



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings about our Planet

The Order of the Earth Volume 8, Number 1, Issue 70: January 2008

the poet's prayer

by Cole Hons, State College, PA

may these words i speak
right here, right now
go forth from my mind
fly out from my lips
and deliver the subtle contents of my
heart and soul
beyond the confines of my body
beyond my individual self
out into the heart of the world
and back into the soul of the universe
which first planted them in my brain

may these words remind each heart
and soul they touch
that in the beginning, we are all of one heart
that in the end, we are all of one soul
and that, in the middle, we forget this
fundamental truth
at our own mortal peril

may these words i speak
right here, right now
strike the ears of all who hear them
like fingers plucking strings
like tiny wooden hammers
beneath the graceful hoods of grand pianos
erupting in warm vibrations of universal,
emotional communion

may these words cause hearts to sing
may they dream their way inside you
may they come to rest like small, soft
animals on your shoulder
whispering from the place where your body
connects with your mind
may their music seduce you gently
into harmony
with the greater music of the greater song

the song that's sung by daylight
the song that's sung at midnight
the song that's sung in quiet, lonely, noisy,
crowded rooms
the song that's sung in terror
the song that's hewn from laughter
the song that's sung in cradles, schoolyards,
forests, towns and tombs

may these words cause hearts to sing
may these words cause souls to hunger
for the greater song to be remembered

for the greater song to be sung back to life
on the lips of the world

A Look at the Latest Global Warming Report

Compiled by Iona

Introduction: Since this is primarily a global warming newspaper, I was going to try to summarize the final report, released November 17, for you but found it so interesting that I will start a 9-part series giving you the entire content of the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report. Another one won't be out for years. It is very tedious and strenuous work with thousands of different people trying to reach consensus. Here are a few brief excerpts in chronological order from major newspapers at the time of its release. You can go directly to the site and read the whole Summary for Policymakers if you feel so inclined: www.ipcc.org.



U.N. Report Describes Risks of Inaction on Climate Change

by Elisabeth Rosenthal and Andrew C. Revkin, excerpt VALENCIA, Spain (*The New York Times* November 17, 2007)—In its final and most powerful report, a

United Nations panel of scientists meeting here describes the mounting risks of climate change in language that is both more specific and forceful than its previous assessments, according to scientists here.

Synthesizing reams of data from its three previous reports, the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the first time specifically points out important risks if governments fail to respond: melting ice sheets that could lead to a rapid rise in sea levels and the extinction of large numbers of species brought about by even moderate amounts of warming, on the order of 1 to 3 degrees.

The report carries heightened significance because it is (to page 4)



Andrea Glidden, a 26-year-old single mother, opens Huntingdon County, PA's first solar store. Photo by Iona.

Andrea Glidden's eyes light up when she talks about her new solar energy business in Shirleysburg, Pennsylvania. Hidden behind the Augwick Flea Market and down the lane, is Glidden Alternative Energy Products and More.

Andrea, a 26-year-old, single mother from Petersburg, is in the early stages of becoming Huntingdon County's first solar energy store

Young Woman Opens County's First Solar Energy Shop

by Iona

owner. She and her father, Mark Glidden of Three Springs, are partners and they are methodically bringing in inventory, starting with high-efficiency wood-burning stoves, all manufactured in the United States. Andrea expects her future solar product suppliers to help her learn the engineering and technical aspects of the systems so that she will be able to do the installations with her father.

Mark has 30 years of experience in the heating, cooling and electrical industry. He is teaching his daughter how these things operate. "He's the best teacher in the world," she smiles.

With the energy crisis upon us, the Gliddens' goal is to help local homeowners upgrade their heating and cooling systems to save on utility bills in the future while reducing their fossil fuel consumption.

Andrea sees solar as the ultimate long-term solution to many of our country's problems. She has a list of

items she is ready to order: solar Christmas tree lights, dusk-to-dawn lights, garden lights, and her favorite item—solar hot water systems.

"I have a three-year-old daughter and if there's anything to be done to preserve the planet, obviously you care about that," said Andrea, when asked about the reasons she decided to start this business. She also said that she saw an open market for solar energy since "nobody else is doing it." When electric companies are deregulated in 2010, "prices of oil and utility bills are going to go through the roof," Andrea explained. Having the sun heat your water or home or light your lights will help save money in the long run. A typical hot water heater can cost \$500 or \$600 but a solar system is not much more—\$1,000, estimates Andrea.

(continued on page 14)

About Us

From the Editor



Dear Reader,

“The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings” is a dream come true—with the launch of a “real” newspaper, an alternative, environmental, hard-copy newspaper, fulfilling a need I perceive in the world—better news, more serious, with good values supporting it and a focus on women and peace instead of men and war.

Dreams. Sometimes I have very powerful dreams and I write them down. Sometimes I see the future, both beautiful and ugly. Usually my dreams are full of people and very busy. What’s on the right-hand part of this page is typed straight from my early-wakening notes.

I want to share two nighttime dreams. As I type, I’m sitting in the library where I work in a second-floor back corner, quietly, undisturbed. It may be the most wonderful job I’ve ever had. I’m part of a federal training program called Experience Works! for people over 55. On my application, I wrote that my goal was to become a self-employed newspaper publisher. It worked. In the 20 hours a week I put in, I am urged to spend my time trying to achieve that goal.

Publishing a nationwide, daily, alternative newspaper has been on my mind a long, long time. Keep that in your mind as you read the following two dreams.

I am fortunate to have many, many friends helping me in various ways with this project. If you would like to volunteer to join our team, please let me know.

Fondly, Iona

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How Did it Start? Dream (January 27, 2004)

How did it start?
One good book. Mine
more follow
lots of great books
large, multi-story wooden ‘library-condo-type building’—warm, beautiful
People gather in small groups—pods—
spend long, happy hours there meeting
and talking and enjoying books
The world changes—
 mobs trying to destroy
 people with smoke
 bombs
 chaos
 fierce, large vehicles
 panic
 flight
 run for our lives
 streets clogged
 wartime scenario
Slowly we find shelter in the remains of the library
we silently look at each other, finding peace in the old, quiet ruins
one by one we silently enter the warm, wooden structure
it’s over—the war and destruction are over
people will rebuild what was destroyed
[heavy, dark clothes—must be winter; no sight of sunshine throughout]
happy times in library—condo parties, fashion discussions
 (sketch of three hallways with round rooms at the end of each)
 many floors--6?
 beautiful wood everywhere
I started this with one good book and I’m still there to help rebuild.
I survived.
Actually—the dream didn’t have death—just running from evil and smoke and clogged roads

All trying to escape the horror, fear, evil
Overall emotion at end = relief, safety, a chance to repair the damage

Congratulations Dream (February 20, 2006)

Lots of congratulatory cards with home-made drawings and articles for “The Order of the Earth News” from some young people

“The Order of the Earth” is a Monthly Publication

Our Goal: To create a hugely successful newspaper that will report the story of people around the world working to protect their land bases, strengthen local communities and achieve a 90% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030.

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.

Publisher/Editor— Iona Conner
Publishing Partners— Kim Stenley and Christine Maccabee
Layout/Design— Katherine Lukaszewicz
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Contact Us:

Mail: HCR 83 Box 881
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255
Email: ionaconner@pa.net
Phone: 814-259-3372

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15TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH



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Endgame

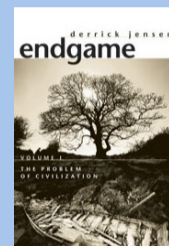
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Endgame by Derrick Jensen

(excerpts from his book, *Endgame*, published in two volumes—
a "must read" if you love this Earth)



PREMISE ONE: Civilization is not and can never be sustainable. This is especially true for industrial civilization.

PREMISE TWO: Traditional communities do not often voluntarily give up or sell the resources on which their communities are based until their communities have been destroyed. They also do not willingly allow their land-bases to be damaged so that other resources--gold, oil, and so on--can be extracted. It follows that those who want the resources will do what they can to destroy traditional communities.

PREMISE THREE: Our way of living--industrial civilization--is based on, requires, and would collapse very quickly without persistent and widespread violence.

PREMISE FOUR: Civilization is based on a clearly defined and widely accepted yet often unarticulated hierarchy. Violence done by those higher on the hierarchy to those lower is nearly always invisible, that is, unnoticed. When it is noticed, it is fully rationalized. Violence done by those lower on the hierarchy to those higher is unthinkable, and when it does occur is regarded with shock, horror, and the fetishization of the victims.

PREMISE FIVE: The property of those higher on the hierarchy is more valuable than the lives of

those below. It is acceptable for those above to increase the amount of property they control--in every day language, to make money--by destroying or taking the lives of those below. This is called *production*. If those below damage the property of those above, those above may kill or otherwise destroy the lives of those below. This is called *justice*.

PREMISE SIX: Civilization is not redeemable. This culture will not undergo any sort of voluntary transformation to a sane and sustainable way of living. If we do not put a halt to it, civilization will continue to immiserate the vast majority of humans and to degrade the planet until it (civilization, and probably the planet) collapses. The effects of this degradation will continue to harm humans and nonhumans for a very long time.

PREMISE SEVEN: The longer we wait for civilization to crash--or the longer we wait before we ourselves bring it down--the messier the crash will be, and the worse things will be for those humans and nonhumans who live during it, and for those who come after.

PREMISE EIGHT: The needs of the natural world are more important than the needs of the economic system. Another way to put Premise Eight: Any economic or social system that does not benefit the natural communities on which it is based is unsustainable, immoral, and stupid. Sustainability, moral-

ity, and intelligence (as well as justice) require the dismantling of any such economic or social system, or at the very least disallowing it from damaging your land-base.

PREMISE NINE: Although there will clearly someday be far fewer humans than there are at present, there are many ways this reduction in population may occur ... Some will be characterized by extreme violence and privation: nuclear Armageddon, for example, would reduce both population and consumption, yet do so horrifically; the same would be true for a continuation of overshoot, followed by a crash. Other ways could be characterized by less violence. Given the current levels of violence by this culture against both humans and the natural world, however, it's not possible to speak of reductions in population and consumption that do not involve violence and privation, not because the reductions themselves would necessarily involve violence, but because violence and privation have become the default of our culture...But this much is certain: if we do not approach it actively--if we do not talk about our predicament and what we are going to do about it--the violence will almost undoubtedly be far more severe, the privation more extreme.

Copied with permission from the author. Premises Ten through Twenty will appear in our next issue.



