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NO SIR, WE DO NOT USE TORTURE

Let's redirect
the military
to a much
bigger threat
(see page 2)



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READER MAIL

Eyman Will Strike Again

It is outrageous that our government leaders are again intending to build a new stadium in spite of the people's overwhelming vote against it. This stadium is called the waterfront tunnel.

Don't they remember what happened when they pushed the Mariner stadium over the people's objections? That spawned Tim Eyman. Eyman successfully cut state revenues in initiative after initiative precisely because the people were fed up with the arrogance of government officials deciding what's best for us.

And now the budget is \$8 billion in the hole and still counting. It is ludicrous that Gregoire, Nickels, and Sims would choose the most expensive solution to the viaduct at a time like this. They just handed Eyman his next initiative--and it will be a slam dunk.

Janice Van Cleve

War Is Hell, Dad

War, from its origins, is the murder of the sons by the fathers: so few fathers murdering so many sons. "Son, go over to that village and kill that man's son. Otherwise, don't come back alive."

Leland Mellott

Outsmarting The Next Blagojevich

I understand that due process requires the presumption of innocence until guilt is proved. But there are numerous court cases that bar certain actions before guilt or innocence is decided, if doing so is in the interest of the public.

Did the New York court not order Madoff to cease financial transactions before his guilt was proved?

In the case of Rod Blagojevich, all Prosecutor Fitzgerald had to do was ask the court for an order barring Mr. Blagojevich from making an appointment because of the nature of the allegations in the complaint against him. Simple and done.

By the same token, perhaps it is my extensive legal expertise that accounts for my current residence at a state correctional facility.

[On another note] I would like to bring people's attention to the Program On Corporations, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD). In their words, they are devoted to "the critical work of claiming our promised rights of self-governance."

In a nutshell, they are in the field of separating corporations from a government vested in the people.

You see, in the 1800s, our US Supreme Court began ruling that corporations are "persons" for the purpose of equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution. A manifestation of such rulings is that these entities, formed by contracts and charters, actually have a constitutional right to support political candidates and agendas.

Ironically, non-profit corporations are limited in this ability.

POCLAD's website is at www.POCLAD.org.

Patrick Drum

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AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ORIENTED DEFENSE

The military should be redirected toward our biggest threat: nature

BY MARTIN NIX

Ask people to name the major threats against this nation, and you will likely hear Iran, Korea, Sudan, Afghanistan.

In fact, this nation's number one security threat is natural disaster: hurricanes, tornados, droughts, floods, volcanoes, epidemics, famine, global warming, global cooling, hurricanes, and even incoming meteorites. If our national defense is not prepared for environmental disaster, the US will not only be vulnerable compared to other nations, we as a species may also become as extinct as the dinosaurs.

The threats are real. Certainly we could have been much better prepared for Katrina. Certainly we could do more to mitigate damage by floods and droughts. But consider some other more dramatic possibilities.

Yellowstone in Wyoming is a huge volcano, several times more dangerous than Mount St. Helens. When this volcano blows it will be nearly the equivalent of the entire USA nuclear arsenal. The eruption would destroy all life in Wyoming, put a layer of ash one foot thick over the entire East Coast, and put into the atmosphere so much dirt that sunlight will not get through, launching the entire planet into an ice age. Is there a way to stop Yellowstone from erupting? Some possibilities include Geothermal Development, or piping water from the Great Lakes, both of which could cool the magma. Equally challenging would be mitigating the many effects of an eruption.

Consider also the threat of an incoming giant meteorite. A collision with earth would wipe out the ecosystem as we know it.

Plagues affecting humans or our agricultural crops could kill billions.

Historically, the American Military has been used for mercenary reasons. Like it or not, Iraq has lots of oil, Vietnam has lots of oil, and Afghanistan is a proposed route

first words
ideas we couldn't keep to ourselves

for oil pipelines. The next war can be predicted where oil is: Chad, Nigeria, Angola, Sudan, Iran, Venezuela.

Use of the military for control of natural resources is not new. The Romans did it, so did the Ancient Persians, Greeks. Certainly Japan and Germany have in the past used the military for such economic gain. Now the US is no different, but that has got to change.

The military, and defense spending needs to be reoriented to defend America from true national security threats: namely, natural disasters.

In view of environmental collapse, conflicts with Iran, Iraq, Russia, and Afghanistan all look like small stuff.

Similarly, a nuclear attack on Russia--or anywhere--is also an attack on Planet Earth.

The military needs to change its counterproductive focus from mercenary operations, like Iraq, to focus on protection of the environment. This is not just an opinion. It is what has to be done. Currently, the military is very inadequately trained or equipped to assume this role.

A refocusing of the military will have major impact on defense contractor spending (i.e. more cargo planes, and fewer jet fighters). It will greatly affect the deployment of the military (i.e. the National Guard staying at home, not in Afghanistan). It will affect all aspects of business and government.

Even the motto of the Post Office will change to "Whether sleet, rain, snow or incoming meteorites, the Mail will get through!"

Instead of traditional military divisions, we may see the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard regroup into divisions that defend the country from various types of environmental destruction.

Our current economic recession is caused—at least in part—by excessive spending on mercenary military operations. If we would instead put the military to work on a campaign for renewable energy, we could pull this nation out of economic depression like hydropower did during the 1930s.

As Jimmy Carter said, a good energy policy "is the moral equivalent of war."

Now the US is suffering from a huge national deficit, in a large part over wars for oil. But there are very efficient ways that we could make the conversion.

The dense nuclear pack of ICBMs in the Dakotas could change roles, in the service of blasting meteorites coming see Enviro-Military on page 13

"When Irish eyes are smiling..."



**Happy St. Paddy's Day
from B. O'Bama**

What People Really Need

The Stimulus Package is wasteful and probably doomed; cutting consumption is the key to economic recovery

BY DOUG COLLINS

The economy has tanked basically because we Americans—on average—have spent far more than we've earned in the past few decades. We've lived high on credit card debt, outsized home and car loans, "rent to own" furniture and zero-interest-monthly-payment big-screen TVs. Every social class has been guilty of spending tomorrow's money today.

In the mainstream media, pundits simply assume that huge stimulus and bailout spending—the sooner the better—is the only solution: let's create jobs and shop our way out of this mess.

What few pundits seem to mention is that the government is now spending beyond its means in the most mind-numbing way. The response right now is mostly to spend yet more of tomorrow's money in bailout schemes for hand-picked cronies in big banks and big industrial corporations.

At the very best, this is a continuation of our same cultural overspending problem. The mistaken assumption of perhaps most Americans is that we need the Stimulus Package to preserve the flow of marketable products and continue the credit to buy them with.

This bailout/stimulus strategy has been favored by Bush, Obama, and obviously most elected officials. If McCain had won the presidency, I'm sure he'd be doing basically the same thing.

But guess what. The banks and the jobs will be lost anyway. The bailouts are just prolonging their demise, for the simple reason that the country hasn't lowered its consumption to meet its production. Most politicians don't want to face this reality, because it doesn't sell well with voters.

Meanwhile, the current huge government spending has only been made possible by the electronic equivalent of printing money and by the selling of IOUs—treasury bonds—to foreigners, notably to the Chinese. In the long run, this could create inflation, which is a back-door tax on every working stiff. If it doesn't cause inflation, then you can bet on huge overt tax increases.

So who's paying for the bailout? You are, one way or another. That's because most policy makers are horrified by the short-term prospects of simply erasing the debts by letting the zombie corporations fail.

In the short run, the bailout/stimulus strategy may appear to preserve or even create some jobs by keeping the money flowing. But money flowing that way is likely to become worth less and less.

Sooner or later, the public has to bite the bullet: the fact is that we won't again be seeing all those jobs, all those loans, all those cars, and all those supermalls. In fact, the public will eventually come to understand that we don't need many of those things anyway.

Instead, we really need to balance our production and consumption. There are two general approaches to doing this:

1. Lower our consumption, and
2. Raise our production, the production of things that people around the world want to buy.

Although it's quite possible to pursue both approaches at the same time, let's explore what would happen if we just focused on lowering our consumption at all levels of society.

At the governmental level, we'd have to severely curb government spending. No bailouts and no stimulus. Balance the national spending with the national revenues. Become much less dependent on financing our country with bonds. In the short run, this would cause a lot of job losses, a lot of failed banks, and a lot of pain, but in the long run, it would allow the timely death of sick corporations and put our economy more quickly on firm ground. It would also get us out of Iraq and Afghanistan quickly.

A medical metaphor suits this situation very well. The bailout strategy is aimed at keeping terminally ill

corporations on life support in hopes that they will miraculously recover, in much the same way that our heroic health care system treats terminally ill patients—also at great expense but with little success. Miraculous recoveries are a pretty bad bet. Death with dignity would be the better choice. After all, economic life goes on, and new corporations will be born.

The Stimulus Package also resembles a big public anesthetic, temporarily relieving us of the personal pain of downsizing.

It's not easy lowering our individual consumption. In our households, we'd have to drastically curtail our spending and learn to make do with what we have. We could not run to the department store every time we have a whim. We'd have to be inventive. We'd have to think about how we can solve our needs, wants, and desires in simpler, cheaper ways with materials that we have at hand. Goodness knows there are a lot of materials already lying about. Heck, you can actually build nice houses out of discarded wooden pallets. The internet has plenty of plans for them.

We'd have to eat basic foods and cook them ourselves, rather than go to restaurants so much. We'd have to be closer to family and friends because we'd need the know-how of others. After all, many Americans don't currently even know how to cook.

In the short term, this will require lots of often uncomfortable adjustments. On the bright side, it will make us smarter, more skilled, and more socially connected.

The other approach to balancing our economic life is to increase production. Since the government is essentially a spender—not a producer—there are only a few things for the government to do here, such as encourage efficiency, maintain a reasonable infrastructure, ensure educational opportunities, and provide a basic social safety net. The govern-

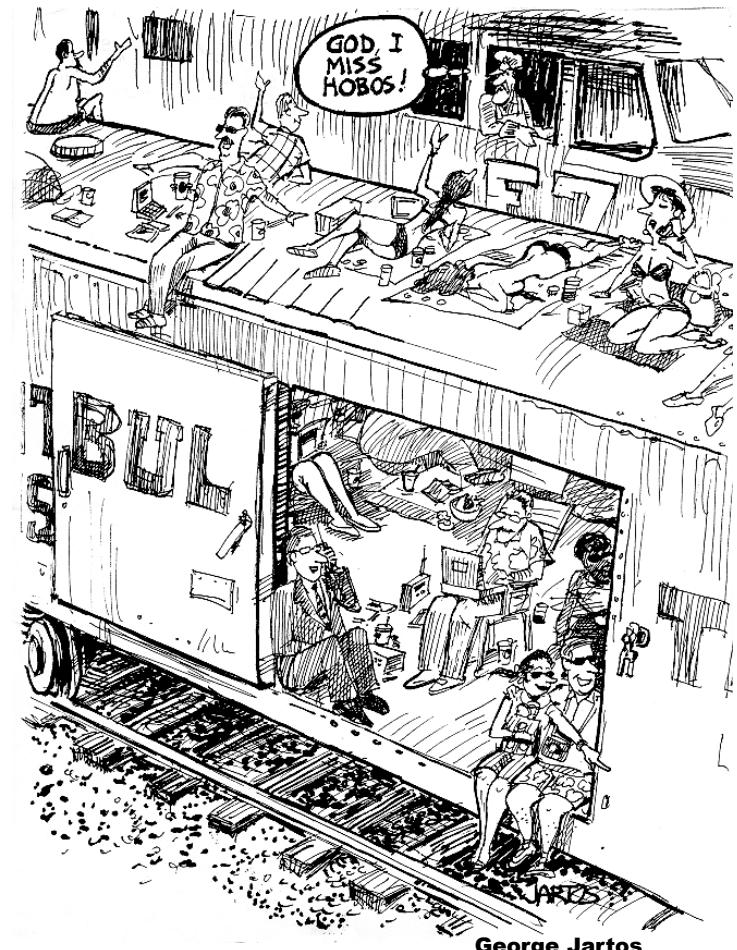
economy

ment can also work toward realistic currency exchange rates with other countries, though this has historically been very difficult.

The real increases in productivity can only come from new businesses with new ideas. It's hard for these new businesses to get started unless the old, sick corporations that dominate the markets are allowed to die, and unless the skewed currency relations with China normalize. In the past couple decades, US producers have had an extremely difficult time competing with the low, low yuan.

But if we spend less money on Chinese imports, and save our money rather than live on credit, the

see Economy on page 11



George Jartos

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Generation X'd Out

Part 2 - We can see the damage

BY AMY WORTHINGTON

Part 1 of this article appeared in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue, p4. It is available at www.wafreepress.org/96/issue96.pdf. Numbered references appear at the end of the article. This article was originally published in the Idaho Observer.

An estimated one in 20 babies born in the U.S. each year has an obvious birth defect. That equates to about 200,000 babies per about four million live births annually. Many additional childhood defects and impairments can be subtle, requiring years to become apparent. Millions of parents now cope with often inexplicable child health problems, including severe allergies, diabetes, body weight abnormalities, plus serious eye, ear and skin conditions.

Perhaps the most alarming epidemic among our younger generations involves the increasing incidence of neurological and developmental delay disorders. The 2003 National Survey of Children's Health found that one in five American children has a learning disability or attention deficit disorder. Studies through decades link these conditions to toxic environmental conditions, including microwave radiation exposure.⁴¹

A recent study of over 13,000 Danish women confirms that women who had used cell phones during pregnancy produced children who were 54 percent more likely to manifest hyperactivity and difficulties with conduct and emotion by the time they entered school.

Coordinated by American and Danish scientists, this survey found that if children exposed to cell phone radiation in the womb later used cell phones themselves, they were 80 percent more likely to suffer behavior and emotional problems than children who were not exposed.⁴²

In 2000, Dr. Ross Adey working at the University of California, Riverside, showed that pregnant rats exposed to Iridium cell phone radiation produced fetuses with significantly decreased brain activity, compared to non-exposed fetuses.⁴³

The incidence of human autism, a complex affliction manifesting a broad spectrum of brain abnormalities, has increased dramatically since the wireless age began. Scientists say clues are accumulating that radio frequency (RF) microwave exposure could be an important but overlooked factor in the autism epidemic.⁴⁴

There is also indication that the synergy between RF microwave radiation and chemicals or metals may be involved in autistic disorders. A 2007 report on autistic children and electromagnetic exposure concluded that the impact of this radiation "could be direct by facilitating early clinical onset of symptoms or indirect, including trapping heavy metals in cells and both accelerating the onset of symptoms caused by heavy metal toxicity as well as impeding therapeutic clearing [of these metals]."⁴⁵

In 2008, researchers announced that missing DNA snippets on chromosome 16 is a mutation that raises the risk of autism by 100 times. Some suspect that this aberration is the tip of the iceberg concerning genetic errors involved in the syndrome.⁴⁶

It is generally agreed that such chromosome aberrations can occur before fertilization, which brings us back to chemical and/or radiation-damaged sperm and ova.

