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Earth First!

Eostar

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

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U'wa Brutally Crushed at Gibraltar 1 Then Re-occupy the Drill Site

BY PATRICK REINSBOROUGH

We prefer genocide sponsored by the Colombian government rather than handing over our Mother Earth to oil companies.

—U'WA COMMUNIQUÉ, JANUARY 20

We are all children of the Earth, help us to defend her.

—BERITO KUWARU'WA, SPOKESPERSON
TRADITIONAL U'WA AUTHORITY

In the remote cloud forests of north-eastern Colombia, the brutal history of invasion, ecological devastation and genocide which has shaped the Americas for 500 years is repeating itself. A small, semi-nomadic and traditional indigenous tribe is struggling to defend its ancestral homelands from the invasion of a ruthless multinational corporation. At stake is the existence of an entire indigenous culture, one of the most fragile and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet and ultimately the future of our global fossil-fuel addiction.

This is the story of the U'wa, which means "the thinking people" and their

uncompromising, eight-year resistance to Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum's (Oxy) effort to drill on their land. The U'wa grabbed international headlines in 1996 when they vowed to commit collective suicide rather than allow their homeland to be desecrated by oil drilling. Since then a growing international movement has emerged to support their uncompromising resistance.

Despite national and international protest, the Colombian government last September granted Oxy permission to drill on U'wa land. In November several hundred U'wa, including women, children and tribal elders, responded by occupying the first proposed drill site known as Gibraltar 1. Their message is clear: "We would rather die, protecting everything that we hold sacred, than lose everything that makes us U'wa."

On January 19, thousands of Colombian soldiers invaded the region and surrounded the U'wa. The standoff ended on January 25 when the army used brutal methods to forcibly evict the last U'wa resisters from the drill site. The U'wa stated in a communiqué on January 31 that "our U'wa brothers



At the industry-sponsored World Environment Conference (WEC) in Santa Barbara, California, a Colombian military officer and an Occidental Petroleum executive meet with Oxy shareholder Al Gore.

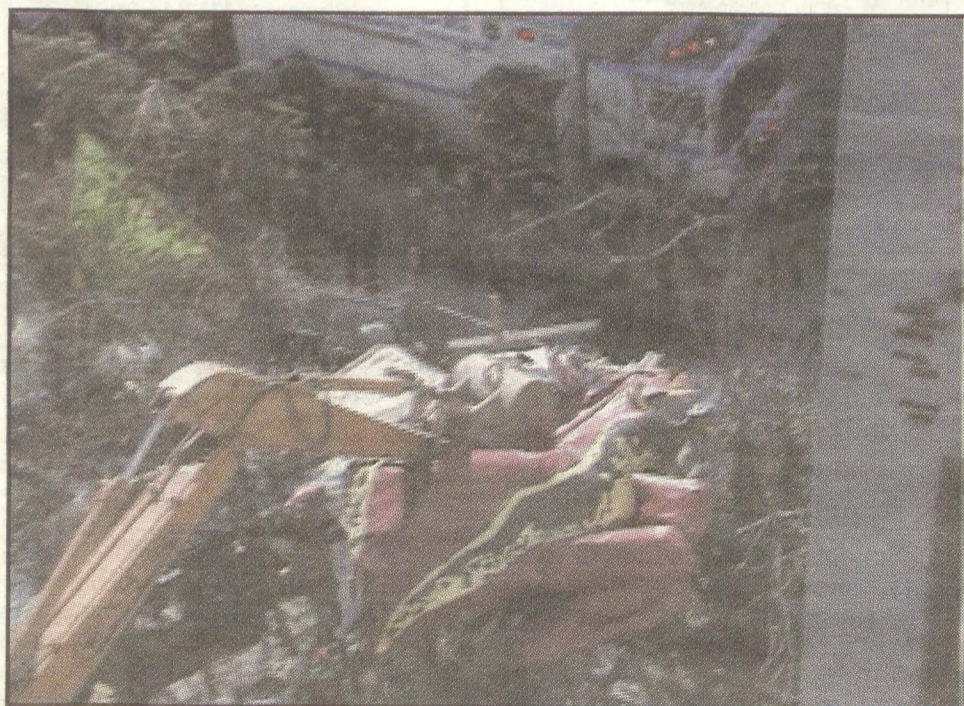
were surrounded by soldiers and riot police... and were physically and psychologically abused, and their personal goods were destroyed."

On February 11 tragedy struck again when the Colombian National Police brutally attacked an U'wa road block-

ade that had prevented Oxy from transporting machinery into the drill site. The police arrived by helicopter and attacked the 450 assembled U'wa with tear gas, bulldozers and riot sticks.

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Bulldozers Demolish Esperanza



With orders from Mayor Giuliani, a bulldozer crushed the 22-year-old community garden.

BY CHRIS FLASH

The bulldozer has plowed the fertile soils of Esperanza and scattered the seeds of hope across the city. The seeds of hope have joined the great winds for a dance across the world.

—MORE GARDENS! COALITION

On February 15, 31 people were arrested defending a community garden against a police raid ordered by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. *El Jardin de la Esperanza* (Gar-

den of Hope), located on East Seventh Street in New York City, started 22 years ago when next-door neighbor Alecia Torres began clearing trash and rubble from the lot. Over the years it became an oasis of flowers, shrubs, winding paths and a *casita*, hosting baptisms, ceremonies and other neighborhood gatherings.

Community Board Three in 1998 approved a proposal by politically connected real-estate developer Donald Capoccia and his partners to build a new housing project on two city-owned lots on Avenue C and on his private adjoining lots on East Eighth Street. This approval was given with the promise that Esperanza, facing the rear of the proposed project, would remain a community garden.

Under the city's "80/20" program, at least 20 percent of Capoccia's proposed housing units must be allocated for low or moderate income residents; however, those units could be set aside in other buildings as far away from the new project as the developers wish. After a few years, those new units would revert to market rate rents. Ultimately, the city's program is a privatization scam that eliminates true low-income housing and garden spaces in favor of market-rate housing, forcing lower income residents out of their neighborhoods.

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Looting Indigenous Medicine in Chiapas

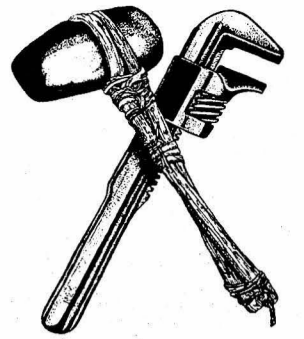
BY RAFI

Eleven indigenous peoples' organizations, known as the Council of Indigenous Traditional Midwives and Healers of Chiapas (*Consejo Estatal de Parteras y Medicos Indigenas Tradicionales de Chiapas*), are demanding that a \$2.5-million, US government-funded bioprospecting program suspend its activities in Chiapas, Mexico. They are also asking other indigenous people in Chiapas to refuse to cooperate with the researchers.

The project is led by the University of Georgia, in cooperation with a Mexican university research center, *El Colegio de la Frontera Sur* (ECOSUR), and Molecular Nature Ltd., a biotechnology company based in Wales, UK. Despite protests by local Mayan organizations, the University of Georgia says it will not halt the five year project, which aims to collect and evaluate thousands of plants and microorganisms used in traditional medicine.

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EARTH FIRST!



NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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

DAVE FOREMAN WOULD LAUGH IN HIS BEER

Back in 1990 I was invited to my first Earth First! Activist Conference. The meeting, in Boulder, Colorado, was an emergency gathering to determine whether the *Earth First! Journal* properly portrayed the current movement. It had been spurred by the rumors that Dave Foreman, etc., no longer wanted to produce the *Journal*. I was told that my input as a hunt saboteur and animal liberation activist, as well as my experience as an EFler, was needed in order to help ensure that the paper represented the entire movement not just the elite few who published it.

Back then almost every region with an active group published a local rag, but the *Earth First! Journal* was the only tool that activists could hand out to the public, whether it be a 10th-grade class or a crowd locked down to a railroad track. Don't forget, this was before the all-encompassing world of email.

We seemed to be full of a bitter passion, needing to piss on all those around us in our quest to save wilderness.

The old guard, Foreman, etc., believed that Earth First! should stay the way it had always been—a misanthropic, biologically based, wilderness-lovin' group of good ol' boys. Others believed that the movement should diversify to include not only wilderness conservation but also animal rights, gender and socio-ecological issues. Of course, all those gathered in Colorado understood that we would never agree to narrow definitions of who we were. So instead the meetings went in a different direction. We found ourselves talking about a huge variety of campaigns and ideologies. We decided that the *Earth First! Journal* content did not represent the movement's newly discovered direction and we agreed that a new staff must take over. A group of angry individuals from

Missoula, Montana stepped forward with a well thought out proposal. By the end of the four long days the movement walked away stronger and healthier, although all those using the Earth First! banner did not agree.

Foreman, etc., had already decided that they did not like the new, farther-reaching rhetoric spewing from the



They sure don't make Earth Firsters like they used to, or do they—photo from 1982 EFl gathering

mouths of us babes, so they stopped "being" Earth First! and refused to pass on the *EFl* mailing list.

But the movement survived.

The *Earth First! Journal* was published out of a grimy little office in Missoula until the community could no longer support the papers ever growing needs. In 1993 the *Journal* moved to Eugene, Oregon, where it is published today.

Which brings us to now.

At this year's Conference the always-asked questions of who are we, and where are we going? were once again asked and, of course, that led us to wonder if the current *Earth First! Journal* staff accurately represents the movement. We made no decisions but agreed that Earth First! is diverse. Many seemed to feel that the movement is heading towards more social issues and that multi-cultural outreach is a job for the *EFl*. Discussions turned to moving the paper to Tucson, Arizona, or New York City, whose proposals included using the *EFl* as a social-outreach tool.

And now I am the old guard, dragging my feet at the suggestion of change. But, you see, I like the movement and the paper these days. There seems to be a particularly good mix of environmental preservation and hard-edge street punk. We care about the world and the people who live on it, while acknowledging the fucked-upness of it all. Earth Firsters are passionate, but finally the need to hurt ourselves appears to be gone. We fight for the Earth and do not compromise. But I fear that we may change. As we expand to include too many human-centered beliefs eventually Earth First! will become Cultural Sensitivity First!

Besides, I like the big old trees and wide open spaces, believing that without our help the corporate world would eat them all. Has the Earth First! movement done so well that saving wilderness is now passé?

Which leaves me with the question, what do we leave behind in our quest to become all things to all people; is it the forests, or the oceans, or the humans?

Hopefully it will be none of these. I have no doubt that the movement is intelligent and creative enough to grow in a healthy direction, but I fear the mistakes we will make along the way. Please, let's not forget to put the Earth first.

Come to this year's Round River Rendezvous to ensure you are a part of the future of the Earth First! movement and the *Journal*.

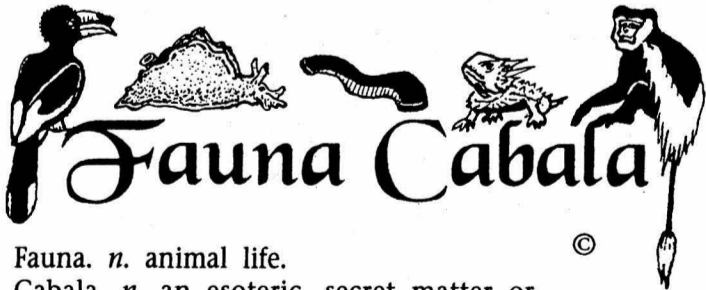
—KRIS

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

Pardon our mistake, *EFl* February-March 2000's West Papua article said 30,000 people had been killed since 1960, actually 300,000 have been killed by Indonesian forces.

BY FAITH WALKER

exhibit such tolerance. Normally in parasitoid wasps only one larva survives even if multiple eggs are laid; siblicide occurs during mandibular duels or by the secretion of toxic chemicals. It is rare for tolerance to evolve once siblicidal behavior becomes established in a species since anybody with a genetic predisposition for tolerance won't survive to reproduce. However, there is potential for the evolution of tolerance in wasps because they have haplodiploid sex determination (females are diploid, meaning that they have two sets of chromosomes; males are haploid, with only one set of chromosomes) and can control offspring gender. Because females store sperm, they can decide which eggs to fertilize (hence daughters) or not (hence sons). These decisions, often based on the size and quality of the host, can facilitate nonsiblicide if broods are entirely one sex or the other, as in *A. armilla*. The skew in the number of chromosomes means that sisters are more related to each other than to brothers, and the net increase in relatedness means that altruistic behavior is more likely to evolve. Thus, in the ground, in squishy caterpillar goo, there is a wasp parasitoid of a wasp parasitoid, one of that is so aggressive toward siblings that mothers don't even bother laying two eggs together, and the other that has evolved tolerance despite its ripping mandibles.



Fauna. *n.* animal life.

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

A female ground-nesting wasp of the genus *Ammophila* will catch a caterpillar and carry it away to her nest where, within the baby butterfly's body, she lays a single egg. Her egg hatches in two days and the larva slurps its caterpillar world. Females of another wasp, *Argochrysis armilla*, learn the locations of *Ammophila* nests by watching them dig. When an *Ammophila* returns with her caterpillar catch, a sneaky *A. armilla* will slip through the doorway and decorate ceiling and walls with her own eggs. Once hatched, these larvae use large, piercing mandibles to shred and devour the caterpillar along with the *Ammophila* host's larva.

Somehow *A. armilla* larvae refrain from shredding their siblings. This is the only species of the 3,000 in its family to

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

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

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SCHEDULE

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March 30

Empowered By Arrest

BY MARIPOSA

I have often wondered what it would be like to participate in an act of civil disobedience; whether I'd have the courage to sacrifice my freedom, if only for a few hours. A long time ago, I secretly resolved that I would not participate if it meant getting arrested.

For me personally it did not seem like a logical way to protest injustice. Wouldn't I be a more effective participant in the struggle for freedom if I was free? Don't get me wrong. I understood the importance and historical significance of civil disobedience as a tactic in the struggle for peace and justice, especially as a means of getting media attention and building mass support. I just didn't want to get arrested, plain and simple. I rationalized that I'd do more good by reciting a poem. I am a poet, after all. Or maybe I'd be more effective as one of the demonstrators. I do have a loud voice, and I'm good at holding banners. Or maybe I'd help by talking to the press or handing out leaflets or petitioning for signatures. All of these roles are equally important. But get arrested? Handcuffed by the police and detained indefinitely? No way! Not me! Sorry Charlie.

So when my friend asked me on the first day of the year if I wanted to be a part of civil disobedience for the freedom of Vieques and be among the women arrested on *El Día de Los Reyes Mago*, I was not very enthusiastic. Though I asked her for details, I was acutely aware of a tight gnawing in my gut and a familiar voice inside of me, snickering, mocking me: "Yeah right. Get arrested? Picture that. Ha!" But I felt undecided. I could not stop thinking about it. Thoughts of Vieques and the demonstration plagued me along with questions that confused and frightened me until finally I realized that the real reason why I did not want to get arrested was because I was afraid, terrified actually, of challenging the powers that be, terrified of fighting for what I know in my heart and soul to be right and true, terrified of standing up for the freedom of my people, of standing up for my own freedom.

It was upon this realization that I decided to participate. I had already declared that this was the year I would face fear. As the ball dropped in Times Square and millions held their breath in fear that their worst Y2K nightmares would come true, I was in the Bronx praying that God would grant me courage in the new millennium and most of all love.

So I went to the United Nations on January 6 to stand up for the people of Vieques who are my people, but also to face the force that holds us back the most: fear.

Esperanza told me to be at 45th Street and 1st Avenue at 2 p.m. I had no idea who else would be there that day or what to expect. All I know is that I was afraid. At 1 p.m. I was still at home when I should have been on a southbound train. I actually started to wash the dishes, and wondered if I had enough time to cash my check and stop at the post office for some stamps. I was stalling for time, and I knew it. I rinsed a couple

of cups and abandoned the idea of backing down. I ran to the train station.

I spent the whole ride with my eyes closed as I tried to calm and ground myself. I couldn't even write. I was so scared my hands were shaking. When I got to Grand Central Station it was 2 p.m. on the dot. I ran all the way to the United Nations hoping I wasn't too late. I got there just in time to be counted. I knew all of the women except one young sister who looked strangely familiar. It took me a couple of minutes amid the fear, the excitement and wishing everybody *feliz Día de los Reyes* to realize the young sister was Rosie Perez, the actress, looking brave and determined but just as scared as I felt. As I glanced at her and the other women, I felt less and less afraid. The police had the eight of us along with the other demonstrators corralled behind the usual blue and white barricades in a radius that couldn't be more than 10 feet wide. It was cold and cloudy that day. There weren't many of us, but it didn't matter.

I watched two women climb the steps to the US Mission to the United Nations to hand over our petition asking for an end to the 70 years of bombings in Vieques, Puerto Rico, which has resulted in the loss of Puerto Rican lives, the destruction of wildlife and the contamination of the land. As we joined hands to block the entrance, the classic David and Goliath image of the little fishing boats challenging the Navy warships came to mind. I was quiet. Some of the others were chanting along with the demonstrators. I turned to see D. Vera, a life-long activist whose first arrest was in Puerto Rico in the early 1930s at the age of 12. She was collecting money with other children to liberate Don Pedro Albizu Campos from one of his many prison stays. The strength in her reddened face was awesome and indescribable. She was screaming, "*Vieques es mi patria! Me voy a defender mi patria hasta la muerte!*" (Vieques is my country! I'm going to defend my country until death!) As we were handcuffed, we started singing.

Although the temperature was freezing I felt like I was on fire inside. The paddy wagon and police were intimidating, but I wasn't afraid anymore. I realized in that instant the power of surrendering. To surrender is not to submit. To surrender is to be free. Though I was handcuffed and physically vulnerable, I never felt more powerful in all of my life. Their symbols of external power, their weapons of death and destruction are nothing compared to the true power, the light inside of us that can never be caged and never be destroyed.

I felt the presence of many beings. I felt the presence of our ancestors; the presence of our assassinated, tortured and imprisoned martyrs. And I felt the presence of *los tres Reyes Mago* and the power of our spirits as we were photographed one by one entering the paddy wagon. And we sang. We sang from our hearts. I felt a rush of ancestral memory flood me as I looked around the paddy wagon pondering our many ancestors who undoubtedly had



artwork by Eric Drooker

experienced the same emotions I was experiencing at that moment. And I never felt so strong, connected to our legacy of struggle and survival.

As soon as the doors closed we all busted out laughing, out of nervousness I guess. It felt good to laugh. The officer driving called out, "Hang on ladies!" and I had the sense that everything was going to be okay. The officers were actually very respectful. They treated our elders with the utmost care. They did not fingerprint us and did not degrade us by throwing us in a dirty cell. We were allowed to sit in a cluttered office just outside of the dirty cell. They provided some of us with chairs, took our IDs and recorded how much money we each had, which I thought was weird. A feeling of peace settled over us as we joked with each other and talked about how scared we were and how it was nothing like we had imagined it would be. Being arrested was a new experience for most of us.

It felt good to know I was not the only one who was afraid. We talked about cooking and natural healing remedies and enjoyed each others' company. We were released in less than three hours.

I am proud to have been a part of giving the gift of getting arrested to *La Isla Nena* for the cause of freedom and in defense of my people, and I am grateful for the gift I was given in return: the insights that we are never alone, that as individuals we each are powerful but together we are an entity, a force to be reckoned with. There is a Goliath in each and every one of us waiting to be freed. Last but not least, I learned the power of surrendering which is what we need to do as a people. We need to surrender, despite the fear. We need to surrender to self love, to standing up for ourselves and what is ours by divine birthright, and most of all we need to surrender to our destiny which is to be free.

A proud Boricua woman, Mariposa is a poet, performance artist, educator, activist and freelance writer. The author would like to thank Erica Gonzalez for her encouragement in writing this essay.

Dear Shit For Brains, (PLEASE, KEEP THEM SHORT)

Dear SFB,

A callous insensitive poodle to whoever awarded a wolf to the A&M kids.

love,

—DANNY

Hi all!

This is a message from Barcelona. Here there was also an action on the 30th of November, but people did not think in sending a message to you until recently. In any case, we forward you a translation of a brief report written by some of the participants in that global day of action down here.

"People from a diversity of collectives and individuals gathered at *Plaça Universitat*, in Barcelona city centre, after a call from *Trenquem el Silenci* (Breaking the Silence). Once

there, cars' traffic was stopped and we went to the Stoke Markets' building in order to perform a surprise nonviolent direct action. The security guards tried to impede us to get into the building, but around 150 people occupied the main hall for half an hour, while drums and other sounds were disrupting speculation. During such occupation a manifesto against capitalist trade was read, and a demand for stopping considering people as commodities was claimed. The hall was 're-decorated' with confetti and paintings. In the meantime, outdoors, posters and banners were stuck on the walls and people walking in the streets stopped to have a look. In the middle of the euphoria for the success of the action, we went all back to the streets and stop-

ping the traffic, we walked to the main building of the Bank of Spain. While cutting the access to the building, a performance was done on the implications of the global capitalist trade for people's lives and the WTO's role. A local newspaper tried to criminalise the action...

In Lleida, another Catalan town, also a direct action was successfully performed."

—REVISTA ILLACRUA ILLACRUA

Hi SFB,

Greetings from *El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los Angeles*. I am developing an allergy to Ballona Creek. It's worse than Love's Canal... And all the Sierra Clubbers can do is wave a few signs at the bulldozers. They are too busy planning their escapes from LA on the weekends.

The cowardly City Council doesn't care whether or not they build schools on toxic dumps, and they certainly don't care about the last wetlands in our mama LA.

What do they care about a few endangered species in the wetlands?

I really think that Earth First! needs to address this horrible end of the LA River... I mean, what are 10,000,000 to do, choking on pollution, with nothing but *Earth First! Journal* to read? We don't have the big trees, so you Greenies ignore us? Greenpeace gets most of their funding from LA, but do you think they will help us "Heal the Bay?" No, you are considering relocating the *Journal* to the East Coast, to Tucson... anywhere but the biggest megalopolis in the coun-

try. What's up with that? We had a bigger demonstration in 1992 than Seattle did in 1999, but the so-called "activists" up in the north aren't planning anything for the Democratic National Convention here? Why not?

I guess you need to be in the rarefied air up there, in order to get the "Walden" ambience... Where do you think the workers are who need organization? Most of them are in LA... wishing they could take a day off to go to the beach... even if it is too polluted to touch with a ten-foot pole.

When are you coming to the Midnight Special in Santa Monica, to do a fundraiser???

—KATHY "ANOTHER MORMON ON DRUGS" NELSON

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A LONG WARM WINTER IN YELLOWSTONE BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN PROTECTS THE HERD

BY DAN BRISTER

A mild winter in the Northern Rockies has given temporary reprieve to the buffalo of Yellowstone National Park and Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) volunteers. This winter, only one buffalo—an old bull—has crossed the park's west boundary and entered Montana. Even though bulls can't transmit brucellosis, agents of the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) have repeatedly and unsuccessfully attempted to haze the buffalo from a meadow beside the Madison River in the Gallatin National Forest. It is unclear whether the DOL was attempting to capture the buffalo or haze him back to Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone herd is the only herd continuously descended from wild buffalo in the United States. These individuals are the direct descendants of just 23 buffalo that escaped the mass slaughter of the 1800s by finding refuge in the park's remote Pelican Valley. By the mid 1990s the herd had recovered to more than 3,000 animals. But the '90s have been the bloodiest decade for the buffalo in more than a hundred years. Since 1996, nearly 2,000 buffalo have been gunned down by Montana livestock agents and National Park Service officials. In the first four months of 1997 alone, 1,083 buffalo were shot.

The DOL justifies the slaughter using the presence of the brucellosis bacteria in buffalo. Brucellosis, which originated in European cattle, causes domestic cows to abort their first calf. Although wild buffalo have never transmitted the disease to cattle, the state's livestock industry says it fears a loss of its "brucellosis-free" status and has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for bison entering Montana. The state's position is neither supported by science nor endorsed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the federal agency responsible for certifying a state brucellosis free. APHIS has no authority over wildlife and can only revoke a state's status if livestock become infected. APHIS spokesman Patrick Collins thinks the state's zero-tolerance policy goes way too far. "We don't feel there's a need to kill every bison that comes out of the park," he said.

Although there are no cattle on the Yellowstone border until June 15, bison are hazed, captured and killed as they enter Montana. Elk, also known to carry brucellosis, are not targeted by the state because unlike buffalo they bring in revenue through hunting licenses. Because brucellosis is a reproductive tract disease passed through fetal tissue, the risk of non-pregnant cows, calves or bulls transmitting the disease is virtually nonexistent. The DOL doesn't care: Of the 90 buffalo slaughtered last winter, 42 were bulls.

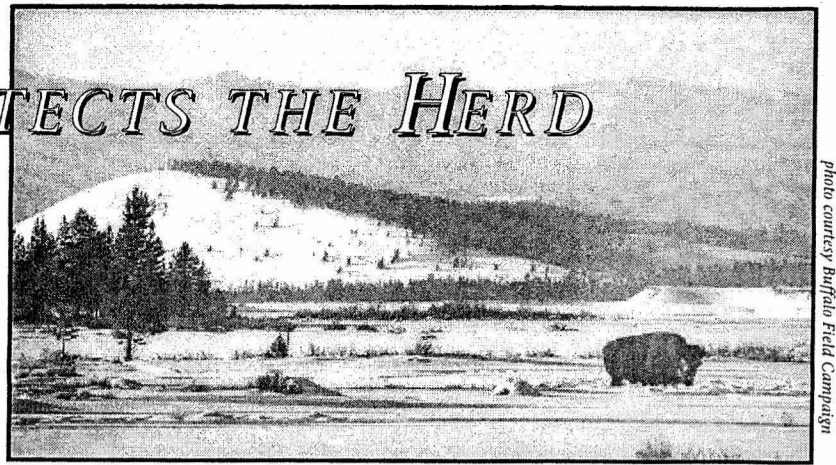
The DOL's fifth and latest attempt to haze the bull on the Madison River on February 10 lasted nearly seven hours. During the operation, agents chased the

buffalo on a snowmobile while firing cracker-barrel rounds from shotguns. The buffalo repeatedly eluded the agents by crossing the Madison River and hiding in heavily forested areas. After getting their snowmobiles stuck in deep snow, the agents put on snowshoes and harassed the buffalo on foot.

Hazing buffalo causes them heavy stress and taxes crucial energy reserves they need to survive the winter. Other wildlife are also stressed. Bald eagles, trumpeter swans, mountain lions, moose and elk all were observed along the Madison River during the February 10 hazing.

The DOL keeps a buffalo trap at Duck Creek, on land owned by Dale Koelzer. Koelzer was arrested in late September for poaching a bull buffalo on his property, just outside Yellowstone National Park. The carcass, which was discovered by BFC volunteers, had been skinned and the head and genitals removed. Although Koelzer originally denied involvement, he later confessed to the crime. Wildlife officials found the head and hide in his possession, but the penis was never recovered. When asked about his motivation for killing the buffalo, Koelzer replied, "It was bothering my truck." He faces trial in Bozeman on March 22.

Conflicts have increased between the forces of Montana's powerful livestock industry and Buffalo Field Campaign activists. The DOL has initiated an aggressive, multi-agency campaign to harass and intimidate citizens working to end the slaughter. On January 25, a BFC volunteer was hit by a DOL snowmobile while she documented a hazing operation. Activists documenting a similar operation on January 30 had their videotape illegally confiscated by a Gallatin County Sheriff's deputy. While Deputy Sheriff Rob Burns tugged on the camera—which was strapped



Lone buffalo surveys park boundary.

photo courtesy Buffalo Field Campaign

to a woman's neck—Montana Highway Patrolman Matt Manke removed her ski mask and photographed her. Though the officers said they were investigating a crime, no charges were ever filed. Manke was later observed outside our cabin in the middle of the night, recording license plate numbers from vehicles belonging to BFC volunteers. In the following week five volunteers were pulled over, hassled and issued citations, some twice in one day.

Volunteers are urgently needed in the spring when buffalo commonly migrate from the park. Hundreds of buffalo are within a few miles of the park boundary right now, moving toward Montana. BFC provides a warm sleeping space, and Seeds of Peace prepares home-cooked meals for those who come to stand with the buffalo. We monitor the herd's migration, perform acts of nonviolent civil disobedience and document all actions taken against the buffalo.

We are planning a week of actions for the buffalo from April 22-30. Direct action, nonviolent civil disobedience, first aid, video and media trainings will be provided. If you've been wanting to come to Yellowstone to defend this last wild, free-roaming herd of buffalo, this is the time. With your help we can shut down the DOL!

The Buffalo Field Campaign can be reached at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/buffalo.

IDAHO OPPOSES ROADLESSNESS

Top 10 reasons heard in Idaho for opposing President Clinton's recently announced protection of 40 million acres of roadless national forests from road building and logging:

1. Those tricky elk are hard to shoot when they hide behind those big, overmature trees.
2. Public lands? Sounds like Socialism to me.
3. He sidestepped Congress! Can you imagine? This threatens the very heart of our democracy: political action committees. The timber companies spent almost \$250,000 in the last several years to elect Larry Craig, Mike Crapo, Helen Chenoweth and

Allen Simpson in order to prevent just this sort of thing.

4. Representative Twila Hornbeck (R-Grangeville) said "not one more inch!" 'Nuff said.
5. We thought the Democrats were too weak to accomplish anything in Idaho.
6. The president is just another out-of-stater trying to tell us our bid'ness.
7. Ecology is an unproven theory.
8. No roads will ruin the poaching.
9. The Clinton thing is about vision. We don't need any of that liberal nonsense here in Idaho.
10. Sixty percent of Idaho voters support permanent protection of Idaho's roadless backcountry, but a lot of them live in Boise.

Wolves and Poodles

A tough ol' big-toothed wolf to an endangered crocodile named Snaggletooth for swimming 140 miles around the southern tip of Florida from a relocation site on Florida's

Gulf Coast, returning to the Miami-Dade golf club she calls home.

An animal-liberating, badge-wearing wolf to Denmark Police for cutting the power to the blender aquariums containing live goldfish to be pureed during a recent art exhibit in Copenhagen. The display at the Trapholt Art Museum allowed visitors to decide whether or not to turn on 10 mixing machines and kill the fish.

A Picasso-esque, Dada-ist wolf to controversial Danish sculptor Jens Galschiot for donating the Pillar of Shame, an 8-meter-tall sculpture depicting more than 50 human bodies painfully twisted in obelisk form, to Brazilian parliamentarians. The sculpture, the third of its kind, represents atrocities against humans. By accepting the art and displaying it, the government acknowledged that such outrageous acts must never recur.



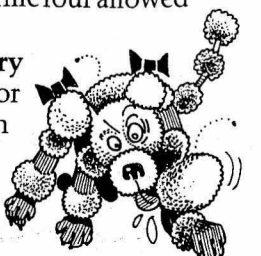
A big, ugly, brain-dead poodle to the US Army and North Korean troops stationed in the Korean demilitarized zone during the early winter. The two showed tremendous pride when sharpshooters from each side demonstrated their solidarity by joining to sport shoot and kill a wild wolf.

An inbred, head-in-a-paper-sack poodle to former President George Bush for accepting the "Governor of the Year" award on behalf of his son, Texas Governor George W. Bush. The "conservation" award was given by the Safari Club, an organization of trophy hunters that promotes competitive killing of rare wildlife throughout the world.

A 1984-esque poodle to Applied Digital Solutions, Inc., for seeing the multi-million-dollar market potential of the Digital Angel, the first human-implantable transceiver that sends and receives data and can be tracked continuously by GPS (Global Positioning System) technology. Inserted just under the skin, the transceiver is powered electromechanically through the movement of muscles, enabling the device to remain implanted and functional for years without maintenance.

An astronaut but kinky poodle to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for using tax dollars to run ten different love-making tests in a lab on earth to determine which sexual positions work best in zero-gravity. Six of the positions used an inflatable tunnel with wall straps, while four allowed the couple to float freely.

A Disney-ified, corporate-owned, ass-kissing poodle to Terry L. Anderson, environmental advisor to George Bush, Jr., for proposing to auction off all 600 million acres of federal lands in the US over the next 20 to 40 years. Under his proposal, nonprofit environmental groups could bid against the likes of Exxon-Mobil to obtain the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or against Weyerhaeuser to obtain Yellowstone National Park.



Saving the Sapphire Roadless Area in Western Montana

BY HOWIE WOLKE

The Sapphire Roadless Area includes the mid and high elevations of the southern Sapphire range at Skalkaho Pass about 15 miles southeast of Hamilton, Montana. Here is a little known chunk of a threatened high country, a wildlife mecca with a rocky tree line crest that drops to verdant meadows and densely forested valleys. The east slope is drained by Rock Creek, a nationally famous blue ribbon trout stream; the west by the Bitterroot River. Just to the north is the proposed Stoney Mountain Wilderness along the central Sapphire divide. The Sapphires are actually part of a 365,000-acre wildland; they are connected to the protected Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, which lies just to the southeast. The Sapphires' primeval forest is an essential complement to the classic alpine terrain of the Anaconda-Pintlar.

The Sapphires are bounded on the southwest by the Bitterroot National Forest's Sula District, one of the most heavily roaded and over-cut areas in the Northern Rockies. Yet within the roadless area the ebb and flow of wildness still prevails in the magic of a bull elk's autumn bugle, the distant wanderings of a solitary wolverine, the silence of deep winter in the wilds.

Unlike the cheatgrass and knapweed-infested foothills (once a rich native bunchgrass ecosystem), the well-watered Sapphire high country still supports native ecological communities. Elevations range from 5,000 feet along Skalkaho Creek to 8,998 feet atop Kent Peak and support mixed montane (temperate) forests of ponderosa pine and subalpine woods of spruce, subalpine fir, whitebark pine and alpine larch. Moist subalpine meadows are nourished—even during dry summers—by perennial springs of clear water seeping through the rock crest. In addition, the highlands support extensive stands of healthy whitebark pine with little blister rust infestation. Whitebark pine nuts are an important food source for Clark's nutcracker, squirrels, bears and many other wildlife species. Like most Rocky Mountain forests, those in the Sapphires evolved with natural wildfire, nature's agent for maintaining a healthy, dy-

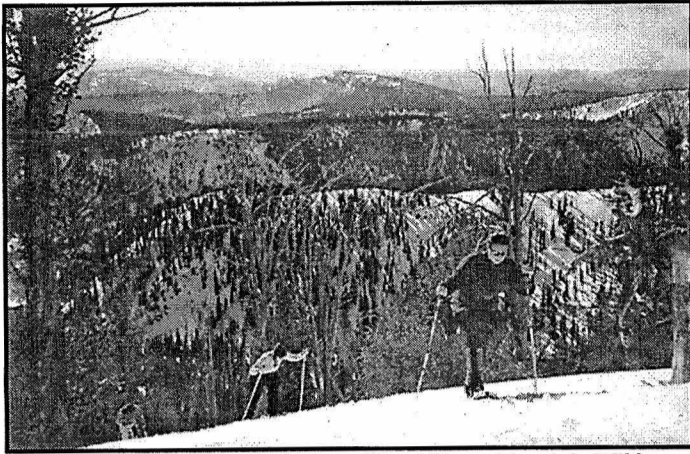
namic forest landscape. Past wildfires shaped today's forests, and future wildfires are as inevitable as the dawn. When burned-over areas are left alone—not "salvage" logged—ecological succession quickly restores life, growth, and green diversity to the ever-changing land.

Westslope cutthroat and bull trout have radically declined in surrounding areas of logged forest, but they still thrive in the Sapphires. So do mountain whitefish. The high conifers support lynx, marten, fisher and wolverine. Black bears thrive. Willowy riparian bottoms and old-

growth fir support a healthy moose population. Roughly one thousand elk summer in the roadless area. A few mountain goats persist within and near the Moose Creek drainage. A few bighorns also survive. Mule and whitetail deer are common. Pikas, hoary marmots and golden eagles grace the subalpine wilds... In short, the proposed Sapphire Wilderness is a rare gem—a true wildlife haven of immeasurable value as a wild, living, evolving chunk of the incomparable Wild Rockies bioregion.

The Sapphires are part of a wildland corridor or linkage consisting of roadless and lightly roaded areas extending from the Welcome Creek Wilderness near Missoula south to Lost Trail Pass and along the Continental Divide to Yellowstone. This linkage provides the potential for wide-ranging species such as wolverine and grizzly to move between the greater Yellowstone, Salmon-Selway, and Glacier-Northern Continental Divide ecosystems. The resulting genetic interchange limits inbreeding and is a hedge against environmental or demographic cataclysms that could wipe out a small isolated population. The Sapphires are also along the eastern fringe of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest complex of undeveloped wildlands in the lower 48 states.

