



Environment & Society Portal

Suggested citation: Ryberg, Erik, et al., eds., *Earth First!* 12, no. 3 (2 February 1992).
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Earth First!

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Brigid 1992

Vol. XII, No. III

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

February 2

THREE DOLLARS

EF! Scuttles Blockbuster!



Hamish Ziegler in the Everglades EF! Escort Action storms the greed-hounds in a cigarette boat to protect Soldier Key.

A Critical Look at the First Year of Operation Mangrove Shield, the Struggle for Florida's Soldier Key

BY MARIA QUINTANA

The would-be developers of Florida's Soldier Key are at each others' throats because of the efforts of local boaters, Blockbuster Video boycott participants, Jim Sanders of Biscayne National Park and the National Park Service, the Florida Audubon Society, and a dozen or so local EF! activists. The partnership that bound the two main investors, H. Wayne Huizenga's Blockbuster Entertainment, and Robert Lambert, sleazebag Fort Lauderdale owner of the cruise barge Florida Princess and holder of an option to develop Soldier Key, went sour. Blockbuster, under intense public pressure, sued Florida Princess to stop their use of the Blockbuster name in "Blockbuster Cruises" and for \$540,000 of "bad debt." A Blockbuster spokesperson admitted that Soldier Key was a public relations disaster.

Since Operation Mangrove Shield began in November of 1990, now is a good time to take a critical look at the first year of a campaign by a young southeastern EF! group.

Soldier Key is a wild, privately-owned 3.5-acre island in Biscayne National Park. Three species of endangered sea turtles nest there, including the Hawksbill, which has called it home in three of the twelve known Florida nestings since 1959. Lambert, the scheme's promoter, needed big bucks from an investor like Huizenga to develop the island into a stopover for his cheesy cruises. Huizenga, morally oblivious to everything he and his money do until the reviews come in, sailed blithely into the deal. The plan was outlined in a brochure at Florida Princess headquarters and on a Blockbuster Cruises brochure that described a cruise package to "our own private island, Soldier Key." Florida Princess Cruise Lines began to answer its phone as "Blockbuster Cruises," and Lambert started running up debts and paying them with Blockbuster money. The joint venture was so ambitious that the entrepreneurs even bought a real cruise ship, the *Entertainer II*, and slapped a picture of it on the brochure.

We began to plan the campaign in November, 1990, after the Boulder Activist Conference. We decided to work on issues affecting Biscayne Bay, since we were inexperienced, few, and had little money. The Everglades seemed a huge issue, and the closest of the agencies involved, the South Florida Water Management District, is three hours' drive from Miami. Biscayne Bay, on the other hand, is within five miles from where we all live on the eastern estuary of the River of Grass. Among the many threats to Biscayne Bay's ecological health, we chose the proposed development of Soldier Key because it was at a critical phase, because it was a discrete issue that involved few government bureaucracies, and because we felt that our efforts could make a difference. We saw our campaign as a fight for biodiversity and against commercial development within the National Parks. There are several

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Developers Attack San Bruno Mountain

BY MARK HUNTINGTON

San Bruno Mountain, a 3,300-acre island of city-locked wilderness on the San Francisco Peninsula, has at last fallen to developers who intend to build 578 "residential units" on San Bruno's south end. San Bruno, the largest city-locked open space in the US, forms the terminus of an entire ecosystem and is home to six listed or proposed endangered animals and fifteen rare and/or endangered plants, including the endangered Mission Blue butterfly.

Dubbed the "Franciscan Region" by botanist James Roof, the biological center of this habitat was Mt. Davidson (now the hills of San Francisco) and its northern extremity was the southern tip of the Marin headlands. Today almost the entire region is buried under the city of San Francisco.

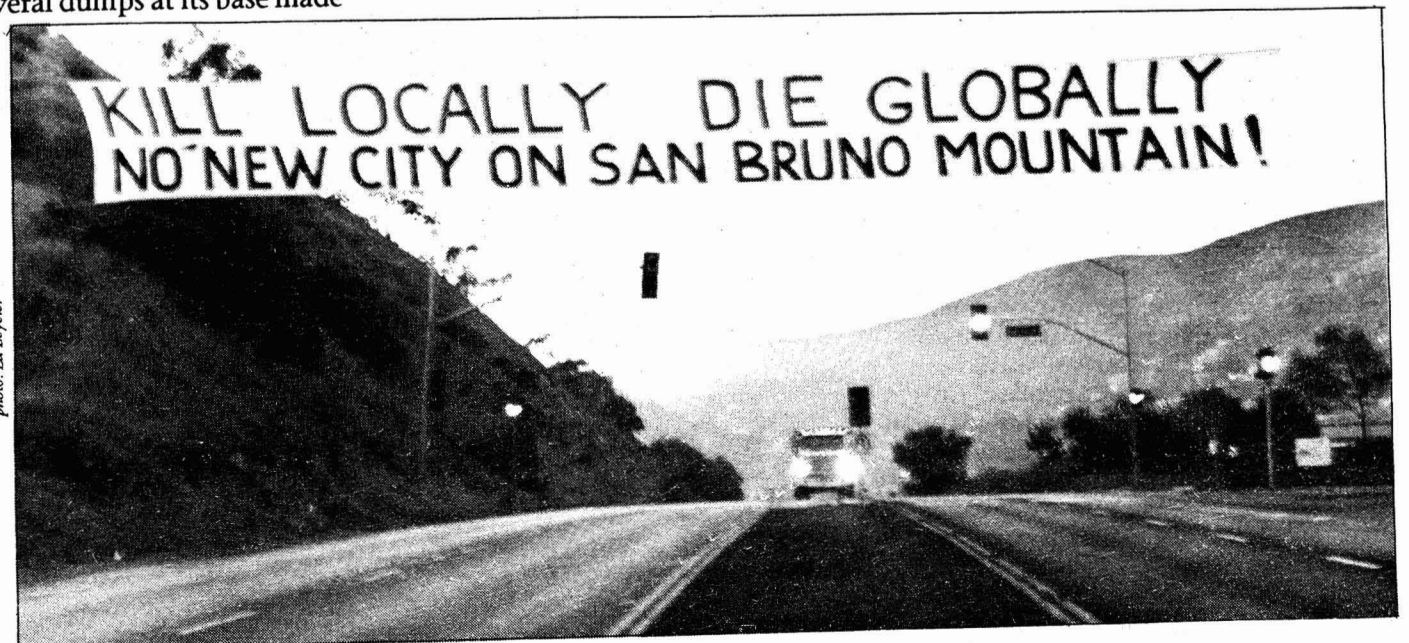
The conditions that make the Franciscan region unique are well known to anyone who has ever lived in San Francisco. The constant ocean winds and summer fog pound their way across this part of the peninsula relentlessly, making it in effect a giant sea bluff. In fact, according to James Roof, it's the biggest sea bluff in the state. The severe winds and relatively mild climate make possible an incredible variety of grasses, shrubs, wild flowers and small trees. Everything from Alaskan bunch grass to Mexican wild cherries can be found on San Bruno Mountain. Oak, bay, three kinds of cherries, buckeye, wax myrtle and willow trees crowd into the margins around creek beds protected from the wind. This kind of diversity can't be found in sea bluff habitat anywhere else in the state.

Surrounded entirely by the urban world of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, it is only through a peculiar miracle that this isolated remnant of wilderness still exists at all: several dumps at its base made it a stinky place to live.

But this autumn bulldozers, graders, backhoes and huge trucks worked feverishly, loading the tangled remains of the willows that once lined the creek, gouging out hillsides, filling in valleys, extending roads, all in an attempt to get as much done as possible to avoid protesters, lawsuits and winter rains.

Bay Area Earth First! has made saving San Bruno one of its top priorities since the mid 1980s. This has been a campaign of many alliances, spear-headed in part by David Schooley, who has worked for 25 years to save the mountain from condo builders, quarry

continued on page 18



Get Ready!
Day of Outrage against US Forest Service
April 21st. See page 15.

EARTH FIRST!

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Just about a year ago, six inches of snow packed into crumpled ice by the semis stretched from Pocatello to Dillon, the Solstice dusk was approaching, and Carla just did not want to drive anymore. At the time, I wasn't having much luck with staying on the straight and narrow in automobiles. However, we had a tin Honda full of snake oil and trinkets that we were hauling up from Tucson on bellies full of mailing party pizza and beer, so I drove the long, slow way back to Missoula.

We set up the journal office in our living room for the first few issues before we made enough bucks to settle into our present office on the main drag in downtown Missoula, Montana. The past few years have been tumultuous for the Earth First! movement, and moving the journal to Missoula certainly contributed to that tumult.

This collective hashed out an article regarding the journal's workings and machinations to give readers a more clear idea of how this paper functions (page 4), though in truth, the journal functions a little differently with each collective. Over the year, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, New York, Oregon, and London have each been the home of a journal editor, while three editors have come from both Washington and Virginia, four from California, and ten from Montana (three of whom are transplanted Californians). We have attempted to reflect the various opinions in the EF! movement both by trying to select a wide array of opinions to print in the journal and a wide array of editors to work on the journal. Earth First! means many things to many people; we like to think we prefer to include in the journal some opinions that waver on the edge of Earth First!-like thought to provoke people into probing and defining their own personal and societal truths, or at least reaffirming them.

In the past, Earth Firsters have been as active as they wanted to be on the levels on which they wanted to be; after all, every Earth Firster should decide for herself what she is comfortable doing. We all define our own existence, or I hope we all try. In this light, many EF!ers hold divergent opinions on many issues. What we now face as a movement is the decision whether to allow and encourage divergent opinions in the movement or to demand adherence to a rigid doctrine, whatever that may be. In any case, some EF! activists will gather in Portland, Oregon, in early March for a conference to hash out the decisions that face the movement and plan strategies for future campaigns, particularly the National Day of Outrage against the Freddie's on April 21.

For the first year of publishing the journal in Missoula, the journal operated as a project of the Earth First! Foundation, which allowed us plenty of time to file for separate corporate status with the State of Montana and the IRS. As many readers may remember, EF!J, Inc., the corporate forerunner to the present journal, bestowed about \$8500 worth of salable merchandise, as well as about \$6000 in cash, on the present journal. A glance at our financial statement (see page 4) will indicate that we have operated a little in the black over the course of the year, and no reader should ever construe that the journal has been financially dependent on the Earth First! Foundation for operating costs. The Foundation gave \$2000 to the journal in October of 1990, which we promptly spent on technological gadgetry, as has been our wont with each surplus of cash we accumulate. (We have tried to acquire the gizmos for the journal that allow people with very

little experience or acumen to be able to produce a newspaper with only a modicum of training. Thus, whenever we built up a few thousand bucks, we have spent it to get (eventually) two computers, a laser printer, and a fax/modem with character recognition software. (Any future collectives are thus independent of anyone's personal equipment, because the equipment belongs to the journal, and as more and more people become familiar with journal production, more and more people in the movement become capable of producing the journal.) The Foundation donation meant that the journal could buy new toys in time for Christmas instead of waiting several months. The EF! Foundation has now changed its name, has indicated that it is no longer interested in supporting the journal, and in January of this year declined to fund a request for an EF! roadshow in the UK. In the past, the EF! Foundation had funded EF! roadshows and other educative and awareness-raising efforts, and one item that the movement needs to discuss at the upcoming activist conference is a funding body for EF! organizers, the traditional role of the EF! Foundation.

Another question open for debate is the role of EF! contacts listed in the Directory in each journal. The usual procedure to be listed on the contact list is simply to ask us to be listed, but each month the journal receives mail or calls from irritated citizens who claim that one contact or another is a dud, or that the contact blew them off ungraciously. For each issue of the journal, collective members get in touch, via phone or mail, with the list to make sure the listing is up-to-date and to get news from around the world, but we usually do not ask if the contact is doing a good job as a contact. Is there some sort of bare minimum that we should require from contacts, or should we let people sort themselves out as we have in the past? Let us know....

In this issue, Maria Quintana, the contact for Everglades EF!, recaps the struggle of EF!ers in south Florida to save Soldier Key from development financed partially by Blockbuster Entertainment. This critical retrospective on the efficacy of the campaign is a handy reference for any new activists, or activists starting a new campaign. In addition, Mitch Friedman, an EF!er who has formed a progressive conservation biology organization in the Northwest, explains his evolution from a rad EF! rabble-rouser in the streets and woods to being a rad EF! rabble-rouser on the DC lobby scene, perhaps widening a definition of EF! activism. Also in this issue, Wild Utah EF!, a group of activists based in and near Salt Lake City, contributed the Blank

Wall section of the journal. One bulletin that may cause readers to raise an eyebrow is the news that *Ecodefense* has been banned from further importation into Australia by the Commonwealth Censor. *Ecodefense*, by the way, is slowly dwindling out of print as Dave Foreman seeks a new publisher to buy the rights to the book. We offered to finance a limited printing of a thousand or so copies to meet present demand, but Dave demurred, so *Ecodefense* is now basically unavailable. The journal sold its last copies in November, but Ned Ludd Books (602-628-9610) may have a few copies left if you act fast.

The current collective features five first-time collectivists: Jim Flynn, of Stumptown EF!, refuses to use a computer—though he does watch football on tv and talk on the telephone at length—so he has chosen to lay out several pages of the journal by cutting and pasting by hand rather than using the computer. Your job is to try to figure out which pages these are. Abe, fresh off of an Ancient Forest Chataqua and a tour with Darryl Cherny, quickly discovered that the journal office was not the most favorable spread in town, and he and Laurene have become avid riders of the Mountain Line, Missoula's bus system. Laurene is just about the only one who can type, so she types everything. Sockeye Sue is a real artist, and boy-howdy, we sure ask her to draw a lot of everything, so you can notice her touch throughout this journal. Erik Ryberg is a pretty good mechanic, and Mangler has been after him lately to re-build the carburetor on a former Freddie truck that Mangler drives when we go skiing. I go skiing pretty often, and Mangler usually drives, so I hope Erik fixes that carb pretty quickly. The journal office has a couch and a carpet, and lately Jagoff and Snaggletooth have been testing the relative comforts of each, which is probably why Abe and Laurene bolted *post haste*. If you're ever in Missoula, drop by; we're usually drinking the cheapest beer available.

—TIMOTHY BECHTOLD

EARTH FIRST! Brigid February 2, 1991 Vol. XII, No. III

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Electronic submissions are even better, either on Macintosh disks or via Econet (send to "earthfirst") or fax it to 406-728-8160 on high (fine) resolution. Art or photographs (negatives are best, prints are good, and slides are so-so) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Please include explicit permission to reprint slides.

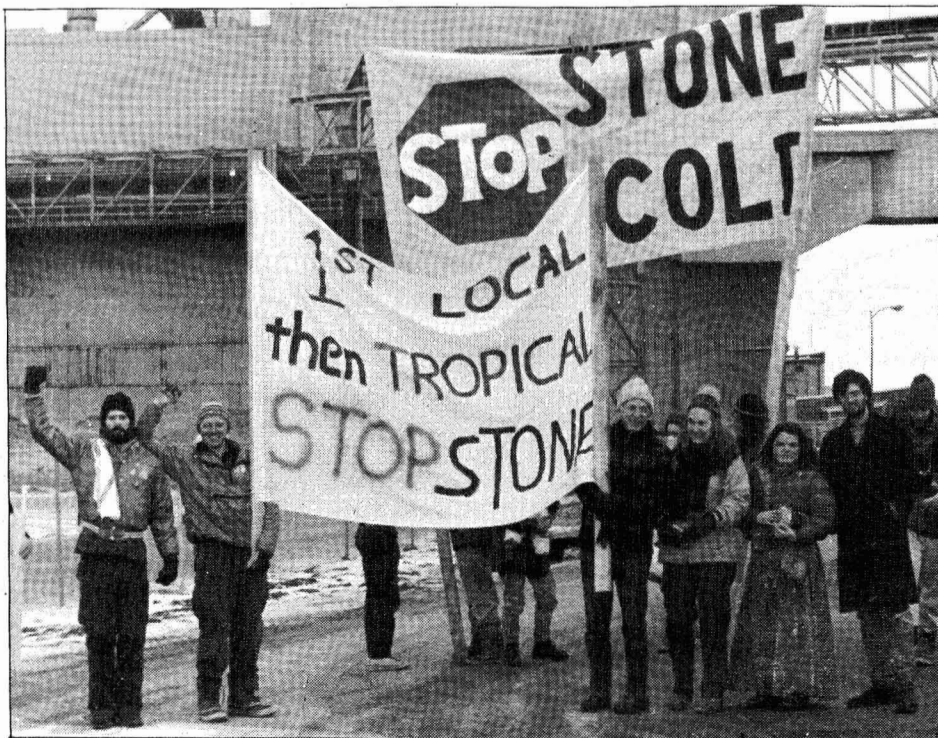
ISSN 1055-8411. *Earth First!* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index.

For subscriptions, merchandise orders, donations, inquiries, general correspondence, Letters to the Editor, articles, photos, etc., send to:

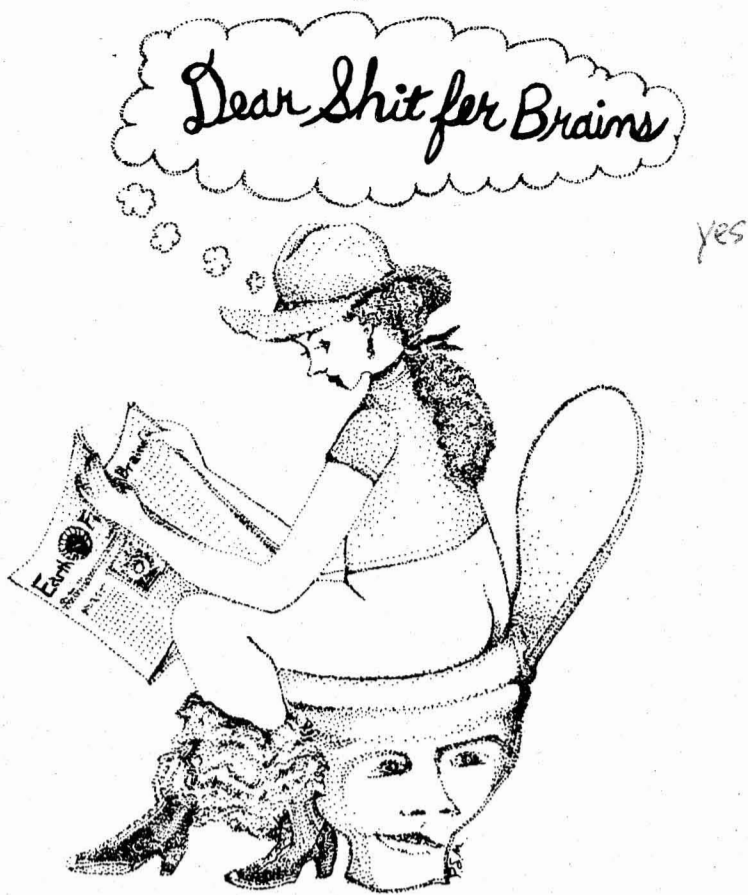
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Timothy Bechtold, Wild Rockies



Stalwart Staff Stiffles Stone.



All letters will be printed, unless they are a travesty. We will print a representative sample of letters expressing the same views. Contact us if you feel your opinion was not expressed. Type or neatly print and double-space your letters. Please keep letters brief. Indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5176, Missoula MT 59806. The opinions expressed here represent only their authors, and are not official positions of the Earth First! journal staff or movement.

Dear SFB,

Didja ever think that if all the environmentalists could stop bickering fer about 3 days, we could solve all the world's problems and still have enough time for a really bitchin' party?

Take care folks.

—KAREN

Dear Doo-Doo Heads,

Questing beauty our appreciation of wildness, of freedom, grows. Peeking behind curtains the ugly truth of clearcuts + cages compels us to act. We hold a bond of awareness. We are in a struggle not only to protect trees + untameable beats; we are fighting at the basest level to hold our own power. The system that is turning the world into battlelines and bank-vaults is like a vampire scattering zombies across the countryside.

Earth spins. We gather. Our rendezvous is, should be, tribal. Our bonds grow, brothers sisters lovers.

Every year at the RRR we do an action, a protest against abuse. Why not this year make the simple act of being our action, our affirmation. Challenge those who claim control, fuck their permits. If we are not free to gather we are not free. No one standing alone can bring the change that is needed.

The system is corrupt from its very base of hierarchy and ownership. We can deny its validity. Besides, if we get a permit we have to give the US gov't money, + they will require insurance, which means more money to another scam.

Let us not be servile dogs, let us not erect our own fences—just say no to permits.

Thanx, i feel better now.

—FOOLISH COYOTE

Dear Shit for Brains,

I heard a rumor that Chim Blea had written you a letter so I looked for it. Yup, there it was. And as I should have expected, it was a complete fiction (perhaps I should just call it a pack of lies).

First of all, Chim Blea is Dave Foreman. Dave used Chim Blea as his only female nom de plume. All Cat Tracks columns and anything else that appeared under the name of Chim Blea in the Earth First! Journal (which was before 1991) were written by Dave

Foreman. This I know for sure; i saw Dave write them, various early drafts are sitting around my house. So whoever wrote that letter was intentionally trying to deceive you from the outset.

As for the rest of the letter, the temptation is to respond by talking about all the sacrifices that Dave and I made, give numerous examples, cry unfair, countercharge rip offs. But it's just too much like a bad divorce when your ex is miserable but still doesn't want to give it up. I have better, more useful things to do, and I know that most of whatever is Earth First! now, also has better things to do.

To whoever pilfered the name of Chim Blea; get a life.

Happy trails,

—NANCY MORTON, TUCSON, AZ

Dear Shit fer Brains,

The article, "How to be a Complete Failure as an Environmental Activist," in the Dec. 21 "Journal" was snotty, stupid, small-minded, repressive, and probably should never have seen print. Why invite more divisiveness??

—LYNN JACOBS

Dear Coprocephalics,

The EF! debate. It just goes on and on, don't it? I am dismayed. What exactly is EF!, and What is The Role of the Journal? First of all, he said, thrusting his voice into the forray, EF! is not and should not be 'exactly' anything. Thats what makes it wild, furry, loveable, and effective. It should, however, maintain focus, through a wide angle lense, yes, but a focus. EF!, as represented in these pages, it seems, has become more of a group that has decided on what to argue over than what to fight for. What exactly is the role of the Journal? Kudos to Alison for last months editorial. I agree with her insightful assessment, but the ramifications cause some internal debate in my mind. The basic distillation of my reaction is this: I am thrilled that there is a journal out there willing to publish articles on the whimsical possibilities of hunt-ing the hunt-ers. But I am less likely to want articles with my name on them to appear within the pages of that journal. This may be testament to my wimpiness or willingness to self censorship, I honestly don't know. To me it is all a question of effectiveness in our

battle. I want those articles out there, but I don't want to have to answer for them. Definetly wimpy, but my goal is not to avoid wimpiness, it's to save the Wild. I know that you know that the Journal is not the 'official voice' of the movement, and that articles therein reflect the opions of their authors, etc. etc., but I know that you know that this is not the way things are viewed by They. Yes, They are fucked, and They are the enemy, but are we going to define our field of battle to be No Compromise in the Defense of Mother Earth!, or No Compromise in the Defense of Autonomous Authorship?; The answer is, of course, No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!. The answer is also NOT: No Haircut in Defense of Mother Earth, or No Compromise in Defense of Every Little Thing I Feel is Politically Correct. "No Compromise In Defense of Mother Earth!" might just mean compromising EVERYTHING ELSE WE BELIVE IN for the sake of Her, and it has been my experience that it often does.

The same goes for the use of the EF! name. Last issue, (Chim Bea) accused PAW of being a hypocritical organization that censored the use of spikes on a T-shirt and then 'plugged' their use in an article on the Forest Service. A group that has benefitted from the movement and then turned their back on it. I can't speak for PAW, but I can speak for myself as an active member (read 'works 24 hours a day' — Chim). PAW emerged as an alliance of eastern biocentric activists autonomous from EF! and not sharing the moniker during the big EF! split/debate. A conference had been called in Colorado to heal the rift. Many of us in the East began communicating with each other directly, rather than via Tucson during the split. As the split widened we got closer. We found out (not surprisingly) that we had more in common with each other than we did with either 'side' of the debate, and decided that rather than wasting our time in debate club, we would continue our work alligned under a different name, and wait for the dust to settle.

Once EF! decided what it was, we would decide whether or not we were EF! as far as I'm concerned, and judging from last issue, the dust aint settled yet. As far as the T-shirt goes, the use of the spike was never censored. The shirt exists, you can order it from EF!J. We simply never really endorsed or encouraged it or picked up its logo, which happens to be extraordinarily beautiful, thanks to Jackie Taylor's exceptional artistry. The reason for this is simple. One of the 'founding beliefs' of PAW (as seperate from EF!) was that there should be less spikes on T-shirts and more in trees. I'm more skilled at word processing than I am at diesel mechanics, so that's what I do. That doesn't make it a better tactic, its just what I can do. Those who don't have the patience or geekiness to do what I do should be out doing what needs to be done, not talking about it or posting it on their torsos. Real Tree

Spikers Dont Wear Spikes on Their Shirts. And well they shouldn't. Those like me should be out in the open, doing the bullshit paperwork, speaking at colleges, and defending the actions of those who do their work at night. We need a lot more of everyone, a lot more desk-top activists, and a lot more under-cover-of-darkness activists. As I see it we need five dayworkers for every ten nightworkers, but only one outspoken advocate and distributor of information for monkeywrenching for every thousand monkeywrenchers. The Real EF!ers—you know who you are—and hopefully They don't—are the bravest, most committed folks I know. Unfortunately the Wheat to Chaff ratio of Armchair EF!ers to Real EF!ers is disappointing. Being a hardcore Enviro requires Hardcore commitment, either at your desk or in the woods. As Lone Wolf so succinctly put it, "if you're not doing everything you can for the Earth, you're not doing enough". Just wearing a T-shirt with a spike on it isn't enough. Just calling yourself an EF!er without committing your life is worse than calling yourself a Sierra Klubber and just sending in your dues. As far as being a hypocrite for saying in my article that if the USFS does away with the appeals process then "the only recourse for public participation will be 60 penny nails and grinding compound", there's nothing hypocritical about it. If they take away my other means, I will use the means available to me.

Besides which, in general, I have no trouble with being a hypocrite. Labelling you a hypocrite is a favored tactic of They. "See, you're a hypocrite too, now I can go back to sleep." I won't cop to it. If you wan't to go through life remaining pure to anything, you chose the wrong planet, Buddy. And as my good friend Walt once said, "Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself. I am large, I contain Multitudes."

Then of course there's the charge of having 'taken so much from the movement and then turned our backs on the name.' Fuck the name! What are you, my mom? — "We've done so much for you!" Gimme a break! The movement is the thing, and the movement must move. Its Earth First!, foax, not Earth First! First. If you are putting the Earth First in your life and work, committed to the movement and throwing spokes into any of They's wheels that rolls your way, then you are more an Earth Firstler than any Bozo rapping in a bar about the death of Phallic Imperialism. As far as I'm concerned, EF! is alive and well, spiciated and operating under many new names, T-shirts and costumes. Use what works and discard the baggage. I hope that EF! continues and prospers, the same to the Journal. More articles we can't stomach, and more challenges to our sensibilities. And if not, then not.

Earth First! is dead: LONG LIVE EARTH FIRST!

—BUCK YOUNG (not) see next

more SFB on page 24

EF! Activist Conference

March 7-9 in Stumptown (Portland, OR)

Ecotopian EF!ers have called for an activist conference to discuss the direction of the EF! movement and the role of the ever-controversial journal in the movement. Possible topics for discussion include the Day of Outrage, setting up a new EF! Foundation, international campaigns, and the journal.

All Earth First!ers are welcome to attend the meetings. However, local groups are encouraged to send a representative. Individuals and groups who can't make the conference are encouraged to send statements. This is three days of meetings folks, so don't come unless you're ready to focus.

For info on the reception, Portland housing, and west coast ride coordinating, contact Jim at (503) 231-0207. For east of the Rockies ride coordination, contact Anne or Orin at (802) 658-2403.

There is no cost for this conference; funds may be available for traveling expenses. Federal agents are expected to pay double and find their own place to stay.

—GIN PHLEGM

California's "Grand Accord" Flounders

BY T. GRIP

Millionaire Hal Arbit, who bankrolled the 1990 Forest Forever Initiative, and his Sierra Club dropout lap dog Gail Lucas have worked behind closed doors with California Governor Pete Wilson to formulate a Grand Accord on forest regulations. The Grand Accord legislation, purportedly put forth to save the forests, in fact weakens the current State Department of Forestry regulations substantially. The Accord would allow 50% cuts on all remaining old growth (with re-entry allowed after 25 years), 30-acre clearcuts, and short rotations. The Accord would also provide for consolidated timber harvest plans—one comprehensive plan for each company's timberland—with no further public review. (Smells like bullshit to me.)

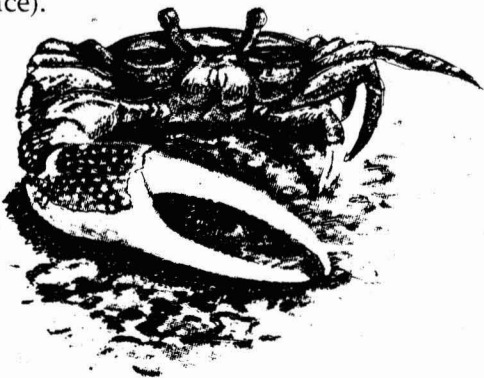
The California legislature, showing supreme indifference to the crisis in Ecotopia's forests has failed over six months of half-hearted effort to adopt revised forest regulations of any description.

In memos leaked from Louisiana Pacific it is clear that even LP acknowledges the scope of the crisis. Correspondence between LP Chairman, Harry Merlo, and his chief forester, Jerry Partain (former California Department of Forestry director) admits those environmentalists were right, that LP has been over cutting for years, and they're running out of timber. Whether asked to comment or not, Earth First!er, Darryl Cherney responded by saying, "Of course we're right. We're always right."

There emerged on the scene another player in this game: the California Forest and Watershed Council, a broad-based coalition group of virtually all the forest activists in the redwood region, both mainstream activists and Earth First! On January 8 CF&WC held a rally and day of lobbying on the front steps of the state capitol to oppose the Governor's bogus Grand Accord legislation. Speakers included Bobby Castillo from the International Indian Treaty Council, David Orr from the Association of Sierra Club Members for Environmental Ethics, Judi Bari from Ecotopia EF! and the IWW, Randy Hayes from Rainforest Action Network, and a representative from the Greens who just got recognized as a political party by the state following a successful voter registration drive. Also folks from Forests Forever kicked off their Forests Forever 1992, the "River Oak and Wildlife Protection Initiative." The Earth First!ers did what they often do when faced with a crisis, wrote some tunes and performed a skit. A group of Native American drummers closed the rally, which was followed by a spiral dance on the capitol steps (get wild, you woo-woos). Then a group of hopeful activists went inside to lobby some bureaucrats.

High points of the day would have to include the signing of our petition to recall Gov. Wilson written by Candice Boake. She's sort of the Stomper Queen of terrorism campaigns against the extractive industries. Or perhaps it was when Darryl met up with Gail Lucas in the halls of the capitol and one of the actors from the skit said to her, "Hi Gail, I'd like you to meet Laurie. She played you in our skit today. As a matter of fact you had a singing part."

But the battle of the Grand Accord rages on. If you live in California the Forests Forever campaign will need your help now that Arbit and his millions have gone elsewhere (good riddance).



Who Said Miners Aren't Good Neighbors?

Residents of Jamestown, California, are in a battle to force mining operations away from the vicinity of their homes. One home is only 300 feet from the Jamestown gold mining pit. But the mining company is taking steps to pacify the landowners. In an effort to resolve complaints that the truck horns sound too harsh, the company is experimenting with horns that "moo" like a cow.

—EF! STUMPFROGS, BIG STUMP BIOREGION

Variation: America, the Beautiful

Oh beautiful for smoggy skies
Insecticidal grains
For strip-mined mountains' majesty
Above the asphalt plains
America, America
Man sheds his waste on thee.
And hides the pines with billboard signs
From sea to oily sea.

—Restroom Stall #2, Roslyn Cafe; Roslyn, WA



Dear Occupant,

This form letter is to introduce you to a new form of communication. It is a sleeping giant of an underground subversive network. Oh, another dream of techno-utopia, you say. What is it cellular phones for the masses? A TV on every subway car? No, it's not a machine. And it doesn't cost you any money.

It's those goddamned envelopes. Those Business Reply Envelopes. The ones that say No Postage Necessary. They're everywhere. In junk mail, on the street, even on busses and trains.

So what you say? Well consider these items:

*An envelope stuffed with something interesting provides some mail worker out there with a ten minute break from work. "Hey, listen to this."
*It is a direct form of communication. Your letter or artwork or whatever is a personal letter in a work place filled with mind numbing forms.

*It can't be censored. You are the only censor. Since your letter arrives in the same envelope that all the other mail arrives in, it can't be weeded out. The boss's ability to control what can be in the work environment is eroded.

*The company pays for it. Every letter they receive in these envelopes costs them 39 cents postage due.

*No one owns this form of communication. There is no leader. There are no guidelines.

*The entire network can never be fully known. The mail arrives to a certain degree randomly. It can't be anthologized. It's not for sale. You can't buy it.

*The only way they can stop us is if they stop sending out all those envelopes. And that'd be great.

*This form of communication has a built in ending. When the government and corporations crumble, so will the mail rooms and these envelopes. We don't have to worry about this dragging on past its prime.

*It doesn't even have a name. You can name it but it will be different in different cities.

*No meetings.

You know, I haven't always been the President of the Tube Division of American Television, Inc. I worked myself up from the mail room. In those horrible wretched days, I always wished that an envelope I opened up would have something different inside. Something interesting. Well, it never happened for me. But now you and I can make that dream come true for the thousands of poor schleps across the country who have to work in the mail room of some corporation.

Please spread the word. Encourage your friends to take advantage of this opportunity.

—U.A. SANABRIA

IN MEMORIAM

Members of the editorial collective were deeply saddened at the brutal slaying of yet one more symbol of American Freedom—Billboards.

The Billboard family, for many years a living, breathing manifestation of America's God-Given constitutional right of corporations to foist upon the witless public all manner of useless services, shoddy merchandise, and deadly junk food, has recently come under attack on Route 93 in the Flathead Valley near Whitefish, Montana.

The latest murder, believed to have been perpetrated by the notorious "Montana Billboard Basher," was the eighteenth since June, 1990, making it the longest unsolved serial murder in Montana's history. It has cost advertisers at least \$50,000.

Flathead County sheriff's detective Jim Mitchell echoed the depth of our grief with the following comment: "I'm sure it's been down a week or two." The "Billboard Basher" is also believed to be implicated in two instances of road construction vandalism. For shame! Is NOTHING sacred?

We commend the sign companies, whose skilled, stalwart staff reportedly replace billboards as soon as they are destroyed. When asked about detective Mitchell's comment—that the billboard had been down for a week or two—one company spokesperson declined comment. She was later heard muttering, "We know whose reelection campaign WE ain't gonna contribute to."

In an ominous note, the clever Basher has begun using sadistic steel cutting torches when savaging billboards with steel supports.

We exhort our Government to bring to bear its full majesty and power to bring to justice this heinous culprit. The pillars of our precious heritage are being destroyed by this villain. He must be stopped FORTHWITH.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Big Sky Waterslides, whose billboard advertisement was the latest atrocity massacred.

World Bank-Mexico Forest Project or Highway Program?

BY PONCHO AFUERA DE LA VILLA

The Sierra Madre Occidental, southern sister range of the Rockies, is a region of dynamic beauty and important biological diversity. A series of extremely diverse ecotones runs almost 1000 miles from northwest to southeast, from just south of the USA-Mexico border between the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts to the Sierra Madre Oriental. Its southern end comprises the high plateau north of the Tenochtitlan Valley, now the site of Mexico City.

Elevations vary from 1200 feet to 9000 feet. Less than 10% of the region is flat; the terrain is often steep with the thin and delicate soils that result from decades of grazing. Five cañons deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona are carved into this region, including the well-known Barranca del Cobre (Copper Canyon), a de facto National Park in the heart of the Sierra Madre Occidental that was virtually inaccessible until the 300-mile-long railway from Chihuahua

In South Durango, nine foot diameter trees are feeding area mills...

City slammed through to Los Mochis on the Sinaloa Coast. The first road down into the canyon was scraped out four years ago; now it has to be dug out from under landslides whenever there is a good rain.

The 40,000 strong and tenacious Tarahumara People (Raramuri Nation) are an amalgamation of all the folks who once lived in the region until the conquistadors forced them further into the Sierra Madre, via land expropriation and slavery, in the 16th century. These people have lived in virtual isolation for almost 450 years. Tepehuanos and Guarojos [sic] live to the south, Pimas to the north, Yaqui and Mayo in the valleys, and many mestizo (mixed-blood) communities also dot the valleys.

In the 1880s "foreigners" began to "harvest" the big trees from the pine-oak canopy. The government assigned timber concessions to gringo companies (including the Sierra Madre Land Company of Hearst fame, and the Madera Company Limited) in the north and central sections of the Sierra. After the Mexican Revolution (1910-17), the government gave out concessions as political favors, from which derived much of the current wealth and power of Chihuahua City. In the 30s President Cardenas created the *Ejido* System, which was, basically, the formal recognition of common lands that had been the basis of community life before Cortez showed up. Although the land and resources are officially owned by the communities, the governmental system was and still is used to guarantee Mexico's industrialists trees for their factories.

The grizzly bear still exists in the region, as do bighorn sheep, jaguar, tufted jay, Apache goshawk, and ocelot.

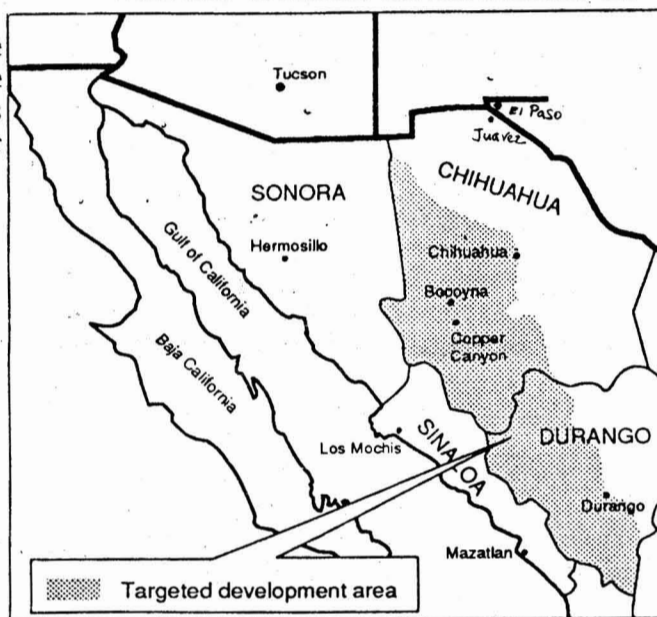
Although the region is well-roaded, much of it is remote and inaccessible to heavy equipment and logging trucks, although the Mexican government would like to change this. In 1985, the government invited the World Bank to help develop a plan to manage the forests for national consumption and change them into international currency. In August of 1989 the World Bank approved \$45.5 million for a 17-year loan to assist with the financing of a 5-year, 67 million-acre, \$94 million (212,638 million peso) forestry development project. The development was meant to improve and rehabilitate roads into the remote areas of the states of Chihuahua and Durango, to build and renovate sawmills for use and efficiency, and to provide loan capi-

tal to medium and small scale loggers for equipment and technical assistance. The loggers would then be enabled (watch out for codependency!) to harvest one third of the remaining coniferous forests in Mexico and 23% of Latin America's temperate forests.

Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH — Mexico's version of the USDA), one of the agencies responsible for project execution (read: forest execution), prepared a project summary, dated September 1991, which stated that \$31.2 million would be used for the improvement, rehabilitation and maintenance of 750 miles of roads, \$34.7 million would be for mills, logging equipment and heavy machinery, \$8.5 million would be for loans to small and medium logging operations, \$11 million for unseen costs (EF! needs a budget like this), \$2.6 million for environmental protection, and \$1.2 million for special studies.

One of the "special" studies was to be for research into the pulping of over 30 species of oaks in the region. Under pressure, the world bank has agreed not to fund this study, although word has it the pulping of oaks is already underway.

