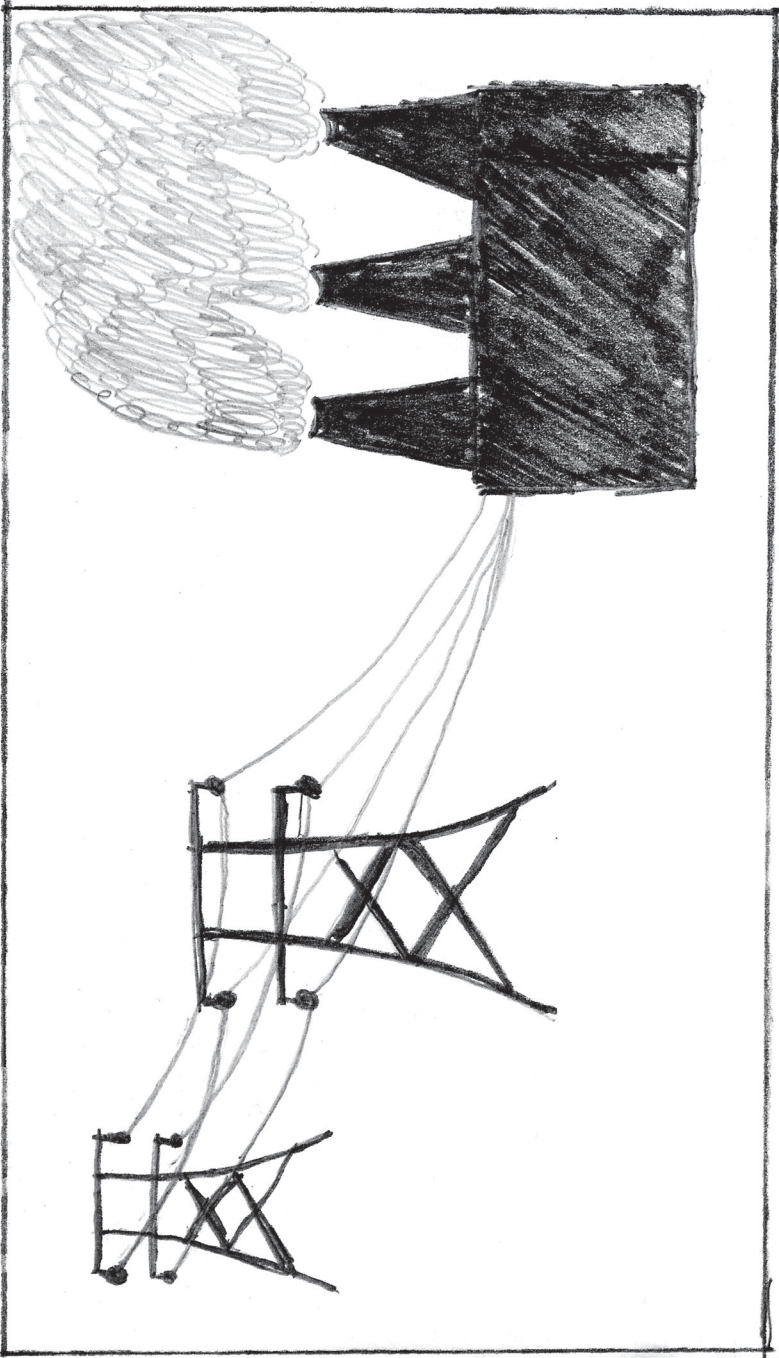


# HEARTCHECK



by political prisoners

JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS & ROB "LOS RICOS" THAXTON

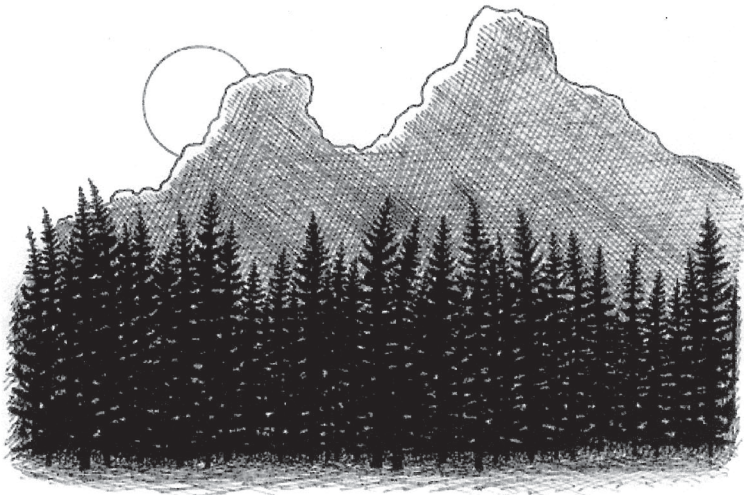


## \* D e d i c a t i o n \*

This zine is dedicated to all the brave warriors who have died struggling for freedom and to all of our imprisoned friends and comrades who have lost what little freedom they had struggling for land and liberty. You are not forgotten, with each act of resistance your memory lives on in our hearts.

The winds of change are blowing again and they are pushing against our backs. The winds are pushing us forward and howling "fight back."

Up The Rebels.  
**Jeffrey Free Luers**



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# Heartcheck

A person can become completely desensitized in the culture that prison cultivates. Daily events within these walls that would shock and possibly traumatize people in the outside world might inspire howls of laughter in here. It is not uncommon for a bloody fight or stabbing to erupt during chow. The spectacle is only temporary –as guards rush in, the de-con crew cleans up the blood and the meal continues virtually uninterrupted.

This culture has developed slang unique to prison in some ways as a means to cope. After all, it's easier to laugh than to cry. As a result, prison slang can be both quite humorous and vile at the same time.

The phrase “heartcheck” is used to call someone out when you grow weary of listening to him run his neck or talk out of his ass. For example, if a person is wronged by another and he talks endlessly about getting him back, but does nothing other than talk and whine – “Heartcheck!” Do it or shut the fuck up.

We chose to title this zine *Heartcheck* because for many years, various militant elements have been making empty threats and promises. As two individuals doing time for actions others only talk about, we are calling them out.

Rhetoric is boring and lacks conviction. In an attempt to appear tough and intimidating with talk of revolution, abolishing capitalism, smashing fascism and ending oppression world wide, self-professed militants limit themselves to passive/aggressive roles.

How easy it is for middle-class Americans to talk big when it is not their necks on the line (yet). While activists whine about oppression and boast about fighting back, people in Palestine, Congo, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Papua/New Guinea- all over the world- are dying because they have no choice but to fight or submit to the power of imperialist nations, and corporate and financial institutions.

You either mean what you say you are about or you are attempting to carry less guilt by speaking out and pointing fingers while failing to act.

Each and every one of us, as residents of an industrialized, wealthy, militarily powerful country- be it the USA, the UK or any of the other G-8 countries- have a responsibility to those who are dying in order to sustain the comfort and privilege we enjoy as first world consumers.

With millions of people dying, the environment being poisoned and destroyed by consumerism, there really are only three kinds of people: the victims, the problem, and the solution.

This zine is dedicated to the latter. The time for rhetoric is over. The time for action has arrived. We hope that the writings contained within will begin a much-needed discussion on real solutions and alternatives sorely lacking in radical circles. We hope these words will only be the beginning of something much larger.

Jeffrey “Free” Luers  
Rob “Los Ricos” Thaxton

Summer 2004

# Opening Remarks

You'll notice that throughout most of my writings in this zine I use the words "we", "our" and "us." While I am not attempting to speak for anyone but myself, I felt it necessary to be inclusive in my examples and hopes.

My reason for this is because despite the many different sectarian politics behind resistance in this country, most of us share common enemies; many of us share common goals. I think there is more that unites us than separates us, especially if we can agree that what might be right for me might not be for you and vice versa.

Regardless of how any one of you may choose to live or what type of resistance you may support, I consider all people in this struggle to be my comrades and allies. Just as I would give aid and comfort to an armed insurgent, I would equally tow the line and stand with any union locked out or march with women fighting for reproductive rights.

I do not see the dividing lines between the various struggles. I only see people fighting for something better. My use of the word "we" reflects my belief that none of us are in this alone. None of us can win by ourselves. We can only do it together.

