



Environment & Society Portal

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Militants Splice Animal Geneticists in Twin Cities

BY BIOENGINEERING ACTION NETWORK

In North America's first demonstration against the animal biotechnology industry, the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) received a warm greeting at its annual conference in Minneapolis on July 24 and 25. The gathering of "mad scientists"—genetic engineers exchanging cutting-edge research techniques in "livestock improvement" and "pharming"—was accompanied by hundreds of passionate, sometimes militant marchers, as well as the predictable armed occupation of downtown by multi-agency law enforcement, including the FBI. As we saw in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, this police mobilization is only intensifying as the state senses its vulnerability to a new wave of militancy. In Minneapolis, the police were faced with a new style of protest that doesn't seek to cooperate with orderly, civil arrests and escorted marches.

The police followed the marches on foot, in a dozen commandeered city buses and on horseback. Special units of 60 riot-gear officers moved in phalanxes to steer us away from the Hyatt, and into designated protest ar-

reas. Police helicopters hovered over downtown throughout the day tracking the march, which had no pre-planned destination but rather flowed organically based on the movement of the cops. Spontaneity and adaptation were our most useful tools, making it impossible for the cops to control our movements—even we didn't know what would come next!

The action began Sunday night with a several-hour-long teach-in and speak-out in Loring Park, then a somewhat spontaneous march around the Hyatt Hotel. We chanted "I-S-A-G Fuck your biotechnology" while taking the entire street with no annoying internal marshals or peacekeepers. We tried many times to occupy the street but were pushed back by horse-mounted police (two of whom later ended up falling from their thrones), and just barely made



Taking over the streets during the International Society for Animal Geneticists conference

it back to the park without arrests. On Monday morning a group of about 200 left a downtown park intending to march; we were stopped on all sides from marching, even on the sidewalks. Eventually we detected a weak police line and marched right through it, using tough plastic banners on the frontline, and chanting "Reclaim the streets! Reclaim the genes!" Within a few blocks we were forcefully directed into the Loring Park neighborhood, where a standoff oc-

curred. When the march began to be surrounded, we pushed through the police line and into the park, amid swinging batons and pepper spray.

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Defending Adnyamathanha Territory Robo-cops Storm Protest Camp at Australia's Beverley Mine

BY LUNA

The Beverley Uranium Mine in the North Flinders Ranges of South Australia is the newest uranium mine for Australia in 10 years. Little Johnny Howard's conservative government has installed an aggressive mandate of extensive mineral exploration throughout the desertlands of inland Australia, no doubt encouraged and supported by greedy foreign interests.

Environmentalists have seen a departure from traditional open-cut mining methods to *in-situ* leaching

(ISL). ISL is increasingly favored by mining companies as it allows for the extraction of smaller quantities of ore, without the infrastructure costs of larger scale operations. ISL involves pumping of an acid-based solution down injection wells into the ore-bearing aquifer, wherein the acid dissolves the waste rock materials and the uranium particles attach themselves to water particles. This solution is then pumped back to the surface through extraction wells, the uranium is retrieved and the waste water is then returned to the underground waterbody. The process is then repeated.



Running from the spray



Holding off the shields

its shocking history of groundwater contamination and failure at rehabilitation.

Uranium is not a new word to this part of Australia. During the 1940s, Mount Painter in the Flinders was one of the first sites to be mined for uranium. The ore extracted there was used in the British atomic bomb testing at Maralinga during 1952-1957. Our government's history with the nuclear industry is a long and shameful one, of which our indigenous peoples still bear the full fury. The people at Maralinga and Emu Junction have been subject to a devastating 50 years of contamination and radiation poisoning. Not only were the locals not notified of the impending bomb tests; not only have the old people died painfully and prematurely;

For one of the driest regions on Earth, with inhabitants relying on groundwater from aquifers and the Great Artesian Basin for survival, it seems incomprehensible that the government is allowing devastating mining techniques that threaten the long-term viability of such fragile ecosystems. ISL has been banned in all OECD countries due to

Tips for Ticketees Who Resist Ranger Rick

BY SCOTT SILVER

You've been out enjoying a walk in the forest, but when you get back to your car you discover that someone wearing a green uniform has vandalized it. Placed upon your windshield is a note telling you that you've parked illegally and berating you for having failed to purchase the required parking permit. You read on and are shocked to discover that the notice attempts to extort \$100 from you unless you immediately pay \$3 *baksheesh*. Faced with these options you ask yourself: "What should I do?"

This scenario is being repeated thousands of times each day as the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program oozes over the landscape and the folks in green go after your green.

It's gotten so bad that I get calls from people who tell me they stopped to take a pee in the bushes or perhaps grab a quick glimpse of the sunset, only to return to their car and find a uniformed officer writing them a ticket. Hardly a day goes by without someone asking me: "What should I do?"

The answer I give everyone who asks is always the same. I say: "It depends."

The Recreation Fee Demonstration is not, as some suppose, a program to test whether the American public is willing to accept pay-to-play recreation.

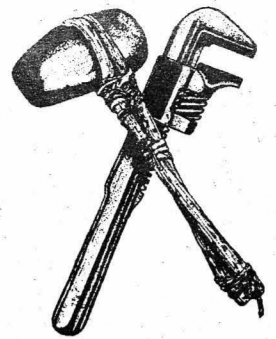
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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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Late Night at the Journal Office... or This is What Happens When I Drink Too Much Coffee

As summer rolls to an end, the days get shorter, the nights get colder and we begin the transition into autumn, things here at the *Earth First! Journal* office become more hectic every day. The phone rings incessantly, people are in an out of the office at an almost unbelievable rate and the staff is working double time to finish *Mabon* as well as prepare for the upcoming 20th anniversary issue. Through all of this I, as always, am lacking sleep and all hopped-up on coffee. Now it's the middle of the night, and I'm on my fifth mug full of caffeine.

I came to work at the *Journal* because it is our movement's paper. It allows a voice to be heard around the world that would otherwise be silent. However, I had not thought of how much goes into each issue—I never imagined that putting the *Journal* out could be this stressful. Deadlines sneak up and bite you in the ass, something goes wrong at the worst possible moment and there are *always* 10 things happening at once. Life becomes a blur as the issue nears its end, and our lives become wholly consumed by the paper. It clouds my dreams. I think about it while I eat. I also, unfortunately, let my health and well-being go straight to hell (hold the hand basket). If it were not for the fact that our collective works so well together, I'm pretty sure I would lose my mind—what little is left that is.

Despite what you may have heard, these folks really are a great bunch to work with. After being in the office for far too many hours, stepping on each other and seeing that well-hidden side of our personalities that rears its ugly head when deadline is breathing down our necks, we can still go to the bar and hang out together. I could not have asked for a better crew of people.

As we sat in the "break room" earlier, surrounded by boxes containing almost every *Journal* ever published, someone pointed out the fact that lots of work and energy also sat in those boxes. I began to think about the past 20 years—158 issues full of the experiences that I am living right now. All of those last-minute mishaps and insanely

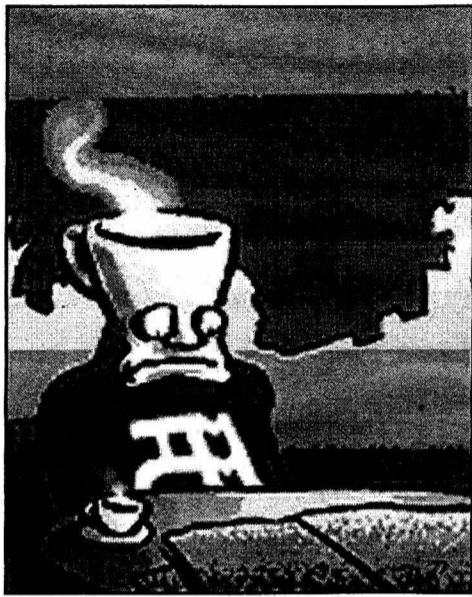
late nights. Every single drawn-out meeting and argument. Each moment that makes it all worthwhile.

Don't get me wrong, those wonderful moments are just as plentiful as those moments that could drive a person to drink (and sometimes do). Every time I get to meet someone who has just arrived in town to short-term and each time an issue comes off the press and we sit down for our post-production, debriefing breakfast, I am thankful for getting a chance to be a part of this.

As *Mabon* comes to a close so does my seventh issue, and the end of August marked my tenth month as a *journalista*. It has gone by so fast and is coming to a close even faster. March will be the end of the *Journal's* run in Eugene. Over the next several months, we will be working with the collective in Tucson to help make the transition as smooth as possible. The first project taken on by the Tucsonites is this issue's blank wall—a Spanish primer. As the unknown lurks beyond the horizon I can go forward with the peace of mind that once the hard part is over, the

Journal will be in the hands of some great, hard-working folks. I also cannot help but to think that the paper is going back to the Southwest—as a more mature element of our ever-expanding movement—to start anew. It is exciting to imagine where the next step may lead.

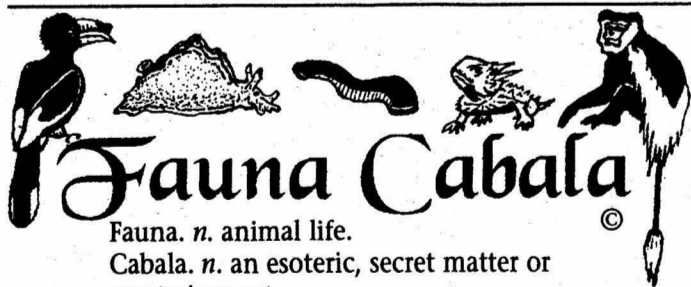
—ADAM VOLK



Original artwork by Shannon Wheeler

20th Anniversary Edition Samhain 2000

The *Earth First! Journal* is turning 20!
Next issue will be a look back through time,
celebrating 160 issues of the Radical
Environmental Journal. Subscribe today
so you don't miss it.



Fauna Cabala

Fauna. *n.* animal life.

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

Perhaps the most glamorous organisms to ever evolve, peripatus are owners of their own phylum (Onychophora), shimmering amongst the major groups of life. These plush and tastefully sequined, soft-bodied marvels, also called velvet worms, are a sister taxon not to worms but to Arthropoda, the phylum that includes insects, arachnids and crustaceans. From South America, Australia, Africa and the Caribbean, they can live out their entire lives in the same rotting log, spending their time sliming prey with glue and having extravagant sex.

Males of the genus *Phallocephalus* are incurable dickheads. They pursue the traditional mode of mating, even though their reproductive organ is on their forehead. Other peripatus, however, randomly litter females, and sometimes even other males, with packets of sperm called spermatophores. Wherever these loaded

gifties stick to her skin, female cells let the contents squeeze in, and sperm navigate through muscle layers, into her body cavity, eventually finding her reproductive tract. There they are kept in sperm purses near the entrance to each of her twin uteri. Females can store sperm, however acquired, for up to five years, dipping into their purses when need be. Some never need to remate. Interestingly, females are able to partition sperm, such that each uterus contains embryos sired by a different set of males, and they sometimes kil the sperm in their purses. Onychophora may be a rare example of creatures with postcopulatory control of fertilization, whereby females destroy the sperm of dud males to favor their macho velvety counterparts. In this way there is no harm done even if he is a dickhead.

BY FAITH WALKER

Earth First! Journal *Mabon*

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

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

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SCHEDULE

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Reflections of Demos Past

A year of convergences gives us lessons to learn from.

BY TIM REAM

The struggle for a sustainable and just world has certainly been interesting since November 30, 1999. In the wake of the mid-August protest against the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Los Angeles, now is an important time to review strategies and tactics that have propelled the US mass protest movement during the last ten months. What worked so well in Seattle seems to have lost its effectiveness lately. *Earth First! Journal* readers certainly have much to offer the debate with biocentric and revolutionary perspectives.

The greatest protest success of the last 10 months remains the collapse of the World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings in Seattle and the concomitant demonization of that organization among the politically aware worldwide. With such success has come a reminder of the power of people organizing globally and employing direct action tactics *en masse*. The sheer power exhibited by these protests demanded some mainstream media coverage and, with the first Independent Media Center (IMC) in Seattle, has significantly expanded the effectiveness of non-corporate information dispersal. Inside and outside the movement there have been debates on anarchism and the tactic of property destruction.

Greater public awareness of the destructive nature of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund resulted from the Washington DC protests in April, genetic engineering was highlighted in Boston in March and again in Minneapolis in July. Numerous individuals who have been involved on the ground have been trained, "battle-tested" and radicalized at the receiving end of abusive police tactics. The IMC movement has taken off with nearly two dozen centers established around the world, their life spans not ending with the protests that gave them birth.

Despite these gains, however, a chapter may be ending. While actions in Seattle and DC produced increased mainstream issue awareness, protests in Philadelphia against the Republican National Convention (RNC) and in LA against the DNC went unreported in most corporate venues. Where protest coverage occurred, it was conflict-oriented and content-free, even in the local press. It is likely that the spectacle of protest could not match the spectacle of conventioning, but perhaps also some in the corporate press are beginning to realize the danger our message presents to their profits.

Police tactics have also evolved since Seattle, and

the trend is discouraging. Police and city government press releases before recent events have attempted to demonize protesters by painting them as dangerous and destructive spoiled brats, hiding behind masks and unaware of what they stand for. Even among many leftists who ought to know better, the misrepresentation has taken some hold. This has created the space for widely inflated paramilitary preparations for protest and for cleverly calculated misinformation campaigns designed to whip residents into a state of alarm. In this climate, numerous police actions to preempt protest or harass participants have gone unchallenged by the public. As protests move from city to city, the cops' dirty tricks have not been seen by the public in each



locale as part of a pattern of manipulation. In the failed Kaiser Aluminum action last spring in Tacoma, steelworkers were fooled by law enforcement into fearing direct action. The promise of "turtles and teamsters" was paralyzed. In Philadelphia a preemptive bust shut down the convergence and protesters were subsequently brutalized in the jails and by the courts. Fake bomb threats have been reported by the police regularly. The police presence in the streets of LA was overwhelming.

Near-term gains from the DNC protest in LA are difficult to find. Economic losses in the downtown area have been reported in the tens of millions due to potential shoppers' fear of police and protesters. The city will undoubtedly need to deal with the millions spent needlessly on police preparations. But the issues that took people out into the streets remain a mystery to Angelenos and the rest of the

country. The media shut out was nearly air-tight. This could well be due in part to the nature of the LA protest. The week was characterized by little beyond rallies and permitted marches. Very little direct action was carried out by any of the factions involved. This, despite a convergence space that saw as many as 2,000 participants in a single day and the North American Anarchist Conference in town with over 500 attendees.

A closer look at the organizational structure behind the LA protest reveals how stronger actions could be produced in the future. A key new player on the scene since Seattle has been the Direct Action Network (DAN). DAN groups have sprung up in numerous cities in the last nine months. DAN attempts to provide a non-hierarchical organizing structure with autonomous local control. Also, an experienced DAN affinity group has been on the road organizing infrastructure like meeting space, first aid, communication, and coordination

with legal support and food. DAN has the infrastructure stuff down pat: The LA convergence space was unparalleled. But the actual on-the-ground political and protest organizing is up to the local group, and many in LA, even within the collective, felt the approach was hierarchical and weak. LA DAN claimed to know the situation in LA was different and demanded a specific approach. As one example, DAN and D2K organizers developed a list of a dozen demands as a centerpiece for the week. Anarchists cringed at asking the government to concede on 12 specific policy changes.

Further, a biocentric perspective was completely absent. By the second day of the DNC protest nearly everyone was sick of marching through cop cordons toward yet another permitted rally. It is interesting that in personal discussions and even in public pronouncements most organizers, including those salaried by leftist nonprofits, profess qualified support for property destruction and self-identify as anarchist. Why the weak result?

I believe the answers are revealed by yet another return to our roots. We have long known that reliance on the corporate media to deliver the end result of our actions is a risky endeavor. Our success in Seattle has led us further down the path of seeking mainstream media coverage. Media coverage is not direct action. It can be an important educational component in some campaigns, but only with a direct challenge to oppressors as the centerpiece of organizing and action planning.

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Dear SFB... These are your 15 minutes of fame. Use them wisely!

Dear *EF!*,

I'm a "lone wolf" tired of the cage that they had me in, tired of the place that this world has become. My first ever email is to you people; thank you for the free subscription... This is my new address. Please terminate the rest of my sub to that hell hole. Thank you for making my sentence a little more bearable... bareable, whatever... Anyways peace and love to you all. And for the record Julia sold out.

Monkeywrenchin' until my final day, with love to you all.

P.S. First check I get is going to you people... Well, maybe I'll get a six pack too!

Earth First!

— SHOTGUN

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

When I opened my "Litha 2000" copy of the *Journal*. I was shocked and amazed to see that the green fist was missing from the header. I think that the *Journal* has

lost its focus if it has become so politically correct as to remove the fist because of violent connotations. I understand that the clenched fist can be seen as violent, but we need to spend our time working on "Earth" issues not political BS.

We need a journal that really puts the "Earth" First!, not a journal that gets caught up in every popular, left-wing cause.

There are some great places to publish stories on women's and men's issues, gay issues, labor issues, etc... The *EF! Journal* is the only place to get the dope on "Earth" issues. Let's fill the paper with hardcore action and "how to's" and leave the namby-pamby PC crap to the rags. No compromise in defense of Mother Earth! (unless someone is offended).

—JIM NELSON, LA *EF!*

Ed. note: The missing fist from the Litha 2000 issue was an oversight in last the few frenzied moments of an insanely hectic issue. Or... In a feeble attempt to make the fist green, technology bit us in the ass and the computer made it clear instead. Or... We left the fist out so you, our readers, could delve into the artistic depths of your brains and draw us a new logo for the banner. Do the extra ones here make up for it?

Still "fistin'" for the Earth,

—AV

Hey there *EF!*

So I heard a rumor that you folks will send free issues to people incarcerated and well... here I am, held in the Burnaby Corrections Centre for females, for my part (holding an umbrella and cook-

ing food) for a woman who was blockading a logging road up in the Elaho Valley (north of Vancouver, BC). The longest anyone's got for contempt of court (breaking an injunction, civilly) was seven days. We got a prick/corporate ass-sucking judge. He gave me 42 days. Fuck being inside, I feel lucky after meeting a lifer or two. I'm bored and need to keep in touch with the struggle for the defense of the land. Please send me something.

With strength and solidarity,

—ANDREA SCHAAL

B.C.C.W., 7900 FRASER PARK DR., BURNABY, BC CANADA V5J 5H1.

Hello *EF!*,

My name is Crystal Bridges and was recently involved in the action against Sierra Pacific Industries in Arnold, CA. I would like to tell you how much it

means to have this story published in *Earth First! Journal*. I am a 17-year-old girl and would love to see more teens get involved with this issue. By publishing this in your journal, it enables people to see that other people go to extreme lengths to help save our precious Mother Earth. Once united we can never be divided.

I would like to end by saying this means the world to me, literally, so keep up the great work!

Thank you so much,

—CRYSTAL BRIDGES

Dear SFB,

I was a supporter until I saw the support for Mumia Abu-Jamal on your site. From forest to cop killers. Nice choice! Losers. I'll never support you again.

—JIM MALUE

THE-FILTER-PEOPLE@EMAIL.MSN.COM

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SMOKEY GETS HIS DUE

BY PHIL KNIGHT

Yesterday, August 20, I went for a hike on the History Rock Trail in Hyalite Canyon to get some time alone in the woods before Montana's Gallatin National Forest is closed to all humans, except firefighters. The closure order goes into effect tonight at midnight, due to the extreme fire danger.

While hiking I came across a bizarre artifact: a full-size Smokey Bear wooden cutout that someone had nailed to a tree and used for target practice. Poor old Smokey had hundreds of bullet holes in him.

It seemed like a sign. Smokey gets his due. After all, you can thank the US Forest Service and its overzealous fire suppression efforts of the past 90 years for the intensity of some of this season's wildfires. Ninety years of fire suppression have loaded the forest with tinder, meaning inevitable conflagrations. The forest knows what it needs—a good solid-scrubbing. Which is just what it's getting.

This morning, there was a news report that a bear cub with burned paws was rescued in the Bitterroot Valley. The bear was compared in the news with the original Smokey, who was a real bear cub rescued in a similar manner in New Mexico decades ago. Are we being prepared for the resurrection of Smokey?

Smokey, of course, is just a puppet. How can anyone get angry at a happy bear with a jaunty ranger hat? But behind the facade of the preachy bear is a federal bureaucracy that views all wildfire as an evil akin to the flames of hell and which would probably sell its grandmother for her fiber content.

Sorry, Smokey, but you were wrong. Western for-

ests are meant to burn. They will burn despite our best efforts to control the processes of nature and to turn wild forests into monocultured tree farms devoid of pests and disease. You may as well try to control the weather as stop fires of the intensity we are experiencing in the West this summer.

Can't you just picture it? "Only you can prevent lightning!"

No one is truly to blame for the fires of course, despite Republican claims that Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky started them all with cigars. If anyone is to blame, it is modern industrial society, which has so filled the atmosphere of our blue-green planet with foul effluent that the very globe is heating up and drying out like an apple left in the summer sun.

However, the political firestorm is just beginning. It does not matter how many facts or figures we barrage politicians with. If they want to use fires as a political weapon, they will do so. Ambitious but unscrupulous Republicans like Montana Governor Marc Racicot view the "disaster" of the 2000 fires as a chance to bask in the national limelight.

"Wow, Montana finally makes national headlines!" thinks the clever and crafty governor. "What a perfect opportunity to make some national press! I'll just pipe up and blame everything on Clinton, thus dodging any blame for the fires and looking like a hero! At the same time I can kill the roadless initiative and suck up to my buddies in the timber industry!"

Too bad Racicot underestimated his opponents in the environmental community who are interested in



Fire burning near Darby, Montana.

the actual facts of the situation and are willing to speak out (unlike the Democrats). Racicot has been skewered in the national media. Ole bison-guts has a black eye. However, I predict Racicot will still keep spewing his lies, backed by Montana's only US Representative Rick Hill and now by House Speaker Dennis Hastert. We will see a Salvage Rider to make the 1996 version look like a post and pole sale.

Meanwhile, the woods and the critters will get a real break from human disturbance. The backcountry will be quieter than it's been since 1988, when the national forests were also shut down. Hunting season will be delayed, if not canceled. There are no ATVs ripping up the dusty trails, no logging crews hacking down and burning trees, no bubbas in pickup trucks hurling Coors Light cans into the knapweed while they look for coyotes to plug. Considering the stress and hardship the critters are experiencing—ungulates are already eating winter forage like sagebrush—it's a damn good thing people are being shut out of the woods. I don't enjoy the fact, as I would love to go stomp around the hills as usual. But we have options. The animals don't—unless you are a cute little bear cub with burned paws.

Some Fire Facts to Dispel Pro-Salvage Arguments

BY MIKE PETERSON

1. Wildfires are to Western ecosystems what rain is to a rainforest. They are necessary for the continued health and existence of these ecosystems. Wildfires do anything but destroy a landscape. Indeed, they are one of the major ecological forces that rejuvenate Western ecosystems. Without fire, there would be no old-growth forests of ponderosa pine and western larch. Wildfires cleanse the forest of disease and insects. They thin forest stands. They recycle nutrients. They create snags that are homes for thousands of species.

2. One timber industry advocate said, "I never saw a clearcut burn." Nothing could be further from the truth. Of course clearcuts burn. When long, hot summers dry out the grasses, brush and logging wastes, they can flare explosively. When they grow thick with closely packed young trees, they present exactly the fire danger we are wrestling with now. The logging roads that provide human access are the source of many forest fires.

3. Two good examples of how fires seek clearcuts and logging roads and ignore the moister old growth: the Raft River Fire on the Olympic Peninsula and the Sundance Fire in northern Idaho—both in 1967. In the former case, the fire literally raced from clearcut to clearcut down the logging road, completely skipping the old growth in between. In the latter, the burned area was entirely within an area laced with logging roads and logging scars, once again largely ignoring the uncut areas.

4. In western Montana, the fires are burning in the forests adjacent to some of the fastest-growing residential areas in the nation, the Bitterroot, Helena and Clark Fork valleys. At last count more than 75 percent of the burned acreage lays outside of protected areas like national parks and wilderness. Ninety-six percent of the firefighting effort is focused on roaded and developed areas where human lives, homes and other structures

are threatened. Building homes in the midst of fire-prone landscapes is no different than building houses in the flood plains of the Mississippi or condos on hurricane-prone barrier islands of the Atlantic coast.

5. Commercial logging does not remove dangerous fuel loads. Instead it takes the largest, most valuable and most fire-resistant trees, leaving behind a firetrap. Commercial logging is not a prescription for forest health; it is one of the major causes of unhealthy forest conditions. Old trees and old growth are resistant to fire.

6. Logging isn't needed on our national forests. A recent scientific review team, led by Wenatchee Forest Service Research Station scientists Paul Hessburg and John Lemkuhl, has found that on dry sites (which include much of the intermountain West), the use of prescribed fire alone would restore tree-stocking levels and could be implemented on a broad range of cases without prior thinning.

7. Will logging prevent or reduce catastrophic fire risk? "Timber harvest, through its effects on forest structure, local microclimate and fuels accumulation, has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity," says the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project.

8. The United States Forest Service (USFS) has said in its *Historical and Current Forest Landscapes in Eastern Oregon and Washington* report on fire behavior that, "Logged areas generally showed a strong association with increased rate of spread and flame length, thereby suggesting that tree harvesting could affect the potential fire behavior within landscapes. In general, rate of spread and flame length were positively correlated with the proportion of area logged in the sample watersheds."

9. The same report states that, "As a by-product of clearcutting, thinning and other tree-removal activities, activity fuels create both short- and long-term fire hazards to ecosystems. The potential rate of spread and intensity of fires associated with recently cut logging residues is high, espe-

cially the first year or two as the material decays. High fire-behavior hazards associated with the residues can extend, however, for many years depending on the tree. Even though these hazards diminish, their influence on fire behavior can linger for up to 30 years in the dry forest ecosystems of eastern Washington and Oregon."

10. A 1968 USFS report says that, "It appears significant that many large fires in the western United States have burned almost exclusively in slash. Some of these fires have stopped when they reached uncut timber; none has come to attention that started in green timber and stopped when it reached a slash area."

11. "Fire severity has generally increased and fire frequency has generally decreased over the last 200 years. The primary causative factors behind fire regime changes are effective fire prevention and suppression strategies, selection and regeneration cutting, domestic livestock grazing and the introduction of exotic plants," states the Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the Interior Columbia Basin, USFS.

12. The Assessment of Ecosystem Components in the Interior Columbia Basin and Portion of the Klamath and Great Basin-Volume II, USFS, goes on to say that, "The high rate of human-caused fires has generally been associated with high recreational use in areas of higher road densities."

13. According to Reed Noss in the *Road Rippers Handbook*, research has shown that 78 percent of human-caused fires occurred within 265 feet of a road. In New Jersey it was determined that 75 percent of all forest fires were traced to roadsides. Other studies have estimated that humans cause 90 percent of wildfires and that over half are started from roadsides.

14. The causes of wildfires are also widespread, and include lightning strikes, barbecue briquettes, ATV exhaust, chainsaws and logging crews. An automobile accident caused the Hanford Reservation fire in eastern Washington.

BRAZILIANS RAMPAGE AGAINST INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

MST ACTIVISTS KILLED

Two landless rural workers were killed and at least 17 others were injured in Brazil on July 25 in separate incidents during a national day of protest organized jointly by the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) and by the National Forum to demand more agrarian reform and to protest corruption and genetically engineered crops.

MST member Francisco Aldemir de Mesquita, 28, was killed in Ceara state, not far from the state capital, Fortaleza, when six armed gunmen invaded a camp set up several months ago by landless rural workers at the Laguna del Serrote estate, which was in the process of official expropriation. The gunmen shot Aldemir de Mesquita in the head and pelvis. He died within an hour. The gunmen also shot eight other landless workers, among them an 8-year-old girl and a pregnant woman.

The Rural Workers Union and the MST called the provincial police to stop the attack, but the police arrived several hours later after it was all over. Ceara Governor Tasso Jereissati is close to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and is being prepped as the likely presidential candidate for the Party of the Brazilian Social Democracy (PDSB) in the 2002 elections.

Also on July 25, approximately 200 unarmed landless workers protested in front of the Banco do Brasil bank in the Boa Viagem neighborhood of Recife, in Pernambuco state. At about 2:30 p.m., 12 military police con-

fronted the workers. The officers threatened the workers with billy clubs and then opened fire on them. One of the shots struck Josi Marlcio da Silva, 47, in the chest. The bullet pierced his liver and lung. Da Silva died at the Restauragco Hospital due to massive hemorrhaging.

Earlier at the Recife port, nearly 2,000 demonstrators occupied a cargo ship carrying genetically engineered corn.

They threw molotov cocktails and rocks at the ship, and broke lights, windows and doors. They also spraypainted the ship with slogans against President Cardoso. The intention, said MST leader Amorim, was to burn the cargo; however, they decided to retreat, fearing the arrival of police. The protests in Pernambuco against genetically engineered crops and in demand of an agricultural policy that benefits small producers were organized by the MST, the Unitary Workers Federation (CUT), the Federation of Agricultural Workers of Pernambuco and other groups.

Protests took place in 17 other Brazilian states on July 25 without serious incidents. In Parana state, according to state coordinator Roberto Baggio, nearly 15,000 people camped out in the central plazas of eight towns: Londrina, Cascavel, Pitanga, Guarapuava, Maringa, Quedas do Iguacu, Manguierinha and Larajeira do Sul. They planned to stay overnight to push their agricultural de-

mands. In the town of Cascavel, some 700 demonstrators gathered in front of a branch of the Banco do Brasil to burn a mock coffin representing the International Monetary Fund, which they blame for a lack of available agricultural credits to small producers.

In the city of São Paulo, capital of São Paulo state, landless rural workers were joined by students, unionists, churchpeople, teachers, opposition party members and homeless movements in a demonstration in front of the still unfinished building of the Regional Labor Tribunal, viewed as a "Monument to Corruption." The demonstrators then occupied an inside patio and several other areas of the building for an hour. Some \$123 million has gone into construction of the building so far in suspicious circumstances involving close associates of Cardoso. Later the demonstrators marched to the mayor's offices, where agents of the Metropolitan Civil Guard closed the gates and beat up some of the protesters.

In Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state, nearly 5,000 people—landless rural workers, farmers, CUT members and students—joined together for a "March of the Have-Nots." On the other side of the state, in São Borja, some 600 farmers blocked the bridge that links the city with Santo Tome, in Argentina. MST leader Mario Lil ex-

plained that the bridge was blocked because it is one of the principal ports of entry of agricultural products which hurt Brazilian farmers. In other protests throughout the state, main access routes were cut to the port of Rio Grande and to the cities of Carazinho and Santa Cruz.

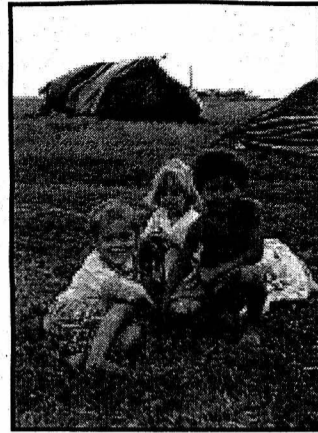
Protesters occupied the offices of US-based Monsanto in Nao-me-Toque.

In Santa Catarina state, just north of Rio Grande do Sul, nearly 4,000 people took part in actions in five towns. For six hours, protesters shut down a customs post in Dionisio Cerqueira on the border with Argentina; roads were also blocked in other areas of the state.

In Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais state, MST members occupied a Citibank branch in the city center before being forced out by guards and police. Other states where actions took place included Mato Grosso, Bahia, Rondonia, Paraiba, Espirito Santo and Sergipe.

For more information, visit www.mst.org.br or www.mstbrazil.org.

—WEEKLY WORLD NEWS



Kids at workers camp



Movement of Landless Workers Camp

Wolves and Poodles

A "Whoa, you mean we don't have to use chemicals?" wolf to an international team of scientists and farmers in China's Yunnan Province for implementing a simple change in their rice paddy cultivation to radically restrict the incidence of rice blast—a fungal disease. According to a prominent *New York Times* article, instead of planting large stands of monocrop rice, the farmers planted a mixture of two different rices. Within two years, farmers were able to abandon chemical fungicides and double their crop yields. What would Monsanto say about that?

