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Un Dia en la Región Zapatista

BY MARK LUCEY

As Chris and I walked along the dirt road leading out of the village of Morelia in Chiapas, the Mexican sun blazed down on our necks. I squinted despite the best efforts of my baseball cap and held the plastic cup of morning java that I had forgotten to put down in the sudden rush out of the cement building where we Peace Campers stay. A man from the village had shown up at the door, out of breath, and said, "El ejercito viene!" (The army is coming!) I shook Chris from his hammock, and the ten of us Peace Campers grabbed our cameras and raced out the door to join the community in blocking the army from entering the town.

The evening before we had attended a memorial service for three people who died during the January 1994 offensive when members of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) took over the local governments of several larger cities in Chiapas. Before the fighting gave over to peace talks between the EZLN and the Mexican government, numerous soldiers had died, including three from Morelia. Toward the end of the service, several men rushed into the building and announced that they had received word that the army was coming. I followed the running crowd of people out the door and



Photo by Christopher Day

"Devils! Assassins! Sons of Whores!" EZLN women chase the Mexican Army out of town.

down the road to the village entrance, when I suddenly realized the men had all disappeared. Only women and children were blockading the army!

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Yellowstone Slaughter Disrupted Bison Beats State 34-25

After last year's harrowing winter of government-sponsored buffalo killings, resulting in the death of 1,100 buffalo (over half the herd), the buffalo slaughter has been almost completely stopped. So far this season, 25 of 34 attempted captures have left the killers frustrated and empty-handed.

At dawn on December 29, 16 members of America's last wild bison herd went from Yellowstone National Park onto private land near the town of West Yellowstone, Montana. The landowner, who openly expresses antagonism toward buffalo, had threatened to have the animals killed if they "trespassed" onto his property. He allowed the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) to construct a capture facility on his land, a natural migration corridor between the park and the buffalo's winter range. Last winter most of the buffalo herded into such facilities were killed. The Buffalo Nations morning patrol, observing a freshly plowed road to the capture facility and unfamiliar vehicles, including a livestock trailer, decided to act.

Before any Department of Livestock agents were out of their trucks, cross-country skiers had slipped under a fence onto the property and quickly shepherded the buffalo to safety inside the park.

Buffalo Nations doesn't routinely haze the animals or otherwise interfere with their migration. However, with winter on its way, the buffalo can't afford to waste energy, nor can they be kept inside the park because their winter feeding grounds are outside it.

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Bison move out of Yellowstone Park.

MICKEY MOUSING WITH PUBLIC LANDS

BY SCOTT SILVER, WILD WILDERNESS

In the two most recent editions of the *Earth First! Journal*, Wild Wilderness, a natural recreation advocacy group, warned of the attack on our public lands from a new enemy. We named the culprit "industrial strength recreation" and identified its chief proponents as the pro-wise use, corporate-backed American Recreation Coalition (ARC), along with the usual cadre of right-wing Western congresspeople. This article focuses on where this trend is leading and gives specific examples of the potential implications.

It used to be that when we needed a nature fix, we'd jump in the car and head for the nearest mountain or desert. Once we finally pulled off the paved highway, what usually greeted us was a fairly natural outdoor experience. Unfortunately, that type of free-wheeling experience is about to go extinct because federal land managers want to turn nature into a "product" and then repackage it, market it and sell it in the form of differentiated "brands" of value-added recreation.

Public lands managers are working from basic tenets that are key to their new recreation paradigm. These tenets hold that:

1) Public lands recreation must be self-supporting. The Demonstration Recreation Fee Program recently implemented on many public lands, with the ARC as the program's private partner, is expected to generate only \$300 million over the next six years. In order for recreation to fully "pay its own way," access fees would need to be increased dramatically or additional businesses would need to be operated upon public lands.

2) "Interpretation," through informational signage, guided nature tours and the like will be heavily emphasized. This trend is led by two organizations, The National Association for Interpretation and the Disney Corporation, an ARC sustaining member. In 1995, Disney signed a memorandum of understanding with the US Forest Service (USFS),

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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CENSORING THE JOURNAL

There was some controversy over making the Bozeman Activists Conference into the Missoula Organizers Conference and Winter Rendezvous. At one point, some of the original Bozeman organizers even suggested that there was no need to have the conference because there's nothing to talk about. As the muckrakers and troublemakers of the movement, we here at the *Journal* wanted to make sure that there's something to talk about.

At a party not long after the Samhain issue came out, I overheard some friends talking about the *Journal*. One woman was saying, "I loved it. I think every new Earth Firster should have to read that article once a day. They should be quizzed on it." "Really?," asked the man she was talking to. "I picked the paper up, saw that and thought to myself, 'This is why I never read the *Journal*.'" I knew immediately that their heated conversation was about Samhain's op-ed, "The Cult of Nonviolence."

Those responses were but two voices in the cacophony of reactions we received to the piece. In addition to Rod Coronado's excellent op-ed that ran last issue, we also wanted to run three other responses—one that argues for nonviolence, one that couches the criticism of dogma from "The Cult of Nonviolence" in a biting analysis of a particular EF! campaign, and one that, arguably, advocates violence.

That last piece begins, "If someone broke into your home and tried to steal everything you had and kill your family, what would you do? A: Make a banner and call the media. B: Call a lawyer and file a restraining order. C: Chain yourself to the front door." From there, the author passionately advocates for a vigorous self-defense of the Earth, our home.

As you know, none of those other pieces ran last issue. As you read this issue, you'll notice that they aren't here either.

At the 1993 EF! Activists Conference, it was consensed that the *EF! Journal* shall not print any material "that could reasonably be interpreted to advocate violence or physical harm to human beings." After that, at the 1993 EF! Rendezvous, a proposal for structuring a new *Journal* collective was consensed on. That proposal included the statement that, "We welcome submissions of articles, letters, poetry and art that put the Earth first, build the Earth First! movement and advance the creation of a world wild and free of speciesism, racism, sexism, violence, exploitation and oppression."

At this year's Organizers Conference, the staff of the *Earth First! Journal* intends to challenge any policy censoring what we may print. We feel that the very self-critical debate provoked by the "Cult of Nonviolence" is some of the healthiest the *Journal* has inspired in years. In deciding to postpone the debate, the five editors read the pieces many times with fine-tooth combs, flushing out every single implication and supposition. We had a number of trusted friends and advisors review them. We discussed many different combinations of editing, running, dumping and bumping the responses.

In the end, the decision we made had less to do with the quality of the pieces than the politics of the matter. That's not an easy thing for journalists and editors to admit. It is why the staff of the *Journal* intends to raise the issue of the rules censoring the paper at the Organizers Conference. That debate is sure to ruffle some people's feathers, much like the articles will. But, in the end, if we haven't ruffled some feathers, have we really done our job?

Words are just words. Those who take exception to certain combinations of words, reject them outright, commit a logical crime cloaked in an ugly insistence called censorship. The power of words is in their ability to touch truth through logic. I urge and welcome all those people who think the *Journal* should unfailingly abide by a rule censoring this debate to dust off their logical caps, pick up a pen and put into words the truth of nonviolence.

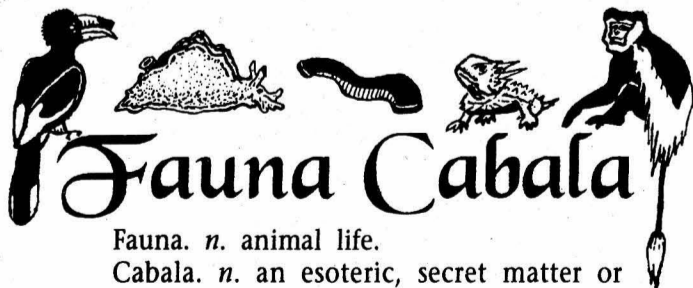
That invitation, of course, extends to those who might want to argue the truth of something besides strict nonviolence. Myself, I think it's going to be difficult to argue that EF! has reached the point where individual acts of violence would advance our ends or that a united group of people, willing to use violence, is prepared to systematically defeat the military industrial complex and bring down the grand poobah of oppressors.

With all that said, it's important to know that the *Journal* staff is not interested in re-airing a tired debate speaking in generalities about the abstract question of nonviolence versus violence. Those who want to submit would do well to reread "The Cult of Nonviolence" and observe that the questions posed there aren't even about nonviolence versus violence, but about dogma and open-mindedness. We feel that this debate is timely and important right now because many EF!ers think the movement has reached an impasse—not one where violence is suddenly an option, but where it is clear that some of our tactics are worn out.

Submissions on this topic should be concise, powerful and no more than 800 words. Submissions that challenge old assumptions and deconstruct weary dialectics will be looked upon especially favorably, as will those that respect the difference between nonviolence, civil disobedience, passive resistance, property damage and violence.

Finally, dear reader, know that these questions aren't ones we have taken up lightly. We've talked a lot about the risks of hurting feelings. We've talked about the risk of supplying ammunition to those who use it against us and the Earth. We've thought about the risk of losing our jobs. In the end, we decided the greatest risk would be retarding a healthy debate that could shape the future of our movement.

—LACEY PHILLABAUM



Fauna Cabala

Fauna. *n.* animal life.

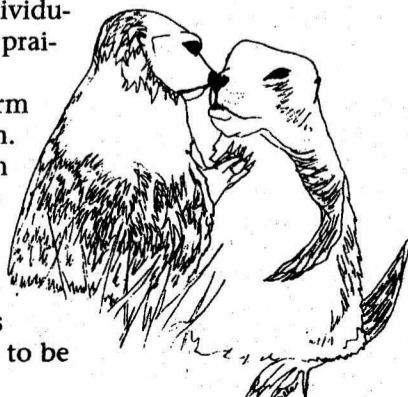
Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious act.

Prairie dogs not only cry wolf, they cry dark, fat wolf. Often under the shadow of predators, Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) have developed a language system. These animals, who tongue-kiss to identify each other, scream. Their screams say "hawk," "coyote," "dog," or "human," as well as convey information about shape and color. This species even differentiates between humans,

who have preyed upon them for at least 150 years, based upon body shape and color of clothing. Such an ability is clearly advantageous since predators vary in hunting skills, and particular individuals may often frequent a prairie dog colony.

Predator-specific alarm calls are likely common. They have also been found in vervet monkeys, domestic fowl and the California ground squirrel. The semantic calls of the Gunnison's prairie dog are the first to be elucidated.

BY FAITH WALKER



Earth First! Journal Brigid

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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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February 25

The Sierra Club Ballot: Environmentalism or Racism

BY MICHAEL DORSEY, SIERRA CLUB BOARD

This spring, the Sierra Club membership will face an important ballot question on population policy and immigration, concurrent with the election of new members to the board of directors. Members will vote on one of two positions.

One position argues for a "comprehensive US population policy." It made it to the ballot through the petitioning efforts of a small faction of club activists. Supported by Dave Foreman and various right-wing foundations and organizations, like the Weeden Foundation and the National Grassroots Alliance, a group of "immigration control advocates" in Northern California, this faction argues that a reduction in US population growth is only possible through a "reduction in net immigration." This position targets immigrants as the cause of our domestic environmental problems.

The other ballot position argues that if Sierra Club members and environmental activists really want to do something about the population problem then a truly comprehensive policy is needed. Such a policy would address not only US immigration, but migration and the factors that drive it—the lack of economic security, human rights and access to adequate health care and nutrition. This measure was placed on the ballot by the board of directors and has drawn the widespread support of club leaders, as well as many other environmental organizations, activists, scholars and government representatives.

There are many reasons why the Sierra Club should take no position on immigration. First and foremost, immigration is only remotely an environmental issue. No doubt, wild rivers are filled to the brim with toxic and solid waste. But do we blame immigrants or the US chemical companies that amass numerous violation of the Clean Water Act for that? No doubt, wildlands have been spoiled by the never-ending press of suburban sprawl. But do we blame immigrants or consumer culture? Environmental issues in the US are inextricably bound to irresponsible patterns of consumption and poor resource management. Blaming immigrants will not solve our environmental problems.

North Americans are making a mess. The US, with only five percent of the world's population, consumes 32 percent of the world's petroleum and plastics and produces 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gases. Our 265 million residents produce more solid waste than the one and a half billion people in China and India.

It is specious to consider our per capita excess as an argument to close the borders, rather it strongly suggests that we need to change our super-consuming economy. It is patently absurd that here in the US we consume and destroy our resources like no society on Earth and then actually use that as a rationalization against immigration.

Immigration is not the cause of sprawl. Immigration is not the cause of corporate pollution. Immigration is not the cause of phosphorous loading on Eastern shore farms. Slowing immigration addresses none of these threats.

The Sierra Club's interest in population issues has been, until this moment, properly deliberate. The issues of global population growth and the environment are indeed serious and worthy of attention. The club is absolutely justifiable in its strong



Dear Mexico,
We have decided that you are destroying the environment of the Divided States of AmeriKkKa.

As a result, we are asking that you leave. Please take all of your toxic waste, corporate greed, clearcuts, cars, weapons, and drugs. We will then be able to return to the pristine wild lands we had before you came and ruined it all.

good bye from,
The
BOYS CLUB

With the Vigor of John Muir

BY DAVID ORR

The outcome of the upcoming annual Sierra Club board of directors elections will surely ripple throughout the entire environmental movement and the largest, oldest environmental organization in the country. This year's contest promises to be one of the most contentious in recent history: three candidate slates, 22 candidates and a highly controversial ballot initiative. The battle lines are drawn, and three camps are squaring off: the board's nominees (the Old Guard), a group of petitioners calling itself Sierrans for US Population Stabilization and the John Muir Sierrans (JMS) led by former club director David Brower.

Founded in 1990, JMS is an alliance of Sierra Club activists united under the banner of reinstalling the vision and vigor of John Muir into the venerable Sierra Club. The JMS petition-candidates slate for 1998 is the largest yet, reflecting the increasing interest in making significant change in the club. The candidates include Forest Service reformer Jeff DeBonis, environmental justice lawyer Veronica Eady, grizzly bear-reintroduction activist Jennifer Ferenstein, wood-use reduction campaign cofounder Emily Miggins, Zero Cutter David Orr, anti-grazing and wilderness-protection activist Susan Schock and Illinois Environmental Council cofounder Richard Worthen.

John Muir Sierrans seek to set the terms of the debate on core issues of public lands and wildlife protection, and efforts to maintain and strengthen our environmental protection laws. JMS call for enactment of the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act to end the timber sale program on federal public lands. JMS call on the Sierra Club to adopt a campaign to end livestock grazing, mining and petroleum exploration on public lands as well.

Contact the John Muir Sierrans at 30 North Raymond Ave. #514, Pasadena, CA 91103; (626) 792-0109; fax 792-1565; e-mail: JMSierrans@aol.com; <http://members.aol.com/JMSierrans/JMSlate.html>.

support for full funding of global family planning programs, for example. But wading into the issue of US immigration—drawing the line at the US border—is perhaps the ultimate act of NIMBYism. Environmentalists are fond of saying that pollution knows no borders, so it is ironic that some environmentalists would argue for greater control over those artificial political boundaries. Indeed, it smacks of elitism, domination, jingoism and paternalism. But worst of

all, a strain of racism lurks just under the surface.

In the essay "Pulling up the Ladder: the Anti-Immigrant Backlash" author Doug Brugge writes, "It is the issue of jobs and the environment that provide the right's anti-immigrant campaign its strongest entree into mainstream attitudes." Brugge offers the Sierra Club's coming ballot question as evidence. Indeed, a quick check of the internet home page of David Duke shows that in the middle of a horrifyingly racist plank comes the statement, "I will fight to limit overpopulation and protect our environment by stopping illegal immigration and almost all legal immigration into America."

The reality is that immigration into the US in the 1990s is only slightly more in absolute numbers (nine million or so) than between 1900 and 1910 (8.8 million). On a percentage basis, immigration into the US is much smaller now—barely one third of what it was back then. Furthermore, the current proportion of foreign-born US residents is only eight percent, high by recent standards but lower than every decade between 1850 and 1950. The main difference? Today's immigrants aren't uniformly European and white.

The problem with the immigration issue in a "population and environment" discussion is that, despite the claims of objectivity, neutrality and the use of slippery-slope terms like "carrying capacity" and "quality of life," population control always comes down to two questions: which populations and by whom?

The ballot initiative that Sierra Club members will face this spring would oblige many to reconsider their membership if passed. Many Sierrans have already written to renounce their membership over the misaligned position. More will follow if the Sierra Club falls into the anti-immigrant malaise.

What can you do? If you're a Sierra Club member and you want to keep the organization strong and effective, resist the immigration ballot trap by voting for a Sierra Club policy that reaffirms a commitment to addressing the causes of global population problems. This policy argues that the key to working on population is by protecting the rights of all families to

reproductive health care, empowering women, and addressing the real causes of international migration by encouraging environmental sustainability, economic security and human rights in all nations and communities. Sierra Club members would be wise to debunk the anti-immigration proposal as nothing less than a mean-spirited attempt at scapegoating and discrimination that doesn't add strength to the environmental movement or put the Earth first.

Letters to the Editors

Dear sphincter for skulls,

How about a little more diversity in coverage? There is Earth First! outside of California, you know. If we want to hear about Headwaters, we can tune into CNN. Otherwise, you pump out a killer rag.

—MOE HAIR

Dear EF/J,

Thank you for mentioning the outcome of the Gandalf Trial. I have but one concern in your

reporting of the trial. You claim "The Gandalf Defendants claim they were infiltrated by a secret police provocateur who assisted in writing of many of the articles found 'inciting.'"

This is untrue and I would like you to print a retraction. This scare story was started by the General Editor of GA who is a) incredibly paranoid b) can't accept responsibility for his own actions. The main stuff regarded as inciting was 1) the Diary of

Animal Liberation which I compiled. 2) The Ecodefence Diary which I helped to compile. 3) The fact that *Green Anarchist* mail order sold *Into the 1990s with the ALF!* That was the main evidence. These scare stories of agent provocateurs are put out by an ego-head. The Gandalf Trial is about free speech and the dissemination of Animal/Earth Lib news. Not about inciting material.

For Animal/Earth liberation,
—NOEL MOLLAND CK4321, HMP
GUYS MARSH, SHAFTSBURY, DORSET,
ENGLAND SP7 0AH

[Ed. note: We were greeted by this message on our answering machine one morning]

"Yeah, I just received your December-January edition of *Earth First!* I'm reading it. I'm a hardened environmentalist; I have been for the last 30 years. I thought I was doing something good by joining Earth First! "On page four, I see this thing about a 'wolf whose spirit will never be broken to Mumia Abu Jamal' in the 'Wolves & Poodles.'"

continued on page 30



THE GRANDEUR OF THE

GREAT NORTH WOODS

BY JAKE KREILICK

It is late autumn and I am driving west from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, back to Big Sky country. My body and mind are weary from nine weeks of rabble-rousing and life on the road. As is my tradition, I stop at Shiprock, a remnant from the Pleistocene, to climb the sandstone monolith. The oaks have dropped their leaves, signaling the onset of winter, but the sky is clear and the air crisp. My fingers soon feel the numbing effects

south. I am struck by the tremendous human modifications of central Wisconsin. This was Leopold's stomping grounds when he wrote *Sand County Almanac*. In the 50 years since his death, the integrity of the landscape has been drastically compromised.

In this area and south to where the glaciers stopped, wetland, prairie and savanna would have interspersed with forest, forming a dynamic landscape mosaic. Now the area immediately around Shiprock is broken by agricultural fields, tree farms and aspen whips.

tem processes. Undoubtedly, the ground flora, soil organisms and humus were vastly different in the original forests than in current forests, which has a preponderance of maple and aspen.

Of all the forested regions in the US, none is as "ecologically challenged" as the Great Lakes. Long a haven for the logging industry, the region now supplies an enormous amount of wood for pulp and paper mills that dot the landscape. Indeed, the Fox River Valley, flowing into Green Bay, contains the highest concentration of pulp and paper mills in the world. From an economic perspective, the region's reliance on wood products (particularly pulp and paper) is as firmly ingrained in the culture as the Green Bay Packers.

Ironically, the Great Lakes also provide a recreational haven for large segments of the region's population, thanks in large part to all the fresh water and forests. The people who work in the mills and rely on logging and wood-chipping also rely on the recreational opportunities that the North Woods provide. Ultimately something has to give, and forest protection groups and activists face a challenge in convincing the Great Lakes populace that the region's ecology will collapse before the economy. It's clear that many citizens and communities are not aware of the current condition of the region's forests. Many people identify with the ethos of the North Woods, but blindly support the dominant paradigm of industrial forestry—it'll grow back.

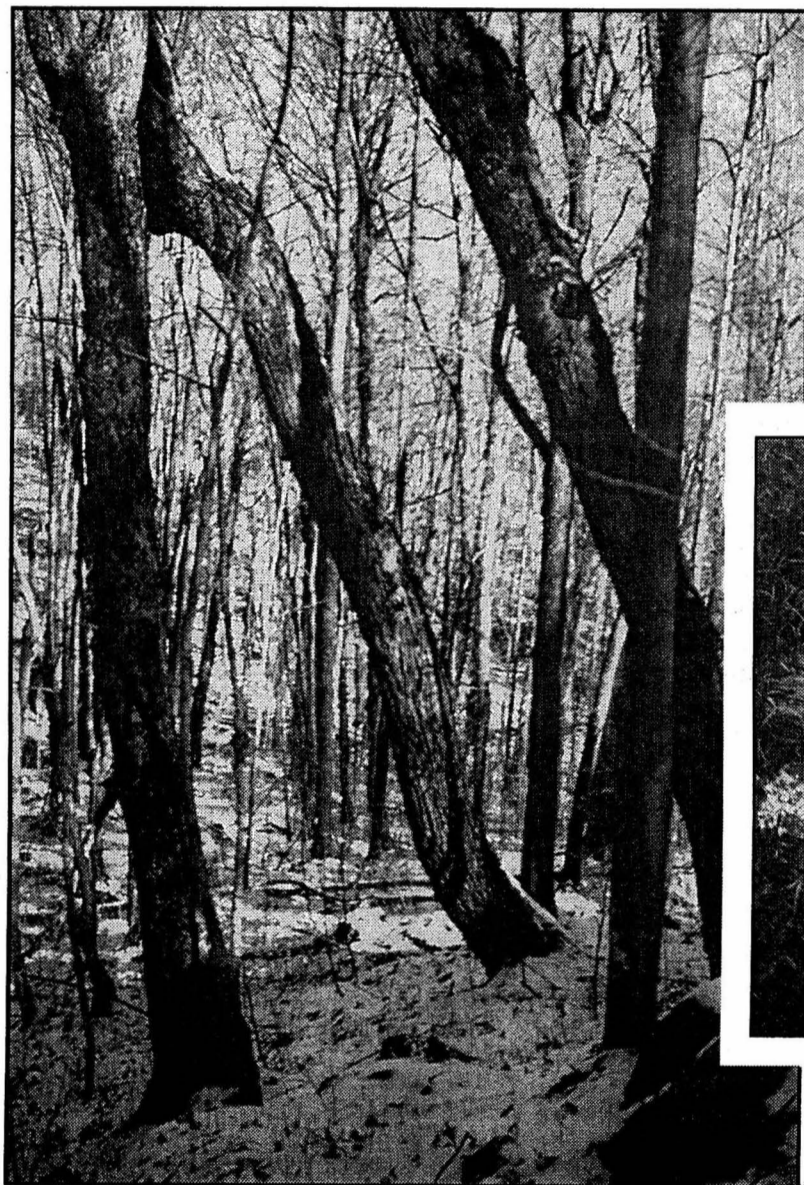
While public concern over the transformation of the Great Lakes forests has not generated the volume there are rumblings. The environmental community in the Great Lakes is beginning to galvanize around forest issues. Last year's blockade by Earth First! at the Little Alfie timber sale in Minnesota's Superior National Forest is one indication that forest protection is gaining momentum (See article on facing page). The Forest Reform Rally, held last fall next to the Boundary Waters Wilderness outside Ely, Minnesota, was well-attended and offers another hopeful sign. Organized by the Superior Wilderness Action Network (SWAN), the resulting consensus on the Zero-Cut strategy is an important step towards protection and restoration of all public forests.

The upper Great Lakes states (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan) contain seven national forests: the Chippewa and Superior in Minnesota; the Chequamegon and Nicolet in Wisconsin; and the Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee in Michigan. These forests are far from pristine but are in far better condition than adjacent corporate lands. Many forests on federal lands are approaching maturity and retain a high conservation value. Of course, this fact has been lost on the Forest Service, which still values logging over biodiversity.

The Eastern timber wolf continues to migrate from Minnesota into Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Fisher and pine marten were reintroduced in the area in the 1960s and are doing well. Moose are found across the region, although brainworm, a parasite passed from white-tail deer, has adversely affected the population. Black bears, coyotes, bobcats and river otters are relatively abundant, and both the Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources admit that Eastern cougars are present. In short, the upper Great Lakes contain enough public land to enable viable populations of native species to survive. However, the habitat they rely on—older forests with low human numbers—is dwindling.

Last fall I flew over the Ottawa National Forest with Lighthawk. The Ottawa is located in the western UP and contains some of the finest native forest left in the region. The Porcupine Mountains State Park, adjacent

continued on next page



**FOX RIVER VALLEY,
FLOWING INTO GREEN
BAY, CONTAINS THE
HIGHEST CONCENTRATION
OF PULP AND PAPER
MILLS IN THE WORLD.**



Off-road vehicles leave tracks in the Great North Woods (above). Throughout the Great Lakes region, pristine forests are dwindling due to bad forestry practices.

Photos by Doug Cornett

as I climb the crack on Shiprock's backside. I've climbed this route many times, but it's always a challenge—particularly wearing topsiders and sporting a few extra pounds. I wedge my arms and legs into assorted nooks and crannies and squirm upward. Soon I am on top, standing above the tree line.

I gaze over a landscape that was once blanketed with ice. To the southwest, I see a couple of large glacial mounds covered in conifers. To the north, I scan the forested terrain sloping gently to the largest watershed in the state. The Wisconsin, river of a thousand isles, stretches 430 miles from Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) to the Mississippi River. I close my eyes and visualize glaciers sculpting the sandstone formations of the Wisconsin Dells, followed by torrents of melt water gouging out the canyon as the great ice sheet receded north. The Winnebago Indians called the Dells "Neehahkecoonahera" or "the place where the rocks strike together." I visualize the frozen seeds and cones thawing, sprouting and forming a forested skin, growing upward and outward, recolonizing the land and recreating the Great North Woods, complete with its vast system of rivers, streams, lakes, bogs and wetlands.

I open my eyes and turn to the east and then the

The native forest has been reduced to adolescence.

What did the Great North Woods look like prior to European settlement and the onslaught of large-scale agriculture and logging? The US Forest Service is asking now that many private and public forests resemble pine plantations or aspen thickets. Essentially, 19th century high-grading and 20th century industrial forestry "have resulted in a reduced range of tree sizes and ages in the regional forest and have simplified the structure and composition of the regional forest," according to the Forest Service.

Across the region, hemlock-hardwood associations once composed nearly 50 percent of the North Woods forests. Pine forests were also common and covered nearly 25 percent of the land. Many hardwood stands were dominated by sugar maple, now one of the most economically important species. In communities such as the Red Cliff Indian Reservation, sugar maples produce maple syrup and are an important non-timber forest product. American elm and yellow birch were also prevalent prior to European invasion, but are now in decline. Logging of dominant conifers like white and red pine, and subsequently yellow birch and other mature hardwoods in second-growth forests, caused extensive habitat loss and fundamental alterations in ecosys-

Great Lakes

continued from previous page

to the Ottawa, contains over 30,000 acres of old growth and represents the largest tract of virgin forest in the Great Lakes. The Sylvania Wilderness Area, along the border of the UP and Wisconsin, contains nearly 20,000 acres of virgin forest, much of it old-growth white pine and Eastern hemlock—and was formerly a hunting estate for auto executives.

We looked at two contested timber sales that target some of the older recovering forests in the Ottawa, the Old M-64 Hardwoods and West Hide II. The Trap Hills east of the Porkies are primarily composed of hardwood species including Northern red oak, sugar maple, yellow birch and trembling aspen. Cut in the 1930s, the Trap Hills have regenerated as a haven for numerous rare plants and animals, and the area is the largest roadless area in the Ottawa outside designated wilderness. This sale has not yet been cut and will ultimately be challenged in court. Unfortunately, West Hide II is currently being logged, much to the chagrin of a local landowner whose family homesteaded the area in the 1920s.

Although Zero Cut is the hottest national forest campaign, plenty of potential exists to work on other aspects of forest loss. Some of the most effective environmental campaigns in the country have occurred in the Great Lakes around toxic discharges from paper mills and mines. Links have been initiated with people working on these issues to establish a network that views forest destruction as the beginning of the pulp and paper manufacturing process. Toxic groups have gained credibility in the region and will be key organizing allies, essential in generating public support.

The past should serve as a reference point to direct the future of both public and private lands. Citizens must put in context the transformation of the Great Lakes landscape, starting with the cutting of original forests to build the cities, towns and factories of the Midwest. At the turn

of the century, as the technology for making paper was improved, pulp and paper mills arrived, further changing the make-up of the forest. Sugar maple is the only climax species that has adapted to these altered conditions. Most of the structural heterogeneity and species diversity of the natural forests has been lost.

Today, the Great Lakes countryside is vastly different from when Native Americans paddled in birch bark canoes and French explorers probed the waterways for a passage to Asia.

Where once only two percent of the forests were aspen, now over 50 percent of the forest is composed of this species, which reproduces by cloning.

From a socioeconomic perspective, the once "Great North Woods" ain't doing so well. Sawmills are closed, factories abandoned, unemployment is high. Automation has eliminated many logging and paper mill jobs. Pulp and paper mills continue to contribute to deforestation and toxic pollution. How much longer can upper level management in companies such as Mead, Champion International and Consolidated Paper deceive workers and communities? Having perfected the art of "adolescent forestry," today's timber barons now reign over a tattered landscape of depauperate forests. Incredibly, in places like Brainerd, Minnesota, the legend of Paul Bunyan still flourishes.

Forest practices must change drastically for the North Woods to have any chance of recovery. Forest activists in the Great Lakes and the rest of the country need to do something about this. Despite what the timber industry and government agencies have ravaged, there is still a sense of wildness in the Great

North Woods. Perhaps it will take another Ice Age before the wounds are healed, but I am intent on speeding up the process. For more information contact the Superior Wilderness Action Network at 2052 Carroll Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104; (612) 646-6277; e-mail: fenner@pioneerplanet.infi.net. North Woods Wilderness Recovery can be reached at POB 122, Marquette, MI 49855; (906) 225-1938; e-mail: drcomet@up.net.



Photo by Doug Cornett

Today, Trap Hill, or the M-64 Hardwoods sale, is predominately aspen. The Midwest's industrial boom marked an end to diversity within the forests of the Great Lakes.

Hot Battle in the Cold North

BY BECCA

Big Woods Earth First! celebrated the New Year by intensifying the campaign to defend our national forests. A road blockade erected on January 1, 1998, halted the start of logging operations in Little Alfie, a stand of old red and white pines in Minnesota's Superior National Forest bordering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Over a dozen Minnesotans, joined by concerned EF!ers from Wisconsin, camped out for over a week in the infamous freezing Midwest winter. The blockade gained instantaneous triumph, not only in the media and the hearts of Minnesotans, but also through a January 21 ruling by a federal judge to halt the logging of Little Alfie until he hears a case that seeks to permanently stop the cut. This is the second year a blockade stopped logging in Little Alfie!

The main tools in our campaign have not been lockboxes or tripods, but links built with loggers, environmentalists and activists—both urban and rural. We invited all concerned parties (including the freddies) to come to our campfire and chat over coffee; those chats lead to the realization that we all share the desire for sustainable forestry practices in our North Woods. The blockade was successful only because it was accompanied by press conferences and rallies in Minneapolis, tours of Little Alfie (for those who couldn't risk arrest),

lawsuits and the dedication of life-long environmentalists across the state.

Big Woods Earth First! started the Little Alfie campaign in December 1996 when activists camped in the road for 12 days to prevent logging in the illegal timber sale. Last winter, the blockade ended when the Forest Service admitted that it failed to perform an environmental impact statement (EIS) on Little Alfie and pulled the sale. The blockade forced the Forest Service to reexamine its mismanagement of forests across all of Minnesota. All 500 timber sales were examined, and over 38 sales were immediately suspended! This summer, the Forest Service announced the completion of an EIS and despite all appeals (surprise, surprise!) ruled that Little Alfie should be logged. Immediately Earth First!ers began planning a state-wide forest campaign.

We opened the Action Resource Center in Minneapolis, a community center dedicated to supporting and promoting nonviolent direct action. The Action Resource Center and the collectively run Seward Cafe became urban hubs for the Little Alfie campaign. Through the center, we coordinated a tour of the Little Alfie site. We rented vans to go from the Twin Cities to Little Alfie and were surprised when around a hundred people showed up! We talked with loggers and folks from the neighboring towns. Apparently last year's blockade is still reminisced about. Later

we announced our four demands:

- 1) permanent protection of Little Alfie;
- 2) economic security for all timber workers by creating safe, good paying, sustainable jobs restoring our forests;
- 3) Zero Cut on all public lands;
- 4) regeneration, not liquidation, of the Great Lake forests.

As a newer Earth First! group, we redefined the forestry debate in Minnesota. Imagine our surprise when last summer Big Woods Earth First! was invited to sit at the table with the timber industry and the Department of Natural Resources to increase state-wide public participation regarding forest policies. Working with allies like the Industrial Workers of the World and the Superior Wilderness Action Network enabled us to drive home the message that it's no longer about environmentalists versus loggers; it's about creating an economically and environmentally sustainable bioregion.

The battle's not over, and we are always looking for donations of winter camping gear, climbing equipment and kick-ass activists who want to brave the wild, wild winters here in Minnesota. If you are in the area and want to join us, please call us at the Big Woods Earth First! Hotline at (612) 362-3387 or write POB 580936, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0936. For more information about our new Action Resource Center call (612) 825-4745.

FRONTLINES

Grey Guerrillas Strike

A new generation of "grey guerrillas" is on the march, and their commanding officers are discussing strategy. England's Pensioners' Rights Campaign is a splinter group of the highly respectable National Pensioners' Convention, which has about 2 million members. For years it has lobbied for a better deal for pensioners, to no avail. Now the 5,000-strong Pensioners' Rights Campaign says the time for talking is over.

Its activists have taken to the streets twice this year, causing chaos. Just before the general election, a small contingent blocked Leicester's main street and held up traffic for more than an hour. Their leader was well over 70 and bent almost double. In September, seven members with a collective age of more than 500 moved with military precision into position on the Humber Bridge, the world's largest single-span construction. Within minutes there was a two-mile traffic jam.

