
Book Reviews

Oligarchs first! Biodiversity and eco-terrorism's shock troops

by Leo F. Scanlon

Walking on the Edge: How I Infiltrated Earth First!

by Barry Clausen with Dana Rae Pomeroy
Washington Contract Loggers Association,
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Few Americans, especially those living in the urban areas of the country, have any idea that there is a guerrilla war being fought within the borders of the United States: that there are multiple bombings and other violence associated with this war every week, that leading corporations—fast-food chains included—are paying ransom to the guerrillas, or that tens of thousands of dollars a day worth of sophisticated and expensive industrial equipment is destroyed in this war. Barry Clausen's account of his experience inside this guerrilla movement should help to wake up those who have not yet been the victims of the green terrorists.

The details of this war are unknown, mostly because the federal agencies which are charged with investigating such activity have an active policy of suppressing the facts, and because the commanders in the guerrilla army are often affiliated with very "respectable" organizations—like the Sierra Club, or Greenpeace. And, long before the United Nations put the Biodiversity Treaty before the U.S. Senate for ratification, these shock troops, who call themselves biodiversity activists or ecosystem activists, were planning a campaign of sabotage and terror against miners, ranchers, and fishermen, on behalf of their anti-human ideology.

Earth First! is one of the names that the movement goes by, and, under this and other covers, it receives enormous amounts of funds from international cartels which are bankrupting American producers. At bottom, the program of Earth First! is nothing more than the implementation of the anti-industrial doctrines which the World Wildlife Fund and its United Nations apparatus are imposing on governments all over the world.

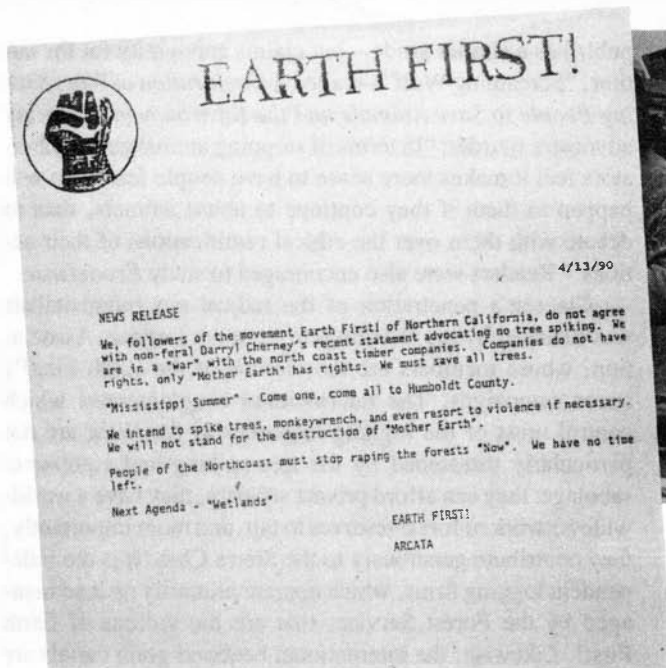
Undercover anti-drug informant

Barry Clausen knew nothing of all of this when he found himself thrown into that upside-down world. Retired with a disability from his job as a railroad engineer, Clausen took a job with some friends who had a thriving business selling software to the oil industry in the 1980s. When Clausen discovered that the cash flow in the business was more closely tied to cocaine than oil or computers, he quit. When his boss threatened him and his family, he decided to turn the story over to federal authorities, and began his life as an undercover informant.

He soon found out that his boss, John Durham, and his brother Doug Durham had a peculiar relationship to the people Clausen was trying to turn them in to. During a weekend visit to Doug Durham's lavish Dallas ranch, he was introduced to Dave Gillis, a local FBI official, and informed that Durham had some top-secret relation to the intelligence community. Clausen also came to learn that John Durham was involved in a network which dealt in illegal weapons. The supplier was Allen Carter, prominent Montana rancher, who also had peculiar relations with law enforcement agencies. Clausen tried to have Carter and John Durham arrested for weapons trafficking, only to find himself framed by the local sheriff, accused of altering a weapon he had bought from Carter in an undercover operation. He was later informed that the weapon had been used to kill an FBI agent during a shootout with the American Indian Movement at the Pine Ridge reservation, and eventually found out that Durham was very active and suspected as a provocateur in the Indian movement.

