

For The Wild

Kelly Poe

ESSAY BY RODNEY CORONADO

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Kelly Poe
For the Wild

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FOR RODNEY CORONADO, JAKE CONROY,
JEFFREY LVERS, MARIE MASON, DANIEL
MC GOWAN, JONATHAN PAUL, PETER YOUNG,
AND THEIR OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR
HAVING THE COURAGE TO TRUST ME.

I had to think about something clean and decent or go crazy, so I thought about the canyons. I thought about the desert down along the Gulf coast. I thought about the mountains, from Flagstaff up to the Wind Rivers.

- Edward Abbey, quote by Hayduke, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*

CONTENTS

DEAR READER BY KELLY POE PREFACE	6
HEY KELLY BY RODNEY CORONADO INTRODUCTION	13
DEAR XXX	26
SINCERELY ROD	27
FOR THE WILD JEFF	44
BEST JAKE	54
FOR LIBERATION PETER YOUNG	61
FOR THE ANIMALS AND THE EARTH JONATHAN	66
FOR THE EARTH MARIE	73
LOVE FROM LIL GUANTANAMO DANIEL	92

Dear Reader.

When I began writing to incarcerated environmental and animal rights activists in 2006, I asked them: "Where are the places you travel to inside your mind's eye, the sacred places that you visualize that help to keep you sane? I offered to be their eyes. I asked them to tell me how to find their actual places, the time of day to visit. "I'll go there to make a picture for you," I wrote. "And I'll describe the place to you."

This was the beginning of a long collaborative project that has taken me from the Pacific Northwest to the Arizona desert, from the South Dakota Badlands to the Atlantic Ocean. As a photographer, I sometimes secretly yearn to be liberated from everything I know about the history of art and photography. I want to be reckless and make beautiful photographs that celebrate nature. Instead I work toward resuscitating a clichéd genre -- nature photography -- while acknowledging that nature and politics will always be inextricably bound together.

In 2001 the Federal Bureau of Investigations targeted the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) as the number one domestic terrorist threat in the United States. Before that time, the US government had no credible evidence to seek indictments for unsolved environmentally motivated crimes, mainly arsons that happened across the American West from 1996-2001. During these actions, no one was ever harmed because every precaution was used to protect the lives of others, a signature of ELF and ALF. The people responsible for these actions eluded federal agents for years, but after 9/11 the FBI's budget was abundant with resources and the Joint Terrorism Task Force's power was emboldened by the United States Patriot Act.

Operation Backfire, one of the largest investigations of environmental and animal liberation activists in American history, began on December 7, 2005: A single informant entered into a secret plea agreement with FBI and cracked open the case -- 18 people were indicted and dozens of suspected activists were subpoenaed to testify before grand juries in Eugene, Oregon. Grand juries have the power to subpoena witnesses into testifying without a lawyer present in order to gather evidence against a suspect. One activist was detained for six months for refusing to testify.

The defendants were charged with conspiracy, arson and use of destructive devices. By filing destructive device and conspiracy charges and employing the Domestic Terrorism Enhancement Act, the Federal government was able to threaten the indicted environmentalists with multiple life sentences. Under pressure from prosecutors, the activists accepted plea bargains in exchange for leniency.

Of the eighteen defendants who were indicted, nine accepted the prosecution's plea agreements and co-operated, four negotiated non co-operation plea deals, four became fugitives, one was arrested in 2011 following his expulsion from China. The one remaining, Bill Rodgers an environmental and social justice activist was arrested and took his own life while in custody prior to his arraignment.

In his suicide note, Rodgers wrote: -

"Certain human cultures have been waging war against the Earth for millennia. I chose to fight on the side of bears, mountain lions, skunks, bats, saguaros, cliff rose and all things wild. I am just the most recent casualty in that war. But tonight I have made a jail break -- I am returning home, to the Earth, to the place of my origins."

Bill, 12/21/05 (the winter solstice)

The 'Green Scare' is what the activists call the current situation. It's the 'Red Scare' of our generation. Whether or not you agree with their values or tactics, the Green Scare raises critical questions about the powerful influence governmental and corporate control has over our lives, the wild and the future of the planet.

The news about the Green Scare hit me deeply. I understood the reasons why the activists did what they did but it wasn't enough for me to read about it in the media. I began going to Eugene, Oregon in the fall '06 to witness the court hearings. I met with the defendant's spouses, friends, co-workers, families and the local people who supported them. Through these relationships I felt a close kinship to the prosecuted activists and I wanted to do something in their defense.

These seven individuals were caught in the Green Scare. Their stories, the letters from our correspondence and the photographs I made comprise this project.

Daniel McGowan and Jonathan Paul are two of the four defendants who took non-cooperation deals stemming from the 'Operation Backfire' investigation.

Jonathan Paul was recently released after serving four years in federal prison for his role in the 1997 arson of Cavel West, a horse slaughterhouse. In Redmond, Oregon. The Bureau of Land Management captured wild horses and sold them to Cavel West where they were slaughtered and sold as meat for human consumption in Japan and Belgium. For ten years the Redmond community

campaigned through letter writing and demonstration, trying to close down Cavel West. The killings were brutally slow and agonizing; blood from the slaughterhouse clogged the local water system. Paul's action destroyed Cavel West and shut it down permanently. He states that his action was not politically motivated; he simply wanted to save the wild horses.

In a 2009 letter, Jonathan Paul wrote -

"Yes, some of the things I have participated in have been considered extreme, but I was only acting in response to an extreme situation. I acted in defense of those who had no voice, and in order to do so I had to go above the laws that our society has made in order to protect those who destroy the planet for profit. Although I would never advocate others to do the same. I do know for me I do take pleasure knowing there have been and are animals living free of exploitation and suffering because of choices I have made."

Daniel McGowan was sentenced to seven years for his 2001 involvement in two direct actions; Superior Lumber and Jefferson Poplar. McGowan is still serving time in a highly restrictive terrorists prison unit ambiguously called a 'Communication Management Unit' (CMU). An experimental penal program housed within two maximum-security prisons, these units specialize in isolation deprivation and restrict a prisoner's connection to family and outside communities. The majority of the CMU prison population is of Muslim descent.

When McGowan and I began our correspondence, he was housed among the general prison population. Now, McGowan's letters give a rare personal glimpse into a secretive world that very few people know exists. His good-natured spirit remains resilient in spite of the punitive restrictions imposed on CMU inmates; McGowan stated, "Visiting is limited to one 4-hour, non-contact (through glass) visit a month that is recorded and live monitored by staff. Again, to compare, I had 56 potential hours a month of contact visiting! Yikes, it was incredibly painful to see Jenny through glass- to not be able to hug her or smell her perfume and hair. Sigh." He signs off in his letter, "Love from lil Guantanamo".

Prior to 'Operation Backfire', I was aware of Jeffrey Luers, a nineteen-year old environmentalist from Downey, California and an activist since 1996,

As Luers explained in the 2006 documentary, 'The Jeffrey Luers Story':

"I have given my entire adult life to activism. I've never really known anything else. I dropped out of college to devote 40 + hours a week working for the Sierra Club. I left the Sierra Club to get involved in grassroots activism. I found myself moving to Eugene, Oregon following a path I believed would lead me to my

destiny. I became involved in civil disobedience and militant activism, ultimately living in an old-growth tree (Happy) to protect the ancient forest. It was in that tree that I decided to dedicate my life to revolution."

In the Willamette National Forest, Luers established the 'Fall Creek' tree sit campaign in March '98. The forest defenders successfully saved 96 acres of old growth forest from a local timber company. 95% of the old growth forest in the Pacific North West has been destroyed, leaving only 5% of standing native forest.

During the summer of 2000, Luers and Craig Marshall set fire to three light trucks at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon. It was a drastic action, intended to create a media spectacle and inspired by their desire to raise awareness about the real dangers of greenhouse carbon emissions: the massive United States car fleet is the world's second largest producer of greenhouse carbon emissions, causing climate change and mass extinctions.

Luers and Marshall, already under surveillance by a joint counter terrorist unit, were immediately arrested. Marshall took a plea deal and served five years. Luers went to trial. Convicted of first degree arson, attempted first degree arson and manufacturing an explosive device, he was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months. This is the longest sentence ever handed down in an environmental economic sabotage case. At the car dealership, the property destruction was estimated at twenty eight thousand dollars; and two of the three trucks were later repaired and sold.

After serving 10 years in a maximum-security prison, Luers won his appeal and was released in December '09.

In a statement to the court during his trial, Luers said:

"I want to make clear why I set fire at Romania Chevrolet. I'm not going to offer excuses. I want this opportunity to explain my actions so that they are not misunderstood or misinterpreted.

I didn't do this for anarchy or because I'm anti-government. And I didn't do this because I enjoy property destruction. I don't.

I did this because I'm frustrated that we are doing irreversible damage to our planet – our home. It is not an exaggeration to say that right now we are experiencing a period of extinction equal to that of the dinosaurs. Forty thousand species are going extinct each year. Yet we continue to pollute and exploit the natural world.

I'm not going to justify my actions. I can't do that anymore than one can justify the destruction of the environment for profit. They are both wrong.

I take responsibility for what I've done. You can judge my actions, but you can't judge my heart. It cannot be said that I'm unfeeling and uncaring. My heart is filled with love and compassion. I fight to protect life, not take it"

Jake Conroy was sentenced to four years for a controversial case involving six animal rights activists convicted of conspiracy under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA). Running an above ground website, 'Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty', SHAC established a effective world wide campaign that advocated for the closure of Huntington Life Sciences (HLS), an animal testing lab that kills between 71,000 and 180,000 animals annually as part of the animal testing industry. Since 1981, animal rights campaigners, journalists and members of the public infiltrated HSL exposing repeated animal welfare violations.

SHAC reported on protests against HLS and the companies, suppliers, and affiliates who supported them. The website also ran an awareness campaign, informing the public about the lab and encouraging a boycott of companies doing business with them. Ultimately, HLS shares plunged and the company was dropped from the New York Stock Exchange. The pharmaceutical industry, however, lobbied AETA legislation and protects businesses profiting from the exploitation of animals. The AETA criminalizes animal rights activists for non-violent civil disobedience protest and First Amendment rights. It silences dissent.

Rodney Coronado is a longtime environmental and animal rights activist. In 1985, when he was just 19, he joined the crew of Sea Shepherd. Throughout the 90's, Coronado participated in radical direct actions with ALF and ELF. In 1995 he was convicted of arson. Coronado served five years in Federal prison for an action at Michigan State University's fur research facility, destroying years of data that benefitted the fur industry.

I began corresponding with Coronado in 2006 while he was serving an eight-month prison sentence for interfering with the United States Forest Service's mountain lion hunt in Sabino Canyon, Tucson, Arizona.

Soon after his release in 2007, Coronado was prosecuted under the newly legislated laws of domestic Federal terrorism: in a 2003 lecture, he had demonstrated the use of an incendiary device. During the question and answer part of his talk, an audience member asked him how he made the incendiary device for the MSU action Coronado gave a very brief answer that was recorded by undercover Federal task force agents who were in the audience.

The Federal government spent years organizing the case against Coronado. Although the trial ended with a hung jury in his favor, the prosecution had tapes of all his previous speeches. Prosecution threatened to build a Federal case around each lecture; conviction could result in a sentence of 20 years to life. Coronado, a family man with a wife and two children, accepted the plea agreement before his second trial. He served another year in prison and was released with probation restrictions that exceeded average conditions. He was released in December 2008 but was convicted again, serving four months in August 2010 for violating his parole because he accepted a friend request on Facebook from an environmental activist, Mike Roselle.

Marie Mason was sentenced to twenty-two years in February, 2009 for the 1999 arson of a genetic engineering researcher's office at Michigan State University. It was an action that took place at night while the building was empty. At Michigan State, Monsanto and United States Agency International Development were funding controversial engineering: a radical new kind of seed developed with an inability to generate future seeds, the engineered seed could force poor farmers into endlessly purchasing new seeds. Mason was convicted of arson and destroying logging equipment. She is now serving the longest conviction of the Green Scare defendants.

In her 2009 sentencing statement to the court, Mason said:

"I want to explain that the more I learned of the consequences of deforestation and genetic engineering, the more desperate I felt. Genetic engineering research is often conducted in open air situations that release contaminated pollen into the environment with devastating effects, as is the case in terminator seed plants, and communities should have the right to choose or refuse such risks that come with GMOs. What I was more aware of in my research and in my dealings with indigenous activist work around the globe is that the use of GMOs forced on communities by collusion between banks, companies and governments was causing starvation and death and environmental damage through contact with GMOs. And I felt so much grief for this needless suffering and these needless deaths, mostly of the infirmed and very young.

The threat posed to all of us by global warming, for which the world's forest act as a buffer against, is direct and dramatic. The increase in catastrophic storms that caused so much death and destruction in New Orleans and in many parts of Asia are attributable directly to the erratic warming of the planet. Forest sequester carbon and cool the planet, and as we loose them, we lose the time we need to find new and more sustainable ways of fulfilling our energy needs before global climate crisis is unavoidable".

In a 1997 campaign to close down five fur farms in the Midwest, Peter Young spent two weeks releasing between 8,000 and 12,000 mink into their native habitat. He was indicted in accordance with the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, and charged with unlawful interference with interstate commerce. After living as a fugitive for seven years, he was arrested in 2005 and took a plea agreement. Young was sentenced and served two years in prison. Peter Young's activism continues through lecturing and his website www.animalliberationfrontline.com that reports on animal rights issues.

Environmental degradation continues unabated: forests recede, species go extinct, icecaps melt, and the sea level continues to rise.

I have redacted several passages because they were off the record or I want to protect the privacy of others.

Sincerely,



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1-6-9

Hey Kelly-

Here is the first draft of what I wrote. My intention was to re-write it and "fill it out" more, but as I re-read it, I thought its value as a first draft might be more in the spirit of the project. If you think its too rough or that I should emphasize any particular points, please do not hesitate to let me know. Of course, this is the only copy. I left the prison yesterday and am in Chicago waiting for my bus to Grand Rapids. I'll be at a halfway house, but direct mail or calls

Hope you and Jeff got the New Year off to a great start. Just let me know if I can help w/ anything else! Red

8/20/8

Dear Kelly-

Sorry its been such a long time since I've written, the last few months in here have been tolerable, but still I'm having my usual hard time at being away from my family- especially my son. I've spent alot of time in recent weeks thinking about your project and I hope this letter will become something that you could use. I have long been thinking of my contribution being like any other piece I have written. But in the spirit of the project I thought maybe I should just write a letter telling you what has been going on inside me, inside here. So, here I am, again in federal prison, the same prison I actually spent time in 14 years ago when I was first extradited to Michigan for my first federal case. A whole different world back then. Just weeks after having ended my time underground with a future 4 years in prison to come. Back then, I was the first animal liberationist to be in federal prison. Now I am just another of the many. And while prison hasn't changed that much, I know that I have. My path to prison began about 25 years ago when I first chose to be a part of a movement that would risk imprisonment in the name of depopulating the earth. For a child who loved this land and the animals on it and who was coming to terms with what our present day society was doing to the natural world, my evolution seems reasonable. What differentiated me from the many others like me who chose lines and professions protecting the environment albeit legally, I largely credit to my heritage as an indigenous person, but equally a student of U.S. history. A student who learned early what price our civilization is willing to pay to attain wealth and progress. And although the roots of such imperialism can be traced back further than the inception of this nation, my personal connection to the suffering of my human relations on this continent has made me extremely empathetic to the suffering of the land and animals here. So as a witness to the injustices of my own generation, the path of physical resistance to such crimes against nature was only natural. I came to age as a young adult as a student of Geronimo and Paul Watson. My mentors were historically Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, but also contemporary leaders such as Dave Foreman and Cleveland Amory. In retrospect, I can now see how that time was an awakening. The rebirth of a spirit that had been haunting this nation ever since the crimes of Wounded Knee, the Trail of Tears, the Long Walk and the disappearance of the great bison herds and mild rivers and forests that reminded the new arrivals to this continent that humans were (

but one species in the great fabric of nature. As a youth raised to honor Earth and her Animal People you can imagine my shock when I first witnessed the slaughter of newborn harp seals, the harpooning of the world's last great whales. I can't convey to you how many tears I cried for the victims of the world I was growing up into. I had already been taught what had been done to us, the indigenous people who lived with Earth as Mother, now I was seeing the war being waged against those who still lived in harmony with all life. But in my teachings I had also learned of the bravery and courage of the many men and women who gave their lives - and freedom to protect not only their families, but also their very way of life. I had learned of the unsurmountable odds faced by the indigenous warriors of this country and who despite those odds fought a war that might have cost them their land and lives, but not their spirit. Now that spirit had risen. In the hearts of all people who still felt sorrow and pain at the destruction of our natural world and her relations that spirit awakened once more the desire to risk our lives for what we believed in. It's important for me to state that this is not my attempt to encourage others to do the things I have done. I was taught that no person can tell another what to do. This is just a story. My story of how and why I chose to sacrifice the privilege I was born into. The privilege that most of us rarely even recognize. The privilege of not having to fight to protect our lives, land and liberty. While others see these privileges as a way to work within the system to achieve change, I saw instead the need to act now to bring to light the injustice I couldn't live with, knowing that however just the need to protect our life support system for present and future generations might be, when there was money to be made by special interests with access to political power, the Earth, animals and even we would always come secondary or last. The important thing to remember is that no change is borne solely from one individual's effort. Change is a process that begins when a small minority of people are willing to take unnecessary risk and unpopular action. We can look back on history and with the blessing of hindsight know that is was wrong to enslave other people or deny them basic human rights on the basis of their skin color or gender. But to believe such fundamental truths at a time when they are not only unpopular but also illegal is what begins that process of much needed change. There today are still many who believe that global threats to our planet are politically motivated hoaxes (2

or at best, bad science. But if the one thing modern technology has given us that we cannot deny, is the ability to see how our unlimited growth and development has burdened our environment in such a way that we face environmental illness and catastrophe previously unknown to man. And how that growth and development not only affects us, but those in far off lands whose environment and economics are exploited and manipulated to provide to us the very lifestyle that allows us to continue on this destructive path. In my life I have not expected to ever share my views with mainstream culture. I have always known that the path I and others chose to follow would make us societal pariahs. The belief that the way of life this country allows us and encourages is also our society's ultimate downfall is a belief that contradicts everything our society has stood for not to mention an admittance that our economy is built not to protect us, but the interests of people who are willing to sacrifice the safety of their children for short term gain. It has always been a foredrum conclusion that to challenge popular belief is to sacrifice personal safety. We have seen those truths made evident any time the motivations of this way of life has been called into question. And that is the choice I made when I decided to break the laws of my own country for what I believed. Perhaps I was able to do this because I was young and naive. Perhaps my entire life experience that has led to three federal convictions and 5 1/2 years in prison was a mistake. But what I chose to believe is that like those young and naive people before me who believed that past legalized injustices were morally and ethically wrong, our society can sometimes provide the investigation society needs to truly question itself. That our youthful ignorance of the slow process of change we are taught we must abide is sometimes just what that process needs to move those wheels forward. And so it was that I entered the world as member of direct action groups who freely and repeatedly broke the law to defend what was and is still wild and free. It's an easy path to romanticize and that is why I am careful not to encourage it. For there is nothing romantic about spending 5 (3) long years in prison away from the very love and freedoms you

have paid for. Nor is there any glory to be had from choosing a life where you or worse others might lose their lives because of your actions. I admit despite this, to have made decisions that imperiled put others at danger of great harm and it is because of such actions that I wish we never to think of ourselves as above the laws of man or nature. For no one man can know but his own truth and what he believes to be right. We can believe that we are acting in the best interests of others, but when our own invisible force, we can dangerously begin to sound like those we set out to oppose. Secondly, there can be no illusion that however just your actions of today might be viewed by yourself or others in present or the future, to take action against a dominant paradigm will surely lead to persecution. I say this to clarify that however my actions might have been intended, there will always be consequences we might not anticipate. And however I might justify what I have done, I still am looking for and learning a better way to achieve my means. When I saw ancient forests being destroyed or my animal relations starved, tortured and impersonal, passion can become a motivating force. And that is what I plead guilty to. I can't deny that it felt good to send pirate inhaling ships to the bottom of the ocean or spirit mammals away from cages to see them returned to the wild. But in taking these actions, I had to also accept responsibility for them and that meant a long time in prison. For every action there is a reaction and my path of radical environmentalism is a road map of how our Society has responded to actions in defense of the earth. All just cause have had their actions derided as passion more than strategy. The Boston Tea Party was one of them. And historically we remember not the repression brought down upon the participants, but the spirit and action itself. My life and that of a handful of others has been a history of both. When I first went to prison in 1995, I remained a part of the underground movement I had been imprisoned for, not in action, but in voice. I saw it as my responsibility to represent the environment and animals many were still risking their lives and freedom to protect. Pandora's box was opened and radical environmentalists had won their place on the political spectrum. But it has not come without a price. As our actions increased, so did the efforts of law-enforcement agencies to stop us. For this I do not believe we have become the victim, for as warriors choosing to fight as we did we must accept the consequences for the path of our choosing. As I have said before, history tells us of the consequence for challenging the laws of a (4

powerful nation. For me personally this meant learning that the movement we had created had become enough of a force that not just its actions, but the words I gave to it became equally volatile. Now can deny that our actions of the last century have radically altered our environment and unleashed a chain reaction of effect that we are still just ~~seeing~~ beginning to understand. For those of us who saw this disregard for the future generation of all life, as a threat to our planets very existence, action became more than a choice but an obligation, despite the consequence. When I left prison in 1999, I continued my spokespersonship for the cause of radical environmentalism and it wasn't long before I realized how much of a threat our actions had become. Not only for the damage they caused but for the climate they created among the business practices involved with irreversibly altering our environment. Many more people would go to prison. Mostly the strength of our movement had been demonstrated at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and it wouldn't be long before radical environmentalists and animal rights activists would be labelled the U.S. most active domestic terrorists. And then the actions on Sept. 11, 2001 forever would alter America's political landscape. Suddenly, "Homeland security" and fighting terrorism became an important to this nation as suppressing Native Americans was in the late 19th Century. Despite the commitment of radical environmentalists to harm no life, our actions were politically contextualized in the same light as those who flew planes into buildings. When I was arrested ~~and~~ for interfering with a mountain lion hunt in Oregon in 2004, my actions were identical to those I had repeatedly carried out in the 1980's with the greatest legal repercussion being a misdemeanor citation resulting in a small fine at the most. Instead I saw my arrest transformed into a federal felony charge of ecoterrorism for which I would be sent to federal prison for ~~at~~ 8 months. Before my sentencing I would also be federally indicted on a terrorism offense for delivering the speech that I presently see in prison for. Both prosecutions were a reflection of the U.S. govt's commitment to make an example of those who encouraged lawless activity to defend the Earth. During this same time, Operation Park Fire was executed by the FBI and many ^{alleged} members of the Earth Liberation Front brought to justice. What hasn't stopped despite those arrests and (5) prosecutions is the level of awareness towards environmental destruction

that they all sought to highlight. It's no secret that the radical environmental movement was a small core of individuals who largely knew each other and who in similar ways evolved from the visible classes of the society they opposed. Much in the same way that the first advocates for the abolition of slavery were those who witnessed it first-hand, so too were many of us in the radical environmental movement witnesses to the destruction of the last pristine eco-systems of Earth. When I first went to sea in 1975, I read journals from the 1800's describing the populations of great whales in the water I sailed so prolific as to pose a navigational hazard. Yet the ocean around me revealed ~~as many~~ ^{as few} ~~individuals as~~ ^{individuals as} ~~scarcely~~ as its cause great excitement when we'd see just one. Such revelations were the reasons behind my actions and of my comrades against pirate whalers. Now we are in a political climate where ~~some~~ ~~media~~ corporate influenced media and law-enforcement agencies flush with huge budgets to fight domestic terrorism easily shroud such actions in the context of terrorism with extreme punishment meted out to individuals who have injured not a single human being. But our purpose is not lost. It must simply evolve. No longer must we grab the American public by the shoulders and slap them into awareness of the threats posed to our future, instead the facts that are plain as in peril are ignored and denied by only the most irresponsible of citizens. What remains to be done is how ~~to~~ ^{to} change it! And rather than continue to attack the many institutions engaged in environmental irresponsibility, we must demonstrate through our own actions the time-honored behavior of living in harmony with nature. At the heart of our concern for the Earth and our own future is a desire to live in peace, knowing that the future of our children is secured. It was true hundreds of years ago as it is still true today. The ways we have gone about achieving that goal are all that should be determined. When the ~~time~~ ^{time} situation called for ~~from~~ direct intervention, we were there to do it - and pay the price. I believe it is now the time to demonstrate the way of living we believe is possible instead of attacking the ways we fault. Let's hope the attention we have helped draw to the greatest threats to our future existence will not fall on deaf ears. What is left for us to do is to speak to those ready to listen. When I became a father, I first thought that having a child would stand in the way of

my being a warrior. Instead I have learned that by having fulfilled the obligations I did in my early years, I had prepared myself for the next task as a warrior, that of raising a family. For no warrior is worth much if his or her fighting is not for the betterment of others. It was true hundreds of years ago and it remains true today. When I looked into my child's eyes and saw the hope of a new generation, I knew the ways of harmony with and peace on Earth were not going to be taught to my children through acts of war. Any war, no matter how just. The true ways of love, peace, compassion and harmony with others can only be learned through example. My children did not need to learn how cooperation are given greater legal rights than a forest or community, they need to know how to live ^{in harmony with that forest and community} ~~with respect to all who want the same thing~~. The lessons we have to teach our children and others who will listen, are the same lessons that countless generations of indigenous peoples have practiced in return for a way of life and civilization that outlasted any of modern man whose path would have gone on much longer had they not been eradicated by the same short-sightedness now plaguing our society today. But that knowledge of harmony with life on Earth was not lost. It was forced to hide during the time when practicing such ^{activity} ~~religion~~ ^{in this country} was banned until the middle of the last century. Still, you cannot hide or ban something that is in our hearts, the sense of knowing or feeling that we have become dangerously disconnected from that ~~that~~ ^{which} matters most to us. And as my generation matured with this sickness of spirit we cried and felt the pain for what we knew was being lost. And now we have the power to erase that pain from future generations by giving to them a way of living that does not rely on the exploitation or destruction of ~~our~~ our environment for short term gain. In the darkest times of the Indian wars in this country, what our people fought for was the right to raise our children to believe in the way handed down to us from our ancestors, the ways that reminded us of our relationship to the Earth and her ~~living~~ children of all races, species and creation. And it was that love, that desire for such a future for our children that led our strongest warriors to lay down their weapons, despite the darkness that loomed ahead. (7)