Chief of staff was Chris Frith, 74, a dapper man with a neat beard, jacket, shirt and tie. "I've got to the age when I am fed up of being treated like a second-class citizen. Humber Bridge was a pilot; we wanted to see if direct action works—it does."

None of the petitioners were injured, but Frith said he feared for his life at one point. "We explained to drivers that we were protesting the erosion of pensions and most were sympathetic. But there was a security guard who tried to provoke violence. He was screaming at this guy in a van 'run the bugger over.' The van knocked me to my knees."

"It only takes a few of us to cause massive disruption. But we must be prepared for the police to charge us and to start smashing heads. Illegality is the only way," one elderly woman warned her comrades at a meeting, earning applause.

Like all guerrillas, the rights campaign warriors refuse to divulge their next action. Airports have been discussed, and one faction is keen to close a tunnel. Next time there will be more than one target, with operations in five or six cities, timed for maximum media impact.

The pensioners' case is simple. State pensions were once linked to the national average wage, but Margaret Thatcher changed the criteria and linked them to the retail price index, reducing their value at a stroke. Mr. Frith and his comrades want the link with the average wage restored.

Peter Kendall, a member of the Humberbridge brigade, cannot wait for the next operation. "The politicians just pat us on the head and say how marvelous we are. They think we are going to kick the bucket. If they think they can award themselves massive pay increases then tell us we have to accept what they give us, then they had better watch out."

Zero-Cut Banner Hang

Early in the morning of January 7, two climbers hung from an overpass on I-84 in Portland, Oregon with a banner proclaiming "Zero Cut on National Forests. Save Cove/Mallard." The banner stayed in place for an hour and a half during rush hour before arrests were made and the banner was removed.

The banner hang was timed with a Cove/Mallard hearing and a noon-time rally where 150 people from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana showed up to support Zero Cut.

TUSCON PYGMYS HALT URBAN SPRAWL

Tiny Endangered Owl Stops Development on Outskirts of City of 700,000

BY LACEY PHILLABAUM

"It's a big game for these folks," says Lewis Tenney, an owner of Precision Pulp and Timber Company in Herber, Arizona. "They get up in the morning and try to figure out how to make people's lives miserable." Not so, say the activists trying to save the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl. But whether the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity is trying to save species or make developers and loggers miserable, they are succeeding at both.

The last of the seven-inch-tall, two-ounce cactus pygmy owls live in desert washes and high-elevation areas with lush vegetation in and around Tucson, Arizona. Government surveys in 1997 found only 12 of the tiny, red-tinged birds, down from 19 the year before. Once, it was common to see them in large numbers near streamside thickets, mesquite cottonwood woodlands and thorn scrub. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) says the owls' historic habitat extended along 650 miles of Southwestern streams—290 miles of which run through Arizona.

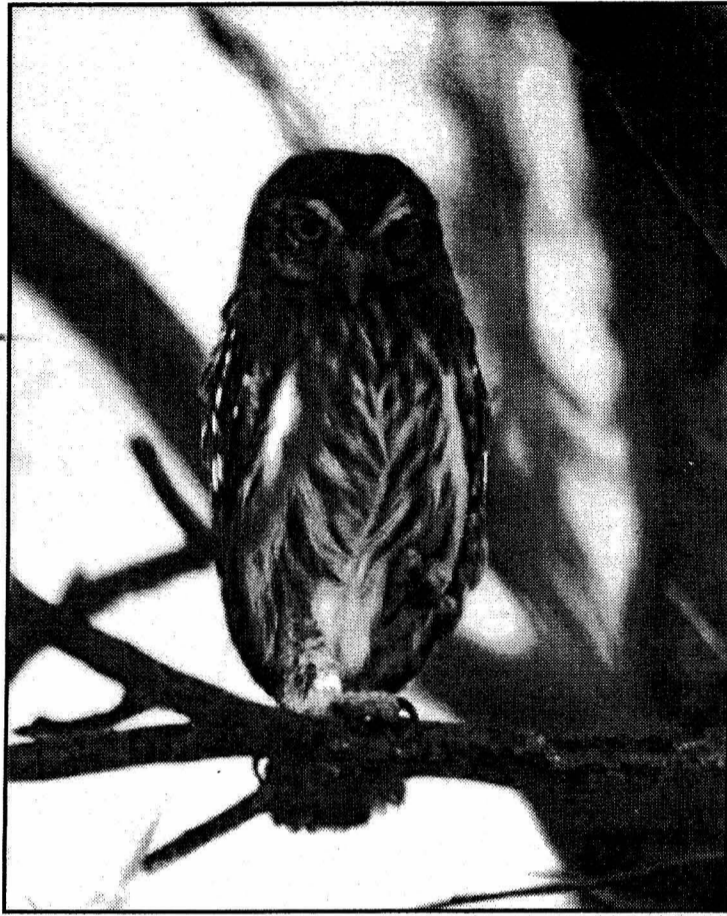
Because of the precipitous decline of the owl, it was proposed for listing as an endangered species in December 1994. It was finally listed as endangered in March 1997. In the tried and true tradition of the USFWS, however, critical habitat has not been designated. The Southwest Center is currently engaged in litigation to force habitat designation.

While the federal wheels of justice grind, however, local authorities have decided to take matters into their own hands. In late November 1997, the Pima County Board of Supervisors placed a two-week freeze on new permits in a 16-square-mile area, home to eight of the last pygmy owls. The northwest side of Tucson covered by the freeze is the city's fastest-growing area, cluttered with real estate signs for future developments. Local authorities have been forced between a rock and a hard place by the federal government, which has failed to designate habitat but has also warned the county that

local agencies could be sued for allowing development of habitat vital to the owl's survival. Two federal judges have ruled in separate cases that local and state officials can be held liable for issuing permits to developers who damage endangered species habitat. Supervisor Sharon Bronson lashed out at the USFWS for its inaction saying "If the

west Center says the guidelines don't go far enough, citing surveys that show similar species range over 279 acres and require buffers larger than 160 acres. In addition, he points out that only a few of the 12 known pygmy owls are in pairs, and the regulations would keep owls away from each other, threatening their survival. "Pygmy owls don't have dating services," he joked, "They need land... to survive. You can't just draw circles around them."

On December 19, in response to the weak voluntary guidelines suggested by the USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife, the Southwest Center and Desert Watch filed suit against the Army Corps of Engineers to block further developments that threaten the endangered owl. The Corps is in charge of permitting developments that require a land owner to alter streams, rivers or washes cutting through their properties. The suit alleges that the Corps routinely approves development permits without holding public hearings, conducting environmental impact



Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl

Fish and Wildlife Service would just come forward and do something definitive, that would help. We can't do their job for them."

Unfortunately, on December 17, when the USFWS issued guidelines for property owners proposing to build on potential habitat, its action was less than definitive. The USFWS directive requires that owl surveys be conducted by all landowners who want to clear vegetation within northwest Tucson. But, federal officials failed to set the boundaries of the area in which surveys will be required, and much of Tucson meets the criteria. Landowners who do find owls within 160 acres of a proposed development will be asked to develop a habitat conservation plan. Peter Galvin of the South-

studies or searching for more suitable development sites, violating numerous environmental laws. It also alleges that the Corps has repeatedly failed to consult with the USFWS on the cumulative impacts of developments like a 9,000-unit residential complex. "We are trying to push the Corps toward a more systematic approach of protecting valuable riparian habitat," said Bill Snape of Defenders of Wildlife. "The owl is an early indicator of a severe problem."

Conversely, the Society for Environmental Truth, a pro-industry group in Tucson that has taken stands on behalf of ranchers and coal utilities, plans to sue the government for inappropriately listing the owl under the Endangered Species Act. The Society claims

that the USFWS had insufficient scientific evidence to determine that the owl should be put on the endangered species list and that the owl has never been abundant in Arizona.

The actions of the Southwest Center have clearly unnerved most locals, as even a proposed new high school is affected by the USFWS guidelines. US Representative Jim Kolbe, for example, said during a news conference in response to the guidelines, "This is very far-reaching. We are only beginning to understand this could have an enormous impact for all of Tucson." Likewise, Alan Lurie, executive director of the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, said the USFWS doesn't "know the cost of this in terms of what two-legged animals have to endure."

In response to the confusion and outcry provoked by the USFWS' plan, the Southwest Center has put forth its own proposal, saying it could forestall many future suits against landowners, developers and the local and federal governments. "We can have between zero and dozens of lawsuits, depending on whether we can come up with some kind of meaningful planning process," said Galvin. The proposal calls for establishment of a long-term community conservation plan to protect the best owl habitat in the Tucson area. For three years, until the plan is complete, a moratorium would be placed on large-scale rezonings and on new construction of already approved projects in owl habitat.

Predictably, all of the interested parties weren't appeased by the Southwest Center's proposal. "It seems they are not only trying to stop growth, but to reverse growth," said Lurie of the Home Builders Association. "It is a lifestyle issue. They want to go back to the days when you don't hear a voice, don't hear an automobile."

Though the Southwest Center's Kieran Suckling says, "circumstances led us to this collision course," Lurie's remarks may not be too far off the mark. "We see 700,000 people who, due to sprawl into the desert, have air pollution, traffic congestion and crime," says Suckling, "We see 700,000 potential revolutionaries."

For more information about the fight to protect the pygmy owl, contact the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity at POB 710, Tucson, AZ 85702-0710; (520) 623-5252; fax 623-9797.

Wolves & Poodles

A gimp poodle with bunions, in-grown toenails and corns to NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for championing barriers excluding pedestrians on 49th and 50th streets so cars can complete their turns more easily. The mayor called the 900,000 cars that enter Manhattan each workday "a desirable form of transportation," essential to the area's "economic viability." His own transportation experts report that 56 percent of New Yorkers don't even have a car, 10.7 percent walk to work and 40 pedestrians a day are hit by motor vehicles on the city streets.

A poodle with Alzheimer's to Steve Holmer of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign. Though seemingly chagrined over Clinton's approval of an Interior appropriations bill containing 13 anti-environmental riders, Holmer actually said, "During the 104th Congress, the President held firm against riders attacking the environment." Good morning, Steve. We have one word for you—Salvage.

A shameful, shit-eating poodle to epicurists in France who dined on protected songbirds during a \$3,000-a-plate dinner. The theme of the evening was "forbidden foods," where ortolan and woodcock were the unfortunate entrees. "You know the French," said Maguy Le Coze, who attended the dinner, "French people like to break the law."



A playful wolf rolling in the snow to Anna Koshikova, a 12-year-old activist who chained herself to a streetlight during an action in Solchi, Russia. She helped form a human blockade across a road to demonstrate her support for limited traffic and the installation of catalytic converters on all vehicles. The action went awry when an unoccupied truck rolled downhill, colliding with the blockade and severing Anna's hand. You can send support to Anna at Conversbank, 24/26 B. Ordynka, 109017, Moscow, Russia (account #5791/1).

A caged wolf to Al Gore for whatever the hell he did at the Kyoto climate conference. According to ultraconservative Pat Buchanan, "If the Kyoto Protocol were to be approved, America's standard of living would go into permanent arrest, and the end of the United States as industrial powerhouse of the world would be at hand... Because both [Clinton and Gore] have been bamboozled by scientific hustlers into believing the world is on the verge of catastrophe." Sounds like Gore is doing something right.

A ferocious she-wolf who eats cattle ranchers for breakfast to Oprah Winfrey and Howard Lyman. In 1996 the television guru hosted a discussion between Lyman, a vegetarian crusader, and a representative from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, on the topic of mad cow disease. Winfrey swore off hamburgers on the air, sending beef prices plummeting. She and Lyman are defendants in a SLAPP suit for over \$12 million by a group of ranchers.



GOSHAWKS

THE FIGHT TO SAVE NATURE'S OWN FOREST DEFENDER

BY LACEY PHILLABAUM

I charged up the hill behind the others, my sweat and the bitter bile of being last mingling. I pride myself on being able to keep up with the boys, but today another woman set the torturous pace. Jess, Chris and Jeff followed quickly after, and I trailed them like a kid sister. Worse yet, though we were gaining 1,000 feet of elevation in half an hour and half a mile, Noelle had the breathe to speak at her normal clipped speed. Between the rattle of my own breath, I listened.

"The nest has probably been used before, possibly for a long time. I expect the same pair will use it again next year. We won't see them today, though. Once the kids are self sufficient, Mom only stops in occasionally to check up." I want to ask if goshawks mate monogamously, but I'm panting too heavily. "We're close," Noelle says, eyeing me with a bit of contempt. Known affectionately to her friends as Screech Owl, or Screech, she's lived in the Scw7cwlk (Skowqulitz in English), a remote rainforest valley off the coast of Bella Coola, British Columbia, for the past three months.

A trip to the goshawk nest is a closely guarded privilege in the camp. But Noelle has let us tag along today.

As we climb, she tells us about finding the nest. At the beginning of the summer, she and her assistants started plotting goshawk "pluck posts." Unlike most birds of prey, goshawks kill and pluck a catch on the forest floor, leaving behind a circle of feathers and bones. After finding 11 pluck posts that could be positively identified as goshawk, the team focused on the area of greatest pluck post concentration. From observation platforms set in the tops of trees, Noelle spent long hours watching the sky for sign of goshawks. Twice, she spotted one of the elusive birds near the estuary, where the Scw7cwlk River meets the salt water of the Dean Channel. Armed with an understanding of the bird's preferred nesting habitat, the crew set out with a "kecker," a recorded goshawk call meant to provoke a response. One day, Noelle finally heard something. Though she headed off quickly, the crew thought the call they heard was only the tape. By the time they realized the recorder was turned off and gave chase, Noelle had found it, a nest of twigs and moss the size of a dinosaur's 80 feet up a Sitka spruce—the one at which we were now looking.

Noelle chuckles in her excessively impish way. "We just let the Mama go crazy in the sky above us. She was flying around, kecking and dive-bombing, but I wasn't scared. We could see the heads of the two puffballs sticking out of the nest." Today, however, the nest is abandoned, and to my disappointment, we have to go higher yet. We can hear the fledglings, a male and a larger female, kecking up the hill. Noelle explains that though the goshawk normally only kecks out of agitation, the two are practicing all of their calls. We hear them overhead now, flying and calling in a carefree manner.

Finally, the female roosts on a snag above us, eyeing us with a great amount of suspicion and kecking intermittently. As she ruffles her feathers to leave, Jess, a Nuxalk man, speaks in a soothing and enticing way to the bird. He forms a word and tells us that the ancient sound descends from the time when human and beast communicated with a shared tongue. It is the last word left of that language, and when a human speaks it in the wild today, it is a promise of mutual respect. "We mean you no harm," he says.

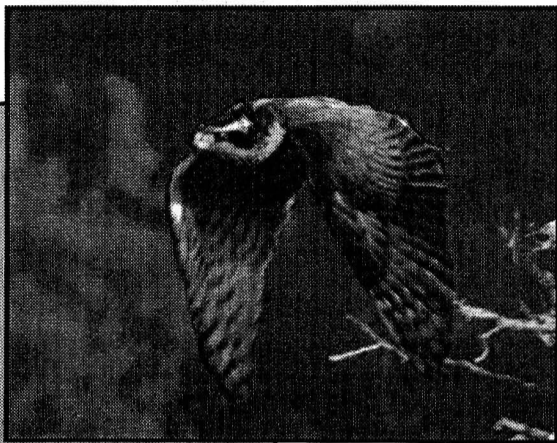
Though it is certainly true that our close-knit group means the two freewheeling fledglings no harm, the words stick in my head uncomfortably. Logging is slated to begin in this valley in 1998. In fact, a road will be built down the hill from this nest, and though we mean no harm, we are precursors of a process that will inflict unknowable damage upon this goshawk family. Indeed, goshawks as a species are being pushed to the brink of extinction.

The lack of information about goshawks is truly appalling, and it's hard to say how many goshawks remain. Approximately 12 subspecies of goshawks have been recognized, seven to nine of which occur

across northern Europe and Asia, and three of which have been found in North America. Queen Charlotte goshawks, like the family in the Scw7cwlk, live in coastal British Columbia and southeast Alaska. The territory of the Northern goshawk extends from the northeast US, across the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska, and southward through the highland forests of the western US. The Apache goshawk lives in mountains in southern Arizona and New Mexico and



Northern goshawk



Mid-flight majesty

Photo by Robin Silver

are extremely agile and capable of remarkable bursts of speed. Their short wings enable quick movements, while their long tails act as rudders for precise, quick turns. Goshawks hunt large woodpeckers, owls, pigeons, quail, ducks, squirrels and rabbits. When conditions require, goshawks prey upon domestic animals.

On the day of my first encounter with a goshawk, Screech told me that goshawks are the forest defenders of the winged-kingdom, the totem animal of all forest activists. They commit to a single specific patch of land and defend it vigorously. While the species Latin name, *Accipiter gentilis*, refers back to the "Falcon Gentle" of mediaeval falconry, goshawks, far from being gentle, are known for their fierce and aggressive behavior. By swooping and attacking intruders, they defend an area of at least 20 to 25 acres surrounding their nest against humans and a larger area against other raptors. And, in the absence of habitat alteration, goshawks are likely to use the same nest for ten years. When goshawks do abandon their territory, it is often because of logging. Studies have found a direct correlation between the rate of nest reoccupation and the severity of selective logging.

Because they nest in wooded areas with large trees and high canopy closure, goshawk declines could have affects on logging as far-flung as the spotted owl did, more so because goshawk territory extends throughout the West. In fact, goshawks occur in drier forests than spotted owls, mostly forests that were not protected under Option 9, the plan to protect Northern spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest. Many such forests experienced increased logging after Option 9 because they were designated as matrix lands, or habitat that did not have to be protected for the owl. Goshawks also have large home ranges, covering 5,000 to 8,000 acres. In patchwork forests, home ranges of up to 17,000 acres have been recorded.

It is winter now in the Scw7cwlk, and the young fledglings will be on their own. I think of them often. This summer, the logging company will try to begin roadbuilding. The Temperate Rainforest Research Project will also be there, documenting the pristine nature of the valley in order to ward off logging. I want to make good on the promise Jess uttered that day to protect the fearsomely wild Scw7cwlk River valley for the goshawks' sake. To do so, more people willing to defend the forest against human intrusion, as the goshawk does, must join in the battle.

The Temperate Rainforest Research Project is seeking researchers and assistants to come to the Scw7cwlk during the summer and help with entomological and botanical research and goshawk, marbled murrelet, bear and salmon surveys. If you have experience in any of these fields, please contact the Temperate Rainforest Research Project at POB 625, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0, Canada.

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO STOP DAM ON THE DANUBE

BY BELA LIPTÁK

In its first environmental ruling, the International Court of Justice put an end to a failed dam project on the Blue Danube River, which separates Hungary and Slovakia. In September 1997, the court found both countries in breach of their legal obligations. It called upon them to carry out the relevant treaty obligations between them, while taking into account the situation that has developed since Hungary suspended dam construction in 1989.

The legal agreement goes back to 1977 when Hungary and Czechoslovakia concluded a treaty to build dams for power production, flood control and improvement of navigation on the Danube. In 1989, Hungary suspended and subsequently abandoned completion of the project, alleging that it entailed grave risks to the Hungarian environment and the water supply of Budapest. Slovakia (one of the successors to Czechoslovakia) denied these allegations, insisting that Hungary carry out its treaty obligations. It planned and subsequently put into operation an alternative channel on Slovak territory, the operation of which affected Hungary's access to the water of the Danube.

When the lawsuit started, Hungary was ruled by a progressive, environmentally sensitive government. That government lost the elections of 1994 to the former Communists (MSZP). The Communist government favors the construction of the disputed dam and has offered to build additional dams. The collusion between banking interests, dam construction lobbies, extreme nationalists in Slovakia and former Communists in Hungary makes it possible that this last project of Stalinist gigantomania would be built.

The environmental stakes in this case are very high: The wetlands involved are the remains of the only inland-sea delta in Europe. This delta has survived since the last Ice Age, when the Pannon Sea

filled the Carpathian Basin. Some 400 unique species have survived in the Pannon Sea delta, now called the Szigetköz ("the region of a thousand islands"). Since the rerouting, not a single island remains because there is little water.

If it's left to the two countries, construction of the dam could go ahead, and this beautiful, unique wetland region would be further destroyed. The hope is that an out-of-court settlement does not take place, and the case is returned to the International Court for one final ruling. There is a slim chance of that occurring, and the international environmental community can help.

An election will take place in Hungary in April 1998. The MSZP does not stand a chance of dominating that election. Therefore, the MSZP's strategy is to conclude an out-of-court settlement before the election and get this deal approved by the Hungarian Parliament while they still have a slim majority. The MSZP members may be convinced to vote pro-environment by appealing to their decency, pride and common sense. This will not be easy, as most of these people are used to blindly following the party line. It will take leadership and solidarity from foreign environmentalists.

The Hungarian public is passive, inexperienced and insecure when it comes to any form of free expression. Demonstrations or civil disobedience of any form were unthinkable during Communism, and the memory of those 40 years still lingers. They are frightened of being arrested and most don't even know they have the right to demonstrate. The MSZP reinforces these fears by daily displays of cronyism and by politically motivated terminations. Yet, if we consider the environmental tragedy that is at stake, we have no choice but to try to prevent an out-of-court deal.

A detailed solution has been offered that could satisfy the desires of all parties. This plan would return the Danube to its natural riverbed by eliminating the temporary Cunovo Dam and by starting up the Dunakiliti Dam, which would not block

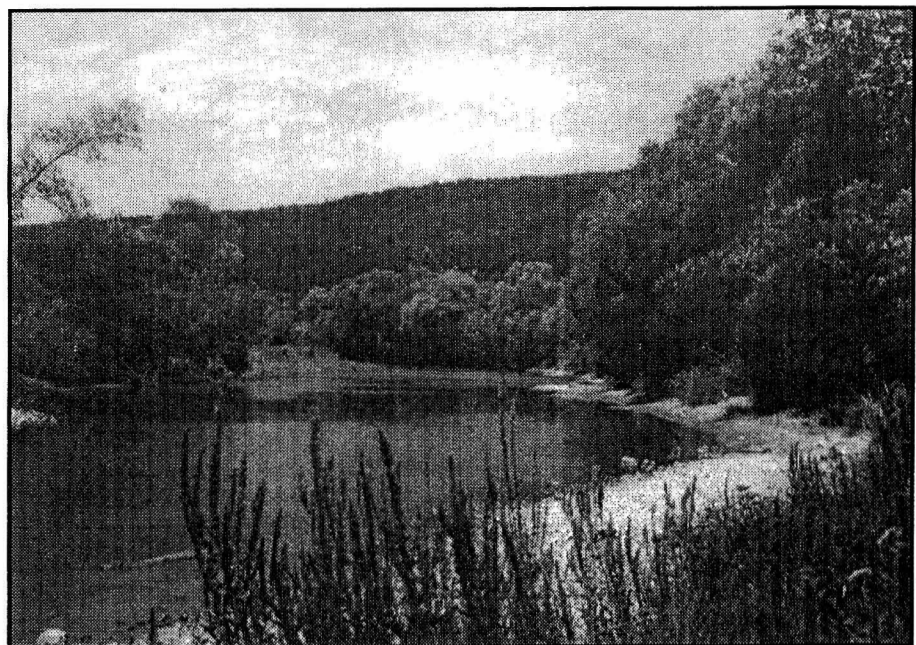


Photo provided by Bela Liptak

Europe's only inland sea-delta, the Szigetköz, prior to the tragedy

the riverbed or create a reservoir. Shipping would be guaranteed through both the natural riverbed and through the existing canal. Hungary would regain her border river, her wetlands in the Szigetköz and her drinking water supplies. Slovakia would receive all the electricity generated at the existing Gabčíkovo dam.

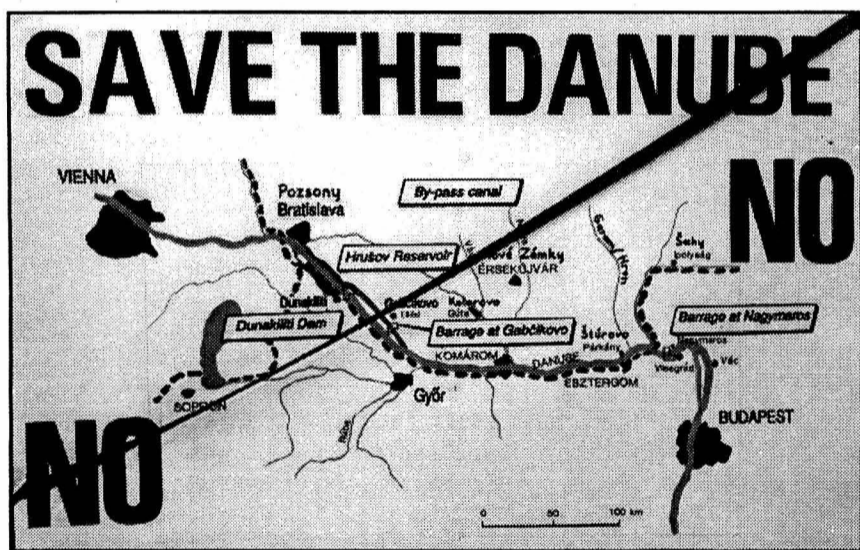
From Hainburg to Szap, the region would become an international nature preserve, operated as an "European Free Zone" where all residents (Austrians, Hungarians and Slovaks) could work and travel freely. This sense of regional community and interdependence could later become the catalyst for wider reconciliation throughout central Europe.

If a positive solution can be reached, the world would save one of the planet's richest ecosystems. In addition, a legal precedent would be established, showing that rivers and wetland regions are not the properties of nations but are the common treasures of all humankind.

While the Danube picture is bleak, it is not hopeless. A few dedicated environmentalists can make a huge difference. You can either help with the demonstrations at the Hungarian Parliament, where your organizing skills or media contacts would mean a great deal to us, or at the Hungarian Embassy nearest you.

The full text of the judgment, as well as the press communiqués, are available on the internet at <http://www.icj-cij.org>. To learn more about the details of the planned solution, visit the website at <http://www.goodpoint.com/duna.htm>. For more information, contact Bela Lipták at 84 Old N. Stamford Rd., Stamford, CT 06905-3961; (203) 357-7614; fax 523-3922; e-mail: liptakbela@aol.com.

Bela Lipták is the editor of the *Environmental Engineers' Handbook* and president of the *Foundation to Protect the Hungarian Environment*.



NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST PAPER MILL BEATEN TO A PULP

Eight years ago, the multinational paper giant Parsons & Whittemore (P&W) announced plans to build the largest virgin pulp and paper mill in North America. The proposed site was Apple Grove, West Virginia, on the banks of the Ohio River, conveniently located proximate to Ohio's Wayne National Forest, most of Ohio's state forests, West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest and Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forest. Now, at long last, what would have been the largest pulp and paper mill in North America has been defeated.

If built, the mill would have consumed over 2,000 acres of forest each month, turning our recovering hardwood forests into pulp for bright white paper. The mill planned to bleach the pulp with chlorine dioxide, polluting our rivers and air with dioxin, one of the most toxic pollutants known.

The 13-month-old appeal of the air permit for the Apple Grove Pulp and Paper Company came to a close in early August. After eight days of testimony before the West Virginia Air Quality Board, attorneys for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC), pro se appellants from the Buckeye Forest Council in Athens, Ohio, Concerned Citizens Coalition in Spencer, West Virginia, and citizen Monty Fowler from Huntington, West Virginia, ended with closing arguments.

The air permit, which was issued in June 1996, has been under appeal since July of that year. In January 1997, P&W announced that plans to build the mill had been "indefinitely suspended" due to "world pulp prices." While the announcement was celebrated throughout the region, it was also greeted with much skepticism. The president of P&W also stated that once all the necessary permits were obtained, they would "reevaluate the need for the project."

In March, still more cracks in P&W's plans emerged. P&W maintained an option to purchase the land for the mill from American Electric Power Company (AEP) for four years, but in March 1997 P&W allowed that option to expire. Opponents of the mill filed motions to repeal the air permit based on the lack of a site for the project. Since much of the permit is based on site-specific criteria, this could have meant the end of the air permit—and the mill. Predictably, however, the Air Quality Board denied the motions for annulling the permit.

"The company is apparently playing games with the people of West Virginia and trying to strong-arm the local politicians into rushing this permit appeal through," said Jason Huber, the attorney representing OVEC in the appeal.

In a recent letter to the president of P&W, Director John Caffrey of the Division of Environmental Protection issued an ultimatum to the company: either demonstrate intention to build the mill, or the air permit will be revoked. Following the recent statement by West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood in the *Charleston Gazette* that he believes plans for the pulp mill are indeed dead, the Air Quality Board ruled to delay its decision until after the deadline, indicating that there may indeed be no pulp mill. On December 17, 1997, the day of the deadline, President Arthur Schwartz of P&W faxed a letter to Caffrey stating that the company "withdraws [its] request for all permits required to proceed at Apple Grove, and abandon the project." The pulp mill was finally, officially dead!

For more information contact the Buckeye Forest Council at POB 99, Athens, OH 45701; (614) 594-6400; or Janet Fout of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, 1101 6th Ave., Room 225, Huntington, WV 25701; (304) 522-0246.

US Orders All Sorts of Dams Destroyed

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), an agency that for much of this century has championed hydroelectric dams large and small, has issued a precedent-setting order that the Edwards Dam be removed from the Kennebec River in Augusta, Maine. The order is part of an attempt to restore the habitat of sea-run fish. Edwards Dam, a scruffy hump of timber and stone, has stoppered the Kennebec for 160 years, since Martin Van Buren was president of the US. The commission ruled that power produced by the dam "can be easily replaced" and that getting rid of the dam would open up the river for fish and fishers. "There will be no environmental or social drawbacks," said the commission, which also required the company that owns the dam to pay for its removal.

In recent decades, research has shown that dams are the leading culprit in pushing many species of salmon and other anadromous fish toward extinction. The dam also cheats electricity consumers, funneling the bulk of its benefits into the pockets of a company employing just four people. It does not control floods; it does not irrigate fields. Its turbines produce one-tenth of a percent of Maine's power needs, which is sold at three times the going rate for electricity in the state. And the dam halts upstream passage for nine species of migrating fish.

Even Marc Isaacson, a vice president of the company that owns Edwards, conceded in an interview in Augusta that "it is hard to make a public-policy argument in favor of this dam."

The federal government looks at dams differently these days; at long last, dynamiting all or part of a hydroelectric dam is now a serious proposal for river restoration. Dam removal has swung into fashion because of a dovetailing of historic and regulatory forces, as well as economic and social pressures. Most immediately, hundreds of the 30- to

50-year licenses that FERC issued to about 2,000 privately owned hydroelectric dams are now coming up for renewal. Under a 1986 change in federal law, FERC cannot renew these licenses without subjecting dam owners to a rigorous standard of environmental accountability.

At the end of the 20th century, the deregulation of the electric utility industry and technological innovation have begun to push some dams into economic reality. In the Pacific Northwest, for instance, privately owned gas-fired turbines sell electricity at roughly the same price as dams operated by the federally subsidized Bonneville Power Administration.

Many of the big dams on western rivers are owned and operated by the federal government and are not subject to FERC licensing, which covers dams owned by individuals, utilities or local governments. But the same environmental pressures that led to the demolition order for the Edwards Dam are mounting against federal dams. Most significantly, there is a scheme to breach four large dams on the lower Snake River in Washington State. These dams, which are only marginal contributors to the hydropower grid in the Northwest, are blamed by biologists for all but wiping out several species of salmon spawning in Idaho. Breaching the dams would mean tearing out part of their earthen sections. The concrete spines of each dam, with their turbines and generators, would be left high and dry, like obsolete factories.

Numerous dams are slated for removal across the country. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt ceremoniously kicked off the December 17 destruction of Quaker Neck Dam in North Carolina, which obstructed the flow of the Neuse River near Goldsboro for the last 55 years. The project, aiming to restore habitat along a 75-mile stretch of the river, will replenish 925 miles of tributary spawning area.

Another victory for fish came on January 8, when the US Army Corps of Engineers recommended that a notch be blast into the Elk Creek Dam on the Rogue River in southern Oregon. Apparently, the \$7 million that will be spent on the project, due to begin in March, will save money in the long term. Currently, the Coho salmon and steelhead trout who spawn up the Rogue are trapped below the dam and trucked upstream for release.

"We are realizing that dam removal is often less expensive than leaving a dam in place and building fish passage through it," said Margaret Bowman, director of hydro-power programs for American Rivers, a group that lobbies for free-flowing rivers. The Elk Creek and Edwards Dams are good examples. FERC determined that it would cost \$10 million to build a fishway into the Edwards Dam, compared to \$6 million to simply tear it down. Cost-efficiency and biologic prudence seem to be just the things that will crumble the concrete behemoths once viewed as permanent fixtures on US rivers.

FRONTLINES

Helicopter Lockdown at Dillon Creek

In the predawn hours of December 5, 1997, two forest activists locked themselves with metal sleeves to the propeller and landing gear of a logging helicopter to protest continued logging at Dillon Creek, California. The activists remained locked down in below-freezing weather for four hours until mechanics removed the propeller and then the activists.

The protest was part of an ongoing direct action campaign to halt logging at the Outside timber sale near Happy Camp, California. The sale would clearcut near sacred prayer sites used by the Karuk, Yurok, Tollowa and Hoopa native tribes. The sale also borders pristine Dillon Creek, one of only six streams left in California that is prime spawning grounds for steelhead trout and Coho salmon. This one creek supports 15 percent of the remaining population of the two fish.

The Dillon Creek action camp started with a five-day road blockade in June when activists locked themselves to concrete anchors buried in the road. Since then there have been several blockades and lockdowns.

More people and supplies are needed to help with the campaign. For more information write the Dillon Creek Forest Defense at POB 83, Happy Camp, CA 96039; (707) 441-3803.

Activists Expropriate Food from Fancy Montreal Hotel

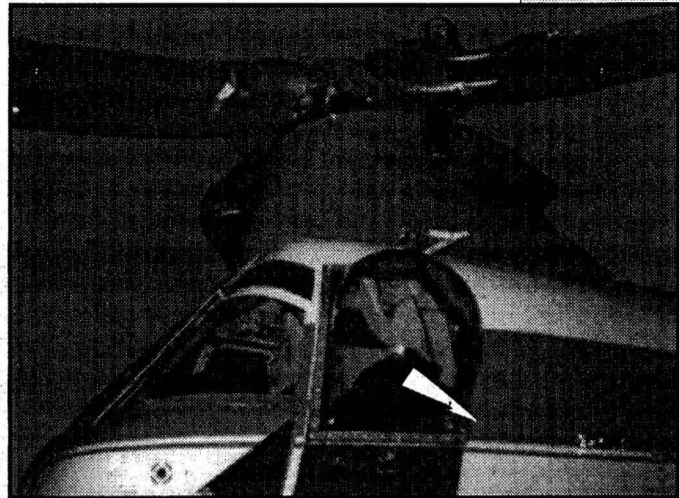
At lunchtime on December 3, an anti-poverty and anti-hunger action took place in a posh restaurant in downtown Montreal, Canada. The Queen Elizabeth Hotel was targeted for a lightning raid organized by the *Comite des Sans-Emplois de Montreal Centre* (Committee of the Unemployed of Central Montreal).

