

Ancient tree still stands! Occupation continues

By Willow

It was late at night, and the wind was howling and the tarps were flapping. I was 100 feet up in an ancient tree named Jerry.

I noticed a strange glow on the ground below my platform. I heard the droning growl of machines and thought to myself, "The storm must have knocked out the power lines."

I crawled out of my sleeping bag with a sense of duty to brave the winds outside the tarps. The 12-foot diameter tree was rocking in the wind, so I grabbed a support line and leaned over the edge of the platform. My wool poncho flapped wildly.

The first things I saw were floodlights highlighting the alder trees below. I then saw suited creatures that looked a lot like spacemen standing idly around two long groaning trucks.

At last I noticed a big fire only a few feet



Tree-sitter named Willow reoccupies ancient redwood.



Despite limbing by PL climbers, ancient redwood Jerry, pictured on cover, survives and grows new branches.

away from the tree I was in! I was pretty shaken by the sight of the glowing orange lava-looking blaze in this old growth forest. It seemed like it took forever for the firemen to walk the 20 feet to the base of Jerry, as the slash pile fire that the Maxxam/Pacific Lumber company had started jumped 200 feet in my direction.

Finally a firefighter reached the base of Jerry and put out the blaze. I yelled "Thank you," but I doubt that they could hear me over the howling wind. Finally the fire fighters left, heading up the road to put out yet another slash-pile fire that was out of control.

In the next valley over, there was another clear-cut and another out-of-control slash pile fire. I could see a 60-foot snag ablaze from top to bottom. The wind was blowing hundreds of sparks each second into the forest across the road.

Months later, a resident told me that those sparks were landing only a few feet away from her house where she and her child were sleeping.

I decided to step back inside under the tarps. It occurred me that the snag on fire could just as easily have been Jerry burning up!

A representative from the California Department of Forestry later told me that he

thinks this old growth tree is a fire hazard.

Jerry's bark is so shaggy that it would not have surprised me if the fire had crawled up the tree and ignited the wooden platform that I lived on. On the other hand, this tree has survived countless fires in the past that burn marks show have climbed as high as 100 feet.

I peeked out before trying to go back to sleep. The fire had re-ignited and was about 50 feet from the tree. Nobody was in sight. I tried to radio a friend who was in a tree nearby to call the fire department back with his cell phone, but unfortunately the walkie-talkie radio had gotten wet and was not working. I was alone.

I searched for a way to escape. Twenty feet above me was a traverse line connected to a nearby tree. I searched for the climb line, but the wind had blown it into the branches and it was tangled.

For a second I felt trapped and, yes, I panicked. I tugged at the branch a little. I didn't know what else to do. I tugged a little harder and the branch broke.

After the branch broke, I was able to grab the climb line and tie it down. Now I had an escape route. I was wearing my climbing harness, but I wasn't ready to leave Jerry to this fire. I had not left Jerry for over three

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History of the ancient tree named Jerry

On March 17, long-time tree-sitter Remedy was forcibly removed from the ancient redwood Jerry. Remedy hadn't touched the ground in 361 days. Jerry was immediately reoccupied by other forest defenders the same night.

Humboldt County sheriff's deputies used batons and pepper spray on a crowd of activists on the ground who were nonviolently protesting the removal of the tree-sitters and Maxxam's liquidations logging practices.

Several others on the ground were arrested, including two women who had locked down in an attempt to prevent the extraction of Remedy.

On March 20, a second extraction team went into the tree where Remedy had lived. The occupying tree-sitter, Am'd (pronounced "Amity"), went to the very top of the 200-foot tree to avoid eviction.

Although approximately 20 Humboldt County sheriff's officials, Eureka police and California Highway Patrol officials were there, all refused to witness the extraction. PL's main climber, Eric Schatz, went to the top of the tree after her, where the trunk was no bigger than an average person's arm.

Am'd said Eric told her that if she fell, "He and his team of climbers would testify it was suicide." After she was removed, the tree was topped and limbed. When loggers arrived the following morning, they found the tree occupied again.

Jerry has now been occupied for over two-and-a-half years, as we continue to hope and work for the permanent protection of these ancient trees.

Tree-sitter Willow has been living in this ancient redwood for over eight months, and his feet have not touched the ground the entire time.



Tree-sitter maintains good spirits high in the canopy.

Ancient tree, continued from previous page

months, and I did not want to leave now.

I prayed for rain. It was the first time that I have ever prayed for rain. Soon it actually began to rain. I finally curled up, exhausted, and fell asleep.

When I woke at dawn I could see the damage the fire had left. However, the fire never made it back to within 25 feet of the

tree, and I felt as though a circle of protection had been cast. The fires were still smoldering the next day.

PL was eventually fined \$8,000 by CDF for its irresponsibility in letting the slash-pile fire go out of control.

Jerry still stands.

Heritage tree act passes state senate

By Dan Hamburg

On June 14, the California Heritage Tree Preservation Act (SB 754) received a big boost when the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources approved the bill on a 7-3 vote.

The next scheduled stop is the Assembly Appropriations Committee on Aug. 4. The bill has already passed the full Senate, 25-13.

SB 754 will protect forever heritage trees (trees older than the state [1850] and meeting specified diameter requirements) on nonfederal forestland in California.

Old growth trees hold the soil, shade streams, preserve fisheries, act as seed trees, maintain genetic diversity, resist fire by reducing temperatures, shade out underbrush and maintain moisture, and provide species habitat.

Less than three percent of the native forests of California remains standing.

SB 754 would also grant property owners and their heirs the benefit of substantial reductions in estate taxes. This fact alone would help keep many old growth trees standing, rather than being cut to meet tax obligations.

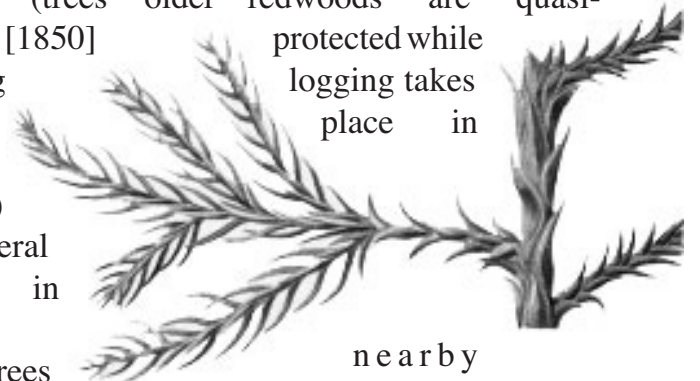
Predictably, the California Department of Forestry has voiced opposition to the bill, calling it "unnecessary... because old growth forests are protected under other existing laws." If only this were true!

Under current regulations, landowners do not even have to identify old growth coast

redwood groves in timber harvest plans unless there are 20 or more contiguous acres, a rare situation since most of the remaining old growth is scattered across the landscape in small clusters of trees.

The sad truth is that old growth is falling continuously and usually "legally" across California.

Some *sequoia giganteum* redwoods are quasi-protected while logging takes place in



nearby

groves.

Coastal redwood old growth has no standing protections unless a lawsuit or a Fish & Game order forces a murrelet survey. Then the trees can usually be logged anyway after the breeding season.

The California Heritage Tree Preservation Act stands poised to create a paradigm shift in

old-growth retention law. Its successful passage will send a message across the country that the last of the big, old

trees deserve to live, for their sake and for ours.

Our campaign now needs your calls, letters and emails to

members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Go to www.ancienttrees.org to get all the latest information on the progress of the Heritage Tree Preservation Act.

Dan Hamburg is a steering committee member of the Campaign for Old Growth (CFOG) and is a former U.S. Congressman.



Looking up into the threatened ancient tree named Aradia.

The journey to Houston for Aradia

By Shunka

As of July 2004, the Aradia tree-sit on the ridgetop of Gypsy Mountain has been happening for over two-and-a-half years.

Aradia stands just up the ridge from where David "Gypsy" Chain was killed on Sept. 17, 1998, when an enraged Maxxam Corp./Pacific Lumber Co. logger began intentionally falling trees toward a group of non-violent activists. The final tree the logger fell that day landed on David, killing him.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department declare Gypsy's death an "accident," despite a video tape filmed less than an hour before his death that showed the logger verbally and physically threatening Gypsy and other protestors.

Not long before David's death, North Coast Earth First! activists had began occupying the area in an ancient old growth redwood named "Aradia." David had been involved with the establishment of a tree-sit in Aradia, just before his death, and activists were up in Aradia at the moment of his death.

Aradia is an ancient tree and is home to many species of wildlife, such as marbled murrelets, endangered sea birds that rely on the old growth canopy for survival.

On Sept. 15, 1998, before the end of marbled murrelet nesting season, Maxxam Corp./Pacific Lumber Co. punched in a road on the steep slopes leading to the top of what we now call "Gypsy Mountain."

By Sept. 17, Maxxam/PL had clear-cut most of an entire hillside, when the company should have only been starting to put its road in by that time.

To make matters worse, Maxxam/PL also cut outside the boundaries of its timber harvest plan (THP), taking several additional acres as they illegally clear-cut the steep slopes above the Van Duzen River and Grizzly Creek State Park.

It is for all of these reasons that we were up on that ridgetop on the morning of Sept. 17, 1998, protesting to delay the workers until the California Department of Forestry investigators could get out there. CDF had promised to do this on Sept. 16.