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IPCC Report

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(continued from page 1) the last word from the influential global climate panel before world leaders meet in Bali, Indonesia to begin to discuss a global climate change treaty that will replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. It is also the first report from the panel since it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October—an honor that many scientists here said emboldened them to stand more forcefully behind their positions...

While the United States, Saudi Arabia and China tried to change the text in order to play down the consequences of global warming, developing nations—that will bear the initial brunt of climate change—were much more forceful than at previous meetings in opposing those efforts...

U.N. Chief Seeks More Climate Change Leadership

by Elisabeth Rosenthal and Andrew C. Revkin, excerpt

VALENCIA, Spain (*The New York Times* November 18, 2007)—Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, describing climate change as “the defining challenge of our age,” released the final report of a United Nations panel on climate change here on Saturday and called on the United States and China to play “a more constructive role...”

His challenge to the world’s two greatest greenhouse gas emitters came two weeks before the world’s energy ministers meet in Bali...The United States and China are signatories to Kyoto, but Washington has not ratified the treaty, and China, along with other developing countries, is not bound by its mandatory emissions caps.

“Today the world’s scientists have spoken, clearly and in one voice,” Mr. Ban said... “In Bali, I expect the world’s policymakers to do the same. The breakthrough needed in Bali is for a comprehensive climate change deal that all nations can embrace.”

A World Dying, But Can We Unite to Save It?

by Geoffrey Lean, excerpt

VALENCIA, Spain (*The Independent on Sunday* November 18, 2007)—Humanity is rapidly turning the seas acid through the same pollution that causes global warming, the world’s governments and top scientists agreed yesterday. The process—thought to be the most profound change in the chemistry of the oceans for 20 million years—is expected both to disrupt the entire web of life of the oceans and to make climate change worse...

Drawn up by more than 2,500 of the world’s top scientists and their governments, and agreed last week by representatives of all its national governments, the report also predicts that nearly a third of the world’s species could be driven to extinction as the world warms up, and that harvests will be cut dramatically across the world.

Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme said of the report, “(This is) **the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future...** The hard science has been distilled along with evidence of the social and economic consequences of global warming, but also the economic rationale and opportunities for action now. While the science will continue to evolve and be refined, we now have the compelling blueprint for action and, in many ways, the price tag for failure—from increasing acidification of the oceans to the likely extinction of economically important biodiversity.”

Here It Is: The Future of the World, in 23 Pages

by Mike McCarthy, excerpt

LONDON, England (*The Independent* November 19, 2007)—It is about the size and weight of a theater program and when it was published in Valencia, Spain, the first eagerly-grabbed copies were held together by a hastily-punched staple. Yet these 23

pages are crucial to the future of the world.

This is the key document on climate change, and from now on you can forget any others you may have read or seen or heard about. This is the one that matters. It is the tightly distilled, peer-reviewed research of several thousand scientists, fully endorsed, without qualification, by all the world’s major governments...



Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report

Introduction

This Synthesis Report is based on the assessment carried out by the three Working Groups of the IPCC. It provides an integrated view of climate change as the final part of the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report. A complete elaboration of the topics covered in this summary can be found in this Synthesis Report and in the underlying reports of the three Working Groups.

1. Observed changes in climate and their effects:

Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level. (Figure SPM.1)

Eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) rank among the twelve

warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (since 1850). The 100-year linear trend (1906-2005) of 0.74 [0.56 to 0.92]°C¹ is larger than the corresponding trend of 0.6 [0.4 to 0.8]°C (1901-2000) given in the Third Assessment Report (TAR, SPM.1). The temperature increase is widespread over the globe, and is greater at higher northern latitudes. Land regions have warmed faster than the oceans (SPM.2).

Rising sea level is consistent with warming (SPM.1). Global average sea level has risen since 1961 at an average rate of 1.8 [1.3 to 2.3] mm/yr and since 1993 at 3.1 [2.4 to 3.8] mm/yr, with contributions from thermal expansion, melting glaciers and ice caps, and the polar ice sheets. Whether the faster rate for 1993 to 2003 reflects decadal variation or an increase in the longer-term trend is unclear.

Observed decreases in snow and ice extent are also consistent with warming. Satellite data since 1978 show that annual average Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk by 2.7 [2.1 to 3.3]% per decade, with larger decreases in summer of 7.4 [5.0 to 9.8]% per decade. Mountain glaciers and snow cover on average have declined in both hemispheres.

From 1900 to 2005, precipitation increased significantly in eastern parts of North and South America, northern Europe and northern and central Asia but declined in the Sahel, the Mediterranean, southern Africa and parts of southern Asia. Globally, the area affected by drought has *likely*² increased since the 1970s.

It is *very likely* that over the past 50 years: cold days, cold nights and frosts have become less frequent over most land areas, and hot days and hot nights have become more frequent. It is *likely* that: heat waves have become more frequent over most land areas, the frequency of heavy precipitation events has increased over most areas, and since 1975 the incidence of extreme high sea level³ has increased worldwide. (to page 17)

Major Challenge

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The Major Challenge Regarding Global Warming: How to Enlist Enough People to Turn the Tide

by John Conner, Grassroots Coalition

Given That:

According to mainstream scientists, calamitous climate changes are coming to this planet within several decades unless we—governments, corporations and ordinary American people—begin to make radical changes in our greenhouse gas emissions in the next 7 or 8 years. These emissions are caused by our burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, which cause the Earth's temperature to rise.

These climate changes include, and are now starting to produce, drying out of much of the Earth, melting of polar ice and glaciers, extreme weather events, disease and sickness, and mass migrations, all leading to great loss of life, both human and non-human.

In addition, there are 'positive feedbacks'—conditions that make the Earth warmer—which in the near future will begin to accelerate out of our control. An example is the melting of the Arctic ice cap, which reflects the sun's heat while it is ice and snow, but as it melts, uncovers dark water and land, which absorbs that heat and causes the Earth to warm. Thus, the more warming, the more melting; the more melting the more warming and so on.

Scientists believe that if we continue to intensify our climate-changing activities for only a few more years, we will cause these positive feedbacks to cross a threshold, beyond which they will no longer need input from us and will move ahead on their own, inexorably and irreversibly, bringing on and intensifying the above-mentioned climate changes, which will become ever more severe with the passage of time.

The problem is that radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions would entail a loss of profit by corporations and a radically changed standard of living by ordinary people.

Although governments should play a major role in grappling with this situation, they are responsive to the wishes of corporations and ordinary people, primarily the former, in the U.S. at this point in time.

There is no sign that any of these three groups as a whole—governments, corporations and ordinary people—are willing to make more than cosmetic changes, in spite of the fact that it is possible now, in 2008, to perceive the start of these changes in several parts of the world, where they are affecting

millions of people, and much of non-human life.

The difficulty in asking people to undertake the necessary changes is that they are focused primarily on their own lives in the here and now—short-term self-interest. What's good for me now? This shortsightedness renders calamities in the future or in distant parts of the planet, considerations that are not compelling.

People will be willing to make radical changes after the calamities enter their lives in various ways in the next several decades, but, most unfortunately, by then it will be too late to halt the progress of the calamities, because of the irreversible and unstoppable progress of the 'positive feedbacks', and because the effects of our emissions are not fully felt for several decades.

The Question Is: What can we do NOW to enlist as many people as possible in an effort to mitigate Climate Change and adapt to its coming effects?

We could despair of any real solution and say that the situation is hopeless in the near term, that all we can do is wait for these calamities to hit, and then do the best we can to enable a

small percentage of life to survive. Many people think this way.

We could look at all of the great injustices that currently afflict society and think that a total reorganization of society is called for, and that it can be accomplished only by people who care deeply. We could seek out such people to form into Small Faith Communities which focus much of their time and energy on reshaping society in accordance with their belief systems.

Or we could design some process for enlisting large numbers of people in spite of their tendency toward short-term self-interest. This will be best accomplished by many thinking, caring people joining together in intensive and prolonged brainstorming. It is imperative that the thinking that goes into this brain-storming be realistic and accepting of the factors indicated above. The 'solution' that we come up with does not have to restore society to a paradisaical state, but only to the best condition that is possible.

Please give a lot of thought to this question and send your thinking to John Conner at grassroots1@pa.net. We will print your thoughts.



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*So where is Shade Gap? A place where morning clouds cling gently
to their evening resting place in the hills.*

Women's Page

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the non-event[®] by Barbara Knox

Her invitations, hand-written on scrap paper,
for a potluck supper on a cold night
in late January, the year 2000, said
"Come celebrate the Non-Event."

There'd be no electricity,
just kerosene lamps, wood stoves;
no running water, so bring flashlights
for trips to the old outhouse.
And bring food to share
made from stuff stored for Y2K.
We'd entertain ourselves;
so bring guitars, poems, stories.

Supper was spicy baked beans,
box-mix scalloped potatoes,
casseroles of canned vegetables
mixed with canned soup and spices.
There was Spam studded with cloves
and a chocolate cake from a mix.

After we ate, one young man
told a story of a remarkable fishing line
that caught an airplane,
dragged the fisherman's boat
almost under a bridge
as it flew down the river,
and how the fisherman saved himself.

The teenagers read a voice choir poem
about a romance between a bookworm
and a book louse in a library.
The shy, second-grade teacher
recited "Jaberwocky" from memory.
Two men played guitars while we sang
If I Had a Hammer and *Blowin' In the Wind*.

We laughed all the way home. Why not, we said,
celebrate planes that didn't crash,
wars that were averted,
jobs we didn't lose.
Why not celebrate?

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.

Water In Its Own Right

by Jane Blewett, Spiritearth Newsletter, August 2007



Most often when the words "water" and "rights" are discussed in the same paragraph, the purpose is to stress the "right" that all people have to the water needed to sustain life. Increasingly, groups around the world are mobilizing to make that "right" a reality. Clean drinking water for all, particularly in areas of Africa where severe drought and water deprivation are endemic, is a critical goal toward which the United Nations and development organizations worldwide have committed funds and renewed support.

But "water" and "rights" belong together in an even more foundational way, one we have barely begun to realize. Water by the very fact that it exists has rights of its own! No, not human rights, "water rights!" Water has rights by the very fact that it exists! It need not ask permission from others in the life community to validate its being...it just is and its existence is a "right" in itself.

"Rights originate where existence originates; that which determines existence determines rights," is the first principle Thomas Berry enunciates when reflecting on the basic rights of the natural world. So, that is a first right for water—the "right to exist."

A second right, the right to its habitat, flows from the very fact that to continue to exist demands an essential context within which to be and to flourish. For example, it is taken for granted when listing human rights that they include the right to food, to water, to health and housing, since these are essential for life to continue.