An end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it wolf to Ma Nature for her latest kick in our pants, the melting of the northern polar icecap. Oceanographers have found that the icecap at the top of the world has turned into a mile-wide patch of open ocean. Earlier research measured the average summer thickness of ice at the North Pole at about three meters. This year, however, scientists were able to take a ship directly to the pole and then had to float over it because there was no ice to stand on.

A wolf breathing the avenging-flames-of-Hell to wildfires burning across the West for melting a major powerline and shutting down another that supplies electricity to the Pacific Northwest. The two 500-kilovolt lines, the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) largest, were knocked out by smoke, heat and airborne particles from a 11,000-acre fire burning about 25 miles south of Helena, Montana. A BPA spokesman said the wildfire prevented repair crews from working on the power lines. "It's pretty much up to the flames as to when the lines go back in service," he said.

A grass-chewing, butterfly-loving, wolf to the City of Boulder, Colorado, for voting to ban genetically modified crops from city lands. Concerned that herbicide-resistant plants could be introduced onto city land, department trustees added language to leases for agricultural operations on open space that ban any genetically-modified organisms from being introduced.

According to city figures, nearly half of the city's 33,000 acres of open space are leased for agriculture. No genetically modified crops have been grown on city land since 1998, when a two-acre plot of Monsanto's Roundup Ready corn was tested.



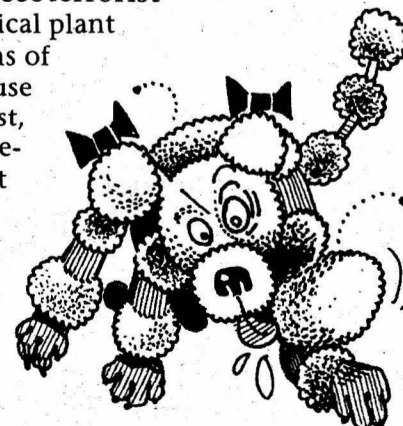
A creepy, crawly, eight-legged frankenpoodle to geneticist Jeffrey Turner, president of Nexia Biotechnologies of Quebec, for implanting spider genes in a herd of goats. The resulting goat milk yielded silky strands that can be used for sutures and to reconstruct tendons or ligaments and repair bones.

Additionally, Turner said, the substance likely has industrial applications, possibly replacing such things as Kevlar. Both the US and Canadian military have expressed interest in using it for making anti-ballistic defense systems.

An ignorant and proud poodle to New Mexico rancher Narcisso Baca for slaughtering more than 100 elk since May 17, accusing them of eating all the grass on his land that "should go to his cattle." Baca owns a 1,000-acre ranch in Catron County near the Gila National Forest, where he says elk are taking over, eating everything and damaging fences and irrigation equipment. "This year we'll kill an estimated 300 to 400 head," said Baca. "Next year I hope we'll be better equipped, and we'll double that." When asked about the argument that the elk belong there, Baca said "They don't belong here. I belong here." So does the ALF, Narcisso...

A tastes-like-water, smells-like-piss poodle to the long-boycotted Coors Brewing Co. for dumping 77,500 gallons of "beer" into Clear Creek, killing thousands of fish and prompting health warnings. The "beer," which was in fermenting tanks, washed through a wastewater treatment plant before ending up in the creek, said a Coors spokeswoman. State and federal investigators have not determined whether any fines will be levied against the company.

An Earth-raping, river-murdering, ecoterrorist poodle to 153 laid-off workers at a chemical plant in northern France for pouring 790 gallons of sulfuric acid into a tributary of the Meuse River. Using this sick form of labor protest, the workers actually won most of their demands, including severance pay of about \$11,500 and 80 percent of their salary in unemployment benefits for the next two years. Christian Larose of the Central Confederation of Workers, France's top labor organization, refused to condemn the spill. "They reached the limit," he told reporters. "But nothing was done that is beyond repair."



PAK MUN DAM'S FLOODGATES OPENED

BY JOHN SEED

It is early morning in the Kaeng Tana National Park, Thailand, on the verandah of a guest house overlooking the wide brown Mun River just above its confluence with the Mekong. Across the river are the jungles of Laos. Later, I start a three-day Council of All Beings workshop with a group of about 25 Burmese who are approaching the end of a three-month stint at a Grassroots Leadership Training program organized by the Spirit in Education Movement. SEM also brought me here and I will be conducting another such workshop near Chiang Rai and a third (with many Buddhist monks and nuns participating!) outside Bangkok.

Aussie video guy Grant McGifford and I arrived from Bangkok a few days ago and spend as much time as we can at the Village of the Poor, a huge protest camp started in April '99 (see *EF!* December-January 2000) by the side of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand's (EGAT) Pak Mun Dam. Thousands of villagers converged here from all over Thailand for a nonviolent protest against this huge dam (funded by the World Bank in 1991) and six other dam projects in northeast Thailand. The Pak Mun Dam project has destroyed the fisheries of the Mun River, affecting 25,000 people. Tired of being fobbed off by the authorities, they took direct action, building a series of villages surrounding the dam, now inhabited by over 5,000 people. In this way they created a permanent protest in the face of their oppressors and found an alternative to moving to city slums after their village and fields were flooded.

Their presence remains a constant in-your-face reminder to the officials and workers at the dam of the devastation and injustice they have wrought. Their village now includes a school, meeting place, health clinics, shops, a day care centre and a Buddhist temple. The people are evolving systems of self governance. Their movement has spread to other sites, with similar protest villages springing up at the Rasi Salai Dam and the proposed Bong Krum Pet Dam.

On March 23, 1999, after a year of

about the struggle for the Australian rainforests. I have shown this film all around the world but never to such an audience—enthusiastic peasant farmers and fisherfolk with no inkling of the kinds of protests we know so well.

Mr. Thongcharoen Srihadham, the 54-year-old chairman of the Villagers Committee for Recovery of the Mun River and the Communities, said: "Before the dam was built, our livelihoods were supported by the resources provided by the Mun River.



Thai resistors occupy Pak Mun Dam.

We did not need to pay for food because we could get everything from the river and the forest. After the dam was built, everything changed. The dam blocked the fish and destroyed the rapids. We became poorer and had no food from nature. Many of our relatives had to move to Bangkok to find work. Our families and communities were destroyed. Moreover, we started getting new diseases—the inci-

deness of liver flukes (a parasite) increased by 50 percent, and we are very concerned about the blood fluke (schistosomiasis), because the snails which host this disease are increasing in number in the reservoir."

For five years, the villagers witnessed the fish disappearing. The World Commission on Dams recently reported that, over the period, the number of fish in the river decreased by 60 to 80 percent.

I was immensely gratified by the profound consciousness that had grown among these people. Though most had never gone to school, they knew more about the perils of globalisation, the multilateral development banks and such than most university graduates where I come

from. They were incredibly brave and endured poverty such as I have never experienced. It was a great honor to be able to donate nearly two tons of rice to fuel their revolution. Many of them often don't have enough to eat, some having lost their fields, inundated, while others can't tend their fields as they are here protesting.

Donations may be sent to Playon School Project, AC# 338-1-13249-0, Krung Thai Bank, Khong Chiam Branch, Thailand. Tax-deductible donations may be made out to the Rainforest Information Centre, Box 368, Lismore, NSW 2480, Australia, with a note saying it is for the Village of the Poor.

You can support this struggle by sending a letter to the Prime Minister of Thailand demanding the government not use violence on the villagers and environmentalists camped at the dam site; Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister, Government House, Dusit District, Bangkok, Thailand.

You can also send a letter to the World Bank asking it to take responsibility for the problems its actions have caused the villagers at Pak Mun; Mr. James Wolfensohn, President, The World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington DC, 20433, USA.

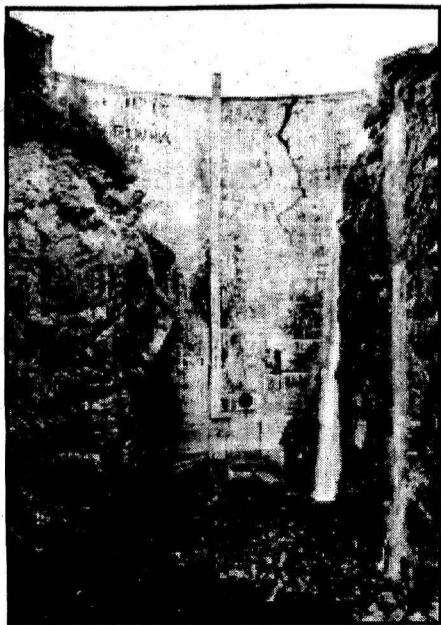
Editor's note: In July 2000 one of the village's demands was that the government and EGAT open the dam's floodgates for four months of the year to allow fish to swim upriver to lay eggs. This would partly restore the natural ecological condition of the river and the livelihood of the people. When there were no signs of EGAT's or the government's heeding the demand, more than 1,000 farmers and fishers left the Village of the Poor and headed for Bangkok. There, 225 were arrested storming the Government House, generating enormous publicity for their cause. Supporting actions took place at Thai consulates in Sydney, Washington DC and Tokyo. Two weeks later the government opened the dam floodgates and agreed to leave them open for four months of the year.

BY MIKE JAKUBAL

This article is reprinted from the Mabon 1987 edition of the Earth First! Journal.

Washington Earth First!ers have again targeted the Elwha Dam(n) for direct action, this time in the form of a daring nighttime graffiti raid... Sometime after dark on September 1, EF!ers calling themselves "River ELF" (Elwha Liberation Front) painted a 100-foot crack and the words "Elwha Be Free" on the dam's vertical face. EF! contacts in Washington learned of the action via an anonymous phone call and communiqué—printed on EF! letterhead—which appeared on an EF!er's doorstep. The caller revealed the following story:

Even from a climbers perspective this action was technical and involved more risk than similar actions elsewhere. The dam's top is a mere 24 inches wide and lacks railings or other attachment points for ropes. The painting was simple compared to the time-consuming process of setting up a rappel system. To do so, a rope was strung across the dam's top, between railings on either side, and then the



EARTH FIRST!

MABON EDITION
September 23, 1987 Vol. VII, No. VIII
THE RAINFEST ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL TWO DOLLARS

Cracking the Elwha Dam

rappel line clipped onto the rope's middle. That meant much shock and rope stretch had to be braved when commencing each rappel. In the words of one painter:

"It was gripping, but exciting also, since I knew I was properly tied in and backed up. I lowered myself off the edge, hung by my arms a moment contemplating the dark gorge 300 feet below, then... let go! It was 10 feet before the rope finally came tight and caught me."

Another relates that she "couldn't reach over far enough to finish 'Elwha'—even with an extender on the paint roller." So she had to do a running pendulum: "Just like when I climbed El Cap—across the wall to slop a little paint on, swing back the other way, run again to pick up speed, back over for more paint..." During her swinging, the three gallon plastic bucket, suspended from her harness,

banged against the wall sending a sound "like a giant gong" echoing across the amphitheater, "I thought the guards (living across the river) would wake up... it seemed so hideously loud."

Fortunately no security appeared and the project was finished and all escaped. The following is a portion of the statement delivered to Earth First! contacts and the media:

The dams on the Elwha stand as monuments to human folly and greed and as tombstones to the river's legendary salmon runs and the vision they represent of a river forever wild and free. Our words and symbolic crack are a re-affirmation of that vision and an inspiration for those who dare to dream of a once-again free flowing Elwha. The dams must come down.

In the words of ELF, "It was a great action. Fun, risky, totally commando, the next best thing to really cracking it. When we bought the paint we asked for 'black—the cheapest you've got'; later we read the label and it was called 'Midnight Black.' It seemed so appropriate! It also said 'Guaranteed to last 10 years' and wondered if that meant the paint... or the dam?"

To learn more about Earth First! history, order back issues for only \$4 each.

The Samhain 2000 edition of the Earth First! Journal will be a special 20-year anniversary issue showcasing some of the best writers and artists the movement has to offer. Watch for it on newsstands in November.



Nigerian Military Opens Fire on Youths After Shell Oil Spill

BY FELIX TUODOLO

For the people of Freetown (Ekulama 2) of Kula, Nigeria, life may never be the same again. The people depend on subsistence fishing and farming for a living. The discovery of oil in the land brought changes to their lives, as the activities of Shell and Chevron greatly reduced the produce from the farms and rivers.

Occasionally, oil spills occur at the wellheads supplying the Ekulama Flow Station. The most notorious of these is Well 32, owned by the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, Shell. The oil companies are not in the habit of accepting responsibility for the spills. "(They) call them sabotage," says Jennifer Pere of the Niger Delta Women for Justice (NDWJ), a radical grassroots women's movement that fights for justice throughout the oil-rich Niger Delta.

When the company accepts responsibility, like it did in 1999, they pay peanuts to the people as compensation. For example, in one of the recorded spills of 1999 Shell paid each claimant the sum of five naira (N5.00) or five cents US. The highest amount Shell has paid to date is N18.00, or 18 cents.

But the spill that occurred at Well 32 on August 6 brought unfathomable woes to the community. The spilled oil covered the entire river, affecting transportation and destroying aquatic life and mangroves. The river was littered with dead fish.

On the morning of August 7, the people notified Shell of the spill and the destruction to the surrounding ecosystem. Five youths were selected to present the report. The five crossed to the Ekulama 2 flow station and made a formal complaint. The Shell officials present included the community liaison officer—Mr. Alex—and an acting coordinator for the flow station. The officials informed the youths that the spill must have been caused by the contractors working on the site and asked the youths to come back the next day for a formal inspection of the spill. In the flow station was a detachment of heavily armed naval personnel under whose authority and shield Shell operates.

The youths returned to the flow station as requested the next day and were attended to by the acting coordinator. He asked them to wait while the boat to be used for the inspection was fueled. They were later joined by three other youths, thus raising the number of people to 10. While they were waiting, the head of the naval personnel, a sub-lieutenant, came and made rude remarks about youths not keeping the peace in the Niger Delta and always angling for compensation. He ordered that they should leave immediately.

According to Lokoloko Igbikis, a youth leader who was present, the officer ordered them to "leave the premises of Shell immediately or be ready to be killed."

"We told him that the acting coordinator of the flow station had asked us to wait and that we were supposed to go for an inspection, but the officer would not listen to us. He said that he was in charge, not the Shell official, and that if we did not leave we would all perish.

"He went into the building, came back and threw something in our direction. It exploded. It must have been a grenade. As we ran, we heard the staccato of gunfire and the barked order of 'Shoot them! Shoot them!'" narrated Igbikis, who was seriously injured. Four people sustained serious bullet wounds and three others received injuries from the

surrounding mangrove vegetation as they ran for dear life.

Those who made it to the mangroves were later rescued. But for Solomon Victor, shot and left for dead by the attacking Shell naval personnel, rescue came only when the company began a panicky evacuation of their personnel from the flow station by helicopter to Port Harcourt. As the oil men packed bags preparing to leave the premises, they saw Victor covered in his blood. They took him for dead and airlifted him to Port Harcourt. Shell

continuing as if there is a war declared on us. Now that we are here, we don't know what is happening at home. It is possible that the community has been burned down. We need help," Ine Kio appealed.

"Shell should leave our land. We are tired of them. One day they will kill everyone," states Constance Ekine. Chief K.O. Ikiriko Opusinya, head of the Opusinya group of houses in Kula, agreed without reservation. According to him, "We had no problem in the past with Shell except compensation matters. This action of Shell is very surprising, and that this is happening in a democratic setting. The military were brought in to kill my people. What we want Shell to do is to shut down completely in Kula. The world should come to our assistance."

As Shell uses its advantage of joint-venture alliance to suppress the aspirations of the local people—and in particular using the might of the military—the local communities are still living in squalor, unsung and unheard. Two victims of the Ekulama shooting have been refused medical treatment by Shell. Company officials insist that they can only cater to the one victim—Solomon Victor—who was found on its premises and not those who escaped into the forest. Community leaders are currently taking care of the victim's medical bills.

Please send your emails, faxes and letters of protest to the following people and places demanding that Shell clean up the oil pollution and stop forthwith the continued destruction of the land and waterways of the Niger Delta. They should also restore the devastated forests, waters and ruined lands of the delta, while compensating the affected local communities who have lived too long under the dark shadows of Shell's deadly gas flares.

Protest letters should be sent to Shell Oil Company, Head Office, POB 2643, Houston, Texas 77252-2463; (713) 241-6161; 241-4044 (fax); Shell Petroleum and Development Company Nigeria Ltd., PMB 2418, Lagos, Nigeria; 00234 1 2601600/19; 00234 1 2636864 (fax); info@si.shell.com.



The true price of gasoline

officials later realized that he was not dead and took pity on him, taking him to their clinic where he is now receiving treatment.

A naval officer said they were "afraid that the community may take reprisal action. We have to inform them that we are fit and ready, so intermittently we had to fire into the air to scare the shit out of them." The shooting continued all day and well into the night. The shooting had the desired effect of frightening the people of Freetown, who lost their freedom and their community. Several of them ran into the mangrove forest.

According to Constance Ekine, president of Kula Central Women, "This is not the first time our people have been shot at by the military. Some time in July this year, the military shot at us when we visited Daewoo premises, but no one was injured. This must be stopped now before they kill all of us. This harassment must stop. This is why we are here to protest to the Government House, Shell and the naval barracks. We are ready to die. If they like, they should kill all of us."

The women carrying placards first visited the wounded at Metropolitan Clinic on August 9, before some of them visited Shell. They were stopped at the gate to Shell's premises, but they forced their way to the clinic where Solomon Victor was hospitalized. An alarm was set off, and the women were confronted by the police, who then seized all the placards in a most discourteous manner.

A senior Shell official finally said that Shell did not order the shooting of the youths but that it was a federal government directive to the Navy to shoot on sight. The women gathered again on August 10 with new placards and proceeded to the Government House to meet with the state governor. There, police prevented the women from entering, saying that there were too many of them. Only three of them were allowed in while the remaining women sat outside at the gate for hours. Having presented their position to the government, they proceeded to visit the media houses.

The woes of the community seem not over yet. Some members of the community have not been seen since the shooting occurred. "The shooting is



Shell propaganda: "happy" Nigerians reading company brochures

BARE BONES

Leonard Peltier Receives Denial of Parole

On June 12, a parole hearing for Leonard Peltier was conducted at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Mr. Peltier attended, together with his attorneys, Carl Nadler, Jennifer Harbury and Ramsay Clark. Despite the extraordinary presentation of evidence as to his eligibility, Mr. Peltier was denied parole before the hearing officer had even read the materials offered. The decision will still be considered by the US parole commissioners in Washington DC before the denial is finalized.

An arbitrary, irrational and capricious denial of parole is a due process violation under the United States Constitution. A decision to deny parole before the evidence is even read or considered is also a denial of a fair hearing and constitutes a due process violation of the constitution.

US Forces Fungus on Colombia to Combat the "War on Drugs"

Under pressure from the US, Colombia has reluctantly agreed to take the first step toward developing a powerful biological herbicide derived from a fungus engineered to attack coca and heroin-poppo plants (see *EFJ* August-September 2000). Colombian environment minister Juan Mayr said he flatly rejected the first proposal for a mycoherbicide sent to him in late April by the UN Drug Control Program. A summary of the plan stipulated that "the government of Colombia has agreed, in principle, to experimental field trials being conducted in that country." Mayr and two other senior Colombian officials said they will propose, instead, to test only fungal herbicides that already exist in Colombia. "If Fusarium is not there, we won't study it," he said. But they agreed to look at various types of biological controls against coca, including predatory insects.

Lawyers at the White House and the State Department determined that the fungal herbicide could be used on drug crops without violating international conventions against the spread of biological weapons, but only if a foreign country made its own decision to use or test the fungus. Not all US officials agree: "I don't support using a product on a bunch of Colombian peasants that you wouldn't use against a bunch of rednecks growing marijuana in Kentucky," said an unnamed US intelligence official.

Santa Cruz Treesitters Celebrate Unprecedented Decision

California activists recently celebrated Santa Cruz County Judge Robert Yonts' July 28 ruling that San Jose-based Redwood Empire could not remove tree-sitters from private property because it would be too dangerous.

Yonts issued a preliminary injunction that technically prevents the activists from trespassing, however he ruled that the tree-sitters should be allowed to remain on the property because he feared for their safety if law enforcement officers tried to remove them.

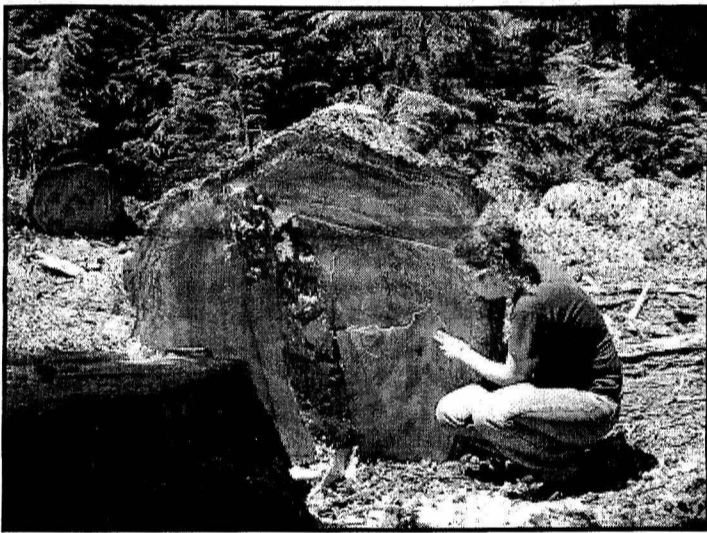
"I'm concerned about property rights but also about the safety of the individuals in the trees," Yonts said.

Roadless Complexes Under Fire in Umpqua Cascadia

BY SHANNON WILSON

About two hours southeast of Eugene, Oregon, in the headwaters of the North Umpqua River, is a 20,000-acre roadless area that contains some of the most pristine and intact ancient forest remaining in Oregon. It is in this area that the US Forest Service proposes to build dozens of miles of new, permanent roads and log thousands of acres of forest.

Bordering the 157,000-acre Oregon Cascades Primitive Recreation Area, and less than eight miles from the 50,000-acre Mt. Thielsen Wilderness Area, this roadless complex serves as vital forested habitat for many threatened and endangered species. One planned logging unit is located in documented wolverine habitat. The Canadian lynx, listed under the Endangered Species Act and until 1998 thought to have been extirpated from Oregon, has also been documented within 20 miles of the unit. Downstream from cascading waterfalls, the threatened and endangered coho salmon, sea-run cutthroat trout and steelhead trout spawn. Ancient trees 600-700 years old (some perhaps over 1,000 years old) make up the forests of the headwaters of



Inspecting unit 11 at Snog—550 years old

BY FRANCIS EATHERINGTON

Huffman and Wright Logging asked the Forest Service to cancel the Snog Timber Sale in the Umpqua National Forest because of depressed market conditions for timber. The Umpqua National Forest refused and ordered Huffman and Wright to begin logging or be financially penalized.

The original "purpose and need" for the sale was to contribute to the economic stability of the timber industry. If the sale is uneconomical to log, the Forest Service is undermining its entire reason for clearcutting public forests in the first place.

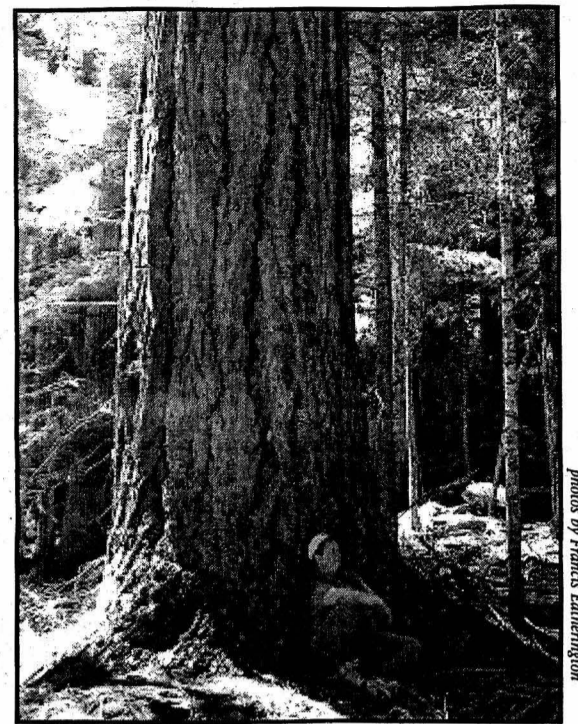
More important is the environmental damage that will be caused by Snog. The national forest's own study, the *Fish Creek Watershed Analysis*, recommends no more large canopy openings occur in Snog's watershed. Snog will clearcut 180 acres of old-growth forests, in spite of the findings that this will "further aggravate channel instability in those drainages."

Even the National Forest's fisheries biologist strongly objected to Snog, saying it did not comply with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. In June 1995, he wrote to his superior, "The professional and scientific basis for this decision is grossly inadequate and unsupported by

the North Umpqua.

Who and what threaten to destroy this wild place? The Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest created the Upper North and Warm Springs timber sales, which would log more than 2,200 acres of ancient and native forest and build over 20 miles of new roads into four interconnected roadless areas over the next two years. These two timber sales are currently under a temporary federal court injunction that could be lifted this summer or fall. The Umpqua National Forest is also planning the Lemolo Timber Sale, which would log an additional 1,000 acres, and build many miles of new roads.

This is just the beginning of the Umpqua National Forest's 20- to 30-year plan to log and bulldoze the headwaters of the North Umpqua. The CEOs of Boise Cascade and Roseburg Forest Products are salivating. These wild ancient forests have avoided the brunt of past logging because of the steep, rugged terrain, remoteness and the high recreational use. Now, these remaining wild areas need you and me to



Treesitters have taken to this Doug fir.

stand together and speak up for their continued existence.

For more information on these destructive logging plans, visit www.umpqua-watersheds.org. If you want to help financially or logistically with anything, including production and/or public showings of "Dread & Terror in the Umpqua" video and slideshow, contact Ancient Forest Defense 2000, POB 842, Springfield, OR 97477; tsuga@efn.org.

Umpqua Canopy Dwellers Take to Snog's Treetops

any data, documentation, literature or inventory."

To add to the insult of Snog, Diamond Lake District Ranger John Ouimet has admitted that the sale was illegally marked. He said that the required 180-foot no-cut protection buffers around wetlands were marked for clearcutting. Also, the law requires that the largest and oldest trees within clearcuts be retained—saved from the saws. Instead, the Forest Service has marked virtually all the biggest and best old growth to be cut, along with the rest of the forest.

Treesitters attempting to protect one of the Snog units climbed 140 feet into one of the six-foot-diameter Douglas fir trees within unit 2. Ouimet came to their tree and told them that it was illegally marked for cutting. He said the Forest Service might correct the problem—but just in that one unit. So far, the Forest Service has refused to consider the illegal marking in the entire timber sale.

Logging has started in units 11 and 12. Activists visited unit 11 soon after cutting began and found one of the largest trees cut down. It was 550 years old. By law, this tree should not have been marked for cutting.

In 1995, before we knew about the illegal markings, it was known the Snog Timber Sale would degrade the watershed, which is also against the law. So we went to court. We lost because Snog was originally sold during the 1995 Salvage

Logging Rider, which exempted federal agencies from compliance with all environmental laws.

The Umpqua National Forest is determined to have this forest clearcut, in spite of requests from the purchaser and environmentalists, and in spite of the scientific conclusions that the sale is harmful to the environment. On August 7, attorneys for Huffman and Wright wrote to Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester. "The local Forest Service has shown no interest in either cancellation or deferral of the harvest. The company has begun harvest today, and it is clear that the Forest Service has no interest in preventing harvest or sale. However, the company remains interested in cancellation." In response, the Forest Service has been silent.

Editor's Note: As we are putting the paper to bed (9/5), another treesit has popped up at Snog. The sit has been erected in unit 11. Active logging there has been disrupted.

LOGGING EQUIPMENT SABBED AT SNOG

On or around August 29, saboteurs took their business to the site of destruction. A log loader at the controversial Snog Timber Sale in the Umpqua had its oil line cut, radiator smashed and dirt dumped into its transmission oil. Graffiti was also left on the machine. Damage was estimated at \$3,000. Two weeks earlier, chainsaws were dismantled at the site.

PIPELINE PLOTTED IN SIBERIA'S OUTBACK

Gasline and Road to Slice Through Altai Republic to China

BY DAVE MARTIN

For the past several years, environmentalists in southern Siberia have been monitoring vague plans to construct a road and gas pipeline through the Siberian Republic of Altai to China. Various plans have been discussed, including a railroad and highway, and routes either passing through Mongolia or around Mongolia. No matter which route is chosen, the environmental threat is huge. It will open up large areas to resource development, both legal and illegal.

In March the situation heated up dramatically. The Siberian Accord, an association of Siberian government leaders, announced its support for the construction of a highway and gas pipeline. Russian President Vladimir Putin also supported this plan during a meeting of the accord. The plan is being put forward as critically important to the economic development of Siberia.

I recently spent several weeks in southern Siberia, and this road project was on everyone's mind. Workshops at a conference on river issues I attended turned into spontaneous brainstorming sessions for regional groups to develop common approaches and strategies and write sign-on letters.

Altai Republic is located in southern Siberia along the borders of Mongolia, China and Kazakhstan. The republic is roughly the size of Indiana. It has a total population of only 200,000 (50,000 whom live in the capital city of Gorno Altaisk). Nearly half the population is made up of Altai and other indigenous peoples. The area has been inhabited for more than 300,000 years and has been the crossroads for migrations of Turkic, Mongolian, Kazakh and numerous other peoples. Burial mounds, petroglyphs and stone carvings date back thousands of years. The landscape is covered with sacred healing springs, and the republic is home to sacred Mt. Belukha, the highest peak in Siberia and headwaters of the Katun River.

tially roadless, except for unmaintained dirt roads used by border patrol.

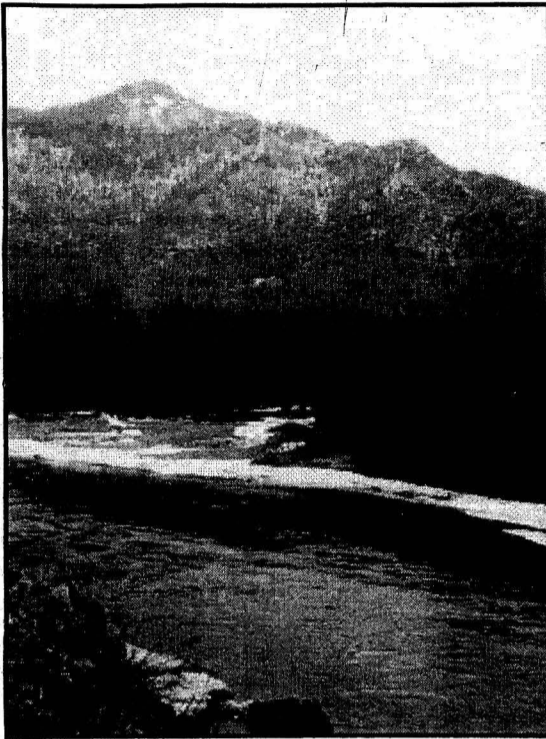
In 1994 the Ukok Plateau was given special local protected status as a "Quiet Zone." It is one of several areas that make up the "Golden Mountains of Altai" UNESCO World Heritage Site created in 1998. Unfortunately, neither of these classifications provides legal protection to prevent road construction, although World Heritage status does require that leaders make a pledge to protect the area.

Road construction will do a great deal of harm to this Russian treasure. It will destroy the unique ecosystems of the Ukok Plateau. It will destroy cultural treasures and sites sacred to the indigenous Altai peoples. It will open pristine areas to development, illegal logging and poaching. It will also likely prove to be an economic nightmare, requiring construction at elevations up to 2,500 meters (8,200 feet) through highland marshes, tundra and permafrost. It will require huge investments initially and for maintenance.

This new road is being proposed in order to avoid Mongolia by crossing the short stretch of Russian-Chinese border between Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Press articles have justified this approach by going so far as to say that Mongolia is soon expected to become a member of NATO. Currently, a road exists from the Altai capital of Gorno Altaisk to the village of Tashanta on the Mongolian border and continues into Mongolia. Improving this road would be a wiser choice economically and ecologically. Unfortunately, the politically expedient choice is to build the new road.

