

# The Order of the Earth: News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

We are painting a  
different picture  
of the world.

Volume 8, Number 2, Issue 71: February 2008

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## Something Marvelous Is Going On Here!

by Rutherford Platt

A Pocket Guide to Trees 1952

Take any tree. Hang a sign on it announcing "Something marvelous is going on here!" Everybody who has the least sense of wonder will stop to find out what is going on.

Such a sign does not hang on every tree — addressed to all the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

Sometimes it is spectacular, and appears and disappears like a big electric sign in Times Square: the fall flaming of maple; the white foam of dogwood in the spring; cottonwood "snow" covering the ground; the roar of trees in a storm.

Sometimes the sign that "something marvelous is going on" has peculiar delight: the fragrance of balsam; the taste and crackle of a cold apple; the swirling patterns and rich colors in the wood of fine furniture.

Again, trees have an eye-catching feature that lures people from afar: the bigness of sequoia; the knees of bald cypress; the bizarreness of Joshua tree.

Such signs absorb all of one's wonder.

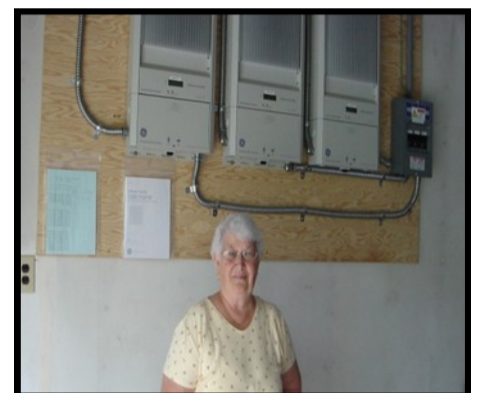
On the other hand, every tree has little intimate signs that point the way to discoveries of the spirit, of art, of mechanics, of astonishment at natural miracles, and of reassurance about life itself in a violent world.

When you consider the radical lines drawn by leaf edges, the various ways that bud scales are fitted together, the taste and touch of twigs, the processes of bark, you realize how each fragment of a tree has its own perfection. Somehow all these wondrous parts are put together to create the curious living mechanism we call a tree.

It appears from a tiny capsule more or less the size of a drop of water. It grows with mathematical rhythm, putting out myriads of contact points with the gases of the atmosphere and minerals of the Earth. It erects antennae to catch the power (Continued on page 10)



Loretta Thomas of Jackson, New Jersey (right), stands in front of the controls for the photovoltaic solar system she and her husband Roger had installed last summer on their home, shown at left. Photos by Iona



## The Ocean is Rising: What Are People Doing?

by Iona

I spent many wonderful years living at the Jersey Shore. Last Father's Day I was visiting my family and had some free time so I decided to go for a swim in my beloved ocean. Every cell of my body reacted to the fact that there was much less beach there than when I had my last swim five or ten years ago. For four years now I have been working exclusively on global warming, but my whole body FELT its effects that day. The tragic realization of our future was evident there and then. I didn't need to read the IPCC report or be on Al Gore's team to know this.

On my way home, through the back roads of Jackson, New Jersey, I pulled over abruptly when I saw a sign advertising a solar energy project. The photovoltaic panels on the roof were beautiful. Loretta Thomas and her husband, Roger, are taking the issue of climate change seriously. The Thomas's were inspired by their son, David

Thomas, who put up solar panels on his home to make clean energy to provide heat and run his lights and appliances.

Since the panels were installed this summer, the Thomas's electric bills ranged from \$1.69 to \$32.42 for everything—lights, heat, electric stove, two refrigerators, air conditioning, a dryer, hot water heater and all small appliances. Next summer, when the panels produce more electricity than is actually used by the couple, they will get money back from their power company because they will be making extra electricity which Pepco will buy.

The cost of the photovoltaic solar panels was \$81,000 and the Thomas's took out a home equity loan. They will get nearly half of that money back from the state of New Jersey after an inspector comes to the house to verify that the panels are working. (Continued on page 6)

## In Greenland, Ice and Instability

by Andrew C. Revkin, excerpt from *The New York Times* January 8, 2008

The ancient frozen dome cloaking Greenland is so vast that pilots have crashed into what they thought was a cloud bank spanning the horizon. Flying over it, you can scarcely imagine that this ice could erode fast enough to dangerously raise sea levels any time soon.

Along the flanks in spring and summer, however, the picture is very different. For a lengthening string of warm years, a lacework of blue lakes and rivulets of meltwater have been

spreading ever higher on the ice cap. The melting surface darkens, absorbing up to four times as much energy from the sun as unmelted snow, which reflects sunlight. Natural drainpipes called moulins carry water from the surface into the depths....The process slightly, but measurably, lubricates and accelerates the grinding passage of ice toward the sea....

All of these changes have many glaciologists "a little nervous these days—shell-shocked," said Ted Scam-

bos, the lead scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado....

"Things are definitely far more serious than anyone would have thought five years ago," said Dr. Eric Rignot, a longtime student of ice sheets at both poles for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

[Ed.: I suggest you read the whole article on the Web. The graphics are sensational. Also see page 3 for related information from the IPCC.]



## From the Editor



*Dear Reader,*

Well, I'll tell you something: This newspaper production is really quite a learning experience for me! Thanks to dozens of friends for suggestions and encouragement—and to new subscribers, who reinforce the need for this type of newspaper.

I wrote a powerful piece about turning off the lights on page 12 but in our December issue, there was a great scientific piece on Light Pollution, which I'd be happy to mail to you if you send \$1. If you'd like the electronic version, I can do that for free. Just let me know.

The Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers group enchanted me so you'll read about them on page 11. I was at the fundraiser Cole Hons put on and it was "awesome!" Most of us who work on "The Order of the Earth News" are grandmothers and grandfathers.

You'll find, within these pages, continuations of two long and strong pieces—the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change latest report and the Kilowatt Ours Curriculum. Once again, I can offer you free electronic back issues to bring you up to date but I charge \$3 for mailing out hard copies.

One of our non-profit Grassroots Coalition board members recommended Derrick Jensen's *Endgame* (see page 4) and, after reading it, I decided that I really don't want to read any other books. He has said it all.

Fortunately, Derrick gave us permission to quote him freely. Here's a good one: "If we wish to stop the atrocities, we need merely to step away from the isolation. There is a whole world waiting for us, ready to welcome us home."

*Fondly, Iona*

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**Our Mission:** To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate and creative.

**The Dream:** Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish again.

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# IPCC Report

## Part II: Causes of Change

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Changes in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and aerosols, land-cover and solar radiation alter the energy balance of the climate system.

**Global GHG emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004 (Figure SPM.3).**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most important anthropogenic GHG. Its annual emissions grew by about 80% between 1970 and 2004. The long-term trend of declining CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of energy supplied reversed after 2000.

**Global atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years.**

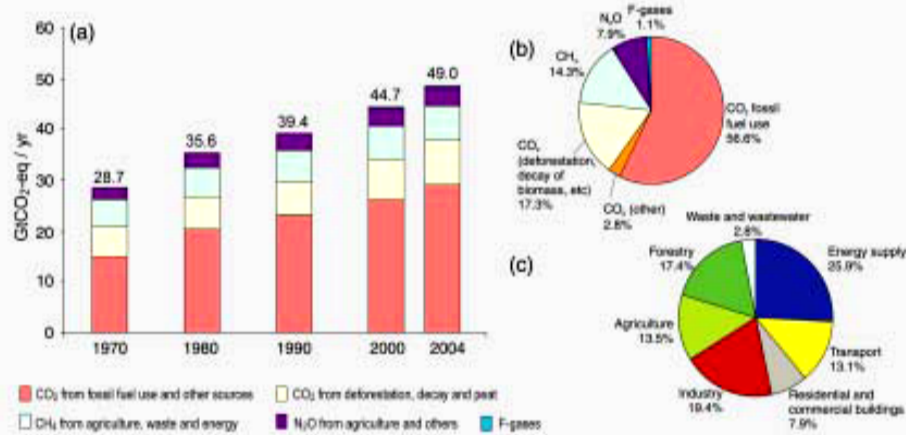
Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> (379ppm) and CH<sub>4</sub> (1774 ppb) in 2005 exceed by far the natural range over the last 650,000 years. Global increases in CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are due primarily to fossil fuel use, with land-use change providing another significant but smaller contribution. It is *very likely* that the observed increase in CH<sub>4</sub> concentration is predominantly due to agriculture and fossil fuel use. Methane growth rates have declined since the early 1990s, consistent with total emission (sum of anthropogenic and natural sources) being nearly constant during this period. The increase in N<sub>2</sub>O concentration is primarily due to agriculture.