We attempted to have dialogue with the loggers, thereby



David "Gypsy" Chain in a tree-sit.

stalling the destruction of the forest, at least for the moment. The instant rage of the faller, on that fateful day, prevented us from having meaningful conversation and quickly escalated into a situation where we were having trees fallen directly at us.

I can still remember the feeling of debris pelting the back of

my neck as I ran from that final tree that would land on David, killing him and affecting so many lives. Shockingly, Maxxam/PL continues to cut on Gypsy Mountain; in fact, almost immediately after an out-of-court settlement from the wrongful death civil suit, Maxxam/PL went

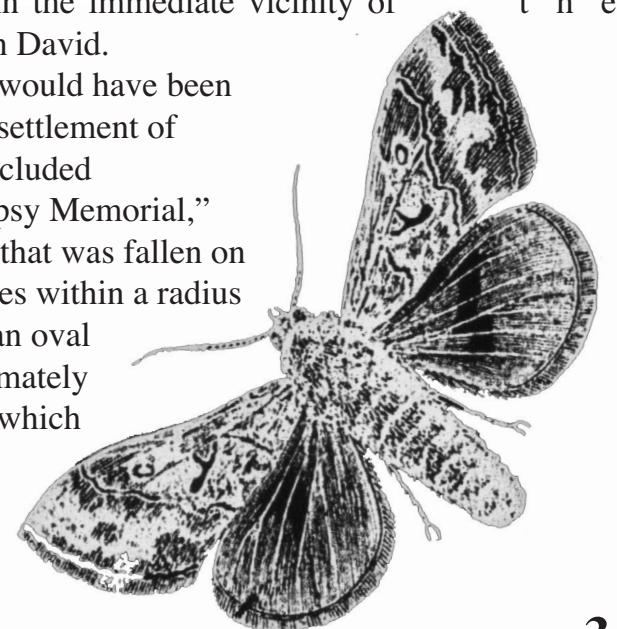
I presented Hurwitz, along with the group of Maxxam board members and shareholders, with a vision of having a dedication celebration this fall...

right back up Gypsy Mountain and began marking a brand new THP, which included Aradia.

It was as if Maxxam/PL was sore that it lost the lawsuit, so the company decided to "cut its losses" out of Gypsy Mountain, immediately targeting an ancient old growth redwood that David was risking his life to protect just days before his death!

Right around the time of the depositions for the lawsuit, Maxxam/PL did, in fact, cut some of the same trees that Earth First! had occupied in the immediate vicinity of the tree that was fallen on David.

Those same trees would have been protected in the final settlement of the lawsuit, which included establishing a "Gypsy Memorial," consisting of the tree that was fallen on Gypsy plus all the trees within a radius of 100 feet, creating an oval of protection approximately 300 feet by 200 feet, which would have saved



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Aradia, continued from previous page

the trees that Maxxam/PL cut near the time of our depositions, in the year 2000.

I discovered the new THP while hiking with some friends from Texas up to see the site where David was killed.

It was right after the settlement, and I had been thinking that the Gypsy Circle had finally been completed, at least as far as my physical obligation to stay in the area as a witness ready to testify. I was both disgusted and very disappointed.

The formation of the "Forest Peace Alliance" was also part of the settlement, and I wondered how they could be so cold as to immediately go after Gypsy Mountain while pretending to make an honest effort at creating peace around this situation.

In October 2001, it was discovered that Aradia was marked to be cut. Folks went to work on rebuilding a platform, and in January 2002, the Aradia tree village was re-established and a new campaign to save Gypsy Mountain began.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, in addition to the non-stop treetop occupation, there has been media exposure, on-the-ground direct action and numerous pleas made to Maxxam Corp. and Pacific Lumber Co. to add Aradia to the already-existent Gypsy Memorial, and pleas to the state of California to add Gypsy Mountain to Grizzly Creek State Park.

A recent effort at protecting the ecosystem around Aradia was a trip to the Maxxam Corp. shareholder's meeting in Houston, Texas. The meeting was on May 19, 2004, at the "Power Center" in Houston.

I traveled all the way from Humboldt County, Calif., to talk with Charles Hurwitz, the CEO of Maxxam Corp., about saving Aradia.

I arrived in Houston a few days early to meet with David's mother and to get ready for the meeting. We put out a press release the day of the meeting, and at David's mom's house I wrote up an outline of what I wanted to say.

I was accompanied by my friend Rhea, the co-director of SACRED (the Southern Alliance of Coastal

Redwood Earth Defenders). We walked into the fancy "Power Center," presented our proxy papers (neither of us have our own shares), and mingled with some of the Maxxam employees, who already knew us from years of activism.

We showed them some photos of clear-cuts in Humboldt and chatted a bit, and then it was time for the meeting to begin. It was a very short meeting, with a brief introduction for Charles Hurwitz to the crowd of about 40 people.

Hurwitz broke Maxxam down into three areas: horse racing, timber products and real estate. The update was

pretty simple and general; "We made money last cycle, we plan to make more this cycle," was the general message.

He may have talked for all of five minutes, and then opened the meeting up for questions.

It was at this time that Rhea stepped up to the microphone and gave our four basic requests for sustainable forestry:

- 1) No logging old growth
- 2) No clear-cutting
- 3) No herbicides
- 4) No logging on steep and unstable slopes

She then broke into a verse of "Maxxam's on the Horizon," written by Darryl Cherney, and I believe I saw Hurwitz crack a grin.

Then I walked up to the podium, with Hurwitz about 15 feet in front of me. I introduced myself and immediately began talking about David's death, Aradia and the need to add Aradia to the existing Gypsy Memorial.

I presented Hurwitz, along with the group of

Maxxam board members and shareholders, with a vision of having a dedication celebration (instead of a big confrontation) this fall, once marbled murrelet nesting season is over and Maxxam/PL is allowed to go back up on Gypsy Mountain and cut.

I told everyone the story of how PL insisted on logging on Gypsy Mountain on Sept. 16 and 18, the day before and the day after the five-year anniversary of Gypsy's death.

PL almost smashed one of their own men, along with another group of Earth First'ers, when the company insisted on falling trees with people in the area.

This time a couple of men were hired to keep a whole group of activists at bay, yet the fallers weren't being mindful of where their "guards" were.

They fell a tree so close to "Sparpole," as the PL worker called himself, that it knocked his hardhat off his head and knocked him to the ground.

The group of activists was sure he had been killed, and they were greatly relieved when he stood up, brushed himself off and said something to the effect of, "Wow, that's an adrenaline rush."

I acted that part out a bit as I told the story, brushing mock dirt off of my arm and remembering how it felt when I was almost smashed on that same mountain, just five years prior to the Sparpole incident.

I talked about what I referred to as the "Gypsy Circle," which was started on the day I saw David killed, and we have been working to complete it for almost six years now.

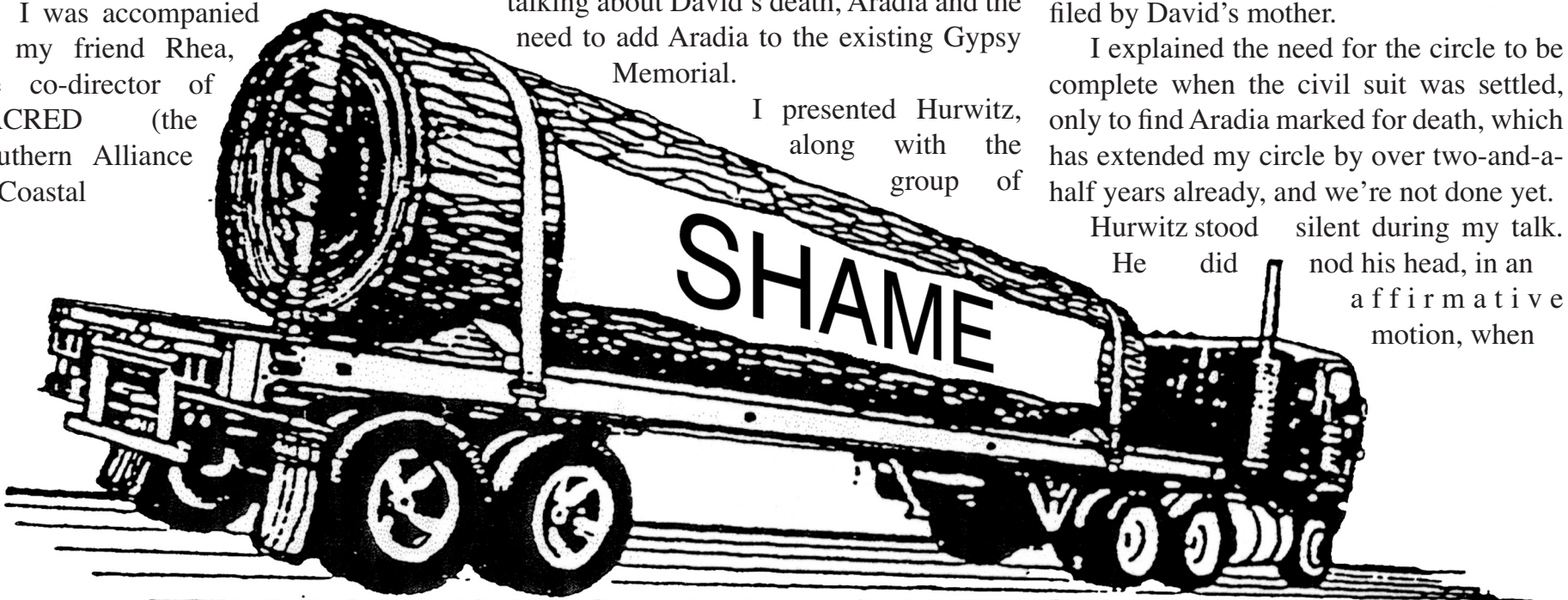
I explained how I first stuck around Humboldt County for the criminal proceedings while the county sheriff's department ironically considered charging us with David's death.

