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Earth First! News

ON THE FRONTLINES OF ECOLOGICAL RESISTANCE



IDLE NO MORE

By Skyler Simmons

"I support Idle No More because I believe that we have to stand up anytime our nation's land base is threatened—whether it is legislation, deforestation, mining prospecting, condo development, pipelines, tar sands or golf courses. I stand up anytime our nation's land base is threatened because everything we have of meaning comes from the land—our political systems, our intellectual systems, our health care, food security, language and our spiritual sustenance and our moral fortitude." – Leanne Simpson, Mississauga Nishnaabeg activist and author

When four women educators held a teach-in last fall in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan titled "Idle No More" they had little idea that it would quickly escalate into a national movement which would soon shut down critical parts of Canada's infrastructure. The teach-in was intended to educate students and teachers on a new Canadian bill that attacked indigenous sovereignty and environmental protections.

The bill in question, C-45, introduced earlier in 2012, made major changes to Canada's Indian Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Environmental Assessment Act. Changes to Canada's Environmental Assessment Act were made last year when the first omnibus bill was passed giving ministers more approval power over energy and pipeline projects. Bill C-45 makes further

NEWS FROM THE ECO-WARS

DEC 15 - EF! ECO-CHOIR MAKES HOUSE VISITS IN MICHIGAN

Deep Water EF! spread the anti-fracking spirit with a holiday choir. The carolers paid evening house visits to the head of the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and a rep of the Michigan Oil and Gas Producers Foundation. Holiday classics such as "Corporate Scum" and "Six Feet Below the Ground" were sung to the sleepy industry flaks.

DEC 16 - PROTESTERS GREET ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER IN CALIFORNIA

A small but angry group of Armenian expatriates greeted their Prime Minister as he visited LA to protest against massive copper mines that are destroying forests, particularly the Teghut Forest in Armenia's northern region, where a massive open-pit copper mine is to be built. Armenia has only 10% of its original forest left.

DEC 17 - FLORIDA PANTHER DEATHS HIT RECORD HIGH

Twenty-six Florida panthers have died in 2012making it the deadliest year yet for the endangered species. "Florida panthers are dying on roadways they have to cross in their dayto-day lives because they're increasingly squeezed into smaller fragments of land between developments,' said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. Only 100 to 160 Florida panthers remain in the wild.

DEC 18 - ANOTHER CROATAN EF! LOCK DOWN AGAINST FRACKING

Four activists with Croatan EF! were arrested when a mobile demo against fracking ended with a lockdown at the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources head-quarters in Raleigh. State legislators are currently trying to fast track legislation to allow fracking in NC.

DEC 18 - SHELL ABANDONS PLANS TO FRACK BC'S SACRED HEADWATERS

After years of protests and blockades, Shell Canada announced that it was giving up its attempt to drill for gas on a 400,000 hectare tract known as the Sacred Headwaters to the Talhtan people. The British Colombia government says it will enact a permanent moratorium on oil and gas drilling on the tract.

DEC 21 - TRIBAL PROTESTS CONTINUE AGAINST SKI RESORT

Members of several Southwestern tribes hit the streets of Flagstaff, AZ to protest the kickoff of the 75th season of the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort. Opposition came to a head more recently when Snowbowl applied for permits to use reclaimed sewage water for snowmaking, a clear desecration of this sacred site. Several activists are currently facing federal charges for allegedly dumping reclaimed wastewater in a Forest Service office.

JAN 3 - NEW TREESIT AGAINST KXL PIPELINE IN TEXAS

A new treesit was erected to block the construction of the KXL pipeline in Diboll, TX. The treesit was constructed shortly after the end of an 85-day-long treesit in Winnsboro, TX which ended only after the pipeline was rerouted around the blockade. In addition to disrupting pipeline construction, the treesitters declared their solidarity with the Idle No More movement in Canada.

"We must normalize and embrace direct, organized resistance to the death machine of industrial extraction and stand with those like Idle No More who take extraordinary risk to defend their families and livelihoods," said one of the treesitters.

JAN 10 - AUSTRALIA ADDS NEW COLOR TO HEAT INDEX CODE

Wild fires continued to rage across Australia and temperatures have become so hot the country's Bureau

Over 40,000 masked Zapatistas took to the streets in coordinated marches across Chiapas to mark the turning of the Mayan calendar. The Zapatistas marched silently and unarmed through the towns of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Ocosingo, Las Margaritas, Palenque and Altamirano, making it Mexico's largest public demonstration in years. No demands were made. A communique from Subcommandante Marcos released shortly after the march read, "Did you hear? It is the sound of your world collapsing. It is that of ours rising anew."





During a day of action against the KXL pipeline 50 protesters took over the lobby of Transcanada's US headquarters in Houston, TX. As the Texas protesters were raising a ruckus, students in Westborough, MA locked themselves inside another Transcanada office in solidarity. Pipeline contractor Michel's was visited by protesters in Milwaukee, WI and protesters in Maine, fighting a different pipeline project, protested outside TD Bank, a major investor in the Keystone pipeline.

of Meteorology was forced made the following stateto add a new color - deep purple - to show areas that have exceeded all-time heat records. Previously Bureau's heat index was capped at 118.4°F, but now recorded temperatures of over 122°F have pushed the limit of the scale to an unheard of 129°F.

JAN 15 - SIX ARRESTED FOR DISRUPTING ENBRIDGE HEARING IN VANCOUVER

Six activists snuck past heavy security to ensure that climate change was on the agenda of the environmental impact hearing for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline in Canada. Once in the hearing room, the activists donned "Stop the Pipeline" shirts and cordoned off the room with yellow "Climate Crime Scene" tape.

JAN 16 - GULF COAST RESIDENTS END 46 DAY **HUNGER STRIKE**

Gulf Coast activists Diane Wilson and Bob Lindsey engaged in a 46-day hunger strike to call attention to Valero's involvement with TransCanada and their presence in the community of Manchester, TX. After ending their strike they

ment:

"On November 29th, 2012 in protest of Valero's involvement with the KXL pipeline we locked our necks to industrial trucks just outside the Valero refinery. We were arrested and immediately began a hunger strike in solidarity with the struggling people of the community of Manchester. We demanded that Valero not only cease all business with TransCanada but vacate the Manchester neighborhood that they have exploited for decades.'

