for a massive street festival. The activists were entirely successful in isolating this capitalist center from interstate traffic. Metal poles were lashed into a tripod five meters high in the center of the intersection. The pole-sitter hung a black flag and a large rainbow wind ornament from the lashings. Crude barricades of wooden palettes, tables, couches and mattresses claimed space for the festival. Dome tents and shelters were put up. Green and black flags were stuck into manhole covers. Major appliances were dragged out and smashed on the pavement. A washing machine, microwave and numerous TV sets were destroyed and quickly salvaged to make percussion instruments, which joined an ensemble of plastic bottles and buckets. Musicians and dancers circled the tripod as house music throbbed to life from a PA system on the street corner, with the DJ mixing records from the tailgate of a parked station wagon.

Phoenix—Activists from Phoenix, Prescott, Flagstaff and Tucson gathered at Patriot square in downtown Phoenix. Voices and chants were impossible to ignore as they proceeded to shut down the entire downtown area for most of the early afternoon.

A rally in the park prepared for the day's events. Various speakers took the stage to state why they were there and to say their grievances. It felt good (despite the desert heat) to march through the Phoenix financial district yelling at the crowds on the sidewalks and at the people behind the glass office windows. A McDonald's was soon spotted and the crowd migrated to the sidewalk. Through McDonald's they marched with chants, informing people of McDonald's list of crimes. Then it was back to the streets and on to Starbucks. By this time the police were wise to what was going on and they blocked the coffeshop. They paraded everywhere from City Hall to the County Jail, Bank One, Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

The police followed everywhere, but it wasn't until they passed Wells Fargo a second time that marchers saw riot cops. Armored riot police teams with night sticks, tear gas launchers and rubber bullet guns for a small group of peaceful protesters... typical. The bankers, lawyers, government heads, Wells Fargo and Starbucks had become quite sick of them, as were the police, who threatened that if they tried to take another street they would shut it down and arrest people. So they marched back into the street, but briefly, for they were on the way to City Hall. The police outnumbered them three to one and would have been able to round them up in five minutes. They marched right up to City Hall to find out that it was closed to the public. Unable to enter, they slapped banners and signs up against the windows, while the crowds chanted, the drummers drummed, the puppets danced and the police waited. It was only after they began to move away that the police began pulling activists into the street and into cuffs. They got four in all before the riot squad surrounded them and began to shove activists to the ground and into flower beds. In the process, one man was struck in the face opening up a cut above his left eye. The crowd retreated ten feet before stopping and resuming their cheers of "this is what a police state looks like." With four people in jail the marchers could not leave. From City Hall they marched (surrounded by police) to Madison County Jail, where their comrades were being booked.

Portland, Oregon—Portland police lived up to their reputation, thoroughly agitating marchers by preemptively overreacting to the black bloc. At 11 a.m., black-clad "pirates" paraded unpermitted through NE stumptown with a giant papier-maché pirate ship festooned with flags, jolly roger masks and bucket-drums, aiming to pass Niketown and Starbucks on the march downtown to join the May Day Coalition parade. Police tried to intimidate them with riot lines early on, including a few surreal moments in a quiet residential area. As protesters took a major street leading to the bridge they had a riot-escort on both the right side and behind, slowly forcing them onto the sidewalk where the cops snatched a medic. In a quick move they took the bridge after being forced on the sidewalk, but soon a group of three pirates guiding the ship were snatched. An aggressive riot line prevented unarrest, but attempts to grab others were thwarted. Forced onto the sidewalk, they abandoned ship, then reclaimed one lane to the park where the Coalition maypole ceremonies began. After boring reform-oriented speeches, the organizer/police-negotiated, one-lane march began, complete with

orange-vested marshals and police on horses and ATVs. Anarchists claimed both lanes but soon lost another as they were penetrated by a bold snatch squad, again followed by aggressive riot cops. Tight arm-linking proved ineffective when horse-cops charged into the crowd for no reason, knocking people over as another snatch occurred. Coalition marchers were urged to continue on instead of confronting the police violence. Later teargas was used to disperse the passive crowd in Riverfront Park. Militant rhetoric was spouted to make people feel empowered, but once again pacifists helped the police control the streets with violence. One cop was injured when his horse bit him.

San Francisco—The day began at noon at Justin Herman Plaza with a May Pole Dance. The festivities included Art and Revolution, speakers and music from

the Casey Neill Trio, Folk You!, Seize the Day, Harmonic Intervention, The Infernal Noise Brigade and other beautiful, creative people. Food Not Bombs fed the masses for the uprising. The march began around 2:30 p.m. when people took to the streets for the Corporate Tour of Shame march. Joyous and festive people paraded and danced in the streets while the cops kept them off the sidewalks. People were chalking, parading around with huge puppets, drumming, flying and chanting continuously. The first stop on the Corporate Tour of Shame found them in front of Citibank and Victoria's Secret where Art and Revolution

performed street theater. At the Pacific Stock Exchange, people looked down from their offices and waved as activists gave Fidelity Investments the finger. Marchers then proceeded to a huge Citibank lending institution where a San Francisco punk bank rocked the street corner. They continued



Folks in Minneapolis fend off the cops with their puppet shields.

on to the GAP where the True Defenders of Capitalism (a.k.a. the SFPD), donned riot helmets in anticipation of zealous state smashing. Alas, the state was not smashed, and the peaceful protesters marched on. At this point, an effigy of one of the "white men in suits" was set ablaze on the street with little interference from the cops. There were occasional incidents where some excessive force was observed; cops shoved and elbowed folks standing on the sidewalk or in their way as they marched in little cop-formations. The march arrived at Union Square in the heart of the consumer district where everyone continued to sing and chant until approximately 6 p.m. when the march came to a close.

Seattle—At about 1 p.m., roughly 20 people met an equal or greater number of police on horseback, foot, motorcycles and in cars. The protesters gathered peacefully downtown. The police seemed nervous about having people gather so soon after the successful WTO protests in 1999. Activists spoke to passers by on the dangers of globalization, environmental destruction and economic tyranny. By 3 p.m. the protesters outnumbered the police 250 to 50. The police no longer looked nervous. They smiled and talked to bystanders. Individuals left the parade-like procession to walk alongside cops and talk.

Asia

Istanbul, Turkey—Tens of thousands of Turks took to the streets on May Day for protests largely directed against the International Monetary Fund. "IMF: This nation is not for sale," read one huge red and yellow banner carried by the crowds marching through Istanbul, Turkey's commercial capital, under bright blue spring skies. As in previous years, a hefty police presence closely matched the numbers of protesters. Officers watched from rooftops while helicopters clattered overhead and armored vehicles waited in side streets. Police said they had arrested 13 leftist militants whom they claimed had been preparing to provoke May Day violence.

Demonstrations took place in other major cities but were forbidden in the mainly-Kurdish southeast. The demonstrators were a motley array of unionists, urban leftists, Kurds in colorful traditional garb and long-haired university students in denim and corduroy. They chanted "Damn the IMF, long live socialist Turkey." Groups danced to drums and the wailing "zurna" pipes. Loudspeakers blasted out leftist anthems from the 1970s. "We are right and we will prevail," the crowds chanted. May Day protests in Turkey have a violent history: Thirty-seven workers were killed in 1977 when a suspected rightist gunman opened fire on a May Day march sparking a stampede, and three demonstrators were killed in 1996 in clashes with police.

For more information on May Day actions worldwide, check out www.infoshop.org.



Pirates on the loose in Portland

Buffalo Trace EF! Occupies Indiana Office

BY CONNOR LARKIN AND MAYA DEVI

On the morning of May 16, five activists from Buffalo Trace Earth First! occupied the Morgan-Monroe State Forest offices in a nonviolent protest of the timber sale program in the Indiana State Forest system. The action was timed to coincide with the first timber sale bids of the year for the Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests, and with a rally outside the offices. While the occupation did not disrupt the bids, it sent a clear message to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and timber buyers that their efforts to log our forests will be confronted every step of the way. We announced our intention to stage actions like this until the DNR agrees to end the timber sale program.

We all locked arms together with lock boxes and a woman U-locked her neck to the ring of arms. The lockboxes we used in this action were not the "industrial strength" steel boxes activists have seen in other EF! actions; instead we experimented with various materials in combination, including flammable materials to make the use of power tools in dismantling them dangerous. This information persuaded the conservation officers on site to refrain from using the chainsaws offered by loggers attending the bid, as well as other available power tools. With no clear way to cut through the boxes, the officers could not physically remove us from the office. We did our level best to chant, sing and generally annoy the hell out of the buyers gathered to bid on the trees, as well as the DNR personnel. At one point, a DNR employee approached us lying on the floor of the lobby and said "Could you please keep it down, we can't answer questions from the public when they call, we can't even hear ourselves think." From then on, the ringing phones were a signal to turn up the volume!

In the end, not being prepared to take the office indefinitely, we negotiated to unlock and keep our equipment without arrest at the end of the business day. In response to this action, the Morgan-Monroe property manager has vowed not to offer any more sales until he has met with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, not to allow cutting on the sales that were sold until July to accommodate our concern about nesting migratory neo-tropical song birds. He said he would make every effort to get a process in place to complete environmental assessments of the timber sales and consider phasing out the use of pesticides in state forests.

While these concessions are not what we really want, they do represent a significant step forward.

Just four days prior, the DNR refused to do any of the above actions when asked in a public meeting. What we got was the time we needed to organize an effective summer campaign.

We took these actions because we have met with the DNR, and they have refused to end the timber sale program or even acknowledge its harm to our state forests. They don't offer public comment periods or do the environmental analysis of the timber

requires old-growth forest habitat. They are home to some of the best and most diverse concentrations of migratory neo-tropical songbirds, which are in decline throughout most of their range.

The story of the yellowwood tree is the story of the fate of our state forests. In the past, a fairly large but concentrated population of these trees lived in the Yellowwood State Forest. The tree has smooth silvery bark, much like the beech tree, and beautiful white flowers in the spring.

When the DNR conducts timber sales, there are often a large number of "cull" trees. These trees are cut down and left because they are not valuable for timber. Beech trees are the most common victims of the eugenic cull program as they are typically hollow, and the lumber that comes from them is twisted. In a "mistake," the DNR foresters marked a large part of the forest's yellowwood population as cull trees, and they were cut down and left to rot. The yellowwood trees have never really recuperated, but most of the survivors are protected in areas that are off limits to logging.

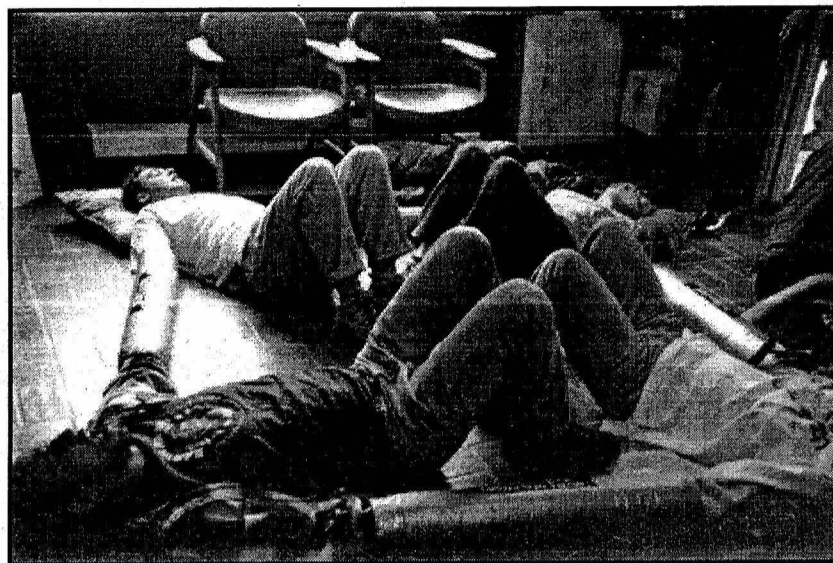
Buffalo Trace EF! feels that the campaign to protect the remain-

ing public wild areas in our state forests should be done in the spirit of the lost yellowwood. It is a symbol of the diversity the forest once contained and of what happens when humans try to manage nature.

Buffalo Trace Earth First! has begun a campaign of nonviolent direct action striving to protect our remaining wildlands in Indiana. There are actions planned to take place throughout the summer, in both the forest and in the cities. We are planning an early summer encampment, with skill sharing and action-prep workshops. We are looking for places for people to stay, in addition to camping spots and food sources to support activists who come to lend a hand. We ask that only people serious about action come—no lowbaggers will be supported.

If you can't come, please write to State Forester Burnell Fischer and tell him to stop logging in Indiana's state forests. His address is Room W296, 402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4107.

For more information contact Buffalo Trace EF!, POB 3503, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 332-4878; buffalotracedef@yahoo.com.



Kickin' it Indiana style! Five activists use flammable lockboxes and bike locks to protest timber sales in Morgan-Monroe State Forest office.

Photo by Tiffany Kinney

sales which is required by law. We feel it is time that we take our state forests back from the timber corporations and the DNR, because the wild should exist for itself and not for profit.

The DNR is planning to sell a total of 5,000 trees (159 truck loads) from all 12 state forests in the month of May alone. This represents an increase in the amount of timber that has been sold over the past few years. The DNR cut a total of 13,617 trees in 1998 and 17,500 trees in 1999, covering approximately 3,000-3,500 acres each year.

Indiana's state forests, while not enormous in size when compared to their western counterparts, are some of the most biologically rich areas in the world. They are very important core forest areas in the Midwest, with the complex of state and federal lands in south central Indiana being the largest contiguous block of forest between the Smoky Mountains to the south and the Ozarks to the west. These wildlands are home to many species of animals and plants, including the northernmost population of the yellowwood tree. They contain the world's largest population of Indiana bats, a federally-listed endangered species that

Wolves and Poodles

A hey folks, wake up and smell the burning planet wolf to David Brower for resigning from the board of the Sierra Club. A former executive director of the club as well as one of its most charismatic and respected members, Brower, 87, announced his resignation "with no regret and a bit of desperation."

"The world is burning and all I hear from them is the music of violins," Brower said of the board. "The planet is being trashed, but the board has no real sense of urgency. We need to try to save the Earth at least as fast as it's being destroyed."

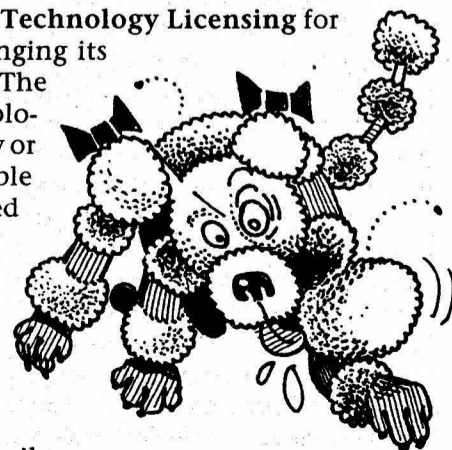


An oh my god my computer isn't working, whatever shall I do? wolf to the creator of the "Love Bug" computer virus for infesting the computer systems of the Pentagon, the British Parliament and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Pentagon reportedly sent the virus inadvertently to the CIA, the Civil Air Patrol and the General Accounting Office. With damages estimates reaching more than \$1 billion worldwide, the virus also caused system administrators at Ford Motor Company, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, AT&T Corporation, The Walt Disney Company and others to shut down their email servers for hours.

A maybe if I took Viagra, I'd have balls again poodle to Dave Foreman for badmouthing the ELF in the mainstream press. In a *Los Angeles Times* article entitled "Green and Mean: The new face of radical environmentalism," the co-founder of Earth First! and "editor" of the 1993 book *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching* was quoted as saying "I think the Earth Liberation Front's a bunch of nitwits, myself, if they're not actually working for industry." Come on Dave, some of us actually remember when you were radical.

A we don't know our ash from a hole in the ground poodle to the Environmental Protection Agency for deciding against regulating the 100 million tons of ash and sludge produced yearly by coal-burning power plants. In a major concession to the industry, the agency announced it will merely develop voluntary coal-ash disposal standards that states could choose to follow to deal with the mercury, arsenic and cadmium-laden waste. Think of all the money that will be saved while we all get poisoned and choke to death!

A 20 years too late poodle to Toups Technology Licensing for its recent announcement that it's changing its name to EarthFirst Technologies Inc. The company, which devises unusual technologies that purportedly "help make energy or find oil in more ecologically responsible ways," decided its fate is better served with a new name with an enviro-friendly theme. The EarthFirst name is the brainchild of Toups' new chief executive, John Stanton. Stanton "owned" the EarthFirst name and convinced the Toups board that a name change made marketing sense. An EF! primer and a sample copy of the *Journal* are in the mail.



Rodolfo Still in Mexican Prison for Defeating Boise Cascade

BY PAT RASMUSSEN

Free Rodolfo!

This cry rings out in protests across the US as activists call for Rodolfo Montiel's release from prison in Guerrero, Mexico.

Rodolfo Montiel is a hero of sorts, the Mexican farmer who kicked Boise Cascade out of Mexico. American activists who had tried for years to stop Boise Cascade from logging old growth in their own communities marveled that the farmer ecologists in Guerrero had succeeded. Victor Menotti of the International Forum on Globalization traveled in February 1999 to Guerrero to interview the farmers, hoping to get clues about how they had done it, clues that could help Chilean community members stop Boise Cascade from building the largest chip mill in the world in Puerto Montt, Chile.

"It's exploiting the Sierra, ending the water, the springs are disappearing, the arroyos and the rivers are drying out. As a farmer I saw that the corn, the beans and the fruit were producing less, the trees were not growing, the corn, everything was going backward. We used to harvest up to three tons per hectare, now we don't get half a ton, with fertilizer," complained one farmer.

On February 19, 1998, the farmers called a halt to logging in the Sierra. Over 100 communities banded together in the Organization of Farmer-Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan and Coyuca de Catatlan. They said, "We do this for ourselves and all Mexicans. We have to reforest these mountains so that life can return."

A few months later, Boise Cascade left, claiming shortages of supplies and bad weather. A company employee admitted to *El Sur Acapulco* that one reason they quit was the rise of the farmer ecologist movement.

Former partners of Boise Cascade, angry that their logging and money flow had stopped, harassed Rodolfo

and the farmer ecologists throughout the year as the farmers complained to authorities of the destructive logging. Rodolfo believes that it was they who denounced him to the military. On May 2, 1999, the Mexican military entered the village of Pizotla where Rodolfo was visiting, killed one farmer, then arrested Rodolfo and Teodoro Cabrera. They allegedly tortured Rodolfo and Teodoro with electric shock to the genitals, held them underwater in a river and forced them to confess to being revolutionaries. As



While in prison, Rodolfo Montiel Flores receives the Goldman Prize for environmental heroism

soon as Rodolfo was in jail, the logging started again, but the community rose up to stop it. Rodolfo has been poorly treated in jail and has to pay for his food and water. Activists in American Lands and the International Forum on Globalization began providing international support through a sign-on letter to Mexican officials and Boise Cascade. Donations were sent to Rodolfo's wife who passed

them to him in prison.

The Mexico City human rights law firm, PRODH, took their case but began receiving death threats. In August, 1999, the lead lawyer, Digna Ochoa, was kidnapped and driven around in the backseat of a car. In October Ochoa was tied up in her home, tortured and interrogated. The threats and violence corresponded with work PRODH was doing for Rodolfo.

More help for Rodolfo and Teodoro came in the fall, when the new Human Rights and the Environment

Iguala where they handed Rodolfo the prize in jail. In Mexico City they met with the Minister for the Environment and the Attorney General for the Environment, calling on them to investigate the logging abuses Rodolfo had tried to bring to their attention. They agreed to personally oversee the investigations. Rodolfo's wife, Ubalda, traveled to the US in April for the Goldman Prize award ceremonies in San Francisco and Washington DC and to lobby for her husband's release.

Activists from American Lands, Native Forest Network and local activists in Boise, Idaho took Rodolfo's case to the Boise Cascade shareholder meeting April 20, taking over the meeting inside for more than an hour. Activists challenged management about Boise Cascade's abuses in Mexico and called on the corporation to halt the proposed oriented strand board plant in Chile and to intercede on Rodolfo's behalf. Outside, over one hundred protesters circled the corporate headquarters, chanting "Free Rodolfo" and "Boise Cascade, Get Out of Chile's Rainforests."

Rodolfo Montiel has now been in the Iguala prison in Guerrero, Mexico, for over one year. The plight of this farmer, who knows that his water comes from the forest, has pushed the destruction of Guerrero's forests into the international spotlight, bringing along with it the tragic tales of forest destruction in Chiapas and the Sierra Taruhumara.

Rodolfo's case will come to court soon. You can help Rodolfo by writing to the Mexican Ambassador to demand his release or by sending a donation for Rodolfo or his organization to American Lands.

Jesus Reyes Heróles, Ambassador, Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20006.

American Lands Alliance, c/o Rodolfo Montiel Fund, 726 7th St., Washington DC 20003.

BY M.R.

This article is reprinted from the *Litha 1986* issue of the *Earth First!* Journal.

Once again "monkeywrenching" is a hotly debated topic, both in national news media and within *Earth First!*. And while the relative effectiveness of ecotage could be argued, that has not provided the focus of this important debate. What is being argued is the use of violence, the risking of human safety and the legality of individual actions not in compliance with existing statutes or laws. Critics of sabotage, such as Representative Pat Williams (D-MT) have stated publicly that environmentalists have no right to take the law into their own hands and risk the safety of others, and point to more appropriate methods of achieving their goals, by working through the system.

While such a statement might sound reasonable, it has no foundation in existing law, and is surprising coming from a member of the highest lawmaking body in the US. We need not consult Marx or Mao Tse-Tung to find justification for taking the law into our own hands, for we find it in the writings of Jefferson and incorporated into the body of our own Constitution. The right to take action on behalf of one's beliefs, regardless of whether or not they conflict with existing law, is also sanctioned under international law, and this right has been consistently upheld by the international justice system since the end of World War II. Indeed, it is one of the mainstays of a free society.



EARTH FIRST!

LITHA EDITION

June 21, 1986

Vol. VI, No. VI

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

TWO DOLLARS

International Law and Monkeywrenching

First, let's look at the question of violence. The question is, "Does the mere fact that an action is violent make it wrong?" According to the law, the answer is an unqualified "No." The California Penal Code addresses this clearly when it states, "The question is not whether force may be used but only under what circumstances and to what extent. Any amount of such force is privileged if reasonably believed to be necessary for this purpose." This includes the use of "deadly force."

On the subject of what is reasonable, Author W. Cambell, professor of law at California Western School of Law, wrote in the *California Western International Law Journal* (1986), "As a general rule courts will find a belief to be reasonable if a positive correlation exists between an actor's perception of his or her surroundings and his or her knowledge of what has gone before." The law does not mandate that the government decide for us what is reasonable, but places the responsibility on the individual.

That risks are taken when the option to use force is pursued is a matter of course. The law requires you to "take every reasonable precaution," but does not say that the presence of risk makes the use of force unnecessary or illegal. Nor does it say that the use of

force is an exclusive privilege of the state or its law enforcement agencies. Domestic law recognizes the citizen's privilege to take reasonable steps to prevent the commission of a crime.

US and international law clearly acknowledges the rights of Earth First!ers to use ecotage to prevent the commission of a crime. The question is not whether monkeywrenching is legal or not, but when it is legal. Here again, we get support from international law. In the 1940 Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere was a pledge by the signatories to "take the appropriate measures... to prevent the threatened extinction of any given species" as well as its "natural habitat." US law also upholds the rights of a species against the threat of extinction in the Endangered Species Act; and although it is not always enforced, it is the law. Again, we are obligated to decide for ourselves what is reasonable, and to take the appropriate actions.

The point I am trying to make is that Earth First! has every legal right, under existing law, to act as an environmental police force. We recognize a higher law, and that right is also protected within the framework of US domestic law. The real debate should be over what circumstances need be present to deem ecotage a "reasonable action." As we have said before, that is a personal decision, and those embracing ecotage tactics will always have a forum in these pages. It is still our position to neither condemn nor condone the actions a person sees fit in the fight for a better world.

BARE BONES

Whistleblower reveals state of BC grizzlies

In his most recent report, British Columbia government biologist and whistleblower Dionys deLeeuw, concludes that, "As a direct consequence of hunting overkill, the BC grizzly bear population as a whole has declined and, unless immediate steps are taken, will continue to decline." He goes on to state that, "A complete moratorium, starting immediately, must be placed on all sport hunting of grizzly bears in BC, at the very minimum until 2017, and possibly until well after 2050." DeLeeuw warns that BC grizzly bears are declining from ongoing habitat loss and that "exacerbating that decline by continuing the grizzly bear hunt is biologically irresponsible."

DeLeeuw's research finds that "the allowable kill of 300 grizzlies per year, established in 1979, was exceeded every year from 1965 to 1997, on average by 236 bears." DeLeeuw estimates that a total of 17,694 grizzlies were killed during his study period. Female grizzly kill was especially excessive, as deLeeuw reveals that the BC government "has allowed an extensive female overkill for at least the past 33 years." If you are interested in reading deLeeuw's latest report on hunting overkill of BC's grizzlies, it is on the Raincoast Conservation Society website (www.raincoast.org).

Friends of the Lubicon announce end of Daishowa boycott

The activist group Friends of the Lubicon have agreed to formally end a seven-year boycott of Daishowa Inc. after the paper bag manufacturer recently dropped a court appeal on boycott issues.

Daishowa had appealed a 1998 decision allowing the activists to boycott the company's customers as part of its efforts to force a resolution to the long-standing land claims of the Lubicon Lake Indian band in northern Alberta.

Friends of the Lubicon had informally dropped the boycott in early 1998 after Daishowa-Marubeni, a company partly owned by Daishowa's Japanese parent company, agreed not to log in a 10,000-square-kilometer area claimed by the Lubicon.

The boycott had cost Daishowa Inc. about \$20 million in lost sales. That happened despite the fact that Daishowa-Marubeni, which operates a pulp mill near Peace River, has never logged in the disputed territory, said Peter Jervis, a lawyer acting for Daishowa Inc.

"Daishowa's position is that we respect the Lubicon's position," Jervis said. There will be no logging in that area until this is resolved by the governments."

Lubicon adviser Fred Lennarson said the latest agreement is a relief to the band, which regarded possible logging in the land-claim area as a threat. "When Daishowa says they will back off, then the Lubicon don't have to deal with this. That's the immediate benefit," the Edmonton advisor said. Companies such as Daishowa can also put more pressure on governments to settle the land claim, he added.

The boycott campaign began in 1991 after the Alberta government granted the company a logging permit in the land-claim area, which has been subject to Lubicon claims for almost 70 years. About 500 members of the Lubicon band claim approximately 243 square kilometers was promised to them to build a reserve.



BY FREYA

To know the Everglades you must walk in them for miles. You must sit in the swamp, sleep in it and eat in it. Hear barred owls at night and the grunt of a bellowing gator nearby. Smell the pungent stench of the mangrove muck, and feel the nervous itch from sand fleas and mosquitoes. Marvel at rare, flowering orchids, and wade chest high through dark, primordial cypress strands. Canoe from the old-growth cypress, through saw grass prairies with white swamp lilies, by highlands of pine, sable palm and saw palmetto, to the brackish water and into the beginnings of the mangrove tunnels. Once inside, flowering bromeliads are in every crook and turn of the mangroves branches, and you feel as if they could be huge green spiders moving along with you. Out of the tunnels, into the wide estuarine river, where small campsites mark the old homesteads of outlaws turned farmers. On toward the outer beach islands with strange ecosystems of cacti, seagrass and the last reaches of mangroves. See a dolphin at lightning speed, with a shark-like fin above water after its prey, and watch half a bloody fish fly out of the water. Watch a mother loggerhead turtle drag herself up a tiny strip of sand to dig her nest above the tideline. Glimpse a gigantic American croc, mouth wide open, and an endangered manatee lumbering by. Track the bobcat, deer and bear that are definitely watching you. And realize that you will not now, nor most likely ever see signs of a Florida panther out there in the wide-open Glades. As Marjory Stoneman Douglas, one of the first Everglades conservationists said, "There are no other Everglades in the world."

And the birds, you must see the birds: the snowy egret (hunted to near extinction for their feathers in the early 1900s), the great egret, the great blue, tri-colored and little blue herons; the black anh-

VANISHING BIG SUGAR AND FLOOD CONTROL

ceptibly flowing toward the sea, sloping less than a quarter of an inch per mile, support an awesome amount of bird life.

As amazing as the Everglades are today, they are much different than when man first explored them. At best estimates, South Florida wetlands are only half the size they were in the early 1800s. Before white settlers, the Everglades covered an area of almost nine million acres. The Everglades and its animals first encountered the Native Calusas, then the Span-

The Glades continued having natural wet and dry seasons furnished by rains, accompanied by rejuvenating fire until the late '40s, when the all-encompassing Central and Southern Florida Project was authorized by Congress to drain and "manage" the Everglades. This was in reaction to a period of prolonged high water and natural flooding, which covered nearly 90 percent of South Florida. The project was on par with Holland's reclaiming parts of the North Sea, and the legislation continues to be the rule of law



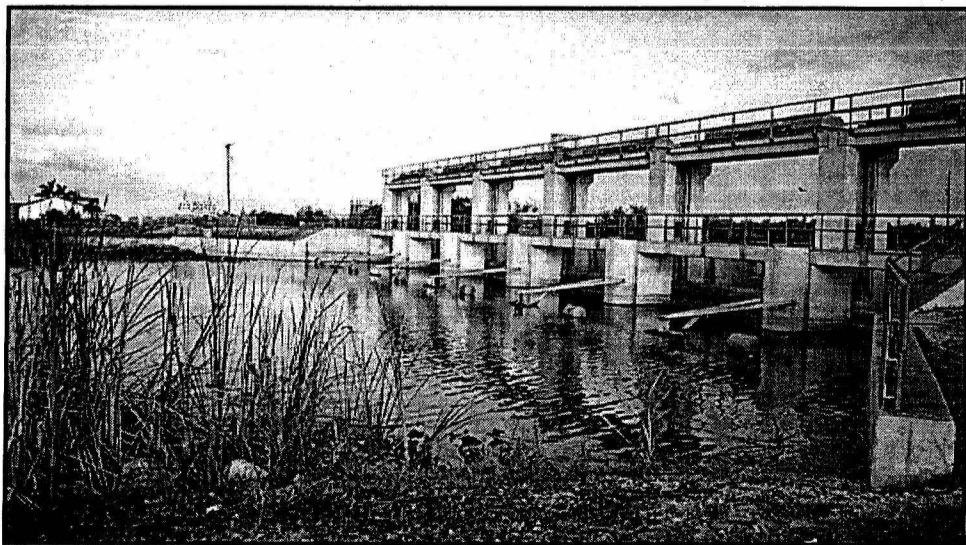
Sunset over an Everglades pond

ish conquistadors, followed by the Seminoles and Miccosukees (Creek Native Americans), who were forced south into Florida's hidden wetlands. Finally, when all the "good" land up North had been used up, and after years of war with the Seminoles and Miccosukees (many of whom never signed treaties with the American government), the peninsula became the slave state of Florida in 1845. People were invited to "Drain the Everglades" to make their fortune in farming. They were largely unsuccessful until the early '20s when almost 440 miles of canals, levees, dams and locks were put in place by, what was then known as the Everglades Drainage District. Then, after devastating floods from hurricanes throughout the '20s, when 2,000 people

in South Florida today. Ironically, Everglades National Park was created at about the same time, in 1947.

