



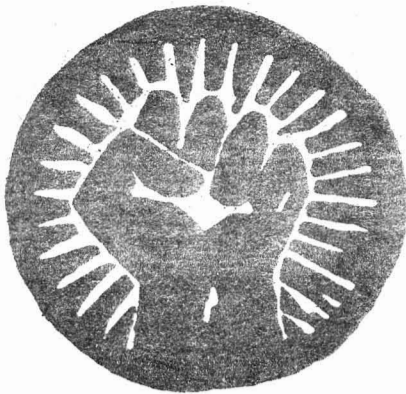
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Earth



First!

Beltain 1992

Vol. XII, No. V

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

May 1

THREE DOLLARS

JAMES BAY VICTORY

Anti-Dam Activists win one in New York

James Bay activists won a major victory on March 26 when New York State cancelled its contract to buy electricity from Hydro-Quebec. The cancellation deals a heavy, perhaps fatal, blow to HQ's dream of further destroying this great northern wilderness with more dams, dikes, airports, and reservoirs.

Hydro-Quebec has vowed to move forward and claims the cancellation will put its Great Whale project behind schedule "only by a year." However, losing New York's 20-year, \$19.5 billion contract makes it harder for HQ to find the loans it needs to continue.

In Phase 1, known as the La Grande River project, HQ flooded 5,000 square miles of wilderness, drowned 10,000 caribou in a single day, and released mercury which poisoned Cree natives and wildlife.

If HQ begins Phase 2, the Great Whale River project, ecosystems and watersheds near Hudson Bay will be attacked. Four rivers will be diverted, and an area the size of Rhode Island will be flooded.

Yet HQ still needs to sell \$9.5 billion of bonds to finance Great Whale, a task made even more difficult by the fact that HQ's long term debt is already \$30 billion. William Streeter, vice president of Moody's Investor Service, calls the size of HQ's debt "unprecedented."

12,000 Cree and 4,000 Inuit natives live in this remote territory where winters are long and cold, where dietary staples are fish, caribou and goose, where the land is a spirited part of each indigenous person. If HQ starts constructing Great Whale, the situation could get ugly. The Cree will likely

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Earth First! Takes Root in British Isles

While many Earth First!ers in North America may be surprised to hear and see our movement surge across the Atlantic and into the Isles, the presence of four EFlers from the States (Mike Mease, Alice DiMichele, Snaggletooth and myself) should in no way imply that our arrival was a US inspired plot to turn our British brothers and sisters into rabid, frothing wilderness freaks. Our cohorts in the Divided Kingdom figured it out all by themselves that British society needed to ingest a large dose of green fire. In addition, they sensed that the time was ripe for a feistier, more creative, less predictable environmental movement.

Essentially, the road-show was an attempt to support the efforts of Earth First! groups and activists in Britain by following up on links forged during the SOS Sarawak campaign to save Malaysian rainforests and Dayak tribal people.

We are pleased to report that the Earth First! movement in Britain is fast changing the staid face of environmentalism in this bastion of manicured industrialism.

Taking a trick or two from

continued on page 8

↳ hunt: primitiv / futurist EF! subsistence



BC "Wilderness" Group Offers Reward for Spiker

Walbran Valley, the British Colombian site of ongoing blockades and old growth forest defense, has been spiked. When seven timber fellers working for MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. went to work Monday, April 6th in the Botley Lake area of the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island, logger Ernie Calverley hit a 15 cm steel spike with his chainsaw. He was not injured. Thirty four more spikes were found in the area with metal detectors. The spikes were put into holes pre-drilled into the trees. "Walbran 300," the 13-

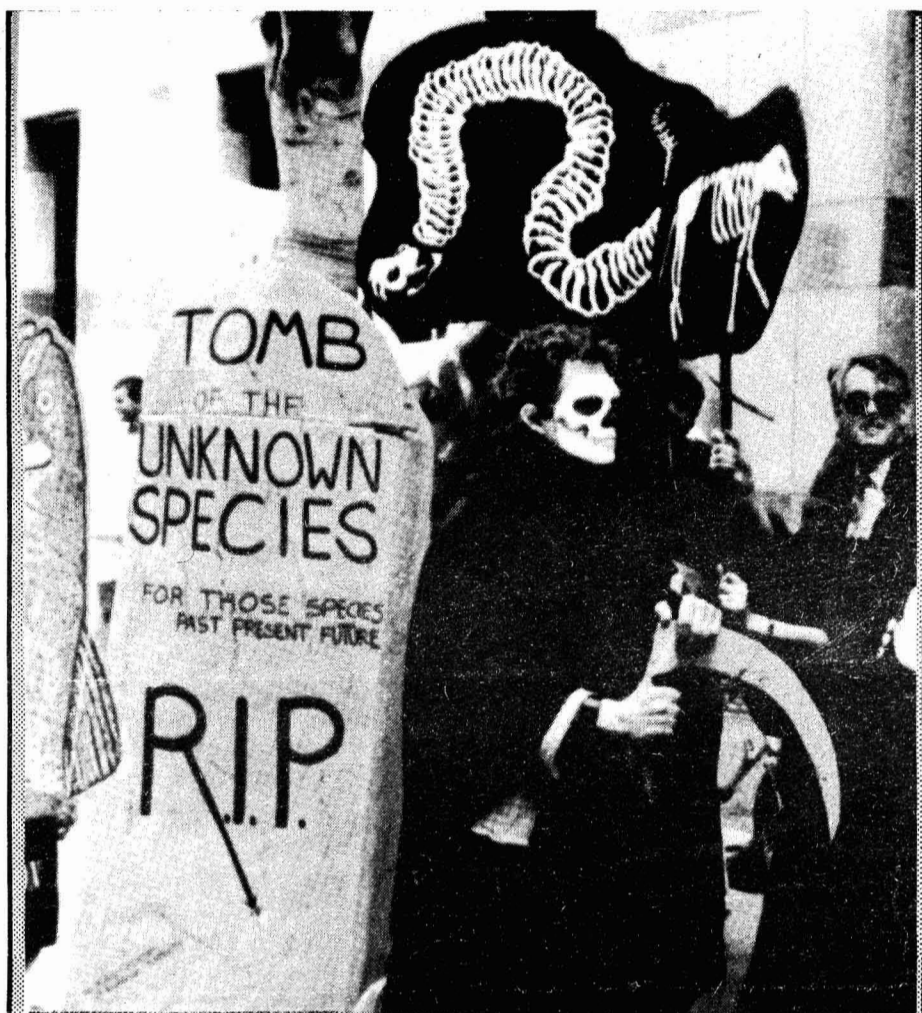


photo by Justin Lowe

Earth First! Day Of Outrage

full coverage inside

BUSH AXES FOREST APPEALS

US Forest Service Kowtows to White House-Dumps Appeal System

As a grand, flourishing tribute to the effectiveness of environmentalist groups in fighting Forest Service excess, the Freddies will eviscerate their own administrative appeals process in mid April. After scheming for decades to free themselves from the burden of public input, the FS has finally found the excuse they have been looking for: George Bush's State of the Union Address calls for the removal of regulatory impediments to economic progress.

Since adopting the appeal system in 1906, the FS has alternately spotlighted and obscured the wavering mirage of agency concern by tinkering with the general public's ability to appeal land management decisions made by the agency. In the last 15 years, the plodding growth of the agency's public relations ability and regulatory resourcefulness has been overtaken and far outstripped by the exponential growth of environmental outrage and justified hostility toward FS bungling. As a result, the

agency has nearly drowned in a sea of appeals and litigation. About the litigation, the Freddies can do nothing. Regarding appeals, the FS has two choices:

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- *DuPont Action
- *Peggy Sue McRae
- *Burma Teak War
- *ESA Moratorium
- *Round River Rendezvous

and more!

1/5 fact based = not true

EARTH FIRST!

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You may notice your Journal has come a few days later than usual; we held up production in order to include coverage of the International Day of Outrage actions. We also made a few changes this issue, some of them that you'll notice right off and some that you may not.

First, we've gone to a brighter, heavier recycled paper for the cover stock. This should help prevent some of the mangling that happens to your issue in the US Mail. In addition, we made some changes to the masthead. It will now be printed in green for reasons that we hope are obvious.

The biggest change is that our back cover has the addition of a new masthead, which magically transforms it into the front cover. This was a tough decision for us, as the back cover was originally kept low-key in order to protect the privacy of our subscribers who wished to receive their copies without nosy postal clerks or neighbors knowing about it. But over the years, we have printed many back covers that are unmistakably Earth First! with very few complaints. However, if you still want your Journal in a "plain brown wrapper" just up your subscription to the first class rate and we'll get it off to you in a recycled manilla envelope.

Our old newspaper format was very difficult to display on the type of

racks used by many environmental centers, bookshops, news stands and co-ops, which is precisely the kind of places where we want to be displayed, and where we get many new subscribers. The new design allows the Journal to be displayed vertically in a standard 8 1/2" by 11" magazine rack.

The other changes are editorial. At the Portland meeting, there were many concerns about the amount of space devoted to what many readers and activists saw as petty bickering, personal attacks on fellow activists, and plain old inflammatory nonsense. From now on, we will attempt to solve this problem through better communication, and through fairness and mutual respect.

Another editorial change is on this page. In the past, staff members have used this space for editorials. From now on, editorials and op-eds will appear on page three. So if you wish to write an editorial, or respond to one, by all means do so and send it in. This space will be used to inform you about what is going on with the Journal, any staff changes, and late breaking news.

Remember, if you're an Earth First!er, this is your newspaper, so use it! If you have any comments or suggestions, let us know.

With summer just around the bend, it's time for Earth First!ers to focus their collective energies towards those forest hotspots and other natural battlegrounds. Historically, summertime produces a large hatch of Earth First! nomads who band together in groups and seek out imperiled ecosystems. This summer will be no different as Earth First!ers travel to such public lands battlefields as the Siskiyou National Forest, the wildlands of Central Idaho, the San Juan Mountains, and the Walbran Valley on

Vancouver Island. In addition, we will be organizing the first action against the importation of tropical hardwood into a US port as part of Earth First!'s rainforest campaign. As per usual, there are no shortage of worthy campaigns in need of enthused activists.

As the Earth's native forests, be they tropical or temperate, enter the Nineties, H.M.S. Western Lifestyle is poised to strike at the last natural ecosystems capable of maintaining sizeable plant and animal communities. Earth First!ers can no longer afford to just work on protecting forests in their bioregion or country—we must publicize and support forest campaigns in Sarawak, New Guinea, Madagascar, Burma, Siberia, the Congo, the Amazon, Central America, Chile, Australia and Tasmania. Empower yourself and others by linking up with international environmental activists who are working to protect the last significant portions of the globe's green skin.

This is no time to pout or mourn the loss of forests gone by. It's time to take stronger forms of action that will earn us the respect we need to kick the Stone Containers out of Honduras, to abolish the US Forest Service for liquidating biodiversity, and to change anti-earth regimes in the U.S., Burma, Canada, Malaysia, etc... We in the Earth First! movement owe it to ourselves and to all the earth's lifeforms to keep our heads up and get mentally, physically and spiritually prepared to step onto the direct action battleground—wherever that might be this summer. Oh, and don't forget to have some fun cuz the spirit of our tribe responds to laughter, song and the camaraderie around the odd barrel or two. See ya'll at the Round River Rendezvous.

—JAKE JAGOFF AND NAGASAKI JOHNSON

EARTH FIRST!

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed, double spaced, and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Electronic submissions are even better, either on Macintosh disks or via Econet (send to "earthfirst"). Art or photographs (negatives are best, prints are good, and slides are so-so) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Please include explicit permission to reprint slides.

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SCHEDULE

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BELTAIN staff: Allison Slater—Maryland/Central New York; Erik Ryberg—Phoenix, AZ; Julia Roll—Albuquerque, NM; Mike Roselle—the man without a bioregion; Jake Jagoff—Missoula, MT; Dave Cole—London, England.

LITHA staff: Beverly Cherner—Bay Area California; Don Smith—Colorado; Julia Roll; Mike Roselle, Tim Bechtold and Allison Slater.

Beltain: March 24-May 3

The ancient Celts divided the year into two parts. The summer season began with Beltain on May eve and the winter season began with Samhain on October 31st. Beltain, meaning Bel-fire, was celebrated by extinguishing all fires and ritually kindling a new fire from which hearths were relit. Belenos and the Celtic sun and fire God is the diety honored at Beltain. Just as Eostar celebrates feminine fertility, Beltain celebrates the male aspect of fertility. With the Roman occupation of Britian came the five day celebration of Floralia, which was eventually integrated into existing Beltain celebrations. By the middle ages, every village in England celebrated Beltain with a maypole. Maypoles were outlawed in England and Wales in 1644 by the Puritan Long Parliament as, "A heathenish vanity, generally abused to superstition and wickedness." With the Suarts return to power in England, the maypole reappeared and May Day, or Beltain, festivities were again enjoyed. A perversion of the phallus worship aspect of Beltain is observed in some military-industrial societies by a prominent display of weaponry and military parades. For those of us with a more natural cultural orientation, it is recommended to bathe in morning dew, dance about the maypole and make love among the flowers.

—PEGGY SUE McCRAE



Huey Johnson on Hunting

Hunting → spirituality!
I am a hunter. I hunt for food and spiritual involvement with the earth. Therefore, I am bothered by the sudden opposition to hunting within Earth First! when Earth First!ers especially should be on my side.

Let me offer credentials on the matter. I have spent a lifetime struggling for environmental quality issues that led to millions of acres of wilderness being saved that wouldn't have been preserved otherwise, to at least five wild rivers being saved in permanence, to saving old growth forests and habitat for rare life forms in many places. I've had an effect on Mono Lake, the Tongass, the Sawtooths and other areas of relevance in my years.

One source for the energy that fuels my caring is the wilderness and wild places in general. And I go there to collect the meat I eat. I don't buy domestic meat with its chemical additives, I go out and hunt my own.

But let me present reasons why anti-hunting shouldn't be a principal Earth First! effort as it has become.

The first is freedom of choice: oppressing others invites having one's own ideas squelched, too.

To hunt is a choice that people have had to struggle for.

One of the issues in the formation of the US Constitution was that game belonged to the people, not the king. In England, a farmer had no right to take a deer and the king or his friends could come along at will and do so. Thus, the immigrants who came here and cared rebelled at that practice and saw to it that hunting was assured as a public activity and that unlike Europe, hunting on public lands remains public today and hopefully will be forever.

So for some in each generation, enjoying the freedom of being in the wilderness of coming back with a harvest from the 2.8 acres of public land that belongs to every American is a practical and spiritual activity that deserves to continue.

Hunting is a matter of choice, and needs to be defended. You may not choose to hunt, but your grandchildren may.

Anti-hunters weaken environmental efforts. I have no problem with organizations of anti-hunting groups standing up and

Moral duty - eat only meat I kill!
independently pursuing their own activities. There are abuses in hunting that could stand improvement and their voice could help. And I'm comfortable in debating the anti-hunters when they show up. But when they travel pretending they are part of other organizations, and threaten to co-opt and distract, I disagree. So it's time to explain why I hunt.

First, the stereotype of rednecks shooting out of truck windows is incorrect. Hunting is a way for urban dwellers to relate to the land. I am a meat eater and I know that the steak I buy comes from slaughterhouses. I feel an obligation to kill my own meat and as a hunter I only take things I will eat.



An ethic of caring is involved. I wouldn't kill a mountain lion or a coyote, and I work desperately to bring the wolf back to places it once roamed.

And I oppose practices like force feeding geese or imprisoning young calves their whole lives to make tender veal and am glad animal rights groups are active against animal suffering. I support and am part of many of these groups.

One reason I hunt is to retain some of those skills that have evolved over thousands of years of hunting. There is a required heightened awareness in the wild that a

hunter then, and to at least some degree now, has to have to be successful. For far longer than we've had modern devices like machines, the highest attribute has been the survival skill of hunting. A person today who has achieved great success—let's say with a Nobel Prize backed by an earlier Olympic Gold medal—was, several thousand years back the best hunter in his tribe.

There is a spiritual side to hunting. One can read about the ritual that primitive people used in hunting. To kill game was to receive a precious gift from the Minitou. As a modern hunter, I feel some of that. Waiting in the dark, in the wet silence of a marsh, watching for dawn, and listening for the first bird song stirs ancient wonderful feelings. I become part of nature's joyous response to a new day.

Preserving habitat is an activity that sets modern hunters apart from the past. Hunters are part of the thin green line known as the environmental movement. Where one could take, now we must give if hunting is to be part of the human experience. We learn that the game we seek is only there in huntable numbers if there is adequate landscape available for its home. So we must defend what is there and increase its habitat.

Successful hunting demands preparation. One must know the plants, tracks, bird songs, water information, the wind direction, the habits of the prey sought, the habits of its prey and skill with gun or bow. And the way I hunt requires a conditioned body. I need

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Earth First!

To whom it may concern, I'm 18 and I want to do something besides donate money from an easy chair. Point me in the direction of some threatened nature in need of a pissed off, crazy 200 pound monster and I'll do the rest. What's the story behind mokeywrenching, sounds like it's right up my alley. I want to protest in defence of my world and the unborn. I'm going to put a poem I wrote on here, if it is no good toss it out I won't cry. I seen Muir in the woods the other day and I bummed 50 cents off him so if you see him tell him I'll pay him back. "They" told me he was dead, bullshit I ain't seen no body. Well whatever. FIGHT THE POWER! And send me some info on joining your ranks.

—FERAL YOUTH

Shit fer Brains,

Several months ago, I let my subscription lapse in the midst of the Foreman (et. al.) divestiture. At the time, I vowed not to re-subscribe until learning what was to emerge from the rubble. In the interim, I feared the worst. I feared the Earth First! Journal would become little more than "feel-good" pap where no one's feelings were hurt. It was therefore with great relief that I read through a sample copy (Brigid 1992) and found much

of that hell-bent spirit still intact. Seeing the controversy over "A Hunting We Will Go" warmed my bureaucracy-weakened heart. EF! is still goring sacred cows! Being a city planner, I must constantly reign in my radical environmental tendencies to suit the demands of Big Brother. Sanity, therefore, depends on the existence of anarchistic groups such as EF! If nothing else, I can live vicariously through the Journal. Enclosed is my check for subscription renewal, which may only be cashed on the condition that "Dear Ned Ludd" (or equivalent) returns...

—D. NOZZO, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.

SFB;

No, WCWC isn't a logging corporation or a government agency. WCWC is the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. In the past I've considered them a middle of the road group but they have become worse than cold milk toast.

Recently spikes were found in the Walbran Valley. According to news reports a poultry 26 headless spikes were found. Some were placed at chainsaw level and no warning was given to McMillan-Bloedel (the logging scum), or to the press.

I can accept the fact that

WCWC cannot condone the spiking, and that they must distance themselves from it to keep themselves "respectable" in the community. But to give a \$1000 reward is outrageous! WCWC is in bed with the logging corporations.

You can send your letters of outrage and spikes to WCWC, 20 Water Street, Vancouver BC, Canada V6B 1A4.

—Anon

Dear Earth First!

Well the kids in Orange County, California are becoming very enthusiastic about Earth First! Ever since I came out with my first issue of the *Western Wolves InfoLetter* about 200 young people have confronted me and asked how they could join the EF! movement or they wanted a subscription to the newsletter.

On May 10th (Mother's Day) I had my first annual 'Love Your Mother' festival in which we gave out recent *InfoLetters*, selling food, and taking donations. The *InfoLetter* is planning many more events to get the message out in the most conservative county in the country.

For myself, I hope I can stay editor-in-chief of WWI. I admit it is hard to keep your grades up when you must write for a newsletter, edit it, print it, mail it, and organize activities. Luckily, a lot of the pressure has been taken off of a me, but I still have much to do.

Even though it's a local newsletter anybody anywhere may receive it free. Just write to us. The address is in the *Journal's* directory.

—MIKE SALTZ (THE NEXT GENERATION)

Dear SFB,

As we all know, one of the most important things any EFler can do is write letters to our political representatives or bureaucrats in the hope that by keeping them busy they will miss an

opportunity to fuck up another ecosystem. In the interest of informing your readers, I submit the following letter sent to Yellowstone National Park. They are planning to cram a few hundred more campsites into the already overcrowded, overdeveloped park.

As we all know, they skew the process so that truly visionary proposals go directly to the landfill, so the best we can usually hope to do is divert their attention for a few moments and cause them to pause before aiming for the shitcan.

This information will get to you all after the process is closed down, but again, if you feel strongly about things, it may slow the process a moment and allow the caldera to build to the proper tension. With the interest of subverting the dominant paradigm, I remain faithfully

Forever Wild,

—BOB KASPAR

Dear EF!J!

Hey! Canbrake EF!—good job, my friends! it is high time EF! made Anheuser-Busch eat some shit over Sea World. You neglected, however to mention where to send suggestions to the corporate villains responsible: August Busch III, 1 Busch Place, St. Louis, MO 63118. Now is the time for a Busch Boycott! Keep up the good work!

—A. MONTANA CETACEAN

Dear Poo-Poo Brains,

This is a letter the EF! editors asked me to write to let people, especially kids, know about KIDS for KONSERVATION. KIDS for KONSERVATION is a new movement. KIDS for KONSERVATION gets kids involved in the struggle to preserve what's left of our planet Earth. KfK shows kids they have power, more power than politicians and Earth rapers

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Tasmanian Activists Blockade Timber Train

BY FELIATY RUBY AND SIMON CORNGAU

Tasmania is the smallest state in Australia. It houses the largest redneck population as well as some of the most unique and endangered wildlife and wilderness on the globe. For these reasons, 35 bumbling but determined activists held up a train carrying logs from a northern old growth forest to a woodchipping mill. It is estimated that 30 million tonnes of timber is taken from Tasmanian forests per year and with the new liberal government (operating with a green balance of power) this will increase to 40-50 million tonnes. The majority of this is used for woodchipping, and the liberals intend to build three more chipping mills and no doubt will if they can push the Resource Security legislation through parliament. Resource Security was recently quashed by the ALP/Green government and was designed to guarantee 1,400,000 hectares of forest for woodchipping. This represents all of Tasmania's forests that are not national park and means that no public consultation is necessary.

The remeeting of the activists from a wide variety of organisations along the train line chatting quietly to the ring of possum shooters was a far cry from the hippy trippy environment of the Jacky's March Forest Festival (a celebrated victory of a previous campaign). The Forest Festival was held during the State elections and whatever the outcome of the campaign for the Greens, it was considered a good strategy to warn the government and the Tasmanian electorate of the Green capacity for action. The train rumoured to come through at 9 am did not come through until 8 am

the next day. And so armed with the tenacity that Tassies bushrangers have, the train was halted amid cries of, "Oh no, this is a freight train," ...but it wasn't. Not only were there six carriages of freshly carved wilderness bleeding from ecological carnage, but shipments of the insecticide Caludane, bound for Malaysia's ecomparasites. Caludane is used in the treatment of wood prior to chipping, has been banned in the US since 1969, and can be found in the food chain all around the world due to its widespread use. This chemical affects the central nervous system and was just one of the damaging pieces of information that the action uncovered. It was manufactured in Korea and did a stop-over in Tasmania. During the hold-up, the Toxic Substance Emergency Service inspected the cargo because of questions begged by the action.

Activists stood in front of the train passing out press releases to the drivers, who were supportive, while other protesters crawled up on the logs and hung banners which read, "No Clearfelling Heritage Forests, Save the Old Growth, Earth First!", "End of the Line for the Forestry Commission," "Forestry=450 million debt for State," "National Estates Forests: 32 Scheduled for Logging this Summer," "Resource Security = Destroyed Forests," and "Passengers not Pulp."

A tripod was set up over one of the carriages upon which a protester perched. One woman krypto locked herself by the neck to a timber carriage and stayed there for four hours a fter which the protesters left satisfied that their message was conveyed to the media and the TasRail representatives that arrived.

TasRail is completely geared to industry. There is no passenger service at all in Tasmania, therefore the trains run to no timetable except for the continuous call of the corporate monster.

The tradition of the Australian bushranger was built upon by the protesters who all wore Ned Kelly masks which read Bushrangers Need Bush. American versions of Ned Kelly are Billy the Kid or Jesse James. The anti police state mentality which is typified by the bushranger was appropriate for this action with regards both to the police brutality at recent protests in this country and to the need for activists to "hold up" the crime that is taking place in the Australian bush. The imperialist desecration of forests and culture is still going on today and is therefore an appropriate metaphor to call upon. Ned Kelly symbolises to Australians the rebellion against a system built upon convict slave labour into the glorification of the destructive masculinist mentality, the history of which goes back 204 years.

The protest provided a visual and humorous image for the media cameras and was peaceful and theatrical although it was painted by the mainstream environment movement as a terrorist act. All the familiar accusations from the forestry commission regarding tree



spiking and property sabotage unfolded. The typical response from the Wilderness Society came from Geoff Law who stated, "My movement does not condone the behaviours and the alleged threats made by the protesters who hijacked a TasRail train for four hours...We do not support that style of campaigning. It is detrimental to our cause...in the nine years of forest protest in Tasmania, physical intimidation of this type was not used by environmentalists."

The lengths to which the Wilderness Society was prepared to go to alienate themselves from us show where their real loyalties lie, especially considering that the action was totally peaceful. They endeavour to dilute the ecology movement by claiming to be its true voice and then engage with the enemy in the same language, use the same forums and validate the authority of the government by

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Earth Night News

Logging Equipment Burned in Washington

Two log loaders were burned in Whatcom County, Washington. The first fire, on March 9, was in the Schrieblers Meadow area near Baker Lake, causing \$100,000 in damage. The second, March 23, was in a logging site on Galbraith mountain, between Lake Samish and Lake Whatcom, causing \$225,000 in damage.

—SOURCE: THE BELLINGHAM HERALD



They're Burning Loaders in Florida Too!

A shear, which cuts trees, two skidders and a loader were burned on a site where 60 acres of pine trees were being cut in Samsula, Florida on March 30. The *Orlando Sentinel* reported officials' damage estimate at \$215,000 worth of equipment and \$4,000 worth of timber destroyed. The president of Griffin Timber Company said the uninsured equipment will cost \$450,000 to \$480,000 to replace. They said no employees would lose their jobs. The local television news reported \$500,000 worth of damage and claimed 12 loggers were unemployed because of the arson. This marks a deep level of opposition in Florida which can no longer be restrained, and which is no longer willing to compromise away habitat to timber companies. This is very likely only the beginning!

Poachers' Huts Dismantled in Greek Wetlands

On January 31st, 35 members of EFAP (a Greek anti-hunting initiative) destroyed many illegally constructed hunting huts in the wetland of Malliankos, near the city of Laria in Central Greece. The huts made of wood were constructed on public lands in the nesting site of birds in a biotope which is included in the Ramsar Convention. Before the destruction, which we consider an act of eco-defense, EFAP had many times officially asked the Ministry of Agriculture and the Prefecture of Lamia to demolish the buildings. It should also be noted that many swans and eagles were shot down recently in the wetland of Maliakos which is a very important biotope for the last remaining *Albicilla heliaetus*.

—SOURCE: ECO-NEWS

New York Fire Lookout Tower Topped in Wilderness Area

The last fire lookout tower in a New York State wilderness area met its demise when its legs were hacksawed on the National Day/Night of Outrage. The tower was in the Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area.

Originally the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation called for the removal of all the look-out towers. But the removal of the Pharoah Lake Tower which was built in 1909 was put on hold pending historical study after outcries from local Wise-Use advocates who liked to have beer-drinking, bottle-throwing parties in the wilderness.