The powers-that-be don't want this information made public

An impressive number of researchers through the decades have published studies linking RF microwave radiation to adverse effects on genetics and reproduction, even at very low, non-thermal exposure rates. In 1997, Dr. John R. Goldsmith of Israel's Ben-Gurion University published a historical compendium of such studies. Dr. Goldsmith noted that scientists had known for decades that the three major human effects of microwaves are spontaneous abortion, blood cell mutations and increased childhood cancers.⁴⁷

When the results of RF microwave-damning studies were published, "offending" scientists throughout the years have consistently found their research programs prematurely terminated, their careers derailed and their reputations defamed. The latter is the case of the brilliant and accomplished Dr. Henry Lai.

Working at the University of Washington, Dr. Lai and his colleagues raised the ire of the wireless communications industry after reporting that microwaves--at low exposure levels consistent with cell phone use--badly damage DNA. Lai was subsequently subjected to



This microwave-emitting electronic "tag" has been sold to parents as a deterrent for child abduction.

dirty politics and attempts to sabotage his career.⁴⁸

When Dr. Jerry Phillips, under contract to Motorola in the '90s, published his findings that cell phone frequencies have an important biological impact on DNA, he too was threatened and ostracized by the wireless industry. Phillips had earlier discovered that radio frequency fields can influence the growth of tumors.

Today, almost all wireless health studies in the US are funded by a tangled web of special interest groups which directly or indirectly profit from the wireless industry. These tainted studies routinely give wireless radiation a clean bill of health. "A lot of studies done right now are done purely as PR tools for the industry," confirms Dr. Phillips.⁴⁹

The wireless industry is enabled and subsidized by the US government, which also has an array of economic and political reasons for obfuscating microwave health issues. The reality is, the feds and the wireless industry are up to their proverbial necks in liability if the potent fetal damage caused by microwaves becomes widely understood. Therefore, those who increasingly microwave-pollute both military and civilian populations have thus far demonstrated their willingness to "lie and deny" regarding the dangers of RF microwaves.

Author Paul Brodeur wrote in *The Zapping of America* that the "...government and the military have long suppressed information about true genetic effects of microwaves in human beings and covered up a number of potentially embarrassing situations in which such effects have been observed."⁵⁰

Babies have been sacrificed to protect the establishment

One such situation was the Fort Rucker affair of the early 1970s.⁵¹

At the time, Fort Rucker in Alabama had 46 radar installations within 30 miles of the base. Aviation radar technology, such as that emitting from Fort Rucker at the time, employs many bands of high frequency microwaves.

In 1971, an expert with the University of Alabama discovered that a startling number of newborns delivered at the base hospital suffered congenital abnormalities, including club foot, cleft palate, genital, heart and respiratory problems. There was also a high fetal death rate. About the same time, researchers discovered a high fetal death rate near Elgin Air Force Base in Florida, another aviation base with a massive concentration of radar installations.

A preliminary report on the Fort Rucker birth defect cluster completed by the Southern Research Institute for the US Environmental Protection Agency urged follow-up studies to determine how prenatal deaths and infant birth defects correlate with parental microwave exposure at aviation bases. Such a study was warranted because nearly a decade earlier, researchers at Johns Hopkins had found an apparent association between radar exposure and Down's Syndrome.⁵²

Rather than acknowledge a possible radiation link to myriad illnesses among civilian and military personnel, or act to prevent irresponsible exposure, military networks derailed the investigation and quashed preliminary study results.

Brodeur warned, "Above all, it provides a warning in bold relief to the Congress and to the American people. A national policy which gives the Department of Defense the power to control or thwart scientific research on the biological effects of microwaves is a policy that allows the fox to guard the chicken coop and make test animals of us all."⁵³

Thirty years later the fox still rules

And test animals we certainly are. The United States now has about two million licensed cellular communications installations and antennas blanketing the nation with pulsed data transmission microwaves.

technology

Wireless communications antennas operate in the same electromagnetic spectrum as radar antennas. Radar emissions can range from 3 megahertz to 110 gigahertz, which includes the numerous bands used for cell phone and other wireless services.

Before the wireless revolution, radar exposure was contained mostly to military installations and airport areas. Now mobile communication installations expose nearly everyone to massive, incessant doses of chromo-some-damaging energy within the radar spectrum.

The wireless industry says that it must continue to increase its nationwide network of microwave antennas in our neighborhoods, commercial centers, parks and school zones. It says that the emergence of broadband services -- which enable cell phone video/gaming/music plus data downloads for e-mail and business applications -- demands ever more network capacity.⁵⁴

To meet increasing consumer demand for an evolving array of third generation wireless products and services, the industry says it is dividing its service areas into smaller cells, requiring more transmitters in tighter spaces. Service providers are reducing the height of existing antenna poles, while rushing to attach thousands of new antennas to buildings and structures of all kinds, even utility poles. Meanwhile, WiMAX promoters are setting up powerful new WiFi networks across the nation.

If informed Americans cannot reverse this trend, eventually no one anywhere will escape a tsunami of a pernicious, mutagenic radiation that permeates and punishes our bodies 24 hours a day. The FCC admits it has expertise in neither health matters nor radio engineering. Its current and notorious exposure standards were developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), which bills itself as the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology.

Louis Slesin, publisher of *Microwave News* states: "Essentially, the users of RF and microwave technology -- the military, its contractors and the communications industry -- wrote the IEEE RF standard. For example, of the two co-chairs of the committee that developed the most recent safety standard, one works for Motorola and the other for the US Navy and the Air Force."

What are the odds that the safety standard serves their interests? I'd bet the ranch on it!"⁵⁵

Betting the ranch is one thing, but wagering the lives of millions of fetuses and infants on FCC's outdated RF microwave exposure guidelines is genocidal. Scientists across the globe are adamant that these self-serving guidelines are scientifically indefensible, extremely dangerous and must be immediately and drastically revised.⁵⁶

How sound is ultrasound?

In addition to incessant wireless radiation exposure, most fetuses are now routinely scanned several times during gestation by medical ultrasound imaging equipment. Scant weeks after a human embryo is implanted in-utero, at a time when the newly united cells are the most vulnerable, medical personnel engage in an ultrasound inquisition to determine its gestational age. A vaginal probe is often used to position a high frequency sound transducer as close as possible to the tiny new life form.

Ultrasound technology vibrates a fetus with mechanical pressure waves at millions of cycles per second. A scan can last up to one hour. The power density used is around 720 milliwatts/cm²—eight times the power density allowed prior to 1993.⁵⁷

Secondary vibrations inherent in ultrasound waves are said to produce intrauterine noise as loud as 100 decibels, despite the fact that noise levels over 85 decibels are designated as harmful to human hearing. The fetus reportedly hears an ultrasound scan at a high pitch which is, comparatively speaking, as loud as a train pulling into a station.⁵⁸

The ultra powerful Doppler ultrasound equipment is especially brutal. One minute of Doppler is equal to 35 minutes of non-Doppler imaging. Doppler is often used on pregnant women transvaginally. Often employed for monitoring fetal circulation, Doppler equipment has

potential to produce biologically significant temperature hikes in both bone and tissue interfaces.⁵⁹

One report notes that brain structures lying close to the fetal skull, such as the pituitary gland and the hypothalamus, are at special risk of over-heating, while on-screen temperature safety indexes can give false temperature readings.⁶⁰

Powerful 3-D and 4-D ultrasound equipment, which can produce cuddly 3-dimensional images, is used by opportunists to create fetal "portraits" and videos for profit.⁶¹

These merciless, inflammation-producing scanning sessions can last up to 90 minutes. The FDA warns that such frivolous use of ultrasound is dangerous, but critics complain that the agency has yet to enforce a ban on this commercial exploitation of the fetus.

In 1999, Irish researchers found that a 15-minute, 8 megahertz ultrasound scan of mice produced abnormal rate of cell division and abnormal cell death. Among these researchers was Dr. Patrick Brennan who suspects that the scans may be damaging human fetal DNA, resulting in a delay of cell division and repair, or in the switching on of a tumor suppressor gene that controls cell death.⁶²

In 2004, Pasko Rakic, chairman of the Neurobiology Department at Yale University, reported disruption of the normal migration of cells in the brains of fetal mice following ultrasound scans. Brain cells failed to grow into their proper positions and remained scattered in incorrect parts of the brain.⁶³

A number of other studies have established a possible correlation between prenatal ultrasound exposure and dyslexia, delayed speech development, reduced birth weight and non-right handedness.⁶⁴

Left-handedness is statistically linked to many cognitive and developmental problems, ranging from learning difficulties to autism and epilepsy.

There are reports that the FDA has failed to ensure that medical sonographers are properly trained. Ultrasound expert Dr. Jacques Abramowicz of Rush University is quoted as saying that only two to three percent of ultrasound technicians understand the complexities of thermal and mechanical indexes.⁶⁵

While the American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine (AIUM) denies negative biological effects of ultrasound on fetuses, it admits to the possibility that negative outcomes may be identified in the future. No one yet knows to what extent our devastating rates of childhood diabetes, allergy and learning impairment may be rooted in over-use of fetal monitoring by poorly trained technicians.

America's infants are on the wireless frontline

Medical researchers from Italy's University of Siena Department of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Reproductive Medicine reported that Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) electrical currents given off by modern hospital



The scientific evidence is convincing: cell phone radiation, even from phones on standby, greatly increases the risk of sterility and birth defects. Reasonable people should consider prioritizing children and the survival of the human race as more important than style, fashion and convenience.

incubators can interfere with newborns' heart rates. The study, published in May, 2008, showed that ELF waves increase neonates' risk for sudden infant death syndrome. The magnetic fields from these ELF waves were found to cut the "variability" of infant heart rates in half.

Heart rate variability is healthy and shows that the nervous system is working correctly. Variability reduction, on the other hand, is known to be an indicator of heart disease, arrhythmia and stroke. The Italian study warns that interfering with heart rate variability can hinder nervous system development and recommends that incubator manufacturers take steps to shield babies from electrical fields caused by motors and fans.⁶⁶

How bizarre, then, is the fact that hospitals throughout U.S. are clamping high frequency radio tracking devices on the appendages of at least one million American newborns each year. High frequency radio "tags" are an accoutrement of so-called "infant protection" systems peddled by XMark Corporation of Ontario, Canada.⁶⁷

XMark is a subsidiary of the infamous VeriChip Corporation which markets the injectable VeriChip ID tag for humans. (See "Microchip implants cause

fast-growing malignant tumors in lab animals," for a report on the cancer-causing effects of implanted ID chips.)

XMark offers two types of in-hospital tracking systems for newborns: "Hugs" and "Halo." Medical institutions participating in these programs must transform their maternity wards into RF microwave "hot" zones, complete with a grid of wireless sensors linked to computers capable of processing information from numerous transmitters simultaneously.

The Hugs system includes a mommy transmitter dubbed "Kisses." Mother-and-child transmitters are programmed to work in sync so mom can recognize her child from his high frequency signals, which mesh with hers in an electronic lullaby. XMark promotional literature mentions nothing about the physiological effects of Hugs' radio waves, which zap newborns with repetitive micro-blasts of 217 million hertz.

The horrendous Halo transmitters propagate a whopping 433.92 million hertz, a frequency officially within the microwave realm. Halo radio tags for newborns are part of a wireless system programmed to deactivate automatic doors and elevators while the location and identity of staff and infants are instantly transmitted to command headquarters. The 433.92 megahertz employed by the Halo system is endorsed by the Department of Defense (DOD) as its active RFID standard. This frequency is used for a variety of DOD tracking and surveillance modalities.⁶⁸

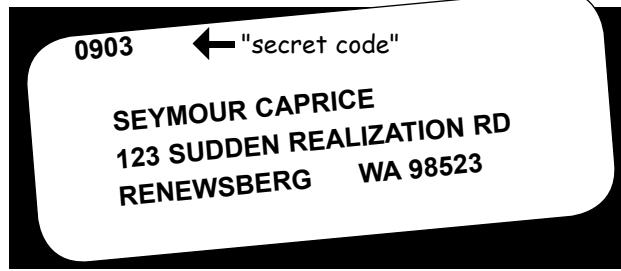
Infant tracking is a radiation-rich glimpse into the portals of a Star Wars medical world which purports to make newborns "safe" by blasting them with continuous torrents of dangerous high frequencies. Microwave radiation is classified as a "chronic" poison by the National Institutes of Health.⁶⁹

Yet, Orwellian infant tracking systems such as Halo have been approved by the FDA with neither pre-market health research nor follow-up studies needed to assess the long term effects of such prolonged electromagnetic assault on infant immunity, neurological development and circulatory health.

Many babies are condemned to radiation-toxic homes

When an infant escapes his hospital transmitter, he may be taken to a home where wireless reigns. These days a baby's first habitat may be a den of electromagnetic wave pol-

Seymour, I think it's time to renew!



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lution gushing from wireless computer systems, microwave ovens, gigahertz baby monitors, home security systems and the nefarious, always-broadcasting Digital Enhanced Cordless Telephone (DECT) bases.

Baby's home may also be near communications transmitters which spew into his neighborhood--into his very bassinet--a torrent of microwave radiation heard as a high pitched scream by audio detection equipment. Microwave frequencies emitted 24/7 by neighborhood transmitters pass easily through most construction materials to enter dwellings, then resonate off objects to reverberate into human flesh.

While still toddlers, the children of Generation X-ray will likely be encouraged to use cell and cordless household phones, devices which will deeply infiltrate tiny skulls with additional mega-doses of electro-dissonance. A most troubling aspect is the 2005 medical study completed in India which found that adults exposed to as little as one hour of cell phone radiation per day have an average of 40 to 60 percent of their cells manifesting damaged DNA.⁷⁰

What tragedies lurk in the future for Generation X-ray's children who bear subtle DNA aberrations from before conception, then sustain additional DNA damage during their formative years in a full-throttle wireless world? How many generations can sustain 40-60 percent DNA damage before humanity becomes so genetically compromised that it is literally threatened with extinction?

Is it a population reduction project?