JAN 19 - MASKED MILITANTS PROTEST **ENBRIDGE PIPELINE**

In a sign of escalating tensions over proposed pipelines in Canada, a group of blackclad militants joined a 1000 person march against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline in Vancouver. While Black Blocs are a normal sight at anti-globalization and anti-capitalist marches they are rare at environmental protests. Welcome aboard!

JAN 22 - ACTIVISTS DISRUPT ARCH COAL HQ IN ST. LOUIS

Seven protesters affiliated with the RAMPS campaign (Radical Action for Moun-

tain Peoples' Survival), MORE (Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment) and Mountain Justice locked down to a 500-pound potted tree in Arch Coal's HQ while a larger group performed a song and dance in the lobby as a helium balloon banner with the message "John Eaves Your Coal Company Kills" was directed at the Arch Coal CEO. Arch Coal is one of the largest operators of strip mines in Appalachia.

JAN 24 - ARABS AND JEWS BLOCKADE TOGETHER AGAINST WASTE DUMP

Arab and Jewish protesters blocked traffic and clashed with police during a protest against a waste dump in Qalansawe. The residents claim that the state has turned their region into "Israel's backyard and one of the most polluted areas in the country." They also hope to dissuade other entrepreneurs from setting up a cement factory that will increase pollution.

JAN 26 - NAVAJOS AND APPALACHIANS PROTEST PEABODY ENERGY

One hundred people marched on Peabody Energy's HQ in St. Louis to demand an end to strip mining. Residents of Appalachia and Navajo tribal members who are directly impacted by Peabody strip mines joined forces with housing rights activists and union members to demand justice for their communities. Ten were arrested after staging a sit-in on Peabody property.

JAN 26 - ELF PRISONER CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE

Activists around the world honored earth liberation prisoner Marie Mason with an array of events on her 51st birthday. Potlucks, parties, banner drops and movie showings were held across the US, New Zealand, Israel, the Netherlands and Canada. Mason is serving a 22-year sentence for sabo-

tage against genetic engineering, logging, water privatization and fur farming.

JAN 28 - POLICE EVICT UK ANTI-ROAD ENCAMPMENT

Over 100 police were deployed to evict an encampment blocking the construction of the Bexhill to Hastings road in the UK. A dozen people climbed trees to prevent them from being cut while many more locked themselves to the base of the trees. The \$100 million road would tear through four miles of forests and farmland and open the area for industrial development.

JAN 29 - EARTH FIRST! CONFRONTING TAR SANDS INVESTORS IN CONNECTICUT

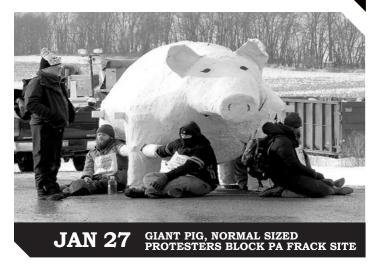
Rising Tide Vermont and Green Mountain EF! joined forces to protest a conference for investors in Canada's tar sand oil in Hartford, CT. Protesters attempted to enter the building but were forced back by a massive police presence. Earlier in the morning some tricksters sowed confusion by placing official looking signs directing investors to the wrong building and others saying the event was cancelled.

JAN 29 - TREESIT HALTS CALTRANS BYPASS

A coalition of environmental groups came out to support a treesit erected by EF! near the town of Willits, CA. The treesit was erected to block CalTrans construction of the Hwy 101 bypass around the town of Willits. The Center for Biological Diversity and the California Farm Bureau have also filed a lawsuit against the road.

JAN 30 - RANCHERS, NATIVE ACTIVISTS PROTEST KXL NEBRASKA

Over 100 people came together at the NE state capitol to condemn Gov Dave Heineman's approval of the Keystone XL pipleline through their state. Native activists



Forty protesters blocked access to a fracking site threatening an organic farm in North Beaver, PA. The protesters deployed a giant pig in the entrance of the well site, to which four people locked themselves. Despite shutting down the entrance for the day nobody was arrested. The police did, however, take their porcine brother into custody. The pig's whereabouts are currently unknown.

and ranchers, who historically have been at odds with each other, came together to organize the event.

JAN 30 - 2 ARRESTED FOR FLYERING PEABODY CEO'S HOME IN ST LOUIS

Two activists found themselves behind bars for distributing flyers in the apartment complex where Peabody Energy's CEO Greg Boyce lives. The flyers were intended to alert Boyce's neighbors of the ongoing genocide his company perpetuates by mining coal on Navajo land. The activists received the honorable charge of "disturbing the peace."

JAN 31 - TAR SANDS BLOCKADER INTERRUPTS TRANSCANADA CONFER-ENCE

Ramsey Sprague of Tar Sands Blockade chained himself to audio equipment at the Pipe Tech America's 2013 conference during a presentation by TransCanada executive Tom Hamilton, then gave his own speech to 300 attendees about TransCanada's poor safety record. He spoke about shoddy welding and

the holes that activists documented in the welds when blockaded inside the pipe on December 3. He reminded attendees that the first KXL pipeline has already leaked 30 times. Though the attempt to drown Sprague out with elevator jazz failed to silence him, he was arrested after several minutes.

FEB 2 - TASMANIAN ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE MINING IN THE TARKINE FOREST

Activists from the group Groundswell deployed a banner reading "FOR DEV-ILS SAKE, DON'T MINE THE TARKINE" from the Alexandra Suspension Bridge, in Launceston's Cataract Gorge. The two climbers - a local law student and a doctor - remained suspended from the bridge for two hours. "The Tarkine region of Northwest Tasmania contains the last wild populations of disease free devils. Mining and associated activities are of significant threat to the devils of this region." said Groundswell spokesperson Sarah Van Est.

