

# The Warrior Wind

*Against a Society of Confinement: "Blow, wild wind, blow!"*

Issue Number One. February, 2006. Free.



Bill Rodgers, drawing by Katie.

## On the Recent Wave of Repression

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, one of the largest roundups of environmental and animal liberation activists in American history began. That day the FBI arrested six people in four different states and issued Grand Jury subpoenas to others not then taken into custody. While details became clearer about federal law enforcement's "Operation Backfire" against the environmental movement, the Bush administration was busy dealing with scandals regarding its newly revealed, and widespread, domestic spying programs through the National Security Agency and other entities. In this context, the revelation that "antiterrorist" spying is conducted against environmental and animal activists ought to surprise no one. Furthermore, the latest attacks on our movements should be described as what they really are, counter-insurgency operations, not "neutral" policing-as-usual.

The State has always used surveillance and repression against those it considers threats or competition. For the past decade, earth and animal liberationists have faced an escalation of such surveillance and repression. When Jeff "Free" Luers was sentenced in 2001 to over 22 years for vandalizing SUVs, many felt his sentence was an exception or anomaly. Now almost all eco-prisoners are facing similar sentences (Earth Liberation Front prisoner Chris McIntosh was facing a 30 year minimum before taking a plea deal for eight years), and the sentences prisoners face are only climbing higher. To give one example: activists with *Arizona Earth First!*, recently convicted merely of charges relating to interference with a mountain-lion hunt, are being threatened with sentences of over seven years at their March hearing!

Federal law enforcement alleges that those arrested on December 7<sup>th</sup>, two individuals arrested since then, three people named in indictments but not apprehended, as well as unknown others, are all members of a large "eco-terror network" responsible for a series of actions in the northwest from 1996-2001. The actions in question included attacks against genetic engineering, various wilderness "management" programs, meat and lumber companies, as well as ecocidal development in general. The Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front used communiqués to claim responsibility for some of the actions cited in the government's indictment. None of these actions caused physical injury to a single human being, although the amount of economic damage caused to government and industry remains impressive.

The FBI's "evidence" rests on the testimony of informants, whose credibility is questionable at best. The FBI's primary informant, Jacob Ferguson, for example, is a notorious junkie "has-been," living in the community of Eugene, Oregon. Another informant, Stanislas Meyerhoff, was arrested in Charlottesville, Virginia, on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Not long thereafter, he made public statements such as: "I hope, I pray the courts will be merciful with those who renounced these crimes and moved on to be students and

professionals,” and proclaimed his willingness to inform against others. Statements such as Meyerhoff’s say little about real acts in the outside world, but say a lot about how the FBI “leans” on people in custody. Unfortunately, even more snitches seem to have followed, two allegedly on the inside and one on the outside. The words of informants are not accurate information; they are the utterances of desperate, broken, and bribed individuals.

No matter how many paid-off informants the federal government can bring forth to say otherwise, the “eco-terror network” is a work of pure fiction. The State would rather create a mythical organization to prosecute than admit that dozens of acts of sabotage and arson committed each year across the country, are done by autonomous individuals and small groups of affinity (those in power cannot conceive of an enemy that does not operate within their logic). The defendants are united only in that they are all victims of a wider conspiracy by local and federal law enforcement against those who fight environmental destruction. Recent national controversies about domestic spying, with its sinister methods of operation, only seem to confirm this impression.

Those arrested on December 7<sup>th</sup> were Daniel McGowan, Chelsea Gerlach, Darren Thurston, Sarah Harvey, Kevin Tubbs, Stanislas Meyerhoff and Bill Rodgers. Of these, Meyerhoff’s recent role has already been stated. Unfortunately, there are others arrested on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> who now also appear to have acted with ignominy. At the time of writing, the integrity of Daniel McGowan, Chelsea Gerlach, Darren Thurston, and, tragically, Bill Rodgers, appear without a doubt.

Early on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, Bill Rodgers was found dead in his Flagstaff, AZ, cell. According to the official account, Rodgers placed a plastic bag over his head and suffocated himself. In the current atmosphere of war and reaction, we can never be completely certain of the events that led to Rodger’s death. However, supporters of Rodgers did post a written statement from Bill (who, it seems, was also known as “Avalon,”) allegedly from his last evening on this earth:

“To my friends and supporters to help them make sense of all these events that have happened so quickly:

“Certain human cultures have been waging war against the Earth for millennia. I chose to fight on the side of bears, mountain lions, skunks, bats, saguaros, cliff rose and all things wild. I am just the most recent casualty in that war. But tonight I have made a jail break—I am returning home, to the Earth, to the place of my origins.