It is interesting to note that the accompanying gas pipeline is being proposed specifically to ship gas from Tomsk and Tyumen regions of Siberia to China. This comes at a time when many Siberi-

They have launched a media campaign to raise awareness about the issue. They are traveling to villages to inform the local people. Estimates reveal that more than 70 percent of the local population opposes the project. And while the president of the republic is a project supporter, the legislature has voted



Katun River in the Altai Republic

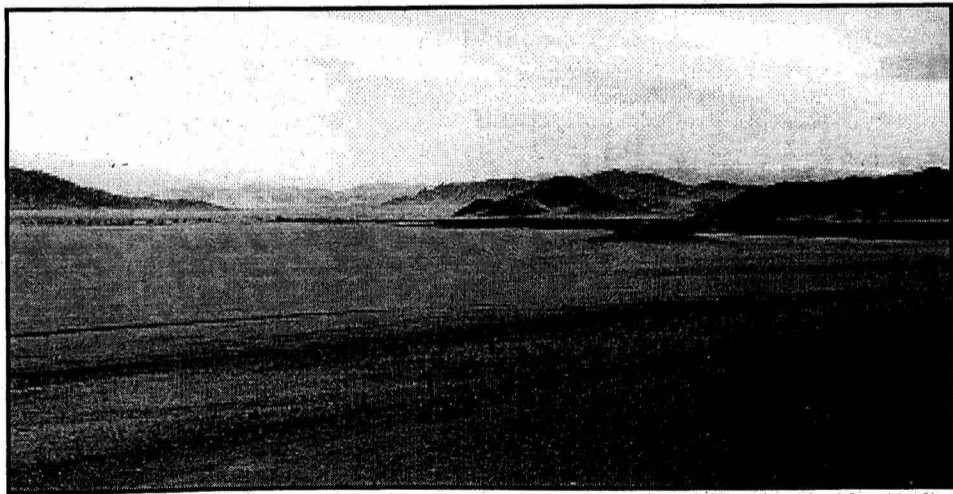
Photos courtesy PERC

against it. The fund has organized an international campaign of protest letters to the Siberian Accord and other regional and national bodies. This campaign is already having an impact, as more than 600 letters have been received so far. Several leaders have complained about the number of faxes they are receiving (they are required by law to answer them all) and the president of the republic has compared the situation to the Katun Dam. The successful mass campaign to halt construction of this dam helped galvanize the Russian environmental movement in the early 1990s.

Russian law requires projects like these to go through the federal *expertiza*, or environmental impact review process. Russian law also makes provisions for a public *expertiza* that is conducted prior to the federal process. This public review is organized by citizens' groups and gives them access to all project documents, feasibility studies, EIAs, etc. Pacific Environmental Resources Center will be assisting with the public review, and we have been asked by Russian colleagues to invite a North American with experience in high-altitude road construction, road reviews and economics to participate. We are looking for a volunteer if anyone out there is interested.

With a little luck and a lot of pressure, we will stop this road! I encourage readers of the *EF! Journal* to join the international protest against this destructive project. Send your letters to Semen Ivanovich Zubakin, Head, Altai Republic Government, 16 Kirov Str., Gorno-Altaisk 649000 Russia; +(38822)95121 (fax); Vladimir Ivankov, General Director Inter-Regional Association Siberian Accord, ul. Uritskogo 19, 630099 g. Novosibirsk, Russia.

For more information contact the Pacific Environment and Resources Center, 1055 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965; (415) 332-8200; 332-8167 (fax); perc@igc.org.



The Siberian outback—targeted with a pipeline

The proposed road and pipeline will run directly through the Ukok Plateau. The Ukok is a center for biodiversity and home to more than 20 endangered animal species, including the snow leopard and Argali mountain sheep. It contains one of the highest concentrations of endemic plants in Russia (at least 212 varieties). The region represents the most complete sequence of vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation. The area is essen-

ans are forced to endure gas and electrical shortages during the long winter. To add insult to injury, authorities in Tomsk are proposing the construction of a new nuclear power plant and the importation and storage of foreign nuclear waste at what is already one of the largest nuclear energy, weapons and waste impoundment facilities in the world. Clearly, these plans are not the result of comprehensive energy planning.

The Fund for 21st Century Altai and other local and regional groups are working actively to oppose this construction.

Frontlines

Operation "Pie Minister" Creams Canada's Prime Minister

On August 16, Prime Minister Jean Chretien received a celebratory cream pie in the lobby of the PEI Civic Centre to commemorate Old Home Week. Members of the PEI Pie Brigade braved the infamous Shawinigan handshake in order to offer a Roundup Ready Frankencreampie to Chretien, the first head of state to receive the distinction of being pied. The thrower was arrested, taken to the Charlottetown Police Station, charged with assault and released after being brought before a justice of the peace that afternoon. The next court date was set for August 31.

While there are a multitude of reasons to pie Chretien, this action was intended to highlight and criticize the roles of Chretien and his government in pushing unlabeled, untested, genetically altered food on Canada and the world. The Canadian government has given millions of dollars to the biotech industry and rubber stamped its crops without independent testing. And Chretien flies around the world pressuring countries like France to accept genetic technologies.

In 1998, Chretien compared getting pied to getting a reward or a "prize" that many other personalities have already received. He used Bill Gates as a brilliant example of the kind of important person to receive such a high distinction. We will now see whether Chretien accepts this prize in good humor, or if he will overreact like many others and continue to pursue charges.

Greenpeace Board Vessel Carrying Illegal Timber

In Savannah, Georgia, on July 24, seven Greenpeace activists were arrested after five members of their group boarded the Danish vessel *CIC Light* to spotlight the shipping of criminal timber from the Amazon rainforest.

The ship's crew reacted suddenly and violently upon spotting the activists. Two activists were unfurling a large banner, which was snatched away. Two other activists' ropes were cut as they attempted to climb aboard the ship. The activists plunged from the side into the water where they were rescued by Greenpeace activists in an inflatable boat. Three activists remained on board carrying smaller banners.

"This reaction is only a symptom of the violence that pervades the global illegal timber trade," said Scott Paul, a Greenpeace forest campaigner. "Every week criminal timber is being shipped into the US from around the world. The US Government promised to tackle the illegal timber trade, and is simply turning a blind eye to this flourishing market."

Police officers boarded the ship and arrested the remaining three activists. The two activists who were dropped into the water eventually boarded the ship and remained roped to the bow until they were taken into custody by the US Coast Guard. The drivers of the safety boat and the van were also arrested. All were charged with simple misdemeanor trespass charges. A recent 18-month investigation by Greenpeace in remote regions of the Amazon uncovered hard evidence that several companies who regularly export timber to the US are involved in the illegal timber trade. The Brazilian government estimates that 80 percent of logging in the Brazilian Amazon is illegal.

A Cement-Filled Future for the Kaweah River?

BY PHIL PESCOSOLIDO

The Kaweah River runs out of California's high Sierras, through Sequoia National Park and out into the southern San Joaquin Valley through the rural communities of Lemon Cove, Exeter, Farmersville and Visalia. The Kaweah provides groundwater recharge, drinking water and farm irrigation for most of the eastern side of Tulare County. The riparian habitat along its banks abounds with giant oak groves and wildlife including coyotes, rabbits, mountain lions, bobcats, fish, birds and three endangered species—the kit fox, pond turtle and elderberry beetle.

A couple of years ago, the Tulare Irrigation District (TID), which lies west of Visalia, stated that it intends to cement a section of the Kaweah Delta called the intake canal. This, it says, is because small amounts of water naturally seep through the riverbanks into the groundwater supply upstream of the TID. The intake canal does not even run through or into TID's district, but it is the means of conveyance for the water it gets from Lake Kaweah, the nearby Friant Kern Canal, along with the natural runoff that flows through the river delta and all its channels. TID has had a right to deliver water to its district using the canal for nearly a century. The intake canal has been modified over the years but is and always has been a natural channel and part of the delta, in character, direction and appearance.

As the Kaweah River passes through Lake Kaweah, it flows through miles of natural valley landscape, then through farms as it winds its way west. The section of delta in question passes through the Kaweah Oaks Preserve, perhaps the finest example of the natural riparian/wetlands landscape in the state. If TID is allowed to proceed with its foul scheme, it would mean cutting down hundreds of the ancient oaks (up to nine feet in diameter) along the watercourse. The water table for the whole area east of Visalia would drop permanently. The natural wetlands east of Visalia would dry up and many thousands more of the big old oaks would die along with the abundant wildlife in the area.

The area's farmers and ranchers have always voluntarily avoided cutting down even one of these old oaks out

of respect for nature, as have the people in nearby towns. This plan by TID is a terrible, irrevocably disastrous situation for the environment and people of Tulare County, if it proceeds as planned.

is it willing to spend \$15 million in demolition, construction and legal costs to save \$300,000 a year?

Follow the money! Many feel that the TID and its co-conspirators are planning to sell the extra water to the highest bidder in Los Angeles, California. Farming giant JG Boswell told the *Wall Street Journal* in March that it plans to sell water it has been obtaining through various means for decades to the highest bidder as a hedge against price fluctuations in commodity markets (cotton). Westlands Water

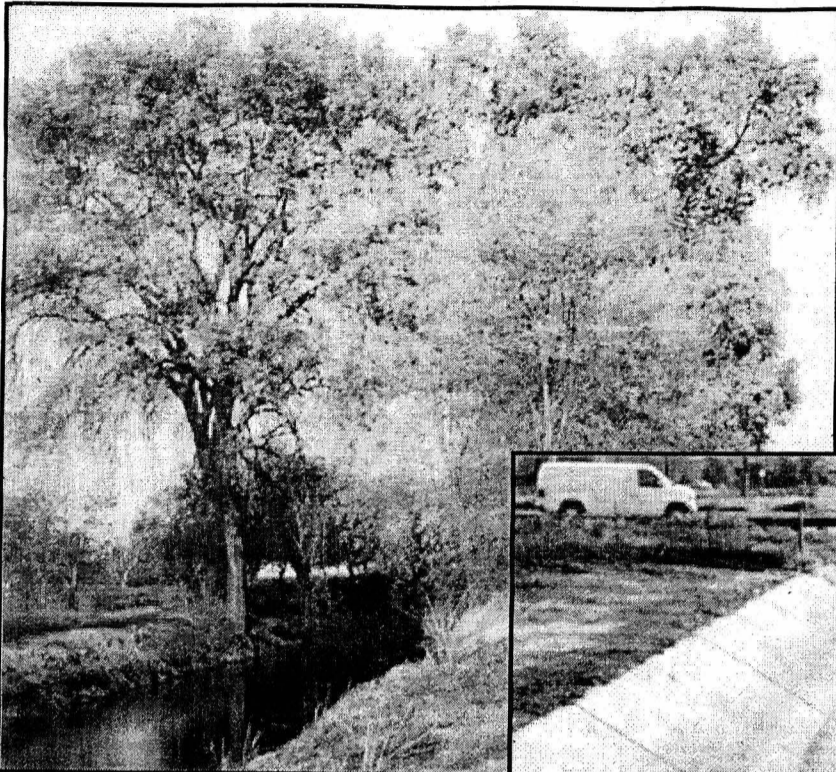
similar reasons.

There is almost unanimous public and private opposition to this project, but TID presses on. There are now approximately 20 lawsuits filed in Tulare County and in Sacramento to try to stop the TID. A very diverse and interesting coalition has been formed including, farmers, ranchers, politicians, environmentalists, businesspeople, the media and many, many concerned citizens. We want to preserve the natural habitat for future generations to enjoy, as well as our collective and individual rights.

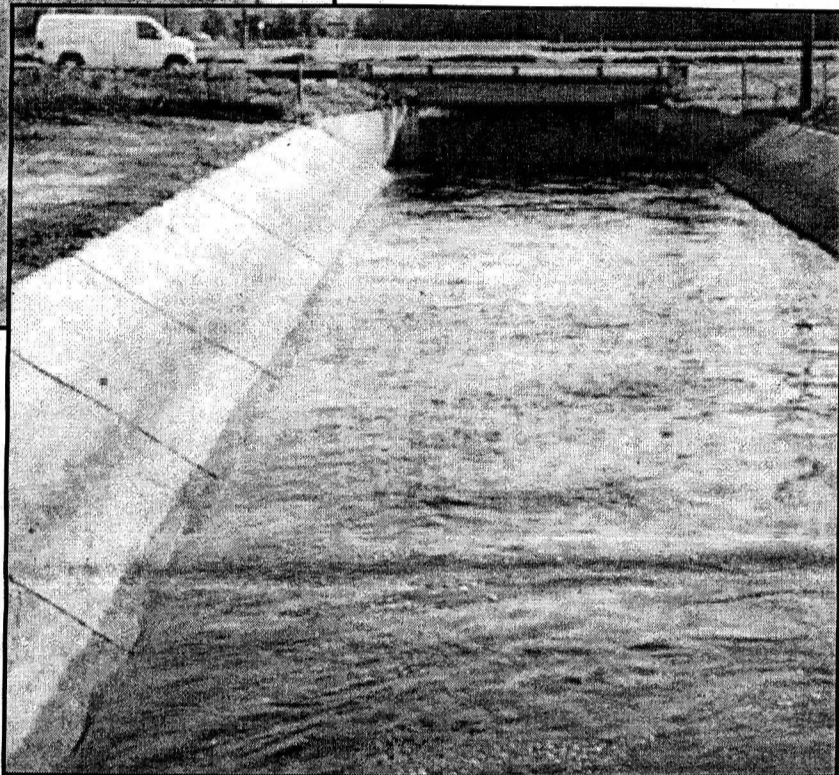
TID says it plans to start destroying the old oaks any day now and lining this beautiful and important waterway with cement. Our supporters are watching the 10-mile course in question. We have most access blocked by gates and cables, as much of the waterway runs through private property and farmland not accessible via public roads. As soon as our people see TID movement the calls will go out and within an hour we will have hundreds of our supporters physically putting themselves between the bulldozers and the trees and water. We are well organized and committed to the cause. Our supporters are diverse and dedicated, and we welcome any help anyone can offer. Voice your opinions to the Tulare County supervisors, (559) 733-

6271; 2800 Burrell, Visalia, CA 93291.

For more information contact Visalia Power Group, (559) 732-5616; extrade@aol.com.



The Kaweah river before the cement flows.



After the Tulare Irrigation District does the dirty deed

TID says that it loses about \$300,000 worth of water a year due to seepage. The landowners along the river, the city of Visalia, the group, Protecting Oaks Water Environmental Rights (POWER), the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and US Reps. Dooley and Radanovich, all have proposed various solutions that would more than reimburse TID for the amount of water it claims it is losing. TID has rejected all settlement offers and proposals. Why

District, the largest in the US, north and west of Tulare County, is trying to claim most of the water from the San Joaquin River and Millerton Lake for

Kohl's Cuts Down Historic Hardwoods



Photo by Andy Shupe

Journal readers may recall a standoff over the fate of 81 historic hardwoods in Fayetteville, Arkansas (see *EFJ*, June-July 2000). For 22 days a 53-year-old grandmother named Mary Lighthouse lived in one of the trees, bringing in a month of front-page news coverage, 31 arrests, and lots of outrage toward Kohl's (department store) plan to pave over the threatened area for a shopping center parking lot. Early in the morning on June 23 destruction of the woods began. Kept from the demolition site, citizens watched as Mary Lighthouse's tree was the first to be cut. All but 30 of the hundred-plus year-old trees have been felled. Graffiti was left on one of the cut post oaks (above).

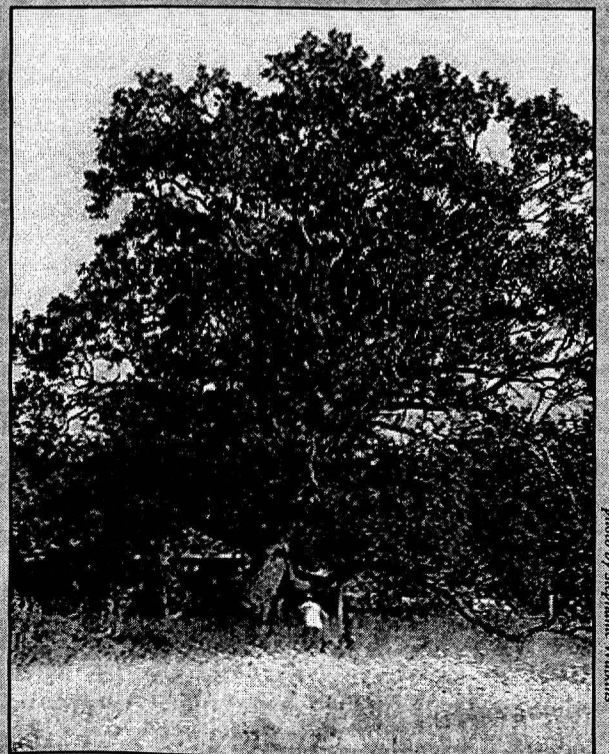


Photo by Stephanie Watkins

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FOR SALE: NEVADA HERPETOFAUNA

If you are familiar with the current policies of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners regarding reptile commercialization in Nevada, you might expect to see a sign like "For Sale: Nevada Herpetofauna" on the state line. Nevada is the only state in the West that continues to allow unlimited commercial collection of native reptiles. For \$100 a year, an applicant can acquire a permit to collect and commercially sell as many non-federally protected reptiles as they want. In 1998, the herpetofauna hunters collected 22,240 reptiles. From 1991 to 1998, they got 30,392 horned lizards. The reptiles have a wholesale price of \$3.50 to \$4.50 and a retail price of \$8.50 to \$9. They are sold in Europe for \$143 a piece. This continues in spite of the fact that they have a very high mortality rate in captivity.

State and federal agencies originally demanded proof that commercial reptile collecting had no detrimental effect on the species or habitat before allowing it. Now the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would like proof that collection is having detrimental effects before limits are implemented. There is still little data about the ecology and habitat requirements of just about all of the native herpetofauna. Species from other states are collected illegally and sometimes laundered in Nevada.

Concern from herpetologists, conservationists and Nevada citizens has prompted the Nevada Division of Wildlife to prepare the 1999 Special Report to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on Reptile Commercialization in Nevada. In this document, the minutes of two public meetings held in Reno and Las Vegas are published. Most of the

people who commented asked for stronger regulations because the effects of collection on these species are not understood. Some compared collecting to hunting seasons. Because deer have their young in the spring, hunting seasons are regulated to fall. Reptile collectors' best months are from March to early June, which is prime breeding season for many of these species.

There is little baseline population data to understand the population trends of many species. One collector admits that his activity has an impact on the ecological system but says he still needs to make a living. Other collectors suggest that they provide the best data on species when they report collection numbers to the state—after they take reptiles out of their habitat.

One former collector reveals a darker side to the industry: "If you have ever seen 1,000 collared lizards stacked on top of themselves in a cage defecating on themselves, living in this [sic] and dying in it, most of them die of stress in the first month, it's a pretty ugly sight."

Yes, collectors can probably provide a great deal of data about the habitat and species they collect, but what are the consequences? Collection will be allowed to continue in the year 2000. There may be hope for the following year. Many species (the chuckwalla tops the list), including horned lizards in Nevada, may be put into local habitat conservation plans. This will place a limit on numbers collected. This is a start. This is also why we need as many letters as possible sent to State of Nevada Wildlife Commission Chairman Bill Bradley, POB 1987, Reno, NV 89505; billobradleyjr@yahoo.com.



These critters can sell for up to \$143

Struggle for Mass Old Growth Continues

BY OAK

Journal readers may recall the ongoing struggle to defend a vital buffer zone to the largest remaining stand of old-growth forest in Massachusetts (see *EF!* March-April 2000). Mass Earth First! has been on constant alert expecting the State Superior Court to rule in favor of Wachusett Mountain Associates (WMA) and its hair-brained scheme to further expand its privately held ski area into the buffer zone. As of this writing, an injunction order against the ski area expansion has been reinstated.

If the present state of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (to use the term loosely) is any indication of the benefits in publicly held land, we are surely in a sorry state. The plight of Mt. Wachusett in the north/central area is a sad example of the collective stewardship of the commons. Supposedly protected, but actually only administered by the state Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Mt. Wachusett has been neglected and subjected to ongoing abuse. Now, the DEM seeks to add insult to injury.

Until very recently, the DEM was oblivious to the fact that the largest remaining stand of old-growth forest in the state grew upon the crown of Wachusett. They sat blithely on the bureaucratic ass while the rich and well-connected Crowley family's

WMA clearcut six ski slopes through old growth, which should have been identified decades ago, and scarred hundreds of acres elsewhere. All in the pursuit of profits, at the public's expense, for a leasehold ski area. While platitudes poured from WMA's propaganda machine (see www.wachusett.com—be sure to visit the chatroom and give them a piece of your mind) extolling the virtues of

winter skiing for the citizens of Massachusetts who could afford it, the health and welfare of the forest and its inhabitants began to slide into oblivion. In short, the commons were sold out, enclosed, as it were, by an agency as entrenched and decrepit, and a state government as morally corrupt as any witnessed during the enclosures of yore.

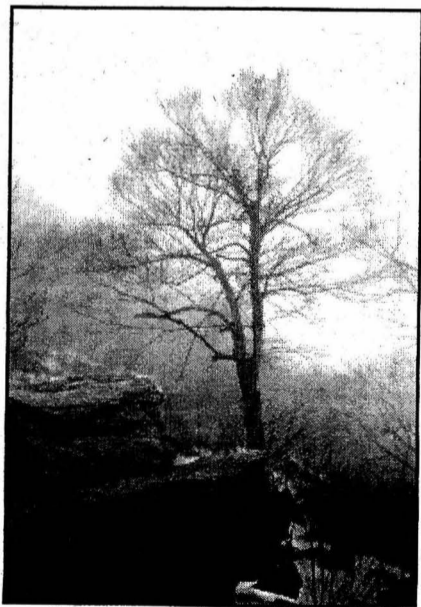
Progressive foresters will go to great pains to explain how poorly our commons are protected by the DEM here in the state of Massachusetts (see www.daviesand.com/Papers/Politics/Problems___Solutions/index.html). While enviros and these foresters may differ on the degree of extraction, they certainly agree on most issues of public trust and government accountability. The situation with Mt. Wachusett is as good an indicator as any of the breach of that trust.

Today, WMA (with the blessing of the DEM's commissioner, Peter We-

ber, and the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Robert Durand) is poised once again to endanger the old-growth forest with its ill-conceived Alpine Park ski expansion. The proposed project would destroy a critical buffer zone that protects the old growth from winter's harsh prevailing winds. Having already endangered the forest with the construction of ski-slope-induced edge and damage through the slope's operation, it wishes to compound its sins by exposing the trees to more threats. In addition, within the proposed expansion lives what may well be the state's champion laurel tree, now protected by the surrounding red oaks. If WMA's plan is realized, that unique plant will be within yards of the slope, part of yet another edge.

While a court challenge to stop the expansion brought by a local group, WEST, and the Sierra Club continues, preparations are being made in the event of the need for a last line of defense on the ground. Mass Earth First!, the Native Forest Network and other forest defenders have established the Henry David Thoreau Memorial Base Camp in a safe area nearby and have created a rapid response network. The base camp is considered safe because it's on... ah... private property! If readers and non-violent warriors want to set down stakes or be placed on an email alert list, they should contact us immediately. Action could be taking place as you read this.

For more information, contact Mass Earth First!, (413) 367-9352; valeoftheoaks@hotmail.com; Native Forest Network, (802) 863-0571; nfnena@sover.net; www.nativeforest.org/alerts/alert13.html.



Old red oak on the mountain.

Photo courtesy Mass EF!

BARE BONES

Ohio Valley Coal Files Legal Action Against Enviro

On August 22, Ohio Valley Coal Company filed a highly unusual legal proceeding against the Buckeye Forest Council and Dysart Defenders, two Athens, Ohio-based environmental groups. The case, which is described as a "Petition to Obtain Discovery Under Ohio Civil Rule 34(D)," forces the non-profit organizations to release numerous documents, including copies of their membership and contributor lists.

The company claims that these documents must be released and that they will be used to prepare a more extensive lawsuit regarding defamatory statements made by representatives of the two organizations. However, the company has not disclosed the alleged statements, nor to whom the remarks are attributed. Attorneys for both groups have responded that the legal action by the coal company constitutes harassment and maintain that Ohio Valley Coal is misusing Rule 34(D).

Buckeye Forest Council's attorneys responded to the company's threat of legal action, saying "Your failure to be specific demonstrates that you are unlawfully using the pretense of a defamation claim to attempt to obtain confidential and protected information unneeded and unrelated to protecting your rights... In the event that you or any agent of the Ohio Valley Coal Company persists in such harassing conduct, be advised that we shall utilize all lawful recourse to protect our client's rights..."

The forest council has also filed a "Motion for Protective Order" before the Ohio Reclamation Commission to force Ohio Valley Coal Company to cease its harassment and threats and be forced to comply with the appropriate procedures of legal discovery.

Ireland's Badgers Face Further Threat

Ireland's Department of Agriculture plans to intensify its badger-killing strategy in the coming year. Thousands more badgers now face extermination for their unproven link to bovine TB (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in cattle. September 1 marked the start of the latest cull in which an estimated 10,000 badgers will be slaughtered. Seventy-five extra dedicated staff are to be appointed to do the job. To date, nearly 30,000 animals have been legally killed by the department.

Snares are set at evening time and the badgers caught in them during the night are shot the next morning. Snaring continues through the breeding season without respite for nursing females. This situation has given rise to serious welfare problems when orphaned badger cubs are left to die of starvation underground or are killed when they come out looking for food. The illegal killing of badgers on some farms continues with the pumping of gallons of slurry into their setts, or burrows.

Badgers are protected by the Wildlife Act (1976) and are listed as an Appendix 111 species of the Bern Convention.

CLEARCUTTING THE OCEAN FLOOR

An extremely common industrial fishing method, known as bottom trawling, has the same devastating impact on the ocean bottom as clear-cutting forests has on the Earth's surface. Trawling vessels drag huge nets for thousands of miles along estuaries, bays and the continental shelves, pulling tons of marine creatures, rocks and mud. It has been estimated that trawlers scrape nearly six million square miles a year, the equivalent of half the world's continental shelves. This is twice the area of the lower 48 United States and about 150 times larger than the area of forests clearcut each year. And on top of that, fishermen trawl pretty much wherever and whenever they want because there are very few government restrictions in place—the frontier mentality still reigns in high-seas fisheries.

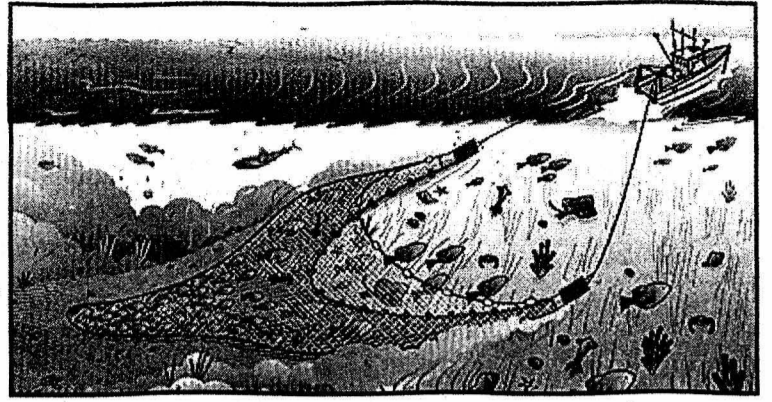
The damage left behind by trawling is immense. Many of us retain in our mind's eye the storybook picture we had as kids of the bottom of the ocean as one vast, wet, sandy desert. The truth is that the bottom of the ocean is a complex series of ecosystems made up of mud, seagrass beds, coral reefs, rocky reefs and cobbles. Each sea bed type supports a different community of sea life, and provides food and a safe place to raise young as well as protection from predators. Bottom trawling rips all that up.

The nets take everything in their paths, and the weighted lines dragging the ocean floor crush, bury or expose any remaining wildlife. By leveling the ocean floor, the food chain is disturbed, the hiding places removed and conditions favorable to faster growing species take over. Sea floor recovery could take centuries. Many sea floor inhabit-

ants are slow growing and long lived and are therefore slow to repopulate and rebuild in areas that have been disturbed. Some species of sponge can live to be 50 years old. Some clams can live for more than 200 years. Individual gorgonian corals have been estimated to live 500 years or more. Some tube-dwelling species can only rebuild homes during an early stage in their development and are therefore left permanently exposed by trawl gear.

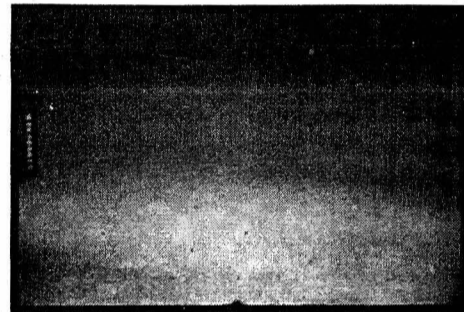
Bottom trawling also causes abnormally high nutrient levels in the ocean by stirring up sediment. Most continental shelf environments typically get half their nutrients from the steady influx of organic material decaying in the sediment. But by stirring up the sediment, trawling releases a huge pulse of nitrogen and other nutrients into the water. Scientists at the University of Maine in Orono estimate that re-suspending as little as a tenth of an inch of sediment could more than triple nutrient levels in sea water. Higher nutrient levels could increase noxious phytoplankton such as those in red tides, notorious for causing mass fish kills, and shift the balance of plankton populations, which in turn could shift the balance of the fish and other marine life that feed on them.

While the federal government has jurisdiction



Healthy ocean floor

Photos by Keith Sainsbury

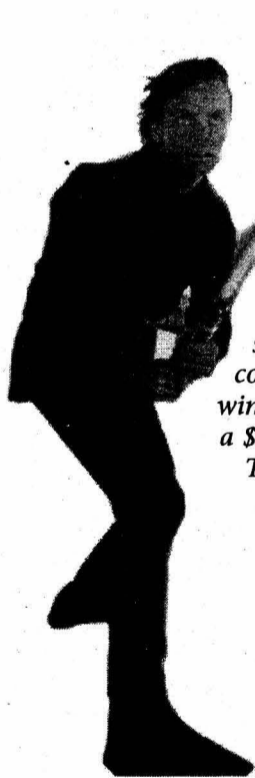


Same location after bottom trawling

over eight times as much sea as land, only a tiny area of the ocean is protected from commercial fishing. Commercial fishing is allowed in nearly all of the national marine sanctuaries. This lack of protection is attributable to opposition from the fishing industry and lack of public awareness.

Continued unregulated bottom trawling will eventually lead to more severe collapse of worldwide fisheries, many scientists say. In shrimp trawls in some parts of the world, 90 percent of the catch is bycatch, thrown back into the sea dead or dying. Also, as preferred fish become fewer, the boats are fishing for species that formerly were not considered marketable, further depleting the ocean. We must call for the creation of true reserves where fishing is banned. Why has it taken so long to notice the destruction of sea floor ecosystems? The oceans, unlike forests, still look like oceans even after we've removed their contents.

Education and the Wise Use Movement—A Kid's Story



Editor's note: Recently, using a state grant for "education," a Pennsylvania wise use organization, the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG), sponsored an essay contest for 8th graders to answer the question, "What does forest stewardship mean to me and my community?" The author of the winning essay "Leaf Wars" received a \$100 savings bond from AHUG. The winning essay follows:

Leaf Wars

BY BILLY WOODFORD

As Duke Sandhopper walked out of what was to be the last Kane School Board Meeting, he thought, "It's such a shame that Kane Schools have to merge with Smethport due to a lack of funding. There must be something I can do." Quickly he hopped into his 2022 VW beetle and sped off to his home in Greendale.

He took a brisk shower and went to bed. That night, he had the strangest dream. An old man, who introduced himself as Kobi-Ron Denobi said, "The Forest is strong with you, Duke. Come to my hut in Wetmore and I shall teach you the ways of the Forest."

When Duke woke up he ignored his dream and went to work at Kane Magnetics. Everything was normal until lunch. Then, Kobi-Ron showed up. He took Duke to his hut and told him, "you will now learn the ways of the forest, and you will become a logger." Then Kobi-Ron pulled out what appeared to be the handle of a saw and hit a button on the side. Immediately a glowing saw blade shot out. "This was your father's lightsaw. He, too, was a logger," said Kobi-Ron.

Over the next weeks, Duke learned to harness the Forest. He was very proficient with a lightsaw. He could cut down trees while fighting off a preservationist. One day, Kobi-Ron explained to Duke the responsibilities of being a respectable logger. "We loggers must maintain a healthy forest. We do this by harvesting trees before they reach their biological maturity. Sustainable forestry, through thinning, rotation and cleaning is what we practice," explained Kobi-Ron.