The action was an appropriation of buffet food, in which a commando went into the dining room and requisitioned platters of food to bring to those outside. Food Not Bombs was on hand to give out the expropriated food. Much to the great surprise of the businesspeople there, two school buses brought 110 low-income activists from the city's working class east end to a steady stream of food-filled platters.

The managers of the restaurant immediately went ballistic, but there were too many protesters, swarming like ants, to stop the action. The diners seemed stunned, and afterwards one activist said, "We hope that the action has helped put some fear into these shameless men." The atmosphere in the fancy dining room was surreal and charged—the action created a situation that very tangibly dissolved the usual hierarchy and class isolation.

Soon, the first sirens could be heard wailing across downtown, and several vans from the tactical squad appeared. Police equipped in full riot gear surrounded the activists. The hotel was sealed off for at least two more hours, as were two city blocks along a major downtown street.

The police announced that everyone, including the commando that went into the restaurant to expropriate and the people outside who were fed, was under arrest for participating in a riot. Ultimately, 108 people were arrested.



Ridin' the 'copter at Dillon Creek

Photo by Gloria

Brazilian Anti-Dam Activist Murdered

BY GLENN SWITKES, INTERNATIONAL RIVERS NETWORK

Fulgencio Manoel da Silva, a leader of the northeastern Brazilian peoples' movement resisting the Itaparica Dam was shot and killed on October 16, 1997 by an unknown assailant in the backlands of the Pernambuco state of Brazil. Da Silva was one of 40,000 people evicted from their homes in northeastern Brazil to make way for the dam.

While the motive of his murder is still unclear, it is suspected that da Silva's killing was ordered by drug traffickers operating in resettlement communities. Da Silva played a major role in preparing a complaint to the World Bank (one of the principal funders of the resettlement scheme) from people affected by the dam. The complaint charged that funds earmarked for improving resettlement conditions had been illegally diverted and called on the bank to take action to improve the situation. But, following intense lobbying by the Brazilian government, the bank's board of directors refused to authorize an investigation. Ten years after the dam's construction, resettlement communities still have not been provided the promised irrigation water.

The Brazilian Movement of Dam-Affected People (MAB), which da Silva helped found, blames his murder on the deplorable social conditions resulting from the electric company's failure to adequately compensate those evicted by the dam. In describing the situation, a MAB spokesperson said, "Money from the World Bank never reached families of small farmers, but instead was used to irrigate drug plantations."

Aurelio Vianna of the Brazilian Network on Multilateral Lending Institutions remembered da Silva as "a leader of rare value, who brought poetic expression to his political work by writing verses for *repentistas* [homespun dialogues in music popular in northeast Brazil]. Many times, he would write meeting reports in the form of verse."

In one of his poems, da Silva wrote, "The river is our life-water. What we do with it affects the life of the people, the life of the animals, the life of the river and the life of the waters. This is true for the world, not just for Brazil."

GOING WITH THE FLOW

The state and federal governments are deciding whether to remove several dams across the country, most of which provide very little power at the expense of many dead fish.

Dams to be Removed:

Maine—Edwards (Kennebec River)
Michigan—Sturgeon (Sturgeon River), Stronach (Pine River)
Wisconsin—Woods Creek (Woods Creek), Pine (Pine River)

Potential Dam Removals:

Washington—Condit (White Salmon River), Elwha and Glines Canyon (Elwha River), four Army Corps dams (Lower Snake River)
Colorado—Glen Canyon (Colorado River)
New York—Station 160 (Genesee River)
Maine—Great Works (Penobscot River), Brownville (Pleasant River), Souradabscook (Souradabscook River)
Florida—Rodman (Ocklawaha River)

Cynaide Mining for Gold on Battle Mountain

BY DAVID KLIEGMAN

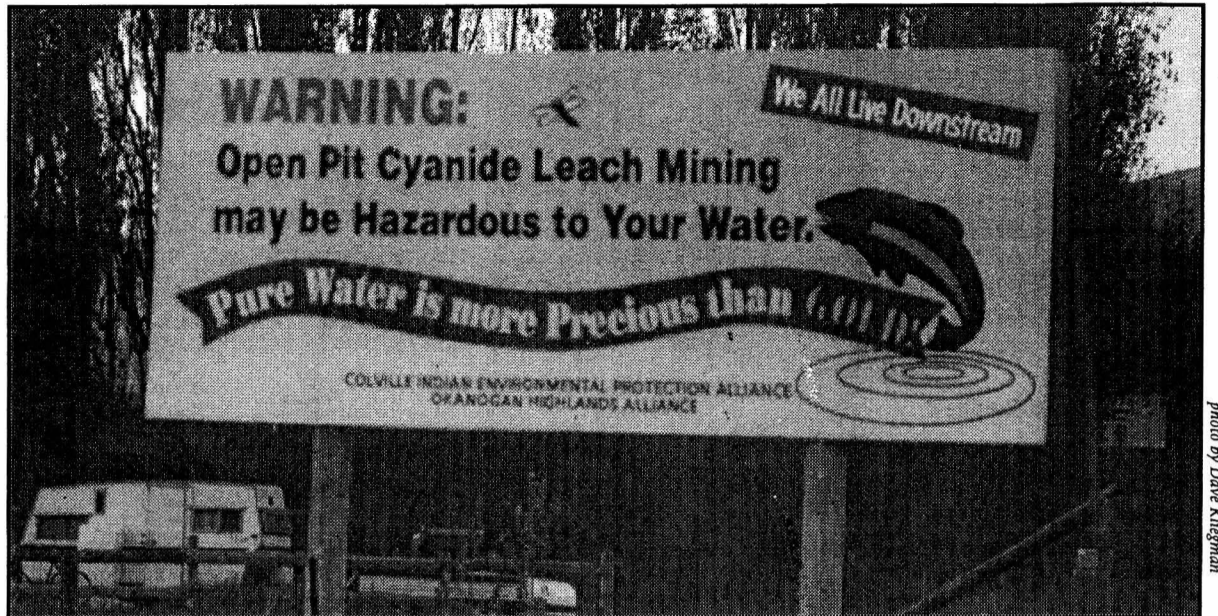
In the middle of one of Washington state's most remote and undeveloped regions, Battle Mountain Gold (BMG) of Houston, Texas, plans to blast off the top of a mountain, crush it up, mix it with cyanide and fill the forested canyon of Marias Creek with nine million tons of cyanide-laced tailings, all for a pick-up load of gold.

The Okanogan Highlands Alliance's (OHA) challenge of Washington's first large-scale, open-pit cyanide-leach gold mine is in full swing. In January '97, after years of delay, the Final Environmental Impact Statement was released to the public. As expected, the Forest Service approved the project, and OHA appealed. The appeals were rejected, but we have challenged those rejections in federal court in Portland, Oregon. The Colville Tribes have intervened on our behalf, and the main legal arguments are expected to begin in late February.

In October, the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) approved water rights for the proposed mine, despite the agency's long-held position that there isn't enough water available for new appropriation—a reasoning it has used to deny applications for water rights from downstream agricultural communities. Cyanide-leach gold mining removes tons of earth and tremendous quantities of water to extract just ounces of metal. The water rights permit was one of the key permits the company had to obtain before construction could begin. It is appalling that the DOE has denied every water permit in this area for decades because of chronic water shortages, then along comes a multinational corporation with lots of money, and it gets more than five farms worth of water.

The Department of Ecology caved-in to the enormous political pressure of the mining industry and granted BMG number of permits, including water rights, construction, stormwater and dam

safety permits. OHA has appealed these decisions to the Pollution Control Hearings Board and has gone on the offensive. We have filed two lawsuits in state Superior Court in Thurston County. One case involves the water rights. The second case is intended to pressure DOE into requiring that the mine waste be disposed of in



Local opposition to cyanide mining for gold at Battle Mountain in northeast Washington

a licensed solid waste facility instead of a forested canyon and creek.

Hard-rock mining like that proposed for Buckhorn Mountain is still "regulated" by the antiquated 1872 Mining Law. Originally designed to encourage settlement of the American West by guaranteeing the extraction of publicly owned minerals for free, multinational mining corporations today profit at our expense from this sweetheart deal. The Forest Service hides behind the 1872 Mining Law and ignores modern environmental laws designed to protect human health.

Over 65 groups representing six million members have taken a position against this mine proposal. Let's get to 10 million and send a clear message that this mine is unacceptable. Write to the Okanogan Highlands Alliance at POB 163, Tonasket, WA 98855; e-mail: kliegoha@televar.com, <http://www.televar.com/~kliegoha>.

Kalmiopsis Wilderness at Risk!

• Mining Land for Sale: Public Funds Needed •

For those who thought the Siskiyou Mountains in southern Oregon were safe after the victory at China Left (see *EFJ*, Yule 1997), think again. Another environmental disaster is just around the corner with the NICORE Corporation's proposed nickel mine on Rough & Ready Creek, within 30 miles of China Left.

The pristine Rough & Ready Creek, a tributary to the Wild and Scenic Illinois River, flows through the South Kalmiopsis roadless area. It is one of the top seven most botanically rare and diverse places in the world, recently recognized by the World Wildlife Fund as deserving "immediate protection and restoration."

The 4,300-acre mining claim was begot by Walt Freeman under the frontier-era Mining Law of 1872. It would destroy the 40-million-year-old national treasure, Rough & Ready Creek, and the surrounding habitat. The plan proposes building 15 miles of new road into a roadless area to accommodate 25-ton trucks making up to 3,600 trips annually through the fragile landscape. The trucks would cross the creek, known for its exceptionally clear water quality, at up to 11 places, some 14,000 times a year. A smelter would be built on the site, and three to five-acre-wide exposed tailing pits would remain, leaching toxic heavy metals into the creek, which is also upstream from some people's water supply.

Many local residents adamantly oppose the project. Kalmiopsis Earth First! along with the Siskiyou Project and the Sierra Club, among others, plan to fight to save this amazing and precious landscape.

Photographer Sandy Lonsdale and Debbie Lukas are taking a slideshow about the project on the road. (The first show will be February 12, the day before the Western Ancient Forest Conference, at the Headwaters Environmental Center at 84 Fourth St., Ashland, Oregon at 7:30 p.m.) They are also circulating a 10-minute video about the project and urge all those interested to obtain a copy and share it with others. To find out the other dates for the show or for more information about Rough & Ready Creek, please contact Debbie Lukas at POB 2093, Cave

Junction, OR 97523; (541) 592-3386 or the Siskiyou Project at POB 220, Cave Junction, OR 97523; (541) 592-4459.

In a related story, River Network, which negotiates deals for conservationists to buy public land, contracted with miner Darrell Brown to purchase 2,160 acres of mining claims in the heart of the rugged Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. Brown will receive fair market value, \$3.2 million, for the 160-acre, patented portion of the claims. Brown will relinquish the additional 2,000 acres as part of the deal.

Federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund are being sought to give the landin-holding protection comparable to the surrounding wilderness area. Once the land is returned to public ownership, more than 15 miles of access road along the Wild and Scenic Chetco River will be closed, and threatened wild salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout will again be safe from the disturbance of gold mining.

Brown's access road is one of two controversial routes into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. It fords the Chetco River in two places and crosses several streams. The mining claims lie along an eight-mile stretch of the Chetco.

Of the nearby claims owned by two miners, one has been relinquished by the owner. The other, owned by Carl Alleman, includes rights to more than 200 acres.

The road system to his in-holding runs through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for about six miles. He is currently seeking a permit for vehicular access from the Forest Service. Although the Alleman holdings are not directly involved with the Brown sale, the precedent of a successful purchase may convince Alleman to accept a buy-out as well. The US Senate Appropriations Committee is the key to allocations of limited acquisition money, and support from the Clinton administration is critical.

Send comments to Katy McGinty, Council on Environmental Quality, 360 Old Executive Office Bldg., NW, Wash., DC 20501; (202) 456-6224; fax 456-2710. Jim Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources, Dept. of Agriculture, 14th St. and Independence Ave., SW, Wash., DC 20250; (202) 720-7173; fax 720-4732.



Lamb Brook Victory Delays Freddie's Plan to Clearcut Vermont

BY BLUE COYOTE

A federal appeals court in New York City has ruled that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when it decided to build logging roads into and clearcut the Lamb Brook area of Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest.

In a decision issued December 22, the first of its kind in the Northeast, the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Freddie's "violated NEPA by failing to consider adequately all relevant environmental factors prior to making its finding of no significant impact." The court left in place an injunction against logging and roadbuilding that has stymied the Forest Service from destroying Lamb Brook for two years.

Mat Jacobson, the executive director of Green Mountain Forest Watch, who was responsible for pushing organizations like the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, kicking and screaming into the litigation, termed the decision "a great victory for us and for the forests and creatures of Lamb Brook."

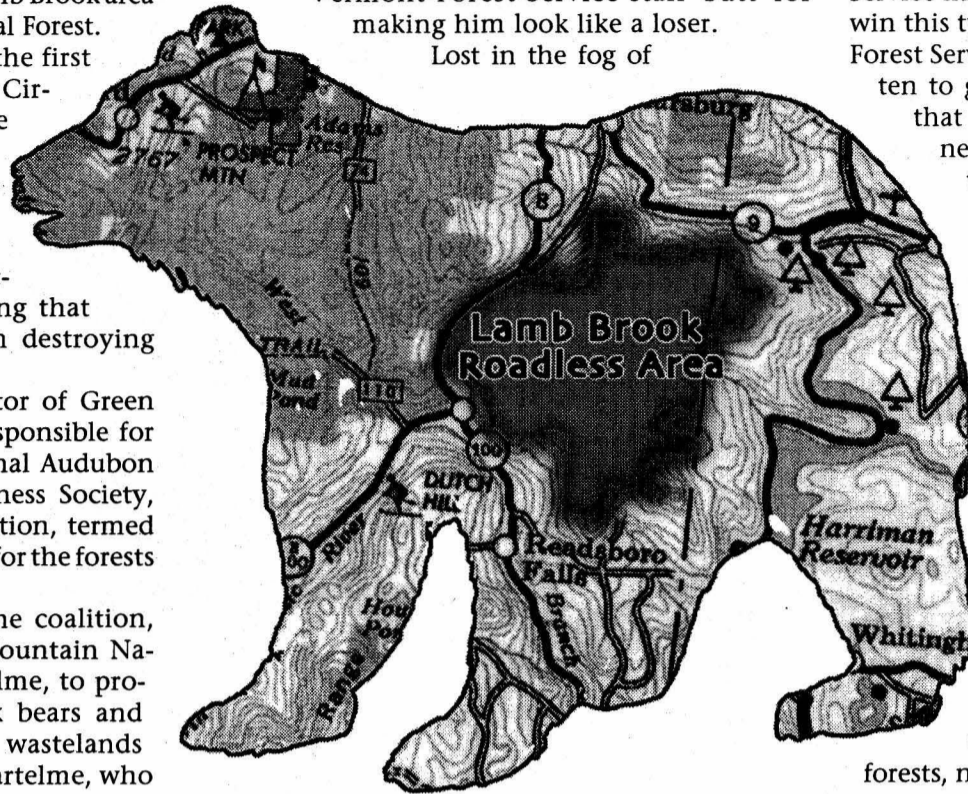
Steve Saltonstall, the lawyer for the coalition, said, "We now call on the Green Mountain National Forest Supervisor, James Bartelme, to protect Lamb Brook forever. Our black bears and songbirds need deep wild forests, not wastelands of stumps and all-terrain vehicles." Bartelme, who

once simultaneously served as an aide-de-camp to timber tool Oregon Congressman Bob Smith while working for the Forest Service in its DC headquarters, would not comment publicly. It's reported that he's furious and ready to kick some serious Vermont-Forest-Service-staff butt for making him look like a loser.

Lost in the fog of

victory was the fact that the 2nd Circuit's opinion harmed the forest cause in general. The opinion endorsed the lower court's decision to exclude all testimony by experts on the environmentalist side, while admitting all the affidavits filed by Forest Service liars and hacks. In other words, in order to win this type of case, plaintiffs must rely solely on Forest Service lackeys—the courts simply won't listen to good science. The 2nd Circuit also held that the Forest Service's promise to build no new logging roads, set forth prominently in the agency's Land and Resource Management Plan, was not legally binding. Now we know for sure what we've always suspected: The forest planning process is a wheel-spinning exercise designed to drain our time and energy.

Ultimately, the Forest Service will get court permission to go forward with its plan to turn one of southern Vermont's last roadless areas into a biological desert—if they can just get their NEPA paperwork straight, that is. Then the focus of the struggle will shift away from the courts and onto the ground. A source close to Green Mountain Forest Watch claims that Mat Jacobson's rag-tag bunch of critter-loving irregulars actually look forward to the prospect of battling the Freddie's in the forests, not just on paper.



NEW SQUIRREL COUNT COMES UP SHORT

FOREST SERVICE LIES AGAIN FOREST SERVICE LIES AGAIN FOREST SERVICE LIES AGAIN

Just when you thought university bureaucrats fibbed, fleeced and cooked their books to champion rotten deals, along comes the University of Arizona to prove you right. A vilified rodent continues to foil the plans of the school to build seven giant telescopes on Mt. Graham near Tucson, Arizona. The university and their cronies in Congress have spent the past decade shamelessly trying to weasel their way around the Endangered Species Act, but what they've hatched recently can be called nothing but outright lying.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), which coordinates biannual counts of the Mt. Graham red squirrel, reported that the University of Arizona and US Forest Service officials overestimated red squirrel numbers by 20 to 50 percent in their monitoring program. The AGFD, previously no friend of the Mt. Graham red squirrel or the region's indigenous people, has counted fewer than 400 squirrels on Mt. Graham. Conservationists claim any number under 500 is not good news for the subspecies' survival rate.

The university's survey didn't actually count squirrels, but active middens—the storage caches in which the squirrels stash pine cones. This assumes one midden, one vote, and doesn't take into consideration that one squirrel might use more than one midden.

The squirrel is not the only native inhabitant who stakes claim to Mt. Graham. The Apache also cherish the mountain, which holds crucially important ceremonial and religious significance to them. Apparently, the Mt. Graham red squirrel and Apache nation offer such compelling reasons to halt the observatory's construction that even Bill Clinton couldn't deny them—he line-item vetoed \$10 million in NASA funds for the scope from a bill in December.

The project violates environmental regulations left, right and sideways. The National Environmental Protection Act requires that less destructive alternatives be explored, and, according to many in the astronomical community, a similar project in Hawaii would produce results superior to those of the Mt. Graham project. Over the years, Rep. Jim Kolbe, Senators John McCain and Dennis DeConcini and various US Forest Service officials have bamboozled exemptions from environmental protections for the telescope project. One of the peaks on Mt. Graham under consideration was located within at least four mapped, active territories of Mexican spotted owls. That was no stumbling block for the Forest Service rangers, who in 1993 just gerrymandered the spotted owl maps so they wouldn't coincide with the proposed project site. Later that year, University of Arizona and Forest Service employees snuck out at night to clear a spot for the observatory by cutting more than 500 old-growth trees.

University of Arizona astronomers will continue to fish for intergalactic answers to the mysteries of life, but seven high-powered telescopes won't do them a lick of good if they can't see wonder in the native creatures under their noses. Sadly, the Mt. Graham red squirrel and Apache people might pay the price for their blindness.



Corridor H Superhighway ROAD TO NOWHERE

BY MARK ROBINOWITZ

Corridor H, the \$1-billion "Road to Nowhere" across the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia, is still largely unfunded, as Congress did not pass the five-year ISTEA (transportation authorization) bill this year. The transportation bill battle will resume in March 1998, when Senator Robert C. Byrd attempts to corral \$2 billion in funds. Road opponents will be pointing to the need to fix existing roads (a federal study found 45 percent of West Virginia's bridges deficient) instead of building unneeded new highways.

Road huggers say Corridor H is needed to promote economic development. "Corporate welfare" beneficiaries of the road would include road contractors, large ski resorts, big timber haulers and the poultry industry, which has already polluted the Potomac watershed. Opponents say Corridor H would be wasteful and destructive, and is *definitely* not needed. The road would cut through two national forests, cross 41 streams and impact two Civil War battlefields. The state of Virginia, citing the expense and the opposition of local communities, has refused to build its portion of Corridor H, which was to connect to I-81. As a result, ABC's "It's Your Money," the *Boston Globe* and other national media have dubbed Corridor H a "Road to Nowhere."

One group opposed to the project, Corridor H Alternatives, has appealed an Oct. 7 decision in a lower federal court which let highway agencies off the hook for their failure to do timely historical studies or consider alternatives to the major four-lane road. The appeal hearing is expected this spring in federal appeals court in Washington, DC.

Corridor H Alternatives must raise \$35,000 by March to bring the appeal to federal court. They also need funds to educate citizens and public officials about the Road to Nowhere. Groups and individuals can mail donations to Corridor H Alternatives, POB 11, Kerens, WV 26726. Make tax-deductible checks to the "Corridor H Legal Fund." Also write to your members of Congress asking them not to fund Corridor H in the next ISTEA bill.

DRIVING FOSSIL FUELS TO EXTINCTION



BY RHYS ROTH

The global warming battle is a strategic leverage point. To win it is to defeat the myriad faces of destruction worn by the fossil fuel empire.

From December 1 to 11, 10,000 people gathered in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, for the Third Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference had a sacred mission: to reach agreement among 160 nations on a treaty to restore the natural climate control system of the Earth, the basic planetary life-support system imperiled by the six-billion tons of carbon dioxide released each year as humans extract and burn fossil fuels.

Coming away from the conference, I sense an extraordinary opportunity to significantly shift the destructive course of industrial civilization. The fossil fools are beginning to run scared. Enormous cracks have opened in the business monolith on this issue, and the grip of the fossil fuel empire on the political flow of events has loosened. You may be surprised by the powerful forces aligning to revolutionize our energy system toward solar, wind and other renewable energy sources. The stage is set for an epic battle at the close of the century in the United States, the source of a quarter of the atmospheric burden of greenhouse gases (but less than one-twentieth of the human population).

Most strikingly, no governments at Kyoto contested the scientific evidence compelling us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The groundwork laid by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was so solid that even the most fossil fuel-dependent countries could not deny it—not even the US, Australia, Russia or the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Even the most notorious fossil-fuel lobby group, the US Global Climate Coalition (GCC), completely avoided attacking the science.

Not that the fossil fuel faction has thrown in the towel just because its \$14-million propaganda campaign in the run-up to Kyoto failed to sway the American public. (In a poll taken on the eve of the conference, the *New York Times* found that 65 percent of Americans believe the US should take action to fight global warming now, regardless of what other countries do.)

A second striking aspect was that "business" is no longer a monolith united in opposition to protecting the global atmosphere. In 1997, the GCC suffered a shocking defection: British Petroleum announced its withdrawal from the lobby group, conceded that global warming is real and shifted its business strategy, setting a new target of \$1 billion a year in sales of solar panels within a decade. Shell Oil followed, not by withdrawing from the GCC, but by committing \$500 million to solar, wind and biomass energy technologies in the next four years.

Representatives of the global insurance industry, which collects some \$2 trillion in annual premiums, presented the industry's most comprehensive statement on climate change ever, signed by 71 major companies. Their message: "Risk is our profession. Climate change is a real and serious hazard." They warned that global warming can increase the destructive power of extreme weather events and that in several areas of the US a single storm could cause a staggering \$100 billion in damages, enough to shake the industry to its financial roots. A 1996 report from the world's largest reinsurance company (which insures insurance companies), Munich Reinsurance, concluded that the damage from a single mega-storm hitting a major industrial center "would be so great as to cause the collapse of entire countries' economic systems and could even bring about the collapse of the world's financial markets." When asked if the industry is prepared to use its enormous investment resources to accelerate the deployment of

renewable energy, spokespeople offered cautious optimism. They pointed to two recent investments by insurance companies in solar ventures: \$2.75 million invested by Swiss Reinsurance and \$2 million invested by the Gerling Insurance Group.

Further undermining the paradigm of the GCC that "saving the climate is bad for business," the European and American Business Councils for Sustainable Energy asserted interest in a strong treaty that supports energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Worldwatch Institute presented its new paper, "Rising Sun, Gathering Winds: Policies to Stabilize the Climate and Strengthen Economies" that points out that both the solar and wind industries are growing at well over 20 percent annually and have together



Photos by Rhys Roth

reached \$3 billion in annual sales. Clean energy policies in Japan, Denmark and Germany have created many thousands of new jobs.

I was involved in circulating a proposal from Dennis Hayes, former director of President Carter's Solar Energy Research Institute, by which the US government can pull down the cost of photovoltaic technology to below that of fossil fuel power within four years. This would ensure a solar revolution with just \$5 billion (less than the federal subsidies still enjoyed each year by fossil fuel corporations in the US).

The proposal is based on the precedent of the computer chip. Were it not for massive government purchases in the 1960s (mainly by the Defense Department and NASA), computer chips might not be a commercially viable product today. The purchases triggered efficient mass production and design innovations that pulled prices down, creating a large commercial market. As a result, Hayes notes, "Volume shot up still further, and prices continued to fall... As with computer chips, every time that the volume of solar cells has increased, the cost has fallen." Hayes' \$5-billion plan would pull costs down, making solar energy affordable to massive worldwide markets, which in turn would result in greater economies of scale and design innovation.

A range of events in Kyoto illuminated just how important it is to poorer nations to see global warming stopped and to take the clean energy path. For example, sea-level rise threatens the very existence of many small island nations. Immediately prior to Vice President Gore's address, Kinza Clodumar, president of the Republic of Nauru, made perhaps Kyoto's most searing speech. For thousands of years, Nauru was an island paradise, but in the last century, 80 percent of the island has been devastated by phosphate mining, leaving a thin coastal strip still livable. "And now we face a new threat," President Clodumar told delegates:

"The emission of greenhouse gases in distant lands is warming the Earth and causing the sea level to rise. The coastal fringe where my people live is but two meters above the sea surface. We are trapped, a wasteland at our back and to our front, a terrifying, rising flood of biblical proportions... we submit respectfully that the willful destruction of entire countries and cultures with foreknowledge would represent an unspeakable crime against humanity. No

nation has the right to place its own, misconstrued national interest before the physical and cultural survival of whole countries. The crime is cultural genocide; it must not be tolerated by the family of nations. The crime is no less when it is perpetuated slowly by the emission of invisible gases."

In another powerful moment at the conference,



An Ogoni representative meets with the press at the Kyoto climate conference. Protesters wearing hoods and nooses held signs reading, "These are the only loopholes closed?" in reference to Shell Oil's complicity in the execution of nine Ogoni activists in Nigeria in November 1995.

an activist from the Ogoni region of Nigeria explained how Shell Oil, in close partnership with the military dictatorship, has been extracting petroleum and devastating the landscape. Two years ago, nine activists who resisted Shell were arrested on trumped-up charges and hanged. At the press conference, nine people draped in black hoods with nooses around their necks flanked the Ogoni activist, holding signs reading, "Are these the only loopholes that will be closed at this conference?"

The US government's demand that poor nations commit to emissions reductions was a cynical negotiating ploy created by fossil fuel PR firms, advanced by the US Senate and taken to heart by US negotiators. At previous conferences, the consensus was that industrialized nations should lead the charge because the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions come from these countries. Also, rich countries that have plenty of food and an overabundance of automobiles and wealth can afford the transition. However, many developing nations have already done far more than the US to reduce emissions. China, for example, has cut fossil fuel subsidies from 50 percent to almost zero. Europe and the US still subsidize fossil fuels to the tune of tens of billions of dollars.

The US certainly threw its weight around, but it was clear to all that this weight derived not from moral solidity, but from the more than a billion tons of carbon dioxide pouring from US territory every year. US emissions are so disproportionate to its population that our representatives were able to hold the planet hostage and exact demands on the rest of the world.

The protocol produced at the conference sets different targets for various industrialized nations. The targets require about a five-percent reduction from 1990 emissions levels between 2008 and 2112. The protocol needs to be ratified and strengthened, soon. The gulf between what science tells us is needed (cuts of over 60 percent globally) and the Kyoto Protocol targets is huge. *Science* magazine recently quoted a top scientist saying we will need about 30 Kyotos-worth of reductions to stabilize the climate.

The Kyoto Protocol virtually guarantees one positive thing, however, the huge debate over ratification of the treaty in this country in the next year will provide us with a historic opportunity to further loosen the grip of fossil fuels on our democracy, to accelerate a green-energy revolution and to strike blows to the heart of one of the most destructive industrial forces on Earth.

You can contact the author and the Atmosphere Alliance at 2103 Harrison Ave. NW, #2615, Olympia, WA 98502; (360) 352-1763; e-mail: atmosphere@olywa.net

CAR-FREE FRANCE

BY RANDY GHENT

Have you ever had to dodge speeding cars while scurrying across busy streets? Been angered by the amount of urban space occupied by cars? Mourned the loss of a car victim? Noticed a community lost to the destruction of nature and urban sprawl?

You're not alone. A movement of activists has formed to liberate cities across Europe from cars, a growing movement making itself heard across

a crowded mid-town motorway during the morning commute.

A second group led by Munich's infamous car-walker, Michael Hartmann, marched over cars parked on the sidewalk. After walking over each car, they attached a sign to the windshield reading, "I walked over your car because I didn't want to slide under it!"

The group later wrapped cars in red and white police ribbon, leaving "official" letters from the city explaining rationally why society can no longer bear the costs of private-car ownership.

The letters concluded by giving drivers a choice: pay the true costs of your car with a hefty fine of 100,000 francs or have your car crushed in exchange for a free bike.

Some cars were actually picked up off the sidewalk by a dozen people and set down

slogan, wailing from an amplified sound system, echoed off the walls of eight-story buildings. Death herself, complete with black cape and evil grin, mounted the now-shrouded Pumpkin and headed the procession, slicing the air with her scythe.

After an hour of marching, when everyone's death-to-the-car chants had been exhausted, the procession stopped at a busy street with narrow sidewalks crammed with people. The undercover cops were powerless to prevent the poor dead Pumpkin from being dragged across the street.

Several people hoisted three 15-meter-long metal poles, inconspicuous under the Pumpkin's black veil, off the roof of the car and set them up as a tripod to block cars at the opposite end of the street. A brave soul then occupied the eight-meter-high tripod perch, preventing police or motorists from

toppling the tripod without seriously injuring the climber.

Barring the ketchup-splattered people lying dead on the

road, a festive atmosphere ensued with acoustic music, bunting, stilts, leaflets, paint-stenciled symbols and flowers, of course. Brand-new bike lanes instantly appeared on the street, just before the drum beats and sunlight diminished.

Towards the end of the afternoon, everyone cleaned up, moved off and marched back to the conference site, traffic jams tailing.

What Next?

Above all, Towards Car-Free Cities built unity and understanding among European car-free cities activists, gathered from groups as seemingly diverse as Montreal's *Le Monde à Bicyclette* and Warsaw's Green Federation. Participants learned from each other about how to use a videocamera, write a press release, speak before a hundred men in ties and how to tackle car domination through folk dancing. Most importantly, participants got to practice these skills in real-life situations.

Attesting to the success of the conference, informal talk of a second Towards Car-Free Cities has already begun, to be held possibly in Tallinn, Estonia.

The projects launched at the conference are in various stages of development: The magazine will premier in spring; the video is completed; an international day of action against the automobile may happen this summer in collaboration with Reclaim the Streets London; and the Lyon center to coordinate these projects is keeping the ball rolling. Whatever else happens is up to you!

Information on anti-car actions and issues can be found in *Car Busters*, an international quarterly car-free magazine launched at the conference. Subscriptions cost US \$20: *Car Busters*, 4 Rue Bodin, 69001 Lyon, France; + (33) 04-72-00-23-57; fax + (33) 04-78-28-57-78; e-mail: rghent@humboldt1.com. The conference organizers and the car-free resource center can be reached at the same address.

Randy Ghent is an Earth Firster and anti-car activist now based in Lyon, France.

"PAY THE TRUE COST OF YOUR CAR... OR HAVE YOUR CAR CRUSHED IN EXCHANGE FOR A FREE BIKE."

in the street, rendering it too narrow to allow cars to pass. The dislocated cars were then ticketed by police, strengthening the message of the "car bouncing" action.

The third and fourth groups swarmed over the city distributing flyers that, at first glance, appeared to be advertisements but actually

asked drivers to get rid of their cars. "Offer to seize immediately," they read. The most successful leafleters donned tutus, painted their faces and stood on stilts at traffic lights. Drivers smiled and waved, anxious to get something for free. Many even stopped at green lights, arms stretched, just to receive the "*offre à saisir immédiatement*."

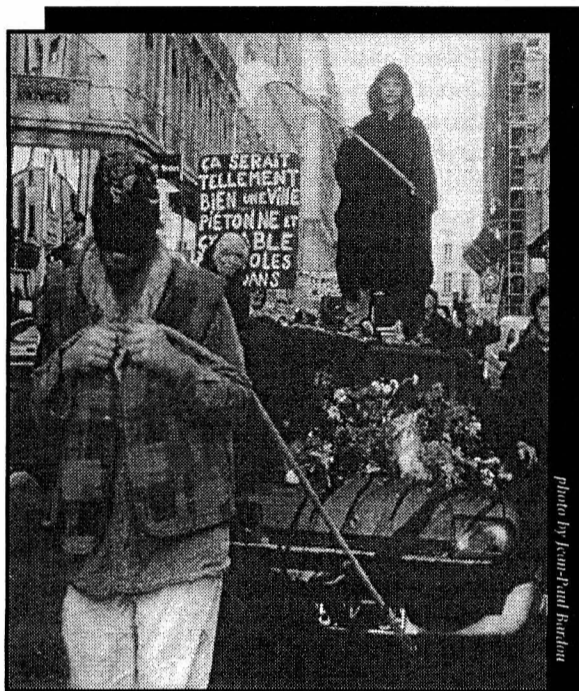
A First for France: Reclaim the Streets!

On Friday November 1, participants had to outdo Wednesday's actions. But Friday also happened to be the "Day of the Dead," kicking off the weekend with the most automobile fatalities of the year. The Day of the Dead is a serious affair in Catholic countries, a day to be respected and honored.

The week before, organizers had found a small orange car, dubbed "the Pumpkin," and veiled it in black for the occasion. Hundreds of posters had been splashed all over town, urging passersbys to join France's first Reclaim the Streets action. Just before 2 p.m., conference participants pushed the Pumpkin to the front of the opera house and were joined by a growing, mourning crowd of local Lyonais.

