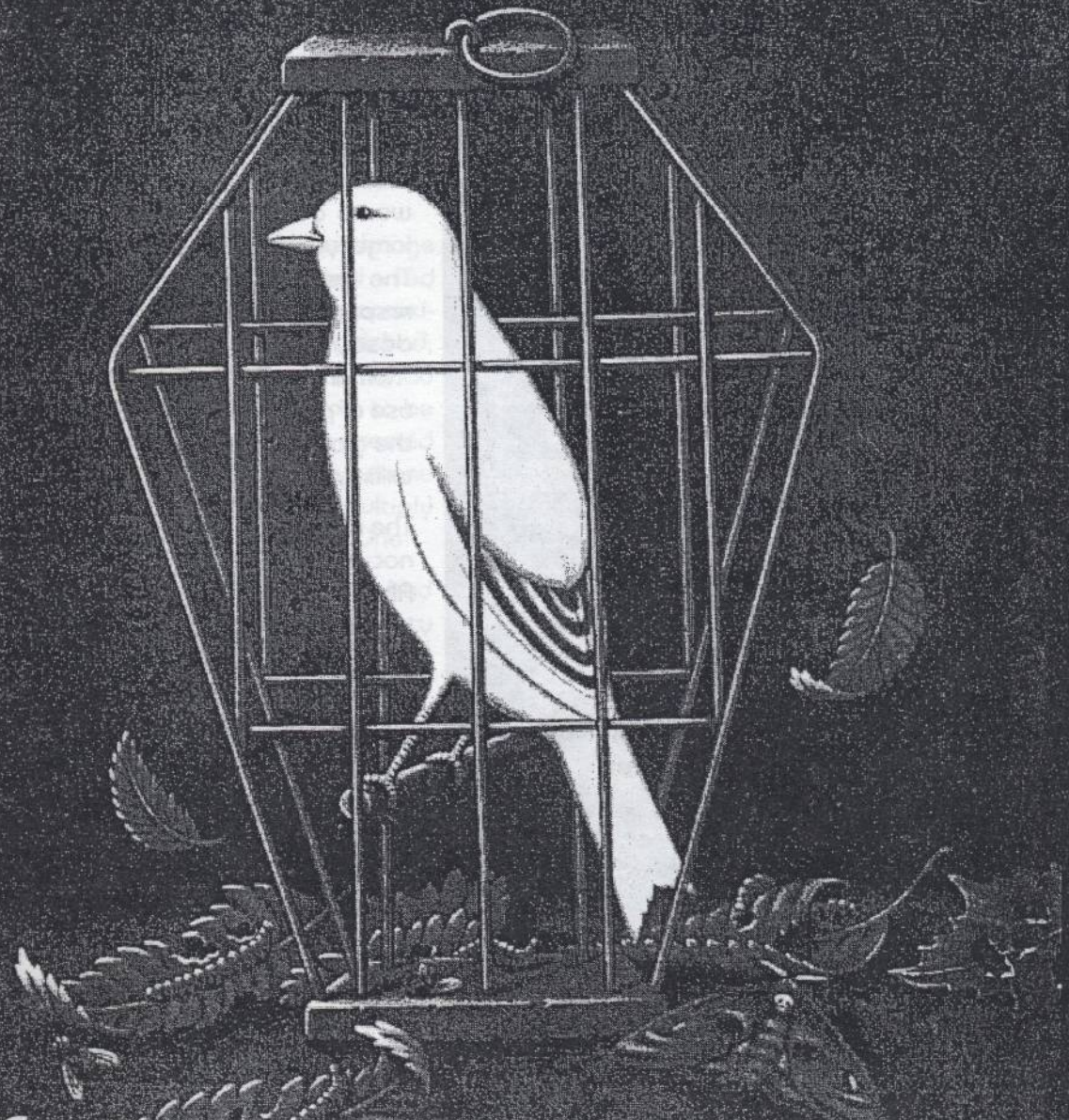
...Let's Get Free!

a zine about Jeff "Free" Luers: earth defender, anarchist, and political prisoner.



Contains writings by and about Free

...Let's Get Free!

A zine about Jeff "Free" Luers, earth defender, anarchist, and political prisoner. Containing writings by and about Free.

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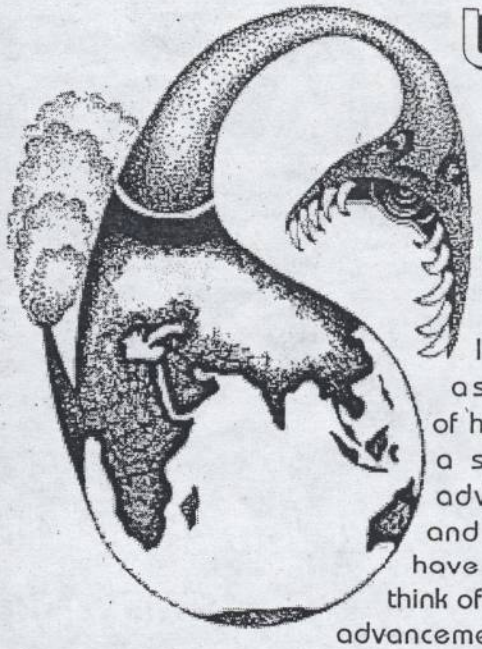
To contact Free, write:
Jeffrey Luers #13797671
OSP 2605 State St.
Salem, OR 97310 USA

Free's Defense Network
POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405
e-mail: howl_for_freedom@yahoo.com

Free's new website is
www.freefreenow.org

To send donations to Free directly:
DOC Central Trust
(For Jeffrey Luers, #13797671)
2575 Center St. NE
Salem, OR 97310-0470

** Half of the proceedes of this zine will go directly to Free.*



Words from Free

I believe it is time for a serious re-evaluation of human priorities. As a species of such advanced intelligence and technology, we have the tendency to think of nothing but human advancement. We view the human race as being separate and above the life cycles of nature. This ideology of superiority over all things living and of the very land itself is leading to a large rupture in the natural order. One need not look far to see the ill effects of the "beneficial" technology.

Just count the number of super-fund sites or toxic/nuclear waste dumps. The hole in the ozone layer, that grows larger year by year with the ever rising climate temperature. The loss of wild areas, in search of more, always more, resources. These are just a few of the examples of destruction (there are many more) that the mindset of "human first" is causing. The very fact that we know the use of petrol chemicals releases toxins and pollutants into the ground water and the atmosphere attests to our continued willingness to ignore our impact upon our environment.

The reason for this willingness is, of course, that we have not yet significantly suffered the results of our actions. Although cancer is on the rise, the rate of extinction is increasing and natural disasters that have never occurred in certain regions of the world are becoming common, (i.e. tornadoes in Southern California), as a general rule we wish not to think of these things. No longer can we separate ourselves from wild nature, pretending that technology will keep us safe and intact. We must accept and embrace the fact that we, too, are a part of the natural life cycle, not above it, not on top of it. We must scrutinize the effect that we are having.

It is time for us to once again learn to live in harmony with the Earth and the other inhabitants of it. I am not suggesting that we go back to a completely primitive lifestyle, for we have forgotten far too many survival instincts for that. But we must have a reprieve of advanced, oppressive, life controlling technology. We must learn to live sustainably or become completely artificial. We have the means to change, the question is, do we have the desire?

Who is Jeffrey "Free" Luers?

My name is Jeffrey Luers. Most of my friends call me "Free". I have been active since 1996 fighting for a range of issues such as animal rights, gender equality, anti-fascism, eco-defense and others. These issues are not separate they are one struggle, one fight. My story is only a small part of a greater whole. . .

In my lifetime I have witnessed an onslaught against the inhabitants of this world lead by the greed of industrialized nations. It is my belief that the oppression of people is rooted in the oppression and exploitation of nature. A fundamental disrespect for life that began with the conquest of Mother Nature and has lead to the conquest of humankind.

I struck back. In an act of resistance designed to raise awareness and draw attention to a problem that affects every human being, every animal, every plant, and every form of life on this planet. I am speaking of global warming, air, soil and water pollution. We are in the midst of a global environmental crisis.

On June 16, 2000 I ignited a fire that would forever change my life. I torched 3 SUV's. I took extra care and used specific fuels to ensure no one would be injured. Approximately 30 minutes after the fire was lit and extinguished, I was taken into custody by 3 undercover agents who had been following me, one of whom I would later learn to be a member of an anti-domestic terrorist unit. I was arrested on Criminal Mischief One, a charge that carries about one year. In the course of one week that charge would multiply into 10 felony counts, including 3 counts of Arson One.

Getting to trial took the course of a year. By trial I had accumulated 13 felony counts, now including conspiracy with persons unknown. I was looking at a little over 100 years. I refused to take a deal.

Trial was a joke, literally. We proved evidence had been tampered with, officers had lied and that the prosecutor had manipulated evidence to get a legal search. On top of that the judge refused to allow me to separate the trial. I had been charged with two different fires. Law requires that upon request separate offenses must be tried separately. The final blow came when the judge threw out the testimony of my expert witness.

In the end I was convicted of 11 felony charges. I was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months. I have no possibility of parole.

This is only a summary of events that took place in the course of a year. For more information contact me directly or my defense network.

Silence:

A Poem by Free

Trapped in walls
Imprisoned by lies
living in a world that's blind
to suffering
to suffering
See no evil
Hear no evil
SPEAK NO EVIL
Be blind
Be deaf
Be silent
BE SILENT!
IF you don't have something nice to say
Don't say anything at all.
We don't talk about things that are unpleasant
Rape,
we don't talk about that
Starving children!
Shhh!
Genocide, mass murder, nuclear war,
SHUT UP!
Global warming, poisoned water, poisoned air,
ENOUGH!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE!
Toxic soil, dying species, extinction
I don't believe you. . .
I can't believe you. . .
I don't want to believe you.
It changes everything.
You just need the right anti-depressants.
I'm comfortable.
I'm safe.
EVERYTHING'S JUST FINE.
JUST FINE. . .
Trapped in walls
Imprisoned by lies
Happy in a world that's blind
to suffering
to suffering



...Let's Get Free!



EF!J: How did you initially get involved in environmental activism?

Free: Originally, I was radicalized by anti-authoritarian, anarchist beliefs, as well as animal rights. I got involved in environmentalism first in 1997, I was working for CalPIRG and canvassing for the Sierra Club. I was exposed to a lot of information I hadn't known before. It was then I started to prioritize the environmental cause.

EF!J: What motivated you to participate in direct action and eventually adopt arson as a tactic?

Free: Actually, I've been involved in direct action since I was 15. That was when I broke my first cop car window with a slingshot. I think I've always known that power cedes nothing without demand. That the only way to bring change is to fight for it. As for using fire: It was appropriate for the situation and for the goal we wanted to achieve.

EF!J: To the critics and nay-sayers, those who think arson causes more harm than good, what would you say regarding the use of arson as an effective means of sabotage?

Free: I don't think anything I can say will change minds. I think many critics see using fire as morally wrong. But what I take into consideration on the issue is whether there are other alternatives? Are they effective? When the answer is no, then you have to up the ante. The use of fire does two things. 1. It destroys the target-which not only stops whatever destructive practice it was engaged in, it also causes severe economic damage to those responsible. 2. It receives the most media attention. And regardless of how you look at that, the one thing you have to acknowledge is nothing has shown to be more effective and drawing attention to an issue.

...Let's Get Free!



EF!J: Why was Romania Chevrolet the target on June 16, 2000?

Free: Romania was an easy target to strike. It also had the type of vehicles we were looking for-large trucks. And it conveniently happened to be a large dealership with several different locations.

EF!J: How did you get caught?

Free: We were tailed by three different unmarked vehicles. We made several turns and drove all around the city trying to pick out a tail. The cops kept switching off, so one car was never behind us long. I must say tho, we both had this weird feeling so my advice is always trust your instincts. Cuz, as I have learned, just because you're paranoid doesn't mean their not behind you.

EF!J: Is there anything you would have done differently?

Free: I've thought a lot about this. I'm sure that I could change some things and not have gotten caught. But really I think getting caught and getting 22 plus years has done a lot of good. I know that sounds ironic, but the mainstream media has been all over it and surprisingly sympathetic. I've been given a forum to help radicalize people, to bring the dire situation our planet and we are in to the attention of those who would normally ignore it. I wouldn't have this opportunity had things worked out differently.

EF!J: Days before your trial was to begin, a second arson took place at Romania Chevrolet destroying more than 30 SUVs. Some have criticized the strategic timing of the action and the impact it could have had on your sentencing. What are your thoughts?

Free: Actually, I just wrote my critique on that action. I think that without a doubt it added to my sentence. And I think that some things could have been done different. At the same time, I was able to use it in my defense seeing as how it was 10 times more extreme. All in all, I have my issues with the action, but I am overall supportive. So if you're out there reading this, thank you!

EF!J: Aware of the corruption within the prison system and the possible sentence you could receive, why didn't you take the original plea agreement offered?

I hope to complete a degree in sociology while I'm here and to write and inspire with words. Already I have received many requests for interviews. I can only do the best I can to try to awaken people, raise awareness, and lend strength to those still on the front lines.

To all of you who try to bring change, in whatever form or tactic you use — whether you fight for the planet or against sexism, whether you are trying to raise minimum wage and create better work conditions or helping to create alternatives to traditional work: Our struggle comes in many forms. We fight different battles in different fields. We use different tactics and different skills. We share different beliefs and different ideologies. Yet, we have one thing in common: we need each other, we need to stand side by side, to work and fight together. Only together can we create a world that we can all live in happily, healthfully, safely, and sustainably.

My goal in life is to help create that world. While I plan on continuing that goal, right now I need to focus on getting out of prison.

My appeal will be underway shortly. I expect it will be a lengthy process. I'm asking for your continued support. Those of you who can donate money to my defense, thank you.

I would also like to ask that everyone write to Gov. Kitzhaber in regards to the length of my sentence and the lack of evidence in the Tyree case.

Jeff "Free" Luers, Eugene

LESSER SENTENCE

I was one of hundreds of wild land firefighters deployed in the Umpqua National Forest in August of 1998, chasing the work of a serial arsonist around Tiller. After a tracking device was attached to her vehicle and she was observed in the act, Forest Service fire safety specialist Tamara Meridith of Canyonville was arrested on 35 counts of first degree arson. The motivation was "overtime." Meredith was only convicted on two counts; the evidence was "circumstantial", which apparently doesn't carry the weight in Roseburg that it does in Circuit Court in Eugene.

After putting 600 of us at risk of injury and death, and costing tax payers a few hundred thousand dollars a day (not including the damages to the forest), Ms. Meredith was sentenced to three years. She'll be out next year (if she isn't already). I'd like to hear Judge Velure tell us once again that politics had nothing to do with Jeffery Luers's 23-year sentence for crimes that did less damage and risked fewer lives. Too bad, Mr. Luers; you should have said you did it for money.

Mick Garvin, Eugene

BETTER NEIGHBOR?

