

## Biography and Resume:

Having been raised homeschooled and in the Unitarian Universalist Church, as well as in the progressive oasis of Bloomington, Indiana, my passion for justice was supported from a very young age. When I began attending Harmony School, an alternative school in Bloomington, in seventh grade, these passions were given room to grow to be a part of my formal education.

Once in school I found the community of Bloomington more accessible and began attending different community group meetings. I also began organizing protests against corporate take over of a town I cared so deeply about. Since then I have not ceased to become increasingly more involved in social, economic, and environmental justice issues and causes in my community and the greater world society.

From organizing around the World Bank Bonds Boycott and Mobilizations against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington DC, to speaking my mind at State and National forest open houses in Indiana, to running as a street medic at protests, to leading non-violence trainings, my involvement manifests on many levels.

In my Jr. and Sr. years of highschool I began attending environmental conferences and trainings to better equip myself for the organizing world. This led to my participation in the Paper Campaign, a market based campaign that is applying pressure to corporations in the office supply industry, in order for them to adopt policies that recognize and protect endangered forests.

After visiting and volunteering in Cuba and Nicaragua in March and April of 2002, for my Harmony School Senior Graduation Project, my beliefs about American/Western Consumption and the consequences thereof were backed by real life witness of the injustices done by the free trade system. From talking to working class campesinos (farmers) to riding thru the "free trade zone" in Managua, Nicaragua on a bus, and witnessing the reality of the barbed wire caged Japanese garment factory (proclaimed with black letters across the front of the building), and flanked with armed guards, nothing could have prepared me for the absolute stark reality of this world situation. At the same time, it took this first hand witness for me, an average North American teenager, to be able to realize just how directly my consumption patterns affect my brothers and sisters in the working class from around the globe. This was a turning point in my life and enabled me to commit myself fully to the causes that I cared about and take my activism to a whole new level.

Since then I have worked on a variety of different causes and efforts, knowing that my single voice really isn't as quiet as I once believed. Much of the work I've done since then has focused around attracting major media attention to the injustices done by particular corporations. My work on the Paper Campaign, mentioned above, was part of the successful effort to curb the consumption of endangered forests from around the world. With 600 protests, 31 banner drops, 75 children's drawings, a few celebrity endorsements, and tens of thousands of letters, the Paper Campaign was successful in forcing Staples, Inc. to adopt a policy that promises an end to their sale of endangered forests and raises their average recycled content of their paper products from under 5% to 30%. We were able to effect the policies of the largest office supply corporation in the world by taking a stand, making our message creative and exiting, and attracting world

media attention in doing it. I have realized that north americans (and most residents of western countries) are born privilaged. We have access to major media, and we have the economic power to back up our messages. Yet more people in this country blindly consume than almost anywhere else on earth. However, responcible consumption startes with the individual, and it is the responcibility of every one of us to use our dollar as our vote, for that is truly where our power lies.

Since I began participating in this campaign I have been formally trained at the Paper Campaign Student Summit, in Washington DC, and have since become the National Coordinator of the Paper Campaign for Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC).

Currently, most of my time is taken by my organizing and public education in hopes that I may be a force for change in this world. One can do nothing but change at all times, so I am dedicated to using my time on this planet earth to effect possitive change for the environment, global community, and the Earth as a whole.

Now in my second year out of highscool I am dedicating myself to the organizing and creation of the Young Activists Funding Network (YAFNet). In the summer of 2003, I received a grant from the Rosenberg Fund for Children, to become a more effective organizer. I have used this money to purchase a computer system (that I am currently writing this from) have office space in the Bloomington Environmental Center to work out of. This situation is ideal for me because I'm not only working for justice and causes that I wholeheartedly believe in but I am securing experience that will be essential in entering the job market of organizing for my future. Aside from my own future, I work endlessly educating my peers on responcible consumption and grass roots involvement, two tools that I believe are completely essential in the fight for global preservation and societal sustainability.

Causes:

The Paper Campaign - [www.thepapercampaign.com](http://www.thepapercampaign.com), [www.stopofficedepot.net](http://www.stopofficedepot.net)

The Paper Campaign is a corporate campaign focused on revolutionizing the paper industry thru continuing grass-roots pressure on corporations. This campaign started with office supply corporations, orionally targeting Staples, Inc.

After a successful campaign, and an amazing, precedent setting victory with the Stop Staples campaign the Paper Campaign is moving on to Office Depot, and branching out into a Catalogs Campaign as well, targeting major catalog producers and the retail stores that employ them.

Over the past year Robin has been a regional coordinator for the Paper Campaign, and has recently been appointed to National Coordinator of the Paper Campaign for Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC). Robin has also been working closely with the Dogwood Alliance and Forest Ethics, the two groups that are coordinating the campaign on a continental level. He has been organizing in Bloomington, and has inspired a newspaper article and front page region section picture with demonstrations he organized. He has also contributed by producing campaign materials and helping other student aged people get organized in this powerful campaign.

