

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Photo by Scott Mahon

A beautiful mountain reflection marred by the dead spruce trees the mountain beetle has left behind. One and a half million acres of forests in Colorado have been destroyed by the pine beetle.

Warming Causes Massive Tree Die-Off

By Scott Mahon
Erie, Colorado

Visiting the Rocky Mountains has always been intriguing because of its massive landscapes, big skies and dense forests. As a photographer, you dream of capturing the scenery as well as Ansel Adams did decades ago. In recent years, this beautiful landscape has been disfigured by an outbreak of the mountain pine beetle, also known as "the bark beetle" because of the way it buries itself into the bark of pine trees. This beetle is native to North America but the infestation has soared in recent years because of warmer temperatures linked to global warming. The pine trees that once complimented these magical mountains now show up as reddish-brown patches of dead trees. Beetle kill is now visible all over the Rocky Mountains.

These results have left me searching for unaffected areas to photograph and each year these locations become smaller and smaller.

Most of the areas in Colorado that are affected are on federal lands and recreation areas that are used for kayaking, skiing and hiking. These are the areas I frequent the most for my photography and spending time outdoors.

Last summer I took my family on a camping trip to Steamboat. It was perfect timing because the wildflowers were at their peak. I didn't realize how



Photo by Scott Mahon

While kayaking Steamboat Lake the sun reveals the devastating effects of the mountain beetle.

bad the area was hit by the mountain beetle until the next morning.

We arrived a few hours after the sun set on the first night. The campground is completely surrounded by the lake except for the parking area. The next morning I woke up and took my kayak out for a paddle just before sunrise. The fog was rolling off the top of the lake and, as the sun began to light the trees and mountains around me, I could really see how bad the devastation was.

I was able to get a few decent pictures that weekend but all of them seem

to show rows of dead trees on every part of the mountain.

It made me realize what an epidemic this has become. After reading more about the reasons behind the outbreak, I now understand how much of this is tied to us. Environmentalists have been writing about this for years but I know even a small change in our habits can make a difference. We can do this by buying local products, recycling, taking advantage of public transportation (when available) and converting to

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Tipping Point Near Warn UN and World Bank

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 23, 2009 (ENS) — The planet is quickly approaching the tipping point for abrupt climate changes, perhaps within a few years, according to the U.N. Environmental Programme's newly released 2009 Year Book and a separate World Bank report now being presented throughout Latin America.

The U.N. agency warns that urgent action is needed to avoid catastrophic climate events such as major food and water shortages, shifts in weather patterns and destabilization of "major ice sheets that could introduce unanticipated rates of sea level rise within the 21st century."

The report warns that climate changes are occurring much faster than anticipated by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, issued in 2007.

While earlier estimates forecast up to 19.5 inches rise in sea level in the coming century, updated calculations suggest that the rise may be as high as 78 inches.

Melting ice sheets and glaciers in the northern and southern hemispheres will not only contribute to sea level rise but will also leave many regions around the world without basic water resources for human consumption and industrial production.

In its new report, the World Bank focuses on four climate impacts of special concern:

- The warming and eventual disabling of mountain ecosystems in the Andes,
- The bleaching of coral reefs leading to an anticipated total collapse of the coral biome in the Caribbean basin,
- The damage to vast stretches of wetlands and associated coastal systems in the Gulf of Mexico; and
- The risk of forest die-back in the Amazon basin.

Last week, World Bank climate experts presented devastating news to an audience in Lima, Peru — glaciers in the Andes mountain range may disappear within the next 20 years unless immediate action is taken to mitigate climate change.

In the past 35 years, Peruvian glaciers have shrunk by 22 percent, resulting in a 12 percent reduction in freshwater for the coastal area, the home of about 60 percent of the country's population.

Bolivia and Ecuador, which depend on nearby glaciers for water, also are facing serious shortages.

The World Bank report, "Low Carbon, High Growth: Latin American

Responses to Climate Change," is being presented during regional visits by bank experts who were in Central America in March and are now touring Andean countries. The visits were to finish with a trip to Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

Damage from hurricanes and tropical storms will increase, the World Bank reports. Estimates suggest that losses from hurricane damage along the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico "could increase tenfold from 2020 to 2025."

"In Central America and the Caribbean, losses will triple or quadruple, respectively, in the same period," said World Bank economist John Nash, who presented the report in El Salvador.

"Climate change can have extremely severe consequences for Colombian agriculture," said Walter Vergara, a bank climate-change expert who spoke during the presentation held in Bogota on February 16.

Vergara warned that in the worst-case scenario Colombian farm production could suffer an almost total loss of 94 percent as a result of temperature rises from 2.5 to 5 degrees Celsius [Ed.: 4.5 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit] and a 10 percent variation in annual rainfalls.

The bank's report acknowledges the efforts Colombia is making in its fight against climate change, especially in the area of public transportation. The bank experts foresee potential benefits for the country as a result of new global agreements and aid programs.

"Current negotiations seek to include programs for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries, commonly known as REDD, in a future post-Kyoto agreement," explained Augusto de la Torre, World Bank lead economist for the region and one of the authors of the report.

This post-Kyoto agreement is being shaped by talks among governments throughout this year that will culminate in the annual U.N. climate conference in December in Copenhagen, where an agreement is expected to be finalized.

Combating rising temperatures and slowing the rate that ice and snow are melting requires quick action.

One near-term solution is to focus on black carbon, or soot, an aerosol that scientists assert may be the second largest contributor to climate change after the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and that has an enhanced impact on snow and ice melt.

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Environmental Movement Comes of Age

Climate Change Action Involves More Students

By Jason Mark
AlterNet, March 3, 2009

Blaine O'Neil believes he and his friends are on to something big — namely, saving the world.

"Climate change is more than a life-or-death issue — it's a life-or-death issue for the next infinite generations," says the 19-year-old, a biology major at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. "We need to show Congress that we need climate legislation now and that green jobs are the way to go. We can't keep living off of this short-term, fossil-fuel energy. We need immediate and aggressive change; it's simply the only

choice we have left."

O'Neil, along with 30 others from Swarthmore, was among an estimated 12,000 people — mostly college students — who descended on Washington over the weekend to demand sharp cuts in the country's greenhouse gas emissions. For environmentalists, the three-day-long mobilization was a convergence of superlatives.

Organizers called a grassroots lobbying drive on Monday "the biggest lobbying day on climate and energy" in the country's history as they enlisted some 4,000 students to visit nearly every congressional office. And later that day, in what activists dubbed "the largest mass civil disobedience on climate" in the U.S., some 2,500 people blockaded the gates of the Capitol Power Plant, which burns coal to provide heat to the senators' and representatives' offices, a symbol of the nation's reliance on fossil fuels.

The grassroots energy displayed in the Capitol appears to mark an important turning point for the environment.

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Photo courtesy of www.capitolclimateaction.org

Every gate at the Capitol Coal Plant was occupied as people demand clean energy.

Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

I've been thinking a lot lately about depleted uranium (DU), in part because of some pictures I've seen. First the depleted uranium, then the pictures.

So-called depleted uranium is what's left of natural uranium after the "enriched uranium" — the fissionable isotope uranium 235 — has been separated to produce fuel for nuclear reactors. The term depleted uranium is something of a misnomer in that it implies that the remaining uranium has become significantly less dangerous, more, well, depleted. But depleted uranium — 99.8 percent uranium 238 — is just as toxic and about 60 percent as radioactive as natural uranium. And with a half-life of 4.5 billion years, it will truly be one of this culture's trademark gifts that keeps on giving: it will kill essentially forever.

The United States has made a lot of it, well over a billion pounds. Beginning in the 1950s, the feds started trying to figure out what they were going to do with all of this stuff. Providentially, uranium is extremely dense — about 1.7 times heavier than lead — and so can be used to make an artillery shell that easily penetrates steel. Even better, it's pyrophoric, meaning heat from the impact causes it to vaporize, releasing huge amounts of energy. If you don't mind toxifying and irradiating the surrounding countryside and its human and nonhuman inhabitants, depleted uranium makes a tank-bust-

ing shell extraordinaire.

What this means in practice is that leaders of government and industry solved the problem of disposing of U-238 in typical win-win (for them) fashion by giving it away free to both national and foreign arms manufacturers (perhaps it never occurred to anyone in power that the planet had already come up with the best solution for storing uranium: keep it in its natural state underground).

I suppose we should be thankful that the researchers didn't deem DU's most effective use to be in forks or the heating elements of toasters, or else we'd be up to our glowing eyeballs in it at home. But this gratitude is in truth unfounded, because that plan has long been floated by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences and many others as a way to get rid of various radioactive wastes. They want (note the use of present tense) to redefine certain forms of radioactive waste as "Below Regulatory Concern," recycle them (it's great to be green!), and thus give citizens "authorized doses" of radiation.

We should also be grateful, I guess, that they didn't just decide to put the DU in our water supplies and tell us it's good for our teeth. Oops, they've already done something like that, too. As is true for DU, fluoride is a toxic by-product of this way of living (in this case the production of aluminum, fertilizer, cement, and weapons-



grade plutonium and uranium). Also as is true for DU, fluoride is violence extremely costly — if not impossible — to dispose of safely. The feds didn't know what to do with it. Perhaps because fluoride didn't work very well either in artillery shells or toaster ovens, those in power decided to get rid of it by adding it to our municipal water supplies and toothpaste, which means that the old John Birchers were right when they averred that fluoridation was a dangerous plot ("to sap and impurify all of our precious bodily fluids," as General Jack D. Ripper might have put it): they just had the wrong conspirators.

Another similarity between fluoride and DU is that both are dangerous: not only does fluoride derived from toxic waste containing impurities such as lead and arsenic, but even at

relatively small doses fluoride itself can cause cancer, osteoporosis, skeletal fluorosis, arthritis and brain damage, among many other conditions.

Here's another thought: just for grins, if you're ever in your grandparents' basement, see if you can find an old container of rat poison. Check out the toxic ingredient — the killer. Yep, you guessed it, sodium fluoride

Happy brushing. The list of countries using or purchasing weapons or shells made with depleted uranium is long and includes, among others, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Israel, the monarchies in the Persian Gulf, Taiwan, South Korea, Pakistan and Japan.

Spreading these toxic, radioactive materials around the world is bad enough, but the real danger comes when the

weapons are used. And they are used often. In 110,000 air raids against Iraq during the so-called First Gulf War ("so-called" because my understanding is that for something to be called a war the other side has to actually be able to fight back: casualties in the First Gulf Massacre corresponded closely to premise four of this book), U.S.A-10 Warthog aircraft fired about 940,000 DU projectiles.

When a depleted uranium projectile hits a target, about 70 percent of the round vaporizes into (hot) dust as fine as talcum powder, as does part of the target, which may also have been constructed of depleted uranium. Three hundred tons of DU are estimated to be blowing in the wind from this particular desert storm. An American soldier in charge of a crew assigned to clean up DU around tanks destroyed by these shells said, "When we climbed into vehicles after they'd been hit, no matter what time of day or night it was, you couldn't see three feet in front of you. You breathed in that dust."

Once the dust has been respired, it can lodge in the lungs or make its way to other organs, such as kidneys. In any case, you're in trouble. Uranium 238 and the products from its decay — including other isotopes of uranium, thorium 234 and protactinium — release alpha and beta radiation that cause cancer and genetic mutations in exposed individuals

and their descendants more or less into perpetuity. Two of that soldier's fifteen crew members are now dead and even the Department of Energy admits that this soldier's internal uranium contamination is five thousand times that permissible. Ninety to one hundred thousand American Gulf War veterans have reported medical problems associated with the "Gulf War Syndrome" and rates for malformations in their children approach 67 percent in some communities.

As well as affecting U.S. soldiers, DU has probably already harmed 250,000 Iraqis. The same can be said for residents of Bosnia and soon we'll be saying the same for the people of Afghanistan. Leukemias and cancers have gone up by 66 percent in recent years in southern Iraq, with some locales experiencing a 700 percent increase

And there have been birth defects. Oh, how there have been birth defects. One doctor began her report, "In August we had three babies born with no heads. Four had abnormally large heads. In September we had six with no heads, none with large heads and two with short limbs. In October, one with no head, four with big heads and four with deformed limbs or other types of deformities."

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Photo by Terry Darling

A Tribute to the Oglala Lakota People Grandfather Teaching: A Warrior . . .

Listen to me carefully and remember every word.

A warrior is not a soldier.

A soldier is trained to fight and follow orders.

A warrior is trained to think for himself and fight only as a last resort.

A warrior is the first to begin and the last to quit.

He laughs the hardest and loves the best.

Stand your ground in all things and only give ground out of kindness.

A warrior is not a follower, nor is he a leader except at great need.

A warrior learns from the animals, the hills and the rivers.

He respects all things of the Earth as if they were his own heart.

All men and all spirits are equals.

A warrior never begs or pleads, nor does he give in to hopelessness and despair.

Whether the warrior is successful or tries valiantly only to have failed,

he thanks the Great Spirit for the opportunity and the lessons.

A warrior cares for the weakest and least of his brothers, humbling himself in their service.

He seeks wisdom in all things and learns from even the dullest, for all are his teachers.

A warrior leaves judgment of his brothers and sisters to the Great Spirit but does not tolerate disrespectful behavior in his presence.

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

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

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Masthead: We say "Volume 9" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name nine years ago. In 1995 Iona wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion. The photo is of the daffodil garden in Shade Gap.

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I no longer believe we can use the system to change the system. Let it all fall apart. I no longer want to live in their world so I must create/find my own.

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

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U.S. Energy Future Hits Snag in Rural Pennsylvania

By Jon Hurdle
Reuters via DailyClimate.org

DIMOCK, Pennsylvania, March 13, 2009 — When her children started missing school because of persistent diarrhea and vomiting, Pat Farnelli began to wonder if she and her family were suffering from more than just a classroom bug.

After trying several remedies, she stopped using the water drawn from her well in this rural corner of northeastern Pennsylvania, the forefront of a drilling boom in what may be the biggest U.S. reserve of natural gas.

"I was getting excruciating stomach cramps after drinking the water," Farnelli said in an interview at her farmhouse, cluttered as a home with eight children would be, while her husband, a night cook at a truck stop, slept on the couch.

"It felt like an appendicitis attack."

The family, which is poor enough to qualify for government food stamps, began buying bottled water for drinking and cooking. Their illnesses finally ended and Farnelli found something to blame: natural gas drilling in the township of 1,400 people.

Dimock, in a former coal mining region that was economically struggling even before the recession, is one of hundreds of sites in Pennsylvania where energy companies are now racing to tap the massive Marcellus Shale natural gas formation.

Some geologists believe Marcellus has the potential to meet total U.S. natural gas needs for a decade or more. But the gas is trapped deep within layers of



Photo by Reuters
Pat Farnelli got excruciating stomach cramps after drinking her tap water. Drilling for natural gas is contaminating drinking water all over the country.

rock, requiring a mix of highly toxic chemicals for drilling.

And, while companies pay royalties to landowners for drilling rights and for gas recovered from their properties, some residents have become alarmed about their water supply.

They say the drilling has clouded their drinking water, sickened people and animals and made their wells flammable.

In Dimock township, about 150 miles north of Philadelphia, Cabot Oil & Gas has drilled about 30 wells since 2006, 20 of them just last year.

Industry spokesmen maintain the groundwater is protected by meticulous safeguards and that any chemicals used are heavily diluted and pose no health threat.

It is "impossible" that drilling has contaminated the groundwater, said Cabot spokesman



Photo by Reuters
Children started missing school because of persistent diarrhea and vomiting. Parents believe their drinking water, contaminated by natural gas drilling nearby was to blame. In one week, landowners were handed \$1.2 million in royalty checks, according to a recent article in the "Daily News" of Huntingdon PA.

Kenneth Komoroski.

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell told Reuters the state is careful in granting drilling permits. "We are very scrupulous about whether it will have an effect on the groundwater," he said this week.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Protection tested well water in Dimock houses over the last month.

"We have not seen anything that would be of concern," said agency official Mark Carmon.

WATER TASTES BAD ANIMALS LOSE FUR

But people who live there are convinced otherwise, according to nearly a dozen interviews conducted by Reuters.

Farnelli and her neighbors draw water from a well sunk into an aquifer; two gas wells are within a few hundred yards of her house.

According to Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, a Pennsylvania group that opposes

drilling, there have been leaks of toxic chemicals into groundwater at hundreds of natural gas drilling sites in Colorado and New Mexico.

Ron and Jean Carter suspected there was a leak when the water supply to their trailer home started to taste and smell bad after Cabot started drilling 200 yards away.

Not wanting to risk the health of a new grandchild living with them, the 70-year-old retirees scraped together \$6,500 for a

water purification system.

"It was kind of funny that the water was good in July but after they drilled, it wasn't," said Ron Carter.

Tim and Debbie Maye, a truck driver and a post office worker who have three teenage children, have been cooking and drinking only bottled water since their well water turned brown in November after Cabot started drilling.

But she can't afford bottled water for her animals. Her cats have been losing fur and experiencing projectile vomiting because they lick drips from the spigot that carries water from their well. Her three horses — one of which is losing its hair — drink as much as 50 gallons a day.

"I tell my husband, 'I'm going out to poison the horses,'" she said.

The drilling in Dimock has released methane into the water supply, a fact acknowledged by Cabot and state regulators.

Some homeowners said they were able to ignite their well water. In one case, a gas buildup blew the cap off a well.

"The well was capped with six to eight inches of concrete," said Norma Fiorentino, 66. "The explosion broke it into three big pieces and blew a huge hole in the ground." [See Feb. "OE."]

CHEMICAL BREW

Environmental groups fear energy companies are contaminating water supplies by using a toxic mix of chemicals that are forced deep into the rock along with water and sand to release the natural gas. The process is

Continued on page 8

Natural Gas Drilling Endangers Water Supplies

Buried Secrets: The Tipping Point

(Conclusion)

By Abrahm Lustgarten
ProPublica, November 13, 2008

In the past 12 months a flurry of documented incidents has made such reports [of personal injuries from drilling for natural gas] harder to dismiss.

"We've kind of reached the tipping point," says Dhieux, the EPA inspector in Denver. "The impacts are there."

In December 2007, a house in Bainbridge, Ohio exploded in a fiery ball. Investigators discovered that the neighborhood's tap water contained so much methane that the house ignited. A study released this month concluded that pressure caused by hydraulic fracturing pushed the gas, which is found naturally thousands of feet below, through a system of cracks into the groundwater aquifer.

In February a frozen 200-foot waterfall was discovered on the side of a massive cliff near Parachute, Colorado. According to the state, 1.6 million gallons of fracturing fluids had leaked from a waste pit and been transported by groundwater, where it seeped out of the cliff. In a separate incident nearby in June, benzene was discovered in a place called Rock Spring. Three weeks later a rancher was hospitalized after he drank well water out of his own tap. Tests showed benzene in his water and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission cited four gas operators, not knowing which one was responsible for the spill. Colorado state records



Photo: Abrahm Lustgarten/ProPublica
The raised platform used by Encana at some of its drill sites helps to protect the underlying landscape.

show more than 1,500 spills since 2003, in which time the rate of drilling increased 50 percent. In 2008 alone, records show more than 206 spills, 48 relating to water contamination.

As more contamination cases are documented, state governments and Washington are being pressured to toughen oversight. One aim is to institutionalize the precautionary measures some companies are already experimenting with.