"Speak in English, Kobi-Ron," quipped Duke.

To which Kobi-Ron replied, "First, we must harvest trees before they become too old, or reach their biological maturity, or else we would endanger the rest of the forest. Thinning is harvesting some trees when they are young, to improve the quality of the surrounding trees. When we harvest a particular stand that has met its biological maturity, that is rotation. And lastly, it is cleaning when we free a stand from an undesirable species that would, or might overtop them."

"What would become of the forest if we did not practice these forest-management techniques?" inquired Duke.

"The forest would become biologically unstable. The largest and strongest plants would thrive, and the smaller would die off due to lack of nutrients and sunlight," replied Kobi-Ron unwaveringly.

One grave day, Kobi-Ron said to Duke, "Your training will be complete when you defeat Dark Vaper, arch-enemy of sustainable forest practices. But beware, do not give into preservations, for they are the Dark Side."

Duke replied, "I will defeat Vaper and return the schools to Kane." Duke recalled the slow death of the other board members of the district's financial situation. He said, "At one time, this school district was very prosperous and received \$600,000 from the profits of the timber industry. At this present time, we receive only \$25,000." Once or twice a year, the School Board faced the somber task of eliminating a program. First it was extra-curricular activities. Then, field trips. After that, sports and Science Olympiad teams were cut. When parents

started to see this, they moved so their children would have a better chance at a good education. Eventually, the school was barely over state requirements. The buildings were poorly maintained. Other communities suffered the same fate.

At last, the school board was forced to consolidate with Smethport. The preservationists caused all this. They protested, argued and took legal action to halt proper forest management. They told the citizens that the only correct way to manage the forest was to leave it alone. Many people believed them and helped them. By the time they saw that following the preservationists only worsened the situation, it was too late. The fragile biological balance that allowed this area to grow the trees that brought in so much money was destroyed. Every year, the schools and townships were getting less money.

Duke snapped out of his daze and got back to work. He started his beetle, but before he could leave, Kobi-Ron came out and wished him goodbye, saying, "May the Forest be with you." Duke wasn't sure where he was going, but he knew the Forest would guide him. Suddenly, he was hiding behind a wall in a meeting hall. He was listening to Vaper praise the preservationists. "You acted in the best interest of the forest," he told them.

Duke knew it was time to strike. He wheeled around the corner while turning his lightsaw. Vaper immediately turned his on, too. As Duke swung his lightsaw, he heard Kobi-Ron's voice resonating throughout the forest saying, "Use the Forest, Duke."

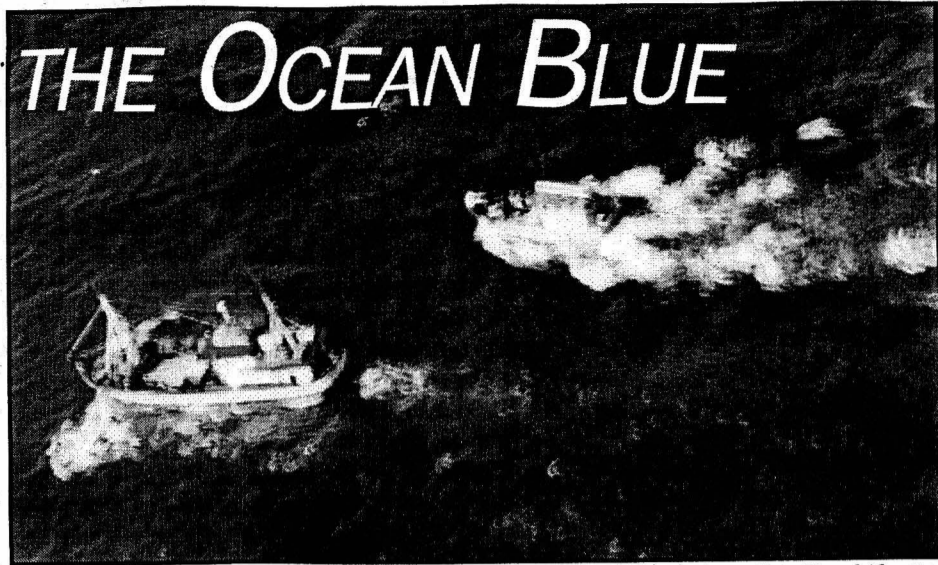
Duke fought Vaper very bravely while explaining to the preservationists what they had done to the people of Kane. In one decisive blow, Duke struck Vaper down. Immediately after Vaper died, the preservationists were freed from a trance. They felt a sudden guilt for what they had done.

It took many years, but the natural balance required to grow so many types of trees that were very profitable for the area was restored. Once again loggers ruled and were the stewards of the woods. The timber industry grew better than ever and the schools also prospered from regained revenues. Duke had indeed succeeded in the task he set out to accomplish.

SEA SHEPHERD STAYS TRUE, DEFENDING THE OCEAN BLUE

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

Sea Shepherd International has had a busy summer. Our campaign against the Faroe Islands pilot whale hunt re-focused international attention and economic pressure on the slaughter of, on average, a thousand or more whales every year in this wealthy Danish protectorate, solely in the name of "tradition." From July 6 through 15, the crew of our flagship *Ocean Warrior* was variously subjected to arrest, detainment, imprisonment, expulsion and escalating trumped-up fines. Two Danish warships and pressure from Denmark on our ship's registry in the Cayman Islands finally forced an end to the ship campaign after two weeks of intensive European media coverage. We continue to apply economic pressure against those companies still purchasing seafood from the Faroes—representing 90 percent of their economy—most prominently Dutch-based giant Unilever. Over 20,000 European retail outlets have terminated their Faroes fish contracts.



Sea Shepherd vessel (right) closing in on Brazilian driftnetter.

dangered Species (CITES) to fast-track the return of commercial whale hunting by putting a "Revised Management Scheme" in place. This move will enable CITES to rule that gray whales and minke whales may be subject to limited trade, ending the global moratorium on commercial whaling that has been in place since 1986. The scheme, with US backing, is expected to be finalized at an intersessional IWC meeting in London next February, and brought to a

Chretien to sign it into law before Clinton leaves office.

We are completing preparations to make our coastal patrol vessel *Sirenian* ready for conservation patrols of the Galapagos Islands, the first ever to be permitted in the waters of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site by a foreign registered vessel. Under the terms of our agreement with the National Park Authority, the *Sirenian* will jointly patrol with the Park's present vessel to clamp down on commercial fishing operations undertaken within 40 miles of the baseline of the biologically unique islands. The Galapagos are a prime target for Asian vessels poaching shark fins and pulling in illegal hauls of abundant but fragile sea life around the archipelago.

On August 19, the people of Brazil moved to protect their own waters and marine wildlife in the face of government inertia when Sea Shepherd Brazil (SSB) coordinated an air/sea anti-poaching operation off the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul that netted four illegal driftnet vessels. A light aircraft and helicopter worked as spotters, and an SSB boat took Brazilian Naval personnel out to the offending boats, which were boarded, marked for identification, and ordered into port for fines and/or confiscation. SSB directors pointedly remarked after the successful operation that such enforcement, undertaken by volunteers, is supposed to be done by the Brazilian Institute of the Environment, Brazil's environmental law enforcement agency.

For more information, contact Sea Shepherd International, POB 2616, Friday Harbor, WA 98250; (360) 370-5500; seashepherd@seashepherd.org; www.seashepherd.org.



artwork by Erik Dronker

So far this year, the Faroese have killed no more than 39 pilot whales.

On the international diplomatic front of whale protection, working with the American Cetacean Society (ACS), we exposed the ham-fisted tactics of the US government in its anxiousness to avoid a ruling by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on the gray whale hunt quota that the US has handed to the Makah Indian tribe. Sea Shepherd has long opposed the Makah hunt—despite a furious politically correct backlash—on the grounds that it is backed by commercial whaling interests, sets a horrendous precedent and is illegal under international law. The US as much as admitted the latter when Michael Tillman, deputy director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and head of the US delegation to the IWC, met with "like-minded" IWC delegates in Vienna, Austria, before the IWC meeting to head off the growing international movement to sanction the US for the illegal hunt. Tillman strongly expressed the wish of the United States for the other nations to back off. They did. ACS and Sea Shepherd broke the story on July 23.

Working with US Citizens Against Whaling (USCAW), immediately following the July meeting of the IWC in Austria we exposed the eager collusion of the Chair of the IWC and the Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in En-

vironmental Protection Act (CITES) to vote for approval at the next full meeting of the IWC in Japan in the summer of 2001. A USCAW representative met with Al Gore in Seattle and conveyed Sea Shepherd's suggestion to Gore that he could much improve his battered environmental credentials (cetacean division) if he renounced the Revised Management Scheme, affirmed that his administration would impose sanctions on Japan and Norway for present violations of the whaling moratorium, move to extend the moratorium a minimum of 50 years and drop any further US attempts to block international challenges to the Makah's ill-gotten "cultural" whale quota.

Spearheading media, video and website (www.atlantisforce.org), Sea Shepherd has joined the coalition promoting the Gulf of Maine International Ocean Wilderness—a no-take zone banning fishing and extraction industries from the US/Canada maritime border area out to 200 miles from the coast (See *EF!* December-January 2000). A large roster of marine biologists, NGO's and celebrities have signed on to the initiative, with the goal of persuading Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean



Grinding in the Faroes—the harsh and bloody shoreside slaughter of whales.

Frontlines

Finnish Fur Farmers "Fur Golf" Protested

The Finnish Fur Breeders' Association organized a golf championship for fur farmers on August 5. This was not an ordinary golf competition. The association wanted to raise the morale and motivation of the farmers towards their work, to unite and strengthen them and convince them that fur farming is still a good business with a future. It was held in Kalajoki, a small town in the Western part of Finland. Around 80 fur farmers and 180 protesters attended.

Finnish animal rights activists organized three free buses, many vans and other vehicles from around Finland to demonstrate at what the fur farmers called "Fur Golf."

First gathering at a big fur farm a few kilometers away from the golf course for a quick demonstration, the activists then moved on to the golf course as the competition was about to start. A noisy demonstration started with slogans, whistles and fog horns. Some people went off in small groups and walked around the golf course shouting at farmers. There were lots of police present. The demonstration continued throughout the day. When the competition was ending and the farmers were leaving, protesters ran to the road blocking it for over half an hour.

Indigenous March in Peruvian Amazon

On July 18, some 1,000 indigenous people from remote areas of Madre de Dios, in the southern region of the Peruvian Amazon near the borders of Bolivia and Brazil, arrived in Puerto Maldonado, the departmental capital, to seek talks with authorities over their demands. The mobilization was organized by the Native Federation of the Madre de Dios River and Tributaries (FENAMAD). The group charges that government land regulations have denied indigenous communities access to their traditional hunting, fishing and ceremonial lands, and that invaders and multinational companies are stripping away natural resources and polluting the environment.

For two days, the indigenous protesters staged marches through the town where they were greeted with cheers and donations of food by local residents, and joined at times by groups of doctors, teachers, farmers and woodcutters. On July 20, an accord was reached with regional authorities which granted recognition of traditional indigenous territories; protection of isolated indigenous communities (those which have not had contact with the outside world); exclusive use of natural resources in indigenous territory and in natural protected areas where indigenous people reside as well as an end to all mining activities on indigenous land.

At the close of the presentation of the agreement, the communities of FENAMAD—noting that promises made by authorities are generally not kept—warned that if immediate results were not seen, the indigenous delegates would return in greater numbers and with the participation of more organizations from other areas of Peru's Amazon region.

CHECKPOINT RESTRICTS LOGGING

ALGONQUIN DETERMINED TO STOP CLEARCUTTING OF LA VERENDRYE WILDLIFE RESERVE



Algonquin community member maintains checkpoint while Domtar logging truck waits.

Photo by Mike Greenlar

Algonquin community members from Quebec's Kokomville and Maiganajik settlements set up a "checkpoint" to restrict access to a logging road in early August. The communities are determined to stop Domtar from clearcutting La Verendrye Wildlife Reserve. Vehicles approaching the checkpoint are stopped and only allowed through after it has been determined that they aren't carrying logging equipment. An additional blockade has been set up at the end of the road at a path leading into a Domtar clearcut.

The resisters live in unceded Algonquin territory 250 kilometers

north of Ottawa and depend on the Gull Lake area of La Verendrye Wildlife Reserve for their traditional way of life. These families and their ancestors have lived off of this land for thousands of years. The settlement of Kokomville will vanish if clearcutting continues.

Domtar plans to cut 100 percent of the wildlife reserve throughout the next 25 years, including large sections of old-growth forest. Two-thirds of the reserve have already been impacted and cutting continues. According to the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, a wildlife reserve is dedicated to the preserva-

tion of wildlife but not its habitat. No environmental impact study is required for Domtar to clearcut.

The company was the winner of the May 1999 Phoenix Environmental Award for environmental management. The award was given to Domtar by Quebec Environmental Minister Paul Begin and Quebec Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Guy Julien.

For three years, Jacob Wawatie and his family, residents of Kokomville, have tried to convince the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Domtar and the Barrier Lake Band Council to stop the cutting. During

the past year, Wawatie has actively worked to negotiate an environmental impact study as well as a study of alternative logging techniques. His efforts have largely ignored and the logging trucks continue to pour out of the forest.

The checkpoint was initiated only after all efforts to work through the legal process had failed. This process included three appeals to the MNR public process; two attempts for legal injunctions; two efforts at conciliation in the forestry process and the rejected attempt to file a complaint with the government of Quebec.

Kokomville is Algonquin for Grandmother town. The settlement was named for Lena Jerome-Nottaway, grand matriarch of this community and recipient of the Order of Canada and an honorary Doctorate of Law and Culture from Carleton University in Ottawa.

Referring to the checkpoint, Wawatie says, "It's to validate the traditional knowledge of our ancestors. It's for the belief that I'm a part of nature. Once it is gone, I am gone. I still want to teach my children to be connected to the land and help the many people who request the traditional knowledge of our ancestors. If Domtar takes away the forest, the integral part of our traditional life will be gone. That is genocide."

To help with this ongoing action, please call Jacob Wawatie at (819) 449-9616.

To comment on, or ask questions about, the inaction of the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, call them at (418) 627-8600. To express your outrage directly to Domtar, call the company at (418) 657-1577 or go to its comments page on its web site at www.domtar.com/domtar/english/email.htm.

BLOCKADE OF INTERFOR CONTINUES AT SIMS CREEK AND ELAHO

Direct action to stop the destruction of the ancient forests of British Columbia's Stoltmann Wilderness has been non-stop all summer (see *EF!* June-July 2000).

On August 28, a 50-foot tripod was erected at Mile 39 in the Elaho Valley. A lone sitter named Captain Jaybird occupied the tripod, blocking all of Interfor's operations in the Elaho and Sims Creek Valleys. At 2:30 p.m., the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrested three individuals for "Aiding and Abetting" mischief for talking on a satellite phone to the media. Three more people were arrested after the RCMP broke into a vehicle they were locked inside of. Ten more were arrested a mile down the road after police used dogs to chase them. Captain Jaybird was arrested after he came down later in the day. All have been released from jail.

In related news, the four Elaho treesitters arrested early this month, are charging Inspector Bud Mercer of the RCMP with four counts of aggravated assault for his role in the attempted murder of these individuals on July 28. Mercer severed lifelines connecting platforms to the bridge above Lava Canyon where demonstrators were perched.

"The actions of the RCMP show that they think human life is less important than corporate profits," says Jonah Fertig, one of the arrested treesitters. "The RCMP's operations in the Elaho mirror the beginnings of the RCMP's assault on the Ts'Peten people in Gustafsen Lake when over

77,000 rounds of ammunition were fired at unarmed people."

Dennis Zarelli, another sitter arrested last month said, "It's sick how the government and the RCMP

get the same people to do their dirty work for them," referring to Inspector Mercer's involvement in planting landmines which blew up a truck at Gustafsen Lake in 1995.



Adrian attacked

Photo by Pat Venditti

ACTIVIST BEATEN AT COUSINS INLET

On August 30, as two forest activists attempted to bike up a logging road to an International Forest Products (Interfor) logging operation at Clatse Lake in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, three Interfor employees blocked the road and then proceeded to punch them to the ground. A video camera was ripped out of the hands of Adrian McCullough, 25, who was then punched in the face and pushed to the ground. Pat Venditti, 31, was punched in the face when he tried to intervene. Both activists were threatened with further beatings if they did not leave the area immediately.

The attack happened about one kilometer up a logging road located at Interfor's Cousins Inlet operation. Interfor is currently actively logging and building roads in the area with plans to extract over 350,000 cubic meters of wood. The area has been identified as core habitat for both

salmon and grizzly bear populations on the coast.

"We came to the top of a hill and there were three guys standing there in our way, about 25 meters ahead of us," said Pat Venditti. "As soon as Adrian got the video camera out they started approaching us, with one of them going straight for him. They tried to take my digital camera away from me and as they did that, Adrian got knocked down. I went to try and pull the logger off of him and then got punched in the face myself."

This is not the first time people have been attacked by Interfor employees. As far back as 1994, Forest Action Network activists were attacked by Interfor at Uri Creek near Pemberton. More recently, more than 100 Interfor employees and their associates attacked environmentalist camps in the Elaho Valley. Using company trucks, radios and even an Interfor helicopter and carrying crowbars and sledgehammers, Interfor workers hospitalized three people and destroyed nearly \$30,000 in equipment.

PENAN ERECT BARRICADES

More than 100 Penans from various settlements living in the interior area of Sungai Apoh/Tutoh in the Baram region, Sarawak, East Malaysia, gathered at Long Kevok to stage a nonviolent protest against logging activities in their communal lands and forests.

The Penan tribe is known to be a peace-loving community, and their numbers are dwindling, with only about 9,000 left in the Sarawak interior. On August 11, Penan communities rose up and erected a wooden barricade on a logging road belonging to Lajung Lumber Sdn. Bhd., a subsidiary company of Rimbunan Hijau Sdn. Bhd., Shin Yang Sdn. Bhd. and Raywood Sdn. Bhd. The blockade was set up to stop the logging companies from freely transporting and extracting timber from the forest.

They resorted to this action after the companies continued to ignore their rights of access to the natural forest resources. Numerous complaints to the authorities and the logging companies about the problems caused by logging have fallen on deaf ears. Having no other alternative and being compelled to bring attention to their plight, the Penan natives have resorted to staging this protest which is still continuing.

Some of the grievances are that Rimbunan Hijau and Shin Yang acted very arrogantly in relation to their claims. They have bulldozed Penan planted fruit trees and graveyards without paying anything for the losses and damage. They also do not render any assistance to the Penan community which seeks their help to send those who are ill to the nearest clinic in Long Bedian.

The companies simply encroach into the communal forest reserves and carry out logging activities, without any consultation and consideration for the forest.

Five police personnel were sent to the blockade site on August 13. So far, no arrests have taken place.

Kindly send your letters of appeal to the following persons urging them to exercise restraint in dealing



with the Penans at the blockade. Urge them to address the problems of these natives struggling for their livelihood. Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, The Hon. Prime Minister of Malaysia, Main Block, Prime Minister's Department, Administrative Centre, 62502, Putrajaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan; and Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, The Hon. Chief Minister of Sarawak, Chief Minister's Office, 22nd Floor, Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Petra Jaya, 93502 Kuching, Sarawak 3.

For further information, please contact Friends of the Earth/SAM's Marudi Office at POB 216, Marudi, 98058 Baram, Sarawak; 6085-756973; sammarudi@yahoo.com; www.rimba.com/spc/spcpenanmainl.html.

Eroding Away the Riviera Maya

BY NANCY DEROSA

The Riviera Maya and the entire coastline of Quintana Roo, Mexico, are unique and spectacular areas, possibly one of the world's finest ecosystems, starting from the underground waterways called *cenotes*. This fresh water drains to the mangroves under the beach bluff and finally filters out to the fringing reef. The balance of nature is delicate not only for the nesting turtles, but also the migrating birds and the numerous jungle animals.

In just the past two years, a big change has been made. The government of Quintana Roo sold all its coastal properties, and the construction has begun. I believe not even an inch was spared, including a federal park, called Xcel Beach, which is the largest nesting area for loggerhead and green turtles in the Yucatan. Because of this, it was made a federal park. Developer Sol Melia now owns this land and has plans to build a resort next summer.

With this wild growth of hotel chains, the coastal construction or should we now say destruction, began. Mangroves were filled in with white dirt, day in and day out. The construction agencies would even set up bright 24-hour lights. New hotel chains blasted the reefs, moved over the jungle and nearly killed the mangrove. What we have now is a lot of cement hotel rooms, plazas, malls, entrances and meandering cement rivers.

In an effort to preserve the natural ecological system of the Riviera Maya, a few of us started efforts to inform the government that more ecological attention was needed. Some listened, and for this we are very thankful, but most did not, as the old saying goes, "Why ask for permission when you just have to ask for forgiveness."

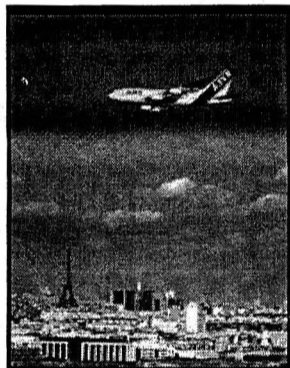
We now have 40 tons of organic wastes generated daily along with 40 tons of recyclable materials stacking up in our Akumal neighborhood trash dump from the development. Since there is no government support, the plastics, the tires, the foods and everything, all go into one pile. For the last year and a half, this mountain of garbage has never stopped burning. It's now perpetual, with the gases polluting the entire coast.

Because our land is a very porous limestone, known as karst, the contaminants make their way quickly to the ocean. We noticed that the fan corals in front of the dump are now dead. The smoke from the burn is driving tourists away while leaving black moldy deposits on all the buildings within a few miles. Everyone now talks about it, and it will soon be public knowledge in the United States. What was once known as the beautiful natural Mexican Caribbean, will soon suffer with the reputation of burning garbage, smelly smoke, dead reefs and a lack of animal life that once thrived in the mangrove that now does not exist.

The Tulum trash dump is located above seven cenotes. These are all filled up mostly with pig parts from a nearby pig yard. Four of our 52-cenote systems are showing traces of *E. coli* contamination. These cenotes provide the drinking water for part of the people living in the Pueblo of Tulum and could cause serious human diseases in the very near future.

Last month Barcelo Hotel Chain had a problem with its sewage program, and a nearby popular cavern site called Ponderosa had its lower levels filled with black water. Barcelo is one of the many new hotel conglomerates that was issued permission to construct deep wells. Again in the fragile karst.

The list is unending and we could go on and on. As thoughtful, committed citizens, we cannot close our eyes to the heartbreaking troubles that surround us. We need help!



Dinosaur of the Air

BY REINHARD BEHREND

The problem:

Twenty-five years ago Boeing built the Jumbo which helped boost air transport and consequently pollution, energy consumption, mass-tourism and gigantomanic airports. Now Airbus, the European rival of Boeing, plans to build the A3XX, a true "Dinosaur of the air," to regularly carry 550 and, as a charter, 900 passengers up to 15,000 kilometers. Airbus claims that flying may become 25 percent cheaper. But in return many more people could fly more frequently, and thus the pollution and energy consumption would increase considerably. Airports would need even bigger facilities and expand into cities and landside.

Destroying irreplaceable nature reserves

Even before the first A3XX will ever fly, it will cause disaster for nature in Europe. For political reasons the A3XX will in part be built in Toulouse, France, and in part on the River Elbe in Hamburg, Germany. In both places the construction will destroy nature reserves. In Hamburg the Mühlenberger Loch, the most extended fresh water mudflat in Europe, will be in part filled in to make room for the 40-meter-high construction halls.

The Mühlenberger Loch is of essential ecological importance for the River Elbe. It is of international importance for three bird species: the shoveler, teal and little gull and of national importance for eight others. This area is regarded as the most important resting site for shovelers in the whole of northwest

Europe. For most fish species of the lower Elbe the Mühlenberger Loch is highly important for fish larvae. The highly endangered, endemic plant species *Oenan* is also living here.

The loch extends over an area of 6.75 square kilometers. The eastern part would be destroyed for the plane factory. The environmental organizations BUND and Deutscher Naturschutzbund estimate that the very specific conditions of the large freshwater mudflat cannot be compensated by any other area.



Shoveler in River Elbe

Are there chances to stop the monster?

So far Airbus is only collecting pledges from airlines to order the A3XX. Only if it gets enough airlines together can it finally start the project this winter. It is by no means certain that it will get enough orders together to start the project. The A3XX will only be suitable to connect big airports, and most people will have to change planes there. The general tendency in air transport on the other hand is to offer more direct flights. So there is much uncertainty if such a big plane makes sense at all.

Airbus is pushing ahead because it wants to offer a complete fleet of airplanes like Boeing, but Boeing has already announced that it could also enlarge its jumbos. It seems that the rivalry of big companies may produce a plane that nobody really needs.

What can we do?

Airlines are very vulnerable. If the public understands that an airline opts for a plane that is constructed in a nature reserve, this may damage the airlines reputation. There are only a few airlines so far interested in the new carrier. Air France, Singapore Airline, Virgin and Qantas.

For more information, contact Retter dun Regenwald e.v., Friedhofsweg 28, 22337 Hamburg, Germany; (+49+40) 410-3804; www.rettet-die-elbe.de.

Photo by Kosmos Naturfilmer

Rodolfo Sentenced

Award-winning environmental and human rights activist Rodolfo Montiel (see *EF!* June-July 2000) was convicted on drug and weapons charges on August 28, and sentenced to six years in prison. Fellow activist Teodoro Cabrera Garcia received a 10-year sentence on drug and illegal arms possession. Human rights and environmental groups immediately denounced the decision.

Authorities charged that Montiel and his supporters were protecting marijuana plants and that he and Cabrera Garcia admitted belonging to guerrilla groups. Montiel has claimed the charges were lodged in retaliation for his work as leader of a rural ecological group in Mexico's Pacific coast state of Guerrero. "We profoundly regret what happened today," said Cristian Rojas, education coordinator for Amnesty International's Mexico office. "This represents a step backward in the process of obtaining justice." Rojas added that the court's action will provoke "international pressure even greater than what has already existed."

"We will pursue this case until they are freed," said Rojas, who noted that Amnesty's Washington office already has petitioned Mexico's President-elect Vicente Fox to intervene. Fox takes office on December 1. Montiel and Cabrera Garcia were detained on May 2, 1999.

Montiel's group forms human chains to stop logging trucks from passing through Guerrero. He is widely considered to be a fearless crusader for trees. He and his supporters believe old-growth forests in Guerrero are being excessively logged.

Mexico's Human Rights Center says that both Montiel and Cabrera Garcia have suffered brutal torture at the hands of police trying to extract confessions from them.

Activist Refuses to Cooperate with Grand Jury

An animal rights activist refused to appear before a US grand jury convened July 13 in San Francisco, and told a large support demonstration at the federal building she would go to jail to resist the inquiry.

"The underlying purpose of this FBI witchhunt is an ongoing campaign of terror and harassment against those of us actively and effectively organizing on behalf of animals," said Anita Carswell.

Carswell was backed by San Francisco National Lawyers Guild President Mark Vermeulen, San Francisco attorney Derek St. Pierre and Santa Rosa civil liberties attorney Lawrence Weiss they said the grand jury is being misused to harass political activists, and as an extension of harassment by San Francisco police, who earlier this year falsely arrested Carswell and another activist after windows at Neiman Marcus Union Square were broken by the Animal Liberation Front. Charges were later dismissed.

Carswell risks contempt of court if she does not appear, and may face up to 18 months in jail. Under the grand jury system, she has no right to an attorney, to remain silent or a trial before being jailed.

In part, Anita Carswell's statement said: "I wish to let it be known that I, Anita Carswell, have no intention of cooperating with the federal grand jury... Although I and fellow animal rights activists are guilty of no crimes except holding regular peaceful protests, we are subject to increasing levels of intimidation and aggression, and our most fundamental rights of freedom of speech and association are under attack... I have the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney and I will go to jail if necessary to uphold these rights for all of us."

Ecodefense

Hundreds of vehicles have been vandalized in north London, leaving owners with bills totaling thousands of dollars.

The vandals have primarily attacked Range Rovers, Jeep Cherokees, Land Rovers and other large vehicles such as a Renault Espace, with adhesive stickers that are proving almost impossible to remove. The stickers say: "Global warming. Stop these outsized vehicles!" Powerful glue has been used to adhere the stickers, stripping off paint when they are removed.

So far several hundred vehicles have been targeted, mainly in the Hampstead and Highgate areas. On several mornings, all the Sport Utility Vehicles on some streets have been attacked.

Sergeant Colin Edwards of Hampstead police said "If their local police are unable to fingerprint the car they should proceed with trying to get [the sticker] off, although it is difficult. I have only heard from one motorist able to remove one without damage."

The stickers can be received from a website telling readers that the campaign aims to highlight the problems of global warming. The site also claims that London has a "particularly high concentration of Range Rovers even compared to the US." It points out that Range Rovers are notably heavy. The website spokesman said he wanted to "counter the cachet of driving these vehicles and turn it instead into a badge of shame. The aim is to make the driving of excessively global-warming vehicles not worth the effort and expense of constantly removing stickers, the embarrassment of driving with one and in general being the target of concerned and decent citizens."

Animal Liberation

A communiqué from the Animal Liberation Front was received by the ALF press office claiming responsibility for an early morning raid, August 28, at Genesis Laboratories in Wellington, Colorado. The ALF says it liberated 179 animals, including 168 bobwhites and 11 ducks.

The ALF states in the communiqué, "Genesis Laboratories performs wasteful, redundant and cruel toxicology experiments on hundreds of wild animals annually. Under the guise of 'science,' vivisectors at Genesis live-trap animals in the Colorado wilderness, confine them to inhumanely small cages such as those we found inside the lab, and poison or otherwise torture these innocent creatures to death. One hundred seventy-nine animals are now out of this torture chamber."

The communiqué also details how the activists were intending to free all the animals, including more birds, prairie dogs, squirrels, ferrets and rodents, but were forced to abandon the raid after inadvertently tripping an alarm. All 179 rescued animals have been released back into the wild.

This raid comes on the one year anniversary of the ALF liberation of Annie, a Macaque primate who had spent all of her 27 years as a Long Island, NY, pet store mascot in a tiny cage.

Anti-Genetix

On July 31, anti-biotech activists, calling themselves the Dusty Desperadoes, destroyed five acres of genetically engineered (GE) canola at Monsanto facilities in Dusty, Washington.

A communiqué sent by the activists stated that "Monsanto may have its capitalist spurs dug into our lives but with machetes and scythes, we destroyed its attempt at corporate green-washing by leveling five acres of field tests, including some Round-Up Ready canola. Recently, institutions have been denying that they grow GE crops when sabotaged by renegades, but this time Monsanto cannot hide behind this PR facade because they provide fliers at their site explicitly stating that they grow GE canola in Dusty."

The communiqué continued, "This site in Dusty, Washington, is only one minuscule part of Monsanto's biological imperialism. In Washington alone, it has 96 current permits for the release of GE organisms. It has recently begun to expand its monopolies from chemicals to seeds to water, and the crisis of pollution and depletion of water resources is viewed by Monsanto as a business opportunity. According to Robert Farley of Monsanto, 'What you are seeing is not just a consolidation of seed companies, it is really a consolidation of the entire food chain.'"

On August 25, anti-biotech activists calling themselves *Los Ninos del Maiz* carried out actions at the University of California at San Diego. The activists destroyed one acre of

genetically modified maize and entered and destroyed the contents of four greenhouses—containing rice, maize, arabidopsis, tomatoes, tobacco and other GE lifeforms. The activists also spray painted messages on the greenhouses and mixed up paper bags that were being used to collect maize in the field.

A communiqué sent by the activists singled out Robert Schmidt as the creator of the maize, referring to him as a "bio-imperialist" who is "using a combination of genetics, transposon mutagenesis, heterologous hybridization and reverse genetics to identify and clone genes controlling floral morphogenesis in maize."

