

Eco-Terrorist Bomb Plot Foiled in Oregon

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On the eve of three major political conventions this summer, to nominate the Presidential candidates for the Democratic, Republican, and Reform parties, evidence is emerging that major acts of domestic terrorism are being planned, and, despite massive increases in their counter-terrorism budget, the Federal Bureau of Investigation appears to be poorly prepared to deal with this danger. The eco-terrorists and anarchists, associated with such groups as Earth First!, the Earth Liberation Front, and such recent concoctions as the Anarchist Golfing Association and Islamic Jihad/Eco-Terrorists, may not be bankrolled by so-called “rogue states,” and they may not be brandishing suitcase nukes or other “weapons of mass destruction,” but the danger they pose is considerable.

Item: Two bombs were discovered in Eugene, Oregon on May 30, at the Tyree Oil Co.; they could have wiped out a four-city-block area and killed hundreds of people, had they not been discovered and defused by police. The two bombs, placed on top of two large gas tanker trucks, were discovered when one of the drivers started to drive off, and the bomb fell to the ground.

According to private investigator Barry Clausen, one of the foremost experts in America on the eco-terrorist movement, the two devices, which were constructed to blow up the two petroleum tanker trucks, were identical to the bombs used by the Earth Liberation Front in the firebombing of a ski resort under construction in Vail, Colorado on Oct. 19, 1998, and in the Monmouth, Oregon arson, which destroyed the Boise Cascades factory on Christmas Day 1999. Blueprints and detailed plans for building these types of bombs can be found at the websites of both the *Earth First! Journal* and the Animal Liberation Front.

According to Clausen, the FBI has apparently imposed a blackout on news of the attempted bombing in Eugene. Indeed, officials of the FBI and the Treasury Department’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) on the East Coast, when queried by Clausen, were totally unaware of the Eugene incident—even though they were preparing for possible terrorist actions by Earth First!, and should have been informed of such a serious attempted attack.

Another Oklahoma City Blast

The Eugene police and fire departments report that if the bombs had gone off, they would have ignited both gasoline

tankers and caused a blast that would have levelled four city blocks, including a residential neighborhood near where the tankers were parked. They estimate that there would have been several hundred deaths. It would have been the most murderous act of “blind terrorism” since the April 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

No one has stepped forward to claim credit for the bombing attempt. Fire and police officials in the area consider it a major escalation by eco-terrorists and anarchists, who have built up an extensive presence in the Eugene area.

Item: On June 4, an estimated \$1 million in damage was done to a specialty grass seed manufacturing facility, owned by Pure Seed Testing, in Canby, Oregon. Ostensibly, the company, which produces and tests grass seed for golf course greens, was conducting experimentation with genetically modified seeds, and this prompted eco-terrorists to break into their facility and wreck almost the entire stockpile of seed and grass. The attack was claimed by a group calling itself the Anarchist Golfing Association, in a news release sent to GenetiX, a news service that supports the eco-terrorists.

Another group, going by the name Cropatistas, has carried out similar attacks, in what even the FBI has acknowledged is a growing pattern of sabotage targetted against genetic-engineering firms and laboratories. So far, in 2000, the FBI has acknowledged that there have been 11 such attacks, including a New Year’s Eve attack on an agriculture department building at Michigan State University, and a February attack on a similar facility at the University of Minnesota. These two attacks were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front, the group responsible for the \$12 million attack at Vail. In all of 1999, there were only 18 such incidents reported.

An FBI spokesman told MSNBC reporter Miguel Llanos on June 14 that the groups conducting these attacks are difficult to investigate, because there “is no real pattern.”

FBI Director Louis Freeh, in testimony before Congress in 1999, acknowledged: “The current domestic terrorist threat primarily comes from right-wing extremist groups, Puerto Rican extremist groups, and special-interest extremists.” He added, “The most recognizable single-issue terrorists at the present time are those involved in the violent animal rights, anti-abortion, and environmental protection movements.” Hardly a word of warning commensurate with the kinds of action seen at Vail and in Eugene.

Oregon Police Alert

In a related development which also signals the seriousness of the terrorist threat in the Pacific Northwest, the Oregon State Police on June 1 issued a special bulletin, alerting all law enforcement and emergency response personnel against “Anarchist Weapons Used Against Law Enforcement.” The bulletin, circulating among all criminal justice agencies in the state, warns, “Eugene law enforcement has recently come into contact with two new types of weapons used by anarchists.

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OREGON STATE POLICE

BULLETIN

OFFICER SAFETY ALERT



Issue Date: June 1, 2000 Bulletin Number: 2000-005 Expiration Date: June 1, 2001

Anarchist Weapons Used Against Law Enforcement

Eugene law enforcement has recently come into contact with 2 new types of weapons used by anarchists.

The first weapon is a Tiki torch type of device. It is constructed with a broom handle topped with a 3lb-coffee can containing kerosene and gasoline soaked rags, topped with a wax candle. Subjects have thrown these devices at police officers in Eugene during confrontations.

The second weapon is an egg that has been drilled and drained, and filled with glass etching solution. The egg is then resealed with wax. A Eugene PD outpost was vandalized with anarchy graffiti and egged. The substance in the eggs is extremely corrosive and will burn skin.

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A bulletin to law enforcement agencies on the terrorist threat.

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The warning bulletin concluded, “Use caution when confronting anarchists.”

Gore and Oxy ‘Targets’

Several recent articles in the *Earth First! Journal* have targetted Vice President Al Gore’s relations with Occidental Petroleum, and, according to Clausen, both the Los Angeles Police Department and the ATF are on alert for a possible terrorist attack against Occidental’s international headquarters in Los Angeles, perhaps during the Aug. 14-17 Democratic National Convention.

The March-April 2000 issue of *Earth First! Journal* featured an article about the role of Occidental Petroleum in Colombia, where they were granted drilling rights by the Colombian government on lands owned by the U’wa Indians. In January and February of this year, Colombian Army and National Police units invaded the U’wa region to remove protesters, to allow Occidental drilling to begin.

The *Earth First! Journal* reported, “U’wa supporters around the world have been stepping up their actions to support the resistance. Activists have targetted Occidental’s two most important shareholders—Fidelity Investments, which controls nearly 10% of Oxy stock, and U.S. Vice President

Al Gore, who has long-standing ties with Oxy. . . . He owns up to \$500,000 in Oxy stock and stands to reap large financial rewards from the drilling on U’wa land.”

The *Earth First! Journal* cited the Rainforest Action Network as one of the groups involved in leading protests against Gore at his campaign headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee; Olympia, Washington; and Santa Barbara, California. Furthermore, the *Earth First! Journal* story linked the U’wa protests to support for the Colombian narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). “On Feb. 29, FARC responded to Clinton’s proposal [for an additional \$1.3 billion in anti-drug aid to Colombia] by declaring war on the U.S. and vowing to fight against what they called U.S. ‘interventionism.’ . . . From Big Mountain to Chiapas to Colombia, indigenous people are saying ‘*Ya basta!*’ [“Enough already!”] Confront Al Gore when he comes to your town.”

Clausen noted the irony in the *Earth First! Journal* targetting Al Gore, whose 1992 “deep ecology” manifesto, *Earth in the Balance*, which has been re-issued this year, is as violently anti-technology as the worst rhetoric of Earth First! and the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski. “Our country is being destroyed by these radical environmentalists and eco-terrorists,” Clausen said, “and as far as I am concerned, Al Gore is one of the people most responsible for this.”

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