Jeff "Free" Luers has just been sent away for 22 years. His primary motivation for damaging three petrochemical internal-combustion engines seems to have been that the oil those trucks were prepared to burn is a keystone cause of global warming, air pollution and colonialism threatening us here in Eugene and people all over the world.

During the same week that Luers was shipped to his new home, the local corporate paper reported that he would be replaced with a proper U.S. citizen, the Enron Energy Corporation. Enron intends to produce energy in Eugene to power machines throughout California.

Besides the destruction caused by air conditioners, refrigerators and TVs that Enron's plant here will facilitate, the $53 billion corporation helps fund police beatings of environmental protesters in India, illegal death-squads in South America and everything that George W. Bush does. Enron was the number one campaign contributor to the son of the former head of the CIA and presumably was not displeased when he bombed innocent starving people in Iraq in his first day in office.

Who then, between Luers and Enron, would you prefer to live here with? Were Enron to treat Eugene as it does the rest of the world, the answer to that question would be clear. It surely knows, however, that its public legitimacy in the first world relies on it being no more carcinogenic a neighbor than Hyundai, Monaco Coach and Symantec. Regardless, given the pollution, exploitation and alienation that Enron will inevitably bring to Eugene — the corporation may be called an eco-terrorist.

Luers damaged three trucks. Enron gets rich off of the oil that makes them run. Which one gets the red carpet?

Robert Giordano, Eugene

CRIMINAL INJUSTICE

Recent events in Eugene and Portland make all too clear the true nature of the criminal justice system.

The Register Guard reported on Aug. 2 that 26-year old Ruben Patterson, a basketball player with the Portland Trailblazers, recently received a suspended sentence of one year in prison for attempted rape on his children's 24-year-old nanny. Patterson ended up serving 15 days in jail — for coercing a young woman to perform oral sex on him.

Yet, Jeffrey Free Luers, a 22-year old anarchist activist, receives 22 years in prison for setting three SUVs on fire at Joe Romania in June of 2000.

What kind of message does this send to Oregonians? The message it sent me is that inanimate objects like SUVs are more important to the state than the physical and mental well-being of women. Attack property and spend the next two decades of your life in a cage. Rape and abuse women and maybe do a year. That's how absurd our judicial system really is.

Jeff Luers took action against the industries he feels are systematically destroying the natural world. When the ozone is about to rip open and kill all life on this planet, I imagine he will be looked at a sort of folk hero.

Ruben Patterson, on the other hand, is a truly sick human being. But, he's not an anarchist and he's got a lot of cash, so he's off the hook.

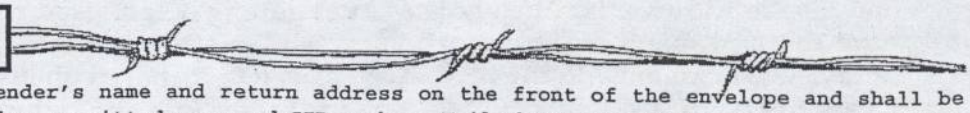
Jen Farey, Eugene

You can write the Eugene Weekly at:
1251 Lincoln St. Eugene, OR 97401
Email: editor@eugeneweekly.com

...Let's Get Free!

Oregon Mail Regulations

Incoming Mail



(1) Incoming mail shall require the sender's name and return address on the front of the envelope and shall be addressed to the inmate using only his/her committed name and SID number. Mail whose recipient cannot be identified because of incomplete name or number will be returned to the sender. A reasonable attempt will be made to identify the inmate recipient for legal mail, official mail and publications. If the inmate recipient cannot be positively identified, the mail will be returned to the sender. Mail with no return address or an incomplete name and return address shall be refused and returned to the U.S. Postal Service or other authorized mail service provider. The placement of the return address for international mail shall be in accordance with the sending country's postal regulations.

(2) Incoming mail must be written with pen or pencil, or be typewritten or photocopied.

(3) Transfers: Incoming mail for inmates temporarily transferred to another criminal justice agency will be held at the facility for seven consecutive days. If the inmate does not return to the facility within seven days, the facility will forward to the agency all accumulated and subsequent mail received at the facility. If the criminal justice agency refuses the forwarded mail, it will be held at the department facility until the inmate has been returned.

(4) Mail received for an inmate who has been released, discharged, or has escaped shall be refused and returned to the U.S. Postal Service or other authorized mail service provider.

(5) New books, magazines, and newspapers shall only be received directly from the publisher. Multiple copies of the same publication to an inmate shall be prohibited. Publications that have been previously rejected by the department and redacted by the publisher shall be prohibited.

(6) Catalogs, advertisements, brochures, pamphlets, and materials where the primary purpose is to sell a product or service shall be prohibited.

(7) Central Administration Review of Publications:

(a) Facility mailroom staff shall stamp approval of all accepted books, magazines and other publications (except newspapers) on the front or inside front cover of the publication, together with the inmate's name, SID number, date accepted, and the staff's authorization signature. Books and magazines without the completed stamp on the front or inside the front cover shall be unauthorized and considered contraband.

(b) Unauthorized attachments, enclosures, merchandise, or materials in publications may be removed and destroyed to allow the publication to be delivered to the intended inmate recipient, if the publication is otherwise in compliance with these rules, and doing so would not drastically alter/destroy the publication.

(c) If mailroom staff determine a publication contains material that is prohibited under these or other department administrative rules, the violation notice and prohibited material shall be reviewed by a designated Central Administration official, who will either affirm, reverse or otherwise modify the original rejection decision in writing. The reviewing official shall not take part in any subsequent administrative review of the rejected publication under OAR 291-131-0050.

(8) Packages, except new books, magazines, and newspapers received directly from the publisher, shall require prior authorization from the functional unit manager or designee.

(9) Except as provided below in subsection (a) of this rule, mail shall be sent by express mail, priority mail, first class mail or periodicals mail (available for authorized periodical publications only), All other classifications of U.S. Postal Service mail shall be prohibited. Mail may also be sent by other approved mail service providers for packages and special circumstances.

(a) Subscription Non-Profit Organization Mail: Non-profit organizations shall be authorized to send their published subscription newspapers, magazines and other periodicals to inmates confined in Department of Corrections facilities via U.S. Postal Service Standard A postal rate.

(b) An inmate who desires to receive subscription non-profit organization mail shall provide to facility mailroom staff the name or title of the subscription, purchase documentation/order/receipt, and the subscription expiration date.

(c) A non-profit organization that desires to send subscription non-profit organization mail to an inmate confined in a Department of Corrections facility shall provide to facility mailroom staff, upon request, information sufficient for staff to verify an inmate's subscription, including the name of the non-profit organization, the name or title of the subscription, the name of the inmate subscriber, purchase documentation/order/receipt, and the subscription expiration date.

(d) Subscription non-profit organization mail shall not be authorized until the facility mailroom has received and recorded the required subscription verification information from the intended inmate recipient and/or non-profit organization.

(e) Facility mailroom staff shall return to the U.S. Postal Service non-profit organization mail sent to an inmate via U.S. Postal Service Standard A postal rate if the mail is not a subscription, the mail is not properly addressed in accordance with department rules, or if the inmate is not located at the facility where the mail is received. No administrative review shall be available for this returned mail.

(10) General correspondence shall be authorized up to one fourth inch thickness. Legal and official mail received directly from the original source shall be authorized up to three inches thick. Legal and official mail in excess of three inches shall require prior approval from the functional unit manager or designee.

(11) Unauthorized Attachments and/or Enclosures:

(A) With the exception of the canceled postage stamp, address label, and return address stamp (if used) attached to the front of an envelope or package, no item shall be glued, taped or otherwise affixed to an envelope or package, or its contents.

(b) With the exception of written correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, small pamphlets, photocopies, carbon copies, hand-made drawings and photographs, no item shall be enclosed in the envelope.

(A) Small pamphlets, photocopies, carbon copies and hand-made drawings shall be allowed provided the contents do not exceed the one fourth inch thickness limitation as specified in section above.

(B) Newspaper and magazine clippings and photographs shall not exceed ten items for each category.

FREE SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS!

By Gumby Cascadia
from *Break The Chains* prisoner-support group

On June 11th, Jeff "Free" Luers was sentenced to nearly 23 years on 11 charges ranging from Arson I to Attempted Criminal Mischief stemming from two incidents last year in Eugene, Oregon.

Free had admitted to criminal mischief regarding a truck fire at Romania Chevrolet last summer. At the sentencing he read a statement taking accountability for the Romania fire, and emphasizing the care he took to ensure no one would be injured. He said:

"It cannot be said that I am unfeeling or uncaring. My heart is filled with love and compassion. I fight to protect life....all life. Not to take it. It's not an exaggeration to say that we're experiencing a period of extinction equal to that of the dinosaurs. 40,000 species go extinct each year, yet we continue to pollute and exploit the natural world... I will not ask this court to grant me leniency. All I ask is that you believe the sincerity of my words, and that you believe that my actions, whether or not you believe them to be misguided, stem from the love I have in my heart."

The judge responded by saying that he "never doubted Free's sincerity". He stated that Free's political beliefs would not influence the sentencing, that he would be sentenced "solely on the severity of the crimes". Yet Free received a sentence harsher than that of many murderers and rapists. We are not so naive as to say we're surprised with the sentence, but an analogy I shared with Free on the phone yesterday is that we've had someone with a clenched fist standing in front of us for a year saying "I'm going to punch you." Even though we were expecting it, it still took our breath away. The judge made many comments during the trial that indicated he'd already decided the outcome. He was often seen completely ignoring the testimony, typing on his laptop instead of listening. An appeal is already underway.

Frustratingly, throughout the past year, Free had been forced to remain silent about his actions at Romania Chevrolet, due to the fact that the State insisted on linking the two incidents, Romania and Tyree Oil Company, together. The judge denied many motions to separate the two. Free has stated and maintains that he had no involvement in the attempted arson at Tyree Oil.

The Legal Defense Committee asks for your continuing support of Free and Critter and other Prisoners of War. Make no mistake...a war is being waged on the Earth and all its creatures. Do not participate in the State's campaign to marginalize and incapacitate those who take radical action in defense of the Earth. Failure to support our political prisoners is tantamount to sanctioning repression by the State.

"HOWL" FOR FREE AND CRITTER.
HOWL FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.
THEY WILL HEAR YOU.



STATEMENT OF FREE
AT HIS SENTENCING ON 6/11/01

"I want to make clear why I set a fire at Romania Chevrolet. I'm not going to offer excuses. I want this opportunity to explain my actions so that they are not misunderstood or misinterpreted. I didn't to this for anarchy or because I'm anti-government. And I didn't do this because I enjoy property destruction. I don't. I did this because I'm frustrated that we are doing irreversible damage to our planet, our home. It is not an exaggeration to say that right now we are experiencing a period of extinction equal to that of the dinosaurs. Forty thousand species are going extinct each year. Yet we continue to pollute and exploit the natural world. I'm not going to justify my actions. I can't do that anymore than one can justify the destruction of the environment for profit. They are both wrong. I take responsibility for what I've done. You can judge my actions, but you can't judge my heart. It can not be said that I am unfeeling and uncaring. My heart is filled with love and compassion.

I fight to protect life, all life, not to take it. I took every precaution to insure that no one would be injured by this fire. If I thought for any reason that anyone - be it Mr. Kelly or any responding firefighter or police officers - would be injured, I never would have set this fire. It was not my intention to hurt anyone or place anyone at risk.

I'm not going to ask the court to grant me leniency. All that I ask is that you believe the sincerity of my words. That you believe that my actions, whether or not you consider them to be misguided, stem from the love I have in my heart."

...LET'S GET FREE!

ROB & FREE AT OSP

Rob Thaxton, aka Rob los Ricos, is an anarchist political prisoner, serving 7½ years for throwing a rock at a cop during the June 18th, 1999 riot in Eugene, Oregon.

You can write him at: Rob Thaxton, #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310

For more info on Rob Thaxton, check-out: www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos/index.html

"Just because we are prisoners does not mean that we have lost our reasoning, analytical powers. We still have world views based on long years of experience. Too many, even in our own political movements, would prefer to relegate us to museum pieces, objects of campaigns perhaps, but not political subjects and comrades in an ongoing political struggle against imperialism, oppression, and exploitation. The state tries to isolate, true; that makes it all the more important not to let it succeed in its proposition. We fight for political identity and association from here; it is important that political forces on the outside not lose sight of why the state wants to isolate and destroy us, and therefore fight to include is in political...struggle... In many struggles, many militants have been exiled yet they have still been considered part of their struggles, not merely objects. We, we here, could be considered internally exiled. Don't lock us into roles as objects or symbols..."

- Marilyn Buck,
from *Enemies Of The State*

Rob Los Ricos (RLR): Hey, Free! Welcome to Oregon State Prison - Prison Paradise!

Free: I always wondered what paradise looked like. I'm glad to have finally found it. It is good to know that these guards with guns and 25- foot, concrete walls are here to keep paradise safe.



RLR: Man, there is so much I want to discuss with you - one political prisoner to another. I almost don't know where to start. That's why I put that Marilyn Buck quote up front, to perhaps get the ball rolling. My immediate reaction to meeting you would be envy, due to the amount of attention you're getting. But - dude - I do not envy your sentence at all. So, first of all, how are you holding up? Does all the publicity - for the most part sympathetic outrage - over your outrageous sentence help?

Free: All things considered, I'm holding up alright. I don't think that I could ever put into words what it feels like to lose everything that I love. The people that I love. And that is basically what has happened. It is good to know that a lot of people are seeing what I'm going through and saying "Wow - that's just wrong." If those people actually get involved in an effort to free me (us) that would help a lot more. For the most part, though, I think a lot of people are just saying "That's fucked up" and not doing anything about it. How about you? I know from being on the outs when you fell, there were a lot of people talking about you. Everywhere I went, you saw flyers saying "Free Rob Thaxton!" Has that helped your situation, or made it more bearable?

RLR: Yea, "Free Rob Thaxton - with your subscription to Green Anarchy." No, wait - "Come to tonight's punk show and you may win a free Rob Thaxton! "I'm sort of underwhelmed with the support I've gotten so far. I'm not gonna knock anyone, though our movement - such as it is - doesn't have a lot of experience with real oppression, so most of our lip service supporters are at a loss as to what to do, other than send reading material and money. And I sincerely appreciate having that sort of support. Still, I would like to be more involved with what's happening out there beyond those big, gray walls. As far as being the subject of graffiti, hey - what red-blooded, rock-slinging, cop-assaulting, rioting anarchist wouldn't be honored by that?

It's totally understandable that folks out there don't know how to help out, considering all the petty rules prisoncrats arbitrarily throw up to discourage and limit access between us and the outside world. It takes a lot of time and effort to be involved with prisoners as allies and comrades. Being friends - pen pals, even - is much easier and the people who've been writing for a while have made a lot of difference to my time in here. I can't imagine how I'd have managed so far without them. Other than contacts and friends I had from my previous existence, all these folks got my contact information from zines or prisoner listings on the internet.