There is *very high confidence* that the net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming.<sup>6</sup>

**Most of the observed increase in globally-averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations.<sup>7</sup> It is likely there has been significant anthropogenic warming over the past 50 years averaged over each continent (except Antarctica) (Figure SPM.4).**

During the past 50 years, the sum of solar and volcanic forcings would *likely* have produced cooling. Observed patterns of warming and their changes are simulated only by models that include

### Global Anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions



**Figure SPM.3** (a) Global annual emissions of anthropogenic GHGs from 1970-2004.<sup>5</sup> (b) Share of different anthropogenic GHGs in total emissions in 2004 in terms of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent. (c) Share of different sectors in total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2004 in terms of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent. Bar Graphs (L. to R.) = 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2004. Pink=CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuel use and other reasons; ivory=CO<sub>2</sub> from deforestation, decay and peat; light blue=methane from agriculture, waste and energy; purple=nitrous oxide from agriculture and others. Upper circle chart: Lower circle chart: Dark blue=energy supply, yellow=transport, gray=residential and commercial buildings, red=industry, light green=agriculture, dark green=forestry, white=waste and wastewater. Better graphics on [www.ipcc.org](http://www.ipcc.org).

anthropogenic forcings.

Difficulties remain in simulating and attributing observed temperature changes at smaller than continental scales.

**Advances since the Third Annual Report show that discernible human influences extend beyond average temperature to other aspects of climate.**

Human influences have:

- *very likely* contributed to sea level rise during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- *likely* contributed to changes in wind patterns, affecting extra-tropical storm tracks and temperature patterns;
- *likely* increased temperatures of extreme hot nights, cold nights and cold days; and
- *more likely than not* increased risk of heat waves, area affected by drought since the 1970s and frequency of heavy precipitation events.

**Figure SPM.4** (right) Comparison of observed continental- and global-scale changes in surface temperature with results simulated by climate models using either natural (blue) or both natural and anthropogenic forcings (pink). Decadal averages of observations are shown for the period 1906-2005 (black line) plotted against the center of the decade and relative to the corresponding average for the period 1901-1950. Dashes = spatial coverage is less than 50%.

**Anthropogenic warming over the last three decades has likely had a discernible influence at the global scale on observed changes in many physical and biological systems.**

Spatial agreement between regions of significant warming across the globe and locations of significant observed changes in many systems consistent with warming is *very unlikely* to be due solely to natural variability. Several modeling studies have linked some specific responses in physical and biological systems to anthropogenic warming.

More complete attribution of observed natural system responses to anthropogenic warming is currently prevented by the short time scales of many impact studies, greater natural climate variability at regional scales, contributions of non-climate factors and limited spatial coverage of studies.

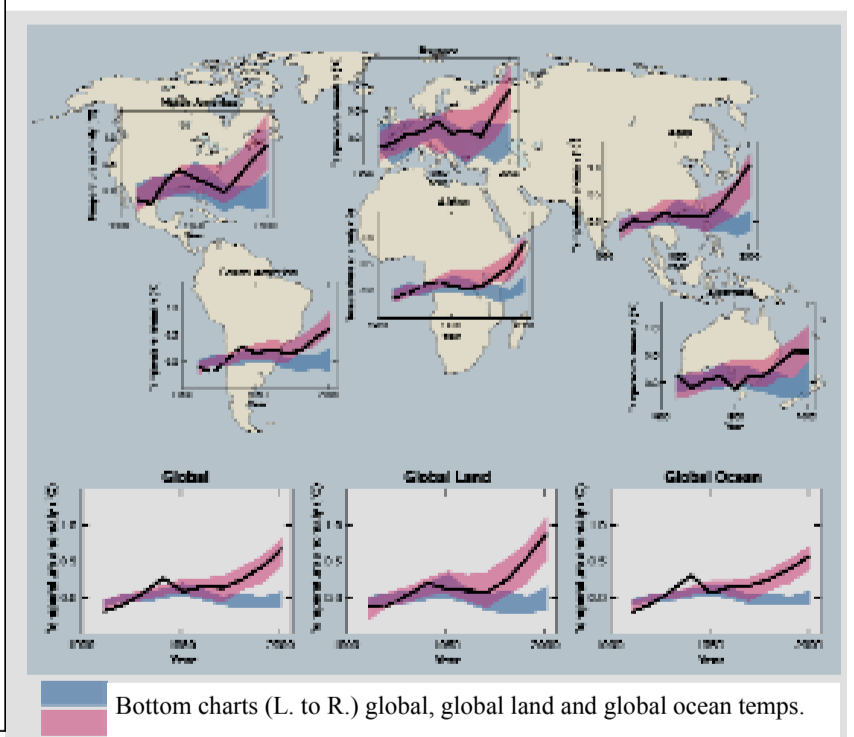
#### FOOTNOTES

**5** Includes only CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs and SF<sub>6</sub> whose emissions are covered by the UNFCCC. These GHGs are weighted by their 100-year Global Warming Potentials, using values consistent with reporting under the UNFCCC.

**6** Increases in GHGs tend to warm the surface while the net effect of increases in aerosols tends to cool it. The net effect due to human activities since the pre-industrial era is one of warming (+1.6 [+0.6 to +2.4]W/m<sup>2</sup>). In comparison, changes in solar irradiance are estimated to have caused a small warming effect (+0.12 [+0.06 to +0.30]W/m<sup>2</sup>).

**7** Consideration of remaining uncertainty is based on current methodologies.

### Global and Continental Temperature Change



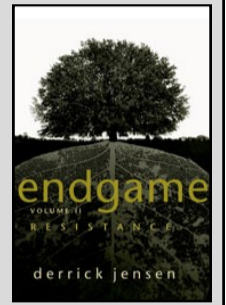
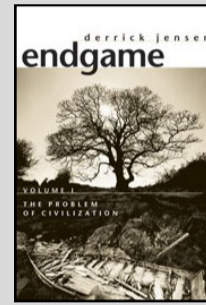


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## Endgame by Derrick Jensen



*Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book Endgame “the best work of nonfiction in 2006....Endgame is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes.”*



*[Ed.: Premises One through Nine appeared in our January issue.]*

**PREMISE TEN:** The culture as a whole and most of its members are insane. The culture is driven by a death urge, an urge to destroy life.

**PREMISE ELEVEN:** From the beginning, this culture—civilization—has been a culture of occupation.

**PREMISE TWELVE:** There are no rich people in the world, and there are no poor people. There are just people. The rich may have lots of pieces of green paper that many pretend are worth something—or their presumed riches may be even more abstract: numbers on hard drives at banks—and the poor may not. These “rich” claim they own land, and the “poor” are often denied the right to make that same claim. A primary purpose of the police is to enforce the delusions of those with lots of pieces of green paper. Those without the green papers generally buy into these delusions almost as quickly and completely as those with. These delusions carry with them extreme consequences in the real world.

**PREMISE THIRTEEN:** Those in

power rule by force, and the sooner we break ourselves of illusions to the contrary, the sooner we can at least begin to make reasonable decisions about whether, when, and how we are going to resist.

**PREMISE FOURTEEN:** From birth on—and probably from conception, but I’m not sure how I’d make the case—we are individually and collectively enculturated to hate life, hate the natural world, hate the wild, hate wild animals, hate women, hate children, hate our bodies, hate and fear our emotions, hate ourselves. If we did not hate the world, we could not allow it to be destroyed before our eyes. If we did not hate ourselves, we could not allow our homes—and our bodies—to be poisoned.

**PREMISE FIFTEEN:** Love does not imply pacifism.

**PREMISE SIXTEEN:** The material world is primary. This does not mean that the spirit does not exist, nor that the material world is all there is. It means that spirit mixes with flesh. It means also that real world actions have real world consequences. It means we cannot rely on Jesus, Santa Claus, the Great Mother, or even the Easter Bunny to

get us out of this mess. It means this mess really is a mess, and not just the movement of God’s eyebrows. It means we have to face this mess ourselves. It means that for the time we are here on Earth—whether or not we end up somewhere else after we die, and whether we are condemned or privileged to live here—the Earth is the point. It is primary. It is our home. It is everything. It is silly to think or act or be as though this world is not real and primary. It is silly and pathetic to not live our lives as though our lives are real.

**PREMISE SEVENTEEN:** It is a mistake (or more likely, denial) to base our decisions on whether actions arising from them will or won’t frighten fence-sitters, or the mass of Americans.

**PREMISE EIGHTEEN:** Our current sense of self is no more sustainable than our current use of energy or technology.

**PREMISE NINETEEN:** The culture’s problem lies above all in the belief that controlling and abusing the natural world is justifiable.

**PREMISE TWENTY:** Within this culture, economics—not community wellbeing, not morals, not ethics, not justice, not life itself—drives

social decisions.

