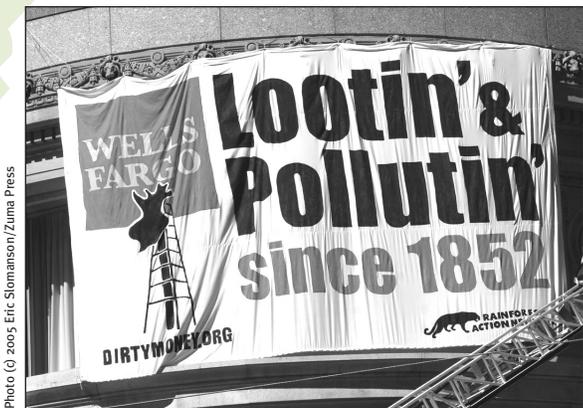




## Wells Fargo Reforming America's most backwards bank



Activist "cowgirls" drop a banner at Wells Fargo in San Francisco.

On October 5th, RAN's **Global Finance Campaign** launched its campaign against Wells Fargo & Co. at its San Francisco headquarters. Wells Fargo is a top financier of destructive oil, coal, logging, and mining operations that contribute to global warming, ecosystem destruction, and human rights abuses. What's more, Wells Fargo profits on the backs of those who can least afford it, including low income and immigrant communities. Unlike its top competitors, Wells Fargo operates with no comprehensive social or environmental guidelines. By continuing to take advantage of communities and bankroll outdated, radical resource extraction, this outlaw bank is making a name for itself as a regressive corporation increasingly on the wrong side of history.

As Bank of America, Citigroup, and JP Morgan Chase lead the industry in defining environmentally and socially responsible banking practices for the 21st century, Wells Fargo remains committed to a "Wild West" world of irresponsible and exploitative lending practices better suited to the 19th century than to the present.

It's high time Wells Fargo got on the wagon, joining the rest of the banking industry by taking responsibility for the destructive impact of its investments and charting a new course toward economic justice and environmental sustainability.

 **Tell Wells Fargo CEO Richard Kovacevich to get on the wagon and adopt a 21st century environmental policy. Write to: Richard Kovacevich, CEO, Wells Fargo and Co., 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94163 or visit [action.RAN.org](http://action.RAN.org) to send an email.**

## Storming the Future Climate Solutions for the 21st Century

By Dan Firger and Nile Malloy

If the world really needed a warning sign on global warming, it couldn't have come much clearer than Katrina. The superheated storm swamped a major American city, caused hundreds of billions of dollars in economic damage, and perhaps most alarming – but not surprising for those who pay attention to such things – exposed the deep divisions between those who could afford to escape and those left behind to fend for themselves. Storms, floods, droughts, and epidemics are all too frequent these days, and with each passing year scientists predict they'll get more severe. While the wealthy will always find ways to move to higher ground, it's the poor who will pay the price for our failure to curb climate change. The best thing that could come from this disaster would be a restructuring of the climate movement to focus the world's attention on the real and rising costs of inaction – from species extinction and forest destruction to the wrecked communities in New Orleans and the islands of the South Pacific – and to propose alternative solutions to rewire the world with clean, sustainable energy before it's too late.

We need to be very clear about the implications of runaway climate chaos. The Earth's average surface temperature is one degree Fahrenheit warmer than it was last century. Katrina grew in strength from a tropical storm to a Category 5 Hurricane after passing over warmer-than-usual waters in the Gulf of Mexico. With one degree of warming, we're already seeing melting polar sea ice, a worldwide shift in wildlife habitats, the spread of West Nile Virus and other tropical diseases, crop-destroying droughts, killer heat waves, and the strange too-early spring flowers or too-late winter snowstorms that surprise us with their unpredictability each year. But most climate models don't stop at one degree. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expects up to 4.5 degrees of warming over the next fifty years, even if we stopped pumping carbon into the atmosphere tomorrow. With 20 million new cars on the road every year in the U.S. alone and dozens of new coal-fired power plants coming online, we're likely to see between 2.7 and 7.0 degrees before 2100. And that's when the truly frightening changes will become the rule, not the exception.

Of course, human impacts on the environment will be the least of our concerns in a world dominated by this sort of large-scale social disruption, which is precisely the problem. If we can't figure out how to tread lightly now, within the next few years, when we've barely begun to see real climate chaos, how can we expect humanity to rise to the challenge as resources get scarcer, weather gets fiercer, and society slips into widespread instability as the planet's life-support systems unravel?