A few hundred people donned black garb and proceeded through the streets of Lyon, singing funeral dirges and dragging the old car through the city center. "*L'auto, ça pue, ça tue et ça pollue*" ("The car, it stinks, it kills and it pollutes"), they sang solemnly, to the delight of bystanders.

Also dressed in black was a ten-meter-long banner that read simply, "*L'auto, c'est la mort!*" ("The car is death!"). A funeral dirge of the same



The Grim Reaper presides over a funeral procession for the car.

national boundaries and language barriers. At a conference called Towards Car-Free Cities this international movement came together for a first-time fusion of ideas, experiences and culture.

Skill-trainings taught bicycle repair, fundraising, "car walking" and building giant tripods to make road blockades.

The schedule in Lyon was consensus-based, bilingual and interactive. The goal was to strengthen the international "car-free cities" movement, allow activists within it to exchange skills and information and launch ongoing cooperative international projects, including a campaign facilitation and resource center, a quarterly magazine, a pragmatic plan for a future Lyon without cars, a new video and an international day of action against the automobile.

The conference was on the television news every day of the week. "Towards Car-Free Cities" hit heavy even in Norwegian, Hungarian and Polish papers, maintaining press coverage until two weeks after the conference ended. It was then the front page of *Le Monde* screamed, "*Citadins de tous les pays, unissez-vous contre la dictature automobile!*" ("Urbanites of all nations, unite against the automobile dictatorship!")

Cars Ticketed, Walked Over, Bounced and Bannered

The mid-week action developed into the ultimate in experiential workshops. Under the rising Wednesday morning sun, participants broke into four groups, each with a local guide and scheduled press rendezvous.

One group hung a banner reading, "*Assez d'Autos*" ("Enough Cars") above

BARE BONES

Civilian Spy Satellite Soars

The world's first civilian spy satellite was fired into space recently, introducing an era when anyone with a credit card can peer down on the globe to view secret military bases or the happenings in your backyard.

The commercial spy craft was built by EarthWatch Inc. of Longmont, Colorado, and was launched atop a Russian commercial rocket.

EarlyBird 1 is designed to see features on the ground as small as ten-feet long such as cars, trucks, buildings, roads and bridges.

The photos are expected to be used for civilian spying on military targets. Public interest groups hope to use the photos to monitor arms control treaties and to police the world's intelligence services.

Salamander Deformities

A study of salamanders in Oregon's Cascade mountains provides evidence that depletion of the Earth's ozone layer is behind an alarming worldwide decline in amphibians. More than 90 percent of long-toed salamander embryos left exposed to the sun's natural ultraviolet rays either failed to hatch or were born with physical deformities in an experiment conducted last spring. By contrast, 95 percent of embryos protected from the so-called UV-B radiation survived, and only 0.5 percent of those that hatched were deformed.

In the experiment, 200 salamander embryos in a pond near Sisters, Oregon were protected from the sun's UV-B rays by acetate filters, while 200 control embryos were placed under filters that let through 90 percent of the ambient ultraviolet radiation. Of the 200 embryos left unprotected, only 29 hatched and 25 of those had deformities including curved tails and blistering, fluid-filled areas. The results were startling because the salamander embryos in the study were exposed only to natural sunlight.

"We didn't enhance any UV levels or make any changes except to shield some embryos," said Andrew Blaustein, a professor of zoology at Oregon State University. "We suggest that ozone depletion and increased UV is probably playing a role in the decline in amphibian species." A widespread decline in the numbers of some amphibians and even the extinction of some species has been reported since the late 1980s, especially in Australia, the western United States and Central and South America. The declines are particularly alarming because amphibians are seen as sensitive indicators of environmental stress and change.

Save the Talussnail

The Southwest Center for Biological Diversity filed suit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in January to protect the San Xavier talussnail as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The talussnail is an attractive land snail that lives in a deep, limestone rockslide in Pima County, Arizona. The snail is only found in an area of 50 by 100 feet on private land in the Mineral Hills area south of Tucson. It is hermaphroditic, with both sexes present in one individual, and able to reproduce by self-mating. It requires three to four years to mature and has a reproductive life of four to six years, though it is active only three or four days in most years. The USFWS identifies the possible expansion of a nearby copper mine and other mining activities as threats to the talussnail.

ASIAN LOGGERS WREAK HAVOC ON BELIZE RAINFORESTS

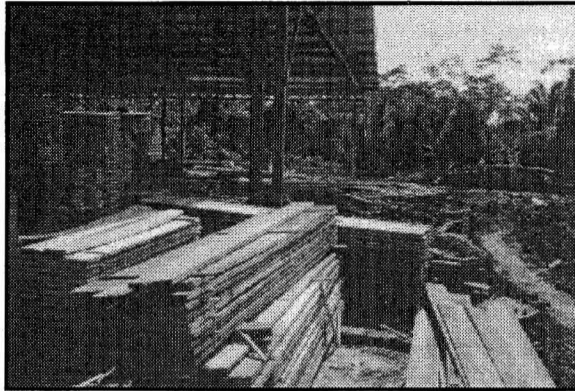
Facing dwindling timber stocks and tightened environmental regulations in overcut forests at home, an army of Asian timber companies is plunging into the world's remaining rainforests. Leading the charge are Malaysian and Indonesian multinationals noted for their poor environmental records.

While logging in tropical rainforests is not new, these corporations are set apart by the vast size of their concessions. Atlantic Industries, for example, is a Malaysian firm that has used legal "holding companies," bribery and intimidation of local officials to acquire the rights to log 200,000 acres of rainforest in the Columbia River Forest Reserve in Belize. Atlantic paid 60 cents per acre for the logging rights.

Scientists believe that the Columbia River Forest Reserve area is of global biological importance. There are, for example, 1,500 species of flowering plants in the area, 15 of which are not found anywhere else. Scientists surveying the reserve in 1992 found three previously unknown species of frogs.

The destruction of Belize's tropical rainforest affects endangered tree frogs, neotropical songbirds and thousands of Mayan people. The Maya have lived in the area since 2000 B.C. Atlantic's logging concession threatens half the population of Mayans in Belize. Julian Cho, a Mayan villager speaking out against the destruction of his homeland, claims that bulldozers dragging downed trees have loosened the thin forest soil, sending it crumbling in great red clumps into nearby streams. In addition, Cho says, game that was traditionally hunted for sustenance is becoming increasingly scarce.

Villagers from Canejo, about 10 miles downstream from where Cho lives, were without drinking water last year when logging operations near streams filled the headwaters of the Temash River with mud. Logging violations are frequent, not only because there are so few government inspectors, but also because most inspectors are paid off



Getting the cut out in the deep jungles of Belize

Photo by Ecologic Development Fund

to maintain their silence. Even when forestry monitors are present (and not corrupted), the only regulation that they can enforce is a 20-meter restricted zone along stream banks. When this zone is surrounded in all directions by clearcuts measuring in the hundreds (or even thousands) of acres, these borders serve little purpose.

The roar of bulldozers and the whine of chainsaws continues unabated. Local forestry experts say that the cutting practices of the Southeast Asian multinationals, particularly Atlantic Industries, have already done irreparable harm to the rainforest. Soil scientist Charles Wright points out that reforestation, whether natural or plantation style, will be extremely difficult. He notes that the loss of the thin topsoil, the lack of water during the dry season because of deterioration of the forest canopy, the invasion of non-native grasses and "weed" plants, and the predation of young trees by cattle and gophers could all lead to possible desertification.

Despite protests from the Mayan people and the Belize Audubon Society, the government has refused to act against Atlantic Industries. Not only have they not canceled Atlantic's license, but the government awarded a branch of Atlantic another concession in June of 1997. Ten other logging concessions have been granted on the Mayan homeland. Already a study by the University of Texas estimates that the deforestation rate for all of Belize is one percent of the forest area per year.

The government needs to hear that people outside of Belize know this indiscriminate logging is occurring and that the people of the world want it stopped. Write both Rt. Honorable Manuel Esquivel and Honorable Minister Dito Juan, at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Prime Minister's Office, Belmopan, Belize.

For more information contact Rainforest Relief at POB 69583, Portland, OR 97201; (503) 236-3031; e-mail: relief@igc.apc.org.

PIPELINE BLOWN UP

The sight of army troops has become commonplace in northeast Colombia, as they search for land mines and patrol Occidental Petroleum Corporation's controversial oil pipeline. Buried six-feet underground, the 540 miles of pipeline have suffered numerous attacks by the leftist National Liberation Army. On December 14, 1997, the pipeline was blown up for the 65th time last year. Another attack on January 4, 1998, forced closure of the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline near Arauquita, 230 miles northeast of Bogotá. More than 500 attacks have been recorded on the pipeline in the last decade. In June and December 1997, rebels fired on two helicopters carrying military and repair crew personnel, killing 21 soldiers and a crew member.

Colombia's army and paramilitary groups repress the people's resistance by employing a US-designed counterinsurgency strategy known locally as *quitarle agua al pez* (draining the fish tank). Instead of fighting the guerrillas, the army and pro-government paramilitary death squads target people they consider sympathizers.

Destruction of the pipeline, running between the eastern plains of Colombia over the eastern Cordillera mountains to Covenas, comprises only part of the opposition to the oil industry's influence over the government. According to Human Rights Watch, opposition to the pipeline is so strong that Colombian paramilitary groups accept \$2 million a year from the US to protect other oil pipelines owned by Royal Dutch/Shell and Occidental Petroleum. British Petroleum recently hired a British mercenary firm called Defense Systems Limited (DSL). DSL soldiers taught a course to Colombian soldiers that included lethal weapons handling, sniper fire and close-quarter combat.

According to a recent report commissioned by the Colombian government, British Petroleum has collaborated with local soldiers involved in kidnappings, torture and murder. The unpublished document alleges that the oil company compiled intelligence, including photos and video tapes of local people protesting oil extraction, and passed the information onto the Colombian military, which then arrested or kidnapped demonstrators considered subversive.

The indigenous U'wa people also oppose the oil drilling. As a result, violent attacks against the U'wa have escalated, exacerbated by Occidental Petroleum's claim that the U'wa have connections to left-wing guerrilla movements. Such a qualifier is comparable to a death sentence in Colombia. Last June, U'wa Leader Roberto Cobaria was pulled from his bed in the middle of the night by a group of hooded men with assault rifles. The assailants held him to the ground, demanding that he sign an authorization agreement with the oil company or lose his life. When Mr. Cobaria refused, the gunmen beat him. Letters of opposition to the pipeline and the gross human rights violations can be directed to Councillor Camilo Salazar, Colombian Embassy, 2118 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 387-8338.

AMAZON ANIMALS MASSACRED FOR DAM

According to Brazil's federal environmental agency, IBAMA, an estimated 37,509 mammals, reptiles and birds were destroyed last October by the Brazilian electric company, FURNAS. The animals were massacred during the filling of the Serra Mesa Dam reservoir in Goias.

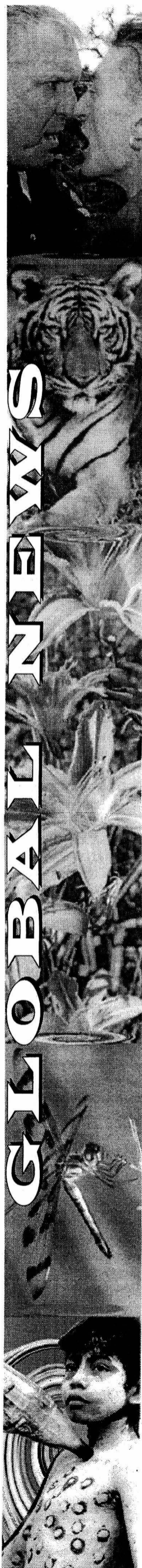
FURNAS flooded thousands of square kilometers at the headwaters of the Tocantins, one of the major rivers of the Amazon, in order to generate 1,293 megawatts of energy. Although an animal rescue team was assigned to capture the drowning animals, the animals were in fact massacred and collected for research experiments. The federal prosecutor in Goias said many of the animals, including monkeys, capybaras, foxes, deer, tapirs and leopard cats were shot by workers for Naturae, the company contracted by FURNAS to conduct the rescue, with arms provided by FURNAS.

"The orders were to shoot anything that moved," said boatman Humberto Pereira da Silva. "We went out in bands of five to kill monkeys, capybaras and other animals... I killed thousands of mammals, more or less," he confessed. Osvaldo Cardoso was also employed as a specialist in killing animals. According to him, snakes, forest mice, monkeys and armadillos were captured and taken to the base. There, they were rapidly killed via lethal injections of ether or chloral hydrate.

According to biologist Nilson Antonio de Oliveira, chief of *Resgate Lobo-Guara* (Wolf Rescue), "the process consists of taking the animals for scientific use. Some of the animals are taken alive for scientific institutions, others to be released in the wild, and reptiles and poisonous snakes are also sent to scientific institutions."

Agents of IBAMA, the prosecutor's office and the police confiscated dozens of animal carcasses as part of an investigation into the massacre. Some animals were found preserved in a freezer. Snakes and monkeys were maintained in formaldehyde in steel drums. Dozens of bird carcasses, including toucans and hawks, were also discovered. Officials are still searching for a cemetery of animals. The bodies will be autopsied to determine the cause of death.

In response to questions regarding the massacre, FURNAS' environmental spokesperson Norma Vilela said, "When a dam is built, flooding an area, a natural habitat is flooded and so it is not recommended to take animals from one place to another, which will cause additional impacts. Everything was discussed and approved with IBAMA." Forward letters of outrage demanding legal action against FURNAS to Counselor Marcos Vinicius Gama, Brazilian Embassy, 3006 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008; (202) 238-2772.



MILITARY OPENS FIRE ON PEACEFUL PROTEST IN SARAWAK

Using M16 rifles and pistols, Malaysian police opened fire on the Dayak Iban people without warning during a peaceful protest against the destruction of their lands by an oil palm plantation company. One person was killed and many others severely wounded during the attack in the state of Sarawak on December 19, 1997.

The small Iban community, living about 100 kilometers from the town of Miri, has opposed the destruction of their native customary lands by the oil palm plantation company Empressa Ltd. and its contractors. The forest-dwelling peoples of Sarawak depend on the land surrounding their longhouses for growing food and obtaining building and other materials. Losing their land means losing their livelihoods, culture and life itself. More than 1.5-million hectares of land have been earmarked by the state government for conversion to oil palm plantations.

Without notifying or consulting the Iban, the Land and Survey Department issued a provisional lease to Empressa. The local people first learned of the establishment of an oil palm plantation in their community when the companies moved in with bulldozers and started to clear their land. The people went to the local police station and requested that the police stop Empressa and its contractors from operating. The people visited two police stations, neither of which would accept the report detailing their objections. While the companies continued clearing their land, the Iban wrote letters to the Land and Survey Department and other government departments requesting that the lease be withdrawn or revoked. However, no action was taken by the police or other government authorities.

Failing to get a response, about 300 Iban put up a blockade to protect their land. After the blockade was destroyed, left with no other alternative, the Iban detained three bulldozers belonging to the companies, which they kept safely at their longhouse.

The actions of the people were designed to stop Empressa from operating and to initiate a dialogue with the company. The company responded by calling the police. After a visit from a truckload of police on December 18, the people refused to return the bulldozers because the company still had made no promise to stop working on the land.

The following day, acting without any court order, warrant or summons, the police came to re-

trieve the bulldozers from the Iban. The police returned in greater force, without identification and armed with M16 rifles, side arms and batons. The locals recognized them as being from peninsular Malaysia, indicating that the officers' actions had the sanction of the federal government, as well as the Sarawak state government.

The people of the village gathered peacefully outside their longhouse when the police arrived, holding a banner tied between two poles bearing the statement, "Land is Our Life." The people smiled and joked with each other, enjoying the party-like atmosphere of the protest. Offerings were made to the ancestors to cleanse the spirit and provide greater protection to the people.

The banner was to act as a line over which negotiations with the company and the police could take place. After the exchange of a few words, however, one of the officers rushed forward and tried to arrest



Malaysian police attack Iban villagers peacefully defending their land.

the headman of the Iban longhouse. At the same time, he ordered the other officers to charge and open fire on the unarmed villagers gathered to hear the negotiations.

The first person was shot just as the commotion of the arrest of the 63-year-old headman of the village began. When another member of the community was hit he asked the people to defend themselves and ran to get his machete. After he returned, he was shot a second time attempting to defend the other people of the community. About to collapse, he

swung his machete, cutting one officer. While laying on the ground, he was shot in the side with an M16 a third time at close range. Another person was shot in the abdomen.

The first person shot died of a bullet lodged in his head, after five-days laying comatose in a hospital. He was married with three children. The two other victims were hospitalized. Other injuries were sustained by members of the community who were savagely beaten by the police. The headman's left arm was severely injured after being struck with a baton.

In all, six Iban villagers were arrested and detained, including a 13-year old. Twenty-two other Iban from neighboring communities were also detained briefly between December 19 and 23. All of the people were eventually released without charges but ordered to appear at the magistrate's court in Marudi. During their first appearance in court on January 22, with over 100 other Iban gathered outside the building to rally support, the villagers were not charged. Instead, they were individually photographed by the police and told they must return to court on March 9.

Since the attack on the Iban, the area around the longhouse, and the only road leading to it are heavily patrolled by police. A helicopter also surveys the area. People trying to get to the longhouse have been denied access. The chief of police has returned to the longhouse to arrest 11 more people. And, on January 23, the headman was arrested and jailed without charge.

The Iban are scared of what will befall them next, given the recent attack and continuing harassment. They are desperately appealing to the international community for support. Please send letters of opposition to this violence against the Iban to the following people:

YAB Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Jalan Dato Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; fax 60 3 230 6540 / 255 6264 / 230 0786. YB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak, Tingkat 14, Wisma Bapa, Malaysia, Petra Jaya, 93502 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia; fax 60 82 441 975 / 440 500 / 492 288. The Chief Judge of the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Judicial Department, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia; fax 60 82 417 322.

Please send a copy of your letter to:

The Borneo Project, 1916 A Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94703 USA; (510) 705-8987; fax 705-8988; e-mail: borneo@earthisland.org.

POACHING KILLS A TIGER EVERY DAY IN INDIA

The London-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has released a report that blames Indian politicians for failing to restrict poaching, which is threatening the survival of the Indian Bengal tiger and other wildlife. Additionally, tiger habitat across India is encroached upon, polluted and destroyed by industrial corporations.

"Poaching for bones for Chinese medicine, skins, penises, teeth and nails is responsible for the death of at least one tiger each day in India," the report found. "Poachers and dealers, when they are occasionally apprehended, are routinely released on bail and re-offend," said the EIA in its report, *The Political Wilderness: India's Tiger Crisis*. The international conservation agency has said that reports by expert wildlife committees that recommend strong and effective action are merely being filed away because the Indian Wildlife Board has not met for eight years.

Three sub-species of the tiger have become extinct in this century alone—only five remain. India is home to two-thirds of the world tiger population. EIA claims that tiger reserves, national parks and sanctuaries can no longer be seen as protected areas because economic liberalization has opened them to development.

But citizens are getting active over such issues, and their initiatives are highlighting the problem nationwide, taking it right into Parliament. Despite the depredations, India still has more tigers, one-horned rhinos and Asian elephants than any other country. Because India's committed conservation staff has been treated with complete indifference, the Prime Minister's office is to blame for its lack of conviction in responding to the people's appeal for stronger wildlife protection measures.

EIA director Dave Currey argues that "without political leadership, India's

tigers, rhinos and elephants, together with many less visible species, will disappear within the next few years. Try explaining that to the children of India."

On the 50th anniversary of India's independence, history was made when 320 members of Parliament signed an urgent "tiger appeal" addressed to Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral. It read, "The tiger is the greatest symbol of natural heritage, not just in India, but in the world. We urgently appeal to you to initiate new and immediate reforms in the mechanisms of administration, funding and enforcement in order that the tiger and its habitat can be saved across the length and breadth of the country." Parliamentarians told the prime minister that the future of the tiger "lies in your hands." Its extinction, they warned, would herald a downward spiral of ecological decay.

Some 222 members of the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) and 98 members of the Rajya Sabha (the upper house) signed the appeal. These individuals represented more than 22 political parties and independents from 24 federal states and union territories in India.

Recently, campaigners in India put together a map indicating the country's "wildlife hotspots." Even the Andamans, the remote and once-untouched islands in the Bay of Bengal, have been plagued for years by logging, indiscriminate road building and refugee resettlement. On the other hand, large states like Madhya Pradesh, in the heart of India, face degradation of wildlife habitat due to the building of power plants, coal fields and rampant tourism. Tiger reserves have been hard-hit by growing human encroachments; dams and irrigation projects divert water from vital wildlife habitats.

Forward letters of concern to Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi, India 110011. A website dedicated to India's wildlife is located at <http://wild.allindia.com>.

Genetically Engineered, but it's OK, it's Organic!

BY GARTH KAHL

While all agricultural production has impacts on natural ecosystems and biological diversity, consuming certified organic products is currently the only way to ensure that one's consumption has the least possible impact, short of growing your own food and fiber. On December 16 the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed legislation that could seriously undermine current organic practices in the US and lead to the use of materials like a rodenticide with a long history of poisoning wildlife, toxic municipal sewage sludge, and genetically engineered organisms (GEOs) in the production of "organic" crops.

In response to the huge national and international demand for organic food sparked by environmental as well as human health concerns, the government is attempting to define and control organic farming. While the idea of a national definition of the term "organic" has merit (there are many organizations, some with relatively low standards, who "certify" the authenticity of organic food), the legislation in its current form has been heavily influenced by large-scale agribusiness and biotech interests, who would like nothing more than to cash in on the higher prices garnered by organic products. Among the elements in the new National Organic Standards are provisions opening the door for GEOs to be used in organic farming and processing, allowing factory farming and permitting the use of "inert" ingredients (including fungicides in some applications). The rule would also allow the use of the rodenticide strychnine, which is especially hazardous to hawks, owls and other "non-target" predators that eat poisoned rodents and die.

In crafting this legislation, the USDA solicited input from thousands of activists, farmers and consumers across the country. In addition, the agency recruited a number of well-respected

organic growers, processors, scientists and activists to serve on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB prepared a set of recommendations that were generally quite thorough and would have allowed the continued expansion of organic agriculture without compromising its environmental integrity. In the currently proposed rules, however, the USDA ignores the recommendations of the NOSB in many areas, most notably by foregoing a total ban on the use of GEOs.

Among the genetically modified crops widely planted by conventional growers are: insecticide-producing corn, potatoes, cotton, canola (rape seed) and herbicide-resistant soybeans. According to industry sources, nearly 25 percent of both the soybean and canola crops in 1997 were genetically modified, and the 1998 GEO planting is expected to be much larger. These human-made organisms pose incalculable threats to the stability of natural ecosystems, not to mention unknown human health risks, as genes for insecticide production or other unnatural traits may be transferred from the cultivated plants to adjacent wild species via insects or other vectors. Imagine a host plant like milkweed, for instance, suddenly becoming toxic to the monarch butterflies that feed on it.

Currently there is a nearly universal prohibition against the use of GEOs in organic agriculture, and the NOSB recommended that they be prohibited wholesale from organic farming and handling. Despite this strong sentiment from the NOSB and widespread public resistance to GEOs, the USDA wants to allow the use of pesticides and food additives derived from GEOs and consider the permissibility of other GEOs on a case by case basis.

Another troubling aspect of this document, and there are many, is a provision allowing livestock to "be maintained under conditions that restrict the available space for movement or their access to the outside."

The USDA took nearly a decade to craft these rules but is allowing the public only 90 days to comment. Once the comment period closes on March 16, 1998, the document will be passed to Congress, where reforming it will be even more difficult. There is a general sentiment within the organic agriculture community that the USDA knows it is going out on a limb by ignoring so many of the NOSB's recommendations and may be responsive to public outcry. The agency is accepting written comments as well as faxes and e-mail until March 16. Please contact them and tell them to accept all of the NOSB's recommendations without change, especially the ban on GEOs, and to only allow NOSB's list of substances approved for use in organic farming and processing. Better yet, obtain a copy of the rule and contact the organizations below for more information on problems and loopholes found in the document.

Comments should be submitted before March 16 to Eileen S. Stommes, USDA National Organic Standards, Docket # TMD-94-00-2, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room 4007-So., Ag Stop 0275, POB 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; fax (202) 690-4632.

Additionally, comments may be sent via the internet through the National Organic Program's homepage at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

To obtain a copy of the rule, contact Michael I. Hankin, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room 2510-So., POB 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; (202) 720-3252; fax 690-3924. Copies of the rule are \$8, or the rule may be downloaded from the website above.

For additional information on opposition to the rule, contact the Organic Farmers Marketing Association, 8364 S SR 39, Clayton, IN 46118; (317) 539-4317; fax 539-6935; e-mail: cvofo@quest.net or the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, 701 E Street, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 543-5450, fax 543-4791; e-mail: ncamp@igc.org.



Animal Liberation Front

past and present

Since 1982, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) has led a covert campaign of economic sabotage and animal rescue operations in the United States and Canada. Using direct action to produce results that mainstream animal rights groups appear reluctant to use, the ALF is seen by many animal rights activists as our movement's militant wing, breaking the law when necessary to drive the cost of animal abuse sky-high and rescue individual victims of torture. The government has proven time and again that its compassion lies with profiteers, providing sanctuary for the abuse and exploitation of non-human animals despite public opinion. Therein lies the justification for an illegal direct action contingent.

The ALF's early actions were primarily against animal research, or vivisection. One of the earlier raids in North America was a visit in 1984 to the University of Pennsylvania's Head Injury Laboratory, where the ALF confiscated videotapes revealing baboons having their skulls crushed. Releasing the tapes to the public helped lead to the lab's closure. Other lab raids centered on the rescue of individual victims of vivisection. In a 1985 raid on the University of California at Riverside, over 800 animals were rescued from psychology labs, including an infant macaque monkey whose eyelids had been sewn shut and was found isolated in a metal box as part of a "sensory deprivation" experiment. After rehabilitation, the infant was placed with a foster macaque mother who readily adopted her. The ALF escalated its campaign against vivisection in 1987 when it fire-bombed the unfinished Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of California at Davis, causing over \$3 million in property damage. The lab's primary purpose was to serve the livestock industry in its efforts to contain diseases that cut into profits. The largest lab animal liberation came in 1989 when the ALF rescued 1,200 animals from the University of Arizona. Computer records and files for vivisection were destroyed by fire in a microbiology lab.

ALF members have also been involved in major acts of eco-sabotage. The communion between direct action environmentalists and the ALF began on the West Coast, where as early as 1987, slaughterhouses and meat-processing plants were fire-bombed. In 1988, the offices of the California Cattleman's Association in Sacramento were vandalized and the nearby Dixon Livestock Auction was fire-bombed by a coalition of both groups. According to the EF! Anti-grazing Task Force, the Dixon facility was a central hub for ranchers selling livestock, most of which grazed on public lands. On Earth Day 1990, the Earth Night Action Group, including activists from both movements, toppled powerlines from a coal-fired generation station in California to protest the burning of fossil-fuels. Also in 1988, the ALF rescued 13 beagles from the University of California at Irvine, where the gas masks strapped to the beagles' faces forced them to breathe carbon dioxide to study the effects of air pollution. In 1987, the Western Wildlife Cell of the ALF was formed and its first action was to release 200 wild horses from a BLM facility in northeastern California where the horses were detained because they competed with cattle for grazing lands.

A strategy like the ALF's that utilizes illegal means doesn't come without government repression. Federal grand juries convened to investigate the 1987 UC Davis arson of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, but no activists were ever indicted. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has often been a target for federal harassment due to their vocal support of the ALF.

In 1991, the Western Wildlife Cell of the ALF launched a series of raids on fur-farm industry targets, first fire-bombing Washington State University's Experimental Fur

Farm, leading to its closure less than a year later. The next week, a fur farm feed distributor in Washington suffered an \$800,000 arson attack. In August, the same cell of the ALF raided Washington State University, rescuing seven coyotes used to research sarcocystis, a disease that coyotes painlessly carry in the wild, that can damage the commercially valuable wool and meat of free-range sheep. Six mink were also rescued from the Experimental Fur Farm operated jointly by Utah State University and the US Department of Agriculture, an agency which conducts experimentation on behalf of both the livestock and fur industries. In December 1991, an Oregon fur farm was destroyed by fire. In February 1992, the Western Wildlife Cell of the ALF raided Michigan State University's (MSU) Furbearer Research Facility, which conducted experiments on mink, ferrets and otters. The experiments at MSU include force-feeding toxins such as

Breeders Association offered a \$100,000 reward for the conviction of ALF activists.

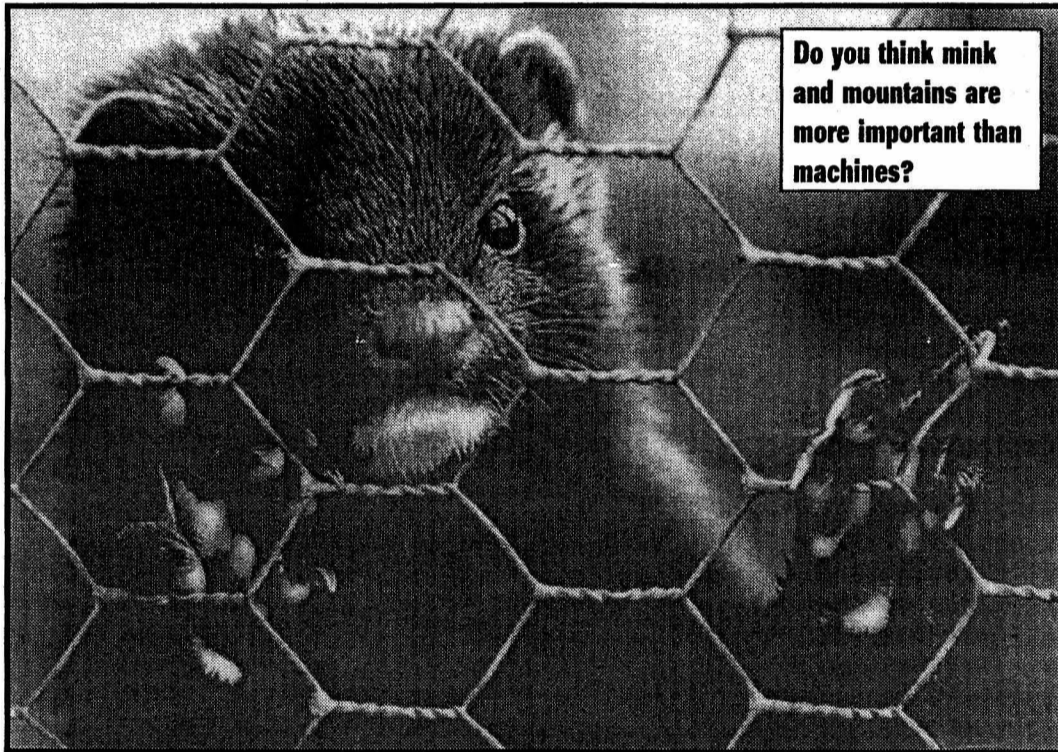
The ALF's aim in liberating mink is two-fold. One objective is to inflict economic hardship on fur farms by decreasing profit margins and increasing operational costs. Additionally, pelt quality is compromised due to the loss of identity of prime breeding mink. Secondly, mink liberations allow these native animals, who are virtually genetically identical to their wild cousins, the opportunity to refill their ecological niche. Fur farms are also notorious for the effluence of animal waste into local water tables. In March 1997, the ALF raided Utah Fur Breeders Co-operative, using pipe-bombs that caused \$2 million in damages, destroying offices and trucks, but injuring no mink or people. The co-op conducts nutrition research and distributes feed and supplies to Utah's fur farms, an industry that began 80 years ago with mink captured from the nearby wilderness.

While mink and fox farm liberations continued across the country, an ALF cell fire-bombed the retail outlet Alaska Furs in Minnesota, causing another \$1 million in damages. Following the May 1997 ALF raid on an Oregon fur farm resulting in the release of 10,000 mink, the Department of Justice convened a grand jury to investigate the ALF's actions against the fur and wild horses trade. The Animal Enterprises Protection Act (passed in 1992 following earlier ALF actions) makes such acts felonies, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and fines equal to triple the amount of damages.

Despite the attempted repression by the federal government under pressure from the animal agriculture industries, the ALF continues to elude capture. At the close of 1997, it has accepted responsibility for raids on 45 fur farms in the US and Canada, resulting in approximately 75,000 mink and fox being released from their cages and

millions of dollars in damage. According to an October 1997 communiqué following the release of 5,000 mink and an estimated \$800,000 in damages to a Illinois fur farm, the ALF is far from defeated: "[Fur] stores will be attacked and [fur] farms raided until the whole industry is destroyed and all the animals are free. Millions of animals are slaughtered each year at the hands of the fur industry... Fur farmers and animal murderers beware! The Animal Liberation Front visits you next!" Clearly, as reflected by the industry's high reward for the conviction of activists and the government's investigations, nothing threatens the fur farm industry in the US as much as the ALF, direct actions and continued pressure on the retail market by above-ground allies.

Regardless of how one feels about the ALF's disregard for laws that sanction animal abuse, no one in the animal rights movement can deny that the ALF has helped push the atrocities of vivisection and the fur trade into the light of day. Federal repression is simply the price ALF is willing to pay for a strategy completely free from state control. Now our objective is to shatter the media-generated stereotype of the ALF as a purely "animal rights" organization. Such an image hides the truth that the ALF is an autonomous volunteer insurgency that is as opposed to environmental destruction as it is to animal abuse. The ALF's goal is to destroy the fur, livestock and other animal abuse industries responsible for the extermination of native species of plants and animals and their habitat as the result of direct killing, resource exploitation, development, aquatic pollution and competition from non-native animals. The objective is not only to stop the commercial exploitation of animals, but to see nature restored when possible with the animals held captive in fur farms, zoos, aquariums and circuses. The struggles of the ALF and Earth First! are too similar for us to remain divided; our opponents' worst fear is that we unite. For all that is wild, let's work together for liberation.



PCBs to study the effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Two mink were rescued and 30 years of animal research destroyed in a fire in the offices and labs of MSU.

Following these actions, the Department of Justice convened three federal grand juries that resulted in the subpoenaing of dozens of Earth First!ers, PETA members and other animal liberationists, four of whom were imprisoned for six months each for refusing to testify. Possibly the one action that best exemplified common struggle between Earth warriors and the ALF was the 1992 raid on the USDA's Animal Damage Control program. Utah State University (USU) vivisector Fred Knowlton has for the past 30 years developed and devised poisons and traps used to kill over a hundred thousand coyotes and other predators to benefit the livestock industry. The Predator Research Facility in Melville, Utah is where Knowlton imprisons over 120 wild-caught coyotes who are force-fed poison baits and used to test new traps. The ALF fire-bombed Knowlton's USU research facility, resulting in its destruction and the rescue of 32 coyotes. Following this action, a joint task force of local, state, university and federal law enforcement officials formed to indict ALF members, leading to the conviction of one of the activists responsible, who is currently serving a 57-month sentence in federal prison.

