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Earth First!

Mabon

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

Vol. 18, No. 8

VENEZUELANANS SURGE AGAINST POWERLINE

HAMMER TIME

BY CHERISE MILLER AND ATOSSA SOLTANI

Five hundred years after the arrival of Columbus, indigenous peoples in Venezuela are still fighting, and fighting strongly, to keep the last of their ancestral lands. On July 27, nearly 1,000 Indians from the Pemon, Karina, Arawaco and Akawaio tribes joined together to roll massive logs onto the only highway connecting Venezuela and Brazil, strengthening their adamant protest of a 450-mile long electrical transmission line that will rip through their rainforest homeland. The area affected includes the Imataca Forest Reserve and Canaima National Park (a World Heritage Site). It is also home of Angel Falls, the world's tallest waterfall. In a recent press conference, Pemon leader Jose Luis Gonzales warned the Venezuelan government, "Rapid economic development will equal the death of our forests and of the indigenous peoples." Despite bullying from the National Guard, blockades of construction crews and equipment have continued for over one month.

The \$110 million transmission line is part of a mega-development package recently adopted by the Venezuelan government aiming to diversify their vulnerable economy, which currently relies heavily on the export of petroleum products. In addition to selling energy to



Logging, mining and development bring death and destruction to the Amazon rainforest and its native peoples.

Brazil, the government proposes to use the power to open up the previously protected Guyana Shield region to large-scale logging and mining.

This area not only represents one of five major biological hotspots identified in the world, but it also boasts one of the last large blocks of intact frontier forest and contains *tepuyes*, unique highland table-top mountains—the inspiration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic adventure story, *The Lost World*.

continued on page 24

VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN THE BIG WILD

BY ECHO

Warnings rung out from across the bog into the sacred grove of Douglas fir and spruce the night of August 21. "Now is the time to get the women and children out," yelled a threatening voice. "There are eight men coming with baseball bats and the trail has been booby trapped." That was the start of the psychological warfare. The evening's activities escalated into a violent attack of the Otter Wing satellite camp in Idaho's Big Wild.

Drunken timber and road workers armed with guns and other weapons turned their angry propaganda and death threats into a reality by entering and violating the personal space and safety of activists. "Pink bunnies" fled into the darkness of the woods as the mob's flashlights crept up the trail toward camp. Helpless eyes watched the climax of this visit erupt into a blaze of fire where backpacks, clothes, tarps and food went up in smoke. Slashing of sleeping bags and backpacks went unchecked, and other personal gear was carried out by the masked mob under the guise of night. The scene lasted until 6:00 a.m. when the light of day drove away the presence of the intruders. We were then able to see the aftermath of our wrecked camp.

Conveniently for the attacking party, the regular face of law enforcement was no where to be found that night or the next morning. Upon their tardy arrival, Idaho County Sheriff and Forest Service law enforcement officers (LEOs) tried to convince activists to leave for their own safety stating, "There

is nothing we, as law enforcement, can do to ensure your well being." They were met with adamant refusals to leave. Though the LEOs insisted they lacked the manpower to "baby-sit" us amid threats of more violence from the rednecks, they somehow managed to find the resources to start a 24 hour, three-day siege with K-9 units, smoke jumpers and snipers in order to cut supplies to the tree sitters. The armed force remained until they bagged two exhausted sitters.

It seemed they would stay as long as it took to apprehend the infamous Sideshow Bob, who thwarted all the Freddie's efforts to maintain authority on the scene. But when they baited a trap to lure Bob out of his tree, he evaporated without a trace into the Idaho wilderness.



Burn my gear, beat me down, but I will not let you bulldoze the Big Wild.

BY BRON TAYLOR AND LESLIE HEMSTREET

"I hiked and boated and camped beside the Colorado River before Glen Canyon was built in the 1960s. In those years it was a wild, unpredictable, brown, sediment-laden stream flooding into the early summer, then settling down in the winter... Today, you see an ice-cold, Jell-O-green river, manipulated up and down, rising and falling on a daily cycle, flushed with the regularity, and predictability, of a giant toilet. Dams are not America's answer to the pyramids of Egypt. We did not build them for religious purposes and they do not consecrate our values (even if some are named after presidents). Dams do, in fact, outlive their function. When they do, some should go."

Which eco-warrior is responsible for these radical-sounding quotes? Many of us will likely think they must be from Ed Abbey, whose book *The Monkeywrench Gang* sought most of all to destroy the Glen Canyon Dam and liberate the Colorado River. Or we'd wonder if these words were uttered by David Brower who later came to bitterly regret that, as head of the Sierra Club, he once capitulated to the damming of Glen Canyon as a compromise designed to save the Grand Canyon from a similar fate.

But no, this statement is from the United States Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt. In a shocking August 4 speech delivered to the Ecological Society of America, Babbitt implied that the time for monstrous dam projects was waning. Indeed, Babbitt has been touring the country this summer with a sledgehammer, striking the first blows in the dismantling of six dams.

continued on page 29

EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

POB 1415 • EUGENE, OREGON 97440 • (541) 344-8004



GETTING READY FOR THE DAY

The possibility of impending disaster connected to the Y2K problem, coupled with crashing financial markets, demands our undivided attention as Earth Firsters. In a dramatic change of events, it seems as if the Luddite fantasy of the collapse of industrial culture and all its baggage is upon us. A time for brief reflection on the state of our activist network is in order.

Over the past several weeks, everyone has witnessed the fragility of global capitalism. We are all familiar with its effects on the Earth's environment. It costs a lot of money to try and sustain the inevitably unsustainable. We may soon find ourselves in a situation we've been hoping for; a chance to do the big "I told you so." Are we coming to a point in our struggle where we can make people realize that this ugly system is ultimately self-destructive? Are we prepared to weather the storm and demonstrate the type of sustainable culture we're all envisioning?

Now is the time to be crafting truly bioregionally-centered working models of what this vision is. The seeds of this grand, yet humble vision, have been planted. It is time to nurture it with all our energy. People who are working on everything from recycled lumber to sustainable, organic urban farming often lend much support to our campaigns but often are not considered "true activists." While not on the "front lines," these people are the backbone of our communities. There are resources they provide for us and skills and resources we can provide to them in return.

Food cultivation is a fundamental need in all human cultures. With this in mind, it is essential that we honestly examine where our food comes from. As EFers our role in society has become one of defenders. We represent a reaction to an imbalance of our society. We sustain ourselves by whatever means necessary to continue this important work. However, these "means" are often at the mercy of giant

corporations that control food distribution in this country. Living off the excess that this country wallows in doesn't necessarily help us achieve sustainability. Depending on anyone else for survival—be it the government or a multinational corporation—leaves us vulnerable to the whims of market fluctuations and political rhetoric.

So where do we go from here? The survivalist hype being generated as the millennium approaches can be focused more importantly on the solutions we as the Earth First! movement could offer. Doing things like stockpiling recycled building supplies. Everyday there are houses torn down and thrown away. With a little sweat one could haul it off and build their own shelter. The next time you're at an action and a logger asks if you live in a house made of wood, you can say yes—wood I recycled. Another solution: grow your own food. By starting now you can gain valuable experience in the coming years, experience you can't get out of a book. Try living without electricity and let your imagination fill the void. If you must have electricity, solar panels are becoming more affordable. Start researching how people lived in your bioregion before the arrival of Europeans. The sooner we make the transition to self-sufficiency, the stronger, more independent and sustainable our movement will become.

Changes in the dominant paradigm might just happen if a serious disruption in the lifestyle of each and every one of us occurs. We as activists need to not only act defensively but proactively to create positive and attractive solutions to the oppressive industrial culture we so despise.

Visualizing industrial collapse is a slogan and a dream. At the end of the millennium, will the dream come true? We are watching, waiting and preparing...

—JIM BOWLER



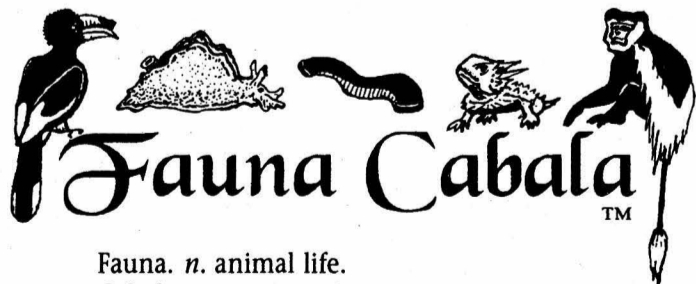
Help With the Wilson Family Fund

Some EFers recently learned a cruel lesson about the impermanence of all things when the bus they were living in went up in flames. Delyla, Stan and Meagan Wilson were abruptly separated from all their material possessions and could really use your help. An account has been established at the Oregon Urban and Rural (O.U.R.) Credit Union so please send donations to:

The Wilson Fire Fund; Acct. #103074;
715 Lincoln St.
Eugene, OR, 97403
Send a little, it means a lot.

The Journal Wants You!

Are you a journalista at heart? Do you have a passion for long hours and little pay? Does the concern of ecological collapse hit home? The *Journal* has an opening for a long-term editorial collective member. We are looking for commitment, drive, humor, stamina and a love for the wild. Those interested must have basic skills in desktop publishing (Photoshop, Pagemaker and Microsoft Word) and a familiarity with Macs. Those interested should send a cover letter, resumé, contacts and a writing sample to the *Journal*.

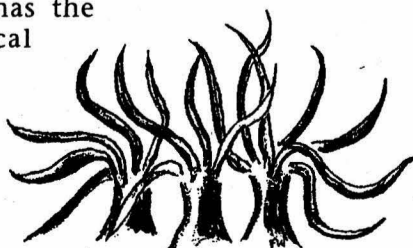


Fauna. *n.* animal life.

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

In the intertidal zone, sea anemones are harpooning each other to death. *Anthopleura elegantissima* (Brandt) reproduces asexually, eventually forming dense colonies of genetically identical individuals. Members living on the edge of these aggregations are "warriors." Smaller than the central, reproductive members, the warriors have more and larger stinging cells called nematocysts and leave the process of fission to their larger clonemates. When warriors from

two different colonies meet, they let loose a tentacular flurry of stings. The eventual loser either retreats by pedal locomotion or dies. Many colonial invertebrates have similar inducible polymorphisms, meaning that environmental conditions dictate their form. The most obvious examples are where reproduction is asexual (because members are genetically identical, any variation is a consequence of the environment). This anemone species, however, has the most morphological differentiation yet found among clonal cnidarians and illustrates that a division of labor is not limited to animals with a brain.



BY FAITH WALKER

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

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

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SCHEDULE

Earth First! Journal is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox). One-year subscriptions in the US via third class mail are \$25. First class delivery is \$35. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. Corporate and law enforcement rate is \$45. **Deadline for the next issue is:**

October 5

READY OR NOT...Y2K

BY GARTH KAHL

By now most people have probably heard something about the "millennium virus," or "Y2K" as it is known in more technical circles. This problem is caused by the fact that many of the world's computers will recognize the date January 1, 2000 as January 1, 1900, and may shut down or malfunction as a result.

Following any kind of breakdown... the government will be all too willing to declare martial law at the slightest provocation.

Just what the effects of this world wide computer malfunction will be is completely unpredictable. Scenarios forecast by both computer experts and politicians run the gamut from a few days of minor disruptions to six months or more in which the power grid, telecommunications, food and petroleum deliveries will be completely disrupted world wide. Nearly everyone prognosticating agrees on one thing—it is difficult to predict the effects with much certainty.

One of the biggest problems faced by the computer "experts" is there is no "one size fits all" upgrade or other quick fix that can be applied to reprogram all the computers. The core programming of the computers controlling everything from generators in dams and power plants, to the checking account at your bank or credit union, was in most cases written from scratch. The lines of computer language, or "code," were designed a little different for each. To correct the problem, it is necessary to manually review each line of code in the computer. Major entities like General Motors and the Pentagon have billions of lines of code in their systems.

The Pentagon already admitted there is no way it is going to correct even the majority of their systems before the year 2000. Major corporations like GM and Exxon have kept quiet about their progress—for

obvious reasons. However, rumors abound they are meeting with a similar lack of success.

Another problem is something called "embedded chips." Many pieces of machinery, from pocket cameras to robots on assembly lines, have pre-programmed micro-chips built in which might malfunction in the same way. Fixing these will require the replacement of the entire piece of machinery in many cases.

While it is easy to dismiss the possibility that this will cause major disruptions in the economic systems as either wide-eyed ravings or hopeful dreaming, governments and others are taking it very seriously. The US Senate has already convened a special subcommittee on the year 2000 problem. The chair of that committee, Senator Bennet (R-UT) said in June, "If Y2K were to hit tomorrow the power would go out." Economists with the German Deutsche Bank, have predicted that Y2K will cause a world wide depression "at least as severe as in 1973."

As the turn of the century approaches banks, and multi-nationals are claiming they are "Y2K compliant" (i.e. that their system has had the problem corrected.) Unfortunately for them, when a compliant computer receives data from a non-compliant computer, the former can become defective again. Nobody knows to what extent this will occur, but it becomes very relevant for those computers involved with international banking or multinational corporations that are constantly communicating with ones overseas. Many foreign countries are doing nothing about Y2K, and certainly most are doing less than the US.

So how does this affect us as Earth Firsters? Should we all take a 14-month holiday and wait to "dance on

the ruins?" Should we prepare to fuck shit up as much as possible when the bug strikes? Bare in mind jail will be one of the worst places to be after January 1. All doors and ventilation systems are controlled by, you guessed it... computers.

Following any kind of breakdown, people are going to be scared and the government will be all too willing to declare martial law at the slightest provocation. There won't be any even reasonably sympathetic press to cry foul when they knock down the doors of every enviro after a few folks drop a power line or two.

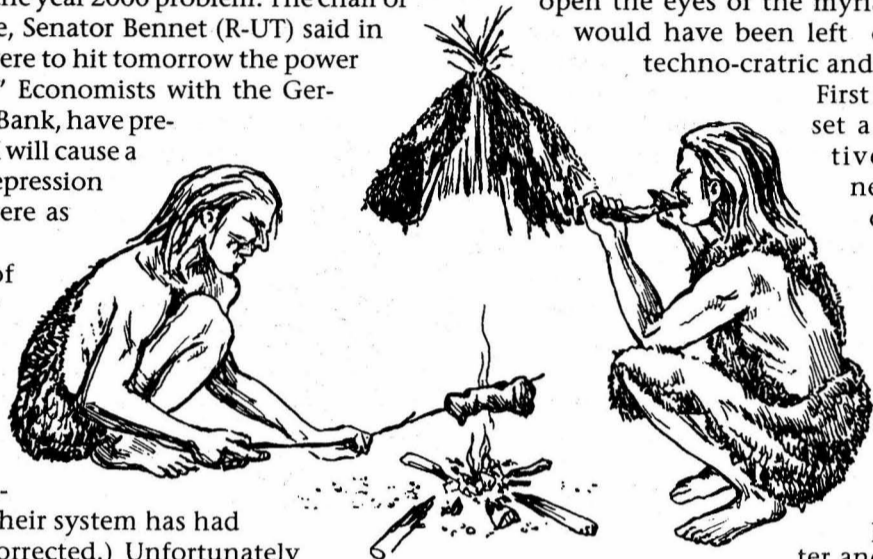
Instead of trying to hack the weakened infrastructure by force, I believe we should prepare to open the eyes of the myriad of people who would have been left dangling by their techno-craic and corporate priests.

First of all, we need to set a good and attractive example. We need to be sure that our communities of Earth Firsters are well prepared. This means having stocks of food, homemade, dried and canned goods, and the ability to procure clean water and sources of heat-

ing. This will strike the country in winter don't forget. Ideally we should have enough put away so we can share some with the more mainstream elements of our communities, or at least be prepared to teach them what skill we do have.

The events that took place following the 1989 San Francisco earthquake illustrate the potential outcome from these two differing approaches. When the quake struck, the only organization

continued on page 21



Dearest Shit for Brains...

Dear SFB,

I knew EF! readers would want to hear the truth, people of America... I banged her.

I banged her like a cheap gong. Which is not news, folks, because if you think Monica Lewinsky was the only skin flute player in my orchestra, you haven't been paying attention. The only babes in DC I haven't tried to do are the First Lady, Reno and Albright, mostly because they're a little older than I like and they have legs that former Houston Oiler Earl Campbell would envy. Which isn't to say I don't appreciate Hillary... I do. If not for the ice-water coursing through her veins, I'd be pumping gas into farm equipment in Hope, Arkansas, and she'd be married to the President.

So, let me set the record straight. I dodged the draft, hid FBI files, smoked dope, flipped Whitewater property, set up a new Korean wing in the White House, fired the travel staff, paid hush money to Hubbell, sold the Lincoln bedroom like an upscale Motel 6 and grabbed every ass that entered the Oval Office. Got it? Good.

Six years ago, there's not a man,

woman or child who didn't know I was as horny as Woody Allen. But, you elected me anyway, which turned out to be a good move on your part. Your other choice was Bush, an aging baseball player who thought he could bomb his way into the White House. Before him, it was Reagan, who left the office with the same gummy bears he came in with. There was Carter before him who brought you a 17 percent prime interest rate, smiling the whole time like his lithium drip had just kicked in. Nixon before that coined, but never really understood, the concept of plausible deniability, and almost got a one-way ticket to San Quentin for his crackerjack style of governing. Johnson was an inbred, power-mad war criminal whose major contribution to American society was Agent Orange. And John Kennedy, who was a little naughty himself, didn't hang around long enough for America to spot that curious streak shared by at least a dozen former presidents of the White House.

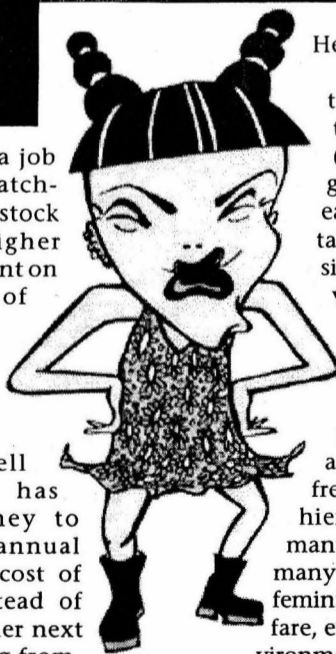
But now, the budget is balanced for the first time since JFK did a one gun salute to Marilyn, a fact the press didn't seem to care about, evidently. Unemployment is so low today a blind

felon can get a job as a night-watchman. And the stock market is higher than a D-student on a full gram of dumb-dust, and anyone with a degree from a junior college who can spell 'internet' has enough money to ponder the annual maintenance cost of his boat, instead of where his or her next meal is coming from.

Bottom line: I'm running a country here and I'm doing it with my pecker showing.

What I'm asking for is your support, not a date with your daughter... unless, of course, she's a hotty with thin ankles, and then I'd like to discuss it. In the meantime, think about where you are today and what kind of life you're living before you get too interested in where I'm parking the Presidential limousine. Thank you and God bless America.

—SLICK WILLIE



Hey Earth First!

I need to respond to the short but loaded article by Craig Evarts (Litha p16) about suggestions for saving the earth from prison. I was taken aback by the shortsightedness and narrow viewpoint in the article.

As a radical eco-feminist, I recognize the interconnectedness of issues, as well as beings and environment, and work toward a world free from dominance and hierarchy. A rebel with many causes. Activists from many of these causes, be they feminism, labor, class and welfare, etc. and, yes, radical environmentalists, can sometimes be so single-issue oriented, that it blinds them to the interconnectedness of that issue to all the others. This isolates each group.

Evarts suggestion that prisoners petition the warden to have the privilege of sorting trash for recycling for 50 to 95 cents an hour is appalling to anyone who is informed about and active in issues of anti-racism, the ballooning prison industrial complex and eroding prisoner rights. Evarts' suggestion is naive and arrogant. I would suggest he learn more about these issues and how some prisoner are al-

ready involved in organizing revolution before he speaks. He ignores (or is ignorant of) the erosion of the power of unions and the inability of workers to earn a living wage due to the use of forced prison labor and forced "welfare to work" or "workfare" labor by corporations and municipalities.

If Evarts thinks this is revolution, maybe he should submit himself to earning his living by sorting recyclables for 95 cents an hour.

For the Earth and all her beings,
—MOONSHADOW

EF!

Recently saw the journal which I hadn't seen in awhile. The soft pedaling of the anti-immigrant by some was lame. What could be more ecologically irrelevant (and damaging) than the lines of nation-states? It would seem self evident that a movement of people to the US would relieve the ecology of they came from. People who "case" only about the USA bounded land and fear the entry of Indo-Hispanics are nothing but some type of fascists. The border, and Capitalism and statism are the main problems not population movements for survival.

—PETER K.

continued on page 26

Decapitation of the Appalachians

BY SHIREEN PARSONS

An aerial view of the huge mountain top removal mining sites in southern West Virginia reveals miles of decapitated mountains and filled-in valleys. And this is just the beginning. Individual sites, now separated by green, forested, intact mountains, will eventually merge together as all the mountains are leveled as far as the eye can see. Land companies own the mountains and coal companies already have permits to mine many of them. Right now it looks like they won't stop until they've leveled every coal-bearing mountain in the state.

The huge Earth movers called draglines work around the clock every day. The largest of these shovels, nicknamed "Big John," is 20 stories tall and moves 130 tons of rock and dirt at a time. It only takes one person to operate a dragline. A hidden cost of this efficiency is jobs. There used to be 125,000 miners employed in West Virginia, but now there are only 18,000, although coal production has never been higher.

The Appalachians, the easternmost mountains on this continent, stretch from Georgia to Nova Scotia. What nature sculpted over hundreds of millions of years, we, with our modern technology, can destroy in a matter of months. Richard Bambach, professor of paleontology and geology at Virginia Tech, describes the genesis of the Appalachians. "Five hundred and forty million years ago, when the eastern portion of the continent was the ocean floor, layers of sediment were deposited over the base of volcanic and metamorphic rock. Three hundred and forty million years ago, the land mass that is now Africa bumped into the land mass that became North America and, over the

next 100 million years, the Earth's crust buckled and folded from the Piedmont across the Blue Ridge area, sculpting the Appalachians into the magnificent landscapes of ridges, valleys, hollows and coves that characterize the region."

Today, the coal-rich mountains of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky are disappearing as a result of the latest, most cost-efficient method of mining coal: mountain top removal. In this process, 500 to 1,000 feet of the entire top of a mountain is removed to expose successive seams of coal. The overburden, or spoil (everything that isn't coal) that is removed during the process, is then trucked to adjacent coves and valleys and dumped. It's the most profound destruction imaginable, and it's forever.

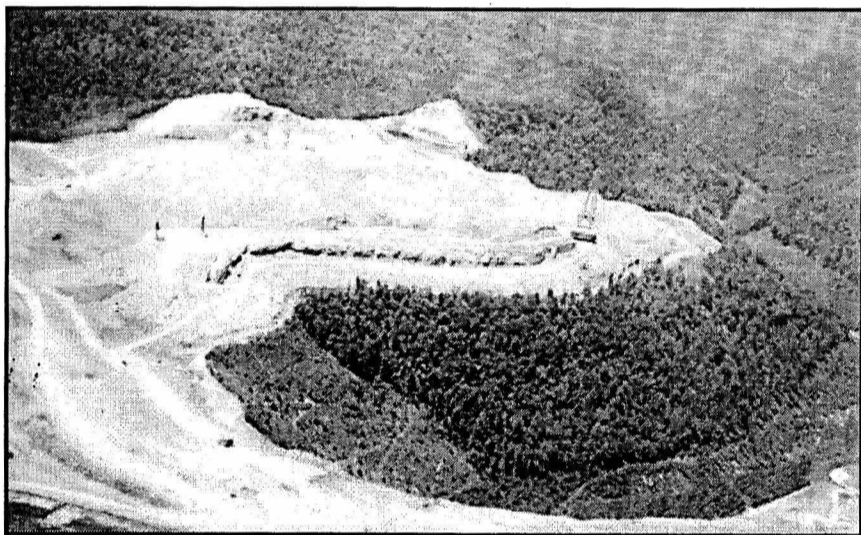
The forests are clearcut from the mountain before it is decapitated and the remaining vegetation is burned. "Reclamation" means planting special grasses that grow without soil because there is no soil left. In addition

to enforce the Clean Water Act. The plaintiffs cite the fact that the DEP routinely approves surface coal mining permits for mountain top removal and valley fill, thereby allowing mining companies to bury the headwaters of West Virginia's streams under millions of tons of rock. A study by a US Fish and Wildlife biologist found that 469.3 miles of streams has so far been lost in five West Virginia watersheds as a result of surface mining and valley fills.

A week after the lawsuit was filed, Corps officials admitted valley fills cannot be permitted and therefore must meet state and federal water quality standards. When asked whether DEP monitors water quality downstream from mountain top removal sites and valley fills, Ed Griffith, the DEP Assistant Chief, said the only long-term study was conducted by Arch Coal Company. That study, he said, showed downstream water quality was actually enhanced by the mining process! In response to the question, "Isn't that a bit like the fox guarding the hen house?" Griffith replied, "Individuals in the coal industry are honest, hard-working folks and they tell it like it is."

Actually, it seems that no one's guarding the hen house. Both Griffith and Tom Morgan, Acting Field Office Director for the Office of Surface Mining, said neither agency is capable of determining the number of active mountain top removal operations and/or the number of permitted sites on which operations have not yet begun. Morgan said the EPA, the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service are just now working with OSM to determine the effects of valley fills on streams. Meanwhile, the mountains and valleys are being leveled at an alarming rate. Compared to that 540 million year timeline, King Coal can make a mountain disappear in less than a heartbeat.

For information on how you can help, please contact the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, 1101 6th Ave. Suite 222, Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 522-0246; mforman@marshall.edu.



Aerial view of the drag-line "Big John" in operation

to having to watch these mountains being razed, neighboring residents must endure the constant noise of the huge machinery and the effects of blasting: showers of dust and rock, structural damage to their homes and places of business, dried-up wells and contaminated water.

This form of strip, or surface mining (as opposed to deep mining, where miners tunnel into a mountain) began in

the 1950s. Back then, operations were small and few. In the late '70s and early '80s, mountain top removal increased in scale. After amendments to the federal Clean Air Act passed in the early '90s requiring electric utilities to use cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal, the number and size of mountain top removal sites has increased dramatically.

In 1977, in an attempt to protect the environment and coal field residents, Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), which requires coal companies to restore the "approximate original contour" of surface-mined land. However, operations that remove the entire tops of mountains are exempt from this rule. SMCRA, which was fought by mining interests from the beginning, gives states the power to permit mining operations and responsibility for the enforcement of SMCRA regulations.

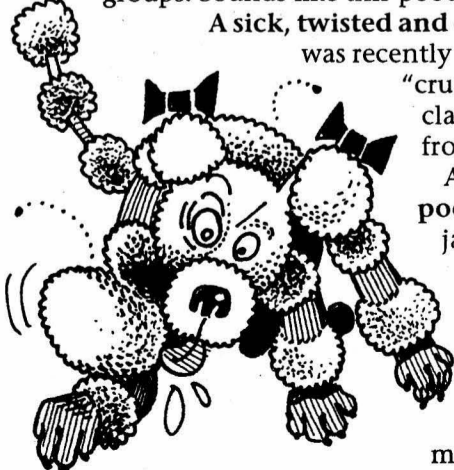
But in West Virginia, King Coal really rules. In May, Governor Cecil Underwood, a retired coal-company executive himself, appointed Michael Miano, a Pittston Coal Company executive until late last year, as the director of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the agency overseeing coal mining activities. His appointment was confirmed even though federal regulations require coal executives to wait at least two years before taking a regulatory position involving issuing water pollution permits for coal mines.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, West Virginia Citizen Action Group and West Virginia Environmental Council have brought suit to force Miano's removal. Another lawsuit filed by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and coal field residents charges the DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers with failing

Wolves & Poodles

A herd of oil-slicked poodles to Exxon's accountants and attorneys for figuring out ways to avoid paying the \$5 billion Valdez settlement. Dragging their feet keeps their interest rising to the tune of \$90,000 an hour—roughly \$2 million a day—or \$800 million a year.

A slimy, scheming poodle with its nose up everybody's butt to Representative Don Young (R-AK) for requesting the Forest Service to provide the names of their employees who are members of, or support, various "environmental" groups. Sounds like this poodle is yapping "intimidation."



A sick, twisted and depraved poodle to Keith Twogood who was recently arrested in the UK for importing US-made "crush" videos. Evidently, they depict scantily clad women in stiletto heels "playing" with frogs before crushing them underfoot.

A saliva dripping, inbred with a llama, poodle to the cops in Guelph, Canada, for jailing an animal rights activist for spitting at a store that sold furs. After the deserved deed was caught on video tape the activist was arrested. In defiance he went on a hunger strike and refused to pay a fine until he was released on the condition that he not come within 20 meters of the store.

A righteous, radioactive-free wolf sporting a no-compromise t-shirt, to Prime Minister Jenny Shipley for refusing to repeal New Zealand's ban on US nuclear ships.

Even though Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, journeyed to the beautiful island to push her nuclear agenda, Shipley announced at a press conference after their meeting that New Zealanders wouldn't accept any change in policy.

A raging, bilingual howling wolf to Ristic Nenad for translating an entire issue of the *EF! Journal* into Serbian and then distributing over a 100 kick-ass copies all over Yugoslavia. We hope they tell their friends, and they tell their friends...

A wily wolf hiding out in the woods to Bigfoot who continues to elude his would-be captors in the Cascades. Now, a museum in central Oregon is opening up to archive Bigfoot artifacts.



Yellowstone Buffalo Need Your Voice

BY WINONA LADUKE ©1998

"Like us, they are the last survivors. Those of our ancestors who survived the 19th century found sanctuary on the reservations. In 1894, the last wild buffalo herd in the United States—about 20 head—found sanctuary in Yellowstone National Park."

