The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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How Will We Know if 2010 Was the Warmest Year on Record?

Different Groups'
Methods Yield the
Same Finding:
Warming Surface
Temperatures

By Tom Yulsman

ClimateCentral.org, December 21, 2010

Earlier this month, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) announced that November was the warmest such month in its record books – and that 2010 overall may well turn out to be the warmest year ever.

Now, the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has published the results of its own calculations, showing that November was the second warmest, not the first.

Such conflicts in global temperature rankings aren't terribly unusual. In fact, NASA-GISS and NOAA-NCDC rank 2005 as the warmest year on record. But a third group, a collaboration of the U.K. Met Office's Hadley Center and the Climatic Research Unit known as "HadCRUT," gives the title to 1998. (When December hits the record books, it's possible that 2010 will be crowned warmest year by all three.)

Each of the three groups calculates temperatures at the surface of the land and sea. But two other groups, one at the University of Alabama and the other at Remote Sensing Systems (a private company), use microwave sensors on satellites to estimate the temperature of the lowest part of the atmosphere.

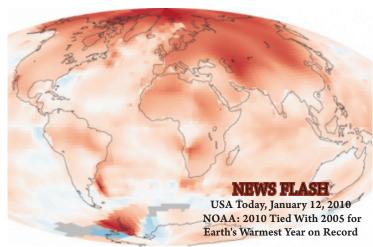
And guess what? Their findings differ a bit from each other and from those of the other groups as well.

What's going on here? And do these discrepancies cast doubt on the conclusion that the world is

Scientific Groups Use Different Techniques

What's going on is quite simple, scientists say: normal science. The groups come up with somewhat different results because each one approaches the complex task of determining global temperature trends in a different way.

Perhaps it's not surprising that the two satellite records tend to differ from the others – because they use a completely different technology and analytical method. Their approach tends to exaggerate the impact of oceanatmosphere phenomena like El Niño (which causes warming) and volcanic eruptions (which cause cooling). But it may be less obvious why the three groups



Graphic from NASA Earth Observatory Map of global average temperature anomalies from 2000-2009, showing the most rapid warming in the Arctic and a small portion of Antarctica.

that use much the same basic surface temperature data still diverge in their findings.

"Each group tries to do the best job possible," says Richard Reynolds, a scientist with NOAA, now semi-retired, who helped refine that agency's approach. "Different decisions on the data processing cause the final numbers to differ. However, the differences are very useful to help define the uncertainty in the results."

Despite those uncertainties, a consistent picture has emerged: Since 1970, each decade has been warmer than the one before – and 2000 to 2010 has been the warmest one on record.

Of course, the subject of global temperature trends has become intensely politicized. This has been especially true in the aftermath of the controversy surrounding the unauthorized release of hundreds of email messages between some climate scientists, including Phil Jones, director of the Climatic Research Unit (CRU).

To many climate change skeptics, the emails suggested that Jones and his colleagues at the CRU deliberately manipulated data to concoct a global warming trend and also stonewalled critics, preventing them from accessing CRU data.

Since then, an independent review, headed by Sir Muir Russell, found that while CRU scientists failed to show the appropriate degree of openness, the accusations of fabrication, dishonesty and lack of rigor were groundless. Other reviews also found accusations of data-rigging to be groundless. And there is now a move afoot to make surface temperature data much more applies accessible.

data much more easily accessible.

Even so, some public doubt remains about assessments of global temperature trends. A Yale University survey found, for example, that 38 percent of Americans still believe there is significant disagreement among scientists over whether global warming is occurring.

Gavin Schmidt, a scientist with the NASA-GISS team, argues that even though they differ somewhat, the independent assessments of Earth's temperature trends "are exactly what is needed to reassure people. The differences reflect real uncertainties," he says, "but the similarity in the bottom line, despite variations in approach, should increase credibility in the overall warming trend."

Calculating Global Surface Temperature

To understand why different answers to the same question can be perfectly normal from a scientific perspective – and how they all actually add up to the same overall trend – it helps to know how the different groups go about their work.

Each month, the groups use overlapping sets of data to determine global temperature anomalies, meaning the degree to which temperatures around the globe have departed from a long-term average. The data consist of temperature measurements from thousands of measuring stations on land as well as measurements from ships and buoys at sea. Satellite measurements of the sea surface temperature are also added to the mix in some of the analyses.

The groups produce graphs showing how the Earth's temperature has changed over the course of years and decades. They also prepare maps depicting the geographic pattern of temperature anomalies across the globe for a given month, season or year.

To get a clearer idea of just what a temperature anomaly is, imagine taking your own temperature with an oral thermometer and determining that you are running a fever of 101.6°F. Since "normal" is considered 98.6°F, your "temperature anomaly" is plus 3°F.

Similarly, when researchers calculate a temperature anomaly for the Earth, they need a base

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The valley of Chitral has always looked to the glaciers of Tirich Mir for water. Rising above 25,000 feet, Tirich Mir is the highest mountain in the Hindu Kush range.

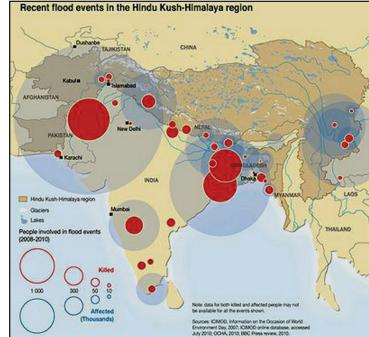
Norway Helps Himalayas Deal with Droughts, Melting Glaciers, Floods

CANCUN, Mexico, December 7, 2010 (ENS) — Climate change is causing mass loss of glaciers in high mountains worldwide. Within a few decades, melting glaciers could leave arid areas such as Central Asia and parts of the Andes even drier as the ice melts into water and flows downhill, causing disastrous floods in the lowlands, finds a new report by the UN Environment Programme presented today at the UN climate talks in Cancun.

Compiled by UNEP's Polar Research Centre GRID-Arendal and experts from research centers in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, the report says the larger glaciers may take centuries to disappear but many low-lying, smaller glaciers, which are often crucial water sources in dry lands, are melting much faster.

Glacial melt will change the lives of millions as over half of the world's population lives in watersheds of major rivers originating in mountains with glaciers and snow.

Glaciers in Argentina and Chile, followed by those in Alaska and its coastal mountain ranges, have been losing mass faster and for longer than glaciers in other parts of the world, finds the report, "High Mountain Glaciers and Climate Change: Challenges to Human



Map courtesy UNEP Grid Arendal

The red circles indicate floods from 2008-2010 in the Hindu Kush region and downstream.

Livelihoods and Adaptation."

The third fastest rate of loss is among glaciers in the northwest United States and southwest

Melting more slowly are glaciers in the high mountains of Asia, including the Hindu Kush region of the Himalayas, the Arctic and the Andes.

Europe's glaciers had been growing since the mid-1970s but they began to lose mass around

the year 2000, the report shows.

"These alarming findings on melting glaciers underline the importance of combating climate change globally. It sends a strong message to us as politicians and climate negotiators in Cancun," said Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim.

Solheim announced today that Norway will fully fund, with

See Norway on page 8

Marine World Heritage Managers' Gathering Celebrates Hawaiian Islands; New World Heritage Site Created



Photo courtesy NOAA

Schools of pennantfish, pyramid and milletseed butterflyfish on a healthy coral reef in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

HONOLULU, Hawaii, December 6, 2010 (ENS) — Managers of the 43 marine sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List met for the first time last week in Honolulu to explore ways of conserving these unique areas jeopardized by industrialization, acidification and overfishing.

"World Heritage – the very words evoke the global mission to protect the most exceptional and iconic places in the world," said Francesco Bandarin of Italy, UNESCO's assistant director general of culture.

"Out of nearly 6,000 marine protected areas now designated worldwide, only 43 have the highest internationally recognized status for conservation, UNESCO World Heritage Listing," he said.

Marine World Heritage was first recognized by UNESCO in 1981 with the inscription of Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on the World Heritage List.

Today, 1.4 million square kilometers (nearly 1 million square miles) of ocean – about 0.4 percent of the world's oceans or an area about the size of the Gulf of Mexico – are protected under the World Heritage Convention, including five of the world's 10 largest marine protected areas. World Heritage status can provide governments and conservationists with the lever
See Hawai'i on page 8



Photo by Kelli Birkenshaw

Endangered Hawaiian monk seal, gull and albatross on Tern Island, part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

THE ORDER OF THE EARTH 21431 MARLIN CIRCLE SHADE GAP, PENNSYLVANIA 17255

Learn, Feel, Think and Act

New Guidelines for Future Articles

HONOR

Dear Friends,

I am growing dissatisfied with the angry tone of protest and conflict I have pushed since I started The Order of the Earth three years ago. The more I push my own thoughts and opinions on others, the more I contaminate their ability to receive pure Truth and make up their own minds about things. It is difficult for me to NOT be angry and pushy when I hear about the destruction of Earth and I have even imagined myself at times to be a "war correspondent" highlighting stories of people who put forth valiant efforts to protect our planet. I'll be working to modify this.

As many of you know, I began visiting The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God nearly two years ago and I have just returned from my sixth visit, the longest one ever. He reminded me of an earlier teaching: "The only war that is ever won is the war that is never fought." So I'm going to do my best to stop fighting or publishing articles about fighting, hatred and fear. This is not just a struggle between humans but a spiritual struggle. The true spirit of God is largely missing from our hearts and only The Most High God

Our regular readers probably noticed that I mentioned Most High's Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, His Council of Elders, in our Goal a few months ago and the fact that I was trying to bring my paper into harmony with their spirits. Here are the ones I listed but there are many more:

LOVE TRUTH WISDOM COUNSEL UNDERSTANDING RESPONSIBILITY **KINDNESS COMPASSION** PEACE **MODESTY HUMILITY INNOCENCE FORGIVENESS RIGHTEOUSNESS PATIENCE TOLERANCE JUSTICE FAIRNESS**

JOY

CHARITY

GENEROSITY

FRIENDSHIP GIVING RECEIVING SHARING **COMFORT HONESTY THANKS TRUST** CONFIDENCE **HOPE SECURITY MERCY CHIVALRY RESPECT GENTLENESS GOODNESS** CHOICE...etc.

Most High and I discussed my newspaper a few times and He suggested I try to find articles based on documented, provable facts (not distorted by bribery in the form of research grants) rather than opinions and emotions. I like this idea but here's the clinker: I have no time or money for fact checking. This is a one-woman show. So I am asking anyone who's interested in writing or submitting articles to do their best to search for factual ones and ones that show compassion. Likewise, I will do my best to find stories that fit this new goal.

Most High mentioned a few articles He thought might be interesting:

1. There was a documentary about Antarctica describing how the early "founders" all signed an agreement to make the entire continent available to everyone but only for scientific purposes and there would be no ownership or military or extractive activities there. Yet the show revealed that there is very little science going on - just one research base. There are 12 military people from Chile and both the UK and Chile have claimed a large portion of the continent as theirs, the same piece.

2. When Most High bought his wood-burning stove, it came with a catalytic converter so he experimented with it. He discovered that what came out of his chimney was icky brownish stuff. So He removed the converter and what came out was nearly clear. Also the stove burned wood much more efficiently. OK. So that's one stove but then He told me that there was a law in one of the valleys in Idaho stating that, when an

inversion occurs, people must revert to oil, gas or electricity and their woodburning stoves are banned. He wondered if there had been some influence by oil, gas and coal companies to force people to stop using wood for those periods during the winter.

3. What effect does dirty, smoggy, polluted air have on global warming? Does the darker color of the air make a difference when the sun hits the planet? Does the darkness of the air cause it to absorb more heat and increase warming? Perhaps it's not about particular gases being released but about the color and density of the gas.

4. What on Earth has the U.S. government given to China as collateral or security for the trillions of dollars that it

If anyone wants to research these issues and write up their findings with footnotes and references, please let me know so we don't have duplication.

This may not be an easy or quick switch and I told someone I may just have to publish the least bad articles but I'm certainly going to be trying to honor the Truth. In trying to honor the Truth, I changed our masthead on page 1 to reflect only the current, "real" newspaper so you are now reading Volume 4, Number 2 (February), Issue 34, instead of the historically accurate but confus-

My heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped The Order of the Earth get

For the Earth, *Iona*

Note from the Publisher

I was rereading a family book called <u>The Story of The New York Times: The First Hundred Years, 1851-1951</u> by Meyer Berger for inspiration as I was starting our fourth year of publication. Here's a quote I liked a lot: "Custom among newspapers requires a new publisher to announce his [her] policies and to them pledge adherence. For 18 years I have been close to Mr. Ochs (publisher of The NYT back then). I have seen him in his office and in his home. I have watched him in the period of his full vigor and during the time when ill health had diminished his active participation in the affairs of this newspaper. I have studied him, admired him and, now that the responsibilities that he bore fall upon my shoulders, I pray that some of the qualities of heart and mind which he possessed in such amazing strength may be vouchsafed to me, and that I may never depart from the principles of honest and impersonal journalism which he, with such force and courage, impressed upon our land. I pledge myself, in the words of his salutatory of August 19, 1896, 'to give the news impartially, without fear or favor,' and I join with the men and women who daily make The New York Times in rededicating themselves to the fundamental principles of our democracy and the high dreams of our nation's builders."

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- To give you ideas about what you can do personally;
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The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings **About Our Planet**

Our Goal: To provide people with news to help bring their hearts and lives back into harmony with Nature and with Most High God and his Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, Most High's Council of Elders as found below. We are also a community of activists, writers, poets and others who care about the future of the planet and we work together to nurture each other in various ways.

Our Mission: To inspire and encourage read-

ers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate, courageous and cre-

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

Masthead: The masthead photo is snow falling last winter on the trees where the publisher lives in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Most High's Council of Elders

LOVE TRUTH WISDOM COUNSEL UNDERSTANDING KINDNESS COMPASSION PEACE MODESTY HUMILITY

INNOCENCE

FORGIVENESS

RIGHTEOUSNESS

PATIENCE TOLERANCE **IUSTICE** FAIRNESS JOY CHARITY GENEROSITY HONOR FRIENDSHIP **GIVING** RECEIVING RESPONSIBILITY SHARING

HONESTY THANKS TRUST CONFIDENCE HOPE SECURITY MERCY CHIVALRY RESPECT **GENTLENESS** GOODNESS

COMFORT

CHOICE...etc.

First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: 10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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

I no longer believe we can use

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

Vision: How a Better Future Is Being Made Right Now

By Rebecca Solnit TomDispatch.com, December 22, 2010

After the Macondo well exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, it was easy enough (on your choice of screen) to see a flaming oil platform, the very sea itself set after with huge plumes of black smoke rising and the dark smear of what would become five million barrels of oil beginning to soak birds and beaches

soak birds and beaches. Infinitely harder to see and less dramatic was the vast counterforce soon at work: the mobilizing of tens of thousands of volunteers, including passionate locals from fishermen in the Louisiana Oystermen's Association to an outraged tattoo-artistturned-organizer, from visiting scientists, activist groups and Catholic Charities reaching out to Vietnamese fishing families to the journalist and oil-policy expert Antonia Juhasz and Rosina Philippe of the Atakapa-Ishak tribe in Grand Bayou. And don't forget the ceaseless toil of the Sierra Club's local environmental justice organizer, the Gulf Coast Restoration Network, the New Orleans-born poet-turnedinvestigator Abe Louise Young and so many more than I can list

I think of one ornithologist I met in Grand Bayou who had been dispatched to the Gulf by an organization but had decided to stay on even if his funding ran out. This mild-mannered man with a giant pair of binoculars seemed to have some form of pneumonia, possibly induced by oil-fume inhalation but that didn't stop him. He was among the thousands whose purpose in the Gulf had nothing to do with profit, unless you're talking about profiting the planet.

The force he represented mattered there, as it does everywhere – a force that has become ever more visible to me as I live and journey among those who dedicate themselves to their ideals and act on their solidarities. Only now, though, am I really beginning to understand the full scope of its power.

Long ago, Adam Smith wrote about the "invisible hand" of the free market, a phrase which always brings to my mind horror movies and Gothic novels in which detached and phantasmagorical limbs go about their work crawling and clawing away. The idea was that the economy would somehow self-regulate and so didn't need to be interfered with further - or so still go the justifications for capitalism, even though it took an enormous armature of government interventions to create the current mix of wealth and poverty in our world. Your tax dollars pay for wars that make the world safe for giant oil corporations and those corporations hand over huge sums of money to their favorite politicians (and they have so many favorites!) to regulate the political system to continue to protect, reward and enrich themselves. But you know that story well.

As 2010 ends, what really interests me aren't the corrosions and failures of this system but the way another system, another invisible hand, is always at work in what you could think of as the great, ongoing, Manichean armwrestling match that keeps our planet spinning. The invisible claw of the market may fail to comprehend how powerful the other hand is – the one that gives rather than takes - but neither does that open hand know itself or its own power. It should. We all should.

The Iceberg Economy

Who wouldn't agree that our society is capitalistic, based on competition and selfishness? As it happens, however, huge areas of our lives are also based on gift economies, barter, mutual aid and giving without hope of return (principles that have little or nothing to do with competition, selfishness or scarcity economics). Think of the relations between friends, between family members, the activities of volunteers or those who have chosen their vocation on principle rather than for profit.

Think of the acts of those – from daycare worker to nursing home aide or the editor of Tom-Dispatch.com – who do more and do it more passionately than they are paid to do; think of the armies of the unpaid who are at

"work" counterbalancing and cleaning up after the invisible hand and making every effort to loosen its grip on our collective throat. Such acts represent the relations of the great majority of us some of the time and a minority of us all the time. They are, as the two feminist economists who published together as J. K. Gibson-Graham noted, the nine-tenths of the economic iceberg that is below the waterline.

Capitalism is only kept going by this army of anti-capitalists, who constantly exert their powers to clean up after it and at least partially compensate for its destructiveness. Behind the system we all know, in other words, is a shadow system of kindness, the other invisible hand. Much of its work now lies in simply undoing the depredations of the official system. Its achievements are often hard to see or grasp. How can you add up the foreclosures and evictions that don't happen, the forests that aren't leveled, the species that don't go extinct, the discriminations that don't occur?

The official economic arrangements and the laws that enforce them ensure that hungry and homeless people will be plentiful amid plenty. The shadow system provides soup kitchens, food pantries and giveaways; takes in the unemployed, evicted and foreclosed upon; defends the indigent; tutors the poorly schooled; comforts the neglected; provides loans, gifts, donations and a thousand other forms of practical solidarity, as well as emotional support. In the meantime, others seek to reform or transform the system from the inside and out and, in this way, inch by inch, inroads have been made on many fronts over the past half century.

The terrible things done, often in our name and thanks in part to the complicity of our silence or ignorance, matter. They are what wells up daily in the news and attracts our attention. In estimating the true make-up of the world, however, gauging the depth and breadth of this other force is no less important. What actually sustains life is far closer to home and more essential, even if deeper in the shadows, than market forces and much more interesting than selfishness.

Most of the real work on this planet is not done for profit: it's done at home, for each other, for affection, out of idealism – and it starts with the heroic effort to sustain each helpless human being for all those years before fending for yourself becomes feasible. Years ago, when my friends started having babies I finally began to grasp just what kind of labor goes into sustaining one baby from birth just to toddlerhood.

If you do the math, with nearly seven billion of us on Earth right now, that means seven billion years of near-constant tending only to get children upright and walking, a labor of love that adds up to more than the age of this planet. That's not a small force, even if it is only a force of maintenance. Still, the same fierce affection and determination pushes back everywhere at the forces of destruction.

Though I'm not sure I could bring myself to watch yet again that Christmas (and banking) classic It's a Wonderful Life, its premise – that the effects of what we do might best be gauged by considering what the world would be like without us – is still useful.

For the American environment, this last year was, at best, a mixed one. Nonetheless, polar bears got some protection and the building of at least one nuclear power plant was prevented; the work of groups like the Sierra Club continued to keep new coal-fired power plants at bay and Californians defeated a sinister oil-company-sponsored initiative, to name just a few of the more positive developments.

Erase all the groups at work on the environment, hardly noticed by the rest of us, and it would have been a massacre.