We have a number of important clues that microwaves could be used as an effective form of contraception, administered covertly to the world's masses through seductive technological means.

Research has shown that rodents exposed to cell phone radiation have less testosterone in their bloodstreams, resulting in diminished sexual activity.⁷¹

In 2008, a public health agency in Norway published a study of navy personnel exposed to radio frequency electromagnetic radiation. It showed that the greater the exposure to this radiation, the higher the prevalence of involuntary childlessness.⁷²

Greek researchers studying the effects of radio frequency on rodent reproduction placed groups of mice in strategic locations to ensure their irradiation from a broadcasting RF antenna farm. Mice who received less than 1 microwatt/cm² had a progressive decrease in newborns and became irreversibly sterile after five generations. The mice receiving a tad over 1 microwatt/cm² regressed to sterility after only three generations.⁷³

A most interesting clue comes from a 1985 Chinese study titled "Effects of Microwave Contraception on Human Serum Testosterone and Luteinizing Hormone." The study was conducted on human males and the abstract states that "...the microwave dose used for contraception seems to cause damage in Leydig cell function....and then influence(s) endocrine function of testis."⁷⁴

It is not clear from this report exactly what microwave dose was found by the Chinese to be contraceptive. But the fact that today's cell phone radiation is widely documented as damaging, even lethal to human sperm cells, suggests that our dangerously high emis-

see Generation X'd Out on page 6

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Generation X'd Out from p5

sion and exposure standards could have been set specifically for their potent contraceptive potential.

Greek researchers at the University of Athens confirmed in 2006 that GSM 900 and 1800 (digital) megahertz radiation has a radical impact on the ability of living creatures to reproduce. These frequencies are within the realm of wireless radiation being broadcast across America for mobile services. The drosophila (fruit fly) was chosen for this study because the insect's cellular processes are identical to those of humans. Only a few minutes of exposure to this cell phone radiation per day—at power intensities now common in our environment—cut the insects' ability to reproduce by 60 percent. Both sexes were affected.

Of great importance was the finding that exposed male flies suffered DNA fragmentation in their gonadal cells and the females showed induced cell death in a large number of their ovarian egg chambers. The researchers warned, "...Digital mobile telephony radiation nowadays exert an intense biological action able to kill cells, damage DNA or decrease dramatically the reproductive capacity of living organisms."⁷⁵

Chilling is the possibility that there might exist a mindset among ruling elites that humans who make it through the gauntlet of pre-conception radiation and radiation-induced spontaneous abortion should have their lives drastically shortened to spare societies the economic burden of elderly people.

Governments and the wireless communications industry, which are both stampeding humanity into compulsory and continuous wireless exposure, are undoubtedly apprised of the hundreds of medical studies demonstrating that low-level communications microwaves not only initiate, but also nourish and promote human cancers.⁷⁶

The perpetrators must also be aware of the widespread circulatory and cardiac damage being unleashed by the wireless revolution. Cell phone radiation quickly causes red blood cells to clump together and also to leak hemoglobin. These abnormal blood conditions can precipitate heart disease, kidney stones and strokes.⁷⁷

A recent medical study found that both fetuses and newborns exposed to cell phone radiation while their mothers conversed for 10 minutes experienced significant increases in heart rate and worrisome decreases in cardiac output.⁷⁸

Thus we see that the wireless age endangers the life blood, even the very hearts of the tiny ones fated to be born as "Generation X'd Out."

What can we do to save the babies?

An amoral and ravenous congressional-military-industrial complex has groomed the youngsters of Generation X-ray to become hard-core patriots of wireless technology in the same ruthless way the asbestos and tobacco industries seduced and murdered generations past. The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) boasts on its website that teenagers, defined as a "huge consumer market segment," are currently pumping \$100 billion a year into the industry's coffers.⁷⁹

Deceived and used as pawns, our youngsters are left utterly ignorant concerning the devastating wireless radiation hazards to themselves and their posterity. When young people are told about the hazards of anything, they traditionally discard the facts and pursue their chosen avenues of self gratification as predictable acts of rebellion.

Generation X-ray is no different in its obsession with wireless conveniences; it seems content to live in a self-absorbed universe devoid of logic, critical thinking and accountability. Many youth appear incapable of caring about future generations. We are no longer a nation of healthy free-thinkers, but a nation of obsessive, sickly phone button punchers, virtual game players and compulsive text messengers.

Given the science, such ignorance and apathy ensures that millions of new and innocent lives are destined for cruel suffering and impairment. Thanks to a silent but violent electromagnetic enemy that is destroying their fragile DNA, newborns tumbling into our barbaric wireless age are creatures of a zillion possibilities of chromosomal disarray, including nervous system damage, deformed limbs, endocrine disruption and unhinged metabolic function.

Yet, hopefully, some of our young people planning to bear children are still morally and intellectually able to comprehend and act upon the latest scientific information gathered for this paper. We can also hope that older parents and grandparents apprised of these facts will exert their influence to protect the genetics of their progeny. Those who want healthy babies must take the minimal following steps:

1. Accept the well-documented fact that microwave radiation from wireless devices is as mutagenic, teratogenic and dangerous to fetuses and infants as ionizing X-radiation and gamma waves.

2. Never wear or use any wireless device near repro-

ductive organs. If you are female and have been exposing your ovaries to years of near-field wireless radiation, think carefully before you decide to become pregnant. If you are a male, and plan to father children, make sure that you stop using wireless devices well in advance of fertilization to reduce the chance of procreation with damaged sperm.

3. Learn to test your personal environment for wireless microwave contamination. If you are pregnant or plan to be, remove yourself from microwave-contaminated areas at any cost. Never stand near a microwave oven when pregnant, as all such ovens leak radiation and can affect a large area.

4. Prudent avoidance of routine pregnancy ultrasound scans is the best policy, says Internet health advisor Dr. Joseph Mercola. These scans should be used only in the event of medical necessity, he advises.

5. Refuse to have your newborn radio-tagged by your birthing hospital. Since a tracking system requires a fog of ambient RF microwave radiation which could affect even non-tagged infants, it is prudent to choose a hospital which does not employ wireless systems in the maternity ward, or have your baby at home.

6. Make sure that your infant is nurtured in a microwave-free home. Remove all DECT cordless phones, wireless security systems, WLAN wireless communications systems and microwave ovens. Never microwave heat infant formulas or food.

7. Make sure that cell tower or roof top communications antennas are not poisoning your home. If you discover that your neighborhood lies in the down beam of microwave antennas, which are saturating the interior of your home with a dangerous carcinogen, either take steps to apply expensive radiation barrier materials, or move to a radiation-free zone.

8. Never use any wireless device while near an infant or young child. Drastically reduce the use of all personal wireless devices, and reserve their use for emergency communication. The more people use cell phones in their homes, the more transmitters will be placed in our neighborhoods.

9. Retain your home and office landlines. Telecom companies are using pricing incentives to encourage the elimination of landline connections because air interface is more profitable. Unless we can educate enough people in time, our options for safe landline communications may vanish, leaving our kids at even more risk.

The scientific evidence is massive and irrefutable. Our little ones face a lifetime of disability, pain and deprivation from ever-increasing torrents of man-made, commercial radiation capable of destroying human genetic integrity. If you believe that humanity should NOT be reduced to a species of genetic freaks on the way to extinction, assist the radiation awareness movement by doing your own research and then sharing with others the documented information on wireless hazards to human DNA.

There is no time to waste while confronted with the life-and-death issues associated with the brazen wireless radiation assault upon our kids. Our mission requires persistence, patience and sacrifice. It is high time that we speak up and take action now—for the sake of the helpless and the unborn. What we do and say today will hugely affect generations to come.

Note: For the latest report from Professor Lennart Hardell concerning the 5-fold risk of brain tumors in kids who begin using mobile phones in childhood see: "Mobile Phone Use 'Raises Children's Risk of Brain Cancer Fivefold,'" The Independent, UK, 9-21-2008. Hardell is with the Department of Oncology, University Hospital, Orebro, Sweden. For the latest cancer statistics on American kids, see CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, published bi-monthly by the American Cancer Society.

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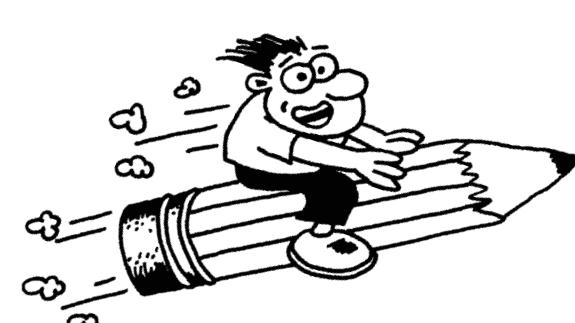
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Am I mistaken, or did Bender's Big Score anticipate the financial meltdown?

BY PAUL RICHMOND

Numbered references appear at the end of this article.

It's a simple fact that many of the best and most prescient works are simply ignored in their time. Citizen Kane, for example, considered by many to be the best movie of all time, was a box office failure. Director Orson Wells was never able to make a film he wanted to after it.

One feature that was released with minimal fanfare in recent years was the first feature born of Fox's cancelled television series Futurama. The animated Bender's Big Score is simple and prescient: a group of scammers come to Earth and con the entire population out of everything on the planet. The main characters attempt to deal with this in various ways, and ultimately everyone on the planet gets miffed and launches an all-out attack on the scammers and the robot army the scammers have built using all of Earth's wealth.

Bender's Big Score was released in November 2007 on DVD and aired in March 2008 on Comedy Central--long before the collapse of our banking system that has spurred trillions of dollars in bailouts.

How prescient the writers' of Bender's Big Score were is something I ponder. Presently financiers such as George Soros and Paul Volcker say they see no end to the present collapse.^[1] The head of Russia's foreign academy has predicted the United States will disintegrate by July 4, 2010.^[2]

As writer Kevin Phillips pointed out in his book Bad Money, published as the collapse was starting to be talked about, the dollar value of the derivatives and other financial junk was actually larger than most parts of the economy connected with real goods and services. Despite the fact that these "too large to fail" banks have hired some of the best mathematicians on the planet to disguise their financial junk, it doesn't require being particularly versed in mathematics to see where this is now going.

The economy of real goods and services (what is left of it) is being taxed to make up the lost value of the junk economy. Since the economy of real goods and services has a smaller financial value than the junk had, it will, if we continue on the present course, be completely drained to pay off the junk. This is the basic math most of us were introduced to around First Grade.

I wonder if those involved in Bender's Big Score were looking at our past. There were many earlier examples of scammers taking over economy. One can look at the "Dot-Com Bubble" where incredible things were promised for a new technology. Scammers got investors to invest many times the value of what any of the services might possibly be worth. Stocks were traded and traded the values rising, ever rising. When the music stopped, those who'd sold their shares made mint, and the rest were fleeced.

This was the same game that accompanied the selling and reselling of shares of stock which prompted the Great Depression in 1929.^[3] It was the same game that accompanied the building of the railroads where investors were encouraged to invest many more times the cost of the railroad's construction for tracks that were never built.

Nor is it a new concept that such scams would dominate the world of finance. One has only to look at the Savings and Loan meltdowns of the 1980's where a property with no value would be sold back and forth, each sale commanding a higher price. When it eventually collapsed, the taxpayers picked up the bill.

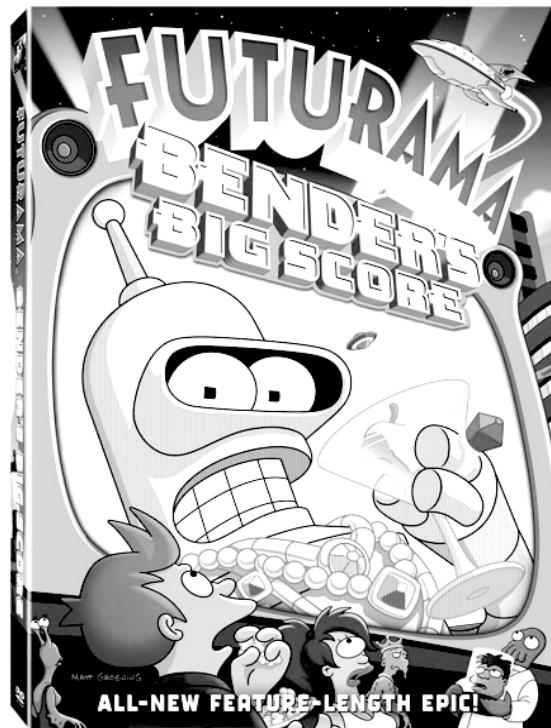
Such a scam was first laid out in Mel Brook's movie, The Producers, in which Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder realize they can make more money by promoting a theatrical production that will fail. Their scheme is to sell many times the value of the play in shares to investors, knowing it will fail.

What is different though about the current collapse from the prior ones is its scale. The ongoing financial collapse is of such a scale that it threatens to crush the entire society, leaving us with something resembling the scenario of the Road Warrior movies and its siblings such as Doomsday, Resident Evil, and some of the more recent work of George Romero. What could prompt such level of recklessness that the ultra-greedy would seek to destroy the entire system?

A model I found useful in understanding what was going on was laid out by author Robert Kaplan in his piece The Coming Anarchy. First published in February 1994 as an essay in the Atlantic, and then as a book in 2,000.^[4,5]

As GW Bush and Al Gore campaigned for the

media



presidency, Kaplan wrote from the perspective of those who own most of what can be owned on this planet. His premise is that the ecology of the planet is collapsing, and with the collapse of the ecology comes a collapse of the economy, and of course vast social unrest.^[6] We are then left with two choices: repair the ecology (which isn't happening), or set up systems of control so that as the ecology and economy collapse, power relationships are maintained.

Kaplan goes into some length describing the second scenario. We will see merging of military, law enforcement, intelligence and private security. Such mergers already seem almost commonplace when we look at Homeland Security, Blackwater, Halliburton and the like. But consider that Kaplan wrote this before September 11, 2001, before the PATRIOT Act, before the Project for a New American Century, and even before the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, and the 1995 Crime Bill which gave us most of what Bush's critics associate with PATRIOT.

To understand this is not to acknowledge it as inevitable, just as the scammers could not inevitably control earth in Bender's Big Score.

If we are to have any chance in this we are to proceed with our eyes open to what is going on. The continued ramping up of law enforcement, Homeland Security, Wars on Terrorism, Wars on Crime, and Wars on Drugs are there to build and feed this infrastructure that will maintain power relationships as the economy and ecology collapse. Most of the other stuff is noise and pretext.