In the case of water, survival means an intact hydrological system, since water and its movement throughout the planet is a single, unified whole. It is one! We cannot speak of the "rights" of the Atlantic Ocean, the Hackensack River, or the creek behind your house without including, by definition, the rights of every other ocean, river or creek. Each manifestation of the hydrological system is intricately linked to every other. The language of rights applies to the entire water system. However, most often, rights are spoken of specifically with regard to a single expression of the system; for example, the Hudson River Keeper speaks eloquently of the rights of that River.

And finally, water has the right to make its contribution to the great community of all life. Just as each of us contributes to the on-going life of the whole in a unique way, so water brings its essential, singular and unique gift, for the benefit of all. It is not the exclusive reserve of any single member of the life community. It does not belong to any particular geography or region of the planet, to any company or nation state. Water flows free and for the good of the

whole, for all and everything--plant, animal, human, mountain, wetland and meadow. It cannot be forever dammed, enclosed, denied access, for the entire planet is its home.

Ancient and life-giving, all the water now in circulation has been here since Earth was first formed over five billion years ago! It is an essential and precious gift for all of life. Water has its own story to tell, a story which we are just beginning to hear.

These rights--the right to exist, the right to a viable habitat and the right to contribute to the life of the whole community--also belong to all the other dimensions of the natural world! We begin to have a new vision of Planet Earth--we see that the Earth is a "communion of subjects, not a collection of objects;" the natural world has its own integrity independent of its use to the human community. We see that the Earth Community is a single community of interdependent relationships. We are awakening to the fact that humans and all the other members of the Earth community will go into the future together for good or ill, for life or death.

As we begin to grasp this new vision of water, we can share the language of St. Francis of Assisi when he sang his hymn of praise to celebrate the sacred community, "Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Brother Wind and Sister Water, Brother Fire and Sister Earth."



Jane Blewett is the Director of the EARTHCOMMUNITY CENTER in Laurel, MD, founded in 1988. Her goal from the start has been to awaken in people a renewed sense of how we humans belong to the great community of ALL LIFE with whom we share the privilege and the responsibility of preserving and celebrating Earth, our magnificent home Planet! She

has written many articles on this topic and co-authored GLOBAL 2000 REVISITED: WHAT SHALL WE DO?, a publication of the Millennium Institute prepared for the Parliament of World Religions in 1993.



Energy

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Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us, Part I: Introduction

[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.]

FROM FILMMAKER JEFF BARRIE

I made *Kilowatt Ours* in the hopes that this film would motivate people to conserve energy, buy green power and become part of the solution to America's energy crisis. My greatest hope is that you will take action after watching *Kilowatt Ours*, and find ways to reduce your electricity usage in your school, home, and community.

The curriculum you are about to use has been carefully crafted to result in significant benefits to teachers and students, their communities, and environment. As a bonus, this curriculum may also result in lower energy bills for those who follow it closely.

Thank you for making a difference!

Jeff Barrie

PS: Please help keep the momentum going by sharing with us your experiences with this curriculum. Email your success stories to: curriculum@KilowattOurs.org

WHAT IS KILOWATT OURS?

Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America (2007) is the most recent documentary film created by filmmaker Jeff Barrie. The film follows Barrie's 18-month journey from the light switch to the sources of America's electricity, exploring the great environmental problems that result from coal and nuclear-generated electricity. As a solution to global warming, air pollution, and mountaintop-removal coal mining, Barrie and his wife Heather team up to conserve energy in their apartment, then explore America in search of inspiration and hope on a larger scale.

Kilowatt Ours provides a hopeful look at how energy efficiency and renewable power can

improve the quality of life across America. The film offers practical ideas for consumers to lower their energy costs, showcasing successful home, business, and school examples that save hundreds, even thousands, of dollars annually on their utility bills.

Trust for the Future (TFTF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, acts as the fiscal sponsor for several projects focused on clean energy and resource conservation, including the Kilowatt Ours project. The organization was incorporated in Tennessee in 1985. TFTF was founded to promote environmental protection and conservation of natural resources through research, public education, coalition building, and community organizing.

To donate to Kilowatt Ours and receive a DVD, go to www.kilowattours.org. For information on acquiring public screening rights, email screening@KilowattOurs.org.

GUIDE TO KILOWATT OURS: A PLAN TO RE-ENERGIZE AMERICA

COMPANION CURRICULUM SOUTHEAST VERSION

(The national version is nearly ready.)

The activities in the companion curriculum are intended to

be completed before and after watching the *Kilowatt Ours* DVD with students. The material connects directly to the ideas and facts presented in the film. The activities are appropriate for students, grades 5-12, and can be adapted by teachers to match the level of their students, curriculum area, and time constraints. Younger students will also achieve success with the activities with a

little modification by the teacher.

The activities range from basic, quick, follow-up activities to more in-depth, extended projects, and are designed so that they may be done individually or as a unit. Teachers may choose to do any number of the activities in any order. Also,

activities can be adapted to the home or school so that all students can have the opportunity to participate. The activities are tied to the National Curriculum Content Standards for Science, Math, Social Science and Language Arts, Grades 5-12. These connections are all listed in Appendix G at the end of the curriculum. The appendices include additional materials and resources to complement and support the activities.

Film length: 38 minutes (60-minute version available on the same DVD)

Grades: 5-12 (easily modified

for younger and older students)

Time needed: One class period to several class periods

Curriculum Content Standards: Science, Social Studies, Math, Language Arts

Please share the film with your entire school, administration, parents and community. And let us know how many of your students are viewing *Kilowatt Ours*! Go to

www.kilowattours.org or www.CountYourKilowatts.org to report your feedback and energy savings.

KILOWATT COUNTER

An important piece of solving global warming is to remind participants that their actions make a difference. Students can track their energy savings and resulting emissions savings at home with the Kilowatt Counter, a web-based energy-savings calculator.

As they make changes at home, students may report their savings data and renewable power purchases to the online system, where the information is recorded and measured. The savings are quantified in terms of dollars, kilowatt-hours, pounds of coal, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide reductions.

Participants receive reports of cumulative savings and energy-saving tips each month in automated emails. The Kilowatt Counter is at www.CountYourKilowatts.org.

We greatly appreciate feedback! Please contact curriculum@KilowattOurs.org with any comments or questions. Thanks again for your dedication!

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



Jennifer Barrie doing a Kilowatt Ours program (looks like the heat is turned down!). Photo supplied by Jennifer.

What's Going On?

The Order of the Earth Volume 8, Number 1, Issue 70: January 2008

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New Report Describes Systematic White House Effort to Manipulate Climate Change Science

by Steve Benen, excerpt
(The Carpetbagger Report, via *Environmental News Network* December 12, 2007)—The evidence has been overwhelming for quite a while that, when it comes to climate change science, the Bush administration prefers restrictions to revelations.

Just two months ago, for example, Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was set to testify on the impact of climate change on public health, but the White House intervened, "eviscerated" her testimony, and directed Gerberding to discuss the public health "benefits" of global warming. It seemed to be a trend—Bush asked an oil lobbyist to rewrite government reports on global warming, and muzzled NASA and NOAA officials when their reports were politically inconvenient.

Of course it looked like a trend because it *was* part of a trend. For the past 16 months, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has been investigating allegations of political interference with government climate change science. During this investigation, the Committee obtained over 27,000 pages of documents from the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Commerce Department held two investigative hearings and deposed or interviewed key officials. Much of the information has never been publicly disclosed.

The evidence before the Committee leads to one inescapable conclusion: the Bush Administration has engaged in a systematic effort to manipulate climate change science and mislead policymakers and the public about the dangers of global warming.

Earth's Tropic Belt Growing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, AP December 3, 2007, excerpt)—Earth's tropical belt seems to have expanded a couple hundred miles over the past quarter-century, which could mean more arid weather for some already dry subtropical regions, new climate research shows.

Geographically, the tropical region is a wide swath around Earth's middle stretching from the Tropic of Cancer, just south of Miami, to the Tropic of Capricorn, which cuts Australia almost in half. It's about one-quarter of the globe and generally thought of as hot, steamy and damp, but it also has areas of brutal desert.

To meteorologists, however, the tropics region is defined by long-term climate and what's happening in the atmosphere. Recent studies show changes that indicate an expansion of the tropical atmosphere.

The newest study, published yesterday in the new scientific journal *Nature Geoscience*, shows that by using the weather definition, the tropics are expanding toward Earth's poles more than predicted. And that means more dry weather is moving to the edges of the tropics in places like the U.S. Southwest...

Six Birds in State May Go the Way of Dinosaurs

by Don Hopey, excerpt
(*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* December 3, 2007)—Catching a glimpse of a Henslow's sparrow, golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, short-eared owl, semipalmated sandpiper or wood thrush is rare in Pennsylvania, but without immediate conservation efforts it could soon be only a memory, according to birding groups.

Those half-dozen birds, which now breed or winter in the state or migrate through it, are on WatchList 2007, the latest listing (by the Audu-

bon Society and American Bird Conservancy of North America) of birds facing an imminent risk of extinction.

The continental WatchList, based on a comprehensive analysis of population sizes and trends, distribution and environmental threats, includes 59 species on a "red list" of greatest concern and 119 species on a "yellow list" because of a combination of rarity and steeply declining populations.

"All of us in Pennsylvania have an opportunity and responsibility to help protect our birds at greatest risk," said Tim Schaeffer, executive director of Audubon Pennsylvania. "We need conservation action now, while there is still time, and WatchList helps focus that action where it is needed most..." For the complete national WatchList, go to Audubon.org/science/species/watchlist.

Also see pa.audubon.org.

The Biggest Environmental Crime in History

by Cahal Milmo, excerpt

ALBERTA, Canada (*The Independent UK* December 9, 2007)—BP, the British oil giant that pledged to move "Beyond Petroleum" by finding cleaner ways to produce fossil fuels, is being accused of abandoning its "green sheen" by investing nearly 30 billion dollars to extract oil from the Canadian wilderness using methods which environmentalists say are part of the "biggest global warming crime" in history.

The multinational oil and gas producer, which last year made a profit of 22 and a half billion dollars is facing a head-on confrontation with the green lobby in the pristine forests of North America after Greenpeace pledged a direct action campaign against BP following its decision to reverse a long-standing policy and invest heavily in extracting so-called "oil sands" that lie be-

neath the Canadian province of Alberta and form the world's second-largest proven oil reserve.