—SOURCE: BIODIVERSITY LIBERATION FRONT EF!

VICTORY

Burma's Forests Fall Victim to War

BY ROD HARBINSON

Burma is in a state of civil war. It is a conflict which is putting grievous pressures on the innocent people and natural resources of the country.

In its bid to cling on to power, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has taken to exploiting the country's rich resources as a means of earning foreign currency, which it uses to modernise and expand the armed forces in order to fight its own people.

In September 1988, student pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon were viciously crushed by the military. Over a thousand were shot in the streets and many more in the ensuing clampdown. After the massacre, General Ne Win, who seized control in 1962, stepped behind the scenes by symbolically handing power to the State Law and Order Restoration Council, led by General Saw Muang.

In August 1991, the SLORC received the first delivery of a (US)\$1.4 billion arms deal made with China. Since the regime does not possess this amount of cash it would appear that the majority was on credit pending the exploitation

of oil concessions given in 1989.

In 1989, ten companies paid \$5 million for exploration rights, including Croft Exploration, Premier Oil and Kirkland Resources from Britain and Anglo-Dutch Shell, BHP Australia, Petro-Canada, Unocal and Amoco from the US and Japan's Idemitsu. All have promised large investment in the future.

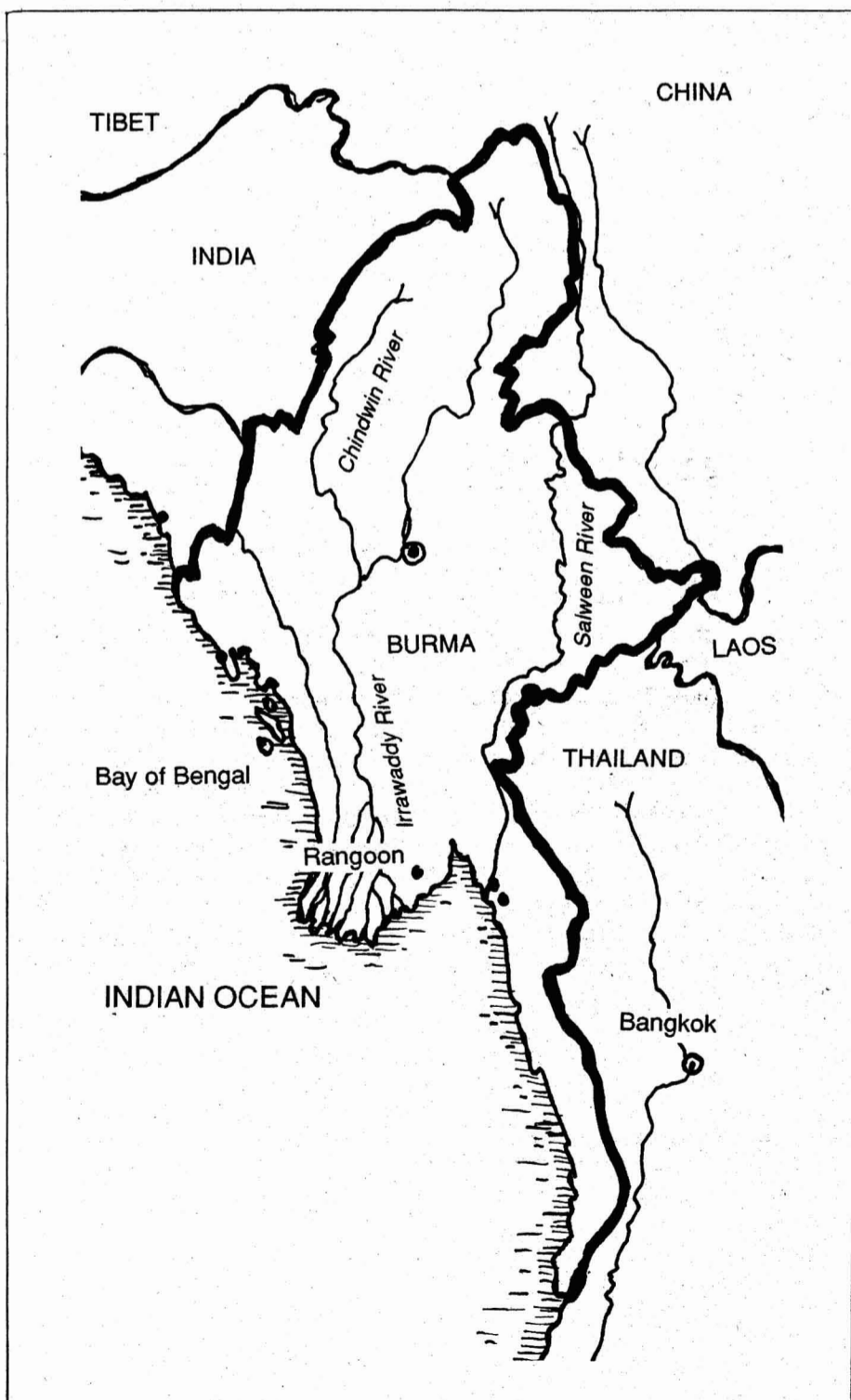
Reports from intelligence and financial sources, however, indicate that \$400 million in cash was paid for the military equipment but that the debit did not figure on Burma's known balance, which remains less than the stated figure. Mounting evidence suggests that the cash came from illicit trade in opium.

A further 60% of the arms bill is to be met through cross border trade and in May 1991 Burma and China signed an agreement to build two bridges over a border river to facilitate the outward flow of resources. Observers in the field have noted recent Chinese logging activities along the north-eastern border, thus putting further pressure on Burma's disappearing forests.

The Karen are the largest of many tribal groups who inhabit the densely forested mountain regions



Logged Thai Teak concession in Burma, being cleared for cultivation by the Karen.



of Burma's periphery. The older generation is still bitter about being sold out by the withdrawing British who, with independence, had promised the Karen their own state. The Karen have been fighting for this autonomy until recently.

The SLORC is keen to aggravate quarrels between tribes over control of the lucrative opium trade. Though denouncing their involvement publicly, they are also known to be a major player in the deadly trade and have been busy cultivating their own narcotics warlords.

International criticism for involvement in the expanding opium trade, coupled with concern over human rights abuses, has led many countries to scale down or stop their aid programmes. However, the SLORC has had some success in waging a deceptive public relations campaign which highlights a commitment to opium eradication and sustainable forestry.

Unfortunately, several UN aid agencies have been taken in by these bogus stunts and continue significant funding to these programmes. In July 1991, the United Nations Development Programme handed over \$1.3 million, the latest payment of a \$17.5 million "Border Development Project" grant earmarked for infrastructure and opium replacement in the Shan state. A further \$680,000 was promised for unspecified environmental projects.

Local resistance leaders are under no illusion as to the threat this poses. Thrush spray aircraft using 2-4-D herbicide were previously supplied by the US for opium eradication but were used instead on villagers, helpless under the poisoned mist.

Most of the UN Development Programme has been earmarked for roadbuilding without consultation with the tribal occupants of the land. Roads into the hills are feared, as they would allow transport of new heavy weapons into the previously unconquered tribal areas. I walked about 80 km into Burma, and apart from a solitary logging track stretching 40 km in from the Thai border, there were only paths. The terrain is a valuable defense for the democracy forces. Since the current spate of government offenses started in 1983, the military have had to withdraw before the wet season monsoon, allowing a

continued on page 34

The UK Burma Campaign

Rod Harbinson is working on a Burma Campaign in the United Kingdom. While in Burma, he learned that the jungle headquarters of the democracy forces has a university and several eager environmental groups. They are starved for resources, so the Burma Campaign is helping to set up an Environmental Resource Center to spread environmental awareness amongst the people. Please send books, magazines and videos to Lea Valley EF, POB 2573 London N16 6HN. There is also a boycott of all tropical hardwoods (teak, mahogany, rosewood). So stop buying jewellery boxes and pipes made out of these trees!



SALT LAKE CITY

Day of Outrage

BY KAREN PICKETT

"They've been gone for a while but now they're back", said the news channel in Oregon. Back, like a Freddie Kruger nightmare for the Forest Service..... Not only in Oregon, but in Tennessee, Vermont, Florida, New Mexico, Georgia, Washington, Kentucky, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Washington DC, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The Earth First! Day of Outrage against the US Forest Service honoring John Muir on his 154th birthday.....April 21.... saw at least 30 Earth First! actions at Forest Dis-service locations around the country in those 18 states named.

Many actions spotlighted burning issues of the region: Animal Damage Control in New Mexico, Green Mountain National Forest in New England, the all out attack on roadless areas in the Siskiyou, slash burning in Tahoe National Forest in California (Chokey the Bear made an appearance), trading the Shawnee Forest for pallets in Illinois, etc., but there were common themes that tied all the actions together. The unifying messages on a national level were the extinction and extirpation of species and ecosystems on public lands in the US, and that the US Forest Service has become an outlaw agency operating out of control, quashing both internal dissent and eliminating avenues for public input. Those messages were brought out as Freddie's everywhere were harangued as guerilla theater spilled in to the streets. Woodchips, sawdust, and cowpies piled up on sidewalks and in the offices, bringing the remnant byproducts of their management techniques home to their air-conditioned offices.

Here are some highlights:

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Protest on Peachtree (Thanks to Bunnie Rabid). The Region 8 H.Q. on Atlanta's most famous thoroughfare, Peachtree St., was an opportune forum for exposing Forest Service corruption, as Atlanta's lunchtime crowds gawked at 30 plus protesters holding a 46ft. banner stating "Environmental Assessment of the Forest Service: Finding of No Significant Integrity", in the pouring rain.

Page 6 Earth First! Beltain 1992

A grim Freddie reaper chased animals and trees up and down the sidewalk as chants rang out. A highlight of the event was when a 10 year old local read a letter he had written expressing dismay at FS propaganda displayed at his school. "Are you asking us to protect our forests so you can sell them to loggers?" he asked.

SOUTHERN OREGON: As the kickoff to an ongoing restoration project, Oregon Earth First! began work on reopening the neglected, historic Burnt Ridge Trail while demanding the closure of the Burnt Ridge Road. The road was constructed solely for logging purposes in the North Kalmiopsis Wildland Area, destroying the original trail in the process. The closing of the road and the opening of the trail is in preparation for a "Walk for the Kalmiopsis Wildlands" planned for later this summer to show support for the protection of the roadless character of the North Kalmiopsis, some of whose last large roadless areas are now under Forest Service attack.

A Universalist-Unitarian group also staged a Day of Outrage event at the Forest Supervisor's office in nearby Grants Pass.

VERMONT: (Thanks to Maine EF! and Biodiversity Liberation Front EF!). EF!ers from Maine, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont and



VERMONT

photo by Orin Langelle

the Wild Rockies swarmed to the Rutland HQ of the Green Mountain National Forest. The protest started with banners hung on the federal building and a birthday ceremony for John Muir. Speakers announced to the public the atrocities committed against biodiversity and ecosystems by the USFS, and then went in, with the rest of the contingent in tow to see the Forest Supervisor. Outside, EF!ers ceremoniously planted a tree as a symbol of their attempt to preserve life in the forests, and a grizzly in human costume lowered the American flag to half mast in honor of all the critters and habitat being slaughtered by the USFS practices.

TUSCON, ARIZONA: Arizona Earth First! demonstrated at the Coronado National Forest HQ. Forest Supervisor Jim Abbott was cited for his pandering to wealthy ranching, mining and development interests, and for his violation of national environmental protection laws. AZ EF! also called for an end to further development of Southern

Arizona's precious sky-island mountain ecosystems, and an end to destructive mining projects and livestock grazing on public lands.

WASHINGTON DC: DC's demo at the Dept. of Agriculture, the National USFS Headquarters, drew participants from a variety of organizations and orientations. At least 75 people, undeterred by pouring rain, chanted, hung banners, dumped two truckloads of stumps and logs, staged guerilla theater, and made their presence known in the lair of Chief Freddy F. Dale Roberston.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW

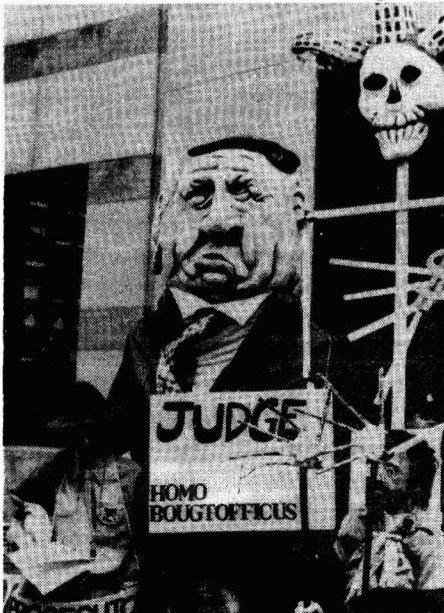


ATLANTA

photo by Robert Hoyt

MEXICO: At least 45 protesters converged on the Cibola National Forest office and the Animal Damage Control Office to demand an end to ADC activities on public lands. About 30 EF!ers then marched to Region 3 Headquarters in Albuquerque where some met with acting Deputy Regional Forester Briggs. A number of protesters were in full camo carrying various tools, putting forth the question: "Without the appeals, how are we going to participate in the process, hmmm?"

NORTH CAROLINA: In yet another rainy but spirited demo, about 50 people from Southern Appalachian Earth First! and SouthPAW gathered outside the FS office in Asheville on the 21st. They paid tribute to John Muir by reading some of his poems, singing songs, and then created a forum whereby participants could come forward and state specific outrages committed by the FS. They listed, among other aberrations, continued logging of critical areas in the southern Appalachians, such as the old growth Sugar Maple forest on the Pisgah NF and the Cheoah Bald Roadless Area on the Nantahala NF. A SouthPAW rep described how the FS in North Carolina continues to conduct widespread logging operations based on the out-dated Pisgah/Nantahala Forest Plan even though FS employees concede the old plan is ecologically inadequate. They then outlined the SouthPAW Alternative for these forests—a proposal that would eliminate below cost timber sales, clearcutting and



SAN FRANCISCO photo by Justin Lowe

roadbuilding on the public forest. The proposal would protect the forest as part of an interconnected series of ecological reserves with the other National Forests in the Southern Appalachians and the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

KENTUCKY: The Day of Outrage protestors actually managed to close down the Forest Service office in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The Freddie's voluntarily closed the office because they felt "threatened" by the ten Earth First!ers who sang songs and cut a birthday cake in honor of John Muir.

IDAHO: Wild Rockies Earth

First! decided to focus on the office for the Nez Perce National Forest where a huge clearcutting and roadbuilding project is planned for the roadless Mallard/Cove area. Thirty or so people from Montana, Washington and Idaho climbed on the roof of the supervisor's office, armed with wooden swords and banners.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: In the Bay Area at the Region 5 Headquarters, about 200 howling demonstrators held a press conference with Karen Pickett and Randy Hayes from the Rainforest Action Network, who then entertained the Freddie's and the many cops present with a theatrical tribunal of endangered species. A mirror-sunglassed Freddie prosecutor, guided by the huge hand of a looming judge (Homo Botofficus) standing about 9 feet tall (chin alone was a foot-long and drooping), put species after species on trial for crimes against progress and profits. As the marbled murrelet, Pacific yew, salmon, griz, spotted owl, et. al. came up before this duo, the gavel was slammed down, passing a sentence of death by habitat annihilation (King Salmon was easily found guilty of the heinous crime of spawning on public land, the griz of wandering beyond borders.) As the roar of the chainsaw echoed through the financial district's high rises, a somewhat moral ending to the skit emerged as "Old Growth", embodied in a huge being with trees for hands and a salamander for a chin stopped the chainsaw's whine and read them the riot act. Appropriate time for dumping of woodchips and cowpies? Hmmm, yes... except that the truck carrying the agency's byproducts breaks down in the middle of the street and cops and protesters have to push it winding through traffic....Anyway, most of the slash pile found its way to the brass frame doorway.

These are but a few reports and photos of Day of Outrage happenings. Next issue of the Journal we'll include more reports from the field and an analysis of the relative success of the action.

At any rate, the Day of Outrage proves that reports of our demise are greatly exaggerated, and Earth First! is alive and kicking!

USFS to Do Away With Appeals Process, cont...

continued from page 1

remove the root causes of the appeals by starting to obey its own regulations and environmental law, or dump the administrative appeal process and hunker down in its bunker to wait for the inevitable onslaught of lawsuits. Regrettably, the FS has chosen the latter.

Here are some of the highlights of the proposed Forest Service Plan, which will (barring some form of catastrophic governmental collapse) go into effect in June:

1) The public will not be allowed to appeal FS decisions based upon environmental assessments or environmental impact statements.

2) The Freddie's will allow a formal 30-day comment period after they have issued an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact on a particular project. This feature is designed to make the public put all of their cards on the table, while allowing the Freddie's to keep most of theirs held firmly under their nose.

3) At the end of a 30-day comment period, the FS will make a decision to a) take more time to think about the comments, b) go back and redo part of the environmental assessment, or c) make a decision to go ahead with one of the alternatives listed in the environmental assessment. The FS can start

building or cutting 21 days after the decision is signed.

4) There will be no change in commenting on those projects which require a full-blown environmental impact statement. The public will still be allowed formal com-



ment on draft EISs, but the ability to appeal final EISs will be revoked.

5) Appeals will still be allowed for forest plans and significant (in their words) forest plan amendments. However, appeal regulations will continue to forbid forest plan implementation to be blocked by stays of activity.

These rule changes all amount

to an effective extraction of the few teeth of the current appeal system. When the new rules start, there will be no way outside of a court injunction to stop any Forest Service project once the Freddie's have gotten it into their heads that they want to build a road or cut down a timber stand.

To introduce and rationalize the new rules, the FS has issued a 33 page document which defines in no uncertain terms the justification of the changes. The new rules are to "contribute to economic growth, have a positive effect on jobs,...(and) meet the nation's demands for products and amenities." Nowhere in the document is any mention of the possibility that the agency's own ineptitude and corruption may have contributed to its current operational difficulties. There is

no cogent analysis of the so-called frivolous appeal problem and no indication of how the agency may have been shaped for the better by the current appeal process. Instead, the document draws clear battle lines: the Forest Service policy of commodity production is on one side, and environmental groups, environmental legislation, and the

environment itself are on the other. By abolishing the appeals process, the FS has removed all intra-agency impetus to conform to environmental law. All such conformance will ultimately be imposed from outside of the agency in the future.

The long-term effects of the rule changes are predictable and regrettable. The FS will be hauled off to court more and more frequently, where it is likely to continue its astonishingly wretched record of losses to environmental concerns. Instead of diverting large amounts of agency time and money from the old appeals process to a newly invigorated concern for public input, the Freddie's will siphon ever larger amounts of cash to lawyers. Unfortunately, environmental groups will likely be forced to do the same. Fortunately, direct action, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience are not under the purview of Freddie regulation, and will continue to serve as the main tools of those wishing to prod the Forest Service into compliance with environmental legislation and ecological sanity.

BY BILL HASKINS AND TIM BECHTOLD

Reprinted from the Wild Rockies Review. Tim and Bill both used to file lots of appeals. They teach a graduate class on public process at the University of Montana.

Bush Orders a 90 Day Halt on Endangered Species Listings Biodiversity Legal Foundation Challenges Moratorium

BY JASPER CARLTON

A lawsuit filed April 2nd seeks to force the federal government to continue adding animal and plant species to the list of those protected under the Endangered Species Act

despite President George Bush's 90-day moratorium on rule-making.



Peregrine falcon

The suit, filed in the United States District for the District of Columbia, names as defendants Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and John Turner, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the two federal officials charged with protecting animal and plant species that face an imminent risk of extinction.

Jasper Carlton, lead plaintiff in the case and founder of the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, asserts that the rulemaking moratorium has resulted in a dangerous halt to the process of listing species as endangered or threatened and thereby entitling them to federal protection. "More than 600 species

and subspecies have been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as warranting immediate protection under the Endangered Species Act, which may now be destroyed with impunity," Carlton stated. "It is unbelievable that the President's moratorium should halt a process that is already unacceptably slow."

On January 28, President Bush issued a memorandum to the heads of federal agencies and departments which stated that each "agency should refrain from issuing any proposed or final rule" during a 90-day period. Although the Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared final listing rules for at least 11 species threatened with extinction, waivers from the 90-day moratorium have not been issued. The imperiled species—two fish species found in the Southeast, three Florida plants, five Puerto Rican trees and shrubs, and a snail located in Utah that requires

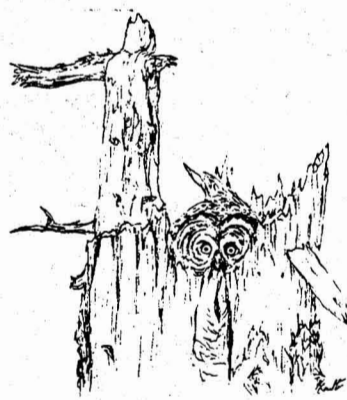


Karen Coulter

an emergency listing—cannot receive protection until the final listing rules are published in the Federal Register.

"The situation is perilous," notes Jasper Carlton. "Even if Fish and Wildlife continues to list only 40 to 50 species per year, it will take 12 years to list the 600 species which the agency has identified as deserving protection. At least 34 animal and plant species have become extinct while waiting to receive the protections of the Act. That number could drastically increase. This serious bureaucratic footdragging is also allowing other federal agencies to abrogate their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. The development activities of agencies such as the US Forest Service continue to fragment, degrade and destroy the essential habitat of dozens of biologically threatened and endangered species that would otherwise not be allowed if these species were listed."

In addition to Jasper Carlton of the Biodiversity Legal Foundation and the Fund for Animals, a na-



Nesting Great gray owl

tional animal protection organization, plaintiffs include In Defense of Endangered Species, a conservation organization headquartered in Ohio; and conservationists Keith Hammer of Montana; Joanne Duffey of Florida; Edward W Mudd, Jr. of Alabama; Andrew Wiesburd of Illinois; David Hogan of California; Julia

Fonseca of Arizona; and Mitch Friedman of Washington.

According to Erid Glitzenstein, the plaintiffs' attorney, the lawsuit is the first challenge to the legality of the President's moratorium.

Glitzenstein said that the plaintiffs are seeking an emergency injunction against application of the moratorium to the listing process and will press for a hearing as soon as possible.

Jasper Carlton founded the Biodiversity Legal Foundation.



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the Merry Pranksters, our entourage of ecoruckers crisscrossed Scottish and English universities, town halls, pubs, households and chip shops of the British Isles.

For two activists from Montana, it's a bit hard to measure the impact of an Earth First! roadshow in a region largely devoid of wildlands and wildlife. In retrospect, we feel the roadshow accomplished three things. First, we reckon the most telling success of the tour was our ability to show how and why Earth First! is effective: Direct Action! Without a doubt, the roadshow enabled UK Earth First! to entice many frustrated environmental and social activists into the realm of direct action in defense of plants and animals, ecosystems and native peoples. Secondly, it enabled us to connect with different kinds of activists on many urban and social-oriented ecological issues facing European environmentalists.

Lastly, the roadshow helped to dispel the notions of Earth First!ers being ecofascists engaged in an elitist conspiracy to rid the planet of starving Africans, AIDS virus carriers and political refugees.

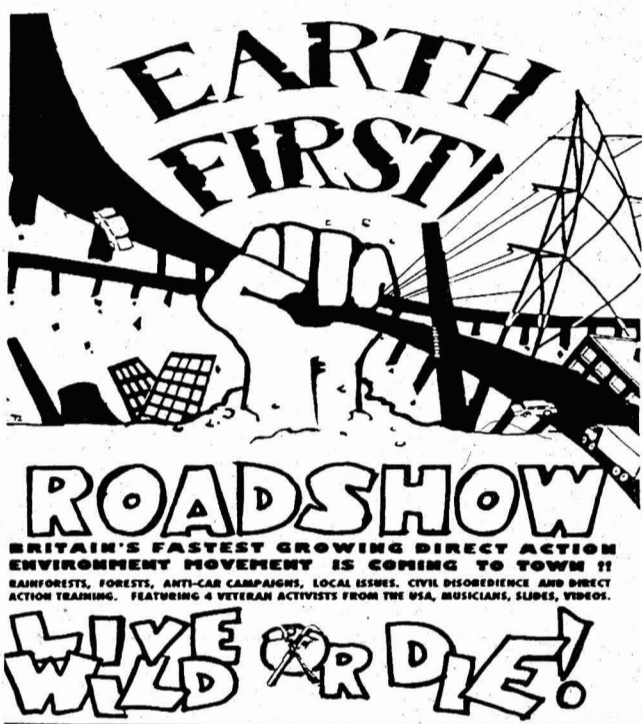
After spending a few days in London undergoing shock therapy, making final preparations and putting the show together, we travelled to Liverpool for our first gig. Despite opening night jitters, the show went well thanks in large part to the work of our Merseyside EF! organizers, Dr. Richard Morris and Simon "the Cosmic Voyager" Mansfield. The following day we hung a banner off of Bridgewater Paper's water tower alerting passing motorists to the activities of their parent company—Stone Container Corp. — in Honduras where they planned to woodchip the forests of the Mosquito Coast. With one show and one action down, we made the long drive north to Scotland where we did shows in Glasgow and Edinburgh. We received good old fashioned Scottish hospitality in both cities and between the school presentations, evening shows and late night revelry, we managed to cultivate excellent ties with our Celtic siblings. In particular, we hit it off with our hosts in Glasgow — the Scottish Tree Trust — with whom we look forward to working with in the future.

After Scotland, the roadshow hit several English towns and cities in the North (Lancaster, Durham, Sheffield, Manchester and Leicester) where we continued to give our audiences a two hour crash course in Earth First! philosophy, campaigns and tactics. We also continued to beat the drum for the upcoming action at the Liverpool shipyards. In part due to new found awareness about the destructive effects of the tropical timber industry and in part due to Earth First!'s brand of direct action campaigning, the roadshow helped channel local and national support for an end to the importation of tropical hardwoods into a massive protest at the Liverpool docks. Through each of our first nine shows, we conveyed the need for the people of the United Kingdom to make rainforest imports a national issue.

After the Liverpool ship action, the tour rolled on through the green but yet dreary English coun-

tryside with a new sense of energy and purpose. At our presentations in Bristol, Glastonbury, and Plymouth, we highlighted how the action in Liverpool proved that people can place direct pressure on companies engaged in and governments facilitating the assault on the earth's native forests. While we were in Plymouth, we had the op-

portunity to deal with the fascist baggage left by Foreman and Cactus Ed, but over in Europe where people take their politics very seriously. AIDS and starving Africans are not issues to use to win friends to the radical voice of the green movement. Internationally, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere, if the EF! movement is going to make any significant inroads we must become smarter and more sensitive when expressing ecological concerns to socially-oriented activists. This doesn't mean we water down our philosophy or actions, it merely means that we don't offend them before we approach them to work with us.



- Liverpool
- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Lancaster
- Durham
- Sheffield
- Manchester
- Leicester
- Oxford
- Bristol
- Glastonbury
- Plymouth
- Reading
- Cambridge
- Norwich
- Brighton

Things heated up for us considerably when we arrived in Reading and confronted a group active with Third World issues who felt our philosophy of "deep ecology" smacked of eco-fascism. Before we were allowed to proceed with the show, they insisted on asking us the following questions to convince them of our social integrity. These questions ranged from, "Do we believe Aids is a good thing?" to "Do we support emergency food aid?" to "Do we support sanctuary for political refugees?" After answering these questions properly, the show proceeded and proved to be one of our best and most lively including an excellent discussion afterwards between the ecological and social activists.