With new-to-Mexico harvest methods im-



The World Bank's Mexico Forestry Development Project. Map by Graphic Attitudes.

ported from Finland and the USA, such "even aged" techniques as seedtree and shelterwood have been approved by the World Bank. The overall management strategy is referred to as *metodo de desarrollo silvicola* (MDS—Forestry Development Method). The MDS includes such fallacies as 80 year harvest rotations in places where it takes up to 120 years for trees to attain 16" DBH. Based on research in two of New Mexico's National Forests which have similar forest types much of the project area subjected to this MDS will not likely reproduce trees at all.

The World Bank states that it has four objectives for the project: (1) Improving environmental protection, (2) Increasing productivity and efficiency of forestry activities, (3) Improving quality of life...especially in the traditionally impoverished Amerindian communities, (4) Strengthening the management and coordination capabilities of federal and state forestry and conservation institutions

Four months before the approval of the project, the World Bank staff issued an evaluation of past bank projects in Mexico. This report identified a number of adverse impacts of bank funding on the environment. It states that the projects have had problems because the bank failed to (1) provide appropriate supervision, (2) follow up properly and (3) properly fund and implement environmental components. Immediately before the approval the US executive director, the US Representative to the Bank, stated in a memo to the Board of Directors that the environmental risks from the project "must be guarded against."

Despite this warning, the project now faces many of the problems that were identified in the Bank's review of its prior Mexican projects. The protective measures of the loan agreement are not being carried out. New roads are being built into old-growth roadless areas and isolated areas of traditional Amerindian communities; monies intended for erosion control on rural roads have been diverted to regional highway projects; baseline and environmental impact studies that were to be done before the funding began have not been completed; and the Mexican agencies responsible continue to fight over money and control of the project.

The region is remote and inaccessible to heavy equipment and logging trucks, although the Mexican government would like to change that.

Many of the World Bank's negotiations, agreements, and loan disbursements with its investors are shrouded in secrecy. Yet, we know so far that more than \$2.5 million have been handed out. Half a million for a baseline study of the project area and \$2 million for endeavors, of which only half were approved by the World Bank. There was also a release of funds "on an exceptional basis" for about 65 miles of road rehabilitation in Chihuahua, before the completion of the baseline study.

When the baseline study was completed it was judged inadequate by the director of ecological conservation of natural resources for SEDUE, Mexico's version of our FWS or EPA, and sent back to be redone.

Thanks to a project evaluation by the Texas Center for Policy Studies and three conferences on the Sierra Madre Occidental in the last year, pressure from both sides of the border has forced a temporary halt of World Bank loan disbursements until a proper baseline study is completed. Yet the roadbuilding, illegal logging and poaching of wildlife species continues.

The World Bank/SARH project is based on many myths. The project states, for instance, that "the majority of Indians [sic] are directly involved with the exploitation of their forest resources and a large portion of them have entered the phase of industrial transformation with satisfactory results." This statement conveniently avoids the social reality and the indigenous worldview.

The forest is the center of indigenous culture. Life is based on a deep respect for nature and an understanding that they are an integral part of her, an understanding which is completely opposed to the concept of accumulating wealth through the exploitation of natural resources. Their culture is maintained through the sacred *tesginadas* (sprouted corn beer ceremony/fiesta) where agricultural surpluses are exchanged in a manner unrelated to a market economy—similar to potlatch. Their economy is based on corn and beans, gathering and hunting, handcrafts and medicinal plants and some salaried and migratory labor. Although the indigenous *ejidos* have large forest holdings the people prefer not to exploit them for timber. On the other hand, the *Ejido* administrators, like many tribal councils in the USA, are very much a part of the regional power network and are happily selling their holdings for stumps and privilege. Also, incidents of pressure to sign away individual rights to forest holdings by the national indigenous institute (INI—Mexico's BIA) have been reported.

A human rights activist in Chihuahua explains, "The indigenous populations are the lowest link in a chain of social stratification where the flow of capital dictates power. The justice system, organization of production, and political organization belong to social structures foreign to the indigenous world." Five hundred years after the Spanish conquest they continue to be colonized. As Juan Gardea, a Raramuri from Guachochi says, "The Forest project will destroy the flora and fauna we need to survive."

The project area has one of the highest degrees of diversity, measured by endemism, in

continued on page 6

Battle Begins Over Mexican Spotted Owl Listing

BY CRUZ SMITH

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed to list the Mexican spotted owl as a Threatened species throughout its range (Southwest high elevation forests) but refuses to designate critical habitat. That wouldn't be "prudent" it claims, because it wouldn't be "beneficial" to the owl. After all, a species reduced to 2,160 individuals by the relentless logging of old growth forests doesn't need critical habitat! These guys have been drinking bad coffee and cream-ora in their government issue double-wides for too long. But don't worry (???) Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is gonna sue the bastards. The real work starts after they win, though, because you can bet that Manny's Meanies are going to try to get away with the lamest critical habitat proposal possible. So take this as an invitation to move to the rad-est ecosystem ever, to help save a slim, cool bird and even cooler forests.

ILLEGAL DELAY DESTROYS 33,250 ACRES. The FWS completed the Mexican spotted owl Status Review five weeks prior to the 12 month due date for the listing decision. One week before

the due date, the Regional Office strongly recommended listing. Yet his flatulence, Mannie "Noriega" Lujan, held up the listing proposal in Washington, DC for another 37 weeks. When finally published on November 4, 1991, the proposal to list was 36 weeks late, violating the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Sec. 4(3)(B) and 50 CFR 424.14(b)(3). Not coincidentally, the delay (February 27, 1991—November 4, 1991) coincided nearly to the day with the Southwest timber harvesting season. By illegally holding up the proposal, Mount Graham Mannie allowed an extra year of logging to continue unabated—further endangering the existence of a species the FWS knew it would eventually have to list. So how many trees were murdered in those 36 weeks? The Freddies estimate that in the National Forests of New Mexico and Arizona alone, 41,800 acres of suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat were "disturbed" and 33,250 acres were mauled to the point of being unable to support Mexican spotted owls at all (Fletcher 1990). Freddy didn't include crucial owl habitat destroyed by logging in the National Forests of Colorado and Utah, Bureau of Livestock and Mining (BLM) lands, state lands, private lands, and Indian reservations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TRASHED. The stated purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to "provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved" (Section 2(b)). To this end, Congress provided for the routine designation of critical habitat, "to the maximum extent prudent and determinable" (Section 4(a)(3)). In implementing the Act, however, the FWS has repeatedly flaunted Congressional intent when critical habitat threatens to disrupt the Industrial Machine's food supply. In too many cases, it has designated critical habitat only after being sued and ordered to do so by the court. The northern spotted owl is a case in point; the Mexican spotted owl is headed that way fast.

Designation of critical habitat adds a level of protection not otherwise available to species (such as the Mexican spotted owl) threatened by habitat destruction or modification. These species are protected not only by provisions that apply to all listed species, but are further protected by a set of provisions that apply only to

designated critical habitat.

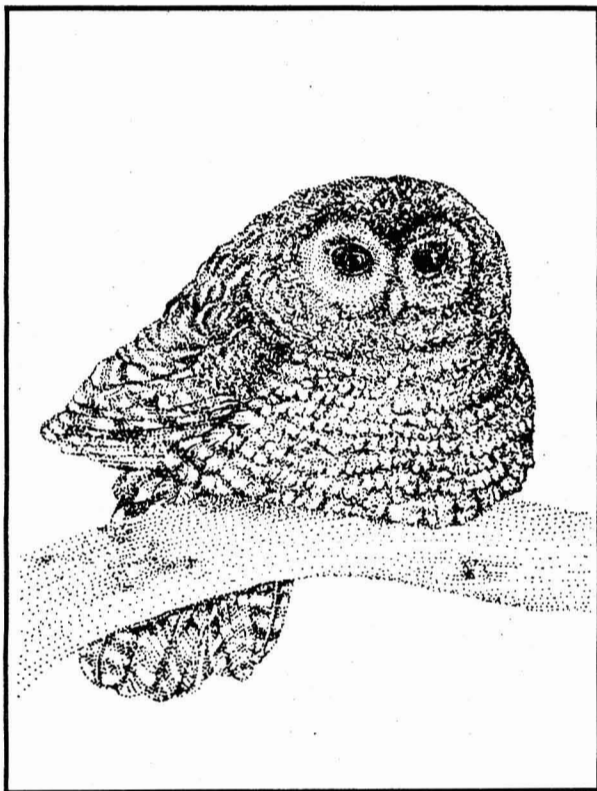
The FWS agrees that the biological concept of "critical habitat" and the protection afforded it by the Act are essential to the conservation of the Mexican spotted owl, but they claim that critical habitat itself, as a legal entity, is superfluous.

"Ultimately, survival and recovery of the Mexican spotted owl depends on realizing that even small increments of habitat loss, if allowed to continue, will jeopardize the species. Therefore, any significant habitat alteration that will affect the ability of the habitat to provide the primary constituent elements necessary to ensure survival and recovery of the Mexican spotted owl must be avoided.

These guys have been drinking bad coffee and cream-ora in their government issue double-wides for too long.

To assure the availability of adequate habitat in the future, this protection strategy will have to be applied equally to occupied suitable habitat, unoccupied suitable habitat and presently unsuitable habitat that is capable of becoming suitable in the future. Because the formal designation of critical habitat would provide no additional benefit to the Mexican spotted owl through the Section 7 consultation process beyond that provided by listing per se, it is not prudent to make such a designation" (56CFR 56353). In other words, they argue that their protection of the owl will be so exacting that they needn't bother formally protecting the owl's habitat.

FWS is trying to get away with saying that its visionary implementation of the jeopardy standard—its proposed strict protection of the owl—will cover absolutely everything normally covered by the critical habitat standard, so therefore, ipso dipso, critical habitat is not necessary. In fact, it's "not beneficial" and therefore the FWS doesn't have to designate it. Got that??? In essence it is duplicating by *policy* those provisions of the Endangered Species Act which were sup-



Mexican Spotted Owl Peggy Sue McRae

World Bank-Sierra Madre Occidental, *continued*

Mexico. Southern Durango has one of the highest endemism rates in North America. (In Southern Durango, nine foot diameter trees are feeding area mills.) There are over 7,000 vascular plants in the region. Almost 1,000 are endemic. One fourth of the 2,705 species of *Asteraceae* (sunflower family) are endemic here as well.

An endemic frog and fish species are threatened by river siltation from intensive logging. Scientists have not studied the species' reproductive status or geographical distribution.

Money from the World Bank loan has been targeted for studies of endangered and threatened species. Studies are underway for the thick-billed parrot and Mexican gray wolf (among others), species that can serve as indicators for general ecosystem health. The studies, however, are not scheduled to be finished for up to five years, just as the first phase of the destruction is scheduled for completion. Some studies will be nothing more than compilations of old data by people with little or no field experience.

The grizzly bear is almost extinct in the region, although it still exists in a protected area of the Sierra. Bighorn sheep, jaguar, tufted jay, Apache goshawk and Mexican spotted owl survive in limited numbers; other rare critters include ocelot, imperial woodpecker, pacific parakeet and bura deer. The Mexican gray wolf, of which there are "officially" just 44 individuals remaining (all in captivity) may still be present in the Sierra Madre Occidental.

The region is obviously important. Yet, no comprehensive compilation of information on

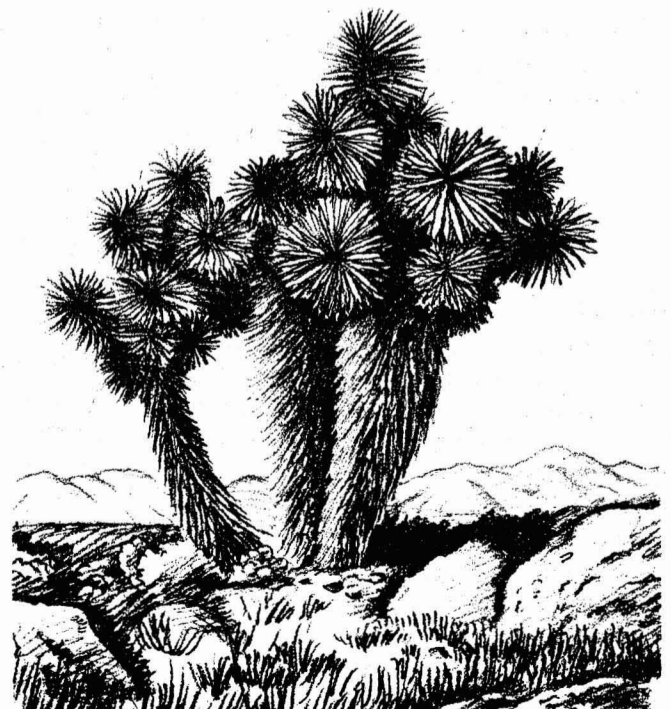
the plant and animal species in the project area exists. One University of Texas Botanist collected four plants new-to-science and 30 other plants endemic to the region in a small tract of pine-oak forest in one three-hour period.

Given the large diversity of trees in the mixed pine-oak forests (at least 14 pines and over 30 oak species), the steep slopes and thin soils, intensive logging will cause major erosion. Regeneration of a native mix of trees is unlikely. The risks for some native trees, such as *Picea*, *Abies* and *Pseudotsuga* family members, are great. These trees grow in small isolated populations that once cut will probably become extinct in the Sierra Madre. The forest mosaic of seasonally fruiting trees, needed for the survival of many animals will be disrupted. Because of the range in elevations and weather patterns, certain regional areas provide food, seeds, nuts and fruit when food isn't available elsewhere. Logging could therefore eliminate the feeding places for animals long enough to starve them to death.

From the Sierra Madre Occidental flow many large rivers: Yaqui, Fuerte, Mayo, Conchos. Most of the region's rivers have been affected by previous and current forest practices, increased siltation and altered flow,

as well as by dams for water collection and hydroelectric facilities, irrigation, sawmill effluent and the large floods of '90-91 in Sinaloa state. The Sirupa (aka Rio Arios) and other tributaries to the Rio Yaqui have experienced fish kills as a result of sawmill waste.

The Rio Conchos is by far the largest tributary to the Rio Grande. Rio Conchos at times provides the only flow to the Rio Grande at their confluence. Rio Conchos is the major source of



Spotted Owl, continued

posed to be guaranteed by law. Now we're not great fans of the law (neither is Mannie, by the way), but the law is clear, stable, and can be enforced, while agency policy is vague, almost impossible to enforce, and subject to change at any time.

The Mexican spotted owl is not the only species threatened by the US Squish the Wildlife Service; critical habitat can be taken away from any listed species at any time. If this latest attack on the integrity of the Endangered Species Act is allowed to go through, it will set a precedent that could send critical habitat the way of the passenger pigeon.

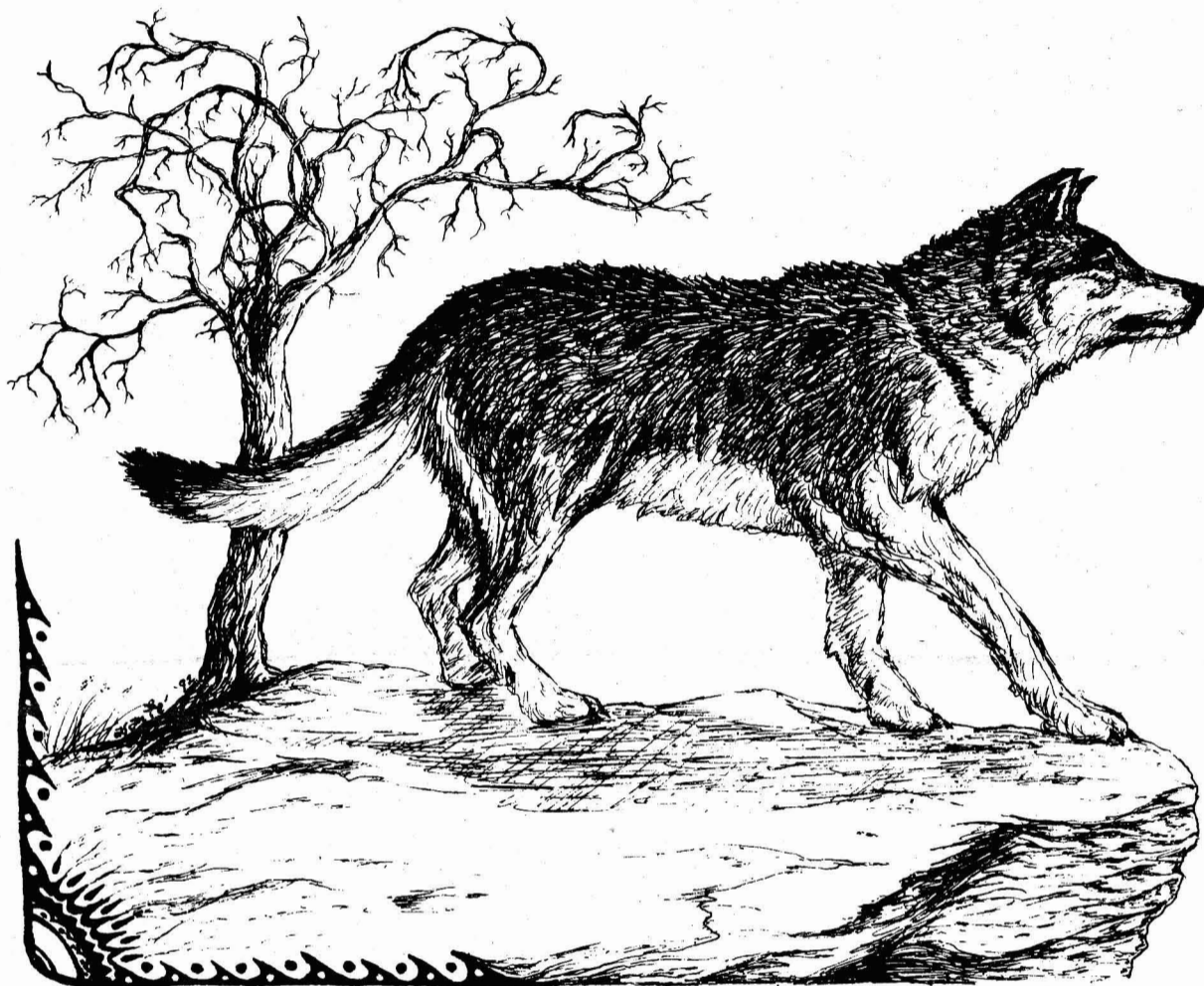
HELP! The Mexican spotted owl, like the ancient forests of the Southwest, has not received near the attention that the northern spotty and its damp, dreary forests have. There is basically no ancient forest infrastructure down here. The

Greater Gila Biodiversity Project (GGBP) and the Friends of the Owls, however, are starting an absolutely massive campaign to save the forests of the Southwest. In particular, we're launching a big-time spotted owl defense project to see that critical habitat gets designated, and is extensive enough to save the last shards of old growth habitat remaining in this ecotone-under-seige. We need help!

I'm lame: Write Field Supervisor, USFWS, Ecological Services Field Office, 3530 Pan American Highway NE, Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87107 demanding that critical habitat be designated. The comment period ends March 3, 1992.

I'm kind of spent: send more money than you can afford to GGBP POB 12835, Albuquerque, NM 87195

I'm slim and cool: unplug your fax machine, strap your Tipi to the Subaru, turn left at Orem, and head for the Southwest immediately. Bring good beer but leave the wheat grass at home.



water for Big Bend National Park and the Texas Big Bend Ranch Natural Area, providing over 75% of the Rio Grande flow.

The World Bank's environmental policy states that the World Bank "will not finance projects that could significantly harm the environment of a neighboring country without the consent of that country." However, as of November 1990, there was no consultation between Mexico and the USA about the Rio Conchos, as is required by the 1983 bilateral "La Paz" agreement between Mexico and the USA. The La Paz agreement provides for consultation on projects that could affect the border region. The EPA is responsible to oversee this agreement for the USA.

World Bank funding for pulpmills raises additional water quality issues. Pulpmill discharge into rivers will have serious effects. Despite all of this, the World Bank doesn't appear interested in monitoring water quality or flows of these rivers that it well surely degrade.

According to the 30-page project evaluation done by the Texas Center for Policy Studies, November 1990, the World Bank—SARH forestry project is "violating or will violate all the World Bank's stated project objectives except for the increasing of timber production." The project is "based on overly optimistic assumptions. Moreover, the project [will not replace] the logging that has caused problems in the past" and "provides funds for new harvesting while past [abuses] continue. Thus, cumulative impacts are increasing [and] some of the most important potential impacts of the project have not been anticipated by the World Bank."

"We just don't agree with that," explained World

Bank Project Director William Beattie.

This project amounts to disastrous. Do something! Call the Mexican tourism hotline 1-800-262-8900 and give'em a piece of your mind about wolves, grizzlies and native rights. Write or visit the Mexican Government Board of Tourism nearest you: they are located in Los Angeles, CA, Houston, TX, Coral Gables, FL, Chicago, IL, New York, NY, and Washington, DC.

Write livid letters of raging protest to: Senator Patrick Leahy (VT), Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign operations; Rep. David Obey (WI) Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations; and your local Congressional delegation: Tell 'em that since the World Bank's largest financier is the good ol' USA, the World Bank—SARH Forestry Development Project should be carried out under US standards and that the project must be halted immediately until an EIS is done for each endangered species and critical habitat areas are determined, demarcated and protected by road closures and law enforcement to combat illegal poaching and logging. Also, no pulping of oaks which are critical for feeding wildlife. Reforestation efforts should include all 14 species of pine, not just the four species that are commercially viable. More addresses are: President Salinas-Gotari, Palacio Nacional, Mexico City, Mexico; Patrick Coady, US Executive Director, World Bank Treasury Dept., Washington, DC 20220; Binswanger, Country Dept. II World Bank; 1818 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20433. Also you can call the EPA and tell 'em to enforce the La Paz agreement: 1-800-438-2474.

Big Bend

The sky here is so thickly spread with light (the air is thin and rainless), single stars and constellations that I once could find

are dimmed or lost. My lover loves this hard and fierce geometry of rock. In sun, the butte we're on could throw a jag of dark

a mile wide or burn with color, stun the sky with orange, ochre, rose.

My lover says that once the desert's cut

or touched too hard, its healing is slow (no kudzo floods to hide or fill a space). It keeps its scars. They deepen and erode.

My lover tells me I am like this place. I tell him what I miss: the slap of leaves on skin and air that's like a damp embrace.

He says he had forgotten how to breathe. I lose my lover here. The sharp-edged land, the sharp-edged night are things he wants to keep.

I seek to claim him back with urgent hands.

—Marisa de los Santos

Hunt Eco-terrorism Theme Continues

(from AZ Game & Fish)

The Earth First! publication may have moved to another state, but it is still espousing the same old theme—eco-terrorists disguising themselves as hunter to shoot livestock, said Arizona Game and Fish officials.

"The Earth Firsters are now publishing out of Montana rather than Arizona and their message has gotten more subtle, but it is clear the intent of one article in the November edition is to have terrorists pose as hunters to shoot cattle on public lands," said Game and Fish Deputy Director Tom Spalding.

"While the article never comes right out and says, 'Go shoot cattle' like an article in their publication did last year, the message is only thinly disguised. The article mentions shooting 'non-desirable four-legged species,' and 'all-season hunting.' There are even poems about shooting game wardens, hunters and cows with a post script 'P.S. ...and for heaven's sake, don't shoot any Game Wardens or hunters!'" Spalding pointed out.

Public information Officer Rory Aikens said that last year, the Earth Firsters claimed the article about shooting cattle was only done in fun and that they were not telling people to go out and shoot cattle.

"I'm sure that this year, because they were more subtle about it, they will claim that the article is not even about shooting cattle. The article is not that thinly disguised."

"No matter what your beliefs, shooting cattle is just plain wrong. Even advocating such illegal acts is an affront to the true environmentalists who are working hard within the system to effect need changes. The system may not be perfect, but acts of terrorism are counter-productive," Aikens said.

Spalding pointed out that the article goes to great lengths to explain what caliber weapons can be used because they are difficult to trace and what types of bullets to use which the forensic experts can't trace.

"This is just an extension of the animal rights movement. Those are the same people who want to take the turkeys off your Thanksgiving table, animals out of zoos and even dogs off leashes. Anti-hunting is just one of their tenets," Spalding said.

Spalding advised hunters, cattlemen and others enjoying the outdoors to keep their eyes open for suspicious activities on public lands where there are cattle. He added that the article is part of on-going hunter harassment efforts. "If you see anything suspicious out there, or if you see suspected hunter harassment taking place, call operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700."

Spalding added that fortunately, as far as the department can tell no one posing as a hunter has actually gone out and shot any cattle.

"But that's not to say it hasn't occurred or won't occur. We just do not have any direct evidence. In fact, the obvious intent of the Earth First! article is to inform their readers how to perform such dastardly acts while leaving as little evidence as possible," Spalding said.

Endangered Natives: Longleaf Pine Forests and Sherman's Fox Squirrel

BY JOANNE DUFFY

The longleaf pine forest, once the most abundant forest type in Florida, is endangered (*de facto*) along with its dependent wildlife species, the Florida mouse, pocket gopher, gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, and Sherman's fox squirrel. Historically 60-70 million acres, or 60% of the Southeastern Coastal Plain was covered by the longleaf pine community; by 1936 7.6 million remained, and today there are just 0.95 million acres, or 2% of the historical total.

The Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*) is the largest of the three subspecies found in Florida. Adults weigh 900-1200g, average 600-700mm in total length. Their pelage color ranges from all black to all tan. The squirrel's most common color phase is tan, with the top of its head usually black and its ears and nose white

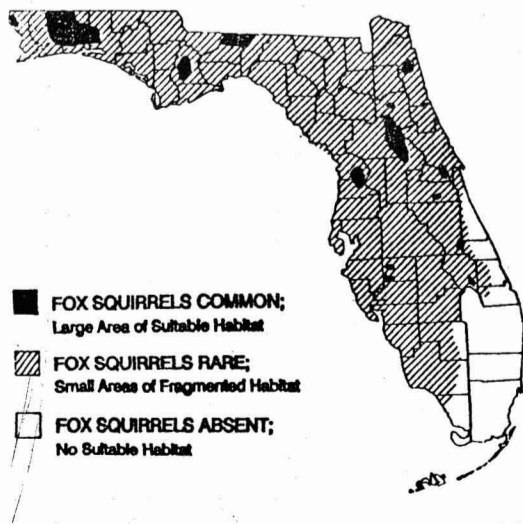
Historically 60 to 70 million acres of the Southeastern Coastal Plain was covered by the longleaf pine community; today there are just 0.95 million acres, or under 2% of the historical total

or tan. Sherman's is endemic to northern peninsular Florida, east of the Suwannee River and north of Lake Okeechobee.

Except for reproductive activity, fox squirrels are largely solitary. This solitary behavior, along with characteristically small population sizes and large home ranges, probably reflects the relatively meager and variable resource base of the pine/oak forests. It appears that food supplies are a critical limiting factor for fox squirrels of the Coastal Plain. They feast on an assortment of plant and animal materials including pine cones, acorns, nuts, bulbs, vegetative buds, staminate cones, hypogeous and epigeous fungi and insects.

Fox squirrels are large and mobile. Important in considering habitat is the structure, age, diversity and size of the habitat, which must be adequate to supply food and nesting materials as well as more subtle survival requirements (*e.g.* gopher tortoise holes for cover, tree cavities for shelter, mating, and rearing young).

In north-central Florida these conditions are met in the longleaf pine/turkey oak sandhills, although the squirrel may also be found in other open pine forest, mixed pine/hardwood forests and in ecotones involving the above. When the squirrel's preferred sandhill resource base is depleted (*e.g.* by clearcuts, mast failure, or devastating fires) it may be forced to occupy cypress swamps, hardwood hammocks, sand pine scrub, and bay swamps. Scientists have not documented the viability and reproductive potential of fox squirrels in these secondary habitats have not



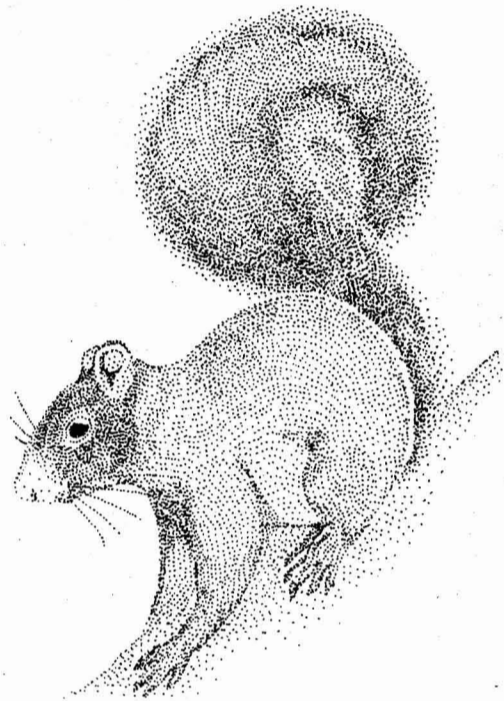
map: John Wooding

been documented.

Only stands with large mature trees seem to provide adequate food supplies and nesting sites. Because of the fox squirrel's large size, it can exploit the large and nutritious longleaf cones, then quickly traverse across the ground to the next tree.

Because of the low diversity of pines and oaks within the sandhill community, a failure of both crops two years in a row can be disastrous to resident fox squirrels if they are confined to a limited area.

THREATS Habitat degradation and destruction for agriculture, silviculture, and urbanization are the major threats to the Sherman's fox squirrel. Much of the remaining suitable habitat is becoming fragmented and isolated to the point that even a relatively large, mobile mammal like the Sherman's fox squirrel finds it hard to disperse and to maintain sufficiently large popula-



Southern Fox Squirrel Peggy Sue McRae

tions to retain long-term viability. Road mortality may also be significant in some areas as the longleaf pine/turkey oak communities become increasingly fragmented and remaining fox squirrel populations find it more difficult to disperse in times of mast failure or habitat destruction without crossing any highways. Further habitat degradation of longleaf pine/turkey oak communities occurs when man excludes fire from this fire-adapted ecosystem. Furthermore, hardwood invasion is frequently followed by the hardwood-competitive gray squirrel (*S. carolinensis*). Gray squirrel populations occur at a higher density than fox squirrel populations, which then establish a prey base for predators that may in turn take fox squirrels. Predation by domestic dogs may be important in some areas, as fox squirrels are relatively slow and easy to catch.

Another threat to the fox squirrel might be their continued status as a game animal. The fox squirrel's characteristically low rate of reproduction, low recruitment of breeders, and high rate of mortality combine to produce a very low and unpredictable available population of squirrels from year to year. As fox squirrel habitat becomes smaller, more fragmented, and more degraded, hunting pressure could conceivably extirpate small remaining populations and thereby threaten the species' survival.

Incidental take by sportsmen hunting other species of game might be another deleterious effect of hunting.

Finally, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission has announced that in order to determine the likelihood of the Sherman fox squirrel's future survival, it must kill 72 of them. It insists this will not harm the population, though studies find the squirrel to be "rare to absent" in Florida. "I can't see any biological impact in what

we're doing," said John Wooding, biologist for FGFFC.

RECOVERY The fox squirrel's recovery potential is low due to its low reproduction and recruitment rate. The squirrel's preferred habitat, the longleaf pine/wiregrass sandhills, have a potential for recovery if the ground cover of wiregrass and its associated herbs are relatively intact (longleaf pine can be replanted, wiregrass and many herbs cannot) and if a natural fire regime is initiated.

HABITAT PROTECTION Habitat protection for the Sherman's fox squirrel involves stopping any more degradation (*e.g.* by logging, habitat fragmentation, and fire exclusion with its associated hardwood and gray squirrel invasion) of the Sherman's fox squirrel's preferred habitat, the mature longleaf pine/turkey oak sandhill community.

Land-use restrictions (buffer zones) around protected populations, and protecting the habitat between protected populations (wildlife corridors), are equally important.

Throughout Florida a system of wildlife corridors and buffer zones connecting both town and country, protected and unprotected land needs to be promoted.

The fox squirrel might fare best given a mosaic of habitats. The habitat represented should be predominantly pine/oak but also include large areas of edge, some open land and access to bottomland.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that biological evidence indicates that listing is warranted, but is precluded by other actions of priority. Federal and State Threatened status should be pursued.

WRITE: John Turner, Director, 1849 CST NW, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240

Land-use restrictions, acquisition, restoration, and management of longleaf pine/turkey oak sandhills to mimic pre-Columbian conditions of the historic mature sandhill communities are all needed to insure the fox squirrel's survival. The largest remaining intact longleaf pine/wiregrass forests in Florida are in Florida's National Forests, where logging should be halted. WRITE: Steve Fitch, National Forests in Florida, 227 N. Bronough St. Suite 4061, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Given the detrimental affect hunting is believed to have on fox squirrels, it should be stopped pending verification of population size.

WRITE: Col. Robert M. Brantly, Executive Director, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission 620 S. Meridan St. Tallahassee, FL 32399

For more info contact FL EFL, POB 13864, Gainesville, FL 32604 (Bibliography available).

who

took the dream
of the land

who
staked down "private property"
through the soul of the deer

who
diverted streams
cleared forests
burned fields

i
seek to know
my own name

i
seek to know
why

after all that i have done
to hurt her
does the Mother continue
to embrace

—charlie mehrhoff
(for j.s.)

Playing God in Puddletown

by FRANCIS MARION

In the early weeks of 1992, the city that sprawls where Stumptown once stood has played host to a series of hearings that might have made Franz Kafka laugh.

The likely victims of these torturously complex proceedings in Portland, Oregon cannot comprehend, much less defend, the crimes of which they are accused. A species is on trial for holding up progress. The survival of the million-year traditions of ancient forest ecosystems hangs in the balance against millions of dollars of annual profits.

Owls and forests have held up the march of progress. If convicted, they will be exterminated, killed beyond re-incarnation.

Some plump, pale men with the soft shine of power conduct the government's case against itself. They decide what testimony the government will submit. They tell the government lawyers for each side which arguments they will use, and which to ignore. They tell the judge what the law is, what it means, and which facts are evidence.

This is the God Squad. It has stepped into the middle of the Northwest's timber wars, the country's most complex and contentious environmental issue.

"God Squad" is the popular name for the Endangered Species Committee. The cabinet-level panel was created by Congress to review requests for exemptions from the protections granted to species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. It is the sole body, beyond Congress itself, which may legally decide that a federal program is worth more than a species' existence.

In simple terms, the question before the God Squad this winter is whether the federal Bureau of Land Management will be permitted to sell 44 timber sales in southwest Oregon over the objections of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Oregon Congressional delegation's attempt to bulldoze a final solution to the question by creating a special inter-agency panel resulted in the revolutionary Thomas plan, and they've been trying to wiggle out from under it ever since. The Forest Service is under injunction again to come up with a good plan, and can sell no Ancient Forest timber sales until it does.

When the BLM "consulted" with FWS on the 44 proposed sales, the wildlife biologists who reviewed the sales found they would jeopardize the continued survival of the northern spotted owl.

By rejecting BLM's timber sales the FWS began a two-tiered attack on an agency that has steadfastly resisted enormous pressure to bring its practices out of the 1940's and into, say, the mid 1960's.

On one level, the level of immediate biological reality with which the actually existing population of owls must cope, FWS biologists found that the BLM's proposed sales would further fragment a part of Oregon's Coast Range that is already heavily clearcut but must still provide

"dispersal habitat"—i.e. adequate canopy cover—to young owls leaving their homes in the remaining old-growth forest islands to find new places to live.

But on the level of policy and program, FWS's rejection of BLM's sales was a way of calling bullshit on the BLM's absolute refusal to adopt a scientifically credible conservation plan for the threatened species. Where the Forest Service has announced that it will not violate the so-called Jack Ward Thomas plan for the conservation of spotted owls, the BLM will proceed with a variation it has dubbed the Jamison Plan. Under this plan, the BLM will not log the remaining islands of old growth that the Thomas Plan would designate as "Habitat Conservation Areas,"—at least until it

can figure out a good excuse like fire or insect salvage or "creating owl habitat"—but will continue to get its timber quota out of all the lands between the reserves.

The case being argued is anything but normal. For one thing, the USFWS and BLM—sister agencies of the US Department of the Interior—are the legal adversaries in the case. Environmental groups have intervened on the side of the FWS, while the timber industry and its front groups have intervened for the BLM. Meanwhile, the system is collapsing, and the timber industry needs someone to blame it on. The old

timber economy is eroding before its workers eyes, and industry and the politicians and union bosses who serve its interests need something to blame other than the relentless pursuit of profit that's gonna make America great again someday. And by blaming the environmental movement and their goddamn spotted owl for the worst effects of the inevitable demise of old-growth dependent timber jobs, the industry can ride an anti-environmental backlash of their own construction, perhaps even to the point of destroying existing environmental law in the face of overwhelming pro-environment public sentiment.

Effective environmentalists are a problem because they're costing companies a lot of potential profits, but there's another level to the problem that the environmental movement poses for American business. Though the major national groups remain committed to incremental reform and the maintenance of present power relations in American society, the large and growing environmental sentiment in the US public is a spike aimed at the very heart of business-as-usual consumer society. If it continues to mature, it will change the way we live: and that threatens to rob the Chamber of Commerce of the hegemony it thought it had achieved with the fall of state socialism in Asia.

Regardless of the impact that the 44 timber sales might have on the Southern Oregon timber economy, the most important implication of the God Squad's decision may well be for the Endangered Species Act itself. The ESA is up for reauthorization this year in Congress. The timber industry and its allies will quash any moves to tighten up the provisions of the Act, and are expected to make a strong push to greatly weaken the act.

They will have bipartisan and multistate sup-

port in their attempts. Already, politicians like Oregon's Senator Bob Packwood have proclaimed to timber industry rallies their intention to work for repeal or revision of the ESA this year. More subtle minds, like Oregon's other Republican Senator, Mark Hatfield, have said that their support for the ESA in the near future will depend on whether or not the exemption "works," i.e. grants the BLM an exemption. In other words, Hatfield only supports an Endangered Species Act that doesn't protect anything we might be able to make money by destroying.

Notwithstanding the purely vicious inclinations of many western Senators and Representatives of both parties, the Endangered Species Act still enjoys considerable support. That's why they need a big, expensive disaster in the middle of the recession-cum-depression, to convince the public that endangered species protection is unworkable and too expensive. Besides, going on the offensive like this helps cut the already-fading chances that the national environmental movement might mount a strong push to strengthen the ESA and ensure that it is funded and enforced—so much for the direction we need to be moving.

The hearings in Portland during the last three weeks of January are administrative hearings only: not a single member of the God Squad is present to hear the cross-examination of witnesses before administrative law judge Harvey Sweikert. Instead, the committee will base its decision—at least in theory—on the written record compiled over the course of the hearing. There are already substantial hints that the record may not be limited to the evidence brought before the judge, however.

If industry is to stave off a major challenge to its present domination of the machinery of the State, it must somehow forestall translation of environmental concern into action even as it seeks to undermine, co-opt, and discredit the environmental movement over the long run.

The results of this meeting of the God Squad may give us some hint of what we, the owl, and the many other shrinking biological communities can expect from our government and industries. Stay tuned.

Oregon

We hike the last of the old growth:
thick-set spires of hemlock,
Douglas fir and lodgepole pine,
trees that dropped cones and needles
long before the settling of Jamestown.
My sister's first and older

lover acts as our guide. Born here,
he knows these trees and trails,
these bright knifings of river.
I watch his silences,
his quick, keen eyes

his fingers on the seamless, skin-
smooth trunk of a madrone. I watch
my sister struggle to belong to all this,
to nothing nineteen years
of Southeast living have prepared her for.
She drinks the river

down in hard gulps, crosses a slick trunk
high above fast water. At night,
her face is tired, is turned
all to angles by the fire. Clearcuts—

their battlefield bareness—
make my sister cry. The man she loves

has shown us yam-orange circles
of fresh stumps and failed
replantings: how certain
timber trees, acres and acres
of them—thin-barked,
meant for lower altitudes—were killed—
frozen to the heartwood—
in the first night of sudden cold.
—Marisa de los Santos

Dick Business Enterprises POB 1166 Boulder, CO 80306

Senator Alan Simpson
261 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sir:

As a member of the Colorado Chewable Air Campaign, I am writing to commend you for your diligent efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act in any way possible.

We are about to embark on an ambitious public relations campaign, targeted at the general image-conscious public. It will be entitled, "Denver's Tan Cloud, Be In It," and will promote air pollution's many health benefits.

Among the benefits is the recent evidence put forth by a scientist that air full of minerals is actually a healthy thing; people can get their minimum daily requirements of iron, lead, etc., without eating all of those wimpy green vegetables.

So, push on! I have full confidence in your ability to maintain, and even increase, the opacity of our atmosphere, while protecting one of America's greatest assets: profit.

