Spirit of Freedom



The newsletter of the North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network

June/July 2001

Welcome to the June/July 2001 issue of *Spirit of Freedom*. There has been so much going on around the country and in our lives lately. Actions are increasing at a frenzied pace and government lackeys are trying hard to pass sweeping "hate crime" laws to stymie the dissent. Fortunately, it doesn't look like it is having any effect so far. We are finishing the newsletter just days after our friend Free (Jeff Luers) was sentenced to 22 ½ years in prison for the arson of Romania Chevrolets and attempted arson of Tyree Oil last year.

In addition to publishing this bi-monthly newsletter/update, we distribute a prisoner resource directory that includes a comprehensive listing of prisoner support groups, books to prisoner programs and zines to write to (available free to prisoners). We also distribute "Pushing a Better Pencil"- a guide that can help prisoners write better grievance forms.

Spirit of Freedom is free to prisoners and two 33-cent stamps to anyone else. We will trade for zines we are interested in, especially ones related to prisoner support.

Thank you to everyone that wrote us in the last three months and offered support, advice, funds and information and to the prisoners who submitted writings this issue. This newsletter couldn't have come out without the help of our local copy connection (still a secret) who helped us print most of our newsletters and Pendleton Vandiveer, who booked the benefit show for us last month.

Never a Word, My Friend

Our enemy has realized that they can never totally destroy us, but over the years we have learned that we have one weakness: the interrogation of our untrained comrades by the police.

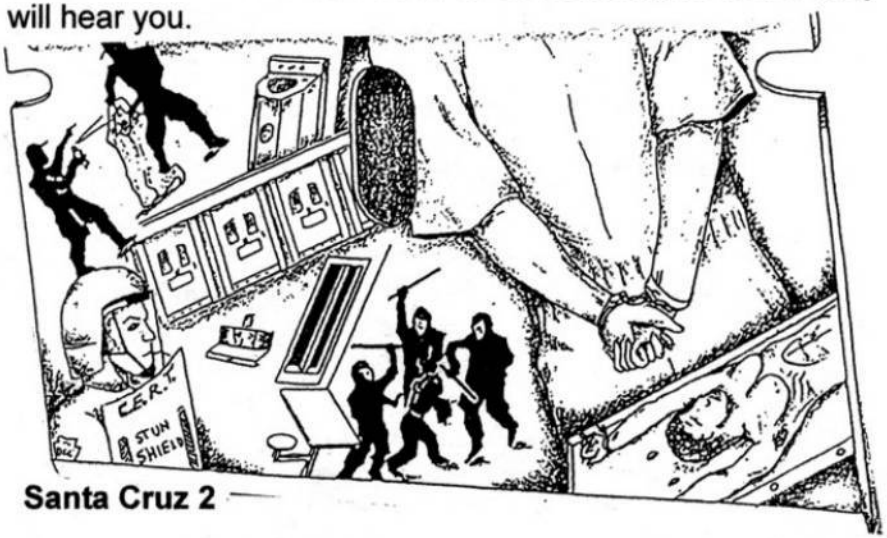
They arrest us in droves, shove us into small cells without toilet facilities, starve us and systematically torture us. Their intention is to break our spirits so that we will tell them everything they want to know; details of direct actions, of any

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.

For now, letters can be mailed to both Free and Critter c/o the Legal Defense Committee at PO Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97404. Free's new address will soon be available. Checks and money orders to assist with Free's appeal can still be sent to FCLDF, c/o OUR Credit Union, PO Box 11192, Eugene, OR 97440. Our website is www.efn.org/~eugpeace/freecritter

Thanks to all our steadfast supporters. Your help has been inspiring and irreplaceable.

Howl for Free and Critter. Howl for all political prisoners. They will hear you.



Santa Cruz 2

Peter Schnell and Matt Whyte have a hearing on September 26 where the judge will decide if there is to be an evidentiary hearing. To keep abreast of their situation, contact them at: Santa Cruz 2 Defense Fund, POB 917 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 railpirate@apexmail.com

Mark Sands

Mark Sands of Phoenix, Arizona was indicted last week on 22-count relating to eight arsons at homes in Phoenix and suburban Scottsdale.

Sands was arrested in April after pigs said he was seen scrawling the letters "CSP" on a sign at a home under construction near the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. He was later released because prosecutors did not meet a deadline for filing charges after his arrest.

"CSP" is said to stand for "Coalition to Save the Preserves." The acronym was found in notes at some of the arson sites and in letters sent to the media.

Since 1998, 11 fires at upscale homes under construction near mountain recreation areas have been attributed to arson. 9 were near the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, a scenic stretch of mountains running through the middle of Phoenix; two were next to a mountain preserve in suburban Scottsdale. This arrest occurred one day after four partly built luxury homes were burned down in Tucson.

Rob "Los Ricos" Thaxton Moved!

Rob Thaxton has been moved yet again. This time, the Oregon Prison Department moved him shortly after an attempt by the FBI to interview him about "Eugene Anarchists". After they found out that Rob never lived in Eugene, they ended the interview and told him he would be transferred the next day. Rob is now back at his former address at:

Robert Thaxton
#12112716
OSP
2605 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Maziotis sentence lowered to 5 ½ years!

