

# Ted Turner funds Earth First! eco-vandals

by Frederick Greene

Ted Turner, owner of Cable News Network (CNN), and his wife, Jane Fonda, came close to creating an international incident on April 9, when the Canadian press disclosed that Turner was funding a Canadian training camp for eco-vandals, including the transportation of youth from the United States into Canada to the camp. The Turner Foundation, which is directed by Fonda, has funded the sponsors of "training camps" in Canada for environmentalist actions against the timber industry.

The revelations, featured prominently in the press and on television, shocked citizens of British Columbia, where the training camp is located.

The violent intentions of the activists at the camp are not hidden: They are openly stating their willingness to break the law on behalf of "Mother Nature." Speaking to reporters at an activist training camp at Belcarra Regional Park in Canada on April 8, Greenpeace spokesman Tamara Stark promised a summer of protest to stop old-growth logging in 10 of British Columbia's watersheds. "If need be, I think the law of nature and the ongoing viability of the rainforests are far more important than breaking the law of the country," Stark declared.

Several groups from the United States and Canada have been protesting against the timber industry in both countries. The activists at the Belcarra gathering include about 60 members of Greenpeace, the Forest Action Network, Bear Watch, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound. The training was headed by eco-vandals from the Earth First!'s Ruckus Society, based in Montana, who have been involved in numerous illegal activities in the United States.

This is the third such camp designed to train the youth of both countries to become involved in illegal forms of protest and other criminal acts.

It has been confirmed through financial records that much of the money used for training and protests comes directly from the Ecology Center of Missoula, Montana, which is run by the Earth First! leadership. According to an article in the Canadian magazine *B.C. Report*, "A spokesman for the Ruckus Society told BCTV [British Columbia TV] on April 9 that the Turner Foundation, established by American media mogul Ted Turner and directed by his activist wife, Jane Fonda, has provided funds to the group."

The Ruckus Society was founded by Mike Roselle, the cofounder of Earth First! and the current leader of the organization. Roselle has admitted on many occasions that he has

committed many acts of terrorism, including the destruction of a U.S. Forest Service building and the sabotage of heavy equipment "that is being used to destroy the Earth."

Roselle's January 1995 article in *Earth First! Journal*, was a call to arms for his following to commit more criminal acts when he stated: "What we want now is nothing short of a revolution. F\*\*k that crap you read in *Wild Earth* or *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*. Monkeywrenching is more than just sabotage and you're g\*\*dam right it's revolutionary. This is *jihad*, pal. There are no innocent bystanders, because in these desperate hours bystanders are not innocent."

When asked about Roselle's comments, Mark Wexler, professor of applied ethics in British Columbia's Simon Fraser University faculty of business administration, commented: "Oh boy. To me, that's more like Londonderry, Hebron. That's like Oklahoma City bombing stuff. That's crazy talk."

## Unabomber links?

Although Roselle may not condone the actions of the Unabomber, there is a certain similarity to his justification of violence against individuals. And Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski's connection to Earth First! has been established in a new book, *Ecoterror—The World of the Unabomber*.

The Unabomber himself commented concerning his murders, in his June 29, 1995, letter: "This is a message from FC, 553-23-4393. . . . Contrary to what the FBI has suggested, our bombing at the California Forestry Association was no way inspired by the Oklahoma City Bombing. We strongly deplore the kind of indiscriminate slaughter that occurred in the Oklahoma City event. We have no regret about the fact that our bomb blew up the 'wrong man,' Gilbert Murray, instead of William N. Dennison to whom it was addressed. Though Murray did not have Dennison's inflammatory style, he was pursuing the same goals, and he was pursuing them more effectively because of the very fact that he was not inflammatory."

Murray died on April 24, 1995.

## Turner's eco-millions

Financial records show that the Turner Foundation funds several environmentalist activist groups, including the Ecology Center in Missoula, Montana. The Ecology Center is run by Earth First! leadership, including Mike Roselle. The center's 1995 tax records show a budget in 1995 in excess of \$516,000, to which the Turner Foundation was a major contributor. More than 70% of that budget went to "Activist Coordination + Empowerment."

Among the groups connected to Earth First! that received grants in 1995 from the center, are Gila Watch of Silver City, New Mexico, which received \$13,000; the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity and the Greater Gila Biodiversity Project, both of Silver City; and New West Research of Santa

Fe, New Mexico. (Gila Watch has worked for several years to put Kit and Sherry Laney of the Diamond Bar Ranch out of business. Apparently, the Diamond Bar Ranch is adjacent to the Turner ranch.)

Other Earth First!-connected groups to which the Turner Foundation has made grants are: Biodiversity Legal Foundation of Boulder Colorado (formerly the Earth First! Biodiversity Legal Foundation), RIP of Houghton, Montana, Forest Guardians of New Mexico, the Native Forest Network (founded and run by Earth First! leadership), and Rainforest Action Network (founded by Earth First!, and which still has Mike Roselle on the board of directors). And there are many others.

### Eco-terrorism chronology

North American Research has compiled a list of more than 1,100 acts of domestic terrorism against ranchers, miners, loggers, hunters, recreationalists, McDonald's outlets, the fur industry and department stores that sell furs, and many more. The February 1993 issue of *Earth First! Journal* advocated sabotage at MacDonalld outlets, and since that time, dozens of them have been sabotaged. A portion of a September 1996 slogan published by members of the groups states: "Learn to Burn."

In 1989, three members of Earth First! were arrested in

Arizona and convicted of attempted sabotage of a nuclear power plant. The founder of Earth First!, David Foreman, was arrested and convicted in the same case of conspiracy to sabotage a nuclear power plant. Foreman is currently on the board of directors of the Sierra Club.

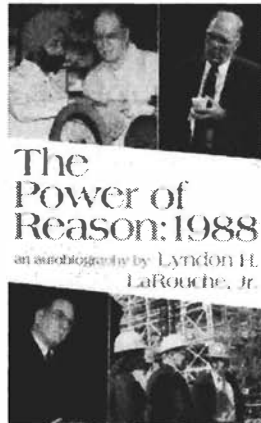
A chronology of the most serious, recent acts of environmentalist terrorism includes:

- Sept. 4, 1996: Arson fire at the home of John Campbell, CEO of Pacific Lumber in Arcata, California.
- Oct. 29, 1996: Arson fire at the Detroit Ranger Station and the \$5.7 million arson fire at the Oakridge Ranger Station in the Willamette National Forest, Oregon. (According to the FBI, the Oakridge fire was "the second worst terrorist attack against a government facility in the history of our country.") The Earth Liberation Front (ELF), established by Earth First! leaders in February 1994, has taken credit for both fires.
- Nov. 9, 1996: A \$400,000 arson fire at McDonald's in West Jordan, Utah.
- Jan. 14, 1997: Arson fires at Burlington Coat Factory, and two department stores that sell furs in Broward County, Florida. An Animal Liberation Front publication claims responsibility for \$20 million worth of sabotage.
- March 10, 1997: Investigators have confirmed that the explosion of six pipe bombs set a fire that resulted in about \$1 million in damage to a Sandy, Utah, fur feed company.

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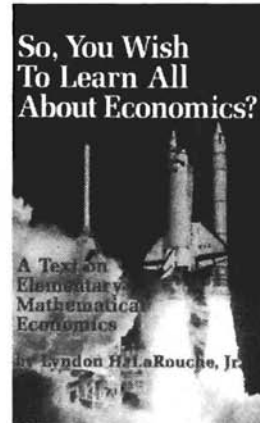


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