We have a narrow window of opportunity – rapidly closing – in which we can work to bring about an ecological U-turn that will redefine how global civilization relates to the Earth's climate, water, soil, forest, and energy systems.

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# Spirit of Leadership

André Carothers, RAN Board Member and Director of the Rockwood Leadership Program

## *Interview by Toben Dilworth*

André Carothers is the founder and Director of the Rockwood Leadership Program, a non-profit organization that promotes social change through leadership training and consulting to progressive non-profits. Since 1999, Rockwood has trained hundreds of activists and worked with dozens of non-profits. André was recently awarded the **Spirit of Leadership Award** at this year's REVEL.

### **Tell us how you got into the realm of activism and social change leading up to your founding of the Rockwood Leadership Program.**

I got lucky – I came out of college and answered an ad to go work for Greenpeace. We were a fast-growing organization with fantastic people and a medium sized budget and then at a certain point, it was almost like the world discovered the organization. So I caught the fever at this point – I stayed with Greenpeace off and on for 13 years.

I got involved with Rainforest Action Network in 1991 having met all the people who started the organization well before that. I remember the year that RAN started. I remember the year that Randy Hayes convened the first meeting up in Marin County to start talking about how the organization should be run. Five years later they called me and asked me to join the Board of Directors. That was a very satisfying moment for me.

### **What were some of the ideas that went into starting the Rockwood Leadership Program, including the place you saw that your work could really serve the movement.**

The Rockwood Leadership Program is really about getting people to bring the best that they've got in them in order to implement whatever social change vision they have. We started with the modest idea of taking some of the key leaders in our community and getting them to know each other so they could develop skills of partnership and implementation together. Much of what we do in our work is about relationships, about our ability to be in strong partnership with people minute by minute. There's a lot of interpersonal skills and leadership skills such as giving and receiving feedback, creating a strong vision, and aligning and inspiring others toward it that can be taught. So what Rockwood does is it brings the heart and the skill together in the social change community and it gives people the capacity to make real in the world what they've been trying to do.

What I'm watching, as the organization grows and we train more and more people (Rockwood trained 500 people last year) is that people want to be in community together, they want to talk effectively together, they want to play well together, and they want to bridge all these gaps and these silos and these divisions that the organizations have set up between us. So we've been lucky because the community that we work in already has this as their orientation, they already have this goal. What I'm noticing is that convening people and giving them the skills to make their vision real in the world is apparently what is needed.

### **What do you think the main challenges are for groups like Rainforest Action Network to get people engaged in complex issues amidst the power structures telling a very different story in the world today?**

Democracy is an activity that you can start when you wake up in the morning and you can live it all day. The wonderful thing about membership and advocacy organizations like Rainforest Action Network is that they are living out the principles of how this country was started. They're bringing voices to the table that aren't being heard, they're making sure that people understand the dynamics that are controlling their lives, unveiling the power structures and the hidden incentives and the role that the big players play in in the world. One of the things that Americans do every day is they vote with their pocketbook, so it's interesting to see how responsive a company can be when they start to notice that their public face is perhaps getting a little blotch on it because their customers now fully understand the true costs of what they've been paying for.

The United States is fundamentally a progressive political entity. Everything that the country started on is about bringing voices to the table. Democracy is, in retrospect, a fairly radical concept. Progressive politics in America is in that same tradition. It's about doing the right thing, taking care of the community, it's about making sure that all the voices are heard. That story has been distorted and taken over by people who actually don't have the public interest at heart, they have more of the interests of capital, the interests of large corporations, the interests of a certain privileged set of the country in mind when they build the story for what they want to have happen. So in part, the project here is to take the story back. Fortunately there is a long tradition of good progressive thinking in this country that is about that story. Leadership training and taking care of each other at the level of heart and soul is the progressive parallel to the story that Conservatives tell, but it's a better story – it's a much better story.



Photo by Toben Dilworth/RAN

## Huaorani win moratorium on oil exploration

Last issue, we asked you to take action on behalf of the Huaorani to defend their ancestral territory in the Ecuadorian Amazon from Brazilian national oil company Petrobras. We are pleased to announce that in September, the Ecuadorian Environment Ministry temporarily stopped Petrobras from building an access road into Yasuni National Park, signaling a victory for the rainforest and for the Huaorani.

## RAN Japan opens in 2006

RAN Japan will research and track Japanese imports and consumption of endangered forest products from Southeast Asia and Australia and support grassroots efforts to permanently protect these ravaged regions.