“Bill, 12/21/05 (the winter solstice)”

Even this statement links the reality of Rodger’s confinement, and his “suicide.” We understand that Rodgers was a strong-willed, strong-hearted man, and we believe that he was capable of making choices up to the very end. We also understand, regardless of the precise facts surrounding December 21<sup>st</sup>, that, as with all who die while incarcerated, the state was the real murderer.



During the almost two months since the first public manifestation of the FBI’s “Operation Backfire,” charges have changed and arrests have grown. At first, those arrested were indicted separately, and some of the people arrested faced numerous trials. Now, federal charges against eleven people, some not having been arrested, are consolidated into a single, 65-count indictment (superceding previous indictments). The 83-page document features many claims that had previously been leaked to the media before any charges had been filed. For example, Chelsea Gerlach, three other defendants, and Bill Rodgers, are all named in the indictment for their alleged involvement with the 1998 arson against a ski lodge development in Vail, Colorado, which caused approximately \$12 million in property to be destroyed. The state tactic of “trial by media,” in which

blame is placed on defendants well in advance of charges being filed, is just another aspect of a wider government conspiracy against the defendants and environmental activists in general. After creating a fictional network (now referred to in the indictment as “The Family”), and claiming all those indicted as “members,” the State is able to blame these individuals for any and all actions taken to attack environmental destruction.

The January 19<sup>th</sup> indictment contains charges against certain defendants that could lead to sentences in excess of “life,” if convicted on all counts. Trial is currently scheduled to begin October 31, 2006.

In what now appears as part of the run-up for the January 19<sup>th</sup> indictment, ecological activist Jonathan Paul was arrested on January 17<sup>th</sup>, while Suzanne Savoie was also named as being sought by the authorities. She turned herself in the following day. Both Paul and Savoie had in December been subpoenaed as targets by a Grand Jury in Eugene, Oregon. Both are now named in connection with a multiplicity of charges in the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> indictment. These individuals deserve full support, in whatever manner is requested and appropriate.

On Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, Daniel McGowan was granted bail of \$1.6 million. The following day, during detention hearings, bail was also set for defendants Jonathan Paul and Suzanne Savoie. On or around the time these hearings took place, the positive news of these three defendants actually receiving conditional pretrial release, was somewhat tempered by more disturbing news. We quote directly from the *Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network* (ELP) information bulletin of 1/28/06:

“Kevin Tubbs—On the 25th of January 2006, at the bail hearing of Daniel McGowan, Officer Harvey of the EPD, stated, under oath, that Kevin Tubbs had cooperated with them in their investigation against Daniel McGowan. ELP does not know the extent of the cooperation Tubbs has given the police (Officer Harvey did not disclose that) but as a precaution, pending further investigation, we are removing Kevin Tubbs from our prisoner list.

“Sarah Harvey—On the 24th of January 2005, at the bail hearing of Sarah Harvey, the Prosecutor (Engdal) stated that Harvey should be released on bail because “She has accepted responsibility for her actions, and is cooperating.” Again ELP does not know the full extent of this cooperation and we are investigating the matter further. Earlier this month Harvey distanced herself from the radical environmental movement and asked to be removed from ELP’s prisoner list.