The Everglades' natural flows were no longer a concern with the creation of the Central and South Florida Project. The disastrous changes in the ecosystem provided flood control for a designated Everglades Agricultural Area (currently made up of sugar fields) directly south of Lake Okeechobee, claiming essential Glades habitat for agriculture. It also created three Water Conservation Areas, which are treated as lakes and reservoirs, to control drought and flood. These areas provide backup irrigation for sugar cane fields as well as an emergency water supply for South Florida. The national park to the south of these areas ranks at a distant fourth for water demand, behind flood control, irrigation and urban water supply.

The canals built for these areas hasten fresh water to the sea, at a rate of one trillion gallons annually, preventing refurbishment of South Florida's drinking water supply, the Florida Aquifer. Also, this extreme diversion of water dramatically interrupts the natural sheet flow of the wide, shallow river. The decrease in freshwater flow reaching Florida Bay, along with consecutive droughts, is partly blamed for the mass seagrass mortality that occurred in the late '80s and throughout the early '90s, when roughly 28 percent of the thick turtlegrass beds, home to a diversity of marine life, were lost. In addition, the process the ACOE uses to open and shut floodgates when the waters reach the high and low marks on their gates is totally devastating to the park and the adjacent Big Cypress National Preserve. The tree islands and animals receive a rush of water followed by no water at all and suffer severely from the intense changes in water elevation.



Floodgates, starting and stopping the water flow

gas, wings spread to dry in the sun, and the coots and the moorhens; the surprisingly pink roseate spoonbill, and the huge wood stork, grand and endangered; the kingfisher, the swallow-tailed kite, and the majestic, ever present fish-eater, the osprey. The Glades, in reality a wide, shallow river, gently and imper-

died from a massive overflow of Lake Okeechobee, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) began its involvement in the destruction of South Florida's wetlands. It first created the Herbert Hoover Dike around most of the southern portion of the lake, effectively cutting off the Glades from their natural headwaters.

EVERGLADES

ARE ERODING FLORIDA'S LEGACY

The Miami River used to have waterfalls formed by a ridge marking the natural barrier between the fresh water of the Glades and the salt water of the sea. The waterfall was blown up in the '40s to form a canal for the southernmost Water Conservation Area, and during severe droughts, the wells of southern cities turn salty. The few coastal ridges and small changes in elevation are essential to the flow and depth of water in the Everglades, as well as determinants for different biomes. A foot of elevation change encompasses the wild tropical hammocks of strangler fig, gumbo limbo and wild coffee at the "top of the mountain" to palm, pine and willow islands; progressing down to expansive prairies of saw grass to the deep strands of the cypress. A few inches in elevation and water makes all the difference.

"Sugar cane production exploded in South Florida in the early 1960s," said Randy Lee Loftis in the update to Marjory Stoneman Douglas' great book, *The River of Grass*. This explosion was attributed to the fact that the Cuban sugar supply was cut off with Fidel Castro's rise to power, quickly making South Florida's cane fields in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) a top priority for federal subsidies, import quotas and the all-important water supply. The fields are now a virtual monoculture the size of Rhode Island and are still expanding. This is in some part due to soil loss. The future of the EAA and its prime location between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades is bleak. There has been a threat

from the sugar companies that they will sell to developers after they hit bedrock. Currently, the effects of the phosphorous outputs from the sugar industry are far reaching. The Everglades are naturally phosphorous limited, meaning that any additional phosphorous in this ecosystem creates algal blooms, forming a eutrophic environment choking out all other forms of vegetation, and encouraging cattails, in which most wading birds cannot

land and hunt for prey. In addition, 600 tons of phosphorous are dumped into Lake Okeechobee every year from agricultural areas around the lake creating severe eutrophication compounded yearly.

The Everglades are also being attacked from abroad, by exotic pest plants. South Florida is especially susceptible to exotics because of its warm environment. Maleleuca trees form impenetrable walls in what was once open prairie. They thrive from fire, releasing all of their seeds, are inclined to suck up huge amounts of water (they were originally introduced to help drain the swamp), and reproduce like there's no tomorrow. Australian pines and Brazilian pepper continue to propagate and block what would naturally be expansive views across the prairies. Hydrilla, water hyacinth and feral pigs are also among the contributors to

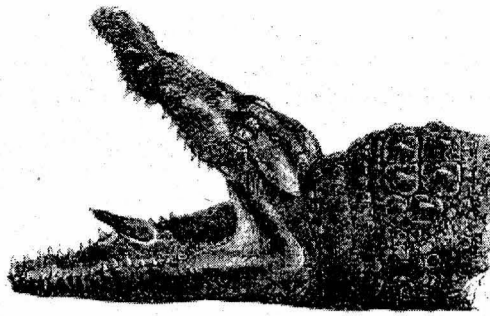
native species obliteration.

The Everglades Forever Act, signed in 1994 has been called empty for its inconsistencies and connections to Big Sugar. Alfy Fanjul, the sugar daddy (where did this phrase come from, one wonders?) of Florida Crystals, known for his unscrupulous contributions to the Democratic party, openly praised the Clinton administration after the bill was signed. It is no wonder considering his "scientists" helped form the plan. Marjory Stoneman Douglas refused to let her name be attached to the bill after she learned that it would allow unregulated pollution until 2006. It also shifted the main source of funding for the restoration from the sugar industry to the public. The current Restoration Plan is a result of the Restudy, a comprehensive review of the South Florida Water System completed by the ACOE in order to complete the goals of the Everglades Forever Act. The Restoration Plan ignores some basic truths about the history of the Glades. It effectively excludes the EAA from restoration efforts, actually taking steps to preserve this industry into perpetuity, and takes only a small area of sugar land for filtration marshes. There is no thought of reconnecting the Everglades with Lake Okeechobee. The system is in no way a return to a natural system and is entirely "managed." There are also problems in the Restoration Plan with unclear delineations between the natural system water supply and human consumption water supply, as well as the funding lumped together for these purposes.



Off-road vehicles have contributed to the degradation of the Glades.

Currently, there is much debate over an eight-square-mile developed area just north of Taylor Slough and east of Shark River Slough, two key areas for Florida Bay fresh water replenishment. Many people in this area have settled there in spite of Dade County zoning rules, without the proper permits, and are on the wrong side of the L-31 canal which keeps the urban areas of Miami dry. They demand flood protection even though they effectively live in the Everglades. This largely affects the amount of water which can be delivered to the entire eastern portion of Everglades National Park. There is a proposal to buyout the area and return it to the swamp so that sheet flow can be restored. Many landowners are vehemently against this proposal and would prefer the ACOE build a dike around the area. They would like the agency to con-



tinue to "manage" the Glades while they gain flood control.

Another issue in the area is the proposal by Dade County to develop Homestead Airforce Base into a commercial airport. Homestead is located between Biscayne Bay National Park and Everglades National Park and its flight paths would fly directly over both parks. Biscayne is only one mile away from the proposed site and already has a dump on its northern end and a nuclear power plant on its southern end. This airport would disrupt the nesting and feeding of endangered birds as well as discharge toxic substances, easily absorbed into Florida's groundwater. There are other plans for the site which are under consideration, such as the Collier family's plan to trade some of their mineral rights in Big Cypress in exchange for the privilege of developing the area.

In Big Cypress National Preserve there is an off road vehicle plan moving forward that would create designated trails within the "preserve." This may seem like a good alternative to the general mud-boggin' that currently exists, except for the fact that these trails are another word for hardened roads made of plastic fill, which may block sheet flow in the swamp. Big Cypress is essentially a roadless area, if you discount the wide swathes of muck torn up by the swamp buggies and the almost complete criss-cross of tire

tracks throughout the park which encourage channeling of water. This plan is all but ready to be implemented, barring a suit from the ORV groups. There is also the uncertainty of continued oil drilling in the preserve.

Marjory Stoneman-Douglas lived until 1997 and was a dedicated supporter of the Glades at the age of 108. She ended the landmark book she wrote in 1947 with the treatise, "Perhaps even in this last hour, in a new relation of usefulness and beauty, the vast, magnificent, subtle and unique region of the Everglades may not be utterly lost." The Glades have been compared to a dying patient on life support, with the canals and pumps representing the tubes providing nourishment to a comatose person. It is no longer 1947, there are so many obstacles to restoration, and the Everglades are dying. The old tree-sits and roadblocks do not apply here. We need new and unusual ways to defend the Everglades. We need awareness and action for the Glades. The Everglades, *Pa-Hay-Okee*, or the grassy waters, do not speak loudly. The virtues of the Glades lie in their subtleties. It is because of this quietness that we must be loud, very loud.

For more information, contact the Everglades Conservation Network at 800-753-5499; and the Friends of the Everglades at (305) 669-0858.

BARE BONES

Embera-Katio sign accord with government, ending four-month occupation

On April 26, a group of more than 165 Colombian indigenous activists from the 2,400-member Embera-Katio tribe began packing up their belongings to return home after a four-month protest encampment in the yard of the Environment Ministry in Bogota. The group, which was protesting the flooding of its lands in Cordoba department and destruction of its livelihood by the Urra hydroelectric project, ended its occupation after signing an agreement with the government on April 19.

The new agreement provides for economic compensation toward expansion of the Embera-Katio reservation and tribal initiatives for economic development, education and culture, and bars construction of a second proposed hydroelectric project, Urra II, which the government says it had already deemed unnecessary and not feasible. It also includes provisions to protect human rights in the zone. The accord also explicitly recognizes the Embera-Katio's right to neutrality in Colombia's armed conflict. Specifically, it commits the national government to recognize that members of the Embera-Katio communities are non-combatants, exempt from military service, and that the communities have established their "non-involvement in the armed conflict in any form." The pact commits the government to abstain from using Embera-Katio community members or leaders as military or police guides or bodyguards, from paying community members as informants, from using community radio frequencies, and from any other activity that could be interpreted as involving the community in the armed struggle.

Greenpeace GM case ends with hung jury in UK

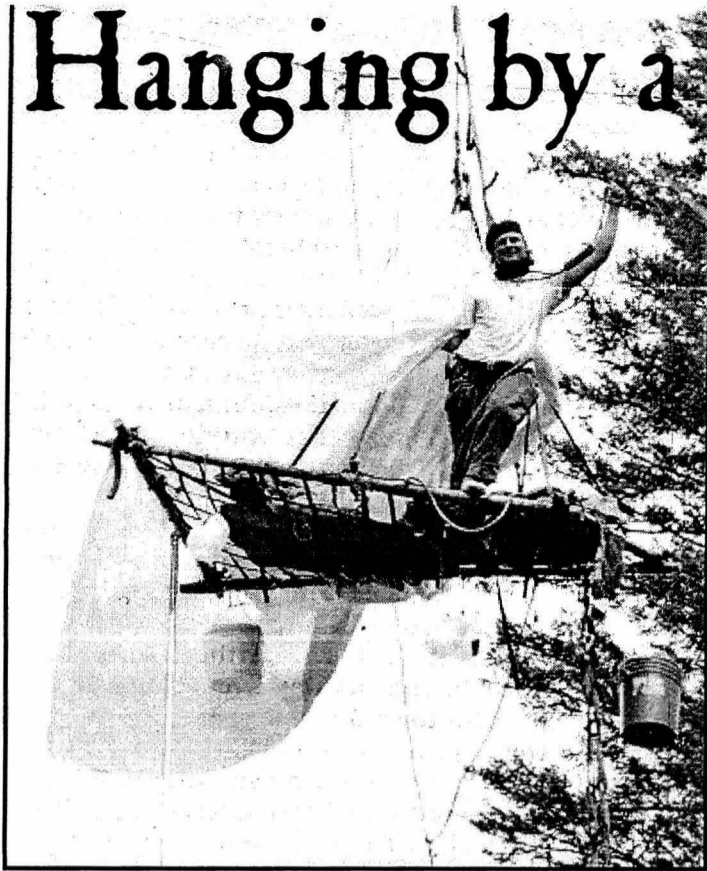
The controversy over genetically modified (GM) foods intensified when a jury failed to decide if 28 Greenpeace protesters had broken the law when they pulled up 750 pounds worth of GM maize on a government-funded site. In the first case of its kind, the jury of six men and six women cleared the pressure group's executive director, Lord Melchett, and 27 fellow activists of stealing the crop when they uprooted it at Walnut Tree Farm near Lyng, Norfolk, in July last year.

After seven hours of deliberation, the jury at Norwich crown court admitted it was unlikely to reach a decision on whether they were guilty of criminal damage. The environmentalists, who pleaded not guilty to both counts, had argued they had a "lawful excuse" since they were acting to protect other maize crops and the environment from genetic "contamination" via GM maize pollen. The jurors were discharged and the crown was given a fortnight to consider applying for a retrial. The activists came from as far afield as Edinburgh and Aberdeen and included a Baptist minister, beauty therapist and two teachers.

Lord Melchett, who has a 890-acre, largely organic farm at Hunstanton, Norfolk, added that there was "huge public opposition" to GM trials, with one Norfolk farmer pulling out of the controversial farmscale program this week and the crop at the center of the case being banned in Austria during the criminal trial.

Hanging by a Thread

Eagle Creek



Hanging out in "The Pod" high above the Eagle timber sale.

BY LEPRECHAUN CASCADIA

On April 14, representatives of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the American Lands Alliance and the Cascadia Forest Alliance walked into the office of Harv Forsgren, Region Six supervisor for the US Forest Service. This was to be the last meeting to determine the fate of the controversial Eagle timber sales in the Mount Hood National Forest. We approached Harv with the support of three national legislatures, two city councils, dozens of conservation groups and even the logging company itself. We presented him with a packet of evidence the size of a phone book. What he gave us in return was a federal decree more shocking than we ever could have imagined. Not only did Harv refuse to cancel the Eagle timber sales, he actually stated he would like to see the timber harvest on public lands increase, that he would advocate for logging in late secessional reserves and that he believes logging in roadless areas improves forest health. This comes from the man who controls all federal lands in the Northwest, a self described "conservation leader."

Two days later I stood at the beginning of Forest Service Road 4614, access to 500 acres of threatened RARE II roadless area. With a 100-foot tape measure

and a scientific calculator, I leaned on a locked heavy steel gate, punching numbers, grumbling loudly. The Forest Service built the gate in 1997 to block public access to the logging site. My opinion? The Forest Service cannot selectively administer admittance to public forests. If the road remains closed to citizens, it should be blocked to loggers as well.

May 7, 1 p.m. We hid in the brush 100 yards uphill from the gate, sorting climbing lines, carabiners and over 1,000 feet of four millimeter cord. "Goddammit!" I griped aloud. "Where is the center post (to the gate), the snow has melted, and it should be back by now. It's part of the design, so why haven't they put it back yet!" Vile weather was undoubtedly affecting my spirits.

Minutes later, as though by command, a Forest Service work truck arrived at the gate and loud metal clanging filled the forest. Bob crept quietly down to spy on them. Moments later he returned. "What the hell are they

doing down there?"

"They're putting up the center post," he whispered back. I grinned. These things seem to happen more often than luck would account for.

At 9 p.m., the Forest Service parked at the gate and waited (for us?). Convinced they were on to us, my heart sank. Mysteriously, they drove away two hours later, and we sprang into action.

Outfitted in waterproof kayaking gear, I battled up snow-laden trees, set the anchors and rappelled back down to the ground. Sarcastically, I thanked the Goddess for unleashing a late winter's storm on the night of our debut.

At 2 a.m., I stood on the cargo net platform in the middle of the road. Relentlessly assailed by cruel sleet, shivering uncontrollably, I yelled a command to the driver, "Up!" The car pulled forward and I rose skyward 20 feet, 40 feet, 70 feet... "Stop!" I screamed, and my ascent halted. The ground crew scrambled to tie off the support cords to the gate. The tow line slacked out, and I held my breath as the structure settled into place. I spent the coldest night of my life in sopping wet clothes.

The next morning I awoke a frozen astronaut, floating in this surreal contraption, suspended half-

way between life and a bone shattering death. High winds whipped the platform in wild sickening circles. I found myself high in anxiety and low in courage. I prayed for my life. I cursed the Forest Service for forcing us to resort to these ridiculous suicidal tactics. I thought about how many mainstream people view our activities as some sort of recreational pursuit, and I cursed them as well.

What we are doing up here is important, and it is righteous. It is not, however, fun. The position we have taken to protect these trees is deadly serious. By upholding illegal laws such as the Salvage Rider, the Forest Service has provoked a life-threatening showdown with the citizens whose interests it should be protecting. The Forest Service has ignored science to justify logging in this sensitive watershed.

Despite the extreme risks of our situation, our volunteers are fearless. We have committed ourselves in mind, body and soul to protecting this pristine native forest. This is our drinking water supply, and it is our public forest!

Activists, citizens everywhere, we invite you to come participate in the Eagle Creek direct action. Check our new, cutting-edge road blockade design, "The Pod." Support our fight to stop one of the worst timber sales in Oregon. Together we can, and will, stop the rape of our public lands.

For more information, contact the Cascadia Forest Alliance, POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 241-4879; www.cascadiaforestalliance.org.

Pepper Spray Plaintiffs.....

.....Ordered New Trial

BY SPRING

Two and a half years after Humboldt County Sheriffs began arrogantly sewing Q-Tip holsters onto their weapons belts and unwittingly kicked off international outrage at their pepper spray tactics, the department is in the hot seat again. The very same officers now find themselves in another sticky, or rather stinging, situation arising from the same pepper spray incidents. On May 4, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals issued a unanimous verdict against the Humboldt Sheriffs, and in favor of those of us who were pepper-sabbed and sprayed.

In late 1998, we filed with the appeals court to ask for a reversal of Federal District Court Judge Walker's decision to toss our civil rights suit out of court after a jury split four-to-four. We also disputed the "qualified immunity" protection Walker granted to the policy-making officers. The protection dropped their names from the suit and let them off the hook from personal liability, leaving only faceless departmental entities. We won hands down on both aspects of our appeal.

"A rational juror could easily conclude that there was sufficient evidence for a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs. Accordingly, we reverse the district court's decision to enter judgment for defendants

Humboldt County and its Sheriff's Department," the appeals court ruled. "We remand this action for a new trial."

The appeal decision also addressed in depth the liability of the individual officers and concluded that "the district court erred in deciding that these officials were entitled to qualified immunity as a matter of law. We reverse the district court's decision to dismiss Sheriff Lewis and Chief Deputy Sheriff Philp."

Our new jury trial will most likely occur in the fall or winter of this year.

This landmark decision will have a ripple effect in that it sets a legal precedent that will be helpful to activists fighting the growing law enforcement trend of chemical weapons deployment to quell political dissent. On a larger scale "Headwaters Forest vs. Humboldt County" now provides new case law that helps to undermine the sinister "qualified immunity" protection often afforded to officers in all kinds of excessive force cases.

Abolitionist Frederick Douglas wisely said, "power concedes nothing without a demand." When the pepper spray videotapes hit the news, outrage sparked debate and action, which has only intensified on the heels of further incidents like the WTO Seattle protests. Our pepper spray case would never have made it this far without people raising some hell about



It's been a long haul, but with lots of hard work and the help of some open-minded professors, Nate Madsen has completed his educational goal of a Bachelors of Science in Physical Science while sitting in a redwood in Northern California. Nate has been in his treesit for a year and a half.

injustice, so thank you, everyone. Let our songs and actions, our love and rage, be our demand, and let it bring about a wilder, greener world.

Donations for grassroots education and trial expenses are sorely needed and greatly appreciated. Contact the Pepper Spray Fund c/o Trees Foundation, POB 2202, Redway, CA 95560; (707) 923-4377; trees@treesfoundation.org.

To obtain a video documentary by Headwaters Action Video Collective (HAVC), "Fire in the Eyes," showing police pepper spray footage and background on the struggle for the ancient redwoods, contact HAVC at havc@havc.org or by voicemail at (707) 459-5490 ext. 582.

To read the full 9th Circuit Court appeal decision, along with other articles and links about our case, check out www.monitor.net. If you loathe computers and the internet, write to the pepper spray plaintiffs c/o Trees, and we'll send you any materials you want in hard copy.

Santa Clarita Valley Threatened by Urban Sprawl

BY JOHN BANISTER

The northernmost frontier of Los Angeles County is desperately trying to keep Los Angeles' blight of urbanization at bay, and losing. In many minds, an imaginary line has been drawn here between the endless expansion of "model" homes, gargantuan strip malls, industrial centers, fast food chains and auto dealerships. Paralleling State Highway 126 from the Santa Clarita Valley and flowing for approximately 80 miles to its ocean outlet between Ventura and Oxnard, lies this line—the Santa Clara River. This is the last unchanneled, undammed, un-systematically depleted wild river in Los Angeles County.

Although quasi-intermittent at its upper reaches or typically almost dry in late summer, albeit profuse underground aquifers, this river rages during the winter months and is always host to an abundance of plants and wildlife. The river connects the life of the upper deserts to the coastal chaparral and sea. Southern steelhead, an endangered species struggling to make a comeback, now has the opportunity to spawn in the natural bed of this river. A small fish, dubbed the unarmored three-spined stickleback and a candidate for the endangered species list, lives in the still pools of this river. Mountain lion, coyote, bobcat, deer, hawk, blue heron and even condors still access and utilize this river and its tributaries. The recent release of several condors in the nearby Sespe Condor Range attest to this.

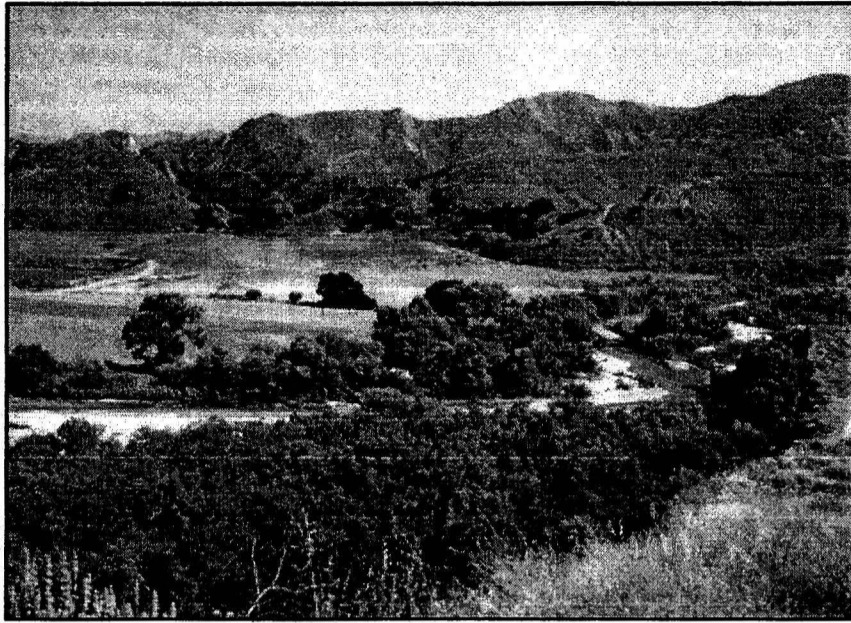
The Newhall Ranch Project, soon to envelope the eastern stretch of the Santa Clara River and the surrounding rugged slip-faulted oak strewn hills of the Santa Clarita Valley, is a massive 23,000 unit

housing development. This endeavor was approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors one year ago. An apparent compromise was made after years of review and protest from local environmental and citizens' groups. The original proposal by Newhall Farm and Land Company planned over 25,000 units. Since this time Ventura County, as well as the Sierra

omponent, and already several massive wells have been dug in the area. Newhall Farm and Land Company has proposed to rechannel and concrete the river as well as every tributary within the development zone. A meager 100-foot buffer zone between what is left of the river and development is also offered. (There is a counter proposal of at least 500 feet.) Several wildlife corridors to surrounding mountains and nearby rivers need to be incorporated. Mountain lions still roam the high range corridor, an access route from the coastal range to Los Angeles and San Bernardino Forests.

Meanwhile, the terrain is being systematically chipped away by several surrounding smaller developments ranging in size from 200 to 2,000 homes. We continue to watch with frustration as the heavy equipment lurches its way from the hillsides near I-5 toward the river taking out oak trees, springs, canyons and truncating or altogether eliminating hills, leaving tightly organized barren terraces of relocated dirt. The earth movers appear to leap forward then briefly retreat into an idle and wait. The work crews amass, and the new home market booms.

So once again, another day I will commute along this river preparing to say "good-bye" to another piece of it. The ongoing fantasies of earthquakes thrusting the newly built homes off their earth-moved and unstable foundations shattering the new home market in the area continue; the visions appear of marauding night raiders monkey-wrenching the giant earth movers and risking it all in an attempt to slow down this destructive version of the "American Dream." The dream needs to change.



The currently undeveloped land in northern Los Angeles County.

Club and several local environmental groups, like Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment and Friends of the Santa Clara River, and impacted cities have filed suit against LA County.

Many concerns still exist such as the depletion of underground aquifers, the concretization of tributary streams, inadequate river buffers, flood plain intrusion and the implementation of wildlife corridors. Local water sources can not support this devel-

Sharp as Saguaros, and Just as Dangerous!—A rizona Proposal Revisited

BY DANIEL PATTERSON, JENEIENE SCHAFFER, RODRIGO, AND TORTUGA

For many, the *Earth First! Journal* was our first exposure to others who share a vision and commitment to a worldview where natural creation has worth much greater than humans determine. The *Earth First! Journal* represents the vital role we all play in something much larger than ourselves. Earth First! isn't a group, it is a movement. And even beyond that, it is the continuation of a resistance older than anyone alive today.

The *Earth First! Journal* was, is and always will be our voice—the voice of the Earth and her last defenders in a world where ecological destruction continues. To those who resolve to protect biodiversity no matter the cost and who stand honorably in defense of Her, we ask for the honor of publishing the *Earth First! Journal* in Tucson.

At this year's Organizers' Conference, members of Tucson Earth First! made a proposal to move the *Journal*. We articulated our vision and explained that rather than shift away from defending biodiversity, we believe a move to Tucson would broaden our struggle without compromising our core principles.

Our desire is to continue to represent Earth First!'s social, political and spiritual evolution not only in the pages of the *Journal*, but in the Earth First! movement itself. It is our hope to see the *Journal* be more than an outlet to transform mainstream environmentalists into radical environmentalists. It's time for the *Journal* to be utilized to expand our ranks to include indigenous traditionalists, environmental justice activists and others removed from the type of environmental activist circles Earth First!

traditionally draws from. There are many across the world and outside of our privileged society who adhere to Earth First! principles and only lack the name. These are the people we hope to add to our ranks, in addition to those of us already living in the "belly of the beast."

Tucson's location on the US/Mexico border, the frontlines of the corporatization battle in North America, makes it a prime location for the *Earth First! Journal*. Tucson represents a microcosm of the networking Earth Firstlers do with disenfranchised peoples overlooked by predominantly white-controlled environmental organizations. Our vision is more than a vision; it's a reality. A reality Earth Firstlers in Arizona have worked years to develop.

In Tucson, it is not uncommon to see Tohono O'odham, Yaqui, Apaches, and Chicanos working side by side with Earth Firstlers and other environmentalists committed to the restoration of the Earth. The *Journal's* presence here would strengthen these connections while building our larger movement. We are not content with the *Journal* simply being read by indigenous youth, people of color and other potential Earth Firstlers. We know with the paper in Tucson these people will also be a part of its production and ultimately the actions reported in it. We want to break the chains which make environmental activism a choice, and see Earth First! become the logical and natural step for all peoples disenfranchised by the failure democracy and unwillingness of the US to protect our environment for future generations.

Since the Organizers' Conference, we've refined the details of our proposal. We've developed solid leads for inexpensive office space and found several

printers less expensive than what the *Journal* is currently paying at the same or better quality. An updated version of the Earth First! primer is also in the works, with a Spanish translated version. Funds for the move are being secured, and we are reviewing the guidecircles under which the *Journal* operates. A diversity of folks have come forward to work on the paper in Tucson, and there is a broad foundation of knowledge and experience ranging from sub-boosting, to front-line activism, to editorial and computer experience in the community. Our proposed timeline for a potential move of the *Earth First! Journal* entails a process we believe would take four to six months.

We encourage all who care about the *Earth First! Journal* to come to the Katuah Round River Rendezvous July 2-9 and help make these decisions. Not since the *Journal* moved from Missoula eight years ago have discussions been so stimulating and constructively critical for the *Earth First! Journal*. It is our intention at this year's Rendezvous to present the Tucson *Journal* proposal based on comments from the movement.

Our proposal is backed by our community with the commitment and skills necessary to produce the *Journal* and represents a bright, diverse and fresh future for radical eco-journalism. Tucson's editorial collective candidates will be at the Rendezvous, prepared and open to your constructive scrutiny, comments, questions and requests. Our collective formation process is continuing, open and inclusive and allows anyone with a sincere interest in the *Journal* an equal opportunity to be heard and considered. Katuah is a

beautiful and inspiring part of Turtle Island, and this Rendezvous promises to be positive, fun and motivating. Get out there all ya warrior hillbillies, crusties, rednecks, anarchists and hippies! If you cannot make it to Katuah, we still want to hear your opinions on the *Earth First! Journal* based in Tucson. Please call, write, email or send smoke signals to Tucson Earth First!, POB 3412, Tucson, AZ 85722; (520) 623-5252 x.303; az_earth_first@hotmail.com; one puff, two puffs, one puff.

Those of us behind this proposal believe our goals for the *Earth First! Journal* are ripe and revolutionary. We respectfully ask the Earth First! movement to give us the opportunity to demonstrate our skills and solidarity with the *Journal*. Lives, whole species of imperiled plants and animals in the natural world depend on all of us. Give us the chance, and we will not let them or you down.

WANTED

ARIZONA EARTH FIRST! IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING

motivated, biocentric activists to be a part of our growing collective.