We have just found out that Nikos Maziotis had his sentence reduced from 15 to 5 ½ years in a hearing two months ago.

New Prisoners

In England, Dave Blenkinsop has been jailed for "causing grievous bodily harm" to the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Prisoners Released!

In Europe, Charlotte Lewis, Jonathan Elliot, Mark Kulsdom, Robert Molenaar have all been released.

Frank Ambrose

Frank's pre-trial, set for April 5th, was postponed because of protests held at Federal buildings that day. Coincidentally, this was the same day that the North American ELF press office in Portland was raided by the FBI.

The Responsibility For Repression

"Why is it when faced with potentially severe repression we go all fucking liberal?"—Do or Die #9

Over the past few years, state repression against those who question the current social order has intensified. This can be traced to two significant factors: changes in social relationships that have made it unnecessary for the democratic state to disguise its repressive nature and a growing resistance that is increasingly using methods of direct attack rather than petition and negotiation.

In the United States, these attacks against the projects of capital have been largely centered on projects that infringe upon and destroy wild areas, exploit animals or involve the development of

genetically engineered organisms. The methods used in these attacks are generally fairly simple, using materials easily accessible to anyone, and are applicable to a wide variety of situations. It should, therefore come us no surprise that the state would try to suppress this tendency through criminalization and repression.

It is in this context that two bills before the Oregon state legislature can be understood. One of these bills would apply racketeering and organized crime laws to acts of sabotage against logging activities, animal research and the like if passed. The other would apply hate crime laws to illegal actions taken against environmental destruction or capitalism. If these laws are passed it would be possible for a person convicted of breaking a window, spiking a tree, sabotaging a piece of equipment or liberating animals from a laboratory to as much as 25 years in prison as a racketeering hate criminal.

This is also the context in which a recent raid on a punk house party in Portland, Oregon and the subsequent police harassment against punks on the streets, in which cops will question those stopped about their relationship to anarchism, can be understand. If anyone who might consider acting against the horrors of this society can be frightened into submission through harassment, it makes the job of the state easier.

When repression starts to hit close to home, it is easy to forget who is responsible for it. We have been well trained to see those that the state labels as criminals as such, and so it is easy to make the mistake of blaming those who have taken the path of illegal revolt for the repression we experience. But those who revolt are never to blame for repression. The state, and only the state, holds this responsibility. The aim of state repression is

precisely to frighten people away from active revolt. If we succumb before repression, holding ourselves back and calling on others to hold back out of fear, the state has succeeded. In the face of state repression, it is necessary to attack more intelligently and more fiercely.

FROM " Willful Disobedience" #7
41 Sutter St., Suite 1661, San Francisco CA 94104

Untitled

As I sit here in my cell looking out at the night I feel as if I'm somewhere else
But the sky isn't right
I'm thinking of some of the beautiful places I've been where the sky isn't orange
And the grass is still green.

You see, here all I smell is the stench of a city's waste Lock away societies problems
With prejudice and distaste
The sky that I see is a sodium haze
I would almost imagine the world was ablaze

Not like my dreams where I breathe fresh air
But sights so green are increasingly rare
So I need to get out to protect what's left
Cause the thought of the shitty city leave me bereth of hope and spirit, this place bleeds me dry
A cell in a prison in a city
The cities are the real prisons
Where everyone is trapped
And the use of TV for Visions
This can be changed
By simple things that we do
Please believe me cause I'm not sure I do.

DEATH SAYS...

Glory to the D.o.T Because they brash and kill for me

Praise be to the W.T.O
Because of them there few barriers to go
Little fish, big fish are all caught in my net But my money grabbing friends I shant forget Aid a revolution fund and start a war
I don't care about politics
I'm not keeping score
You rape and kill the land
So Karma Geddon is now at hand
A place in hell is reserved for them
As they trash this spherical gem
With G.M crops, wars and words
My friend poison the land
And kill the birds
Men, animals, ideals all sold for profit
To line the sides of their blood smeared pockets
So glory to those who love money
It's better than these taste of sugar or honey
Just one speck in the cosmos
For commercial gain is it such a loss?

Lee Himlin

The Importance Of Prisoner Support
By Michael Collins (Mayday 2000 prisoner)

Prison is a weapon used by the state to crush individuals who step out of line: To isolate them; to punish them and their loved ones; to threaten; to make an example of; to, as Ali Khalid Abdullah said: "humiliate, dominate, control, destroy."

Since all effective political opposition has been criminalized, if you are working for political change and not breaking the law, well, you aren't doing it right. And since the government has made it clear that it intends to send more criminals to prison on longer sentences, then we can expect more political prisoners. So it is essential that we build a strong and effective prisoner support network.

I've been inside for 8 months and I've had wonderful support from a small group of individuals who regularly write to me. Earth Liberation Prisoners support group and Brighton ABC have been great. Sometimes a single letter has changed a day of despair into a day of hope. I've made contact with a fair few individuals and groups in this country and abroad.