And through that darkness the culture and traditions of living in
harmony with Earth have not only survived, they have thrived. They
have crossed all boundaries of race, class and culture to give to
many a dream of living as if all other life mattered. But those dreams
will remain only dreams without the brave people to lead us into
an era of new awareness - a new era back to old ways. But not
old as to be in the past, but old as in the ways that have
provided survival and sustenance to countless generations. When I
accepted a plea bargain with the U.S. govt. it was also for me a peace
treaty. A treaty that not only promised my cessation of fighting, but
a hope for living beyond war. I have spent the latter part of the last
25 years fighting against the institutions that were destroying the natural
world, now it is time for us to create the way of life that will
outlast any battle. I believe it is the same hope that was shared by
all indigenous ancestors of our who were forced to realize that
war was not the answer. Yet there be no doubt. We ~~honor~~ those who
have gone before us. Those who have carried the torch of hope in
darker times than we have ever known, and I pray we will ever
know. Their sacrifice should never be forgotten, but more importantly
what should not be forgotten is what they sacrificed for. What
cannot be denied is that all of us who have spent time in prison
for defending the Earth were not motivated by self-gain or material
profit and however ~~so~~ reckless or dangerous our actions, we stand
at the end of the day to accept responsibility for them and explain
that our motivation was for the love of the people and places we
could for the most. Our love for the hopes and dreams of future
generations cannot be denied. We will pay the price we must, but in
the hopes and dreams of our children our vision for a better world
survives. The places we have loved, where our hearts broke open to
the spirits of those who walked before us are places that all our
hearts cry for. Without them we suffer a great starvation of
spirit. And because of that love we have come to the kind of captivity
and control that we fear for others. I think alot about my son,
Anuhua Zibing Hehakaui. His name Hehakaui, was given to him at his
traditional "baptismal" when he was offered to the Four Directions and the
Earth and Sun. It means "Wind that comes off the Mountain. Sometimes (8

I have watched that wind blow over him as he looks out into the
world that he will grow up into. I wonder what kind of world that
will be and whether it will be better or worse than the one I was
exposed to. When Anuhua was four years old, ~~he~~ I had just come home one
day from filming the sport "hunting" of sandhill cranes in Southern
Arizona that migrate there each year in the thousands. Our effort was
to expose to the public the barbarity in shooting these beautiful birds
whose wing span can reach six feet. I needed to transfer the tape from
my camera to tapes to be distributed and told ~~him~~ ^{himself} not to watch
because it was sad to see, but he insisted. He wanted to see what I
was doing. As I watched this little innocent child sit down cross-
legged and witness what I had seen earlier that day, I wanted to
cry ~~that~~ ^{because} he was already learning of the cruelty of man towards
nature. I don't want him to have to grow up in such a world, yet
to shelter him from it is getting harder and harder each day. He knows
why I am in prison and doesn't want me to continue to do the things I
have done to get here. He looked into his eyes, like thousands of indigenous
fathers have looked into their children's eyes, wishing only to protect them
from the pain and suffering that we have known. For the children, we
have laid down our weapons with the hope for a brighter day. One
where our beliefs and way of living will not lead to a war against
us. The best we can do is live our lives as we believe we should,
causing ~~as~~ the least amount of harm to others, be they animal, man,
river or forest. How others choose to live is outside our control. The best
lesson we can offer is our own vision practiced in such a way
that it will encourage others to join us. We know what those who
destroy the Earth have to offer. Now let us show others what living in
harmony with Earth can promise us all. In my letter from my wife
she talks about the dream of living in a home alive with the voices and
footsteps of our children as they rush outside to lay under an orchard
and gorge on fresh fruit, or dash into the woods in some adventure
only the innocence of youth can create. Behind them lie our crops,
rising towards the sun, the bounty of nature that will hopefully see
us through another winter. ~~At night we will~~ At dusk we will
gather around our dinner table and give thanks for the life the
Earth provides to us as we hold hands and drink in the warmth
of each others love and the pond before us. At night we will sit
around our fire and tell them the stories our elders have handed down (9

to us and in the day we will ~~live~~ live the lessons taught in those
very same stories. ~~And~~ Should the day ever come when the world we
now know has changed for the worse, be it human industrial-induced
climate change, raging desertification, more disastrous hurricanes and
floods or ecological collapse ~~and~~ a chain reaction of species extinction
surrounds the web of nature, our children will rightly so question the
wisdom of this passing generation and wonder what ~~was~~ ^{possibly} more
important than protecting the land we live on. I hope that my son
and daughter will be proud to have been part of the solution and
not the problem and forgive me for the 5 1/2 years I spent in prison
fighting for their future. And rather than be bitter and angry at
what others have done, let hope the life I had led, like that of my
ancestors will allow them to teach their children the ways that will
continue to keep ~~the~~ alive the hope that only living in harmony with
nature and each other can give us. ~~After 25 years in this struggle~~
~~that the best I can do for the children.~~ This is what I can change
and that's all I want to do anymore. Give them that hope that was
first born in each one of us ~~in many diff~~ maybe when we sat in
that ancient forest for the very first time, ~~or~~ saw that hawk soar
into the sunset or just played in the woods behind our home. After
25 years, that's what I believe we can do best do for our children and
future generations. It's taken me a long time to get here, but like those
warriors who made those difficult decisions that allowed our ways
to survive, it's what I believe we can do. ~~I think~~ Because one day
those steel doors are going to roll open for each one of us and will re-enter
a world that's different from how it was before. And not just our
children but many others will be looking for a way out of this mess that
irresponsible people got us into. Our task has always been to try and speak
for the ~~other~~ ^{Earth} so that others will listen. No one said it was going to be easy
but I think it's a good place to start. Not a lot of people think of Geronimo
as a father and a husband. They remember him as a warrior. Likewise people like
me might not be remembered for what we did after prison, but more for the
actions that led us here. But I now know why Geronimo and others like him fought
all those years. Why he would run from the reservations, not only with his warriors
but with their families. Because it was the only way his people could be free as
they believed. Knowing the comfort of the Earth, the security that comes from being (10

close to nature, with love, balance and an interdependence on each other as well as
the land around you. The dream of living wild and free. Our struggle is not
defined in what we oppose, but in what we create. What I have stood for
my entire life has not changed, it's just become clearer. And ~~that~~ these are
principles I will never surrender. It is in memory of my ancestors and for the
~~the~~ hopes and dreams of our children. Dreams that continue when this prison sentence
ends. We may have fought for the way things were, but now we live ~~for~~
to remind others how they can be again. (17)

Dear XXXXXXXX

October 19, 2006

I have been following the situation regarding your incarceration and feel outraged and haunted by the insanity of a perverted justice system gone horribly wrong. I am completely inspired by your character and strength and want to introduce myself to you. I am an artist from Los Angeles.

I make work about the environment. My direct actions are through art. I believe in Angela Davis's quote, "Progressive art can assist people to learn not only about the objective forces at work in the society in which they live but, also about the intensely social character of their interior lives. Ultimately, it can propel people toward social emancipation". I want to believe in Davis's words, because it gives me hope.

My work looks at the interconnectedness of natural and cultural history. I've been working in the field with wildlife biologists and ornithologists making an epic photographic project about the birds of North America. This project was inspired primarily as a critique about the depoliticized representation of wildness.

When I need to calm my mind I close my eyes and think about the Painted Desert and the Badlands. The fantasy is a variation about wide-open spaces interrupted by buttes and mesas, changing constantly in the light. I like to lose myself watching the hawks and ravens circling overhead, seamlessly drifting on a thermal. The silence and vastness always soothes me and makes me feel like things are going to be okay.

Where are the wild places you travel to inside your mind's eye? Where are the sacred places that keep you sane? I could visit those places for you and make pictures to send to you. Let me be your eyes. Tell me where to go and which vantage point to photograph as well the time of day. I'll go there and make a picture for you and describe the place to you.

This is an invitation for collaborative project, which has the promise to raise awareness and support. It's also an opportunity for you to enter into a discourse that extends beyond your day- to-day reality. I'm contacting other incarcerated environmental activists with the same request. I'm hopeful that you'll accept my invitation.

In Solidarity,

Kelly Poe, P.O.B 363, Topanga, CA 90290

Sweeney, Rod

112 1/2 W. University Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85705

TUCSON AZ 857
08 NOV 2006 PM 3 L



Kelly Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

90290+0363



PO BOX 363
TUCSON, AZ 85706

KELLY POE
POB 363
TOPANGA, CA 90290

Dear Kelly,

11-3-6

Cheers for the photos which I will use on postcards. I understand and appreciate your philosophy on art. We always been a bit judgemental of "art for art's sake" though I try to keep an open mind. But in times like these, I believe we all have a larger responsibility to use whatever medium we are familiar with to sound the alarm that all of our future is being threatened. I believe art can be a strong weapon in the war against truth and indeed think that sometimes you can say things with the medium of art that would be to "radical" in another medium such as words. I used to tell other activists that would should stop calling ourselves activists and instead call ourselves artists. Our "actions" not protests, but "performance art" that many people might respond to them with more open minds. Of course I was only half joking. The images of birds trapped in nets came to me about a few months ago as I read in the local paper of banding that was being done on hummingbirds of which there are over 20 species here in Arizona. The images of the little birds caught in the biologist's nets led me to think of a funny action we could do where we went to where they were doing this and set up even larger nets to "capture and band" biologists to study them. Just to make them think... I just think alot of science is just another excuse to delay the inevitable which is greater great intervention to not even stop but just slow the destruction of the natural world. Some scientist want us to study the problem to death until the only good their studies will do is to record our failure to take action and the impact we could and should have prevented. Howard Zinn is a great historian. I once read in an Irish Republican newspaper that "The oppressors write the history books, but the oppressed write the songs" meaning alot more truthful history can often be found in a societies music, another artistic medium. The wild place I travel to in my heart

and mind differ according to my memories that I am at the time
reliving. Sometimes I think of the vastness and stillness I experien-
ced at sea when I was on the Sea Shepherd, without any signs
of human life for miles around. Most often in recent times I think of
beautiful Arizona where I have spent most of the last 15 years. Those
places I go to often enough to have developed a very intimate relationship
with them, places I go when I need to recharge my batteries. Mt. Graham
in the Pinaleno Mtns is a very sacred place to me, the where I have
fought to protect it from desecration, its where I have gone for scru-
mies, its where I have camped with my kids, harvested medicine
and where I got engaged! Its also the place I've gone the days
before I've gone to prison now and before. But if you're thinking
about your project maybe another place to consider would be Sabino
Canyon where we interfered with the lion hunt that has landed
me in prison. It is a very sacred place to me and one that I was
willing to go to prison for to protect. Many times during that time
I watched the sun rise over the canyon or the storm clouds
move through the area created beautiful rainbows. There are
shortage of great vistas and I could tell you very specific
vantage points to photograph. So yeah, I support the project.
Let me know. Thanks for your support

Sincerely,
Paul

Red Colorado 03895000
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
8901 S. Wilcox Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85706

TUCSON AZ 857
21 DEC 2006 PM 3 T



Kelly Poe
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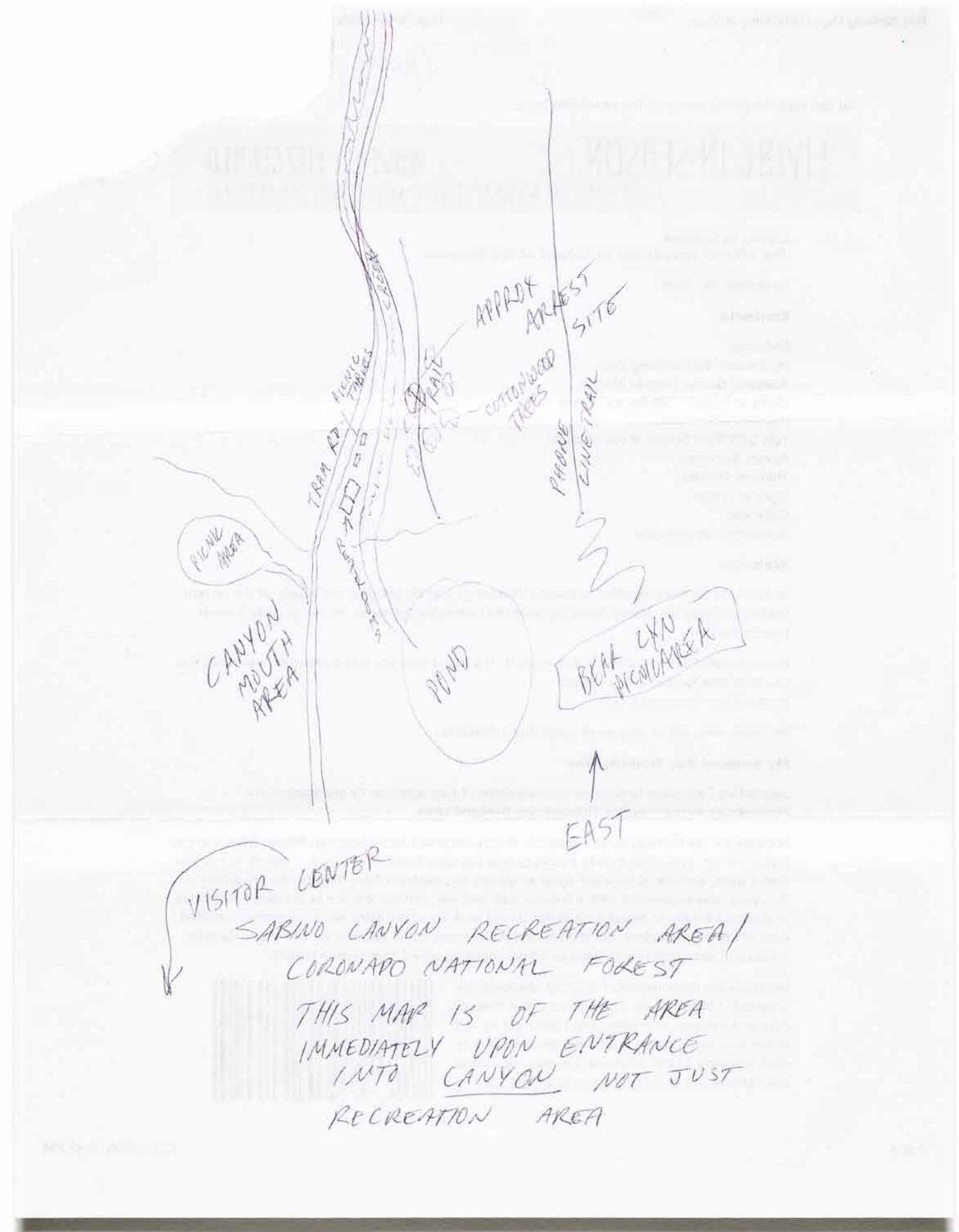


Dear Kelly-

12-19-66

Received your letter regarding the project but don't know whether anyone here will be available to help you find the exact location of my arrest in Sabino Canyon. My fiancée who is my primary support person will be out of town until the 31st. If I had a map of Sabino Canyon I could draw you a location but all that paperwork is at my home in Tucson. If you were to enter the canyon, just past the first restrooms on the tram road on the south side of the creek is where (or near where) I was captured. The storm last August wiped out a lot of the road into the canyon (yuck!) and it has yet to be fully repaired. So I imagine the landscape has changed since my arrest in March '04. Up on Mt. Drabum, a favorite place is a short hike from Treasure Park, a campsite atop the mountain. If you follow the creek west that meanders through the clearing it will lead to some spectacular vistas. I often go to to pray or gather herbs. There is a thin trail and then you have to traverse a rocky hillside to get to the best vantage points. It looks treacherous, but that's why the view is such a reward. I'm glad others like the idea of the project too. I'll sketch out a rough map of Sabino Canyon to include with this letter. You can also try to reach [redacted] at the EF! Journal as he may be able to help you [redacted]

Lead back! Rod



ROD CORONADO 03895 000
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TUCSON AZ 857

29 JAN 2007 PM 3 T



KELLY POE
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90290+0363

90290

1-28-7

Dear Kelly,

I recieved all of the photos you sent, thanks!! And congradulations on finding the places. I honestly hadn't thought it through enough to prepare you for the weather up on Mt. Graham and I'm very sorry for that. I'm actually surprised the rold was open as far up as it was. Blt you definetely found the place. Only in the Spring, Hummer and Fall, there's alot more color there. Nonetheless, the photos I found the best, were from Roll 0120, # 3 and 217, both of trees. Those two I like on their own. Also, 317, 579 and 572 I think look great when you line them up with eachother, as they are part of a panora ma. Did you notice the tree with all the arrows in It? That's a tree we always see and notice how bowhunters have made a sport out of ridlling it with arrows. Too bad, because it spoils the view. Also pictures from Roll 0119 #1 and #2 and Roll 01204 #1 lined up to be a panorama look great too. For Sabino Canyon, I like #4, #18, 157 and roll 0118 #4.

#44 is I'm pretty sure the area where we ran from the helicopter down into the trees looking for snow. #18 is the area where we found the snow we allgely destroyed, only back in March '04 the area looked very different. The storm that washed out the road also washed alot of the curves that used to meander through the canyon. #18 shows alot of sand that was washed up over the actual area where the snow was. Also, there was alot more brush and small trees which obviously have been washed away. The panoramic view from Mt. Graham is mine that I always used to enjoy. Its hard to say that there's one area in particular that is special, as alot of the specialness of the place relates to specific memories I have. Memories of building barricades on the road to block telescope construction, memories of ~~seeing~~ Apache crown dancers coming out of the forest at night to dance around the fire, memories of hundreds of Indians running up the mountain during the sacred run, memories from harvesting serba root and memories of my children and Chuyeta cooking meals together up there. The prison that you drive by as you went up Swift Trail road is where I had to self-surrender in '95 and up on the mountain that day my family and I prayed together before I went through those doors. Its funny how you mentioned almost eating shit on that one boulder slope, as when I was taking our kids across it, the Mamma bears with us, (Anabel, my son Miam and Chuyeta my daughter's mom) both had their mamma almost going off and said no further! Had it not been as treacherous from the snow and ice, the path leads to a sheer edge of the mountain where you can see hawks soaring below you!

The stone bridge you mention from Sabino, I didn't work on the map as the river entered the canyon from the proper road, but always struck in from the southern hills that comprise Bear Canyon. The first time I ever went on the road in broad daylight was when I was in chains under arrest. I have all the "damage" that has happened there. A definite improvement!

Now people have to earn their view of the canyon. Down that horrible train! Sabino is where they were dropping hummingbirds that I told you about in my first letter. It is a birders paradise! I have the Phainopepla, they look like black cardinals. Arizona is a huge wintering spot for birds, especially vawks, and hummingbirds. Roadrunners have these really cool iridescent feathers, if you ever see them look closely at their tail feathers. You're right, Sabino's colors would be alot more electric and vibrant during the monsoon season. We shot video during the lion hunt of me in the canyon with a huge beautiful rainbow in the background and the news media used it on air. I think even they thought it was spectacular. When I set out on 3/23/17, we're going to the canyon that day for a hike. I hope my input helps! Keep up the great idea and I hope your other travels are as fruitful!

Work Samples

Beagle Brigade, "Legal Affairs"
 "Green Is The New Red." Counterpunch
 Analysis of S. 3880
 Analysis of Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act
 Background on Animal Enterprise Protection Act
 Congressional Testimony

Background Resources

The War on Terrorism has come home. Corporations and politicians are labeling activists "eco-terrorists" and national security threats. Think red-baiting, with a green twist. Here you'll find original reporting and analysis of the Green Scare, and history repeating itself.

About the Site

Roadrunners have these really cool iridescent feathers, if you ever see them look closely at their tail feathers. You're right, Sabino's colors would be alot more electric and vibrant during the monsoon season. We shot video during the lion hunt of me in the canyon with a huge beautiful rainbow in the background and the news media used it on air. I think even they thought it was spectacular. When I set out on 3/23/17, we're going to the canyon that day for a hike. I hope my input helps! Keep up the great idea and I hope your other travels are as fruitful!

Submit Comment

Sincerely, Rod

Name

Mail (hidden)

Website

Leave a Reply

Trackback URI | Comments RSS

Posted in Legal |

None of this is happening in a vacuum. The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act wasn't just an isolated bad bill and "eco-terrorism" rhetoric isn't just a silly PR stunt. It all has to be viewed in a broader context of the War on Terrorism. Using legislation to target specific political groups as "terrorists" based on ideology dovetails perfectly with simultaneous campaigns to label people "enemy combatants," strip their legal protections and create detention centers for "new programs." To be very clear, the AETA doesn't mean corporations can round up activists and put them in detention camps, but in this political climate it certainly has chilling implications.



8-28-8

Dear Kelly -

So nice to hear from you, you and your work has been in the forefront of my thoughts as of late. I just received your letter and spectacular photos today and wanted to get straight back to you so you'd know I haven't forgotten about my obligation to the project. I actually started writing about a week ago and will send you what I have in another week or so and if you like it, I can "flesh it out" and if you don't, no worries. What I send is not what you were hoping for but as I know. I actually feel that I owe you an apology for not having been in touch sooner to let you know I was still intending to write. I'm sorry if my lack of communication has left you puzzled. What I'm writing is just a personal perspective on my role in the larger merit, how I see it now and what I believe our role to have been, historically and politically and a bit spiritually, at least for me. It's heavily influenced with my evolution away from advocating illegality and starts not just to protect me, but sincerely where I'm at today. I actually can't recall the nature of our last conversation, so I'm certain that there was nothing you said that crossed my boundary. I'm guessing that we spoke when I had about the going on and was just unable to give you the attention you deserved. Now that I'm back in prison (where I have plenty of time) I can get my head into and around the kinds of things I want to contribute to your project and in the end thought something in the form of a personal letter to you would honor best the spirit of the project. I may be going to a halfway home in Oct or Nov, hopefully in Michigan where Chryse and Maya would soon after join me. Your photos are amazing and I showed them with a poor young Bahama man who just started a 20 yr. sentence. Fuckin' tragic. This place is full of so much sadness and tragedy. I'm looking at what I write for you to be my last voice before I hopefully disappear into relative anonymity in

a new home and life. The pain I feel from my separation from my son grows and grows, I'm hoping just because I am finally near the end. I know the guilt still fears me, but in my heart and mind, when I signed this last plea, it was my peace treaty and the end of my fighting. Give Jeff my best regards and I hope your times and home have recovered since the fire.

Sincerely,
Paul

"The Hunt of King Charles" using sign language and body language, facial expressions, and two musicians. "I was afraid it would be a pitiful imitation of opera by the hearing," said Kaisa Alanne, the director of the Finnish Association of the Deaf, "but, oh, how wrong I was! It is as if a new form of art was born."¹⁸

A tanker truck on its way to Sugar Land, Texas, overturned, spilling onto the highway more than 5,000 gallons of what a city spokeswoman described as "healthy, all-natural molasses,"¹⁹ and after hundreds of formulations, scientists at Argentina's Center for Research and Development in Food Cytotechnology arrived at a prototype for a juicy, lean hamburger patty by removing the beef fat and replacing it with a combination of soybean byproducts and seafood oils.²⁰ InBev, the Belgian beer company that makes Stella Artois, completed its purchase of Anheuser-Busch for \$52 billion. "We were betrayed," said American brewer employee Dave Liszewski. "The good Lord was sold out for 30 pieces of silver. We were sold out for \$70 a share."²¹ Potential First Lady Cindy Hensley McCain, chair of the massive Anheuser-Busch distributor Hensley & Co., said that she became a licensed pilot because "in Arizona, the only way to get around the state is by small private plane."²² A toad in Australia ate a three-foot-long snake.²³ Pope Benedict XVI spoke to a crowd of more than 400,000 people about the evils of materialism,²⁴ and "Easterbunny," a red, methane-covered dwarf planet orbiting the sun beyond Neptune, was designated as the third plutoid in our solar system and

Rodney Coronado
03895 000
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 1500
El Reno, OK 73036



KELLY POE
P.O. BOX 363
TOPANGA, CA
90290

10-22-8

Hi Kelly!

Hope this finds you and Jeff safe from the latest round of fires. My mail is so unpredictable. I received your letter of 9/25 on 10/14. And on this note I received on the other side shows, my mail is reviewed for its content. So I was hoping you wouldn't mind me waiting to help you with your project. I have written the letter we spoke of, but until I find out for sure about receiving housing, I don't want to risk any trouble or give them an excuse to allege that I'm trying to do anything I'm not supposed to. I'm hoping to leave here the end of November. In the mean time I will refine what I have and get it out to you as soon as I can. Thanks so much for your kind words and understanding. It's nice to hear what you wrote as so often I feel only supported if I'm "not being any drama". It's clearly evident in the mail I receive that few people really even empathize with my situation. Whereas I had tons of mail when I was committing illegal acts. I guess a part of me misses the support, though I understand why it's not there, and even how I'm glad it isn't. In the sense that I don't want or need to be associated with those crimes any longer. I tell myself, I've done my time, I've put my life on the line. If people believe in taking such risks still, then good luck, but I'm not doing it. I truly feel that it's more important to prepare the next generation for basic survival. Feeding the children of course. Lastly, I've equated it to our wanting to build our own home. I think, anyone can burn a building down, but do we know how to build one? There is shortage of negativity in the world. I want my kids to be raised with hope. I wish you my sweet Kelly and hope we all can hang out again sometime. I will notify you as soon as I leave here. Thanks again for all your support, especially

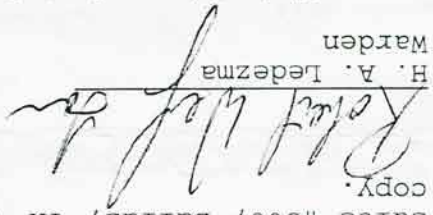
during the trial. It was good to have you there. I will enjoy the "closure" in a sense of seeing your report to give a parting address. I think it will be most natural as it is where I am at.

Sincerely,
Rod

cc: Judith Shipstad, P.O. Box 894, Los Gatos, CA 95031

Warden

H. A. Ledezma



A copy of this notification has been sent to the publisher/sender who may obtain an independent review of this rejection by writing to the Regional Director, G. Maldonado, 4211 Cedar Springs Road, Suite #300, Dallas, TX 75219, within 20 days of receipt of that copy.

The above correspondence has been rejected because it advocates the use of violence and direct action.

The Warden may reject a publication if it is determined detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution or if it may facilitate criminal activity.

The above named publication/material has been rejected in accordance with the Bureau's Program Statement on Incoming Publications (PS 5266.10), which provides in part:

RE: Correspondence Rejection from [redacted]

Institution: Federal Correctional Institution
P. O. Box 1000
El Reno, Oklahoma 73036

Register Number: 03895-000 Unit: A

Inmate: **Coronado, Rodney**

Date: October 15, 2008

Federal Correctional Institution

Federal Bureau of Prisons

U.S. Department of Justice



Rodney Coronado, Sabino Canyon, Arizona, 2009

For the will.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'P' followed by a series of loops and a final vertical stroke.

Oregon Department of Corrections - Inmate Mail

Institution OSP SID 3242671

Name Walt Lewis

Address 2605 State St.

City Salem State OR Zip 97310

Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

Postage Paid

9029050363 8004



11/15/06

Dear Kelly

Hi, I just received your second letter today. I apologize for not writing sooner. It's true that it does take me sometimes to write back on occasion. Aside from the costs associated with writing so many back. I am frequently working on numerous projects at one time. Add to that the extreme delay in receiving and sending letters well, you get the point.