So, I enjoy the attention, but I'd like to feel like I'm still part of the struggle, instead of a fallen martyr. What are some of the ways you think people could help us out more? All the ideas I have would take a lot of resources and effort, more effort than one or two people could be expected to do. How about you?

Free: Well, some of the obvious things that come to mind are writing the governor. It might not seem like much, but there is always the possibility it can help us legally. If nothing else, it shows we have support and that makes it less likely we'll get fucked with.

Second, stop treating us like a cause. We're human beings and not abstract people. A lot of people have gone on, without my consent, to speak on my behalf, to claim to represent me. That really disturbs me - that is the exact process/system/attitude I struggle against. If you really want to get involved, contact me. Talk to me about what I want, what you can do to help. If you don't want to get involved, but want to show a level of support - write letters. It may be hard to believe, but very few people actually continue a correspondence. I'd really like to form new friendships.

...LET'S GET FREE!

In Honor Of Jeff Luers:

23 year jail sentence for an act of compassion

On June 6th a Eugene based newspaper, The Register Guard, reported that a man who killed a woman while driving drunk received a 10 year jail sentence. The man was given the sentence because the judge saw him as having no concern for the lives or well being of the other drivers on the road.

Six days later, the same newspaper reported that my friend Jeffrey Luers, also known as Free, had been sentenced to 22 years and 8 months for causing a few thousand dollars worth of fire damage to some sport utility vehicles. This disparity in sentencing is one we should expect from a society whose values are so predominantly capital-centric. Even though the judge admitted that Free had taken precaution against harming people, the value of those trucks has become more important than the value of life itself. Free is now 22 years old. He will spend more time in jail than he has already spent on earth.

The fire Free was convicted of setting was an act of compassion. The gas guzzling monstrosities known as SUV's slaughter more animals each year than the fur industry, emit fumes that harm the well being of plants and animals alike, and take us further down the path of a world without green spaces. As forests, grasslands, and other wild areas fall to make more room for parking lots and freeways, is it any wonder that people are beginning to attack the auto industry?

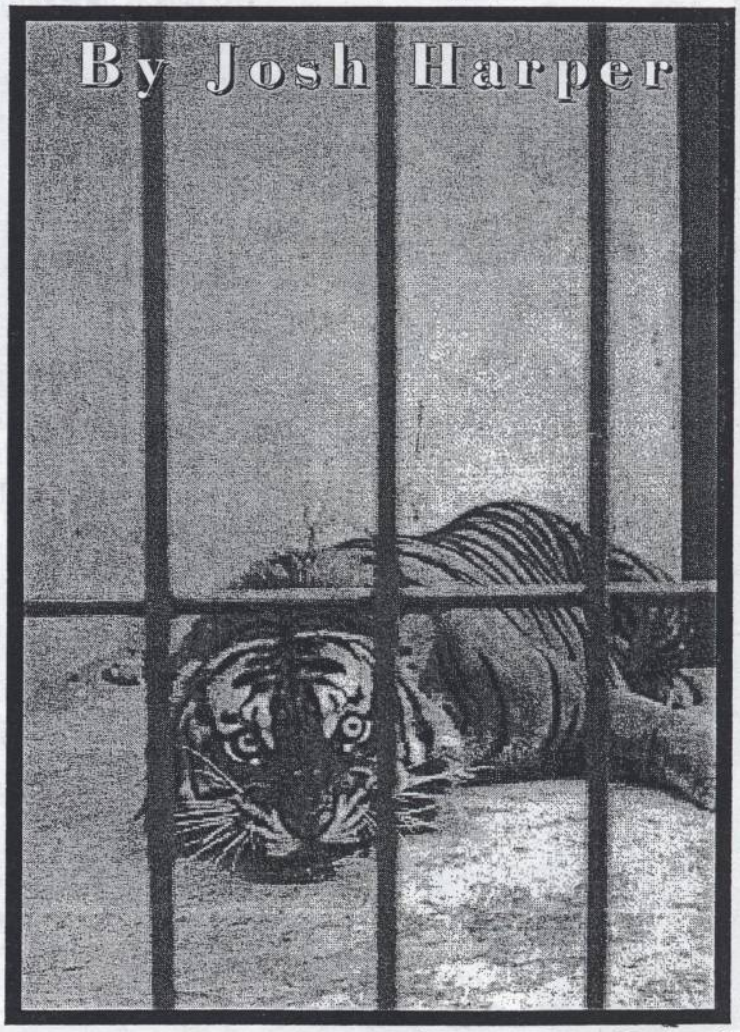
I've known Free for about 4 years. In that time I have seen him do amazing things. His dedication to the protection of wilderness is almost without peer. He has lived much of the time I have known him outdoors, constantly protecting forests and the animals that live in them. When ever we saw each other he would tell me about his latest arrest, jail time, or the harassment he was undergoing for his beliefs and actions. It seemed like it was never ending, but he never stopped. Even from behind bars he has stood strong and continued to urge others to go on the offensive for mother earth.

I know for sure that even if Free serves every day of his nearly 23 year sentence he will get out and continue fighting. He values life too much to ever give in and become part of a culture gone mad. While he is stripped of his freedom, it is up to us to continue fighting. His sentence cannot become a deterrent to us. If we quit protecting animals, wilderness, and each other out of fear of reprisal then we are cowards. Let Free's bravery stand as a testament to how hard our common will is to break. Don't give up, and dedicate your next victory to Free.

Update: Jeff "Free" Luers was sent to Oregon State Prison in Salem, Oregon to serve his nearly 23 year sentence. An appeal is being filed, but until then, letters of support, checks or money orders for commissary (envelopes, paper, stamps, fruit, etc.) publication subscriptions and other reading materials (direct from the publisher or amazon.com) can be sent to: Jeffrey Luers #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310.

Please be aware that he has been assigned "Threat Group" status, so be smart about what you send! If you are unsure if what you want to send may be damaging to him, you can send it to PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440, and his friends will "screen" it for him.

Don't forget to include your name and return address on the envelope, or your letter will be returned. Letters must be written on clean paper with ball-point ink or typed. He is allowed to receive xeroxed material if it isn't copy-righted, color xerox art and photographs.



...Let's Get Free!

from *Hard Time*, Issue #17 (June 2001)

The clampdown continues: On June 11, Jeff Luers, a 22-year-old radical environmentalist who goes by the activist name Free, was sentenced to a jaw-dropping 22 years and 8 months in prison for two arson incidents in Eugene, Oregon. His co-defendant, Craig "Critter" Marshall, is serving 5 1/2 years, after having accepted an earlier plea-bargain in the case.

"It just tore a piece of me out," said my friend B., who spent many days and nights in a treesit with Free, 200 feet above the ground in a stand of ancient Douglas firs about 25 miles east of Eugene, as part of an ongoing campaign to prevent logging in the Fall Creek watershed. "This guy is like a gift to humanity - I mean it, full on, a gift to this world - and this is what they do to him: he's buried alive."

To the authorities - and much of the general public, no doubt - Free is an eco-terrorist, pure and simple. Before his sentencing, the young activist admitted lighting a June 2000 blaze at Eugene's Romania Chevrolet dealership, which destroyed three pickup trucks, causing $40,000 in damage. (Most of his sentence - 15 years, with no possibility of parole - is for this incident.) Free was also convicted of attempting to ignite an empty gasoline tanker at Tyree Oil Company in May 2000, which he denies.

"I want to make clear why I set a fire at Romania Chevrolet," Free told the court. "I didn't do this for anarchy or because I'm anti- government. And I didn't do this because I enjoy property destruction. I don't. I did this because I'm frustrated that we are doing irreversible damage to our planet, our home.... I'm not going to justify my actions. I can't do that any more than one can justify the destruction of the environment for profit. They are both wrong. I take responsibility for what I've done."

Jeff Luers was 19 when he hopped a freight train to Eugene from Los Angeles in the spring of 1998. He was already interested in environmental issues, having worked as a canvasser for Greenpeace. But raising money door-to-door didn't satisfy his growing political passion. Once in Oregon, he quickly volunteered to be the first treesitter for the nascent Fall Creek campaign.

Living high in the ancient forest canopy transformed him - and a great many other activists, perhaps several hundred in all, who spent time in Fall Creek over the ensuing years, supporting a treesit village that came to be called Red Cloud Thunder. The media cliché of "Eugene anarchists" misses one of the most important radicalizing influences on the area's activist scene: the forest encampment 25 miles outside of town.

"Fall Creek was a turning point for the movement in a lot of ways, and Free helped make it that way," says B. "There was a new generation of punks and anarchists coming into the woods, a lot of young blood, and a lot of city activists, getting out of the city into the woods, making those connections, and bringing a really anarchist perspective to the movement."

Explains Warcry, a New York activist who befriended Free at Fall Creek, "Coming from urban places, you see this phenomenal natural beauty - a majestic, primeval world of old-growth - and a kind of entrancing, eye-opening relationship takes place between you and that natural wonder. You realize, without too much rhetoric, exactly why you're there and what you're defending and what you're protecting, and you start to identify with it."

I arrived in Fall Creek on Free's 38th day in the trees, in May 1998. I was deeply involved at the time in the direct-action fight to preserve New York City's community gardens; we were borrowing tactics from Earth First! forest blockades, and I was visiting Oregon to check out some backwoods actions firsthand.

There were seven people in the camp at that point: three in the trees, three on the ground, and to my surprise and delight, B., shuttling back and forth. He tried to convince me to climb up and see the elaborate platforms that Free and the other sitters had built, but I was too chicken. Instead, I watched with amusement as they winched up an old exercise bike - apparently, one's legs get all rubbery up there from disuse - and then with trepidation as they strung traverse lines from tree to tree.

I wouldn't have actually met Free at all were it not for the appalling personal hygiene of the camp cook, who never washed his hands and consequently gave everyone who ate one particular dinner (I didn't touch it) a nasty case of food poisoning. Free was so sick, the poor guy, that he felt compelled to come down for a short time from his tree. In my brief and haunting memory of him, he's quiet and very pale - exactly how the Portland newspaper described his demeanor when he was convicted.

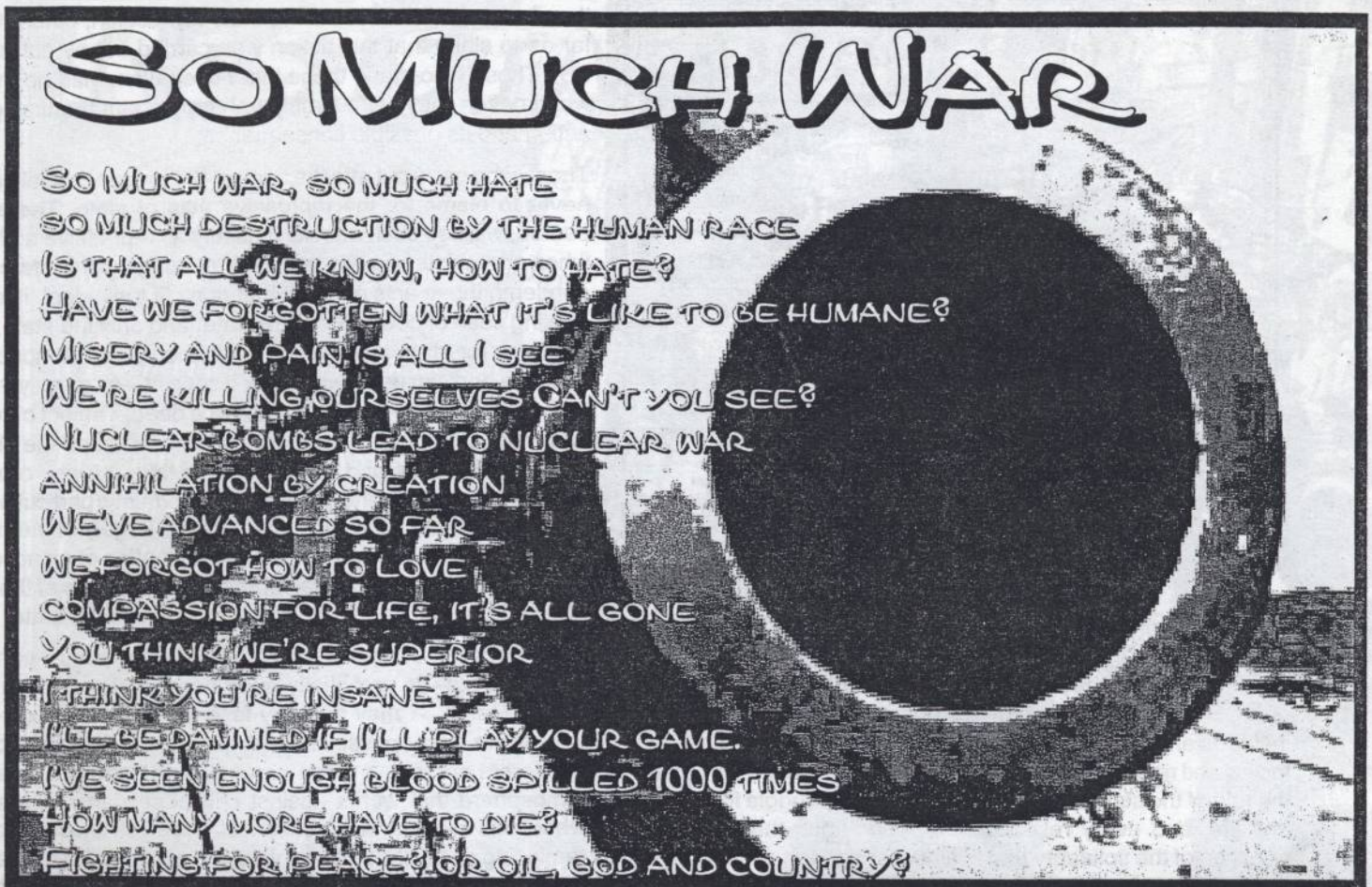
"When these kids are reacting [to environmental destruction] with sabotage or whatever," says Warcry, "it seems like, oh, they're crazy, they're vandals. But there's no context about why they feel as deeply as they do, what they see disappearing, what they see threatened. They know their future is fucked, they realize that, and they may not always have an in-depth economic analysis, but they know that they're not the ones in control and they're reacting to it with whatever targets there are available."

The disparity between the scale of Free's crime and the length of his sentence has left his friends and supporters stunned and outraged. "I think it's pretty obvious that, yeah, he fucked up, but he doesn't deserve to be robbed of his entire life," says Warcry. "Maybe [what he did] is criminal mischief or vandalism or something, and he should be accountable for that, but I hardly think 23 years is a sane way to hold him accountable."

It seems clear, though, that Free is being held accountable for something well beyond those three pickup trucks he destroyed. Particularly over the last year (when Free was, it should be noted, in jail awaiting trial), there has been a steady escalation in ecological arson in the United States.

...LET'S GET FREE!