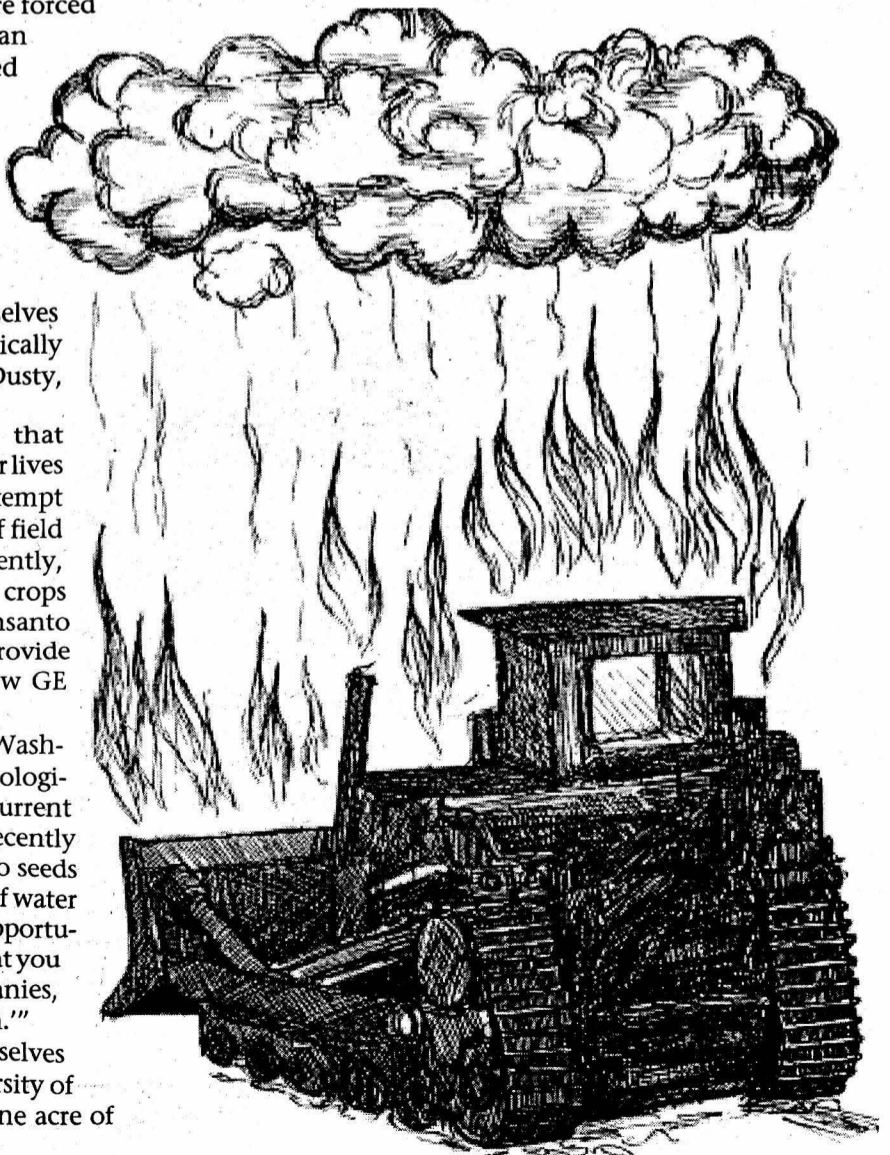
"Maize, the third most important food crop in terms of production, exemplifies the loss of biodiversity on the earth. Today, a measly 80 plant crops provide 90 percent of the world's food from plants—out of tens of thousands of significantly edible plants available. Biodiversity is up for sale. Private ownership violates the very nature of community rights and in the case of genetic resources/genetic engineering, limits access to collective heritage to only a few."

Since November 1998 there have been roughly 38 anti-genetic direct actions in North America and the movement shows no signs of slowing.

On the night of August 29, Groen Front! (Dutch Earth First!) pulled up a field of GE potatoes located around Lelystad. The next morning, one bag of these potatoes with a communiqué were delivered to the office of action magazine *Ravage* in Amsterdam.

Groen Front! demands an end to genetic engineering of seeds and crops. As *Ravage* did not know what to do with it, they sent out a press release and then brought the bag of potatoes to the offices of A-SEED Europe and the Dutch Gentech Platform (NPG) also in Amsterdam. People of A-SEED and NPG then decided to hand over the bag to the person responsible, the Minister of Agriculture Brinkhorst—a fervent proponent of GE agriculture.

From the communiqué: "Genetic engineering promotes large-scale agriculture and monoculture. This leads to further industrialization and export orientation of agriculture... Ever-larger scale agriculture threatens original species and genetic diversity. The consequences of this attack on ecosystems can not be overseen... GE multinationals have a dominant position on the market. GE in agriculture makes freedom of choice impossible and threatens farmers and others who don't choose GE crops, and in time will kill organic farming. This development can already be seen in the US... After 5 years of broad resistance against GE, the EU now wants to introduce legislation which will make it possible for GE seeds and pollen to spread all over..."



Earth First!

¡La Tierra Primero!

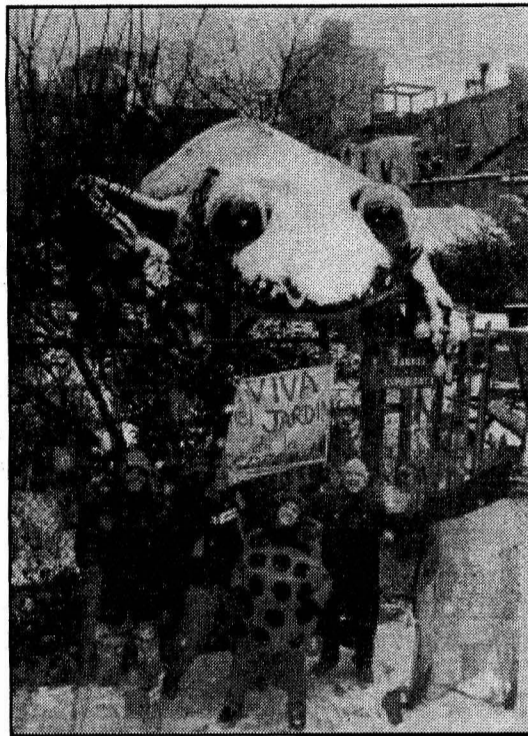
NO COMPROMETEMOS LA DEFENSA DE NUESTRA MADRE TIERRA

El Problema

Hoy es el momento más crítico de los tres y medio billones de años de vida en la Tierra. Nunca antes ha habido un período de extinción tan intenso como el que estamos causando ahora. El industrialismo global ha interrumpido seriamente los sistemas de vida de la Tierra. El consumo y avaricia humana están desplazando a culturas indígenas y está destruyendo las últimas conexiones entre el ser humano y la Tierra. Los ecologistas afirman que los únicos mamíferos grandes que sobrevivirán en el futuro cercano serán los que los seres humanos permitan vivir. Los biólogos predicen que la Tierra podría perder un cuarto a un tercio de todas las especies conocidas dentro de nuestro curso de vida.

La destrucción de la Tierra y sus culturas indígenas ha conducido efectos fundamentales sobre todo el planeta: el calentamiento global, polvillo radioactivo, tala de árboles, hambre, y formas de vida genético-alteradas, además del aire, del agua, y del alimento envenenados. La sociedad global está dominando las culturas indígenas, y así se lleva a cabo la separación de seres humanos de nuestros orígenes biocentros étnicos. El alto índice de la pérdida de lenguajes es indicativo de la extinción cultural y ecológica.

Claramente, la batalla de la conservación es una batalla por la vida, una batalla para el flujo continuo de la evolución. Es nuestra decisión si llevar a cabo las corporaciones del renegade y los gobiernos sin ley, responsables de la destrucción del mundo natural o dejar que siga la destrucción de la Tierra.



“El poder que se manifiesta como el extractor de recursos en el campo, es el mismo poder que se manifiesta en las ciudades como el racismo, el creador de clases, y la explotación humana.”
— Judi Bari



“El yermo salvaje necesita menos defensa y más defensores.” — Edward Abbey

La Solución: PORQUE EARTH FIRST!

El movimiento Earth First! utiliza la acción directa para defender y proteger nuestro medioambiente y nuestras patrias. Estas acciones atraen atención pública a las crisis que enfrenta nuestro mundo natural. Con este tipo de activismo único hemos podido triunfar y obtener resultados positivos, en situaciones donde otros grupos ambientales no han podido triunfar.

Earth First! fue formado en 1979, en respuesta a una comunidad ambiental cada vez más corporativa, letárgica, y comprometida. Earth First! toma decididamente diferentes tácticas con diversos problemas ambientales. Creemos en la filosofía de usar todas las herramientas a la mano; como organización a nivel local, participación en el proceso legal, desobediencia civil y “monkeywrenching.”

Earth First! no es una organización, sino un movimiento. No hay “miembros” de Earth First!, solamente Earth Firsters!. Earth First! cree en la idea de bio-centrismo, la idea que la vida—la Tierra—viene primero. Insistimos-sobretudo-en la práctica de poner nuestras creencias en acción.

Earth Creemos en Earth First! First!:

Para comenzar, no creemos que sea bastante sólo preservar alguna región restante de nuestro medioambiente. Necesitamos preservarlo todo, y es hora de reconstruir áreas extensas en todos los ecosistemas de la Tierra: identificar esas áreas, cerrar caminos, quitar los desarrollos y progresos y reintegrar la fauna nativa. No es bastante oponer la construcción de presas nuevas, de minas y de desarrollos que son destructivos para la Tierra. ¡Es hora de liberar nuestros ríos, acabar con las minas y restaurar la Tierra!

Earth Firsters! usan tácticas de acción directa, teatro en las calles, y desobediencia civil para luchar por el medioambiente. Y aunque no condenamos ni estamos de acuerdo con el sabotaje y “ecotage” (sabotaje a favor de ecosistemas), o otras formas de destrucción de propiedad, presentamos un foro para el intercambio de ideas en la oposición creativa al monstruo destructor del “progreso,” incluyendo ideas sobre “monkeywrenching.”

Muchos grupos ambientales son miembros del establecimiento político americano y abrazan una estructura de organización corporativa. Earth First! no adopta la posición centrada del punto de vista mundial de que la civilización industrial son; contra la Tierra, contra la mujer y contra la libertad. La estructura de Earth First! es contra la jerarquía y rechazamos las “personas calificadas-profesionistas con altos sueldos” y la dirección formal. Creemos en un paradigma bio-centrico, basado en el valor intrínseco de todas las cosas naturales: Ecología Profunda. La Tierra existe para su propio motivo. Ponerlo-simplemente, la Tierra debe venir primero.

Acción Directa

EARTH FIRST!

Earth First! no es un sustantivo, sino un verbo. Para formar un movimiento proyermo, ¡se requiere acción! ¡Levantate y mobilízate! Acción directa requiere un esfuerzo personal, espiritual, y estratégico en las filas de batalla para salvar el planeta. Earth First! significa acción, el propósito de la cual es:

- **Poner Alto a la Destrucción:** Forzar a las corporaciones multinacionales y agencias gubernamentales a poner alto a su explotación rapaz de los recursos naturales. Aun las acciones meramente simbólicas pueden imponer alto a la maquinaria y comprarnos tiempo para ganar protecciones permanentes.

- **Atraer los Medios de Comunicación:** No podemos despertar al pueblo o forzar la mano de los políticos hasta no hacerles ver lo extenso de la destrucción. La desobediencia civil o una banderilla con un mensaje hábil expone el problema por la TV, radio, y periódicos—medios que, generalmente prefieren ignorar el catástrofe ecológico que amenaza a animales, hombres y mujeres, plantas, y el medioambiente. Muchos quedaran impresionados al ver nuestra buena voluntad cuando seamos arrestados y nos ganaremos su lealtad.

- **Reforzar la Resolución:** Acción directa es la más habilitadora de nuestras armas, un rito que llena al participante con un sentimiento de valorización. Así es como aprendemos a apoyarnos unos a otros. Las manifestaciones demuestran al mundo que, aunque pueden poner a un lado nuestras suplicas, nuestros argumentos, e ignorar nuestro derecho de apelar, no nos quedaremos con los brazos cruzados mientras destruyen el planeta. Estamos dispuestos a poner nuestros cuerpos en las filas del deber. Los hechos demuestran amor y dedicación por el mundo natural y furor contra sus destructores.

Toda la vida del planeta se ve amenazada por el auto-suicidio que llamamos 'progreso.' Aunque tenemos el derecho a expresión libre en los Estados Unidos, la agresión policiaca contra los activistas aumenta dramáticamente. El activismo gentil no existe. La desobediencia civil es un acto de conciencia deliberado, aun cuando aparezca ser espontáneo. Cada vez que asistes a una manifestación, estas arriesgando

el ser atacado por agentes policiacos y ser arrestado. Prepárate, recuerda que no debes recurrir a la violencia, apela a los reporteros, y al apoyo de la celda.

MANIFESTACIONES

Las manifestaciones incluyen las marchas, los disfraces, y el teatro en la calle con el fin de presentar nuestras opiniones a los reporteros y demandar concesiones de las corporaciones y sus instrumentos gubernamentales. También incluyen el disfrazarse de animales en audiencias públicas, y en sitios de construcción de presas, y desarrollo urbano. En ciertas ocasiones se han depositado gigantescos troncos de árboles en los escritorios de guardabosques, globos inflados con helio elevando cartelones en reuniones públicas, y gigantescos cartelones atados sobre puentes y carreteras, dentro de chimeneas, y en los grandes edificios. Para máximos resultados, una manifestación debe ser:

- **Dinámica y Sin Componentes:** Que la intención, tácticas y objetivos sean discernibles. Identifiquen a los ofensores por nombre y dirijan sus apuntes. Tengan a agencias gubernamentales y grandes corporaciones como responsables.

- **Informativa:** Informen al público con materiales impresos que presenten claramente su opinión y los hechos que nos apoyan, organicen una sesión de prensa, presenten un corto burlesco y cantatas.

- **Flexibilidad:** Ensayen y estén preparados para cambiar de tácticas según se de la situación, aventajense de oportunidades si estas se presentan, tal vez aparezca por ahí un alto funcionario o encumbrado empleado de una corporación, o se acerque un gigantesco tractor. Inventen audaces alternativas en dado caso que el gobernador este ausente, o el edificio se os ha prohibido, o cuando aparezca la policía en grandes números, o cuando el punto de protesta ha cambiado de lugar.

DESOBEDIENCIA CIVIL

La desobediencia civil es más efectiva cuando se prevee acción de arresto por la policía. Tales ocasiones incluyen pero no se limitan a:

OCUPACION PROLONGADA O "SIT-INS"

En ocasión es necesario invadir las oficinas de ejecutivos, asambleas, aun los hogares de oficiales electos irresponsivos. Hay quienes han erigido tiendas de campaña dentro de oficinas de bienes raíces y se han encadenado a sus muebles, invadido las casas de ejecutivos, han tapado los traga-aíres de unidades de calefacción en las oficinas de un guardabosques, forzándole a apagar sus computadores en un día caluroso.

BLOQUEOS

El lugar de un activista de Earth First! esta directamente delante de un tractor u otra gigantesca maquinaria destructora del ambiente. Quizas sea una travesura meramente simbólica; quizas ponga alto a los ofensores. De cualquier modo, es una táctica garantizada a llamar la atención del mundo entero a una situación destructiva. Utilizando los medios de comunicación, trasladamos la destrucción a la intimidad del hogar, donde todo mundo sabra la noticia.

Los blancos pueden ser equipo de carretera, grandes presas, envíos de material radioactivo, transportes de ganado, y minas. Los métodos incluyen el sentarse en medio de la carretera, atarse al equipo con cadenas, o un sinnúmero de tácticas. Los bloqueos de más larga

duración son más efectivos, aunque breves bloqueos han dado resultado.

ACCION DIRECTA PACIFICA

La acción pacífica exige acuerdo común. Todo participante debe ajustarse a comportarse según lo preacordado. De no ser así los medios televisivos concentraran su atención sobre unos cuantos participantes y se perderá de vista la intención de la protesta. Peor aun, las acciones desmedidas de unos cuantos pueden llegar a la violencia y acarrear cargos y arresto del grupo entero. Sobre todo, sean cautelosos al escoger quienes participaran y asegúrense que todo el grupo sepa de antemano las reglas. Considere lo siguiente:

- No se debe permitir la vituperación ni los ultrajes verbales de parte de ningún miembro del grupo, tampoco se debe permitir cualquier acción que invite la violencia policiaca o abuso del público.

- Si la acción requiere el no moverse de su sitio designado—corriendo el peligro de ser arrestado—mantened vuestro terreno. El huir en ese momento quebrantará el espíritu de la protesta y corre el riesgo de poner a otros en peligro. Abandonar su lugar dará valor a la oposición. Si no se puede soportar la posibilidad del arresto, escojan otra forma de protesta.

- Prepare una lista de los nombres y direcciones de los miembros de su grupo, en caso de arresto. Provea una persona que sea responsable de recoger las pertenencias de los arrestados. De ser posible, esta persona debe traer consigo una video-grabadora con la cual grabará los arrestos, asegurando el trato gentil de sus colegas. Debera acompañarlos hasta su liberación.

Planee sus acciones con tiempo. Prepare lemas cantados de antemano, también cartelones, materiales impresos, disfraces, ensaye payasadas y travesuras. Prepare una hoja con un mensaje para la prensa local. El mensaje debe ser breve y al punto. De no ser así, la prensa recortará sus palabras y les pondrán una construcción falsa. Enumere en unas cuantas oraciones la destrucción ambiental que desea contrarrestar, o el yermo que desea proteger, poniendo en claro cual es el resultado que busca con sus acciones. Tampoco es malo citar algunas cuantas palabras bien apuntadas de su vocero. Prepare estas de antemano y compruebe brevedad y claridad. Su hoja debiera ser no más de dos páginas; una es mucho más preferible. Mejor es que la prensa le interroge después buscando más información, y no el redactar un comunicativo de prensa indeciso y errante.

Despache las hojas a la prensa unos días antes del evento. Nunca revele de antemano los detalles de la manifestación. El día antes del evento, informe a los medios de comunicación con una llamada telefónica. No descance en la seguridad de que sus comunicados de prensa fue reconocido. Conmíquese con un reportero, memorice su nombre, y obtenga una promesa de que asistirá al evento. Insinúe que habrá travesuras divertidas, pero nunca revele información que, en manos de la policía, pondría en desventaja el efecto de su acción. Tampoco prometa un evento demasiado dramático, pues si no resulta, la prensa no le perdonará, y no asistirá a sus eventos en el futuro. El día del evento, busque a sus reporteros y designe una persona hábil y presentable que les acompañe e informe.

Reunanse en el sitio antes de comenzar y reanime a su grupo recordándoles de la recompensa emocional y espiritual que derivan de su obra. Reunanse después para asegurarse que todos esten en perfecta salud, darse palmadas de mano, realzar lo positivo de la acción, y planear para la próxima.



Obtiene Resultados



Unámonos!

Como Formar un Grupo de Earth First!

Earth First! es una alianza internacional compuesta de grupos con alcance regional. Los miembros de la alianza conocemos intimamente el ambiente ecológico que defendemos. Nuestros métodos son sencillos y directos. La educación, medios de acción pro-activos y grupos locales tienen su lugar en nuestra lucha por contrarrestar los daños al medioambiente. Buscamos unión con todo aquel que se opone a la destrucción del medioambiente. Aunque hay quienes califican nuestra acción como afición desmedida, es más bien conservadora en comparación con quienes destruyen el medioambiente.

La Tierra y su naturaleza es nuestra más alta prioridad. Toda idea, iniciativa, y estrategia individual es recibida con brazos abiertos, y toda decisión al respecto toma en cuenta nuestra diversidad.

Antes de formar un de Earth First!, considere lo siguiente:

Campañas: Las Campañas de Earth First! apuntan contra toda acción adversa al medioambiente. Entre nuestras armas están: la defensa de bosques históricos, la conservación de culturas indígenas, oposición al crecimiento continuo de parques de golf, y la protección del reino animal. Así establecemos una conexión íntima y correspondemos al cariño y cuidado con el que la naturaleza nos rodea.

Intermediario: Designe a un individuo cuyo nombre, dirección, número telefónico y correo electrónico esté disponible a los demás grupos de la alianza y sus miembros. Esta información aparecerá en el, *Earth First! Journal*. Mantenga una lista de las direcciones y números telefónicos de sus miembros, así facilitará el anuncio de eventos y reuniones a nivel local.

Seguridad: Tome toda precaución y cautela al manejar las estadísticas personales de sus miembros y los miembros de otras organizaciones. Sea astuto y sabiendo, manténgase informado. No menosprecie la importancia de conocer a fondo a los individuos que componen su grupo. Lea *Agents of Repression* por Ward Churchill y J.J. Vanderwall, una crónica de las actividades represivas por el estado contra los movimientos activistas del pueblo.

Finanzas: Entre los gastos del local están la impresión de documentos, correo postal, organización activista, los servicios de un abogado y costos de asistir a corte. Abra una cuenta de cheques y nombre a dos personas grupo cuya firma represente al grupo y la cuenta de cheques.

Recaudación de fondos:

- Conciertos y presentación de gráficas
- Levantamiento de donativos por los medios de comunicación
- Venta de artículos contribuidos
- Fondos de subvención (cedidos por fundaciones de interés público)
- Fondos recaudados por clubs a nivel escolar
- Venta de mercancía de Earth First!

• Venta de la *Earth First! Journal*

Reuniones: Haganse cenas, viajes al campo, celebraciones de música, etc., reúnanse para planear la estrategia del grupo y alcanzar sus objetivos!

Activismo:

• Educación por materiales impresos, recortes de periódico, boletines, y presentaciones públicas.

• Activismo en conjunto con otras organizaciones promoviendo la participación del público.

• Litigación respaldada por la ley, promoviendo la protección del medioambiente.

Desobediencia Civil y Manifestación Masiva: Así se ganó el derecho de votar par la mujer, y se puso fin a la presencia norteamericana en Vietnam. Comience su grupo con una manifestación pública. Organice un evento audaz y divertido! Los medios televisivos locales lo reportaran en su noticiero, anunciando la presencia de Earth First!

Earth First! Journal: Un vocero sin censura de las muchas y variadas opiniones de nuestro movimiento y fuente constante de noticias y comentarios sobre las muchas ofensas que amenazan al medioambiente. Enviennos sus opiniones, artículos escritos, filosofía, relatos sobre la diversidad biológica, reportes investigadores, resistencia, controversia, el buen humor, y crónicas de sus campañas. Toda opinión o comentario que refleje nuestra filosofía son más que bienvenidos. Sirvase del *Earth First! Journal* para mantenernos al tanto de sus actividades; anuncie sus reuniones locales y haga invitación abierta; envíe fotografías, mapas, poesías, dibujos etc, de sus manifestaciones. Si lleva a cabo algún evento o campaña, de a uno de sus miembros la responsabilidad de escribir sobre lo sucedido, y envíe los resultados cuanto antes.

**“La Tierra no está muriendo,
la están matando. Y los que la
están matando tienen
nombres y direcciones.”**

— Utah Phillips

Monkeywrenching

Monkeywrenching: *Ecotaje; Ecodefensa; Bandidos de carteleros; caminos; Treespiking (poner clavos en árboles) y hasta incendiados—todo extracción y el desarrollo, que son los mismos equipos que cometen más—en sus márgenes de beneficios.*

Monkeywrenching no es igual a desobediencia civil. Es no violento y Es una de las últimas tácticas para defender el yermo salvaje, la acción han fallado.

Muchas veces Earth First! es relacionado con la práctica de monkeywrenching, pero los elementos ordenados del movimiento Earth First! no participan en monkeywrenching. Cualquier persona que habla sin cuidado sobre el sabotaje debe ser evitada, por que pueden comprometer a el movimiento.

Los blancos se escojen cuidadosamente para su valor estratégico. Hay un tiempo y un lugar para todo. El saber cuando no comprometerse en actos de sabotaje es igualmente valioso. Por ejemplo, cuando se ésta llevando acabo, puede poner en riesgo a todos los que están presentes.

Aunque algunos individuos de Earth First! estén activos en monkeywrenching, el movimiento no aboga ni condena oficialmente esta acción. Sin embargo, el *Earth First! Journal* contiene artículos regulares sobre monkeywrenching, como “Dear Ned Ludd” y Earth Night News. La tercera edición de *ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching* (Ecodefensa: Una Guía Sobre Monkeywrenching), es disponible por el *Earth First! Journal* por \$18. La guía contiene información y detalles sobre técnicas de monkeywrenching así como discusiones cuidadosas de seguridad, estrategia y justificaciones.



Destrucción de Inspecciones Agrimensuras; Recuperación de esto se puede definir como el sabotaje ilegal del equipo industrial de la crímenes destructivos contra la Tierra, golpeandoles adonde lo sienten

solo contra objetos inanimados y la base de la industria destructiva. tomada por el defensor de la Tierra, cuando el resto de las medidas

“Nuestra Tierra significa todo para nosotros...Le dire que una de las cosas que recordamos en nuestra Tierra es que nuestros abuelos pagaron por ella—con sus vidas.”

— John Wooden Legs, Cheyenne

El Boletín Earth First! (Earth First! Journal)

El *Earth First! Journal* es la voz del movimiento ambiental radical. Contiene informes sobre la acción directa: artículos sobre la preservación de la megafauna de la Tierra y su diversidad biológica; noticias y avisos sobre Earth First! y otros grupos ambientales radicales; artículos investigadores, críticas del movimiento ambiental entero; revisiones de libros y música; ensayos que exploran teoría ecológica; cartas a la sección de editor; una discusión sobre “monkeywrenching;” y el separador de espacio en blanco de cuatro páginas producido por uno de los grupos locales de Earth First!, llamado Blank Wall. El *Earth First! Journal* es un foro para la discusión esencial dentro del movimiento Earth First! El intento del boletín es ser diverso, atrevido y divertido. El *Earth First! Journal* lleva un catálogo con una variedad de camisetas, gorras, etiquetas engomadas, música, libros, etc. que avanzan el mensaje de Earth First! Toda la mercancía es disponible por correo y ese dinero ayuda financiar la publicación del boletín.

Las suscripciones son \$25 al año por ocho ediciones. Pongase en contacto para pedir una copia gratis. Nuestra lista de suscripción es terminantemente confidencial y no se vende, ni se presta a cualquier persona (el uso de nombres pseudónimos es aceptable). Animamos fuertemente el envío de artículos.

Suscribete al Boletín Radical Ambiental

¿Cómo oyó usted de *Earth First!*?

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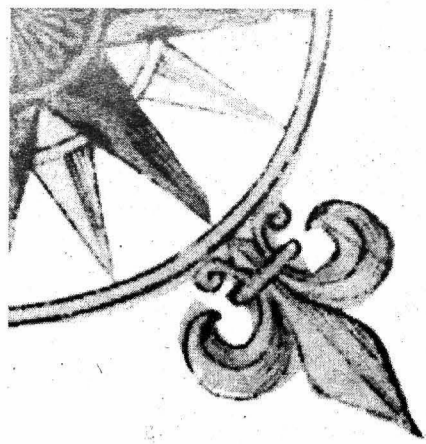
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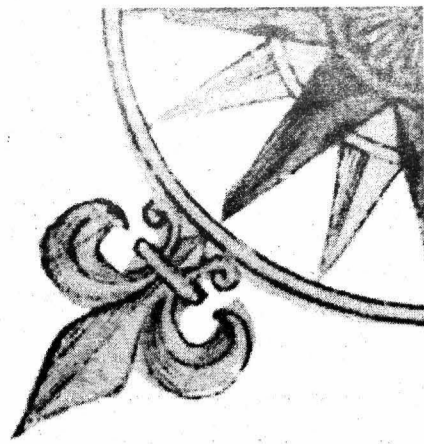
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HUMMINGBIRD * HUIXILOPOCTLI (whee-xil-ah-poke-lee) * 1999

Hummingbird, harbinger of future breaking open of the life possibilities in the mythology of Mexico, reaches her beak, Huixilopoctli, into a flower over Time, the clock of the English aristocracy in gold, the lure of the Europeans to these shores, the stories of secret lands of gold, poor sailors from Spain, some driven from Spain for Arab origins, came to claim.

The time is 5 o'clock on this keeper of segments of passage, 5 being the number of the quincunx for Quetzalcoatl, the coming of new peace, of respected life after the hummingbird breaks open the world of greed and hate with her tiny beak.

The border between two empires of Europe—England and Spain—still thinks it has a right to claim something here on this land. Current occupiers who call themselves American still imagine their fences and metal and infrared and bullets and cages can somehow interfere with the land's connection through DNA with peoples and plants and animals and winds and rain and ocean and desert and mountains that evolved here of the Earth and will never be capable of coming under the dominion of Man.

Always here the land speaks of gift, here the land speaks
The land speaks of guests of the Earth.

Their chains and machinery and ghettoized brain cells, their shallow perception of life projected to close others in or out or move their jobs or enslave their daughters... They have yet to hear of the small Hummingbird Huixilopoctli and how she will break open the world with her little beak and open the chaos that will then become peace with the Earth.

The irony that a decoration of the aristocracy could carry the message: That Time is coming, not long but soon.

—Nancy C. Delaney (Nana)

OREGON BANCHA

floating debris drifted logs
stumps of rocks
bonsai twisted in cracks like moss
rolling mist
beach littered with the dregs
of clearcuts

—Turtle

A CRY FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

They say that it's "deadening"
living in the belly of the Beast
But I'm not dead yet. My life is a battle
an every day battle for my soul.
A fight to keep from being mangled by the time clock
a struggle to keep from being run over
by rush hour traffic
a struggle to hear the Mother beneath the concrete.

How I envy the noble tree-sitting warriors
who know that they are heroes carrying on the fight
wrapped in the strength of the forest and the Mother's closeness.
But pity us pathetic denizens of the Monster.
The "sheep" compelled to march on the treadmill
and breathe the auto stench
along with the knowledge that We Are Part Of The Problem.
How much harder here, to cling to the scraps of defiance
to draw up the quiet strength
while imprisoned in enemy lands.

All we have for solace is the ragged remnants:
State Parks for Sunday picnics
the empty lot... the last field of weeds...
the forgotten trail... the abandoned railroad woods...
the deer and raccoons that hide in the thickets
the willow fringe along the garbage-choked stream—
the stream that still remembers
the living channel beneath the concrete.

And make no mistake! I love these remnants of the Wild,
the broken brave holdouts,
every bit as much as you love the noble oldgrowth
that's never seen the blade.
And if I could muster an army of warriors
on behalf of these desperate guerrilla creatures
and these weeds, still lush with exuberant hope,
struggling to reclaim the waste,
I would fight just as hard for them.

Because I love my Mother Earth
not only in her majesty and bounty,
but also when She lies broken in chains,
struggling and gasping for life.

—Laura Woodswalker

THE ROAD TO HELL

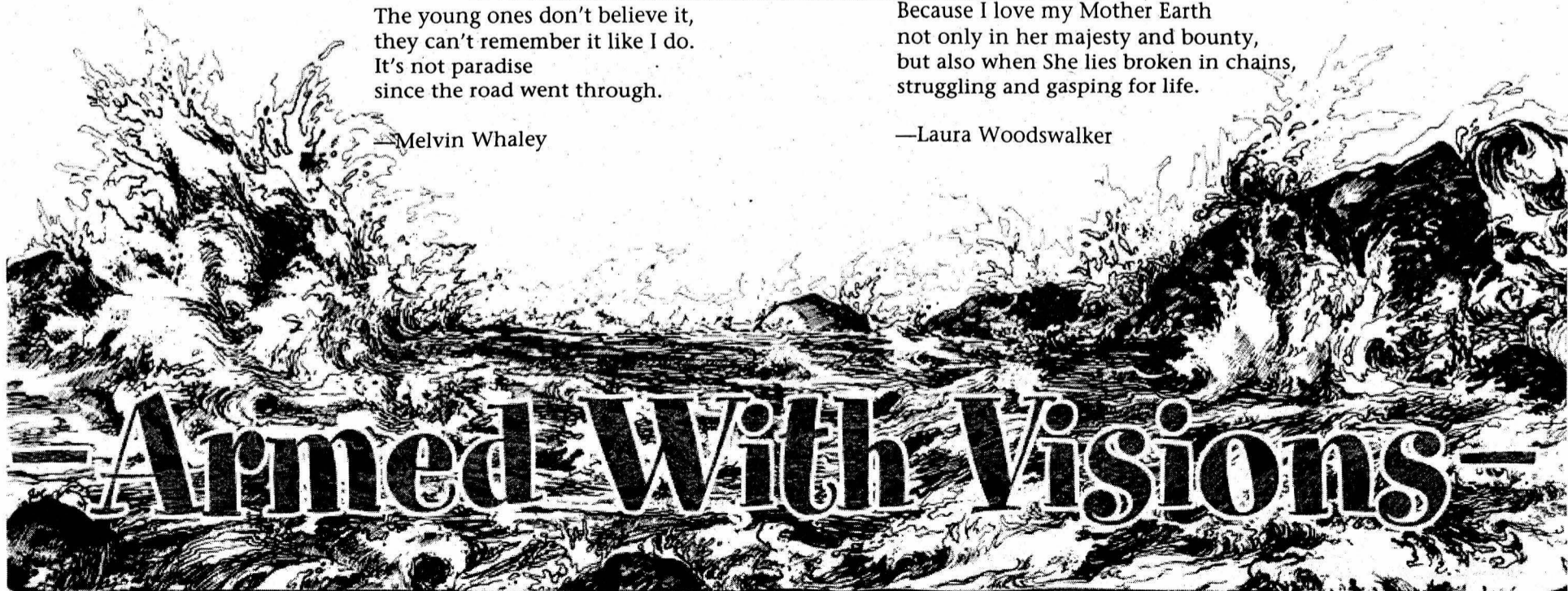
They don't call it paradise
since the road went through.
As if it were never true.
They don't call it paradise
since the road went through.
If you were poor or sick
there was a time
when you just shrugged and said
"at least I don't have to leave this paradise."
"There's nothing wrong with me it can't fix."
"This is where I want to die."