There are many reasons to save and restore wild places like the Sapphires. Though conservationists used to emphasize scenery and recreation, they now discuss wilderness in terms of maintaining landscape processes (wildfire, wind,



Skiing in the magnificent Stoney Mountain Wilderness

Photo courtesy of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies

disease and floods) and native biological diversity (native species thriving across a continuum of natural habitats). For example, only in big wilderness can populations of big carnivores such as the grizzly thrive, and only in big wilderness can we allow natural wildfire—upon which many species and ecological communities depend—to run its course. We can cite many studies proving that grizzlies, elk, and many other species decline as habitats are fragmented by roads and logging. In other words, conservationists now argue convincingly that saving wilderness is essential to maintaining life as we know it on Earth. Yet our species continues to destroy the wilds. Facts and science are powerful, essential. They increase credibility and often help create legal victories. But facts alone don't excite people, and conservation must capture the imagination of more people in order to get them involved. Feelings excite people. Dedication to principles excites people. Grizzlies excite people. The northern lights excite people. The hidden mysteries of a deep, dark wood excite and ignite our primal feelings of awe and wonder. The facts argue for the wilds, yes. But in the long run, saving wilderness also depends upon our willingness to allow nature's flow of wildness to enter our hearts, and our ability to con-

vince society to embrace wild nature as intrinsically good.

The late Senator Lee Metcalf's Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1976 (S. 393) temporarily protects 98,000 acres of the Sapphires as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). In RARE 11(1979) the Forest Service gave the Sapphires a high rating of 26 out of 28 potential points for "Wilderness Attributes." Much of the proposed wilderness is bordered by logging roads and clearcuts. If Congress declassifies the WSA, new logging and roadbuilding proposals will quickly surface. Mining is a threat, especially in the south.

Despite its WSA status, the Forest Service encourages the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), motorcycles and snow machines. In fact, the Sula ranger district has utilized heavy equipment to construct and maintain ATV trails, and some agency employees ride ATV's in the area. One bulldozed ATV trail effectively bisects the southern part of the WSA and should be completely reclaimed. The Friends of the Bitterroot is currently waiting to receive a verdict on the highly contested ATV trail that illegally connects the rare jewels of unprotected wilderness along the Sapphire ridgeline and bisects the entire WSA. Motor vehicles have created erosion, watershed damage, noise pollution and disturbance of wildlife populations. This situation—and many others—illustrates that the only real protection for undeveloped public wildlands is legal Wilderness designation by Congress under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Sapphires are included in the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, HR488.

You can Help to Save the Sapphires. Write the Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest, 1801 N First Street, Hamilton, MT 59840. Urge him to fully protect the roadless area, to eliminate all motorized use and to reclaim all ATV and motorcycle routes. Educate your Congressional representatives about roadless wildlands included in the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), HR 488. For more information, contact the Friends of the Bitterroot, POB 442, Hamilton, MT 59840.

Article courtesy of Big Wild Roadless Area Affinity Project.

BY LEON CZOLGOSZ

This article is reprinted from the Eostar 1986 edition of the Earth First! Journal.

Earth First! cofounder Howie Wolke was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$750 on February 11 for pulling up survey stakes from an oil-and-gas development road in critical wildlife habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest last June. Wolke appeared before Justice of the Peace Bill Cramer in a Pinedale, Wyoming, courtroom to hear sentencing. There was some surprise at the severity of the sentence—the maximum that JP Cramer could hand down—but Howie was unbowed. As he was led from the courtroom to begin serving his sentence he shouted "Long live the wilderness!" He later told reporters "I did it and I'm proud of it."

Wolke was originally arrested on June 24 of last year after 1 1/2 miles of survey stakes were pulled from the route of a road being built by Chevron Oil Corporation to a drilling site within the Greyback roadless area of the Bridger-Teton. The road had been "de-surveyed" on two previous occasions, the most recent being the



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TWO DOLLARS

HOWIE JAILED!

previous month, at a cost to the corporation of several thousand dollars and many weeks in lost time. It should be noted that monkeywrenching of the project took place only after Reid Jackson, then-supervisor of the Bridger-Teton, sabotaged an agreement between the Wyoming environmental community and Chevron regarding the road project. Under the agreement, worked out by the Jackson Hole Alliance and the Sierra Club, Chevron would have returned the road to its natural conditions once drilling operations ceased. Jackson refused to accept such an



Howie in the Sublette County Jail, 1986.

agreement, however, and decided to keep most of the road open permanently, despite the fact that much of the route lies in unstable soils and poses a serious threat to an important watershed.

Wolke was originally charged with felony property destruction, a charge which could have resulted in a

10-year sentence, and released on his own recognizance. He later pled guilty to a reduced charge of "removing a landmark," a misdemeanor, and agreed to pay \$2,554.18 in damages. In sentencing Wolke to the maximum, JP Cramer admitted that he acted under pressure (presumably from pro-development interests) to hand down a severe sentence. "If the jurisdiction of this court had been higher, I would have imposed a higher fine and a higher sentence," he said. Cramer made it clear that the sentence was intended as a message to deter future acts of ecodefense, whether by Wolke or by others. Howie later told a reporter, "I'm prepared to make whatever sacrifice is necessary. I'm aware that the things I do, I do at some risk. I'm paying a penalty for any past or future monkeywrenching anyone in this part of the country has or will ever do. If Judge Cramer and Chevron think that wilderness defenders will be deterred by my sentence, they are mistaken."

Wolke's sentencing (perhaps not coincidentally) comes at a busy season for his guide business, Wild Horizon Expeditions. Fortunately, friends of Howie will continue to operate Wild Horizons during his incarceration, and no scheduled trips will be canceled. In the meantime, Howie plans to put his time in jail to good use by writing a book on the environmental movement.

To learn more about Earth First! history, order a full set of back issues for only \$400.

On Board The M/V ARCTIC SUNRISE

Campaign to stop illegal whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary

BY GREENPEACE

We knew Japan's whaling fleet was illegally hunting whales somewhere in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, and on December 20, after weeks of clandestine searching we found it.

We picked up the *Nisshin-maru's* shadow on the *M/V Arctic Sunrise* radar screen in the early hours of the morning. By 8:15 a.m. we had deployed two rigid-hull inflatable boats, the *Hurricane* and the *Grey Whale*, and were in hot pursuit. The *Nisshin-maru* began to flee through a field of sea ice.

The *Grey Whale* hit a chunk of ice during the chase and was forced to head back to the *Sunrise*, but the *Hurricane* pressed on with ship first mate Frank, second mate Daniel, radio assistant Colin and Yasu on board.

Back on the *Arctic Sunrise*, lead campaigner John Bowler radioed the *Nisshin-maru* to inform them they were in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The statement was repeated in Japanese by Namhee, our translator.

The *Hurricane* caught up with the *Nisshin-maru*, and the crew sighted a catcher boat approaching with another dead whale in tow. The catcher boat had to deliver its kill to the *Nisshin-maru* before it could resume the hunt. The *Hurricane* pulled in front of the *Nisshin-maru* and Frank jumped out of the inflatable and into the path of the oncoming ship. The factory ship was forced to starboard in order to avoid the floating activist. The catcher boat had to make another approach. The crew of the *Hurricane* quickly plucked Frank from the frigid water, and the boat driver sped toward the stern ramp of the *Nisshin-maru*.

The *Nisshin-maru* crew began hauling the whale carcass up the ramp only to

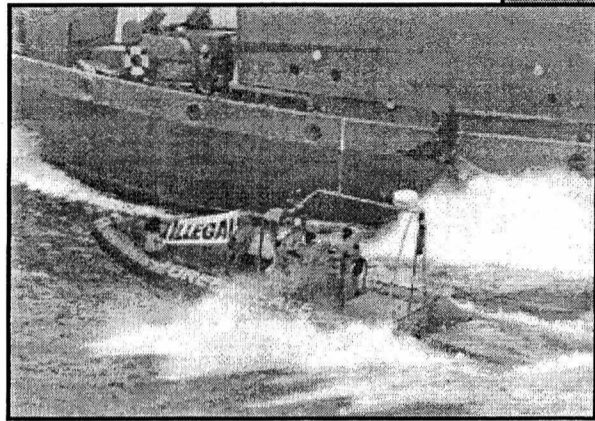
find that Frank had again leapt from the *Hurricane* in a last determined attempt to stop the transfer. The extreme conditions and the fast upward motion of the whale were just too much and Frank lost his grip on the whale fin within moments. Daniel had skillfully kept the *Hurricane* at the stern of the *Nisshin-maru*, enabling the other crew to quickly pull Frank to safety.

Meanwhile, another Japanese catcher boat arrived on the scene to deliver its freshly killed whale, with the *Arctic Sunrise* close on its heels. Greenpeace crew members quickly repaired the *Grey Whale*, and the Greenpeace helicopter took off with our two camera men inside.

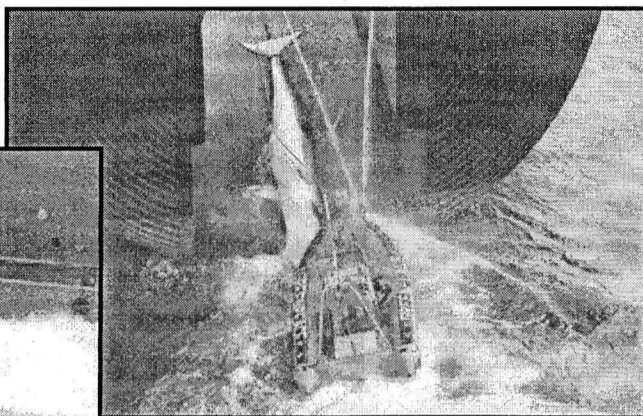
This time Daniel put the *Hurricane* directly between the *Nisshin-maru* and the catcher boat. The crew of both Japanese ships turned their hoses on the crew of the much smaller Greenpeace boat. The crew of the *Hurricane* faced six high-pressure hoses when our helicopter entered the action.

Phil, the pilot, brought the chopper down to hover several meters above the *Hurricane* and between the two ships—making transfer of the whale impossible. The whalers retaliated with their hoses, hitting the cockpit bubble and rotors with streams of salt water. This dangerous action forced Phil to pull back, but by now the *Arctic Sunrise* was close enough to start launching its smaller inflatables. The whalers conceded the round, and the catcher boat pulled away from the factory ship.

This was followed by four more weeks of actions. Eleven actions in total were carried out. The Japanese whaling fleet had intended to kill 440 minke whales. A total kill count will not be completed until the fleet returns to Japan. For more information, contact Greenpeace International at 564 Mission St., Box 416, San Francisco, CA 94150-2918; (800) 326-0959; www.greenpeace.org/~oceans/whales.



Next to the *Nisshin-maru*



Attempting to stop the transfer

photos courtesy Greenpeace

Mexican Wolves Lose Freedom

Faced with intense pressure from the livestock industry, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has removed individuals from three packs of endangered Mexican gray wolves from the forests of eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. The agency is in the process of approving a proposal to re-release some but not all of the captured wolves into the Gila Wilderness.

The removals of the Pipestem, Gavilan and Mule packs jeopardize recovery of the most endangered mammal in North America. There are only seven Mexican wolves left in the wild in the US today.

Severe overgrazing in the Apache National Forest of Arizona and the Gila NF in New Mexico has reduced the amount of natural prey available for the wolves, leaving them with little choice but to scavenge cattle carcasses or prey on abundant cattle grazing in the area.

Last summer FWS captured the entire Pipestem Pack, the first and so far only Mexican wolves to reproduce successfully in the wild in the US in over 70 years (see *EF!* November-December 1999). After first indicating the Pipestem Pack would quickly be freed in the Gila Wilderness, the agency instead has kept them in pens for over six months.

As a result of that capture, three pups died of canine parvovirus. According to a report of a recovery team veterinarian who conducted necropsies on the Pipestem pups, the parvo was likely set off due to the stress of the pups' capture. The Center for Biological Diversity obtained the vet's report only after suing under the Freedom of Information Act. (That suit is ongoing.)

The downfall of the Gavilan Pack came after they ran across dead cattle left in the forest. The Gavilan Pack—which consisted of a mated pair, a yearling male, and five pups—went on to prey on cattle that were being grazed illegally by rancher Carlyle Cathcart in the Apache National Forest last fall.

FWS began trapping the Gavilan Pack around the beginning of the year and has announced that the alpha male will never be re-released. Apparently they now are leaning toward releasing the rest of the pack.

FWS stopped searching for the sole remaining free

pup from the Gavilan Pack, who now is presumed dead. The Gavilan yearling, however, escaped the trappers and made it into the Gila National Forest on his own, where he wanders north of the Gila Wilderness. FWS has stopped trying to trap him.

In early February FWS recaptured the Mule Pack after its members scavenged a dead cow that was left on their home range in the Apache NF. Officials apparently feared that the pack would learn to prey on the abundant cattle in the region as the Gavilan Pack appears to have done. So officials planned to relocate the Mule Pack elsewhere in the forest. The Mule Pack has not killed any cattle.

During the course of trapping the wolves, the alpha female was left in a steel-jawed leg-hold trap overnight. She sustained frostbite and half her leg had to be amputated. The entire pack is now in captivity.

The Mule Pack originally had four pups, but the two currently in captivity are believed to be the only ones still alive. How the two missing pups met their fate is unknown. Despite the mortalities suffered by the Pipestem and Mule pups, a FWS press release erroneously stated that all the pups born in the wild or in forest acclimation pens during the spring of 1999 are still alive.

The success of the Mexican wolf recovery program is predicated on getting wolves into the Gila National Forest, where over 1,000 square miles, mostly in designated wilderness, are currently cattle free. Direct releases to the Gila have been stymied by the livestock industry's political pressure. The Gavilan Pack has been migrating into the Gila on its own, only to run into a minefield of illegal grazing, severe overstocking and cattle carcasses. Removing these wolves from the wild amounts to renouncing the promise of a corridor between Arizona's Blue Primitive Area and New Mexico's Gila Wilderness.

FWS is in the process of approving an environmental assessment to move Mexican gray wolves directly into the Gila Wilderness.

The agency says the uninjured members of the Mule Pack will still be re-released in the wild once it completes the environmental assessment on moving the wolves into the Gila. The release

states that the injured female will be repatriated into the wild if biologists think she can survive.

In related news, the same day the Mule Pack's alpha female was struggling in the trap that would end up costing her a limb, the Gila National Forest reissued the grazing permit for the Citizen Allotment.

It was on the Citizen Allotment, in the migration corridor between the Blue Range and the Gila Wilderness, that another cow carcass left out on the range preceded the Gavilan Pack's preying on cattle in New Mexico and their subsequent removal from the wild. The renewal of the Citizen grazing permit contained no requirement for proper disposal of cattle carcasses, nor any other measures to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock operators.

"Once again, the livestock industry's negligence has resulted in removal of another wolf pack from the wild—but this time without even the excuse of any cattle killed by wolves," said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity's office in Silver City, New Mexico. "It's high time that the Forest Service began requiring permittees to exercise responsible husbandry, including removal of cattle carcasses that may tempt wolves to prey on cattle."

"Removing wolves from the wild has become Fish and Wildlife Service's standard reward to ranchers who fail to follow the rudiments of good husbandry," Robinson added. "As a result, we have fewer Mexican wolves in the wild today than we had when the first wolves were released two years ago. The fact that the most imperiled mammal in North America is being sacrificed to public lands ranching shows how little has changed between the 19th and the 21st centuries."



Screaming to be set free

photo courtesy Fish and Wildlife

Private Drain of a Public Resource

BY THOMAS HICKS

Currently, over one billion people live without access to fresh water. The amount of fresh water on Earth is only one-half of one percent of the total water on the Earth. This percentage is declining while worldwide water consumption is growing at twice the rate of the population. By 2025 the demand for fresh water will be 56 percent greater than its availability.

The role of Canada in the global water issue has recently been discussed. As Canada is such a vast country, it is not surprising that it contains approximately 20 percent of the Earth's fresh water. In light of this condition, it is imperative that Canada act as a leader in the protection of water resources.

Currently, global water is being threatened on a number of fronts. The over use of natural fresh water storage sites threatens future availability. Farmers on the Great Plains of the United States currently remove from the aquifer, 20 billion gallons per day in excess of what can be naturally replaced. It is estimated that this resource will become completely dry in the next 30 to 40 years if this practice continues. The commodification of water threatens to limit access to fresh water to those who can afford a premium price. A 1997 drought in northern Mexico saw the Mexican federal government guarantee water supplies to the transnational companies located in the free trade zone. This was achieved by restricting small farmers' and communities' water supplies.

In Canada the threat of water commodification comes from the potential for bulk water export. Although bulk water export from the Great Lakes has been banned and a pending agreement to export 52 billion litres of fresh water per year from Gisborne Lake, Newfoundland, has been halted, there are still other bulk water export agreements pending involving Canada and the US. Sunbelt, a California-based company, is currently suing the Canadian federal government for \$10.5 billion over lost future profits due to British Columbia's ban on bulk water exports. Similarly, the Canadian company, Global Water Corp., has won a contract to export large amounts of water from Sitka, Alaska, to a free trade zone in China, where the water will be bottled.

In the case of Global Water Corp., the coastal glacier water that it plans to export has been dubbed "waste water," and as such its removal is deemed environmentally safe by the company. Of course, in nature the concept of waste is unknown, as is beautifully illustrated by Paul Hawken in his work,

The Ecology of Commerce. According to Hawken, the meeting of coastal glacier "waste water" and the Pacific Ocean's salt water form the spawning grounds for coastal salmon, a species which has already been devastated by unsustainable fishing practices. The removal of the fresh water element would very likely destroy the delicate ecosystem required for successful spawning. Furthermore, the declining volume of fresh water would allow

the salt front to move further inland, an event that is already being precipitated by global warming. The subsequent destruction of coastal and inland ecosystems and the intrusion of salt water into inland water tables will have far-reaching and devastating impacts on all species.

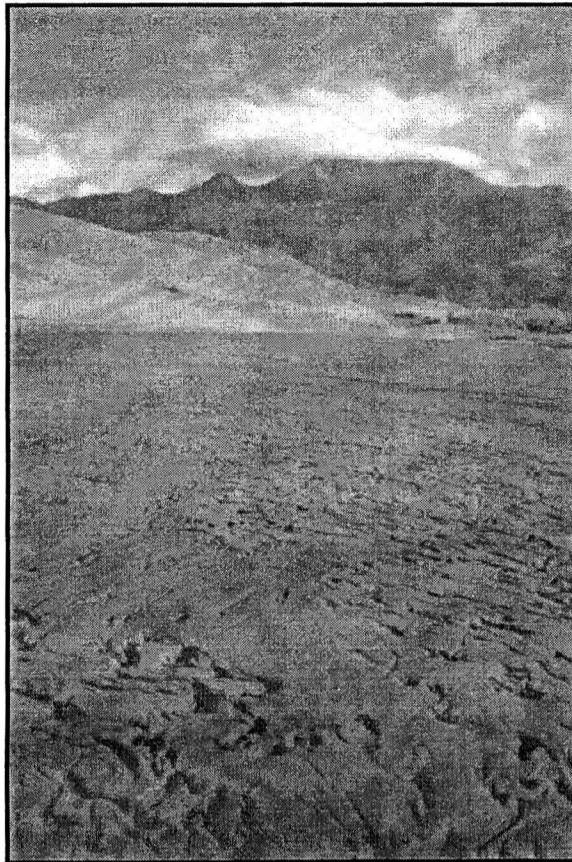
In all cases the export of bulk water is a double-edged sword. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), once any province or state exports water in bulk, all provinces and states must allow "best country standards." Essentially, this allows for unlimited access to bulk water supplies between all participating countries, which are treated as one market under NAFTA. Once bulk export begins it will likely encourage export from all NAFTA countries.

The bottling of fresh water for consumption by the world's elite will also further add to global warming through the use of fossil fuels in the transport of water to free trade zone bottling plants and from the bottling plants to the market. Furthermore, this system will require the manufacture of billions of plastic bottles, many of which will wind up in our waterways or overtaxed landfills.

One thing is clear, we understand the mechanisms that underlie the looming problem of water supply and commodification,

but we have lacked the political and collective will for change. As holders of a great portion of global fresh water, Canadians must begin to fuel the water debate. We must start an immediate dialogue in North America about water.

Thomas Hicks is a Vancouver freelance journalist and host of Rachel's Song a radio show which can be heard on www.instantdemocracy.com. You can reach him at 110-1500 Pendrell Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6G 3A5; thicks@brentwood.sd41.bc.ca



The Rio Grande flowed through this area of Colorado before the river was moved.

Photo by Jacqueline Teed

Wisconsin's Water or Perrier's Property?

Selling public water for private profit

When water giant Perrier recently announced that it wanted to bottle Mican Springs, 30 miles south of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin students from all over the state quickly responded. During a recent open house, where the company displayed its water and high-tech filtering devices, students from Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Madison joined to protest the company. They were told that no signs were allowed into the building and that no questions would be answered, so they grabbed all the free Perrier water they could and proceeded to dump it on the auditorium floor while spewing chants about Perrier's atrocities. Three students were arrested and are awaiting hearings. The water giant decided to search elsewhere for a less controversial source. They are currently looking at Big Springs near The Dells, Wisconsin. Interestingly, unlike Europe, "spring water" in the US need not actually flow naturally from its source; it can be extracted using high volume wells.

Perrier has already managed to obtain pumping rights to 122 other springs across the US and peddles the water under 14 different brand names. It pumps water directly from an aquifer under Range Ponds State Park in Maine, while in Texas it pays just \$25,000 annually to extract 10,000 gallons per minute from under a Boy Scout Camp south of Waco, Texas. When Perrier ended up in court after depleting the Carrizo Aquifer near Eustace, Texas, leaving nearby residents with dried-up wells, spokeswoman Lauren Cargill callously countered, "You can do with groundwater what you want regardless of your neighbors."

Former Perrier Chairman Gustave Levin once remarked, "It struck me... that all you had to do is take the water out of the ground and then sell it for more than the price of wine, milk or for that matter, oil." When Swiss-based Nestlé, the world's largest food conglomerate (notorious for its misleading marketing of infant formula in developing countries) took over

Perrier in 1992, it was eager to stake its claim in the emerging bottled-water market. Today, a third of all people in the US drink bottled water at least once a week. Ironically, bottled water costs up to 10,000 times more than public tap water, yet remains exempt from many Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration water quality standards. Ironically, back in 1990 Perrier itself was forced to recall its bottled water worldwide after it was found to be contaminated with benzene. Worse yet, industry insiders admit that between 25-40 percent of the bottled water sold is just regular tap water in a pricier, trendier package. Perrier has the largest share of the \$4.3-billion US bottled-water market, and Nestlé's global beverage sales accounted for a whopping 28 percent of its \$45 billion gross earnings in 1998. For every buck-and-a-half spent on Perrier, Nestlé makes a 50-cent profit.

When it comes to preserving democratic rule from expanding corporate power, Governor Tommy Thompson's track record is not encouraging. The ongoing sell-off of Wisconsin's North Woods to the mining industry is case in point. No doubt Nestlé's huge economic clout—almost a third of the gross state product—translates into powerful political influence.



Dumping water to protest Perrier

Photo courtesy UW Greens Infoshop

The state even stands to profit from Perrier's proposal since as of 1998 the Wisconsin State Investment Board owned 69,000 shares of Nestlé. Who knows what other conflicts of interest exist? Fortunately, citizens who want to protect the quality of Wisconsin's natural heritage still have a voice in the matter.

Most people still take for granted the notion of clean water as a public good that should be readily accessible to all. Such democratic control over water management, though, may well be challenged as an unfair trade barrier before such entities as the World Trade Organization (WTO). Last year, Canada-based NOVA company received an export permit to ship tankfuls of Lake Superior water to Asia but backed down in the face of scathing public criticism. Under the existing North American Free Trade Agreement, the Sunbelt Corp. of California has filed a \$10.5 billion suit against British Columbia for failing to grant it a water export permit. The International Joint Commission, established under a 1990 treaty between Canada and the US to manage the Great Lakes, is now in the process of formulating a bulk water export policy. Unfortunately, this won't guarantee state authority to protect smaller water resources like Mican Springs from being expropriated by multinational corporations like Nestlé's Perrier. To date, every single environmental law challenged before the WTO tribunal has been ruled illegal and either promptly overturned or bitterly sustained under withering economic sanctions.

Please contact Nestlé CEO Joe Weller, Nestlé-USA, 800 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91023; (818) 549-6000 and Secretary George Meyer, Wisconsin DNR, POB 7921, Madison, WI 53707; (608) 266-2121. Tell them "no deal to Perrier."

For more information, contact University of Wisconsin Greens Infoshop, 31 University Square, Madison, WI 53715; (608) 262-9036.

—UW GREENS INFOSHOP

Standing in the Way of Rasi Salai Dam

BY ANNA OLSSON

What would compel a 70-year-old woman to spend every other week crouched into a space no larger than a few square meters, with no room to stand or walk, and with no way to leave that space other than by canoe? Why would she and some 400 others, most of them elders, choose to build and live in a village that would be half submerged by water for months on end, and a wet mud field for the rest of the time?

More than six years have passed since the gates of the Rasi Salai Dam, on the Mun River in northeastern Thailand, closed for the first time. Some 3,000 families living in the area saw the best of their rice plots drown as the dam reservoir filled, inundating 50 square miles of land. Ever since, villagers who lost their land have had to cope not only with the sudden and severe loss of the very base of their livelihoods but also with a continuous struggle to gain compensation for their suffering. In the process, they have been subjected to a deliberate and ugly campaign, driven by political authorities, to delegitimize their claims.

The Rasi Salai Dam was planned as part of the large-scale Khong-Chi-Mun water diversion project proposed in 1987 by Thailand's Department of Energy and Development Promotion (DEDP). The scheme was designed to solve water shortages in the country's northeastern region by diverting water from the Mekong, the Chi and the Mun rivers. The project involves construction of 22 dams over 42 years. As with most dams in the region, the Khong-Chi-Mun project is the product of recent fast-paced development and modernization policies pushed by the Thai government, and is strongly supported by foreign institutions and developed nations.

Before dam construction began, villagers in the area were told that a relatively small, 4.5-meter-high rubber weir would be built and that water storage would not exceed the height of the river banks. Considered a small-scale project, a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) was declared unnecessary. In late 1992, construction of the project began. Completed two years later, the Rasi Salai Dam turned out to be of much greater magnitude than a rubber weir.

A 9-meter-high concrete dam with seven radial gates now stands some 200 kilometers upstream from the Mun River's confluence with the Mekong River. A 45.8-kilometer dike has been built around the reservoir to minimize the amount of land flooded behind the dam. In addition, an irrigation system, still only partially constructed, is proposed to supply an area of 34,000 square miles with water for cultivation during the dry season.

It is not strange that the Rasi Salai Dam, along with the Pak Mun Dam (see *EF!* December-January 2000) downstream on the same river, is among the most controversial development projects currently debated in Thailand. The dam clearly qualifies as a large-scale project and under Thai law should have been subject to an EIA prior to implementation.

At a quick glance, and while ignoring the government's persistent propaganda for the necessity of the numerous dams under way, the costs of the Rasi Salai Dam clearly outweigh its benefits. No operational irrigation system has been put in place yet. The dike has proven ineffectual in preventing inland flooding, and it seems instead that the dam causes the river to flood for longer periods and at higher levels than in the past. Meanwhile, the economic costs of the project have far exceeded predictions. Originally proposed at a construction cost of US\$5.6 million, the budget for the Rasi Salai Dam has been overrun by more than six times, estimated at a total of US\$34.9 million. And yet, these numbers reflect only a sliver of the real costs incurred by the project.

The Mun River, upon which the Rasi Salai Dam is built, is the largest tributary of the Mekong River. It flows across the southern part of the country's northeastern region, draining a watershed area of 44,000 square miles. Environmentally and socially

it is of great significance to the region. The middle part of the river—where the Rasi Salai Dam lies and parts of which its reservoir has drowned—is one of Thailand's most ecologically diverse areas. It is characterized by a vast floodplain upon which the river's fluvial movements have created numerous swamps and lakes. In the lower area of the basin, wetland forest of exceptional vegetational diversity, known as *Paa Bung Paa Taam*, provides habitat for a large amount of terrestrial and aquatic animals and birds. The forest vegetation also prevents sudden flooding of inland areas, while protecting against erosion by slowing the river's strong current. It has been suggested that *Paa Bung Paa Taam* wetland ecosystems used to exist along all of the rivers of the northeastern region. These areas have continually been destroyed as a result of increased lowland cultivation



Villagers affected by Rasi Salai Dam pray to the river goddess to protect their lives and community.

and the intense government development policies and projects in the river basins. The *Paa Bung Paa Taam* inundated by the Rasi Salai Reservoir was one of the last remaining parts of this ecosystem.

The Rasi Salai Dam and its reservoir are located directly on top of a large salt dome, a geographical feature not thoroughly accounted for in the feasibility studies, which is causing further environmental havoc. Since the construction of the dam, problems of salinization have arisen in the area. By storing water in the reservoir, the water table on surrounding land is rising, bringing salt from underground with it. Also, salt trapped by the reservoir increases the salinity in the water, making it useless for irrigation.

For generations people living in the Mun River basin have depended on the area's particular ecology for their subsistence. The annual flooding of the riverbanks makes the soil rich in nutrients and highly fertile for rice cultivation. In the Rasi Salai Dam reservoir area, some 3,000 families from the three provinces of Si Sa Ket, Roi Et and Surin cultivated local species of sticky rice for household consumption. Leaving the land to rest between harvests and using no chemical fertilizers, small plots of wetland yielded more than double the production of what was farmable on the poorer soils in the highlands. Villagers complemented their subsistence needs by gathering natural products from the *Paa Bung Paa Taam*, such as vegetables, herbs, mushrooms and bamboo, as well as hunting for smaller animals and fish in the river. The wetland forest also provided an important source of wood for cooking and a place to keep cattle and buffalo. Their lives were almost entirely self-sufficient. Products unavailable in the river basin were obtained by trading with villages located further away.

Since the Rasi Salai Dam was constructed, the lives of the people in the area have changed drastically. Those villagers who only practiced wetland cultivation were undoubtedly hit the hardest, while those who also owned highland plots now try to survive on the meager yields that these provide, the effects of the soil salinization making this more difficult. With wetland products no longer available naturally, food and subsistence needs now need to be met at the market or from other villages. Without warning, more

than 8,000 people have been forced to change from their subsistence economies to an almost complete reliance on cash. The options for coping with the changing conditions are limited, mostly short term and often cause further hardship.

At the same time as the villagers have faced deteriorating living conditions, they also have had to engage in a struggle for fair compensation for their losses. While many of the villagers had cultivated the wetland for generations, they do not hold formal titles to the land they have lost—a convenient argument for authorities in dismissing the villagers' claims to compensation. After a number of protests since 1993, a group of villagers joined the Assembly of the Poor, a nationwide, social-justice coalition acting on a number of issues and on behalf of a range of disadvantaged groups, in a famous 99-day protest in Bangkok in 1996. They demanded compensation for lost farmland, lost opportunity to use the *Paa Bung Paa Taam* and for the water level of the reservoir to be decreased. Eventually, the Cabinet granted the 1,154 protesting villagers US\$14.7 million.

Yet the struggle was not over. A vocal opposition group had formed, composed of village headmen and backed by state officials and local politicians who announced that the protesting villagers had made false claims. In the years that followed, villagers were caught in a political battle of public accusations and counter-allegations between the country's ruling government, the Democratic Party and the previously governing New Aspiration Party. Rifts and conflicts that had been created between headmen and villagers deepened, and mistrust between villagers

and government authorities grew. The sentiments were fueled as the DEDP launched a vigorous public-relations campaign that portrayed the Rasi Salai protesting villagers as opportunist and unjustified. Over time, the headman group disintegrated, and dam-affected villagers who, for fear of repercussions had not initially joined the Assembly of the Poor, broke off to make separate demands for compensation. These villagers have not been compensated for their losses to date.

In April last year, dam-affected villagers—including those already compensated and those still demanding compensation—joined in establishing a protest village, *Mae Mun Man Yuen #2* (named after the Pak Mun Dam's *Mae Mun Man Yuen #1*) within the dam reservoir area. When the dam gates close every three months or so, the village shrinks with the rising water, leaving only the upper halves of the houses dry and inhabitable. Yet the villagers remain. Representing some 1,200 affected people, protesters take shifts to occupy the site, relying on food and supplies brought to them in canoes. Every morning they pray together that justice will prevail. They demand that their names be cleared of the false accusations they have endured; that a thorough land survey be undertaken to establish customary land rights and use; and that compensation be granted for those who still have not been paid. Refusing to bow to the harsh living conditions, this permanent demonstration site represents the culmination of the villagers' fight for the recognition of their rights and against the Thai government's development scheme imposed on the entire Mun River basin. If the government fails to meet their demands, they will also demand the removal of Rasi Salai Dam, so that the Mun River can flow freely again.

For more information about the continued struggle, contact the Southeast Asia Rivers Network (SEARIN) at searin@chmail.loxinfo.co.th or International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 848-1155; 848 1008 (fax); irn@irn.org; www.irn.org.

Anna Olsson is a masters candidate in environmental studies at York University, Canada. She has been working as a researcher for SEARIN for the past four months.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

The battle for old-growth on Mt. Wachusett



Snow highlights the ski-slope scars on Mount Wachusett.

BY OAK

One would think that if a state were so bold as to call itself a "commonwealth" it might pay particular attention to the health and well-being of that which is held in common—like land, air and water. Here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts an undue amount of unwanted attention is being given to some of our favorite lands. It's not the kind of attention that is paid during idle moments when we gaze longingly upon the natural majesty of, say, Mt. Wachusett or the Holyoke Range. No, this attention is driven not by love of the natural world but by love of money. The mountains of Massachusetts are under siege, and it's all about development. Sprawl. Trophy homes. Wreckcreation.

One such place held in common by the people of the state and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is Mt. Wachusett, in the north-central part of the state near the New Hampshire border. It is a solitary geologic sentinel bearing the largest contiguous old-growth stands of beech, red oak and hemlock in the state. This was the mountain where Henry David Thoreau went in July 1842. It inspired these words: "But special I remember thee, Wachusett, who like me standest alone without society... upholding heaven, holding down Earth, thy pastime from thy birth, not steadied by the one, nor leaning on the other; may I approve myself thy worthy brother!"

It is the place most sacred to the Nipmuc people who lived in its shadow for 10,000 years or more. It was where they congregated with the other Native nations during the so-called King Philip's War during the final tragic struggle to rid their home of the colonial invasion.

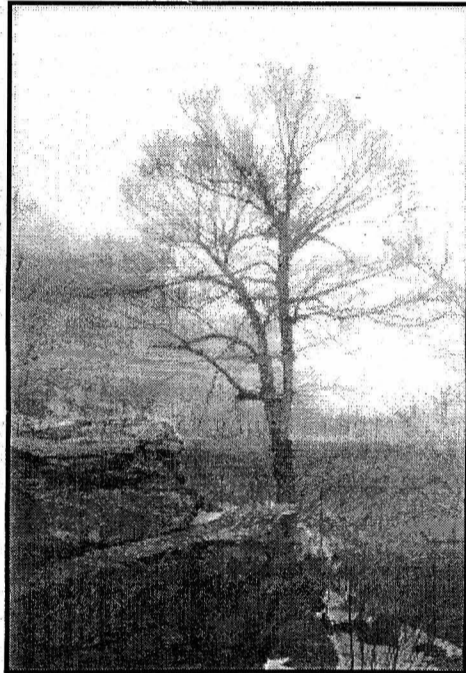
Today, Mt. Wachusett is one of the last refuges for our old-growth relations in this bioregion. Every day in Massachusetts another parcel of woods or fields falls to the developer's golden maw. There is little logic to such development, other than that driven by the marketplace. Just as cancer creates its own environment in the human body, so humans create terminal environments on the face of the living planet.

On Mt. Wachusett the cancer comes in the form of a ski area that has spread across the northwestern slope. Over the years it has grown steadily. Now the operators who hold the lease, Wachusett Mountain Associates (WMA), wish to expand yet again with an "Alpine Ski Area." The development, a scaled-down version of an earlier, even more outrageous proposal, will destroy 12.5 acres of mature red oak woods presently buffering the upslope old growth from prevailing western winds. Twelve acres may not seem much to those accustomed to vast Western tracts, but in the Eastern US, on a mountain already scarred by some 14 clearcut ski runs, it is not a

trifle. Also, within the proposed expansion area lives what could well be the oldest mountain laurel in the state.

The commissioner of the state DEM has signed off on the proposal, as have various state legislators from surrounding districts. The governor and lieutenant governor, recipients of large campaign contributions from WMA, have yet to take a public stand on the issue.