Undaunted, the ALF relaunched its campaign against the fur farm industry in 1995 when it began releasing fox and tens of thousands of mink from their cages on fur farms into the surrounding countryside. Each release gave fur farm prisoners freedom, but also resulted in thousands of dollars in damage to fur farms when they lost breeding records and genetic histories.

By the summer of 1996, over 12 fur farms had been raided in Minnesota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, New York and Tennessee. With an estimated 15,000 mink released, the Fur Commission USA and Canadian Mink

The Ecology of ANIMAL LIBERATION

Where do the practice of animal liberation and the philosophy of deep ecology converge? Adherents to deep ecology value the intrinsic worth of the natural world as practitioners of animal liberation defend the right of any and every animal to individual liberty. The lynx, mink and fox imprisoned on America's 500-plus fur farms are denied freedom just as they are denied participation in a healthy, undisturbed ecosystem. Animal liberation and deep ecology are complementary visions of a caring and sane world.

An animal's liberation means the freedom to live as her/his ancestors have for thousands of years, a life that not only maintains ecological integrity, but also a life that provides happiness and prosperity for their families and communities. We must remember that 200 years ago (a nanosecond in the Earth's lifetime) there were no laboratory rats or guinea pigs. There existed no mice implanted with human DNA, no purpose-bred primates or genetically altered mink and fox on fur farms. These animals are Frankensteinian creations, victims of humanity's selfish imitation of life—humans posing as the creator of life for the sake of economic gain, at a cost to animal nations and to our own health and shared environment. Animal liberation is a resistance to these attitudes and practices—deep ecology is a way of seeing the other beings with whom we share the earth as equals whose life has a purpose greater than any we can define.

Animal liberationists do not need scientists, linguists, sociologists or any other academic to

validate or convince us that animal lives are worth defending. We've seen the expressions in the animals close to us, and if you are able to open your eyes wide enough, you can see it in the wildlife humans allow to survive—in bears who have been known to meditatively gaze at sunsets, dolphins frolicking in the waves and the proud mother wolf who loves her pups and is willing to die to protect them. Similarly, deep ecology teaches us that intuition and emotion can lead to joy and a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Animal liberationists are defenders of biodiversity, but in addition to protecting healthy ecosystems we choose to defend the rights of all animals, be they bears, apes, coyotes, bison, rats or mink, because we believe they all have a right to freely migrate between their wild homelands feeding on the foods that sustain them, raising their children and perpetuating the culture sci-

tists call "habitual behavior." Animal liberation ultimately strives to return all animals to an existence where they can pursue individual prosperity as well as the maintenance of ecological integrity as community members in the circle of life. It means destroying the economic incentive to breed animals with the purpose of benefiting humankind without questioning the consequential physical and psychological suffering of that existence. Animal liberation means we as humans do not support the industries that condemn animals to a life of misery and deprive them of a natural role in a functioning ecosystem.

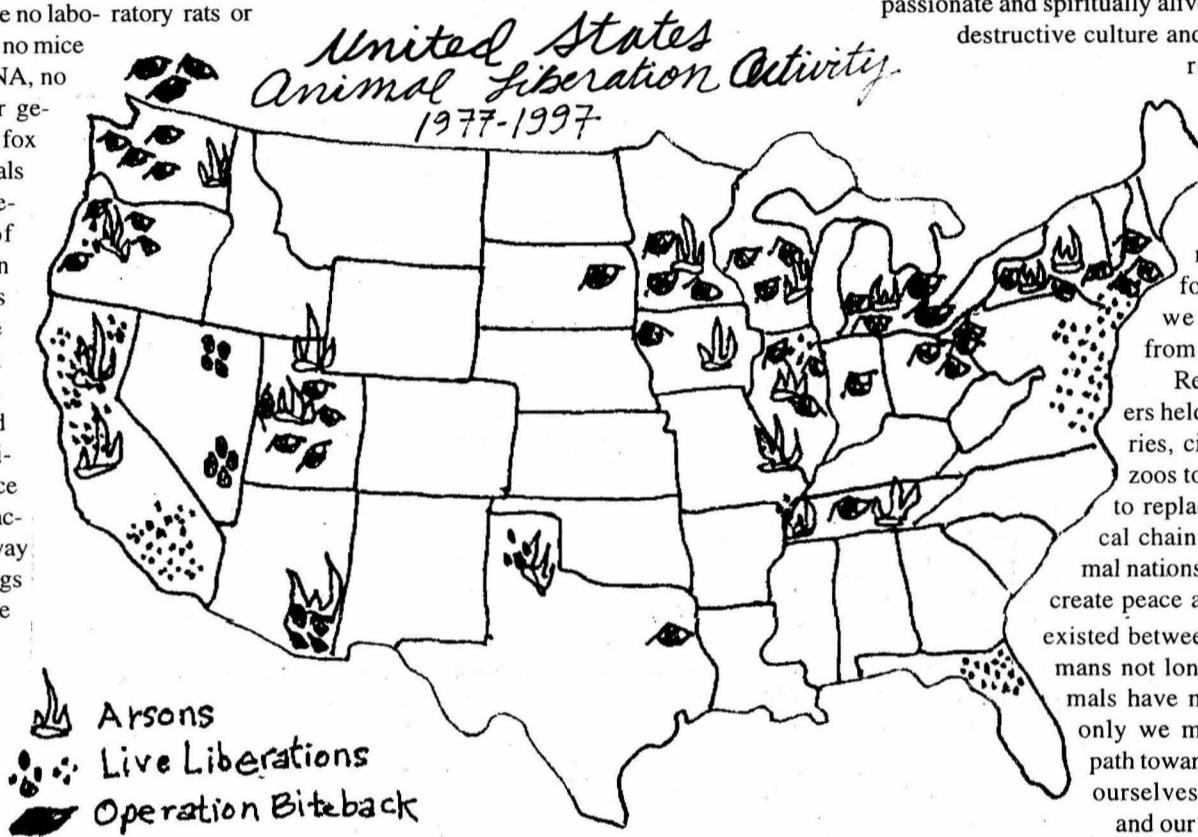
Deep ecology, with its holistic perception of nature and animals, is not a new idea, and the belief that nature is supreme and her animal children are individuals with the right to pursue a life free from human-caused suffering is older than any of the cultures to which those European men belonged. Many of us are familiar with the words of indigenous peoples such as Sealk (Chief Seattle) who respected and recognized the kinship and value of all life. Those perspectives among the pre-Christian human inhabitants of Earth were more common than unique.

Animal liberation is the praxis of deep ecology and a rebirth of these older ethics. It's a call for compassionate and spiritually alive beings to abandon our destructive culture and beliefs. Deep ecology

reminds animal

liberationists that the liberation of tortured animals is a moot point if they must live a life separated from nature, dependent on us for their existence once we have released them from their cages.

Returning animal prisoners held in fur farms, laboratories, circuses, aquariums and zoos to their rightful homes is to replace links in an ecological chain. We owe it to the animal nations to work collectively to create peace and harmony as it once existed between humans and non-humans not long ago. Nature and animals have much to teach us all, if only we might listen. Along the path towards their preservation we ourselves might find liberation and our place in the web of life.



UNCLE SAM'S BLOODY HANDS

Government agencies play a leading and especially malignant role in the persecution of wildlife. Though they are public agencies, the majority of the public is denied a meaningful voice in policy-making. Agencies pander to industry interests and perpetuate a cycle of atrocities whereby revenue generated by wild animal slaughter pays for more of the same.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is one of many agencies that dabbles in this shady business. The BLM has long argued that wild horses overgraze public lands and compete with native wildlife and cattle, though wild horses constitute less than 5 percent of all grazing animals on public land (while cows account for over 70 percent). Every year around 10,000 wild horses are rounded up by the BLM and sold through an "adoption program" where they end up as pets, rodeo broncos or are sold to slaughterhouses.

One BLM-supplied slaughterhouse, the Cavel West horse rendering plant in Redmond, Oregon, was targeted by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) on July 21, 1997. A fire destroyed the slaughterhouse, causing \$1 million in damages to one of the nation's largest processors of wild horse meat for export to Europe and Asia. The following November, a collaborative effort in eastern Oregon between the ALF and the Earth Liberation Front released 500 horses from BLM corrals and burned horse pens and chutes.

The Department of the Interior, which oversees the BLM, has failed to curb the trade of wild

horses that was made illegal under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act. Perhaps the agency is tied up with the vehement opposition to their slaughter of over 1,100 wild bison in Montana over the past year—yet another concession to the cattle industry, which mistakenly believes that bison transmit brucellosis to cattle.

The cattle industry seldom backs its demands with credible figures. Wildlife Services, known as Animal Damage Control until August 1997, is a federally funded program supplied free of charge to the livestock and agriculture industries and results in the slaughter of tens of thousands of predators and other wildlife annually. Administered by the US Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services traps, shoots, poisons, gasses, burns and maims millions of animals every year on public and private land. Ranchers and rural developers benefited from the \$37 million spent in 1996 on killing predators, without even having to verify their livestock losses prior to receiving this welfare. During that year, Wildlife Services killed 651 badger, 273 bear, 1,731 bobcat, 81,000 coyote, 6,050 fox and 274 mountain lions.

Wildlife Services allows unlicensed trappers to use such barbaric weapons as M-44 devices—spring-loaded contraptions embedded in the ground that inject sodium cyanide into the mouths and noses of whatever animals pull on the meat-baited tops. The idea is to kill predators before they affect animals used for food. But Wildlife Services isn't the only group responsible for wild animal butchery.

Wildlife agencies and hunters exist for one an-

other. Agency employees pay themselves with the money collected from hunting fees, and so the 6 percent of Americans who covet a twelve-point rack of antlers for their mantles exert an influence over these agencies well out of proportion to their actual numbers. Habitat is managed for maximum ungulate number, wildlife is trapped and transplanted to hunting areas, the landscape is manipulated to artificially inflate hunted populations and research is done to determine which non-native species are hardy enough to be released for hunting. Predators are killed so their prey species can be killed by hunters instead.

The state still promotes the myth that they protect wild animals—yet every year in the US, 100 million animals are killed by hunters, including 500,000 wildcats, 25,000 bears, 11 million rabbits, 10 million ducks, 1,000 mountain lions, 500,000 prairie dogs, 3 million geese, 40,000 bobcats, 170,000 elk and 25 million doves. Ironically, we are the only species to justify hunting in the name of population control.

It's telling that the USDA administers both Wildlife Services and the Forest Service. Animal and Earth liberationists clearly have work to do together. The Cavel West arson has heavily impacted the business of horse slaughter, and should the company decide to rebuild, the city requires that it must remedy its flagrant pollution problems that existed before the fire. The gruesome carnage of the Earth and her creatures may best be quelled by similar direct defense. With industries' suffocating hold over public agencies and opportunities for public input virtually nonexistent, few other avenues can produce results.



Capitalist Pigs:

The Story Behind Livestock Pollution

The animal rights movement has long opposed the intensive confinement operations of the animal agriculture industry which raises over nine billion animals a year for human consumption in the US alone. We've heard that the grains fed to these animals could feed eight times as many humans as their flesh does. We know meat production depletes water resources, causes erosion and topsoil depletion and that livestock grazed over public lands destroys sensitive plant and animal life. We see that hundreds of thousands of native animals are killed every year to make way for livestock. But the factory farming of poultry, hogs and dairy cattle in the 1990s is injecting torrents of deadly waste into the nation's waterways and wreaking untold environmental destruction.

The average corporate hog farm, housing between 15,000 and 30,000 pigs, produces more waste than a city of 100,000 people. With the pork industry's annual slaughter of over 90

million pigs, each ton of pork results in 32 tons of waste. Half the coastal fish nurseries from Maine to Florida are contaminated with pig slaughter run-off, dumping phosphorous and fecal pollutants into the sea. Waste from pig farms breed bacteria and viruses such as avian botulism and cholera which kill thousands of migratory waterfowl annually. Still, the industry grows.

In Utah, Smithfield Foods, the East Coast's largest pork producer and three other North Carolina pork producers are currently building the world's largest hog farm. When completed at the end of 1998, the operation will occupy 50,000 acres and raise 2.5 million pigs annually. The pigs will be housed 120,000 per barn and will produce more waste than all the human inhabitants in Utah. Smithfield Foods of Virginia was recently fined \$12.6 million for polluting the Pagan River, feeding the Chesapeake Bay with animal and slaughterhouse waste containing phosphorous, cyanide, oil, ammonia and fecal coliform bacteria. Contamination levels were so high the state's computer program believed it to be an error.

Smithfield Foods is not alone in its gross environmental pollution. In 1995, a waste spill from a hog farm, three times the volume of the oil spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster, killed 14 million fish and all aquatic life within a 17-mile stretch of the Neuse River in North Carolina. In 1996, there were more than 40 major animal waste spills which killed hundreds of thousands of fish in

Texas, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri.

Recent outbreaks in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia of the toxic parasite *pfistera*, which grows in the phosphorus- and nitrogen-rich manure created by factory farms, have ravaged rivers and coastal ecosystems, killing over a billion fish and other aquatic life. *Pfistera* can be attributed to the East Coast's poultry and hog producers.

While human waste and industrial discharge are regulated by state and federal guidelines, only a small percentage of factory farm operations are ever even inspected. One investigation in North Carolina found 87 percent of hog farms inspected were found to be in violation of the Clean Water Act. What's more, legal restrictions on the industry are being increasingly circumvented by special interest politicking.

In Utah, through campaign contributions and an intense lobbying effort, pork producers were able to pass the 1994 Agriculture Protection Act which grants immunity from environmental regulations to factory farms. In Texas, Illinois and other states corporate livestock producers have similarly helped

pass legislation that protect their operations from environmental laws. In California, now the nation's largest dairy state, political donations from the dairy industry in recent years have topped \$700,000, as fewer than half of the state's 1,600 dairy farms undergo inspection despite the history of agricultural pollution that has nearly destroyed the delicate San Joaquin Valley ecosystem. As shocking as this all sounds, livestock producers face minimal water quality regulations in most states, requiring voluntary compliance at best.

Modern animal agriculture operations dominated by a few multinational agribusiness corporations have replaced small family farms with mega-farms. In these facilities, millions of pigs and chickens are housed in cages and pens where they can hardly move, never touch the Earth or see the light of day. Driven by the demand for a meat-centered diet by primarily affluent Americans, the animal agriculture industry has created factory farming operations that are killing our streams, rivers and estuaries.

Radical environmentalists as well as animal liberationists need to address the issue of livestock pollution if we are to protect our aquatic environments and preserve the lives of wildlife killed by industrialized agriculture. The livestock industry will resist reform as long as possible. It is time we organize coalitions to protect waterways from contamination and wildlife and domesticated animals from the horrors of corporate farming.

The average corporate hog farm... produces more waste than a city of 100,000 people.



VIVISECTION: Torture By Any Other Name...

The cures for our modern ailments and illnesses will never be found through vivisection, the heinous practice of animal experimentation. People of conscience raise the question, "What gives humanity the right to subjugate other living beings to agonizing torture for our selfish benefit?" Nonetheless, vivisection prevails in laboratories all over the world.

Pro-vivisection forces funded by the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries argue that animal research saves lives by testing drugs for human safety on animals. However, the US General Accounting Office's review of 198 of the 209 new drugs marketed between 1976 and 1985 found that 52 percent had "serious post-approval risks" not predicted by animal tests. Only six percent of all vivisection has any direct influence on human medicine need clinical trials on humans before conclusion.

In 1983, the pharmaceutical company Pfizer carried out a special study to see if animal experiments could correctly identify cancer-causing agents. Human experiments were compared with data from rats and mice for all chemicals known to cause cancer in people. In most cases, the data from animal tests were inconsistent with those from human studies.

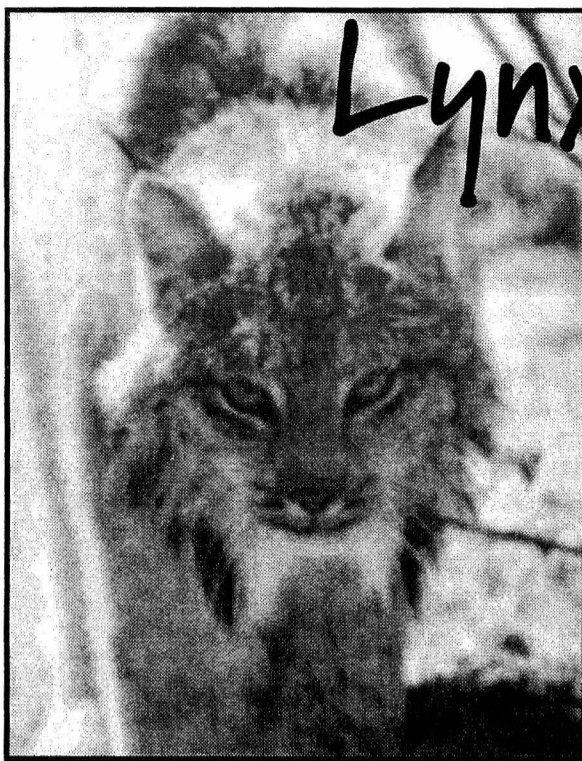
Further doubt is cast on the efficacy of animal research because the species most often employed are usually chosen on non-specific grounds such as cost, ease of handling and laboratory tradition. Rabbits are the favorite animal for eye-irritation studies because they are inexpensive, readily available, docile and have large eyes for assessing results. However, there

are major physiological and biochemical differences which make the rabbit eye a bad model for the human eye.

In one experiment, different lower primates were fed automatically only when they pulled a lever that administered a painful electrical shock to a fellow primate visible in an adjoining cage. Most preferred starvation, especially individuals who had themselves once been the recipients of the shocks. One wonders which species is really the more civilized and intelligent. The desensitization that accompanies animal experimentation blinds us to the most obvious observations and allows incredible cruelty to continue.

It would take an encyclopedia to list all of the bizarre and barbaric experiments vivisectionists have conjured up to inflict on animals behind locked laboratory doors. Monkeys are addicted to crack cocaine to replicate human addicts, kittens' optical nerves are cut to mimic the blind, dogs have bones broken and spinal cords cut to imitate human disability, rats and mice are forced to carry human cancers and millions of other "lab" animals are force-fed poisons and have caustic substances applied to their eyes and genitals.

Vivisection is simply inaccurate and unnecessary in developing drugs and simulating ailments. The path to true health and the cure for our illnesses lies in our recovery from self-imposed amnesia and a return to a harmonious existence with nature. We owe it to the animal victims of vivisection to take immediate actions which exert economic and political pressure on vivisectionists and put an end to this barbaric practice.



Lynx on the Brink

Despite there being as few as 150 lynx left in Montana, the state continues to allow commercial fur trapping of this species. The US Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledges the lynx is endangered, yet refuses to offer the cat any protection from its nemesis—the logging industry and fur trade. Trappers oppose protection for the lynx under the Endangered Species Act, as it would protect not only the lynx but other furbearers who share its habitat.

Direct Action Defense Fund
 POB 57357
 Tuscon, AZ 85732-7537
 (520) 795-5171
PETA
 501 Front St.
 Norfolk, VA 23501
 (757) 622-7382
No Compromise
 POB 174
 Englishtown, NJ 07726
 (732) 446-6808

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade
 POB 822411
 Dallas, TX 75382
North American ALF Support Group
 Box 69597, 5845 Yonge St.
 Willowdale, Ontario
 M2M 4K3 Canada
Liberation Collective
 2 NW 3rd Ave.
 Portland, OR 97209
 (503)525-49752

BOOKS

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AVAILABLE FROM THE DIRECT ACTION DEFENSE FUND

- Western Wildlife Unit of the ALF. *Memories of Freedom*. (A step by step tour through Operation Bite-Back): zine. (\$4)
- Animal Liberation (1972-1986). *Against All Odds*: (Traces the growth of the ALF movement with detailed accounts of court cases from the campaign. Vital reading for anyone

Viewing for the Curious and Loving

who wants to see an end to vivisection):

VIDEOS: Available from PETA

- Breaking Barriers* (horrific account of the SEMA research facility in Rockville, MD; including the liberation of four baby chimpanzees.) Touring SEMA was the worst experience of my life."—*Dr. Jane Goodall*
- East Carolina University Dog Lab* (tape released by an ECU camera crew during a routine exercise.)
- Silver Springs Monkeys* (historic case of animal abuse and the efforts to save 17 primates.)
- Unnecessary Fuss* (a complete look into the labs at the Univ. of Pennsylvania as filmed by the vivisectioners themselves.)

"You better hope the anti-vivisection people don't get a hold of this film."

—University of Pennsylvania vivisectioner

WHY DAIRY IS SCARY

Veganism is life-affirming. To be vegan is to live, to the best of one's abilities, free from exploitation of animals for any purpose. A leap beyond vegetarianism, it resists the cruelty and environmental footprint of dairy and egg production. It's a lifestyle that chooses compassion toward animals and conservation of the Earth.

The Eco-Connection

Environmental issues such as resource consumption, waste production and water pollution are inextricably tied to factory farming. Veganism is about living lower on the food chain and thereby having a much lesser impact on the Earth. When you consider that 16 pounds of grain and 2,500 gallons of water is necessary to produce a single pound of meat, it becomes obvious how 20 vegans can subsist on the amount of land necessary to support one person with a meat habit. Because veganism requires less consumption, it naturally generates less waste and water pollution.

Stand Up For Chickens

The vast majority of eggs are produced by "battery hens." These birds are anxious, frustrated, fear-ridden, forced to spend 10 to 12 months squeezed inside small wire cages with up to nine other tormented hens before they are killed. Many birds develop a severe form of osteoporosis known as caged-layer fatigue, due to lack of exercise in their confined quarters. The multi-tiered cages can hold upwards of 125,000 birds. Depleted of calcium from excessive egg laying, millions of hens become paralyzed and die of hunger and thirst, just inches from their food and water.

Battery hens are often debeaked with a hot machine blade in an attempt to stop the birds from pecking frantically at one another, as well as to save on feed costs. The thick layer of highly sensitive tissue between the horn and bone of the beak is severed in the procedure. Debeaking is usually done in the first few days of life, and typically again if the beak grows back. Researchers compare the chronic pain and suffering of debeaking to human phantom limb and stump pain.

Dairy is Scary

Artificial insemination is now responsible for 65 to 75 percent of all conceptions in the dairy herd. Females are often reared on milk substitutes to become dairy herd replacements and begin, at 18 to 24 months of age, the cycle of continual pregnancies. From birth, cows are bred to fill niches in the beef and dairy industries.

The least healthy of the calves are sent to slaughter for pet food or to provide veal for pies or the rennet extracted from their stomachs for cheesemaking. Some are sold at 1 to 2 weeks old to fatten in pens. Others are reared as bulls, spending their lives in solitary confinement, their sperm collected for artificial insemination to turn out the next generation pieces in the cruel puzzle.

In the US the vast majority of unwanted calves are reared for veal; approximately 88 percent spend their miserable lives in narrow crates on wooden slats without straw. In solitary confinement, unable to turn around or groom themselves, they must drink the only diet they are allowed—a milk substitute gruel. Their fashionably white flesh is the result of sub-clinical anemia from the purposeful deprivation of iron and fiber. Often suffering from viruses and disease, the calves are fed large doses of hormones and antibiotics to promote growth and prevent the onset of infections caused by the stress of confinement and malnutrition. After 14 weeks, barely able to walk, they are taken to slaughter.

Veganism rejects the facelessness of what appears on our dinner plates. It's a reminder that the ancestors of animals used for food once fulfilled their ecological roles in the same way wild creatures do today. Now commodified, pigs, fowl, fish and ungulates endure brief lives and undignified deaths. Meanwhile, the Earth shoulders the burden of factory farms that have even less regard for the environment they impact than the animals they produce. In that way, the liberation of the Earth and the emancipation of animals are inextricably linked.



EXAGGERATING THE WINS:

THE ROADLESS AREA RULE & THE CASE FOR ZERO CUT

BY JUSTIN TIME

You forget about the losses and exaggerate the wins.

—JACKSON BROWNE

Must be an election year. Clinton's New Year's resolution announcing a new administrative rule placing an 18-month moratorium on roadbuilding in roadless areas was clearly calculated to create a wave of positive media about Clinton and Gore being green without requiring any cutbacks in logging levels. Even before it was released, this rule was met with predictable cheers from the DC green sellouts and condemnation from big timber. The biggest recipient of timber industry campaign funds, Oregon Republican Senator Gordon Smith, shrieked, "This is politics from environmental extremists and has nothing to do with forest health or a balanced approach to the environment."

The press, encouraged by the DC environmental corporations, trotted out the nebulous proposal "to ban logging and other environmentally destructive practices in millions of acres of pristine forests," with much fanfare. Without yet knowing what the proposal was, environmentalists and reporters raved about it as a reversal of the US Forest Service's (USFS) historical emphasis on making federal forests accessible for logging, as a pitched battle for the heart and soul of the Forest Service, as the single most important protection for wildlife and habitat to come from this administration, and as one of the most significant changes in the USFS' 100-year history.

If I didn't know better, I'd think they were talking about the campaign for Zero Cut. Sure, it sounds grand. It sounds like Reagan's election-year rhetoric about ending the Iran hostage crisis, or Bush's election-year claims to have ended the Cold War and then four years later to have prevented the nuclear armament of Saddam Hussein.

In actuality, the interim rule is a mere moratorium on permanent roads in roadless areas of 5,000 acres or greater to be in place for 18 months or until long-term management guidelines are written. The proposal is not permanent, does not protect roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres, does not stop grazing, mining or drilling in roadless areas, does not ban temporary roads or logging, and does not cover forests in the Pacific Northwest or in Alaska's Tongass National Forest—which is a little like an 1855 proposal to free three-fourths of all male slaves over 65 years of age, excluding those in Alabama and Georgia.

Nationwide, the policy covers 34 million acres, nine million of which contain "commercial" timber. All 34 million acres of such de facto wilderness can also be identified, of course, as worthy of designated wilderness status. The moratorium will block only 97.5 miles (65 miles in Idaho and Montana) of roadbuilding scheduled for this year to aid in logging some 50 timber sales containing seven percent of a scheduled 3.8 billion board foot "Probable Sale Quantity." Before the release of the rule, the Western Ancient Forest Campaign advocated it as a "significant step" through which 30 percent of the "national forest system could be protected." That, of course, is patently absurd because not a single one of those 50 sales will be permanently halted by any action Clinton is considering.

As a measure of how little real impact the rule would have, four of the five democrats in Oregon's congressional delegation have asked that Northwest roadless areas be added rather than exempted. Has a Northwest politician ever risked the wrath of the industry by proposing an action that would actually protect anything other than rocks and ice? Oregon's Democratic Governor John Kitzhaber and Representative Peter Defazio (D-OR) sided with big timber Republicans and requested that Northwest forests be exempted from the ban.

This proposal will most likely compound the

problem by not addressing the real issue—logging.

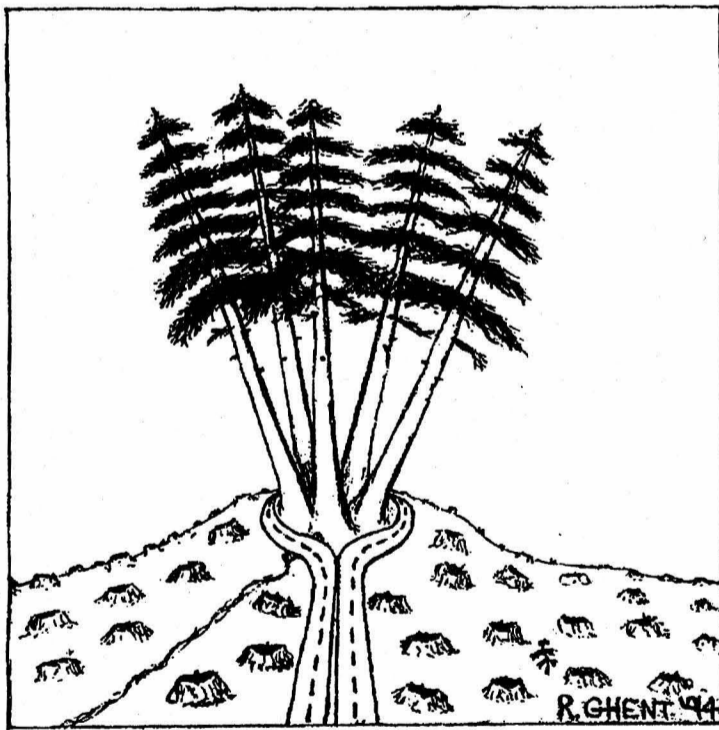
How? Well for openers, it okays logging in roadless areas by allowing "temporary" logging roads in these areas. Remember, any road blocked by a fallen log after the trees are cut qualifies as a temporary road. Theoretically, the Forest Service obliterates temporary roads, but the backlog of roads awaiting closure is notoriously enormous. In fact, the USFS recently announced the "discovery" of some 60,000 additional miles of "ghost" roads, bringing the inventory up to 433,000 miles—ten times the interstate highway system!

The policy would also codify the 5,000-acre limit, ignoring the USFS' penchant for building miles of road where only one was needed in order to fragment a roadless area into pieces smaller than 5,000 acres. The national forests are littered with road tentacles pushed to wilderness boundaries in order to preclude the segmented forest from ever being considered for protection—a successful strategy, it seems. For example, in 1987, the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon had a total of 133,184 acres of unprotected roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres in size. Two years later, 20 percent of those roadless areas were no longer eligible for wilderness status due to fragmentation by roads and timber sales.

During Clinton's reign, he has had two opportunities to stop similar incursion junkets by supporting legislation freezing or curtailing Forest Service roadbuilding. Both times, the legislation failed by a single vote. Neither time did Clinton do a thing to support it. In fact, Al Gore could have cast a tie-breaking vote during round two but didn't because he was, where else, at a fundraising dinner.

The 5,000-acre limit is key. The Oregon Natural Resources Council prevailed in a roadless lawsuit over a mere 1,000-acre area at Marble Mountain, an area that could be roaded and cut under the new rule. At that time, the court found that a 1,000-acre roadless area was worthy of protection.

The results of the Roadless Area Evaluation of



1979 (RARE II) are indicative of what can be expected. After RARE II protected only 15 million of the 80 million acres eligible, it was harder to defend the remaining 65 million that were equally deserving but which went unprotected. In essence, RARE II served as political cover to open "de facto" wildlands for development.

Ultimately, pursuing any strategy based on tallying roadless acres is doomed. It is just too easy for the Forest Service to circumvent. A forest supervisor can destroy roadless areas with means other than strategic roads. For example, Oregon's Klamath National Forest declared the 34,000-acre Siskiyou roadless area 185-acres smaller than it was in order to facilitate the Outside timber sale at Dillon Creek. In fact, in its 1995 forest plan, the Klamath "disappeared" whole roadless areas and portions of roadless areas without disclosing any reason for doing so. At

the stroke of a pen, thousands of acres of untouched wildlands thus became available for logging. We aren't talking about rogue district rangers here, but a deliberate subversion of environmental regulations by the USFS.

Worst of all, Clinton's long-term policy could result in more logging, not less, if the acreage protected in roadless areas is "traded" for volume elsewhere. The political maneuvering of Oregon's Democrats bears this out. They have argued for including Northwest forests in the moratorium but compensating for any losses to the timber industry by encouraging replacement volume. One can only hope that they are severely reprimanded by environmentalists for this serious greenwashing *faux pas*. The Clinton policy simply does not include permanent protection for roadless areas. Basically, Senator Ron Wyden and other Oregon Democrats advocate temporary protection of area A, at the cost of permanent stumps for area B. And, there is no guarantee that area A won't be logged next year. Trades are the bane of the environmental movement. We win nothing through them but collaboration in our own co-optation. As the writer Rick Bass put it, "What kind of citizen could stand in a roadless area and be soothed by the seemingly endless sweep of forested blue ridges and yet know that this forest's protection had been bought by the continued liquidation of the Tongass and the Pacific Northwest?"

How did this diversion come about? In looking for a way to paint the Gore 2000 campaign green, the big greens decided to focus on road issues, certainly not on Zero Cut, grazing or the continued liquidation of ancient forests. The Clinton administration coyly hinted that it was Gore who pushed for the policy. Reformist groups like WAFC then whipped some regional groups into a frenzy. The media followed suit, claiming in editorials like the one in the *Arizona Daily Star* that this could be "an epochal suspension of road building in national forests—and it is a superb idea." And in the end, the forests are unprotected; the environmentalists sound like knit-pickers; and Gore smells like roses. Does anyone else see a pattern here? Call me prophetic, but don't be surprised when the very same sellout, mainstream groups sign onto the Gore campaign and push it as the lesser of two evils two years from now.

Environmentalists can't have it both ways, tricking themselves into thinking that this policy might permanently protect even a single acre of public lands while reassuring the media out of the other side of their mouths that the policy won't hurt the timber industry. The environmental group Headwaters in southern Oregon claims that, "The steep and unstable slopes common to roadless areas are very expensive to build roads on and contain a relatively low amount of forests suitable for logging." Others predicted reassuringly before the policy was released that it would have a "minimal impact... on logging levels." If it doesn't hurt the industry and it doesn't impact logging levels, damn it, it's not good enough.

There really is a way that we can reverse the USFS' historical emphasis on making federal forests accessible for logging but not with Clinton's administrative rule. I eagerly await the day when environmentalists get as worked up about Zero Cut as about a farce perpetuated for the political advancement of the same administration that brought us the Salvage Rider. There is a 30-day comment period on the long-term management guidelines which WAFC is already urging environmentalists to utilize to reform the roadless area plan. I also suggest that you write in comments, but make them short and simple—Zero Cut on public lands! And next time someone tells you it's national roadless area call-in day (there's already been three), tell them that everyday is Zero Cut day!

Address your one-liner to Chief Michael Dombeck, USFS, Washington, DC 20250; (202) 205-1661; fax 205-1765.

MISGUIDED JUDGE DEPORTS YELLOWSTONE WOLVES

WOLVES REFUSE TO LEAVE

BY ROB EDWARD, SINAPU

It has been a hard year for the beleaguered megafauna of the Northern Rockies. Last winter, ranchers and government officials slaughtered over half of Yellowstone's buffalo herd, pushing it closer to disappearance. As if the war on the bison were not enough, in December 1997 a federal judge ordered that all of the wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone and central Idaho be removed. The judge's decision played right into the hands of ranchers,

tor Project, Sinapu and the Gray Wolf Committee. The suit sought to preserve the endangered status of the naturally recolonizing wolves and did not involve the Yellowstone reintroduction.