—Caleb Shields, Tribal Chairman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Nations, Ft. Peck Reservation, Montana

In the middle of winter, when the wind roars through Maiden Basin near Yellowstone National Park, it is the chilling sound of bullets against skulls that reverberates in your memory. The sound of Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) bullets shooting down the last wild buffalo herd in the United States; mothers, babies and fathers. This summer, state and federal officials issued a document that will decide the fate of the buffalo for the next 15 years. After killing almost half of the Yellowstone herd, 1,100 in the winter of 1997 alone, the long awaited draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Interagency Bison Management Plan for the state of Montana and Yellowstone National Park is ready. The sound we hear today is paper shuffling.

After taking eight years to prepare the draft EIS, the government is now moving fast, allowing just 120 days for public input before finalizing their buffalo management plan. October 16 is the deadline for written public comment. Options listed in the EIS share common elements, including use of so-called lethal controls as the herd approaches 1,700 animals (presently larger than that now); defining management boundaries beyond which agencies take action to ensure bison do not stray; and auctioning or distributing slaughtered bison to social service organizations or tribes.

Native peoples involved in the buffalo controversy, from the emerging activist group Buffalo Nations to the established tribal-based coalition, Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC), have come out in opposition to the federal proposal and hope to increase public opposition and debate about the EIS. The underlying point is that in all the so-called alternatives, the buffalo will be shot. That is what constitutes a lethal control. In some cases, lethal control will be undertaken by wildlife officials, other agencies or through hunting permits. All proposals have one distinct end result. And all proposals share another common element. They seem to lack a long term consideration of what is best for the buffalo and the ecosystem.

At the heart of the EIS is a major public policy question: whether one should manage the buffalo, indigenous to the region, or manage all the introduced, non-indigenous factors which now impact the buffalo. Such introduced factors include cattle. Consider that the buffalo are a self serve sort of critter, when the winters get cold and the snow deep in the high elevations of Yellowstone, they do what they need to do to survive; they move into winter grazing areas. Those grazing areas are quite often outside the formal park boundaries. The winter ranges include the north and west boundaries of the park, areas that are primarily national forest land and US Forest Service grazing allotments. According to law, the allotments are designated primarily for wildlife, secondarily for livestock. But cattle are on those allotments. Those areas designated for wildlife and occupied by cattle are where the majority of buffalo have been killed over the past three years—some 1,900 total.

Only one formal proposal in the EIS, the "Minimal Management" Alternative Two, calls for ag-

gressive acquisition of private and public lands in the grazing allotment areas to be set aside for buffalo and for expanding the protected area to include a larger, more sustainable ecosystem that can feed the buffalo herd in the winter. This alternative focuses on changing the behavior of the cattle and ranchers to manage the alleged threat of buffalo, rather than trying to exclusively manage buffalo. It includes pro-active solutions such as "acquisition through purchase or easement or changes in cattle operations from willing sellers of additional winter range for bison." Alternative Two falls short, however, in that lethal controls remain, including killing of expectant mothers.

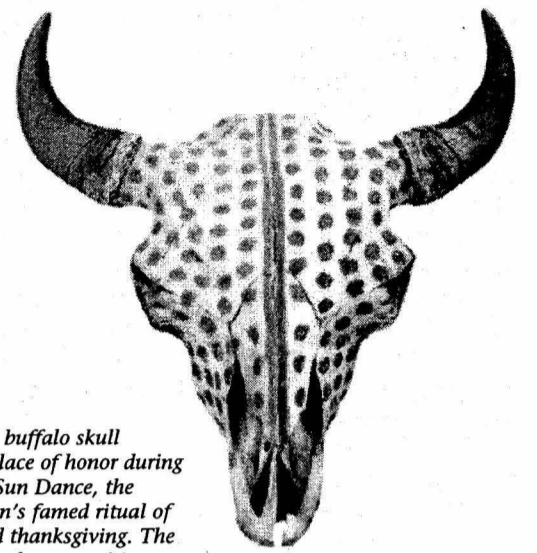
The distinction in the approaches is a significant point to buffalo activists like Rosalie Little Thunder, a Sicangu Lakota. Rosalie is an outspoken,

Rosalie adds, "If buffalo are going to be killed to allow cattle to graze on lands designated for wildlife, then we need to demand an EIS on the impact of cattle!"

front-line organizer on the buffalo issue. Buffalo Nations, a group she founded, has spent much of the past two winters with the buffalo at Yellowstone, serving as a human shield between the animals and the guns. Rosalie, a noted beadwork artist, Lakota language instructor and educator, is one of many committed to preserving the herd and all it represents to Lakota and other indigenous peoples of the Great Plains. Rosalie's position is that all the approaches mean buffalo will die needlessly. That in itself drives a larger set of cultural and spiritual concerns around which Rosalie works. Rosalie and others begin the debate by pointing out that much of this whole controversy is politically driven by economic and special interest factors which have little to do with the actual protection of animals, buffalo or any other.

One of the key political factors underlying the killing of buffalo at Yellowstone is the unfounded threat of brucellosis transmission. Brucellosis is a livestock disease that can cause abortion of calves and ungulate fever in humans who consume the meat. Some of the buffalo have it, and Montana's cattle ranchers do not want their cows to get it. Ironically, there has never been a single case of brucellosis transmission from buffalo to cattle in the wild. The disease is only transmitted through birth materials, so it is the calving period in which the alleged danger can occur. But at Glacier National Park, buffalo and cattle have grazed side by side for forty years, including calving seasons, with no cases of transmission between the animals ever reported.

Finally, there are economic underpinnings to the myth of brucellosis. Elk in Yellowstone, which are 25-30 times more populous than bison, also have the dreaded disease. Elk have possibly transmitted the disease to livestock in six cases, according to wildlife biologist Virginia Randavi. Although bison continue to be slaughtered, elk are ignored, perhaps because elk hunting earns the state of Montana \$11 million a year from licenses and permits alone. And in spite of the alleged threat to human health, the state of Montana sold the carcasses of bison killed in the winter of '96-'97 as "Property of the Department of Livestock," pocketing \$185,763 in proceeds.



The painted buffalo skull occupies a place of honor during the annual Sun Dance, the Plains nation's famed ritual of sacrifice and thanksgiving. The skull's eye and nose cavities were often stuffed with grass, as a symbolic offering to the buffalo.

Buffalo Nations representatives take the position that brucellosis in the Yellowstone herd has neither hurt the buffalo, nor had any economic or health impact on cattle. Rosalie Little Thunder remains steadfast in her position that there should be no killing. She calls for the expansion of grazing areas, holding cattlemen accountable to the law (by moving cattle off grazing allotments designated for wildlife) and as a last option instead of killing, live removal of mother-calf pairs to grassland areas and communities controlled by Native tribes.

"If they are going to kill buffalo based on the alleged threat of brucellosis, then the public deserves absolute proof that there is a threat," says Rosalie. "There is no proof because a risk assessment on brucellosis has never been done. At the least, the EIS should be based on a scientific mandate." She adds, "If buffalo are going to be killed to allow cattle to graze on lands designated for wildlife, then we need to demand an EIS on the impact of cattle!"

The ITBC, along with some 15 other organizations, has developed what is called the "Citizen's Plan" as an alternative to the proposals presented by the federal government. Elements of the Citizens Plan include establishing buffalo population goals "based on science, not politics;" actively acquiring key migration and additional range land; adjusting cattle grazing allotments adjacent to the park; vaccinating the cattle against brucellosis and vaccinating the buffalo when a safe and effective non-invasive vaccine is available. The ITBC plan also calls for a live removal option for buffalo using a health certification center or quarantine facility. The plan, supported by organizations like the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the National Wildlife Federation, is quite a bit more innovative and, many would argue, more viable in the long term than approaches outlined by the federal government.

Whether the short-sighted option of killing buffalo or the long-term viability of the herd and the ecosystem will win out in this battle depends to a great extent on the voice of Native peoples and the public at large in the process. The outcome will determine more than the fate of the buffalo. "As long as the buffalo live, we can also live," says Birgil Kills Strait, of the Pine Ridge Reservation. "The buffalo have the right to be here, they were here before we were, this is their land as well. Our lives as humans rely on the buffalo."

Please send your comments on the draft EIS to Sarah Branscom, National Park Service, POB 25287, Denver, CO 80225-9901. To help protect buffalo at Yellowstone National Park, contact Buffalo Nations at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758, (406) 646-0070.

[See announcements section for upcoming dates and locations of Public Hearings on the Yellowstone Bison Management EIS in San Francisco, CA; Austin, TX; Minneapolis, MN.]

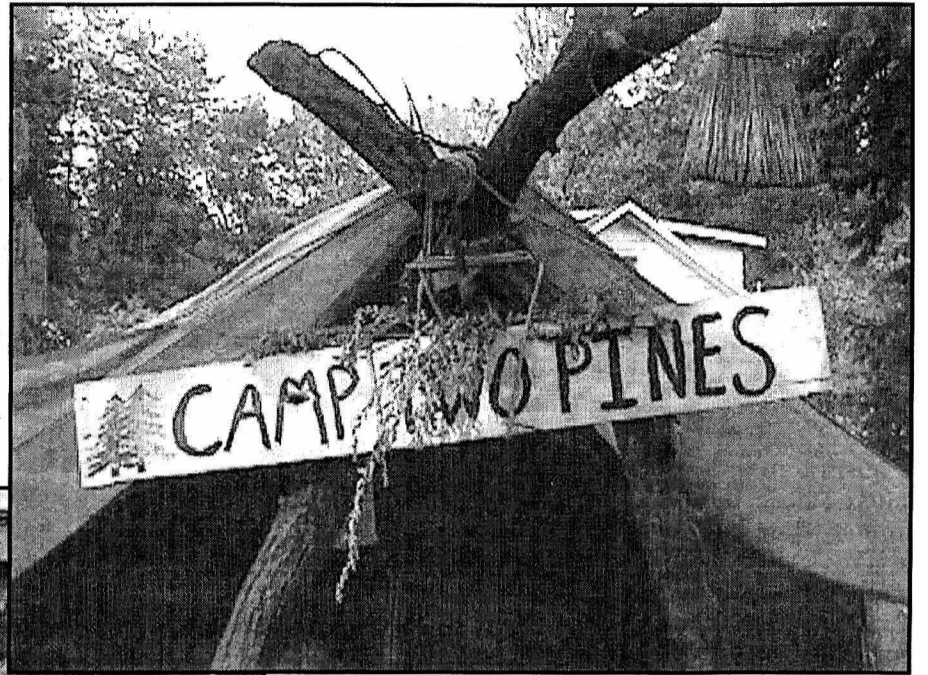
MINNEHAHA FREE STATE

TEXT BY BOB GREENBERG PHOTOS BY TOM TAYLOR

DECLARED

Even though the reroute of Highway 55 through Minnehaha Park has been opposed for 40 years, powerful interests managed to push the outlandish project through. The fact that the road breaks federal law by going through a unique urban wilderness on the Mississippi River flood plain is immaterial; the fact that an old-growth oak savanna would be plowed under caused no eye to blink. The displacement of 40-year residents was par for the course; the destruction of sacred sites meant nothing to the paper pushers in control. These facts, however, spurred the people to action. Affinity groups formed and traditional Earth First! activities such as earth-moving with human-powered tools (hole digging), concrete mixing, metal cutting and barricade building began under the cover of moonless nights.

After receiving information that the bulldozers were due to begin leveling homes the next day, we spent a sleepless night setting up various defensible positions. By the early morning of August 10, the occupation of the east side of the 5400 block of Riverview Road was in place. Using tripods and lock boxes, nonviolent direct action activists put their bodies on the line, placing themselves in positions that make it impossible for bulldozers to demolish the homes without seriously endangering their lives. These tactics have been successfully used on a large scale by anti-road groups in England. We are hoping they will be just as successful in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Three EF'ers barricaded themselves into one of the houses to prevent the MnDOT from having it demolished. They stay close to the window, the only link to fresh air and the outside world. Margaret wrote a commentary in the local paper with the chair of the Mendota Mdewakanton: "There are three strong women in here... People think we are so strong and so brave for doing this. It is not bravery. It is necessity. There is a spring here that the white people call Camp Coldwater. You can feel the holiness of that place. Camp Coldwater spring, water that has been flowing for centuries, is in danger. Water that comes down from the hill over limestone rocks — crystal-clear and cold."

Woods Earth First! on day two of the occupation. These aboriginal inhabitants have come to the Minnehaha Free State to lay claim to what is rightfully theirs and to help protect several sacred sites destined to be destroyed by the road. Driven from their own land and promised land they never got, these people have survived the onslaught of European domination and maintained their cultural traditions over the years. The Indigenous Environmental Network and Honor the Earth have also come out in support of the occupation. Members of the American Indian Movement have held drum ceremonies at the encampment in support of the preservation of the Dakota sacred sites. This alliance promises to be a formidable obstacle to the road builder's agenda.

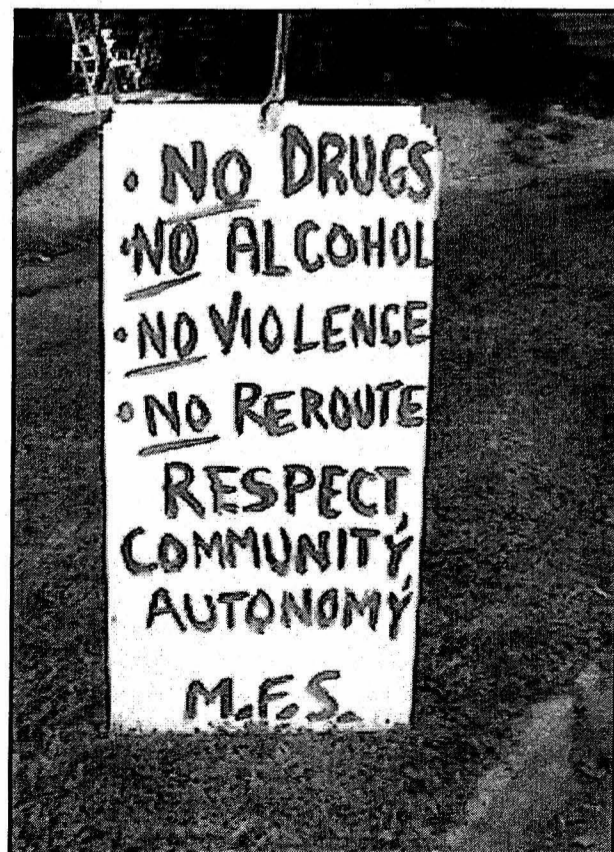
Several forces are actively conspiring to pave over this irreplaceable land. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has long thought of cars as the only acceptable mode of transport, fueling the spread of urban sprawl with an ever-expanding road system. The Metropolitan Airport Commission has been greedily expanding the airport just south of the reroute and pressure is being applied by the wage-labor slaves in the downtown corporate offices who want the three minute faster commute to the airport

The first weeks of the Minnehaha Free State have been full of victories. No bulldozers have been seen anywhere in the vicinity, and the demolition deadline came and went with not one house touched. The local community continues to be incredibly supportive, bringing food and other items to help the activists at the occupation. People are coming from all over to see what is going on, and the overwhelming sentiment is against the road. Even the corporate media seems positive. Local television stations have covered the occupation live several times, and the Minneapolis newspaper has run favorable articles describing neighborhood support for the occupation.

Members of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota community joined Big



Hundreds of people have visited the block-long occupation site, and many have stayed to create a large community. The camp includes a communications post, information table, security watches, kitchen, campfire, meeting place and supplies tent.



the new route would provide. And then there is the proposed light rail transit corridor, which, coincidentally (or not), is scheduled to use the same path—seen by many as a divide and conquer tactic on the part of city planners. Road building is big business. Large construction companies with clout at the state capital stand to make lots of money. These forces are not accustomed to being challenged and will not be stopped easily.

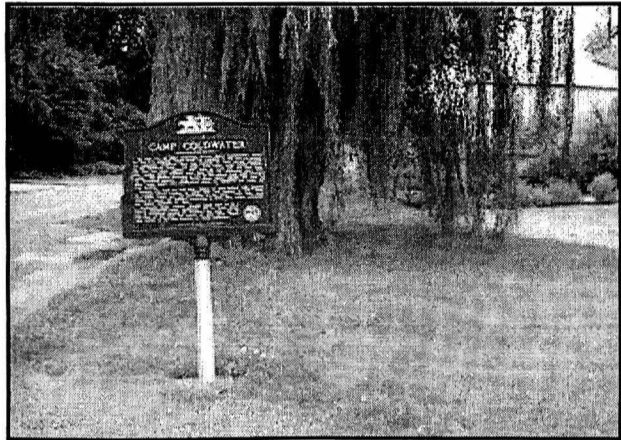
Every other method to halt the crazy plan has been tried, including collecting over 8,000 signatures, conducting tours of the threatened area, writing letters, calling officials, holding rallies, attending public meetings and suing in court. But it became clear that more serious action was neces-

MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI!

ON THE

sary when, with a lawsuit appeal pending, MnDoT arrogantly released its call for bids to demolish the perfectly livable homes in the path of the road.

MnDoT has been tightlipped and smug in its approach. The project coordinator said the houses would be down on schedule and any illegal occupants removed, a statement he had to eat as the deadline came and went. As time passed, it became clear their strategy would be to play a waiting game rather than risk confrontation, as even police driv-

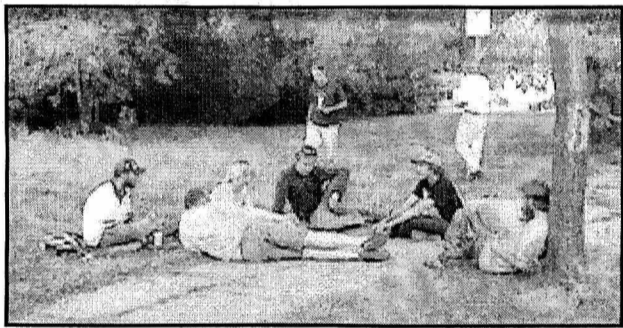


Site of Camp Coldwater, the first European settlement in Minnesota

ing by the site said they didn't want the road. Of course, MnDoT argues they went through all the public participation process needed to conclude that people want the road.

This statement may have been true 30 years ago, but sentiment has clearly changed. If only MnDoT realized it is never too late to change a bad plan.

The Minnehaha Free State has an around-the-clock watch, and many people from various backgrounds are working full-time to sustain the occupation. A governing system based on consensus has been set up. At our daily meetings we make sure concerns are addressed, ensure the smooth operation of the occupation and plot further strategy. A free kitchen is being operated by Food Not Bombs. Affinity groups have formed around different as-



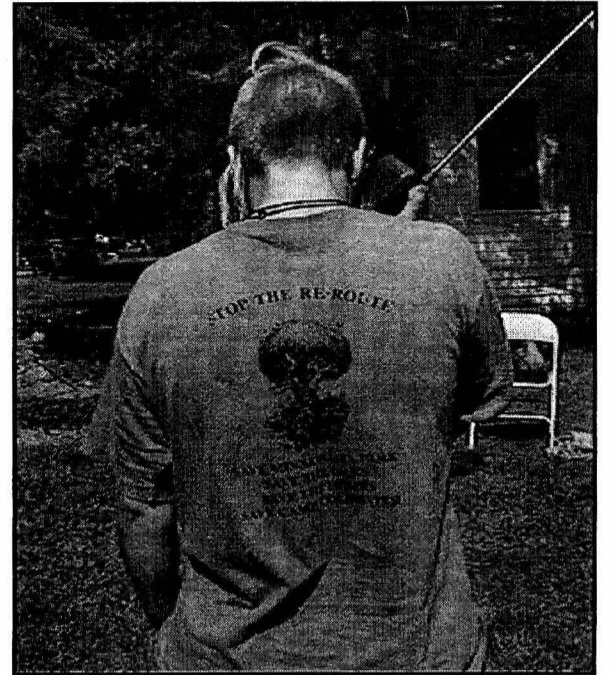
Informal strategy sessions happen all the time

pects of camp maintenance, and the feeling of empowerment is running high. Plans for a fall garden, pirate radio and a weekly zine are all in the works as the Minnehaha Free State creates a new autonomous community.

To many of us, this is not just about stopping one road, but about redefining the way people think about roads and transport in general. We desperately need to turn away from the car culture. Road building and urban sprawl are rapidly gobbling up precious wild lands. We need to fight back against the mentality of the road-building wackos who are ruining the planet. It is also about native sovereignty and returning the continent to a more balanced state. Earth First! has broadened its horizons in the past years and has



The Mendota Mdewankanton band of Dakota have set up tipis and sacred stakes at the site to let the state know that it is sacred ground. The Mendota are seeking federal recognition as a tribe, and the road would run through land that was sacred to them before Europeans set up shop here. "What they intend to do is cut the four ancient oak trees planted in the four directions. It is a dance circle and the road is going to go right over this spot," says tribe member Jim Anderson.

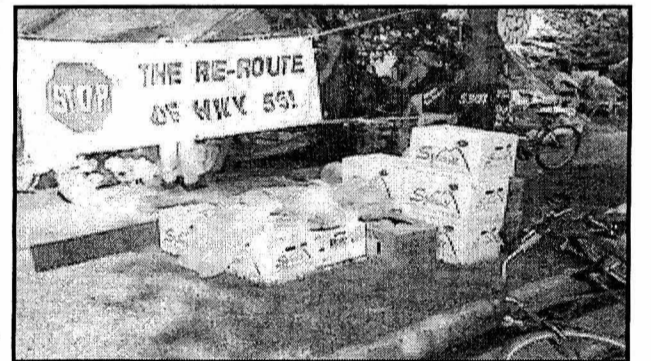


Big Woods Earth First! printed up 70 pounds of t-shirts and sold them on site. The shirts came from the bins of a local Goodwill warehouse.

built alliances with indigenous groups and others. This expansion is essential to increasing the struggle against the destruction of the Earth. This struggle will not be won in the courts, but through direct action efforts to change the way people think, empowering people to act against the destruction.

The Minnehaha Free State is an ongoing campaign. We intend to maintain the occupation until the reroute is canceled and the land claims of the Mendota Mdewankanton Dakota are recognized and upheld. It is hard work maintaining the occupation, but also fun and rewarding. We anticipate more groups will be joining the fight. Come get involved!

Contact us at Big Woods Earth First!, POB 580936,



Dozens of donated loaves of bread and cases of cantaloupes were delivered.

Minneapolis, MN 55458; (612) 362-3387; earthfirst@juno.com. If you can't join us, you can help by calling the MnDOT Commissioner James Denn at (651) 297-1467; US Representative Martin Sabo at (612) 664-8000; Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sales Belton at (612) 673-2100; MN Attorney General (also running for governor) Skip Humphrey at (612) 225-0726; US Senator Paul Wellstone at (612) 645-0323. Tell them to stop the reroute of Highway 55 and to support the Mendota land claim.



Susan Jasper, Green Party candidate for Lt. governor. Susan has been sleeping at the foot of Joe Hill's tripod.

THE FAILURE OF THE WARD VALLEY CAMPAIGN

BY PATRICK DIEHL

While the struggle to stop the Ward Valley radioactive waste dump near Needles, California, has had some success, the overall campaign must be called a failure, the predictable result of problems that are widespread in the movement. Those of us who believe in direct democracy, consensus process and nonviolent direct action, including myself, often fail to advocate effectively for our ideals when we are in coalition settings, especially multicultural ones. We are self-silencing; we fail to take active steps to inform coalition members and constituencies about our skills, and we are unwilling to challenge power holders.

One incident in particular brought our failures home to me. During the frantic days in February, just before the confrontation with the government over further site testing, members of tribes whose lands lie farther south down the Colorado River were arriving. Someone looked at the diverse, bustling crowd and asked, "Why are all these white people here?"

In October '95, the campaign focus shifted from the courts and legislature to local organizing, expansion of the coalition and preparations for nonviolent resistance. The first large-scale regional gathering was held in Ward Valley, and a protest camp was set up on site. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe then opened the Save Ward Valley office in Needles, and the campaign began to attract national media attention.

At the same time, an unequal contest began between those who sought to broaden the campaign's scope and those who sought to keep it narrow. The former included the author and his partner, Tori Woodard. Among the latter, the most influential figure was Bradley Angel, a Greenpeace toxics campaigner.

Those activists wanting to broaden the coalition's focus believe fundamental social transformation is needed if the present ecological crisis is to be surmounted. They wanted to educate constituencies about nonviolent direct action, consensus process and direct democracy; to connect the campaign to the larger issue of nuclearism on a national and planetary scale; to form alliances with other groups fighting similar radioactive waste dump proposals in Boyd County, Nebraska, and Sierra Blanca, Texas; and to unify with anti-nuclear coalitions like Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and Abolition 2000.

From 1997 on, those who wanted a narrow focus succeeded in limiting the campaign to the issue of stopping the nuclear dump from being built in Ward Valley. The public voice of the campaign became a Native American voice, emphasizing Native American rights and the issue of sacred land while basically ignoring larger anti-nuclear concerns.

However, the Ward Valley dump is of national and international importance. It is a key piece in the nuclear industry's struggle to stay alive, which is why so many activists from outside the local area wanted it on the national political agenda. Once constructed, it could become a national dump and contaminate the lower Colorado River, affecting the drinking water supply for 20-million people in Arizona, Southern California and Mexico.

Any strategy that only emphasizes the concerns of a single local group tends to preclude alliances with groups outside the immediately effected area.

One that emphasizes local victories tends to push aside longer-range concerns. Similarly, a strategy that gives the lead to one part of a coalition disempowers the rest of it.

In '95, the Ward Valley coalition was loose-knit, dominated by a small "in" group of individuals, with a half-hearted ramshackle excuse for a consensus process. But it was still a coalition of sorts. By '98, it had become a solidarity group. Decision making was handed over to the lower Colorado River tribes and to men like Steve Lopez and David Harper who acted on the tribes' behalf. This led to capricious, contradictory, unexplained decisions and heavy-handed, coercive behavior by Native Americans toward non-native activists. Believing that people should have the right to participate in decisions that affect them, especially during nonviolent direct actions, this author formally resigned from the coalition.

Self-scrutiny is the most proactive way to analyze the mistakes made in left-wing coalitions. White, social-change activists in multicultural campaigns are often subject to an especially crippling reflex: self-silencing. They feel obligated to constantly woo non-white groups in the coalition, staying on their best behavior and always aiming to please. They play the part of the traditional wife whose duty it is to provide support and sympathy and take care of

This relationship between coalition members is a transparent inversion of mainstream American society where people of color are expected to court the good will of whites and accept their foibles with a smile. In either form, such a relationship is false and regressive. Its dishonesty blocks communication. Once caught in it, people keep their true thoughts to themselves or confide in trusted friends. Behavior that harms the campaign goes unchecked. Individuals do not hear how negatively they are affecting the coalition, and the abilities of many activists are underutilized or not used at all. Resentment and frustration on the one side and runaway egos on the other are the natural result.

In the Ward Valley campaign, social-change activists assumed tribal members would learn of their political and social vision simply through working together. Relationships did form, but the crucial larger meeting of minds did not occur. Only a few tribal members were directly involved in the ongoing work. Non-native activists had little or no contact with most people in the tribes. Even if they had tried hard to explain themselves to tribal activists, their words would not have had a wide hearing, or would have spread beyond activist circles in a heavily filtered and mediated form.

Activists in the core group of the Ward Valley coalition did not form a caucus with other activists in the campaign to press for their political and social ideals. As a result, there was no base for doing "in-reach" and education about social-change issues. The agenda remained narrowly focused on stopping the dump. After the Needles office opened, activists could have

"White social change activists in multicultural campaigns are often subject to an especially crippling reflex: self-silencing. They feel obligated to constantly woo non-white groups in the coalition, staying on their best behavior and always aiming to please."

the housekeeping. This double role is seldom discussed or questioned. Instead, people grumble about its consequences—particularly about having to accept behavior they would not tolerate if it occurred within their own groups.

educated supporters through the existing Fort Mojave Indian Tribe newsletter or the local newspaper (whose editor strongly supports the campaign).

continued on next page



NOT SOCIAL CHANGE IT IS A HOLY WAR!

BY DAVID HARPER

I would like to respond to Mr. Patrick Diehl's opinion regarding the Ward Valley campaign. I am the traditional spokesman for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Mojave Elders. I was involved in the occupation of Ward Valley along with the Mojave Elders and fellow tribal members. I do recall seeing Patrick Diehl involved in the Ward Valley campaign and recognize his involvement with other environmentalists who came to Ward Valley. I was able to see Mr. Diehl in several tribal meetings with his companion, Tori Woodard. Mr. Diehl, in fact, was asked for his opinion at several meetings. He was given opportunity for involvement in Ward Valley, much more so than his fellow environmentalists.

Who failed regarding the Tribe's involvement? The Tribes were much more informed than Mr. Diehl could imagine. Relatives from the five Tribes sent supplies, finances and prayers to those at Ward Valley. Each day, fellow tribal members kept abreast of the situation by radio as they worked. Each day tribal members stepped up to meet the challenges of the occupation.

The Tribes have always been responsible for the education of their people. I recall a meeting of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe where Mr. Diehl could not understand that the Tribes were responsible for their tribal member's actions in a way not covered by simply taking nonviolence action training. We

were not ignorant of the action, nor were we ignorant to the federal government ramifications of the occupation.

our struggles is our spirituality. Mr. Diehl and other environmentalists may never understand our way of life

"We cannot and will not ever compromise our traditional or religious culture for a social-change philosophy."

As Mr. Diehl writes, he is in the process of moving to Utah to take on another cause. We, however, continue to protect our aboriginal lands and fight the proposed radioactive waste site at Ward Valley. We cannot turn our backs on this land to seek out other popular causes, nor can we simply get up and move away.

Lastly, I can confidently and justly state that the Ward Valley occupation was based on our spirituality and religion; it was a "holy war." We are not activists or environmentalists. We are traditionalists who believe the most powerful tool we have to assist us in

or the belief of our people. We cannot and will not ever compromise our traditional or religious culture for a social-change philosophy. If people such as Mr. Diehl seek such change, a direct loss of our culture will occur, just as boarding schools, religions and government exterminations attempted to do years ago.

In closing, I repeat the words of the Elders when they say, "We do this for all of mankind, especially the children. Our children have every right to live a life as long as we have and to experience the joy of laughter, love and innocence..."



