

CUT THE SH*T

For vegans, anarchists, and other radical folk who smoke.

Did you know that American Spirits cigarettes are tested on animals?

Did you know that some of the people picking your tobacco are children?

Did you know that it takes one tree to wrap 300 cigarettes with paper?

The zine is meant to remind you that your actions do have an impact on the living things you share this planet with, whether they are in the same room or entire oceans away.

For animals. For humans. For the planet. For yourself.

CUT THE SHIT 2.0

Disclaimer: This zine contains graphic descriptions and slightly graphic photos of animal abuse.



By Chickpea

Further reading:

Just because something is posted here, doesn't mean Chickpea agrees with everything on the website, in the book, zine, etc. Also, Chickpea does not endorse any illegal activity that may be the topic of or encouraged by the reading below. However, even if you go against chickpea's wishes to never, ever do anything illegal, ever, ever, ever, chickpea hopes you don't get caught. Xoxo.

Articles/ Websites:

- More about the Huicholes Farm Workers:
<http://saic.nativeweb.org/ayn/huichol.html>
- The Tobacco Atlas:
http://www.who.int/tobacco/statistics/tobacco_atlas/en/
- Because We must (Animal/Human Rights)
<http://www.becausewemust.org/>
- Animal Liberation Front
<http://www.animalliberationfront.com>
- Earth First
<http://www.earthfirst.org>
- Earth Liberation Front
<http://www.earth-liberation-front.org>

Zines/books:

(many of these can be found online at <http://www.zinelibrary.info>)

- Towards a Less Fucked Up World: Sobriety and Anarchist Struggle -Nick Riotfag (reprinted by Radix Media: <http://www.radixmedia.org>)
- Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching
- Memories of Freedom by the Western Unit of the ALF
- An Animal Liberation Primer
- Arson Around with Auntie ALF (**remember I really would never endorse this**)
- Opening Doors: A Primer
- The Blueprint: 200 Farms, 60 Days
- Security Culture: A Handbook For Activists
- Animal Liberation and Social Revolution

Quitting:

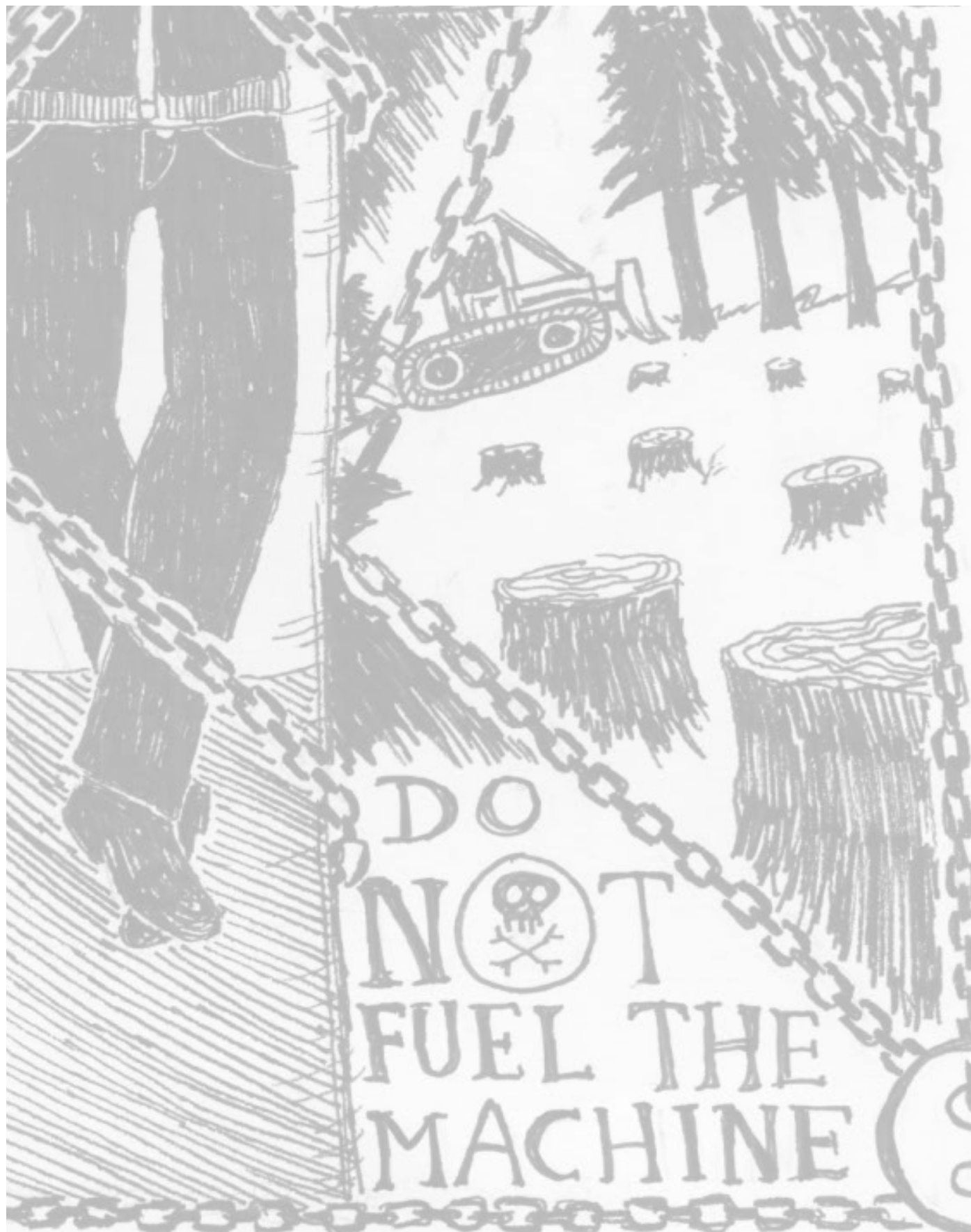
(focusing on natural treatment as many tobacco companies sell the medicine and patches to help people quit. They like to make money whether you smoke or you want to stop. If you have information that is relevant and helpful to this section, please email me.)