The Alternatives to "There Is No Alternative" We not only have a largely

We not only have a largely capitalist economy but an ideological system that justifies this as inevitable. "There is no alternative," as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher used to like to say. Many still argue



A typical scene in Iqaluit, November 20, 2010: Until the first week of December, soaring temperatures brought many weeks of rain, fog and drizzle to Nunavut's capital and the ice on Frobisher Bay didn't start to form until December 8th.

Ottawa Should Help Local People First

Help Nunavut adapt to climate change, Shewchuk says: "Canada needs to uphold its responsibility to the North."

By Chris Windeyer NunatsiaqOnline, *excerpt* December 13, 2010

Ottawa has pledged \$400 million to help developing countries reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. Nunavut's environment minister says Ottawa should extend the same generosity to the territories.

"I think that Canada needs to uphold its responsibility to the North and look and deal with their own country before committing to other assistance to underdeveloped countries," Shewchuk said in a telephone interview from the United Nations climate change talks in Cancun, Mexico.

In a December 9th speech in Cancun, federal environment

In a December 9th speech in Cancun, federal environment minister John Baird said Canada is contributing \$400 million to help developing countries respond to climate change, including \$20 million to help the world's poorest countries.

"We [Nunavut] are living climate change," Shewchuk said. "It's not a matter of when it's going to happen."

The territory needs help to monitor and adapt to melting permafrost, which is expected to damage buildings and infrastructure, Shewchuk said. He's also worried about the impact on traditional Inuit land use and travel....

"If [the federal government] is serious about sovereignty and Canada's North, we really need viable communities to be living in," Shewchuk said

that this is simply the best human nature, nasty to the core, can possibly hope to manage.

Fortunately, it's not true. Not only is there an alternative but it's here and always has been. Recently, I had dinner with Renato Redentor Constantino, a climate

and social justice activist from the Philippines, and he mentioned that he never cared for the slogan, "Another world is possible." That other world is not just possible, pointed out, it's always

been here.

We tend
to think
revolution
has to mean
a big, inthe-streets,
winner-take-al

winner-take-all battle that culminates with regime change but in the past half century it has far more often involved a trillion tiny acts of resistance that sometimes cumulatively change a society so much that the laws have no choice but to follow after. Certainly, American society has changed profoundly over the past half century for those among us who are not male or straight or white or Christian, becoming far less discriminatory and exclusionary.

Radicals often speak as though we live in a bleak landscape in which the good has yet to be born, the revolution yet to begin. As Constantino points out, both of them are here right now and they always have been. They are represented in countless acts of solidarity and resistance and sometimes they even triumph. When they don't - and that's often enough - they still do a great deal to counterbalance the official organization of our country and economy. That organization ensures oil spills, while the revolutionaries, if you want to call them that, head for the birds and the beaches, and maybe, while they're at it, change

maybe, while they're at it, change the official order a little, too. Of course, nothing's quite as simple as that. After all, there are

saints in government and mon-

sters in the progressive movement; there's petroleum in my gas tank and money in my name in banks. To suggest that the world is so easily divided into one hand and the other, selfish and altruistic, is impossibly reductive, but talking in binaries has an advan-

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When I studied disasters past, what amazed me was not just that people behaved so beautifully but that, in doing so, they found such joy. It seems that something in their natures, starved in ordinary times, was fed by the opportunity, under the worst of conditions, to be generous, brave, idealistic and connected; and when this appetite was fulfilled, the joy shone out, even amid the ruins.

preserving tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% of Americans with a new poll by two university economists suggesting that nearly all of us want something quite different? The pollsters showed a cross-section of Americans pie charts depicting three degrees of wealth distribution in three societies and asked them what their ideal distribution of wealth might be. The unidentified charts ranged from our colossal disparity to absolute equality, with Swedish moderation in-between.

Most chose Sweden as the closest to their ideal. According to the pollsters, the choice suggested that, "Americans prefer some inequality to perfect equality but not to the degree currently present in the United States."

It might help to remember how close we had come to Sweden by the late 1970s, when income disparity was at its low ebb and the Reagan revolution was yet to launch. Of course, these days we in the U.S. aren't offered Swedish wealth distribution since the system set up to represent us actually spends much of its time representing self-interest and moneyed interests instead. The Republicans are now being offered even larger bribes than the Democrats to vote in the interests of the ultra-affluent,

whether corporate or individual.

Both parties, however, helped produce the Supreme Court that, in January, gave corporations and the wealthy unprecedented power in our political system, power that it will take all our energy to counteract and maybe, someday, force into retreat.

By the way, in searching for that Thatcher no-alternative quote, I found myself on a page at Wikipedia that included the following fundraising plea from a Russian woman scientist: "Almost every day I come home from work and spend several hours improving Wikipedia! Why would I donate so much of my free time? Because I believe that by giving my time and effort - along with thousands of other people of different nationalities, religion, ages - we will one day have shared and free knowledge for all people."

Imperfect as it may be, adfree, nonprofit Wikipedia's sheer scope – 3.5 million entries in English alone, to say nothing of smaller Norwegian, Vietnamese, Persian and Waray-Waray versions with more than 100,000 articles each – is an astonishing testimony to a human urge to work without recompense when the cause matters.

Butterfly Spotting

The novelist and avid lepidopterist Vladimir Nabokov once asked someone coming down a trail in the Rockies whether he'd seen any butterflies. The answer was negative; there were no butterflies. Nabokov, of course, went up that same trail and saw butterflies galore.

You see what you're looking for. Most of us are constantly urged to see the world as, at best, a competitive place and, at worst, a constant war of each against each, and you can see just that without even bothering to look too hard. But that's not all you can see.

Writing my recent book about disasters, <u>A Paradise Built in Hell</u>, led me to look at the extraordinary way people behave when faced with catastrophes and crises. From news coverage to Hollywood movies, the media suggest that, in these moments of turbulence when institutions often cease to function, we revert to our original nature in a Hobbesian wilderness where people fend for themselves.

Here's the surprise though: In such situations, most of us fend for each other most of the time and beautifully at that. Perhaps this, rather than (human) nature red in tooth and claw, is our original nature. At least, the evidence is clear that people not only behave well but take deep pleasure in doing so, a pleasure so intense it suggests that an unspoken, unmet appetite for meaningful work and vibrant solidarities lives powerfully within us. Those appetites can be found reflected almost nowhere in the mainstream media and we are normally told that the world in which such appetites might be satisfied is "utopian," impossible to reach because of our savage competitiveness and so should be left to the most hopeless of dreamers.

Even reports meant to be sympathetic to the possibility that another better world could exist in us right now accept our Social-Darwinian essence as a given. Consider a November *New York Times* piece on empathy and bullying in which David Bornstein wrote:

We know that humans are hardwired to be aggressive and selfish. But a growing body of research is demonstrating that there is also a biological basis for human compassion. Brain scans reveal that when we contemplate violence done to others we activate the same regions in our brains that fire up when mothers gaze at their children, suggesting that caring for strangers may be instinctual. When we help others, areas of the brain associated with pleasure also light up. Research by Felix Warneken and Michael Tomasello indicates that toddlers as young as 18 months behave altruistically.

Are we really hardwired to be aggressive and selfish, as Bornstein says at the outset? Are you? No evidence for such a statement need be given, even in an essay that provides plenty of evidence to the contrary, as it's supposed to be a fact universally acknowledged, rather than an opinion.

The Compassion Boom

If I were to use the normal language of the marketplace right now, I'd say that compassion and altruism are "hot." It might, however, be more useful to say that the question of the nature of human nature is being reconsidered at the moment by scientists, economists and social theorists in all sorts of curious combinations and coalitions. Take, for example, the University of California's Greater Good Science Center, which describes itself as studying "the psychology, sociology and neuroscience of well-being and teaches skills that foster a thriving, resilient and compassionate society." Founding director Dacher Keltner writes, "Recent studies of compassion argue persuasively for a different take on human nature, one that rejects the preeminence of self-interest."

A few dozen miles away is Stanford's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education, which likewise draws on researchers in disciplines ranging from neuroscience to Buddhist ethics. Bornstein's essay mentions another organization, Roots of Empathy in Toronto, that reduces violence and increases empathy among children. Experiments, programs and activities like this proliferate

Independent scholars and writers are looking at the same underlying question and stories in the news this year – such as those on school bullying – address questions of how our society gets organized and for whose benefit. The suicides of several queer young people generated a groundswell of anti-bullying organizing and soul-searching, notably the largely online "It Gets Better" attempt to reach out to queer youth.

In a very different arena, neoliberalism - the economic system that lets the invisible hand throttle what it might - has finally come into question in the mainstream (whereas if you questioned it in 1999, you were a troglodyte and a flat-Earther). Hillary Clinton lied her way through the 2008 primary, claiming she never supported NAFTA, and her husband, who brought it to us, publicly apologized for the way his policies eliminated Haiti's rice tariffs. "It was a mistake," Bill Clinton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 10th. "I had to live everyday with the consequences of the loss of capacity to produce a rice crop in Haiti to feed those people

because of what I did."

Think of those doing the research on altruism and compassion as a radical scholarly movement, one that could undermine the philosophical and political assumptions behind our current economic system, which is also our political system. These individuals and organizations are putting together the proof that not only is another world possible, but it's been here all along, as visible, should we care to look, as Nabokov's butterflies.

Do not underestimate the power of this force. The world could be much better if more of us were more active on behalf of what we believe in and love; it would be much worse if countless activists weren't already at work from Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma and the climate activists in Tuvalu to the homeless activists around the corner from me.

When I studied disasters past, what amazed me was not just that people behaved so beautifully but that, in doing so, they found such joy. It seems that something in their natures, starved in ordinary times, was fed by the opportunity, under the worst of conditions, to be generous, brave, idealistic and connected; and when this appetite was fulfilled, the joy shone out, even amid the ruins.

Don't think of this as simply a description of my hopes for 2011 but of what was going on right under our noses in 2010; it's a force we would do well to name, recognize, celebrate and enlarge upon now. It is who we are, if only we knew it.

Rebecca Solnit is the author of 13 books, including last year's <u>A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster</u> and this year's <u>Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas.</u>

MAYOR OF MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK, MARYLAND INTRODUCES COMMUNITY RIGHTS ORDINANCE WHICH BANS DRILLING FOR NATURAL GAS

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) January 6, 2011

Tonight, the Mayor of Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County, Maryland introduced Ordinance No. 2011-01 for a First Reading. The bill, titled Mountain Lake Park's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance, "establishes a Bill of Rights for Mountain Lake Park residents and removes legal powers from gas extraction corporations within the Town."

At the heart of the ordinance is this statement of law: "It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas within the Town of Mountain Lake Park, with the exception of gas wells installed and operating at the time of enactment of this Ordinance."

The bill also recognizes the right of the people to "a form of governance where they live which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent and that corporate entities and their directors and managers shall not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law which make community majorities subordinate to them."

"Why are we doing this?" asked Mayor Leo Martin. "Our main duty is to protect the health and welfare of the town and especially to protect our water."

Also included in the ordinance is a local "bill of rights" that asserts legal protections for the right to water; the rights of natural communities; the right to local self-government and the right of the people to enforce and

protect these rights through their municipal government.

public hearing on the ordinance scheduled for February 3rd and a vote on passage of the ordinance is scheduled for March 3rd.

The bill was modeled after

the ordinance adopted on November 16th last year by the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. "If Pittsburgh can do it, we can do it," said the Mayor and he indicated that other Maryland municipalities should take a similar stand.

Energy corporations are setting up shop in communities in Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York with plans to drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. Corporate "land men" have bus-

ily signed-up property owners to contracts allowing wells to be erected. The prospect of pavedover green spaces, nights lit like airport runways, round-theclock sounds of loud machinery, broken and pitted roads from the high volume truck traffic, the threat of toxic trespass by a cock-

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tail of patented chemicals and escaping methane into the ground water, alarmed has neighbors and lease-holders alike and they've begun to organize in opposition to the proposed drilling.

The gas extraction tech-

nique known as "fracking" has been cited as a threat to surface and ground water throughout the region and has been blamed for fatal explosions, the contamination of drinking water, local streams, the air and soil. Collateral damage includes lost property value, ingestion of toxins by livestock, drying up of mortgage loans for prospective home buyers and threatened loss of organic certification for farmers in the affected communities.

Ben Price, Projects Director for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund,



Photo courtesy ProPublica

Gas drilling equipment is changing the face of neighborhoods and forests to sites that look like heavy-duty industrial facilities because that's exactly what they are. People across the country are working hard to protect their families, homes, towns and water. ProPublica's Abrahm Lustgarten has been covering this issue for years, as has OE.

applauded the Mayor for taking a stand on behalf of community rights. "The State says Maryland residents don't have the right to decide whether or not they get fracked and that only the corporate-lobbied members of the legislature have the wisdom to decide how much harm should be legalized through state-issued

permits. We don't have a gas drilling problem. We have a democracy problem. Its symptoms are the State's refusal to recognize the right to local, community self-government and the issuance of permits to drilling corporations against the consent of the governed."

Contact Ben Price at 717-254-3233 or benprice@celdf.org. CELDF in Chambersburg, PA has been working with people since 1995 to assert their fundamental rights to democratic local selfgovernance and to enact laws which end rights-denying corporate action aided and abetted by state and federal governments.

GAS-DRILLING BRIEFS

Some Appointees to Oil and Gas Commission are **Industry Execs, Lobbyists**

By Marie C. Baca

ProPublica, December 13, 2010

Joseph Pettey is the owner of Pettey Oilfield Services, Inc. and the 2003 West Virginia Oil and Gas Festival Man of the Year. Thomas E. Stewart is a third-generation driller who lobbies the government on behalf of energy companies. Both sit on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, which is increasingly positioning itself as an authority on drilling-related issues like hydraulic fracturing. The 38-state commission was created in 1935 to promote the efficient harvesting of oil and gas...

PA Allows Dumping of Tainted Waters from Gas Boom

By David B. Caruso, AP Daily News, Huntingdon; January 4, 2011

The natural gas boom gripping parts of the U.S. has a nasty by-product: wastewater so salty and so polluted with metals like barium and strontium,

most states require drillers to get rid of the stuff by injecting it down shafts thousands of feet deep. Not in Pennsylvania, one of the states at the center of the gas rush. There, the liquid that gushes from gas wells is only partially treated for sub-

stances that could be environmentally harmful, then dumped into rivers and streams from which people get their drinking water

Settlement in Dimock Leave Residents Distraught, Cabot Pleased

Responsible Drilling Alliance December 20, 2010 email

It has been a long and grueling nightmare for the 19 Dimock Township, Pennsylvania families whose well water was contaminated by Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation's faulty gas wells. With the final settlement in place, Dimock residents feel like they've been given the short end of the stick, while Cabot representatives are satisfied. No surprise, as Cabot saved nearly \$8 million over the original proposal that would have run a new water line to Dimock at Cabot's expense.

Dimock Residents See "Dirty Tricks" in Cabot Document

By Laura Legere

The Citizen's Voice.com, December 17, 2010

Legal releases delivered Thursday by the gas company deemed responsible for methane contamination in Dimock Township water wells have some township residents accusing the driller of using "dirty, dirty tricks" to try to free itself of a lawsuit pending in federal court.

Early on Thursday morning, attorneys for Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. delivered documents to 19 Dimock families who will split \$4.1 million as part of a settlement announced earlier between the Texas-based driller and the state DEP



New York Governor Calls Timeout on Fracking for Environmental Review

ALBANY, New York (ENS, December 13, 2010) On Saturday, New York Governor David Paterson made New York the first state to place a moratorium on natural gas drilling that uses hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to release the gas trapped in shale rock. Responding to public concern that fracturing chemicals pumped underground to crack rock seams and increase gas production can contaminate drinking water, the governor issued an Executive Order directing the Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a comprehensive environmental review of fracking in the Marcellus Shale. The ban lasts until at least July 1, 2011.

"We in government must always focus on protecting the well-being of those whom we represent and serve but we also have an obligation to look to the future and protect the long-term interests for our state and its residents," Governor Paterson said. "Therefore, I am proud to issue this Executive Order, which will guarantee that before any highvolume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing is permitted, the Department of Environmental Conversation will complete its studies and certify that such operations are safe."

One concern is the release of underground, naturally-occurring radioactive material through the drilling fluids and equipment. The hydraulic fracturing process also uses large quantities of surface water . . . Environmental and public health groups said the moratorium makes New York the first state to insist on protecting the health and safety of its citizens and drinking water

Three-quarters of Drilling Waste Haulers Cited, 207 Trucks Placed Out of Service

Submitted by Janet Burgan

Equinunk, Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — The Pennsylvania State Police and the DEP issued citations to 1,066 of the more than 1,400 trucks the agencies inspected late last month as part of the latest enforcement operation focusing on commercial vehicles hauling waste water from Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. Known as "Operation FracNET," the inspections were conducted October 25-27.

Two-hundred-seven trucks were placed out of service because of safety concerns. Fifty-two drivers were also removed from service . . .

Weitz & Luxenberg Addresses Natural **Gas Drilling and Storage Concerns**

NEW YORK, New York (December 13, 2010) New York-based law firm, Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C. has been invited by a number of Clearville, Pennsylvania residents to address the adverse effects of unconventional natural gas drilling and storage in their community. The firm hosted an informational meeting on December 18th to listen to the concerns of the community, share information and discuss legal options.

Weitz & Luxenberg continues to be concerned by the reports it receives from residents in many states, including Pennsylvania, about air and water pollution, property damage and the industrialization of their communities

Why Oil Firms Eye Bucolic France

By Anita Elash

Christian Science Monitor, December 20, 2010

The rolling hills to the east of Paris are known for their cash crops. Large quantities of vegetables and grain, champagne and brie have been produced here for centuries . . . Oil industry estimates claim that there are between 50 billion and 200 billion barrels of oil trapped in shale rock more than a mile below the surface in an 87,000-square-mile geo-

logical formation known as the Paris Basin. Now, in a first for Europe, oil companies are bringing technology from the United States, which fueled the natural-gas boom in the U.S. over the past decade, to try to extract it . . .

PA Official Defends Rules on **Gas Drilling Waste**

By David B. Caruso, AP

Daily News, Huntingdon; January 5, 2011

Pennsylvania's top environmental enforcement official said Tuesday that he is confident that wastewater discharged into rivers and streams by the booming natural gas industry hasn't degraded the state's drinking water.

At least 3.6 million barrels of the ultra-salty, chemically-tainted wastewater produced by gas drilling operations were discharged into state waterways in the 12-month period that ended June 30, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press (AP) . . .

An AP review of state records found that the state couldn't account for the disposal method for 1.28 million barrels of drilling wastewater, about a fifth of its total, because of incomplete record keep-

It also found that in 2009 and part of 2010, about 44,000 barrels of drilling waste produced by the energy company Cabot Oil & Gas were improperly sent to a treatment facility in Hatfield Township, a Philadelphia suburb, despite regulations intended to keep the liquids out of the watershed. The liquids were then discharged through the town sewage plant into the Neshaminy Creek, which flows through Bucks and Montgomery counties on its way to the Delaware River. Customers in 17 municipalities get treated drinking water from that

Property Owners Along Pipeline May Be Spared Eminent Domain Fight

Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA) December 6, 2010 email

An administrative law judge has recommended that Laser Northeast Gathering Company (a gas pipeline company seeking to operate in northeast Pennsylvania) be denied a Certificate of Public Convenience. The Certificate would have granted the company eminent domain powers, allowing the company to force landowners to sell rights-of-way for pipelines through their property.