I talked about my testimony as an eyewitness in the wrongful death civil suit filed by David's mother.

I explained the need for the circle to be complete when the civil suit was settled, only to find Aradia marked for death, which has extended my circle by over two-and-a-half years already, and we're not done yet.

Hurwitz stood silent during my talk.

He did nod his head, in an affirmative motion, when



Women's spirit in action

By Anna Purna

A Women's Empowerment Camp was held this spring at a beautiful spot on the Lost Coast, where the Mattole River empties into the Pacific Ocean.

It was a healing celebration of the feminine spirit in action.

About 40 women came and went during the week-long retreat.

A number of formal and informal workshops were held with a wide variety of topics including self-defense, women's health, timber harvest plan monitoring, sweatlodge building, singing, fire dancing, dreamcatcher weaving, and yoga.

Camping near the confluence of a river and ocean in a grove of willows provided its own rewards.

Evening meals were cooked communally over a camp fire as music, conversation, and laughter echoed into the night.

A goal of gathering wonderful warrior women together in such a camp is to recover women's knowledge.

There is a certain knowledge that is particular to women and women's experience in the world that was traditionally passed down through women's circles.

Much of that knowledge has been lost, dispersed, and fragmented through the overwhelming patriarchal tendencies that have engulfed western culture for centuries.

The healing process has just begun to right the injustices that have been built up for so long.

Many of these same injustices are

at the root of other major problems and imbalances within contemporary culture including the wanton destruction of old growth forests.

Judi Bari elucidated this connection by creating the term

Ecofeminism.

"Ecofeminism points out that there is a parallel between the way this patriarchal society treats nature and the way it treats women. . .

"Ecofeminism holds that one of the reasons for the destruction of the earth is that only the 'masculine' traits of conquering and dominance are valued by this society, while the 'feminine' traits of nurturing and life-giving are devalued and suppressed" (Judi Bari, "Revolutionary Ecology").

The same wish to control and exploit and a lack of concern for life can be seen in all types of oppression all over the world.

Naturally, women concerned with the health of the forest are concerned with women's empowerment, both in the world at large and even sometimes within the ecodefense movement.

It is important that women who have been scarred by society's dictates have a safe space to heal and feel comfortable learning in.

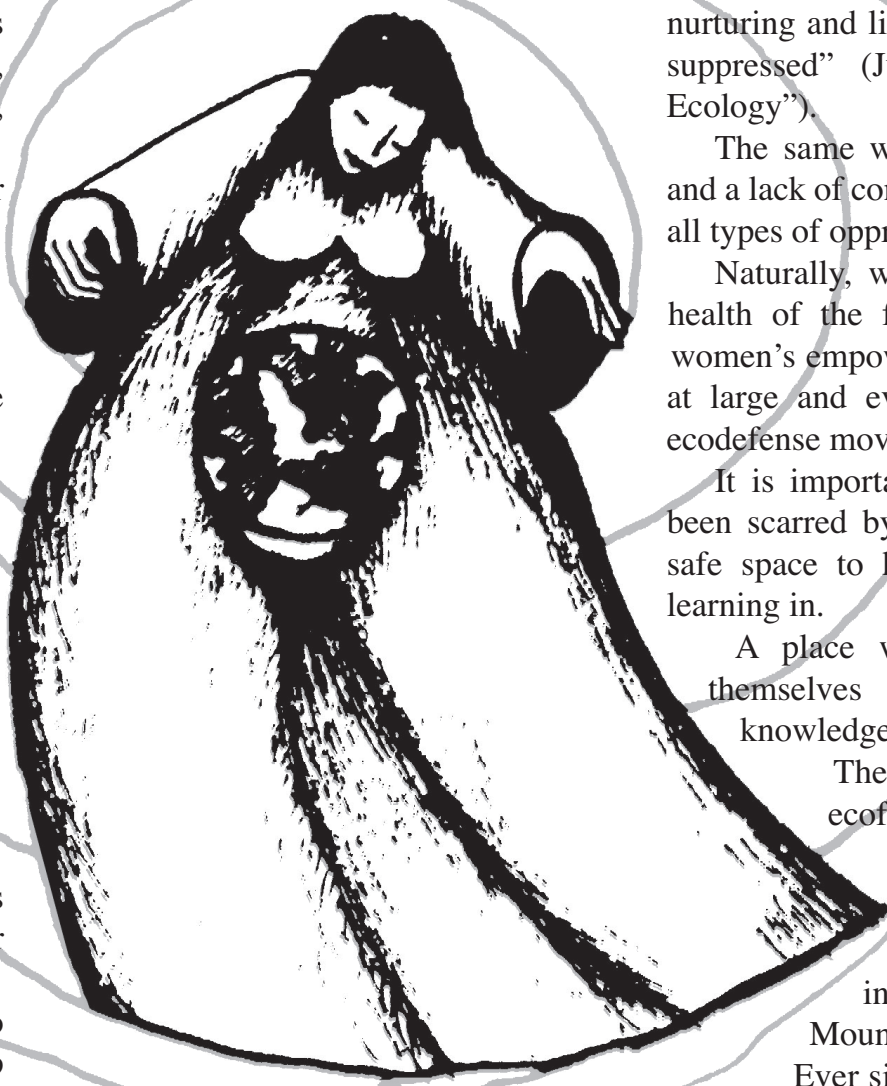
A place where they can truly be themselves and rediscover women's knowledge.

There has been a history of ecofeminist gatherings within the evolution of Earth First!

The first one was in 1986 in the Granite Mountains, Calif.

Ever since then the idea of an all-

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Aradia, continued from previous page

I talked about completing the Gypsy Circle.

After presenting my vision of a positive resolution to this conflict, I thanked them for their time and left it at that. The meeting was over within minutes after the end of my talk.

After the meeting, one of the Maxxam board members came up to me and said, "I hope you're able to complete the circle."

I considered that to be positive feedback and encouraged the board member to put in a good word for saving Aradia.

With that said, we left the meeting and went outside, where a small group of folks from SACRED were sitting, holding signs and playing



a video of the Freshwater extractions.

They saw a police helicopter circling and many police officers and men in black uniforms "hiding behind cars."

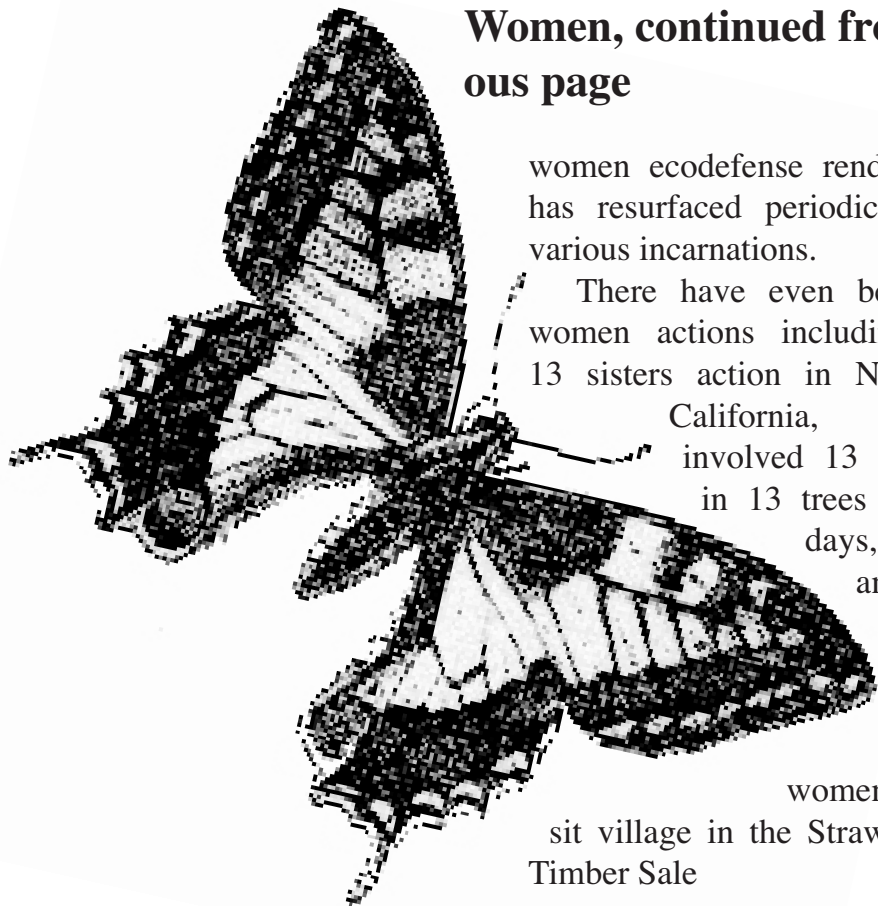
A few of our friends from the Houston-based Dirty South Earth First! were present outside the meeting and were approached by FBI agents with files in hand.