**Modification of Premise Twenty:** Social decisions are determined primarily (and often exclusively) on the basis of whether these decisions will increase the monetary fortunes of the decision-makers and those they serve.

**Re-modification of Premise Twenty:** Social decisions are determined primarily (and often exclusively) on the basis of whether these decisions will increase the power of the decision-makers and those they serve.

**Re-modification of Premise Twenty:** Social decisions are founded primarily (and often exclusively) on the almost entirely unexamined belief that the decision-makers and those they serve are entitled to magnify their power and/or financial fortunes at the expense of those below.

**Re-modification of Premise Twenty:** If you dig to the heart of it—if there is any heart left—you will find that social decisions are determined primarily on the basis of how well these decisions serve the ends of controlling or destroying wild nature.

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## Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us, Part II: What Do You Know?

[Ed.: This program was developed by Jeff Barrie and his sister, Jennifer Barrie, in Nashville, Tennessee. It will be a series as I go through the lessons myself. The DVD is wonderful. It won "Best Environmental Film" at the 2007 Southern Appalachia International Film Festival.]

### Overview

The purpose of this activity is to help gauge the students' knowledge and understanding of the topic before watching the film. They will also start to think about energy and their own energy consumption at home. Therefore, their responses and ideas are all valid.

### Objectives

1. To understand the topic of energy production and consumption and related problems;
2. To identify possible solutions to energy problems; and
3. To increase awareness and assess personal energy consumption.

### Skills

Critical Thinking, Observation

### Time

1 hour (including viewing of 38-minute version of *Kilowatt Ours*)

### Materials

*Kilowatt Ours* DVD  
Before-you-watch *Kilowatt Ours* Activity 1 Student Page

### Procedure

1. Ask your students to review the questions on the Student Page. They can either write their ideas on the sheet or discuss their ideas briefly. They can work individually or in small groups.
2. Show *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America* to your students. During the film, the students may take notes on the Student Page.
3. After viewing the film, once again ask the students to write or discuss their ideas using their new knowledge.
4. This activity can be used as a before-and-after assessment by giving a new Student Page to the students after viewing the film. Collect both the "before" and "after" pages from the students

and compare the responses. The students can also compare their responses and discuss their new knowledge and awareness.

1. We will be learning how we get our electricity and where it comes from, and we will watch a movie called *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America* as an introduction. Why do you think the movie is called "*Kilowatt OURS*" instead of "*Kilowatt HOURS*?"
2. What is a *kilowatt-hour*?
3. Where do you think your electricity comes from?
4. What is the difference between electricity and natural gas?
5. Make a list of everything that uses energy (electricity and gas) in your home and school.
6. What is *energy efficiency*?
7. What is *green power*?
8. How many light bulbs do you have in your home? \_\_\_\_\_ (Count them!)

Jennifer Barrie  
Youth Initiative Director  
Kilowatt Ours  
P.O. Box 60322  
Nashville, TN 37206

### Iona's Results

I'm going to spare you the written answers; you can find them on the Kilowatt Ours Web site if you need them. What I did find worth sharing with you were my answers to questions #5 and #8 plus the comments I wrote as I was doing this "assignment."

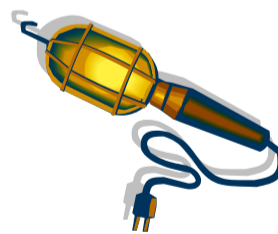
- 5. List everything in your home that uses energy:**
- radon reduction system
  - electric water heater timer
  - water treatment system
  - well

- water heater
- furnace
- septic pump
- 3 phones
- 2 space heaters
- 3 vacuums
- washing machine
- cell phone
- digital camera
- 2 computers
- 3 printers
- 2 monitors [We have two home offices]
- water distiller
- fridge
- oven
- toaster oven
- coffee pot
- Christmas tree lights
- ceramic Christmas tree
- CD player
- hand vac
- ceiling fan

**[WOW! This is interesting. I have never looked at our home this way. Dishwasher and microwave used for storage, no TV, no dryer]**

### Garage

- garage door opener
- lawn mower (gas)
- 4 lights



- drill
  - saber saw
  - 3 summer fans (no AC here)
  - tiny freezer for homegrown, organic veggies
- Loft (seldom used)**
- 2 fans
  - cassette player
  - sewing machine
  - 2 lights



Jennifer Barrie doing a Kilowatt Ours program. Photo supplied by Jennifer. [jen@kilowattours.org](mailto:jen@kilowattours.org)

### 8. How many light bulbs do you have in your home?

We have 29 lights inside our house, 5 outside, 3 in the garage and 2 in the loft. I am totally embarrassed to say that of the total 39, only 16 are compact fluorescents. I honestly thought I had done a MUCH better job of replacing them. It's clear that even this initial step toward energy conservation needs more work on our part.

If you are doing this program with us, please write in and share your experiences with us and we'll publish them.



**Thank you, Jennifer, for showing me how much work I still have ahead of me!**



## FOREST SERVICE TO PULL SCIENTISTS AND PLANNERS

Washington, DC (Press Release PEER, January 14, 2008) — The U.S. Forest Service is on the verge of approving a massive restructuring that will remove land management planning from individual forests, according to agency documents released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). The resulting reorganization will affect one in four agency jobs, shrink its on-the-ground fire-fighting militia and rigidify resource planning.

The plan, called "Business Process Reengineering," would consolidate virtually all work performed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the basic planning law that shapes significant agency resource management actions. Altogether, nearly 8,000 employees out of the agency's 30,000-person workforce now perform NEPA-related work, almost all of this work is done at the forest level.

Under the Business Process Reengineering, all of these functions would be moved into six "eco-based Service Centers" where forest planning would be standardized. This agency-wide displacement would:

- remove thousands of employees with fire-fighting responsibilities from national forests and relocate them in far-away ser-

vice centers (nearly half—3,564—of all Forest Service employees doing NEPA work have collateral all-hazard duties; and

- result in likely job cuts, as a main objective of the Reengineering is to combine work now done on 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands. The agency's Feasibility Study, dated August 1, 2007, projects a nearly 20% reduction in environmental positions.

In her September 21, 2007 transmittal letter to her top management, Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell wrote, "I support all the study findings and request your comments on the proposed implementation method." The full original plan, however, called for restructuring NEPA functions followed by inviting private consulting firms to bid for the newly consolidated work. But Congress cut off any more funding for outsourcing of Forest Service jobs in the FY 2008 omnibus appropriations law.

"It is awfully late in the Bush administration to begin a gigantic game of bureaucratic musical chairs with thousands of people's jobs that may be reversed by the next Forest Service Chief," stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, noting that

the Forest Service contracted out its feasibility study to a consultant, Management Analysis, Inc. "Rather than relying on consultants, the Forest Service should first consult Congress, the public and its own employees."

In recent years, the Forest Service has lost a long string of environmental lawsuits brought under NEPA, among other statutes. Plaintiffs win NEPA suits by showing that the agency did not consider major potential impacts of its plans. While the NEPA Feasibility Study notes that "The vast majority of Forest Service projects require familiarity with conditions on the ground where the activities take place," the plan it recommends would remove virtually all of the agency experts from the places they know.

"The Forest Service should first find out why they are losing so many NEPA lawsuits before charging off in an expensive and possibly wrong direction," added Ruch, pointing out that the consultants admit the Forest Service has no "quality standards" for NEPA work.

*From Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility's website: [http://www.peer.org/news/news\\_id.php?row\\_id=971](http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=971) Contact: Carol Goldberg (202) 265-7337.*

### Springtime of the Soul

Lent 2008



Congregation of St. Joseph

#### 2008 Lent: Springtime of the Soul

Fifty-three writers contributed this season to the Congregation of St. Joseph's Lenten Reflection booklet. These seasonal books have become favorites for many readers because of their insightful reflections and daily challenges. We are grateful to each writer for their participation and energy, which ignites our enthusiasm for life and continued rebirth each Spring. Cover art by Mary Southard, CSJ. Single copy, \$5.25; bulk prices available at [ministryofthearts.org](http://ministryofthearts.org) or 800-354-3504.

### What Can YOU Do?

**Communicate with your Congressional representatives in both the House and the Senate and tell them you want them to withhold funds enabling the Forest Service to do this kind of reorganization. The Forest Service believes these plans have only been put on hold and not permanently stopped. We want to see forest plans thoroughly reviewed and subject to public input before being implemented. To get through to your legislators, call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 or go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).**

**PEER is a service organization assisting federal and state public employees. PEER allows public servants to work as "anonymous activists" so that agencies must confront the message rather than the messenger.**



### The Ocean is Rising

(Continued from page 1)

When "net-metering" kicks in, the Thomas's will benefit from additional money coming in for the power they produce but don't need. States must establish this process in order for individuals to take advantage of it. It's almost as if the home becomes a mini-power plant — a clean one!