Producing crude oil from the tar sands—a heavy mixture of bitumen, water, sand and clay—found beneath more than 54,000 square miles of prime forests in northern Alberta—an area the size of England and Wales combined—generates up to four times more carbon dioxide, the principal global warming gas, than conventional drilling. The booming oil sands industry will produce 100 million tons of CO₂ (equivalent to a fifth of the UK's entire annual emissions) a year by 2012, ensuring that Canada will miss its emission targets under the Kyoto treaty, according to environmental activists.

Chesapeake Bay Health Gets Worse, Group Says

by Kristen Wyatt, excerpt
ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (*Public Opinion, Chambersburg* December 4, 2007)—The Chesapeake Bay's health is going from bad to worse, according to an environmental group that gave bay health a grade of "D" on Monday for the ninth consecutive year.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation gave the bay a failing grade for one of its most persistent pollutants, nitrogen, along with Fs for water clarity and dissolved oxygen. "The health of the bay is dangerously out of balance," a report from the foundation concludes.

Underwater grasses, which are important because they provide habitat and filter pollutants from the water, continue to struggle to reach historical levels. The watershed is losing wetlands to erosion. Chemicals from myriad household products—antibacterial soap to face creams to birth control pills—end up in the water, making some fish unsafe to eat. [*Ed.: Well, what about the fish themselves?*]

Green Youth Corner

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The Top 10 Greenest Colleges and Universities in the U.S.

by Jennifer Hattam, excerpt

(*Sierra Magazine* via *alternet.org* November 6, 2007)--During finals last winter at Northeastern University in Boston, students blew off steam playing Guitar Hero, producing the video game's juice with a pedal-powered generator. Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, handed incoming freshmen energy-saving compact fluorescent light-bulbs along with their campus IDs. And collegians nationwide turned down thermostats; performed waste audits; and lobbied their schools to reduce energy use, provide healthier and organic food, and set a sustainable example for the rest of the world...

All of this activity made picking our top ten U.S. campuses inspiring and exhausting. We looked at everything from colleges' clean-energy purchases and green-building policies to their bike facilities and the food served in their dorms. We checked out how many victories their Campus Climate Challenge group had won and whether organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education or the Sustainable Endowments Institute had lauded their efforts.

As the biggest purchasers and employers in many communities, colleges can create demand for eco-friendly services and products.

The List

1. Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH (2,800 students)
2. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (20,000 students)
3. Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (850 students)
4. University of California system (10 locations, 214,000 students)
5. Duke University, Durham, NC (12,800 students)
6. Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT (2,400 students)
7. Berea College, Berea KY (1,600)
8. Pennsylvania State University, (24 locations, 83,700 students)
9. Tufts University, Medford MA (8,800 students)
10. Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA (10,000 students)

High-profile schools have a bully pulpit—and the financial resources—to lead by example with their actions and investments. Research institutions are primed to develop technological solutions. And even small community colleges are educating tomorrow's leaders. If students start their adult lives in a culture of sustainability, they just might take that ethos with them wherever they go.



LEAP IN!

PAEE Conference 2008

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Freedom

The Order of the Earth Volume 8, Number 1, Issue 70: January 2008

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I Was Tried (and Acquitted) for Protesting the Iraq War

by Gordon Clark, excerpt reprinted with permission from alternet.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Alternet.org August 1, 2007)—On Thursday, July 12, I filed into D.C. Superior Courtroom 221 along with my six co-defendants to hear my verdict in a case that could have landed me behind bars. We were apprehensive, given that the jury had deliberated less than one full day, but as the jury foreman spoke, his words flowed over us like cool rain on a hot summer day—"not guilty."

Not guilty! How often do anti-war protesters hear those words in a U.S. courtroom?

The trial was the result of a non-violent action taken in the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2007—the day the now Democratically-controlled Senate voted to continue funding the Iraq war. As part of the ongoing Occupation Project, the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) organized a presence in the Hart building atrium (a central courtyard) which consisted of more than 100 cardboard tombstones with pictures of American and Iraqi dead, accompanied by a reading of the names of the dead. Approximately 25-30 individuals participated, and the Capitol Police arrested seven of us.

Our ability to get a jury trial was almost an accident, a product of the particular charge in the case which, because it carried a possible six month jail sentence, allowed us a jury trial upon request. And as any activist who has ever gone through a trial can tell you, if you get a chance to appeal to a jury of your peers, you go for it.

Under the expert tutelage and training of Mark Goldstone, chair of the Demonstration Support Committee of the Washington D.C. National Lawyer's Guild and an invaluable resource to those challenging the government in our nation's capitol, we trained extensively to go "pro se," or represent ourselves. We wrote our own statements and practiced how to present opening and closing arguments, give direct

testimony, cross-examine government witnesses and submit motions for acquittal, as well as getting an understanding of proper courtroom decorum. (The benefits of our judicial system notwithstanding, the judge still stands as a feudal lord over the courtroom, and nothing trashes your chances quicker than disrespecting the judge.)

A little more daunting was training on how to get our anti-war message to the jury.

Prosecutors in the District of Columbia, who are used to such cases, will often file a motion in limine ("to limit") in order to prevent any information about the war, such as its illegality or death toll, from entering the trial proceedings. Even though our prosecutor did not offer such a motion in our case, we fully expected that he and the judge would shut us down whenever we talked about the war. They did not disappoint us in that regard, so learning how to insert small snippets of anti-war information throughout the trial, and being prepared to proceed when interrupted were also critical parts of our training.

One favorite rhetorical tactic came during the opening statement, when co-defendant David Barrows announced to the jury that "this trial is not about an illegal and immoral war; this trial is not about the thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have died in this war..."

Another particularly sweet moment came when the prosecutors unfurled our 15-foot banner for the jury to read: "Another Year of War, How Many More Die?" Honestly, we couldn't have done it better ourselves...

All in all, though, as the trial

closed we were left clinging to our hopes for a hung jury: the possibility that even though we might be seen as guilty of the particular offense, some jury members would find the law and/or war itself so offensive that they would refuse to convict us. To our considerable surprise, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" for all seven defendants after only four and a half hours of deliberation.

Although the trial was at its

heart about free speech, and particularly our ability to exercise this type of political speech in a public place (the Hart Senate Office Building atrium) the verdict turned, as they often do, on a relative technicality. While "demon-

strations" per se are illegal in the Capitol buildings, along with picketing and parading, they are interpreted in case law through what is called "the tourist standard." The tourist standard states that such activities can only be deemed illegal if they are "more disruptive, in degree or number, than activities engaged in by tourists and others without police intervention." As you might imagine, there are all sorts of demonstrations, pickets, parades, gatherings, press conferences, receptions and equally loud and disruptive group activities going on everyday in Capitol buildings--they are just not usually organized by those protesting government policy. Moments before our protest, for instance, a group of students from Hawaii were joyously singing native songs in the same atrium, a fact we brought up repeatedly during the trial.

Ultimately, the jury found us not guilty because the prosecution, which probably thought it had an open and shut case, was unable to prove beyond

a reasonable doubt that we had in fact been more disruptive than an equivalent group of seven tourists "or others." They also questioned the meaning of "without police intervention," since it was clear from the video that the situation escalated in volume once the police moved in. The jurors we spoke to later—they are free to talk to anyone after the trial is over—said that there had actually been a majority ready to convict us for demonstrating illegally until they began discussing the tourist standard, and that their political views never came into play...

Overall, we were thrilled by the verdict, and pleased that our action, a photo of which also appeared on the cover of the April 16, 2007 Congressional Quarterly Weekly, netted such positive results. We gave thanks to those nonviolent activists that came before us, as well as remembering all those who have lost their lives in the horrible tragedy in Iraq. We were acutely aware that we might not have received such a favorable jury or a "not guilty" verdict two or three years ago, and we pledged to redouble our efforts to end the war once our celebration was done...

We knew that none of this would ever have come to pass without our willingness to take risks in nonviolent action, and as I emerged from the courthouse a quote from Henry David Thoreau came to mind: "If the machine of government is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law."

May more and more of us be willing to challenge and break the law, until we can bring the illegal, immoral and unjust war in Iraq to an end.

Thanks to my co-defendants: Joy First, David Barrows, Malachy Kilbride, Eve Tetaz, Sam Crooks and **Ellen Barfield**. (story on next page) Gordon Clark is a co-founder of the [National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance](http://www.nationalcampaignfornonviolentresistance.org) formerly the [Iraq Pledge of Resistance](http://www.iraqpledge.org): www.iraqpledge.org.



Photo from Act Now to Stop War and End Racism Web site

Peace

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Why Was I a Soldier? Why Am I Now a Peace Activist?

by Ellen Barfield, Baltimore, Maryland

Part of this story was written in 2002 for a book called From Warriors to Resisters: U.S. Veterans on Terrorism.

I had expected something like the atrocity of September 11th for quite a while. After all, I have seen long, drawn out atrocities--like the horrific economic exploitation and impoverishment of Central America, which is maintained by murderous School of the Americas or the same (but newly-named) WHISC-trained government troops; and the genocide by starvation in Iraq, maintained by U.S. domination of the United Nations.

I decry ALL of these atrocities and call them all terrorism. My government calls the first by that name--but commits, helps, or encourages the others. I am horrified but not surprised at the tremendously violent response my government is perpetrating on innocent Afghans after 9/11. In a unipower world, only the powerful clutches unto its breast the "right" to use force--and in doing so makes its own citizens targets of the fury and frustration of others who disagree with its policies but have no legitimate and effective way to object.

I have traveled a long path to get to the understanding I now have of U.S. policy. I joined the Army to get the money to finish college...My husband, Kurt, had joined the Army before we married, and when he got orders for a tour without dependents, I joined, too.

I had no intention of making it a career. I come from a rather militarized family but I did not feel any particular fervor to serve. The idea that God wanted one set of people to defeat another set of people (on the football field or in war) always rang false, but the issue seemed remote. I wanted to do my time and get my money for school.

I did not question the military mission in Germany, my first duty station, but that is where I began questioning western life in general. I had the tremendous good fortune to have a book store on my base run by an officer's wife who was quietly progressive. I wish I could find her now and thank her for making good periodicals available.

Through magazine ads, I joined the Sierra Club, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organiza-

tion for Women, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Reading their literature, I got an education about the environment, energy usage, civil and human rights, feminism, and nuclear weapons. I began to want to do something about these issues...

A 1980 assignment to Korea provided my first close-up exposure to real poverty. Even cheap electrical items (like toaster ovens) from the store on base were highly regulated because of their black market value. When I went off base I saw swarms of raggedly clad people--some begging, some prostituting themselves, many just working far too hard for far too little. It was a real education for a young, sheltered and naïve, middle-class woman from the United States.