Very truly yours,

Dick

Richard Wordsworth Business, III

If you don't know Business, then you don't know Dick!

Bye Bye to the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel?

BY ABE RINGEL

Amid congressional porkbarrel lackadasia, US government-confessed fraud, judicial conflict of interest, and academic arrogance, the University of Arizona's proposed Mt. Graham telescope complex is moving right along. It appears that the telescope that nobody needs will be built.

In 1988, Congress passed legislation to permit construction of the telescope on the summit of Mt. Graham in southeastern Arizona. It granted the University an exemption from the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), which requires careful consideration of biological and cultural values, and consideration of less destructive alternatives. And despite strong evidence that the project would hasten the extinction of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel, the University spent over \$1,000,000 arguing in court that the project should be exempt from the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

On December 11, 1991, the San Francisco Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals gave the go-ahead to enable the University to build the telescope. Their reasoning was a curious mishmash of judicial ratification of congressional acceptance of admitted US Government fraud, chain-saw justice, and legalistic conjecture.

Judicial ratification of what? It seems that three US Fish and Wildlife Service employees admitted, under oath, that they broke the law and violated the Endangered Species Act in order to accommodate the proposed telescope construction. Two of those, Lesley Fitzpatrick and Sam Spiller, claimed that they were coerced into doing so by their supervisor, an old Reagan lackey, Regional Director Michael Spear. Anyway, the results of their misdeeds were incorporated into the USFWS Biological Opinion, which made its way into the law passed by Congress to permit construction of the telescope. The Court said that the fact that the law was based on a pack of lies was none of its concern. After all, the law's the law in this fair land of liberty.

Note: The Inspector General of the Department of Interior was asked to prosecute the three admitted lawbreakers. He said words to the effect of, "Nope! They ain't stole none of *our* money." This is the first example of chainsaw justice in a "through the looking glass" mode.

Chainsaw Justice—Some More: An access road was being opposed in court. The road was built because one District Court Judge Alfred Marquez refused to schedule a hearing on a timely basis. The eminent jurist, it turned out, was a long-standing contributor to University programs, and is a buddy of the University's former Chancellor Koffler. The two viewed many a football game from the University's box until it



Red Squirrel

Peggy Sue McRae

was brought to light by some terroristic activists, at which point the two went underground. The esteemed Judge once actually withdrew from a University-related case, presumably for possible conflict of interest. The Appeals Court was "dismayed" at Judge Marquez' failure to do the right thing, but ruled, in effect, that life's life. The road's already there so what the hell. Boys will be boys. Let's just forget about it. (Our question at this point is, "Who owns which judge?")

Legal Conjecture: The Court ruled that as far as they could tell, Congress had intended to exempt the telescope project from the ESA, the NFMA (National Forest Management Act), and NEPA. That's not a reasonable assumption since it's doubtful that more than a handful of those august legislator knows what those danged things are, let alone any of their provisions. Moreover, the court castigated Congress for its legislative neglect and fuzziness in this matter. For some gory details, see below.

To make a long story short, the Appeals Court sent a couple of things back to the District Court. Judge Marquez (we assume) was ordered to reexamine the compliance and effectiveness of some proposed mandatory monitoring programs, and USFS compliance with some road closures, blah, blah, blah. Well, whom would you rather see up there, Marquez or Clarence Thomas?

There's More: The Appellate Court criticized the way Congress went about its business. Certain matters were cited:

—Senator John McCain of Arizona, who supported the project in 1988 ("These telescopes will be built immediately. They can no longer be stalled by process, by litigation, or by whim."), opened his mind in 1990 ("I have always believed that the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act contemplated the possibility of re-initiation of

consultation where new information has been found."). Harrumphh!!

—Congress' decision to exempt the telescope from the ESA was fuzzy, as was the decision to exempt the project from the minimal viable population requirements of the NFMA.

—Congress held no committee hearings on the projects but should have done so with The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (Chairman, Walter P. Jones, D-NC), the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation (Chairman, Gerry Studds, D-MA), and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman Quentin Burdick, D-ND).

Nobody wants the telescope. At least nobody in this country except the University of Arizona. Every North American partner has pulled out. These

include Cal Tech, Harvard, Ohio State University, the University of Chicago, NASA, and the Smithsonian Institution. So why is the University of Arizona so intent on seeing it go through when just about every other knowledgeable organization in the land believes it to be useless, when it is biologically harmful, and when the enabling legislation is based on lies? Why has the University made itself the first American University to spend public money to obtain an exemption from environmental laws?

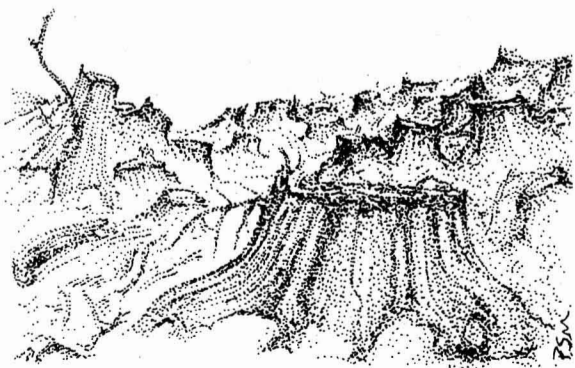
If indeed Chairman Jones, Subcommittee Chairman Studds, Senator McCain and Senator Burdick were misled by University of Arizona administrators and lobbyists and by Executive Branch liars into supporting the proposed Mt. Graham project, why do these legislators continue to deny their obligation to correct this historic error? Why do the legislators responsible for the Mt. Graham travesty continue to allow the perpetuation of a project based on fraud, and perpetuation of a project that sets the precedent for inappropriate circumvention of environmental law? The ultimate decision, unfortunately, rests in the hands of Congress.

Here's what you can do:

—Get in touch with President Manuel Pacheco, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, (602) 621-5511.

—Get in touch with your congresspeople.

—Get in touch with McCain and DeConcini (both of AZ), Gerry Studds, 237 Cannon, Washington, DC 20515, Walter B. Jones, 241 Cannon, Washington, DC 20515, Senator Quentin Burdick, 511 Hart, Washington, DC 20510. Tell all of these people that you object to the use of public funds to avoid compliance with environmental laws, citing specifically the Mt. Graham Telescope.



JUST A FEW MORE YEARS OF HESITATION AND THE ONLY TRACE OF THAT WILDERNESS WHICH HAS EXERTED SUCH A FUNDAMENTAL INFLUENCE IN MOLDING AMERICAN CHARACTER WILL LIE IN THE MUSTY PAGES OF PIONEER BOOKS AND THE MUMBLING MEMORIES OF TOTTERING ANTIQUARIANS.... THERE IS JUST ONE HOPE OF REPULSING THE TYRANNICAL AMBITION OF CIVILIZATION TO CONQUER EVERY NICHE ON THE WHOLE EARTH. THAT HOPE IS THE ORGANIZATION OF SPIRITED PEOPLE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE WILDERNESS

—BOB MARSHALL "THE PROBLEM OF WILDERNESS" SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY FEBRUARY 1930

The Dynamic Face of Activism

BY MITCH FRIEDMAN

I used to encounter all my friends and wildland compatriots sitting in front of bulldozers and hanging in trees. Now I see these old friends in Washington, DC. We dress in monkey suits and do the lobbying thing for forests, wildlands, and other causes.

Washington, DC is 3,500 miles from my home in Bellingham, Washington. But the flight there seems to transport me several centuries; the two places are eras apart. I'm sure glad Columbus didn't land on the west coast.

A trip to DC this past October put me in a mood to muse upon the reasons—as well as our prospects for success—in protecting sizable wild areas.

While in DC I took a trip with a friend to the Great Dismal Swamp, a national wildlife refuge in eastern Virginia. Nice drive: the hardwoods all in autumn color. If we'd wanted to we could have driven and driven, until all those trees were again in bloom, without ever traveling the same road twice. I couldn't believe how many highways grid even the wooded and rural landscape of southern Virginia.

I was looking forward to the Great Dismal Swamp. What a name! There are even tommigof snakes there. The Great Dismal is about 100,000 acres, quite a big reserve by eastern US standards. The large Lake Drummond in the middle of the swamp reportedly is still fit to drink from.

However, the Great Dismal has in times past been logged, and it bears scars from various attempts to drain it. In fact, some 200 years before I arrived on my Saturday drive, George Washington dug a damn channel through the area. This part of the inland waterway is littered with yachts and plastic jugs and other junk. Puma are, of course, extinct in the reserve. Dismal indeed.

Columbus landed on the east coast, but the guy had built up some momentum. The tide of white invaders is still surging all the way out here in the far northwest part of the country, where I live now. My town is expected to grow 20 percent in population by year 2000. Some counties in Washington State are among the fastest growing in the nation. Our lowland forests are being converted to condos and rural two-lanes are expanded to four. While humans can't bring western Washington and eastern Virginia closer together in space, we are unfortunately closing the gap in time.

In his 1990 book, *The Good Rain*, Timothy Egan labels the Northwest the "Pacific Nation." He believes that the people here are affected by our bold and majestic landscape and that we are somehow earthier than the rest of western civi-

lized society. Perhaps; I sure feel out of place in Washington, DC. Egan thinks this Pacific Nation may protect what's left of the vitality of the land.

I would like to think so. There remains here quite a bit of vitality worth protecting. Washington State has large wild areas where to this day not a single native species has been extirpated. These areas have survived as much by virtue of their ruggedness and geographic impenetrability as by the grace of busy humans. Yet survive they have. And in fact these places are much appreciated by the public here, who perceive them as recreational and spiritual refugia.

But how deep does this spirit run? My organization, the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, is advocating conservation of these areas in such a way that they will sustain biodiversity—all native species and ecological processes—in the long term. That's different than the message most environmental groups have been sending to date.

We are the first major group in the state of Washington to work aggressively for recovery of grizzly bear and wolf populations, for instance. These positions have not been unanimously sup-



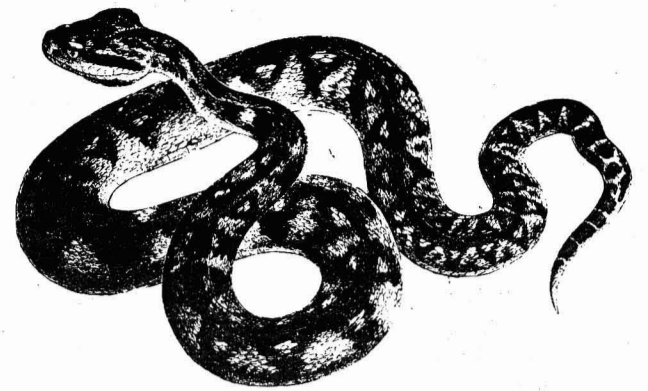
ported even within the environmental and outdoor recreation communities. Some people, it seems, are afraid of being eaten. *The Daily Olympian*, a newspaper published in Washington's capitol, has twice put the Greater Ecosystem Alliance in its "loser" column for our efforts to protect and restore native species to wild areas in the state.

One of these columns described grizzly bears as "proven predators and killers," which the *Olympian* complained would thrive on the carcasses of Gortex-clad rockclimbers. There is no way, in the *Olympian's* opinion, to assure the protection of the "human population" should grizzlies recover to viable numbers in the North Cascades. Perhaps recreationists could join loggers and miners on the endangered species list.

This is deep stuff, and I believe that it has caused a lot of weekend environmentalists to think. Are the green areas on the map to be wild and unmanaged, or simply managed for hikes

and views instead of timber? This issue goes to the heart of what true conservationists stand for. I believe in the freedom of self-determination for species and ecosystems—evolution unconstrained and undirected.

The goal of protecting native diversity and evolutionary potential is quite ambitious. In most parts of the country and the world it is perhaps too late, or will at least require massive restoration efforts. Of course these efforts should be made, but the never-ending highways of eastern Virginia symbolize the enormity of the task. In the Northwest, however, several largely intact wild areas can be supplemented



and connected to result in a viable reserve system. While this will involve far more than is presently being considered for spotted owl and even wild salmon protection, the result would be of much greater value.

But an understanding of what wild areas are for is absolutely essential. The editors of the *Olympian* are today no more able to see the North Cascades or Monashees as something more than a mountain playground than was George Washington able to understand the non-transportation values of the Great Dismal Swamp 200 years. As long as such mindsets prevail, the world will be lost.

It may seem undignified for the righteous Earth Warrior to engage in officious discussion (lobbying) rather than direct action. A lot of us are today leading lives that we never would have anticipated while looking down from tree platforms a few years back. Speaking for myself, my goals and commitment have not changed, so why would my tactics?

Believe me, the changes haven't brought me love or money. My time in the wilderness is less, my stress level is higher. My days are spent in front of computers or on phones, rather than in high-adrenalina confrontation. From any personal criteria, my EF! organizing days were much more satisfying.

Am I more effective now in working towards my goals? For short-term objectives, I have to say "yes." For larger and loftier goals—say those relative to the dominant paradigm, industrial civilization, and the ultimate fate of the planet—I really don't know. I have skills and abilities now that I didn't have years ago. These offer me different opportunities to have impact. At the heart of it, I'm too pragmatic to forsake these opportunities for reasons of purity or rhetoric.

During the last seven years, the period over which I've devoted my full-time to environmental issues, we have made small gains and suffered great losses. I'm skeptical of anyone who discounts either. Looking specifically at Northwest forest issues, we've accomplished far more than we dreamed we would, though it still isn't enough. We succeeded through efforts in courts, Congress, and the woods.

In planetary issues in general, we sometimes prevail on those factors within our control, but we fail to impact anything beyond our control (such as population growth, world trade, human ethics and animosities, industrial civilization). Is that news to anyone? What I'm getting at is that, when it comes to Earth-saving strategies, I've not encountered anyone who really has all their ducks in a row. Those who presume to have their ducks in a row are full of it.

So I, as one of the underdogs in the battle for biodiversity, will continue to be pragmatic. I will pursue opportunities as they arise and hope for the best. I will not allow grandiose delusions generated from within my skull restrain me from doing what appears effective at the time, be it direct action, fundraising, education, timber sale appeals, or dog-forbid, congressional lobbying. That is the best I can do.

So I'll continue to lobby in DC to protect from loggers and developers what the politicians will yield. That's an important, though admittedly narrow, part of our battle. But I still see the role of conservationists (including myself) as the articulators of and fighters for a greater vision: The vision that the natural world has meaning beyond that which humans gave it, and direction more important than that in which humans would steer. I stand for wild.



British Columbia Betrayed

BY SYDNEY HASKELL

The political situation in BC's forests has turned from anguish to hope, and then into shock and disgust as the New Democratic Party government (which we supported into power at the last election) has turned its election promises and "values" into lies of betrayal.

We based our trust on the reasonable expectations that Premier Mike Harcourt, whose party had courted the environmental movement for years, could be expected to keep his word to spare sensitive areas from logging, and to include the public in the decision-making process. He made these statements in front of network TV cameras.

The first "promise" was made on October 11 at approximately 4 PM. I asked him, "Premier Harcourt, the Social Credit Party (previous government) has placed the logging industry in most every controversial area in the province. What will you do immediately upon being elected?" Harcourt responded that he would immediately instruct the companies to "log around contentious areas." However, nothing happened, and clearcuts and road building continued in the Walbran, Nahmint, Clayoquot, Laska, and Hasty Watersheds while environmentalists waited, expecting action soon, not wanting to "rock the boat" and piss the leaders off.

The second and third levels of betrayal regarded logging plans which the previous Social Credit government had stalled on passing prior to the election, as approval of the plans would commit the land base to five more years of destructive logging, and the Social Credit party did not want to deal with this prior to an election. Prior to being elected, Harcourt had stated that he would "deal the public in." His half-baked Minister of Forestry, Dan Miller, went on to approve a transfer of timber rights from a multinational to a provincial-based clearcutter. Seventy-five million dollars passed between the companies. Environmental confidence was dropping. During this period, I faxed letters to the cabinet, giving them a drift of what it might look like if they betrayed us. They seem to have made their choice, finishing it off with the signing of the plans for one-third of Vancouver Island with no consultation or inclusion of environmental values, and the loss of options to make a real difference where the promise of "changes" could be translated into "new forestry" substance.

Miller has stated that decisions will be made on the controversial Walbran in January and in the fall for Carmanah. On June 13 of 1989, Harcourt had criticized the Social Credit government for not having appointed an independent commission to make the decision on Carmanah. It appears that power and influence have changed the need for "independence" over these extremely important areas.

Prior to politics, Miller was an IWA representative, suggesting that a conflict of interest is showing up in his decision making. The real question is whether the government is totally behind these indiscretions made during the holiday season, or if this man is a maverick running off on his own. When the trees start falling, Miller and this government will come under extreme pressure, far more than last year, but we can not afford to lose. There is not enough forest or time. We will act now to make the fate of these Temperate Rainforests an international issue.

A group of committed individuals is organizing to march for two weeks from the Walbran through various logging communities down to the legislative buildings in Victoria. The design is to facilitate communication and support for

common ground between the people of these threatened communities and the environmentalists, neither of whom need the multinational corporations running our provincial forests. This will take place between February 8th and February 20th of this year. Everyone is invited.

These forests belong to the world rather than to a few individuals in logging communities. We require a structure and strategy so that people across the world can express their commitment to protecting the biology of the temperate rainforest which spreads along the Pacific coast from Chile to Alaska. I suggest a rotating hunger fast, whereby individuals, within the privacy of their own lives, could fast every second day, (or more if they wished) as a conservation statement. This would then be translated into a media campaign by registering their "action" through phoning local coordinators in their

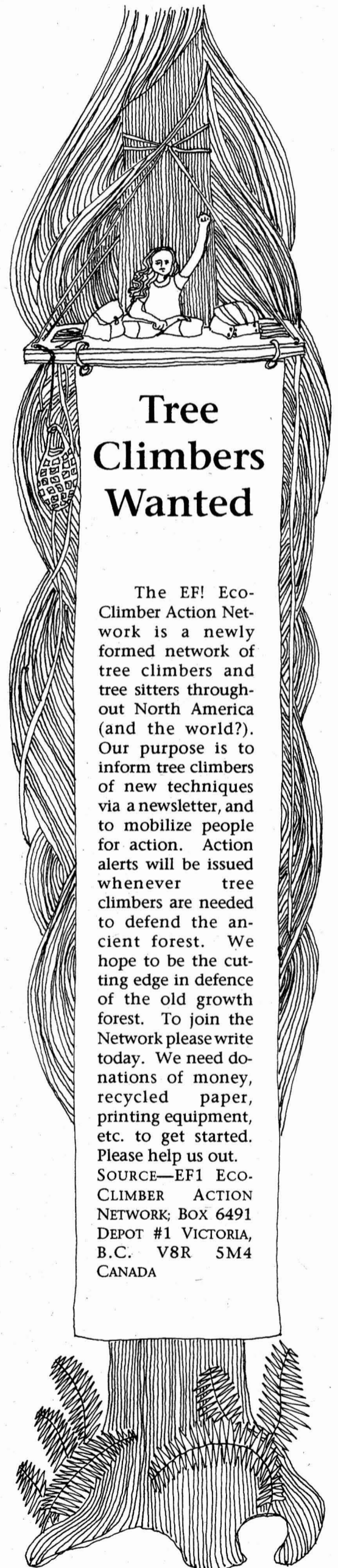
town, state, or province. Totals worldwide could then be tabulated and faxed to media outlets.

People could also write to our newspapers and government expressing your concerns regarding the disgraceful removal of our forests. Even Brazil has set aside 12% of its forest, while BC has set aside less than 3% of Southern Vancouver Island, (where 80% of the people live) in unroaded wilderness. This is where the logging companies are intensifying their deforestation. Letters could be sent to the editors of the following publications: *The Sun*, 2250

Granville St., Vancouver, BC; *The Province*, 2250 Granville St., Vancouver, BC; *Times Colonist*, P.O. Box 300, Victoria, BC V8W 2N4; *Monday Magazine*, 1609 Blanshard St., Victoria, BC V8W 2J5; *Valley Times*, 4918 Napier, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7N1; *The Citizen*, 490 Trans Canada Highway, Duncan, BC, V9L 3R6; or The Premier and the Sustainable Development Committee, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 and/or send your letters to CFS P.O. Box 5283, Stn. "B" Victoria, BC V8R 6N4 Canada, and we will distribute them.

Locally, we will be coordinating sit-ins and occupations in the legislative and cabinet offices to place them under siege. Committed individuals within Victoria can express their anger at our new "government of betrayal" in this manner. Disrupting their "business as usual" and shaming them for not having a forest ethic should be an effective strategy when combined with the fasting and walk, thus creating a constant sustainable pressure.

Actions in the woods will of course take place, but require structure, funds and committed individuals. As in last year's Walbran protest; we will be billeting, transporting and feeding people wishing to express their commitment to preserving the life of the forest. BC's forests need activists with skills and training are needed. Equipment, radios, and people with forest "smarts" will be required to formulate strategies, establish camps, build trails, and make our presence known. Hopefully, environmentalists can pull together to stop the destruction. The government is firmly in place, and we need to shame them on all fronts if we are to force them to the bargaining table. If we are ready, organized and active in writing, fasting, and "monkey wrenching" the legislature, we may save ourselves the pain in the woods. Otherwise we will need to have all hell break loose, and so it should. We can do no less than our personal best to protect the nature that is so dependent on the forest, but cannot protect itself from human onslaught.



Tree Climbers Wanted

The EF! Eco-Climber Action Network is a newly formed network of tree climbers and tree sitters throughout North America (and the world?). Our purpose is to inform tree climbers of new techniques via a newsletter, and to mobilize people for action. Action alerts will be issued whenever tree climbers are needed to defend the ancient forest. We hope to be the cutting edge in defence of the old growth forest. To join the Network please write today. We need donations of money, recycled paper, printing equipment, etc. to get started. Please help us out. SOURCE—EF1 ECO-CLIMBER ACTION NETWORK; BOX 6491 DEPOT #1 VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 5M4 CANADA

Walk for the Rainforest

BY SOCKEYE SUE AND SARENA

The Temperate Rainforest Action Coalition is sponsoring a 200 km walk from the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island to the Legislature in Victoria, British Columbia. beginning February 8th.



With the preservation of Old Growth Ecosystems as our goal, we seek creative alternatives to the rapid destruction of the remnants of South Vancouver Island's original Old Growth forest. The walk will focus on communicating directly with logging communities reeling under the strain of huge layoffs this winter, and with First Nations (Canada's native peoples) who are feeling further and further

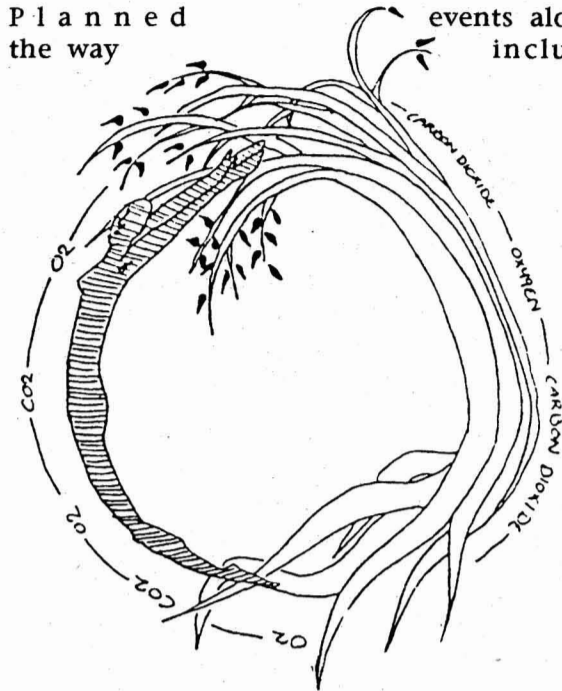
alienated as the majority of their native land claims remain unsettled. We believe that without the interference of government and corporate interests, environmentalists, timber workers and native peoples can develop solidarity through better communication and work together to solve our problems.

Change will not take place unless we make it happen. The past has shown that change comes from the people, from the grassroots, from you and me. The walk will visit communities talking with people whose lives are dependent on the forestry industry, to First Nations people whose

lands are being desecrated, to environmentalists with categorical concerns, and to anyone else who cares to talk.

We will start from a base camp within the Walbran Valley. You will need a guide, so please call our contact number for more information.

Planned events along the way include



a demonstration at the Youbou Mill and the Crofton Mill, an evening of drumming and dancing around campfires at Gold Stream park,

and a march on the Legislature accompanied by speakers and music.

These precious forests belong to the world, not a few wealthy timber lords. We invite you to join us for all or part of this walk. Prior to the walk we will hold a Nonviolent Pre-walk Preparation (see schedule) that we encourage all walkers to attend.

What you can expect on this walk is rain, and lots of it, possibly snow and cold. We will be providing some support for camping and some food, but we ask walkers to bring as much cold weather camping gear and clothing as they can. There will be vehicles on the walk to carry gear so don't worry about having too much to carry (though don't go overboard). Whatever food you can bring is helpful. People should bring their vehicles if possible for cold weather camping. If bringing a vehicle please call for details. Be sure to bring guitars, drums and *chocolate!*

Other ways to support this walk are needed. Donations of food are welcome and sponsors are needed to support individual walkers. Any donation of money is of course welcome, write checks to; "The Walbran Walk" (non tax-deductible receipts will be provided on request)

Write: Walk for the Rainforest c/o Sarena #3-1176 Yates St. Victoria B. C. V8V 3M8 Phone: (604) 360-0787 or (604) 383-5764. Fax: 604-386-445

Requiem in the Walbran

BY WILD WOLF

The night is still, and dark. Standing all around me, towering, are the ancient trees I have sworn to protect. Yet the forest is more than trees. The night air carries the sounds of frogs, and the river. My eyes close, and I let the spirit of the forest carry me off into sleep.

Early this morning, I don't know what time it is, I'm awakened. Voices, strange voices. I look over to see police officers in my shelter. They are bending over my friend, telling him to leave, threatening to arrest us. I remember that the tree platforms are unoccupied, and then I realize what this means: Today, this forest will die. The police leave. I crawl out of my sleeping bag, and pull on my camouflage clothing. The police have given us twenty minutes to leave. I pack my gear and instead of going to the end of the logging road as they ordered us, I disappear into the forest.

Confused, I run up the trail for about ten minutes, trying not to leave footprints in the fresh mud. I hide my pack behind a large fallen tree. Behind the tree, I try to gather my thoughts. I think back to the lazy days at the waterfall, before the loggers came. I also remember the rainy days I spent high up in the canopy of the threatened forest, and the nights that I made love in this very forest. And of course, I remember the newts, mosses, and bears that make this place their home. I cannot let them kill this forest. I slowly and carefully make my way through the foliage back to the threatened area. A police officer is on the trail guarding the way. I watch him from among the bushes for a while, and then slip by unnoticed. After a few more minutes of travelling, the still air is shattered by the sounds of chainsaws, and I hear a thundering boom and feel the Earth shake as the first tree of the day falls. Cops and loggers are everywhere. What can I, one person, do to stop all this madness? I consider running into the cut block, yelling and screaming. It would only stop them for a few minutes, a futile idea. I retreat into the forest again. After a few minutes I see movement. A camouflaged figure takes shape, and I realize it is Freebird, a friend. I signal him, and then approach. Neither of us has any kind of plan. We hear someone making noises in the cut block, and this stops the chainsaws for a minute, but soon they start up again. We take off our boots and cross the river together, trying to avoid the

eyes of the loggers on the bridge. I see them preparing another tree for death. I reach the other side of the river, but Freebird is gone. I consider going back to look for him, but I know the effort will be futile. I decide to climb the bank and make my way to the end of the bridge, where I know my friends are. At the top of the bank I find a row of police vehicles, and see my friends at the end of the bridge, sitting and watching the carnage.

I walk down towards the bridge, and my friends. At the bridge I join them. Many of them are crying. Television crews are there. They film me, trying to make me look like a freak. They are right. I am a freak. These days it takes a freak to care. I ignore them. As each tree falls, many of my friends scream like banshees. I prefer to sit silently. My own kind of eulogy. Here I sit, holding the hands of the others, watching this ancient forest, my favorite place in the world, my home, being destroyed. Finally, the moment comes that we have all dreaded. The loggers approach the base of the Old Cedar, the giant Being at the end of the end of the road. This tree has stood for perhaps a thousand years, and is almost, but not quite, a snag. This tree has stood as a living symbol of our struggle for this valley. But to me it is not just a symbol. It is my friend. Several loggers at the base of the tree seem to be checking it for spikes. One logger hits it with an axe. Obviously they found none. I feel helpless, desperate. What can I do? Soon they take their chainsaws to my old friend. I can feel the chainsaws biting into my own side. The tree still stands, they can't take it down with chainsaws alone. Now they bring out an air pump and stick it into the massive wound. After a few minutes of pumping, the Old Cedar can struggle no longer. It finally falls, quaking the forest floor, and shatters into a thousand pieces. We had watched our old friend die. My friends and I screamed as it fell, and now we cry together.



WALK EVENTS

Nonviolence Pre-Walk Preparation

Saturday, February 1st, University of Victoria Student Union Bldg, Upper Lounge. 10am-5pm
A workshop to plan the walk and meet other walkers.

We suggest all walkers attend if possible.

Youbou Demonstration

Wednesday, February 12th at the Youbou Mill
No more layoffs! More value-added industry.
More eco-friendly jobs!

Time to be announced.

Crofton Demonstration

In conjunction with Green Islands (537-653)
Sunday, February 16th at the Crofton Mill
No more chlorine-bleached paper! Stop the pollution!

1:30 pm

Beat of the Forest

Friday, February 21st at Goldstream Provincial Park

Join us for an evening of drumming, campfires and fun.

8 pm-11 pm

Celebration/Rally in Victoria

Saturday, February 22nd at the Legislature
Welcome the walk: Speakers, Music, Letter writing

And excitement plus!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nonviolence Workshop

Sunday, February 23rd at the University of Victoria

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact: Sarena (604) 360-0787

Four Cities Washington State Roadshow

To publicize upcoming Rainforest Summer '92
February 23rd to March 4th

Contact: Kevin (206) 738-0637

Nonviolent Direct Action Workshop for Leaders

Of Rainforest Summer '92

March 2nd to March 6th

Contact: Peter (604) 251-3190

Tree Climbers' Workshop for Tree Climbing Trainers

March 7th to March 8th

Contact: Peter (604) 251-3190

Bering Sea—An Ecosystem Run Amok

BY MICHAEL LEWIS

On the surface of the Bering Sea, the watery interface between Alaska and western Siberia, the scene appears much as it has for the last 10,000 years, when the last great glaciers finally released their waters and buried the land bridge over which humans had crossed to the New World. Shearwaters settle in flocks of thousands on the waves, sea lions throw sparkling droplets in the air as they play with their finny meals, walrus struggle out of the water to sun on their favorite haul-outs.

But beneath the surface of these beneficent waters, something sinister is lurking. Some unseen force is turning this once-bountiful ocean ecosystem into an alarming remnant of its former overwhelming diversity. Over the past 20 to 30 years, numbers of key species in the Bering Sea have declined dramatically, in some cases as much as 90%. They are not dying at sea of some unknown disease to wash up on shore in rotting windrows, they are not migrating elsewhere to find new, more desirable habitats. They're just not there anymore.

Alaska Natives were first to notice the change, living, as many still do, on the Earth with the other resident species. They knew, as they have always known, that the balance between the human and animal worlds is delicate and requires constant attention to proper livelihood and respect for their animal neighbors, on whom their lives depend. But now, something was causing the animals to abandon their homes and go elsewhere. Something was disrupting the age-old pact between human and animal; the deal had been called off and it was the human's responsibility to make amends and restore the balance.

The Natives' voices were small and meek when they tried to explain their perspective to the overwhelmingly loud, technologically dominated Europeans who had invaded and taken over their lands and oceans. The Cheechakos would not listen and they continued to exploit the land and the sea.

Factory trawlers, huge floating factory cities, mine the Bering Sea of its pollock, salmon, and yellow-fin sole. Nets as big as apartment houses scoop billions of pounds of fish from the waters and off the bottom every year, meanwhile destroying millions of other animals in the process

and laying waste to the delicately-organized ocean bottom. The noise from these mobile industrial zones can be heard for miles across the water and for scores of miles beneath the surface, disturbing the normal activities of the ancient residents of this bioregion.

Increasing freighter traffic through these waters leaves an oily scum on the surface from ballast water discharges and small oil spills. The water birds that settle on the surface, their home, find their life-preserving feathers fouled with oily slime, and if they don't die immediately from exposure to the cold waters, they die slowly from secondary poisoning as their accustomed food sources slowly absorb toxic hydrocarbons. Diving ducks are particularly susceptible to entanglement in fish nets, and even though drift nets, the clearcutters of the sea, are supposed to be outlawed, thousands of sea birds continue to drown in these huge plastic traps every year.

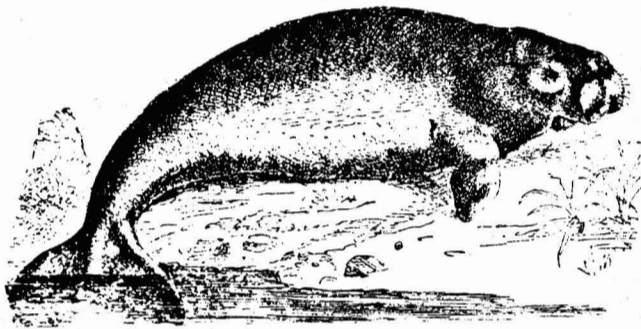
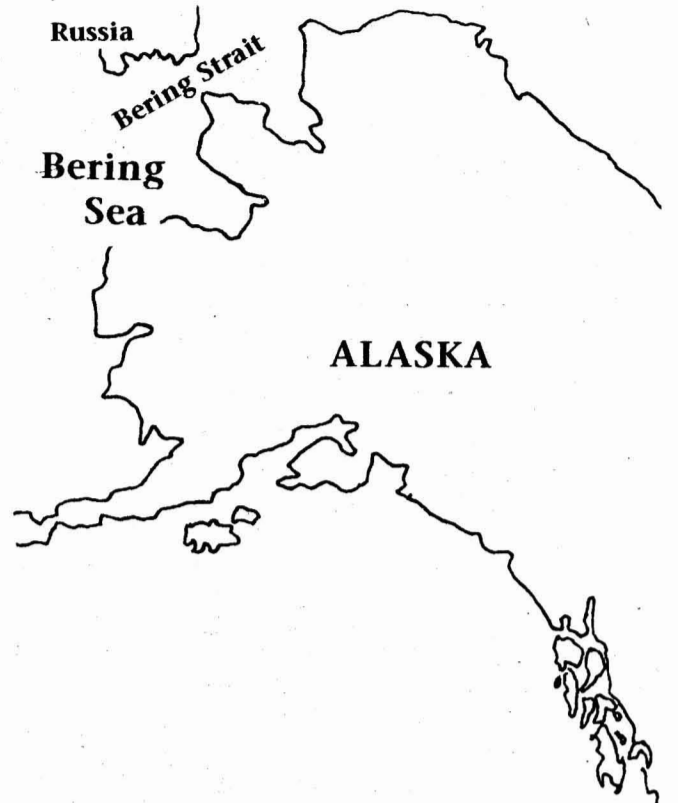
Those sea birds that manage to escape the ravaging of their home waters find conditions on land no better. The Yukon-Kuskokwim delta, on the southwest coast of Alaska, was once the nesting grounds of the Steller eider. Hundreds of thousands of these unique sea ducks used to build their nests among the grassy tussocks of this rich coastal plain. Today the Y-K delta is no longer

recognized as a Steller eider nesting zone; the species has been extirpated (a word as ugly as its meaning) from this bioregion. Steller Eiders winter along the Alaska Peninsula. Of the 250,000 to 500,000 eiders that used to be seen in this area, only 50-75,000 remain, mostly from nesting grounds in Siberia.

A pitiful 300-500 remaining individuals are now known to nest in Alaska on the North Slope.

A close relative, the spectacled eider, has declined over 90% in numbers on the once-lush Y-K delta. European scientists don't know where these animals winter, but the natives say they go to the bottom of the ocean and burrow into the Earth where it is warmer. Evidently, many of them have decided not to return.

In a related mystery, the Steller sea lion has been drastically declining in numbers for the last ten years. From a population estimated at 140,000 in 1958, their numbers have crashed to 25,000 today, and the population is still declining at 5% per year. Again, no disease is ravaging



Steller's Sea Cow

Extinct since 1768

these animals, migration doesn't account for their loss. But haul-outs that once groaned under the weight of thousands of sea lion adults and pups are now virtually deserted. Biologists do not admit to an understanding of the cause for this decline, and though the Stellers are now on the Threatened Species list, little can be done to reverse this drastic change until the cause is determined.

Though life in and on the Bering Sea is normally abundant and diverse, this seeming fecundity is deceptively shallow and fragile. Life in the arctic is delicately balanced, constricted by cold and short growing seasons, even in relatively mild coastal bioregions. The same ecological interrelationships exist as in lower latitudes, but here they are stressed to the limit by the prevailing climate.

In the Lower 48, scientists have determined that, in general, a species can tolerate a 10% "harvest" rate and still maintain a healthy breeding population. This rate of killing plants and animals for human use is called a "sustained yield." All "resource" exploitation in the north has been predicated on this same sustained yield rate, with no additional studies being done to determine its suitability in northern latitudes.

As you might guess by common sense, the delicately balanced ecosystems of the Arctic and sub-Arctic cannot sustain anywhere near this rate of destruction. Biologists estimate that most animal and plant species in Arctic bioregions can tolerate, at most, a 3 to 5% "harvest" (another ugly word) rate. There is very little redundancy in Arctic ecosystems, where energy conservation is

Continued on next page

Suit Threatened Over Imperiled Eiders

Recently the Biodiversity Legal Foundation (BLF) filed a formal 60-day notice of intent to file suit against the Interior Department for its failure to list and protect the spectacled and Steller's eider in Alaska under the Endangered Species Act. The Steller's and spectacled eiders are small marine ducks that winter and breed at northern latitudes far away from most human populations. Their breeding areas are the Yukon Delta, a relatively pristine waterfowl breeding area in western Alaska, the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, and eastern Siberia. Both species have experienced serious and dramatic declines in numbers in recent years.

A petition to add the spectacled and Steller's eiders to the growing list of threatened and endangered species was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1990 by James G. King of Juneau, Alaska. The Service is required by law to accept or reject such a petition within one year, but to date has not done so. This latest legal action is designed to compel the government to act. If the petition is rejected, further litigation is possible by the Biodiversity Legal Foundation

and other environmental groups.

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation recognizes that the specific reasons for spectacled and Steller's eider declines are unknown. However, possible contributing factors include predation, habitat change, over-harvest, weather, ecosystem and atmospheric contamination, and changes

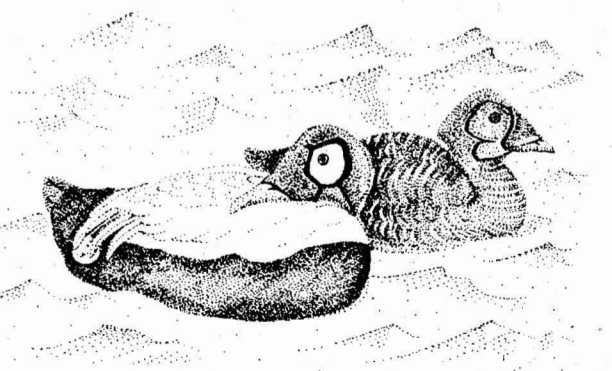
in patterns of movement. Some of these factors may be the result of the cumulative impact of human activities in the Alaskan Arctic.

The ESA listing of these two eiders would result in badly-needed increased funding for research to tease apart which factors are most responsible for their decline. It would also give agency officials legal authority to better monitor and control the direct, human-caused mortality of these eiders and to work for the protection of the marine ecosystems and nesting areas upon which the existence of these species depends.

Time is running out for these small marine ducks. By listing and protecting them now under the ESA, a needed national effort will be initiated to address the severity of the current rate of decline and develop effective recovery plans.

Unless the FWS acts immediately to list the spectacled and Steller's eider as threatened or endangered species, the BLF will exercise its right to bring an action in federal district court to compel the FWS to meet its statutory obligations under the ESA, 15 USC S1540(g)(1).

—BIODIVERSITY LEGAL FOUNDATION



Spectacled Eider

Peggy Sue McRae

maximized in all species, including wild humans, and there is very little room left for excess production.