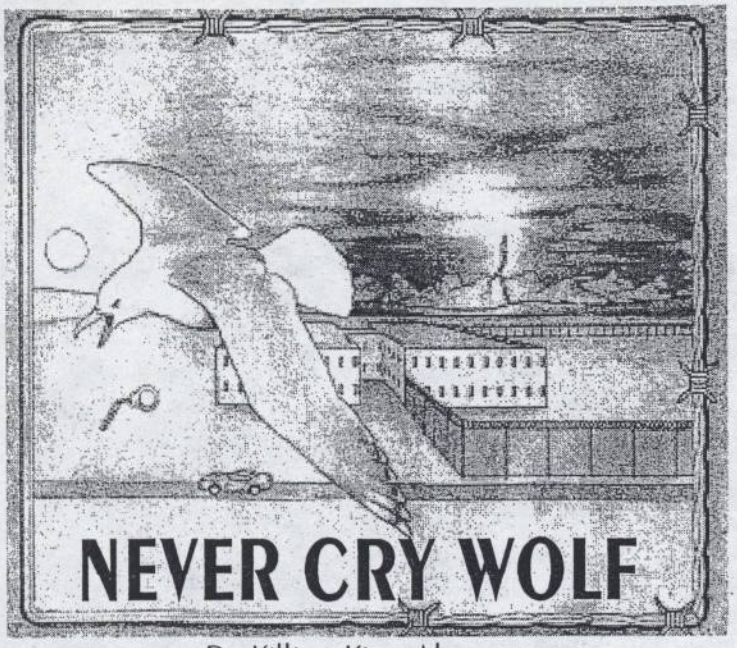
So Much War



So much war, so much hate
so much destruction by the human race
Is that all we know, how to hate?
Have we forgotten what it's like to be humane?
Misery and pain is all I see
We're killing ourselves can't you see?
Nuclear bombs lead to nuclear war
annihilation by creation
We've advanced so far
we forgot how to love
compassion for life, it's all gone
You think we're superior
I think you're insane
I'll be damned if I'll play your game.
I've seen enough blood spilled 1000 times
How many more have to die?
Fighting for peace? Or oil, God and country?
Fighting for governments
when they're the enemy.
I'll take no part in this genocide
In their conquest for power we all die
These people are insane and they've lost their minds. . .

In their quest for power innocent lives are squandered
and under their rule we are all victim
They rape our earth like they rape our lives
and they try to make us blind by drugging us with lies
I don't know 'bout you but I see all too clear
While everyone sits back an pretends the problem's not there
Well the problem's there and it ain't going away
so you better stand up now before it's too late
Or this will be our fate. . .
When the missiles flew over we screamed in horror
and with the flashes of light life was all over
For some it was an instant for other prolonged
but in the end death claimed us all
We finally learned alot! too late
but at least maybe now
the earth will finally know peace.

...Let's get free!



NEVER CRY WOLF

By Killing King Abacus

The nature of revolutionary solidarity lies in recognizing one's own struggle in the struggle of others, in the actions they choose to take, the risks they confront in their battle against the social order. Thus, it does not mean uncritical support, but rather includes an intelligent analysis of each action in terms of aims, tactics and repercussions. Every act of revolt, every attack against the rule of the state and capital is part of the struggle for freedom and life, and every response that condemns these acts is a rejection of the solidarity that is a necessary part of our struggle. The practice of solidarity must necessarily reject the binary logic in which one must either uncritically embrace an action or else condemn it.

On March 31, 2001, unknown people set fire to 36 SUVs at the Romania car dealership in Eugene, Oregon. A few days later a communiqué was published explaining the action. The communiqué referred to two people accused by the authorities with doing similar actions: "...Romania Chevrolet is the same location that was targeted last June, for which two earth warriors, Free and Critter, are being persecuted. The techno-industrial state thinks it can stop the growing resistance by jailing some of us, but they cannot jail the spirit of those who know another world is possible. The fire that burns in Free and Critter burns within all of us and cannot be extinguished by locking them up..."

Upon hearing of this action, my immediate response was that of solidarity—this was an expression of my struggle as well. At the same time, I recognized the untimeliness of the action, particularly in the light of the wording of the communiqué. Jeffrey "Free" Luers' trial was to begin in less than a week and the wording of the communiqué could easily be taken as implying that he had been involved in the arson of the previous June even though he hadn't yet claimed responsibility for this act. (Craig "Critter" Marshall had already begun to serve a five and a half year sentence for the first Romania arson.) Certainly, this action was likely to have an effect on the trial. Nonetheless, it is essential to remember that, however important strategic considerations may be, they can never be the first considerations in acts of revolt. The need to rebel and attack the order that dominates and oppresses us is always the primary consideration.

Unfortunately, the moment Free's lawyer had his trial postponed, the wails of condemnation against this more recent attack began. While some merely condemned the attack as stupid and blamed those who did it for increasing state repression, others went as far as to claim that this action was carried out by police or the FBI. Those who made these latter allegations had no evidence whatsoever; they were simply unhappy about the timing of the action and its possible consequence.

Those who carry out attacks against the present social order are never to blame for the repressive acts of state. The state, of course, will use such attacks to justify its repressive activity, but when anarchists begin to use a mirror image of this state logic to condemn those acts of revolt that don't fit their ideal, it is a nauseating case of cowardice. The state, and only the state, is ever to blame for state repression. It has the power of monopolized violence and can use it whenever it sees fit—as quickly, at times, in the face of a word as in the face of a deed. The act of rebellion is always a gamble. Of course, one can examine the situation, estimate the odds and then decide to take the risk or not. But one can never know the outcome with certainty, particularly since the circumstances in which one acts are largely in the hands of one's enemy. In this light, every condemnation of an act of revolt based upon real or potential repressive responses of the state is absurd from the standpoint of the enemies of the state.

The attribution of acts of revolt to police agencies—particularly without proof—is potentially quite harmful. Those who set the fire on March 31 may one day face trial for this action—this is one of the many possible consequences of their gamble. The chatterers spreading these groundless rumors are creating an atmosphere that works against critical solidarity in a situation where this might be prove essential. It is an all too common story, reminding one of those anarchists who parroted the media's claim that the Unabomber was a madman and thus pushed the discussion of his actions and ideas into the binary logic of condemnation and disassociation on the one hand and uncritical praise (at times verging on a disturbing near-canonization as portrayed in the "He tried to save us" fliers). One is also reminded of the case of Marinus Van der Lubbe who was transformed from a council communist insurgent into a dupe or an agent of the nazis by a stroke of the Stalinist and social-democratic pen in spite of the fact that even in the face of nazi torture and his impending execution, he refused to lie and say that his attack was a communist conspiracy. Anarchists would do well to avoid rumors regardless of the circumstance, but rumors that could undermine the foundations of revolutionary solidarity are truly dangerous. In a situation where the odds are already against us, those who spread such rumors are creating yet another circumstance that favors the state.

On June 11, 2001, Free was sentenced to 23 years in prison for his alleged participation in the first attack against the Romania car dealership and an attempted arson at Tyree Oil Inc. During the course of his trial, he claimed responsibility for burning the three cars at Romania Chevrolet but denied having anything to do with the attempt against Tyree Oil. Of course, the judge, worthy servant of the state that he is, found Free guilty on all counts. To our knowledge neither Free nor Critter have commented on the most recent attack at the Romania car lot. But as we see it, Free, Critter and the night-adventurers of March 31 are all our comrades in struggle. The actions claimed by Free and by these more recent illuminators of the night reflect our own hatred for this society and its poisonous effects. We do not know who started the fire on March 31, but we do know that in the face of acts of revolt we who are enemies of the state would do well to remember this advice: *never cry wolf.*

...Let's Get Free!

Resistance

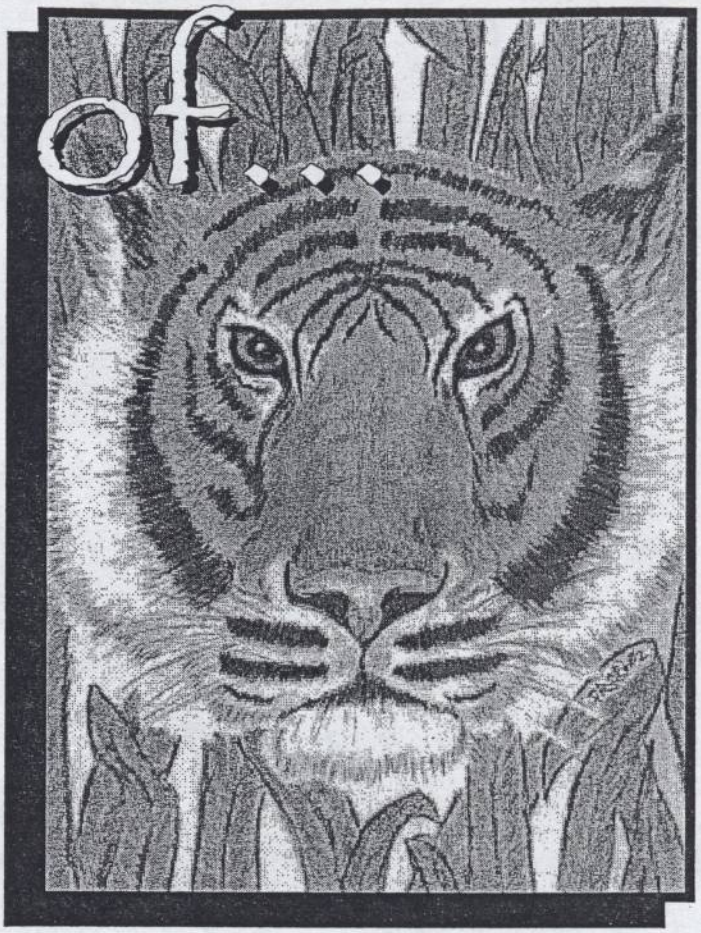


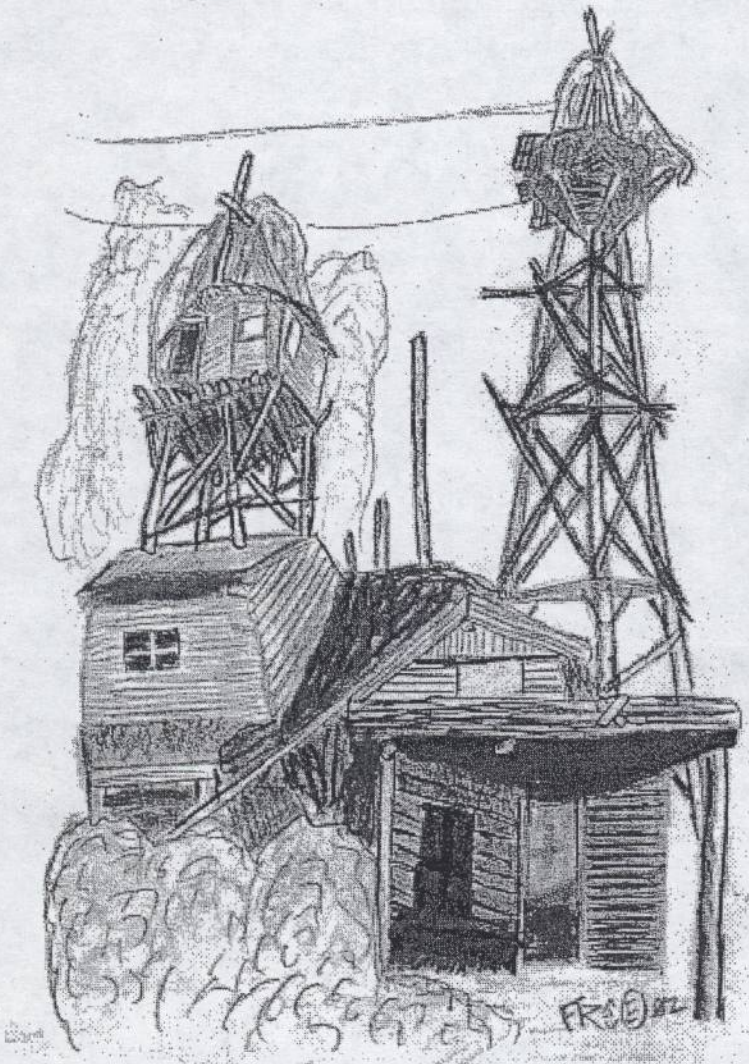
Resistance Existence together we can make the difference
Once the people are united
They cannot and will not be defeated
Through the dissent of the working class
we shall all be free at last
The system's oppression keeps down the masses
Its their law and their order that makes us the victims
The rich and the privileged profit from our pain
Its our blood and our sweat
and its them who reap the gains
They'll live the good life, while we struggle to get by
If this is your idea of freedom, you can fucking keep it
Cuz I don't want your fucked up freedom
I don't want your bullshit lies
I don't respect your authority
Cuz it's all a fucking ploy!
To keep us in the shit
in the bottom of their pit
Where they've got the police
to keep us in line
Don't want us to stand up for our basic human rights
So they'll feed us lies saying "if we work hard we'll get ahead"
They'll teach us to aspire to be-just-like-them
They'll weed out the trouble-makers
or those to smart for THEIR own good
They lock us in to jails, prisons, and institutions
Don't rock the boat is what they'll say
Well fuck rocking the boat
I want to sink the entire ship!
I've had it up to here with their oppressive shit
So stand up with me my brothers and sisters
And take to the front lines
It is time for revolution It is time for a general strike
It is time to raise up off our knees

And it is time to stand and FIGHT!

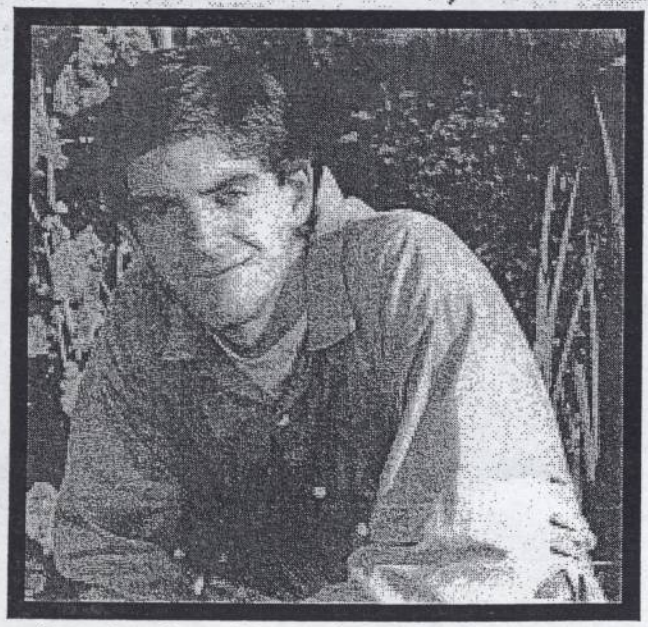
...Let's Get Free!

Artwork of...





