

TALES FROM THE PIELC

Realistic Anarchy

Radicals call for fall of civilization, sometime.

■ By Alan Pittman

Robin Terranova, the local editor of *Green Anarchy* magazine, rails against “civilization itself.”

Industrialization, domestication and agriculture have created a system of “enslavement” and alienation that is destroying humans and the planet, he says. Too many on the left are “coming from the assumption that mass society is something that’s good, that’s sustainable, that’s healthy, and it’s not.”

A woman in the audience at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) last week raises her hand. “Do we need to give up everything?” she asks. What about guitar string and glasses. “I want to see. I don’t want to die young.”

Local anarchist author John Zerzan smiles from his seat next to Terranova on the panel. He touches his glasses, “I’d certainly be lost without these,” he admits. But he says people need to think more deeply about the labor and environmental costs that go into such technological items. “It’s certainly not a simple thing.”

Anarchists are too often stereotyped as “mad bombers” or “cave people,” Terranova says. “I’m not proposing that tomorrow we destroy civilization and live as hunter gatherers,” says Terranova. “It’s not very realistic.” But he says people should examine the costs of the way they live.

Terranova faults most environmentalists for failing to question technology. “We see the left as a failure,” he says. “We actually question the left as much as we question the right.”

Technology creates “alienation” and “domination,” he says. He gives the example of a gun made from minerals destructively mined from the earth and manufactured by workers dominated by

their bosses. The gun allows people to easily kill at a long distance without “getting blood on their hands,” he says. “The gun analogy can be drawn all the way to nuclear weapons.”

Terranova advocates for “economic sabotage” targeting those “profiting off the earth.” He praises the Earth Liberation Front for destroying “millions and millions of dollars” worth of SUVs, logging equipment, and luxury homes under construction.

“More extreme action needs to be taken,” Terranova says. He calls for “harassment” and “property damage” against individuals responsible for oppression, such as corporate executives of companies involved in animal experiments.