Clausen was not arrested, but the accusation effectively rendered him not credible as an informant and useless as an undercover law enforcement agent. Later, federal agencies would use this excuse to justify non-cooperation with his investigations of environmental terrorism.

He left the nightmare of undercover drug work, and went to work as a seasonal technician for the U.S. Forest Service. There, he became more and more interested in a problem facing the family-owned logging companies that had been harvesting timber from USFS-managed public lands for gen-



An April 13, 1990 war cry from Earth First! to "save all trees" called for a "war" against the timber companies in northern California (left). "We intend to spike trees, monkeywrench, and even resort to violence if necessary," they boasted. Right, Earth First!ers beat the war drums in this photo taken in northern California three months later.

erations, who were fighting for their lives against determined saboteurs, who claimed logging, mining, and ranching as a threat to "biodiversity."

The central organization in the eco-terrorist underground is Earth First! According to reliable reports, in 1980, the Sierra Club (one of the best-financed "establishment" environmental organizations) and the Wilderness Society approached Dave Foreman (a WS employee) and offered a contract to create a radical organization which would: 1) make the Sierra Club's hostility to mining and ranching on public land look moderate, so as not to embarrass their corporate donors; 2) spawn a network of increasingly radical spinoffs to keep a cycle of protest and violence in motion; and, 3) use the image of the "moderate" organizations to attract students who could be recruited into the saboteur underground. The movement would be built around the then-obscure ideology of preserving "biodiversity," and the sabotage activity, known as "monkeywrenching," would be glamorized by the media.

Earth First! claims to be independent movement and have no organization, but Clausen shows that the network is often safehoused in the office complex maintained by Greenpeace, and shares personnel with other violent environmentalist movements, such as the Animal Liberation Front. While Earth First! claims to be merely defending trees, and never accepts responsibility for sabotage which is advertised in its publications, ALF openly espouses a doctrine which calls for killing humans in order to "liberate" animals.

Terrorist table of organization

The terrorism carried out by the inner core of the movement is organized in a cell structure, and only those who

participate know who does what. This structure is designed to allow each of the organizations to disavow particular acts of violence, and to perpetuate spinoffs, whereby new, more violent groups appear, making the older organizations look "moderate." Clausen was quickly able to show that the same people who formed the "moderate" organizations were involved in creating the more "radical" spinoffs. Lee Dessaux, for example, is a leading activist in EF! and is heavily involved in sabotage operations. He also publishes a magazine called *Out of the Cages*, for members of the Animal Liberation Front, Hunt Sab, and Earth First! Each sub-group is associated with a campaign in a particular area. Clausen gives one example, listing those involved with the *Wild Forever Newsletter*, which was published for the Grizzly Bear Project by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society. The contact persons given in the newsletter included Phil Knight (EF! and the "Predator Project" in Bozeman, Mt.), Keith Hammer (EF!, Swan View Coalition, etc.), Michael Carter (EF! Keep It Wild, etc.), and Mitch Friedman (EF! and Greater Ecosystem Alliance in Washington State).

The strategy behind this was explained to Clausen by George Draffan, a leading Earth First! activist: "Join other, more conservative organizations; create other groups that can't be connected with Earth First!."

Clausen gained the trust of this circle, and attempted to alert law enforcement authorities to its plans and operational capabilities. He quickly found that the law showed little interest in catching the saboteurs, and discovered that, as in undercover narcotics, it was very hard to tell who was really who among the federal agencies which manage or secure the public lands where the sabotage usually occurred. In fact, he

discovered that there were numbers of Forest Service agents sympathetic to the goals of Earth First! and who harbored a radical dislike for the miners and ranchers who cultivated "their" land. There is even a special publication, *The Inner Voice*, for the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, which is a forum for a pro-environmentalist current in the USFS. Additionally, one of the USFS employees assigned to debrief Clausen, accused him of making sexual advances to her (she later dropped them) at a critical point in his investigations.

We can't investigate that

An FBI agent told Clausen that the Bureau would not assist his investigation, because it was not allowed to investigate organizations—only individuals charged with a crime. This statement was a lie: Since the "Levi Guidelines" of the late 1970s, the FBI had been undergoing a revolution based on the "Enterprise Theory of Investigation," which utilized the vastly expanded conspiracy provisions of the racketeering laws to allow federal agencies to investigate any group on virtually any pretext. Other agencies gave similar stories to Clausen, and to this day, continue to cover up the terrorist activity directed against miners and ranchers.