When ProPublica visited an Encana drilling operation in Pinedale, Wyoming for example, the company was placing its drill rigs on raised platforms to protect the underlying landscape and using rubber pools to catch spilled fluids before they could

seep into the soil. Drilling companies in New Mexico have begun storing waste in enclosed steel tanks rather than open pits.

Such efforts can add 10 percent to drilling costs but they also dramatically lessen the environmental risks, an Encana employee said.

State regulators and Washington lawmakers though are increasingly impatient with voluntary measures and are seeking to toughen their oversight. In September, U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette and Congressman John Salazar from Colorado and Congressman Maurice Hinchey from New York introduced a bill that would undo the exemptions in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Wyoming, widely known for supporting energy development, has begun updating its regulations at a local level, as have parts of Texas.

New Mexico has placed a one-year moratorium on drilling around Santa Fe, after a survey found hundreds of cases of water contamination from unlined pits where fracturing fluids and other drilling wastes are stored. "Every rule that we have improved . . . industry has taken us to court on," said Joanna Prukop, New Mexico's cabinet secretary for Energy Minerals and Natural Resources. "It's industry that is fighting us on every front as we try to improve our government enforcement, protection and compliance . . . We wear Kevlar these days."

The most stringent reforms are being pursued in Colorado. Last year it began a top-to-bottom re-write of its regulations, including a proposal to require companies to disclose the exact makeup of their fracturing fluids — the toughest such rule in the nation.

In mid-August, the Colorado debate intensified when news broke that Cathy Behr, an emer-

gency room nurse in Durango, Colorado, had almost died after treating a wildcatter who had been splashed in a fracking fluid spill at a BP natural gas rig. Behr stripped the man and stuffed his clothes into plastic bags while the hospital sounded alarms and locked down the ER. The worker was released. But a few days later Behr lay in critical condition facing multiple organ failure.

Her doctors searched for details that could save their patient. The substance was a drill stimulation fluid called ZetaFlow but the only information the rig workers provided was a vague Material Safety Data Sheet, a form required by OSHA. Doctors wanted to know precisely what chemicals make up ZetaFlow and in what concentration. But the MSDS listed that information as proprietary.

Behr's doctor learned, weeks later, after Behr had begun to recuperate, what ZetaFlow was made of but he was sworn to secrecy by the chemical's manufacturer and couldn't even share the information with his patient.

News of Behr's case spread to New York and Pennsylvania, amplifying the cry for disclosure of drilling fluids. The energy industry braced for a fight.

"A disclosure to members of the public of detailed information . . . would result in an unconstitutional taking of [Halliburton's] property," the company told Colorado's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. "A number of studies have concluded there are no confirmed incidents of contamination of drinking water aquifers due to stimulation operations . . . EPA reached precisely this conclusion after undertaking an extensive study."

Then Halliburton fired a major salvo: If lawmakers forced the company to disclose its reci-

pes, the letter stated, it "will have little choice but to pull its proprietary products out of Colorado." The company's attorneys warned that if the three big fracking companies left, they would take some \$29 billion in future gas-related tax and royalty revenue with them over the next decade.

In August, the industry struck a compromise by agreeing to reveal the chemicals in fracturing fluids to health officials and regulators — but the agreement applies only to chemicals stored in 50-gallon drums or larger. As a practical matter, drilling workers in Colorado and Wyoming said in interviews that the fluids are often kept in smaller quantities. That means at least some of the ingredients won't be disclosed.

"They'll never get it," says Bruce Baizel, a Colorado attorney with the Oil and Gas Accountability Project, about the states' quest for information. "Not unless they are willing to go through a lawsuit. When push comes to shove, Halliburton is there with its attorneys."

Asked for comment, Halliburton would only say that its business depended on protecting such information. Schlumberger and BJ Services, the two other largest fracturing companies, did not return calls for comment.

Lee Fuller, vice-president for government relations at The Independent Petroleum Association of America, said the oil and gas industry's reluctance to release information about drilling chemicals is to be expected. "These operations are ones where companies have spent millions of dollars," he says. "They are not going to want to give up that competitive advantage. So I would fully expect that they will try to protect that right as long as they possibly can."



Photo by Abrahm Lustgarten
Cathy Behr, ER nurse who almost died after treating a wildcatter who had been splashed in a fracturing fluid spill at a BP natural gas rig.

Whale War on the High Seas

Sea Shepherd Battles Japanese Whalers in the Ross Sea

ON BOARD THE STEVE IRWIN, February 6, 2009 (ENS) — The Sea Shepherd whale conservation ship Steve Irwin collided with the Japanese whaling vessel Yushin Maru No.2 this morning in the Ross Sea after spending five hours Thursday in a battle with the Japanese, who used a sonic weapon, fouling lines and their ships to attack the conservation vessel.

Captain Paul Watson, founder and leader of the international marine mammal conservation organization Sea Shepherd, says the collision occurred as the Japanese harpoon vessel moved in to block the Steve Irwin's attempt to prevent the transfer of a dead whale up the slipway of the factory ship Nisshin Maru.

"We were in the process of blocking the transfer from the Yushin Maru No.2 when the Yushin Maru No.1 moved directly in front of the bow to block us," said Watson.

"I could not turn to starboard without hitting the Yushin Maru No.1. I tried to back down but the movement of the Yushin Maru No.2 made the collision unavoidable," Watson said.

The Yushin Maru No.2 was transferring a second whale killed this morning. "To the Sea Shepherd crew the murder of these defenseless whales is as tragic as if they had lost one of their own," Watson said.

A second collision happened this afternoon when two of the harpoon vessels ran the Sea Shepherd blockade of the slipway to transfer two dead whales to the factory ship.

"We told them to not continue their illegal whaling operations and that we would be blocking the stern slipway of the factory ship," said Captain Watson. "They decided to test our resolve and apparently expected us to retreat when they charged in ahead of us to make the transfer."

Watson said that the Steve Irwin became difficult to control "under a barrage of metal objects, blasts from the water cannons and the disorientation caused by the LRAD acoustic weapons" from the whalers.

"I was dazed by the sonic blasts being used on us at close range," said Captain Watson. "I have to admit it was difficult to concentrate with that device being focused on us."

The Nisshin Maru blasted the crew on the Steve Irwin with a sonic weapon called a Long Range Acoustical Device, or LRAD.

A newly developed weapon that blasts earsplitting noise, the LRAD can produce permanent hearing damage and temporarily disrupt vision. Being within 100 yards of the device is extremely painful.

The Japanese say they are conducting legal whaling for scientific purposes with a self-assigned annual quota of more than 900 whales in the Southern Ocean. They maintain that research whaling is legal under the rules of the International Whaling Commission, IWC.

The Sea Shepherd and other conservation groups call the Japanese whaling illegal. "Japanese whaling is violating the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and the regulations of the International Whaling Commission," said Watson.

The harpoon vessels this morning maneuvered closer and closer before the bow of the Steve Irwin to block the Dutch-flagged Sea Shepherd ship from interfering with their whaling operations.

This morning a cameraman from the Sea Shepherd helicopter videotaped the harpooning and shooting of a minke whale.

"The whale took 25 minutes to die after being struck with a harpoon and receiving seven shots from a high powered rifle. The sea was full of blood," said Watson.

"The Steve Irwin is now directly behind the slipway of the Nisshin Maru attempting to



Photo by Adam Lau courtesy of Sea Shepherd
The Steve Irwin hits the stern of the Hushin Maru No. 2 as the Japanese vessel tried to block the Steve Irwin's attempt to prevent the transfer of a dead whale up the slipway of the factory ship Nisshin Maru. The Nisshin Maru is farthest from the camera.

Captain Paul Watson on the bridge of the Steve Irwin attempts to interfere with the Japanese whaling fleet.
Photo courtesy of Sea Shepherd



block the transfer of the minke whale's body to the factory ship.

"Seeing the long-prolonged, agonizing murder of that defenseless whale has made me angry," said Captain Watson. "Very angry. We are going to make a stand here today to shut this obscenity down. It will be dangerous but we did not come down here to witness the slaughter of whales; we came down to stop the killing."

"We have a very big disadvantage," said Watson. "Japan will defend the violence of their mad-dog killers. Our governments don't have the guts and will condemn us for defending ourselves and the whales. Sometimes you just have to say, 'What the hell!' and make a stand and that is what we intend to do here today. We intend to make a stand."

Minoru Morimoto, director-general of the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research said today in Tokyo, "This is the second attempt at fouling the propellers of the Japanese vessels in as many days."

Accusing the Sea Shepherd crew of "criminal attack," Morimoto said, "I call on all member nations of the IWC to condemn these acts of violence by Sea Shepherd and for countries to close their ports to the Dutch vessel."

"The whalers have decided to test our resolve," said Steve Irwin 1st Officer Peter Hammarstedt of Sweden. "They have escalated this battle to see just how determined we are to protect these whales. We're shepherds and we will do what we can to protect our flock from these murderous poachers."

On Thursday, the fifth day that the Steve Irwin had prevented any whaling by the Japanese fleet by keeping them on the run, the frustration of the whalers erupted.

An endangered fin whale was spotted just after noon.

The Steve Irwin launched two fast inflatable boats to head off any attempt to harpoon the whale and launched its helicopter to film the blocking action.

All three Japanese harpoon vessels "attacked the Steve Irwin in dangerous passes to foul the Steve Irwin's propeller," Watson said.

One Japanese vessel approached the conservation ship from each side and the third approached from the stern.

"At 1230," said Watson, "the

Sea Shepherd Calls for Resignation of U.S. Member of Whale Commission

By Captain Paul Watson
Sea Shepherd press release 3/10/09

William Hogarth appears to be the Neville Chamberlain of Cetacean Conservation. In order to save the whales he wants to let Japan kill them.

This week, member nations of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) are meeting in Rome to discuss a proposal by the United States that would allow Japan to legally slaughter endangered whales in the North Pacific in exchange for a reduction in the quota of whales that are presently being killed illegally in the Southern Ocean.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, as the world's leading activist opposition of illegal Japanese whaling operations in the Southern Oceans, condemns this proposal of appeasement and calls upon President Barack Obama to remove William Hogarth as the United States Commissioner to the IWC.

The United States has a policy of not negotiating with terrorists and they should not be negotiating with poachers. The Japanese whaling industry is a criminal organization that targets endangered whales in a sanctuary.

Nisshin Maru aimed the Long Range Acoustical Device at helicopter pilot Chris Aultman of California and Animal Planet cameraman Ashley Dunn of Tasmania, who is filming the Sea Shepherd campaign for the TV show "Whale Wars."

"At first it was just a loud noise," said Aultman, "then they turned up the volume and we could feel it in our legs and chest." Aultman took the helicopter out of range of the device but says he was shocked that the Japanese used it.

"It was extremely irresponsible for the whalers to aim that device at the helicopter," said Watson. "They were doing nothing but filming and presented absolutely no threat to the ships. They demonstrated absolutely no regard for human life."

At this point, the harpoon vessels turned on their LRAD and aimed it at the small boats and the Steve Irwin. "This sonic attack was followed by the Nisshin Maru turning into the Steve Irwin and attempting to actually ram the Sea Shepherd vessel at full speed," Watson said.

The Japanese crew shot the small boat crews with high-pressure water hoses.

The small boats retaliated by threatening to foul the props of the harpoon vessel and also with rotten butter bombs.

Steve Roest of the United Kingdom was injured when he became disoriented and dizzy under the LRAD blasts and was knocked down, cutting open his head. Ship's doctor David Miller, M.D. from Australia sutured the wound.

The whalers jammed the Steve Irwin's radios and navigational instruments and kept a steady bombardment of the Sea Shepherd crew with the LRADs. Captain Watson spent four hours undertaking zigzag and circular maneuvers to avoid the prop fouling.

"The attacks by the three ships became so aggressive we had to fire flares and speed lines over their head to force them to back off," Watson said.

The Steve Irwin retrieved both small boats and the helicopter by going in tight circles with the three harpoon vessels circling the outside blessing the crew with LRADs and tow-



Photo by Adam Lau courtesy Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd crew members are hosed by water cannons from Japanese harpoon whaling ship, the Yushin Maru No. 1.



Photo by Adam Lau courtesy Sea Shepherd
Japanese aboard the Nisshin Maru aim a sonic weapon at the crew of the Sea Shepherd. This Long Range Acoustical Device can cause permanent hearing damage and temporary vision disruptions.



Photo by Adam Lau courtesy Sea Shepherd
A minke whale is pulled into the Japanese factory vessel Nisshin Maru as the Sea Shepherd helicopter hovers, filming.



Australian whale sanctuary, shown in darker colors around the continents. The sanctuary boundaries are being ignored by Japanese whalers.

ing fouling lines, Watson said.

"It was very worrying for us," said 1st Officer Hammarstedt. "Our helicopter was almost out of fuel and the whalers were forcing us to keep avoiding them making it difficult for the helicopter to land."

At 1700 hours, the harpoon boats backed off and the Steve Irwin resumed the pursuit of the Nisshin Maru, heading due South deep into the Ross Sea.

Watson's strategy is to keep the whaling fleet on the run so they cannot kill whales. He says the Sea Shepherd was successful last year in preventing the killing of close to 500 whales and is confident of doing even better this season.

"The crew are tired and a little dizzy from the LRAD's," said Dr. Miller. "But everyone is in good spirits and Steve Roest is resting comfortably. The whalers were very aggressive."

"I wish we did not have to be down here in this dangerous situation," said Captain Watson. "I've said repeatedly that if Australia or New Zealand would agree to take Japan to the international court on this then we would back off."

"Because international law is not being enforced, we have no choice but to do what we can with the resources available to us to defend these endangered whales in this established international whale sanctuary."

A whaling nation until 1978, Australia established a whale sanctuary in its Exclusive Economic Zone in 1999. The sanctuary includes the EEZ around the Australian Antarctic Territory, where today's battle is taking place. In 2008, the Australian Federal Court ruled it was illegal for the Japanese whaling fleet to kill whales in the sanctuary.

Australian Police Seize Whale War Videos

HOBART, Tasmania, February 22, 2009 (ENS) — When the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ship Steve Irwin arrived in Hobart, Tasmania on February 20 from confronting the Japanese whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean, a party of Australian Federal Police officers boarded the conservation vessel with a warrant.

The warrant authorized the confiscation of “all edited and raw video footage, all edited and raw audio recordings, all still photographs, producer’s notes, interview transcripts, production meeting minutes, post production meeting minutes as well as the ship’s log books, global positioning system records, automatic radar plotting aid, purchase records, receipts, financial transaction records, voyage information and navigational plotted charts.”

Sea Shepherd founder Captain Paul Watson says much of material seized belongs to the Discovery Channel’s *Animal Planet* producer and camera crew who were videoing the confrontations with the Japanese whaling fleet for the second season of the series “Whale Wars,” which last year proved to be a popular offering for the American television channel.

The police have refused to give details about the search, saying only that it was done at the request of “Japanese authorities.”

“The *Animal Planet* series ‘Whale Wars’ was very embarrassing to the Japanese government and the Japanese whaling industry in 2008,” said Watson. “Japan does not wish to see the airing of the second season of Whale Wars and is putting as much diplomatic pressure on Australia as they possibly can to prevent further exposure of their illegal whaling operations in the Southern Ocean.”

The television channel “has a team of lawyers working on it,” Watson said. “That footage is extremely valuable to them. We are literally looking at \$20 million worth of footage.”

Watson, a Canadian at the helm of a Dutch-flagged vessel, said he had not been told whether or not he or his crew face charges and, if so, under what law.

The Japanese have accused the Steve Irwin of ramming two of its whaling vessels and trying to foul their propellers during confrontations in the Ross Sea during the first week of February.

The owner of the Japanese vessels in the Antarctic said February 10 that “the international community must start applying global maritime laws, which protect ships and their crews from the type of violence being perpetrated on the high-seas by the renegade Dutch vessel, Steve Irwin.”

Kazuo Yamamura, the president of Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha, Limited, said, “A group of extremists is deliberately ramming vessels and trying to disable their propellers. The United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes clear rules to prevent the high seas from being a lawless zone. Living up to these UNCLOS obligations represents a test for the governments of the Netherlands and Australia, which have so far hesitated to apply agreed international maritime rules to prevent these criminal acts.”

“The escalating terror attacks will necessitate consideration of new security strategies to protect our ships and crews,” Yamamura said.

Watson accuses the Japanese of attacking his vessel and using a sonic weapon to disable the crew while he was attempting to prevent the killing of whales in the Australian whale sanctuary around Antarctica.

“It’s a very one-sided affair,” Watson said. “The Japanese ships have not been boarded by the Australian Federal Police; they have not had their video and navigational data confiscated. They have not been questioned nor will they be, yet they violently attacked my ship and crew in the Southern Ocean.”

“Does the law only go to bat



Photo by Steve Roest courtesy Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd crew members are hosed by water cannons from Japanese harpoon whaling ship, the Yushin Maru no. 1, as the Sea Shepherd helicopter flies alongside.



Photo by Eric Cheng courtesy Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
Sea Shepherd founder Captain Paul Watson on the deck of the Steve Irwin on January 6, 2009. The ship pursued the Japanese whaling fleet for over 2,000 miles between December 18, 2008 and January 7, 2009, disrupting whaling operations for 19 days. After refueling, the pursuit continued shutting down operations an additional eight days.

for those who destroy nature’s creation? Are we about to see the ultimate kangaroo court where Sea Shepherd will be legally crucified because the Australian government has not lived up to their promise of taking the whale killers to court?” Watson asked.

“The truth is that we would not have to be in the Southern Ocean defending the whales if the governments of the world would simply enforce the international conservation treaties they once so proudly signed into law,” said Watson. “Without enforcement there is no law — just ecological anarchy.”

Australian Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown, who represents Tasmania, has demanded that the government of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd explain the raid on the Sea Shepherd’s anti-whaling ship Steve Irwin.

Senator Brown Saturday wrote to the prime minister calling for an immediate explanation on how the raid could be justified or in the nation’s interest.

“Otherwise, Mr. Rudd should order the immediate return of the film and other materials seized from the Steve Irwin to Sea Shepherd and the international media organizations which are aboard,” said the senator. “If this action was taken at the behest of the Japanese authorities it will outrage many Australians.”

“The Australian Federal Police can expect detailed questioning from the Greens at Senate Estimates this coming week,” Senator Brown said.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus have declined to say whether they had advance knowledge of the raid.

In a speech February 18 to The Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney on the future of international whale conservation, Garrett said the Rudd Government is opposed to Japanese whaling and is using diplomatic channels to express its disapproval, although he did not comment directly on the Sea Shepherd’s actions to interfere with the Japanese whaling fleet.

“The Government has embarked on an intensive diplomatic campaign to persuade Japan to stop whaling in the Southern Ocean,” said Garrett. “The Prime Minister, the foreign minister, myself, our Special Envoy Sandy Hollway, our Ambassador to Japan and many officials have been working hard on this throughout last year and the effort continues this year. The government has created a serious dialogue with Japan with the aim of delivering real change in the coming months.”

Garrett said the conflict with Japan over its so-called “scientific research” whaling “gives us a needless running sore in one of Australia’s most important bilateral relationships.”

“We have made clear to Japan that we wish to get away from the kind of endless wheel-spinning, which is the only possible result of each side tirelessly reiterating arguments well known to the other.

We want to give dialogue and



Photo by Adam Lau courtesy Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd crew member in a small inflatable boat is in the path of the Japanese whaling ship Nisshin Maru in the Ross Sea. February 4, 2009.