## The Ruckus Society joins Jumpstart Ford Campaign

Global Exchange and RAN welcome The Ruckus Society as a new partner in the campaign to jumpstart Ford, America's most oil addicted automaker. Our three organizations played a central role in organizing the 1999 mass mobilization in Seattle protesting the unjust policies of the World Trade Organization.

## →→ Storming the Future, continued from front cover

Instead of spending hundreds of billions of dollars treating symptoms of the problem and coping with the human and ecological victims of crises like Katrina, we should be looking to the roots of our planetary imbalance and fix what's wrong while we still can. Climate scientists warn that in order to prevent catastrophic climate change we must keep atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations below 400 parts per million. At 380 ppm today, we're adding carbon at a rate of 2 ppm each year. We've got less than a decade to put systems in place that will ensure drastic cuts in global emissions while preventing as much unnecessary suffering as possible and sparing as many ecosystems and habitats as we can.

In that time, let's work to create a separation of oil and state and shift tax incentives away from the offshore platforms in the Gulf and the poisonous refineries of Cancer Alley and towards wind farms, biofuels, and cheap, easy-to-install photovoltaics for low-income communities. Instead of this year's \$287 billion transportation bill that does next to nothing for public transit, let's put massive subsidies in place that will pay to move people out of the exurban wasteland and back within city limits.

Shifting federal spending is just the beginning. Instead of handouts to Halliburton and a corporate-friendly "free enterprise zone" that will drive the poor into even deeper poverty, spending on New Orleans reconstruction can be the first real example of sustainable development principles put into practice on a regional scale – an example that can then be copied in hundreds of other cities around the world.

Clean energy and sustainable agriculture aren't a panacea for all the world's ills, but more than any other "development" scheme currently being debated, these investments would allow communities to take control of their own destinies, choosing appropriate energy and food systems that meet their local needs, and escaping from the vicious cycles of debt and dependency that come along with financial markets "liberalization" and "free trade" zones.

Climate change is the most daunting threat humanity has ever faced. It presents us with a huge array of overwhelming ecological and economic hazards, but also plenty of opportunities to restructure our civilization itself and create a different, better world. Let's rise to the challenge.

*Dan Firger and Nile Malloy are campaigners for RAN's Global Finance and Zero Emissions campaigns. After three years of dedicated organizing, Dan Firger will be leaving RAN. We thank Dan for all his work and wish him the best in his continuing efforts to protect the planet.*

## RAN co-hosts Eco Action Camp to save the Boreal forest

**By Brianna Cayo-Cotter**

From Sept 28-Oct 2, over sixty young activists from across Canada, the United States, South Africa, and Mozambique braved pouring rain and soggy tents to learn about corporate campaign strategy, media and video skills, legal rights, fundraising, political theater, and non-violent direct action from RAN, Greenpeace, Environmental Direct Action Network, and Forest Ethics organizers.

Workshops outlined current threats to Canada's Boreal forest, including destructive logging by Weyerhaeuser and excessive financing for dirty energy extraction by leading banks in Canada. Currently, about five acres of intact forestland throughout the Canadian Boreal disappears every minute, and the province of Alberta extracts more coal than the rest of Canada combined.



also on the web at   
[RAN.org](http://RAN.org)



## Jean Jenson

Super Sustainer

Jean is a psychotherapist, hybrid car driver, and outdoor enthusiast who has been supporting RAN since 1991. Jean became a monthly donor in 1997 and has recently begun volunteering with our membership department in the RAN office.

“Keeping our environment healthy is the most important thing we can do to sustain our survival as a species on this planet. RAN is one of the most creative and innovative organizations out there and has an excellent track record in protecting the environment.”

To find out how you can become a monthly sustainer, send in the enclosed envelope or visit us online at [RAN.org/give/](http://RAN.org/give/)

## REVEL 2005: RAN turns 20 at a benefit so fun it should have been illegal!



Photos by Susana Millman

(clockwise from top left): RAN Executive Director Michael Brune, Bob Weir rocks out with Tea Leaf Green, Daryl Hannah accepts the Freedom of Speech Award, and Bob Weir and RAN founder Randy Hayes



Ken Wiwa, Jr. (left) and Owens Wiwa (right) were honored with the Freedom From Oil Award at this year's REVEL for their ongoing work to confront environmental and human rights abuses in the Niger Delta