It wasn't only the federal agencies that were behaving strangely: When the EF! journal carried an announcement that credited the Animal Liberation Front with vandalizing a McDonald's in Vancouver—an action taken on behalf of "Beyond Beef," an organization formed by Jeremy Rifkin—Clausen assembled proof of the ties among these organizations and evidence pointing to the organized nature of the vandalism. He naturally approached McDonald's security officials to share his intelligence with them—only to be brusquely shown the door. Local franchise owners have been told to suppress reporting of political vandalism, even though the environmentalist press revels in accounts of the "actions."

When EF! announced a campaign called "Cattle Free by 93," Clausen was told by Phil Knight that the purpose was to force all cattle off public grazing land. Knight promised, "By 1993 we will deal a devastating blow to the cattle industry and the fast-food restaurants." As the vandalism escalated, McDonald's publicly abandoned the use of styrofoam containers, and made other concessions, known and unknown, to the terrorists. It was during this timeframe that the now-famous outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning struck the Jack-in-the-Box chain; similar problems, which were impossible to keep out of the media, occurred at other franchise chains. More serious were the mail bombs sent to geneticists working on projects at Yale and in laboratories in San Francisco. It is an open secret in law enforcement circles that the bombings, still unsolved, were perpetrated by animal rights activists.

Moreover, the Earth First! handbook for bombing, arson, and vandalism, *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkey-wrenching*, written by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood, with a foreword by Edward Abbey, circulates openly. ALF

publishes a similar guide—but claims anonymity for the author, "Screaming Wolf"—called *A Declaration of War: Killing People to Save Animals and the Environment*. It openly advocates murder: "In terms of stopping animal abuse, liberators feel it makes more sense to have people fear what will happen to them if they continue to abuse animals, than to debate with them over the ethical ramifications of their actions." Readers were also encouraged to study *Ecodefense*.

Clausen's penetration of the radical environmentalists was financed by the Washington Contract Loggers Association, whose members are the victims of the Earth First!'s terror campaigns. The international conglomerates which control most of the logging resources in the West are not particularly threatened by the tree-spiking and equipment sabotage: they can afford private security, they have a worldwide network of forest reserves to tap, and more importantly, they contribute generously to the Sierra Club. It is the independent logging firms, which operate primarily on land managed by the Forest Service, that are the victims of Earth First!. Likewise, the international beef and grain cartels are little inconvenienced by the antics of Jeremy Rifkin and the vandals who throw bricks through McDonald's windows. The Beyond Beef campaign was aimed at the family-farm operators, whose small margins of profitability leave them vulnerable to sabotage. Contrary to the propaganda about "welfare" ranchers, the land that they graze, maintain, and improve has no other viable agricultural use.

It is ironic that the radical "animal rights" campaign chose the murder of animals grazing on public lands as a principal tactic. In one case in Utah that Clausen documents, cattle were shot and their bodies tagged: "Free Our Public Lands . . . End Public Lands Livestock Grazing . . . P.O. Box 5784, Tucson, AZ 85703." The very arrogance bespeaks the very high level of protection these terrorists enjoy, keeping in mind the proof that Clausen developed of the relationship between EF!, the Sierra Club, and Greenpeace. All three organizations will disavow any connection.

The corporate funding chain

The next link in the chain is illustrated by the case of Paul Watson, EF! tree spiker, and captain of *The Sea Shepherd*, a ship financed by Greenpeace and deployed to sabotage whaling and other fishing activity. When a British Columbia paper exposed the fact that Watson and the Sea Shepherd Society received funding from major corporations such as Patagonia, IBM, and Digital Equipment, Watson laughed and bragged that he also got money from Bank of America, Apple Computer, Louisiana Pacific, Union Carbide, Procter and Gamble, Exxon and Disney! In this case, the money came indirectly through the employer programs for matching charity grants. These programs (e.g., the United Way) are ubiquitous, and account for enormous amounts of money that go to various "non-profit" organizations. The fundraising organization maintains a list of "approved" non-profit groups which

receive monies collected from participating corporations and their employees. The employee either gives to the umbrella charity (which distributes money) or checks off a particular group to receive a donation. The employers then "match" the grant. The "respectable" organization passes the money on to its terrorist subsidiary, and everyone can deny responsibility.