On the other side of the barbed-wire, the Mountain States Legal Foundation and the Farm Bureau Federation filed suit on behalf of ranchers seeking to halt the reintroduction. Ironically, their suit also challenged the use of the experimental/non-essential rule allowing reintroduction, although they broadened the scope

Few legal experts understand Judge Downes' removal order. No legal precedent exists for such a decision. The remedy the conservationists sought was an order forcing the USFWS to revise its recovery plans to ensure that the naturally recolonizing wolves of Idaho be treated as endangered. That could have meant devising some complicated scheme to monitor the location of both the transplants and the natives, declaring wolves of both groups in the areas of overlap as endangered or declaring the entire central Idaho population as endangered.



Natural curiosity in a full and healthy ecosystem

raising deep concerns about the future of the great predators of the Northern Rockies. Further, the lawsuit behind this bizarre ruling speaks volumes about the vulnerabilities of the Endangered Species Act—and the dangers of political compromise.

During the development of the Northern Rockies Wolf Recovery Plan to reintroduce wolves in the 1980s, some environmentalists worried that rural distaste for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would derail the whole program. The ESA is seen by rural folk as the mighty hammer of liberal urbanites seeking to destroy the institution of private property. Consequently, the organizations hatched an idea to allay such fears.

To sell the reintroduction plan, the government classified the transplanted wolves as "experimental/non-essential," rather than "endangered." This change in status precluded any habitat protections (keeping the timber companies happy) and allowed ranchers to shoot wolves caught in the act of killing livestock—no questions asked. A win-win compromise, or so it seemed.

Meanwhile, in other quarters of the conservation movement, consternation was brewing. Some folks believed the compromise set a dangerous precedent, stripping pre-existing wolves in Idaho of their rightful legal status under the ESA and precluding designation of critical habitat for wolves (thus requiring the US Forest Service to consider the impact of roads, RVs and timber sales on wolves).

Early in 1995, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now called Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund) filed suit against the government on behalf of the National Audubon Society, Preda-

of their case to include the Yellowstone program. This opened the doors for the Justice Department to combine the Farm Bureau case with the one filed by conservationists. While the decision to merge the two cases made the judge's job easier, it bode poorly for the Idaho wolves.

In the first days of the reintroduction, the Farm Bureau's lawyer moved to enjoin the wolf release. Earth Justice lawyer Doug Honnold urged Judge Downes to let the program move forward, "Even though we were suing the government over the program, our intent was not to stop wolves from being released," Honnold reflected. In contrast, the Farm Bureau's lawyers worked feverishly to prevent the release, right up until the transplanted wolves were let loose. Though Judge Downes refused the motion for an injunction, legal wrangling delayed the release so long that the health of the wolves was placed in serious jeopardy.

Both sides expected a decision on the full case within a relatively short period of time. Months of waiting, however, turned into years.

Finally, in December 1997, Judge Downes unveiled a 50-page decision—in favor of both sets of plaintiffs. He agreed that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had illegally applied the experimental/non-essential rule. The ruling itself was cause for celebration, underscoring the fact that the Endangered Species Act must not be subverted for the sake of political expediency. However, Judge Downes threw a curveball, ordering that all of the reintroduced wolves and their progeny be captured and shipped back to Canada.

Honnold plans to ask the court to strike Judge Downes' removal order and instead order the USFWS to revise the recovery plan to protect the wolves of central Idaho. As for the wolves of Yellowstone, Honnold argues that, "The Farm Bureau and Judge Downes got it wrong. The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to protect and restore species. Using the Act as a tool to destroy these wolves would make a mockery of that noble goal."

This case will likely have implications for the impending revision of the Endangered Species Act. Tom Skeele points to the crux of the case, "The use of the experimental/non-essential designation is slowly but surely becoming the rule, rather than a rare exception."

Although the ruling stirred up a lot of talk in the boardrooms and coffeeshops, the wolves face another romping winter in the Northern Rockies, unaware of the turmoil. Fortunately, this year no helicopters will be descending upon the wolves of Yellowstone and Idaho, and if the conservationists' appeal is upheld: they won't ever.

For more information on this issue, contact Predator Project at POB 6733, Bozeman, MT 59771; (406) 587-3389; e-mail: predproj@avicom.net; http://www.wildrockies.org/predproj or Sinapu at POB 3243, Boulder, CO 80307; (303) 447-8655; e-mail: sinapu@sinapu.org; http://www.sinapu.org.

Rob Edward is the acting executive director of Sinapu, a group dedicated to the recovery of wolves in the Wild Rockies and to the restoration of the wild habitat in which all species flourish.

Snowmobilers Run Down Wolves

In December, for the second time in less than nine months, a wolf was brutally maimed and left to die by snowmobilers in northeastern Minnesota on December 13, 1997. Violent attacks on wolves and other wildlife seem to be on the rise in the area as frustrated snowmobilers struggle for increased access into Voyageurs National Park.

State and federal game wardens are looking for the two snowmobilers who ran down and maimed an Eastern timber wolf on the slippery ice of Birch Lake, near the town of Babbitt. The severely injured, nine-month-old pup was discovered, alive but unable to walk, by other snowmobilers soon after the incident. Ken Schleuter, conservation officer for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, was called to the scene and shot the wolf when it was clear it would not survive.

"From their tracks it looked like the snowmobilers hit him once but that he hobbled away. Then they circled back and hit him again. It was obvious they were trying to get him," Schleuter said. "From where they left him, he crawled about another 200 yards. But both his legs were all broken up in several places... They hit him in the head, too. The worst part is they didn't kill it."

Researcher L. David Merch of the US Geological Survey verified the wolf was part of the nearby eight-member Perch Lake pack. "If they were chasing the pack on the lake, the first ones to fall behind would have been the pups," Merch said.

A similar incident happened last year, also near Babbitt, when a wolf was killed by snowmobilers on a trail. State and federal officials are investigating the recent attack, yet haven't found any hard evidence that might direct them to a specific snowmobiler so far.

Conservationists and wildlife biologists are concerned about the failure of federal land and wildlife managers to protect wildlife and their habitat from the impacts of increasingly powerful snowmobiles and off-road vehicles on national forests, parks and public lands throughout the nation. In Montana, moose, mountain goats, mountain lions and coyotes are reportedly chased for "sport" by powerful snowmobiles in deep snow. Wolverine will vacate areas frequented by high-horsepower snowmobiles that run into remote roadless mountains and wilderness areas. The National Park Service is closing some areas of Voyageurs NP to snowmobiling, skiing and other human activities to protect timber wolves and other wildlife.

Killing a wolf is a federal crime punishable by a \$10,000 fine or more. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Minnesota's Turn In Poachers program are offering an award of \$7,250 for anyone who can provide information on the attack that leads to the arrest and conviction of the culprits. To provide information and demand restrictions on snowmobiles in sensitive wildlife areas, call Ken Schleuter at (218) 827-2259, Turn In Poachers at (800) 652-9093 or federal agent Dave Duncan at (218) 720-5357. The USFWS is also offering a \$2,500 reward for information on the recent shooting of a wolf in Marshall County in northwestern Minnesota during the firearms deer season.

Hog Farmers, Politicians and Other Swine

BY SID BRIDGES

The town of Guyman in the Oklahoma panhandle is surrounded by industrial hog factories owned by the Seaboard Corporation. Spanish and British multinational hog farmers have "discovered" the Oklahoma panhandle, and soon the tiny hamlet of Keyes will also have a 400,000-hog farm. South of my home in Enid, along the Cimarron River, hog farms are hidden among the sand dunes. Abundant water right below the ground attracts the hog farmers.

Pipes from hog sheds pour black, tarry pig shit into huge lagoons. The lagoons are lined with plastic, but all plastic liners leak eventually. Sinister, windowless buildings stand behind multiple strands of electric wire posted with "no trespassing" signs. Inside, brood hogs live out their lives on raised floors with gaps to allow waste to drip to the concrete below. When they die, their carcasses are dumped in piles to rot in the sun.

During an unannounced inspection of 44 of Seaboard's farms, the Oklahoma state Department of Agriculture found hog carcasses that had been improperly disposed of on 38 of the 44 farms. Dan Parrish, director of the water quality division of the Agriculture Department, told of the horrible stench created by the bloated, rotting hogs spilling out of containers.

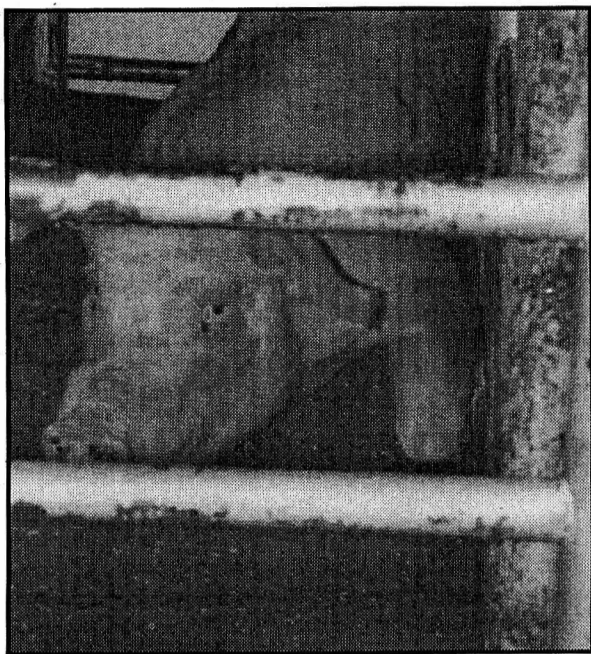
Protesting proposed fines totaling \$157,500, Seaboard's attorney Terry Tippens denied that Seaboard violated the Department of Agriculture's rules. Tippens pleaded for understanding; Seaboard's task of disposing of 35,000 hog carcasses a month presents difficulties for them—a monumental task indeed. "There is no way you can do that without it being a grotesque, unsightly business," said Tippens.

Thirty-five thousand a month? What the hell is going on inside those windowless sheds to kill 35,000 hogs a month? The total number of hogs at Seaboard's farms fluctuates greatly, but there are somewhere between 500,000 and 800,000 at a time. Using the high estimate, that's over half of the farm's population dying every year—420,000 hogs.

"Church Officials Raise Stink About Hog Farm," the headlines read in the *Daily Oklahoman*. "State House to Conduct Watershed Study: Pollution Concerns Linked to Corporate Farming," read another. In a case of something larger than chickens coming home to roost, state and church officials have recently discovered what isolated rural residents have known for some time: Pig shit stinks and contaminates water supplies.

Officials for the United Methodist Church became concerned when Land o' Lakes Corporation applied for 20 hog farm permits in Caddo, Oklahoma. One application was for a farm within two miles of a Methodist church camp in Red Rock Canyon State Park. Twelve hundred Methodists, predominately youths, visit the camp each year.

Last year the state Wildlife Department released a study showing that nitrate levels were excessively high in the Canton Lake watershed, where Oklahoma City gets its drinking water. Both nitrates and phosphates are found in pig manure. When the House of Representatives ordered a watershed study of the area, the hog farm



Confined in a small stall 24 hours a day awaiting slaughter

operators were ready for them. Pig Improvement Company, a multinational corporation based in England, maintains that it tested the soil prior to the start of operations and found that excessively high levels of nitrates preexisted. When Pig Improvement started its operations, virtually no state rules regulated hog farms. No tests or environmental impact studies were conducted, so the state has no data to refute the claim.

The legislature is finally taking action, not out of undue environmental concern, but because of Oklahoma City's drinking water. Sport fishing and waterfowl hunting are also popular in the area, and the evidence indicates that wetlands are becoming contaminated. Rural residents in western Oklahoma living in sparsely populated areas could not get a hearing about their odor complaints or their springs and wells that went dry when the hog farms sucked up the aquifer. Companies installed facilities virtually next to the yards of neighboring houses.

Not all of the swine are confined to the farms; some can be found in the state house and the governor's mansion. The *Tulsa World* reported that the Oklahoma Pork Council gave contributions to 25 lawmakers last year. Three of those recipients have been named to a special task force to craft bills dealing with animal waste and water quality. Environmental threats from the pig and chicken industries are being discussed now in the state legislature.

Farmers, corporate executives and a plethora of political action committees have made donations to Governor Keating, Speaker Loyd Benson and Agriculture Chairman Paul Muegge, among others. Keating's campaign received \$2,000 from Mike Simmons, head of Simmons Food, which contracts with independent poultry growers in Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Senate Pro Tem Stratton Taylor re-

ceived \$1,000 from a lobbyist for the pork council and Seaboard Corporation. House Speaker Loyd Benson had a "holiday bash" political fundraiser in December that listed Tyson Foods as one of the hosts. Yes, the same Tyson Foods that was fined for bribing Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy. Benson denied that he would be swayed in any way in consideration of poultry legislation in the coming session. "Absolutely not," he chirped, "We take money from everyone."

As a result of public outcry against the industry, some weak regulations have been put into place. No large pig farm can be situated within a half mile of a residence in the eastern half of the state and three-quarters of a mile in the western half. Plastic liners for lagoons are now mandatory, and the groundwater around lagoons is routinely checked for contamination. The new regulations went into effect in September 1997, and 120 applications were rushed in just before in order to avoid meeting even these minimal requirements.

A move is also underway to establish a moratorium on any new hog farms until such time that studies regarding adverse environmental impacts can be completed. This has created another surge of applications out of the fear that a moratorium will occur. Seaboard Corporation has threatened to move its operation to Argentina if more regulations or a moratorium are legislated.

How did Oklahoma become a Mecca for the hog industry? Two trends converged to result in the current situation. European countries passed strong environmental laws regarding pork operations. Odor and groundwater contamination were chief concerns. Also, the Europeans have less tolerance for cruelty to animals than we apparently do. Here, pigs are crowded into sheds so tightly that they cannot lie down. Crowding causes them to chew off the ears and tails of other hogs. The Europeans would not stand for that, so the multinationals headed for this country where the regulations are more lax.

The other factor was the oil bust and farm crisis of the 1980s in Oklahoma. One of our more dim-witted and greedy governors decided that to get Oklahoma's economy going again, we should invite the pork boys in. The Department of Commerce ran ads in publications inviting companies to move here, touting our lack of environmental regulations as a major selling point.

Oklahoma once had a long history of laws banning corporate farming in the state. In 1991, these laws were altered, allowing corporate feed lots to move in. Smarting from public criticism, some politicians maintain that the deregulation only allowed corporations to contract with small farmers and that they did not intend to create a climate conducive to massive corporate operations. They blame slick corporate lawyers for circumventing the intent of the law.

Nonetheless, the industry has taken hold in the state. A spokesman for the Oklahoma Pork Producers predicted that "five years from now hog farms will be accepted. It will be like Wal-Mart's coming to these communities." God help us if he's right!

BARE BONES

Sea Turtles Sick

Green sea, loggerhead and olive ridley turtles are dying from a mysterious, fast-moving disease. The disease produces non-cancerous tumors, gruesome growths of bulbous tissues, that kill by smothering. Sea turtles with the disease are suddenly showing up all over the world, and researchers are racing to find a cure while there are still turtles to save.

The eyes and nose of the turtles with the tumors become covered. The lungs and heart are constricted by internal tumors. Few turtles with the tumors survive unless the growths are surgically removed.

Researchers believe something is causing the turtles' immune systems to weaken, but they don't know what. The prevalence of tumors in turtles found near shore areas suggests a link to runoff from fertilizers or farm waste. Some turtle populations have an infection rate as high as 90 percent.

It is not known how many turtles are infected with the disease or even how many turtles are still alive. Green sea turtles can reach the size of a car's roof. They can grow to more than 500 pounds and live to be 100 years old.

Parks Ban Cars

On November 25, 1997, the National Park Service announced a pilot project to limit cars in Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. The plan requires visitors to park their cars outside the parks and enter the parks using shuttle buses or light-rail. The two parks receive 7.5-million visitors a year. On a busy day in Grand Canyon, 6,500 vehicles compete for 2,000 parking spots. The 40-year-old road system was built to accommodate one-fifth of the current traffic. A similar mass-transit alternative for the 4.1-million annual visitors to Yosemite National Park is open to public comment this winter. That car ban would remove 2,300 parking spaces and restore 147 acres to their natural condition.

Mayor Bans Birth Control

The mayor of a southern Brazilian city banned contraceptives in November in what he said was a novel way to raise tax money. Mayor Elcio Berti said he hoped to increase the population of Bocaiva do Sul, 400 miles southwest of Rio de Janeiro, by banning the sale of condoms and birth control pills. The level of state and federal funding guaranteed to cities is based on population, which Berti said has dropped sharply in Bocaiva do Sul over the last two decades. Berti shrugged off criticism that the ban would lead to a rise in sexually transmitted diseases, claiming instead that it would stimulate marital fidelity.

Wild Camels

The world's last wild camels may vanish within the decade if a preserve in western China is not established to protect them from wolves, hunters, gold miners and the sexual attentions of their domesticated cousins. The wild Bactrian camel once enjoyed some sanctuary living in China's long-closed nuclear testing zone in the Taklamakan and Lop Nur deserts. China's National Environmental Protection Agency supports establishing a preserve, but \$1 million is needed and international conservationists worry that finding the money to save a bad-tempered, ungainly beast that is notorious for its bad breath will be far more challenging than raising funds for China's cute and cuddly pandas.

ZAPATISTAS: MOMS WITH STICKS TAKE ON THE MEXICAN ARMY

continued from front page

A few of the women went into the woods by the side of the road with machetes and cut branches off trees to arm the others. The children collected little piles of rocks. Chris and I volunteered to go up the road a bit to be lookouts.

As we walked in the increasing darkness, I wondered if I really wanted to be the first to encounter the military. A young boy and his even younger brother came running up to us.

"Tienes miedo?" (Are you afraid?), the boy asked.

"No!" Chris said as emphatically as he could muster. "Are you afraid?"

"No!" he echoed, looking as brave as a four-year old can.

We waited there as the sky grew black and the view of the 60 women waiting behind us faded into darkness. Eventually a man came to tell us the army had turned around and we could go back to the village.

This morning, the same call had come. We marched down the road and reviewed what we, as Peace Campers, were supposed to do. We were not to become involved in the confrontation in any way. We are witnesses, photographers and an international presence to deter the military from violence. Our job is to just be there.

It seemed another false alarm. The people from the village soon went back to their chores, and I stayed at the lookout spot with several Peace Campers and children. I lay down in the rubble, pulled my cap over my eyes and dozed off to sleep.

"The army's here!" I sat up and looked around. Was it true? Indeed, up the road there was a line of military trucks filled with soldiers. I jumped to my feet, and two kids ran toward the village, yelling at the top of their lungs. I turned back toward the military convoy and saw that they had stopped. A man from the front vehicle was checking us out through binoculars.

Out of thin air, the women appeared. I can think of no better way to describe them than as Angry Moms. If you've ever seen a mother react to the unjust treatment of her child, multiply that by 100. A mother's rage is incomparable. They came up the road wielding sticks and clubs and shouting with a ferocity that I was completely unprepared for. A crowd of children were at their feet, carrying sticks and rocks.

"Killers! Assassins!"

"Sons of whores! We don't need your army here!"

"Go back to your barracks! Morelia is not your barracks!"

As they arrived at the crest of the hill where we waited, they came to a stop and waited for the others to catch up. I looked toward the army and saw, to my surprise, that they were turning their trucks around and starting to drive off! When the women saw this they surged forward and charged ahead.

All I could do was stay with them. My mind told me it was probably not the safest idea to go running after the military with sticks and rocks, but my pale face might deter the soldiers from opening fire.

As we came upon the trucks the shouting grew louder, and rocks began to fly. The soldiers in the tail of the convoy had to shield themselves as rocks bounced off their helmets.

"This is it," I thought. "One of those soldiers is gonna start mowing people down with his AK-47." As I ran, I scanned the sides of the road, thinking about where I could dive if anybody started shooting.

I had assumed that the women and children were going to run up to the trucks, let the soldiers know they weren't afraid and then let the trucks go. But they kept on running after the convoy in the cloud of dust kicked up by the trucks.

"Stay with us, campamentista!" one of the women yelled to me. "We need you to stay with us!" I looked at these women, 4'5" tall, with babies on their backs, little plastic shoes on their feet and sticks in their hands and said to myself, "If I can't stay up with them, I'm a sad excuse..."

After about two kilometers, the convoy came to a stop again. The women yelled for everyone to catch

up and then surged upon the army like a flood. The children launched rocks, many bigger than a baseball, with amazing accuracy, and the women beat against the trucks with their sticks.

"You should be ashamed of yourself," one woman yelled at a timid looking soldier. "Your army killed my brother! How can you kill your own people?" Soon there were about 100 people yelling and screaming at about 100 soldiers.

Several high-official looking men climbed out of the trucks and came toward the Peace Campers. I stood off to the side while Chris frantically snapped photos.

A man stepped toward us. He looked straight out of a Tommy Lee Jones movie with mirrored sunglasses, a big mustache, a baseball hat and a coat that said *Narcotico*. He called over to Chris, "Where are you from?"



Photo by Christopher Day

Retreat!

"The United States," Chris called back.

"Let me see your papers."

"Are you Migra?" (Migra are the immigration police whose main duty is to kick pesky international solidarity activists out of the country so the military can go about its business of terrorizing the indigenous population.)

"Yes."

"Let me see," Chris challenged him. The man pulled out a badge from his pocket and flashed it quickly, but not quickly enough.

"You're not Migra," said Chris. The man smiled, put his badge away, got back in his truck with the others and pulled away again.

"Maybe this time they'll let them go," I thought to myself. But no such luck. The villagers ran after the trucks, continuing to hurl insults and rocks. Another kilometer further, the military trucks stopped again, and the familiar scene ensued. By now, the men from Morelia had decided it was safe and had joined us.

I looked over and saw Chris beside one of the trucks taking a close-up photo of one of the soldiers. They exchanged some words. Later I asked Chris what he had said.

"I pointed at his gun and said, 'That's your gringo aid,' and then I pointed to my camera and said, 'And this is their gringo aid.'"

I sat down with the other Peace Campers by the side of the road and waited to see what would happen. The *Narcotico* guy came over to us and said, "This is your fault! You foreigners are putting these crazy ideas in the Indians' heads."

Foreigners in the EZLN villages have created a major impediment to the military's control of the indigenous population. Dead foreigners are very bad press.

Finally, the men climbed back into their trucks, and the army drove off in a cloud of dust. This time the people from Morelia did not follow. They clapped and yelled a few final insults, and then we all turned to walk back to town. A woman came up beside me and said, "So now you've gotten a taste of what life is like for us in the EZLN. We live in constant tension and fear of the military when all we ask for is the

right to be treated with dignity."

"Thank you for being here with us today," a man said.

The victory of having chased off the military was colored by a sense of foreboding. "The military will be back," I thought to myself.

What I saw that day showed me clearly that the EZLN struggle is a struggle of life or death for the indigenous Maya. Those women don't fear death; they fear that their children and their children's children will have to live in the same poverty and cruel social conditions that they have.

Additional Information:

Against the history of dual exploitation of people and the land, the Zapatistas rose in rebellion on the day the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was implemented. By calling for the elimination of communally held land and opening the land in Chiapas and throughout Mexico to exploitation by multinational corporations, NAFTA signed a death sentence against the autonomy and cultural identity of the indigenous people of Mexico.

Evidence has shown that the military response to the Zapatista rebellion is based as much on economics as politics. International Paper wants rights to the trees in the Lacandon jungle, and Hydro Quebec wants the natural gas (see *EF!* Eostar, 1997). This compels environmentalists to develop an analysis of the war of neoliberalism and NAFTA against the indigenous peoples, ancient forests and wild areas of the Earth.

The attempt by the Mexican Army to enter Morelia on January 8 is part of an intensifying campaign of military harassment of Zapatista communities that began in January. On December 22, members of a paramilitary group, backed by the ruling party, killed 45 people in Acteal village. In a characteristic response, President Zedillo appeared on national television appealing to the Zapatistas to return to the peace talks. Then he sent 5,000 additional troops to the war zone.

The army has entered many Zapatista communities in blatant violation of the peace process. These actions seem designed to provoke a military response from the Zapatistas and to serve as a pretext for even more aggressive military action.

International human rights observers are also being targeted by these actions. On January 7, the army entered the community of La Union and attempted to take two human rights observers into custody. They were prevented from doing so when community members came out with sticks, stones and machetes and expressed their determination to fight to keep the observers in their community.

The presence of an officer wearing a *Narcotico* jacket in Morelia signifies that the government wants to define its actions against the Zapatistas as anti-narcotics actions. Since much of the new weaponry, vehicles and other equipment used in these actions is from the US and may have been provided exclusively for use in "antidrug operations," the presence of Mexican narcotics agents serves propaganda purposes. In addition to demanding an end to all US military assistance to Mexico, activists in the US should demand an investigation into the use of equipment for antidrug operations against the Zapatistas. Please send communications expressing concern at the growing climate of violence in Chiapas, the impunity enjoyed by paramilitary groups, and the recent troop movements into civilian communities in the conflict zone.

Out of fear of further violence, 8,000 people fled Acteal and the adjoining communities. Even those taken in by nearby communities live with little food and inadequate shelter. There is a great need for emergency medical assistance.

For more information and to send donations, contact the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico, 2001 Montana, Suite B, El Paso, TX 79903; (213) 254-9550.

Send your communications to Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, Presidente de la República, Palacio Nacional, 06067, Mexico, D.F., Mexico; fax (+52 5) 515 17 94/542 1648.

MOUSING WITH PUBLIC LANDS

continued from front page

the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service and four other federal land-management agencies. That agreement defined a working partnership between Disney and the federal and state governments: "focus areas will include joint environmental education/interpretation efforts." But Mickey Mouse knows no more about ecosystem management or biodiversity than Smokey Bear knows about the benefits of fire. This partnership has major implications regarding the type of self-serving, mind-altering, corporate propaganda that Disney will be forcing upon future public lands visitors. They do it at Disney World, and they will soon be doing it in the real world as well. By then, we will hardly be able to tell the difference.

3) The cost of public lands recreation must be increased to the point that privately provided recreation can compete. Raising prices is touted as the solution to the overcrowding now caused by tourism. The theory is that private recreation providers will be able to absorb increased customer demand so long as there is little or no cost differential compared to the public alternative. Many of ARC's members, such as Kampgrounds of America (KOA), are providers of private recreation alternatives.

4) Federal recreation dollars will be preferentially spent on facilities located near urban population centers. It takes lots of paying customers to run a profitable recreation business. Urbanites tend to have greater disposable incomes and are generally quite willing to "purchase" recreation. Unprofitable federal facilities will be closed or allowed to fall into disrepair. Opportunities for undeveloped recreation do not figure in this equation.

5) "Under-utilized" recreational resources should be developed to facilitate increased usage. The Department of Interior's website includes an article written by an ARC member corporation that speaks of a terrifically overused motorboat lake near Boise, Idaho, and explains how this crowding problem could be solved by developing new marina facilities and paved access to the absolutely "pristine" Owyhee Reservoir in nearby (yet remote) eastern Oregon. The wanton sacrifice of such a magnificent lake is unconscionable.

6) Partnerships with private corporations shall be encouraged. In a document entitled "Recreation 2000 Update" the BLM states: "the federal government is taking a completely new look at the way we do business. In the past, we relied heavily on congressional appropriations as the traditional means for supporting recreation management efforts. We must now continue to look outward instead of upward for new sources of funding. In the future, we will strive to develop partnerships that assemble a wider range of potential partners who can share resources to help manage defined landscape units." On the last page of this document it is revealed that the American Recreation Coalition and four ARC member corporations helped develop this recreation/management agenda.

7) "Scenic byways" and "all-American roads" will be designated and actively promoted. ARC members Chevron, Exxon and the American Petroleum Institute, have been promoting "driving for pleasure," as one of the centerpieces of their motorization agenda. ARC's membership also includes a half dozen RV manufacturers, a similar number of RV campground associations and a whole host of firms now providing wayside attractions and services. According to the US Department of Transportation, "All-American roads are the *crème de la crème* of all scenic byways. These

roads are destinations unto themselves." And for applicants wishing to nominate a road to receive this great distinction, "describe how lodging and dining facilities, roadside rest areas and other tourist necessities are in place or planned for the number of visitors persuaded to visit by the byway's designation as an All-American Road." The purpose of designating a road as a scenic byway is to give people an excuse to burn gas and a chance to spend money along the way.

8) New and imaginative methods of doing business should be actively sought. Federal land managers are



quickly learning how to become successful businesspeople. In fact, ARC's Recreation Roundtable has created a special 12-week private/public training program designed exclusively for high-ranking public employees. This program, called Partners Outdoors, is advertised as follows: "Participating corporations will benefit by opening lines of communication with government, and by learning different ways of doing business. Federal managers assigned to corporate positions will provide insights into government procedures and practices." Does this program benefit the American people, or is it just plain collusion?

9) Land swaps should be a preferred mechanism for acquiring desired lands. They are one of the creative financing methods now being used and abused by federal land managers. Each year hundreds of land swaps occur whereby public lands are traded for other properties of supposedly equal value. This process is favored by private ski area operators seeking to acquire publicly owned mountains.

10) Wherever practical or feasible, the management of recreation resources will be turned over to private concessionaires. All around the country, recreation facilities are being put up for grabs. In central Oregon, for example, the USFS recently sent out a prospectus offering concessions for seven public facilities. One local recreation planner recently stated, "I think we're at the point where we're going to have to either get concessionaires, or we're going to have to close campgrounds."

Whether we like it or not, federal land managers are operating under an entirely new set of principles. And while they may continue to pay lip service to the idea of biodiversity, conservation and natural resource protection, these managers are quickly transforming themselves into profit-driven entrepreneurs, trying to make a buck from recreation. Foremost upon their minds are thoughts of downsizing, spinning-off unprofitable assets, brand management, customer satisfaction and all the usual terms associated with running a profitable business.

To these bureaucrats, our public lands are their working capital.

A small sampling of projects illustrate how these policies are actually being used to commercialize, privatize and motorize our public lands.

The "nature-based tourism marketing company," Egret Communications, has proposed construction of a mile-long "spiderweb of elevated walkways" suspended within the canopy of a 1,500-year-old, publicly owned, giant redwood and Douglas fir grove near Brookings, Oregon. The developer has already received a \$700,000 grant to evaluate this project and is currently seeking an additional \$19 million in federal assistance to complete the project. The attraction is expected to draw 200,000 visitors annually.

In a "test case," the National Park Service has agreed to allow a private developer to run an IMAX movie theater and gift shops within Gettysburg National Military Park in exchange for erecting a new visitor center.

The Dodge Ridge Corporation has been granted a one-year special use permit by the Stanislaus National Forest to create a "pay-for-use" groomed ski trail system in an area historically used by backcountry wilderness skiers.

One of the last remaining old-growth bottomlands in central Alabama (Cooter's Pond) was recently clearcut the day the Army Corps of Engineers signed a 50-year lease agreement with a private golf club. The Army Corps will receive \$1 per year in this "deal."

The USFS is currently negotiating a land swap that would privatize 265 acres of public land at the base of Grand Targhee ski slope in western Wyoming. Three

years ago, the USFS ruled against a similar swap saying "it would not be in the public interest."

If what you've already read hasn't quite turned your stomach, here's one final example and a glimpse into the future. Consider a future in which America's national parks serve as "anchor attractions" for an enormous host of nearby commercial development. This is a vision of the grandest of all possible shopping malls. This is truly *la crème de la crème*, Le Grand Mal.

Quoting from *Las Vegas Review Journal*, "There's no disagreement that Grand Canyon National Park has big problems. [New Jersey developer] DePaolo's answer is a \$500-million development including 3,650 hotel rooms, 250 campsites and 425,000 square feet of retail space, roughly the equivalent of seven large department stores. It also would include employee housing and a park-and-ride center." The location of this proposed development is on publicly owned forest land just south of the park. DePaolo has recently purchased private lands elsewhere in Arizona and is currently discussing a land swap of these lands for the Grand Canyon portal.

These examples are only the tip of the iceberg for the future of public lands recreation. If you don't want to be "malled to death" during future visits to our public lands, you might consider showing some serious indignation about what's going on. Please join Wild Wilderness in opposing and killing the dreadful Recreation Superbill legislation now being drafted by Senator Frank Murkowski and the American Recreation Coalition.

Readers can learn much more about this subject or spread the words about new developments by contacting Wild Wilderness at 248 NW Wilmington Ave., Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5621; <http://www.wildwilderness.org>.

The author, Scott Silver, is cofounder and executive director of Wild Wilderness. Located in Bend, Oregon, Wild Wilderness has fought in support of undeveloped recreation since 1991.

BARE BONES

Victory for BC Indians

Canada's Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in December, establishing that First Nation rights to resource-rich land were not invalidated by European settlement. The case involves claims to 22,000-square miles in British Columbia but has implications for almost all of Canada.

The ruling could also bring large compensation settlements for First Nations, with ramifications for lumber and mining companies and non-Indian land developers. The Gitksan and the Wetisuwetien people appealed to Canada's highest court, arguing that they retained rights to the land because they never signed treaties relinquishing those claims to British officials who colonized the area. British authorities in Canada signed no land treaties for most of British Columbia. The court agreed that the land does indeed still belong to the First Nations.

Sicko Cuts Down Sitka

It took more than 300 years for a rare golden Sitka spruce (yes, it really has gold-colored needles) to reach a height of 160 feet and a diameter of more than six feet on Queen Charlotte Island, British Columbia. It took just one night for a drifter carrying a chainsaw to swim across a river to the site and cut it down. He then sent a newspaper a note railing against "freaks" in classrooms and corporate boardrooms.

To the Haida natives of the area, the spruce represented a boy who fled a snowstorm, disobeyed a warning not to look back and became rooted in the forest floor. Trees sprouted from the original spruce that were growing at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden will be planted on the island.

Flies First!

The Center for Marine Conservation hailed a recent US Court of Appeals ruling on *National Association of Home Builders v. Babbitt*, a case challenging protection of the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (see *EF!* Yule, 1997). The ruling affirms Congress' authority to protect an endangered species whose range is limited to a single state. Nearly half of all federally listed threatened and endangered species are found in only a single state. The court clearly recognized that the extinction of even a single endangered species may have disastrous effects on the health of an ecosystem.