Some exchanges of letters have helped me think through certain aspects of my politics. I've received a lot of cards just saying "you are not forgotten, the struggle continues". Some people just write chatty letters about going to the pub or whatever, which is great. I mean, no one wants to talk politics all the time. One regular correspondent likes to keep me up to date with the latest news of Buffy the Vampire Slayer for some reason, bless 'er. So if you ever think of writing to a prisoner, and then never get around to it because you can't think of anything to write, well, it doesn't have to be a long, interesting intellectual letter. A short message of support will do, maybe a postcard to brighten the cell.

Beyond letters - practical support. Letters of solidarity go a long way to making prison more bearable, but money and other stuff can help a lot. Every prisoner gets a minimum of £2.50 "unemployment benefit" a week, and if you work you can earn between 50p and a couple of quid a day. On top of that you are allowed an amount from your private cash each week, usually £10.00. A lot of money is spent on phone cards. The food is prison is crap, so I trend to buy stuff from the canteen to supplement my diet - vitamins, peanut butter, museli. Basically we are all pretty skint, and even with money in our private accounts, we can't spend much each week. So find out what a prisoner is allowed to have sent in - it differs from prison to prison. For example at Wandsworth people sent me music tapes, art materials, envelopes, writing paper, magazines. Here at Elmley I'm only allowed stamps, books and some magazines. Other prisons don't even allow stamps. Ask prisoners what is allowed, and if there is anything they need. If they need cash, ask your mates for a couple of quid each, the price of a pint, and sent off a postal order - registers mail, unless you want it to go towards the Screws Xmas party.

But if you're skint, don't worry, just write. I can't emphasize enough just how important it is to have this contact with the outside world. When you're banged-up in a small cell 23 hours a day, feeling bored or angry or scared or depressed, a letter does more than just cheer you up, it keeps you sane. Solidarity is our only defense in this situation.

I said that I've had great support, but it has been from a handful of hard-working individuals. ELP and Brighton ABC are not massive organizations co-coordinating support for prisoners. More people need to get involved, and if you are serious about a struggle for political change, that means you!



Michael Collins
FR6303
HMP Elmley
Eastchurch
Kent, ME12 4AY
England



STANDING DEER -*Native American Political Prisoner*

In 1978 Standing Deer, an Oneida/Choctaw American Indian exposed a government plot to assassinate American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Leonard Peltier in Marion federal penitentiary. This bizarre case has been documented in several books including *"In the Spirit of Crazy Horse"* by Peter Matthiessen. In 1984 Standing Deer, Leonard Peltier, and Albert Garza fasted for 42 days to draw worldwide attention to the deplorable conditions at USP Marion, the Super Maximum Security federal prison.

In his Marion Death Fast statement Standing Deer wrote in part: "All of the above things I could probably learn to live with because I realize that Marion is America's #1 gulag for political prisoners, and I know that my brothers, friends and comrades in here are suffering the same indignities. But there is one outrage that I can no longer tolerate. I will no longer

allow the united states to continue to deny me the right to practice my religion. For 491 years the religion of my people has been trampled on and disrespected by the sea pirates and many of their descendents who invaded my shores so long ago. For those of us who today wish to follow the religion and teachings of our grandfathers, the road is rocky and the struggle is hard even under conditions in the so-called "free world." But for American Indians in Marion federal prison, we have been cast into a spiritual wastebasket where every aspect of our religion is denied.

"Leonard and me enter into this fast not out of despair or depression but with a joyful commitment of total love and dedication to our people. We must have our Pipe, drum, sweat lodge and access to our outside spiritual people. We will fast until we are either granted our constitutional right to practice our religion or until we return to our Creator. If the united states does not wish us to die they have but to obey their own laws. If we do die, the united states' total disregard for human rights will be our murderers."

In retaliation for the 42-day fast, the government held these three men in solitary isolation for 15 months with nothing in their cages except a steel bunk and toilet. The door to their cage was never opened unless their hands were handcuffed behind their backs and four guards with clubs were present to supervise their every move (what the Marion Control Unit calls "a four man order".) After a year of these hideous terms of confinement attorney Margaret G. Gold filed a million dollar lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons that succeeded in having each of them transferred to separate maximum security prisons where they were allowed to practice their religion. In the summer of 1985 Peltier went to USP Leavenworth (where he remains to this day); Garza went to USP Lewisburg; and Standing Deer to USP Lompoc.

Two months after arriving at Lompoc, Standing Deer was accused of leading 30 Indian brothers in a protest over issues of religious denial.

Once again, Margaret Gold filed a lawsuit styled Standing Deer v Carlson, but before trial he was thrown in the hole and held incommunicado for seven days. He was then taken to the airport in the middle of the night wearing nothing but chains and boxer shorts, and flown in a small plane with five FBI agents and turned over to McAlester prison in Oklahoma, the prison from which he had escaped ten years earlier. He had been kicked out of the federal prison system without even completing his federal sentence, prompting him to quip, "I've been kicked out of places before, but never a whole prison system!"