FEB 2 - PEMEX EXPLO-SIONS: 33 DEAD, 121 INJURED IN MEXICO OIL COMPANY BLAST

A blast collapsed the lower floors of a building in the headquarters of Mexico's state-owned oil company, crushing at least 33 people beneath tons of rubble and injuring 121. As hundreds of emergency workers dug through the rubble, the company's worst disaster in a decade fueled debate about Pemex, a vital source of government revenue that is suffering from decades of underinvestment and has been hit by a recent series of accidents that have tarnished its otherwise improving safety record.

Other recent Pemex accidents include a pipeline blast that killed 30 workers in September and in 2007, 22 workers were killed when a storm hit an offshore oil rig.

FEB 4 - OKLAHOMA WOMAN LOCKS DOWN TO TAR SANDS EQUIPMENT

Oklahoma resident Elizabeth Leja locked her neck to equipment used in constructing the KXL pipeline. Citing concerns for Oklahoma's waterways and their importance for the health of future generations, her actions halted construction at the site on Highway 62, just North of the North Canadian River, for the day. This was the first action of the Oklahoma group, Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance

FEB 5 - HUNDREDS PRO-TEST FRACKING AT NEW YORK CAPITAL HEARING

Gas-drilling opponents repeatedly interrupted a hearing on lifting a four and a half year-old moratorium on fracking with applause, groans, or hissing. Many held small signs with slogans such as "No shale gas," although security guards made them leave larger placards outside. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, joined the protesters to sign a "pledge of resistance" to fracking and discuss utilizing civil disobedience if shale gas development is permitted.

A group of anti-nuclear protests affiliated with Idle No More stopped a train in the Davenport area after their demonstration against a nearby uranium facility migrated onto CP Rail tracks. The GE-Hitachi plant caused an uproar in November when the surrounding community learned the facility in their midst had been processing uranium dioxide powder into pellets since 1965. Organizer Zach Ruiter said CP trains carry uranium powder to the facility, which is why they blocked the train. Though there was a large police presence, they stayed for 2 hours, waved banners, took photos and were able to leave of their own accord without arrest.



FEB 6 - INDIGENOUS LEADERS CONFRONT ECUADORIAN GOVT IN HOUSTON

Tar Sands Blockaders joined indigenous leaders from the Achuar and Shuar tribes who inhabit the Amazonian rainforest of Ecuador along with their allies from Amazon Watch and representatives from Idle No More - Gulf Coast. The group stormed the lobby of the Westin Hotel in Houston where the Ecuadorian government was making arrangements to auction off land for oil exploration and industrial development without the consent of the tribes who live there.

FEB 8 - STAND AGAINST NESTLÉ DAY OF ACTION

Nearly 200 Oregonians put on their finest red clothing and joined BARK and the Keep Nestlé Out of the Gorge Coalition in Lower Macleay Park to take a stand against Nestlé's grab at public water resources in the Columbia River Gorge. After laying giant letters across the soggy grass to spell the word 'Nestlé,' the crowd came together to create a red circle around it. Then a line of people situated themselves across the circle, creating a clear message: "No Nestlé!"

FEB 10 - WILD HORSES SOLD TO 'KILL BUYER' BY BLM CONTRACTOR

The Wild Horse Federation obtained proof that a BLM Long Term Holding contractor sold wild horses directly to kill buyer Joe Simon, who is well known for sending horses to slaughter, and who owns JS Ranch ("Farms") in Perkins, Oklahoma.

FEB 11 - SLOVAKIA URA-NIUM MINING PROTEST

About 50 people showed their disagreement with the plan to open Slovakia to uranium mining at a protest in front of Košice's town hall. Foreign investment is turning its eyes towards Slovakia's mountains which may contain 5.5 million tons of ore rich in uranium and molybdenum. Environmentalists worry for their water sources and their safety.

FEB 11 - OKLAHOMA PASTOR LOCKS DOWN TO KXL CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Stefan Warner, a youth pastor who was born and raised in Harrah, OK, locked himself to machinery being used to build the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline through Creek land by treaty near Schoolton, OK.

FEB 12 - FIRST NATION YOUTH WALK TO PROTEST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVISION

Youth from Manitoba First Nations walked hundreds of kilometers to Winnipeg protesting bill C-95 which changes federal environmental laws that they say will harm their land. More than 50 youth, mainly from the Jackhead First Nation, spent four days marching about 250 kilometers from their home reserve to the capital city, stopping only to sleep.

FEB 12 - RIOT POLICE ATTACK COMMUNITIES PROTESTING OIL EXPLOI-TATION IN COLOMBIA

After two weeks of peaceful protesting against oil exploitation in Arauca, the city's social organizations began a strike as a response to the repeated broken promises by the national government and transnational companies. Approximately 1,200 members of the Mobile Anti-Disturbance Squadron (the ES-MAD in Spanish) arrived to violently evict the communities at the protest sites. At the gate to the petroleum complex Caricare, which is used by the transnational company OXY, the ESMAD,

Police and Army assaulted the mobilized communities by setting fires to the surrounding pastures, discharging their weapons, destroying a school, taking away food supplies to the protesters and beating and retaining four people.

FEB 13 - FORTY-EIGHT ARRESTED DURING KEY-STONE XL PROTEST

Members of the Sierra Club, including the President Allison Chin, and Director Micheal Brune as well as other anti-Keystone activists handcuffed themselves to the fence outside the White House and held a banner reading "Lead on Climate Change Reject KXL Pipeline" under a logo similar to President Obama's. They cheered the names of each protester and thanked them as they were led away from the group by police.

FEB 14 - YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARKS WANTS TO KILL 400 FEMALE BISON THIS YEAR

Buffalo Field Campaign released a PSA to inform the public of Yellowstone National Park's plan to kill 400 female bison due to a "skewed sex ratio." This would be done with taxpayer money.

FEB 15 - FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED OVER WRONGFUL DEATH OF **JAGUAR MACHO B**

The Arizona Star newspaper filed a lawsuit in federal court against the US Fish and Wildlife Service seeking the criminal investigation into the capture and death of a jaguar known as Macho B. They discovered that researchers captured the jaguar, and had to euthanize it after their trap injured Macho B so badly that he could not be returned to the wild.