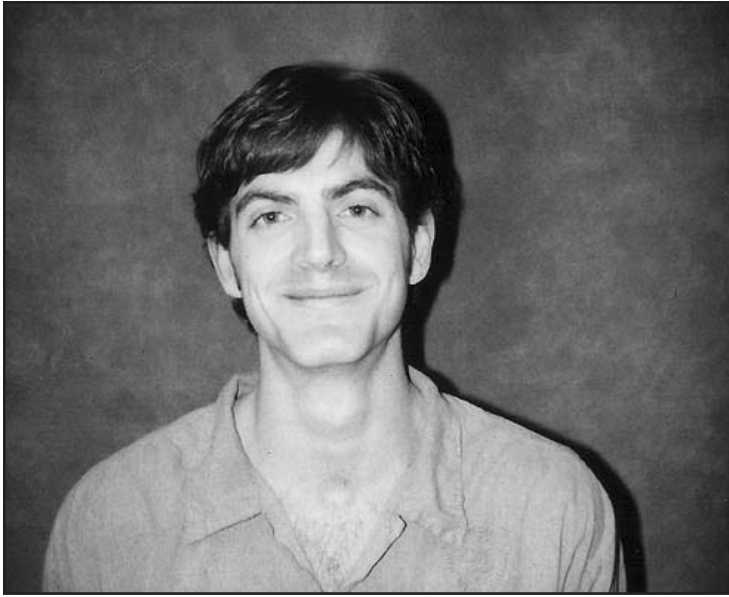
“Jen Kolar—Kolar is a woman who has never been charged with any offence in relation to the on-going investigation against the eleven people accused of illegal activity in the State of Oregon, however it has been widely believed for a while that Kolar has been cooperating with the police in their investigation. This suspicion was confirmed when the well known *Earth First!* lawyer, Stu Sugarman, stated, in court, that Jonathan Paul’s arrest was based on the testimony of Jen Kolar.”

It is unsurprising that the state continues to further its prosecution with the creation of more informants and lying snitches (which is not to say that we have more information than the ELP about the extent of the most recent snitchery). Beyond the sniveling behavior of others, and media scare stories about a fictional “eco-terror network,” the state has nothing, after all. Unfortunately, without our strong efforts, the myth of “The Family” may prove powerful. In Italy from 1997 onwards, the government there used a similar pretext—a chase after the non-existent “Revolutionary Anarchist Insurrectionalist Organization”—to lock up anarchist comrades. The Italian state now regularly charges radicals with “subversive association for the purpose of terrorism,” and blatantly attempts to wipe out the will to revolt altogether. While the US government currently proceeds somewhat differently than the Italian state of 2006, this does not mean that we ought to hold any illusions about the “Land of the Free,” or the direction it is heading in. Rather, from Lecce, Italy to Eugene, Oregon, we must put effort into immediate and thought-out responses to repression, and most importantly, to turn from the defensive to the attack.

Protest and appeals to those in power may succeed in freeing or reducing the sentence of a few prisoners, but the destruction of prisons can only come through direct action and collective struggle against the ruling social order. Around the world there have already been acts of solidarity with the imprisoned anarchists of Italy, from the wrecking of genetically engineered trees to street demonstrations and actions at Italian embassies throughout Europe. Solidarity must also be diverse and global for the recent arrestees in the US, in memory of Bill Rodgers and also for all those locked in prisons and detention camps. Our acts of solidarity do not need to take a “militant” form, but they do need to occur. Let there be no illusions: the state has declared war on any who would oppose this society’s forced march to extinction. We must fight for those arrested, but the fight is also for our own lives.



# Dispatches from Jeff “Free” Luers



*December 22, 2005:*

This last week I've been talking to a lot of people about the recent arrests. I know what it is like to be where these people are now. I understand very well the anxiety of not knowing what is happening. The fear and the stress. Trying to be strong and level-headed not just for yourself but for your loved ones.

In my conversations with people I can tell they are afraid. Not just for those arrested, but for themselves. Scared to talk, scared to act, and scared to support.

These people need your help. You might not know them. They might not be part of any activist community. But they represent the heart of this movement and this struggle. Because they are the ones accused of actions that have become legendary and made into songs. They are the ones bearing the brunt of this struggle's resistance. They are the scapegoats for the Department of Justice. They are suffering for every act of defiance this movement has carried out under whatever banner.

We owe it to these people to support them. We owe it to them to not be controlled by fear.

YOU have to help them! If you ever considered yourself part of this struggle, a part of this movement, if you were ever just thankful somebody was brave enough to make a stand - YOU have to help them!

Have a meeting with your local activists, form a collective, or act on your own. Find out what you can contribute: A website, a Paypal account, legal help, fundraising, networking, letters, visits - any kind of support. Make it happen.

Hell people we are pros at this by now. We've had

our practice runs. This one is for real. This one makes or breaks us as a movement. It defines who we are as people.

Decades from now this will be a story of how the people came together. Or it will be a tale about how the back of a struggle was finally broken.