Currently, we are proposing to host the *EFF Journal* in Tucson & are looking for potential candidates to be a part of an editorial collective. If you would like to get involved or help further these efforts, please contact us. Please send a 1-2 page letter outlining your interest, vision, skills, & collective experience. Fluent Spanish speaking people and people of color are strongly encouraged to participate.

AZ EFF POB 3412
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GRANDMA PERCHED IN AN ARKANSAS POST OAK

BY D. GRANT HAYNES

The old-boy system at city hall has run into a glitch in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

A system that had seen a tree-protection ordinance largely circumvented through loose interpretation of canopy cover and other requirements for years, with the assent of the mayor and a majority of planning commission and council members, has been challenged.

A 53-year-old grandmother named Mary Lighthouse climbed into a 200-plus-year-old post oak tree on a commercial building site in north Fayetteville on May 3 and hasn't descended yet (May 20), despite threats of dire legal consequences for herself and her supporters. A police blockade of the forested, 305-acre site has denied her visitors, food and medicine at times; the city's mayor made a personal visit asking her to come down.

Mary is protesting the Fayetteville City Council's May 2 vote allowing a North Carolina developer to cut most of the trees in a grove of 81 old and rare hardwoods on a 30-acre section to make room for a Kohl's department store and a vast parking lot.

Mary's treesit is the culmination of a months-long battle between environmentalists who want to preserve some of the natural beauty of Fayetteville and politicians and businessmen representing an aggressive private sector in northwest Arkansas who believe progress requires endless industrial and retail expansion.

The 305-acre site at the center of the controversy was rezoned for commercial use in the mid-1990s. It is now being sold in sections to developers like Argus Properties of Charlotte, North Carolina, by CMN Properties of Springdale, Arkansas.

Caught off guard by the treesit, a calculated act of civil disobedience in a sleepy university community of 53,000 that seldom sees anything more challenging than rowdy football fans, Fayetteville police allowed a steady stream of friends and supporters to walk onto the Lighthouse site for the first week of the treesit.

But when it became obvious the spunky grandmother in the oak tree was serious and intended to stick it out through thunderstorms and all that nature could throw at her, an attorney for CMN Properties warned that future visitors to Lighthouse's treesit would be arrested and charged with criminal trespass.

And so they have been, in a steady stream for a week.

Eleven individuals have sauntered past "no trespassing" signs in the clear view of waiting police officers with parcels of food, water and medications for Mary in a show of nonviolent civil disobedience not common in conservative Arkansas.

Each trespasser has been arrested with the fanfare of media coverage, charged with criminal trespass and released on her or his own recognizance.

One retired university professor walked back onto the forbidden site twice in a single day, getting arrested twice to express his outrage that a grove of mature hardwoods should be decimated to make room for another department store.

And a decorated Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war made the pilgrimage with the cane of a partially blind man to show his support. He too was arrested, as were several adolescent girls.

The land in question, once part of a 900-acre, 19th century farm, includes a meandering stream bound on either side by the ancient post oaks, red oaks, alders, hickories and elms. Surrounded by typically noxious suburban sprawl, the trees and the stream are an oasis from another, more appealing time.

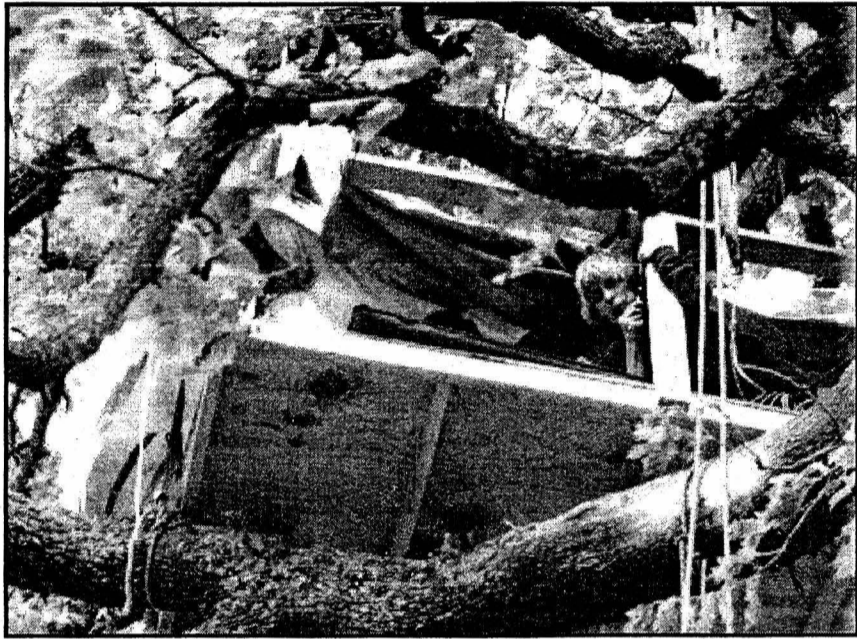
Environmentalists believe the hardwoods can be protected on the basis of a "rare and landmark" tree clause in Fayetteville's tree ordinance. The unique grove represents a microcosmic slice of original prairie-savanna landscape. That ecosystem was never common in Arkansas and is even less so now that much of the land has been changed by humans.

Since the city adopted its Tree Protection and Preser-

vation Ordinance in 1993, the administration of Mayor Fred Hanna has encouraged a loose and flexible interpretation that lets developers regularly cut most or all original trees on sites. Developers meet the ordinances requirements by placing saplings in planters around vast asphalt parking lots. That worked well until Kim Hesse, a bright young landscape administrator, was hired by the city in 1998.

After gaining her feet and learning something of the system of Fayetteville's city government, the courageous woman looked a bit harder than her predecessor had at large-scale development plans coming across her desk. Hesse began to challenge excesses and abuses of Fayetteville's tree ordinance that previously slipped by with a wink and a nod.

The present controversy began in early April when Hesse recommended that the planning com-



Mary Lighthouse holds down the fort 22 feet up

mission reject the Argus Properties development plan, which would cut all but two of the 81 hardwoods on the 30-acre lot to accommodate the development. The planning commission rejected the plan on Hesse's recommendation.

Undaunted, Argus came back to Fayetteville several times over the next weeks. Each visit saw the company stingily concede a few more trees, but its representatives were never willing to approach the 15 percent minimum canopy requirement Hesse insisted was the unambiguous intent of the law.

The last offer—10.29 percent—was delivered to the planning commission on April 24 by an annoyed Argus representative who indicated his patience was wearing thin.

Worn down by pressure from within and without the Hanna administration, and near the end of a marathon three-hour commission meeting, Hesse finally said she considered the 10.29 percent Argus canopy cover concession to be "reasonable," although still not within the letter of the city's law.

Planning commissioners hastily approved the Argus plan at the 10.29-percent canopy level. Under that plan, about 60 percent of the 81 ancient trees in question would be cut to make room for the store.

Environmentalists got a glimmer of hope when a maverick city alderman appealed the planning commission decision to prevent the council from approving the Argus plan. His appeal was denied on May 2.

As a last, desperate resort, Mary Lighthouse and four other activists went to the grove in the pre-dawn hours of May 3 to occupy a tree before a sawing crew could come in.

One participant remembered the momentous night and morning this way: "After the city council meeting, I called a friend, and asked what she was willing to do to stop the trees from being cut down," the dedicated activist explained. "She said she'd hug a tree until she was arrested. We agreed to meet at 6:30 a.m. near the Home Depot store and find the trees."

"Five women showed up," the activist continued. "Three said they were willing to be arrested. We had a circle and said a little prayer. We dedicated ourselves to saving the trees. By 10 a.m. Mary was in the tree, and we started spreading the word by contacting the media and everyone else we could think of."

Mary Lighthouse spent the first hours of her treesit literally sitting about 15 feet off the ground on a wide limb of the first of the two trees she has occupied since her treesit began. By day's end on May 3 friends had fashioned a hammock for her and secured it between branches of the old oak.

When Mary's supporters discovered the oak they had chosen was actually one of the 30 or so not slated for cutting, they moved her to another, larger tree that is marked for the chainsaw. Mary was also provided a plywood platform with tarps for greater comfort and security in inclement weather in her second tree. She remains in that tree at a height of about 22 feet.

Of course, there have been fewer visitors since May 11 when Fayetteville police established a presence at entrance points to the property and began warning off or arresting all who sought to enter.

Mary Lighthouse is being taken seriously, with daily media coverage at the state level. Arkansans who had never considered such things now are thinking and discussing the intrinsic value of a grove of trees.

Each day, three or four more citizens purposely cross police lines to face arrest and a trip to the jail in order to make a statement in support of Mary and the trees. And each weekday, construction workers continue to build the roads and access facilities that will be used to haul out the 225-year-old trees before the summer is over if the corporation paying their wages has its way.

Apologists for the greed-ridden private sector and the mayor's office talk of redesigning the store or reducing the parking lot size so a few more trees can be spared.

But most local environmental activists—who have been riveted into action by Mary Lighthouse's treesit—want no less than a

total victory with all 81 trees in the grove set aside as an urban forest. That would be the first step in development of a green belt for a more enlightened 21st-century Fayetteville, whose residents have moved beyond the suicidal industrial paradigm that equates progress with unlimited and uncontrolled growth.

Whether Lighthouse's beloved oaks are cut or granted a reprieve, the cause of environmentalism in Arkansas has been given a boost by the actions of a courageous woman from Goshen named Mary Lighthouse.

Ed. Note: Since this article was submitted, Lighthouse was drawn from her tree on May 26 through what many believe was a bogus threat of a contempt citation in an unrelated divorce action. Two other tree sitters took Mary's place while she went to court, where she was found not to be in contempt. Mary then walked back onto the site and into the hands of arresting police officers.

After luring Mary from the tree and preventing her successful return, police moved quickly to arrest and remove the new sitters and to destroy base camp and treesit platform late on the night of May 25.

Several prior and subsequent legal actions in local and federal district courts mounted by Lighthouse supporters in desperate attempts to ward off the chainsaws and dozers have been equally rebuffed.

On May 24, a suit was filed jointly by representatives of the Sierra Club, the Washington County League of Women Voters and a private individual, arguing that the Fayetteville City Council failed to follow its own tree protection ordinance in approving a large-scale development with less than a 15 percent tree canopy cover.

An injunction against cutting the trees was granted at a hearing in May, but only if environmentalists could secure a \$310,000 surety bond on 48-hour notice. That proved impossible. While a trial date has been set for October 30, the restraining order expired on June 2. Few expect any of the trees to be standing when the trial date arrives.

Lighthouse's supporters will continue to fight for the trees to the last hour, and large-scale civil disobedience is anticipated at the site when the trees begin to fall sometime this summer.

Occupation on Vieques Raided

BY VICTOR RODRIGUEZ

"The US has repeatedly and proudly declared its policy on political status to be that of self-determination. Yet here is a record of a decade of hanky panky... What is most damaging is the FBI swashbuckling at the time of the plebiscite (is that self-determination?) and even at the time of the 1968 general election."

—US government memo, summarizing results of an analysis of FBI documents conducted on behalf of President Jimmy Carter (Fernandez, 1996)

During the last century Vieques has represented US colonial policy in its rawest form. The beautiful island of Vieques, part of the Puerto Rican archipelago, is a banner of both the struggle for democracy in Puerto Rico and the contradictions of US-Puerto Rico relations. The death of Viequense David Sanes Rodriguez and the wounding of four others by a Mark-82 bomb dropped by a Navy F-18 on April 19 last year has again brought Puerto Rico's colonial profile into sharp relief as well as the negative impact it has had on the island's ecology.

For more than 60 years, Viequenses have waged a lonely struggle to regain their paradise lost. The recent series of events covered by the world press are not the first confrontation between the mighty US Navy and the people of Vieques; it's just that this time they are not alone. The recent May 4 arrests of more than 214 protesters engaging in peaceful civil disobedience has brought this struggle to new level. The arrested represented a cross-section of Puerto Rican civil society: nuns, priests, ministers, pro-independence activists, environmentalist, peace activists, entertainers, athletes, housewives and college students.

Federal marshals, 1,500 marines, FBI agents, and the riot squad of the local police have not been able to deter Viequenses and their supporters from their major goal of impeding any further bombing in the firing range in Vieques. A minor training event took place some days after the arrests, but it was mostly a symbolic effort by the Navy to show the world that they are still in control. Just a few days after his arrest on May 4, former Senator Ruben Berrios Martinez, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), and the party's ecological advisor, Jorge Fernandez Porto, were able to gain entry into the restricted zone. After their arrest, they were taken in a helicopter to the Federal Court in San Juan where they were charged with a misdemeanor and then released. They told the judge they do not recognize the authority of the court and will return to Vieques soon.

More recently, to celebrate Mother's Day, 52 protesters surreptitiously entered the Naval base. After their five-hour protest inside the restricted area, they were arrested. Among the arrested were former world middleweight boxing champion Jose "Chegui" Torres and other prominent figures who are attempting to keep the pressure on the Navy to make sure the bombings cease. Until they were arrested recently, some of the original protesters stayed hidden within the live-impact zone in camouflaged camps they had prepared with water and food. Casimiro and Pedro, the two college sons of Viequenses' leader Carlos Zenon, were among those hidden in the live-impact zone. The protesters are promising major civil disobedience actions if the Navy commences their regular large-scale bombing and training.

Also, in a recent, unprecedented event in the island's history, federal judge Carmen Consuelo Vargas de Cerezo inhibited herself from participating in any proceedings related to Vieques. She said in a press release that, "Vieques is a peaceful, silent prayer for healing before the holy sacrament." Her decision has stunned the federal legal establishment but has been strongly supported by leaders of the Vieques social movement. It is a sign of how the moral and peaceful character of the movement is penetrating deeply within the island's political and legal establishment as no other social movement in Puerto Rico has before.

What the Viequenses demand is the basic human right to live in peace in their own land. The island has suffered ecological damage to the extent that

even if the Navy returns the lands it expropriated from the Viequenses, certain parts of the island will never be recovered because of the prohibitive costs of cleanup. Most likely there will be extensive swaths of land fenced as a permanent scar the Navy has left on Isla Nena (Girl Island) as Puerto Ricans affectionately call Vieques.

In 1998 alone, the Navy dropped 23,000 bombs on this 52-square-mile island where 9,300 people live in a narrow belt of land ensconced between two Navy-held properties. More than 16,000 of these bombs were explosive and 7,000 were not. Between 1983 and 1989 the Navy dropped 55,381 bombs according to its own June 1999 report, "The National Security Need for Vieques."

While the odds seem to be against the Viequenses, the resilience, experience and the support of the majority of Puerto Ricans on the island and in the US (where protests have taken place in more than 17 cities), Spain, Mexico and Korea may well impact US-Puerto Rico relations like no other time in the 102 years of US colonialism in Puerto Rico.

In fact Vieques was a centerpiece in previous processes linked with the seemingly eternal but always slippery aspiration of Puerto Ricans for real self-government. During the late 1950s, the Navy, in a process they disingenuously called "real estate negotiations," demanded that the entire population of Vieques, including its cemeteries, be transferred to the "Big Island." Ironically, Governor Luis Muñoz Marin (a supporter of Puerto Rico's present Commonwealth status), behind the backs of the Viequenses, expressed his willingness to allow the Navy to create the anomaly of a Puerto Rican municipality in "exile," a town that existed outside of its jurisdiction.

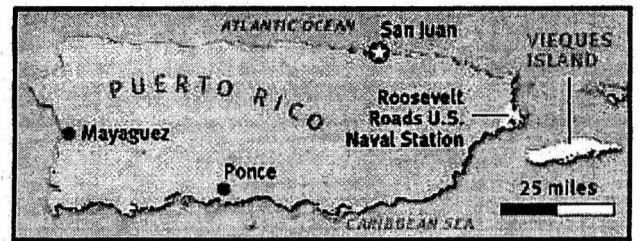
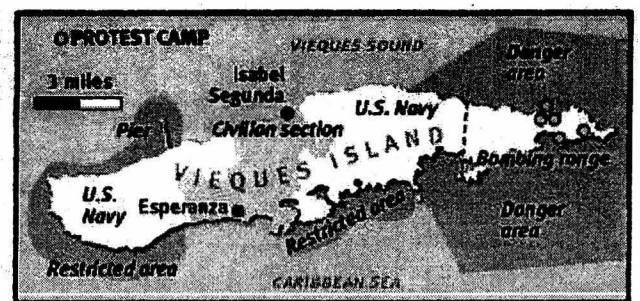
In *The Disenchanted Island*, Ronald Fernandez quotes a letter Gov. Muñoz wrote to President Kennedy on December 28, 1961. In it Muñoz says that, although he prefers that the project of moving all the residents off the island be abandoned "...unless it is not merely



Pescadores (fishermen) stand off with the US Navy.

desirable, but clearly critically and urgently necessary for the military defense of the Nation (sic)." These exchanges fed into the process which led to the 1967 referendum on the Puerto Rican status. This "plebiscite" did not obligate the US to any status option the islanders embraced. In 1967, the Puerto Rican people chose the "enhancement" of the present Commonwealth status. They are still waiting for its enhancement after two more plebiscites in 1993 and 1998, both of which were won by various coalitions of statehood opponents.

Vieques has always clamored for attention to its plight, but many times it has been ignored by its fellow Puerto Ricans on the big island. Recently, Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello (a pro-statehood also of the "Big Island"), who without consulting the panel he named to develop Puerto Rico's policy regarding Vieques, signed an agreement that is being rebuffed by the majority of Puerto Ricans. This agreement with President Clinton did not permanently stop the bombing nor did it lead to the immediate dismantling of Navy facilities on the island. These two conditions were central pieces of a national consensus arrived at by diverse forces in Puerto Rico, and until Gov. Rossello's agreement, it had become the government's policy. The agreement with President Clinton provides for a referendum of the Viequenses as to whether or not they want the Navy to continue the bombings, coupled with an offer of money if they allow the Navy to resume the bombing. (But there is no option for



asking the Navy to cease bombing immediately and to dismantle its facilities in the island.) This referendum will be offered on a timetable decided by the Navy. The Navy has also offered a vague commitment to leave the island in three years, although it has violated previous agreements. However, bombings will continue with "inert" bombs on a reduced basis (90 days a year) for the next three years.

La Isla Nena and the social movement supporting it serve as a sextant to mark a course that may impact the 500-year-long struggle to achieve a greater degree of self-government. But this course might take some unexpected twists since the participants in this movement represent a coalition of forces never before seen in the island's political history. This coalition gathered February 21 in what was probably the largest mass political demonstration in Puerto Rico's history. Estimates of the crowd size were from 85,000 to 150,000 and the event was widely covered by the US press.

More importantly, this cause has fanned the flames of nationalist fervor against the US. The US has historically perceived Puerto Rico as a "bridge" for experimentation with democratic institutions in a Latin American setting. The "bridge" metaphor has some obvious "Manifest Destiny" implications of expansion into the United States' southern neighbors. More concretely, the "bridge" has allowed US armed forces to invade Latin American countries when their politics conflict with US national interests. Vieques served as a "support unit" in the launching of the 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic and the invasion of Panama in the '80s. But the democratic experiment has not entailed allowing Puerto Ricans the freedom to effectively choose options of real self-government without external intervention.

While Vieques is a boon to nationalist, pro-independence sentiment, many of the participants and activists just see themselves as good US citizens exercising their US constitutional rights. Alba Encarnacion, a leader of the Vieques movement, is an active member of the New Progressive Party and a supporter of US statehood.

What really may have a significant impact in future US-Puerto Rico relations is that for the first time, Puerto Ricans are the subjects of their own history. Most of the significant milestones in US policy changes toward Puerto Rico were not the outcome of Puerto Rican volition but of the vagaries of international dynamics. In 1917, the US imposed citizenship on Puerto Ricans despite its rejection by the Puerto Rican legislature. The US wanted to build loyalty among Puerto Ricans during the first world war period. On that occasion, Puerto Ricans were not allowed to vote on whether they accepted US citizenship or not. In 1952, the US "allowed" Puerto Ricans to draft their own constitution, again as a reaction to Cold War politics and to avoid the image that having a colonial possession would have given the US.

This time around Puerto Ricans were calling the shots, and Washington was beginning to listen, at least until Gov. Rossello broke ranks with the rest of Puerto Rico and signed an accord rejected by most of Puerto Rico's civil society. In many ways Puerto Ricans flexed their muscles, and they have liked how it feels! The US Navy hasn't confronted such stubborn resistance in 102 years.

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Bolivian Uprising Reverses Water Privatization

In a stunning concession to four days of massive public uprisings, the Bolivian government announced April 14 that it was breaking the contract it signed last year that sold the region's water system to a consortium of British-led investors.

A general strike and road blockades that began April 11 in Cochabamba shut down the city of half a million, leaving the usually crowded streets virtually empty of cars and closed schools, businesses and the city's 25-square-block marketplace, one of Latin America's largest.

The government's surprise agreement to reverse the water privatization deal follows four months of public protest.

Greater meaning

While rumors are surfacing that the government might backtrack on its promise, for Bolivians the popular victory apparently won over water has much wider meaning. "We're questioning that others, the World Bank, international business, should be deciding these basic issues for us," said protest leader Oscar Olivera. "For us, that is democracy."

The selling-off of public enterprises to foreign investors has been a heated economic debate in Bolivia for a decade, as one major business after another—the airline, the train system, electric utilities—has been sold into private (almost always foreign) hands. Last year's one-bidder sale of Cochabamba's public water system, a move pushed on government officials by the World Bank, brought the privatization fight to a boil.

In January, as the new owners erected their shiny new "Aguas del Tunari" logo over local water facilities, the company also slapped local water users with rate increases that were as much as double. In a city where the minimum wage is less than \$100 per month, many families were hit with increases of \$20 per month and more.

Tanya Paredes, a mother of five who supports her family as a clothes-knitter, says her increase of \$15 per month was equal to what it costs to feed her family for one and one-half weeks. "What we pay for water comes out of what we have to pay for food, clothes and the other things we need to buy for our children," she said.

Public anger over the rate increases, led by a new alliance, *La Coordinadora*, exploded in mid-January with a four-day shutdown of the city, stunning the government and forcing an agreement to reverse the rate increases.

In early February, when the promises never materialized, *La Coordinadora* called for a peaceful march on the city's central plaza. Banzer (who previously ruled as a dictator from 1971-78) met

the protesters with more than 1,000 police and an armed takeover of La Cochabamba's center. Two days of police tear gas and rock-throwing by marchers left more than 175 protesters injured and two youths blinded.

February's violent clashes forced the government and the water company to implement a rate



Bolivian protesters in La Cochabamba's center

rollback and freeze until November, and to agree to a new round of negotiations.

Deal scrutinized

Meanwhile, *La Coordinadora*, aided by the local College of Economists, began to scrutinize both the contract and the finances behind the water company's new owners. While the actual financial arrangements remain mostly hidden, the city's leading daily newspaper reported that investors paid the government less than \$20,000 of up front capital for a water system worth millions.

Amid charges of corruption and collusion in the contract by some of the officials who approved it last year, *La Coordinadora* announced what it called *la última batalla* (the final battle), demanding that the government break the contract and return the water system to public hands. The group set April 11 as the deadline for action.

Government water officials warned that private investors were needed to secure the millions of dollars needed to expand the growing region's water system. They argued that breaking the contract would entitle the owners to a \$12 million compensation fee, and pleaded for public patience to give the new owners time to show the benefits of their experience.

Among the vast majority of Cochabamba water users, however, that patience had run out. Over one month ago, an inquiry surveyed more than 60,000 local residents about the water issue and more than 90 percent voted that the government should break the contract. During one of the marches protesters stopped at the water company's offices, tearing

down the new "Aguas del Tunari" sign.

On Tuesday, April 11, city residents took to the street with bicycles and soccer balls—only a few cars moved across town to take advantage of the day off from work and school. By Wednesday, armies of people from the surrounding rural areas, fighting a parallel battle over a new law threatening popular control of rural water systems, began arriving, reinforcing the road blockades, and puncturing car and bicycle tires. Thursday night, with another day of wages lost and no sign of movement from the government, public anger started to erupt.

Protesters arrested

A crowd of nearly 500 surrounded the government building where negotiations, convened by the Roman Catholic archbishop, were taking place between protest leaders and government officials. In the middle of negotiations, the government ordered the arrest of 15 *La Coordinadora* leaders and others present in the meeting.

"We were talking with the mayor, the governor, and other civil leaders when the police came in and arrested us," said Olivera, *La Coordinadora*'s most visible leader. "It was a trap by the government to have us all together, negotiating, so that we could be arrested."

In response, thousands of city and rural residents filled the city's central plaza opposite the government building, carrying sticks and rocks, and handkerchiefs to help block the anticipated tear gas. Television and radio reports speculated all day that the president would declare martial law, and there were reports of army units arriving at the city's airport.

Freed from jail, the leaders of water protests agreed to a 4 p.m. meeting with the government, called by the archbishop. At 5 p.m., government officials still had not arrived and the plaza crowd waited tensely for the expected arrival of the army.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, the archbishop walked into the meeting and announced that the government had just told him that it had agreed to break the water contract. Jubilant *La Coordinadora* leaders crossed the street to a third-floor balcony, announcing the victory to the thousands waiting below, many waving the red, green and yellow Bolivian flag, as the bells of the city's cathedral echoed through the city center.

"We have arrived at the moment of an important economic victory," Olivera told the ecstatic crowd.

For more information contact The Water Pressure Group, POB 10046, Dominion Road, Auckland, New Zealand; 0064 09 828 4517; jimg@pl.net; www.water-pressure-group.org.nz/.

Uru Morato Threatened by Transredes Oil Spill

The Uru Morato people of Bolivia are in danger of starvation due to an oil spill that has severely impacted Lake Poopo located in the altiplano region of Oruro near the border with Chile. The Uru Morato number at 600 people and depend entirely on hunting birds and fishing in Lake Poopo.

On February 4, the Sica Sica-Arica pipeline operated by Transredes, a consortium mostly owned by Shell-Bolivia and US-based Enron, ruptured and spilled crude oil and gasoline into the Deseguardo River for 32 hours. The company took eight days to deal with the rupture. However, according to Amazon Watch, a US-based environmental organization, an extensive public relations campaign began almost immediately to downplay the disaster. The Deseguardo feeds into Lake Uru Uru and Lake Poopo where many indig-

enous communities live, including the Uru Morato who have been there for 5,000 years.

"The lake has died and there is no life since the oil spill," said an Uru Morato woman.

Two months after the spill, the Uru Morato marched to the city of Oruro, 83 miles from their ancestral lands on the southern shores of Lake Poopo to meet with Transredes authorities and government officials. Driven by impending starvation, the Uru Morato went to discuss the condition of the lake and to secure a guarantee that the lake would be restored to its original state and that the community would be supplied with food in the interim.

Transredes authorities reportedly stopped the community as they approached the city of Oruro and offered them money to turn back. They

refused the offer and continued on to the government offices. Transredes claimed that the remote parts of the Lake where the Uru Morato live were not contaminated, but they refused to guarantee that claim. The community left the meeting and the city "with tears in their eyes" and without any type of help, food or a guarantee. On the northern shores of Lake Poopo, the Uru of Irohito are suffering the same conditions as their cousins in the south.

Local monitoring groups report that the cleaning process has consisted of manual collection of the oil into plastic bags by local people. The bags have been dumped onto highly permeable soils in the confines of a pumping station in Sica Sica, risking leakage into this region's aquifer.

In March, representatives from the Bolivian Forum for Environment and

Development (FOBOMADE) and Amazon Watch attended the meetings of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Louisiana. They asked that the bank pull back on its intentions to fund other future projects by Transredes.

The IDB is considering financing Transredes' construction of the Yacuiaba pipeline intended to connect the Bolivia-Brazil main pipeline to Argentina.

"Several cases of negligence from Shell and Enron in Bolivia demonstrate that the IDB should not finance these irresponsible corporations," said Patricia Molina of FOBOMADE. "Furthermore, we question the IDB's support of privatization of Bolivia's energy sector, which brought such negligent companies to Bolivia in the first place."

—DRILLBITS AND TAILINGS

Trainstopping in the Netherlands

BY JASPER

During spring 1998, several former inhabitants of the successful Groenoord anti-Africa harbor direct action site near Amsterdam, the Netherlands, occupied a new squat in the east of the Netherlands. This came to be the start of the largest Dutch environmental campaign in recent history. The focus is the Betuwelijn, a new cargo train line being constructed, which creates a new connection between Rotterdam, Europe's largest port, and the Ruhr area in Germany, Europe's largest industrial area (see *EF!* December-January 2000). In February three GroenFront! (Dutch Earth First!) camps against the train line were evicted, and direct action is still booming.

The Betuwelijn will cost some 20 billion guilders (about \$10 billion). It's the fifth project in the Transport European Network System (TENS) project, consisting of 14 high-priority European Union projects and several dozen others. Presently, it's the main European rail project, so there's a lot at stake, and there's a very strong national and international corporate lobby pushing it. All major Dutch research institutes, most semi-governmental, have recently concluded that there are no environmental arguments against constructing the rails. This was the major argument when the Dutch parliament made the decision to continue. The project had already proven to be very costly considering the only minimal positive economic effect. The most recent research actually reports that the government deliberately corrupted figures.

Thus the line is already very much disputed by the general public, especially the Betuwe-locals, who are starting to realize that these projects are only possible in a very shallow democracy indeed, while the (abuse of) power by the railway company and bureaucracy is much more real. For some of us, this class struggle element and the possibility for teaming up with the general public is a major reason to fight this project. Moreover, some very beautiful natural areas and rare species are threatened, and of course this project is soaked in the capitalist idea of growth. Also, the increase in transport will lead to more pollution.

The direct action campaign came to blossom after two new squats to the west were occupied in January 1999. These were located at strategically important positions, and estimates are that our presence has delayed construction there by six to eight months. In the spring, five more houses and farms were squatted, making a total of eight in three villages. Several were redecorated into fortresses (a little barricading kills the time enjoyably). In one of the squats a vegan cafe and neighborhood disco was started. Other actions taking place that year were an occupation of the railway company's headquarters and several other offices, a disruption of a European infrastructure congress (getting several officials pied) and three occupations of the Oud-Alblas construction site, the largest in the project. Outdoor-minded activists occupied a beautiful nature area that was to be demolished, trying to start a tree camp but unfortunately were evicted after a week. Locals did one major direct action in which several hundred people occupied a railway for a day.