Unfortunately, New Jersey's solar program is tapped out for this year, according to Bill Condit, Chief Operations Officer for Trinity, a nationwide family-owned and operated company. He said the state is "revamping its rate structure for 2009" and the rebate levels are likely to be lowered.





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## To Live Lightly, Go Out to Your Wilderness

by Christine Maccabee

As I sit here in my cold basement to type this, I see the sun through the window and the beauty of the outdoors is calling me. Yes, that is a voice I hear often, but too often am not able to respond due to deadlines and other indoor human busy-ness. It is pretty cold out right now, so I will content myself with a promise of "later on" and continue with my writing. The electric heater is on as well as a lamp, and of course, there is the computer. I am all plugged into the Earth; not the sun but an electric current is keeping me warm, and I squirm uncomfortably in my seat. I know I am not the only one who is anxious to understand how to leave a smaller footprint on the Earth, and it gives me some comfort to know that more and more people are growing in awareness and seeking solutions to over-consumptive, addictive behaviors which are taking a horrible toll on the natural world.

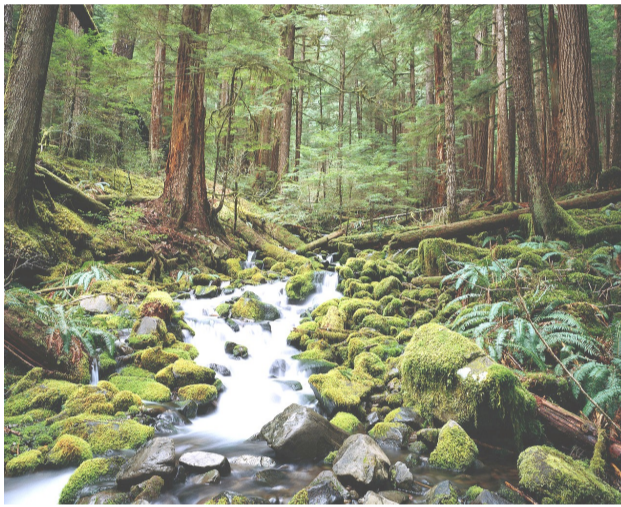
The room is bright enough now, so I just turned off my lamp. I also put on some warm socks and slippers. I find a good hat and footwear help with overall bodily warmth. As soon as I am able I will turn off the electric heater.

There is a small but growing number of people who are turning their attention to the art of wilderness survival as a solution to the questions at hand, and many of them are totally immersed in this path. For them there is no other answer, and in a very real way, I believe they are right. As we channel our awareness away from all the comforts and conveniences we are so attached to, a whole other world opens to us, which we may have only known as children. Children are so immersed in the moment that they are out the door without a coat, or even shoes; they are just so eager to be "out there."

My daughter Marie was and still is such a one, and it was she who encouraged me to attend the Standard Class of the Tom Brown Nature and Wilderness Survival School in New Jersey this past summer while she was an intern.

It is difficult to convey in one short column the depth and commitment of the people I met at this introductory class. It is by far one of the best organized experiences around learning basic skills as well as basic philosophy a person could ever have. I was blown away.

I took detailed notes in every class. "Notes?" you ask. That was my question too, until I realized how much information there is on the subjects of Making Fire, Creating Cordage, Filtering Water, Trapping (my least favorite), Building Shelters, Stalking, Tracking, Clothing, and Wild Food. There



were many opportunities to practice and do hands-on activities, and it was amazing how 100 people, from all over the states, Australia and Great Britain, could be so agreeable and delightful. I believe that was because we were all there for one reason, to become more Aware. AWARENESS is the key word at this school, and from it grows greater consciousness of our intimate connection with the Earth, a relationship we likely had as children and we all still long for. It is a relationship that can not only heal us on every level but is essential for healing the Earth.

My main interest and concern has always been, since my childhood, the botanical wonders of this Earth. Our natives have been disregarded and so misunderstood that I took it upon myself to observe, cultivate, and preserve them. As I preserve them, they will preserve me, this I know. It is this sort of knowing that is nothing new or unique but as ancient as the Earth herself. The Tom Brown school is helping to expose people to these ancient truths and techniques, and encouraging individuals to find their own paths in the wilderness of their lives. There is no pressure to quit your job and hightail it to the Rockies, though some of us might like to do that. Instead, we are encouraged to stay where we are, cultivating that all-important relationship with Mother Earth and living as lightly as we are able, gently guiding others into greater awareness as well.

Learning survival skills can become a meditation, if done slowly and mindfully. Learning to be a child of the Earth is the Magic we all long for, is the path to truly Be-

longing, not feeling like an alien anymore. The old wise one, Grandfather (who taught Tom Brown all his skills and philosophy) called this knowing **The Order of the Earth.**

Why do we feel so strung out, so anxious, so cut-off sometimes? It is because we have forsaken our own connection to the beautiful, mysterious, friendly, joyful order of the Earth. It is just outside our doors, waiting for us to partake in it, to breath deeply of it, and to learn from it. One of the most profound thinkers and passionate lovers of these truths was John Muir, spokesperson for wilderness and founder of the Sierra Club. In his many writings he said this of wilderness: "Choked in the sediments of society, so tired of the world, here will your hard doubts disappear, your carnal incrustations melt off, and your soul breath deep and free in God's shoreless atmosphere of Beauty and Love." (From "Baptized into Wilderness" by Richard Austin, one of the best books I ever read.)

So I am outta here ... time to go out the door and renew myself, perhaps have a cup of tea when I come back made from the medicinals that grow all around me on this property. Time to unplug from human contraptions, and plug into the purity of my Mother. May we all do more to preserve this purity, both in ourselves and on our precious planet.

**Christine Maccabee is a Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist. She is available for telephone consultations about making your property more wildlife and wildflower friendly. Call her at 301-271-2307.**

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## Returning My Computer to Planet Earth

by Barbara Erakko Taylor, Hannibal, Missouri

With December gift-giving, no doubt millions of new computers, cell phones, and high density TVs have been extricated from their foam-molded mummies and placed in the spot where the OLD OBSOLETE device once rested.

So, now what? What to do with that no longer loved gizmo of electronic wizardry?

Well, you could go to Ghana, Africa because the developing nations are where a lot of dumped devices go – even if you thought it was recycled. Imagine my surprise. I don't know the Missouri laws regarding recycling electronics, but in Washington State, I had to pay \$15 for the privilege of unloading my clunky monitor.

The store then moves it on to an electronics recycler. I had visions of a better cleaner greener environment. After all, I just paid for it.

Well, no.

I find from reading the December 2007 *National Geographic* that computers are loaded with toxic subparts. The old nineties monitor screens were fastened with a 70 percent lead "frit." The circuit board, computer processing unit, chip resistors and semiconductors all use substances that become highly toxic when extracted by burning, cracking, melting, stripping. In short, the lead (brain, kidneys), mercury (brain, kidneys), cadmium (kidneys, bones), beryllium (lung), barium (gut, muscle, blood pressure), and PVC (cancer) gets shipped by most American recyclers to third world countries.

Fast forward to Ghana. Children stand by piles of burning e-waste, where sickening toxin-loaded fumes roil into the sky as part of the recycling extraction process. Or stop by in China, where lead extracted from millions of American computers makes its way back to the U.S. as...painted toys and pewter-leaded jewelry.

So —

- (1) I pay my \$15 to a store
- (2) which sells it to an American recycler at a profit
- (3) who in turn sells it to a third world "recycler" at a profit
- (4) who finds the poorest citizens to take the toxic health burden away from us,
- (5) and then sells the extracted elements to an overseas manufacturer
- (6) who produces low cost products under questionable circumstances,
- (7) which are imported and sold by American

manufacturers to me—at a profit.

Since the U.S. is one of only three nations not to sign the e-waste worldwide Basil Action Network (BAN)—along with Haiti and Afghanistan—our electronic devices mostly end up in landfills in America or in tiny overseas villages. If we give them to Goodwill or other charitable organizations, again, the obsolete excess (read: old clunky monitors) goes overseas.

So with the gift comes the question: If your e-waste is only one generation old, couldn't someone you know, or a charitable organization, or a website such as [cristina.org](http://cristina.org) (computers), or [recyclewirelessphones.com](http://recyclewirelessphones.com) (cell phones) resolve the dilemma?

But what if it's bordering on archaic?

Do you dump the cell phone in the kitchen garbage, camouflage your old TV or computer with grass clippings in a black garbage bag, and allow it to leech its way into American soil and waterways? Do you try to find a store to take it and hope for the best? Do you start a basement or garage graveyard?