FAILURE, CONTINUED...

No one even considered approaching these publications, and there was no support for dealing with social-change issues in the "Save Ward Valley" newsletter when it finally appeared in January '97.

Activists in the Ward Valley coalition failed to open up the "in" group that ran the campaign and establish a clear, agreed-upon process for decision-making. The status quo allowed them to fend off ideas they did not like and keep the power they already had. The general meetings at the large gatherings in '95-'97 had little impact on this situation. Instead, the coalition metamorphosed gradually into the solidarity group it now is, which probably suited the agendas of most of the "in" group members. Whether or not it suited the hundreds of supporters who came to the gatherings and sent in donations, who knows? They were never asked.

How could this outcome have been avoided? Or, to put things more positively, how can direct-action, consensus-process, social-change activists ensure their views get a fair hearing in coalitions in which they participate? For one, social-change activists must organize themselves and demand a voice in coalitions. Group action is essential. Printed materials that explain their ideals and relate the specific issues of the campaign to their larger vision of social change should be distributed. Activists must speak up for their beliefs at meetings and in the daily work of their coalitions. They do not need to apologize for themselves or their ideals. What they represent is not simply an example of "white-male-Anglo cultural imperialism." Consensus process has ancient roots. It was profoundly affected by the feminist movement, which we should honor and defend.

Nonviolent direct action is similarly ancient and has been used in movements guided by Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and other non-white human beings of courage and genius.

Activists are often deterred by attacks from power holders and misled by the smoke screens used to disguise the motives for their hostility. Activists must be patient, non-violent in word as well as deed and persistent. Ongoing outreach among the supporters of the coalitions, using talks, workshops and slide shows about past campaigns and nonviolent direct actions is important. They must not be swallowed up with just keeping the coalition going. Above all, they must realize that nonviolence training at the eleventh hour, right before the crucial action, will not make up for the lack of previous sustained outreach. Yes, they can hold training at that point, but, if the Ward Valley campaign is any example, will their non-white allies attend?

Even if the consensus approach is ignored during coalition decision-making, social-change activists must insist their own group(s) observe the process. That means rotating spokespeople who will return to discuss any changes to existing consensus with their group. This practice avoids aiding and abetting "in" group formation or perpetuation and may even inspire other groups in the coalition with a model of direct democracy. In fact, it is very likely other groups have never given process issues any real thought and will instead be making do with the "white man's ways."

All this is asking a lot of ourselves. But the alternative for nonviolent direct-action people who believe in the need for social change is to be ignored by coalitions until the crisis comes, get called in like the fire brigade, then thanked and sent away until the next crisis. Change must begin with us, and I believe we are capable of making it happen.

Frontlines

Tree Slugs Slime Scum

The North East Forest Practices Campaign continued its pressure on Lincoln Pulp & Paper (LP&P) on June 15, this time at its corporate headquarters in Amherst, Massachusetts. LP&P's parent company, Eastern Paper, is run by Amherst resident Joe Torres. He and office employees were not able to go to work after adhesive "tree slugs" mysteriously jammed the office doors shut. While demonstrators picketed outside, a locksmith managed to get one door open, and Mr. Torres invited the slugs and picketers in for a chat.

Only two representatives went in to hear the CEO's pleas of environmental contrition and promises. The slugs replied simply, "The proof is in the pudding," referring to LP&P's 40 waste water violations under Maine law in the last seven years. The company is responsible for continually dumping dioxin and other poisons into the Penobscot River, adjacent to its Maine mill.

Raging Granny Storms Mine Down Under

A pre-dawn candlelight vigil was held at the Jabiluka mineral lease on August 25 by women opposed to the Jabiluka uranium mine in Australia. Three women, including a great-grandmother spanning three generations, were arrested while supporting the Mirrar, the traditional inhabitants of the region. The area has been the site of mass demonstrations over the past few months which have resulted in hundreds of arrests.

The three women, Ms. Elvie Booth, 92, Ms. Rosalind Byass, 55, and Ms. Amanda Wilson, 38, were arrested for trespass when they walked onto the Jabiluka mineral lease. Ms. Elvie Booth, a great-grandmother from Melbourne said, "I'm here to bring messages of support to the Mirrar and to protest against uranium mining on their land. Uranium is a danger to both workers and the environment and is too often used in lethal weapons."



One Family's Stand

Gilbert Chingee, Winnie Jargodics and family have, on and off, single-handedly blockaded a logging road in a remote part of British Columbia since July 1.

The Colbourne Creek valley, which is the area being targeted, is in the Parsnip River drainage system about 140 miles north of Prince George. Home to the Tsek'ehne Nation, the traditional name of the McCleod Lake Band, the area hosts an abundance of wildlife including a large population of grizzly bears. The government has already allowed logging in 17 of the 18 valleys in the traditional homelands of the Tsek'ehne, who are currently settling under Treaty with the provincial government.

TALE OF THE TWO TAX TRAIL

BY SCOTT SILVER

In the early morning hours of July 26, working upon a vast snow field, two wilderness activists laid out the ropes and stakes that would guide them in their work. It required four heavily laden trips up Oregon's Mt. Bachelor to deliver the food coloring and water they'd need. By 10:30 a.m., with garden sprayers filled to capacity, they waited and watched the protest unfold.

Marching on the hot pavement, some 1500 feet below, were more than 50 Wild Wilderness protesters and their supporters, there to display opposition to the Forest

Service's Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. The protesters carried placards and waved banners bearing messages such as "USFS: Nature's Pimp"; "Hey Smokey, how much is the view worth?"; and "Wilderne\$\$ buy REI."

The protesters then put down their signs and gathered in front of two dozen chairs, each one bearing the name of one of the corporations responsible for bringing trail fees to public lands. The names included a litany of motorized recreational vehicle manufacturers like the Personal Watercraft Industry Association, the American Motorcyclists Association, Yamaha, Exxon and the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. It would have required an additional 100 chairs to seat all of the corporations behind this assault. Prominent in the front row were the names of the biggest cheeses, Walt Disney and the American Recreation Coalition.

I stood before the crowd and explained how each of these companies had direct financial interest in turning nature into a multitude of recreational products. I explained how Congress' never-ending budget cuts had left the Forest Service in a position of having to suck up to the recreation industry and accept their industrial strength demands.

When the wristwatch alarms on the ground and atop the mountain began to buzz, the protest effort joined in synchrony. From the ground, I began by quoting a front page headline from the *Oregonian*:



Photo by Scott Silver
Welcome to your Forest...we accept Visa.

"US Sees Dollar Signs in Outdoor Recreation." I continued to read, "(user) fees, coupled with new rules allowing the sale of public facilities to private enterprise and expanding opportunities for private business ventures have many wondering whether Smokey will become just another huckster, pushing profit over protection."

Then, to draw attention to the mountain, I turned and looked up to where my friends were busily working. I began explaining to fellow protesters that while it was impossible for anyone but a true huckster to sell raw nature, even a bureaucrat could sell a scenic view that had been skillfully converted into a product and aggressively marketed. Billed as wreckreation, edu-tainment and eco-tainment, I went on to say, nature would be the new products of the Forest Service. They could simply place a few interpretive signs before a scenic vista and create something worthy of charging admission. I then gestured dramatically behind me towards the Three Sisters mountains while simultaneously pointing to a sign that read: "Pay-To-View, \$5/peak."

Everyone began to marvel at the creation that began appearing on the side of Mt. Bachelor. Towering above the protesters, amongst the ski runs and chair lifts, was a 300 foot tall, bold green dollar sign contrasted against the snowy white background. As we stood and watched the final touches being added, most of us wondered if this was what Smokey sees when he looks at our nation's wild places.



Photo by Gil Meleau-Hough
Welcoming Babbit in Tennessee

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS?

BY NORTHEASTERN EF!

The lead trial of defendants in the "Plymouth 25" case is scheduled to start October 19. The Plymouth 25 are Native Americans and their supporters arrested in Plymouth, Massachusetts, Thanksgiving day last year while marching peacefully to shatter the illusions of the dominant US society that continues to oppress indigenous people. United American Indians of New England (UAIN) has held this "Day of Mourning" ceremony and march every Thanksgiving since 1970. No one has ever been arrested.

The 25 arrestees were charged with unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct and various other offenses. Others were charged with assault and battery of a police officer. Coincidentally, those same people received visible wounds while being arrested. Besides being physically violent, the police also used OC gas (pepper spray) indiscriminately on arrestees and the crowd. Elders and an eight year-old boy in the march were also sprayed.

This first of five trials has been scheduled after the court split up the defendants on request of the prosecutor. Mark your calendar for the trial's opening day October 19 and especially for the 28th National Day of Mourning, November 26, in Plymouth. To help with defense funds make out checks/money orders to the ACLU/National Day of Mourning '97 Defense Fund mailed to UAIN POB 7501, Quincy, MA 02269; (781) 331-3690; uaine19@idt.net; http://www.idt.net/~uaine19.

MINING THE CROWN JEWEL OF TENNESSEE

BY WILL CUMBERLAND

It all started when Skyline Mining Company announced plans to strip mine for coal in Van Buren County, Tennessee within the Fall Creek Falls State Park watershed, the "crown jewel" of the state's park system. Citing how mining in the Sewanee coal vein has already produced some of the worst pollution the Cumberland Plateau has ever seen, SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains) held a petition drive to gather signatures from local citizens opposing the mine.

An existing mine has already impacted the basin surrounding Fall Creek Falls, confirming the state geologist's advance report suggesting mining in the area might pollute the aquifer. The runoff from the acidic soil polluted the water in the gorge, killing all forms of life and making the water undrinkable. "It was like some one had stabbed deep into the heart of the mountain and all the blood was just a pouring out," said a local resident, referring to the way the acidic coal runoff colors the water a "rusty" red. SOCM maintains the same thing will happen if Skyline mines in the Fall Creek Falls watershed now.

Acidic water flowing into the water table would be devastating to local wildlife and polluting the watershed means destroying the very thing that brings visitors to the Fall Creek Falls Park. The Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) Environmental Impact Study (EIS) finding of "no significant impact" is being challenged by SOCM and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. These groups have filed a Land Unsuitable for Mining Petition with the OSM. That report also makes the ridiculous suggestion to allow individual mines to conduct their own EIS, making it impossible to measure the impact of all the mines on the Fall Creek Falls watershed as a whole.

Five-hundred people attended the public comment meeting held to discuss the EIS this June in Crossville, TN. The majority expressed support for protecting Fall Creek Falls. A few miners and the company owner were there to support Skyline Mining. Judging by the size of the miners present, it was obvious they were there to intimidate. "To say I wasn't worried about getting hit would be lying," remarked John C. Johnson, Upper Tennessee EF!, after his rousing speech demanding "Georgia Pacific! Willamette Industries! Skyline Mining! Stop the rape of our mountains, forests and rivers! When you mess with my life support system, you mess with us all!" The shocked expressions on the face of the miners and the applause of the crowd spoke of how deep John's message hit.

Cumberland community resident Jamie Baulker also moved the crowd when she held up a jar containing a sample of the acid-mine water that runs through her property. It looked like darkly-colored orange juice. Baulker and her partner received death threats when they spoke out about the mine's impacts a few years ago. But the campaign of fear designed to silence the couple has failed with the community listening to their descriptions of the mining industry's abuse of the Appalachian Mountains. Many other local residents who support the goals of SOCM have also been harassed by unknown sources. Some have lost their jobs, been physically threatened and a few have had shots fired near their house. But that night at the meeting, those forces trying to silence the people of the Cumberland Plateau got exactly what they didn't want, a united community. For more information please contact SOCM: attn. Gil Meleau-Hough, POB 479, Lake City, TN 37769; (423) 426-9455.

TRUMPED IN NY

BY WATER FIRST!

A few years ago, Donald Trump purchased 200 acres in Westchester County, New York, from Yale University and Rockefeller University. Now he wants to turn the estate into his very own exclusive golf course and residential development with an annual membership fee of only \$250,000. Seven Springs, the estate, is located amongst three towns and is perched above the Byram reservoir, which means that whatever Trump does to the estate will pollute the water. Of course, Trump couldn't care who or what he dumps on as long as it doesn't affect him. He has a proven track record of perching his rump above innocent people.

He has destroyed a homeless "village" in New York to make way for another one of his building erections. Incidentally, in a television interview, Trump confirms that buildings rarely let him down.

In his latest book, he admits to regularly using revenge as a business technique when someone does him wrong. Isn't revenge immoral and illegal?

In order to make a parking space for his limousines, Trump tried to get Atlantic City, New Jersey, to condemn a family restaurant on the grounds of "public good." Decency prevailed in court, causing Donald to suffer from constipation and reverse peristalsis: He failed in his attempt to perch and eliminate and ended up getting a taste of his own shit.

Now he is trying to relieve himself by getting permission to place his golf course over Bryam reservoir. After obtaining approval, he would feed the fairways of his course a laxative of fertilizer, pesticides and weed killer to boast that, of all the top courses, he's got the most effluent one.

If you would like to guarantee that Donald Trump's gluttony, gastrointestinal disease and search for a toilet doesn't result in him squatting above Bryam reservoir, or if you are concerned about the social inequalities of this issue, write or call the Water Department at 104 Main Street, Mt. Kisco, New York 10549; (914) 666-6210 or contact Fredrick P. Clark Associates, Inc. (planning consultants) at 360 Theodore Fremd Ave., New York 10580; (914) 967-6540.

RED CLOUD THUNDER AT FALL CREEK

BY WARCRY

For the first time in North America, tunnels are being used in a direct action campaign. The tunnels sit six feet underground at Fall Creek, a pocket of old-growth forest in Oregon's Cascadian wilderness. This subterranean lockdown is our latest strategy, but it has a long history as a tool of resistance. Underground was the only place where the Vietnamese found protection from the strafings of American B-52 bombers. The Viet Cong lived and maintained their base camps inside tunnels. They had live music and even performed surgery in them as wartime conditions necessitated. English and Australian forest activists finally caught onto the usefulness of tunnels in their nonviolent struggles.

I've been living here in a 500-year-old Douglas fir for almost three weeks now. I'm 200-feet up in the exquisite and breezy upper canopy where stars shine like the heavens at night and breezes rock me gently all day. Red Cloud Thunder is the name of the seven month-old forest defense campaign at Fall Creek. It's named after the warrior chief of the Oglala Dakota Sioux who repeatedly expelled the US Cavalry from his homelands. Red Cloud did not recognize the authority of the government. Broken treaties and government lies were familiar. Western expansion was responsible for the massacre of his

people and the destruction of the wildlands and game that the tribes were dependent on for survival.

Today, only islands of old-growth habitat remain in the area surrounding Fall Creek. We are fighting for these remaining patches of low-elevation old growth. The driving force behind our insurrection is fighting to keep Cascadia alive and to hold it as a place of resis-



tance against the insanity of the Forest Service and industrial forestry. "They should be called the timber baron service," states an activist, known as Pacific Ocean. "I'm sick of Orwellian government double speak. If you want to serve the forest, leave it alone! You cannot put yourself above God and try to do better than nature by trying to manage nature." Pacific Ocean sat in an ancient Douglas fir affectionately

named Fanghorn during a particularly intense siege where he realized it did not want him to be angry with the feds. "The tree wanted me to project love not anger—kind of like Gandhi but... with a mohawk," he says with a laugh.

My personal experience in Fanghorn is that the coursing energy of the wise, old tree seemingly infuses and amplifies what its inhabitants already feel. It was like sticking your finger in a light socket. "Bring it on! We are ready to rock!" I roared at the tiny little feds 200-feet below who glared in frustration at the distant bodies raging in a tree far above them.

"You defend profit and wealth! We defend this land from your devastation!" growls a young woman named Spiral. "You will never win! You are a small man with a gun who has no authority over me!" declares a young man named Free who could never be anything but.

Red Cloud Thunder indeed. His warriors fought like hell and maintained a no compromise position just as we do at Fall Creek.

When the feds come in to remove us, we tell them to get the fuck out of the forest. How fucking dare they try to take away our collective refuge and treasure!

The feds came in early one morning and we managed to keep them at bay all day. The evening sky turned orange-red. The thunder growled in the distance. These showdowns with federal agents inspire an astonishing

confidence in us. The feds retreated after failing to get us down from our road blockade. They could not get to the trees either. It feels good not to be afraid. Warrior comrades made of anarchy and fearless beauty stood together, flames leaping from our eyes. We were not made for the slave chains of capitalist servitude any more than a huge old tree was made for a saw mill. We are as innocent and alive as the forest creatures we protect. We take our authority from the trees not the government.

The Earth does wonders for one's self esteem. Instead of feeling like an insignificant parasite in a celluloid garbage culture, we begin to see our arms and legs as roots and branches and our bodies as water, blood, life and air. We begin to see how we emerged from the elements that surround us and realize that to the Earth we will return. I'm staying up here in the canopy as the love blows warmly through the trees. This forest is gentle and accommodates the blackened depths of our darkened dreams as well as the screaming heights of our joy and hope. Being cradled in this wilderness, amongst these brave wild people, we can begin to believe that freedom is ours to claim. Freedom is not an abstract element. It is the burning in your gut, spilling out. The revolution is bubbling and erupting everywhere, spreading across this land from New York City on westward. Fall Creek is just one radiant and vivid example of it for this tree sitter.

For more information, contact the Cascadia Forest Defenders at POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 343-7305.

SALMON NOT SALVAGE IN FIRE COUNTRY

BY SPRING CHINOOK

I have three questions to ask. How many more litanies of destruction, tales of extirpation, looming chasms of extinction must we endure before we act effectively, decisively, with the energy and celebration of life to end this corporate societal madness once and for all? What could we be doing now with our lives to make our world more balanced and alive? How can we get beyond sale by sale, issue by issue triage and reach a critical mass that will bring real change?

For centuries beyond remembrance, the salmon have come. Traversing thousands of miles in numbers so great, the waters churned with their arduous effort. Returning to the pools, rivers and streams of their birth, they continued the cycles of life from generation to generation. Over the past century, their world has changed. Their existence is now imperiled. Yet how many descendants of the invaders of these lands really know what is at risk—what is being so irretrievably lost in the devastation?

On the steep slopes above the middle and north forks of the John Day River in Eastern Oregon, the illegal Summit and Big Tower timber sales are wreaking havoc. The John Day is the last remaining stronghold of wild salmon and steelhead in the lower 48. Stronghold, however, is a misnomer, as even here these imperiled fish populations have been in serious decline for decades. Yet, if any area has potential for recovery, it would be the *N'ChiW'na* (misnamed Columbia) River basin. It is one of the only undammed major rivers in the West.

In December 1997, two appeals killed the Summit timber sale. The timber harvest plan called for logging two roadless areas on steep, erosive slopes above the wild salmon, steelhead and bull trout runs of the middle fork of the John Day. But the appeal only delayed them. The Malheur National Forest planners rose with sawdust dreams anew and regurgitated a "lawsuit proof" (they think) version of the Summit sale. Their chosen alternative will allow the logging of 50 million board feet from a 6,500-acre parcel of forest, where a large, intense fire burned in 1996. Since the fire, the timber corporations have been clamoring for the chance to "mug the burn victim," and their chance, despite our efforts, has finally come.

D.R. Johnson, the timber corporation that "owns" the towns of John Day, Prairie City and Riddle, Oregon, purchased most of the Summit fire sales. A lawsuit was filed in federal court to stop these areas from being logged. However, after an August 20 hearing for a temporary injunction was lost, logging began. Surviving old growth and other large trees are being logged in a severely burned area where every tree is essential to wildlife. The other sale threatening salmon and wildlife is the Big Tower sale in the Umatilla National Forest which lies on steep slopes above the north fork of the John Day River. This sale, adjacent to the

North Fork Wilderness, would log 30 million board feet.

Both sales clearly violate numerous federal laws and seriously imperil salmon, bull trout and steelhead, as well as terrestrial species including wolverines, marten, bear, cougar, elk, and black-backed and pileated woodpeckers. Although motions for an emergency injunction and appeal have been filed in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, logging has begun in Big Tower. Both the Summit and Big Tower sales are clear lessons that laws are meaningless without enforcement.

Behind the public media charade of salmon protection, the real life situation is dire for the salmon and future generations of people. Governor Kitzhaber supports the logging, and Senator Wyden helped scuttle public appeal periods. Industry, government and logging alliances have worked

diligently and persistently to bring about the illegal logging of this last stronghold of salmon. The *Oregonian* and other corporate media have failed to convey these very real threats to the salmon's recovery and survival to the public's attention.

So where do we go from here? How do we manage the triage, stop these and so many other sales, and build a movement that can attack the root of their causes? We need your help. Most of the destruction is directed from urban centers such as Portland and Salem, OR; Washington, DC and the New York Stock Exchange. People in these and other urban areas must join together,

take dramatic action, raise their voices and lend their hands to the survival of the

salmon, steelhead, bull trout, wolverine and so many other wild ones. Remember the wild Earth First! tradition—empower yourselves and act!

On behalf of the John Day River and the future of the salmon in the Northwest, contact the following responsible officials and corporate profiteers. Mail dead fish to Senator Ron Wyden, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-3753 or contact Governor Kitzhaber at 254 State Capital Bldg., Salem, Oregon 97310; (503) 378-3111. Also talk with D.R. Johnson (541) 575-0282 (home phone) or Prairie Wood Products, (a D.R. Johnson company) POB 340, Prairie City, Oregon 97869; (541)820-3351.



PEHUENCHES REJECT RALCO DAM

ACCESS DENIED BY HUMAN CHAIN

BY ALETA BROWN

A David and Goliath struggle is playing out in the upper reaches of Chile's Biobío River, where a small but determined group of indigenous Pehuenche people are standing up to Empresa Nacional de Electricidad (ENDESA), a huge Chilean utility company. On July 30, over 100 Pehuenche protesters and their supporters attempted to block construction of the \$500 million Ralco dam by forming a human chain to stop work on the road to the dam site. The protest heated up when local police and a riot squad tried to disperse the crowd with tear gas. The protesters threw the canisters back at the police and four people were arrested. The protesters, including Cristian Opasso of the Grupo de Acción por el Biobío (GABB) and Augustin Correa, a Pehuenche activist, were charged with public disorder.

The unrest at the dam site forced ENDESA and government officials to agree to meet with people affected by the development. As a result, Planning Minister German Quintana ordered ENDESA to stop further work at the construction site until the dispute was resolved. CONADI, the governmental agency responsible for protecting Chile's indigenous population, had earlier petitioned ENDESA to suspend all work in the area, but the utility company refused and construction continued. In light of this, 30 Pehuenche protesters decided to continue to guard the bridge leading to the dam site.

According to Chile's 1993 Indigenous Law, ENDESA cannot begin construction without written consent from the 400 Pehuenche who would be resettled to fill the dam's 13 square-mile reservoir. The upper Biobío was formally declared an indigenous area in March 1997. The law states that indigenous land cannot be sold, only traded, and that the families involved must all agree to the move.

As with many development projects, the community is divided over the issue. There are those who support the project, believing it will improve their situation, while others remain steadfastly opposed. Nine families have said they will never trade their land for any price. Nicolasa Quintremán, whose family has owned and lived on the same land for 500 years says, "The only way I'll leave here is dead."

United Press International (UPI) reported on an internal memo by CONADI revealing that some of the families may have been coerced by ENDESA into signing the contracts. The UPI story alleges that ENDESA told the families that, because the company had already received all needed permits, they had no choice but to sign. A Pehuenche man who signed told CONADI representatives, "We don't have any alternative. They are going to flood our land and we are not fish."

On the eve of a critical CONADI vote concerning the Ralco dam, Chilean President Eduardo Frei fired Domingo Namuncura, the head of CONADI. The vote concerned the legality of land swap contracts which ENDESA had negotiated with the Pehuenche. Namuncura concluded that the contracts had been unfairly negotiated and that the land offered to the Pehuenche would not sustain their culture and lifestyle. His vote, when added to that of the eight indigenous people on the CONADI council, would have torpedoed the project.

In his resignation letter to President Frei, Namuncura wrote, "CONADI's review of the land swap contracts, in strict accordance with the Indigenous Law and our own regulations, found that the contracts could not be approved because they did not comply with a series of requirements regarding their conception and execution. The Indigenous Law demands respect for indigenous culture. Indigenous lands are to be protected so that they are used appropriately and so that ecological balances are maintained. There is no doubt that the Ralco dam project will have a tremendous impact on the indigenous people living there."

President Frei, a staunch supporter of the project and a hydraulic engineer, could not have expected the rally of support for the Pehuenches that followed. Marching from Santiago to Valparaiso, 70 Mapuches (Chile's largest indigenous group) insisted that the country's Human Rights Commission travel to the Upper Biobío and assess the situation. The Communist Party of Chile has also pledged its support.

Aside from displacing 600 people, the 570 megawatt Ralco dam and its reservoir will threaten at least 50 species of mammals and aquatic life dependent on the river; increase access to logging; subject 1,400 hectares of denuded reservoir banks to erosion and landslides; decrease downstream flow during low-water periods; and seriously impact downstream aquatic life and irrigation practices. Chances are, ENDESA won't give up the fight easily. The company and its shareholders have much to gain from this project. A representative of ENDESA told protesters, "We have until the year 2002 [the year the reservoir would fill] to solve the issue of the lands of the Pehuenche."

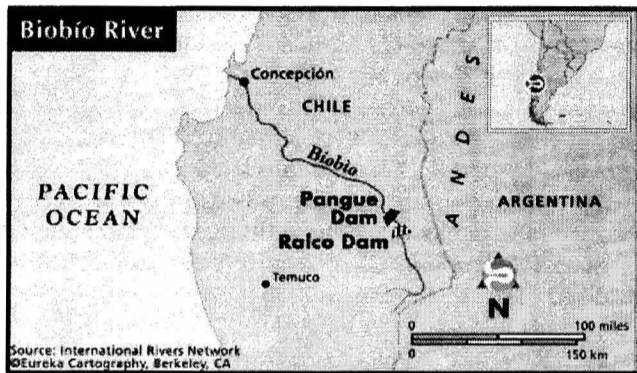
The Indigenous Law and the determination of some Pehuenches are not

ENDESA's only obstacles. A lawsuit against ENDESA has been filed at the Sixth Civil Court in Santiago. The plaintiffs claim the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Ralco dam project should be declared null and void because the procedure for implementing the EIA did not comply with established guidelines. The lawsuit against ENDESA is also supported by three members of the Parliament.

This is not the first struggle for land rights faced by the Pehuenche. The Pehuenches are descendants of the mounted warriors who held back Spanish conquest for 200 years. The river and the land are interwoven into their cultural beliefs. The Pehuenche read and understand the language of the river. The piñon pines and the valley have been at the core of their spiritual and physical home for centuries.

To address the issue, fax your letters of protest to Chilean President Eduardo Frei at +56-2-690-4020; fax to Empresa Nacional de Electricidad (ENDESA) at +56-2-635-4720. For more information, contact Aleta Brown at International Rivers Network, Berkeley, CA; (510) 848-1155; aleta@irn.org. Also contact Juan Pablo Orrego or Cristian Opasso, Grupo de Acción por el Biobío (GABB), Santiago, Chile; +56-2-737-1420; gabb@reuna.cl.

Aleta Brown works closely with the Biobío campaign through the International Rivers Network. Her article originally appeared in the August issue of World Rivers Review.



SLOWING KOLA'S EXPANSION

NEW RUSSIAN REACTORS TARGETED

BY VLADIMIR SLIVYAK

On July 19, more than 150 activists from Eastern and Western Europe established a camp near the Kola nuclear plant, one of the oldest and most dangerous in Russia, to prevent the construction of two new reactors. The Kola camp in Polyarnye Zory became the largest one ever for training direct action activists against the nuclear industry in the former Soviet Union. For the first time, experienced activists as well as beginners from Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Norway, Denmark and Sweden came together to exchange experiences and to hold a protest on the Kola peninsula, just above the polar circle.

This new generation of reactors at Kola will be partially loaded with MOX fuel, a weapons grade plutonium. Anti-nuclear activists are demanding the Russian Nuclear Ministry to abandon this experimental project because it may lead to new nuclear accidents, will create more nuclear waste, threaten nuclear non-proliferation treaties and increase the risk of nuclear terrorism. During the Cold War, the nuclear industry was a sacred cow producing plutonium and telling fairy tales about the cheap energy from nuclear plants. After Chernobyl, it finally became clear that nuclear power is not only dangerous, it's the most expensive source of energy man ever designed.

Kola has had problems in the past. In 1992, more than 500 square-meters of radioactive water escaped from the Kola plant, contaminating both the environment and workers. In February, 1993, the Kola plant nearly exploded. Strong winds destroyed power lines near the plant, and the plant's operator was unable to run the autonomous electricity system designed to keep the reactors working. The emergency shut down system failed. A plant worker later revealed, "We succeeded to shut [the] reactor down one second before the explosion." Soon after, the Kola nuclear plant was listed as the most dangerous in Russia in a '95 confidential report titled "Most Dangerous Reactors" compiled by the US Department of Energy.

On July 19, when busses of activists arrived at the camp, police and nuclear plant guards requested a meeting. The authorities informed the activists that anyone who trespassed would be killed. Just before the campers came, the number of anti-terrorist guards at the plant doubled. Military and police from the Kola peninsula's cities were brought in to "protect" the plant. Every day the local authorities and Kola representatives came to



Banner dropping at the dangerous plant

the camp to tell the activists their occupation posed a threat to the plant and told them to leave. The Federal Security Service (ex-KGB) sent in a special team to watch the camp organizers.

Although under heavy scrutiny, the camp organized direct actions to protest the construction of the second nuclear plant. Activists demanded that Russia's Ministry of Atomic Power shut down the old, dangerous and expensive Kola nuclear plant reactors, reject the plans for the construction of the new nuclear

continued on next page

BLOOD BATH IN THE NIGER DELTA

CHEVRON-BACKED MILITARY GUNS DOWN DEMONSTRATORS

BY IKE OKONTA

Although Chevron has been operating in Ilaje, Nigeria, since 1962, producing an estimated 276,000 barrels of oil each day, the people of the region have complained that all they have received in return for putting billions of dollars of oil revenue into the pockets of Chevron and the Nigerian government is a secondary school building, two jetties and a watering hole, which broke down soon after it was commissioned.