This is the first time a company building gathering lines (which take gas from wells to larger transmission lines) has sought public utility status in the development of the region's Marcellus Shale deposit. The pipeline would be the first part of an extensive system linking potentially hundreds of gas wells in Susquehanna County, PA to the interstate Millennium Pipeline in Broome County, New York. The company's request comes as the region grapples with an explosive rate of gas drilling and an outbreak of industrial accidents and pollution

related to rushed and irresponsible development. Earthjustice, (a non-profit/legal/environmental organization that has been very supportive of RDA's efforts) and attorney Scott J. Rubin represented a concerned resident who has protested the application, to ensure that the company did not get eminent domain power, unless it came with protections for public safety, health and the environment. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission will make a final decision on Laser Northeast's application

early next year

Experts Challenge Safety of Exploratory Wells, Vertical Drilling

By Marie C. Baca

ProPublica, December 13, 2010

For more than two years, the natural gas drilling debate has focused primarily on the use of hydraulic fracturing in horizontal wells. But expert testimony submitted for a government hearing next month challenges long-held assumptions about the safety of deep vertical drilling and exploratory wells, which operate in many states with limited regulatory oversight. The administrative hearing was to be held by the Delaware River Basin Commission, a federal agency that regulates a variety of

water and land activities in PA, NY, NJ and Del.... At issue is the commission's June 2010 determination that companies that drill exploratory wells wells that are drilled to test theories about where gas might be found - must obtain the agency's approval before drilling within its jurisdiction, and whether or not 11 exploratory wells in Pennsylvania that have already been approved should be exempt from the regulation.

The commission rarely holds hearings and the progress of this one is being followed closely by industry and environmental advocates because of its implications for the drilling boom in the gasrich Marcellus Shale rock formation, which underlies much of the basin.

The commission's decision to regulate exploratory wells is being challenged by the Northern Wayne County Property-Owners' Alliance, with drilling companies Hess Corp. and Newfield Exploration Co. joining as interested parties . . .

Zero Emissions Racers Arrive at UN Climate Conference



Zero Race vehicles at the starting line in Geneva, August 16, 2010.

CANCUN, Mexico, December 9, 2010 (ENS) — Three travel-weary teams driving three world-famous electric vehicles arrived at the UN climate change conference in Cancun after 71 days on the road competing in the so-called Zero Emissions Race.

The Zero Race is the brainchild of Swiss environmentalist and inventor Louis Palmer, who last year became the first person to circumnavigate the world in an electric car.

"The teams are doing extraordinarily well and the race arrived according to schedule in Cancun, where they participate at the World Climate Change Conference and preparations for maritime shipping to Europe," Palmer said on Tuesday.

"During this longest and hardest electric car race ever, the challenges of the Zero Race have been extremely hard to cope with at times at a personal level, exacerbated by the fatigue of 500 kilometers (300 miles) or so daily driving and the tough road conditions in many places," Palmer said.

Starting from Geneva, Switzerland on August 16, the three teams - from Australia, Germany and Switzerland - have traveled 25,170 kilometers (15,631 miles), driving across Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, China, then shipping their vehicles across the Pacific to Vancouver, Canada and traveling

south across the United States and Mexico. In Cancun, UN Environment Programme Executive Director Achim Steiner greeted Palmer and the race teams.

"We have been following the Zero Emissions Race with interest and excitement since its inception," said Steiner. "I am delighted to see that the same innovation and spirit which inspired the dreams of adventurers over 130 years ago are still very much evidence as we cross another threshold, this time towards a resource-efficient Green Economy frontier."

After their pit stop in Cancun, the teams from Australia, Germany and Switzerland were to set out once more, aiming to arrive at the finishing line in Geneva by January 22,

"In 80 days around the world with renewable energies and for a green future. This is the slogan of the Zero Race," Palmer explained. "We want to show that electric mobility and renewable energies provide a solution for an ecologically-balanced life on this planet."

Each plug-in electric vehicle was required to carry two passengers and drive at least 250 **Photo Courtesy Zero Race**

(155 miles) on a single charge. The Zero Race is not about speed but about other criteria such as vehicle reliability, energy efficiency, utility to every day life,

kilometers (155 miles) at an average speed of

at least 80 kilometers (50 miles) an hour. The

vehicles can travel at least 250 kilometers

design and safety. Almost every day, the teams faced competition against new criteria in these categories and they received points according to their performance in each.

So far, the Swiss team is leading, ahead of Germany and Australia. A South Korean team dropped out of the race early due to technical difficulties.

The Swiss team was driving the two-seat electric scooter Zerotracer made by Switzerland's OC Oerlikon Corp., AG.

"When you are driving the Zerotracer, it feels like you are flying half-a-meter (20 inches) above the ground," said Zerotracer designer Tobias Wulser of the Swiss design firm Designwerk. "You forget that you are in a fully enclosed motorcycle. The vehicle is fast and has great acceleration," he told Wired

The Australian team, led by Andrew Dickson, was driving Trev, the two-seater Renewable Energy Vehicle, designed and built at the University of South Australia. The threewheeled two-seater is powered by an electric motor and a 45 kg (99-pound) lithium polymer battery, giving what Dickson says is "smooth quiet acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h (0 to 62 miles) in about 10 seconds."

The German team was on a modified series production electric scooter, the Vectrix, driven by Berliners Sandra Lust and Sven Lehmann. With a top speed of 99 kilometers per hour (62 mph), the Vectrix, designed in the United States and manufactured in Poland, is the first commerciallyavailable, high-performance, electric scooter. The Vectrix uses nickel-metal-hydride batteries that can be recharged to 80 percent in two hours from a standard domestic power

The Zero Race is a "green" event, said Palmer, and participants are doing everything possible to travel in a responsible way. Any greenhouse gas emissions created by the event, including the shipping of cars and flights by participants, will be compensated by investments in renewable energy projects through the Swiss-based non-profit foundation myclimate.org - the Climate Protection Partnership.

Each team has already produced enough power for their vehicle from renewable energy sources including as solar and wind and this has been fed into the power grids in their home countries.

As they traveled, the teams collected signatures on a big, inflatable Zero, that they were to deliver to the World Climate Change Conference in Cancun, as Palmer said, "to inspire the world leaders to continue fighting for the planet."

Zero Race sponsors included the United Nations Environment Programme and Google Inc., UniSA, Google Australia, Galaxy Resources, EcoGreen Electrical, Design Ecology, ABN Newswire and Catcon.

The transport sector is responsible for about one quarter of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. Steiner estimates that, in 40 years, the number of vehicles in the world will have tripled with over 80 percent of that growth occurring in developing countries.

"There is an urgent need to find a way to reconcile legitimate aspirations for mobility and an ambitious reduction in CO2 from cars," Steiner said. "The technology underpinning electric cars, amongst others, needs to be harnessed and markets and industries incentivized to support production and use of this kind of clean energy."



Photo Courtesy Zero Race

The Zero Race teams in Cancun. From left: the Swiss team, the German team and the Australian team. December 7, 2010.



Photo courtesy EPA

Dark menace. Black carbon particles in soot have a potent warming effect on the planet.

Cutting Soot Counteracts Warming in California

By Eli Kintisch

Science, December 14, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO, California - New data show that airpollution regulations in California for trucks running on diesel fuel over two decades have cut levels of black carbon, the main component of soot, in half. And while California continues to warm like the rest of the planet, models suggest that cut may also have cut into the warming of the state's climate in an unexpectedly big way, preventing temperatures from climbing even higher.

Soot comes mainly from diesel engines and the burning of wood, charcoal or other biomass. In recent years, scientists have learned that black carbon, which traps both direct sunlight and heat reflected from the ground, has powerful warming effects.

Greenhouse gases methane, ozone in the lower atmosphere and particulate black carbon together warm the planet as much as carbon dioxide. And as much as half of the loss of snow and ice in the Arctic may be due to black carbon. Breathing black carbon also harms people's health: the United Nations blames soot on 1.5 million deaths per year globally. "The local benefits intersect with the global goods," says atmospheric scientist V. Ramanathan of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, who presented the research here at the American Geophysical Union meeting this afternoon.

Publishing their work today in Atmospheric Environment, Ramanathan and colleagues used data from a network of air sensors the state of California maintains to measure how black carbon levels fluctuated from 1988 to 2008. During that period, laws requiring cleaner-burning fuels and catalytic converters led to diesel engines that polluted less.

Black carbon levels were slashed in half even though diesel fuel consumption in California rose steadily. "Despite that increase you still got reductions" in black carbon levels, says atmospheric scientist Thomas Kirchstetter of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, who works with Ramanathan on an air pollution measurement project but didn't collaborate on the paper. He called the reduction a "big

win" for health regulations. More unexpected is the calculated effect on the climate. Globally, greenhouse gases "force" warming by trapping between two and four watts of power from heat given off by the planet per square meter of Earth's surface. Ramanathan's group calculated that, on average, the removal of the black carbon prevented an estimated 1.4 watts per square meter of heating, which presumably would have added to the warming that greenhouse gases have caused in California.

Ramanathan called that amount "surprising" and said that it shows how powerful a tool controls on black carbon could be. Controlling diesel emissions and making cleaner burning cookstoves, he says, could help limit warming of the planet if scaled up. Because black carbon settles out of the atmosphere in a few weeks, instead of the centuries (for which carbon dioxide persists in the air), cutting soot emissions could quickly put the brakes on heating while nations rev up green energy efforts to cut CO_2 emissions.

"This indeed has major implications for mitigating climate change on a global scale," says Ramanathan. "We have the chance to see a quick global response." Kirchstetter says the climate story is the big message of the paper: "This could provide a big punch."

CLIMATE BRIEFS

San Francisco Eyes Goal: **100% Green Power by 2020**

By Colin Sullivan

Greenwire (NYT), 12/14/10, excerpt

SAN FRANCISCO — Outgoing Mayor Gavin Newsom (D) last week launched an initiative that he says will result in 100 percent renewables to meet this city's power demand within a decade.

Newsom, who becomes lieutenant governor of California next month, announced the program during a speech commemorating the completion of the Sunset Reservoir Solar Project which, at five megawatts, is the largest municipal solar facility in

The project was completed last week and covers an area said to be the size of 12 football fields. The plant, owned and operated by Recurrent Energy, triples the amount of solar energy available to the city government here.

But Newsom is looking for much more. At the ceremony, he announced a \$250,000 grant from the Sidney Frank Foundation that will assess how to meet the city's 950-megawatt peak power demand with nothing but renewables by 2020.

Officials admit the city has a long way to go to reach that target. In addition to the five-MW solar project, the city can claim about 10 MW of distributed solar and three-and-a-half MW of biogas, leaving more than 900 MW subject to the generation portfolio of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power system, which supplies water and electricity to the city from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National

Climate Change and 'Balanced' Coverage

By Justin Gillis, excerpt New York Times GreenWire, 12/23/10

In an article this week on the relentless rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, I outlined one of the canonical projections of climate science: If the amount of carbon dioxide doubles, the average surface temperature of the Earth is likely to increase by five or six degrees Fahrenheit, a whopping change. I contrasted that with a prediction from skeptics of climate change who contend that the increase is likely to be less than two degrees.

One major voice on climate science, Richard B. Alley of the Pennsylvania State University, told me he gets annoyed by the way this contrast is often presented in news accounts. The higher estimate is often put forward as a worst case, he pointed out, while the skeptic number is presented as the best case.

In fact, as Dr. Alley reminds anyone who will listen, and as he recently told a Congressional committee, the estimate of five or six degrees is actually mildly optimistic. Computer programs used to forecast future climate show it as the most likely outcome from a doubling of carbon dioxide but those programs also show substantial probabilities that the warming will be much

The true worst case from doubled carbon dioxide is closer to 18 or 20 degrees of warming, Dr. Alley said - an addition of heat so radical that it would render the planet unrecognizable to its present-day inhabitants.

Dr. Alley calls the usual news media presentation of the issue a form of "false balance." In his view, mainstream climate science should be seen as coming down on the conservative side of a range of numbers that runs from two degrees to 20 degrees. And in setting public policy, he said, lawmakers need to entertain the possibility that any of these numbers is correct . . .

Generous Tariff Lures British Farmers Into Raising Solar Panels

By Jeremy Lovell

New York Times Green Wire December 15, 2010, excerpt

GLASTONBURY, England — Michael Eavis is not your average farmer but this year he is following the herd. Spurred on by a new tariff that pays individuals to produce their own electricity and sell it to the nation's grid, Eavis has installed 1,100 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of his dairy barn. He calls it his "Mootel."

"I have wanted to do this ever since I built the barn about 10 years ago. The feed-in tariffs just made it much easier and more profitable. Everyone is thrilled to bits with the array. It is working really well," he told ClimateWire.

"The panels will earn about £50,000 [\$79,053] a year, so in 10 years we will have paid off the £500,000 [\$790,398] we borrowed from the bank to build the array. Solar power is really clean - even more so than wind - and it is free. There is enough energy from the sun to power the whole world during the day," he added.

Eavis is just one among a throng of people, including many farmers, who have leaped at the chance the tariff scheme offers both to make money and to get "greener." In contrast to many other such schemes across Europe, the U.K. feed-in tariffs pay for all power produced, not just that exported to the grid. They also have the added attraction of being guaranteed for 25 years. . . .

Fox News Chief Enforced Climate-Change Skepticism

By Suzanne Goldenberg, excerpt guardian.co.uk, December 15, 2010

Journalists at Fox News were under orders to cast doubt on any on-air mention of climate change, a leaked email obtained by a media monitoring group revealed today.

According to the email, Fox News's Washington bureau chief, Bill Sammon, imposed an order to make time for climate sceptics within 15 minutes of the airing of a story about a scientific report showing that 2000-2009 was on track to be the hottest decade on

The email went out on December 8th last year, when the leaders of nearly 200 countries met in Copenhagen to try to reach a deal on climate change.

The email read: "We should refrain from asserting that the planet has warmed (or cooled) in any given period without IMME-DIATELY pointing out that such theories are based upon data that critics have called into ques-



City Light Pollution Affects Air Pollution and Global Warming

International Dark-Sky Association newsletter December 15, 2010

Excess light at night can contribute to air pollution, according to a study by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado. Findings presented at the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco on Monday indicate that uplight from outdoor lighting that contributes to sky glow over cities also interferes with chemical reactions that naturally clean the air during nighttime hours.

Every night, chemicals from vehicle exhaust and other human-created sources are broken down and prevented from becoming smog, ozone or other irritants by a form of nitrogen oxide called the nitrate radical. Sunlight destroys the naturally-occurring nitrate radical, so this process occurs only in hours of darkness

Measurements taken over Los Angeles by aircraft show that light pollution from cities is suppressing the radical. Though the lights are 10,000 [times] dimmer than the Sun, the study's first results indicate that city lights can slow down the nighttime cleansing by up to 7% and they can increase the starting chemicals for ozone pollution the next day by up to 5%.

As many cities are close to their limits of allowable ozone levels, this news is expected to generate immediate interest in light pollution reduction as a way to improve air quality among city, state and federal bodies, including the Environmental Protection Agency.

"[This effect] is more important up in the air than it is directly on the ground so if you manage to keep the light pointing downward and not reflected back up into sky, into the higher parts of the air, then you would certainly have a much smaller effect of this," NOAA investigator Harald Stark told BBC News.

International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Executive Director Bob Parks is hopeful that results of this study will encourage cities to adopt environmentally-responsible, dark-sky lighting practices that include using fully-shielded fixtures, minimum lighting levels and lighting only

when necessary. "The impending transition to LED outdoor lighting will also allow cities to utilize adaptive lighting controls to dim or turn off lights when not needed. Not only will this vastly reduce energy consumption, based on this new research, it could also improve air quality. This reinforces IDA's long term goal to reduce total lumens in the environment," says Parks.

Starting in 2008, IDA has held yearly educational briefings for both houses of U.S. Congress to raise federal awareness of light pollution. After the 2008 event, 11 members of Congress signed a letter to EPA Administrator Johnson [Jackson] requesting support for research and education on the environmental, health and safety effects of artificial light at night.

On October 9, 2008 EPA was petitioned to review light pollution to monitor and reduce atmospheric discoloration of the night sky under the Clean Air Act. The EPA has made no formal response to the petition [to date].

Information on light pollution and IDA is available at http://www.darksky.org/page/about-ida.

U.S. Supreme Court to Rule in Key Greenhouse Gas Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 7, 2010 (ENS) — The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that it will hear a definitive greenhouse gas lawsuit on whether federal law allows states and private parties to sue utilities for contributing to global warming.

In American Electric Power v. Connecticut, a power company asks the court to rule on enforcement of emissions caps, seeking to overturn a ruling by a lower court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

American Electric Power is joined in the lawsuit by Duke Energy, Southern Company, Xcel Energy and the Tennessee Valley Authority, a nonprofit public utility owned by the federal government.

The high court will rule on whether states and private parties may seek emissions caps on utilities for their alleged contribution to global climate change.

The justices will also decide whether a cause of action to cap carbon dioxide emissions can be implied under federal common law.

Finally, the justices will decide whether claims seeking to cap carbon dioxide emissions based on a court's weighing of the potential risks of climate change against the socioeconomic utility of defendants' conduct would be governed by "judicially discoverable and manageable standards" or could be resolved without "initial policy determination[s] of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor recused herself from the Supreme Court's decision to hear the case because she participated in the Second Circuit ruling before joining the Supreme Court earlier this year. Her absence could mean a split 4-4 ruling, which would leave the lower court decision in effect.

Alice Kaswan, a professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law, explains that this case arose when Connecticut, along with several other states and public interest organizations, brought a public nuisance action against the five largest U.S. electric utility companies. The plaintiffs sought injunctive relief in the form of emissions limits on the utilities' facilities.

"In 2005, the district court held that applying public nuisance law to the problem of climate change presented a nonjusticiable political question and dismissed the case. In 2009, the Second Circuit reversed, reopening the courthouse door to climate nuisance cases," Kaswan explains, writing on the Center for Progressive Reform blog.

This case is timely because the U.S. EPA is about to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act's Prevention of Significant Deterioration, PSD, program this January, a move that Republicans and industry groups have been trying to block.

"The question is whether regulating stationary sources under the PSD program amounts to the type of 'comprehensive' regulation that would displace the common law in this context," Kaswan says.

But, she explains, the PSD regulation imposes federal emission control requirements only on new and modified sources of emissions, not on existing sources, unless those sources are mod-



The John E. Amos coal-fired power plant in West Virginia is owned and operated by Appalachian Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power.



Photo courtesy TVA

Shown here emitting greenhouse gases, the TVA's coal-burning Paradise power plant is on the Green River in western Kentucky.

ified.

American Electric Power v. Connecticut, by contrast, targets existing stationary sources of greenhouse gases.

The Obama administration intervened in support of allowing the Supreme Court to hear this case. "The administration claims that the EPA has gotten busy implementing the Clean Air Act with respect to greenhouse gas emissions and that allowing federal common law nuisance claims to proceed would interfere with the regulatory initiative," explains Douglas Kysar, a professor at Yale Law School and a member scholar at the Center for Progressive

President Barack Obama and U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson have repeatedly said they want limits on greenhouse gas emissions to be legislated by Congress. Although the House of Representatives passed a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade bill, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, the Senate has failed to pass similar legislation. With the balance of power shifting Republican after the mid-term elections in November, the likelihood of such a bill making it through Congress in the next two years is nil.

The states of Indiana, Arkansas, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming joined in asking the Supreme Court to rule in this case.

The states argue that the theory of liability advanced in this case has no limiting principle. "It would permit federal courts to impose CO₂ emission limits on any entity in the country and one might reasonably expect that the major economic actors of each state, not to mention state government entities themselves, would be on a list of potential defendants. What is more, this lawsuit threatens substantial

impact on state environmental regulatory schemes," the states say in their brief to the high

The states maintain that if the matter is allowed to proceed in the district court, "It will embroil the federal judiciary in one of the most high profile and contentious political debates of our time."

"Reasonable people disagree on many levels over the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions, and especially CO₂ emissions, should be regulated. Given that every industry, and indeed every living mammal, constantly emits CO₂, such emissions cannot simply be banned outright, no matter what the harm to the environment," the states argue. "Someone has to make a policy determination as to how much is acceptable and how much is too much."

That "someone" is the eight Supreme Court justices who will rule on American Electric Power v. Connecticut.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also requested a Supreme Court hearing because of the "staggering economic implications" of the case.

The Chamber contends that, unless the Supreme Court reverses the lower court decision, a "host of new suits and, inevitably, inconsistent outcomes" will impose "punishing costs on businesses and consumers" that will become worse as this "emerging category of litigation sweeps the nation's courts."