During my year there, Republic of Korea army troops perpetrated the Kwang Ju massacre of over 2,000 Korean civilians. My unit, along with all 40,000 U.S. troops in the country, was placed on high alert and began anti-riot training.

I have since learned why Kwang Ju happened. There had been a coup in South Korea in 1979, and the U.S. installed a more compliant puppet regime. Kwang Ju had a history of independence so not just students but the whole city demonstrated against the illegally installed government. Our mission was to crush any ideas the Korean people had of running their own country.

I got out of the Army, went back to college and got my degree. Several years later some courageous folks started holding activist peace camps at the Pantex nuclear weapons plant outside my home town, Amarillo, Texas. I attended a few camps and began learning about nuclear weapons and milita-

rism. I became a full-time volunteer at the Peace Farm, the intentional community Red River established across the highway from the Pantex plant. All this activism caused Kurt and me to grow apart, and we divorced. I moved to the Peace Farm and was its director for about a year.

I met my current husband, Lawrence Egbert, in the Red River Network. We traveled with a Pastors for Peace caravan through Central America in late 1995, and lived in Leon, Nicaragua for seven months. That was where I got my real education on Central America issues.

The U.S. government is willing to do whatever it takes to keep the world's goodies disproportionately flowing in, so that U.S.

citizens can eat strawberries in January and pumpkins in June; drive behemoth gas-guzzling SUVs and live in huge, overheated, suburban mansions...

One way I have chosen to practice the real patriotism of challenging my country to rise above its baser instincts, is to risk arrest by trespassing and speaking out at places which embody U.S. abuses of power.

Now I am 51 years old and proud of it. I have earned my gray hairs and stiff joints!

How many protests have I marched in, spoken at, helped organize? Many hundreds at least, likely thousands. Since 1985, when I attended my first demo, an anti-nuclear weapons peace camp, or since 1988 when I became a full-time peace and justice activist. Over 20 years, one a week would total approximately 1000, and only one a week would be a scant count, especially if you include regular vigils, and teach-in events.

I have the tremendous good fortune because my husband, as a mostly-

retired physician, has enough income to support our activist habits!

The primary issues of my activism have been resisting nuclear weapons, and war in general plus other issues such as racism, the death penalty, universal health care, the environment, immigrant rights, women's and reproductive rights, and care for veterans.

I lost count of exact numbers of arrests long ago. I had to do a compilation of all arrests from 1994 to 2004 for the city of New York in their deposition-taking regarding the activist lawsuit challenging the mass arrests and abusive conditions at the Republican National Convention in 2004, and that total was 42, so I would assume about twice that for my life total so far.

Of course many of those charges were dismissed, and some I posted and forfeited a small fine, though I only do that if it is the intention of the whole group. I always go to trial if possible. I consider that an important part of the action. I have served several short sentences in Maryland.

I am on the national Veterans for Peace (VFP) and War Resisters League boards, and on national committees of the School of the Americas Watch and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

VFP is a particularly important part of my activism. A military veteran has an important role to play in influencing public opinion on war. Many people are surprised to meet veterans who oppose war, the erroneous assumption being that former warriors still support war-making. In fact, being confronted with the reality of killing under orders becomes a turning point toward serious questioning of authority for many.

Ellen Barfield served in the U.S. Army from 1977 to 1981, finished college with Army money in 1984, and has been a full-time, nonviolent activist since 1988. She was born in Georgia, grew up in Texas, and now lives in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband and fellow activist, Lawrence Egbert.

See www.veteransforpeace.org.



Veteran Ellen Barfield of Baltimore, Maryland in her Army jacket with peace badges. Photo by Judith Mahoney-Pasternak

We're Launched!

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With a Little Help From My Friends ...



**We Bring You the First Newsprint Issue of
"The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings"**



<p>Mom—Best wishes on the launch of your new newspaper. Mitchell (2), Luke (6 months), and all of their friends thank you for your tireless efforts. Love Always, Mitch and Ginger</p>		
<p>Mom—We wish that one day we will wake up and not worry about what has been done to this world, knowing that this paper will make a difference in the end, not just by expanding our horizons, but by making more people listen. We love you and wish you the best launch ever. Mike and Billie</p>		
<p>Enclosed is my check in support of your "life's dream project." John Surette, S. J., Spiritearth LaGrange Park, Illinois</p>	<p>You guys are an inspiration! John and Mary Brinker Ellicott City, Maryland</p>	<p>Best Wishes From BJB ADVERTISING, INC. 129 Avon Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 17080; 908-561-4689 Barbara & Gary Benko</p>
<p>A small contribution to assist your efforts to order the Earth for us all. Mary Elizabeth Kenel and Joe Skeffington Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>We're all in this together and together we will make a difference. Christine Maccabee Sabillasville, Maryland</p>	<p>Dave Minnis Adamstown, Maryland [Ed.: Dave is our most faithful subscriber—seven renewals—who is also helping with our postage.]</p>
<p><i>Little Keys to Happiness:</i> <i>Work with joy.</i> <i>Live with love.</i> <i>Dream from your heart.</i> <i>Share what you have.</i> J & J Daurio <i>Care deeply.</i> New Providence <i>Be thankful always.</i> New Jersey</p>	<p>For Earth: Best Wishes from Marney Bruce Bethesda, Maryland</p>	<p>I am such an advocate of you & "The Order" being part of WindCurrent's future that we will change your participation to being ON US! [Ed.: wind offsets for our carbon emissions] Jim Maguire www.WindCurrent.com</p>

Letters to the Editor

The Order of the Earth Volume 8, Number 1, Issue 70: January 2008

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Email That Led to the Dream February 28, 2007

Hello Iona,

Christine and I think that we should work with you to help you realize your dream of a newspaper. I have writing, layout, editing, and, if I try, marketing skills. People need to hear new stories. We have to flood all the waves with Earth Community stories: we have to drown out the stories of Empire and expose them for the megalomaniac, oppressive stories they are!

Kim Stanley, Taneytown, MD

Hi Iona,

Wow!!! Your newspaper is wonderful!! The layout, design and colors are just beautiful. Were you responsible for that too, or just the copy? And did you write some of the articles? I see that there were contributing writers. Overall I think it's totally professional, beautifully designed and looks like it was very well written. Your specific audience will love it.

You know what I was looking for? A recipe....that might be a nice addition. Something 'organic' of course, but it might show your readers how to bring this knowledge 'home' and how to 'live' with it. It would also lighten it up a bit and give readers something to watch for. The recipes could even be from your readers....maybe have readers email them in, and you can capture their email addresses for future mailings. Just a thought.

Great job, and I'm so happy you have made a life long-dream come true. Best of luck with it, and thanks for sharing.

Barbara Benko, South Plainfield, New Jersey

[Ed.: Two things--1. Katherine Lukaszewicz was the artist who gave "The Order of the Earth News" a professional face-lift. 2. How about Barbara's recipe idea? Meat production is bad for global warming. Please send us your favorite vegetarian recipe and we'll start a new column.]

Hi, Iona--

I decided to subscribe because I know I'd never get your newspaper read online because I can't carry it with me to the doctor's office or read it while I wait in line at the store. I suspect the subscription is cheaper than ink for my printer to print it out to read in bed. When I find an article of special interest I take it to the Saturday evening Forum here at my retirement home and read aloud from it when it is my turn. Yes, I have a laptop, but it won't fit in my purse, which is already too heavy.

Barbara Knox, Sandy Spring, MD

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

I just forgot to tell you something. It was back in 1993. I went to Korea to teach a course to my students. At that time my wife was still working in the U.S. and I came back to America to help her pack up everything for Korea. I came to Bergen County just before Thanksgiving. I clearly remember what I saw in the streets and forests of Bergen County. The trees were naked. All leaves besides evergreen ones fell down. It was only fourteen years ago. Today I see a lot of colorful leaves still hanging on the trees.

Maybe this is an unusually warm autumn this year but I can see a huge difference in fourteen years.

This is my personal testimony and observation.

Pyong Roh, Hackensack, NJ

Congress Labels Citizens "Homegrown Terrorists"

by Don Harkins

Below is a letter I sent to the Idaho delegation and published in the November edition of The IO. It is sort of a manifesto in that I have finally reached my breaking point. Americans who complain about the horrible things government has been doing to them are not "terrorists"--they are the terrorized. Because government has terrorized so many of us over the last 40 years, we are now the majority. Congress' response to the fact that over 50 percent of Americans have

been raped, murdered and their property/children/assets/businesses stolen by government? Identify us as "thought criminals" if we complain about the crimes government has committed against us. Designate us as violently radicalizing homegrown terrorists. Then treat us like everyone else on the planet who this out-of-control government has decided is an enemy of their version of freedom (which is for the commoners to shut up and take our abuse like good slaves).

During the last 13 years as the editor of an independent press, I have heard so many impeccably-documented horror stories that prove organized government criminality, often capital criminality, that news of HR 1955 really got to me. Who do these people think they are? More importantly, who do they think we are?

If you feel so inclined, forward this at will to anyone or modify in any way you see fit and send it on to the people who profess to represent your interests in our nation's capital.

It is my belief that we are being treated this way because we tolerate it. We are the majority now and we should start acting like it. We are the sleeping giant that must awaken, the sleeping giant "they" are afraid of and, when the energies of over 100 million justifiably angry, disillusioned, disenfranchised, disgusted and self-righteously indignant Americans combine in one voice screaming "We are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore," the treasonous cretins who have decided to represent us by declaring war on us will have to reconsider their allegiances.

No matter what,
Don Harkins, Spirit Lake, Idaho

OPEN LETTER TO THE IDAHO DELEGATION

This is my response to the Idaho congressional delegation and 402 other House members' decision to pass HR 1955 on October 23, 2007.

The bill may as well be called the "Thought Crimes Act of 2007" because it identifies anyone who disagrees with the policies of government as potentially violent homegrown terrorists. By extension, those deemed guilty of crimes created by the act would be subject to the unwarranted searches, seizures and indefinite detentions and torture techniques the Bush administration terror warriors are notoriously capable of inflicting on its prisoners. Never has such a vote in Congress affected me so deeply. It represents the moment most of us have been anticipating for some time: Government injustice has become so blind that an American majority has been damaged by it. Government's legislative response to growing dissent is not to correct the injustices but classify those who complain about them as "terrorists."