Part of the reason I haven't written back is I've been searching my memory for places you could visit. The problem is that I'm not as widely traveled or experienced as people assume. I was only 21 when I fell. And secondly the places that have toured me don't have records and I couldn't explain how to get to Palom.

I really like your idea though. There used to be a few urban plants around Downey where I grew up. One giant tree in particular with roots that came up to my waist and with a diameter as big as a small car. But it got a fence around it now. I'd spent some time at The Palms which without it I remember the road right. I grew up visiting the tide pools at Carpinteria State park every year. There are many spots in Fall week where I fell out for a couple of years. There are the red woods off of Hwy 199 in Crescent city. I visited every trip to CA and back. There is an oasis at The Arca Berrago (sp?) state park and a small pond home to nearly extinct Dog fish. I'm quite fond of.

If any of those are appealing to you, let me know and I'll provide better details.

I
not so big deal.

It

With how slow my mail is you can correct my address on
any of the places I've mentioned and I'll write up more
info. Though send a letter just in case, also. Things are
pretty crazy around here right now.
Take care Kelly. Thanks for wanting to include me.

Sincerely,

Jeff

Oregon Department of Corrections - Inmate Mail
Institution OSP SID 13797671
Name Jeffrey Lewis
Address 2605 State St
City Salem State OR Zip 97310



047J8200588
\$00.410
08/13/2007
Mailed From 97310
US POSTAGE

Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA
90290

Postage Paid

9029030363 B004



Dear Kelly,

8/12/7

I apologise for the delay. I have been rather lazy in my correspondence as of late.

Thank you, immensely, for the photos of F.C. I can't begin to tell you all the emotions they evoked.

You know I watched them log and bulldoze that road from happy. And I was helpless to stop it.

Then I came down out of happy and stood my ground on that road so many times ~~in~~ that they had to rebuild it 5 or 6 times. I don't even remember how many times I got arrested in that forest. Well, into the teens!

It is good to see that road growing back over. It's good to know that I helped make that happen.

Thanks for documenting this story. We have won so few battles. It is important to remember those victories.

Sincerely,

Jeff

✓

Jeffrey Luers 1306729
101 west 5th ave
Eugene, OR 97401

LOS ANGELES CA 900

02 NOV 2007 PM 12 T



KELLY POE
PO BOX 363
TOPANGA CA 90290

30230+0363



Dear Kelly,

10/28/77

Thanks for the pictures. I did actually receive your original letter at the SRD prior to coming to land county. I just haven't had time to respond yet.

First off, I hope that you are safe with all the fires burning down there. I briefly heard Topanga mentioned in the news, but didn't catch if it was Topanga canyon or where you are. Again I hope all is well.

The pictures are stunning. I can't believe I used to live in that forest. Sam, friends and I built a giant yurt like structure about a mile by road from where Happy is.

It was near a spring that we built a bridge over. And the structure itself was constructed of downed plantation forest that had collapsed under the weight of snow melt from the tops of old trees.

We must have spent 6-8 months living in that place. Fishing in the creek and riding the main camp in a kind of capture the flag game between us and them. There was never any animosity, but the place had just grown to have many villages and camps through out. We were just recognized as the militant element. It really was a beautiful time.

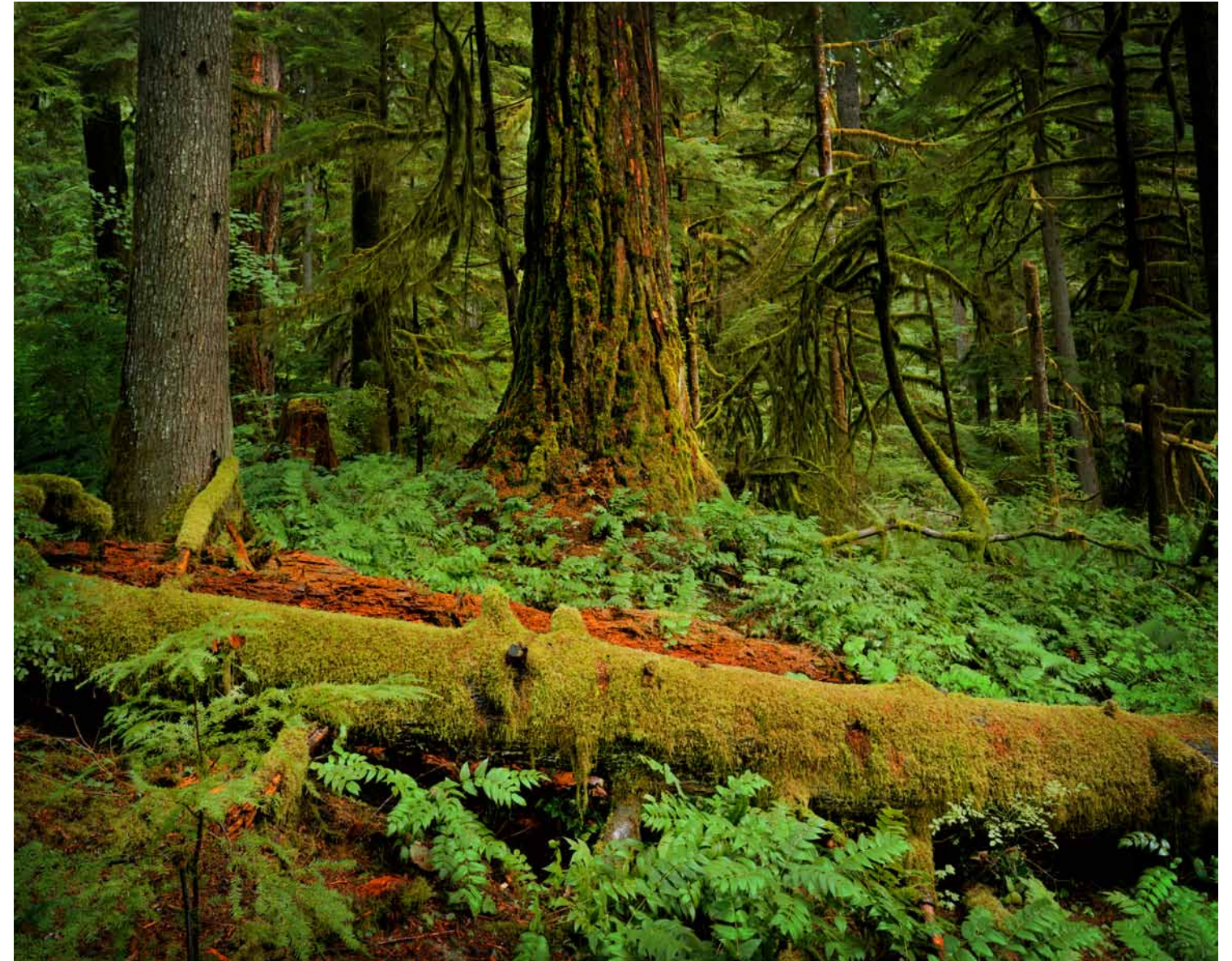
Thank you for the time and energy you

have put into this project. I spent the most important years of my life in that place. Which is funny because it is only 2 out of 28. But a place like that, the struggle and the community. It changes you and touches you in a way you never forget.

Please share this place and the struggle that saved it with your pictures.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Brown



Jeffrey Luers, "Happy," Fall Creek, Oregon, 2007

Best,
Jack

JACOB CONROY #93501-011
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION,
PO Box 5300
Adelanto, CA 92301

SAN BERNARDINO CA 924

24 OCT 2007 PM 4 T



Kelly Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga, CA
90290

90290+0363



①/2

10/17/07

Hi Kelly - THANK YOU FOR THE LETTER AND PHOTOS. ALSO FOR THINKING OF ME TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PROJECT. ITS SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING AND IM EXCITED TO BE INVOLVED. I ALSO APPRECIATE THE RESUME ETC. I HAVE RECEIVED A FEW LETTERS FROM FOLKS ASKING ME PRETTY PERSONAL QUESTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN SOME PROJECT, BUT NEVER TELL ME THEIR BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCE, ETC. I LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA AS TO WHOSE IM TALKING TO!

NEXT TO MY LOVED ONES, THE THING I MISS THE MOST IS CAMPING IN THE WILDERNESS. IVE BEEN TO SOME AMAZING PLACES THAT I THINK ABOUT CONSTANTLY. PRIOR TO MY INCARCERATION I HAD PLANS TO HIKE THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL (AND STILL DO...) SO IM TEMPTED TO SEND YOU THERE. BUT I WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR THE FIRST TIME. MY FAVORITE PLACE TO GO THOUGH, IS OZZETTE LAKE ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA, JUST SOUTH OF NEAH BAY IN WASHINGTON STATE. INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE LAKE, THERE ARE TWO TRAILS BEHIND THE RANGER'S STATION. I DONT KNOW

The name of the correct one, but I think it's the 3.2 mile, northern one. It goes through some amazing forest, a lot of it on boardwalk trails to preserve the floor. About halfway you come to a clearing, mostly on your right, which I love. I don't know why - it's just an open area, but I always expect to see some animal out there. You go back into the forest, wind around, and start heading down to the ocean.

You come out on a little grassy knoll that overlooks the beach and rock outcrops in the ocean. I spend a few minutes there soaking it in. One time a deer snuck up on me, standing there, like he was taking in the view too.

After going down a little more, to the right, crossing a stream you start going through the camp sites. At one point you walk through a grass field about chest high, where you often see fawns resting in there. More campsites are after that and usually I take one farther down to be away from anyone else who might be there. The campsites are right on the lip of the forest and beach, which I love. ~~The~~ ^{Best} of both worlds.

2/2

Standing on the beach you can see a large rock outcrop in the ocean ~~bay~~ with 100's of sea ~~lion~~ lions (which is also just outside of the Makah Reservation Hunting Grounds, which is funny. They're not stupid!) To the right is a smaller pillar that you can explore during low tide. The tidal pools are filled with star fish and sea ~~urchins~~ urchins. If you climb around the back to the sea-side, you can climb 20 or so feet up the pillar to this little grassy spot. Sitting up there you can sometimes see whales. One time a raccoon climbs past me to his home up in the trees at the top.

At night nothing beats a camp fire and laying on the beach at an amazing star show. In the morning you can often ~~see~~ ^{have} deer sleeping at your site or walking through. ~~It's~~ It's such a relaxing place for me - I think about it all the time and can't wait to get back there... It's a long way from the Mojave Desert!

Let me know if you make it or need more description. I look forward to

SEEING WHAT YOU FIND! ALSO, I THINK IM
ONLY ALLOWED TO RECEIVE AROUND 5 PHOTOS
A LETTER...

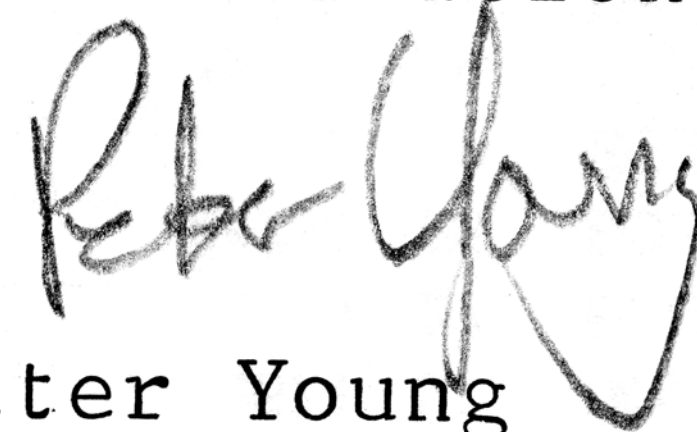
ALL RIGHT, THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT
AND THINKING OF ME FOR THE PROJECT!

Best,
Jake.



Jake Conroy, Lake Ozette, Washington, 2007

For liberation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Young".

Peter Young

Peter Young #10269-11
Federal Correctional Institution II
PO Box 5700
Adelanto CA 92301

SAN DIEGO CA 921
04 NOV 2006 PM 2 L



Kelly Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga CA 90290

90290+0363



Kelly.

10.19.06

Thank you for getting in touch. I appreciated your letter and your poster images very much. Powerful work.

I regret that my time today is short and this will be a little less than the letter you were kind enough to send, than the letter I would like it to be. I want you to know I included your artwork into my photo album where it now has a permanent home.

I am interested in learning more about your project, as well as the responses from other prisoners. After weighing on your question re: the places I travel to in my mind's eye to deal with the insane world of prison, I have come to a couple of answers which I will share with you.

There is nothing that quiets my mind more than the sun setting over the Pacific. I have lived near the ocean most of my life, first being born and largely raised in Silicon Vally and travelling to the coast every weekend. Later living in Seattle, from the ages of 9 to 21. And on to my last moments in the free world - I was on the beach at 1pm and in a San Jose jail cell at 8. Dusk on the beach, any beach. If I had to choose, I would choose the northern Oregon coast or the beaches south of Santa Barbara.

Next, I think of the Badlands in the rain. You mentioned the Badlands, but that in no way influenced this selection. The Badlands in the rain is a profound experience.

Devils Tower National Park in Wyoming is also among my favorite places anywhere. There is a creek that runs through a grassy field at its base (unsure which direction), and it is one of my favorite places anywhere.

Lastly, Montana's Bitterroot Mountains. Anytime.

Unfortunately this library is closing and I am forced to end here. Please let me know if you would

like more detail and I will respond.

Must go now. Please be in touch and keep me informed on the project's progress. My address is on the envelope.

For liberation,

Peter Young
Peter Young



Peter Young, Devil's Tower, Wyoming, 2007

For the
animals and
the earth,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Nathan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, rounded initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan Poe
07167-085
FCI Phoenix
3796 N. 45th St
Phoenix AZ 85086

INMATE CORRESPONDENCE
YUMA UNIT

PHOENIX AZ 852
27 NOV 2007 PM 9 T



Kelly Poe
P.O.B. 363
Topanga CA
90290

9026040363



Dear Kelly,

11.18.07

I got your letter and I decided to write because as a photographer myself I liked your ideas and I wanted to share my vision that helps me escape from where I am right now.

I can say I love water, I do love the ocean but I am into fresh water. Lakes, rivers and creeks are my favorite. A combination of all of these is my very thought and vision a pure world unscathed by the human monster.

In 1998 I was one of the organizers of the '98 Round River Rendezvous (RRR) in Oregon. The RRR is held by Earth First! every year in order for everyone to bond together and communicate and bond with each other about the issues we work on and keeping our tribe together. This year ('98) the RRR was to be held in the Umpqua National Forest east of Roseburg Oregon. This area of land was true Virgin forest. Doug Fir and Cedar trees 6-8 feet thick and 200-200 feet high. Never been logged this area is truly what all environmentalists see as our ultimate goal. This place is paradise at its best. When you hike in about 2 miles you come up to a alpine lake surrounded by ancient forest with Osprey's fishing all day long. The water is crystal clear and you can see all the way to the bottom. If you hike to the

- 2 -

to the other side you will find a little creek flowing into the lake surrounded by ferns and ancient old growth trees. Follow this creek and you come to another smaller lake again surrounded by ancient forest. It is absolutely breathtaking.

When I sit in this area I see what I strive for as an activist. Here is the end of the road... the final place that inspires us to fight with everything we have. Twin lakes for me represents everything about the wildness of the earth all the animals and what life is all about. Twin lakes is my heaven.. my paradise and a place that keeps the fire of rebellion lit inside my soul.

To get there → Hwy 5 to Roseburg Oregon.

Go east on 138 for about 50 miles,
(Umpqua River on your right (south).)

Take a right on Twin Lakes road over River.

Go approx. 7-8 miles to where road end. There is trailhead. Hike in the lakes are 2 miles in. You will never forget this place.

* Twin Lakes rd. is before Diamond Lake Area maybe 30 miles.

Jonathan

J. PAUL
07167085
~~PO BOX 363~~
FCI Phoenix
37910 N 95th Ave
Phoenix AZ 85086

PHOENIX AZ

INMATE CORRESPONDENCE
PIMA UNIT



Kelly Poe
POB 363
Topanga, CA
90290

90290+0363



May 13th, 2008

Dear Kelly,

Sorry I did not respond sooner after your last letter. I have been backed up with returns but since summer is coming up I wanted to check in with you in case you are still doing your photo project. The map you sent me was correct. It seems Oregon got a 50 year winter so to make up to Twin Lakes you may want wait until mid June to make sure the snow is all gone. It should be beautiful up there and it is one of my favorite places in the world to go to. I think it is because when I have been there I sensed it is the way the planet should always be. Untouched and free of human exploitation.

There are good spots to camp there and the lakes are a great swim.

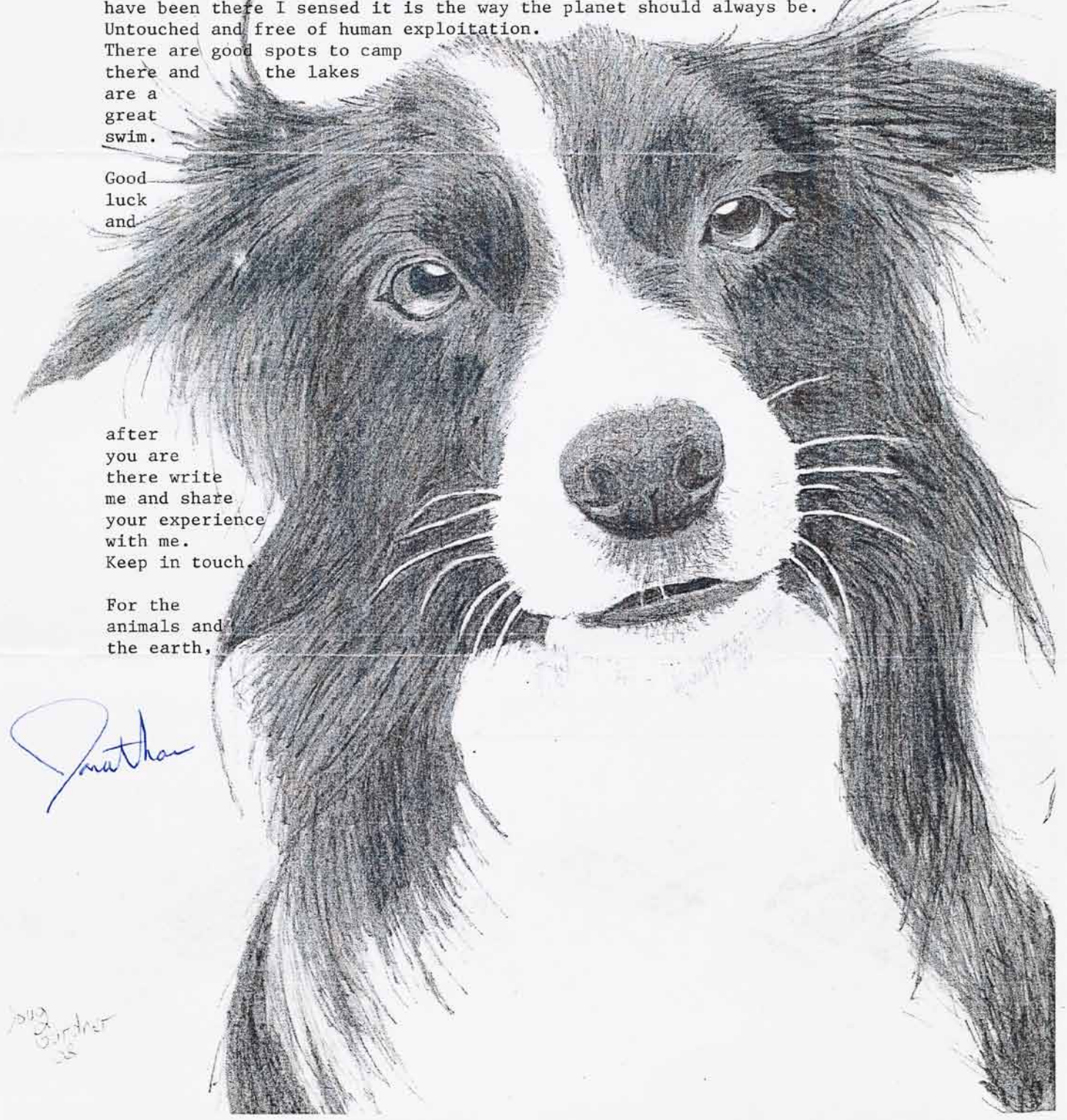
Good luck and

after you are there write me and share your experience with me. Keep in touch.

For the animals and the earth,

Jonathan

*Jonathan Paul
2008*



Jonathan Paul, Twin Lakes, Oregon, 2008

For Earth,
Mami

M. Mason
Ontonagon County Jail
1347 E. Townsend Rd.
Saint Johns, MI 48879

LANING MI 488
23 OCT 2008 PM 4 L



Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga Canyon, CA 90290

90290+0363



10/21/08

Dear Ms. Poe,

Thank you for writing me and for the work you do to educate the public and inspire them to action in defense of the Earth. I am curious to know why some of the Greenscare prisoners chose to participate and some did not. In particular why Brianna Waters, Sadie or Exile chose not to, while apparently Daniel, Rod and Free did. I'm not at all impugning the value or integrity of your project. It seems like a worthy and moving work-in-progress. I would just like to understand the "ephemera" aspect of the work a little better. Please understand that it is difficult to trust anyone at this time and because of my situation. I'm honored that you ask me to be included; I just want to be reasonably careful. Words can be twisted, and my silence has been my best protection against the State's intrusion into my life. But I mean no personal disrespect to you at all.

I'd be happy to meet with you, but given my remote location it might be a better use of resources to speak by phone. I don't believe that our phone system at the jail allows calls to cell phones. When I called your number, it was "restricted". Perhaps you have an office or landline that could be used? I'll wait to hear from you for more details and a way that we could discuss the project. I have no access to email.

Thank you for your interest, your invitation to the project and for your work.

For Earth,

M. Mason

M. Mason
1347 E. Townsend Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

LANSING MI 489
15 DEC 2008 PM 2 L



Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

90290+0363



12/14/08

Dear Kelly,

Thank you for your kind letter of 12/6/08. And especially, thank you for the wonderful pictures! They were a huge hit in the unit, and I really appreciate them. You do beautiful work; the soul of those gorgeous places shines through.

I apologize again for my lack of trust. Thank you for understanding the strangeness of my situation. The FBI just recently re-raided my mother's house (after they had searched it when they re-arrested me when I was on tether confined to her house). They took correspondence of mine and all of my photos of friends and family that I had left behind there.

But I really love your work → @

@ tireless and constant love. The story: A mother bear swims with her two cubs across Lake Michigan. A storm comes up and tosses them all in the waves, separates them. At last, the mother bear and one cub make it to shore. They wander up and down the shore calling to the lost cub. They curl up on the shore and fall asleep waiting. They stay and never give up hope - finally the sands cover them over as they wait forever. Such love, such patience, such constancy and hope inspires me that change will come and we as a species will do better to love and revere all life on this Earth, the Earth herself for all Her many gifts to us.

Your work is beautiful and if I can help with your project, I'd be glad to. Enjoy the holidays. Please write if you have any questions and thank you for keeping the memory of places I love and fought for preserved forever.

For Earth,
M. Mason



② and would be so happy to have the beautiful natural places I love so much be honored and remembered as part of your project.

I am not a photographer, but an enthusiastic amateur. ~~Now~~ So often I feel that I am taking pictures of places that are in danger of disappearing forever (like the land slated for development in Cincinnati, Ohio). Some may only change, losing much of what they are to human exploitation. I would appreciate so much having your artistic skills used to capture and honor the unique beauty of the places I love.

I am asking friends of mine in Cincinnati to help you find both the place in the photo and the other proposed development site by my former home in Cincy. They are not old growth, by any stretch of the

③ imagination - but they are important for use as connective corridors for wildlife to travel through. And they are home to so many beings, including so many of the oldest trees to be found in the area. There are ② Sycamore trees down by the creek that runs (probably 1/2 mile) at the bottom of the wooded ridge by my house that you can climb through. There is an ancient oak at the top of the ridge, right at the beginning of the proposed neighborhood expansion/development. We were also organizing against this when I was arrested in March '08.

I worked for years with Sweetwater Alliance in Michigan to protect MI's water from international predation and contamination. There is a phenomenon known as the "green flash" that happens during the sunset in Empire, MI. It looks like a green flare just as the sun goes below the lake. Local residents can show you. This would be beautiful to capture. Also, there is a native American story about how the dunes came to be that moves me so much, as it is a story about

Name Marc Mason Reg# 04672-261
Federal Correctional Institution Unit B
P.O. Box 1731
Waseca, MN 56093

MANKATO MN 560

16 APR 2009 PM 2 L



Ms. Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

90290+0363



4/14/09

Hi Kelly,

Thank you for taking time out from a move and a really busy life to write me such a pretty, old-fashioned post card & to make such a generous donation. Hopefully, your money order returned to you safely, along with all the new requirements & restrictions for making donations to my commissary account (sorry, pen slipped. I'm on break from work & hurrying. I work in the kitchen & scrub pots & pans). But I appreciate the thoughtfulness and your gift. I'm shocked at how expensive it is to be in prison. Shoes, exercise clothes, hygiene articles, stamps, phone calls — all at top prices — are our responsibility to pay (we are given 5 uniforms). We are required to work full-time & are paid monthly, but make about \$15-20/month for our entry level jobs. Of course if you work for the private corporation that has a sweetheart deal with the prison, you make \$50-100/month, depending on your production level and pay grade. What company would not want to hire workers for this rationale (Lows is a sub-contract to the army for shorts, of all things) & know that if your worker doesn't show up for work that they'll be punished by the prison? Ugh. It's repulsive & I'd rather scrub pans for .12/hour. I hope that all settles comfortably in your life very soon & that the new studio is a place conducive to your creativity & restful to your spirit. Thank you so much for thinking of me. I'd love to hear about your book project, as well as your other exhibitions. Please write when you get a chance. No hurry, as I'll be here a while at this address 😊. Your sister in struggle, Myra

Maese Mason 04672-061 /B
Federal Correctional Institution
Waseca, MN 56093

12 MAY 2009 PM 11



Kelly Pe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

30290+0363



5/10/09

Dear Kelly,

I was so happy to get your letter! And thank you for the pictures, too. Dong looks like what I picture a Mountain Man to look like. You have Frida Kahlo's intense eyes, but minus the unibrows and with much more delicate features. It's nice to have a face to put with the letters.

Funny you should comment on our lack of real educational opportunities for women. The "apprenticeships" do impart some real knowledge, but are much more geared towards the repair needs of the prison than to the future career needs of the women here. I myself am majoring in scrubbing pots and pans, and I'm learning a lot I must say! Actually, a friend here and I are putting together some programming proposals for the prison to consider. She teaches a small business class right now.

I did not get the Angela Davis autobiography from you, I'm sorry to say. They kept back and took away a lot of property of mine in county jail. Thank you for sending it, though. I still hope to read it some day. We can only have 5 books in our lockers at a time. But I have been bringing my books that I've read to the

library (after my roomies have first dibs on them). So I can reread them any time, but maybe someone else will, too. I am reading the latest edition of Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and enjoying rereading it in prison (read it years ago). Changes your perspective, being in here.