Our friends asked to see their files and saw photos of themselves with distinguishing marks circled, ex-boyfriend's names listed and crossed out, etc.

We were not intimidated by the presence of the "authorities."

Join the North Coast Earth First! Yahoo Group! Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/northcoastearthfirst/> From there you can learn how to get involved. The page also has a link so you can make online credit card donations through Paypal to North Coast Earth First! Also visit: www.northcoastearthfirst.org.

Women, continued from previous page



women eco-defense rendezvous has resurfaced periodically in various incarnations.

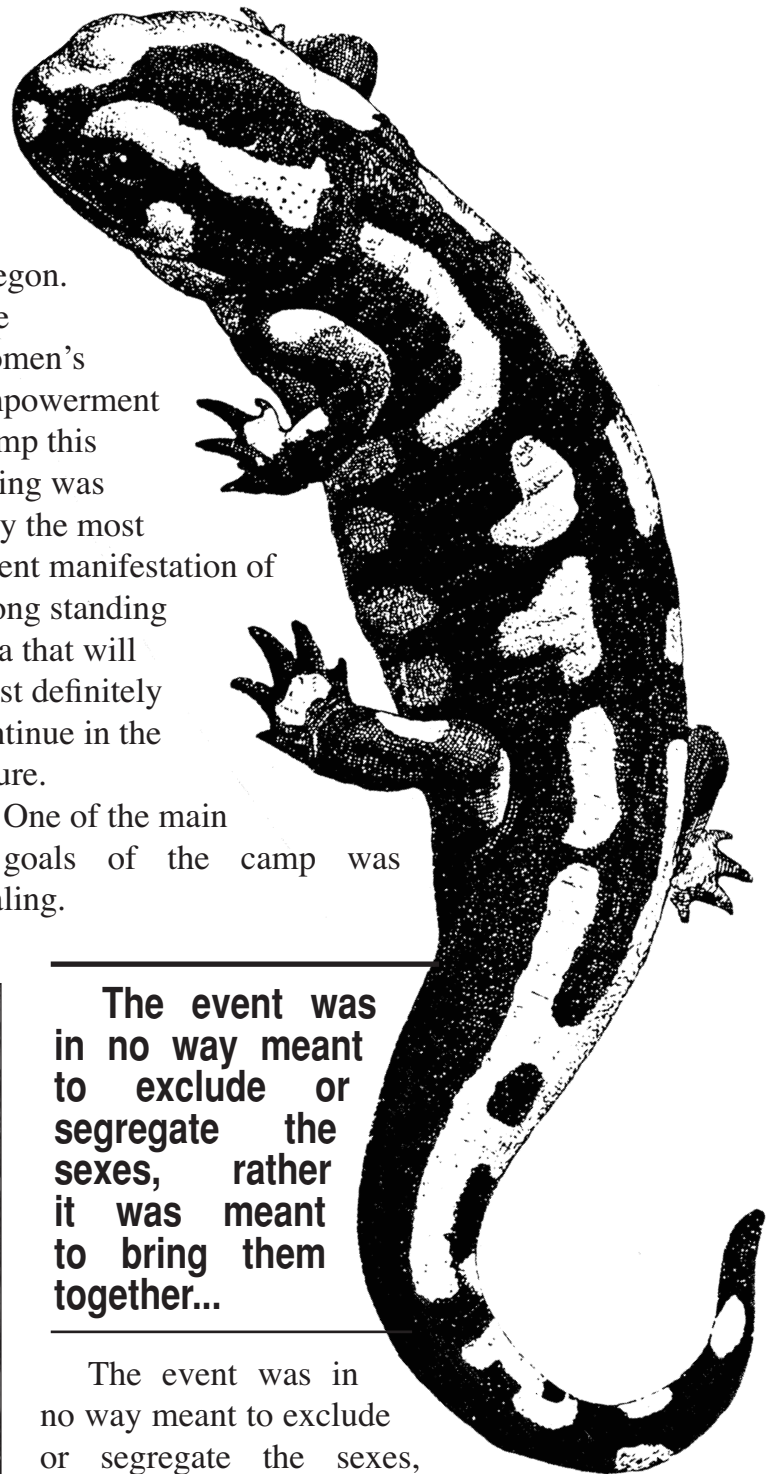
There have even been all women actions including the 13 sisters action in Northern California, which involved 13 women in 13 trees for 13 days, and an all-

women tree-sit village in the Straw Devil Timber Sale

in

Oregon. The Women's Empowerment Camp this spring was only the most recent manifestation of a long standing idea that will most definitely continue in the future.

One of the main goals of the camp was healing.



The event was in no way meant to exclude or segregate the sexes, rather it was meant to bring them together...

The event was in no way meant to exclude or segregate the sexes, rather it was meant to bring them together by allowing women to heal themselves and more fully learn what it means to be women so that their future communication and interaction with men would be better and healthier.

Many of the women at the camp expressed a desire to see men heal themselves in a similar way, coming together to discuss gender issues and share stories about their experiences as men in contemporary culture.

In the words of Judi Bari: "Ecofeminism does not seek to dominate men, as women have been dominated under patriarchy. It seeks only to achieve a balance, as in nature."

Of course, in this lopsided culture, achieving a balance would involve a tremendous rise of the feminine – both a rise of individual women and a rise in feminine values among women and men.

But without this balance, society cannot make the changes that we need to survive" (Judi Bari, "Revolutionary Ecology").



Assembly of a dreamcatcher at women's camp.

Dreamcatcher (for Mi-Amor and her sitter)

I ascend the rope & climb branches of Mi-Amor to where the redwood slims and can be held all the way round to where the dream catcher is woven between branches climb in and pull sleeping bag to my chin suspended between stars and soil rocking and swaying in wind rhythm sleep before words in monkey mind the kind of quiet you had for 500 years before the time of men & steel, Mi-Amor, Mi-Amor

I awake to a crow flying by at eye level in pre dawn half light over ridge line redwoods morning wind and rain sways me hard the only kind of swaying worthy of your time Mi-Amor, Mi-Amor

Tomorrow the woman who wove the net will sleep in your branches Mi-Amor, embrace her well and she will hold the steel at bay with acrobatics that would surprise a tightrope walker

-By Raven

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Maxxam/PL racks up over 300 violations in five years

By the Environmental Protection Information Center

On May 27, 2004, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), located in Garberville, Calif., released a report analyzing Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company's compliance record under its controversial "Habitat Conservation Plan," documenting more than 325 violations issued to the company since 1999.

EPIC's report, compiled from documents obtained from federal and state regulators, chronicles a continuing pattern of violations of conservation laws and regulations from Maxxam/PL's logging operations, which are conducted on over 200,000 acres of forest in Humboldt County, California.

These violations present a stark contrast to the rhetoric Maxxam/PL has claimed in a recent media blitzkrieg, which has inundated local residents with its claims of a "new image" and "sustainable" practices.

In a staggering number of cases, Maxxam/PL has been caught illegally cutting trees in riparian management zones by "misclassifying" streams or simply cutting over the boundary line.

And by no coincidence, several of these violations involved logging of very large, old growth redwood trees, including trees up to nearly nine feet in diameter.

These and other violations that degraded water quality are the most commonplace by far, totaling 241

of the 325 violations, or about 75 percent.

Maxxam/PL's other violations include 26 for

illegal logging operations within marbled murrelet habitat and 14 for violations that harmed the northern spotted owl.

Thirteen of the violations involved damage to protected plant species, 10 involved illegal cutting outside the riparian areas and 21 were issued for various other transgressions, including unlawful herbicide spraying and failing to meet post-logging stocking requirements.

In 1997, another investigation by EPIC revealed that CDF issued to Maxxam /PL at least 250 violations of the California Forest Practice Act between 1995 and 1997.

These violations continued to accumulate in 1998, and in November of that year it became the first logging company ever to lose its license to operate in California.

Prior to this, Maxxam/PL was found guilty of violating the federal Endangered Species Act after carrying out illegal logging operations in the ancient redwood grove known as Owl Creek.