The UK EF!ers were more

Based on our conversations with the folks in Reading, nobody objected to our actions, campaigns or even tactics. In fact, they expressed their admiration and respect for the steps we've taken. Their reservations centered on past statements and articles in the EF! Journal and surprisingly to the philosophy of "deep ecology." The following was printed in a flyer passed out at the event:

The movement's founders and their ideologues subscribe to a philosophy called "deep ecology." This states that the human race as a species is responsible for the ecological problems we face—that it is some kind of malignant product of unnatural evolution. They apparently believe that all humans—

Had to overcome fascist baggage from Foreman + Abbey!

Jake Jagoff's UK Roadshow Journal

black and white, women and men, Third World and First, poor and rich, exploiter and exploited— are equally responsible for our current state of near catastrophe. They advocate "population control" to solve our problems. But which parts of the population do they want to see "controlled?" and how? and by whom?

It goes on to say that Earth First!ers or the theorists of "deep ecology" don't believe in decentralization, a non-hierarchical society, local autonomy, mutual aid, communalism or even straightforward humanity. Obviously, the writer(s) have never been to an EF! rendezvous or hung out with very many EF! groups. It is a further insult to EF!ers to read that, "The racist, sexist and anti-human philosophy of deep ecology smells of concentration camps, survivalism and fascist psychosis." Nothing could be further from the truth!

As we explained to our hosts in Reading, we let our actions define the finer points of our philosophy. We do not advocate violence towards any living being, human or otherwise, but we also feel that the five and half billion people living on the earth, be they rich or poor or black or white, are squeezing plants and animals and all that is natural off the planet. They couldn't argue with that.

One of the most refreshing aspects of the UK Roadshow was the willingness of our Pommy EF!ers to attack the Car Culture. UK EF!ers have initiated a campaign that has sent a clear message to motorhead management: the car empire's day are numbered. So far, EF!ers have reclaimed the streets by blockading roads with banners, bodies, and bicycles. Earth First! and Carmageddon activists were at the official opening of the Dartford Bridge across the Thames in East London attempting to disrupt the ceremonies and highlight the folly of the road lobby and the Department of Transportation. The extension of the M3 motorway through Twyford Down, Hampshire has evolved into a full-fledged EF! Carmageddon campaign; Earth First!ers chained themselves to heavy equipment engaged in destroying two ancient monuments, two Sites of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

During my last day in England, Mike Meese and I went down to Twyford and watched a water meadow get decimated. We also participated in a mass encirclement of a bulldozer and backhoe tearing down trees and excavating. The amazing thing was that most of the people who went over the fence and surrounded the machines were local conservative Tories (you know the kind of people who voted for Thatcher and would have voted for Reagan) that had watched Friends of the Earth and the Twyford Down Association play paddy cake with the Dept. of Transport and assorted politicians. They were ready to follow the EF! lead and physically intervene illustrating again that people from all walks of life sense the need for stronger forms of action. Besides widespread civil disobedience, some monkeywrenching has been reported and though much of the

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THE RETURN

Meditations on Rendezvous

BY LONE WOLF CIRCLES

"Rendezvous": from the old French "Present Yourself!"

The word rendezvous entered into the lexicon of this continent in the 1830's. People seeking fortune and adventure, running from the law, or simply too wild to accept the restraints of French or American urban society, pushed deep into the interior of the mountains of North America. They were trappers; either "company men" or "free men," and their currency was fur.

The "mountain man" was, however, a colorful and resilient character. Those that survived their first harsh winter became remarkably woods-wise, married into local Indian tribes and adopted their dress and customs, and lived life more intensely than most of us ever will. At the end of the season, after months of wilderness solitude, it was

time to gather at the Green or some other navigable river. Time to barter the furs for essentials and "foo-foo-rah," drink and pitch tomahawks, sing songs off key and lie like a "bald-face." Time for one hell of a party! You could hear the word echoing off the nearby mountains: "Ron-dee-vooooo!"

Likewise, most Amerindian tribes came together at least once a year into a big camp, drew their lodges into a circle, made the crucial tribal decisions, and celebrated. The continuity of the tribe depends on getting past personal differences or disagreements and focusing on the shared task. A time to let our minds shut-up for a change so our hearts can communicate. Focusing on a common family, common spirit, and common enemy. For the natives of this continent, it was an opportunity to dance. And no Indian in her right mind was going to miss a chance to shake it all out!

For many activists, the winter is a time when they are alone or in small clans, doing the real work of defending biodiversity

mostly unacknowledged. By the onset of summer, the longer days trigger the activist's instinctual urges. (S)he feels inexorably pulled out-of-doors, somehow under the influence of waterfalls and the moon, yearning to gather as a tribe and howl.

If Earth First! is anything, it is a tribe— an extended family of trustworthy artists and activists recreating ritual, redefining "warrior" somehow in touch with the spirits of the hunter-gatherers that preceded us. Survival of tribe and survival of wilderness are one in the same.

A tribe is never homogeneous. Its strength lies in the diversity of talents and ideas within a shared value system. For the tribe Earth First!, this value system is the passionate and uncompromised defense of wild, sacred life. Within this framework, we have always had vegans and carnivores, wrenchers and litigants, blockaders and educators. The differences were sometimes outstanding, but we didn't disavow each other, sometimes for the very first time, and beneath the

clothes and mixed-up human exterior we see a familiar soul— recognize at once a fellow tribal member, and ally.

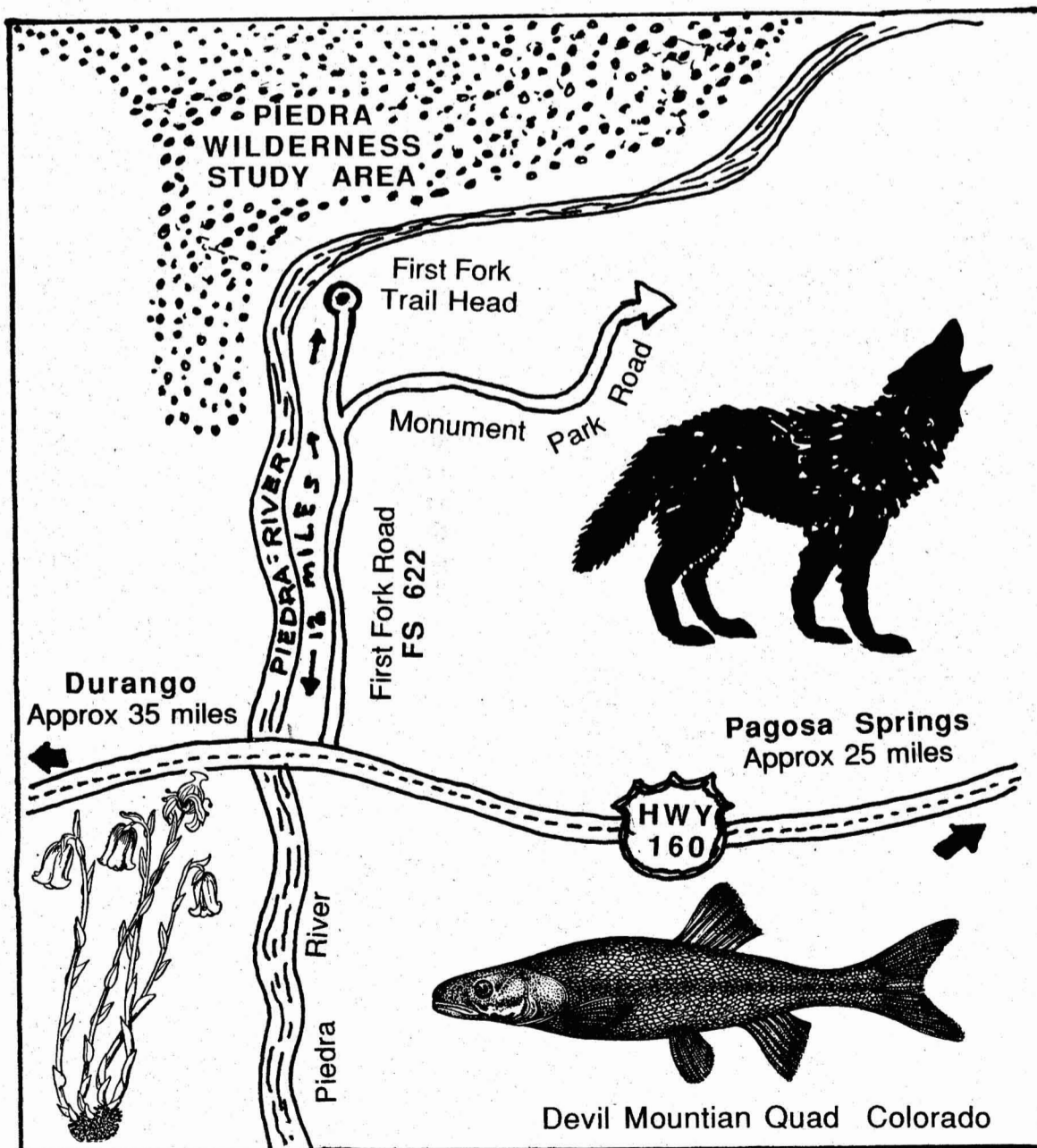
For those of us who feel this way, Round River Rendezvous is the most special event of the entire year. It seems fortuitous that this year's gathering will be held just over the ridge from the site of the '85 rendezvous, one of the wildest and least fractious of all. It was the home of the warrior Utes, and may still covet a few renegade grizzlies. It is a potential home for both the great bears and the gray wolf, and one of the most pristine remaining areas of the Central Rockies. RRR '92 may be the best of all rendezvous— back in the Wild West, apparently freed of proclaimed factions, with a busy agenda for the future. We return to the enchanted San Juans, like the Round River itself— the river that circles back into itself, never depleted, never still! Rendezvous! Present Yourself!

Lone Wolf Circles is a longtime Warrior Poet, artist and Earth First activist.

Thirteenth Annual Round River Rendezvous in the Colorado Rockies

To reach this year's RRR, travel approximately 25 miles west of Pagosa Springs or 35 east of Durango on US HWY 160. Turn north onto the FIRST FORK ROAD (USFS 622) which runs along the banks of the Piedra River. First Fork Road winds for twelve miles until it ends at the FIRST FORK TRAIL HEAD AND CAMPGROUND. The exact location has of yet to be determined due to snow conditions. We will most likely be in this area. No need to worry about the exact location, as there are a number of fine sites along the river, and you shouldn't have any trouble finding us.

This area is located right along the southern boundary of the PIEDRA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, which is currently included in Colorado's lame Wilderness Bill. The WEINUCHE WILDERNESS, Colorado's largest wilderness area, is located north of the Piedra WSA. Opportunities for solitude and long hikes in the woods abound. The Piedra River can be rafted or kayaked, and has many fine swimming holes. For more info, check out the DEVIL MOUNTAIN quad on a USGS map, available at outdoor shops in Durango or Pagosa Springs.



See You There!

Round River Rendezvous Map

Chesapeake Bay Reprieve!

BY RON HUBER

Texaco has abandoned plans to drill for oil and natural gas in the Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland and Virginia. The multinational had worked for nearly ten years to grease the way for a transformation of the area into a major oil and gas producing zone, despite an outcry from scientists and environmentalists that the potential for deadly impacts to the Chesapeake Bay was so great that the project should not take place.

The politicians of Maryland and Virginia, with visions of petro-dollars in their eyes, did everything they could to promote Texaco's plans, including opening the shorelines of the Chesapeake to drilling. Officials of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources aided the oilmen in getting permit after permit, sometimes in contravention of the state's laws. No Environmental Impact Study would be required, simply an Environmental Assessment performed by a Texaco contractor, which predictably found that no harm would result.

Politicians began belying up to the trough in greedy anticipation. Texaco often obliged by purchasing oil rights to lands next to properties owned by politicians, such as state comptroller of the treasury, Louis Goldstein. Should oil be found there, Louis would have been eligible for royalties for oil extracted from the common "pool" of oil that lay beneath both his and his neighbor's lands.

A bill was introduced in the Maryland legislature in January that would have required a comprehensive EIS before allowing any state oil drilling permits to be granted. Under heavy pressure from the Department of Natural Resources and a herd of oil industry lobbyists, the bill was withdrawn from consideration.

When the final operating permit was granted in Maryland, Earth First!, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and several other activists filed appeals. The state's regulators fought back by declaring that none of the appellants had standing to file appeals, claiming that only owners of property adjacent to proposed drilling sites would be likely to be affected by oil production.

All for naught, it appears. Mother Nature decided not to store petroleum under coastal Maryland. Texaco announced in mid April that its test wells in Virginia were "dry holes" and that it would abandon its plans. The Doswell formation, an ancient lake bed two miles beneath the surface of the coastal plane, was just that—a dried up lake bed. No petrochemicals were to be had.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, incensed at the state's denial of its appeal, filed suit against the DNR in circuit court contesting the state's decision. The Foundation plans to go ahead with the suit to make sure the state never again tries to push through such a destructive, short sighted plan. The suit, if victorious, will also widen the "standing" concept considerably, to allow environmentalists and others opposed to foolish state government decisions to appeal them.

Wouldn't It Be Nice

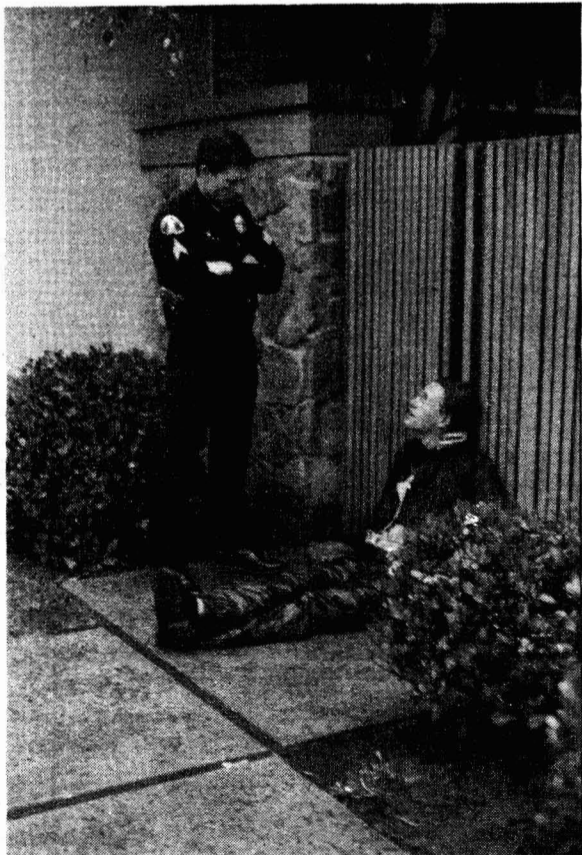
to clear-cut
big timber's front office
the way big timber
clear-cuts a forest
to take a crew of environmentalists
dressed in suspended denim
flannel shirts and hard hats
deep down corporate hallways
with chainsaw
axe and blade
bulldoze
a trail through desk and departmental
compartments
profit margins falling like
old growth redwoods
to have law
on our side for a change
preventing protest or
intervention marshal badges
soldier's bayonets backing US up
as dismembered corporate structures
fall
arrest a fact of life for those
who might disagree
with ecological justice
protest no hindrance
as humanity clears a space
for trees.

—KEITH DODSON

Orange County EF! Protests Laguna Highway Development

BY MICHAEL SCOTT

An Orange County Earth First!er locked himself to the gate of the Transportation Corridor Agency's office during a March 2 demonstration to protest three large highway construction projects in the vast suburban area between Los Angeles and San Diego. The weekend before the action, the door locks were jammed with metal



pins and epoxy.

The Eastern Transportation Corridor in the northeast end of the county is being built in order to move traffic between Riverside and Orange Counties. The San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor is planned to run from Newport Beach's Fashion Island through Laguna Canyon to the city of San Juan Capistrano. The nearly one billion dollars needed for the project will be

raised by selling new homes and business parks surrounding the Laguna Canyon Toll Road. Laguna Canyon is home to the California Gnatcatcher, the Cactus Wren, mountain lions, coyotes, and bobcats. The third heinous highway project is the Foothills Transportation Corridor.

Orange County EF! planned the blockading of the TCA building to prevent employees from entering the building and performing the work they do promoting environmental rape. The building was surveyed to see what type of schedule the employees ran on, and how access could be gained to all of the entrances to the building. The TCA building is located in one of those common pre-fab buildings which make Southern California the business Mecca has become.

The action followed a decision by a superior court judge that the Transportation Corridor Agency did not have to redo the Environmental Impact Review of the highway's impact on Laguna Canyon.

The weekend prior to the lock-down action, Dave Foreman spoke at the University of California, Irvine and at a 3000 person demonstration in Laguna Canyon. Ten new people from the presentations showed up at a meeting the day before the action. That night, people gathered to produce signs, banners, cardboard bulldozers and other items to get the point that the TCA is an unwanted entity. After a short night's sleep, we awoke and prepared for the event.

The press had been informed earlier, but asked to keep quiet prior to the event so the effectiveness would be maximized. We arrived at the TCA building shortly after 6 am. One of the local newspaper reporters and a photographer had arrived.

There are two main front entrances to the Transportation Corridor Agency building, one for the public, another for employees. Both entrances have two iron gates that close and intersect. There are a number of other doors around the building

that can be opened to allow entrance to the building. Unfortunately, despite the early arrival and the epoxy in the locks, one employee had already managed to get into the building.

We decided to continue anyway. We slipped a bicycle lock around the gate of the employee entrance and removed the wooden decorative slats that covered the iron gate. We slipped another bicycle lock around Craig Beneville's neck and locked him to the public entrance gate. Others hung banners around the building.

Soon after, the first police vehicles arrived

Each of the six officers attempted to cut the lock off, each one believing he was stronger than the last.

and we were told that if the premises were not vacated immediately, Craig would be placed under arrest. Then they extended the time limit by an hour, and said we had to leave by 8 am. They told us that if the banners were not removed, they would be confiscated. We obliged. The police brought me on a little tour around the building. They wanted to know who jammed the door locks. I explained to them that I really didn't know. They hinted that we might be up for kidnapping charges since we locked all of the exits. I pointed out the obvious fact that the doors of the TCA opened outwards from the inside. People were free to come and go as they pleased, just not through the main entrances.

Each of the six members of the Costa Mesa Police department attempted to cut the lock off, each one believing he was stronger than the last, and assuring each of his partners that if only the handles of the bolt cutters were longer that he could easily remove the lock. I photographed the officers trying to cut the lock off. They didn't appreciate this. Around 7:45, the police left, with the gate still locked.

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James Bay Victory

continued from page 1

and Quebec Province is training a special SWAT team which will occupy Cree villages if violence breaks out. Due to the area's remoteness, Quebec may try to execute a media blackout of its ugly activities.

Vermont is now the only state holding contracts to buy energy from HQ, so activists in that area are escalating their campaign. EFlers in New York are encouraging a tourism boycott against Vermont, calculating that Vermont's numerous tourism-dependent industries will urge their governor to cancel the HQ contract. Vermont's Governor is fully behind HQ, and his Energy Advisor does public relations work for them.

New York's action was bought on by several efforts. The Cree led the fight, travelling throughout New England to raise support. Activists held debates, protests, concerts and a slew of other events. After the EFl Caribou Convention in Albany, following the RRR last August, a week-long Ban The Dam concert series was held in New York City with Jackson Brown, the Indigo Girls, Mary Chapin-Carpenter, Dan Fogelberg, and other stars. On Columbus Day, 500 people protested in Albany to bring the message home to Governor Mario Cuomo.

Cuomo was twice confronted in Binghamton NY by EFl of the Susquehanna-Chenango Bioregion. At a November confrontation EFlers debated with Cuomo for a while, shoved a homemade James Bay video into his hands,

then stuck Save James Bay bumperstickers on his car (as the crowd cheered!). This EFl group collected 600 signatures, gave lectures, hosted several Cree speakers, and helped pass a county resolution which urged the state to cancel the contracts. Five other counties passed the same resolution.

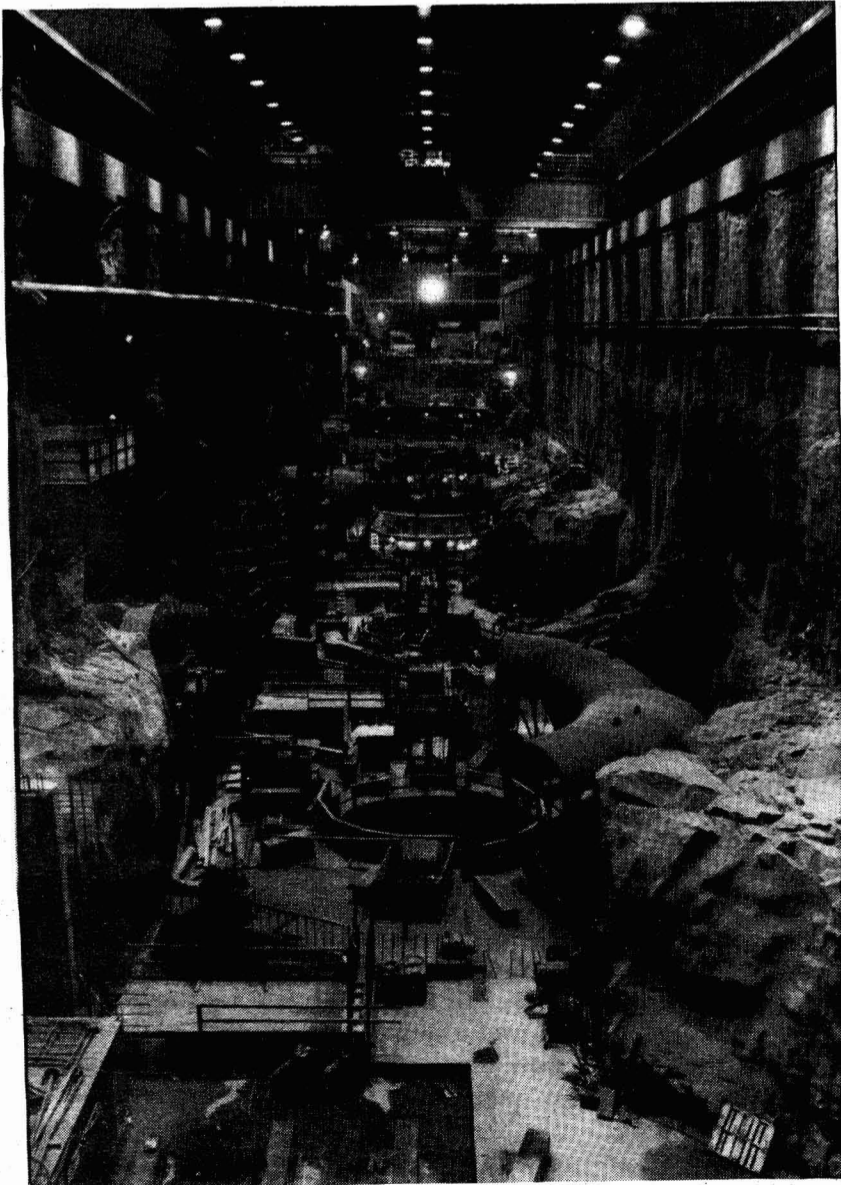
Bill Hoyt, a legislator in the New York State Assembly, introduced a bill last year which required all foreign energy purchases to meet the state's environmental guidelines. The James Bay project could never meet New York's guidelines, some of the nation's toughest. Hoyt, a long-time outdoorsman and member of the American Whitewater Association, worked tirelessly to push his bill through the political process, and it was passed by the State Assembly in mid-March by an overwhelming majority. Soon after, before the bill could be introduced in the State Senate, Cuomo cancelled the contract with HQ.

Bill Hoyt passed away a week after his vital bill was approved, and so this report is dedicated to Bill in memory of all his hard work to save James Bay.

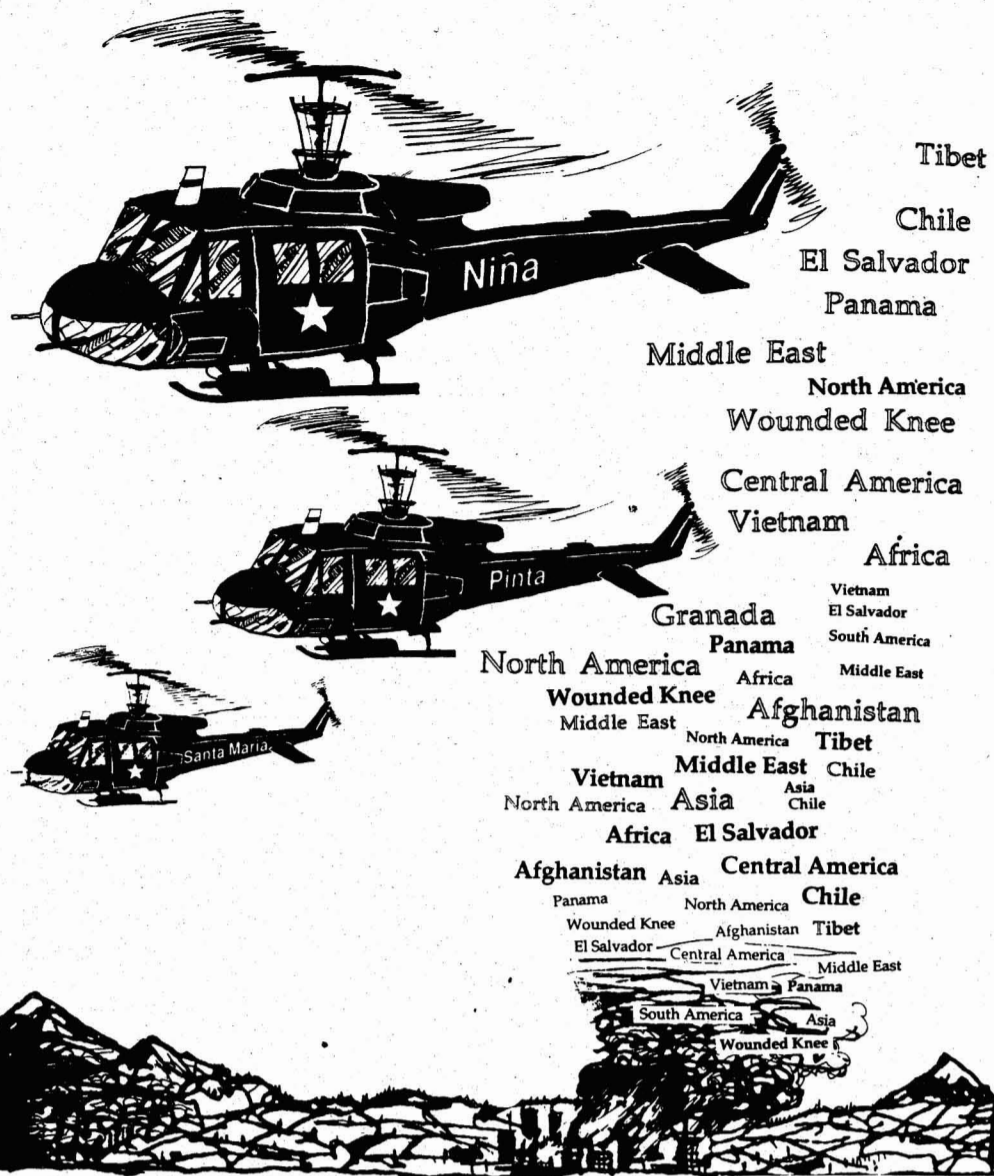
Now..... how can we influence events inside Canada and guarantee Hydro-Quebec doesn't build more dams?