FEB 17 - KXL PROTEST-**ERS PRESSURE OBAMA** ON CLIMATE CHANGE **PROMISE**

Thousands of protesters descended on Washington DC demanding Barack Obama shut down the Keystone XL pipeline project to show he is serious about taking action on climate change. Organizers said a crowd of 35,000, carrying placards in the shape of red

On Red Lake sovereign nation land located in what is today known as northern Minnesota, an occupation started at a location above the Enbridge-owned pipeline built without permission in 1949. The group of Red Lake Chippewa and Anishinaabe Indians was joined by blockaders and solidarity activists determined to shut down the pipelines.





Fifty masked people armed with Molotov cocktails stormed a gold mine in northern Greece. After torching bulldozers, trucks, and portacabins belonging to Canadian mining company El Dorado and its Greek subsidiary Hellenic Gold, the group used tree trunks to block police and firefighters from reaching the scene.

stop signs, gathered at the Washington monument on a bright but bitterly cold day for the march on the White House. Protesters bussed in from 30 states and Canadian provinces.

FEB 18 - NEVADA TRIBES PROTEST BEAR HUNTS

About 30 members of Nevada Indian tribes danced, drummed and sang outside the Legislative Building to protest the killing of bears, animals they call sacred brothers and sisters. The Indians want the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 82 to outlaw bear hunting in Nevada. In the past two years, 25 bears have been taken in the first bear hunting seasons in state history.

FEB 19 - LOCAL RESIDENTS BLOCKADE FRACKING PIPELINE

Two local youth blocked the pipeline construction by locking themselves through a Delaware State forest gate in Milford Township. Allison Petryk of Vernon, NJ and Alex Lotorto of Milford, PA remained at the gate at the end of Schocopee Road

throughout the night again to prevent access by pipeline tree clearing crews. They were arrested the next day, but the treesit remained

FEB 22 - GOVERNMENT STUDY CONFIRMS TOXIC TAR SANDS WASTE LEAK-ING INTO GROUNDWATER

"The studies have, for the first time, detected potenharmful, miningrelated organic acid contaminants in groundwater outside a long-established out-of-pit tailings pond," the memo reads. "This finding is consistent with publicly available technical reports of seepage (both projected in theory, and detected in practice)."

FEB 26 - SECOND TREESIT DEPLOYED **AGAINST** TENNESSEE PIPELINE

Local resident free-climbed a tree in the projected path of the pipeline in order to stop felling. He stayed in the tree for a day and part of the night. When it started to sleet he snuck down the hemlock and escaped while two police cars, with lights flashing, and two

Updates continued on page 9...

2013 ORGANIZERS CONFERENCE REPORT BACK

Pebruary's daily freezing and thawing in the foothills of central Appalachia signal the trees that it's time to get that sap flowing and get ready to move into a new period of growth. It also happened to be the time that Earth Firstlers gathered to get down to business. This year's Organizers Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous, which one old guard EFler claims to have been the best attended since the '90s, took place a few miles outside of Athens, Ohio. The week was an alcohol/drug free space focused on strengthening our movement and was full of amazing people and workshops. Hell yeah!

FIRST NATION WORKSHOPS

A caravan of First Nations land defenders from Fort Chipewyan, the Oshkimaadziig Camp, Nogojiwanong, and the Unis'to'ten Camp, came to share ideas on how to be stronger allies with Indigenous people and their struggles, as well as network with folks working on extraction issues, particularly tar sands, fracking and pipeline resistance. The caravan shared their personal stories of Indigenous resistance across the north of Turtle Island, what is commonly referred to as Canada, and approaches to decolonization. After the presentation, settlers were encouraged to debrief and discuss ways to engage in better allyship and inclusion.

CLIMBERS' GUILD

Meetings, interest and participation in the Earth First! Climber's Guild has been growing rapidly over the last couple years and it showed at this years Organizer's Conference. Breakout groups worked on updating and expanding Volume III of the Climber's Guild Climb Guides, discussions occurred on how the guild could expand and guidelines were set as to how and when EF!CG trainers can approve other EF!CG trainers. A few lucky EF!ers got to practice their climbing skills during the culminating action.

NEW APPROACH TO ANTI-OPPRESSION

While preparing for the gathering, organizers put a lot of attention into outreaching to and including folks who have never been to an EF! Rondy before. Inclusion of communities affected most by resource extraction and climate chaos is fundamental to anti-oppression (AO) work, but engaging in solidarity actions is not the end of our AO work—it also involves creating safe(r) spaces for all and learning what it takes to be a good ally. Within EF! many organizers have expressed desires for work within our movement surrounding AO to evolve, at this year's Organizers' Conference we began to see a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. There were presentations, discussions, workshops and a panel to help our 200+ person camp of dedicated eco-warriors gain knowledge and skills on how to be better allies to the marginalized communities we want and need to support.

THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

The *Journal* Collective held two workshops over the course of the 5-day conference. The first discussion focused on business-related issues; the second on "How to Plug into the *EF! J*". The *Journal* seems to be constantly evolving and is currently expanding the collective with the creation of a business management collective and an art

and design collective. Collective members are becoming more specialized in their focus and attempting to further decentralize from the home office in South Florida. Many were supportive of ideas presented to increase the number of people working on media projects as well as the business and non-profit responsibilities that always seem hard for a small editorial collective to manage.

At the second workshop the Journal Collective presented an overview of the various media projects that they have been maintaining and how others can plug in from afar. Aside from producing the printed Earth First! Journal magazine, the collective has been steadily publishing the quarterly newsletters EF! News and working daily on the Earth First! Newswire. The newswire statistics confirm that EF! and related news are reaching more readers than ever before! The workshop break-away groups discussed a breakdown of EF! media projects and touched on the idea of using EF! Media Group as an umbrella name for all EF! media. The break-away discussions included: marketing posters and web marketing tools, manageing communications with EF! Groups and allies, fundraising and grant writing, short-terming on the editorial collective and the EF! Speakers Bureau. If you're interested in becoming more involved with the EF! Journal Collective, send a message to: collective@earthfirstjournal.org A COLLECTIVE ASS-KICKING

With only one workshop left in the three year, six part series entitled: "Giving EF! a Kick in the Ass," things are winding down and concrete plans are coming together. The main crux of the workshop was talking through a few new(ish) movement tools: the Full Time Direct Action Pledge (asking folks to commit to throw down and show up when certain criteria are met), the EF! calendar on the Newswire, an Action Alert List, and the Speaker's/Trainer's Bureau. In an effort to address some of the dynamics around inclusivity and new membership in EF!, people got

changes to the act, so that only major projects will undergo environmental evaluations. The bill also overhauls the Navigable Waters Protection Act, exempting pipelines from the assessments that come with the law and leaving less than 1 percent of Canada's waterways protected. The changes to the Indian act made it far easier to privatize indigenous treaty lands.

