

North Coast Earth First!  
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11/11/04

Hey folks! We just got slammed by the Man, and among other places they hit us in the coffers. Help! We're sorry to hit you up twice in one season, but the company hit us ten times this season! As soon as we mailed you your Fall newsletter featuring fearless feats of forest defense, all Hell broke loose! Frankly, it's been a roller coaster of cops, carabinieri, judges, posters, press releases and handcuffs. Well, here's what happened :

Just as you got the last NCEF! newsletter activists stopped, blocked, and boarded a logging truck in front of the County Courthouse in Eureka. Other EF!ers served a subpoena to the head of Pacific Lumber security, Carl Anderson, concerning the pepper spray swabs in the Earth First!er eyeballs case. They served him during an EF! gate blockade halting old growth logging in the Mattole. PL thugs threw our videographer to the ground and lunged for her camera with a knife that missed the camera strap and cut her arm. She is recovering well and is looking into legal recourse. Subsequently we served him a subpoena; however, the pepper spray trial got a second hung jury in September which split this time six to two- in their favor. So, it's back to court again (and again, and again). (The ninth circuit declared the pepper spray swabbing at Frank Riggs' office in 1997 "excessive use of force." The US Supreme Court upheld and told us to sue the cops.) Many of us had other court dates too. If we had not been arrested or rearrested this fall, the company is still SLAPP suing each nonviolent direct action protester for \$400,000 to \$675,000.

While all this was going on that month we hosted an action camp at Grizzly Creek State Park on highway 36 in Humboldt County. The action camp was attended by activists from the North Coast as well as Germany, Belgium, Israel, Brazil and India.

Meanwhile during Fall a dozen EF! treesitters defended over twenty high profile Humboldt ancient redwoods under attack by corporate fraudsters. At what seemed like a pre-election lull on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, company-hired goons, along with five contract climbers, Maxxam management, and a couple of Sheriffs, brutally busted three people who were treesitting and cut down the 700+ year old tree named Aradia we had occupied for two years and ten months. This was just a few hundred yards from where Pacific Lumber logger A. E. Ammons killed NCEF! activist David "Gypsy" Chain by deliberately felling a tree onto him in on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

We think this is an especially important time to get our bodies in between the last ancient forests and a greedy guy from Texas who ripped off a Savings and Loan to buy Scotia. We welcome you to join us in this valiant struggle. At this stage in our nonviolent campaign we think of Gandhi who wrote: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they crack down, then you win."

We are noticing that for us, crack downs are expensive! The enclosed envelope helps committed activists who are doing what it takes to win at a moment when a lot is being lost. Really this last few months has all been rather unexpected, why won't they just leave the ancients alone? Please forgive our plea and thank you if you just gave. Besides moolah we also have an immediate need for more lawyers, rope and raincoats. Thanks for thinking of us.

May the forest be with you.