This, I believe, is government making a fatal mistake. How long can a minority, no matter how well armed, continue projecting power once it begins persecuting the majority as enemies of the state? It has finally become apparent why I have been witness to the full spectrum of city, county, state and federal abuses since June, 1995...

[to be continued next month]

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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Children Are Safe

The Order of the Earth Volume 8, Number 1, Issue 70: January 2008

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Playing Hooky, Walking and Thinking About Transportation

Pyong Roh, Hackensack, New Jersey

Today my wife and I played hooky and we went to Manhattan. I thought of you because you are a real New Yorker. We walked from Port Authority to Central Park. We stopped by Rockefeller center, and Carnegie Hall. I have not practiced much and I could not get into the hall but I thought of Mr. Carnegie and great composers in front of the building. In Central Park, we met beautiful ducks swimming in a pond. They are small but graceful. On an ice rink many youngsters were enjoying skating. On horse trails, one-horse-powered wagons were taking tourists. No air pollution, and the animals are so friendly. One-horse-power is more than enough for a wagon and five people including a driver. Why do we need several hundred horsepower for a small car? [Ed.: See horses on page 19.]

We came down to Times Square on foot from Central Park. It was little bit chilly and snowflakes were flying but it was a kind of delightful excursion. Many people turned out on the street. Maybe many of them are tourists from every corner of the world. There are too many cars to count. I hope New York City develops a more efficient public transportation system. Of course, we took a bus from Hackensack to Port Authority (one dollar and fifty five cents for a senior citizen). The bus went through the Lincoln Tunnel. Maybe shuttle trains to cross the river are much more efficient and good for the environment.

I hope America develops better public train transportation systems in order to reduce not only traffic but also save energy. America is a developed country but way behind in public transportation system in metropolitan areas. When we have to learn something from others, we have to learn from them. In other words, there are many metropolitan areas which have good public transportation systems in the world. Some of them can be good bench marking for American cities, I think.



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

Solar Store (Continued from page 1)

The first order was for solar Christmas tree lights, dusk-to-dawn lights, garden lights, solar motion lights and her favorite item, solar hot water systems. When the new items arrive, Andrea will display them in her spacious store.

Andrea, a former bartender, is enrolled with the Huntingdon County Business Incubator, a place designed to give new small business owners a chance to get on their feet. They provide an intern from Juniata College, a cubicle, phone and computer. Andrea will be housed in a Keystone Innovation Zone, developed with state funds to promote alternative energy in Pennsylvania.

Andrea's incubator business deals solely with solar products and is called KGR Natural Energy, named after her daughter, Katelynn Grace Richner. "She'll own it someday," says her mom, at which point the father-daughter business will become a three-generation enterprise.

Andrea is making connections with solar energy companies and doing research on grants. She is eager to educate younger people about the power of the sun. She plans to give every single school in the county a model solar car or airplane so the kids can see that solar energy really works.

Andrea is enthusiastic about radiant floor heat, stating that it gives a consistent temperature to the home. It's very efficient because heat rises. Solar panels can be added to supply the heat. "It's the perfect relationship," she claims.

"Only you can take action; only I can take action," says Andrea matter-of-factly. She's a realist and wants to see manufacturing back in the USA, health care, etc. "Let's clean that all up!"

Andrea Glidden is the future.

Chesapeake Citizens Mission Statement: Winter '07-'08



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

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.

Visit us at www.chesapeakecitizens.org

Diane Wittner
Chesapeake Citizens

www.chesapeakecitizens.org
info@chesapeakecitizens.org

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor it, which makes it hard to plan the day."

E.B. White

Kim's Column

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Let's Think About This

by Kim Stenley

Last year I wrote a column for a different publication expressing hope that the environment was getting more play in the mainstream media. The coverage continues to grow by necessity, but well-conceived stories describing the depth and breadth of the ecological crises under way and the visionary ideas needed to stem them continue to be lacking.

Mainstream environmental news is typically written from an institutional angle, making it hard for people to relate to, understand and internalize the problems well enough to take action. Americans need more stories that explore the dynamics between their habits and lifestyles and the flora and fauna that are their land-bases, so as to help them understand how they are a part of the problems and the solutions.

The *Order of the Earth* aids this effort. What the world needs is more wisdom and compassion. It is my hope that more stories emphasizing these will grace this newspaper in its new form.

Our planet and its people are suffering. The earth is so polluted that not a single child born into this unbelievably amazing place is free of synthetic chemicals. Large and small sea and land animals are dying at rates not seen in the history of our civilization from illness, habitat loss and over-harvesting. And we are losing forests, prairies, wetlands and entire mountains and watersheds. All this so a small percentage of the world population can live like the very kings and queens they fought so hard to distance themselves from 250 years ago.

It's shocking to think about how much damage can be wrought by small groups of humans with opposable thumbs and higher order language and critical thinking skills. I can only begin to wonder what the animals and plants are saying. The industrial din has grown so acrid, dark

and loud, it's hard to hear, see or smell them anymore.

I often wonder what it will take for Westerners to once again find enough quiet within themselves to be able to hear, see, smell, taste and feel the beauty and abundance that they are consciously or unconsciously destroying. Like the Native Americans before us, many indigenous peoples today still maintain self-sustaining relationships with each other and their landbases. However, the Westernization of the planet continues to pose a serious threat to them as the diversity of languages and cultures disappears at an alarming rate.

If our own hominid group is to survive, we're going to have to stop putting all our efforts into worshipping saviors and idols and start rebuilding our relationships with each other and the natural world. We're going to have to take ourselves off our pedestals and rejoin the community of life that we continue to deny we are part of. We're going to have to admit that our way of doing things—a way that can be traced back over 5,000 years to the Sumerians who set up an administrative social hierarchy lead by priests—isn't working.

Western civilization rests on a foundation of slavery, war and conquest. This is nothing to be proud of, nor should we continue to emulate it because it only breeds greed, hatred and delusion that manifests in contempt and oppression and all the nasty emotions and actions that accompany imperialism.

We continue to promote slavery through the purchase of cheap goods and services and the brainwashing effects of modern technologies; we continue to wage war for access to resources and to control others; and we continue to support conquest by participating in a capitalist system that is based on unlimited growth on a finite planet and steals from the poor

to give to the rich.

This is a society clearly lacking wisdom and compassion: The wisdom to understand the interconnectedness of all life and each individual's role in supporting and sustaining it, and the compassion to respect and care for all sentient beings regardless of color, shape or form.

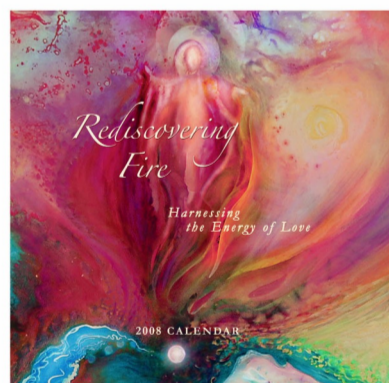
If we are to survive we will need to remove the fragments splintering our eyes and souls and rebuild our relationships with ourselves and others. We will need to go back to living in self-sustaining villages that survive by living harmoniously with the flora and fauna of a particular place. We will need to learn to trust and respect what the earth provides naturally.

May we each find within us the strength to pursue the wisdom and compassion we need to save ourselves.



Kim Stenley writes from Taneytown, Maryland

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Iona's Corner

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How On Earth Did I Become a Radical Environmentalist Grandmother?

by Iona



Introduction

Well, not for the first time in my life am I about to do something unusual. I'm starting a newspaper and a book at the same time.

I've been planning to write my autobiography for a while, thinking that somehow the story of my life-long pursuit of environmentalism would inspire others to dig in and keep going in the fight to save our precious planet.

A year ago, when I first realized that we only had ten years to work hard and make a dent in the anticipated, cataclysmic unfolding of global warming, I decided to physically move many of my less imperative projects to the loft--out of sight--to prevent me from being seduced into doing them merely by seeing them hanging around "my space" in the basement office.

So, load by load, out went the sewing projects, the sewing machine, the journals, the loose-leaf binders I have carefully saved over the years. Out went the knitting needles. Out went the novels I thought would be interesting to read during "down time."

There would be no "down time" for me for ten years. That hasn't exactly panned out since I know full well, that in order to continue this work, I do need (and even crave) "down time." But still, I do not use much free time for escape books. And since my husband, John, and I don't own a television, we sit peacefully in the evenings reading books about climate change.

It seems important to me now to be able to share with my friends and readers the spirit and thinking which has led me to be actively involved in this field for over 40 years.

You can still find me sitting in my nice big easy chair trying to figure out what is the very best use of my time, energy and intellect in these critical times.

My decision is to launch this newspaper, which has previously been in "newsletter" format, and to simply start telling my story, bit by bit, in these pages. By the time I'm 90, the story should be done.

The only problem is that I plan to live to be 102, so I'll still have something to say. And if you're around, you can keep on reading.

The Order of the Earth Column: A Lifestyle Rebellion Putting Earth's Needs Ahead of Our Own

by Iona

I am not a saint. I have the same weaknesses and confusions as anyone else. What makes me different is that I have not owned a TV in 27 years so I maintained my ability to think for myself and educate myself about the world.

I have not been spoon-fed poison and lies and commercials. I have made no effort to emulate TV characters in a superficial and cruel culture. Drop a name from a TV show and I have no idea who you're talking about. That person is not important. Actually, "that person" is not that person--she or he is pretending to be somebody else.

Personally, I see television as Public Enemy Number One for its numbing effects on viewers, the distortions of "news" and the abject stupidity of many shows. It's time to jettison your television.

Step Number One in fighting for the future of our Earth = get rid of your TV. OUT! It brings you trash and keeps you from developing your own ideas. When you are watching TV, you are not really living.

I think most people are drugged and sleep-deprived because they stay up past their bodies' natural bed-times watching artificial excitement on the tube and then sleeping fitfully instead of reading quietly before bed and noticing when they are tired. And **then** going to sleep naturally.

When was the last time you read a factual book, not an escape book? A book about what is happening to the environment? To you? To your home planet? Or do you get your understanding from corporate-owned news?

If you got rid of your TV, you'd have plenty of time to read and you wouldn't have nonsense chatter in the background of your life. You could take time to learn facts about actions which kill Earth's ecosystems and replace them with better ones. It is imperative that we learn as much as we can as fast as we can so we will have the courage and commitment necessary to make intelligent and tough decisions (like throwing our TVs away).

Probably you can already list 10 harmful elements about your own television-watching habits, but to go deeper, try to locate a used copy of Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television by Jerry Mander, long out of print. That book changed my life.