I know the story I plan on writing. Who will help co-author it? Who will help make history? (As of this writing, Stanislas “Jack” Meyerhoff, one of those arrested, has agreed to testify against the others charged. Jacob Ferguson has been identified as another informant and is still free and uncharged. These men are cowards and scum of the lowest order. They should be treated accordingly.)

---

*December 25, 2005:*

Earlier this week it was reported that William Rodgers, accused of Earth & Animal Liberation Front arsons, committed suicide in his jail cell.

I know very little other than that. However, I find the circumstances suspicious and strongly encourage people to push for an investigation.

The news is incredibly sad. If William did in fact take his own life it is the first time an earth/animal liberation prisoner has done so. It is a devastating precedent.

I cannot begin to guess why. I can relate to the desperation and readily admit thoughts of taking my own life entered my head as I awaited trial. I think it is likely a common experience when people are facing a lot of time.

The fact that he followed through on the thought breaks my heart. And my sympathy goes out to his family & friends.

I am left wondering if there is something we could have done to stop him. Was this an entirely personal decision based on the prospect of doing a lot of time? Or was this an act of desperation from someone who felt completely alone?

There are four people left who desperately need your support. Daniel McGowan, Sarah Harvey, Kevin Tubbs, and Chelsea Gerlach [Please see lead article for this newsletter - editors]. Write to them. Support them. Let them know they are not alone. Let them know there are people who will stand by them until they are released. Be there for them.

**Jeffrey Luers** #13797671 / Oregon State Prison / 2605 State Street / Salem, Oregon 97310

For more information: [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org)

# Other Repression and Resistance News

## Grand Juries in the Bay Area and Pacific Northwest

At the time of writing, activists in the Pacific Northwest and the Bay Area, involved with a range of environmental, animal and human causes, face subpoenas to Federal Grand Juries.

Grand Juries are secret government investigative bodies that strip witnesses of their basic constitutional rights. Once you have been subpoenaed to a Grand Jury, you lose the right to remain silent, the right to hear evidence presented against you, and even the right to an attorney in the Grand Jury room. A Grand Jury can jail you without convicting you of a crime or giving you a proper trial!

All those who are facing the Grand Juries but remain unintimidated deserve our utmost support. For more information, please see [www.fbiwitchhunt.com](http://www.fbiwitchhunt.com) and [www.grandjurydefense.org](http://www.grandjurydefense.org)

For Pacific Northwest Grand Jury support, checks can be made out to *Northwest Grand Jury Defense Network* and mailed to: *Northwest Grand Jury Defense Network / 1037 NE 65th St. #108 / Seattle, WA 98115*

## Arrests in Auburn, California

Eric McDavid, Zachary Jensen and Lauren Weiner were arrested on Friday, January 13, 2006 in Auburn, California and accused of planning Earth Liberation Front actions against cellphone towers, power plants and US Forest Service facilities. All three have requested prisoner support.

According to the FBI affidavit, law enforcement used an imbedded informant to allegedly record conversations with the three. The State is also using postings on the defendants personal "Myspace" and "Livejournal" web pages as evidence. Since the arrests, the media has reported that the imbedded informant was paid \$75,000 plus expenses to take part in the investigation and that the FBI paid for both a house where the plans for the attacks were allegedly made and for "bomb making materials." A more complete look at this case will appear in the next issue of this publication.

On January 26, Lauren Weiner was granted bail. As of right now it is also not clear if the US Attorney will appeal the decision. It is also unclear when she will be released, and what the conditions of her release will be.

For information about supporting Eric, Zachary, and Lauren, please contact [sacprisonersupport@riseup.net](mailto:sacprisonersupport@riseup.net)





## SHAC 7 Trial Resumes

The SHAC (Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty) 7 trial resumes this February following several months of hiatus after the first hearings were declared a mistrial.

The SHAC 7 are animal liberation activists indicted under the Federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act that was passed after heavy lobbying by the pharmaceutical industry. The law targets anyone who "physically disrupts" an animal enterprise.

The charges stem from these activists' alleged participation in an international campaign to close the notorious product-testing lab Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Specifically, they are alleged to have operated a website that reported on and expressed support for protest activity and direct action against Huntingdon and its business affiliates. For this they are charged with "terrorism" and face an aggregate of 23 years in Federal Prison. The trial is expected to last at least three months.

To support the SHAC 7, visit [www.shac7.com](http://www.shac7.com) or send donations to: SHAC 7 c/o NJARA / PO Box 174 / Englishtown, NJ 07726.