—BY SCOTT THIELE

Dedicated to the memory of Bill Hoyt; New York state legislator, kayaker, and James Bay activist.



La Grande River has already been harnessed with monstrosities such as these. If Hydro Quebec can get enough money scraped together, principally from US citizens, they plan to build many more along other wild rivers in Quebec.



WHERE NEXT COLUMBUS?

Hydro Quebec in Massachusetts

—SOURCE: STATEHOUSE WITNESS

On March 24, 1992, the Joint Committee on Energy of the Massachusetts Legislature met to conduct a hearing on House Bills 4083, 5029 and 3552 and Senate Bill 336. The proposed legislation would restrict future purchases by Massachusetts of electricity from Hydro-Quebec.

S336 would require Hydro-Quebec to undergo US Federal or Massachusetts environmental process before selling electricity to Massachusetts from future phases of the project. H5029 would require that future energy resources be compared with all options (regardless of location) having lesser environmental and economic impact on the global environment according to the 'energy hierarchy' of 1. conservation, 2. solar, thermal, wind, small-scale hydro, 3. natural gas, 4. fossil fuels, 5. nuclear and massive hydroelectric. H3552 and H4083 would both require the Department of Public Utilities to oppose importation of Canadian energy beyond 10% of Massachusetts total energy use.

Jock Guevremont, professional engineer and a vice president of Hydro-Quebec, told the committee that no phase of future develop-

ment will be built to provide energy for export from Canada, that no more than 10% of the total energy production of the utility will ever be exported and that energy purchasing decisions in Massachusetts will have absolutely no bearing on Hydro-Quebec's future development plans. Co-Chair Herren noted that Guevremont and other Hydro-Quebec officials had just spent a great deal of time and money in New York State opposing similar legislation. Such effort, along with the significant delegation present at the Massachusetts hearing, seems to indicate that Hydro-Quebec thinks energy purchasing decisions in Massachusetts and New York are far more important to Hydro-Quebec than Guevremont was suggesting.

Representatives from American Rivers of New England, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and Cree Tribal members testified to convince the Massachusetts energy committee not to support the destruction of the James Bay region with this monstrosity.

We are eagerly waiting for Massachusetts and Vermont to join Maine and New York in their decision to refuse to buy power from Hydro-Quebec's dams.

Big Cypress EF! Launches Campaign in the Forgotten Wilderness

BY BRIAN AND ROSALYN SCHERF

The Big Cypress Swamp is one of the last remaining refuges of wilderness in Florida. Located in Southwest Florida, just to the north of Everglades National Park, the swamp once covered over 1,568,000 acres. A century of water control, agriculture, ranching, industrialization, roadbuilding and hunting have nearly destroyed it. Today about half the swamp remains.

In 1974, Congress designated 570,000 acres as Big Cypress National Preserve. The recent addition of the "Collier Land" to the east will increase the total area to 716,000 acres, about half the size of Everglades National Park.

During the 20th century, Big Cypress Swamp has existed in the shadow of the Everglades, rarely gaining recognition as an important ecological issue. Finally in the late 1960s, conservationists rallied briefly to successfully defend Big Cypress from airport development. Today, the Big Cypress is in the news again as a backdrop to the plight of the highly endangered Florida panther.

Articles debate the merits of artificial insemination and captive breeding while ignoring the issues of habitat and ecosystem integrity.

Big Cypress is a vast flat land which lies between the temperate and tropical zones; mainly wetlands dotted with dwarf cypress, prairie, pinelands, and hammock islands. The area was named Big Cypress not because of the size of its trees but for its large expanse; almost 2400 square miles. It is the home to 34 species of wildlife and 70 plant species classified as either endangered, threatened, rare or of special concern, including Florida panthers, Florida black bears, American alligators, bobcats, West Indian

manatees, bald eagles and osprey.

Big Cypress is part of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, which is near total collapse. Water is the lifeblood of this ecosystem. It starts at the headwaters of the Kissimmee River which meanders to Lake Okeechobee. There the water overflows its southern banks and spreads out in a broad sheet flow which created the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp. From there it goes on to Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, providing a productive estuary for sea life.

Big Cypress now boasts: 74 oil wells, 17 private airstrips, 10 major drainage canals, 32,000 acres of grazing lands, 4 major highways, hundreds of miles of ORV trails, tens of thousands of acres of drained land, 200 private inholdings and a jetport.

This wonderfully diverse and intricate system has almost been destroyed by a huge drainage and water control system built by the Army Corps of Engineers. Starting in the 1940s, the system provided flood control, municipal drinking water, and opened the Everglades agricultural area for the production of sugar cane south of Lake Okeechobee. Canals, water control structures and highways prevent the broad flow of water to the south, diverting much of the water to the ocean.

The Kissimmee River was channelized by the Army Corps of Engineers, destroying hundreds of thousands of acres of wetland habitat. Cattle ranching and dairy farms soon moved into the drained lands and, along with sugar growers back-pumping irrigation water laced with phosphorous and nitrogen into the Lake Okeechobee,

caused huge algae blooms and fish kills. Public outcry led to "pollution control" practices; sugar growers instead released their tainted irrigation water into the drainage canals leading into Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and eventually to Everglades National Park. All waterflows to the Everglades and Big Cypress are now controlled by computers at the South Florida Water Management District, a lap dog of Big Sugar.

The main thrust of human en-



croachment and the biggest threat to the Big Cypress started in 1915 with the construction of the Tamiami Trail, a highway linking Miami and Tampa. The land was then open for resource industries to cut the trees, let loose their cattle herds and drill for oil. In the 1930s logging companies used an extensive railway system to haul the logs out of the swamp as they cut all the old growth bald cypress and pine. In 1936, the state legislature authorized a program to exterminate the native deer herds to protect their cattle from deer ticks. With the loss of their main food source, the panthers began to slide towards extinction. When they started to kill a few cattle to compensate for the loss of deer, ranchers ruthlessly shot the panthers. In 1943, a large oil field was found in Suniland, the northwest corner of the Big Cypress Swamp. Extensive exploration soon followed. In 1967 state road 84 was built across the Everglades conservation areas and into the Big Cypress, acting as yet another dam, obstructing the sheet flow of water to the south. In the age of the automobile, old logging roads became the basis for a network of off-road vehicle trails, and illegal hunting camps dotted the region along with the more elaborate lodges occupied by hunting clubs.

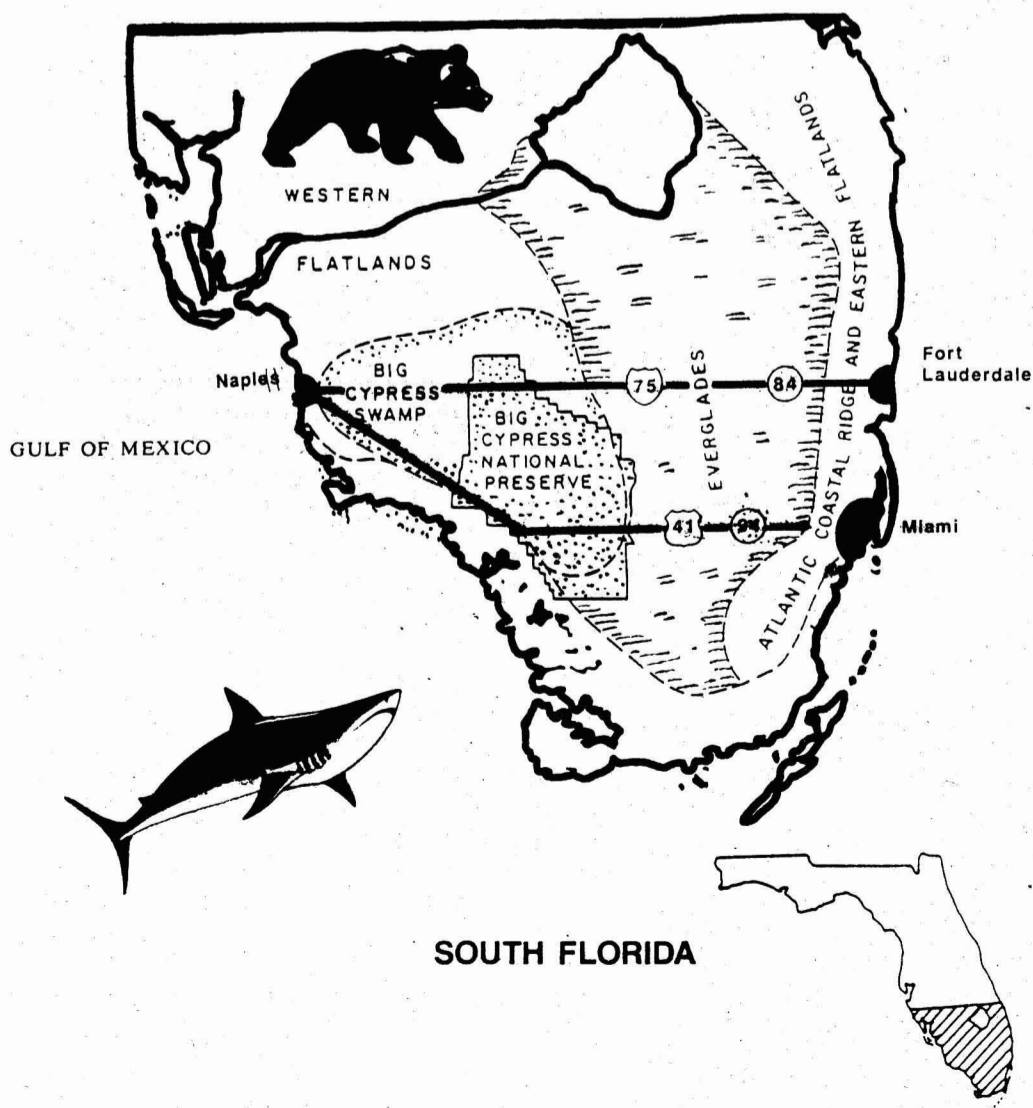
When Congress created the "National Preserve" in 1974, all pre-existing uses were allowed to continue, including motorized vehicles, oil and gas exploration, grazing, draining wetlands, agriculture, hunting, fishing, trapping, legal inholdings and new construction. The legacy of this century of exploitation? Big Cypress now boasts: 74 oil wells, 17 private airstrips, 10 major drainage canals, 32,000 acres of grazing lands, 4 major highways, hundreds of miles of ORV trails, tens of thousands of acres of drained land, 200 private inholdings, a jetport and the highest number of fires of any National Park Service unit.

State road 84 has been integrated into Interstate 75, and the final 31 mile segment is scheduled for completion by March 1993. Approximately 78 miles of this highway will run through the Everglades-Big Cypress Region, linking 4 million people on the southeast coast to 1 million residents on the southwest coast. Three recreational access points have been planned with ORV access at all three, allowing more hunters and fossil-fuel hikers into Bear Island and Turner River, prime habitat for panthers.

Road kills have accounted for the largest share of panther mortality since hunting was banned. Mercury contamination from municipal solid waste incinerators has killed the last two female Florida panthers in Everglades National Park. Recently, the last two remaining males moved to Big Cypress seeking mates. There are now no remaining panthers in Everglades National Park. Yet, just last year, the National Park Service issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" of the proposed highway extension.

Recently, Big Cypress Earth First! undertook a field survey of construction activity.

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Earth First! Occupies Liverpool Docks and Halts Unloading of Sarawak Timber Ship



photo by Rod Harbinson



BY MIKE MEESE

The Earth First! UK Roadshow pulled out of Liverpool after a quick action against Bridgewater paper (Stone Container owned) and left Cosmic Simon and

Flinny to organize an action against a timber ship from Malaysia importing tropical hardwood.

Simon and Rich got an office donated by the university with phones and fax machines and began the networking process. They also got the community behind the action in ways like food donations, material for banners and support in an action type fashion. They tried to get the dock workers to strike while we did the action but, due to union conflicts, they were unable to even though they did support our efforts.

While all this was going on in Liverpool, the roadshow did nine more shows before returning for the ship action. At every stop we pushed for people to do something and aimed them toward the March 3rd Liverpool Liberation.

The Roadshow arrived on the night of March 1st. Everyone was delegated jobs for the next day to pull the whole thing off, and it was here that we finally saw just how much work Simon and Rich had put into this action. Morning came and everyone headed to the University to make banners, contact media and direct in-coming activists to the donated lodging. The building was called the Mutual Aid Center (MAC) and was donated by a local anarchist group. A few of the roadshow groups volunteered to prepare food for the herds to come. This meant cooking for hundreds. A mess hall like set up fed people as they arrived.

Non-violence workshops and the If Violence Occurs Theory of "Sit down and point" education was given to

all. The educating of radicals took its natural course and we returned to our favorite brewery of Liverpool less than a block away. More and more people kept arriving at the bar and we stayed and socialized until

The vans began to pull up next to the fence along the docks and cover the spikes on top of the fence with carpet and other material. The police gathered close to the vans but soon would find out just how badly they were outnumbered. Then, it happened. Jakey James and Jagoff were the first over the fence and were immediately grabbed by the cops though Jakey James broke free and made it to the cranes. It took two cops pulling with all their might to drag Jagoff's limp carcass

*"Where are you from?"
"Montana" I replied. "Now
remember how nice I was,
because later tonight I'll be up on
those cranes."*

*JAKE
JAGOFF
ACTIVIST*

the 11:00 pub closing curfew. Upon returning to the MAC we finally got an idea of just how many people had actually shown up. There were three big rooms in the building and if you have ever seen the set up in a sardine can, you would get the picture. There were even people sleeping in the hallway, in the kitchen and on the stairs. We estimated the crowd to be about 250 in the building.

March 3 action day arrived and we headed toward the docks 400 strong, representing Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England Germany (Robin Wood) and the US. We began by blockading the front gate and hanging banners on the fence. The crowd began to get ambitious and started blocking the road in front of docks with over 100 people.

40 metres to the awaiting van, but by then all kinds of people had jumped the fence and were up on the cranes and occupying the stacks of horizontal forests on the dock. Soon banners were hanging off the cranes as protesters overran the site.

Our friend Colin from the Scottish Tree Trust decided to play Howler Monkey and climbed all the way to the top of the first crane. Like a primate in the rainforest, he jumped six feet from the ladder on to a steel cable and shinned his way to the top where he whooped and hollered in defiance of the cranes, the cops and the tropical timber industry. His efforts stand out in my mind as the most visible expression of outrage against what's happening to the planet's forests.

One of the funniest things I

have ever seen in my life were three unarmed and very polite policemen trying to catch these high-strung, direction-oriented activists from making it to the other side of the fence. The view from up on the cranes of this cat and mouse game was empowering, but I soon began to wonder what was going to happen to the apprehended lot. The only way to find this out was to get caught. So I did. Two policemen happily escorted me to the van and I was the last body to make the van full. The bobbies then drove us to a

gate a short distance from the crowd out front and set us free to return to the crowd and to jump the fence once again. The record of the day for van rides was five!

The only casualties of the day was one woman who broke her ankle jumping over the fence. Around 3:00 pm with no sign of the timber ship, we returned to the MAC to regroup and get supplies to the people spending the evening on the cranes. It was about 11:00 pm when a group returned to the docks with more people ready to spend the night up on the cranes. Young Jake of England, one of those on the cranes, came up to the van and said everyone is down because there was a poisonous gas leak. The leak was a hoax to get the activists off the crane. At that point everyone that had said they wanted to spend the night on the cranes backed out, except one long lost Montana activist.

I jumped out of the van with my backpack and started walking along the fence. Being the nice guy that I am, I waved to every cop that drove by me and they would pull over and start talking to me. "Where are you from?" "Montana"

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he Emperor Has No Clothes

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

There is a tendency among environmental organizations, both in the West and nationally, to downplay and ignore livestock production as a source of environmental problems in the region. Certainly, on a world wide basis, one could argue that no single human enterprise is responsible for more environmental degradation than livestock production. There are more domestic animals than humans and the implications are tremendous. Everything from the deforestation of tropical rainforests to increasing desertification of Asia, Africa, and even the American West, can be considered a cost of livestock production. It is shocking to learn that 90% of the grains grown in the United States are ultimately fed to livestock or that the majority of the water diverted from rivers in the West are used for irrigation to grow livestock feed.

Eating meat, particularly beef, is analogous to driving a big, gas guzzling car and saying you oppose oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. You can't support wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone while consuming a big, thick steak or be opposed to predator control if you chew on hamburgers.

In addressing any problem, it is critical to recognize the ultimate source of the problem. If you are trying to deal with eating disorders precipitated by poor self image, you can't solve it by suggesting a new diet. Unless you address the self image problem, you will never truly solve the eating disorder. In a like manner, one can't solve many of the environmental problems facing the West by ignoring the root causal factor responsible, and for many issues, livestock production is the major underlying source of the conflict or problem.

Unfortunately, it is my observation that too many people, including too many conservation organizations are afraid even to discuss, much less take a pro-active stance on livestock issues and its influence over so many areas of their agendas. It is as if the emperor has no clothes and everyone is afraid to point it out. Comparatively few articles in conservation oriented newsletters and magazines address livestock issues. Even when they do, we often get articles like the "Eco-grazing" piece which was published in an October 1991 *High Country News* extolling the virtues and the pre-

sumed "ecological" need for livestock grazing. Yet, one would be surprised to find an "Eco-logging" or "Eco-mining" article in such publications.

And while there are full time staffs working on a range of issues like wilderness designation, logging, mining, oil and gas development and wildlife conflicts, few groups devote much time to dealing directly with livestock production. Ultimately, it would be more effective, and provide long term solutions to issues of concern if the source of the problem were defined

Unfortunately,... too many conservation organizations are afraid even to discuss, much less take a pro-active stance on livestock issues and its influence over so many areas of their agendas.

and dealt with directly rather than working on a host of separate, but interrelated issues. The issue of wolf reintroduction in the West is a livestock issue. The shooting of bison wandering from Yellowstone Park is a livestock issue. The potential extinction of Arctic grayling is a livestock issue. The recovery of Pacific salmon is, in part, a livestock issue. The designation of wilderness, particularly on BLM lands or lack thereof, is effectively a livestock issue. The construction of dams on our western waterways, is all too frequently a livestock issue. And so it goes.

Any honest review of western environmental issues would overwhelmingly show that livestock production has tremendous ecological costs that are pervasive and widespread— perhaps so pervasive and widespread that most of us do not even recognize them as a problem any longer. We take for granted that our rivers should dry up during irrigation season, that ranchers have a right to shoot predators on our lands, that it is up to the public to pay for protecting its riparian zones from someone else's livestock. We quietly accept that fences should define our horizons or that it's per-

fectly legitimate for privately owned livestock to consume the vast majority of the forage that would otherwise support publicly owned wildlife.

It's important to point out that ranchers are not evil people, any more than whalers, market hunters, loggers, commuters, office workers, resort operators, federal employees or anybody else are bad people. Like all of us, ranchers are simply trying to survive and to earn a living. But that still does not remove them from scrutiny or from criticism. And livestock produc-

tion has a disproportionate impact upon environmental quality, particularly in the West, with a relatively minor output of a product needed by society. It's critical that we begin to ask whether the production of beef, and to a lesser extent lamb and wool from our western rangelands, is really worth the costs in terms of things wild and



free.

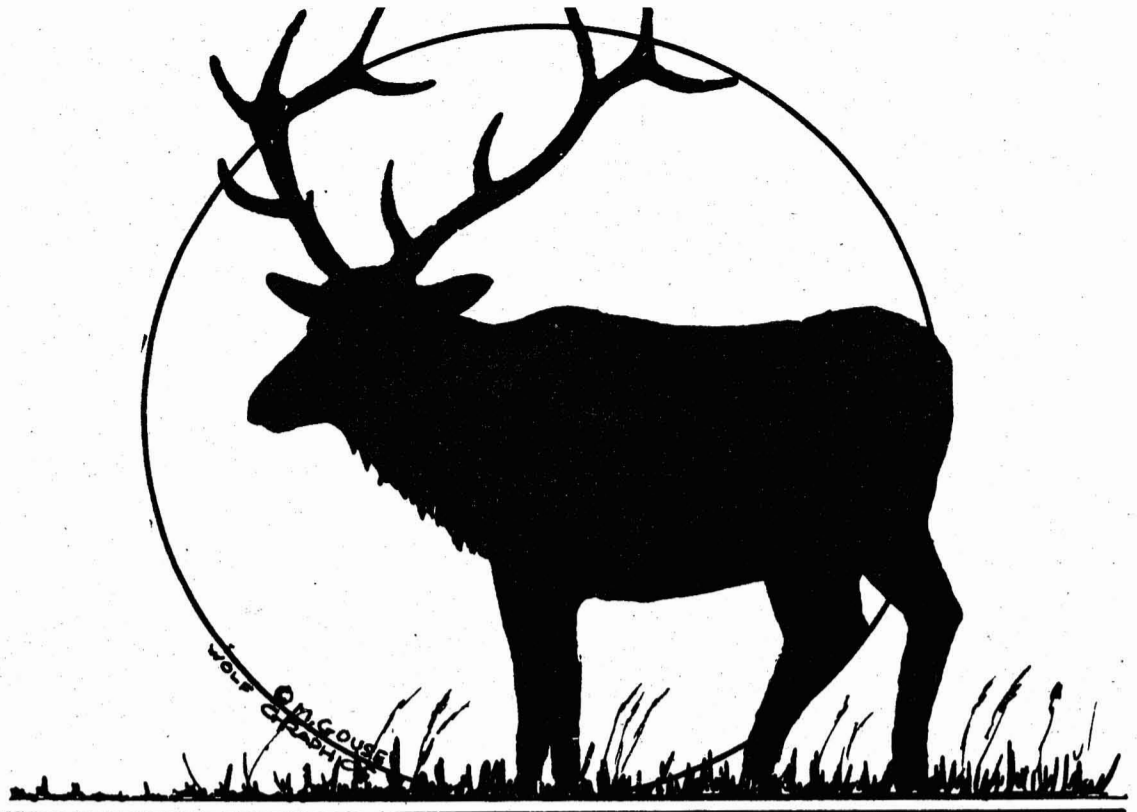
Water quality is a good example of the sometimes myopic view that environmental groups display. Over and over we hear about the real or potential impacts that mining will have on water quality. While not denying that mining has in the past, and will undoubtedly in the future, be responsible for some

major water quality violations and impacts, it is not nearly as pervasive and nearly as large a problem as the water quality losses attributable to livestock production. For every stream that mining potentially impacts, livestock is already degrading many, and is in fact the single greatest source of non-point pollution in the West as well as the single greatest source of sedimentation.

When you couple this with other water issues like dewatering of streams, loss of fish fingerlings in irrigation canals, the concentration of pollutants coming from returned irrigation water, ground water withdrawals which reduces stream and spring outflow, fragmentation of aquatic habitats by dams and dewatering, and a host of other water quality issues that are directly related to livestock production, it is difficult to understand why livestock production is ignored or relegated to such a low priority on the environmental agenda.

Even preservation of biodiversity is ultimately tied to livestock to a large degree. There is no free lunch. There is no surplus "forage" or an empty niche. Even disregarding the ecological impacts associated with poorly managed livestock such as destruction of riparian areas and thus its ecological impact on native species, any livestock production is a threat to native biological diversity. When cattle eat forage, and are subsequently removed from that ecosystem, we are assisting the transport of nutrients which would otherwise recycle in that system. Furthermore, the forage they consume is that much less available for native species to eat, thus reducing their potential biomass and ecological influence in the ecosystem.

Many assumptions spouted by the livestock industry, and too often repeated by environmental organizations, need to be examined carefully. Such arguments such as "rangelands need to be grazed by livestock to remain healthy" or "local rural economies are dependent upon the ranching industry" are subject to dispute and need to be carefully evaluated, especially when most of the evidence to support such contentions comes from the livestock industry or their supporters in the academic community. Would most environmentalists believe similar arguments like forests "need" to be logged to be "healthy" or that local economies



Environmental Harms of Grazing on Public Lands

BY GILLIAN HOLBROOK

Livestock grazing is the single greatest threat to fish and wildlife on public lands. It's destroying habitat and stream areas and results in the slaughtering of millions of native animals that compete with the livestock. The 150 million acres experiencing this devastation don't belong to ranchers or Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan. It's public land. The Bureau of Land Management says that 59 per cent of all public rangeland is in either fair or poor condition. The criteria the BLM uses to arrive at this figure is available forage for livestock. It does not consider the quality of soil, riparian areas or water. Neither does it consider the health and number of native animals or plants relative to pre-cattle days. When an alien species such as livestock is introduced into an ecosystem as fragile as Western wildlands, virtually all elements of that ecosys-

tem are affected and their intricate interrelationships are drastically disturbed.

Native Plants

Native grasses and perennials that are more palatable and nutritious to livestock are what cows devour first. Most native animals eat fairly selectively and keep moving. Cattle are intrinsically lazy and concentrate in particular areas for long periods of time, trampling and denuding vegetation. They eat new plant growth as soon as it emerges until there is so little carbohydrate storage in the plant that it cannot set seeds or last through dormancy or drought, so it dies. Root growth stops on severely grazed plants as energy is diverted to foliage regrowth. Continuous grazing causes roots to die back, reducing plant vigor or killing them. Light, occasional pruning of some grasses may sometimes enhance growth, but claiming that livestock perform this function is like saying a broken water pipe in your kitchen keeps the floor clean.

An increase in the number of

'survivor' plants follows the devastation of the more vulnerable and tasty grasses. Those that aren't decimated by the invasion of livestock survive because they are poisonous, covered with thorns, unpalatable, or their root systems are more resistant to damage from livestock. Hardy and drought resistant non-native plant species begin to grow in areas of bare compacted soil where nothing else can. Cheatgrass



and yellow star thistle are two examples of exotic 'invaders' brought to the West by livestock. A lot of fragile landscapes are reduced to wasteland, unable even to support these survivor species in the face of bovine jaws and cloven hooves. As

much as a fifth of the 150 million acres in the West is now in this condition. These areas resemble a natural desert, but are nearly as biologically sterile as a mound of salt.

Soil

What appears to be bare dirt in a natural desert is really a thick 'living skin' made up of mosses, lichens, liverworts, microfungi, bacteria, pebbles, sand, earthworms, mites, grubs and organic litter. This complex biosystem aerates, fertilizes, acts as a protective crust against wind erosion and as a protective sponge against water erosion. Cattle hooves weighing in at about 24 pounds per square inch, pulverize this living skin. Exposed to the elements, bare soil blows or washes away and dries out faster. Dry, sun baked soil loses its abilities to support vegetative growth and hold water. Soil temperatures increase, affecting remaining microbiotic organisms, vegetation and some animal species.

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"depend" upon logging if these comments came from the logging industry or forestry professors? Yet when they are articulated by livestock supporters, they are often accepted as unbiased facts.

One cannot simply say that they support "better livestock management." The better livestock management response ignores such fundamental questions as whether livestock production is appropriate and ecologically sustainable in the West. And even if it can be answered in an affirmative manner, it still leaves open such questions as whether cows should be grazing in national parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas—places we have specifically set aside to preserve native species and natural ecological processes. Should we assume that using water to produce livestock is more important than using it to grow fish, and thus bald eagles and river otter or even trout to support fishing guides? Why shouldn't bison, elk, antelope, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, and sage grouse be the dominant herbivores on our public lands instead of privately owned livestock? These and many other questions are not even articulated by most environmental groups, at least not publicly, and yet, they are, I maintain, legitimate questions that should be vigorously discussed and debated.