Standing Deer's new prison was a Control Unit just like Marion - a cesspool of sadistic mistreatment. Ben Carnes, a young Choctaw brother, filed a lawsuit against the system for the denial of the right to practice Indian religion. Once again Margaret Gold dropped everything and rushed from New York to Oklahoma to conduct a trial along with two local attorneys. The lawsuit was successful in gaining exemptions from forced haircutting for the brothers who hold their hair to be sacred.

In 1992, after seven years in the McAlester supermax Standing Deer discharged his Oklahoma sentence and was extradited to Texas where he faced a life sentence. He was immediately thrown in the hole at the Ellis prison in Huntsville which had the reputation as the toughest prison in Texas.

In spite of the wretched prison conditions and failing health Standing Deer continues to do all he can in the struggle to free Leonard Peltier and save Mumia Abu-Jamal. The Texas prison system has locked him in the hole for telling the truth in his political writings, but he continues to fight for human dignity and religious freedom for imprisoned American Indians.

April 6, 2001 marks Standing Deer's twenty-fifth year of continuous confinement in some of the worst prisons this country has to offer. At 68 his health is very bad. Texas has given him five parole hearings since 1993 but all were denied in spite of the pleas of his family, children and grandchildren.

unsolved crimes; the names of other comrades; even the names of friends and family. It is your duty to tell them absolutely nothing and to make their investigation harder by refusing to cooperate with them.

If you are arrested on suspicion of committing illegal acts , the laws in most states say that you can be held for up to 72 hours (holidays and weekends not included) before being charged or released. Throughout those 72 hours (or more), the police will question, repeating your interrogation in shifts to wear you down mentally and physically, trying to catch you in a lie so that they can break you. They will also try to lure you, bribe you, and make false promises. Succumb to none of these!

The 5th Amendment supposedly "protects" us from self-incrimination, but cops NEVER play by any rules so don't expect them to. And to dispel the myth, cops don't have to read you any Miranda rights (whatever those are!). Ever heard the term "No Comment" ? It's a saying that would be wise to use when the arresting officers ask anything. They will try to engage into talking about mundane things if you refuse their direct questioning, but this is only another ploy.

The only time you should reveal any personal information (name & address) is when you are being booked into jail. (A successful sabotage tactic when arrested in a group is to refuse to be allowed to be booked. The cops really hate that.) When you are asked questions about your connection with any crimes, all you are required to say is "I want to consult with a lawyer", but these are not magic words to make you immune from any reprisals and should not be considered as such. While you are in their custody, you are at their mercy; and it is extremely hard to prove that the cops coerced a confession out of you.

You may be put into a cell by yourself or with another occupant. Nine chances out of ten your cellmate is a snitch in service to the police to wheedle you out of information so s/he can get paid or receive a lighter sentence. To him/her all

that should be said is: "I don't know why I'm here. I've never committed a crime in my life". And leave it at that.

When your interrogation begins, they will usually rouse you out of bed early in the morning, before you have eaten and cleaned yourself up. This is done to have an advantage over you. What you should do is be constantly ready but well-rested at the same time. The interrogator will not like seeing you as well-groomed as he is. Never look down at the floor and never appear nervous or frightened. Always keep your head up and look them straight in the eye as though you are memorizing their features for identification later. Doing so will scare them.

During your session you may feel the urge to relieve yourself. But more than likely, your interrogator will refuse you the opportunity. After all, millions of confessions have been successfully obtained by refusing to let people use the toilet, because your concentration deteriorates quickly if you can't relieve yourself. Simply pull down your pants and shit in front of them. If you're handcuffed, shit or piss your pants. It's their fault and they know it, and so they will have to deal with it.

If they are particularly interested in what you may know, they will eventually begin beating you. When this happens: hit back! Give them everything you've got and beat the shit out of them. Don't be afraid to hit back. The harder they hit you, the harder you should hit back. If one cop holds you while another cop beats you, try to curl up into a ball on the floor. They'll kick the shit put of you but that's when you've got them by the balls. Afterwards, demand to see your own personal doctor or one that isn't employed by the police, and that you want to contact your lawyer. Tell them that you refuse to see anyone else because their doctors will hide any damage they've done.

You should do your best to stay healthy during your visit; exercise by walking in your cell, push-ups, sit-ups, whatever. Stay alert. Sleep and eat whenever you can. When you're offered food, sit down and enjoy it. They will serve foods at

different times to try to screw up your body's natural clock. The food will sustain your energy to help you resist the interrogation. Some activists have refused to eat their food out of fear that it is drugged or as a rebellious effort, but that is sheer stupidity. Without food you become weak and susceptible to their methods.

You should never appear to be sleepy or sick. Never let them see that you might be weakening or vulnerable, but show them that you have a resolve like cold, forged steel. Remember: it's 72 hours to 72 months. Maybe even more. Never a word, my friend.



Court Updates

Free Sentenced to 23 Years!
Free and Critter Legal Defense Committee

On June 11th, Jeffrey "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.

Silvano Pellissero, Com. Mastrolierto, Via Ferrerinoli no2, Sanponso, 10080 Torino, Italy. Serving 6 years 8 months for allegedly sabotaging a rail line construction site in the Northern Italian Alps. Silvano can read Spanish, Italian and French but not English.