It should come as no surprise then, when commercial fish processors remove 3 billion pounds of fish every year, that changes begin to appear in this delicate ecosystem. Commercial fishing by huge factory trawlers in the waters off Alaska selectively removes the largest fish from the population, leaving fish from 1" to 10" in length. This disrupts the predator-prey relationships, favoring those predators who depend on the smaller fish. In a system like that of the Bering Sea, the effect is similar to dropping a bowling ball into an aquarium. The combination of commercial fishing with its attendant disruption of population dynamics, plus the noise, water and air pollution and ocean bottom destruction that comes along with this commercialization of what once was a low level, subsistence activity, has proven devastating to the entire bioregion of the western coast of Alaska. The Bering Sea is indeed an ecosystem run amok.

Biologists express puzzlement over these declines, unable to pin down any system-wide influences on population dynamics. Consequently, Natives are beginning to demand that the European scientific establishment begin to pay more attention to their traditional knowledge and observations of the Bering Sea ecosys-

tem, a knowledge based on thousands of years of close cooperation with animals of this bioregion. Representatives of western Alaska coastal villages have formed a statewide marine mammal coalition "to promote traditional knowledge as a complement to the scientific method used by university and government researchers."

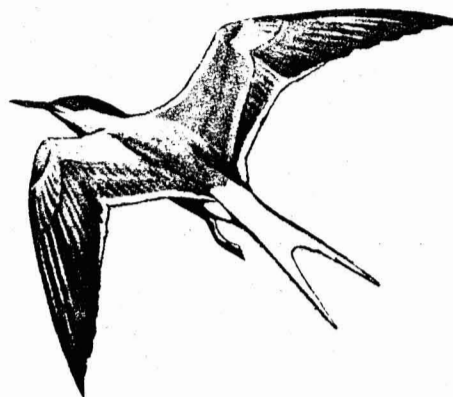
Despite the earnest efforts of natives and the ignorance of western scientists, the problem in coming to terms with environmental disruption caused by human activity is not one of scientific realities as much as recognition of political influence. Commercial fishing in Alaska is a huge economic enterprise, benefitting not so much individual fishermen as fat capitalist investors who own the factory trawlers that plow the waters of the Bering Sea. The multi-billion dollar fishing industry packs a big wallop in the halls of Washington DC, where lobbyists heavily influence Alaska's so-called representatives. The result is that policy in such agencies as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Northwest Fisheries Management Council is generated by greed rather than ecological reality. The field biologists working in Alaska and even their immediate managers are fully aware of the nature of

the problem and the steps necessary to rectify the situation. But their recommendations are forwarded to Washington, where other considerations take precedence.

Only one thing is certain in this war waged by commercial greed against the ancient inhabitants of Alaska and the Arctic: unless something is done very soon to stop the precipitous decline of animal species in the Bering Sea, the spectacled eider, the Steller's eider and the Steller sea lion will join the list of species no longer endangered. They will be extinct.

What you can do: 1) Write to officials at the USFWS and, of course, your congresspeople, and let them know how you feel about destruction of delicate ecosystems for commercial gain. There aren't enough concerned people in

Alaska to gain notice in Washington. 2) Visit these officials and demand they snap out of it and face facts and start fixing things, instead of breaking them. 3) Acquire a large boat and fix things yourself. Go ahead, do it your way.



Forest Service Lies! Announcing A Day of Outrage against the US Forest Service!

The Time is Now to End All Logging On Our National Forests

1991 was the official 100th anniversary of the US Forest Service, but no one is celebrating. Our US Forest Service is destroying forests twice as fast as Brazil is. And while 80 percent of Brazil's rain forest still stands, at current rates, the unprotected remnants of America's forests could be completely fragmented and gone in fewer than ten years. It is time to put the Forest Service out of business and let our forests live.

We are calling for a national Day of Outrage on John Muir's Birthday, April 21. Earth First!ers from around the country will take action, sing and shout, perform pagan rites at Forest Service headquarters, Congressional offices or in the forests! Our mission is no less than to reintroduce wolf, griz, and all extirpated species to the national forests, to completely restore timber-raped land; to end mining, grazing, logging and all human vampire sucking of resources from our fragile forests.

Day of Outrage?, you say; we've been outraged at the US Forest Service for years! True enough, yet amazingly, there may still be citizens in the land who don't know of the outlaw ways of the agency, who still think Smokey the Bear's job is to protect the trees and forest creatures, not to murder the forests by handing them over to clearcutting, corporate fiends!

More than one million acres a year are being brutally clearcut. In the process, 360,000 miles of roads have been built in the forests. No other government or government agency in the world is responsible for such a huge road system. Over \$2 billion a year in taxpayers' money is spent building and maintaining logging roads and cleaning up after logging operations. Timber companies pay less than \$400 million a year for the trees, meaning they receive over \$1.5 billion worth of free services to help them ravage public land. The US Forest Service administers this huge welfare program for the timber industry, while covering up the losses with accounting schemes which "make the savings and loan business look like an angel," according to one investigator.

The abuses of the USFS have gotten so bad, even the mainstream media has noticed. A New York Times headline (Nov. 3, 1991) asks "Why Let Chainsaws Pare the Old Forests At All" In an article in the October, 1991, issue of *Atlantic Monthly*, the author calls for a complete halt to all logging in the National Forests, restoration of land damaged by clearcutting and tree farming, and management of the National Forests exclusively for recreation and the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.

The forests of the generations are dying, while environmental bureaucrats lobby politicians paid off by the timber industry. They beg for tree museums, called Ancient Forest Preserves. Election year vagaries may or may not allow legislation to happen. As Congress twiddles its thumbs, the forests continue to fall. No matter what, legislation will be a compromise, with lines of protection drawn by political interests, not with respect for a healthy forest.

Public awareness is growing, but it won't be enough to save forest ecosystems unless we can transform awareness to Outrage. The 100 years of Forest Service reign has been one of rape and ruin. The National Forest is dying from their lies. Please join with other Earth First! activists around the country and get out in the street, the woods or the deserts to make Muir Day a rowdy, outrageous and effective Day of Outrage.

Together we have a stronger message and a louder voice. Let's take action together on April 21 and honor John Muir and his message.

Start planning your local group action now. A coordinating group in the SF Bay Area is putting together an action packet. The packet will include news clips, info sheets, artwork, media info and other ideas to help you pull off a successful action. If you have ideas, materials or artwork that would be appropriate for the packet please get in touch with us as soon as possible! To get the packet or contribute materials, write to Earth First! Day of Outrage, P.O. Box 410041, San Francisco, CA 94141. The phone number is (415) 921-3578.

MARK APRIL 21 ON YOUR CALENDAR AND GEAR UP!

Also: We need more creative ideas! Join the committee working on this if you can help!

—KAREN PICKETT



THE
FOREST SERVICE
COMETH

Stone Container Moves to the Tropics

BY JAKE JAGOFF

Having run headlong into fierce opposition from the environmental movement in the United States and following the stump-ridden capitalist credo of laissez-faire (i.e., let the forests beware), Stone Container Corp. (#93 on the Fortune 500 list) is extending its tentacles into Central and South America. At present, Stone is involved in plantation forestry in Costa Rica and last September signed an agreement with Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to pulp 340,000 hectares of tropical pine forest on the Mosquito Coast. This is just the tip of the iceberg: Stone stated to Desiree Chen in a July 2, 1990, article in *Crain's Chicago Business* that the Corporation will consider expanding its plantation forestry operations to Panama, Venezuela and Nicaragua if the venture in Costa Rica is successful.

Stone's motives for shifting to tropical forests are a purely economic attempt to escape a collapsing market for hardwoods in the US and Canada. Stone's \$18 million plantation forestry initiative in Costa Rica illustrates how attractive the tropics are to massive wood products companies who are more than willing to go to Central & South America to ensure a steady supply of cheap pulp. Stone will plant 27 million gmelina (a pine species native to India) over the next five years, and starting in 1995 will produce 600,000 tons of pulp annually. Stone currently purchases 25 million tons of virgin forest each year for its paper and sawmills in North America so, in the greater scheme of things, the project is a small investment, and represents only 2.4% of the company's total wood consumption. However, Stone is certainly beginning the transition from the temperate forests (over which they've run roughshod) to the tropical forests.

Like any typical multinational these days, Stone is getting heaps of public relations mileage out of planting supertrees on old cattle ranches and banana plantations. Believe it or not, some pinhead environmentalists are patting Stone on the back for these efforts; the environmentalists' attitude being that it is "better to have a tree growing there than nothing at all." Bullshit! Planting trees is not enough, dammit. We've got to plant the right kind of trees in the right places at the right times, as in healthy forest ecosystems. WHY NOT NATIVE SPECIES? Replacing one monoculture with another will not safeguard remaining primary forest nor will it increase the standard of living for rural people. These myths, perpetuated by the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, ignore the fact that plantations enable large wood products companies like Stone to get rich off the back of the lower classes. One reason Stone is going to Costa Rica is low labor costs—each worker receives \$.60 cents a day. Furthermore, Stone's plan will deplete soil fertility, decrease biodiversity, and allow natural resources to be privatized, thus depriving local people of control over

how the land is managed.

Stone, with a typically cavalier corporate approach, admits it has little recorded data about how gmelina will affect soil conditions and the growing environment in Costa Rica. Furthermore, it states that the biggest problem is the pioneering nature of the project. Oh yeah, don't we all feel sorry for those corporate pioneers at Stone! But don't cry folks, Stone won't wither in the tropics because it is exempt from income and property taxes and from import duties on all equipment brought into the country. It also gets an export rebate of 10% on transport fees in the form of Costa Rican government bonds. Thanks to a Costa Rican forestry law designed to encourage foreign investment, the powers-that-be in San Jose are rolling out the red carpet for these Chicago-based pulp and paper pushers.

In a much more controversial manner, Stone recently signed an agreement (yet to be ratified by the Honduran Congress) with the Honduran President that gives the company the right to exploit tropical forests for 40 years. Citing time-worn economic rationale that commercial management of the La Mosquitia pine forest would attract jobs, investment and forestry experts, President Leonardo Callejas dances the neocolonial shuffle in a throwback to the worst of the United Fruit days. According to Jennifer Greer, writing in the October 19th, 1991, *Honduras This Week*, "The opposition continued to mount to the Honduran government's decision to contract a US firm to harvest young pines for pulpwood in thousands of acres of forest in La Mosquitia."

And what opposition! Over a dozen groups have come out against the agreement including members of Fundacion VIDA, the Committee for the Defense of the Natural Resources of La Mosquitia, the Union of Miskito Indians (who were not consulted in the planning process), the biologists' association of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), the Fundacion Ecologista "Hector Rodrigo Pastor" of San Pedro Sula, members of the College Society of Professional Foresters, the Honduran Association of Agricultural and Forestry Journalists, and the national chapter of Environmental Journalists.

The fact that environmental groups, indigenous peoples, biologists and ecologists, journalists and even foresters are speaking out in the local media against industrial forestry development in La Mosquitia shows how much resistance there is in Honduras.

Why are so many people in Honduras and around the world up in arms about Stone's plans? The answer is simple: La Mosquitia (a.k.a. The Mosquito Coast) is mostly roadless, undeveloped and home to the Pech, Lencas, Xicaques and Tahuakas and Miskitos tribes. Like other tribal people who live and rely on tropical forests, the forest dwellers of La Mosquitia have survived in the 20th century largely because of geographic isolation. In

addition to harboring extensive pine forests, La Mosquitia is composed of millions of hectares of primary rainforest with valuable tropical hardwoods, expansive wetlands, salt and freshwater lagoons, mangrove swamps and coral reefs offshore in the Caribbean. Supposedly, if you can believe Stone and Callejas, hardwood species and the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (390,000 hectare World Heritage site and home to more bird species than the US and Canada combined) are safeguarded in the deal. However the deal hands over 400,000 hectares (988,000 acres) of tropical pine forest to Stone to do as it pleases.

According to George Draffan of the Task Force on Multinational Resource Corporations, "Honduras, a country strapped for foreign capital since the end of the US-sponsored Contra War, is about to embark on a program that may completely destroy their remaining forests, along with its indigenous cultures. If the Stone contract is approved, the deforestation of Honduras' last 'green frontier' will begin, causing large-scale erosion, sedimentation of rivers and lakes, loss of diverse flora and fauna, and a drastic change in the indigenous cultures of the Mosquito Coast."

The agreement is a travesty and needs to be halted NOW! Please write to Stone and make the following points.

1. Environmental Impact—No EIS or EA has been done. Deforestation of tropical forests has so many impacts that it is no wonder Stone has ignored Honduran environmentalists' demands for such studies.

2. "Sustainable Yield"—Stone claims it will be using "best management practices" and will be sustainable. In fact, it will be allowed to clearcut and will replant species not native to Honduras.

3. Reforestation—Stone claims it will replant as much as it cuts. Actually, it intends to plant exotic gmelina. The hope is that this fast-growing species can be cut every five years, further degrading soil and species diversity.

4. Thinning Small Trees—Stone says it plans only to "thin" small pine trees for pulpwood. In fact, the contract allows cutting of "any larger pine trees" if there is no existing "market for ordinary use as a sawtimber."



5. "Only La Mosquitia"—Stone claims it is only going to cut trees in a 40 by 40 mile area of eastern Honduras. However, the contract permits cutting anywhere within a 150 mile radius of Stone's mill, and if Stone is not getting enough pulpwood from this area (anytime during the 40 year contract) it may cut beyond the 150 miles.

6. Honduran Subsidy—In the contract Honduras agrees to incur the full costs of providing electricity, communications, and transportation, including building roads. Yet, no estimate of these costs is mentioned.

7. "Fair Market Price"—Stone claims it will pay a fair price for the pulpwood it harvests. However, nowhere in the contract is the price, or the means of determining a price, elaborated upon. From the contract language it appears Stone will pay a sliding price for the pulpwood that guarantees it a set profit.

8. Employment—Stone claims it will provide jobs to the indigenous people of the harvested areas. Actually, the contract has no employment guarantees, and as most of the people of La Mosquitia do not speak Spanish, Stone will likely hire outside workers.

9. Sovereignty—Stone has written the contract to allow complete control over the whole operation: prices, how much will be cut, from where, and for how long. Write to Roger Stone at Stone Container Corp., 150 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601, (312) 346-6600, and to President of Honduras President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, Casa Presidencial, 6a Avda, Le Calle, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

MAARDU

I see a new man rising
from the surface of dumps and wastelands,
taking a deep breath
in air filled up with sulphur and carbon,
swallowing greedily food
soaked with chemicals and heavy metals.
Only he, who never complains,
never philosophizes, never grumbles,
gains strength
even from radioactivity.

—Hendrik Relve

Translated by Mati Rahu from "Looming," an Estonian literary journal. Maardu is a section of Estonia near Tallinn, which has been heavily strip-mined for phosphorite and which has sustained air, water and soil quality damage from cement factories.

Keep All Your Stones in One Basket

If you've been following the escapades of the Stone Container Corp. in the pages of *Earth First!* (of course you have) you'd know by now that it has attacked the roadless native forest of the San Juans at Sandbench, failed to report a 25,000 gallon gas and oil spill into Water Creek Canyon, Arizona and shut down its mills in NM, CA, and OR. At the same time it has opened mills in Mexico, bought a major Canadian newsprint producer, and Southwest Forest Industries and Trinity Paper and Plastics and Champion International's three containerboard mills. According to a memo from Piper, Jaffray and Hopwood (an investment firm) Stone is "the largest US producer of containerboard with about 15% market share. It also has about 7% of the North American newsprint market. The company produces linerboard, corrugating medium, and kraft paper at 17 of its 24 mills [and] its 140 converting plants."

Besides North America, Stone has plants in West Germany, the UK and Holland and a supertree farm in Costa Rica. Recession? What recession?

The serious part of all this is that a lot of these people got *Federal Conspiracy* charges. Folks in the Shawnee also got conspiracy charges; Foreman got the same. I see a pattern here. I also see a buttload of light green cops everywhere. It seems that the agents of green darkness are being transported all over the country wherever we take a stand, and they slap you with conspiracy whenever they feel like it. It's trendy.

What can we do about it? *Shit if I know. But... we might just make a stink in every National Forest at the same time!* (Or at least 2 or 3). We might also stop plea bargaining and fight conspiracy charges! (oh... and also... don't get caught.)

As far as the Pagosa and Sandbench folks go, please round up some money for 'em and send it to Ancient Forest Rescue at POB 1309, Lyons, CO 80540. Earmark your check for legal defense fund.
—JIM FLYNN



Stone Corp. Dissolved

The mighty Stone Corporation was brought to its knees by a small band of intrepid Missoula, Montana environmentalists. After several hours of intense negotiations, Roger Stone, Chief Executive Officer of the megacorporation, which ranked 93 on the Fortune 500, appeared on the balcony of the 89th story of his Missoula, Montana condominium, and announced that he was disbanding the Corporation. With tears in his eyes, visibly shaken by the events of the day, Mr. Stone read the following from a prepared statement: "I have seen the error of my ways—I intend to join a monastery and transfer the assets of the corporation to the *Earth First!* journal. Let he who is without stone quaff the first gin."

Earth First!ers, visibly shaken with emotion at the extent of their victory, planned to meet. It was apparent, according to the President of the *Earth First!* corporation, that the movement's first priority would be the formation of a Board of Directors who would initially formulate a statement of purpose. A vote of all the *Earth First!* shareholders would be organized within 24 days (not including weekends).

Pagosa & Sandbench

The twelve folks who gave public comment with their butts at the Pagosa District Ranger Station in southwestern Colorado plead NOT GUILTY and go to trial January 22 in Durango, CO.

Of the nine people who publicly accessed their National Forest in direct opposition to a piece of paper, eight accepted a plea bargain which led to a nasty \$400 fine, of which no more than half could be labored off. The ninth person, with the aid of the ACLU, has plead not guilty and plans a two-pronged defense: Freedom to express outrage, and denying access to the public to monitor tree slaughter and terrain devastation (roads). This appeal has been accepted by Judge Sparr who plans to announce his decision in Denver Federal Court (good publicity—thanks judge).

Of the two other folks who made themselves comfortable on a cattleguard in front of the green paddy wagons, one plead guilty and received a 30-day suspended sentence, \$250 fine, and one year of probation (provided he does not go into the San Jaun National Forest). The other person's case was postponed until Feb. 20th.

Actually Stone's exploits (including Canadian union difficulties) have been under-reported in the journal and elsewhere. The only exceptions are the fine reporting by the NM and AZEF! newsletters and several Ancient Forest Rescue flyers. To wit: there have been over 50 CD arrests in the Sandbench area, 10,000 acre federal forest closures and massive devastation (Sandbench is lost). What's to stop this mega-giant earth eater?

YOU. That's who. Git yer ass down to the San Juans, to Missoula, to Holland, to the nearest Stone Corp. plant or office and let 'em hear about it! NO, we're not going to tell you what day to co-ordinate a national action, NO we're not going to tell you who to write to (but Roger Stone's phone number is 312-346-6600) and NO, we're not going to tell you what to do. In the words of a wise old shoemaker, "JUST DO IT!"

For more information (and addresses) contact: Ancient Forest Rescue, Box 1309, Lyons CO 80540 and the Task Force on Multinational Resource Corporations, POB 95316, Seattle, WA 98145-2316.

—JIM FLYNN



On the Road with the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade

BY RAMON

What's white with red stripes, 40 feet long, and is planted deep in the Great Sonoran Desert? No, not the Candy Cane from Hell; it's the Ancient Forest Rescue Bus Brigade! Actually, the Brigade isn't candy-striped, the bus is. The Brigade bears the usual Indo-European protective coloring except for the dawg, Bones, who is dawg-colored.

Our present location is in the southeastern corner of California, right where it bumps into Arizona and Mexico. We're here to "network" (I think that means "mingle") with the hundreds and hundreds of RVers who winter here: the so-called "snowbirds." The goal is to raise their level of awareness on environmental issues and plug them into whatever level of activism with which they feel comfortable. (Rumors that we came here just to get warm and to work on our tans are malicious, unfounded, and counterproductive. We are lookin' good, however.)

Our efforts with these retirees have not met with remarkable success as of this writing. It's not that they don't agree that there are any problems out there, it's just that they have their own agendas, and like everybody else, they dissemble. A typical conversation with this writer might be as follows:

Me: "Hi, would you care to discuss the environment? We're, uh, involved with efforts to preserve the remaining ancient forests."

RVer: "Hey, you're one a' them hippies on that bus, ain'tcha?"

Me: "Uh, hardly a hippie, sir. I'm a retired businessman and actually almost as old as you. Sir."

RVer: "Yeah? So waddaya tryin' to do?... save the spotted owl? I hear they taste just like chicken."

Me: "The owl is merely a symbol of the degradation that is going on in our forests. We seek to preserve the biodiversity of the entire ecosystem of which the spotted owl is only a part."

RVer: "But what about jobs?"

Me: "Our proposals include maintaining the integrity of existing logging communities through restoration jobs created by taxes imposed upon the excessive profits of the timber industry."

RVer: "Who pays your salary to do this anyway, the Sierra Club?"

Me: "Excuse me, I think it's time for my nap."

As a result, this member of the Brigade, at least, has decided to change his tactics. I was, after all, born and raised in New York City. The results, so far, have been predictable:

Me: "Hi, would you care to discuss the environment, or should I just go fuck myself?"

RVer: "Hey, you're one a' them hippies on that bus, ain'tcha?"

Me: "Watch who you're callin' a hippie, Mac; I'm almost as old as you. How would you like it if I called you an old fart?"

RVer: "Just try it. So waddya tryna do?... save the spotted owl? I hear they taste just like chicken."

Me: "Yeah, well so would you if we roasted you on a spit. Old Chicken!"

RVer: "Oh yeah? Well, what about jobs, huh, huh?"

Me: "What do we look like, a mobile fuckin' employment agency?"

RVer: "Watch your lip! Who pays your salary to do this, anyway, the Sierra Club?"

Me: "Excuse me, I think it's time for my nap."

So it goes, so it goes.

On the other hand, we have yet to receive much of the material we need for "presentations," such as slides, photos, etc., so we haven't really gotten started. In the meantime we're hiking and running through the desert on a daily basis; Cactus Ed would approve, we think. This may not be doing much to save the planet, but if EF! ever sponsors a marathon, watch out!

Last but not least, we're available for actions, in the West anyhow. We started our journey in June as Billy and Russell and moi and, with many other riders in between, are now Cindy and Richie and ditto. Oh, and bones. Soooooo;.....just when they thought it was safe to cut down the last red woods..... T a a D u m , T a a D u m.....coming soon to a theater of operations near you: THE AFBB!

Oh yeah; one more think (okay I lied; sue me). People ask us if the bus has a name, and is it a she-bus or a he-bus. At this point it is appropriate to hitch up one's jeans, and draw! "Yep. She's got a name all right. It's Wayne...Joan Wayne!"



San Bruno, continued

diggers, road builders, dump operators, industrial polluters, tree planters and park planners, none of whom have understood the richness and diversity of the land upon which they have chosen to carry out their twisted dreams.

San Bruno has become a national precedent, a test case for the dismemberment of existing state and federal environmental law. The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specifically forbid any project, development, or resource extraction that would take habitat of or otherwise further strain any species listed by the federal government as endangered. Signed into law in 1973, the ESA goes even further in mandating "the use of all methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to (this act) are no longer necessary."

These words, added to federal law, helped protect San Bruno Mountain from development for ten years. San Bruno Mountain represents an entire ecosystem in danger of extinction; even a generally hostile California Department of Fish and Game ranks the mountain as the thirteenth most important habitat reserve in the state. So the stage was set for a battle pitting some dedicated nature kooks, a few concerned citizens and some obscure laws against the most powerful economic and political forces in the country. Almost everybody, from business interests to builder's unions to local governments, was hostile to both the intent and the letter of these new laws. As Reagan entered the White House and Deukmejian became governor it was clear that no one other than private citizens would attempt to enforce the laws designed to protect biological diversity.

Amidst this political climate the agreed-upon strategy was to search for an "administrative solution"—a way to circumvent the ESA and to prevent citizen enforcement of the law. This strategy was put forward by an amazing coalition including U.S. Congresspeople, the Reagan administration, State and local government representatives and of course the developers and property owners. Behind their efforts was not only a desire to develop San Bruno Mountain, but also the imperative to get the cut out in the disappearing forests of the Pacific Northwest, to dam the last vestiges of the country's river habitat, to get on with supplying the demand for more golf courses and condos in southern California and to bring progress to the last wetlands of the Florida Keys.

Back on San Bruno mountain, local governments formed committees, environmental scientists were retained, and public meetings were arranged, all financed by the developers.

In 1982 a Habitat Conservation Plan was completed based on a study by the developer's environmental scientist, Thomas Reid Associates. The celebrated HCP claimed that destroying endangered butterfly habitat posed "no significant threat to (the butterfly's) survival." Mitigation measures were also suggested in the study, including the creation of new habitat on adjacent land. Observers immediately pointed out that the reason the habitat was restricted in the first place was because of the unique conditions that only existed on the sunny, dry, grassy slopes which developers coveted and the Mission Blue and Silver Spot butterflies needed for survival. Lawsuits were filed and entomologists and botanists blasted the Reid study as scientifically inaccurate, poorly devised and incompetently executed. Years later a federal appellate court threw out the final appeal, ruling that in a dispute between experts we would just have to wait and see what happened. The plaintiffs were assured that if the butterflies became extinct, then they would have a good case. In the meantime, Thomas Reid Associates was awarded a fat thirty year contract to administer the mitigations under the HCP.

The attorney Lindell Marsh and his firm, Nossaman, Krueger and Knox were the main

engineers behind the San Bruno HCP, as well as many other subsequent endangered habitat development plans across the country. And it was Marsh's firm that went to Washington and pushed through the famous "incidental take" amendment to the ESA, exactly the loophole needed to legalize the San Bruno HCP. This loophole allows the killing of endangered species provided that the "taking" is "incidental" to an otherwise "lawful" activity and accompanied by an HCP.

The final agreement was hailed in the press as a great victory for the environment. Developers agreed to sell the ridge and saddle areas of the mountain for a state and county park and then develop the rest under strict environmental regulation. The governments of all the cities abutting the mountain gave their approval and the main group in opposition to development, the Committee to Save San Bruno Mountain, was neutralized by internal divisions.

The Committee's attorney, Tom Adams, joined the developer's payroll, gained legal rights to the group's name and became a major proponent of the HCP. The Committee's original members walked out of the negotiations and were branded as nut cases who would oppose any development under any circumstances.

The Habitat Conservation Plan process puts severe limits on public input into development plans. Since the HCP was negotiated in private, under the control of the land owners and their attorneys, it would seem that the Endangered Species Act has been turned upside down to become an obstacle to citizen input into development schemes. And as if things weren't bad enough, the HCP's architects added the "window amendments." Property owners have already used this neat little loophole several times, which waives environmental protections under the HCP in return for token sums of cash and/or promises to protect contiguous areas.

Meanwhile, David Shooley has carefully documented the progress of the HCP mitigations, especially the attempts to create new butterfly habitat where it has never before existed. "The places where they're trying to plant lupine are the shady, damp places specifically suited to dense dwarf scrub. Lupine needs the dry, sunny, open slopes. This is the last place of its kind in the world and these [HCP] mitigations are nothing more than a cruel joke."

The people of Brisbane have overwhelmingly opposed the development plan for years, even going as far as to recall all but one of the city council members in 1989 for their pro-development leanings. One town resident, Clark Conway, is currently suing the developers and the city for violations of the permit process.

Attempts are also being made to preserve a Native American village site on the grounds of the failed W.W. Dean development in South San Francisco. "Dean tried to get Japanese investors to back his project and he failed" says Schooley. "This is the biggest shell mound village site left in the Bay Area. Dean's plan is to bulldoze it and bury it under the hotel parking lot." One anthropologist has dated the shell mound at over 5000 years old.

A recently released report on recovery plans such as the San Bruno HCP, prepared by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. Congress, showed the process to be a dismal failure. According to the GAO study: 33% of all listed species populations are declining and 3% have become extinct in only the few years since records have been kept. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that "at least 137 of the 482 listed species are not likely to ever recover" due to lack of habitat. David Schooley's photographs show that every attempt to create new butterfly habitat has failed. "They've tried everything from fires to chemical herbicides and still the non-native stuff (gorse, fennel, broom, eucalyptus, etc.) comes back and smothers out the lupine. The reason is that they're trying to plant lupine where it was never meant to grow."

The attack on Franciscan habitat is a very old one and it has come from all quarters. A two week spread on the front page of the Sunday Examiner Real Estate section recently praised the HCP and proclaimed: "The apparent resolution of the butterfly controversy came in 1983 after nearly two years and \$2 million spent on a habitat

survey. The survey *broke new ground* and one of its most important findings was that new construction was not the worst threat to the butterflies." The report, subtitled "Developers are back on the saddle again", goes on to say, "More than the first agreement of its kind, the San Bruno Mountain HCP has served as the national prototype."

As things stand right now, it doesn't look good for the critters and biological communities on San Bruno Mountain. Gesturing toward a fox hole one October morning, Shooley said "I see him around here a lot, he's real friendly. When he comes near me I always scream at him and chase him and throw things at him. I want him to know that I am not his friend."

The developers of San Bruno, Southwest Diversified, will be returning after the winter rains, and Bay Area Earth First! will make a presence there. For more information, call the hotline (415) 949-0575 or contact Bay Area Earth First!, POB 83, Canyon, CA



Brisbane Boardroom Bedlam

As dawn broke on Wednesday, December 13 in Brisbane, California, the filtered light illuminated something new at the intersection of Bayshore and Guadalupe Canyon Road: a banner reading "KILL LOCALLY, DIE GLOBALLY, NO NEW CITY ON SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN" stretched across Bayshore Blvd. at about the height of a semi-trailer.

Across the road in the curve of the parking lot of the City Hall building, a small group of people stood around exchanging "good mornings." We were protesting the destruction of the last sizable remnant of the native biome on the San Francisco peninsula to make room for condominium development just south of San Francisco.

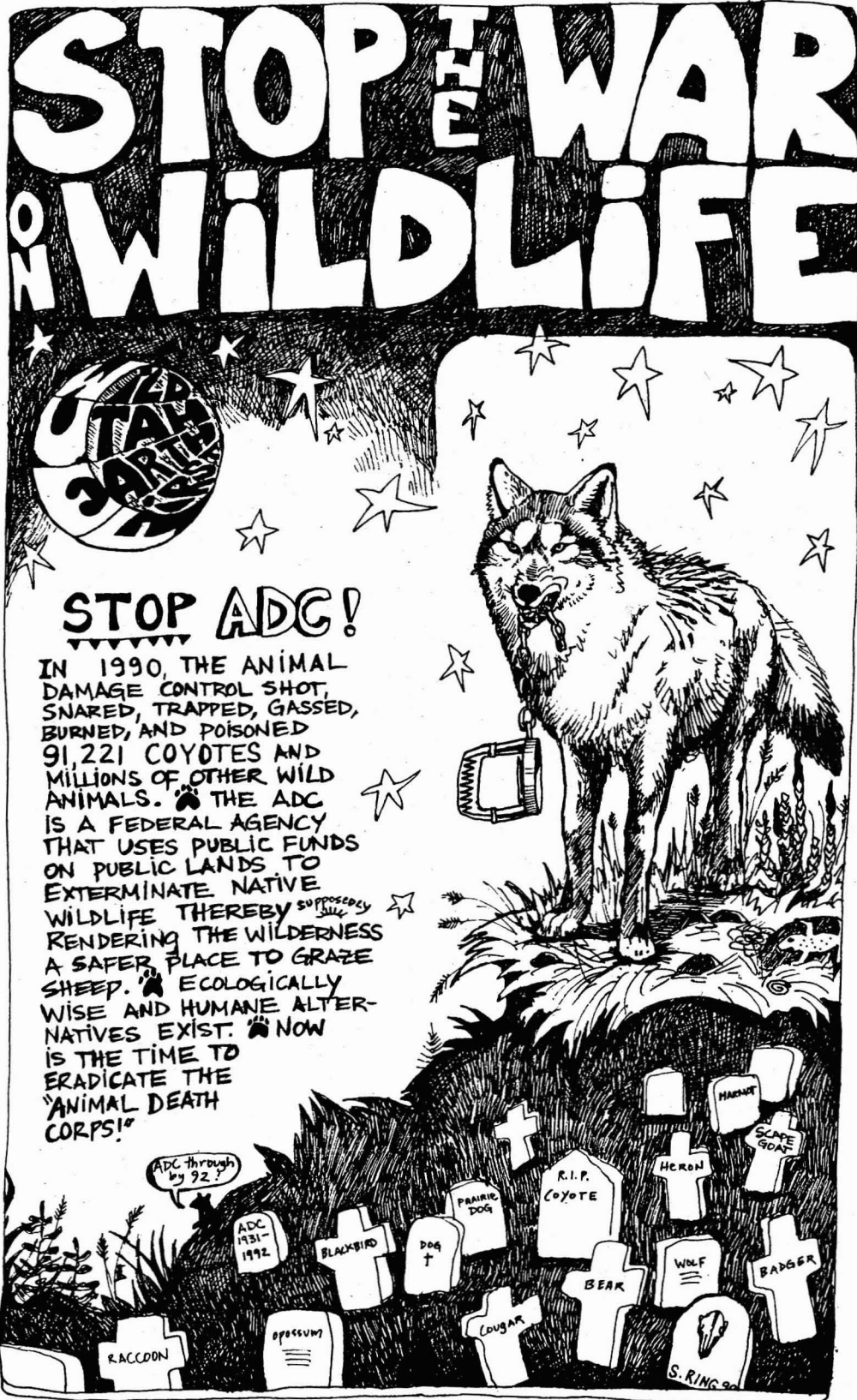
After twenty minutes of picketing the road we decided to go *en masse* to visit the Brisbane City Hall, whose supervisors sold out their constituency and have been helping Southwest Diversified Corp trash the mountain. When we entered the building, we discovered City Hall had interesting neighbors. Who did we find occupying the adjoining suite of offices but Southwest Diversified themselves? Slight change in plans—little detour. About thirty of us crowded into the SWD lobby, politely requesting to see the President or CEO of SWD. The receptionist said he was in a meeting—and so he was—right on the other side of those windows. We immediately joined the execs in the boardroom, but before we could engage them in conversation, they left hastily through a back door. We decided to wait until they all got back from the bathroom, or whatever they went, and made ourselves comfortable around the table and in the lobby. Enter the Brisbane police who removed the occupying protesters one by one back to the lobby.

Then an executive-attired reporter from the San Mateo Times showed up. It seemed the appropriate place for the interview would be the board room, so he and a spokesperson went back in to talk. The police looked a little suspicious, but the gray suit and the rumor that he was a SWD exec listening to our grievances seemed to pacify them. As the interview continued, people drifted back into the boardroom until it was once again filled with sign carrying EFlers. An 8 ft. high banner was stretched all the way across one end of the boardroom, covering the coffee nook and office-ette, complete with phone. Someone slipped behind the banner and began calling media while others served coffee and tea. Some native plant fanatic was seen poking poison oak seeds into the potted plants. A couple of people who insisted in trying to search out the hiding execs were ejected by the police, a little roughly the third time, but generally a good time was had by all (except of course for the cowering SWD execs), for close to 3 hours. While leaving, we promised to return soon, perhaps even making a weekly event. Call the hotline (415) 949-0575 for future San Bruno Mt. actions.

—G.S.



Wild Utah Earth First!



Don McNulty cuts a coyote from a snare in south-central Utah. Jeff Allred The Salt Lake Tribune

Wild Utah Earth First! (WUEF!) has decided to focus energies on just one of the bevy of heinous crimes committed against this land and these beings - The chosen one is the ADC, and its forays onto public lands. In Utah, the appalling activities of the ADC incense environmentalists and animal liberationists alike, and so we are witnessing and participating in a power-full convergence of movements. Because of the cruelty, the ecological insanity, the waste of public funds, and the betrayal of the public trust involved in the administration of ADC's programs, we demand nothing less than total dismantling of the lethal control programs of the ADC. And NOTHING would delight us more than to render ADC activity on public lands a moot issue by prohibiting sheep and cows from roaming and razing public lands.

Woof! For the Coyotes,
Wild Utah Earth First!

ADC NASTINESS IN UTAH

The FOGIs (Forces Of Greed and Ignorance) in Utah are hard at work fighting their War on Wildlife. Yes, the Animal Damage Control is alive and kickin' in the Great Basin-Wild Rockies, sponging up federal funds, riddling public lands with bullets and M-44s, and slaughtering wildlife by the tens of thousands. As y'all probably know, the ADC program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was established in 1931 and given authority to destroy wildlife considered harmful to human enterprise. The agency was manufactured in a spasm of greed, with intents only to serve the livestock and agriculture industries. (According to Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association, a primary impetus for the program was the desire to ensure peak supplies of livestock and agricultural products during the second World War. How appropriate.) Obviously, ecological concerns were never considered.

In Utah last year ('90) the ADC admitted killing 4500 coyotes, 20,000 starlings, 213 ravens, 198 red foxes, 55 pumas, 22 badgers, 6 domestic dogs and 1 pronghorn antelope, among other unlucky and undeserving critters. Nationally, the death toll on songbirds reached a mind-blowing 91,221! The animals are killed with leghold traps, snares, M-44 ballistic cyanide devices, and bullets, employing such methods as aerial gunning and gassing or burning coyote pups in their dens. Most of the ADC's activity occurs on public lands where livestock are grazing, and instead of requiring that the ranchers carry the burden of risk on their own shoulders--for instance, by requiring better husbandry and other non-lethal methods--the government essentially gives the Earth-rapers yet another hand-out. Coyote get your lamb? Call the ADC. They'll be right out to exterminate the local coyote population.

The aerial gunning programs are especially nasty. The gunning occurs in winter months after snowstorms. Deep, fresh snow is necessary for this kind of an assault for two reasons: First, the pilots can easily spot the coyotes, and second, the deep snow prevents the coyotes from making a fast getaway. In the wintertime there are no sheep in the high country of Utah's national forests. They arrive in the spring. Furthermore, and most incredibly, the ADC admits that they have frequently "flown" aerial gunning massacres on allotments that received *no predation during previous grazing seasons!* This type of general preventative rather than targeted killing is asinine! Predator ecologist Bob Crabtree was quoted by Michael Milstein in High Country News: "What they (the ADC trappers and gunners) are doing makes absolutely no sense; killing coyotes like they do is like arresting every kid in town because someone stole a candy bar."

IN UTAH WILDERNESS

On October 8, 1991 the Chief of the Forest Service, in a curt and unprecedented move spawned in part by political pressure from Senator Jake Garn, reversed the decision by the Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor Susan Giannettino to discontinue aerial gunning in the Mt. Naomi Wilderness in northern Utah. If you are amazed that indiscriminate slaughter of indigenous wildlife can be allowed in a wilderness area, you are in the right spirit. The Naomi is the only wilderness in this country--out of 500--where such practices are allowed.

There is one sheep operator who holds grazing permits in the Mt. Naomi Wilderness. The Forest Service, concerned about the questionable effectiveness of the predator control being carried out at this permittee's behest, and urged by appeals filed against the program, began a four-year Environmental Assessment (EA) requiring the permittee to document all coyote predation and use protective guard dogs. A 1991 Forest Service report showed the permittee failed to document the losses and did not utilize the guard dogs as prescribed (the scum). Since it was therefore not possible to determine whether there truly was need for the program, the Forest Service discontinued it. (Forest Supervisor Susan Giannettino is an uncharacteristically rational and fair-minded Freddy. I hope my saying this doesn't get her fired. I'd gladly retract and pour derision upon her in order to keep her around.)

The order has now been handed down from the top requiring the Regional Forester to conduct additional analysis to decide whether to allow aerial gunning, putting him in the uncomfortable position of choosing either to support the earlier Forest decision based on years of study and deliberation at a local level, or kowtowing to politics and allowing the practice to resume.

Wild Utah Earth First! has let it be glaringly known that if the decision is foolishly made to resume aerial gunning in Mt. Naomi, all sorts of unsavory hell will be gleefully served up to all entities involved!

ELSEWHERE IN UTAH'S FORESTS

Utah's Dixie National Forest has a reputation for good ol' boy cow-and-timber-loving forest mismanagement. Thus, it is no surprise that the Dixie's predator control program includes use of all heinous methods and means available. This attitude has provoked appeals and suits by Utah-based advocate groups. The Dixie's current plan was appealed by five different parties. Individuals who reside near the forest, which surrounds natural wonders like Zion, Bryce and Capitol Reef National Parks, researched the ADC's activities and the Forest's EA. Drawing on information from Crabtree's studies on coyotes, legal advice, and common sense, they assembled over a dozen appeal points that were categorically ignored by the Regional Forester (the same one invested with the decision-making authority for the Mt. Naomi issue).