"While Maxxam/PL may claim it has changed its unlawful ways, these violations demonstrate its 'extreme makeover' attempt is only cosmetic in appearance," Cynthia Elkins,

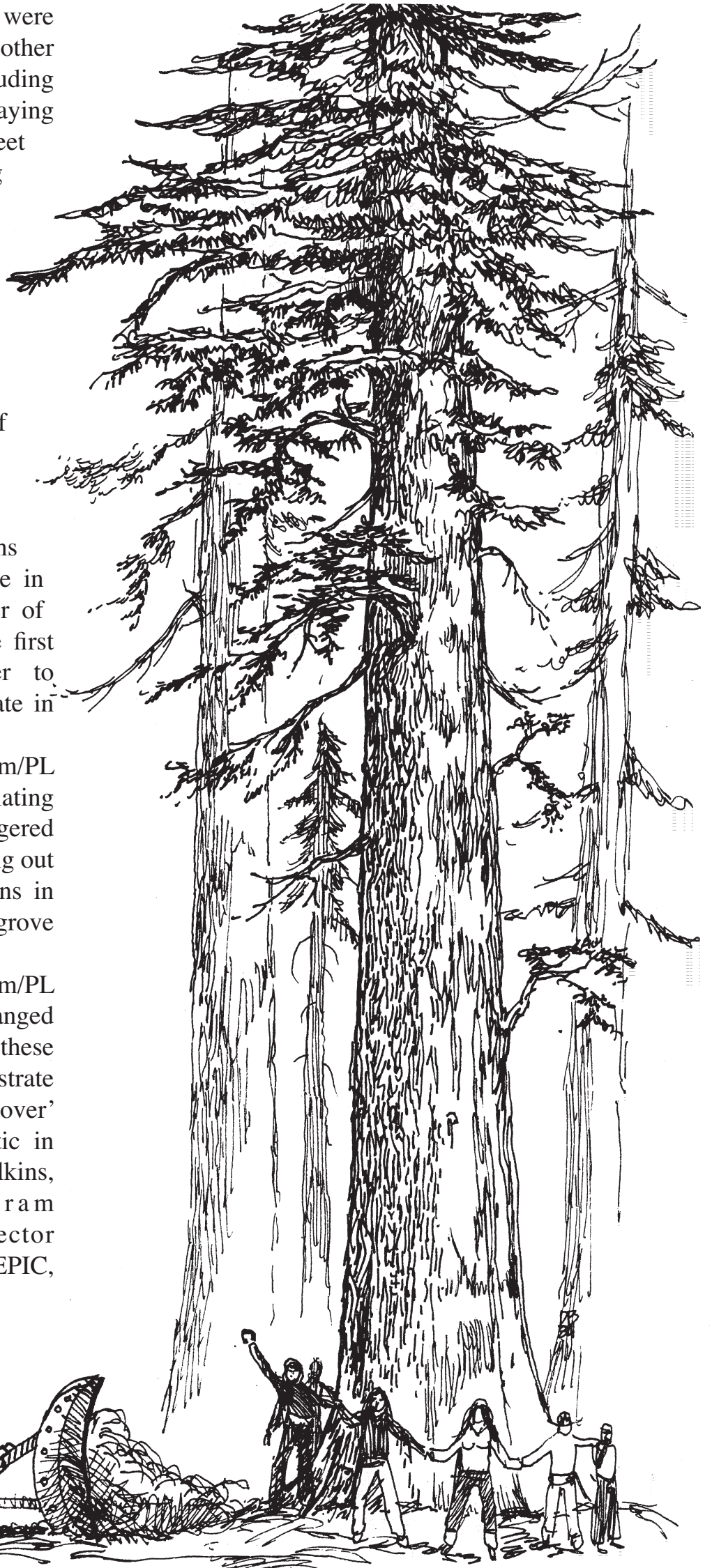
Program Director for EPIC,

said. "EPIC is demanding that actions be taken to ensure these egregious violations are stopped."

EPIC's report and information on Maxxam/PL's history of violations can be found

EPIC's Web site at www.wildcalifornia.org.

In particular see "Pacific Lumber's Criminal Logging Record" at www.wildcalifornia.org/pages/page-157.



Tree-sit extractions in Freshwater

By NCEF!

A tree-sitter was extracted from the tree Jerry in the Upper Tree-sit Village for the third time and the tree still stands!

Smokey was locked into a barrel of concrete weighing 800 pounds on a specially built platform in Jerry while Antler occupied a 100-foot-long traverse between Jerry and Everstien.

PL climbers risked lives by lowering a tree-sitter locked down to a 800-pound barrel of concrete which took the whole day.

Ten hours later Smokey was on the ground and the barrel was being dismantled by Humboldt County Sheriffs, but Antler was still out on the traverse, saving Jerry from being cut.

A new platform was put up that night and Jerry continues to be occupied along with

two other trees in the Upper Treesit Village. Willow now occupies Jerry, the story is on page one of this newsletter.

This makes a total of 15 tree-sitters extracted and 500 acres clear-cut in Freshwater in 2003.

The force shown by PL in retaliation against the people of Freshwater and refusing to come to the negotiation table is truly daunting and the loss of so many beloved trees has been staggering.

However we are still standing strong to protect the remaining three percent of the ancient redwoods left alive, including some of the very last of Humboldt's ancient redwoods.



Third assault on the Jerry tree...Maxxam/PL contract climbers ascend toward Smokey and invade the platform. March 2003.



Contract climbers begin extracting Smokey from the 600 lb. concrete-filled barrel.

Smokey (center) with arms still locked inside the barrel, as the platform is cut away from underneath him.





Above, Smokey being lowered.
Right, Antler on the traverse.



Carl Anderson, head of Maxxam/PL security, directs contractors and county sheriffs in extracting Smokey from the barrel.



Smokey arrested and hauled away.



The reason we're here.

Mattole SLAPP suit update

By Shunka

One of the corporations' favorite tools to discourage activism is the SLAPP suit, which stands for "Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation." It's basically a class action civil suit especially designed to trap anyone arrested for, or even associated with, direct action.

Two or three people are named, initially, and then the suit is left open for "John and Jane Doe's #3-200," and then, as people get arrested, speak out at rallies or are otherwise identified as possibly being associated with a civil disobedience campaign, they get SLAPPED (added to the lawsuit).

The corporations then levy a host of ridiculous charges, such as "conspiracy" and "unfair competition," and calculate, through some mysterious equation, the "damages" suffered, which tend to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Each of the defendants are responsible for the full amount, if they lose the lawsuit, which can be as easy as failing to file one piece of paperwork on time. This tactic has been unsuccessful at deterring direct action in Humboldt County, and instead has created a raging battle in court.



A logger displays a chainsaw used to cut old growth redwood trees.

One of the first in a long line of Maxxam/PL suits was the Mattole SLAPP suit, filed in 2001. Old growth Douglas fir groves were being clear-cut by Maxxam/PL, and activists from around the globe were hiking more than 12 miles out to the backwoods of the Mattole, setting up blockades and documenting the destruction being inflicted upon the area.

Humboldt County sheriffs, and sometimes the California Department of Fish & Game bear poacher trackers, were hired to come out and chase activists around the steep and dangerous terrain,

making dozens of arrests, all of which were added to the SLAPP suit.

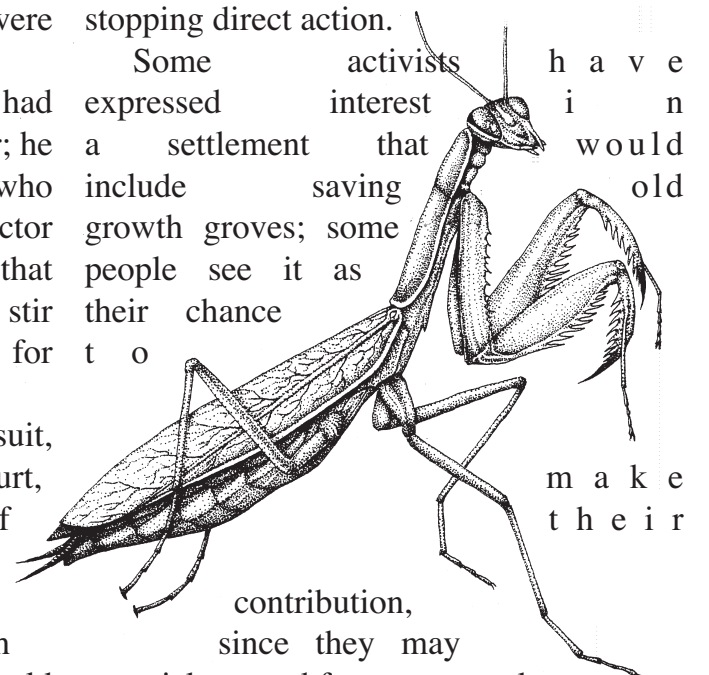
One man was chased off a cliff and had to be taken to the hospital by helicopter; he was not SLAPPED. Nor was an activist who was brutalized by Maxxam/PL extractor climbers in Freshwater. Seems that Maxxam/PL doesn't want to make a big stir in the courtroom when they are liable for serious injuries.

While the Freshwater SLAPP suit, which was filed in 2003, is already in court, those of us on the Mattole SLAPP suit of 2001 have still not yet had a trial.

Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Co. has a settlement offer on the table, which some have already taken, which would allow activists to be free from the suit,

stopping direct action.

Some activists have expressed interest in a settlement that would include saving old growth groves; some people see it as their chance to



make their contribution, since they may not stick around forever to work on this campaign.

Maxxam/PL could rid themselves of some of the SLAPP suits, and could also rid themselves of a few local activists, if they would be willing to give a little bit as well. So far, Maxxam/PL has been unwilling to consider saving trees as part of the settlement, yet that could change over time.

Until then, activists will continue to resist Maxxam/PL's corporate greed by engaging in and directly

supporting non-violent civil disobedience and direct action in the redwood and Douglas fir forests of Humboldt County, Calif. Earth First!

Continued on next page

Call the Earth First action line to find out how you can help with forest defense in Humboldt County:
(707) 825-6598



Mattole SLAPP continued from previous page

By Taproot

Jen-fir is a 100+ year old tree in the Mattole watershed. Pacific Lumber was illegally logging on steep slopes there.