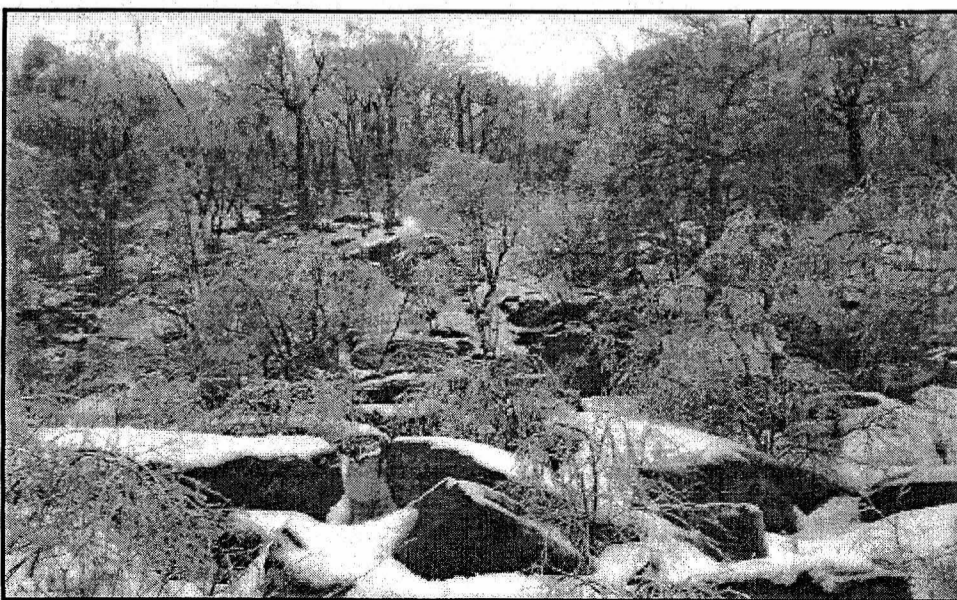
WMA wields more than its fair share of political clout. In a state already infamous for smoky backroom deals, the association's principal officers are well connected. The Crowley family also owns the Polar Beverage Company of



An old Wachusett red oak.

Worcester with sales of \$60-79 million and a myriad of other businesses throughout the region.

Lined up in opposition to this substantial machine of ill-conceived wreckreational development is the small local citizen's group, Watchdogs for an Environmentally Safe Town (WEST) and local representatives of the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society. Presently, the Sierra Club and WEST have taken WMA, DEM Commissioner Peter Weber, and Robert Durand, secretary of the state's Execu-



An icy stream flows through rare old growth on the flank of Mt. Wachusett, an hour from Boston.

tive Office of Environmental Affairs, to court over technicalities in the permitting process. While legal wrangling goes on, it is theoretically possible that WMA can bring in the chainsaws and dozers.

Enter Mass Earth First! and a gaggle of unaffiliated tree huggers. Their involvement began last fall during an old-growth hike with Bob Leverett to the higher reaches of Wachusett. Leverett, one of the most knowledgeable old-growth enthusiasts in the East, was particularly pumped up that day, and his concern over the fate of the state's last remaining old trees was contagious. Perhaps even the WMA spy in our midst was moved. (He certainly moved out when his presence became known!)

As you read this, Mass EF! has begun the task of building grassroots, direct-action resistance to the expansion project. The Native Forest Network's Eastern North America activists are also committed to the defense of Wachusett, and the first of a series of actions have taken place. On WMA's Media Appreciation Day, Mass EF! activists appeared with leaflets and placards to inform the press that the mountain could use some appreciation as well, and not just as a backdrop for winter sports. This was followed up the next weekend by a banner hung by unknown woodland creatures in a highly inaccessible location. Sunday morning is a big ski day on Wachusett, situated less than an hour from downtown Boston. Many weekend skiers got the message on their morning run.

Rumor has it that George and Martha Washington made an appearance at the ski area entrance on George's birthday. Dead presidents have a way of getting attention, especially when skiers are backed up for miles in their overpowered SUVs waiting for their chance to hit the slopes. "Good morning, citizen!" George was heard to say. "I cannot tell a lie, the old-growth buffer zone must not be cut down!"

Please write the DEM and the governor about the proposed clearcutting of 12.5 acres of mature forest on Mt. Wachusett for ski-area expansion. DEM, Forests and Parks Division, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202; (617) 727-3180; 727-9402 (fax); Governor Paul Celluci, State House, Boston, MA 021333; (617) 727-9173; goffice@state.ma.us.

For further information contact Mass Earth First!, POB 35, Montague, MA 01351 or Native Forest Network; (802) 863-0571; nfnena@sover.net.

BARE BONES

Species sacrificed to "save" the ESA

A January story by Susan Zakin in *Salon* contends that a secret deal between Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and then Senator William Cohen (R-Maine) sacrificed ESA listing of wild Atlantic salmon for a political favor.

"Over vehement protests by federal scientists," Babbitt quite possibly "broke the law" by squelching the listing in order to gain Cohen's support in the bitter 1995 battle over Endangered Species Act reauthorization.

Now, long after wild Atlantic salmon populations have collapsed, ESA listing is once again the center of controversy as environmental groups sue for an emergency listing in a last ditch attempt to stave off extinction. The political controversy remains as Maine's governor and congressional delegation are again seeking to pressure the administration to block an endangered listing.

Endangered catamounts spotted in Massachusetts

In January dozens of residents in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, saw catamounts, an eastern subspecies of mountain lion thought to be extinct by state wildlife officials. Officials continue to maintain the sightings are inaccurate or that people saw mountain lions escaped from captivity.

The species is endangered in the Eastern US, so officially recognizing their presence would require protection and recovery efforts. The Massachusetts Environmental Police, however, believe there is truth to the stories, since conditions are nearly ideal for the catamount's return.

Gulf Coast dead zone hits record and keeps growing

The "dead zone" that forms in the Gulf of Mexico by pollutants from the Mississippi River was larger than ever in 1999, say researchers at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.

The zone, an area too polluted to support any marine life, is at its worst in hot weather and covered an estimated 7,728 square miles when measured in July, said Dr. Nancy Rabalais, a marine ecologist at the consortium. That is roughly the size of New Jersey and 700 square miles larger than its previous maximum size in 1995.

The main cause of the problem is pollution flowing in from the Mississippi in the form of excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen from agricultural runoff. These discharges promote an overgrowth of algae in the spring and summer. The algae sink to the bottom when they die, and bacteria begin decomposing them, using up oxygen in the process. As a result, all life must either relocate or perish. Furthering the trouble, fresh water continues to flow in, forming a separate layer on top of the thicker, salty gulf waters. This prevents air from reaching the gulf's floor.

Another attack on the ESA

In response to losing lawsuit after lawsuit to environmental groups, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has announced that it won't accept citizen listing petitions for species that the agency already considers "candidates." Candidate species are those FWS believes are in enough trouble but are not ready for protection because of expense or agency priorities. In the past, the courts acting on lawsuits stemming from citizen petitions have mandated ESA protection and in turn forced curbs on cattle grazing and development in the species habitat.

BARE BONES

Giant styrofoam islands

Desperate to find a way to combat climate change, scientists are proposing off-the-wall fixes, like making a styrofoam continent about the size of North America that would float in the South Pacific and counteract global warming by reflecting sunlight into space. "The idea is ludicrous, of course," says Michael MacCracken of the US Global Change Research Program, "but it makes the point that dramatic steps must be taken."

Somewhat less bizarre proposals include injecting carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most significant greenhouse gas, deep in the ocean or under the seabed; seeding certain ocean areas with iron to create plankton blooms that soak up CO₂; planting vast numbers of trees to absorb CO₂; and convincing farmers to plow their fields less frequently so plants can trap more CO₂ underground.

Wolf reintroduction upheld

A federal appeals court recently upheld wolf reintroduction programs in Yellowstone and central Idaho, reversing a 1997 decision on lawsuits brought by state and federal farm bureaus and environmental groups.

The farm bureaus argued that the wolves should not be introduced. Environmental groups opposed the compromise by Defenders of Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to reintroduce wolves but designate them as an "experimental, non-essential" population. That designation opened a huge loophole, allowing ranchers or federal agents to kill wolves that allegedly preyed on livestock.

A lower court ruled in favor of the upstart enviros, accepting the argument that the "experimental, non-essential" status effectively reduced protections under the Endangered Species Act for wild wolves that were not part of the reintroduction program. The judge in that case said the wolves should not have been reintroduced but took no action to have the wolves removed as the farm bureaus wanted.

The appeals court ruling means that the reintroduced wolves get to stay in Yellowstone and central Idaho but that the "experimental, non-essential" status also stands.

Airline boots Greenpeace

According to the Canadian Transportation Agency, Pacific Coastal Airlines of British Columbia violated its own ticketing rules when it refused to sell a ticket to Tamara Stark, who heads the forestry campaign for Greenpeace in Vancouver. The airline faces punitive action if the practice continues.

Pacific Coastal Airlines, a regional partner with Canadian Airlines International and the only airline serving isolated logging towns such as Bella Coola, cited safety concerns for its actions.

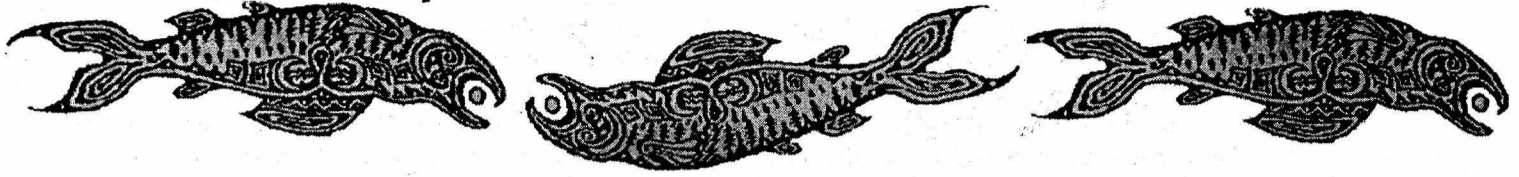
"Pacific Coastal states that it provides transportation to many loggers and logging industry personnel from Vancouver to Port Hardy and Bella Bella and that, as a result of Greenpeace's attitude toward the logging community, it thought that carrying members of this group could compromise safety," the airline said.

Pacific Coastal has told the agency it will allow Greenpeace officials to fly. But Daryl Smith, the airline's founder, said he may withhold tickets again. "We told them we don't want them on our airplanes," said Smith, a former logger. He also called Greenpeace a "quasi-terrorist organization."

Greenpeace filed a complaint with the transportation agency to ensure the refusal didn't recur.

Help Salmon and Wildlife Survive

Stop the Tower Fire Timber Sales!



BY ASANTÉ RIVERWIND

The strongest remaining runs of wild spring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the lower 48 states are once again imperiled by the US Forest Service. Bull trout, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act are also imperiled. The Forest Service is proposing to log over 16 million board feet from 3,767 acres of burned and surviving forest in eastern Oregon's Umatilla National Forest. The proposed timber sales are adjacent to the North Fork John Day Wilderness which was also severely burned by the Tower Fire of 1996. The planned Tower Fire timber sales are located on very steep slopes with extremely fragile soils—prone to severe erosion and landslides—above the North Fork John Day River.

According to the Forest Service's own environmental impact statement for the timber sale, the North Fork John Day River and sale area tributaries support the largest remaining run of spring Chinook salmon and healthiest run of steelhead in the Columbia River basin. Yet even these populations have been in decline for decades, now at a fraction of their historic numbers due to high water temperatures and increased sedimentation levels. Past and recent logging, roadbuilding and livestock grazing in the area have been the major cause, along with the Columbia River's dams, of these species' population declines. Logging activities have resulted in streams in and near the sale area being listed as "water quality limited." Indeed, the situation is so bad that even prior to the fire, measurement boxes placed in creeks in the sale area to monitor sediment levels were buried and lost in sediment after less than a month. The critical fragility of the area's soils was dramatically proven, yet again, following heavy summer rains which washed out two Forest Service roads, sending tons of sediment into Oriental Creek and the river below.

Today the area is naturally recovering after the fire. Seedlings carpet the burned forest floor as do nitrogen fixing native plants under the residual shade of the many standing burned snags. Area wildlife must now utilize not only the wilderness but a far greater area of forest to forage and hunt for sustenance. We have verified many species continuing to use the sale area, including elk, cougar,

black bear, deer and black-backed, three-toed and pileated woodpeckers, among other species. It is likely, given its 150-square-mile winter range, that the rare and elusive wolverine uses the sale area as well.

In November 1998 in response to our lawsuit, the Federal 9th Circuit Court ordered a halt to all logging and related activities in the Tower Fire Area (see *EF!* September-October 1998). The Forest Service had earlier sold the Big Tower timber sales under the pretense of a "restoration project" "to help the area recover from the fire." Now the Forest Service has the audacity to come back, like a horror movie sequel, with this "new improved" lawsuit-proof pretense of science insanity. Timber beasts in scientific clothing, they now plan to log both burned and live trees in an area where every standing tree is essential for wildlife cover, habitat, forest recovery and preventing even more landslides and sedimentation. Lost would be the many thousands of tree seedlings already a few years into natural regeneration. Lost as well would be essential wildlife habitat for the many species who depend upon the area for survival.

The great magnitude of credible peer reviewed science does not support the Forest Service's "logging = forest fire recovery" Orwellian lies. But most unconscionable, inexcusable and illegal would be the extreme further imperilment of some of the last remaining wild salmon, steelhead and bull trout. The new sale plans also include spraying herbicide poisons (scattered across over 13,000 acres), over 45 miles of road "reconstruction" (in an area where the road density is far too high already), as well as cutting an unnatural "fuel break" isolating the wilderness from adjacent roadless areas.

Your help is desperately needed, for the salmon, for the wildlife, for the forests and for future generations. Please write, call or *take action* against the Forest Service. Contact Jeff Blackwood, Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest, 2517 SW Hailey Ave., Pendleton, Oregon 97801; (541) 278-3716; Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester, US Forest Service, Reg. 6, POB 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208-3623; (503) 808-2200 or 808-2954; Craig Dixon Smith, North Fork John Day, POB 158, Ukiah, Oregon 97880; (541) 427-3231.

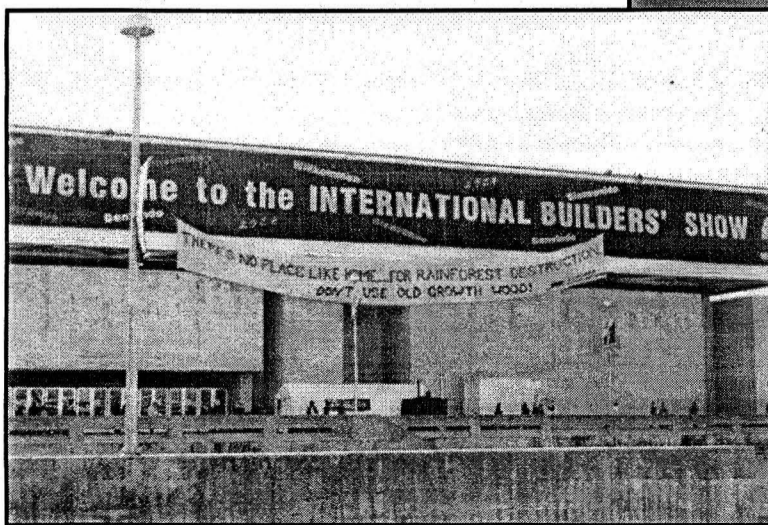
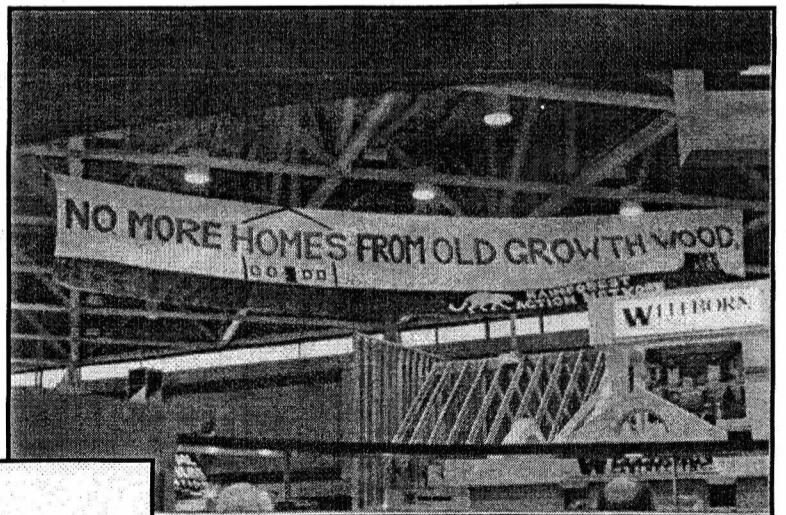
For more information, contact Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, HCR 82, Fossil, Oregon 97830.

Forest Campaign Targets Homebuilders

On January 14 Rainforest Action Network (RAN) disrupted opening ceremonies at the National Association of Homebuilders Convention in Dallas, Texas. The day started with activists inflating a giant balloon shaped like a chainsaw outside the center during opening remarks by Newt Gingrich.

During the weekend-long convention, climbers hung two 1,000-square-foot banners, one outside on the top of the Convention Center [below] and the other inside the meeting. The interior banner [right], was placed above old-growth purveyor Boise Cascade's display booth.

"Building homes from old-growth wood is as



barbaric as killing elephants for ivory. The home-construction industry is the last major old-growth lumber user that has not addressed this issue. We hope they catch up quickly and get out of old growth right away," declared RAN Old Growth Campaign Director Michael Brune.

The indefatigable activists carried on protests well into the night, every night of the convention, using a high-powered optical system to project massive anti-old-growth logging images on Dallas buildings.

Contact Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine Street #500, San Francisco, CA 94014; (415) 398-4404; 398-2732 (fax); www.ran.org.

USE CASH, NOT CREDIT—SAVE MAINE DEER YARD

BY PENOBSCOT BAYWATCH

Resistance to MBNA Credit Card Corp.'s third invasion of Maine's rugged Penobscot Shore continues, with the next slugfest in the five-year struggle against the rapacious plastic empire to be held in the state capitol on March 16. There the Penobscot BayWatch and allies hope to convince the Board of Environmental Protection to order Maryland Bank North America (MBNA) to withdraw from its latest sprawl foray into the US's easternmost coastal white tail deer wintering yard. Overlooking Penobscot Bay and Ducktrap River, Ducktrap Mountain's watershed is also home to one of the last wild salmon schools on the US North Atlantic seaboard.

If the wild forces prevail, MBNA Corp., which is both New England's biggest donor to the national Sierra Club and also the chief politi-cash contributor to George W. Bush's presidential campaign, will have to demolish, road-rip and otherwise remove all traces of its foul presence from this irreplaceable lush wild coastal mountain landscape.

Through the '90s MBNA Corp., a telemarketer and urban sprawl developer with the legacy of the urbanized and condo-filled Chesapeake Bay coast behind it, made judicious campaign donations to Angus King's successful gubernatorial campaigns. This ensured MBNA's preferred person was appointed state treasurer, and likewise ensured that MBNA President Charles Cawley's obsession with coastal mega-development would be given full rein.

MBNA's latest assault is against the Ducktrap Deeryard, where thick, wet, spruce-fir stands dotted with springs and hardwood groves provide vital winter food and shelter for the area's white tail deer herd and for thousands of other species. The corporados, with the aid of their political properties in the governor's mansion and in Congress, are bulldozing, blasting and paving their way into the area. MBNA's Cawley wants 40 cabins, three roads, a giant septic field and a new name for the mountain.

The Sierra Club, to its eternal disgrace, has refused to do its part in the struggle, seriously weakening the wall of opposition.

Since MBNA first stormed the Megunticook Range in 1995, blasting a road up the face of Ducktrap Mountain and installing a huge guarded corporate complex, local hominids have had to fight the corporation, its political friends and NGO allies, all shoulder to shoulder at MBNA's money trough. Even the local weekly newspaper has had its editor replaced by a plastic-hugging graduate of the "MBNA Leadership Program."

At the same time, MBNA has sunk its corporate tentacles deep into the Sierra Club, using cash payouts via the club's affinity credit card deal—VISA and Mastercards with the club's logo on them—worth more than a million bucks so far—to manufacture silence from the club. Under its contract with MBNA, the Sierra Club receives one half of one percent of the dollar amount that users of the club's affinity

card are charged when using the card. Of course, another chunk of that goes to MBNA's favorites on the campaign trail: George Bush Jr. and salmon-hating Senator Olympia Snowe, (R-ME.)

Smarting under criticism that it has turned a blind eye to MBNA's development projects along the western shore of Penobscot Bay, the club's national leaders have held halfhearted discussions over whether to shed its MBNA affinity card and select a card issuer with a greener environmental record.

What emerged was mere buck passing and shell gaming: "After we get a recommendation from the [Maine] chapter, the board may decide to sever its relationship with MBNA, assert oral pressure to seek a change in the project or take stronger actions," one top Sierra Club official wrote in a recent memo to other club leaders, lobbying the decision over to Joan Saxe, that chapter's chair.

But Joan, claiming the credit peddlers giant phonebank "campuses" are "clean jobs" has simply pocket-vetoed the request from Sierra Club central, refusing, even two months later, to take a position one way or the other. Club headquarters can now grin helplessly and go on collecting the quarterly payouts from the plastic ones.

In grotesque fact, as the fateful March 16 hearing approaches, the wildcoasters' continued MBNA-bashing is causing the great plastic octopus to discharge defensive clouds of green ink to the local NGO-sphere. Museums, libraries and even local land trusts are gasping under the onslaught of MBNA's largesse.

So, for now, unless the clubbies awaken from their plastic stupor, the fate of the Megunticook Coastal Range, the 30-mile line of thickly forested mountain peaks framing the western edge of Penobscot Bay, rests in the hands of the area's few wild partisans.

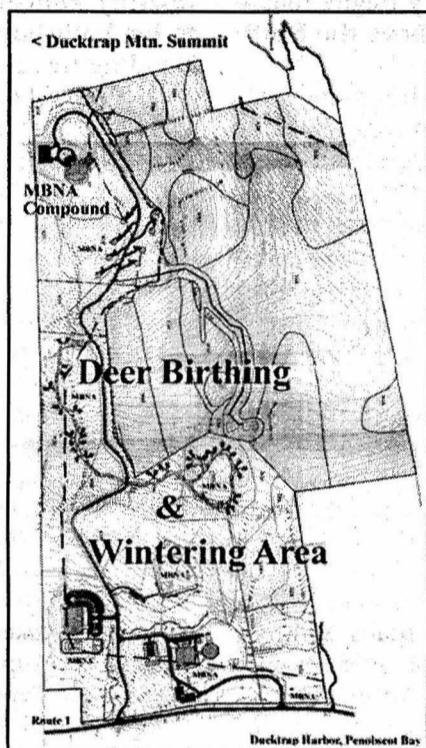
MBNA also is now skirmishing southward down the Penobscot shore, threatening wild Muscle Ridge, home to the world's greatest wild lobster herd with a proposed private corporate jetport spewing wastes and runway de-icers into the area's chief tributary, the Weskeag River.

Stay tuned—check www.MBNAucks.org for details on how to turn back the plastic horde.

The same grassroots power that, in years gone by, freed colleges from their investments in apartheid South Africa and now is being used to great effect to free campuses from their investments in sweatshop corporations, can be turned as well against the plastic imperium of MBNA.

Don't delay—cut your card today!

Editor's note: L.L. Bean is another big company you'd think would care about deer in Maine—since its traditional core constituency likes to chase Bambi with shotguns. The retail and mail-order giant also offers an MBNA VISA card. Despite a conversation with one concerned Mainer and despite the fact that it would take about five minutes to switch credit card companies, L.L. Bean has remained loyal to MBNA. So keep L.L. Bean on the hook, too! Call 800-441-5713 anytime, or www.llbean.com.



Status of David Chain Civil Suit

BY STEVE CHRISTIANSON

The *Earth First! Journal* (October-November 1999), ran a synopsis of the lawsuit filed against A.E. Ammons, Rhett Reback and Pacific Lumber executives in the murder of David "Gypsy" Chain. Since then, the defendants have filed several motions in response to the complaint as would be expected in a lawsuit of this nature.

The defendants have asked for further clarification and more definitive statements regarding several parts of the complaint. The defendants also filed a motion for dismissal in response to several portions of the original complaint. In this lawsuit, Gypsy's mother, Cindy Allsbrooks, is the personal representative for Gypsy's estate in these causes of action (negligence, violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act and ultra

hazardous activity). Cindy, along with David Allen Chain, Gypsy's father, has also brought about the survivor causes of action (wrongful death, joint enterprise liability and negligent infliction of emotional distress).

Oral arguments were scheduled on February 6, 2000 in front of Judge Armstrong of the Oakland Federal Court to discuss these issues and establish a timeline for the case. Gypsy's attorneys learned that Judge Armstrong had read the pleadings and decided she didn't have further questions for counsel in these matters and therefore the oral arguments were canceled. This



David "Gypsy" Chain

announcement came from the judge's clerk, on the afternoon prior to the hearing. An apology is owed to those who made their way to the court for this hearing only to find out it was canceled.

At the present time we are awaiting a ruling on these issues and for a timeline of how this case will proceed.

To view the pleadings on-line go to www.pacificlaw.org; or write Steve Christianson Pacific Law, 740 E. St Eureka, CA 95501; (707) 268-3800; 268-8918 fax; stevec@nativeforest.org

BARE BONES

Hole in Headwaters

On February 11, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) approved an amendment to Pacific Lumber Company's "Hole in Headwaters" timber harvest plan. TCH 520 is 705 acres of mature second growth surrounded on all sides by the Headwaters Preserve. The land drains to the South Fork of the Eel River, a critical area for the threatened wild coho salmon.

CDF's action came in spite of explicit direction from the California Board of Forestry to require a legally mandated public comment period and thorough agency review prior to approving any amendment to the plan. Instead, CDF took just two days to review the complex 24-page amendment, and the company is now cleared to log.

Last July, in response to downstream landowner concerns about flooding in the Elk River, the Board unanimously voted that CDF should regard any changes to the Hole in Headwaters THP as "major amendments." Under state logging rules, amendments of this type require a public and agency review and comment period. The Environmental Protection Information Center and the Sierra Club have asked the board to exercise its independent authority to enforce Forest Practice Rules and require a public and agency comment period prior to any action.

Vieques or death

One day after Washington DC and San Juan signed a deal on the issue, Puerto Ricans opposed to US use of Vieques Island as a Navy bombing range erected a huge sign on February 1 reading "Vieques or death" in the US capitol.

The pact permits the Navy to resume exercises for three years using no live ammunition. During that time, Vieques' 9,300 voters decide whether they want the Navy to leave permanently or resume live-fire training in return for \$50 million in economic aid.

Most Puerto Ricans have favored evicting the US military from Vieques, an island off Puerto Rico's east coast, since the death of civilian security guard David Sanes Rodriguez during a Navy training exercise last April. The death intensified calls by residents and Puerto Rican officials for training to end after nearly 60 years. Opponents charge that Navy war games have destroyed the environment of the island, damaged residents' health and stymied economic development.

Activity at Pelican Butte

To speed plans for a proposed ski development on Pelican Butte, the Winema National Forest Service in Oregon has been secretly allowing contractors for Pelican Butte Corporation to operate motor vehicles and conduct other motorized tests within a sensitive wildlife area that is usually closed to all vehicles eight months of the year. The area is critical for federally protected bald eagles and northern spotted owls.

Activities have been occurring since last December. There has been no public notice or documentation as required under the National Environmental Policy Act, and there has been only minimal and mostly after-the-fact consultation as required by the Endangered Species Act.

On January 24 the Oregon Natural Resources Council's Klamath Falls office exposed illegal motorized operations occurring in the area. The illegal activities included well drilling and running generators. The ski area developers also were found driving trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs and even a bulldozer in the area.

Since 1990, all motorized use has been prohibited from January 1 to August 31.

Frontlines

Dam resisters jail jailers

On January 12 the Maheshwar Dam site in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh was occupied by 3,000 villagers from the affected area. After several desultory attempts to make arrests, the police arrived in force and hauled 1,000 protesters away.

The arrestees were taken to a unused prison building in a small town near the site and locked up. The jail had no electricity, water or any other facilities.

When the jailers made preparations to leave for the night, the protesters physically prevented them from going. The prisoners, all of whom have been charged with unlawful assembly, spent the night inside the prison and refused to leave until they received written answers to their objections to the dam. By January 14, some questions had been answered, and the protesters and jailers were allowed to leave.

If finished, the dam will displace nearly 40,000 farmers, fisher people, sand miners and boatmen and their families.

Submarine CD in Scotland

In a February 14 protest backed by James Bond star Sean Connery, approximately 400 anti-nuclear demonstrators converged on the Faslane Naval Base in Lochgoilhead, Scotland, where Britain's Trident nuclear submarines are based. Activists blockaded the main entrances in a bid to halt work at the facility. Eighty-seven women and 92 men were arrested and charged with minor public-order offenses.

Anti-nuclear demonstrators have long campaigned for the base's closure and received a courtroom boost in October 1999. A Scottish judge ruled that three protesters who had broken into the base could not be convicted of criminal damage because the Trident system was illegal under international law.

Subcritical test exploded

On the morning of February 3, a subcritical nuclear weapons test, code named Oboe 3, was detonated at the Nevada Test Site. Subcritical testing, while not a full-scale nuclear weapons test, still uses weapons-grade plutonium, releasing radiation and creating more nuclear waste. These subcritical tests violate the nuclear weapons Non-proliferation Treaty, the Treaty of Ruby Valley and the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Before dawn, Corbin Harney, spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone Nation, held a traditional sunrise ceremony to pray for the land. Following the rising sun, nine people crossed the line with linked arms.

When Wackenhut security and Nye County police tried to stop them, they sat down on the road and linked arms, passively refusing to walk into the arrest pens. Officers and security then dragged them away. Minimal charges were filed and all protesters released.

Peltier freedom march

More than 200 Native Americans crossed the Peace Bridge into Canada on February 6 to protest unfair treatment of aboriginals on both sides of the border. Led by a ceremonial drum corps, members of the North American Native Warriors marched from the FBI building in Buffalo, New York, to Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

The protest focused on the case of native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, calling for executive clemency and his freedom. Dudley George, a native man shot and killed by an Ontario Provincial Police officer during a native protest occupation of a provincial park in Ipperwash, Ontario, in 1995 was also remembered by the march.

LIVING MY TRUTH

Nate Madsen holds on strong in the redwoods

Editor's Note: Julia Butterfly wasn't the only person sitting in an ancient redwood for the past two years. Nate Madsen has been perched in Mariah, a redwood on Pacific Lumber land between Arcata and Eureka, California, more or less continuously since 1998. Mariah lives in one of the last stands left in the Freshwater watershed. She is surrounded by a sea of clearcuts and grows just 20 feet from the nearest road. It's hard to tell the precise age of a standing ancient redwood, but Northcoast EFlers say she could be close to 1,000 years old and is about 11 feet in diameter at her base. The timber harvest plan that includes Mariah expires in April 2001. Nate's got a style set-up: a three-level tree home including a roof sundeck, all made from reclaimed lumber, as well as a terrific water-collection system and hand-me-down solar panels and cell-phone batteries from Julia Butterfly.

BY NATE MADSEN

Timber harvest plan (THP) 1-97-514 is still active. Mariah is still threatened by the lumberjack's ax. Our dedication to the preservation of this majestic wonder continues. Mariah has enjoyed continuous occupation since October 13, 1998, when I first ascended into her branches. I have enjoyed the support of too many people to name, but my eternal gratitude goes out to all who have played a role in the protection of this great ancient redwood, my best friend and greatest teacher.

The big question is when and how will this sit come to completion. For me, the focus of saving this tree has shifted. I recognize the miracle of life in this great tree. I see the purpose a great tree fulfills (clean air, water and soil stability). Seeing, respecting and deeply understanding this purpose puts the question back on me. How can I fulfill my planetary purpose and responsibility as elegantly as this tree? I wish to leave the world more beautiful by my choices, and in pursuit of that goal I remain dedicated to the lasting preservation of this tree. However, the miracle of life I see in this tree I also see in the soaring bird, the flowing river, the wild badger and in the beating hearts of each and every person. It is the miracle of life we all share that I hope will bring us together. It is sharing that miracle with this tree and this planet that keeps my spirit fired and my will to continue strong.

The death warrant these great trees face is the economic bounty placed upon them. A system of human construct (economics) drives most, if not all, the pollution, destruction and separation our world endures while people learn and evolve. I believe us to be imaginative enough to overcome all obstacles.

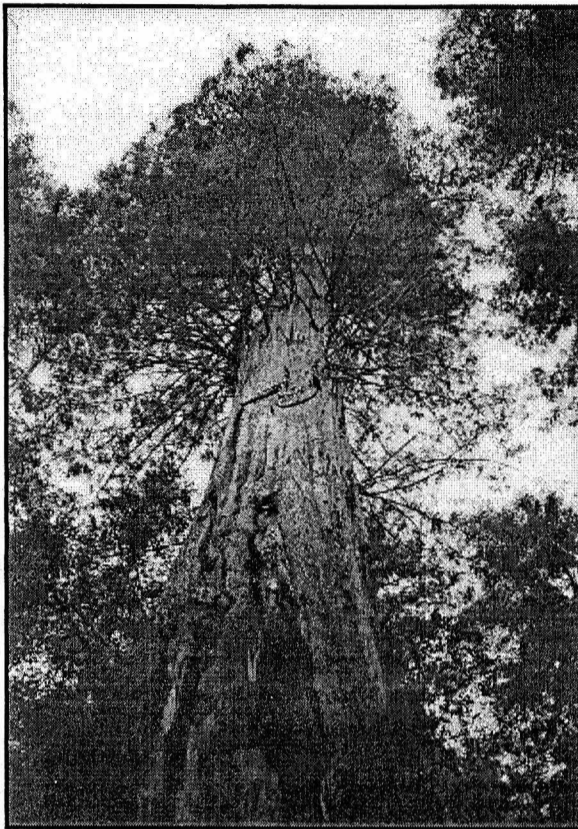
I see forestry issues in the light of a confused misguided species. This same confusion is what drives all the problems of today. Our fish are dying, our soil depleted, our air polluted, our water contaminated. We have racism, sexism, homophobia, hungry people and sick children left without care or concern. These are all tied to us—the people that perpetuate the problem and the economic system that masks the solutions.

We go to work and do things we may or may not agree with. We pollute, consume resources and generally disrespect the Earth and ourselves in pursuit of the dollar. Then we go to a store where others do the same and spend our dollar without understanding or often even caring what spending that dollar may mean in the bigger picture. We who work for the forest drink coffee from deforested lands. We who care about the great trees drive vehicles while trying to get our message across, polluting the air and water as we go. I've talked to the loggers and although we don't agree, I

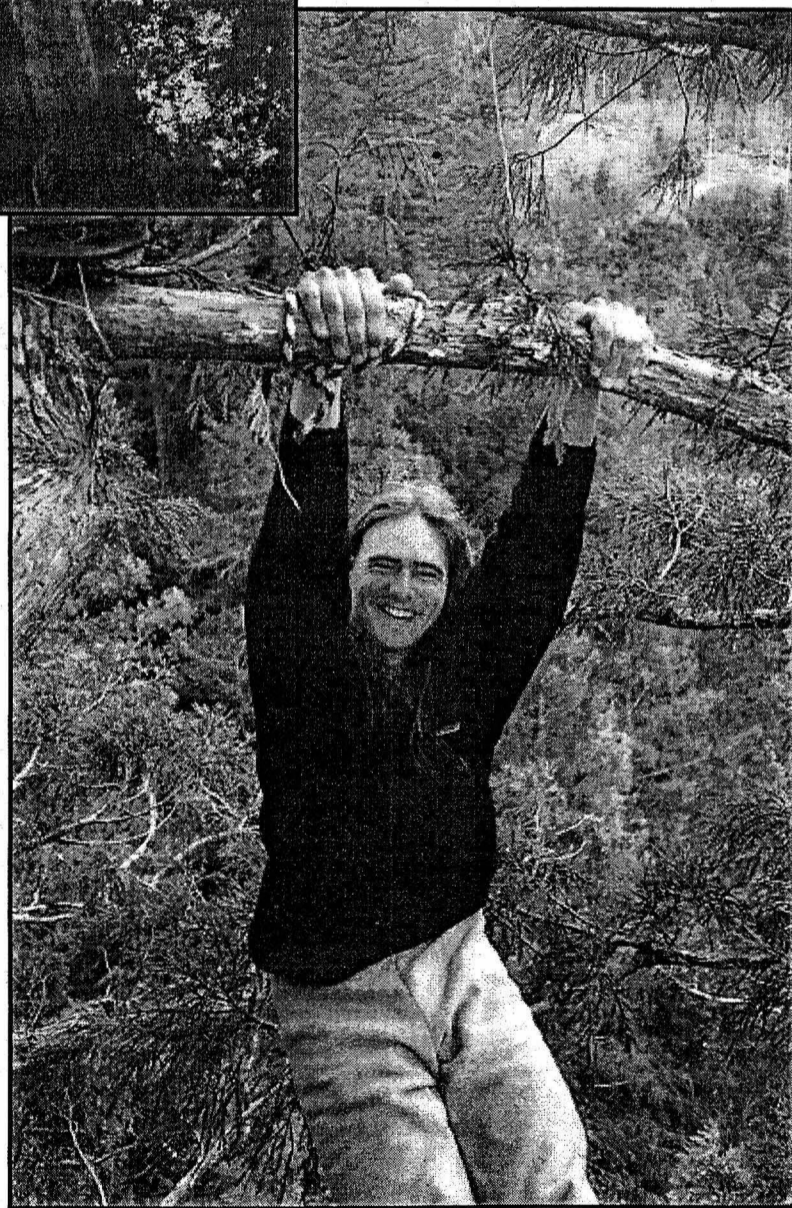
deeply respect them because they do what they believe in. I hope as each day passes, I can more fully do as I believe. When I look at a clearcut, I see nothing to be proud of. I am ashamed for my species. My point in all this is simple. Our power to affect change is at hand every moment of every day. Our power is not in telling others how to live, but

rather in living our truth and bettering ourselves and our planet in the process. I cannot expect to effectively change any part of this world except the part I have direct dominion over: myself. I stand up for my belief that ancient trees are irreplaceable. They belong to the planet and deserve our respect. I am humbled by their presence and in turn question my choices.