In short, C-45 is an unprecedented assault on indigenous sovereignty and environmental laws intended to pave the way for a new wave of industrial extraction projects including oil and gas drilling, roads, pipelines, mines and dams, many of which will directly impact First Nation's communities.

The small spark ignited at the Saskatoon teach-in soon caught flame with a national Day of Action on December

10, when dozens of protests and flash mobs spread across the country under the banner of Idle No More. One popular protest that has become a signature of the Idle No More movement is the round dance. Part ceremony, part protest, and wholly disruptive, demonstrators take over public space, like shopping m a 1 1 s a n d busy intersections, and dance in a circle to drumming and singing. In one of the biggest solidarity protests in the US, over 1,000 people occupied the Mall of America and engaged in a round dance.

The day of action saw another significant act of protest. As protesters took to the streets all over Canada, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence began what would become a six-week hunger strike to demand a meeting with Prime Minister Harper. Her hunger strike proved to be a galvanizing force on the budding movement, and soon the flames of Idle No More spread like wildfire.

As some Canadians were getting into the holiday spirit, Idle No More protesters continued to escalate their tactics. On December 17 members of the Sandy Bay First Nation in Manitoba blocked the Trans-Canada Highway. The next day members of the Driftpile First Nation reciprocated with a highway blockade of their own. Around the



same time Aamjiwnaang First Nation members began a blockade of a major rail line that lasted for over a week. In Alberta indigenous protesters blockaded Hwy 63, the only access to the heart of Canada's tar sands industry. In Sault Ste. Marie protesters shut down two highways and a rail line simultaneously on December 27. "For 500 years of colonialism we've been strictly told what to do," said Lesley Belleau, a blockade participant. "It took one woman chief to lay down her life in sacrifice, who is dying for us now in order to get that voice out."

As Idle No More entered its second month, protests only grew in regularity and militancy. On January 5 protesters from several different indigenous nations coordinated to close down five border crossings with the US including the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ontario, the busiest border crossing in North America. When a reporter asked

Dan Doreen, a blockade participant about the inconvenience to motorists created by their protests he replied, "Try being inconvenienced for 500 years." The day also saw more rail and highway blockades around the country.

A day of action on January 11, timed to coincide with a meeting between Prime Minister Harper and First Nation's chiefs, saw the biggest show of force up to that point with a massive street presence in Canada and solidarity protests around the world. As First Nations members blocked the entrance to the Prime Ministers office and once again shut down various appendages of the country's infrastructure, solidarity protests sprung up from Cairo, Egypt and Palestine, to Auckland and Paris. Over 50 demonstrations representing dozens of indigenous nations were held in the US, including a blockade of a border crossing by members of the Mohawk tribe in upstate New York.

As spring slowly emerges through the melting winter snow, Idle No More continues to grow and evolve. While the regularity and intensity of the protests have scaled back in February, organizers say this not a sign of retreat, but a time of reflection and education in their communities to ensure their next efforts are even stronger. In a matter of months Idle No More grew from a small group of teachers to a global struggle for indigenous sovereignty and defense of the land. It is a movement that has the power to derail the Harper government's massive industrial assault on indigenous lands and untouched wilderness. It is a movement that Earth First! should look to for inspiration, and proudly join hands with at the barricades.



"At the dawn of industrialism, factories were modeled after prisons; in its twilight, prisons are now modeled after factories." —Os Cangaceiros

Supporting prisoners of ecological struggle is one important facet of the Earth First! Movement. The focus of our prisoner support and post-prison ¹ support is on eco-prisoners, caged animal liberationists and prisoners of indigenous land struggles, who share a biocentric viewpoint, either in the actions which lead to their arrest or in their general

On the EF! Newswire, links can be found to our current ecoprisoners, post-release support, political prisoners of allied struggles and prisoner support resources.

It is clearly a new era in the ecological movement. We have never known a time with this many people imprisoned for their involvement in explicitly biocentric struggle. While we do not make any assumptions of guilt for the state's allegations not accepted openly by individual prisoners, our position is not to pass judgment on the chosen tactics of those who have accepted political responsibility for their actions. If they are listed, it is because we respect the urgency reflected in their actions, or their ideas (as some prisoners are guilty only of thought-crime). Whether or not we condone specific tactics does not change our feeling that the listed prisoners reflect a level of courage and commitment that so many dream of and long for.

While the focus of the EF! Prisoner Support Project is on the US-held and international eco-prisoners listed, we also stand in solidarity with other prisoners who are unjustly incarcerated for their beliefs and actions that reflect a broader vision towards liberation from oppressive systems. We feel that crossmovement solidarity is of particular importance in prison-related efforts, where isolation is our common enemy's strategy.

EF! prisoner support is only for those who refuse to cooperate with law enforcement. Cooperation entails the passing of any information to law enforcement which can be used to subpoena, arrest or prosecute another person. This includes (but is not necessarily limited to) giving agents the names, locations, activities or associations of other individuals, whether before, during or after trial. There is never any excuse to aid law enforcement in their witch hunts, as this will only put other people in the same position; try to imagine the heartache that this will cause other people. In addition, snitches often receive the same or higher sentences, regardless of their cooperation.

Groups with evidence of cooperation have an obligation to make that information public. By our standards, if an individual cooperates with the government, all forms of support will end immediately. People that accept plea agreements but do not agree to provide information about other people still receive support.

A list of known informants is also available via Newswire. Earth-First Journal.org, as well as the full EF! policy on informants which was agreed on at the 2010 EF! Organizers' Conference in Santa Barbara, CA.