For me, nonviolent direct action meant climbing into Jen and stopping PL.

All along I was aware of many risks.

Nonviolent forest defender deaths, both from climbing accidents and attacks from law enforcement, security goons and loggers did not change my mind to protest as I did.

While up in the tree-sit, I considered that a company climber might cut down my food, water and shelter at any time.

I was up in the tree when the company climbers came.

Climbers Eric and Jerry came and cut us out of plastic, duct tape and tar-sleeve lockdowns with hack saws.

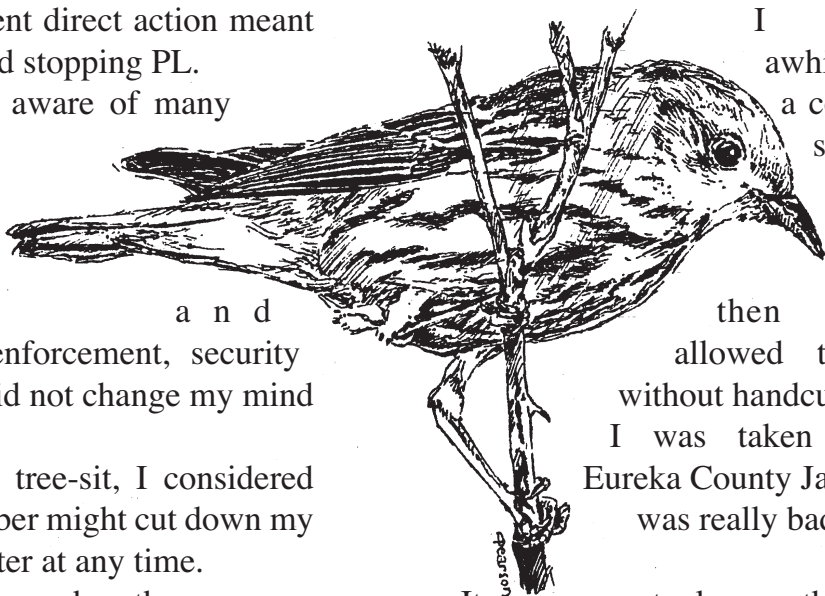
Eric kept yelling, "You're gonna cut them! You're gonna cut them!"

They got us out of the lock devices and attached another harness since mine was under my clothes.

I was lowered to the ground and was

told I was under arrest for trespassing.

I took a step with the handcuffs and fell down the hill!



I rolled awhile and a cop came sliding after me. I was

then allowed to walk without handcuffs.

I was taken to the Eureka County Jail. That was really bad.

It took more than a day to get a room, so we were kept in holding rooms.

From the hold we were taken to another room, and some guards gave us some paperwork stating that we were being sued by the Pacific Lumber Company.

Eventually I was shipped to the medical ward alone since there was no room in the women's cells.

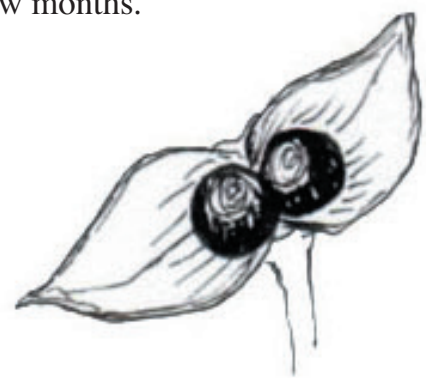
Some woman kept yelling so I couldn't

sleep. Eventually, after several meals were returned, they got me food without meat and dairy.

I met a local methamphetamine dealer and other inmates at the jail. After three days I was released.

Months later criminal charges were pressed. Many other activists accepted \$10 infractions, but I did not. Because PL was illegally logging I would not accept guilt. As of early in 2003, the company was suing me and over 40 defendants for over \$685,000 each! While some have settled or otherwise dropped out of the case, myself and others persevere.

On August 23, 2004, the trial date is being set. We expect either the trial will be postponed, or we will receive one within a few months.



Oakland observes

By NCEF!

On May 24, 2004, it was time for Judi Bari Day in Oakland.

This day marks the anniversary of the day that prominent Earth First!ers Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were car-bombed back in 1990, just before Redwood Summer, and then framed by the FBI and Oakland Police Department for carrying a motion-triggered shrapnel bomb.

Sadly, the police never conducted an investigation to find the real bomber and instead used the tragedy to investigate Earth First!ers.

Judi and Darryl were never charged due to "lack of evidence," yet the FBI conducted a smear campaign against the two in the media.

Having survived the bombing and attempted frameup, the pair filed a lawsuit against the FBI and Oakland Police based on constitutional rights violations committed by these agencies.

After 12 long years of discovery and legal paperwork, they finally got their day in court, although Judi had passed away in 1997 and was only able to appear in spirit.

Judi and Darryl won their lawsuit to the tune of \$4.4 million, an embarrassing defeat for the FBI and Oakland PD. There will be

Judi Bari Day

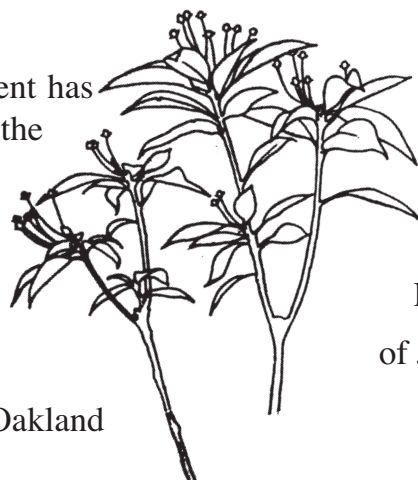


Judi Bari plays her fiddle.

no further appeal and settlement has now been paid by the FBI and the city. No one received more than \$500,000.

To try to make amends, the city of Oakland declared May 24 to be Judi Bari Day, and a rally was held on the steps of the Oakland City Hall.

Darryl and a crowd of other friends and well-wishers of Judi's spoke and sang songs in front of a beautiful Earth First! banner with a picture of Judi painted on it.



Taking the kids for a hike in Headwaters

By Shunka

This summer I met with a group of nearly 40 sixth graders from Davis, California, for a hike into the Headwaters Grove.

I had been corresponding with the schoolteacher as I was on the road, and made it back to Humboldt County the night before the hike and met up with the group the next morning. It was a great way to return to Humboldt, with all of their smiling faces.

The teacher asked me to give them a brief explanation of what they were going to be seeing, I answered some questions and we were off!

As we hiked along the trail, we stopped at the marked exhibits, such as the notches in the giant stumps where loggers used to mount their mini-platforms for the purpose of cutting the trees where the circumference was a bit smaller than at the base.

We stopped at the site of the old logging town, long since cut out of business and existence, and also took a lunch break on a bridge over the South Fork of the Elk River. The teacher took the kids down to the water to look for salmon fry, and then we continued up the trail.

It is somewhat of a long trail, and some of the children couldn't make it all the way, so I hiked ahead with the young ones and another overseer and we kept hiking

onward, searching for a "look-out point," which the teacher had in mind as a stopping point. She had hung back with the students who couldn't make it, so we hiked ahead, looking for the vantage point.

As we neared the end of the trail, one of the adults suggested that we turn back. Upon hearing this, the students charged forward, determined to find the end of the trail.

I hiked in pursuit of the children and within minutes, a few of them began yelling, signifying to the rest of the group that they had found the end of the trail. Hearing this, the rest of the group charged forward in one final burst of energy and ran all the way to the top of the trail.

We were rewarded with a few minutes in the old growth redwood forest, being careful to



Earth First! activist named Shunka with nearly 40 sixth graders from Davis, Calif., at Headwaters forest.

be quiet so as not to disturb the nesting marbled murrelets. A group of happily exhausted students, parents and a teacher awaited our return.

Call the Earth First! action line to find out how you can help with forest defense in Humboldt County: (707) 825-6598.

We're famous!

Tree-sit play on national tour

By Lizard

Blue Lake's internationally acclaimed theatre school, Dell'Arte, has created a historical drama portraying the best and worst of the forest defense movement in Humboldt County.

Dell'Arte is a theatre company that has performed in over a dozen countries and has a 25 year history of collaborative creation in a unique physical theatre style.