As I recognize my role in the devastation of Mother Earth, so too do I find my power to heal our relationship with this planet. I can use less. I can think of the mother first. I can want what is right for life more than anything, but for that desire to have meaning it must translate into my everyday action. However, as I make



Mariah from her base



Nate hanging out in the canopy

this transition to being a better person I see a process, a step-by-step process that has a great goal of being a giver not a taker. It is important to remember in this journey that each step is a necessary motion toward that ultimate life loving goal. As we take a step today (small or large), we will be closer to our goal tomorrow.

I remain dedicated until this tree has some real lasting means of preservation. The THP may expire, or, in light of the Luna event, some deal may come to fruition. Maybe our officials will do the right thing and end old-growth logging. In the meantime, I sit in contemplation of who I am, what role I want to play for this planet and how will I pursue that goal.

Write to Nate at POB 61, Kneeland, CA 95549, or check out www.upatree.net.

photos by Susan Maloney

PRIVATIZING PUBLIC LAND

BY SCOTT SILVER

The People's Treasure is a wonderful poem by the Australian poet and cartoonist Michael Leunig that beautifully describes how privatizers are stealing what we collectively own. It begins:

*They're privatising things we own together.
They're flogging off the people's common ground.
And though we're still connected by the weather
They say that sharing things is now unsound.*

*They're lonelifying all the public spaces.
They're rationalising swags and billabongs.
They're awfulising nature's lovely places,
Dismantling the dreaming and the songs.*

You can see the privatizers wherever you look. Free-trade agreements, the prison industrial complex, terminator seed technology and corporate-run school systems are just a few of the forms privatization is taking. It is the impending corporate takeover of nature with its associated privatization of wildness where I have established my personal battle lines in this larger fight.

The chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck, routinely responds to my oft repeated accusation that he is commercializing, privatizing and motorizing American's public lands. Dombeck assures us that the Forest Service (USFS) has no intention of privatizing the ownership of America's national forests. Except for the scores of land swaps the USFS enters into each year in which public forests are exchanged for private stumps, Dombeck is, I suppose, technically correct. But it is not the privatization of *ownership* to which I have been referring. I accuse Dombeck of negotiating in secret with the recreation industry to privatize the "management control" of our national forests.

From January 11-14, Chief Dombeck, his boss, Undersecretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons, 20 high-level USFS employees, 56 other federal employees and 42 representatives of the recreation industry met in secret at Walt Disney's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The meeting, called Partners Outdoors IX, was the ninth such high-level, closed-door meeting in as many years.

To get an idea of what was discussed in this luxury resort—where both the public and media were barred from entry—consider the following short quote from the meeting notes: "Leaders from federal agencies and recreation companies have participated in candid and intense sessions—which have proved successful in increasing the flow of ideas for cooperation between the public and private sectors and resulted in more than two dozen concrete recommendations for joint actions. The conference will further discuss opportunities for for-profit corporations and federal agencies to cooperate more regularly in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of the American public and visitors from overseas."

More explicit still are notes from last year's Partners Outdoors VIII. The following statement is quoted from a document titled "Recreation Partnership Initiative" and appears on Army Corps of Engineers' letterhead. The quote begins: "The intent of the program is to encourage private development of public recreation facilities such as marinas, hotel/motel/restaurant complexes, conference centers, RV camping areas, golf courses, theme parks and entertainment areas with shops, etc."

These private facilities will be built on public lands. And while the land itself will remain in public ownership, the use of that land will be entirely privatized. Once privately developed, these lands will no longer be available for other public purposes or uses. The true owners (you and I) will no longer even have access to our lands unless we are prepared to pay private corporations for that privilege.

The federal agencies are, of course, wetting themselves with excitement at what they see as a free lunch. In exchange for assigning development rights to your lands, federal managers will receive a cut of the profits generated from these entirely

inappropriate private *wreckreation* developments. The Corp of Engineers describes this arrangement in the following words: "The Corps is indeed excited about the possibility of providing these additional opportunities for private sector development of public recreation facilities. These opportunities provide a win, win, win situation. The private developers win because of the excellent opportunities they will have to make a profit. The public wins because of the additional recreation opportunities made available to them and the Corps, and the federal government wins because much needed public recreational facilities are provided at no cost to the Government."

Mr. Dombeck may be technically correct when he says that *he* has no intention of privatizing America's national forests. But accompanying Mr. Dombeck at Partners Outdoors IX was the person

Fee-Demo Takes a Nosedive

The federal government will not press a case against an Oregon woman who has steadfastly refused to pay the \$5 fee to park her car while she hiked in central Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

The decision headed off a court test of the validity of the fee program that is being tested on public lands around the United States.

Assistant US Attorney Terry Derden said it wasn't clear if the government could collect the \$50 fine the Forest Service assessed against Majorie Hoye of Bend, Oregon, after she refused to buy the pass.

"Considering the limited number of resources in the federal courts, we look at the likelihood of success," Derden said. "That's what they pay us to do."

Hoye was driving home from Jackson, Wyoming on Sept. 6 when she stopped in the recreation area to take a walk. She returned to her car three hours later to find a ticket on her windshield for not buying the user pass. She ignored it, as well as the notice of a \$50 fine that came three weeks later and a mid-November summons to appear in federal court in Boise on the matter. Instead, she objected to the imposition of the parking fee in a letter to the US Attorney's office.

Hoye argued that the fee was discretionary for forest users and that her hikes were spiritual, not recreational, in nature. She also pointed out that a federal judge in Los Angeles a year earlier refused to uphold citations against Robert Bartsch for refusing to obtain a user pass under another demonstration program.

The judge said future citations would also be dismissed until the passes were made mandatory and not part of a demonstration or test.

Steve Lipus, a Forest Service law-enforcement supervisor, conceded that, as in Hoye's case, "we're not going to take anything to court and waste taxpayer money if we feel we don't have a good case."

who is putting together the privatization plan for him. The following is quoted from a resume made available in the official meeting notes. It reads: "Stephanie Hague—serves as Confidential Assistant to the Chief of the USDA Forest Service. At present, she is directing a national Forest Service effort, the Marketing Resource Group, which is completing an extensive study of marketing principles and techniques in preparation for the service-wide implementation of the Recreation Fee-Demonstration Program and to help transform the Forest Service into a better market-driven, customer-oriented agency."

To better understand what is meant by what you have just read, please note that the Marketing Resource Group is a critically important, extremely low-profile program being run for the USFS by private consultant Robert S. Shulman. Using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) I obtained Mr. Shulman's consulting agreement and can tell you that he is currently billing the American taxpayers at the rate of \$350 per hour and will continue to do so until he has collected \$253,971.52. Mr. Shulman reports directly to Dombeck's confidential assistant, Ms. Hague.

Mr. Shulman's job is to make the Recreation Fee



Demonstration Program look successful because the key to turning America's public lands into one big outdoor playground depends entirely upon the success of the fee-demo program. Before fee-demo, federal agencies were prohibited from charging for recreational use of public lands except for developed campgrounds, national park access and for the use of mechanical boat launches. Fee-demo supersedes this restrictive law and opens public land up to new revenue generating recreational uses and fees. Fee-demo is about creating business opportunities and is itself the love-child of a past Partners Outdoors gathering.

Quoting from *Partners Outdoors: A Tradition of Action* one reads, "Among the major outgrowths of past Partners Outdoors sessions are ... the federal Recreation Fee Demonstration Program authorized by Congress for FY 96-99 and recently extended through FY 2001."

Mr. Shulman is using every marketing trick in his vast repertoire to turn fee-demo into an apparent success and to obfuscate the enormous opposition to this program. To accomplish this short-term goal, Shulman's team has identified two nationally important test markets, the Pacific Northwest and Sedona, Arizona. Shulman and his USFS partners will concentrate their effort upon these two specific locales in order to prove that the public likes being treated as customers and will happily pay-to-play.

If the public buys what Shulman is selling, then there will be a never ending stream of new outdoor wreckreation products created for them to purchase in the years to come. If the public rebels so loudly and clearly that their voice is heard above the misinformation being spread by Shulman and his associates, then *perhaps*, the planned Disneyfication of the wild can be avoided.

I'd like to leave you with three short quotes. First, from an editorial that appeared in Sedona's *Red Rock News*: "We are designing a business. When this is all done, we will create a product line that has a price tag," said Ken Anderson, Sedona-Beaver Creek District Manager.

Second, from a speech made by Jim Lyons to the recreation industry on June 8, 1998: "We developed a marketing strategy and an icon that we hope will become to outdoor recreation what the Nike swoosh is to sporting goods and the famous Mercedes Benz hood ornament is to automobiles. Can you think of any entity—private or public—that has the breadth and diversity of outdoor recreation experience that you can find on the national forests? I doubt it! We've got a great product to sell. And, with your help, we can make it even better!"

And, finally, here is the concluding verse of Michael Leunig's poem:

*So if they steal away the people's treasure.
And bring the jolly swagman to his knees.
They can't remove the simple common pleasure.
Of loathing public bastards such as these.*

Scott Silver, is co-founder and executive director of Wild Wilderness. Located in Bend, Oregon, Wild Wilderness has fought for undeveloped recreation since 1991. Readers can learn more about Partners Outdoors by visiting the Wild Wilderness web site at www.wildwilderness.org/docs/po.htm; (541) 385-5261.

"Black Diamond Bloc" in Davos, Switzerland

Anti-free trade protesters, some clad in black ski masks and wielding skis, tried to force their way through police lines to disrupt the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 29.

Waving banners denouncing the annual gathering, protesters smashed windows of corporate shops, cars and McDonald's. With them was militant French peasant leader Jose Bové, who had been invited but refused to take part in discussions at the forum.

Police equipped with a water cannon halted the marchers some 500 yards from the Davos conference center, and three policemen were injured. Police also used tear gas and rubber bullets to quiet the crowd of 1,500.

Lesbian Avengers hijack bus

The Lesbian Avengers, an underground direct-action, sexual liberation army stopped a Stagecoach double-decker bus at London's Piccadilly Circus and painted it pink. The February 7 action was to demand an end to Section 28, a law that prohibits discussing homosexuality in schools.

Holding a banner that read "STOP! in the name of love," one group of women brought the number 15 bus to a halt. Others climbed on to the roof, hanging banners on either side while the vehicle was painted bright pink. Nearby, another group of women climbed the statue of Eros and hung a banner proclaiming "Let there be love."

The 15 bus route is operated by Stagecoach buses, whose boss, Brian Souter, has donated half a million pounds to the Scottish campaign to keep Section 28. According to press reports, Souter intends to build a huge movement to oppose any change in the law to drop the discriminatory legislation.

PETA dumps on Bush

In early February an animal rights activist wearing a pig mask dumped a truckload of dried manure at the door of Tommy's Country Ham House, where Texas Governor George W. Bush had just polished off his breakfast of pancakes and bacon.

The protester, from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, abandoned the dump truck in the path of Bush's presidential campaign bus. A sign on the side of the truck said "Meat Stinks." Police grabbed the protester. As they dragged him away, he yelled, "Meat is murder! Pork is death!"

Bush was about 50 feet away when the dumper arrived. Laughing, the governor joked: "I sure am glad I had my bacon for breakfast."

Bike locks for Black Mesa

On February 2, one day after Congress' Accommodation Agreement in the decades-old tribal land dispute between Navajo, Hopi and Peabody Coal in northern Arizona could be enforced, two protesters advocating native rights locked themselves together at US Senator John McCain's Tucson office. Both were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing.

The two were taken into custody after city workers cut the bicycle locks from their necks with a grinder. About 20 people demonstrated outside, voicing their concerns over the relocation.

According to McCain-sponsored legislation from 1996, Navajos living on Hopi land without a lease would be considered trespassers after January 30. The agreement forces the relocation, and represents a land grab for Peabody who wants the land that is rich with coal and uranium deposits.

COFFEE'S KILLING OMETEPE ISLAND

BY RUDOLF BACA

The Central American isthmus is a rich biological corridor between North and South America. Nicaragua is the largest country in this region and is characterized by its biodiversity as the home to seven percent of the flora and fauna on the planet. In many cases, Nicaragua is the biogeographical boundary of organisms found in both hemispheres.

The wildlife reserve Ometepe Island is located in Lake Nicaragua, or *Cocibolca*. This freshwater lake covers 8,265 square kilometres and is the only place in the world where sharks and sawfish live in this type of environment. The volcanic, inland island spans 277 square kilometres, making it larger than Aruba and slightly smaller than Grenada.

The two volcanoes that formed Ometepe are Concepción (1,700 meters above sea level) and Maderas (1,390 meters above sea level). Concepción is still active, while Maderas has been extinct for 10-20,000 years. The now-inactive crater of Maderas forms a lagoon that is covered by mist 10 months of the year. Within the mist is the most extensive and best-preserved cloud forest of the country. This forest is comprised of trees partially covered with epiphytes like orchids and bromeliads. Moss covers the trunks and rocks, which in turn absorbs a large quantity of water from the mist. This water slowly trickles down through the rainforest to the base of the volcano producing natural streams, rivers and falls that provide potable water for more than 15 communities.

The combination of ecosystems, geologic formations and natural habitats found on Ometepe make it a natural reserve rich in exotic flora and fauna, including native plants, mammals in danger of extinction and migratory birds. It is also the center of American cave art due to the large number of petroglyphs and indigenous idols found there by archaeologists.

At this time the reserve is in a crisis that risks the future of the natural resources and the *campesinos* who live there. The highest municipal authorities of Altagracia, the municipality in which the island is located, have abused their authority by claiming the right to dispose of the natural resources of the reserve in the manner they see fit.

The overstepping of

their authority has included giving permission to cut and sell large tracts of land within the reserve in order to cultivate coffee and crops. The land sale has resulted in the expulsion of *campesino* families and conflicts between the new "owners" and local cooperatives.

In March, 1999, the General Law of Protected Areas of Nicaragua was passed. Article 59 forbids the sale of any land in a protected area. However, because of the inexperience of our environmental authorities, the abuses have not ceased nor have they brought anyone to justice with their actions.

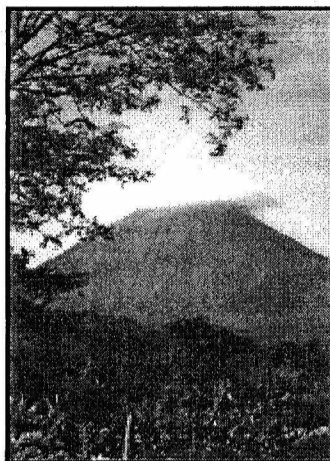
In the six months that we have been denouncing this situation, 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) within the preserve have been destroyed for coffee plantations. This development is taking place on land not appropriate for agriculture because of the high rate of erosion and slopes of 40 percent or more. The risk of mudslides and other natural disasters has been greatly increased.

We must create a climate of outrage against this type of activity, especially when it is driven by municipal authorities protected by subordinates, who are hiding behind a mistaken view of their autonomy.

Natural reserves are the only natural land formations protected by law. However, in Nicaragua the government doesn't have sufficient personnel to adequately protect and maintain a presence in the 73 protected areas of the country, which cover 17 percent of the land. Given this difficulty, non-governmental agencies have been given the work of protecting these lands, denouncing the abuses of those who have exploited their power for profit and demanding that these predators be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

The members of the Ometepe Foundation are devoted to the conservation of the natural riches of the *Reserva Natural Isla de Ometepe*. We are trying to set a precedent in a country inexperienced with conservation. If we can succeed in making the authorities legally responsible for the destruction of the reserve, it would be the first time in Nicaraguan history and a great achievement for conservation in all of Central America.

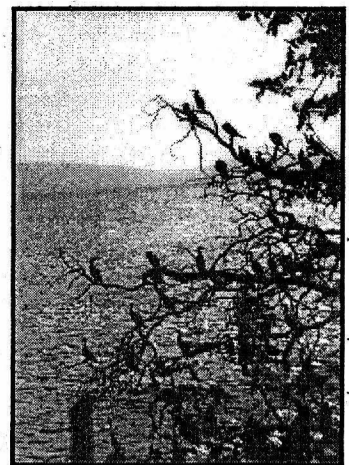
It is a difficult task, and for this reason we are asking help preserving the environment and denouncing the local corruption. For more information or any suggestions about Ometepe, please contact us at ometepe@ometepe.org; www.ometepe.org.



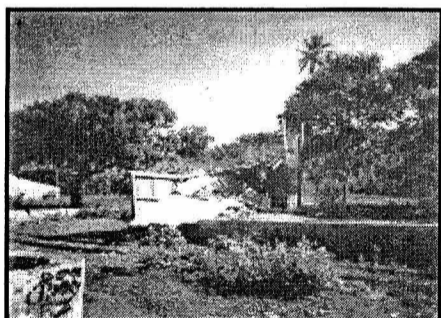
Concepción volcano



Ometepe Island, Nicaragua



Cormorants near Lake Nicaragua.



Structure at Reserva Natural Isla de Ometepe.

Taiwan Developers Swoop on Remaining Spoonbills

BY MATT SMELTER

In *EF!*, August-September 1998 an article appeared about the black-faced spoonbill and a major threat it was facing in Taiwan. Considered by some the rarest bird in the world, the spoonbill winters in the coastal wetlands of Taiwan's Tsengwen River. At that point, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the petrochemical development in a rare wetland ecosystem was being studied.

Although more than half the 550 remaining birds migrate to this area, the EIA for the Binnan Industrial Complex was approved without warning on December

17, 1999. It appears that the March 2000 presidential election was a factor in the decision. According to the *Taipei Times* this action was an attempt on the part of KMT candidate Lien Chan to pander to business interests.

Environmentalists, legislators and local fishermen immediately expressed outrage. Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo (SAVE) has called upon Taiwan's scientific community to speak out. "In the glare of the international spotlight, the same brush of cronyism and corruption taints all involved. It is a poor reflection upon the validity and legiti-

macy of scientific study if science is so easily bought and sold. We call upon the many EIA committee members who were left out of these secret and undemocratic proceedings to stand up and oppose this decision."

With no fewer than 30 conditions attached to Binnan's approval, a great deal of uncertainty still exists. The protection area for the critically endangered black-faced spoonbill currently proposed by the government is woefully short of the 100,000-hectare area needed. Activists continue to press for the project's proposed site to be designated a "Wetland of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

For more information, contact SAVE International, University of California-Berkeley, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, 202 Wurster Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720; (510)594-9466; bbutler@uclink4.berkeley.edu; www.earthisland.org/save.



The endangered black-faced spoonbill

Photo courtesy SAVE International

TREES CUT AT GLEN OF THE DOWNS

BY COLIN FOX AND KATHLEEN O'HARA

Ireland's Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve suffered a major blow in mid-February as the Wicklow County Council and accompanying *gardai* (police) evicted the Glen Guardians, who had been continuously occupying the threatened area for nearly three years (for more information, see *EF!*, February-March 2000). The mixed hardwood reserve lost up to 700 trees and 13 protesters are in jail. The approved road plan would further destroy 1,000-plus trees and seriously interfere with the Glen water table. The campaign continues with renewed vigour. This has been the biggest and longest-running nonviolent direct action campaign in Ireland, and has turned the tide of public opinion regarding our natural heritage.

With the eviction came the brutal treatment of the Guardians. A Wicklow County Council digger dumped a pile of branches on a pregnant woman in the Glen on February 22. On the same day, a Dublin eco-activist was picked up by the digger and dumped on the ground. The same man fell 15 feet when the tree he was in was felled. Neither was arrested.

Gardaí arrested two eco-warriors on February 23 after they chained themselves to lorries removing felled trees from the Glen. One of the men used a bicycle clamp to attach his neck to the bumper of a truck while another chained himself to the undercarriage. A team of gardaí, unable to open the clamp, had to remove the bumper from the lorry. However, it was impossible to fit the bumper into a gardaí car, so a van was brought to the scene. The guardians were then conveyed at Greystones Gardaí Station, one of them still locked to the bumper. Thirteen eco-activists have been imprisoned indefinitely because they refused to give up their right to protect the national nature reserve. The Dublin representative of the Dalai Lama delivered a purple iris to each of the Glen women prisoners.

Wicklow County Council Chairman George Jones has lied about the total number of trees cut in the Glen. Twelve hours after Jones told the media that there would be no more trees cut, more were felled in the Glen. Other trees were labeled with painted numbers by the Council as well. Council workers, accompanied by gardaí attempt to clear and cut daily.

The peaceful presence in the Glen continues. Glen Guardians, both on site and around the country, affirm their commitment to protect the land and the



Revelers celebrate at the glen before the saws come.

trees from lawless destruction.

There are many things currently at stake in the Glen:

- Margot Wallstrom, European Commission Environmental Commissioner, has received many comments about the Glen as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) and has approached the Irish Government with expert advice that it has ignored in the past.
- Despite Wicklow County Council's saying they have finished felling, this is actually just the first cut. Second and third cuts are also planned by the council. This involves felling several hundred trees on land it does not own and is still classified as a nature reserve.
- The planned excavations on the western side of the Glen would seriously affect the water table and could lead to dangerous landslides. A leading independent hydrogeologist says the council's plans are seriously flawed from an engineering point of view and could lead to an ecological disaster. The council has consistently refused to grant him a hearing.
- Legal precedent for other nature reserves is at issue. The council has failed to fulfill its legal obligations in several instances, including an Environmental Impact Study that is required by both Irish and European law. The council's effort (a partial study of part of the Glen) is clearly inadequate. It was ruled inadequate by a High Court judge, and yet he still gave the go ahead, effectively letting them off.
- The council's plan to fell trees in the nature reserve (beyond the land they "acquired") is in clear violation of the Wildlife Act. A High Court judge gave the council permission to break this law and kindly offered to amend it for them afterwards.
- Right to lawful protest has surfaced here as well. The dispute between the Glen protesters and Wicklow County Council is a civil matter. None of the protesters has been found guilty of a criminal offence or even accused of one! Misuse of the contempt of court law has seen 13 of us imprisoned without trial for exercising our legal right to protest. If this situation is allowed to go unchecked, where will it lead?

All this results in the setting of a precedent that effectively strips away legal protection of all Ireland's nature reserves, leaving them open to destruction by all manner of developments. We implore anybody who cares about these issues to visit the Glen and get involved.

For more information about future demonstrations contact glenofthedowns@ireland.com.

tower, as safeties. Unfortunately, strong winds prevented the installation of the hanging tent and although climbers unfurled the banner, it was quickly destroyed by police who could access it from inside the tower. All were forced

down by 5 p.m. and were detained shortly by the police. No fines have been determined yet. For more information contact, Solidari@s con Itoiz, Unai Behrendt Batzan, Nagusia Kalea 38-5B, E-31001 Iruna, Natarroa E. H. solidarías@gmx.de; www.umbrunchbildarc hive.de.

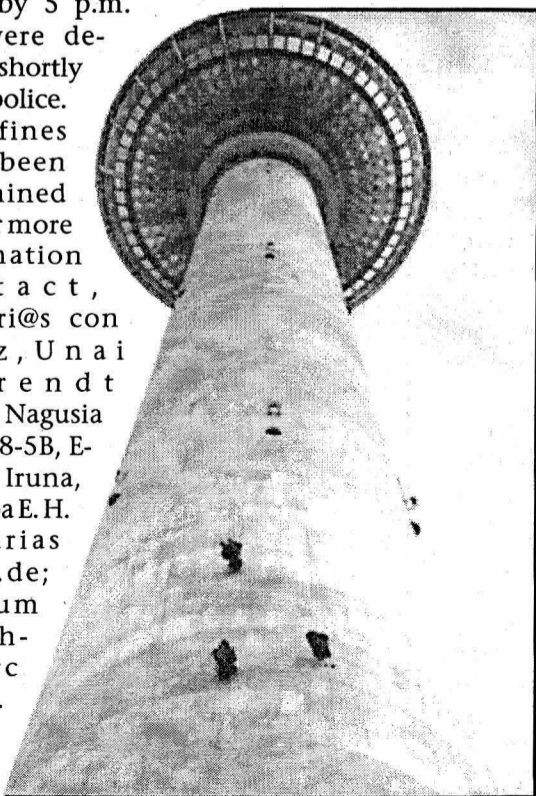


Brandenburg Gate in Berlin with "Stop Itoiz Dam" banner.

SOLIDARI@S CON ITOIZ STORMS BERLIN

About 100 supporters of the direct action group *Solidari@s con Itoiz* demonstrated on the world famous Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on January 24. Three activists locked down while two others hung off the gate on ropes to protest the destructive Itoiz Dam project in the Basque Country of northern Spain and the five year prison terms given to each of their eight comrades after a peaceful direct action. The massive banner was put in the front of a nearby building during the demonstration.

The next day three activists climbed up the 1095-foot TV tower at Berlin-Alexanderplatz. They planned to install a hanging tent in order to camp on the tower and a 90x9-foot banner saying "Itoiz St Audamm Stop" (Stop Itoiz Dam). Climbers used the steel cables of the cleaning elevator, used for washing the outside of the



Climbers on TV tower at Berlin-Alexanderplatz.

BRITAIN'S WINTER MOOT

BY TK AND JOHN CONNOR

"We are all in this shit together" proclaimed the agit-prop handouts. As we went around the room the first morning to hear reports from a multitude of active campaigns, one got an idea of just how important this is. The Blatant Incitement Collective was there, so were folks from Reclaim the Streets, London Greenpeace, Brighton's Rebel Alliance and *Do or Die*. Also attending were the old *EF! Action Update* collective from Leeds and the new one from Newcastle, as revolutionary affinity groups from all over the UK gathered in Oxford for the Earth First! Winter Moot to celebrate diversity, challenge uniformity and discuss how to actualize our dreams of dancing on the ruins.

Organizers demonstrated an admirable sense of humor and humility in their roles as facilitators, and *EF!UK* seems to have long ago realized that large groups were ineffective forums for serious dialogue. The first thing we did was number-off to randomly divide into small groups of about ten people to discuss predetermined agenda items. Doing it this way gave activists a chance to meet other Earth First!ers, communicate more freely, and to get a feeling for the diversity of opinion and experience that exists within the broader movement. And everyone returned to their own regional group with new feedback to contribute.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of "The state, society and our reaction... are we escalating our resistance and how scary is that?" The fight against global capitalism has gone global in a big way over the past year as evidenced by the events surrounding J18 and N30. As the tempo of environmental devastation escalates and domination becomes more pervasive, provocative and powerful, it seems inevitable that the resistance must do so as well. Yet we are understandably disturbed by seeing our friends tear-gassed, beat up and imprisoned by the agents of repression (Robert Thaxton got seven years for allegedly throwing a rock at a cop in the US, and 56 people have been arrested in the UK for J18 related activities.)

Small group discussions the next day on short- and long-term strategy were inconclusive, both because *EF!UK*'s decentralized activists refuse to speak collectively or to proclaim grand answers, and because they've been in a quandary as to "where next?" ever since the success of the 1992-97 anti-roads campaigns.

As space was scarce, only the six most popular campaigns were discussed wholly, with other campaigns discussed in a pub across the road. Campaigns included genetics, Cage (against prison-building and prison labor), the Anti-Terrorism Bill (set to abolish open civil disobedience in the UK), and solidarity with the U'wa, as well as organizational matters. The best attended, most important workshop was on May Day, the "next big thing" for *EF!UK*.

Since May Day's a public holiday in the UK, all business targets would already be closed, and so it'd be an empty protest, not direct action. Rather than accept this *fait d'accompli*, most there said they'd organize local street parties instead of putting energy into a big protest in London.

The group, MayDay 2000 has learned the hard way how *EF!UK* works democratically without formal democratic structures. By rejecting their dictatorial style and crude "anti-capitalism," *EF!UK* must now consider revolutionary models that don't involve mass manipulation and going toe-to-toe with our oppressors, a game Euston N30 (London's anti-WTO action) showed us the state already knows how to easily contain and control.



photo courtesy BBB

BBB pies San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom.

BY THE COMPIELER

Political pie throwing has a long history. It took off in Europe in 1973 with Belgian surrealist, Noel Godin's, famous pieing of Marilyn Monroe. Its roots go back to 19th century music halls, and it was practiced by the Marx Brothers and the Dadaist art movement.

Today the crusade is spreading itself thick with the ever evolving Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB). The redoubtable BBB has exemplified underground eco-activism in recent years with its avowed goal of pie-rect action—attacking global capitalism full in the face with pie. Its tried and pied list of entartements includes technocrats, policy makers, heads of trade bodies, politicians and corporate honchos. By the BBB's own admission, the two-fold path of the modern warrior is no longer that of the sword and the pen, but the pie and the keyboard. Few weapons are as effective in subverting an event as pie served in an unconventional fashion rounded off with a captivating press release.

The pieing of Chuck Foldenauer, head of a uranium mine owned by General Atomics (US-based nuclear giant) in late December was but one splat in a long line of confectionery attacks perpetrated over the last couple of months. He was hit in south Australia by the

Pies, Eclaires Fly at Corporate Targets; the Round, Creamy and Tasty Revolution Continues

"humps not dumps" women, a group of anti-uranium camel crusaders.

Michael Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was targeted by the pastry commandos as he arrived at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on January 1. Interestingly, the United Nations declined to press charges against the confectionery flinger.

Also in January, scientist Keith Campbell, co-creator of Dolly the sheep, was hit full in the face with a custard pie at a talk in Sussex, England. That attack was carried out by London-based anarchist group PIE (People Insurgent Everywhere).

On January 28, the last day of the Conference on Biosafety in Montreal, Canada, the merry pies flew in the face of GE food promoter John Herity of Environment Canada. Herity, co-chair of the Canadian delegation but representing the Miami group, was surrounded by Greenpies. These agents are committed to a world where CEOs and governments do not mate, be-

cause when they do, their offspring (like the WTO) are deformed and mutated. Herrity's hit followed the pieing of Canadian Minister of Health, Alan Rock, and World Coalition on Biotechnology President, Joyce Grooke, in an incredible hat trick by Montreal's Les Entartistes earlier in the conference.

British Agricultural Minister Nick Brown on February 1, had a chocolate éclair smeared his face. The incident came halfway through an angry confrontation between Mr. Brown and farmers at their European Union Conference in France. Delegate after delegate, at least one in tears, lined up to berate the minister over the government's lack of help for agriculture.

Meanwhile, at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid arrived along with 10 ministers and 100 Indonesian corporate directors for a business seminar with 400 invited delegates from British industry. They were greeted by about 25 protesters, pie prepared and ready to fling. The demonstrators, disguised with West Papuan tribesmen masks, blockaded

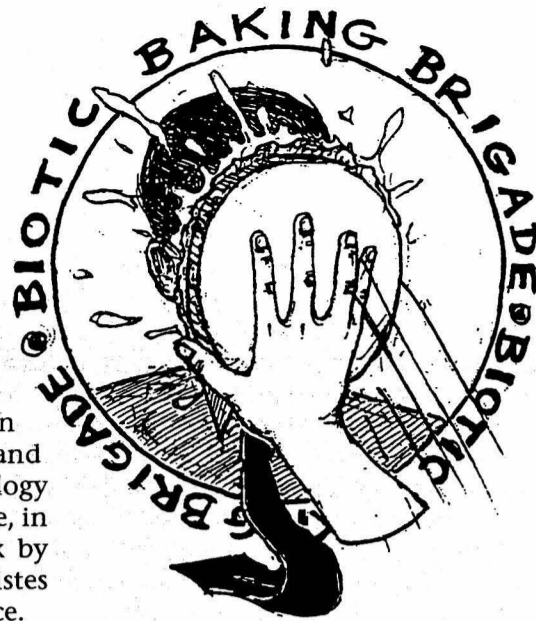
very tasty for a pastry—must've cost a lot of dough—

and the bakers are good makers of news stories you can throw.

in the kitchen they must pitch in, arms in flour to the elbows,

while creating innovating tarts to fling at CEOs.

—DENNIS FRITZINGER, POET LAUREATE OF THE GLOBAL PASTRY UPRISING



the entrance preventing the delegation from entering the hotel and sprayed fake blood across the hotel steps. The delegates were harangued through a megaphone and greeted with: "Good morning suits! You are not anonymous, you are not invisible—if you invest in genocide we will target you! Your offices will be occupied, your homes will be visited. Welcome to the world of resistance!" Custard pies were flung after a portable pie strategy was decided upon, and piers were issued foil pie trays, a carton of ready made custard and an aerosol can of whipped cream. This proved useful as the piers were able to hide behind a banner set at an angle and could continue making new pies as needed. The pies, although none made a full-on direct hit, got everyone—delegates, security and blockades.

The BBB preaches an autonomous, diffuse and widespread global pastry uprising against corporate power and ecological destruction.

DAISHOWA APPEALS RIGHT TO BOYCOTT RULING

revenue. Lubicon supporters started the consumer boycott in 1991 in response to Daishowa's threat to clearcut on unceded Lubicon traditional territory in northern Alberta at the rate of up to 11,000 trees per day.

In June 1998, when Daishowa finally agreed not to cut or buy wood cut on unceded Lubicon Nation territories until a land rights settlement was reached between the Lubicon and both levels of government, the Lubicon Nation called off the successful boycott.

However, Daishowa did not abandon its appeal of the ruling that allowed people to organize a consumer boycott of Daishowa products. Daishowa's pursuit of the appeal, coupled with actions by Daishowa this past year, bring into question the sincerity of its written commitment.

First, on February 23, 1999, the Alberta provincial government announced that significant parts of Daishowa's former Forest Management Area would be re-allocated to other parties. Some of the lands being re-allocated included the southeast portion of Lubicon traditional territories. Daishowa had relinquished the timber rights in that portion in conjunction with its commitment to not log Lubicon lands. Shortly after a call for interest in logging these areas went out, the names of a group of Indian bands from the region including the government-created Woodland Cree Band, the Loon River Band, and the Whitefish Band—along with

Daishowa Marubeni International (DMI)—showed up on a proposal to log in Daishowa's former area in the southeast portion of Lubicon land. The joint proposal indicated that the bands would do the logging and sell the wood to Daishowa.

Then on May 28, 1999, DMI announced that it had signed a major five-year timber contract with Kee Tas Kee Now Logging Ltd.—a joint venture involving the Woodland, Loon and Whitefish Bands. Their contract stipulates that they log a minimum of 100,000 cubic metres of wood per year. Daishowa will then process the wood at their Peace River pulp mill. They were set to log "northeast of the Peace River," according to a DMI press release, and northeast of the Lubicon "area of concern" according to DMI communications manager Ewa Ardiel at the time of the announcement.

However, that is only part of the story. According to an informed source, DMI still retains "timber rights" in the western half of the 4,000-square-mile unceded Lubicon traditional territory and has contracted out those "logging rights" to Kee Tas Kee Now. Whether the new logging consortium will act on those "rights" to log within the Lubicon traditional territory is not yet clear. What happens to Daishowa's commitment not to buy wood cut in Lubicon territory should its new partners move in to clearcut unceded Lubicon territory is also unclear.

If Daishowa is indeed honouring its

word—and its written promises—why are they yet again seeking to tie up Lubicon supporters in court and attempting to outlaw even the possibility of a renewed Daishowa boycott?

The province of Alberta announced in October 1999 it would not re-allocate the southeast portion of Lubicon lands until some time in the future. There is little doubt in our minds that if Daishowa's renewed effort to silence public debate through legal sanction is successful, outside interests will expeditiously renew their efforts to clearcut the Lubicon forest.

As for everyone's right to organize public action against injustice, corporate misdeeds and the like, if FoL is silenced here, then we will all have marched one step closer to becoming a society with free speech for the corporation and a muzzle for everyone else.

Send letters of protest to President, Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Asahi-Tokai Building, 2-6-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan, and send copies of the letter to Tokiro Kawamura, President, Daishowa-Marubeni International, Suite 1700, 1095 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 2M6, Canada; (604) 684-0512 (fax).

Please forward responses received to FoL, and for more information contact us at 485 Ridelle Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6B 1K6 T; (416) 763-7500; 535-7810 (fax); fol@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~fol.

—FRIENDS OF THE LUBICON

Just when you thought it was safe to support Aboriginal rights ...

On May 4 and 5, the Friends of the Lubicon (FoL) will be back in court. Forestry multinational Daishowa is trying to overturn an Ontario, Canada, court decision that ruled people in Ontario have the right to organize a consumer boycott of Daishowa products. At the same time, Daishowa has contracted the "logging rights" to a forestry company in an area which includes Lubicon Lake Indian Nation traditional territory.