**Jeff Luers**



# Time's Up

by **Jeff Luers**

In five minutes a man is gonna walk through your door and kill you and your family. You do not have time to escape. You can fight back or you can die. You have the advantage. You know he is coming, you know what door. You can win this fight.

No this is not the segue into a debate about non-violence. If you are still stuck in that debate you are not only reading the wrong zine, you are wasting valuable time.

Because in five years you will be facing a life threatening situation if you do not act now.

Global warming and species extinction is a cycle that takes decades to stop. Even if all industry shuts down tomorrow it would be two or more decades before the planet even started cooling down and extinction begins to abate. Which means even in that absolute best-case scenario hundreds of thousands of species would still go extinct and we'd still have to deal with climate change.

But, if you are one of the millions that don't think things are really that bad, here is a dose of reality for you. In January 2004, *National Geographic* reported that by 2050 more than one million plants and animals could be on the path to extinction (1). That doesn't even take insects into consideration which in and of themselves form the life support for many ecosystems.

The day after the *National Geographic* article, the *UK Guardian* ran an article adding to the report: In the Brazilian Savannah, which covers one fifth of the country, scientists concluded that 39-48 percent of the plant species will disappear. That's more than 1,700 species on the low end. In Europe one-fourth of all birds will go extinct and 11-17 percent of plants (2). The findings go on in Mexico, Australia, and South Africa.

These findings are not new. In 2002, Nigel L.A. Pitmen of Duke University and Peter M. Jorgensen of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis reported in a study, that nearly half of the world's plants were in danger of extinction (3).

The world is on the verge of its sixth mass extinction event. What is most troubling is that it is a human caused crisis. In July 2002, *The Oregonian* reported that Alaskan glaciers are melting at a rate of 24 cubic miles of ice a year. A rate twice as fast as only 40 years ago (4).

Later that year *The Oregonian* reported that CO2 levels had "increased 31 percent in the last 250 years reaching a concentration unseen... in at least 420,000 years and perhaps as far back as 20 million years." (5).

In December of 2003 the same paper as well as *USA Today* reported that 2003 was the

3<sup>rd</sup> hottest year in nearly 150 years. The global average surface temperature increased by 0.81 F (6). A huge increase when you consider the global average includes Polar Regions. "Human activities are increasingly altering the Earth's climate" according to the American Geophysical Union (7). The change in climate is causing more extreme weather patterns which of themselves are creating new problems.

I could go on, but you get the point. Or do you? We are not running out of time, we are out of time! We have to act now just so it doesn't get any worse.

Smash it, break it, block it, lock down to it. I don't care what you do or how you do it. Just stop it. Get out there and stop it.

- 1). [news.nationalgeographic.com](http://news.nationalgeographic.com) 1-7-04 "By 2005 Warming to Doom Million Species."
- 2). *Guardian UK*. 1-8-04 "Global warming to kill off 1 million species by 2050"
- 3). *The Oregonian*, 11-1-2002 "Study: Half of world's plants in peril."
- 4). *Ibid.* 7-14-02 "Alaska's glaciers are melting at rapid rate."
- 5). *Ibid.* 10-23-02 "Global warming expert warns of bigger changes to come."
- 6). *Ibid.* 12-17-03 "Weather agency says 2003 is third hottest year..."
- 7). *USA Today* 12-17-03 "Scientists say man alters climate."





# Learning from SHAC

by **Jeff Luers**

It's 2005 and the hope of 1999 seems so far away. A movement that once shocked Amerikkka and rattled the system hard enough to force a response has become stagnant and almost predictable. With each passing year it loses more momentum.

The problem is repetition of the same cycle over and over again. It takes decades to build a movement that can take to the streets with such mass and energy that it shakes a society to its very foundation. The revolutionary energy in this country climaxed in one orgasmic explosion in Seattle '99. For one sparkling moment, it looked as if the movement was going to ride the tide all the way to the crashed gates of the White House.

But people set their own boundaries and refused to take the next step - piling on the pressure, with massive action as back up. Instead they discussed, debated and ultimately condemned one another, as old sectarian lines were re-drawn. Separated by ideology, the various factions fell back to the same old routines. Having failed to make the assault on the New World Order into a revolution, we failed to give ourselves a chance to win.

We must change our tactics and re-direct our energy. Our planet is being looted and the loot divided between the world's richest countries. Our water, air and land are being poisoned, which has poisoned our bodies with cancer. People are being killed by the state's war machine and the corporations hiding behind the might of the state. We are attacked in the streets and raped in their prisons by a police force immune to their courts. We are fodder for their death machine.

Damn it! I take that personally and it's time we made it personal. It's time we take the fight to them. This is no promise of revolution. This is a declaration.

The Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign has provided an amazing example of our potential to bring a huge corporation to its knees. The campaign has internationally targeted the largest to the smallest components of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). From the banks and stockbrokers that do business with HLS to the companies that supply janitorial services and catering. By taking the fight to the homes of directors and executives, using grassroots organizing to email and phone blockage businesses, and also with the support of underground groups such as the ALF, the SHAC campaign has brought one of the world's largest animal torturing companies to the brink of bankruptcy. HLS went from being a \$30-a-share company to just \$2-a-share in four years.

A large component of this effectiveness has been SHAC's focus and determination on one goal – targeting and shutting down HLS. By attacking every foundation and support structure, SHAC has taken away the company's ability to seek aid or investment. Stephens Inc. discovered this in October 2001 when they invested in HLS.

Stephens bought, along with their shares, the wrath of an international campaign. Four months later, Stephens dropped its investment.

By effectively using aboveground, grassroots organizing, and with the support of the underground, SHAC has shown how a movement can gain momentum and take that next step.

Revolutionary movements cannot fall into the trap of “party and protest.” Summit hopping will not create change. It allows the Powers That Be to set the stage. Already the G8 have started to pick meeting places in areas inaccessible to protesters. Leaving demonstrators at the closest city, with little hope of disrupting the meeting. By acknowledging the limitations of using any one strategy, movements can go beyond their current limitations and expand their fight.

By focusing on a specific corporation rather than a generalized group, any movement can be 100 times more effective. Take the anti-war movement for example. Cruise missiles have to be built somewhere, don't they?

Lockheed Martin, Bechtel, Halliburton and its subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root all have defense contracts with the US military, either to supply weaponry or material support. It is the bombs they build and the support they supply that is responsible for the deaths of innocent children, women and men.

With a little research and help from their own websites, addresses and phone numbers can be obtained. Research and development locations can be brought to a standstill.

A well organized, grass-roots campaign can bring a giant military contractor down. It is within the power of the people and gives real meaning to the phrase “they have the guns, but we've got the numbers.”

By using the SHAC model, people can begin to address the root cause of problems and not just symptoms.

Those responsible must be held accountable.

It is a beautiful thing to see the financial district of a major city smashed to pieces. The release of pent-up frustration and unfettered rage against the symbols of misery will continue to play a major role in revolutionary change. However, if a revolution is to succeed, it cannot stop there, it must attack the very infrastructure of the institutions of oppression, from every angle, large to small. Only then will the cracks in the foundation break the supports that hold up the system.

**For more information visit:**

[www.shacamerica.net](http://www.shacamerica.net)

[www.dictatorwatch.org](http://www.dictatorwatch.org)

# The Kabylia Uprising

by **Rob los Ricos**

Why isn't revolution being fought in the USA? If ever there was a right moment for massive uprisings against the federal government, this is it. How much more odious do the fascists in power have to get? A coup d'etat by a ruling class family? The plundering of our country by the wealthy, which has reduced it to another banana republic? How about wars being fought purely for the purpose of propaganda? Or for no reason whatsoever? What was the invasion of Haiti about? What about the concentration camps in Guantanamo Bay? And Iraq? And Afghanistan? How about the hundreds of people being kept in secret detention aboard US Navy ships?

It's not surprising that most Americans are too lazy and apathetic to fight for their own freedom. However; considering there are a growing number of anarchists in this country who describe themselves as "insurrectionaries", one would think there would be at least a hint of insurrection here.