Ilajeland is an impoverished community in spite of its substantial oil wealth. The people lack such basic

necessities as piped water, electricity, hospitals and schools. Infant mortality in the area is one of the highest in Africa. The attempts by community leaders to draw the attention of the Nigerian government and Chevron officials to their plight has been met with indifference.

Poverty aside, the people of Ilajeland, whose main support is subsistence fishing, were worried that Chevron's oil exploration and production activities are taking a terrible toll on the environment on which they rely for survival. Olarenwaju Esan Malumi, the community's spokesman says, "Our fresh water was opened to the ocean by numerous canals dug by Chevron, and now there is no fresh water for us to drink. Gas flaring has left our economic trees leafless. Our occupation, which is fishing, has been disrupted by frequent oil spillage, and these coupled with Chevron's seismic activities, have depleted fish life in our waters."

In May after their efforts to get the ear of senior Chevron officials were

exhausted, Malumi and other Ilaje community leaders decided to make one last attempt to dialogue with the multinational. This time they sought intervention by using a military administrator who wrote and invited Chevron officials to a meeting with the community leaders. Chevron ignored the request. The community's

"...what we heard was gunshot and fire. In fact, they started shooting commando style at us even before they landed. They shot everywhere. Arulika and Jolly fell... White men flew the helicopters."

youths felt they had had enough. On May 25, 200 of them, drawn from all 42 communities in Ilajeland, embarked on a peaceful protest to occupy a Chevron oil platform in Parabe, not far from their community. Bola Oyinbo, 33, leader of the Ilaje youths, led the peaceful action.

A Chevron-backed naval officer directed Oyinbo to a man in charge of the multinational on the platform. Oyinbo politely told Mr. Davies that he wanted to speak with the managing director of Chevron, George Kirkland, to directly relay to him the grievances of his people. Not a single Chevron employee on the platform was interfered with, nor was work interrupted. All Oyinbo and his colleagues wanted was Chevron's CEO in front of them.

After a series of consultations between the two parties, Deji Haastrup, the company's community relations manager, arrived by helicopter on the following day to speak with the youths who were still occupying the platform. Oyinbo directed Haastrup

to Ikorigho, one of the Ilaje villages where community leaders were waiting. On May 27, Haastrup went to Ikorigho, and the leaders gave him a list of their demands. They wanted a restoration of their environment, which after three decades of oil exploitation had been devastated. They asked for the construction of an embankment

since the company's incessant canal construction had altered the hydrological balance of the area. They also asked for social amenities which they said were due after providing

Chevron with billions of dollars worth of oil. Finally, they demanded compensation for economic trees, land and fishing streams polluted by the company. During the meeting, Haastrup claimed he did not have the authority to enter into any agreement with community leaders and that he would return two days later after consulting with his superiors at Chevron's headquarters in Lagos, the country's capital.

Bola Oyinbo and the other youths who were still waiting at the Chevron oil platform in Parabe had high hopes when the news of the meeting between Haastrup and their leaders reached them in the evening of the 27th. But Haastrup and his superiors had altogether a different thing in mind.

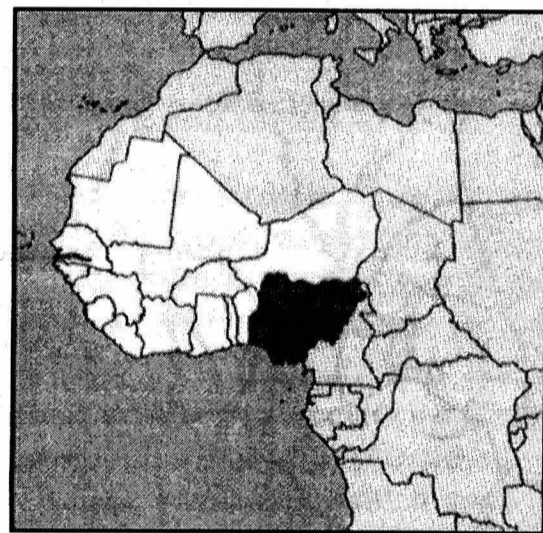
During the morning of May 28, the youths on the platform woke up to the deafening noise of helicopters overhead. Oyinbo described what later happened. "As the helicopters landed one after the other discharging soldiers, what we heard was gunshot and fire. In fact they started shooting commando style at us even before they landed. They shot everywhere. Arulika and Jolly fell. They died instantly. Larry who was near Jolly rushed to his aid, wanting to pick him up. He was also shot at. More soldiers came and more shooting followed. Some of my colleagues jumped overboard into the Atlantic. Others ran into the platform. There was pandemonium. They shot tear gas at us. White men flew the helicopters."

Shooting blanks and real bullets, the gunfire went on for over an hour. After the smoke cleared, the surviving Ilaje youths counted their dead and wounded. Arulika Irowainu and Jola Ogungbeje had been shot through the head. They died instantly and the soldiers grabbed the corpses and threw them into their helicopter in an attempt to conceal the evidence. At least 30 of the youths received gun shot wounds in the stomach, legs and arms. Several who plunged into the sea to get away from the bullets nearly drowned.

Bola Oyinbo and ten others were taken into custody because Chevron officials lodged a false charge claiming the protesters were pirates who

had taken over the oil platform by force. The youths were detained on a charge of piracy and kept in dehumanizing conditions in a military cell for 26 days. They were released on June 26, following pressure mounted by several human rights and environmental organizations in Nigeria.

Unfortunately, situations like these are often silenced. Chevron's public relations machinery in Nigeria is awesomely efficient. While Shell and Mobil take all the blame for environmental devastation in the Niger Delta, Chevron manages to project the image of a caring and environmentally responsible company. This is a result of an astute manipulation of the media and the construction of "environmentally friendly" edifices like the Nigerian Conservation Foundation Center in Lekki, a suburb of Lagos. But the reality in such devastated areas as Ilajeland is a far cry from the picturesque environmental paradise of Lekki. Bola Oyinbo who is still recuperating from wounds he sustained says, "Chevron has been waging a war on our land and forests and



water for several years. Go to Awoye community (a district of Ilajeland) and see what they have done. Everything is dead—mangroves, tropical forests, fish, fresh-water streams, even our wildlife."

The people of Ilaje, long suppressed and expropriated, have embarked on the path of peaceful protest and are demanding a new political and economic arrangement in Nigeria that will guarantee the sustainable development of their natural resources, the protection of their ecosystem and the empowerment of local people so that they will be able to shape their lives and determine their future.

Following the death of the military dictator General Sani Abacha in June 1998, there were hopes that his successor, General Abdulsalam Abubakar would adopt a more conciliatory approach and address the long standing social and environmental problems of the oil producing communities of the Niger Delta. This, however, has not happened. As the Parabe massacre has shown, the Nigerian military junta and the western oil companies are still in the business of killing the local people, stealing their oil and leaving environmental carnage in their wake.

Ike Okonta works with Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria.

TARGETING KOLA'S NEW REACTORS...

continued from previous page

reactors, and design and implement a regional program for the development of renewable energy sources.

During the early morning hours of July 29, groups of campers left using mountain roads in order to avoid detection by police. A few hours later, 30 activists met near the nuclear plant's administration building and hung a 150 foot-long banner stating "Nuclear Plant is Silent Death" from the roof of the building. Another group hung a smaller "Kola NPP-2 Shut Down" banner on doors of the same building to block its entrance.

Shortly after the action, the Kola nuclear plant press secretary physically attacked one of the activists. Anti-terrorist guards from the Kola plant arrived and promised all the activists would be beaten-up later in the camp. Such threats sounded more dangerous after activists got a copy of a letter sent to Rostov nuclear power plant by the Kola officials last year. In the letter, Kola expressed support of 500 nuclear workers, who violently attacked 13 environmentalists in the summer of 1997 at the Rostov action camp.

One result of this protest was that the State Committee on the Environment began developing a program in renewable energy on the Kola peninsula. A scientific report conducted by Russian and Norwegian researchers in 1997 concluded that, if only 10 percent of the available wind energy was harnessed on the Kola peninsula, it could replace nuclear power in the region.

Efforts are needed to force Kola nuclear plant to become a thing of the past that will not threaten the future generations anymore. Anti-nuclear campaigners are striving to reach this goal. If you want to support efforts towards a nuclear-free future or for more information contact ECODEFENSE! at POB 1477, 236000 Kaliningrad, Russia; 7-0112-437286 (ph./fax); ecodefense@ecodef.koenig.su or contact X-USSR Antinuclear Campaign of Socio-Ecological Union at POB 211, 121019 Moscow, Russia; ecodefense@glasnet.ru; <http://cci.glasnet.ru/antinuclear.html>.

Greens Invite EF!ers to the Party

1, 2, 3, 4...

"What do the people need government for!?"
5,6,7,8..."Let's work together to smash the state!"

Rallying cries like this often emanate from congregations of wilderness defenders disillusioned with the political process and fed up with reformist strategies.

No doubt there are innumerable reasons not to trust politicians in our society. But the reality is, until the revolution, political office holders in the US will continue to acquire (purchase) an institutionalized power and authority which allows them to make decisions that affect the entire planet. Someone is going to be the president, governor, mayor, etc.... whether we like it or not.

So what's an eco-anarchist to do?

BY TK & KB

A few of the over 100 Green Party candidates running in the '98 elections were asked to present their position. The following answers were received...

Editor's note: Publication of this article in no way constitutes a political endorsement by the EF! Journal—duh.

Dan Hamburg, Green Party candidate for governor of California.

Educator, graduate of Stanford and the California Institute for Integral Studies; represented California in US congress in early '90s; author of Headwaters Forest Act.

Do you believe in Earth first? Yes. We realize our own humanity in protecting Mother Earth.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? I'm fortunate to live on the North Coast [of California] where natural beauty still remains. However, our environment has been seriously compromised in the 150 years of the white man. Our air, our forests, our rivers are all threatened to varying degrees. We face mass species extinction. As governor, I would use all my powers to change the relationship between human beings and the natural environment of California. Our children to the seventh generation deserve no less.

Michael Donnelly, Green Party candidate for US Congress from Oregon.

Long-time political activist, radical environmentalist, plaintiff in the famous North Roaring Devil lawsuit, relentless Forest Service watchdog and wilderness advocate.

Do you believe in Earth first? Yes. And I believe in Earth First! As a philosophy, considering the Earth first when making decisions personal and political is just common sense. EF! has consistently provided good analysis of the problems of corporate control—of the Earth, of the political structure, of our very lives—and has been instrumental in bringing attention to the short-sighted greed behind the assaults on the wild life-support system.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? The quality of life is what I love most about my home bioregion. That translates into a life in tune with beautiful forested mountains with clear running rivers inhabited by abundant species, with a relatively unspoiled ocean coast. We're ruled by corporations. The political parties are owned by corporations and the people know it. Less than one out of six eligible voters bothered to vote in the last primary. Most people are busy trying to assure that the corporations harm them as little as possible. They have little time for politics as usual. The entire concept of the commons is lost. The Pacific Party provides a place for those folks to exercise their rights and have a voice.

Julie Jacobson, Green Party candidate for Hawaii County Council, District Six.

Teacher, counselor, nurse, supporter of legislation to end sonic testing by US Navy, forest defender and anti-development/anti-nuclear campaigner.

Do you believe in Earth first? Yes! There is no choice but to believe in our Mother Earth first. This is where I live and this is where I die.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? I live in the rainforest, off the grid and intend on preserving my native acreage whether I am elected or not. I guess I love the forest the most. I know many people feel the system we now have must crumble under the weight of its own evil. Sad to say, I fear if this outlook is allowed to rule, there will be very little left to save at the end of the day. I am running for office because I want to preserve what little we have left of our world for those who come after us. I plan on enacting legislation that would make it too costly to ruin pristine areas and would encourage the repair of lands that have suffered the depredations of profiteering developers.

Sondra Field-Grace, Green Party candidate for mayor, Kaua'i County, Hawaii.

Scholar of Native Hawai'ian culture and Native environmental activist.

Do you believe in Earth first? Very much so. Here in Hawai'i we call it aloha 'aina. It is a fundamental philosophy of our island people and stems from ancient Hawai'ian beliefs. In our creation chant, the Kumu Lipo, it is clear that the Earth comes first. We have a familial relationship with the Earth and a responsibility to care for one another.

What do you love the most about your bioregion and if elected, how would you protect that? Our Hawai'ian Islands and our people have a long history and philosophy of living as one with the Earth. Through colonialism and forced assimilation, we are becoming generic Americans. My goal is to reverse this trend and to restore the Hawai'ian foundation where we will become self-sufficient and self-sustaining and be as one again. Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much) for your hard work and dedication.

Ken Pentel, Green Party candidate for governor of Minnesota.

Former Greenpeace staffer, community organizer, Prairie Island Coalition member.

Do you believe in Earth first? I believe Earth first is the conscience of the nation and the planet. I believe nonviolent direct action is a vital strategy to challenge injustice. Many of the freedoms we have today are due to dissent. Earth First!'s education, mobilization, and action makes for a healthier planet and democracy.

What do you love the most about your bioregion, and if elected, how would you protect that? I live in one of the most ecologically vital regions on the continent. The Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the Hudson Bay basins all start in Minnesota. Our responsibility to the fresh water is critical. We have three nuclear reactors, many coal power plants, a huge oil refinery, big

Folks in the Green Party think they have something resembling a solution. Blair Bobier, Pacific Party candidate for governor in Oregon, expressed a common Green sentiment at a recent press conference, "I got tired of petitioning politicians to try to make them listen to our point of view and take actions that were in keeping with environmentalist's ideals, so I decided to try to take the reigns myself."

The Bobier campaign arranged for Lighthawk, a pilots association dedicated to wilderness preservation, to take media on flyovers of federally managed lands in Oregon. As we flew, Margaret our pilot explained the facts of forest ecology and the disastrous effects that the current administration's resource extraction policies are having on the land between the Coast Range and the Pacific ocean, her bioregion.

Bobier and his supporters are obviously committed to protecting Oregon's wilderness and honestly believe if the six Pacific Party candidates running for office in the state are elected, it would help.

But can the state really be used to promote the ideals of Earth first?

While the Greens' Ten Key Values do offer inspiring and idealistic words to live by, politics as usual necessarily means compromise and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So why get involved at all? You be the judge.

feedlots, massive amounts of fertilizers, persistent toxic pollutants, and levies, all choking and contaminating the Mississippi River alone. I am running to protect the fresh water as one of many campaign goals.

THE GREENS' TEN KEY VALUES

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY
2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM
4. NON-VIOLENCE
5. DECENTRALIZATION
6. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
7. FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY
8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY
9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY
10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY.

FROM THE GREEN PLATFORM HOMEPAGE

'98 ELECTIONS GREEN PARTY FACTS

- Green Party candidates are on the ballot in 22 states: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

- California has the most Green Party candidates (24); New York has (16); New Mexico (14); Wyoming (8); Hawaii and Oregon (6); New Jersey (5); Maine, Alaska and Georgia (4). The rest have 3 or fewer candidates.

- Of the 110 Green Party candidates for political office, 76 are male and 34 are female.

- There are Green Party candidates running for governor in Alaska, California, Maine, Minnesota, New York and Oregon.

- * The Green Party candidate for governor of New York is former actor Al Lewis, aka, "Grandpa Munster" (seriously) who received a Ph.D. in Child Psychology from Columbia University in 1941. Grandpa insists he has been politically active for nearly all of his 88 years and that he was just acting batty. His campaign did not respond to requests for an interview and a cool picture of him in his vampire costume for this story.

- Offshoots of the Green Party include the Pacific Party, the Green-Labor Party and the Green Choice Party, to name a few.

(Source: Feinstein and Krompak's Green Parties of North America homepage)



CALIFORNIA FUNDS HEADWATERS DEAL

BY HUGH MOROSE

In the waning moments of this year's legislative session, California lawmakers approved funding for the Clinton/Feinstein/Hurwitz deal to purchase part of Headwaters forest.

Grassroots environmentalists did their best to kill funding for the deal, which puts thousands of acres of ancient forest on the chopping block and could place California's vanishing salmon in even greater peril. However, ten hours of furious negotiations between lawmakers, the governor and Maxxam produced a bill that sailed through the Senate and passed the Assembly by the narrowest possible margin. When the dust settled, it became clear that deal-cutting Democrats and the mainstream enviros who

gave them green cover had been rolled once again by the Maxxam machine.

Legislators initially sought improvements to Maxxam/Pacific Lumber's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as a condition for appropriating the state's \$130 million share of the Headwaters deal. In a tremendously blatant display of the influence of cold cash over the legislative process, they instead settled for throwing even more cash at Charles Hurwitz.

The final legislation appropriated an additional \$100 million for acquisition of two more ancient redwood groves, including Owl Creek Grove, which could have been sacrificed under the HCP. However, the Legislature offered to pay Hurwitz the value of the grove as if all of the trees could be logged, which would be illegal under

current law. This represents a frightening capitulation to wise-use "takings" threats that could haunt the preservation movement for years to come. Legislators also settled for very minor changes to the HCP and then allowed the Wilson administration to insert language that could render even these little adjustments—and quite possibly the entire HCP—unenforceable.

Ultimately, the bill passed because a few Democrats and their staffers just couldn't resist being part of the "Last Big Redwood Deal," no matter how slimy or sloppy it turned out to be. The grassroots movement that brought this issue to national attention, however, knows that the controversy is not over. We'll continue to fight for the recovery of the redwood ecosystem and its threatened creatures.

PEPPER SPRAY JURY HUNG

BY DIXIE CUP AND Q-TIP

The nine Headwaters forest activists who were pepper sprayed last year while engaged in nonviolent direct actions have had their day in court. After two weeks of trial and five hours of deliberation, the San Francisco jury announced on August 25 that it was hopelessly deadlocked. Four jurors were in favor of the pepper-sprayed plaintiffs; four were in support of the defendants, the Humboldt County Sheriff and the Eureka Police Department. Federal District Judge Vaughn Walker dismissed the jury of eight and declared a mistrial, setting a new trial date for November 16.

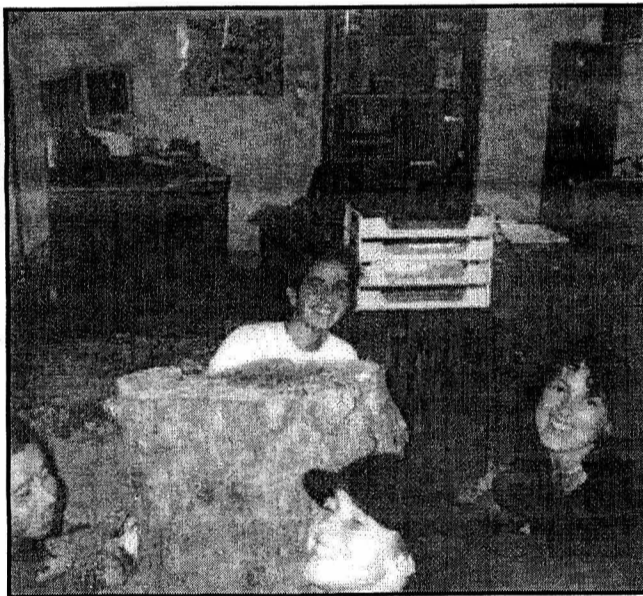
Testimony during the trial underscored how significant this case is. Ollie Sansen, a police trainer in Contra Costa, California, testified about a new report from Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) that outlines ways of dealing with "active resisters." In a chillingly Orwellian manipulation of language, a glossary of terms in the report defines passive resistance as an oxymoron. The report goes on to suggest ways of directly applying chemical agents to "active resisters," those who go limp, lock down, etc... On Sansen's cross examination, it came out that two Eureka Police Department members were on the committee that drafted the report a couple of weeks after the occupation of congressman Riggs' Eureka office and directly after the civil rights suit was filed.

This unprecedented application of pepper spray, with doused Q-tips, forced into the eyes of the activists, was the result of a policy implemented by Humboldt County Sheriffs in the Fall of '97. Purportedly, the legality of this policy was researched by Chief Deputy Gary Philp, yet Philp couldn't explain why he or Sheriff Lewis did not document any of this research.

Philp testified that he, at Sheriff Lewis' request, consulted the county district attorney, the county counsel and the county risk manager. Philp said these conversations supported pepper spray being swabbed into the corners of the eyes. However, risk manager Kim Kerr testified that she was told by Philp the policy would only involve a swab on the cheek. Additionally, the policy he discussed never included repeated swabbing to the eyelids, or a direct spray at point-blank range, as shown in the police videos.

The plaintiffs admitted into evidence a still photograph from the video taken of the protest at Congressman Riggs' Eureka office. In the photograph one sees that, contrary to deputies' claims that no one's eyes were opened, the protester's eyeball is exposed to the Q-tip soaked in pepper spray. Deputy Kirkpatrick, the officer who sprayed and swabbed the activists in all three incidents, claimed that the still photo depicted not a pupil, but the shadow of the Q-tip. He attempted to explain away the white of the eye as "glare." The tape also shows multiple swipes on each eye with the swab. Kirkpatrick claimed here that he held the Q-tip stationary while the protester moved her head.

After being dismissed, the jurors conversed with both parties of the suit as well as with the media about points of the case. Jury fore person Pat Schimke spoke in favor of the plaintiffs and said she felt the use of the



Locked down with the stump in place and sawdust everywhere; little did these courageous women know what would befall them in Rep. Frank Riggs' headquarters shortly after this photo was taken.

chemical on non-combative, nonviolent protesters was excessive. "The officers had other options. They could've ground them out, which they've been doing for years in Humboldt County without injuring anybody."

When pressed by reporters, Schimke revealed that at the center of the deadlock was one juror in particular who "wouldn't have changed his mind if a bomb went off in his lap." He also stated that if the protesters trespassed on his property, he would have gotten his gun.

Determined to protect the civil rights of future nonviolent protesters, plaintiff activists and their lawyers have vowed to continue the fight to the next trial. "This lawsuit is our chance to say to Humboldt County law enforcement and to law enforcement across the country, you cannot punish us for our beliefs, you cannot abuse our constitutional rights, you cannot torture us," said plaintiff Noel Tendick. "It is our chance to do our part to make sure this never happens again."

Frontlines

Hanging Out for Forests

On August 16, Rainforest Relief staged a demonstration on the Coney Island boardwalk by hanging a 125-foot-long banner from the former Parachute Jump site. They were protesting the use of tropical rainforest wood by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, which is responsible for maintaining the boardwalk. Ipe, the type of wood being used for the boardwalk, comes from the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. After five hours of demonstrating, five protesters were met by police climbers, taken down and later arrested on felony charges.

Stealing Home

The Stealing-Home Coalition launched a nationwide campaign on August 26 to bring Home Depot into compliance with its own environmental principles. Six activists locked themselves to shelving and doors made of old-growth rainforest woods with bicycle U-locks at the Rohnert Park, California, store. Others offered "rainforest tours," guiding customers to the old-growth rainforest products sold by the company, including mahogany ripped from the heart of the Brazilian Amazon; plywood and doors made from Indonesian lauan; old growth believed to come from Headwaters forest; and dowels and garden tools made of Borneo's endangered ramin.

"The Home Depot paints itself as being eco-friendly, but only the trees are falling for that," said David Wolfberg. The protest comes on the heels of months of corporate stonewalling and a violation of the Home Depot's commitment to discontinue selling old-growth redwood.

Jumpin' Jiminy Cricket

New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has seen many protests—but perhaps never one so large in number and so small in girth. On July 27, protesters released 10,000 crickets at police headquarters in lower Manhattan to protest the city's auction of several community garden lots and a building that houses a Hispanic cultural center on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The result was bedlam. "People were screaming and standing on chairs," said Elsa Rensaa, an artist who was there. "It was madness."

The crickets were the work of Lower East Side advocates calling themselves "Jiminy Cricket." Wendy Madison, a spokeswoman for the group said, "We wanted something more symbolic than a stink bomb."

Over-Reaction at Seabrook

Revolution and police brutality was not on most people's minds the evening of June 27 when 60 Nor'eastah EFlers, Forces of Nature and other activists marched to the Seabrook nuclear reactor in New Hampshire to commemorate the largest anti-nuclear rally in the US, which took place there 20 years ago. When the ladder-toting, fence-vaulting peace brigade arrived, the Seabrook police swung open the gates of the reactor and swept the crowd, indiscriminately arresting people. Two activists who sat down in front of a police van transporting 11 arrestees were brutally assaulted and pepper-sprayed. A third person was pulled from the shouting crowd, beaten to the ground and sprayed. Two people were briefly hospitalized. All 14 were issued citations and released.

I COULDN'T SEE BEING SILENCED...

EFIJ: How did you end up in prison Bob?

Bob: Well, back in 1996 I got involved in the civil disobedience campaign at Enola Hill, which is in the Mt. Hood National Forest. It's a sacred site to several Native American tribes. A vision quest site, a site where they gathered medicinal plants, held ceremony. I was arrested multiple times there. Apparently, the federal government decided that those of us that got arrested more than one time were somehow ring leaders or career troublemakers. Those were the words they used to describe me. They decided to bring charges against me in federal court. They were looking to hobble us for a bit of time with a year of probation and large fines... to drive a point home that would cause people to not do things like this anymore.

EFIJ: So, what happened?

considered radical. Leslie, with the *Earth First! Journal*. Mick for Cascadia Forest Defenders. They said that because I worked for Greenpeace, it was obvious that I was a radical and a career troublemaker. They also said in court that I was an admitted member of Earth First!

EFIJ: They offered you a deal in court, didn't they?

Bob: Yeah, basically I could've taken 200 hours of community service for the government, a \$1,000 fine and a year of probation. They wanted to stop me from doing direct action. Originally, they wanted me to be doing community service for the Forest Service. I couldn't agree to that. They wanted \$1,000 which is a huge amount of money for an activist, and I couldn't see giving money to the same people who had caused the destruction of Enola Hill. I

regardless of what prison you're in. I'm working on the prison farm. We grow corn and beans there.

EFIJ: Aren't you the lead chainsaw repairman?

Bob: Yeah, they had me working on chainsaws and heavy equipment when I first got here, but the last couple of months they've had me operating heavy equipment, planting the crops. They haven't had me back working on chainsaws in quite a while now. I sort of had the feeling that they read my sentencing report and found out what I was in for. Lately, they don't even ask me to go near the chainsaws.

EFIJ: Are you treated differently as a political prisoner?

Bob: Yes, definitely. My mail seems to be more closely monitored than other prisoners'. When I first came here, I was warned very specifically not to involve myself in any kind of activities that were stirring up problems, like encouraging people to strike, petition gathering, helping people with complaints with the administration. I was told should that happen, I would be very harshly punished and possibly have additional charges brought against me. On the reverse side, the inmates are treating me especially well.

There are a lot of people in prison who are known snitches. Coming in as a political prisoner sort of gives you a little bit different status of respect with people because they know you're not someone who sold out their crime partners to end up getting a better sentencing situation. So, I've been treated really well. The only thing significantly different is that whereas other people's mail comes within about a week of the postmark, mine takes about a month. I got a couple of pieces of mail where they'd circled numbers, key paragraphs, phrases or whatever.

EFIJ: Really?

Bob: I don't know what they're doin' with that, but I'm not too concerned. I've also had problems with my visitors. They won't let one of my personal friends who has a misdemeanor visit me... They aren't supposed to deny anyone from the visitors' list unless they have a felony. This person has a misdemeanor for being involved in a protest for Headwaters a few years back, and they've pretty much stopped me from having a visit from one of my best friends.

EFIJ: Do you have any suggestions for anyone facing jail time right now for their activism or any suggestions for ways to cope with being in jail?

Bob: Well, there is a good quote by Gandhi. It says, "Open wide the prison gates, you must enter just as a bride groom enters the bridal chambers. Peace, justice and freedom are to be won only inside prison walls, sometimes on gallows, never in council chambers, courts or in the school room." So, I hope that people act in the spirit of Gandhi, in the spirit of noncooperation. I hope people start to review paying their fines and accepting probation and start

flooding prisons. I think it is important that if we are to be a resistance movement that we resist.

I have to say that it's just not that bad. The time goes fairly quick. If you do it for the right reasons, you don't feel bad about yourself ever. I'd have felt really bad about myself if I'd been on probation. I didn't sell out at all. If there is something I can say to people, it's that there's nothing to be scared of in prison. On my way here, I went through four different institutions—two federal institutions which are much higher security level than the camp here... I was celled up with bank robbers and serious drug dealers, people like that. If you keep your head high and are a strong individual, nobody'll mess with you. People portray it as a lot worse than it really is. I've been in jail eight, nine times, and I've never really had a bad experience. It's all what you make of it. Take the time to read, meditate and study and you'll do just fine.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BOB LAWRENCE FROM PRISON

BY JOHN BOWLING

Those who know Bob Lawrence, know him for his tireless dedication to direct action. Since the late 80s, he has organized with Earth First!, Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network up and down the west coast. He has spent that time tackling factory trawling and log export ships, sticking up for endangered species, resisting nuclearism, defending Cascadia's wild forests, critically massing against car culture, monkeying around with greenwashers at Earth Day events and generally being just about as big a pain possible in the ass of corporate America and the Forest Service. Recently, Bob called me from

Lompoc Penitentiary and we shared this conversation on noncooperation and prison life.

I am happy to report that Bob was released on September, 4, after serving his six-month prison term. He is back on the frontlines now, more energized than ever to defend the Earth. While looking forward to shedding a few pounds giving the Freddie's the run around, the high cost of his trial has left Bob broke and he is working his way out of debt. Please send donations to Bob Lawrence at 3430 SE Belmont St., #101, Portland, OR 97214. His attorney is reachable at (503) 234-2694.

Bob: Well, the two charges that got me here in federal prison were two charges of trespassing and one of blocking a federal road. The first trespassing charge came from an action where myself and 40 other people walked up into the sale unit... and did a classic sit-in type civil disobedience action where we went and sat down underneath the trees that they were planning to fell. Because of safety reasons, they weren't able to cut the trees. We pretty much shut down logging for the whole day.