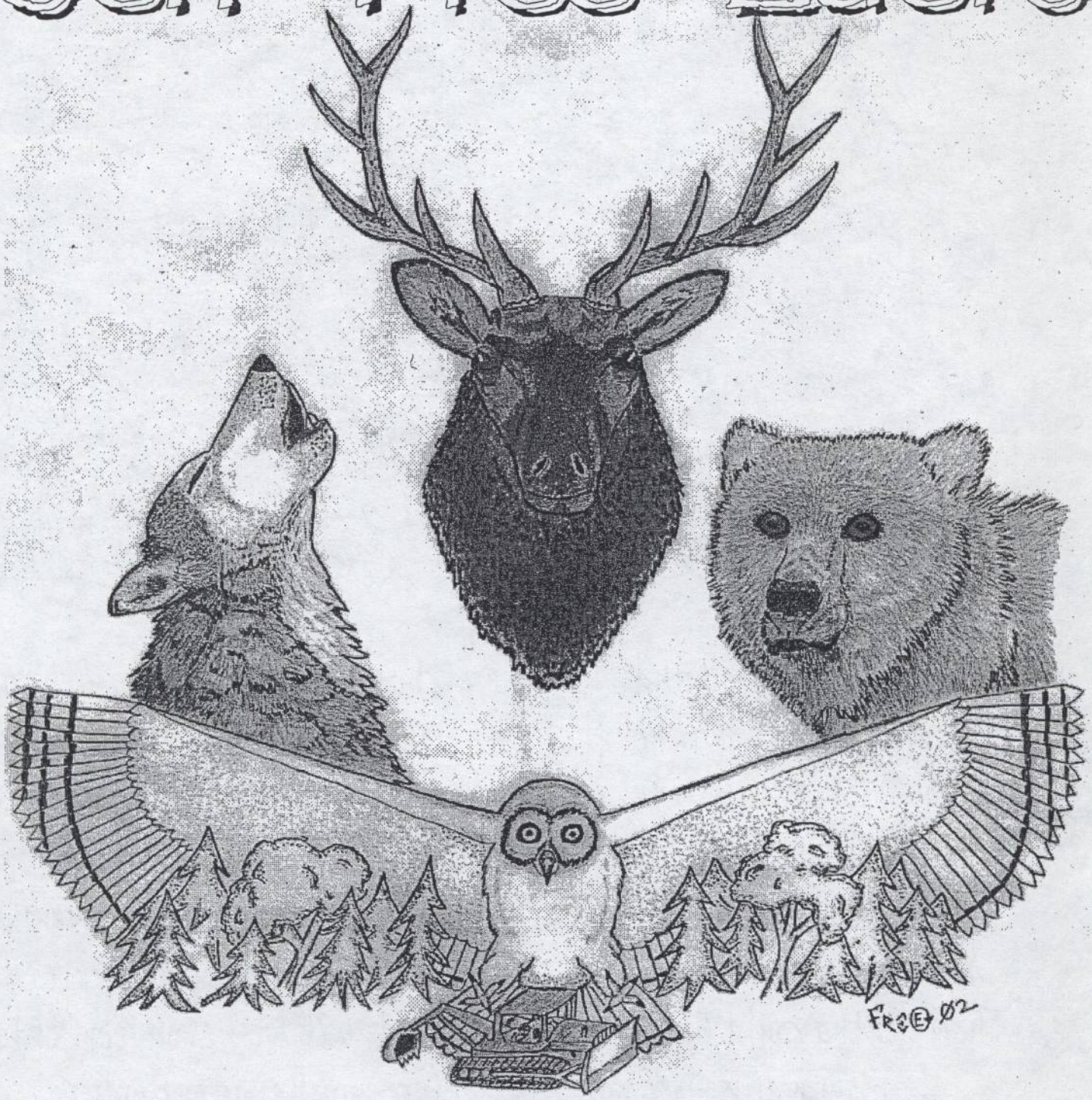
"Huttendorf" Germany Sept '98





...Let's Get Free!

Jeff "Free" Luers

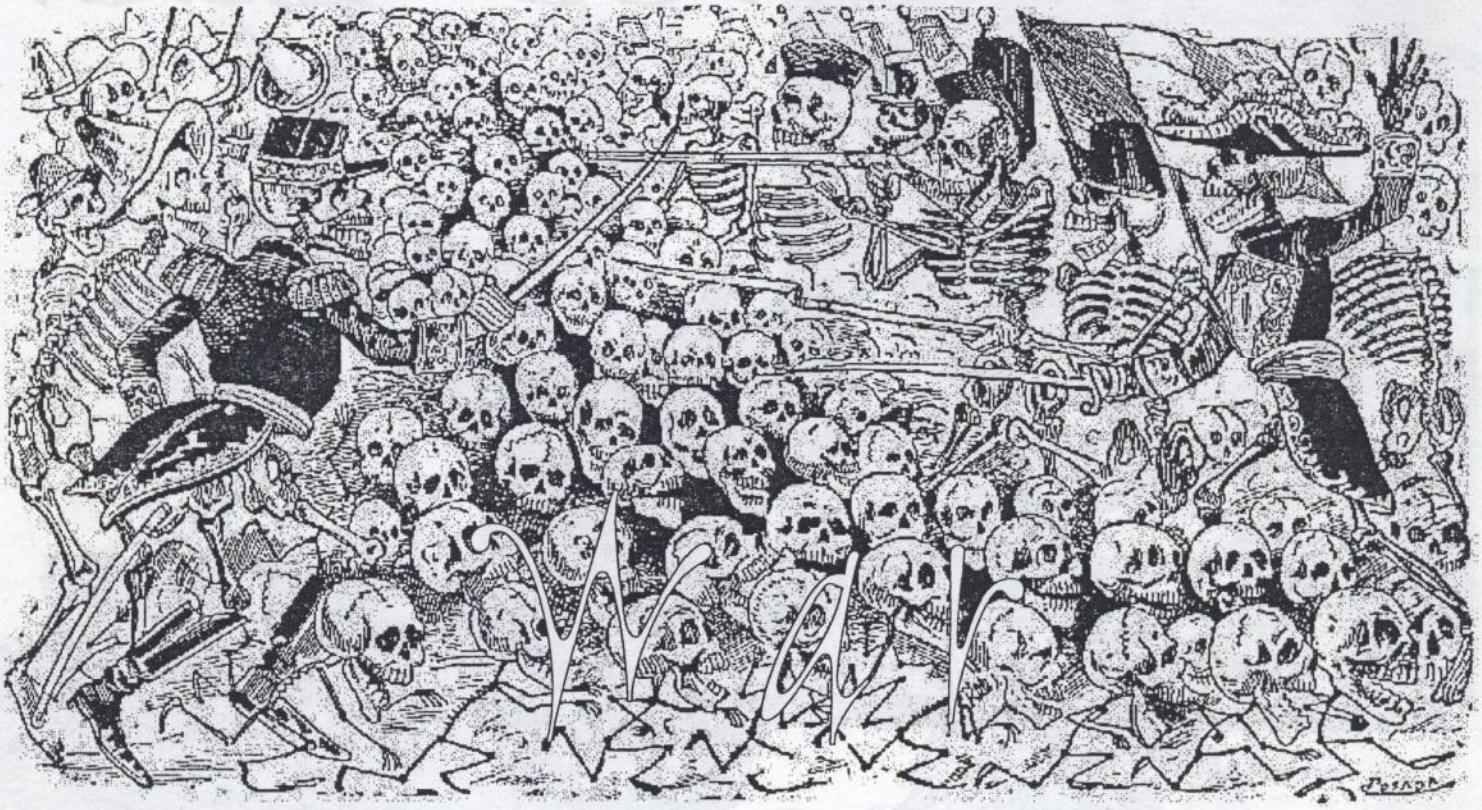


ONE PLANET ONE FUTURE

ACT NOW

...Let's Get Free!

...some more "Free" poetry



She looks out the window, and watches the rain fall from the sky.
Tears stream down her face, she wonders "Oh God, why, why?"
Her lover now lays dead, in a trench across the world.
Victim in a pointless war, a war he never understood.
Shots ring out on the battle field, blood pours from open wounds.
More young men fall to the ground, there eyes in black expression.
Their deaths could not have been avoided, but we never seem to learn.
How many more must die, before we change our ways?
We send soldiers abroad to kill or die in foreign lands.
In the name of U.S. interests, death and money walk hand in hand.

~ Free

Some Actions In Solidarity With "Free"

December 31, 2000: Earth Liberation Front Claims Responsibility For Torching Four Luxury Homes In Long Island, NY - An Estimated $2 Million In Damages!

Communique:

Greetings Friends,

As an early New Years gift to Long Island's environment destroyers, the Earth Liberation Front (E.L.F.) visited a construction site on December 29 and set fire to 4 unsold Luxury houses nearly completed at Island Estates in Mount Sinai, Long Island. Hopefully, this caused nearly $2 million in damage. This hopefully provided a firm message that we will not tolerate the destruction of our Island. Recently, hundreds of houses have been built over much of Mount Sinai's picturesque landscape and developers now plan to build a further 189 luxury houses over the farms and forests adjacent to Island Estates. This action was done in solidarity with Josh Harper, Craig Rosebraugh, Jeffrey "Free" Luers and Craig "Critter" Marshall, Andrew Stepanian, Jeremy Parkin, and the countless other known and unknown activists who suffer persecution, interrogation, police brutality, crappy jail conditions, yet stand strong.

Whether it's denying a prisoner vegetarian or vegan food/phone calls (which is a right), or even the terrorism of the Grand Jury, they stand strong. Oppression of our brothers and sisters will only make us uproot our tactics, by means, frequency, and cost. The more brutality you give our brothers and sisters, the more money we cause the oppressors. Our hearts go out to all of them.

Keep up the fight.
Never Give In

March 30, 2001: A fire that destroyed $1 million worth of new SUV's at the Joe Romania Chevrolet truck lot in Eugene has been claimed through an anonymous communique. The (now defunct) North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office, received the communique which claimed responsibility for burning over 30 new vehicles in the 2:40 a.m. blaze.

"CLAIM FOR ROMANIA ARSON

1 million dollars worth of luxury SUV's were torched at Romania Chevrolet. Sucking the land dry, gas-guzzling SUV's are at the forefront of this vile, imperialistic culture's caravan towards self-destruction. We can no longer allow the rich to parade around in their armored existence, leaving a wasteland behind in their tire tracks. The time is right to fight back.

Romania Chevrolet is the same location that was targeted last June, for which two earth warriors, Free and Critter, are being persecuted. The techno-industrial state thinks it can stop the growing resistance by jailing some of us, but they cannot jail the spirit of those who know another world is possible. The fire that burns within Free and Critter burns within all of us and cannot be extinguished by locking them up.

In this continuous assault on both the planet and ourselves, SUV's destroy the earth while the prison system tries to destroy those who see beyond this empty life.

We must strike out against what destroys us before we are all either choking on smog or held captive by the state. Take the power into your own hands. It's your life."



Free Responds to the second Romania fire

On March 31st, 2001, as I sit in jail awaiting trial, persons unknown torched 36 SUV's, causing an estimated $1 million in damages, at Romania Chevrolet Trucks. The same location I stood accused of torching. I have never been able to comment on the action. I would now like to do so.

On April 3rd, three days after the fire, I was re-indicted on 13 new charges. The majority were the same. Among the newest charges were Conspiracy to Commit Arson 1 w/Persons Unnamed. I do not believe that it was coincidence that I was given new charges immediately following the second fire. However, it should be noted that the District Attorney was growing increasingly frustrated with my failure to take a plea.

The second fire required me to change my defense strategy. Not by much, but significantly.

During the course of the trial the second fire was used by my attorney comparing it to my act. Put simply, I was accused of a horrendous life threatening fire. Yet, a fire literally 10-times more intense didn't even cause the damage of which I'm accused.

I cannot deny the joy in my heart when I read the newspapers in the days following the fire. But it was a mixed joy. I will always support acts of revolution, and I do support this act. However, I have seen the negative consequences of this action first-hand.

Not only did I come under investigation for ties to this fire - law enforcement believes I am a regional ELF leader - my friends and witnesses also came under investigation.

I also believe the fire contributed to the length of my sentence in two ways: A) It furthered the belief in the eyes of the law that they had caught a leader. B) The judge wanted to send a message to those responsible for that action, and similar ones.

My critique is this: this act would have been just as significant and more beneficial to me if my name was not mentioned in the communique. And while I understand that timing often depends on the target, I believe that if it was possible the action should have taken place earlier by some months or after my sentencing.

That said I would like to extend my revolutionary thanks to those persons unknown. Since I've fallen, several acts have been committed in solidarity with me. To those responsible for these actions, please know my gratitude. Know that each day I ask the spirits to watch over you, to keep you safe and invisible. May you continue to strike like lightening and disappear with the wind.

...Let's Get Free!

Birthday in Jail

Celebrating my birthday in jail.
I'll have been here six months next week.
I'm looking at 30 years give or take,
or maybe more, or 3 or 10.
How many birthdays is that?

I haven't celebrated my birthday in four years.
But I remember last year.
Celebrating my first legal drink with a friend.
It wasn't much,
but it is what I wanted.
It wasn't this.

I close my eyes.
I see my friends smiling faces,
I hear their laughter.
This is how I see my friends now.
I know when I open my eyes they'll be gone.
I had a dream last night.
We were in a tree-house.
The sun was warm, the sky was blue.
All around the birds were singing.
You said happy birthday and smiled.
When I woke I was crying.

I don't remember being sad.
I don't remember being anything.
Just lying here in my cell.
Celebrating my birthday.





POETRY - by Free

Remembering

Sometimes on nights like tonight,
I remember past times and old friends.
If I weren't locked down
I'd be sitting outside smoking a cigarette
looking up at the sky and letting my memories wash over.
The moments I lived and the people I shared them with.
Some of whom I'll never see again,
but will always remember.
Moments like these a strange tranquil peace fills me.
I can remember all the times I sat under the night sky,
smoking a cigarette and remembering.
When the memories of the past meet the dreams of the future.
When nothing is real but this moment.
This sacred moment.
This is when life is the best.
When all the memories add up to create a whole.
And I can look back and smile, or cry or anger.
It's in these moments late at night that I know I've lived my life.
It's a good feeling.
It's being alive.
And when the moments passed I smile and say good-bye
to those old friends and thank you.
What paths I will walk, who with & where might it take me?
But I'm sure one day, I'll remember.



We are in here as an example, our sentences are meant to be a deterrent to dissent. Actions of solidarity show them that the voice of revolution will not be silenced because a few of us have fallen. We must continue to increase the pressure on all fronts. The continuation of the struggle is the greatest form of support, because it gives us hope that one day there will no longer be a corrupt, oppressive power to keep us behind these walls. While there are so many ways to support us, and I can't possibly write or even think of them all, a combination of all the above would be so awesome. Rob, you and I are both writers. It isn't always easy to get our writings out there, where lots of people can read them. What would you think of setting up some kind of network that could pass our prison writings along?