Every Spring there is a nationwide TV-Turn-Off Week. That's a start. People learn how to interact with one another during that week. Usually

there are articles in local newspapers about schools which support the effort. Trying to drag children away from televisions, and now computers and Game Boys, is no easy task.

Imagine a world where, instead of watching television, people started joining with others at town meetings, where volunteerism regained prominence in our country, where children played outdoors again freely in their neighborhoods (not organized sports), where families took long hikes in parks and forests--where they re-learned how to protect and preserve natural areas near their own homes so there would be a deafening outcry when people log their woods or the government decides to sell off publicly-owned land to private industry, as they are doing now.

Imagine a world where people no longer adopt screen personae to imitate; where every conversation is not a contest to out-wit each other or put each other down. Imagine a world with no TV.

I lived in that world for the first eight years of my life, before TV entered our home.

I live in it now.

I invite you to join me!

Iona has been an environmental activist for over 40 years. Her eight-step plan for correcting many world problems is: RELAX! Be peaceful. Think for yourself. Be happy at home. Save natural resources. Get serious. Get involved. Teach others.



When you are watching television, you are not really living.

Iona

Grassroots Power

IPCC Climate Change Report (continued from page 4)

There is observational evidence of an increase in intense tropical cyclone activity in the North Atlantic since about 1970, with limited evidence of increases elsewhere. There is no clear trend in the annual numbers of tropical cyclones. It is difficult to ascertain longer-term trends in cyclone activity, particularly prior to 1970.

Average Northern Hemisphere temperatures during the second half of the 20th century were *very likely* higher than during any other 50-year period in the last 500 years and *likely the highest in at least the past 1300 years.* [Editor's bold]

Observational evidence⁴ from all continents and most oceans shows that many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases.

Changes in snow, ice and frozen ground have with *high confidence* increased the number and size of glacial lakes, increased ground instability in mountain and other permafrost regions, and led to changes in some Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems.

There is *high confidence* that some hydrological systems have also been affected through increased runoff and earlier spring peak discharge in many glacier- and snow-fed rivers, and effects on thermal structure and water quality of warming rivers and lakes.

In terrestrial ecosystems, earlier timing of spring events and pole-ward and upward shifts in plant and animal ranges are with *very high confidence* linked to recent warming. In some marine and freshwater systems, shifts in ranges and changes in algal, plankton and fish abundance are with *high confidence* associated with rising water temperatures, as well as related changes in ice cover, sa-

linity, oxygen levels and circulation.

Of the more than 29,000 observational data series, from 75 studies that show significant change in many physical and biological systems, more than 89% are consistent with the direction of change expected as a response to warming (SPM.2). However, there is a notable lack of geographic balance in data and literature on observed changes, with marked scarcity in developing countries.

There is *medium confidence* that other effects of regional climate change on natural and human environments are emerging, although many are difficult to discern due to adaptation and non-climatic drivers.

They include effects of temperature increases on:

- ◆ agricultural and forestry management at Northern Hemisphere higher latitudes, such as earlier spring planting of crops, and alterations in disturbance regimes of forests due to fires and pests;
- ◆ some aspects of human health, such as heat-related mortality in Europe, changes in infectious disease vectors in some areas, and

allergenic pollen in Northern Hemisphere high- and mid-latitudes; and

- ◆ some human activities in the Arctic (e.g. hunting and travel over snow and ice) and in lower-elevation alpine areas (such as mountain sports).

Footnotes

1 Numbers in square brackets indicate a 90% uncertainty interval around a best estimate, i.e., there is an estimated 5% likelihood that the value could be above the range given in square brackets and 5% likelihood that the value could be below that range. Uncertainty intervals are not necessarily symmetric around the corresponding best estimate.

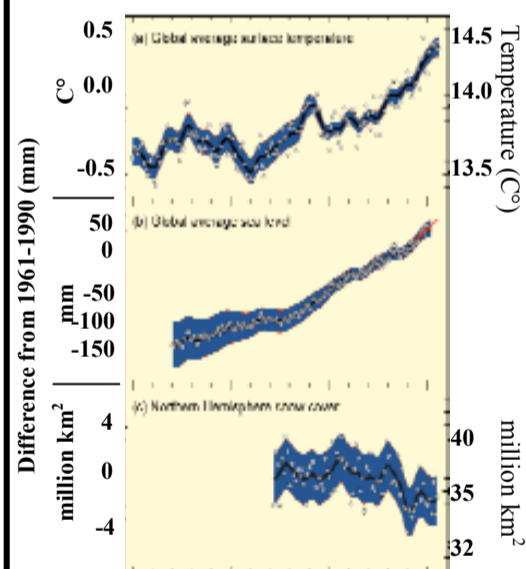
2 Words in italics represent calibrated expressions of uncertainty and confidence. Relevant terms are explained in the Box 'Treatment of uncertainty' in the Introduction of this Synthesis Report.

3 Excluding tsunamis, which are not due to climate change. Extreme high sea level depends on average sea level and on regional weather systems. It is defined here as the highest 1% of hourly values of observed sea level at a station for a given reference period.

4 Based largely on data sets that cover the period since 1970.

Next Month: Causes of Change

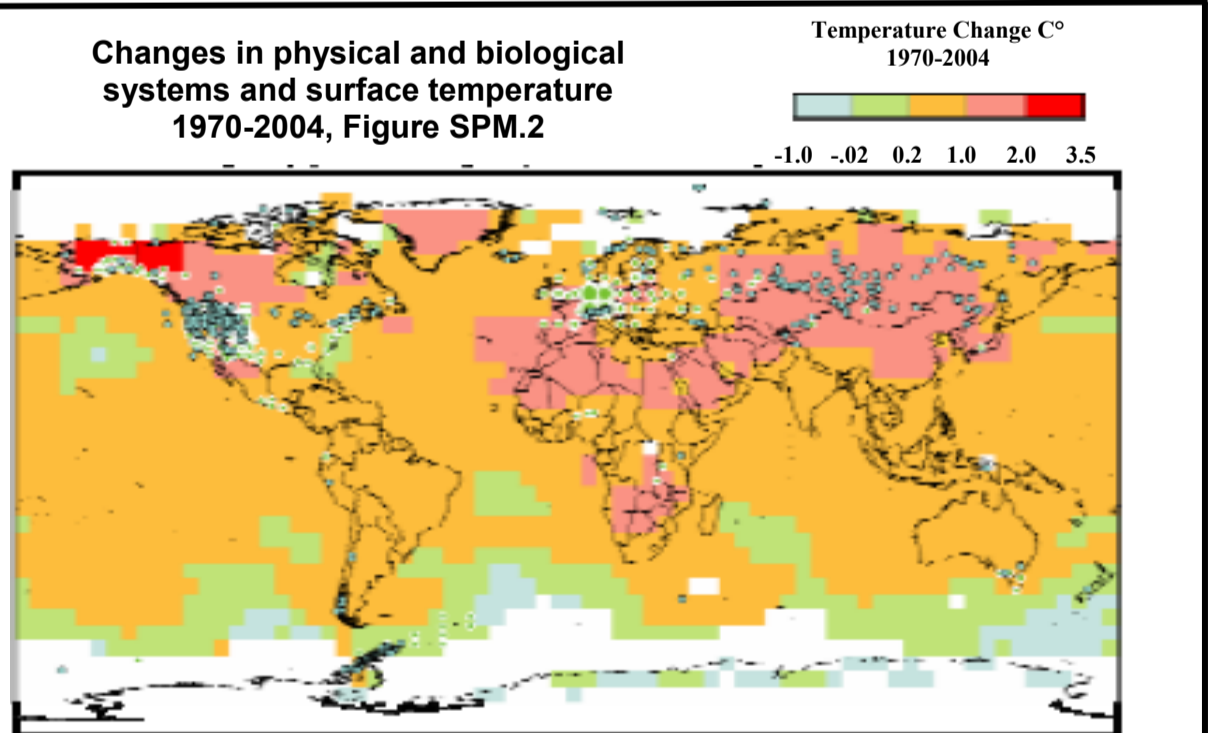
Changes in Temperature, Sea Level and Northern Hemisphere Snow over Figure SPM.1.



Top line = global average surface temperature
Middle line = Global average sea level
Bottom line = Northern Hemisphere snow cover

[Ed.: Please see IPCC Web site for more precise readings and interpretations of these charts.]

Changes in physical and biological systems and surface temperature 1970-2004, Figure SPM.2



Grassroots Power

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New Jersey Town Doubles Recycling Rates in One Week with RecycleBank Program

CHERRY HILL, New Jersey (Green Progress via *Environmental News Network* December 3, 2007)--Cherry Hill has become the 27th municipality in the US to deploy the RecycleBank program, a rewards program that motivates people to recycle. After just one week of collection, the town has already seen homes in the pilot program more than double the amount of waste being recycled.

RecycleBank motivates households and communities to recycle by rewarding each household for the amount they've recycled. RecycleBank measures the amount of material recycled and then converts the amount into RecycleBank Points that can be used at hundreds of local and national RecycleBank Reward Partners.

Cherry Hill was looking for an innovative way to combat the increasing cost of landfill fees while raising the city's curbside recycling rates. RecycleBank's program presented Cherry Hill the opportunity to dramatically increase recycling rates by offering its citizens rewards for recycling. After just one week of participation, there has been a 134 percent increase in recycling rates, with the amount of recyclables more than doubling from about 12 pounds per household to nearly 26 pounds.



There's Sunlight in Albany?

ALBANY, New York (*The New York Times* editorial, excerpt, December 6, 2007)--So seldom is there good news out of New York's state capital that when something like the new Project Sunlight Web site emerges, the instinct is to wonder how soon before the forces of darkness will try to kill it. Until they do, the new site from Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office gives ordinary New Yorkers the ability to see information about their state that should have been easily accessible in the first place.

Over the years, New York's lawmakers have found increasingly artful ways to make it hard for anybody outside the capital to know what they're doing. Campaign records were kept in different counties. One governor listed donors by their first names. More recently, data about which legislator doled out which goodie to the home district—from a ball field to a cheese museum—was given out strictly on a need-to-know basis. And when journalists finally took legislative leaders to court to get these lists of "member items" the information was released in ways that blocked most computers from using it. The rule was that any "public information" had to be extremely difficult for the public to get—in most cases, one had to file a Freedom of Information request and start knitting a very large sweater.



MARYLAND A Global Warming Solution

Maryland, with its strong grassroots climate movement and progressive landscape, is perfectly positioned to join other states in taking the lead on global warming solutions. We need public policy to match the urgency of the science, which tells us that we need to reduce our pollution by 80% by the year 2050, beginning with a binding policy to get us on track to reduce pollution 20% by 2020.