EFIJ: They weren't using pain compliance holds and pepper spray on people? They were physically hauling them out on stretchers?

Bob: Yeah, some of us were dumped face-first in the mud. But, as far as pain compliance holds, the only person I knew who got one was myself... I was also arrested for Kryptoniting myself to the rear axle of a log truck. There were two of us who locked ourselves down to that truck that day. I spent about two days in the county jail after they finally got us cut off. The county didn't bring charges in county court because the federal government apparently wanted them to hold off from doing that so they could bring charges against us in federal court. So, that was what ended up getting me in here.

EFIJ: That was your third arrest, the log truck?

Bob: Yeah, I had three arrests but I beat... the one where I locked myself to the gate leading up to the main logging site with a lockbox the first day they tried to log it. They tried to use a cop to testify against me who wasn't actually there that day. On a misdemeanor it has to be an eye witness.

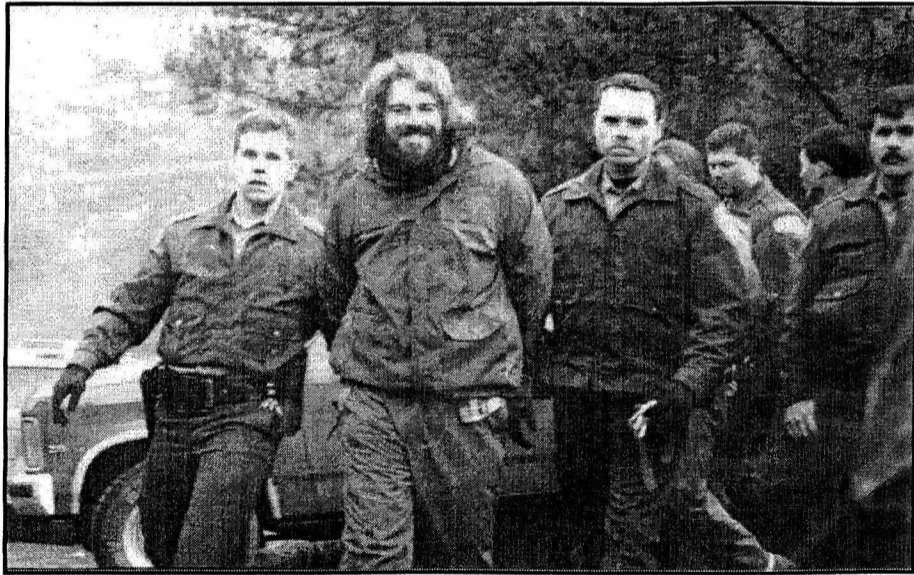
EFIJ: You were clumped together with other activists who were recognized by the court as repeat offenders for these two actions.

Bob: Yeah, that would be Heather Vergottis, Molly Fagan, Leslie Hemstreet, Mark Lippe—whose charges were dropped, Mick Garvin and me.

EFIJ: Were these people involved in the same actions, or different actions and just lumped together in court for multiple arrests at Enola?

Bob: They basically went easy on Molly and Heather right from the beginning in court. They said that they were young and misled—that they just got caught up in the passion of the events or whatever. They tried to hang Leslie and Mick and I as the career troublemakers, repeat offenders. We worked or were involved with groups that were

couldn't see being silenced by probation. It was a violation of my constitutional right of free speech, and I feel that one of the most important things in civil disobedience is noncooperation. Cooperating with the government in accepting probation or paying fines is going against my principles. I felt it was time to start making a strong example for other people in the movement, not just to cow under from the pressure of the government. I



Led off to jail by the Man at Enola Hill in '96

thought that the best way to continue noncooperating was to go to prison.

I've been following really closely over the past couple of years the activities of the Plowshares activists and the Catholic peace movement. The Plowshares activists always refused to pay fines or accept probation, to become involved in that system at all in any way, because that system is corrupt and it's wrong. So, they always end up going to prison for what they do. They feel it is another way of bearing witness. You can't ask anybody to do something you haven't done yourself. So, I felt it was in the best interest for the movement, and for myself, to take my time and come to prison.

EFIJ: So, what is prison life like Bob?

Bob: Well, I'm in a prison work camp and what the prison here is about is slave labor. It's pretty boring. In federal prison they make everybody work,

Earth First!

Only You... Can Prevent the Destruction of All That's Wild
(Because if you don't, who will?)

The Problem:

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half-billion year history of life on Earth. Never before—since the end of the Cretaceous period, 65-million years ago—has there been a period of extinction as intense as we are now witnessing.

Over the last several hundred years, industrial civilization has declared war on nature, leading to a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet. Some respected ecologists assert that the only large mammals to survive the near future will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, aghast at the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old-growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and eradication of countless life forms due to habitat destruction and poaching, say that Earth could lose one quarter to one third of *all* species within a very few years.

Not only is the blitzkrieg against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, some biologists have warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of industrialization.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities; neither is it a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continuous flow of evolution.

We—this generation—are at humanity's most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether to hold renegade corporations and lawless governments accountable for the destruction of the natural world or turn our backs on mother earth and her defenseless life forms. Will we allow Earth to continue to be



The time has come to end industrial clearcutting

a marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space, or will the charismatic megafauna of the future consist of Norway rats and cockroaches.

Why Earth First!

Are you tired of mamby-pamby environmental groups? Are you sick of overpaid corporate environmentalists who suck up to bureaucrats and industry? Have you become dis-empowered by the reductionist approach of environmental professionals and scientists?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Earth First! is for you! Earth First! is effective. Our frontline, direct action approach to protecting wildlands gets results. We have succeeded in cases where other environmental groups had given up and have drawn public attention to the crises facing the natural world.

Earth First! was founded in 1979 in response to a lethargic, compromising and increasingly corporate environmental community. Earth First! takes a decidedly different tack towards environmental issues. We believe in using all the tools in the tool box, ranging from grass-

roots organizing and involvement in the legal process to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching.

Earth First! is different from other environmental groups. Here are some things to keep in mind about Earth First! and some suggestions for being an active and effective Earth Firstler:

First of all, Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth Firstlers. Earth Firstlers are bound together by a belief in biocentrism, that life—the Earth—comes first, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.

While there is broad diversity within Earth First!—from animal rights vegans to wilderness hunting guides, from monkeywrenchers to civil-disobedience acrobats, from whiskey-drinking backwoods riffraff to thoughtful philosophers, from misanthropes to humanists—there is agreement on one thing, the need for action!



Photo by Tahanna

The victorious Warner Creek blockade, complete with moat, drawbridge and tower

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

Get It Together: Forming an Earth First! Group

Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally-based groups. Earth Firsters (EFers) take it upon themselves to become intimately familiar with the ecology of the area they are defending and the most immediate and serious threats to it. We apply "direct pressure" to stop the bleeding, with a potent combination of education, organizing and creative direct action. Many EFlers experience both the joy of the wild and the anguish of losing it so acutely that they feel isolated and alone before coming together as a group. Nothing is more empowering or more fulfilling than standing defiant in creative consort with other like-hearted people. Dare to love that much!

Earth First! has survived attacks by moderates, would-be leaders and the agents of the system, while remaining the most diverse, passionate, committed and uncompromising group of environmental activists. Our direct actions in defense of the last wild places only seem radical compared to an entire paradigm of denial and control, where the individual is convinced they are powerless, and the organizations set up to protect the wilderness continue to bargain it away.

Earth First! is a priority, not an organization. It is the name of our journal, and the slogan of our emerging tribe, but it is a tribe without chiefs. The only "leaders" are those temporarily working the hardest in defense of our last wilderness. New ideas, strategies and crucial initiatives come from individuals, and all decisions are made within affinity groups based on preferred tactics. EF! is as much an extended family as an environmental movement, developing the integrity and skills for a new/old way of living with the land. Our actions are tied to deep ecology, the spiritual and visceral recognition of the intrinsic, sacred value of every living thing.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following elements:

Campaigns: These can include everything presently impacting biodiversity on this planet— old-growth forest defense, endangered species protection, habitat destruction, disastrous public lands grazing, damming of rivers, the re-wilding of the continent, etc... To really protect a bioregion, we have to connect with it through our hearts and souls. To really become acquainted with that which we fight for, we need to spend a lot of time intimately exploring our deserts and canyons, mapping

the ancient forests, documenting the existence of endangered and threatened species and just feeling the wildness of these places.

EF! coordinates actions nationally as well, such as countrywide demonstrations against Burger King (which stopped its importation of Costa Rican rainforest beef as a result of our grassroots action!), the annual "Day of Outrage" against the US Forest Service, campaigns against predator control and other issues such as Hydro-Quebec's ongoing river destruction projects.

Contacts: Even though it is up to every individual EFler to come up with campaigns and strategies and carry them out, a successful group still needs a "contact" to:

- Establish a mailing address and phone for the group so that anyone may get in touch. Contacts are listed in the *EF! Journal*. To avoid any confusion or loss of momentum should some key motivator leave, it is best to have *two* committed contacts, ideally male and female (two names, two numbers, one shared PO Box).
- Maintain a mailing list and a phone tree, to help instigate actions, or to make urgent announcements.

A mailing list & phone tree are essential for keeping everyone in touch. Begin with friends who you know share your biocentric enthusiasm. Put out sign-up sheets at all the environmental concerts, speeches, etc... that you put on, as well as at other related events (Native American presentations, anti-nuke gatherings, music festivals, etc...). Put out an information table in front of student unions and natural food stores with stand-up graphic displays on your campaigns and a sign-up sheet. Try doing a one-time-only insert in related alternative publications calling for participation.

note: Make sure it is clear to everyone putting their name on this list that it is a list for potential activists, not just a mailing list for free newsletters.

This list should include space for the signers' addresses and phone numbers for quick access and notes on their skills (enjoys making costumes, good with signs and graphics, willing to work on timber appeals, computer projects, committed to civil disobedience, etc...).

OUR
APPEARANCE
OF
CAREFUL
MANAGEMENT



IS REALLY
ONLY
THE
CAREFUL
MANAGEMENT
OF
APPEARANCES.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE:
DEFORESTATION
IN DISGUISE.



Money: Unlike most other environmental groups which require immense funding to do their work, Earth First! campaigns are pulled off on a shoe string budget. The major expenses for an Earth First! group are printing, postage and the occasional costs associated with planning and staging actions and demonstrations. If arrests are made, be aware that legal costs and court fines can add up quickly.

An EF! Bank Account: Setting up your own bank account and local fundraising plans are essential parts of being a contact. More than one person in your group should be allowed to sign checks. This allows for fair and open accounting of the scant funds going through it. As these funds are used entirely for lawful (but radical!) purposes, the resulting records are no threat to the signatories. Remember that civil disobedience is constitutionally protected free speech and that any expenses incurred during EF! actions are lawful.

Fundraising: In a capitalist world, there's capital to be had. If you put your mind to it, you can pile it up by the boatload. Try these handy methods:

- benefit concerts, slide-shows and tabling.
- disgusting pleas for money through various newsletters and radio programs.
- auctions of donated goodies and services.
- foundation grants for specific projects.
- school money funneled through campus clubs for EF! presentations.
- EF! work parties.
- profits on the sale of EF! merchandise (available from the *EF! Journal*).
- *EF! Journal* sales.

Meetings: It's true. Meetings are the bane of civilization, the low benchmark for all environmental "organizations." But EF! does it differently. Call them parties with a focus! We gather for potlucks, hikes, climbs, music jams, swims and river trips. However, we meet for one purpose only: the actions that follow!

Tactics: EF! is open to all forms of non-violent direct action. What we share is an undiluted passion, a belief in the sacred intrinsic value of all life and a willingness to act! Although known through the sensationalist media for our arrest scenarios and advocacy of ecotage, EF! activists use all of the following tactics, and more:



Rally for Headwaters Forest, September, 1997

continued on next page

EARTH FIRST! CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS

In addition to local groups, some Earth Firsters focus on broader campaigns by forming projects to strategically coordinate their work. Because the projects help to articulate our proposals, give our campaigns more direction and generate more pressure against governmental agencies, multinational corporations, politicians and other bio bigots, many national and international networks have been created. The following is only a partial listing of ongoing Earth First! projects. Get in touch with one near you!

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers Video Project POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 728-0867

CMCR produces videos by, for and of the environmental movement. Recent productions include Cove/Mallard, forest health, trophy hunting, salvage logging, bison protection and lots more. CMCR has led the fight against the Stone Container pulp mill in Missoula and organizes the Forest Health Outreach Project. An organizer's packet is also available.

Cove/Mallard Campaign POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83483 (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com

The Cove/Mallard campaign is multi-faceted with many groups, entities and individuals participating. Our basecamp in the heart of the Big Wild welcomes those wishing to protect and learn about the greater Salmon-Selway ecosystem—the largest wilderness in the contiguous 48 states. Trainings include tree climbing, nonviolence, backcountry orienteering, monitoring agency activities and other topics relevant to the protection and restoration of the Big Wild.

EF! Action Update Dept. 29, 1 Newton St. Manchester M1 1HW, ENGLAND 011 44 1 61 224 4846; actionupdate@gn.apc.org www.k2net.co.uk/ef/earthfirst.html

Published monthly, this newsletter chronicles the direct action news and events of the 40-plus EF! groups in Britain and other groups throughout Europe.

End Corporate Dominance HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830 (541) 468-2028

Direct action to end growing corporate rule. Campaigns focus on corporations abusing the Earth and its inhabitants, and point out their threat to democracy and environmental and social justice.

Headwaters Forest Campaign NCEF!, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518 (707) 825-6598, (707) 468-1660 ncef@humboldt1.com

Since 1985, Earth Firsters in Northern California have been at the forefront of the struggle to save the last unprotected ancient redwood forest in the world—Headwaters Forest. Their undaunted community-based resistance has helped to mobilize thousands of people for huge rallies and months of sustained direct action. Participants are asked to adhere to a nonviolence code which prohibits property destruction.

NAALFSG POB 69597, 5845 Yonge St. Willowdale, Ont M2M 4K3 CANADA; naalfsg@envirolink.org

The North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group is a 100 percent volunteer organization which supports activists who are imprisoned for alleged involvement in animal liberation activities and publishes *Underground* three times a year. Memberships, including a year's subscription, are between \$20-\$30, sliding scale. All money raised legally supports animal liberation and assists imprisoned activists.

Northeast Forest Practices Campaign NH EF!, POB 4101, Portsmouth, NH 03802 noreastah@acadia.net

The Northeast Forest Practices Campaign is working to: Stop dioxin discharges, end clearcutting, stop aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides, end commercial resource extraction on state and federal lands, oppose genetic engineering of forests and food, ban the export of wood chips and raw logs and oppose the destructive practices of Hydro-Quebec.

Salva La Sierra Culebra EF!, POB 762, San Luis, CO 81152 (719) 672-3012; afr@amigo.net

Help Culebra EF! stop the largest logging operation in the US, which is systematically destroying one of the last remaining mountain ranges in the Southern Rockies. At stake is a generations old sustainable Chicano farming community and several threatened and endangered species.

Sea Defense Alliance (SeDnA) POB 400, Williams, OR 97544 sedna@cdsnet.net

The Sea Defense Alliance is a direct action group answering the call to preserve the biological integrity of aquatic ecosystems. There are many groups that defend the forest, the desert and the rivers; there are just a few groups that stand up for the coastal waters. We are here to fill that niche and need your help.

Wisconsin Forever, Exxon Never! Midwest Headwaters EF!, 731 State St., Madison, WI 53711; (608) 255-8765

Join the strong coalition of activists fighting the mining industry's industrial assault on the Midwest Headwaters/upper Great Lakes region. The ongoing grassroots campaign includes organizing, education and direct action to defend the land from corporations like Exxon.

Warrior Poets Society ASUC Box 361, Berkeley, CA 94720-1111 (510) 644-3237; fax 642-4700

The Warrior Poets Society is an organization of Earth First! poets that started at the 1991 Round River Rendezvous in Vermont, near the home of Robert Frost, America's best-loved poet. "Warrior" because we are a warrior society—using poetry to spread the word of biocentrism and wilderness protection, often in humorous and unpredictable ways. We use poetry to inculcate, educate and motivate. We have a newsletter, *The Warrior Poet*, which is free to all contributors. We also have tapes of past "Night to Howl" poetry readings and a t-shirt with Lone Wolf Circles artwork.

Get It Together, continued ...

continued from previous page

- education including informational handouts, press releases, articles in periodicals, presentations to elementary schools and universities, going to Forest Service meetings to fill them in on their own data, radio interviews, etc...
- grassroots organizing to generate public input such as letter writing (so we don't lose someplace by default), petition drives, testifying at hearings, etc...
- litigation with timber sale appeals, requests for restraining orders, lawsuits based on the Clean Air/Clean Water/Endangered Species Acts, etc...

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience: These are what won women the vote, emancipated slaves and retracted the US military-industrial machine from Vietnam (next, we need to get it out of North America!). The quickest and surest way to get a new EF! group going is to immediately do a fun, nervy action! Bold, creative, confrontational and colorful actions will generate media coverage of issues, that would otherwise never be reported on, and announce your presence.

Spreading the Word: The *EF! Journal* is the uncensored voice for the many diverse opinions of our movement. It is the primary source for articles on the threats to wilderness and our effort to save it. This is your journal. It is as good as you make it. Everyone is encouraged to submit

pieces on campaigns, philosophy, controversial topics, conspiracies, investigative reports, humor, resistance, biodiversity and tactics based on deep ecology and uncompromising wilderness defense. The *Journal* is put out by a long-term editorial collective of four and several short-termers; any earnest EF! activist can work for an issue as a short-termer.

If you do an action, write it up and send it in:

- Make it exciting.
- Stress campaign background, details of the threat, reason for the choice of target, tactics, results and creative ways for the reader to get involved (besides letters to Congress; more like doing coordinated actions in their own town and calls for activists to come join you there...).

• Include lots of good photos (preferably black & white), maps and graphics. Free copies of the *Journal* are traditionally mailed out to contacts to be sold at full cover cost as a fund-raiser for local groups (the *Journal* only requests postage reimbursements). Consider consigning them for a small commission to



On the northern frontier of Headwaters Forest—Humboldt County, CA

newsstands, campus bookstores, natural food stores, etc. Contact the *Journal* office to arrange to have a bundle mailed to your group each issue. Individual EF!ers are expected to subscribe, since the *Journal* depends on subs to survive.

A regional newsletter can augment the international *Journal* and can focus in greater detail on local issues, lists of local events or demonstrations, pro-

vide more leeway to fit poetry in, etc. These can be statewide newsletters, bioregional, or specific to your community. They can be copied, stapled and sent out without wasteful envelopes. Production, writing and mailing should be done as a group, to get the maximum number of voices represented, and to keep all the work from falling on just a few people.

Earth First!: We mean it.

To begin with, we do not believe that it is enough to preserve *some* of the remaining wilderness. We need to preserve it *all*, and it is time to recreate vast areas of wilderness in all the planet's ecosystems: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.

It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams. It is time to free our shackled rivers and tear down Hetch Hetchy, Glen Canyon, Bonneville, Tellico and other concrete monstrosities.

While many environmental groups are members of the American political establishment and essentially adopt the anthropocentric (human-centered) world view of industrial civilization, we say the ideas and manifestations of industrial civilization are anti-Earth, anti-woman and anti-liberty. We are developing a new biocentric paradigm based on the intrinsic value of all natural things: Deep Ecology. Earth First! believes in wilderness for its own sake.

Lobbying, lawsuits, letter writing and research papers are important and necessary. But they are not enough. Earth First!ers also use direct action tactics, confrontation, guerrilla theater and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we neither condone nor



"Do not pass Go; do not collect \$200." Activists speaking their mind in Asheville, North Carolina

condemn monkeywrenching, ecotage, or other forms of property destruction, we do present a forum for the exchange of ideas on creative opposition to the juggernaut of "progress," including ideas about monkeywrenching.

To avoid co-option, we feel it is necessary to avoid

the corporate organizational structure so readily embraced by many environmental groups. Earth First! is a movement, not an organization. Our structure is non-hierarchical. We have no highly-paid "professional staff" or formal leadership. To put it simply, the Earth must come first.

How Deep is Your Ecology?

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

—ALDO LEOPOLD

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected and related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three-and-a-half-billion years. With that understanding, we can better answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for the downstream uses of agriculture, industry and homes? Because it cleans the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the auto factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. It is because wilderness *is*. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three-and-a-half-billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register, nor by whether or not they are *good*. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community—the wilderness, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation. These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth First!ers. This biocentric world view, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been developed into the philosophy of deep ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of

Canada and George Sessions and Dolores LaChapelle of the United States, among others.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism, or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.

America STOP this madness!



How to Connect with Earth First!

If you haven't met an Earth First! group in your area, contact the *Earth First! Journal*. Since we have no central office, the *Journal* serves as an information switchboard. You can get sample issues, the names of regional contacts or projects, or information on a current campaign.

Earth First! Journal, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 344-8004; fax 344-7688; earthfirst@igc.org; <http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/ef>

YARNELL... IT'S A MINE FROM HELL!

BY DON NEWHOUSE

The place is Yarnell, Arizona. The time is 1994. The old folks teetering on the edge of eternity residing here enjoy the slow, rural lifestyle. Then, like a tornado in the outhouse, nothing seems pleasant anymore. The culprit is Bema Gold, a Canadian corporation, which plans to strip mine the mountain just feet from our homes in its pursuit of precious metal. Just come to Yarnell, blow the hell out of the place, ruin everyone's lives and line its pockets along the way! No one cares about a little village full of Jethro's.

Out of Bema Gold, a sham corporation called Yarnell Mining Co. was formed to absolve the big guys from responsibility should it all go sideways and cyanide contamination destroy everything. For Bema, it's back

to Canada and let the Americans deal with what's left. The residents ranted and raved to the politicians and regulatory agencies, but the Arizona bureaucrats constitute the largest collection of dim bulbs ever seen.

Fast forward four years. The Bureau (Bunglers) of Land Management (BLM) unveils a piece of trash called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), undoubtedly the finest piece of fiction since Snow White. The Yarnell Mining Co. is paying the consultant to prepare the DEIS required by the BLM. The conflict of interest is obvious. If the consultant honestly reaches the conclusion that the entire project is really crap, and puts that in their report, do you think they would ever work again? Duh! I think not. The regulatory agency bureaucrats and consulting scientists have become paper shufflers, consumed by vacation schedules and calls to retirement planners. The fox is not only guarding the hen house, he's getting three square meals a day.

Now, to the good part. We all were assured the Yarnell Mining Co. is financially sound and independent, ex-

THE POSSIBILITIES OF Y2K

continued from page 3

feeding people in the East Bay for almost the first 24 hours was Seeds of Peace. Because they were funky, anarchic and low tech, they were able to do what multi-million-dollar organizations like the Red Cross couldn't. Because of this, they garnered much public good will and even a new generator. A subsequent downing of power lines, either by genuine monkeywrenchers or agents provocateurs, served only to alienate the quake-traumatized public and set the stage for the FBI to arrest Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney after a near-fatal bombing of their car.

I suggest that we begin a continuing brainstorm and active skills sharing focusing on ways we can be prepared with both aid and educational information at a time when there are millions who will be open to it.

Many of us are already accustomed to camping out, keeping warm in the

pert in the technical aspects of gold mining and overwhelmed with benevolence toward the citizens of Yarnell. Let's examine that crock.

For one thing, the Yarnell Mining Co. is not financially independent but is a subsidiary of a foreign parent corporation. It is part of the same corporation that has been destroying lands in Serro Casale, Chile, and now in Russia. On to the expertise. This newly-formed, sacrificial lamb company has never mined anything before. They have no experience with

"WHEN THE WATER IS GONE, CAN WE DRINK THE GOLD? DOES THE USE OF 7,000,000 POUNDS OF DEADLY CYANIDE APPEAL TO YOU? HOW DOES THE 24-HOUR OPERATION OF CRUSHERS AND GIANT HAULING VEHICLES DRONING IN YOUR EARS SOUND?... WE CAN PUT A SIGN AT THE EDGE OF YARNELL, 'WELCOME TO CRAPPY TOWN.'"

heap leaching, cyanide processing of gold or using explosives.

Our choice: Do we sacrifice a 5,000-foot mountain, poison and kill wildlife and drain our life-giving water supply for a lump of yellow shiny stuff? Speaking of water... Yarnell ain't got much. That's why this is called the desert. This mine will pump billions of gallons of water miles away and thousands of feet beneath the desert floor as part of the leaching operation. Access to reliable sources of clean water will be a major issue in the future for the Southwest. Meanwhile, the mining industry sucks up billions of gallons with no restriction.

When the water is gone can we drink the gold? Does the use of 7,000,000 pounds of deadly cyanide appeal to you? How does the 24-hour operation of crushers and giant hauling vehicles droning in your ears sound? What about the glare of night-lights illuminating the mining operation instead of starlit skies? Our current pristine air choked with

weather and working together under pressure and severe conditions. I would propose that we include workshops on dying, canning and food preservation as part of all the regional rendezvous and activist conferences for the next 14 months. Dumpstering shit loads of food from your action or Food Not Bombs? Why not dry what you do not use and keep it in air tight containers? How about a post Y2K blank wall—distributed beforehand, of course—that could be passed out in cities and neighborhoods showing people that there is an alternative. Imagine how many people would tune into free state radio stations when there's nothing else on!

Even if things are only minimally disrupted, the preparation we put into Y2K could later be used in other campaigns. We are right about technology, centralization and corporate power! Let's be ready to show other people there is an alternative.

dust and pollution to rival the levels of any metropolitan city? We might as well put a sign at the edge of Yarnell that reads, "Welcome to crappy town." I think I hear the buses leaving.

Since July, State Aquifer Protection and Air Quality permits have been issued. We immediately filed an appeal requesting public hearings and are pursuing every legal means to halt the destruction. This course of action is expensive. It involves paying for expert analysis and testimony,

travel and court expenses and some attorney's fees. Our grassroots, nonprofit corporation, Guardians of the Rural Environment, represents the 800 residents of Yarnell in this fight against the mining

company with no paid directors or employees. We exist for the people of Yarnell and all of Arizona to stop the destruction that mining embodies. The voices of the voting public will become deafening. The local, state and federal politicians and government agencies must be made aware



that ultimately the unbridled extractive industries and their political supporters will be forced, kicking and screaming, to change.

Make no mistake, the time of plundering our earth is ending. Industries will be forced into regulation and restriction by public indignation when we open the curtain of secrecy. Bema Gold of Vancouver, Canada, and its CEO, Clive Johnson, must listen to the American public when we say, "Stop the mine Clive, stop the mine!"

Please accept what you have read for what it represents. These are not the musings of a first-year Environmental Studies major. The writer is a 70-year-old Yarnell resident, born in California, with a lifetime in the Southwest, who has committed his remaining years to anti-mining activism. What the area was, and is now, plays in the mind like a Technicolor movie undoubtedly produced by the greatest director of all. Thanks for listening!

For more information contact the Guardians of the Rural Environment, POB 1086, Yarnell, AZ 85362; (520) 427-3591; 427-0207 (fax); ftchaos@primenet.com.

BARE BONES

Anti-Freddie-Fee Bill

The Forest Tax Relief Act, a bi-partisan bill introduced by Congresswomen Lois Capps (D-CA) and Mary Bono (R-CA) calls for an end to all fee collections on public lands managed by the Forest Service as authorized under the authority of the fee-demonstration program.

In presenting this bill, Congresswoman Bono said: "To tax the great outdoors is offensive to the very concept of the national forest system. The forests are for the entire nation and therefore should be supported through the traditional funding process. Under this plan, Congress taxes Americans twice. It is now time to remedy this situation."

Although the fee-demonstration program has been met with opposition, it is heavily funded and supported by the wise-use/motorized recreation lobby. The proposed legislation addresses the concern that the fee-demonstration program is being used as a tool to turn public lands into park-like tourist attractions.

Mitsubishi Mine Cancelled

On August 18, San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge James Edwards ruled in favor of a lawsuit protecting endangered plants at a limestone mine in the San Bernardino Mountains. The suit was filed last November after the county approved a 35-acre expansion of the Cushenbury mine, owned by Mitsubishi.

The area is home to four carbonate endangered plant species including Parish's daisy, Cushenbury milkvetch, Cushenbury buckwheat and Cushenbury oxytheca—plants that grow exclusively in that area. The area is also home to Nelson's bighorn sheep, a state-protected species. The county let Mitsubishi cut corners by not requiring the company to do a full environmental impact report which could cost about \$150,000.

Bull Trout Listed

In a major victory, affecting 32 national forests in five states, the bull trout has finally been listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The victory, announced by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on June 5, follows a lengthy and continuing battle to protect the bull trout and its habitat. Several environmental groups petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the threatened fish in 1992.

Hypo Critical Sub-critical Nuke Test

In clear violation of the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) signed by the US in September 1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to conduct a sub-critical nuclear weapons test, code named "Bagpipe," by the end of September. The test would explode plutonium by high-powered conventional chemical explosives, 980 feet underground at the Nevada Test Site.

The CTBT commits the US "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion." The DOE claims that these tests are permissible because the CTBT does not define "nuclear weapon" test. These tests make global adoption of the CTBT less likely by encouraging other nations to copy the US decision to continue testing and update their nuclear arsenals.

BALLONA BULLDOZED ILLEGALLY

NEIGHBORS FACE-OFF WITH DEVELOPERS OVER THE THREATENED WETLAND

BY GREEN QUEEN

High above the Earth, the Ballona wetlands (*bay'ona*) sparkle like an emerald in the setting of asphalt and concrete that surrounds the Santa Monica Bay in Southern California. Cool breezes and a sense of natural abundance still permeate the tidelands, bluffs and freshwater pools. The ocean here is home to many endangered species. Whales once calved here in abundance. And indeed, genetic memory seems to be driving whales to return to Marina del Rey where two calves have returned in the last year. Hundreds of species of plants, animals and insects still live here surrounded by the choking smog and pollution.