Antarctica Protected

The landmark Environmental Protection Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty was finally ratified on December 16, 1997. The protocol bans all oil and mineral exploration and mining in Antarctica for a minimum of 50 years and designates the whole continent as a "natural reserve devoted to peace and science." Enforcement of the protocol is necessary to safeguard Antarctica's status as a global wilderness area and scientific laboratory. Japan's ratification was the last from the 26 Antarctic Treaty member nations that the protocol needed to become law. Negotiated in 1991, it has taken over six years for all the nations to ratify the protocol. For US environmental organizations who have collaborated over many years, first to oppose the potential opening of mining and oil drilling in Antarctica, and then to build the strongest possible international agreement to protect the Antarctic environment, international ratification is a major victory.



Writing Letters of Support to Prisoners

As our movements for Earth and animal liberation surge with intensity, more activists are locked up in prison. Incarceration is the system's attempt to suppress our efforts.

Supporting our people in jail is as important as waging campaigns of resistance. Prison is designed to isolate people and can be brutal and demoralizing. One of the best ways to counter the isolation of imprisonment is by writing letters to activists in jail.

Writing your first letter of support to a prisoner can be intimidating. You may know nothing about the jailbird other than that they have been imprisoned for direct action. You may be asking yourself, "What if they think I'm stupid?" or "Is my letter going to be boring to them?" as you write your first letter of support. If it helps, before anything else, write, "This is the first letter I've ever written to a prisoner, I'm not really sure what to write or what type of things you're interested in." Then, write the sort of letter you'd like to receive.

A lot of political prisoners receive letters that are basically hero worship; "I think you're so brave. I could never do what you did." Avoid this. Prisoners are just normal people who care enough to act. They're not superheroes, and they don't want demigod status. Above all, statements like, "I could never do what you did!" are real turn-offs to those who did what they felt had to be done and most likely hope to inspire, rather than disempower, people.

Share funny, interesting thoughts with them on what's going on in the outside world. Bring the beauty and strength of the natural world to them in jail through your letter. Describing the sights, sounds and smells of a recent adventure of yours is an awesome way to do this. If you know of any recent actions similar to what landed the prisoners in jail, tell them about that. Let them know what issues you work on. But, remember that all letters to prisoners are read by the authorities. Don't say anything you wouldn't say to a cop's face.

Ask questions. It's natural to be curious about people you're writing to. Remember, they are writing to a total stranger as well; they might not know what to say either. Questions and answers help you develop a relationship.

As in any new relationship, it is important to be aware of boundaries. If uncomfortable questions or situations arise, talk to a friend about it or contact the support groups that are also corresponding with the prisoners.

If a jailbird does not reply to your letter, don't take it personally. The number of letters a prisoner is allowed to send is often limited, as are stamps and writing supplies. Obviously, they need to write to family and close friends first. If your letter is returned, the prisoner could have been moved, or the prison arbitrarily felt like sending it back. Prisoner support groups will keep you posted on a jailbird's situation.

No matter how busy our lives may be, it is crucial that political prisoners are not forgotten and their actions are recognized. So, what's stopping you from grabbing a notepad or postcard and dropping a jailbird a line today?

Dos:

- Write like mad! If you can't always write a full letter, send a greeting card, short note or postcard. Anything received in prison from the outside world is heartening.

- Always use prisoners' numbers along with their names on the address.

- The more colorful, artistic and creative your letter is, the better! Send pictures of wild places and things that jailbirds can post on their walls to brighten up their cells.

- Circulate giant support cards for jailbirds at any gatherings you attend. Put a jailbird's name on a large piece of easel or notebook paper. Stick a removable piece of paper on the card that briefly explains who the person is and why they're in jail. Posting several such cards at a table, with lots of colored pens is a great way of encouraging people to write prisoners.

- Include a return address on your letter/postcard. Some prisons won't accept letters without a return address, and the prisoner you have written will likely want to send you a reply. Send them a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Don'ts:

- Never incriminate people or jeopardize the security of campaigns or actions by discussing sensitive information in your letters.

- Don't write about or send anything that could be construed as culturally or religiously offensive, such as Christian- or drug-related references. Remember, prisoners come from all walks of life.

- Don't bite off more than you can chew by taking on too much support. Letting people down in jail is disrespectful. Pick a prisoner or a group of prisoners to support, and maintain strong support for them by incorporating it into your everyday life. For instance, commit to write jailbirds every Saturday afternoon. It might be helpful to focus your support of prisoners by the countries where they are jailed or the issues on which they work—Earth or animal liberation, anti-nuke resistance or native rights.

Other Tips for Effective Prisoner Support:

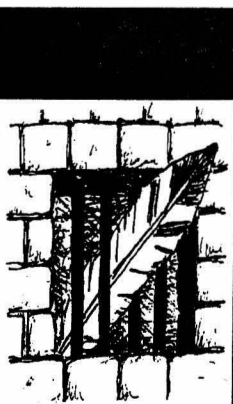
- Send free subscriptions of magazines and paperback books to jailbirds if they want them. Magazines may give free subscriptions to political prisoners if solicited (the *Earth First! Journal* does!). Bookstores, libraries and religious and educational institutions may also give magazines and books to jailbirds. You can easily send your own magazines/books once you've read them. Usually paperback books may be received enclosed in regular brown envelopes (no padding). Left Bank Books supplies free books to prisoners. Contact them at Books to Prisoners, 92 Pike St., Box A, Seattle, WA 98101.

- If both you and the prisoner feel comfortable with it, you may arrange to deposit money in their financial account or with their support groups for special prison commissary items/supplies or to support projects they are working on from prison. Financial assistance for a prisoner should be sent as a money order in the prisoner's name.

- Invite prisoners to call you collect once or twice a month if you feel comfortable doing so.

- Once your relationship with a prisoner has deepened, visit whenever you can. Visits are incredibly energizing for jailbirds. Nothing beats contact with the outside world.

- If the prison allows it, send jailbirds tape recorders and cassettes. Recordings are amazing forms of communication and animate prison life.



PRISONER SUPPORT GROUPS

- British Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALFSG), BCM 1160, London, WCIN 3XX, England.

- Direct Action Defense Fund (DADF), POB 57357, Tucson, AZ, 85732-7357; (520) 795-5171.

- Earthbridge (newsletter by and for Native American prisoners), POB 1872, Jeff City, MO 65102.

- Free the Wolverine Campaign, POB 13-2147, Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5N 4B3.

- Freedom Network, POB 9384, London, SW 97ZB, England; 011-44-171-978-8294.

- GANDALF Defendants Campaign, POB 66, Stevenage, SG1 2TR, England. Check for updates on the SchNEWS news service website at <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS>.

- Barry Horne Support Campaign, POB M, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, Box OX4 1RQ, England; 011-44-976-200-724; <http://village.vossnet.co.uk/m/miggi/>.

SET THEM FREE

The following directory lists imprisoned Earth/animal liberation activists and support groups with the intention of increasing support for prisoners of conscience. The jailbirds listed here would love to hear from you. Contact them and their support groups to be of help. We apologize if we've missed some folks!

EARTH LIBERATION

GANDALF PRISONERS:

On November 13, 1997, three editors from the Green Anarchist magazine were sentenced to three years in prison for conspiracy to incite persons unknown to commit criminal damage. Their so-called crime was reporting on Earth/animal liberation activities. Write to the prisoners individually at HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DS, England.

•Saxon Burchall-Wood #CK4321, Noel Molland #CK4322 and Stephen Booth #CK4323

THE MOVE NINE:

Move is a self-determined, ecocentric black power movement. In 1979, nine members were framed for a murder they did not commit. Each was given a prison sentence of up to 100 years. •Merle Austin Africa #006306, Debbie Sims Africa #006307, Janet Holloway Africa #006308 and Janine Phillips Africa #006309 at SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave., Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238.

•Michael Davis Africa #AM4973 and Charles Sims Africa #AM 4975 at SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426-0244.

•Edward Goodman Africa #AM4974, SCI Camp Hill, POB 200, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0200.

•Williams Phillips Africa #AM4984 and Delbert Orr Africa at SCI Dallas, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612.

•Mumia Abu Jamal #AM8335, SCI Greene, 1040 East R. Furnman Highway, Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090.

Radical journalist and Move supporter on death row, framed for the murder of a cop.

PRINCE OF PEACE PLOWSHARES:

The following activists were convicted of a Plowshares direct disarmament action against the USS Sullivan.

•Philip Berrigan #14850-056, FCI Petersburg, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804-1000.

•Susan Crane #87783-011, FCI Dublin, Unit A, 5701 8th St., Dublin, CA 94568.

•Tom Lewis-Borbely #03609-036, FPC Schuykill Camp 1, POB 670, Minersville, PA 17954.

•Steve Kelly, c/o The Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733; (520) 323-8697; e-mail: nukeresister@igc.org.

•Carol Richardson #88116-020, FPC Alderson, Box A, Alderson, WV 24910.

First activist convicted of trespass at the School of the Americas (US academy for training assassins and military thugs) at Fort Benning, GA where 601 people were arrested protesting US military intervention in Latin America in 1997. She was fined \$3,000 and sentenced to six months in prison.

•Helen Woodson, c/o C. Dixon, 3559 County Highway 6, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53905.

Serving 16 years for walking into a bank with a fake gun and demanding the bank hand over its money. While still in the bank, Helen set fire to the money and read a statement condemning money, corporate greed and the destruction of the environment.

ANIMAL LIBERATION

•Dru Benson #ME2494, Wing C2-27, HMP Eastwood Park, Falfield, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloschester, GL128DB, England. Jailed for animal liberation activities.

•Dave Callender #HV3314, HMP Birmingham, Winson Green Rd., Birmingham, B18 4AS, England.

Sentenced to 10 years for conspiracy to commit arson to assorted animal abuse estab-

tempted arson to cattle transporters.

•Barry Horne #VC2141, HMP Bristol, Cambridge Rd, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 8PS, England.

Sentenced to 18 years on arson charges relating to actions at animal abuse stores. He recently carried out a six week hunger strike to protest vivisection.

•Jacob Kenison, 450 South 300 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

Remanded on several charges relating to animal liberation.

•Frank Kocera #164820, Gevangis Zuiderbos. Copernicustraat 10, Heerhugowaard, Holland.

Sentenced to three years with eight months probation for criminal damage and arson attacks against the meat industry.

•Keith Mann #EE3588, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Eversham, Worcester WR11 5TZ, England.

Sentenced to 11 years for criminal damage to meat vehicles, attempted incitement, possession of explosive materials, attempted arson and escaping from police custody.

•Gillian Peachy #RL3415, HPM Holloway, London, N7 ONU, England.

On remand charges of conspiracy to use incendiaries to cause criminal damage and arson on a poultry farm.

•Geoff Sheppard #MD1030, HMP Parkhurst, Newport. Isle of Wright, PO30 5NX, British Isle, England.

Sentenced to seven years for possession of materials that could be used to make incendiary devices and possession of an unlicensed firearm.

SHOREHAM FOUR:

Serving between two and six years for arson and conspiracy to commit criminal damage against live animal exports at Shoreham, England.

•Mike Roberts #GE3743, Joe Taylor #TN2303, Kevin Chapman and Tony Daly at HMP Lewes, Brighton

Rd., Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1EA, England.

•Barbara Trenholm #RL1292, HMP Durham, Old Elvet, DH1 3HU, England.

Sentenced to 10 years for arson.

•Justin Wright #CE3046, HM P Young Offenders Institution, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1DL, England.

Sentenced to five years for arson.

NATIVE RIGHTS

•Leonard Peltier #89637-132, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

February 6, 1998 marks 22 years since Peltier was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned the shooting murders of two FBI agents. There is currently a petition demanding executive clemency for Peltier before President Clinton.

TS/PETEN DEFENDERS:

Imprisoned for defending themselves and their ancestral homelands from an armed seige by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia.

•William "Wolverine" Jones Ignace and James "OJ" Pitawanakwat at Matsqui Prison, 33344 King Rd., POB 2500, Abbotsford, BC, Canada V2S 4P3.

They're in there for us...



We're out here for them!

ishments.

•Darren Cle #XD2301, HMP Shepton Mallet, Cornhill, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5LU, England.

Sentenced to 42 months for arson of a lairage used in the live exports trade.

•Darren "Daz" Cole #XD2301, HMP Wayland, Grimstone, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6RL, England.

Sentenced to three years for an arson attack on farm buildings used by live animal exporters.

•Rod Coronado #03895-000, FCI Unit SW, 8901 S. Wilmot Rd., Tucson, AZ 85706.

Sentenced to 57 months for aiding and abetting arson at a fur research center, handling stolen property while acting as North American ALF spokesperson and damaging government property at a war memorial to General Custer.

•Kenny Gloster #HG3042, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd., London, N7 8TT, England.

On remand for alleged criminal damage to a Cambridge butcher's shop.

•Michael Green #AV2923, HMP Ashwell, Oakham, Leicestershire, LE15 7LF, England.

Sentenced to five years for conspiracy to commit arson to a slaughterhouse and at-

•Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, POB 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; (913) 842-5774.

•National Activist Network, POB 19515, Sacramento, CA 95819 USA; (916) 452-7179.

•Navajo Nation Corrections Project & National Native American Prisoners Rights Advocacy Coalition, Len Foster, POB 709, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

•New Jersey Anarchist Black Cross, POB 8532, Paterson, NJ 07508-8532; (973) 389-9496.

•North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (NAALFSG), POB 69597, 5845 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 4X3; e-mail: naalfsg@envirolink.org.

•Peace Prisoners Support, c/o 16 Sholebroke Ave., Leeds, LS7 3HB, England.

•Plowshares Support Network, Box X, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ, England.

•Prison News Service, POB 5052, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1W4.

•Prisoner's Literature Project, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117; (510) 845-8813.

•School of Americas Watch, POB 3330, Columbus, GA 31903; (706) 682-5369; http://www.soaw.org.

•Settlers In Support of Indigenous Sovereignty, POB 8673, Victoria, BC, Canada V8X 3S2; e-mail: sisis@envirolink.org; http://kafka.uvic.ca/~vipirg/SISIS/SISmain.html.

•Spanish Animal Liberation Front Support Group, APDO 24037, 28080 Madrid, Spain.

•The Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733; (520) 323-8697; e-mail: nukeresister@igc.org.

•Vegan Prisoners Support Group, POB 194, Enfield, Middx, EN1 3HD, England.

BARE BONES

Oregon Aims at Coyotes

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced it will allow hunting of coyotes in the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Southern Oregon. The refuge manager cites a two-year study that found coyotes were responsible for 75 percent of antelope fawn deaths at the refuge as reason for the hunt. However, in 1996, 17 fawns per 100 does survived, and in 1997, 31 fawns per 100 does survived, a percentage well above biologists' standards for a healthy herd. For more information contact Predator Defense Institute, POB 5079, Eugene, OR 97405; (541) 937-4261.

Forty-Four Species Listed

On December 5, 1997, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Callippe silverspot butterfly and Behren's silverspot butterfly as endangered and the Alameda whipsnake as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Callippe silverspot is found at only two sites on grasslands in San Francisco Bay. Behren's silverspot is found on coastal terrace prairie habitat at one site in southern Mendocino County. Both are threatened by development, livestock grazing and exotic plant invasions. The Alameda whipsnake in Contra Costa and Alameda counties is threatened by fire suppression, grazing and development.

On November 20, 1997, the USFWS listed the Suisun thistle and soft bird's-beak as endangered. Both inhabit tidal marsh habitat in San Francisco Bay. They are threatened by pollution, urbanization, excessive salinity, erosion and mosquito abatement programs.

The five are among a group of 95 species USFWS has allowed to dwindle toward extinction by stalling on final listing decisions. On May 13, 1997, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity announced a suit to force the prompt listing of the 95 species the agency has failed to protect unless immediate action was taken. Since then, the USFWS has scrambled to list 44 of the species as endangered. But, 51 species still remain unprotected.

New Improved Moon

No longer will the moon be wasted on young lovers, if London advertisers Gary Betts and Malcolm Green have their way and turn the moon into a giant billboard. After consulting with NASA scientists, they believe they will be able to project corporate logos onto the moon's surface using reflected sunlight from two large umbrella-shaped mirrors. In the scientific community, the major debate seems to be over how, not whether, to project brand names onto the moon.

Our Nuclear Planet

The International Atomic Energy Agency reports that a total of 443 nuclear power plants are operating in 32 countries around the world. With 110 operating nuclear power plants, the United States has one-quarter of the world's total. Additionally, construction of three new nuclear reactors started in 1996, two at Qinshan in China and one at Onagawa in Japan, bringing the total number of nuclear reactors under construction to 36 in 14 countries.

Last year, 17 countries and Taiwan, "relied upon nuclear power plants to supply at least a quarter of their total electricity needs," the agency said, and nuclear power plants "provided approximately 17 percent of the world's electricity production in 1996."

DON'T TRADE ON ME

BY BRYCE GILROY-SCOTT AND JASMYN

Giant puppets, thousands of people in the streets, helicopters and riot-police—it was an unparalleled week of resistance in Vancouver, British Columbia as the forces of globalization came to town for the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-Operation) Leaders' Summit. Oppression rarely has a face, but from November 19 to 25, 1997, dictators of international power came out of the shadows to talk shop.

APEC has annual gatherings of leaders from countries along the Asian-Pacific Rim. One of the largest and most sweeping international bodies negotiating trade agreements, APEC is a US government-driven initiative to create one Asia-Pacific trading block.

The economies of APEC's 18-member countries constitute 40 percent of the world's population and accounted for almost 75 percent of world trade in 1994. The combined Gross National Product (GNP) of its membership is \$13.2 trillion, more than half the world's total GNP.

Founded in Australia in 1989, APEC is similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the newly completed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Free trade agreements and international organizations such as APEC exist to eliminate or "ratchet down" national laws into a globalized "level playing field."

World leaders only talk about the agreement as an "economic" treaty, making discussion of human rights or ecological sustainability irrelevant. Nonetheless, these leaders' summits have become a focus of resistance to globalization. In 1996, the summit was in Manila, Philippines. Over 40,000 people overcame six military roadblocks and shutdown a major highway to march on the leaders' meeting. At the summit this year in Vancouver, the presence of 8,000 army personnel and police officers created an instant police-state. This was the largest non-war military mobilization ever in Canada and included helicopters and snipers on rooftops.

One of the first organizations to activate against APEC was No to APEC! (the Network Opposed to Anti-People Economic Control). Located in one of the poorest districts in Canada, No To APEC! opposed the police "clean-up" of the neighborhood prior to and during the summit and highlighted globalization as a cause of poverty. No to APEC! organized the People's Conference Opposing Imperialist Globalization which brought together activists from around the Pacific Rim including Zapatistas from Mexico and members of the Bayan People's Movement in the Philippines. The four-day conference culminated in a 3,500-person protest at the end of the APEC summit.

The People's Summit, a counter-APEC conference, was organized by a broad coalition of labor, human rights, social justice and women's groups. The most powerful moment of the People's Summit was the March for Global Justice. Five thousand people marched to the APEC conference site. Dozens of groups, including labor unions, environmentalists and students marched alongside Burmese and Tibetan contingents. There were banners in many languages mixed with anarchist art.

Much of the resistance art at the marches was the work of Art Against APEC, an assembly of dissident artists that organized a series of creative events voicing their rejection of globalization. The high point of Art Against APEC's efforts was the creation of a huge "Corporate Monolith." The monolith's base was the "heart of the system," which used shiny tin pipes for veins and computer pieces

for muscles. The heart supported a tiny corporate megalopolis. Several black corporate offices towered six feet high, spattered with red, encrusted with broken glass and bearing the names of Nike, Coke and Interfor (complete with an old-growth grinder). Twenty "slaves" with chains around their necks carried the corporate system on their backs.

In between the major marches on November 23 and 25, there was a broad range of smaller actions. Over 1,000 people marched in solidarity with the people of Tibet, and several hundred people gathered outside the Hyatt-Regency hotel's \$1,000-a-plate dinner to protest Jiang Zemin's keynote speech. There was also a march and women's protest at the Vancouver stock exchange.

"Make 'em swear profits aren't everything... They're the only thing!" read 20,000 copies of a satirical mock *Vancouver Province*, which contained an ad for Nike with a picture of an Indonesian sweatshop. This culture jamming action by Vancouver's Guerrilla Media exposed the real story behind APEC.

The APEC Leaders' Summit was held at the University of British Columbia. Since January 1997 APEC Alert! has been organizing radical resistance on campus. Beginning in September, an APEC-free zone was declared and its borders marked with paint. Seven members of APEC Alert! were arrested in the month before the summit.

November 25, the morning of the leaders' summit, was expected to be the largest civil disobedience in Canada since Clayoquot Sound in '93. The day began with an attempted symbolic arrest of General Suharto of Indonesia. With the support of several hundred activists, nearly a dozen people were arrested for blocking the road while trying to arrest General Suharto.

Meanwhile, 3,000 people assembled for the Crash the Summit march. Highlights included a guerrilla theater production of *The Lorax* and songs by the Raging Grannies. Then the loud and riotous march drummed through campus towards the Red Zone, ready to cross into the zone and be arrested. "Jeer leaders" (people dressed as punk cheerleaders) chanted, "Ever wondered what happened to your paycheck? Look in the pockets of the boys from APEC!" Mock riot police with corporate logos on their garbage can shields responded by beating the Jeer Leaders.

After attempting to rip down the fence into the security zone, the Jeer Leaders were pepper-sprayed by the real police. The crowd was repelled from the fence by the chemical mist. The police were intent on using chemical weapons rather than arresting the protesters, obviously a tactic to avoid the international embarrassment of hundreds of arrests. To break the stalemate with the police, the crowd split into three groups and blocked all exits from the leaders' summit. Eventually, riot police and dogs were deployed to break one of the blockades and allow the limousine motorcade through.

The use of police violence to protect corporate interests is part and parcel of the trend towards globalization advanced by APEC. It will take a unified movement of broad-reaching coalitions to fight the corporate agenda or else we're all sunk!

Contact APEC Alert! at (604) 251-9914; e-mail: alert@unixg.ubc.ca; Art Against APEC at (604) 644-4349; <http://www.audience.com/volcano>.



BUFFALO NATIONS TO THE RESCUE

continued from front page

Because buffalo are considered wildlife inside park boundaries and livestock outside the park, hazing is sometimes the only means of preventing slaughter.

Immediately after the morning action, Buffalo Nations received a phone call from a local landowner with two buffalo on her property. She wanted the bison off her land. In previous years, her only option would have been to call the DOL to come kill the buffalo. Instead, Buffalo Nations came and saved the bison. According to Mike Meese, Buffalo Nations co-founder, "People aren't going to stand by and watch the state of Montana kill off the last wild buffalo."

On another day, activists took a stand next to nine buffalo resting on private land a half-mile beyond a capture facility. During the course of the day, Buffalo Nations was bolstered by news that the land owner didn't want buffalo killed on his property. When the DOL showed up on snowmobiles, they were confronted by people who refused to leave the buffalo and who carried the message of the landowner. The DOL left, threatening to come back and haze the buffalo into the capture facility with the landowner's permission. Fortunately, the DOL never returned.

On January 15, Buffalo Nations and the DOL butted heads again when the DOL tried to haze buffalo into a capture facility before sending them

to slaughter. The DOL attempted to use "cracker barrels" (firecrackers shot from guns) to scare buffalo onto a buffalo-hater's land and into a capture facility, but the buffalo outsmarted the DOL by turning and running right past them away from the facility. Buffalo Nations volunteers then moved through waist-deep snow into positions where they could interfere with the DOL operations.

The DOL continued trying to haze 13 buffalo towards the facility throughout the afternoon, but by day's end all 13 buffalo had moved into a safe area, and the DOL gave up.

The Inter-Tribal Buffalo Cooperative had filed a lawsuit to stop the slaughter, but on December 16, US District Judge Charles C. Lovell (notoriously pro-cattle) announced that he would allow 100 buffalo to be killed this year before the DOL must return to court for more slaughter approval.

Buffalo Nations enjoys overwhelming public support. Recently, the owner of a 400-acre ranch asked us to post our "Buffalo Safety Zone" signs around the perimeter of her land. The signs, dotting fences throughout the community, let the DOL know it is not allowed to slay buffalo on the property and make it easier for activists to quickly move buffalo to safety in emergency situations.

The situation in West Yellowstone becomes more urgent everyday. Snow accumulates hourly, and more than 250 buffalo are nearing the park boundary. Buffalo Nations expects serious confronta-

DELYLA SENTENCED

In related news, US Magistrate Richard Anderson sentenced Delyla Wilson to two years limited probation, 100 hours of community service and \$50 in court fees for her federal conviction of assault on a congressional, cabinet or Supreme Court member.

Delyla is the Montana Buffalo Action Group activist who dumped a large bucket of rotting buffalo entrails on a table in front of a hearing last March 23, splattering Montana Republican Senator Conrad Burns and US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. (See *EFJ*, May-June 1997.)

Judge Anderson stipulated that Wilson, a long-time Earth First! activist, did not need permission to travel and that no drug testing would be required under her probation. "I don't want this in any way to discourage you from further [civic] involvement," Anderson said, adding that this particular protest was "perhaps excessive."

Delyla's appeal of a 190-day jail sentence handed down in state court over the same incident is still pending. To help her with her legal costs, send support to BAG, POB 7326, Bozeman, MT 59771.

tions any day now when the 250 buffalo leave the park. They are calling on concerned people everywhere to join them in protecting the herd. Also donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Buffalo Nations at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; fax (406) 646-0071; e-mail: buffalo@wildrockies.org.

SOLDIERS OF THE NIGHT

Taking out every light
hiding in the darkness of the night.

Shadows aiding our mission
as rain washes away the fingerprints of existence.

Lurking in the last of our land.
Tonight's destruction is done by my hand.

One guards, one destroys, this way we won't get caught.
When the night is over, it'll be a good fight we fought!

So now we control, in our black disguise.
The mask's main purpose: hide disgust in our eyes.

Now hurry, we don't want anyone to suspect.
By morning, this site will be wrecked.

Clipping away at your insides
cut it all, rip out its heart
we find our salvation as we rip your machines apart.

As your green blood drips down to the earth
we've accomplished our goal, erased your death's worth.

Next week it'll happen again, just in a different part.
Wherever yellow death machines rip out my mother nature's heart.

What we've done is so little, it will only slow things down
until next week when the devils are at it again,
that's when I love having a best friend!

—Garret X

*[This poem was written about The routine Missions
me and my best friend did when we were 15.
We Monkeywrenched everything within biking distance.]*

OUT WEST

THE NATION SHUDDERS A LITTLE
AS THE LEGS OF THE N'S AT
EITHER END BUCKLE WHAT
UNDERPINNINGS NOW ARE GOING
WEAK? OR IS IT ONLY
THE WAY WE SEE THEM STAND?
DUE TO OZYMANDIAS IN THE DESERT
SAND WE MAY THINK OUR HISTORY
INTO BLEAK OUT HERE WHERE
DAFFODILS ARE GREETED WITH
SURPRISE BATTLES GO ON
IN THE NEWSPAPER AND A POEM
COULD END UP BY GOING INTO THE
WRONG CAFE HAD MCDONALD'S
MADE ITS TAOS STATION ADOBE
WE MIGHT HAVE DREAMED BEYOND
THE FIRST STOPLIGHT I KNOW
MANY HERE HAVE TENDED THEIR
INNER CHILD PROPPED IT ON
A COUNTER AND TICKLED ITS
FEET AND I HAVE ALLOWED
ALLOWED MY INMOST HORRORS
TO PARADE IN SLEEP THERE IS
TIME BEFORE I RECLAIM MY SEAT
IN THE BUMBLING NATION I
PAINTED THE WORD 'PEACE' ON
A SUITCASE THE LAST TIME I
PASSED THROUGH WASHINGTON LEFT
IT PROPPED ON A GARBAGE CAN
GOD HELP MY FEBRILE MOTIONS
INSTALL ME AS VICE PRESIDENT
OF MYSELF MAY THE BLUE SKIES
OF TAOS REOPEN WHEN I TOUCH
THE SHAKY SOIL OF WRATH LEAN
UPON THE GREEN OLIVE TREE

RAMAN

Armed With Visions

Clear
as
cut
glass
&
just
as
d
a
n
g
e
r
o
u
s

Overheard In A Cafe
Conversations...
I couldn't help but overhear
Justifications and
Arguments, what do
You call sustainable?
I hold my tongue
The human hand that
Extends, big brother complex
And arguing that man
Knows best and how
We carefully manage
I calm my thoughts
Asphalt
My home made in a town
With yearly celebration
Of being built along
Old Route Sixty-Six, the
Historic paving of
Land from Illinois
To California
Conversations...
I'll zip my lips
Their words not meant
To be tossed my way
Their spewing and spouting
And convinced their
Scientific theory the
Ultimate answer
(At least today)
The ever expanding science
Yet all the answers lie
In the simplicity of sunrise
Making love in a canyon
The wind rustling through pines
Overheard in a cafe...
No intellectual theories
Can compare to the passion
Of deep connection or
A howl made on a
Mountaintop, body
Blocking a bulldozer
Oh, sage of deep Earth-love
So depicted in one
Clear phrase:
LEAVE IT THE FUCK ALONE!

Klin Lapisardi

send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
ASUC box 361
Berkeley, CA. 94720-4510

Meadowlark

Meadowlark sings between
The off-ramp and the on-ramp
Sings the prairie tune
Will nest here
Because this is the closest thing
To a prairie that's left
No houses
Cars, but at least they keep moving
And I have to ask
Meadowlark, what are you saying?
That you will nest here
And next year
Meadowlarks will sing in this grassy wedge again
Waiting for our highways to disappear?

—Jenny McBride



"RAMONA, NOBODY LIKES A TATTLETALE."

continued from page 3

"Well for your information, I'm a Philadelphia police officer. My name is Frank Scherf. You don't know what the fuck you are talking about. The man is a stone-ass killer. He's never, ever denied killing Danny Faulkner. The witnesses that came to his behalf have changed their testimony on no less than seven different occasions. He was not railroaded by the government; he was convicted by a jury of his peers, including other black people. Fuck you!"

—FRANK SCHERF

Dear Earth First Journal,

I was pleased to see the article by Gary McFarlane and Darryl Echt criticizing the cult of non-violence within Earth First!. This cult is very dominant in Northern California. When I worked with Earth First! activists in Southern California in the late 1980s the slogan was "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth," not "No Violence in Defense of Mother Earth." After moving to Northern California I've limited my activity with Earth First! here because of the authoritarian structures put in place by this cult.

Nonviolence is violence, because it enables the forces of greed and destruction to continue working with only minor annoyance. It is also hypocritical, because what it really relies on is State-sponsored violence. Everyone's hoping for a court ruling, knowing that civil disobedience itself is just a delaying tactic. What is a court ruling except a threat of violence from the government?

In the same issue you ran an article on the Armed Ecological Front of Nicaragua. Good. Let's be clear. Political issues that can't be settled by consensus are always settled by violence.

Even more clearly, the willingness to use violence, if necessary, is a major political lever. Martin Luther King and his nonviolence campaigns were a good thing, but ultimately the system of racism was punctured not by non-violence, but by ghetto riots, the sacrifices and victories of the Vietnamese people, the Black Panthers, and yes, armed cells of white revolutionaries in the USA. Similarly, the US government prefers the threat of massive violence to contain political opposition, but threats require occasional examples. Like turning the wild lands of Vietnam into a moonscape of craters or the systematic murder of AIM activists in the 1970s.

Talking has its place: If you can talk most people into your position, there is no need for violence. Elections have their place: if environmentalists worked as hard on electioneering as the Christian Coalition does, the only violence would be the violence of the State protecting our natural lands from corporate rapists.

But given that money will win any election unless countered by truly massive volunteer efforts, and the rule of justice is that you get all the justice your money can buy; we can expect to see the Headwaters forests and other

forests cut down. Do some people care enough to fight to stop that? That remains to be seen. If there are, we should cheer them on, not try to wither them with holier-than-thou nonviolent scorn.

The nonviolence activists who have been defending Headwaters forest deserve a great deal of praise for their efforts. But the forest does not belong to them, any more than it belongs to Charles Hurwitz. It belongs to Nature, as do all human beings. Don't be surprised if Nature deems to show her violent side to defend the last of her great old forests.

—BILL MEYERS

Dear Frass brains,

1. Now that the Andrews (private) Nuke dump is permitted (over the Ogallala Aquifer) by the Texas Health Dept. (that's all they needed/ no public hearings!), we be in deep Frass.

2. Now that the oxygen is not being replaced thanks to Massive Plankton Die-Off (1985-95) due to over fishing the high seas, we be in deep Frass.

3. Now that the protective shield is nigh-on dissolved by car-emissions, plastics production and decay, chlorine production and space/ jet flights, we be in deep Frass.

4. Now that all the vast public Forests have been accessed w/ roads and landing zones (clearcuts), we be totally under Fascist satellite monitoring up to our knees in Frass.

5. Telephones and TVs are now all 2-way monitors (visualize huge banks of computers recording couplings and conversations every where but darkest Africa (which is slated for liquidation as well as the million dark-skinned men in America's prisons (half for less than an ounce of substance). Earth First! has for the last 2 decades been the cutting edge of Anti-Fascist Action and is getting better as we all refine our areas of expertise.

The Gestapo (J. Edgars' friends and successors) have been brutal in trying to deprive us of leaders (Phil Ochs, Abbie Hoffman, Judi Bari, Jerry Rubin, Cesar Chavez, John Denver and innumerable local leaders come to my bird brain) while we have harmed none. This will make it easy for them to throw in with the Earth Mother of us all when push comes to "Marsification." (The Pentagon's poisoning of its own troops and willingness to poison the entire globe w/ Depleted Uranium shells must be shouted from global rooftops.)

I stay optimistic and encouraged by Earth First!, animal rights/Vegan activism, anti-mili-

tarism, anarchists everywhere, pro-Hemp movement and especially Eco-Feminism with all its nurturing aspects.

Now is time for direct action! Today is the day. Today there are a dozen or two more species than tomorrow. Act today! Think global and Act, y'all. Though there's only 50 or so of us left; we are solid with you.

p.s. Comrade Salmon says "eschew plastics," "leave the oil in the ground," "hates clearcutting and siltation," "says shut Atomic Power down cold y'all," leave off the alcohol til Earth Mothers' victory party!"

Sincerely,

—ATWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKENS
(SCATTERED ACROSS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE MOWED, LAND-LOCUST-TRAMPLED PRAIRIE WEST OF HOUSTON TEXAS!)

GOD CAN MAKE ALL OF YOU PROSTITUTES THESE DAYS EVEN FOR XMAS

—MARINA DEL RAY, CA

Dear EF,

When i receive the journal, i have to try and brace myself as much of what i read causes a great grief and anger, though the time has long past that i'm ever surprised. So thank you for the sweet laugh at the end of Wolves and Poodles. i suppose somewhere some poodle has the spirit of a wolf but is unfortunately trapped inside of a small pox virus... i mean a poodle's body.