Antarctic minke whale carcass (one of more than 900 the Japanese have assigned themselves as a quota this season) is hauled aboard the Nisshin Maru, February 6, 2009. Photo courtesy of Cetacean Research.



confidence-building a chance to work. We still look to Japan to respond in the same spirit.”

“I wish that the Australian government would apply the same “diplomatic” pressure on Japan to end their illegal whaling operations,” said Watson. “The Rudd government was elected on a promise to take the Japanese whaling industry to court for their illegal whaling activities. Now they seem to be more interested in taking Sea Shepherd to court for our efforts to intervene against illegal whaling operations.”

“The annual spectacle of Japan’s hunt in the Southern Ocean has angered Australians because they are opposed to whaling,” Garrett said. “The fact that whales which visit Australia’s coastlines journey to the Southern Ocean adds to that concern. And it aggravates the problem further that Japan’s hunt defies the international moratorium on commercial whaling, that it takes place in the IWC’s Southern Ocean Sanctuary and that it is predicated on a false scientific rationale.”

“The fact is, this is just a recipe for the continuation of what we have seen this summer in the Southern Ocean and observed the summer before that,” the minister said, referring obliquely to the confrontations between conservationists and whalers.

Watson said he would wel-



Photo from Office of Ministry
Australian Environment Minister Peter Garrett thinks diplomacy with Japan will keep whalers out of protected, whale sanctuary waters.

ing fleet returned to kill whales in the Australian sanctuary this season and it was this whale hunt that the Sea Shepherd was attempting to stop.

Meanwhile, Watson says he will repair damages to the Steve Irwin, which is named after the late Australian television personality, wildlife expert and conservationist.

Watson intends to buy a second, faster vessel and prepare to return to the Southern Ocean to confront the Japanese again during the 2009-2010 whaling season.

The Steve Irwin pursued the Japanese whaling fleet for over 2000 miles between December 18, 2008 and January 7, 2009, disrupting their whaling operations for 19 days. After refueling in Australia, the conservation vessel returned and relocated the whaling fleet, shutting down operations of the fleet for an additional 8 days in February 2009.

The Sea Shepherd activities will be funded in part by proceeds from the Dutch Postcode Lottery. On February 5th at a gala televised event, the Sea Shepherd received a check for 500,000 euros (U.S. \$646,000).

This year the Dutch Prime Minister Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende was onstage for this event. In addition to this 2009 donation, Sea Shepherd has been granted a four year donation contract ensuring additional funding in future years.

“This extremely generous cumulative donation is in recognition of Sea Shepherd’s long-term commitment to marine conservation globally and it is one of the largest in Sea Shepherd’s history,” Watson said. “The Dutch Postcode Lottery’s support will also stand as a landmark of institutional legitimacy for all that Sea Shepherd represents and a financial beacon for present and future donors and supporters whose donations have and will continue to sustain the organization.”

Established in 1977, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is an international non-profit, marine wildlife conservation organization. Their mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world’s oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species.



Photo courtesy Office of Senator Bob Brown
The Sea Shepherd vessel Steve Irwin in Hobart, Tasmania for refueling January 2009.

come a trial, saying, “Let us get the evidence on the table and although a trial against Sea Shepherd and myself may not allow the introduction of evidence about Japan’s illegal whaling operations, it at least will give us the forum to present our evidence.”

“Let’s see the Australian government bring the Japanese whale killers to Australia to bear witness against Sea Shepherd and *Animal Planet*,” Watson said, “and let’s see them appear as witnesses for the government of

Australia that professes to be against whaling.”

On January 15, 2008, the Australian Federal Court ruled that the Japanese whaling company is in breach of Australian law when it kills whales in the Australian Whale Sanctuary and ordered that the hunt be stopped.

The case brought by the Humane Society International was the first time the Japanese whalers were taken to court and the ruling confirms that the hunt is illegal. Still, the Japanese whal-

Chemtrails Blanket the Globe

Continuing the Discussion

Barbara from Missouri Writes to "OE"

By Barbara Erakko Taylor
Hannibal, Missouri

When launching a major story like Chemtrails [in last month's "OE"], credibility becomes paramount — not because the story is not true — but that it is like dropping news such as: "Thousands of Plutonians have landed secretly in the Amazon and have assimilated themselves into humanoids but with one touch they are transmitting microscopic radio transmitters into our skins with the intent that we will become the new human incubators for their species."

In other words, it needs a lot of back-up.

I've heard the Chemtrail story — so read this article pretty carefully. When I see words like [Clifford] "Carnicom's 'intuitive research'" — I wonder what the heck is that?

In his recent research, how — exactly — did he get access to the tissues of a patient to find that it matches airborne Chemtrail fibers. For that matter, how did he retrieve and analyze Chemtrail fibers in the first place?

He "estimates" barium levels. Well, that's convincing. And why did aerosol operations begin "in earnest" in 1998? I'd like to know that. How did Carnicom know?

Lastly, photos, as we all know, can be doctored these days with incredible ease. I am not sure looking at loathsome pictures of aberrant clouds and very icky microscopic specimens (frankly everything under a microscope looks icky and alien to me, even the healthiest of blood) — can convince me (with no biological training) — of anything at all.

This is NOT to say that everything being said about Chemtrails is not true. But I now live in Missouri. "Show me."

In our new Internet world where anyone can say anything and purport any fact — and in a world where the media is controlled by very, very few people — I need Carnicom to at least reach a credible level of investigative reporting.

By the way, I checked out Will Thomas — the "award winning investigative reporter." He begins his bio with a grammatical error. "I am an award-winning Canadian journalist specializing in health and environment. During and immediately after the Gulf War, HE served five months in Bahrain"

The award is not named. But here is the scariest part of his bio: "All of my work is thoroughly documented and footnoted. Much of my current reporting is based on a trusted insider, well known to me over our 15 year working relationship. "Hank" — not his real name — is a behind-the-scenes player on the world stage who draws on extensive contacts in the U.S. military and intelligence communities to reveal stories presented only on the pages of this Web site."

Again, I am not saying that the Chemtrails story is not true — but this is a Watergate-level story. It deserves a lot more than "intuitive research" and "Hank."

Germany First to Admit to Chemtrails

chycho.com, November 6, 2007

For all those activists who have been investigating and reporting on clandestine government operations around the world to manipulate our weather patterns, this news from Germany is ground-breaking.

The TV news report states that "the military planes of the German Federal Army are manipulating our climate; this is what the weather researchers are presuming and their suspicions are confirmed. . . ."

"We can state with a 97% certainty that we have on our hands chemical trails (Chemtrails) comprised by fine dust containing polymers and metals used to disrupt radar signals."

"This is their main purpose but I was surprised that this artificial cloud was so wide-spread. The radar images are stunning considering the needed tons of dispersed elements — although, the federal army claims that only small amounts of material were propagated. The military heads claim that the substances used are not harmful."

"In the United States of America there are protest after protest for many years now, against these military operations and now people are mobilizing in Germany as well." Per example Johannes Remmel of the Greens.

"It's obvious that enormous regions are being polluted with clandestine actions but all of this has to be made public. The government must provide explanations to the unsuspecting population."

Read the full article and watch the German (sub-titled) YouTube at chycho.com. You will need to search for "Germany Becomes the First Country to Admit Clandestine Chemtrails Operations."



The Art is from Scotland: The Chemtrail image is by David Dees. Dees began his airbrush art career in the world of corporate advertising. Starting with a staff position at an Atlanta sweatshop, Dees was soon dealing with cutthroat art directors from New York to Chicago, creating eye-catching visuals that sold everything from cartoon package designs on kids' cereal boxes to billboards of dazzling electronics to the newest soft drink ads. His work "trained a monster who would now turn his creative power back against that very corrupt mainstream media."

Michael From Ohio Submits The Weapon

By Dr. Michael Castle
Columbus, Ohio

I wrote a white-paper in 2003 entitled, "The Methodic Demise of Natural Earth." I gave my conclusions of investigating Chem Trails for the past ten years. We still have them; it's getting worse.

Stay with me — simple explanation: (not possible)

When a certain Bacteria/fungus, Pseudomonas A. (genetically mutated with a certain Fungal-form) attached to a self-replicating Nano-device, polymers sprayed from Jet-Aircraft and/or UAV's, for the 'lower temperature' aspects of atmospheric Rain/Snow creation, this fungal-germ/nano-device falls onto unsuspecting Life forms AND humans as sub-micron-sized web-fibers or fragments of filaments. This is a function of weather control.

We and our children get sick. Sickness and disease like no one has ever seen before.

Someone began describing these fibers, which can grow inside the Body, infest the Brain and Central Nervous system, as the "Morgellons' Syndrome."

Absorbed through the skin and inhaled, the fragments dissolve in waters we all drink (and cannot be filtered out). The effects of these fibers on us are accelerated in self-replication by a daily diet of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs), Aspartame, Mono-Sodium-Glutamate (MSG), Silicones absorbed from underarm anti-perspirants, and Fluorides and Chlorine in waters.

Note that nothing Natural is amongst these accelerants to the weapon. All are synthetic, just like the Morgellons' Syndrome, A Synthetic Life Form Disease.

Now do you get it?

I will not be polite about this subject. This Weapon is

designed to take over your entire body and specifically the brain. This is all, also, connected to Big Pharma. They will reap Trillions of Dollars, er, Amero's. The New World Order has accelerated the attack, damage and destruction to Life Forms of Planet Earth — I once defined it as a 'Methodic Demise.' I will amend: 'Total Methodic Demise.'

Chemtrails Ozone-Holes

I will say how the process of investigation began for me, on just the Chemtrails Weapon. I observed the odd, long-lasting jet-trails, checkerboard-grids and 360-degree turns in midair that were not part of the Commercial IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) or Victor Airways and were not in military Operations Areas. As an IFR Pilot at that time, I knew these were illegal operations, just based on the flight patterns alone. I joined a group of independent scientists including Clifford Carnicom, Will Thomas, Lori Kramer Kimberly Dawley and others. I began to access various satellites Mapping (TOMS) for Total Ozone mapping.

Observed were repairs being conducted on 'holes' that had been punched into the ozone layer that originated above Gakona, Alaska, where the primary HAARP array is located. (HAARP is an acronym for High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, first installed in Alaska in 1993.) Part of HAARP's program is to blast high energy beams up into space and as noted these will destroy portions of the ozone-layer. Ho-hum, they just merely staged the blame on us using aerosol-propellants containing Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC).

This facility in Alaska beams

intense EMR (Electromagnetic Radiation) into the Ionosphere, manipulating everything from Mind Control to Weather systems, to Star-Wars Weaponry. Originally manned by the US Air Force and U.S. Navy, current operations are contracted out to the International firm of BAE International, which has a full complement of Corporate-Military representatives on its Board-of-Directors.

Chemtrails 'Ozone patching' materials also contain at least three carcinogenic heavy metals.

These Corporations/Federally Approved Contractors have no regard for the toxic consequences of the fall-out or the massive electromagnetic radiation beaming from this facility, all reflected in the area.

UAPA-8

The Unified Atmospheric Preservation Act of 2008 was written in 2003, by Dr. Michael Castle, the author. This DRAFT Legislation is a means of having a National Policy that stops All Chemtrails deployments, forever. This legislation will force the dismantling of one of the World's largest, unspoken businesses. It may also work as a World Treaty Document. This attack is Global.

The U.S. House Representative Bart Gordon of the Committee on Science & Technology gave no response to the UAPA8. The only congressman I have found who will accept the draft legislation is Ron Paul (R - TX).

City and County Anti-Chem Trails ordinances are powerless unless you have a means of enforcement. Please assist in delivering via hard copy letter, Internet or telling elected officials that UAPA8 needs to be put into the Legislature for immediate implementation.

Don from Idaho Responds to Barbara

By Don Harkins
The Idaho Observer
Spirit Lake, Idaho

When *The Idaho Observer* began covering the "Chemtrails" issue in 1998, all we knew was what we could see: That the condensation trails in the sky left by jets were not dissipating as rapidly as they used to and samples of strange things ranging from fine dust particulates and spiderweb-like stuff to oily films and clumps of unidentifiable materials had been collected and photographed by people all over the world.

The first clue that we were being exposed to chemicals as part of a sinister campaign arose from global reports that private labs commissioned to test samples collected by private citizens were routinely lost, contaminated or the labs just stopped communicating with paying customers providing these samples.

As time went on, we discovered that a variety of chemicals and particulates of known toxicity were being dispersed, primarily by the military, as platforms for communications, virtual imaging, cloaking and weather modification technologies.

We have since learned, from government documents, that the military deployment of these toxic substances has been going on round the clock wherever U.S. military planes are aloft for actual maneuvers or training exercises.

During this time, the seemingly unconnected field of "nanotechnology" was being developed and the rapid build-out of microwave towers to support wireless communications was underway.

Suddenly, people are becoming very ill with strange diseases, birth defects are on the rise and a variety of mutations are occurring in nature. The evidence is overwhelming that something is going very, very wrong on a global scale and that the particulates, nanobots and microwave radiation are working in concert now.

Was this macabre concert planned or just a coincidence?

My investigations would suggest that particulates, nanobots and microwaves have come together as intended.

Barbara was exposed to part of the story as published in *The Order of the Earth* last month. I would encourage her to follow the leads she was given and become familiar with the material and apply what she learns to her own observations of the world around her.

We are on our own with this one (as we are with most pressing environmental issues) because government agencies and their pet NGOs (non-governmental organizations) have been fully apprised of the situation but refuse to acknowledge what is a government-admitted aerosolized dispersal of toxic particulates — the visible result of which is a public health and environmental disaster of global proportions.

As for her comments about William Thomas, he is an award-winning journalist and he has written on a variety of subjects that may not be to her liking or involve conclusions with which she disagrees. While I do not always agree with Thomas, either, as a journalist myself (and I hold a rather large menu of controversial views of my own), the accuracy of his data and the quality of his reporting has been exemplary over the last decade.

Regarding Cliff Carnicom, I have been following his research as it has been developing since about Y2K. Others who have been conducting Chemtrail research during this period have come to appreciate this man and his tireless dedication to exposing what he now refers to as ongoing "aerosol operations."

To get a background on the Chemtrails issue, I suggest that Barbara go to *The Idaho Observer* Web site and type "Amy Worthington Chemtrails" into the Google search engine and start reading. That will get her up to speed. Then she can check out the entire four-page spread on Chemtrails in the December edition of *The IO* under the heading, "Are we the experiment?" Then she can check out the links we provide.

I encourage Barbara and others to follow their intuition (which, by the way is second only to passion as the most important attribute for quality journalistic and scientific inquiry) and undertake an odyssey of discovery.

What Barbara will find is that, like all the other things that are going very wrong in our modern world, the agents and agencies commissioned to mitigate the severity of problems by regulating harmful activities are central to the process of the problems growing and expanding.

In the case of Chemtrails, spewing toxic chemicals in military applications is a national security imperative — people and the planet be damned.

If we are to stop this insanity, it will be when enough of us take it upon ourselves to learn about what is going on and tell others.

Chemtrails Petition

We the people request an immediate, thorough and honest investigation into what the substances labeled "Chemtrails" actually consists of and to discover the true purpose of "Chemtrail" operations in this country and across the globe. Such investigations must include independent, impartial experts, as well as individuals and groups. Chemtrail-aware individuals and groups are getting tired of seeing whited-out, man-made skies. Without a credible explanation, many of us have come to the conclusion that a cover-up is underway at some level. The purpose of this petition is to assist in raising public confidence to ultimately demand a serious and open public debate on Chemtrails. Sign on at link below.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/7/investigate-persistent-contrails-aka-chemtrails>

Graduate Students Design Cheap, Practical Solar Panel

BURLINGAME, California (Forbes March 4, 2009, *excerpt*) — Imagine a solar panel as affordable as a fancy new bicycle. A panel designed so simply that you can install one (or more) yourself, just outside your windows, in the course of an afternoon.

That's the concept behind Oakland, California-based Veranda Solar, a start-up founded last year by Capra J'neva and Emilie Fetscher, recent graduates of the product design program at Stanford University. J'neva and Fetscher dreamed up attractive, flower-shaped solar panels as part of their master's project at the design school. "We created a starter solar system that expands as your budget does," J'neva says.

Their plan is to sell Veranda panels at roughly \$600 each later this year, provided it raises more funding. The panels snap together, so people will be able to buy just one to start and add more later on if they like. The solar inverter, which converts the direct current electricity from the panels to alternating current electricity that can be used in the electric grid, plugs right into a wall socket.

One of the biggest problems with solar panels is the high cost. Before rebates, the price can easily exceed \$30,000 to outfit a residential roof.

J'neva began asking who really wanted to have solar power and realized it was the 20-something generation — people who typically have smaller budgets but aspire to live greener lifestyles. Most of the interested customers she knows over 30 are looking to spend \$2,400 to \$4,000 on panels; folks in their twenties will spend much less.

"What our panels do is make a really powerful statement: You're trying to feel better about your impact on the environment and you're paying more to do so," J'neva says.

Veranda's uniquely shaped panels make it stand



Affordable solar power may be closer than you think — also easy to install and affordable. See what young people can do!

out, for sure. "The panels are a very different form factor from what people are used to. That could be an advantage or it could work against them," says Ron Pernick, managing director of research firm Clean Edge. "The solar industry has stuck with a familiar rectangular form factor for a reason."

Still, Pernick questions how big Veranda can get if it plans to sell its panels to people who want to make a statement. "Quite frankly, the only way you can scale is if the [solar] offering costs the same or less than other sources of energy," he says.

[Ed.: "OE" volunteer Matthew Lindberg-Work (27) started a savings account for a solar panel like this one. He wants his laptop to be totally unplugged and thinks this design is the best he has found so far.]



Pacific Institute

A report for state agencies mapped areas along California's coast that can expect flooding if warming continues unabated. This area is Venice Beach and Marina Del Rey in Los Angeles.

What If We Don't Do Anything?

California Counts Warming Costs at \$100 Billion in Property Damage if Sea Levels Rise

Submitted by Scott Mahon
Erie, Colorado

SACRAMENTO, California (MSNBC.com, March 12, 2009, *excerpt*) — From flooded coastlines to drought and wildfires, California can expect hundreds of billions of dollars in costs from global warming in the decades ahead, according to estimates being compiled for the state's interagency Climate Action Team.

The impact from warming could translate into annual costs and revenue losses throughout the economy of between \$2.5 billion and \$15 billion by 2050. A summary of cost analyses was presented to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's climate advisers.

Property damage caused by more devastating wildfires and sea level rise — the water damage alone is estimated at \$100 billion in property loss

by the end of the century — could push the costs far higher.

The projected financial toll comes from a compilation of 40 studies commissioned by the Climate Action Team. The final reports, which were to be released at the end of March, are intended to provide a comprehensive snapshot of global warming's potential costs to property owners, businesses and state government.

If nothing is done globally to reduce emissions, the studies warn, hotter temperatures will lead to rising sea levels that will flood property in the San Francisco Bay area, lead to lower crop yields and water shortages, produce more intense wildfires and cause more demand for electricity to cool homes.

The studies were written by scientists from various disciplines based at California universities and research institutions. They include a range of costs from agriculture, wildfires, water supply, flooding and electricity demand. One of the 40 reports — a look at sea levels and erosion from waves — was released simultaneously with the cost summaries.

The study by the Pacific Institute estimates that a 5-foot rise in sea levels by 2100 would effect 480,000 people who live in areas at risk . . .

Activists to Defy Ban on Mining Protests

(AP) via CommonDreams.org

BECKLEY, West Virginia — Environmental activists hinted Monday that they may defy a judge's order banning protests at mountaintop removal mine sites run by Virginia-based Massey Energy.