But they don't call it paradise
since the road went through.
They just do what they want to do.
They don't call it paradise.

The young ones don't believe it,
they can't remember it like I do.
It's not paradise
since the road went through.

—Melvin Whaley

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



Defending Traditional Land in Australia

continued from page 1

not only has it already impacted the genetic integrity of subsequent generations, but the bureaucrats are still bickering over the cleanup program which they claim has rehabilitated the site. These people are still living hundreds of kilometres from their homelands, struggling to prevent this *irati* (poison) from returning to their lands as radioactive waste.

Increasingly, the connection between mineral deposits and the ancient, indigenous dreaming stories are being recognized. Sadly, this leads to an overt exploitation of traditional lore in the pursuit of material gain. The local community, the Adnyamathanha, have been successfully divided resulting in a few individuals within the broader community receiving personnel payments from mining companies. The Beverley mine lease is tragically one of the most significant spiritual places for the Adnyamathanha. The site was only visited and spoken for by the most senior men, the *wilyaru*. Ancient lore explains of the dangers of that place, warning against the deadly nature of the *irati*. Only *wilyaru* were allowed to go to the site which includes a naturally radioactive hot spring. Long before Curie and the radiation physicists played with the atom, traditional culture respected and ensured the safety of such places.

Australia is currently in the midst of great controversy with the proposal for a national and possibly international radioactive waste repository in outback Oz. British and French powerbrokers scramble to se-

cure a repository to hide the deadly waste of this powerful substance. As the nuclear industry expands its peaceful, clean-energy image, the world is still struggling to adequately deal with the toxic by-product of this substance which remains radioactive, cancer-causing and potentially mutagenic for hundreds of thousands of years. Plutonium is the most toxic substance known to humanity.

American giant, General Atomics, veteran in the nuclear game, is the hand behind the Beverley Uranium Mine. Its front in Australia is Heathgate Resources which has five shareholders, four being the American executive officers of General Atomics, the fifth share staying in Australia through the corporate account of Heathgate Resources' attorney.

On May 9, over 200 people gathered to support some local elders and peacefully protest the development of the Beverley Mine. It has been operating as a "trial-mine" for nearly two years and is still awaiting the paperwork for

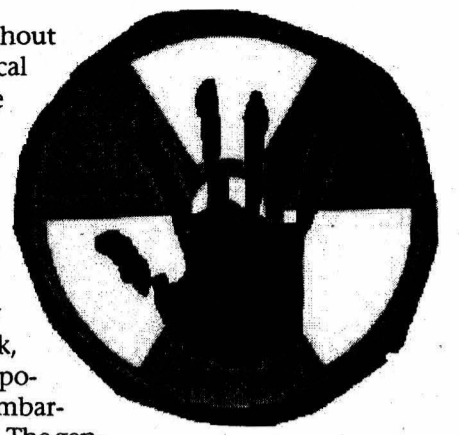
full-scale operation, due to commence between mid-2000 and early next year. What resulted was an outrageous violation of human rights and an overt display of police violence and brutality. Through a flash of magic, a commercial cameraman and reporter witnessed the incident, the cameraman being beaten and detained along with 25 of us. We were detained in a near airtight shipping container on site for nearly

five hours without water or medical attention. The story reached the South Australian public through the commercial networks every night for a week, spinning the police into an embarrassed disarray. The general public witnessed the indiscriminate use of capsi-cum spray, overarm baton-use and other abuse.

Subsequently, the South Australian police issued an "internal investigation" into the incident—a token internal questioning of police activities on that day. We are still awaiting the report some three months later and are planning to launch a civil suit for damages against the police following these procedures. Activists in the area have been subject to a greater, more general campaign of intimidation and harassment. Activists in Oz have seen an increasing militarization of police powers in the last five years, further exacerbated by new laws introduced to combat civil dissent during the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Yet, amongst all the madness, activists are constantly energized by the profoundly wise ancient lore of the land and her true peoples. They recognise a similar reverence and respect for the land in us young white people who are struggling to understand our mixed-up culture of materialism and spiritual confusion. We feel incredibly privileged to share with and learn from the remnant traditional culture of this awesome place, who for a millennium protected and cared for the land for future generations.

For more information contact FREAC at C/- Post Office Copley, South Australia 5732; (08) 8675 2242; freac@microsuxx.com; freac.gibsonnet.net.



Crunched and beaten between two shields

photo courtesy FREAC



Attempting to subdue marchers in Minneapolis

photos courtesy BAN

JACK-BOOTED FEDS STORM ACTIVIST HOUSE POST-ISAG RAID TARGETS SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS

found in the basement and was kicked and punched, then dragged upstairs. Hoods were placed over peoples' heads to preserve the identity of the undercover cops and confidential informants (CI) as the agents confiscated a large amount of personal possessions. Among the goods taken were personal phone books, journals, a bus used for free food distribution, magazines, fliers, diskettes and three hard drives. The pigs even printed six pages off the desktop computer and looked at people's personal email accounts for subversive information. During the raid, agents continually recited activist quotes from interviews given the week of the ISAG conference and seemed to have a grasp on our perspectives. All the activists were arrested for "Disorderly House" (really) except for one who had trumped up drug charges imposed on him.

Why a raid? Primarily, the local police were embarrassed by events that took place that day and during the two weeks leading up to the animal genetics conference. Overall, they spent over one million dollars to close off sections of downtown, protect the animal genetics conference and attempt to control and mediate 250 militant activists ready to seriously disrupt the gathering of the mad scientists. In short, the event was a major public relations disaster for the Minneapolis police. Earlier that day, while preparing for a mass arrest, the police were knocked down by a contingent of activists carrying banners

and plywood shields. The corporate media coverage of skinny anarchists storming through the police line was an inspiration to us and an absolute embarrassment for the pigs.

Furthermore, the police had already had at least one known CI working at the Sisters Camelot canvass program. He was well aware that known activists and organizers were passing through the house and gave this information to the police. By raiding a publicly known activist house and brutalizing people, they hoped to silence the ever burgeoning radical dissent in Minneapolis. The raid helped the FBI and the police with their concoction of a story about anarchists and chemical weapons which they distributed after two people were arrested while stink-bombing a McDonald's a few days prior.

They even told the media that we were manufacturing chemical weapons in the basement and selling drugs out of the house. When confronted about the political nature of the raid, the police at first denied that the events of the two-week gathering had anything to do with the raid. At a press conference, head pig

Olson gave in and admitted to blatantly profiling activists by announcing, "it would be naive to think that the raid had nothing to do with their political lives."

There are many lessons to learn from this situation, but the main one is that the state will repress anyone that stands in its way and will do everything to marginalize radicals. We need to wake up and understand this simple fact as we go on attacking the system in our communities. Charges have been dropped against 12 defendants but the state is trying hard to frame one activist.

For more information on the raid, genetic engineering or how to help with the on-going legal battle, contact Grain RAGE (Resistance Against Genetic Engineering), POB 58044, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0444; (651) 213-4131; grainrage@visto.com.



Seventy-five activists were arrested downtown just hours before the raid.

FARMAGEDDON: FOOD AND THE CULTURE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

REVIEW BY ANDREA DEL MORAL

Brewster Kneen is not confused about where to stand on biotechnology. In the first chapter of *Farmageddon: Food and the Culture of Biotechnology*, he draws the line clearly. "[T]hese life sciences are really death sentences," designed by a culture of control obsessed with death, domination and profit. This book is an in-depth social critique of science.

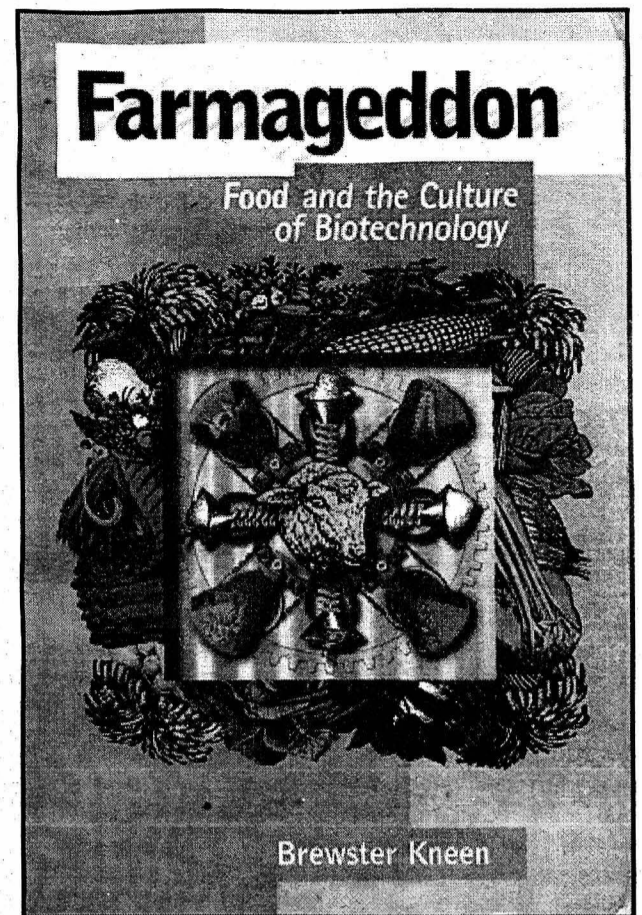
For such a potentially inaccessible subject, Kneen does very well staying real and relevant, oscillating between the general and specific perspectives.

Kneen begins with a powerful analysis of the life industry, criticizing its defense of patents and rush to market. "Just what was the problem?" he asks, "Insufficient profits due to insufficient control over life and death?" In chapter two he looks at tactics that pass responsibility to individuals via "moral blackmail." He then raises the issue of anti-feminist domination of science over life, and the contrast between science of intervention (reductionistic, control) and science of observation (ecological, understanding). Then there is the sheer lack of logic of the biotech industry and its government cohorts. Excerpts from Cargill's public relations documents and the World Bank are almost entertaining in their blatant self-serving agenda.

The middle of *Farmageddon* is the suspicion-confirming expose, taking readers on a spinning roller

coaster ride through industry and government trickery. Through investigative journalism we see the scandals behind bovine growth hormone, the Flavr Savr Tomato and Bt potatoes. The industry agenda and scams are bad enough; but what follows in the chapter on government regulations is the most insidious dirt on the culture of science in recent times. A stellar example is Murray McLaughlin, first president of Ag West Biotech in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Formerly a DowElanco employee, McLaughlin eventually left Ag West to become, within three years, deputy minister of agriculture in the province, president of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, whose motto is "From Discovery to Profit," and finally manager of biotech venture capital for Royal Bank. Kneen's critique and exposure of the biotechnology industry aren't simple. He doesn't condemn the concept of technology nor make everyone who's ever bought a non-organic potato feel like crawling into a hole. Instead he puts all the science and its agents of criminal "progress" in perspective. He reminds us that this is only one culture, which happens to be a cancerous monoculture based on the concept of death instead of life. A culture that is seriously flawed and doomed to fail. But we, with brains and hearts, are not doomed to be part of it. Returning to the general, Kneen spends a few chapters addressing our perceptions of truth, knowledge, life and death.

The one weakness in this book is its hasty handling of important concepts of resistance and vision in the final pages. Tacked on, he proposes decentralized democratic economies, sharing, and belief in abundance to replace centralized capitalism, competition and the construct of scarcity. These ideas are worthy of much more attention but



do not fit within the scope of the book. Fortunately, the suggested reading list complements the clarity and intelligence of this critical expose.

Farmageddon is available at your local library or bookstore and sells for about \$20 in paperback form. It is published by New Society Publishers.

SPlicing ANIMAL GENETICISTS

continued from page 1

After catching our breath we continued marching back into downtown, where the entire march was eventually stopped and a mass arrest was made.

The downtown marches weren't the only actions in the Twin Cities that weekend. Over in St. Paul on Sunday night Aventis Bio-Medical Services, the largest biotechnology corporation in the world, had radical slogans spray-painted on its building in solidarity with the ISAG protests. "While hundreds marched in downtown Minneapolis and engaged with the cops, we chose to strike where they least expected. We urge others to take action against this company and industry." (from the communiqué)

Another solidarity message came from the underground on July 31, when the Dusty Desperados trashed five acres of GE canola in eastern Washington state. In their communiqué, they sent "solidarity to our fellow bandits who recently had their houses raided [see article on page 22] and bodies beaten during protests against the International Society of Animal Geneticists (ISAG) in Minneapolis, MN."

Local corporate media coverage of the protests was predictably focused on the threat of "violence" by the "protesters," who they often characterized as "animal rights activists." In reality, most participants publicly spoke on this brave new world of biotechnology from a multi-issue perspective, and there was no pre-ISAG suggestion of rioting on our part. The corporate media aided the local cops and FBI in propagandizing about a supposed "chemical weapons" scare on Monday afternoon, which turned out to be stink bombs. Before this

important revelation was announced, the MPD was able to convince much of the public that hydrogen cyanide had been dropped at a McDonald's. The cops used it as an excuse to arrest one person randomly walking by the McDonald's, holding him for two days on "terrorist threats," only to release him with no charges.

One of the most unique aspects of the anti-ISAG mobilization was the way we interacted with the corporate media. The ISAG "welcoming committee," an ad-hoc group of local opponents from a variety of groups, avoided the media until several days before the demonstrations, letting dozens of phone and email inquiries from reporters pile up. Local alternative media was prioritized including community radio and the local weeklies. This left the police with very little to go on for their planning, other than some radical rhetoric on our web site that apparently drove them to spend almost a million dollars on security for the ISAG conference. In the week before the protests, the big local story was about what we were going to do, and this led to several articles on why we don't trust the media, what exactly it was that we oppose, and why we had no interest in controlling peoples' tactics or choreographing the marches. In a July 21 *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article, members of the welcoming committee said, "decentralized actions allow protesters to be more creative... We value people's autonomy, and we are not intending to dictate the way people protest." Later in the same article, key reasons for our opposition were summarized: "They say such engineering could damage ecologies, endanger wildlife and create a nightmar-

ish society in which corporations and the government design and create human beings... Protesters are addressing basic problems with modern society such as capitalism, industrialization and the commercialization of life... A lot of us favor much more conservation-oriented solutions that have no profit motives, as opposed to quick-fix, high-tech band-aid solutions that don't really address the root causes of disease, starvation and loss of biodiversity."

What was partly a matter of principle, and partly one of safety and security, proved to generate an intense amount of coverage overall of not only the ecological and ethical issues around genetic engineering, but also the connection between opposition to capitalist exploitation and the militarization of the city.

From the ISAG welcoming committee press statement on July 24: "Just as the genetic scientists at the ISAG conference dedicate their lives to exerting greater and deeper control over organisms for the profit of agribusiness and pharmaceutical companies, the police have shown their dedication to exerting control over our demonstrations, to ensure that business as usual passes undisturbed. The roles of law enforcement on the streets and corporate science in the lab are the same: eradicate individuality and enforce the rules of capitalism that pass as common law. To ensure profits for a few, these agents of the brave new world must replace biodiversity and cultural survival with uniform production-oriented order."

A lesson learned at ISAG: It's okay to be selective about which media to cooperate with and which to completely ignore. And it is possible to make them come to us!

Although upwards of 80 people were arrested over the two-day protest period, the bottom line is that over 200

marched against animal genetics, defied the police state and its inherent brutality (and at times, pushed it back) and showed incredible militancy despite being outnumbered almost 4-1. In a matter of a few weeks, animal genetics and the "life sciences industry" itself became a major issue of contention in Minneapolis, evoking countless letters to local papers, commentaries on radio programs and casual conversation at local eateries.

Any time a government or corporation is "mapping the genome" of a species, it means it is doing so to eventually manipulate the genetic make-up of that species. Such manipulation is often justified as only one step beyond "conventional breeding," yet the intention is the same, especially with animals, who have no worth to scientists, corporations or universities beyond their economic use. Genetic engineering is only one step beyond conventional breeding, and we contend that even most "conventional breeding" is driven by both profit and an extreme disregard for the role of non-human animals in the interdependent web of life. After conquering almost every mountain, forest, river and distinctive human community on Earth, business elites are seeking new colonies to control and exploit. Factory and fur farming have already created waste and enslavement of wildlife. Now the mad scientists are eager to offer GE animals to the market.

The runaway science of GE and the deeply imbedded societal disconnection from nature can no longer be ignored as long as we continue to confront the mad scientists and their government and industry profiteers.

For more information, contact the Bioengineering Action Network, POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 302-5020; ban@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~ban.

TO MARCH AND FRY IN LA

A STREET MEDIC'S REPORT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

BY GARTH KAHL

It was already 80 degrees in the shade. We were standing in the sun wearing 40 pounds of gear and water, waiting for a bus in East Los Angeles to take us downtown on the first day of protests at the Democratic National Convention. Seeing our gear, a group of local kids asked us what we were doing. My partners and I explained that we were working as street medics during the week of protests. When the bus arrived and we started climbing aboard, one of the kids gave us the thumbs up and exclaimed, "Stay up!"

"Stay up!" That could well have been the motto for surviving what the week had in store—a brutal police melee, dehydration, blisters and heat exhaustion, miles of marching in the blazing sun and a war of attrition practiced by the uniformed and undercover cops against anyone isolated or in small groups.

Monday evening found our team hesitating at the entrance of the police-sanctioned "protest pit," having spent a relatively uneventful day marching, treating blisters, reminding people to "hydrate or die" and distributing water and sunscreen.

"It's a trap," we all agreed. "There's only one way in and out, and the police can close that off anytime they want."

"I really don't like this."

"Me either... Okay let's go in."

We resignedly followed the crowd into the pit for the now-infamous concert by Rage Against the Machine. We positioned ourselves near the south end of the asphalt lot, close to a group of people who were masked up and looked like they might need medical help at some point. About halfway through the concert, folks started pushing and climbing the chain-link fence that separated the crowd from the phalanx of cops and other security guarding the delegates—including Hillary Clinton—that evening. A few people were hit with rubber bullets and chemical agents. We donned gas masks and began the work of washing people's eyes with water and removing the irritants from their skin, one of which included a mysterious white spray that induced nausea. The evening got darker. We treated more people. Sometime after the second band started playing, the police commandeered the stage and ordered people to disperse. The crowd slowly started thinning out, but the action near the fence continued.

The police brought in a squadron of more than 50 mounted cavalry. They quickly formed a line along the south end of the lot and started pushing people back. As the crowd retreated through the two police-sanctioned exit routes, the mounted police suddenly attacked at a full gallop. Pandemonium ensued as people tried simultaneously to avoid being clubbed and trampled by the cops and trampled by the crowd. Several hundred people poured into a narrow corridor, one of the two "permitted" exit routes, only to be chased out again by a squadron of riot police on foot. As we were pulling back we saw somebody get clubbed, and two of our team ran to grab him. They scooped him up and started again toward the remaining exit with these 21st Century

black knights bearing down. As we huddled behind a lamp post to avoid being trampled by the crowd, the dazed patient collapsed again, right as two mounted cops bore down on us. One of my partners bent down to cover him up, yelling at the rider that we were medics and had an unconscious patient. The adrenaline-crazed cop swung his club down but miraculously stopped inches from my partner's head, having seen the red cross on her back.

Still dragging our semi-conscious head injury, we followed the rest of the crowd out through a

could authoritatively chant "Who's streets? Our streets!" as in Seattle. The police made a great show of having vast forces available, even when the crowd was small and quiet. They also targeted smaller groups of people, especially on the subways. Riding to and from actions was best undertaken by groups of no fewer than 30, preferably with at least one radio and several legal observers. A large group of critical mass riders were arrested after being led into a trap by bike cops whom the cyclists supposed were merely "escorting" them.

While national media may have largely ignored the events in LA, due in part to the wide range of issues being publicized—everything from fluoridation of water to protection of wetlands and an end to the bombing of Puerto Rico's Vieques island—the real value of the week's events was the networking and coalition building between the racially and culturally different groups that came together to march and organize. If democracy in Seattle looked like a bunch of white folks, then democracy in LA looked much more Black, Latino and Asian.

Wednesday saw thousands march to the Rampart Police Precinct, where the LAPD's routine and sordid practices of frame-up and murder of African American and Latino youth has recently come to light. On Thursday a march for immigrant and workers' rights snaked through the sweatshop garment district, where hundreds carried crosses bearing the names of those who have died trying to cross the US/Mexico border. Workers in the factories, some visibly in tears, came to the windows, cheering and raising their fists as they waved the apparel they were sewing.

In the streets below, thousands chanted to condemn Immigration and Naturalization Service (*La Migra*) and police brutality. "*La chota, la Migra, la misma porquería (misma pinche cosa)!*" "The cops, the Migra the same filth (same fucking thing)!"

In retrospect, my only tactical critique of the week has to do with a basic necessity: water. Future large convergence actions, especially in summer, need to make better plans for supplying water before, during and after marches. More than the

effects of chemical weapons or rubber bullets, what we medics treated the most was mild dehydration and heat exhaustion. It is simply not enough to have a few cases of bottled water on a sound truck (these went very quickly and were hard to distribute along the procession) or attempt to have a truck of water meet up with the march (one truck was held by the police and the water confiscated). Water needs to be supplied from a truck along with



Masking up and marching in the LA heat

narrow police gauntlet into the street, only to be set upon with a fusillade of rubber bullets, concussion grenades and "bean bags"—so-called "less-lethal weapons." We saw a man who had been stepped on by a horse and was suffering internal bleeding. He was treated by two MDs and taken to the hospital. A prominent LA homeless activist was hit in the chest with a bean bag and later transported to the hospital with chest pains. As the police attacked and pushed the crowd, many



Attack of the giant, two-headed candidate

people were hit, almost exclusively in the back, by rubber bullets. An Associated Press reporter was hit in the head. He later became the plaintiff in a lawsuit, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, charging the police with deliberately targeting members of the press.

While nothing later in the week matched Monday night for the level of police violence, the tone of heavy police intimidation continued. The crowds were relatively small, seldom numbering more than 4,000, not the tens of thousands who

the march. I believe many of us, especially with back-country experience, expect that everybody will make their own plans for water. The sad fact is that this doesn't work. People arrive at events already dehydrated, especially after a long day, and expecting them to march on is a recipe for disaster. At the beginning of one of the days' events I treated a man who had not drunk anything for nearly 24 hours despite the intense heat. Simply put, the mantra, "hydrate or die!" cannot be given enough emphasis at these things. Stay up!

PROTESTERS GO TOE TO TOE WITH PHILLY COPS

It started pretty mellow with three days of lighthearted demonstrations based on daily themes, such as economic inequality or direct action, in the city hosting the Republican National Convention. Then on August 1, the Day Against the Industrial Prison Complex, the death penalty and Mumia's imprisonment, anger erupted and a few thousand protesters stormed through Center City in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, battling police officers, chaining themselves together to block intersections, jumping on cars and throwing debris into the street.

Police arrested 282 people. Three police officers were treated when an unknown substance was splashed in their eyes, and a fourth was hospitalized with head injuries after being hit with a bicycle. Twenty police cars were damaged.

The tone of a day that began with calm speeches against the prison industrial complex suddenly grew tense around 3 p.m. From all directions, demonstrators—dressed in styles ranging from clown costumes to all-black anarchist regalia—converged in the blocks around the ornate city hall topped by a statue of the peace-loving Quaker William Penn.

Most protesters were peaceful, if unlawful, as they squatted in intersections, while others threw a red paint balloon at a jewelry store, daubed police cars with orange paint and tossed newspaper boxes at motorists.

The most heated exchanges came when protesters began slashing the tires of police vehicles, dumping orange paint on some and spray painting obscenities on others. A short time later, police responded with batons. One officer, Lieutenant Brad Christy, jumped out of the car with his baton drawn and chased down a protester who punched him repeatedly in the face. The two fell to the ground, trading blows. Other protesters joined in the melee, punching the officer from behind. Several other officers immediately ran to the scene and nearly 15 fights broke out among protesters and police. At one point, Christy said he pulled his gun out of its holster "because he felt someone pulling on it." "Oh my God. Don't hit me. Oh

my God. I need some help over here," he yelled as he tried to fight off three protesters in the street. Many wore black bandannas, torn shirts and ski masks over their faces and were dressed in black or camouflage. Several officers appeared to suffer minor injuries, and several protesters were struck in the head and chest with batons. Eventually, about 100 police officers on bicycles stormed into the area chasing 150 protesters up Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Some protesters were arrested.

As the downtown scenes played out on television, police raided a West Philadelphia warehouse that had been a gathering place and puppet-making forum for protesters. After obtaining a search warrant, police arrested 70 people and crushed everything—puppets, tools and personal belongings—in the trash compactor outside. Police said they were looking for equipment intended to be used to block traffic. The impact of crushing the puppets was far from symbolic. Without the visual representations of the core issues behind the protests, activists were left in the streets with no clear message to display to the columns of blue, the stampede of Party animals, or the shock-driven eyes of the media. It was what you could call a message massacre, leaving demonstrators cold and frightened by the massive display of force—7,000 officers made Philly look like a state under siege—and made us



This undercover cop was seen assisting police at a lockdown.

unable to bring concerns anywhere near the well guarded castles housing the Republican Party.

As the Republican National Convention left town, more than 450 women and men remained in jail, their bails ranging from \$6,000 to \$30,000. They were slowly being processed, and reports are still being received of brutality against them, including isolation of people suspected of being organizers, beatings and denial of needed medication. Seven witnesses saw one woman dragged by jailers naked and bleeding.

Two people, including Ruckus Society organizer John Sellers, were accused of being masterminds of the marches and demonstrations and were initially held on bails of \$1 million.

Reflecting on the Past Year's Mass Actions

continued from page 3

We have long known that horizontal information sharing is key to empowering everyone to take action. When individuals show up at convergence spaces they are given little or no information about the key organizers or organizational structure involved. Instead they see a list of trainings and are told which they should take. These trainings are generally didactic and focus on a set of protest techniques. There has been little room for discussion, especially political discussion. Skill sets may be growing, but consciousness and dialogue are not expanding. Revolution is reduced to puppy piles, sound bites and puppet construction. We should instead attend convergences to share skills and political dialogue. We must check and challenge our assumptions against movement history and experience. If a local group calls for an influx of protesters it must be ready to accept input, not simply offer tasks.

We have long known that the basis for action is the affinity group. The organic and spontaneous look on the streets of Seattle masked months of planning and careful organizing. Thousands of new activists showing up and getting trained is not the basis for action. This is the basis for action planning within an affinity group structure. Likewise, experienced activists cannot expect to simply show up and be effective. The protest is the context and the opportunity, not the endpoint. Pick a target

and make it pay. Whether it's a lockdown or looting, if you are not on the street with your comrades, you'd better assume you are with cleverly disguised cops.

We have long known that covert and above-ground actions are a dangerous mix. Sabotage generally comes after the free state is busted. You don't steal the chainsaw when someone is in the tripod. Black bloc tactics blur this distinction. The sheer numbers in Seattle allowed for a wide range of tactics. Further, Seattle police had already begun the brutalization of lockdowns before black bloc tactics were employed. The black blocs neither added to the repression, nor required tacit agreement from the crowd. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, the acceptance of black bloc tactics has been polarized through misrepresentations from corporate and even much of the alternative media. Before bricks can be effectively thrown from the crowd, a lot of education of those that will be in the crowd needs to take place. From what I saw in LA, this will be a difficult task in the climate of current police crowd control.

Finally, we have long known that our revolutionary perspective and tactics demand a constant effort to decentralize. The larger our organizing structures become, the more alluring to personalities drawn to control them, the more vulnerable to infiltration and the more dependent on outside resources.

As Earth Firsters, we have one extra responsibility. Our strength is of the wild and remote places, while mass protest is of the city. EFlers don't want to go there and don't want to stay. Our connections in places like LA are few. Nonetheless, in the absence of radical environmentalist organizing, the Earth gets pushed far from first in these venues. Again, with the opening round in relatively Earth-conscious Seattle, we have falsely assumed that that high-level of awareness would carry over to other mass protests. It has not. Biocentric consciousness will pervade these arenas to the extent that EFlers get on the ground early and work for that end.

The recent history of effective mass protest in Europe clearly suggests the viability of the tactic here. As with everything we do, "action-analysis-evolution" is the cycle. Tactics like black bloc defense of lockdowns and "clown blocs" show that this is happening in pockets. Likewise, remote actions in conjunction with a mass action definitely show promise. Untried actions on this shore, like the colorful masks provided and unannounced targets of June 18, 1999, in London, are still possibilities. And maybe our sisters and brothers gathering in Prague will help us grow. Certainly the level of state repression suggests that the powerful have taken us seriously. Perhaps surprises bigger than N30 still await.

BARE BONES

Rainforest People Emerge After 100 Years to Protest

An indigenous Brazilian tribe, thought to have been extinct for nearly a century, has emerged from one of the most remote areas of the Amazon rainforest to protest the creation of a national park on their land.

The Naua, once the most populous indigenous people in the region, were believed to have died out in the 1920s. However, government engineers planning a new national park in the Acre region came across the remaining 250 or so members of the Naua tribe while making a survey of the mountain range where they live. The government's National Indian Foundation (NIF) was called in to make an identification. They were able to converse because the vast majority of the Naua spoke Portuguese—the language of Brazil—learned through extensive contact with whites.

"They are definitely authentic Naua, and they are entitled to be treated as indigenous people and as such must have their rights respected," said Antonio Pereira Neto, spokesman for the NIF. "They told us that they didn't want to leave their land because they had always been there."

The last definite sighting of the tribe was in 1906, when a newspaper in Acre published an article headlined: "Last Naua woman marries." Anthropologists believed that the woman had children but that her line died out some 15 years later.

Since then, the surviving members of the tribe are believed to have worked primarily as rubber tappers in a remote jungle region on the Peruvian border, and through this lost most of their cultural traditions, including their language.

The NIF is planning to launch a claim for a Naua reservation. Under Brazilian law, all indigenous people are entitled to demarcated land in their traditional areas. But if their land were to be designated a national park, the tribe could be forcibly moved to another region because humans are prohibited from living in such environmentally sensitive areas.

Top Retailers to Ban Old-Growth Wood

Following pressure from forest activists and consumers, two major home-improvement retail chains—Lowe's Companies, Inc. and 84 Lumber—announced plans in August to phase out wood from endangered forests.

84 Lumber is currently a major purchaser of wood from British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest and also sells redwood from endangered forests in California. Under the company's new commitment, wood sales from these areas will be phased out.

Lowe's announced a five-point strategy that includes an immediate ban on wood from the Great Bear Rainforest, an aggressive phase-out of wood from endangered forests, a purchasing preference for wood that is independently certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as coming from well-managed forests and a commitment to engage with suppliers to improve logging practices and maintain native forests.

With seven of the top 10 Do-It-Yourself retail chains announcing similar phase-outs in recent months, Rainforest Action Network's old-growth campaign director Mike Brune said, "Consumers' concern for forests is leading retailers to change what they will and will not sell. As a result, the marketplace is quickly losing interest in old-growth wood. This means that industry stragglers like Boise Cascade and Canada's International Forest Products must catch up or be left behind in today's quickly changing marketplace."