The EA and Decision Notice have provided a glossy attempt to give the public the impression that lethal methods will be relegated to last-ditch status. The decision states that lethal control will only be used after a permittee has tried non-lethal methods. However, as was quickly recognized by activists that appealed the decision, the document is so full of ambiguities and weasel words that it either leaves the evaluation of a permittee's request for lethal control entirely up to the discretion of the (de)Forest (dis)Service without any meaningful guidance, or it is effectively impossible to implement. Already, as of January 1st ADC has killed at least a dozen coyotes from the air.



The Dixie has been especially surreptitious and deceitful in dealing with the forest advocates. When it was pointed out, in an appeal, that the Forest Service had purposely misrepresented the costs of lethal control (according to the state ADC Director himself), the regional forester snidely replied that it didn't matter anyway, since the costs weren't critical to the decision. (However, the EA refused to consider, as an alternative, reimbursement to livestock owners for predation because the cost was "prohibitive". All evidence that we can find demonstrates that it would actually save hundreds of thousands of dollars.)

Also, the appellants pointed out, during scoping, that some of the methods that the Dixie had been using were in plain violation of the forest plan. The Forest Service glibly stated that they simply interpreted the plan to allow all the methods that they had employed. (Forest advocate Sharon Hatfield incredulously replied: "does the Forest Service also interpret the forest plan to allow running over coyotes with snowmobiles?") A document later turned up--predating the Freddy's statement by at least a year--that shows that the Dixie had always been aware of its illegal use of certain lethal methods. In that document, a Dixie forester flatly stated, in response to a permittee's request for lethal control, that he could not comply with the requests because the methods requested violated the forest plan. Concurrent with the most recent decision, the Dixie amended its forest plan.

Most stark is the fact that the Dixie can demonstrate absolutely no need or justification for its use of indiscriminate lethal control. Studies over the last 9 years show that predation has actually increased, despite the fact that the ADC has employed all its vile tactics over this period of time and has killed about the same number of coyotes each year. There is no reason whatsoever to believe that population reduction is effective in reducing predation, and every reason to believe the contrary.

Some of the parties that unsuccessfully appealed the decision have joined in filing suit in federal district court, with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance taking charge of the litigation. WUEF! plans to keep the heat on in other ways as well.

ON BLM LANDS

ADC activities have been effectively attacked on BLM managed lands as well. The Utah Wilderness Association has called the BLM's bluff on the Vernal district in northeastern Utah. UWA appealed the current Animal Damage Control EA as well as the plan that the district has been operating under for the past decade.

Amazingly enough, the BLM has openly voiced agreement with challenges to the effectiveness of lethal control methods. The BLM has halted all predator control activities in response to the appeals, and BLM range conservationist E. Dwain Nelson openly declared that "There is no indication that lethal predator control significantly impacts the coyote populations. They are a versatile species, and indications are coyote populations have actually increased since 1900." Any BLM employee uttering such truths must certainly be looking for alternative employment. But at least the cat is officially out of the bag. Hopefully a trend will be started on BLM lands, which have been comparatively ignored in the ADC battle.

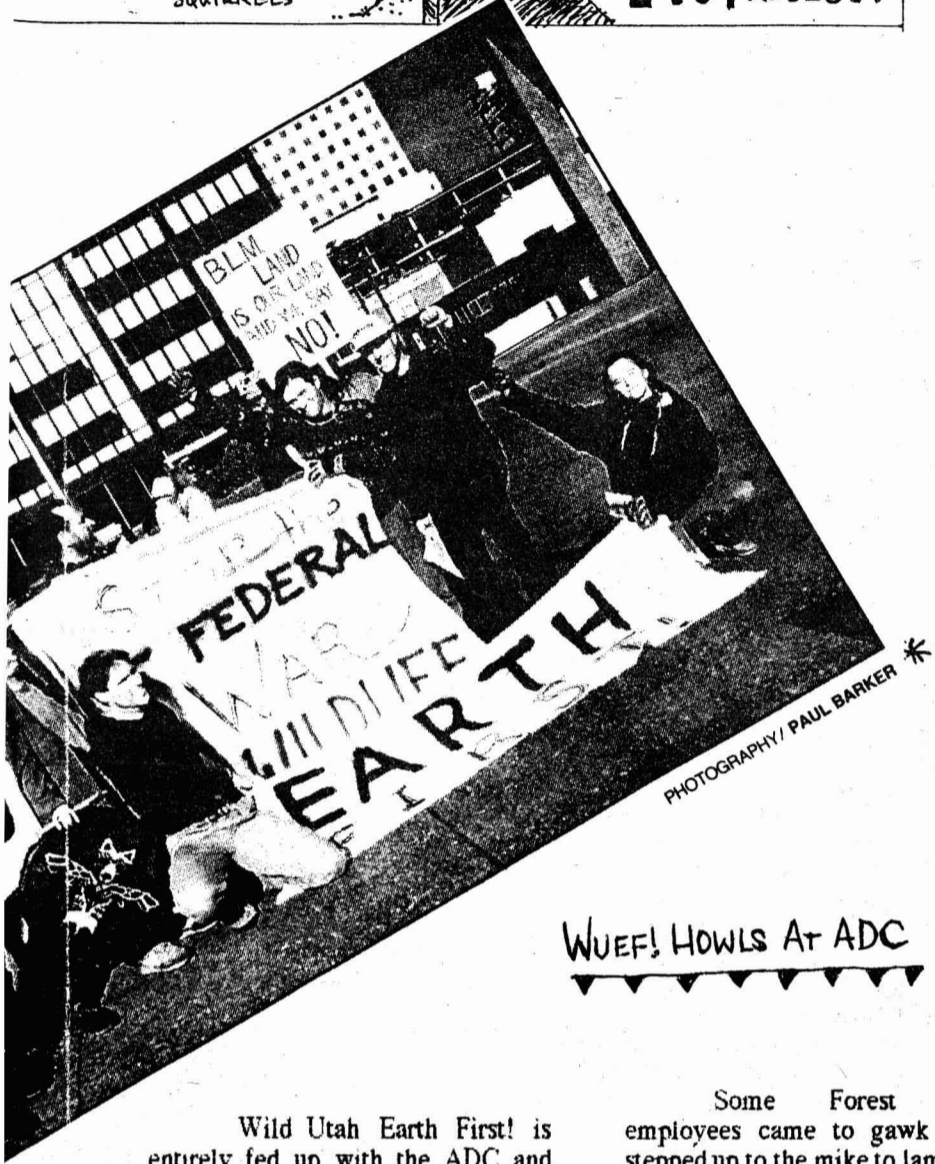
By Sue Ring and Scott Williams



*Special thanks to the Salt Lake Tribune and the Desert News for allowing us to publish these photos without their permission.



BLURB ON...
 In December, WUEF! made its unwelcome and unsightly appearance at a National Senate Hearing concerning the 1872 Mining Law and Senator Dale Bumpers' bill calling for reform of the law. The Hearing was held in Salt Lake City, on "Capitol Hill", where a subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee sat center stage and listened to testimony from witnesses representing mining interests and environmental organizations. The pro-mining eco-fukking advocacy group, People for the West, staged a demo before the Hearing, and WUEF! responded by conspicuously placing large banners on the cement walls. One banner simply exclaimed Earth First! and signs we toted decried planetary plunder. The activity before the Hearing was a helluva lot more exciting than the Hearing itself, but hey, (aside from maybe two or three sane voices from the panel comprised by environmentalists and an eloquent Native American woman), it was a typical bureaucrap bastion of white men in ties telling white lies, so our expectations for any creative problem-solving or meaningful dialogue were admittedly quite low. So, okay, it wasn't really a big action or anything, but we did sit-n-listen and scoff in all the right places.



WUEF! HOWLS AT ADC

Wild Utah Earth First! is entirely fed up with the ADC and determined to send it to hell where it belongs. As a fledgling tribe, we are big on spirit and zeal, but short on resources. So we decided to focus on ADC issues--at the expense of other concerns that definitely need addressing--in order to maximize our effectiveness.

An article about the ADC appeared on the front page of the a Sunday edition of the Salt Lake Tribune, describing reporter Jim Woolf's excursion with ADC trapper McNulty (who, in a flurry of self aggrandizement, proclaimed himself "Coyote Dundee" and man's "best friend", also saying "I'll tell you, coyote killing gets in your blood."). WUEF! decided the time was ripe for ranting and raving. On Thursday, December 12th, some 30 coyote-huggers descended upon the downtown Salt Lake Federal Building to do some public educatin'. Banners went up, signs were carried, pamphlets were pamphletted, drums were drummed, and speeches were spoken. A spine-tingling group howl capped off the protest. The reporters from all three major TV stations and both major newspapers showed up for the party, and Scott Williams got a live TV interview at noon. S.L. Tribune reporter Jim Woolf interviewed a number of us. Sitka, making the connection that this was the same reporter who had just gone out with "Coyote Dundee" on his dastardly coyote snaring rounds, articulated one perfect sentence in response: "Coyote Dundee is a bloodthirsty, anthropocentric sycophant with testosterone poisoning." Woolf did a doubletake and said: "Could you repeat that please?"

Some Forest Service employees came to gawk as we stepped up to the mike to lambast the ADC and demand that the FS and BLM IMMEDIATELY terminate use of ALL lethal control methods on public lands. Gary MacFarlane of the Utah Wilderness Association joined us and discussed the Mt. Naomi scenario.

The next day, an article appeared in the Tribune. Unbeknownst to us, we had staged the demo on the very same day that Dixie National Forest officials in Cedar City announced that they would resume the aerial gunning of coyotes in that area.

WUEF! has since let the BLM and the forest service know that we will not go away, and that things will get hotter until they begin to introduce responsible decision-making into their game of charades. We are awaiting pending crucial decisions to see if anyone is listening, and if not, it'll be showtime.

Here are some ideas for predator advocates: Keep on championing the No Grazing alternatives in the NEPA documents prepared during planning processes, not only because public lands grazing is a vile and insane practice in itself, but also because the absence of grazing on NFs and BLM lands would render the ADC issue virtually moot. Also, we're sending out feelers for any study or information relating to the effectiveness--or ineffectiveness--of lethal predator control in preventing predation on livestock. The NEPA process demands scientific justification for decision-making that we believe simply doesn't exist. Demand it of officials in your area.

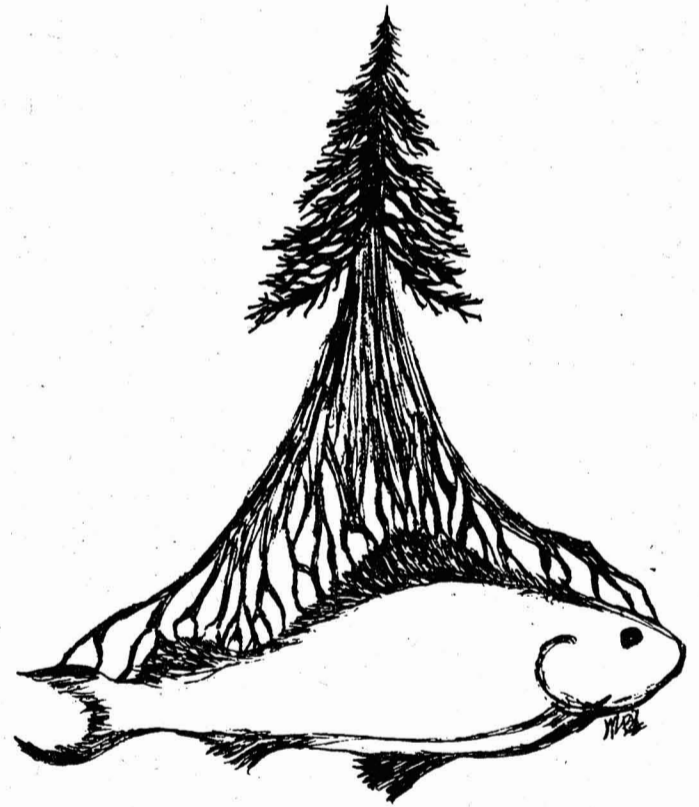
The killing continues simply out of habit and custom. The time is now to just say no to the wildlife thugs of the ADC. The time is now to End the War on Wildlife.



Legacy, Mine

mining came to my neighbor mountain
 her face is pitted
 a bombardment of greed
 shameful legacy mine
 my face too suffers
 a contorted frown

A small
 get from
 Scott's right
 br... II



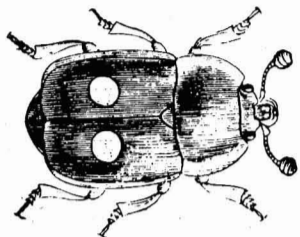
TREE FISH

Trees - extermination by man is similar to the slow extermination of wild fish and all wildlife by man. Trees & Fish, I think about them alot and I feel sad, and angry. They are both being stuffed off as replaceable. Great, there is nothing quite like a genetically-inferior human-satisfying hatchery fish or a monoculture tree farm to replace a glorious life full old growth forest. Death culture, and it's only the beginning. Just as the trees disappear and the land begins to move into streams, so go the fish

~ Wendy Lee Bevins

THE EF! Says...

(Our 2¢ Worth)



A Disintegrating We Will Go

Ecotopia Earth First! have provided a victory for the Forces Of Greed and Ignorance (FOGIs). By pulling out of the EF! Journal and encouraging similar reaction, they are facilitating the disintegration and demise of an important and effective networking tool, vital to the success of the radical environmental movement nationwide. That this could be the consequence of a response to a mere decision to publish an article demonstrates a gross and irresponsible over-reaction by these groups and individuals.

Let me make clear for the record that I am in complete agreement with the Ecotopia EF! disdain for the position represented in the "A Hunting We Will Go" article. Any encouragement of physical violence to humans is dangerous to activists in the field and has always been considered fundamentally intolerable in the radical environmental movement that spawned Earth First!

However, Ecotopia EF! greatly overreacted to the article by chastising the Journal editorial staff and disassociating themselves from the Journal. The proper reaction would be to decry, in the strongest of language and with the greatest urgency, the opinions expressed in the article. And this should be done by as many EF!ers as possible. In so doing, we would be saying "say what you want to say, gunboy, but whatever you are, you are not part of our movement."

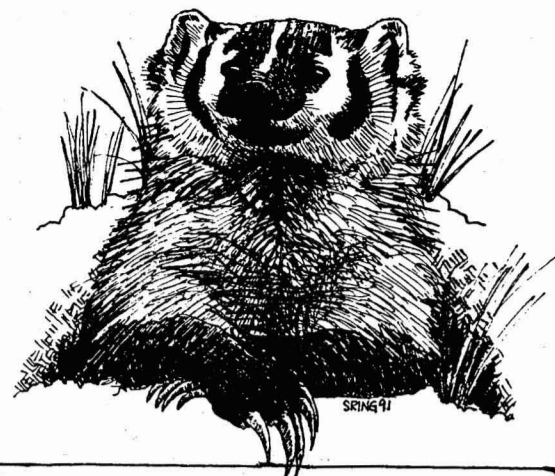
I want to officially voice my respect and support for the important work that activists in the field are doing. I have great admiration for such people. And I am dismayed that such peaceful defense of Mother Earth could ever be met with violence at the hands of gun-toting FOGIs. But I do not believe that publication of an article like "A Hunting We Will Go" appreciably increases such unfortunate tendencies. Allowing the article to dismantle the Journal and the EF! network provides a victory for those whom activists battle everyday.

I will continue to support the EF! Journal as an effective and invaluable and informative activist networking tool, while using it to decry opinions such as were the subject of the current controversy, and violence generally. I will not abandon what I see as a viable mouthpiece for the movement, but will continue to use it to broadcast loud and clear what the true philosophy of No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth includes.

Disassociating from the Journal merely puts the rest of the movement in the uncomfortable position of either choosing to follow suit, thereby ushering the demise of an effective networking facility, or looking as though we support the position in the article by failing to follow Ecotopia's lead. As mentioned above, I think we need to stick together and formally and forcefully disassociate ourselves from the violent perspective, not from each other. The current reaction certainly gives the opposing forces of darkness a good idea of what to do to dismantle successful publications in the future. write a letter condoning something that is contrary to the philosophy of the movement, and watch everybody pull out.






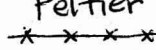
Of course, the entire episode could have been circumvented by refusing to publish the article, which is what Ecotopia EF! suggests should have been done. But this response is amazing to me. Yes, the Journal is the voice of the EF! movement. But it is not a propaganda publication, it is a forum for members of a movement that includes a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives under the common goal of biodiversity protection. Just as biodiversity is an important and necessary characteristic of a healthy natural world, it is similarly important to the world of ideas and understanding. The importance of free speech, which I doubt any of the Journal critics would consider challenging, is a reflection of the need for expression of diverse viewpoints in the interest of understanding and truth. A viable and responsible publication must always operate with this understanding. I would be very surprised if any of the ship-jumpers would encourage censorship in any other form, but fail to see how what they demand of the Journal in this case differs in any significant respect.

— Scott Williams



FULFILL OUR DEEPEST DESIRES!

We Want :

- a filing cabinet 
- money/T-shirt buyers 
- a Utah state safety inspection sticker for '92 
- World peace 
- any scientific studies relating to efficacy of lethal predator control 
- freedom for Leonard Peltier 

WE AREN'T ASKING TOO MUCH, ARE WE?

ATTN: GREAT BASINITES

SOME OF US WUEF!ERS SUFFER FROM A PAUCITY OF ROUGHAGE, AND, AS SUCH, WE HAVE IRREGULAR MEETINGS.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR INFO ABOUT ACTIONS, BASHES, EVENTS, ETC...

WUEF!
PO BOX 510442
SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH
84151



BUY A SPIFFY T-SHIRT! (OR 2!)

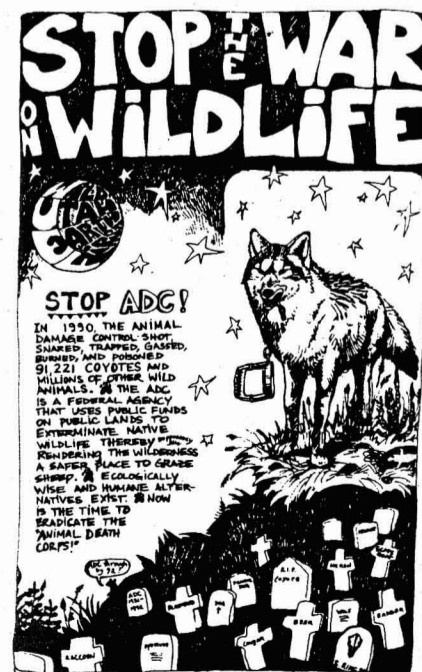
The Animal Damage Control is a federal agency that operates (often covertly) all across the U.S. No matter where you live, EF!'s only ANTI-ADC shirts are sure to become controversy-stimulating conversation pieces. Hours of entertainment!

Of course, 100% cotton. Short sleeves, white, XL, L, M.
"Stop War on Wildlife" black on white.
"Free and Wild," dark, bucolic, sylvan green on white.

Specify ^① which shirt, ^② how many, ^③ what size(s)

and send to Wild Utah Earth First! (WUEF!)
PO Box 510442
Salt Lake City, UT 84151

w/\$12.00 per shirt. Include your address. Thanks!
(make check payable to Wild Utah Earth First!)



About the Journal...

BY ABE RINGEL, ORIGINALLY, WITH A REVISED VERSION BY THE ENTIRE COLLECTIVE

In the beginning was the Movement and the Movement was Earth First!. The Movement created the Earth First! journal and it was good.

Over the aeons, the ineluctable forces of evolution changed the Movement and, consequently, the journal. This came as a shock to many of us who believed that Earth First! and the journal were eternal and monolithic. For better or worse, they were taken for granted.

Well here we are. Seemingly eternal monoliths have been shattered and myths have crumbled. That which was is no more.

Or so it seems.

Will Earth First! continue? We believe it will. The emphases and methodologies may change, but not the old familiar theme (whatever THAT may be).

Will the journal survive, and in what form? Will the editorial collective structure be retained or will it be replaced by a permanent staff? Will a guiding philosophy ("party line") be established for the Movement and the journal, and if so, by whom? How will continuity of such philosophy be implemented and maintained without creating a Sierra Club-bureaucratic rigidity?

The current editorial collective will proceed under the guidelines that sort of evolved in the mists of antiquity. These are that the editorial collective structure will continue, and that certain basic principles will generally be adhered to. We have outlined the general workings of the journal and the collective below, as well as some of the challenges that we feel we will face in the future.

The Editorial Collective

Last year there was one journal editor, now there are many. Last year the journal came out of Canton, New York, now it comes out of an office in downtown Missoula, Montana. Like the Earth First! movement, the journal is on a shakedown journey, and probably always will be.

One major reason for the changes was the perception that the journal had become the intellectual and moral monopoly of a small band of brothers whose thinking was not representative of the Earth First! movement. One of the several suggested solutions to the problem was to establish a rotating editorial collective whose members would be assembled from various parts of the world. While not without problems of its own, many activists view this decision to be one step toward the goal of making the journal truly responsive to the movement.

Who is eligible to become a journal editor? Any Earth First!er who is: (a) reasonably aware of the local and national controversies surrounding wilderness destruction, (b) aware of the role EF! plays in halting the destruction and in expanding the wilderness, (c) demonstrably dedicated to direct action, and (d) basically literate. That's all.

It would be helpful if editors were computer-literate, have editorial experience, and can work on at least one or two journal issues. It would also be helpful if editors could be in Missoula for the six weeks each issue requires, but the journal will try to accommodate EF!ers who cannot be in residence the full six weeks. For each issue, we would be willing to have one, or perhaps more, people with special situations, as the special situations warrant. We would also be willing to try having a member of the editorial collective linked only electronically to the rest of the collective in Missoula, though we are unsure of the exact workings of such an arrangement, since we have never tried this. The journal would not be able to provide any hardware for any such potential collective member, though such a member of the collective would probably need a computer, a phone, a modem, and a fax machine. Even if you cannot make it to Missoula for the full extent, or even at all, it would not hurt to throw your name into the ring to join a future collective.

To apply for membership in a collective, write a letter to the journal in Missoula detailing your reasons for wanting to become a journal editor. Describe the nature and extent of your activism (your activist vitae). Include as much information about yourself as you consider rel-

evant and safe, together with some idea when you can and cannot be available.

Each editor receives \$300 per issue to cover at least some of her expenses. Every member of the collective gets the same payment, regardless of how adept or inept she may be. Lodging may be available at the journal office, and almost always is for those who want it. It ain't the Ritz Carlton, but would you live and work here if it were?

Theoretically, five positions are available per journal issue, but the actual number of one-or-two issue editors needed varies with the number of longer-term editors around. Currently, sitting collectives decide who should be on future collectives, usually two collectives down the road from the one making the decision. Each collective must have at least two female and two male humans, in accordance with guidelines agreed upon by activists from the Wild Rockies when they submitted a bid to publish the journal in Missoula. In addition, the collectivists should avoid limiting their choices to personal friends or to activists from their own bioregions in order to avoid establishing a dynasty of sorts.

Beyond all this, the main criterion will be a dedicated commitment to Earth First! principles. And regardless of what you may or may not have heard, such principles do exist....

The Party Line

What's a party line? A principle, a goal, an objective, a tactic, a strategy? Who decides what it should be, who makes it happen? Who needs one?

All of this may strike some people as sophomoric or soporific, or pedantic, offensive, or fascistic. But if the journal is to minimize the possibility of being subject to the whims of each successive editorial collective, if the journal is to become representative of the diverse Earth First! adherence, we must explore this.

To begin with, the journal is not like the *New York Times*, *The Readers Digest*, or *Good Housekeeping*. Our "clientele" are not the advertisers who provide a lion's share of the revenues; we are not controlled by Weyerhaeuser, the Chamber of Horrors at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, or the William Randolph Hearst Publishing Company. We're independent of corporations and governments for news or dollars.

While this happy state of affairs may create some financial problems, does the freedom thus gained give each editorial collective the untrammelled right to publish whatever it pleases? This matter was alluded to by the current collective during several internal debates. "Alluded to" rather than explored since it became quickly apparent that certain topics are not Earth First! concerns. We are not involved, for instance, with certain questions perennially plaguing western civilization, regardless of their obvious importance, such as the length of hemlines or the relative merits of the Mercedes Benz and the Cadillac. In short, there are obvious limitations to the topics that should appear in the journal.

In one way or another limitations, principles, goals, objectives, methods, are all inherent in the "party line." While we do not need to become obsessed with the finer distinctions, we need to articulate a statement of mission. But this editorial collective decided that it was not up to us, or to any collective, to articulate a statement of mission. We just couldn't sit back and declare that what we're all about is saving the wilderness or subverting the dominant paradigm. (What's a paradigm, anyway?) This approach hasn't been all that successful, in any case.

For the time being, the following will guide us in determining what should appear in the journal:

1. The overriding goal of Earth First! is to sustain and restore the wilderness and its biodiversity.
2. Earth First! uses direct action.
3. Earth First! takes a no compromise stance.

What Goes In

We decide whether to include an article or letter in the journal by all of us sitting in a circle and debating the relative merits of each submission. We usually include every letter to the

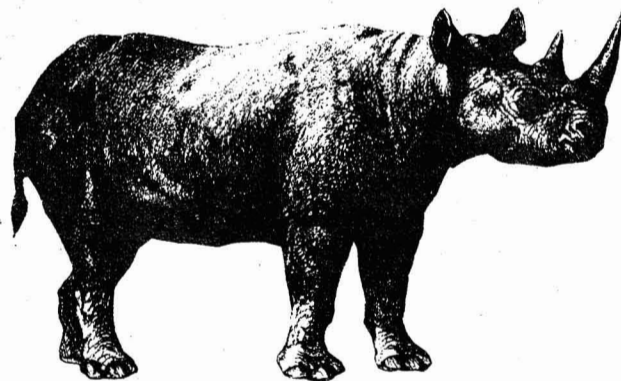
editors (the general exception to this is when we receive several letters expressing similar viewpoints on the same topic, in which case we choose a representative letter). We do not edit letters, and key them into the computer as received, regardless of creative works by the grammatically challenged. So if you see weird spelling and provocative sentence structure in the SFB section, it is of the author's creation. On the other hand, we edit articles for grammar and usage; we suggest substantive changes in conjunction with the author's approval. To date, the individual preferences of each collective have determined which articles are printed in the journal and where they appear in the journal.

Since each collective makes these decisions individually, how can we assure a continued adherence to EF! ideals in this decision-making process? Although activists at the Green Mountain RRR did not agree on the necessity for an advisory board for the journal, the concept was relegated for further discussion. At this point, we would like to open discussion on a possible journal advisory board, and its possible duties.

The movement should first determine whether the journal needs an advisory board. In making this decision, activists must determine what the duties of any such advisory board would be, and how the board would perform these duties in the real world of telephones and keyboards and roadless area encroachment. The movement would have to determine how any possible advisory board would be selected. If the EF! movement decides that an advisory board is desired, the movement needs to determine the board's functions and mechanics.

If you have ideas or suggestions on the workings of the journal, this collective suggests that you consider writing a letter to the journal, participate in the annual journal workshop at the RRR, or, more immediately, attend the EF! activists conference scheduled for March 7-9 in Portland, Oregon.

This collective is offering these explanations and ideas in the hope of stimulating debate on what it will take to make the journal more effective in serving and reflecting the diverse and dynamic EF! movement.



Earth First! journal Income and Expense Report

December 31, 1991

1991 Income

Donations	14,983.34
Subscriptions	42,259.76
Merchandise sales	17,557.35
Wholesale journals	4,814.99
Advertising income	940.00
Interest income	541.80
Misc. income	2,971.37
Total	84,068.61

1991 Expenses

Contracts for services	13,559.00
Postage and shipping	19,752.56
Printing	15,434.13
Computers and office supplies	7,935.32
Merchandise	9,779.15
Phone	2,266.22
Merchandise refunds	1,366.33
Office rent	1,875.00
Advertising	803.90
Misc. expenses	787.93
Total	73,559.54

SFB, continued

Dear SFB

I am bewildered by the hue and cry surrounding Robert Marten's "A Hunting We Will Go." I have never before seen such widespread misinterpretation of an article published in the Journal.

While Marten did provide some handy pointers on how to provide steak and mutton for coyotes, he explicitly condemned the idea of shooting human hunters. In fact, he condemned this idea *twice!* So why all the misrepresentation of his views? Because Marten spiced up his brew with some of Tom Lehrer's classic lyrics? I sure hope not. We are in pretty sorry shape if the use of Tom Lehrer's hilarious hunting rap has suddenly become taboo.

In any case, what is so bad about trying to pressure hunters into empathizing with the animals that they will hunt? Even if Lehrer's song fails to make any hunters think about what they are doing, it will still remain one of the best anti-hunting songs ever.

—BRAND X

Dear Outraged Readers,

After reviewing my November 1st submission, "A Hunting We will Go", I must humbly confess that the article's literary merits are indefensible. I initiated these articles to deal with the use and abuse of technology, suppressed information, and countermeasures. By adding Tom Lehrer's "Hunting Song", I completely departed from my own format and set a tongue-in-cheek tone of satire. Serious, factual data and satire have no place together, for they produce equivocation and a sense of double-entendre. Clearly, I singlehandedly blew the whole intent and purpose of the article with this literary blunder!

Regardless of the impressions left because of my errors, I assure you I do not in any way advocate homicide for any reason! This notion is contrary to my personal ethics, as are hunting and trapping. In recognizing the damage done, I apologize to all offended parties and hope you will be charitable towards me in my ignorance.

—ROBERT MARTEN, A.K.A. SFB

Dear Half-decomposed slime between the aural orifices:

Some comments about "A Hunting We will Go." First, thanks to Robert Martin for writing the article. The tactic of conditioning wild animals to fear humans is good, as in taking up hunting space and permits without killing wildlife.

The second tactic of killing cows has been debated before. Cows are not wild animals. They certainly have no place in North America. There is no place where cows, as they exist today, could survive in the wild. In one's primary concern is for the integrity of ecosystems, one should not have a problem with killing cows. If one's primary concern is with the life of a cow, which is significantly contribution to the destruction of ecosystems across north america, that is not an Earth First! position

I realize that there is no official Earth First! position, but there are certain values that arise when one puts the Earth first. One is the integrity of ecosystems. The inherent value of all sentient beings is not one.

As for the article encouraging shooting hunters, re-read the article! Mr. Martin made very clear his position on killing humans. Twice he explicitly states in strong words his opposition to this. I understood the bullet specifications to be for impressing other hunters and for killing cows.

Have a sense of humor.

Sincerely

—FALLING LEAF, BLACK SWAMP EF!

P.S. Keep up the good work, ed.s!



Ferret

Dear Editorial Collective:

As an Earth First! activist I really resent the centerfold selection, "A Hunting We Will Go," in your November issue. The implications and innuendos that were made about shooting hunters were not subtle or vague but quite obvious and direct. Printing something like this in the Earth First! Journal is dangerous to all activists because of possible backlash of hunters. Moreover, the philosophy behind shooting and killing people

is far removed from any other idea and activity I have had any part of in my five years of being and Earth Firster! This article sounds more like the work of a saboteur, not a collective with the responsibility for deciding what is appropriate for Earth First! news.

I want to see a renunciation of this article in the next issue.

—LARRY HANSEN



Wolf

Earth First!

I would just like to say a few words in regard to your article "A Hunting We Will Go." I appreciate your recognition of the value of the lives of cougar, mountain goats, doe, etc. but why contradict yourselves by suggesting that we kill "undesirable, 4 legged species"?

Humane killing is a contradiction in terms, sort of like a humane clear-cut. No matter how quickly the murder is done a life is stolen and that's wrong. I assume the animal slated to receive a slug through the head is a cow. Granted, cows should not exist in the large numbers they do or even at all in many parts of the world, but they are sentient beings deserving respect. We cannot punish them for our crimes of genetic manipulation and overpopulation.

If we want to fight the destruction animal agriculture is causing in the ecosystem we can begin by not relying on animal agriculture. Eat the foods primates were meant to eat: a better soldier for earth's liberation. And if you want to go beyond veganism throw a monkeywrench their way. Sabotage a cattle ranch, a slaughterhouse, a meat market. But don't punish the victims: cows and other genetically manipulated and domesticated slaves, for the crimes of their oppressors: ranchers, factory farmers, butchers, meat eaters, and every other cog in the destructive machine animal agriculture.

In Struggle,

—MEMPHIS HARDLINE

Dear Shit for Brains,

O.K., you all did it to me, I am forced to write a letter. I usually don't stoop to such pathetic levels, but I am currently so aroused.

Mr. A. Nony Moose, If you were not such a wimp you would shoot the ranchers and the freddies. Furthermore, if you were not such a wimp you would also shoot yourself after shooting many others. Human beings are the true polluters of the earth. You don't want cows to trample around and shit in the forest, but it is ok for you to do it. The cows are a product of the meat consuming death culture. If you eat meat or are any way part of or supporting this culture you had better aim the gun at yourself and pull the trigger hard and fast. Remember, if it weren't for humans' disgusting and totally unnecessary habit of eating meat and dairy products cows wouldn't exist at all. So stop eating meat, stop trampling around and shitting in the forest yourself and aim your disgusting gun at the correct targets; the ranchers, freddies and meat and dairy eaters.

—MAMOO THE WISE

PS. One more little rant, please let Douglas C. Taylor know that it is completely absurd that he should assert that people such as EFlers would work on wimpy ass measures such as Ducks Unlimited—"Lets save ducks so we can kill them." Say to Doug; Good riddance fellal

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

You know I what think? I think Bill Devall is pissed off because, if I remember right, someone called him an eco-patriarch in that book review he's talking about. And what did he do but respond in the most patriarchal way I can imagine - by using his muscle to remove as much financial support as he can from the paper that allowed someone to call him names. That's what freedom of speech is all about in this society, isn't it? Say whatever you want unless it crosses the person with the purse strings. Well, that's not what this movement is all about, so I say: Bill Devall, take your money and your powertrip and stick it up your ass. We're better off without you or anyone who has to control us with their money. And I'm not signing my name either, so hah!

To the editors...

EFl you are shooting yourself in the foot. The result of the "Hunting We Will Go" article in this last November's issue has succeeded in alienating key figures from the organization such as deep ecologist Bill Devall, and has caused Judy Bari, Darryl Cherney, and others involved in intense conflict, organization, and confrontation in the Redwood and Ecotopia areas of the West to dissociate themselves from the publication pending further editorial policies.

Articles such as this... 1. In advocating the killing of domestic cattle species as a solution to the range problem in the American West, aggravate public relations with the pro-cattle ranching community in a manner exasperating some of the tensions resulting from the ranch vandalism incidents of two years ago of which I thought Earth First! exonerated themselves from, 2. Advocate the killing of human beings (hunters) in a non-authoritarian, guerilla manner, a question completely unrelated to the anti-poaching policies of select National Parks in Africa, and 3. invite severe public relations disasters to those ranging from the opposition to mainstream environmental organizations to those on the fringes of the Earth First! movement itself. I demand an editorial review policy in the journal to prevent such articles from being printed in unedited form like this again for the safety of the journal and the security of the movement. I want the Ecotopian Earth First! organizations reincorporated into the national network provided by the journal, and I want important deep ecologists to retain their ties with the tribe/organization. Miss Ann Thropy and his anti-overpopulation AIDS articles may have been one thing, but this is anarchy in the movement as represented or not in the journal carried too dangerously afar.

—"THE MOLE" UNIONVILLE, INDIANA

—NB: ANARETTY TAKEN TWO AM



Grizzly Bear

SFB:

When we began publishing the journal in Missoula last year, it seemed unlikely that we would ever constitute a faction of the movement. There's a good bit of diversity among the crowd here, and beyond that, the structure of the revolving editorial collective would safeguard movement representation. It seemed to have worked. We've had 29 editors so far, including local contacts from Virginia, Texas, Montana and California, and other activists from elsewhere in California and Montana, and from Washington, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, New York, and England. We've published Blank Walls from groups in Florida, Washington, California, Oregon, and Australia. It felt pretty representative.

But in looking back at the various collectives, it seems that there have been some common tenets. Perhaps the strongest of these, after a love of the wilds and a commitment to do what it takes to defend them, has been a general belief that this movement is most effective unhampered by control.

It has been a deliberate position of the current journal not to try to direct the movement. We have felt that it would be more useful to have an open discussion than to present a party line. With this in mind we have evaluated submissions based on their clarity and utility and not on their politics or on their authorship. We basically require that material be relevant to biodiversity and wilderness, and/or the struggle to sustain and restore them, but beyond that we have intentionally not limited discussion to some particular range of ideas that we happen to feel are appropriate or correct.

It has amazed me how many people just don't get this. In one issue we printed articles on both animal rights and shooting cows, and got subsequent subscription cancellations from both gun nuts and bunny huggers, who united in their intolerance of seeing anything with which they did not agree. Okay, well, I'll admit that this pan-offensiveness has in part been a deliberate strategy to keep our mailing list manageable, an admission I know will not sit well with those who think that for the movement to grow (ah, that dear old American value) it must be accessible, which is to say, generally palatable.

I'm afraid that pro-growth EFlers would be more comfortable with the pro-control organizers who have been the journals most vociferous critics. Ironically, these

are some of the people who railed against the previous journal staff for being too controlling. That staff, and the Formanistas in general, called their critics "the California faction," but I don't think this does justice to the diversity of EFl activism in California, even in the north. I think a more useful way of identifying them is as the Redwood Summer crowd, because that campaign exemplified some of the current issues that are arising in the current criticism of the journal.

Almost every experienced activist I know who went to Redwood Summer had a miserable time there. It was not just because the trees continued to fall unimpeded, despite anything we did. It was also depressing to encounter propaganda from our own "organizers" that ran directly counter to why we were there. Neophytes were being told that the campaign was, at least in part, for sustainable logging; but the time for any logging there has long since past — there is simply not enough left — and many of us came with the uncompromising philosophy of Not One More Tree, a perspective that was specifically disclaimed. Whether or not Redwood Summer demonstrated anything to the world is another question. It showed me that the people in charge were acting more and more like the heads of an organization, valuing personal control more than grassroots direction, willing to compromise goals to gain political clout.

These are the people now calling for more accountability and "movement control." It seems to me that this only moves us towards increased bureaucracy and organization. Accountability demands accountants, and who will these be? Forgive me if I suspect that the self-important people who are calling for this have themselves in mind for the job. In short, I think that the current cry from the Redwood Summer organizers for "movement control of the Journal" is really a gambit for Egotopian control of the movement.

Organizations can do things that undirected movements can't. They can present cohesive demands, carrying the clout of their membership. They can develop a consistent ideology and they can raise and spend lots of money. They can avoid being repeatedly embarrassed by sundry dopers and criminals. They can establish unquestioned leadership and delineate who is most important. In many ways, formal organization would well serve the apparent needs of the RS organizers.

But not the rest of us. Organization wouldn't kill the Earth First! movement, only the best parts of it. This movement's greatest strengths have been its diversity, its unpredictability and its lack of compromise. The more we try to make Earth First! a consistent, acceptable voice, the more we weaken these strengths. This has happened in some local areas, such as the northcoast of California, where many of the original EFl organizers, like Don Morris of Willits and the folks in Arcata who did actually map Headwaters, are no longer active in a group that is pretty well dominated by a few people. I'd hate to see to this happen nationally.

The Journal is important in this. It can either help sell a smooth pleasant image of radical environmentalism, or it can be a garrulous mess of conflicting debate. Well, I like to read stuff I don't agree with. I don't even mind talking to people about some of the ugly issues the journal has raised, whether the ecological role of AIDS or the renunciation of tree-spiking. I'm glad that there are ecological fanatics. But all this prating about control bores the hell out of me.

In reading this, I'm not sure it adequately expresses my anger and disgust at these shabby and egotistical maneuvers for power. I'd like to be careful here, because some of these people are my friends. I'd like this discussion to concern issues rather than personality; unfortunately, personality seems to be one of the big issues. I think its time to either drop the self-aggrandizement and demand for personal control, or to leave and form new ecorporations. Either course of action would be respectable, and would strengthen Earth First! Continued attempts to tame and dam a wild movement will only hamper the work and impoverish us all.

—D. N. Varmint, ex-collectivist



Beaver

Note to the Journal Staff-

Please remember, Judi Bari & Her group, which I call "Workers First!" are the loudest but not the only folks in Northern California.

I for one, love the "Montana" Journal and feel it represents the wide range of opinions EFlers across the country have. I don't want to agree with everything in it, I want to know what other folk are thinking.

I keep hoping Judi will rename her group. She is doing fine organizing & coalition building with workers but mass organizing isn't my idea of EFl. She says she keeps the EFl name because she can't afford a new t-shirt wardrobe - perhaps EFlers can take up a collection?