In the meantime repression increased as well. Regarding the local support for the GroenFront! campaign and fearing a Dutch instance of the success of the British anti-roads campaigns, a special government intelligence agency was set up for large infrastructural projects, mainly against GroenFront!, intent on not only monitoring but also preventing actions. Furthermore, several activists were approached by secret service regional agents trying to get them to become informers. In 2000 the culmination of the campaign was reached with the eviction of the eight

Betuwe squats. Some 800 riot policemen took two full days to drill through the concrete bunkers, slice up the lock-ons and dig out the tunnels. Two days is a relatively long period considering the incredible number of people, diamond-saws and drills and even construction and earthquake-experts the police had brought together. Nearly 100 activists fenced themselves off by throwing paintbombs and setting fire to barricades.

After the eviction GroenFront! immediately came back with a spring offensive, which meant six construction site and office occupations in less than two months. It seems that actions are starting to have an effect, as the justice department has put a brand new shiny anti-GroenFront! policy together, demanding "the maximum punishment for the most minor offense" (which means two weeks of prison for not doing what a public servant tells you to) and holding people in custody up until their trial if they refuse to give their names. Fortunately these demands haven't been holding up in court, but of course the number of fines are skyrocketing. To attack the policy, GroenFront! and other direct action groups held a very inspiring demonstration in Utrecht right before May Day. Almost 300 people showed up. Foam bricks were thrown at the police and police station, which was exceedingly fun.

Press attention has been incredible but of course more aimed at spectacular images than the issues. However, what seems to be getting clear due to our actions is that anti-capitalist activism is far from the grave, and our message that resistance is also globalizing even seems to be getting across a bit.

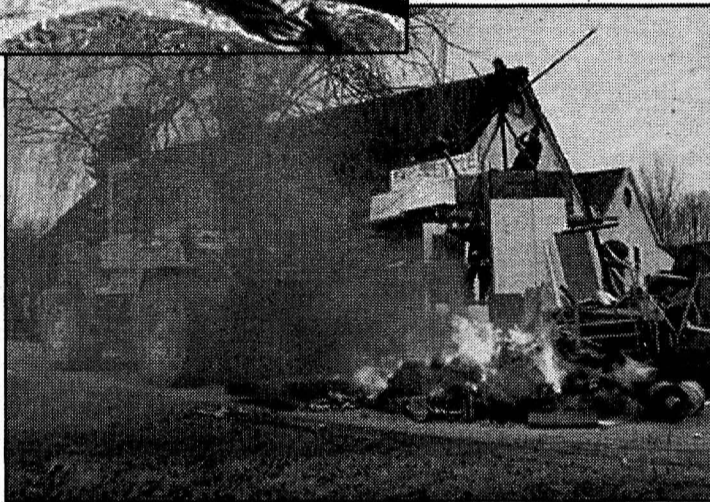
In any case this campaign isn't over. The Betuwelijn will need at least four and one-half more years of construction to complete. Squatting has become more difficult because of a new condition the railway company, our direct opponent, had set: Locals forced to sell their houses because of the project would only get all their money after the house was demolished. Almost always houses were demolished only minutes after they were abandoned. However, there's a hell of a lot of different direct actions to do, so the main issue now is to be creative (and effective, obviously). On May Day, GroenFront! tried to have a rave on a construction site but unfortunately didn't get enough people together for a full rave, so the place was just occupied for two days.

The Betuwelijn will remain in our focus, but there are other targets in sight as well. One will be the COP6 climate summit in The Hague (the last one was Kyoto). Several groups both in the Netherlands and internationally are already very enthusiastic about doing some very creative direct action against this big spoof. Other items for GroenFront! in the near future will be the expansion of Schiphol (Amsterdam Airport). Recently, one major gentrification project in the city of Nijmegen was actually stopped by a coalition of neighborhood committees, squatters and environmentalists. GroenFront! is not the only anti-capitalist network in Holland. Squatting is still very strong in the cities, and this summer will be full of reclaiming the streets and such everywhere again. A new movement against the monarchy has organized a very colorful and fun march, and there's actually a functioning national grassroots activist network. As always our movement has its ups and downs, but even the weather's been nice recently in the low countries.

For more information contact GroenFront!, POB 85069, 3508 AB Utrecht, the Netherlands; groenfr@dds.nl; www.antenna.nl/nvda/groenfront; or to subscribe to the email list send a message to efnl-subscribe@listbot.com.



Road blockade Dutch style



Burning blockade in front of a Betuwe squat

photos courtesy GroenFront!

FRONTLINES

Katúah EF! drops a banner against bombs

On May 15, two Katúah Earth First! activists scaled the World's Fair Globe in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, and deployed a banner reading "Stop the Bombs." The activists took action in order to bring to light the US government's global hypocrisy on nuclear weapons. The US urges other countries to disarm but makes no real effort to do so itself. This double standard threatens to unravel the ground work that has been laid for nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear weapons "refurbishment" at Y-12, the refusal of the US Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the production of nuclear weapons material at civilian facilities send a clear message to other nuclear nations that America has every intention of continuing the nuclear arms race into the next millennium.

"The Y-12 Nuclear Plant's example of refurbishment is the equivalent to me taking my beat up old Toyota to the mechanic and getting a new Porsche in return. It is clearly not the same car, not the same nuclear weapon," said Paloma Galindo of Katúah Earth First! Because of US nuclear policies, the world may lose an important opportunity to move toward disarmament.

Larry Craig exposed as a timber puppet again

Moscow, Idaho activists became a thorn in Idaho Senator Larry Craig's (R-ID) side on April 21 when he came to the University of Idaho to speak on the topic of natural resource issues for the Borah Symposium.

Several minutes after he took to the stage in the food court of the new Idaho Commons, strange things started happening. First, a large banner tumbled off the side of one of the many balconies overlooking the court. The banner stated, "Larry Craig = Timber Puppet."

Then a life-size marionette made of a stuffed shirt, fists clenching money and a shocking triangular head made of three cardboard-mounted photos of Larry's likeness came tumbling off the balcony!

Each Larry Craig face on the puppet had been photo-engineered such that Larry's classic grin had been flipped into a nasty snarl, and each forehead was complete with the logo of different timber corporations that donate to Larry's campaigns: Boise Cascade, Potlatch and Bennett Lumber.

Another huge banner was unfurled off yet another balcony. This one stated "Idaho's Roadless Backcountry: An American Legacy, a Gift for the Future."

Larry's eyes were seen to pop as he caught glimpse of his likeness on the puppet, but he tried his best to keep his cool throughout his speech in which he blasted the environmental extremists who were ruining the West and the undemocratic nature of the roadless protection initiative.

Shortly after the banner and marionette unfurling, the same doctored Larry photos—this time mounted on sticks—started popping up in the audience. Approximately a dozen of the likenesses—some foreheads containing corporate logos, some containing slogans like "Extract" and "I hate trees"—bobbed up and down during his speech. One in the front row.

Craig has received thousands of dollars in PAC contributions from the timber industry. He consistently receives zero-percent ratings from the League of Conservation Voters. His environmental record since taking office demonstrates his support for continued logging subsidies, increased road construction, decreased environmental regulation and less protection for endangered species.

Cruisin' for Trouble in Alaska

BY GERSHON COHEN

Near the end of the last millennium the small community of Haines, Alaska (located 90 miles north of Juneau), was determined to diversify its economy. Southeast Alaska's timber industry was in decline and commercial fishing was becoming more and more unpredictable. So the people living in this beautiful valley at the northern edge of the Tongass National Forest, where the bald eagles outnumber the humans every fall, built a dock to lure the large cruise ships steaming their way past Haines to Skagway. We thought we'd have our cake and eat it too: Tourists would gawk at the natural beauty for a few hours, leave behind lots of money, and we'd keep our remaining forests from being logged and the gold in the ground where it belonged.

Our wake-up call came in late July of 1999. The seemingly benevolent, economic savior of the town stood before us naked and ashamed. Royal Caribbean Cruise Limited (RCCL) had been found guilty on 21 felony counts for illegally dumping hazard-

ous wastes into US waters. One of the dumping areas was just offshore from our beach. Many locals found it hard to believe that the company would purposefully desecrate our waters to save a few thousand dollars a year in pollution treatment costs.

There is no dispute about what had transpired. RCCL had been routinely bypassing on-board treatment systems and hazardous waste handling protocols for the silver nitrate from their photo-processing lab, the perchloroethylene from the dry cleaning facility (PERC is a bioaccumulative carcinogen) and the oily bilge water from their engine room. They were purposefully mixing these wastes with their graywater, the wastewater from the ship's sinks, laundry and galley, and dumping the whole mess overboard after they left our dock under the cover of darkness. They lied to the Coast Guard and falsified log books. The Oil Record Book on RCCL's *Sovereign of the Seas* was known onboard as the "Eventyrbok," or "Fairy Tale Book" in Norwegian, the language of the country in which the ship is registered. The Justice Department described their illegal actions as a "fleet-wide practice"; RCCL vessels had been equipped with phony plumbing to fool Coast Guard inspectors and allow waste streams to bypass required pollution control equipment.

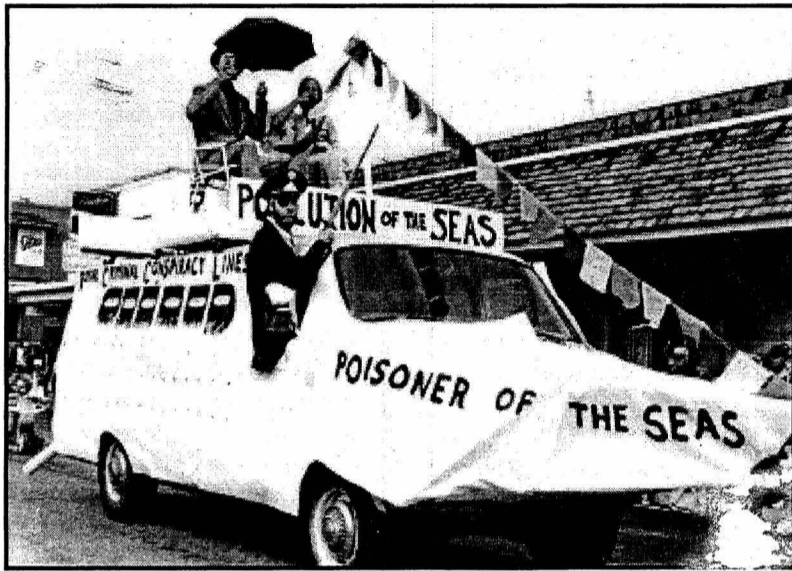
RCCL's actions were not unique for this industry. According to a recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report, many foreign-flagged ships have been guilty of a variety of serious pollution violations, either through negligence, accident or willful act. Regency Cruises, Palm Beach Cruises, Discovery Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Dolphin Cruise Lines, Princess Cruises and the Holland America Line, to name but a few, have all been found guilty of illegally discharging oil, garbage, paint, plastic, ballast water and food waste into Alaskan waters and the Caribbean for years. The GAO report only covered those incidents reported and confirmed during the mid-1990s. What happened before then will probably never be known.

A few weeks after the *New York Times* broke the RCCL story it was time for the annual Southeast Alaska State Fair parade. There was a surprise entry. An old Dodge van, refitted with a prow and smokestack, had been covered in white building wrap and painted with windows and lifeboats. Tibetan prayer flags streamed from guy wires as "tourists" sipped from champagne glasses on the roof, admiring the pristine view. As the "Royal Criminal Conspiracy Limited" ship passed in front of the judges' booth, the rear door opened slightly to expose a long pipe. The pirate crew cackled

as they dumped a foul looking mix of dirty water overboard. The "Poisoner of the Seas," clearly the crowd's favorite, won "best float" honors.

Unfortunately, the political statement, not to mention the humor, was lost on a t-shirt merchant with long-standing animosity toward the town's conservation community. He and a friend waited at the end of the parade route to pelt the float with a crate of tomatoes. A young girl on top of the slowly moving van was struck in the head from point blank range. Both men were convicted several months later on charges of reckless endangerment, although they received little more than wrist slaps despite having assaulted a minor exercising her right to freedom of speech.

Three days after the parade, the next scheduled



Activists dump "foul water" from cruise ship float.

RCCL ship arrived in Haines. Ignoring threats of violence from members of the business community now beholden to cruise ship dollars, more than 100 people came to the dock to peacefully demonstrate and distribute literature to the ship's passengers as they disembarked for local tours. The town's fire police force of six members supported the community's right

to assemble, and kept the peace.

Another few weeks passed, and RCCL's president, Jack Williams, came to Haines to apologize for the company's behavior. Not surprisingly, his attempts to portray the incidents as isolated events perpetrated by aberrant employees in violation of company policy were rejected by the well-informed crowd. He also refused repeated requests for funding to support a tissue analysis of local fish and shellfish populations. Many Native and non-Native residents are subsistence harvesters of the area's marine life.

We soon refocused our attention on the real problem. The large cruise ships are floating cities with 3,000-5,000 passengers and crew. They release millions of gallons of wastewater every week. Yet they are not required to obtain discharge permits and do not have to demonstrate that their waste streams meet state water quality standards. Unlike Alaska's other industries, the cruise ships are largely exempt from permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements under the Clean Water Act. Aside from industry estimates, no one knows what the ships release into public waters.

The industry claims their 1,000,000 gallons per week graywater waste stream is harmless. However, we know that in the past hazardous wastes were mixed with graywater and dumped overboard. Even their legal graywater discharges may be a problem. Graywater contains solvents, detergents, biocides, hair salon supplies, medical waste and heavy metals.

In addition to graywater, the ships' passengers and crew generate approximately 200,000 gallons of sewage per week. According to international law, treated sewage, known as blackwater, can be discharged anywhere. Untreated sewage may only be released when the ship is more than three miles from shore. But this too is a problem in Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage, where there are few places more than three miles from any shoreline. This has led to the informal establishment of "donut holes" where ships can purge their sewage tanks. The industry has vowed to no longer dump untreated

sewage in the donut holes, but their ability to process all of their sewage or hold it until they reach outside waters is dependent upon the capacity of their holding tanks, which varies from ship to ship.

As with graywater, even treated sewage poses serious questions. How much chlorine is in the effluent? What levels of bacteria are still present after treatment? Are tanks being dumped in areas important for fish-rearing or recreation?

To try and fill the information gaps we joined forces with Bluewater Network (a project of the Earth Island Institute) and a recently-formed Juneau-based organization Cruise Control. The goal was to sponsor state legislation requiring the monitoring and reporting of every wastestream coming from the ships. The bill was introduced in Alaska this past session, and strong bipartisan support pushed the bill through the Alaska State Senate. But the cruise ship lobby succeeded in having the bill held hostage in the House, where it died in the final days of the session.

Bluewater then sponsored a similar bill in California. On April 21 that bill passed the California Assembly's Environment and Toxics Committee. It will be voted upon by the full California Assembly in June and is expected to pass. Bluewater is also working to have similar legislation introduced in Florida and Texas.

Meanwhile, Bluewater's Cruise Ship Pollution National Campaign Director Kira Schmidt drafted a petition signed by more than 50 environmental organizations to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Browner requesting the agency revisit its regulations to determine whether current Clean Water Act exemptions enjoyed by the industry should be abolished. The EPA has responded quickly, initiating meetings that are expected to lead to the publishing of a proposed rule as early as next October.

The industry argues that these bills are unnecessary. They cite recent efforts to establish a voluntary self-monitoring program in Alaska. As a participant in the multi-agency working group charged with evaluating their proposal, I must report that key industry representatives have repeatedly attempted to undercut the program in ways that would make the data meaningless. The industry is simply unwilling to spend the money to do the necessary tests, even though the cost is trivial. (Despite its felony convictions in 1999, RCCL increased its profit margin last year by 16 percent to \$384 million—netting more than a million dollars a day.)

Regardless of the costs or their intent to self-monitor, we simply can't trust that their days of illegal dumping are over or that their legal discharges are safe. We have the right to know the quantity, composition and location of every discharge from the ships, and I predict that very soon, we will.

Gershon Cohen, Ph.D., is director of the Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters. C-SAW is a national project of the Earth Island Institute; its mission is to stop the dumping of toxic chemicals into legalized pollution-dilution regions within public waterbodies known as mixing zones. Dilution is not the solution to pollution.

Cruise Ships Forced to End Use of Toxic TBT Paint

During the investigation that led to the sponsorship of the Wastewater Management legislation in Alaska and California, we became aware that foreign-flagged cruise ships were the last major category of non-aluminum vessels in US waters using tributyltin (TBT) hull paints. TBT and other organotin hull paints are extremely toxic ablatives (i.e., they are designed to slough off the ship into surrounding waters). TBT creates a dead zone around a ship's hull to prevent the adherence of marine organisms. TBT is persistent in the water column and in sediments and is a known endocrine disrupter. It has been implicated in the 1998 stranding of sperm whales in the North Sea and the huge dolphin beaching in Florida and Georgia about 10 years ago. It has been found in significant quantities in many marine invertebrates, birds and mammals. Anchorage Senator Loren Leman was recruited to sponsor a bill removing Alaska's foreign vessel exemption for TBT application, effective 2001. It passed, which will force all cruise ships, which repaint nearly every three years, to end their use of TBT. This law should significantly help the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) ongoing effort to ban TBT worldwide, since so many ships that travel around the world visit Alaska. The IMO has been trying to pass a ban on new TBT application by 2003 and a complete removal of TBT paints from all ships by 2008.

—GC

1.7 Billion Killed, Maimed or Sickened... NUCLEAR DENIAL IS KILLING US.

"We live on a recycling earth. You can't put poison into a recycling earth. We're damaging the seed... that's a death process. We're seeing it crop up as breast cancer, mentally retarded and hyperkinetic kids. We're seeing it crop up as infertility, and we're seeing animal species destroyed.

But we don't seem to have quite said 'yes, that's us. That's our planet, that's what we did, and let's stop it.'

Dr. Rosalie Bertell, Breast Cancer Conference,
Austin TX, 2/1994

by Jennifer Olaranna Viereck

Radioactive contamination--of our planet, fellow species, our own bodies and future generations--is the single greatest risk to our well-being today.

As early as December 1951, the Atomic Energy Commission was warned by its own consultants that "cancer is a significant industrial hazard of the atomic energy business." Numerous studies have confirmed this over the years.

High incidence of breast cancer and birth defects have been linked to neighboring nuclear reactors. Connections between cancers, coronary heart disease, and excessive medical x-rays are well established. Genetic damage can cause increasing health problems and learning disorders in the descendants of those originally exposed.

The most severely affected sectors of the U.S. population--atomic miners, workers and veterans--have to compete for meager benefits only recently made available by the government. The rest of us can't even get the truth.

AND YET, THIS IS NOT A SERIOUS PART OF OUR NATIONAL DIALOGUE!

- County by county data exists for risk of thyroid cancer from bomb testing. Where is the information to discuss with our doctors our own level of risk and how it may affect our children?
- 80% of breast cancer is environmentally caused and therefore preventable, but we hear more about diet, smoking and family history than the nuclear industry.
- Medical experiments were deliberately and secretly conducted on the most vulnerable members of our society--school children, remote Native communities, mental patients, prisoners, soldiers and sailors. Where is our outrage?
- Transportation of nuclear ores, metals, fuels, weapons and wastes had numerous accidents and near-misses. New proposals will magnify the problem exponentially. Do you know where the routes are?
- U.S. nuclear space stations and mining colonies on the Moon and Mars will begin a whole new era of nuclear waste production. How will U.S. dominance of space affect global peace?
- For over fifty years the U.S. government contaminated all of North America, South Pacific islands, and much of the world's oceans with radiation. Why isn't nuclear policy an important part of the presidential debate?

Like an alcoholic family--where emotional survival is maintained by an unspoken agreement not to discuss the disease openly--we are living in a condition of nuclear denial.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

Information on radioactivity is hard to come by, often conflicting, and usually specific to one aspect of the industry or another. But our exposure to radiation is cumulative, and we need to develop an understanding of the industry as a whole.

For example, an older person living in the Four Corners area has been exposed to radiation from atmospheric testing, medical procedures, uranium mining, and coal-powered electrical plants which can emit more radiation than nuclear reactors.

According to the estimates of Dr. Rosalie Bertell, a radiation expert of world renown, 1.7 billion people on our planet have already been killed, maimed or sickened by nuclear weapons testing and nuclear reactors world-wide. These figures differ radically from calculations by government agencies--who she refers to as the "radiation protection industry". Their definitions exclude non-fatal cancers, non-cancer illness, auto-immune diseases, some doses to specific organs, stillbirths and miscarriages.

Says Bertell, "Another century of nuclear power, and this carnage would continue with more than 10 million victims a year. An industry which has the potential to kill, injure and maim that number of innocent people--and all in the name of 'benefiting' society--is surely wholly unacceptable."

CAN YOU
FIND YOUR
STATE ON
THIS MAP?



HOW ARE WE EXPOSED?

Nuclear fission, whether in a reactor, a bomb, or a laboratory, creates about 80 different radioactive byproducts. In addition, about 300 different existing chemicals take on radioactive forms that before 1943 were found only rarely and in trace amounts.

The atomic particles escape into the air and the water in a variety of ways. In addition to exposure from breathing and drinking, particles end up in soils and enter the food chain.

Strontium 90 is one radioactive element that caused wide-spread illness due to above-ground testing of nuclear bombs, especially in children through consumption of fresh milk.

"A byproduct of nuclear fission, Sr90 is a marker for radiation poisoning that damages DNA much more quickly, even before birth, than any other environmental pollutant. Nuclear particles remain lodged--often for life--in human tissues, where they continue to give off radiation and result in cancer, birth defects and premature aging. And to make matters worse, industrial chemicals in water or milk are doubly carcinogenic when in contact with Sr90."ⁱⁱ

A recent study by Dr. Jay Gould found that Strontium-90 is still showing up in children's teeth in levels 100 times greater than expected. Reactor accidents like Chernobyl and Three Mile Island and routine emissions from reactors are the most likely sources.



The HOME Museum in Monihans, Texas, site of a proposed low-level waste dump

H ME

Healing Ourselves & Mother Earth

All good things come from our planet Earth: food we eat, medicines that heal us, shelter and clothing, the air we depend on for life. The elements our bodies are made of are the same as the Earth's, and like her, we are mainly composed of water. She is our resting place for all time when we pass on. Our survival is linked to her survival, and like us, she is suffering from the effects of the Nuclear Age. She is our HOME, and we have no other.

HOME breaks the silence of nuclear denial.

- We direct you to health studies and other expert information about radiation.
- We encourage you to use renewable energy (like wind and solar) that will not poison the future of our children and biosphere.
- We show you sustainable and affordable ways to build homes and businesses.
- We explore ways to heal the human fears within each one of us that lead to conflict--and ultimately, to a world bristling with genocidal weapons.

HOME has experience. Our multi-cultural Board, our Director, even our mechanics have years of anti-nuclear experience. All are members of the former Healing Global Wounds Alliance. We come from radiated communities, long-established organizations, and a variety of healing professions.

HOME is mobile --we come to you! Our 30 foot RV, The Museum to End the Nuclear Age, is full of easy to understand displays on all the topics in this article and more. We have books, handouts and contact lists on what most concerns you. If we don't have it, we'll find out the best source and get back to you!

Our solar system is capable of operating video equipment, a laptop computer, and all our lighting and fans. We'll show you how it works and how you can develop a system of your own.

We are located on the California/Nevada border 75 miles south of Yucca Mt. and the Nevada Test Site. We visit other communities in the California/Nevada area, especially those who may not have access to nuclear information.

This summer, we are teaming up with Citizen Alert to visit county fairs, powwows, and other events. In the fall, we will be visiting schools and colleges in our region.

If you are outside our region, we can help in two ways:

1. Contact our office with requests for information and resources.
2. If you would like the Museum to visit your community in the future, let us know. By linking groups we can plan tours for 2001.

HAVE WE HAD ENOUGH YET?

WHO 'S IN CHARGE?

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), was formed in 1946, to oversee military control of atomic technology. Its mission was redefined in 1954 with an impossible conflict:

- continuing development of weapons and nuclear powered naval vessels;
- encouraging rapid construction of commercial nuclear reactors (to maintain U.S. dominance in nuclear technology, over British and Russian reactor programs);
- regulating the new industry and protecting public health.

Secrecy, speed, and safety rarely mix. Agencies charged with public protection soon came under the control of Cold War interests, to conceal rather than publicize the health risks. Dr. Bertell says, "Health effects of radiation could [then] be classified for national security to prevent rebellion."ⁱⁱⁱ

As both weapons and reactor programs expanded rapidly over the next 20 years, public anger toward the AEC grew over rising health problems, shoddy safety and construction oversight, and coverups of scientific findings. In January 1975, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) replaced the AEC as the licensing and regulating agency for commercial reactors.

DOE: The Nuclear Empire

The Department of Energy (DOE) was created in 1977. Within a few years, nuclear weapons were the main priority. The DOE has over 100,000 employees, more than 20,700 specialized facilities and buildings and over 2.4 million acres. Now, 2/3rds of DOE's \$17.4 billion budget goes to maintain existing nuclear weapons and 'clean up' the toxic disaster left behind.

According to Robert Alvarez, former senior policy advisor to DOE Secretary Bill Richardson, "Major elements of DOE's complex are closing down, leaving a huge unfunded and dangerous mess. After more than half a century of making nuclear weapons, DOE possesses one of the world's largest inventories of dangerous nuclear materials [about 700,000 metric tons] and it has created several of the most contaminated areas in the Western Hemisphere...."

"The high priority assigned to nuclear weapons over the decades, combined with secrecy and experimental latitude involving ultra-hazardous technologies, encouraged a cost-be-damned attitude that remains deeply imbedded in today's Energy Department.

"At the same time, inadequate investments were made to upgrade facilities, infrastructure, waste management, and environmental protection. The failure to invest early in preventative measures has in recent years created a very large environmental liability—estimated by the Office of Environmental Management at \$265 billion."

Alvarez confirms that federal policy allows the DOE to regulate and police themselves and sub-contractors. This policy is unheard of in any other industry. Cover-ups are rewarded and whistle blowers demoted, fired or prosecuted. Skilled safety personnel are being phased out entirely. Congressional mandates to issue sweeping nuclear safety regulations by October 1999 have not yet born fruit.^{iv}

WHERE IT ALL STARTS: URANIUM MINES & MILLS

• In the United States and world-wide, about 70% of all uranium reserves lie beneath indigenous lands. Before the atomic bombs were dropped in Japan, Native uranium miners were already suffering from radiation illness.

For each ton of uranium oxide produced, 40,000 tons of tailings are left behind, retaining 85% of the ore radioactivity for 100,000 years. Around 400 abandoned mines, mill sites and test holes continue to poison soils, air and water. 'Cleanup' efforts, mandated in 1978, are moving very slowly.

For decades, miners had only radioactive water to drink and wash with, often taking it home to families. Protected only by hard hats, uranium dust was carried home on clothing and skin. Native homes and schools were built from tailing-based concrete. Children played in tailing piles and ponds. Often child mortality figures are higher than for miners themselves.

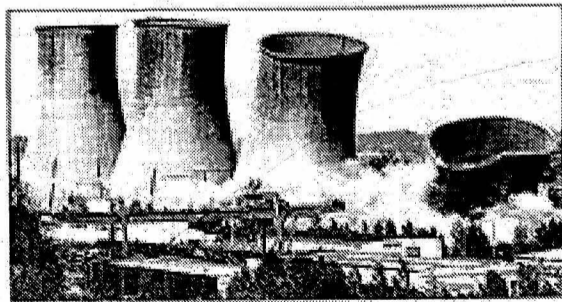
Earl Saltwater, Jr., Navajo, blames his current hearing loss, kidney disease, diabetes and breathing problems on his work in a uranium mine. He only worked for about six months in 1968 and 1969. He said he was fired because he was sickened and started vomiting in the mine.^v

New Mines, Closed Since 1992

For the first time in years, new mines are seeking licenses in the U.S. New methods, such as injecting oxidizing chemicals into the earth and processing the resulting solution, make uranium mines look profitable again.

In Church Rock, New Mexico, (the site of the July 1979 95 million gallon radioactive spill into the Rio Puerco), Hydro Resources, Inc. wants to open several mines and a mill.

Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining and other regional groups are challenging the 'cleaned-up' water standards being applied to their case. They are 22 times higher than proposed national standards, and "at least 20 times greater than the level of uranium in drinking water that has been shown to cause kidney impairment in chronically exposed individuals."^{vi}



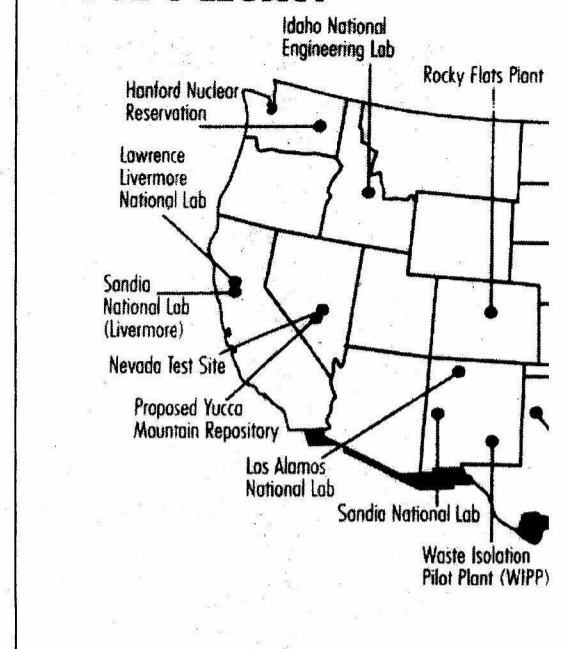
May 5, 1999: Four reactor cooling towers are demolished with explosives in Germany. AP Photo.

NUCLEAR REACTORS

There are now 433 operating commercial or experimental reactors in the world, in addition to an unknown number of military reactors.

Fuel for commercial reactors is currently manufactured at nine different facilities in Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio. Numerous contaminated

DOE'S LEGACY



sites remain from past production, including the Kerr-Magee facility in Oklahoma where Karen Silkwood worked and died, trying to blow the whistle on dangerous safety violations.

Chernobyl 14 Years Later

Most people are familiar with the world's worst reactor disaster. Chernobyl's number four reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, spreading a radioactive cloud over much of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, parts of Western Europe and beyond.

"[After 14 years] the health of people affected by the Chernobyl accident is getting worse and worse every year," Ukraine Deputy Health Minister Olha Bobyleva told a news conference on April 21, 2000. "We are very disturbed by this data."