This year, I'm lucky. Nobody gave me any electronic devices, so I can call myself environmentally correct...right! But the day of reckoning will come. Mine will fall into the archaic category. Then what?

Maybe we should ship them to Washington—to our representatives. Imagine their delight in seeing hundreds of hunky computer boxes arriving in the mail, stacked in the hallways, edging their way onto the Congressional floor. I honestly think that when the day does come (and it always does), that's what I'll do.

After all, which would be more effective? An email?

Or a 20-pound toxic-waste clunk?



Photo by Pamela York Taylor

*Barbara Taylor designed information systems for several Federal agencies before stepping into an even harder job of raising children. Today she creates peace jewelry — one bead for every country in the world — and hand-woven shawls. The author of two books on silence, she continues to write and is at work on a new manuscript about the spirituality of elderly forgetfulness. Her website is [www.peaceandprayergifts.com](http://www.peaceandprayergifts.com).*

### public menace®

by Barbara Knox

Barricading the aisle,  
a woman with eyes  
like wet asphalt,  
hair a dark, ragged nimbus,  
sprawls in her seat  
in the crowded lounge.

With her head propped  
heavily on one arm,  
she speaks shrilly,  
gestures wildly,  
at a man seated opposite—  
who keeps on reading.

On mental hospital wards  
I'd seen thorazined patients  
talk to walls, empty chairs.  
How could this lunatic  
slip through airport security?

I wheel my bag  
to a seat safely away,  
scan the walls  
for the security phone,  
keeping a guarded eye on her.  
Still talking.

When she throws back her head  
and laughs loudly,  
I see the tiny cell phone.  
I shrink down in my chair  
and pull out my book.

*Barbara's book of poems, "the limberlost," was copyrighted and published in 2005 and is available for \$10. Her own illustrations adorn the book and will delight you. To get your copy, send a check payable to "Barbara Knox," 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.*





## Acting in Concert

by Pyong Roh

Today we went to the university library, but it is closed because of snow. But we did not give up and headed to a local library. Thank God, the community library was open, and I could finish my daily ritual. After the writing job we went to a concert by a local chamber orchestra. The players are amateurs and free lance musicians. They played uncommon classics. The musicians are so handsome and beautiful this evening because they did their best. They practiced a lot, I believe.

One of the trumpet players practiced cardiology for 25 years and finished his profession and became a musician again. He is a handsome old gentleman, who knows how to entertain the public.

He can treat many patients by playing his trumpet, I believe.

As you know, there was a huge oil spill in Korea. The whole sea was covered by oil in the western part of Korea. It was a kind of disaster and the whole ecosystem was threatened. You know what? The sea is getting cleaner day by day. Why? Volunteers poured in to the disaster area from every corner of Korea. Oldmen, youngsters, and even elementary students with their parents worked hard to clean the mess. I know that volunteers or non-governmental organizations are sometimes stronger than the government. When united, the strength is enormous. We have to direct this huge scattered force in the right direction.



*Pyong Roh is a nature-loving cosmopolitan man and a citizen of the Universe who tries to obey the law of nature.*

## Energy Efficient Homes Pay Off

ALBANY, New York (CSRwire, December 19, 2007) — New York residents and builders have significantly reduced the state's overall energy use and greenhouse gas emissions over the last six years simply by investing in homes that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. Since 2001, more than 10,800 New York ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes

have been built in New York, saving nearly 14 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and 603 billion BTUs of fossil fuel to date. The collective energy savings from these homes means that more than 44,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide is kept out of the atmosphere every year; the same as taking nearly 9,000 cars off the road for a year.

## Nanosolar: Power to the People

Reprinted with permission from TreeHugger.com

SAN JOSE, California—Nanosolar coatings are as thin as a layer of paint and can transfer sunlight into power quite efficiently. Imagine the possibilities, from solar-coated shingles to solar-lined windows to solar-powered cell phones and ipods. Solar-powered buildings and homes might just become standard in the future thanks to this innovative technology by Nanosolar, Inc. The almighty dollar will launch these thin-film solar cells into worldwide applications thanks to the fact that it's actually cheaper than burning coal. The underlying technology for these solar cells is nothing new, having been around for decades, but Nanosolar has created the actual technology to manufacture and mass produce the solar sheets.

The solar cells are produced by a solar printing press of sorts rolling out these aptly named PowerSheets rapidly and cheaply. The machines apply a layer of solar-absorbing nano-ink onto metal sheets as thin as aluminum foil reducing production costs to a mere tenth of current solar panels and at a rate of several hundred feet per minute. The first commercial cells for consumer use are scheduled to be released this year.

Cost has always been the burdening factor weighing down the mass application of solar technology at nearly \$3 per watt. In order to compete with the energy produced from coal, solar has been in need of finding a way to shrink its costs down to \$1 per watt. Nanosolar's cells use absolutely no silicon as is the standard for current solar production and the efficiency of the PowerSheet cells are competitive with the traditional systems as well. The golden kicker: the cost to produce these solar coatings is a mere 30 cents per watt!!

Nanosolar will be the largest solar plant in the world in San Jose. Once full production begins next year, the facility will produce 430 megawatts per year, more than the combined total of every other solar manufacturer in the U.S.

### Chesapeake Citizens Mission Statement:



*Winter: All the Children are Warm and Safe (2005) oil pastel on paper, 2"x 5" by Diane Wittner*

### Winter '07-'08

*We create projects that use story, geography and the imagination to re-dream our watershed back to its ongoing 10,000-year role as life-sustaining provider for all. We support: reclamations, social justice actions, diverse democracy, and a thriving regional eco-economy.*

-----  
*Diane Wittner  
Chesapeake Citizens*

[www.chesapeakecitizens.org](http://www.chesapeakecitizens.org)  
[info@chesapeakecitizens.org](mailto:info@chesapeakecitizens.org)

*Chesapeake Citizens:  
Unraveling Empire and  
Creating Community*



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## Lakota Tribes: Stop This Country, We Want to Get Off!

by Joshua Holland  
reprinted with permission from alternet.org



### Something Marvelous

(Continued from page 1)

of sunshine. It makes its own food from the elements, and reproduces itself with a shower of seeds. This is an expression of the elemental quality of life that gives wings to the thoughts far beyond the commonplace.

The spirit of a tree is our spirit. Its art is our art. Its color, designs, and the values of its wood and fruit are ours. If you would discover what kind of life is hidden in the shadows of leaves, and behind tough, silent bark, you must find it within yourself. Name tags and identifying features can only point the way.

*What is a weed?  
A plant whose  
virtues have not  
yet been  
discovered.*

**Ralph Waldo  
Emerson**

Well, well, well. This is certainly interesting ...

The Lakota Indians, who gave the world legendary warriors Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, have withdrawn from treaties with the United States.

"We are no longer citizens of the United States of America and all those who live in the five-state area that encompasses our country are free to join us," long-time Indian rights activist Russell Means said.

A delegation of Lakota leaders has delivered a message to the State Department, and said they were unilaterally withdrawing from treaties they signed with the federal government of the U.S., some of them more than 150 years old.

The group also visited the Bolivian, Chilean, South African and Venezuelan embassies, and would continue on their diplomatic mission and take it overseas in the coming weeks and months.

Lakota country includes parts of the states of Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming ...

The treaties signed with the U.S. were merely "worthless words on worthless paper," the Lakota freedom activists said.

The only thing that's surprising is that there hasn't been a more aggressive push towards self-determination for indigenous Americans. We're all familiar with the struggles of groups like the Kurds in Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran, or the Basque in Spain and Southern France, among others, but there are independence movements going on all over the world. That our own indigenous nations haven't struggled to secede — with obvious exceptions like the AIM movement — is, I suppose, a testament to just how thor-

oughly Europeans wiped out the natives. The Chechens, Nunavut, Palestinians and Papua New Guineans may have had some fight left in them, but America's indigenous people were well and truly decimated, and the fact that they remain living in squalid poverty in Bantustans called "reservations" — and that everyone goes about their business like that's not a big deal — really speaks to that unique American combination of extreme brutality and the exceptionalism that allows us to deny its existence.

The Lakota actually declared independence back in the mid-1970s, but that went nowhere. It's worth noting that a shifting perception of indigenous rights in general is part of the equation:

[The effort gained momentum] in September, when the United Nations adopted a non-binding declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples — despite opposition from the United States, which said it clashed with its own laws.

"We have 33 treaties with the

United States that they have not lived by. They continue to take our land, our water, our children," Phyllis Young, who helped organize the first international conference on indigenous rights in Geneva in 1977, told the news conference.

One note about the plan: the Lakota intend to issue their own passports and driver's licenses, and anyone within their territory would be eligible for citizenship. Citizens of the new state would live tax-free, and all a person has to do is renounce their allegiance to the United States.