Earth First! should be "lean and mean." Our best role is as the monkeywrenchers and whistle blowers - let other organizations do the more mundane work - after all, it's going to take every kind of strategy to achieve a healthy planet. But that doesn't mean one group has to do everything!

One of the reasons EFl appealed to me was they DID NOT run meetings or make decisions by formal consensus process - what has happened???

Lets Get Wild - SEQUOIA

vs. consensus process

Dear SFB,

As the elected (unpaid) officer of a non-profit called Wilderness Defense!, I am writing to express our group's support of the EFl Journal and its editorial collective. We have been receiving mail from activists suggesting that the Journal and its staff need to be investigated concerning various controversies. Although we don't agree with everything in the Journal, or the movement itself, we welcome the diversity, controversy, and humor within the publication's pages. Yes, we were not offended by "A Hunting We Will Go" in the Samhain edition. The editorial collective is doing a great job under difficult circumstances—they need our thanks, not our constant criticism. It's time that we placed more emphasis on life, wilderness, and laughter; and less on bickering and nitpicking.

—ROGER J. WENDELL



Mule Deer

Hi folks!

Don't listen to all the whining. If folks were really disgusted they'd just walk away without a letter. Which leads me to this little recipe left me for Hunter Fricasee by a coast woman named Cougar Annie...

Cannibalism is far more useful than preying on other species. Sad for our kids, we really don't need to actually kill anybody to reduce the population: AIDS is doing a far more efficient job than the most zealous group of hunters. Even selective slaughter is unlikely to rid the gene pool of those greed genes.

If anyone is so frustrated with the state of the earth that they need to kill other predators, Paladin Press (800-392-2400) publishes the most efficient means, for entertainment purposes only, of course. A separate newsletter might be a vehicle for such views, a la Sahara Club. I'd certainly subscribe.

We spend so much time worrying about our damned image, bickering among ourselves. Don't think it hurt when Darryl Fucking Cherney renounced tree spiking? Why criticize Foreman when he's served his purpose to bring us all together? Is there really much difference between blowing away hunters and "A Call to Freedom Riders to the Grand Canyon"? In certain contexts, both are not really such wacky ideas. If humans become extinct on this planet, we'll see a lot worse than these before it's over. Devall leaving and trying to take all his marbles with him—can't he see that the process this is is deep ecology? Et tu, Ecotopia?

Just "think like a mountain": do the work that needs to be done, follow your own vision for healing the earth. The reason we're in this mess is all of us have been too worried about looking good. All these letters might have been far better written to politicians rather than wasting our precious venom on each other. Get a more spiritually accepting uncompromising slant—listen to Seed. Use that energy to really read, follow and sign Karen Pickett's ALIVE AND WILD EFl declaration.

Love, —CJ HINKE



Porcupine

Dear Shit fer Brains Earth! Firsters!

I thank you for shareing good time's & bad. I would like to reflect for a moment with you. Despite the fact that people in the movement have not taken a good shit in day's we should always offer a hand when they need a wipe. By this I mean I think humor is the best tool to control Ego's and therefor we all need to cry the laughter, and the pain. But I take issue with anyone who "thinks" instead of "do's" action do you or don't you that is the question! It's said that the jornal is doing this or doing that, badly, so we've been infiltrated. It's time to move on one step at a time and continue to dream and demand more Bison cleaner water, mutual respect for all life, because to face the extinction of half of all species in the next few years and denied a human reaction "Time to stop the bullshit" Live & Let Life Live is the because we are all in the same boat, and it's sinking. ring a bell in your cranial crop? I would also like to tell everyone that's trying to define Earth Firstlerism Let's not be petty fractionalism dog do in the Shoe! If there were only 200 two hundred real EFlers out there burning 1 dozer every week for a year 10,400 ten thousand & four hundred dozers later we would be able to see tangatable results, instead of talk walk, when in doubt...duck. When giving advice put it to action Get off you ass and do something! By the way I eat when Im served no complaints. But Beluga's are going EXTINCT!

As Thomas Pain once said: "When opinions are free, either in matters of government or religion, truth will finally and powerfully prevail."

Bison not Cows
Salmon not Braindead Yuppie Hatchery trout
Stop your silence/Behave like Coyote
—TOO POSIONED TO REPRODUCE

Dear Scatskull,

The EFl Journal has provided some damn fine reading material over the years, with tips & sage advice from some real clever folks out there, as well as that special feeling in the knowing, I'm not alone in this. Here in the Great Northwest, one works alone. These plunderers of the forest and lands are armed, dangerous, and butt-ignorant.

Sure, I've done actions (such as tree-spiking and road-stars) that could result in bodily harm, if all warnings and flag spikes are ignored, but I've never deliberately harmed anyone, just machines, tools & such. However its often difficult to tell some rednecks from his/her dirt-toys, so it gets fuzzy sometimes, but one thing is crystal clear. Mr. Logger-Developer-Dirtkicker has NO QUALMS about doing bodily harm to me, as long as he/she can get away with it. Not that 2wrongsequalright but I agree with Foreman & Co. in that this is a WAR, and WAR begets casualties. It's also a WAR that we are losing.

Sure, I can still find virgin lands of pure Earth, Air and Water, but I can feel the cold death as it creeps in, can't you feel it?

Yes, of course things change, the journal, the people as they crash & burn out, the enemy in his chrome, grey, and glass disguise. Damn journal almost got me skinned when an EFl plea for money showed at my rural POB rather than at my Portland shipping address. (They got it off my check). It took many beers and even more lies to wiggle out of that, however I'm feeling more and more that this in-fighting is purposely being perpetrated upon us to discourage us.

TWO THINGS: WE ARE AT WAR. The Earth is dying all around us. There is no time to argue about shit like killing cows or the politically correctness of hunting or hunting hunters. COME ON PEOPLE NOW, GET TOGETHER RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE AN ENEMY OUT TO DESTROY US! The "Brown" movement has solidified through groups purported to be grassroots protectors of the "sacred rights of land ownership." There are hundreds of chapters of "Multiple Use" (read plunder public lands) groups bent on destroying all environmental controls. They are well funded by the present power elite. The sooner we get to kickin their ass instead of each others, the better for the planet.

For me, I trust no one who has lost the BIG vision of saving the Earth from ourselves. If we humans don't curb our appetite, it will be done for us by a greater power & the Earth will shake us off like so many fleas on a dog. Be well my friends & happy de-industrializing!

For all that's wild
—THE HERMIT OF FIRE MOUNTAIN

Dear SFB:

Can't seem to face up to the facts ;I'm tense and nervous—Can't relax...

So some Ecotopians burn their EFl membership cards after reading homicidal intent into R. Martin's article, declare that they "are not laughing," and resign.

Now everyone's free to wave their flags far and wide, true, but we couldn't help but notice one or two hunt sab flags flying in ecotopia's anti-journal parade. The sabs are touted as "courageous," "true eco-warriors," in unity with the secessionists. Its flattering, but gag me with an airhorn. ... the truth is that most sabs we know—ourselves included—hate flags and pedestals, and seek to avoid monolithic collective dogmas or policies, sabs cover a wide spectrum on issues from animal lib to ecology to anarchism to "violence." Admittedly, while some of us have stooped to poking hunters with ski poles, most do fall on the non-violent end of the spectrum. Regardless, we resent being lumped together as having some party line or as being part of ecotopia's separatist diatribe.

And as far as we can tell, a lot of sabs really liked Martin's piece and felt that it had substantial strategic value, especially with regards to info gathering. We've learned way more by pretending to be hunters (which involves knowledge of hunting and guns) and actually hanging out with the yahoos than by reading environmental documents. Martin's piece is inspiration to carry such investigations further.

Can't sleep 'cause my head's on fire/ Don't touch me—I'm a real live wire. ... We hope that people are inspired by the article to contribute to a diverse pro-wildlife movement.

And we hope that others in EFl recognize diverse tactics as a key to strong and long lasting resistance. Let's face it—armed resistance is nothing new to liberation movements at home or worldwide. From Nicaragua to the Black Panthers to the Eco-Terrorist Pie Brigade, those who have decided to take up arms should be respected and honored for that decision.

While that doesn't mean we should all be stockpiling arsenals, it might make us think twice before denouncing comrades who chose different or more extreme tactics. Disagreement and dissent are healthy. Stomping out of the room when others don't play by your rules seems to us like an immature power trip

Psycho Killer—Qu'est ce que c'est? Run run run, run run run away!

So let's hear it for the Journal collective! We can only echo the points brought up in Alison's and Trout's editorials—The issues of speciesism, thought police, etc. As for Ecotopia, we here in Santa Cruz love you all like crazy, but geez Louweez—lighten up!

Repossess the Earth!

—REPOTOPIA EFl

P.S. If you don't print our letter as a sidebar, Repotopia EFl will immediately withdraw from the movement.

Dear SFB:

On Heros and Quitters

I've been an active EFler since 1983 but never have been so moved by the Journal as I have the last few issues.

Robert Marten deserves a medal. Ditto for Rod Coronado and friends. The courage and dedication of these people are an inspiration to my life. These, to me, are true heros. And for the countless critters who would otherwise be condemned to die at the hands of sadistic trappers and fur farmers, they are also true heros, I'm sure.

I am therefore mystified at the bizarre reaction of Ecotopia, Bill Devall, etc. Are these folks so puffed up, fragile and frail that a single humorous anti-hunting article pops their balloon? Because they have accomplished some success and fame they are now omniscient? They presume to know not only which writing styles will incite the masses against us, but they can also pinpoint specific articles which, when printed "directly endanger lives." GET REAL GUYS! Lighten up! You want to "regain control of the Journal"? Who elcted you Kings and Queens? There's a whole other world of EFl activists out here, and to us, the Journal has never been better. Many of us grass roots types (without name and fame) feel we now have a voice. Please understand, you do not own the movement or the Journal, you are but a small, tiny part of it. If one article offends your tender sensitivities then perhaps you'd best ride off into the sunset on your very high horses. Tender people have been "quitting" since day one. If your big focus is on how to NOT offend people then EFl is not for you, so pleeze don't waste your energy (and ours) trying to censor or punish the Journal.

I've showed "A Hunting we will Go" to numerous non-EFlers, including hunters, kids, pacifists and assorted activists. The universal response has been hearty laughter. I thought it was one of the best articles in a long while. Through the years the Journal

has published numerous articles praising plagues and other means of human destruction. That was o.k.? (Mostly hungry women and children I guess). But the audacity, the heresy, of even humorously suggesting harming the great macho God, the Hunter, seems to strike terror into these timid hearts. What gives? I have a bumper sticker which reads "Conserve Hunters, Harvest one Today." Does that mean I kill hunters? No. However it is a potent lesson (humorous too). People are shocked at the thought, yet quickly realize the distorted world-view we've internalized that allows us to inflict this humanist mentality ("harvesting") on other sentient beings.

Marten's lesson is compassion, and his genius is passing on the inspiration and wherewithall for others to do the same. Killing defenseless animals is sick. It is totally unnecessary. Vegetarians are healthier, live longer and have 16 times less impact on the Earth than the corpse-consumers. The Journal, as usual, is ever-growing, ever-changing and ever-offending. Quitters will always come and go, a dime a dozen. However these quitters seem to be threatening financial blackmail, so I urge all fellow EFlers to send \$ to the Journal, give gift subscriptions, etc.

Deepest thanks to Sprout, Allison, Chim Blea and other wonderful women warriors who are voicing what thousands have felt for so long. How refreshing to hear the voice of compassion and Reason loud and clear.

Actually I hope the quitters don't quit. I just hope they grow up, relax a little, laugh a little, put aside differences and realize it's time to work together, work towards unity. Better to get bent out of joint by Earth destruction, not some sincere activists personal expression. The article was not a heinous crime, it was a bit of long overdue humor. Let's keep it in perspective.

—VISTARA PARHAM, WYOMING

Dear Shit Fer Brains:

No, I don't own a gun. I have never touched one, and I'm not planning to. I deplore the whole stupid macho culture in which men (and some women who accept the scam) own and display guns to prove they're men. Yet I am opposed to gun control: as with the prohibition of alcohol in the '30s, the prohibition of handguns would only create a huge "gunlegging" industry, to the further profit of those folks who also give us the international drug trade.

BUT. Let me tell you, briefly, about a recent land struggle in a remote corner of northern New Mexico:

A chunk of land in Rio Arriba County had been held de facto by a Spanish family for many, many years. Though the state said the family had no true title, it accepted taxes. So it was a murky legal situation when it was announced that a "development" corporation had purchased the land for a ski resort, and everybody could kindly disappear.

The people of the town of Tierra Amarilla did all the usual things: legal suits, intense publicity, rallies, etc. But they did something else: under the direction of a Vietnam veteran, they occupied the land: set up a camp and a 24-hour-a-day armed guard. There was talk of sending in a SWAT team. I was half-convinced Uncle would simply bomb the hilltop site from helicopters. But government backed down, ski sharks hauled ass, and the matter was finally adjudicated in court.

Would the victory have been won anyway? It's unknowable. My own opinion is: No.

I am NOT advocating everyone go out and arm themselves. In a nation where every level of government is armed to the teeth, it is a very serious decision indeed. And every situation is different, demanding its own strategy.

It's true that a certain rabbi said "Turn the other cheek." But the Talmud says, "If one comes to harm you, strike first."

How one strikes is, of course, the question. For the courage of those who choose never to pick up a gun under ANY circumstances, I have respect. But I also respect those who sat up on that hilltop in Rio Arriba those long nights.

Unarmed OR armed, you're risking your life when you go up against The Man.

As for the specific article on hunting that so exercised some people, my own reaction was "Hmm, another asshole." That's my reaction to some EFl articles—but no other publication provides so much INFORMATION on struggles all over the world. That's why I started reading it, and that's why I'll continue reading it.

Struggle, —JOANNE FORMAN

Handwritten notes: "I like the article... Respect Am... CHO"

This is still SFB

Dear whoever it is that also has shit for brains,

I remember when I first heard about Earth First! I was truely surprized, and strengthened to know there really are People who think like me. That must of been the time Earth First! began to stir.

After all the years and some serious bullshit jive I still feel that way.

I written several times over the years, and as far as I know, various travestys' have decided all my letters were travesties'. It's good to know I bother People.

What the hell, I have paper, pen, stamp, being unemployed, Living close to the Earth in the Wilds (are you?), plenty of time to kill, here's another travesty for you. I wish this paper was recycled stock but such are by far unaffordable.

Being a Hippy Hillbilly peasant I have little resource to do much out here, but to try and inform the local community of what I may. They are mostly miners, or loggers. Yahoo! I haven't shot yet.

Actually, pretty nice folks around here, Just trying to survive and be safe, sound and happy, like me, & you.

It's up to us to make new paths that they can live in better ways. They're too busy to do it.

Oh well. What the hell! Fuck it On with the show! The must go on. To whom it may concern,

Great Solstice and full Moon Days. Imagine Humanity has actually disturbed the ecology of the Moon! Just what poisons were left behind up there surrounded by crushing tread marks. What unknown balance & Lifeforms of the Moon are disturbed or dead? Imagine there are those who would fire missiles laden with radioactive cargo of wastes poisons, into the essence of Life on Earth our Sun!

Imagine, there are those who manufacture those radioactive atoms of cancer, in huge quantities, and contaminate our planet with them!

Imagine the Forests falling to greed sickened psycho paths, factories manufacturing chemicals that will kill in immeasurably small amounts, and broadcasting Mountains of it all over Earth, 40,000 Children dying of famine, 100 species of Life disappearing off of the face of Earth each Day! Imagine individuals being created by society as a necessary product, during normal operation, to rape to torture, to walk into a public place and gun down 25 innocent People, or to Man a death squad and carry out such evil as a government agent! Imagine the torment and murder of a whole planet of innocent creatures, to bring lavish luxury, and power over fellow humans, stimuli to a handfull of drunken psychopaths of no conscience, or compassion!

Hard to imagine, but it's True. That is why the world of victims hasn't yet risen up against the destroyers, and smashed them down. It's hard to imagine. It's too big, beyond the scope of the imagination of most People. To People who must work hard to pay their bills, to keep themselves alive, and happy, who have no time to expand their horizons, the extents of our worst problems are inconcievable beyond belief. Only when the hobnail boots are kicking in their doors, or the streams turns into a sewer of death and cancer amidst their family, can they imagine broadly enough. Too late. Oh well

Ain't no time for squabbles and war within the lines of our battlefield alliances. Get off that fucking bullshit folks! Not even worth the ink & paper you spend or publishing the comments of idiots who spawn & perpetuate such rank shit! Smells of agitators infiltration to me. Fuck it! Damn all the bullshit! Lots of differances between members of the Family.

We'll work that bullshit out after the victory celebration, hopefully in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and universal equality.

Fuck it! On with the show! The show must go on.

—TOMMY WALEN, LAUGHING DEER

Dear Shit For Brains,

This letter goes out to all who have canceled subscriptions to the journal or are thinking about it, because of a personal disagreement to something written or said therein. (Animal Rights-shooting cows-hunting etc.)

Free thinking and Freedom of expression is what the journal is all about. It is what Keeps us eco-defenders informed and enter-

tained. It is intended to educate and stimulate ideas. Nothing in the journal is set in stone, and nobody forces a belief on you. Just because you disagree with another's opinion is no reason to hurt our movement, for even though we are coming from different directions, we are all heading the same place. Rather than boycott the journal and abandon the fight, become an activist, send letters to the journal with your point of view. Maybe someone can learn something from what you have to say, and if not that, at least stimulate a thought or idea.

Giving up is the easy way out, and that's just what the mega-cooperations and freddie's want. Think I about it.

—SKEETER LIGHTNER



Coyote

Dear SFB;

It seems to me the Yule '91 issue represented a watershed for EF! After the turbulent events affecting the EF! movement in the last couple years I've had my doubts about whether the movement—and particularly the Journal—would survive as such. (Of course the survival of EF! and EF! Journal as such aren't what's important, but I won't digress.)

I believe the split-off of the Bari/Cherney group of activists from the Journal will ultimately improve matters for them and the Journal. Irreconcilable differences had arisen and a(nother) no-fault divorce was in order.

Bari et al are entitled to their opinions about what the Journal should and should not print. But what struck me most about their message was that they feel that some articles the Journal prints may endanger them and their loved ones. Bari and her friends are engaged in courageous and vital work on the North Coast and don't need an aggravated hostile climate around them. It's a valid position.

Allison Slater, too, makes totally valid points on behalf of the Journal. A true EF! publication cannot and must not pull punches or censor its writers beyond certain agreed-upon limits. Individual writers will—and must—be free to express controversial, nay outrageous viewpoints.

In a similar vein, I was confused by Bill Devall's tenor in regard to book-reviewer French's critique of *Deep Ecology*. Of course French is clueless about Deep Ecology, EF!, and obviously pretty inexperienced as an organizer. Of course French espouses the kind of views that will inevitably weaken the movement and make it bland and ineffectual...if his writings appear frequently and are embraced by the Journal staff. But he only appeared once and I think his reviews were bad enough that most readers will recognize them for the garbage they are and speak out.

Two things still disturb me about the Journal: 1) EF! cannot be effective as a movement if it tries to be all things to all causes. EF! is a radical, Deep-Ecology-oriented environmental group. Not a peace group, feminist group, or animal-rights group. These causes are all important, but they don't have to be on EF!'s agenda—there are plenty of good organizations working on these issues and these groups need members. Sierra Club should be an excellent example of an organization that tried to straddle too many issues and has lost effectiveness in all its issues as a result. To be effective we need focus. Foreman's classic "Whither Earth First!" should constitute the guiding principles of the Journal and all EF! organizing, and should be reprinted next issue. 2) I'm disturbed by the lack of "Dear Ned Ludd" the last couple issues.

On a supportive note, I'm glad to see the (apparent) wane of man-hating material that recent issues had carried. Writers such as Bari seemed to get off on tarring "men" (meaning, apparently, all men) with the brush that patriarchy deserves. This is sexist crap, and I am sick of it.

Bringing back the Pagan subtitles (Mabon, Litha, etc.) was a wise move, as was the *Radical Environ. Journal* subtitle. Obviously somebody on the EF! Journal staff cares about keeping a publication of zest and integrity going. Here's to a bright future ahead!

—CONCERNED READER

Dear Earth Firstlers, ^{My old} People lighten up! I cannot believe the disruption a single article can cause. This is exactly what a lot of people want to become of us. We're transforming into the Soviet Union breakup for God's sakes! Skip over that kind of article if you don't like it.

This article "A Hunting we Will Go" was healthy because it probably scared the freddie's. That's the whole point. Killing is an individual choice. Maybe it will someday come to that. Personally, I couldn't, damn, I can't even kill an ant.

One thing about the infamous Dave Foreman. I think it's sad and scary that a leader would betray us. I'm fourteen and he was my mentor. I could look up to him when I went through the tough times since most people my age don't think kindly to environmentalists.

I love you all EF!ers out there. Though times are lonely for me in the environmental movement (only my girlfriend really understands my trials) I'll always be an Earth Firstler no matter what happens.

I think the true eco-warriors will stay with the movement.

Power to all Earth Firstlers
—MIKE SALZ (the next generation)



Elk

Dear Earth First!

Last year as a junior in high school I stumbled upon a philosophy called Deep Ecology while participating in the most hierarchical sport ever-debate! (imagine that) Today the 'ethic' has become more than just a debate argument, now it surges through my veins. Deep Ecology gave me a new direction in my life, I began looking at the world through a new pair of eyes. Deep ecology made me realize that this academic sport debate was paradoxical to my newly discovered philosophy. You see debate breeds elitist characteristics (the majority grow up to be politicians). Most people in debate believe they are higher than 'ordinary' people and therefore they isolate themselves into cliques and refuse to interact with those 'lesser' people. (Hmmm, sounds suspiciously familiar!) I thought deep ecology/radical environmentalism believed in holism and non-hierarchy...so why the hell is the whole Earthfirst! and Wild Earth scene becoming one big hierarchical 'debate' nightmare. I'm not talking about the actual philosophy behind the movement, I mean this hodge-podge "your beliefs are wrong" or "our group is better so I am going to steal your members" bullshit!

When I incorporated the basic philosophies of deep ecology into my life I still disagreed with much of what Sessions & Devall said. Same goes for Foreman's philosophies. But that doesn't mean that I changed my mind about the truth behind the basic idea. It means that I won't practice the parts I don't agree with. For example I feel both Devall and Foreman's exclusion of domesticated animals is bad. I understand that the Animal Rights movement puts animals above other species but God damn it, this is your peoples movement, why don't you deconstruct the way people view animal rights. And if you don't believe in the term "rights" then get rid of the word. No species should be excluded from the ecosphere just because they are domesticated. (all the more reason to domesticate them) I agree with what I think Rod Coronado was alluding to.

We need a more biocentric (ecocentric) view of animals, one which doesn't exclude any animals nor one that puts them above the trees and rivers, etc. And I don't see why you all can't give that biocentric viewpoint. And another thing—I don't see what the problem is with recognizing that the oppression of women is directly linked to the oppression of the earth. Here we go again excluding important ideas that could be crucial in stopping the crisis. (Does including this belief threaten you Dave?) But what pisses me off the most is all this fighting. You fight with the eco-feminists, the social ecologists and now you're fighting with each other. I don't think you need to worry about the government (FBI) destroying the movement—you all are doing an exceptional job yourselves. I think you all have forgotten the goal of the movement, I don't understand why you can't accept that people have differences in opinion and focus on the common ground, the belief that the earth is first. (even before your fighting) You seem very childish Bill Devall trying to ruin Earthfirst! just because you no longer believe in it. (Government tactics? Ironic, huh?) You know it would not surprise me if in about ten more years you're leaving Wild Earth Dave! (for the same reason) All that fighting and running surely

must take away from *Defending the Earth!* We need to be collaborating ideas of people and of movements and the ones that can't be accepted overall will be left as personal choices for individuals. I agree with Allison Slater—"We need to accept that there are others in the movement who think differently than you. And don't quit." But if you must quit EarthFirst! (the group) then carry with you the dedication to the earth first. Not to ruin the group you left behind. There is already a shortage of radical environmental groups—so lets not squelch the few still existing. Conquer the loggers, and the government not Missoula Earthfirst!

I hope you don't disregard my thoughts just because I'm not a familiar name. I don't claim to understand what all this fighting is about or to have all the answers. But because of the very fact that I'm not directly involved in this mess I feel I can give a holistic opinion of how some of your other believers feel. This letter is written to all the people including the ones who left. For a group of people who don't believe in bureaucracy you all appear to be getting weighted down in a lot of bureaucratic bullshit. For a group of people who supposedly believe that the earth should come first, tell me why is she coming second or third to this mess?

—KENDRA COX

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Thanks to Dancing Butterfly for providing the toll free # to DuPont 1-800-441-7515 for the past 5 mos. I've been passing out flyers titled "Operation FUCK EM' Up! Where I've encouraged people to call We-Tip 1-9800-78.CRIME & TURN IN FAKE Pot Gardens, Coke labs ect...At your Local Loggers Home! Well...Why stop with pigs I say...For the last month me & four friends have been call'n L.P. (1-800-348-1400) on a regular basis. This is a small office w/about five people work'n it. So...when 1/2 a dozen people all call at the same time you can shut down there office by tie'n up their phone lines. The first few days were the best! I got them so pissed off they started just hanging up w/o say'n Hello! Mission complete that day! But they must have hung up on to many customers cause they always answer now! But every time you call it cost them \$3! One for the call, (2) they got to pay someone to answer it! If they spend all there time talk'n to EFers! I guess they won't sell much! It do work! If 50 people a day call, 10 times...Well they'd get nothing done all day! All you need to do is call & thank them for spending time & money so you can tell em Fuck You! Or maybe you want to place an order of lumber for yer new church! DuPonts # is 24 hours a day I've gotten them so pissed they started use'n dirty words & Just Hang'n Up! Boy I'm sure there customers love it! So make those calls, From a pay phone of course!

Howz About A List of Those Handy #s?!

L.P. 1.800.348.1400
P.L. 1.800.228.7043
WE.Tip 1.800.78.CRIME
DUPONT 1.800.441.7515
CHEVRON 1.800.457.2022
SHELL 1.800.833.6762
CONACO 1.800.255.9556

I know We.Tip is'nt cutt'n trees or suck'n Oil... But if you know a Logger, or scum of that type Why Not...Ya Dig? Our Goal should be to get these Fucks to Eliminate there toll free #'s that way the scum got to pay to call Scum! If we do a full blown "Phone Party" for a month...Geeze just think of the Phone Bill! The \$ spent talk'n to us! It's a safe and Fun way to monkey wrench...For FREE! I know My write'n Skills Suck...So Fix it up...But Pleeze get the #'s out & tell everyone to call!

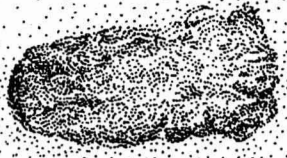
A Public Service Message From \
—SLING & SHOT, THE PLINK BROTHERS, SF, CA



River Otter

Dear Shit Fer Brains, aka Jan Kraker:

The article which appeared in the last EF! Journal greatly disturbed me—both by Jan Kraker's ignorance and the ignorance of radicals in the Netherlands. Jan Kraker's praise of actions by those who act out of ignorance and fear of the unknown (ie Biotechnology) is deploring and reminiscent of the Dark Ages. A quote from the Razende Rooiers, upon destroying a test field of so-called genetically engineered plants read, "The destruction of a test field is designed to both start a discussion on the subject of biotechnology.....". After all, what better way to discuss the results of an experiment



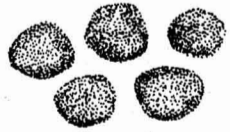
Barn Owl

than to terminate the experiment before they are any results? If the researchers in question had done the same, those same 'Raging Diggers' would have protested, exclaiming "Why are they failing to give us results? What are they trying to cover up?", as we in the science community hear all too often, usually not without justification, I'll admit.

Later in Jan Kraker's article, the question is asked whether consumers really wish to eat food that is "artificially produced". What could this possibly mean? Jan, I'm confident you haven't eaten anything today, no all week, that wasn't manipulated in some way in its past by man to produce a better crop. You state "Biotech would drastically reduce the number of naturally occurring varieties of these plants", referring to the three plants you claim feeds 50% of the world's population—corn, rice, and wheat. For your information (and this is no new information to the majority of readers of EFLJ, I'm sure) none of those three plants exist today naturally. Few plants or animals eaten in the Western world today ever existed in the wild as they now occur.

Biotechnology could (I'll not say it will or won't) present new methods of growing crops without the environmental damages of pesticides, excessive use of fertilizers, and wasteful irrigation. To dispel it without any factors for or against its use is nothing short of ignorant. Environmentalists usually are the first to stand up and demand to know the ramifications of some actions (from an EIS to consumer product testing). The actions in the Netherlands can only hurt the environmental movement, giving all of us a bad name. If Jan Kraker would so much as pick up a newspaper (let alone read a scientific journal or talk to someone having knowledge in the field of biotechnology), she could be enlightened to some of the current projects going on in the area referred to as Biotechnology. Including: production of plants which are unappealing or toxic to insect, bacterial, or fungal pests and, therefore, have little or no need for chemical additives, in the field or in storage; plants which are more drought tolerant and can be grown in the desert; in addition to plants which can be irrigated with water having high amounts of salt, thus reducing the necessity for fresh water being 'wasted' in agricultural fields. Biotechnology can lead to the production of agricultural crops which are of increased economic value (for greater yield, nutrition, or whatever reason) just as by simple hybridization. However, biotechnological techniques can reduce the time it takes to see results. I don't feel fear is necessary here. After all, no one wants to rip up all the natural species, dismissing them as inferior, only to be replaced by modern versions. If food for humans must be grown, I feel it should be done in a manner that involves the least amount of space and resources in addition to having the least impact on the environment. Altering the genome of an organism is merely a technique, not a panacea, for attempting to achieve this. You don't hear me screaming at you for hoeing your garden, which is an attempt to remove weeds, thus improving your crop yield. So don't fear new ways of doing things, rather try to be informed. Because, as you say, you don't have to be an expert to use a shovel, but you do have to be taught how to use one.

—BB, PENN STATE U., CURRENTLY TRYING TO BIO-ENGINEER TREES WITH TEFLON BARK



Arctic Hare

Dearest Shit:

I read my first Earth First! today. How very exciting to see that there are some people still alive, awake, and worked up about the important things. In your (Shit's) column I read a slogan someone suggested and thought I would send in mine. It's probably been suggested, but it's one I really like. Many years ago I used to get the phrase "America, love it or leave it" smashed in my face on a regular basis, and now I throw it back slightly changed, but even more loudly now: EARTH, love it or leave it!!!!

Thanks for the opportunity to scream.
—MR ORGANIC MATTER, FAIRFIELD, IOWA

Dear Scheisskopf and EFLers everywhere,

It seems that trying to publish an environment-oriented paper in southern Colorado is a risky business venture.

Some of you may have heard of the Aztlan Journal, a bioregional publication focusing on the four corners states. That paper was published by folks living just over a couple mountains from me, and it was mailed out from Walsenburg.

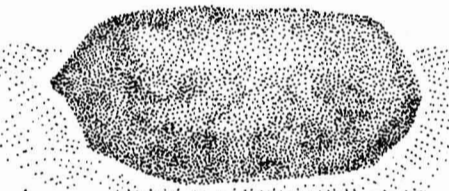
Unfortunately a censorious postal employee made certain that the papers got no farther than that. To make a long story short, lost papers led to lost subscriptions led to lost revenues led to fewer issues than intended led to the apparent demise of a strong voice for the environment here in Colorado and the southwest.

Now, I'm seeking to establish a newsletter, *The Wild Ranch Review*, which focuses on the work being done by tiny, community-based environmental groups, and which supports Wild Ranch, where a wildlife refuge is being carved out of cowboy country. However, I have recently learned that at least some, perhaps even a majority of the sample copies that I've sent to various places around the country for review have not been delivered. They were sent out from Aguilar, 20 miles down the road from Walsenburg, in early November, and I even paid for first class postage. It is 1 and 1/2 months later as this is being written. There are suspicious circumstances, namely that the confirmed missing were sent out over several days. Thus this is not just a case of a misplaced mailbag. Multiple losses are involved.

People wanting to help can drop a card to the Postal Inspector, POB 329, Denver, CO 80201-0329, and demand that he determine why it is that environment-oriented publications have these problems in southern Colorado. Thankyou.

(Subscriptions to the quarterly newsletter, *The Wild Ranch Review*, are 15\$, \$5 of which goes directly to acquire land and rehabilitate wildlife habitat for Wild Ranch, a privately owned wildlife refuge being carved out of cowboy country. Send to *The Wild Ranch Review*, c/o Tim Haugen, POB 81, Gulnare, CO 81042.)

—TIM HAUGEN



Moose

Dear EFL Journal,

Hello. Just writing to say that perhaps Robin W (author of the piece "going Beyond Reform" in Samhain '91 issue) is misdirecting her frustrations just a bit. Her slightly muddled jabs at "eco-anarchists" put me out just a bit. I consider myself a radical environmentalist as well as an anarchist and social revolutionary. It has been apparent to me for a while now that it is the same fundamental attitudes and ideas (as well as the same social structures that foster and support said notions) that lead to environmental devastation as well as racism, sexism, militarism, violence against animals (yup, I'm veggie too), authoritarianism in its many incarnations, and any number of other ills of humanity. Does that fit your definition of an eco-anarchist, Robin?

I don't deride Earth-worshippers. Though I very rarely take part in even-slightly-formalized religion of any flavor, I

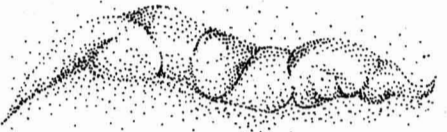
embrace the idea of Earth-as-Mother, both from an external philosophical viewpoint and from an internal spiritual recognition of its truth. I certainly don't dismiss feminism as irrelevant. Many of the great victories for Our Side are directly attributable to radical feminist groups and individual women. As for eco-anarchists being mostly men, I (like anyone else) can really only speak from my own experience. Among my friends who are eco-anarchists in the same sense that I am, there are at least as many women as men. Maybe even slightly more, though it's certainly close. And what does she mean by "their lifestyle isn't practical for women and children"? Is she saying that there is some way of life that is intrinsically more suited to men? I certainly can't agree with that, and it seems deeply inconsistent with some of the other ideals that Robin (apparently, anyway) holds. To put it in another light, ANY lifestyle that doesn't accommodate women and children is a

doomed lifestyle, as anyone should be able to figure out if they pause and think for a moment.

Finally, let me just say I intend this communication not as one more nit-picking barb hurled by one Brother at one Sister. Quite the contrary. I think Robin and I would agree on a lot; I'd just wish that her view of the Revolution was less exclusive. It's been said many times before, but here it is again. Diversity must be seen and embraced as a strength, in fact a tremendous strength. (I LOVED Operation Tree of Life, by the way) When diversity becomes factionalism, and this or that individual becomes alienated and loses faith, all of us are weakened. The State and all its agents, appendages and manifestations profit by our divisions. While I agree with Robin that radical feminists in the '60s and '70s made great strides forward, I disagree that other elements of the Revolution at that time were "stupid" or ineffectual. Countless groups (Black Panthers, Yippies, Diggers, Merry Pranksters, Berkeley Tribe, even the Weathermen) stood up as their own People and wore down authority power in their own fashion. Countless other groups and individuals might be added to this list, but I hope my point is made. The bottom line is that we are strong whenEVER we stand up UNIFIED (but still uniquely ourselves), then our strength is only magnified.

Enough said. I'm embarking on a rather interesting trip in a couple months; I'll keep you posted on what I see. 'Till then.

THERE'S NO GOVERNMENT LIKE NO GOVERNMENT!!
—ERIK "RAIN" IN WASHDC



Mountain Lion

Dear Ecotopia and Earth First! c/o Shit Fer Brains,

I've lost track of how many times I've started this letter over, but this feels really important to me. I've been searching for just the right words that will encourage you to really think about it. Well, maybe I'm no Thoreau, but bear with me, okay?

I believe we're in constant danger of becoming something other than a movement, and I think we need to do some soul-searching analysis to figure out how to prevent that.

Earth First! was started by a group of people who declared they were starting a movement. Their ideas sound right and good to many of us, so we got together, began doing actions, and soon Earth First! was famous. And most famous of all was Dave Foreman, being not only a founder, but the journal editor and main media spokesman too. That was fine for awhile but eventually we found that we didn't like things that were being said about us and for us, both in the media and in the journal. We wanted our own voice and our own movement with no leaders, (even if those leaders were somewhat involuntary.) So we had what some called a split, but I prefer to think of as a little revolution, the result being that now we have no leaders. (Note: although Dave is no longer our leader, he is still a part of this movement). And that's great, a movement with no leaders. If gives me hope that maybe a big revolution is possible. But we're at a critical stage now, the stage where most movements fail. We have to figure out how to stay a movement and not become a political party, (how to have a party—not be one!).

We've learned that having leaders is not the way to go. To that end, we're publishing a regular journal with a rotating staff, and even though it still has some problems, I think we—as a movement—deserve a 21 monkeywrench salute for that. It is, after all, something that there's precious little precedent for. But it's a movement paper, open to all of us, and especially people like you who have strong opinions and voices, to be a part of.

Anyway, no leaders. Next, (and this is the important part), I believe we need to get rid of our flag, too. I'm worried about all the groups and individuals who do everything they do under the name Earth First! because when you ARE Earth First! then all things Earth First! affect you. You're standing under the same banner as the journal, for one, so when they print something, people associate it with you. Obviously, that can be a not-cool situation when they print something you don't like or something that could endanger you. So, you respond by demanding that they only print things you agree with. Next thing that happens is you lose all the people who don't hold all the same beliefs as you. Then another group will make more demands regarding their beliefs, and pretty soon the paper is only printing what amounts

to the accepted party line of a few people. Back where we started from....

I think the way to keep this movement alive is to think of ourselves as one big tribe made of lots of small autonomous clans. We can come together for the purposes of communication, (the journal), partying (gatherings and rendezvous), and rabble-rousing, (roadshows). But, if no clan is named Earth First! then our communication is free from all restrictions and doctrine. We're free to toss around (and toss out!) ideas, be creative, criticize each other and ourselves, refine our ideals, grow, and encourage each other, without endangering each other. I believe that open, uncensored communication is going to be imperative to growth for the simple fact that we have a lot to learn. We don't have wise old grandmothers to teach us everything we need to know, so we're going to have to try to have to try to teach each other.

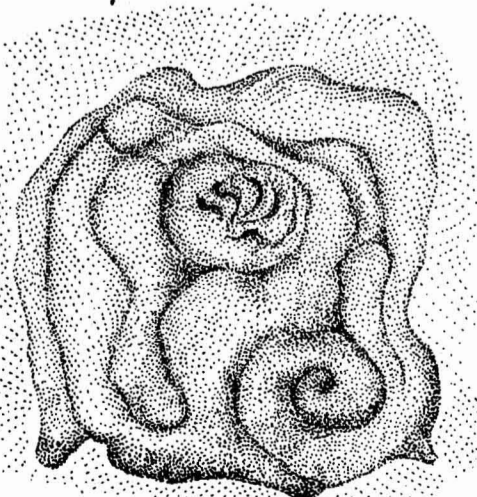
See if this sounds good to you: Earth First! is a movement of people who believe that the Earth comes first, and who are willing to take action to protect her and all her wildness. That and only that is what we have in common. Beyond that, we form smaller clans with more than that in common. You live with, work with, and do actions with people who share common specific goals, and beliefs about how to accomplish them. You write in to the journal and tell the rest of us what you're doing and how it's going. You read about what we're up to. We learn from each other. And of course, we gather together occasionally to trade tales, dance, sing, and celebrate our wildness. But we never have to be like each other, not as long as we're not waving the same flag, (i.e. not using the same name). That gives us freedom to enjoy and learn from each other, and protection from being held responsible for what other clans or individuals do. Lowering that EFL flag is imperative.

Another tribal value that I believe is important is STICKING TOGETHER through thick and thin. We're relatives, not business partners, and we can't go around quitting each other everytime someone makes us mad. We're related and we share the same homeland because we're the people who remember that the earth is our home. We're the people who are willing to fight for her. Everyone who's taking action to defend the Earth is part of this movement, only there aren't enough of us and we have to remember who the enemy is. Let's not let pressure from the enemy break us apart. And after all, its harder for them to break us apart if we're already broken apart into small tight groups. A big group is very fragile, but a big movement made of people who's main tie is made of heart strings—that's less fragile. That leaves the journal as our most precarious target, and it's going to take all of our love and devotion and open-mindedness to keep it going. We're going to have to stop fighting the journal. It's our journal. If we don't like it, we can go work on it and change it. Likewise we shouldn't tie it down because it's the voice of a lot of well-intentioned people. We should criticize it, for good and bad, but we should never quit each other.