RLR: Hmmm...seems like that is happening already. We have - along with our friends and comrades - *APLAN* and *Break The Chains*. We both have friends in *Earth First!* And the folks in Eugene who stepped up to be our www helpers. That's a great start, heh? You know - being 41 years old, Tejano and a parent, I have a lot of interests that aren't usually addressed in the punk rock or student circles. It's been difficult for me to convince folks in the great beyond that there are groups and publications I'd really be interested in contacting. Too many of my contacts out there aren't interested in those groups, people and publications, so they downplay, question or blow off my requests. Some times I feel like the sibling no one likes to talk about. Luckily, I'm a resourceful person and I have patience and lots of friends, so I know I can eventually get around to doing the things I want to do. It would be nice to have a support group, though - there are lots of things I'm not able to do from here that outside folks could do. I really worry about being forgotten in here. For instance, no anarchist zine has published anything I've written in over a year. There have been a few exceptions, but those have all been letters and rants I wrote a year - or two - ago.

Again, things are happening now that are really encouraging, so by the time this goes out, I'll have a few loose ends tied up that will help start to prepare me for life after prison.

How about you? What are you going to do with your time?

Free: I think I'm going to dedicate most of my time to personal growth. I've spent the last several years dedicating my life to activism, revolution - the cause. And I will continue to do so. I want to inspire people to educate themselves and to take action. I also want to continue to educate myself, I'm going to study sociology and environmental science. I'm going to find the ways I can continue to be effective from here. And prepare for what will be a very different life than what I'm used to, 20 years from now.

A LETTER TO JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

FROM LORENZO KOM'BOA ERVIN,

Former Black Panther and Political Prisoner

Hello Free:

I have been where you are now: as a young man (then 21 years old) facing the rest of my life in prison. Sentenced to "natural life" imprisonment, which was supposed to ensure that I would never get out of prison except when I expire, but guess what? I didn't die, and I did get out much sooner than everyone expected. Don't get me wrong, I spent almost 15 long years in prison, and was subjected to every form of terrorism and brutality that the state could thrown at me. I spent nine years in solitary confinement and control units. I was beaten and tortured, starved and whipped. They wanted to break me, and to see me crawl. Instead, I decided on resistance by any means possible. If there was a riot, I would lead it; if there was an escape, I would be part of it; if there was a strike, I was calling for the most extreme measures: all forms of struggle was what I lived for and was prepared to die for.

Don't get me wrong, I was no hero, and I sure as hell would have lied to have been somewhere else, but, just like you, I understand why it is so important to defy your captors, even while you fight to survive, literally in hell. I was no hero or "special person," and it was because I had an international support campaign, the Anarchist Black Cross, HAPOTOC (Help A Prisoner Oppose Torture Committee), and various segments of the Left and even liberal movements around the world, that I was freed from captivity. It wasn't what the warden wanted, and the parole officials promised me that I would be imprisoned "forever" because of a prison riot in the wake of the 1971 Attica rebellion and slaughter. Several guards were severely injured, and I was made the scapegoat, and given an additional 30 years. This was what I faced, and yet I got out in 1983, and been raising hell ever since.

What does this mean? That you can struggle and you can survive. More importantly, an effective campaign could free you as well, no matter the circumstances you are now under. Hell, the international support campaign is all that has kept Mumia Abu-Jamal alive and now improved his chances of being finally released, not smart lawyers. Hell, his trial lawyer fell asleep at trial and his first team of 'civil rights" lawyers sold him out for fame and glory, provided by a book deal.

You sound like your spirits are strong, and I am sure they are. We will do all we can out here to overturn your unjust conviction. I am due to come to Eugene to speak on your behalf this Fall, and hopefully raise money for your defense committee. You are actually in much better shape than I was when I first went to prison, I had no source of help because the government had already crushed the Left by the early 1970's. Things may seem daunting now, they were worse then. But I learned that the movement in the streets determines whether you languish in prison or are released, not the State. If it becomes strong enough it can compel a favorable outcome, even if the officials swear that you will be executed or die in prison. We must fight hard for you and all political prisoners, especially those who have been confined for decades. We must defeat this racist, corrupt government. Prison, where is thy victory?

Love and struggle,

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin

...LET'S GET FREE!

Free Responds to Congressman Scott McInnis

Jeffrey Luers was sentenced last year to 23 years in prison on eco-terrorism-related charges. Have you ever met or had any direct or indirect contact with Mr. Luers? What advice would you give this young man as he wastes away in prison for the next 2-plus decades? Are you at all concerned that your fate may be the same as Mr. Luers?...When Luers was asked how he first became involved in eco-terrorism in a recent interview conducted by Earth First! Journal, he responded: "I was radicalized by anti-authoritarian, anarchist beliefs as well as animal rights. I got involved first in 1997 working for CalPIRG and canvassing for the Sierra Club... Power cedes nothing without demand. The only way to bring about change is to fight for it... Using fire does two things. It destroys 'the targets,' which not only stops the destructive practice they are engaged in, but also causes severe economic damage to those responsible. It also receives media attention. Nothing is more effective at drawing attention to an issue than violence... The mainstream media has been all over it, and sympathetic. I've been given a forum to radicalize other people." Do you share these sentiments?

- One of many questions asked of Craig Rosebraugh
at the Congressional Hearing on "eco-terrorism" by Representative Scott McInnis.

Dear Mr. Scott McInnis,

I am writing in response to your recent statements and questions about me.

I do not appreciate your deliberate and malicious misrepresentations of my words to further your political goals.

Not only have you taken my words and formed new sentences with them attributing them to me, you have quoted me as saying things that I have never said.

As an elected Representative of the people, I believe it is your legal and moral duty to be truthful when carrying out the political and legal activities of your office.

However I do appreciate your concern about me " [wasting] away in prison for the next two plus decades."

You will be pleased to know that is not the case. I have stayed quite active in my college studies working towards my BA.

Also, I have had a unique opportunity to discuss my situation with media from around the globe who have shown a surprising interest in my sentence.

You must realize Scott, that two years ago I was just a young man frustrated by the increasingly severe destruction of the environment.

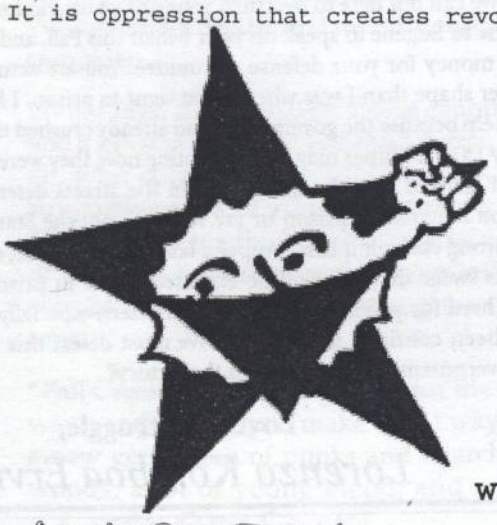
I burned some tires on some trucks as a result of that frustration. Perhaps my actions were misguided. Perhaps they can be rationalized as the lesser of two evils. It is all perspective.

Had I been given a reasonable sentence I would have been forgotten by the public. I would have been one news story. I would have served my sentence and finished my BA. I would have been released, reunited with my family and enjoyed the rest of my life. Yes, I would have continued to be active in efforts to protect the environment, but I would have avoided activities that would lead me back to prison.

By giving me a sentence of 22 years, viewed by a majority of people as overly harsh and extreme, the system has put me in the spot light, giving me international attention. I have been made to be an example. However, that has only served to make me a political prisoner and for some perhaps even a martyr.

This is not a role I chose to fill. It was forced upon me.

It is oppression that creates revolutionaries Scott, and it is injustice that ignites revolutions.



In defense of Mother Earth!

Sincerely,

Jeff "Free" Luers

For more information on the Congressional hearing on "eco-terrorism", see the website:
www.protectcivilliberties.com

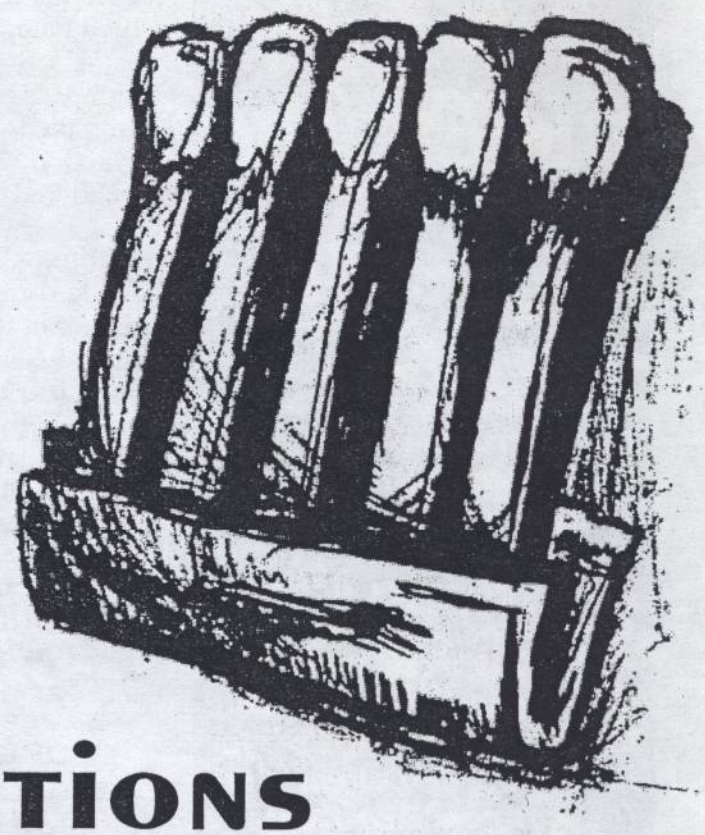


...Let's Get Free!

Most recently, on May 21, underground cells of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) burned down a tree farm in Oregon and a horticultural center at the University of Washington that were engaged in genetic engineering research; the combined damage estimates topped $5 million. A week later, ELF pointedly published a manual on its website, "Setting Fires With Electrical Timers," that promises "down-to-earth advice and comprehensive how-tos about devices, fuel requirements, timers, security and more."

"The intent with [Free's] sentence was definitely to set an example to deter other actions, but I don't really think that it's going to have a big effect on the continuation of acts of economic sabotage," says Gumby Cascadia of the Free & Critter Legal Defense Committee in Eugene. "I think that what it does is it makes people understand the deadly seriousness of choosing to do that kind of action, and it may weed out the people who think it's a game from those who are really serious."

Free plans to appeal his case. "A lot of us are in shock, we're at a loss, because it's such a harsh sentence," says Warcry, "but we're also trying to gather ourselves and strategize."



Extreme Actions

By Jeffrey Luers - Reprinted from *The Oregonian* (03/27/02)

The history of the United States is based on acts of civil disobedience and sabotage. Our government was founded on the acts of a few brave men and women who were willing to risk their freedom. Samuel Adams and the other disguised men who participated in the Boston Tea Party would no doubt be labeled terrorists in today's political climate.

An In My Opinion ("Oregon's home-grown terrorists incite hate, violence," March 5) would like us to believe that there is no difference between property destruction and the murder of thousands of people. Author David C. Austin draws the comparison between the two when he states that Osama bin Laden and the Earth Liberation Front share "the same goals . . . the destruction of our society."

In nearly a decade of its existence, ELF has never once caused an injury to life. Nor has ELF ever targeted individuals.

Violence against a person is the exertion of force resulting in injury. When a person is attacked, the person has been assaulted. When property is damaged, the property has been vandalized. There is a distinct difference between the two, and they are not comparable.

The truth is that ELF uses a campaign of property destruction to cause economic damage to institutions responsible for practices harmful to the environment, and to destroy equipment being used in those activities.

ELF has never claimed that "cutting a forest is morally akin to killing your child," as Austin claims. ELF followers are not the fanatics Austin makes them out to be. Rather, they are concerned individuals who have taken extreme actions to defend the wild.

ELF's goal is to stop practices that are incredibly harmful to the environment and to help create environmental sustainability.

Common sense tells us that a replanted forest is not the same as an ancient growth forest. A majority of Americans would like an end to old-growth logging. Yet, powerful logging interests have kept old-growth forests open to logging. And with only 5 percent of our old-growth forests left standing, is it any wonder that people would go to extremes to protect the last stands?

ELF is not attempting to destroy the free-market or bring about the downfall of society. ELF has engaged in a strategic and apparently effective campaign to ensure protection for wild places. Colorado Rep. Scott McInnis said, "ELF's attacks have had an appreciable impact on the management of the national forests."

Several forests are, in fact, still standing only because of ELF's efforts to protect them.

I'm not justifying the actions of ELF. I do not agree with all of their adherents' actions.

However, there is a reason that ELF and similar groups have come into existence. They have received the support of many mainstream people because of the effectiveness of their tactics. More important, ELF has received so much support because in a world prone to violence, the ELF has stuck by its code: Never place life in danger of harm.

...Let's Get Free!

Letters To the Eugene Weekly

The following is a collection of several of the many letters that were written to The Eugene Weekly in support of Free after he was sentenced to a horrendous 22-years in prison. Of course, not all of the letters that were written to The EW were supportive of Free; some people wrote letters condemning Free for having the nerve (more like the courage) to destroy corporate property. These are just a few of the better letters that appeared in The EW.

WHERE'S THE ACLU?

The remarks of the attorney who worked for the Lane County DA's office that were quoted in Cheri Brooks' (6/14) article "22 at 22" alarmed me greatly. I'm not even slightly surprised that the DA's office has a policy for treating the anarchists differently from the rest of the population, but I didn't know that such clear evidence of the policy existed. This is most obviously a violation of individuals' First Amendment rights, and is clearly persecution (and prosecution) because of political beliefs. Where is the ACLU in these cases?

I strongly respect the aforementioned attorney's right to not have his name published in the newspaper, but he possesses evidence of probable illegal discrimination by one of the leading legal authorities in this county. I believe both he and the ACLU have an obligation to hold the DA and his office accountable for their actions.

Perhaps there is a pending suit of which I am unaware; if so, it seems that a goodly amount of public awareness could be raised by publicizing the issues surrounding such an action. The Register Guard is considered by many to be a lost cause when it comes to publishing anything that doesn't match its agenda, but there are still quite a number of independent media that value free expression.

It is clear the government and the powers of the "free market" have no interest in stopping this undermining of the quality of life on this planet; and that leaves just you and me. Please, for all our sakes, speak out and take action now, before we have slipped too far.

Craig T. Miller, Eugene

CORRUPT SOCIETY

Although not a personal friend of Jeffrey Luers, I was deeply saddened by his sentencing of 22 1/2 years. There was a time when punishment fit the crime; when a person was judged for the crime, not his intrinsic beliefs. When trials were fair and just according to the evidence presented. When an individual was innocent until proven guilty.

Corruption permeates every level of our society, and our Earthly path is so clearly leading to our eventual disintegration on all levels of our existence. For the sake of our future generations we must take responsibility for our actions; respect persons and their human worth and dignity. We must be humble to our circumstances, and maintain a good heart - or our Earth will surely perish. Lives are so empty of compassion; clinging to material possessions. People cannot make informed, educated decisions; based on a moral, ethical internalized value system. 2001 years ago, we were asked to be stewards of this Earth, to take only what we need. For our lives to be examples of what is good, true, and beautiful. We have failed miserably.