## Arizona *Earth First!* Activists Face Sentencing

In December, Chuk'shon *Earth First!* activists Rod Coronado and Matt Crozier were found guilty of charges stemming from a mountain lion "hunt sab." The specific charges were: Felony Conspiracy to interfere with or injure a government official (max 7 years), Misdemeanor theft or destruction of government property (max 6 months), misdemeanor interference with or injury to a forest officer (max 6 months).

While they are fighting these charges, the defendants have never denied involvement in trying to save Sabino Canyon mountain lions from hunters. Both Rod and Matt remain free until their March 8, 2006 sentencing and thank everyone who has supported them so far.

Chuk'shon EF! wants to remind everyone that Sabino the mountain lion remains caged for life and was not given the "courtesy" of a trial. They encourage all to join them in defending Arizona's wildlife with effective direct action. For more information, see [www.azef.org](http://www.azef.org)



### Spanish ALF Action in Memory of Bill Rodgers

*"Our celebration of the New Year was something different from the normal thing. A few hours after the year began, we were in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Independent University of Madrid, about 400 meters from Moncloa, where Spanish politicians were enjoying a celebration in the palace. But we had better things to do. In the animal facility, we found 28 beagles in cages, destined to be killed by university vivisectioners.*

*"We broke the padlock, opened the door and one by one we rescued them all. Four minutes after having broken the padlock, we were already on our way. [...]"*

*"This action we want to dedicate to William C. Rogers, "Avalon." A companion who recently "appeared" dead in his cell with a bag over his head."*

### France: Action Dedicated to Rodgers

On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the French ALF attacked with an incendiary device an autobus of young bullfighters in Arles (South of the France where the "full fight" is practiced). This action has been dedicated to Bill Rodgers.

## **SUPPORT THE PRISONERS!**

We highly recommend the **Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network** as a resource. For current prisoner addresses, support campaign contact information, trial updates and much more, please visit: [WWW.SPIRITOFFREEDOM.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SPIRITOFFREEDOM.ORG.UK) & [WWW.ECOPRISONERS.ORG](http://WWW.ECOPRISONERS.ORG) (North America).

### **Belgium: Solidarity Against All Borders!**

On January 19th, 2006, trial began for anarchists arrested this past May in Lecce, Italy. In Belgium, solidarity leaflets and posters were distributed and put up in Kortrijk (Courtrai), Ghent, Geel, Saint-Nicolas, Antwerp, Louvain-la-Neuve, Leuven (Louvain), Bruges, and Hasselt. In Antwerp, one person was detained for 10 hours for distributing the leaflets. In Lecce, the trial will resume March 2nd, 2006.

*Text of the leaflet distributed in Belgium:*

On the 12th of May 2005, five anarchists were arrested in Italy during "Operation Nottetempo." Today, the 19th of January 2006, their trial starts. They fought un-interrupted against the asylum camp of Lecce, against the deportations of people without papers, against raids... They chose to attack those responsible for the asylum camps and the deportations directly—their property, the banks that arranged the financial aspect of the camp, collaborators... In their rebellions, they didn't hesitate to support the immigrants locked-up in the asylum camp of Lecce.

Two comrades are still held in prison, the other three are under house arrest. Of course our comrades were labeled as "terrorists," but we all know that those who lock up, beat up and deport others are the ones who sow the terror. This pamphlet wants foremost to explain the struggle they fought and will fight against the asylum policy in Europe. They didn't let their struggle be blinded by empty words like "human rights" and "charity," used by politicians and official refugee organizations. Rather, they held everybody who is involved in the asylum policy responsible for their incarceration, ill treatment and deportation of people without papers. They didn't hesitate to unmask and denounce the involvement of the Red Cross, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), politicians and charity organizations in the management of asylum camps

Every day people are drowning, choking, freezing or disappearing during their attempts to reach or survive within Fortress Europe. Every day people are deported to defend the "advanced" states. But everywhere the struggle against the asylum policies is igniting. In numerous asylum camps all over Europe, hunger strikes, insurrections and revolts follow one after another. Deportations are facing more and more militant, determined and efficient resistance. The masks of collaborators are falling to the

ground. We are not alone! Everywhere there are brothers and sisters struggling against the borders and barbed wire of Fortress Europe. Here also: the occupation of the St-Boniface church in Brussels by people without papers, the actions against deportations and raids in Brussels and Antwerp, the growing self-organization of people without papers (e.g. UDEP—Union for the Defense of People without Papers)

Our solidarity with the arrested comrades in Italy consists of understanding their struggle, as well as continuing and spreading it locally, and wherever else it is possible to do so.