It's too bad that Bender's Big Score didn't win an Oscar, or some sort of special recognition for having its metaphorical finger on our country's problems. I urge you to commit to memory the scene where everyone from Santa to the Harlem Globetrotters unites to drive the scammers off of Earth. The soundtrack for this scene is capable of getting you through some bad times.

Paul Richmond is an attorney practicing in Port Townsend, WA.

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WHO DO AMERICANS TRUST?

Certainly not the media, though online media fares better than traditional print

BY ANDREW NACHISON, IFOCUS

Most Americans are putting their faith in small business owners, entrepreneurs and science and technology leaders to lead the US to a better future--and they are significantly less hopeful the news media, government or large corporations will do the same, a new We Media/Zogby Interactive poll shows.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (63%) said small business and entrepreneurs will lead the U.S. to a better future, while 52% said the same of science and technology leaders. Americans are far less optimistic about the leadership of government (31%), large corporations and business leaders (21%), or traditional news media such as newspapers, television, radio, and magazines (13%).

Americans think leadership toward a better future is more likely to come from family and friends (38%), non-profit groups (32%), or even themselves (36%). The Zogby Interactive survey of 2,397 adults nationwide was conducted Feb. 11-13, 2009, and carries a margin of error of +/- 2.0 percentage points. This is the third year of the survey.

Americans are deeply dissatisfied with the leadership currently provided by large companies, government and traditional media--and they are not confident the leadership from these groups will improve in the future. The survey shows 71% are "not very" or "not at all" satisfied with the leadership provided by traditional news media. Even greater numbers of Americans are unsatisfied with the leadership of the government (74%) and large corporations and business leaders (81%).

While just one in four (27%) Americans are satisfied with the leadership provided by traditional news media, Internet media -- including blogs and social networks -- fared far better, with 56% satisfied with online media leadership. Fewer than a third of Americans (32%) believe online media will provide leadership in the future, but they are much more confident in the potential of Internet media to guide the U.S. in a better direction than they are in traditional news media (13%).

This raises an old question that takes on new meaning as the world's economy reorganizes around diminished returns: what's the purpose of a news enterprise? Is it simply to produce, package and distribute data? Or is it more?

Americans most likely to look online for breaking and daily news

Nearly half of Americans (46%) said they first turn to Internet news sites for information on breaking news about national and government issues and nearly as many (40%) said online news sites are where they get most of their news and information. These online sites far outpace traditional news sources, such as television (25%), radio (14%), and newspapers (12%), as a source of daily news and information. It comes as no surprise that younger Americans are most likely to favor online news sources, but only those age 65 and older are more likely to turn to television (36%) over the Internet (29%) to get their news.

Methodology: Zogby International was commissioned by iFOCOS to conduct an online survey of 2497 adults. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the US, was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, education to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 2.0 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. •

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Cashing In On Earth's Cycles

Part 2 – The Present: Crisis Mode

Did you know Enron was a major promoter of the Kyoto Protocol?

BY ALAN CHEETHAM & RICHARD KIRBY

Editor's note: I feel it is beneficial for environmentalists to consider a variety of informed viewpoints on the global warming issue, including skeptical viewpoints such as those in the article below. I encourage all readers to look much more deeply into the subject of climate change. This article was originally published in the newsletter of Mensa of Western Washington. Numbered references are listed at the end of the article. Part 1 can be found in our Jan/Feb 2009 issue at www.wafree-press.org/96/issue96.pdf.

The science involved with the global warming issue is of two types: (1) empirical science--the actual observations, data and their interpretation, and (2) theoretical science--computer models based on the modeler's interpretation of the phenomena. The two are at odds: that is, the empirical science does not support the modelers' predictions.

The temperature trends have a much higher correlation with solar phenomena and with oceanic oscillations than with CO₂. [1,2&3]. Glaciers have generally been receding since the early 1800s (before modern CO₂) [4], while the Greenland ice melt was similar in the 1930s [5] and Antarctica has no warming [6]. In many regions the current warming is just reaching what it was in the 1930s. But few people alive today were around in the 1930s, and grandstanders are selling an apocalyptic doomsday scenario.

So, why has this apocalyptic scare been so widely promoted? The answer is money. The big money is in the carbon credit trading.

Enron was a promoter of the Kyoto Protocol since it was expected to greatly increase their profits. Enron's Ken Lay had meetings with Clinton and Gore to try to get Kyoto promoted: "Enron officials later expressed elation at the results of the Kyoto conference. An internal memo said the Kyoto agreement, if implemented, would 'do more to promote Enron's business than almost any other regulatory initiative outside of restructuring the energy and natural gas industries in Europe and the United States.'" [7]

There is an extensive overlap of those who created the scare and those greatly benefiting from it. The carbon credit trading companies are illustrative. At the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) is "the world's first... integrated greenhouse gas emissions reduction, registry and trading system." One director is Maurice Strong creator of both the UN Environment Program and the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Strong has also been senior advisor to UN Secretaries General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan and World Bank President James Wolfensohn. Another director is Stuart Eizenstat, who was US Ambassador to the EU during the Clinton Administration, Chief Domestic Policy Adviser for President Jimmy Carter, as well as the leader of the US delegation at the Kyoto Protocol negotiations. [See reference 7 for similar examples]

Al Gore is a major beneficiary of the current hysteria. "In May Al Gore traveled to Tel Aviv, Israel to pick up \$1 million... for winning [an] award for his environmental work. In his acceptance speech, Gore repeated his long-familiar sentiment, 'We do face a planetary emergency.' According to Bloomberg News, Gore had less

than \$2 million when he left the vice presidency in 2001. Today his fortune is more than \$100 million (Fast Company, July 2007)" [8]

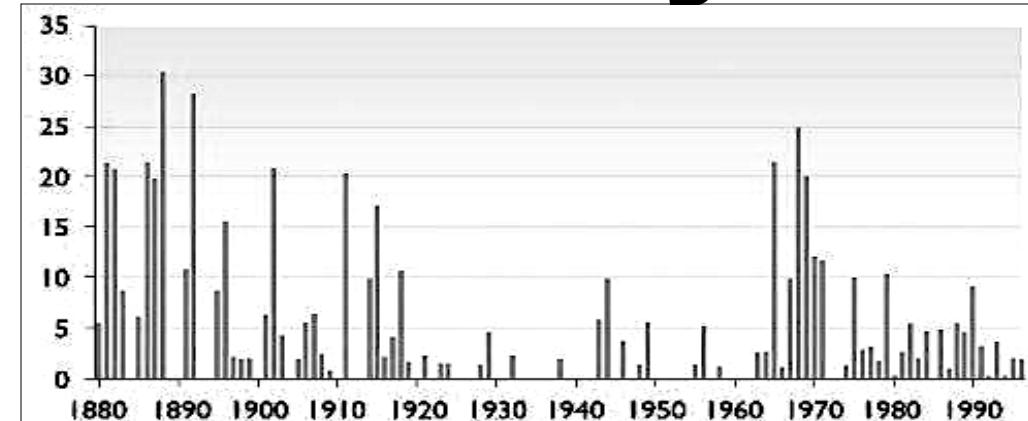
Gore still runs around wielding his "hockey stick" graph, even though the National Academy of Sciences has thoroughly debunked it, and even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has dropped it. Gore recently has endorsed "civil disobedience to prevent the construction of new coal plants that do not have carbon capture and sequestration." [9]

Although the IPCC is promoted as "the consensus," many climate scientists disagree with the specific positions of the IPCC, and the number of dissenting scientists is growing. Canada's National Post has an excellent series of articles documenting some of these scientists [10&11].

Many scientists who disagree with the IPCC have found their funding cut off or have been fired. In Europe, Henk Tennekes was dismissed as research director of the Royal Dutch Meteorological Society after questioning the scientific underpinnings of global warming. [12].

Some retired scientists are speaking out. A prominent atmospheric scientist at MIT states: "...for over 25 years, we have based not only our worst case scenarios but even our best case scenarios on model exaggeration. As far as I can tell, the main question we ought to be confronting is how long the momentum generated by this issue will prevent us from seeing that it has been an illusion based on model error." State climatologists who disagree with the state government belief in global warming have had their titles removed in such places as Oregon and Delaware [12].

The "climate crisis" is in reality a western nation environmentalist crisis—western environmentalists promote their beliefs, while the rest of the world says "nonsense." In July 2008 The Government of India published a National Action Plan on Climate Change, which states: "No firm link between the documented [climate] changes



This figure shows the Icelandic sea ice index [http://www.eoearth.org/article/Sea_ice_in_the_Arctic]. Note that ice levels in the 1930s were as low as those in recent years. Recent declines are either part of a trend that is longer than human-caused CO₂, or part of a multi-decadal long term cycle.

described below and warming due to anthropogenic [human-caused] climate change has yet been established."

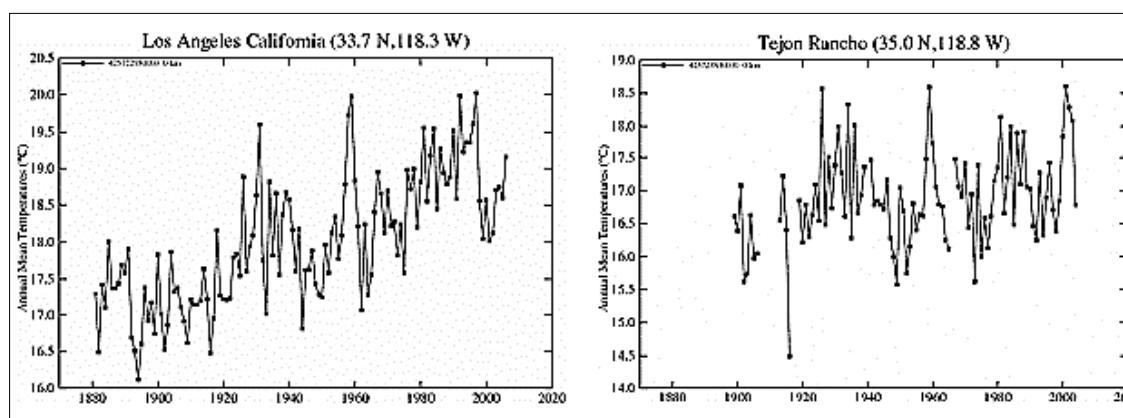
India has no intention of cutting CO₂ emissions if to do so affects its economic growth. The report Overview states: "India is determined that its per capita greenhouse gas emissions will at no point exceed that of developed countries even as we pursue our development objectives." [13]

Russia also disagrees with the western view. "Russian critics of the Kyoto Protocol... say that the theory underlying the pact lacks scientific basis. When President Vladimir Putin was weighing his options on the Kyoto Protocol the Russian Academy of Sciences strongly advised him to reject it as having "no scientific foundation." Russian scientists state: "There is no proven link between human activity and global warming. This problem is overshadowed by many fallacies and misconceptions that often form the basis for important political decisions..." and "The current warming is evidently a natural process and utterly independent of hothouse gases." [12]

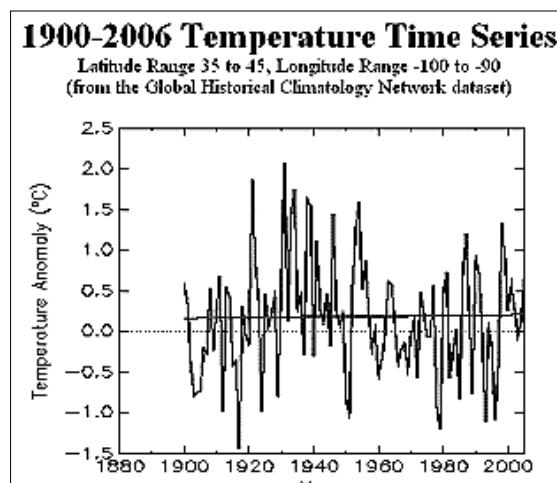
China—now the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter—released its plan on climate change in 2007, supporting the rights of developing nations to pursue growth. The Chinese spokesman said "The consequences of inhibiting their development would be far greater than not doing anything to fight climate change... our general stance is that China will not commit to any quantified emissions reduction targets". [14]

To those profiting from the scare, it is a critical emergency--to the rest of the promoters, a ploy for control. We should adopt clear, critical thinking, and a healthy skepticism.

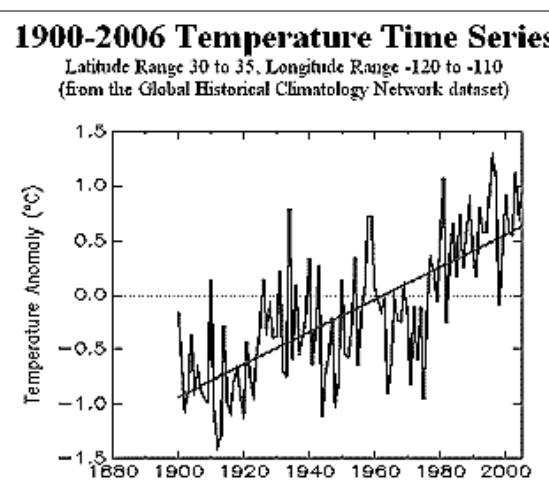
Next issue:
Part 3--The Future: Recurrent Cycles
Is science becoming subservient to a new autocracy?



These figures illustrates the urbanization effect on temperature trends, comparing the urban Los Angeles station (left) with the closest rural station (right). The rural station shows little or no warming trend. This is typical of the urban versus rural differences found all over the world (see the regional summary documents at www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/RS_Summary.htm). Critics of global warming assert that urban warming has not been adequately adjusted for in temperature statistics, thereby creating an illusion of overall warming.



Within the United States there is significant regional variation. The central US on the left (the dustbowl area of the 1930s) still does not have temperatures as high as in the 1930s. On the right, the Southern California and Arizona region—which includes mostly urban stations and top urban growth centers (Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas)—shows considerable warming.



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- [1] www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/GW_Nutshell.htm
 - [2] www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/GW_Part6_SolarEvidence.htm
 - [3] www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/GW_PDO_ADO.htm
 - [4] www.appinsys.com/GlobalWarming/GW_Part4_ClimaticEvents.htm
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WE NEED A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Cutting emissions isn't enough

BY DAVID ZINK

Editor's note: Whether or not you're convinced about climate change, it's good to be prepared for the possibility, just as it's always good to live lightly on the Earth. But climate is not only an issue of how many pounds of carbon we emit. It's also related to how well we preserve undeveloped areas.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is responsible for about half of the greenhouse effect threatening Earth. Plants are the lungs of our planet. In photosynthesis, they breathe in CO₂, removing it from the atmosphere, and then split the molecule. Carbon is added to ("sequestered by") the plant's biomass of wood, bark, roots, leaves, etc. Oxygen is released to the environment. A tree can absorb up to 48 lbs of carbon per year, and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.