Sting rays can be seen basking and feeding in saltwater inlets. Great blue herons tussle with one another for food. Foxes play hide and seek in upland brush. Thousands of frogs croak with one voice while least terns and savanna sparrows float effortlessly above the Ballona tidelands. Small patches of wetlands and their rich potential of life exist in the middle of Steven Spielberg's planned DreamWorks studio and the Playa Vista project. Ballona and all its life is endangered. What exists there on the 1,000 acres and the contiguous open space cannot be lost.

After months of delay and waiting, Federal Judge Lew, a George Bush appointee, has issued the strongest indictment to date of the proposed Playa Vista development project—described by the *Wall Street Journal* as “the largest project in the history of Los Angeles.” Developers of the project have tried for over 20 years to position themselves as environmentally sensitive, but at the same time, they have increased the project's density and offered no feasible remedy for the massive gridlock and pollution their own consultants have determined will result. A former project manager cleverly wordsmithed, “We want to build on less of the land more intensively.” What is not said is that paving 75 percent of the open space is his idea of building on less of the land.

Released June 26, Judge Lew's 53-page opinion strongly condemns the project as flawed and environmentally irrational. He insisted that 16.1 acres of wetlands must be protected that are slated for destruction by Spielberg's studio and a toxic runoff retention basin, which the developers and Army Corps of Engineers foolishly proposed be installed in some of the rarest coastal habitat. His judgment was unequivocal; his words are even more clear. “The Corps' decision to issue the permit with only an EA [Environmental Assessment] and FONSI [Finding of No Significant Impact] and not the more detailed EIS [Environmental Impact Statement], without certain mitigation documents and success criteria worked out before issuance; given the untested nature of the retention basin; and in the midst of substantial dispute as to the project's nature and effects; was

arbitrary, capricious and otherwise not in accordance with the law. The permit is therefore rescinded and all construction activities on the permitted area shall cease unless and until the Corps complies with its NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] obligations.” Lew then went on vacation. The 86 coalition members of Citizens United to Save All of Ballona cheered and offered prayers of thanks to the Creator. Many hoped that the future of Ballona wetlands was assured. But the universe had more lessons and more suffering to offer...

The developers seemed to comply at first, but then on July 6, earth movers with tires as big as garages trucked in fill dirt from Malibu. Something was drastically wrong. Plaintiffs on the NEPA suit immediately requested a contempt hearing. But Judge Lew was still on vacation and could not be reached, or so his office said. A small group of neighbors calling themselves the Ballona Neighborhood Alliance acted on their observations from the soaring bluffs around and documented that illegal bulldozing was taking place. That was all the team needed to know.

Swiftly a car full of neighbors dressed as suited developers were waved through the main gate to the Playa Vista site. These nonviolent neighbors sped straight to the bulldozers through another wicket of security guards who placidly took one look at the suits then returned to their morning chat. An employee meeting was wrapping up as the Angeleno citizens parked calmly next to the foreman's truck. With the federal ruling as the legal basis for their actions, they demanded that the bulldozing cease. The foreman, being a kind, human-oriented contractor, sympathized yet offered that he was not the person in charge, nor was he respon-



By locking to a dozer, a neighbor says no way to the illegal Ballona project

sible for the destruction. He insisted he was only “following direction from the people who paid him.”

Prior to their end run through security, the neighbors had called the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). They planned to engage in a citizens arrest and have someone in custody for the police when they showed their donut-smudged faces. Suddenly, suits in BMWs with cell phones, sunglasses and scowls appeared, glaring silently at the neighbors. Right on time, or rather much later than expected, the LAPD arrived. Confused and nervous, they circled the project and the bulldozed habitat looking for crimes against humans. The neighbors informed the LAPD why they had called

for their services—to protect and to serve the natural community—and demanded that Judge Lew's order be upheld. Immediately, the LAPD went into a huddle with the property owners who whined and complained that the ruling was being contested.

Finally, after a slick, snappy, sly, high-priced negotiator was sent to the site by LAPD headquarters, he offered the following position: the LAPD is not well versed in this area of the law, so therefore it cannot proceed with a determination that the developers are breaking the law. And, even if the LAPD could determine this, it is out of its jurisdiction since it is a federal matter. He concluded that it should be enforced by federal marshals.

If the destruction of Ballona wetlands is not illegal, it must become so. It is clearly immoral to contemplate actions that will reduce the life quality of our children and their children. Their lives are being sacrificed and quality of life is being sold for the greed of this generation. The conflict

over Ballona embodies the struggle for the soul of Angelenos today. Citizens United to Save All of Ballona was formed to educate and articulate the vision of a natural world alive and viable in Los Angeles. This passion, sorely needed here in the midst of concrete and steel, is at the heart of our efforts to stop the bulldozers and to roll back the devastation to the natural beauty of the Santa Monica bay ecosystem.

We wish to create a vision not of greed and compromise but one that empowers us all and provides us with hope. There is no other life struggle as close to the core of all community organizations than the struggle against the illegal activities going on at Playa Vista. It is indeed our future, and we all must become involved here and now! Come to Los Angeles. When we do it here, we can do it anywhere. For more information contact the Ballona Wetlands at 115 Vista Place, Los Angeles, CA 90291; (310) 314-9862; Ballonawetlands@usa.net.

BATTLING THE STRIP MALL IN NEW JERSEY

BY DOUGLAS JEWELL

When developer GEM Corporation of Pennsylvania announced its plans for a 60-store factory outlet mall in the rural Swainton section of Middle Township, New Jersey, at an early June press conference, local politicians were at their side touting this opportunity for 1,000 jobs. A rosy picture was painted by GEM officials, Cape May County politicians and the media. No one had asked Swainton residents for their input, and the ramifications of such a development on habitat and threatened species were never addressed. It was just assumed that everyone would welcome this 250,000-square-foot mall and 15-acre parking lot with open arms.

It wasn't to be. “If Manassas, Virginia, can beat the Disney people, we can certainly beat GEM,” said Dick Reese, a member of the Swainton Civic Association (SCA) steering committee. The 89-member SCA was formed to oppose the project and preserve Swainton's small town ambiance, rural character, open spaces and threatened species.

GEM corporation obtained three-year options on 12 properties, totaling 100 acres along US Route 9. The properties are currently zoned as “residential business and “suburban residential” areas. GEM is attempting to have the entire 100 acres re-zoned to “regional general business” or “community business” to get its mall. Ever since GEM announced its plans at an orchestrated press conference, developers from eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been offering owners of vacant or mostly unimproved properties along Route 9 five-year options on their properties.

If GEM gets re-zoning, it will open a Pandora's box, and this five-mile stretch of Route 9 will become a nightmare of concrete buildings and asphalt parking lots. The 60 stores could well become 160. Swainton currently has 50 properties that are not fully residential. Besides the Cape May zoo, most are mom and pop businesses like antique craft stores and garden shops. Swainton only has two traffic lights.

The SCA has hired an attorney for the impending battle in front of the Middle Township Planning Board this winter. While SCA is using zoning as its battleground, environmental issues are of the biggest concern to residents in New Jersey's southernmost county. New Jersey and federal endangered and threatened species will be put at further risk with the loss of another few square miles of forests and meadows. Listed animals that populate the proposed areas include Coopers hawk, peregrine falcon, red-shouldered hawk, short-eared owl, long-eared owl, loggerhead shrike, great blue heron, little blue heron, yellow-crowned night heron, osprey, red-headed woodpecker, bobolink, corn snake, northern pine snake, eastern tiger salamander and pine barrens tree frog.

In addition to the impacts on wildlife, the proposed mall would burden the dwindling fresh water aquifers. Cape May County has salt water on three sides—the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south and the Delaware Bay to the west. The city of Cape May already has a desalinization plant under construction, and the rest of the county will have to follow suit as salt water intrusion pushes north. Estimates are that salt water intrusion will have contaminated most fresh water supplies in the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifers by 2020. A freshwater crisis is inevitable.

The SCA needs help to fight GEM and save one of the last open spaces in our community. Please contact us at Swainton Civic Association, 11 Birch Drive, Swainton, NJ 08210; (609) 463-8423.

MAXXAM STOPPED IN THE MATTOLE

BY YARANGONY BEAN

The stands of Douglas fir along the lower north fork of the Mattole River comprise the largest, contiguous old-growth habitat in the 200,000 acres of Pacific Lumber's (i.e. Maxxam's) holdings. A walk through the Mattole watershed offers a view of massive oaks and colorful peeling madrones. Bay trees, gooseberries, huckleberries and black raspberries are everywhere. A hike to "All Plants Pokey" leads you to Sulphur Creek, where the Coho salmon live. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) and Pacific Lumber vehemently deny that salmon have ever been spotted in the creek. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service reportedly plans to sue CDF over the approval of timber harvest plans (THPs) 307 and 413 along Sulphur Creek because of the Coho.

The Mattole watershed provides habitat for a variety of endangered species and is also home to a riled-up community of dedicated people. Residents from all walks of life have been sighted many times in the early morning, blockading Pacific Lumber's gates from the ongoing logging. From teenagers to the white bearded community pillars, Mattole residents are the epitome of what Earth First! activists have dreamed about—dedicated, supportive people willing to seal off a logging gate at 4:30 a.m.

About 70 residents arrived at the gate for the first day of blockading. The residents felt victorious, as the

log trucks turned back and went home. This was the start of a string of blockades that occurred almost daily. Logger confrontations took on a new meaning, when they yelled, "Go home!" The blockaders were able to reply, "We are home."

Meanwhile, activists took up residence in the woods. A ten-mile hike along the hard and dusty logging roads led to our home for the next month. This area had been hammered by the saws in the past. Numerous non-native species cover the cracked and eroded hillsides. But untouched areas still hold towering Douglas firs and madrones, which fling their half naked bodies over the hill's edge. In these few spots, the ground remains cool and moist.

Soon after our encampment started, we encountered two radically different groups of loggers. There was the pair from THP 307, affectionately known as "Brad and Roy" and then we had the crew from THP 413, commonly referred to as "The Thugs" or "The Goons." Keep them straight, it's very important. Brad and Roy, two relatively young loggers who by no means preferred our presence, never endangered our lives. On many occasions, they stopped work and sat down and talked with us. After several days of protest in THP 307, Brad

and Roy stopped showing up for work, stating that they were losing too much money.

Then there's THP 413. After a few days of somewhat successful cat and mouse, the Thugs decided to bring their eager teenage children who were more than willing to chase us down while their daddies logged. How about that for a day with pa? Packs of these kids chased activists through the



Mattole residents—spirits still flying with the chain gang

woods, cheering on their dads to, "Kill the dirthead! Kill the dirthead!" We overheard some of them talking about how they were going to chop up whatever hippy they found. When they did spot one, they chased him down screaming, "Run you fucking nigger! Run!" Luckily, this activist, known as Mr. Bean, is the fastest around. On another occasion, Mr. Bean was up in a Douglas fir when a logger announced that he was going to fall a tree directly into him and called out to his logger buddies, "This

one is going to need a stretcher." Calling his bluff to the last second, Mr. Bean held strong. Unfortunately, it was no bluff. He leapt to the ground just in time to watch the trees collide.

In another incident, an activist, known as Orange was up in an oak when she was warned, "This one's going to be close. It may hit that tree you're in, may kill ya." She replied, "I'm staying here so perhaps you shouldn't cut it." The logger felled the tree anyway. Fortunately, it only brushed branches with Orange's tree, causing it to sway under a stormy shower of wood chips. After calling in the Goon Squad, the logger proceeded to cut down her tree. Then, with several assurances that she wouldn't be hurt too badly, the logger completed a wedge and back cut three quarters of the way through the tree

before leaving Orange to rock back and forth through crisp winds with a gaggle of logger sons congregating at the bottom, threatening to hog tie and drag her up the hill should she attempt to descend. Luckily, they left, and Orange descended safely.

A few days later, as Orange was girth hitching up a small Douglas fir, two loggers, Doug and Michael, came racing down the hill to greet her. After Michael had climbed up the tree, tied a slip knot around Orange's ankle and was standing on the ground holding it tight, Doug climbed the tree with spurs, took hold of Orange by the waist, cut her safety lines, then climbed back down with one hand while carrying Orange in the other. Ten feet from the bottom, she was dropped to Michael, who bound her wrists behind her back and led her to the road by a leash around her waist. Finally, to keep the vicious and highly dangerous Orange from causing further trouble, her ankles were duct taped. Four loggers were assigned guard for several hours before the police showed up to haul her off to jail.

In perhaps the most frightening event of all, one 16-year-old activist, Nature Boy, was actually punched in the stomach by a logger while 60 feet up in a Douglas fir. The logger then used pain compliance holds, and Nature Boy was forced into submission. A rope was tied around his waist and the loggers threatened to lower him to the ground without safeties of any kind. Not willing to allow these butterfinger loggers to hold his life at the end of their rope, Nature Boy climbed down the tree and waited under guard for the cops to come.

After all the craziness on August 14, a federal court granted a temporary restraining order on further logging at the Sulphur Creek THPs. We are in the midst of a reprieve, with no logging to be conducted until the next court date sometime in September. If we don't stop them in the courts, we'll stop them in the woods. To stay updated on happenings in the Mattole contact North Coast EF! at POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-6598.

GROWING UP IN THE MATTOLE WATERSHED

BY SIERRA SIMPSON

I was born and raised in a remote and magical watershed in northwestern California called the Mattole River valley. I grew up in a time of transition. The once great salmon run had dwindled to near extinction. Sediment filled the river and smothered the salmon eggs. Salmon habitat had been destroyed after years of poor logging practices and overgrazing. It became clear a new relationship with the land must be developed. So locals took matters into their own hands, and for nearly 20 years now, residents have been working to restore the ecological balance of their watershed and save the salmon runs.

Although the community in the Mattole is diverse (loggers, ranchers, environmentalists, artisans, restoration workers, educators and intellectuals), everybody has one thing in common: a strong connection to the place they live.

Getting along is sometimes a challenge. But because the Mattole is so remote and sparsely populated, people tend to rely on each other considerably. Our respect for one another is the essential building block of our community, and once gained, it is hard to lose. The ability to stand together against outside forces is the greatest challenge this community faces, and Maxxam is the largest threat.

In July, Maxxam started to clearcut the remnant old-growth Douglas fir in the Mattole. They did so against the direct recommendation of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which wants the salmon protected. The terrain where the trees lie is very steep and geologically unstable. Couple this with the immensely high rate of rainfall in this area and you've got a recipe for disaster. If logging proceeds as planned, the 20 years of sweat and dedication the community has put into restoring the Mattole watershed will be

partly undone. Although it took a month, we stopped Maxxam legally. Though the restraint is only temporary, it has been a triumph nonetheless.

In the meantime, the looming threat of Maxxam over our community challenged people to question where they stand. To some, taking a stand against Maxxam was like taking a stand against logging. Many felt helpless, unable to step out of their comfort zones and put themselves on the line.

I knew I needed to oppose Maxxam. But I also did not want to be perceived as a radical by some of my neighbors or make them feel I was opposing their way of life. But when I saw the corrupt way the company was forging ahead, logging illegally, I knew there was no time left for complacency.

I took a stand against Maxxam—not against logging. I saw so clearly the disregard for place that exists when there is no sense of connection. The most precious thing in my life is the sense of place I have. My home, the place I live in and love is being threatened by corporate greed. When I let myself feel the full impact of this I became outraged. Not only at Charles Hurwitz and Maxxam, but also at my neighbors for doing nothing about it. Loggers are cutting their own throats by turning a blind eye to the company they work for. Their jobs are not at stake. Their future and the future of all who live downstream is. There is a way to log, sustaining both the economy and the ecosystem. Why are people so scared to make this change? Why do humans hold onto things that are clearly not working?

We as a community need to stand together. No more teetering on the fence feeling unbalanced by fear of intimidation and change. We have the power to stop Maxxam if we unite. There is power in numbers. If we were all protecting our homes, we would be unstoppable.

VENEZUELAN UPRISING...

continued from front page

Empowered by national and international law, world-wide media coverage and support from the international community, the Pemon are holding steadfast to their demand that the Venezuelan government legally recognize and respect the boundaries of their ancestral lands. Specifically, they demand the construction work on the power line be halted immediately and the Supreme Court nullify Decree 1850. This decree, passed last April, opens up 40 percent of the Imataca rainforest reserve to large-scale gold mining. In addition to the protests, indigenous and environmental groups have filed two lawsuits.

Unfortunately, the government hasn't been overly interested in resolving these issues through legitimate discussion. On the eleventh day of the protest, the Venezuelan National Guard was mobilized to forcefully disperse the 1,000 protesters at the blockade site. Jerrick Andre of the Indigenous Federation of the State of Bolivar (FIEB) reported, "The National Guard came at dawn in riot gear with orders from Caracas to remove our blockade. Using a military tank, they removed the logs we had used to block the road. The soldiers forced our people out of their tents, some still sleeping or half dressed, and continued to aggressively disassemble our camp." Additionally, bulldozers

have already leveled sections of the communities' yucca, corn, banana and pineapple fields.

Unable to further dismiss the problem with tanks, the government finally agreed to negotiations. Talks with top level ministers and indigenous leaders began August 13. On August 26, a major breakthrough was reached between the Venezuelan government and indigenous representatives. The government stated it is prepared to recognize indigenous property rights and would suspend all work on the power line until the question of land title was resolved. However, the following day ominous events unfolded in the Pemon village of Mapauri, which overshadowed the historic talks. The National Guard, in full riot gear, assaulted the village's residents with tear gas and rubber bullets for gathering around a construction site where workers insisted on continuing work. Three Pemon Indians were sent to the hospital, including a thirteen year-old boy.

Particularly hard hit by the transmission lines would be the nine million acre Imataca rainforest, a reserve where large-scale gold mining and logging projects, as well as a mega-tourist complex, are planned. Twice the size of Switzerland, Imataca is home to an extraordinary array of wildlife including jaguars, bearded bluebells, marmosets

and the world's largest eagle, the endangered harpy eagle.

On the Venezuelan side alone, more than 500 steel towers would be constructed through 200 kilometers of the pristine rainforest. To install these towers, EDELCA, the state-owned electric company, also plans to clear a 100-foot wide service corridor along the entire route. The first to receive electricity will be the Christinas gold mining complex located inside the boundaries of Imataca. Here, Placer Dome and other transnational gold mining companies—mostly Canadian—are planning one of South America's largest gold mines.

This controversial transmission line and the Christinas mining complex will have serious impacts on the health, the land and the way of life for more than 15,000 Pemon, Karina, Arawaco and Akawaio indigenous peoples. These communities stand united against the project as they are acutely aware of the threats they face: Mercury and cyanide poisoning in their water from mining sites; miners settling in their territory; increased rates of malaria; safety issues associated with having a high voltage power line running directly through their communities; and the crime, violence, and prostitution that inevitably comes with mining towns.

In spite of these concerns, construction of the power line has proceeded

without proper environmental and social impact assessment. Construction crews are clearing land in and around indigenous villages without prior notification or community consent, which is illegal according to Venezuelan law. Copies of the dubious environmental impact report are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain and fail entirely to address the project's impacts on local indigenous communities.

As negotiations remain tenuous, the Pemon call upon the international community to write letters to the Venezuelan president requesting that the laws protecting their traditional lands, their inhabitants and the area's biological richness be honored and that this project, which threatens their very existence, be halted before it is too late. Pemon leader Lloyd Henrito, argues that, "We are the owners of this land. We were here long before Columbus, but in the eyes of the Venezuelan government we are nothing."

Send your letters to Your Excellency President Rafael Caldera, Palacio de Miraflores Carmelitas, Caracas, Venezuela; Fax 011(58)(2)801-3644. Fax copies of your letter to: Dr. Efrain Carrera Saud, President of CVG 011(58)(2)908-1808; Dr. Juan Nepomuceno Garrido, Procurador General de la República 011(58)(2)693-0911; Jorge Padron, Comisión del Senado 011(58)(2)484-8134; José Luis Gonzalez Federación de Indigenes del Estado Bolivar; 011(58)(85)26-786; fieb@telcel.net.ve.

THE FIGHT TO SAVE IDAHO'S BIG WILD

BY MARSHALL LAW

The sun has risen and Rio, the friendly logger, stands by our fire sharing our coffee and conversation. Later he takes a break to discuss issues and tells us, "I've been logging for 20 years. I will only be remembered as a good sawyer. You will be remembered for trying to stop the madness." As Rio and his fellow sawyer made their way down the P-line (line for the proposed road), Monkey Boy burst out of the trees and free climbed 120 feet up a huge spruce in the center of the proposed road. He let out blood-curdling screeches as trees fell around him. The sawyers decided to go home at noon, either prompted by our suggestions or perhaps in honor of Wild Rockies Day.

As I walk the already clearcut P-line, Malcolm (the excavator operator) and the surveyor stop working to talk with me. "There are problems with this road," Malcolm explains. "That bog is a serious problem." He continues, "Tell your friends to stop taking my survey stakes, not that it will do any good."

Traveling back a week in time, we were on our way to the Forest Service Fire Project open house when we ran into two car loads of backcountry activists sounding the alarm that the P-line is being cut in pristine wilderness at the Otter-Wing timber sale. Controlled madness ensued as people scrambled for their gear to get into the woods. Meanwhile at the scene of the crime, three pink flying squirrels managed to heroically set up three tree sits in a grove of trees marked with death paint.

The following night the tree village was enhanced with many traverse lines and cables to impede the Freddie's and Shearer Lumber. Another sit was secured further down the P-line, across the huge wet bog. Flying squirrel activity continued into the next day.

Now the battle was to keep the excavator from reaching the village. As bunnies hopped about all around the destructive machine, Malcolm dangerously tossed logs and debris just over their heads. In a desperate attempt to repel the energetic bunnies, he tried to hit one with pepper spray. After reaching the first tree sitter, Malcolm was forced to retreat.

After a day of silence in the woods, the Freddie's informed us they were instituting a 300-foot closure. It did not bother them that Idaho Judge Lodge

had overturned the closure law, declaring it unconstitutional. Two people were arrested on charges relating to the closure. One was woken up and cuffed without warning while the other was given three charges; one of which was placing her body in the road, even though she was 300 feet from the road.

The following day, the Freddie's stood guard while the road crew illegally built the road around the first three sitters. Feeling proud of themselves, the Freddie's left early. That's when a bunny decided to stand in the path of Malcolm's excavator. For over an hour Malcolm swung logs, dirt and the excavator arm within inches of the brave bunny. Finally, Malcolm

pushed him back five feet with the track of the machine and threatened the protester with pepper spray. When the Freddie's and company found the sit had moved down the P-line and across the huge wet bog the next morning, they began a 24-hour security watch with a canine unit at the base of the sits.

Unfortunately at the time, none of the activists in the field knew that this road building was illegal. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had yet to sign off on the project and the Forest Service had yet to accept changes to the sale recommended by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In fact, the Forest Service had yet to complete the biological assessment for the south fork of the Clearwater River which is necessary in order for NMFS and USFWS to sign off on Otter-Wing.

Activists took the illegalities to court but the infamous Judge Edward Lodge refused to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), claiming that an injunction is unnecessary because there is no harm taking place. Unfortunately for the endangered and threatened species in the region, Judge Lodge is also overseeing the Otter-Wing lawsuit. The law suit was filed August 10 in Federal District court.

The Cove Mallard/Otter-Wing campaign is a well rounded, diversified activist front doing extensive timber sale monitoring, stream surveys, incredible public outreach in a hostile area as well as initiating



Pink flying squirrels like this one are the last line of defense at Otter Wing

direct action and lawsuits. Through monitoring, the coalition was able to send a package of violations to NMFS and USFWS which altered the Otter-Wing project, delaying it for one month. Monitoring caused NMFS to request a field trip to Otter-Wing. The Forest Service did not invite us on this trip with NMFS, USFWS and Shearer Lumber because we didn't have "a contract with the Forest Service."

The Otter-Wing sale is a glaring example of how weak Clinton's proposed road building moratorium actually is. This sale affects over 52,000 acres of pristine roadless area with 48 miles of new roads on very steep slopes. It is adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness and near the Cove/Mallard sales. It is the home of many old-growth trees, clear streams and rivers and among many other species, steelhead, bull trout, lynx, wolverine, pine martens, and boreal owls. The only species missing from this beautiful ecosystem is the grizzly.

This sale violates the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act. We need people to join the resistance in the woods, monitor and outreach. We also need money, food, climbing gear, warm clothing, green rain jackets, wool socks, gloves, boots, AA batteries, Hi-8 tapes and strong spirits. Contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com.

EARTH NIGHT NEWS

FUR FARM RAIDS

Over the course of just six weeks, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and Earth Liberation Front (ELF) carried out six successful raids on fur farming and research sites in North America. These actions celebrated Independence Day for fur farm and research prisoners. The raids also demonstrate people's commitment to the struggle to free these animals from persecution and stop the pollution of natural ecosystems caused by fur farming.

On the early evening of July 3, the ALF and ELF carried out a daylight raid, liberating 310 animals from the United Vaccines Experimental Research Fur Farm in Middleton, Wisconsin, near Madison. Two large holes were cut in the perimeter fence of the compound and one large section was completely torn down. Inside were three sheds—one empty, one containing caged mink and one containing animals resembling the black-footed ferret. Near the sheds were two double rows of cages covered with liftable roofs. All that contained animals were opened. Some doors were bent to allow for escape. Light bulbs were broken out in all of the sheds and a weighing scale was smashed. "Independence Day For Fur Farm Prisoners" was spray painted on a storage barn. Three windows were also smashed, causing an alarm to go off, which forced the liberators to evacuate before causing more damage.

The experiments conducted at the United Vaccines' laboratories and research farms are solely to decrease "profit-losses" incurred by premature deaths on fur farms. The cause of these deaths can be attributed to the widespread diseases on farms due to close confinement, malnourishment, poor sanitation and the psychological stress of captivity. The blatant disregard for the well-being of the mink and fox nations is apparent in this industry which cares only about fur quality and maximum production.

Research has shown that animals

imprisoned in fur farms retain their natural instincts to survive and reproduce in the wild.

The fur farming industry plays a crucial role in the devastation of ecosystems. Fur farm waste run-off contaminates water, poisons fish and suffocates aquatic plants. Disruption of this balance adversely affects all plants, animals and their interdependent relationships within the ecosystem.

Later on, during the early hours of Independence Day, activists from the ALF entered the Marmotech Inc. research facility in Dryden, New York, and liberated approximately 150 woodchucks. The facility infects woodchucks with various diseases then tests the effects of various chemicals on the animals, which violently kills them. According to data cards on the cages, only disease-free animals were released. Unfortunately, several hundred more, who had been infected with woodchuck hepatitis virus and other diseases, had to be left behind. The ALF took and destroyed the data cards on these cages. All log books and other information was confiscated and disposed of, and vials of infectious serum were removed from a refrigerator to spoil.

For the past 20 years, Cornell researcher Bud Tennant has been subjecting woodchucks to procedures we wouldn't allow to be performed on our worst enemies during times of war. Tennant's experiments range from the horrendously cruel to the outright bizarre. A recent project involved developing an "electro-ejaculation device" to force woodchucks to release semen for breeding purposes.

The government actually pays Tennant and his mad scientist friends to conduct these atrocities. However, Tennant is merely confirming information which has already been gathered from human population studies and clinical evidence. Safe and effective vaccines are already available for hepatitis. Tennant is merely satisfying

his own curiosity about every minute detail of a specific type of hepatitis found only in woodchucks.

The liberation was timed to coincide with the time of year in which young woodchucks leave their family and begin fending for themselves. Since some of the woodchucks at this facility were caught in the wild, they should readily return to life in the wild. And because the facility was in an area surrounded by fields and woodlands, the now-free woodchucks will be able to find plenty of vegetation to feed on.

The third week of August culminated this summer's ALF action spree with four successful mink and fox liberations. On August 18, 4,000 mink were liberated from Charles Mueller's Fur Farm, located near St. Cloud, Minnesota. The ALF communiqué stated that the area surrounding the fur farm is "an ideal area for these mink to become reintroduced to their natural habitat" for its open, woodland quality. Two days later, 330 foxes were liberated from Steve Hansel's Hidden Valley Fur Farm in Guttenberg, Iowa. The following day, August 21, 3,000 mink were set free at Isebrands Fur Farm in Jewell, Iowa. Lastly, but by no means least, another 3,000 mink were liberated in Beloit, Wisconsin, on August 27, at Bown's Mink Ranch.

These actions have been dedicated to Josh Ellerman for his commitment to defend Mother Earth and her animal nations. Josh has been indicted on 16 federal counts of charges relating to the building and possession of pipe-bombs, which carry a minimum mandatory sentence of 30 years in prison. These charges stem from the firebombing of the Utah Fur Breeder's Co-op which caused over \$1 million in damage. This action was part of the ALF's Operation Bite Back.

For more information contact the North American ALF Press Office at POB 103, Osseo, MN 55369; (612) 601-0978; naalfpo@waste.org; <http://www.host.envirolink.org/ALFIS>.

BARE BONES

LP Caught in a Lie

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) plead guilty in June to 18 felonies, fined \$37 million and placed on probation for five years in connection with a major air pollution and consumer fraud case.

The plea agreement, cut with the US Attorney in Colorado, capped a six-year investigation of the nation's largest producer of oriented strand board (OSB), a laminated wood panel that is used as a plywood substitute in construction.

The criminal investigation began when Dave Horan, a former LP supervisor at LP's Montrose, Colorado, facility, filed a lawsuit against the company alleging he was fired because he refused to tamper with the mill's pollution monitoring equipment.

LP admitted to conspiring to violate the Clean Air Act and False Statement Act, tampering with the mill's pollution monitor on 12 occasions by inserting foil into the monitor, pulling the protective lens off, miscalibrating the monitor and turning it off. They also admitted to lying to the health department and misrepresenting to its customers that its OSB conformed to quality assurance testing requirements.

Mitsubishi Misogyny

Mitsubishi Motors will pay \$34 million to settle allegations that women on the assembly line at its Illinois factory were harassed, groped and insulted. The settlement will be shared by 350 women who have worked at the auto plant since 1987. The women will receive between several thousand and \$350,000 each. The settlement contained no admission of wrong doing by the company. But at a press conference, the executive vice president for Mitsubishi apologized on behalf of the company.