- The health of 3.5 million people, including 1.26 million children, was affected by diseases of the nervous, blood and respiratory systems; in children, 17% higher than the national average.
- Thyroid cancer remains 10 times higher than normal among Ukrainian children. The ministry reported 1,400 cases of thyroid cancer between 1986 and 2000; no cases were registered between 1981 and 1985.^{vii}
- According to the World Health Organization, over 50,000 more are expected to develop thyroid cancer in the Ukraine alone.^{viii}

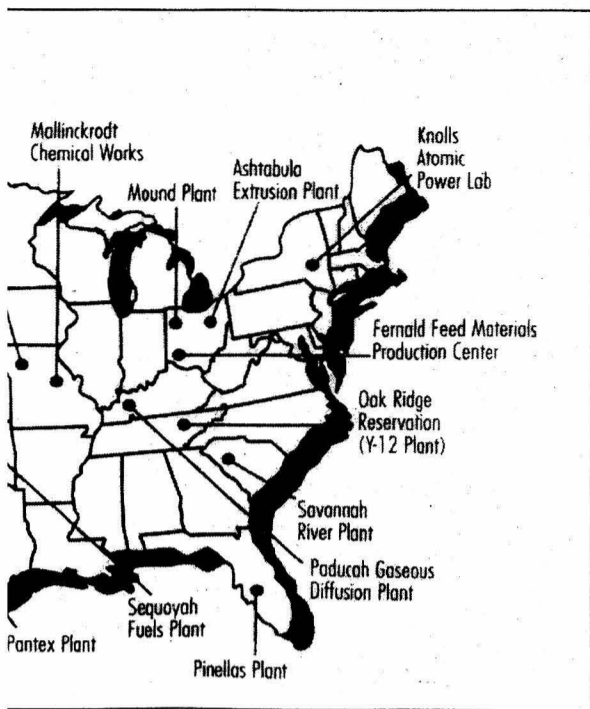
Additional reports spell out Chernobyl-related problems—from an estimated 1 million infant deaths in India, to current levels of Cesium-137 100 times greater than expected in fish and sheep in northern Great Britain.

Our Own Chernobyl

We may never know the truth about what happened when at least half of the core of Unit 2 melted at the Three Mile Island reactor in Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979.

Jane Rickover stated on July 18, 1986: "In May, 1983, my father-in-law, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, told me that at the time of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor accident, a full report was commissioned by President Jimmy Carter. He [my father-in-law] said that the report, if published in its entirety, would have destroyed the civilian nuclear power industry because the accident at Three Mile Island was infinitely more dangerous than was ever made public. He told me that he had used his enormous personal influence with President Carter to persuade him to publish the report only in a highly 'diluted' form. The President had originally wished the full report to be made public.

"In November, 1985, my father-in-law told me that he had come to deeply regret his action in persuading President Carter to suppress the most alarming aspects of that report."



What About 'Safe' Reactors?

What about the 103 'normal' commercial reactors still operating here in the U.S.? For decades we have been told that any emissions are well within 'safe' levels.

A study of counties close to five nuclear reactors that were closed between 1987-89 shows a sharp decline in infant mortality rates in the first two years after closure.

The Rancho Seco reactor is located in a highly populated part of northern California, 25 miles from Sacramento and 70 miles from San Francisco. It is also in a major produce growing area. Rancho Seco began operations in Sept. 1974, and closed in June, 1989.

1974-75, first year of operation, closest 4 counties, compared to the national average:

- Fetal death rate 9.3% higher;
- Infant death rate 11.3% higher;
- Death from all birth defects 25.5% higher.

1990-91, first two years after closure (compared to 1988-89):

- Fetal death rate dropped 5%.
- Infant death rate (age 0-1) dropped 16%;
- Infant death from birth defects (age 0-1) dropped 20%;
- Death from birth defects, (age 1-4), dropped 31%.^{ix}

NUCLEAR BOMB PRODUCTION

Nuclear weapons have enabled an ever-escalating spiral of aggressive nation-to-nation posturing for over 50 years, for control of the very Earth and resources that are being irredeemably poisoned by bomb production itself. The United States has produced over 60,000 weapons, and now does not know what to do with the ones that remain.

All DOE nuclear weapons facilities pose enormous risks to communities, aquifers, and bioregions. Let's look closer at one example: the Hanford Nuclear Reservation on the Columbia River in Yakima country near Spokane, WA.

Just One Example: Hanford, WA

The Hanford complex includes nine reactors that have produced plutonium. The PUREX plant extracted plutonium and uranium from irradiated fuel rods for weapons parts. In the 40's and 50's, some 440 billion gallons of contaminated liquids were discharged into the ground at Hanford, enough to create an 80 foot deep lake the size of Manhattan. Discharges into the air spread over a multi-state area. In addition to wastes already in the biosphere, Hanford has dozens of tanks of unknown liquids that are leaking or poised to explode.

Government secrecy has barred Hanford workers and residents alike from access to the real facts and appropriate health care for decades. Until very recently, all concerns from citizen groups have been consistently discredited and side-lined.

Kay Sutherland, from the Hanford area, lost four members of her family to disease: "The people in this area have been forced into poverty because they've had to retire in their 30s, 40s and 50s, too young to get a retirement, too young to get Social Security. They fall through the cracks, and they die."

Sutherland has had four miscarriages, her liver is enlarged, and she has had multiple tumors. "I am a holocaust survivor from the American Cold War."^x

In April, 2000, a new study of workers at Hanford and three other DOE facilities confirmed that increasing exposure to ionizing radiation boosts the risk of multiple myeloma, a rare but often fatal cancer of blood-forming tissues. Especially at risk are people exposed later in life.

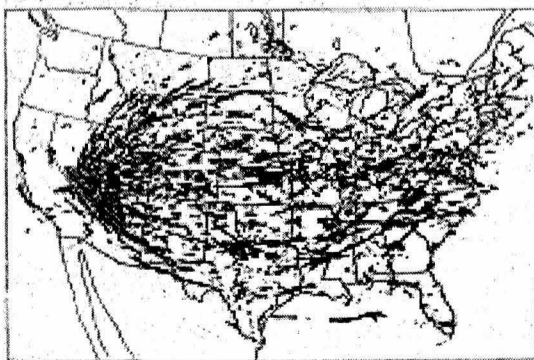
Older workers with lifetime radiation doses of five rem or more were almost three-and-a-half times more likely to die from multiple myeloma than workers at the same plants whose lifetime exposures were less than one rem. The current full-body occupational limit for radiation workers, unchanged since 1958, is five rem per year. This is severely inadequate in view of these and other study results.^{xi}

"The period of atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R is a sad page in the history of civilized man. Without question, it was the cause of hundreds of thousands of cancer deaths. Yet there was complete silence on the part of the ICRP."^{xii}

Karl Morgan, member of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (1950-71), which set radiation exposure standards.

NUCLEAR BOMB TESTING

Vast areas of the Earth are devastated from governments showing off their nuclear weapons to each other. All nuclear states exhibited racism in choosing their test sites. France and England bombed North Africa, the South Pacific, Australia. Russia mainly bombed Kazakhstan; China bombed the Ugyur people near Tibet. The United States bombed Japan, as well as Apache country in New Mexico, South Pacific islands, and Amchitka, Alaska. The U.S. (and England) blew up over 1,000 bombs on Western Shoshone lands in Nevada. At one point the U.S. considered bombing the Moon, to impress their might upon earthbound viewers.



Fallout Data From Actual Weather Maps

Genocidal intent on the part of the AEC is documented as well. A 1951 document on the viability of the Nevada Test Site (NTS) referred to the downwind population, predominately Paiute and Mormon, as "a low-use segment of society". The AEC routinely warned the Eastman Kodak Co. of test dates so that they could protect film stocks, but not local residents.

In addition to deliberately exposing unsuspecting civilians, enlisted men were lined up on ship decks in the South Pacific or marched through sand and dust in Nevada to determine the effects of fallout on U.S. military capabilities.

Public outcry brought an end to above-ground nuclear testing in 1963, but by then, everyone on earth had plutonium and strontium in their bodies and genes. 20 years later, increasing cancer rates became obvious, and they continue to rise 1% per year.

Underground testing continued to vent to the atmosphere, while contaminating soil and water. Israel, India and Pakistan have joined the Big Five Bomb-Owners, with more competing nations on the horizon. Today, despite years of international attempts to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the U.S. still has not ratified it, and leads the world in ongoing nuclear weapons testing.

At the five-year review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the United Nations in May, 2000, documents were revealed that detailed U.S. plans to ensure that nuclear weapons would "remain viable forever". DOE wants a whole new weapons complex built, and technology developed for 'maintaining' weapons also serves for testing new designs. These guys just can't get used to the idea of changing their jobs— *the addiction to nukes continues.*

'CLEANUP' MEANS DUMPING IT 'SOMEWHERE ELSE'



Yucca Mountain, or 'Serpent Swimming West'

Radioactive isotopes have a vast range of lifetimes, from a few days to millions of years. New isotopes are created as these materials break down. We are talking about effects on future generations that exceed our understanding of life on Earth.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of contaminated materials are piled up all over the country, in addition to what has already been leaked or dumped. Little research or money has been applied to reversing the problem. All efforts toward 'cleanup' involve transporting and dumping it somewhere else.

A few notable exceptions are:

- the recycling of depleted uranium into conventional munitions and armored vehicles (widely used in the Gulf War and Kosovo);

- the ongoing attempt to return thousands of tons of contaminated metals from weapons plants to commercial use, where, according to Alvarez, "some percentage of it would inevitably end up in stainless steel items such as intrauterine devices, surgical tools, children's orthodontic braces, kitchen sinks, zippers, and flatware."

Current classification categories for nuclear wastes have little to do with their longevity or their hazard to health.

- **Low level waste** includes everything from hospital equipment to every broom and pair of booties from a nuclear reactor to the buildings themselves.
- **High-level wastes** are the used fuel rods from reactors, one million times more radioactive than before they began.
- **Transuranic** wastes are mainly mixtures generated by nuclear weapons production.

Efforts to site low-level waste dumps in Ward Valley, CA, and Sierra Blanca, TX, were defeated in the last year by multi-ethnic grassroots coalitions after years of hard work. New efforts have begun in West Texas to site a dump in Monihans, east of Pecos.

While one particle of plutonium can kill, it can be called low-level if mixed with dirt or other material. This definition fits the truckloads of waste that roll in to the Nevada Test Site every day from weapons plant cleanup operations all over the country. There, it is bulldozed into the ground with boxes and barrels of other contaminated material in what opponents call 'kitty-litter technology'.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has finally opened to receive transuranic wastes from weapons production in the salt caverns of Southern New Mexico. While dry salt crystal seemed a safe storage medium, opponents proved that once the caverns were breached for construction, seepage and corrosion is inevitable.

The Proposed Yucca Mt. High-Level Waste Repository, just west of the Nevada Test Site, is the only option being studied for disposal of 70,000 tons of irradiated fuel rods from commercial and naval reactors. It lies on treaty lands of the Western Shoshone in the third most active earthquake zone in the U.S..

Each scientific study done has shown more clearly why Yucca Mt. is a hopeless site for the isolation of high-level radiation from the biosphere, but the government response has been to repeatedly lower the standards.

Transporting fuel rods safely to the site from all over the U.S. is not possible under present conditions. Containers that could stop all radiation emissions would have walls twelve feet thick and be impossible to move. Highway systems were designed to link major metropolitan areas, and routes would pass within one half mile of over 50 million Americans.

Even if the impossible happened and no accident were to occur during the 100,000 or so truckloads crisscrossing the country, emissions would continuously and cumulatively affect other drivers, children in school crosswalks, local residents and shipment handlers.

As the Yucca Mt. proposal has dragged on for years, attempts have been made to site interim Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facilities on Indian Reservations. In a remarkable new form of 'complimentary' racism, the federal government has suggested that Native Americans, because of their spiritual connection with the Earth, are the logical caretakers of the nation's most toxic substances.

The Skull Valley Goshute Reservation in Utah, already seriously contaminated by military

enterprises and unable to attract other development, is currently considering MRS. Numerous other Native Nations have considered and refused.

The economic and political interests shaping U.S. nuclear waste policy serve only the corporations who operate nuclear utilities and manufacture weapons. These corporations want the stuff out of the way, at government expense, so they can continue making profits with business as usual. They want no liability.

Our physical and economic well-being is not served by hasty and uncertain solutions. Most independent experts agree that the safest interim solution is to contain and monitor nuclear wastes at their sites of origin; to stop making more waste; and redirect funds toward reasonable long-term solutions. *The future of all life on our planet is at stake.*

WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. **Break the silence. End the denial.** Learn the facts and tell everyone we know.
2. **Stop making messes we can't clean up.** We expect it of our children. Why not our government and top-level scientists?
3. **Insist on complete and accurate information** from government agencies and representatives. What is our exposure? Where are the contaminated sites, and how bad are they? Where are the shipment routes?
4. **Talk to our doctors.** Insist on knowing the exposure of all x-rays and other diagnostic procedures. Are they absolutely necessary? Is your doctor aware of current health studies on the risk of thyroid cancer, leukemia, etc., and prevention and early detection techniques?
5. **Take personal action to reduce energy use.** Learn about non-toxic energy like solar and wind generation. Explore simple construction techniques that vastly reduce your need for heating and cooling. Santa Barbara just made renewable energy a city-wide goal—what about your town?
6. **Distribute copies of this newsletter.** We'll send copies to hand out to friends, family, and at public events—just let us know.
7. **Get involved!** Ask your elected officials their positions on nuclear issues. Get fact sheets and maps and pass them out. Write to our newspapers, talk to community groups, speak out on radio talk shows. *With a mess this big, there's certainly something each and every one of us can do.*

ⁱ Bertell R., "Victims of the Nuclear Age", The Ecologist, Volume 29 #7, pp. 408-411, 11/1999.

ⁱⁱ Downey M., "Strontium-90 Levels Reaching Levels of Atmospheric Testing Nuclear Years", the Globe and Mail, 12/2/1999.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bertell R., notarized statement on Three Mile Island Coverup, July 10, 1998.

^{iv} Alvarez R., "Energy in Decay", Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, May/June 2000, Vol. 56, No. 3, pp. 24-35.

^v Kelley M., "Uranium miners, families bring tales of pain to Washington", Cortez (NM) Journal, 4/12/2000.

^{vi} "Intervenors Say Uranium Cleanup Standard is Unsafe", ENDAUM Press Release, 3/23/2000.

^{vii} Horodetska O., "Chernobyl Kills And Cripples 14 Years After Blast", Reuters News story, 4/21/2000.

^{viii} Brown P., "50,000 More Chernobyl Cancer Cases Predicted", The Guardian, 4/26/2000.

^{ix} Mangano J., "Improvements in local infant health after nuclear power reactor closing", Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, 2/1/2000, pp. 32-36.

^x Alvarez R., "Energy in Decay", p. 28.

^{xi} Williamson D., "New Study Finds Multiple Myeloma Linked To Radiation Exposures Of Nuclear Workers", April 9, 2000, 919-962-8596.

^{xii} Morgan K., "Changes in International Radiation Protection Standards", American Journal of Industrial Medicine Vol. 25 (1994) pp. 301-307.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, (800) 368-5642, <http://www.nrc.gov/nrc.html>

Department of Energy, (800) 472-2756, <http://www.doe.gov/>

Radiation & Health: Mothers Alert: <http://www.geocities.com/mothersalert/>

Uranium Mining: Southwest Research & Information Center, (505) 262-1862, <http://www.sric.org/Uranium/>

Nuclear Reactors: Nuclear Information & Resource Service, (202) 328-0002, www.nirs.org/

Nuclear Weapons: Reaching Critical Will Initiative, (212) 682-1265, <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>

Proposition One's A-Z Links (thorough listing of organizational & government resources) at <http://www.prop1.org/prop1/azantink.htm>

Nukes in Space: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (352) 337-9274, <http://www.globenet.free-online.co.uk/>

The HOME Wish List --What We Need:

- **Office:** Please send stamps, recycled paper, and any other office supplies. Flat-bed scanner!
- **Museum Library:** Please send copies of your group's videos, books and publications.
- **Museum Equipment:** Digital camera, VCR/TV, laptop to display health databases, RadAlert radiation monitor, Standard automotive tool kit for the road.
- **Money:** We need financial help for postage, printing, research, and displays; For travel and maintenance expenses for the mobile Museum.

PLEASE SIGN ME UP--IT'S MY HOME TOO!

- Please put me on your mailing list. Please send me _____ copies of this newsletter.
 I am interested in hosting a future tour. Please send me more info on _____.

I want to support the HOME mission! Here is a donation of:

- \$30 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$ _____ Other \$ _____ Monthly Pledger
 Name _____
 Address _____
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 Phone _____ Fax _____ email _____

Thank you! We really appreciate your support.

Healing Ourselves & Mother Earth, PO Box 420, Tecopa CA 92389 (760) 852-4151, heal@kay-net.com

Logger Violence in Australia's Otway Ranges

BY TRISTY

Many environmentalists may be aware of the latest attacks on conservationists that have occurred in East Gippsland and the Otway Ranges in the Australian state of Victoria. The latest incident at the Middle Spur coupe in the Otways has received substantial press coverage within Australia. It is tragic that it takes violence escalating to this extent before the mainstream media will pay attention to the issue of the unresolved tensions in Victoria's native forests, which are largely the result of the unsatisfactory Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process.

Violence against conservationists is nothing new, but the severity of the latest incidents has shocked even hardened activists. There is a genuine fear that someone will be killed if urgent action is not taken to address the issues that are causing the escalation of violence.

On April 2 approximately 30 loggers attacked local residents and conservationists camped at the Middle Spur logging coupe in the Otway Ranges in southwestern Victoria. About 20 people were injured in the incident with five people being taken to a nearby hospital. This incident followed the signing of the RFA on March 31 and the deliberate sabotage of Apollo Bay's power supply, presumably by logging interests, during a music festival the previous weekend. The RFA locks the forests of the Otways, as well as other ancient forests, into another 20 years of unsustainable clearfelling and habitat destruction.

The attack began at around 5:30 p.m., when roughly 30 men stormed into the peaceful protest camp. Specific people were targeted, verbally abused, attacked and had their lives threatened—this lasted about an hour. The video camera was a specific target of the attackers, who had perhaps learned from the experience of their East Gippsland counterparts, who had their murderous threats broadcast all over Australian radio after an independent journalist's camera kept recording sound even

though he had been knocked into a gully.

"This was a premeditated, systematic and calculated attack," said activist Svea Pitman, who was bashed in the back of the head and hit behind the knees by one of the loggers. "We received an anonymous tip off warning us that there would be incidents of extreme violence leading up to Easter. In addition, both police and the local office of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the authority responsible for managing publicly-owned forests, were contacted prior to the incident.

"We tried to call the police via our satellite phone during the attack, but we couldn't make contact. We called several other people, including activists, media and family, who managed to raise the alarm."

The attackers told conservationists that if they did not pack up their blockade by noon the following day they would be back in greater force.

"The ambulance arrived after the last loggers had left," said Svea, "and the police arrived even later, despite being informed of the incident at least an hour and a half earlier."

"The police didn't take any details of the incident, nor did they ask us to take photos of our injuries, some of which were quite extensive. No photographs were taken of the crime scene. Some of the people in the coupe asked to have statements taken and were refused. The police told us they would meet us at one hospital, and then we were taken to another."

It is vital that the recent occurrences are not seen as isolated events but as part of a systematic and ongoing campaign of violence against forest conservationists in Victoria. Loggers have threatened and harassed environmentalists with covert police complicity in far too many incidents to list since at least 1984, when loggers seriously threatened environmentalists at a public meeting at Bonang in East Gippsland. Examples include a logging coupe being burnt with full knowledge that activists were present and minimal investigation

being undertaken when a conservationist's safe house was shot at. There have been several complaints made over the years to the Police Ombudsman, and convictions have resulted from several assault charges, yet the level of action taken to date to prevent and discourage violence against conservationists has been completely inadequate.

As of May 18 no charges had yet been laid against the perpetrators of this appalling violence against the peaceful protesters at Middle Spur, and the police have not made contact with any of the victims for weeks, despite numerous statements and complaints being made.

Government intervention is crucial if a clear message is to be sent to the logging and woodchip industries that this type of behavior is completely unacceptable. Despite statements "abhorring" the violence, the Victorian government is yet to show any leadership in peacefully resolving the issue of responsible forest management in the Otway Ranges and East Gippsland. Several options exist for the Victorian state government to demonstrate conclusively that it is concerned with the safety of its citizens and guests. Australian conservation groups are calling on the Victorian state government to: 1) Establish an independent inquiry into the harassment of environmentalists; 2) Guarantee that loggers found guilty of violent offenses will be prohibited from working on licensed logging sites in Victoria; 3) End police bias against environmental activists.

Please email Victorian Premier Steve Bracks to voice your concern about the government's critical lack of action on the issue of violence against forest activists: steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au.

Or sign on to the protest letter at Friends of the Earth's homepage: www.melbourne.foe.org.au.

For more information contact Otway Ranges Environment Network, c/o Apollo Bay Post Office, Apollo Bay, Victoria, Australia 3233; www.oren.org.au.

Indigenous Brazilians March Against 500-Year Celebration

continued from page 1

The Guarani Kaiow, along the border with Paraguay, is the largest group of indigenous people in Brazil today, and they are squeezed onto some of the smallest parcels of land. Some 9,000 have been evicted from their lands by ranching interests and are living in misery along the sides of the roads or in shantytowns.

The Guarani rate of

suicide is among the highest in the world. With their environment devastated, the Guarani no longer have the plants they used to feed, cure and paint themselves. Nonetheless, they are fighting to retain their culture and language and paint their faces with magic markers to evoke the spirit of old.

There are also victories. After being decimated by disease when the Cuiabá-Santarm Highway was built through their land in the early 1970s, the remaining Panar were moved 100 miles away to the Xing National Park, which offered them community protection. Twenty years later in 1996, the Panar returned to their traditional land. They now control a large area of pristine

rainforest and are rebuilding their culture and their future.

The Kampa (or Ashaninka) in the western Amazon state of Acre were recently awarded some \$6 million in damages from the ex-governor of the state by a local judge. The governor and his family business were accused of illegal logging, and of bringing diseases and death into the community. This is an important precedent and victory for the

Kampa, who hold onto their land and way of life as descendants of the Inca.

In addition to local and regional struggles, indigenous organizations are now gearing up on a national level to fight for a strong Indian Statute. The bill is currently going through Brazilian congress and should regulate the relationship

strengthen their rights and autonomy.

Indigenous peoples took advantage of the 500-year anniversary of the "discovery" of Brazil to come together to demand their rights and to make their proposals for the future. They also gave the world a chance to learn about the struggles they have faced, the victories they have won and the challenges still ahead. In the final document resulting from the conference, indigenous leaders wrote: "We, indigenous people of Brazil, have gone a long way to rebuild our lands and communities. By firmly taking this history into our collective

hands, we are sure that we will break away from a sad past and confidently move ahead toward a brighter future. Our indigenous struggle is a tribute to the many heroes who have died over the past five centuries. Our struggle is for our children and grandchildren, so that they can be free people on a free land."

This article was prepared by the Rainforest Foundation-US, with input from Amazon Watch and Amazon Alliance, and based on reports from CIMI, ISA, and the 500 Years Committee in Brazil.

For further information check out www.savetherest.org and www.socioambiental.org.



Brazil's First Nations show their strength



A legacy of the invasion 500 years later

photo by J.L. Bullock

photo by Carlos Humberto

BARE BONES

Trial date set for Bari/Cherney suit

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the car-bombing of Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, a federal judge has set a trial date for their landmark civil rights lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Oakland Police Department (OPD).

On October 1, 2001, a federal jury will hear dramatic evidence proving that the FBI and the OPD conducted an illegal campaign to disrupt and destroy Earth First!'s Redwood Summer campaign protesting cut-and-run logging of California's old-growth redwood forest.

On May 24, 1990, Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were targets of a car-bomb assassination attempt in Oakland, California, as they were on their way to a Redwood Summer organizing event. The bombing was preceded by an aggressive campaign of threats and harassment aimed at stopping their nonviolent defense of Northern California's ancient redwood forest.

The FBI and OPD arrived on the scene of the blast within minutes and ignored all the evidence that Judi and Darryl were victims of a politically-motivated bomb attack. Instead, the government agents conspired to frame Bari and Cherney, arresting them within hours for transporting explosives and using this violent attack against the environmentalists to falsely associate them with bombs. With the police and FBI investigation focusing only on the victims, the real bombers were never apprehended and remain at large. Evidence gathered in the civil rights lawsuit so far, including dramatic police photos and thousands of pages of FBI files, substantiates Bari and Cherney's claim of egregious police abuse.

ND legalizes hemp

North Dakota has become the first state to legalize hemp cultivation. Governor Ed Schafer signed legislation in May allowing local farmers to "plant, grow, harvest, possess, sell and buy industrial hemp." North Dakota is the first state to remove criminal penalties for hemp cultivation. HB 1428 reclassifies hemp containing no more than three-tenths of one percent THC as a legal commercial crop and allows licensed farmers to grow it. The House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the measure before the governor signed it.

Snowmobiles 86ed from national parks

The National Park Service in early May issued a broad ban on recreational use of snowmobiles at nearly all of the national parks, recreational areas and monuments. The off-road vehicles have had a "significant adverse environmental effect" on the park system, the agency said.

The only exceptions to the ban were parks in Alaska and the Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, where Congress specifically allowed use of snowmobiles, and in cases where the vehicles are considered necessary for access to adjacent private lands or inholdings.

The ban applies to 12 national parks from Acadia in Maine, to Sequoia and Kings Canyon in California, including Yellowstone in Wyoming, where snowmobiling has been the focus of intense controversy. Snowmobiling also no longer will be allowed in 15 national seashores, monuments, parkways, historic sites, recreational areas and scenic trails.

Feds Use Deadly Force to Support Whale Hunt

BY JAKE CONROY AND JONATHAN PAUL

On May 17, 1999, a juvenile gray whale, no older than three years, swam through the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary on its northerly migration toward Alaska. It spotted an unusual object in the water and approached it curiously, sticking its head out of the water to get a better look. It was then that the whale was run over, had multiple harpoons thrust into its back, and shot three times in the head with a .50 caliber anti-tank weapon. This one act of violence brought whaling back to the coastal United States. One year later, the Makah Nation, located on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, is back on the water and promises to kill five whales in hopes to bring tradition, culture and a feeling of self-worth back to their reservation. What they are actually doing is violating international law, using millions of taxpayer dollars and breaking a restored trust between human and whale. The idea that the US government is finally honoring native treaty rights is a far grasp from the truth. The US, to this day, is ignoring treaties, removing natives from their homelands (such as the Dineh at Big Mountain, Arizona), poisoning their waters and continuing 500 years of genocide.

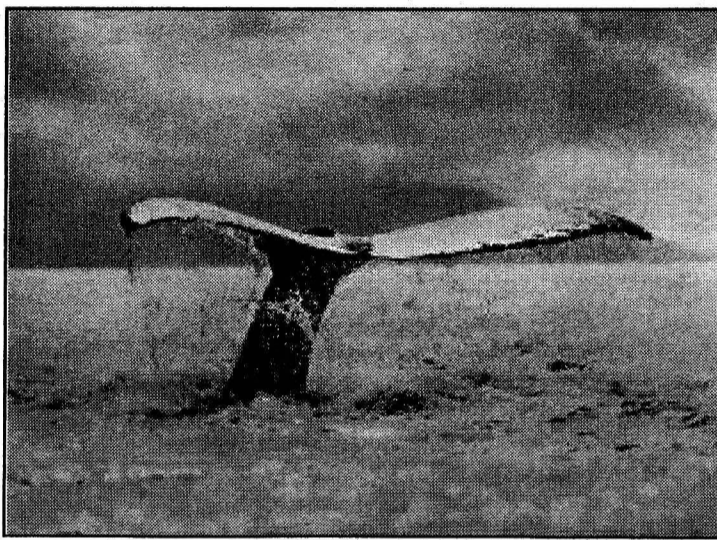
The US government isn't the only country manipulating the Makah Nation. In 1991, Japan approached aboriginal peoples worldwide, including the Makah, to encourage coastal indigenous hunts. Norway would then join forces with Japan by funding the World Council of Whalers (WCW) on Vancouver Island.

The WCW, run by Tom Happynook of the Nuu-chah-nulth, now claims a cultural right to slaughter up to 1,000 gray whales per year. With small nations bringing back "cultural" hunts, Japan and Norway would use this open door to claim their own coastal "cultural" hunts, adding to the commercial slaughter of whales worldwide.

The debate over the Makah whale hunt is a fierce one, a debate that has torn environmental, animal liberation and native struggle communities apart. However, the facts remain. On April 29, the Secretary to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Dr. Ray Gambell, stated, "You will not find anywhere a formal statement from the IWC that the Makah whale hunt is legal, since it has not made such a determination." The Makah, however, claim to be a sovereign, nonmember nation and therefore not obligated to follow IWC rules. Their tradition of killing whales is one that runs as far back as 1,500 years and should be honored as such. One with such an anthropocentric view fails to remember that the whales' traditional migration from Baja California, Mexico, north to Alaska, dates back millions of years before the Makah were hunting them. If we are going to honor traditions involving the exploitation of sentient creatures, why not honor clitoridectomies and slavery as well?

Ocean Defense International (ODI), an all volunteer, all vegan, direct action organization dedicated to ending

the exploitation of marine life, has taken to the water to prevent the killing of these creatures under the guise of culture and tradition. Using various tactics often successful during hunt sabs, ODI has halted the Makah's attempts at killing a whale. However, the Makah whalers have an unusual ally, the United States Coast Guard. During whaling activities, a moving exclusionary zone (MEZ) is set up to protect all boaters from danger. This 500-yard zone is set up primarily to protect people from the anti-tank gun (with a range of up to nine miles) while it is being fired from a small boat that is being tossed around by the ocean. Anyone found entering the zone would be charged with a felony. The Coast Guard's enforcement of this zone has



Gray whale tail slipping below the surface

cost US taxpayers over \$4 million thus far, at an alarming rate of \$11,550 an hour.

On April 17, the vessel *Tiger* of the organization World Whale Police (WWP) rounded a rock pillar off the coast and found themselves under attack by the US Coast Guard. The whalers were underway, and the MEZ had been established. The Coast Guard, threatened by the presence of nonviolent protesters, attacked the vessel, according to the Coast Guard, outside of the zone. After its 41-foot aluminum utility boat played a game of high speed chicken with the protesters' 22-foot fiberglass boat (while stalling their zodiacs in front of the *Tiger* in hopes of instigating a hit), the Coast Guard rode its hard-bottomed zodiac on top of the protest vessel. The aluminum hull smashed the glass and ripped open the roof of the *Tiger*. Afterwards, the WWP boat was rammed one more time by the 41-foot utility boat. Water poured in through the smashed glass, nearly sinking the boat, and crewmember Julie Woodyer was left with a concussion and a broken tailbone. The Coast Guard blew the incident off as a "shouldering" technique they often use.