U.S.-HELD EARTH & ANIMAL LIBERATION PRISONERS

Marie Mason #04672-061, FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, PO Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX, 76127, USA. Serving 21 years and 10 months (until 9-18-27) for her involvement in an ELF arson at a University building carrying out genetically modified crop tests. Marie also pleaded guilty to conspiring to carry out ELF actions and admitted involvement in 12 other ELF actions. Birthday: January 26

Eric McDavid #16209-097, FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 3007, San Pedro, CA, 90731, USA. Serving 19 years and 7 months (until 2-10-23) for being entrapped and coerced to plan to destroy the property of the U.S. Forestry Service, mobile phone masts and power plants. At the point of his arrest, no criminal damage had occurred. Birthday: October 7

Walter Bond #37096-013, USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL, 62959, USA. Serving 12 years (until 3-21-21) for the "ALF Lonewolf" arsons of the Sheepskin Factory in Colorado, the Tandy Leather Factory and the Tiburon Restaurant that sold Foie Gras in Utah. Birthday: April 16

Justin Solondz #98291-011, FCI Loretto, PO Box 1000, Loretto, PA, 15940, USA. Serving 7 years (until 8-31-17) for a 2001 firebombing of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Birthday: October 3

Steve Murphy #39013-177, FCI Three Rivers, PO Box 4200, Three Rivers, TX, 78071, USA. Serving 5 years (until 2-25-14) for an attempted ELF arson on a town house construction site in Pasadena in 2006. Birthday: September 3

Rebecca Rubin #770288, 8A20, MCIJ, 11540 NE Inverness Dr., Portland, OR 97220, USA. Facing charges of arson and conspiracy for actions that occurred between 1996 and 2001. Rebecca may be moved in the near future, so check for a new address. Birthday: April 18

Fran Thompson #1090915, CCC, 3151 Litton Drive, Chillicothe, MO, 64601, USA. Serving life for killing a stalker who broke into her home in self-defense. Before her imprisonment, Fran was an eco, animal and anti-nuke campaigner. Birthday: January 4

INTERNATIONAL EARTH AND ANIMAL LIBERATION PRISONERS

Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 18 years for using explosives to destroy electricity pylons leading from nuclear power stations and for the murder of a Swiss Boarder Guard whilst on the run. Birthday: January 21

Viktor Padellaro Anstalten Kirseberg, Box 3097, 200 22 Malmö, Sweden. Sentenced to three years and six months in August 2011 for arson at a McDonald's, sending allegedly threatening letters to AstraZeneca employees and others actions against animal abuse. You can also send emails to be printed out and sent to him: s.gbg.vegan@gmail.com. Birthday: December 27

For more information, or to get involved, contact the EF! Prisoner Support Project: PO Box 163126, Sacramento, CA 95816 or efpris@riseup.net

workers searched the icy slopes of Cummins Hill Rd with flashlights.

FEB 27 - SEA SHEPHERD ANTI-WHALERS DE-CLARED PIRATES BY US FEDERAL COURT

The Court ordered them to cease their operations at sea, opening the door for Japanese whalers to pursue legal action in the US against the activists.

FEB 28 - PROTESTER LOCKS HIMSELF TO PRO-JECTOR, DISRUPTS OIL INDUSTRY GATHERING

Ethan Nuss, a protester with Tar Sands Blockade locked his neck to a projector screen in the middle of a TransCanada presentation at the North American Crude Marketing Conference in Houston. He confronted Paul Miller, TransCanada's Executive Vice President of Oil Pipelines, and a ballroom of industry investors, demanding a halt to the toxic Keystone XL pipeline.

MARCH 1 - GASLINE TREESITTER ARRESTED IN PENSYLVANIA

Gifford Pinchot was arrested on the ninth day of holding fast in a forest tree-sit meant to stop tree clearing for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline. He was charged with aggravated trespass, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct and was released on his own recognizance. The direct action follows nearly two years of local opposition from grassroots groups and political leaders.

MARCH 4 - CASCADIANS FACE STATE REPRES-SION IN FOREST DE-FENCE LAW

The Oregon House Committee on the Judiciary introduced HB-2595 that would felonize defense tactics on state forest lands, including Elliott State Forest. The law includes a mandatory minimum of 13 months in prison for a first offense of "interfering with state"

Nate Ebert, a 33-year-old Athens County resident and member of Appalachia Resist!, ascended a 30-foot pole, anchored to a truck that was dropping off toxic frack waste at the facility, preventing all trucks carrying frack waste from entering the site. Two banners were hung from tanks holding fracking waste. The front gate to the facility was locked by activists. All gates were blocked by activists and all work at the facility was halted. 10 were arrested.

FEB 19 EARTH FIRST!ERS BLOCKADE FRACKING WASTE WATER STOAGE FACILITY





Students and community members marched into Trans-Canada's Westborough office to protest Keystone XL Pipeline. Twenty-six people were arrested while locked together inside the office.

forestland management", and a full 5 year sentence for a second offense.

MARCH 5 - SRI LANKANS PROTEST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Organizer Prasad Ambalanyaya said the Russian-built Kudankulam plant poses a threat to lives and the environment in Sri Lanka and must be stopped. The first reactor at the plant is finished but a second unit has been delayed by protests by anti-nuclear groups and local residents.

MARCH 5 - FORT COLLINS BANS FRACKING IN CITY LIMITS

Defending this action Mayor Kelly Ohlson said "I believe the governor should spend his time protecting the health and safety and welfare of citizens of Colorado rather than acting like the chief lobbyist for the oil and gas industry. In fact, I think he should literally quit drinking the fracking Kool-Aid."

MARCH 8 - CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO OXFORD TARRED BY LOCAL PRO-TEST

Gordon Campbell was greeted with protests at Oxford University. Local community members held a "Keep Tar Sands out of Europe" banner at the entrance to Lady Margaret Hall as Campbell arrived to deliver a seminar at the UK college.

MARCH 8 - WASHINGTON STATE PASSES WOLF KILLING BILL

Senators in the Washington legislature passed one of several pending bills that aim to gut key portions of the state's wolf conservation and management plan, expanding when and how wolves can be killed. Senate Bill 5187 permits the

state wildlife commission to allow livestock owners and their agents to kill endangered wolves and other predators without a permit even if they are not attacking livestock.