After a hearing in Raleigh County Circuit Court, Judge John Hutchinson extended a previous order about the protests until March 24th. That's when he was to consider Massey's request for an even longer injunction.

Hutchinson said his order applies not only to people Massey lawyers accused of trespassing but also to any "associates" of those activists.

Protester Rory McIlmoil, a community organizer with Coal River Mountain Watch, objected to the order as being too broad and potentially covering thousands of people.

"Then it enjoins thousands of people," the judge shot back. "Everyone is enjoined from interfering with the processes at these facilities."

Activists are angry not only about environmental damage caused by the particularly destructive form of strip mining but also about the greenhouse gases that are generated by the burning of coal.

Since February, a dozen people have been cited for protests that included blocking roads or chaining themselves to heavy equipment.

Activist Mike Roselle of Climate Ground Zero, who has moved to West Virginia to lead the protests, was involved in three actions along with activist James McGuinness.

"If we let this stop us, then we lose our campaign," Roselle said. "And we can't lose our campaign."

Independent journalist Antrim Caskey was cited for trespassing at least twice for photographing the protests and is among those Massey names in its filings.

Hutchinson's first order banning protests was issued Feb. 27th, but activists were back at it within a week. On March 5th, five protesters who had not been involved in the previous actions blocked a road.

Massey then got a temporary restraining order from Judge Robert A. Burnside. Hutchinson combined the orders and extended his own to March 24th.

Drilling Stalled in Allegheny Forest

By Don Hopley
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CLARION, Pennsylvania (March 16, 2009 *excerpt*) — The U.S. Forest Service hasn't OK'd any new gas or oil wells in the Allegheny National Forest for almost two months, delaying oil and gas development and causing at least one company to consider drilling without federal approval.

Leanne Martin, Allegheny National Forest supervisor, said no "notices to proceed" have been issued for new wells since Jan. 16th, when the Forest Service's regional office in Milwaukee took over the local well review process.

"Milwaukee hasn't gotten back to us on any reviews it's doing," she said at the last of three public meetings last week. "And we have not been told when that will end."

The unofficial moratorium on well approvals is occurring as the Forest Service grapples with environmental concerns caused by the approximately 12,000 wells already operating in the state's only national forest, located in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties, 100 miles north-east of Pittsburgh.

Forest officials have begun a detailed study of the cumulative impacts of those wells and last week held three public meetings attended by more than 225 people to discuss proposed rules for regulating well drilling.



California Panel Urges Immediate Action

By Margot Roosevelt
LA Times, March 12, 2009 via enn.com

As California officials see it, global warming is happening so there's no time to waste in figuring out what to do.

California's interagency Climate Action Team issued the first of 40 reports on impacts and adaptation, outlining what the state's residents must do to deal with the floods, erosion and other events expected from rising sea levels.

Hundreds of thousands of people and billions of dollars of Golden State infrastructure and property would be at risk if ocean levels rose 55 inches by the end of the century, as computer models suggest.

The group floated several radical proposals: limit coastal development in areas at risk from sea rise; consider phased abandonment of certain areas; halt federally subsidized insurance for property likely to be inundated and require coastal structures to be built to adapt to climate change.

"Immediate action is needed," said Linda Adams, secretary for environmental protection. "It will cost significantly less to combat climate change than it will to maintain a business as usual."

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Burnt Cabins
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- Miller's Diner
Mill Creek
- Neelyton Post Office
- Sandy Ridge Market
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- Sunny Ridge Restaurant,
Shade Gap
- Webster's Bookstore
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Poisoned Water

Continued from page 4 called hydrofracturing, or "fracking" in industry jargon. Komoroski, the Cabot spokesman, acknowledged that the "fracking" chemicals are dangerous in concentrated form. But he said they are heavily diluted in the fluid. They are injected to depths of 5,000 to 8,000 feet — well below the 100 to 500 feet where aquifers occur — and are pumped into the ground inside several layers of steel and concrete, preventing any escape at levels where they could contaminate drinking water.

The technique is being repeated at hundreds of other sites in Pennsylvania and parts of surrounding states.

Companies won't disclose exactly what chemicals they use, saying the information is proprietary and residents complain they can't run meaningful tests because they don't know what to look for.

A statewide group of energy companies calling itself the Marcellus Shale Committee planned to publish a report on exactly what's going into the ground and what's coming out, Komoroski said.

The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, a Colorado research group, has identified 201 fracking chemicals and found almost 90 percent had the potential to harm skin, eyes and sensory organs; 50 percent could damage the brain and nervous system and 29 percent may cause cancer.

On a wooded hillside a few hundred yards from a gas well, retired schoolteacher Victoria Switzer and her husband, Jimmy, have spent five years building their dream home but now wonder if the drilling will ruin their rural idyll.

Victoria Switzer has led local complaints about the drilling. She fears she is no match for Cabot, which reported revenues of \$945 million in 2008. "They are big and we are small and they count on that," she said.



The "Low Carbon" movement taking hold in the food industry arrives at the University of San Francisco. No beef or cheese products were served that day. Photos by Contra Costa Times.



Wes Maas, a third generation farmer, shows off his organic honey to student diners at lunchtime on "Low Carbon Diet" day.

Low-Carbon Diet Reaching College Campuses

By Suzanne Bohan
Contra Costa Times
via DailyClimate.org

SAN FRANCISCO, California (March 8, 2009 *excerpt*) — A hungry student at the University of San Francisco (USF) last week couldn't find a few college staples at the campus eatery — a juicy hamburger and a cheesy slice of pizza.

It was "Low Carbon Diet Day" on Tuesday and beef and cheese were off the menu.

With 18 percent of the world's greenhouse gases emitted by livestock raised for meat and dairy products — more than cars, trucks, ships and planes combined, according to a United Nations report — more food purveyors are launching initiatives to lower their "food carbon footprint."

Bon Appetit, a food service company in Palo Alto that runs the USF cafeteria and 400 other institutional cafes, is leading the charge. It set a goal of reducing its meat and cheese offerings by 25 percent.

Sodexo, a multinational food service provider with numerous Bay Area locations including the Saint Mary's College cafeteria, in two months will release its goals for reducing the carbon output of its operations, in part by promoting more vegetarian and vegan items, said Arlin Wasserman, vice president of corporate citizenship.

Hospitals are joining the action, too. Physicians for Social Responsibility's Bay Area chapter last month launched its "Balanced Menu" initiative at

Kaiser Permanente, John Muir, UC San Francisco and Veterans Affairs medical centers, among other hospitals. The menu scales back on meat items, with cost savings used to buy higher-quality meats also thought to leave a lower carbon footprint, such as grass-fed beef.

"We see this as real climate change mitigation for hospitals," said Lucia Sayre, program director for the physicians' organization. "And they see it that way, too."

With the burgeoning knowledge that greenhouse gas emissions are linked to all aspects of food production, it's becoming clear that buying locally isn't enough to make a major dent in carbon emissions.

Bon Appetit, for example, for years has given purchasing priority to farmers growing crops within a 150-mile radius of the Bay Area.

But cloven-hoofed, cud-chewing animals, so-called ruminants like cows, sheep and goats — raised for meat and dairy products — release copious amounts of methane and nitrous oxide during their digestion processes. So the company has expanded its focus beyond simply buying from nearby sources, because only about five percent of a food's carbon footprint comes from transportation emissions, according to studies.

"The highest priority is the reduction of livestock that are ruminants and all products made from cheese," said Helene York,



Grant Bryans describes his Heirloom Organics food philosophy to a student in the college cafeteria.

director of the Bon Appetit Management Company Foundation and developer of the firm's "Low Carbon Diet" initiative. Greenhouse gases linked to food production, such as methane, are sometimes measured as "carbon equivalents" and efforts to reduce these emissions use "carbon" in their monikers.

According to a 2006 United Nations report, "Livestock's Long Shadow," the livestock sector is responsible for 37 percent of human-caused methane release, which is 23 times more potent a heat-trapping gas than carbon dioxide. Livestock emit 65 percent of all human-caused nitrous oxide, which is nearly 300 times the potency of carbon dioxide.

Yet with the world's growing population, demand for meat is expected to more than double by 2050 from 2000 levels, and dairy production almost as much. The U.N. report notes that demand needs to drop 50 percent by 2050 to simply maintain current levels of greenhouse gas emissions linked to dairy and meat livestock.

But it doesn't have to be a dull endeavor of adapting to a diet of tofu and beans for protein. In fact, York said some of Bon Appetit's clients don't believe that human-caused climate change is under way, but they still go along with the program.

"They don't mind the changes to the menu because it tastes good and it costs less," she said.

On Tuesday at USF, turkey burgers replaced beef burgers and the "Low Carbon Day Diet" provided an opportunity to showcase tasty alternatives, York said. Instead of putting cheese on the free-range-grown turkey burgers, students scooped on guacamole, salsa, onion and cucumber relish or chipotle sauce.

The cheeseless pizza featured such toppings as eggplant, onion and spiced chicken. "We try to put other flavors out front," said chef Jon Hall. On days when the cafeteria does serve cheese pizza, it's limited to about five ounces per pizza, he added.

At Sodexo, which runs 29,000 food-service venues worldwide for corporate

and institutional clients — serving 10 million people daily — the company assumes full responsibility for lowering its greenhouse gas emissions, so customers can choose any offerings with a clean conscience, said Wasserman, the Sodexo executive.

"There's a lot of discussion about hamburgers and global warming," he said. "But a lot of people are not going to get very mobilized by it."

With the company focused on tightening its operations and selecting suppliers that are also reducing emissions, greenhouse gas declines happen behind the scenes.

"Whatever choice they make, customers will get a year-over-year reduction, whether or not they choose a salad or a hamburger," Wasserman said.

A National Cattlemen's Beef Association spokeswoman said that critics of beef production's ecosystem effect fail to factor in the environmentally beneficial role of grazing cattle. That includes pastureland absorbing carbon dioxide as it regrows after grazing.

That's debatable, said Gail Feenstra, a food systems analyst with UC Davis who's embarking on a project to measure greenhouse gases linked to all aspects of agricultural products in California. Perhaps if cattle were grazing only on unfertilized grasslands, they might provide a net carbon benefit . . .

"Meat and cheese are high carbon foods, no matter how you look at it," she said.

Munitions to be Neutralized

World War I Chemicals Next to Reservoir to be Cleaned Up

Submitted by Allen Hengst
The Corps' pondent (March 2009)

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is planning to safely destroy all of the chemical munitions recovered at the Pit 3 project area.

"This involves safely treating and neutralizing the chemical agent fill from the recovered World War I military chemical munitions. USACE plans to use a mobile system, known as the Explosive Destruction System [EDS], to destroy the munitions on federal property at a site adjacent to our storage facility in the May 2009 timeframe. [This land is 410 feet from Spring Valley residences, 860 feet from the Dalecarlia Reservoir and 985 feet from Sibley Hospital] . . .

"First, a commercial explosive is placed on the munition and it is then put inside the EDS's 50-gallon stainless steel containment vessel. The vessel is sealed and the explosives are remotely detonated . . .

"Next, neutralizing chemicals are pumped into the containment vessel, which react with the chemical agent in the munition to form a less toxic substance.

"Heaters within the containment vessel are turned on and the hydraulic oscillation subsystem mixes the reacting chemicals to ensure complete neutralization. The resulting liquid is drained into drums and trucked to a permitted facility for disposal."

Allen Hengst lives in Washington D.C. He started the "WMD in DC" photo blog in 2007: www.WMDinDC.blogspot.com.

People Protecting Arctic Coasts and Fisheries

Norwegians Join Push to Ban Oil Exploration From Fragile Shores

From: World Wildlife Fund via enn.org



OSLO, Norway (January 21, 2009) — Norwegian communities and conservationists today launched a campaign to ban oil exploration and development from parts of their Arctic coast, linking up with World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-supported campaigns already underway in Alaska and Russia to protect vulnerable fisheries and communities.

The campaigns are supported by studies showing that oil returns would be less than those provided in the long term through the protection and sustainable exploitation of resources.

"It is complete madness to trade in a sustainable fishery that could continue to accommodate the interests of both people and nature for generations for a few years of quick and dirty profits from oil," said Rasmus Hanssen, Secretary General of WWF Norway.

"In Norway, the Lofoten and Vesteralen areas have almost

unparalleled natural values: unique cold water reefs, pods of sperm whales and killer whales, some of the largest seabird colonies in Europe and the spawning grounds of the largest remaining cod stock in the world. We cannot and should not afford to risk these. "The Norwegian government must declare these areas off limits to oil and gas."

In Alaska, WWF is part of a coalition of local people and organizations opposing oil and gas exploration and development in Bristol Bay. Oil and gas drilling there would bring in an estimated \$7.7 billion over the 25-40 years that it would take to suck dry the petroleum reserves. In contrast, the area's fishing industry brings in \$2.2 billion per year, a total of \$50-80 billion over the same time period.

In Kamchatka, WWF is working with a similar coalition, which is asking the Russian government to suspend oil exploration and development on the

west Kamchatka shelf until Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs) have been designated for the most important areas. Almost a quarter of Russian fish and other marine resources come from west Kamchatka.

"It's the same story across the Arctic," says Neil Hamilton, Director of the WWF International Arctic Programme. "Governments are being pushed to drill in places that have a far higher value to local people and to the world if they are simply left alone."

WWF has called for a moratorium on further offshore oil development across the Arctic until oil and gas companies can demonstrate they have the ability to clean up major oil spills in ice covered waters. We would like to see that respected, however, there is a particularly urgency to protect some highly valued and productive places."

Council Votes to Close Arctic to Commercial Fishing

SEATTLE, Washington, February 6, 2009 (ENS, *excerpt*) — The North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted unanimously Thursday to prohibit all commercial fishing activity in U.S. waters north of the Bering Strait and east to the Canadian border.

If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, this precautionary approach would close a roughly 150,000-square-nautical-mile Arctic Management Area to commercial fishing and is intended to provide an opportunity to assess the impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems before any commercial fishing is allowed.

The council has already closed an additional 527,110 square nautical miles off Alaska. In total, the area closed to protect fish habitat would cover an area more than five times larger than the entire U.S. National Park System.

To date, no large-scale commercial fishing occurs in the Arctic and large fish populations do not show up on the few surveys conducted there but global warming is melting the Arctic sea ice for longer periods each year, potentially enticing cold water fish fur-

ther north than in the past.

Meeting in Seattle, the 15 member council represents government and industry fisheries experts from Alaska, Washington and Oregon and the U.S. government.

The council's action today concludes a nearly two year process of deciding what action to take while a management plan is developed for the waters north of Bering Strait.

The Marine Conservation Alliance (MCA), a Juneau-based association of fishermen, processors and communities involved in the groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska, said it fully supports the council's action to close all commercial fishing in waters north of the Bering Strait until a management plan is fully developed.

"Climate change is having a significant effect on the Arctic, opening previously ice-covered waters and drawing cold water species further north," said MCA executive director Dave Benton.

A resolution passed by the U.S. Senate last year supported a halt to commercial fishing in the Arctic until agreement is reached on managing migratory, transboundary and straddling stocks among all nations bordering the Arctic, including the United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Russia and the European Union.

Benton said, "The Council's action to close these waters as a precautionary measure gives us the opportunity to conduct the scientific review necessary to develop a plan for how sustain-

able fisheries might be conducted in the Arctic in the future," he said. "Hopefully a similar precautionary approach will be adopted by other nations that border the Arctic."

The council says it will maintain a continuing review of the environment in the Arctic Management Area and will periodically review the provisions of the Fisheries Management Plan that implements the closure.

The council plans to maintain "close liaison" with the management agencies involved, particularly the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and National Marine Fisheries Service, but also including regional resource management entities in the Arctic Management Area such as the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, to monitor the development of commercial fishery potential.

The council will promote research to increase knowledge of the marine environment and fishery resources of the Arctic Management Area, including birds and marine mammals, either through council funding or by recommending research projects to other agencies.

The council says it is "particularly interested in research that improves understanding of the Arctic ecosystem, predator-prey relationships, energy flow, and how climate warming affects these processes." Also planned are public hearings and outreach to Arctic natives and communities . . .

A Message from Mother Earth

RENEWAL

Through Douglas Joshua Davis
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

"It is time to rise above the common misconceptions and beliefs. Be who you are. Trust, trust, trust. Trust me, your mother, to guide you to a resonant place, one that matches your own personal energy and vibration. I have many places upon which you can reside and build a new life and be one with me and speak to my plants and animals.

Be alert to what is being spoken to you in your media. It is mostly false or not the whole story. Trust my vibrations and your innermost feelings. Be in your life in a new way, one in which your feelings take precedence over what you hear and believe and what your mind tells you. Join the animals and plants in their vibrations.

Join me in my vast waters and heal your body and emotions. Did you know that when you change your vibration to that of my waters and woods, fields and flowers, winds and elements, that you heal your body? Your illnesses will melt away, your worries will cease to exist and you will once again be a whole human being. You will be amazed by spontaneous healings and feelings of joy and contentment.

We are here for you if you respect us: the rocks and elementals, the plants and animals, the ground you walk on, my winds and waters. Just be with my elements. You cannot do this with your mind. You must do this with your heart and your gentle spirit.



Office Publisher Image

"Slow down, there is never a reason to rush anywhere. Breathe my air."

Here is how you heal that which needs healing, balance and restoration in your body complex: Slow down, there is never a reason to rush anywhere. Breathe my air. Take deep, wonderful breaths of it, not short, shallow ones. Deep, slow breaths of pure clean air will heal you. Sit in silence by my waters and settle yourself. Be with me as I flow. Be with me and shapeshift with me. The water will calm you and bring you into the sacred moment, where all is restored and rebalanced. Talk to the animals, the plants and the elementals. Be gentle and loving toward yourself and others and all life and

you will be greatly supported and healed. Plant gardens in my soil and eat foods that are rich and alive with life force energy. They will nourish your body the proper way and restore you to vibrant health. Have no excuses. Just do it!

And what about fire? You might think it's a devastating thing but it is natural and cleansing. Build a small fire and sit by it for several hours. Your aura will be cleansed. Your energy field will be renewed and all negative energies removed from it. It is truly healing.

A Doorway of Light has opened for you to heal and reju-

venate. Yes, your body will be healed of disease by changing your vibration to my vibration. It is something very simple. Your spirit will be renewed and your mind will become rested, your emotions calmed. You have the power. Trust your feelings. You can do it!" --Mother Earth

Douglas Joshua Davis is a clairvoyant and spiritual medium and has been receiving messages for many years. He also communicates with and grows beautiful plants of all kinds. His "homegrown" business is called Sacred Earth Plants. Contact Douglas at greeneearth-dd@aol.com.



Photo by Nancy Janes

Hibiscus plant provides a patch of bright color for employees looking out the window of a library office at the snow in Canada.

A Poem About a Healthy Planet

littleness, little children, little flowers
little solar bursts of a billion or two
a hibiscus, a daisy, a planet
or a continent, an island, a town
a house, a window or my room
all my own little loves that I wish to be
loved by all and turning towards the sun

Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

Philly's Largest Green Roof

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (PECO Energy Press Release excerpt, January 15, 2009) — Following more than five months of work, PECO unveiled a completed green roof on top of the company's headquarter building at 23rd and Market Streets yesterday in Philadelphia. Totalling more than 45,000 square feet, it is the largest green roof ever installed on an existing building in an urban area in Philadelphia.