On April 20, activists again took to the water along with the Makah whalers and the Coast Guard, and ODI crewmember Erin Abbott found herself on the receiving end of lethal force. The Coast Guard alleges she entered the zone, often seen as a form of civil disobedience, and felt she was in "violation of federal law." The aluminum-hulled zodiac, traveling at 35-40 knots, targeted her nine-foot jet ski, and after realigning themselves three separate times, hit her square in the back, running her over. She surfaced mere feet from their

razor sharp rudders and spinning propellers, barely escaping death. As sharp pain shuddered through her and she forced herself to breathe, she yelled for help. The whaling crew only laughed at her, and the Coast Guard stared at her, leaving her floating in the water. After minutes of waiting, the zodiac returned to attempt to drag her out of the water by her arm, even though she explained she was suffering from intense pain. Although the Coast Guard later explained there were EMTs aboard the vessel and claimed her neck was stabilized, the standard procedure in any trauma incident, the video showed otherwise. She was airlifted to the nearest hospital, where she spent five days surrounded by armed

guards while recovering from a shoulder blade broken into two pieces, broken ribs and monitoring in case her lungs collapsed. It was here that the guards contemplated whether or not to allow her clothing. After monitoring her phone calls, the Coast Guard took away her out-going phone privileges. They allowed her one five-minute phone call a day but only after surrendering information about the callers such as their names, their addresses, their relationship to her

and their phone numbers. The Coast Guard referred to the incident as an "accident," but they were "enforcing the law." Commander Costner, who spearheads the MEZ enforcement, remarked, "I still get my paycheck," and Makah Tribal Chairman Keith Johnson applauded the Coast Guard's efforts because, after all, she was breaking the law.

The Coast Guard, FBI and local authorities suggest this use of force is necessary due to the nature of the activists. They instill fears of "activists from the WTO," "anarchists" and "militant activists" instead of protesters taking to the waters to prevent violence. It appears authorities have stepped up their violent aggressions against those who choose to defend the natural world from exploitation, and it seems to only be getting worse.

Now that the peak of the migration of the gray whales has passed through the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary, mostly transient mothers with calves or resident whales remain. Although the Makah's own management plan states they will not hunt calves, mothers with calves or resident whales, the harpoon is still hurled at any whale that gets near the canoe—mostly whales no more than a year old. Keith Johnson continues to dispute the fact that resident whales exist. Ocean Defense International remains committed to the protection of animals and eco-systems from the exploitation of all humans, with the hope the natural world can return to a sustainable level, and once again flourish.

For more information contact Ocean Defense International, POB 45275, Seattle, WA 98145; (206) 376-8619; oceandefense2000@hotmail.com; www.stopwhalekill.org.

Indigenism and the Environmental Movement

an interview with Ward Churchill

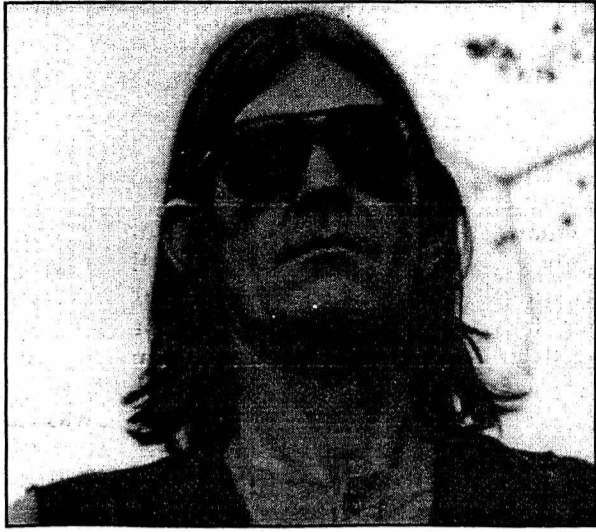


Photo from *Since Predator Came*

BY BEN HEIZER, JAMES JOHNSTON AND JEFF SHAW

Ward Churchill is a scholar, an activist and one of the most powerful voices for native rights in the world today. He is an associate professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, a spokesperson for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and a member of the governing council of the American Indian Movement. His numerous books include *Struggle for the Land*, *Since Predator Came*, *The COINTELPRO Papers*, *Cages of Steel* and *Marxism and Native Americans*.

EFIJ: The first thing we need to get out of the way, in order to give the reader some context, is your background and where you're coming from. You've referred to yourself as an "indigenist." Could you explain what that means?

WC: Well, indigenist simply means that I take as my frame of reference, as my first priority in all cases, the rights of the first people of any given area. I figure the rest of the stuff works out from there. But if you have not resolved the issue of indigenous rights, no matter what kind of society you construct, it is going to be an imperialist society. You are by definition colonizing the indigenous people, oppressing their rights in order to constitute your own society, your own way of life. So, that's the short version. It doesn't have anything to do with my take on or practice of spirituality or any of the rest of it. That's all operant in my own makeup but irrelevant to the politic in a way. Each indigenous people have their own approach to that in any event, and this is something that overarches whatever their approach may be. That's the first priority for resolution.

EFIJ: If there's a hallmark to your writing, it's the fact that you take on everyone. You've been just as critical of communists, anarchists and other leftists as you are of the dominant status quo capitalist system. You've criticized Zionists for their exclusivist interpretation of the term genocide. You've basically been critical of just about everyone at one time or another—

WC: I hate everybody equally.

EFIJ: Do native people, do indigenists, have any natural allies in their struggle?

WC: Well, it's a situational thing. It's understood better or more poorly from context to context, but ultimately I would say that everyone should be—everybody is—a natural ally of indigenous people. They just don't understand that. Indigenous interests are in the interests of everyone because you're talking about models for a sustainable economy, sustainable society, about equilibrium for the environment, about things which transcend cultural parameters. Ignorance does not preclude the naturalness of the alliance; ignorance simply precludes the practical emergence of the alliance at any given moment. If you can educate people to the commonalities, if you can acquaint them with it, I think it falls into place from there.

EFIJ: What about the radical environmental agenda that's being advanced by groups like Earth First! You quote Russell Means in the opening to *Since Predator Came* that "only Indians can help Indians," or something to that effect.

WC: Nope, that's not what he said. He simply repeated: "Only Indians help Indians" is what it was.

And that was a slogan that was carved into the butt of an AK-47 of a Miskito fighter down in Nicaragua, okay? It was in Miskito; it had to be translated, and that was the translation. And that was borne of their experience.

Lefties will help you out if you're going up against a capitalist regime or capitalist powers. Lefties helped us out at Wounded Knee—well, I wasn't even at Wounded Knee, I got stopped before I got there—but us in a large sense, not as a participant. But they were very supportive of that, okay? They agree with all the issues that underly the resistance. They provided material support, they provided moral support, they publicized it, they were enthusiastic about it.

Now, you take that same set of issues they considered valid here and bring them up vis-à-vis a left-wing government like the Sandinistas and all of a sudden you've got no supporters, okay? One week we're getting checks in the mail to support Yellow River camp, and literally the next week after Russell announced we were supporting the Miskitos against the Sandinistas if the Sandinistas wanted to continue a policy of imposition, and that was it, man. No more mail, no more publicity, no more financial support—you're counterrevolutionaries. No, we're Indians, and we have the same rights whether it's in a left-wing context or a right-wing context; in fact, we're part of neither context, we're indigenous people.

EFIJ: So how does the radical environmental agenda that's been advanced by groups like Earth First!, how does that fit in with your stance as an indigenist?

WC: Well, we have a common interest there. It's an obvious common interest, because it doesn't matter who has got control over a parcel of land that's been stripmined. So we're both in opposition to the stripmining, in a certain way, for exactly the same reason. We understand that so-called development is actually destruction, to the magnitude of ecocide. We oppose ecocide.

Where the Earth First!ers of the Dave Foreman era—hey, I'd agree with them point by point. We could sit here and talk for an hour, and we'd be in agreement until we came down to my supposition that I'll put out—that restoring a viable indigenous sovereignty is a primary method, not just of doing right, but it's an actual tool to block the ecocide. That native people, in control of that property, would not stripmine it.

EFIJ: It's at the tail-end of *Struggle For The Land* that there's a pretty bold claim. You say that there's no particular struggle that can succeed—and you talk about the labor movement, the feminist agenda, the environmental movement—none of these struggles for justice and equality can succeed without the necessary precondition of recognizing indigenous rights.

WC: This takes us right back to where we started in a way. Because ultimately, even if they were totally successful enough in the sense that they defined their agenda—we can all agree that it would be a good thing to abolish ageism, sexism, racism, exploitation of workers, so on down the line. Take all these for your progressive agenda. Accomplish any of those or accomplish all of those, if you don't address the issue of indigenous rights, you're still a fuckin' imperialist. You know? And there's no way out of that.

But conversely, if you resolve the issue of indigenous sovereignty and restore the land to indigenous control with an affirmation of indigenist principles, you're accomplishing those objectives while being anti-imperialist at the same time, because you can't show me in a defensible way a construction of indigenous society that is ageist, racist, sexist and all the rest of those things.

So one way, you automatically fulfill your agenda. It may require some struggle because we're colonized people, and we've got to psychologically and intellectually decolonize—that's part of the process—but affirming the traditions goes in this direction, whereas ignoring the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples can only generate colonialism.

Let me finish with Foreman. That's where he's lost. He's lost there everytime, and not just Dave but Chris Manes and the whole bunch. They couldn't buy that one, and the reason being is that they are coming from that same position that I find in all the radicalism around the environment. They're still in a position of entitling themselves to an equal share of rights on my land. That's the colonial mentality that I'm talking about, just exemplified.

EFIJ: What pisses you off about environmentalists, particularly radical environmentalists of today? I mean, Foreman's kind of old news.

WC: Yeah, he is.

EFIJ: He's with the Sierra Club now. But earlier, you mentioned the Makah whaling controversy. You said you wanted to harpoon Paul Watson. What are some of the tensions between the radical environmental agenda as you understand it and the indigenous struggle?

WC: Well, again, there's this absolute denial of indigenous rights in and of themselves, often passing as an affirmation of indigenous rights.

I mean, taking Watson as an example—he says his denial of Makah rights is something that he does in the name of Lakota sovereign rights as a spiritual message conveyed to him while he was participating in struggle to actualize Lakota sovereignty, which is flatly untrue. But you understand, this is pretty slick. This is pretty fuckin' slick. This is a very carefully thought through spin that he's putting on this—that affirmation of indigenous rights and the actuality of indigenous rights is actually what it is that he's conceived.

And in his way, he's just saying what every goddamn anthropologist I've ever encountered ultimately says: We know more about you than you do. Or what every fuckin' politician and social worker I've ever encountered says: We know what's good for you much more than you do. And that's that colonialist—colonialism is only a piece of it. There's this cultural supremacist mindset that is so deepset that I'm convinced that it comes from a position of such a sense of inferiority that they do this as a compensation. I mean, it's pathological. They can't help it.

EFIJ: If you had a couple of paragraphs in the *Earth First! Journal*, which we do, what would you tell people they should be doing with themselves? In the final equation, is the radical environmental movement on board with your agenda as an indigenist, and if they're not, what can they do to get on board?

WC: Well, it's like we were talking earlier, when you hit this wall with Foreman and his people, you hit this wall now. And to give Foreman and those guys their due, in their moment, they were something way different than had happened before. They carried their vision a long way, and I think they should be respected for that. I mean, they kind of ran off the end of their shit... it could only go so far.

But that wall that you ran into having to do with somebody having a right in this space superior to their own is something that can be overcome. It's a matter of consciousness and conception. Absent the consciousness, in the ignorance or whatever, you get arrogant, you get this replication of the colonial mentality.

Insofar as there is this really strong commitment that's observable—you see people suffering for it, it's not just rhetoric—to prevent ecocide, we're on the same page. The next step, though, is to understand the priority in terms of primacy of relation to the land, whose land it is and so forth. Not in the sense of European ownership, but in the sense of a real, practical kind of relation that goes to responsibility—to nurture, to husband. All of those terms that they use, that's part of our traditions. And they're interlopers. They're interlopers insofar as they're of a tradition of interlopers, and the only way that they can get out is to relinquish their own privilege, this self-assignment of entitlement to at least an equal share if not a leadership role in somebody else's property. And it's doable.

Banner Dropped in the Name of the Buffalo

After a mild winter with only one bull outside the park, spring has been busy for the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) based outside of West Yellowstone. Since late March, more than 100 buffalo have entered Montana and faced hazing and harassment at the hands of Montana's Department of Livestock (DOL).

Early on the morning of April 11, two women unfurled a 20-by-50-foot banner from the top story of the Summit Hotel at the Big Sky ski resort. The banner carried graphic depictions of two severed buffalo heads illustrating the words, "Racicot's Buffalo Slaughter Kills Tourism."

The action was part of an all-day rally organized by activists to call attention to Montana Governor Marc Racicot's policy of hazing, capturing and shooting buffalo that leave Yellowstone National Park.

With much of the conference focused on improving the state's image (one session was titled: "Montana's Image, How Others See Us"), it was important to remind participants that people don't come to Montana to see dead buffalo. Outraged at the state's buffalo slaughter, several groups have organized boycotts against Montana in recent months.

According to a recent study, Gallatin County—one of the only counties in the state with unfenced buffalo—brings in more tourism revenue than any other county in the state. Tourism is the fastest growing sector of Montana's economy, generating more than \$1.5 billion in 1998.

The situation became precarious for the activists perched on the edge of the tenth-floor balcony when an angry construction crew gathered behind a blocked-off sliding glass door. One of the construction workers held up a handwritten banner of his own which read, "Hunting feeds our families." Others began pelting the two women with snowballs from an adjacent balcony.

Unforeseen complications made it possible for workers to slice the banner, and the climbers attempted to leave. One was detained by Gallatin County Deputy Frank Calvin while the other took off down a corridor. Before she reached the stairwell she was tackled by a contractor and held down by three others. When she questioned their

authority to detain her, she was told, "Deputy Calvin just deputized us."

The women were charged with criminal trespass and obstruction. A third activist was later arrested for trespassing when a hotel employee said she saw him in the tenth-floor stairwell. The three were released the next morning on their own recognizance.

Since he took office in 1992, Governor Racicot has bloodied his hands with the deaths of almost 2,300 buffalo. A close advisor to George Bush Jr., Racicot is being groomed for a cabinet post. Recent press coverage has pegged him as a possible candidate for Secretary of Agriculture or Interior (and you thought James Watt was bad). One story even included his name on a short list for the vice presidency.

With his political ambitions in mind, Racicot has sought to distance himself from the buffalo slaughter this season. For the first time in 17 years, Montana didn't kill any buffalo as they migrated from the park. Instead, the state launched a wave of militaristic hazing operations aimed at keeping buffalo out of Montana. Using a helicopter, ATVs, 4-wheel-drive trucks and horses, the DOL has been wreaking havoc on the sensitive ecosystem at Yellowstone's western border.

At the heart of this ecosystem stands Horse Butte, a peninsula rich in habitat for sensitive species like the buffalo, bald eagle, gray wolf, trumpeter swan, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx and boreal owl. Because of its heavy-handed tactics, the DOL impacts all wildlife when it hazes.

On April 20, DOL agents flew a helicopter over the Horse Butte Bald Eagle Closure, within a quarter mile of one of the butte's three active nests. The operation, targeting more than 60 buffalo, flushed two bald eagles. The eagles have been displaying incubating behavior. Disturbing bald eagles at this time of year often results in nesting failure.

The Special Use Permit (SUP) under which the DOL operates specifically states that "helicopter activities will not be permitted in the Horse Butte area." In a separate violation of the SUP on the same day, two DOL agents and one Park Service ranger entered the Horse Butte Eagle Closure during the operation. Both

violations were video-documented by the BFC.

Together with The Ecology Center, Inc. and Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, BFC filed an application for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on May 9, asking Federal District Court Judge Charles C. Lovell to restrain the DOL, the Forest Service and the Park Service from hazing bison on the butte.

While Judge Lovell did not see fit to act on the TRO, the Forest Service and the DOL fulfilled the groups' purpose in court when they promised the judge that bison will not be hazed with helicopters in the future. In his order, Lovell wrote: "all of the Defendants do agree that no hazing shall be accomplished by helicopter." He further stated that "Defendants represent to the court that there is no intention for future helicopter hazing in the Horse Butte area."

Despite the judge's refusal to enforce the TRO, the DOL is on notice that the groups intend to sue them for illegally jeopardizing threatened species in the area. "We will vigorously pursue the revocation of DOL's permit to haze bison and prove in court that they have repeatedly violated legal requirements to protect nesting bald eagles on the Horse Butte Peninsula," said Darrell Geist, of Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers.

For more information contact the Buffalo Field Campaign, POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/buffalo.



Banner dropped at the Summit Hotel

Sea Lions Massacred

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The manager and part owner of a salmon farm just around the point from the pit publicly announced his farm was responsible for the kills.

What made this deplorable action all the more unbearable was that he had a legal permit to do so. The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans issues permits to all the farm operators to kill "marine predators" that are actively trying to eat their stock. The permit only allows the killing of harbor seals, California sea lions and Stellar's sea lions and gives no numerical limit. Tour operators have to stay hundreds of feet away so as not to disturb the mammals, but the next industry over gets to shoot them.

Up here, the media went wild across the country for a few days, and the local farm operators began to despise me and accuse me of creating an event. Some of our supporters aided in creating a web page including photos and links to the appropriate people to respond to. We also publicly engaged the farm operators, threatening to organize an immediate boycott of farmed salmon and their retailers if the kill permits weren't returned permanently and the guns removed from the farms. We gave them a deadline of three or four days at which time we would meet with them to hear their answer.

During this period the media began to cool off and disappear, but the local and international responses began pouring

in. Tourists, tour operators, resort owners, concerned citizens and some politicians were all horrified and shocked that this sort of action was not illegal.

Ex-employees of the fish farms began calling us giving us tips on more possible sites and letting us know that sea lions are often not disposed of onshore but mostly just sink when they are shot or drown in the predator nets that surround the farms.

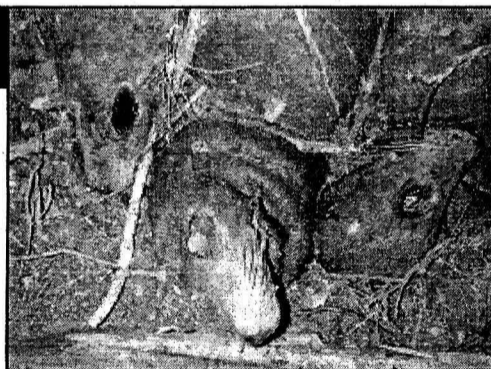
Hours before the deadline meeting with the fish farm operators, we found two more pits.

Everyone seems to have known this was going on, but now there is undeniable proof. From only two farms in total, we have found more than 20 sea lions killed in one month. There are 18 farms in Clayoquot Sound and 121 in British Columbia. They are all granted permits to kill. This is probably the single biggest threat to seals and sea lions today.

In our meeting, the farmers said, "We have to protect our stock." They refer to the sea lions and seals as "pests." Instead of saying they kill the mammals, they use the terminology "cull" and "dispose."

I ask, "Who are the real pests?" and "What did they expect when they dropped a plate of food in the ocean and called it an industry?"

The results of the meeting were that two of the four companies operating in Clayoquot Sound have taken the guns off their farms and acknowledged there has to be a better solution. These two companies have set up a task force to



Dead sea lions in Clayoquot Sound

address the issue, yet they still refuse to turn in their kill permits. The largest operator in Clayoquot Sound—Pacific National Group—has refused to do anything and continues business as usual. Bang!

Needless to say, they haven't met our requirements so it is off to their market we go. Over the next few months we, and others working on fish farm issues, hope to reach the retailers and consumers of the industry and close them down. We have so far discovered that about 72 percent of BC farmed salmon is exported to the west coast of the United States. It is believed most of this is to California.

We are going to publicize all of the hidden costs of fish farming: the mammals killed, the use of antibiotics, the soon upcoming retail of genetically-modified salmon (already being produced in some places), the untreated sewage (each farm equal to a town of a population of 1,000), the high risk of exotic disease outbreak and transfer to native wild salmon, and the risk of escape and competition with wild salmon.

Our demands, if the industry must

exist, are: 1) that the farms must be brought on land, with a closed loop sewage treatment system; 2) that exotic species, genetically-modified products, pesticides or antibiotics should not be used and 3) that no wildlife be harmed in any way.

To achieve these goals we plan to raise the profile through direct action, follow the farms' activities and shut down big portions of their market.

To help, you can do all of the above and visit the website, www.geocities.com/deadseals/. To express your outrage, tell our Member of Parliament in charge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans to stop giving out permits, "Dis"honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E6; (613) 990-7292 (fax); dhalih@parl.gc.ca.

Of course, in all likelihood, this will not sway him, so maybe he would be more warm to the message if it were delivered with a pie. And maybe if he receives the message with some conviction he might be forced to do his job.

A bunch of gunhappy guys dropping a flimsy net in the water filled with hundreds of genetically-modified fish pumped full of pesticides and antibiotics doesn't make much of a responsible industry.

For more information contact Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Box 489, Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0, Canada; (250) 725-4218; 725-2527 (fax); focs@web.net; www.ancientrainforest.org.

GRAND JURY STILL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

One hundred people gathered in front of the US Federal Courthouse in Portland, Oregon on May 24 to protest the harassment of activists by the unjust grand jury system. Both Craig Rosebraugh of Portland and Josh Harper of Seattle were commanded to testify regarding several acts of economic sabotage claimed by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and/or the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). In grand jury proceedings, witnesses commanded to testify lose their usual constitutional right to have an attorney present in the courtroom or their fifth amendment right to remain silent. Those refusing to testify can be held in contempt of court for up to 18 months. Rosebraugh's subpoena was called off late on May 23. Prosecutors said the grand jury didn't have the time to deal with both him and Harper. For Rosebraugh, who receives anonymous communiqués from the ELF and passes them on to the media and public nation-wide, this

is the seventh subpoena since 1997. Prosecutors promised to recall him in either June or July of this year.

Josh Harper, who recently received his first subpoena while fighting whaling in the Olympic Peninsula, decided to defy the grand jury subpoena completely by not cooperating verbally and also by not showing up at all. He faces contempt charges and up to 18 months in jail. He released the following statement declaring his complete non-cooperation.

"My name is Josh Harper. I am a green anarchist currently residing in Seattle, WA. I was recently attempting to interfere in the killing of whales off of the Olympic Peninsula when the vessel I was aboard was surrounded by the Coast Guard. I was boarded and issued a subpoena commanding me to appear May 24 in Portland, Oregon. I have decided to defy this subpoena and wish to explain my decision to fellow activists. First and



foremost, this world is dying. All that is beautiful about the world is being destroyed and paved over. The animals are being either killed or turned into machines for human consumption. Our society, which was for thousands of years mostly peaceful and egalitarian, is now filled with neurosis, discontent and alienation. But there is more out there! All of our rage, all of our anger at this system can be focused into positive action. This grand jury wants to stop that positive action. Although the ALF and ELF are only small parts of a larger effort for autonomy, freedom and a progression to an intact Earth, they

are important because they show us that we can fight back, and *we can win!* I will not betray them by speaking with their enemies.

Secondly, as an anarchist I would never willingly cooperate with the grand jury system. The very idea that this government presumes they can

command me to do anything shows how very little they know me. My life is my own, my thoughts are my own and what I decide to do will not be dictated to me by judges, attorneys and their lackeys with guns. If they want me, let them come and get me. They can drag me to the grand jury room, but they can never make me speak. I send Craig Rosebraugh all of my respect. He has faced down this grand jury, and even though he has chosen a different tactic than me, I understand his motivations. The media he is gaining is invaluable; he is awakening even more people to the path of resistance. To the ALF and ELF, I do not know you, but I send you my endless admiration. Keep fighting. You are my sisters and brothers, perhaps someday you can remove the masks so that we may celebrate victory together. Until then, let us all remain in utter defiance of those who would try to stop us."

UK "Terrorism" Bill

continued from page 1

The powers for a wide clamp-down will be in place. This is an extension of power which would be better associated with a totalitarian state.

A local campaigner I know engages in national campaigns and travels to support them. I'll name him Moley. Moley is a veteran of nonviolent protests. Recently he has taken part in the occupation of trees and the digging of tunnels in the path of new roads or runways. His friends have taken part in the protests against genetically-modified test crops, which have included damage to a part of those crops. Under the new law, his friends will be "terrorists" because they damage property for ideological reasons. Under the new law, if Moley digs a hole or builds a treehouse on someone else's property in his action, he also will be a "terrorist." If I take him food or drink, as I did during the Stanworth Valley treehouse protest in 1995, I will be guilty of supporting terrorism and subject to jail for up to 10 years.

The British Home Secretary will be able to ban any organization that he or she decides to be potentially "terrorist." If Moley is a member of or active in a banned organization, he too will be a "terrorist" and can be imprisoned for up to 10 years. If he invites support for a cause defined as "terrorist," he is again liable for a sentence of up to 10 years. If a meeting is organized which has nothing to do with any group that has been classed as "terrorist," but at which Moley is going to speak, then the organizers of that meeting can be imprisoned for a similar period. Similarly if a radio station or student society organizes a debate or teach-in where Moley is invited to speak, even the people who speak against him will commit an offense just by being there and can be jailed for 10 years as well! If a journalist reports Moley's words, she or he can be thrown in jail. For this, a meeting is said to be three or more people. In all of these cases, everyone concerned could be held without charge for seven days and without legal assistance while being interrogated. In the United Kingdom by July, the Rule of Law as Americans understand it will have been abolished and replaced by the Rule of Law rather as Hitler understood it.

Areas may be cordoned off by the police on their own authority for up to 28 days to investigate "terrorism." This includes stop and search powers against cars, trucks and pedestrians. The possession of an article for "terrorist" purposes (an "article" in this law includes any substance or thing) can again get a 10 year sentence. She/he is facing contempt charges and up to 18 months imprisonment. All very fair, you may think, if someone intends to

blow up the World Trade Center, but a bit draconian if you are a road protester or feel strongly about genetically-modified crops. So if Moley has a pair of garden clippers, he may be charged with possessing an article for "terrorist" use.

Were I to give counsel, advice or guidance to Moley, I would be guilty of an offense. And if one of his friends asked me for such guidance and I failed to report that to the authorities, I would again be subject to arrest.

The Terrorism Law opens the Pandora's Box of catch-all legislation. If any person "collects or makes a record of information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism" they commit an offense which can get up to 10 years in jail. The "person" doesn't have to be a "terrorist," and the person's motives don't have to have anything to do with "terrorism." If a police officer thinks that such information would be useful to a "terrorist" if a "terrorist" got hold of it, the person who collected that information becomes a criminal because of the police officer's thought! No exception is proposed for academic research, for hobbies (some people really do collect air timetables), for investigative journalism, for fictional writing or for normal political engagement. It may include books, internet browser cache files, maps, newspaper articles or reports of events, even some forms of diary.

It is not right that we should rely solely on an unenforceable promise that police officers and politicians will exercise these new powers with discretion. There will need to be test cases in the courts to establish the range of application of this law, and it is probable that Earth First! and other sympathizers who may seek to protest at the trial crops of genetically-modified food will be on the front line this summer. This government, which is not noted for an open attitude to information, has published the precise locations of these trial crops for this year. We can expect them to be well-baited traps.

These new crimes of guilt by association or suspicion and of trying to explain or understand somebody else's opinion mean that encouragement of direct action, such as this article, will place everybody concerned with major campaign groups—even journalists reporting them or Internet Service Provider's carrying them—at serious risk. This is clearly intentional. It is profoundly inconsistent with the dissent and criticism necessary for a healthy democracy. The sweeping authority to be given to

the lone thought and word of any senior police officer is a quite extraordinary, very dangerous and very frightening precedent.

America's Founding Fathers in 1787 strove to protect Americans from such abusive arbitrary power as they had suffered under British rule. They wrote your Constitution and Bill of Rights. In Britain we still have no Constitution or civil rights. Although we have elections and vote for Parliament, our government acts primarily by Royal Prerogative—the powers of the queen. If you check out the United Nations, you will discover that the United Kingdom is not classed as a democracy, like the constitutional monarchies of the Netherlands or Scandinavia, but is classed as a monarchy along with the feudal dictatorships of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Oaths of Loyalty of the armed forces, judiciary, parliamentarians, police, secret services and others are not to the state nor to the government but to the queen.



Their loyalty is to the Crown not to Parliament. All power not given to Parliament by statute belongs to the queen. It is undefined and unlimited. Powers openly recognized by Parliament merely define what was previously done secretly. The ceremonial image of royalty conceals establishment powers which would be unthinkable and unacceptable to Americans. Safeguards for the individual are not spelled out as rights.

It is difficult to accept that our country, represented to tourists as being "quaint," has such a

vicious law coming to the statute books. But remember, it is only a few years since the last British Parliament passed laws that abolished the right to silence. If you remain silent when arrested by the police, that fact may now be used as evidence in court of a silent admission of something to hide and so as evidence of guilt.

British green and environmental campaigners, acting alone, are likely to be buried by this new state machine as surely and as ruthlessly as anti-Nazi Germans were suppressed. We need the help of dedicated, media-oriented American campaigners to create a massive crisis in Anglo-American relations and join active UK campaigns to help destroy this monstrous law. It is legal for me to make this appeal now. By the Fourth of July, it will be against British Law for me to do so.

For more information on the terrorism bill visit: www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld199900/ldbills/049/2000049.htm; on the regulation bill; www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm199900/cmbills/106/2000106.htm.

ANTI-GE ROUNDUP FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Finland Anti-GE Campaign kicks off

On April 8 there were actions in three different towns in Finland. In Helsinki a group of about 15 people, some dressed in white biohazard suits, went into the Stockmann department store. They ran to the food department and opened two banners saying "GM-food No Thanks" and "Against Gene-Capitalism." Two people took shopping carts and hung signs on them saying, "May contain genetically-modified ingredients," and then started collecting suspicious products.

In Tampere about 10 people, some dressed in white suits, went to a supermarket and opened a banner with a picture of a strawberry-fish saying "It could be in your shopping bag. Say no to Genetic Manipulation!" They handed out leaflets until security came and told them to move.

In Jyväskylä five activists gave out leaflets on the streets. They all wore white suits and passed out almost one thousand leaflets.

Victory in Neem biopiracy case

The European Patent Office in Munich upheld objections from the Green Group in the European Parliament to a patent granted in 1994 to the transnational WR Grace company and the US Department of Agriculture for a claimed invention of the fungicidal properties of the Indian Neem tree. The Examining Division held that the technique used was well known to local farmers, lacked any inventive step and that such indigenous knowledge could therefore not be patented.