- <http://naturalquitsmoking.org/>
- http://www.naturalnews.com/025351_smoking_nicotine_quit.html
- http://altmedicine.about.com/od/therapiesfromrtoz/a/quit_smoking.htm



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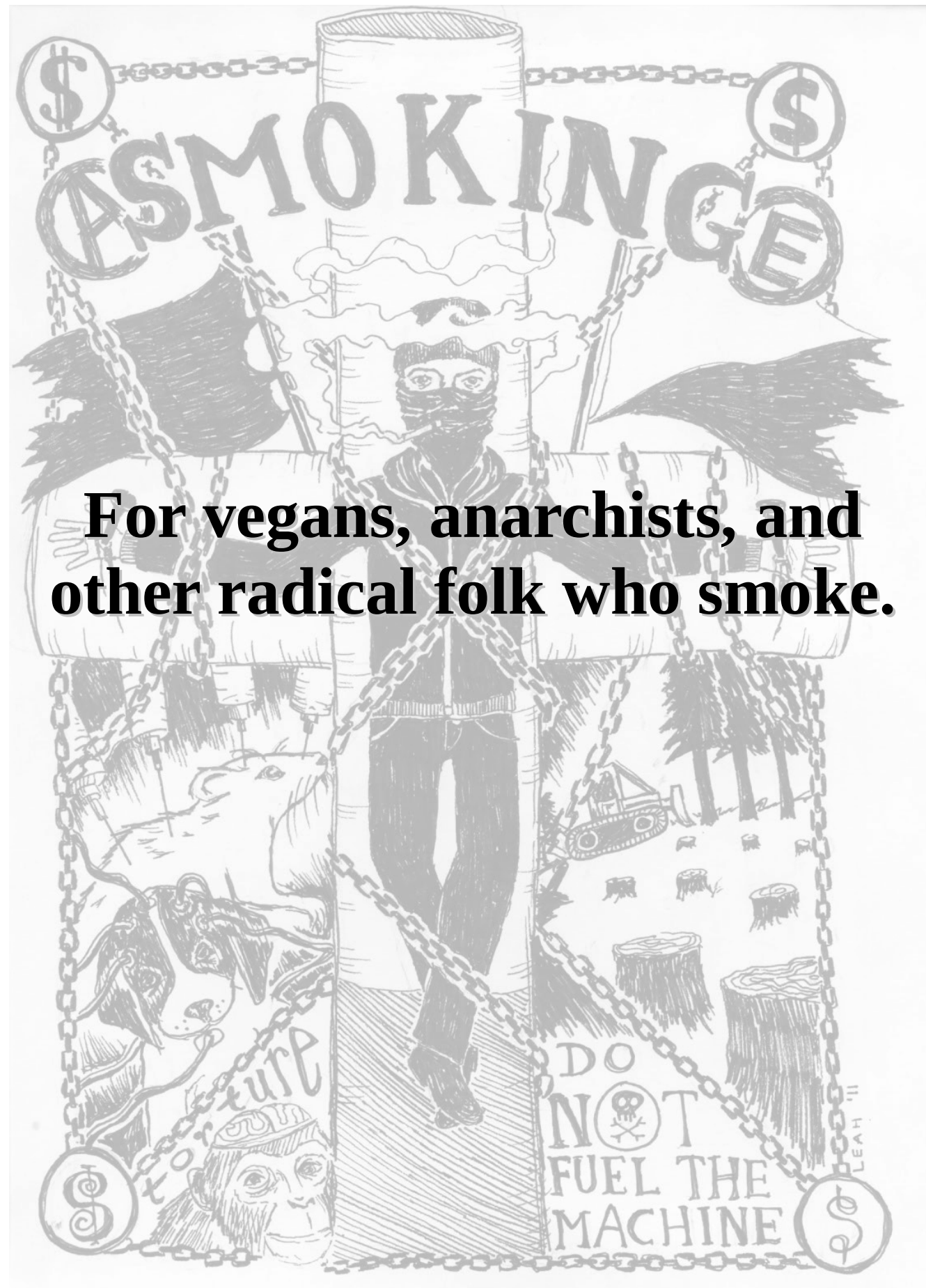
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You may use any information from this zine as you see fit. All information in this zine has been mercilessly stolen from various sources around the internet and beyond. Reproduction of this zine or any part of it without permission is encouraged, however, I would rather you did not mass produce it for your personal financial gain. For those of you interested in learning more or getting involved beyond consumer based activism, there are resources listed in the back of this zine. Destroying the tobacco industry alone won't bring the rev, but, if you want to change the system, better start with yourself. Fuck capitalism!

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Questions, comments, corrections and hate mail may be sent to chickpeahatescops@gmail.com



Cigarettes Vs. Earth

In Uruguay and South Korea, 40% of deforestation is caused by the tobacco industry. In Malawi, where only 3% of the farmers grow tobacco, almost 80% of the trees cut down are for curing it. In 1985, nearly 10 million acres of earth's land was used for tobacco cultivation, 73% of this land in developing countries.

This land would be better used for food production, but due to the nature of the tobacco industry, farmers in developing countries make more money growing a crop that kills people rather than feeds them. These crops are covered in chemicals that deplete the soil, harm farm workers and contaminate water. Depleted soil means farmers have to cut down more trees to make room for crops. Without counting the wrapping, packaging and advertisements, (which requires more paper by weight than the tobacco being grown) nearly six million trees are cut down for tobacco production. As for the paper wrapping, it takes one tree to wrap only 300 cigarettes. Many smokers have probably smoked many trees in their lifetimes.