DEAR SFB... I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO

continued from page 3

Dear SFB,
Every little bit we do to the Earth hastens her untimely demise. Making our own end all the swifter and more terrible; decreasing the chances that this soulfully beautiful world will ever recover and return to her ancient glory. For every poison left behind, every part of her destroyed whether for a car or a cement plant further diminishes the hope that simple life forms and or the elements of life will survive and combine once again into the splendor of a living world. Now more then ever, everything we do and abstain from may spell the difference between death and the eventual revival of the Earth from a death like state, ages after the collapse of the ozone layer, which will all be gone in no more than a few more years. What have you got to lose?

—UNSIGNED

Hello EF! folks,

I'm subscribing for my sister and also re-subscribing for myself.

I'm a little dismayed by your "Hello New Subscriber" letter that I just received, not only because it's a thinly veiled renewal notice. I read in the primer information that you only let people know that it is time to renew by placing a black check mark by my address. I prefer that idea to inundating me with renewal notices, like every corporate magazine does. I subscribed to the *EF!* Journal without coercion. I don't need to be coerced into renewing!

Secondly, this letter is one big piece of marketing bullshit! Marketing is the root of all evil in modern society. Please, don't be like all the megacorporations, treating your readers as consumers.

Thirdly, what's up with the "non-profit org." status? I read previously in your information that you would not consider going non-profit! Is saving a few cents on stamps worth giving in to The Man?

All in all, I really like the *Journal* and its content, or I would not be renewing. But no more marketing!

—KEN HERMER

Ed. Note: Watch it or we'll put you on our real junk mail list like the rest of the readers that complain. Or if you can help us keep our subscribers for more than one year, maybe we won't have to send renewal notices. As far as being a non-profit organization, you should have complained 10 years ago.

—JL

Dear SFB,

As a member of the editorial collective for the last issue of the *EF!* (Lughnasadh 2000), I had some issues with the op-ed piece "Tactical Decision, or Why LA Will be Significant Enough for You to Come Down From Your Tree for a Week" by Warcy.

Primarily, the assertion that "the words *old growth* aren't even mentioned in Congressional debates" is an inaccurate statement. The National Forest Protection

and Restoration Act (NFRPA) has 91 cosponsors in the US House of Representatives and would end commercial logging on federal lands. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act has 106 cosponsors in the House and would designate as wilderness vast expanses of old growth. In fact, a good reason to protest Al Gore would be to ask why the author of *Earth in the Balance* has never supported either of these excellent pieces of legislation. Certainly old growth is not discussed in Congress nearly as much as it should be and rarely in relation to other

Dear Shit for Brains,

It is really great to get the *Earth First! Journal* and to read about all of the people out there doing their part to save the planet. I really must commend you for your open-mindedness in printing articles that express such diverse viewpoints. To do otherwise would limit your scope and your target audience which would only harm the movement. I see where a lot of folks (backseat editors) bitch about that, but then again, who's doing anything better, right?

I am a prisoner here in Texas,

but even though my body is confined, my spirit soars free with all the radical activists out there as I read each and every article. The *Earth First! Journal* has really opened my eyes to many issues of which I was unaware. Surely it must be doing the same for others, so you guys are doing a good job getting the word out.

If it is possible maybe you can print this letter for me, and any of your readers who publish newspapers or books can shoot me some copies, or maybe even a letter or two. I am interested in environmentalism, the punk and anarchy scene, and radical/activist type shit in general. It would be really cool to hear from some like-minded people.

Keep up the good work.

—CURT SMITH #589526

HUGHES UNIT, Rt. 2, Box 4400

GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76597

Dear Earth First!

As an environmental publication, *Earth First!* should include all living organisms including the animal kingdom. Humans are both pro and con when it comes to nature. Today, more than ever, the growing youth of this country find a need to voice their views more than ever before.

The fact that *Earth First!* presents the calamities of nature, proves that it is concerned with our environment, and it is involved with sound journalism. All controversy should be weighed by both sides.

The protection of animals should be a vital concern for *Earth First!* The men or women who have a moral conscience recognize the animal's awareness of pleasure and pain and the will to go on living which is the same as in humans.

Unfortunately, hunting is the American tradition. It is the masculine image ploy where the gun represents masculine aggressiveness. It takes a certain amount of sadism to enjoy the death throes of a dying animal. The hunters say that a dead deer will never die of starvation. This is a fallacy. A dead deer will never leap over a ridge nor scuttle over a hillside nor engage with its mate.

There is too much manipulation of the ecosystem by human

control. Trees should be left standing and waters should be left alone. The environmentalists who want to save our forests aspire to be an awesome mission, and they are societies' most noble. Those who want to spare our animals have a moral conscience. They too should be praised, and they are true environmentalists. By saving our animals and our environment, these individuals are the salt of the Earth and an honor to mankind.

Sincerely,

—FLO LEVINE

EF!

I am writing because I am very concerned with the way people think that just because we are living in a time where it is trendy to be "Earth conscience" that everything is all right. That is just the mentality corporate scum profit from. The businesses that are killing Mother Earth not only go on unstopped with their slaughter, but they profit even further by selling our society this shit that makes people think they're doing their share to help Mother Earth. Buying into being nonactive is all people are doing, and people not being active is how this all got so out of hand.

So, basically, I'm writing to find out how I can become active, both now and when I get out in December. I'm finally gonna do my share, with or without help. I'm just hoping you kind people will point me in a good direction and maybe hook me up with an *Earth First!* newsletter. I'll be much appreciative.

Thank you in more ways than one,

—BRYAN GRIMMETT, #774468

CASCADE UNIT, POB 37

CEDAR CREEK CORRECTIONAL CENTER

LITTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON 98556

Howdy EF!ers,

I must admit that I'm not quite sure why John Zerzan chose to take a cheap shot at the Wobblies (Industrial Workers of the World) in your Lughnasadh issue Dear SFBs... but he did, and I thought I'd reply. Zerzan mentioned that it is "the height of incoherence for the Wobblies to present themselves as opposed to the ever-encroaching cancer of technology and capital—they are the 'Industrial' 'Workers,' after all—as if industrialism and wage labor are acceptable givens." Zerzan also, inexplicably, seemed to lump the Wobblies in with some undefined group of Marxists that he felt the need to criticize.

I wanted to ask the many supporters of EF! not to judge the IWW based on Zerzan's words because, well, he doesn't have any idea what the hell he's talking about.

Several points that Zerzan might wish to grasp before his next bit of un-constructive criticism:

1.) The term Industrial in the IWW's title refers to the method of union agitation that the IWW uses. In the early part of this century the IWW swept across North America by organizing poor unskilled workers, hobos, and migrant labor. The Wobblies organized "industrial" unions consisting of all workers in a given field. "Trade" unions, such as the corrupt AFL, organized only the "skilled" better paid jobs, creat-

ing "trade" unions rather than "industrial" unions. The Wobblies organized everyone in the whole "industry." The term has absolutely nothing to do with an endorsement of industrialization.

Zerzan is clearly either unfamiliar with his history, or sloppy in his eagerness to judge others' efforts as failing his radical purity test.

2.) The Wobblies calling themselves "workers" is not an endorsement of work. It is an acknowledgment of the fact that most of us, at one time or another, have to work for a boss to eat, pay rent and pay for other sellout stuff, like health care. The IWW is opposed to wasting peoples time with unnecessary and destructive work.

3.) The IWW is not Marxist or Anarchist or supportive of any political party. Wobblies are not interested in telling people what to think, we are only interested in ending the economic exploitation of people and the Earth.

To recycle Zerzan's words, it is the height of incoherence to attack the IWW as being for capital and for work. Thousands of members of the IWW gave their lives or freedom, long before Zerzan was born, fighting to end capitalism and, to quote the preamble to the Wobblies constitution, "abolish the wage system and live in harmony with the Earth."

We need to be building alliances, not undercutting them with lame, ignorant attacks.

—TRISTAN MASAT

IWW MEMBER

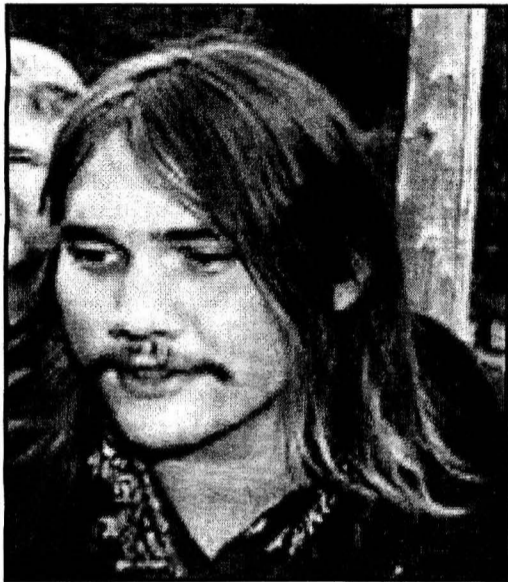
Dear Editor:

The response to the "discovery," apparently some 10 years after the fact, of the brown spruce longhorn beetle in Point Pleasant Park will be a defining moment for the environmental movement in this province. From here in rural Pictou County, where the environmental vandalism of the industrial forestry model surrounds me, I see this "new" beetle and the predictable official response to it, as marking the entry of the industrial forestry model into metropolitan Halifax.

This model is geared to a worldwide market, is continually expanding so that there are never enough trees, and has no place for insects which feed upon the desired trees, for wild fires or for wildlife which does not fit into industrial tree production. Nor is there a place for the many people like myself, who do not confuse tree plantations with the beauty and the diversity of the Acadian forest, and which is daily being destroyed before everyone's eyes. From the viewpoint of the forest industry, every tree is spoken for. Point Pleasant Park is being seen, not as a people's park, but as a sacrificial zone to the industrial forestry model, just like the places where rural people live. It is outmoded to argue about keeping out "exotics" like this newly arrived beetle, in a globally interrelated world. (Are humans not also "exotics" to this area, since our origins are in Africa?)

I keep wondering where all the Halifax "environmentalists" are in this media beetle hysteria, those who hang out at EAC, the Sierra Club and the biology department at Dal. Two people have been

Attention Y'all



David Farquar, Turquoise, John West

John Glass, Rew Stines, Jason Hammel

Infiltrator/Thief

environmental crises such as global warming.

Warcy's claim that the "Black Bloc and burning barricades... were pivotal in shutting down the WTO" is debatable. The human chain that blocked delegates from the conference shut down the WTO before a single window was broken, although the Black Bloc certainly had a lot to do with the media coverage of the WTO protests. I'm sure there are many viewpoints on this.

—AARON COFFIN

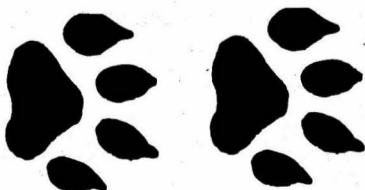
Dear Shit fer Brainz,

We can't believe this has not been said before, but if John Glass, Turquoise, Rew Stines, Jason Hammel, David Farquar or whatever name he goes by these days dares to show up at any campaign or gathering, he will get his ass beat by a bunch of non-pacifist EF!ers.

For those who don't know, this is the yahoo that shows up, steals money from trusting activists and then gets out of town before anyone figures it out. It's happened many times, and this idiot just keeps showing up at events like the Santa Cruz EF! action camp and the DNC in LA.

Just to make sure you understand, not all EF!ers are nonviolent. Show your face and you find out the hard way.

—BONNIE AND DOC



KEEP MY SFB UNDER 300 WORDS

featured quite a lot: Bill Freedman, a so-called forest ecologist who was calling for leveling everything in the park, is chairman of the biology department at Dal, and seems to identify with the forest industry; and Eric Georgeson, the provincial entomologist, who seems to defend every spraying program—biological and chemical—that the forest industry demands. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the federal agency which is spearheading the tree removal line, is the same agency that is imposing urban Btk spraying in Vancouver and Victoria to “protect” exports of lumber into the US.

I am glad to see some opposition coming up, but the stand taken by the so-called environmentalists in Metro, who are either keeping their mouths shut or siding with the predictable calls of the forestry industry, is quite revealing. There is nothing like a real issue to show where we all stand.

This beetle is part of the price of globalization, yet the boosters do not want to pay the price. The industrial forestry model has no room for tree-eating insects—old or new, and overcutting is the norm. The beetles have been there for some time. Logs, with presumably beetles on board, have been shipped to saw mills rather than letting them decompose, and the beetles can fly many kilometers.

It is amazing to me how an important urban park which is so vital to many people, can just be written off because the forest industry demands this. There should be no cutting or tree removal and we should all come to appreciate a new insect in the park and what this will mean to the local ecology.

Let the trees stand and fall when they want. People should be prepared with their bodies to stand with the trees against the levelers.

—DAVID ORTON
GREEN WEB

Dear SFB,

I had an experience Monday (June 6) to which I will never forget. I was witness to a wondrous sight as I was driving my children to school on my normal route. I was stopped quite suddenly by a huge black bear. I drive a little Geo Tracker, and she was longer than my car... I was quite awestruck! I do live in a very desolate area, and this place is heaven. Lots of forests, streams and wildlife but rarely do we get to see the larger, more seasoned creatures, especially on a highway. I am quite fortunate, well at least I thought so, until I had realized how old this bear was and how lucky it is to live this long on this Earth. Should I have not been out at 9:30 in the morning, I may not have been so lucky.

Olympic Resource Management has been using herbicide to control the wild foliage here. Apparently it isn't supposed to harm the wildlife nor affect the larger trees so much it is to control the smaller growth. But then there's the blossoms that the local wildlife here survives upon. It's the essence of the entire life cycle here. The DNR actually endorses this action. If you were to look into the herbicide you will find

that Accord/Oust has very much the same make-up as the Agent Orange that was used in Vietnam. They spray this from helicopters and claim that it is targeted toward only this certain area, but us locals know better. We have the proof in our own yards. Argon is another chemical that is used in this stuff, and there have been several times where unexplained occurrences have happened that the fish have died out. There is a salmon reclamation project that has been improving the salmon streams here, but since the chemical has been dropped there have been no salmon running. (I have a stream on my own property.)

Please help! There is so much at stake and so much to lose. I am saddened that the very Department of Wildlife and Fisheries endorses this. Are they not supposed to help save the local forest, the wildlife and preservation? Why is this chemical allowed to be sprayed by helicopter? We are making the wildlife attack, nothing else is and I think it is much deserved because the lack of common sense and respect we should give to our ecosystem here that Pope Talbot/Olympic Resource is doing its best to kill off...

Help! Not for me but for the wildlife I so luckily got to see. Please do not let what the bear did not say to me go unheard. She did not try to attack me. She did not approach me. She just looked into my car from only eight feet away, completely lost and searching for something. I hope she gets it all back. All she wants is a home with food. That's all, not just for the local wildlife but also for our pet's too! Several of the dogs around here that belong to the locals have suddenly got “lumps” from running around the areas that have the herbicide. My own dog has recently come up with a lump, and he's healthy, well cared for and loved. There will be more lumps on him as all the dogs here have had this happen (cancer ya think?).

—SERENA TWOGOOD
BELFAIR, WASHINGTON

Hi,

My name is Timber. I live on the Oregon coast and have noticed for the last few years the logging companies burn the slash piles during the summer months. Particularly aggravating is the fact that it is usually done on sunny days. The result of this is a totally ruined day. An ugly orange hue hangs over head and blankets the sky. Everything turns an orange color. I get really pissed when I'm out surfing during this time, and they start up the burning. We get few days during the summer when the Northwest winds aren't beating the hell out of us. Dealing with nature doing her thing is cool, but when these guys do this, it is foul. I would like to have some help in getting this stopped permanently. Phoning the logging companies does no good, nor the great land baron's Geor-

gia Pacific and Boise Cascade. They have concocted reasons why they do this! Please let me know, if you can, what course of action I can take. Thank you, keep up the great work.

—TIMBER
TIMBER1@TELEPORT.COM

Dear SFB,

Now that the bruises and chigger bites have healed and my boots are dry, I would like to thank the rest of the Katúah committee for putting on a kick-ass RRRendezvous. Ya'll sure know how to throw a memorable party—so memorable that we are still talkin' like ya'll.

What I am writing about is the Forest Service's permit process. The EF! movement has debated whether or not to get a permit for our gatherings, and the conclusion we have come to is to leave the decision to each individual RRR committee and to support their decision. I have been involved in quite a few of these debates, and I discussed it with the Katúah crew before and after the decision to sign this year. So, I have heard about every argument for signing or not signing.

I think it is time for the movement to make the policy decision to never sign a permit for a gathering on public land (a.k.a. freedom of assembly).

Brian Michaels was my attorney in regards to the Oregon ren-

of signing a permit. But knowing how long this movement takes to make a decision, I think we should open up the discussion again.

—JIM “WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' PERMITS” FLYNN

Dear cranium filled with shit, I support moving the EF! if it is for the purpose changing the scenery, so to speak. I also feel the *Journal* should be moved every five years, much like a term limit. However I do not agree with moving the *Journal* for the reason of expanding our ranks. I think what makes the EF! movement different from other environmental groups is that the people in the EF! movement really give a shit about changing things for the better and are willing to sacrifice for that change. For me, nobody sought me out to join EF! I sought out the movement on my own. The SUV club (aka Sierra Club) actively recruits anyone, and that is why they are a bunch of capitulators. When I'm standing on the battle lines I want the person standing next to me to be a volunteer not a recruit.

—BAD BRAD

Hello all!

Just found your website. Thought you might be interested in adding a link or notice of our website www.earthsspeak.org. It describes the very toxic situation in Willits, California,

Brockovich recently appeared in Willits, telling residents the levels of contamination are the highest they have seen in the whole country! Anyone who may be affected should contact Masry (818) 991-8900 and fill out a questionnaire. Do it immediately—statute is running! I will send an article as soon as I can compose it.

Take care,

—LESLIE SCALES
EARTHSPEAK@MINDSPRING.COM

Dear shitstains,

First, a big shoutout to the Green Anarchists and their fantastic blankwall. It's nice to see someone out West is thinking. Anyway, just a few quick points about outreach and movement building. It seems like whenever the lack of diversity in radical eco-circles is brought up, someone has a hissy fit. Okay, then, please take a deep breath and hear me out. There are a lot of us radical ecologists out there who are already working to expand the ranks of the movement by doing environmental justice work and urban/rural organizing. This in no way “compromises” our quest for freedom, but instead helps us to see how much we actually have in common with people who do not tag themselves “anarchist” or “deep ecologist” but just want to live on this planet without all the capitalist bullshit and have some clean air, water, food and decent shelter. And doing this work is not easy because for every cool person out there, there are 10 morons who want to continue this death march without a thought toward posterity or the biosphere.

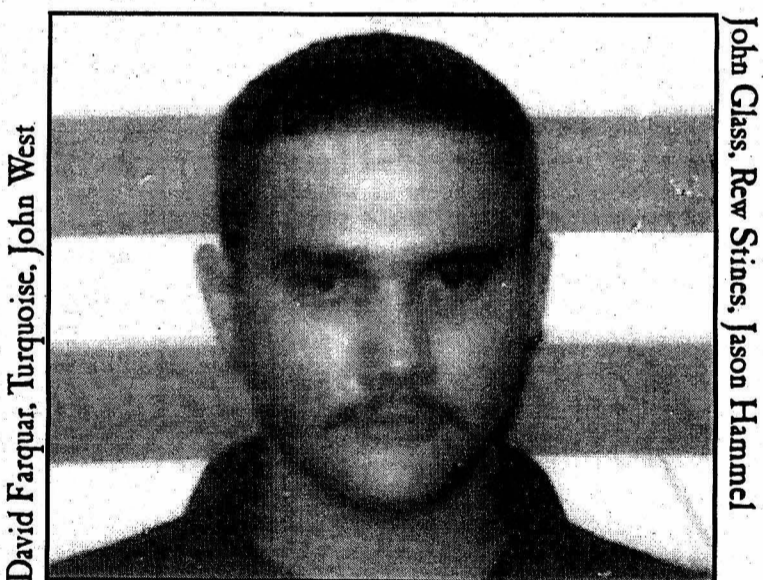
But that's okay, because we are working with the folks who see things like us, no matter who they are and where they come from. And if you don't know that some of the staunchest environmental activists are just normal working people who are living in the shithole day to day and then love it when us crusty radicals work in solidarity with them to help protect their health and communities, well now you know. A movement is only as strong as it is both broad and deep. Anyone who doubts this is welcome to come to NYC or Philly and hang out with the locals at a community garden or do some door-to-door organizing, and you may be pleasantly surprised that there are quite a few Earth warriors and enemies of industrialism out there. You could also read up on Black, Latino and working class history to see that this is not an anomaly.

And as for all you pathological pacifists who cringe at the mention of black bloc, I saw circle-A graffiti all over the Boogie-down Bronx, so obviously the message is getting out. Keep on keepin' on.

—ERROL SCHWEIZER

P.S. Read *Almanac of the Dead* by Leslie Marmon Silko.

Attention Y'all



David Farquar, Turquoise, John West

John Class, Rew Sines, Jason Hammel

Infiltrator/Thief

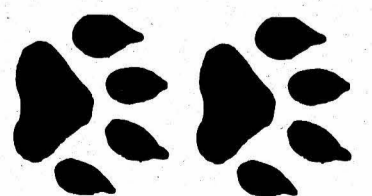
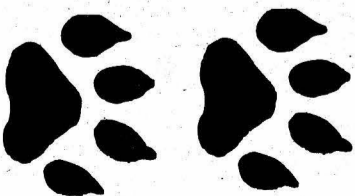
deztvous permit/citation case (see “Beware of Permits,” Beltane 2000). Brian has also been the lead attorney for the Rainbow Family of Living Light, including John “Rainbow Leader” Johnson, and their struggle to stop the Forest Service's unconstitutional practice of requiring permits. Brian, and the entire rainbow family, wonder why EF! ever signs permits. They never sign and would like us also to make the decision to never sign.

The legal argument that Brian uses (which I think is solid) is that EF! is not an organization with members, board members or even staff. Therefore, no one can legally sign a permit as a representative of Earth First!

I happen to know that the 2001 RRR committee has no intention

former home of Judi Bari. In fact, the Remco plant is probably responsible for Judi's cancer, along with a lot of other people in Willits. Our son died after drinking two sips of creek water in 1997. We found court documents about the contamination by hexavalent chromium (like in Erin Brockovich) and other toxics (volatile organics, degreasers and cleaners) in five underground tanks going into the groundwater. Also, Judi Bari's ex, Mike Sweeney, worked for the Mendo solid waste management authority and must have known about Remco.

Anyway, this chromium is extremely toxic. It's like asbestos in the air, and it has been spread all over Willits since at least the 60s. Attorney Ed Masry and Erin



.....ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

PRISONER LISTING

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

Earth liberation

- Darren Murray, FM 4729, HM Prison, Chelmsford Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LQ, England. Darren was an activist from the Golden Cross protest camp, set up to oppose the destruction of woodland to make way for luxury homes. The camp was evicted on May 12. He was arrested during the evictions and is now in HM Prison Chelmsford.
- Ted Kaczynski, #04475-046, POB 8500, Florence, CO 81226-8500.
- Wiebo A. Ludwig, Grand Cache Institution, Bag 4000, Grand Cache, Alberta, T0E 0Y0, Canada.
- Jeffrey Luers (Free) #1306729 and Criag Marshall (Crittter) #1340996, both at 101 W 5th Street, Eugene, OR 97401. Both are awaiting trial on arson charges.

June 18

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

Animal liberation

- Justin Samuel—UPDATE! If Justin pleads guilty to a few misdemeanors, receives a sentence of time served PLUS restitution, and one year of supervision (provided by his mom), he will be released soon.
- Aaron Rudra, PB 43, 5726 Vaksdal, Norway. Sentenced to 10 months for an arson attack against a slaughterhouse in Bergen.
- Barry Horne, VC2141, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0EB, England. Serving 18 years for various anti-vivisection arsons and attempted arsons.
- Darren Cole, FN4694, HMP Blakenhurst, Howell Lane, Redditch, Worcs, BN7 6QS, England. On remand for an anti-live exports bomb hoax at Dover Docks.
- Mel Broughton, DJ8216, HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Ave, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0NZ, England. Sentenced to four years imprisonment for conspiracy to cause explosions.
- Tony Humphries, AP7965, HMP Swaleside, Brabazon Rd, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4DZ, UK. Sentenced to seven years for conspiracy to cause explosions plus two years concurrent for possession of explosives.

MOVE

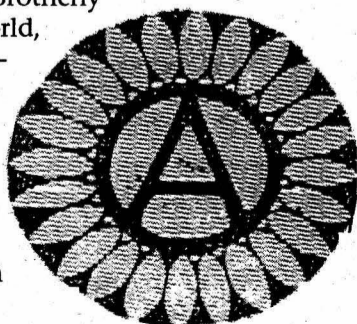
Move is an eco-revolutionary group whose members have been persecuted by the Philadelphia police throughout their existence, culminating in the police firebombing their commune in 1985.

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

GREEN ANARCHY #2

This issue covers the Battle in the City of Brotherly Love, the LA story, anarchy from around the world, the greening of anarchism, sustainable revolution and John Zerzan on transition. Plus the latest news from ecodefense, animal liberation, community resistance and prisoner news from here and around the world. Recommended for all Greens and Anarchists.

Number 3 out January 1, 2001.
Only \$2 per issue or \$10/5 issue subscription from POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440, USA.



National Forest Protection Convention

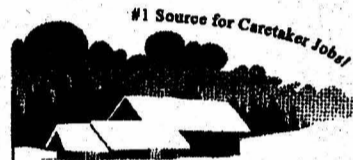
October 12-15, 2000
Trinity Mountain Ranch
Black Hawk, Colorado

A gathering of people dedicated to protecting and restoring the integrity of our nation's forests and public lands.

Join grassroots activists from across the nation as we build on the permanent protection of our national forests from commercial exploitation. The purpose of the National Forest Protection Alliance's annual convention is to review and revise the strategy to end commercial logging and exploitation of America's national forests.

For more information contact National Forest Protection Alliance, POB 8264, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 542-7565; www.forestadvocate.com.

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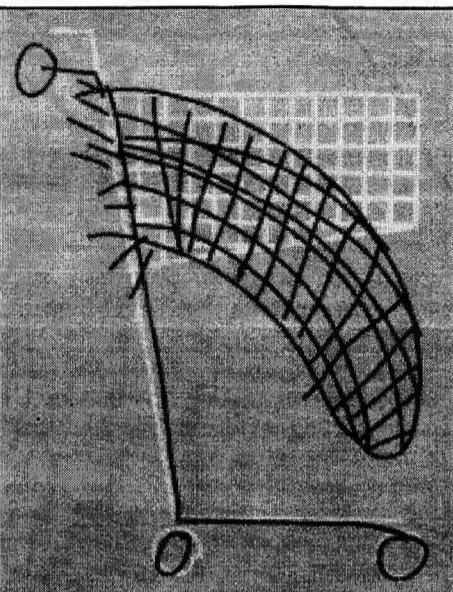
••Buckeye Gathering••
September 29 through October 1
Camp Geneva Hills, Ohio
Featuring: Keynote speaker Robin Smith, Music (Donna Mogavero, Matt Peters and Danny Dolinger), panel on globalization, cultural sharing, high ropes course, annual auction, medicinal plants identification and nature hikes.

For more information contact the Buckeye Forest Council, POB 99, Athens, OH, 45701; (740) 594-6400.

Self-Education Foundation

We are building a movement to support self-education and self-advocacy by strategically funding inspired, community-based programs.

For more information contact the Self-Education Foundation, POB 30790, Philadelphia, PA 19104-0790; www.selfeducation.org.



BUY NOTHING DAY

November 24

This year, more people than ever will join the 24-hour consumer denial. This year's theme: First world denial about overconsumption. We—the people of the world's wealthiest nation—consume 86 percent of the world's resources and produce most of its garbage.

For more information, contact *Adbusters Magazine*, 1243 W. 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1B7, Canada; (604) 763-9401; 737-6021 (fax); tom@adbusters.org; www.adbusters.org.



THE NIGHTTIME GARDENERS

Harvest 2000 Edition

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Send stamps to NGG c/o POB 11331 Eugene, OR 97440 or email nighttimegardeners@angelfire.com for a copy.

.....ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

JOIN US TO SAVE THE SLOCAN!

Slocan Valley, Kootenay Mountains, BC

The foul and heinous villains are hell bent on the destruction of our watershed via quasi-clearcutting.

We are at a pivotal point in our struggle. Roadbuilding is in progress. If it continues, they will have access to enough timber to finance the completion of the road system throughout the entire valley.

We are desperate. This community has been fighting this for 20 years, and the time has come to ask for outside help. With this in mind, we need folks who are sensitive to veteran warriors, can work well in a diverse group, are self-sufficient go-getters, and can get down!

We need action planners and engineers, musicians, art and revolution types, lots of support people, experienced creative blockaders, anyone familiar with the Canadian forest tenure system or lots of money!

We're activists who've worked on many campaigns, all over North America, and now we're fighting for our own backyards. All of you who've sent out the calls to action that we've answered—we need *your* help now.

For more information, contact (888) 7-WATER-1; www.watertalk.org and click on EACT.

HELP DEFEND CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST COASTAL LAGOON

California's largest coastal lagoon and unsurpassed wetlands habitat is in danger of being illegally drained by the Pacific Shores "subdivision" development. One night in May, there was an illicit attempt to breach the sandbar that protects the lake/wetland habitat during the summer months. Had the attempt been successful, it would have created a biological disaster. The Friends of Del Norte and Lake Earl Audubon have been assisting California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) by maintaining a nightly vigil in defense of the lagoon. Monitors alert CDFG's game wardens, who respond immediately to any unusual activity. The risk of breaching the lagoon will lessen as the lake naturally evaporates to a lower level in mid-July. Until then, activists are needed to camp out for one night or more at the edge of the lagoon. The camp area is vehicle accessible and behind a locked gate. Moonlight kayak and canoe trips, bird watching, and a coastal vacation are the rewards for joining this vigil.

Lake Earl coastal lagoon has been managed for the last 10 years at its current level by California's Department of Fish and Game. This follows a pioneer history of the lagoon being breached and drained whenever it suited the surrounding farmers. Today, it has become a nature lover's paradise and a restored habitat for otter, beaver, tens of thousands migrating and nesting bird species. Peregrine falcons and Bald eagles have returned to hunt its shores. Where it once hosted runs of coho, chinook and even sturgeon, today it acts as a nursery and home for cutthroat trout, providing habitat for the endangered tidewater gobi, the threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly, and rare nesting sites for the American bitterns, Virginia rails, and the Western grebe.

To plug in, contact Eileen and Friends of Del Norte at (707) 465-8904 or email Susan at focusnature@linkcc.com or Karen at wdelf@gateway.net.

--Cansolidated-- --Cansolidated--

Cansolidated is the Canadian sshNews *they* don't want you to hear! Each issue reports on direct action campaigns throughout Canada.

(Canada is a name used to describe the landmass north of the 49th parallel. It is not being used in recognition of a federal nation-state that exists as a result of colonization and genocide.)

For more information or to subscribe, send stamps or donations payable to EF! Cansolidated, 1782 Venables, Vancouver, V5L 2H4, BC, Canada; (250) 653-2439; cansolidated@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~resist.

Get Your Feet Muddy In Ecuador!

Come join the Mangrove Action Project and FUNDECOL on a volunteer eco-work/study tour to reforest mangroves in Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador, November 5-18.

Help contribute to the restoration of the once magnificent mangrove forest of Muisne, Ecuador; the Coastal Fisheries, the major source of income and food for 80 percent of the local population; the biodiversity, habitat for numerous aquatic, bird, amphibian and mammal species; and the protection of people, communities and lands against violent tropical storms, erosion, and ground water salinization.

Over 90 percent of the mangrove forests in Muisne are destroyed. About 80 percent of this loss is directly attributed to the production of aquacultured shrimp.

We need your help. Join our volunteer team, or donate some of the cash you might have spent on a shrimp dinner. Together, we will make a difference!

For more information, contact Mangrove Action Project, mangroveap@olympus.net.

ONWARD!