Furthermore, it becomes clear upon inspection that "better livestock management" is not a solution. It generally calls for more fencing, more seeding, more chaining, more water developments, more sagebrush burnings and a host of other environmental manipulations that ultimately dictate that an even larger share of our public lands serve as a feedlot for privately owned livestock. Is this what we really want?

Reducing the negative impacts of livestock is not the same as a "benefit" as it is often billed, just as installation of emission control devices in automobiles in California is

not an ultimate solution to air pollution, gridlock, and the paving over of a substantial proportion of the Los Angeles basin. What one needs to question is the underlying source of the problem—too many

cars and the assumption that we need to have so many cars to survive in that region.

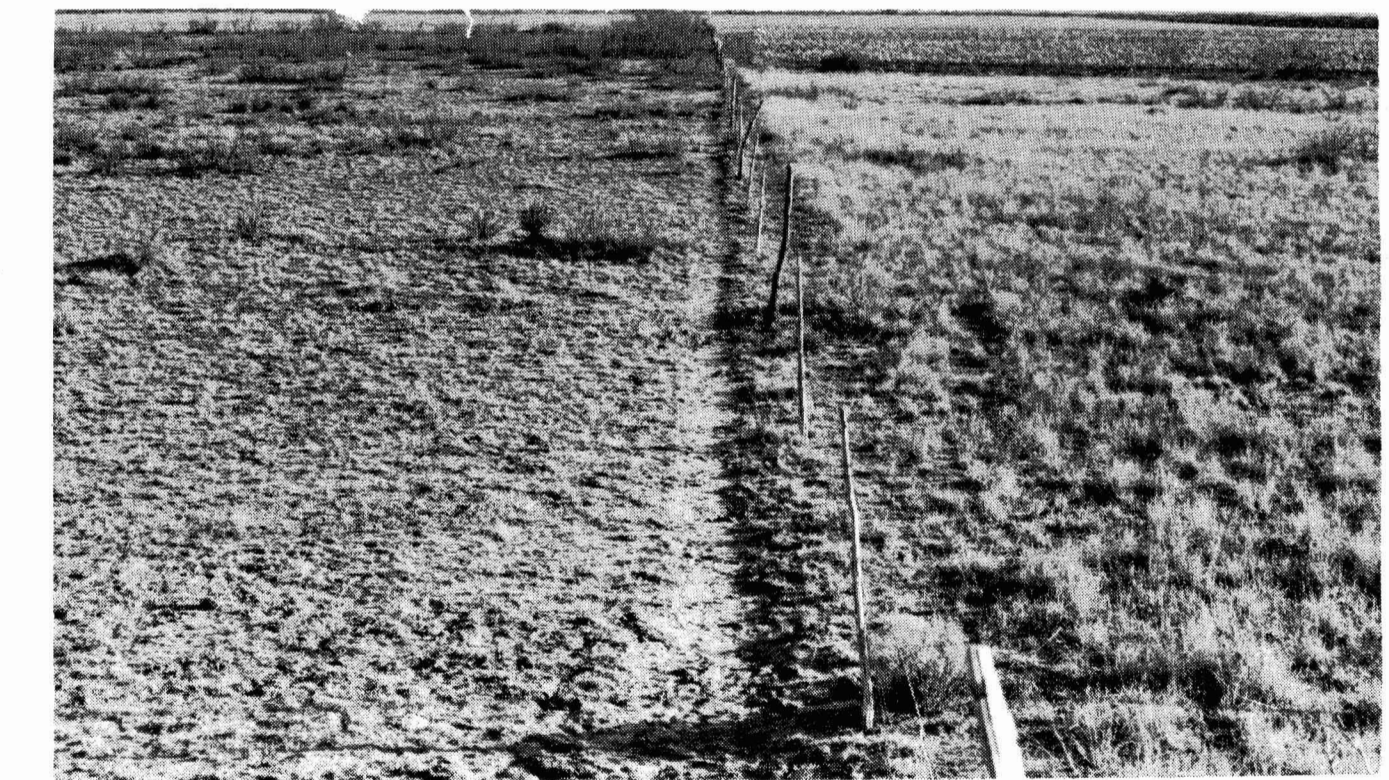


photo Soil Conservation Service USDA

Better livestock management accepts the premise that livestock production merely impacts plant communities, ignoring other aspects such as predator control, roading, fencing and water developments that compromise the wildlands values of our landscape. It ignores questions about water use, irrigation, dam construction, forage competition, and even the disproportional political influence that the livestock community exerts over public lands management and direction.

Any kind of unbiased review of the Western land use from a truly ecological perspective would have to conclude that livestock production affects more land (on an acre-

age basis) in the West than any other human activity. And outside of the major forest regions, it also directly impacts the most biologically critical lands since most of the lower elevations, riparian zones,

and waterways are affected. While it's true that a four lane highway or a subdivision may be more destructive to any particular piece of land, throughout most of the West, particularly with regards to public lands, these are not real threats. On the vast majority of the western landscape, the single most important source of environmental degradation is livestock production.

If one is truly interested in preservation of ecosystem processes and biological health, it behooves us all to address livestock topics in a serious manner. I am not suggesting that livestock issues be elevated to the single most important environmental problem in the West for all groups or individuals—that will be decided on a region by region basis as well as the mandate or interest of

any particular organization or person, but at the least, the topic should be given proper attention for the role it plays in environmental issues.

The emperor has no clothes and

it is about time we who live in the West, and those outside of the region, recognize this. With very few exceptions, if any, the West would be a better place economically, socially, politically, and biologically if we dedicated all our public lands to the production of *native* wildlife, and the maintenance of natural ecological processes not privately owned livestock. I'm certain that any serious and unbiased review of the evidence would demonstrate convincingly that livestock production as it is now practiced is inherently counter to these goals.

George Wuerthner is a writer and longtime public lands advocate who now teaches at Prescott College, AZ.

Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands: Next Military Waste Dump?

BY JOHN PLUNTZE

The Idaho National Guard proposal for using a training range in Lincoln City for M1 Tank maneuvers is but the latest glaring example of sacrificing public land at public expense for private gain. Complying with environmental laws has never been a priority of the military and has directly led to numerous highly toxic sites and dumps, in-

cleanup called "Operation Ugly Baby," Bravo 20 crews retrieved 1,389 live bombs, 2,230 dummy bombs, 28,136 ammunition rounds and 123,375 lbs. of shrapnel. Worse, in 1983-4, after heavy rains and snow from nearby Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge's watershed swelled into Bravo 20's toxic discharges and then receded back, 7 million fish and

Ground, which since 1941 has had a reported 23 million artillery, tank and mortar shells dropped on it, houses some 1.4 million unexploded live rounds. The base is slated to be closed by 1995 but because of the lethal menaces beneath it, JFG will probably be off limits forever. (I hope the region's critters know that!). In Puerto Rico's Caribbean National Forest, army researchers set up in 1978 a live radiation source that killed every living thing there in a 40ft. radius.

Indeed, our "need" to remain ever-vigilant has cost us dearly. A 1991 Nat. Toxic Campaign Fund report states there are 14,400 officially-contaminated sites on U.S. military reservations (97 on Superfund's National Priorities list—among the most lethal sites anywhere in the US) A 1990 General Accounting Office report states the "military is the single largest producer of hazardous waste in the US," generating some 500,000 tons annually. Estimated cleanup cost: at least \$200 billion! And now as the military budget begins to shrink, so does the responsibility the military wants to accept for such costs, leaving local municipalities highly contaminated and sourly lacking.

The military currently manages/mismanages about 25 million acres directly, and leases another 8

million from outside agencies, primarily the BLM (17 million acres "loaned"), the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service (163 military activities allowed yearly on 3 million of its acres in 57 national forests). National Parks frequently bear the brunt of aerial training exercises, as jets overfly their MOAs (military operating areas); Yosemite, Everglades, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Joshua Tree, Hawaii Volcanoes, Yellowstone, Big Bend, Bryce Canyon, and Great Basin National Parks have all had lawsuits filed on their behalf in the past regarding air pollution from such overflights.

All the military needs to start flying over BLM, Forest Service or Nat. Park Service land is FAA permission, which it historically gives without reservation. In 1987, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's Larry Silver filed an unsuccessful suit after learning the FAA had granted an MOA in Oregon and Nevada without even reading the Air Force's EIS! A similar suit filed by N. Carolina to force review of an FAA-approved MOA over Cape Lookout Nat. Seashore was successful.

Numerous studies have shown that loud noises, especially sonic booms, disrupt wildlife reproductive habits. Charlotte and Cole Still, 65 and 69, were thrown from their horses on the Oregon Pacific Crest

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The "Basin F" waste pit is described by the Army Corps of Engineers as "the most contaminated square mile on the Earth."

cluding Rocky Mt. Arsenal (near Denver), Ft. Richardson, AK; Ft. Benning, GA; Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico; Jefferson Proving Ground, Ind., and Bravo 20 (near Fallon, NV).

Rocky Mt. Arsenal's "Basin F" waste pit, described by the US Army Corps of Engineers as "the most contaminated square mile on the Earth," kills thousands of birds and animals each year after they sip or land in its heavy metal laced ponds. Bravo 20, 64 square miles of bomb fragments, rusting armaments and thousands of explosion caused craters, is considered the most notorious of the Navy's four west-central Nevada bomb ranges. In 1989, during a complaint-generated range

countless tens of thousands of birds were poisoned.

The Ft. Richardson Army artillery range, on the Kink Arm of Anchorage's Cook Inlet, released its own study in 1991 admitting that its discarded tiny white phosphorous bits from artillery rounds were being ingested by thousands of birds each year (most ranges have such phosphorous discards). A Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Wilderness Society and other groups in 1991 against Ft. Benning, after it was determined its activities (including on-base logging) were destroying vast habitats for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Indiana's Jefferson Proving

SEAC and SouthPAW Gang Up on DuPont

BY BEANPOLE

I recieved some flyer in the mail baceiin January about the Greenpeace, SEACret (Student Environmental Action Coalition rad eco tribe) and Earth First! "How Do You Spell Skin Cancer?" Tour 92. It was self-explanatory about its objectives- Dana Lyons and Lone Wolf Circles roaming the eastern seaboard with guitar-congo-eco-boogie. A virtual ready to go rock and roll direct action show. The answer to the tour's quizzing title was also very clear: "D-U-P-O-N-T."

Ah yes, DuPont. I knew them well. My father's father worked in a DuPont factory for 43 years, 7 months, and 15 days. And he'll tell you that over and over and over. He has Alzhiemer's disease now (for some unknown reason) and one of the highlights conversing with him is the redundant talk about his many years at the Old Hickory DuPont Chemical "Plant."

I'm reluctant to call factories "plants," because they are not plants at all. Plants, we all know, are vascular lifeforms which absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through a process known as photosynthesis. Factories, on the other hand, are large mega-structures of metal and concrete which consume water, earth, and air in fire and spew out toxic pollution through a process known as capitalist greed. The function of a plant is very different from that of a factory. Plant communities help sustain life. Factory communities help destroy life. Whoever first called a factory a "plant" was either very stupid or

perhaps very crafty. This may have been the first attempt at "greenwashing"—the industrial capitalist tactic of brainwashing the public into believing that the industry in question is environmentally conscious.

So all these visions of a massive action are racing through my head. I see thousands of people blackading the gates of the Old Hickory factory. Spokespeople are addressing huge congregations of reporters and camerapeople. Angry workers are hollering about jobs. Others are hollering about how they hate their jobs, how they or someone they know is sick or has died as a result of working there. The biocentric activists are explaining the effects ozone depletion will have on wild creatures and ecosystems and why it's important to have functioning wild healthy ecosystems. Little clans of anarchists see this huge event as an opportunity to lob bricks through car windshields and cause lots of property damage. Everyone discredits this bunch and is astonished at such outlandish behavior. Many people are there because they've just learned about the fact that huge gaping holes are appearing in the ozone layer, that it might affect them personally and that DuPont has something to do with it (See Rooney's article *DuPont vs. the World* Eostar '92). In the heart of this mass of thriving human disorder are the guitar—conga—eco-boogie, making rythm out of chaos.

I'm on the phone to Dana and

he's hyped. I explain to him that there's a SEAC super-regional conference occurring in Murphysboro, TN the second weekend of the tour and that there's this DuPont factory nearby. A few dozen phone calls and some time later and we've got a couple of shows planned for our neck of the woods. The action planned in Tennessee will precede

East. Good vibes and smiling faces on all the people who'd just been made aware of the details of ozone layer depletion and DuPont's involvement. We had all been exposed to the concept of "Rad Wednesday." An action campaign of massive proportions where people all over the world will wear radiation suits every Wednesday to protest DuPont's continued pro-

A sign at DuPont's Factory read "Caring for the Environment—Protect your Mother Earth. Your grandchildren depend on us." I had to go over the fence and get that sign. This was a family matter.

the big action planned for the stockholder's meeting at DuPont's headquarters in Wilmington, DE. Wow! and it all comes together with the PAW neo-tropical songbird conservation biology conference at Swarthmore college, a mere 45 minute drive from Wilmington.

The tour began for us in North Carolina when the eco-roadwarriors pulled up in their huge Dodge Greenpeace-sponsored van. The show goes off great! Everybody dancing, rocking the old gym at Warren Wilson college, nestled in the valley below the Black Mountains, tallest in the

duction of CFC's, HCFC's, and HFC's. Yes, for a mere \$5 per suit everybody can get involved and conduct an action no matter what they're doing! No excuse is too great. Got school or work to attend? No problem. Just wear your radiation suit and do what you normally do and you're involved in a massive direct action. You can even wear rad suits while conducting actions on Wedensdays against the Forest Service, FWS, anti-choice rallies, fur farms, Blockbuster videos, etc. It doesn't confuse the issues, it connects the issues!

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Pages 17-24 were missing from the hard-copy original publication available at the Rachel Carson Center Library in Munich, Germany.

Owyhee, cont.

Trail in 1988 after joy-riding pilots from Kingsley Field, a unit of the Or National Guard, had illegally violated their air space, frightening the Still's horses. (Charlotte got a broken back, collarbone and rib; Cole, a fractured skull).

Idaho and the Air Force are currently cooperating on plans for a 150,000 acre aerial range in the Owyhee Canyonlands, a high desert plateau and canyon region containing world-class whitewater rapids, archaeological sites and plentiful wildlife. The range includes 58,700 acres that's proposed federal wilderness. Under a proposed exchange by Governor Cecil Andrus, ID would acquire the land, transfer it to the Idaho National Guard, and the Guard would in turn let the Air Force use it for new composite wing fighters and bombers. A practice bombing site will likely be placed between wil-

Big Cypress, cont.

Overpasses have been constructed at two points to allow panthers to go under the road. A rest area with turnaround is planned from mile marker 38. No other access ramps or other facilities were evident. Recreational development of the access points is on hold.

The NPS has yet to fully survey the Collier Land addition or to develop a plan addressing habitat protection for the panther. Activists must continue to put pressure on these agencies regarding further encroachment into Big Cypress.

Reed Noss has proposed a base plan for ecosystem restoration in Florida, with the Everglades and Big Cypress as core preserves linked by wildlife corridors and buffer zones to other core preserves upstate. The natural water flow of the region needs to be restored, the dike around Lake Okeechobee, drainage canals and roads need to

HOWARD M. HILL, M.D., AN HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE GAME AND FUR-BEARING MAMMALS OF THE SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AND MOUNTAINS, San Bernardino County Museum Quarterly vol. 32, nos 3 & 4, Spring & Summer 1985.

Here where the silly antelope outran its life
and the grizzly who had no enemies was impaled on its own ferocity

the coyote crow scrub jay and skunk are doing all right
along with opossum starling parrot and the evertasty filaree.

Strangers adapt, some natives adapt to them.
They say there's no place anywhere now for grizzlies in California

but the black bear since '33, beaver since '45, keep quiet about it,
survive. The gray squirrel has come down from the mountain.

More fires, would be a help.

—DICK BARNEY

derness study areas and the pilots, while not dropping live bombs, will conduct supersonic overflights at 10,000 ft. from the ground, dropping chaff (hair-like aluminum-coated fibers that deflect radar) and flares (used as missile decoys). Chaff historically has been a major killer of fish and wildlife after they ingest the silica fibers. Flares cause wildfires, and the effects such loud noises produce is well documented. A similar bombing range, involving 15,000 flights from Mt. Home Air Force Base over the Smoky and Boulder Mountains—some as low as 100 feet—is pending.

Write Lt. Tom Bartol, Norton AFB, CA 92409-6884, and tell him Idaho doesn't need or want more needless wildlife deaths or ways to ruin its citizens' peace and quiet, let alone their property values and water supplies. Express concern to Gov. Andrus, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720.

Read "Bravo 20: The bombing of the American West" (John Hopkins Univ., 1990), an excellent book on past and present military abuses. Also, the Fall 1991 *Wilderness* magazine article entitled "Ground Zero."

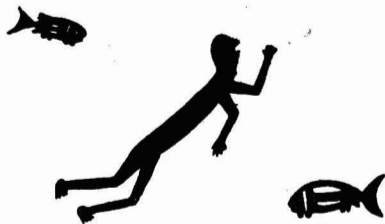
With a \$3 trillion plus deficit, a waning health care system and financially crippled educational institutes, there are a lot of things our government should and must do if we are to stay a "strong and free" America. Ruining the environment isn't one of them!!

be removed.

Big Cypress Earth First! is launching a campaign to stop all access into the Big Cypress Swamp region from I-75 to protect the ecosystem from further fragmentation. We need your help.

Write to: Governor Chiles at The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 or call him at (904) 488-4441 or Senator Bob Graham at US Senate, Washington DC 20510 phone: (202) 536-7293.

To find out what else you can do to help, contact **Big Cypress Earth First!** 1938 Hollywood Blvd., 2nd floor, Hollywood, FL 33020 phone: (305) 921-5355.



TUCSON

photo by Dwight Metzger

Earth First! Savage River Campaign Underway in Maryland

BY RON HUBER

The 56,000 acre Savage River State Forest, located in the western panhandle of Maryland, is yet another part of the Appalachians that is recovering from the massive clearcutting which occurred around the turn of the century.

Now that the forest is reaching "maturity," a chorus of timber industry types are claiming that it will soon become an "ecological nightmare" unless swift action is taken to cut it down. Led by former head of the MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) James Coulter, timber lobbyists are pushing to turn all of MD's state forests into timber plantations. At the same time they

are doing very little to deal with the real problem facing the state's wood products industry, which is the wholesale destruction of the state's timber base. Over 70,000 acres of Maryland's forest have been destroyed since

forum to express its opposition: each individual timber sale must be approved by the State Board of Public Works, and activists can intervene on the decision. If the timber sales do not adequately protect wildlife or fulfill other ecological necessities, they can be prevented, if the Board agrees.

There's the rub: The Board consists of Governor Schaefer, the State Treasurer and the State Comptroller. Enviros have had some past successes getting the Board to veto some destructive timber sales, but many more failures. We will research intervening at this level, and pass on the information ASAP.

A second technique, of course, is civil disobedience. Maryland has never had a demonstration in its State Forests before. Blockading roads, sitting in trees and other actions will raise the intensity of the forest debate and get the message out through the media.

This action will not be a garden party. There is a potential for violence from local loggers and police. However it will keep the issue of state forest abuse in the public mind where it belongs, and make the decision makers take a second look at what they're letting happen.

We never fight so hard as for something we know and love, so in the interests of getting to know this area intimately a base camp in the state forest area will provide a place for activists to regroup and plan and direct this forest campaign. Several locations are under review. The camp may well be forced to move from time to time, so call before you come out.

Please bring your basic camping supplies. Food supplies will be under the Stone Soup Policy: bring enough to share, and we'll all eat. Medical supplies are also wanted. Contact Joe at (301) 779-1740 or Ron at (301) 855-4241 to get on the alert list.

1985.

Now the DNR is steamrolling through a plan to permit clearcutting on 29,000 acres or 59% of the Savage River State Forest. The public has been given its pro-forma

Laguna Lockdown cont.

continued from page 10

An hour and a half later that rainy morning, Craig decided the point had been made. I produced the key and released him.

The following Saturday, March 7, Orange County Earth First!ers participated in the city of Laguna Beach's Founder's Day Parade. We were well received. There was only one thumbs down that I could see; many more praises and thanks. Members of the crowd presented us with inspirational buttons and flowers.

In this Southern California area, there are a number of battles that have to be won. In addition to the highways, there are the Coal Canyon

Mountain Lion project, the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, the Foothills of Orange County, Laguna Canyon, a 14,000 square foot Chancellor's Residence to be built right on California Gnatcatcher Habitat...the list goes on and on. For myself, I wish to see the land I love and cherish preserved for future generations. I can remember a number of years ago tracking deer, coyote and bobcat that ran freely just a short bike ride from where I now live. However, anyone coming back to Orange County that has not been here for the last twenty-five years would not recognize much of this area. This is why we remain here, in defense of Mother Earth. She deserves it. It's Her right. It's our obligation...to Mother Earth! EARTH FIRST!

Michael Scott is a 32-year-old single parent of two, a resident of Costa Mesa, California and sick of developers.

Canada to Limit Seal Populations—With Birth Control

BY DAVE J.

Yes folks, those goddam critters are at it again! As if it isn't bad enough that that pesky owl is bringing this country's timber industry to its knees, we now have the Canadian Atlantic fishing fleets facing imminent collapse due to—you guessed it, seals.

The federal Canadian government recently announced it might be necessary to kill 510,000 harp seals to preserve Northern Cod stocks. Choosing completely to ignore the real factors which are inexorably propelling the fish species to commercial extinction, all the blame is being conveniently dumped on the natural predators of the fishery. Increased fishing capacity, destructive fishing technologies, ignorance of marine ecosystems, declining fish stocks, and widespread corruption of existing regulatory bodies, coupled with the arrogance that one can still "manage" individual species of fish do not seem to figure in the government's decision making processes. Nor does the fact that the seals have had major wars waged against them, and their numbers are a fragment of pre exploitation levels.

Whilst there is nothing new in making other species the scapegoat

for our own destructive impacts on the natural world, a particularly sick piece of research that buys into this mindset has recently come to light. It is totally accepting of the bullshit science and specious argument that Canada's seals are multiplying rapidly since the end of the mass culling, and thus posing a major threat to the survival of the fishing industry. It is also based on the belief that growing seal populations are responsible for an increase in sealworm infestation of fish stocks. No reliable evidence exists to validate either claim.

The research program is called the Sealworm Intervention Project (SWIP). It is a collaboration of federal and Dalhousie University scientists. Their \$1-million plus project seeks to perfect a form of animal abuse developed in 1983 to inoculate farm animals, and more recently used on diseased elk in Wyoming and antelopes and wildebeests in South Africa. The aim is to develop a three way biodegradable "bullet" which can be fired into the flesh of tens of thousands of grey seals when they visit Sable Island to mate in the winter. The bullets would contain a timed release, freeze-dried contraceptive that would prevent pregnancy for two or three years, a freeze-dried anti-worm vaccine that would include a timed-released booster shot, and

another timed released drug to kill worms already in the animals. The seal aquarium at Dalhousie is known to be carrying out vivisection on at least 8 harbour seals to this end. The name of the laboratory manager is John Young. Don Bowen, a researcher with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, is also involved.

Whilst those working within the SWIP project state their intention as finding an alternative to the use of the bullet to control seal numbers, it is obvious that their research is totally predicated on the anthropocentric and speciesist idea that we have a right to fuck with the seals' natural processes. Who cares how many fish they eat, or what parasites they are carrying. They have a right to live uninterfered with by humans, and to have a chance at recovering from the massacres we have unleashed on them. The Canadian government and the SWIP people would be far better researching contraceptive bullets that could be fired at human beings, and trying them on themselves.

Background info available in a report called "The Philosophy and Environmental Politics of Seal Programs," from Green Web, R.R.3 Saltsprings, Nova Scotia, Canada BOK 1P0

Grazing

(continued from page 15)



layer of soil creating the "hardpan" effect, which reduces water infiltration and diminishes groundwater supplies. Cattle break up and scatter the protective pebblestone, organic litter, and lichen surface layers, exposing bare soil to erosion. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that livestock grazing on public lands accounts for 28 percent of the annual sediment production in the West, second only to croplands in total sediment production.

Water

Cattle grazing in streams and riparian areas cause water quality and quantity to decrease dramatically. But even if livestock were barred from all riparian areas on the western rangelands, streams would still suffer from the tremendous amount of sediment resulting from loss of the 'living skin' of the desert soil and organic matter.

Riparian areas include wetlands and lands adjacent to creeks, streams, lakes and rivers where vegetation is strongly influenced by the presence of water. The diversity of plant life in a healthy riparian area serves several purposes. Cottonwoods, willows and woody and herbaceous plants provide both habitat for birds and small animals and fish. In addition, these riparian areas provide a protective blanket against erosion by water, reduce evaporation, keep temperatures low in the soil and the water and create and maintain stable banks.

Nearly all life is dependent on riparian areas on the high desert. Because they comprise less than one percent of the land base in the West, disturbances such as grazing devastates the wildlife and biological diversity. Livestock concentrate heavily around water, in greater numbers and for longer periods than native grazers. Trampling widens streambanks and increases temperature, evaporation and turbidity. Resulting sediment suffocates incubating fish eggs and inundates aquatic insect habitat. It also fills the holes in streams and decreases rapids, thereby resulting in loss of fish habitat. Squawfish, carp and other "rough fish" which are more adapted to warmer waters with less oxygen crowd out the native cold-water fish such as trout.

Because cattle will usually travel only a mile or two from water, "tanks" are often used to supply water to livestock. A tank can be anything from a galvanized metal trough to a mud-wallow scraped into the earth to a three acre rock and concrete structure. The area surrounding tanks has been termed a "sacrifice area" because almost all living things in this area are sacrificed to the cloven hooves. Few native animals are attracted to these sterile excrement-laden areas.

A Settlement With Nature

BY GEORGE FRENCH

Most people are unaware of the ecological and social crisis confronting the way we live and think in the West. We daily exterminate in excess of 140 life forms as we endeavour to transform tropical rainforest into trash like chipboard, beefburgers and toilet seats. The atrocity of contemporary species and cultural extinction makes the grand sins of the past, like the holocaust, Hiroshima and Vietnam, appear as minor misdemeanours on the road to good intentions. The human species is at war with nature and means to bring about its painful death.

This daily round of slaughter demands a solution that resolves, in the deepest sense, our schism with nature. Putting Earth First is to embrace a post-modernist and post-environmentalist notion of the 'good life.' We must abandon existing ideological frameworks and turn to confront the final frontier of non-dualistic nature, species liberation and the moral standing of trees.

Ecocentrics reject the dominant paradigm encapsulated in the Western world view. This version of reality is held together by patriarchy, speciesism, privatisation of gaia and the belief in value free knowledge. The ecocentric vision is an earthly 'Kingdom of Ends' having nothing in common with what has gone before.

A settlement with nature is realised when humans acknowledge a fundamental duty to: Live a form of life that results in diversity

of ecosystems, species and cultures, live a form of life that secures intra and inter-generational equity; and live a form of life that generates the Biopsychic well-being of all species.