Pray for Jeffrey Michael "Free" Luers. Pray for his safety, his justice. And, pray for the sins of our world to be forgiven.

Beth Music, Eugene

STRONG CONVICTIONS

I have known Jeff Luers for almost 10 years now. We have chosen different paths in life, but I still and always will consider him a dear friend to me. I need not convince you that he has always been a person who believed strongly in the activities he was and is involved in.

Jeff needs help now and I am sure that you will help him. Although I can't fully agree with what he did, I can completely disagree with the sentence cast upon him. I know him, he is not an evil person nor was he ever. I have not spoken to him in more than a year or so, but I know that if he said to that judge that he never meant to hurt anyone, that is the truth. I am sure that you feel the same, but I wanted you to hear it from someone who has helped him and has been helped by him. If nothing else, write the Oregon governor and tell him that his sentence is ridiculous.

I have spoken to his parents and they have told me that there are sex offenders with less time than Jeff. Should Jeff serve time? Well, that is matter of opinion. Should he serve 22.5-plus years? Well, that is ridiculous.

I am not an activist or revolutionary, I am a longtime friend who would like to see his buddy sometime before he is 40. This is just my 2 cents worth.

Marcus Tyson, Eugene

LETTER FROM FREE

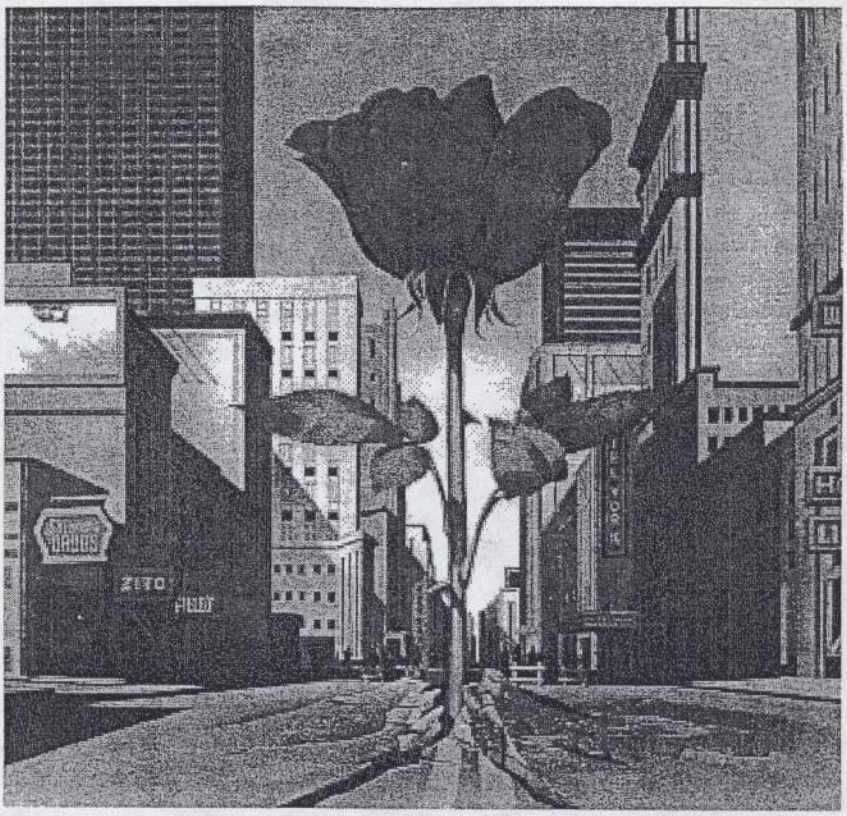
I want to say thank you to all those who have written, supported me, or donated time or money to my defense. You have made this situation bearable. My heart especially goes out to those who have continued to fight, and have risked their own freedom struggling against this destructive and oppressive system.

I have been able to adjust to prison life. I can tell you that it is a whole new experience. That puts it politely. As of now, I have 21 more years to go.

It is my plan/goal to remain as active in the struggle for all life and against all forms of oppression as I can. By necessity I must use new tactics that can be employed from here.

Free: Contrary to popular belief I never got a real deal. From the get go, I was suspected/accused of being the leader of the Earth Liberation Front in the northwest. The first deal for seven-and-a-half years was that I tell on everyone and my co-defendant Critter. Fuck that. After that all my deals offered were 10 years and up. Besides they wanted me to plead guilty to acts I didn't do. They wanted me to say I committed a person-to-person crime with intent to hurt someone. That simply isn't true.

EF!J: The government has set out to make an example of you with its heavy-handed sentence, and it appears to hope that by locking you up that resistance will fade. As the risks and potential consequences increase, what can we do to encourage and/or support direct action and sabotage in defense of the Earth?



Free: The first thing we can do is to stop denouncing it. Stop apologizing for it. We need to give overwhelming support to those willing to make the sacrifices necessary to participate in direct action and sabotage. We need to set up a prisoner support network, develop a legal fund that is ready to go before its needed. There are so many things we can do. Imagine hundreds of people stepping forward and claiming credit for something when someone gets busted.

EF!J: Can you explain your experience with the courts and prison system?

Free: You don't have the space to print my experience with the system. Just picture a situation where you know you are absolutely powerless, and you know you are going to get screwed over. And there is absolutely nothing you can do about it.

EF!J: What effects has prison had on you already?

Free: I've closed down. I'm less willing to feel emotion. I have a hard time sharing my feelings with my loved ones. I don't get to walk away from here for another 21 years. I can't see the stars or the moon. I can't wake up next to a lover. It affects you in ways you can't ever begin to imagine. You become numb.

EF!J: What gives you the spirit to fight on in the face of increasing violence against the planet?

Free: Knowing that I don't have a choice. I've watched the changes in my lifetime. I've seen things get worse. I know that we can only count on ourselves to change things. It is important for me to be able to say that I gave everything I had. The responsibility lies with us to stop the destructive practices our lifestyle has caused.

EF!J: Do you have any regrets?

Free: Of course. You can't get the sentence I got and not have regrets. But they are not the kind you think. I have regrets about things I didn't get to do. I don't regret lighting that fire. I don't regret the choices that I made.

EF!J: Is there an appeal of your case in the works?

Free: Yes. I'm using a public defender, who actually refers to me as a political prisoner. And several attorneys have volunteered their help, including the regional vice president of the National Lawyers Guild. So, basically I have an awesome legal team. I just hope that they can accomplish something.

EF!J: How can activists best support you?

Free: OK, I have a list. Personally, you can help me by swamping the Governor of Oregon with letters about my sentence and case. You can support other political prisoners, volunteer with a prisoner support project. Perhaps my greatest request: Fight back. Make revolution an everyday part of your life. Start creating the sustainable communities we talk about. Nothing changes unless we make it.

EF!J: Do you have any other thoughts or words of wisdom about the future?

Free: We are at a critical point in herstory right now. Not only ecologically, but in our human interactions as well. The future is going to be what we make it. We are either going to end up living in a world void of any wild places or natural diversity, an oppressive police state monoculture. Or we are going to finally realize that we need to put our differences aside. Come together, learn from each other and create the world we want to live in. The greatest challenge we face is that it is much easier to accept things as they are and to give up hope than it is to try and make a difference. We have the power, we only need to realize it.

Contact the Governor of Oregon, John Kitzhaber, about Free's case at the State Capitol Building, 900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301-4047; or call (503) 378-3111.

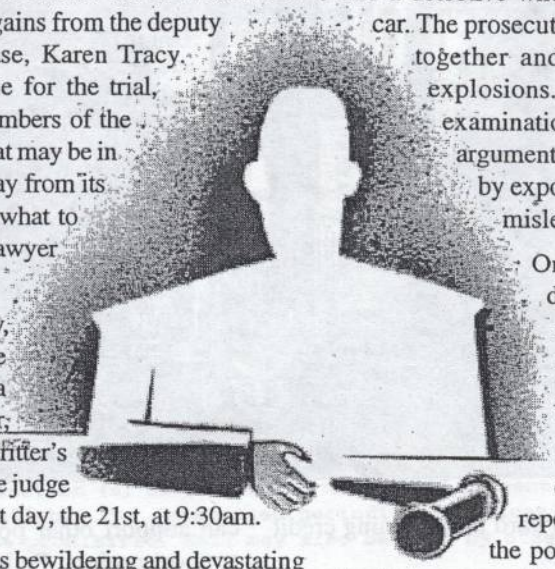
...Let's Get Free!

SELECTIONS FROM

"TRYING DEVELOPMENTS FOR ACTIVISTS FREE & CRITTER"

"There seems to be a conscious program underway to isolate and undermine Eugene's anarchist community. If history is any guide, this should be understood as the first step in an attack on activism overall. If Free and Critter are not defended, in the political arena as well as in court, we can only expect more trouble for progressive activists of all stripes." **— Free and Critter's Legal Defense Committee**

Jeffrey Luers, Free, and Craig Marshall, Critter, were arrested on June 16, 2000. Both men plead "not guilty" to nine felony charges, including arson, and one misdemeanor. After a delay, both men's pre-trial arguments started November 8th. Once the jury was selected, two days of the trial ensued only to have everything thrown into disarray with terrible news. The Free and Critter Legal Defense learned the morning of November 20th that Free's defense attorney, Ken Morrows, suffered a fatal heart attack! The confusion following this unprecedented turn of events led to motions of severance, mistrial and new plea bargains from the deputy district attorney prosecuting the case, Karen Tracy. Free's parents, who were in Eugene for the trial, scrambled to the courthouse with members of the Legal Defense Committee to learn what may be in store for the trial, which was a long way from its close. No one seemed to know quite what to do. There has never been a case of a lawyer dying during their trial in Oregon.



Mark Spence, a court-appointed attorney, was assigned temporarily to help Free through the transition. He moved for a mistrial. Brian Barnes, Critter's lawyer, moved to sever the cases allowing Critter's case to continue with the same jury. The judge decided to hear oral arguments the next day, the 21st, at 9:30am.

How was the trial going? The news was bewildering and devastating to Free's family and support group. Despite early setbacks, many had felt that that momentum was building for the defense. The defense attorneys made several motions to suppress evidence from the searches of a warehouse and the car driven by Critter and Free the night that they were arrested. Objections were raised about a questionably obtained search warrant and items seized but not named on the warrant. Several cops testified. All the motions to suppress evidence were denied by the judge.

On November 14, jury selection started and took all day. It was a scary process that included the prosecutor arguing to keep people who admitted prejudice against anarchists and protests in general. Throughout the selection, Tracy kept emphasizing the need for people to be able to convict on circumstantial evidence and not just hard facts like eyewitnesses. Oregon State law gives both forms of evidence the same weight. On November 15, jury selection continued. Twelve jurors were selected and two alternates, using 49 out of 50 in the jury pool. The jury consists of 9 men and 3 women, all of whom are white. After a lunch break, the jury took a bus trip to the warehouse where Free was staying and where the cops raided. They also went to the two sites in question; Tyree Oil Co. (where devices were found but no fires occurred) and the Joe Romania truck dealership (where a truck was burned and approx. $40,000 dollars of damage occurred).

On November 16 began with opening statements. Tracy gave a very long, detailed argument laying out the prosecution's basic story. Morrow emphasized the difference between arson and criminal mischief. Barnes casually yet matter-of-factly mentioned the speculative nature of the prosecutor's case and the lack of one piece of hard evidence. The state then started calling witnesses including a manager at Tyree Oil, the site of one of the alleged arsons, a Eugene cop on the bomb squad, as well as one other cop and a detective who were involved in tailing Free and Critter's car. The prosecution tried to weave its circumstantial evidence together and scare the jury with stories of fires and explosions. The defense did a good job during cross-examination of pointing out holes in the prosecution's argument as well as questioning the integrity of the cops by exposing poor evidence gathering and tampering, misleading reports, dishonesty and bad memories.

On November 17 one juror said she felt intimidated by the defendants and was scared they may have seen her address. She was dismissed and replaced with a female alternate. Most distressingly she spoke about this to "five or six" of the other jurors. A juror was seen talking with a witness for the prosecution during a break trying to talk up a job, and reports are that one male juror keeps going on about the politics involved locally and in the case. All of this is very scary. The day continued with state witnesses, including more cops and an ATF agent involved in the raid and seizure of evidence. Also, a video of the warehouse was shown. Court was to resume November 21.

During the confusion the DA's office offered Free and Critter another plea bargains. Free was offered 156 months in prison and years of probation. In the deal Free would have to plead guilty to "Arson 1" and "Conspiracy to commit arson". Free decided against the offer and because of publicity of the trial due to his lawyer's death, decided that a mistrial would be in his best interest. After considering advice from his lawyer and friends and talking with Free, Critter decided to accept the deal offered to him. Critter did not agree to admit guilt but acknowledged that it was possible for the prosecutor to convict on the evidence. Critter was sentenced on November 22 to 66 months in prison with three years probation for "Conspiracy to commit arson" charge as well as 6 months and two years probation for the 'Possession of a destructive device" charge. They are to run concurrently. His attorney noted that Measure 11 forces people to make decisions they don't want to make.

Free's Defense Network
POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405
e-mail: *howl_for_freedom@yahoo.com*
Free's new website is *www.freefreenow.org*

...LET'S GET FREE!

Prohibited Mail

The following materials constitute prohibited mail which shall be confiscated or returned to the sender:

(1) Sexually Explicit Material: Sexual acts or behaviors; excretory functions; personal photographs in which the subject is nude; displays male or female genitalia, pubic area, or buttocks; or exposes any portion of the female breasts below the top of the areola.

(2) Material That Threatens or is Detrimental to the Security, Safety, Health, Good Order or Discipline of the Facility, Inmate Rehabilitation, or Facilitates Criminal Activity: It incites, advocates, aids or abets criminal activity such as illegal drug use, or instructs in the manufacture, use or conversion of weapons; It incites, advocates, aids or abets escape, such as picking locks or digging tunnels; It consists of threats of physical harm to any person or threats of criminal activity; It contains or concerns sending contraband within, into or out of the facility; It concerns plans for activities in violation of other Department of Corrections administrative directives; It contains code that directly threatens or is detrimental to the security, safety, health, good order, or discipline of the facility, inmate rehabilitation, or facilitates criminal activity; It contains information which, if communicated, would create a clear and present danger of violence and physical harm to a human being; It contains contraband material; It contains STG-related paraphernalia; It contains inflammatory material; It contains role-playing or similar fantasy games or materials.

(3) Credit or Deferred Billing Transactions: Mail involving credit or deferred billing (e.g., "bill me later" or "payment after delivery") transactions for the purchase of or subscription to publications (e.g., books, newspapers, magazines) or other items or merchandise is prohibited.

(4) Unauthorized Business Transactions: Mail involving a business transaction not previously approved by the functional unit manager or designee.