I can see conservative heads exploding over that Sophie's Choice: On the one hand, you can live in Nebraska without ever paying taxes again, but on the other, you've got to become a dirty, rotten, un-American *foreigner* and can never mindlessly (but honestly) scream U-S-A! U-S-A! at a sporting event again.

*Joshua Holland is an editor and senior writer at AlterNet.*

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# Grassroots Power

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*The first Council Gathering—Menla Mountain Retreat, New York—October 2004  
Photo by Marisol Villanueva*

**WE, THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THIRTEEN INDIGENOUS GRANDMOTHERS,** represent a global alliance of prayer, education and healing for our Mother Earth, all Her inhabitants, all the children, and for the next seven generations to come. We are deeply concerned with the unprecedented destruction of our Mother Earth and the destruction of indigenous ways of life. We believe the teachings of our ancestors will light our way through an uncertain future. We look to further our vision through the realization of projects that protect our diverse cultures: lands, medicines, language and ceremonial ways of prayer and through projects that educate and nurture our children.

## Grandmothers Speak of Unity and World Peace

by Laura Krebs, "Voices of Central Pennsylvania," November 2007, excerpt reprinted with permission

A common prophecy spoken to thirteen indigenous grandmothers from around the world brought them together in 2004 for the first time in upstate New York. The prophecy told each grandmother that there would come a time when she must speak out to the world in one united voice to awaken the people of the world to the disastrous consequences that we face if we don't change the way we relate to each other and our Mother Earth.

The thirteen agreed to form a global alliance to spread the message of unity and world peace by using ancestral ways of prayer, peace-making, and the passing down of traditions for the healing of Mother Earth, all her inhabitants, all the children and for the next seven generations to come.

"As I saw what was happening, it became clear that this would become a historic event," explained Carole Hart, producer and director of a documentary now being filmed about the grandmothers.

"Thirteen grandmothers from around the world are speaking out to the world about their way of living, being, and seeing in hopes to help [warn]

people of the critical times we are facing," said Hart. "I realized we needed a record of it and decided a wonderful way to amplify the message is by capturing it on film." Hart is one of the original writers of *Sesame Street* for which she won her first Emmy award.

A large crowd gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in State College, Pennsylvania in October to raise funds for the film, "For the Next 7 Generations: The Grandmothers Speak." Organized by local musician and writer Cole Hons [*Ed.: Cole's poem graced the front page of our January launch edition.*], the fundraiser incorporated songs and dance along with screenings of the working documentary and a short film highlighting the troubles of the Earth and hopeful solutions.

Hons began planning only six weeks before the event and contacted Hart with the request to have her videotape herself thanking those who came out to the event.

"She replied that she would just come in person..." Hons explained. [*Ed.: Carole Hart feels*

*she owes her life to the indigenous people because it was a native prayer ritual that cured her of terminal cancer.*]

Hart has documented the grandmothers' gatherings in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the Amazon jungle and Oaxaca, Mexico, as well as their meeting with the Dali Lama in prayer for world peace in India. [*Their next meeting will be in Africa in July.*]

"Everywhere [the grandmothers] go, people's hearts move," Hart told the audience ... "Being with the grandmothers and seeing how they relate to their Mother Earth and each other and to the issues we're facing, they make it seem like it's going to be a beautiful new world," said Hart ...

### What Can You Do To Help the Grandmothers' Film Move Forward?

If you would like to organize a fundraising event, feel free to contact Cole at email address, [cmh103@outreach.psu.edu](mailto:cmh103@outreach.psu.edu), and he'll be happy to give you some hints.

If you would like to make a generous donation (all donations are generous) for the completion of the film, please write a check to Hartley Film Foundation, 49 Richmondville Ave., Westport, Connecticut 06880. Credit card contributions may be made through 800-437-1819. Thank you.

#### ADVERTISE WITH US

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### How On Earth Did I Become a Radical Environmentalist Grandmother?

Continuation of a book by Iona, Part 2



#### My Mother

I attribute my general sense of happiness to my sweet and gentle mother. She had plenty of hardship during her life but remained essentially a happy woman. I'd like to share a song she wrote.

Mom loved music, even minored in it in college. Her voice was an exquisite soprano and she often sang solos in church. Back in her Mount Holyoke days, she wrote a melodic song we all sang at her funeral, "There Is A Yearning In My Heart." I imagine her humming this gently as she carried me in her womb, her words and feelings being absorbed silently by her babe.

**There is a yearning in my heart,  
To live a nobler way.  
To love, to give, to have a part,  
In brightening someone's day.  
Lord, God, I pray, Lead me Thy Way.  
Let me find someone to serve today.**

**There is a hoping in my mind,  
That, midst the poor and lone,  
Some may a little comfort find,  
In sharing what I own. (refrain)**

**I have a feeling deep inside,  
That will not let me rest  
'Til we have stayed the growing tide  
Of our world's dark distress. (refrain)**

**I have a longing in my soul,  
To serve the ones who need,  
Despairing, they have lost their goal,  
And want a friend to lead. (refrain)**

**There is a yearning in my heart,  
To live a nobler way,  
With love and joy to do my part,  
To make a better day. (refrain)**

### The Order of the Earth Column: Putting Earth's Needs Ahead of Our Own Light's Out! It's Wartime

by Iona

OK. It's wartime.  
Pretend there are bombers circling your hometown or your home.  
There are! Invisible gases — carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, even water vapor — burning up your planet.

Who's responsible?  
Too many people burning up too many fossil fuels and cutting down too many trees.  
So, if you haven't yet decided to join the battalions of people working as hard as they can to salvage life here on Earth, and you'd like to start now, take the very first step — turn off your lights! Just like in World War II when they had blackouts so enemy aircraft wouldn't see their targets. People everywhere shut off their lights. Entire towns, businesses, streets — dark.

Now it's your turn.  
Turn **your** lights out!  
Extra lights.  
Flood lights.  
Garden lights.  
Decorative lights.  
Lights.  
Lights.  
Lights.  
OUT!  
OUT!  
OUT!

This IS war! A kind of war that's never been fought before.

When I left my former husband many years ago, it was because I needed to do Earth work that I didn't think could be done in domesticity.

I was going to war — literally. In my mind I felt like a soldier bidding farewell to all that was loved, known and comfortable to fight the good fight for our home planet, to be on the planet's side in the War Against the Earth. The war that was being waged ruthlessly, constantly — with nary a soul to step in and stop the atrocities 25 years ago.

Now we have millions and millions of people fighting to save life on Earth but they aren't winning yet.

They need you.  
**We** need you.  
NOW.  
Please join us in our war.  
Turn your lights out!!!

### Letter of Purpose for Masters of Professional Studies in Political Management Program

by Iona

(Later I decided **not** to get a Masters degree.)

#### Who Am I?

I am the ocean.  
I am the trees.  
And the birds and the air and a part of all life on our Planet Earth.

I am a woman — a grandmother — who is afraid for the future. I see devastation all around. I read news reports of a sickening world and violent, crazy people.

And I rebel.  
I do not want the world to travel in this direction any longer, propelling my loved ones and me along with it.

#### Achievements

I have studied. I have worked.  
I have followed many career paths — nurse, teacher, environmentalist, air pollution inspector, reporter, editor, organizer — and have always been an activist. I learn about a problem and BOOM! I want to do something to help solve it.

But now there is only one thing left to do with my life — work on global warming. Nothing else matters. Nothing.

#### Goals

I will share my unconventional, indomitable, optimistic spirit with subscribers to my newspaper. I refuse to concede to forces that cause the sorrow and pain afflicting our world today.

I see a different world than the mainstream media insists on presenting day after day in an endless parade of ugliness.

Deep inside I believe that the grassroots surge toward life and beauty has taken hold in enough places with enough strength that we can, indeed, reverse the trend toward decay and death.

#### Why I Want to Enroll

My friends and I are creating a nationwide, environmental, alternative newspaper — monthly now, but weekly or even daily in the future — and frankly I don't feel prepared to discuss politics or policies and advocate for systemic reforms with success. And success is what I'm after.



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# Top Military Recruitment Lies

by Aimee Allison and David Solnit, excerpt from *alternet.org*

From their book, *Army of None: Strategies to Counter Military Recruitment, End War and Build a Better World*, 2007

## Top Military Recruitment Facts

**1. Recruiters lie.** According to the *New York Times*, nearly one of five United States Army recruiters was under investigation in 2004 for offenses varying from "threats and coercion to false promises that applicants would not be sent to Iraq ..."