The women complained that male co-workers and supervisors kissed and fondled them; called them "whores" and "bitches"; demanded sexual favors; and retaliated against the women who refused.

Rep. Rallies Rednecks

Representative Helen Chenoweth (R-ID), a leader of the anti-environmental movement and champion of Idaho militias, held a field hearing in Espanola, New Mexico, to push a bill introduced by Representative Bill Redmond that would give Mexican land grant claimants millions of acres on national forests in northern New Mexico. Despite her past racist remarks, a crowd of about 100 Chicano loggers and ranchers did not question Chenoweth about her support of English-only laws in Idaho and opposition to affirmative action. Instead, most of the four-hour hearing was spent vilifying the environmental community and lambasting land use restrictions to protect streams and wildlife.

Racism Down Under

The Australian Senate recently ratified a bill that repealed significant advances made by Australian Aborigines under the previous administration. With cries of shame emanating throughout the Upper House of Parliament, the Native Title Amendment Bill gained enough votes to be passed. The bill amended the Native Title Act of 1993, which recognized traditional rights of access, use and occupation by Aborigines on Crown land. The new bill makes it much tougher for Aborigines to claim rights over land which they have resided on for thousands of years.

GAS WELL BOMBED

Police believe a group of militant environmentalists are behind the latest bombings of oil and gas equipment in northwestern Alberta, Canada. A gas well and installation facility belonging to Alberta Energy Co. were damaged in separate explosions in the Beaverlodge area, 560 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. Total damage has been estimated at \$20,000. No one was hurt, but injury or death is inevitable if the attacks continue, says Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Don MacKay. He is convinced the perpetrators are trying to protect the Peace River's natural resources. "The reality is these are the actions of perverse people and criminal minds. The environment is just an excuse to satisfy an evil and self-serving bent."

County officials are so concerned they are discussing asking police to establish an anti-terrorist squad. No one claimed responsibility for the Alberta bombings or for the more than 100 previous acts of sabotage, includ-

ing well damage, roadblocks, nails on roads and pipes punctured by drills, that have occurred over the past two years. While denying responsibility for the attacks, some in the area haven't denounced them. "It's good to see somebody taking action," said farmer Ben Ludwig, whose relatives have repeatedly criticized nearby gas drilling, saying it harms their health and crops. Ludwig's brother was convicted of trying to vandalize a gas well. His father was convicted of mischief after he dumped oil on the carpet at Alberta Energy's offices.

Alberta Energy spokesman Dick Wilson said extra security, damage and lost production has cost his company more than \$1 million over the past two years. He didn't know if they would share the cost of an anti-terrorist squad. "But we'd be more than pleased to support any initiative that ends these incidents and brings those responsible to justice," Wilson said.

LOVE THEM LI'L ONES...

Dear EF!

Much as I agree with 99 percent of what EF! stands for, your "Reclaim the Streets—Berkeley CA," PISSED ME OFF!

The report forgot to mention: the oil leaked everywhere from the car smashed up; the massive tree limb broken off and used as a prop; the noxious fumes from the fire of couches, TV's, etc.; and the three windows broken in the apartment block I LIVE in.

I'd like to think that everything in your journal is accurate but when the one thing that happens on my door step is printed up in such a rose-tinted fashion, I begin to wonder what else is bullshit!

Tell the whole truth or shut the fuck up. PR is for the multi-nationals and the politicians.

Yours,

—PHILIP ROWNTREE

Dear EF!

Lately I have noticed an upswing in the number of people taking sides in the perennial "Is EF! what it used to be?" debate. In the June-July issue of the *EF! Journal* there was even a letter of disassociation from somebody who said they had been a part of the movement from the beginning. It made me feel sick at first. Then I realized what is happening and alarms went off in my head. That was when I remembered this. It is in the interests of a schism to tear apart the movement.

Remember, when you get frustrated with the movement or your affinity group; that is exactly what the establishment wants. They want as many people as possible to be disgruntled with EF! Hey, it saves them the cost of clearing barricades and removing activists from trees.

Don't give Oxy and Maxxam and Pacific and all the others what they want. Don't sacrifice the earth because you have conflicts with other activists. If you feel like other activists are not radical enough, make up the deficit by fucking the man even harder. Radical environmentalism should not be an ego-trip. It should be each and every one of us fighting as hard as we can, in every way we can. We all bring our own skills and limitations to the movement—do not expect every activist to be just like you. Every one of us is capable of feats of courage and heroism, but we are not all capable of the same feats. By acting in a way we know will allow our courage to appear we each have our own times for greatness.

With that in mind, go out and save the world. That is why you are reading this journal after all.

—JEFF

I was pleased to see Stefan Wray's article "Virtual Luddites" in Vol. 18 No 6. I see the hacker movement being marginalized towards the left as hackers see the unabashed fascism of the system. The cases of Kevin Mitnick (held for 3 years and counting without trial) and of Bernie S. have made the hacker scene look towards the left.

I am worried, however, that there will not be a place on the left for us to stay. I see Luddism in the Anarchist movement and in the EF! movement. How will you react to a mass of people who want nothing

more than to hack in peace?

A short addition to the article. "Ping attacks" that Stefan mentions in his article as "sophisticated," but they are extremely simple to do. They are looked down upon by the HPVAC (hack/phreak/virii/anarchy/cracking) scene(s) as lame because they show no technical expertise. A true political hack would be to hack a government system and add a political message that would be displayed every time a user logged on. For those who want to know more or are looking for a good place to start hacking: <http://www.happyhacker.org>, the LOD's Guide to Hacking. Swipe 2600 zine from your local Barnes & Noble, it's a great resource <http://www.phrack.com.org>? Hopefully in the near future, political hackers will not be a minority.

Solidarity,

—FREDDY K

Dear Shit for Brains,

Sugar: Hey Echo... have you seen the Journals for regions in the country other than the Northwest?

Echo: What do you mean? The *Earth First! Journal* is the rag for all



Earth First! activity all over the country and the world.

Sugar: Really. I had no idea. Why do they only talk about things that happen west of the Cascades or abroad? I hear that there is a lot of action going on in the Allegheny, Austin, Arizona, Virginia, Maine, Wisconsin, IDAHO, and...

Echo: I don't know. Maybe it's time for the *Journal* to move some place else where there is a community to support it and the paper will talk about issues happening all over the country.

Sugar: Good idea. I wonder if anyone else has thought of that... Save Cove/Mallard,

—SUGAR AND ECHO

My Sweets,

Do you actually read the *Journal*? In the past five issues there have been several reports from every region you mention. In regards to moving the *Journal*, is that a proposal or just an echo? If you are not pleased with the paper, you must submit.

—JOHN B.

Dear Editor,

While walking through a parking lot, I noticed a bumper sticker that read, "VISUALIZE INDUSTRIAL COLLAPSE." I must admit that I also thought about the same thing. Then I engaged com-

mon sense and thought about it seriously. Have you ever thought about the chaos this would cause? It would be devastating! I believe this will happen sometime in the near future. The question is—are you prepared for it?

Years ago, in the 1930s when I was in grade school we had to memorize facts. The things that relate to human-beings. The only one I remember is, "The three basic needs of man are food, clothing and shelter." We don't hear that any more. Capitalism has dehumanized us. It has divided us into individuals. This is against the natural order of things as man is created as a group creature.

What I suggest is that your organization start on a project to humanize us again. We all have talents and abilities and they were meant to render a service to each other. To begin, start in a project where agreeable people would turn their back and front yards into vegetable gardens, fruit orchards or grape arbors. Then begin on a project where the fruits would be shared. I might add that the preschool children should be involved in this project also. The children should be given paper cups with some dirt and a seed to plant in it. They should be taught how to take care of it. Once the seed sprouts they should be given a plot of ground where they can plant the sprout, water it and watch it grow. To grow something and then eat it would give the feeling of accomplishment.

For me this would be the beginning of a world where men, women and children would live like a big family.

Sincerely,

—JOSEPH A. VANECKE

An Earth First!er breeding children is akin to a vegetarian who lunches on Big Macs. In his heart, this person may justify that he holds up certain ideals (no fish fillets, no Big Macs after 3:00 p.m.) but is missing the point entirely. At this crowded time in history, breeding humans is not putting the earth first (or even 2nd, 3rd, 10th, etc.)

It is important to love children and listen to them, but creating *more* of them is inherently destructive; an act designed to satisfy a craving in the ego of the parents.

Why, folks, do you need to see your own feature in the child? Why not adopt, or volunteer? And why should others stand mutely by and applaud your decision, even when this decision is another nail in the coffin for all living creatures?

You say you choose to give birth because you want to. Because it will be beautiful for you. Consequences to biodiversity and pollution levels be damned.

Is this not exactly the same scary thinking that leads to corporate disembowelment of the earth, pillage, the march towards selfish gain, the putting of personal desires in front of sacrifices for the future?

Birthers: I must learn to accept your choices, because I cannot change you. But do not point fingers at me and demand that I accept your justifications. I see the planet groaning under the

weight of so much human mis-asma. I don't know what you see:

—JOY NICHOLSON

Dear Earth First!

I've never written to the *Journal* before, but now I am compelled to thank you sincerely for including the birth-positive articles in your last issue. Thank you especially for including the very beautiful photo of the pregnant woman.

It's true, there is no doubt that our increasing numbers are a real and serious threat to the stability of our ecosystems. But the truth is that many of the early prophets of the population bomb theory made claims that were excessive and alarmist. Literacy, education, technology and the increased availability of birth control are all affecting the movement to avoid the dangers of overpopulation. Some industrialized countries are now experiencing population decline.

As a father, it has always irked me that some pious eco-saints have condescendingly labeled me a "breeder." These lifestyle police sicken me. From my point of view, the human race, for all its sorry defects, is still the crowning beauty of all of nature. I am not at all enamored of the idea of a world without children. If you prefer to remain childless, that's your business. If you think it makes you environmentally superior, you are deluded. Who will carry on the fight to preserve nature in the future if all committed activists remain childless?

My first baby is now 23 years old. It has been a long time since I caressed and comforted a pregnant wife or one of my babies. It has been the greatest beauty of my life and a fountain of love. To all those extremists who wish to cause this experience to become extinct, well... I'm glad that you are not inclined to "breed."

Again, thanks for the photo of the pregnant woman, it brought tears to my eyes. I am still exalted by the beauty of the human race.

With love,



—MAXIMUM TRAFFIC

Editors,

Parenthood is a proud profession. As the Birth First! insert asserts, we must care for our children if we are to continue caring for Earth's biosphere into the future.

There are those who say that since a major collapse of human life-support systems is likely within a lifetime, sentencing a new human to life is the moral equivalent of selling berths on a sinking ship. Maybe so, but that

doesn't change the fact that existing children need our care. Parents deserve some credit for their nurturing of future victims of the impending demise.

Some say that, considering the tens of thousands of children who die from a lack of care on an average day, the intentional creation of one more human by anyone anywhere can't be justified. A few have even suggested that it's a subtle form of racism for a couple to want their specific genes replicated rather than taking care of needy youngsters. Be that as it may, this is not cause to be disrespectful of those who have made that choice.

Some of us seem to forget that choosing to breed is an entirely separate choice from choosing to nurture existing young people. Although it's true that creating a new human being has by far the greatest environmental impact of all our personal choices, parents are not the problem—human breeding is.

We all have our choices to make. Let's not be overly judgmental of those whose choices are different from ours. Some give up cars, some eschew meat, while others refrain from creating another competitor for wildlife habitat.

Rather than pointing fingers at those who fail to make what we might see as responsible choices, let's praise those who are helping to make the world a better place—including parents who care.

—LES U. KNIGHT

Dear Birth First,

I am a female eco-activist and part-time caregiver to children with comments on your tabloid.

First, there are alternatives to childbirth for activists wishing to contribute to the next generation. My experience as an "auntie" is rewarding, fulfills a desire to nurture and does not put an unmanageable burden on my activism. Adoption is an even more involved alternative. While natural pregnancy and birth are beautiful things, they do not necessarily create new activists. Tomorrow's activists will mostly come from the same origins those of us reading this came from—unenlightened industrial unculture. I mean no disrespect to conscious mothers, but I don't believe you can create the ultimate activist. This should not be justification of the choice to birth a child as was implied or stated by some Birth First contributors.

Second, I sympathize with activist parents concerning disrespect for their choices. This does nothing for our communities, future generations or the earth. However, I would like to tell them that other activists have quietly made difficult choices against their personal desires for a joyous pregnancy, birth and child-rearing experience. Your choices and your desires for support can rip open wounds from the sacrifices of others in your community. The dominant culture does not support childlessness and while EF! might have some trite slogans it does create a supportive community for those making this important choice. Through this anti-birth sentiment, EF! has probably helped to insure the children

SO CUTE YA COULD JUST SPIT.

that are born into its communities have strong, mature, stable parents who consciously want them—something uncommon in the dominant culture. Until we live in small, land-based consensus communities who can ask themselves how many children their resources can support into the future, I don't believe any EF! couples can reproduce without a twinge of guilt.

Finally, I would like to see information on fertility awareness and non-medical abortion in the *Journal*. Just as medical birth is driven by patriarchy and profits, abortion and most birth control methods rely on the medical establishment, pharmaceutical corporations and industrial producers. While they serve a necessary good, they are vulnerable to the winds of politics, economics, social injustice and industrial collapse. This important body of knowledge can empower reproductive choices independent from the social forces that do not honor the earth.

—LISA WISNEWSKI

Dear Uteri for Brains,

Regarding "Birth First" (Lughnasadh EF!), the articles focused on the right of women to have kids without being alienated by activists having the "audacity" to be horrified at the coming tidal wave of babies. However, none of the articles distinguished between the right to breed sustainably (one or two children) and a fictitious "right" to breed unsustainably.

According to Negative Popula-

tion Growth, having a maximum of two children will allow the numbers of humans to gradually decrease, stabilizing at a sustainable two billion. This will save Earth's biodiversity and avoid a nightmare world whose "ecosystem" consists of humans and their food, (ground-up human corpses and blue-green algae).



tion Growth, having a maximum of two children will allow the numbers of humans to gradually decrease, stabilizing at a sustainable two billion. This will save Earth's biodiversity and avoid a nightmare world whose "ecosystem" consists of humans and their food, (ground-up human corpses and blue-green algae).

No so-called "Earth Mother" has the right to murder the animals and birds I love by selfishly or carelessly overbreeding just to satisfy a personal urge to have a batch of kids. *The EF! Journal* is full of heartbreaking articles about the last 50 rhinos, the last 500 spoonbills, etc. What about their right to breed and thrive? Each time I see a pregnant overbreeder or Fecund Father obviously pushing a shopping cart bulging with kids and materialistic crap, I feel a wave of revulsion when I think of all the beautiful creatures they are driving to extinction. Impending glo-

bal famine and cannibalism also come to mind. "Jump off a Bridge" was the first of Ms. Full-of-blood's "Top 10 Suggestions for EcoActivists Who Are Worried About Overpopulation." Excuse me, Ms. Full-of-shit, but if anyone



should jump off a bridge, it's overbreeders like you whose uteri fuel capitalism and ecocide by spewing forth yet more breeders, soldiers, workers and consumers.

Women (and macho-men) who overbreed to inflate their tiny-egos disgust me and should be sterilized. Those with the urge to raise more than two kids can adopt. Women and men who choose to overbreed nauseate me as much as the religious right's fanatics who force women to overbreed by restricting reproductive rights.

Overbreeders, pull your heads out of your uteri (or butt holes) and call Negative Population Growth (201-837-2068) and get a clue. More people mean less of everything including food, water, housing, other species and the freedom to breed at will. I choose to be child-free for life, (mine and the Earth's) so don't blame me for a horrible future where the term "baby back ribs" may have an entirely different meaning.

—MS. NON-BREEDER FOR 50 YEARS AND GLAD

Dear Babyshit fer Brains,

Ack, gag, dribble, vomit. Last issue's "Birth First!" tabloid was so cute and smug, it made me sick. And can you spell "self-righteous?" I know the authors can.

I'll start with the second sentence. "...giving voice to those activists who are successfully combining activism and parenthood." First off, these women never lost their voice(s). Catia and Karen W., I love you, and both of you are 10 times the activist I will ever be, but you are half as active as you used to be. Parenting and activism are like baby oil and bath water—they don't mix.

Parenting is about compromise and consumerism. Compromising your health (and ours), compromising your diet and compromising your time—you know the free time you used to have to be active.

Consume, consume. I've seen "Earth Mamas" use diapers and buy cars; I've seen vegan moms eat eggs. And if it isn't mom and pop buying more plastic, techno-junk, then it's grandma and grandpa or loving Uncle/Auntie, or...

The biggest problem I had with

the whole tabloid was that it failed to offer alternatives to breeding or even suggestions for those who choose to reproduce. The tone of it just says that it is okay to breed—no problems, no consequences. I would suggest that would-be parents try teaching, baby-sitting, lifeguarding, school bus driving, or even midwifery before/instead of having kids. There are plenty of opportunities to spend time with the little "hopes for the future."

Instead of offering suggestions for parents, we were berated and talked down to like their little darlings, "Practice birth control," "Adopt a parentless child," "Become celibate," "Volunteer at a kids camp," "Offer to watch children so parents can...(fill in the blank)." These statements are insulting and scapegoating. You decided to have a kid—preach to them, and watch them yourself. Take responsibility for your own actions, and stop pushing your values on the rest of us.

Suggested reading (available from the *EF! Journal*): *These Exit Times, If the Sheep Look Up*, by John Brunner and *The Population Bomb* by Anne and Paul Ehrlich.

EF!ers make great parents, but parents make lousy EF!ers. I'd gladly get snipped again if I thought it would help.

—JIM FLYNN

Two authors respond:

Oh, stop whining, PLEASE! You're worse than my two year old.

I don't recall ever turning in a time sheet to you, Jim, describing the current state of my activism. Who are you to tell anyone they are not doing enough activism this month? And who are you to define activism? There are MANY forms of activism, not just that which get you in the limelight. For example, while you were up a tree becoming a "hero" last year, I was down below supporting you, until a cop threatened to blast pepper spray less than three feet from the face of my baby. So, maybe, I'll be at fewer direct actions for awhile. That doesn't mean I'm not active, but that my activism has changed, and that's OK.

I personally find attending homebirths so that women can stay away from the techno-corporate medical establishment to be activism. I missed the RRR, many campouts, and lots of parties because of it. To me, it is as much activism as when I was setting up basecamps. So while you float down the Colorado River and judge me, worry about your own activism, and stop playing overseer to the rest of us!

—MATERNALLY YOURS, CATIA

One thing parenting has taught us is that activism is not synonymous with civil disobedience, or with making headlines. An awful lot of activism is carried on quietly, at a far deeper level, and is absolutely necessary if we really want to change the dominant paradigm that is allowing the earth to be so disrespected. In fact, I can think of few things more important than teaching the next generation to respect the earth and question what passes for authority these days. My question to Jim is, if you consider people who teach in environmental awareness and/or environmental studies programs to be activists, why do you have such a hard time seeing parents as activists?

When Sarah was a few months old, someone asked me what being a mother was like. I told them, "It's like an action that never ends." The surprising thing is not that Catia and I have had to dramatically pull back from public activism, but that we are able to contribute to it at all! And after all, it won't be too long before our small children are older, and we'll be back out there again—and, oh Jim, by the way, we plan to kick your butt when we get there!

—KAREN W.

Dear EF! J,

Thanks for the parent articles! I'm 29 and about to have my first (and probably last) child. I never thought I'd have a kid, and was quite the anti-breeder. Let me qualify that—I was very aware that I personally would not have been prepared to have a kid and I was also aware of population issues. Anticipating this child has really expanded my mind to parenthood.

Yes, there is a population problem. Perhaps the worst part of that is the sheer volume of vio-



lence, ignorance, materialism and blind egocentricity inherent in the majority of the population. But just because the majority is what it is doesn't mean that we shouldn't have children that we can teach to live in harmony with themselves and the Earth. If activists and other aware folks don't have kids and pass on that legacy, what will remain? Do you really think the majority will stop breeding and pursuing their violent, ignorant, materialistic and egocentric lifestyles? I find it so hard to believe (yet somehow knowing how self-righteous and all knowing in such a close minded way many EF!ers are, maybe not so hard to believe!) that activists would be denigrating and alienating other activists for choosing to parent—it is such a negative and unproductive avenue through which to channel your frustration with overpopulation. Why don't you go push pamphlets or teach courses on birth control in China, Africa, India, America? Hand out condoms in high schools, in ghettos. Get my drift? Your fellow activists are aware of the problem already. We have a vision of our children being a part of the solution, unlike the majority. So back the fuck off.

If conscientious people were to stop having children, then you might end up being the last generation of eco-warriors, which would be hunky-dory for the powers that be. Brave new world and all that. Or maybe you think you

can fix it all you self—well right on, get busy!

Look, if you really have a problem with population control, try one of those pyramid scams before you kill yourself, get two other people to kill themselves, who will each in turn get two more people to kill themselves before killing themselves... how's that for direct action?

Rest in Peace,

—JULIE GENERIC

Dear Placenta for Brains,

I don't get this Birth First rave. Mothers don't feel supported?! Isn't the support of 99 percent of the population enough? As a childless woman, I am happy to know children and can imagine the joys they bring to the lives of their parents. But I don't understand what mothers have to be victimized about when they get to pal around with the bezillion other women with children, get tax breaks, get dough and other goodies from the grandparents and society, get someone to (presumably) take care of them when they get old, etc. So, some Earth First!ers take issue with creating offspring. BFD!! Since when have other people's opinions mattered.

The isolation and non-support expressed by contributors to the Birth First! insert is inherent to life. Because I don't have children, I feel excluded from most activities with women my age. I try not to whine about it. Could you mamas do us the same favor? You can do river trips when the kids are grown! I'll do birth story articles in my next lifetime!

I love the EF!er and other kiddoes that enrich my life. They keep us all youthful and shine a beacon of hope into the future. I also respect mothers (and fathers) for their efforts to raise responsible children, but wish they/we would come down off the collective high horse and acknowledge that we're all doing the best we can. Maybe EF! mamas would feel a little less defensive if they admitted that maybe they're not the killer activists they used to be (what with all the stuff that childrearing requires of our time, money, resources, energy) and get on with raising kids to be good little activists. It's a righteous job, and somebody's got to do it! You chose it, right?

I appreciate your issues sisters, but can we please stay focused on the subject that brings us all together...the Earth? There are numerous support groups, publications, etc. having to do with mothering. In the Earth First! community, it's about "ferociously protecting and defending" mama Earth, not humans. Catia Juliana infers that mothers need this kind of attention from their tribe. Maybe. But perhaps mamas should also be asking themselves a little more what THEY are doing to ferociously defend and protect the earth for their children's future. Hopefully, we all give ourselves an "E" for effort.

Mama love and bear hugs to ALL Earth First!ers, young and old, mothers, fathers and refrainers. Keep the mission on track, y'all.

—UNSIGNED

Those willing to risk physical harm or personal liberty to right wrongs and confront us with a moral challenge deserve a fair hearing before they are incarcerated and we turn away indifferently. This book allows these storytellers to pose their questions.

—Bron Taylor, *Earth First! and Global Narratives of Popular Ecological Resistance*

BOOK REVIEW BY TK

Within the last decade several books purporting to describe the “radical environmental movement” have made their way into university classrooms and mainstream bookstores. Their portrayals of Earth First! and of the political history and common social philosophy underlying the movement’s commitment to action are not always accurate, sympathetic or even enlightening. However, Taylor’s intimate knowledge of both the issues and the actors means this thoughtfully compiled volume is all of the above.

By conceptualizing the book as a global overview of “ecological resistance movements” (a phrase he credits to Jasper Carlton), Taylor allowed contributing authors to examine the unique goals and tactics of spontaneous, typically local, grassroots organizing efforts where the common concern is popularly perceived as an “environmental” issue. This is not to say all the case studies suggest such movements demonstrate singular outlooks in terms of their philosophical or political expressions. Quite the contrary, the authors in this compilation are familiar enough with the general themes at issue to address how they differ, as well as how they are alike.

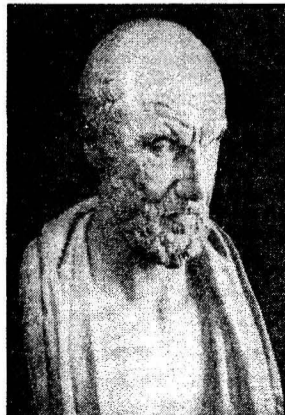
In a chapter entitled “With Liberty and Environmental Justice for All,” Bob Edwards, a sociologist at Catholic University, starts by pointing out the salient fact that, “Across the nation, low-income people are more likely to suffer poor health and quality of life due to environmental degradation.” He presents a well articulated history of the struggles these affected populations in the US have had in trying to define their communities’ interests within the radical environmental movement.

In “Bread and Soil of Our Dreams,” Lois Ann Lorentzen, a professor of Social Ethics at the University of San Francisco, looks at the role of women in the grassroots environmental movements of Central America. Her case studies are interesting and compelling as she illustrates the realities of women’s lives from their perspectives and often in their own words. Lorentzen’s major point is summarized in her observation that “the central issue for peasant women environmental activists is survival. Concern for the land is linked with survival for humans—nature is not viewed as a separate space but as home.”

This “anthropocentric” attitude is reported as common among non-Western environmental activists and at first glance appears in stark contrast to the eco-centric views that inspire much of the vision of radical environmentalism in the West. However, the actual case studies point to the fact that many who live in small-scale rural communities have yet to suffer the physical and emotional detachment from nature those of us living in post-industrial civilizations have. While all the movements discussed in this volume share a commitment to protecting and preserving what could be generally referred to as “the commons,” this book demonstrates how the rationale for doing so expressed by the subjects will vary across the globe.

Taylor’s colleague at the University of Wisconsin, Al Gedicks, begins by stating his opinions in no uncertain terms. “Over the past three decades, multinational corporations and development-oriented governments have waged resource wars against native peoples.” Gedicks’ chapter recounts four specific battles while examining how in each case, an issue-oriented resistance campaign helped develop and channel the nascent political power of native peoples. The best and most detailed discussion is on Hydro Quebec’s incredibly odious dam project planned for James Bay in northern Quebec, Canada. Earth First!ers familiar with this campaign will still learn something by reading Gedicks’ account of the valiant and effective opposition mounted by the Cree and Inuit inhabitants of that bioregion aided by a coalition of Native Americans and non-native environmentalists. He also offers very interesting accounts of native resistance efforts in Malaysia, Ecuador and Wisconsin.

Vikram Akula’s chapter, “Grassroots Environmental Resistance in India,” is a well-researched article focusing on the effects of industrialization on rural populations in India. Akula writes from the perspective of a Yale-trained social scientist and native community activist. His discussion of the history and philosophy of the Appiko and Chipko movements is particularly informative. Yash Tandon’s article on ecological resistance movements in southern Africa is an exceptional example of how compelling a combination of spiritual and scholarly arguments can be. His discussion on the cumulative effects the evils of colonialism and capitalism have had, socially and environmentally, on native Africans

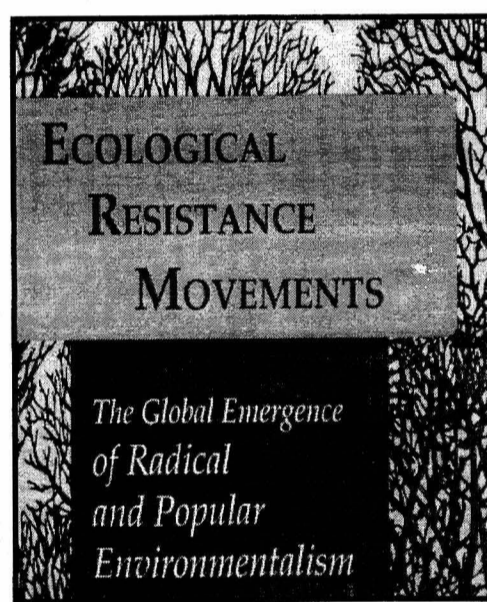


must be one of the best treatments this subject has yet received.

Part four of the book contains three essays on radical environmentalism in Europe. David Rothenburg looks at the state of affairs in Norway, home of Arne Naess and constant target of Paul Watson’s Sea Shepherd Society. Rothenburg discusses inherent contradictions within the philosophy of deep ecology, exemplified by Norway’s “cultural tradition” argument justifying whale hunting. The other two articles address ecological resistance in the UK. Wolfgang Rudig offers a well-written, in-depth discussion of the history and class dimensions of direct action activism in Britain, beginning with “commoners” monkeywrenching in the mid-eighteen hundreds to protest the privatization of the commons! The article about radicals in Scotland (obviously written by radicals from Scotland) was very interesting because of its peculiar nationalistic, tribal tone and the unique arguments it presents on behalf of the movement there.

The final section, “Concluding Reflections on the Global Emergence of Popular Ecological Resistance,” offers five fascinating chapters dealing with the theory and practice of ecological resistance. It begins with a scathing critique of deep ecology written by another colleague of Taylor at Wisconsin, Jerry Stark. Even though the reader may find this chapter infuriating, its inclusion should be commended. Professor Stark argues the radical philosophies of movements such as Earth First! are essentially derived from post-modernist critiques of knowledge and science. In his attempt to deconstruct the credibility of deconstructionists, he presents a purely intellectual argument, demonstrating quite profoundly his inability to grasp some of the most significant, albeit subtle, aspects of ecological resistance movements. Reading this chapter gives one the distinct impression that Dr. Stark finds it easy to dismiss the deep ecology perspective as being socially impractical and theoretically inconsistent because he has probably spent his whole life indoors studying it from books.

Many of the authors Taylor invited to contribute to this volume paid attention to the “spiritual” dimension of ecological resistance movements—



something that is totally lost on Stark. In the next article, University of Pennsylvania political science professor Daniel Duedney goes specifically, “In Search of Gaian Politics: Earth Religion’s Challenge to Modern Western Civilization” which opens with the declaration, “Earth Religion and its associated political activism is relentlessly, deeply and loudly radical. It challenges the status quo in very fundamental and far-reaching ways... unlike any other previously raised in the West.”