The vegetative roof consists of a variety of plants ranging from four to eight inches in thickness, 3,000 square feet of pavers and 470 lineal feet of railing.

The roof will help reduce stormwater runoff by absorbing 60 to 70 percent of the approximate 1.5 million gallons of annual rainwater that falls on the Main Office Building. The new roof will also save on heating and cooling costs by reducing the summertime peak roof temperature by 60 to 80 degrees. It will also absorb air pollution, which helps alleviate common respiratory problems.

I attempt to see the good in all things.

Loris Boutwell, Tiger GA

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Anastasia
Editor's Notes

by Dr. Leonid Sharashkin

How many times have I heard personal examples of this instant recognition: people who have been searching for years or decades for meaningful answers to questions on the purpose of life, on Man's place in Nature, have finally found them in this book! . . .

But should it be surprising that the image of a way of life founded on the ideals of love, beauty and non-violence, as presented by Anastasia, would resonate so strongly with our inner self? After all, does not every one of us want to live in a free society of kind and happy people, in a world without wars, crime or oppression? In a world where not a single tear need run down a child's cheek and where families live in love and prosperity?

Do we not want to live without monstrous industries destroying and polluting both Nature and Man? Do we not want to enjoy creative labor for the benefit of both our families and our communities, instead of suffering through boring jobs merely to enrich faceless corporations? Do we not want a society based on mutual help and co-operation rather than competition? . . .

More and more people in Russia and throughout the world draw their inspiration from the Ringing Cedars, acquire "the courage to dream" and create an image of radiant reality for themselves and their children and then get down to work in this direction . . .

You hold in your hands a flower which will unfold its petals to reveal a most remarkable masterpiece, unique in all of Russian's literature, and



possibly the world's as well. Indeed, its significance goes far beyond literature. This book possesses a tremendous, unprecedented potential to change life on our whole planet for the better.

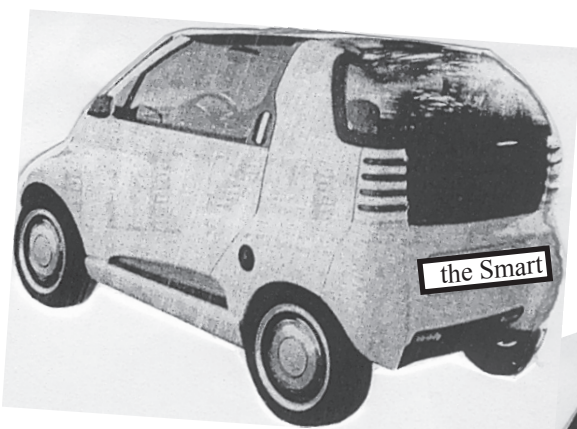
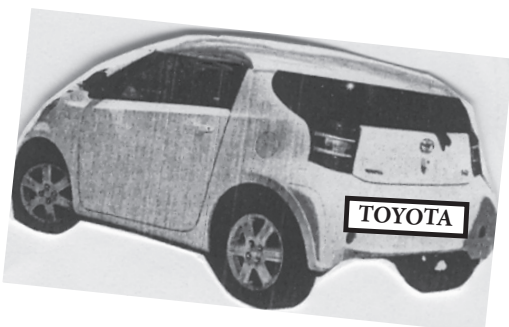
Inspired by the Ringing Cedars, thousands of people are now planting trees, changing their lifestyles and in search for a mortgage-free existence and spiritual re-connection with Earth, are relocating to new eco-villages which have sprouted all over Russia and beyond . . .

Even though Anastasia's aspiration to the light can be

felt intuitively, nevertheless, we must make sense of everything ourselves and work out the details . . .

I love this book so much that I decided it would be the only book I would sell through our newspaper: \$14.95 plus \$3.05 book-rate shipping. Send a check for \$18 payable to The Order of the Earth to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Write "Anastasia" on the memo line. If you love the first one as much as I did, you may order the rest of them directly from RingingCedars.com or 800-365-6367.

- Iona -



Mini Auto Showroom photos provided by Al Fry.

Alternative Autos

Current Minis

By Al Fry
Garden Valley, Idaho
Part II

In viewing some of the earlier mini car designs and technologies, we can see that we really haven't made that much progress.

Sure there are slicker body designs and better motor longevity but a lot of the new technology has just made it harder to fix the vehicles ourselves . . . and keep them running after their engineered life is over.

Gone are the days of the grease zirks and easy engine access. We now need special engine diagnostic tools . . . and many bolt heads are deliberately alienated from our usual tool box wrenches. Any little blown 'chips' require an expensive module replacement . . . and just try to get parts for older models. It's a game of designed obsolescence and hard to beat.

I currently find older Toyotas from the '70s pretty indestructible and fixable. I need another 'junkie' for parts in my back fenced-in space. And . . . and I need to feed them a little synthetic oil mixed in with the usual oil. Replacing the brake fluid every few years eliminated brake cylinder problems. And it has been no problem getting several hundred thousand miles out of a well-cared-for engine.

In earlier times we were lucky to get 70,000 out of a Ford Model A or Jeep engine without a 'ring job' so things have improved. Oddly enough, you can still get parts for the Model A's due to their great popularity and unchanged design.

Today some of the engineering is aimed at deliberately allowing parts to fail at certain points. One mechanic could predict some breakdowns to within 10,000 miles.

Have the competition and ego factors completely erased our common sense? My contractor son pointed out that he would lose business if he pulled up to bid on a job in some ratty older vehicle . . . and he's probably right.

With my thinking, I would be afraid I would need to pay extra for the job to keep him in the later and flashier vehicle. There are a few rebels around. Several thousand 'rat rod' builders around our nation put upgraded engines in older, junky-funky autos and trucks . . . in rebellion.

Going around in the usual gas guzzlers has been fun but as times get tougher we should be getting some better alternatives.

One step in the right direction was the astonishing popularity of the little ATVs. Locally we could add some mirrors and lights to get them licensed to allow us to legally run around on our back roads.

Why spend a buck in gas when a quarter's worth on an ATV will work for a short local run?

Unfortunately, the ego 'bigger is better' problem has arisen again and now the larger ATVs with power steering and more horses hardly get much better mileage than smaller autos.

I have found the most economical ATV to currently be the little 250 Honda and I notice that Kubota has kept down the horses in their gas-sippers like the little Hondas, VWs . . . and even the French 2 CVs, getting great mileage, doesn't come cheap. Virtually all the current hard-to-find new 'Minis' will run from \$15,000 to \$20,000. It takes a lot of gas savings to cover this initial purchase output.

For those with a little deeper pockets and a yen for the new 'mini,' let's look at some of the current offerings.

The little Ford KAs have been around since '96 and currently have little Fiat engines in them. Honda FITs and INSIGHTs have proven reliable and good for 45 miles per gallon (mpg). Toyota has its IQ for around \$20,000 and it should get 40 mpg. Jeep's ECCO has a simple two-cycle motor that puts out 85 horses. Mini Coopers have been around for years of course — and currently the little SMART minis from Mercedes are selling reasonably well. GM may or may not get out their 50 horse MAXX next year.

Mini electrics are still running into battery problems, so this is a problematic direction. One strange little German VGH three-wheeler has been put on the market by Hammacher, the catalog people, but \$15,000 for such a baby is probably a bit high to make it popular.

Frankly, Americans are about the last people to embrace the minis.

In Asia it's a different story. In Japan, road tax and insurance for minis are only about a quarter as much as for standard autos. This incentive keeps about a quarter of the cars on the road as smaller minis.

In the meantime, about the cheapest way to get a mini with 40 mpg capability is to pick up one of the more recent micro trucks by Subaru, Suzuki, Mitsubishi or Daihatsu.

Importers can bring them in used for around \$5,000 to \$6,000 and, since most have fairly low mileage on them, that's a bargain.

So far, tight federal regulations have been circumvented by calling them used farm equipment . . . and only ten states will allow them to get registered.

Could this picture change?
We shall see.



Mini Trucks

Mini trucks are street-legal in only about a dozen states at this time. They are also hard to locate. A local dealer sells Suzuki minis for \$6,000 to \$8,000 with only 12,000 to 20,000 miles on them. He is at 208-484-6068. With better mileage than most larger motorcycles, these minis are a bargain.

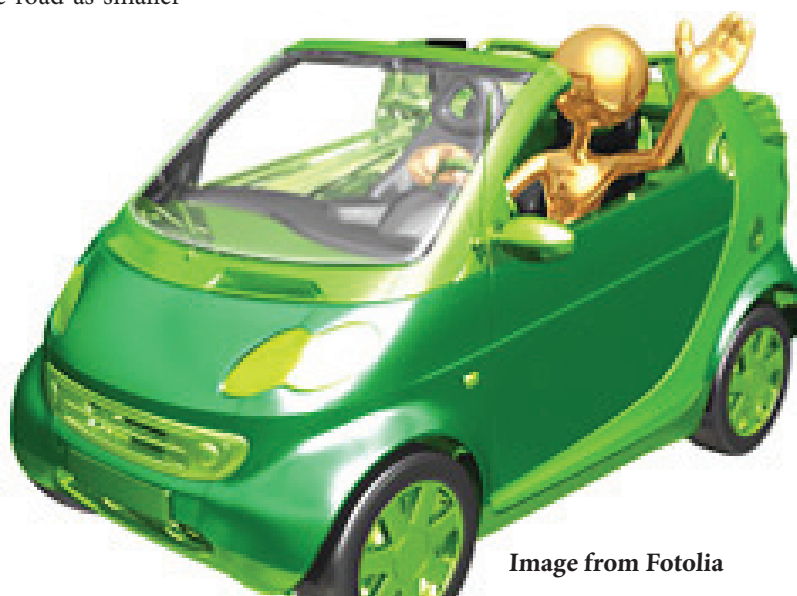


Image from Fotolia

The Examined Life ON TAXES

By Marion Stuenkel
Madison, Wisconsin

When my great great, great, great-grandfather, Daniel Countz, heard the Native Americans were defeated at the Battle of Tippecanoe on November 7, 1811, he left the Shenandoah Valley and hiked to Ohio to get some of the Indians' lost homeland. He did, for a low price, almost nothing, but the big thing was paying the taxes. Ohio had entered on a road-making program. Daniel died, almost poverty stricken, due to taxes. Though he didn't lose any land and always got his taxes paid, it was a big worry to him. He had overreached.

I inherited a book from Daniel, one of a handful I've kept. Inscribed inside the front cover along with the date of his birth and marriage is, "His book and heart shall never part."

The book is *Mammon or Covetousness the Sin* published in 1836. Reverend John Harris wrote on pages 77 and 78:

Indeed war itself— what has it often been but the art of gain practiced on the largest scale? The covetousness of a nation resolved on gain, impatient of delay and leading on its subjects to deeds of rapine and blood? Its history is the history of oppression in all ages. For centuries Africa— one quarter of the globe — has been set apart to supply the monster with victims, thousands at a meal . . . Where are the waters not ploughed by its navies? What imperial element is not yoked to its car? Philosophy itself has become a mercenary in its pay; and science, a votary at its shrine, brings all its noblest discoveries, as offerings to its feet. What part of the globe's surface is not rapidly yielding up the last stores of hidden treasure to the spirit of gain?

Since the time taxes were collected in the form of bushels of grain or heads of cattle, purportedly for the common good, taxes have gone to support resource wars. War is destructive of the environment. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Taxes are the price we pay for civilized society."

I think he was wrong. The road built through the Ohio wilderness, which impoverished my immigrant ancestor was the route to destruction of Mississippi Valley and Great Plains Indian societies and the Mexican American War of 1846-1848. Thoreau was imprisoned for refusing to pay taxes to support that war.

Socrates wrote, "... The unexamined life is not worth living... "

Five years ago in April, I went to Baghdad, Iraq as a delegate with the Christian Peacemaker Teams. I listened to an Iraqi businessman, owner of a construction company, tell of making a bid with Kellogg Brown & Root, the results of which he queried only to be told that his act of questioning meant he would never be considered, to get out of their office and not come back.

Driving back to our apartment we passed the statue of Morgiana, Ali Baba's servant, pouring cooking oil into the storage jars upon the thieves hidden therein. I imaged those jars labeled Kellogg Brown & Root, Bechtel and other corporations, especially those with oil and agricultural interests who operate in pillaged Iraq, occupied by the United States military paid for by my tax dollars.

I don't want to support destruction. I want it to stop. War has ever been bad for the environment. Not everyone can practice intentional income reduction in order to stop contributing taxes to support war. But we all can follow the advice of a Quaker, John Woolman, given in 1763: "... May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions."

Marion Stuenkel is a Kyoto-compliant, anti-nuclear activist modeling simple living for her grandchildren, practicing intentional income-reduction-war-tax-resistance and eating local food.

Public Transit Ridership Hits Highest Level in 52 Years

10.7 Billion Trips Taken
On U.S. Public
Transportation In 2008
Transit News

offers a substantial savings of more than \$8,000 a year. That's quite a savings."

This ridership record continues a long term trend of ridership growth. Public transportation use is up 38 percent since 1995, a figure that is almost triple the growth rate of the population (14 percent) and up substantially over the growth rate of the vehicle miles traveled on our nation's highways (21%) for that same period.

Millar announced the ridership increase before more than 600 public transit leaders at an APTA conference in Washington, D.C. He noted that the record ridership shows the clear demand for public transit and compelling need for increased investment at the federal, state and local levels.

Millar also announced the launch of a new advocacy campaign, Public Transportation Takes Us There, which is aimed at building congressional support for the authorization of the federal surface transportation legislation, which expires Sept. 30, 2009.

"Now, more than ever, the value of public transportation is evident and the public has clearly demonstrated that they want and need more public transit services," said Millar. "Public transportation is good for the economy, good for the environment and good for energy independence and now is the time for the federal government to increase its investment in public transportation."

HOW WE MOVE

BY TERRY DARLING, WARREN PA

When we were young, it was easy. Hair blowing wildly in eyes our perfect arms encircled, grasped waved, needing no thought. Our legs required only space. One motion birthed another, another, like an infectious disease we moved through each other's childhood. John hid behind the oak while I checked the string.

Is it tight enough? Yes, it's good. They're coming! Hurry! They were coming so I ran and hid behind the oak with my brother. We were frightened. He reached for my hand without looking, found it, squeezed hard. Together our hearts soared above the twilight forest. His fine, long hair was trimmed, clipped then finally shorn. Our wild, free dance never recognized, it was forgotten only to be relearned with awkward precision under a matron's watchful eye. Father provided the names, their seasonal placement, locking our favorite constellation forever into its proper position. Subservient, dependent moons, we positioned ourselves accordingly.

This is the way it must be. Yes, this is how we must live. It is very dark. In from my imaginary axis, I notice how quickly we spin. How, in the turning distance each falling star stretches then dies, suddenly.

Rant About Lawns

By Barbara Knox
Sandy Spring, Maryland

When I still lived at my farm in rural Pennsylvania I wrote a rant about country lawns. It began: "Soon lawn chores will be over till next spring. I'll store the hoses, mowers, gas and oil cans, rake, edger and string trimmer (probably postponing, then forgetting about, first draining gas and changing oil)."

I enjoyed gardening. It's more interesting than pedaling a stationary bike or aerobic exercises in front of the TV. But mowing a lawn is an awful waste of time, even if, with a walk-behind mower, it is good exercise. Lawns also waste fossil fuel and cost money for mowers, fuel, maintenance, seeds, fertilizer, herbicides and watering.

I've read that more chemicals are used on lawns in the U.S. than on all the farmland in the country. I've also heard that lawn mowers cause more air pollution than all the cars put together. Lawns are bad for your health, too. Mowers cause hearing loss when people mow without ear protection. Without protective footwear mowers can cause serious injuries. With no sun screen people risk skin cancers and encourage wrinkles. And mowing noise causes stress for others.

Turning woods and fields into lawn destroys wildlife habitat, decreasing biodiversity and altering the natural ecological system. Herbicides and pesticides, besides poisoning the micro-ecosystem of the lawn area, run off into streams, rivers, lakes, bays, oceans and ground-water, spreading pollution that harms aquatic creature like mayflies, frogs, toads, fish, water plants and in some cases, people.

Watering lawns wastes water. Common lawn grasses were imported from cool, rainy, European countries where flocks of sheep mowed and fertilized them. So they evolved needing frequent fertilizing, cutting and watering.

Maybe a small lawn makes some sense for inner city folks, who want a patch of green as relief from buildings, streets, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, although they could plant vegetables and flowers, which would be prettier and useful besides.

But why, in the suburbs and country, does most everyone have this love affair with lawns? Why waste hours a week riding around mowing acres of lawn? Why prefer an expanse of monotonous, flat green to the fascinating variety of a natural meadow, woodland or marsh?

In the big expanses of mowed land around suburban and country homes. I seldom see these lawn used for lawn parties, barbecues, touch football, horse-shoes, croquet, batting practice or soft ball. Nor used as grass courts for tennis, volley ball or badminton. Few children play on them, either. I only see people out there riding around and around on their mowers.

It makes no sense.

At my farm I turned some lawn into beds of native wildflowers or planted ground covers. I planted the bank along my driveway with wild strawberries. Low, wet fields by the stream I restored to riparian woodlands, and near the house I planted low-maintenance, native trees, shrubs and flowers to attract birds, butterflies and other creatures. I created a small pond with a mini swamp next to it, a haven for frogs, fed by runoff water from the roof of my house.

I still had too much lawn. So I mowed the fenced area for my clothes lines and my dog. But no chemicals or watering. I mowed access paths to my vegetable garden and fruit trees. But the rest of the lawn needed to go!

Why doesn't someone design drought-tolerant, self-pruning grass for those who must have lawns?



Photo by Rod Rylander

Clouds kissing over the village of San Antonio Rio Hondo, Orange Walk District, Belize.

Heaven and Hell

By Rod Rylander, Belize

Where'st thou goes't when one is:
Bombarded by fads and ought-tos
pounded by relentless propaganda
ripped between needs and desires
pushed to indulge
choked by plastic
Where'st thou goes't when one is:
squeezed by towers of power
pulled between philosophies
tugged by opposing personalities
kicked into a behavior
stretched between moral values
warped between lies
twisted into a confused society
evicted from tranquility
left by the wayside
O - what path does the mind and body and soul find?
Is it ? - where one is
ejected high into the icy depths of society
up and around, up and around
time, time and time again
each time to be wrapped with
that hard cold, protective coating,
each time becoming harder
and larger
and more merciless
relentless
dangerous - then
FALLING HARD-
causing destruction and misery
then melting into nothing - nothing at all
for those - is it hell?

On the other hand
could one not
seek the beauty of each day
give of oneself
be a part of creation -
loving as two cumulus clouds kiss
needing as seeds need warmth to sprout
giving as a flower freely gives of its scent
tolerating as a branch bends in the breeze
finding as a bee discovers Spring's first blossom
building bridges - not conflicts
a tranquil existence with
nature - the environment - like
not just one's life - but all life
could this be HEAVEN?

Using Brain and Legs to Save Energy

Not only does Dan Murphy of Moscow, Idaho publish a wonderful mini-zine called "Juniper" but he does extensive organic gardening and dreamed up this bicycle-operated pump to power an old washing machine that he converted into a salad-spinner. This photo was on the cover of his "Juniper" Number 10.5 (Summer Supplement 2008), which is full of photos of his garden and composting project at the Soil Stewards Organic Farm. The zine is free but stamps or donations are appreciated. Contact Dan at: POB 3154, Moscow ID 83843 or juniperjournal@hotmail.com.