As for an activist's conference, I say we do it. It seems like we need it, and the more communication between us the better. This is a critical point in our movement and we need to be clear about our direction, so let's talk! But let's not spend a lot of money on it, if we can help it, (and let's not go to jail afterwards!).

So, Ecotopia folks, please consider this my response to your letter. You asked us to respond to you directly, but I, for one, can't give up on our dream, not yet; the dream that makes this paper our open and direct line of communication with each other.

Sorry I'm not signing my real name, but it's because I don't want locals where I live to see it, and anyway, you'll figure it out. Love and Wildness from the Southwest.
—G.T.



Bison

Soldier Key Update (continued from page one)

other privately-owned islands within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park, and the development of Soldier Key would set a precedent. We wanted to communicate directly with the grassroots and avoid relying on the media. Biscayne Bay is a good setting for grassroots activism, since the "grass roots" are at the public marinas on weekends.

We spent the first two months thinking up ideas, planning how to carry them out, and raising money to pay for our first flyer by begging change from cars in pre-Christmas traffic ("Joy to the Earth!"). In February we began to distribute leaflets at Dade County marinas to alert boaters to the threat to Soldier Key and ask them to join us in a marine action, the "Regatta for Soldier Key," to express their opposition to the development.

In mid-February Jim Sanders, Supervisor of Biscayne National Park, announced the Park's objection to the Florida Princess development plan, stating that he would deny the permits necessary to barge construction materials through Park waters. The Miami *Herald* subsequently published a misleading article, implying that the permit denial left the developers without recourse and that the issue was "over."

Our first task was to determine the status of Soldier Key and inform the public. There was no time before the Regatta to distribute an updated flyer, but we lucked out by connecting, indirectly, with one of the most outspoken advocates for wilderness in South Florida. On February 13th, the day following the misleading article, Miami *Herald* columnist Carl Hiaasen dedicated his column to Soldier Key. He emphasized that far from being "over," the development project

first of our continuing "Bewildering Experiences with the Media," we found that we were SO WRONG! Regatta Day—February 23rd—turned out to be the day the ground war started in Iraq, so there was absolutely *no* media coverage. At first we were disappointed, but we quickly figured out how to turn the lack of media coverage to our advantage.

We had gotten two people to bring still cameras, and another person borrowed a videocam. We took lots of pictures and, providentially, a few days later some Missoulians called asking us to do the Blank Wall for the March edition of *EF!* We decided to do what the developers and the press do: create our own news.

Once coverage of our action had been published in a national newspaper (*EF!*), we sent copies to national, state and local media, boycott publications, our elected representatives, Biscayne National Park, and the Interior Department. We also put a bunch on the windshields of cars at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to stir up the academic community.

Our second flyer called for three actions: writing to members of Congress, calling the Florida Princess office on its toll-free reservations line, and boycotting Blockbuster Video. Over the next six months we distributed about 8,000 flyers, reaching almost 20% of Dade's registered boaters, plus their families and friends. So many people responded that virtually every Florida congressperson contacted Biscayne National Park to express their constituents' objections to the scheme. Cut-up Blockbuster Video cards began to arrive from places as remote as Washington state and from every corner of Florida.

When a Biscayne Park ranger happened to walk into another video store in uniform, a couple approached to assure him that they were there boycotting Blockbuster, while a Blockbuster competitor sent in a whole box of cut-up cards.

In mid-March Heather Dewar reported in the *Herald* that Broward County Republican Congressman E. Clay Shaw had written to Manuel Lujan on Blockbuster's behalf to get the Interior Department to overrule the NPS. This ploy backfired because, due to intense public scrutiny, the Interior Department denied Shaw's request. Shaw was tremendously embarrassed, as the article also revealed that Huizenga had given him a \$1,000 campaign contribution in 1989 and that Shaw had a 20-year friendship with the Lambert family.

We continued to update and distribute flyers and thought of other ways to show our displeasure with the plans for Soldier Key. Huizenga was bidding for a major-league baseball franchise for South Florida and was the center of a media frenzy, jetting with Bush and sporting a profile bigger than Donald Trump's.

He was also vulnerable because South Florida was competing with five other cities for the baseball franchise. We wrote letters to the National League Expansion Committee telling them about Huizenga's involvement in the controversial Soldier Key project. We also wrote to the chambers of commerce of the competing cities, outlining the Soldier Key controversy and Huizenga's link to Waste Management, Inc. We sent releases to the video industry press, and *Video Business* magazine covered the boycott.

On Sunday March 31st, *EF!* was present at one of the all-important major league exhibition games. Although we neglected to bring a camera and missed some great photos (bad planning!), we hung banners in front of a crowd of 60,000 fans. This action was almost entirely ignored by the media, but we got our point across to Wayne.

In April, Big Cypress *EF!* (our sister group in

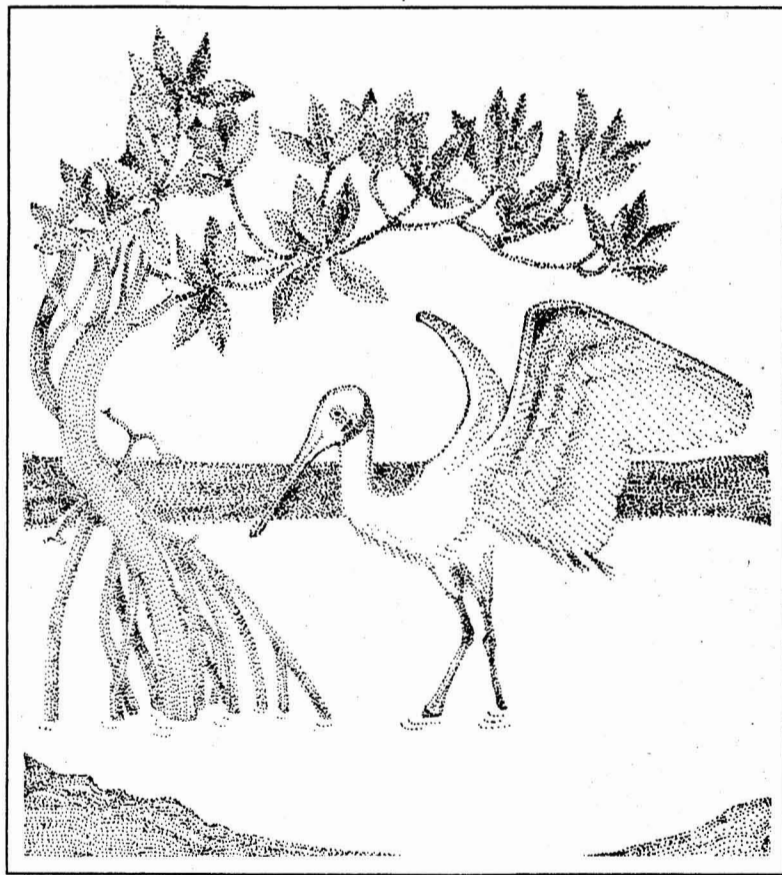
Broward County) began weekly demonstrations in front of the main Blockbuster Video store in Fort Lauderdale and at the Florida Princess pier before the departure of the Friday evening cruise. In May, the cruise line canceled a cruise after learning that a demonstration organized by Big Cypress might receive media coverage. Though the passengers were absent, photographers from the Broward edition of the *Herald* were not, and a great photo of two activists cutting up a giant Blockbuster card made the next day's paper. Another Broward newspaper wrote a story totally slanted in favor of the project. It was hard to compete editorially with Wayne—the media were busy awarding him every type of civic honor for winning the baseball franchise. One TV station even aired a half-hour program called "Wayne's World." (!)

By then we'd had enough of the "canonization" of Wayne Huizenga. We were sick and tired of seeing his grinning pate and devilish blue eyes in the *Herald* day after day. In fact, we thought he looked so devilish that we took one of the huge front-page photos and drew horns on his head. And Spock-style pointed ears. And turned a microphone behind him into a devil's tail. We incorporated our artwork into a flyer called "The Last Temptation of Wayne" (because as part of its extensive censorship practices, Blockbuster Video does not carry *The Last Temptation of Christ*), and challenged him to live up to the "pseudopious morals" he imposes on his customers and employees by asking: "Why must a man who has already made millions of dollars attempt to destroy the last wild place in Biscayne Bay for a few more bucks? The last time we checked, greed was a sin."

This flyer quickly made its way to boaters all over Dade County. Big Cypress *EF!* distributed it to Blockbuster customers and Princess passengers. When Everglades *EF!* picketed a Dade Blockbuster store, handing out flyers to hundreds of customers on a busy Friday evening, the enraged manager spent the whole two hours trying to sic the cops on us—to no avail, we were legal. (You can demonstrate in the parking lot of a mall without a permit and only the owner of the mall itself—not a store manager—can tell the police to make you leave.)

Meanwhile, Blockbuster denied having anything to do with the development project, repeating that the company had entered only into a "licensing agreement" with Lambert. We did not believe this for a minute!

In June, stone-walled by the *Herald* and feeling that we had saturated the boating public, we contacted Sean Rowe, an award-winning investigative reporter for the *New Times*, our "alternative weekly." Rowe thought Soldier Key had enough story potential to spend Saturday, June 15th on the Bay with us while we carried out our first escort action. This day-long action was coordinated on land and sea by activists in two counties. Everglades *EF!* activists in two borrowed power boats intercepted the *Entertainer I* en route to its Miami destination, the mega-mall Bayside, where passengers disembark for a three-hour shopping frenzy. We hailed the passengers and asked them to boycott the cruise line. Earlier that morning, Broward activists had given the passengers copies of the "deviled-Wayne" flyer as they boarded the *Entertainer I* in Fort Lauderdale. At the Bayside pier, more activists with banners greeted the disembarking passengers. Despite a problem using the new megaphone (a mistake—we should have tested it ahead of time), the action went well and Rowe's full-page story appeared in the June 26 edition of *New Times*. This paper reaches over 200,000 video-renting households each week, so the story was a direct hit to the heart of Blockbuster's home-town market. Rowe wrote sympathetically about Soldier Key and depicted us as uncompromising but slightly inept (because of the megaphone), deflating the FBI-created and media-propagated image of *EF!* as terrorists. What's even better, *New Times* went all the way and reproduced the "deviled-Wayne" flyer in its entirety!

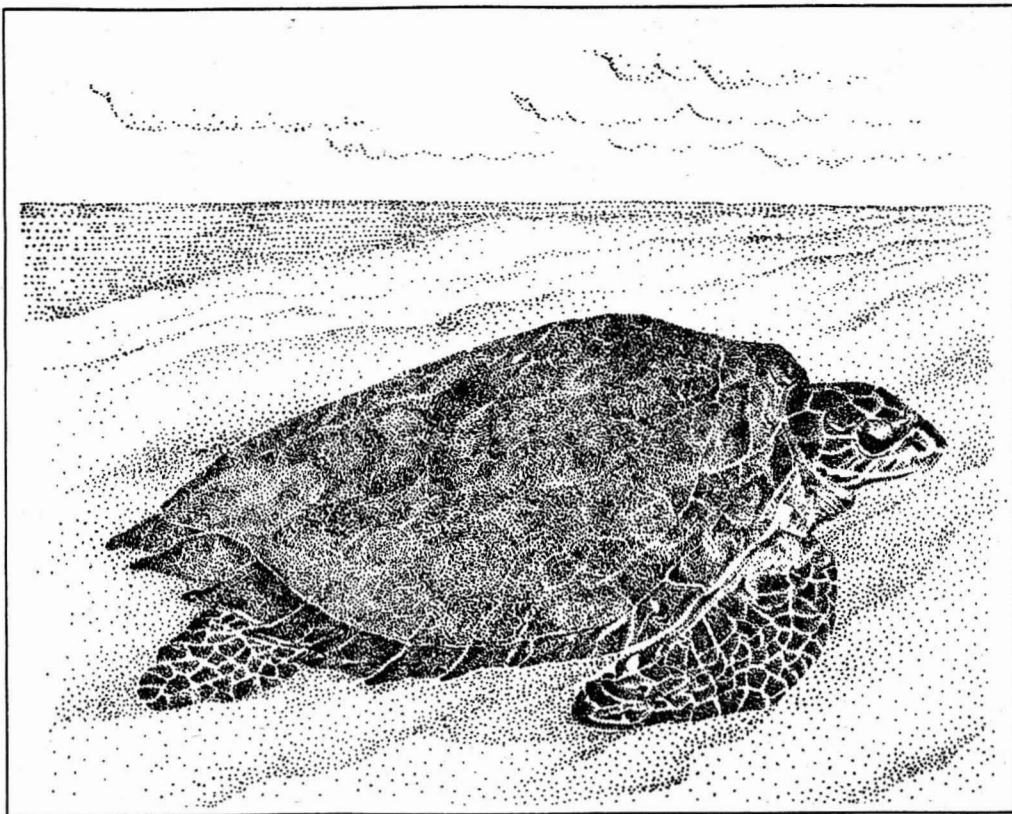


Roseate Spoonbill

Peggy Sue McRae

was backed by no less than H. Wayne Huizenga and Blockbuster Entertainment, and that the fight to save the Key had just begun: "Huizenga is a wealthy Republican campaign contributor whose phone calls [to federal agencies] would probably be swiftly returned, were he to express a personal interest in getting the Soldier Key project approved."

To publicize the regatta we continued to leaflet, issued a press release, and had two radio interviews (community radio and commercial radio). The regatta generated great public enthusiasm, and a charter company donated a 45-foot catamaran for our use since we had no boat of our own. We felt confident that the press would not pass up this "once in a lifetime" photo opportunity as dozens of sailboats flying colorful banners congregated in the shallow waters around Soldier Key. In what would be only the



Hawksbill

Peggy Sue McRae

In mid-July, about two weeks after Rowe's article hit the newsstands, Blockbuster Entertainment filed two law suits against Florida Princess, claiming \$540,000 of bad debt and misuse of the Blockbuster name. The Blockbuster law suit story made the headlines of the local business papers on July 24th. Two days later, in a small article on the back page of the Herald's business section, Lambert responded by stating that the "bad debt" claimed by Blockbuster was simply cash infusions by a partner in the joint venture.

To discourage any potential investors Lambert might be trying to line up to replace Blockbuster, we carried out another escort action on August 31st, the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. We tried especially hard to enlist local boaters in this action by creating a Boaters' Alliance for Soldier Key (BASK), saturating the marinas with the new flyer focused on Lambert, and setting up a BASK hot line. When boaters contacted us we sent them an information packet and asked them to confirm if they planned to participate. We also sent info packets to local residents who had joined the boycott. We even borrowed a portable marine radio and broadcast information about the BASK action several times on the preceding weekends. Of the half-dozen requests for information we received, no one participated. One boater tried, but she had not confirmed and missed our boat.

We carried through on our own and, because Labor Day is possibly the slowest news day of the year (take note, fellow activists), a local television station covered the action. The land part of the action at Bayside was nearly disrupted by two City of Miami cops hired by Lambert to keep us from getting on the pier and speaking to Princess passengers. We avoided arrest and continued the action by moving to a parking lot right next to the pier. We had six demonstrators with posters designed for maximum TV appeal—one depicting an adult Hawksbill trailed by two hatchlings asking, in large script, "Please Save Soldier Key, Our Home Sweet Home," and another simply stating, "Shame On You Robert Lambert." It was hectic with the cops threatening us with arrest and the TV crew setting up and taping while we harangued the passengers. The two passengers who were interviewed, a midwestern couple, said it wasn't necessary to spoil an island just for a cruise. The video footage of Soldier Key taken during the Regatta came in handy, since, as the TV reporter explained, "This is television. You can't do a story about an island and show a picture of a mall." So we lent them our videotape, and the resulting two-minute segment was excellent.

Since then Florida Princess has conceded the two lawsuits by default and filed for bankruptcy protection. Lambert is also enjoined from using the name "Blockbuster." But regardless of the legal outcome, there is no doubt that Blockbuster was solidly behind the project from the beginning.

On October 31st, we met with Superinten-

dent Jim Sanders at Biscayne National Park. Sanders reported that the NPS has completed proceedings to condemn Soldier Key. The matter next goes before NPS Regional Director for the Southeast, James Coleman, in Atlanta. After Coleman's review, the matter will be referred to the circuit court to determine the fair market value of the land. Sanders assured us that a letter-writing campaign to Coleman is not necessary. He also said that the NPS has reached a price agreement with Milton Friend, the owner of Soldier Key. Though Sanders would not reveal the price, he said it is within the amount Congress has set aside.

Robert Lambert's option to develop Soldier Key runs until Spring of this year. At that time he can let the island go or try to renew the option with other investors. Should Lambert attempt to degrade Soldier Key physically, the NPS is prepared to move to a hostile "taking," wherein the government seizes the land without consideration of the owner's rights. Park rangers patrol the island daily, so any activity would be noticed immediately. Since it would be against both Lambert's and Friend's interests to provoke hostile government action, Sanders said that this scenario is unlikely.

Which still leaves us with the question: Is Soldier Key safe? Though Blockbuster assures us that it has bailed out of the deal, we are curious about the fate of the *Entertainer II*, which is in dry dock in Broward County. The "welcome centers" on the Florida Turnpike and interstates are full of Blockbuster Cruises brochures, though we advised Blockbuster of this in October and it said it would remove them. We know that Lambert is trying to raise cash by selling his \$900,000 waterfront retreat. The boycott of Blockbuster Video and Entertainment Cruises (the new name of Lambert's operation) will continue until Soldier Key is safe as part of Biscayne National Park. Various national boycott-oriented publications have articles in press right now. Huizenga and Lambert must be taught that actions have consequences and that they can't just walk away.

In reviewing the past year, we have gained a sense of place, made mistakes, learned a lot. We find that we need frequent meetings to provide structure and focus. Because we are so few and because a project develops a life and a timetable of its own, we meet weekly to plan strategy, choose specific tasks, and allow plenty of time for creative interaction. The direction we have taken and the type of work we are capable of doing are determined largely by who we are: creative communicators who prefer to work for wilderness outdoors, and who have a horror of bureaucracy and formal meetings. We keep Ed Abbey's advice in mind and have a lot of fun.

We have realized that the media include some very good people who are partisans at heart. But we also learned that we can't rely on them to report to the public or follow up on a story. There are influential forces (and advertisers—Blockbuster ads in the *Herald* have mushroomed) who would like the public to forget an issue. We find, to our dismay, that we must often rely on the press for information that we can't obtain ourselves; to our delight, as Rowe's article showed, a well-timed story with just the right spin can work wonders.

We have been able to stay legal while accomplishing our objectives. When we first formed

Everglades EF! in June, 1990 (Redwood Summer), the press immediately began to bait us, implying that coverage would depend upon our living up to the media's "terrorist" image of EF! Instead of taking their bait, we decided to find creative ways to focus public attention on local issues. In making this decision we have again listened to who we are, what we are willing to do, and what we think is most appropriate for our bioregion. Though we completely support the solidarity expressed in the EF! Statement of Unity, we believe we can accomplish more here as free agents than in a jail cell or a courtroom. The people, like the land, are stressed enough. And that includes us!

We have also tested the limits of what we can presently expect from the public. Leafletting worked great so long as we asked for private actions, but we were much less successful in getting people to participate publicly. The greatest public participation was in the Regatta, and even then, only about a dozen of the hundred boats we had anticipated materialized. In discussing the lack of active participation, we have realized several things about our bioregion: In South Florida people come and go; they come for a job or school, stay for a few years and then leave, or they immigrate here from another country and live in a cultural limbo that can last forever. In such circumstances, bioregionalism is difficult to develop. People do not become intimate with their bioregion; they live insulated from their physical environment by air-conditioning; they never learn about our ecosystems, wonder what type of landscapes originally occupied the land their houses are built on, or the native plants that should grow there. They know little about the urgent ecological threats to our region, and consider themselves good little environmentalists if they participate in curbside recycling. Further, the popular culture of our bioregion is a consumerist, play-now-pay-later hedonism that discourages serious involvement at the cost of leisure.

We have decided that the next phase of Operation Mangrove Shield must be the purchase of a boat to maintain an ongoing, high-profile presence on the Bay. We plan to rig out a deep-vee hull vessel with tall masts at the bow and stern to hang a huge banner that can serve as a floating billboard. Miami is a financial center where deals are made that affect the entire Everglades Bioregion, from the Kissimmee River to Key West, from Biscayne Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of their greed in monopolizing "prime waterfront," we will have easy access to many of Miami's developers, lawyers and bankers, as well as the media. With the boat we will be able to circumvent the media blockade and begin to inform and educate the human population who live, work and play on the Bay. Our goal is to find fellow carriers of what Dave Foreman calls the "wilderness gene," and to monkeywrench legally the money machine that backs the developers who plunder our land and waters. Though direct action and personal contact with the grassroots, we will create a network of relationships—a real hometown team!

Finally, The Soldier Key campaign cost about \$750, which the Direct Action Fund has reimbursed. We have found it easy to work with DAF as its quick reimbursement for direct action expenses allowed us to keep up the pressure.

The EF! editorial collective asked us to be critical of our actions. I hope that this critique of a campaign by a small, young, urban group in the Everglades Bioregion will be helpful to other fledgling groups everywhere.



REGIONAL ROUNDUP

ALF TORCHES

OREGON MINK PLANT

Ed. Note: This missive arrived anonymously, attached to a copy of a December 22 Salem Statesman Journal article which reported the blaze but raised doubts about the cause of the fire. A telephone call to Oregon State Police Lt. Richard Hein confirmed that the fire was indeed arson and that as of 1-2-92 there were no suspects.

December 21, 1991— Western Wildlife Cell members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) raided Malecky Mink Ranch in Yamhill, Oregon, and set an incendiary device that destroyed the processing plant of this fur farm near Salem.

Intelligence sources revealed that the fur farm was to be sold, with intentions to continue exploitation of fur animals. Malecky Mink Ranch was a recipient of information from Oregon State University's Experimental Fur Farm, and had developed innovative methods of commercial exploitation of mink for the fur trade.

No mink or humans were injured in the ALF's fourth action against the United States Fur Farm industry. Fleshing machines, drying drums, skinning racks, feed mixers, freezers, and a workshop were all effectively destroyed in this economic attack against the tools of death and destruction.

This action was taken to avenge the lives of mink murdered on the ranch in the past and to prevent the further imprisonment of native wildlife in the future. 750,000 mink are slaughtered every winter in the Northwest for the fur trade, and over four million nation-wide on over six-hundred fur farms.

The Animal Liberation Front also announces a new campaign against the fur trade, one that directly targets the insensitive humans who wear fur garments. We will fight the fur-wearers in the streets. No longer shall the ecological arrogance of the public supporters of the fur trade go unchallenged. ALF members shall arm themselves with battery acid and dye, and will inflict damage on the furs worn by humans. Fur is for four-leggeds, not two. The lives of fur animals will be avenged.

The fur industry is responsible for the demise of not only native North American wildlife, but the destruction of native peoples' cultures as well. Over the last four-hundred years this barbaric industry has waged a genocidal war against animals and humans. Through the introduction of social and physical disease, the fur trade has forced native people to participate in their bloody practice, or perish like so many animals in traps and cages.

It is time to eliminate this anthropocentric profit-centered beast before the last howl is heard. ALF calls on all peoples to join in the battle against this ecologically destructive regime, and to defend the defenseless from the oppression of our own species. We must destroy that which destroys the animals, earth, and ourselves.

On behalf of the mink, fox, bobcat, lynx, and coyote nations, ALF shall wage non-violent war against the fur trade. Until the last fur farm is burnt to the ground.

—ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT, WESTERN WILDLIFE CELL



Earth First!ers seal the border, stop the shopping and frolic in the park.

WA-BC Border Action

Approximately 150 people, including about 30 stalwart British Columbians, protested BC's atrocious logging practices at Peace Arch Park on December 15th. Peace Arch Park is a neutral area on the border between Canada and Washington. attended, with about 30 coming down from Canada. Shuksan and Seattle EF!ers, along with many community groups sponsored the event, and a good time was had by all. Media-watchers saw all the fun on prime time, with the help of two Canadian TV stations and the front page of the local newspaper. We finally found a use for the sickly white 40 foot high "Peace Arch," when several drum wielding eco-terrorists camped under the arch and began to play. Spontaneous, primeval dancing erupted in a most undignified manner. Apparently, this activity scared off any official presence, and not a cop could be seen.

The protest was in response to the continued destruction of the last intact ancient temperate rain forest on southwest Vancouver Island. A recent provincial election yielded many promises to "stop cutting in contested areas." But, as usual, this is political bullshit. The roads and cutting continue. So do the activists.

Unfortunately, people remained civil. Several activists did carry banners into the road where frenetic "Happy Birthday Baby Jesus" shoppers lined up to lie through their teeth to the Customs agents about all the merchandise they didn't have. Our determined eco-fascists distributed flyers explaining how the timber drones were exporting the profits, as well as the logs, from BC's temperate rainforests and leaving them bedrock clearcuts in return.

The only threat of violence came when one disgruntled Shuksan EF!er, after almost stepping on a scrawny *Canus frivola* remarked, "That dog wouldn't last two days in the Walbran Valley." The owner of the pathetic mutt took offense, but soon came back to reality. The dog was spared in the interests of the protest.

—SHUKSAN EF!

Tatshenshini Wilderness

We have an historic opportunity to protect the British Columbia portion of "North America's Wildest River," the Tatshenshini and its surrounding wilderness.

Write to the new BC premier, Mike Harcourt, recently elected on a pro-environment platform. Ask him to use his powers of "executive order" to create a 2.3 million acre Tatshenshini Wilderness Park, to honor his campaign pledge to protect 12% of BC wilderness, to respect US interests to preserve Glacier Bay National Park and the Alaska Bald Eagle Preserve, to abandon the flawed Mine Development Review Process, which has ignored US interests and treaties, and to make public all comments on the Windy Craggy project, as promised sixteen months ago. Address your letter to The Honorable Mike Harcourt, Premier of British Columbia, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, Canada SOURCE—LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION, INC.

Elfland Shattered

"Elfland," the site for the new UC Santa Cruz Colleges Nine and Ten, is a 12-acre area which was once a quiet, spiritual place of huge ferns, old redwoods, tiny highland meadows, and giant sinkholes overlying limestone caverns. People from all over the state have visited this special area for spiritual renewal. But Elfland's peace was shattered by the bulldozers and chainsaws of Big Creek Lumber Company on December 16, 1991. Forty-two people were arrested, many in brutal fashion. Among those arrested were students, local Earth First!ers, members of the community, an attorney for a student group and a KSBW-TV camera man. Peter "Peat Moss" Neuhs sustained bruised ribs and a head injury for the crime of hugging a felled redwood tree.

The work crews from Big Creek Lumber Company were escorted into the construction site by thirty-eight campus police officers equipped with riot gear. Many of the arrestees were assaulted by police in the forest. "People would rush in like guerilla warfare and try to disrupt the logging. Our people would see the motion of someone moving and blow an airhorn, and then the police would rush in and grab them," said Bud McCrary, owner of Big Creek Lumber Company.

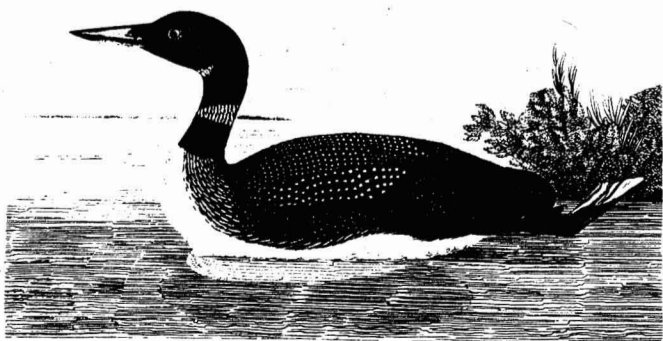
The forest was logged early Monday morning on the 16th to circumvent the possibility that a temporary restraining order (TRO) might be issued by Superior Court Judge Stevens. A student group had filed a lawsuit to stop the construction, arguing that the University had violated its own Timber Harvest Plan and Environmental Impact Report. According to Debbie Malkin, attorney for the students, the University ordered the logging operation for Monday morning only after she had notified them on Friday of her intent to file for the TRO. When the TRO was denied on Tuesday morning, nearly all the trees were already down. The meadows were rutted and left cluttered with debris.

During this bout of logging, a patch of Elmer's Fescue, a species uncommon to this area, was destroyed. The plant was supposed to be transplanted elsewhere, but the University was only required to monitor that new population for two years and after that, the Fescue will probably be overwhelmed by competition with non-native grasses.

If you want to write to UCSC about this and future building plans and logging plans, the address is: Chancellor Karl Pister, UC Santa Cruz, 1145 High St., Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Please contact any of the following if you have questions or can offer assistance: Edda Ehrke (408)427-9560, Peter Hughes (408) 476-9355 Econet: phughes, Vicky Petterson (408)429-5179, Miriam Sachs (Elfland) (408)429-1530.

—KAREN DEBRAAL



Banff Earth First!

Needless to say the corporate robber barons and their government surrogates haven't yet converted to the theology of Thomas Berry. The biostitutes working for the Mitsubishis and Daishowas seem unconcerned with the scientific evidence that the tons of organochlorines that their pulp mills are generously contributing to our northern rivers on a daily basis is influencing children's ability to learn. Their toxicology doesn't input for anything more subtle than fish floating belly up after a half hour exposure. Like "madames" in competing brothels, the provincial governments of Alberta and British Columbia have been soliciting the corporate "Johns" to "violate" our "virgin" forests. Eco-defenders must move to block the bedroom door. Earth is not a willing participant in these sordid pursuits. The acquiescence of a few greedy premiers and cabinet ministers doesn't constitute consent.

Mitsubishi has no right to impose the world's largest bleached kraft pulp mill on a fragile ecosystem, to starve the aquatic life of oxygen, to poison what hasn't suffocated, to mutate the future generations of those who haven't died because of its toxins, and to ignore the findings of the public environmental review.

Diashowa has no right to perpetrate monstrous obscenities with feller bunchers, savaging harmonious balances with your clearcuts and your callous disregard for the plants, the animals, and the people who call these marvelous forests home. Extinction is forever. The whooping crane, the woodland caribou, and peregrine falcon, the wood bison, all need space not waste.

Mitsubishi and Diashowa have left us no choice but to try them before the court of world opinion. Let the boycott of Mitsubishi and Diashowa begin. For crimes against our beautiful water planet, consumers investors and employees will be ashamed to associated with their names. Chrysler dealers will be notified on their computer link-ups to avoid the Mitsubishi connection. Investors and brokers will be notified through ads in the international financial journals to avoid Mitsubishi and Diashowa securities. The Japanese people and their neighbors throughout the world will be made aware of the corporate roles in species depletion, cultural genocide, deforestation, toxic contamination and the disruption of acid, carbon, weather and oxygen cycles. The contamination of mothers' milk, immune deficiencies, reproductive failures, and cancers do not look good on a corporations "Green" resume.

The winds of change are sweeping up the Deh Cho (Mackenzie River) valley. In Fort Chipewyan on an outcropping of granite overlooking one of the Earth's great river deltas an alliance was cemented. A bioregional defense of one of the earth's greatest watersheds is realized. Drawing on the strength of organizations and the visions of individuals "the cult of materialism, growth and jobs at any cost" will be unmasked as the "cult of suicide." The power of the spirit and the force of compassion will displace the smug arrogance of a society smothering in its own affluence and effluent. With the help of friends we will say, "No" to Mitsubishi and Diashowa and all the other ill-conceived hydroelectric, uranium, petroleum, and forestry projects. The Alberta Pacific (Mitsubishi) pulp mill will never be completed, and the victory song of a healthy forest rescued from its despoilers will echo across time and space.

For a good accounting of the Diashowa situation in relation to the First Nations people, read "The Last Stand of the Lubicon Cree", by John Goddard, just published.

We are currently working on a video on the impact of development on the Deh Cho (Mackenzie) watershed. Pass this on to our friends in the film community.

SOURCE:—PHIL CARSON



MT Guns Down Bison Boycott Montana!

Yellowstone EF! is calling for an international boycott of Montana Tourism and Montana-made products in the wake of the killing of 150 wild bison (at this writing) by Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE.

Bison are native only to North America. The species was nearly extinct at the turn of the century due to rampant slaughter on the Great Plains. A tiny remnant herd of 25 wild bison escaped the destruction in Yellowstone Park's remote Pelican Valley. The present-day Yellowstone bison are direct descendents of those 25 survivors, which interbred with ranch-raised bison released into the park. These symbols of North American wilderness, essential components of the famous Yellowstone ecosystem, are being killed once again at the behest of—who else?—the livestock industry, which claims the bison are a threat to livelihood. Wild bison carry brucellosis, a disease given them by cattle which can cause cows to abort. The Montana Department of Livestock, eager to retain "brucellosis-free" status for the state's cattle herds, has ordered the killing of bison which leave the borders of YNP and enter Montana.

MURDERED TO PROTECT KOWZ

For various reasons the bison, once a plains animal, are attempting to recolonize ancestral winter range in Montana's Paradise and Madison Valleys, and perhaps beyond. They do not recognize the human boundaries between National Park, National Forest, and private land. But they are killed for their transgression. In 1988-89, 569 bison were gunned down near the northern entrance to YNP. When the killing began again the next winter, activists (including Wild Rockies EF!ers) intervened in the "hunt" and created so much controversy that in 1990 bison hunting was outlawed in Montana. The killing is now done by state officials, and the kills are so heavily attended by police that no intervention has yet been attempted by activists this season.

Almost all the bison killed this year were on land owned by the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT). CUT is infamous for building bomb shelters and trailer parks up and down Paradise Valley, issuing hysterical predictions about the imminent end of the world, and spilling diesel fuel into a tributary of the Yellowstone River. Now it has the blood of bison on its hands. It claims the bison are ruining its cattle grazing land, scaring off potential cattle graziers, and destroying property. CUT ignores the fact that it has usurped the bison's rightful winter range, and has rejected money offers to let bison graze on its land.

The State of Montana and CUT are largely responsible for the recent attack on the bison. EF! calls on CUT and Montana to work towards an equitable solution that would allow bison to wander beyond the borders of Yellowstone, as the State has recently (to its credit) been doing with bison leaving the park on the West side. Until such an agreement is reached and the bison are left to roam unmolested, Yellowstone EF! encourages you to **BOYCOTT MONTANA!**

We who live in Montana are dependent to some extent on tourism and Montana-made products to sustain our economy. But some of us feel that the rights of wild bison are more important than our ability to make a living. Don't give your hard-earned cash to Montana. Call the Montana tourism hot-line and tell them why you won't come to Montana: (406) 442-2405. Call CUT and give them a piece of your mind: (406) 848-7441 or 7381. Write to them at Corwin Springs, MT 59021. Encourage people you know to avoid vacationing in Montana or buying Montana-made products. Contact Yellowstone Earth First! if you have ideas for defending the bison or if you can help in any way: POB 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 585-9211.

—RANDALL RESTLESS

EF!—EPA Alliance

Ecosystem components, including wetlands, riverine and terrestrial habitats, are interrelated and interdependent. These mosaics of communities require strong comprehensive commitments for their protection and rehabilitation. The role of the Environmental Protection Agency in preserving aquatic habitats is well established (!). However, the Agency's Region III recently identified the adverse physical modification of terrestrial habitat as one of the foremost ecological issues in the Region, and the EPA has decided to commit itself to preventing further degradation of terrestrial habitat as well as to promoting habitat restoration.

The EPA is not restricted by land management boundaries, as are other land-based federal and state agencies. But the inadequacies of current protective efforts in assuring long-term viability of the Earth's ecosystems has prompted some progressive Region III personnel to form the Terrestrial Ecosystem Protection Initiative Task Force. On November 14 and 15, 1991, they hosted a preliminary strategy workshop in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Invited to this initial meeting were representatives of the EPA, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, various state agencies, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, the scientific/academic community, and one grassroots conservation group—Virginians for Wilderness. Problems and concerns were identified; ideas for their resolution were proposed. A subtext to these discussions was a vision of habitat integrity that included establishment of landscape linkages, environmentally-sensitive land use planning, habitat augmentation and restoration, and *no net loss of biodiversity* (emphasis theirs!).

To effectuate this vision, future EPA activities will include a public outreach program, development and implementation of regional and national ecosystems protection strategies, and participation of the Agency in formulating local and regional land-use plans. The Agency would also like to act as a clearinghouse for applied research efforts on habitat. Data would be compiled and accessed through a universally-adopted database system. A comprehensive computer model, based on Gap Analysis (identifying remnant habitats at risk), has nationwide planning and regulatory applications.

Region III identifies its overall goals in this mission to protect terrestrial habitats as: (1) to facilitate and coordinate intra-/inter-agency cooperation; (2) author a Regional Policy Statement that will serve to enhance existing habitat protection opportunities and provide the basis for innovative approaches for restoration and conservation; and (3) conduct, direct, sponsor, and/or fund ecological activities at the national and regional levels.

—LOKI, BIOPHILIAC FOR RAGNAROK

CLAW addendum: All shit floats—for awhile. When crossin streams/use steppin stones. This is a rare occurrence/maybe this gift horse has no teeth. Th "strategy" recognized th impacts of th human herd (as a given) but refused to discuss depopulation measures/hmmm...haven't we seen this movie? Does FWS wanna "cooperate" with Jasper? Does F'Dale wanna "facilitate" th PAW proposal? Will state "game" commissions listen to anybody that doesn't kill for pleasure? Who knows...maybe it's New Perspectives"...again. Loki got th ball rollin with a 'no net gain' for roads; now it's your turn. These people were amazed (?) that activists exist without headquarters, fundin, or leaders. They have their hearts in th right places; it's up to us to help them help us help th planet. Do it!

For more information or comments, (please do) contact: Susan McDowell, TEPI coordinator, Environmental Planning Section, US EPA, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107))

Thanks Y'all!
—MA JONES

Direct Action Gets the Woods

A five-day logging road blockade in North-western Ontario has forced a logging company to remove its equipment from native land.

The Gull Bay Band erected the roadblock on November 7, 1991, after the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) reinstated a tree-cutting license for Buchanan Forest Products. The license was reinstated after Buchanan representatives falsely reported to the Ministry that, following months of negotiations, the native band had agreed to the cutting. No such agreement had been reached and the Ministry somehow (!) neglected to check the validity of Buchanan's claim with the band itself.

When band members noticed clear cutting equipment being brought within the boundary of the disputed area of Black Sturgeon Forest, they held an emergency council meeting, and by 7 pm a roadblock had been erected. At 8 pm, three vehicles carrying night logging crews were turned away by the unarmed blockaders. The crews were to have begun logging immediately.

Buchanan Forest Products has a long history of severely-damaging forestry practices, and the evidence can be seen along hundreds of kilometers of highway north of Thunder Bay. This area has been ravaged by the clearcutting method employed by Buchanan.

As well as subsistence hunting and trapping in the proposed-to-be-cut forest, Gull Lake Band members fish in the waters beside it. Topsoil runoff from clear cutting depletes fish populations. Native burial grounds are also located in this forest. Clear cutting would virtually destroy the natives' traditional use of this land.

When the blockade was first erected, Ontario Provincial Police officers photographed natives at the blockade. Buchanan's corporate representatives, realizing that their deceitful actions were ineffective, arrived at the site to ask for permission to remove their equipment.

At sunrise on November 11, 1991—to the sound of the Gull Bay Drum—over 100 members of the 600 member band were at the blockade to witness their chief and council escorting heavy logging equipment, out of the Gull Bay Block of the Black Sturgeon Forest. Because of the blatant attempt by Buchanan and the MNR to sabotage the negotiations, the natives of Gull Bay are trusting neither, and are maintaining a watch on the blockade.

—AUTONOMOUS GREEN ACTION

Oz Rony

After an action-packed year of media (and personal) attacks on the EF! movement in Australia, we looked forward to the summer gathering with some trepidation. The logical extension of the campaign against us was for someone to burn a bulldozer (insurance job) and blame Earth First! The Forest Protection Society was mobilized and ready, the newspapers were ringing to see if we were planning to spike trees, and the publicity man from the Association of Forest Industries was predicting unprecedented damage to machinery.

What actually happened was something of an anti-climax. We had 2 days of workshoping and informal raves which were filling in the newcomers and forging friendships, laying the groundwork for more in depth strategizing. Then the rain arrived and the next 2 days saw much tent huddling and stay dry and warm workshops. One contingent of hard-core folk soaked it all up (literally) by climbing Howitt Spur and spent the night up amongst the snowgums.

New Year's Eve saw a new phenomenon for our gatherings—electrified music; Earth Reggae and Penelope Swales, and the storm and continual rain was celebrated rather than endured.