**2. The military contract guarantees nothing.** The Department of Defense's own enlistment/re-enlistment document states, "Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me. Such changes may affect my status, pay allowances, benefits and responsibilities as a member of the Armed Forces REGARDLESS of the provisions of this enlistment/re-enlistment document" (DD Form 4/1, 1998, Sec. 9.5b).

**3. Advertised signing bonuses are bogus.** Bonuses are often thought of as gifts, but they're not. They're like loans: If an enlistee leaves the military before his or her agreed term of service, he or she will be forced to repay the bonus. Army data shows that the top bonus of \$20,000 was given to only 6 percent of the 47,727 enlistees who signed up for active duty [Ed.: less than 3,000 enlistees.]

**4. The military won't make you financially secure.** Military members are no strangers to financial strain: 48 percent report having financial difficulty, approximately 33 percent of homeless men in the United States are veterans, and nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night.

**5. Money for college (\$71,424 in the bank?).** If you expect the military to pay for college, better read the fine print. Among recruits who sign up for the Montgomery GI Bill, 65 percent receive no money for college, and only 15 percent ever receive a college degree. The maximum Montgomery GI Bill benefit is \$37,224, and even this 37K is hard to get: To join, you

must first put in a nonrefundable \$1,200 deposit that has to be paid to the military during the first year of service. To receive the \$37K, you must also be an active-duty member who has completed at least a three-year service agreement and is attending a four-year college full time ...

**6. Job training.** Vice President Dick Cheney once said, "The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program." If you enlist, the military does not have to place you in your chosen career field or give you the specific training requested. Even if enlistees do receive training, it is often to develop skills that will not transfer to the civilian job market. (There aren't many jobs for M240 machine-gunners stateside.)

**7. War, combat, and your contract.** First off, if it's your first time enlisting, you're signing up for eight years. On top of that, the military can, without your consent, extend active-duty obligations during times of conflict, "national emergency," or when directed by the president ...

## Counter-Recruitment for a Better World

Ready to create a truly grassroots, people-powered movement? Anti-war activism is changing. The familiar sights and sounds of large protests are giving way to quieter, but far more resonating, one-on-one work in classrooms, career centers, and communities. Whenever you hear people decry the lack of large-scale protest in the United States, even as the latest polls show more than 60 percent of people are opposed to the current war in Iraq, remember that the model for effectively challenging war is taking a different shape.



People from all walks of life are finding inspiration and success in working locally to educate students and mobilize against military recruitment where it happens. We can see counter-recruitment asserting itself as a viable movement as independently organized actions in Seattle, Austin and Los Angeles contribute to a national context in which public schools around the country limit military recruiter access, a huge success by any measure. Schools and communities are now considering deeper questions about the increasing militarization of our culture and recognizing the need for schools to teach and weave peace into the minds and aspirations of our children. We believe that 100,000 marching one day every six months is not as effective as 1,000 people talking to students every day ...

The fact is, at the end of 2005, the active Army fell 6,627 recruits short of its annual goal of 80,000 ...

In their comprehensive new strategy, the military added 1,200 new recruiters and spent millions on a public relations blitz that included TV ads, video games, Web sites, cell phone text messages, helicopter simulators in the back of 18-wheelers, Internet chat rooms, sports and public event sponsorships, and even ads on the ticket envelopes for Greyhound Bus lines.

The Army also increased its relationship with NASCAR, the National Hot Rod Association and the Professional Bull Riders Association. The plan calls for recruiters to visit schools and malls a few days before an event, offering free tickets and the chance to meet famous drivers or bull riders.

In addition, the military dramatically lowered its educational and test standards and other qualifications... They have granted an unprecedented number of "moral character" waivers;

around 17 percent of the first-time recruits (or about 13,600) were accepted under waivers for various medical, moral or criminal problems, including misdemeanor arrests and drunken driving. But even that was not enough to "meet quota."

So, they also lied. From 2004 to 2005 the Government Accounting Office found 6,600 allegations of recruiter crimes. Incidents included concealing medical information that would disqualify a recruit; making false promises and helping recruits get around test requirements. In 2006 the pressure was even greater, and seen in an ABC television investigation from Nov. 2, 2006, that sent undercover students into ten recruiters' offices in New York and New Jersey.

The program reported that more than half of the recruiters were "stretching the truth or even worse, lying." They found "nearly half of the recruiters who talked to our undercover students compared everyday risks here at home to being in Iraq." A Patchogue recruiter was caught saying, "You have a 10 times greater chance of dying out here on the roads than you do dying in Iraq ..."

One recruiter told a student his chances of going to war were "slim to none ..."

## War and Empire

As U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler put it in 1933, "There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket ... ." Butler describes the U.S. military's role in this emerging empire: "I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to major general. During that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class muscleman for Big Business, Wall Street, and for the Bankers ... I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism."

# Letters to the Editor

Volume 8, Number 2, Issue 71: February 2008, Page 14

Hello Iona,

Thank you for introducing the book 2012 by Pinchbeck. As you know Borders in Paramus is closed because of Green Day in this town.

You asked me, "What is the Green Law?" I was so curious and tried to figure it out before. As you know, Paramus is close to New York City, and there are two large shopping malls and two small shopping centers in this town.

Many shoppers were coming to the shopping areas and the roads were always busy with traffic and the area is hustle and bustle all the time.

Paramus passed an ordinance to close shopping malls and shopping centers on Sunday in order to give a break to residents and the highways.

The Green Law is enforced in all of Bergen County. In other words, all shopping malls and shopping centers are closed, and groceries like A & P, Path Mark, Shop Rite and small businesses in towns are exceptions.

Pyong Roh, Hackensack, NJ

Dear Iona,

Hoorah! Hoorah!! Hoorah!!! I am so proud of you for making your dream come true!!! Thank Goddess for the wild and precious gift of you on this dear, sweet planet Earth!

I was so eager to see your paper and now I'm so happy events unfolded as they did (ha-ha—I just realized the pun).

I put one in both bathrooms of our cooperative home and gave copies to my sister and one to my housemate for her plane ride to Germany. I'll distribute them around the hood during the next several days and bring some to the Reiki Healing Center. Hooray!! "Order of the Earth" is on its way to becoming one of the most read news journals in the world!

Not that fame and glory are important to you or that's what any of this is about, but I hope you win a Nobel Peace Prize along the way—you and so many others certainly deserve them!

Fran Staret, Philadelphia, PA



*This holiday season, two Chesapeake Carolers ([www.chesapeake-citizens.org](http://www.chesapeake-citizens.org); see page 9) lobbied Congress and sang subversive carols for impeachment, ending the Iraq Occupation, and congressional accountability. They delivered letters, stockings with coal, and impeachment cookies to key members of Congress who violated their oaths of office in 2007: Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski (who has voted repeatedly for war in spite of her constituents' opposition to the war), and House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (who has not brought forth Articles of Impeachment against Bush and Cheney, though they have broken our nation's laws repeatedly). Chesapeake Carolers hope that courage and justice will taste sweet to our Democratic members of Congress in 2008, and that they will become the leaders Maryland and U.S. citizens crave. Photo by Mike Hersh*

## Congress Labels Citizens 'Homegrown Terrorists'

An Open Letter to the Idaho Congressional Delegation

by Don Harkins

Editor "Idaho Observer"

[continued from last month]

Gentlemen:

Four-hundred and four members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including the two-member Idaho delegation, voted to pass HR 1955, The "Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007." It was the sense of Congress on October 23, 2007, that the U.S. government needs a law to address the "violent radicalization" of "homegrown terrorists" who desire "political, religious or social change" in America. It is not logical or proper for Congress to conclude that Americans are spontaneously and without cause becoming violently radicalized, homegrown terrorists. Therefore, if

homegrown Americans are radicalizing into violent terrorists, logic and parliamentary procedure demand that Congress first identify a cause before criminalizing an effect. Since Congress did not identify a cause before passing HR 1955, but did include a provision expressing an interest in finding out what could be causing Americans to "violently radicalize," (sic) allow me to enlighten you:

This country has changed dramatically since we were growing up: the government first had to prove that crimes had been committed before people could be arrested for them. Now, while our generation is in charge, on our watch, people can be arrested on hearsay, or nosay, for crimes (or even non-crimes) that may or may not be committed in the future—and detained indefinitely without due process. The government has also decided it can torture those whom it takes into custody. The conditions above alone qualify as "cause."

But there is more. Government

policies have us perpetually at war with enemies imagined and manufactured, have generated a level of public debt greater than our combined assets, are the root cause of widespread personal bankruptcies and home foreclosures, are responsible for the over-taxed fiat dollar's rapid devaluation against world currencies and have precipitated epidemics of chronic illnesses and neurological anomalies. Government waste, abuse, warmongering, perversion, racketeering and corruption, at every level in America, is so well-reported as to be global common knowledge. Cause (singular) is now causes (plural) . . .