Watch for Dan's work in future editions of "OE."



Two Elderly Women Protect Tree

By Kenneth J. Cooper
AARP Magazine January/February 2009

Sometimes it's the little things that apartment dwellers will fight for. In Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, residents tussled with management over a crab apple tree.

The Shrewsbury Housing Authority, which manages Francis

Gardens, a 100-unit complex for older adults, ordered the tree cut down so a dumpster could be relocated.

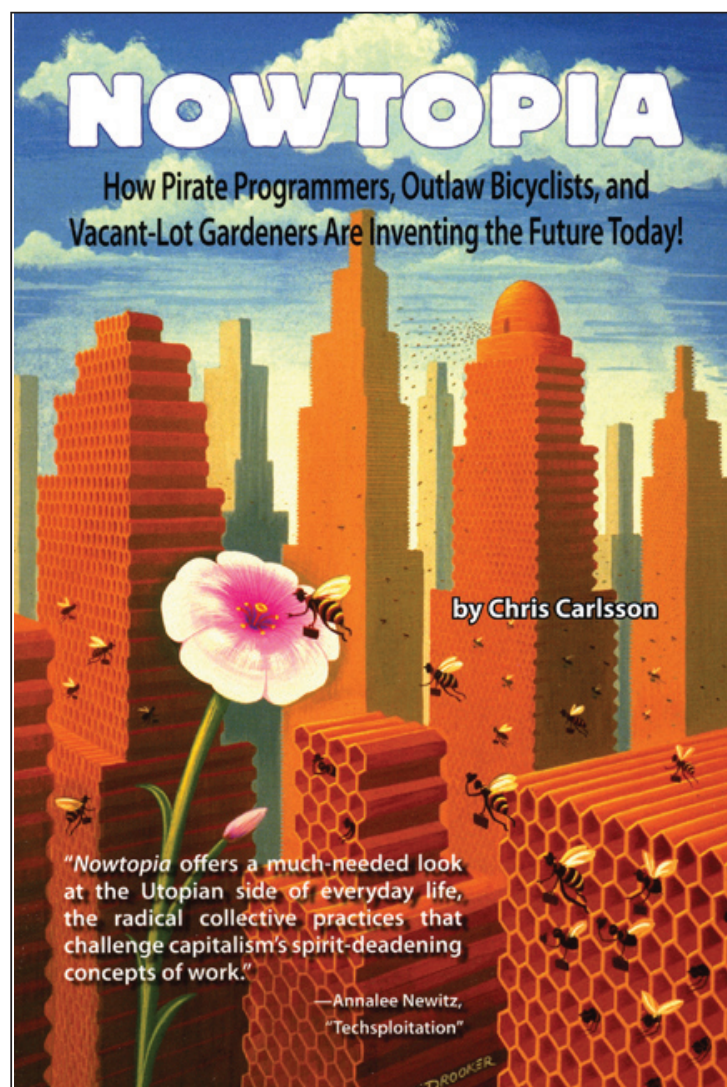
Lee Perrone, 74, and Pat Henry, 65, didn't want the dumpster beneath their windows. Besides, Perrone says, when the tree blooms, "It's the most beautiful thing — pink."

So the pair roped chairs around the tree and staged a sit-in. Both women received eviction notices.

After a local lawyer volunteered to represent them, the housing authority backed down.

The tree was saved. Officials did not return calls for comment.

Nowtopia: Ideas for a Better Way to Do Things



By Chris Carlsson
Excerpt from Nowtopia

Beyond Subordination

...The foundation of complete, successful revolution that crafts new worlds lies in the infinity of atomistic and molecular rebellions through which people rupture the sinews of the capital-labor relation and create alternative relations — however temporary and limited those ruptures and those alternatives may be.

--Harry Cleaver

Capital shapes society and individual lives through the omnipresent Spectacle. An incessant stream of images and declarations create the impression that there is one form of life and everyone is contentedly living it or urgently trying to achieve it. Alternatives are tolerated insofar as they reinforce the primary dynamics of Spectacular society, where business dominates unchallenged and the public tacitly accepts wage-labor, where shopping is treated as the sole arena for individual freedom, where the mute consumption of representations of life replaces active living. But the system is riddled with fissures. The false-

ness of Spectacular representation steadily produces dissenters. Dissent may erupt into direct insubordination but the common exodus from capitalism's hollow "choices" often amounts to non-subordination. Social movements create alternate systems of "self-valorization" (creating the meaning and purpose of one's own life). But these new modes of self-valorization, which fall outside the categories of jobs, shopping and consumption, are buried beneath the reigning Spectacle and thus relatively invisible. People may work on their homes, their cars, etc., (activities that remain within the logic of individual consumers) but when they fight for open space, create community gardens, challenge the design of cities and the auto-centric policies of planners, they are producing new kinds of life — which are then vulnerable to further co-optation and reintegration. It is an endless dialectic of partial escape, partial co-optation and the production of new initiatives that strain to break the cycle.

Many initiatives outside the market reflect awareness of the false "externalities" created by capitalist logic. Cheap food in the supermarket depends on

massive subsidized energy inputs (for example, the tax breaks for oil companies and trucking firms or the billions of dollars spent on wars to maintain dominance over oil-producing regions), as well as long-term exhaustion of arable soil, aquifers and huge dead-zones where nitrogen-rich agricultural runoff leads to oceanic species collapse.

Automobiles depend on those same hidden costs that subsidize the global oil/petrochemical industries, as well as public expenditures on roads and bridges and incalculable medical costs from collisions, pollution, stress and so on.

Community gardening, alternative fuels and bicycling, on the other hand, all represent technological revolts that integrate a positive ecological vision with practical local behaviors. The theory and practice of permaculture advances this logic much further.

We know exponentially more about planetary ecology than ever before, from micro to macro, from global climate to species interdependency. But the powers-that-be and the broad majority of the population continue to entertain false assumptions and defend daily behaviors that are demonstrably destroying

Earth as a viable habitat for humans (and a rapidly-expanding list of other species). A much warmer climate-challenged world might be a reality much sooner than scientists currently predict. When that sets in, basic industries like agribusiness, oil, chemicals, automobiles, asphalt (and many more), will probably contract suddenly, often into total collapse. In their place will emerge local, site-specific, derivative, ecologically sane alternatives under (some kind of new democratic) community design and control, based on the social and technological experiments going on already. Some of it will trickle down from labs and businesses that manage to shift their attention (in harmony with demands of social upheavals) to address existing and impending needs that are not defined by corporate profitability. But most of the solid alternatives will reside in the heads and the hands of the tinkerers who wouldn't wait for approval and are already creating viable prototypes in the present. The clever inventors of human- and ecology-focused technique seek to adapt basic infrastructure to reproducible, long-lasting, biologically sound devices and processes.

Water Power is Here Now

More Clean Energy Means Less Oil Drilling

By John Stoneman
Bradford, Pennsylvania

Here is an article that is sort of a "beginner," or "primer," article on Hydrogen from water or, as I call it, "water power," a source of "clean and free energy." It can be totally free (any quantity of Hydrogen or Oxygen gas) because you can use river, lake, creek or rain water and solar panels for the necessary electricity. Everybody has access to "free" water and sunshine!

Well, let me restate that, I don't mean water power as in a water wheel that ran many local mills in the late 1800's! I mean separating Hydrogen from Oxygen as in water molecules (H₂O) and burning the Hydrogen. And either "throwing out" the Oxygen or using it to enhance the burning of the Hydrogen. Since we start with water (H₂O) and use the Hydrogen and Oxygen, I call that "Water Power!"

I have been interested in Hydrogen power (from water) since the early 1980's. That is when at least two different inventors came up with two different ways to run a car on water. The devices are very inexpensive and technically simple. There is no good reason why all our cars are not water-powered or why we cannot heat our homes with water or the Hydrogen and Oxygen derived from water.

Those selling us power, whether it's fuel for our cars, fuel to heat our homes or electricity to power our lives, all have everything to lose when we are "on water" as a power source.

Think about that for a second. If all our cars, home and anything using power in our lives were powered by common tap water, imagine how much money would not be spent on electricity, gas, diesel, home heating, etc. We are talking about TRILLIONS of dollars.

Our lives and our economy would be significantly changed!



Computer-generated photo supplied by John Stoneman

Sign of the times!

For most of us for the better!

Separating the elements Hydrogen and Oxygen was a grade-school science class experiment in the 1930s and 1940s! The fuel and power industries try to confuse and demonize the water power movement. IF we all use water to power our cars or to heat and power our homes . . . THEY can't charge us for anything anymore! Their best hope is to produce Hydrogen gas themselves and sell it to us!

That requires them to compress the Hydrogen and put it into cylinders. So our cars will be rolling Hydrogen Bombs! BUT the safest way to use water as fuel is to separate it just before burning!

As water, Hydrogen bonded to Oxygen is very safe! Hydrogen as a gas is VERY dangerous! It's a VERY powerful, explosive gas! THAT is one reason it's so good as a power source. When you burn Hydrogen gas it re-bonds with free Oxygen and reforms water! It re-cycles itself! And it only takes a very small amount of water to produce a large quantity of Hydrogen/Oxygen gas!

If you want to learn more you can do an Internet search on such topics as "Hydrogen Generator" or "Hydrogen Power." You might be amazed at how many people, counties and

industries are using Hydrogen already!

Be aware that the oil, fuel and power (electric) industries all have propaganda out there discounting the use of Hydrogen as a fuel. Follow the money and use your judgment to sort the real information from the distracters and their mis-information! And, there IS lots of mis-information on the Internet. Watch for scams! Question everything!

"Water Power" technology has been with us for over a hundred years! Hydrogen was discovered by Henry Cavendish in London, England in 1766 (Zint). Unlike many new ideas for displacing oil (like cold fusion) which rely on unproven future technology, Hydrogen production relies on centuries-old proven technology. Hydrogen production from water has passed the scrutiny of time.

Hydrogen can run virtually every application where other fuels are used today — basically anything that operates on a flame like a gas stove or anything that operates on an explosion like an internal combustion engine — anything that runs off electricity or could be run by a battery, done through a fuel cell or anything else that doesn't fit into those three categories. Hydrogen can truly run anything that consumes energy of any kind, in any

shape or form.

New solar gensets hold the world's record for converting solar energy to electricity. Using this method a relatively small area of land could manufacture enough Solar-Hydrogen to supply the entire energy requirements for the United States. NO FOSSIL FUELS NEEDED! Just water and sun!

According to a study funded by Saudi Arabia, even if less efficient photovoltaic cells were used, a relatively small area of land could displace all their oil exports. (See The Phoenix Project.)

No matter what the method, the fact remains that Hydrogen is the key to a bright future creating a renewable, self-sufficient resource that will one day in the near future make oil obsolete.

Hydrogen has the highest energy-to-weight ratio. NASA has used it as a rocket fuel since the 1940s. Most people don't notice it, but if you watch a shuttle lift off you can see that the three rockets attached to the shuttle itself have a light blue, almost clear flame that is the on-board Hydrogen rocket. NASA also uses Hydrogen for its primary fuel while traveling in space.

In general, the devise that is used to separate water into its basic elements, Hydrogen and

Oxygen, is called an "electrolyzer." The Navy has been using electrolyzers for their submarines to make Oxygen for long missions. They turn on the diesel engines and turn the sea water into Hydrogen and Oxygen.

In fact, the American Hydrogen Association has one of the original electrolyzers from a submarine. It is still fully functional today and has over one hundred million life support hours to its credit since 1955 as an Oxygen generator for submarines and NATO.

When most people think of alternative renewable energy they think of the electric car. You charge it for three hours and only get a fifty-mile range. It's slow, small, uncomfortable and batteries need replacement every twelve months.

With Hydrogen you don't have to give up any of your luxury. In fact, Hydrogen is more powerful than gasoline. Liquid Hydrogen has a BTU (British Thermal Unit) of 60,000 per pound where as gasoline has a BTU of 18,000 per pound.

This means that Hydrogen is lighter and more powerful; it can go farther for its weight. Hydrogen has many practical uses. For example, you can easily convert any combustion engine to run on Hydrogen. Hydrogen can be used as a cooking fuel, to heat your home, drive your car and mow your lawn.

Hydrogen can run your generator and produce the electricity for your home. With the addition of a fuel cell, Hydrogen can be turned back to electricity to run your computer and your lights. It can be used in place of electricity, in place of gasoline and in place of propane or natural gas. It can be used to suit all the world's power needs.

Unlike so many things which only the richer, more developed countries can afford, Hydrogen can power any country where the sun shines. "Shifting to Hydrogen is not a question of whether, but when."

The air that comes out of the exhaust pipe of a combustion engine running off Hydrogen is

cleaner than it was when it went in, called "minus emissions."

Engine oil remains clean for an extended period of time because there are no sulfur or carbon compounds to degrade the oil. Engines using Hydrogen will last much longer and start faster in any weather. Existing cars could be converted to run on Hydrogen, in fact introducing a small amount of Hydrogen (two to five percent) into internal combustion engines that currently run off gasoline, diesel or natural gas increases the efficiency, improves gas mileage and reduces pollutants quite amazingly.

Jules Verne once said: "I believe that water will one day be employed as fuel, that Hydrogen and Oxygen will constitute it, used singly or together, will furnish an inexhaustible source of heat and light."

Hydrogen can be produced from water, sewage, garbage, landfills, agricultural biomass, paper product waste and other materials. Hydrogen is naturally produced by plants and is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-toxic. We now fully understand Hydrogen for what it is.

Hydrogen is the key to a bright future creating a renewable, self-sufficient resource that will one day in the near future make oil obsolete. We have seen how Hydrogen, when produced efficiently to its full potential, is able to compete with oil in a global market, at a fraction of the price.

Hydrogen truly is the perfect fuel — the fuel that brought us to the moon, the fuel that will save us from our own destruction, the fuel that will guide us through the twenty-first century and beyond — for as long as the sun shines and there are people willing to reap its benefits.

**"Free" water
+ sunshine**

**= an endless supply of
Hydrogen and Oxygen gas!**

John Stoneman is a photographer and free lance writer.

How On Earth Does This Work?

John Stoneman writes, "As you may or may not know, I did extensive experimentation with Hydrogen/Oxygen electrolyzers. I was able to produce quantities of Hydrogen gas with solar-powered electrolyzers. At some Allegheny Defense Project and Friends of Rim Rock functions, I demonstrated my devices many times. Below are my photos.



A "solar powered electrolyzer" built from a mason jar! It makes Hydrogen and Oxygen gas!



This is my most efficient "Hydrogen Electrolyzer." The blue electrolyzer, a safety "bubbler," a water/gas separator and a spark arrester. The blue housing is from a water filter.



Inside are precision-spaced stainless steel plates hooked to electrical fittings. The "electrolyte" is common Sodium Hydroxide or drain cleaner! The electrolyte stays in solution and you rarely need to add to or replace it! Just add more water as needed!

Scientists Condemn GM Experiments Using Children

By Sean Poulter
The Daily Mail/UK via CommonDreams.org

February 17, 2009 (excerpt) — Children have been used as 'lab rats' in GM (genetically modified) rice trials that were carried out in breach of ethics rules drawn up in response to the medical crimes of Nazi Germany, it is claimed.

A group of 22 scientists are condemning a controversial trial involving feeding GM rice to children in China and the U.S. Youngsters aged 6-10 were fed so-called Golden Rice, which has been modified to contain enhanced levels of beta carotene or vitamin A.

The rice is being developed to combat Vitamin A deficiency, which is linked to damage to the sight, poor brain development and immune system failure. However high consumption can also have harmful toxic effects and cause birth defects.

Critics are furious that the GM rice was not put through animal feeding



Photo The Daily Mail

trials to ensure it was safe before being given to children. The decision to use the children has been condemned as 'completely unacceptable' by a group

of 22 scientists — all GM critics — from Britain and around the world.

They claim it is indicative of moves by the biotech lobby and biotech firms, led by the U.S.A., to force GM food into the mouths of the world without proper assessment.

The project was financed and run through the U.S. National Institutes of Health and involved children in China and America. The scientists have written an open letter to the team behind the experiments, condemning the way they were conducted.

It states: 'We are writing to express our shock and unequivocal denunciation of the experiments being conducted by your colleagues which involve the feeding of genetically modified Golden Rice to human subjects.'

The letter says there has been 'woefully inadequate pre-clinical evaluation' of the rice. The scientists argue there is a large body of evidence showing GM food production can trigger gene mutations which "can result in

health-damaging effects when GM food products are fed to animals."

The letter adds: "Our greatest concern is that this rice, which is engineered to overproduce beta carotene, has never been tested in animals."

It says there is evidence that certain chemicals derived from beta carotene "are both toxic and cause birth defects." Critics of the GM experiments says the Nuremberg code states that children under 10 are not considered legally capable of giving consent to participation in such experiments. They say the code also requires that human guinea pigs should not be used if scientists have an alternative experimental method.

Thirdly, experiments on humans should not be conducted until tests with animals have identified potential hazards. Among the leading bodies behind the GM Golden rice project are the biotech company Syngenta, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Microsoft charitable foundation set up by boss Bill Gates.



Image from Office Publisher

Stoney's Vegan Chili

By John Stoneman
Bradford, Pennsylvania

As a part-time or "pretend" vegetarian, a "soft-core" vegan AND somebody who hates "toe-food," I developed my own recipe for vegan chili.

Thanks to my years in Brooklyn, New York and my association with many Haitian and Puerto Rican immigrants, I learned a lot about cooking with Latin-American spices and ingredients. I "fooled" many a meat-eating individual into not missing the meat in the chili. My vegetarian chili has the texture and taste of a meat chili and, if you don't mention the lack of ground up dead cow or turkey, it might go unnoticed that it's vegetarian or vegan.

This recipe will make a large "vat" of chili to last a week or so! It will fill an average crock pot with a large bowl left over! I recommend making the recipe this size and not cutting the recipe in half.

Ingredients:

- 3 Cans Dark Kidney Beans (15.5oz cans)
- 2 Cans Light Kidney Beans (15.5oz cans)
- 1 Can Diced Tomatoes (28oz can)
- 1 Can Crushed Tomatoes in puree (28oz can)
- 1 Can Tomato Paste (12oz Can)
- 1 Can Refried Beans (16oz can)
- 2 Tablespoons of Paprika
- 1 Tablespoon of Crushed Chilies
- 2 Tablespoons of Chili Powder
- 1 Tablespoon of Minced Onions
- 1/2 Teaspoon of Cayenne Pepper
- 1 Tablespoon of Garlic Salt
- 1 Tablespoon of Garlic Powder
- 1 Tablespoon of Basil
- 1 Tablespoon of Parsley
- 1 One-Pound Yellow, Sweet Onion
- 1 Large Green Pepper
- 1 Large Green Chili

In a very large pot, add all the ingredients EXCEPT for the onion, pepper and chili, stirring in each ingredient one at a time. Drain the beans, and diced tomatoes before adding. Use the Puree in the crushed tomatoes. Stir very well when all are added the pot. Do not add water.

Cook the chili COVERED over low heat for one hour, stirring frequently and be very careful not to boil or burn. You will need to stir often to avoid burning to the bottom of the pot. Simmer, do not boil!

Dice the onion, pepper and chili very fine, about the size of a quarter of a postage stamp, or the size of your pinky finger nail. Stir in the onion, pepper and chili and cook an additional 1/2 hour.