Chesapeake Bay Bridge photo courtesy of David Hawxhurst Photography© www.hawxhurst.com

Right now, Maryland is on track to increase, not decrease, its global warming pollution! We need bold action, and the time is now!

CCAN, part of the "Alliance for Global Warming Solutions" coalition, invites you to join us in finding a Global Warming Solution for Maryland! Visit our Web site at www.chesapeakeclimate.org



Activists Target Illicit Campaign Work in Capitol

by Richard Fellingner

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (*Public Opinion, Chambersburg* December 4, 2007)—Two activists have launched a venture aimed at discouraging illegal campaign work on the state's dime—a crime watch inside the Capitol.

Gene Stilp of Taxpayers and Ratepayers United and Dennis Baylor of the Pennsylvania Accountability Project set up a post office box for anonymous tips about political work by state staffers or with state resources.

It comes amid the "Bonusgate" investigation into whether legislative staffers received bonuses last year as rewards for campaign work, and just before the 2008 campaign season begins. Candidates can begin circulating nominating petitions January 22 for all 203 House seats and half of the 50 Senate seats.

The activists released a long list of election-related activities they want to hear about—such as staff who are assigned to file political paperwork, coordinate fund-raising activities or put out mailings.

Tips about suspected illegal campaign activity will be accepted at: Capitol Crime Watch, P.O. Box 3333, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

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Grassroots Power

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Proposed Ban on Genetically Modified Corn in Europe

by James Kanter, excerpt

PARIS, France (*The New York Times* November 23, 2007)—European Union environmental officials have determined that two kinds of genetically modified corn could harm butterflies, affect food chains and disturb life in rivers and streams, and they have proposed a ban on the sale of the seeds, which are made by DuPont Pioneer, Dow Agrosciences and Syngenta.

The preliminary decisions are circulating within the European Commission, which has the final say. Some officials there are skeptical of a ban that would upset the powerful biotechnology industry and could exacerbate tensions with important trading partners like the United States. The seeds are not available on the European market for cultivation.

In the decisions, the environment commissioner, Stavros Dimas, contends that the genetically modified corn, or maize could affect certain butterfly species, specifically the monarch, and other beneficial insects. For instance, research this year indicates that larvae of the monarch butterfly exposed to the genetically modified corn "behave differently than other larvae."

Court Settlement Requires Bush Administration to Address Hazards of Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfur Oxide Gases

WASHINGTON, D.C. (The Center for Biological Diversity via *Environmental News Network* November 21, 2007, excerpt)—The Bush administration has agreed to a court settlement requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to review the environmental hazards of nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides and revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for these two dangerous pollutants.

Nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides are major air pollutants from coal combustion, motor vehicles, and other sources, and are major contributors to global warming (in the case of nitrous oxide), smog, acid rain, and a variety of human-health problems ranging from asthma to cancer and premature death. The settlement comes as a result of a lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity and a coalition of public-interest organizations and individuals.

"These outdated standards have caused premature births and countless illnesses and death in our children. They have also sickened our forests and farmland upon which we depend for food and shelter," said Tina Marie Johnson, co-plaintiff and resident of Berea, Kentucky. "I am glad that the EPA

has agreed to meet these new deadlines. I look forward to standards that reduce the toxic pollution that continues to cause suffering in the most innocent members of our society."

Under the settlement, EPA has agreed to issue Integrated Science Assessments and final decisions on any revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards pursuant to a detailed schedule that includes a date for each action. The agency will complete all the actions by October 2010.

The Horse: Is This the Secret Weapon to Beat Global Warming?

by Geoffrey Lean, excerpt

ST. PIERRE-SUR-DIVES, France (*The Independent on Sunday* November 25, 2007)—The French are discovering a new green form of transport: the humble horse. More than 70 French towns have already gone back to the future by introducing horse-drawn carriages to replace petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles for local tasks such as collecting rubbish, street-cleaning and taking children to school. And at least 30 more are set to join the revolution next year.



The revival of horse-power is being pushed by the French National Stud—that's not David Ginola or even President Nicolas Sarkozy, but an organization set up four centuries ago by the "Sun King," Louis XIV, to supply horses for his military...

Children in the flower-bedecked tourist town of St. Pierre-sur-Dives, in Normandy's Calvados country, are being ferried to school in picturesque carriages rather than school buses.

Thirty-five miles away, the seaside resort of Trouville is using horse-drawn carts to pick up glass bottles for recycling. And they have been used in the same way, as well as for carrying water tanks to clean the streets, around Beauvais airport, 55 miles north of Paris.

The National Stud even brought along a sample carriage—called the hippoville—to show the

mayors of the small towns. It has disc brakes, signal lamps and removable seats...promoters say the carriages are particularly good for the environment when used for work that involves lots of stops and starts over short distances...

Global Warming Claims its First Major Political Victim

by Dr. Joseph Romm, excerpt

(*HuffingtonPost.com* via *alternet.org* November 26, 2007)—Global warming takes down its first major political victim: "Conservative (Australian) Prime Minister John Howard suffered a humiliating defeat Saturday at the hands of the left-leaning opposition, whose leader has promised to immediately sign the Kyoto Protocol on global warming."

Why the stunning loss? A key reason was Howard's "head in the sand/dust" response to the country's brutal once-in-a-thousand-year drought. As the UK's *Independent* reported in April, "...few scientists dispute the part played by climate change, which is making Australia hotter and drier...Until a few months ago, Mr. Howard and his ministers poo-hooed the climate-change doomsayers."

Now we (the U.S.) are the last industrialized nation with a leader who refuses to take any serious action—hopefully that dubious distinction will be corrected in the 2008 presidential election.

South America Ushers in The Era of La Presidenta: Women Could Soon Lead a Majority of Continent's Population

by Monte Reel, excerpt

BUENOS AIRES (*The Washington Post* October 30, 2007)—Here in the land of machismo, where leaders were long supposed to conform to the standard of the strong-armed military man in epaulettes, a rising wave of leaders is working on a new 21st-century cliché: la presidenta.

The movement started at South America's southern tip, where Chile elected Michelle Bachelet president last year. Argentina followed this week, choosing first lady Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner as its first elected female president.

In Paraguay, outgoing President Nicanor Duarte is backing former education minister Blanca Ovelar as his replacement in next year's election. And in Brazil, many political observers say that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva seems to be grooming his chief of staff and a former energy minister—a woman named Dilma Rousseff—to carry his party's torch when his term ends in 2010.

[Ed.: And in the United States, who knows, maybe Hillary will be president.]

Bali Climate Summit

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Snapshots from Climate Talks in Bali, Indonesia (From multiple news sources, December 7-17, 2007)

The answer is simple. If we lose the world's forests, we lose the fight against climate change. Rainforests are our Earth's greatest utility—our planet's lungs, thermostat and air-conditioning system.

Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

During the Talks:

“Delegates from nearly 190 nations must fix goals for industrialized nations to cut their greenhouse gas emissions while helping developing countries cut their own emissions and adapt to rising temperatures....Those gathering on the resort island of Bali were charged with launching negotiations to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. What they decide in the next two years will help determine how much the world warms in the decades to come.”

“The best policy—both in terms of the environment and in terms of economic theory—would be to have all countries take on binding emissions caps under an international agreement,” said Nathaniel Keohane, director of economic policy and analysis at Environmental Defense....From an environmental point of view, it would ensure that the pollution we cut here at home doesn't simply end up coming out of a smokestack somewhere else.”

“Behind the more conciliatory front, the Bush crew are running a systematic wrecking operation, seeking to undermine the prospect for an agreement here.”

“Amid growing frustration with the United States over deadlocked negotiations, the European Union threatened Thursday to boycott separate talks proposed by the Bush administration in Hawaii next month.”

“The escalating bitterness between the European Union and the United States came as former Vice President Al Gore told delegates, “My own country... is principally responsible for obstructing progress here at Bali....Over the next two years the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now. You must anticipate that.”

“The best we hoped for was that the U.S. would not hobble the rest of the world from moving forward,” said Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists....Our delegation here from the United States has not been able to meet that low level of expectation.”

“There's a belief that the United States should not do anything until all the other governments are willing to go along and do it at the same time,” Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York said. “We should be doing this regardless of whether the world is following or not.”

After the Talks:

“There were many moments of drama and theater in the negotiations, at a resort complex on the southern tip of Bali, involving 11,000 officials, environmentalists, industry lobbyists and journalists. But nothing else matched the point on Saturday, in the final tumultuous plenary, when the American team was booed for trying to block a proposal by India.”

“Deforestation actually accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than all the cars and trucks in the world....”

“Providing financial incentives to ‘reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation’ has emerged as the most likely way of enlisting poor countries in combating climate change.”

“The negotiators at the United Nations climate conference came from almost 200 countries and spoke almost as many languages, but driving them all to find a better way to address climate change was one widely shared sentiment: that “later” is over for our generation. “Later” was a luxury for previous generations and civilizations. There are many reasons why later is over...the world is not just getting hot, it's getting raped.”

“The people of the world wanted more. They wanted binding targets,” said Marcelo Furtado of Greenpeace Brazil.”

“There are still two years to go, but so far the new agreement is even worse than the Kyoto Protocol. It contains no targets and no dates. A new set of guidelines also agreed on at Bali extend and strengthen the worst of Al Gore's trading scams, the clean development mechanism. British environment secretary, Hilary Benn, and the other dupes are cheering and waving their hats as the train leaves the station at last, having failed to notice that it is traveling in the wrong direction.”

“Despite an aggressive European-Union-led campaign to include specific emissions reduction targets for industrial nations, the final roadmap has none. The guidelines were eliminated after the U.S., joined by Japan and others, argued that targets should come at the end of the two-year negotiations, not the start. But it was a separate issue that precipitated a riveting, final-hour fight.”

“India sought to amend the document to strengthen requirements for richer nations to help poorer countries with technology to limit emissions and adapt to climate change's impacts.”

“The head of the U.S. delegation, Undersecretary of State Paula J. Dobriansky, objected, setting off loud, long boos in the hall. Next, delegate after delegate took aim at the United States.”

““We seek your leadership,” Kevin Conrad told the Americans. ‘But if for some reason you are not willing to lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way.’”

“The U.N. climate conference exploded with applause, the U.S. delegation backed down, and the way was cleared Saturday for adoption of the ‘Bali Roadmap.’”

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HCR 83 Box 881
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255