Animal Liberation

Mel Broughton DJ8216, HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Avenue, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0NZ, England. Serving 4 years for conspiracy to cause explosions.

Barry Horne VC2141, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London SE28 0EB, England. Serving 18 years for various anti-vivisection arsons.

Dave Blenkinsop, H.M.Prison, Bedford, MK40 1HG, England. On remand for allegedly causing grievous bodily harm to the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS is one of the largest European companies torturing animals under the guise of scientific research).

June 18th / N30 / Mayday...

Robert Thaxton #12112716, 2605 State Street, Salem, OR 97310. Rob threw a rock at a cop in self-defense at the 1999 Eugene J18 RTS and received a severe seven year sentence as part of a "mandatory minimum" sentence.

Michael Collins, FR6303, HMP Elmley, Church Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4AY, UK Serving 2 years to a number of charges including "Affray" and "Arson".

Garfield Gabbard, FT9062, HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB,England. Serving 18 months for setting fire to a police van during the N30 demonstrations.

Indigenous

Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/A 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16475-0002 Serving 35-75 years for helping ship arms to Central American resisters

Leonard Peltier #89637-132, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048. An American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, serving two Life sentences, having been framed for the murder of two FBI agents.

Robert Wilson #640289 Estelle Prison, 264 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77320-3322, USA. In 1978 Robert (a.k.a. Standing Deer) exposed a government plot to assassinate Leonard Peltier. The US government punished him with life in prison.

Lenny Chavez, PO Box 28703, Oakland CA 94694 . An AIM activist who defended himself & his family from an armed racist. Lenny disarmed his attacked by stabbing him with a penknife. Lenny was jailed for attempted murder. (We are not sure if this is the correct address and we are working on confirming it).

MOVE

Debbie Simms Africa (006307), Janet Holloway Africa (006308), Janine Philips Africa (006309 SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238
Michael Davis Africa (AM4973), Charles Simms Africa (AM4975),SCI Grateford, PO Box 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244,
Edward Goodman Africa (AM4974) SCI Camp Hill, PA 17011-0200
William Philips Africa (AM4984), Delbert Orr Africa (AM4985) SCI Dallas Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612.



Prisoner Support Groups/Useful Contacts

North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office/*Resistance* Magazine Contact: Craig Rosebraugh, Leslie James POB 4783, Portland, OR 97208 503-478-0902 elfpress@tao.ca

North American Animal Liberation Front Press Office Contact: David Barbarash POB 3673, Courtenay, BC V9N 7P1 250-703-6312 naalfpo@tao.ca

UK Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network c/o Cornerstone Resource Center, Leeds, LS7 3HB earthlibprisoner@mail.com

UK ELP
c/o BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX, England
animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Bloomington Defense Committee POB 3503, Bloomington, IN 47402 defensecommittee@yahoo.com 812-333-0173

Santa Cruz 2 Defense Fund, POB 917 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 railpirate@apexmail.com

Free and Critter Support Committee 454 Willamette Street, Suite 205, Eugene OR 97401 541-343-8548 http://www.efn.org/~eugpeace/freecritter

Connor Cash Support c/o Long Island Animal Defense League (ADL) PO Box 1117, Huntington, NY 11743 (631)340-4708 freeconnorcash@yahoo.com longislandadl@excite.com

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, POB 583, Lawrence KS 66044; 913-842-5774

Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network (APLAN) 818 SW 3rd Avenue, PMB 354, Portland, OR 97204 aplan@tao.ca

Northwest Anarchist Prisoner Support Network, POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440. Distributes Free and Critter's zine, "Fuck the System, Rob Thaxton's "Rob the Rich" and "Fuck you Bearden" for $2 donation.

South Chicago ABC POB 721, Homewood, IL 60430 Publishes the zine, Thought Bombs and distributes a load of other zines.

Friends of MOVE, POB 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Onward publishes a quarterly magazine and does a load of prisoner support. To order, send $2 ($3 if outside the US) well-concealed cash, check or money order made out to ONWARD to the address below The Onward Collective PO Box 2671 Gainesville FL 32602-2671 theonwardcollective@hotmail.com

No Compromise P.O. Box 1440, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 831-425-3007 NoComp@waste.org

Standing Deer's words from his prison cell: "I will continue to struggle In Total Resistance whether in here or out there until the day I cross over to the Spirit World. To all of you who struggle in unity to make our Mother Earth a sweeter nesting

place for our children and our generations yet unborn I extend the left hand of my left arm which is closest to my heart. My love, Strength and prayers are with you. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse. FREE PELTIER-SAVE MUMIA!"

Profile on Connor Cash

Connor Cash is 19 year old human rights and environmental activist and a role model for his Long Island peers. Residing in Sound Beach Long Island, NY, Connor co-founded Long Island Food Not Bombs*!* a hunger relief program in Port Jefferson Station, in the Spring of 1999. Food Not Bombs*!* is a feeding program set up so that people who are homeless, hungry or needy can get a hot meal when area soup kitchens are closed (every weekend). Connor and Food Not Bombs*!* helped to provide some of Port Jefferson Station's more economically deprived and needy residents with hot food, produce, clothing, and most of all dignity. Today, only 3 years later, chapters of Food Not Bombs*!* exist in not only Port Jefferson, but also Mastic, Patchogue, Hempstead, and Bayshore Long Island, providing much needed food in those economically depressed towns.