To satisfy and make real these Earth First definitions of the 'good life' humans must accept nature's decree that we live a form of life circumscribed by global reforestation and future primitivism. Taken together, these primal policy prescriptions provide the material conditions in which humans can satisfy their duty to diversity, equity and well-being. Global reforestation results in an infinitely sustainable age of plenty. The future primitive citizen lives in a re-enchanted world of tree centered cultures.

Global reforestation is truly the panacea to our ecological crisis. This would include the urgent transformation of Britain into a temperate wet forest ecosystem with over 80 percent tree cover. Trees are the real wealth of nations because they can supply the basic needs of the human population on an authentically sustainable basis.

Non-violent tree cropping provides higher yields per acre than any other source of food. Through

reforestation we can grow our own energy, chemicals, fibres, medicines and building materials. Forests counter global warming and ozone depletion. They check soil erosion while providing shade and windbreaks. The forest ecosystem is one of the most diverse and aesthetically exhilarating.

The reversal of environmental degradation in Britain begins with the planting of 25 billion trees.



TUCSON

photo by Dwight Metzger

A settlement with nature also prescribes that humans must go future primitive and politically recycle Britain into a multitude of autonomous forest-based communities. Liberated nature, rich with the harvest of a fecund

earth, provides everything needed in a society based on being, not having. The supporting infrastructure of this ecocentric utopia is best described wood-age affluence. It employs biological forces and modes of production and consumption.

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Urine from livestock (about 20 pounds per day per cow) contains ammonia, which is toxic to fish and other aquatic animals. Cow feces creates a state of overdose of nutrients in the water causing an overpopulation of algae. The eventual decomposition of algae uses up most of the available oxygen in the water, killing fish and other aerobic organisms. Livestock manure (about 50 pounds per day per cow) in streams is also responsible for the spread of giardiasis, salmonella, dysentery, anthrax, tapeworms, roundworms and pinworms in public lands watersheds. Cattle feces has even been linked to a waterborne liver-kidney disease, *leptospirosis*, that has been killing hundreds of sea lions on the West Coast as well as infecting many humans in some areas. Asking how many cattle you want grazing by a stream is like asking how many termites you want in your house.

Native Wildlife

Extermination of habitat means extermination of countless individual animals and ultimately of species. Most native animals have less food to eat, less cover in which to hide from predators, less vegetation in which to take shelter during extreme weather conditions, fewer places in which to mate and nest—less of almost everything they need to survive. The Burns BLM District in Oregon allots two hundred fifty-two million pounds of forage to livestock, while wildlife gets eight million pounds.

Livestock are more susceptible to disease and parasites than native animals in the wild. Because of excessive concentrations of livestock in the western public land, disease and parasites are often spread to wild animals, which don't receive the benefits of modern medicine that cattle do. Foot and mouth disease, spread by livestock, killed many thousands of deer in the west.

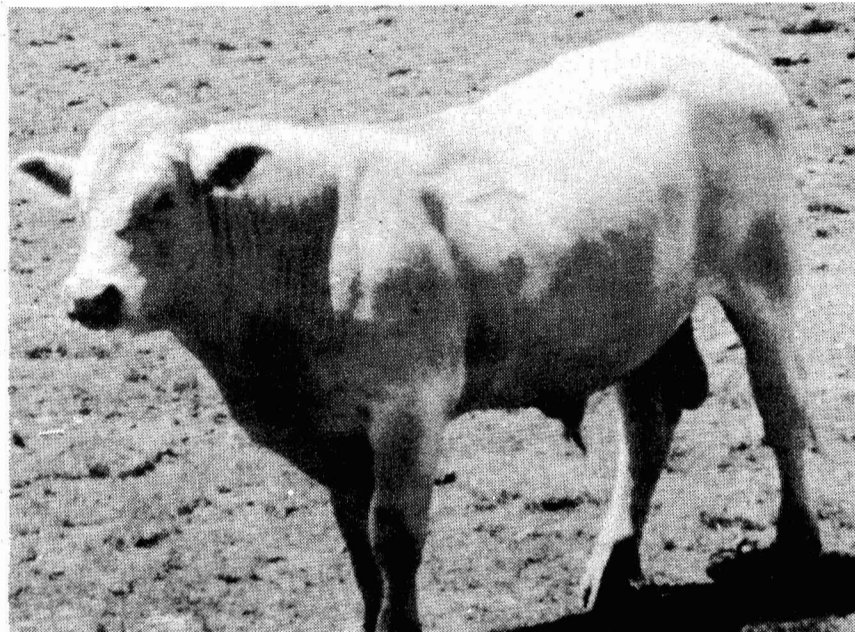
Once numbering from 2-3 million in the West before the arrival of livestock, bighorn sheep now have a population of 20-30 thousand (1%). Although hunting, introduction of disease by domestic sheep and range development are significant factors in its decline, the bighorn's decrease in population is primarily due to depletion of its habitat and grasses by cattle. Were bighorn not so adept at surviving in areas too rugged for livestock, they would probably be extinct by now.

Although you probably wouldn't know about it from talking to the BLM, there is a great diversity of "non-game" native wildlife on the high desert and rangeland. What affects the health and habitat of bighorn, elk and other game animals affects these other species as well. Less recognized mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and insects such as lizards, snakes, bumblebees, egrets, bass, butterflies, toads, bats and tortoises are in trouble. The BLM's concern for these species only begins when they are classified as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

When the BLM determines that wildlife are "competing" for resources or otherwise "harming" livestock, Animal Damage Control (ADC) steps in to tip the scales even further for the cows. ADC is

charged with "the protection of American agriculture and other resources from damage caused by wildlife." Nationwide, ADC is responsible for the slaughter of literally millions of animals each year. In 1988 alone, ADC destroyed nearly 100,000 coyotes, 291 black bear, 1200 bobcat, 200 cougar, 6000 fox, and over 3,000,000 black-birds.

Dozens of wildland species are defined as either predators (meat eating animals big enough to kill cattle or sheep) or competitors (animals that eat grasses or leaves on shrubs that cattle might eat). In 1988, 76,000 coyotes were killed as potential consumers of sheep and cattle, and 124,000 prairie dogs were slaughtered as competing consumers of grass. "Non-target species" including the golden eagle and the kit fox are often killed by the traps and poisons aimed at the



"pests." The black-footed ferret, predator of the the prairie dog is one of the most endangered mammal species on Earth. The 1934 Department of Agriculture Yearbook defined the government's ultimate goal to be "total extermination of the coyote in the United States." This doesn't appear to have changed.

Beyond its impact on individual species, the environmental consequences of predator control are far-reaching. Before 1972, carcasses laced with predator and rodent poisons were dumped indiscriminately across public and private lands. Predators of all kinds were affected, some pushed nearly to extinction. The deadly chain of poisons placed both the black-footed ferret and the wolverine on the endangered species list, and severely crippled populations of eagles, martens and prairie dogs. The wolf was nearly wiped out in all of the lower 48 states. While many of these species struggle to recover from the past activities of ADC, current activities continue to disrupt their lives and the habitat they depend on for their survival. Poison gas and cyanide capsules are still used on public land.

Grazing Accessories

A picture of the devastation of the Western rangeland would be incomplete without mention of grazing accessories such as fencing, roads, salt blocks, seeding—artificial means for "improving" the rangelands solely for livestock.

The roads created for public lands livestock have devastated some of the wildest of our remain-

ing wilderness. The total area of roads built for the benefit of livestock grazing on public lands would cover an area approximately the area of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Roads compact the soil, increase erosion and destroy plants. But more importantly they open up ecologically fragile areas to human entry and destructive activities including natural resource theft, dumping of garbage, reckless use of dirt bikes, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles and grazing!

Fences serve many purposes on the public lands. Some fences keep cattle out of riparian areas (good if they must be there at all), which forces them into more fragile areas (bad). Fences are there for cattle, not hikers, hunters, sightseers or native wildlife. The construction of fences often involves the removal of obstructing vegetation, excavation of topsoil, dislodging of rocks

and sometimes dynamiting. Many roads are built solely to help in the construction and maintenance of fences. Fences restrict the free movement and prevent migration of many wild animals, especially pronghorns and bighorns, thus shrinking their territories and limiting access to necessary food, water and mating and hibernating areas. Pronghorns, coyotes and foxes become snared on fences or in the barbed wire litter and debris that is discarded.

Salt blocks, a necessary part of livestock diet, are used by ranchers to entice the cattle into lesser grazed, more fragile areas. Hundreds of thousands of 50 pound blocks are scattered across the Western public lands. The area surrounding these blocks is another "sacrifice area"—not only being trampled but biologically sterilized by the presence of salt.

The BLM tries to solve the problem of overgrazing by replanting with "tougher" exotic grasses such as crested wheatgrass, which is native to Asia. The heavy machinery used in seeding damages the soil layers, increasing erosion. What was once a diverse and complex ecosystem becomes a monoculture, providing forage for cattle. "There's nothing wrong with crested wheatgrass except that by itself it's about as biologically productive as a Safeway parking lot," claims Denzel Ferguson, co-author of *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*.

What You Can Do:

Because livestock grazing has been practiced so extensively for the past 150 years, almost no pris-

tine area remains. A few experiments in removing cattle from small areas show the capacity of the land to restore itself. US Fish and Wildlife staffer, Barry Reiswig, while manager of the Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge in Montana, terminated five grazing permits. Shortly after cattle were removed, Reiswig says, "Willow began to come back to places we hadn't seen them in fifty years, and as a result of new nesting and foraging areas we got a big increase in songbirds. Beaver numbers also went up. The entire biological value of the refuge increased significantly." Merely reducing the number of cattle does not solve the problem. "Even if you have fewer cows, they just spend more time in the riparian areas doing the same amount of damage as if you had three or four times the number."

Lynn Jacob's book, *Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching*, the best overview of the livestock industry's stranglehold on public wildlands, deals not only with the ecological impacts of grazing but the political, economical and cultural impacts as well. Read it. It's excellent. \$29, but worth it. Denzel and Nancy Ferguson's *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough* is also a first rate resource on grazing.

Johanna Wald of the Natural Resources Defense Council has co-authored *How Not to be Cowed, Livestock Grazing on the Public Lands: An Owner's Manual*, which explains in detail how to deal with the BLM, get and use information on grazing decisions and land use plans, and how to file administrative appeals. Write NRDC, 71 Stevenson #1825, San Francisco CA 94105.

Go see for yourself if this article is accurate. Take pictures. Adopt an allotment. Use the information in *How Not to be Cowed* to become an *affected interest* and write to the BLM or Forest Service about the range abuses which affect your enjoyment of an allotment.

Lobby Congress. Most congressional concern on the issue has focused on the public land grazing fee. While the government shouldn't subsidize this environmental disaster, having the welfare ranchers pay to abuse the land is not a permanent solution. Domestic livestock have to be banned from our National Parks and Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Wildlife Refuges. If they *must* remain on the public lands at all, they *must* be limited to protect and restore the environment.

The boycott of beef from public lands involves refusing to eat beef that is grazed on public lands, asking restaurants and grocery stores to ensure their beef isn't killing public wildlife, and writing letters to large purchasers of beef appealing to their post-Earth-Day consciousness, reminding them that they can make a difference. Learn about the issue and talk to others about it.

Prior to the presence of livestock, the western lands were a functional and stable ecosystem, with great diversity of plant and animal life. Over a century and a half of grazing has crippled and compromised these lands to the extent that a fifth of them are effec-

Regional Roundup

Another Dam Action in Stumptown

It just had to be done and after the activist conference seemed like the time to do it. Spawn-minded Stumptowners were at it again; bizarre, mind stimulating visual images, yes, you got it...media slavery! ("If only the media will cover it, one photo and we've done it!")

And if sticks of dynamite dancing and singing on a dam isn't a brain kicking image, I don't know what is. The dynamite dancers, adorned with signs which read "Blow Me!" and "Free the Rivers," were accompanied by a four foot match and hungry photographers.

The scene was the Bonneville Dam, one of eighteen dams in the Columbia River basin, and the first and most forbidding of the concrete clogs facing the upper Columbia salmon runs. The fish ladder at the Bonneville Dam looks like a biologist's bad joke and a cruel hoax to test the Salmon's adaptability to urban habitat.

We have been to visit the Army Corpse before, twice at the dam and once downtown at HQ with the now legendary conga-dancing fish (R.I.P.). The dynamite had also appeared at a Northwest Power Planning Council's public hearing where a dynamite-dressed Karen Wood was told very politely by one of the council members, "Why sure you can testify. We want everyone's input."

So it was, on a sunny day after the activist conference, we loaded up the dynamite and headed for the dam. Most of us were still weary from the series of meetings/parties/meetings. But even a nerve-jolting tire blow-out and the appearance of a *real* explosives transport vehicle on the highway did not deter us from our date with the all-in-one-god media.

This being a weekday, the crowd at the

visitors' center was predictably slow, but the cameras and the Corpse were there. We donned our barrels and after a few gratuitous pics at the front entrance, we went in. The uniformed Corpse were waiting for us. One Corpse employee even obliged us by holding the match. Snap, advance, snap. We then charged through the building looking for a place to "set." A concrete kiosk on the roof would have to do. Huddle around the pillar, charges secured (duct-taped) in place, and...BOOM!

The Corpse was not amused. After a quick chorus line on the fish ladder and a series of explosive jokes, we were out of there.

It was then agreed to visit the HQ in down-

town Stumptown. After feasting on soyburgers (after all this is Oregon) and picking up our portable dam (oxymoron), we converged on the familiar Forest Service Region 6 Headquarters/Army Corpse of Engineers office building. To our surprise we discovered the offices had moved. We walked the four blocks to our new destination where the office doors faced a busy light rail station.

The new building's security had been waiting since the move for us to show our scaly faces at the door. The door was locked on us, the dam unfurled, the dynamite was in place, and we demanded to see the general. Population Pat, abnormally quiet up until now, chose this moment to approach the guards behind the glass to convince them that, "You can talk to me, I'm the reasonable one."

Downtown commuters were subjected to an image of dynamite kicking down a dam. It was a blast! We'll be back.

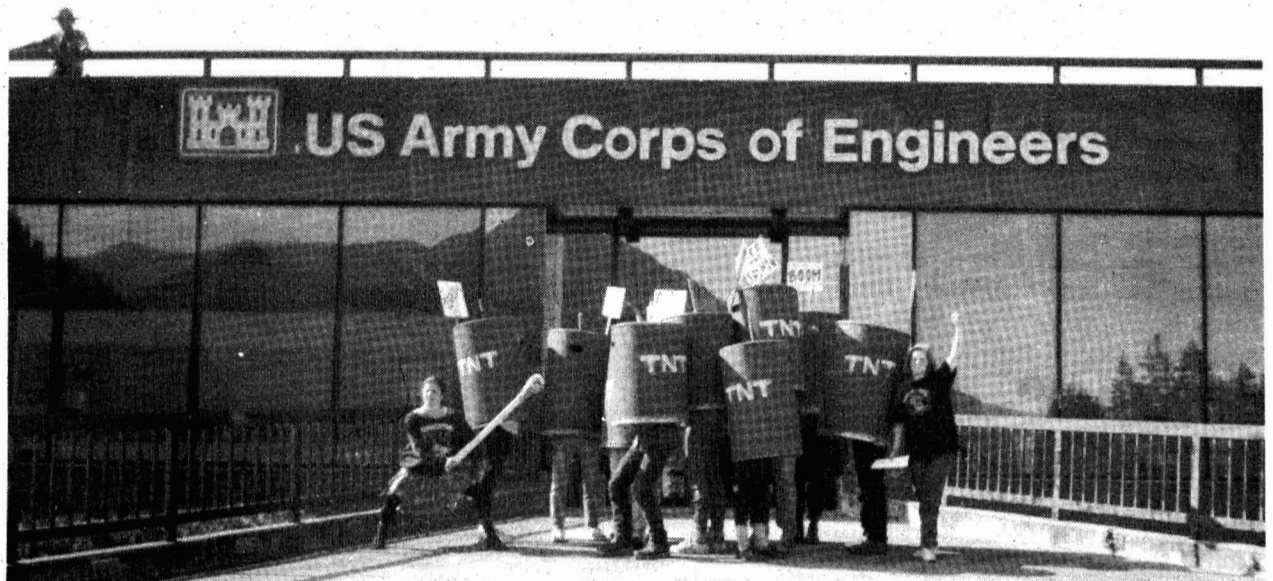


photo by Freebird

Stumptown EFlers preparing to blow the Bonneville Dam.

SouthPAW: Computer Geeks for Wilderness

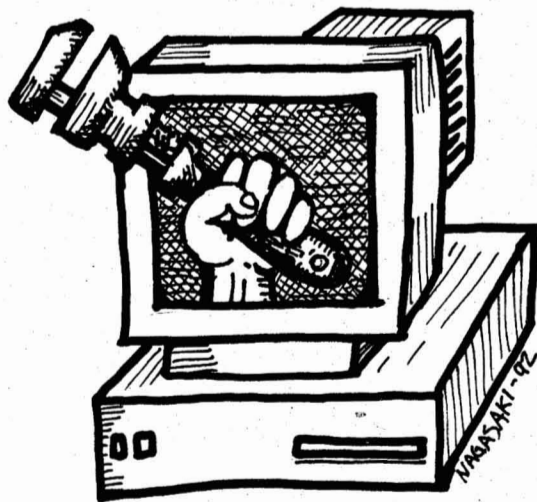
Over the past several months, SouthPAW's more geeky activists have spent long hours before their computers filing administrative appeals of timber sales on the Southern Appalachian National Forests. Not fun work—but necessary. Here's what we've done and how they've reacted.

Brownie filed eight appeals on the Pisgah and Nantahala. The White Oak Flats (Pisgah NF, Toecane RD) appeal was upheld on the grounds that cumulative effects had not been gauged. The seven other appeals were rejected by Randall Philips, deputy supervisor, and have all been reappealed to the Regional Forester in Atlanta. Randy's "logic" for rejecting the appeals was extremely narrow and weak.

Rodney filed two appeals on the Cherokee in East Tennessee; one was immediately upheld. The other—the infamous Bog Turtle sale—has been rejected at both the Regional and the Federal levels. During recent trips to the field, Unaka SouthPAW folks have positively identified a patch of large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) not less than 35 feet from the planned road construction for this sale. *V. macrocarpon* is listed as a state threatened species in Tennessee. There is a strong feeling that Crested Woodfern, sometimes called Crested Shield fern (*Dryopteris cristata*), listed as a state sensitive species, may occur within compartment 79 of the Watauga Ranger District. The Freds also came to the amazing (?) conclusion that the road building and clearcutting planned for this sale "protects and improves the habitat for black bear."

SouthPAW halted planned herbiciding on 401 acres on the Jefferson National Forest in

Southern Virginia. Development plans elsewhere on the Jefferson have also been appealed. Two Appalachian Clubs and Jim Loesel's Citizens Task Force have intervened. The two trail clubs claimed Visual Quality Objectives and recreation opportunities would not be violated. Jim Loesel declared that speaking up for voiceless lifeforms is



"blather."

SouthPAW activists have been submitting comments for proposed logging, road construction, and herbiciding projects in all the National Forests in the Southern Appalachians and elsewhere in the Southeast. By commenting on projects we hope to influence the Forest Service to deviate from their history of bashing our native forests and, gee whiz, maybe actually protect them. Pretty radical, huh?

SouthPAW has developed an elaborate ecological proposal for the Pisgah and Nantahala

National Forests. The management plan for these two forests is in a process of reanalysis. Unfortunately (but predictably), the Forest Service has not taken into account the three most serious threats to our native forest—forest fragmentation, the long-term effects of atmospheric pollution and climatic warming. Because these threats were not considered, the new Forest Plan will surely fail to deal with them.

SouthPAW's proposal takes a biocentric, bioregional view. As one might expect, it humbly advocates restoring vast areas of wild forest, closing roads, re-introducing wolves, cougar and elk, eliminating exotic species as well as taking measures to end acid rain, ozone poisoning, and global warming. It elaborates the value of public forests as evolutionary preserves, life support systems, as well as bastions of sanity and joy. By golly, it's even got economic arguments in it, so even you humanist, capitalist pig dogs out there can support this!

This proposal does need your support. If the Freds don't hear from people, they can just pretend that an alternative does not exist and that the forests are doing fine. The SouthPAW alternative also serves as a great educational piece. It's technical but accessible; brings biocentrism to the layman. For copies, write **Brownie Newman**, Unicorn Hills Farm, Sunset, SC 29685. Also write letters supporting this Alternative. Send copies to Brownie too, and we'll present them en masse. And send \$5 for postage and printing. It's 60 pages long.

—SOURCE: THE DRAGON

The Next Generation

We're in our teens and wanting to do something useful for the Earth First! movement. What could we do? There's no way in hell we could participate in civil disobedience till we're older because if we get arrested it's all over for us! So we decided to form a newsletter (like a mini-Earth First! journal) for not only Earth Firsters, but others so we can get the message out.

After much consideration (about 5 minutes) we named our newsletter *Western Wolves InfoLetter*. In December, when we had our first meeting, it included three people. Now there are eight people ranging from writers to organizers. We still need more people though.

I don't know if you'd call us laid back or not, but our first issue was originally to come out in January. Oh well. Our printer (my ex-girlfriend) bailed out on us (especially me) and we had no computer. We do now.

Recently we got a good boost on our budget. Still, we are as poor as Donald Trump. We decided also to make our newsletter free. Our objective is to inform people, not constantly plead for money. We have just enough to get by.

In March, I did a personality profile on an organizer for Orange County EF! in my journalism class. I'd say I made some kids interested, some seemed to somewhat envy EF! and some outright hated Earth First! and booed me. I don't care. They're going to be sorry someday anyways.

If you'd like a free subscription to our newsletter, write to *Western Wolves InfoLetter*, 18032-C Lemon Drive #127, Yorba Linda, CA 92686.

—SOURCE: MIKE SALTZ JR.

Settlement With Nature, cont.

munalism, the creation of small scale communities is essential to counter the actually existing modernist dislocation of time and space. Tribal size communities make place rich in meaning and spread value thick on the world. Tribal size communities make the rights of past generations and the moral standing of trees comprehensible.

Global reforestation and future primitivism result in a settlement with nature because our techno dystopia is replaced by a biological framework of mutual aid. Global reforestation ends forever the Malthusian notion of scarcity. Parish parliaments and participatory democracy will limit the scale of future grand sins and empire building. To comprehend the liberation of Britain as a temperate wet forest inhabited by tribal communities is to accept the post-modernist reality of ethical relativism and the multitude of ways of knowing nature. This future primitive scenario is a deep response and counter discourse to the modern crisis of legitimation and collapse in meaning.

In wanting to turn the world upside down, facilitate a paradigm shift or enter a new ecocentric language game the west is no longer best. Our mentors are the worlds tribals while surviving cultures sustain the ecocentric archeology of knowledge so badly needed in the west. Tribals must be invited to Britain to see first hand the true extent of ecological and social degradation resulting from millenia of exploitation and abuse. In ecocentric terms, Britain is certainly one of the world's poorest countries. The advice of tribals must be acted upon in the knowledge that the Earth's genetic ark belongs not to us but the galactic community.

My final claim is that the ultimate ecoterraist act is the planting of a tree. Don't let the dominant ideology of the tree as pet, status symbol or merely dead wood mask its real potential as the vanguard force in creating diverse, equitable and liberating forms of life. As a political act, tree planting is a metaphor and focus for the explicit future primitive demand of unilateral deindustrialisation. As a personal act, the planting of each tree is an affirmation that humans can be a mutual aid to evolution rather than its terminator.

Fund for Animals Accuses Griz "Recovery" Coordinator of Fudging Data

On March 17, 1992, The Fund for Animals called on US Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner to dismiss Dr. Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator of the FWS. The Fund has obtained evidence through Freedom of Information Act requests that Dr. Servheen inflated grizzly bear mortality quotas. These inflated quotas have been used by the state of Montana as an excuse to conduct annual grizzly bear hunts. The Fund has also requested that the Department of the Interior's Inspector General investigate wrongdoing by Servheen in his implementation of this program.

These charges by the Fund came shortly after the US Humane Society cited Servheen with the inappropriate transfer of an adult female grizzly bear from Yellowstone National Park to a research laboratory at Washington State University.



photo by Chao White

Sequoia doesn't let a bum leg affect her open and friendly attitude. At Mendicino County Forest Advisory Committee meeting, 250 timber goons were met by 250 of Ecotopia's finest. For once, the Board of Supervisors felt safer with Earth First! in the room. The Committee has developed a select cut, sustained yield plan which industry is trying to squash. EF! doesn't support the sustained yield plan, but it doesn't support vigilante violence by the timber industry either, hence our large turnout.

"I think if you told them that if you cut down all the trees they wouldn't have anything to print money on, they might stop."

—DAN KAHL, a senior in a Louisville, Kentucky high school who skipped school to participate in a National Day of Outrage protest against the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Cascades Lynx ESA Petition Denied

After months of dragging their feet, the US Fish and Wildlife Service finally gave their decision on the Cascades Lynx Endangered Species Act Petition. The petition was denied on the grounds that there is no substantial evidence to support it. Greater Ecosystem Alliance, Friends of the Loomis Forest, and other petitioners agreed that the decision was political and warrants legal action.

French Commandos Occupy Rainbow Warrior near Moruroa Atoll Nuclear Test Site

Sydney, Mar 27— Two dozen French commandos boarded the Greenpeace protest vessel "Rainbow Warrior" as it entered the 27-km territorial waters surrounding the French nuclear testing site at Moruroa Atoll in the South Pacific.

A Greenpeace spokesperson in Auckland, New Zealand, said that RW Captain Juan Guittart of Spain had ignored French radio warnings to stop at the 27 km limit declaring "We are going to Moruroa to set up a Pacific Peace Base." The international boat crew, including Nikolai Vorontsov, former environmental minister of the now-disbanded Soviet Union, were placed under arrest on board. A few days later, all but a skeletal boat crew were deported. Greenpeace campaigner Stephanie Mills declared the mission a success due to worldwide media attention.

UPDATE 4/92: Nuclear Testing Moratorium Declared By Mitterand after Green Parties win seats in French election and force a socialist compromise.

Yukon Aerial Wolf Kill Forestalled

Protests in the Yukon Territory by thirty wolf protection, environmental, animal rights/animal welfare and political organizations have succeeded in forestalling the proposed aerial wolf kill program, but on February 10 the Ministry of Renewable Resources announced that incentives would be offered to increase wolf trapping. The wolf control program has been called to help increase the Aishihik caribou herd, partially at the request of the Aishihik First Nation.

The pro-wolf groups have organized a tourist boycott of the Yukon, and the International Society for Animal Rights said the boycott will continue. They oppose the persecution and scapegoating of wolves, whether from the air or on the ground.

The majority of tourists to the Yukon, other than hunters, are retired Winnebago types. To make the boycott most effective, we need to find ways to reach these individuals. Unfortunately, ads in *Modern Maturity Magazine* cost \$51,200 for one sixth of a page.

—SOURCE: LYNN MANHEIM



More Shit fer Brains...

Continued from page 3

would believe. We have the power NOT TO BUY THEIR STUFF. We have the STUFF, things we don't REALLY need, and buy good quality of the things we do need and keep those for a long time, then the mass-stuff producers wouldn't produce it 'cause nobody would buy it, and they couldn't buy their stuff, because they wouldn't have our money, and so on, up the money-making hill (yeah, all the way up the Capitol Hill) to the biggest Earth rapers.