Onward is a quarterly Anarchist Newspaper produced by the Onward Collective. Our intent is to facilitate both a report of anarchist actions throughout the world, as well as foster analysis of current events from an anarchist perspective, all in the process of building an intelligent, well informed and powerful revolutionary movement. Our goal is to show the relation of the different liberation struggles (animal, Earth and human) and the unification of often separated movements. As far as we're concerned, different anarchist viewpoints (syndicalist, feminist, green etc.) are not mutually exclusive but rather all fit together in the larger revolutionary framework. The short-term goal is unification which will result in the long-term goal and action of social revolution.

Get your copy of *Onward* now. Subscriptions for one year are \$7-10 national, and \$12-15 international (including Canada). As always, subscriptions are free to prisoners. Single issues are \$2, postage paid. Send cash, checks, or money orders to *Onward* to POB 2671, Gainesville, FL 32602-2671; onward@doityourself.com.



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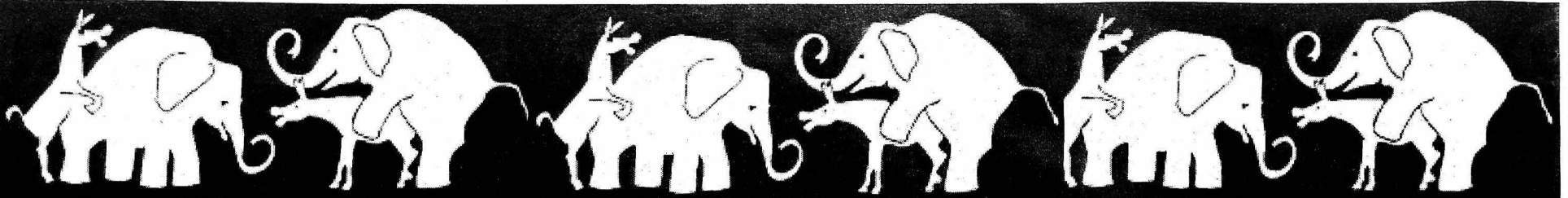
**E Magazine, P.O. Box 2047, Marion, OH 43305
For Faster Service Call 1-800-967-6572!**

Attention!

Last issue, on page two, we used a graphic that belongs to W.I.C.C.A. (Women in Conscious Creative Action). They can be reached a POB 5296, Eugene, OR 97405; (541) 942-0889; normahp@cyberis.net.



from us to you.



I SURE DO WANNA RALPH

BY JIMMY "THE LIBERAL" FLYNN

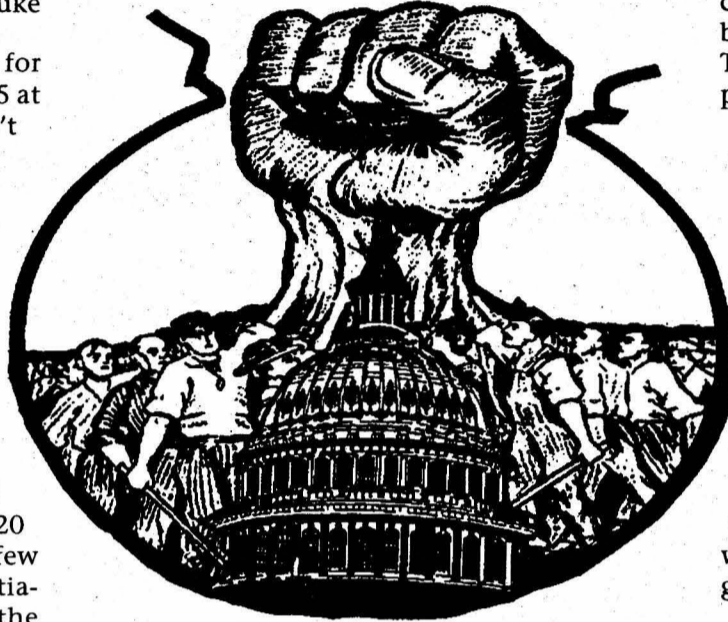
What do traffic jams, standing ovations, T-shirts, green, blue, red and spiked hair, Doc Martens, leather jackets, old folks, playful children, white liberals, lawyers, Christian women, Eagle Creek, bumperstickers, pepper spray and Winona LaDuke have in common?

Well, they all came together at the rally for Ralph Nader in Portland, Oregon, on August 25 at the Memorial Coliseum. (There actually wasn't any pepper spray there, but Winona said that she would like to see a future free of it.) What was really astounding about the event was that it appeared that all 10,000 in attendance loved ancient forests, tree sitters, Eagle Creek and even Earth First!

Much to my amazement, Ivan Maluski, veteran forest defender with the Cascadia Forest Alliance was on stage with Ralph, Winona, the Master of Ceremonies Greg Kafoury (who happens to be my pepper spray attorney, but that is another story...) and Lloyd Marbet (largely responsible for stopping the 20 nuke plants planned for Oregon). After a few speakers talking about upcoming ballot initiatives, Ivan took the podium. If you've ever had the pleasure of hearing Ivan speak, you know what a fine orator he is. When he talked about Eagle Creek and ending all logging of ancient forests, the crowd went wild. But what really set them off and gave Ivan a well-deserved standing ovation (the first big one of the night), was when he ended his speech with "Earth First!, Profits Last!" Ten

thousand people were on their feet screaming wildly, stomping their feet, and clapping as loud as they could to "Earth First!" It was surreal. Our movement has come a long way.

Tre Arrow was also on stage at the event, and



clearly the crowd knew and loved him. Apparently, living on a nine-inch ledge in downtown Portland for 11 days protesting the logging of Eagle Creek was something the crowd wholeheartedly supported (see *EF!* August-September 2000). From the applause it was also clear that those in attendance

supported Tre, Winona and Ralph's call for an end to all commercial logging on public land.

The whole night was a socially conscious green liberal's dream. Beyond the repeated calls for canceling the Eagle Creek Timber Sale, Ralph also called for ending corporate welfare, establishing community radio and TV stations, legalizing hemp, breaching dams, repealing the antiunion 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, and taxing stock transactions, polluters and land speculators.

Winona, who was visibly pregnant, called for reconciling our relationship to the Earth, a solar- and wind-powered economy, cultural diversity in conjunction with biological diversity, a seventh-generation public policy and a repeal of the 1872 Mining Act and the recent Taylor Grazing Act.

After repeated cheers of "Let Ralph Debate!," Gore and Bush made quick guest appearances in chicken suits. There were large, two-headed Gore/Bush puppets, green flags, banners, balloons and lots of fired-up people. The fact that it seemed like everyone had chosen to drive to a Green Party event (green gridlock) was about as sad as Ralph's chances of winning, but I did leave thinking there is a new green movement rising, and I want to be part of it.

If you want to be part of the excitement and vote for someone who speaks our language, join Ani DiFranco, Eddie Vedder, Willie Nelson, Paul Newman, Phil Donahue and me in working to elect Nader and LaDuke. If you don't want to, stay home, watch TV and sew patches on your hoody.

For more information, contact Environmentalists Against Gore, POB 2190, Eugene, OR 97402.

★ ★ Only Sheep Need Leaders ★ ★

BY UN-VOTER

"You cannot dive into a swamp and remain clean."

—ALEXANDER BERKMAN

Since the entire Earth First! network would never (well, maybe someday...) self-identify as anarchist, the prominent use of direct action and the deep critique of the domination inherent in industrialism often seem like a contradiction. As the spectacle of a presidential election rolls around, this contradiction is glaringly obvious to the anarchists among us.

Direct action is not just a tactic one uses when the bureaucracy fails to protect your favorite forest or wetland. For anarchists, it is the preferred way of doing things. It is, in itself, an ideology, a strategy and a tactic. In case you haven't noticed, and hopefully you have, government exists to facilitate corporate profits—just look at the Forest Service as an example. Progressives believe this has not always been the case and that corporate influence could be lessened with the right people at the helm. Sounds great, but why delude yourself into thinking that within this capitalist system, corporate influence in politics could ever be lessened?

For a movement that seemingly strives to eradicate industrialism and domination of the Earth, why would we settle for a "lessened" assault on nature anyway? And more fundamentally, why would we want to lend any support whatsoever to a political system that is only constrained in the most superficial way by public participation? Sounds like a very privileged, feel-good

attitude. Have we really lost so much hope in a radical transformation that we would glorify the possibility of a nice guy like Nader in office? I could understand other more reform-based groups lending him support, but Earth Firsters?

Besides the fact that capitalism is more fundamental to eco-devastation or cultural genocide than

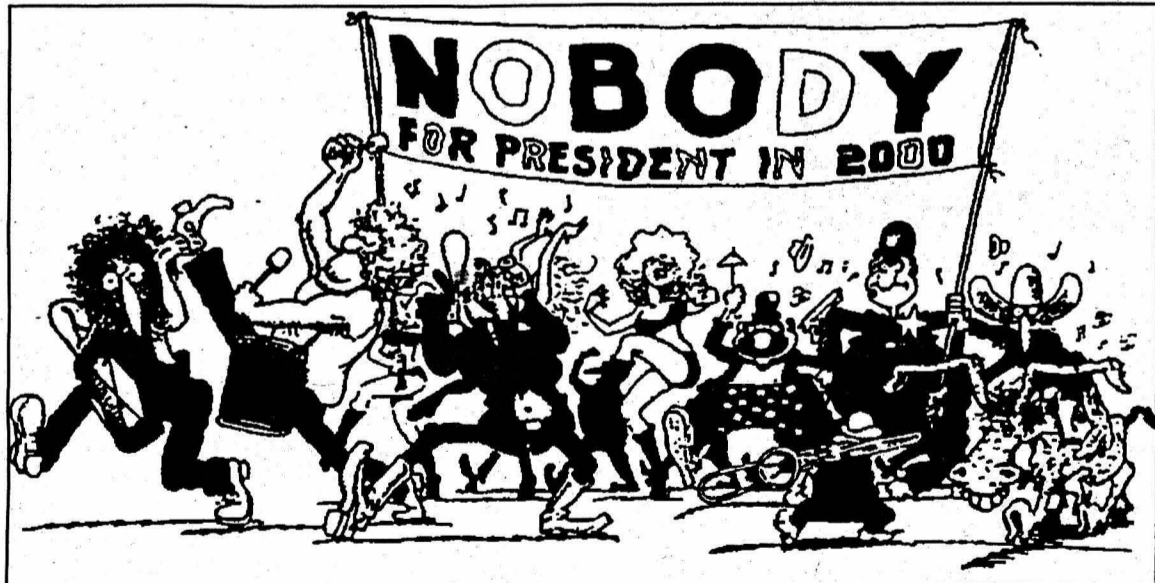
should be a continuous rejection of the nation-state and all its insidious rules that serve the capitalist empire—not just a meek protest of the individuals in government or the various laws they propose to lessen the blows of capital. *Not* voting is more than just a "protest" of the status quo. It's a way to physically *reject* being governed, especially by a genocidal, classist,

racist, colonizing bureaucracy that knows very well what it's doing. To participate in this system, even if in support of someone you believe will do less harm, is to validate it, and more importantly—to participate is to not challenge it. *EF!*ers should be actively campaigning *against* participation in politics.

Though well-meaning "radicals" would like to see voting as a method of winning support for single issues such as environmental protection, the electoral process is just one more alienated institution. If one is looking to abolish capital-

ism, industrialism and statism, there is no excuse for voting. If one is looking for temporary relief for oppressed wildlands or wildlife then go ahead and pull that lever. But given that the political climate could easily turn against your cause at any time, with that vote you may be perpetuating the *next* crisis of extinction, or the *next* drug war, or the *next* private prison, simply by legitimizing the system that makes it all possible.

For more arguments against voting, check out "Choose And Lose" on Mid-Atlantic Infoshop's web site: www.infoshop.org/voting.html.



bought-off politicians are (the cause vs. the symptom), anarchists look at the system of representation and majority rule as inherently suppressive to individual liberties. Self-rule is not some concept devised to allow unaccountable antisocial behavior, as majoritarians and statists often argue. It is an extension of direct action.

The culture of direct action should be an antidote to politics itself, and an opportunity for us to empower our communities, tribes and bioregions to organize ourselves according to need and desire. This vision is simply incompatible with electoral politics. Our lives



Albert Gore ★★★★★ A Serious Critique of Politics and the Environment

BY MICHAEL ROBINSON

Much of Ralph Nader's support is based on the false premise that the differences between Al Gore and George W. Bush are negligible, and that at least people won't be lulled into inaction under an explicitly anti-Earth president—thus allowing the possibility of radical change under Bush that a Gore presidency would forestall.

However, there are significant policy differences between the Democrats and Republicans. Dick Cheney's signature issue in the House of Representatives was opposition to wolf reintroduction. He also distinguished himself as one of only eight representatives nationwide to vote against the Clean Water Act and co-sponsored legislation to give away all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to any state whose governor requested them. The states could then sell or give the public land to ranchers or oil companies.

Bush has pledged to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and has ensconced Terry Anderson, who advocates privatizing all public lands, as his primary environmental advisor. Bush has also promised to "reform" the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by eliminating critical habitat designation and consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Both Gore and Joe Lieberman have long fought drilling in the refuge. Despite the Clinton administration's failure to list species under the ESA and to designate critical habitat, the current administration has blocked legislation to completely gut the ESA. Meanwhile, ESA litigation has resulted in current proposals to designate over 70 million acres as critical habitat, and in recent years, has saved millions of acres from logging and other destruction.

We have also garnered millions more acres as national monuments and parks under Clinton. Cheney

promises to rescind the new monuments. True, most of the new monument lands are still grazed, but Clinton's first such designation in 1996 eventually led to removal of cattle from the Escalante River. We are also on the verge of administratively protecting most roadless national forest lands, and Gore proposes extending such protection to the Tongass National Forest as well.

Nader supporters rightly point out

lished in 1992 it represented a political gamble (that Gore today seems to doubt the tactical wisdom of given the paucity of interest then or now in the greenhouse effect). Political compromise is the only way to get in a position for a viable run for the presidency. If Gore is elected he will likely compromise other agendas if necessary to address global warming.

Gore has pledged to push Congress to pass the McCain-Feingold cam-

pany difference. We didn't save very many acres during the Reagan and Bush Administrations at the height of public disapprobation for their anti-environmental policies. The real pay-off to "radical" action then has come through the partial adoption of our agenda by the Clinton administration. Nor will a strong Nader showing in 2000 result in a Green Party president in 2004 or 2008.

So would Nader's throwing the election to Bush get us a better Democratic candidate in 2004? Gore certainly is no saint; one doesn't get within grasping distance of the White House through ecological purity. But consider the opening page of *Earth in the Balance*:

"The edifice of civilization has become astonishingly complex, but as it grows ever more elaborate, we feel increasingly distant from our roots in the Earth. In one sense, civilization itself has been on a journey from its foundations in the world of nature to an ever more contrived, controlled, and manufactured world of our own imitative and sometimes arrogant design. And in my view, the price has been high. At some point during this journey we lost our feeling of connectedness to the rest of nature.

We now dare to wonder: Are we so unique and powerful as to be essentially separate from the Earth?"

These are the thoughts of someone who understands something of the roots of the crisis we face. It's worth giving him a try.

Elemental Politics ★★★★★

The fire at Los Alamos had one significant consequence. A secret scientific document was discovered in a bunker whose security systems were mostly destroyed by the fire. This document was leaked to the public.

Actually it reveals nothing that we didn't already suspect. But it does show that the government has known all along that besides arsenic, lead, mercury, radon, strontium and plutonium, one more extremely deadly and pervasive element also exists.

Investigators at a major research institution have discovered the heaviest element known to science. This startling new discovery has been tentatively named governmentium (Gv) but kept top secret for 50 years. This new element has no protons or electrons, thus having an atomic number of zero. It does, however, have one neutron, 125 deputy neutrons, 75 supervisory neutrons and 111 team leader neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by a force called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called

peons. Since it has no electrons, governmentium is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

According to the discoverers, a minute amount of governmentium causes one reaction to take more than four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second. Governmentium has a normal half-life of approximately three years; it does not decay but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the deputy neutrons, supervisory neutrons and team leader neutrons exchange places.

In fact, a governmentium sample's mass will actually increase over time, since with each reorganization some of the morons inevitably become neutrons forming new isotopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to speculate that governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as the "critical morass."

You will know it when you see it. If you've got the lightbulb screwed in right.

Al Gore's complicity in ecocide and genocide in Colombia through his stock (in a blind trust he does not manage) in Occidental Petroleum. But

so what if perhaps his motives aren't pristine. Politics always means partial victories at best. We don't have to know (or care) what's in Gore's soul; it is what he will do as president that matters. If only

for the fact that environmentalists are part of the coalition the Democratic Party counts on, we have an excellent chance with Gore to retain the ESA, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, BLM public lands and the new national monuments.

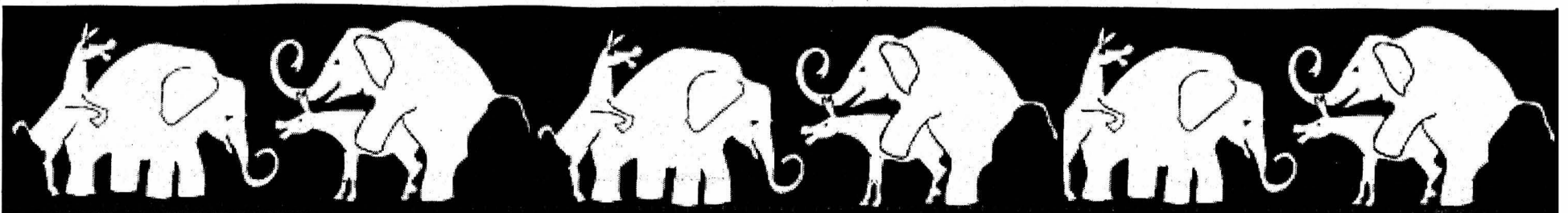
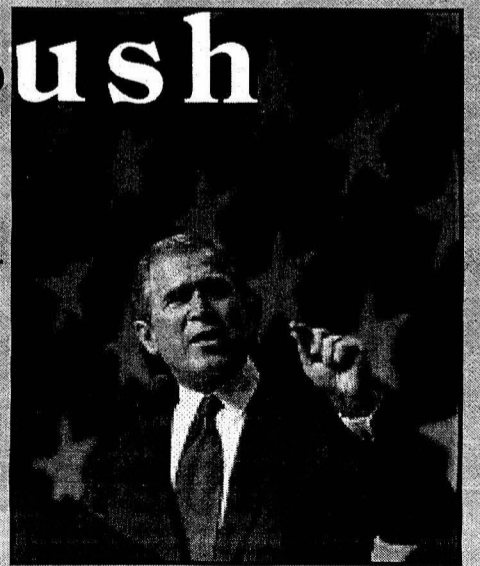
Gore's book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*, which by all accounts he wrote himself, focused on global climate change—a call to action (including phasing out automobiles) written before the evidence for global warming became as compelling as it is today. When pub-



photo courtesy Corbin.com

campaign finance reform bill. Though it is not the final answer, without passage of this bill reclaiming democracy from corporations will prove almost impossible. Bush has stated his opposition. "Sending a message" by voting for Nader will make a pal-

Vote Bush Hasten our demise



BARE BONES

Tarahumara Child Dies after Anti-drug Spraying

Some 300 Tarahumara indigenous people became sick and a 2-year old child died because of aerial spraying on June 12 by the Federal Judicial Police in Chorogui, Guachochi municipality in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua. A complaint was filed with the State Human Rights Commission (CEDH) on July 31 by the heads of 60 families. The Chorogui residents charge that instead of spraying herbicide on a marijuana field—as part of the government's drug interdiction program—an airplane belonging to the federal Attorney General's Office (PGR) dropped the herbicide directly on the community.

Residents say they are now suffering from respiratory problems, temporary blindness, vomiting and skin lesions; 2-year-old Armida Muela Loera died two days after coming in contact with the powder sprayed by the airplane, according to the Tarahumara. They also charge that police agents raided some homes and destroyed farming tools.

Blocking Foreign Nuclear Waste in Russia

On August 3, a group of environmental activists from different Russian cities held a protest action asking the governor of the Chelyabinsk region to stop plans to import foreign nuclear waste to Russia. Activists also demanded improved social protection of the residents living in radiation-contaminated areas and protested against the construction of the dangerous South Ural nuclear power plant.

Thirty activists blocked the entrance to Governor Pan Sumin's residence in the center of Chelyabinsk and set out huge banners reading "Sumin, don't let down under Minatom!" and "No nuclear waste!" The action was extremely nonviolent.

The action took place for only a few moments when the governor's security attempted to destroy the blockade. For the next 20 minutes, the police, acting extremely violently, tried to take apart the blockaders, handcuffing some to a nearby fence. Security did not have enough handcuffs for everyone and was unable to disconnect and isolate all of the protesters.

Trident Thwarted in Seattle

The USS *Alabama*, a Trident nuclear submarine carrying the explosive power of 1,000 Hiroshima nuclear bombs, was held up at the Hood Canal Bridge west of Seattle, Washington, on August 2, when three protesters placed themselves around the opening spans of the bridge.

Two protesters, Chernobyl and Michael Mossberg, locked down to the top of the bridge and unfurled a banner reading, "No Trident." John Reese positioned himself under the east span of the bridge, which blocked the bridge from opening. For 20 minutes the most powerful nuclear weapon on the planet was disabled.

The USS *Alabama* is one of four Bangor, Washington, submarines slated to be overhauled to carry larger Trident II (D-5) missiles.

Even though opening the bridge posed great risk to the three protesters the Washington State Patrol ordered state employees to open the bridge with the protesters still locked down. The bridge was then raised with them on it and Reese was pushed by the bridge as the east span opened.

All three were taken into custody after the sub passed through. They were charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct and then released.

Tips For Ticketees When Dealing With Ranger Rick

continued from page 1

Key Republican Congressmen, Vice President Al Gore and the recreation industry made that decision for us long ago.

The demonstration taking place on public lands today is designed only to test how to charge and collect recreation user fees in ways that people will pay-up with a minimum of complaint. Every test site within the demonstration program is a unique experiment in fee charging and fee collection. As a result, there is no one answer that applies universally. But there are generalizations that can be made.

This advice comes without warranty. I've worked with hundreds of people who, collectively, have seen it all. One woman has received 18 notices without ever receiving a genuine ticket. One man has been to court multiple times for Fee-Demo offenses and has won every time. Another was apprehended at gunpoint and, after being jailed overnight, has never received a trial date after nearly two years. Two men, after making it clear they would embarrass the Forest Service in court, had their cases dropped at the last moment. Another man lost in court but won big in the press because the Fee-Demo Program was exposed for the wise-use, corporate backed crap that it is. Other persons have lost in court and have nothing positive to show for their efforts.

There are no simple answers. What appears below is some of the best advice available, but please don't ask for a refund if it doesn't work for you. I'm not a lawyer, and this is not legal advice.

Do not buy a pass. The mere act of purchasing a pass is counted as proof that you support the Fee-Demo Program. Agencies measure success based upon the number of customers who continue to use a test site after implementation of the fee and upon the revenues collected at that site. If you do not want to be counted as supporting user fees but are unwilling to accept any risks associated with being defiant toward this program, then don't use public lands where fees are being charged.

The fines are real. The fact that this is a demonstration does not mean that the Forest Service can not issue tickets. They can, they do and the maximum fine authorized by Congress for a Fee-Demo offense is \$100. Failure to cooperate with a law enforcement officer who may be trying to write you a ticket is a different offense and carries severe penalties.

You probably didn't get a ticket. Few people receive genuine tickets. Most receive Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs). A NNC is a toothless threat demanding that you pay the fee after the fact or risk a much larger fine. If you receive an actual ticket, you may choose to think of it as an invitation to court and as a risk-laden opportunity to inflict significant damage upon the fee-demo program. As an alternative, you may choose to pay the ticket and admit defeat. Those really are the only two options available.

Ignore all NNCs. These pieces of litter are not worth the paper they are written

on. The Forest Service's NNCs attempt to bust you on the grounds of Regulation 36 CFR 261.15. This offense is committed when someone fails to purchase a recreation pass. If a forest officer or volunteer compliance flunky leaves one of these pieces of trash on your car, they do so without any probable cause. They do not know who committed the supposed offense, they do not know whether you were recreating and they do not know that a pass was not purchased,

themselves and who ask the judge whether the Forest Service has provided "probable cause" have never failed to have their cases dismissed. In many courts, people who do not show up for their own hearing have their cases dismissed en masse for this reason. Some US Attorneys will no longer prosecute these cases. The Forest Service is acting like a bunch of thugs, but their bark turns out to be far worse than their bite.

Another was apprehended at gunpoint and, after being jailed overnight, has never received a trial date after nearly two years. Two men, after making it clear they would embarrass the Forest Service in court, had their cases dropped at the last moment.

even if none was displayed.

You can do better than ignoring a NNC. Ignoring NNCs, as suggested above, is a silent, invisible and therefore weak form of protest. Some people send these notices back to the Forest Service along with a note saying what they think of the Fee Demonstration Program. It is important that your concerns be heard, but read on, before choosing this particular route.

Don't accidentally admit guilt. Many people return NNCs to the Forest Service saying they would never buy a pass because the passes are wrong, immoral, or any one of a dozen other good reasons. In so doing they are not only registering their heartfelt opposition to this demonstration program, they are admitting guilt. Until you

The fact that the average citizen can't use public lands without appearing to support Fee-Demo is the Catch 22 that Congress and its corporate partners so cleverly built into the Fee Demonstration Program. If you pay, you are counted as supporting the program. If you do not pay, you are very likely breaking the law as the law was written. You may not be!

If you are using a forest for educational, religious, spiritual, work related or other non-recreational purposes, or if you set foot on public lands to exercise your Constitutional rights, then you need not purchase a recreation pass. Unfortunately, the burden of proof will likely be upon you. Whether you are found innocent or guilty will depend upon your ability to present your case convincingly and upon the personal proclivity of the judge who hears it.

Those are the basic rules of the road, but they alone won't get you very far. More significantly, I've said little that will help you to be effective in ending this egregious program. I can, however, offer the following:

The man or woman who gets a ticket, who fights it in court on the basis that the program is morally wrong, who is found guilty and is fined, who refuses to pay

the fine, who is found to be in contempt of court and who accepts jail time because he or she would not pay to walk in the woods and who does all of the above with the media in attendance, will accomplish more to defeat the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program than any other person has done in the entire four years this program has been in existence.

So after all that, you may ask still ask: "What should I do?" If you'd like an answer that better fits your particular circumstances, please give me a call, or drop me a note and I'll be glad to help.

For more information, contact Wild Wilderness, 248 NW Wilmington Ave., Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5261; ssilver@wildwilderness.org; www.wildwilderness.org.

Scott Silver, is co-founder and executive director of Wild Wilderness. "Don't Buy It!" bumper and windshield stickers are available, at no charge, upon request.



tell the Forest Service that you did not purchase a pass, chances are they have no proof that you committed the offense for which they have accused you. When contacting the Forest Service, never admit you did not purchase a pass, that you refuse to purchase a pass or that you were in the forest for recreational purposes.

Tell it to the judge. If you choose trial, it is probably to your advantage to request trial by a US judge rather than a magistrate. A US judge is less likely to be influenced by local agencies. No person to date (that we know of) has ever received a trial date when they requested to be tried by a federal judge. A ruling in favor of the defendant by a US judge could result in a nationwide set back against the enforcement of the Fee-Demo Program and it appears that the Forest Service is unwilling to assume that risk.

People who have not incriminated

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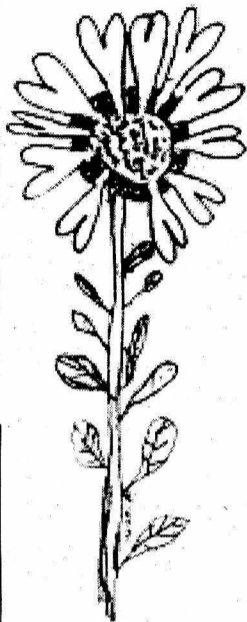
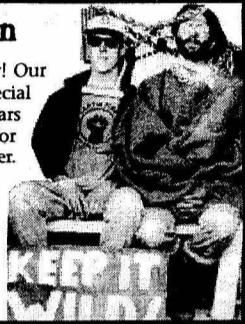
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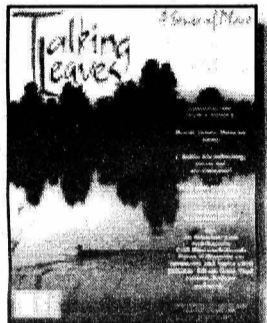
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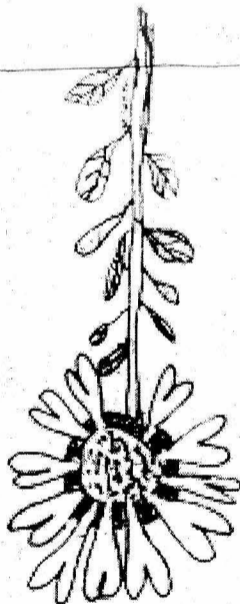
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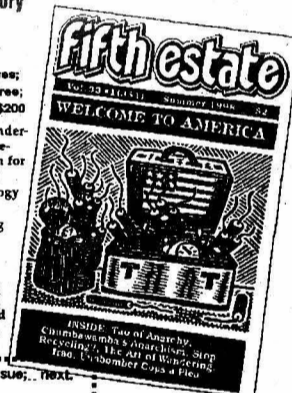
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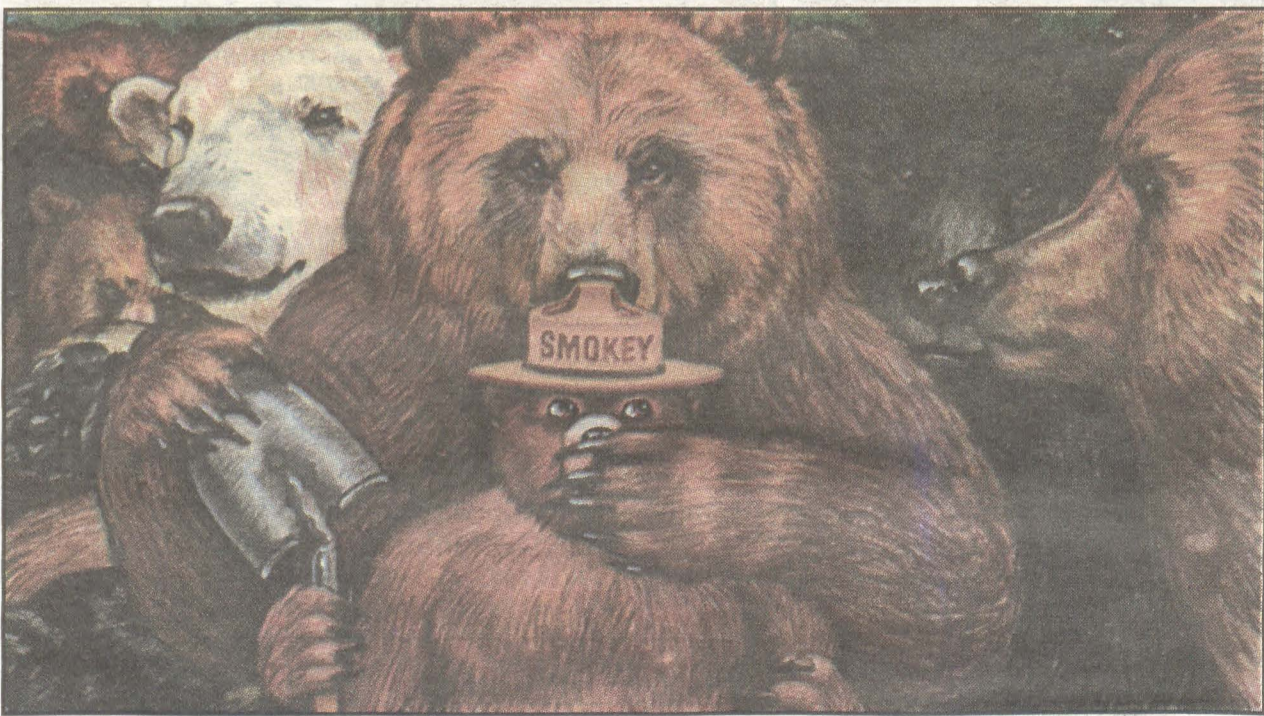
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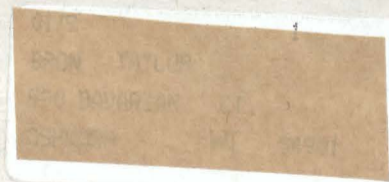
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