Duedney’s use of the term “religion” here may be slightly misleading. What he is actually referring to is an emerging metaphysical foundation. He thoughtfully discusses the evolving eco-centric beliefs on

which the actions of the ecological resistance movements in the west are based and contrasts them with mainstream society’s world view. This article includes some very insightful commentary on the concepts of bioregionalism and ecofeminism, but part of his thesis compares Earth First!ers to reactionary Christian fundamentalists in an unfair and not very logical oversimplification of our position.

Paul Wapner’s chapter on Greenpeace, “In Defense of Banner Hangers,” accomplishes his stated objective by focusing on how successful the group has been at forcing the media to report on environmental issues. He argues Greenpeace-style direct action campaigns are one of the most important tools in the toolbox, and he makes a great case. The book’s final chapter by Bron Taylor summarizes the intent of this volume: to depict how the radical agendas of ecological resistance movements are unified by their common perceptions of predicament, of causes and of prescriptions.

I imagine the scholars who contributed to this book are considered radical in their own intellectual and academic circles for appraising the Earth First! position as coherent and cogent political theory. Most individuals ensconced in ivory towers will only observe those ecowarriors on the frontlines of resistance movements from a distance, which distorts their perspective. These authors have looked at the real people involved and honestly exam-

ined their convictions. They understand the view from the trenches, making this book a very important contribution to the narrative for the wild.

Ecological Resistance Movements is available through the Earth First! Journal. Use the order form on page 33.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Hey you, egghead, professional scientist/scholar who reads the *EF! Journal*... There are people out here just dying to hear what you have to say, so we can rip it apart in shit for brains.. no, really. Please submit your book reviews, scholarly rants, position statements, good ideas, interesting scientific essays, kudos for frontline activists, criticisms of the government agencies, corporations or universities you work for (use a clever pseudonym and offer tips on how access their Achilles heel) and always include some well-articulated advice for action, we (the Earth), could all use it.

OK, SO... Join in the fun here in the Joinal! This is your formal invitation to make your contribution to “the narrative for the wild”—right here!

The War of Words is Hell in a Post-Modern World... Viva la *EF! Journal*

DAM CYNICISM, DAM HOPE

continued from page 1

Has the Interior Secretary realized the environmental and social catastrophe brought on by federal water projects? Will we soon see the dismantling of all the dams that have destroyed or are threatening countless species in riparian areas? Dare we allow ourselves to hope?

Some of us remember when former Interior Secretary Don Hodel suggested in the late '80s the possibility of dismantling O'Shaughnessy Dam, the one that plugged Yosemite's Hetch-Hetchy Valley and broke John Muir's heart. At Hodel's photo opportunity (see *EF!*, November 1, 1987), media-savvy activists presented him with an Earth First! t-shirt. We can sardonically note that nothing came of that in the following decade, reminding us of the lyrics of Ani DiFranco: "The system gives you just enough... To make you think that you see change... They'll sing you right to sleep... And then screw you just the same."

Like Pavlov's dog salivating upon hearing the bell regardless of the absence of food, radical environmentalists have been trained by harsh experience to react cynically to politicians and their photo-ops and stump speeches. We're usually right when we smell a hidden agenda in them. Most people in the movement feel most comfortable expecting the worst. Hope dashed is even more painful than expected and ongoing loss.

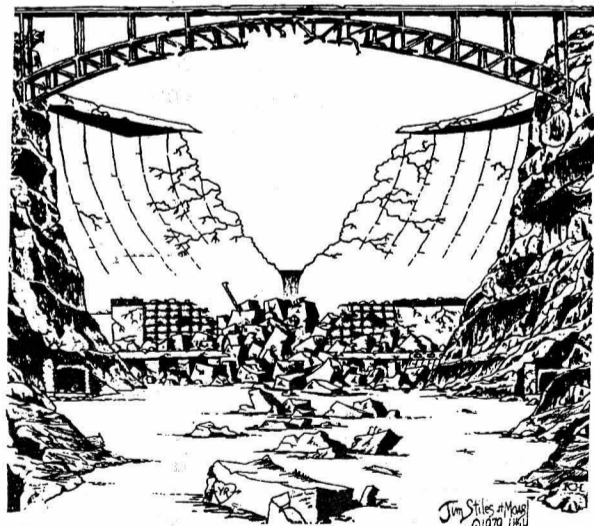
Certainly, there is little reason to trust Babbitt. He started out with some promise, attacking grazing subsidies and the 1872 Mining Act. He soon retreated, however, forced to by his own administration and a hostile Congress. He subsequently has presided over many of the worst environmental debacles of the Clinton administration, including the "Option 9" sell-out that resulted in logging 17 percent of the remaining old growth in the Pacific Northwest. He certainly did not curb the devastation brought on by the super-ax-hacker "salvage" rider. Perhaps worst of all, Babbitt has championed (not just acquiesced to), the Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) in their "no surprises" version. Such HCPs punch a bulldozer-sized loophole through the Endangered Species Act (ESA), empowering private property owners to kill (or "take" in the Orwellian doublespeak of today's resource law) numerous threatened and endangered species. The no surprises clause lawlessly obliterates the ESA's requirement that endangered species decisions be based on the best available science.

Of course, Babbitt is only one bureaucrat and much of what has transpired under this administration cannot be laid at his feet. At one time, he was one of the strongest voices challenging corporate domination in American politics. It is possible (although we vehemently disagree) for a reasonable person, recognizing the need for quick action, to believe that HCPs, even with a no surprises clause, would do more good than harm.

And certainly a fair-minded analysis will recognize the power of Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA) who controls the budget of the Department of Interior. Gorton is doing all he can to prevent allocation of funds for the dismantling of the Elwha dams in his home state. Indeed, he is holding hostage the project and the river until Babbitt coughs up the ransom: that all future dam removal would require Congressional approval. With a hostile Congress in place and the additional red tape such approval would demand, his agenda will chill further efforts to overturn the dam culture.

Perhaps Babbitt will persist with his objective to review and dismantle bad dams. His record, however, does not inspire confidence. He once stood strongly against drilling in the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge, but in early August announced exploratory drilling there. He chastised the Park Service for killing the buffalo in Yellowstone but did not stop the slaughter or secure safe haven throughout their range. He has made a concerted effort and some progress toward restoring the Everglades, but these efforts now appear stalled. He

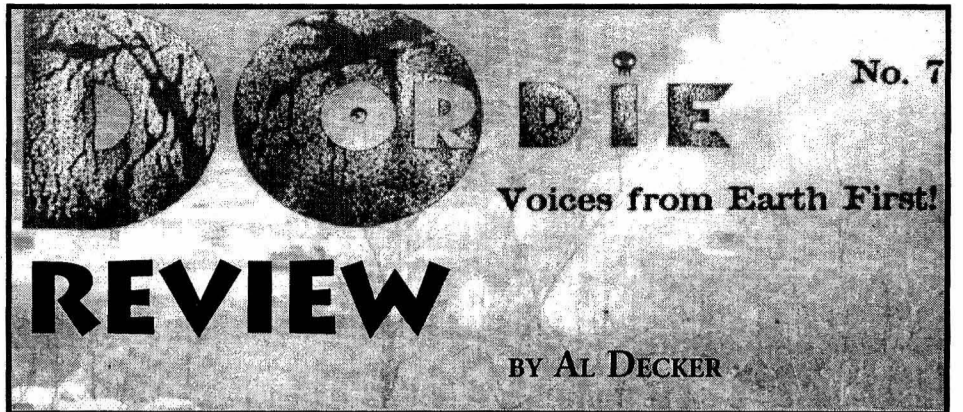
believes in and has taken heat for supporting a more positive approach to wildfires and prescribed burns and has supported the reduction of cars from many National Parks, but he has not succeeded in transforming the cultures of the foot-dragging agencies charged with implementing such changes. He supports the ESA (in theory) and even strongly attacks Republican adversaries of it. However, his desire to show that his implementation of the ESA is sound has led him to a



legally and scientifically unsound de-listing of some 29 endangered species.

Equally damaging, his various resource agencies continue to stonewall the ESA by refusing to list other eligible species. Repeatedly, US courts have ruled that these agencies, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, have broken the law by denying protection to imperiled species. Fortunately, the extent to which Babbitt is handcuffed by forces beyond his control should not unduly affect our hopes of dam dismantlement.

There are powerful economic interests behind the idea. People like to eat fish, and there are powerful economic interests involved in satisfying that growing desire. Both fisherman and fish eaters vote. Angling is the most popular form of recreation among Americans, with 43 percent dropping a line sometime during '98. Fish have a constituency. Politicians need one. Perhaps such pressures help explain why Babbitt now acknowledges that, "Roughly one-third of all fish, two-thirds of all crayfish and three-quarters of the bivalve freshwater mussels in America are now rare or threatened with extinction."



Though T.S. Eliot considered April to be the cruelest month, this year it brought a real treat from England: the long-awaited issue #7 of *Do or Die—Voices from Earth First!* (DoD), a whopping 164 pages of direct action, resistance, theory, critique, sabotage and subversion. "Bogsnorkelling in the political swamp since 1992," DoD has evolved from a poorly photocopied rat-a-tat rag (with a lot of charm!) to a sleek but not slick, eminently readable, thought-provoking and brilliant publication. It fills a niche in the British EF! movement, which lacks an equivalent of the *EF! Journal*, as the *EF! Action Update* is only four pages and restricted to what the name implies action news and updates. The quality of #7 is evident in the layout and design, and substantiated in the length and topics of the articles. However, what has been sacrificed is some of the "Fuck You ha, ha, ha," vibe displayed in previous editions; this may suit some and disappoint others.

DoD #7 is divided into three sections. The first, "These Islands," includes articles on activism in the UK; the stormy relationship between direct action and video; animal antics; tree houses of the world; an excellent piece on industrial agriculture titled "Armageddon"; hints on how to fuck up the oil meager-machine; an expose of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), aka the World Wide Fraud; and a sweeping analysis of the anti-roads movement, past and future.

In the following section called "Other Islands," there are first-hand reports on a squatted village in Spain; the Brazilian landless peasants movement known as Movimento Sem Terra (which Chomsky described as the world's most important social movement, for all you Chomsky freaks out there); the Zapatista struggle in Chiapas; direct action in Ireland and Australia; the Thanksgiving police riot against Native Americans in Plymouth; and a global roundup of news. In "Odds and Sods," the reader can find book reviews; prisoner listings and contacts (the Limeys do a much better job of prisoner support than we do, and it would behoove us to follow their act); a comprehensive listing of over 65 alternative publications; letters to the editor; and two pages of UK and international contacts.

The next DoD is scheduled to come out next April, though it has a publication schedule as unpredictable as *Live Wild Or Die*. So, if you want to contribute to the next DoD and save the editorial collective from being driven to despair and excessive drinking, please submit material by the next deadline of November 5. To subscribe for four issues, send the collective the equivalent of £10, which is a bargain and a steal, to the DoD editorial collective at POB 2971, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2TT, UK. Back issues #5 and #6 are available for £2.50 post-paid, and bulk orders can be arranged.

It is now well known, of course, that many fish species are decimated by dams and that "mitigation" (from fish ladders to barge-transportation) has failed to stabilize their populations. Given this growing public recognition, we cannot resist feeling some hope. A small voice is crying out from the wilderness saying, "Take heart! Every breakthrough begins with a crack!" Indeed, in 1981, Earth First!ers unfurled a huge plastic crack down the face of the Glen Canyon Dam. Those activists probably never thought the Secretary of the Interior would be, with apparent passion, agreeing with them 17 years later.

So despite the bitter experiences of ongoing losses, we see encouraging signs in Babbitt's latest speech. Politicians are finally recognizing that ordinary people care about ecological integrity and certainly about fisheries. Politicians and the people themselves have learned a lot about how dams threaten both of these values. Politicians increasingly recognize that there may be negative political consequences for them if they ignore such facts. For these changes, radical environmentalism can proudly take some credit, perhaps even a lion's share. After 15 years of anti-dam activism, the government is finally beginning to admit that dams, the cornerstone of its water policies, are often ill-advised.

We may have failed to win the scientific and moral debates rapidly enough to save many fish and other species imperiled by dams, logging and the rest. But when your adversaries begin talking as you think, then celebrate—at least a little! We're increasingly gaining a rhetorical advantage and gaining leverage to shame policy makers and agency personnel into doing the right thing.

A good starting point would be to take out the Glen Canyon Dam while initiating a comprehensive ecological review of all dams. The logic of Babbitt's recent statements calls for such an evaluation. Babbitt seems to understand the importance and scale of the task at hand. Referring to the 75,000 dams choking the rivers of this country, he urged his ecologist audience: "Think about that number. That means we have been building, on average, one large dam a day, every single day, since the Declaration of Independence. Many of these dams have become monuments, expected to last forever. You could say forever just got a lot shorter."

As we tip our glasses, enjoying how we are contributing to seismic shifts in public opinion, we wonder out loud, "How can we intensify the pressure so as to accelerate this process?" To a significant extent, we're winning the educational battle. It's time we strategize how to take our long-term struggle to dismantle destructive dams to the next level.

FALL IS NOW IN THE AIR

HEALING GLOBAL WOUNDS

Mothers and Grandmother's Gathering, Cactus Springs, NV—October 6-8

The focus of this gathering is to share what is happening to our children and the Earth and challenge ourselves to speak out about it by organizing a mother's voice. It is in preparation for the 1999 Healing Global Wounds Mother's Day Action to shut down the Nevada Nuclear Test Site on Western Shoshone Lands. For more info contact Susi at 5007 Elmhurst Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89108; (702) 647-3095; troy@shundahai.org.

Fall Gathering—October 9-12

This is a gathering for environmental and Native activists that will focus largely on Spring planning and shutting the test site down. Contact Healing Global Wounds at 6060A Freedom Blvd., Aptos, CA 95003-9594; (408) 661-0445; hgw@scruznet.com

COMMITMENT TO CROSS

NOVEMBER 22, ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS, FT. BENNING, GA

On November 16, 1997, 601 people crossed the line onto the Army base to say no to the School that has trained 60,000 Latin American soldiers. These soldiers have consistently returned to their countries to rape, torture and intimidate those working for the rights of the poor.

On November 22, 1998, nuns, priests, veterans, students and children once again, will walk together in a solemn funeral procession onto Ft. Benning. Together we will honor and speak for our sisters and brothers who have vanished at the hands of the School's graduates. Don't let the truth be silenced. For more info contact the SOA Watch at 1719 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC 20010.

JERICO '98—AMNESTY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

OCTOBER 22 IN A CITY NEAR YOU

This is a day to protest police brutality and to bring forth a powerful, visible, national demonstration against police abuses and the criminalization of a generation. For questions or more info on locations, contact the October 22 Coalition, c/o KHL Inc., 160 First Ave., Box 124, NY, NY; (212) 822-8596; www.unstoppable.com/22

OCTOBER IS END CORPORATE DOMINANCE MONTH

LET'S TAKE OUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH HOME TO THE CORPORATIONS. RALLY, MARCH, BLOCKADE, RAGE AND WRENCH. SEND REPORTS, ARTICLES AND PHOTOS OF YOUR WORK TO THE *EF!* JOURNAL.

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JABILUKA VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

Keith Armstrong of Queensland Jabiluka Action Group recently announced his latest film, "Interstate Ferrets for the Planet—3 Weeks at the Jabiluka Blockade." The half-hour video aims to show what life at the blockade is like and encourages people to become active with the campaign. It uses a range of historic footage portraying some of the major worldwide incidents of nuclear contamination and disaster.

The video is available for \$15 per copy. If you are interested please send an email to k.armstrong@qut.edu.au, or write to Keith at 18 Agars St, Rosalie Qld, 4064 or tel. 07 3876 2304 (H) or 0412 749 729 (Mob).

CALLING ALL ACTIVIST MOTHERS

CURRENTLY, I AM COMPILING A BOOK ENTITLED "WOMEN RAISING CHILDREN, WOMEN RAISING REVOLUTION. STORIES OF ACTIVIST MOTHERS." I AM SEEKING STORIES, POETRY, RANTS, RAVES, ARTWORK, ETC., FROM WOMEN ABOUT THE REALITIES OF BALANCING THE ART OF MOTHERHOOD AND THE DEMANDS OF ACTIVISM. ALONG WITH YOUR SUBMISSIONS, I NEED YOUR ADDRESS AND PHONE, A BRIEF BIO AND A PICTURE OF YOU AND YOUR KIDS. SEND ARTICLES ASAP. PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHER ACTIVIST MOTHERS. SEND TO MOTHER STORIES, C/O OLIVIA LIM, POB 1485, ASHVILLE, NC 28802.

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ACTION ALERT: Official Communiqué from the Bioregional Throwers Union

"More damage can be done with a pie than a musket." —Karl Hess
Where have all the pie throwers gone? Pies and guts; get them on 'um! Brave pie warrior Al Decker got Charles Hurwitz, Delyla Wilson "guttled" four foul politicians in incredible quadruple "bagging." Two brave warriors have spoken! Eons ago yer humble writer once pied Bob Dole. We know there are more warriors of the pie out there. We issue the gauntlet of challenge. Join the Bioregional Throwers Union! Put your bioregion on the map! All you need to do is "bag" (using pies or any other suitable fluids.) Don't be shy, graduate from the Aaron Kay college of Pie Throwing. Join in with all the fun had at this years RRR. Piss off really important people in the movement. Win a free pie of your choice at the '99 RRR from the pie-baking mobile kitchen, Delyla's Delights. Sing "Apple Pie" with Danny and Robert. Step up to the plate, don't let your bioregion look like a bunch of old and in the way liberal fuddy duddies. Throw a pie or join the Sierra Club! Remember, just bag 'um baby!
Agent Wyrd,
BTU

GREEN MOUNTAIN FOREST WATCH SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Green Mountain Forest Watch, a grassroots environmental organization that leads the opposition to logging and road building on public lands in Vermont, seeks a new executive director. The candidate should have experience in the forest movement, possess excellent writing and computer skills, be fearless in the face of criticism from the power structure and have the ability to think strategically. The candidate's outrage should be leavened with humor. Proven ability in fund-raising and dealing with foundations is preferred. Salary mid-to-high \$20s depending on experience. Equal opportunity employer. Position open until filled. Please send resume and cover letter to Steve Saltonstall, POB 340, Manchester Village, Vermont 05254.



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- Sept 15—Bellingham, WA
- Sept 16—Cyber Cafe, Clinton, Whidbey Island, WA
- Sept 17—Cascadia Forest Revue, Portland, OR 503/241-4879
- Sept 18—Olympia, WA
- Sept 19—Reed College, Portland, OR
- Sept 2—Corvallis, OR
- Sept 25—Arcata, CA
- Sept 2—Recreation Center, Mendocino, CA
- Sept 2—Heartwood

If you or your group can help publicize an event, please call! For more info contact (360) 341-4601 or (503) 241-4879; tinker@whidbey.com.

BIOCENTRIC ANARCHISTS, TROUBLE MAKERS, LUDDITES, PRIMITIVISTS, BIOCENTRIC PHILOSOPHERS AND DEVIANTS!

There is a new biocentric anarchist quarterly coming out called *FERAL* dedicated to expanding biocentric theory and practice. This is for everyone who believes in wildness, freedom, wilderness and animal defense or anyone who is into independent thought, pushing the boundaries of creative dialogue. The first issue will be released winter of 1998. We are presently asking for submissions, donations, contacts and help with distribution. Please contact us for a mission statement, submission requirements, merchandise list or deadlines and themes for future issues.

Send requests and donations to *FERAL*, 530 Divisadero, Suite 321, San Francisco, CA 94117; highwater@hotmail.com.

BUFFALO EIS OPEN HOUSES

- Sept. 23—San Francisco, Palace Hotel
- Sept. 29—Austin, TX, Holiday Inn South
- October 6—Minneapolis, MN, Thunderbird Hotel

POO-HA-BAH HEALING CENTER

Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Elder and spiritual leader, has worked to establish a traditional Native Healing Center for many years. After researching hot springs in the West, he has chosen a site in Tecopa, CA, for the healing center. A down payment of \$50,000 needs to be met by November 15, in order to make this happen. Thank you for your willingness to help. Contact Julia at 5007 Elmhurst St., Las Vegas, NV 89108; (702) 647-3095.

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THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain gazes from my locker.
She is the beacon of home.
On a clear day she can be seen from infinity.

From a flying height when the land is covered over,
all but the great yellow eye is a blueness
all but the great rolling white plain below,
from which she alone rises.
She reflects the sun most greatly.
She is higher than the others.
She is whiter than clouds.

On days when she broods in her cloudcast
pilgrims cry for her to show herself.
Some have died in their search for her vastness,
as have died on the flanks of many mountains,
seeking the high places. /
She is the Weathermaker.

She is the Crown of the Continent:
none approach her but in awe.
She is elemental, ice and rock,
snow and wind. Those who climb her
are breathless with her magnitude.
From her summit they gaze in wonder
at the tangle of her mighty ramparts,
the shoulders of her sisters and brothers,
their snowy heads, their howling wind souls.

Spine of the land thrust up
by the grinding of continents, you signify
the might of the planet. You glow
like a lamp in the arctic summer.
Even in winter night do you shine.
You are never dark.

You are not my most loved mountain,
nor favorite, nor most familiar.

But Mountain, you gaze from my locker.
You can be seen from infinity.
I see you even from this far distance.

Great One, you beckon me homeward
as you stand watch over the land.

Melissa S. Green

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ELAHO VALLEY

TREELINES DIMINISH BEYOND THE ROADWAY
UP AND DOWN, DEATH SMELLS LIKE DESTRUCTION
AND NOW I KNOW WHAT RAPE LOOKS LIKE.

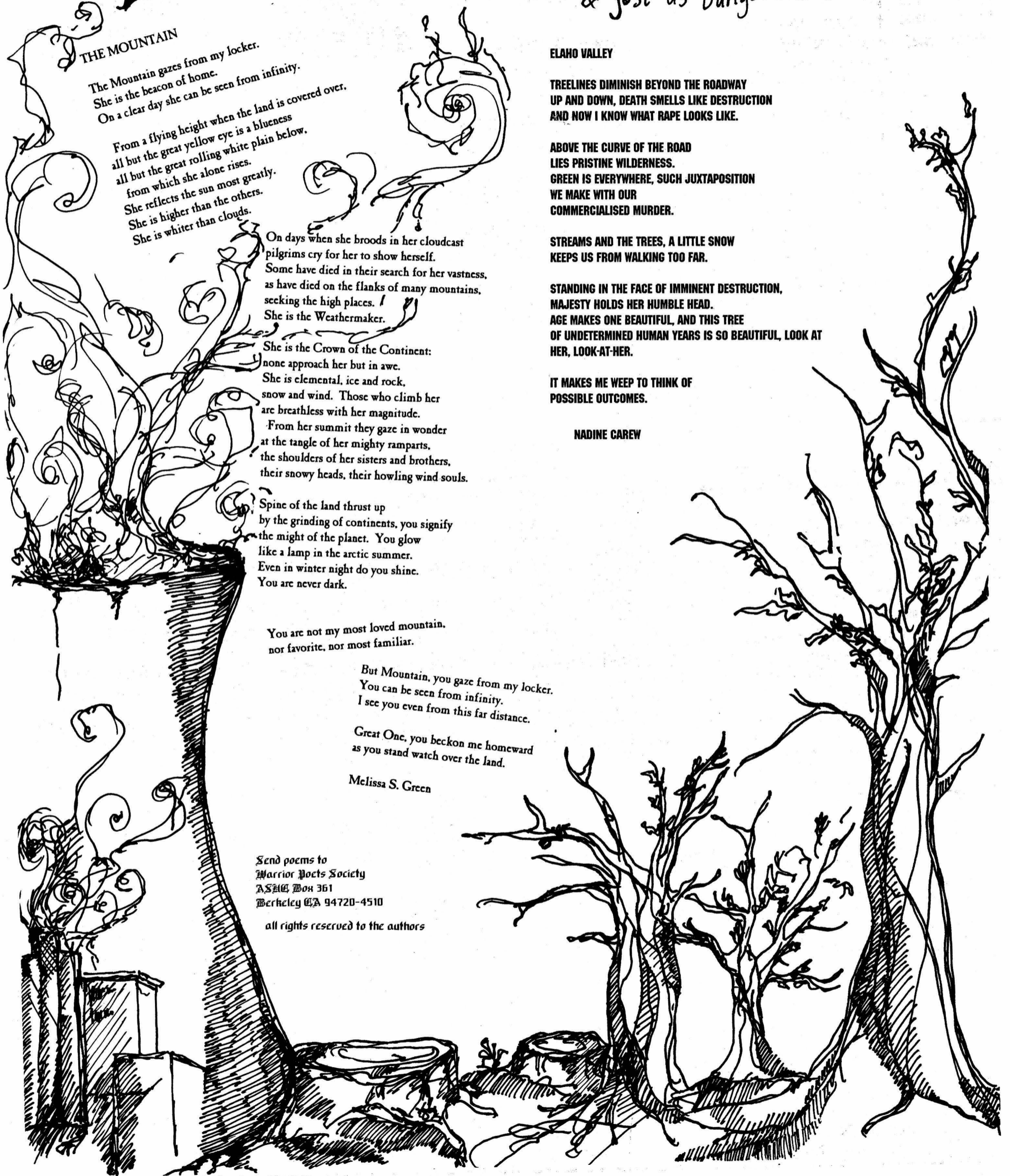
ABOVE THE CURVE OF THE ROAD
LIES PRISTINE WILDERNESS.
GREEN IS EVERYWHERE, SUCH JUXTAPOSITION
WE MAKE WITH OUR
COMMERCIALISED MURDER.

STREAMS AND THE TREES, A LITTLE SNOW
KEEPS US FROM WALKING TOO FAR.

STANDING IN THE FACE OF IMMINENT DESTRUCTION,
MAJESTY HOLDS HER HUMBLE HEAD.
AGE MAKES ONE BEAUTIFUL, AND THIS TREE
OF UNDETERMINED HUMAN YEARS IS SO BEAUTIFUL, LOOK AT
HER, LOOK-AT-HER.

IT MAKES ME WEEP TO THINK OF
POSSIBLE OUTCOMES.

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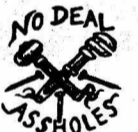
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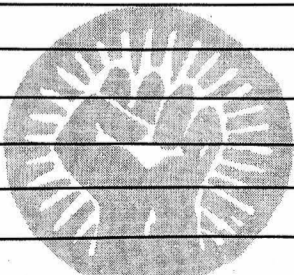

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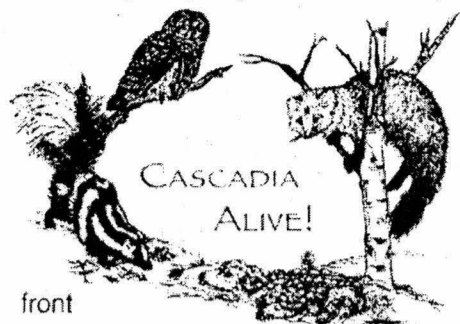
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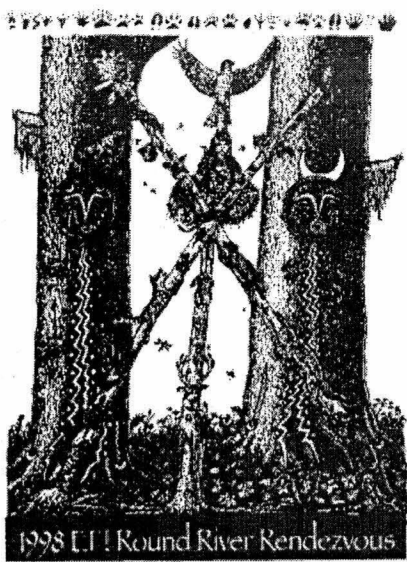
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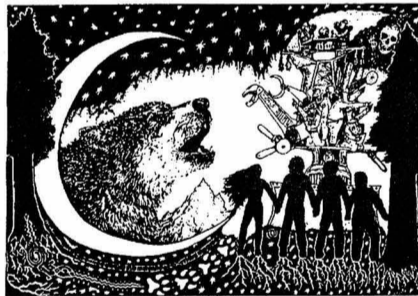
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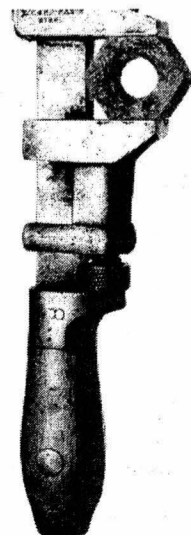
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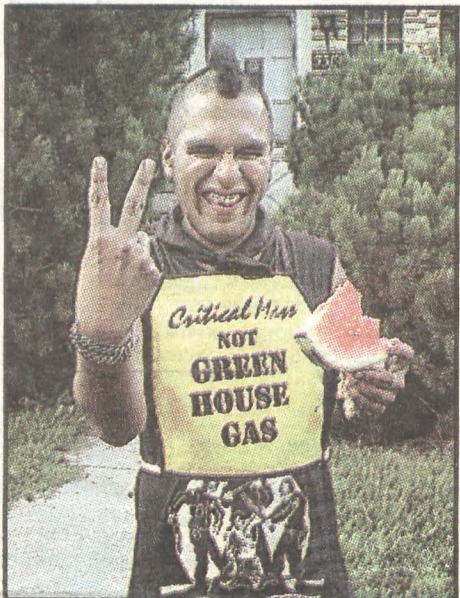
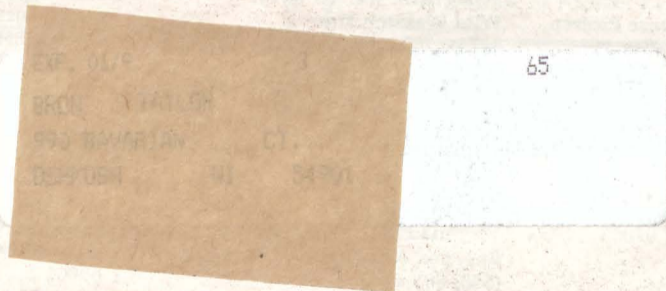
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