The Chamber argues that, "A meaningful and politically legitimate response to climate change must be national, indeed global, in nature and must be fashioned by the politically accountable branches. The Chamber thus has a vital interest in ensuring that courts do not usurp the roles of the executive and legislative branches by entertaining this type of lawsuit."





expose terrorist activities

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"If you see something, say something!" is Homeland Security's slogan. They don't mean the so-called Solar Radiation Management program...but we do!



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www.NewMenu.org

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web design provided by www.DancingTreesWeb.com







Photo by Lake Scientist

Dredge on the Ottawa River, June 2010. More than 7,500 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), 80,000 pounds of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and more than a million pounds of heavy metals were removed from the river during the dredging cleanup operation.

Ottawa River Contaminated Sediment Removal Complete

TOLEDO, Ohio, December 13, 2010 (ENS) — Federal and Ohio State agencies, the City of Toledo and a consortium of corporations jointly announced today that they have finished removal of contaminated sediment from the Ottawa River that runs through Toledo.

The cleanup involved dredging 242,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from a five-and-a-half mile section of the river.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided \$23.5 million for the project through the Great Lakes Legacy Act, a federal program targeted at cleaning up contaminated sediment in Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

Another \$23.5 million was provided by the Ottawa River Group, a consortium of private businesses in partnership with the City of Toledo, including Allied Waste North America Inc., E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., GenCorp Inc., Honeywell Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., United Technologies Corp., Varta Microbattery Inc., The Mosaic Co., Perstorp Polyols Inc. and Grand Trunk Western Railroad.

The City of Toledo provided space in the municipal landfill as its cost share.

"This cleanup brings us closer to the day when it is safe to swim in the Ottawa River and

December 14, 2010

all its fish are safe to eat," said Cameron Davis, senior advisor to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

"Previous Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanups have improved local economies as well as the environment and this is an important step forward for the region in efforts to restore the Great Lakes," Davis said.

Arising in southeast Michigan, the Ottawa River flows for 15 miles through northwest Ohio. It drains an area on the Ohio-Michigan border along the eastern and northern fringes of the city of Toledo and flows into Lake Erie's Maumee

The contaminated sediment resulted from runoff and discharge from industrial sites, landfills and sewers and from the river's form and structure, since it has a slow flow.

More than 7,500 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), 80,000 pounds of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and more than a million pounds of heavy metals were removed from the river during the dredging cleanup operation.

tion was a key contributor to the "Do Not Eat" fish advisory and the "No Contact" water advisory that are currently in place for the Ottawa River.

"The Ottawa River contamination was a side effect of the region's great industrial legacy,"

Research: SW Must

Reduce its Water Use

Several authors said it's time

to look more closely at limiting

and managing population

growth. That includes the build-

said Chris Korleski, director of the Ohio EPA. "Today, we are creating a new legacy for future generations - a clean river that has potential to be a real showcase and a great example of what can be accomplished when government and private business(es) work as partners."

On May 1st, crews began to remove the sediment using hydraulic cutterhead dredges. These large suction systems pulled in the sediment and river water and pumped them to the Hoffman Road Landfill for processing and disposal.

The water was collected and treated to meet discharge standards before it was returned to the river.

About 15,700 cubic yards of sediment with the highest concentrations of PCBs were treated separately and sent to a landfill in Michigan that is licensed to accept this type of waste.

Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region, said, "This project is an important step in providing the people of Ohio healthy fish to catch, a clean environment to hunt in and improved bird watching experiences."

The completion of this project marks further progress in the cleanup of the Maumee River Area of Concern, a key priority under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Cancer-Causing Chromium-6 Widespread in U.S. Drinking Water

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 23, 2010 (ENS) — Tap water from 31 of 35 U.S. cities tested contains hexavalent chromium, or chromium-6, according to laboratory tests commissioned by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG) and revealed in a report Saturday. The highest levels were detected in Norman, Oklahoma; Honolulu, Hawaii and Riverside, California.

The cancer-causing chemical is best known to the general public from the 2000 movie "Erin Brockovich," starring Julia Rob-

The film dramatized the plight of the cancer-stricken residents of Hinkley, California who, in 1996, won a \$333 million settlement from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for contaminating their tap water with hexavalent chromium.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) says, "Despite mounting evidence of the contaminant's toxic effects, including a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency draft toxicological review that classifies it as 'likely to be carcinogenic to humans' when consumed in drinking water, the agency has not set a legal limit for chromium-6 in tap water and does not require water utilities to test for it."

Hexavalent chromium is discharged from steel and pulp mills as well as metal-plating and leather-tanning facilities. It can pollute water through erosion of soil and

rock, the EWG report shows.

T h e National Toxicology Program has found that hexavalent chromium in drinking water shows clear dence of carcinogenic activity in laboratory animals, increasing the risk of otherwise rare gastroin-

testinal



Photo by Drita Buzuku It appears to be a simple glass of water, but... it just might contain poisonous chemicals.

tumors. In response to this study and others, California officials last year proposed setting a public health goal for chromium-6 in drinking water of 0.06 parts per billion.* This is the first step toward establishing a statewide enforceable limit.

Levels of the carcinogen in 25 cities tested by Environmental Working Group were higher than California's proposed public health goal. Tap water from Norman, Oklahoma, with a population of 90,000, contained more than 200 times California's proposed safe limit. Norman is home to the University of Oklahoma.

"At least 74 million Americans in 42 states drink chromium-polluted tap water, much of it likely in the form of cancer-causing hexavalent chromium," the EWG says in its report. "Given the scope of exposure and the magnitude of the potential risk, the EPA should move expeditiously to establish a legal limit for the chemical in tap water and require water utilities to test for it."

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson met with 10 U.S. senators Wednesday to brief them on the issue of chromium-6 in drinking water as reported by the EWG. Jackson described EPA's current

See WATER page 14

Reader Survey

I am fortunate to have a friend who is going to help me do some marketing in Nevada and he encouraged me to develop a "Reader Survey" to help me learn how to improve this newspaper. Along these lines, I will be looking for new advertisers and new subscribers so, if you know of anyone who might be interested in The Order of the Earth, will you please tell them about us? We now have PayPal online and I just arranged for my first paid at to appear in Prison World magazine, which had a huge circulation.

Many years ago, I met a man who ran a "Street" newspaper, which means that it was sold by homeless or impoverished people on the streets of New York City. I always bought one when I was travelling through the City by mass transit. I was wondering if I should do that - stand on a street corner and hawk my papers - but out here in rural Pennsylvania, I don't think that would work very well. The way I remember his operation was that the sellers got to keep most of the proceeds or at least the profits. If you know of anyone in a city environment who might be willing to do this, please let me know. Or, similarly, if you know of an organization which works with poor people who might like to sell OE, please tell me

took in twice as much money as in 2010. Having said that, here are a few questions that come to mind:
1. What stories/articles have you enjoyed most during the past year?
2. What types of articles would you like to see more of?
3. What issue do you think is most important in the world today?
4. How can we make this paper more effective in reaching people?
5. Is there any way we can help you get involved in the issues you care about?
6. Do you know of a library, school, university or business which might enjoy receiving a subscription and would you be willing to purchase it for them?
7. What other suggestions do you have for helping to make this a better newspaper? (If it's a time-con suming idea, please be willing to help carry it out.)
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Thank you for taking time to fill this out and mail it back to:

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abating, it's time for the Southing of more high-density subdi-"I don't know what will be west to start doing more of less: visions instead of current Sun needed to push water managers Do more to cut water use instead Belt-style developments with and policymakers to take more of simply chasing new supplies large lots containing lots of aggressive and sustainable for thirsty cities and farms. actions to solve our water prob-That's the conclusion of sev-One reason the changes are lems in the Southwest but someeral researchers in a special prething must be done to avoid the needed is that, regardless of sentation in a national journal whether global warming makes coming crisis," said one of the on this area's problems and our drought worse, it is unlikely authors, think-tank director that this region will ever return future concerns with water sup-Peter Gleick, in an interview. plies, growth, drought and clito the moist climate of the two

mate change. The researchers wrote that the Southwest needs to consider everything from limiting swimming pools to building more rainwater-harvesting and graywater systems to installing lowflow toilets, shower heads and

With Lake Mead falling and

the drought showing no sign of

decades ending in about 1998, one of the papers said. Another paper, reporting on Phoenix, said that, if the region grows as expected, by 2030 without water-use limits, there's no way to prevent major groundwater depletion no matter what hapGleick is president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security in Oakland.

The articles were published this week in the Proceedings of

the National Academy of Sci-

"We're in a car heading for a brick wall and there is little indication that we've even taken our foot off the gas, much less applied the brakes."

PHONE NUMBER

I chose...to live so that which came to me as seed goes to the next as blossom and that which came to me as blossom, goes on as fruit.

Dawna Markova

Hawai'i continued from page 1



Photo by M. E. Hughes A Laysan albatross, left, and a Laysan duck on Midway Island, part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National

age to halt damaging economic development.

Monument.

Highlighting the event was Friday's commemoration of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's inscription on the World Heritage

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a string of tiny islands, atolls, shoals and banks stretching across 1,200 miles of the Pacific Ocean northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands, was created by former President George W. Bush on June 15, 2006.

The name Papahānaumokuākea (pronounced Pa-pahah-now-mo-koo-ah-keh-ah) comes from an ancient Hawaiian tradition concerning the genealogy and formation of the Hawaiian Islands.

Papahānaumoku is a mother figure personified by the Earth and Wākea is a father figure personified in the expansive sky; the two are honored ancestors of Native Hawaiian people. Their union resulted in the creation, or birthing, of the Hawaiian archipelago.

On July 30, 2010, Papahānaumokuākea was designated as the first mixed UNESCO World Heritage site in the United States. It is the world's first cultural seascape recognized for its continuing connections to living indigenous people.

On Friday, at the Hawaii Convention Center, hundreds of conservation managers, marine scientists, conservation activists, government officials, political leaders and policy makers joined in celebrating the inscription.

"The inscription Papahānaumokuākea reflects U.S. efforts to strengthen our engagement at the United Nations and at UNESCO," said Esther Brimmer, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs. "It is also an opportunity to recognize the important role of the World Heritage Convention, which, four decades after its adoption by the General Conference of UNESCO, remains a crucial international instrument for the protection and promotion of

cultural and natural heritage." "It is fitting that our nation's first inscription in 15 years recognizes a place with such unique cultural and natural heritage," said Tom Strickland, assistant secretary of the interior for fish and wildlife and parks. "The addition of Papahānaumokuākea to the network of World Heritage Sites demonstrates the commitment of the United States and the state of Hawaii to conserve and protect our impor-

tant marine sites." Larry Robinson, assistant secretary of commerce for conservation and management, said, "As one of the crown jewels of the National Marine Sanctuary System, Papahānaumokuākea is a remarkable treasure trove of biodiversity, a sentinel site for helping measure the impacts of global climate change and, as the UNES-CO World Heritage Committee acknowledged four months ago, a place that is truly deserving of global recognition for its universally outstanding natural and cultural features."

"As a World Heritage site, Papahānaumokuākea will give people from across the globe a greater appreciation of the

importance of protecting our natural and cultural resources - values that native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawaii hold dear," said outgoing Governor Linda Lingle on her last working day in office.

"The inscription Papahānaumokuākea on the World Heritage List is the culmination of the hard work, dedication and love for these special islands by countless individuals throughout Hawaii and our nation," said Lingle, a Republican.

In 2005 Governor Lingle signed regulations establishing a state marine refuge in the near-shore waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that excluded all extractive uses, except those permitted for research or management. She advocated for the creation of the marine national monument with the Bush administration and guided the process of applying for UNESCO World Heritage status.

The far-flung archipelago with its healthy coral reefs provides safe haven for fish, threatened green sea turtles, endangered monk seals and millions of central Pacific seabirds.

More than 99 percent of the world's Laysan albatrosses and 98 percent of the world's blackfooted albatrosses return to these islands each year to reproduce. For species such as Bonin petrels and Tristram's storm-petrels, the predatorfree islands provide the last safe nesting places since islands in other parts of the Pacific are becoming infested with rats.

For land birds, the islands nave provided less secure habitat but four of the seven original species still remain. Three endangered passerines - the Nihoa finch, Nihoa millerbird and Laysan finch - and the world's rarest duck, the Laysan duck, are found on these islands.

Most of the threats to the ecosystems of marine World Heritage sites are posed by human activities, such as dumping of wastewater from vessels and the proliferation of marine debris that entangles birds and animals or that they ingest.

Current uses of the Papahānaumokuākea World Heritage site are limited to management activities by the three agencies that jointly manage the site - research, education, Native Hawaiian practices, a small scale commercial bottom-fishing and pelagic trolling operation, as well as recreational trips and visits to historical sites at Midway Atoll.

Also celebrated was the $10^{\mbox{th}}$ anniversary of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, established by former President Bill Clinton on December 4, 2000. At that time, the reserve became the single largest nature preserve ever established in the United States.

Chairman of the Reserve Advisory Council Tim Johns said, "I think it's one of the last great places left on Earth. It's been protected for a lot of years just by its distance from man but, when you get up there, you realize that there are still places on this Earth where the hand of God still touches the Earth. And so just knowing that a place like that is still existing and is now going to be protected in perpetuity is just a really great thing."

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Now you can easily order subscriptions for your friends and family. You can also order Iona's hand-crafted weather snakes online.

Americans Are for the Birds!*

By Donald C. Meserelian North Caldwell, New Jersey

Ornithologically speaking, "Americans are for the birds" at a rapidly growing rate both as bird watchers on field trips and providing both food and lodging for birds in their own backyards.

Based on statistics from the Humane Society of the United States, the percent of U.S. households that have dogs and cats as pets are 39% and 33% respectively. According to Prince Corp., Wild Bird Div., "80 million Americans (one in every four suburban households) regularly feed wild birds." The advantage of birds as free pets is that you don't need a "pooper scooper" or litter box to enjoy a free pet!

A few simple steps are required to provide a safe environment for the protection of birds:

★ Bird houses should be located at a height based on the species of birds in your area. The Technical Products Co. bird house support pole (Figure 1) can be adjusted from four to eight feet in height. A painted steel plate contains four holes for attaching your birdhouse to the pole.

★Most bird houses contain a plug at the bottom for cleaning the bird house. Unfortunately, rain that enters the bird house through the entrance hole cannot be easily drained and the nesting material can become wet and moldy. This problem is eliminated because openings in the support plate allow the drainage of water and air circulation to ensure that the nesting material remains dry.

★ Bird feeders are of two basic types: tubular or platform. Feeders should be located a minimum of 20 feet from tree branches to prevent squirrel access from tree branches. In addition, a squirrel



Photos by Don Meserlian Figure 1: This telescoping pole comes with four holes for attaching a bird house.

baffle (Figure 2) effectively prevents squirrels from climbing the poles to access feeders.

Regardless of the type of feeder, the primary requirement is to ensure that the birdseed remains dry. The platform feeder accomplishes this requirement better than a tubular feeder. The Figure 2 feeders are covered to insure dry bird food.

In Figure 2, the four-station, bird-feeder support contains a "Bottle Feeder" with a cover that ensures that the seed-holding dish (circular platform feeder) remains dry. The bottle holds approximately eight pounds of wild bird seed which is automatically dispensed to the seed dish.

A laminated copy of original



Figure 2 (top): Covers on bird feeders ensure they remain dry. Figure 3 (bottom): Downy

woodpecker feeds on author's peanut feeder. artwork (by Livingston, New Jersey artist Jean Cox) containing pictures

of four birds and flowers, is attached

to the bottle's circumference.

tubular feeder contains nyger seed for finches and the woodpecker/nuthatch feeder is easily filled with peanuts. A hummingbird feeder is shown behind the tubular feeder.

Figure 3 shows a Downy woodpecker on my peanut feed-

The adjustable pole, bird house support, two- or fourstation feeder support, Bottle Feeder and Peanut Feeder can be purchased from Technical Products Co. (973-228-2258. A Web

page under Technical Products Co., Natures Gifts Division will be available shortly.

*Don Meserlian, P.E. is chairman of Voices of Safety International. He says, "As National Leader of the Patriot's Citizen's Campaign, the lack of interest of my fellow Americans in issues of substance that pertain to our remaining a free nation, based on the U.S. Constitution, is the basis for the title of this article. This is my personal belief about my fellow citizens in this "Demockery." Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Patriots Citizens Campaign should send their

name, city, state, phone number and email address to dcmeserlian@ voices of safety. com or phone 973-228-2258 or www. voicesofsafety.com.



Norway continued from page 1

more than U.S. \$12 million, the five-year Hindu-Kush-Himalayas Climate Impact Adaptation and Assessment Programme from

"People in the Himalayas must prepare for a tough and unpredictable future. They need our committed support," said Solheim. "Therefore, Norway will fully fund the brand new five-year program. We see this program as a potent mix of solid climate science, promising intra-regional cooperation and concrete adaptation projects on the ground."

The initiative will be carried out by the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and UNEP-Grid Arendal.

Overall, the trend is shrinking glaciers but greater precipitation in some places has increased the mass and the size of glaciers in western Norway, New Zealand's South Island and parts of the Tierra del Fuego in South America.

"Accumulation of science shows us a clear general trend of melting glaciers linked to a warming climate and perhaps other impacts, such as the deposit of soot, reducing the reflection of heat back into space," UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said today.

"This report underlines a global trend, observed over many decades now in some parts of the globe, which has short and longterm implications for considerable numbers

of people in terms of water supplies and vulnerability," said.

In dry regions of Central Asia, Chile, Argentina and Peru, where there is little rainfall and precipitation, receding glaciers will have much more impact on the seasonal water availability than in Europe or in parts of Asia, where monsoon rains play a much more prominent role in the water cycle, the report

finds.

Some areas are experiencing contradictory effects, according to the report. In smaller areas of Asia's Karakoram range, for example, advancing glaciers have crept over areas that have been free of ice for 50 years. But in Asia's Tianshan and Himalayan mountain ranges, glaciers are receding and some are shrinking rapidly, causing glacial lakes to burst. "Without doubt the main driving force

behind the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers and formation of the catastrophic Glacial Lake Outburst Floods is warming due to climate change," said Madhav Karki, deputy director general of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.



Photo by Marco Franchino

Bridge destroyed in a glacial lake outburst flood in Iceland, under the Vatnajokull gla-

"The risk to lives and livelihoods in the fragile Hindu Kush Himalayan region is high and getting higher," said Dr. Karki, expressing thanks to the Norwegian government for its funding of the new adaptation program. "Immediate action by the global community on launching long-term adaptation and resilience-building programs is urgently needed."

In the last 40 years, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, often called GLOFs, have been increasing, not only in China, Nepal and Bhutan, but also more recently in Patagonia and the Andes.

Five major **GLOFs** took place in April, October and December 2008 and again in March and September 2009 in the Northern Patagonia Icefield in Chile. On each occasion, the Cachet 2 Lake, dammed by the Colonia Glacier, released around 200 million tons of water into the Colonia River. The lake has since rapidly refilled, suggesting high risk of fur-

ther GLOFs.

"People in the Himalayas must

prepare for a tough and unpredict-

able future. They need our com-

mitted support," said Solheim,

Norway's Minister of the Environ-

ment and International Develop-

ment. "Therefore, Norway will

fully fund the brand new five-year

program. We see this program as a

potent mix of solid climate science,

promising intra-regional coopera-

tion and concrete adaptation proj-

ects on the ground."

There has been a near doubling in the frequency of GLOFs in the Yarkant region of Karakoram, China since 1959, attributed to

the warming climate. In the Lunana region of Bhutan on October 7, 1994, the glacial lake Luggye Tsho burst. The ensuing GLOF, which contained an estimated 18 million cubic meters (19.68 million cubic yards) of water, debris and trees, swept

downstream killing more than 20 people and travelled over 204 kilometers (126.7 miles). "When glaciers disappear, people, livestock, birds and animals will be forced to

move," says one of the report's editors, Chris-

tian Nellemann of the UNEP/GRID-Arendal

research center in Norway. "But ironically, a

lot of people die in deserts also from drowning, when increasingly unpredictable rains

cause flash floods." "The impact of floods was brought into sharp relief in Pakistan in August 2010. As of November 2010, over six million people were still being affected by this disaster, with many displaced and housing, livelihoods, crops and livestock lost," said Steiner in his introduction

Siphoning off the water from overflowing lakes is one adaptive action, successfully carried out at lakes in Peru's Cordillera Blanca. Similar projects have been carried out in the Tsho and Thorthormi Glaciers in Nepal and Bhutan but the cost and technical challenges in remote locations can be high.