If that's not news to you, GREAT, join us, help spread the word to those who haven't seen how simple it really is! And really do it, don't buy that piece of STUFF. Help spread the word to the kids who you know are the biggest wasters and whose parents don't get the EF! or other good newspapers (share yours with them! With your teacher!). Be an example. Do old-fashioned things like plant some of your own food, hang on to old STUFF if it's still good. Forget about fashions! Tell your class friends that your brain is inside your head, not in your inflatable sneakers (and your money's not in some rich earth rapers pocket!)

So write to us. We'd like to hear from everybody, and get your ideas, and really get this thing going. It's FUN, and it's COOL, to help all creatures have a decent home. My friend Walkin' Jim says: Let's all get together and really start to care! And Cecilia Ostrow says: We have the power to make things right. That what KIDS is all about: really caring and doing something about it. JOIN US, PLEASE.

So write to us to POB 885, Athens, GA 30601 and visit us if you ever come through! If you want an outward sign of becoming a KID for KONSERVATION, send \$6 (\$8 for large) for a KIDS T-shirt, and if you want to change your religion to the EARTH FIRST! religion, send \$1 for a bumper sticker. (Only buy the T-shirt if you really need it!). KIDS is planning to planned to put out a Bulletin for kids with real action stuff in kidslanguage, and we hope you'll help.
—TRISTAN N.R.

Dear friends,

I think Billbob and Erik are the best things to ever happen to the Journal. I'd also like to remind people that we wouldn't have been able to make the Tucson/Missoula switch w/o Techno Bechtold.

Violence against humans is part of everyday life. Censoring the discussion of same is wrong. Sadly, I now regret putting the "Trees are for Hanging" graphic in the paper. Trees are obviously for newspapers. Can anyone tell me what a fucking developer is good for?

—FLYNN

Dear SFB:

The March 21 (Eostar) 1992 Journal was the best I've read since 1989. Keep up the good work!!

Just a few rambling thoughts:

I fully agree that personal attacks should be excluded from Dear Shit-fer-brains. I suspect that most of the bashing of Dave Foreman, Judi Bari, Murray Bookchin, Bill Devall, and others who are laying their lives on the line for our beloved planet, is coming from FBI agents trying to cause further disruption of the movement.

Those of you who are committing eco-phone-tage by calling the '800' numbers of eco-rapers should be advised: DO NOT call from your home phone. According to an article in the Autumn, 1991 issue of 2600 Magazine (P.O.B. 752, Middle island, NY 11953,) subscribers to toll-free '800' numbers automatically receive the phone #s of those calling them. This system is known as Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and is just another ex-

ample of our tecno-Big Brother complex gone out of control. When making prank calls to the corporations you love to hate, call from a pay phone.

The Pagan Calendar in the Eostar issue and the brief article on European Paganism were excellent and much needed. I think that people who are exploring tribal, Earth-attuned lifestyles should realize that not only Native Americans, Australian aboriginals, Africans, etc. had an Earth-centered culture prior to being overrun by anthropocentric imperialists, but so did the Europeans (gasp! not those awful Europeans!) It's true. Northern Europe had a biocentric and almost anarchistic culture based on individual sovereignty and harmony with nature before they were overrun by the Roman Empire. For those who are interested in reading about pre-Christian European culture, check out the books *Valoric Fire, Camp 38: Current Model of Northern European Lifestyle Before Christianity*, and *Brave New World: A Different Projection*, all available from Sovereign press, 326 Harris Rd., Rochester, WA 98579. *Valoric Fire* and *Brave New World* are \$5 postpaid, *Camp 38* is \$6. Although I feel that the thinking behind these books is somewhat muddled, and they do not emphasize biocentrism as much as I think they should (although biocentrism is certainly an element in these books,) they are the only books I have read which promote pre-Christian European lifestyle as an alternative to our current lifestyle of mass consumption, and they should be read and contemplated by anyone who is seriously interested in what kind of lifestyle we should aim for if the Earth is to be preserved in the long run.

Regarding the "increased concern for the environment" which was so much the media hype in 1990: I think we saw who the real environmentalists were and who was merely being trendy when Operation Desert Scam hit the fan and "America's newfound concern for the environment" evaporated overnight. Even the "environmental senator" Albert Gore, Jr (D-TN) voted for Desert Scam when it came up for a vote in Congress. Al Gore has a new book out called "Earth in the Balance" in which he promotes a philosophy which could only be described as Deep Ecology, and then badmouths Earth First! and Deep Ecology. Trendiness? or is he just trying to cover his rear end for his next run for the presidency? The next time you see Gore on C-Span or hear him on a radio talk show, why not call and ask him why, if he is such an environmentalist, did he vote for Operation Desert Scam? And why is he echoing the sentiments of the FBI and "wise use" movement regarding Earth First! and Deep Ecology? Better yet, why not write him c/o the U.S. Senate in Wash. D.C. I used to live in Tennessee, and I can't believe I actually voted for this phony. I can see here that I am violating my own opinions about personal bashing, but in the case of Sen. Gore, I feel it is warranted. In any case, I'll shut up about Gore.

While I'm on the subject of operation Desert Scam: since that war was a war for the petroleum industry and against the Earth, the 2500+ G.I.s who resisted and/or refused to participate in that war should be honored as monkeywrenchers and heroes. For a list of military resisters and their current status, write the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012. Also write your congress members, the Secretary of Defense Richard "Dick" Cheney, your local newspaper, etc., demanding immediate amnesty and honorable discharges for all these resisters.

To all those who think they have to enforce their party line on Earth First!: Chill out! If you want to enforce party lines, go join the RCP.

Here are some more toll-free '800' numbers for eco-phone-tage (from a PAY phone, remember?) I got them out of the Consumers Resource Handbook, published by the U.S. Govt. Printing Office, which has, appropriately enough, a monkeywrench on the front cover. The book is free from Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009, and is even printed on recycled paper. Here goes:

American Express 800-528-4800, 800-327-2177, or 800-525-3355
Atlantic Richfield (rainforests!) 800-322-ARCO
Chevron (barf-o-rama) 800-CHEVRON
Coors 800-642-6116
Dole (pesticides, among other sins) 800-232-8888
General Electric 800-626-2000
James River (clearcutting) 800-243-5384
Kimberly-Clark (") 800-544-1847
Perdue Farms (water pollution) 800-442-2034
Rhone-Poulenc Rorer 800-548-3708
Scott Paper (clearcutting) 800-835-7268
Smell Oil Co. 800-331-3703
Texaco 800-552-7827
Mitsubishi (rainforests) 800-222-0037

That should be enough to keep us po' folks who can't afford Karo syrup 'wrenching for the next few months.
—RON ARNOLD, BELLEVUE, ECOTOPIA

Dear Friends!

Thanks for sending me a copy of Earth First!. It is now passed on for friends to read it. We especially welcomed articles which included action tips cause getting some knowledge on the technical aspects of tackling multinationals and their hardware takes so much time. It's a big help if it is passed on through magazines, campfire discussions, training sessions, booklets, shared action events,... Since we here live in the centre of Europe there isn't much forest, let alone wilderness left. I wrote you on our Mac Donalds actions since then we've been concentrating on traffic (we did several blockades of important crossroads virtually halting all traffic around town creating a car free town where we could play again, moved about freely) and on waste-burning facilities (don't know the exact name in english but I figger you get what I mean). Both "campaigns" are attracting hype press coverage and what is more important local inhabitants effectively supported us joining our blockades. Get people involved is to turn them active, might in the long run turn them towards active resistance and sabotage!

What more do we want as a first step!

Tenderness and strength.

—PETER

Dear Cranial Excrement,

To the list of fun people to chat with toll free, I'd like to add the "Mount Rushmore Preservation Society" (1-800-882-0500). These fine folks have the audacity to run radio ads featuring the voices of Hitler and Stalin, with voice-overs saying that since neither one of these guys believed in freedom, there are no monuments to them left in the world. Then they say that since Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and T.R. did believe in freedom (at least relative to Hitler, Stalin or George Bush) that stealing the Black Hills, nearly exterminating the people who belong there, and raping the wilderness for its "resources" is just dandy so long as we blast and carve a mountain into their likeness. OK, maybe they didn't say it exactly like that, but that's the general idea. So call them up, have a nice, loooong, friendly conversation with the fine folks at the MRPS, and tell 'em Crazy Horse sent you.
—20TH CENTURY MAN

Dear Editor,

Only a few times of the more than two-hundred banners I have made in the Earth First! movement have I had to change or suppress artwork due to requests from other activists. Although I stand for as absolute a freedom of artistic expression as can exist without resorting to armed warfare against or for the political control of art, I also accept compromises of artistic freedom about the way art looks so that the consciousness behind the art is the subject of devotion rather than making an idol of the artwork itself. I do not believe in distracting from the beauty and life-support functions of the Earth for the sake of art and artistic politics.

However before all this comes the creative process itself. The creative act transcends the thing created— is both within and over and beyond the created result. This is also what makes evolution deeper than creationism. Even more repressive than making the flag of an oppressor is interfering with the creation of new flags before they have been finished. True art is an expression of the almost supernatural megadiversity of a wild universe that cannot help creating inside itself.

At the March 7-9 Activist Conference this year in Portland an artist known to only a few people present was busy with a video camera and drawing pad, reportedly forming very accurate representations of people with her pen. A complaint was raised as to the security risk of the artist making such drawings, and with the reluctant agreement of the artist who did not wish to sabotage the purpose of the conference with her assertion of her rights, by an informal political process of nearly the whole group in meeting, her right to draw was removed. The meeting however was already sabotaged inadvertently by the decision to suppress the creative process upon whose forms, such as drawing (and sometimes photography) the ability to defend the wilderness, or anything else depends. This implies far more than politically sensitive freedoms, it implies that some of Earth First! has lost its ability to oppose and destroy the weapons of the enemies of life on earth. In order to truly understand destruction we must see what values survive the destructive act and create new or recreate old opportunities. In order to nonviolently destroy the potential of enemy armies, creativity must be nourished fanatically.

Now a group of Earth First!ers have in some way put into question the right to create in itself! This occurred at a meeting with some national representation. No result could be so serious or damaging to the premises, written or unwritten, that are the basis of wilderness defense. It is not as if we have become the enemy by absorbing their desire to control the creative imagination channeling the pulse of the wild within us.

I do not believe any degree of paranoia that leads to such suppression of creativity can be tolerated in groups. People may live with their own paranoia but a movement which acts on principles which suppress and control creativity is already partly dead. I demand the movement respond to these deadly tendencies that have arisen within it!

Additionally the fear of being recorded by such obvious devices as drawing or even visible video devices is misplaced. Technology has succeeded in our times in enabling such devices to be almost invisible, fitting in jewelry, clothing, buttons, hats, or other innocuous places. What has the paranoia taken such an unreal form that this was not seen?

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JUST IN FROM LONDON - ECONET 4-23-92

GEORGE MARSHALL REPORTS
ON AFTERMATH OF
LIVERPOOL SHIP ACTION

The campaign to end the importation of tropical hardwoods is picking up steam in the United Kingdom according to George Marshall of the London Rainforest Action Group. He wrote us with the following report. "It's worth pointing out that the ship actions have made the Malaysians in particular very jumpy with high level appeals to the UK government to stop the actions. They're so freaked out that big wigs from the Malaysian government and timber indus-

UK Ship Action, cont...

continued from page 13

ing a tire and wooden platform from the fence (used earlier that day to get over the fence). I gave them a hand putting it into the van and repeated my line about going up the cranes. After about ten trips up and down the docks I ran into one of our vans and found a willing comrade to spend the night on the crane with me. We finally got over the fence and on the crane. I did bring one bottle of fine English Lager for the making-it-up-the crane celebration. After finishing the beer we were discovered by the police. They talked to us and I talked back, then they said you're that guy from Montana. "I told you I'd be up here" I said.

The next bit of excitement came with the sound of someone coming up the crane. In a panicked rush we headed up the crane, leaving my backpack and Nan's sleeping bag behind. I had the only world renowned activist tool—the kryptonite lock, and locked down on the ladder below Nan so they couldn't get to her. Yes these polite police turned nasty and took the gear that we left behind. When we decided they had gone I unlocked and noticed they grabbed our things. At that point, two activists jumped the fence and ran toward the cranes. They climbed up three or four at a time to render the dock useless for unloading the timber ship. As the night continued our next visitor arrived; much to our relief he was the friendly activist from crane number three. He brought some beer and eco-energy to our situation. Later his friend arrived and a while after that the police returned for a second appearance. This time they did bring a thermos filled with coffee. I think they must have felt guilty for stealing our sleeping bags. The police returned two more times that night but never convinced us to come down.

Morning came with frustration as we watched the Nips (the name of the Malaysian flagged ship from Sarawak) arrive at another dock. The rest of our group had not arrived yet so one of the guys and I decided to try to get over to the right dock. We both were grabbed and found out that the police were no longer playing the cat and mouse game. They said the jails were filled so they made a holding tank on the docks. This over sized chicken coop

try are coming over to UK at the beginning of May to argue their case. The UK actions have not been the first in Europe. Robin Wood did something in Bremen. BUT they are the first civil disobedience in Europe: i.e. the first REAL ship actions."

Forest activists in the U.S. are in the process of organizing the first direct action focusing on the actual importation of tropical hardwoods into ports. If you're willing to get involved with a ship action or wish to link up with EF!'s rainforest campaign, get in touch with Jake Jagoff or Mike Roselle at the EF! Journal office: P.O. Box 5176; Missoula, MT 59806 (406)728-8114 Fax (406) 728-8160; Econet:earthfirst

filled with pigeon shit was to be our new home. The police told us we had no rights and gave us no inclination of how long we would be in there. After the cops left a couple of dock workers came up to talk to us. They were very supportive and later returned with hot tea and food. After being in the tank for two hours, the first van load of activists arrived to help fill the coop.

Then a rhythmic metal bashing noise was heard throughout the dockyard. People were on the cranes banging on the metal struts, and those outside the metal fence banged stones in unison. The story we got from the new arrestees was that police had changed their well mannered ways of yesterday and had knocked one woman unconscious, and that she was on her way to the hospital. People in the holding tank began to demand their rights and after being there four hours I was finally released. They took my name and address, but no charges were filed. I was given my backpack and set free, or as free as you can be in England.

The dock workers refused to unload the ship until all held in the giant chicken coop were released. After talking to the press about my early morning adventures, I grabbed a rock and joined in the rhythm. A group outside the fence decided to try another action. This time the police grabbed the people by the necks in a violent fashion and dragged them out of the street. Due to the cranes on the dock being occupied, the ship had to use the cranes on board to off load the timber. After two days of delaying the Nips (the name of the ship, remember!) from unloading their plunder of tropical timber stolen illegally from Dayak tribal lands, we witnessed its unloading on UK soil. Sad as it was, all involved in the delaying process had a feeling in their hearts of empowerment, that yes we can make a difference.

Ship actions against tropical timber importation have occurred successfully in England, Germany and Australia. I would like to put my ass-prodding opinion to the concerned Earth First!ers to get involved with any action against the logging of primary forest, tropical or temperate, and I think the time is now for a tropical timber ship action here in the US.

United Kingdom Roadshow, cont...

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countryside resembles a slag heap, opposition continues to mount thanks in large part to EF!'s insistence that WE GET PEOPLE OUT OF CARS AND CARS OFF THE PLANET!

Aside from campaigning on behalf of tropical forests, UK EF!ers have continued to agitate for temperate forest in Australia and British Columbia. Late last year, activists from the London Rainforest Action Group and Earth First! scaled the front of Australia House in London and hung a banner "Wilderness not Woodchips" in protest of Australia's Resource Security Legislation. During the roadshow, EF!ers joined their cohorts in North America for the February 22nd Day of Action by focusing on the logging of the Walban Valley on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Two arrests were made after climbers unfurled a banner atop British Columbia House in London decrying BC as the "Brazil of the North." A few weeks later, EF! activists were on hand for a trade dinner for the wood products companies at BC House. Information was distributed implicating multi-national timber beasts Fletcher Challenge and MacMillan Bloedel for greasing their bank vaults at the expense of the largest temperate rainforest on earth.

Much to the delight of the roadshow participants and much to the chagrin of the national environmental groups, Earth First! has attracted heaps of folks who are fed up with paid enviro's well versed in the art of attending cocktail parties, writing reports, and otherwise beating around the bush. We encountered literally dozens of people who questioned why it is that the bigger, richer groups have been unable to translate increased environmental awareness into support for transportation issues, tribal struggles and earth repair. In every city and town, people decided to take our message to heart resulting in the formation of several new groups and the creation of a large contact list.

— BY JAKE JAGOFF

Hunting Op-Ed,

continued from page 3

to be able to walk up hills and down canyons all day, and to be strong enough to carry a large animal up out of a canyon on a hot day, as I recently had to do with a wild pig I shot.

Hunting wild pigs is a good test of awareness. The pigs have enough going for them that they usually get away. They have acute hearing and sense of smell. And after I have done my best to be quiet and come into a canyon upwind, they almost always have sensed me and have moved on. It's nearly impossible to walk through brush on steep slopes and be silent. I see rooting patches where they plough up huge patches of ground and worry that they have eaten all the wild calypso orchids. It is my favorite California wild flower, which they favor as food. To a hunter, such thoughts about wild flowers are a reason to hunt deer and pigs and keep their numbers in balance with the available food supply on the land.

Finally, I hunt to rebel. I'm uncomfortable with the belief that many share that humanity was intended to dominate nature. I prefer to be a part of the land. I believe that nature is never conquered; she bats last. An earthquake or flood, pollution or oil spill can derail the perfect technological plan.

If the many groups who care about a quality environment, including the missionaries and the pagans, hope to win the battles that loom so large, they need to realize that they are on the same side and to combine their energies to deliver a livable world to future generations.

I won't ask or expect environmental groups to demonstrate for hunting for the same reason I don't expect anti-hunters to make that issue the reason for taking over important environmental groups like Earth First!. Let's keep on with the work and not let our other individual interest slow up the effort.

Huey Johnson writes a syndicated column for the San Francisco Examiner and is the former head of the California Dept. of Natural Resources under former Governor Jerry Brown.



IDAHO

photo by Billbob

DuPont Action, cont.

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Next morning Heather and I piled into the van with the "How Do You Spell ...?" tour and we were on the road to Nashville. I'd conferred with my younger brother, Ed, on getting the show set up at Middle Tennessee State University, site of the conference, where he happens to be a student and member of the SEAC group. He deserves utmost credit in allowing SEACret to infiltrate the conference and lend an air of action to the event. I'd never been to a SEAC function and was curious. I'd heard all the poop about SEAC calling itself an "action" coalition yet never conducting a single direct action. Thus the need for SEACret.

I was on the schedule for two SouthPAW workshops. Some of the other workshops being conducted were "getting styrofoam off campus," "ecofeminism," "toxics," "homophobia," etc. I walked by one room where a workshop was being conducted and saw a young man in front of a crowd writing "I am a lesbian" on a chalkboard. No wonder these students never get around to action; they're too busy intellectualizing all this bull and in the process conclude, "I'll become an activist after I graduate. Then I'll have the time." NOT! Many of them will look for jobs and be afraid they'll tarnish their resume if they get arrested. They'll commit themselves to working within the system to change things. They'll then become part of the corporate greenwashing program. They will become part of what they are trying to overcome. But the truth is, students or not, we are all part of this society we are trying to

ning. Skip the non-violent details. "Nobody get violent or throw things. Directions to the Old Hickory Factory are posted on that telephone pole over there."

We had to leave about 20 minutes after the workshop was over. Caravanning to the factory, sun shining bright, a warm spring break, we got out and 20 people put on radiation suits and wore placards that spelled out "New Ozone Hole By DuPont." When they turned around they read "Skin Cancer By DuPont." There were probably another 30 or 40 of us not decked out in rad suits. It was our job to sing (to the tune of Rocky Top which seemed appropriate in Tennessee) "DuPont you'll always be Darth Vader to me, Shut down DuPont stop those CFCs" But some SEAC person objected to us singing "Shut down DuPont" because of worker alienation and that the message here was not to shut down DuPont but to get them to stop producing CFCs. Rather than argue, Dana changed the words to "Bad boy DuPont."

The town was staring at us. Kids were yelling from the caged playground at the community center. It was working; we were really getting their attention. We began our walk. Wolf is leading 20 people in radiation suits down a two lane road. Dana says, "Hey, what are they doing in the road?" "Uh..... walking?" I responded, more concerned with learning the chords to Rocky Top on my banjo. "They've got to get out of the road. Someone could get hurt." Dana ran to the front of the throng and hollered to Wolf, "Get out of the road!" Wolf turned around to see what was going on. He looked like a big puppy being scolded and with an inquisitive tilt of his head seemed to ask "Am I doing something wrong?"

"We're not doing arrests today! This isn't CD." Dana replied. Wolf reluctantly strolled to

handed my banjo to Heather and was over the fence in seconds. "Liberate Mother Earth!" I hollered as the sign went over the top. I was back over the fence in a couple more seconds. We flipped the sign upside down and gave a quick press conference, some more photo opportunities.

We then headed back to the community shopping center parking lot where we'd rendezvoused. We followed up with a good circle and laughed at our amazement of being able to pull off the action with so little organization and so little sleep. Next week we would attempt to pull off the same scenario on a grander scale. As it turned out we did, but the excitement was not nearly the same. For one, DuPont postponed their stockholders meeting until the 29th and Greenpeace had already made all the preparations to make this a ready made action. For some of us the spontaneity was missing. That feeling of desperate urgency was lost by not demonstrating in front of a factory, the scene of the crime, but rather some corporate office building where we corresponded with passers by. Still it was a hoot and folks in Delaware seem partial to Banjo music as well as an intact ozone layer. At least some of them.

Tasmanian Activists Blockade Timber Train, cont...

continued from page 4

doing "deals." One such deal was the orchestrating of the 1987 Federal Election campaign wherein the ALP environment ministers private secretary became the director of The Wilderness Society's most influential office, Hobart. During this campaign the Wilderness Society took money from Alan Bone, one of Australia's more notorious corporate monsters. Discussion about the green movement entering into the political arena as they have in Tasmania unfolded at the Forest Festival. The work of the green party has resulted in a green balance of power in the upper house of the State parliament which became totally crippled from the moment it formed an alliance with the Australian Labour Party giving the ALP the power it needed to form a government.

The use of the name Earth First! by the activists was both a good signal that the movement is up and running down under but the other side of the coin was that the media picking up on the really bad coverage we have had, focuses attention away from the action and built further upon the evil terrorist beer swilling green-neck image it has imported from the States. This has been the subject of much discussion in Earth First! circles and more specifically at the yearly gathering at the Upper Howqua River in Victoria. Certain members of EF! have been severely hassled by the intelligence (!) sector having death threats and their cars and houses tampered with. To large extents the people present at the gathering felt that the image of the Earth First!er had been manipulated and while we wanted to build upon the traditions and the essence of the "No Compromise" position exemplified by Earth First!, there were other blindnesses and images specifically of the American activist community that we did not wish to import. The action was clearly peaceful and theatrical. However the cheeky disposition of the activist was only good advertising for Earth First! and holding up a train was a first for the Earth as it had never been done by activists before.

I walked by one room where a workshop was being conducted and saw a young man in front of a crowd writing, "I am lesbian" on a chalkboard. No wonder these students rarely get around to action.

overcome, so we might as well drop the concept of trying to conduct ourselves within its norms and get radical.

My first workshop coincided with the "Ethics of Monkeywrenching" workshop and as a result had a small turnout (now see that's radical!). My second workshop session needed more flash to gain attention, so I announced that it had been changed to a Day of Outrage workshop combined with action planning for the protest at DuPont to follow immediately after. But that was to take place the next day, first there was eco-boogying to do. More good vibes, more smiling faces. More details about ozone layer depletion and exposure to "Rad Wednesday." Prior to and during the eco-boogie though Heather and I were an hour away, hard at work doing recon at the factory. This neighborhood was familiar to me. During the 12 months my father was in Vietnam, my mother, brother and I lived just a few blocks from the factory and I actually started first grade at DuPont Hadley Elementary. That was over 20 years ago. A lot of time and space had passed between me and that place and the euphoria of coming back to challenge some big part of what was destroying us both seemed like a fulfillment of destiny.

Meanwhile back at the eco-boogie, good vibes and smiling faces intact, Heather and I arrived and announced the action and the need for volunteers to wear radiation suits, hold banners, carry signs, organize carpools and get a press release together immediately following the show. Things were coming down to the wire. Julia Blackburn, from Kentucky, volunteered and did an excellent job pulling the press release and media contacts together. Next morning we were holding council around a smoldering campfire where students had stayed up all night. Time was winding down quickly. We moved quickly from the Day of Outrage planning to the action plan-

the side of the road. Dana and Wolf would later get a laugh out of the whole thing.

Upon reaching the front of the factory the rad cloaked folk stood before the chainlinked fence topped with three layers of barbed wire. They displayed placards and turned on cue as they stood underneath a huge billboard sized sign that read "SONTARA DuPont—Progress through People." The photo which appeared in *The Tennessean* the next day contained this sign with protesters underneath the sign bearing the letters to spell out, "SKIN CANCER." Sontara, a subsidiary of DuPont, we later found out was not a producer of CFCs but a manufacture of disposable hospital gowns. "Oh, that's ok then," I guess we were supposed to think.

At some point during the protest I overheard a reporter asking a SEAC organizer if this was also a SEAC action. "No," he said "SEAC doesn't actually endorse this, but some of the participants are SEAC members. "Dude!" I thought to myself, "You had every opportunity to take some credit here. And you turned it down."

We soon grew tired of standing in front of the sign and decided to go to the visitors center. Being a Sunday they were closed. We found the lawn a good place to sing more songs and drum a bit. But right there next to the employees entrance on the other side of the fence was a sign that read "Caring for the Environment—Protect our Mother Earth. Your grandchildren depend on us."

I was enraged. My first thought was someone's got to go over the fence and get that sign. My second thought was that I had to go over the fence and get that sign. This was a family matter. I spied a little piece of fence right under the awning for the entrance that they had failed to put barbed wire over. Dana asked if I was sure if I knew what I was doing. I assured him I did. We were still strumming the song while talking to each other. "It's got to be done," I told him. I

Book Review

The Quest, by Tom Brown, Jr.
Berkley Books, 1991
\$8.95 paperback; 208 pages
REVIEWED BY JEFF JUEL

The spirit looked at Grandfather for a long moment, then finally spoke, saying, "Holes in the sky... They will become the second sign of the destruction of man. The holes in the sky and all that you have seen could become man's reality. It is here, at the beginning of this second sign, that man can no longer heal the Earth with physical action. It is here that man must heed the warning and work harder to change the future at hand. But man must not only work physically, he must also work spiritually, through prayer, for only through prayer can man now hope to heal the Earth and himself."

—from *The Quest*

Thus, in the first chapter of his latest book, *The Quest*, Tom Brown, Jr. describes one of the prophecies his teacher, the Apache shaman Stalking Wolf received in a vision over sixty years ago. That this prophecy is now verified reality, with the shrinking of the ozone layer through humanity's greed and carelessness, only underscores the urgency of the message delivered by Tom Brown in *The Quest*. For activists in the environmental movement, the urgency of the planet's situation created by modern humanity's separation from the natural world is nothing new. But the frightening prophecies of the consequences of industrial civilization's trail down the present path of destruction may serve to motivate those even vaguely aware but too comfortable to act.