Trees help in other ways. They remove other pollutants from the burning of fossil fuels from the air. Trees also provide shade in the summer: having a tree or two around your house can reduce air conditioning needs by up to 30 percent, saving both energy and money.

Carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases play a major role in climate change, but there is more to fighting climate change than trying to reduce emissions. This impending crisis calls for a coordinated 2-prong approach. We must significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as protect forests, wetlands, and other vegetated lands that sequester carbon. Both aspects are crucial.

Across our state, enormous amounts of photosynthetic surface (forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.) are being bulldozed and replaced with malls, housing, parking lots, and other development. Every day, we are losing an appalling amount of oxygen-producing land to sprawl. This is not sustainable.

Sprawl and other deforestation intensifies global climate change, reduces air quality, ruins wildlife habitat, and cripples nature's ability to filter carbon from the air. If people don't start seeing the connections between these things, we'll never come to grips with the challenges we face.

In the accompanying tables, my starting point is the productivity of some ecosystems found in Washington State. These figures are available in many introductory ecology textbooks.

Cutting back on emissions from industry and transportation is crucial to slowing climate change.

But it's also crucial to stop sprawl. Let nature help heal the damage we've done. Protect the trees, wetlands, and wild areas. Now that you know, tell your neighbors, and city, county, and state planners. Now is the time to act decisively for our earth and our future.

David Zink works in the WA State Dept. of Ecology in hazardous waste management.

How much carbon does an acre absorb out of the air? (Mean annual carbon sequestration. See *Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2nd edition. Aber, John, and Melillo, Jerry. Academic Press, London, 2001.*)

Temperate evergreen forest	2272 Kg (4998 lbs)
Temperate deciduous forest	2191 Kg (4820 lbs)
Shrublands	1095 Kg (2,410 lbs)
Temperate grassland	913 Kg (2, 008 lbs)
Cultivated (agricultural) land	1176 kg (2588 lbs)
Swamp / marsh / wetland	4584 kg (10,085 lbs)

What is this carbon absorption worth in US dollars? Value of annual carbon sequestration per average acre of various ecosystems. (Range reflects the Pew Center on Global Climate Change's evaluation of \$70 per ton, and the Natural Resources Defense Fund's evaluation of \$100 per ton, see <http://www.env-econ.net/2007/12/a-nobel-respons.html> and www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Sequest_Final.pdf)

Temperate evergreen forest	\$174 - \$249
Temperate deciduous forest	\$169 - \$241
Shrublands	\$84 - \$121
Temperate grassland	\$70 - \$100
Cultivated (agricultural) land	\$88 - \$129
Swamp / marsh / wetland	\$353 - \$504

Average annual oxygen generation of various Washington State ecosystems per acre.

Temperate evergreen forest	6059 kg/yr	13, 329 lbs/yr
Temperate deciduous forest	5, 843	12, 854
Shrublands	2920	6, 427
Temperate grassland	2435	5, 356
Agricultural cultivated land	3136	6,901
Swamp/marsh	12,224	26,893

How many people does this keep alive? Average number of adult humans that can be supplied by the oxygen produced by one acre per year.

Temperate evergreen forest	7.5
Temperate deciduous forest	7.2
Shrubland	3.6
Temperate grassland	3.0
Agricultural cultivated land	3.9
Swamp/marsh	15.1

What is this oxygen worth in US dollars? Cost of mean net oxygen generated per acre by various ecosystems. (Aaro Medical Supply, a major medical supply company in Olympia, WA, charges \$19 for a 4-hour supply tank of oxygen. Six are needed for a one-day supply for a human adult. The cost is \$41, 496 annually.)

Temperate evergreen forest	\$ 311, 220.00
Temperate deciduous forest	\$ 298, 771.20
Shrubland	\$ 149, 385.60
Temperate grassland	\$ 124, 488.00
Agricultural cultivated land	\$ 161, 834.40
Swamp/marsh	\$ 626, 589.60



climate

We Need Fishmongers

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THE BATHTUB

Red-lined homeowners wreak weighty revenge on Seafirst Bank

BY JOHN MERRIAM

The following events occurred in 1977.

On an unusually sunny morning in late March, Johnny Horizon rummaged around in his basement. He gathered tools to get his temperamental English motorcycle ready for a ride to herald the first nice day of spring. He heard the sound of rain. "That's odd," he thought, "it seemed like the sky was clear." Johnny went to the door—the basement was only accessible from outside—to investigate. Sure enough, no clouds were in the sky. He soon discovered where the sound was coming from. Water was dripping rapidly into the basement from the bathroom above, where his roommate was taking a shower.

Johnny and his roommate, Willie Maybee, had just gone from renters to owners of the house where the water was coming, rain-like, through the floor.

"Damn!" Johnny knew that the house had been built in 1901 and that he and Willie bought it cheap, but he was dismayed to be facing a major episode of the homeowner's blues so soon. The house was to be officially recorded in their names by the county assessor that very day. He took a large screwdriver and probed the underside of the bathroom floor to see how bad the rot was. The blade of the screwdriver went completely through the floor with only a small push. Johnny wondered why he hadn't discovered the rot before buying the house. "Before today, I could have just whined to the landlord... God must hate me."

Johnny banged on the ceiling and yelled to Willie to get out of the shower. Willie obliged, muttering questions punctuated by obscenities; got dressed and left for work. Johnny continued to check just how rotten the floor was.

Water continued to drip, fast and loudly, even though the shower was off. It became painfully obvious that the entire floor would have to be replaced.

He would just as soon have avoided the task of a major home improvement. The house purchase had depleted all of Johnny's savings. He needed to leave the area to go work. The only way he could get money was to catch another ship in the merchant marine.

Even though the house cost only \$10,000, Willie and Johnny had to put up cash to buy it. No bank would loan them money, despite the fact that they had a 50% down payment, originally. Johnny had half in cash from a savings account. Willie tried in vain to borrow the other half. The house was in the Central District, Seattle's answer to a "ghetto". It was also redlined.

Banks in Seattle had decided that certain portions of the city were a bad risk for loan repayment or otherwise unworthy, somehow, for receiving loans. The chief banker dudes had apparently taken a red pen to a map of the city, isolating the areas where they refused to do business in the mortgage department. Even though Willie had worn out the yellow pages in calling, not a single bank would accept a mortgage application from the two homeowner wannabes after learning the address. While Johnny had no problem with his share of the purchase price, Willie was forced to hit up every friend and relative he had to get his portion—the remaining \$5,000. Cash was obtained within hours of the deadline for closing the sale. The transaction had left Willie and Johnny with precious little disposable income and the necessity of costly repairs was an ugly prospect.

Johnny went upstairs and started ripping out the bathroom floor. The oversized bathtub soon stalemated his efforts. It had to be removed if the floor joists were to be replaced. After disconnecting the plumbing fixtures, he pried the tub loose from the floor. Johnny then tried to jockey it out the bathroom door using levers and a come-along. The bathtub was too big to even look like it would fit through the door. After trying to get the tub out the door, at every conceivable angle for two hours, Johnny had worked himself into a rage. He ran back to the basement and grabbed a sledgehammer.

The wall that Johnny had ripped into to get at the plumbing fixtures was shared with the entranceway to the house. Underneath the finish to the bathroom side of the wall was an old nest with dead termites and what appeared to be exterior siding. He then understood why he couldn't get the bathtub out. The bathroom was obviously an addition to the house. That part of Seattle probably didn't have running water in 1901, when the house was built, or maybe the original occupants couldn't afford to pipe it in. The oversized bathtub



One last sentimental sudsing.

must have been put in place before the bathroom walls were framed around it. That would explain why Johnny could find no possible angle to remove it.

A logical explanation in no measure lessened the animosity he was now feeling toward the bathtub. Johnny's assaults on it had left the bathroom looking like downtown Beirut. He beat on the tub with the sledgehammer, using all his might, until the blood vessels in his face were close to bursting. All Johnny succeeding in doing was to knock off the ceramic layer that covered cast-iron 3/8-of-an-inch thick. He took the tub's obstinacy as a personal affront.

Johnny jumped in his truck, swearing to "teach that bathtub a lesson it will never forget." He drove to a tool rental store to get an oxyacetylene torch. The tub would be loath to trifle with him again if it were cut in half.

The bathtub did not give up without a struggle. Using the rented torch, Johnny went through a full 700 pounds of oxygen—from the large canister that was came with the acetylene bottle—before the tub was cut in two. By that time it was late afternoon. He used the remaining daylight to extract the two halves of the tub—weighing close to 1,000 pounds in Johnny's estimation—by means of the come-along, anchored to the frame of the front door, and various trees outside. He couldn't figure out a way to get the severed halves of the tub into his 1960 Chevy truck by himself.

Willie returned from work at his record store to marvel at the scene of destruction. His first thought was to wonder how he could convince his girlfriend at the time, Jeannine, to spend the night when there was no way to bathe. Willie considered the overnight presence of his girlfriend to be a necessity rather than a luxury and was rapidly inspired to help with the bathroom project. Johnny told Willie that once they obtained a new bathtub, it could be placed on the bare floor joists if necessary, allowing bathing facilities prior to replacement of the floor. Willie viewed that idea as unacceptable to his dating plans. Johnny promised he would proceed with the bathroom remodel as fast as he was able.

Johnny went shopping for a bathtub the next day. He was appalled when confronted by the prices. New tubs were in the vicinity of \$300, more money than he and Willie had. He started cruising second-hand stores.

Johnny found what he was looking for at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store on the eastern shore of Lake Union. After several rounds of dickering Johnny got the handicapped salesman down to \$25 for a used bathtub. The man looked slightly embarrassed about how far and fast the price had been lowered, and said it was only good until the store closed that day. Johnny drove home and called Willie at his record store.

"You'd better come home early if you want to score another bathtub." Johnny knew that was code



Johnny has always had a good knack for photographing his misdemeanors.

history

in Willie's mind for, 'help me with the bathtub or your dating life will be ruined.' Willie came home early.

Outside the house in the alley, Willie and Johnny heaved the old cast-iron bathtub onto the back of the pick-up. The truck bed almost touched the tires under the weight of the tub. Johnny's worry about the bathroom floor collapsing seemed justified, especially if Willie suffered from impaired judgment after last call at some bar and brought home an obese patron for kinky sex in the shower. The combined weight could have proven fatal.

Johnny and Willie valiantly sallied forth a little after 4pm to get their "new" bathtub at St. Vinnie's. When they arrived there was a problem: the old tub was overwidth and overlenth compared to standard units like its replacement. The two halves of the cast-iron tub took up so much space that there was not enough room in the 4x8-foot bed of the truck for the new one. It was obvious that the old tub would have to be disposed of before the new one could be picked up. Willie and Johnny realized they would have to go to the city dump first.

The dump was on the north side of Lake Union. The truck lumbered off. Then there was another problem: a traffic jam. Both St. Vinnie's and the city dump closed at 5 o'clock. News radio reported that traffic was clogged up on all sides of Lake Union. There was no way to make it to the dump and back to St. Vinnie's in the little time remaining.

The truck, with Johnny, Willie and the old bathtub aboard, was cruising slowly along Lake Union when the bad news came over the radio. What to do?

Johnny lurched the truck out of traffic on Eastlake Avenue into a driveway by the Pipeline Tavern. Across the street was a Seafirst Bank, which later became a Mexican restaurant. Johnny saw the bank as a solution to their dilemma.

Seafirst was one of the banks involved in red-lining the neighborhood where they lived. It was also engaged in questionable labor practices regarding the collective bargaining rights of its employees. Johnny took offense to this last, being the member of a maritime labor union. In addition, he seemed to recall that Seafirst was responsible for funding the corporations that made napalm and engaged in other nefarious activities during the recently ended Viet Nam war.

Johnny and Willie agreed that Seafirst was not a nice bank. Johnny announced that the Knights of Karma, already mounted in the sagging pick-up truck, had been called upon to deliver a message. Willie was less sanguine about communicating with Seafirst over the evil of its ways. His main concern was to get rid of the bathtub and obtain a new one before his dating was curtailed. Johnny pointed the Chevy toward Seafirst.

Their hearts jumped into their throats when they entered the Seafirst parking lot: a security guard was posted at the entrance. He had a pistol at his waist. Johnny's first impulse was to hang a U-turn at high speed, burning up some of the precious little rubber remaining on the tires of the old pick-up. Willie silently pondered whether dating was worth a possible arrest.

Johnny mentally speculated that convictions for littering were not increased by weight. He told Willie that a littering charge was only punishable by a fine, even if it took a crane to remove the type of "litter" they were conspiring to deposit. He went on to observe that a court appearance and a fine might be a bargain compared to the price of a bathtub, were they to lose their

see next page



"Well, there wasn't a NO BATHTUB PARKING sign." Bathtub in background.
Note that the official name for Seafirst at the time was Seattle First National Bank.



After installing another tub, it was off to Pakistan on this tanker.

deal at St. Vinnie's. Willie agreed. Johnny took his foot off the gas pedal and gave a nonchalant 'fellow worker' wave to the security guard as the Chevy coasted into the parking lot.

Fortunately, they were both clad in overalls. Not knowing what sort of hygienic horrors awaited them amongst the used goods at St. Vinnie's, Johnny and Willie donned attire that made them look like deliverymen. Their appearance must have helped foster a sense of bruderbond with the minimum-wage guard, who merely nodded as they glided into the parking lot.

Johnny stopped the truck close to the only two vacant spaces, inadvertently managing to block traffic both entering and exiting the busy bank in that row of parking. He and Willie hoisted the two halves of the cast-iron tub onto the asphalt. By this time the security guard was getting aggressively curious, walking toward them from his phone booth of a guard shack. Johnny realized the situation was becoming precarious and decided to seize the initiative. He started barking orders at Willie.

"Move your end to the right!"

"Here?" Willie meekly inquired.

"No, two more inches to the left!" Johnny delivered his instructions officially, more like threats than requests. The security guard was impressed by the no-nonsense manner and retired back to his shack. Working for shit wages, the guard probably assumed that some vice-president at Seafirst had paid the two grunts to place a piece of 'modern sculpture' in the parking lot, or so Willie thought. Johnny imagined he could hear private dick thinking: "That ugly, cut-up bathtub probably cost more than I make for this job in a year."

Willie, following his roommate's loud directives, had straddled the two spaces and very cleverly blocked the only remaining parking at the bank. The two then went through the motions of perfecting placement for the cast-iron monstrosity, going so far as to pick off stray beads of melted cast-iron left by misadventures with the rented torch.

