

above the hundred-year-old second growth. Some friends live here including spotted owls, ospreys, turkey vultures, black bears, newts, voles, flying squirrels and arboreal humans.

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To the North lies a clearcut. Three years ago, Green Diamond came in and cut down every last tree in the 'unit', leaving a few huge burned-out snags. Pampas grass and milkweed grow to human height in the trees' absence, but this area is dry and getting dryer. They planted a few baby conifers, redwoods and others here after they cut. Those trees are now three years old, meaning they can cut a couple more 'units' and then start re-zoning the land from 'timberland' to 'residential'. More mini-mansions are planned. So it goes...

Except that our forest friends disagree. They want to live, and our solution is to live with them. For the past several months we've been occupying two tree villages in the canopy of the McKay, tying in as many giant trees as possible with traverses to protect them with our own bodies from being cut down. Tree-sitting has been used to defend forests in Humboldt for decades, and traverses enable a few humans to defend a large number of trees without leaving the canopy.

We chose this grove because the trees stand directly against the march of Leviathan in the form of suburban development, and the neighbors (down below, in houses) stand with us and give us love and support. The other grove (also slated to be clearcut) features an osprey nest, at least one spotted owl nest, flocks of turkey vultures circling overhead, a trail and campsite used frequently by bears, and a creek that serves as watershed for the Humboldt Bay's healthiest population of coho salmon. These critters have also shown much love, particularly the flying squirrels who share our food at night, and the owls who hang out, provide moral support, and watch us climb.

Green Diamond (the GD), formerly Simpson Timber Company, is now the most active transnational timber corporation remaining in Humboldt. They have clearcuts scheduled every year all across the Northwest, and have largely escaped public scrutiny by a process of 21st-century Greenwashing (see: their name + their website) and alliances with the State. Example: the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for spotted owls, which gives the owls a vague, constantly shifting zone of 'habitat' on GD land and a few remaining 'wildlife trees', usually of low monetary value, on land that they clearcut. In return the GD gets a bunch of 'Incidental Take' permits for owls, meaning a license to kill them at will. The GD's plan for the McKay Tract is clearcutting, followed by residential development to double the size of Cutten, adding more residents to the city of Eureka.

So far no chainsaws have yet fallen upon the McKay this year. But summer operating season is upon us, and logging could begin any day of any week. Neighbors are continuing to raise their voices in support, and hiking, biking, and horseback-riding along the logging roads in solidarity with residents of the forest. Tree-sitters are still needed to live in the canopy, protecting this last refuge of wild creatures from the perpetual war that is human Progress. Anyone wishing to spend part or all of the summer up in trees are encouraged to contact Earth First! Humboldt at (707)-834-5170 or at efhumboldt.org.
—the canopy ninjas of EF! Humboldt

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He showed up and, after talking with the distressed manic man, it turned out he had been laid off from his job at a brewery after the bosses had changed his schedule on him in such a way he couldn't get much sleep even after he let the bosses know it would make him manic. Being fired from his job, which he was proud of (he is a great brewer) had really upset him. After talking with both his wife and his neighbors, Cop Watch help settle the problem and things settled down, without police violence. Many of the conflicts that happen in our lives come from problems we have in our working lives. Taking direct action is the best way to deal with problems at work and general money problems, because they generally stem from those with the money, your employer, the bank, the land lord etc. wanting to give you your rightful share (or even just what you need). The perfect contrast between appealing to authority and direct action is the difference between the American people and most of the French people initially reacted to the bailouts, in the way they tried to stop their money from being given to the super rich. While politicians here rallied behind it, the thing most people did was write to their representatives and many a law maker condemned the unpopular bailout before voting to approve it. Where as in France groups "kidnapped" their bosses, they were held captive in their businesses until some or all of the



workers demands were met. The bailout and some anti-poor people reforms brought on a large general strike of nearly 3 million people. The strike was not as effective as it would be in other countries because France has a history of general strikes. The French government was expecting this but not on this level or scale. The economic slam delivered to the French economy and state could not be ignored.

The United Electrical workers occupation of Republic Windows and Doors was to the credit of the American labor movement still having the will to take direct action to beat the banks and bosses.

The folks in the Industrial workers of the world (founded 1905), where the slogan "direct action gets the goods" came from, have been proving the truth of that slogan for years and years, the most well known current example is the Starbucks Workers Union. On January 29th Starbucks employee and union member Sheanel Simon went public with her affiliation to the SWU and was fired the next day. The supposed reason was a failure to follow the dress code by having a tongue piercing. Sheanel had had the piercing for over a year with no complaint. Store manager Gwen Krueger (one of the ones that fired her) was verbally confronted by fellow SWU members. Other union members at the Twin Cities store in the mall of America acted in solidarity with sheanel and Neal Linder another union member who was fired. Fellow union members used periodic work stoppages, where they would announce that they were protesting the firing of SWU members Sheanel Simon and Neal Linder. On Monday February 2nd Sheanel was contacted by Krueger and was told that Starbucks was rehiring her. This is just another example of how direct action gets the goods.