Please pass on my greetings and best wishes to Daniel and Rod. I was sad to hear that Rod's family was struggling financially. These are hard times for anyone, but I'm sure he's been saddled with so much legal debt from battling so many court cases. Have people been continuing to do support for him, now that he's out? I read a statement by him in *Bite Back*. I'm hoping that I'm getting that as a subscription (but may have only gotten 1 issue as a gift). I'm glad that Daniel has access to the internet for classes and to communicate. He's a great writer, very articulate. I do not have internet or email access yet, though they are saying it will come in October.

Yes, some of my wages go to my restitution (I pay a lump sum every 3 months, as our wages are low). Honestly, my needs are pretty simple and I don't really eat snacks. Soaps, Shampoo and Conditioner, deodorant and lotion, toothpaste and

laundry detergent for a month are all a little less than \$25.00. So, it's not bad - except that I make \$15.00/month working full time in pots and pans.

I did get a \$7.00 bonus this month and am supposed to be considered for a raise next month, so I'm hoping to be able to ask for less from my family. Thank you for the \$200.00, it did clear last week and I was able to buy shorts, bras, pants and t-shirts, as well as food, with \$50.00 left to transfer to my phone account. Being able to call my Mom and my children makes everything much better. So thank you for your generosity and your offer of a monthly gift. If \$20.00/month is too much (and I know that it adds up quickly) - even a book of stamps a month would be a great help (that's of course \$8.40 in here too) and keep me in contact with friends and family. Thank you for asking, it's very kind of you.

I didn't get this letter (yours dated 4-27) until yesterday. There is some delay in my mail, but I will call my daughter & give her your number. I hope she can help connect you to locals in Cincy & Traverse City. All the best to you. I can't wait to see your photos.

For Earth, Muri

Muri Mason #04672-061 Unit C
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 1731
Waseca, MN 56093

MANKATO MN 56001
29 JUL 2009 PM 2 T



Ms. Kelly Poe
P.O. Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

30290+0363



② by friends and family. Many people here are so cut-off from their families and former friends, having severed those ties with addiction or crime. I always try to share what I can with those who come to me in need. It is a great gift never to have to worry about my basic needs being fulfilled.

I'm curious to know how your book project is going, and whether there



7/24/09

Dear Ms. Poe,

I had recently checked my account and discovered another donation from you. Thank you again. Your continued generosity helps me tremendously. It makes me so grateful to be supported

③ will be an exhibition soon? Were you able to find the places I described (or approximately their location)? It has been difficult for me to maintain contact with very many of my activist friends, but I'm sure that your work would be very much appreciated by them. I hope the exhibit will be able to be shown in multiple locations, so many people will be moved to defend these last lovely places.

I hope that you are well and enjoying a beautiful summer. I am connecting to my community here, learning more every day.

④ My job now has moved to Recreation, where I am very happily teaching inmates to read music and play guitar. It's been meaningful and also challenging, as I need to conduct at least half the lessons in Spanish. So I'm learning more and more Spanish, as I'm teaching guitar.

Many thanks and all the best to you.

For Keith,
Mami



Dear Kelly, 4/12/10
Wow, there's really not much to say to excuse my long delayed response - except that I have been overwhelmed by adjusting to life inside and have coped better lately by just keeping life simple and very focussed on "here". I loved the photos and even so, it somehow broke my heart all over again to see my beautiful dunes, the lake I love so much and am not sure I will ever return to. - Thank you for sharing that place with others. Congratulations on the lecture that you did in Feb. I hope you inspired other artists to think about the content of their work. I'm glad that Aperture did a story on the project.

I will be hoping along with you that your beautiful work will be seen and shared by many. Thank you, as by seeing these places as you have so gratefully captured their spirit - I feel that people will fall in love as I did and therefore be dedicated to their protection, as I am.

Thank you also for your stories about the Climate Summit. As always, what people bring away from these multi-faceted, international policy events varies so much, depending on how they respond to dissent and what expectations they had. It's a long but necessary process, as we can choose to plan for events that are unfolding or just react as they change. So much that's scary, at least some that are hopeful for a better world. Happiness, peace & love to you, much success in your art, Thank you, Marie



Marie Mason, Sleepy Bear Dunes, Michigan, 2009

Love from Lil' Guantanamo,
Daniel

COMMITTED NAME: Daniell McBowan
REG. NO. & QTRS.: #63744-053, Unit I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

SAINT PAUL MN 550
16 OCT 2007 PM 1 L

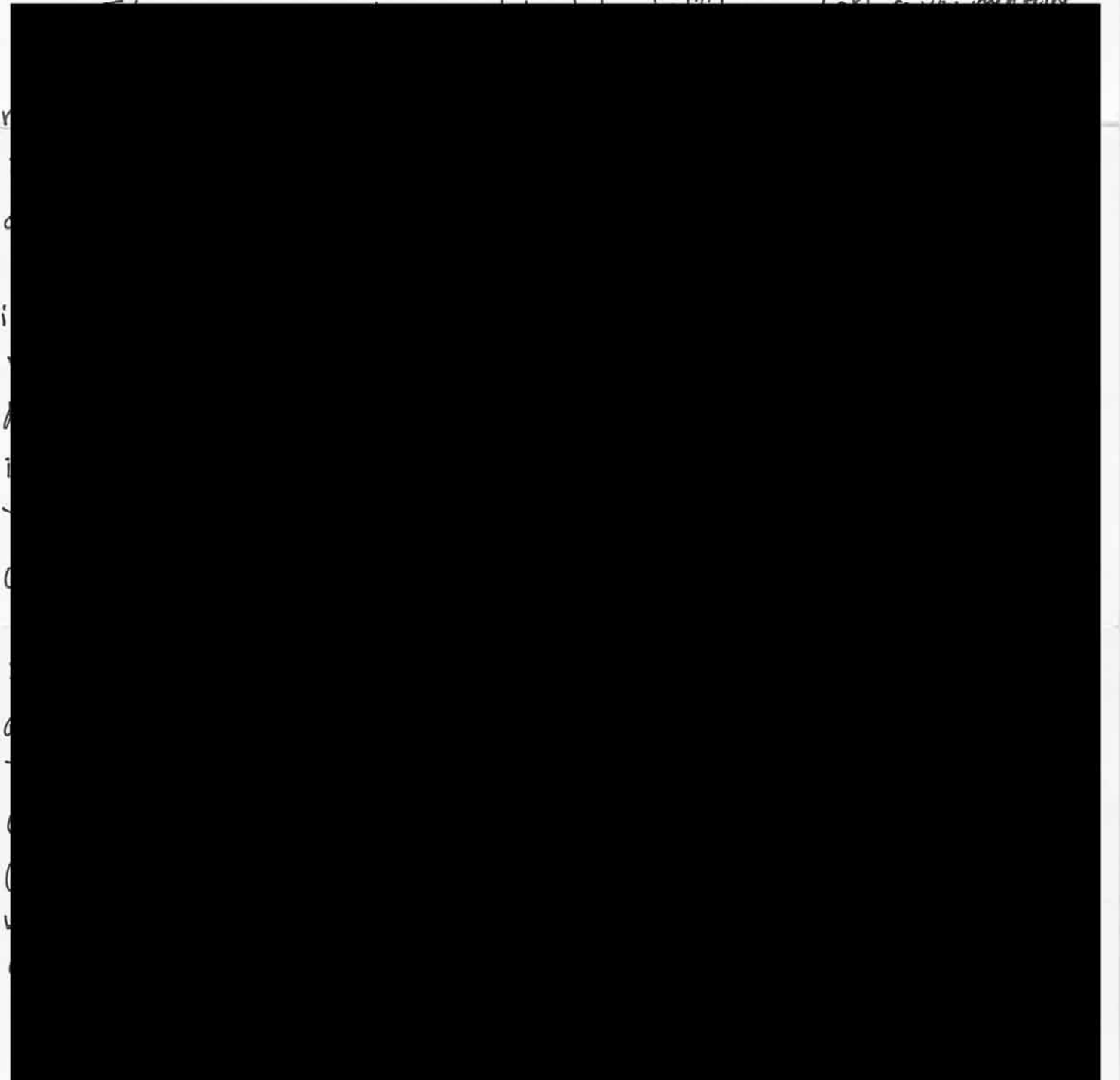


Kelly Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

90290+0363



10.11.07 Kelly! Hi, i just got your letter dated 10/2/07 and i have to say, i love your idea! When I started looking at the photos, i recognized the shot of the Cascadians forest and was happy to then read it was 'Happy' from the former Fall Creek Tree Village (One thing you may not have heard is Clark - the timber sale we all called Fall Creek - was finally officially cancelled ~~years~~ last week!) I have a few places that I can suggest but first, i have a few questions.



So the places - not sure all of them are 'wild' but they are places that remind me of who I am + why I care:

① Petrolia, California - the northern border of 'the Lost Coast' which stretches from Petrolia down south to... i can't remember. I lived here for 6 months in 1999 with people trying to save old-growth forests owned by Pacific Lumber/Maxxam Corp. The beach is beautiful - sealions, driftwood, a pond my surf is surrounded by old-growth forests. You can find it via google easily

② Laying Creek wilderness (Umpqua national Forest) Beautiful old-growth, elk, mossy as hell + wet. In Oregon's Umpqua national Forest south of Eugene + nest. Part of US Forest Service + real BUM'S/USFS(?) cottage Grove ranger station

③ Beach 88st rock jeddys, Rockaway Beach, NY - Take the A train to the Shuttle from Broad chankl. walk toward Beach 88th. This is where I grew up - it's the place I came to swim, spend my summers + when times were tough. The jeddys are rocks designed to prevent erosion and you can walk 50 feet out + be surrounded by waves.

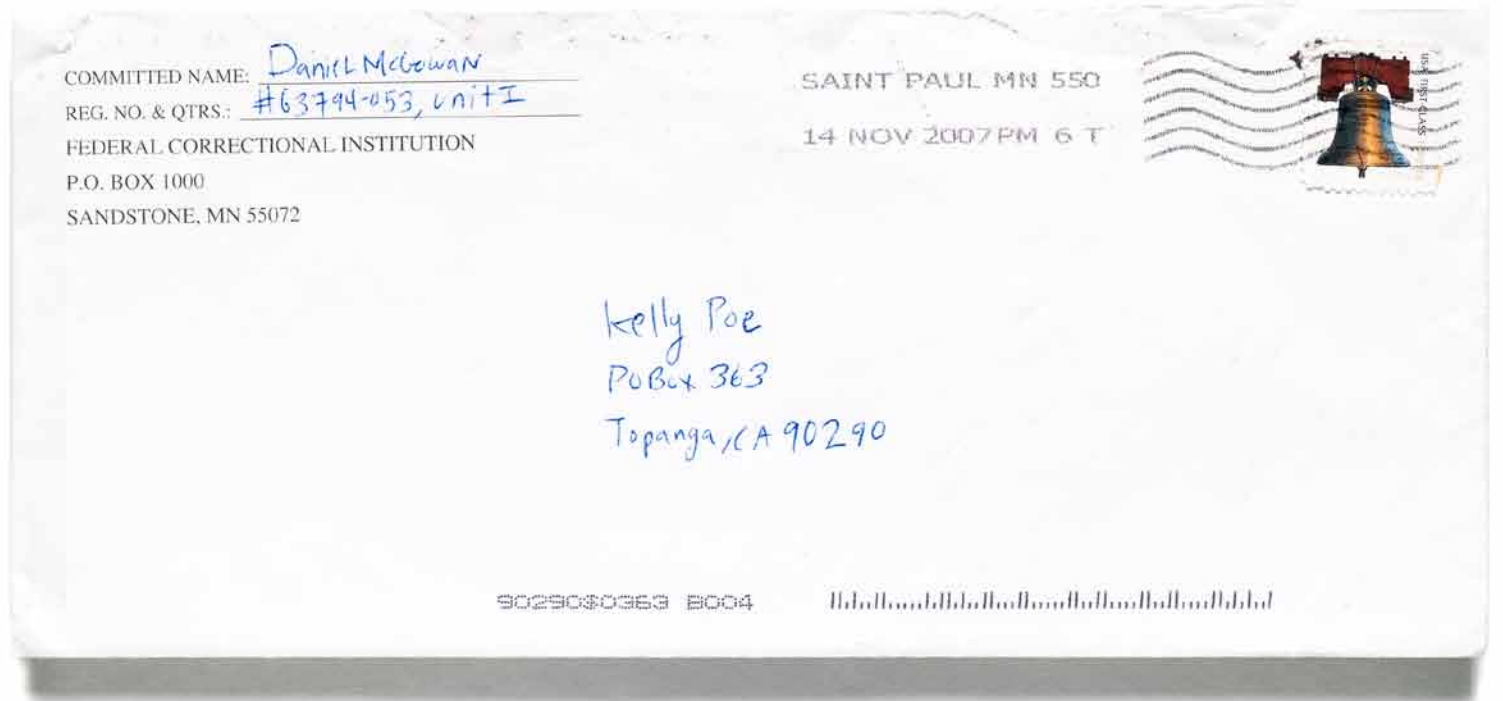
So, this will be an art book + a show? Sounds great. Do you want to include stuff that I've written or want me to write something specific for the photos? If so, lets correspond about that + please be specific as possible.

Thank you for including me in this project. I will ^{anxiously} wait

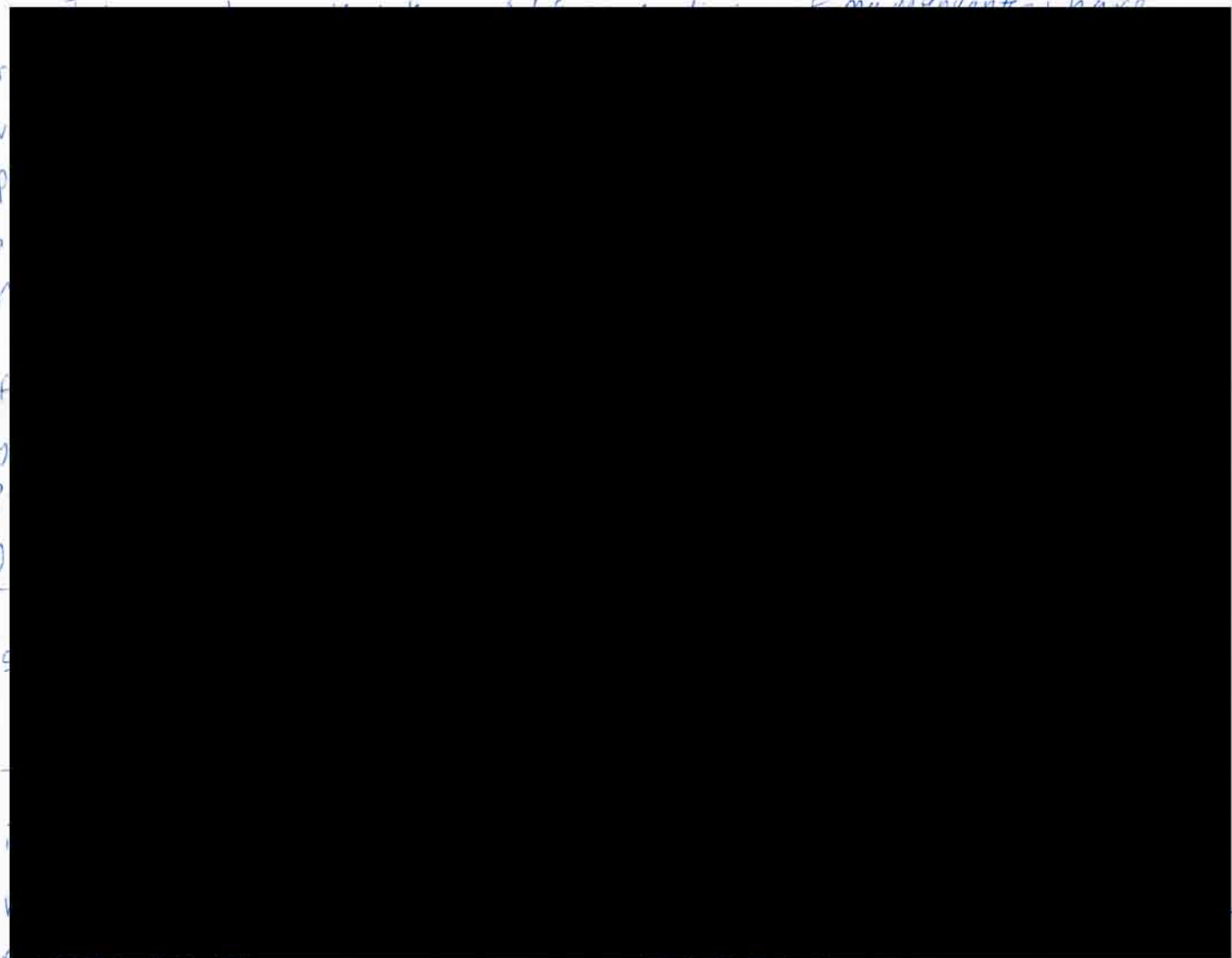
Take care, Kelly.

Solidarity,
Dan

PS - please be sure to send include 'unit I' on all mail coming my way! Thanks.



11/11/07 Kelly, Thanks so much for responding with all the info I requested. I thought about you and others in Southern California when I saw the reports on CNN. Are you OK? It must be horrible out there now. How are you dealing with it?



Ok, so about the locations I suggested:

01101 002
FCI Phoenix
37910 N. 45 Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85086

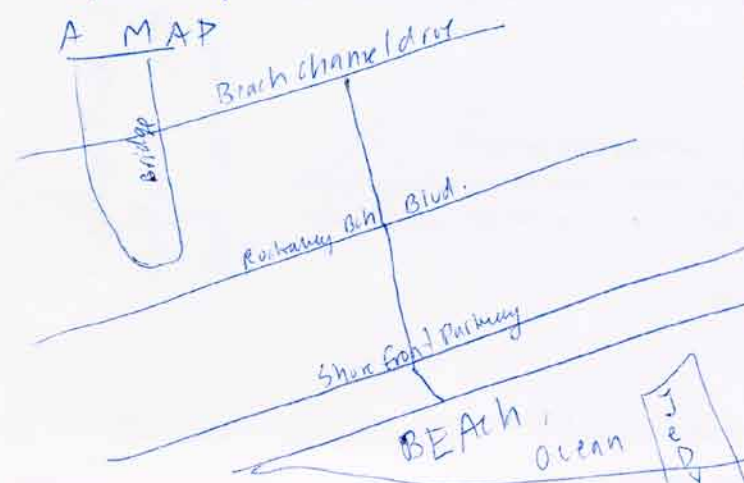
① Laying Creek / Cottage Grove - This is tough as I cannot remember the name of the road. I know its 24 -- but not sure where. It's near the Cottage Grove Ranger Station and an old timber sale called "Judie". I found out recently part of the sale was ~~logged~~ logged. My interest in the Laying Creek wilderness/roadless area stems from an action I was involved with in 2000, where I spiked trees in that timber sale. The govt knows about this as all the informants told them. I would want to include this area because its places like this that compelled me to take drastic actions to protect them. The bumper is, the 2 spiked units may be the ones that were logged. I have a friend in Eugene that may be able to help you out by either researching the area, what road it is and whether those 2 units were →

② I heard about T if he can't find out he knows people who can. His name is [redacted] I suggested you call him. He's a good friend and I'm sure would want to help. If he is sketched out, tell him "I'll take care of his CV joints if he helps you". It's an old joke ;)

② Petrolia - This one is rougher. There is a road in Petrolia that goes right to the Pacific Ocean and the north part of the 'Lost Coast'. It's beautiful, west coast beach with rain, wind, driftwood + sea lions at some point. I lived there for a bit but the people who I lived with are not there anymore, I think. The forest there is in the Mattole area and its owned by Pacific Lumber who logs the fuck out of it. I wish I could give you more.

→ So, I don't want a photo of a clearcut in your book. What would be great is a general photo of the intact, old forests. The chances of seeing elk is slim but the area is beautiful + real wet.

③ Rockaway Beach - its a city beach - more I grew up. In fact, my house is right there on the map you sent! The area I suggested is not though. I am suggesting Beach 90th St and Shore Front Parkway. On the beach are rock jedis (wave breakers). To me, dusk or late afternoon is best in the winter. The beach was a refuge for me. Some place I went to, to clear my head, escape the craziness. It's not your typical tree-hugger photo but I'm not a typical eco type! It's more than big, mossy old-growth and that neighborhood - poor + polluted had a bigger impact on me than most things.



Yeah, I'm no artist! If you go to NYC, email my wife let her know. Maybe some friends of mine would be willing to go to Rockaway with you? Also, I'm sure you can crash at any number of houses there. My wife Jenny can be reached at friends of danielmcg@yahoo.com I was also thinking that you know a lot more about me than I →

know about you. Tell me - what inspires you? How do you live / survive as an artist? What do you do for fun? I know some crimes my way. I'm curious. Thank you for including me in this project I'm really flattered. Oh, when people idont know write me, i ask they send me a photo. It eases my insecurities i hate being exposed as i am. It makes all my interactions with people so unbalanced not to photos + sharing helps a lot and makes

Evidence of rehabilitation must be considered, including certificates of good conduct and certificates of relief from disabilities. If denied employment or licensure based upon a conviction, the applicant is entitled to a written statement of the reasons for denial. N.Y. Correct. Law §§ 750-54.

5. Does the state restrict people with criminal records from employment in the field of home health care?

No.

6. After an individual has been convicted, does the state offer any mechanism to demonstrate that an individual has been rehabilitated?

Certificates of relief from disabilities and certificates of good conduct are offered and automatically lift occupational bars. Certificates of relief from disabilities are available to individuals with any number of misdemeanor convictions but no more than one felony conviction. Separate certificates are necessary for each conviction. Temporary certificates are available while on probation or parole, and become permanent unless revoked. N.Y. Correct. Law §§ 700-03. Following waiting periods that vary based upon severity of the offense, certificates of good conduct are available to individuals with any number of misdemeanor convictions and two or more felony convictions. One certificate will cover all convictions. N.Y. Correct. Law §§ 700 and 703-b.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS

1. Are people with drug-felony convictions dated after 1996 eligible to receive TANF benefits and food stamps?

Yes, New York completely opted out of the drug felon ban. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 95.

PUBLIC HOUSING

1. Does the Housing Authority consider arrests that did not lead to conviction in its admission criteria?

No, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) does not consider arrests.

2. Does the Housing Authority make individual determinations about an applicant's eligibility based upon the relevance of the criminal record?

Yes. NYCHA will consider rehabilitation.

3. How long is the conviction bar(s)?

Bars range from 2-6 years following completion of sentence, depending on the classification of the conviction.

VOTING

1. Does the state grant people with criminal records the right to vote?

Individuals convicted of felony offenses who are on probation or have completed their sentence may vote. Incarcerated individuals and those on parole may not vote. N.Y. Elec. Law § 5-106(2).

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my interactions on papers with people i havent met so much more comfortable + balanced. Since you are an artist, i have a feeling you'll get this. I hope, i made sense. Thanks again. No write soon + let me know your progress. Did you know i really love rascals. P.S - Now, if you can snap a rascall on my desk photo, THAT would be COOL. love + rage, i Damiid :))

THE "T" WORD: U.S. Allies Use the "War on Terrorism" to Smother Dissent

By JOANNE MARINER

A disturbing trend is afoot. In the past couple of months, in two countries, governments have relied on broadly-worded terrorism laws to put down social protests. Political demonstrators in El Salvador and London have found police deploying a

new weapon against them: laws designed to prevent and punish terrorism. In the town of Suchitoto, El Salvador, during a mass demonstration in early July against a water decentralization plan, fourteen protesters were arrested and charged with terrorism. At London's Heathrow Airport in Au-

gust, police relied on stop-and-search powers contained in a recent terrorism law to control a huge demonstration against global warming. A government document made public warned that police would employ their counterterrorism powers to deal "robustly" with any illegal protests. But the police already have plenty of legal authority to arrest demonstrators who disrupt flight schedules or damage property; their use of counterterrorism legislation is sheer opportunism.

More than 50 governments have passed counterterrorism laws in the past six years — many of them poorly written, filled with open-ended language and vulnerable to misuse.

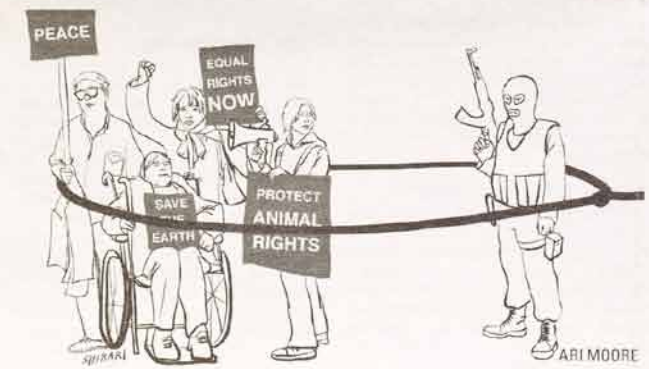
Since social protest is almost always meant as a form of political pressure — that is, a means of compelling state authorities to change their policies — the purpose requirement of such counterterrorism laws will almost always be met. And so the possibility of arbitrary enforcement of such laws is very real.

Political protesters are not terrorists, as police and prosecutors well know. Yet it seems that the broad authorities granted under recent counterterrorism laws are too tempting to resist. Why would state officials respect normal criminal law rules when they can instead employ laws that offer sweeping powers, few procedural safeguards and harsh penalties?

Governments apparently need to be reminded: political protesters are not terrorists. Rock-throwers are not suicide attackers. People carrying placards are not people carrying bombs.

Both the British and Salvadoran counterterrorism laws are written in broad language that invites police and prosecutorial misuse. In this respect, unfortunately, they are not all that different from many other countries' counterterrorism legislation.

Joanne Mariner is a human rights lawyer based in New York with Human Rights Watch. For more information about terrorism and counterterrorism legislation, visit brw.org. This article was excerpted from a longer version that appears on findlaw.com. The longer version can be found at independent.org.



ARI MOORE

COMMITTED NAME: Daniel McGowan
REG. NO. & QTRS.: 63744-053, Unit I
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P.O. BOX 1000
SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ST PAUL MN 551
20 FEB 2008 PM 4 T

LET US CARE TO HEAR
THINK, SPEAK AND
John Adams, 1765
poweroftheletter



Kelly Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga, CA 90240

90290+0363

2/17/08 Kelly! It's good to hear from you and see your photos. It's funny- over the last year or so, i've heard a lot of good ideas related to this case: "we're going to set up a legal fund", "we're going to do a book to help Green Scare defendants", etc. I'm happy to see yours is serious and you actually flew to NY to take sample photos. This project has me pretty excited - i'm not much of an artsy person but i do like photography and the idea you came up with is compelling. I hope you can pull more people on board soon. Have you heard anything from Jonathan Paul or Jake/Josh from SHAC? It's aummer Sadie's participation is contingent on Exik's. I was hoping she'd make her ~~own~~ own decision on that. If you don't hear from Jonathan, keep trying as he may just be in funk. Tell him i'm participating. Also, Andy Stepanien, i bet, would be interested as well.