### *SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARRESTED ANARCHISTS IN ITALY*

As anarchists, we see the struggle against the asylum policy, the asylum camps and the deportations starting in the streets. More than ever before it is possible to build solidarity in the streets. In complicity with resistance against police raids, with the struggle against the constant controls which militarize our neighborhoods, in the restless rejection of every nationalist and racist separation that the rulers of this society try to force upon us (belgians vs. foreigners, legal vs. illegal immigrants, etc.)

As long as our sisters and brothers are being locked up in asylum camps and murdered as boat refugees in the seas surrounding Fortress Europe, as long as they are being deported because they don't have legal papers, as long as states and borders exist—for just as long we will continue to fight and struggle for a world without barbed wire, without customs, without police and without rulers. We ask you, readers of this pamphlet, for complicity in this struggle for a free world. Long enough have politicians recuperated (like the foolery about the controls on the metro in Antwerp or the boat refugees that arrived in Antwerp) our struggle by on the one hand protesting against "undemocratic situations" or "humanitarian tragedies," and on the other hand approving in parliament the construction of new asylum camps. Long enough has the charity of those who have everything to lose destroyed our dignity and militancy. Our struggle without compromise for freedom is taking place—not only here, but also in the whole of Europe and the whole world.

*NO BORDERS, NO NATIONS; STOP DEPORTATIONS!  
LOVE AND STRENGTH FOR ALL PERSECUTED  
PEOPLE, FUGITIVES AND REBELS!*



A few words about this newsletter:

DA in Kentucky and DN in Oregon edit *The Warrior Wind*. The views expressed in this newsletter are, unless explicitly stated otherwise, those of the editors alone, and do not necessarily reflect the perspectives of any broader group, support campaign or tendency. Some material printed in this newsletter is taken directly from Internet and other public sources; direct collaboration between the editors and certain authors featured in this newsletter therefore should not be assumed.

We do hope nevertheless to integrate other perspectives than our own, and we encourage others to contribute to this newsletter. For better or for worse, this newsletter has no fixed, regular publication schedule—we'll do what we can, when we can. Furthermore, we will not necessarily print all material received. We do, however, appreciate both any writing and feedback you care to offer. Please do not assume the "security" of any information passed along to us—this matter is your personal responsibility, not that of the editors.

Mail may be sent to:  
*The Warrior Wind*  
c/o Liberation Projects  
838 E. High St., #115  
Lexington, KY 40502

While submissions should be sent to the address above, the co-publisher may be contacted at:  
DN c/o Tarantula Distribution  
818 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. PMB #1237  
Portland, OR 97204

Obviously, this newsletter is intended for educational and entertainment purposes, corresponding with the strictest legality, only. Just say "no" to anyone who would tell you otherwise.

Our first issue is dedicated to the memory of Bill Rodgers.



## THE WARRIOR WIND

Once more the wind leaps from the sullen land  
With his old battle-cry.

A tree bends darkly where the wall looms high;  
Its tortured branches, like a grisly hand,  
Clutch at the sky.

Grey towers rise from gloom and underneath--  
Black-barred and strong--

The snarling windows guard their ancient wrong;  
But the mad wind shakes them, hissing through his teeth  
A battle song.

O bitter is the challenge that he flings  
At bars and bolts and keys.

Torn with the cries of vanished centuries  
And curses hurled at long-forgotten kings  
Beyond dim seas.

The wind alone, of all the gods of old,  
Men could not chain.

O wild wind, brother to my wrath and pain,  
Like you, within a restless heart I hold  
A hurricane.

The wind has known the dungeons of the past  
Knows all that are;  
And in due time will strew their dust afar,  
And singing, he will shout their doom at last  
To a laughing star.

O cleansing warrior wind, stronger than death,  
Wiser than men may know;

O smite these stubborn walls and lay them low,  
Uproot and rend them with your mighty breath--  
Blow, wild wind, blow!

- from Ralph Chaplin, Bars and Shadows (1922)