The site was in the Alpine National Park on the upper Howqua River in the Victorian Alps. We saw first-hand the damage caused by once-only logging in the park and those hooved vandals trampling vegetation and fouling the rivers. We Australians are mighty proud of our mountain cattle. Despite extensive logging and the damage from endless 4 wheel drive enthusiasts, the upper Howqua and surrounding region is superb, and is adjacent to the Wonnangatta Wilderness.

About 150 people put in an appearance; many new faces, lots of old friends, and some useful alliances were forged. We realised that EF! is still in its formative stages in Australia, and are looking at ways to establish groups in new areas. Bit by bit we're clarifying our vision and our niche in the environmental community. What was especially apparent was that there are people working in a vast diversity of groups and organisations who share our sense of urgency...time is running out unless people get organized and TAKE ACTION NOW.

The media spent the last three months of the year hounding us about eco-defense, and never

once questioned the untold vandalism being waged against Australian ecosystems by big business. It should come as no surprise that most of the media have decided that they stand with the forces of destruction, but their willingness to paint us as the new terrorists has been a little worrying. (My favorite heading so far has been "Green Terror: Eco-guerrilla sabotage book tells how to kill to save the planet" from the "Truth" newspaper.) Now (early January) the papers tell us the greens are responsible for the recession...there never were many jews in Australia so I suppose someone has to take the blame. Individual members of EF! are also copping flak; following newspaper articles in October, we received death threats, were trailed, and had a house and a car broken into (with a box left under the bonnet; cute, hey?)

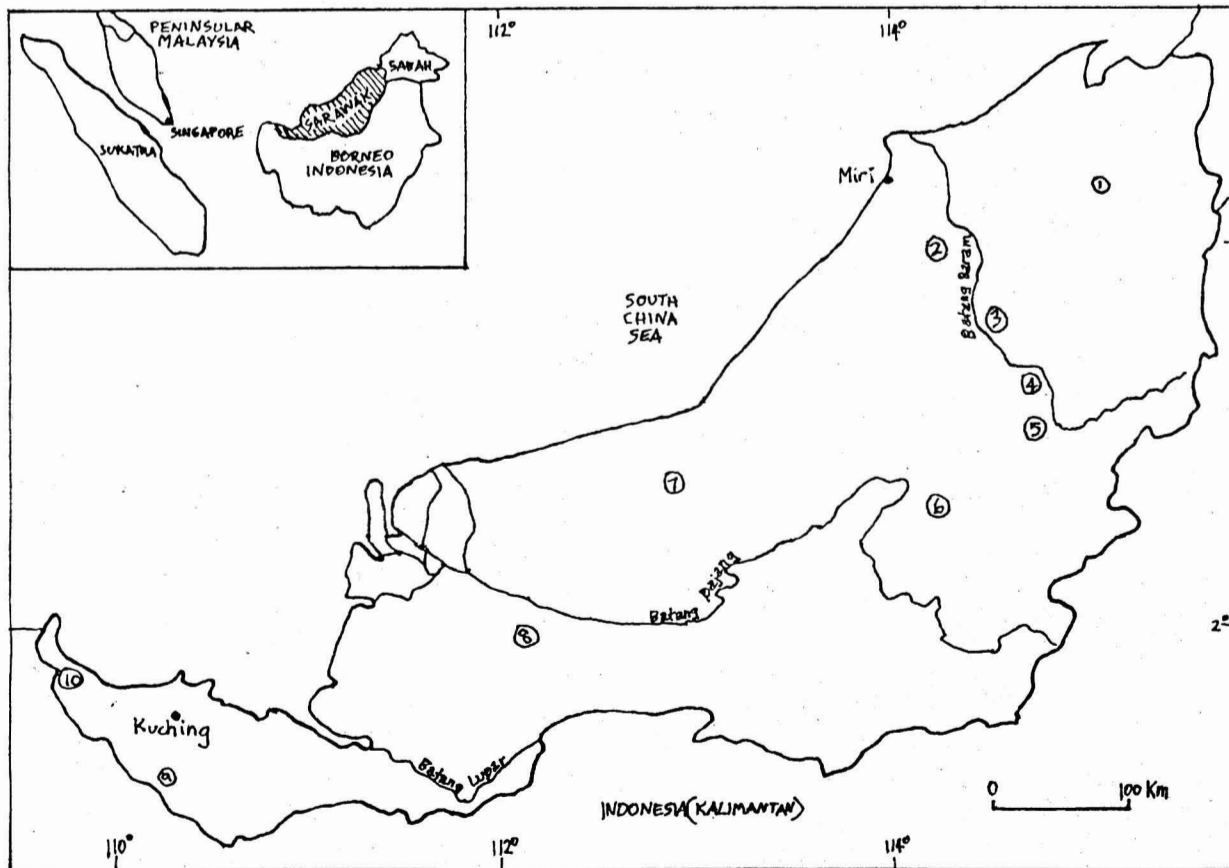
These sorts of occurrences are meant to isolate, intimidate, and silence us. And for me this was the most empowering thing about the gathering. We didn't get around to in-depth strategies, but we did get a glimpse of the diversity, passion and commitment of our fellow activists. Just by finding out about the struggles being carried out in every corner of the continent, I felt very un-alone, and all the stand-over tactics of the misguided and downright evil paled into insignificance. As we drove out of the Howqua and over Mt. Stirling on our way home, there were small contingents of Forest "Protection" Society folk, doing their best to look threatening. After a gathering of just a few elements of our tribe, they seemed considerably less scary.

—CAM WALKER

Ecodefense Banned in Oz

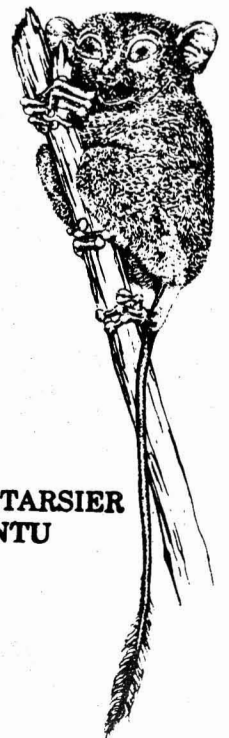
Last December, *Ecodefense* was officially banned from being imported into Australia. We're not sure if possession of the book is an offence, however we will send an update for the Eostar issue. In recent weeks, the Victorian newspapers have published several inflammatory articles about *Ecodefense* and monkeywrenching in general. It seems that the timber industry, specifically Steve Guest, Public Affairs manager of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, is escalating their smear campaign against Earth First! to distract attention away from the real issues of logging and woodchipping the last of Victoria's primary forests. A Melbourne EF!er did a debate with Guest on radio and he talked about that "jerk terrorist Jake Jagoff" from the USA—it seems at first he thought Jake was Dave Foreman—though he later insisted Jake was here to train us in ecoterrorism. Guest speculated Jake's trip was probably financed by EF! in the States (obviously Guest doesn't know Jagoff's past financial track record) as part of a plan to export monkeywrenching to Australia.

—MELBOURNE EF!



LOCATION #	TRIBE
1	Murut, Kalat
2	Lubak, Mutang, Iban
3	Palutan, Penan
4	Long San, Kenyah
5	Long Annp, Kenyah
6	Long Geng, Kenyah
7	Sangan, Iban
8	Ulu Malhan, Iban
9	Anna Rais, Bidaya
10	Lundu, Malay, Iban, Chinese

This map shows the locations of tribal blockades of logging operations throughout Sarawak. As of November, 1991, there was some type of resistance at all of these sites. The number of Dayak tribes now involved indicates how widespread the resistance to the timber industry is. It is not just the Penan who face loss of livelihood and cultural genocide from rainforest destruction.



**WESTERN TARSIER
KERA HANTU
INGKAT**

Abenaki Court Hearings

On Monday, January 13, Abenaki Chief Homer St. Francis went before the judge of the Franklin County Superior Court in Vermont to confront a bogus felony charge of false swearing. The maximum penalty for this offense in fifteen years imprisonment. Packing the gallery at the hearing were numerous representatives of Native American tribes, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and Earth First!

Chief St. Francis was indicted by a grant jury because he did not claim tribal property, which he and Abenaki tradition believe cannot be *owned*, on a form requesting a public defender from a prior offense.

In court, the chief and his tribal lawyer submitted numerous motions to have the case thrown out because the State of Vermont is violating the United Nations Genocide Act, federal genocide acts, the International Bill of Rights and a variety of treaties regarding indigenous peoples. Chief St. Francis refused to enter a plea because he does not recognize the court's authority over the Abenaki. The hearing was postponed to a later date. Recently the Abenaki Tribal Court tried Chief St. Francis and found him innocent under tribal law.

The Abenaki, in response to the state court's allegations, are charging the State of Vermont with genocide. They will be serving subpoenas to all elected officials in the state to appear in front of the tribal court of elders.

On Wednesday, January 11, EF!ers met with State's attorney Howard Van Benthuyzen to express their outrage at the State's harassment of the Abenaki. EF! presented Van Benthuyzen documentation of 653 species that are rare, endangered, threatened or extirpated in Vermont due to the encroachment of civilization and pledged support for the resistance of the Abenaki, who for centuries lived in balance with the natural world. We concluded our meeting with the state's attorney by stating our no compromise stance and informed Van Benthuyzen that the Abenaki considered themselves descended from animals and viewed their animal relations as "persons of other than human form."

—ANNE PETERMANN

Sab'd Stories

Clearlake, California, October 1991. For the third year, we hiked the oaks and chaparral trying to stop the slaughter of the rare Tule Elk. There were as many as twenty-five of us covering the immense hunt area during the two week hunt of fifteen critters. To our advantage we found a new base campsite to escape the intense harassment we have experienced in the past. This year was full of many quiet days with sabbers seeing neither hunters, game wardens, or elk. The last weekend we expected a rush of hunters but the weather turned bad (or good) and it was very quiet. I have to admit, we went home wondering how much we really accomplished, but I have a feeling there's a few elk left that otherwise wouldn't be there.

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona, December 1991 The Kofa refuge, named for a massive mining operation, encompasses 1000 square miles and is home to nearly 1000 desert bighorn sheep. We didn't have the resources to sabotage the sixteen day hunt of sixteen sheep, so we switched our tactics some. We decided to sab the first five days and do some extra press work raising issues of hunting on "wildlife refuges," mining, roads, military exercises in a wilderness area, and wolf reintroduction. We followed hunters every day and definitely slowed the hunt down but then had to leave with a lot of hunting days still to come and a very docile sheep population. It seems the mountain lions don't eat sheep, they eat at will from a terrorized deer herd. Arizona Game and Fish thinks that's healthy. I will not forget the experiences I had high on the ridges talking and looking into the eyes of the bighorns. They must be protected from the scum.

—ROOT ROT

photo: Jan Wilder-Thomas



Deb Fragala locks up at the Fairview Log Jam in September of 1991.

Communication Gap

In USFS "newspeak," the new word for canopy destruction is "gap phase dynamics," another typical Freddie attempt to subvert the truth. What follows is an abbreviated tale of Forest Wars II in the Shawnee National Forest. (Forest Wars I occurred from 1787 to roughly 1812, when the Shawnee, Miami, and Cherokee tribes rallied with Tekamthi, the Great Shawnee chief. They staunchly defended their forest lands and heritage from the armies of William Henry Harrison and George Washington, who were enforcing the federalizing, parceling, gridding, and selling of the Heartland.)

1987: East Perry Lumber Co., the biggest hardwood mill in the midwest, slashed large clearcuts from steep slopes, fragmenting the big canopy of the Shawnee hardwoods of Alexander County. A record 12 million board feet (mmbf) was removed from the forest, and \$798,000 were removed from taxpayers' pockets.

1988: The USFS was preoccupied by the negotiations of the Land and Resource Management Plan and no hardwoods or pines were cut.

Spring of 1989: Eight big clearcut sales were stopped for reevaluation, due to one appeal.

Fall of 1989: The Shawnee lost a beautiful hardwood area to the first so-called group selection "patch clearcut," a place called Town Hall, going down as 1/2 mmbf. The Shawnee lost \$800,000 that year on below-cost pine sales, and one hardwood sale.

Fall of 1990: After the Fairview Vigil of 80 days, another 1/2 mmbf "patch clearcut," nightmare occurred at a lofty woodlands known as Big Ranch, the next-to-last unbroken corridor in Alexander County. Veneer trees went down for Germany, but over 50% of the robust hardwoods got wasted for shipping pallets. 1.2 million tax dollars went down the tubes.

Fall of 1991: Fairview Farewell! (1/2 mmbf) a half million tax dollars vanished in the fiasco. The blows to the taxpayer were heavy. The Fed's law enforcement bill was estimated to be \$315,000 plus the unrevealed bills of the Sheriff's Departments of Jackson County and Union County, plus the court costs incurred by the counties, all to ruin an unequalled Jackson County woods.

Fall of 1991: Burner Hill Hello! (1 mmbf) A Shawnee Defense Fund press conference from the treetops announced Alexander County's last stand, with a big pockmarked map to prove it. East Perry was the highest bidder.

November 1991: According to the change in congressional law, Shawnee "patch clearcutting" was out, but "gap phase dynamics" was in.

December 1991: The Hayes-Bay 1 mmbf timber sale was announced, the first "gap phase dynamics" sale area. The sale would contain 191 gap-phase groups, an average size of 1/4 acre, in order to "more closely imitate the natural gaps from natural forces like windfalls." Individual trees would be cut between the groups!

On Saturday morning September 7, 1991, Deb Fragala and Dave Arther put their brave necks on the line and in Kryptonite to hit East Perry on the bottom line. The Fairview "log jam" halted six trucks and kept EP from hauling a second load that day. Deb and Dave still face felony charges of conspiracy to commit unlawful restraint. Eleven other activists face Class C misdemeanor charges of mob action with no public defender, since the state waived the threat of jail time. That doesn't count the 48 hours they already spent in the slammer.

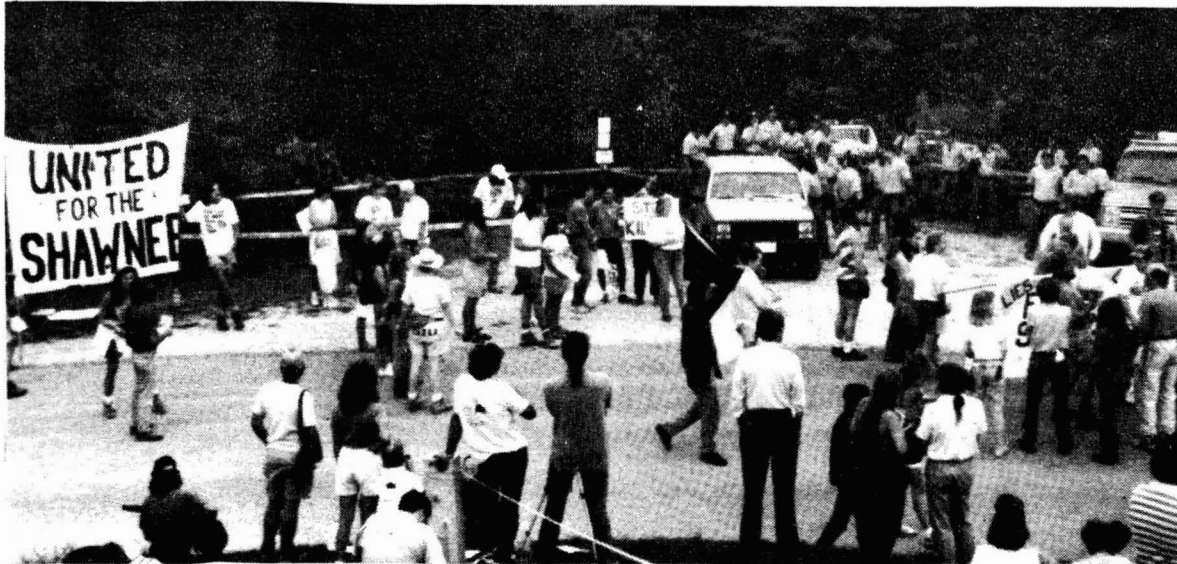
Joe Glisson, Bill Cronin, and Mindy Harmon, three of the thirteen arrested at the Fairview gate on August 26, 1991, for trespassing, decided to proceed to trial. The others accepted plea bargains and were sentenced to 25-75 hours of community service, 6 month probations, and court costs.

Jan Wilder-Thomas, wrongfully arrested, maliciously prosecuted with a felony aggravated battery, and held in jail for 29 hours without an opportunity to make bail, continued to dangle in never-never land. To seek justice in a jury trial, or to cop a plea of a misdemeanor or battery with 1-year probation, 100 hours community service, and court costs, that was the question.

CHALLENGE: Please, go to Washington, DC. Make appointments with the members of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees and Subcommittees on Interior and Related Agencies. Gang up on the eastern Congresspeople of your choice. It's time for them to lower the boom on the Northwest timber patsies and stop funding the USFS timber sale program of death. They need to see more real people in the halls of Congress.

To receive an action alert, send a 29 cent stamp to the Shawnee Defense Fund, Rt. 1, Box 313, Brookport, IL 62910. Donations are needed and appreciated.

—JAN WILDER-THOMAS



Freddie cops swarm at the Fairview Massacre, 26 August, 1991.

photo: Jan Wilder-Thomas

Oil Drilling on Coastal Plain

Texaco just got the OK from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to drill its first exploratory oil/gas well on the coastal plain. The site is in the headwaters of Pope's Creek, a few miles upstream of the Rt. 301 bridge on the Potomac that connects southern Maryland and Virginia. Pope's Creek is just 3.5 miles long. It descends a narrow wooded valley as a tiny brook, widens as tributary streams enter from forested side canyons, and passes through a mile of broad tidal marsh before shitting into the Potomac. Beaver colonies, raccoon, deer, soaring hawks and eagles, testify to the area's isolation from *Homo sapiens*. The bottom third of the watershed is mostly classified as a Nontidal Wetland of Special State Concern. Texaco is leasing much of the upper third of the creek.

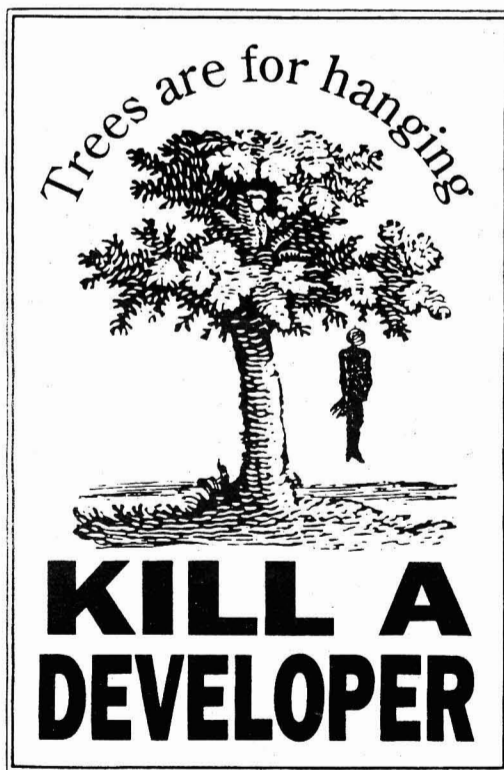
Besides the possible deadly spillage of oil from transporting the oil, the diesel engines powering the drill will run nonstop for 12 weeks, and send a plume of toxic smog equivalent to that of 5,000 automobiles down the Pope's Creek valley. The effects of this upon the resident Bald Eagles is unknown. Charles County, where the Pope's Creek Valley is located, has already been found by the EPA to be out of compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This wild area doesn't need more bad air.

The pro-oil faction of the DNR has won the first round. It is up to us to come out swinging in the 2nd round! We need to mount a multifaceted campaign, using biological, legal, political and psychological tactics. This will require the talents and energies of many people of diverse backgrounds. What ultimately happens to Pope's Creek will happen to dozens of other wild watersheds of the coastal plain. Regardless of your background, you *can* make a vital difference.

The local public has been made somewhat aware of the issue, and of the opposition through demonstrations, press releases, interviews and noisy attendance at public hearings; media events need to be organized to keep the issue in the public eye.

What you can do: In addition to the basic organizing work, administrative appeals need to be written and submitted at once! There are multitudes of appealable points. Contact Ron, (301) 855-4241.

—CHESAPEAKE BAY EF!



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Florida Black Bear in Peril

On Thursday, January 2, 1992, the US Fish and Wildlife Service decided not to designate the Florida black bear as threatened. Thus the hunting of this marvelous creature will continue. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

James W. Pulliam, the Southeast regional director for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, stated that the threatened listing under the Endangered Species Act was "warranted but precluded" because the agency was working to list other species considered in more critical danger.

The Wildlife Service said 150 other species, including the Florida mastiff bat, the Alabama shovelnose sturgeon and the southeastern snowy plover, were considered higher priorities for federal protection than the bear under the agency's ranking system. The agency goes on to state that threats to the population of Florida black bears were moderate to low when compared to other species that are candidates for protection. Granted, these other species are certainly prime for protection, but hey, are *they* being chased up trees and blasted at by "good ol' huntin' boys" in pursuit of their "God given right?" I think not!

Also the Wildlife Service goes on to state that the Florida black bear ranks lower in priority than other species because it is a subspecies of the wideranging American black bear which is still abundant in some areas. *WELL SHIT!* Just wipe em' out in Florida. There's plenty to go around. When Florida's black bear is gone just import a few from North Carolina. They won't miss 'em. Gotta keep them huntin' boys happy.

Not to slam the Wildlife Service completely, it did, in its infinite wisdom, grant threatened status to the Louisiana black bear, whose population is estimated at 100, although this will still not stop logging in bear habitat.

Gee! If 400 to 600 Florida bears are slaughtered, we can expect a threatened status for them also.

The Fund for Animals has notified the Wildlife Service of its intention to file a lawsuit to force the agency to speed up the listing of species. According to The Fund, 600 to 3600 species warrant listing as threatened or endangered.

The Florida black bear once roamed throughout this state. Now with each year that passes it edges closer to extinction. Its habitat is destroyed daily. It is run over by automobiles. It is hunted by assholes with guns and dogs. THIS MADNESS MUST STOP!

What you can do: When hunting season opens this spring, get out in the woods of North Florida. Help out the black bear. Sab a bear hunt. They'll love you for it.

—MAD HATTER, CANEBRAKE EF!



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Pensacola EF!

In Pensacola, we call our group "Earth First!." Simple Huh? Anyway we started the group last semester sensing the need for something that would demand results in this area of political apathy. We work closely with the Greens and any others who are willing to help, even the Sierra Club, good god! Most of our protests are geared towards the local paper mills' use of chlorine and their discharge into the local waterways. Very bad for the fish. We had some test samples in which male fish were becoming female... hmmm. I don't have many hangups, but sex changes should be reserved for the real wierd species: humans! Anyway, we are planning more CD/demos. In the past, we were able to do fun things to tracks that trains ran on to bring chlorine into the pulp mill. Actions are up-coming.

—CORBIN McMULIN

Canebrake EF! Says Stop the Slaughter!

Canebrake EF! participated in Fur-Free-Friday the day after Thanksgiving.

This year's demonstration was held outside Countryside Mall in Clearwater, Florida and although outrage against the fur trade in general is the main idea, our specific target was Burdine's, a greedhead department store that is still under the impression that the wearing of furs of dead, tortured animals is still chic.

As usual, Canebrake EF! showed up with a large banner that called for a ban on fur trapping.

An estimated 74% of all fur garments are produced from the approximately 34 million fur bearing animals killed annually in the leghold trap. Approximately 5 million more animals, called "trash" by trappers (because they have no economic value), are either crippled or killed by the leghold trap. The leghold trap is banned in more than fifty countries as well as in Florida, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. Representative James Scheuer (D-NY) has introduced legislation, HR 1354 which would end the use of the steel-jawed leghold trap in the US, so write your congresspeople and tell them to sign on as sponsors of HR 1354.

—BILL BROOKS

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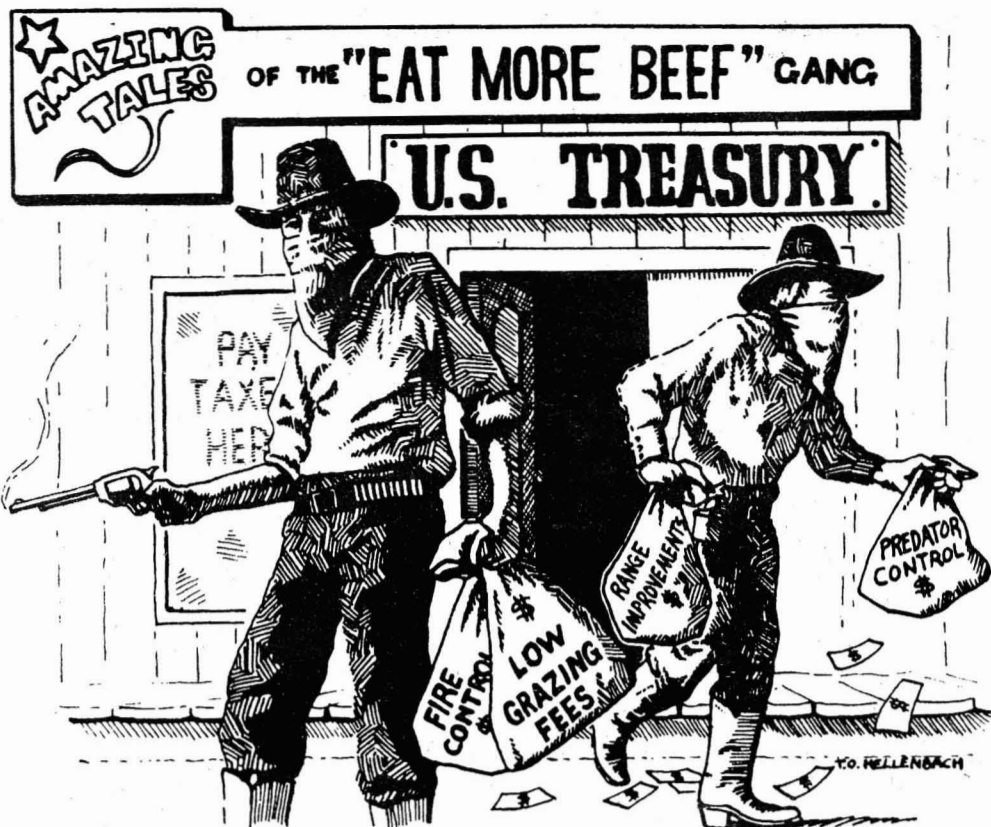
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(T.O. Hellenbach)

Envideos Available

THE CRACKING OF THE GLEN CANYON DAM
On VHS by Earth Image Films, available FREE to Earth First! contacts. We have four copies left, so contact the journal office soon if you want one.

JAMES BAY

If you want a video about the James Bay Hydro-electric project in Quebec, send a blank tape and money for postage to Kurt Nelson, 224 Bevier St., Binghamton, NY 13904. They can be used for public education events or your viewing pleasure of impending ecological disasters.

THE PENAN'S LAST STAND

Video footage and slide photos available from the Rainforest Action Network depict the desperate actions by over 500 Penan indigenous people of Sarawak, Malaysia who have been blockading logging roads on their ancestral homeland for over five months. Video footage available on Beta SP includes: building of blockades, community life at the blockades, police confrontation and interviews with native people. Write to RAN, 301 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133



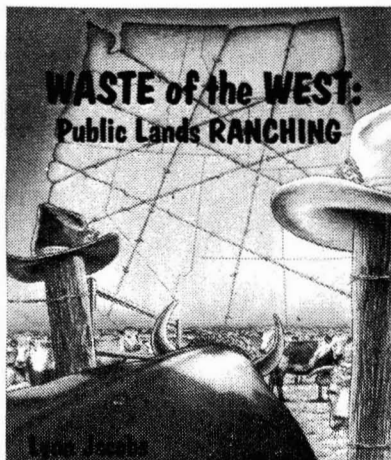
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WASTE of the WEST: Public Lands RANCHING



Waste of the West by Lynn Jacobs thoroughly explores public lands ranching and its environmental, economical, political, and social impact. 8 1/2" X 11", 602 pages, 4 lbs., more than 1000 photos and graphics, ETC. Why is ranching the West's most destructive influence? What can we do about it?

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Book Review

Waste of the West by Lynn Jacobs, 1991. 602 pp., paperback. Available from the Earth First! journal or directly from the author at POB 5784, Tucson AZ 85703. \$28.00 per copy; bulk orders available. REVIEWED BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

Lynn Jacobs is a very quiet, gentle, humble person who has a deep affection for the natural world. He does not seem like the kind of person who would try to lead a revolution, but that is just what he may accomplish with the publication of his book, *Waste of the West*.

The book is an exhaustive, comprehensive and thorough overview of livestock grazing—its past, its present, and what Jacobs would like to see as its future. Although this book could easily substitute for a textbook on livestock grazing, Jacobs has a clear, easy-to-read writing style which makes the information accessible to everyone, but particularly to those without special knowledge of range or other resource management issues.

It's clear from the start that ending the domination of the ranching industry over public lands of the West is one of Jacobs' objectives, and he proceeds to provide ample justification for his position. Jacobs makes no bones about how he feels about livestock grazing and ranching, nor does he purport to provide an unbiased and equal treatment of the pros and cons of livestock grazing. Readers should keep this perspective in mind.

However, those who might be inclined to think his book is nothing more than a raging tirade against the perceived evils of livestock grazing would be short-changing the author. He spent more than three years researching the topic and writing *Waste of the West*. Without exception, his conclusions and observations are based on extensive documentation and well reasoned arguments.

Waste of the West is encyclopedic. In its more than 600 pages, complete with literature citations, are chapters on the history of the livestock industry, a discussion of public lands history with particular reference to livestock use, descriptions of various range ecosystems, range ecology, wildlife and domestic livestock interrelationships with the landscape, and a thorough discussion of the socio-political aspects of livestock grazing in the West and what the author feels are myths and justifications of the livestock industry. In particular those who have heard that Allan Savory and Holistic Resource Management offers a salvation to public lands grazing abuses should read Jacobs' penny. The book is attractively laid out, set off with numerous highlighted quotes that are fun to read all by themselves. But in addition, since each chapter stands more or less on its own, it's possible to read individual chapters, and still learn a great deal, and not lose too much of Jacobs' theme.

Finally, the book is wonderfully illustrated with dozens of charts and graphs and over a thousand photos. Just scanning the photos, reading the captions, and reviewing the maps and illustrations would give any reader new insights and a head full of statistics and concepts. Want to know how many acres of land are grazed in the West or how much forage is allotted to livestock vs wildlife? Jacobs makes it easy to find out those and other kinds of statistics. It makes a handy reference source for anyone dealing with livestock issues.

This book is for everyone. Those who agree with Jacobs will find plenty of information to defend their positions. Those opposed should read it to know how those committed to ending public lands ranching think. Those undecided or who feel there is a place and need for livestock production on public lands in the West would do well to read this book if for no other reason than to obtain a more balanced perspective to counter the ever-present livestock industry and agency propaganda which purports to show the benefits of livestock grazing and production.

Is Jacobs right? Has livestock wasted the West? Read the book and decide for yourself.

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Book Review

The Desert by John C. Van Dyke, Gibbs Smith Publisher, Layton, Utah, New Edition 1991, 272 pp., paperback.

REVIEWED BY DESI CRATION

Answer quickly. Which came first, Civilization or Wilderness? Right—Civilization. Before Civilization, nobody was smart enough to call rocks and Gila Monsters and black crows anything at all, much less some word with three syllables, like "Wilderness."

But John C. Van Dyke enlightened us. He made the American Desert, in the course of one slim book, a wilderness fit for civilized people.

Van Dyke was qualified to write such a book. When he didn't happen to be wandering through the Mojave desert with only a gallon of water and a shovel to sustain him, he taught art history at Rutgers University, lectured at Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, and wrote forty books, one called *Books and How to Use Them* (he was also librarian at Sage Library) and another called *The Desert*. With things like that in his past, it's hard to see how even the Sierra Club would admit him.

But his book *The Desert*, first published in 1901, is pointed to by writers from Mary Austin to Edward Abbey as the first and best book ever written about North American deserts. It is easy to see why. His ideas about preservation are hard to criticize: "They are the breathing spaces of the West and should be preserved forever." He hated the Imperial Valley project with a black hatred.

And he moves the art of appreciating the desert into spiritual and esthetic realms to which it had never before, in the minds of white people at least, aspired. He describes a mirage:

Yet its illusiveness adds to, rather than detracts from, its beauty. Rose-colored dreams are always delightful; and the mirage is only a dream. It has no more substantial fabric than the golden haze that lies in the canyons at sunset. It is only one of nature's veils which she puts on or off capriciously... It is one of the desert's most charming features because of its strange light and its softly glowing opaline color. And there we have come back again to that beauty in landscape which lies not in the lines of mountain valley and plain, but in the almost formless masses of color and light.

Van Dyke painstakingly, with all the implications of the word, explores the desert. In the course of twelve chapters, he discusses "The Approach," "The Make of the Desert," "The Bottom of the Bowl," "Light, Air, and Color," and so on. The book is a collection of war of elements and a struggle for existence going on [in the desert] that for ferocity is unparalleled elsewhere in nature," a struggle which Van Dyke loves with all his heart. And he knows that the place is beautiful, too. He climbs a mountain, probably in the Panamint range, and tells his reader not to look down at the desert floor, but to look up. "You have read and heard many times of the 'deep blue sky.' It is a stock phrase in narrative romance; but I venture to doubt if you have ever seen one. It is seen only from high points—from just such a place as you are now standing upon. Therefore look up first of all and see a blue sky that is turning to violet!" Only an art professor could have told you this—an art professor who had lived off the land for two years in the Mojave, Sonoran, Chihuahuan, and Great Basin deserts. And only in the early twentieth century could he have seen such a sky, or such a desert. The sky in the desert has a yellow sulfur dioxide tint to it now, and the desert has been hugely reclaimed.

John C. Van Dyke was a Eastern, college-bred weakling with asthma. But he wandered around in the desert until his asthma went away (and turned into malaria) and then he wandered around some more. He was pretty tough. And intelligent, and as civilized as it was possible to be in 1901. All of which enabled him to say some of the smartest things about the desert that any white person has ever said.

The Desert is the book that made North American deserts accessible to people back in civilization—like us, modern-day Americans who could not possibly walk across them but like to read about them and then maybe drive around them some. It's an important book. Reading it, you may begin to wonder if Van Dyke, with his great love for the desert, could have wanted it to become so important. Those who feel even the faintest stirrings of the desert rat when they smell creosote in the air should read *The Desert*, but they should be aware of the question it raises: What exactly did our desert gain when Van Dyke taught us to appreciate it as wilderness?



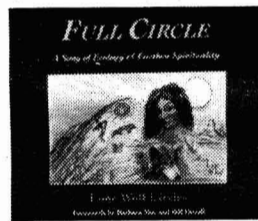
Forever Wild

Medicine Wheel for Peg Millet

by Peggy Sue McRae

I'd sing these songs when we demonstrated for the wounded land. Now singing my songs is the only way I can be an activist and spread my message in defense of the wounded Earth. Singing makes me feel good. It's how I pray." Peg Millet Peg sang "Forever Wild" as her statement to the court when she was sentenced. Her haunting rendition of this song is on her tape "Gentle Warrior" (available through Earth First!). Her tape is a collection of beautifully sung prayers for the Earth. The tape is dedicated to the Arizona Earth First! Five and the defense team.

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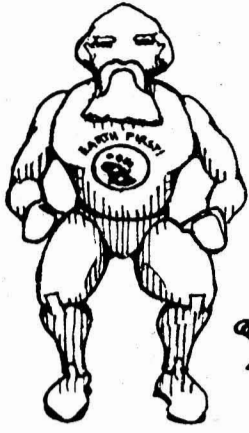
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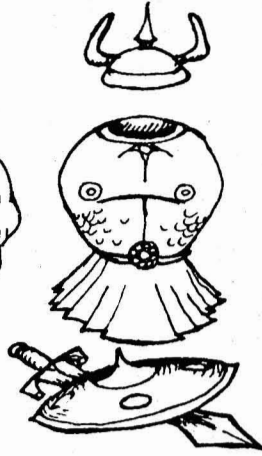
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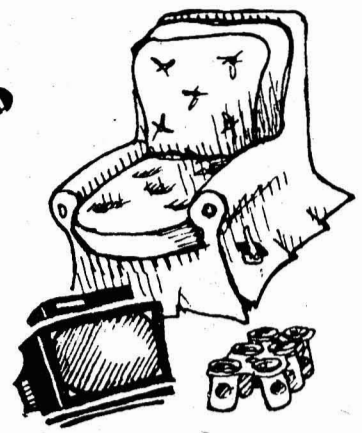
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Whether you come for the whole week or just for a day or two, you'll get to meet other activists from around the continent. Daytime workshops will range from "Connecting Animal Rights to the Environmental Movement" to "Using Ki Energy for Conflict Resolution" to "Bioregional Deep Ecology."

Come equipped to camp. A small donation is requested. Workshop presenters and Earth-oriented entertainers are welcome. For more information, contact EF! RRR, PO Box 1166, Boulder, CO 80306.

1992 RRR Committee Asks for Outreach Help

To help broaden our impact, the Earth First! movement and the deep ecology-no compromise message must be expanded. The 1992 RRR Committee needs you (if you wanna) to spread the EF! message. So consider sending out the pre-prepared press release on the RRR printed right here in the journal for your convenience. Tear it out or photocopy it. Use discretion: send it to people, organizations, and magazines and newspapers whose constituency has a hope or a prayer of becoming EF!ers.



WILLOW RIVER WILDERNESS SCHOOL
Teaching survival skills in harmony with nature, will be having 2 special weekend classes in Tucson this winter. Details: PO Box 177, St. Croix Falls WI 54024.

Riparian Rondo

Six RiversEF! will be hosting this spring's Riparian Rendezvous April 29th through May 4th, 1992, in Six Rivers National Forest in California. This will be an Eco-Groovy time and place to hook up with other river activists, plot the overthrow of the Army Corps of Engineers, swap stories, run some cool rivers and do that "party and gather" type of thing.

On the more serious side, there will be workshops on river, dam, and hydro power issues, also, Bureau of Wrecklamation, water politics, alternative forestry, watershed defense, toxics, irrigation and home brewing. Plus lots of rivers to run (the whitewater should be humpin'), so bring your boats if you got 'em. We'll be contacting other Watershed/River Preservation Groups and encouraging them to participate.

If you want to do a workshop, perform, make a spectacle of yourself or just get involved, contact: Six Rivers EF!, PO Box 133, Cutten(run), CA 95534. (707)442-4710.

EF! Directory

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal provides a forum for Earth First!ers around the world. This directory is provided as a service to independent EF! groups. If you would like to be listed as a contact or as a group, or have address changes or corrections, contact Earth First!, Box 5176, Missoula, MT 59806, 406-728-8114. If you are interested in becoming active with the Earth First! movement, reach the folks listed for your area.

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS: Addresses marked with a "*" produce either an Earth First! newsletter or regular mailings for their area or issue. Contact them directly to receive their newsletter or otherwise be on their mailing list.



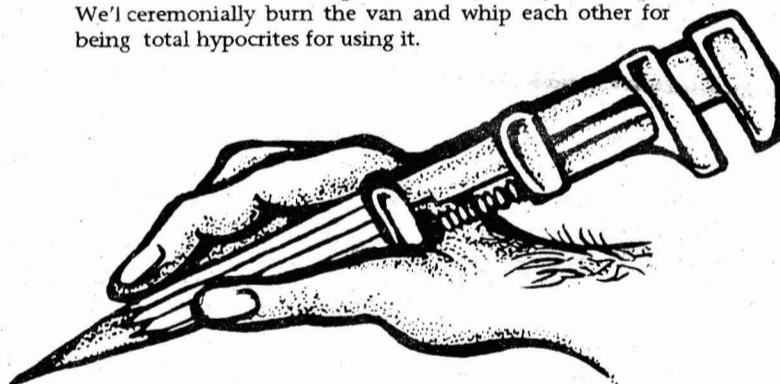
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Liverpool	Tuesday 11th February
Glasgow	Friday 14th February
Edinburgh	Saturday 15th February
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Newcastle	Wednesday 19th February
Sheffield	Thursday 20th February
Manchester	Saturday 22nd February
Leicester	Wednesday 26th February
Oxford	Saturday 29th February
Birmingham	Monday 2nd March
Bristol	Wednesday 4th March
Glastonbury	Thursday 5th March
Plymouth	Friday 6th March
Reading	Sunday 8th March
London	Monday 9th March
Cambridge	Wednesday 11th March
Norwich	Thursday 12th March
Brighton	Friday 13th Friday

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