Farmers in developing countries continue to grow tobacco because of tremendous financial incentives from multinational corporations like Philip Morris and Reynolds American. With enticements such as farming supplies or a guaranteed foreign exchange for their crops, farmers are reluctant to use their land for anything else. Even with some corporations trying to boost their "green" reputations by offering to replant trees on excess farmland, most farmers use what little land is left to grow food for their families. Were farmers to stop growing tobacco and only grow food crops – as the Yale University School of Medicine proposed more than a decade ago- 10-20 million of the world's current 28 million undernourished people could be fed. Deforestation also affects the atmosphere by raising the level of carbon dioxide emissions responsible for global warming. Scientists affiliated with the climate research group Global Canopy Programme in England have reported that 51 million acres of forest cut down globally each year account for nearly 25% of heat trapping gases. By that standard, the 10 million acres being deforested annually for tobacco account for nearly 5% of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Tobacco is at the heart of the horrifically pathological global system of capitalist agriculture that prioritizes the right of the first world to poison themselves over the right of the third world people to eat." - Nick Riotfag



Cigarettes Vs. Animals

American Spirit cigarettes are popular among vegan smokers because they are free of animal ingredients and “additives.” This means they are vegan, right? Not so much. American Spirits is owned by Reynolds American (from here on out referred to as RA), the second largest tobacco company in the United States. RA has a long history of animal abuse. In 1960, RA opened up their very own animal testing facility nicknamed “The Mouse House” in North Carolina. At The Mouse House, a team of 30 researchers hooked mice and rabbits up to machines that forced them to inhale cigarette smoke. After a few years of this torture, the researchers found a link between smoking and emphysema. The corporate suits at RA thought such information would be bad for business, so they forced the researchers to hand over all of their documents. The incriminating research was “accidentally destroyed” and the remaining animals exterminated. That was the end of The Mouse House. Nowadays, RA prefers not to have the blood on their own hands, so they outsource their animal testing to Covance. Covance is a contract researching organization that provides drug development and animal testing services. In the early 2000s, Covance facilities in both America and Germany were infiltrated and videotaped by animal activists. In footage from both locations, laboratory staff were seen hitting primates, throwing them against walls or cages, forcing them into tiny cages and leaving sick primates without veterinary care. Covance filed lawsuits in both of these cases and desperately tried to keep these videos from reaching the public. In Germany, the charges against Covance were dropped. The video is allowed to be played in public, but German animal rights activists are not allowed to use it. In America, Covance received an 8,000 fine, which is a slap on the wrist to a company of that size.

Aside from illegal animal abuse, Covance also abuses animals in perfectly legal ways. They are the largest breeder of dogs (specifically Beagles) in the US for animal testing purposes. Those dogs and other animals are tortured and killed to test cigarettes and other products. Some of these tests include:

- Rubbing toxic chemicals in their eyes and on their skin
- Forcing the animal to inhale smoke by inserting a tube into their throat
- Force feeding them poisonous substances

Some unlucky dogs even have their chest cavities cut open or their legs cut off to test the affects of nicotine on the circulatory system. Cats experience similar torture to test the effects of nicotine on reflexes. Aside from being beaten and being forced to inhale smoke, pregnant primates are injected with nicotine and their child dissected after the birth. This obviously causes a huge amount of emotional distress for the mother. While this information was specifically gathered about RA, **all** tobacco companies use animal testing. By supporting the tobacco industry, you are supporting animal testing. Every year, animal testing claims the lives of more than*:

- 66,610 dogs
- 57,531 primates
- 58,598 pigs
- 245,786 rabbits
- 22,921 cats
- 176,988 hamsters
- 221,286 guinea pigs

(information from the 2005 USDA statistics)

Not all labs submitted their information, and rats and mice are not considered “real animals” so their deaths, while every year number in the millions, are undocumented.



products beyond the perview of the ethnoknowledge of the environment, Article 20 of the ILO Convention 169 emphatically calls for signatory governments to do everything possible to prevent workers from being subject to contractual working conditions dangerous to their health, particularly "as a consequence of their exposure to pesticides or other dangerous substances".