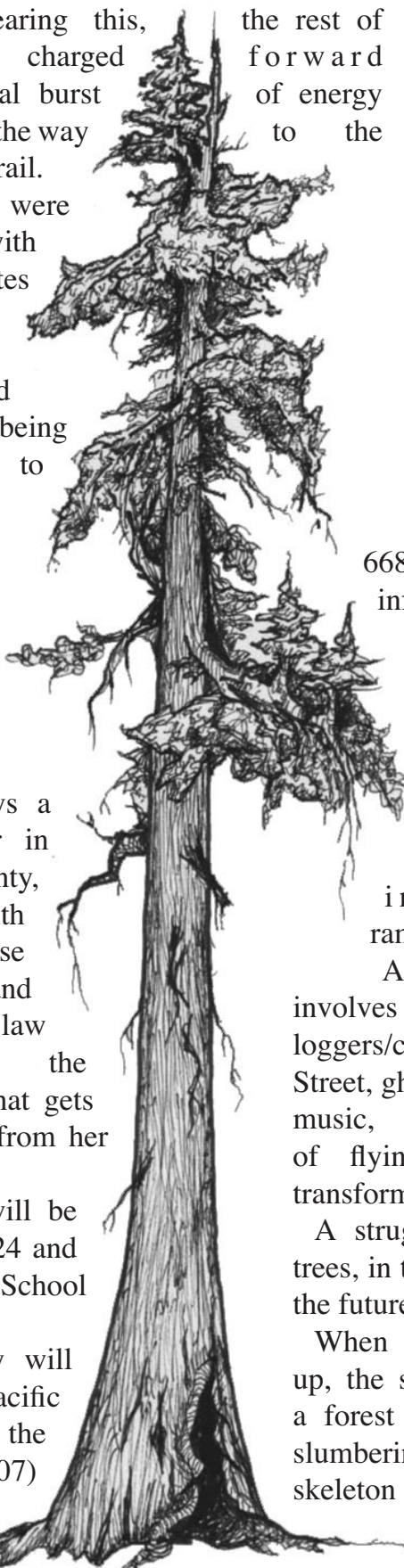
The story was inspired by real events and people in Freshwater, Calif.

"Shadow of Giants" opened in the Carlo Theatre this past June to a sold out crowd for nearly all of the first six performances.

The story portrays a fictional tree sitter in Humboldt County, her experience with the forest defense movement and encounters with law enforcement and the company climber that gets sent to extract her from her tree.

The production will be shown again Sept. 24 and 25 at the Dell'Arte School in Blue Lake.

In 2005 the play will be touring the Pacific Northwest and the East Coast. Call (707)



668-5663 for more information.

"Shadow of Giants" is about the struggle over one redwood tree.

A struggle with international ramifications.

A struggle that involves tree sitters, loggers/climbers, Wall Street, ghosts, mythology, music, aerial feats of flying and sudden transformation.

A struggle around the trees, in the air, and about the future.

When the lights come up, the stage is set with a forest of tall poles, a slumbering driftwood skeleton and a four foot tall model of an

ancient redwood.

Quickly this redwood becomes a base for a scaffold with a platform on it. The horizontal bars

coming off the sides are branches.

Throughout the play, the actors climb around and hang off of the scaffold.

The tree-sitter, Chance, leaves a Long Island bookstore job to go defend the ancient redwoods in the West.

When Chance starts living in the tree, her aspirations and view of her life and the world expand.

"I've realized I've lived my life from behind a wall," she says. "Once you look over the wall, there's no looking back."

The defense of the Mattole

By The Mattole Forest Defenders

In March 2004, people marched over 90 miles through Humboldt County to raise awareness and inspire people to stand up to Maxxam Corp.'s liquidation logging of the Mattole watershed.

The 12-day march started March 18th and went from McKinleyville to Fox Camp Gate, near rural Honeydew. The gate is one of many used by Maxxam/PL to access the unique old growth forest of the wild Mattole river region.

The diverse and changing group on the march spoke with many locals, played music, created an educational chant, and handed out thousands of pamphlets through the historically timber-based county.

March events included a rainy protest at the office of California Dept. of Forestry; a prayer ceremony around the albino redwood where, through the ages, tribes have gathered in peace; and a celebration rally at the gate with Mattole residents, musicians, and speakers.

An action training camp followed immediately after the March. Since then, activists have consistently occupied the backwoods of the Mattole, engaging in non-violent resistance to prevent old growth logging plans.

Mattole Forest Defenders staged a pre-dawn roadblock on July 28, 2004, at a gate that leads to old-growth forest in the Mattole wilderness. At 3:30 a.m., a woman ascended a 35-foot monopod - a single pole-supported platform - at the entrance to Fox Camp Gate.

Residents have seen an alarming number of old-growth logs pass through this main gate in recent weeks from logging by Maxxam's Pacific Lumber. Logging trucks were backed up and loggers mixed with about twenty activists on the scene.

The activists have consistently spread a message that calls for the Texas-based Maxxam, which has violated at least 325 conservation laws in the last five years, including illegal logging of old-growth redwoods and destruction of water quality, to immediately change its ways.

Surrounded by mostly Douglas fir and madrone forest, activists climbed old-growth trees on mountain sides with more than a 50 percent slope. Pacific Lumber/Maxxam has finalized plans to clear

cut the area. Similar logging operations in the past have led to critically silted rivers from landslides, leading to loss of salmon habitat, as well as harm to downstream residents.

Logging crews discovered a roadblock at 4:30 a.m. on July 27, about 14 miles into the Mattole wilderness.

The roadblock - a white bus wedged into a bottleneck at the last of the admittance gates - contained two women locked down in steel devices that had been drilled through the floor

and cemented into the ground below, blocking the only road to active timber cuts. The women - Kelly Sanders and another giving her name as Gemima - were taken to the Humboldt County jail for booking late in the afternoon of July 27.

A second roadblock at Fox Camp Gate was being dismantled by Humboldt County Sheriffs on July 28. One activist was in custody, marking the second day of arrests in the Mattole.

The Mattole is a rugged, wild area activists occupied for almost eight months through the winter of 2001, in attempts to stop the logging of pristine Douglas fir forest. Activists have been back in the Mattole since March of this year.



Fasting for the forest in jail

By Naomi Wagner

On March 22 of this year, my friend Sparrow and I began a 24-day fast for the forest.

I fasted inside the Humboldt County Jail, while serving a sentence for hugging a tree during the March 2003 Freshwater uprising. My co-defendant, Sparrow, fasted outside, keeping a bi-weekly vigil in front of the Eureka Courthouse where the jail is located.

We decided to fast for several reasons:

1: To call attention to the continued destruction of the old growth forest in Humboldt County.

2: To keep the original action alive and to keep speaking out about the issues which caused the protest.

3: To follow the dictates of our hearts and to alert our communities in a non-violent way to the disaster befalling our beloved forest at the hands of the Maxxam

Corporation.

My sentence stemmed from the mass public protest that erupted in Freshwater on March 17, 2003. On that morning, as U.S. troops prepared to invade Iraq, Maxxam/Pacific Lumber sent its own privately contracted climbers, flanked by scores of pepper-spray-wielding county sheriffs, to extract the "tree-sitters" from several dozen ancient redwood trees along Greenwood Heights Road.

Sparrow and I had locked ourselves to a small redwood tree growing at the base of the massive 1,200-year-old redwood tree called "Jerry". Our action was to support a tree-sitter named Remedy who had defended "Jerry" for three days shy of a year.

We had aimed to buy a little time between Remedy's extraction and the tree's execution.

At my trial in June 2003, the jury found me innocent of trespassing when the prosecutor failed to prove that the tree where I was arrested and the easement that it was growing in belonged to Maxxam/P.L. I was, however, convicted of resisting arrest.

My lawyer, Ed Denson, and I filed an appeal challenging the prosecutors' use of illegal means to obtain the conviction. After six months the appeals process bogged down and it was dropped from the court calendar.

Inspired by Susan Maloney's 52-day fast for old growth protection on the capitol steps in Sacramento in 2002, I realized that fasting in jail could provide a good forum for our message.

From the beginning our fast made waves, both inside and outside of the jail.

Continued on next page 13



Sparrow and Naomi after Naomi's release from the Humboldt County jail.

We explained our intentions at a press conference we held in front of the courthouse on the day I turned myself in, so the story of the fast had already circulated prior to my arrival.

The Humboldt County Correctional Facility is not exactly Abu Graib, but it is not a fun place either.

When I told one officer of my intention to fast while incarcerated, he warned me that I could be put in the "hole." This is a windowless isolation cell with a single round hole in the center of a sloped concrete floor where a prisoner can be held handcuffed and naked for indefinite lengths of time.

Fortunately, I was held in the general population wing, with about 40 other inmates. We bunked by twos, threes and fours in eight by ten quads separated by waist-high concrete barriers arranged in two tiers around the walls of a day use area.

At first it was hard to adjust to the constant artificial lighting on the concrete, steel and plastic, and to the noise, forced air and lingering smell of disinfectant.

But the longer I fasted the more focused my energy became. Giving away my food at mealtimes won me instant friends and opened the door to discussion of my "fast for the forest."

14 Though few of the

women knew much about Iraq, they all were familiar with this region's "timber wars." Most were sympathetic and agreed that old growth should be saved.

After a short time I no longer needed to explain my fast, as my

From the beginning our fast made waves, both inside and outside of the jail.

cellmates took it upon themselves to inform newcomers about its purpose. All of the women expressed concern for my health and compassion for me during my fast.

After 12 days I was eligible to work in the kitchen, where my strength and resolve to fast would presumably be tested.

Rumor had it that I would either break my fast or collapse from starvation: However, neither of these things happened.

But the jail's Jewish cook, who knew that, "like Charles Hurwitz," I was also Jewish, insisted that I take a symbolic bite of Matzah, the traditional Passover bread of affliction. It was an offer I could not refuse.

On Passover evening some inmates woke me excitedly to hear the muffled sounds of drumming and the accordion music of a Klezmer band (a traditional Jewish band) coming from the street in front of the jail.