(5) Items Prohibited From Receipt by Mail: Weapons or explosives; Narcotics or narcotics paraphernalia; Intoxicants or medications; Escape devices; Money, negotiable instruments, uncancelled stamps, and stamp collections; Any item larger than 18" x 18" except subscription newspapers; Any electronic items, including batteries; Any substance that is foreign to the authorized mail items, including lipstick, crayon, water colors, paint, correction fluid, etc.; or Polaroid type photographs with a chemical substance on the back of the photograph.

(6) Mail Subject to Outgoing Mail Restriction: Outgoing mail to a person or address to which the inmate has been ordered by the functional unit manager or designee not to send mail.

(7) Any other material that the Department deems to pose a threat or to be detrimental to legitimate penological objectives.

USE COMMON SENSE!

Some Ways To Help Free:

Write Free

Prison is an extremely lonely place and sending letters to Free asking how you can help, sharing stories, telling him about what is going on in the world is a great way to help. Free responds to his letters and is a great correspondent. All letters can be sent to:

Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, Oregon State Prison, 2605 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

Take care not to write anything on the envelope except the addresses and to avoid writing the words "Anarchy" or "Anarchism".

Contribute to Fr ee's College Education

Free is currently taking classes in prison toward a college degree. Obviously, this will take time and a lot of money. All checks and money orders can be made out to ***"Howl for Freedom"*** and send to their address listed below.

Send him a book or zine

Prisoners in Oregon State Prisons must receive new books and they must be sent directly from the publisher. Best bets for getting books to Free are: Amazon.com (No, they aren't anarchists but they have everything and can often get books into prison. There website is: ***www.amazon.com***).

Write to the Governor of Oregon

Urge the Governor to commute Free's absurdly long 22.5 year sentence. Point out the punishment does not fit the 'crime' and that the Tyree oil conviction was based on circumstantial evidence. Sample letters are available from **Free's Defense Network, *Howl for Freedom*, POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405, *howl_for_freedom@yahoo.com***

Contribute to Fr ee's Legal Defense

Free is appealing his 22.5 year sentence on numerous grounds. It will take a few years before it gets before the court and will take lots of funds. This is the largest expense in defending oneself from state charges. Make all checks and money orders to ***"Howl for Freedom"*** and send to the address listed below.

For more info on how you can help Free, please write to him personally,
Jeffrey Luers #13797671,OSP , 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310
or write to: Fr ee's Defense Network @ PO Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97405.
Check-out the website: www.freefreenow.org

...Let's Get Free!

Education

By Jeffrey "FREE" Luers

I am a living creature, I do not need you to tell me that. I was born free, to live how I choose, until I die. I do not need you to grant me that. I know my instincts and I understand my nature. They did not teach me that.

You've taught me that I had $2.81, that a candy bar costs .50 cents. How many candy bars can I buy? You taught me that I lived in the best nation in the world, because I was free to buy that many candy bars. You taught me to pledge allegiance and never question. You taught me what my place in the world was to be. And you taught me how to follow orders, and what happens when you don't.

You did not teach me well because I did not learn these things.

I always wondered about you ever since then. I always wondered why the business men (always men) from the bank or the malls got such an assembly when they donated money to the school. And why then we always got their little corporate care packages or a trip to their business.

I wanted to know why we didn't learn to grow our own food or make our own clothes? Why we didn't learn to build a shelter or a fire? Then I figured it out. It all comes back to that $2.81. Only you left a small part of the equation out. How many minutes do you have to work for someone else to get that $2.81, so you can afford to buy those 5 candy bars? And that's where the order you taught comes in, doesn't it?

Now come. I want to show you what I've learned. I've learned I don't need you and I want you to know why. I've learned that a community of people can take care of each other and the land they share. That we can grow our own food, and not be hungry. That by working together we can build our own houses and not use your industrial tools or products. I've learned that we can police ourselves quite well. I've learned that we don't need or want your business men, we don't need or want your order. And for damn sure we don't need or want your $2.81.

I've learned to be free. I've learned to love. I've learned to be happy. I've learned that you can't teach those things because you don't know how. But I will teach you, if you too want to learn.

...Let's Get Free!



START A LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR FREE

*** If you would like to distribute this zine in your local area, info-shop, or publication, please contact:**
Free's Defense Network
POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405
e-mail: *howl_for_freedom@yahoo.com*

*** If you would like to start a local group to support Free, write him directly at:**
Jeffrey Luers #13797671
OSP 2605 State St.
Salem, OR 97310 USA

*** There are many other political prisoners who need your support. There are many prisoner support websites which can be linked from *www.freefreenow.org***

DIVIDED & CONQUERED

BY JEFF "FREE" LUERS

FOR DECADES, PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE STRUGGLED AND FOUGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, RACISM, SEXISM AND COUNTLESS OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION. EACH ONE OF THESE STRUGGLES HAS FAILED. WHY? BECAUSE ALL OF THESE STRUGGLES HAVE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE DIVIDED, NOT ONLY DIVISION AMONGST THEIR RANKS, BUT SEPARATED BY THEIR CAUSES.

THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL OF OUR STRUGGLES ARE INTERCONNECTED. ON A DEEPER LEVEL ALL OF US KNOW THIS. OFTEN WE TALK OF COMMUNITY, MUTUAL AID AND SOLIDARITY. YET WHERE HAVE THESE IDEAS MANIFESTED THEMSELVES? I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE MASS PROTESTS OR DIRECT ACTION CAMPS. I AM TALKING ABOUT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.



WE HAVE TO LIVE THE REVOLUTION. ALL TO OFTEN WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DIVIDED INTO CLIQUES. WE CAN GET SO CAUGHT UP IN OUR OWN IDEALS THAT WE MAY BECOME UNWILLING TO WORK WITH OTHERS WHO DO NOT SHARE THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL PURITY. AT THAT POINT IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPRESS IDEAS OUT OF YOUR OWN CIRCLE, AND EVEN HARDER TO WORK WITH OTHERS FOR A GREATER GOOD. IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE HAVE DEDICATED MORE TIME TO RHETORIC AND DEBATING IDEOLOGY; MORE TIME IS SPENT ARGUING: REDS AGAINST GREENS, ANARCHISTS AGAINST SOCIALISTS, PACIFISTS AGAINST MILITANTS.

STRUGGLES ARE CONDEMNED AS SINGLE ISSUES, OTHERS ARE DEEMED AS MORE IMPORTANT. AND THE "ALL IMPORTANT" STRUGGLE OF SMASHING THE STATE, BECAUSE OF COURSE, ONCE WE DO THAT EVERYTHING ELSE WILL JUST NATURALLY FOLLOW. EVERY TIME I READ ONE OF OUR PUBLICATIONS, WHATEVER STRUGGLE IT DEALS WITH, I FIND A COMMON THEME; PEOPLE SLAGGING OFF OTHERS WHO COULD BE ALLIES. WHILE WE ARE SO OCCUPIED ARGUING AMONGST OURSELVES ABOUT WHOSE IDEA OF THE PERFECT WORLD IS BETTER, THE REAL WORLD, THE ONE WE ALL LIVE IN IS GOING TO SHIT. WE THINK WE HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, IF ONLY PEOPLE WOULD DO IT OUR WAY, OR MY WAY, OR YOUR WAY. WE ARE SO CAUGHT UP IN ATTITUDES OF SUPERIORITY THAT WE FAIL TO REALIZE WE ARE LOSING.

PEOPLE WE KNOW AND LOVE ARE GOING HUNGRY. PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT ARE COMMITTING SUICIDE AND OVERDOSING. PEOPLE WE KNOW ARE BEING RAPED, BEATEN AND ABUSED. IT IS ALL AROUND US, IN EVERY CITY, EVERY TOWN, EVERY COMMUNITY. AND WE GO RIGHT ON WRITING OUR ARTICLES, PUTTING OUT OUR ZINES, SLUGGING PEOPLE OFF AND TALKING ABOUT THE REVOLUTION. WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR? IS THERE A GOAL? BECAUSE APPARENTLY WE ARE NOT FIGHTING FOR EACH OTHER, FOR OUR COMMUNITY – BECAUSE IT DOES NOT EXIST. MAYBE WE ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT THE EARTH, BUT THAT MUST NOT BE IT EITHER BECAUSE WE ALL STILL USE ELECTRICITY FROM DAMS, DRIVE CARS, AND DUMPSTER OR BUY FOOD. WE KNOW THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES, WE TALK ABOUT THEM ALL THE TIME. YET WE NEVER WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE THEM. THE IDEAL WORLD DOES NOT EXIST. NOT EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE AN ANARCHIST. NOT EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE A VEGAN. AND IT IS GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME TO PHASE OUT MASS PRODUCTION, POLLUTION AND BECOME COMPLETELY SUSTAINABLE. THAT IS JUST REALITY.

WE CAN'T CREATE THE PERFECT WORLD, BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE ONE WE LIVE IN BETTER. WE HAVE TO USE EVERY TOOL IN THE TOOLBOX. IF THAT MEANS WE GOTTA WORK WITH THE UNIONS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING WE DO IT. IF WE HAVE TO WORK WITH THE CHURCH TO FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN WE DO IT. IF WE HAVE TO VOTE TO CHANGE SOMETHING WE DO IT. IF WE HAVE TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION TO STOP SOMETHING WE DO IT. BECAUSE IF WE DON'T DO IT NO ONE ELSE WILL AND 15 YEARS FROM NOW YOU CAN READ IN GREEN ANARCHY, EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL, CLAMOR MAGAZINE (OR WHATEVER THE FUCK YOU READ) HOW ACTIVISTS ARE FIGHTING FOR THE LAST ACRE OF OLD GROWTH, HOW THE INDIGENOUS NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE LOST ALL THEIR LAND, HOW 1 IN 4 ARE IN PRISON OR UNDER SUPERVISION. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO READ HOW WE LOST EVERY SINGLE BATTLE BECAUSE WE WERE TO STUBBORN, TOO EGOTISTICAL OR TOO IDEOLOGICALLY PURE TO WORK TOGETHER. WE HAVE A CHOICE, WE CAN SHOOT FOR THE STARS AND ACCEPT NOTHING LESS OR WE CAN AIM FOR THE STARS AND TAKE EVERY STEP THAT GETS US CLOSER. I WOULD COMPROMISE ALMOST ANYTHING IF IT MEANT WE COULD ACTUALLY CHANGE THE WORLD AND NOT JUST TALK ABOUT IT.

...LET'S GET FREE!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

BY FREE

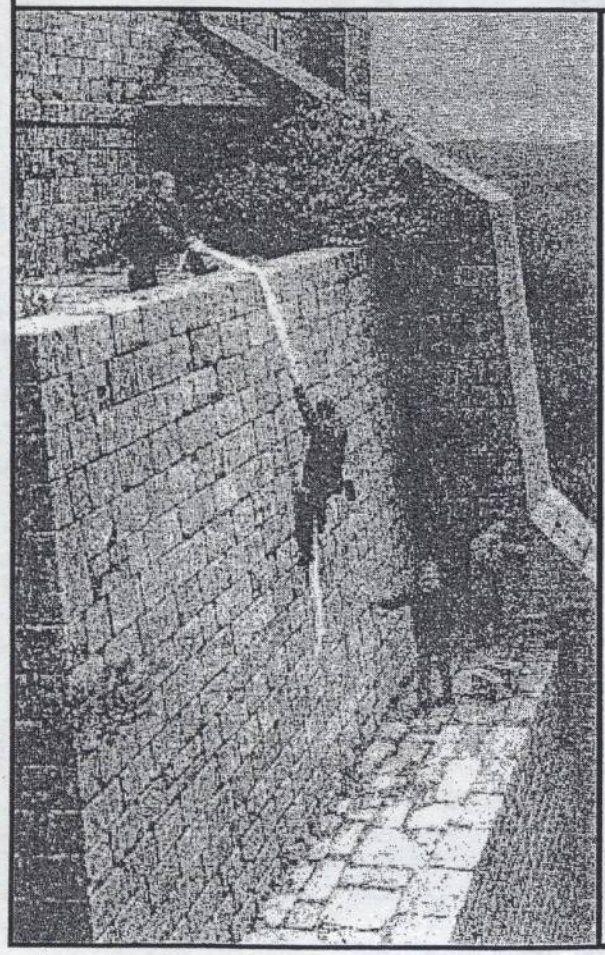
I WATCH IN HORROR AS MY FRIEND BLEEDS. BLOODY ON HIS HANDS, BLOODY ON HIS KNEES. BEING BEAT DOWN, PULLED BY THE HAIR, KICKED IN THE RIBS. THE POLICE DON'T CARE. I'VE LOOKED IN THEIR EYES. AND I KNOW WHAT I'VE SEEN. IT'S A HATRED SO INTENSE, IT REALLY SCARES ME. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO. BECAUSE THE LAW'S AGAINST ME. SO, I STAND BY HELPLESS WHILE MY FRIEND SCREAMS "HELP...WHAT DID I DO? STOP...NO...AHHH! MY EYES! PLEASE...YOU'RE HURTING ME." I LISTEN IN ANGUISH TO THE PLEAS, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, THE LAW'S AGAINST ME. I SCREAM IN RAGE AS THE CLUBS SWING BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, THE LAW'S AGAINST ME. I FEEL DISGUST WHEN I SEE THE PIGS SMILING. AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, CUZ THE LAW'S AGAINST ME. FUCK IT! I AIN'T GONNA LET THE LAW STOP ME.

I'LL ORGANIZE YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE. I'LL WATCH YOUR SYSTEM FALL, I'LL LIVE TO SEE US FREE. YOUR SOUL IS SO CORRUPT, YOUR HEART IS TRULY BLACK. I NEVER USED TO HATE, TILL YOU PUT A GUN TO MY BACK. YOU FUELED THIS RAGE INSIDE ME, MADE WHO I AM. YOUR OPPRESSION MADE US HATE. YOU MADE US WARRIORS....NOW TONIGHT WE STRIKE.

TEAR GAS FUMES FILL THE AIR. FIRES RAGE AND SIRENS BLARE. MEN AND WIMMIN DRESSED IN BLACK RUN THROUGH THE STREETS. WE'RE FIGHTING BACK. RIOT COPS ARE FORMING LINES, SUDDENLY MOLOTOV'S COME FROM THE SIDES. SCARED AND OUTNUMBERED, THEIR GUNS GO OFF...IT'S TOO LATE FOR THEM. THEY COULD HAVE JOINED US. ANGRY AND ARMED WE SMASH THRU THEIR LINES. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR FREEDOM. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES.

SOME MAY THINK THIS MESSAGE SEEMS HARSH. BUT, WHAT'LL YOU DO WHEN YOU AIN'T GOT NO FREEDOM LEFT? SOMETIMES NON-VIOLENCE IS COMPLIANCE. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO FIGHT BACK IF YOU EVER WANT THINGS TO CHANGE.

DON'T JUST STAND THERE. **FIGHT BACK NOW!!**



To contact Free write:

Jeffrey Luers

#13797671

OSP 2605 State St.

Salem, OR 97310

THIS ZINE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

YOUR LOCAL JEFF "FREE" LUERS SUPPORT GROUP

...LET'S GET FREE!