In May 1998, Daishowa filed for appeal of an Ontario Court ruling that rejected Daishowa's application for a permanent injunction against a consumer boycott which the company said had cost it over \$14 million in lost

About ACERCA



A logger's chainsaw from a Korean multinational in the rainforest of Nicaragua. Central America's rainforests are disappearing at a tragic rate. *La motosierra de un leñador de una transnacional coreana en la selva de Nicaragua. El bosque lluvioso de América Central esta desapareciendo a una velocidad trágica.* foto: Langelle/ACERCA

Central America: Environment Under Fire

Central America is a region celebrated for its natural wealth and beauty. On the Pacific side, majestic volcanoes slope down to fertile checkerboard plains and rich coastal mangrove swamps. To the east, pine-covered mountains and cloud forests of the cooler interior highlands descend into dense tropical rainforests, sliced by steaming rivers headed for the sparkling warm waters of the Caribbean. Numerous freshwater lakes sit nestled in a rolling green landscape—an environment home to jaguars, monkeys, manatees, snakes, lizards, parrots, frogs, and other unique wildlife of almost infinite variety. North American songbirds such as the thrush, warbler, and flycatcher depend half the year in Central America's lush jungles and highlands. For eons this crumpled isthmus has served as a bridge and transition zone for tropical and temperate life-forms from North and South America and nurtured prosperous Indian civilizations for thousands of years. Medical and agricultural treasures lie hidden in the more than 1,000 species of plants found nowhere else on the globe.



But today, Central America's environment is under fire. Across the entire region, virtually every major ecosystem is rapidly being destroyed. The stark reality of this ecological devastation is shocking. [Well over] two-thirds of the original tropical rainforests have been felled, with most of the deforestation taking place since 1950. ... Thousands of species of flora and fauna are in danger of extinction or have already been eliminated. Soil erosion is so bad that [over] half of all farmland has been damaged, resulting in steady declines in agricultural productivity. The consequent destruction of major watersheds is responsible for the siltation of waterways, including flooding, drought, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage annually to the Central American economy.

The ecological crisis is also a matter of life and death for the region's small farmers and workers. Deadly pesticides

banned in the United States are exported to Central America where they poison thousands of agricultural laborers each year. Much of the land, water table, and food chain along the Pacific coast is severely contaminated with these carcinogenic poisons. Unburdened by protective regulations, industries freely dump toxic chemicals into the environment. Those chemical wastes have combined with agricultural residues and untreated sewage effluents to destroy water supplies.

The United States is also at war with nature in Central America. ... [T]he United States has supported brutal counterinsurgency campaigns and Vietnam-style "scorched-earth" tactics, further devastating the forests and fields of Guatemala and El Salvador, while killing hundreds of thousands of people and displacing millions more. An undeclared economic and military war waged by the United States over the course of the 1980s against the Sandinista government crippled many of Nicaragua's environmental and social programs, considered by many international environmentalists to be some of the most innovative and far-reaching

measures ever undertaken by a poor third world country. And even now, as many of these wars have, for the moment, ended..., the United States has failed to develop a coherent policy for the economic and ecological reconstruction of the region, let alone a comprehensive program that would address the root causes of poverty, war, and environmental destruction. As a result, Central America is now facing a social and ecological crisis unparalleled in its history.

--Daniel Faber, from *Environment Under Fire, Imperialism and the Ecological Crisis in Central America*. Faber is on the ACERCA Advisory Board and was the former research director with the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA). He is also a professor of Sociology at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. His latest book is *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy*.

ACERCA (Action for Community and Ecology in the Regions of Central America) is a project of the Alliance for Global Justice and member of the Native Forest Network. ACERCA emerged after groups such as the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA) disbanded in the early 90's. ACERCA formed to fill the pressing need for international response to the environmental and human rights abuses occurring in the Central American region.

ACERCA is comprised of activists, organizers, researchers, educators and volunteers, who together develop strategies and implement ideas. We first became involved in southeastern Mexico and Nicaragua, after being asked by the peoples of those areas to become involved. ACERCA delegations to these regions serve as tools to increase awareness of the struggles of local indigenous communities. ACERCA also works to expose the power imbalance which allows most cultural and environmental destruction to take place.

One goal of ACERCA is to unite environmental and solidarity activists. Unchecked economic globalization is accelerating. As it does, so does the war on the poor, the destruction of indigenous culture, and the ravaging of the natural world. Only united will we be strong enough to successfully challenge economic globalization, and end the suffering of millions and protect diverse ecosystems.

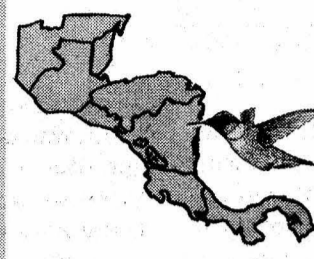
ACERCA is in a unique position to bring together these two spheres of activism. Our work in Central America merges issues both ecological and social. This has led us to provide an analysis which links these issues together in profound ways.

Southeastern Mexico and Central America clearly demonstrate the overlapping of social and environmental issues. Poverty as well as cultural and environmental destruction occur hand in hand. We use these clear examples to educate organizations and individuals about these inherent interconnections to achieve our goal of uniting these movements. We have all seen the power of movements which unite with a common goal. We are working to make such collaborations the rule rather than the exception.

The corporations and governments that perpetuate social, economic, and environmental injustice are unified in their goals. We who have a vision of a better world cannot afford to divide ourselves into narrow, competitive movements.

ACERCA also aids the struggles of the indigenous inhabitants of Central America and Mexico by gathering information directly from them regarding their struggles, for dissemination globally, nationally and locally. We then use our organizational and media contacts to apply pressure to

multinational corporations, policy makers, trade organizations like the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) and the WTO (World Trade Organization) and repressive financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stop their harmful practices in indigenous communities. This technique has been enormously successful and in 1998 led us to help stop a 150,000 acre timber sale in the Nicaraguan rainforest.



ACERCA's identity developed out of an understanding of the inherent links between the economic globalization and poverty, injustice, militarization, and environmental destruction. Our strategy involves using Central America as a lens through which people might more easily view these connections between politics and ecology. Ultimately, we see ACERCA's efforts as being vital to help stop the tide of destruction, both to the environment and to all the inhabitants of Central America.

ACERCA's Achievements

- ACERCA has led several environmental justice delegations to Central America and Southeastern Mexico. These delegations have focussed on diverse issues including eucalyptus plantations (some to include genetically engineered trees) on campesino lands, effects of NAFTA, concerns of Zapatista Autonomous Municipalities of Chiapas, and the Dry Canal Megaproject in Mexico's Isthmus of Tehuantepec. In addition, we led the first delegation to Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch, exposing the role environmental destruction played in exacerbating the tragedy.

- In an effort to prevent globalization's devastating effects in this region, ACERCA has mobilized against the FTAA, the WTO, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the World Bank and the IMF. ACERCA will continue to fight globalization through work on trade issues, and by leading delegations to the region to examine the effects of free trade on the peoples and economies there.

- To better facilitate communication between activists, ACERCA is compiling a database of Central American NGOs, environmental, social, and indigenous groups which will be accessible through our web page and distributed in print.

- ACERCA will continue to expose the dangers of the dry canals proposed for Nicaragua, Mexico's Isthmus of Tehuantepec and Colombia, working to connect the threatened communities of the three regions to help empower them to become more effective.

To Contact ACERCA:

PO Box 57, Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 863-0571 ph / (802) 864-8203 fax
acerca@sover.net www.acerca.org

Become a member! ¡Hazte miembro!

(The support of our members goes directly to our campaigns)

(Todo los aportes de nuestros miembros son directamente invertidos en nuestras campañas.)

yes! I want to support ACERCA's work. I have enclosed:

— Sí, deseo colaborar con el trabajo de ACERCA. Mi aporte es:

— \$10-25 low income — \$35 member — \$50 sponsor — \$100+ patron

I want to order: *The Zapatistas and Rainforest of Chiapas* video: \$20 report: \$3
Sí, deseo adquirir *Los Zapatistas y la Selva Lacandona* video: \$20 informe: \$3
(sólo en inglés)

Name/ Nombre _____

Address/ Dirección _____

Phone/ Teléfono _____ email/correo electrónico: _____

(make check payable to ACERCA and send to, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402 USA)
(Cheques deben ser extendidos a ACERCA y enviados a POX 57, Burlington, VT, 05402 USA)



ACERCA

(Action for Community and Ecology in the Regions)

ACERCA is a US based non-profit organization which emerged out of the pre-ACERCA uses Central America as a lens through which to expose the inherent

ACERCA es una organización estadounidense sin fines de lucro que surgió de la países cercanos. ACERCA utiliza a Centroamérica como un lente por el que se e

Southeastern Mexico caught the attention of the world on January 1, 1994 when many indigenous people of Chiapas (under the banner of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation-EZLN) rose up in opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA forced the rewriting of Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution, ending land distribution to campesinos (peasants) and decades of hard work towards agrarian land reforms. Additionally, NAFTA restructured the economies of the continent, favoring big business and putting unjust stress on smaller, local commerce.

Although much of the media coverage has died down, the Zapatista uprising continues. Due to the insurrection, the area has experienced intense militarization. A huge concentration of Mexican forces is now located amidst the poorest and least populated area in the country, equipped with US armored personnel carriers and helicopters (supposedly sent to fight the drug war). Much of the rebellion is concentrated in the Lacandon rainforest.

Southeastern Mexico is a resource rich area. Petroleum, minerals, and timber are all abundant here, and are coveted by multinationals.

The geographic location of SE Mexico's Isthmus of Tehuantepec makes it very attractive for the construction of a dry canal, plans for which are already underway. Called the 'Megaproject', these designs to establish a system of multi-lane highways, high-speed rail lines, and oil pipelines have attracted 146 additional development projects, including maquiladoras (sweatshops), shrimp farms, tree plantations, oil refineries and hydroelectric facilities. These plans will destroy the Chimalapa rainforest, which is the most intact and biodiverse rainforest in Mexico.

El sudeste de México captó la atención del mundo el 1º de enero de 1994 cuando muchos indígenas de Chiapas (bajo la bandera del Ejército Zapatista de

Liberación Nacional, el EZLN) se alzó en oposición contra el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC). El TLC forzó el cambio del artículo 27 de la constitución mexicana para

SE México

terminar la distribución de tierras a los campesinos, y décadas de trabajo duro a favor de la reforma agraria. Además, el TLC reestructuró todas las economías dentro del continente favoreciendo a los grandes negocios y presionando injustamente al pequeño comercio local.

Aunque la mayor parte de la cobertura de los medios de comunicación haya disminuido, el levantamiento zapatista continúa. Debido a la insurrección, el área ha experimentado una extensa militarización. Una enorme concentración de fuerzas militares mexicanas se localiza ahora entre las áreas más pobres y menos pobladas del país, armada con camiones y helicópteros de los Estados Unidos (enviados supuestamente para combatir en la guerra contra las drogas). Gran parte de las fuerzas rebeldes se encuentran en la selva lacandona, la cual es un bosque tropical. El sudeste de México es una zona rica en recursos naturales. El petróleo, los minerales valiosos y la madera son abundantes y codiciados por las multinacionales.

La ubicación geográfica del istmo de Tehuantepec lo hace muy atractivo para la construcción de un canal seco, para lo que ya existen planes. Llamado "el megaproyecto", este plan permitiría establecer un sistema de autopistas de alta velocidad con varios carriles, tuberías de petróleo en la parte más angosta de México, y otros proyectos de desarrollo adicionales, incluidas maquiladoras, crianza de camarones, plantación de árboles, refineries de petróleo e instalaciones hidroeléctricas. Estos planes destruirán el bosque tropical de las Chimalapas, que es el más intacto y biodiverso de los bosques tropicales de México.

Belize is a young country, having gained independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981.

Low population pressure has traditionally played a role in allowing this small country

Belize/Belice

to retain most of its forests, of which 40% are protected. Population, however, is multiplying rapidly.

As a young country, Belize has been able to avoid the accumulation of a large foreign debt, being spared the pressure to sell off its valuable rainforests for timber in order to pay back loans.

The fact that most land in Belize is controlled by the government and is only available on a short-term lease basis, contributes to deforestation as it is difficult for farmers to utilize sustainable long-term farming practices.

Other factors contributing to deforestation are logging contracts granted to Asian multinational timber companies in the southern part of the country, Guatemalans slipping across the unprotected border and stealing timber, and the conversion of rainforest to banana and citrus plantations.

Belice es un país joven, habiendo ganado su independencia de Gran Bretaña el 21 de septiembre de 1981.

La baja presión social ha jugado tradicionalmente el papel de permitir que este pequeño país retenga mucha de su cobertura forestal, de la cual el 40% está protegida en parques nacionales y reservas. Sin embargo, la población se multiplica rápidamente.

Ser un país nuevo le ha permitido a Belice evitar la acumulación de una gran deuda externa, evitando así la presión de tener que vender la madera de sus valiosos bosques tropicales para pagar préstamos.

El hecho de que la mayoría de la tierra en Belice sea controlada por el gobierno, y que sólo se permita su arrendamiento a corto plazo para los campesinos, contribuye a la deforestación, ya que es difícil para los granjeros llevar a cabo prácticas agrícolas sostenibles a largo plazo.

Otros factores que contribuyen a la deforestación son los contratos madereros, cedidos a compañías madereras transnacionales asiáticas en la parte sur del país; guatemaltecos deslizándose a través de una frontera sin protección y robando maderas. Así como la conversión de los bosques tropicales a plantaciones de platanos y limonares.

In wounde bloodies decade. proteste Hondur movem (Grito Black Tegucig years o attention tions of al and result of Th forced t to recei Bank ar Bank. opment resourc US com Th Corpora indigen its plan Mosqui within indigen has als ging pra Ca their far fertilize tion. 78% po En dieciock heridos Preside

In Guatemala more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, were killed in a brutal civil war which ended in December, 1996. The United Nations sponsored Truth Commission found that 94% of the murders were carried out by the Guatemalan state against its own people. Presently, the government is comprised of war criminals, and is led by a former military dictator who served during some of the heaviest repression. The conditions of extreme poverty which caused the war and led to thousands of Guatemalan deaths every year, continue to worsen as free trade agreements and privatization of basic services make survival for the extremely poor increasingly difficult.

Guatemala's environment has also suffered, due to both natural disasters and intense corporate abuse. Oil exploration by multinationals is a continuous and serious threat.

Overuse of pesticides (among the highest in the world) has contributed to soil degradation, water pollution, and the poisoning of farm workers. The population of the northern lowlands has increased twenty-two fold over the past thirty years, resulting in the disappearance of half of its rainforest. Known as El Peten, this northern third of the country also contains the Sierra Madre Mountain range, which boasts the highest peak in Central America and includes many frequently erupting volcanoes.

En Guatemala más de 200.000 personas, principalmente civiles inocentes, fueron asesinados durante la guerra civil que finalizó en Diciembre de 1996. Las Naciones Unidas apoyaron el trabajo de una comisión que estableció que un 94% de las muertes fueron cometidas por el estado guatemalteco en contra de su propia gente.

Guatemala

El gobierno en ejercicio está integrado por criminales de guerra y a la cabeza del partido gobernante está quien fuera un dictador militar durante uno de los periodos de represión más brutales.

Las víctimas de la represión patrocinada por el estado guatemalteco deben vivir observando como sus verdugos están en control del actual gobierno.

Las condiciones de extrema pobreza, principal causa de la guerra y de la muerte de miles de guatemaltecos cada año, se agrava aún más considerando los efectos de los acuerdos de libre comercio y privatizaciones de servicios básicos, haciendo que para la población extremadamente pobre de Guatemala sea más difícil sobrevivir cada día.

El medio ambiente de Guatemala ha sufrido tanto a causa de los desastres naturales como por las corporaciones transnacionales. La exploración petrolera por las transnacionales se ha convertido en una frecuente y peligrosa amenaza.

El abuso de pesticidas (considerado uno de los más altos en el mundo) ha contribuido al envenenamiento de trabajadores agrícolas, a la degradación de la calidad de la tierra y a la contaminación del agua. Las tierras del extremo norte han incrementado su población en un 22% durante los últimos 30 años, lo que ha causado la desaparición de la mitad del bosque. En El Petén, región que ocupa un tercio del país en el extremo norte, se encuentra la cadena montañosa Sierra Madre, que contiene la montaña más alta de Centroamérica y, asimismo, una frecuente actividad volcánica.

From 1980 to 1992, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador fought a civil war against the military government. During the war, the US sent more than \$5 billion to the government of El Salvador, contributing to the destruction of the environment and the killing of more than 75,000 people.

El Salvador

The right-wing ARENA party that currently governs El Salvador has earnestly implemented the neoliberal economic policies called for by the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO. The government has reduced social services, eliminated thousands of state jobs, and raised the sales tax to 13 percent. Free trade agreements have also forced the reduction of tariffs and quotas on imports, flooding the market with imported crops. This has forced peasant farmers to lower their own prices, driving them further into poverty. ARENA has also promoted the creation of maquiladores (sweatshops that employ primarily young women at poverty wages to assemble products for export).

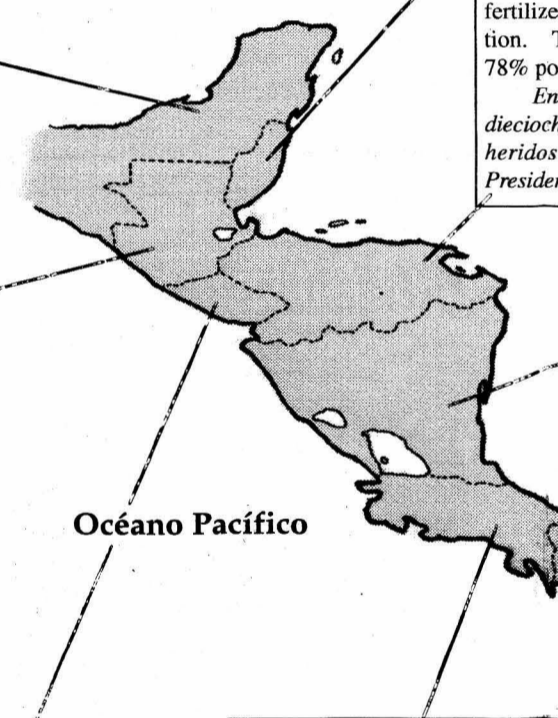
With a strong social movement and a growing environmental consciousness, El Salvador provides a powerful example of resistance to neoliberalism and the creation of "globalización desde abajo" (grassroots globalization).

En el Salvador, entre 1980 y 1992, el Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) se mantuvo en

guerra contra el gobierno militar. Durante esta guerra, los Estados Unidos enviaron más de 5 mil millones de dólares al gobierno de El Salvador, contribuyendo así a la destrucción del medio ambiente y la matanza de más de 75 mil personas.

El partido derechista ARENA, que en el presente gobierna El Salvador, ha implementado las medidas políticas y económicas neoliberales exigidas por el Banco Mundial, el Fondo Monetario Internacional, y la Organización Mundial de Comercio. El gobierno ha reducido los servicios sociales, eliminado miles de empleos estatales y elevado el impuesto de ventas al 13%. También han reducido tarifas y cuotas en las importaciones (junto con tratados de libre comercio), lo cual ha inundado el mercado de cosechas importadas. Esto ha forzado a los campesinos a reducir sus propios precios, hundiéndolos más en la pobreza. ARENA también ha promovido la creación de maquiladoras (fábrica donde se explota a los trabajadores, en la cual se emplea principalmente a mujeres jóvenes para ensamblar productos de exportación con salarios miserables).

Con un fuerte movimiento social y una conciencia ambiental creciente, El Salvador provee un ejemplo poderoso de resistencia hacia el neoliberalismo, y la creación de una "globalización desde abajo".



Océano Pacífico

Costa Rica, a country rich in biodiversity, is rapidly losing its rainforests to logging and tourist resorts. Although large tracts are set aside in National Parks, some are made up of private land which owners have yet to see pay. When approached by logging companies, these landowners may sell the land for a special need, because they cannot convince the government.

In both the Guanacaste region and the northern peninsula, environmental devastation began in the 1970s when multinational corporations (such as McDonald's) began exporting beef cattle production. This has resulted in the highest annual rainforest destruction in the world over the past decade.

Due to Costa Rica's biological diversity, ecotourism enthusiasts and birders are frequent visitors to upscale resorts. Eco-tourism has become a major industry in the country immensely. Prior to the 1970s, Costa Rica produced over ninety percent of its own food. Now, with few working farms, food imports have increased drastically.

Costa Rica, país con una gran biodiversidad, está siendo testigo de la destrucción de sus bosques tropicales.



Mangrove habitat is being destroyed by shrimp farming and tourism. Los manglares están siendo destruidos por la pesca de camarones y los centros turísticos. foto: Jennifer Freedman

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...s of Central America / Acción para la Comunidad y la Ecología en la Región Centroamericana)

...ressing need for international response to the environmental and human rights abuses occurring in the greater Central American region. ...ent links between the globalization of the world economy and poverty, injustice, militarization and the destruction of the environment.

La necesidad apremiante por una respuesta internacional a los abusos al ambiente y de los derechos humanos que están ocurriendo en Centroamérica y en ... exponen los nexos inherentes entre la globalización de la economía mundial, la pobreza, la injusticia, la militarización y la destrucción del ambiente.

...n Honduras, eighteen marchers were ...ded at the Presidential Palace in the ...iest governmental repression of the ...le. On Oct. 12, 1999, 5,000 peaceful ...sters marched in Tegucigalpa, the ...uran capital, as part of a worldwide ...ment called "Cry of the Excluded" ...o de los Excluidos). Indigenous and ... organizations gathered in ...igalpa to protest 507

...vas más sangrientas de la década. Más de 5.000 manifestantes pacíficos marcharon en Tegucigalpa, capital de Honduras, uniéndose al movimiento mundial conocido como el "Grito de los Excluidos".

Organizaciones indígenas y de personas de color se reunieron en Tegucigalpa para protestar contra los 507 años de conquista y además, dirigir la atención hacia

Honduras

... las sistemáticas y numerosas violaciones de los derechos económicos, sociales, culturales y políticos que sufre la mayor parte de la población hondureña, lo que se explica como una consecuencia de la globalización económica.

El gobierno hondureño se ha visto obligado a implementar políticas neoliberales como requisito para recibir ayuda financiera del Banco Mundial y del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Estas políticas limitan el desarrollo interno y facilitan la explotación de los recursos naturales por parte de las compañías internacionales, principalmente de EEUU.

La Corporación de Desarrollo de Honduras (COHDEFOR), ha excluido a la población indígena del proyecto de creación de una Reserva Natural en La Mosquitia. COHDEFOR consideró en el proyecto a tierras que originalmente pertenecían a los aborígenes Mosquitos, dejándolos sin tierras. COHDEFOR también ha ignorado y colaborado con la tala ilegal en estas tierras.

Los campesinos luchan por sembrar comida para sus familias en tierra improductiva por fertilizantes químicos y por el devastador paso del huracán Mitch. Este sobrepoblado país tiene un 78% de su población en condiciones de pobreza.

...of numerous economic, social, cultural and political rights of Hondurans as a result of economic globalization. The Honduran government has been forced to accept neoliberal policies in order to receive financial support from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. These policies limit internal development while focusing on wide spread resource exploitation by international and local companies.

The Honduran Development Corporation (COHDEFOR) has excluded indigenous peoples from participating in the planning of a Biosphere Reserve in La Mosquitia. COHDEFOR claimed acreage in the reserve, leaving the Mosquito indigenous people landless. COHDEFOR also ignored and aided in illegal logging practices on these stolen lands.

Campeños struggle to grow food for their families on soil degraded by chemical fertilizers and Hurricane Mitch devastation. This overpopulated country has a high poverty rate.

In Honduras, on October 12, 1999, 5,000 peaceful protesters marched in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, as part of a worldwide movement called "Cry of the Excluded" (Grito de los Excluidos). Indigenous and other organizations gathered in Tegucigalpa to protest 507 years of conquest, drawing attention to on-going viola-

Nicaragua is the second poorest country of this hemisphere. The US, through financial support and military intervention, has been a major influence from the 1800's to the present. Through supporting dictators such as Somoza and helping overthrow opposition governments such as the Sandinistas, the US has dominated both the Nicaraguan people and land.

In the 1950's large cotton and other export commodity crops flourished in the Pacific region, clearing forests, ruining soil and forcing people to move to marginalized lands. This pushed the agricultural frontier toward the eastern rainforests, causing rampant deforestation.

Due to this environmental degradation and deforestation, the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch was hugely exacerbated. Despite this, logging continues around the Bosawas Reserve, the largest pristine forest in Nicaragua.

Future projects that further threaten the ecology and people of Nicaragua are the proposed construction of dry and wet canals, which would displace indigenous Rama people from their homeland and destroy their culture.

Nicaragua is suffering at the hands of international money lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. At present this country owes over US \$6 billion dollars.

Nicaragua es el segundo país más pobre del hemisferio. Estados Unidos, a través de ayuda financiera y militar e intervención directa, ha tenido desde finales del siglo XIX y hasta hoy en día una influencia determinante en este país. La ayuda brindada a dictadores como Somoza y el apoyo prestado para la desestabilización de diversos gobiernos, tal como el gobierno sandinista, han permitido a EEUU dominar la vida y el territorio nicaragüense. En los años 50, grandes plantaciones de algodón y otros



Indigenous Mayangna on the Rio Pis Pis in Nicaragua's Bosawas Reserve. *Aborígenes Mayangna en el río Pis Pis en la reserva Bosawas de Nicaragua. foto: Langelle/ACERCA*

...importantes cultivos florecieron en esta región del Pacífico, sin embargo esto dió origen a graves problemas en la agricultura debido al uso de pesticidas y la práctica del monocultivo.

Esto forzó a la población a trasladarse a tierras más marginales, desplazando la frontera de la actividad agrícola hacia los bosques del este. La deforestación fue inclemente a partir de ese momento.

Toda la degradación medio ambiental y la deforestación se vio exacerbada a consecuencia del huracán Mitch. A pesar de esto, la tala de árboles continúa alrededor de la Reserva Bosawas, la mayor reserva forestal de Nicaragua.

Ciertos proyectos futuros amenazan la ecología y el pueblo nicaragüense, contemplan la construcción de canales secos y húmedos, lo que derivará en el desplazamiento de los indígenas Ramas de sus tierras y la destrucción de su cultura.

Nicaragua sufre la presión de las instituciones de apoyo financiero internacional como el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial. Actualmente, la deuda externa de este país asciende a 6 billones de dólares.

January 1st, 2000 was an historic day for Panama as it regained control of the Panama Canal, ending a century of US management of the waterway. However, the US still retains certain rights (and both ports are controlled by a Chinese multinational).

Panamá

The ten-mile wide Canal Zone theoretically serves as a protected natural area, allowing for undisturbed ecological balance and ensuring proper water flow into the canal's locks. The equilibrium of this ecosystem was left endangered by the US military, who refused to clean up contamination and undetonated armaments upon their departure.

Panama, itself, has made exemplary efforts to protect natural ecosystems by reserving over thirty percent of its land for conservation and habitat protection. However, these areas unavoidably suffer from deforestation and wild animal poaching.

One half of all households in Panama live below the poverty line and one third are estimated to be in critical poverty. Conversely, Panama has the highest per-capita income within Central America, demonstrating a huge class imbalance.

Panamá es el país más al sur de Centroamérica. Vivió cambios largamente

esperados con la llegada del año 2000. El día 1 de enero marcó el inicio del control oficial panameño del Canal de Panamá, dando término a un siglo de administración de EEUU de esta vía de navegación. A pesar de este cambio, EEUU mantiene ciertos derechos sobre el canal y, los dos puertos seguirán bajo control de una multinacional china.

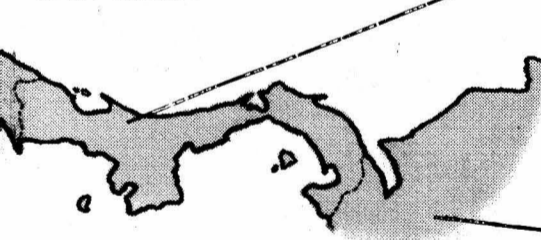
La zona del canal, que tiene 10 millas de ancho, teóricamente sirve como un área natural protegida, permitiendo un equilibrio ecológico inalterado y asegurando el correcto fluir del agua dentro de las esclusas del canal.

Cuando EEUU se retiró de la zona del canal, dejó tras de sí contaminación ambiental y armamento sin detonar, poniendo en peligro el equilibrio de este precioso ecosistema.

Panamá ha realizado destacados esfuerzos por proteger diversos ecosistemas naturales, al reservar más de un 30% de la tierra para proyectos de conservación y protección del hábitat. Sin embargo, parques nacionales y otras áreas protegidas sufren por la deforestación y la caza sin control.

La mitad de los hogares vive por debajo de la línea de pobreza y un tercio se considera en condiciones de pobreza extrema. Paradójicamente, Panamá tiene el más alto ingreso per capita en Centroamérica, lo que demuestra una gran diferencia entre las clases sociales.

Mar Caribe



...in biodiversity, is rapidly ...ing, cattle ranching, and ...tracts of land have been ...ome of these areas are ...ngs for ...payment. ...compa-

raderos, los ranchos ganaderos, y el desarrollo turístico. A pesar de que impresionantes cantidades de tierra han sido reservadas para parques nacionales, algunas de éstas han sido adquiridas de terratenientes particulares que aún no ven el dinero del gobierno. Cuando estos particulares sean abordados por compañías madereras, podrían vender la madera por necesidad financiera, ya que el gobierno no les ha pagado.

En ambas, la región de Guanacaste y en la península de Nicoya, la devastación ambiental comenzó en los años 70, cuando las franquicias multinacionales de comida rápida (como McDonald's) comenzaron a explotar el área para la producción de ganado vacuno. Esto ha ayudado a que la destrucción de los bosques tropicales de Costa Rica sea una de las más altas en el mundo durante los últimos veinte años.

Debido a la riqueza biológica de Costa Rica, los entusiastas de animales y de aves son visitantes frecuentes, así como los de baños de sol en los complejos turísticos de alto nivel. El ecoturismo ha cambiado al país inmensamente. Antes de la popularidad de las vacaciones de acción y aventura, Costa Rica producía más del 90% de sus propios alimentos. Ahora, con pocos trabajando en tal sector, casi todos sus productos alimenticios son importados.

Colombia, in the northwestern part of South America, borders Panama and has the potential to become the next Vietnam. It is a biological paradise, with the greatest number of bird species in the world, and is spectacularly rich in plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. The US wants to pump up the Colombian military with a \$1.3 billion aid packet. Many believe this aid will inadvertently be used by right-wing death squads. The US-Colombia Business Partnership that represents Occidental Petroleum and other oil and corporate interests, is pushing the US administration and congress for that aid.

Colombia

Colombia has been riddled by civil war for years now and US investors want a more stable country for investment purposes, especially oil. As the civil war rages, cocaine sales fuel the right-wing paramilitaries and leftist guerrillas. Meanwhile, the US "war on drugs" is responsible for the spraying of the countryside with herbicides (produced by Monsanto and Dow) to supposedly eradicate the drug crops; this has caused further environmental devastation. Genetically engineered viruses are also being developed.

The indigenous U'wa people have been struggling to keep their land and culture intact and safe from leftist guerrillas, military, paramilitary and Occidental Petroleum. In January, 2000 Occidental forcibly removed the U'wa from their land to start drilling for oil. It has been revealed that US Vice-president Al Gore has \$500,000 of stock in Occidental Petroleum.

Colombia, país que se encuentra en la parte noroeste de Suramérica y que tiene su frontera con Panamá, tiene el potencial de convertirse en el próximo Vietnam. Colombia es un

paraíso biológico, tiene la mayor cantidad de especies de pájaros del mundo y es muy rico en variedad de plantas, anfibios, reptiles y mamíferos. Los Estados Unidos desean fortalecer al aparato militar colombiano por medio de una ayuda de US \$1.3 billones. Muchas personas creen que esta ayuda será utilizada por los escuadrones de muerte derechistas. La alianza económica E.E.U.U-Colombia (U.S-Colombia Business Partnership en inglés), que representa a la compañía Occidental Petroleum así como a otros intereses petroleros, está presionando a los Estados Unidos para que proporcionen dicha ayuda.

Colombia ha estado plagada de guerras civiles por años y los inversionistas estadounidenses desean un país más estable para sus negocios, especialmente la industria petrolera. Durante la guerra civil, la cocaína financia a los paramilitares y a las guerrillas izquierdistas. Mientras tanto, la "guerra contra las drogas" de Estados Unidos es responsable de regar los campos con yerbicidas de Monsanto and Dow para, supuestamente, erradicar los sembradíos de drogas, pero a la vez causando una mayor destrucción ambiental. También se están creando virus desarrollados por medio de la ingeniería genética.

Los aborígenes U'wa han luchado por mantener su tierra y su cultura intactas y libres de guerrillas izquierdistas, militares, paramilitares y de Occidental Petroleum. En enero del 2000, Occidental Petroleum retiró a los U'wa de su tierra a la fuerza para poder hacer excavaciones petroleras. Se ha descubierto que el vicepresidente Al Gore tiene US \$500,000 en acciones de Occidental Petroleum.

Información sobre ACERCA



Este árbol quedó enterrado al revés en medio los escombros debido al gran deslizamiento causado por el colapso del cráter del volcán Las Casitas durante el Huracán Mitch. This tree was uprooted and stuck upside down when the crater lake in the Las Casitas volcano collapsed during Hurricane Mitch. foto: Langelle/ACERCA

Centroamérica: medio ambiente bajo fuego

América Central es una región famosa por su riqueza y belleza natural. En la costa del Pacífico se encuentran majestuosos volcanes en medio de amplias zonas verdes. Una gran variedad de vegetación tropical recorre toda la costa. En la región este, las montañas cubiertas de pinos y las grandes extensiones de bosque nuboso en las frías y altas planicies del interior, convergen con una densa vegetación tropical, atravesada por ríos que desembocan en las cálidas y resplandecientes aguas del Caribe. Una gran cantidad de lagos de agua fresca se encuentran en medio del verde paisaje que domina la región, y que es hábitat natural de jaguares, monos, serpientes, lagartos, papagayos, ranas, y un sinnúmero de especies de vida salvaje.

Diversas aves provenientes de Norteamérica, tales como el zorzal, el ruiseñor y el papamoscas, migran hacia la exuberante selva y las altas planicies de centroamérica para habitar al menos por medio año en la zona. Desde tiempos inmemoriales, este rugoso istmo ha servido como puente y zona de transición de distintas formas de vida proveniente de zonas templadas y tropicales de norte y suramérica; así como, fuente de alimento, por miles de años, de civilizaciones indígenas.

Miles de especies de plantas esconden valiosos secretos sobre medicina y agricultura, imposibles de descubrir en ninguna otra parte del globo terráqueo.

Pero hoy en día, el medio ambiente de América Central se encuentra bajo fuego. En toda la región, el ecosistema está siendo rápidamente destruido. La cruda realidad acerca de esta destrucción ecológica es horrible. Más de dos tercios de selva tropical han sido talados, proceso que ha ido en aumento desde 1950.

De continuar los actuales niveles de destrucción, la selva restante podría desaparecer totalmente en menos de veinte años. Miles de especies de flora y fauna se encuentran en peligro de extinción o han sido ya eliminadas.

Los niveles de erosión de la tierra son tan graves, que la mitad de la tierra cultivable ha sido dañada, resultando en una constante disminución de la producción agrícola.

La destrucción de la principal línea divisoria de aguas ha causado la sedimentación de los canales, dando origen a inundaciones, sequía, y cientos de millones de dólares en pérdidas anuales para la economía de América Central.

La crisis ecológica es también un problema de vida o muerte para los pequeños agricultores y trabajadores de la región. Pesticidas mortalmente dañinos, prohibidos en los Estados Unidos, son

exportados hacia América Central, envenenando a miles de trabajadores agrícolas. La mayor parte de la tierra, del agua y los alimentos a lo largo de toda la costa del Pacífico están contaminados con estos cancerígenos pesticidas.

Muchas industrias, amparadas en regulaciones que las protegen, vierten en el medio ambiente gran cantidad de químicos tóxicos, sin recibir sanción alguna. Estos desechos químicos, junto con residuos agrícolas y aguas negras no tratadas, destruyen las fuentes de agua potable. En El Salvador, sólo una de cada diez personas tiene acceso a agua no contaminada, mientras que en Honduras las enfermedades causadas por agua contaminada constituyen el 12 por ciento de las causas de muerte en el país cada año.

Los Estados Unidos están, a su vez, en guerra con la naturaleza de América Central. En los últimos 12 años, los Estados Unidos han apoyado brutales campañas anti-insurgentes, al estilo de Vietnam, que han devastado los bosques y campos de Guatemala y El Salvador, matando a miles de personas y obligando a huir de sus tierras a otros cientos de miles.

Durante los años 80, Estados Unidos financió una guerra militar y económica no declarada en contra del gobierno sandinista de Nicaragua, impidiendo la realización de muchos programas sociales y del medio ambiente durante el gobierno sandinista. Las medidas incluidas en estos programas fueron

consideradas, a nivel internacional, como las propuestas más innovativas y visionarias jamás hechas por un país pobre del tercer mundo.

Hoy en día, aunque la mayoría de estas guerras han, por el momento, finalizado (con la importante excepción de Guatemala), Estados Unidos continúa fracasando en el desarrollo de una política coherente para la reconstrucción económica y ecológica de la región, lo cual implica un programa que enfrente las causas de la pobreza, la guerra y la destrucción ambiental. Como resultado de esta incapacidad, América Central enfrenta una crisis social y ecológica que no tiene paralelo en su historia.