In Europe, anarchists—whether they describe themselves as "insurrectionary" or not—show more signs of life. Anarchists in Italy continue to be actively militant, despite police crackdowns against them. Our Italian *companiona/os* are accused of rioting, and robbing banks in order to finance their activities. In Greece, cities are sometimes shut down by anarchist street actions, which have included sieges of police stations. Not to mention bombings, used to punctuate protests. Meanwhile, Spanish anarchists conduct bombing campaigns in solidarity with prisoners protesting against new, stricter prisoners there, modeled after US facilities.

Here in the heart of Leviathan, insurrectionary anarchists concern themselves almost exclusively with zine production. They also hang out with one another and drink beer. Insurrectionary? Not in the least. Cowardly? Absolutely.

There are a million excuses for cowardice. Here are a few of the most popular ones:

"This is not the proper historical moment." As noted earlier, this cannot be considered anything but a complete disconnection from reality, or an outright lie.

"We don't have popular support." Neither Castro nor the Sandinistas had popular support when they began their revolutions, and they won. A sizable minority of Americans supports the Bush Junta. People like that want dissidents in prison, or dead. These people will never be on our side.

"Violence is bad! And it doesn't work." It's odd that anyone gives such idiotic notions even a seconds worth of thought. Especially in a country which occupies land once entirely inhabited by Native Peoples, all of whom (100%) lost their homelands due to racist violence by European invaders. Violence is certainly helping the Israeli government carry out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Palestinians. The lie that violence is not effective is hysterically screamed by cowards to distract attention from their cowardice. Why is violence inherently bad? Because it's bad, that's why!

The Bush Junta's invasion of Haiti, to dispose of that country's only elected government, proves beyond any doubt the lengths they will go in order to prevent common people from having any choice in how their lives are managed. Thousands of Haitians are being massacred, to the utter indifference of the world, and with US military support for the murderers.

The horrendous conditions people are living under in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti and occupied Palestine will continue as long as US troops, arms and money are utilized to maintain their suffering.

Meanwhile, radicals, dissidents and "insurrectionary" zinesters in the US will ignore, downplay or even condemn people fighting for their lives against American and international financial interests, as well as US and Israeli military occupation. To stand up for these people's resistance movements would potentially jeopardize insurrectionary zinesters lifestyles. By standing aside and watching, zinesters abdicate having anything to say on the matter. However, if they were to build solidarity with these oppressed people, they might find receptive, eager allies in the struggle against the New World Order. If Christian missionaries can find converts there, anything is possible.

Sadly, insurrectionary anarchists here in the US have nothing in common with determined, heroic people willing to fight and give up their lives for their people. To the insurrectionary zinesters, life is to be lived groveling in the dirt, hoping the powerful will take no notice of them. To stand and fight back against those who have them enslaved would be suicide, as far as they are concerned. By surrendering without even attempting to break free of their chains, insurrectionary anarchists proudly display their cowardice, which they consider practical wisdom.

At the same time, they look to people in desperate situations abroad – mostly in the global south- to fight against the New World Order. Some US anarchists still preach the Communist Party of the USA's (CPUSA) party line that resistance to capitalism must come from the underdeveloped world, in order to deprive the developed world – mostly in the global north- of resources needed by their war machines.

Nicaragua overthrew a US-backed dictatorship and Vietnam defeated the US war machine, yet both countries are currently being sold out to corporate interests in the G-8 nations, so it's glaringly obvious that the "erosion from the outside" model doesn't work. To further illustrate the point, in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, invading armies simply invade and take what they want –always simply in service to the north's economic interests.

There's an alarming lack of attention here in the US in regards to an insurrection that's been on-going since April 2001, in the Kabylia region of Algeria. Very likely, US insurrectionary anarchists are hoping the rebellion will be crushed soon, so they can start mourning the brave people in that north African nation. The longer this drags on, the more it points out how cowardly the zinesters are.

The conditions which inspired the revolt are familiar to many of us in the US: the

contempt (“la hogsa”) the ruling powers have for those they rule; Arrogant abuses of power and rampant corruption – themes familiar to the Bush Junta. In Kabylia, the social tension reached a breaking point when yet another unarmed teen was shot dead by the state police (the “Gendarmerie”). There was already a large protest movement against the lethal brutality of the Gendarmerie growing across Algeria. After April ’01, though, the protests were accompanied by widespread rioting.

Rather than cower, hide and write, the people of Kabylia held demonstrations in support of the rioters. After a while, the entire region was literally ungovernable. As far as I know, it’s ungovernable still (8/04), as the people in the region have abolished government and centralized power of any sort, and refuse to allow the state to re-establish their offices. Instead the people are managing their own affairs through popular assemblies –called Aarchs, after an ancient system of village assemblies once common in the area.

They must be doing something right – they’re still functioning in this stateless manner, years later.

Although this isn’t an anarchist revolution in theory (it’s not based on anarchist traditions) it is anarchic in practice. Likely this is the reason US insurrectionary anarchists are all but silent on the uprising: it proves that both anarchy and insurrection work! This is dangerous to the zinesters, as it might tend to show what a complete waste of time they are, their heads full of theory, but their lives devoid of actions to give their ideas any meaning. The insurrectionaries in Algeria are more anarchist than US anarchists, in practice.

At some point, the mighty forces of the New World Order may decide to put an end to the Kabylia uprising. Efforts to divide-and-conquer have proven futile so far, as no group has been allowed to step into power in the place of the former state apparatus. Not jihads, not unions, not alternative political parties. The people, through the Aarchs have the power. Fortunately, the Bush Junta’s bungling of the wars against Iraq and “Terrorism” are preventing the N.W.O from focusing on Algeria’s internal troubles. Only time will tell if the Aarchs are capable of creating a new society, and if their desire for a stateless existence will withstand military intervention. The Algerian government may fear an attempt at putting the uprising down, as this could cause the rebellion to spread to the remnants of the nation.

The surest way to prevent foreign intervention in Kabylia would be for us in the US and EU to emulate the actions of the people there. That would mean sustained social pressure through mass demonstrations, riots against police suppression of such gatherings and other misdeeds of those in power, accompanied by attacks on all manifestations of centralized power. This, as the Kabylia insurgents have shown, is what works.

Here in the US, almost all voices of leftists, progressives and anarchists spout the ancient CPUSA mantra of gradual change, education and outreach to “the masses”, thereby creating the new society in the shell of the old one. Despite the fact that this

has never succeeded in practice, and that in theory this would only result in a remodeling of the old society. What is clear from the insistent adherence to such arcane, ancient, ineffective, cowardly theory as the only way to advance revolution in the north, is that insurrectionaries/ revolutionaries/ progressives here are more interested in maintaining the lifestyle to which they are acclimated than they are in creating a new society – one that values life, the biosphere that makes life possible, and finding our places within its bio-systems. Such revolutionary changes would entail suffering and struggle, and not all of us would survive to see the victory won. Such a victory would also result in a dramatic lowering of material ease and luxury enjoyed by the richest 10% of the global population – which includes almost all consumers in the north. The real reason there is no revolution here? Because the life of comfort and relative ease in the north is more important to almost everyone here than are the lives of dark-skinned foreigners.

A final thought: right now, US concentration camps are reserved for people of Arabic descent, or the Islamic religion. When the Bush Junta (or its successor) starts rounding up anarchists, leftists and progressives and ya'll don't resist with all the ferocity you're capable of expressing...well, you'll deserve whatever you get.



# revolution

# Building a Foundation for Change

by **Jeff Luers**

There are so many people preaching revolution it makes my head spin. Battles in the street, fires in the night and all the glories of warfare: Death, hunger and rape. Bloody revolutions, communities torn apart, is this what you are preaching? Is this part of your dream?

It is easy for those who have no intention of fighting a war to call on others to fight one. Those who preach outright revolution have no concept of what it means to fight a winnable war. Now, have they made any attempt to build the necessary foundation of populist support? The idea of calling on an unprepared movement to pick up guns and go to war is asinine. Do the authors of such insanity even know how to use a gun, let alone own one?

Groups like the ELF are just starting to come into the level of support they deserve and need. Still, Earth Liberation prisoners struggle to maintain a foundation of supporters who will agitate for their freedom. These people only committed property destruction yet they are quickly condemned by many activists and non-activists alike.