Highest up are the major environmentalist organizations, with the World Wildlife Fund at the top. The WWF is led and controlled by Prince Philip of Britain, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, and representatives of other titled families of Europe. WWF is the patron of Greenpeace, and centralizes the control over a full spectrum of unconventional warfare capabilities which are deployed by its various sub-units. This unconventional warfare includes the array of sabotage techniques documented by Clausen, and ranges on up to full-scale armored warfare conducted from the "animal park" sanctuaries maintained by the WWF and related organizations in Africa.

But the financial trail is not the only link of the wealthy oligarchs to the EF! shocktroops. More definitive is the very content of their campaigns: Terms such as "regional ecosystem" and "biodiversity"—still unfamiliar to most people—are the central ideas around which the United Nations organized the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and its subsequent Biodiversity Treaty (see "Malthusians Push 'Biodiversity' as New Religion," *EIR*, Sept. 2, 1994).

It is only by examining this level that one can explain the reluctance of federal agencies to assist Clausen's investigation. USFS agent Bob Winchell, speaking with Clausen prior to his retirement, admitted that there was an understood policy at a high level in the service: Hands off the EF! activists.

The reason is that EF! activists are a protected asset of the supranational agencies that develop nightmares such as the Biodiversity Treaty, which demands, however diplomatically, that the U.S. government implement the anti-industry agenda of Earth First! and its mother, the World Wildlife Fund. The Bush administration had a policy of advancing this U.N. "world government" agenda, and would not tolerate any exposé that would the true face of the "new world order."

In the months since Clausen wrote his book, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department have been reorganized in order to conform to the "ecosystem" and "bioregion" maps which will be superimposed on the existing state boundaries. These agencies are aggressively shutting down all extracting and process-manufacturing activity in certain regions of the country. More ominous are the reports, mounting daily, of violent and abusive actions directed against miners and ranchers by *agents of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and other branches of the Interior Department.*

Are these agencies now harboring zealots and fanatics who are influenced by or part of the environmental terrorist scene?

Not as lucky as Ollie, Bryant is convicted

by Leo F. Scanlon

J.C. Herbert Bryant, Jr., a millionaire, political activist, and self-proclaimed law enforcement buff from Loudoun County, Virginia, has been convicted of two federal felonies in the District of Columbia, and will soon be joining the ranks of those members of the "Get LaRouche" task force who are themselves now in prison. Bryant, who founded and directed a private paramilitary organization called Armed Response Group U.S. (ARGUS), was convicted on one count of false impersonation of a deputy U.S. marshal, and a related count of making a false statement (to the effect that he was a marshal). These are felony offenses which carry mandatory prison sentences. Federal District Judge Royce C. Lamberth, who heard the bench (non-jury) trial, acquitted Bryant of a third count of carrying a pistol without a license.

The conviction brought to a close one of the more bizarre aspects of the extra-legal conspiracy which attempted to destroy LaRouche and his political movement. Bryant's exploits were bound up with the rogues' gallery that includes former Sheriff's Lt. Donald Moore (imprisoned) and Sheriff John Isom (under investigation) of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department, and their cohort Galen Kelly (imprisoned last year), who ran witness tampering and attempted kidnapping operations for the "Get LaRouche" task force and associated Cult Awareness Network (CAN).

The prosecutor in the Bryant case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Dubester, made great sport with the fictional, self-promoting propaganda which ARGUS produced on behalf of Bryant. But this trial showed that Herbert Bryant is no clown or low-level thug.

Herbert Bryant is the scion of one of the wealthiest families in northern Virginia. His father descends from plantation owners in ante-bellum Mississippi, and his stepmother, Magalen Ohrstrom, is at the center of "Hunt Country" politics in the area. The family boasts of political connections from the elite resorts of Palm Springs, Florida to the corridors of power in Washington. A patronage appointee to high-level positions in the Nixon administration, Herbert Bryant socialized with the top law enforcement officials of several administrations, and during the time he ran ARGUS, was working out of the office of Michael Moore, the director of the United States Marshals Service.