The report recommends:

⇒ Strengthening glacial research and trans-national collaboration with emphasis on mass calculation, monitoring and particularly the effects of glacial recession on water resources, biodiversity and availability down-

⇒Improved modeling on precipitation patterns and effects on water availability in particular in mountain regions of Asia and Latin America.

⇒Prioritizing support to and development of adaptation to water-related disasters.

⇒Prioritizing programs and support to development and implementation of adaptation strategies for too much and too little water including strengthening the role of

⇒Urgently supporting the implementation and improvement of both small and large-scale water capture and storage systems and improving efficiency of current irrigation systems through the use of green technology and agricultural knowledge.

"If the world is to decisively deal with climate change, we must also address the need for programs targeted towards adaptation strategies to build long-term resilience. Local people are already having to make tough decisions and choices as the climate around them changes," said Steiner. "It is time for governments and the international [community] to step up action on cutting emissions and supporting adaptation. This meeting in Cancun is the next opportunity to fast track a response."

Concerns Over Eagle Safety Stall Wind Projects



A researcher releases a golden eagle near Central City, Pennsylvania. Researchers are trying to see what, if any, effects wind farms have on the birds migratory habits.

Photo by Melissa Rohm/ melissarohmphotography.

By The Associated Press December 13, 2010, excerpt

Fears that whirling wind turbines could slaughter protected golden eagles have halted progress on a key piece of the federal government's push to increase renewable energy on public lands, stalling plans for billions of dollars in wind farm developments.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) suspended issuing wind permits on public land indefinitely this summer after wildlife officials invoked a decades-old law for protecting eagles, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The restriction has stymied efforts to "fast-track" approvals for four of the seven most promising wind energy proposals in the nation, including all three in California.

Now, these and other projects appear unlikely to make the yearend deadline to potentially qualify for hundreds of millions of dollars in stimulus funds. If extensions aren't granted in the lame duck session of Congress,

the future of many of these plans

could be in doubt

The birds are renowned for their flying range, traveling miles to hunt down a jack rabbit. The latest population estimate in 2004 placed the number at about 80,000 in North America. But biologists say the birds have been declining, partly because they were getting killed by wind tur-

bine blades. While the eagles are found across the country, populations are larger in the West. California's three priority projects alone are within 10 miles of 21 golden eagle territories, the closest 1,000 feet away

MEANWHILE...

Record Number of Eagles Counted at Sanctuary

KEMPTON, Pennsylvania (AP in Daily News, Huntingdon) — Birdwatchers at a ridgetop preserve (Hawk Mountain) in eastern Pennsylvania counted a record number of migrating bald eagles this fall, another sign of the species' remarkable comeback following a century of decline.



Photo from Oceana Web site

Sharks are being slaughtered just so people can make soup out of their fins. Recent public outcries are bringing a halt to this practice.

U.S. Senate Passes Shark Conservation Act

After years of hard work, I'm happy to announce that the Senate just passed the Shark Conservation Act, which will end shark finning in U.S. waters.

Thank you so much – this could not have happened without you! [Ed.: OE participated in this email action.]

Shark-fin soup is an expensive dish that drives the sharkfinning trade but the role sharks play in marine ecosystems is

priceless. By improving shark conservation, the U.S. is improving overall ocean health.

Each year, commercial fishing kills more than 100 million sharks worldwide - including tens of millions for just their fins. The requirement to land sharks whole, as well as a new prohibition on the transfer of fins at sea, will help end shark-finning by U.S. fishing vessels.

The House still has to pass the Shark Conservation Act before it

becomes law but I didn't want to wait to share this exciting news - your love of the oceans and sharks has helped protect these magnificent creatures for generations to come.

Thank you once again and be sure to spread the good news!

For the oceans, Beth Lowell Federal Policy Director



An Australian recreational fisherman holds his catch of southern bluefin tuna.

Bluefin Tuna Boycott Popular; **Australia Protects Southern Bluefin**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, December 9, 2010 (ENS) — Just 10 days after the Center for Biological Diversity called for a boycott of bluefin tuna in sushi restaurants, the advocacy group said today more than 20,000 people from all 50 states and 91 countries have signed a pledge not to eat bluefin or patronize restaurants where it is sold.

Bluefin tuna are being pushed to extinction by decades of overfishing. Market prices soaring to \$177,000 for a single bluefin earlier this year motivate illegal and unreported fishing and a large black market was documented in a report published in October by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

The western Atlantic population of bluefin has dropped by more than 80 percent since 1970, while the eastern Atlantic population dropped by 74 percent between 1957 and 2007.

Last spring, western Atlantic bluefin tuna, which breed in the Gulf of Mexico, were harmed by the BP oil spill at the height of their spawning season. The Center cites scientific estimates that the spill killed more than 20 percent of juvenile western Atlantic bluefin tuna and negative effects of the oil spill are expected to persist into the future.

"Even prior to this catastrophic spill, the Atlantic bluefin tuna was in severe decline and on a path toward extinction," the Cen-

In November, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the intergovernmental agency charged with managing bluefin tuna, failed to cut next year's quotas to the levels recommended by its own scientists for the species' recovery.

Immediately after the ICCAT meeting ended, the Center for Biological Diversity launched its boycott, hoping that restaurant goers would save the unique fish by reducing demand for it.

"By voting with their wallets, consumers are saving bluefin tuna by keeping it off their plates and steering clear of sushi restaurants with the rare fish on their menu," said Catherine Kilduff, a staff attorney at the Center, which in May sought U.S. Endangered Species Act protections for Atlantic bluefin.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is now deciding whether or not to list the Atlantic bluefin tuna as endangered or threatened in response to the Center's petition.

"Eating bluefin tuna is handing out a death sentence to the last remaining survivors of this majestic marine species," said Kilduff. Bluefin tuna can grow up to

10 feet long and can weigh as much as 1,200 pounds. Unlike almost all other fish, bluefin tuna are warm-blooded and able to regulate their body temperature. Top ocean predators that sometimes hunt cooperatively, bluefin tuna can cross the Atlantic in just 60 days. The boycott also calls on chefs

and restaurant owners to sign a pledge not to buy or serve bluefin. Five restaurants in the United States that advertised bluefin tuna on their online menus in November – Nobu in New York City, Las Vegas and Los Angeles; Sushitaro in Washington, D.C. and Kabuto Sushi in San Francisco - received hand-delivered requests to stop serving bluefin.

As of today, none of the five have stopped serving bluefin, although Kilduff says Sushitaro no longer specifies online that its "fatty tuna" is bluefin.

Consumers can tell if the tuna on a menu is bluefin by asking restaurant personnel or noting the price. "If it's expensive," says Kilduff, "it could be bluefin."

The southern bluefin tuna, waters, was promised protection by the Australian government in November.

After many thwarted attempts, Humane Society International announced success in having southern bluefin tuna formally protected under Australia's national environment laws as a threatened species.

The southern bluefin tuna population has been reduced to 4.6 percent of its unfished bio-

The Humane Society submitted a nomination for the southern bluefin to be protected under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in December 2006 and, on November 24th, Environment Minister Tony Burke announced that protection will be granted.

Even so, southern bluefin tuna has not been listed in the category the Humane Society says it qualifies for - Critically Endangered – because that would put a stop to the commercial exploitation and export of the fish from Australia.

Instead, Minister Burke has opted for the lesser Conservation Dependent listing which is the

lowest protection available for a threatened species and which allows for continued fishing and exports.

"This listing will not prevent or restrict fishing or create additional regulatory burden on the industry," said Burke. "Fishing can continue under existing arrangements but it will now be a legal requirement that the species remain under a plan of management that includes actions to stop its decline and support its long-term recovery."

"Australia's tuna fishers are already working towards sustainable management; such a plan is already in place," the minister

"Because of its highly migratory nature, a global management strategy is the only way to help the recovery of southern bluefin tuna," said Burke. "A ban on southern bluefin tuna fishing in Australia would not necessarily result in a reduction of global catch, as the global catch limit may not change."

"A Conservation Dependent listing allows for continued southern bluefin tuna fishing but gives the federal environment minister stronger opportunities to intervene in management to ensure recovery," said the Humane Society's Alexia Wellbesouthern bluefin tuna does not continue to suffer 'business as usual' and that management actions are in place to achieve its recovery."

"Scientists have predicted that only a zero catch gives the southern bluefin tuna population a decent chance of recovering to 20 percent of its unfished biomass in 20 years," said Wellbelove. "The minister now needs to insist southern bluefin tuna gets this respite from fishing in Australian waters and that Australia works to achieve this internationally at the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies the western Atlantic bluefin tuna population and the southern bluefin tuna as Critically Endangered with an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate

The IUCN classifies eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna as Endangered, meaning that it faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

Northern Mariana Islands Protect Sharks From Fin Trade

NEW YORK, New York, December 13, 2010, WORLD-WIRE — WildAid (www.wildaid.org) and Shark Savers (www. sharksavers.org), two international conservation organizations working to protect sharks from over-fishing, applaud the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Senate's vote to outlaw the shark-fin trade. The bill was originally introduced by Representative Diego Tenorio Benavente into the CNMI House of Representatives, where it was approved on November 17th.

The landmark bill recognizes sharks to be "an essential element of the ocean's ecosystem"

because of their role as apex predator of the sea. It seeks to stop the severe over-fishing of sharks that occurs worldwide in order to feed the status-driven demand for shark-fin soup.

The bill makes it "unlawful for any person to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade or distribute shark fins in the CNMI." The bill is similar in that regard to one recently passed in the State of Hawaii. If signed into law, the CNMI will join another Pacific island nation, Palau, which has also taken a bold stand to protect its nation's sharks.

The Senate's move today takes the CNMI one step closer to stopping the shark-fin trade, to protect their nation's wildlife

Sharks are especially vulnerable to overfishing because they reproduce slowly. It is the combination of overfishing and inability to overcome it via reproduction that has resulted in alarming shark population declines in recent decades. and resources from such destruc-

perhaps the most wasteful and destructive practice affecting ocean life," said Peter Knights of WildAid. "It's heartening to see the CNMI taking the lead among Pacific island nations to adopt tough anti-shark-fin-trade laws

The bill goes on to explain that sharks are especially vulnerable to overfishing because they reproduce slowly. It is the combination of overfishing and inability to overcome it via reproducshark population declines in recent decades. "Increasingly, the countries

tion that has resulted in alarming

most dependent on the ocean are rallying to the defense of sharks, perhaps the ocean's most important inhabitants," said Michael Skoletsky of Shark Savers. "The CNMI's intelligent decision to preserve sea life will benefit future generations and attract lucrative underwater tourism rather than allowing foreign fisheries and shark-fin cartels to plunder its resources." Sharks, as apex predators, play

fish species, population balance

Contact: a vital role in regulating the health of important commercial

and coral reefs. Despite this importance, up to 73 million sharks are killed annually for their fins, with some shark populations declining by as much as 90%. Stopping the shark-fin trade is seen as a critical means to stop the depletion of shark populations. The bill still needs to be rec-

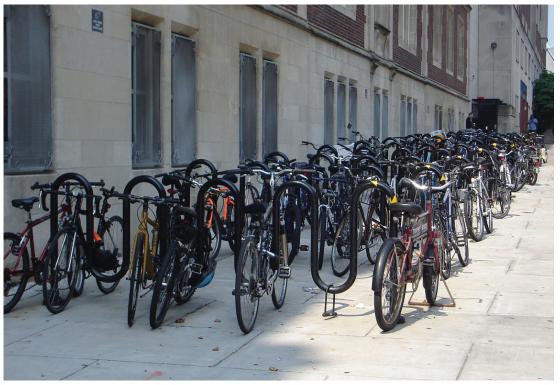
onciled with the slightly different version approved by the House before being signed into law by Governor Benigno R. Fitial. Peter Knights

at knights@wildaid.org or Michael Skoletsky, Shark Savers, at michaelskoletsky@sharksavers.org.

Earth Salms: Song 98 By Angela Magara © www.angelamagara.com

A new song is rising, rising from a frozen waste. Marvels and mysteries walk under the sun. Magic swirls colors across the noonday sky. Now we all remember. Truth is recalled again and again. Across Earth joy is shouting. Chanting life into life. Sing, play harp, shout rejoicing. Take instruments under the sky. Join sea swell and river's roar. Rejoice and melt this age of Ice With singing.

Earth Psalms is full of familiar words spoken in a new voice based on the Biblical Psalms but with the heart of Earth-based spirituality. Printed with the author's permission.



Hundreds of bikes are parked outside of the Hospital University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

One Less Car: Bike Maryland Event February 22

February 22, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. and the environment. to 4:00 p.m. in Annapolis. Hosted by Bike Maryland, the Sym posium will bring together advocates, industry leaders, on- and off-road recreational cyclists and commuters, elected officials and staff from the tri-state region.

Location: 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland; East Miller Office Building in the President's Conference Center.

You won't want to miss this event! The purpose of the Symposium is to educate and empower advocates and attendees, identify common issues in our local communities, set priorities for improving the future of bicycling in Maryland and demonstrate the economic impact of our state's bicycling community.

Who should attend? If you are interested in seeing

better bicycling in Maryland, this Symposium is for you! Attendees will include people with interests in job creation, tourism growth, transportation planning and design, mountain bike trails and

The Maryland Bicycle Sym- land preservation, investments posium will take place Tuesday, in bicycling, health and wellness,

Keynote Speaker Announced

Andy Clarke, the President of the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), is the keynote speaker at the Bicycle Symposium. Clarke was appointed president of LAB in 2004 after successfully leading efforts to create, interpret and implement the various transportation programs that are available to improve conditions for bicycling and walking as the League's State and Local Advocacy Director.

Before joining the League, Clarke provided technical assistance to the highly regarded Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center on site at the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to his strong policy background, Clarke has managed a range of bicycle and pedestrian planning projects at the state and metropolitan levels and has worked extensively with state and local advocacy groups.

Clarke is a 1984 graduate of the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom with an undergraduate degree in law. He is on the board of directors for Amer ica Bikes and a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals.

Bike Maryland and LAB partner to promote bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation. We are working together to create a Bike Friendly Maryland! Clarke will present the Bike Friendly Maryland Campaign.

This is a spectacular opportunity to learn how to make your business, university and community increasingly bike friendly.

The agenda is sure to be chock-full of renowned presenters and educational topics. Exhibits will be open all day. The Symposium agenda is posted at www.bikemd.org.

Contact: One Less Car, 1209 North Calvert Street. Baltimore, Maryland 21202, www.bikemd.org.

New Book - Zapped: Why Your Cell Phone Shouldn't Be Your Alarm Clock and 1,268 Ways to **Outsmart the Hazards of Electronic Pollution**

by Anne Louise Gittleman (recommended by Sunny War Eagle) Dedication: "To all the canaries among us who can learn to fly like eagles." Quote in introduction by Aldous Huxley: "Facts don't cease to exist just because they are ignored."

PHONE/EMAIL:



Photo by Iona

Surely an artist designed this beautiful water garden in Perugia, Italy. It adds a sense of loveliness and tranquility to the center of the city.

Art as an Engine of Change

By Adele Stan

AlterNet, December 19, 2010

When the going gets tough, the tough make art. And in America today, there's some tough going ahead. That's why AlterNet is renewing its commitment to covering the arts and culture. Sign up for our new culture newsletter at Alternet.org.

As we progressives seek to tell the story of America and the change we want to make and as we look to present progressive ideas to the wider population of Americans, it is through the arts that we are likely to make the broadest impact.

You can't hum a piece of legislation but a song can process complex ideas in eight bars. A film or television show can either reflect our experience back on us or distort it - either way to an effect more powerful than a pundit's quip can deliver. A spoken-word piece, be it rap or poetry, can name a dilemma in

a stanza - the same dilemma a wonk takes pages to illustrate. There's often more truth told in a work of fiction than there is on the nightly news.

In most successful movements for social change, artists are in the vanguard. In many cases it is their soundtrack, their visual sensibilities, their literature that comes to define a particular movement in the popular imagination. Think of the civil rights movement and the role played by music. Recall the anti-war movement of the 1960s, propelled by rock-'n'-roll and psychedelic art. Remember the controversy stirred by artist Judy Chicago's art installation, The Dinner Party, which told the story of the women's movement with provocative imagery.

But the work of artist-activists is just one half of the equation. The other entails the ways in which popular culture absorbs and reflects the tensions of our age and represents us as Americans. Those works demand the attention of the critical progressive mind.

Going forward, you will find more media criticism, such as Don Hazen's look at bad behavior by men of "Mad Men," the popular AMC series. You'll also find analyses of culture industries, like Culture editor Julianne Escobedo Shepherd's take-down of monopolies in the music business.

And we want to hear from you. What music are you listening to? What films are you watching? What fiction are you reading? Is there a video about to go viral that you think we should know about? Please let us know, using AlterNet's "site feedback" button.

As we head into a new year, let's renew our spirits with an injection of creativity. As Emma Goldman told us, a revolution without dancing is not worth

Adele Stan is AlterNet's Washington Bureau Chief.

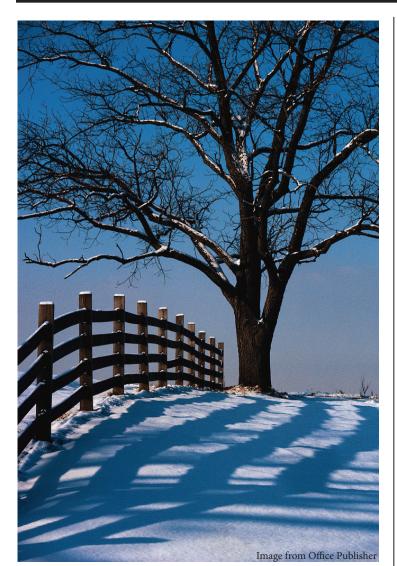
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INVITATION TO WONDER Shadows

By Elizabeth Ayres California, Maryland

Don't read this. You'll end up like me, falling Alice-fashion through a rabbit hole into a topsy-turvy world. You'll never be the same again if you manage to escape, which you may not man-

Still here? Well, I warned you. So, okay, I was driving south through Southern Maryland on Route 235. All that flat, black, boring macadam. Those tedious, humdrum stores. I was minding my own business, you understand, neither wishing for this nor hoping for that, not expecting anything except more of what I already had when I saw a scrollwork, a filigree, a lacy marvel of delicate shapes splashed and spangled across the road. Shadows. Cast by the three-o'clock sun beaming behind a strip of skinny, skimpy, barren trees growing forlornly along the

That was the hole and I fell hard. Flagpoles, traffic lights, cars, garbage cans . . . stripped of their detail and pared down to pure outline, they all possessed an exotic and intoxicating beauty. Mesmerized, I could hardly drive myself home but even there I was no longer safe. My sameold-same-old Venetian blinds turned a blank wall into a spectacular gridwork of slanting lines. An unremarkable collection of objects atop my coffee table changed a bland carpet into a fantasy garden.

What did I tell you? See? Now you're stuck, same as me, scoping out the nooks and crannies of your formerly ho-hum existence. Have you noticed? Depending on the angle of the light source, shadows faithfully mimic but hopelessly distort their originals. Thicker, thinner, longer, shorter, awry, askew, tilted. Objects get duplicated every which-a-way on any which-a-thing: a mailbox

on a barn roof, a person climbing a chimney - why, just this morning a tree grew itself right through my window and onto my dining table, bringing a soft breeze with it on trembling leaves.

Shadows are the funhouse surprise hidden in life's serious underbelly but they can have important consequences. Peter Pan risked everything to get his back and its recovery inaugurated the journey to NeverNever Land. Where would we be without Tinker Bell and Captain Hook? Then there's that pesky groundhog, whose amblings make no sense at all; I mean, if the creature sees his shadow, the sun's out and spring should be closer, not further away, but the folks up in Punxsutawney, Pennsvlvania have invented some flabberdiflap about a Candelemas Day legend, which you can check out for yourself; I don't give it much credence.

