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Trees Grow Opposable Thumbs, Bear Arms- Earth Liberation Front Doomed

Members of the Earth Liberation Front have for a decade carried out acts of "eco-terrorism" against organizations involved in logging and the perpetuation of suburban sprawl.

The group itself is mostly a fiction, it seems. There is no central authority responsible for the group's activities. People just commit felonies and then give credit to ELF. Of course, when it comes time to do silhouetted interviews with *Dateline*, they clamor for the opportunity.

[Editorial note: According to common law, committing an act of violence anonymously, regardless of your reasoning, qualifies one as a "pussy." So, to clear up any confusion, we will refer to the ELF as The Eco-Pussies for the remainder of this piece.]

Four teenagers accused of burning down a half-constructed house in suburban New York have claimed membership in the Eco-Pussies, setting off a rapid-fire series of questions on NPR: are the recruiting people that young? Are they using *e-mail* or *the Internet*? If we heavily censored this *Internet* thing, could we rid the world of protesters and terrorists?

A spokesman for the Eco-Pussies could neither confirm or deny their membership since the group keeps no such records.

They do, however, keep detailed data on how many pubescents spray paint "Eco-Pussies" on old-growth trees, how often "Eco-Pussy" is mentioned fearfully in the media, and how many loggers lose a limb from a tree spiked by a self-proclaimed Eco-Pussy.

Eco-Pussies say that they hope their actions will damage the logging industry and expose its "undeclared war on trees." It is this war, they say, that will wipe out most species of large conifers in the next century.

But perhaps the Eco-Pussies should consider the opposite scenario. Perhaps the trees have for centuries been at war with *us*. People use tree innards for a variety of products, but they all have one remarkable thing in common: tree meat burns. Burning things can hurt, even kill people. Have you ever noticed that they are *everywhere*? It's creepy. Have you ever been walking in the forest alone and heard a tree falling softly nearby? That's not some

Hallmark moment, but a failed assassination attempt.

Eric Handle of the United States Logging Association sees tree harvesting as the only way to preserve humanity. "If it weren't for us, those damned trees would kill us all!"

Right now there are thousands of young men and women scrawling "Eco-Pussies" on their school notebooks, completely oblivious to the hideous plans these carnivorous trees have for us. If they only knew the truth of it.

Our only hope lies in the hardworking clear-cutters of Brazil. Every hour, they clear a hundred acres of the diabolical stuff. One day, if we are all not devoured by ravenous Weeping Willows before then, the world will be free of the many-branched tyranny of trees.

One day.

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