According to researchers, the majority of the Indigenous migrant workers who work in the agroindustrial fields in northern Mexico are: Mixtecos, Triquis, and Zapotecs from Oaxaca, Nahuas, Mixtecos and Tlapenecos from Guerrero and Purh'epechas from Michoacan. The demographic data indicates a extremely serious situation. According to Estela Guzmán Ayala, women (34%) and children under 12 years of age (32%) constitute 66% of the Indigenous labor force in the agricultural regions in northern Mexico. Ruth Franco, a doctor specializing in work-related health and the coordinator of the Program for Day Laborers of the IMSS delegation in Sinaloa, estimates that 25% of the 200,000 workers in the Sinaloa valleys during the 1995-1996 cycle were children between the ages of 5 and 14. Of the children from southern Mexico 63% are hired by intermediaries in their place of origin and the rest in the state of Sinaloa. Forty four percent of these child laborers are female and fifty six percent male. At the conclusion of the agricultural season, 72% return with their families to their respective states, 20% remain in Sinaloa, and 9% continue the route of workers to other destinations. 55% of the child farm workers have been working in the fields for 1 to 5 years and 14% for over 5 years.

The extent of the indiscriminate use of pesticides has been frequently exposed and denounced in the Mexican press. It is estimated that thousands of used containers and toxic residues that are generated by the annual use of upwards of 8 million tons of pesticides are criminally disposed of in ad hoc trash bins, channels, drains, incinerators, and recycled to storing drinking water. The harmful effects of pesticides on human health and on the environment have been clearly documented.



Above: Young Huichole girl stringing tobacco.

Cigarettes Vs. Humans

Unless you have been living under a rock, the idea that cigarettes can kill you is probably not at all surprising. We all know that smoking causes coronary heart disease, cancer (of the lung, larynx, oral cavity, bladder, pancreas, kidney, and esophagus), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and emphysema. Every 6.5 seconds, a current or former smoker dies, and on average, smokers die 15 years younger than nonsmokers. Smoking killed nearly 5 million people worldwide in 2000, half of those in developing countries. Around 500,000 people die in the US from cigarette smoking every year, 50,000 of them from second hand smoke. Worldwide, second hand smoke was estimated to have caused around 370,000 deaths from ischaemic heart disease, 165,000 from lower respiratory infections, 36,900 from asthma and 21,400 from lung cancer. Around 603,000 deaths were attributed to second hand smoke in 2004. That means 603,000 people lived with someone who smoked, hung out with someone who smoked, loved someone who smoked, and because they spent time around said smoker(s), they are now dead. I don't give a shit if you want to kill yourself, but smoking around other people (who probably do not consent to it) poisons them.

But let's stop talking about you for a second. Did you ever wonder who picks your tobacco for you?

The following information is from a report called “Report on Reynolds American Inc. and North Carolina Tobacco Production.” This information is specifically about tobacco farming.

In the US, it is estimated that 80% of farm workers are undocumented migrant workers. Because they are undocumented, they are often denied basic rights. Many migrant tobacco farmers face these issues:

Improper housing:

Housing problems that farmworkers face include overcrowding, unsafe structures, poor sanitation, proximity to pesticides and lack of inspection and enforcement. During a survey of farmworker housing on the East Coast conducted by the Housing Assistance Council, researchers found 38 percent severely inadequate or unfit for human habitation.

- Imidacloprid: Toxic to ingest, water contaminant, possibly causes cancer.
- Mefenoxam: Lethal if ingested in small doses, highly toxic, water contaminant.
- Pendimethalin: Possibly causes cancer, water contaminant.
- Flumetralin: Toxic, cancer causing, endocrine disrupter. Has been banned in Europe.
- Benzene: Toxic, causes cancer, toxic to the reproductive and developmental systems.

Green tobacco sickness, or GTS, is caused by the dermal absorption of nicotine. The mild side effects of GTS are dizziness, nausea, dehydration and severe weakness. Severe symptoms include blood pressure and heart rate fluctuation, seizures and death.

Below is an excerpt from the article “A Poisoned Culture: the case of the Indigenous Huicholes Farm Workers By: Patricia Diaz-Romo and Samuel Salinas-Alvarez”

Migrant workers and pesticides

The exposure to pesticides is one of the greatest risks that Indigenous migrant workers face. In Mexico, the tobacco companies with agroindustrial cultivation use enormous quantities of these dangerous agrochemical products without complying with the legal restrictions of international validity designed to protect human life. The Indigenous workers are especially vulnerable to the pernicious effects of the pesticides for diverse reasons, among them the fact that they lack information regarding the dangers of exposure, because the contractors do not provide them with safety equipment, and because the conditions in which they live and work in the agroindustrial fields prevents them, for example, from bathing and from washing their clothes after being in contact with pesticides recently applied or with residual pesticides.