A rain shadow is a dry area behind a mountain range. Sound vanishes into an acoustic shadow. The psychologist Carl Jung called the negative parts of ourselves we don't want to admit we have "our shadow." He said real maturity only comes when we take responsibility for those ugly, unwelcome news-flashes from the soul's

It's still February but when I walked through the woods last week all the multiflora vines sported bright new leaves.

Is that a shadow?

I don't know, Alice, it's just you and me together in this topsy-turvy world.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of Know the Way and Writing the Wave, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). For a free excerpt or MP3 download from her new book <u>Invitation to Won-</u> der: A Journey through the Seasons, visit InvitationToWonder.

I discuss my thoughts with mountains coming into winter robed with clouds and snow, leaving golden leaves behind for the unity and diversity of the long, cold nights and I talk of leaving birth and even things before birth in order to embrace an appreciation for life, and for all changes --

still, the most intangible things are the most wonderful maybe even those after death

> By Sandy Chilcote Newfoundland, Canada

FROM BEHIND THE RAZOR WIRE

Hello Iona,

(This is from the middle of his letter; I have always admired Mike's ability to get the most out of typewriter ribbons since he is very clever with these things, having worked with printing machines professionally in years past.)

Looks like the recycled ribbon took a turn for the worse here as it's cracking up badly. Sometimes I have to open up the cassette(s) and remove the second-time used ribbon because it has been stretched out at the bottom and not at the top where the typing grease is missing, causing uneven rolls on the take-up roller. It gets jammed up a lot, binding the release arm I just remove the two-timed ribbon and re-start the roll-up processes all over again and it's real good like this letter started out - could not even tell, then it jammed itself and started skipping in advancement and will do like you see now until I pull all the wrinkled (two-timed) ribbon back off the take-up roller!

Another thing started happening now that concerns us both: our mail is no longer confidential or what the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in Jesup has decided to disregard, special mail commandments to news Media Publishers and Editors. The Code of Federal Regulations CFR, Title 28, states specifically in ¶540.18 and .19 that mail to a newspaper (media) is confidential and may not be opened OR read by the BOP. Well, last week the investigators ripped into letters to you and Phil (publisher of The Sovereign newspaper) and took the stamps I sent you - and did not mail the letters or give them back to me. Both letters were read and I'm sure copied - seized - and they told me I will be charged with fraud, "This is not legal mail."

I have filed over 30 administrative remedies and two U.S. court actions for relief, now these SOBs just tear into and destroy my attempts to get justice

Not a free state now, Michael Kirkpatrick Jesup, Georgia

Mike added some quotes:

- ⇒The great things in life aren't things.
- ⇒Life is a rummage sale without returns.
- ⇒When the cookies are passed to you, GET ONE!

Outlawed, Cellphones Are Thriving in Prisons

By Kim Severson and Robbie Brown New York Times, January 2, 2011, excerpt

ATLANTA — A counterfeiter at a Georgia state prison ticks off the remaining days of his three-year sentence on his Facebook page. He has 91 digital "friends." Like many of his fellow inmates, he plays the online games FarmVille and Street Wars. He does it all on a Samsung smartphone, which he says he bought from a guard. And he used the same phone to help organize a short strike among inmates at several Georgia pris-

Technology is changing life inside prisons across the country at the same rapid-fire pace it is changing life outside. A smartphone hidden under a mattress is the modern-day file inside a cake. "This kind of thing was bound to happen," said Martin F. Horn, a former commissioner of the New York City Department of Corrections, who teaches at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "The physical boundaries that we thought protected us no longer work "



Artwork by Malachi Stops, Herlong, California with the following message:

Keep up the excellent work. I'm in full support and am looking forward to the next issue impatiently! May your day be filled with unexpected pleasures.

21st Century Freedom

BY DEVIN BAKER BOISE, IDAHO

An unwise woman once said, "Drill baby Drill," But this before BP's historically large petro spill Kill switch faulty on platform of Deep Horizon Now oil is all one is to see on the horizon. Who wants to go swim in a greasy ocean?

There's a hole in the ozone but toxins in my suntan lotion. The American Dream is but a fleeting fantasy

Unless you get in on the ground floor Of the newest best groundless opportunity

But worry not you captains of industry For you own the papers, your story they won't print And lawyers with legal loopholes will cover up mismanagement.

Joe Blow only cares about the latest diet Society so submissive, subdued they care not to riot

Government oversight? Ha! Their voices came from wallets. American people are left sitting in the stands But oil washes onto the seashores of our land.

And it is our blood they shed on foreign sands. Is this really what it means to be a free man? . . .

Prisons Ordered to Clean Up Air

By George Germann

Daily News, Huntingdon, 1/5/11, excerpt

SCI Huntingdon and three other Pennsylvania prisons will improve air quality as the result of a settlement involving the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Justice, Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections and the Department of General Services.

It had been alleged there were federal Clean Air Act violations at prison boiler plants that generate power, heat and produce hot water. According to the EPA, the settlement secures air pollution reductions and additional reporting requirements for SCI Huntingdon, SCI Muncy in Lycoming County, SCI Laurel Highlands in Somerset County and SCI Rockview in Centre County. The prisons are owned and operated by the Department of General Services and the Department of Corrections.

Under the agreement, the Department of Corrections will pay a civil penalty of \$300,000. "Today's settlement will improve the air quality in four Pennsylvania communities," said Shawn Garvin, EPA Mid-Atlantic regional administrator. "It is important that all sources of air emissions, including prisons, comply with environmental regulations to ensure that the standards are met in nearby communities."

Under the terms of the settlement, each of the four facilities is making changes at its boiler plant to reduce emissions of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxides. The pollutants can cause respiratory problems, exacerbate cases of childhood asthma and create haze . . .

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Crafting Beauty for Women Behind Bars

By Jennifer Golson, excerpt The Newark Star-Ledger, November 9,

Seated at a round, wooden table in the kitchen of her Trenton home, Vivian Ferguson takes her silver scissors and cuts magazines, catalogues and junk mail into a variety of shapes.

In her hands, the pieces become dancing figures, faces and families the grandmother glues to a rainbow assortment of construction paper, turning them into greeting

It looks like a simple craft but Ferguson, 85, has been doing it for more than two decades, sending tens of thousands of cards to women she likely will never meet: inmates at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Hunterdon County.

The cards are provided for free to the inmates, who send them to friends and loved ones.

Ferguson doesn't think about the crimes the women have committed. "That's none of my business

because I'm not supposed to judge," The prison receives three or four of Ferguson's packages a month,

with at least 100 and sometimes as

many as 200 cards

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Food and Health



Photo courtesy Monsanto

Monsanto genetically engineered sugar beets must go.

Court Orders Uprooting of Monsanto **Biotech Sugar Beets**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, November 30, 2010 (ENS) — A federal judge today issued a preliminary injunction ordering the immediate destruction of 256 acres of genetically engineered (GE) sugar beet seedlings planted in Oregon and Arizona in

Judge Jeffrey White determined that the seedlings had been planted in violation of federal law and regardless of his previous ruling that made planting of GE sugar beets illegal until the U.S. Department of Agriculture completes an Environmental Impact Statement, EIS.

Judge White isssued the injunction in a lawsuit filed by EarthJustice and The Center for Food Safety on behalf of a coalition of farmers and conservation

The lawsuit was filed on September 9th after the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed it had permitted the seedlings to be planted, although a court ruling in August vacated the USDA's deregulation of biotech sugar beets based on the agency's failure to prepare an EIS.

The plaintiffs - The Center for Food Safety, Organic Seed Alliance, High Mowing Organic Seeds and the Sierra Club - had immediately sought a court order to halt the planting.

Center for Food Safety attorney George Kimbrell said, "Today's decision is a seminal victory for farmers and the environment and a vindication of the rule of law. The public interest Monsanto says. has prevailed over USDA's repeated efforts to implement the unlawful demands of the biotech industry."

Half of the nation's sugar comes from sugar beets and 95 percent of them are grown using Monsanto's Genuity® Roundup Ready® sugar beets, which are genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, the active ingredient in the Mon-

santo pesticide Roundup. Judge White ruled today that GE sugar beets could harm the environment and consumers, noting that containment efforts were insufficient and past contamination incidents were "too numerous" to allow the illegal crop to remain in the ground.

In his court order, Judge White noted, "Farmers and consumers would likely suffer harm from cross-contamination" between GE sugar beets and non-GE crops. "The likely environmental harm established by Plaintiffs is irreparable," the judge wrote.

On September 28th Judge White ruled that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had violated the National Environmental Policy Act by allowing the plantings without analyzing the potential environmental, health and socioeconomic impacts of growing GE sugar beets.

"The legality of Defendants' conduct does not even appear to be a close question," wrote the judge in today's ruling, noting that the government and Monsanto had tried to circumvent his earlier ruling.

"Failing to conduct the required environmental review and depriving Plaintiffs and the public of the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process at a time when such participation is required and is calculated to matter' constitutes irreparable

harm," ruled Judge White. Paul Achitoff of EarthJustice, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, said, "USDA thumbed its nose at the judicial system and the pub-

lic by allowing this crop to be

grown without any environmen-

tal review."

"Herbicide-resistant crops just like this have been shown to result in more toxic chemicals in our soil and water," said Achitoff. "USDA has shown no regard for the environmental laws and we're pleased that Judge White ordered the appropriate response."

Judge White heard testimony from the parties during a threeday hearing in November before issuing today's ruling.

USDA lawyers argued that the seedlings were separate from the rest of the sugar beet crop cycle and had no impact by themselves but the judge rejected this argu-

He found that the law requires USDA to analyze the impacts of not only the seedlings but the rest of the Roundup Ready® sugar beet production process as well, before any part of that process can begin.

In 2004, Monsanto Company and plantbreeding company KWS SAAT AG had requested that APHIS deregulate the biotech sugar beets. Their petition states that the GE beets should not be regulated because they are "unlikely to pose a plant pest

After completing an Environmental Assessment, APHIS deregulated the GE sugar beets as requested, effective March 4,

Five years later, 95 percent of the 2010 U.S. sugar beet crop was genetically modified Genuity® Roundup Ready® sugar beets,

But in September of 2009 Judge White found APHIS had unlawfully deregulated GE sugar

On August 13, 2010, the court vacated the deregulation determination, ruling that APHIS' Environmental Assessment failed to consider certain environmental and interrelated economic impacts.

The judge sent the issue back to APHIS for an Environmental Impact Statement, a more extensive examination of the impacts of GE sugar beets. The EIS process is ongoing and the agency says it should be complete by spring 2012.

The August ruling made any future planting and sale of the GE sugar beets illegal until APHIS complies with federal

But almost immediately after the ruling, the agency issued permits allowing companies to plant seedlings to produce seed for future Roundup Ready sugar beet crops, even though the crops are still illegal to grow and no EIS has been completed.

Growers rushed to plant the seed crop in Oregon and Arizona and these are the crops that must be uprooted.

In October, Monsanto and KWS submitted a request to APHIS for "partial deregulation" of Roundup Ready® sugar beets. Their accompanying "Environmental Report," argues that they should be allowed to conduct the future planting, harvesting and interstate movement of GE sugar beet crops, both seed and root, under conditions designed to ensure any risks posed by the introduction of these sugar beets into the environment are thoroughly mitigated."

APHIS is now in the process of evaluating the partial deregulation request and the agency would have to issue special guidelines to authorize any interim planting of the GE sugar beets while it completes the courtordered environmental impact statement and then makes a final decision.

My Month Without Monsanto

By April Dávila Earth Island Journal, Winter 2011

Early this year I embarked on a challenging and unforgettable journey. I ventured into the dark reaches of my kitchen cabinets, the depths of my vegetable drawer and the cobwebcovered corners of my spice rack. It was an expedition in-

spired not by any culinary magazine but rather by a disturbing article on The Huffington Post. The report summarized an independent study that found undeniable signs of kidney and liver damage in rats that were fed strains of Monsanto's genetically modified corn. For years I had ignored the debate about

genetically modified foods and

simply trusted the powers-that-

be to keep me safe. Then my faith sprouted tiny, genetically modified wings and flew out

the window. Unsure of how to digest the new information, I said to myself, "I just won't eat Monsanto foods anymore" and, being the modern girl I am, took the time to boast about it on my Facebook page. A friend of mine snidely commented, "Good luck, that corn is in everything." His sarcasm only spurred me to take the challenge personally. I

decided to go one month with-

out any Monsanto products.

It would be simple, I thought. would avoid all non-organic foods (the USDA "organic" label precludes any genetically modified food or anything sprayed with Monsanto's Roundup), sugar (much of it comes from Monsanto's genetically modified sugar beets) and all animal products (the majority of which are fed Monsanto grain and/or are treated with rBST - another Monsanto product).

I cleared out my closet and left only all-organic cotton clothing (genetically modified cotton is one of Monsanto's biggest sellers). I cleaned out the medicine cabinet and kept only varieties of Dr. Bronner's organic beauty care products. So that my nay-saying friends could see how effortless my sojourn was, I started a blog to chart my path into uncharted On Day One I began with a

lunch of organic salad greens, then cooked up a stir-fry of organic veggies and tempeh for dinner. I washed it all down with a tasty organic beer and thought, "This won't be so bad."

Then Day Two arrived like a cloud of DDT. I learned that when Monsanto purchased Semenis, one of its many subsidiary seed companies, it gained control of 40 percent of the

U.S. vegetable seed market from peppers to peas, lettuce to lima beans. These Monsantoowned seeds, if bought by organic farmers and grown without pesticides, are considered USDA organic.

Aside from wild-caught salmon boiled in plain water (which tasted like dirty, wet gym socks) I couldn't think of anything that I could be sure was "safe" to eat. To learn which foods were not tied to Monsanto I had to track everything back to its seed. It was daunting - but the threat of a diet dominated by stewed fish is a serious motivator.

I spent whole days, then weeks, tirelessly tracing simple foods back to their roots, literally. On Day Seven I made contact with Greg Massa, a rice farmer who prided himself on his farm's Monsanto-free status. On Day Nine the CEO of Annie's, Inc. confirmed that its organic Macaroni and Cheese is free of Monsanto ingredients. I visited my farmer's market, met the beautiful, dreadlocked couple who run the organic Givens Farm in Santa Barbara and stocked up on their non-Monsanto produce. I bought meat and dairy products derived from grass-fed livestock. Bit by bit my menu expanded.

By Day Twenty I was a few pounds lighter but I had finally hit a groove. I was eating a satisfying (if somewhat bland) variety of meat, rice and veggies and had even discovered a simple cookie recipe. The highlight of the month came on Day Twenty-seven when I invited my neighbors over for a Nonsanto (my shorthand for all things non-Monsanto) brunch.

Sitting with friends over scrambled eggs with sliced avo-cado, sautéed chard, rice pudding with raisins and hazelnuts, a big bowl of strawberries and some delicious mint lemonade, I felt a wonderful sense of community. I had personally spoken to the farmer who grew every part of that meal. I could trace every bite from seed to fork.

Not only had I discovered that it is entirely possible to live a life outside the grasp of Monsanto but I had also found a thriving community to support just such an endeavor. As every

her, visit her Web site www. aprildavila.com.

traveler learns at some point, it's the people you meet along the way who make a journey unforgettable. April Dávila is a mother and freelance writer based in Los Angeles. To find out more about

Ohio Rules rBGH Milk "Compositionally Different"

Submitted by Wynde J. Winston Westminster, Maryland

By Jill Richardson, excerpt Our Toxic Times, December 2010

Remember "way back when several states tried to ban "rBGH-free" claims on dairy? That was a few years ago now.

Monsanto, who owned rBGH at the time, helped found a group of rBGH-loving dairy farmers called AFACT. AFACT then pushed to ban any label claims telling consumers which milk came from cows that had not been treated with rBGH (also called rBST). Naturally, that sparked tons of consumer outrage and ultimately AFACT was unsuccessful in most states where they tried this.

Save for Ohio. Ohio was the one last state where it looked like they might win. Ultimately the fight went to the courts. But yesterday brought BIG news of a court decision in Ohio. The less significant news out of the court is that milk in Ohio can still say "rBGH-free" but it must also contain an FDA disclaimer saying, "[T]he FDA has determined that no significant difference has

been shown between milk derived from rBST-supplemented cows."

Now, here's the BIG news.

The court challenged the FDA's

finding that there is "no measurable compositional difference" between milk from rBGH-treated cows and milk from untreated cows. According to those who have worked on this issue for nearly two decades now (maybe more), the FDA's claim that there was no compositional difference between milk from rBGH-treated and untreated cows was the major roadblock to any good regulation. And the court finally struck it down, citing three reasons why the milk differs:

• Increased levels of the hormone IGF-1; **2** A period of milk with

lower nutritional quality during each lactation; and 3 Increased somatic cell

counts (i.e. more pus in the

The testimony submitted to the FDA's Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee all the way back in 1993 by Michael Hansen, Senior Scientist at Consumers' Union, related the potential impact of these growth hormones and can be read at www.

lafidalocavore.org/diary/4056. The district court held that the composition claims were inherently misleading because, "They imply a compositional difference between those products

that are produced with r[BST]

and those that are not," in con-

travention of the FDA's finding

that there is no difference...



Mark's Green Party Meditation in the Express Checkout Lane

By Mark Lautman Rockville, Maryland

Most grocery stores have an express lane for checking out customers with 15 items or less. The Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op trashed that idea in 2005. That's because of what happened one day when Ms. Mildred Schlockenbacher got in line with one head of broccoli. This is what happened.

"Excuse me, is this the express lane? I just have one head of broccoli, so that's one item. You do sell these by the head, right? If you sell by the bud, well, then there are about one thousand buds here, give or take a few hundred, which I suppose even on the low side disqualifies me from using the express lane. Anyway, it's not like this broccoli is for me. I'm all for healthy living and whatnot but a full head of broccoli in one sitting is a bit much. I mean, really, you never hear of anyone with a problem of binging on Brassicaceae. That's the technical term for the kale family, of which brocolli is a proud member. I'm actually buying this for Master Tanaka. He's the visiting Zen master at the meditation center down on Columbus Road. Have you ever been there? It's quite an experi-

"Yes, sir, I know you're next in line. I'll be done in a minute. Let me just finish telling this nice cashier about the meditation center.

ʻLike I was saying, Master Tanaka is the most kind and demure man. He's always sharing and caring, always thinking of others. I think he gets only four hours of sleep a night, what with all his ministering to the dejected. My word, if there were a problem with binging on Brassicaceae - that's the technical term for the kale family - I don't know how he'd fit all the addicts into his schedule. Speaking of schedules, you know how time gets short during the holidays? I was wondering all through December what gift to get him. He's very traditional, you know, always living modestly, practicing meditation regularly and giving very insightful lectures. 'Mildred, what can you possibly give to such a nice man?' I thought to myself. The drawback with meditation is that it doesn't have any accessories. If someone's hobby is baseball, you can buy them a baseball or take them to a baseball game. Gosh, if people did have a substance abuse issue with Brassicaceae, you could always buy them a carrot to satisfy the craving without introducing a toxic dose of Thiamine. What on Earth do you get a meditator? It's not like there are any uniforms that go with meditation. I was thinking about one of those oldfashioned mechanical alarm clocks, the ones with the hammers and bells on each side. Sometimes meditators do get carried away, drifting along for hours and I was thinking they probably need a good solid kabang of an alarm to bring them back to reality.

"Sir, I told you that I know you're next in line. Did you count the number of broccoli heads I'm purchasing? It's only one, which is far less than the pound of meatless meatballs and jar of psyllium powder you're trying to shove through this lane, so don't complain to me about taking too much time to pay. I'm almost done with this transaction. Just one more minute of your patience. Thank you.

"Now, where was I? Oh, yes, the gift for Master Tanaka. I remembered that nice outdoor store down by Gulliver's Lane. It's right next to Kim Anderson's pumpkin patch. Poor Kim, he never got over the fact that his oldest son went into growing zucchini instead of sticking with pumpkins. I tried to comfort Kim by saying that at least his son stayed within the Cucurbitaceae family, of which both pumpkins and zucchini are prominent members. I never told this to Kim but it's a shame when a young person just walks away from his organic heritage.