MARCH 11 - THAI ENVI-RONMENTAL ACTIVIST MURDERED

Prajob Nao-opas was shot four times in broad daylight in Chacheongsao province, 20 miles east of Bangkok, after spending the past year fighting illegal toxic waste disposal by various industries in the region.

MARCH 11 - ALF ACTIVIST ARRESTED IN FRANCE

French authorities arrested Luca Bonvicini in Paris on charges of taking part in at least four arson attacks in Tuscany. At each event "ALF" was spray painted on the property. Earlier in January the police arrested Philip Serlupi and Oggioni Lorenzo as accomplices.

MARCH 12 - THOUSANDS OF GREEKS PROTEST GOLD MINE IN ATHENS

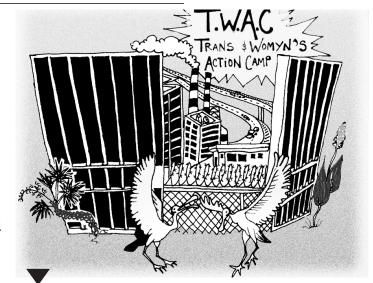
Protesters fought a gold mining project in northern Greece which they say is ruining the natural environment in the region and brings zero profits to the cash-strapped country. "We want the land, the water and the trees, not a golden tomb," chanted thousands of Greeks, marching in support of the local community in the Skouries region of Chalkidiki.

MARCH 12 - OIL BARGE CRASHES INTO GAS PIPELINE

In New Orleans tug-boat operators crashed a barge carrying crude oil into a submerged natural-gas pipeline which erupted and injured two of the four members of the tug-boat crew. Emergency crews scrambled to contain spilled oil spreading south of the accident. The barge was carrying more than 2,000 barrels of oil and the tugboat was fueled with diesel.

"Hunt saboteurs called to action, all encouraged to dismantle traps, dismantle hunting off-road vehicles and trucks, dismantle the structures of hunting cabins, dismantle the helicopters used for aerial hunting. Join the resistance. Defend the wolves."





April 3-9

Trans and Womyn's Action Camp - South Florida

TWAC is for folks who identify as female, trans-gender, trans-sexual, gender queer and gender variant. This is an intentional space to share direct action skills in a conscientious, supportive, empowering and encouraging environment for voices often marginalized.

WWW.TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM

April 22

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Tim DeChristopher Prison Release Party – Nationwide

Eco-prisoner Tim DeChristopher is set for release from prison on April 21, after serving a two-year sentence for disrupting an oil lease auction. Peaceful Uprising is calling for people to celebrate Tim's release with screenings of Bidder 70, a documentary about Tim's actions and resistance to oil drilling in Utah.

WWW.PEACEFULUPRISING.ORG

May 8-12

EF! Climbers Guild Camp - Oregon

A week of camping and climb trainings in the beautiful forests of Cascadia. www.efclimbers.net

May 18-25

Mountain Justice Summer Action Camp – Damascus, VA

Come learn about the evils of mountaintop removal coal mining and how to resist it at the 8th annual MJS action camp. www.mountainjustice.org

May 26 - June 1

Resist the Biotech-Tree Conference - Asheville, NC

Join activists from around the country to protest a international gathering of scientists and industry executives who are working to replace our native forests with genetically engineered tree farms.

WWW.KATUAHEARTHFIRST.ORG

July 1-7

Earth First! Round River Rendezvous - Central NC

A week of revelry and resistance in the beautiful piedmont region of NC. www.croatanearthfirst.org

Earth First! News

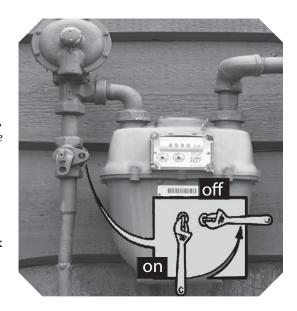
DEAR NED LUDD,

I'm sick of seeing crowds of people dumping their money into these chain restaurants that have made my town look just like everybody else's. I want to disable these mega-corp, animal torturing, heart-attack inducing, wage-slave camps without ending up a McMartyr, got any ideas?

Signed, -Hungry for Revenge

Dear Vengeful Hunger,

You are in luck, all of these restaurants cook their "food" with natural gas which heats the grills and friers. This is important because all buildings that have natural gas systems also have a gas meter outside. And, all meters have an emergency shut-off valve that can be easily accessed. The meter, which is usually against the back of the building, will look like a rounded grey box bolted together with a plastic window on top. Two pipes run from the meter: one to the building and one to the ground. One pipe will have a rectangle tab in the middle connected by a straight



coupling/joint. If the tab is parallel to the pipe, the gas is on. If the tab is perpendicular it is off (Never turn on a gas line that is found off). If the gas is on, a 90-degree turn from an adjustable wrench will stop gas entering the building. Also, there are usually two holes in the tab that line up when the gas is off. For bonus points throw a pad lock on it (possibly score the lock off a dumpster or gate using a shim). Within a few minutes the grills are cold and no food can be cooked. Most likely the staff will be glad to have a break and the managers will be scrambling unable to

find the problem. After a couple of hours of no sales and a couple hundred dollars for a repair person, the gas will be back on and the pilot lights re-lit. This is a fun, low-risk and quick way to send a "fuck you" to chains moving in. Remember, because of the temporary nature of this trick, timing is key. So, the busier the better (think lunch rush). And be creative: grab some friends and plan to have a mass of restaurants shut down at the same time, or make the office of a target extra chilly on a cold day by cutting off the gas powered heat!

> continued from page 6...

into small groups based on the length of time they have been involved with EF!. Each group talked about ways to strengthen our movement and came back together with a message for the other groups. Many realized that folks who have been around for less than five years outnumbered the other two groups by a pretty large margin. New energy is great, but there was a sense that we need to make intentional time to learn from those who have been around longer to help the movement stick it out for the long haul. There is only one of these workshops left, so come get your "Kick in the Ass" at the Summer Rondy in North Carolina— it's your last chance!