"That's just right." Johnny made the proclamation loud enough that the security guard heard it.

Willie and Johnny got back into the pick-up. On the way out the guard seemed friendlier than he had when the truck entered the lot. Johnny guessed that he became obsequious after deciding that the crew of the dilapidated truck was performing a chore for some mucky-muck at Seafirst. Willie thought the guy was a "butt-kisser."

Having ditched their old bathtub, Willie and Johnny picked up the replacement tub a full ten minutes before St. Vinnie's closed at five p.m.

After installing the used bathtub, Johnny went to New Orleans and caught a tanker to Pakistan. Willie's dating continued, unabated.

John Merriam is an attorney practicing in Seattle. He specializes in maritime labor law.

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War Resister Cliff Cornell Arrested At Canadian Border

BY MARK TAYLOR-CANFIELD

U.S war resister Cliff Cornell was arrested by US border police February 4th after being ordered to leave Canada. He was held briefly at the Whatcom County Jail in Bellingham, 20 miles south of the US/Canadian border in Washington State.

As of this writing, Cornell has voluntarily rejoined his Army unit at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He faces charges of desertion.

Cornell went to Toronto in 2005 when he was scheduled to deploy to Iraq. Since then he has been living in British Columbia. The government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has blocked attempts by the Canadian parliament to grant amnesty to US soldiers refusing to fight in Iraq. Now Cornell now faces a court martial and imprisonment in the United States.

Gerry Condon, director for the Seattle war resisters support group Project Safe Haven, says the arrest was unwarranted because Cornell was following his own conscience and obeying international law when he refused to fight in an illegal war.

A legal defense fund has been established. Vigils in support of Cornell were being held outside the Bellingham jail by the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center.

Another US soldier and war resister, Robin Long, was deported from Canada in July. He was also held at the Whatcom County Jail in Bellingham. Long was eventually transferred to a military facility in San Diego where he is now serving a 15 month prison sentence.

Hundreds of US soldiers have escaped to Canada, Europe and Latin America after refusing to serve in Iraq. A petition, cosponsored by Project Safe Haven, has been circulated among national veterans and anti-war groups calling upon President Obama to grant amnesty to all of these war resisters.

For more information, see www.couragetoresist.org.

Reason #261: The courage to look at ourselves.

There are at least 1000 reasons to support and subscribe to the *Free Press*. Please do so on p3!

Economy from p3

unhealthy economic relations that allow the yuan to stay low will start changing in favor of US producers. On an individual level, necessity will again be the mother of invention. By scaling back our consumption, we have to become more inventive in all respects. This inventiveness will fuel ideas for future successful businesses.

If you haven't noticed already, the changes that come about from lowering our consumption also tend to raise our productive ability.

I don't think that would be true the other way around: if we focused on raising our production of goods (and not lowering our consumption) we would do nothing to stimulate our inventive thinking. We'd probably be producing the same junk we're already producing. And we'd still face the unabated problem of Chinese making the same sort of junk for a lot cheaper. At that point, we could try to bolster domestic markets by raising tariffs on Chinese and other foreign goods. But that would likely lead to international hostilities, just as it did during the Great Depression, which preceded World War II. We should steer clear of such a course.

Our relationship with China has been a key element in this worldwide financial problem. We've been the lotus eaters and China has provided the lotuses. The best thing to do for ourselves, and for our country, is to stop eating so many lotuses, get off our duffs, and start getting creative with what we've got. Unfortunately, tax rebates, stimulus checks, and bailouts of lending institutions just encourage us to fall into the same old habits.

In our state of Washington, the legislature recently voted to give supplemental pay to those receiving unemployment compensation, as a means to stimulate the economy. I wonder if the state will even be able to afford the regular payments in a few years.

Americans should resist our spending habits by redefining ourselves not as consumers, but as inventors, and socking away--rather than spending away--our money.

We'll begin to get out of this mess as soon as most Americans realize that the solution is not about getting people shopping. Our past economy, based on marketing and retail, was a dead end. We need to turn the other direction.

war

FREEING UP RESOURCES... FOR MORE WAR

Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON

Hours after President Obama's speech to a joint session of Congress, the New York Times printed the news that he plans to gradually withdraw "American combat forces" from Iraq during the next 18 months. The newspaper reported that the advantages of the pullout will include "relieving the strain on the armed forces and freeing up resources for Afghanistan."

The president's speech had little to say about the plans for escalation, but the few words will come back to haunt: "With our friends and allies, we will forge a new and comprehensive strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan to defeat Al Qaida and combat extremism, because I will not allow terrorists to plot against the American people from safe havens halfway around the world. We will not allow it."

Obama didn't mention the additional number of U.S. troops -- 17,000 -- that he has just ordered to Afghanistan. But his pledge that he "will not allow terrorists to plot against the American people" and his ringing declaration, "We will not allow it," came just before this statement: "As we meet here tonight, our men and women in uniform stand watch abroad and more are readying to deploy."

Get the message? In his first speech to Congress, the new president threw down a 90-month-old gauntlet, reaffirming the notion that committing to war halfway around the world -- in Afghanistan and now in Pakistan too -- will make Americans safer. With drum-rolls like that, the mission could outlive all of us.

And so, a colossal and fateful blunder, made by a very smart leader, arguably our best and brightest, is careening forward with the help of silence that defers all too readily to power. This is how the war in Vietnam escalated, while individuals and groups muted their voices. Many people will pay with their lives.

The reasons why the war in Afghanistan cannot be won are directly connected to why the war is wrong. In essence, people do not like their country occupied for years on end, especially when the occupiers are routinely killing civilians (whatever the rationale).

Monochrome words like Taliban and "terrorists" might seem tidy and clear enough as they appear in media coverage, or as they roll off a president's tongue, but in the real Afghan world the opponents of the U.S. war are diverse and wide-ranging. With every missile strike that incinerates a household or terrorizes a village, the truly implacable "extremists" can rejoice at Uncle Sam's assistance in their recruiting efforts.

Those who are fond of talking and writing about President Obama's admirable progressive values will, sooner or later, need to come to terms with the particulars of his actual policies. In foreign affairs, the realities now include the ominous pairing of his anti-terrorism rhetoric and his avowed commitment to ratchet up the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan.

I don't often make predictions, but I'm confident about this one: Within a few years, some members of Congress, and leaders of some progressive groups with huge email lists, will look back with regret as they recall their failure to clearly and openly oppose the pivotal escalation of the Afghan war.

They could save themselves a lot of shame, and save others their lives, by speaking out sooner rather than later. In the process, they might help save the Obama presidency from running aground in Afghanistan.

Norman Solomon is the author of "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death," which has been adapted into a documentary film of the same name.

DO SOMETHING!

Get active, not radioactive!

Use this Do Something! Directory to decide how you'd like to make the world a better place.



ACTIVIST CALENDAR

The calendar entries below have mostly been chosen from Jean Buskin's email Peace and Justice Calendar. To post activism events on her email/web version, send event notices to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org. To receive updates of the complete calendar, have Ms Buskin add you to her email list by contacting her at the same address, or view her full calendar anytime at www.scn.org/activism/calendar.

TUES MARCH 10, and subsequent 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, at Marina Park Pavilion on the Kirkland waterfront park, on 255 bus route; KIRKLAND PEACE VIGIL meets monthly. We call ourselves "Citizens Along the Lake". info <http://mysite.verizon.net/resuxn0n/citizensalongthelakeforpeace/> or Donna Schill 425-821-5596

WEDS MARCH 11, 6 - 8 pm, at Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th St, Renton; Household Hens: Raising CHICKENS IN YOUR BACKYARD. Raising Chickens yields far more than just fresh eggs and you don't have to live on a farm to do it! This workshop is free! info and to register visit www.king.wsu.edu/enviro/events.htm#Hens

THURS & FRI MARCH 12 - 13, in Spokane; Washington State HOLOCAUST EDUCATION and Resource Center PRESENTATION BY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR & TEACHER SEMINAR. March 12 - Community evening program with a presentation from a Holocaust survivor. March 13 - Teaching about the Holocaust: A Seminar for Educators. 8:30 am-3:30 pm, at East Valley Middle School. \$20. Clock hours available, info ikennedy@wshrc.org

SAT MARCH 14, and subsequent 2nd Saturdays, noon - 3 pm, at Northwest Detention Center, 1623 E J St, Tacoma; DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS AT TACOMA IMMIGRATION PRISON! The government is using racial profiling and violating the rights of immigrant workers whose only "crime" is working. We will bring coffee and food, support and solidarity to visiting families. An injury to one is an injury to all! For carpool/ ride from Seattle call 206-218-4417 [updated 2/9/09]

SUN MARCH 15, and subsequent 3rd Sundays, 2:30 pm, in the Horizon House Forum at 900 University St., Seattle; HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Board Meeting, all welcome, info Mary Margaret 206-382-3785 [confirmed 12/20/08]

MARCH 16 - 23, Courage to Resist announces a National Week of LETTER WRITING TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR WAR RESISTERS. Organize a letter-writing party in your community to show support for war resisters. Robin Long, recently deported from Canada, is serving a 15-month sentence for refusing to fight in Iraq. Tony Anderson is currently serving a 14- month sentencing for resisting deployment to Iraq. If you are interested in organizing a letter-writing party, or for info courage@riseup.net or 510-488-3559.

MARCH 16 - 20, NATIVE AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALIST & AUTHOR WINONA LADUKE will be in the Pacific Northwest, with an evening engagement in Seattle on March 19 and a daytime engagement on March 20. Winona LaDuke (Mississippi Band of Anishinaabeg) is a brilliant and articulate representative of Indigenous perspectives, info www.speakoutnow.org

TUES MARCH 17, and most subsequent 3rd Tuesdays, please phone or check website to confirm, 6:15 p.m., in the cafe at Elliott Bay bookstore in Pioneer Square, S Main St & 1st Ave S, Seattle; monthly board meeting of NICA, Northwest INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES Association, a networking and education organization for intentional communities in the Pacific Northwest; info www.ic.org/nica or Fred 425-481-8044 [updated 12/2/06]

MARCH 19, Stop Occupations & Torture for Empire! the 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR. World Can't Wait is calling for national days of Protests. The Seattle Chapter will be holding meetings every Sunday between now and March 19th. info seattle@worldcantwait.org

FRI MARCH 20, and subsequent Fridays, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., Seattle, West of I-5, just North of 50th; Friday Night At the MEANINGFUL MOVIES and Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice present A Film: "Flow: For The Love Of Water" (93min, Irena Salina, 2008), followed by discussion. Free and open to the public! .. but Donations are kindly accepted. info www.meaningfulmovies.org

TUES MARCH 24, and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Phinney Ridge Center, Blue Bldg, Room 6, Seattle; NW BIODIESEL MEETING. Alternating months between special topic and Biodiesel 101, see website for details. info Aaron Kahn akahn@windermere.com or www.nwbiodiesel.org [confirmed 2/23/08]

WEDS MARCH 25, 9 am - 4:30 pm, at William H. Gates Hall, Room 133, University of Washington Law School, 15th Avenue NE & NE 43rd Street, Seattle; The Federal Trade Commission and the Technology Law and Public Policy Clinic at the University of Washington School of Law will host a conference on the use of DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES, a widespread practice that is expected to become increasingly prevalent in the U.S. marketplace in the coming years. Digital rights management (DRM) refers to technologies typically used by hardware manufacturers, publishers, and copyright holders to attempt to control how consumers access and use media and entertainment content.

Free, info www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/12/drm.shtm

THURS MARCH 26, and subsequent 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., at the University Heights Center, NE 50th and University Way NE, Room 110, [check room] Seattle; The GREEN PARTY OF SEATTLE general membership meeting. The public is welcome. info 206-523-3656 or 206-524-3377 info@seattlegreens.org or www.seattlegreens.org [updated 3/21/08]

FRI MARCH 27, Doors open 6:45 pm, program 7 pm, at EHCC fellowship hall, 105 Winslow Way W., Bainbridge Island; Yes, We Must! An ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AND DISCUSSION Series. Eating Alaska - What happens to a vegetarian who moves to the last frontier? Yes, We Must! will examine MORAL ISSUES AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS related to urgent environmental challenges, info Leslie 206-855-0881 or Marcy mlagerloef@seanet.com

SAT MARCH 28, and subsequent 4th Saturdays, 11 am - 1 pm, at Westlake Mall Plaza, 4th & Pine, downtown Seattle; WAR RESISTER VIGIL. Support Lt. Ehren Watada and All War Resisters - Join the monthly vigil in support of GIs who are refusing to kill people in Iraq and Afghanistan. Look for our colorful banners and signs, and bring your own. Sponsored by: Veterans For Peace, Project Safe Haven. info projectsafehaven@hotmail.com or 206-499-1220 [updated 2/9/09]

TUES MARCH 31, and subsequent last Tuesdays, noon - 1 pm, at Offices of Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle; forum on a topic of LAW & PEACE. This month topic: TBA. 1 CLE credit usually available. Sponsor: Washington State Bar Association World Peace Through Law Section. Members: Free, Non-Section members: \$25, Law students: \$10. Pre-Registration required. info www.wsba.org/lawyers/groups/worldpeace or WSBA 800- 945-9722 [usual times confirmed 11/3/08]

WEDS APRIL 1, and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, 6 pm, at Whatcom Peace & Justice Center's offices in the Anything Grows building, 100 E. Maple Street, Bellingham; NONVIOLENT DIRECT DEMOCRACY OPEN DISCUSSION GROUP facilitated by local activist Ellen Murphy. Ellen is on the national nonviolence training committee of The Declaration of Peace. She has many years of experience with direct action, including work with her mentor Fr. Daniel Berrigan, info 360-734-0217

WEDS APRIL 1, 6:45 - 9 pm, at Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, 213 - 21st Ave SE, Olympia; Liv Monroe presents a NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP. Communicating to Connect. Offering hope and practical communication tools to increase understanding, respect, honesty & fun. Nonviolent Communications (NVC). Free, no pre-registration, donations appreciated. info Liv Monroe 360-357-4503 or liv@psncc.org

*WEDS APRIL 1, and subsequent 1st Wednesdays, 7 p.m., at Burien Library, 14700 8th Ave. SW, Burien; SOUTHENND NEIGHBORS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE presents the Wednesday Night at the MEANINGFUL MOVIES. This film TBA. If library parking lot is full, please park at nearby church parking lot. Sponsored by Southend Neighbors for Peace & Justice, info rdare2@yahoo.com [updated 5/30/07]