I'm glad you & Jenny were able to meet - she's great, isn't she? I would be in a much worse state than I am without her in my life. Did you find your way back to the farms OK? Rockaway is weird - its part hood + then it has this beach + bay too. So, as for the photos - i like them - my ideal photo would somehow have water, sand, birds and the buildings in them - to show its an urban beach. The #s i like most are: A0376, A0425, B0462 + A409. The bay shot is nice but i prefer the beach shot. I hope that helps. Did you take any shots from the rock jeddys?

Jenny told me you left the book + we will have time to discuss it when i see her next week for 2 days. Do you plan on typing our words into the cpu or photocopying/ importing our handwritten words into the pages? Just curious - my handwriting is abysmal! As for the title, "love + rage", the only problem i see is it was the name of an Anarchist federation in NYC in the 1990s + people would associate it with that potentially. AK Press just published a book about the federation too. I like what the term feels like (if that makes sense) - is there a way to make it more explicitly eco? I know little about how you plan to publish this book + with whom but i'd like to throw my 2 cents in on something. Considering this book is about green scare prisoners + the env, can you print it on 100% post-consumer recycled paper? I'd rather not contribute or promote any more impact than i already do →

I'm sure on top of the many tasks + costs of doing this project, that request may be cumbersome. But it's in alignment with what I'm saying + how I try to live my life. I know I'm among many but many prisoners from our movement would feel the same. Also - it would be way harder for the book to be dismissed if it was published in an eco-friendly manner. I can send you info on how to source this paper. Mohawk Paper sells a lot of it in many different permutations as does New Leaf Paper + Living Tree Paper (Eugene, OR). The 'Re-thinking Paper' project at Earth Island Institute (EI) or RAN (www.ran.org) may point you in the right direction. Let me know what you think about that idea. So, as for visiting me, that sounds good - I can put you on my visiting list + then remove you since I have very few spots to spare. I will need you to fill out a form (enclosed) + send it to my counselor here (his address is on the form). The only problem is

that my free visiting weekends are full for April. You can come on any Friday or Monday though. Is that something you'd want to do? It may be really good to discuss all of this in person + maybe we could add something to your project. If you are interested, let me know + send in the form ASAP. I'll let Jenny know when you are approved - Sandstone is 1 1/2 hours from Melbst. Visiting hours is 8:30^{am}-3:30pm + there is 1 motel in Sandstone (cheap + close to the prison) + 3 in Hackley (10 mins south of Sandstone). You wouldn't be able to bring any photos in but we could take a photo of us for the book if that fits your idea. So, if you can pick a Monday or Friday in April, that'd be great. Let me + Jenny know. It'd be nice to meet you. The cover, by the way, looks great! Ok, want to get this letter out. Hope you're well! Love + rage, *Dave*

Working Bibliography: NEED MORE BOOKS FROM RIK
 Bullard, Robert D., (Ed.) (2005) *The Quest for Environmental Justice*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.
 King, L. & McCarthy, D. (Eds.) (2005) *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.
 Scarce, R. (2000) *Fishy Business: Salmon, Biology and the Social Construction of Nature*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Evaluation
 • Academic journal?
 • Two reaction papers
 • Service learning project? Can I craft this?

BIO NEEDED
 Department of Tisch Learning Center 221
 Skidmore College
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 518-580-5416
 rscarce@skidmore.edu
 www.skidmore.edu/~rscarce

Time Period:
 July-September 2008
 Summer quarter
 Credit assignment: 5

Instructor:
 Associate Professor of Sociology
 Rik Scarce

Addressee Kelly Poe Box 363 Topanga, CA 90290	Institution FCI SANDSTONE, MN	Date 4/17/08
Re: (Inmate's Name and Register No.) Daniel McGowan		

Dear Kelly:

I am requesting that you be included among my approved visitors. In order to establish your suitability as a visitor, it may be necessary for institution officials to send an inquiry to an appropriate law enforcement or crime information agency to ascertain whether or not placing you on my visiting list would present a management problem for the institution, or have other possible adverse effects. The information obtained will be used to determine your acceptability as a visitor. The Bureau of Prisons' authority to request background information on proposed visitors is contained in Title 18 U.S.C. § 4042.

In order for you to be considered for the visiting privilege with me, it will be necessary for you to fill out the questionnaire and release form below and return it to the following address:
 Return completed form to: I-Unit Counselor
 P.O. Box 999
 Sandstone, MN 55072

(FORMS RETURNED TO THE INMATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.)

You are not required to supply the information requested. However, if you do not furnish the information, the processing of your request will be suspended, and you will receive no further consideration. If you furnish only part of the information required, the processing of your request may be significantly delayed. If the information withheld is found to be essential to the processing of your request, you will be informed, and your request will receive no further consideration unless you supply the missing information. Although no penalties are authorized if you do not supply the information requested, failure to supply such information could result in your not being considered for admittance as a visitor. The criminal penalty for making false statements is a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both (See 18 U.S.C. § 1001).

Sincerely, *Dave*

1. Legal Name	2. Date of Birth	3. Address (Including Zip Code)
4. Telephone Number (Including Area Code)	5. Race and Sex of Visitor	
6. Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No	6a. If yes, provide Social Security No: _____ 6b. If no, provide Alien Registration No: _____ 6c. Provide Passport No: _____	
7. Relationship to above-named inmate	8. Do you desire to visit him/her? Yes No	
9. Did you know this person prior to his/her current incarceration? Yes No		
10. If the answer to #9 is yes, indicate the length of time you have known this person and where the relationship developed.		
11. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? If so, state the number, date, place, and nature of the conviction(s):		
12. Are you currently on probation, parole, or any other type of supervision? If so, state the name of your supervising probation/parole officer and the address and telephone no. where he/she can be contacted:		
13. Do you correspond or visit with other inmates? If so, indicate the individual(s) and their location(s):		
14. Driver's License No. and State of Issuance		

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION
 I hereby authorize release to the Warden of: FCI SANDSTONE, MN any record of criminal offenses for which I have been arrested and convicted, and any information related to those convictions.

Signature of Authorization to Release Information (Sign and Print Name) _____ Parent or Guardian
 (If applicant is under 18 years of age, signature of parent or guardian indicates consent of minor to visit inmate.)

If additional space is required, you may use the back of this form.
 To be filed in Inmate Central File, FCI Section 2
 Replaces BP-S629 of Sep 00

P.S. What's in South Dakota?

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Federal Correctional Institution

Sandstone, Minnesota 55072

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL CONCERNED

FROM: M. CASEY, COUNSELOR

SUBJECT: LODGING FOR VISITORS

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO INMATES AND THEIR FAMILY'S TO ASSIST THEM IN ARRANGING LODGING IN THE LOCAL SURROUNDING AREA.

(list)
(list) →

61 MOTEL	320-245-5419	SANDSTONE
SUPER 8 MOTEL	800-800-8000	BANNING JUNCTION
DAYS INN	800-325-2525	HINCKLEY
BEST WESTERN	800-798-6027	HINCKLEY
HOLIDAY INN	800-465-4329	HINCKLEY
GRAND CASINO	320-384-7101	HINCKLEY

(hotel, inn&RV park)

TO TRAVEL TO FCI SANDSTONE, TAKE I-35 NORTH TO SANDSTONE, DRIVE TO DOWNTOWN SANDSTONE ON HIGHWAY 61, TAKE HIGHWAY 23 EAST OUT OF SANDSTONE, TURN RIGHT ON TO PRISON ROAD AND FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE INSTITUTION.

THERE IS NO TAXI SERVICE IN THE SANDSTONE AREA.

When you come, you need ID, my reg #63794-053 and your car's license plate #.
You go through a metal detector + they do random patts. You can bring money or change for the vending machines (\$20 limit). Please bring some \$05 i miss lunch at visits + will crash out hard if i don't eat some junk in machines.

5

Captain Paul Watson: Our record speaks for itself. In 30 years of operations the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has never caused a death or a single injury. We have never been convicted of a felony. Yes we have sunk whaling ships, rammed whalers and drift netters, boarded poaching vessels and destroyed equipment used for illegal exploitation of the oceans and we believe that these are valid tactics.

Martin Luther King once wrote that violence can not be committed against a non-sentient object. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has given Sea Shepherd a letter of support in praise of our record of non-violence.

In fact Greenpeace supported Sea Shepherd actions when we rammed and sank the pirate whaler Sierra in 1979. The article about the Sierra ramming was written by me as the cover story on the Greenpeace Chronicles in September 1979.

I was co-founder of Greenpeace International in October 1979 after this incident with the Sierra. Greenpeace has worked with the group Earth First! and that group participates in ecotage i.e. the destruction of logging and construction equipment.

So why does Greenpeace separate itself from Sea Shepherd?

The answer lies more in politics than tactics.

As a co-founder of Greenpeace, I along with most other of the original member have been marginalized by the bureaucrats who now run Greenpeace. We are a threat to their leadership and especially a threat to their revisionism.

The vision and the passion that helped create Greenpeace are not welcome today in Greenpeace the corporation where the bottom line is to increase contribution revenues by presenting a wide appeal and taking measures to not be overly radical or to offend possible donors.

The truth is that the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is more non-violent than Greenpeace. Greenpeace has suffered a few deaths and numerous injuries over the years due to not taking proper precautions. No sea Shepherd crewmember has ever been injured.

But the most significant testament to Sea Shepherd's superior record of non-violence is the fact that Sea Shepherd ships do not serve meat, fish, eggs or dairy products to the crew. The ships are vegan ships and not a single animal suffered or is killed to feed the crew.

Greenpeace ships serve meat, dairy products, eggs and fish. Greenpeace posted a You Tube video of Greenpeaceers eating whale meat in Japan to demonstrate they are not opposed to whale as part of Japanese cuisine.

So who is more non-violent [less violent? - af] ? Vegan Sea Shepherd crewmembers or steak and fish eating Greenpeace crewmembers?

Question No. 3

Is Sea Shepherd willing to cooperate and work with Greenpeace?

Captain Paul Watson: The answer is yes. Sea Shepherd policy is to work in cooperation with anyone willing to work with us. We believe that strength lies in diversity of tactics and strategies.

We once worked with Greenpeace and I have attempted to work with them for years but they consistently refuse. It makes practical sense for the two groups working to stop illegal whaling in the Southern Oceans to work together.

Last year when Sea Shepherd found the whaling fleet first we gave the coordinates to Greenpeace. This year we also gave the coordinates to Greenpeace. This year we offered to share our helicopter with Greenpeace. They refused and they refused to reciprocate by providing coordinates to us. It's been very frustrating.

Sea Shepherd works in partnership with the Galapagos National Park rangers and the Cocos Island National Park rangers. We work in partnership with the Ecuadorian National Police and with the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States. We work with numerous non-governmental organizations.

And we would like to work cooperatively with Greenpeace. The fact that we do not is not our choice - the decision was made by Greenpeace to refuse cooperation.

Question No. 4

The Japanese whalers accused Sea Shepherd of not returning their calls and intentionally prolonging the holding of Sea Shepherd crewmembers as hostages so as to prolong the story. Is this true?

Captain Paul Watson: Our crew requested to leave as soon as they delivered the letter. This request is included in the letter. The Japanese captain of the Yushiin Maru No. 2 made a huge public relations error when

he decided to hold the two crew as hostages. They could have been released at any time. The decision was with the Japanese whalers to do so.

There was not a single call from the Japanese government to the Sea Shepherd ship Steve Irwin during the time the men were held hostage. The Sea Shepherd office in Friday Harbor did receive demands from the Institute of Cetacean Research as conditions for releasing the crew. I did not respond to these demands because issuing demands while holding hostages is extortion. We responded to the Australian government by saying that the release must be unconditional.

Did Sea Shepherd take advantage of the situation to get publicity? Of course we did. This incident brought the issue of illegal Japanese whaling to the attention of the world. That is an objective that is part of our mission.

Question No. 5

Some journalists have asked why we do not accept that the Japanese whaling program is a legitimate scientific research program?

We do not accept it as a legitimate scientific research program. First because it is not science and secondly because it is not legal.

The Japanese Institute for Cetacean Research has not published a single peer reviewed scientific paper concerning the so called "research" they are doing in the Southern Oceans.

If there is any research involved it is marketing and product development research.

The International Whaling Commission has condemned the program as bogus research.

Targeting endangered species in a whale sanctuary in violation of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ban on commercial whaling is illegal under the Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and under the regulations of the IWC.

In addition the killing of whales is banned in the Australian Antarctic Territory by order of the Australian courts. In response to critics who say that the Japanese whalers are just trying to make a living, I can only say that elephant poachers, drug dealers and arms dealers are also just trying to make a living. Making a living is not a justification for committing a crime. Science is not a justification for committing a crime.

Question No. 6

Sea Shepherd has been accused by the Japanese whalers and Greenpeace of being an eco-terrorist organization?

We get called many things by many people but it's all really just name calling.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has never had a crewmember convicted of a felony crime. We are not wanted for any crime anywhere in the world. There are no criminal charges pending against us. It's all just rhetoric and name calling and nothing to take seriously.

I myself am not restricted in my travels and I do not have a criminal record.

We have never injured a single person nor have we ever intervened against a lawful enterprise. We only oppose illegal activities as defined by international law.

Our advisory board includes scientists, lawyers, journalists, and celebrities including the former Australian Minister of the Environment Ian Campbell, the former Vice Chair of the IWC Horst Klienschmidt, Naturalist Farley Mowat, actors Pierce Brosnan, Martin Sheen, Richard Dean Anderson and Sean Penn.

None of these people would be supporting us if we were a "terrorist" organization.

Question No. 7

Sea Shepherd flies the Jolly Roger, the pirate flag. Are you pirates?

We get called pirate, and it is an accusation that does not bother us much. In fact we kind of like it. First there is the romantic appeal of swashbuckling pirates and kids love the image, they love our flag and logo.

Second we do consider ourselves pirates of compassion in pursuit of pirates of greed.

There is sometimes a need to be a pirate if for nothing else because sometimes pirates are needed to stop pirates.

Back in the 17th Century when piracy was raging out of control in the Caribbean, it was not the British government or the British Navy that shut down piracy. Like politicians today, many were on the take and British merchants and even the crown had a vested interest in piracy.

4

Japanese Poachers release
Seashepherd hostages.

Benjamin Potts and Giles Lane were transferred from the Yushin Maru No. 2 to the Australian Customs vessel Oceanic Viking early in the morning at 0200 Hours Melbourne time (1300 Hours GMT). The two men were transferred to the Sea Shepherd ship Steve Irwin at 0930 Hours Melbourne time (2030 Hours GMT).

Both men were happy to be reunited with their shipmates and eager to return to chasing the Japanese whaling fleet in the Southern Oceans. "It did not take long before the whalers realized that they made a huge public relations mistake in keeping us on their ship," said Benjamin Potts. "We made it clear to them that Sea Shepherd was committed to stopping their illegal whaling activities."

Both men reported that although they were roughed up when they first boarded the whaling ship, that they were treated well during their time onboard. The only injury was a bruised wrist suffered by Giles Lane.

"Although we appreciate the concern that people have expressed for our welfare, it is important to remember that this is not about us," said Giles Lane. "It's about stopping this cruel and illegal whale hunt. The treatment that we received was trivial in comparison to the suffering that the whales experience at the hands of the Japanese whalers. They may have been rough with us but at least we were not harpooned, electrocuted and mutilated. This is not about us, it's about the whales."

The Steve Irwin is continuing its pursuit of the Japanese whaling fleet. "This is the 8th day that whales have not been killed," said Captain Paul Watson. "Every day that we stop the whalers is a victory. We will continue to intervene, harass, block, and obstruct the whalers at every opportunity."

The Steve Irwin is presently at 59 Degrees 46 Minutes South and 85 Degrees 59 Minutes east and on the tail of the Japanese whaling fleet. The Australian court has ruled that the Japanese whaling fleet cannot kill whales in Australian Antarctic Territorial waters. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is prepared to work with the Australian government to uphold the court's ruling to ban the Japanese fleet from Australian waters.

Statement of Giles Lane

"After our 48 hours of captivity, I'm pleased to have rejoined the captain and crew of the Steve Irwin. I am unharmed and ready to continue disrupting the whaling of the Japanese fleet in the Southern Ocean. It was worth the risk and time in order to inform them of their illegal activities and stop them killing whales whilst we were aboard."

Statement of Benjamin Potts

"I'm happy to be back aboard the Steve Irwin with my crew. I'm pleased that everything worked out and that no-one was hurt, and also that we were successful in placing the world's attention on the illegal slaughter of whales in a whale sanctuary in the Australian Antarctic Territory. To the Japanese people, we have nothing against you as a people. I enjoy Japanese culture, but your barbaric slaughter of intelligent and endangered marine mammals must stop before you drive them to extinction."

SEA SHEPHERD FAQ

Question No. 1

Did Sea Shepherd Commit Piracy

The Japanese have accused Sea Shepherd of piracy and there has been talk about charging Benjamin Potts and Giles Lane with piracy. Will this happen?

Captain Paul Watson: It is not likely. It would be amusing if they did. Both Giles and Ben laughed at the suggestion. I've been accused of piracy so many times that I've lost count.

Because I ordered the men to board the Japanese whaler, the piracy charges would actually be directed at myself but like them, I'm not worried about any charges.

First because there is a question of jurisdiction? Where would such charges be laid? I can't see Australia charging us with piracy and we have no plans to visit Japan in the near future.

From SeaShepherd.org

Second it is a charge that would not hold up.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea defines piracy as:

This is an excerpt from Section VII titled "High Seas"

Article 101 Definition of piracy

Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

(a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:

(i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;

(ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;

(b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;

(c) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm

As the captain of the Steve Irwin I sent two of my crew onboard the Japanese whaler Yushiin Maru No. 2 with a letter addressed to the Japanese captain.

The letter read:

To: The Captain of any Japanese ship
Involved with poaching operations in
The Australian Antarctic Territorial
Economic Exclusion Zone.

Sir,

My name is Benjamin Potts.

I am an Australian citizen and an unpaid volunteer on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vessel Steve Irwin

I have come onboard your ship because you have refused to acknowledge communication from our ship pertaining to your illegal activities in the waters of the Australian Antarctic Territorial Economic Exclusion Zone. I am not boarding your ship with the intent to commit a crime, to rob you or to inflict injury upon your crew and yourself or damage to your ship. My reason for boarding is to deliver the message that you are in violation of international conservation law and in violation of the laws of Australia. It is my intent to deliver this message and then to request that you allow me to disembark from your vessel without harm or seizure.

I am empowered to act to uphold these laws in accordance with the United Nations World Charter for Nature and the laws of Australia.

I am boarding you with the request that you please refrain from any further criminal activity in these waters and cease and desist with the continued killing of endangered whales in this designated Whale Sanctuary in violation of the IWC global moratorium on commercial whaling and that you cease and desist in continued violations of Australian law by killing whales within the territorial waters of Australia without permit or permission from the government of Australia.

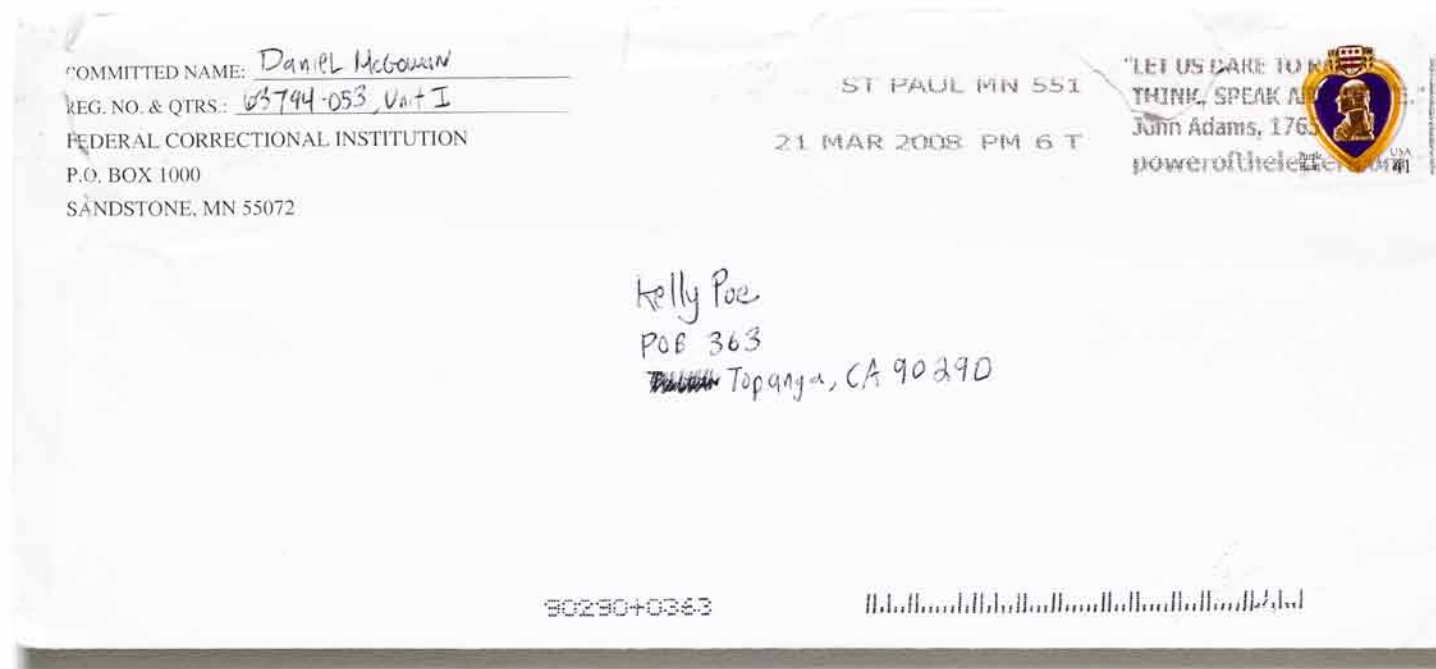
This is a letter of intent and it explains the reason for the boarding and specifically states that the boarding is not for any reason that could be described as piracy.

I would welcome formal charges of piracy just for the opportunity to defend such a ludicrous charge. It would be incredible publicity for Sea Shepherd and because of the letter of intent, I and my crew would be acquitted.

With reference to the incident involving the Japanese whaler, it should be pointed out that the whalers held two Sea Shepherd crewmembers after assaulting them and tying them to the mast. They then held them against their will and then issued a letter outlining conditions for their release which is extortion. Added to this is the fact that the Japanese whalers are plundering the Southern Oceans and killing endangered whales in a whale sanctuary in violation of a global moratorium on whaling and are in violation of the ban on whaling imposed by Australia in the Australian Antarctic Territory it becomes clear that the real pirates are the Japanese whalers - not Sea Shepherd.

Question No. 2

Greenpeace accuses Sea Shepherd of being a violent organization. Is this a valid?



3/19/08 Kelly, Hey, how are you? I got your 3/10 letter the other day and wanted to respond. I'm excited to see you on 4/7 - i'll let Jenny know when you are approved for visiting. 9am is fine and i'll bring a photo ticket so we can take one (i get doubles so will send 1 to you). I like the photos you sent especially 2/08 1C + 2/08-2D. Those shots are great - the gulls are nice too. Yeah, Ruckaway is a funny place: projects, funny people and a beach / bay environment. It's NYC paper but has a different vibe. I spent much of my childhood exploring the beaches and Jamaica Bay getting into trouble and making forts, playing tag, skipping rocks. That reminds me - when you pick your photos, i'd be more than happy to write something for each place.

Thanks for the update on who's participating. So glad Jonathan is - and that we are sending you to the same watershed. I've only met Jake twice but his reputation precedes him as a good, funny person and i like his partner [redacted] too.

[redacted]

② I just thought I should mention that I do have the [redacted]

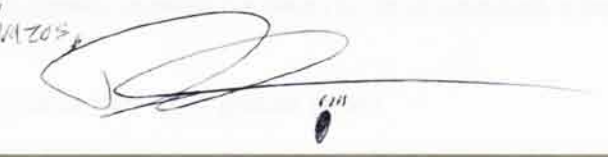
I [redacted] [You can print below this]

When you've had, let's discuss the 'love + rage' thing as i don't get what you wrote in the letter. So, others have brought up recycled paper - does that mean you will print on recycled paper? If so, i can recommend stocks/brands.

So, i imagine a major reason Sadie + Eve will not participate is their disagreements with me over an action they took part in + my publically expressed views on it. Sadie trashed me in 2 letters to the E! Journal - i do not plan on responding and giving our opposition any more satisfaction. Others can chime in if they disagree with her view but i see no plus in responding and making this private matter public. Have you heard from Josh Harper about participating? I suppose you want to give Brianna some free + space. She is most likely in shock right now - the job i wants to ask for a lot + she lost her detention hearing. Fucking sad - im glad she isn't going away for 30 but the thought of her little girl not having her mom for her next years kills me. The government is so fucking vicious.

Did you hear Free got a 10 year sentence (13 years off his original)? Also - there were 4 arrests made re: an old ELF action in Michigan. There's info on spiritoffreedom.org.uk They are facing 20 years. Well, things move on here as always. The snow is melting + i have a lot more energy. I'm in between quarters at school + catching up on letters and reading (for fun). Next 3 months, i have 2 visits per month - how spoiled am I? I'm really looking forward to meeting you. We'll eat some junk food, drink some crappy coffee + strabaine + hot the back. It really is a great idea + i'm stoked

to be included. 10,000 besos + abacos. See you on the 7th.



ARSON IN THE NEWS

A spate of eco-sabotage oriented stories is making news this week, all centering on Oregon and the Northwest. Media sources and the FBI are filling the headlines with the "eco-terrorist" label again as they discuss an arson in Seattle and three eco-saboteurs in the courts.

Just last week, eco-arsonist Jeff Luers was given a more than 10 year reduction on his almost 23 year sentence for burning three SUVs. And as the *EW* goes to press, a jury in Tacoma debates the innocence of Briana Waters, the 32-year-old violin teacher who has pled not guilty to serving as a lookout during the ecologically motivated arson of the University of Washington horticulture building in 2001.

Waters is the only one of the accused arsonists to go to trial. Four members of the loose-knit group are featured on the Portland FBI's "Most Wanted" page, and a dozen have taken plea agreements with the federal prosecutors. Almost all of the group expressed regret for their use of arson as a tool at their sentencing.

On March 2, in the midst of the jury's deliberations for the Waters' trial, three multi-million dollar homes went up in flames in a Seattle suburb. The arsonists left a sign reading, "Built Green? Nope black!" and signed themselves the ELF (Earth Liberation Front), according to media reports. The homes were unoccupied, and no one was injured. The FBI has said the fires are being investigated as an act of "domestic terrorism."

Though the homes were billed as using environmentally friendly materials, the development was built near headwaters of Bear Creek, home to endangered Chinook salmon. Opponents to the development said not enough was done to protect nearby wetlands and that the development endangered nearby water sources and destroyed beaver dams and hiking trails.

The ELF is not an organized group. Rather, it is a designation some radical environmentalists use when calling attention to an ecologically motivated act of destruction. The UW arsonists also used ELF to credit the fire there.

Waters' attorney called for a mistrial, citing that the Seattle fires could influence the jury, but the judge denied the request.