There is no way, at this point in time, an armed resistance could receive the public support it would need to survive, not to mention win.

It is strategically impossible for a guerilla army to win without the support of at least some of the people. Only a community of sympathizers can support, supply and encourage a guerilla unit. That foundation of support does not exist in this country at present and there has been no true attempt to cultivate it.

Of course, this is not an argument for pacifism. I fully support armed resistance, unapologetically, when it is a necessary part of ending oppression. It is a sad truth that violence will play a major role in any radical change in the country. This lesson has been taught repeatedly throughout history.

The U.S. is the wealthiest nation in the world. If you think for one second that the elite and powerful in this country will hesitate to use lethal force, to protect and defend the capitalist wet dream from homegrown dissidents, you are sadly mistaken.

Anyone who has enlisted in military service can tell you. They took an oath to defend this country against all enemies foreign and domestic. While they may have no intention of raising arms against their fellow citizens, their superiors obviously expect different. Regrettably, numerous times from 1900 - present the national guard and/or army have been called upon to protect the interests of the government and capitalism, from private citizens. Unfortunately, in several incidents unarmed citizens were killed by military troops.

The dark truth of social change is that at one point or another there will be violence

whether it is by choice or by force. In this country it is an inevitable fact. There is only one force in this nation that has the ability to stand up to the state. That is unified communities (groups of people living in the same area, sharing common beliefs or goals) banding together and directly challenging the authority of the capitalist state.

Building community is the first phase of building an effective revolutionary movement. (It also takes a really long time and as Rob points out it is time we may not have.) It involves a massive amount of outreach and organization. Including; community service projects, food banks, and public forums to facilitate dialog, the creation, and implementation of social alternatives to those currently in place.

The building of community also requires an open mind. Many people of differing opinions, cultures and beliefs will need to come together if we are to succeed. Work abolitionists will have to work with unionists, syndicalists with greens and so on. Because any real change will have to respect the rights of others to think, believe and live differently. That is autonomy and self-determination in action.

Community organizing tends to be our weakest link. I'm not sure why that is because it should be our strongest. If we truly believe that power needs to be taken from government and corporations and put back into the hands of communities, I would think that our strength would lie in the communities in which we live.

Unfortunately, our numbers remain small, which is all the more reason we should be reaching out. We need to get beyond our own dogma and make connections with labor and working class people; we need to reach out to the poor and disenfranchised and incorporate them both into one struggle. Historically, the government has played these two groups against each other, using poor workers as scabs to break strikes or as a means to drive down labor costs, fostering contempt and racism. This artificial separation of potential allies and the use of the middle class as a buffer zone gives rise to the power of the rich capitalist elite.

A perfect example of our failure as a radical movement can be found in the longest running grocery strike in U.S. history. Nearly 900 supermarkets in California were affected by the strike and subsequent lockout that started in Oct. 2003 and lasted 4½ months. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union were striking over cuts in pay and benefits. For months they held a picket line, after they were locked out. Scabs from Oregon, victims of Oregon's recession, were brought down to work as the giant corporate mega stores tried to break the union.

Radicals should have bolstered their numbers. We should have helped hold the line. There should have been solidarity actions, boycotts. At the very least we could have done benefits to help them feed their families and selves while they were striking. These people are just like us, struggling to get by, feed their families, keep a roof over their heads. We should have reached out to them. We should have supported them in their struggles for better wages and health benefits. Which in reality is a struggle for a better quality of life –sound familiar?



I think that despite all our differences, there is one thing we can all agree on. No one wants big money men or big business to run the world and dictate our future. No one wants to be ruled by an oppressive and corrupt government.

Perhaps you've heard of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, two Earth First! activists, that helped organize the Redwood Summer in 1990. Judi, with her charisma and understanding of loggers' need to care for their families, was successfully able to reach out to the timber workers. A coalition between labor and environmentalists was formed and together this coalition challenged the logging practices of convicted corporate swindler Charles Hurwitz and his Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company.

In May of 1990, an attempted assassination was carried out on Judi and Darryl when their car was bombed. The FBI just so happened to be on the scene and promptly arrested a very seriously injured Judi and Darryl charging them with the bombing. Though the charges did not stick, the FBI continued with a smear campaign to label Judi, Darryl and Earth First! as terrorists. (In 2003 Darryl Cherney and family members of the late Judi Bari won a \$4.4 million lawsuit against the FBI).

During the rebellion in Seattle on November 30, 1999 labor and radicals again united. This time in the streets under the onslaught of police brutality. Together black clad anarchists and trade unionists battled the police, enduring tear gas, batons and rubber bullets.

New allies had been made and in the months following the WTO, Tacoma, WA ship builders went out on strike. They requested the help of the radicals from Eugene and Portland, OR. Activists with climbing experience offered to reclaim a crane and hang a banner in support of the striking workers.

This new coalition of radicals and labor proved too dangerous to be left unchecked. The police responded in huge numbers claiming that a bomb threat had been called in by a "Eugene anarchist group." Some officials in the union used this as an excuse to end the still fragile coalition. Once again the police were able to exploit differences and throw in the terrorist label. The old lines between labor and radicals were redrawn and both were left to their own devices to fight a system that exploits them.

The authorities have reacted with amazing speed and force against any unification between labor and radicals. Why? Because the unification of labor and radicals is a historic combination in this country. It has almost always led to insurgency. Insurgency can lead to class war, class war can lead to regime change and fallen governments can give rise to autonomy. There is nothing more frightening to the powers that be than a united front of dissidents. The government struggles every day to keep groups divided: Black against White, middle class against poor, liberal against radical and the list goes on. It is only in this way capitalist rule can be maintained.

By finding our common ground we can come together in our community. When we have united with the many that share common desires and goals we can begin to build a foundation for change. It is from this foundation that a support network for those

who engage in acts of revolt will grow.

It takes a community to support those who fight and punish rampaging and murderous cops. A community can hide and protect midnight saboteurs. A community united has the power to stand against the might of the state.

These are the lessons we need to be teaching. These are the coalitions we should be building. Change will not happen overnight. It starts when we know our neighbors and we can nurture our mutual dreams. No man will join a struggle that does not help him feed his children. No woman will fight alongside men who do not challenge patriarchy. No person of color will support a movement that does not challenge racism – institutionalized or otherwise, nor should they. I wouldn't.

If you truly believe in the necessity of revolution this is where it has to start. No revolution that is for the people can win without the support of the people. That support does exist; we only need to plant the seeds, nurture and water them for it to grow.

So many activists in this country are seeking instant gratification, believing that one big protest is the answer to all our prayers. Yet, these are just one of many battlegrounds. These are also the fights we are most ill prepared to win.

From a strictly military viewpoint: We warn the enemy of our plan to attack. We allow them to prepare massive defenses. Then we descend in mass with targets already painted on our heads. In the end if the meeting still happens, if the police capture or hospitalize more of us than we do of them, it cannot be claimed as anything other than a loss.

That being the definition of losing, it can hardly be said that we are winning.

Revolution is a grassroots, ground up operation. It starts with winning the hearts and minds of the people living in our community. This is accomplished through education, outreach, food programs, providing assistance whether it is guerilla cross walk painting or helping someone fix their leaky roof. It builds into an ability to protect and defend our own from drug dealers, gangs and police. Then it escalates into sabotage and action on a continuous local level, shutting down the local infrastructure and ultimately replacing it. It can be surprisingly simple and effective.

In the 1980's the United States was concerned about the spread of communism to Nicaragua. In an effort to promote native resistance to the Sandinista Government the CIA published and distributed the "Freedom Fighters Manual" throughout Nicaragua.

The Manual's goal was to be able to include any person in the resistance. Some of the tactics the manual detailed were: calling in sick to work, anti-government graffiti, putting sponges into toilets and water drains, leaving nails in roads and highways and dropping tools into the sewers.

The manual did not highlight large-scale protest as an effective means of resistance. Instead the CIA focused on low risk activity that everyone could do. The goal was to set in motion an unstoppable community resistance, and not just rely on a vanguard of insurgents.