I-69 – [www.commonsei69.org](http://www.commonsei69.org), [www.i69tour.org](http://www.i69tour.org),

One of final steps in creating the YAFNet was inspired by a desire to equip youth in the Bloomington community to enable themselves to organizing more intensely to prevent the new terrain extension of Interstate 69.

The I-69 highway is mandated to pass thru southern Indiana, to complete a direct route from Canada to Mexico, by the North American Free Trade Agreement. There are a number of different routes in consideration. Last January, the outgoing, and now late, Gov. Obannon, chose the worst route possible for the highway. The route chosen will plow through Bloomington, the Hoosier National Forest, and will displace hundreds of farming families and communities (including an Amish community). 94% of the public comments for the entire project were comments against this route. Regardless of all of the mentioned factors, the Indiana economy can not feasibly undertake a project of this proportion, and completing it will drain precious resources from all other social programs.

Robin continually educates his peers and community on the importance of their participation in the resistance of this project and hopes to dedicate more time in the future to working for a sustainable solution, and an alternative route for the highway.

#### Fair Trade Economics -

In all of his travels, abroad and domestically, Robin has noticed that in the US, the country in which most of the unhealthy consumption habits of the world originate, most people have no clue as to how global economics work. Because of his knowledge, Robin is often a resource for those wishing to learn about global economics, and believes in educating his peers about the interworkings of organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (IMF/WB), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the effects they have on national sovereignty, human rights, and environmental preservation. It is important that those of us who have the most opportunity to effect the actions of these organizations, those of us living in so called “western” societies, use this privilege, understand how our system works, and work for justice, within and without.

#### Youth Empowerment -

As a outspoken activist from an early age, Robin believes strongly in providing young people with every opportunity to be effective, get involved, and be heard as equal and important human being. One form of oppression least recognized by mainstream society is agism, youth and children's rights. Fostered by models from Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), Robin continually works to educate his community on what they can do to support and empower young people to shine their brightest.

## Group Involvement:

### Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA)

- Robin has been volunteering with IFA for over two years. He coordinates the IFA involvement in the Paper Campaign, and has done everything from data entry, to benefit concert organizing, to Public Service Announcement writing for IFA. Organizing to educate about and stop the practice of commercial logging on state forests and public lands has been a passion of Robin's for a long time and continues to be.

### Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)

- Despite his lack of enrollment in any University or College, Robin has been active in the Indiana University chapter of SEAC for over two years. In the past year Robin has become involved with SEAC on the National level and currently holds the position of National Coordinator of the Paper Campaign for SEAC.

### UUIgnite

- UUIgnite is a coalition of Unitarian Universalist Youth and Young Adults who plan convergences at churches during large scale protests. UUIgnite opens up church doors and space to house activists from all over the world, and in this way provide a safe space, provisions, and a place for worship and sanctuary during these sometimes very hectic demonstrations. Robin was one of the founders of this group and actively organizes and coordinates convergences and activities.

### Bloomington Circus Collective (BCC)

- The BCC is a collective of jugglers, acrobats, dancers, actors and actresses, and other miscelaneously talented people, detirmined to shead light on important issues and causes by creating an atmosphere of exitiment and ammusment. By educating in this way we reach those who may not respond very well to a typical atmosphere of protest or public dessent. Robin is one of the founders of the BCC.

### Bloomington Peace Action Coalition (BPAC)

- BPAC stands to educate about the atrocities of war and to promote peaceful and nonviolent sollutions to all conflicts. Robin actively supports and participates in BPAC events, and was part of the brainstorm that brought this group into existance shortly before the Afghanistan War.

## Conferences, Trainings, and Events:

Robin has been attending conferences, trainings, and events to support his future career in activism since the beginning of his high school career. Some of these include:

-Young Religious Unitarian Universalist Anti-Racism Training (at Youth Council 2000, in Virginia)

- School of the Americas (SOA) Protest, Ft. Benning, GA, November 2000
- Bush Inauguration Protest, Washington DC, January 2001
- National Peace Rally and March, Washington DC, September 2001
- Street Medic Training, Bloomington Indiana, October 2001
- School of the Americas (SOA) Protest, Ft. Benning, GA, November 2001
- National Peace Rally and March, Washington DC, April 2002
- Street Medic Training, Bloomington Indiana, April 2002
- World Bank Boycott International Strategy Meeting, Washington DC, September 2002.
- Mobilization against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, Washington DC, September 2002
- Green Planet Damnit!, an Environmental Conference and Training, Grinnell College, Grinnell Iowa, October 2002
- Paper Campaign Student Summit, Advanced Student Organizer Training, Washington DC, October 2002
- National Peace March and Rally, Washington DC, October 2002
- Hoedown in the Heartland, an Environmental Conference and Training, Grinnell College, Grinnell Iowa, April 2003
- Grassroots Educational Training (GET UP!) Conference, Environmental Conference and Training, Bloomington Indiana, April 2003
- Eastern Forest Defence Camp, an Environmental Training, Athens Ohio, June 2003
- Bioneers Conference, an Environmental Conference, San Rafael California, October 2003