In addition to Connor's work with Food Not Bombs*!* he is also a member and outspoken organizer of the Modern Times Collective (MTC), an autonomous youth activist network, which works on a wide array of issues ranging from raising awareness on sweatshop issues to counsel sessions for *at risk* or suicidal teens.. In addition to his organizational work in MTC and Food Not Bombs. Connor also volunteered on various other environmental justice, social justice and animal rights campaigns. As other's respect and admiration of Connor as an activist grew, there was an unfortunate drawback, Connor became a target of a national probe into activist collectives by federal authorities.

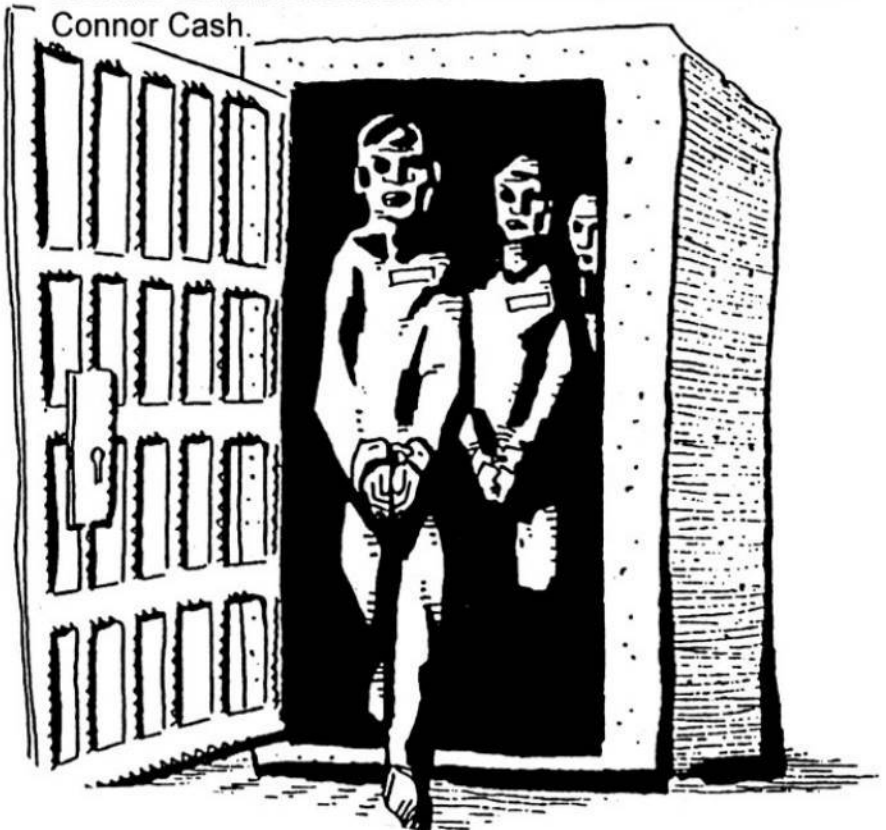
By the summer of 1999 Federal and State authorities began to investigate the Long Island Chapter of the Animal Defense League (ADL). Local and Federal authorities began to probe the ADL searching for leads pertaining to the militant direct action group the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), a group who partakes in liberations of animals from places of abuse and acts of economic sabotage against industries cruel to animals. ADL members often fell victim to arrests, beatings, trumped up charges, and even imprisonment for their unwillingness to cooperate with an activist witch hunt. The level of political repression and intimidation the animal rights activist would continue to rise throughout 1999 and into 2000, when after the summer of 2000 when the witch hunt was broadened to include environmental activists, anti-globalization activists, and even advocates for the homeless and hungry. By December or 2000 Connor became such target, as a result of his involvement in Food Not Bombs! and The Modern Times Collective.

When media outlets began to report that actions being taken by radical factions of the environmental and animal liberation movements were intensifying, authorities responded by intensifying their investigations.

In January 2001 Connor and other youth activists were approached at their homes by federal agents asking them to divulge any information they could provide to help shed light on their stagnating investigations. Federal agents made both verbal and physical threats to activists trying to coerce them into providing information pertaining to their case. One financially burdened activist was offered a bribe of many thousands of dollars in hopes that the activist would infiltrate the ADL, another was told he would be charged with crimes if he did not cooperate, and Connor too was approached and threatened by agents stating, *"it's going to be your ass if you do not cooperate*. At that moment Connor contacted Attorney Fred Brewington, acclaimed for his civil rights cases and hired him. From the day Connor refused to cooperate and implicate other activists until February 15th, he and friends were followed by photographers and videographers.