That was the CIA's advice; on the other end of the spectrum, we have rebels and insurgents themselves. Both the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) have used infiltrators and informants to get into the ranks of the police and army. They used the knowledge gained or the people inside to create and exploit weaknesses from within, whether it was liberating imprisoned comrades, stealing weapons from armories or setting up assassinations.

Much can be learned by studying historical precedent. If victory is to be ours we must choose when, where and how we will engage the state. That is our advantage; we must use it to our fullest ability.

Social change requires incredible amounts of dedication and discipline. It will not be brought about by anything other than hard work - work we have yet to put in.

Here we are 5 years after the defeat of the WTO at Seattle and we have still failed to outline a strategy of resistance or to put forward even a vague idea of a new social structure. Some have expressed their ideals and dreams. But, where is the foundation for us to build upon?

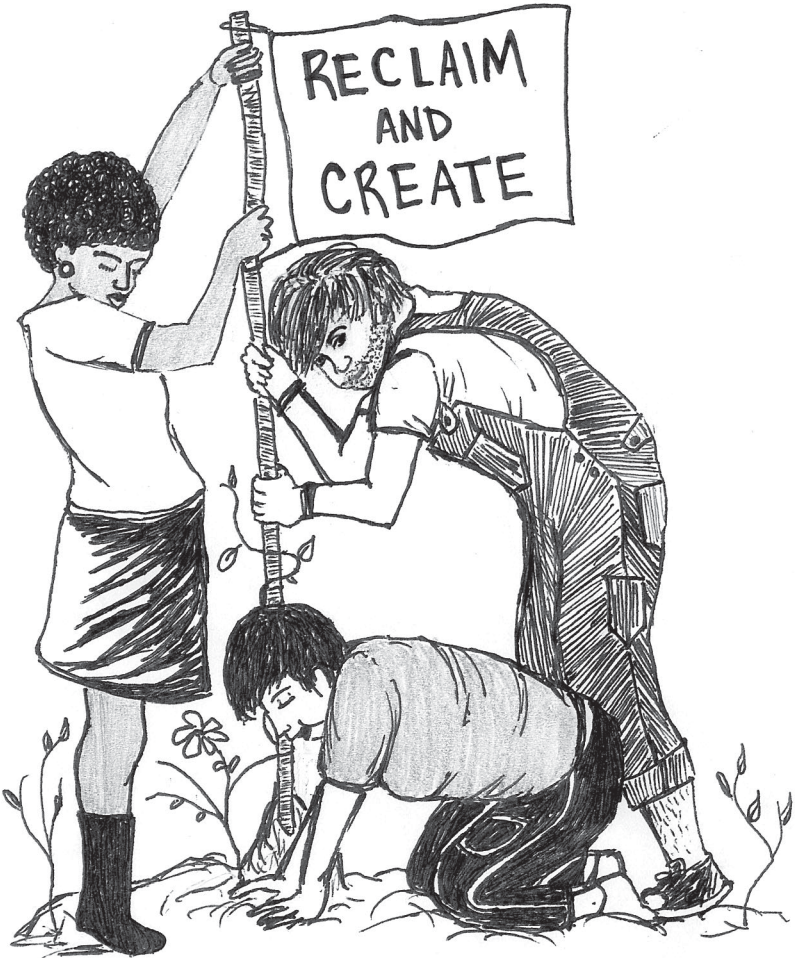
The lack of organization and outreach that goes beyond preaching to the choir is appalling. The fear of leadership has become an excuse for inaction. Do we honestly believe ourselves so inept and incompetent that we can not develop organizations that work together with responsible leadership? I may be an anarchist, but I would willingly follow and listen to one who has earned my respect, demonstrated knowledge in the subject and can lead by example. Do we not possess those qualities?

Of course, I'm not suggesting we put someone in charge. Indeed many people should step forward to guide in that which they excel. Be it networking, farming, feeding lots of people or direct action. The point is we need to share skills, have above ground organization, underground coordination and work together to move us forward.

We need to put forth a functional model for social change. Whether it is on a local level or a larger model for people to look at. Regardless of how we choose to do it we've got a long way to go and a short amount of time in which to do it. Ideals and dreams are pointless with out a means to implement them.

We challenge the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. We travel thousands of miles to fight the World Trade Organizations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and G8. We agitate for a world free of capitalism, oppression and hate. Yet, in our own communities unarmed people are killed by cops, women can not live without fear, big money and the people who own it are still making all the decisions and they still have a paramilitary police force protecting them and their interests.

So why do so many still travel from one protest to another looking to pick a fight, when the battles that need fighting the most are in our front yards? IF you want real change it starts in your neighborhood against your local robber barons and gangs in blue. If we can't take back our streets how can we take back the nation? Street by Street, community by community is our only hope.



# International Days of Solidarity, Anti-Genetix Campaigns and the Earth Liberation Front.

by **Rob los Ricos**

Throughout the last decade, opposition to the global market economy spread around the world, and for the first time since WWI, people the world over acted in solidarity with one another.

This movement seems to have run its course. That wouldn't be a bad thing if, in its place, there was a strong, still-growing opposition movement which had evolved and left behind symbolic street demonstrations in favor of more focused, more direct types of actions. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem as if the millions of people who have participated in International Days of Solidarity (IDS) understand either how to move beyond symbolic protest, or even what it is about IDS that makes them important.

The global scope of some of these actions has been nothing less than spectacular. At times, the headquarters of various institutions of status, wealth and power were targeted and their operations disrupted for the day. This would happen in dozens of countries: stock exchanges, international banks, offices of the WTO, even entire cities were overrun with people out to celebrate life and demonstrate their displeasure with the policies of the New World Order.

The IDS movement began in the global south in the 90's, but achieved little notice and had little effect until the global north joined in the festivities. Despite the spectacular success of the 6/18/99 IDS against the G-8 summit, the IDS movement was given only passing notice until the people of the USA finally became involved during the WTO conference in Seattle, later that same year. With live TV coverage of the so-called Battle of Seattle broadcast across the country and around the world, the IDS movement achieved an undeniable presence, which even the most uninformed consumers were forced to notice.

This media coverage may well have added to the IDS movement's apparent demise. Not changing tactics and trying to recreate instead the symbolic victory achieved in the streets of Seattle also may have contributed to burn-out among activists.

Too much emphasis has been placed on specific, transitory targets (ie: conferences), while the dozens of solidarity actions around the world have been given little attention outside their immediate vicinity. Sadly, this is as true of the "alternative" and non-commercial media as it is for the corporate media. No one wants to discuss how widespread the opposition has become. We can expect the corporate media to downplay its opposition, but the self-imposed muffling of dissident voices is confusing as well as unforgivable.

The worldwide solidarity actions are what make IDS so important and exciting, and presents opportunities to move the struggle forward. Perhaps the global proportion of the opposition has also contributed to its apparent demise. It is so widespread that no group or ideology can claim to represent it. Thus, there is no “official” focal point or public forum to collect and disseminate such information.

By downplaying the localized solidarity actions, the IDS movement shortchanged its potential for growth or more expansive tactics and has placed unnecessary emphasis on disrupting the targeted conference. Strategically, these are purely symbolic actions to begin with. Targeted organizations –the IMF/WB, WTO, etc.- have offices worldwide which implement their long-term programs everyday. In order to have a real effect on the global market economic policies of the New World Order, IDS participants should emphasize continued disruption of the localized, everyday activities of the targeted organizations.

The focus on traveling to targeted meetings of the New World Order’s various institutions led to the emergence of a jet set elite of privileged activists. Many of them desperately sought to dominate or otherwise control the gathered protesters, and often tried to divide them into groups who supported the jet-set’s rigid guidelines of what was and was not acceptable behavior. Fortunately, several of the largest and most important gatherings were held in Europe, where the US-led jet-set had little influence and were largely ignored, though their presence continued to menace the spirit of international solidarity of the IDS.

After the Battle of Seattle, many US leftists and progressives denounced the people who fought back when the police attacked the protesters. For months afterwards, the street fighters were denounced and blamed for the indiscriminate violence of the Seattle police. In the end, American activists abandoned rioting as part of the struggle, and mass protests –against the annexation of Iraq by the Bush Junta, against the G-8 summit in Georgia, etc. – became irrelevant to the media, the public and activists. I’m hopeful that most activists are still involved in the struggle at some level.