FRI APRIL 3, and subsequent 1st Fridays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Bellingham Dharma Hall, 1101 N. State Street, third floor, corner of Maple, Bellingham; MEDITATION FOR PEACE 5:30 - 6, Sponsored by the Bellingham Buddhist Peace Fellowship and Bellingham Dharma Hall. Followed by BUDDHIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP meeting, 6:15 - 7:30. All community members welcome. info 360-527-9101 [added 3/25/06]

FRI APRIL 3, and subsequent 1st Fridays, 7:30 pm, at 911 Media Arts Center, 402 9th Ave N, Seattle; 911 Media Arts Center and Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Network present a monthly showcase of progressive documentaries called the GREEN FILM SERIES. The HWEFN opens up its extensive film library to showcase documentaries of all shapes and sizes on environmental issues. This evening features topic TBA. Admission \$5. info www.911media.org or www.hazelfilm.org/greenfilms.html#reinvention

SAT APRIL 4, 10 am - noon, at 21 Acres, 13701 NE 171st Street, near Woodinville; The Sustainable Saturday Series at 21 Acres presents an opportunity to the community to learn and participate in a variety of activities showcasing and demonstrating SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. Farm and garden demonstrations and volunteer work projects are planned between 10 a.m. and Noon, along with an official Farm Tour at 11 a.m. Free and open to the public. info 206-442-2061 or www.21acres.org

SUN APRIL 5, and subsequent 1st Sundays, 4 - 5 p.m., at the intersection of Park St. & North Bend Blvd. next to the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum and the Visitor's Center in North Bend; SNOQUALMIE/NORTH BEND CITIZENS FOR CHANGE will hold a PEACE VIGIL to honor our troops in Iraq and to encourage their safe return home. Join us. Bring candles or flashlights. info rubin51@comcast.net [updated 3/21/07]

MON APRIL 6, and subsequent 1st Mondays, please confirm by phone, 7 pm, at Horizon House, 900 University Street across from Virginia Mason Hospital, Seattle; Jubilee Northwest meeting with guest speaker, Pat Rumer from Jubilee in Portland, Oregon who will tell of her recent national conference experience learning of progress and challenges in cancelling unconscionable DEBTS OF THE WORLD'S POOREST NATIONS. info 206-382-3785 [added 2/18/09]

TUES APRIL 7, and subsequent 1st Tuesdays, but please confirm, noon - 2 p.m., at Al Rochester Room, Floor 2, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, downtown Seattle; Public Meeting on POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY held by the Office of Police Accountability Review Panel (OPARB), info 206-684-8146 or opareviewboard@seattle.gov, Listen to meetings in progress on the Boards & Commissions Listen 206-684-4718

TUES APRIL 7, and subsequent 1st Tuesdays, 7 p.m., phone for location, Seattle; meeting of CITIZENS FOR OVERT ACTION, educating the public about the threat to democracy here and abroad posed by covert action, told us about the CIA-Crack connection a decade before the San Jose Mercury report came out, info and to confirm meeting dates 206-547-7735 [updated 2/24/07]

APRIL 16 - 18, Seoul, South Korea; The 17th annual conference of the Global Network AGAINST WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE "International Conference against the Asia Pacific Missile Defense and for the End of Arms Race." info www.peacekorea.org/index.php (Korean), www.peacekorea.org/english (English)

SAT APRIL 18, and subsequent 18th of each month, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle; People of all faith traditions are warmly welcomed for readings and community prayer. INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. in McCaw Chapel, 8 p.m. - 8 a.m. in Thomsen Chapel. info www.pepm.org and click on "Peace Vigil" or Tom Walker 425-641-9247 or www.eappi-us.org [updated 5/10/08]

SUN APRIL 19, and subsequent 3rd Sundays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at 5328 12th Avenue South, Seattle; we will be SENDING REIKI ENERGY to various parts of and issues effecting the world to PROMOTE PEACE as well as to aspects within ourselves for greater healing. Each person present also receives their own Reiki "recharge". Children welcome. Refreshments to be provided. \$5-10 donation. info www.reikitrainingprogram.com [added 3/27/07]

APRIL 25 - MAY 2, in Cuba; celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Cuba Education Tours is thrilled to announce the official North American 2009 CUBA MAY DAY CELEBRATION TOUR. Eight incredible days to witness the island's stellar cultural and social achievements and join hands with one million Cubans all affirming the power of the people to create a better world. info <http://CubaFriendship.net>

MAY 1 & 2, at the Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue; Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center invites women to register now for the Northwest Catholic Women's Convocation IV, Dawning of a New Story: Radical Hope. 25 national speakers on WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND EARTH COMMUNITY including Cokie Roberts, Brian Swimme, Margaret Wheatley and Naomi Tutu. Fee \$110 before March 1, \$135 after; Online registration available or call for brochures; info 206-223-1138 or <http://ipjc@ipjc.org>

SAT MAY 2, 11 am - 4 pm, at Crossroads Bellevue, 1200 - 156th Ave NE, Bellevue; Family Resource Center's 12th Annual EASTSIDE VOLUNTEER FAIR. info Paula Matthysse or paulam@familyresourcecenter.org

WEDS MAY 13, reception 5:30 - 6:30 pm, program 6:30 - 8 pm, Downstairs at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 Eighth Avenue, enter on Seneca Street, Seattle; Sustainable Path Foundation's annual seminar series EXPLORING ENERGY AND DESIGN: Smart Solutions for the Built Environment with Alan Thein Durning and Jason F. McLennan. This is a seminar in the Sustainable Path Foundation's (formerly Seattle Biotech Legacy Foundation) 'Seeking Sustainable Solutions' series. \$15 at the door, \$10 for advance tickets. Discount available for students and people with limited income. info or reservations www.sustainablepath.org or 206-443-8464

Enviro-Military from p2

toward planet Earth.

The reserve of 5,000 nuclear bombs (many obsolete) could be re-engineered to become miniature nuclear reactors (hermetically sealed) to heat military bases and supply power to civilian evacuation shelters in case of a nuclear winter. These miniature reactors could also be containment for nuclear waste, and small enough to be launched into the sun for future disposal.

Nuclear powered submarines could double as emergency power plants for disaster stricken coastal cities, or be used to pump deep-sea water to the ocean surface to stimulate algae growth to remove CO₂.

Restoring and electrifying the railroads is one way of keeping the transportation systems. Trains get through snowstorms when highways don't.

I am philosophically opposed to the military draft. I see it as slave labor of youth. But if the draft were used to register the nation's youth to restore the environment or respond to environmental disaster, I have feeling it would be popular with youth.

Not that I have all the answers, but this will impact defense procurement. Do we need Air Force Tankers more for military invasion, or more for disaster relief if a big tidal wave hits the coast? Ignoring such issues is not an option.

President Obama has the opportunity to make a historic shift, refocusing the nation's military to defend ourselves from real national security threats. If you don't understand now, you certainly will. •

education

IF YOU CAN READ THIS, YOU'RE PROBABLY FEMALE

BY BILL COSTELLO

Many parents and educators do not realize that, on average, girls are better readers than boys. In every age group, boys have been scoring lower than girls on U.S. Department of Education reading tests for more than thirty years.

The longer boys are in school, the wider the reading gender gap becomes. For example, the 2004 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found that the gap at age 9 is 5 points on standardized tests; at age 13 it is 10 points, and at age 17 it is 14 points.

Not only does the reading gender gap span every racial and ethnic group, but it also categorically finds boys underperforming girls regardless of income, disability, or English-speaking ability.

Research is clear: greater reading skills equates to greater success in school. Increasingly, it also equates to greater success in the workforce as blue-collar jobs move to low-wage countries. If we don't start to help boost our boys out of their reading slump, many of them will become unemployed adults.

Personally, I have experienced the frustrating feelings that accompany a lack of reading skills. I'm currently in Japan observing the differences between how boys and girls learn in the Japanese school system. Not being able to read kanji has made it extremely difficult for me to order food, navigate with a map, and perform countless other common activities. I can only imagine how frustrating it must be to sit in class and try to learn new content while struggling with reading skills.

The reading gender gap is not unique to the US; it occurs throughout the world. Some countries, like Australia, are creating government programs to help close the gap. For example, their Boys' Education Lighthouse Schools Program helps Australian schools identify, document, and disseminate best practices in educating boys.

More is needed in the US. A good start would be for our government to fund educational researchers to study schools that have found ways to improve boys' reading skills without disadvantaging girls.

In the meantime, a great message to share with your children to inspire them to read on Read Across America Day can be found in Dr. Seuss' book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, wherein he writes: "And will you succeed? Yes! You will indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)"

Bill Costello, training director of Making Minds Matter, teaches parents and teachers the best strategies for educating boys. He can be reached at www.makingmatters.com or trainer@makingmatters.com.

NORTHWEST FLUNKS ON ENERGY

Economic toll of fossil fuels in 2008: \$2,500 per person

FROM THE SIGHTLINE INSTITUTE

Washington, Oregon, and Idaho spent a record \$29.5 billion on fossil fuel imports in 2008, according to the Cascadia Scorecard, an annual progress report on the Pacific Northwest released today by Sightline Institute at <http://scorecard.sightline.org>.

"That's the equivalent of nearly \$2,500 per person," said Clark Williams-Derry, Sightline research director and lead author of the Scorecard. "Fossil fuels took an unprecedented bite out of the region's economy last year. And because we import virtually all of our fuels, just about every dollar spent on fossil fuels means one less dollar spent locally. It's a lose-lose situation."

The 2009 update of the Scorecard--a project launched by Sightline in 2004 to track seven long-term trends critical to the region's progress--spotlighted energy as the region's worst-performing trend. Overall, it found that the Northwest is achieving modest progress toward goals of robust human health, shared economic prosperity, and a legacy of thriving nature.

"We made significant improvements in health and modest headway in smart growth in recent years," said Williams-Derry. "But our progress on economic security and ecosystem health is mixed at best, and we're lagging way behind world leaders in energy efficiency."

Key findings from the 2009 Scorecard include:

- Energy's economic toll reaches record high in 2008: Spending on fossil fuels in the Northwest States quadrupled in just a decade, reaching a record high in 2008 of \$29.5 billion, including \$16.6 billion in Washington, \$9.4 billion in Oregon, and \$3.6 billion in Idaho. The Scorecard also reported a disappointing 12 percent increase in electricity consumption in homes and businesses between 2003 and 2008.
- Northwest drivers easing off the gas: The good news about energy is that northwesterners are using less gasoline per person than they have since 1965. Idaho's reductions have been especially notable--declining more than one-fifth per person in a single decade. And despite a 15 percent increase in population over the last decade, Cascadia used no more gasoline in 2008 than in 1998. But northwesterners still consume, on average, the energy equivalent of 2 gallons of gasoline per person per day in transportation fuels and nonindustrial electricity--nearly double the Scorecard model, Germany.
- BC residents are healthiest, surpass goal: Of the seven trends, the region performs best on health, as measured by lifespan, and British Columbia continues to lead. Not only do BC residents live an average of two years longer than residents of the Northwest states, but if BC were an independent nation, it would have the second longest lifespan in the world, after Japan.
- Teen birthrates tick upward, reversing long-term slide: Teen birthrates rose in 2006 and again in 2007, a troubling trend that broke a long-standing decline that had been underway since the 1990s. Birthrates as a whole also rose, and the Northwest states still struggle with high rates of births from unintended pregnancies.
- Stalled economic progress: Prior to 2008, northwesterners enjoyed several years of modest gains in economic security, with unemployment inching down and median incomes inching upward. However, a steep rise in unemployment in late 2008 may foretell rising poverty and falling middle-class incomes.

The Scorecard findings, Williams-Derry said, point to the need for smart solutions that address several of our most pressing challenges at once. One such policy he highlighted is a regional cap-and-invest system that would limit climate-warming emissions while creating revenue to protect families from rising energy costs. The 2009 legislatures in Oregon and Washington are considering bills to implement such a system.

U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.), a national clean energy leader, commented: "In light of the financial and climate crises now underway, it's clear that paying \$30 billion dollars a year for fossil fuel energy, as our region did last year, is unsustainable in the long term. Sightline Institute's research reinforces once again that we must invest in clean, homegrown, renewable sources of energy and pair that with a robust cap-and-invest program to set a fair price on carbon. First, the Pacific Northwest led the

environment

Residents of the Northwest states use about 40 percent more energy (counting highway fuels and non-industrial electricity) than British Columbians.

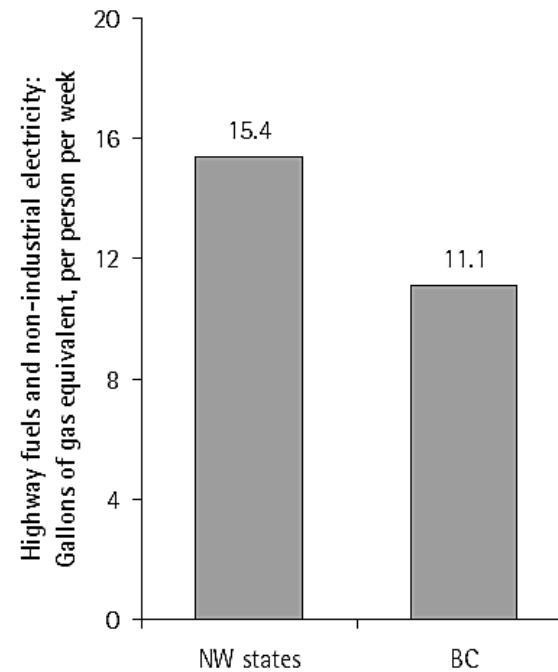


Chart updated in 2009.

world in revolutionizing commercial air travel, then it led the world in the revolutionizing computer software--and it is poised to lead the world in the clean energy revolution."

The Cascadia Scorecard compares the Pacific Northwest to real-world models for each trend, including Japan for life expectancy, Germany for energy efficiency, and Vancouver, BC, for curbing sprawl.

This update finds that even if the region makes steady improvements in all of the trends that the Scorecard monitors, it won't be until 2050 that the region's average score matches that of places that have already racked up world-class performance.

You can see the Cascadia Scorecard online, with all data, graphics, and sources, at <http://scorecard.sightline.org>.

Sightline Institute is an independent, Seattle-based nonprofit research and communications center that measures progress towards a sustainable economy and way of life in the Pacific Northwest, including British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Laboratory Microbes Can Ruin Your Day

Activist Mike McCormick has written articles for this paper on the lack of oversight of biological research laboratories and the resulting potential for public health disaster. He recently sent us notice of an online petition calling for local oversight of biolabs. For more information, see www.thepetitionsite.com/1/local-oversight-for-biological-laboratories. •

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Marijuana from p16

Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Hearst's papers deplorably published enhanced accounts of marijuana-crazed black men raping white women. With these sensationalist newspaper stories as his support, Anslinger testified before Congress that, "Marijuana is the most violence causing drug in the history of mankind."