The case was brought about by Magda Aelvoet, at that time President of the Greens in the Parliament and now the Belgian Environment Minister, together with the Indian Research Foundation led by Vandana Shiva and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.

The Neem tree has been used for centuries by Indians for its medicinal, insecticidal and contraceptive properties and is known locally as the "free tree." It is also venerated in the culture, religions and literature of the region.

Green MEP Hiltrud Breyer (Germany) said, "This action was brought to illustrate how the patent system is being abused by companies and even by governments from the north. Genetic resources, which are freely available in the south, are being expropriated without reward or recognition for their traditional custodians. We have long warned of the iniquities of such licensed theft. This is biopiracy at its crudest."

UK Farmer scraps plans for GE crops

John Moore abandoned plans to grow GM oilseed rape (canola) after residents worried about "fall-out" from the site unleashed a protest campaign. Moore, an arable farmer, sparked a rebellion from villagers in Upper Tysoe and Priors Hardwick, Warwickshire, England. His decision is a bitter blow to the government which had set up five three-year studies into the effects of GM crops in the Midlands. Moore turned to Priors Hardwick on April 21 after villagers at a volatile public meeting in Upper Tysoe objected to his plans to plant seed there. Warwickshire County Council has now decided to ban all GM crops from land owned by the authority. Villagers and Friends of the Earth campaigners celebrated his decision to ditch the trials. Five farms in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire were taking part in the Midland experiments. Experiments would take place at 50 locations across the country as part of an evaluation of genetically-enhanced maize, beet and oilseed rape.

Advanta sells GM seeds by "accident"

Advanta Company announced on May 17 that some of the oilseed rape seeds "sold and sown" in the UK in the past two years were really genetically modified seeds. The announcement affects over 600 farms and 30,000 acres. In response, activists from the Genetic Engineering Network chained themselves inside the Ministry of Agriculture building in Whitehall, London, on May 23, demanding compensation to the farmers whose crops are now unsellable.

Decontamination operation in a Belgian agronomic center

On May 7, 200 people participated in Belgium's first ever public uprooting of experimental maize and canola plants at a Monsanto research farm in Franc-Waret. After an organic food picnic, the "Festival of Resistance to GMOs," people gathered and entered the research field, pulling maize and canola to the music of the rock band Rene Biname.

Company developing giant genetically-altered lobster

According to a recent report from the *Times of London* the Massachusetts company Cape Aquaculture Technologies is experimenting with a process that could result in growing exceptionally large lobsters, scallops, shrimp and other shellfish. The company is using a process developed by Johns Hopkins University. MetaMorphix has found a gene that regulates muscle growth, and when this gene is neutralized or removed the animals grow 12 percent faster, and the adults are up to 50 percent larger. The gene is widely distributed among a large range of species from mammals to shellfish. According to the *Times* this discovery has been used by Cape Aquaculture Technologies to grow exceptionally large fish. CEO Robert Curtis, although refusing to identify the specific species they were working on, told the *Times* that in addition to lobsters, "shrimps, mussels and scallops are also a possibility."

GrainRAGE Confronts MNBIO meeting

Activists from GrainRAGE (Resistance Against Genetic Engineering) confronted scientists and industry representatives at the annual Minnesota Biotechnology Industry Organization's (MNBIO) meeting in Minneapolis on April 11. Gathering outside the hotel where the meeting was taking place, biohazard suit-clad GrainRAGE'ers held signs and banners and passed out information about the dangers of GE to the passing crowds. One of the speakers at the

heavily-policed meeting was David Somers, a University of Minnesota biotech researcher who had his research on genetically-engineered oats sabotaged by the Earth Liberation Front in February. MNBIO's mission is to "bring awareness and help in the growth of the life sciences and biotechnology communities and industry in Minnesota."

Return of the Boll Weevil

Fields where genetically-modified cotton plants spring up as weeds in other crops could provide refuge for the cotton boll weevil, warn entomologists in South Carolina. That could mean the return of this major pest to parts of the American cotton belt from which it has been eradicated. The state has spent over \$1.3 million eradicating the weevil, only finishing the job in 1995. Now growers are afraid the pest could make a comeback if farmers ignore GM cotton "weeds" growing among their other crops.

Researchers in South Carolina first noticed the problem last year in a dozen fields of GM soybeans where GM cotton had been grown the previous year. Both the cotton and the soybeans are resistant to Roundup, the wide-ranging weedkiller made by Monsanto of St. Louis, Missouri. This means that when farmers apply Roundup to kill weeds in newly planted fields of GM soybeans it doesn't destroy stray GM cotton plants left over from the previous year. "I could look across soybean fields and see hundreds of these cotton plants," says Mitchell Roof, an entomologist at Clemson University, South Carolina, who sits on a technical panel looking for an answer to the problem. South Carolina got rid of the boll weevil by setting up a state-wide eradication program organized by the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Foundation.

For more information about genetic-engineering check out the Bioengineering Action Network at www.tao.ca/~ban for all the latest in frontline anti-genetics activism from North America and the world.

Lessons Learned—Tales from DC

continued from page 3

To top things off, that evening, without any warning, police arrested over 600 people (including reporters) who were marching against the prison industrial complex, by cutting off all their exits and loading them onto busses.

The police taught us that we need to further decentralize everything. When most of the PVC pipe and other "instruments of protest" were in two vehicles, they were seized. When convergence activities were concentrated in one central space, it was raided. And these were just material resources. For everyone's protection we must decentralize all roles, not just authority roles. When we choose to utilize the corporate media, we need a wider variety of faces and critiques. Even though a media liaison is not a leader but one of many roles, recurring faces give the impression of leaders. Also, more people are needed to play diplomatic roles between various groups involved in our struggles, people who commit to invest the necessary energy to do rumor control, clear up misunderstandings, keep all communication channels open, and generally try to ensure that the autonomy and needs of each group and person is respected. We must all take at least some responsibility for this if divide and conquer is to make its way out of our organizing efforts and into the history books.

By November 29 of last year, most people in the US hadn't even heard of the WTO. But on November 30 it appeared on most everyone's radar screen, and



Good old anti-American sentiments

Photo by Brandon Constant

by and large the public did not embrace this undemocratic institution. Insofar as public outreach through corporate media goes, DC was a success—both in terms of volume and character of coverage—long before A16 actually rolled around. Not surprisingly though, most media outlets failed to report accurately if at all on numbers. Forty to fifty thousand people participated on A16, 10,000 of which took part in the direct action. Almost a thousand of these were part of a black block.

With Seattle and DC behind us, the upcoming political conventions, the IMF/Bank "fall" meetings in Prague and other future targets, a sort of "mass-action culture" is emerging. The Seattle and DC protests were designed to be collective expressions of our community-based resistance, utilizing non-hierarchical structures that enable particular communities—whether defined by region or interests—to coordinate with one another, while maintaining their unique creative autonomy. Can we realize, though, that while these mass actions empower us and are valuable tools for general consciousness-raising, the most important work we have to accomplish lies between mass actions, organizing our respective communities? And a time may come when the repression we face for our effectiveness becomes so brutal and sophisticated that the losses from these mass actions could possibly outweigh the gains. Regardless, a reliance on this tactic, or any one particular tactic, weakens us. We need a collective brainstorm of where to go from here, how to base ourselves in our communities and equip them with the skills needed to continue and build this struggle, even in the midst of rampant repression.

DEAR NED LUDD,

DEAR NED LUDD IS AN IRREGULAR FEATURE IN THE EFJ FOR DISCUSSION OF CREATIVE MEANS IN DEFENSE OF THE EARTH. NEITHER THE EARTH FIRST! MOVEMENT NOR THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL NECESSARILY ENCOURAGES ANYONE TO DO THE THINGS DISCUSSED IN NED LUDD.

Perimeter Security

It seems that as actions against genetic engineering increase, so does the time, energy and money spent on security. The following communiqué was received by the Genetix Alert press office. It should give the reader an idea of what lengths the government is going to in order to protect research sites.

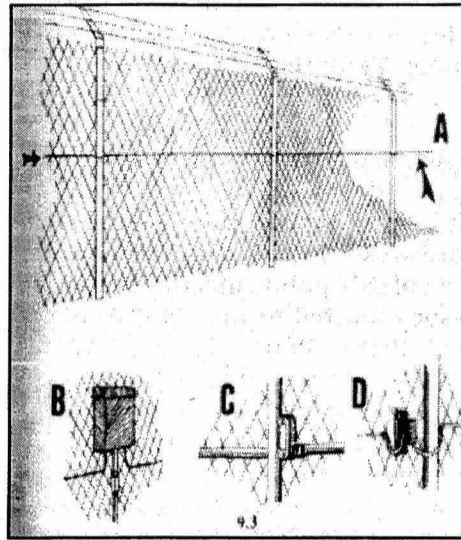
Albany, California, May 21, 2000.

"Today... Reclaim the Seeds cut into two structures in order to uproot a variety of research crops. This was our second visit to the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Western Regional Research Center... Our work inside a greenhouse and shade enclosure was unfortunately cut short (no pun intended) by a security guard... After our raid... in early January, men in suits from the FBI showed up to reconfigure the site's security. They added fencing and gates around the greenhouses inside the property's perimeter, roving video cameras, motion detectors and floodlights. Later that month, the National Institute of Justice and the University of California Police Departments at Berkeley and Davis held a symposium titled: "Ecoterrorism—Safeguarding Research—Techniques & Tools for Protecting Open Space Research Areas and Facilities—A Crime Prevention Training Symposium." Their slogan claimed that, "Domestic crime targeting biotechnology is the emerging anti-technology crime of the new millennium."

Since we had nothing better to do that day, we went and gained a better understanding of how the FBI and other outfits use technology to protect research areas. We decided to take some time and figure out how to circumvent the new setup, and after a great deal of planning found a way back into this monstrous labyrinth. We believe that with enough preparation, luck, and a few tools of the trade, the powers of darkness cannot keep us out of their greenhouses and labs... if a facility conducts GE crop research, yet won't disclose the locations to the public... view all its crops as legitimate targets. Our actions are motivated not by hatred, but rather a passionate love of life and respect for its incredible diversity... We will continue."

How to deal with the added security? A good start is to read the security chapter of *Ecodefense*. It has lots of information on dealing with site security. Searching the internet should yield information on various security devices on the market. Some research sites even have pictures of their fields on their web pages. Security precautions like motion detector lights have "blind spots" that can be manipulated. A good recon of the target should show a way around those. Fences should be checked for electrical currents or sensors to detect a break. Of course, a good pair of boltcutters never ceases to make entries through fences. Floodlights can be avoided or taken out with a good air pistol. When scouting cameras, try to

figure out if it's a live camera, or if its feeding a video. Each would be dealt with in a different way. Masks should always be worn in the event of cameras both visible and hidden. A police scanner programmed to local police channels or private site security will always prove invaluable when dealing with on site security. Most of all, be patient. The ALF has infiltrated countless buildings with higher security than an outside target could ever have with almost 100 percent success. Anything is possible with enough planning, and nighttime gardening is no exception. See y'all in the fields!



From *Ecodefense*: Before climbing or cutting fences, check to see that they are not wired to an alarm system. Any heavy wire or conduit attached to the fence four to five feet above the ground could indicate an alarm.

EARTH NIGHT NEWS

Animal Liberation

On May 7, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) liberated 212 chickens from Farm Fresh Eggs in Burlington, Washington. This is the second egg farm targeted in Burlington. On September 19, 1998, Broadview Egg Farms had 12 chickens liberated and video footage, showing horrific conditions, was released by the ALF. This is the fourth liberation by the ALF in Washington this year.

Genetix

With the planting season here, the anti-genetix movement is heating up. • In a communiqué received in mid-May, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for sabotaging Potlatch hybrid poplar tree research in eastern Oregon. From the communiqué: "In early March 2000 a Potlatch hybrid poplar tree plantation in eastern Oregon was targeted for its role in genetic engineering trees for pulp wood. Around 300 saplings were killed and extensive damage was done to irrigation systems which pump toxic fertilizer into the ground... Until this madness stops we will continue to hit them where it hurts, in their pocketbooks..."

• On April 7, a group in Petaluma, California, targeted research on grapes being done by Vinifera, a branch of biotech corporation Agritope. From the communiqué: "With pruning shears in hand and a vengeance against GE [genetic engineering] and the patenting of living beings, concerned farmers called the 'Petaluma Pruners' conducted a nonviolent direct action against the grape biotechnology corporation Vin-

ifera, Inc. We snipped, snapped, and hacked up Vinifera's grape plant starts, fueled by a vision of a safer farming environment, free of the runaway science of GE... The patenting of life makes living beings into inventions, machines and objects... created solely for a corporation's profit... Any corporation or institution engaged in genetic engineering is a target... Make no mistake this is just the beginning of nighttime pruning possibilities..."

• Hawaiian elves claimed responsibility for two actions against GE on the island of Kauai on May 9 and 10.



British Nighttime Gardener decontaminates a field

On May 9, a group called the Menehune (which are the little people of Hawaii) visited the Novartis Research and Parent Seed Center near Kekahā and sabotaged corn research by removing bags covering corn ears, while scattering pollen from other corn, which invalidated the research. On May 10, the Menehune visited the Kauai Agricultural Resource Center operated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii. There, they destroyed genetically engineered pineapples, papayas and flow-

ers including anthuriums and dandrobrium orchids.

• On the evenings of May 23 and May 24, anti-biotechnology activists from the Future Farmers of America "harvested" GE crops in greenhouses at the Seminis Vegetable Seeds Research Center in Woodland, California. Crops destroyed included tomatoes, broccoli, peas, onions and peppers.

According to the communiqué: "All of the crops we harvested were either labeled transgenic, were... [crops] that the company is known to be researching or [crops they] are already selling commercially. We found it appropriate that the employee to contact regarding the transgenic greenhouse frankencrops was Steven King." The communiqué states that Seminis is "one of the most ambitious developers of genetically mutilated crops, holding the most diverse selection of permits of any biotech corporation in the state of California."

Ecodefense

• The ELF visited a construction site in Bloomington, Indiana, on April 30. Fourteen pieces of equipment were sabotaged by pouring sand in gas tanks* and cutting wires. A trailer full of wood chips was burnt, causing close to \$500,000 worth of damage. The equipment was being used to prepare a stretch of Indiana Highway 46 to connect with Indiana Highway 37. In their communiqué, the ELF dedicated the action "to Craig Rosebraugh and other Earth Warriors that are being persecuted for their beliefs."

Ed. Note: Sand works wonders in the oil tubes and crankcases as well!

Ludwig Jailed!

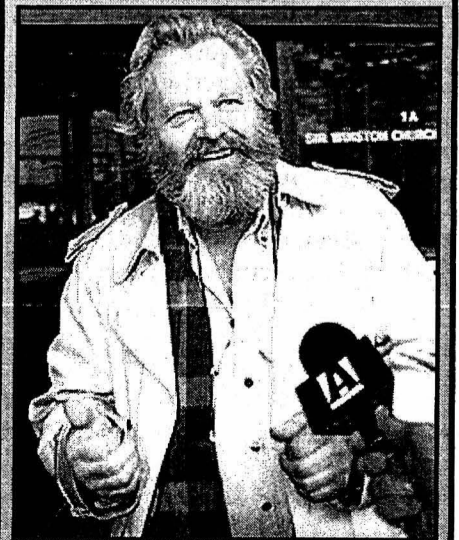
BY ED PRESS

Canadian environmental activist Wiebo Ludwig was sentenced on April 27 to 28 months in prison along with his friend Richard Boonstra who received 21 days. They have been accused by the paramilitary enforcement agency of the government, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), of a whole string of attacks against the installations of the oil and gas industry in Alberta, Canada.

Using a highly paid informant and sleazy entrapment procedures these employees of the energy sector pretending to be police have managed to subvert justice once again and obtain convictions. In collusion with the industry, the RCMP went as far as blowing up a gas well site in an attempt to frame suspects. During their investigations leading to the charges against Wiebo and Richard, the RCMP admitted at the trial that went on for more than two months that they had obtained funds from Alberta Energy Corporation, a private company operating in the province of Alberta. These funds were then used by the RCMP to pay overtime wages, hire more constables, purchase equipment and pay their hired informant Robert Wraight, an admitted brain damaged individual with a memory problem. Sterling Sanderman, the judge, thought that no unusual relations were taking place between Alberta Energy Corporation and the police.

With billions of dollars in yearly revenues flowing in from the thousands of producing wells drilled in Alberta, the big energy companies have come to dominate the economic and political life in this part of Canada. In their mad rush to steal the wealth of this province, they have turned wide areas of this once-beautiful part of Canada into petro-chemical cesspools.

It is only since the Ludwig and Boonstra families, who live near the town of Beaverlodge, Alberta, began their protests a few years ago, that any attention has been brought to the problems of environmental damage caused by the disgusting practices of these multinational energy bandits.



Ludwig speaks to a reporter outside court.

Check it out! Lots more interesting letters in the back here.

Help!

I'm a member of an organization called the Thornton Creek Alliance and a member of the Thornton Creek Legal Defense Fund, based here in North Seattle. We're very active stewards of Thornton Creek (one of Seattle's main, urban creeks) which is home to many fish (including salmon) and wildlife populations. Many thousands of trees, hours of labor and materials have gone into keeping it as wild as possible. (I could go into much more detail... but let's cut to the chase...)

For the last year or more we've been doing battle against the US's largest, publicly traded mall developer, Simon Property Group. These bastards insist on keeping a critical part of Thornton Creek forever sealed in a pipe under their property. They are actually going to daylight the creek during their massive mall expansion construction, then put it back underground in a pipe; screwing everyone and all species in the process. We've come close to exhausting every (?) means available to us: Mayor (Paul "WTO" Schell), city council, developers themselves, courts, picketing... I even made a documentary.

Why am I writing Earth First!? Well... I just think it's time for other tactics that will garner nationwide attention. For one, I want an aggressive campaign to have Simon's Stock blackballed (or whatever) by all those green-leaning mutual funds. I want the president/CEO and all the Simon directors to know it's happening, to know they are targeted, I want them to know their stock has been targeted... until they change their tune and daylight Thornton Creek! Maybe an Earth First! member can buy a little of their stock and then attend all their meetings (they're based in Minneapolis). Help me figure out how to pocketbook/stock-pressure them, please!

Sincerely,
—KELLY DOLE, KELLY@CVWINC.COM

Dear Earth Firsters:

I have been a desert lover for over 30 years, taking all sorts of individuals and groups on guided tours through the northern and eastern Mojave Deserts of California. I teach the saving of this precious environment and adamantly condemn anyone or any company or corporation that would destroy even the smallest of "my desert beauty." In my younger days I pulled up many a survey stake to be used later for a nice campfire in some isolated canyon. I am writing in hopes that you are aware that the So. Cal. Metropolitan Water District is attempting to "mine" the Eastern Mojave National Reserve's precious underground water. Just as they did so many years ago in Owens Valley, they are filling the news and spreading the word through their own sub-companies and others that there is plenty of liquid buried in the fragile desert of that reserve. For years I fought, through letter writing, speeches and lectures in hopes of saving that desolate but beautiful environment. Age is now creeping upon me. But, as a now professional writer for a local newspaper and soon-to-be-published book, I maybe can help in other ways. Living in the Central Valley of California near Fresno (four hours drive to my paradise), news sometimes is

slanted and sketchy. But there are a lot more environmentally conscious people here than a few years ago. Please send me any info that you have on this problem. Also info on joining your organization. Ed Abbey would expect nothing less from me. Thanks...

—LEON EMO

Without all your hard work and dedication what is left of the trees would not be here; you are truly heroes. Thank you so much from the core of my being. I wish I could send you some money, but I am barely making it on my disability payments. But I am with you in spirit. I used to live in Oregon and I watched the log trucks and redneck loggers destroy the forest as I did guerrilla farming in the clearcuts. But as time passed, all the pent up rage led me to road rage and then prison. Now I am trying to go to school and rebuild my life. I feel that when I was in prison they tried to break my spirit, but they were wrong. They only made it stronger, and when I go to your web site I thank Dave and you all for your perseverance and strength. Once I get back on my feet I will be more active. Right now I am doing what I can with a few web sites dedicated to this cause of environmental defense and awareness. I am limited in my abilities, but if you need anything from me please email me or go to my yahoo club at www.yahoo.com/clubs/lifeoutofbalance? And again thank you very much and all my love and light to you all.

Peace and love,

—PASCAL WILSON

Ed. Note: Dave who?

Dear Earth First! Journal,

In February 2000, the Italian environmentalist Silvano Pellissero was sentenced to six years and eight months imprisonment for his alleged involvement in the sabotaging of a high-speed rail line construction site in the northern Italian Alps. The sabotage, at the time, was claimed by the Italian eco-activist group the Grey Wolves. Two other people, Soledad Maria Rosas and Edoardo Massari, died in custody whilst awaiting trial.

Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network has been made aware of Silvano's imprisonment. However, as yet, we do not know where he is imprisoned.

If any Earth First! Journal reader knows where Silvano is imprisoned, please get in contact with ELP as soon as possible, so we can offer Silvano the support he deserves. Thank you.

For Animal/Earth Liberation,

—NOEL MOLLAND

EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS
NEWSLETTER c/o BM BOX 2407
LONDON, WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND

Greetings:

While I am not prone to traveling far afield (thus most of you are unlikely to meet me), I am in sympathy with both the purpose and emotional commitment of Earth First!. Some of us who have worked quietly for a long time to try to protect Gaia and educate other human creatures can still be of some use, I believe. That is, were we even informed of activities of local chapters. In our area (N. Connecticut Valley and N. Berkshires, Mass.), we hear nothing until we see it in the

news. Chance-met Earth Firsters in the area have been told that the only local members are the fearless leader(?) and three or four others (I haven't been included in this magic tiny list of the elect).

Is this some effort to exclude "support-level members?" A sort of "holier-than-thou" New Aristocracy of environmentalism? Back in the '60s I got this attitude from the snooty hard-line Socialists (talk about aristocracy!). It's their paradigm, their business. Whatever.

Does this happen to other people out there or is it just a local thing? You know, we may not be young but we can still work and we still care. I was out of politics for a long time because of the snooty behavior of the politico set. It's really stupid to throw away the labor and support of people like me even if you do look down on me.

Still around for Earth. Pissed at exclusivity.

—PENNY J. NOVACK

Hey dudes...

I have been working for the timber industry now for about 20 years... you know what I going to do for Earth Day... kill some trees... and did you guys know that your losing public support... Ahhh the sound of a tree hitting the ground... I love it!

—KEIFERS1@EMAIL.MSN.COM

I mean come on now I've lived in Humboldt county all my life and you all live in wooden houses and complain about tree cutting; you don't like oil wells being drilled, but every rally I see your stinking old cars and old Volkswagen buses that smoke like hell. I mean really now, I'm tired of your hand rolled cigarettes. I don't smoke; so why do you it bad air pollution dummmmmmy. oh I don't remember growing up with any of you. I do think there's a problem but let us take care of it we know what needs to be done. do you? people in glass houses shouldn't throw rocks. Bye for now. [Sic³]

—JOHN GIFFIN

MOUTLAW@INREACH.COM

Dear SFB,

For a number of years a small group of community activists here in Dana Point, California, have been doing their best to preserve the last piece of open coastal acreage as a nature park. The developer has been able to "influence" the city councils over a period of years, even to the point of having the city use taxpayer money, to fight a community-approved referendum all the way to the State Supreme Court (where they lost after wasting a great deal of our tax dollars.) I'm writing to you because the situation here is breaking my heart. My wife and I are amateur birders and nature lovers. Over the nine years we have lived next to this property we have seen thousands of wild birds, some who live here and many who stop here on their migration. Now, as we were seeing so many birds engaged in nest building, the property owners have torn up a huge area with a rototiller under the guise of weed abatement. I keep on thinking about all those poor creatures that were either killed or had their habitat destroyed at this critical time in the cycle of their reproduction. I have spoken in front of the city council and written letters and opinion pieces

that appeared in our local paper to push the city to seek funding to buy this fabulous property. It is my greatest desire to see this place saved as a place where children can go someday to see how beautiful nature can be.

There won't be much left after the developers get through. I must mention that the property I'm concerned about here is known as the "Dana Point Headlands." It has an historical as well as environmental significance, because it was described as being the most romantic place on the California coast from San Diego to San Francisco by Richard H. Dana in his well known mid-1800s book, "Two Years Before The Mast." I am more frustrated than ever, because when this latest destruction by the developer took place I found that almost no one who had been involved in the actions to save the Headlands was available anymore. I'm feeling very much alone and looking for any possible help to save this natural wonder for both humans and the creatures that are entitled to it.

—GENE LEFF, IMGLEFF@YAHOO.COM

Dear Earth First!

I am writing to you for help with a problem we are having with our planet. It seems that we would rather just be in outer space. On June 26, Vandenberg AFB in Lompoc, California (where the prison that held Peltier and Clifford Dann is located) will test its third test missile. Based on the data and "experience" of this test, Clinton will decide around October if Star Wars should be deployed. This program is not about pretty little missiles being launched in the sky, it is about death and dominance of US special interests. We are conducting a vigil in front of Vandenberg AFB on June 24 and again on June 26 to protest this test. We will also rally on August 5 with Bruce Gagnon of Global Network in End Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and again on October 7. Based on Clinton's decision, 100 interceptor missiles will be built in Alaska and 150 in North Dakota. I understand nuclear weapons will be involved in these operations. The Air Force has their own publication called *2020 Vision on Space*. Thanks so much and please join us in front of Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc on these dates.

—SHEILA BAKER

People first, earth a very big second or third, you assholes.

—SIGH JAMES

SIGHJAMES@BREATHEMAIL.NET

Dear SFB,

I'm writing as a long-time Earth Firster to support moving the *Journal* to Tucson. I have let my subscription lapse because the quality and content of the *Journal* has stagnated, and it no longer seems useful as an effective organizing tool. I think the *Journal* cannot hope to be a movement forum, an outreach tool, a congratulatory cheerleading tabloid for our exploits, and *Live Wild or Die* all at the same time. Fresh blood is sorely needed, and Tucson seems to have a group of energetic, semi-sane, vibrant activists ready and willing to give the old vision a new twist. Let's send it south! Change is good. End of sermon.

—JEFF MILLER

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BERKELEY

Dear editor,

My friend Chellis Glendinning recently showed me the letters Chad Hanson and Bryan Bird wrote in response to her interview in your journal. She did this because I have been directly involved in the La Manga and Agua Caballos timber sales, which figure importantly in both letter, while she has not. I am writing to explain to readers who are unfamiliar with the social, environmental, and political conditions of northern New Mexico why I and many others who have long histories of environmental and social activism support these sales.

First, both Bryan and Chad fail to mention that both sales are within the Vallecitos Sustained Yield Unit, an approximately 75,000-acre area whose resources were set aside by an act of Congress to benefit the members of the isolated and impoverished communities surrounding the unit. The residents of these communities are descendants of the original Spanish settlers and rank among the poorest people in the poorest state in the country. Second, readers should know that historically the Forest Service made sales so large within the unit that only a multinational corporation, Duke City Lumber, had the capacity to buy them. (Between 1971 and 1986 Duke City harvested 62.42 million board feet for the Unit.) While previous sales provided some seasonal employment for local people, most of the profit accrued outside the communities they were meant to benefit.

Furthermore, it was community members such as Antonio "Ike" Vargas and Manuel Gurule who demanded that the Forest Service bring harvest levels down to sustainable levels and make sales small enough for local contractors to afford ten. It is because of their efforts, not the groups Bryan and Chad represent, that this area has remained so environmentally intact. Moreover, while some old-growth trees were selectively cut based on ecosystem management priorities during the La Manga sale, Byrd's claim that "dozens of 500-year-old ponderosas have been chopped down," is simply untrue.

Third, while the 109 million board feet (still not even close to being "one of the biggest timber sales ever offered on New Mexico's national forest," as Hanson asserts), La Compania Ocho, a local logging company which was awarded 80 percent of the sale, has enlisted Forest Trust, The Rio Pueblo/Rio Embudu Watershed Protection Coalition, and members of the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society to review the cutting prescription and work with the Forest Service to devise a new preferred alternative which will lower the volume, decrease the number of reads and ensure that the prescription protects old-growth areas and wildlife habitat. In point of fact, the conservation committee of the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, after reviewing the ecosystem management plan contained in the 10 mbf proposal, endorsed the prescription until Bryan Bird brought pressure from the "zero cut" factions of the state and national organization to suppress their comments. Readers

should also be aware that La Compania's milling capacity is about 500,000 board feet per year so this sale will be harvested gradually, over five to ten years, and will not significantly impact the 7.3 million board feet per year growth rate within the area.

—MARK SCHILLER
RIO PUEBLO/RIO EMBUDO WATERSHED
PROTECTION COALITION

Dear Shit for Brains,

Why is that whenever I read a movement publication from Europe, especially the UK (*Do or Die!*, *EF! Action Update*, etc.) I get lots of inspiring and useful info about actions and tactics, yet whenever I open up the *Journal* I'm greeted with the same old banal "outreach," without really learning much from the experience of other activists?

Take for example, the recent coverage of the Headwaters spring action camp (Beltane 2000). Okay, first off, the writer wastes the first one and a half columns explaining to us all the legal mumbo jumbo about the Timber Harvest Plan, and about how politicians are corporate lackeys and Charlie Hurwitz is a mean bastard. In other words, all the things that the overwhelming majority of *EF! Journal* readers already fucking know and will never forget, seeing as how that type of Eco-Action 101 bland outreach-y trash gets reiterated time and again, swallowing up whole pages! I know that the system's fucked, I'm an activist already! Boring, yes, but nothing a pair of scissors or a delete key wouldn't fix.

Four inches into column two we finally get an action report and what do we learn? That people locked down to stuff, people were arrested, there were rallies. But here's what I'm not getting: any analysis at all of the tactics used. How were actions organized? What was effective and what wasn't. How effective? What were interactions with the cops like? Were any clever schemes or ideas hatched that might be useful elsewhere? What shouldn't be done else where 'cause it doesn't work?

I know from seeing video footage of a Cargill corporate campus blockade covered in the same issue that it was what I would call remarkable simple and effective (bravo!): drive up, park in the middle of the road, slash the tires, lockdown, spray paint anarchy symbols and slogans on the side of the car, sit back and watch the traffic jam. So easy, it could be duplicated (hint, hint). But you'd never know from the *Journal* article, which is more interested in telling us really important stuff like what people chanted than, say, how the lockdowns were deployed or why the cops had such a hard time cutting through them.

If we want to build an effective movement, we're going to have to start with actual analysis and discussion of our tactics and strategy. Duh.