However, whatever they are doing, they have lost the revolutionary opportunity they had created for themselves.

Rather than utilize the growing momentum of their street actions, US activists allowed a cowardly elite to convince them to reduce their expectations to feel-good sentiments (“not in my name”) as opposed to, say, stopping the war against the Iraqi people.

If the international IDS/anti-war movements had pushed forward with the struggle instead of retreating into irrelevance, right now, the world would be on the brink of revolutionary changes in the way the New World Order’s global culture functions. The opportunity was there, but it seems to have slipped away for now.

The thought of building upon this movement does not seem to have occurred to many activists. Perhaps they don’t know how or what to do to be more effective at actually

achieving their aims. There are examples from which to learn. One example was suggested by Arundhati Roy: every activist should pick one or two corporations and do as much as possible to disrupt their operations. Free's article on the SHAC campaign provides a more detailed look at how this can be done.

Another example notable for its effectiveness, has been the battle against Frankenfoods, or anti-genetic actions. Instead of taking to the streets to stage yet another futile protest of corporate activity, anti-genetic activists uproot test crops and burn them. They dump Frankenfoods into the oceans. They attack labs and nurseries where Genetic Engineering atrocities were being conducted and burn them to the ground, along with research data.

This is known as Direct Action. And it works.

Researchers admit that some attacks have put their evil schemes as much as a decade behind schedule. Some corporations are giving up on expensive GE experiments, since they've been unable to unleash their unwanted genetic atrocities onto a wary public, particularly in the EU.

It's worth pointing out that these actions are illegal and that people either are willing to carry them out in large-scale solidarity actions and risk jail time, or they carried out their attacks clandestinely.

Clandestinity carries its own unique set of challenges for activists. It also allows the activist-in-hiding a greater freedom of expression in the struggle.

Another example worthy of emulation is that of the Earth Liberation Front.

Here's how the ELF describes itself (from the pages of *Resistance: Journal of the North American ELF Press Office*):

*"The ELF is an underground direct action organization that commits acts of sabotage against those who profit from the destruction of the natural environment..."*

*"The ELF has no control authority, no public meetings and no mailing list..."*

*"Due to this loose structure, actions could potentially be carried out against anyone who profits from the destruction of the natural environment..."*

*"If we are to actually succeed in preserving all...which keeps us alive...We need to organize and partake in direct actions which defend ourselves from the murderous greed that is destroying our environment and ultimately killing us all."*

*From a separate article:*

*"The ELF does not commit merely symbolic acts to simply gain attention to any par-*

*ticular issues...*

*“The earth, and therefore all of us born of it, are under attack...*

*“The only problems...with actions like these are that they are not happening frequently enough and at severe enough levels...That the oppressive system itself isn't brought to its knees by the people taking direct action and fighting back...”*

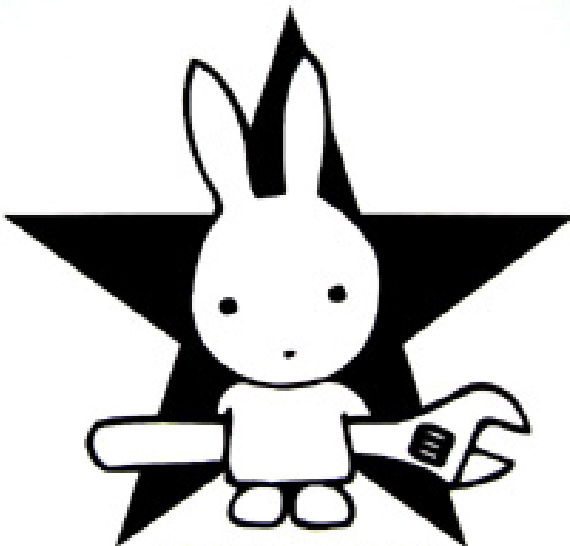
The author also speculates that at least this is a possibility in the future and asks, “What choice do we have?”

From 1999 through 2000, while IDS events were gaining momentum, the NAELF office was notified of more than 20 actions that resulted in over \$34 million worth of damage to the Earth's plunderers. Most of these were fire bombings. Despite the massive damage, no one has ever been physically harmed through ELF actions.

If the participants of IDS events were to try their hands at SHAC, Anti-Genetix or ELF types of actions, the ability of the New World Order to impose its will upon people everywhere would be gravely imperiled.

The fact that the IDS movement has all but totally disappeared since the Bush Junta's assault on the Iraqi people shows by the lack of commitment and passion felt by IDS participants. This is underscored by the fact that the movement did not move forward to challenge the New World Order's institutions of power in a manner stronger than symbolic protest.

Let's all hope people are merely digging in for a protracted fight, one that moves well beyond symbolism. One which will be capable of reclaiming the Earth from the vile grasp of capitalism.





# Forward to an untitled piece

by **Jeff Luers**

*The following "rant" as the author put it, comes from a very close and respected friend of mine. He is a non-political social prisoner that often has a better perspective of things than most I know. His viewpoint is important because this is how our movement looks to him as an outsider.*

## Untitled

by **Jesse M.**

Too many people out there exist stuffed deep inside their over inflated comfort zones. They're afraid of the police and the D.A. They're scared they might lose what little the authorities have allowed them to have. But what is it you really need? What part of your survival on this planet requires you to own a microwave? You don't need it. You don't need the blender, fruit juicer, 5 pairs of Nike's made by small hands, or a television. You don't need Saturdays off, rental movies, a trapper keeper, dyed hair, that triple shot double tall iced raspberry mocha every morning even though you swear it's the only thing that can get you moving. You don't need it, you only want it. And at the same time you want freedom, and anarchy and a fucking revolution. You want a revolution? Spin in a circle because, although you're willing to struggle and toil and work and downplay your own self worth and the importance of your material existence for all the material possessions, you're totally unwilling to struggle for your freedom. Most don't even know how to. They walk down a street or stand in front of a building and scream and chant and hold signs and stub their toes but then they poo-poo the man that broke a window and they hurry home when they see a person being arrested or tear gassed and later they congratulate themselves for making a difference. You want to make a difference? Un arrest that man in cuffs, hand a brick to the guy standing on broken glass. Hide them, feed them, pat them on the back when they march peacefully beside you but also when they do what you can't bring yourself to. Become one of them. You have to put on a united front because alone you are just a lunatic screaming into the wind.

# Real Struggle Means Refusal

(March 2004)

by **Jeff Luers**

On Saturday 3/13/04, Tre Arrow was arrested in Victoria, BC. At the press conference, the FBI along with the Department of Homeland Security, the modern day Gestapo, declared that a dangerous terrorist had been captured. They went on to state that Tre's arrest is proof that the system works and that the USA will not tolerate terrorism.

A few months back, the Department of Homeland Security gave 8 million dollars to Miami, Florida to defend against the terrorist threat posed by demonstrators protesting the FTAA meeting being held there. Riot police armed with numerous weapons, including shotguns that shot pellets wrapped in cloth, fired indiscriminately into the crowds. I have seen abundant video clearly showing officers firing at people's heads, an incredibly dangerous violation of established 'protocol'.

At least one reporter had to have emergency surgery to remove a 'non-lethal' projectile from his skull. Hundreds of people were injured, some needing emergency medical attention. There were also several reports of sexual assault at the hands of police scum.

A recent military think tank report *An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and its implication for United States National Security* outlines the need for a detailed military plan to protect the rich from the poor in the event of global environmental crisis caused by global warming. It goes on to present the case of the stockpiling of food and resources as the world will be reduced to famine and lack of potable water.

If anyone still doubts that the lines have been drawn, you better get an eyewash because we are looking down the barrel of a loaded gun. The full might of the government has been hard at work, from propaganda wars against dissidents to state sanctioned violence against protestors to secret planning to protect the elite from a crisis the Bush Administration denies exists.

What does it take to piss you off? When is enough enough? Is it when you get called a 'terrorist? Maybe when you get shot in the head or perhaps when you get raped by a pig? Maybe you'll wait until you have to kill for water?