"Yes, sir, I know you're next in line and you've been waiting for five minutes but this is the express lane and I already cleared with this fine young man at the cash register that they count broccoli by the head, not by the bud, so you just be patient while I complete my transaction. If you're in such a hurry, you should study with Master Tanaka and then you'd realize that you only think you're in a hurry but you really aren't and that you're pursuing a false reality, so you just go unwrap one of those organic fig bars and find the Truth inside.

"To keep a long story very, very short, at the sporting goods store on Gulliver's Lane they have the nicest tents there. My roommate bought one for me just last week. 'Here, Mildred,' she said, 'I think it's time you take a camping trip deep in the woods.' She even gave me a GPS with the coordinates to the Canadian Rockies. That gave me a great idea. I bought a similar tent for Master Tanaka! When I gave it to him, he said, 'Mildred, that's very nice. Why are you giving me a tent? Is there some hidden meaning in this gift?'

Well, I was sure he was joshing me. Those Zen masters, they are always talking in riddles, like 'What's the sound of one hand clapping?'

'So I told him, 'Well, Master Tanaka, I gave you this tent as a gift because if you ever find yourself deep in the woods, you can always live in the present!"

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Heads-in-the-Sand Action in Cancun Draws Attention to Climate Obstructionists

Email from Tyla Matteson Richmond, Virginia

To the right is an amazing photo of an event Sierra Club put together in Cancun.

You can see my husband (Glen Besa) in the front row, wearing the flag of the USA. I am also there, in the second row from the back. We are not happy with many countries who are putting the Earth in peril by not acting quickly to address climate change.

The photo and action we did on the lovely beach in Cancun was shared around the world. Standing next to the poor polar bear is Bill McKibben of 350.org and author of Eaarth, an excellent book I highly recommend.

We stayed busy the week we were there and made many acquaintances with people from all over, such as the youth delegates from New Zealand and the top environmental negotiator from Nepal, who also stayed at our hostel located in downtown Cancun, away from the hotel strip.

The final results of the UN conference showed some movement forward - not enough, but better than the feared collapse.

One good summary is Justin Guay's Sierra Club report, which is found on the Sierra Club's Web site notepad "Compass."

Here it is.



Photo from Sierra Club Web site

Bill McKibben is agog as Sierra Club volunteers play the nations of the world who are burying their heads in the sand, despite rising seas and the imminent extinction of the polar bear. The players in the beach theater were a part of the Cancun UN Climate Change Conference delegation.

Copenhagen: It's All **About the Money**

By Justin Guay

[Musician] Wu-Tang unwittingly summed up one of the central problems preventing international action on climate change with their hit song: Cash Rules Everything Around Me (CREAM). The rap giants whose famous financial advice was to "diversify your bonds, son!" is

well heeded when it comes to the international politics of climate change. Financing is central to any deal that may come out of Copenhagen and, not surprisingly, developed countries like the United States have very different views on the issue compared to their counterparts in the developing world. These views hinge on two fundamental issues: who controls the money and how much of it there is. In short, it's all about CREAM.

Judy Bonds:

southern West Vir-

ginia, we live in a war

zone. Three-and-a-

half million pounds

of explosives are be-

ing used every day

to blow up the moun-

tains, blasting our

communities, blast-

ing our homes, poi-

soning us, trying to

intimidate us. I don't

mind being poor. I

mind being blasted

and poisoned. There

For their part, developing countries are demanding that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) controls the flow of finance committed to a potential international deal in Copenhagen. They want and need this to happen because without UN-FCCC control they have no input into the crucial decisions on how the money is spent.

Their concerns reflect the decades of western-centric development aid that has been focused through a few high-powered channels – think: the World Bank and the IMF - that have in many cases enriched western countries and contractors, while leaving developing countries worse off than they were prior - think: Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, large scale dams and the displacement of indigenous populations.

Developing country negotiators are not fools; they understand how the West's aid financing works and they are looking to circumvent the damaging ways of the past by increasing their control over future financial flows through the UNFCCC.

On top of concerns over how the money is spent, the actual dollar amount of financing needed for both mitigation and adaptation to climate change weighs heavily over the international negotiations. Estimates vary widely; however, the commonly accepted numbers for mitigation and adaptation together range from \$150 to \$300 billion annually starting in 2020. That is until a host of recent reports challenged those numbers, including a new UN report that finds that developing nations need a "\$600 billion Marshall Plan to tackle climate change with support from rich nations on a scale not seen outside wartime recovery."

The report is a global wake-up call that we have been drastically underestimating the scale of financing needed to avert climate crisis. The UN report states that failure to finance low-carbon development in countries like China and India "runs the real danger of locking in dirtier investments for several more decades" - think: the future of our planet and existence as a species. Financing on this level is also not unprecedented - have we already forgotten the Wall Street bailout?

The hope of many in the international community is that a declaration at the G-20 in Pittsburgh later this month will address this crucial issue by pledging specific amounts to an international "green fund" to be included in a Copenhagen deal. Sadly, the likelihood of such a declaration is looking grimmer by the day.

Developed countries like the United States are incredibly reluctant to commit to specific dollar amounts for a host of reasons including the recent financial crisis and stimulus package, as well as mounting domestic concerns about sending money and resources overseas during a recession.

Ultimately, financing is a question of priorities, not political realities. Our skewed priorities have created a rapidly evolving crisis and it is time that the public stands up and demands our politicians act, or pushes them out of the way. Of course that means following the money because, as Wu-tang knows, it's all about CREAM y'all.

One Good Reason for White House to Believe in Environmental Justice: Judy Bonds in the Coalfields

By Jeff Biggers AlterNet.org, December 15, 2010

As the White House convenes the first-ever forum on environmental justice today, millions of pounds of explosives detonating across the historic ranges and communities in our nation's first frontier of Appalachia, it might be easy to slip into a state of despair over the future of besieged coalfield residents.

Yet, as we head into another winter of discontent in the coalfields, Judy Bonds, the indefatigable Goldman Prize-winning activist in the Coal River Valley of West Virginia, always gives me a reason to believe in the still small possibility of environmental justice in America.

Failed attempts at improved mine safety legislation last week have been shamelessly matched by the failure of the hand-wringing Obama administration this year to halt reckless mountaintop removal operations that have left parts of Appalachia in ruin.

Mountaintop removal (MTR) coal provides less than eight percent of our nation's coal production and yet it provides one of the most enduring examples of environmental crimes, economic ruin and human rights violations in

NEWS FLASH, January 14: Today the U.S. EPA vetoed the largest single mountain-top removal coal mining permit in West Virginia history, the Spruce No. 1 mine.

ARE no jobs on a dead planet." terly cold day in Washington, DC, Bonds riveted a huddled crowd at the Capital Power Plant by calling on our nation to envision a clean energy future. "I don't mind being poor," she told the crowd, "And I don't mind being made fun of. 1960s. West had written: But I draw the line at being blasted and poisoned." She invoked

You are the lightning." I filed my first story on mountaintop removal ten years ago when my family's historic homestead in the Shawnee National

Frederick Douglass' charge that

"change requires thunder and

lightning." Judy reminded the

crowd: "...You are the thunder.

strip-mined into oblivion but I will never forget standing at the abyss of a strip-mine in West Virginia in the summer of 1983 with famed labor organizer and poet Don West. Back in the

If we native mountaineers can now determine to organize and save ourselves, save our mountains from the spoilers who tear them down, pollute our streams and leave grotesque areas of ugliness, there is hope... It is time to realize nobody from the outside is ever going to save us from bad conditions unless we make our own stand.

lachians have always been on the frontlines of social justice movements that have shaped America's legacy of democracy, especially in moments of despair and seeming hopelessness; that mountaineers turned the tide of the faltering American Revolution at the battle of Kings Mountain in 1780; that Appalachians published the first anti-slavery newspaper in 1819 and inspired the northern abolitionist movement; that mountain people galvanized the labor movements with their fearless battles and trained the shock troops of the Civil Rights movements at the Highlander Folk Center.

A coal miner's daughter and a grandmother, Judy Bonds has added a new chapter to Appalachia's - and our nation's - struggle for environmental justice in the 21st century.

Over the past decade, as codirector of the Coal River Mountain Watch and a tireless campaigner for a just transition to a clean energy future across the country, Judy Bonds has given us a reason to believe that we can save ourselves, save our mountains - that there is hope.

In an interview last year, Bonds called on activists to not give up the fight against mountaintop removal and ramp up a groundswell of pressure to give politicians the courage to end mining abuses:

This issue will have to be resolved by a groundswell of outrage on behalf of the public and activists, putting grassroots activists on the ground while putting pressure on officials, politicians and media to force change is the immediate key to resolving the issue here. Currently we have proposed two bills: a House bill: (H.R. 1310, the Clean Water Protection Act) and a Senate bill (S. 696. the Appalachia Restoration Act). Both bills will sharply reduce mountaintop removal coal mining and protect clean drinking water for many of our nation's cities. It will also protect the quality of life for Appalachian coalfield residents who face frequent catastrophic flooding and pollution or loss of drinking water as a result of mountaintop removal coal mining. But I honestly believe these bills will not be passed into law unless the politicians have the courage to do so. Mountaintop removal and strip mining is as

people on the ground. If Judy Bonds, on the frontlines

black and white an issue as it gets.

I believe many politicians are

looking for the courage to act

appropriately, the people just need

to put the pressure on them and

that will provide the courage

needed. So, the silver lining is the

of mountaintop removal, can see that silver lining, then clean energy activists across the nation have a reason to believe.

To support Coal River Mountain Watch, visit www.crmw.net. Various film documentaries have featured Judy, including On Coal River and Coal Country.

Jeff Biggers is the American Book Award-winning author of Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland (Nation/Basic Books), among other books. Visit his Web site: www.jeffbiggers.com.

Judy Bonds Dies

(Email from Cindy Waugh, January 10, 2010)

Judy Bonds, the environmental activist that rallied the troops against MTR in West Virginia died last week from cancer. Here is her memorial page: www.judybondsmemorial.com.

I thought you might be interested in reading and seeing this wonderfully-assembled, multifaceted conglomeration of photos, videos, comments and stories about Judy. The mountains lost an active, fierce and vital Mother Jones-type [woman].



Artwork by David Dees

Phil Schrader, publisher of The Sovereign newspaper, sent this image saying: "There was a huge bird kill the other day in Arkansas using these wireless weapons that you can't see or hear. Also, 'Louisiana has mass bird kill, days after Arkansas.' If Americans don't start fighting back, they're going to end up like the birds in the attached picture by the wonderfully infamous David Dees."



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Grassroots Action

ASPCA Assists in Interstate Transfer of 35 Rescued Puppies

ASPCA Alert: November 12, 2010

In mid-October, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) was contacted about an organization in North Dakota, the Central Dakota Humane Society (CDHS), which had seized 129 dogs from an alleged puppy

The raid had filled the CDHS shelter to capacity, forcing the agency to leave approximately 60 dogs at the mill until more shelter space could be made. According to Sue Buchholz, CDHS shelter director, all the rescued dogs had parasites and were underweight; some were nearly dead of starvation while others had old wounds, ear infections, pregnancies and other health issues.

It was clear that dogs had to be moved out, and quickly – so the ASPCA reached out to their partners to see if there were any organizations in the region willing and able to accept a sizable transfer of rescued dogs.

Colorado's Humane Society of Boulder Valley stepped forward to take 35 canines but did

Pennsylvania Game Commis-

sion Executive Director Carl G.

Roe announced that on January

1st, Pennsylvania officially

became the 36th member state of

the Interstate Wildlife Violator

Compact, under which the worst

of convicted wildlife violators

will stand to lose their hunting

privileges in all states enrolled in

bring a whole new penalty for

those who are convicted of some

of the worst violations of our

state's hunting laws," Roe said.

"Pennsylvania will band together

with 35 other states in a united

front against convicted poachers,

who steal from all citizens, most

especially, law-abiding hunters...

Under the new law, the Game

"The coming new year will

Daily News, Huntingdon

January 4, 2010, excerpt

the Compact.

2011 Means New Penalties

for Worst Wildlife Violators

not have the resources to move them to Colorado so the ASPCA offered the use of their custombuilt animal transport vehicle.

On November 5th, the driver, an animal assistant and a group of mostly mixed-breed dogs completed their journey of more than 600 miles and arrived at Boulder Valley. "Almost every dog we received is highly social but also highly fearful," says Connie Howard, Humane Society of Boulder Valley Vice President of Operations.

All 35 dogs were evaluated and placed in the shelter's behavior modification program, where trainers work with them individually at least twice a day. "They are struggling, of course, with tasks such as walking on leashes but overall are making rapid progress and doing really well," reports Howard. Most of the dogs have been made available for adoption and two lucky pups have already gone home with new pet parents.

For more information visit ASPCA.org's Anti-Cruelty section.

Commission must report to

other Compact states those con-

victed of the following offenses

under Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code): hunting or furtaking

while on revocation; unlawful

use of lights to take wildlife; buy-

ing and selling game; hunting or

furtaking under the influence;

shooting at or causing injury to a

human; counterfeit, alter or forge

license or tag; threatened or

endangered species violations;

assault/interference or bodily

injury to a wildlife conservation

officer; illegal taking or posses-

sion of big game in closed season

and accumulated wildlife viola-

tions for which the penalty pro-

vided by Title 34 is no less than a

summary offense of the fourth

degree and the violation is not

the only violation in a 24-month

period . . .



Photo courtesy Bruno Manser Fund

Samling bulldozers in the primary jungle near Ba Jawi, an immediate threat to the community and the region's unique biodiversity.

Penan Go to Court to Defend Heart of Borneo Rainforests

Bruno Manser Fund December 21, 2010

Ba Jawi community sues logging group and Sarawak government to protect high-conservation-value rainforest

BA JAWI (Sarawak), Malaysia — Sarawak's Upper Baram region has today lodged a collective action lawsuit against Malaysian timber giant Samling and the state government of Sarawak over 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of primary rainforest in order to protect their livelihood from being destroyed by logging

livelihood from being destroyed by logging.

The case was filed this morning by lead plaintiff Lija Agan, headman of the tiny village of Ba Jawi, and three other plaintiffs who are claiming that the Ba Jawi forests have been used since time immemorial by their ancestors and urgently need to be protected against logging. "About 200 years ago, the ancestors of the plaintiffs were living in and around Ba Jawi, exercising native customary rights over the land in Ba Jawi and its vicinity," the Penan's statement of claim reads. "They hunted and gathered food from the forests and lived on sago (uvut) as their staple

food. The plaintiffs are presently exercising these rights over that same land."

The Penan are claiming that a logging licence held by Samling Plywood, a subsidiary of the Malaysian Samling group of companies, should be rescinded since it was issued by the Sarawak government in an "unlawful, improper, unconstitutional and therefore null and void" manner.

The new case is the fifth native customary-rights case lodged by Eastern Penan communities from Upper Baram since 1998. It has been prepared with assistance from the Bruno Manser Fund and will be represented by the renowned law office of Messrs. Baru Bian in Kuching. The area covered by the Ba Jawi claim is a key region of the Penan Peace Park, a self-administered conservation region in the Heart of Borneo, which was proclaimed a nature reserve by 17 Penan communities in November 2009 and covers twice the size of Singapore. (See January 2010 OE.)

In February 2007, the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei signed the tripartite "Heart of Borneo Declaration" in which they committed themselves to protecting the rainforests of central Borneo; however, the declaration has not been followed by much action on the ground. In December 2009, Sarawak's director of forests, Len Talif Salleh, even condemned the Penan Peace Park as an "illegal" project that "tainted Sarawak's image."



Photo courtesy Bruno Manser Fund Giant tree in Ba Jawi's virgin jungle, a high-conservation value region within the Penan Peace Park.

Bruno Manser Fund, Socinstrasse 37, CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland; www.bmf.ch, info@bmf.ch; telephone 41-61-261-94-74 (Switzerland) or www.penanpeacepark.org.

Photo by Albert Botha, Stornoway Productions Valerie Stanley, who has written many, many good articles for OE on vegetarianism and animal issues, is shown here with her rescued horse, Judge. We wish her the best in her continuing work on behalf of animals. She will write for us occasionally in the future on similar issues.

WATER continued from page 7

chromium-6 risk assessment, a review the agency started in 2008 in response to new science showing a link between chromium-6 ingestion and cancer. This risk assessment, which would be the first step to updating the drinking water regulations, will be finalized after an independent scientific peer review in 2011.

Jackson told the senators that, based on the draft risk assessment, "EPA will likely revise drinking water regulations to account for this new science." Revisions would only take place after an independent science panel has verified the underlying science, she said.

Within days, the EPA will take action to address chromium-6 in drinking water, first assessing the extent of the problem, then issuing guidance to water system operators on monitoring and sampling programs for chromium-6.

um-6.
"It is clear that the first step is

to understand the prevalence of this problem," Jackson said. "While the EWG study was informative, it only provided a snapshot in time. EPA will work with local and state officials to get a better picture of exactly how widespread this problem is."

"We will also offer significant technical assistance to the communities cited in the EWG report with the highest levels of chromium-6 to help ensure they quickly develop an effective chromium-6 specific monitoring program," said Jackson.

"Strong science and the law will continue to be the backbone of our decision-making at EPA," said Jackson. "EPA takes this matter seriously and we will continue to do all that we can, using good science and the law, to protect people's health and our environment."

*Zero is the only safe level of exposure for carcinogens.

Downspout Disconnection

Submitted by Mare Cromwell Baltimore, Maryland

Herring Run Watershed Association, 12/21/10

What is Downspout Disconnection?

Downspout disconnection is the technical term for diverting rainwater from rooftops onto a vegetated surface rather than into the storm sewer system.

In the City of Baltimore and parts of Baltimore County, most of the rain that falls is conveyed directly to local streams via pipes, culverts and storm drains. All water that is not absorbed or otherwise retained where it falls, is called stormwater or urban runoff.

In urban and suburban settings, a majority of precipitation becomes stormwater due to the high percentage of impervious surfaces, which prevent the natural process of water filtration. Impervious surfaces include rooftops, roads, sidewalks and roofs.

Stormwater picks up nutrients, particulates, sediment, debris, pathogens, heavy metals, automobile fluids and toxins, delivering them to the local stream and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. By disconnecting downspouts, we will reduce the volume of storm water as well as the pollutant load that negatively impacts our waterways.

The Difference Between a Connected and a Disconnected Downspout

If your downspout is 'connected,' it conveys water from your roof directly to the road

Connected Downspouts

Helping Your Environment:





Disconnected Downspouts





and/or storm sewer pipes. Connected downspouts cause stream bank erosion, stream flooding and water pollution. A 'connected' downspout looks like the pictures or the left share.

res on the left above.

If your downspout is 'disconnected,' it conveys rain from your roof onto your yard,

4170 on

helping to protect the streams. A 'disconnected' downspout looks like the pictures on the right above.

Sign up today to do your part to protect our streams! Contact Dana Puzey at 410-746-4170 or dpuzey@jonesfalls.org.

The Order of the Earth: February 2011, Page 15

Letters to the Editor



Accidental Deer Death

The following poem came with the attached note:

I've been driving 63 years and had my first accident. Coming home from church one evening a Momma deer ran in front of my car. I was only doing 25 mph because it was dark and wet. Threw her 10 feet forward. Reflex action took over and I got

in the left lane so I wouldn't hit her again.

Thank God no one was coming or I would have been a goner. Her baby did not follow her. Thank God!

I couldn't sleep.

Next day I drove back and she was lying on the side of the road. It was a traumatic experience which I hope will never be repeated. I suffered guilt for weeks, until I wrote this poem.

The damage totaled \$1,060 but I only paid \$50.

At 83, age is catching up to me so I have had to give up some of my volunteer work, Even so, I feel great.

Terry Carnila Bedford, Pennsylvania.

I remember the last time I saw my mother. It's hard to believe she would leave me to care for myself. Perhaps she didn't love me as much as I thought she did.

She ran off without looking back and then I saw the bright lights and heard the awful sound. It was horrible and I can't forget it. Back into the woods I retreated. Lay down and waited. She never came back.

How will I ever live in these woods by myself? Who will feed me? It's so cold here and I miss lying next to her. What will happen to me? Does anyone care?