Total cooking time is 1 1/2 hours. I add the onion, pepper and chili in the last 1/2 hour so that they remain "crunchy" when the chili is done. If you prefer the onion, pepper and chili softer, add them in the beginning. This will taste better and will be "hotter" if you let it cool completely and then re-heat.

If you really love the taste of tofu and/or want to use it for the taste or to feel like more of a vegetarian or vegan, substitute tofu for the refried beans.

Beavers: Amazing River Engineers Help the Environment

By Valerie Stanley
Laurel, Maryland

I've always been fascinated by wildlife and I am blessed to live in an area where I get to see different wild animals every day. Although this article is about beavers, my encounter with an injured fox many years ago laid the groundwork for my advocacy for all wildlife.

"We're going to let God take care of you," the wildlife rehabilitator said as she used a catch pole to remove the injured fox from my barn on a cold, January night. The night before, as I was finishing up my horse chores, I had been surprised to see two eyes staring at me from a dark corner in the aisle of my barn. I called a wildlife rehabilitator who told me that the fox would probably leave the next morning on his own volition.

The next morning the fox was still there, alive but not moving and still staring intently at me. As the hours passed and my concern for the fox grew, I started placing more and more calls to various wildlife rehabilitators. If it was a fox that was injured, they said, they couldn't help as doing so was against regulations of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

"I can't just leave it there; something is wrong because he is not moving." Many calls later I reached a woman who offered, despite the regulations, to come out to help. She approached the fox as calmly as if she was trying to catch a friendly dog. It was only when the fox was caught, that I saw the horrible, bloody gashes to his neck that he had been hiding. Tears immediately sprang to my eyes; I told

him I was sorry for waiting and sorry that I hadn't demanded that someone come out sooner. It was one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had when the helpless fox looked directly back into my eyes. The rehabber placed the fox on a thick and soft bed of towels in the backseat of her warmed and running car and transported him to be euthanized.

I have always suspected that wild furbearers play a far more significant and beneficial role in our environment than as mere wearers of furs to be harvested. I was delighted to find in my research that, in fact, one of my favorite animals, the beaver (*Castor canadensis*), has been recognized as doing just that! The dams they make, "conserve water, prevent flood and drought, control soil erosion, keep waterways open (by creating and deepening their underwater channels), control aquatic growth, thin out trees, prevent forest fires, enhance habitat for other wildlife and keep water tables high," according to the Web site of the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge in Newfield, New Jersey. (See www.unexpectedwildliferefuge.org.)

It is estimated that in the early days of North America there were 200 million beaver; today it is estimated that there are only 10 million throughout the United States. Federal and state wildlife officials convened and have hypothesized the link between the eradication of beavers, who were trapped for their pelts, during the Colonial period and the fact that streambeds since that time run dry quickly. (See "Once There Were Beavers" Project of the Association of



Photo by Hope Ryden

Two adult beavers and a yearling. Photographer and author Hope Ryden lives in New York City and gives talks about beavers, coyotes, bobcats, wild horses, eagles, flamingos, wildflowers and other species.

Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Biologists.) They have sought to reproduce the "hydrologic impacts of beaver dams on headwater streams."

If beavers are recognized to be such an important part of their environment, why, I wondered, does the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prohibit wildlife rehabilitators from aiding injured beavers?

I posed this question to the Permit Coordinator for the DNR, who confirmed to me that permits issued to rehabbers in Maryland prohibit them from rehabbing not only beavers, but river otters and mink. Remarkably, she promised to re-examine the agency's position if I requested it.

Apparently, DNR has re-examined

its prohibition on having Maryland rehabbers aid foxes. Now additional training and a special permit are required for rehabbers who wish to handle this species.

Apparently, the woman who came to my fox's rescue was ahead of her time. Thankfully, for his sake, she put this animal's interest ahead of her own.

The plight of this fox introduced me to the fact that state departments of wildlife or natural resources negotiate which species of injured or dying animals wildlife rehabilitators can possess and/or rehabilitate.

Valerie Stanley teaches Animal Law at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

By Paul Durrenberger
Harris Township, Pennsylvania

Take a step into the near future. A guy from a Zapotec village in Oaxaca comes up to the Rio Grande where he's going to cross into the United States to get a minimum wage job doing agricultural, janitorial or construction work. He can cross legally since the U.S. has dropped all the barriers to workers coming north.

The border patrol person takes a drop of blood and asks him to wait awhile. In a few minutes, the official comes out with forms for him to fill out. One form tells him that two cents of every dollar he earns will be deducted before he is paid to go directly to the DuPont Corporation.

At first he can't understand. He thinks maybe his English isn't that good. He thinks he's being informed that two percent of his wages are automatically going to the DuPont Corporation. When he asks, the guard shows him to the line waiting to see a social worker. Half a day later, the social worker explains that it's intellectual property. The blood test shows the tell-tale trace of DuPont corn. The DuPont Corporation patented the corn that made the tortillas that were the mainstay of his diet and since he is a product of proprietary corn, he owes two percent of his value to the DuPont Corporation. "It's just like beef," the social worker explains, bored with having to go through this for the hundredth time today. "You feed your cattle DuPont corn, you

gotta pay the DuPont Corporation when you sell the beef. Two percent. Same deal."

The worker protests that he's not a side of beef. Maybe not, thinks the social worker, but you are Mexico's chief export. Labor on the hoof.

"Look, I don't make the law," the social worker reasons. "It's just the law. The farmer had a choice. He didn't have to feed DuPont corn to his cattle. If his cattle got fatter faster and he made money, then he owes part of that to DuPont. Farmer uses the seed, gets a better crop, he can pay DuPont some of the difference. He has a choice. Nobody's making him do it."

The worker is thinking about his neighbor's corn field that was pollinated by DuPont corn. The court said he had to pay royalties, even though he never planted DuPont corn. That farmer had no choice. Not sure his English is up to that, he drops it.

"Your mom had a choice," the social worker says, "she didn't have to feed you tortillas made from DuPont corn. If you grew up to be healthy and strong and able to work, well . . . you owe it to Du Pont. Part of everything that comes from that corn belongs to DuPont. It's the law. Like I say, I didn't make the law. You want to go on or go back?"

If you're hearing the theme song from The Twilight Zone and expecting a voice-over from the ghost of Rod Serling, you're in the same boat with a lot of Mexican farmers, ranchers and consumers of corn these days. DuPont has a patent all but

approved in the European Community for a variety of corn that's nearly identical (some say identical) to one that many Mexican farmers grow. Feed it to cattle, DuPont claims a percentage. DuPont's patent on a common variety of beans that many Mexican farmers plant gives the corporation the right to a percentage of each sale.

You grow it, you sell it, you pay DuPont. Why? Because they've patented the genetics of your beans. They own the intellectual property rights.

Adam Smith and Karl Marx agreed that the market price of commodities would converge on how much it costs to produce the next one. That cost includes the price for labor, rent, machines, raw materials and any other costs of production. They couldn't imagine a commodity that people could produce with no labor or raw materials. If the machines and rent are paid for, that makes the marginal cost of production zero. That is an oxymoron — a commodity that you would — what? Give away? But commodities are things you sell. You don't give them away.

But what about this "0 marginal cost" commodity? If you have such a thing, how can you sell it and make a buck? A government has to make it possible through policy.

Can you own an idea? Maybe not. But you can own a specific statement of it.

Romeo and Juliet was an old story when Shakespeare stole it. Then there was West-side Story — same story, different statement.

If the government says so, you can own it. That's what intellectual property is all about. That's what DuPont is claiming — ownership of the genetic code of varieties of corn and beans even if they were in common use before the patent — and they want a fee for every use.

A recent law case brought by the National Writer's Union decided that if you write something, you get the copyright to it and any time anyone reproduces and sells it in print or electronically they have to pay the writer. What's the marginal cost of producing the next one? The price of photocopying or, if it's electronically done, nothing at all. Individual writers could never have enforced that. It took collective action to make it work for writers like it does for corporations.

You write a song and anyone who sings it has to pay you for the use of it. It's easier for corporations to enforce than song writers. So if they've bought the song from the writer they can put the kibosh on outfits like Napster that would give away their "0 marginal cost" product.

Toward the end of August of 2001, the *Wall Street Journal* quoted Bill Gates on what happens when you put major money into developing a "0 marginal cost" product and then someone else comes out with a different but equivalent product. A different version of Romeo and Juliet, a different drug that does the same thing, a different song with the same message, a different genetic code for the same corn. The only way to recover costs and make an honest buck is through monopoly

practices — controlling the market.

Toward the end of August, 2001 the *Wall Street Journal* reported that geneticists are on to a gene for longevity. How's that going to work if that ever gets made into the kind of life-prolonging drug they were talking about? You pay Merck two percent of your pension for every year of life after you start taking their drug? Seems reasonable don't you think? And if someone brings out an equivalent one? Then figure out a way, by hook or by crook, to make everyone buy your product.

So our future worker starts to sign the paper but the social worker says, "Jeez, look, the blood test shows DuPont beans too, and they didn't give you the form for deduction of 2% of your wages for that. You'll have to go back to the first line and get that form, too."

The worker knows the sense of futility that generations have known as they gave their rulers flowers and candles and wished them well, and well gone, but he says, "What the hell is this, the United States of DuPont?"

A puzzled look crosses the social worker's face as he answers, "No, not at all, I mean Sony, AOL-Time-Warner, Disney, Pioneer Seed, Monsanto, ADM, Dow Chemical, IBM, Microsoft, Merck, Johnson and Johnson — they got rights too you know."

Paul Durrenberger is the Opinion Editor for "Voices of Central PA," *Ceentral PA's* volunteer, alternative newspaper.

Movement Comes of Age

Continued from page 1
tal movement. Climate change — for many years the concern of a narrow circle of scientists and inside-the-Beltway policy wonks — seems to have finally birthed a broad-based citizens movement. The numbers prove the point: Powershift, the 12,000-person conference that organized the lobbying day, attracted 5,000 students at its 2007 gathering 14 months ago. The first such meeting of campus climate activists, in 2005, had fewer than 200 attendees.

For author-activist Bill McKibben — whose seminal book about global warming, *The End of Nature*, was published before many of the Powershift participants were born — the emergence of a muscular social movement demanding carbon-dioxide reductions is long overdue.

“I’ve been waiting 20 years to see what the climate change movement would look like and it looks great,” McKibben, one of the initiators of the power plant action, told AlterNet. “We’ve got a lot to do. And the reason we’re doing this protest is to give [President Obama] the political space he needs to maneuver, to show him that people care. Because the fossil-fuel industry doesn’t want to give him any space.”

The popular pressure is coming just in time. In December, leaders from around the world will gather in Copenhagen, Denmark to negotiate an international treaty to replace the Kyoto Accords. With greenhouse gases continuing to accumulate in the atmosphere and with ecosystems already showing stress from rising temperatures, environmentalists warn that the Copenhagen negotiations will be do-or-die.

And there is unlikely to be any meaningful progress at the talks unless the U.S. plays a leadership role. Green groups, therefore, believe it’s essential for Congress to pass some kind of ambitious climate legislation before the world’s leaders arrive in Copenhagen.

Gus Speth, a former environmental advisor to Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton and now dean of the Yale School of Forestry, says that 2009 will be a “hinge of history.”

“Far too many members on the Hill don’t feel sufficient political pressure,” he told AlterNet. Speth was among the prominent environmentalists — along with farmer-writer Wendell Berry and climatologist James Hansen — who risked arrest at the power plant protest. “They [Members of Congress] get the science, that’s not difficult. I think what we’ve been missing is a protest movement in this country, a powerful welling of grassroots support. Real citizen power: That has been the missing ingredient.”

The recent actions in Washington, then, are a crucial test of eco-muscle. Will green groups



Photo from www.capitolclimateaction.org.
Group blocks coal plant entrances in the largest mass civil disobedience for the climate in U.S. history where thousands of activists shut down the Capitol Power Plant. The only way we’re going to solve the climate crisis is by coming together and taking action. Like this!

Coal Ash Spill Causes Breathing Problems

Submitted by Mark Petersen
Roanoke, Virginia

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — A survey finds Tennessee residents are experiencing breathing problems, stress and anxiety near where more than one billion gallons of coal sludge spilled from a power plant storage facility.

Last month, the state health department interviewed 368 residents within a 1.5-mile radius of the coal-fired Kingston Fossil Plant . . .

One third of respondents said they perceived worsening upper-respiratory symptoms. About half reported mental health issues, including stress and anxiety . . .

succeed in persuading politicians to put strict limits on greenhouse gases? Or will entrenched fossil-fuel industries be able to successfully defend their longtime privileges?

The students swarming the congressional offices and the protestors surrounding the Capitol Power Plant on Monday seemed determined to prove that they are ready to make the sacrifices demanded for success.

The night before, the sky had dumped three inches of snow and temperatures throughout



Photo from www.capitolclimateaction.org

Where’s the power?

the day were frigid, punctuated by occasional flurries. But the climate activists were undeterred by the storm.

Despite the icy weather, the people surrounding the power plant were jubilant, dancing and bouncing to keep themselves warm and chanting slogans, such as: “Climate change / What’s the solution? / A green jobs revolution” and the elegantly simple, “Coal stinks.”

Many of those at the protest seemed heated by a feeling that the political dynamics are turning in their favor. Last year, for

example, environmentalists scored a major victory when Democratic lawmakers removed long-time-auto-industry-ally Rep. John Dingell, D-Michigan, from his chairmanship of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The December coal slurry spill at a Tennessee Valley Authority power plant (see article next to riot troopers) has put the coal industry under heightened scrutiny and is raising new questions about coal’s dangers from extraction to ignition to disposal. And President

Barack Obama has signaled that his administration will play a leading role in crafting any agreement that comes out of Copenhagen.

In yet another sign that lawmakers are feeling they have to respond to environmentalists’ demands, four days prior to the Capitol Power Plant protest, House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-California and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, called for the plant to stop burning coal within a year. Even coal country’s Sen. Robert Byrd, D-West Virginia, a longtime defender of the plant, said he would agree to a coal phase-out. Before a single banner had been unfurled or a placard raised, environmentalists had scored a win.

Although emboldened by the victory, the newly invigorated climate movement recognizes that it isn’t going to stop global warming by protesting one coal plant at a time — mostly because there simply isn’t enough time. The very urgency of the issue means that, unlike social campaigns of the past — which perhaps could tolerate incremental change — climate justice groups are desperate for immediate action. As McKibben points out, “We’re running out of years.”

At the same time, the fossil-fuel industry is preparing for a major political fight. An alliance of utilities, coal and mining companies has pledged \$40 million to influence any climate-change legislation. And some 770 companies have hired more than 2,300 lobbyists to work on climate issues, which means that there are four climate lobbyists for every member of Congress, according to the Center for Public Integrity.

“Yes, it’s an uphill climb but we believe the tide has turned,” says Jessy Tolkan, executive director of the Energy Action Coalition, the main force behind the Powershift convergence. “We know the polluting industries will always have more money to put lies on television and to stuff money into politicians’ pockets. But we have something more powerful — we have numbers.”

Tolkan notes that 23 million members of the millennial generation voted in the last election and were a key force in bringing Obama and a fortified Democratic Congress into power. Of those, 340,000 people signed the “Power Vote” pledge setting climate change and green jobs as their top political priority.

During the Monday lobbying day, students used those statistics to warn legislators that if they ignore climate change, they could lose their jobs.

“We are flexing our political muscle and we are telling them how many young people voted in their district,” Tolkan says. “We have a chance right now to make it clear that we have the ability to vote these people in and out of power.”

Tolkan’s optimism will be

tried later this year when Congress and the President turn their attention to climate policy. The economic crisis appears to have moved climate lower down on the agenda (a recent Pew poll showed it dead last among the public’s priorities), which could siphon off support.

Even more challenging, climate politics threatens to fracture the Democratic caucus. Otherwise-progressive legislators who come from coal-producing states will likely oppose legislation that goes too hard against coal — the single largest source of the U.S.’s greenhouse gas emissions. They will probably demand government support for (so far unproven) “clean coal” technologies such as carbon sequestration.

Yet for many of the organizations behind the power plant rally — national groups such as Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network and local ones like the Black Water Mesa Coalition and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network — the very idea of “clean coal” is anathema. One of the most popular signs on Monday was “Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie.”

“When I hear about ‘clean coal’ it just breaks my heart,” says Enei Begaye, a Navajo and Tohono O’odham woman, who has fought coal mining on her reservation in northeastern Arizona and who was at the power plant protest. “There’s no way we can support [climate legislation that includes coal] — because coal is tearing our communities apart and is the root of our suffering.”

These kinds of disputes over tactics and strategies will only become more acute as environmentalists get closer to federal climate legislation. But the hundreds of skills-sharing sessions, trainings and workshops that occurred over the weekend show that organizers are ready for the long struggle that is coming. Without exception, environmentalists said they were excited to return to their communities and put pressure on their legislators, on their home turf, for climate action.

“Climate change and its unpredictable effects on our planet scares me so much,” said Emily Pappo, 18, as she blockaded the south gate of the Capitol Power Plant. The protest was the first for Pappo, a New York University student majoring in environmental studies. “I think that it’s beautiful, the fact that so many people are here for one important cause. I’m so happy I could be a part of it. Each of us learned so much. We have to take the skills we learned here and take them back to our communities and our campuses.”

Jason Mark is the co-author of *Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grassroots*. He edits the magazine “Earth Island Journal,” published by Earth Island Institute.

Tree Die-Off in Colorado

Continued from page 1
compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Winters used to kill these beetles off along with the woodpeckers but now, with warmer seasons, this beetle has multiplied making it impossible to control the invasion. A prescribed burn would normally control the outbreak but with the number of homes that could be affected by smoke or fire it makes it very difficult. The results have left everyone not only concerned about our forests, but also about Earth’s atmosphere which has been severely affected.

Scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research suspect that these beetles are already changing regional weather patterns. When trees fight off the beetles, they release chemicals into the air that worsen the air quality. Trees affect rainfall, temperature and help absorb the

heat from the sun and help keep everything balanced. Without trees, global heating and climate change may occur. The only treatments that have been somewhat effective are sprays, solar treatments and thinning the bark so that the beetles are exposed to the elements.

These have only been slightly effective because of the amount of ground needing to be covered. At the current rate, the mountain beetle is expected to kill off all of the pine forests in Colorado in the next three to five years and then start migrating east to bigger and denser forests.

It’s time for us to realize the impact we have on our planet and make the changes necessary to protect our forests.

Scott Mahon is an outdoor enthusiast and a photographer who is active in conserving our natural environment.

Warming on Warning

Continued from page 1

Black carbon is emitted from incomplete combustion of burning fossil fuels and biomass and contributes to climate change in two ways. First, while in the atmosphere, the dark particles absorb heat and warm the air.

Then, when black carbon falls on ice and snow, it absorbs more solar radiation, leading to more rapid melting, which then leads to less reflective ice, in a dangerous accelerating feedback cycle.

Unlike carbon dioxide, CO₂, which remains in the atmosphere for over a thousand years, black carbon lingers only for a few days, so reducing black carbon emissions would have an immediate effect on global warming and also would have health benefits for millions of people risking disease and death from breathing polluted air.

“In contrast to reductions in black carbon soot, cuts in CO₂ emissions, while essential, do not produce significant cooling for at least a thousand years,” said Durwood Zaelke, president of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development.

Zaelke attended UNEP’s Governing Council meeting in Nairobi last week to

urge fast action on black carbon and other strategies that can produce quick climate mitigation.