The essence of Tom Brown's message concerns the spiritual realm, a world widely neglected because of our separation from nature and its teachings. In this and Tom's other books are abundant references to what Tom calls the spirit-that-moves-in-all-things, the spiritual force that connects each of us to the Earth and every aspect of it. Tom's message in *The Quest* is that we need to closely examine the spiritual aspects of our lives. Without deep inner searching, we whose origins are the society of Western Civilization cannot at this late date effect significant change in the destructive paradigm. A true change in our precarious global situation could only be achieved through effecting a change in the hearts of humankind. And, as Tom explains in *The Quest*, along the path to the heart one soon deals with matters of the spirit world.

Native American spirituality provides the philosophic underpinning of Tom's beliefs, since as a young child he came under the tutelage of Stalking Wolf, a man Tom refers to as "Grandfather." Grandfather's incredible awareness and teaching ability prove time and time again to Tom the integrity and validity of his nature-based knowledge. Although Grandfather's outward lessons dealt mostly with survival, tracking,

and awareness and enabled Tom to live in the natural world without benefit of modern technology, each teaching had at its core a more important spiritual lesson. The lessons Tom describes ring with power and clarity. His teacher becomes your teacher, should you open your heart and mind. Tom relates some of his own Vision Quest experiences, taking the reader into amazing landscapes in the Spirit World to meet entities—both "good" and "bad"—all having powerful lessons for this inner trekker.

In his previous book, *The Vision*, Tom shows how anyone may tap into the strength and wisdom of the spirit world by pursuing one's own personal "Vision." In *The Quest* Tom explains that one cannot run away to the wilderness to escape the madness of our society—at least not for long. To do so, as Tom learned, is to run away from one's personal Vision and live a life of spiritual emptiness as if embracing the very assumptions of society from which we attempt to escape. Tom reveals herein his real quest—that of living his Vision of passing on Grandfather's lessons of spiritual communion with the natural world while surrounded by the polluted and tainted existence of modern life. We learn we can find strength and vision by experiencing nature in its pure state so that we may return and struggle within society for the very survival of the Earth.

The reader may be shaken to the furthest depths of despair: How can we who have not the benefit of many years of intensive schooling in Earth spirituality and survival skills ever hope to impact the greed monster threatening to devour the biosphere as we know it? Yet, his message is of overriding hope, for the great strength of Vision into which few of us has actually tapped is always there, awaiting an honest commitment. It will take a certain critical mass of people to effect the necessary change in the spirit-that-moves-in-all-things, Tom explains, a turning away from the false gods of materialism to the reality of the interconnectedness of unspoiled



Asante Riverwind

nature and authentic human existence.

Tom goes to great length to explain, as closely as the written word can, the workings of the spiritual self. That he fails in the end is only failure of logic and verbal language, since the spirit-that-moves-in-all-things must be experienced to be fully grasped. But Tom eloquently speaks the language of the believer, taking the reader along on both physical and spiritual journeys which grip the reader to depths of wonder. I found myself sometimes crying in despair and at other times transfixed in awe.

As steeped as the book is in matters of spirituality, *The Quest* is not a book of religion nor philosophical dogma. Tom points out that living simply and having a spiritual bond with nature are common to great spiritual leaders and their teachings. That their lessons become tainted by authoritarian political interpretations points to the importance of each person finding his or her own "truth" through personal seeking and experiencing. I find *The Quest* a powerful inspiration and a catalyst for personal transformation.

Jeff Juel edits the Wild Rockies Review in Missoula, MT.



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valuable breathing space for Karen and associated forces. Depriving the insurgents of forest cover and opening up the area with roads pending a military advance, are strategic realities which figured in the SLORC's mind when in 1989 they gave concessions to Thailand to log the teak forests in tribal areas along the border.

Previously the Karen had a lucrative, though small scale, black market timber trade with the Thais, which helped to fund their army and in turn was convenient to the Thai who recognised the Karen as a convenient buffer to their tradi-

since the previous year.

The SLORC's reaction was the swift detention, torture and in some cases murder, of over 60 democracy leaders. Eight escaped to Manerplaw, the Karen National Union border headquarters where they set up the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma on December 8, 1990.

It was here that I met up with them after a long drive through the dust in searing temperatures, followed by a trip along the mighty Salween River, which for a time marks the border and provides the main artery of travel for both the Thai loggers and the Karen. The

fighter jets recently received from China.

Two environmental groups have evolved at Manerplaw. Green November 32 and the Environment and Culture Association of Burma are both committed to raising environmental awareness amongst the tribal people and are also involved in advising environment minister Bo Hla Tint in the difficult task of formulating an environment policy which they can, "incorporate...into future development planning."

Manerplaw is powered by a hydro-electric system which is fed from the mountain streams behind. The generals are now aware of the need to preserve the watershed, a message which hadn't yet been fully appreciated by the people whose slash and burn instincts were symbolised by the night time glow and crackle on the hillsides. The Karen traditionally practised the most sustainable method of slash and burn agriculture in the region. When clearing an area, they were careful to leave some mature seedling trees and fire breaks around the perimeter and once used, left it fallow for ten to twenty years. Similarly, their logging practices were aimed to minimise ecological damage. Mature trees were ring barked and left to die and season for up to three years. By this time the leaves and small branches had been shed so the felling ensured the minimum amount of damage to the surrounding stand. Extraction was and still is done by elephants, which are remarkably agile creatures compared with the bulldozer.

Unfortunately, the pressures of war are creating shortcuts to the age old systems. Until the Burmese offensive of 1989-1990, the Karen National Liberation Army made their biggest income from cross-border trade taxes. Since then, the Karen have been under increasing

Teak Forests

These ecosystems are referred to as teak forests primarily because teak is of the most economic interest to humans. Teak trees grow in mixed tropical hardwood forests, with thick undergrowth. There are both dry and wet teak forests. Large teak forests are made up of patches of teak in various stages of succession, each of which lives in a distinct biological community. The dense undergrowth supports most of the wildlife, unlike in other tropical rainforests where most of the life is in the canopy.

These forests are home to Asiatic black bears and sun bears, elephants, leopards, un-domesticated bovine-type critters and three sub-species of tigers. There seems to be very little detailed information about teak ecosystems, and in many parts of Southeast Asia the complex ecosystems, of which teak are a part have been converted into teak plantations. (Kind of like the forests of the southeastern United States turned into white pine plantations, and the forests of the the northwest turned into lodgepole pine plantations.)

So, we have only the vaguest idea of what we're losing, as these ecosystems are mined for teak wood and mined with explosives. But Thailand has already destroyed most of its teak forests, Burma is well on the way, and Laos, which until recently had a ban on the export of logs, has started shipping teak through Vietnam to Japan.

The Karen have had to turn almost exclusively to timber in order to fund the war effort.

tional Burmese foe. However, in November 1988, fatal floods occurred in Thailand as a direct result of logging. The subsequent nationwide logging ban left a large furniture trade and booming construction industry starved for resources and the Thai government ready to deal. The ailing Burmese regime was more than happy to fix bargain prices on logs to be cut at 49 concessions by 29 Thai companies, including Chai Phraya Irrawaddy which have backing from Asahi of Japan.

Meanwhile, the SLORC, under pressure to show some credibility to its international investors and angry populace, agreed to hold a general election in May 1990. The National League for Democracy swept to victory with a landslide 80% majority, despite the fact that their charismatic leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, had been under house arrest

road from Thailand to the border had improved immeasurably since my visit a year before, an expression of the vast wealth reaped by Thai logging companies. The endless convoys of trucks pound the road relentlessly, speeding up the extraction process and allowing travel to this isolated border region.

The bamboo base nestles at the foot of a ridge of protecting hills whose sharp incline can just be discerned through the summer haze. Two weeks before, the Burmese had captured a strategic hilltop just 12 km away. Luckily, their new long-range Chinese rockets only reach 9 km. Bombing raids using Swiss PC7 planes have forced people to carve air raid shelters out of the clay hillside. There is also news that an airfield is being constructed at Papun, which will bring Manerplaw within striking distance of Mig



Karen People's sawmill, Burma

continued on next page

pressure, isolated by the warming relations between neighbouring nations. In May, the new Thai government began deporting some of the 40,000 displaced persons along the Thai border, sending them to a fate of hard labour, imprisonment or execution under the SLORC. The Karen are powerless to stop this or the logging of their forests as they rely on routes into Thailand for 80% of their supplies. They have had to turn almost exclusively to timber in order to fund the war effort. Taxes are collected from the Thai companies logging their forests. Last December, the Rangoon regime increased the price of teak to \$295 per tonne which has made the Thai companies reluctant to pay the Karen, who get between \$20 and \$100.

Travelling up the Salween River, one can see saw mills at regular intervals. Many of these are run by Karen officers using machinery owned by Thai companies. Processing into planks earns extra revenue which is otherwise carried out in Thailand. These mills are immediate targets for the attacking Burmese, keen to monopolise on the trade with Thailand and cut Karen income. The Karen are resentful of the presence of Thai loggers destroying their forests and there have been many instances when resentment has flared into conflict, thus causing greater tensions in the already tenuous Thai-Karen relations.

The war situation means that policing the Thai logging is impossible, even if it was the SLORC's intention to do so. The companies are coming to the end of their limited three year concessions, and are also aware that the political situation may not stay in their favour for long. The aim is high volume extraction, quickly, ignoring sustainable forestry practices previously used under the "Burmese selection system." The Burmese government has set a totally unrealistic minimum diameter of teak to be felled at five feet around at breast height. I did not see a single log of five feet diameter at any of the Thai camps, and logs under twelve inches were commonplace. Walking through a logged concession in Saw Tha district, the only trees over one foot in diameter left standing stood in Karen villages, often at the edge of drying rivers.

The main complaint by the locals was that the rains now came up to two months later. This had occurred gradually over six or seven years and now causes water shortages. At one point, the river had become a series of isolated stagnant puddles with just a trickle from underground which had to satisfy the washing, drinking and cooking needs of the village.

Erosion was very evident, particularly where Thai vehicles had made inroads. On our return from the mountains ten days later, a relatively small rainfall had washed

away large parts of the logging track, halting the daily run of the solitary Karen National Liberation Army pickup truck. The rainfall, once it comes, is heaviest in this region, with an annual fall of 4,800 mm, compared with 1,500 mm in Bangkok. The intense logging and road building along the steep banks of the Salween River has led to drastic erosion and river sedimentation, which has reportedly caused sandbanks to increase in the Moulmein estuary.

In August 1991, severe flooding was widespread throughout Burma as rivers burst their banks, leaving hundreds dead and over

The only trees over one foot in diameter left standing stood in Karen villages, often at the edge of drying rivers.

210,000 homeless. Many of the rivers such as the Moei and Tennasserim are known to have suffered sedimentation due to erosion from logging practices, thus reducing their water carrying capacity and adding to the likelihood and severity of floods which were reportedly the worst in fifty years. Not surprisingly, the SLORC offered no relief help to the border areas and internationally the disaster went relatively unnoticed compared with similar problems in Bangladesh.

In December 1990, Burma's agriculture and forest minister, Lt. General Chit Swe claimed that forest cover in Burma was 57%, the same as in 1988. A report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1980 put the figure at 47%, including extensive areas of degraded forest. The Manilla Observatory published a report on the forest activities of Burma, at the same time as Mr. Chit Swe's statement. It puts 1990 forest cover at, "...39%-45%, the former being a more probable estimate, remembering that this also includes extensive scrub and poor forest." This estimation is based on an annual deforestation rate of 1000 sq km. However, the latest analysis of satellite imagery by Norman Myers in 1989 puts the annual rate of deforestation at 8000 sq km, third highest in the world. Even this figure is likely to underestimate the situation as at that point Thai logging had only just commenced. A source in Burma who has been monitoring the situation for two years said that, "With the recent Chinese logging and an increase in private concessions internally, primary forest cover is probably no more than 15%."

The response of the international community to Burma's plight has been slow and reluctant to acquire teeth. Condemnation of the State Law and Order Restoration Council for human rights abuses and oppression of democracy has come from the US, European Community, Australia and Canada, yet all still import Burmese timber. On July 21, 1991, the US State Department declared its intention to en-

force Senator Moynihan's 1990 trade bill, a welcome move that has the potential of imposing the first full economic sanctions against Burma.

At meetings in June and July 1991, the European Community and United States attempted to get the cooperation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries to put pressure on Burma. ASEAN rejected this, saying that it

are contrary to UN aims and therefore do not deserve its financial assistance, already condemned by Saw Aung Sung Suu Kyi.

Despite its bloody oppression, the SLORC has largely escaped the focus of world attention. It is clear that it has survived on foreign arms and earnings from countries keen to profit from cheap resources. The environmental and human cost incurred are a tragic legacy which will



Karen and their elephants, off to the forest.

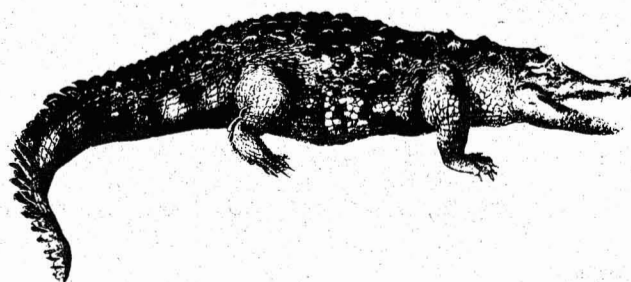
would continue constructive engagement with Burma. In June, Thailand, set on continuing links with the Rangoon regime, promised a 21 million Baat (the Thai currency) assistance grant. On November 28, the Thai Agriculture and Cooperatives minister visited Burma to renew logging concessions, many of the 29 existing areas having been completely logged out, leaving only 10 operating in the 1992 season. (*Bangkok Post* Nov. 8, 1991).

The meeting confirmed suspicions that the SLORC have been using Thai logging as part of their military strategy, when they asked the logging companies to build a border road that would facilitate military activities against the insurgents. (*The Nation*, Nov. 15, 1991). Those at the UN Development Programme currently reviewing its huge handouts to the SLORC would do well to look at this example as one of the countless actions which

put strains on the success of future democracy.

If the countries of the free world are sincere in their pledge of supporting democracy, then they should respect the wishes of Burma's democratic leaders and impose comprehensive sanctions against the SLORC and all products derived from Burma. Burma already has a democratically elected government which is fighting, unaided and without recognition, to survive.

The fate of the Teak forests is inextricably linked to the question of political control. If the present situation continues, they will be decimated in about five years. With them will go countless species of flora and fauna, the end of a way of life for millions of tribal people, and the disruption of the climatic and ecological balance of the region. Rod is a UK EFl'er who was part of the recent roadshow. He is helping to organize the UK Burma campaign.



Walbran Spiked, cont.

continued from page 1

hectare MacMillan Bloedel concession where the spikes were found, has been temporarily closed to logging and the logging crews were moved out.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which opposes spiking, is offering a \$1,000 reward for people willing to help the timber industry and police hunt down and prosecute those responsible for the spiking. The penalty for spiking trees in British Columbia is three years in prison. Dennis Bendicksop, MacBlo Cameron/Franklin River divisions operations manager told the media that the spikes were put into the trees to deliberately maim fellers. "They come out like a missile when you pre-drill a hole. If a feller hits a spike at the wrong angle it can shoot straight back at him at 160 km per hour."

A retired Victoria logger, Jim Gillespie said he is willing to cut into a tree with spikes in it just to prove that he wouldn't be injured. Rocks, nails, barbed wire and other hard objects are found naturally in trees and logging companies use (or should be using if they're not!)

safety equipment to protect their workers.

Paul Watson, head of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, has offered financial support to any person needing legal assistance to defend themselves as a result of WCWC's reward. He has defended the spiking in the British Columbian press. Temperate Rainforest Action Coalition proposed offering a counter reward of \$1,000 for the conviction of the destroyers of the forest. A sit-in at the Western Canada Wilderness Committee was also suggested.

Ancestral Chief Russel Kwasistula of the Koomeenoh Band said he considers spiking trees misguided attacks on the wrong targets because trees are sacred and pounding nails into them hurts them. He suggested that a more appropriate tactic would be a bottle of bleach in the yarder. "I advocate using as targets the dynasty that creates the damage to the earth and earth's children: logging trucks, mining equipment, corporate board rooms, the stock exchange and the laws that permit exploitation."

—PEGGY SUE MCCRAE



Dear Shit,

I just kicked over the piss bucket and it put me in the mood to write. I did appreciate the old earth first! crew's input, especially Jasper Carlton's insights—I thought it was a nice balance but I guess it was too much of a tight-rope balance. Now I like EF! journal AND Wild Earth. But I don't appreciate all the anti-hunting sentiments. Hunting is a very environmental activity and that's why I got into it.

There are two main things people do that are killing the earth. One is to be born (or birth) and two is to spend money (or consume). It's the amount of people consuming finite resources that is killing the planet. You can subvert "the systems" infrastructure by cutting out the middle man and consuming your basic needs straight from the source. This means gardening and hunting etc. The better you can do this, the less need of cars, asphalt, concrete, mines, power plants, dams etc. If you're spending money on vegetables you are supporting another earth raping, slaving industry. If you're buying organic produce it still needs the transportation industry and it costs too much. If I tried to live on my garden I'd starve in the winter.

So it makes sense to me to cull out some of these white tails which are over populating the woods. Sure plastic and styrofoam cow in the store is not only eco-destructive—it's nauseating. Feeding yourself on your bioregion's natural bounty is the best way to connect with our mother earth.

Equating hunting with destroying the earth is backwards. In our culture so out of touch with life processes I can see how folks have gotten so blood queasy. We have been denied the experience of living breathing predators in action. Do your moral judgements qualify for the cougar, wolf or fox? Are they sick? Or how about the cultures whites found on this continent? Misguided aboriginals? Spare me! The predator/prey relationship is main part of ecology's interactions and evolution. And we are not passive observers on this planet.

When I walk the woods and glades I forage, hunt and fish. The less I have to buy, buy buy. I would like to trap animals to clothe myself rather than buy plastic or even cotton which is the most polluting agriculture going. Its not the act of killing, killing can be done with humility and respect, it is the poison and concrete and hordes of humans which don't give life a chance. The way of the cougar is part of the balance. The sight of blood gushing makes my tits hard and I can smell the deer liver frying. Thanks for the forum!

—VINCE PACKARD

Dear Earth First! Journal,

I am a new follower of your movement. I haven't done much more than read your Journal and Dave Foreman's writings. I really believe your heart is in the right place and maybe I'll be able to more actively participate in the future. But please answer one question. Why is it that every time I see a reference to the Rainbow Family you have some negative comment. Do you feel they are actively opposed to you and trying to subvert you? Is it that you feel threatened by their lust gathering being near yours? What is it? I would like to find out the source of the antagonism.

Sincerely,
—RANDY

ed. note: "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."
—Edward Abbey

Dear Brains for Shit,

I would like to respond to the letter from Michael in Eostar 1992.

I am sick and tired of people who don't want any more long, boring informational articles in the journal, when people consistently write in making false statements due to their ignorance of facts, which they would know if they had read some of your excellent past articles!

Such as his contention that promoting vegetarianism will eliminate public ranching! True, cows in general emit methane and use large amounts of water, in addition to being stupid, ugly brutes. But let's keep our facts straight! Only 2-3% of the publicly-consumed beef comes from public lands grazing.

Becoming a vegetarian will certainly make him feel righteous, but is not urgent enough to correct the real problems in the West, which are too many cows in an arid region. The first cows to go due to decreased public consumption will certainly not be the heavily subsidized public range grazers.

And OK, great: I'm glad that the social movements used nonviolence (on the part of the oppressed, anyway: the leaders and others met quite violent deaths). However, these movements developed over decades! We do not have that kind of time to save the earth. This is not a social movement; people have future generations to give up their present existence for, whereas we have only one earth.

Let's wake up, goddamn it, lest as we lay dying of skin cancer, poisoned by water full of heavy metals and industrial waste, we gasp our last breaths of polluted air to debate the morality of our protest.

No violence? Stand by peacefully in protest while your own mother is raped?

—SWAMP WOMAN

More Shit fer Brains...

continued from page 30

The creative urge is primordial and subtle in intelligence. If we do not bend over backwards to foster the blossoming of such an urge as an expression of biodiversity in our own mind we will also have extinguished the torch of biocentric tribal values and replaced them with mere political expediency. If much of the same creativity in art was not that of activism and protest we would not use banners and signs with letters and pictures on them for confrontation, conflict, and education.

Anyone who will not defend my creative rights to defend the wilderness and oppose injustice will find that I am not in the same movement they are, and anyone who wants to act like a coward and interfere in my personal creative gestures aimed at serving the earth can burn in hades.

—PETER J. BRALVER, WIDE NETWORK ENVIRONMENTAL BANNER AND MATHEMATICS COMPANY

Editorial response

As an artist myself, I too abhor censorship. As a journal staff collective member attending the Portland conference I did however express a wish not to be drawn or photographed by the artist in question. This was not in any way intended to stifle the creative process but rather was a response to the irony of one particular situation. The artist to whom you refer had vocally accused me and fellow journal staffers (not to mention anyone residing in the state of Montana) of working for or being duped by the F.B.I. I felt that it was quite natural to respond by saying "Well, then, quit taking my picture."

—PEGGY SUE MCCRAE, EOSTAR COLLECTIVE MEMBER

Dear Folks,

Regarding T. Grip's article 'California's Grand Accord Flounders' (Brigid, 1992), I'd like to offer some good words about Hal Arbit. But first, some good words about Prop 130 (Forests Forever, 1990). This proposition would have been an extremely significant piece of forest legislation, prohibit-

ing clearcutting, restructuring the industry oriented California Board of Forestry, and preserving large tracts of old growth. In short, Prop 130 would have accomplished far more than we can hope to achieve through negotiations with the timber industry or the conservative California legislature and governor. And Prop 130 would have accomplished all this through the direct exercise of the voters' will.

Alas, Prop 130 failed, but its near success (47% in favor) was a prominent message to the timber industry and new governor. Of course, passage of Prop 130 would have been better than the current Grand Accord negotiations and, naturally, there are now recriminations such as T. Grip's article.

But is Hal Arbit to blame? What about EF!?!? Throughout the Prop 130 campaign I saw virtually no support from Earth First, in terms of actions, articles in the journal, or, most importantly, connections with Redwood Summer. If only 3% of those voting against Prop 130 had favored it, Californians, EarthFirsters, and tree lovers everywhere could celebrate one of the greatest and most precedent setting defenses of old growth ever.

Whereas Ecotopia EF! seemed disinterested, Hal Arbit donated \$5 million of his personal fortune in an attempt to rebuff the millions spent by the timber industry. Whatever his motives and whatever the recriminations of the defeated, I, for one, appreciate his generosity.

—A TREE LOVER

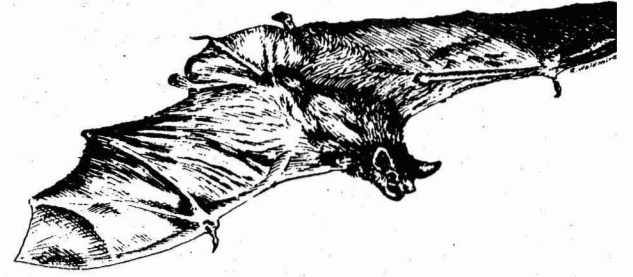
Dear SFB

From what I've seen, the trouble with organizing a thing is that pretty soon folks get to paying more attention to the organization than to what they're organized for. I take it we're pretty well agreed right now on what we want. If we start organizing...chances are we won't be as well agreed...So I suggest, let's just go straight ahead and do what we want to do.

—CHARLES 'PA' INGALLS, DESMET, DAKOTA

NOT UNLIKELY - GLEN APICALYPTICISM
 UTOPIA OK, GLEN TIME IS SHORT.

Blurbs and Bulletins



Sweedish Disarmament Camp June 13-July 12 (or longer)

Linkoping, Sweeden

Activists are invited to plan and carry out nonviolent acts of civil disobedience against the billion pound JAS project. JAS is a new fighter plane being produced in Linkoping. We are planning a variety of disarmament actions including:

- *Directly disarming warplanes
- *Dismantling the perimeter fence
- *Dismantling machines producing weapons
- *Planting vegetables and flowers around and inside the factory area
- *Painting the warplanes
- *Dancing and partying on the runway

Anyone interested in taking part in the camp will receive a list of the various working groups, tasks and responsibilities required for the running of the camp. There will be translators available for translating into English.

Contact: **Omega**—Forum for civil disobedience and non violence, Sandeslatt 59, S-424 86 Angered, Sweden. Fax (call first) 31-307493 Phone 31-309426

Alberta Wilderness Association Conference May 15-17

Heritage Inn, Brooks, Alberta
Contact: POBox 6398 Station D,
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E1
(403) 283-2025

Featuring:

Frank Popper:

"Buffalo Commons Concept"

Lorne Scott:

"Grasslands National Park"

Swift Fox Program

Badlands Field Trip, Prairie Bus

Tour, Lakeshore Birdwatching Hike

Workshops: Coalbed Methane,

Heritage Rivers, Habitat Fragmentation

Silent Auction

Happy Hour and Banquet

SouthPAW Spring Council May 14-18

Nolichucky Ranger District,
Cherokee National Forest

Workshops will include: USFS process and appeals, federal legislation updates, endangered/threatened species status reviews, threats to the Endangered Species Act, plant and forest condition identification, Earth skills, paving moratorium, chipper mills, direct action with non-violence training and more. If you'd like to help with council preparations or workshops, or if you have a workshop you'd like to give or see, please contact us.

The area is a bit rocky so pack a sleeping pad or hammock. Pot lucks will be encouraged for meals and we will keep fires down to one central council fire to minimize impact and reduce firewood consumption. However, we may build another fire for a sweat lodge if there is consent to make one happen.

For directions on how to get to the site, contact **SouthPAW** POBox 3141, Asheville, NC 28802 phone (615) 543-5107. Ask for Beanpole.

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Please submit *duplicate* slides

or photos with date of photo, exact location, ownership of land shown, brief description of what has happened to this area, whether the photo has been published, name of photographer. For a free copy of the prospectus on the book or additional information, please contact: **Bill Devall**, PO Box 613, Trinidad, CA 95570 Phone: 707-677-3914 FAX: 707-822-5880

EF! Northeast Regional Rendezvous May 20-31

EF!ers from the Northeast are holding a regional rendezvous by Willoughby Lake in the Willoughby State Forest near Barton, Vermont. Primitive camping, various workshops, music and celebration are planned. Be prepared to visualize industrial collapse. Wild animal behavior required.

For further info, details, and map, please call **Anne** (802) 658-2403 or **Billi** (207) 247-4112.

Fifth Annual Florida Greens Conference May 29-31

"Making the Connections"
Camp Ithiel in Gotha, FL
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Tired of watching society go down the tubes? Fed up by those who constantly redefine the upper limits of greed and intolerance? Heard enough "read my lips" politicians?

EVEN THE SCORE

Connect with others who have decided to make a difference. Learn about the Greens and about the impact we've been making in Florida's backyard. Attend our 5th Annual Conference.

Help continue the statewide and local work of the Greens, an international organization that has brought new life to personal and global responsibility. Help bring about true democracy, justice, nonviolence, and ecological sustainability.

Dormitory or campsite accommodations, including meals, are available on a sliding scale of \$0 to \$130. For information, an agenda and a registration packet, contact **The Greens Conference Working Group** at (813) 535-3115 or at (813) 447-3426.

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