PRISONER SUPPORT

The eco-prisoner discussion included an update by two people who have been part of the EF! Eco-Prisoner Support Group since its inception. The group talked about reasons behind their formation, recent updates and the fact that there has been more focus recently on developing strategies for post-release support, specifically because some of the "Green Scare" prisoners are being released. The OC discussion then evolved into a more generalized discourse about prisoner support and the prison industrial complex. The value of trying to keep people who are in prison involved in movements along with setting up speaking gigs for released people to tell

their stories was talked about. We then touched on the June 11 efforts to mobilize long-term support for Eric McDavid and Marie Mason (See Page 8).

MOVEMENT IDEOLOGY

The biocentrism discussion attracted a lot of interest, and after the scheduled time was up, it continued in a smaller group. The discussion was framed as "How we bring the Earth First! philosophy to larger campaigns (in addition to bringing direct action skills) and what exactly that philosophy is." The conversation ranged from defining biocentrism and deep ecology to looking at how the ideas of anthropocentrism and misanthropy play out in our community. Many agreed that it would be good to schedule a review of our philosophical underpinnings at every gathering.

A working group was also created to update the Direct Action Manual.

RONDY

After rounding out the Organizer's Conference, the Winter Rendezvous kicked off, bringing a wave of awesome workshops, continued discussions from the OC and a super fun and effective action which shut down a fracking waste water storage site. The action resulted in 10 arrests, a monopod anchored to a semi-truck and a post action debrief; pizza was had by all.

UNITED STATES

Beehive Design Collective >> BEEHIVECOLLECTIVE.ORG

Civil Liberties Defense Center >> CLDC.ORG

Deep Green Resistance >> DEEPGREENRESISTANCE.ORG

EF! Speakers Bureau >> SPEAKERS.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

FIERCE (Feminists Inciting Eco Resistance and Community Action) >> FIERCECASCADIA@RISEUP.NET

TWAC (Trans and Womyn's Action Camp) >> TWAC.WORDPRESS.

Rising Tide North America >> www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

Root Force >> www.rootforce.org

ARIZONA

Black Mesa Indigenous Support >> BLACKMESAIS.ORG

No Mas Muertes/ No More Deaths >> WWW.NOMOREDEATHS.ORG

Taala Hooghan Infoshop >> TAALAHOOGHAN.ORG

CALIFORNIA

Humboldt EF! >> EFHUMBOLDT.ORG

Santa Barbara EF! >> EFINSB@GMAIL.COM

Sierra Nevada EF! >> MIKEBE64@GMAIL.COM

COLORADO

Durango EF! >> SOUTHWEST EARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Everglades EF! >> WWW.SCRAPSCRIPPS.INFO

ILLINOIS

Chicago EF! >> ARCANE@RIPCO.COM

INDIANA

Glacier's Edge EF! >> GLACIERSEDGE(a)RISEUP.NET

MAINE

Maine Earth First! >> MAINE.EARTH-FIRST.NET

MONTANA/IDAHO

Buffalo Field Campaign >> BUFFALOFIELDCAMPAIGN.ORG

Seeds of Peace >> SEEDSOFPEACECOLLECTIVE.ORG

Wild Idaho Rising Tide >> WILDIDAHORISINGTIDE.ORG

NEBRASKA

EF! Nebraska >> BUFFALOBRUCE 1@GMAIL.COM

NEW YORK/PENNSYLVANIA

Marcellus EF! network >> MARCELLUSEARTHFIRST.ORG

Wetlands Activism Collective >> WETLANDS-PRESERVE.ORG

NORTH CAROLINA

Croatan EF! >> CROATANEARTHFIRST.COM

Katuah EF! >> KATUAHEARTHFIRST.ORG

OHIO

Appalachia Resist!>>
APPALACHIARESIST.WORDPRESS.COM

OKLAHOMA

Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance >> GPTARSANDSRESISTANCE.ORG

OREGON

Cascadia EF! >> Portland >> CASCADIAEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

Cascadia Forest Defenders
>> FORESTDEFENSENOW.COM

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project >> 27803 Williams Lane, Fossil, OR 97830 >> BLUEMTNSBIODIVERSITYPROJECT.ORG

TEXAS

Tar Sands Blockade>>
TARSANDSBLOCKADE.ORG

UTAH

Utah Tar Sands Resistance >> TARSANDSUTAH.BLUESKYINSTITUTE.ORG

VERMONT

Green Mountain EF! >> GREENMT.EF@HOTMAIL.COM

WISCONSIN

Madison EF!/Infoshop >> MADISONINFOSHOP@GMAIL.COM

WEST VIRGINIA

RAMPS (Radical Action for Mountain Peoples' Survival) >> RAMPSCAMPAIGN.ORG

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Rising Tide Australia >> RISINGTIDE.ORG.AU

EF! Australia >> EARTHFIRST.ORG.AU

BELGIUM

EF! Belgium >> GROENFRONT.NL/ENGLISH

CANADA

Camas Collective >> INFO@CAMAS.CA

WildCoast >> WILDCOAST.CA

ECUADOR

Rising Tide Ecuador >> MAREACRECIENTECUADOR. WORDPRESS.COM

ENGLAND

EF! United Kingdom >> EARTHFIRST.ORG.UK

Rising Tide UK >> RISINGTIDE.ORG.UK

FINLAND

Finland Rising Tide >> HYOKYAALTO.ORG

GERMANY

EF! Germany >> EFGERMANY CONTACT@GOOGLEMAIL.COM

ICELAND

Saving Iceland >> SAVINGICELAND.ORG

IRELAND

Rossport Solidarity Camp >> ROSSPORTSOLIDARITYCAMP.ORG

ITALY

EF! Italia >> EARTHFIRSTITALIA.BLOGSPOT.COM

MEXICO

Green Revolt Collective >> REVUELTAVERDE.ORG

Mexico Rising Tide >> MAREA-CRECIENTE.ORG

SCOTLAND

Coal Action Scotland >> COALACTIONSCOTLAND.ORG.UK

Would you like to see your Earth First! or eco-action group represented in this newsletter and online?

Send contact information to: COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