Por Daniel Faber:

Extraído del libro *El medio ambiente bajo fuego, el imperialismo y la crisis ecológica en América Central*. Faber es miembro del directorio de ACERCA y fue director de investigaciones de EPOCA (Proyecto Ambiental para Centroamérica o Environmental Project on Central America en inglés). Daniel Faber, es profesor de sociología en Northeastern University en Boston, MA, y su último libro es *La lucha por la democracia ecológica*.

ACERCA (Acción para la Comunidad y la Ecología en la Región Centroamericana) es un proyecto de la Alianza para la Justicia Global, y miembro de la Red de Bosques Nativos.

ACERCA emergió de grupos tales como el Proyecto Ambiental Centroamericano (EPOCA), desmantelado a inicios de los años 90. ACERCA surgió de la necesidad apremiante por una respuesta internacional ante los abusos a los derechos humanos y ambientales que ocurren en la región centroamericana. ACERCA está conformada por activistas, organizadores, investigadores, educadores y voluntarios que juntos desarrollan estrategias e implementan ideas.

Al comienzo nos involucramos en el sudeste de México y en Nicaragua, a petición de personas provenientes de esas áreas. Las delegaciones de ACERCA en estas regiones sirven como medios para incrementar la concientización acerca de la lucha de las comunidades indígenas locales. ACERCA también trabaja por demostrar el desbalance de poder, que permite que la destrucción cultural y ambiental tome lugar. Una de las metas de ACERCA es reunir a activistas ambientales y solidarios. La globalización de la economía, sin control, se acelera; así como la guerra contra los pobres, la destrucción de la cultura indígena, y la devastación de la naturaleza.

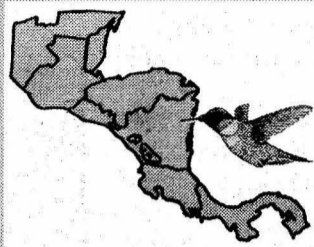
Sólo unidos seremos lo suficientemente fuertes como para retar exitosamente a la globalización económica, para terminar con el sufrimiento de millones, y para proteger los diversos ecosistemas. ACERCA está en la posición única de unificar estas dos esferas de activismo. Nuestro trabajo en Centroamérica combina ambas cuestiones: la ecológica y la social. Esto nos ha llevado a proveer un análisis que relaciona estos temas de una manera profunda. El sudeste de México y Centroamérica claramente muestra la superposición de los temas sociales y ambientales. La pobreza, tanto como la destrucción cultural y social, van de la mano. Utilizamos estos ejemplos para educar a las organizaciones y a los individuos sobre estas interconexiones inherentes, logrando así alcanzar nuestra meta de unificar estos movimientos. Todos hemos visto el poder de los movimientos que se unen con una meta común. Estamos trabajando para lograr que estas colaboraciones sean la regla y no la excepción.

Las corporaciones y los gobiernos que perpetúan injusticias sociales, económicas y ambientales están unificados en sus metas. Nosotros, los que tenemos una visión de un mundo mejor, no podemos permitir la división debido a la competencia entre movimientos pequeños.

ACERCA también apoya la lucha de los habitantes indígenas de Centroamérica y México, reuniendo información directamente de ellos en cuanto a sus luchas, para su diseminación global, nacional y local. Usamos nuestros contactos en los medios de comunicación y las organizaciones para presionar a las corporaciones transnacionales, políticas y a las organizaciones comerciales como el ALCA (Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas) y la OMC (Organización Mundial de Comercio), e instituciones financieras represivas como el Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) para que detengan sus prácticas perjudiciales para las comunidades indígenas. Esta técnica ha sido enormemente exitosa y

en 1998 nos llevó a ayudar a detener la venta de 150,000 acres de madera de los bosques tropicales de Nicaragua.

La identidad de ACERCA se ha desarrollado a partir de la comprensión de las relaciones inherentes entre la globalización económica y la pobreza, la injusticia, la militarización, y la destrucción ambiental. Nuestra estrategia involucra el uso de



Centroamérica como un lente a través del cual la gente puede mirar más fácilmente estas conexiones entre política y ecología. Esencialmente, consideramos los esfuerzos de ACERCA como vitales para ayudar a detener la ola de destrucción del ambiente y de los habitantes de Centroamérica.

Los logros de ACERCA

•ACERCA ha conducido a varias delegaciones de justicia ambiental a Centroamérica y a México. Estas delegaciones se han enfocado en diversos temas, incluido el de las plantaciones de eucaliptos (algunas que incluyen árboles creados por ingeniería genética) en tierras de campesinos, efectos del TLC, asuntos zapatistas de las comunidades autónomas de Chiapas, y el mega proyecto del canal seco en el istmo de Tehuantepec en México. Además, encabezamos la primera delegación a Nicaragua después del huracán Mitch, exponiendo el papel que la destrucción del ambiente jugó para exacerbar la tragedia.

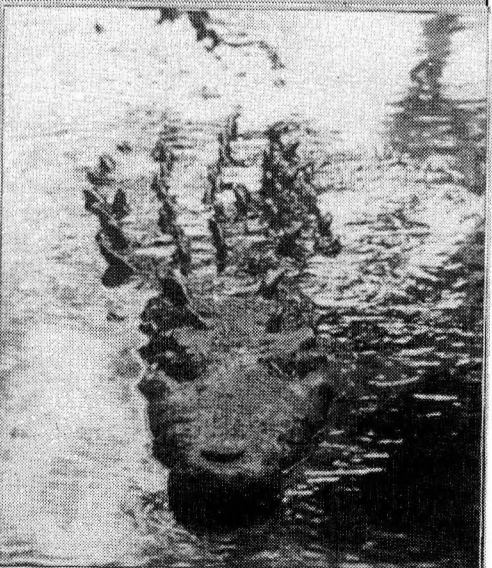
•En un esfuerzo para prevenir los devastantes efectos de la globalización en esta región, ACERCA se ha movilizó contra el ALCA, la OMC, la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), el Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional. ACERCA continuará su lucha contra la globalización a través del trabajo en materia de comercio, y conduciendo delegaciones a la región para que examinen los efectos de los tratados de libre comercio sobre la gente y la economía de la zona.

•Para facilitar la comunicación entre los activistas, ACERCA está compilando una fuente de datos de las organizaciones no gubernamentales de centroamérica, grupos ambientales, sociales e indígenas que sean accesibles a través de nuestra página en la red, y a través de nuestro material impreso.

•ACERCA continuará exponiendo los peligros de los canales secos propuestos para Nicaragua, para el istmo de Tehuantepec en México, y para Colombia; se luchará por unir a las comunidades amenazadas de las tres regiones para ayudarles a ser más efectivas.



Un comandante zapatista vistiendo una camiseta de Che Guevara en La Realidad, Chiapas. A Zapatista comandante wearing a Che Guevara shirt in La Realidad, Chiapas. foto: Langelle/ACERCA



Cocodrilo / Crocodile foto: Langelle/ACERCA

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Para suscribirse a ACERCA vea el recuadro en la página 1

On the Advantages of Disreputable Action

BY JOHANNES SABAT

It has become the mantra of critics that those who destroyed property during the WTO protests committed a great tactical error. By playing into the authorities' hands, the argument goes, those irresponsible few managed to tar the entire demonstration with the image of the black-clad, window-smashing, Starbucks-looting anarchist hooligan, and thereby also provided some justification for the inevitable police backlash.

Medea Benjamin, as quoted in *Eat the State*, writes that "stories about the 'anarchists' diluted our message and, worse, tended to justify the police riot by giving the impression that the police were reacting to the property destruction. This was not what really happened on the streets; the attacks on peaceful protesters started before stores were targeted, but the perception of 'violent protesters, violent cops' remains." Such analysis, while initially plausible, nevertheless deserves some critical attention. As it happens, history has provided for a point of comparison.

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s was marked by an escalation of tactics and an increased militancy in demands; they were, at every stage, deemed illegitimate until they were surpassed by a still more radical agenda to be pursued by still more combative means. "By 1960, the NAACP, denounced in 1954 and 1955 as radical and Communist, seemed remarkably mild next to the sit-in students. By 1961, the sit-in students seemed moderate against the Freedom Riders, and the Riders themselves even timid compared to the [Black] Muslims," writes Howard Zinn in his essay "Abolitionists, Freedom Riders and the Tactics of Agitation." Still, at the time, each new wave of activists was regarded with suspicion from the moderates within the movement.

Zinn articulates the liberal worry about extremism: "To argue a case too heatedly, they point out, provokes the opponent to retaliation. To urge measures too extreme alienates possible allies. To ask for too much too soon results in getting nothing... To be dogmatic and inflexible prevents adjustment to readily changing situations. To set up a clash of extremes precipitates sharp conflict and violence."

All of these charges have been made surrounding the WTO protests, some by the liberal "insiders" of the Clinton administration against all the

demonstrators, some by the mainstream labor and environmental organizations against the Direct Action Network and some by the "legitimate" direct action proponents against the Black Bloc anarchists who smashed the windows of corporate targets.

Many of these objections were posed in advance and have been disproved by the events of

brutality. The answer to this is obviously yes. But it must still be recognized, that property damage or no, the police violence would have been the same and if not for the vandalism the authorities would surely have found some other excuse. Perhaps, for instance, they would have pointed to the illegal nature of the mass action and the overwhelming numbers involved. They would not, as some imply, have been left without a fig leaf.

And while power may be unmasked by displays of unprovoked violence, this pretty much happened anyway. The portion of the population prepared to recognize repression when it sees it failed to be impressed with the official explanations. Those who felt the window-smashing anarchists needed to be stopped and saw the attack on peaceful protesters as an acceptable means of doing so, would very likely have also believed that the law needed to be enforced and the streets cleared in any case.

While critics worry that vandalism marred an otherwise perfect event, it may well be that the legitimacy of the direct action tactics arose in part from the opportunity to contrast the barricades and lockdowns with the window smashing and spraypaint.

Rather than condemning the direct action component for its illegality and praising the AFL-CIO for its ineffective march, the media demonized the "violent few," reinforcing the nonviolent tone of the majority. The effect is that direct action won legitimacy in the public mind, despite its illegality, and that those of us engaging in such tactics came off looking respectable and reasonable in contrast to the more extreme (though not necessarily more radical) anarchists. This is a debt we owe the Black Bloc.

When the extremists press outward, the center shifts. This is how the consciousness of a whole society changes. It is not by pursuing ends that are already generally accepted, adopting means already deemed legitimate, but by pressing against the borders of acceptability and when successful expanding these frontiers.



Photo by Kurt Jensen

Why do non-conformists all look the same?

November 30-December 2 and consequently forgotten. But some remain: The civic and federal authorities, the mainstream media and protest leaders of both the march-and-chant and the direct action varieties, are united in the criticism of the now-infamous anarchists. The reasons cited for this disdain vary, however. The official reason, mindlessly repeated by the mainstream media, is a disingenuous abhorrence of "violence." Activist leaders, who apparently believe that public attitudes track media hype, argue that vandalism was a tactical mistake because, in short, it made us all look bad and gave the cops an excuse to crush us.

But did it?

There can be no debate about the vandalism provoking police violence: Teargas was used some hours before any property destruction occurred, and the vast majority of its victims were not engaged in vandalism.

The question instead is whether the police used the vandalism as an excuse for their exercise in

April 16: The Road to Dismantling Corporate Domination

BY A GRUNT COLLECTIVE

The action against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting on April 16 in Washington DC is another grand opportunity to tell the elite scum, corporate-owned politicians and the world media that the current corporate plutocracy will no longer be tolerated! The big question is whether we as a movement are up to the task of creating such a backlash against corporate globalization.

The environmental movement must be able to expand society's sense of urgency to oppose the globalization of capitalism and the tyrannical regimes such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank and the IMF that expand and perpetuate it. If societal opposition to global capitalism is not nurtured, then we believe the environmental movement will ultimately and tortuously lose the war being waged against nature.

Direct action/civil disobedience (DA/CD) is only one tool that will be a part of a successful campaign

against global capitalism; however, it is best used sparingly and strategically after the other tools have been fully utilized. This strategy led to the success of shutting down the Seattle WTO ministerial on November 30. Without the extensive efforts to educate and convey a sense of urgency to labor, students, environmentalists and regular folks, the DA/CD would have fallen woefully short of shutting down the meetings. We believe that direct action or civil disobedience will at various points be a deciding factor in this struggle. However, it will take a major emphasis in the use of the other components of a campaign before DA/CD becomes very effective.

Generating a sense of urgency creates a successful struggle/campaign regardless of the issue because this factor will determine the amount of interest and support the public will give to any campaign. It is a sad fact that most humans only react to perceived emergencies that affect us personally.

If this premise is accepted, how can the environmental movement gener-

ate the true sense of urgency to what faces us via the globalization of capitalism, the sixth mass extinction of life on Earth?

We will not claim to know every tool to create this sense of urgency, but we will briefly describe what has worked to save thousands of acres of ancient forests here in Cascadia and to stop the WTO ministerial meetings in Seattle.

Surely, creating a sense of urgency among the people through some form of education is essential. We have found through many campaigns over the last 10 years that a great sense of urgency is generated when the public experiences individuals and groups on the streets with the combination of banners, information tables, guerrilla theater, teach-ins, public forums and demonstrations. This sense of urgency will eventually be realized by politicians and media as well. These types of street actions and public events must be applied consistently and increasingly (accompanied with having as much fun as possible) until the means create

the envisioned reality.

If one studies other prominent movements like the anti-nuclear, civil rights and the anti-Vietnam War movements, it becomes apparent that they relayed this increased urgency. That was key to their eventual successes, even if those successes took many years.

The IMF, World Bank and more recently the WTO are tyrannical regimes that have created a sense of tremendous urgency in people worldwide. The list of human and ecological atrocities committed as a result of their policies and orders could fill the archives of a university library.

We believe that the great number of atrocities yet to be committed and the oncoming tsunami of the sixth great extinction will be turned solely through diligent work, having fun, solidarity, creating a sense of community and commitment all of us are willing to make to oppose the tyranny and lies of the corporate elite.

Debate, discuss and strategize but above all, be diligent in your resistance. More diligent work requires more diligent play.

BARE BONES

Donald Trumps New York again

The September-October 1998 issue of the *EFJ* reported that Donald Trump wanted to turn his 200-acre estate in Mt. Kisco, New York, into an exclusive golf course with an annual membership fee of \$250,000. The estate, perched above Byram Reservoir, would surely dump pesticides, fertilizers and other Trump effluent into the town's water source if turned into a golf course.

After an environmental impact statement, Trump responded by offering to buy Byram Lake Reservoir for \$2.5 million—without providing another source of water. Mt. Kisco declined the offer. Now Trump claims that his golf course will have the cleanest water in the watershed and that it will be cleaner than before thanks to six-foot carbon swales that are still experimental.

In 1997, Chris Harmon of the Lower Hudson Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) claimed to be concerned about the effects of the golf course on the Meyer Preserve, yet said TNC was reassured by Trump that the preserve would be fine. Later, Harmon removed petitions against Trump's golf course that had been placed at TNC preserves and put up a sign asking people not to leave petitions there.

The explanation for this incongruous reaction came two years later: In 1999 Donald Trump announced he would donate 35 acres to TNC upon approval of the golf course by the towns of Bedford and North Castle. The 35 acres are outside of the Byram Watershed.

Court says Deep Ecology ain't a religion

A federal judge in February ruled that environmental activists aren't pushing a religion when they seek to reduce logging on national forests. In a scathing decision against attorney Stephen Young, who filed the lawsuit for a group of northern Minnesota loggers, Judge James Rosenbaum said the case not only lacks merit but was intended to harass the defendants.

The suit was filed by the Associated Contract Loggers against two environmental groups and the US Forest Service for pushing and adopting the "religion of Deep Ecology" in public lands timber policy. Rosenbaum gave Young 15 days to argue why the court shouldn't impose financial sanctions against Young for filing a frivolous lawsuit. "It appears probable that plaintiffs have knowingly drawn this court into an unseemly and baseless lawsuit, and have wasted the court's time and the defendant's valuable time and money," Rosenbaum wrote in his decision.

Young said he will ask the US 8th Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse Rosenbaum's decision because the judge ignored many key arguments. "There is a limit in our Democratic system to the extent to which religion can drive government policy," Young said.

The suit sought to declare anti-logging activism as a religious belief called "deep ecology" that, while allowable as a personal belief, breaks the constitutionally guaranteed separation of church and state when it leads to federal policy.

... Esperanza bulldozed

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Joining in the real estate game, City Councilor Margarita Lopez brokered a deal with Capoccia sparing one third of an elderly woman's garden while allowing Capoccia and his partners to expand their proposed housing project to include building on the site of the Esperanza Garden.

Since this was not the proposal approved by the Community Board, the new Capoccia/Lopez deal should have gone back to the City Planning Commission for review. However, with Lopez' blessing, the plan to build on the Esperanza site was accepted without approval and outside of the competitive bidding process.

Capoccia, hiding behind the destruction of several garden sites handed to him by the city for subsidized yuppie condominiums, currently owns or controls dozens of properties on the Lower East Side and in Harlem. Not surprisingly, Capoccia is a longtime friend and financial contributor to Mayor Giuliani.

Fully aware of Capoccia's plans for the Garden of Hope, Esperanza gardeners, More Gardens! and other garden supporters maintained a 24-hour encampment against any eviction attempts. They erected a huge frog on a 10-foot-high pedestal with an interior holding up to four guardians to keep watch through the frog's eyes. The frog, known as a *coqui*, which in Puerto Rican legend is said to repel attackers, was posted at the garden entrance. A 25-foot steel sunflower with a seat on top and an arm lockdown, a tripod and several lockdown devices were added to the garden. Sleeping dragons, consisting of cement blocks buried five feet under ground with rebar into which people's arms could be locked in place, were also installed.

With a police raid imminent, on February 14 Esperanza attorney Harry Kresky sought a stay pending an appeal of the previous judge's decision to allow construction, but his motion was denied. Later that evening, cops posted "no parking" signs on East Seventh Street. Deputy Inspector Conroy stopped by and told garden defenders that the raid would be coming the following morning. He promised that cops would be "slow and careful." At about 3 a.m., tow trucks removed parked cars outside the garden. By 7 a.m., about 150 people occupied the Esperanza Garden with media and television crews present.

People quickly locked themselves down throughout the garden and erected two more tripods. Without enough lockdown devices to go around, people chained themselves to whatever they could. Several escape routes were created allowing people to avoid arrests, and barricades were built in the rear and at the garden entrance.

Cops broke into three surrounding buildings to take over rooftops and prevent videotaping. By 10 a.m., with

a helicopter overhead, they converged on the garden as neighbors yelled and chanted. Over the next hour, cops used a chainsaw to cut open the *coqui*. A mallet and grinder were used to rip out two garden defenders attached to one cement locking device. The grinder came perilously close to the hands of one defender, clipping her glove.

The last person to come out of the garden was locked inside the head of the frog. One of the special branch cops stood outside the garden on a ladder clipping out both of the *coqui*'s eyes and then jackhammered through the eye. Shovels and jaws of life were used to dig out the sleeping dragons, and jackhammers broke up the concrete blocks with defenders'



Alecia Torres (center) and friends stand with the *coqui* before the eviction.

arms still locked inside.

Meanwhile, a hearing on Esperanza had been set up in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn. For weeks, lawyers for New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer had been fighting the city to save all the gardens built on city-owned lots including Esperanza, arguing that the gardens should be considered parks that could only be sold after a state environmental review or by an act of the State Legislature.

Tipped off by a garden activist that police were mobilizing outside of Esperanza, Spitzer's office contacted the city's attorneys to request that they hold back until the state's motion to get a temporary restraining order (TRO) could be heard at a pre-arranged 11 a.m. hearing. City Attorney Susan Amron refused, telling Spitzer's people "this has been scheduled for a long time."

Garden defenders tried unsuccessfully to stall cops until the judge's decision could be heard. Those arrested were charged with obstructing governmental administration, trespass and resisting arrest. After being held for 24 hours, all 31 were released.

As Esperanza was being cleared, angry demonstrators shouted their support to the arrestees. Cops tried to push them away, engaging in a shoving match for several minutes. When cops attempted to steer people into waiting pens, the people refused.

Before the last garden defender was removed, Capoccia's demolition crew rolled in with a bulldozer and backhoe, destroying everything in sight. When they were done, they erected a plywood fence around Esperanza. Serial garden killer Donald Capoccia now has a neat 17,000-square-foot parcel ready for exploitation. Giuliani justified circumventing the legal process: "When people become out-of-control advocates, they don't live in the real world anymore. The mayor has to live in the real world." In response, angry State Supreme Court

Justice Richard Huttner granted state lawyers a TRO against the city from moving on 630 other gardens on city-owned lots, pending a hearing on March 1.

Giuliani says he is considering appealing Huttner's ruling and has announced that the city will transfer title of the Esperanza site to Capoccia and his partners before March 1.

Unfortunately, Judge Huttner did not include the Esperanza Garden in his order, accepting city attorneys' arguments that Esperanza had lost in court the day before and that Esperanza already had an appeal pending. Since the Esperanza Garden had already been demolished, Huttner decided it was a moot issue. On February 22, Harry Kresky filed an appeal arguing that the Esperanza Garden is not a moot issue because title has not yet been transferred and that even though the garden has

been razed it can be restored as long as the land and gardeners are there. A decision on Kresky's appeal, which included an amicus brief from Spitzer's office, is expected before the title is transferred. Pressure is also being put on the Appellate Division to issue a stay that will prevent title transfer and development of the Esperanza site.

Ironically, the mural facing the garden reads: "Peace, Esperanza, Justice From One Generation To Another, *La Lucha Continua*."

Across the street from Capoccia's new acquisitions on Avenue C, a new four-and-one-half-story building is rising. Called Police Service Area #4 and financed by the New York City Housing Authority, this police housing sub-station is expected to further facilitate gentrification in the area, including the eventual privatization of the public housing projects along Avenue D.

For more information, contact More Gardens! Coalition, 79 Clinton St. #17, New York, NY 10002; (212) 330-6851; adj@is3.nyu.edu. or shadow press, SHADOW@MediaFilter.org.

MEDICINE MARAUDERS

continued from the front page

The project, called "Drug Discovery and Biodiversity Among the Maya of Mexico," now in its second year, will receive a total grant of \$2.5 million dollars from the US government's International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG). The ICBG is a consortium of federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), that awards grants to public and commercial research institutions that conduct bioprospecting/biopiracy programs in the south. The ICBG's self-stated goals are to promote drug discovery from natural sources, biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic growth in developing countries.

The tropical mountains of Chiapas contain one of the richest repositories of plant and animal biodiversity in the world. An estimated 6,000 plant species thrive in the area, thousands of them used by the Maya to treat illness. All promising biological samples will be screened for their activity against cancer, diseases associated with HIV-AIDS, central nervous system disorders, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, respiratory/pulmonary, skin disorders and contraception. The project estimates that it will ultimately identify approximately 2,000 unique compounds that will be chemically profiled by Molecular Nature, Ltd. A duplicate set of plants collected by the ICBG will be deposited at the University of Georgia's Herbarium in Athens, Georgia.

According to Sebastian Luna, an indigenous Tzeltal spokesperson from the council, "The project is a robbery of traditional indigenous knowledge and resources, with the sole purpose of producing pharmaceuticals that will not benefit the communities that have managed and nurtured these resources for thousands of years."

"Furthermore," continues Luna, "the project explicitly proposes to patent and privatize resources and knowledge that have always been collectively owned... Besides being totally contradictory to our culture and traditions, the project creates conflict within our communities as some individuals, pressured by the grave economic situation, collaborate with the researchers for a few pesos or tools.

"The project, led by anthropologist Brent Berlin of the University of Georgia, is plundering our knowledge and taking plant samples from the communities in Chiapas, returning almost nothing in exchange," Luna adds. Professor Berlin, who is a past president and member of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE), will host the ISE's congress in October, 2000 in Georgia on the topic of benefit sharing with indigenous communities. "We believe he is openly violating the society's code of ethics," concludes Luna.

That code, in its "Principle of Prior Informed Consent and Veto" states: "The prior informed consent of all peoples and their communities must be obtained before any research is undertaken. Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities have the right to veto any program, project or study that affects them. Providing prior informed consent presumes that all potentially affected communities will be provided complete information regarding the purpose and nature of the research activities and the probable results, including all reasonably foreseeable benefits and risks of harm to the affected communities."

The Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), a civil society organization that advocates farmer's rights and food security, contacted Berlin and asked if the demands being made by the indigenous peoples' organizations are grounds for suspending the bioprospecting program.

Berlin, one of the authors of the Code of Ethics, rejected the idea. "I'm convinced that that question would not even be asked if these groups were fully informed about the project."

"It's really critical," Berlin told RAFI, "that you stress our willingness to resolve our differences. The concerns of the *Consejo* are not being ignored. The issue is serious and must be resolved so that everyone is aware of what the solution is. The main problem is that we've not been able to sit down and talk."

According to Rafael Alarcon, advisor to the council, the agreement signed by ECOSUR, the University of Georgia and Molecular Nature Ltd., also

"flouts Mexican law, as these institutions have not consulted with or obtained the prior informed consent of the affected communities. We believe the agreement also violates international agreements that Mexico has signed, including the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity—particularly article 8(j), which addresses traditional knowledge and equitable benefit-sharing and the International Labor Organization (ILO) 169 Convention on Indigenous Rights.

"ECOSUR invited one of the organizational members of the State Council, OMIECH (the Chiapas Indigenous Healers Organization) to participate in the bioprospecting agreement. They thought that the indigenous healers would accept this project in exchange for a promise to establish what they call a benefit-sharing fund in the future. During the meeting, we explained our disagreement with the objectives and methods of the project. ECOSUR assured us that the project would not begin until, at the very least, all the requirements in existing Mexican law were fulfilled. However, they have already begun to remove samples from several communities in Chiapas, and in June, 1999, they showed us a contract signed by the three parties.

"According to this contract," continues Alarcon, "the signatories have created a nonprofit organization called PROMAYA (Protection of Mayan Intellectual Property Rights), which will act as their civil society counterpart." PROMAYA will set up a trust fund for Mayan communities, and it will decide how to disburse any royalties that accrue from the sale of drugs that result from ICBG research.

According to Alarcon, "The creation of this NGO by the project clearly demonstrates the lack of will of the researchers to ensure appropriate consultation with the traditional cultures and true authorities of the communities. In essence, they create their own dialogue partner and invite participants and organizations that will not question their way of working, probably in exchange for a tiny scrap of the \$2.5 million that this project has received from the US government."

Since 1993, the ICBG has awarded 11 bioprospecting grants totaling \$18.5 million in 12 countries. Commercial partners in ICBG-funded projects include transnational pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies Glaxo-Wellcome, Bristol Myers Squibb, Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Dow Elanco Agrosiences,

Wyeth-Ayerst, American Cyanamid and Monsanto.

"The use of public money to subsidize biopiracy is a form of corporate welfare for the gene giants," said Hope Shand, RAFI's research director. "These companies aim to synthesize and modify active biological compounds in the laboratory that are derived from the resources and knowledge of indigenous communities because the companies' goal is to patent, privatize and profit from biodiversity. The Chiapas ICBG program has a clearly defined protocol for intellectual property on any pharmaceutical product that might result from the research conducted in Chiapas. It operates on the principle—at least on paper—that the biological samples belong to Mexico and that some undisclosed portion of royalties will flow back to the Highland Maya of Chiapas—via PROMAYA. The reality is that long-term benefits may never materialize, and many local indigenous people reject both intellectual property and the process established for benefit-sharing via PROMAYA. The critical issue now is that the project is apparently proceeding not only without proper consultation with the affected communities but also against the express wishes of a very significant sector of the community," said Shand.

OMIECH demands that the project in Chiapas be suspended and that any project of this kind undergo a thorough review of Mexican laws to protect their cultures and resources. They also demand that any similar projects comply with international obligations arising from the Convention on Biological Diversity—particularly article 8(j)—and the ILO 169 Convention on Indigenous Rights. Further, there should be implementation at the national level of farmers' rights as negotiated within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The council also requests an informed discussion about the need, objectives and benefits of these kinds of projects, including discussions about who benefits.

Finally, they demand that local health projects designed by the communities themselves be supported, according to communities' own needs and priorities and using the knowledge and resources of traditional indigenous medicine.

For more information contact RAFI International Office, 110 Osborne St., Suite 202, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3L1Y5 Canada; 1-204-453 52 59; rafi@rafi.org; or *Consejo Estatal de Parteras y Medicos Indigenas Tradicionales de Chiapas*, omiech@laneta.apc.org.

STARVING IN YELLOWSTONE

BY MARGOT HIGGINS

Grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park may be forced to change their diet if disease continues to plague whitebark pine trees in the area. The bears are dependent on seeds from the trees for a major part of their diet. Blister rust, an introduced disease that attacks whitebark pine trees, is spreading faster than scientists anticipated. The threat may bluster arguments to expand the recovery area for the bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Since 1900, whitebark pine in the United States has declined by 45-50 percent throughout its natural range. The trees are threatened from several sides, from fire suppression to infestation of insect species, but blister rust may pose the greatest danger of all. Scientists now fear the disease could wipe out more than 90 percent of the whitebark population.

Blister rust, which thrives in wet conditions, may also be adapting to drier climates. The result is an increase in whitebark pine infection and mortality in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The ecological significance of whitebark pines has been recognized only recently. Conservationists point to a vital correlation between the trees and grizzlies.

Bearing large seeds that are high in fat, whitebark pine trees provide an important food source for many animal species. Biologists say the nutritious seeds are one of the four major food sources upon which grizzlies depend. Rich in digestible lipids, whitebark pine seeds can provide as much as 40 percent of a bear's winter fat layer. Research also suggests that the seeds contain estrogenic compounds, which may increase grizzly reproduction.

When the pine-nut crop is poor, grizzly bears seek out alternative sources in their caloric race against winter. Instead of looking for nuts at high elevations where whitebark pines grow, they often head to

lower elevations to forage in campgrounds and trash receptacles. There they encounter more humans and more conflict.

Research shows that bear mortality doubles in these low-seed years. In 1995, when pine-nut production was minimal, 17 grizzlies were killed in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem due to run-ins with humans.

Because there are only an estimated 200-400 bears in the area, even a modest increase in the death toll poses a serious threat to the population. The current version of the grizzly bear recovery plan ignores the anticipated shortage of whitebark pine seeds.

Grizzlies and black bears will raid squirrel caches to get at the pine seeds, one of their favorite foods.

"Other key food sources such as bison and cutthroat trout are also threatened," said Louisa Wilcox, project coordinator for the Sierra Club's Grizzly Bear Ecosystems Project. "Options for bears are getting smaller with current trends in private-land development and off-road vehicle use," she added.

Besides sustaining the grizzly bear population, whitebark pine is an important tree species for red squirrels, Clark's nutcrackers and other wildlife.

Whitebark pine communities also influence the hydrology of the drainages where they occur. Because they thrive in high altitudes, particularly on windy ridges, and have broad crowns, the trees are responsible for significant amounts of high-elevation snow accumulation. This results in delayed snowmelt and extends short-lived stream-flow periods in the spring and summer.

Conservationists say the development of whitebark pine strains that are resistant to blister rust should be pursued aggressively. Whitebark stands take from 500-700 years to regenerate.

Margot Higgins is a writer for Environmental News Network (ENN). ENN is a news service at enn.com.

NO BLOOD FOR OIL ON U'WA LAND

continued from page 1

Many were forced to jump into the fast flowing Cubujón River, and in the process at least three children drowned. Adults were also injured, and a number of U'wa are still missing.

Rural workers across the region began a three-day general strike on February 15 to protest the use of force against the U'wa. Businesses remained closed, and public transportation was suspended.

The resistance culminated when at least 1,200 U'wa arrived on February 21 at the small community of Gibraltar and again blocked the road to the drill site. The town is approximately six kilometers from the site of the first well planned by Oxy. Thousands of *campesinos*, students, union members and other indigenous peoples joined the U'wa in resuming the blockade.

"It's something indefinite that will only end with a commitment from the government to halt the petroleum exploration in the Samore Block. We ask that the Ministers of the Environment, Juan Mayr, and of the Interior, Nestor Humberto Martinez, come and endorse this agreement," said Reina Rojas, Secretary of the Association of Campesinos.

Observers in the area report that a heavy military and police contingent is monitoring the protesters and has stopped some shipments of food and medical supplies bound for the U'wa.

Meanwhile, U'wa supporters around the world have been stepping up their actions to support the resistance. Activists have targeted Occidental's two most important shareholders—Fidelity Investments, which controls nearly 10 percent of Oxy stock, and US Vice President Al Gore, who has longstanding ties with Oxy.

Gore's connection to Oxy stems from his father's position as a vice president and board member of Oxy and is the basis of the Gore family fortune. Gore Jr. directly benefits from this in several ways. He owns up to \$500,000 in Oxy stock and stands to reap large financial rewards from the drilling on U'wa land. Oxy and its employees are also frequent and generous contributors to both the Gore campaign and to the Democratic party. In 1996, Oxy Chairman Ray Irani gave the Democratic National Committee \$100,000 just two days after sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House.

On January 26 activists from Native Forest Network, ACERCA (Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America), Amazon Watch and Rainforest Action Network stormed Gore's campaign headquarters in Manchester, New Hampshire. Supported by dozens of demonstrators outside, eight environmental and human rights activists engaged in civil disobedience and called on Gore to use his deep family and financial ties to Occidental to block the planned drilling. The activists, who in several cases had resisting arrest added to their criminal trespass charge, will be facing a jury trial in March. Other actions targeting Gore have happened at his national campaign headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as in Santa Barbara, California, and in Olympia, Washington, where protesters managed to completely drown out Gore's speech with chants of "Gore for sale!"

Likewise, Boston-based Fidelity Investments, the world's largest mutual fund company, has been targeted; it controls more than 30-million Occidental shares. Activists are demanding that Fidelity uses its influence as one of Oxy's largest investors to cancel the project. On February 3, simultaneous protests were held in 34 cities in nine countries. From Tokyo to London and in 23 cities across the US, Fidelity got the message that it will be held accountable for the safety of the U'wa

people. Fidelity's business as usual was disrupted by demonstrations, vigils, rallies, pickets, die-ins and even a talking briefcase. It has had to hire both uniformed and undercover security at many of their investor centers, and in London, it boarded up much of its office in preparation for a demonstration by Reclaim the Streets.

Meanwhile in Washington DC Larry Meriage, Occidental Petroleum's Vice President of Public Affairs, admitted that Oxy regularly pays off Colombia's two main guerrilla groups. Testifying before the Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee of the House of Representatives, Meriage stated that: "[our employees] are regularly shaken down by both the FARC and the ELN. They are required to pay a "war tax" to both of the guerrilla groups or they are not able to work."

Oil is at the center of Colombia's bloody civil war, which has claimed 25,000 lives in the past decade alone.

Occidental's nearby Cano Limon pipeline has been bombed by guerrillas over 600 times in its 12 years of operation. The attacks have spilled approximately 2.1-million barrels of crude oil into the soil and rivers—eight times the amount spilled by the *Exxon Valdez*.

The US has very strong ties with Colombia. Not only does Colombia sell most of its oil to the US market, but under the auspices of the "War on Drugs" US military aid to the repressive regime in Co-

lombia continues to grow. This year Colombia received \$300 million in aid making them the third largest recipient of US military aid in the world after Israel and Egypt. The US already has hundreds of counterinsurgency military advisors in Colombia, and the Clinton administration is currently proposing a \$1.3 billion aid package. This would equal approximately \$2 million a day for 650 days in military aid to the Colombian security forces. On February 29 FARC responded to Clinton's proposal by declaring war on the US and vowing to fight against what they call US "intervention."

For 500 years the indigenous peoples of the Americas have been slaughtered so that the natural resources of their homelands could be stolen. From Big Mountain to Chiapas to Colombia, indigenous peoples are saying, "*Ya basta!*" The U'wa have put out the call for international solidarity, and now we must answer. Their very survival depends upon our taking action now! Shut down the nearest Fidelity Investor Center. Confront Al Gore when he comes to your town. Spread the word about the U'wa. Like the U'wa say, if traditional peoples and the Earth itself are to have any real future, we

must unite all our struggles into "a global crusade to defend life." *Hasta la victoria!*

For more information contact the Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine St., San Francisco, CA 94104; 1-800-989-RAIN; organize@ran.org; www.ran.org or www.amazonwatch.org.