Half my family lives in Germany. Even though I was born and raised in Amerikkka, I understand the dangers of failing to act. My relatives did nothing when Hitler took power, they obeyed and more than 12 million people were murdered. I love my family, but I know they failed to act because there are no stories of resistance passed down. Instead, as a kid when my relatives came to visit I was told not to talk about that because it was a 'bad time'.

I don't want to see history repeat itself. If we have learned nothing else from our past,

we have learned that tyranny is best challenged early. Today, the threat is different than it was 60 years ago, nonetheless it is a dangerous threat. Still not enough people seem convinced, so they turn a blind eye - otherwise the streets would be filled day and night with people decrying injustice.

Human beings have been around for about 100,000 years. We have gone from a species that lives in nature to one that considers itself separate from nature. In the last 150 years alone we have 'advanced' so far we have created technology that chokes our air, pollutes our water and poisons our soil. We have created weapons of such destruction that combined they can annihilate and extinguish all life on this planet 12 times over. Already, our world is so polluted that it doesn't matter what continent you sample from, every mother's milk contains traces of dioxin. Each day that passes, our problems get worse.

Why does this continue to happen? The answer is simple: We let it. Everyday we do nothing, we allow it to happen.

So what if the G8 has to meet protected by thousands of cops? Bottom line: they are still meeting. They are still in control because we continue to define how we resist them based on the choices they give us. The global resistance fits neatly into their pocket. As long as we stay within the limits of the box they've given us, we are simply a control valve. A harbor for the disenfranchised, disillusioned and the dissidents - a stress relief figured into the equation. Our counter-culture exists as another means to keep the system functioning.

Nothing can change until we completely withdraw our consent. Only our absolute refusal will effectively challenge the state. We must build our communities, develop networks of mutual aid and we must be prepared to defend our communities. Then we shut it down. No more going to work, no more paying taxes, no more acknowledging the government's authority. Instead we become the alternatives to this society.

Our bodies are the cogs that make the machine work. Our obedience fuels the machines. Our inability to move beyond mere protests is the guarantee that the machine will work. Your absolute refusal is your monkey wrench. The Longshoremen have shut down international trade with their refusal to unload ships. That is the power of unified refusal. Imagine that refusal on a global scale. We have yet to show our true strength. We have given power a small taste of what we are capable of. We have ourselves tasted a piece of victory but a taste is not enough. It cannot satisfy our hunger.

We the people run the factories, not our bosses. We control the ports, not corporations. We teach the children, not established curriculum. Our labor keeps things functioning. Without us, the cities stop. Without our obedience, they have no rule. We are the masters of our own fate. Yet, we will not control our destiny until we fully grasp our lives in our own hands. Only when we no longer participate in the spectacle that has been created to keep us in line, when we cease to tolerate violence directed at us and when we decide that freedom does not mean the freedom to choose from their choices

will we have stepped out of the cage that traps us. We will finally move forward. We will finally be creating the world we envision and not just challenging the one that exists.



# Training and Fitness

by **Jeff Luers**

If you are serious about your commitment to revolutionary change, direct action or sabotage, then you need to be serious about your commitment to physical fitness. Whether you are a midnight raider, a black blocker, or just someone who thinks the worst is yet to come, physical training is very important.

The police and military forces go through extensive training. If you are going to resist them you are going to have to be able to out run, out fight and out think them.

A weekly exercise routine is requisite to militant struggle. At the very least an established routine should include push-ups, pull-ups, an abdominal workout and running. If possible, strength training is a bonus.

Here are the reasons; most Marines can run 3 miles in 21 minutes or less. The ability to run at distance builds stamina, endurance and increases daily energy levels. It will help on those long protest days and especially in those moments when running is a key part of getting away.

Push-ups and related weighted exercises build shoulder, arm and chest strength. This kind of strength is useful for being able to move and push barricades. It also increases combat efficiency.

Pull-ups are one of the best upper body workouts. And will help you get over that fence when you need to.

Strong core muscles add to the strength of all other muscles. They also help balance and stamina.

I also strongly encourage people to learn and become proficient in a martial art. Jeet Kun Do (JKD) – Bruce Lee’s style - is probably one of most effective fighting forms. But others that don’t rely on strength or size are Jujitsu, Wing Chun and Aikido. Of course, anything is better than nothing. (If possible try to avoid sport fighting training as they generally teach you to fight “fair” in a ring setting.)

I could elaborate on this for pages. But I’ll just sum it all up. If you want to win and be successful at what you do regardless of what it is you condition yourself to do it. You study, train, and prepare. Physical fitness should be no different. And it has some really good side effects, better health, increased self-esteem, proven to fight depression and increase confidence. So grab a friend and push each other to get fit, make it fun.

# Fighting to Win

by **Jeff Luers**

I'm not sure how much has changed in the last 4 years in the debate of tactics. What little publications make it through the censors still have the same debate of violence vs. non-violence. I'm not going to have that debate. Instead I'm going to discuss actual tactics and past experiences.

Prior to my arrest I spent two years studying military strategy. Particularly, guerilla warfare and crowd control. In the latter I studied the FBI, Naval Military Police and San Diego tactical response team's hand books on crowd control and riot prevention.

San Diego's tactics are telling as they have been officially adopted by the FBI as setting the national standard for most effective response, prevention and control. In particular, they were cited on their Alpha Tango formation which utilizes the wedge formation followed by lines of riot cops. The wedge formation is headed by an officer with a bean bag shotgun; on his two sides are officers armed with "less-lethal" - multi-shot canister guns that can shoot teargas or baton rounds. And finally the two officers at the base of the wedge are armed with MP-5 firearms with live ammo. Their role is to "neutralize" any armed threat.

I am by no means an expert in these areas. However, I can share some ideas that can be discussed and expanded on.

Everyone knows the black bloc. As best as I can find the black bloc originated in the German Autonomem and squatters movement. They used this dress for anonymity quite effectively. They realized that the most recognizable of facial features was the eyes and surrounding area. Which is why they wore full face masks, most commonly ski masks with two eyeholes. Or they used sunglasses or other eye protection to distort their features.

In addition they avoided any and all identifying symbols keeping their street clothes and battle clothes separate. After all, even if you can't be recognized by your face, that big "Fuck the Police" patch might hold up in court.

In the numerous protests I've participated in, I've noticed a trend among officers videotaping. They like to record shoes. Which has led me to believe that long pants and plain black boots are also best. In addition, I also carried in my backpack a change of clothes. Usually of a semi-conservative dress, a pair of Dockers and a long sleeve button shirt, bought at a second hand store. So that I could duck into an alley and change, making leaving the scene a lot easier.

Through experience I've learned that organization is vital. It really does help to have a plan. The people who are hosting the event and live in the city where the event is to take place are responsible for having the plan. This should not be a hierarchal or authoritarian process, but people should respect the plan as much as they can without

compromising their own autonomy and beliefs. However, keep in mind when all is said and done it is the organizers and locals who have the best knowledge of how the police will respond and they are also the ones who will have to live with any police repression following the events.

I remember when I once attended an event far from home in a city I was only vaguely familiar with. Before the event started I was handed a flyer, on one side was a map of the downtown area (where we were protesting.) It said “in case of riot” - on the map banks, corporate headquarters and cop shops were marked with red. Plausible escape routes with green. On the other side of the flyer were legal aid phone numbers, jail support, medical info. and a request that all those arrested not give their names or info. This was by far one of the coolest things I’ve seen.

In the case of “designated no protest zones” with perimeter fences guarded by fascist forces, the plan to penetrate the perimeter should not be disclosed until the day or days immediately preceding the event. Protest organizers and protesters must remember that security forces base their plans on protester’s plans. The less time they are given to prepare the better the chance of successful penetration of the barriers.

It may also be wise for a plan A and plan B; with a big enough change in strategy to hinder the security forces but not the block.

An example of this would be: Two days before the march an all inclusive meeting is called to discuss the plan in detail. A plan to march from the meeting point to the east perimeter is discussed. However a similar plan to march to the south perimeter is also discussed in detail. By whatever means the eastern perimeter is agreed upon. But everyone is well versed in the southern route. The day of the march, scouts report a heavy police presence in the east. A switch to plan B –the south- is easily adopted.