Anslinger completely contradicted himself later--before Congress again in 1948--when he testified that marijuana caused its users to become peaceful and pacifist, and that Communists would use marijuana to weaken America's will to fight.

A very interesting piece of that history is that only two days before the 1937 marijuana hearings, the American Medical Association (AMA) had just realized that the plant that Congress intended to outlaw was known medically as cannabis, which from 1850 to 1937 had been recorded as being the prime medicine for more than 100 different types of illnesses or diseases in the US pharmacopoeia. Dr James Woodward, who besides being a physician was also an attorney, testified that there wasn't any real evidence being used to justify the new law and that the whole reason the AMA hadn't come out against the law sooner was that "marijuana," the new name given to cannabis by Hearst papers, was always described as a "killer weed from Mexico."

Dr Woodward and the AMA were quickly denounced by Anslinger and eventually, after more than 3,000 AMA doctors were prosecuted by Anslinger for illegal prescriptions, the AMA came around to "support" Anslinger's views on marijuana.

If things had turned out differently, I wonder if we would be at the mercy of big oil companies today. Knowing that hemp could easily provide the US with all its oil and gas makes me upset and feel all the more foolish for being taken in by the anti-marijuana propaganda taught to me in school.

There are some illicit drugs that are truly dangerous and violence inducing, like crystal meth, but drug-education programs discredit themselves by continuing this unwarranted campaign of lies against marijuana. It is not too much to ask that their lessons be based on truth.

Smoking marijuana leads to harder drugs? By that logic does eating meat lead to cannibalism? It seems a waste of time and tax dollars for our police and our court systems to continue criminalizing marijuana when it is obvious that there are far worse crimes being committed. •

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15 years of back issues, the recent progressive
history of Washington

WAfreepress.org

Robert Pavlik looks at barber shops and hair salons

right
brain

The cutting and styling of hair appears to be a recession-proof business. It's one of the lines of work that attract creative types who want to own and operate their own business. It is a competitive field, despite the many hundreds of hours required to become a barber or cosmetologist. Then, there is the challenge of attracting and maintaining clientele.

The owners come up with either a clever name, like "Noggins 'n Nails," or create and display (along with the familiar barber pole) a distinctive piece of art-work displaying their craft.

In my own family we didn't go to a barber shop until we were well into our teens, and even then (this was the 70s) not with any great frequency. Of course we didn't go to barber shops but "stylists," the new and hip alternative. In a barber shop you were likely to be abused for having long hair, which they would promptly shear into the traditional "butch" haircut. Therefore, stylists were able to give you a haircut that left you with an ample head of hair, but at a much higher cost.

As the years have advanced and my hairline has receded, I have tried various barber shops and chain salons, all to varying degrees of satisfaction. For the last 15 years or so I now take my graying head to the local beauty college, where for the cost of a pint of beer (and the coupon clipped from the newspaper) I can get a fairly good haircut, supervised by a licensed professional. Despite my vague instructions, the haircut never comes out the same twice, but that is one of the benefits of student work. It almost always elicits comments and bemused observations from my colleagues. And, I enjoy the goings on in the beauty college, where students are experimenting with all sorts of cuts and perms and color jobs.

These photos are of some of the barber shops and beauty parlors I have come across over the years. They display the individuality of the owner and convey the style and viewpoint of the proprietor.



poem by Gerald A. McBreen

I never forgave
my father for dying
his death a betrayal
leaving me alone

coward heart
drew a curtain over memories

memories un-remembered
don't have to be dealt with
demons become tolerable

I didn't cry at my father's funeral

laugh in pain
was my father's way
and I am my father's son

primal screams delayed



Hmm...
what
should
I get
them?

Thoughtful Gift Idea

for people who like to think

FROM MARTHA SKEWART



1. Cut out the subscription form on page 3 and fill out the gift section for your friend or family member (this costs only \$12 if you also subscribe).
2. Take this paper and roll it up into a neat cylinder.
3. Put a decorative ribbon around it.
4. Tell the recipient "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Holidays," etc.
5. We'll send the lucky person a card telling them when their first mailed issue will arrive.
6. Rest assured you've supported a good cause!

four poems by Bob Markey

Come Spring

Come spring, one thing
I'll not forget:
The winter of
'08 slash 9's
freezing snow and
thaw and raw hell
Satan's snowman
brought down on us.
Crews ploughed main roads
allowing cars,
buses and trucks
to distribute
their occupants
and goods with ease.
Er... uh... except
for the semi
that overturned
on I-5... and
long lines at St.
Joe's ER for
walkers who slipped
on frozen side
walks unshovelled
by residents
and merchants who
didn't give a damn about folks
who crashed on their
icy Welcome
Mats buried 'neath
ankle deep slush
and snow. Oh yes,
vengeful gods will
well remember
those citizens!
I wondered why,
(years ago), my
dad ordered me
to scrape our walks
to bare pavement.
Was he being
neighborly? Or
concerned about
legalities...
Who's liable
for a broken
hip should someone
slip and crash on
your sidewalk?

Orting, WA, U.S.A.

Twenty years ago, an Orting
"thing" was that it didn't attract
weekend tourists to town so much
as loggers who drank heavy on
Saturday nights,
had fights... frequently ended up
in the slammer.

A railroad ran through "O" and the
other small towns in the valley
many years ago, but the track
has been torn up and now it's a
trail for joggers,
walkers and bikers all dressed up
in funny clothes.

Most of the space between towns is
now filled with look-alike houses
and cars creeping along the two
lane road. It better become four
soon, before a
road-rage-war erupts and they'll have
to move elsewhere.

I stopped by Orting last Sunday.
Wow, epic changes! Traffic lights,
and a mall with shops like "Le Nail".
No one in **there** wore long johns, jeans
and suspenders...
or took off their hob nailed boots for
a pedicure.

In McDonalds an old couple
were having breakfast, both in white
pants and shoes. She featured sequinned
shades, a hot pink blouse and cleavage.
His overhung
gut hid beneath a colorful
Hawaiian shirt.

Oh yes, the "Orting Look" has changed.
However, I did walk through town,
past the crowded Catholic Church.
A couple with tow young girls parked
and disembarked.
He had on clean bibs, his wife and girls
wore dresses.

In the pick-up's bed was a half
cord of alder. I noticed dirt
under his nails.

Read The Fine Print

Lacking a Harvard law degree
or means to pay the precious fee
attorneys now require for hire,
I closed the deal with help from the
mortgage broker.

At times I paid in cash. Just brought
it to the salesman who I thought
was a friend (he advised me on
the sales contract's fine print). But
he changed... a lot.

"You're late" snarled he "It's 12:03!
You lost the house at noon when we
foreclosed. See Item Number 4,
Section 2.... signed by you, you
sub-prime slime-ball!"

I was summarily dismissed:
foreclosed, hosed, justifiably pissed.
Also exposed were CEOs.
We "sub-primates" propose that they
repose in prison
with their thieving,
sleazy cohorts...

if only we
could afford to
hire attorneys...

or buy us some
politicians.

Maybe someday.

Let's Get It On

To some, politics is a game.
Who won or lost is
immaterial...
leave that to the idealogues.

It's all over on election
night... a brief respite
then the fun begins
with a brand new cast of players.

New candidates have been chosen...
guess who emerges?
Blago resettles
up north, gets a new hairdo and
takes on the Tarantula!
Can it get any
better than this? Wow!
What a fun run that one will be!

How Marijuana Became Illegal

W.R. Hearst pulled a fast one on the American Medical Association

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

Unraveling the story of marijuana (a.k.a. cannabis, hemp) is easier to do with a few little known facts in mind. For instance, hemp is the number one biomass source on earth and could easily provide the US with all its oil and gas needs, thus ending America's dependence on fossil fuels. That's probably one of the main reasons it's still illegal today. But the story of how it became treated like an herbal pariah is yet more interesting.

It's often told to us Americans, throughout grade school and high school, that marijuana is bad for our health and that the government has to put all this effort into putting so many people in jail for smoking it. But I no longer believe that the laws against marijuana have anything to do with concerns for health.

According to Ronald Reagan, "the most reliable scientific sources say permanent brain damage is one of the inevitable results of the uses of marijuana" (LA Times). He based his statement on the Heath/Tulane University Study of 1974. For six years, it was withheld from public knowledge that this study was actually measuring carbon monoxide poisoning, not the effects of marijuana. In 1980 Playboy magazine and the pro-legalization group NORML--after suing the government--finally received an accurate account of what the research procedures really were.

There are also the reports about how marijuana is more dangerous than tobacco. I'd say that the two are pretty hard to compare, given that one is illegal and the other legal. (By the way, NORML has posted counterevidence to these health claims at http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6891 and http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7503.)

It's horrible ironic that marijuana is branded as "unhealthy." In fact, it is the only safe and effective medicine for cancer patients suffering pain and nausea.

Cancer patients have a hard enough time with treatment. They lose a lot of weight due to the nausea that commonly results from chemotherapy. Dr George Wagoner, in Manistee, Michigan, a practicing physician of 29 years, recently wrote in the Lansing State Journal (19 Oct 2008) that his wife of over 50 years--after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer last year--couldn't keep anything down. She was losing considerable weight and was wasting away. She could not tolerate the synthetic THC pill, Marinol, because the hallucinations were too distressing for her.

He procured some natural marijuana and after taking the smallest amount her nausea was gone, which he felt was miraculous. In arguing for legalizing medical marijuana for seriously ill patients, he said that the debate should be about science and compassion for seriously ill patients suffering debilitating pain. To keep the only safe and effective medicine away from sick people is inhumane.

Scott Paplowski, another example, was diagnosed with a rare form of childhood cancer when he was 16. After eight months of treatment his weight dropped from 220 pounds to 86 pounds. Medical marijuana saved his life by easing his nausea, diarrhea, and stomach pain enough to restore his appetite. He currently weighs 193 pounds and at 39 he is believed to be the oldest living survivor of rhabdomyosarcoma, the form of cancer that he has.

So how did this good medicine become illegal? Jack Herer's book *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* (readable for free online at www.jackherer.com/chapters.html) is a comprehensive source of information about marijuana and its long history.

When powerful businesses don't like something, they can usually get something done about it. The 1937 criminalization of marijuana is a case where this manipulation is obvious, according to Herer. Hemp threatens certain powerful businesses today, just as it did in 1937.

As the methods for processing hemp into paper and plastics were becoming more readily available and affordable, business leaders including William Randolph Hearst and DuPont stood to lose fortunes. They did everything in their power to have it outlawed. Luckily for Hearst, he was the owner of a chain of newspapers. DuPont's chief financial backer Andrew Mellon (also the Secretary of the Treasury during President Hoover) was responsible for appointing Harry J. Anslinger, in 1931 as the head of the Federal see Marijuana on page 14

ANTI-SMOKING OFFICIALS VIOLATE PUBLIC TRUST

BY JOHN JONIK

When officials—someday—condemn and prohibit untested and toxic non-tobacco cigarette adulterants in cigarettes, only then will we know that legitimate medical science is being used to create legitimate law.

Current smoke-ban laws may be crimes themselves in that they help the cigarette industry to evade charges and liabilities. These laws may constitute illegal obstruction of justice, and are based often on perjured statements about tobacco killing thousands of people. In fact, the killing is due to the many non-tobacco industrial ingredients that are part of typical commercial cigarettes, especially pesticides, dioxins, polonium 210 from phosphate fertilizers, and burn accelerants. Lawmakers even lack the human decency to inform or warn anyone of these additives. Currently, that would be tantamount to a confession of guilt.

"Anti-smoking" officials are likely swimming in funding from, and/or investments in, the most toxic, carcinogenic parts of the cigarette industry: pesticides, chlorine, fertilizers, contaminated agricultural additives, paper and pulp, etc. It is understandable that they prefer to blame and legally burden the unprotected and un-informed victims, and to scapegoat the conveniently "sinful" tobacco plant.

Such anti-smoking officials are no better than Capone gang members pretending to be "anti-shooting". Worse actually. Gangsters aren't sworn and paid to protect the public from exactly such risks and harms.

Smokers and non-smokers are being intentionally divided. Both sides ought be in the streets together demanding removal of corrupted officials, and removal of industrial toxins and carcinogens from cigarettes and so many other consumer products.

Is there salmonella in my cigarette?

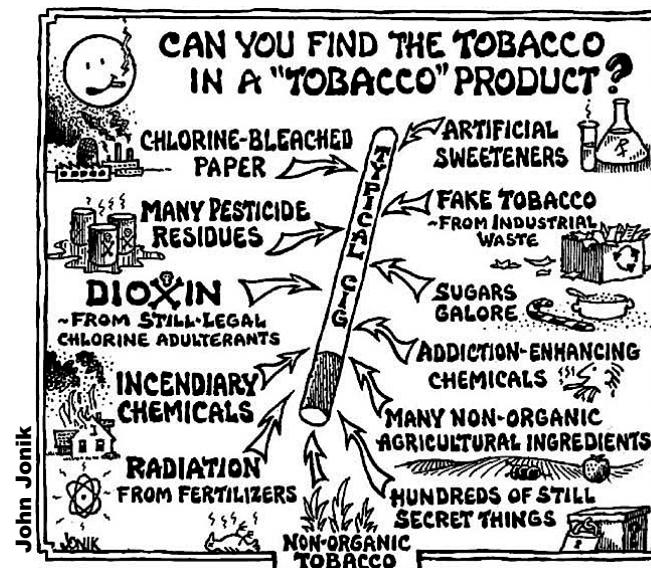
It's fortunate that cigarette smokers probably can't catch salmonella from burning peanut shells, because that may be the main ingredient in some brands.

One of numerous US patents for fake tobacco, a patent held by RJ Reynolds, Inc, outlines the use of shredded peanut shells either as a tobacco filler or used alone for cigarettes. You can't get dreading—and increasingly illegal—tobacco smoke from that.

No laws prohibit peanut shell smoke. No enforcers test the smoke to learn if it is tobacco smoke or not. No laws require cigarette manufacturers to label the contents of their cigarettes. If someone assumes it's tobacco, that's their mistake.

The peanut shell patent is viewable online at www.freepatentsonline.com/3978866.html. Search up "Fauxbacco" on the internet for more information on other substances and chemicals that are in your "tobacco product."

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