On February 15th Connor was arrested by FBI agents and indicted on the charge of arson conspiracy. Three other teens were arrested in the days prior to Connor's arrest, the three teens each plead guilty to one count of arson conspiracy in an agreement that they would cooperate with federal investigators. The agreement made by the three teens cleared them of being prosecuted of many other severe felony crimes. It is not known as of yet as to the nature of Connor's indictment, but it is assumed that one of the three teens purged testimony implicating Connor during a closed grand jury proceeding as part of his plea bargain agreement. The three teens all face up to 40 years imprisonment, but if they implicate others they could end up serving less than 5 years. Unlike the other three teens Connor has entered a plea of innocent, and had bail set at the amount of $250,000. Connor's family put a lean on their home as a form of collateral to attain Connor's release from custody. Connor is currently free pending future trial dates and is in desperate need of your help in order to prove that he is truly innocent!

See the *Contacts* section for information on now to help Connor Cash.



Anarchist Nikos Maziotis on hunger strike in solidarity with the struggle of political prisoners in Turkey against the white-cells.

His letter from prison is the following:

"Despising death, Turkish and Kurdish imprisoned comrades continue their struggle against the new isolation cells. While the capitalist "democracies" of the West, including the greek state which imposes an antiterrorist law under the pressure of the USA, are all naturally the accomplices in the crimes of the turkish state, at the same time many revolutionary prisoners in Europe, such as from PCE(r) and GRAPO in Spain, from Action Directe in France and from the Combating Communists Cells in Belgium, have expressed their solidarity with the Turkish and Kurdish comrades, by making few-days hunger strikes by turns, starting from April until today. After the 5-days symbolic hunger strike I made in December 2000, this time I participate from June 9 to 13 in this international movement of hunger strikes in solidarity with the Turkish and Kurdish comrades. Because prisons, isolations, tortures, antiterrorist laws, repression, are implemented by all states and by all governments. Because Revolt against the State, the Capital and the New Order is Just. Because Solidarity is our Weapon."

9 June 2001
Nikos Maziotis,
Koridallos Prison
Athens, Greece

The Earth First! Journal has moved to Tucson with a new collective but is still offering free prisoner subscriptions. The latest issue looks great. Contact them at: EF!J, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702,520-620-6900 collective@earthfirstjournal.org

Fascist Legislation in the Works: The State's response to the growing effectiveness of the radical environmental movement



Since the last issue of *Spirit of Freedom*, the Oregon State government has used increased resistance in the Northwest as further justification to pass their hate crime bills. On June 2, just a day after log trucks were burnt near Eagle Creek and on the same day that the ELF communiqué regarding the UW/Clatskanie fires came out, government peons passed the following legislation:

House Bill 2344 and HB2385. They expand Oregon's racketeering statutes to include crimes against research,

livestock and agricultural facilities and make ``interference with agricultural research" a new crime.

Washington State Update

Not to be outdone, Washington State is also proposing new laws targeting direct actionists in the wake of the recent ELF fires at the University of Washington and Jefferson Polar Farms. Mink farmer Harvey Beck has this to say at a hearing for this new bill:

> *"Peaceful protests and civil discourse are welcome," Beck said. "But we must find out how we as a society can stop an international crime spree driven by a poorly conceived and fundamentally flawed philosophy, the sad and confused philosophy of (the) Animal and Earth Liberation (Fronts)."*

Washington state's sabotage law was written in 1903 in response to local anarchist groups, and it needs to be updated to include new targets, such as university researchers. The legislator who proposed this bill had this to say: "They need some reassurance that we're taking notice and will respond appropriately and that we're concerned about terrorist activities."

Hands off our Kids?

House of Reps bill 1847 IH has been put forth, subtitled the "*Hands off our Kids Bill* "(no, really). This worthless bill "requires the Attorney General to identify organizations that recruit juveniles to participate in violent and illegal activities related to the environment or to animal rights". The reality is that there's no need for groups like Earth First ! or the Earth Liberation Front to recruit amongst the young ; the youth of today already realize that their planet and their future is being stolen from them by power- crazed lunatics in three piece

suits and they'll continue to fight back regardless of how many more laws the state passes.

NY State pushes for longer jail terms for anti-genetic engineering activists

Prompted by last year's sabotage of genetically engineered corn at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (by the ELF) , state lawmakers are pushing for prison terms of up to 7 Years for eco-terrorists who destroy crops intended for research in the burgeoning field of genetic engineering.

Legislators in Albany say the threat posed by vandals to genetic research is real enough to warrant tougher laws.

"It's not happening every other day, but it does happen," said State Sen. Carl Marcellino (R-Syosset), chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. "The legislation I've developed is a result of damage done." There is a parallel bill in the Assembly.

The move in the legislature to protect genetically engineered crops coincides with efforts by Gov. George Pataki and lawmakers to expand the state's biotechnology industry by extending hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives to the state's universities and companies. If the effort is successful, it could mean many more potential targets in New York State.

Denny Henke, a spokesman for Genetix Alert Press Office, a Memphis group that publicizes anti-genetic engineering activism, said that continued attacks are warranted. "The real vandalism and danger here is not destruction of genetically engineered crops but the crops themselves. When you manipulate an organism genetically, there's no guarantee that it's going to stay put," Henke said.