Americans are not spontaneously "radicalizing" into "violent homegrown terrorists." They are, however, becoming justifiably angry because government has proven itself innumerable times over to be insensitive to our needs and the primary cause of our misery. Americans are increasingly desperate for change because their freedom is diminishing, their solvency is tenuous, their country is dying and justice in America is, at best, illusory . . .

Violated Americans turn to me, the editor of a small alternative press, as a last resort, in their search for justice because nobody in government or the corporate media seems to care.

**The dividends of activism can pay out over several lifetimes.**



The Idaho Observer is a monthly, 24-page newspaper founded in 1997 to publish news from the perspective that the only legitimate functions of government are to protect freedom and provide justice.

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**Rainforest Victory in NJ  
Ocean City, NJ Cancels Order  
for Boardwalk Made of Wood  
from Rainforests**

**The Order of the Earth network  
was involved in this victory as  
this action was listed in our  
September 2007 issue!!!**

(*Ecologicalinternet.org* January 18, 2008, excerpt)—The city council of Ocean City voted last night 6-0 to cancel a \$1.1 million purchase of ipê timber originating in ancient rainforests. The timber was to be used to patch a one-block stretch of Atlantic boardwalk. The purchase provoked outrage as it went against a ten-year-old pledge by the council to not use rainforest timbers.

**Down With Dams:  
Penobscot River Project  
Makes Breakthrough**

OLD TOWN and AUGUSTA, Maine (CSRwire, December 21, 2007, excerpt) — Ten million dollars from the FY08 Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed this week will be directed to the Penobscot River Restoration Project. Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirmed the agency will direct the funding to the project. The funding was part of the Commerce, Justice, Science Bill included in the omnibus funding measure.

"The plan to restore the Penobscot River is a collaboration that engages communities and enhances the region's economy, culture, and environment while reviving the Atlantic salmon,"

said U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe.

NOAA funding committed toward the project will be used to purchase three dams (Veazie, Great Works, and Howland), begin the engineering and design phase of the project, and allow the Penobscot River Restoration Trust to move toward implementation. The project will help restore native fisheries by markedly improving access to nearly 1000 miles of key habitat for Atlantic salmon, endangered shortnose sturgeon, American shad, and eight other species of sea-run fish that once supported a vibrant Penobscot River.

"This is the most significant river restoration project ever in the eastern United States," said Senator Susan Collins.

The Penobscot Trust proposes to remove the two dams closest to the sea (Veazie and Great Works) and bypass the Howland dam with a state-of-the-art fishway.

**Groups Unite to  
Protect Wilderness**

RICHMOND, Vermont (Press Release from the Center for Biological Diversity, January 3, 2008, excerpt) — The Center for Biological Diversity and Forest Watch, a group based in Richmond, Vermont, announced their union to enhance the protection and restoration of the Northeast's public lands, wildlife habitat, and imperiled species.

Forest Watch, which was founded in 1994 as a watchdog of the Green Mountain National Forest, will henceforth be known as the Northeast office of the Center for Biological Diversity.

It will focus on federal forest lands and wilderness, and will advocate for greater protection of national wildlife refuges, state lands, and other critical wildlife habitats, as well as stronger conservation measures for the region's declining plant and animal species. Specific priorities include the future management of Vermont's Nulhegan Basin, opposing environmentally damaging off-road motorized recreation on public lands, and protecting national forest roadless areas.

**Power Corridor on Hold  
OE Worked on This, Too!**

(*Patriot News* editorial excerpt via *Daily News*, Huntingdon Pennsylvania, December 18, 2007) — The U.S. Department of Energy has wisely decided to reconsider its decision designating a large area of the Middle Atlantic states, including 52 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, as a "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor." The order also applies to a similar corridor designated in the Southwest.

**Off-Peak Laundry?  
Pricing by the Hour**

by Lisa Rein, excerpt  
WASHINGTON, D.C. (*The Washington Post* December 12, 2007) — Pepco is about to start sending personal email messages to Jonathan and Lauren Schwabish every few hours that could determine when they do the dishes, wash the baby's clothes or turn on the air conditioner. The couple will learn when the price of electricity for their old Capitol Hill home will spike

the next day because Washington's winter chill or its steamy summer is nudging up the demand for power. If they wait to turn on the washing machine or they turn off the air conditioner when the sun beats down, they'll be rewarded with a credit on their utility bill that could reach hundreds of dollars a year. Other D.C. residents have agreed to pay rates eight times the average if they use their appliances at peak times but rates well below it at off-peak hours, as part of a pilot program starting next month...



**Little House Saves Couple a  
Lotta Work: Thinking Small  
Helps Them Afford a Home**

by Arnold S. Platou, excerpt  
HAGERSTOWN, Maryland (*The Herald-Mail Hagerstown* November 25, 2007) — Jennifer Leizear and Reese Roberts didn't think they could afford to build a new house, but they did. Today, their home sweet home is a small rancher on a quarter-acre lot in Hagerstown's North End.

Size is the key. The home is just 960 square feet—three-fourths the size of the rancher that their builder usually does and the smallest it has built in at least five years ... The house is much smaller than the ones Jennifer and Reese grew up in, but neither of them seems to mind.



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## Follow-Up To Global Warming Conference

### Live Mini Report from Bali by Friend of "The Order of the Earth"

Hi Iona,

Overall, in my opinion, the outcome from Bali was a step forward, and not backward, despite the U.S. attempts to stalemate the process. I truly believe that we made a difference going to Bali. I am now looking forward to going to Poznan, Poland, December 1-12 for the next round.

Tyla Matteson, Richmond, VA

[Ed.: Tyla referred me to an article in the 12/16 "Washington Post" with the following quote by Yvo de Boer, U.N. Climate Chief: "What we've seen disappear today is what I would call the Berlin Wall of climate change."]

### What's Missing From Climate Talks? Justice!

BALI, Indonesia (Press Release from Climate Justice Now! December 14, 2007) — Peoples from social organizations and movements from across the globe brought the fight for social, ecological and gender justice into the negotiating rooms and onto

the streets during the U.N. climate summit in Bali.

Inside and outside the convention center, activists demanded alternative policies and practices that protect livelihoods and the environment.

In dozens of side events, reports, impromptu protests and press conferences, the false solutions to climate change—such as carbon offsetting, carbon trading for forests, agro-fuels, trade liberalization and privatization pushed by governments, financial institutions and multinational corporations—have been exposed.

Affected communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and peasant farmers called for **real** solutions to the climate crisis, solutions that have failed to capture the attention of political leaders. These genuine solutions include:

- ◆ Reduced consumption;
- ◆ Huge financial transfers from North to South based on historical responsibility and ecological debt for adaptation and mitigation costs paid for by redirecting military budgets, innovative taxes and debt cancellation;
- ◆ Leaving fossil fuels in the ground and investing in appropriate en-

ergy-efficiency and safe, clean and community-led renewable energy;

- ◆ Rights-based resource conservation that enforces Indigenous land rights and promotes people's sovereignty over energy, forests, land and water; and
- ◆ Sustainable family farming and people's food sovereignty.

Inside the negotiations, the rich industrialized countries have put unjustifiable pressure on southern governments to commit to emissions reductions. At the same time, they have refused to live up to their own legal and moral obligations to radically cut emissions and support developing countries' efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Once again, the majority of the world is being forced to pay for the excesses of the minority.

Compared to the outcomes of the official negotiations, the major success of Bali is the momentum that has been built towards creating a diverse, global movement for climate justice. We will take our struggle forward not just in the talks, but on the ground and in the streets—Climate Justice Now!

The U.S. contact is Dr. Michael Dorsey, [mkdorsey@dartmouth.edu](mailto:mkdorsey@dartmouth.edu).

### U.S. Pours Cold Water on Bali Optimism

by John Vidal, excerpt

(*The Guardian* December 17, 2007) — The U.S. backtracked yesterday on the climate change agreement reached after marathon talks in Bali, saying it had "serious concerns" about the new global consensus and that developing countries had to do far more if there was to be any pact in two years' time.

The reality check followed the drama and euphoria of the weekend when the U.S. was shamed into joining the rest of the world in working towards a new climate change agreement to come into force after 2012. All 190 countries have agreed to take the talks further.

But the White House press secretary, Dana Perino, poured cold water on the Bali result, saying the talks had not adequately addressed the responsibilities of developing countries . . .

"Ministers from some industrialized countries let down the people of the world. They reached agreement on a way forward but with little to guide them. Future talks will now face a serious uphill battle," said Stephanie Long of Friends of the Earth International.

### The Order of the Earth: News, Views and Musings

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#### LOVE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

Rebecca- age 8

During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that.

I wasn't scared anymore.

Cindy - age 8

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**