

## to name but a few examples:

**Bayer is responsible for the insidious poisoning** of soils and sources of water; it is responsible for the eradication of useful plant and animal varieties, an increase of pesticide-resistant pests and the massive damage of ecological balance through agrochemicals. Pesticides are known to be a main cause of the loss of plant and animal varieties. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has termed this “an environmental tragedy”. Bayer is the second largest producer of pesticides and is a world leader in the production of highly poisonous insecticides. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), several million people currently suffer from the effects of pesticide poisoning every year. Of these, up to 200,000 result in deaths.

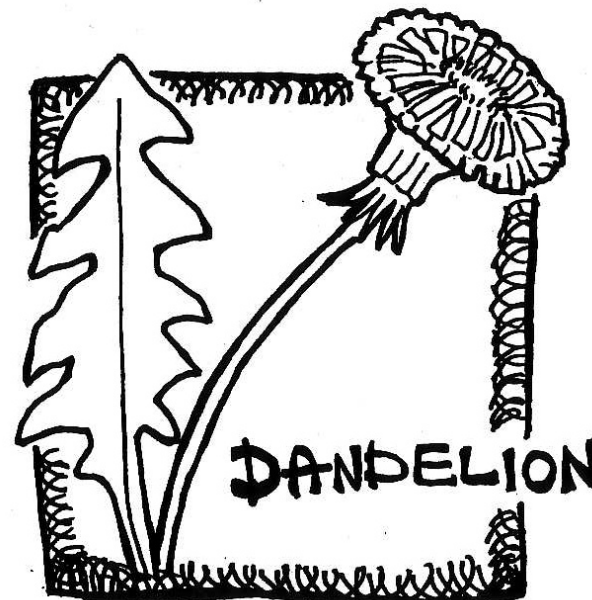
One of the most recent cases concerning dangerous chemicals took place in the US Bayer factory in Institute, West Virginia. On December 28, 2007, several vats containing Thiodicarb, a pesticide, exploded. Dozens of citizens had to be treated for headaches and breathing problems, including at least one person who had to be hospitalized. Thiodicarb is one amongst the most dangerous agricultural chemicals that exist. It has been banned in Europe and during the past year there were 154 organizations in 35 countries which demanded from the Bayer Corporation to stop the sale of pesticides catalogued as being among the most dangerous, including Thiodicarb. The same factory in West Virginia contained extremely poisonous substances, including Phosgen, MIC and Phosgenas, the latter of which was used as a weapon during the First World War.

Nature, consumers and users are also threatened by the Bayer-made herbicide, Glufosinat. According to a report by Swedish authorities which was based on research by the European Food Safety Authority, Sweden asked that Glufosinat be banned. Almost all genetically-modified plants made by Bayer are resistant against Glufosinat. The Genetic manipulation of plants is not aimed at fighting hunger, as is often claimed by Bayer. It is aimed at securing a market for herbicides. For ecological reasons, continuing the sale of Glufosinat can no longer be justified.

represents one of the greatest losses to the medical and scientific world in Western history. Contemporary pharmaceutical and bio-prospectors are now trying to recover and exploit some of this knowledge—often in underdeveloped countries where the people cannot easily defend themselves against bio-piracy of big corporations. Ironically, the patents often filed by pharmaceutical companies on plants and drugs “discovered” on bio-prospecting forays, actually function to suppress common knowledge again, and make illegal the free sharing and use of indigenous practices and remedies.

From the **Subrosa Collective's** book *Yes Species*, Chapter 6, *Useless Gender*

*Ok, now for something useful! Here's some info on DIY health and herbal healing! There's a ton of info on this topic of course, but maybe this little teeny bit will ignite your curiosity!*



This amazing drawing and the info on the next page from the zine "A Primer for Herbal Healing - A Coloring Book" available at the City Heights Free Skool