A crowd of activists and supporters organized by Petrolia resident Ellen Taylor had

Earth First! videos for sale.
www.earthfilms.org
Tree-sit: \$20 + \$3 shipping
Mattole resistance 2002:
\$10 + \$3 shipping
Mattole Alert! A Call to Action:
\$5 + \$3 shipping
Earthfilms P.O. Box 2198
Redway, CA 95560
Checks or U.S. money orders
Voicemail: (415) 820-1635
Earth First! video compilations,
including "Journey to Houston,"
available at:
www.northcoastearthfirst.org

gathered along with local Rabbi Lester Scharnberg to celebrate Passover and to support "our fast for the forest."

The Rabbi sang a spirited blessing and the drumming and chanting floated up through the ventilation shafts. The on-duty officers watched the rally on closed circuit television.

For a moment everyone smiled, sharing the spotlight of awareness of something bigger than themselves, of the forest and the people beyond the walls.

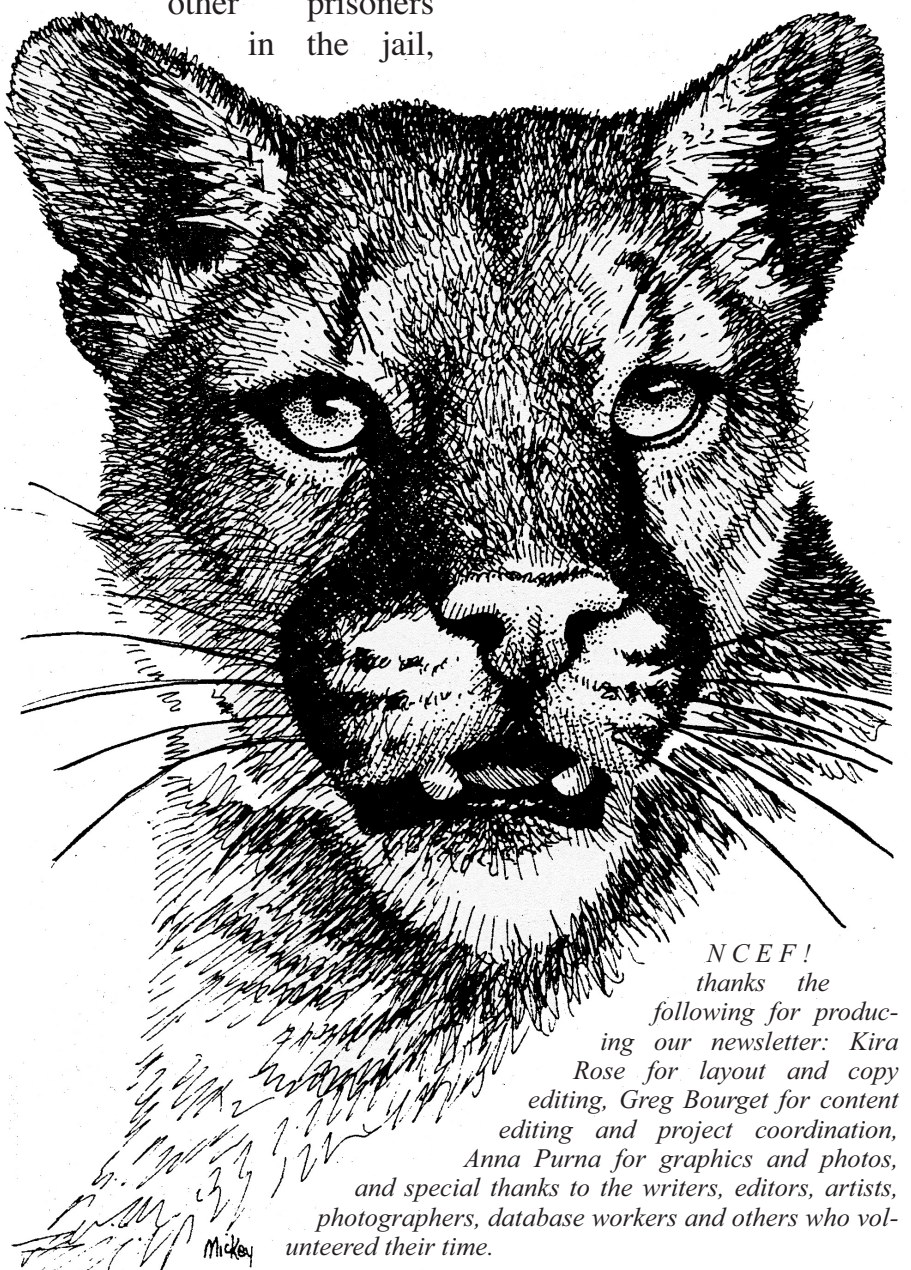
Unlike the majority of the other prisoners in the jail,

Sparrow and I received a great deal of support from the community for our actions, including letters, phone calls, gifts and contributions.

I received many visitors during my stay inside and many people stopped to offer their thanks and support to Sparrow as she sat outside the jail.

The night before my release, at 1:30 a.m., a young woman snuck out of lockdown in order to hug me goodbye.

"Thank you for saving our redwoods," she whispered.



Urgent Plea for Help...With Support There Is Action!

A big thanks to all our supporters, whose generous donations have helped keep us in gear, and in the trees, this past year. As the struggle continues, so does our need for cash! It's been a whole year since we asked you last. This has been a period of tenacious struggle and tireless protest, with activists rising up and literally clinging to the ancient trees to protect them from Maxxam's chainsaws. Though we have suffered some devastating losses, we've saved some beauties, too. Your support is a vital part of our struggle, and embraces us as we continue to resist the terrible toll of corporate greed on Mother Earth. With your help, our spirits remain strong...

Join Us Sept. 13-17

Help save the ancient redwood and Douglas fir forests in Humboldt County! Ancient trees are falling fast, and North Coast Earth First! is standing on the front lines of forest defense, from our roots in Headwaters Forest, to seedlings of resistance all over the bioregion. This fall we'll be putting our bodies in the way of destruction. Where will you be? Whether you can commit to a week, a month, a fall or longer, the forest needs you! There are a variety of ways in which you can help us defend Humboldt's ancient forests. If you can hike, talk, drive, or just sit, there is a role for you. Nonviolence and direct action trainings are provided. Just bring basic camping gear, your love for the forests and a commitment to nonviolence.

Name _____	
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Address change if different than label on the back of this page
	<input type="checkbox"/> Add me to your e-mail alert list
E-mail _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm contributing \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I can't afford to give, but please keep me on your list
<i>We want to make sure that everyone on our list wants to receive our newsletter. Send back this form if you would like to continue hearing from us: North Coast Earth First!, P.O. Box 219, Bayside, CA 95524. Make checks payable to "Earth First!"</i>	

Call to Action

Headwaters Reunion and Gypsy Memorial

You are invited to a Headwaters Reunion, during the week of Sept. 13-17, at Grizzly Creek State Park Campground.

Sept. 15 marks the end of the endangered marbled murrelet nesting season. While the birds are away, MAXXAM/ PL plans to go into the seabirds' old growth redwood home and start cutting.

Sept. 17 marks the six-year anniversary of the death of David "Gypsy" Chain, who was killed in 1998 when an irate MAXXAM/PL logger intentionally felled trees toward a group of non-violent activists.

Earth First! will be hosting a reunion in honor of the thousands of people who took part in the historic 1990's Headwaters campaign that resulted in the preservation of 3,000 acres of old growth redwoods, and 4,500 acres of surrounding forests.

Ten years of direct action resulting in over 1,500 arrests created the political pressure necessary to bring about that \$380 million purchase.

An insidious element

of "the deal" was the poorly named Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which gives MAXXAM/ PL a "license to kill" endangered species by destroying their habitat on the remainder of their corporate land, some 200,000 acres throughout Humboldt County, Calif.

The reunion will begin with non-violence training and

preparations for a rally to be held on Sept. 15, at the Gypsy Mountain gate.

On Sept. 17, the six-year anniversary of Gypsy's death, a ceremony will be held at the Memorial site, followed by a hike up Gypsy Mountain.

For folks coming from the Trinity Tribal Stomp (Sept. 10-12) it's an easy journey to Humboldt County for the reunion on Sept. 13. Go west on Highway 299 to 101, then south, just past Fortuna, to Highway 36. Then take Highway 36 east 17 miles through the old growth redwood forest, to Grizzly Creek State Park.

Others can take Highway 101 from the north or south to Highway 36. Join us for a week of solidarity and fun, cooking food, singing songs - and more.



North Coast Earth First!
P.O. Box 219
Bayside, CA 95524



Our Nonviolent Reputation

Earth First! is outspoken in its opposition to violent methods. Because only three percent of the old growth redwoods remain standing, Earth First! adopted a popular "No Compromise" stance in protection of the last ancient redwood ecosystems a decade ago. Judi Bari's advocacy was largely what led Northern California's Earth First movement to adopt a nonviolent code renouncing tree-spiking and equipment sabotage. Throughout a decade of confrontational timber protests, not a single injury has happened to our opposition. This is despite over a thousand arrests, pepper spray, pain compliance, police brutality, and other forms of violence suffered by nonviolent protesters.

Our nonviolence code:

- Our attitude will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people and the environment around us.**
- We will use no violence, verbal or physical, toward any person.**
 - We will not damage property.**
 - We will not bring firearms or other weapons.**
 - We will not bring or use illegal drugs or alcohol.**

N O R T H C O A S T
Earth First!



Newsletter

Fall 2004