NY Governor Proposes Tough Anti-Terrorism Package: State Law Would Make Convicted Terrorists Eligible for the Death Penalty

Gov. George Pataki of New York state recently proposed new anti-terrorism legislation that officially would make "eco-terrorism" (governmental doublespeak for what we would call eco-defense) a crime in New York state and that included an amendment that would make anyone convicted of "terrorism' eligible for the death penalty.

Pataki said the increasing number of terrorist attacks occurring in the state makes these new laws essential for helping combat these crimes.

The initiative was unveiled as the ALF and ELF claimed credit for string of vandalism at several banks on Long Island.

The governor proposed a legislation package, called the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001, that would establish six new categories of crime for people who commit terrorist acts, make terrorist threats, facilitate or provide material for terrorist acts and hinder the prosecution of terrorists.

The toughest proposal in the package would amend the death penalty statute to make a person who murders another person an act of terrorism eligible for the death penalty. Under current law, anyone convicted of such a crime cannot be considered for the death penalty.

Since the state propaganda machine has spent millions of dollars over the course of the last several years attempting to vilify underground revolutionary movements like the Earth Liberation Front, it shouldn't be difficult to predict where all this is heading. Now that the ELF and ALF have proven that the threat of longer and longer prison sentences is not enough to quell the spirit of resistance, the State is falling back on it's ultimate weapon of fear: legalized murder of political dissidents.

House Bill 2947, includes technical clarifications to better define crimes of research and animal interference and interference with livestock production. Also classifies such acts as Class C felonies if damage is 2,500 or more and as Class A misdemeanors if damage is less than $2,500.

This sort of legislation is to be expected with an increase in the US in attacks on agricultural, logging and other industries. It doesn't seem to phase the underground as shown by the actions that continue to happen in the northwest and beyond as the bills are being proposed. These bills, in many ways, are nothing more than a public relations scam. Faced with a public kept in the dark by corporate media and campaigns by wise use idiots like Ron Arnold, the government burecrats have to pretend they are making progress in stooping this plague of "eco-terror". Bills that do not do anything more than extend already existing laws are the legislators way of getting the heat off their back and thus, should not be taken as anything more than that. Nonetheless, the underground needs our support. Timely letters to the *Register Guard* in Eugene has led to people actually debating the attempted conversion of direct action to organized crime status by the FBI.



Please keep us updated about bills such as these being proposed in your bioregion. Send us any press clippings or ideas to our address.

Prisoner Listings

Ecodefense

Jeremiah Rush Bowen. #108016, DCC, 1140 East 10 Road, Delta, CO 81416. Serving two years for the arson of a townhouse in Boulder, Colorado in the summer of 2000

Jeffrey "Free" Luers. Recently sentenced to 22 ½ years for 11 charges relating to two arsons in Eugene, OR. Free is in an inmate transfer station in Clackamas, OR right now and his final destination is unknown at this time. For now, letters to Free can be sent to POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405.

Craig Marshall, PO Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97405. aka Critter. Serving a five and a half year sentence for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of unlawful devices.

Ted Kaczynski (04475-046), US Pen - admin Max Facility, PO Box 8500, Florence Colorado 81226.

Helen Woodson, 03231-045 FMC Carswell, POB 27137 Admin Max Unit, Fort Worth, TX 76127. Serving 27 years for robbing a bank and then setting the money on fire while reading out a statement denouncing greed, capitalism and the destruction of the environment.

Lee Himlin EX7748 HMP Perry Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, N65 3AG UK. Awaiting sentencing for sabotaging quarrying equipment which is threatening a protected National Park and the Nine Ladies stone circle.

Nikos Maziotis, c/o Dafni Vaganou, Ozortz 3, 10689 Athenes, Greece. Sentenced to 5½ years for bombing the Greek Ministry of Industry in protest of TVX-Gold's plans to build a factory in Strymonikos Bay.

Vegan Resource Pack- available from PCRM, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 404, Washington DC 20016 They can send a packet about vegan nutrition to wardens and prison dieticians

Frontline Information Service
http://www.animalliberation.net

Earth Liberation Front
http://www.earthliberationfront.com

NA ELPSN Recommends...

Resistance- Journal of the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office Volume two, Number one

This new issue of Resistance begins the second volume in a new 'magazine' format and a full-color cover. Contents include a diary of actions from Fall of 2000 to Spring 2001, updates on the legal situations in Portland, Bloomington and Long Island and much more.

Copies of this issue are available at the following rates:
1 copy = $5 PPD in the US, $6 elsewhere
10 copies = $25 PPD in the US, $28 elsewhere
25 copies = $50 PPD in the US, $55 elsewhere
50 copies = $75 PPD in the US, $85 elsewhere

Subscriptions to the entirety of volume two of Resistance, consisting of 4 issues, are available for $20 within the US, $25 elsewhere.

Please make any checks or money orders out to "Resistance". All proceeds go directly to the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office.

Resistance
PO BOX 4783
PDX, OR 97208
lesliejames@tao.ca
503.478.0902

From: NAELPSN
POB 11331
Eugene, OR 97440
U$A