Also on March 2, Oregon activist Tre Arrow pled innocent to charges of conspiracy, arson, attempted arson and use of destructive devices in U.S. District Court in Portland. Arrow had fled to Canada in 2004 and fought extradition to the U.S. A trial date of May 6 was set by U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis J. Hubel. — *Camilla Mortensen*

We know how frustrating this is for everyone - especially those of you who are making an extra effort to be here to support Eric at his sentencing. Thank you all for sticking with us. Your love and dedication make the road so much smoother...

Yours,
SPS

29 Feb.2008

--- Tre Arrow Arrives in Portland ---

author: Tre Arrow Support Team

Tre Arrow will be given a warm "welcome back" to Portland by his many friends, family and supporters. Tre is a grassroots activist, known foremost for his environmental protection work in the forests of Northern Oregon. Following several years of peaceful activism by Tre, the U.S. Government labeled him an "eco-terrorist" and charged him with multiple counts of arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and possession of destructive devices (i.e. incendiaries).

Tre has been a prisoner for four years in Canada fighting extradition to the U.S., fearing that he would not be given a fair trial in light of the "eco-terrorist" label. Tre is awaiting trial in Portland, Oregon, vigorously fighting his criminal charges. Tre states, "As winter holds the land in its grasp, the bare hardwoods stand strong and beckon the spirit of Spring. Likewise, as my life enters a new season, my strength and life force are flowing through my veins and invigorating my body, mind, and spirit for the upcoming challenges. The time has come to prepare for trial in Portland. I am returning from Canada ready to assist my lawyers in this process."

Tre has consistently denied any guilt and always asserted that he is innocent of all charges. Tre states, "I have maintained my innocence from the onset of this ordeal. My legal team presented my plea for asylum in Canada based on the political persecution I am facing. But, it is abundantly clear that the Canadian Government is complicit in the atrocities and injustices perpetrated by the US government. My faith in the Canadian authorities to act with a conscience in a fair and objective manner has not been realized. The time has come to prove my innocence once and for all."

Tre's indictment came only after three other individuals were arrested for the arsons and began to cooperate with the government. Tre's defense team stresses his innocence and asserts that the three cooperating individuals are directing the blame on Tre to escape punishment. Tre states, "I am innocent of the charges that the U.S. government is trying to pin on me. Just as many activists have experienced, the government is targeting me because I have chosen to challenge the status quo — not because I am guilty." Cont'd

Tre continues to be known in Portland as the peaceful activist who climbed the ledge outside the offices of the Regional U.S. Forest Service headquarters in July 2000. Tre perched on that 9-inch ledge, 10 meters above the ground, for 11 days. This attracted local, national, and international attention to the former Eagle Timber Sale. Tre and other grassroots activists were ultimately so successful that the U.S. Forest Service canceled the Eagle timber sale. Today, the public continues to enjoy the forest in the Clackamas River watershed for its natural beauty. The forest functions as a back-up drinking water source for Portland and surrounding communities.

Tre's family, friends and supporters remark on his kindness, passion and positive approach to activism. Tre leaves a lasting impression on everyone who heard his simple, yet important, educational messages on social justice, the connection of people, animals, the earth, and how humanity should take care of the planet.

In addition to environmental activism, in Portland, Tre helped with animal abuse issues, worked as a childcare provider and ran as a Pacific Green Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000. Tre's candidacy garnered more than 15,000 votes.

Tre's sister Shawna Scarpitti is the family's spokesperson. "My family's hope is to get Tre's story known by the public to add to the movement calling for him to be released. He is an innocent man facing a life sentence in prison. Tre has been fighting extradition for nearly four years in British Columbia, Canada, and is now returning to face trumped-up charges for crimes he did not commit," says Scarpitti.

Tre adds, "I thank the wonderful folks in Canada who have become part of my family and helped in countless ways with my legal and personal needs. I thank you from the depths of my being and we shall meet again! To all those in Oregon and beyond, to all those helping to mount the needed support — I am coming home and will see you soon. I will be free, and I will be vindicated! In the words of Catriona Reed, I declare, 'For the power of my anger, transforming itself into love, for the beauty and integrity of all life-forms, and for the bright energy of my passion for justice and the health of all beings, I bow to you in gratitude and touch the Earth.'"

Support Tre

I'm glad he's back!!! Should we be writing letters to the jail?

29 Feb.2008 21:02

We are witnessing a mass extinction event taking place in our life times. The world's top scientists are warning that by the middle of this century, 30 to 50 percent of all living species could be extinct. There are predictions of 250 million people, or more, dying for lack of water and food. Fears that melting glaciers in Alaska and Greenland could catastrophically raise global sea levels. While here at home our leading climate scientists have been censored by our government. Their reports edited by Bush appointees who now work for some of Americas biggest oil companies. We have been deceived by the very people responsible for our well-being.

Fortunately, the veil has been lifted and many Americans are now demanding that action be taken on climate change and other environmental issues. Indeed many states are now confronting our federal government on the topic. However, so far all legislative attempts to solve the problem have failed or have lacked the necessary backbone to accomplish anything meaningful. The time for change has to be now. We no longer have the luxury of passing our problems off to the next generation. We must be vigilant in our determination to create change and find solutions to what is arguably the greatest threat humanity has ever faced. It is the people in this courtroom, the citizens of this country, this state and this country that must carry the responsibility for creating change. For if we can't change our own lives how can we expect others to change theirs?

I'm ready and willing to change so that I can help find real solutions to our problems. I'm ready to help find methods that aren't limited to rhetoric. Doomed to failure by symbolism or rendered meaningless by corruption. I choose to take a new direction because not only is a new path sorely needed in my own life, but a new direction is sorely needed by our country. I recognize that if I'm not helping to create that change, I'm just standing in the way. We are all in this together whether we are labeled radical, conservative or liberal. And together is the only way we are going to solve this problem.

It is easy for me to say these things. I doubt that my commitment to the environment or social change has ever been questioned. However, I am sure the court as well as many others, question whether or not I have truly left my militant past behind. To which all I can say is that I am ready to live my life. I'm ready to put the needs of my family first. And I'm also ready to find success where thus far radical struggle has failed. More than anything, I am just ready to move on."

To which Judge J.A. Billings responded that he has been a lawyer and a judge for 35 years and he has never received a statement from a defendant of such high quality. "I'm very impressed with you. I have no hesitation in accepting this sentence. I wish you only the best."

the aptly named mr. hasselman

03 Mar 2008 10:50

Deborah Frisch

[link](#)

On Thursday, February 28, environmental activist Jeff Luers' 22 years and 8 month sentence was reduced to 10 years. Mr. Luers was resentenced to 90 months for an admitted 6,16,000 arson that caused \$50K of reparable damage to three trucks and to 30 months for an alleged, but denied 5,27,000 attempted arson that caused \$0 in damage.

If Lane County Assistant District Attorney Hasselman had decided that Jeff could serve the 90 months for the admitted Romania fire and the 30 months for the Tyree non-starter concurrently, Mr. Luers would have been free to leave the courtroom with the rest of us at 9:30 a.m. because he has been incarcerated since his June 16, 2000 arrest, 92 months ago.

But Mr. Hasselman argued that Jeff should serve the 90 and 30 month sentences consecutively. Judge Billings agreed, even though he described Mr. Luers' statement as the most impressive he'd heard in 35 years as a lawyer, compared him to a returning war hero and heaped praise on Mr. Luers' male lawyers, Hugh Duvall and Jesse Barton. [Judge Billings did not note Mr. Luers' female lawyer, Lauren Regan.]

As a resident of Lane County, I am disgusted that Mr. Luers did not walk out a free man on 2.28.08. It is not surprising that Mr. Luers was the most thoughtful defendant Judge Billings has encountered in 35 years - Mr. Luers was the most thoughtful and honorable man in the courtroom on Thursday.

28 Feb 2008

Eric McDavid's Hearings Moved

author: Sacramento Prisoner Support

New trial motion and sentencing hearings moved

Dear friends,

Our apologies for not getting this out before today. We know that many of you are anxious to know what is happening with Eric's new trial motion. Unfortunately, we found out yesterday that Eric's hearings have been moved yet again. Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control (the flu doesn't care about court dates and hearings), the new trial motion hearing has been pushed back to Thursday, March 6 at 9 am. The sentencing hearing will more than likely be rescheduled for March 13.

Handwritten scribbles in red ink at the top right of page 127.

From: ELP Support Network <elp4321@hotmail.com>

Date: March 11, 2008 11:53:52 AM PDT

Subject: **[UrgentELP] Five accused of arsons in Michigan**

Reply-To: urgentelp@lists.riseup.net, ELP Support Network <elp4321@hotmail.com>

Urgent ELP! Bulletin (11th of March 2008)

Dear friends

News is coming in of a number of raids/arrests involving American environmentalists.

The raids appear to be linked to an arson at Michigan State University in 1999 and another arson at a logging site in 2000. Both arsons were claimed at the time by the Earth Liberation Front.

Well known American Earth First! activist, Frank Ambrose, (who has been wrongfully accused of ELF actions in the past) told ELP he has been charged on three counts of arson and conspiracy to commit arson. Other people listed in the indictment include Marie Mason, Aren Berthwick, Stephanie Sultz, and an "un-named participant known to the grand jury."

At this moment in time ELP is unaware of what has happened to Aren Berthwick or Stephanie Sultz, but we are aware that Maria Mason has also been arrested and is currently in custody in Ohio and is expected to be extradited to Michigan.

If anyone knows anything about Aren or Stephanie please contact ELP as soon as possible.

ELP will keep you up to date with this news as we get it. In the meantime please send letters of support to:

MARIE MASON #134001
Butler County Sheriff's Office & Correctional Complex
705 Hanover Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
USA

Check website below for contact info.
+++++

Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network
BM Box 2407
London
WC1N 3XX
England
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Daniel McGowan
#63794-053
FCI Terre Haute
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

TERRE HAUTE IN 478

18 AUG 2008 PM 1 T



kelly Poe

P.O. Box 363

Topanga, CA 90290

90290+0363 8004



8/14/08 Dear Kelly! Hi there, I just got your 8/5/08 letter with all the Mattie photos. Thanks so much for sending those - they've brightened up my rather gloomy day here. 24 lockdown will do that to you! To be honest, I started to think you flaked out after not hearing from you since April. Jenny told me you were in touch so that gave me a little hope that I was wrong [Thank you for your generous donation!]. I've heard of a lot of great ideas and projects related to these cases (i.e. activist legal funds, fundraisers, benefit CDs, art projects) and so many, if not most, of them have went nowhere. Your project, on the other hand, sounds great and doable.

I was really bummed you were rejected and unable to visit. When I pressed my counselor for the rationale behind the rejection, he gave some silly excuse about not approving visitors who have not known prisoners before their release incarceration. It made it sound like the BoP is protecting us from money/hungry women who prey on prisoners! Yeah, a-ha! Personally, I don't need the BoP to screen my visitors in order to protect me. Anyhow - I'm sorry it didn't work out - and that you were rejected again, just a month later. We'll have to meet in New York when I'm released - around Dec 2012.

I am happy to continue to offer feedback on your book but it needs to be stated clearly that I am not working with you on this project nor receiving any funds from the book. This is a bummer to you + me but considering where I am going, I can see them perhaps taking issue with it. Jenny can explain more... I guess I will fill you in a bit.

Coming back from lunch on May 12 (2008), a cop told me I needed to go to 'R+D' (receiving + discharge). Thinking I owed postage on a box of books I sent out, I grabbed a handful of stamps and went down there. The cop there gave me 2 boxes and told me I needed to pack all my stuff up. It was really frustrating because the look on his face wasn't good and he only gave me 45 minutes (to pack up 8 1/2 months worth). Previously, I had put in for a transfer based on my mother's illness (she has cirrhosis and is on a liver donor list). The vibe I was getting was this had nothing to do with that request. I brought my stuff back, was put in the SHU (secure housing unit aka the hole) and put on a bus the next day. On the bus, I asked one of the cops where I was going and he said "FCI Marion's Communication Management Unit". This was May 13th

and after my detour through Wisconsin, I find myself starting my third week in the hole at FCI Terre Haute. I could go any day or wait another month - it's not up to me. This 'Communication Management Unit' (or CMU) is a small unit that is segregated from the population of FCI - Marion (a medium security institution in Southern Illinois). From what I have heard, there are only 10 people there, inmates get one phone call a week, one 4-hour visit per month and their mail is under strict surveillance. I can speculate all day why they are sending me there - but I won't. Better I get there and hear their stated reasons for housing me at a restrictive and punitive unit. There is hardly anything on line about the CMU although there is a similar unit here at Terre Haute called a 'CTU' for those convicted of terror crimes. There was a story about the CMU in the Eugene Weekly a few months back - ask Jenny for the link.

I'm happy to hear about the updates. [redacted]. Is this the same person who used to be involved with the Earth First! Journal years ago? The name sounds really familiar. [redacted]. Your final list of names is a solid one. I know you were looking to be inclusive of female prisoners and while I think that's ideal - you can't force it. People who have cases in appeal are in a delicate situation, for sure and the appeal and freedom needs to trump participation in projects like this. Your final list has some good writers (or at least ones I enjoy!). At least, with Jeff involved, I can rest easy my handwriting won't be the worst!

You ask about Sadie, I'm sure my critique has something to do with her excusing herself from the project. Only she can answer that though. We haven't been in any contact for over 1 1/2 years and I opted to ignore her rant directed at me published in the EF! Journal some months ago. For what it's worth, she doesn't do anything without his approval/participation so that may have something to do with it.

② 8/14/08 I had no idea you attended so many trials and court dates (I wish you would have introduced yourself at my terrorism sentencing hearing). I read a lot about the trial you mentioned and it sure did sound like a miserable affair. The sentence at the end of it was just horrendous. I think, that said, removing ambiguous cases from your book will make it stronger.

(Looking back at my letter, I'm appalled by my handwriting. Please forgive me - I'm using a tiny pen and there's poor lighting!)

One point I raised in a previous letter was the hope you would source and print the book on ethically-made, recycled paper. A lot of papers call themselves 'recycled' by putting 10% of actual post-consumer fiber with 90% 'virgin' pulp. 100% post-consumer recycled paper would be ideal (a lot of other substitutes aren't much good or they're pricey, e.g. hemp, kenaf etc). I would check Living Tree Paper in Eugene - their president donated a box of their copy/print paper to my lawyers for printing discovery and envelopes to the organization I worked for (womenlaw.org). It would make me feel good about the project and I'm certain most, if not all, of the others would agree. I know there is a cost issue but in the end, it makes for a better (and certainly, consistent) choice. I bet [redacted] would have other suggestions for sourcing post-consumer paper too.

I'm incredibly impressed by your persistence and passion in exploring these places. Looking back, I gave you not much for finding the Mattole! I couldn't recall the 2 roads that go there although starting from Arcata was wise (did you make it to the food coop? My absolute favorite one ever). I was hoping some of those forest types in Arcata would be able to help some but the years have erased the names etc. Petrolia is a place that doesn't want to be found! (kind of like that city in California that doesn't have any signs - is it Gilroy?) Your photos of that area are great especially the beach shots. Unlike East coast beaches, there is driftwood and all sorts of plant growth there as well.

You ask why I went to the Mattole. Well, it would have to be because of the beautiful forests that were very much imperiled at the time. The company who owned large tracts of old-growth in the Mattole was planning major logging while working out a deal to not cut more popular and well known forests outside Arcata. I attended a climbing training in Humboldt County and ended up staying in the Mattole with a bunch of people for a few months. We did a lot of tabling and public education - preparing for a campaign for logging seasons. I ended up leaving because the campaign was coming together

9/11/08 Hi Kelly, I got your August 28th letter recently and I'm finally pp ① of ② catching up on my letters. The last couple of weeks have been a big catch up time period for me - adjusting to the new circumstances, people and rules. There's a lot to say about that and I'll get to it. :-)

That's interesting about Topanga - I hadn't know anything of it's history. I'm glad I made your trip to the P.O. Box worthwhile! Mail call here is a great time of day and I always rush there when they make the announcement. Here - it's early - any time from 12-2pm. I was stoked to get your most recent letter and updates about your photo project.

Ok - so I guess I had the wrong Susan Morgan in mind! Oh well. That's great you have a potential book agent (it's funny - you reference not wanting to jinx yourself and being superstitious about changing PO Boxes - I had no idea you were superstitious! :-)) What did you mean about "getting people excited enough to commit to... sharing the stories with the world"? Are you talking about potential authors or the people you selected you mentioned in your last letter?

Thanks for the article about the CMU you enclosed. There are now 2 of those units that I know of - one here, and the one mentioned in the article at Terre Haute. As for this unit, there are 14 other people here. Most of the men here are Muslim and almost everyone here has a case that is "terrorism" related. It's pretty calm here and people get along fine. It is a bizarre place as we only have access to 2 wings (essentially, hallways). We have single-cells, TVs with cable, some recreation equipment, a small, limited leisure library, law library and a small concrete yard. The yard is all concrete, with 3 basketball cages and a handball court as well. I've been playing a lot of basketball lately and getting quite good! It reminds me of the countless afternoons spent playing ball in Rockaway and Flushing growing up →

pp 2 of ② There's a guy here from the STAC case - also from New York plus some other interesting people.

The worst part of this place is how they manage our communications. I never got in any trouble at Sandstone or even got a mail violation so getting sin here was odd. I am only given one phone call a week (15 minutes long) that needs to be pre-scheduled, and is live-monitored by staff. We can only call from 8am-230pm, on weekdays and not on holidays (no Christmas call home to family this year :-)). To give you a comparison, 60 mins of phone time is 1/5 of what I had at the low-security prison I was at. (Even people at a U.S. Penitentiary have 300 minutes).

Visiting is limited to one 4-hour, non-contact (through glass) visit a month that is recorded and live-monitored by staff. Again, to compare, I had 56 potential hours a month of visiting! Yikes. It was incredibly painful to see Jenny through glass - to not be able to hug her or smell her perfume & her hair. Sigh. The visit went so fast and I shuffled back to my unit knowing she had a 2 1/2 drive back to St. Louis coupled with a 2 1/2 flight in bad weather.

So far, my mail has been delivered in a timely fashion. It is scanned & reviewed by staff and they have been clear that any mail that "promotes violence and property destruction" will be rejected. That's fine - I don't read stuff that promotes violence.

There are times I feel this is all designed to beat me down, to isolate me from my family and friends and to destroy my spirit. Certainly, many people have it worse - in terms of sentences, conditions, lack of support. I'm truly lucky to have what I have and I know it so I take day by day - which is really the only way to do time. That quote from Robert King is right on. I do what I can to learn from people who have been down a while because they are a major source of wisdom on how to do time. (turn over)

I've enclosed the notice they gave me citing their absurd rationale for sending me here. Also, the institutional supplement which has the rules for the CMU.

Oh-you didn't forget anything in Rockaway - I was just unsure if that trip was your scouting trip or if you got the photos you needed. Definitely hook up with Jenny when you're in the city. Thanks so much for the photos you sent me while I was at Terre Haute. Please say hi to the peeps you're working with on your photo project.

Take good care and write when you can.

Love from Lil' Guantanamo,

Daniel

New address:

Daniel McGowan
63794-053
U.S.P Marion-CMU
PO Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

back to top contact us Privacy Policy RSS © 2008 Seven Stories Press Powered by GianChair

For over a decade we have partnered with Project Censored, founded by Carl Jensen and now under the direction of Peter Phillips, based at Sonoma State University in northern California. Project Censored is one of America's longest standing efforts to monitor the newsgathering activities and failures of major media outlets, and other types of entertainment and business journalism, the alternative media has increasingly become a source of news for people throughout America. Project Censored and Seven Stories, through the annual publication of Censored, most recently Censored 2003, has both tracked and contributed to this shift in how news is delivered and how it is received. Features of the book include the Top Ten Censored News Stories of the year, which has a history of identifying important neglected news stories and is widely disseminated in the alternative press, as well as the "Junk Food News" chapter and chapters on hot-button topics as they arise. After many years as a spring publication, in 2002 the book was moved to the fall cycle. Thus, Censored 2003 was available in August 2002, and Censored 2004 will be available in August of 2003. Siete Cuentos Editorial, Seven Stories's Spanish-language imprint, launched in 2000 and now edited by Sara Villa, represents a major ongoing effort on the part of Seven Stories to introduce important English-language texts to Spanish-language readers on the one hand, for example the Spanish-language editions of Our Bodies, Ourselves, Nuestra Historia, and Nuestra Vida, a project of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, and on the other hand to provide Spanish-language readers in the U.S. with the best in fiction and literature written in Spanish. The literary side of Siete Cuentos has published new and classic texts by Ariel Dorfman, Rumbo al sur, deseando el norte, fiction by Angela Vallely and Sonia Rivera-Valdés.

Still using my scrap paper from Sandstone

NOTICE TO INMATE OF TRANSFER TO COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT UNIT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Inmate Name (Last, First, Middle): McGowan, Daniel	Register Number: 63794-053
Warden (print and signature): Lisa J. W. Hollingsworth, Warden	Institution: USP Marion, Illinois

NOTICE: This notice informs you of your transfer to a Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) facility that allows greater management of your communication with persons in the community through more effective monitoring of your telephone use, written correspondence, and visiting. Your communication by these methods may be limited as necessary to allow effective monitoring. Your general conditions of confinement in this unit may also be restricted as necessary to provide greater management of your communications. Your transfer to this unit, by itself, will have no effect on the length of your incarceration. You will continue to earn good-conduct sentence credit in accordance with Bureau policy.

Your transfer to this facility under these conditions is based on the following specific information:

Your offense conduct included acts of arson, destruction of an energy facility, attempted arson, and conspiracy to commit arson. You have been identified as a member and leader in the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF), groups considered domestic terrorist organizations. Your offense conduct included communicating in code and teaching others how to commit crimes of arson. Your actions had the primary purpose to influence and affect the conduct of government, commerce, private business and others in the civilian population by means of force, violence, sabotage, destruction of property, intimidation and coercion. Your contact with persons in the community requires heightened controls and review.

Based on this information, your transfer to this facility for greater communication management is necessary to the safe, secure, and orderly operation of Bureau institutions, or protection of the public. Your continued designation to this facility will be reviewed regularly by your Unit Team under circumstances providing you notice and an opportunity to be heard, in accordance with the Bureau's policy on Classification and Program Review of Inmates.

OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TRANSFER DECISION - You may appeal this transfer decision, or any conditions of your confinement, through the Bureau's Administrative Remedy Program, 28 C.F.R. §§ 542.10 through 542.19, and corresponding policy. A member of your Unit Team will provide you with the necessary form upon request.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF - Provide the inmate a copy of this form and complete the following information documenting delivery.

Staff Member Name and Position (printed): J.S. Wilson	Staff Member (signature): <i>J.S. Wilson</i>	Date Issued: 9/3/08
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Institution Supplement

OPI: Communication Management Unit
NUMBER: MAR-5270.07A
DATE: March 20, 2008
SUBJECT: Operation & Security of the
Communication Management Unit
(I Unit)

1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE** This Institution Supplement establishes guidelines and procedures for the operation and security of the Communication Management Unit (CMU) in I Unit, at the United States Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

The CMU is established to house inmates who, due to their current offense of conviction, offense conduct, or other verified information, require increased monitoring of communication between inmates and persons in the community in order to protect the safety, security, and orderly operation of Bureau facilities, and protect the public.

The CMU is a self-contained general population housing unit where inmates reside, eat, and participate in all educational, recreational, religious, unit management, and work programming within the confines of I Unit. Additionally, the unit contains a block of cells located on B Range which are dedicated to segregated housing of those inmates in need of being placed in administrative detention or disciplinary segregation status.

2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED**

A. Directives Referenced

P.S. 5270.07, Inmate Discipline & Special Housing Units (December 29, 1987)

B. Directives Rescinded

3. **RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**

A. ADMISSION & ORIENTATION / CLASSIFICATION AND REVIEWS: The East Corridor Unit Manager is responsible for administering the Admission and Orientation Program (A&O) in compliance with national policy. The purpose of the program is to familiarize each inmate with the unit staff, unit procedures, expected behavior, and programs available. All items on the A&O Checklist will be covered and utilized for verification of participation. As part of A&O, I-Unit inmates will receive a copy of this Institution Supplement and an A&O Handbook.

Classification and reviews of I-Unit inmates will occur according to national policy. Additionally, within five calendar days of arrival, I-Unit inmates will be provided a "NOTICE TO INMATE OF TRANSFER TO COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT UNIT" form indicating the reasons for their placement in the unit. A blank copy of the form is included with this Institution Supplement, Attachment "A".

B. CONTACT WITH PERSONS IN THE COMMUNITY: The purpose of the CMU in I Unit is to provide increased monitoring of communication of the inmates assigned to it. By operating a self-contained housing unit, staff may adequately regulate and monitor all communications between inmates and persons in the community. All contact between I-Unit inmates and persons in the community may occur according to national policy, with necessary adjustments indicated herein. **Under no circumstances will privileged attorney-client communication be monitored, as prohibited by national policy.**

(a) Written General Correspondence. All incoming and outgoing written general correspondence must be reviewed by staff prior to delivery to the inmate or further processing to the post office.

(b) Telephone Communication. All telephone communication between inmates and persons in the community (except properly placed, unmonitored legal calls) will be:

- (1) conducted using monitored ITS phone lines;
- (2) be live-monitored by staff;
- (3) be subject to recording by staff; and
- (4) occur in English-only (by both the inmate and community call-recipient) unless previously scheduled for and conducted through simultaneous translation monitoring.

Persons from whom an inmate requests placement on the approved telephone list must complete the "Acknowledgment of Conditions for Telephone Contact with Inmates in the Communication Management Unit, USP Marion," form included with this Institution Supplement as Attachment "B", as proof of their acknowledgment and acceptance of these conditions. Monitored calls where either party speaks in non-English will be immediately terminated by the staff monitor unless previously scheduled and conducted through simultaneous translation monitoring. In the event of terminated calls, inmates may be subject to disciplinary action, and the person may be removed from the inmate's approved telephone list.

In no event will the frequency or duration of telephone calls placed by I-Unit inmates be less than one telephone call per month (28 C.F.R. 540.100 (b) of at least three minutes duration (28 CFR 540.101 (d)). Unmonitored legal calls are not affected, and will continue to be managed according to national policy.

(c) Visiting. All visiting between inmates and persons in the community (except properly scheduled, unmonitored legal visits) will be:

- (1) conducted in the main visiting room using non-contact facilities (i.e., secure partitioned rooms, telephone voice contact);
- (2) be live-monitored by staff;
- (3) be subject to recording by staff;
- (4) occur in English-only (by both inmate and visitor) unless previously scheduled for and conducted through simultaneous translation monitoring.

Persons for whom an inmate requests placement on the approved visiting list must complete the "Acknowledgment of Conditions for Visiting with Inmates in the Communication Management Unit, USP Marion," form included with this Institution Supplement as Attachment "C," as proof of their acknowledgment and acceptance of these conditions. Monitored visiting where either party speaks in non-English will be immediately terminated by the staff monitor unless previously scheduled and conducted

through simultaneous translation monitoring. Ordinarily, visiting will be scheduled to occur on weekdays for two-hour periods. Each inmate is authorized four hours of visiting each month (two 2-hour visits or one 4-hour visit.)