Less selling the issues, more "Dear Ned Ludds" and riot on!

—EUGENE BRAT

Ed. Note:

Listen, you little brat. Pull the damn pacifier out of your mouth, get out of your crib and start writing an analysis. It is one thing to talk about it; it is another thing to do it.

As editors of the *Journal*, we work with lots of different campaigns. In those campaigns we have lots of great activists, not necessarily great writers. We can advise but can't

control what is submitted. If there is a week's worth of actions in Headwaters, we're gonna cover them, even if it isn't analytical.

—JL

To the editor,

The recent slaughter of 10 coyotes at Monomoy Wildlife Refuge in Chatham, Massachusetts, is yet another horrible example of *Homo sapiens'* cruel dominance over our wildlife.

Out West, the coyote, because of its cunning predatory instincts, has been burned, poisoned, trapped and shot primarily by US government employees working for the Animal Damage Control Agency (Wildlife Services). The killings are to appease the cattle ranchers who themselves kill not only the coyotes but also the American bison.

Why did the US Fish and Wildlife Service order the hit on the coyotes at Monomoy Island? Could it be that Monomoy Island is nothing more than a nursery for piping plovers. A healthy count of plovers will keep them off the endangered species list, and that would insure more open beaches for ORV use. With the plovers off the endangered species list it's okay for a number of them to be killed or run over by ORVs.

The coyote is being exterminated by special interest groups who have convinced politicians that their standards of entertainment are more important than the life of the coyote and other wildlife. It's not okay for ORVs to kill the plover in an unnatural way.

—PETER SOUZA

Journal folks,

It was good to read both sides of the Luna/Julia Butterfly issue in the *Journal*. I'd heard various pieces of the story, and I appreciate seeing Julia's side—although I think she is mistaken in her course of action. I suppose I'd do things that puzzle my associates if I stayed up in a tree for two years, too. I would like to see updates on the progress of her foundation and the documentary film in the *Journal* as it becomes available. Any news on rumors that *The Monkeywrench Gang* is soon to be a movie and/or that Woody Harrelson will feature in it? I guess that's better than George Clooney... or Adam Sandler.

Thanks for all the effort y'all put into the *Journal*. Do not worry. I'm not all screwed up because of the homebrew we're going to lay on you at the RRR... It's cumulative toxicity of my environment for a couple decades... yes, yes. See ya in July.

—ED STEIN

KEF! MOUNTAIN FACTION

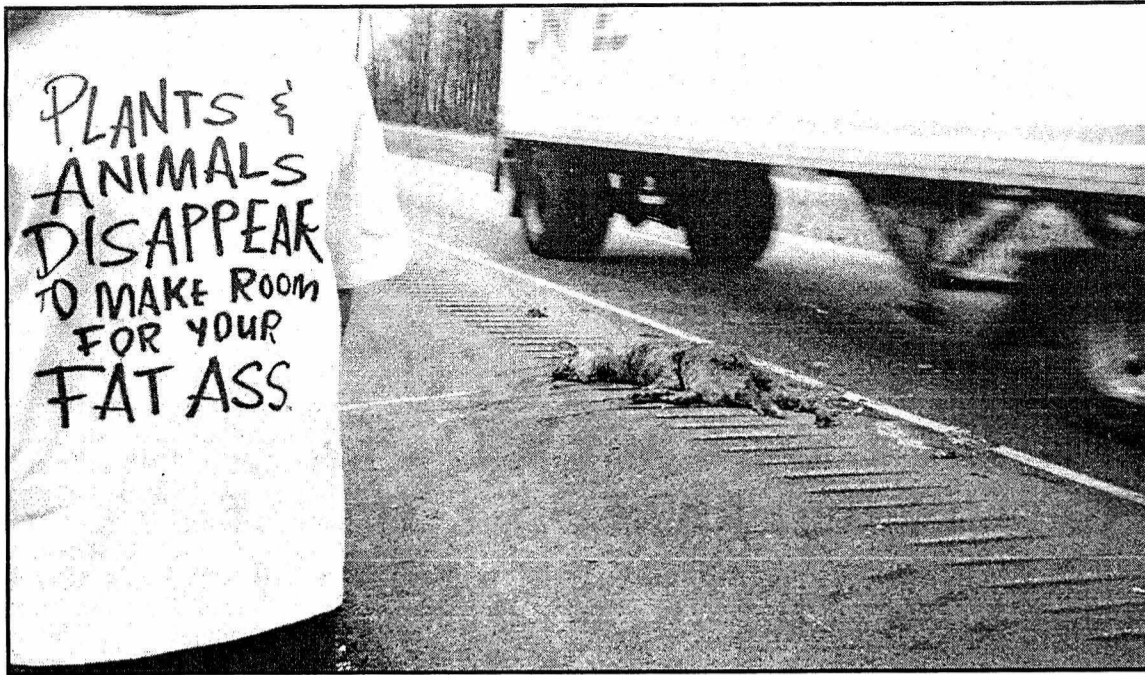
SFB:

Forty-five thousand people dead to starvation, 120 species lost to extinction, 10 million tons of toxic waste dumped, and 200,000 acres of rainforest cut or burned. Sounds like a bad year, huh? That's what happens every day (Tikkun, Vol. 14, No. 6, p. 21). And such destruction will definitely keep on happening until nothing is left.

We are fools walking backward into the future—and we can't even talk about it—about how pitiful our efforts are. If Gandhi were alive he would smash our (EF!) computers (he hated typewriters), he would tell the masses to burn all their clothes, and then he would help us clean our rifles.

Gandhi would state our program clearly:

1) Destroy all airplanes, cars,



powerlines, TVs and anything based on complex technology.

2) Socialize (locally) all forests, water, and land for sustainable production of basic needs (food, water, simple housing).

3) Share with neighboring villages and help those who are suffering in the transition.

But few would listen because we aren't activist trying to change the world. We are wounded victims of a global culture of greed and insanity. Most people get into activism as a form of therapy. We think we can't really accomplish anything meaningful and so we seek solace for our despair and hopelessness in pretend or symbolic protest.

Enough!

—ALMOND

Dear sir,

My response to your current query found in the latest issue regarding the possible relocation of EF! publication and personnel would be to stay put.

The energy that EF! has expended to establish itself as a force in the far western states is solid in both public mind and pro and con economic forces for (all) states west of front range of Rockies!

Finally, there is the ever present factor of expendable monies (i.e. received your *fifth* fundraiser letter this past week).

—ROB BRODA

To whom it may concern,

I have recently read an article titled "The Redwoods Show" by John Skow. I know that the article is over a year old, but I thought that the issue was still worth writing about.

First off I would just like to say I am very sorry for the loss of one of our activists. It sounded like David Chain was great man who died for a great cause.

I am writing you today to tell you that I admire what you are doing. It is people like you that keep our country great. All of you activists have the courage to stand up for what they believe in and that is an honorable thing. I also think that it is very smart of you to not only focus your efforts on blocking and protesting the logging, but also going to the government and trying to get the laws changed.

I hope that things work out for you. I am also hoping that if you win, it will help to motivate others to do the same. You all have my full support. Thank you for trying to make a difference.

—CASEY LOVETT,

SEDRO-WOOLLEY HIGH SCHOOL

EF!J,

Hey. Brigid edition was great, especially enjoyed all of the GE coverage. You all are one hard-working gang!

So from the frontlines of Big Mountain life is unusually lonely. I've been all alone for a spell up here at this little shepherd's hogan on the HPL. The family I work with has not and never will sign the Accommodations Agreement lease. All the supporters who came for the deadline for February 1 are now gone. I haven't even seen a paved road for about four new moons now, just because I won't leave the family with no one. Supposedly by the end of March or early April all outside (non-Diné) people will be "escorted" off the rez, the beginning of forced relocation. This was said by the BIA to local chapter houses (a kind of community center for each township or 40 mile area). We'll see what happens.

Lots of recon and surveillance on the BIA and Hopi Nation's part, low planes, automobile visits, etc. A little more than the usual.

Solidarity forever,

—SEAN

Warning: to the islanders of Vieques:

Greetings from Martha's Vineyard, an island off the coast of Massachusetts, USA. Off our southwest shore is No Man's Land, until recently also a bombing range. Once the military knew they would be giving it up, many here believed the bombing range was used to dump and burn toxic chemicals from the "cleanup" of nearby Otis Airforce Base. Can you tell a canister of poison from a "dummy bomb?" This allegation is unproven; no one is allowed to go there. If the military have done any testing, results are not available. We did see the island burn again and again. It's a fact that Aquinnah, the closest town to Noman's Land, has the highest cancer rate in the state, and Chilmark, the next town over, has the next highest. Aquinnah is a mostly Wampanoag Indian town, and Chilmark mostly wealthy whites. We all breathe the same breeze and eat seafood and we are all dying too much. Every island is beautiful and all oceans are connected. Courageous protectors of Vieques, watch your heads!

—A VINEYARDER

Dear SFB,

G'day from racist Australia. I have read the last three issue of *EF!J* and been very impressed. I am glad to see the paper become more radical by increasingly em-

bracing anti-racist-ecological-justice, feminist and social justice struggles. Without dissolving power in all its forms there is no hope in saving the Earth.

Days of action like June 18 and Seattle have inspired millions. However, I am concerned about the efforts of liberal, right-wingers and the authoritarian left to claim these actions as their own and build on our backs.

Here in Australia this has been seen as fascists sending congratulations to anarchist groups involved in J18 and attending a rally on November 30. Such developments are terrifying.

The authoritarian-left (red-fascists) have seized on N30's successes in Australia and the UK and are using it as a recruiting tool for their dogmatic, uninspiring and authoritarian politics. As with the actions of the revolutionary Spanish anarchists of '36 and the French radicals of '68, true radicalism will be co-opted if we are not vigilant.

After being involved in the largely anarchist inspired June 18 actions in London it is depressing to see the authoritarian-left crush the genuine revolutionary potential of an anti-authoritarian, autonomous, grassroots, direct action network.

Eco-anarchist, rank and file worker, peasant, indigenous peoples networks of resistance are essential if we are to overthrow industrial capitalism and live in harmony with the Earth.

EF!J is doing a great job working toward such a goal by publicizing ecological-justice and worker-green alliances and encouraging such strategies. I stress carefully stepping into such alliances and to avoid the authoritarian left at all costs, maintaining the focus on direct action and grassroots "self-managed" struggle.

Some worker-green alliances work here and in the pages of your journal are being built around demands/slogans like "saving forest, saving jobs," "No jobs on a dead planet." Although agreeing with such alliances I think these demands are reformist. Jobs (i.e. wage slavery) and ecological survival are not compatible. Instead we should be aiming for individual worker and community self management with the intention of destroying the entire exploitive system which oppresses us and destroys all life. "Abolish the wage system, earth liberation, animal liberation..." I encourage all *EF!* activists to network with anarchist groups around the US and the world.

—DR. WOO

P.S. Property destruction is not violence.

North American Anarchist Conference

August 11-17 Los Angeles, California

The primary focus of the NAAC will be the intellectual, philosophical, theoretical, technical and spiritual advancement of anarchism as a political theory/ideology/practice, and the analysis and evaluation of the current state of anarchism. The conference will include: workshops, discussions, movies, plays, lectures and direct actions. There will be no bands at the event. For more information contact the August Collective, POB 6188 Fullerton, CA 92834; augustcollective_la@disinfo.net; www.geocities.com/naacweb.

Genetix Alert Press Office Is Open

The Genetix Alert Press Office has several basic functions, all of which are designed to explain why people destroy genetically engineered crops and undertake other nonviolent actions aimed at resisting genetic engineering and increasing the difficulty for entities which seek to advance genetic engineering or its products. Such actions can include, but are not limited to, crop destruction and other property damage. Any anonymous information received by the Press Office which details anti GE direct-actions will be communicated to the media. The Press Office will be available as part of the network of contacts for the media, able to confirm actions that fall within these guidelines and explain the broader context of problems created by genetic engineering that necessitates such actions. When any anti-ge action happens in your area, please tape news coverage, gather newspaper articles, record radio shows, etc. and send them to the Press Office. You will be reimbursed for expenses such as postage, tapes, etc. The Press Officer, as a public face for the direct action anti-ge movement, is available for interviews, phone-ins, news reports, etc. Any reporters or interested parties may contact the Genetix Alert Press Office at: Denny Henke 787 Ellsworth Memphis, TN 38111; (901)438-9907 (901)458-9907 (fax); genetixalert@tao.ca

The Genetix Alert Press Office has no knowledge of any person(s) carrying out any courageous anti-GE actions.

Second Annual Medicine Lake Activist Gathering
August 5, 6 & 7 in Northeast California

Plans for a geothermal power plant near Medicine Lake have been approved by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Come explore this beautiful area and find out how to protect the lake, Mt. Hoffman Roadless Area, wolverine habitat and Native spiritual sites. For more information contact Klamath Forest Alliance at (503) 467-5405.

Global Day of Anti-Capitalist Action September 26

Festival of Art and Resistance

Prague, Czech Republic - September 20-27

Some 20,000 representatives of global capital (world bankers, economists and financiers) are expected to come to Prague from September 25-27 to attend the 55th annual summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. This prestigious meeting of the world economic elite, the first of its kind in the Central and Eastern Europe, will definitely be of a great importance. The delegates will meet to propose a scheme of further liberalization of the world economy by defining new loan priorities and structural adjustment conditions. The Initiative Against Economic Globalization (INPEG) is a loose coalition of various Czech environmental, human rights and autonomist/anarchist groups, organizations and individuals who are ready to stand up critically against the summit of the world financial oligarchy. INPEG has been meeting regularly in Prague since last summer. It has planned a series of campaigns that will culminate in 10 days of activities starting on September 20. Nonviolent demonstrations, info campaigns, and the Festival of Art and Resistance, including a counter-summit, will be the main resistance activities in the mentioned period. We will be demonstrating our solidarity with the global resistance movement. Actions are encouraged everywhere. We can offer accommodation for almost no money in Prague. If you want more information on the counter-summit or other actions in Prague, accommodation facilities or on INPEG and the Czech resistance movement, contact us Prague2000_cz@hotmail.com; www.imf2000.webjump.com

NAELFPO is in need of donations

The North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office is a legal, above-ground news service dedicated to exposing the political and social motives behind the covert direct actions of the underground Earth Liberation Front. The North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office receives anonymous communiques from the underground Earth Liberation Front and distributes the message to the media and public nationwide. We provide a public face ideologically in support of the Earth Liberation Front and similar acts of economic sabotage against those who profit from the destruction of the natural environment. We are contacted by the media and the public nation-wide to provide information behind the political and social motives of Earth Liberation Front actions and the tactical necessity of covert direct action. Because of this type of work, individuals who are looking to learn more about these issues have a place to turn, and the public who may be ignorant to the actions and motives of the Earth Liberation Front are exposed to more frequent and in-depth media coverage. The Press Office could not exist without the monetary support of those who understand the necessity of a public face to argue the tactical importance of clandestine direct action against those who profit from the destruction of the natural environment. Donations are needed to pay bills, printing and shipping costs of information we distribute relating to the Earth Liberation Front, and to help pay legal fees of those who are being charged crimes relating to Earth Liberation Front actions. North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office POB 4783 Portland, OR 97208; (503) 478-0902; 478-0903 (fax); elfpress@tao.ca.



Argh! A new crew has taken the helms of ye ole LWOD. We need submissions for #8. We have shirts and propaganda. All the old favorites and two new ones: Winnie the Pooh visualizing industrial collapse and north american nighttime gardeners guild. Send 10 well concealed dollars w/ three color choices for shirts POB 58044, Minneapolis, MN 55458.



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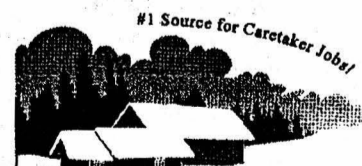
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Democracy Action Camp July 13-19 Los Angeles, CA

Real democracy or corporate power? Human voices or lobbyist dollars? Planet, people, peace or profits, profits, profits? To definitively answer these questions once and for all, tens of thousands of citizens will flood the streets of Philadelphia and Los Angeles when the Republican and Democratic National Conventions take place in August. People from all walks of life will demand radical changes in our "Republicrat" one-party system which prioritizes money over life. From the racism and injustice of the thriving prison-industrial complex to the widespread decimation of fragile and important ecosystems to the sell-out of universal health care, the common denominator is the hostile corporate takeover of our democracy. Dozens of committed environmentalists, human rights advocates, social justice organizers and globalization activists will gather with experienced trainers and facilitators in the hills above LA. Activists will share skills in the strategies and tactics of nonviolent confrontation in preparation for the collective Ruckus we will raise at both conventions this summer.

How to apply: Individuals interested in attending Democracy Action Camp can apply online at our website www.ruckus.org.

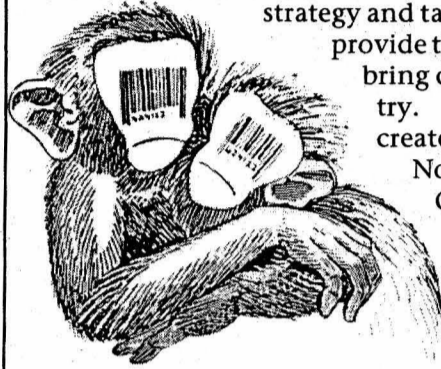
Earth First! Western Regional Rendevous Genetic Engineering Action Camp Aug 4-6

JOIN SANTA CRUZ EF! FOR A THREE DAY ACTION CAMP FOCUSED ON GENETIC ENGINEERING. WE WILL HAVE A ROWDY TIME LEARNING HOW TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE, SHARING SKILLS, DISCUSSING TACTICS AND CULMINATING IN THE LARGEST CROP ACTION THE WEST COAST HAS EVER SEEN. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT, SANTA CRUZ EF!, POB 344, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95601; (831) 425-3205; CRUZEF@CRUZIO.COM.



STOP THE MAD SCIENTISTS IN THEIR TRACKS! JULY 20-26 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Earth and Animal liberation activists will converge in the Twin Cities of Minnesota to greet the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) at their University of Minnesota conference. A wide range of activities is planned to help mobilize against the rapidly developing biotechnologies that threaten wildlife and aim to control and commodify living beings on an entirely new level. Workshops, discussions, trainings and presentations on science, ethics, politics and action strategy and tactics, as well as direct action videos, will provide the inspiration we need to join forces and bring down the heinous biotechnology industry. Factory and fur farming have already created waste and enslavement of wildlife. Now the mad scientists are eager to offer GE animals up to the market. And as usual, action speaks louder than words. Contact Upper Midwest Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (RAGE) POB 580444 Minneapolis, MN 55458-0444; (651) 213-6131; grainrage@visto.com. See schedule on www.tao.ca/~ban/grainrage.htm.



"FOOD FOR LIFE IN THE NEW MILLENIUM" JULY 28-30 & AUGUST 4-6

At The Sequatchie Valley Institute near Dunlap, Tennessee (northwest of Chattanooga) A few hours west of the EF! Rendevous. **JULY 28-30 Emphasis on the Practical**—emphasis on skills building around permaculture, organic gardening, food preservation, saving seed, biodynamics, cooking and diet choices, medicines, nutrition, and solar oven construction. One afternoon will also include a panel on food politics, genetic engineering, and industrial agriculture. **AUGUST 4-6 Emphasis on the Political**— focus on theoretical and political explorations of the implications of industrial agriculture. We will discuss strategies for mobilizing against agribusiness and ag biotech, and promoting sustainable community-based food systems in the face of global monopolies. Discussions and workshops will focus on farm labor, factory farms, organic standards and biotechnology. Workshops on practical skills will be interspersed to keep our visions tangible. There will be a \$25-\$50 per day sliding-scale fee requested. Fundraising efforts are underway to allow us to offer partial scholarships. Please contact us if you can donate. For more info, or to get on the FFL mailing list, contact SVI call (423) 949-5922 mediarights@bledsoe.net. To network around guerrilla gardening, ecological horticulture and community food systems, contact foodnotlawns@yahoo.com

Prisoner Support

Spirit of Freedom is Earth Liberation Prisoner's on-line newsletter. View it at www.geocities.com/earthlibprisoner. To contact Spirit of Freedom email earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com.

June 18

- Robert Thaxton #12112716, O.S.P. 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310 (six years).
- Kuldip Bajwa (DN7230), HM Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London, SW2 5XF, England (21 months).
- Sean Brown, BP5610, HMYOI Ashfield, Sherwood Road, Pucklechurch, Bristol, BS16 9LY, England (12 months).
- Jeff Booker DN7071, Elmley, Eastchurch, Sheerness, ME12 4OZ, England (21 months).
- Stuart Tokam, DN7072, HMP Brixton, Jebb Avenue, London, SW2 5XF, England (12 months).
- Thomas Wall, FF4431, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0EB, England (18 months).
- Jon Barnett, FB5538, HMYOI, Bedfont Rd, Feltham, TW13 4ND, England (six months).

Animal liberation

- Aaron Rudra, P.B. 43, 5726 Vaksdal, Norway. Sentenced to 10 months for an arson attack against a slaughterhouse in Bergen.
- Barry Horne VC2141, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London SE28 0EB, England. Serving 18 years for various anti-vivisection arsons and attempted arsons.
- Darren Cole, FN4694, HMP Blakenhurst, Howell Lane, Redditch, Worcs, BN7 6QS, England. On Remand for an anti-live exports bomb hoax at Dover Docks.
- Justin Samuel, Hasselt Prison, Martelarenlaan 42, 3500, Hasselt, Belgium. On remand awaiting extradition to the USA for his alleged involvement with a number of raids on mink fur farms.
- Mel Broughton DJ8216, HMP The Mount, Molyneux Avenue, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0NZ, England. Sentenced to 4 years imprisonment for conspiracy to cause explosions.
- Tony Humphries AP7965, HMP Swaleside, Brabazon Rd, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4DZ, UK. Sentenced to 7 years for conspiracy to cause explosions plus 2 years concurrent for possession of explosives

MOVE

Move is an eco-revolutionary group whos members have been persecuted by the Philadelphia police throughout their existence, culminating in the police firebombing their commune in 1985.

- Debbie Simms Africa (006307), Janet Holloway Africa (006308) and
- Janine Philips Africa (006309) all at: SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238.
- Michael Davis Africa (AM4973) and Charles Simms Africa (AM4975) both at SCI Grateford, PO Box 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244.
- Edward Goodman Africa (AM4974) SCI Camp Hill, PA 17011-0200.
- William Philips Africa (AM4984) and Delbert Orr Africa (AM4985) both at SCI Dallas Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612.
- Mumia Abu Jamal, (AM8335), SCI Greene, 1040 East R. Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090.



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Let me open your veins
Let blood spray
Let your sculpted face be crushed
Let you bloat by the roadside
Let me transform you so the next human calls you reviling disgusting sick
Let me mash your heart into pavement
Let me not pause so as to not disturb myself
Let my music be loud so as not to hear you
Let me part your eyebrows
Let feathers fly
Let my only concern be the dent
Let your hoof be grated, let your hand lay limp
Let you be an inconvenience
Let my speed and size be your judge
Let my paint be untouched
Let ribs snap
Let there be a beautiful sunset while i dissect you
Let my hood screen you from sight
Let there be many of you so your death seems insignificant
Or better, let you be non-native so your death is for the greater good
Let me transform the mystery that is you into nothing
Lay your skin before me
Decorate it with glistening scales.

Faith Walker
13 March 2000
Western Highway, Australia

QUOTIDIAN DIMINISHMENT

All my neighbors have nice lawns this year, thick green carpets with no weeds or unwanted grasses. Not like mine which is a mixed blend of I don't know what. They pay people to grow their grass.

I saw a dead robin by my drive this morning.

The paper says wheat fields will produce sixty bushels to the acre. The Chamber of Commerce members are ecstatic. Sixty bushels means more dollars to spend in town this year. Some will be spent on the chemicals which make sixty bushels possible.

I haven't seen a jackrabbit in a couple of years.

In Walmart I overheard two salesclerks talking. Crows were mentioned by one which caused the other to shudder and aver that she hated those things. I asked why she hated nice old crows and she looked at me as if I was insane.

I've only seen one pair of orioles this season.

The black truck was in the neighborhood for the fourth time this spring. The sign says "Absolute Pest Control". They promise to kill weeds, insect and fungus which infest lawns. All my neighbors use them. The ones with the pretty yards.

There are not many honey bees this summer.

I drove by the anhydrous ammonia plant this morning. Columns of steam rose majestically against the blue background of the sky. I'm told the steam contains many chemicals. This is where sixty bushels to the acre are born.

I talked to a man dying of brain tumor who worked out there.

I walked the railroad track last week. When I was a kid trains set off grass fires from sparks from the wheels. No grass nor weeds grow on tracks now so we have no fires. All plants are chemically suppressed.

Sun whitened shells of box turtles litter the tracks.

My mother's breast cancer has cropped up again. The doctor gives her six months to live. There seems to be a lot more of that sort of thing these days. The treatments make her sick. She's been cut, burned and poisoned. Doctors call this treatment.

She won't be missing the orioles next year.

Sid Bridges

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

COYOTE

What reassuring delight
To see you there
Foraging, stalking
In the tall grass at the pond's edge
Tawny shag triangle ears
Kin of morning.
I, on my bike,
Turning from the smaller road
Onto the numbered route,
Bet no one else saw you
Set back by the fiendish distance of their cars
But there you were,
Still fighting to make us aware
Of another reality going on around us.

Jenny McBride

YOU MIGHT BE AN ALIEN

(with a tip of the hat to Jeff Foxworthy)

You might be an alien... if after attending the family reunion you wonder how the hell you could be related to "those people". Or if sometimes you're staring in the mirror and it seems there's some kind of stranger looking back!

Hell, you could be alien if flying through the air in those hollow metal tubes they call airliners seems natural to you. If you live in structures you didn't build, drive in vehicles you don't comprehend, and obey rules made by people you've never met. If you spend more time in those vehicles than you do walking. If you feel safer in freeway traffic than you do in the wilderness. I'll tell you, if the words "mobile" home make any sense to you—you're getting more alien all the time.

You're in the process of becoming extraterrestrial if it seems reasonable to watch people doing interesting things on TV instead of doing them yourself. Or if you find tupperware and artificial food coloring acceptable. If you're uncomfortable being alone. If being somewhere quiet enough to hear your own heart beat makes you afraid that something's wrong. If you see viruses as "enemies," illness as a humiliation, and death as a defeat.

If you prefer the smell of perfume or cologne to the smell of your own clean body. If you're okay with plastics but disgusted by blood. Or if when it starts to rain you run indoors to stay dry instead of rushing outdoors to play—you could be an alien.

There's a chance you're alien if evolution seems like an unnecessarily random process that humans dang sure ought to be able to improve on. If increasing the intelligence of our children through genetic engineering seems like a reasonable idea. If this country's "nuclear deterrent" makes you feel any safer at night. Or if you feel okay about radiating your food in a microwave oven.

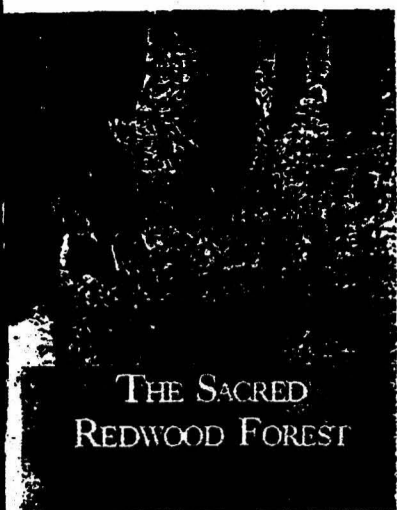
You could be an alien if how you feel matters less than how others feel about you. If the idea of surgically altering your body to make it look better seems like a sensible strategy. If you're able to sleep through the sound of distant sirens, dogs barking on the next block over, and the repeated clicking on and off of the electric fridge. If the wind agitates instead of invigorates you. If you're able to tolerate the feel of synthetic clothes on your back.

You're pretty much out there if you managed to ignore or somehow failed to notice the dozens of planes that pass overhead each and every hour. If you're unaware of which way is South, which plant and animal species are indigenous to your area, of which native peoples lived there before you. And you might be an alien if you tend to look to a power outside of—and separate from—your sacred self and this sacred Earth—for direction in your life....

Jesse Wolf Hardin

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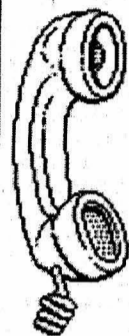
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 POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807
 (406) 728-0867; cmcr@wildrockies.org
 Earth First! Direct Action Fund
 POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516
 tel/fax (925) 376-7329

End Corporate Dominance
 HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830
 (541) 468-2028
 NE Forest Practices Campaign
 POB 4101, Portsmouth, NH 03802
 noreastah@acadia.net
 Warrior Poets Society
 PMB 361, 108 Student Union
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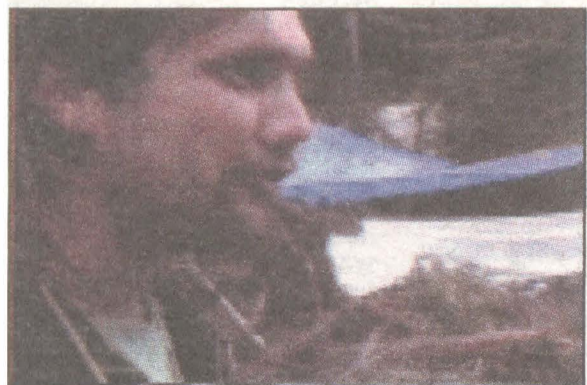
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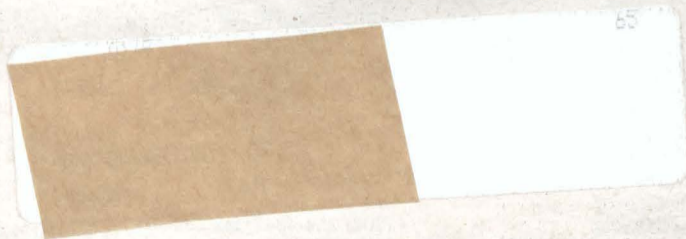
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Y'all might remember this guy from the November-December 1998 issue of the EF!J. Back then people knew him as Jason Hammel or John Glass. Well, the folks in British Columbia working on the Elaho campaign know him as David Farquar. This infiltrator/disrupter stole about \$5,000 from their campaign. He borrowed and maxed out a Visa credit card, claimed to be involved in Headwaters, house-sat and robbed the house, dropped names and was involved in Elaho's direct action campaign. He even offered to help people set up marijuana growing operations. If you see "David," let him know he's not welcome. Try to get a photo for publication.



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