He urges that the Montreal Protocol ozone treaty be used to rapidly phase out hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs, which are used as refrigerants and foam blowing agents. They also are used in manufacturing and emitted as by-products of industrial processes.

HFCs are a class of replacements for ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Because HFCs do not contain chlorine or bromine, they do not deplete the ozone layer but they do have global warming potential that is much higher than CO₂.

Another carbon negative strategy is the production of **biochar** [see sidebar], which scientists say can significantly reduce current CO₂ concentrations within decades.

Zaelke warns, “The UNEP and World Bank reports are clear — the world is facing serious danger and we have to take urgent and aggressive action now — starting with black carbon reductions — to avoid devastating consequences of passing tipping points.”

Biochar

Biochar is an astonishing idea. Burning agricultural wastes in the absence of air leaves a charcoal composed of almost pure carbon, which can then be crushed and dug into the soil. Biochar is extremely stable and the carbon will stay in the soil unchanged for hundreds of years.

The original agricultural wastes had captured CO₂ from the air through the photosynthesis process; biochar is a low-tech way of sequestering carbon, effectively forever. As importantly, biochar improves fertility in a wide variety of tropical soils. Beneficial micro-organisms seem to crowd into the pores of the small pieces of crushed charcoal.

A network of practical engineers around the tropical world is developing the simple stoves needed to make the charcoal. A few million dollars of support would allow their research to benefit hundreds of millions of small farmers at the same time as extracting large quantities of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

From “The 10 Big Energy Myths” article published on November 27, 2008 by “The Guardian UK.” Myth #10 was that all proposed solutions to climate change need to be hi-tech.

Letters to the Editor

Chemtrails

(see page 4 for full story)

Hi There,

I LOVED your lead article about the mountain — and am donating money to EarthJustice because of it. Your paper is getting very powerful!

And, I'm attaching a "Letter to the Editor" about the Chemtrail article. I need more facts — not that it's not true but it's too big of a story. I read it pretty carefully and actually checked out the award-winning Will Thomas — boy was that scary!

He had a serious grammatical error in the second sentence of his bio. He never mentions his award. (I too am an award-winning author . . . for a newspaper article published in a diocese newspaper — it got a Catholic press award one year — an award among about 50 or so, and I too say "award-winning author" when it suits me.) Worst of all, a guy called "Hank" is his main source! I have to laugh.

I WANTED to put in my letter that this is akin to Hitler's (and Bush's) technique — say a big lie, keep saying it, and eventually everyone will believe it

But Chemtrails may be real, so . . .

Anyway, my feelings won't be hurt if you don't print it — but I just get very nervous about Internet-based "reality" sometimes.

Barbara Erakko Taylor
Hannibal, Missouri

Climate Protests Our 2009 Targets Congress and Coal

(see page 1)

"Throughout this jubilant day, there was a palpable sense of a psychological line being crossed which has had a parallel in all great movements for non-violent social change. It is the moment when a movement becomes aware that it is tapping into the immensely strong and unstoppable power of truth. It is a time of spiritual awakening when seekers of change suddenly realize they have unleashed an infinite force far beyond the strength of any individuals — what Gandhi referred to as 'satyagraha.' It is comparable to those moments in time when the peasants of India understood that an entire British empire could be defied and bus riders in Montgomery, Alabama realized that racism was not in reality an immovable fact of life.

"The action in D.C. was more than a display of youthful exuberance. It was an aligning of this movement with the power of that truth. It was a moment for genuine celebration. While the battle has not yet been won, what was wit-

nessed by those of us fortunate enough to be there may well have been a genuine turning point. The moral authority of our movement is now in the ascendancy while that of the coal industry is in rapid decline."

Gary Houser, Ohio Coal Country Activist

We were halfway around the dirty-coal Capitol Power Plant complex in D.C., stretched out in our thousands for over four blocks along South Capitol Street. It was a beautiful visual: hundreds of red, green, blue and yellow flags and hundreds of Power Past Coal, Coal Is Dirty and other signs being held by the bundled-up marchers. And as marchers continued to turn off of E Street onto South Capitol while the front of the march moved slowly forward up at I Street, I exclaimed to a nearby friend, "This is big, there must be 10,000 or more people!"

Reflecting afterwards, I am convinced there were a minimum of 5,000 of us on March 2nd, a work day, a day with a wind chill around 15 degrees, a day with snow showers following on a storm during the night which dumped up to half a foot of snow on the ground. But the weather had no impact on our spirits or our plans. For the entire afternoon we blocked all the entrances to this government-owned symbol of what's wrong with our energy policy. We shut it down!

There were so many amazing things about this entire historic weekend in D.C.:

- The 12,000 young people from around the country at the Power Shift 09 conference, twice the number of people at the first Power Shift conference just 16 months ago. Talk about a mushrooming movement!

- The breadth of organizations and individuals participating in both Power Shift 09 and the March 2nd Capitol Climate Action;

- Hearing about the spontaneous march of 1,000 young people to the White House Saturday night following the conclusion of that day's Power Shift activities;

- The Indigenous and Appalachian/coal-impacted contingents leading the march to the coal plant;

- Being informed that scientist James Hansen, the Paul Revere of the climate movement, drove 16 hours to get to D.C. for this civil disobedience action because the snow storm grounded his plane;

- The energy of the young people and others all through

Monday afternoon as they refused to let the cold weather dampen their determination or their spirits as they prevented business-as-usual in front of the coal plant gates;

- And so much more. There are so many stories to be told about this historic weekend for the climate movement in the U.S.A.

And now what?

Meetings and discussions that have already happened, just a few days later, make it clear that those who organized the main events over this weekend have every intention of following up quickly in a variety of ways. As importantly, there is every reason to believe that the double-digit thousands who were in D.C. will be taking action during this critical 2009 year when they return home.]

Neither Power Shift 09 nor the Capitol Climate Action were in any way one-shot deals.

Instead, they were the opening shots of an escalating campaign all throughout the year.

Why is 2009 so important?

It's important because we finally have a president who understands that we need to take action to address the climate crisis and is doing so despite resistance from coal and oil interests and their paid mouthpieces in Washington and despite his public support for non-existent "clean coal." But it's particularly important because of the international negotiations going on toward a stronger world treaty, negotiations which will culminate at the U.N. Climate Conference in mid-December in Copenhagen, Denmark.

If that conference is to succeed — and it needs to because global warming is an urgent global problem — the world needs to see that the U.S. is prepared to reverse course and, instead of obstructing, give leadership to the world's efforts to prevent catastrophic climate change.

For that to happen, for Barack Obama and his representatives to be taken seriously, the U.S. Congress must pass bold legislation that matches not the political science of Capitol Hill but the world's climate science. That science, those facts on the ground — like the dramatic Arctic ice melt, the years-long Australian drought [and fires], the accelerating glacial ice melt all over the earth and much more — are telling us that industrialized countries like the U.S. must reduce carbon emissions at least 25 to 40%, more likely more, compared to 1990 levels by 2020. For the U.S., that means a 35-50%

reduction from current levels.

Just two days ago, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Todd Stern, Obama's special envoy for climate change to the U.N. talks, "urged Congress to pass legislation curbing greenhouse-gas emissions in advance of an international summit this December, saying it would give other countries 'a powerful signal' to cut their own emissions." This is the good news.

The bad news is what he went on to say. He referred to a "road map agreed to by industrialized countries at a 2007 summit in Bali, Indonesia . . . to reduce their emissions by between 25% and 40% by 2020" compared to 1990 levels. "Mr. Stern reiterated Mr. Obama's goal of returning U.S. emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020 . . .

We need to be very mindful of what the dictates of science are and the art of the possible," Mr. Stern said. Referring to the targets called for in the Bali plan, Mr. Stern added, "It's not possible to get that kind of number. It's not going to happen."

So when it comes to climate action at the scale of the problem it's not "Yes We Can" but, instead, "No We Can't?" It was a "Yes We Can" mind-set that enabled the U.S. to dramatically retool its economy in 1942 to meet the threat of fascism, to produce the armaments that made possible its defeat. Are Todd Stern and Obama saying that the climate change threat doesn't rise to that level of seriousness? Right now, apparently they are and this is a big problem.

Climate activists really should be very upset about this and they should let the White House know it, in no uncertain terms. And right now.

The inside-the-beltway green groups, those who have been experiencing a kind of cultural revolution over the last several months as they've been having meetings with top leaders of Obama's transition team and his appointed climate/energy people, need to let those people know that this just isn't acceptable and that they're going public to say so.

More importantly, they need to join with the young people of Energy Action, the community climate and no-coal activists, and people like James Hansen, Bill McKibben, Wendell Berry, Daryl Hannah and Gus Speth who were out there on the streets blocking the entrances to that coal plant.

We need to build, right now and for the next nine months up to and during the Copenhagen conference, a grassroots movement that grows exponen-

tially, that engages in all kinds of actions. This must include many more nonviolent blockades of planned and existing coal plants. It must include sit-ins inside the offices of the fossil fuel Senators and House members who continue to do the bidding of Big Oil and King Coal. They need to be put on notice that TIME'S UP!

Soon Senators and House members will be back in their districts during a two-week recess. Those who are on the fence or on the wrong side of it should return to Congress at the end of those two weeks shell-shocked by the buzz-saw of climate activism they experience every working day that they are home — phone-ins to their local offices, vigils and pickets outside, people present at any public event where they are speaking, a whole range of creative and impossible-to-ignore tactics.

The Power Past Coal campaign (<http://www.powerpast-coal.org>) needs to experience an avalanche of groups signing up for local actions and getting connected as it moves toward actions around the country at the end of the first 100 days of the Obama administration at the end of April.

We need to support and get involved if we can with major actions being planned, such as:

- End Mountaintop Removal Week March 14-18 in Washington, D.C. (<http://ilovemountaintains.org/action/wiw2009>) [Ed.: I got this email too late for this but included it FYI];

- Focus the Nation's Town Hall Meetings around the country on April 18th (<http://www.focusthenation.org>);

- The April 20th mass rally and nonviolent civil disobedience at Duke Energy's planned and hugely destructive Cliffside Coal Plant in Charlotte, N.C. (<http://www.stopcliffside.org>);

- 350.org's actions all around the world on October 24th (<http://www.350.org>).

We've turned a corner. We've entered a decisive stage in our battle to prevent catastrophic climate change. In the words of **Christopher Fry**:

Thank God our time is now
when wrong
Comes up to face us every-
where,
Never to leave us till we take
The longest stride of soul (we
humans) ever took.
Affairs are now soul size.

Ted Glick

Bloomfield, New Jersey

Ted Glick is the Policy Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (<http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org>).

Power Lines

Iona,

I think it's very important that people see what energy utilities are up to. They say that new transmission lines are going to be for wind energy but every single proposed transmission project that I've heard about thus far will be coal-fire generated. And more power plants are going up all over the U.S. to support this. Their icing-topped story is being jammed down the throats of people because when the people hear that the lines are for wind, they won't fight it.

The scary truth is, the lines are to support dirty coal. This is how big companies always win in the end, by pulling the wool over the public's eyes; they are selling their super-highway transmission line "line" to the public by using "green" words.

I can only pray that people aren't so quick to fall for the companies and politicians "lines" anymore.

If people get involved, like I have, they will see for themselves the ugly truth of why these colossal metal frames will really dot U.S. soil.

Please get this message out so that people are aware of what's going on. There will be no way to stop this if we keep our back's turned.

Lisa Scherer

Marianna, Pennsylvania

Here is the link to the story Lisa sent to "OE"

www.dailyreporter.com/item
And here is the start of it.

Skepticism Follows Major Transmission Line Proposal

By Dustin Block

The Daily Reporter, Wisconsin
February 11, 2009

Building new transmission lines in the name of wind power is the latest attempt to strengthen coal's grip on the country's electricity generation, said a critic of plans to build new power lines throughout the Midwest.

"Wind in 2009 is the rationale for companies which want to build transmission lines," said David Morris, vice president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Minneapolis, MN which provides environmentally friendly development strategies.

"Five years ago, the rationale was the power system was not reliable," Morris said. "Five years before that, new lines were needed because the coal was located in the Dakotas" . . .

Letter from a Friend Leads to Film Festival

Dear Folks,

When I first took a look at "The Order of the Earth" newspaper (www.theorderoftheearth.com), I did a double-take!

I looked at the articles — all right on target — then I looked at the address — Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

"Holy Shit!" I thought.

Can this really be the same Shade Gap located only a few miles from where I've been farming for the last 38 years?

This area, you've got to understand, has been a bastion of conservative thinking forever! The last Democrats they've elected to Congress were way back in Civil War times. Congressman Bud Shuster, king of pork, author of highways and monorails for nowhere bills (and now his son), has represented the region for decades!

And so, here's this publication addressing Mineral Rights, Climate Change, Natural Gas Drilling and all the other threats to Mother Earth all coming from Iona, the genius behind the publication.

So, as soon as I could, I contacted her, we met and I found out that all the wonderful work that she and her husband do are done without money! And that she

was about to take a job as a clerk in a grocery store to help pay for the publication.

I promptly wrote out the largest single contribution I've made all year — \$100.00, as a first step in trying to thank her for all the wonderful work she does for the rest of us and to allow her to continue slaving away at the publication and not be forced to work at a minimum-wage job to subsidize it!

So, I'm writing in the hope that you will also be generous and supportive. If not \$100, perhaps \$50 or whatever you can afford.

Peace,
Michael Tabor
Fulton County, Pennsylvania

P.S. "The Order of the Earth" is a project of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit so if you would like your donation to be tax-deductible, please make out your check to "Grassroots Coalition" and put "OE" on the memo line. Thank you.

Free Films in McConnellsburg PA to Raise Funds for "The Order of the Earth"

April 24: Burning the Future — Coal in America
(a true horror story)

May 8: Sicko by Michael Moore

(work with us for universal Healthcare in PA)

June 12: King Corn & The True Cost of Food
(learn more about what you eat these days)

All films will be held at 7 p.m. in the Old Fulton Theater
(rear entrance) at the corner of Routes 30 and 522.

Complimentary refreshments will be served.

Green Teams: Grassroots Action at Its Best

By **Rasshaan Bolden**
Atlanta, Georgia

Heal The Atmosphere Association (HTAA), a non-profit environmental organization founded in 1978, has created a concept known as Grass Roots Green Teams (GRGT) for communities to become a part of a larger movement, "Every Day is Earth Day," which teaches people how to "Go Green" and embrace the need of the hour, protecting the planet.

HTAA began to walk as a way to show our love and commitment to protect the environment, as well as bring it to the attention of the masses that without a planet, there "Ain't NO YOU!"

The first walks were held on September 23 in 2006 and 2007 where we walked two miles starting at the Martin Luther King Center & International Memorial site in downtown Atlanta, Georgia and ending at Freedom Park. On September 23, 2008 we held a walk and added a "Green Expo" which was the beginning of Grass Roots Green Teams sharing information with our community on how to "Go Green".

We then went on to Tuskegee, Alabama and walked in Tuskegee University's Homecoming on November 8, 2008. With the movement of "Every Day is Earth Day," HTAA members decided that walking in several cities around the country would be good but to really make an impact individuals in the communities have to keep the "Green" consciousness going by setting up GRGTs in their neighborhoods. These GRGTs would help to set up walks in their cities and be liaisons between their communities and HTAA for support and additional information on continuing the mission of going green.

Green Team members would also identify the environmental needs in their area and keep both the local and national media informed on the concerns



Photo by Roland Nash

Healing the Atmosphere Association youth members at the "Everyday is Earth Day" third annual walk in Atlanta, Georgia on September 23, 2008.

and efforts on making "Going Green" a reality. The members will be given information packets on simple and affordable ways to go green, ways to set up lectures and presentations as well as facts on the environment to share with their community.

The goal of HTAA and GRGT's is to educate people on global warming, what can be done to eradicate it and why going green is a priority that needs to be addressed NOW! Because, when we heal the Earth, we heal ourselves.

"We the People" asked for

change to come with president Barack Obama. Now that we have the hope for new, progres-

sive and open-minded leadership, "We the people" must do our part to play a role in the



Photo by Roland Nash

Jason Davis, organic farmer and Healing the Atmosphere Association Youth Leader, holds the "Every Day is Earth Day" banner during the September walk in Atlanta to bring environmental awareness to people there.



Rasshaan Bolden is also known as "Yogi Ras," GREEN Radio host on www.blogtalk-radio.com/the-sounds-of-change.

change we wish to see. Obama has made mention several times in his campaign that he cannot change things alone. Only through our collaborative efforts can we begin to set precedents in building a better country and world for all mankind to live in. First and foremost, we MUST have a planet for any platform to take place and if we are truly serious about "Going Green" then all mankind must have a tool to do so.

HTAA offers just that, a science called Agnihotra/Homa Therapy that anyone can implement in their daily lives to eradi-

cate pollution in the atmosphere, neutralize harmful radioactivity and reset the planet's energy cycle. If all mankind across the world don't have a tool to combat the biggest threat to our existence, pollution, then are we really serious about going green? Join in on the movement to protect the planet; it's the only one we've got!

For more information on HTAA and GRGT's, check out our website: www.healthatmosphere.org. You can also call us at 404-941-7495 or e-mail us at healthatmosphere@gmail.com.

"EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY!"

Earth Day Celebration !

FREE Admission

April 18, 2009

Live Performances

Talent Show

Games

Nature Walk

Green Hip-Hop

Vegetarian Food
Fruit Smoothies

Music by
The Sounds
of Change

Gajanan

djali

Afro-Haitian Dance

YOGI RAS

Author/Poet &
Radio host of
"The Sounds of Change"

host/DJ
Roland
(from Shanti ATL)

Special Surprise Guests !

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Tuskegee, AL 36083

404-941-7495

"Go GREEN !"

To learn more about All Our Relations Sacred Gardening, Mare is posting on how to approach gardening from a Sacred place with her Cherokee teacher on a weekly basis on Mare's blog. To follow the evolution of a Medicine Garden in Mare's teacher's backyard and get some good giggles, go to <http://mare-cromwell.wordpress.com>. We're calling it the "Scooby-Doo Garden."

All My Relations Sacred Gardening Workshop

Sunday, June 14, 2009. 10am – 5pm

Blueberry Gardens Center, Ashton (south of Clarksville), MD

Cost: Sliding Scale - \$40 - \$60 (Pay what you want or can)

(Original fee was \$70)

In these changing times Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to nature. Our gardens are where we can intimately rekindle a deeper relationship and reverence for the life around us to promote healing. Come join us at this workshop to learn Native American practices and worldviews that will encourage deeper gardening practices honoring nature energies, garden health and planetary healing. The workshop will commence with a plant and seed swap.

The workshop will cover:

- * How to bless your garden in early spring and late fall
- * Claiming your relationship with the Creator and Earth Mother to honor your sacred place in the world and garden
- * Your garden as an altar
- * Intuitive gardening
- * Deepening your relationship and awareness of life around you
- * Nature as teacher and healer

Workshop Leader:

Mare Cromwell is a professional gardener, author and speaker. She has apprenticed with a Cherokee Medicine Woman for 13 years. With a Masters in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, she has worked in the environmental field for 28 years both internationally and locally in the Baltimore-Washington region. Her book, *If I gave you God's phone number....Searching for Spirituality in America* was published in 2002. Mare also occasionally speaks on eco-philosophy and eco-spirituality topics such as Environmental Hope, Living Simplicity, Deep Ecology and "Right Relationship". But most of the time, she can be found weeding someone's garden.

Call Mare at: 410-448-3679 for more information.
Register at www.sacreddogllc.com