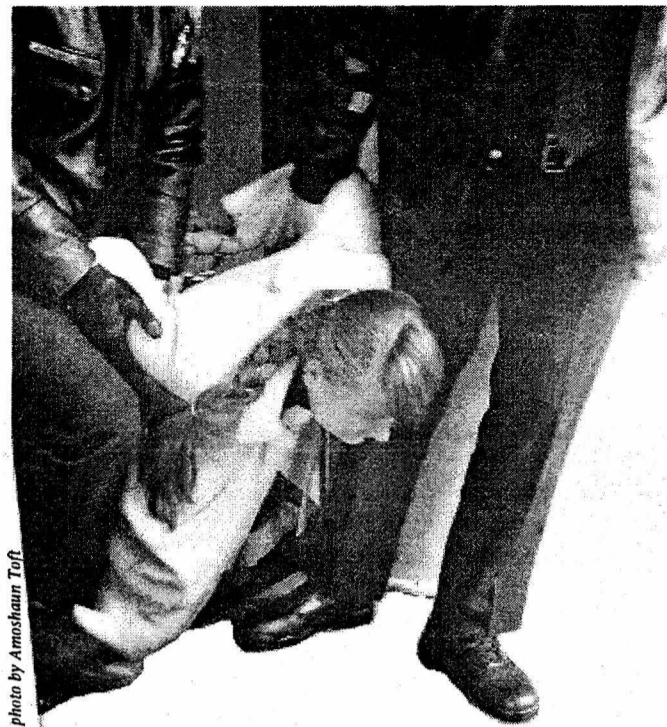


Photo by Amoshaun Toft

A Vermont activist gets hauled away by police during a U'wa support action at Gore for Prez headquarters in New Hampshire.

SANTA BARBARA EF! RALLIES AGAINST AL AND OXY!

BY ROADRUNNER, SANTA BARBARA EF!

On January 31, the World Environment Center (WEC) held a three-day conference in Santa Barbara, California, called "Global Environmental Harmonization in the Third Millennium." Sounds pretty green, eh? Don't be fooled—the WEC is made up of the who's who of multinational corporations. (For a complete list, see www.wec.org.) Its current president is Ray Ankers, a former employee of bio-tech giant Novartis. Be advised that it is of the same ilk as WTO, IMF and World Bank. By the way, cost to attend the conference: \$795.

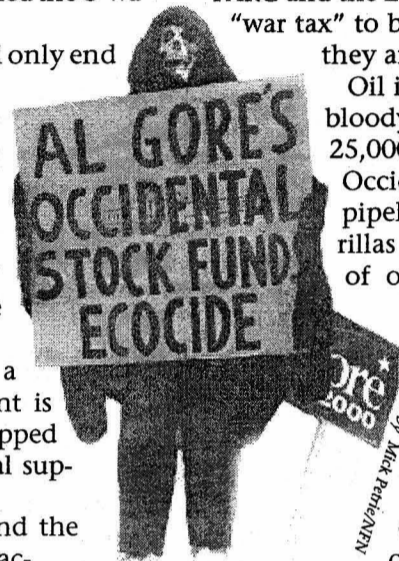
Representatives of Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) were present at the conference. Members of Amazon Watch, the Action Resource Center and local Santa Barbara activists were on hand to protest Occidental's intrusion into U'wa territory in Colombia. The protest was also joined by members of Global Peace Walk 2000 who had just walked in from San Francisco.

The second day of protesting brought a surprise visit from Al Gore, accompanied by an Occidental representative and armed military guards (actually University of California-Santa Barbara students)! A mobile bed was dropped off at the site and Al was wheeled in with his strange bedfellow, copious amounts of money spilling from their pockets. Al was asked many questions, which he deftly deflected. Will he divest from Occidental? Will he use his influence to get Oxy out of U'wa land?

Atossa Soltani of Amazon Watch finessed her way into a lecture by Carl Wirdak, the Director of Environmental Affairs for Oxy. She saw her opportunity to grab a microphone, turned it on and told the audience the truth about Oxy's business in Colombia. She said Oxy is practicing gun diplomacy by relying on the military. She relayed the stark news that a government official was killed recently—the man who processed the U'wa's purchase of land near a proposed drilling site.

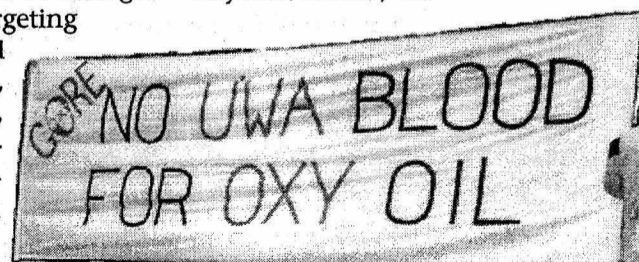
The dynamic duo of Al Gore and his Oxy friend also made an appearance inside the conference just before Ms. Soltani spoke up. They were quickly escorted out and arrested for trespassing. Al Gore and friend went through a speedy processing at the local jail and went back to join the protest. They were greeted with cheers.

When Ms. Soltani emerged and addressed the protesters, she rallied everyone to march and chant around the large circular courtyard of the building. With a bullhorn in the lead, marchers chanted slogans like, "Deforestation, relocation, bullshit! Get off it! The enemy is profit!", and, "Oxy out of U'wa land!" Then the crowd moved out of the rotunda and marched toward the building, at which point hotel security guards pushed and shouted at protesters to move back. Protesters rapped fists on the windows. Drumming and chanting ensued.



The Grim Reaper braves the cold to protest Gore

Photo by Mick Kretz/ANW



Another New Hampshire demonstrator.

WHAT? YOU MISSED THE ORGANIZER'S CONFERENCE?

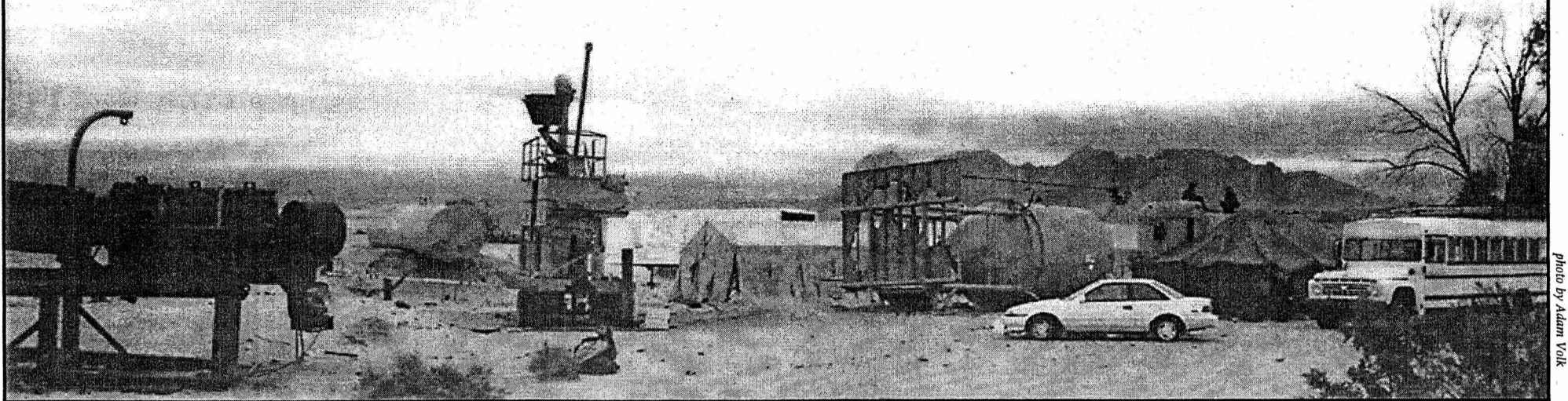


Photo by Adam Volk

Our pristine wilderness experience in the Mojave National Preserve

BY CLIFF, WITH HELP FROM KRIS, JOSH, DANIEL AND RUEBEN

The disorganizers who put together the 2000 Organizer's Conference outdid themselves with a site in the fabulous Mojave National Preserve. We spent the better part of five days playing in and around a jungle gym of old mining equipment in dunes speckled with cowpies (the latter being great fire starter). On the nights when clouds obscured the stars we still had distant city lights to keep us from being scared of the dark. Our discussions were punctuated by explosions at the nearby bombing range. Whoeee! We may prefer pristine places, but the disorganizers were smarter than some of us might have been: There wasn't too much we could fuck up in our wild frolicking. And even if we had, the Park Service wants to pave the spot anyway.

Mom also reminded us that nature bats last, whipping us with wind (as we huddled in huge tents with a dozen stalwart women posted on the upwind end to keep the whole thing from flying away), blasting us with sand and pelting us with rain. Get outta here, and take your damned cows with you! Just when some of us chased down our gear and retreated into our trucks for the duration, the sun came out and the wind subsided.

On the first morning of the conference about 25 people circled around Corbin Harney, a Western Shoshone spiritual leader. The group held hands watching the fire crackle as Corbin beat the drum and sang to the rising sun. Everyone danced in a circle to the drumbeats and the prayers passed down for generations on the sacred (if battle-scarred) desert land. The ceremony ended with individual offerings to the smoldering fire as the colors of sunrise faded away.

The main points on the agenda for the three days of meetings were process, a couple of discussions about the *EF! Journal*, strategy and tactics, a post-WTO check in, discussion of the identity and direction of the Earth First! movement and regional updates.

The first thing the group did was define its purview in making decisions for the movement. Folks from around the country put their heads together and agreed that the Organizer's Conference is empowered to make binding decisions the same way the Round River Rendezvous is. Those decisions can always be revisited and changed by folks at the rendezvous, but the RRR doesn't have to ratify those decisions.

The group also agreed to keep notes about major discussions and decisions made at the RRR or the Organizers' Conference, following a model used by folks in Katuah. Cathie Berry is keeping those notes.

Then we talked about the *Journal* over the course of three big meetings. The first meeting was an update by the staff, introducing old and new staffers and explaining how things are going in terms of money and subscriptions. That meeting also was where we decided on a new process for hiring members of the editorial collective. The old process, where new hires have to be approved at the RRR, showed its potential for abuse in a bitter and divisive meeting last summer. The new proposal from the *Journal* staff, which the Organizer's Conference consensed on, is that the *Journal* collective can hire and fire the members of its own affinity group but the movement (at either the RRR or the OC) can fire the collective as a whole if such measures are deemed necessary.

This empowers the collective to function as a true affinity group and prevents a process that allows individuals to be singled out for attack as happened last summer in Colorado. All new hires will still go through an interview "grilling" by the movement at the next major gathering, which the *Journal* folks said they thought was a positive and healthy process. We then proceeded to grill Adam, the new long term.

At the second *Journal* meeting we began talking about the proposals to move the paper to Tucson or New York. One major theme of both proposals was that the *Journal*—and the movement by way of the *Journal*—needs to do a better job of reaching out to people of color and the working class. Proponents of both proposals said that their cities provide a better front-line perspective on globalization and ethnic diversity than Eugene, increasing access and relevance to people who are this movement's natural allies. Tucson is the front lines for border issues, NAFTA, maquiladoras and indigenous struggles. New York is the belly of the beast for urban and multinational issues given its proximity to Wall Street,

the United Nations and the IMF. Both Tucson and New York would invite contributions from other radical activists representing diverse issues and people.

The Eugene Journalistas said they believe that many of those goals can be met while keeping the paper in its current home and they encouraged more diverse story submissions. They also invited people from everywhere to come and work a short-term stint on the editorial staff, to help share skills and infuse the paper with new ideas and perspectives.

By the third meeting, folks mostly agreed that the Mojave Organizers Conference could make the decision to move the *Journal* but that there was no urgent reason to do so. Two women said that people who might want to opine had not attended, expecting to decide at the Katuah rendezvous this summer. It seems likely that a decision will be made in Katuah, so if you've got an opinion you've got another reason to get your ass out there. Tucson and New York both promised to return with more detailed proposals, including a proposed editorial affinity group to go through the new-editor grilling process in the Smokey Mountains.

But please don't think the whole four days were about nothing but the *Journal*! The best-attended events, other than meals, were discussions of strategy and tactics, the direction of the movement, a post-WTO discussion, informal gatherings of folks and the closing session of reports from different regions.

The meals were awesome, thanks to the expert chefs from Seeds of Peace. And all that nice, chewy sand that Mom added to spice the food did us wonders, both in terms of cleaning our teeth and scouring our intestines... yum. But I digress...

We filled a huge tent as the wind howled, discussing the direction of the movement. People at that meeting held a variety of viewpoints, and the gist of the discussion seemed to be that EF! has expanded—and is continuing to expand—from its original focus on biocentrism, wilderness and direct action to become a network or coalition under the EF! banner whose concerns include social struggles, environmental justice, anti-capitalism and anti-globalization. One long-time activist said she defined EF!'s core values as being biocentrism, direct action and no compromise. A show of hands found that fewer than half the group considered those to be their core values, although another woman said she hadn't raised her hand because the list left out her concerns about patriarchy and racism.

The regional roundups, the post-WTO discussion and the strategy and tactics discussion were roundtables where individual activists told stories or gave their own reports. During strategy and tactics, folks from Minnehaha talked about road blockades and others discussed treesitting, agit-prop and other tactics. Cascadians talked about the intricate web of rope they call a pod, a protester-containing system that hangs from trees and is impervious to Freddie attacks.

In the post-WTO discussion there was general agreement that the Seattle cops made several tactical errors that favored the shut-down by activists. There was also a feeling that big "days of action" can't substitute for community organizing back home. Folks talked about the challenging and long-term needs for true alliance building among eco-activists, labor and human rights groups, although a few people raised concerns about "compromises" involved in aligning with labor and others who don't share a biocentric focus.

Our evenings were about what you'd expect, with the obligatory amoeba, folks crashing into each other (my back still hurts), naked firewalking and all sorts of singing, poetry and popcorn around the campfire. Our troubadours are more important than we think—and more important than we remember to let them know. So here's a wild howl for everyone who sang and a special one from me to Spring, Solstice, Squash and David Rovics. Ooooweeeeee!

About 20 people met at dawn on February 14, the day after the OC, for a sunrise prayer circle and demonstration at the Mojave Generating Station in nearby Laughlin, Nevada. Things didn't go quite as planned. A bunch of folks toured the site and did some reconnaissance. Later, chased out of a mall parking lot by cops, one vehicle inadvertently ran over a can of white paint and left a mess on the asphalt. Between the recon and the paint, several activists got fines and at least two may be facing conspiracy charges. We've been asked to keep our description of the day sparse by folks facing charges. Make sure you pick up the next issue of the *Journal* to find out what happens next.

OK, I'll say it real slow for those of ya who are having trouble

continued from page 3

Dear nighttime gardeners!

In the last six months, there has been 26 actions taken against genetically-engineered crops and the multinationals forcing them on the world!

Now the ELF has gotten into it burning down a Monsanto lab at the University of Michigan and destroying GE Quaker Oats at the University of Minnesota.

Are we going to allow the industry to recover, or are we going to take action and bury them?

It's your choice. Bemoan the situation or do your research, find your local biotech company and pull their crops. It's easy and simple. Just three easy steps...

- 1) Find the bastards!
- 2) Locate the crops!
- 3) Sab it!

Oh yeah, be careful and shut yer mouth! For a copy of the new "Nighttime Gardener's Guide," you can e-mail us at nighttimegardeners@angelfire.com Love,

—FARMER OBI

Dear SFB,

We're alarmed by the fact that Home Depot continues selling old growth wood from Brazil, British Columbia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bolivia & other countries. Only 22 percent of the world's old-growth forests are still intact, and there is less than 4 percent of US ancient forest left. Seventy six countries have already lost all of their old-growth forest, and 11 more are on the verge of losing it.

Logging is the greatest factor in the loss of rainforests. Daily, hundreds of species of rare plants, animals, insects and small organisms become extinct, being driven forever from the earth by such activities as logging. The loss of rainforests is the biggest catastrophe in human history. It still can be stopped. There are already alternatives to old-growth wood and to reduce our wood consumption.

We understand that Home Depot finally said it will stop selling old-growth wood by the year 2002. We'll look forward to seeing it. In the meantime, we ask you to do everything you can to immediately reduce the selling of rainforest wood by Home Depot.

The logging operations are often illegal, destroy ecosystems and threaten the livelihood of indigenous people. Numerous Indians (including Amazon Indians), Southeast Asians and others have been killed by loggers seeking timber. Brazilian Intelligence Agency reported that most of the logging in Brazil is illegal. A major part of wood logging in British Columbia goes to the US, and 90 percent of everything logged in BC comes from ancient forest.

We want to remind you that such companies like Kinkos and major European home improvement retailers responded to the crisis in the world's forests by reducing selling old-growth wood. We demand that Home Depot stops selling all old-growth wood to save the future for the next generation and their children.

—P. BOB SOBANSKI
POLISH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL
ALLIANCE

Dear SFB

Two years dedicating your

entire life in protection of a vital, awe inspiring and a much-threatened piece of our Mama is inspirational and needs to be commended and respected, but ultimately what we need to ask is. "Will buying the planet save her?"

Of course not. By offering anything but resistance to their rape, murder and enslavement of our world, we legitimize our masters control over us. Maybe Luna will stand for the next 50 years. Maybe the 200-foot "buffer zone" won't get cut. Maybe Maxxam/Pacific Lumber or just a pissed logger won't decide to cut her anyway. Overall, I think forest defense and earth liberation has taken a step backwards. We need to dismantle the system, which commodifies our lives and the land which sustains us. We compromise daily in our lives, but when we willingly offer large sums of money to multi-national corporations and promote this as a method of positive change, we miss the real problem. We need to recognize that capitalism and greed are the root of global destruction.

Celebrity status may bring attention to certain problems, but ecosystems are only saved through strong movements of dedicated people and nature's healing processes. We must challenge our privilege and stand in solidarity with peoples of the world to bring down the imperial beast. From the Ogonis of the Niger Delta, to the Zapatistas of Chiapas, to the tree people of Red Cloud Thunder, to the black-clad revolutionaries in Seattle, the resistance to oppression is growing. You have brought attention to the cutting of the last of our old-growth forests. Now we must deepen our analysis and avoid the path of compromise and reform. As you travel around the world to talk about your experiences and forest protection, it is essential to remember that it is the institutions of control and profit which run the world, and it is them we must fight with every breath.

On the Move,

—ROBIN TERRANOVA

Hey now...

I just got the *EF! Journal* you sent and even though I've only skimmed through it I gotta tell ya' that I'm impressed! Thanks a lot for sending it and thanks for not charging me. I am not poor but prison makes us all work for our stuff, hygiene, etc, and so the money I make usually goes to those things. I just got hired to work as a janitor (whew... lots-o-fun) as a part time job so I will send you some stamps at a later date.

So let me tell you something right out of the gate... You guys are doing a kick ass job, and I got nothing but respect for all of you putting yourself out for the "cause." A lot of the guys in here with me are pretty hyped up over the radical goings on at the WTO, and now they all want to read my newsletters from around the world. I get as many as I can so I can still keep in touch with the scene. Good stuff all in all.

One of my friends in here is a Native-American and he saw the article on the White Buffalo and went ballistic. He is next in line to read this issue. I wouldn't be surprised if he got together with

all the other NAB's on the yard and writes to that bunch of addresses you list.

In anycase... I finally came to the conclusion that I won't be able to get involved with direct action when I get out. If I get caught doing anything illegal, I guess I can get the three strikes bullshit. It cramps my style, but I have a good head on my shoulders, and I like to investigate things and write about them. So maybe there's a spot for me in this deal. I am going to enclose an article I wrote for a newspaper out of Seattle. You may not be able to use it in your zine but I hope you like it anyway. I just got done writing another one which deals with the decay of the prison system in America, and I think I did a pretty good job. When it is done being printed I'll make a few copies and send you one. If you like it feel free to use it. People need to open up their eyes and see/hear what is really going on in prisons. I really hope that I will be able to make a difference by writing about things rather than taking action... we'll see.

Listen, I don't know how often you print this zine but if you could send me one from time to time I would really appreciate it. Keep in mind too that this issue will be read by a lot more people than just me. You're changing minds in here by continuing to put your cause in the face of the assholes.

I don't know how you are organized, but if some of you have the time to write a few words every now and again I would appreciate it. It's nice to get mail from folks and hey, what the hell... I'm fuckin' bored in here!

Take it easy and keep up the good work. I hope to hear from you soon.

—DAVE SEIF #60492,

ARIZONA STATE PRISON TUCSON,
POB 24402, TUCSON, AZ. 85734-
4402

Dear SFB,

It is an insult that Julia Butterfly has to pay \$50,000 after two years in a redwood. She deserves better than that. And protecting only a few acres around the tree does nothing to shield it from a violent wind storm. Imagine having to pay \$50,000 to prevent a mining company from stealing stone from the pyramids and then preserving only a few acres of desert around them. The world would be outraged because the pyramids are human creations, yet undisturbed because the redwoods are natural creations.

—ANTHROPOCENTRISM

Dear Earth First!,

I would like to tell you the story when a community successfully worked to save an important and historic part of their town. There was a road called Mission St. that was too skinny to deal with the rush hour traffic in this town. The people of Santa Cruz voted that this road should be widened.

A company called CalTrans came to widen it. They found that the cheapest way to widen the road was to cut down the redwood, and the sidewalk would go where the tree was. Many people became upset, but Caltran ignored them. It looked like the people would have no say in this matter.

The people of Santa Cruz formed multiple petitions that were located in stores, bakeries and billboards. After many petitions had been completed and many meetings were held, CalTrans decided to make the sidewalk go around the tree. The hard work of so many people paid off.

In your magazine, there are a lot of articles where people say that using violence is a good way to get what they want. I don't agree with this, and the experience that the people of Santa Cruz had shows that violence can be avoided through patience and hard work.

In conclusion, I think that petitions do work but you have to be keep on trying. A lot of the time companies ignore numerous amounts of petitions and they might never change but it's good to try anyway because sometimes it does help.

Sincerely,

—ELISABETH BREWER

Eds Note, Earth First! is a non-violent direct action movement and has never advocated violence. Property destruction has been a tactic of Earth First! since day one and by progressive movements from the Luddites to the Ploughshares who all saw themselves as nonviolent.

Dear SFB,

As one who has been a treehugger since they called us conservationists, I feel the need to address the black-masked anarkids I saw in Seattle at the WTO.

There is a definite weakness in your movement, one that allows you to be easily used by the very ones you seek to destroy. You must realize that whenever a group of people camouflage themselves or conceal their identity, they are immediately vulnerable to penetration and manipulation by people who are smarter than they are and wish to discredit them. If you wear a uniform, you immediately become responsible for the actions of all in that uniform, whether it is a brown shirt, a Special Forces beret or a black ski mask. Hello? Could you make it easier for agents provocateurs to misrepresent whatever noble cause you might embrace? So who really owns www.anarchy.com, do you suppose, and what are they selling?

I've espoused Anarchy as a political philosophy for 20 years. Some of the Anarchists I associated with in my youth now vote Republican and commit white collar crimes. The attitude of a vandal is easily corrupted to the attitude of a thief. Both worship property; the true Anarchist ignores it. If you really want to do something that might impact the corporations, find a way to make them spend a ton of money. They fear and respect that. Maybe 500 bucks seems like a lot for a piece of glass, but it is just a few pairs of Nikes. A pretty small price for the corporations to pay in order to justify imposing a police state on the peaceful demonstrators that represent the true threat to their hold on power.

When I see people utilize the cover of a legitimate protest to commit acts of personal pride, as I have seen these Anarchkids

doing, it strikes me as the as the behavior of a rich and spoiled child. There is no political statement involved. Hell, I took pictures of the cops standing by while people spray paint cop cars. Did they spray pepper spray on people for doing it? No way! They hosed the demonstrators. Do you think the TV showed the broken shit because you scared someone? Ha! They did it so the authorities could blame someone (anyone!) besides the corporations for imposing martial law.

I'm sure it was fun to break glass, and I'm just as sure you were happy to be warm and safe in your bed in your parents' house that night. The people who went to jail for their beliefs were the heroes, and you need to know the difference. It takes courage to stand up for what you believe in. Any moron can break a window.

Anarchkids, you act as if you have never known real violence, so remember this advice: In a time of peace, violence is an option. But it is a one-way street. Once you have entered a time of violence, peace is no longer an option. Do not be in a big fucking hurry to go there.

—FUN GUY

Dear Earth First!,

I've nearly finished reading my first *EF! Journal* subscription issue, and I am pleased to report that I am ever more impressed with the excellent writing and coverage, and the apparent uncompromising integrity and passionate dedication of its staff. Previously, I had sought the *Journal* in my neighborhood bookstores, often unable to find an issue for months. Thank you for mailing one so promptly.

As a student of environmental studies I find the *Journal* inspiring, and as a social-justice activist I feel closely associated with many of its writer/activists; also, I depend on *Earth First!* for the latest in the frontline environmental activism. Therefore, I would like to make a donation. Twenty dollars is all that I can afford at this time, but I would like a copy of your new merchandise catalog, as there are several items in it that you mentioned in your letter that I would like to order.

Sincerely,

—DON R. LARTZ

Dear friends,

I believe that the *Journal* should remain based in Eugene, you folks are doing a good job.

For the Earth,

—ANTOINETTE

Dear *EF!J*,

Greetings from the land, high on Black Mesa, Big Mountain Diné tah. We're still here, despite intense threats and harassment lately. I haven't been able to use a computer or cheesemail. I don't know when the next time I'll feel it's safe to leave. It seems like any day now the authorities will make a big move. We were just served an impound notice, they say they will be by at any time now to steal three quarters of the goats and the sheep and all the horses and cows. They just brutalised eight of the cows to the point at which they could not survive here. Every other day there seems to be extremely

understanding my accent, no more than 300 words, tossers!

low plane flybys. On the 11th the plane was approximately 120 feet above the ground, nearly grazing the juniper trees. I live in the Lanes. A few years back they broke Granma's fingers and hit her back with the force of an impoundment trailer. I don't know what they will try next.

I'm happy you selling the CD I made, the ad looks great, I hope some people will hear it and come up here. We're extremely low on numbers. Mail is really the best way of communication for me, its the only way I can, I don't feel comfortable leaving the land and as you probably guessed, we don't have eletricity up here (or computers, or even running water!) I wanted to add my address to the ad. It's the Big Mountain support group in Flagstaff. They do recon up here and bring me mail. POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002.

I'm sure you know of the February 2000 deadline. It's important also to know that it's really no excuse to wait until February for folks to come down here. They are trying to get us out all the time and it's only getting more intense, I hope we're still here in February.

I liked the new *Journal*, especially the Minnehaha articles and the cover art "Starting Over." That is a really intense picture, kind of says it all! I do believe the *Journal* is the most important means of inter-stuggle communication as well as a powerful united message to unconverted complacent masses. *Ya basta*

Well, I'm writing this and trying to herd sheep at the same time and the flock is straying so, I'll have to leave the shade of this juniper tree,

Todes para toles nada para nostotros.

—SHEEPHERDIN' SEAN

PS Do any other ef! musicians want to join together under a common record label, destroy copywriting, get some kinda MP3 website or otherwise unify?

Dear all,

It's now been two years since Ted Kaczynski was sentenced to multiple life terms for the 1978-95 anti-tech Unabombing campaign, following a farcical trial in Sacramento. Ted's currently appealing his conviction.

After the trial, Ted was sent to the notorious Florence supermax, Colorado, where he's been denied visits from everyone except journalists, who he generally doesn't want to talk to.

Ted's main contact with the outside world has been by mail, with publishers Context Books covering postage costs. Now Ted's rebuttal to smears against him by his family and the media, *Truth v Lies*, is not being published, he is no longer receiving this mail money.

The Friends of Ted Kaczynski has been formed to cover Ted's mailing costs. A donation of just 30¢ will pay for a letter out, so please support anarchist political prisoner! Send your donations -preferably well-hidden cash dollars- to POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440 or BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX, UK clearly make "Friends of Ted Kaczynski" (cheques payable to John Zerzan)

Yours for the destruction of civilisation,

—GEORGE WOODSEL

To Earth First!

I speak for the will of the Lord. All car's must end. We must return to riding horses.

In time you will understand this. Don't say we can't do this. Man was riding horses for thousands of years. Cars are only a recent development.

We must build towns and cities without cars to set an example. The rest will follow.

I am a messenger of god. God's will be done.

In the word of God will not be denied. You will respond in time.

—SAM H MILLER,

Dear *Journal*,

Chellis Glendinning in her interview with Errol Schweizer in the last issue once again misinforms readers about Zero cut in northern New Mexico when she says "I know that Zero cut activists find the idea to be a travesty...but I'm in favor of softening Zero cut to accommodate indigenous peoples with prior claim to the land who are practicing sustainable forestry"

First of all, she has no idea what Zero cut activists here think, because she never talks to us. We can assume that neither would Errol Schweizer, who elsewhere in the *Journal* proposes becoming it's editor. Had either of them deigned to contact us, they would have found out that what we actually support is the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, HR 1396, currently cosponsored by 76 members of Congress including 25 of the 35 members of the Black Congressional Caucus and such labor champions as David Bonoir, Luis Guitierrez and Loretta Sanchez among others.

The bill does not affect the 1.5 million acres of state, private, and tribal forestlands in northern New Mexico at all. We support efforts to practice sustainable forestry on these lands. Further, it has always been the position of the Zero Cut campaign that dispute over lands on which there are prior claims should be settled in a fair process.

Wannabes like Chellis only contribute to existing tensions when they misrepresent positions such as Zero Cut to local people and, now in the *EF! Journal*, of all places. While striving to live her "pure politic"- supposedly a blend of Zero Cut Lite and Neo-Luddite, Chellis actually participated in logging some of the last oldgrowth in northern New Mexico, on the Carson National Forest. Welcome to Luddite-Lite. And, please, don't give the *Journal* to that guy Schweizer, lest we end up with *Journal-Lite*.

—MAMA BEAR
ZERO CUT CAMPAIGN

EF! Journal,

Thanks for printing the "Nighttime Gardner" in the latest edition of your excellent rag.

You will receive a new version of the updated Nighttime Gardener within a week. Thanks for your support of anti-biotech actions etc.

Sure looks like we're winning, no?

—NIGHTTIME GARDENERS

PS: I'm sure you can find some interesting things growing at OSU's greenhouses if you looked...

PS 2: The president of agritope <http://www.agritope.com> lives in Eugene.

Dear SFB,

The proposals in the last issue do not contain strong arguments to do so.

The Tucson folks believe the collective should fairly present "every tactic and strategy" and "remain personally unbiased and as those participants who keep the spirit [of the Earth First! movement] alive today see it." The authors do not prove the Pacific Northwest collective does not strive to include the wide spectrum of tactics, strategies and spirit of those who participate in the Earth First! movement. I've witnessed members of the collective invest much energy debating what should and should not be published in the *Journal*. Complete objectivity is a myth; however, the *Journal's* many short-term editors do represent the broad-ranging spirit of the Earth First! movement.

The authors of the other proposal believe a move to the East Coast would give the *EF!J* and more leverage in making its mark because "a great deal of biodiversity might not survive without a culturally diverse movement to protect it." The ecologically diverse Pacific Northwest, the "last frontier," is quickly expanding with humans from around the world, and those who've worked on the *Journal* do contribute cultural diversity. *Journal* editors are impressively aware of and involved in the sociological and environmental issues raging in this region.

Activists from the region's Earth First! community continually make news by shaking up the friendly fascist status quo. While some may not agree with all of the tactics and strategies used, this "free state of ideas" is pushing us to evolve. There has been a breakthrough in mainstream discussion of issues where there was none before— and maybe even a slight paradigm shift.

The *Journal* is in a prime location to make its mark. Please support the kick ass folks who produce it in Eugene!

—KIM BUCHANAN

Hi there.

I am an avid reader of *EF!* While I wish I could write my own story and send it in to you, college is not giving me enough time to do so. So here is a huge scoop for one of the writers of *EF!* to investigate... One of the main campaign contributors of GWB wants to put a nuclear dumpsite upstream from Austin, Texas. For anyone that has ever visited this beautiful environmentally conscious city, it is a pity that our water could be contaminated with dangerous toxins. The Edwards Aquifer just south of Austin is used by millions of central Texans as a source of drinking water. Please do something! We need to get the media in on this. I don't want to see that environmental butcher become president! I don't want future generations to be affected by this man. Please help! Would it be too much to ask that *EF!* do some more research and get a huge story out of this? A lot of people are in dark. Please light the way...

—CRISPIN YOUNG

Dear Shit For Brains,

I saw the proposal from Tuscon EF! about moving the *Journal*. Could not more tactful and considerate. Anyone who welcomes, indeed embraces the responsibilities of putting out the journal, deserves a shot at it. In light of thier experience and infrastructure, I have no objections to the suggestions. I hope the current staff does not take it as a slight at their efforts. To me it's like a receiver wide open downfield, trying to get the quarterbacks attention that he's open and can make a great play.

I'm for what works best and improves the *Journal*. That's not to imply it's currently bad! Everything can be improved upon. For the Earth,

—ED STEIN

Dear SFB,

I'd like to commend a recent letter stressing the importance of "starving" corporate America by breaking our dependency!

I'm working on a strategy statement that suggests a direction for "the movement." It points out why we need diverse (but cooperative) tactics to succeed in reclaiming the Earth from her would-be conquerors. Only through a creative grassroots effort that interconnects direct action, eco-community development (cohousing, permaculture, etc.) and healing of all the psychological scars that this culture has given us can we effectively stand up to the corporate machine.

Anger and hatred are respectable reactions to the present crisis, but they're not very good tools for healing the Earth (or yerself). It's going to take thoughtful, well-organized, and yes, loving action to get the job done. The health of ourselves, our communities and our Earth are all related, so let's work on healing all three so that the Earth can be whole once more.

If you've got suggestions for the strategy statement (which I'll pass around when finished), let me know through Shawnee EF! I'm also writing a book, "We are not Generation X," on roughly the same subject, and I'm eager for suggestions from fellow "Gen X" (barf!) activists.

—TREESONG

PS: I'm male, and I agree that there's sexism in the movement — and it *must* stop! I've seen it firsthand, and it's part of the baggage that has to be worked through in order to heal ourselves and the planet. Please call me on it if I ever act that way (for your sake and mine) and please let me know if I can do anything to help.

To whom it may concern:

I have been a somewhat regular subscriber since 1994 (I think) under the name Timothy J. W. Logan (previously Timothy J. Wolter). I have occasionally neglected immediate renewals as I have been concerned with the narrow view of environmental work which has been focused primarily upon the western US.

I have worked continuously for the last decade or more on issues centered in the eastern US, but more particularly on the drastic inequity and environmental rac-

planet (with a focus on local the the entire planet (with a focus on local issues, first in Boston, then in the NYC area where I have lived). While we, in NYC, have been supportive of EF! activities throughout the world, we have rarely seen a symbiotic vision within the pages of the *Earth First! Journal* on issues affecting us here.

I believe it is time that the *Earth First! Journal* consider a new home in NYC. We have a number of serious local issues which affect tens of millions of people in the metroarea and have impact on a global scale. We have Wall St., the root of all evil. We have people from almost every nation on the planet as well.

My understanding of the Rocky Mountain Area and the Western States is that many of the EF! activists are extremely connected to electronic communications (i.e. e-mail), while here in the eastern US many of the communities of color (most disparately impacted by corporate America) are lacking such resources. By relocating to NYC, the *Earth First! Journal* would have the opportunity to connect with Environmental Justice work that must become a larger voice in all environmental advocacy/activism work, if we are to advance the state of the global society to become less/non destructive to the natural environment.

A brief bio on my EJ work would include: being a founding member of Environmental Diversity Forum, a coalition of groups fighting for environmental justice in the Boston area; and my current position with their sister organization the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYCEJA is a 14-member, NYC city-wide coalition of CBO's led by people of color, which address EJ issues both within their communities and outside them as much as possible); and coordinator of Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods. (OWN is a 27 organization, city-wide coalition of low income and community of color neighborhoods being blighted by the city's/private sector's solid waste management).

We are becoming a model for community organizing and EJ work and are in the process of stepping up our campaigns to all types of direct action as are a number of other coalitions NYCEJA participates in. I believe the *Earth First! Journal* would be well served to further address EJ issues (perhaps the most basic root of all environmental issues on the planet) by committing to the broadening of your scope of work through a move to NYC.

I look forward to your response. Peace,

—TIMOTHY J

Dear SFB

I am 14 years old, and I live in Rhode Island. There is no wilderness here, just some woods with tiny trees. I want to know how to help the environment in some way, even if it is only a little bit. The thing is that I do not have much money.

Your friend in need,
—RICHARD

ELF spokesperson's house, office ransacked

BY CRAIG ROSEBRAUGH

On February 2, as I was putting my clothes on getting ready to go to work, a loud knock came from the front door. Soon there was a second loud bang at the door, and I heard the yell "FBI, search warrant. Open up." Before I could get there, agents from the FBI, BATF and US Forest Service stormed into my living room and kitchen with guns drawn, screaming at me and two roommates. After being frisked by the agents we were shown a copy of the warrant and instructed that for the duration of the search we would either have to leave the house or sit in the living room, where we could not watch.

For six hours some 12-15 federal agents went through my Portland home seizing a virtual truckload of property including three computers, media directories, phone/address books, books, magazines, audio CDs, videos, literature and much more. During this, the FBI issued me another subpoena (my fifth in three years) to testify before a federal grand jury in Portland, Oregon, on February 29. My vehicle was also included on the warrant and was searched in front of my home. I was informed midway through the inspection of my home that my former office, the Liberation Collective in Portland, was also being raided. Around 2 p.m. I was handed a receipt of property seized, which I could not verify, and the agents left the house.

My bedroom and home office were completely ransacked, appearing like a classic burglary scene from a movie. Agents appeared to spend extra effort destroying things they thought might be important to my partner and me. This included some of her

paintings and a funeral announcement about a member of my family. These items were ripped up and strategically placed on top of the heap that was thrown in the middle of the room.