4. **HOUSING CONDITIONS / UNIT PROGRAMS / SERVICES:** I Unit is a self-contained general population housing unit where inmates reside, eat, and participate in all educational, recreational, religious, unit management, and work programming within the confines of I Unit. All national policies apply to administration of I Unit, except as otherwise modified in this supplement as necessary to affect the unit's mission of increased monitoring of communications, and pursuant to the Warden's authority to make the necessary changes to protect the safety, security, and good order of the facility, or to protect the public.

(a) **Cell Assignments:** I-Unit inmates will be housed in single bunk cells. Additionally, the unit contains a range of cells dedicated to segregated housing of those inmates in need of being placed in administrative detention or disciplinary segregation status. Cells I02-010L thru I02-016L are designated as segregation housing for I-Unit inmates placed in administrative detention status or disciplinary segregation status.

(b) **Health Services:** Health Services staff will provide sick call in the morning within the unit five days a week (M-F). Medications will be delivered and/or administered in the unit twice daily. Inmates may request to be seen by a physician in the unit's medical examination room. Specialized services may be provided in the institutions's main health services unit as needed, under conditions which ensure I-Unit inmates' lack of contact with non-I-Unit inmates. Inmates who require examination will be seen in the examination room.

(c) **Mental Health Services:** Psychology staff will provide I-Unit inmates an initial psychological assessment within 14 days of arrival in the unit for new commitments and within 30 days for transfers. Mental health services thereafter will occur according to national policy. Inmates may request to be seen by a psychology staff member in the unit's medical examination room.

(d) **Meals:** All inmate meals will be served and consumed in the unit.

(e) **Education/Recreation Services:** National education policies will be implemented in I Unit. Inmates will ordinarily be permitted to leave their cells and participate in activities in the unit daily from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except during counts.

Leisure and law library services will be provided to inmates daily. Photocopies may be obtained by submitting a Request to Staff Member form to the law librarian or the Case Manager.

Inmates will be provided table games such as chess, checkers and cards. Hobby craft opportunities will also be provided.

There are 11 televisions available in the unit for viewing. The recreational areas will contain various

recreation activities to include handball, stationary biking, stair-stepping machines, and walking.

(f) **Religious Services.** National religious services policies will be implemented in I Unit. All communication with religious services providers from the community will be monitored as indicated in Section 3 of this Institution Supplement.

(g) **Personal Property.** National personal property policies will be implemented in I Unit. Inmates are allowed to maintain up to three cubic feet of legal material in their cell. Temporary additional space for active litigation material may be requested from the Case Manager.

(h) **Commissary/Trust Fund Operations.** National commissary and trust fund operation policies will be implemented in I Unit. Each inmate will be afforded the opportunity to purchase allowable items from the commissary if funds are available in the inmate's commissary account. Commissary purchase forms will be issued on Tuesday of each week by the Case Manager, and after completion of the forms they will be hand-delivered by the Case Manager to the commissary for processing by COB Wednesday. The commissary items will be delivered to the unit and handed out by commissary staff on Thursday of each week. Any special purchases (personal radios, etc.) must be approved by the Case Manager.

(i) **Sanitation.** I-Unit inmates are responsible for sanitation of their living areas. Unit orderly job assignments will be made by the Case Manager. Inmate showers will be available daily. Clean, serviceable clothing will be issued to each inmate upon his arrival to the unit. Unit laundry service will be available for issued clothing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I-Unit inmates are responsible for laundering their own personal clothing. Barber services for I Unit will be conducted within the unit. Inmates should submit an Inmate Request to Staff form at least one week in advance of the desired time for a haircut. An inmate from within the unit will be the barber.

(j) **Work Assignments.** Work assignments will include orderlies for unit sanitation, Food Service, laundry and recreation, and will be assigned by the Case Manager.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY PROGRAM:** You may appeal your transfer to I Unit, or any conditions of your confinement, through the Bureau's Administrative Remedy Program, 28 C.F.R. 542.10 through 542.19, and corresponding policy. Your case manager will provide you with the necessary form upon request.

6. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This supplement is effective upon issuance.

Date

//s//
B. A. Bledsoe, Warden

Daniel McGowan
63794-053
USD Marion - CMU
POB 1000
Marion, IL 62459



~~██████████~~
~~██████████~~
~~██████████~~

Kelly Doe
POB 363
Topanga, CA 90290

9029030363 8004

10/20/08 - Dear Kelly, ☺

Page 1

Hey, how are you? Just got your October 6th letter the other day. Glad to hear you got my letter and that your project is doing well. Ironically, I saw Topanga on CNN the day I received your letter! I was concerned until I recalled you no longer live there (still, it's nuts. There's no coverage of why these fires are so bad - 30+ years of fire suppression by usfs + CDF. Instead of allowing small, therapeutic forest fires or containing them, these agencies have allowed too much timber to build up + then the fires that do start via lightning are immense).

OK - you more than likely know this since you live there. Sorry for the rambling lecture! ☺

I'm attempting to not buy paper while I am in prison. I bought a legal yellow pad when I was writing a lot because a friend insisted a pad would make it more likely I'd write. Now, I'm using a lot of my old envelopes - of which I have a lot. It's not ideal - no lines etc, but it's my way of feeling like I can do something. One of the worst aspects of prison is feeling unneeded + useless, like I can't or don't have an impact on the world. I suppose this is part of the goal of

imprisonment - to destroy your bonds with your family and community. Today, I was told we'd get 1 more 15 minute call a week around "Thanksgiving" and Christmas. Mind you, if I was at an actual prison and not a political unit, I'd have an additional 100 minutes in December. Thanks, BoP!

I believe I sent you the laundry list of why this place is horrible in my previous letters so I won't bore you with it any more. Did I send you the one page 'notice to inmate of transfer to cmu'? That one is fascinating. If not, let me know and I'll get it to you. ➔

Yes, you are correct - the claim is that the cmu is not punitive but clearly, you could see the severely limited communication has that effect. They know that this place has a horrible impact on us but, like the rest of the BoP, they truly do not care - as long as their paycheck comes in, all is well. Have you been watching the drama between your Governor + the ^{prison} guard union? The prisons are really crowded + parole is letting people out too slow but the guards don't want a thing to change. People are triple-bunked in gyms. I am glad I'm not in a California prison.

I can receive photographs - up to 25 in one envelope (no polaroids and 3x5 or 4x6 are the best as they fit into my new photo album). I'd love it if you sent me photos - of your project, of Rockaway, one of you (that one went here). THANKS!



My mail hasn't been delayed for 3 weeks but a letter from Jenny usually takes a week - it took 3-4 days when I was in MN. My outgoing mail seems to take a while for some reason. I assume it is all scanned for some agency in DC + copied as well. That's great you are going back to Oregon - I hope you have a successful trip! I always wonder how Jonathan is doing these days. His wife is in touch with Jenny but I haven't heard anything in a while. My publications haven't caught up with me yet so I'm fairly out of it regarding outside. Well, I get CNN + the Sunday Times but I yearn for alternative and independent perspectives.

That's great you met Robert King - a friend of mine just sent me an article saying his old

Page 2 | friend still at Angola just won his appeal. That's great news.
Oddy, there is a man here who knew both of them from Louisiana.
He speaks highly of them.

So, its 2 weeks from the election despite my view that they are all corrupt + i'd prefer 'none of the above'; I'm hoping for Obama. He will minimally sign prison reform that I hope gets passed with a super Democratic Congress. You can find out more about these 2 bills- the "good time" bill + the federal parole bill' at fedccre.org

Not much is new here. It's usually my favorite time of year and the weather is cooling down. I'm still playing basketball and started working out - running every other day + doing things like pull ups. Reading a load of books, zines + publications as well as too much legal books

on all sorts of mundane topics. Other than that, i watch too much TV: CNN, news, South Park + the films they show on weekends. we watch films that have just come out on DVD so i've seen No Country for Old Men, Baby Mama + Iron Man recently. It helps the time pass

Next week, I get to see my Dad and one of my sisters on a 4 hour visit. It's too short but I haven't seen them since April. Well, i hope your trip to Oregon goes well and i'd love to see your photos. Please do send updates on how you are doing as well as your project. Take good care + write when you

Card, Love + hugs,



Daniel McGowan
63744-053

USP Marion-CMU
POB 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Handwritten notes:
I think I
should have
written
Marion, IL
62959



©2008 The Alliance for Climate Protection

Free us.

Gov's gap.

To our leaders:
Free us from our addiction to oil.
Free us from \$4.00/gallon gas.
Free us from \$4.39/gallon gas.
Free us from \$4.61/gallon gas.
Save our economy.
Save us from this climate crisis.
Give us truly clean energy.
Use the wind.
Use the sun.
we demand that we use them.
we demand that we Repower America.
There is a solution.
There is no time to waste.
we, the American people,
demand a better future.

Give us 100% clean electricity within 10 years.

Go to wecansolveit.org and join us.
Together we can Repower America.
Together we can solve the climate crisis.

Join **we** today.

Daniel McGowan
#63744-053
FCI Terre Haute
POB 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

TERRE HAUTE IN 478

30 JAN 2009 PM 1 L



Kelly Poe
POB 363
Topanga, CA 90290

9029080363



1/28/09 Kelly! Hi there - i was happy to get your letter and photos the other day. Thanks for writing and letting me know what's up. Do you think you can send me those photos again when i get back to Marion? (One thing that will be helpful for me is if you label them / refer to them as 'Hardesty' instead of Judie). Hard to explain but I bet you can figure it out! Oh - i wish i was done with the CMU but that's not the case at all. I'm on the way back there now. I've been gone since 10/28 and it's been stressful to be away from my culture for so long. I wish i was going to Sandstone (or another low) but that just isn't my fate for now. I continue to pray and stay posi about my chances for transfer but as of today, my outdate is 6/5/09 + i hope to get at least 6 months of halfway house.

You asked about my private belongings. Well, when i left Marion's CMU, i packed all my property into 2 boxes and that stayed there. I was given a property sheet (which i promptly wrote my important phone numbers on) - it's the only thing we carry with us. The mail i get at various transfer spots (such as Chicago MCC, Oklahoma City or here, Terre Haute) must be thrown out - which really upsets me. I hate throwing out letters and carefully save everyone of them, writing the date i received it, the person's address on the letter and whether I responded. So, sadly, i'll have to bin your photos. :(Jenny casted some light on just why i was on the road for almost 3 months as I don't feel too comfortable talking about it.

Really, you need not apologize about not being in contact for a bit. It's OK. Usually, write after I think "I wonder what Kelly is up to with her project", you either write or I ask Jenny and she assures me she heard from you. I know you're busy - with the project, your life, work etc. As long as you keep some level of contact, i'm cool :) I'm sure the trips are tough as nature doesn't "cooperate" with your lighting preferences and weather. of course, Oregon would be sunny when you went there - that never happens! I've also put you on a wild goose chase especially with Hardesty + Petrolia. You really need not feel so much pressure - i'm certain the book will be awesome + i doubt any of the others would be so demanding of you that you are on yourself. I emphasize with the 'nothing I do is ever good enough' thing but trust me, it is.

I'm glad [redacted] has been so helpful - he's a great guy, really sweet and supportive. It'd be great if he was able to take you out there but with his job at [redacted] Project and being a new dad, i bet he's swamped. Please thank him for me. Oh no - [redacted] was your guide. That must have been really challenging - he never stops talking and

i'm sure you got an earful of gossip (he has a unique take on some of the people in my case that I disagree with). I hope he didn't hit on you or act like an ass! At least he was able to read the maps and bring you to Judie. It must be a little odd for [redacted] and company to assist in going to Judie. I still don't know whether the 2 last units were logged or not (can't remember what number units they were). At one point, i heard they were. The first 10 units were canceled because of a congressman's intervention. [redacted] or Oregon Wild may be able to figure that out.

That said, the photos you sent were beautiful especially the ones with the fog rolling in taken from above and the waterfalls (no, i hadn't been there). I have sent 2 of them out in letters to a few friends. So, it seems you still have some shooting left. Where is "Carpenter" + "Anzo Borrego"? Did you hear Rod is out now? That's great news. And Jake Conroy got moved to Terminal Island, in Los Angeles! It's a low + way better than Victorville (a nasty place by all accounts). If you are looking for another person, there's a guy who's going to be sentenced in 2/09 in WI. His name is Brian Rivera and you can contact him via [redacted] [redacted] It's from WA and may have interest in the project.

I don't know Marie but she sounds like a good person and I am hoping things go ok for her but it seems she's in a tough district and facing a lot of time. She's gotten flak for her plea - based on the govt's insistence of putting her ex's name in her plea - but i think she is worthy of support. I hope her sentence isn't too bad and she goes to a lower sec prison. Has Brisana decided to participate? Any interest from Josh H? How is Jonathan doing? If you don't mind, i'd love to see that article in Aperture magazine. If you have a blurb you want to put out about the project one day, just send it to Jenny. Maybe you want to get much closer to completion first? Anyhow - once it's done, my crew can certainly help promote the book. I hope you have flexibility in pricing so some people I know can afford it. Do you see it as a 'coffee table' style book? Has any of my correspondence been suitable for publication? HA.

I agree with you that it's sad that the CMU and generally what happens to eco + animal prisoners is a big secret. No one knows about the CMU as there has only been a few articles written on the topic. Finally, one was written about the CMU at Marion in the 12/4/08 Eugene Weekly - but that's small fries really. →

② Dean Krupers from the LA Times is doing a piece on eco activists and the terrorism enhancement which I hope generates interest. My crew has been feverishly pitching the story to media with few bites. If you have any good leads or contacts, don't hesitate to let Jenny know. I try not to get too optimistic but I hope the change in DC will have some impact on my situation. What, i don't know. Closing Guantanamo is a plus but closing Lil' Guantanamo? I'm not so sure. My hope is Obama sees the CMUs as a Bush administration excess and closes them. That's a long shot and I keep working on what I need to so that I can address this in court one day. That process has been slowed down considerably since i've been on the road.

Sadly, i missed not only the election but also the inauguration on TV + have been unaware of Obama's 1st weeks in office. I truly detest being so ignorant and I pine for my magazines, newspapers + 24/7 CNN! So, the other thing my crew is working on is educating people about a bill that will be introduced soon. It will give federal prisoners more 'good time' credit + will be introduced by Rep. Danny Davis in March-May 2009. The bill will help all the federal eco/animal prisoners in some ways i may only get an additional 6 months off but Eric McD + Marie can get much more off. The ~~bill~~^{site} set up is www.goodtimebill.info and they'll be asking people to write their Congressional House Rep soon (do you know who yours is? You can find out at www.house.gov) The goal will be to get the bill co-sponsored by a few of people and get it voted out of committee.

That's cool you found Jenny on Facebook. She just came in a few months ago and got an account after deciding Myspace.com was blasé! I really miss all that online stuff - i was an email fiend when i was out. Oh! That reminds me - i'll have email access when i get back to Marion. If you'd like to get emails from me (+ correspond), send me your full name + phone # (i think they need that). If i'm not mistaken, it's "Sena", no? Also, i'd like it if you were able to come visit me and will send you forms when i get back to Marion. There's a line on the form about how long you've known me - since we met at court in 5/07 at my terrorism enhancement hearing, i think the answer is 20 months, right? Anyhow - i'll wait for your reply before sending you the form or email. Just let me know what you think. If you can't swing a visit, it's OK. Forly get 1 1/2 hour non-contact visit a month + would it be able to have you come for 4-5 months.

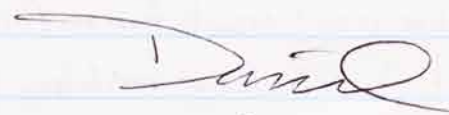
Yeah- despite it all, Jenny is living her life which makes me happy. We miss each other terribly but are in really good contact via letter + soon, through email. Plus, because i was at county jail, we were able to speak for 3 months and during the holidays. It was great to be able to talk to my nieces about their Christmas presents! I haven't seen those kids since May of last year + they're growing in leaps and bounds. I'll have to beg Jenny or friends to send me some of her b-day photos. How is Shauna's brother doing? I heard he's at a sweet spot right now + he hopes to go home relatively soon. Is he participating in your project?

Well, i'm going to close here. I've been in the hole going on 2 weeks and really, there's not much going on. I just read Twilight by Stephenie Meyer (the one they just made into a film) and it was pretty good. Then again, i like vampire books etc so no surprise there! Yep- i'm a dork! Did you see the photo of me with a basketball from August? We were trying to figure out how not to do the tough guy prison pose + that was all i could come up with!

My next letter will be on some interesting flyer or manila envelope. It's rather do that than buy a new pad of lined, bleached, unrecycled tree flesh but in the hole, i have little choice. It's a tiny gesture but one i like to do - it also relieves me of the enormous clutter i'm prone to! I sent home many of my older photos so i am currently without one of you for my album. Can you send me one? That'd be sad. Take good care + don't push yourself too crazy on this project!

Fascinating you signed off "Sorrel seed blessings" - Are you aware an old nickname of mine was Sorrel? HA. Big hugs,

Love + rage,



!!!

PS2- You're silly- you actually photograph well + look young. How modes+?!
What are you, 37?

Daniel McGowan
63794-053
VSP Marion
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Marion, IL 62959



Kelly Sena Poe
PO Box 363
Topanga, CA 90290

9029030363 8004



4/1/09 Dearest Kelly, I love the CMU! (April Fools!) 😊 I got your email today + it was good to hear from you. Enclosed are the two visitor forms - be sure to send them to my counselor, not me. (Also, enclosed are some articles that I hope, will be of interest to you). I had been wondering how you have been out there in Topanga especially how your art project is working out.

Sorry that a few others haven't been as communicative with you as I have. There could be many reasons for this - depression, busy schedule etc. I know it's hard for me to even know where to begin when I have a stack of 15+ letters. Don't take it personally.

I have been so busy lately - with email, my paralegal program, research into my non-profit ideas, working out and playing basketball. I've even started playing handball and I'm getting into shape.

We got 7 more guys transferred here last week - now, we're at 24 and it's starting to get crowded. Since we live in the old Secure Housing Unit for the USP (maximum), it sucks - the hallways + area isn't designed for long-term living. My people have been talking to Congress people and the media about this place - time will tell how it plays out. I am not going to hold my breath over the President or Attorney General closing this place even though the manner it was setup was against policy + fly by night.

Thanks for asking about my commissary. I spend very little and we have fund-raised a good amount. I'm very lucky unlike many prisoners and some of my codes. Do you think you can write a letter to your House Rep for me and ask them to cosponsor, support and vote for H.R. #1475 - the Federal Prison Work Incentive Act of 2009 aka the good time bill? You can talk to Jenny ^{and/} or www.goodtimebill.info (there's a facebook profile too). I'd really appreciate that. Finally, would you like me to type a letter or two so it is actually readable (for your books)? Let me know - I'm concerned about my scrawl! Take good care, Kelly. ^{with} Love from Little Guantanamo,
Darius

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5025030303 2004



5/4/09 Kelly! Hi there. I got your 4/20^① letter last week. Things have been rather busy lately over here. I just turned 35 the other day + my birthday was unspectacular to say the least. I always laugh when people ask "do they do any thing special?" I'm like, what, like cake? HA. No, nothing special at all. Last year, at Sands time, I made a big veggie pizza w/ th my friends but here, they don't sell the pizzalits + most of the people here don't celebrate birthdays (my muslim neighbors). It's more less birthday where + i'm thankful for that.

Thanks for your letter + for the articles you enclosed - you said but everyone says - "I'm sure you are aware of this..." I had heard of the Theobald article but hadn't seen it so thanks for that [People assume I see as much or more than they do because they haven't yet adjusted to my relative ignorance level - due to the fact i'm in prison generally, + in the CMU, specifically. I always tell people to not assume I see anything + to just send it]. Her piece was good - not just because she mentions the CMU (albeit, unaware of this unit) but because she gets into larger ideas about this bogus war on terror + how these atrocities + vengeful prosecutions continue even with the new President. The Special Admin. Measures (SAM) are horrid + MCC NY is a disgusting place - I spent my first 7 days in custody there in 2005. I also read the article on solitary confinement which was well done - both were shared with people here.

Damn, i'm sorry i ask you the same questions over + over. Part of that may also be that there is often a gap of months between letters and I completely space out what i've asked (my letters are stored in chaotic piles + hard to reference). Also - sometimes i ask the same question looking for an update. My possessions at county (letters, photos) were shipped home but while in transit at Terra back, all that got checked. I hate it when I think about it but i'm soured to indignities (like being strip-searched for a non-contact visit, for instance). That's great you have the full copy of our exchanges - what do you do - scan them? (I'm trying hard to be as legible as possible).

Thanks for offering to send some photos of Hardesty - i'd like that. Just 3 is fine though and maybe one of Rockaway (i also have space constraints). Don't worry about talking to [redacted] or researching my question about what was cancelled - it's not important. [redacted] is great - i'm glad he helped but shit, [redacted]? There's baggage there - mostly we get along but he acted like a weirdo at one of my court dates. I'll leave it at that but hopefully, you won't ever have to rely on him. I could tell you some absurd stories... It's wise you talked about your husband all the time - i'm sure it was a detriment. Sigh (turn over) →

U.S.P. Marion Movie Program

May 1-3, 2009

We get 3 new films a week - this week wasn't so hot!

Last week wasn't bad, i saw 'Burn' after reading 'and 'The spirit'

Movie #1 The Uninvited

Movie #2 Marley and Me

Movie #3 Behind Enemy Lines: Columbia

Friday

4:45pm Movie 1

7:15pm Movie 2

Saturday

8:00am Movie 3

1:00pm Movie 1

4:45pm Movie 2

7:15pm Movie 3

Sunday

8:00am Movie 1

1:00pm Movie 2

4:45pm Movie 3

7:15pm Movie 1

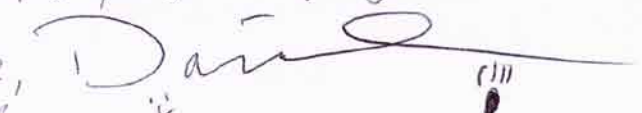
It's so great you got a chance to see Hardesty - i remember how fresh + crisp the air was there. I'm always stunned by clean, forest air. Now, you'll have quite a bit of shooting to do. I hope the trips are good + the weather/lighting hold up well. I'm very excited (still) about the outcome of all this but at times nervous about my contributions. I hope, if there are things you need me to write - like my places + why they're special - you'll let me know, Ok? I'd rather you had more than less. I see you also saw the Will Potter blog piece too (4/15) and heard Jenny on the radio. Between those two, the 4/17 Democracy Now, with Lauren Regan, my friend + lawyer and an April article by Stephen Lendman, there's been a lot more interest in the CMU. That's great - I only hope it translates into a just outcome - whether that will come from the courts - or the public, I don't know. The stories of men here has convinced me - at this point, i'm nutsue I recedit - that the federal system is broken and the 'war on Terror' is an absolute scam that targets people with unpopular opinions. →

② You asked about educational opportunities here. Well, the paralegal course is not associated with the BoP. It's independent and I paid \$800 for it. I'm on vol #4 of 14 so I will be busy with it for another 6-8 months. Here, they don't offer much compared to a normal prison. 2 men are in G.E.D., I took a 40 hour drug education class, a self-taught class based on 'Real estate for Dummies' and a class where I watched videos on native Americans + take a test. I'm also in a vocational course on 'custodial arts'. It's not useful for my future employment but parts of it is interesting at times. Another prisoner here teaches drawing + painting too. We have more than we did when we got here due to peoples' efforts and consistent requests. At this point, I don't really want to talk too much about my non-profit ideas. When I get out, I really want to work on prison issues and helping people coming out deal with that. I've seen some bullshit but more so, I've talked to long-timers and see how the system works. It eats people up - The Pew Centre has done some powerful reports lately chronicling the scope of incarceration in the states ('1 in 99', '1 in 31' plus the stats involving 40% of fed cases being Latino). BoP now up to 204,000. It was 197⁰⁰⁰ when I reported to prison in 7107 (that reminds me, I have 24 months in. Woo-hoo!).

Thanks for your updates about people and their participation in your project. I am not comfortable commenting much on people's situations save to say I have lots of empathy for all of them. People getting out of prison have a hard road to walk as do those at the beginning of their sentences. Your idea on who you do + do not work with, to me, sounds 100% appropriate. You're right - the question of innocence clouds it and the government uses what it can to hurt people.

My case manager has your forms and just hasn't processed them yet. I'll let you know when he does + that you're approved. My visits are all screwed up as the prison stopped visits due to swine flu. It may be 2010 before I have a slot for you but I'll let you know well in advance. I'm going to close here. Thanks for your kind letter - and support, as always. Hope you are enjoying the spring + had wonderful Earth Days (4/22) + Mayday (5/1). Take good care, my friend. Big hugs.

With Love,
+ Rage



12/14/01 Old letter - got returned -
kelly, Hello, my friend, how are things? It's been ages since I heard from you. I assume the last 6 months have been really busy for you. Actually, I saw Jenny on November 30th + she told me you donated a ton of art for the auction. Thank you for that - it's very kind of you. If I recall, you sent a lot - I presume, of photos. The auction was Saturday + Jenny said it went well. That makes me feel good as I know my peeps worked real hard to put it on.

So, what's up? How is your art project going? Have you been traveling much + taking photos? I'd love to hear an update if/when you have time. I imagine some of the communication may be easier for you with a few of the people going home real soon. Jeff goes home (again!) this Wednesday and Jake Conroy is home already. Pretty cool - it's always a good day for me when I hear people going home.

Well, things have been ok here - we're at 32 people now (with 3 new people + 2 others went to the other com). It's cold + I feel real lethargic during this time of year. I love the holidays so this month is tough - December is full of relevant dates for me - Christmas, Jenny's b-day (12/10), the anniversary of a friend's death, the big global warming conference taking place in Copenhagen, Dec 7th. I'm reading like a monk these days, writing letters, working out + taking a course in bird biology from Cornell. The days are flying by, for sure. As of Dec 5th, I have roughly 3 years left.

Not sure how much time you have to read but I'd recommend Living my Life by Emma Goldman (the 1 volume abridged version by Dover Books). It's a good read. Also - I just got AI Go's new book (Our Choice) + I have some good ones coming from PM Press (.org) - a publisher I'd highly recommend.

I'm not sure if you celebrate the holidays in any way but if so, I hope your holidays are good + you enjoy time

with your friends + family. I'm going to wrap this one up but feel free to write whenever you have time. Thanks again for the photos you donated - that was really sweet of you. Big hugs, my friend.