It’s all about strategy. This may be a difficult concept for some because of the unwillingness to accept the role of leaders. But, there is a time and place for everything. The ability to work together and be disciplined enough to listen in the heat of battle is a vital component to success. If enough people accept this and learn to co-ordinate they will become that much more effective.

As a group we must learn military formations. I don’t mean disciplined marching. I am referring to the ability to recognize security force formations and counter them with our own. There is already plenty of info out there on how to do black bloc, survive tear gas, etc... People must have just as much info on how to use phlanx, echelon and wedge formations. You have to take the initiative here and research crowd control tactics and the uses of these formations, and then share them.

Imagine this scenario. A crowd is marching toward their objective. They have been given an order to disperse or else. When the first tear gas is fired, instead of panicking they hold fast. As the police prepare to charge using batons and rubber bullets, people scream “phlanx” and the crowd moves into a tight formation. Those that came prepared with heavy banners and shields move to the outside containing the crowd so

that it is protected on all sides, protecting people from blows and snatch squads. The police have yet to encounter such an organized crowd and for a moment are baffled. People in the crowd exploit this weakness and switch to wedge formation, shields and banners to the front, they make for the police lines... can you picture it?

Ideally people can also learn how to out flank and maneuver an opposing force. A pre-orchestrated way of splitting the block evenly at the crucial moment must be developed. Like when the crowd is holding an area effectively but not moving forward. A section of the group could break off with the intention of flanking the opposing forces, placing them on the defense on two fronts.

There should also be communication via radios or cell-phones between organizers in order to co-ordinate or re-group should the bloc be split. It should also be noted that the easiest way to maintain an organized and cohesive bloc is to have multiple people with radios spread throughout the bloc. So that if it is determined the bloc needs to change direction or formation etc... Directions can easily be communicated quickly throughout the bloc.

What it really comes down to is this: If protest is ever going to be more effective than the standard smash and run retreating battle, then protesters are going to have to become strategic. They are going to have to challenge security forces on their own level. This does not mean chaos cannot be used to our advantage, but lets us be in charge of the chaos, so that we can fight as one.

There must be a group of people in the crowd who have police scanners and these people must be protected. This is absolutely vital, people must know as much as possible about what the police are doing. There should be multiple scanners spread throughout the crowd so that everyone is aware of what is happening. This responsibility should rest with the locals and organizers to set up, but any reliable person can be in charge of the scanner.

There should also be communication via radios or cell-phones between organizers in order to co-ordinate or re-group should the bloc be split. It should also be noted that the easiest way to maintain an organized and cohesive bloc is to have multiple people with radios spread throughout the bloc. So that if it is determined the bloc needs to change direction or formation etc... Directions can easily be communicated quickly throughout the bloc.

This does not reflect a hierarchy as people may choose what they wish to do. But it gives people the option to work collectively in a chaotic atmosphere. People must also realize that the locals have the best knowledge of how the police will react, what areas are of strategic importance and how best to move through the city. This knowledge is of great importance.

When a march or action is to be conducted, the needed items should be stashed along the route and throughout the city the day before. Alleys, bushes and dumpsters make good hiding spots, but keep in mind the day trash is picked up. This way needed items



can be picked up along the way without anyone having to risk carrying them to a meeting area or through checkpoints.

We must develop a culture of un-arresting people. The very first animal liberation demo I attended, I ended up on the other side of dozens of riot cops while writing some graffiti. If it was not for the black bloc forcing their way through the lines to get me, I would have been knicked.

We must have the solidarity and willingness to reclaim our warriors. We do not need more prisoners. With the proper training and strategy, we too can have our own snatch squads to get our people back. If necessary people must go to the holding facilities, often buses, and liberate our captured comrades.

If these battles are to be won, if revolution is to succeed we must be able to rise to the challenge on all levels, by building communities, taking care of those communities and establishing alternatives to the capitalist state. People must also train physically, learn martial arts, and study police and military manuals. Learn the ways of your enemy, understand strategy and guerilla tactics. Buy a gun and learn how to use it. It is better to know how to defend yourself and never need to, than to need to defend yourself and not know how.



# Closing

As I bring this zine to a close I can't help but feel it is incomplete. There are so many subjects I did not touch on that are so vitally important. From roof top gardening to community service to autonomous action.

I wanted this zine to be a tool not only to inspire people but to get them thinking outside the box of activism. It's time to take a step back and look real hard at where we've been, where we are and where we are going. Because it looks to me like we are stuck in a stagnant cycle.

And while we chase our tails the enemy forges ahead. The heartcheck is this – if we continue doing what we are doing and struggling in the same predictable and acceptable patterns, we are going to lose - because we are losing.

Revolution isn't a weekend activity, it is a lifestyle of resistance and refusal. It is growing your own food, making your own clothes, going to the polls and voting for "nobody". It's talking to your neighbor, getting off the grid, holding street parties for the sake of partying. Revolution is as much about living life the way we want as it is about holding a sign or holding a gun.

While the issue is never just black and white, there has simply come a time when there is an us and them. They already know that and, to their credit, have united against us. And we still bicker and argue amongst ourselves, allowing sectarian political and lifestyle boundaries to marginalize ourselves.

There is so much more we could be doing. There is a world of possibilities open to us. The only thing holding us back is ourselves. I can't make it anymore clear than that.

**Jeffrey Free Luers**

# Bios and Contact Information



## **Rob (los ricos) Thaxton**

On September 3rd 1999, anarchist Robert Thaxton was sentenced to a 7 year sentence on charges of assault and riot. This was for his part in the June 18th "International Day of Action Against the Global Economy" Reclaim the Streets action held in Eugene, Oregon. Attempting to make an example of Rob, judge bearden sentenced Rob to a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years for the assault charge and stacked the 2 year riot charge on top making Rob's sentence to 7 years-all for throwing a rock at a cop in self-defense!

### **Rob's address:**

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4005 Aumsville Hwy  
Salem OR 97301  
USA

[www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos/main.htm](http://www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos/main.htm)



## Jeffrey Free Luers

In June 2001, 23 year old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Free and a friend named "Crittter" set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a car dealership. Their stated purpose was to raise awareness about global warming and the role that SUVs play in that process. Both activists took measures to make sure that no one would be injured as a result of their action. Despite the fact that this action hurt no one, caused only \$40,000 in damages and the

cars were later resold, Jeff was sent to prison for a sentence considerably longer than those convicted of murder, kidnapping and rape in Oregon state.

Money is needed to fund Free's appeal process. Legal defense costs will be over ten thousand dollars and we intend to appeal his case until he is released.

Please send checks and money orders made out to "Free's Defense Fund" and send them to POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440 or go to [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org) to donate on line.

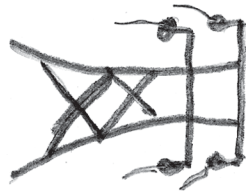
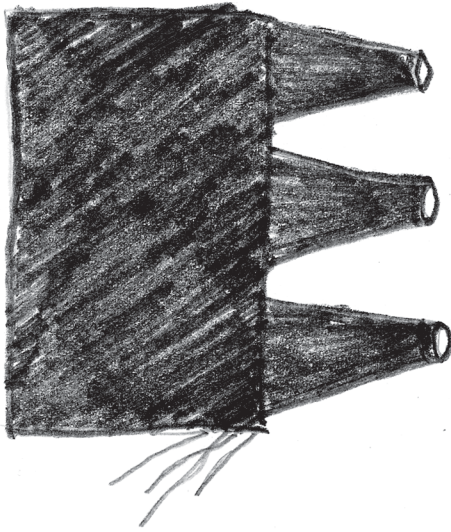
### **Free's address:**

Jeffrey Luers,#13797671  
OSP  
2605 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310  
USA



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# HEARTCHECK



by political prisoners **JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS & ROB "LOS RICOS" THAXTON**

With millions of people dying, the environment being poisoned and destroyed by consumerism, there really are only three kinds of people: the victims, the problem, and the solution.

This zine is dedicated to the latter. The time for rhetoric is over. The time for action has arrived. We hope that the writings contained within will begin a much-needed discussion on real solutions and alternatives sorely lacking in radical circles. We hope these words will only be the beginning of something much larger.