On February 15, the FBI returned to my home at about 7:30 a.m. and delivered a letter informing me that I am an official target of the grand jury in Portland. The grand jury is seeking to file federal charges against me. It has convened to investigate the actions of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) from 1997 through the present.

These actions include but are not limited to: the release of 10,000 mink from a farm in Mt. Angel, Oregon (1997); the burning of the Cavel West Horse Rendering Plant in Redmond, Oregon (1997); the horse release and burning of a Bureau of Land Management horse corral in Burns, Oregon (1997); the burning of buildings at Vail Resorts, Inc. in Vail, Colorado (1998); the burning of US Forest Industries in Medford, Oregon (1998); the burning of Boise Cascade's northwest headquarters in Monmouth, Oregon (1999); and the burning and destruction of a building at Michigan State University in Lansing, which housed a genetic research program (1999). These actions

have caused over \$15 million in damages to corporations profiting off the destruction of the environment and exploitation of life.

It is quite clear that the federal policing agencies have no clue who is conducting these actions so they are going to pick on the one person they can identify, the public spokesperson. It is nothing more than a fishing expedition once again trying to stop a successful social movement. Yet it can't, and it won't.

The actions of the ELF and ALF are increasing as more people realize the importance of direct action in stopping this murderous government and the individuals and corporations within it. These entities and those who run them obviously are not listening to common decency, respect and compassion. They do tend to listen when their profit margins are at stake.

The ELF and ALF represent a clear path of light shining brightly in the darkness of capitalistic destruction. It's time to make that light shine even brighter. Get active! If not you who? If not now, when?

Editor's Note: On February 29, Rosebraugh was subjected to 45 minutes of questioning by a federal grand jury in Portland, Oregon. He pled the Fifth Amendment to all questions excluding his name during the proceedings. As he was excused, Rosebraugh was issued an order compelling his testimony in late March regarding the burning of the northwest headquarters of Boise Cascade on December 25, 1999. In late March, if Rosebraugh continues to take the Fifth Amendment and not answer

questions, he may be subject to 18 months in prison on contempt charges.

Outside the courthouse on the 29th, over 100 people rallied in support of Rosebraugh. Support protests also occurred in Eugene, Minneapolis, Lansing and in front of the US Embassy in England.



Craig outside his home

EARTH NIGHT ACTION... EARTH NIGHT ACTION



The Lorax, spotted and photographed in the Elaho

•In a communiqué received on January 21 by Genetix Alert, activists from the Fragaria Freedom Farmers destroyed a field of genetically engineered (GE) strawberries at Plant Sciences, Inc.'s research facilities in Watsonville, California (www.mapquest.com). Additionally, the nighttime gardeners left organic seeds on the decontaminated site.

"By pulling, digging and chopping, we destroyed a small research field of GE strawberries at the company's headquarters," the communiqué stated. "We also left behind a variety of organic seeds to see to it that not only is GE material destroyed, but sustainable agriculture is left in its destructive wake."

According to their web site, Plant Sciences, Inc. "remains grateful to God for their clients and friends." This is ironic coming from a company that is surging forward with its biotech research by field testing strawberries spliced with *E. coli* and designed to be resistant to fungus.

The first actions taken against GE crops in the US took place in 1987 in Brentwood, California, targeting strawberries (www.efmedia.org).

•The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) took credit for a late night visit to the Sterling Woods development in Bloomington, Indiana, on the evening of January 23. During the visit, one house under construction was torched and completely destroyed. Damage from the fire has been assessed at \$200,000. The house was to be worth \$700,000. "No Sprawl, ELF" was painted on the developers sign.

"The house was targeted because the sprawling development it is located in is in the Lake Monroe Watershed," the communiqué said. "This is the drinking-water supply for the town of Bloomington, Indiana, and the surrounding area. It is already being jeopardized by existing development and roads."

"Once again the rich of the world are destroying what little we have left in terms of natural areas and collective holdings (the water). Hopefully they will get the message that we will not take it anymore."

"We also want to take credit for some hits that occurred a while back, but no communication had been made."

"August 22, 1999: Two pieces of machinery were torched and destroyed at the controversial Deer Park [Indiana] development. One was a John Deere grader, and the other was a steam roller. This happened as an armed guard slept on duty. He later said he chased someone into the woods. This did not happen. The member(s) leisurely strolled away and were not chased. The fire engine was not dispatched until more than a half hour after the fire was set. The development of this area marks the destruction of one of the last green spaces within Bloomington's city limits. It is forcing the community to be more car dependent as well."

"October 23, 1999: Six pieces of logging equipment on two different sites in the

Morgan-Monroe State Forest [Indiana] were vandalized. Two skidders had their gas tanks loaded with sand, as did a four-wheeler and a logging truck that had a loader attached. A bulldozer had its engine filled with sand. A second logging truck had the engine filled with sand, several hoses cut, a couple of tires flattened and 'no profit for ecocide' was painted on the side of the truck. These operators were destroying our public lands for profit."

•From January 19-21, 104 badger traps were destroyed in Herefordshire, England. On January 21 alone, 50 traps were trashed and a badger was released. Two of the traps destroyed had fresh blood on them from badgers shot in the traps.

On January 22, six people were arrested for criminal damage and later arrested again for conspiracy to cause criminal damage with regard to trashing the traps. About the same time as the arrests, 20 more traps were located and destroyed bringing the total to 124.

•The ELF claimed credit for an action against a genetic engineering program at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul on February 9.

"In the early hours of February 9, the Earth Liberation Front paid a visit to Green Hall at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul," a communiqué sent by the ELF stated. "The target was transgenic oat research crops. The research was being done by University professors David Sommers and Howard Rines."

"All the oats found in the greenhouse were destroyed, messages were spraypainted, and the locks were glued on the way out."

"Let this action be a warning to the University of Minnesota and the entire biotech industry, that if you continue to destroy the biodiversity on the Earth, your profits will continue to fall. The elves are always watching. Stop genetic engineering or we will."

•"The Lorax," an underground environmental organization, officially claimed credit in a communiqué for spiking hundreds of trees in the Elaho Valley, about three hours north of Vancouver, British Columbia.

"The purpose of the tree spiking is to protect grizzly bear habitat and to deter International Forest Products (Interfor) from clearcutting this ancient coastal rainforest," stated the communiqué. The Elaho Valley contains 1,000-year-old Douglas fir trees, which are being cut by the British Columbia based Interfor. In addition, the valley is the southernmost bioregion for the grizzly bear in BC.

"Five- and 10-inch spikes were driven into trees north of mile 63 on the Elaho Main and Elaho Main West logging roads," stated the communiqué.

Individuals camping in the Elaho Valley bearing witness to the destruction have been assaulted repeatedly by Interfor loggers over the past five years. This culminated in a massive attack in the fall of 1999 when 100 loggers descended upon eight camped people, assaulting them and sending three to the hospital while destroying over \$20,000 of the campers' belongings. In mid-February, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and provincial prosecutor's office charged three Interfor employees. Charges are pending against others who were involved in the assault.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

HOW I INFILTRATED AUSTIN EF!

I joined the F.B.I.. I was just the man they need
 They had a secret mission and thought I might succeed
 They gave me a big salary and paid off all my debts
 Even bought me a house and three new corvettes
 Then they stuck me with the job they considered the worst
 They told me to infiltrate Austin Earth First!
 Saying if Barry Clausen did it-why shouldn't I?
 I became an undercover agent with the F.B. of I.

So I bought clenched fist shirts and jeans that were tattered
 I learned words like "old growth" as if it had mattered

I packed all my bags and as sly as a mouse
 I arrived on the porch of Entropy House
 I met Neal and Cedar, Dug and Sharon too
 Danny, Bill and Terri and the whole Earth First! crew
 I first won their friendship, I was all charm and smiles
 And told silly jokes as I snuck through their files
 I tapped all the phones and put mics in the halls
 Hid cameras in the toilets and took fingerprints off the walls
 I searched through their backpacks and followed them hiking
 Stole nails from the shed, they must be for ... carpentry (?)

I went to each meeting to record what they think
 And then stayed around to record what they drink
 Five Margaritas and then Guinness Stout!
 Could this be the Movement they warned me about?
 They plotted lunatic tactics for saving the Earth
 And lectured why people should never give birth
 They boasted of Wilderness, all the places they hiked
 And recited 75 different beers that they liked
 They hated their government and hated their jobs
 They talked about non-violently castrating Jim Bob
 They talked of catastrophes, but laughed when they spoke
 Is this a conspiracy-or is it a joke?!
 It's no easy job but I'm still gonna try
 To be an undercover agent with the F.B. of I.

But one summer day I made a horrendous mistake
 When we were camping and swimming all down by the lake
 For as they undressed their bottoms were bare
 'Cause no true Earth First!er ever wore underwear
 And I stood alone in my Fruit-of-the-Loom
 My tight white butt-huggers had spelled out my doom
 They all pointed at me and let out with a cry
 "God Dammit!! He's an agent with the F.B. of I!"

They held a long meeting to talk it all through
 And formed twenty affinity groups to decide what to do
 I was scared for my life-would all hell break loose
 Are they gonna surround me and hang up a noose?
 But Cedar said "Nome, we're not going to hurt you
 We've got a new plan-and the plan is to convert you!
 We'll teach you to love all creatures still wild
 And help you embrace your inner monkeywrenching child
 We'll take you to Actions, and to Rendezvous
 Earth First! has plenty of room for you too
 We've got backpackers and kayakers and hunters and vegans
 Eco-Christians and Buddhists, and new woo-woo pegans
 Young punks and old hippies-all types in between
 Most who are gentle and a few downright mean
 There's camouflaged crusaders and bold road blockaders
 There's gotta be room for a few infiltrators!"

Cedar's wisdom engulfed me like a warm loving ripple
 And this once double agent has now become triple
 I've found a new tribe and I'm so fucking glad
 They've become the best friends I could ever have had
 And the tables are turned, for I'm no normal spy
 NOW AUSTIN EARTH FIRST! HAS INFILTRATED THE F.B. of I!

—Nome Ansland

**Clear as cut glass
 & just as dangerous**

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 the authors**

BORN OF MYTH

Tumbling out of the dawn
 born into the warm cocoon
 of myth and tribe
 in a world of time circular
 Seasons that have been
 return again and again
 Nature's plants and creatures
 die but are soon replaced
 with like kind
 Humankind lived within this dream
 through millennia swaddled in
 this cocoon of myth and of time
 which never failed to return

Then of a sudden man and
 woman were stripped naked of
 nourishing myth and thrown
 into a world where the arrow
 of time had come to be
 Time now was a straight line
 with a long past, uncertain future
 and infinitesimal present
 Thrown into a world of specialists
 but no wise men
 into a mass society
 without tribe or family
 under fluorescent glare
 in sweatshops or shoebox
 workshop staring at the
 dull glow of the computer
 and believing nature is something
 the Disney Company provides

and yet, and yet
 the myth is still alive
 over yonder hill and
 in that grove of trees
 or comes to you as you lie
 in tall prairie grasses
 or in the voice of coyote
 yipping under a full moon
Man, Woman, Wake up!

this machine dream you're living
 is not a dream but a nightmare!
 wake up and jump back into myth
 and out of your technical tomb
 and run howling naked
 under the friendly glow
 of the rising moon

—Sid Bridges

HOPEFUL EXPECTATIONS

AS A FAT FULL MOON SLOWLY SINKS INTO THIS LOVELY SEA OF TREES,
 MY SOUL SINGS A SONG OF THANKS TO MY LUCKY STARS.

I THANK YOU ORION FOR PASSING ME BY FOR NOW,
 AND LETTING ME COME THIS FAR
 IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH.

DRACO, ONLY YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU
 FOR THE COURAGE YOU CONFERRED UPON ME
 TO SEE THIS BATTLE THROUGH.
 YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN I.

URSA MINOR, LIKE A NEWBORN CHILD I CRY SWEET SALTY TEARS
 FOR THE FEARLESS SPIRIT STRENGTH YOU'VE GIVEN ME
 TO STAND AGAINST THIS GREED-DRIVEN INSANITY.

AND CASSIOPEIA MY QUEEN!
 NOW THAT I'VE SEEN YOU IN ALL YOUR GLORY,
 I BOW IN HUMILITY BEFORE YOU,
 KNOWING MY GREATEST TRIALS AWAIT ME.
 YOU'VE TAUGHT ME HOW DEEDS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

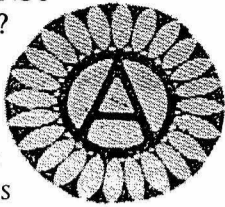
TO ALL OF YOU AND THOSE UNKNOWN
 WHO TOGETHER HAVE SHOWN ME
 THE POWER OF LOVE OVER MONEY.
 I LIVE HUMBLY IN YOUR DEBT, WANDERING FREE,
 AND LIKE ONE OF CHIEF RED CLOUD'S RAGING WARRIORS
 THUNDERING ACROSS THE DARKLING PLAIN OF AMERICAN CORPORATE GREED,
 I HOPE FOR THE BEST AND EXPECT THE WORST,
 THEN I STOP TO THANK MY LUCKY STARS
 FOR TEACHING ME THE NEED OF LISTENING TO MY HEART,
 AND OF PLACING EARTH FIRST!

—VAN KELLY
 RED CLOUD THUNDER'S GRASSHOPPER

Send poems to, **WARRIOR POETS SOCIETY, PMB 361, 108 MLK JR. STUDENT UNION # 4510, BERKELEY CA 94720-4510**

GREEN ANARCHIST #59

DIRECT ACTION NEWS INCLUDING N30
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CONNECT" TECHNOLOGY SUPER-
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••••Big Mountain Roadshow••••

During the last three weeks of April, Louise Benally and David Rovics will be traveling together on the eastern seaboard, bringing attention to the situation on Big Mountain in northeastern Arizona. It is there traditional Dineh (Navajo) people have lived for generations and are being forcibly relocated by federal authorities and moved onto uranium-contaminated wasteland in order to make way for the expansion of North America's biggest coal mine.

Louise Benally has been an activist since first witnessing the injustices committed against her people, the Dineh people of Big Mountain. She is involved daily with the struggle of resisting government harassment just by continuing to live on Big Mountain.

David Rovics is a traveling, rabble-rousing folksinger who spends his time stirring up trouble throughout North America and Europe, singing songs about Big Mountain and a plethora of other issues at campuses, folk clubs, protests and elsewhere.

For more information about the roadshow, or if you're interested in having Louise or David come to your campus or community, contact David at POB 995, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; (617) 747-4460; DRovics@aol.com; www.davidrovics.com. For more information on the struggle at Big Mountain, visit the website of Black Mesa Indigenous Support, www.blackmesais.org.

Escalante Wilderness Action Gathering May 19-21 • Escalante, Utah

This gathering in the heart of Hayduke country will show support for local activists and strategize how to protect southern Utah's vast wild redrock canyon country and forests. Topics will include impacts of livestock grazing on desert ecosystems, this year's citizens inventory of roadless areas in the Dixie National Forest, building a grassroots movement to drain Lake Powell, curbing predator control and ORV abuse, and strategies to strengthen local voices for wilderness.

Escalante activists have been vandalized, harassed, and threatened for years by people who want to continue to log, mine and graze on public lands. Last year the "Wise Use" group, People for the USA, formed a chapter in Escalante, and a local Mormon bishop declared a "war of religion" on environmentalists. But the times they are a-changing. Three new, radical environmental groups have recently formed in Utah. Come meet them and help us save wild Utah! Nonviolence guidelines for the gathering: no weapons, drugs, alcohol or property destruction. We respect your tactics; please respect ours.

Sponsored by the Escalante Wilderness Project. For more information, contact Tori Woodard or Patrick Diehl, POB 652, Escalante UT 84726; (435) 826-4778; toripat@color-country.net; www.escalantehouse.org/ewp.

Mobilization for Global Justice April 16 • Washington DC • World Bank/IMF Meeting Stand Again for Economic Justice! Oppose Oppressive Globalization!

A powerful US movement for economic and human rights and fair trade had its coming-out party at the WTO meetings in Seattle.

In April, the struggle continues in Washington DC—the very heart of political and institutional control of the global economy: the US Treasury, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. They are the chief instruments used by political and corporate elites to create today's unjust, destructive global economic order.

Your presence in Washington is needed! We must make clear, again, that the peoples' movements of the world will not stand idly by while those holding power continue to impoverish and oppress the majority of the world's peoples and ravage the Earth's environment and resources while enriching themselves and corporations.

Many of the groups that helped organize the victories in Seattle are already preparing for days of protest, education, training and direct action during the week of April 9-16.

The week begins on Sunday, April 9, with a Jubilee 2000/USA mobilization for cancellation of the debts of African, Latin American, Asia-Pacific, and Caribbean countries, and continuing with teach-ins and trainings on the global economy. It will culminate with a massive rally at the IMF headquarters April 16 and 17.

For more information, contact the 50 Years is Enough Network (Washington DC) at (202) IMF-BANK; Global Exchange (San Francisco) at (415) 558-9486 x. 254; info@A16.org; www.A16.org.

Also be sure to participate in Free The Green Space/Green The Free Space—Bring rakes, hoes, shovels, seeds, saplings, green thumbs and black blocs as we turn toxic lawns in DC into organic community gardens.

World Bank/IMF Meeting in Florham Park, NJ, March 30-April 1. There is a call to action for April 1. For more information, contact (888) 365-0000 x-1942; www.bergenaction.net.

Stand Up To Corporate Greed and Globalization

Mass protest against
Kaiser Aluminum/Maxxam

March 25-27 • Tacoma, Washington

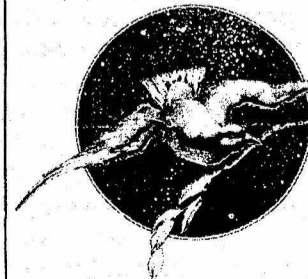
Support the locked-out Kaiser Steelworkers in Washington, State and defend the ancient redwoods in Headwaters.

For more information, contact (253) 572-4247 (Tacoma); (206) 441-4969 (Seattle); (360) 352-8526 (Olympia); (503) 236-5573 (Portland); kim2@chickmail.com; www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/kaiser

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE Four Days of Protest Events

No BMD • No Star Wars

April 14-17, 2000
Washington, D.C.



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from around the
world as we
protest plans to
weaponize space.

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
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(352) 337-9274 • globalnet@mindspring.com
www.globenetfree-online.co.uk

Mother's Day

at Nevada Test Site
May 12-15

- Take ACTION to stop Nuke testing & Nuke dumping!
- Support the Western Shoshone in protecting sacred lands!
- Occupy & pray for the land!
- Honor Our Mother Earth!

Workshops, trainings, speakers, musical guests. Bring gear for desert camping—hot days, cold nights.
60m N. of Las Vegas on US 95 (Mercury)
For more info contact:
Shundahai Network
5007 Elmhurst Ln, Las Vegas NV, 89108
#(702)-647-3095 • Shundahai@Shundahai.org

NONNUKES

Matches 'n' Mayhem

May 5-7 • Chicago, Illinois

Anarchist Film Festival, Propaganda Gallery, Anarchist Bookfair, Workshops, Variety Show, Soccer Tournament

For more information, contact Matches 'n' Mayhem c/o The Autonomous Zone, 1573 North Milwaukee Avenue, PMB 420, Chicago, IL 60622; (773) 252-6019; azone@wwa.com.

Anarchist Bookfair

April 15 • San Francisco, California

Anarchist publishers distributors, and activist groups will come together to celebrate the book fair's fifth anniversary. Every year the book fair showcases installations by Art & Revolution, an anti-authoritarian art exhibition, and a cafe serving delicious vegan and vegetarian food.

This year, Utah Phillips and Christian Parenti have volunteered to speak, and in the cafe, a local video collective will present a series of excellent works documenting the Bay Area's recent radical activity.

For more information, contact the Anarchist Bookfair Committee, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; (415) 431-8355; seansul@mindspring.com; ramsey@akpress.org.

DIY SKILLSHARE

May 18-21

924 Gilman, Berkeley, California

A hands-on gathering of techniques and humane technology workshops.

Please send stamps or otherwise contact us to get on the mailing list.

POB 4934, Berkeley, California, 94704; (510) 496-2740 x3957; skillshare@onebox.com.

Urgent! Urgent! Urgent!

Help prevent the loss of rare species of moths and butterflies.

Stop BT-k and TM spraying by the Forest Service!

The USFS is planing to spray between 224,000 to 1,380,000 acres or more in nine national forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington. They will be using BT-k and TM Biocontrol. Thier target is a naturally occuring native moth: the Douglas-Fir Tussock Moth.

Please help us stop their madness! Write, call or *take action*. Contact Harv Forsgren, Bill Funk, Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, POB 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623; (503) 808-2984; 808-2954; 808-2200; 808-2426. For more information, contact Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project, HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830.

ELF PRESS OFFICE

The North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office is an independent, pro-ELF organization that works to publicize and explain actions of the underground Earth Liberation Front. Any anonymous information received by the press office which details ELF-style activity will be communicated to the media. The North American ELF Press Office has no knowledge of the person(s) carrying out any courageous ELF actions. Assume that all mail, e-mail, and telephone correspondence is monitored by the authorities. Contacts: Craig Rosebraugh/Leslie Pickering

North American ELF Press Office, POB 4783, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 478-0902; 478-0903 (fax); elfpress@tao.ca.



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FOREST PROTECTION CAMPAIGNS

April 12 - 19

Washington, DC

Trade and Forests Lobby Week

Come to Washington DC in April to educate yourself, your Congressional representatives and the Clinton administration about international trade and forests. We will explain how forests are threatened by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Global Free Logging Agreement, other World Trade Organization agreements and China's pending WTO membership. The lobby week coincides with the April 16-17 IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington DC.

For more information, contact Antonia Juhasz at (202) 547-9230; antonia@americanlands.org; www.americanlands.org.

ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

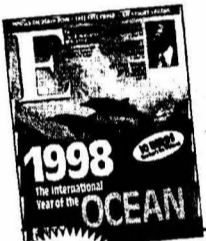
Labor and environmental activists, mark your calendars now: the first membership meeting of the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment will be held April 1-2, at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

Meeting registration is not open yet, but it's a great time to become an Alliance member. For information, contact www.asje.org.

Northern California Week Of Resistance

April 1-8

On April 1-8 Earth First! activists in Northern California are organizing a Week of Resistance to challenge the ongoing destruction of the coastal redwood ecosystem. Affinity groups are forming and activists are needed. For more information, contact Northcoast Earth First! at POB 28, Arcata, California 95518; (707) 825-6598; ncef@humboldt1.com.



Who Says You Can't Change the World?

Check out *E/The Environmental Magazine* and learn how you can make a difference in your world!

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"Where have I been to miss such an outstanding publication?"

— Dean Whitehead, West Hollywood, CA

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YES! Send me my **FREE** trial issue of *E/The Environmental Magazine*. If I like it, I can subscribe for one year (6 issues) for only \$19.95. If not, I'll just return the subscription invoice marked "cancel" and return it to you. The **FREE** issue is mine to keep with no cost or obligation to me.

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Support Leonard Peltier!

Dear Friends,

February 6, 2000, marked Leonard Peltier's 24th year in prison for a crime he did not commit. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC) is asking all supporters to help increase the pressure for his release at this very critical time in his freedom campaign. If Leonard is not released by the time President Clinton leaves office, chances for his near future release will be much slimmer.

Leonard will be reviewed for parole this May and letters of support from organizations and individuals are needed. Contact the LPDC to get sample letters and learn more about this year's plan of action. Also, join our telephone campaign by calling the White House comments line. Insist that President Clinton release Leonard Peltier through a grant of Executive Clemency, and if he is unwilling to do this, to at least intervene with the US Parole Commission because Leonard is long overdue for release through parole.

Help us make sure the lines are flooded on a daily basis: The Northeast calls on Mondays. The Southeast calls on Tuesdays. The Midwest and International call on Wednesday. The Northwest calls on Thursday, and the Southwest calls on Friday. Call the White House comments line now. Demand justice for Leonard Peltier! (202) 456-1111.

For more information, contact Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, POB 583, Lawrence, KS, 66044; (785) 842-5774; 842-5796 (fax); lpdc@idir.net; www.freepeltier.org.

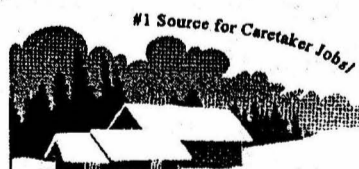
•••BIODEVASTATION 2000•••

Fourth International Grassroots Gathering on Genetic Engineering
Boston Massachusetts
March 24-30

Join activists, scientists, farmers and people from around the world for a week of education, strategy and empowerment. Help build a visible and unified movement against genetic engineering and protest BIO 2000, the largest-ever convention of the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

For more information, contact Northeast Resistance Against Genetic Engineering, (802) 454-9957, nerage@sover.net and People's Earth Network, (617) 524-7841; biod2000@jamaicaplain.com. For more information on coordinated direct actions throughout the week, contact bio4actions@yahoo.com.

LIVE RENT-FREE, WORLDWIDE



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*Celebrate Earth Day
Playing in the Mud*
Women Build Houses Presents:
Earth Day Mud-Plastering Party
April 22 and 23
at Peg Millet's

Join us near Prescott National Forest for a fun-filled weekend as we apply an Earthen plaster to the home of activist Peg Millet. We will be applying a rough coat to her newly constructed straw bale octagon, in preparation for a future coat. We may also be working with cob. Food will be provided. Be prepared to camp. Men welcome.

Cost: By donation (\$25 suggested)
Call (520) 206-8000 to sign up and get your map.

HAIL TO OUR HEROES!

VIDEO REVIEW BY CLIFF CASCADIAN

Fists rise above the battlements. Hands share food in a dark meal, wrists adorned with bracelets of chain and dangling carabiners. Mist shrouds a yellow highway sign announcing "Protesters on roadway." Camo-clad militants stand in a prayerful circle, holding hands. A man swings a pickaxe with all his love for the land, ripping and biting into the offensive Forest Service Road 2408 in Oregon's Willamette National Forest, the one occupied for 11 months in 1995-96 to protect the charred and unscarred forest in the Cornpatch Roadless Area known as Warner Creek.

"At Warner Creek, we were creating a mythology that would replace Paul Bunyan and Manifest Destiny," says Tim Ream, co-producer of *pickAxe*, the long-awaited, feature-length video about the occupation. "There's this way that Americans are taught to think about the land, and that's exploitation. If you think that way, you can feel confident in your Americanness. Our idea is to replace that with a relationship to the land that is about protection and not profit."

If the movie's purpose is to infect viewers with the energy, joy, passion, anger and freedom that fuels and grows with our work in defense of the wild, then Ream and co-producer Tim Lewis clearly succeed. The camera—wielded by a motley assortment of characters, including Freddies—beatifies a Doug fir seedling growing in the crotch of its fire-killed progenitor, the pickaxe man, the women who refused to move when the Freddies came to tear our people out of the road. It's impossible not to feel that all of these are heroes.

The filmmakers are quick to say that the 94-minute video is just one vision, not intended to supplant people's personal memories of a place and time that changed many lives. But as a document of the revolution, Lewis and Ream clearly explain the story of both Warner Creek and the western Oregon old-growth sales released under the notorious 1995 Salvage Rider.

The video shows the whole story of Warner Creek—from the October 1991 arson fire and the efforts to fight it to the arrests of four women at the Free State in 1996, the jail-house riot that followed and the joyous release of the four Warner Womyn. In between are stories of other western Oregon sales released under the rider, Ream's 79-day hunger strike, a wedding, folks around the wood stove in a tipi and a mycology lesson cross-cut with images of soul-searing forest destruction.

Footage comes from a variety of sources, including other movement videographers. But some of the most dramatic footage—the arrests of Lupine, Hemlock, Raven and Madrone on August 16, 1996—comes from the Freddies themselves and will be new to almost everyone on our side of a pastel green pickup. The visual telling of the arson that put the roadless area on the edge of the Waldo Wilderness into the salvage program in the first place—an event neither Ream nor Lewis witnessed, much less recorded—is a coup you'll have to see for yourself.

Lewis and Ream acknowledge that their footage focused more on action and less

on community, a skew they tried to address after the fact with cutting and narration by Ream. At two points the filmmakers specifically look at the role of women in the movement, having faced charges within the Cascadian community about gender balance in the film. By the end of *pickAxe*, however, this female reviewer felt no lack of women, especially seeing the strength of the four women who stayed locked to the road as the Freddies tore down the fortress, the tipis and everything else around them. The joy on the women's faces as they walk out of the Lane County Jail is nothing short of a miracle, and will do more to empower other women inside and outside of the movement, I think, than talking heads discussing patriarchy can ever do.

pickAxe does have main characters, mostly in the sense that certain faces become familiar over the course of the movie. Ream walks a thin line in our contentious community by inserting himself as narrator, but I believe it functions effectively as a device to give viewers a clear but relatively unintrusive thread to follow through the movie.

Far be it for me to encourage anyone to sit in front of a TV, but if you're going to do it, watching *pickAxe* is about as virtuous (and inspiring) as it gets. So bring your friends, toss some yeast and herbs on hot popcorn, pop the top on a good microbrew and kick your feet up. Next thing you know, you'll be sitting in your own road, snowed into your own tipi, creating more freedom and keeping another place safe from the bastards. At least for a while.

Want a copy of your very own? They're \$12 each, \$5 shipping no matter how many you get. To order send your check to *pickAxe* Productions, 1430 Willamette, POB 506, Eugene, OR 97401; 888-PICKAXE; www.pickaxe.org.



At the battlements: some of the heroes of the Cascadia Free State at Warner Creek.

WINONA CHRONICLES NATIVE RESISTANCE

BOOK REVIEW BY NAGER NERUAL

Winona LaDuke's most recent work, *All Our Relations*, is a lesson in traditional indigenous storytelling. The book is a survey of a wide variety of tribes, their devastating accumulations of environmental atrocities and how they stand to protect the minute fraction of culture and biodiversity that remains within the invisible boundaries called "reservations." The stories roam across the continent, from the Shoshone tribe and its life-threatening struggle with the Nevada Test Site to the Seminoles who put their bodies between the guns and developers threatening to kill the last of the Florida panthers and destroy their precious habitat. LaDuke brings the native peoples' voices to the pages of this book as they explain how environment, culture and religion are very much interrelated in the tribal way of life, explaining why it is that they continue to fight for the sacred land.

The survey of Native American struggles illustrate how exploitive our government has been to indigenous populations that refuse to play by the rules of multinational corporations.

Until recent years, British and American resource corporations, with the full backing of their home governments, roamed the world... plundering the raw materials of the people of Africa, Asia and America. Raw materials were extracted with little or no compensation to the people or governments in those areas. To secure control of these raw materials, a series of institutions were imposed on the people to foster dependency on the transnational corporations and their home governments. The raw materials became particularly important to the exploiting corpo-

rations and governments because of the high profits earned due to cheap labor and minimal royalties and taxes. In a sense, these resources fueled the industrial growth of the United States and Western Europe.

LaDuke relays infuriating tales of shady government deals that stole sacred forests and mountains and turned them into lumber and mining claims. The book lays out some of the most notorious environmental nightmares our country faces today, most of which are found on or directly adjacent to indigenous lands—General Motors, and its little problem with PCBs; the Seminoles and the shrinking swamplands they inhabit; corporations and the government clearcutting old-growth forests, building dams, bombs and coal mines and dumping nuclear waste; and the holocaust against buffalo in the name of public lands ranching. Shockingly, many of the tribes focused upon in this book struggle with multiple threats from outsiders:

Weyerhaeuser clearcuts a vast swath of what was tribal sacred forests before the government decides to use the "empty space" as a nuclear waste arsenal. Once that is in place, what is to stop the military from testing chemical weapons or detonating bombs? Once the land is so contaminated that livestock die and the people grow sick, the US will simply transplant these "wards" of the government to a new location and continue to destroy what is left. The results of these activities are quite simply genocide. Cancer rates soar, suicide, starvation, economic dependency and massive migration from the reservations follow, the end result, a culture that has

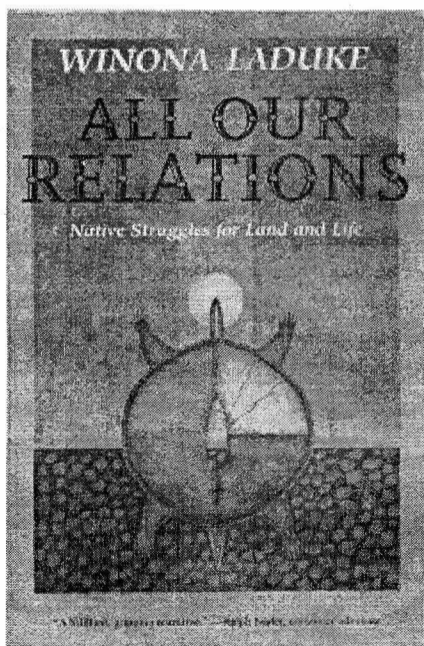
survived countless attacks throughout time teeters on the brink of disappearing forever.

The stories told, however, are not only to dramatize the victimization of native peoples and the rape of the land they survive upon, but also the incredible strength of individuals dedicating their lives to the cultural and ecological survival of their tribes and Mother Earth. Just as important as the lessons learned from the past, the stories of victories obtained in lawsuits, protests and prayer are used to empower the generations that will be responsible for the future. The successes many of these tribal activists secure not only protect their people but continue to ensure our planet's survival.

LaDuke gathers together the sentiment of indigenous peoples and brings forth their voices through the pages of this book. A Lil'wat grandmother, Loretta Pascal, summarizes the anguish of her people: "This is my reason for standing up: to protect all around us, to continue our way of life, our culture. I ask them, 'Where did you get your right to destroy these forests? How does your right supersede my rights?' These are our forests, these are our ancestors."

I highly recommend this book if you are at all interested in the interplay between environmental protection and cultural preservation of Native American peoples. Through better understanding of the myriad of similarities and differences between Native American activists and environmental groups, better coordination of our common goals is possible. There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge in the stories of the original preservationists of this continent and their attempts to continue to honor all our relations.

Winona LaDuke is an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Anishinaabeg. She is program director of the Honor the Earth Fund and founding director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project. She was the Green Party's candidate for US vice president in 1996 and will be again this year. She was named Ms. Woman of the Year in 1997 and received the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1998. Her prior novel was entitled *Last Standing Woman*.



Earth First! Trinkets and Snake Oil

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"I Had to be Born this Century"

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"Too Controversial"

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An uplifting travelogue of environmental activism, the music invokes the wild.

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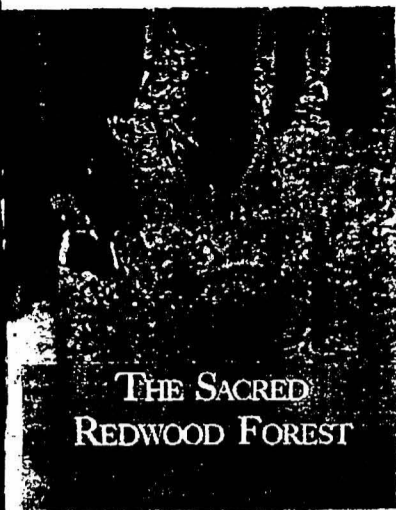
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As a condition of my ten year probation, I am not permitted to collect, handle or broker media samples for analysis, nor prepare, review or handle documents for the same. I have reimbursed my clients for the analysis costs relating to the altered records, and I have paid investigation costs and restitution to the Office of the State Attorney of \$1400 and \$893 to the Department of Environmental Protection.

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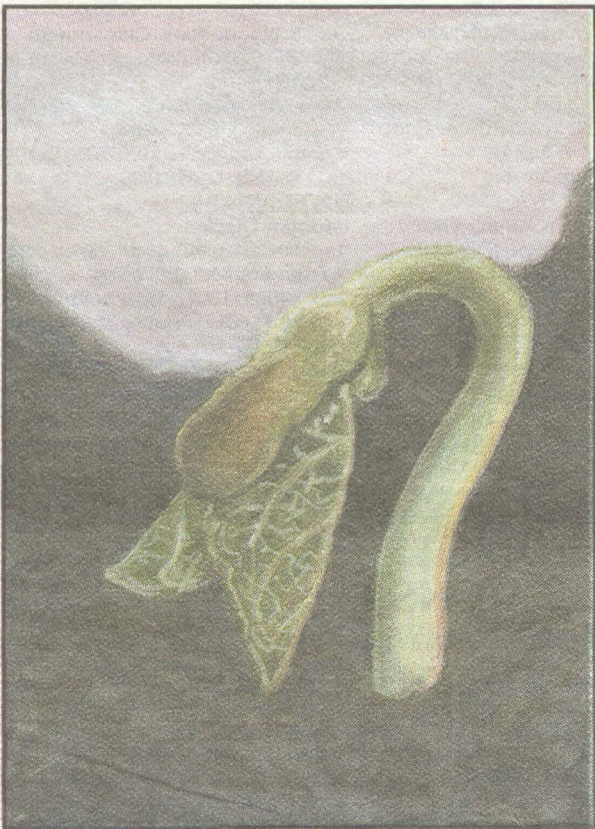
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