Love,
Daniel

R In this part . . .
~~Real estate is just one of many available investment options, so in this part, we compare and contrast real estate investing with alternatives you may consider. We discuss the realities of investing in and managing rental properties (both the pros and the cons) and how to fit real estate into your overall financial plans. We also cover the gamut of real estate investments you have to choose from and how to begin to assemble a team of competent professionals to assist you with the process.~~

PS - I took the appeal of the visiting denial (of you) to the BPII (Central office - BoP) level. I never heard back but assume it was a denial. It's truly disgusting how they define my incarceration date + disqualified you. I would have liked to see you again before 2012! "

enc: Some other

Daniel McGowan
63794053
VSP MARION
PO Box 1000
MARION, IL 62959



63794-053

United States


9023222222 0003



2/12/10 Kelly. Hey there, friend. I was bummed today to get a rejected piece of mail from you though I was glad to get your new address. Provided it's approved in a few days, I'll be able to send this letter out soon. As for this mail violation, I asked what it was in reference to and got a vague explanation - something to do with the letter/article being about illegal acts of some kind. Having not seen it with my own eyes, who's to say? It is more than likely, an exaggeration although I'm sure it has to do with environmental politics - something that seems to result in numerous mail rejections. (Including the recent Dean Kipers book foul on a former prisoner). Should you care to appeal this rejection, you can - the info is on the flipside (you should get this in the mail as well).


How are you? I feel like it's been ages since we've been in touch. What's new? How is your photography going? Were you affected by those Cali mudslides? Things are OK here - I am here at the CMU as of the 22nd and just had my review. I asked for a transfer + my unit team will put in for one. However, there are many others who have to sign off on this - so I'm not holding my breath! :)

I've been busy doing the usual - working out, classes, reading, getting some visits + emails etc. I'm taking a typing and card-making class as well as a correspondence course in bird biology. I'm stoked that Jeff is finally out - word is he is doing well adjusting to the outside world. That is such good news.

Well, I'm going to close here. I hope you are well and enjoying the winter. Write when you can - thanks for sending me a letter or article - sorry they saw fit to reject it. Such is life at the CMU, huh?! Thanks again for donating art to the cacher Tony Jidi. That was sweet of you. With love, Daniel 

63794-053, USP MARION CMU, P.O. BOX 1000, MARION, IL 62959

BP-3327-058 RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE CDFRM2 MAY 94
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

TO: KELLY POE 	UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY P.O. BOX 2000 MARION, IL 62959
INMATE: MCGOWAN, DANIEL #63794-053	DATE: 02-01-2010

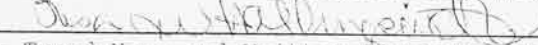
SUBJECT: Correspondence With Inmate Returned

Your correspondence to the above named inmate is being returned. This correspondence was not delivered to the inmate because:

The correspondence is detrimental to the security, good order, or discipline of the institution. In Addition, the correspondence depicts, describes, or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group demonstration.

The rejection of this correspondence is in accordance with the Federal Bureau of Prisons policy on "Correspondence" as published in Title 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 540 and in the Federal Bureau of Prisons Program Statement on correspondence. You have the right to appeal this rejection by writing the Warden in care of the above address. The inmate to whom you addressed your correspondence has been notified this correspondence has been returned to you and of his or her right to appeal the rejection.

Lisa J. W. Hollingsworth, Warden



(Printed or Typed Name and Written Signature of the Warden)
Record Copy-Addressee (with Correspondence); Copy-Inmate; Copy-File (with copy of Correspondence) (This form may be replicated via WP) Replaces BP-327(58) of FEB 84

Daniel McGowan
63794-053
VSP MARION CMU
POB 000
MARION, IL 62959



63794-053

United States

9023232622 0003



Resending 5/7/10
5/7/10 Kelly!!! Hello, my friend - it's great to hear from you and that you got my letter ① a few months back. Funny thing - I just now finished my grievance to the BoP's main office in D.C. How frustrating that the article/letter you sent months ago was about the Copenhagen COP15 protests + they deemed it a threat to the "good order" of the unit. So, watching cops crack heads of protesters in Copenhagen on CNN or Fox news = Ok. Hearing about your perspective at the very same one = "dangerous" + threatening to the so-called good order of this wonderfully-run prison! You have to love the logic of prison.

Wow, thanks so much for the subscription to Aperture! I'm sure it will be full of great photos + I'll enjoy it. When Jenny told me about your article, I asked a friend to call him + get me the issue. I'm glad to get the sub. though. I really enjoyed the article and your beautiful photos. I see you opted for the title 'for the wild' - seems like a good fit. That beach photo was some of my favorites of Rockaway you took. I was sooked to see the other folks were as impressed by the photos as I. It was nice to see the photo of Fall Creek too. Isn't that a beautiful place?

Oh, sorry I had to remove you from my email list. There was a real crunch of people asking to get on - many of whom I hadn't been in touch with. I'll see if I can put you back on soon. Jenny is awesome, isn't she? Every time I ask her about something, she's like 2 steps ahead of me + she's great about keeping people up to date on me. We just had a 3-day visit last week - for my birthday (36 on 5/6) + our anniversary (5/5 = 8 years together). It was great to see her but depressing on many levels since we had no contact, per usual. I haven't hugged her or kissed her in 2 years now - a very, depressing fact.

Thanks for what you wrote about my mom. It was a hard time this past winter + made me feel so absurdly powerless. Tomorrow is the first Mothers Day without her + it's an utterly strange thing to be sending out 1 less card this year.

Things have been pretty busy here, on my end. My transfer was denied in April though I can ask again in August. In late March, my lawyers filed suit against the BoP. I'm guessing you've seen all this but if not, all of it is online (on my site or CERJ.us.tcc.org). On the backside of this letter, you'll see the latest bullshit proposed rules for the CMU. There's a public comment period and

(2) info on how you can comment, if you can. If you check out the rules, they are horrible - decreasing visits to 1 hr/month, 1 letter a week, 1 call a month. It's remarkably punitive. Other than that, things are pretty much the same: reading loads, working out 5 days a week, corresponding with friends, email + such. The weather is warm now but soon, it will be oppressive. Currently, there's a ~~company~~ rainy film on USA + i'm trying to catch up on letters etc. I'm reading a really, interesting book called Green Gone Wrong by Heather Rogers - about false solutions to eco issues.

What do you expect to come from the Aperture article? Will there be a lot of interest or contacts from publishers? I'm real happy with how it turned out + hope it helps you move toward a book. Keep me up to date on how it's going. Do you think you'll be doing an art show also? Oh-what photo did you donate to the art auction? Thanks for that!

There's about 39 people here now + it's feeling pretty full + crowded. We've got a number of people in the last month and word is, more are coming. I really want to go to a more "normal" prison (hopefully, close to home) soon. As of June 5th, I have 3 years left (2 1/2, should I get halfway home). It's going fast but never fast enough.

Well, it's great to hear from you, Kelly. Thanks for your letter + for the copies of the article. I really look forward to seeing the glossy mag too. If you ever have the chance to send me a few of those Rockaway pics, I'd love that. Hope your Spring is going well.


Take good care, Kelly. With love,

PS - I'll let you know when I get the mag.



63794-053, USP MARION CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

(A)

 centerforconstitutionalrights

CONTACT: Alison Roh Park, 212.614.6480. apark@ccrjustice.org; David Lerner, Riptide Communications, 212.260.5000

New Bureau of Prisons Rule Discloses Policies and Conditions in Experimental Segregation Units

Units Continue to Target Muslims, Activists, Restrict Communication and Forbid Physical Contact with Family Without Due Process

April 6, 2010, Washington, D.C.— Over three years after opening secretive “Communications Management Units,” or “CMUs,” the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) took one step toward correcting its illegal and discriminatory segregation of Muslims and political prisoners by opening its actions to public scrutiny. The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) challenged the CMUs for violations of fundamental constitutional rights, including the right to due process, in a lawsuit filed last week.

The lawsuit, which is called *Aref v. Holder*, raises a number of substantial constitutional claims and also states that the units were created in violation of federal law, because the public was not given the requisite opportunity to learn about the CMUs and comment on the soundness of the proposed policy. Attorneys say the BOP’s late attempt to correct that omission by proposing a rule disclosing CMU policy is an implicit acknowledgment that the units are unparalleled in the federal prison system, and an admission that the BOP violated the law by operating the unique units secretly for more than three years.

“While we welcome the BOP’s decision to finally comply with its legal obligations—albeit over three years too late—the proposed rule does not make these experimental isolation units constitutional,” said CCR staff attorney Alexis Agathocleous. “Our clients’ experiences clearly demonstrate the abusive and arbitrary nature of the CMUs.” For example, the proposed rule states that CMU prisoners, when possible, are provided a detailed explanation of the information that has led to their designation. In reality, many prisoners have simply been told that their designation was based on “reliable evidence.” Their requests to be told the nature of this evidence are denied. Others received an explanation for their designation that included factually incorrect information, with no opportunity for correction.

The men detained in the CMUs have heavily restricted telephone and visitation access, and are categorically forbidden from hugging, touching or embracing their children or spouses during visits. Attorneys say this blanket ban on contact visitation, which is unique in the federal prison

Transcription of "Hey Kelly" by Rodney Coronado
Idiosyncrasies and spelling retained from the original letter.

1-6-9

Hey Kelly –

Here is the first draft of what I wrote. My intention was to re-write it and "fill it out" more, but as I re-read it, I thought its maybe as a first draft might be more in the spirit of the project. If you think it's too rough or that I should emphasize any particular points, please do not hesitate to let me know. Of course, this is the only copy. I left the prison yesterday and am in Chicago waiting for my bus to Grand Rapids. I'll be at a [REDACTED] or calls to Chapter

616 914 8972

Hope you and Jeff get the New Year off to a great start. Just let me know if I can help w/anything else!

Rod

Dear Kelly –

Sorry its been such a long time since I've written, the last few months in here have been tolerable, but still I'm having my usual hard time at being away from my family – especially my son. I've spent a lot of time in recent weeks thinking about your project and I hope this letter will become something that you could use. I have been thinking of my contribution being like any other piece I have written, but in the spirit of the project I thought maybe I should just write a letter telling you what has been going on inside me, inside here. So, here I am, again in federal prison, the same prison I actually spent time in 14 years ago when I was first extradited to Michigan for my first federal case. A whole different world back then. Just weeks after having ended my time underground with a future 4 years in prison to come. Back then, I was the first animal liberationist to be in federal prison. Now I am just another of the many. And while prison hasn't changed that much, I know that I have. My path to prison began almost 25 years ago when I first chose to be a part of a movement that would risk imprisonment in the name of defending the Earth. For a child who loved this land and the animals on it and who was coming to terms with what our present day society was doing to the natural world, my evolution seems reasonable. What differentiated me from the many others like me who chose lives and professions protecting the environment albeit legally, I largely accredit to my heritage as an indigenous person,

but equally a student of U.S. history. A student who learned early the price a civilization is willing to pay to attain wealth and progress. And although the costs of such imperialism can be traced back further than the inception of this notion, my personal conviction to the suffering of my human relations on this continent has made me extremely sympathetic to the suffering of the land and animals here. So as a witness to the injustices of my own generation, the path of physical resistance to such crimes against nature was only natural. I came to age as a young adult as a student of Geronimo and Paul Watson. My mentors were historically Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, but as contemporary leaders such as Dave Foreman and Cleveland Amory. In retrospect, I can now see how that time was an awakening. The rebirth of a spirit that had been haunting this nation ever since the crimes of Wounded Knee, the Trail of Tears, the Long Walk and the disappearance of the great bison herds and wild rivers and forests that reminded the new animals to the continent that humans were

page 2

but one species in the great fabric of nature. As a youth raised to honor Earth and her Animal People you can imagine my shock when I first witnessed the slaughter of newborn harp seals, the harpooning of the worlds last great whales. I can't convey to you how many times I cried for the victims of the world I was growing up into. I had already been taught what had been done to us, the indigenous people who lived with Earth as Mother, now I was seeing the war being waged against those who still lived in harmony with all life. But in my teachings I had also learned of the bravery and courage of the many men and women who gave their lives – and freedom to protect not only their families, but also their very way of life. I had learned of the insurmountable odds found by the indigenous warriors of this country and who despite those odds fought a war that might have cost them their land and lives, but not their spirit. Now that spirit had risen. In the hearts of all people who still felt sorrow and pain at the destruction of a natural world and her relations that spirit awakened once more the desire to risk our lives for what we believed in. It's important for me to state that this is not my attempt to encourage others to do the things I have done. I was taught that no person can tell another what to do. This is just a story. My story of how and why I chose to sacrifice the privilege I was born into. The privilege that most of us rarely even recognize. The privilege of not having to fight to protect our lives, land and liberty. While others see these privileges as a way to work within the system to achieve change, I saw instead the need to act now to bring to light the injustice I couldn't live with. Knowing that however just the

need to protect our life support system for present and future generations might be, when there was money to be made by special interests with access to political power, the Earth, animals and even us would always come secondary or last. The important thing to remember is that no change is borne solely from one individual's effort. Change is a process that begins when a small community of people are willing to take unnecessary risk and unpopular action. We can look back on history and with the luxury of hindsight know that it was wrong to enslave other people or deny them basic human rights on the basis of their skin color or gender. But to believe such fundamental truths at a time when they are not only unpopular but also illegal is what brings that process of much needed change. There today are still many who believe that global threats to our planet are politically motivated hoaxes

page 3

or at best, bad science. But if its one thing modern technology has given us that we cannot deny, it is the ability to see how our unlimited growth and development has burdened our environment in such a way that we force environmental illness and catastrophe previously unknown to man. And how that growth and development not only affects us, but those in far off lands whose environment and economies are exploited and manipulated to provide to us the very lifestyles that allows us to continue on this destructive path. In my life I have not expected to ever share my views with mainstream culture. I have always known that the path I and others chose to follow would make us societal pariahs. The belief that the way of life this country allows us and encourages is also our society's ultimate downfall is a belief that contradicts everything our society has stood for not to mention an admittance that an economy is built not to protect us, but the interests of people who are willing to sacrifice the safety of their children for short term gain. It has always been a fore drawn conclusion that to challenge popular belief is to sacrifice personal safety. We have seen these truths made evident anytime the motivations of this way of life has been called into question. And that is the choice I made when I decided to break the laws of my own country for what I believed. Perhaps I was able to do this because I was young and naïve. Perhaps my entire life experience that has led to three federal convictions and 5 ½ years in prison was a mistake. But what I chose to believe is that like those young and naïve people before me who believe that past-legalized injustices were morally and ethically wrong, our naiveté can sometimes provide the investigation society needs to truly question oneself. That our youthful ignorance of the slow process of change we are taught we must abide is sometimes just what that process needs to move those wheels forward. And so it was that I entered the world as a

member of direct action groups who freely and separately broke the law to defend what was and is still wild and free. It's an easy path to romanticize and that is why I am careful not to encourage it. For there is nothing romantic about spending 5 long years in prison away from the very loves and freedoms you

page 4

have fought for. Nor is there any glory to be had from choosing a life where you or worse others might lose their lives because of your actions. I admit despite this, to have made decisions that unfairly put others at danger of great harm and it is because of such actions that I wish us never to think of ourselves as above the laws of man or nature. For no one man can know but his own truth and what he believes to be right. We can believe that we are acting in the best interests of others, but when our way involves force, we can dangerously begin to sound like those we set out to oppose. Secondly, there can be no illusion that however just your actions of today might be viewed by yourself or others in present or the future, to take action against a dominant paradigm will surely lead to persecution. I say this to clarify that however my actions might have been intended, there will always be consequences we might not anticipate. And however I might justify what I have done, I still am looking for and learning a better way to achieve my means. When I saw ancient forests being destroyed or my animal relations starved, tortured and imprisoned, passion can become a motivating force. And that is what I plead guilty too. I can't deny that it felt good to send pirate whaling ships to the bottom of the ocean. Or spirit animals away from cages to see them returned to the wild. But in taking those actions, I had to also accept responsibility for them and that meant a long time in prison. For every action there is a reaction and my path of radical environmentalism is a road map of how our society has responded to actions in defense of the Earth. All just causes have had their actions devised of passion more than strategy. The Boston Tea Party was one of them. And historically we remember not the repression brought down upon the participants, but the spirit and action itself. My life and that of a handful of others has been a history of both. When I first went to prison in 1995, I remained a part of the underground movement I had been imprisoned for, not in action, but in voice. I saw it as my responsibility to represent the environment and animals many were still risking their lives and freedom to protect. Pandora's box was opened and radical environmentalists had won their place on the political spectrum. But it has not come without a price. As our actions increased, so did the efforts of law – enforcement agencies to stop us. For this I do not believe we have become the victim, for as warriors choosing to fight as we did we must accept the

consequences for the path of our choosing. As I have said before, history tells us of the consequence for challenging the laws of a

page 5

powerful nation. For me personally this meant leaving the movement we had created had become enough of a force that not just its actions, but the words I gave to it became equally volatile. None can deny that our actions of the last century have radically altered our environment and unleashed a chain reaction of effect that we are still just beginning to understand. For those of us who saw this disregard for the future generations of all life, as a threat to our planets very existence, action became more than a choice but an obligation, despite the consequence. When I left prison in 1999, I continued my spokespersonship for the cause of radical environmentalism and it wasn't long before I realized how much of a threat our actions had become. Not only for the damage they caused but for the climate they created among the business practices misdeeds with irreversibly altering our environment. Many more people would go to prison. Already the strength of our movement had been demonstrated at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and it wouldn't be long before radical environmentalists and animal rights activists would be labeled the U.S. most active domestic terrorists. And then the actions on Sept. 11, 2001 forever would alter America's political landscape. Suddenly, "Homeland security" and fighting terrorism became as important to this nation as suppressing Native Americans was in the late 19th Century. Despite the commitment of radical environmentalists to harm no life, our actions were politically contextualized in the same light as those who flew planes into buildings. When I was arrested for interfering with a mountain lion hunt in Arizona in 2004, my actions were identical to those I had repeatedly carried out in the 1980's with the greatest legal repercussion being a misdemeanor citation resulting in a small fine at the most. Instead I saw my arrest transformed into a federal felony charge of ecoterror for which I would be sent to federal prison for 8 months. Before my sentencing I would also be federally indicted in a terrorism offence for delivering the speech that I presently am in prison for. Both prosecutions were a reflection of the U.S. government – meant to make an example of those who encourage lawless activity to defend the Earth. During this same time, Operation Back Fire was executed by the FBI and many alleged members of the Earth Liberation Front brought to justice. What hasn't stopped despite these arrests and prosecutions is the level of awareness towards environmental destruction

page 6

that they all sought to highlight. It's not secret that the radical environmental movement was a small core of individuals who largely know each other and who in similar ways evolved from middle classes of the society they opposed. Much in the same way that the first advocates for the abolition of slavery were those who witnessed it first-hand, so too were many of us in the radical environmental mov't witnesses to the destruction of the best pristine eco-systems of Earth. When I first went to sea in 1985, I read journals from the 1800's describing the populations of great whales in the water I sailed so prolific as to pose a navigational hazard. Yet the oceans around me revealed so few whales as to cause great excitement when we'd see just one. Such revelations were the reasons behind my actions against pirate whalers. Now we are in a political climate where corporate influence media and law-enforcement agencies flush with huge budgets to fight domestic terrorism easily abroad such actions in the context of terrorism with extreme punishment routed out to individuals who have injured not a single human being. But our purpose is not lost. It must simply evolve. No longer must we grab the American public by the shoulders and slap them into awareness of the threats posed to our future, instead the facts that our planet is in peril were ignored and denied by only the most irresponsible of citizens. What remains to be done is how to change it. And rather than continue to attack the very institutions engaged in environmental irresponsibility, we must demonstrate through our own actions the time-honored behavior of living in harmony with nature. At the heart of our concern for the Earth and our own future is a desire to live in peace, knowing that the future of our children is secured. It was true hundreds of years ago as it is still true today. The ways we have gone about achieving that goal are all that should be determined. When the situation called for direct intervention, we were there to do it – and pay the price. I believe it is now the time to demonstrate the way of living we believe is possible instead of attacking the ways we fault. Lets hope the attention we have helped draw to the greatest threats to our future existence will not fall on deaf ears. What is left for us to do is to speak to those ready to listen. When I became a father I first thought that having a child would stand in the way of

page 7

my being a warrior. Instead I have learned that by having fulfilled the obligations I did in my early years, I had prepared myself for the next task as a warrior, that of raising a family. For no warrior is worth much if his or her fighting is not for the betterment of others. It was true hundreds of years ago

and it remains true today. When I looked into my child's eyes and saw the hope of a new generation, I knew the ways of harmony with peace on Earth were not going to be taught to my children through acts of war. Any war, no matter how just. The true ways of love, peace, and compassion and harmony with others can only be learned through example. My children did not need to learn how corporations are given greater legal rights than a forest or community, they need to know how to live in harmony with that forest and community. The lessons we have to teach our children and others who will listen, are the same lessons that countless generations of indigenous peoples have practiced in return for a way of life and civilization that outlasted any of modern man whose path would have gone on much longer had they not been extricated by the same short-sighted mess now plaguing our society today. But that knowledge of harmony with life on Earth was not lost. It was forced to hide during the time when practicing such a belief in this country was banned right the middle of the last century. Still, you cannot hide or ban something that is in our hearts, the sense of knowing or feeling that we have become dangerously disconnected from that which matters most to us. And as my generation matured with this sickness of spirit we cried and felt the pain for what we know was being lost. And now we have the power to erase that pain from future generations by giving to them a way of living that does not rely on the exploitation or destruction of our environment for short – term gain. In the darkest times of the Indian wars in this century, what our people fought for was the right to raise our children to believe in the ways handed down to us from our ancestors, the ways that reminded us of our relationship to the Earth and her children of all races, species and creation. And it was that love, that desire for such a future for our children that led our strongest warriors to lay down their weapons, despite the darkness that loomed ahead.

page 8

And through that darkness the culture and traditions of living in harmony with Earth have not only survived, they have thrived. They have erased all boundaries of race, class and culture to give to many a dream of living as if all other life mattered. But those dreams will remain only dreams without the brave people to lead us into an era of new awakening – a new era back to old ways. But not old as to be in the past, but old as in the ways that have provided survival and sustenance to countless generations. When I accepted a plea bargain with the U.S. Gov't in 2007 it was also for me a peace treaty. A treaty that not only promised my cessation of fighting, but a hope for living beyond war. I have spent the better part of the last 25 years fighting against the institutions that were

destroying the natural world, now it is time for us to create the way of life that will outlast any battle. I believe it is the same hope that was shared by all indigenous ancestors of ours who also were forced to realize that war was not the answer. Let there be no doubt. We honor those who have gone before us. Those who have carried the torch of hope in darker times than we have ever known, and I pray we will ever know again. Their sacrifice should never be forgotten, but more importantly what should not be forgotten is what they sacrificed for. What cannot be denied is that all of us who have spent time in prison for defending the Earth were not motivated by self-gain or material profit and however reckless or dangerous our actions, we stood at the end of the day to accept responsibility for them and explain that our motivation was for the love of the people and places we cared for the most. Our love for the hopes and dreams of future generations cannot be denied. We will pay the price we must, but in the hopes and dreams of our children our vision for a better world survives. The places we have loved, where our hearts broke open to the spirits of those who walked before us are places that all our hearts cry for. Without them we suffer a great starvation of spirit. And because of that love we have come to the kind of captivity and control that we fear for others. I think a lot about my son, Anheles Zeibrig Hekakawi. His name Hekakawi, was given to him at his traditional "baptismal" where he was offered to the Four Directions and the Earth and Sun. It means "Wind that comes off the Mountain." Sometimes

page 9

I have watched that wind blow over him as he looks out into the world that he will grow up into. I wonder what kind of world that will be and whether it will be better or worse than the one I was exposed to. When Anhel was four years old, I had just come home one day from filming the sport "hunting" of sandhill cranes in Southern Arizona that migrate there each year in the thousands. Our effort was to expose to the public the barbarity in shooting these beautiful birds whose wing span can reach six feet. I needed to transfer the tape from my camera to tapes to be distributed and told Anhel not to watch because it was sad to see, but he insisted. He wanted to see what I was doing. As I watched this little innocent child sit down cross-legged and witness what I had seen earlier that day, I wanted to cry because he was already learning of the cruelty of man towards nature. I don't want him to have to grow up in such a world, yet to shelter him from it is getting harder and harder each day. He knows why I am in prison and doesn't want me to continue to do the things I have done to get here. I've looked into his eyes, like thousands of indigenous fathers have looked into their children's eyes, wishing only to protect them from the

pain and suffering that we have known. For the children, we have laid down our weapons with the hope for a brighter day. One where our beliefs and way of living will not lead to a war against us. The best we can do is live our lives as we believe we should, causing the least amount of harm to others, be they animal, man, river or forest. How others choose to live is outside our control. The best lesson we can offer is our own vision practiced in such a way that it will encourage others to join us. We know what those who destroy the earth have to offer. Now let us show others what living in harmony with Earth can promise us all. In my letters from my wife she talks about the dream of living in a house alive with the voices and footsteps of our children as they rush outside to lay under an orchard and gorge on fresh fruit, or dash into the woods or some adventure only the innocence of youth can create. Behind them lie our crops, rising towards the sun, the bounty of nature that will hopefully see us through another winter. At dusk we will gather around our dinner table and give thanks for the life the Earth provides to us as we hold hands and drink in the warmth of each others love and the food before us. At night we will sit around our fire and tell them the stories our elders have handed down

page 10

to us and in the day we will live the lessons taught in those very same stories. Should the day ever come when the world we know has changed for the worse, be it human industrial-induced climate change, raging desertification, more disastrous hurricanes and floods or ecological collapse or a chain reaction of species extinction unravels the web of nature, our children will rightly so question the wisdom of this passing generation and wonder what was possibly more important than protecting the land we live on. I hope than my son and daughter will be proud to have been part of the solution and not the problem and forgive me for the 5½ years I spent in prison fighting for their future. And rather than be bitter and angry at what others have done, I'll hope the life I had led, like that of my ancestors will allow them to teach their

children the ways that will continue to keep alive the hope that only living in harmony with nature and each other can give us. This is what I can change and that's all I want to do anymore. Give them that hope that was first born in each one of us maybe when we sat in that ancient forest for the very first time, saw that hawk soar into the sunset or just played in the woods behind our home. After 25 years, thats what I believe we can best do for our children and future generations. Its taken me a long time to get here, but like those warriors who made those difficult decisions that allowed our ways to survive, its what I believe we can do. Because one day these steel doors are going to roll open for each one of us and will re-enter a world a lot different from how it was before. And not just our children but many others will be looking for a way out of this mess that irresponsible people got us into. Our task has always been to try and speak for the earth so that others will listen. No one said it was going to be easy. Not a lot of people think of Geronimo as a father and a husband. They remember him as a warrior. Likewise people like me might not be remembered for what we did after prison, but more for the actions that led us here. But I now know why Geronimo and others like him fought all those years. Why he would run from the reservations, not only with his warriors but with their families. Because it was the only way his people could live as they believed. Knowing the comfort of the Earth, the security that comes from living

page 11

close to nature, with love, reliance and an interdependence on each other as well as the land around you. The dream of living wild and free. Our struggle is not defined in what we oppose, but in what we create. What I have stood for my entire life has not changed, it just became clearer. And these are principles I will never surrender. It is in memory of my ancestors and for the hopes and dreams of our children. Dreams that continue when this prison sentence ends. We may have fought for the way things were, but now we live to remind others how they can be again.