The cases of poisoning and death from pesticides count among the most serious indicators of the situation which migrant workers encounter. In 1993 it was estimated that in each planting cycle approximately 170,000 field workers arrive in the valleys of Sinaloa. An average of 5,000 agricultural workers suffer from toxic contamination as a result of the handling of, or prolonged exposure to, pesticides that are used in cultivation. Of the 35,000 agricultural laborers that worked in the San Quintin Valley of Baja California in 1996, 70% were Indigenous. Given that the pesticides are toxic

Characteristics of North Carolina migrant housing standards:

SPACE: 100 square feet per person
BATHROOM FACILITIES: 1 toilet per 15 people located within 200 feet of housing
SLEEPING QUARTERS: 50 sq ft per person. Beds or cots; at least three feet apart

VENTILATION: Window space equal to one-tenth of the floor area. Only half of the windows must be capable of opening.
TOTAL ROOMS: Only 1 room required. Same room can be used to live cook and sleep.

Inadequate pay:

Average income for a farmworker in North Carolina: \$7,150. That's almost three times less than the federal poverty level for a family of four. Though farmworker wages have increased slightly over the last decade, after adjustment for inflation they have actually decreased by 5%. About one- half of all farmworker households in North Carolina cannot afford enough food to adequately feed their families. Farmworkers in East Coast states earn on average 35% less than the national average farmworker income. Tobacco workers do not have a guaranteed wage; depending on the weather many go weeks without work . Most undocumented workers are exempt from minimum wage laws and all are exempt from overtime provisions. While the farmworkers are making next to no money, the management at Reynolds American is raking in the big bucks:

2007 TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR
REYNOLDS MANAGEMENT

- \$9,467,860
SUSAN IVEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO
- \$4,173,661
JEFFERY ECKMANN
RAI GROUP PRESIDENT
- \$3,499,481
DANIEL DELEN
PRES.& CEO RJR TOBACCO
- \$3,282,110
DIANE NEAL
EXECUTIVE VP AND CFO
- \$1,878,337
TOMMY PAYNE
EXECUTIVE VP PUBLIC AFFAIRS



While Reynolds executives make millions, tobacco farmworkers live in extreme poverty.

Health risks:

More than 62 million pounds of pesticides are applied on agricultural crops each year in North Carolina.

Realities of farmworkers:

- Commonly NOT provided with adequate protective clothing and are ROUTINELY exposed to pesticides while working in the fields.
- Rarely have access to telephones—thus nearly impossible to seek emergency assistance for pesticide poisoning.
- Housing often lacks adequate shower & clothes washing facilities to wash off pesticide residue.
- Only about 10% have health insurance and very few are covered by workers comp. Therefore many of the work place illnesses or injuries are made much more serious due to difficulties in finding treatment.

FAMILIES AT RISK

- Contaminated clothes, hair & skin can bring pesticides into the home as due drifts from spraying of nearby fields. Children are at increased risk for pesticide exposure due to their heightened sensitivity during development while living & playing so close to the fields.
- Up to 44% of farmworker families live in housing directly adjacent to agricultural fields, increasing likelihood of pesticide exposure.
- Acute symptoms like headaches & rashes. Increased risk of asthma, cancer, birth defects & stillbirth.
- Farmworkers face higher incidences than other wage-earners of heat stress, dermatitis, urinary tract Infections, parasitic infections, pesticide -related illnesses and tuberculosis.
- Eight out of ten North Carolina farmworkers had skin disease.

Tobacco is a favorite plant for insects. Because of this, crops are sprayed with gallons of dangerous, toxic chemicals. These chemicals are often applied to the fields while the workers are in them. These chemicals are obviously very dangerous, and workers are exposed to them on a regular basis. Some of these chemicals (and the health issues associated):

- Etephon: Kidney Damage
- Methomyl: Cancer, neurological damage, toxic to the reproductive system.
- Acephate: Possibly causes cancer, causes nervous system damage.