Meantime i'm trying to envision what goes on in the hearts and minds of the buffalo assassins. Do they fancy themselves after the ones who brought the bison to their knees a hundred plus years ago? Are these same mass murders their role models? Kinda like pretending to be a Nazi marching Jews into a shower, ain't it? There's no accounting for taste! i must confess i'm puzzled, (not surprised) where it was stated in the article "Bison under fire," that DOL goes onto private property without permission and executes bison! i've lived on a chunk of relatively remote private property for 28 years. It is mine to protect. It is my life. It is a refuge for the living (except for ticks and chiggers) but they're not endangered. Anyway, i'm surrounded by hunters and cannot do much about that, but if they were to come onto the land that owns me with the intention of killing any of the inhabitants, and did not get the hell out when i told them to... i'm sorry i'd be shooting at them, maybe aiming at

their asses... but they'd be shot! So who in the hell do these DOL people think they are? Seems they need to find out!

Very Sincerely
—CORY E. MASON

Dear S.F.B,

When writing the APEC article [printed on page 28] I was asked to do, I discovered a little problem. Does the EF! want me to give up my hitherto happily intact technological illiteracy? Are the options REALLY just e-mail and fax?

Goddess has granted me an ability to crash computers and some other cumbersome items of science's rule, just by being around them. Thus, the e-mail, as far as I understand, (and I don't) came out hieroglyphics and the fax simply would NOT work. And struggling with the guy at Kinko's to somehow get the article thru cyberspace was useless.

I understand many of ye tech-heads need to squash your inner luddite in the search for bigger-better-faster-more-up-to-date info. But what is going to happen to organizing dependent on these "tools" after collapse? And isn't an end to technocracy part of what we want? Have you noticed most e-mails are : "... too busy, sorry... no time for a full letter now..." What kind of community building is THAT?

PS: One time, the computers at the border crashed. What can be happier?

YOURS IN HAND-WRITING
—JASMYN

Ed. note:

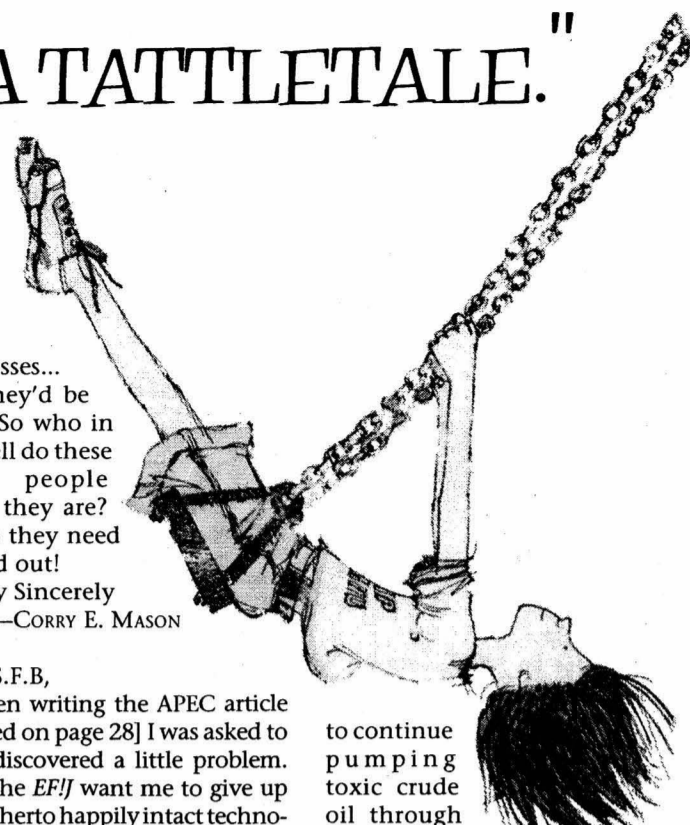
We accept submissions in all formats (see the submission information on page 2).

—LP

PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH OR FORWARD MY NAME OR E-MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND. PLEASE REVIEW AND ACT IN A RAPID AND DECISIVE MANNER.

Dear Sir:

Please have Earth First! investigate why Torch Operating Company/Nuevo Energy was allowed



to continue pumping toxic crude oil through the pipeline from Platform Irene to shore when both the agencies and Torch/Nuevo knew that a recent (summer '97) "smart pig" pipeline integrity test indicated that the pipe had between 50% and 80% wall loss due to severe corrosion. Even if Torch/Nuevo was required to operate at a lower pressure, that is unbelievably negligent, both by Torch/Nuevo decision-makers and by the governing agencies who knew and allowed this catastrophe (the oil spill) to happen anyway.

In addition, it is known that the Platform Irene Pipeline has had trouble from the time it was installed. The seas are exceptionally rough at this point. Parts of the line were "lost" during installation due to the rough seas. The installation took many months longer (at least twice as long) as normal construction would due to the severity of the conditions.

So should a pipeline in known severe condition areas be allowed to continue to operate with a severely reduced wall thickness due to corrosion? No way. This spill is due to irresponsibility all the way around. The flange that was found cracked may have been cracked since original installation; however, the corrosion problem with this line and the fact that everyone "knew" is being glossed over by red-faced Torch/Nuevo and many agency staffers and brass to boot. They need to get the boot and more so the publicity.

Please investigate. Also, please do not reply to me or use my name/e-mail as I cannot have my identity revealed.

Get after it— get the inspection reports TOMORROW >from MMS - Pacific OCS Region - Camarillo, CA, and State Lands Commission, Minerals Resource Management Division, Long Beach, CA, and get those reports analyzed and in the national news by Friday before this catastrophe dies away.

Someone needs to be blown out of the water by this flaming "TORCH". Negligence galore!!!! Thank you!!!!

—ANONYMOUS

In reply to Craig Stehr's letter:

I agree with Craig that with the exception of Northern California very few Neo-Pagans are EF!ers, or for that matter, environmentally active in any way. Where we disagree is



about what this means. In other words, why should this be so, and shouldn't it worry us if radical environmentalists can't succeed in getting their message through to a community that at least gives lip service to the concept that the Earth is sacred. If we can't convince Neo-Pagans, just whom do we hope to be able to convince.

Now Craig says he made a major effort back in the mid 80's here in the Northeast, going to all the Neo-Pagan gatherings, etc. Well I'm not going to call him a liar; maybe his concept of the Northeast doesn't include New England or maybe he has Neo-Pagans confused with New-Agers in general. But let me assure all of you out there, nobody was visible say at "Rites of Spring '86" or "PANTHEA '86" trying to recruit for environmentalism. There's no way we could have failed to notice something like that. Craig, I'm not saying we never met you at a gathering. Over the years a couple people we met at gatherings introduced themselves as being connected to EF! and maybe you were one of those. But that doesn't constitute an organizing effort.

Go ahead and "split the blanket" if you want, but from the Neo-Pagan perspective, with the exception of one bioregion the two communities haven't even been to bed together yet. Heck, there hasn't even been a courtship. And as to why the situation should be so different in Northern California, well that's not really our story to tell. But no matter how things got that way, the communities there are sufficiently entwined there that pushing the Neo-Pagans out would be difficult.

Because that's what we're really talking about here. We have a certain awareness of which people "belong" in both communities. We notice when there are "disappearances", when folks who have been actively appearing in the pages of the Journal for years are seen no more. Well of course everyone in this game is subject to periods of burnout and the need for a "vacation" but there seems to be a bad case of "woo-woo flu"

going around. Heard it starts off with a feeling of just not being welcome around here anymore.

Sorry but I just don't get it. Granted, recruitment of Neo-Pagans hasn't been all that successful so far but does anybody think the prospects any better elsewhere? Would cutting what tenuous ties exist to the Neo-Pagans serve some strategic purpose, help recruitment in other communities? As for ourselves, we don't have the luxury of choice because the first rule of community organizing is try in your "home" community first. If anybody out there has some bright ideas...

For the Earth

—MICHAEL D. NOVACK

Dear Earth First Journal-

Thanks for printing the "Nafta Roads Awareness Project" announcement in the Jan-Feb issue. Since the issue has been in circulation, some folks have contacted us expressing confusion as to who

we are. The Nafta Roads Awareness Project is coordinated by the National Network Against New Roads. We are not related to the Coalition Against Nafta Superhighways or the Alliance for a Paving Moratorium. Our work is supported by member-group donation. We originally felt it best to work with APM out of Arcata, Ca. After a couple of months in Arcata, we soon learned that coordinating a national effort from No. Calif. is not advantageous. Therefore, The Nafta Roads Awareness Project will be coordinated @ our offices here in Roanoke, VA.

Thank You

—MARK PETERSEN, NAFTA ROADS AWARENESS PROJECT COORDINATOR; DARYL MCKAY, DIRECTOR; RANDY GHENT, ADVISOR- TOWARD CAR FREE CITIES NATIONAL NETWORK AGAINST NEW HIGHWAYS; POB 5272, ROANOKE, VA. 24012; (540) 362-7141

Dear Earth First!

I am writing requesting that you publish my letter of request for environmental activists to send me audio and video cassette tapes of lectures etc. and

any literature on Earth First! type issues. I am trying to educate myself and friends. I knew something was wrong two years ago when I went camping for the first time and I began to panic as the sun went down. I sicken at the thought that I lived 31 years before I realized that nature actually exists and I am a part of it. I grew up in a city, sit-com, grocery store world. I thought seasons were something man made up like holidays, just reasons to wear different clothes. Air conditioners and instant gratification through the manipulation of everything. A cellophane world. A continual unending ride in comfort just like everyone else. Respect and admiration, status based upon how much comfort ones "economic ability" could buy.

Success judged entirely on possessions. A careers valve based on how much money it produces. On and on, until in death we relax in a soft plush coffin in a sterile vault mausoleum, comfortable and affluent as death as in life. The "filthy ground" unheard of!

It is very difficult to start at zero when all this false reality comes crashing down. So I ask everyone send me something, so I can learn to live in nature, I don't even know how to grow anything.

Sincerely your,

—TIMOTHY WALLACE MANSHEEN
POB 8691

COLUMBUS, GA 31908-8681
USA

Waste Found Near River After EF! Rendezvous?

[The following article by Barry Clausen was printed in the Springboard. The Earth First! Journal's contact info was also listed. It was sent to us anonymously with a note that read, "Shame on you!! What kind of example is this?"]

"A stone's throw from the banks of the pristine Wolf River someone left behind a dozen barrels of human waste, and an environmental group is one of the prime suspects," according to the Oct. 8 Antigo Daily Journal in Wisconsin. "The barrels, which appear to have been born to store pickles, were abandoned on a snowmobile trail about 500 feet from the Highway A bridge that spans the Wolf." The article also states: "Sheriff Dave Steger said this morning that there are hints that they may have been used by an out-of-state environmental group that spent part of the summer in the area."

Photographic evidence suggests that similar barrels were at the group's campsite on McCarther Pine Road in northern Forest County. Some of the barrels have been tipped over and some of them opened with the mobile trail."

The article failed to mention that the organization was Earth First, a Eugene, Ore.- based organization. Earth First held what they call "Earth First! Wolf River Round River Rendezvous" from June 30 to July 6, 1997, in the same location to protest a new mining site they claim would pollute the Wolf River.

It has now been substantiated that the barrels found were indeed the ones used at the Earth First gathering. The photographic evidence and one additional barrel was found at the Earth First campsite. When confronted with the evidence Earth First members admitted responsibility, their excuse was that in time it would have turned to compost.

According to information received by North American Research the waste was dumped on private land belonging to persons connected to the gathering. Apparently the dumpsite was in or near a small tributary

of the Wolf and during high water the waste would have washed downstream.

What really happened with the Earth First! barrel situation in the North Woods:

This whole "ecological catastrophe" was ignored by most Earth First!ers because we had no idea that the media would have lied outright and that people would have been duped so totally by a few well paid Exxon people. I was called to the scene of the "dumping" as soon as it was discovered and this is what I found:

The "5000 pounds of waste in 15 full barrels" turned out to be a few hundred pounds in five barrels. There were 13 barrels on site, most of them sealed and empty; three had rinse water and one had vegetable compost.

"Right next to the Wolf River" turned out to be nearly 3/4 of a mile through dense forest part of it uphill.

"Smelled for miles around." I got there and couldn't smell a thing until about 10 feet away. After the ten minutes it took to clean up this "disaster area" I sat under a nearby tree and ate my lunch, whoever said that it was smelling for miles around is either delusional, lying or has the nose of a dog. The newscasts I saw showed the camera crew and speakers right next to the barrels and not seeming to have any problem.

"Horrible contamination risk" was two shovels full that actually hit the ground on the cement part of the partial overgrown abandoned road 3/4 of a mile from the Wolf. When I got there, it was mostly composted but still was recognizable as something unpleasant. The equivalent to a bear passing through the area. Of course the DNR would ticket them if they could.

"Dumped on public land," not a chance. These were sealed plastic 45-gallon drums that were left standing and braced together on private property with permission from the owner's son. Why was there any spillage? Either the snowmobilers that have been illegally trespassing for decades on that property, the trespassing bear hunters or someone else had broken the seals,

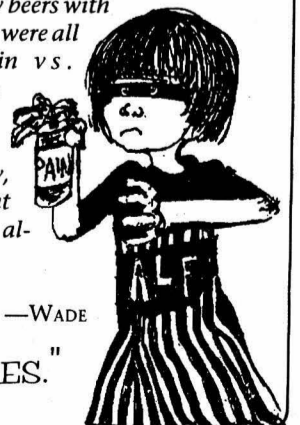
smashed the lids and kicked the barrels around. This is a case of vandalism, pure and simple. Most of the waste was composted by this time and if left alone they would have contained nothing but soil by late spring.

This summer we had several hundred people camping out in the national forest and the waste had to go somewhere, and we disposed of it in a very safe and environmentally safe manner only to become the victims of vandalism and then blamed for being vandalized. The composted waste was going to be put in my garden, if you really want to know how safe the process is considered. I seriously cannot believe this is what people are choosing to talk about, the proposed mine will create a few dozen local short-term jobs and leave the area with a shattered economy and the biggest waste pile in the state and we are discussing a few shovels full of organic matter?!?! Finally, over the summer our welcoming table was bombed by a 1/4 stick of dynamite, we were blockaded in with a dozen cut trees, disruptive infiltrators sent into our gatherings, harassed at all hours by the local authorities and Forest Service, and there was no media blitz or public outcry, why? There are a lot of great folks that stopped by after hearing the rumor about us. Everyone that sat down and talked or had a few beers with us, shook our hands and said we were all right. It's the people of Wisconsin v.s. this monster called Exxon, lets not let "it" divide us up and keep us from doing what is right. It is either people, the economy, the wildlife and the environment or short-term profit for a few already rich people.

Thank you for reading,

—WADE

"POOH, WHO CARES."



ANNOUNCEMENTS MEANT TO

HEALING GLOBAL WOUNDS 1998 SPRING GATHERING APRIL 10-13, NEVADA TEST SITE

Healing Global Wounds is an alliance and a gathering of organizations and individuals working to break the nuclear chain and restore sustainable living practices on the Earth. The gathering will be located on Western Shoshone lands at the gates of the Nevada Test Site.

You can experience the beautiful desert, join in an incredibly rich and culturally diverse community of people from all over the world, learn about nuclear and indigenous land rights issues, participate in traditional Native ceremonies from America, Australia, Taiwan and other regions, and if you choose, participate in nonviolent direct action to shutdown the Nevada Nuclear Test Site and reclaim Shoshone land.

The scheduled events at the gathering are:

- Friday, April 10—Communications skills training for multi-cultural work
- Saturday, April 11—Informational workshops about nuclear issues and indigenous rights, including delegations from Taiwan and Australia
- Sunday, April 12—Site specific, nonviolence training and action planning
- Monday, April 13—Prayer circle at the Nevada Test Site. Reclaim Western Shoshone Lands from the Department of Energy and shut the Test Site down!

Multi-faith ceremonies will take place throughout the weekend. Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone spiritual leader, will lead daily sunrise ceremonies and sweat lodges. Nevada Desert Experience will hold a Good Friday service and participate in an Easter-morning, Circle of Rebirth ceremony at the gates of the Test Site.

Meals, local potable water and sanitation facilities will be provided.

A \$25 donation is suggested (\$20 if paid by March 1). Limited motel accommodations are available nearby for those unable to camp in desert conditions.

For more information about past Healing Global Wounds visit <http://www.shundahai.org/HGW/index.html> or <http://www.scruz.net/~hgw/>

To receive a complete information packet, contact the Shundahai Network at 5007 Elmhurst Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89108-1304; (702) 647-3095; fax 647-9385; e-mail: reinard@shundahai.org.

THREE GENERATIONS OF BIG MOUNTAIN RESISTERS ON MIDWEST TOUR

Kee Watchman, an elder who has represented the sovereign Dineh Nation at the United Nations, accompanied by two active resisters from Big Mountain, Lawrence Altisi and Chris Interpreter will begin a month-long speaking tour to rally support for their situation at Black Mesa, near Big Mountain, Arizona.

Since 1974, the Dineh (Navajo) have been resisting forced relocation by the US government and Peabody Western Coal Co. Peabody has leases with both the Hopi and Navajo tribal governments, and through an expensive public relations campaign, has managed to convince the media that this is a simple "ethnic land dispute" between the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi people. While the media and Congress buy into this misrepresentation of the facts, Peabody continues to operate its strip mines at Black Mesa to fuel large power plants in the four corners region. Seventy percent of the Navajo Nation has no electricity.

The majority of Americans know nothing of the largest forced relocation of

Native Americans this century that is being financed by their tax dollars.

Listen to the Dineh speak for themselves. They believe that if the majority of Americans knew what their tax dollars were financing, they would rise up and stop this destruction of the Sovereign Dineh Nation's way of life.

FEBRUARY DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- 7 Lincoln, NE
- 8 Omaha, NE
- 9 Des Moines, IA
- 10 Grinnell College, IA
- 12-14 Twin Cities, MN
- 15 Duluth, MN
- 16 Ashland, WI, Northland College
- 17 River Falls, WI, University of WI
- 18 Stout, WI, University of WI
- 19 Chicago, IL
- 20 Lansing, MI
- 21 Detroit, MI
- 23 Cleveland, OH
- 24 Pittsburgh, PA (Peabody's home)
- 25 Columbus, OH
- 26 Cincinnati, OH

For more information, contact David Miller or Whitney Fink at (612) 362-5964.

McLibel Documentary now available on video

McLibel: Two Worlds Collide is the inside story of how a single father and a part-time bar worker took on burger giant McDonald's.

The documentary follows Dave Morris and Helen Steel as they transform from anonymous campaigners into global heroes defending themselves in the longest trial in English history. Along the way, they faced infiltration, secret meetings with top executives, 40,000 pages of background reading and a visit from Ronald McDonald.

The 52-minute documentary uses interviews with witnesses and reconstructions of key court moments to examine the main issues in the trial: nutrition, advertising, employment, animals, the environment and free speech.

McLibel is not about hamburgers. It is about multinational corporations and the power they wield over our everyday lives.

Full details about the film, including storyboards and transcripts, are available at: www.spanner.org/mclibel/.

The price is £15 (about US \$23). The tape format is PAL (UK) or NTSC (USA). Please send a cheque in pounds sterling made payable to "One-Off Productions" to BCM Oops, London WC1N 3XX, UK. Don't forget to indicate which format you require. Any shops, groups or magazines interested in selling the video, please contact Simon at the address above or phone/fax +44 (1)71 681 0832; oops@spanner.org.

Red Alert at Ward Valley!

Make a stand to stop the nuclear waste dump and protect sacred Indian land, the desert tortoise and the Colorado River. Colorado River Native Nations Alliance and Save Ward Valley have issued a call for people to come and defend Ward Valley.

They are asking people to come for sustained, nonviolent, mass action. All actions will be under the guidance and direction of the tribes and elders.

Check in at the Save Ward Valley office in Needles before heading to camp. Take interstate 40 to Needles, California. Exit at J Street. Go right on Broadway, then left on F Street. The office address is 107 F Street.

For more information, call (760) 326-6267 or (415) 655-3475.

Peoples' Movements vs. "Free" Trade Worldwide Conference • February 23-25

On February 18-27, hundreds of movements from around the world will meet in Geneva to establish a platform for action against trade liberalization: the People's Global Action.

The first big-scale action will be a wave of decentralized mobilizations and protests around the world paralleling the Second Ministerial Confer-

ence of the World Trade Organization, May 18-20.

If you want more information about the conference, contact Play Fair Europe!, e.V., Turmstr. 3, 52072 Aachen, Germany; +49-241-80 37 92, fax +49-241-88 88 394; e-mail: playfair@asta.rwth-aachen.de; <http://www.agp.org>.

Folksinger David Rovics Spring '98 Tour

The past lives in David Rovics' songs and performances—so does the future.

—JEREMY BRECHER, AUTHOR OF *STRIKE!* AND *GLOBAL VILLAGE*

David Rovics has sung songs of social significance in coffeehouses, union halls, festivals and sidewalks throughout North America as a solo performer, as well as with Chris Chandler & Avoiding Godot, Aunt Betsy and Robert Hoyt, as band member/sidekick.

David is lining up dates for a spring tour. For booking or other information contact David at POB 995, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; (617) 983-2571.

Earth First! Long-term Editor Wanted

Must have extensive movement, computer and editing experience. Work long hours for little pay and love it. Send resumé and writing sample to: EF!J, Editor Search, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.

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\$1 each or \$6 for 10. Add \$2.50 per order for shipping and handling. Order from the Labor/Community Alliance, POB 5077, Fresno, CA 93755.

Fund for Wild Nature

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Funding proposals and donations can be sent to:

POB 1657, Corvallis, OR 97339

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NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Headwaters Ancient Redwood Forest
SUNDAY • MARCH 15

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Think BIG; these are BIG TREES
contact: 707•825•8911

KEEP YA BUSY UNTIL SPRING

The Big Wild Roadshow

The Big Wild Roadshow exposes the US Forest Service's policy of logging the last remaining roadless areas of the Northern Rockies. The Big Wild of Central Idaho, also known as the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, is home to some of the most pristine and remote wildlands left in the lower 48 states. The US Forest Service has been rapidly destroying irreplaceable habitat, while costing taxpayers millions.

At the heart of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem is Cove/Mallard in Central Idaho. A six year-campaign has been waged to defend the area, including one of the longest forest blockades in US history.

The Big Wild Roadshow features live acoustic music, video and slides. This multimedia presentation runs approximately one and a half hours and is followed by an open discussion. Two activists from Idaho, Josh Burnim and Martin Stephan, will talk about the many ways to get involved and help stop the destruction of our public lands.

For more information or to book a show in your area, please contact Zan at Northern Rockies Preservation Project/roadshow, POB 625, Boise, ID 83701; (208) 384-5776; nrpp@lesbois.com.

FEBRUARY

- 7 LaCrosse, WI, Purple Earth
- 10 Oshkosh, WI, UW Oshkosh
- 17 Ann Arbor, MI, Michigan Biodiversity Project
- 18 Chicago, IL, The Autonomous Zone, 2012 N. Chicago Ave.
- 19 Indianapolis, IN, Butler University
- 22 Peoria, IL
- 23 Bloomington, IN, Heartwood
- 24 Cincinnati, OH, University of Cincinnati
- 25 Richmond, IN, Earlham College
- 26 Antioch, OH, Antioch College

MARCH

- 3-4 Hamilton, NY, Colgate University
- 5 Syracuse, NY, Syracuse University
- 7 Bar Harbor, ME
- 10 Portland, ME, University of Southern Maine
- 11 Lewiston, ME, Bates College Benjamin Mays Center, 7 p.m.
- 12 Burlington, VT
- 19 Brattleboro, VT, Teen Center
- 22 North Hampton, MA, Fire & Water
- 24 New York, NY, Wetlands Preserve

APRIL-MAY

The tour plans to head to the DC area, then on to North Carolina, Tennessee and Pennsylvania and finally back to Idaho by way of Utah and Oregon. Call if you would like to help set up a show.

DEMOCRACY TEACH-IN

Everywhere • March 1-7

Can we pursue democracy and social justice when corporations are allowed to control so much power and wealth?

More and more folks have learned that the answer is no.

Over the week of March 1-7, tens of thousands of students, faculty and workers will participate in Democracy Teach-Ins held at hundreds of universities, colleges, schools and community centers across the continent.

Students have learned that giant corporations are obstacles to social change in our struggles to reform education, expand civil rights, defend human rights, build the labor movement, and protect the environment.

Following last year's highly successful Democracy Teach-Ins, new Teach-Ins are planned for March 1-7. Last fall, some 40 plus campuses and thousands of students across North America participated in a coordinated series of mass educational events and actions that exposed and explored how giant corporations are ruining our educational system and our world at large. The new wave of Teach-Ins will be even larger and more organized.

May 1 will be the May Day of Action Against Corporate Domination in which students and community members will use the tools and information they have learned at the Teach-Ins to take direct action against transnational corporate control of our communities and our society.

For more information, contact the Democracy Teach-In Clearinghouse at 731 State Street, Four Lakes, Madison, Wisconsin 53703; (617) 547-4953 or (608) 262-9036; <http://corporations.org/democracy>. To get in the loop of the ongoing organizing for the Democracy Teach-In, subscribe to our listserv by sending the following message to: listproc@envirolink.org; subject: _____; and in the body of the message: subscribe corporations <<your e-mail address>>.

GREAT PLAINS RESTORATION COUNCIL

Up until now, talk of a Buffalo Commons has been just that: circles of academic talk. We can have wild, free-roaming bison, wolves and grizzlies; we can have justice and reparation for displaced Plains tribes; we can have clean, healthy and sustainable communities on the Great plains within our own lifetimes, but it will require a concerted, direct effort.

The Great Plains Restoration Council is dedicated to the practical implementation of the Buffalo Commons beginning our focus on the Southern Plains, the Dust Bowl area of most neglect and abuse. We have opened a new office in Albuquerque and seek volunteers in all capacities nationwide.

Anyone interested in restoring wilderness to the grasslands is encouraged to contact us. We need help with grant writing and fundraising (with salary potential), computers, regional and national outreach, graphic design, photography and writing, intercultural programs, and spearheading a Southern Plains land trust.

Interested parties please contact the Great Plains Restoration Council at POB 717, Albuquerque, NM 87103; (505) 243-8321.

1998 National Wilderness Conference Seattle, Washington • May 29-31

You are invited to cosponsor the 1998 National Wilderness Conference.

The intent of the conference is to inspire and equip attendees to help secure lasting protection for the remaining unprotected wilderness.

Conference cosponsorship requires no financial obligations (although donations will not be refused). Conference organizers will use the cosponsor list to publicize and garner support for the conference from the public, media, conservation groups and funders.

To cosponsor, just contact Bob Freimark, The Wilderness Society, 1424 4th Avenue, Suite 816, Seattle, WA 98101; (206) 624-6430; fax 624-7101; e-mail: freimark@twsw.org; <http://www.speakeasy.org/~nwwpc>.

If you would like to influence the content and organization of the conference, indicate that when you leave a message about your co-sponsorship of the conference. We are moving on a fast track, but there are opportunities to participate.

SPRING BREAK ACTION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

JERICHO MARCH '98

WHITE HOUSE • MARCH 27

Jericho '98 will be a march on Washington in support of political prisoners and prisoners of war. It's a way to show the world that we demand freedom for our sisters and brothers.

We need your assistance and support if we are to create a unified movement of liberation. For more information contact Jericho '98 at POB 650, NY, NY 10009; (800) 426-5812.

Western Ancient Forest Conference Ashland, Oregon • February 13-15

Headwaters' 7th Annual Western Ancient Forest Activists Conference takes place at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. We'll be reviewing the successes and setbacks of 1997 and planning future strategies.

Specifically, we will be planning for the '98 elections and the next year of legislative battles. We'll have an update on the state of the grassroots forest activist movement, with representatives from across the West.

Several intensive workshops will offer activists training sessions to improve our effectiveness. These will include ecopsychology, media skills and strategies, computer (GIS) mapping,

on-line networking, soil monitoring for activists, coalition building, and a workshop for board members of activist organizations.

Shorter sessions will include wilderness campaigns, federal forests, legislation (Zero Cut, Clean Water, ESA), legal (Option 9, ICBEMP), grazing, immigration, private lands protection strategies, direct action, corporate power, citizen ballot initiatives and a discussion on the culture of activist organizations.

To receive more information about the conference, contact Headwaters at POB 729, Ashland, OR 97520; (541) 482-4459; e-mail: headwtrs@mind.net.

Join in Active Resistance

One year ago the Active Resistance gathering took place in Chicago bringing together some 750 North American anarchists and revolutionaries from Earth First!, Food Not Bombs, Anti Racists Action, the Queer Youth Movement, Sister Subverter, Anarchist Black Cross, the Youth Liberation Movement, Love and Rage, the IWW, the Anti-Authoritarian Network of Community Organizers, the Network of Anarchist Collectives, the Animal Liberation Front, Social Ecologists, the Squatters Rights Movement, solidarity movements with MOVE and Mumia Abu Jamal, Fred Hampton, Jr., the EZLN, Leonard Peltier and the American Indian Movement.

A group of people have begun the process of organizing an Active Resistance gathering to be held this August in Toronto.

This summer will be ripe for a creative action against neoconservatism, neoliberalism and all other forms of oppression. All anarchists, revolutionaries, friends and allies are welcome to join us this coming August. Please send information, requests, organizing and outreach ideas, workshop topics, fundraising and activity suggestions, contact addresses, political statements, letters of endorsement and structural comments to Active Resistance '98, POB 108, Station P, Toronto, Canada, M5S 2S8; resist@tao.ca.

1998 Slingshot Organizer

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email: resist@burn.ucsd.edu
<http://burn.ucsd.edu/~resist/slingshot.html>

EARTH FIRST! STUFF

BUMPER-STICKERS

All bumperstickers \$1 unless otherwise indicated

- AMERICAN WILDERNESS: LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT ALONE
- ANOTHER MORMON ON DRUGS
- "ANTI-GRAZING ASSORTMENT" (on non-removable paper @ \$3/doz)
- COPULATE DON'T POPULATE
- DARWIN (words inside fish w/ legs)
- DEVELOPERS GO BUILD IN HELL
- DON'T LIKE ENVIRONMENTALISTS? PUT THEM OUT OF WORK
- DREAM BACK THE BISON, SING BACK THE SWAN
- EARTH FIRST!
- END CORPORATE DOMINANCE
- HAYDUKE LIVES!
- I'D RATHER BE MONKEYWRENCHING
- IF YOUR PECKER WAS AS SMALL AS MINE, YOU'D NEED A MUSCLE WAGON, TOO (on non-removable paper @ .50 ea)
- I'M POLLUTING THE PLANET
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER, DON'T BECOME A FATHER
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER, DON'T BECOME ONE
- MONKEYWRENCH THE MILLENNIUM
- NATIVE (w/ blue and green earth graphic)
- NATURE BATS LAST
- NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT
- PAY YOUR RENT, WORK FOR THE EARTH
- QUESTION TECHNOLOGY
- REAL MEN DON'T SHOOT WOLVES
- REAL MEN GET VASECTOMIES
- RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE
- SAVE THE DAMMED SALMON
- SAVE THE WILD
- STOP CLEARCUTTING (on non-removable paper @ .50 ea)
- STOP PUBLIC LANDS RANCHING
- STOP THE FOREST SERVICE, SAVE OUR WILD COUNTRY
- SUBVERT THE DOMINANT PARADIGM
- THANK YOU FOR NOT BREEDING
- THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY
- VISUALIZE INDUSTRIAL COLLAPSE

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- Dangle earring—\$12 each
- Post earring—\$10 each
- Lapel pin/tie tack—\$10
- Pendant on silver chain—\$15

T-SHIRTS

(All t-shirts are 100% cotton and available in medium, large and extra large. For XXL add an additional \$3.)

Arm & Wrench

Multi-color on Yellow/Gold—\$15

Earth First! Fist

Green on Unbleached—\$12

Black on Kelly Green—\$12

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Green with White on Black—\$12

Earth First! Tools

Black on Unbleached—\$12

• SALE • Black on Blue or Tan—small only \$6!

No Fucking Compromise

White on Black—\$12

Eagle

Black on Unbleached—\$12

Visualize Direct Action

Black and White on Unbleached—\$12

BOOKS

Anarchist Farm

By Jane Doe. Fiction, 192 pages—\$10

The Big Outside

A Descriptive Inventory of the Big Wilderness Areas of the United States
By Dave Foreman & Howie Wolke. Maps, list of areas by size and state, 490 pages—\$17

Desert Solitaire

A Season in the Wilderness
By Edward Abbey. Nonfiction, 295 pages—\$6

EF! Direct Action Manual

The antidote to despair! Over 150 pages on blockading tactics, techniques and devices to defend the Earth. Diagrams, forms, graphics, 154 pages—\$8

Earth First! Songbook

77 songs/33 artists/guitar chords/info—\$10

ECODEFENSE:

A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching

By Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood. Extensively revised, expanded third edition, 350 pages—\$18

Ecological Resistance Movements:

The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism

Edited by Bron Taylor. 422 pages—\$20

The End of Nature

By Bill McKibben. 226 pages—\$12

Green Rage

Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization

By Christopher Manes. 291 pages—\$15

Grizzly Years

In Search of the American Wilderness

By Doug Peacock. Photos, 375 pages—\$13

The Monkeywrench Gang

By Edward Abbey. Fiction, 387 pages—\$7

Refuge

An Unnatural History of Family and Place

By Terry Tempest Williams. 304 pages—\$12

A Sand County Almanac

with Essays on Conservation from Round River

By Aldo Leopold. Special edition, 295 pages—\$10

Think Like a Mountain

Towards a Council of All Beings

By John Seed, Joanna Macy, Pat Fleming, Arne Naess. Illustrated by Dailan Pugh. 128 pages—\$10

Waste of the West

Public Lands Ranching

By Lynn Jacobs. Encyclopedic overview of grazing. Contact list, statistics, over 1,000 photos, cartoons, graphics, charts, maps. Large paperback, 602 pages—\$28

Wilderness on the Rocks

By Howie Wolke. Ned Ludd Books, 240 pages—\$15

MORE EF! PARAPHERNALIA

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Quality 3-inch patches for your daypack, jacket or butt
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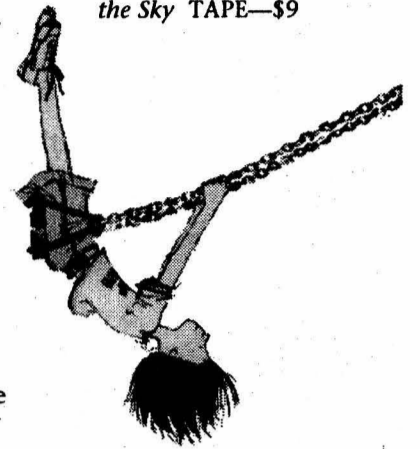
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