. Inother one . . .

This letter arrived the same cook dinner for the family. week with this note:

At the grocery store my good friend and EarthBridge poet told me she was grieving deeply.

A deer came out of nowhere and she hit it on Christmas morning on her way to her Mom's to

The deer did not die right away and a father and son came up. The father said he and his son had been "trying' to get that sucker for a long time.

This made my friend cry even

I asked her permission to re- Marianna, Florida

quest my Deer Clan Mother join me in prayers for her and the

This poem came to me when I got home.

Sunny War Eagle

My Deer Friend

I chose your car to end my life rather than those hunters without heart. You shed your tears so abundantly. They would have cheered and bragged over my eight-point horn. You shed your tears so sincerely that my deer-heart aches for your sorrow. blame yourself Don't my gentle friend; I chose your car to end my life rather than those heartless hunters.

Comments on Content

Dear Iona,

I am impressed with the amount and quality of work/writing (in the January 2011 Special Report on the National People's Oil and Gas Summit). One of the positives of this frack attack by the oil industry on all of us is that we have built an incredible alliance of progressive folks that is growing, needs to grow more to meet the industry push-back, and is inspiring to be a part of.

Having delivered "real" papers for seven years in the late '50s and early '60s, I would greatly appreciate at least three copies of your

Thanks for your work.

Joseph J. Heath, Esq. Onondaga Nation General Counsel Syracuse, New York

(another response to last month's Special Report from the man who was responsible for all the great aerial photos)

Thanks Iona! Awesome job pulling all of this together. Thanks for using and crediting our images. John Amos SkyTruth.org.

(from the poet who wrote "dominance of seeds" for our last issue)

Thank you, Iona. Beautiful pre-

Your work on gas drilling and the ruin that it causes, not to mention how it is unnecessary, is very eloquent and timely!

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year 2011 to you and

Best,

Sandy Chilcote Newfoundland, Canada

Uranium in Shale

(Sent by Jerry Byars, excerpted from Science Centric [News]: 'Fracking' Mobilizes Uranium

in Marcellus Shale, source University at Buffalo)

...University at Buffalo (UB) researchers have now found that the process called hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" also causes uranium that is naturally trapped inside Marcellus shale to be released, raising additional environmental concerns. The research was to be presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver on November 2.

Marcellus shale is a massive rock formation that stretches from New York through Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia and which is often described as the nation's largest source of natural gas.

"Marcellus shale naturally traps metals such as uranium and at levels higher than usually found naturally, but lower than manmade contamination levels," says Tracy Bank, PhD, assistant professor of geology at UB's College of

Arts and Sciences and lead researcher. "My question was, if they start drilling and pumping millions of gallons of water into these underground rocks, will that force the uranium into the soluble phase and mobilize it? Will uranium then show up in groundwater?"

To find out, Bank and her colleagues at UB scanned the surfaces of Marcellus shale samples from Western New York and Pennsylvania. Using sensitive chemical instruments, they created a chemical map of the surfaces to determine the precise location in the shale of the hydrocarbons, the organic compounds containing natural gas.

"We found that the uranium and the hydrocarbons are in the same physical space," says Bank. "We found that they are not just physically - but also chemically bound. That led me to believe that uranium in solution could be more of an issue because the process of drilling to extract the hydrocarbons could start mobilizing the metals as well, forcing them into the soluble phase and causing them to move around."

When Bank and her colleagues reacted samples in the lab with surrogate drilling fluids, they found that the uranium was indeed being solubilized.

In addition, she says, when the millions of gallons of water used in hydraulic fracturing come back to the surface, they could contain uranium contaminants, potentially polluting streams and other ecosystems and generating hazardous waste.

The research required the use of very sophisticated methods of analysis, including one called Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry, or T-F-SIMS, in the laboratory of Joseph A. Gardella, Jr., Larkin, Professor of Chemistry at UB.

The UB research is the first to map samples using this technique, which identified the precise location of the uranium.

"Even though at these levels, uranium is not a radioactive risk, it is still a toxic, deadly metal," Bank concludes. "We need a fundamental understanding of how uranium exists in shale. The more we understand about how it exists, the more we can better predict how it will react to "fracking."

Totally Frigid Winter

When I was a child in the 1940s and 1950s, it was very cold in winter in Korea. Sometimes it was 20° C below zero (-4 degrees Fahrenheit) and the wind from Mongolia was very severe. The wind-chill factor was below 30° C below zero. In winter the weather had a unique pattern. For three days it was very cold and for the next four days it was warm.

At that time Koreans were very poor and wool sweaters were luxury items and long johns were a rare species. Gloves? Only children from rich families could wear gloves. Bathing? In wintertime we had to walk two or three miles to get to a public bathing place and the fare was relatively expensive and we could take a bath only for special occasions.

We did not have enough extra clothes to spare. And mothers had to wash clothes in icy-cold water. When it snowed, the temperature went up and mothers washed clothes of family members. At that time mothers used firewood ashes as soap. Mothers did everything to keep their children warm but it was very hard for them to do so. We did not have enough firewood. They burned firewood to cook food and at the same time to heat the stone floor in the evening. At dawn the drinking water in a bottle in the bedroom was frozen.

At that time farmers grew barley. They sowed the seeds in late autumn. Barley grew up in early winter and the farmers and children stepped on the barley to stop further growing. If they were well grown up, the barley could not stand cold temperatures and they could be frozen to death.

Snow is good for barley too because it becomes a blanket for the plants in severely cold win-

Nowadays, the weather pattern changed completely because of global warming. Most people live in condominiums and the space is heated by natural gas. They live in a completely different world.

The weather pattern is strange here in Korea. In the past it was mild for four days and cold for three days in the winter. But it does not run that way any more. And we have a kind of local snow storm. Korea is a small country but snow pours in a certain area. When it snows, it snows, heavy snow. It is not predictable. Take care,

Pyong Roh Daegu, Korea

Eat Veggies! (Submitted by Len Frenkel)

Head on over to TIME.COM and check out the study just published in the Archives of Internal Medicine. This was a big study over 14 years, which found the higher blood concentrations you have of the antioxidant alpha-carotene found in a variety of vegetables the lower your risk of dying.

The lower amount of veggies you eat . . . the quicker you perish. How many more studies do you need to underscore the obvious? The last paragraph of the article starts: "Americans could use a push to eat more vegetables.'

What it really should say: "Americans could use a push to eat only plants!"

Read the entire article at http:// healthland.time.com/2010/11/22/ study-veggies-still-really-goodfor-you. Also More on Time.com: Five Ways to Get Oatmeal in Your Diet, Deliciously.

News Submitted by Our Readers

Molokai Goes Solar

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle Marianna, Florida (two articles)

By Rebecca Jacobs

Indian Country Today, December 8, 2010, excerpt

KAUNAKAKAI, Molokai — On the Hawaiian island of Molokai, time moves slowly and life is intentionally simple. Many Molokai residents rely upon the fruits and vegetables they grow or the fish they catch at sea to subsist as their ancestors have for centuries. Additional supplies that cannot be grown or acquired from within, arrive with a high price tag from the U.S. mainland via Oahu, urging most individuals to think locally.

This idea of self-sufficiency overlaps with the increasing use of photovoltaic (PV) systems across the island. The technology employs island companies and reduces the necessity of importing foreign oil and gasoline (which costs, on average, almost \$5 per gallon on Molokai) from the mainland.

Just last month, Molokai's Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School, which has an enrollment of more than 90 percent Native Hawaiian students, completed the installation of its own PV powerhouse. With a 50-kilowatt inverter and 189 total panels, the school will now be more selfsufficient - putting an end to its once \$10,000-permonth electricity bill

Climate Refugees Documentary

person displaced by climatically-induced, environ-

By Terri Hansen, excerpt

There is a new phenomenon in the global arena called "Climate Refugees." A climate refugee is a

mental disasters. Such disasters result from incremental and rapid ecological change, resulting in increased droughts, desertification, sea-level rise and the more frequent occurances of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, cyclones, fires, mass flooding and tornadoes. All this is causing mass global migration and border conflicts. For the first time, the Pentagon now considers climate change a national security risk and the term "climate wars" is being talked about in war-room-like environments in Washington, D.C. What's left of a small South Pacific atoll is barely

visible beneath the waves. Once filled with trees and life, this island, part of the small island nation of Tuvalu, has been swallowed by the ocean, a casualty of climate change and rising sea levels. Tuvalu is sinking. It will displace thousands of

people. "Nature used to be a very, very nice friend," said one Tuvaluan. "Now, nature is the enemy." A middle-aged Tuvaluan woman tells documentary film-maker Michael Nash that she knows, "We have no chance to get out of here as refugees." In his documentary film "Climate Refuges,"

Nash traveled the world documenting the human consequences of climate change. "Many people say Tuvalu will be the first country to go underwater," Nash said. "It's unsettling having to leave these people. That grandmother is probably going to have to swim for her life."

The United Nations's Dr. Koko Warner, one of the experts interviewed in the film, said it's estimated that, with sea-level rise, 42 small island developing states could fully disappear.

The Global Governance Project defines a climate refugee as someone forced to leave their homeland by "at least one of three impacts of climate change: sea-level rise, extreme weather events or drought and water scarcity." Political refugees can go to another country; but environmental refugees can't go

The film looks at the millions of people, many of

them peasants and indigenous peoples, who will be displaced as their homelands become increasingly uninhabitable by the changes wrought by a warming climate . . .

"Climate Refugees" is not yet abailable on DVD. To learn more about future screenings, visit http://web.mac.com/lathinktank/climaterefugees/ Screenings.html.

Science the GOP Can't Wish Away

Submitted by Jane Geuder Ellicott City, Maryland

By Sherwood Boehlert, excerpt Washington Post, November 19, 2010

Watching the raft of newly-elected GOP lawmakers converge on Washington, I couldn't help thinking about an issue I hope our party will better address. I call on my fellow Republicans to open their minds to rethinking what has largely become our party's line: denying that climate change and global warming are occurring and that they are largely due to human activities.

National Journal reported last month that 19 out of the 20 serious GOP Senate challengers declared that the science of climate change is either inconclusive or flat-out wrong. Many newly-elected Republican House members take that position. It is a stance that defies the findings of our country's National Academy of Sciences, national scientific academies from around the world and 97 percent of the world's climate scientists.

Why do so many Republican senators and representatives think they are right and the world's top scientific academies and scientists are wrong? I would like to be able to chalk it up to lack of information or misinformation.

I can understand arguments over proposed policy approaches to climate change. I served in **Congress for 24 years.** I know these are legitimate areas for debate. What I find incomprehensible is the dogged determination by some to discredit distinguished scientists and their findings.

In a trio of reports released in May, the prestigious and nonpartisan National Academy concluded that, "A strong, credible body of scientific evidence shows that climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities and poses significant risks for a broad range of human and natural systems." Our nation's most authoritative and respected scientific body couldn't make it any clearer or more conclusive . . .

While many in politics - and not just of my party - refuse to accept the overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change, leaders of some of our nation's most prominent businesses have taken a different approach. They formed the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP). This was no collection of mom-and-pop shops operated by "tree huggers" sympathetic to any environmental cause but, rather, a step by hard-nosed, profit-driven capitalists. General Electric, Alcoa, Duke Energy, DuPont, Dow Chemical, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler signed on. USCAP, persuaded by scientific facts, called on the President and Congress to act, saying, "In our view, the climate change challenge will create more economic opportunities than risks for the U.S. economy."

There is a natural aversion to more government regulation. But that should be included in the debate about how to respond to climate change, not as an excuse to deny the problem's existence. The current practice of disparaging the science and the scientists only clouds our understanding and delays a solution. The record flooding, droughts and extreme weather in this country and others are consistent with the patterns that scientists predicted....

Awakening Booklet is Now Available

Iona's Testimony: My life has become so amazingly wonderful and peaceful since I turned it over to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God that I want to share as much as I can about Him with everyone so I put together all 10 "Awakening" articles in a booklet, which I'll be happy to mail to you. My cost is about \$6 (including postage) but, if you can't afford that, I will send it to you anyhow. Please send your check, money order, cash or request for a free booklet to:

> Iona Conner The Order of the Earth 21431 Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. You may email ionaconner@gmail.com or phone 814-259-3680. Thank you.

THE AWAKENING: PART IV



(First published November 2009)

This message is sent to you by the one who helps you to see and understand what you may not have seen nor

understood before, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

For all of you whose names were written in the Book of Life before the world began, this should help to key and/or jog your genetic memory of me. As for any others, I would like you to know a little more about me. I am a true friend of all things in all

dimensions in all Creation. Those who know me address me simply as Most High and I address them as High. I am not vengeful, wrathful, angry, jealous, arrogant . . . etc. I have no need of these things for I influence things, they do not influence me, for you are less than whatever controls you. In other words,

if something makes you angry, you are less than whatever made you angry.

I am the spirit of love, wisdom, understanding, counsel, truth, compassion, mercy, kindness . . . etc. I am also the spirit of forgiveness. Forgiveness is earned by repentance (change of mind and heart) proven by actions and deeds. I did not cause this world's problems nor did I cause pain, suffering or punishment.

I did not come to judge. I came to bring Heaven to life here on Earth along with all dimensions involved. (This has already begun.)

I also brought with me the Sacred Rules. One of these rules is Free Choice within my boundaries, which are: You have free choice as long as you do not violate any other choice. When there are differing choices wanting or needing to be made regarding the same thing, the wisest and most honorable choice wins. The charitable choice overrides the selfish choice. The compassionate choice overrides the cruel choice. The kind choice overrides the mean choice and so on . . . This rule not only applies to humans but applies to nature and the environment as well. For example, nature

and the forest will decide which trees are harvested, not humans. Nature and the environment have choice as well.

This Sacred Rule is of great importance to all things as I have already made my choice to bring Heaven to life here on Earth and now all things must choose if they want to be a part of Heav-

en on Earth. It is an honor and a pleasure to share my messages with all who choose to listen. Stay within the light of my Love and my Truth.

Your Friend,

The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH EVERYONE BUT WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM IT IN ANY WAY.

For further information about Most High God, contact Iona at 814-259-3680, ionaconner@gmail.com, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 or www.theorderoftheearth.

Warm from page 1

number for comparison - a number akin to "normal." To do that, they estimate the mean temperature for a base period. For NASA-GISS, the base period is 1951 -1980. The other groups use somewhat different base periods but the general approach is the same. So for NASA-GISS, the global temperature anomaly for a given month is the extent to which the actual average temperature of the Earth differs from the mean temperature during 1951-1980. But how can such a number be calculated for the entire planet?

NASA-GISS goes about it by carving up the land surface into 8,000 equal-area grid boxes. Using the available station data, it calculates an average anomaly for each box (compared to a base period for each box). With that data, NASA-GISS then calculates anomalies for a series of larger and larger portions of the globe, including the Northern and Southern hemispheres, and the entire land surface of the globe.

In a separate step, NASA-GISS uses sea surface temperature data from ships spanning the years 1880 to 1981 and satellite data from 1981 to the present, to determine temperature anomalies for the oceans. When that's done, the scientists combine the anomalies for the land and the sea into a single global temperature anomaly figure called the "Land-Ocean Temperature Index."

NOAA-NCDC and HadCRUT divide the land surface and sea surface into grid boxes five degrees on a side. As in the NASA approach, the groups use the available temperature data to calculate average temperature anomaly numbers for each grid box. These are then combined to create a global temperature anomaly (as well as anomaly numbers for smaller geographic regions).

Although the details differ, the overall approaches of both

NASA and NOAA are similar. So why did they come up with different rankings for this past November – not to mention for entire years? And why is it that

HadCRUT will probably come up with a somewhat different number when it issues its calculation for November? (The group has just issued its anomaly map for November.)

Data Gaps, Biases

The long and short of it is that the scientists independently grapple with a variety of common challenges and, in some cases, use different methods.

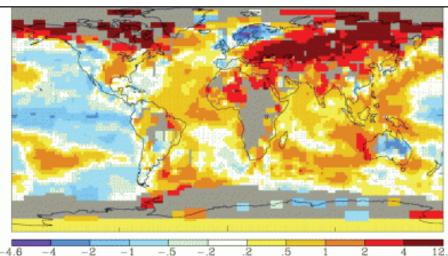
One of those challenges is the need to adjust for biases in the data arising from changes in technology going all the way back to the 1800s, when reliable record-keeping began.

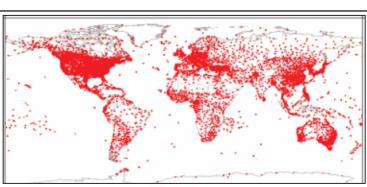
So, for example, seafarers have been measuring sea surface temperatures for more than a century. But they've gone from using buckets to pull up water samples, to sampling the water drawn through their ships' engine-cooling intakes. And as Richard Reynolds of NOAA-NCDC notes, "Buckets tend to be biased cold due to evaporation, while engine room temperatures tend to be biased warm due to engine room heating." These biases in the data must be corrected to produce reasonably accurate temperature anomalies.

Another challenge affects measurements of temperatures on land: Over the course of more than a century, many rural areas have been urbanized. And as any city dweller knows, the dog days of summer are a good time to escape to the country, because all that asphalt, concrete and brick tends to elevate urban temperatures. So the three groups must adjust for this possible bias as

Another source of potential error arises from the fact that there are still significant parts of the Earth with no meteorological stations on land checking surface temperatures with thermometers and no ship-based or buoy-based measurements of sea surface temperatures. Large gaps exist in the Amazon, parts of Africa, Antarctica and, most significantly, in the Arctic.

Complicating things, the farther back in time you go, the





Land stations used as part of NOAA's Global Historical Climatology Network. Credit: NASA

sparser the geographic coverage becomes, potentially skewing the long-term record of global temperature anomalies.

HadCRUT approaches this challenge in a simple and straightforward way: If there are no temperature data for a given month in a grid box, that box is simply left blank.

But there is a problem with this approach. Gaps in coverage are particularly significant in the Arctic – where, despite a dearth of monitoring stations, warming is known to have been particularly intense and rapid in recent years.

So by leaving large parts of the Arctic blank, HadCRUT may well be underestimating the degree of global warming. In fact, the HadCRUT analysis typically shows global temperature anomalies to be somewhat cooler than the other two analyses.

The scientists at NOAA tackle this problem using interpolation, a statistical approach that fills in gaps using data from nearby

Reynolds thinks this is a reasonable approach. "If you know the temperature in Denver, you can make a good estimate of the temperature in Boulder but not in Melbourne, Australia," he says.

NASA-GISS scientists also fill in gaps but in a somewhat different way. As James Hansen and colleagues at Goddard write in a paper explaining their approach:

The GISS analysis assigns a temperature anomaly to many grid-boxes that do not contain measurement data, specifically all grid-boxes located within 1200 km (745 miles) of one or more stations that do have defined temperature anomalies.

In other words, they extrapolate across some pretty large gaps - ones as far across as 700 miles.

Hansen and his colleagues argue the approach is valid because research shows that any particular temperature anomaly will tend to be large in geographic reach, particularly at middle and high latitudes.

But the NASA-GISS approach

temperature anomaly in the NASA GISS analysis, using only data from meteorological stations and Antarctic research stations, with the radius of influence of a station limited to 250 km (155 miles). Credit:

(left) Novem-

ber surface air

has come in for particular criticism from climate change skeptics, who severely question the scientific basis for extrapolating data across such large gaps.

However, there is significant scientific support for the approach and for the determination that the Arctic is warming rapidly. Hansen and his colleagues point out that independent measurements of temperatures in the Arctic using infrared instruments reveal significant warming over large areas.

Support also comes from observations of shrinking and thinning Arctic sea ice, thawing of permafrost and changes to Greenland's ice sheet – all indica tors of widespread warming.

Gavin Schmidt, Hansen's colleague at NASA-GISS, points out that whether you fill gaps or not, you are making a decision about what the temperatures were in those gaps. "When you have a data gap, you can either interpolate/extrapolate from nearby sources or not," he says.

"Each approach has an implication. If you leave it blank, it is equivalent to assuming that it has warmed at the same rate as the globe. While if you fill it in, you assume that it is changing at the same rate as nearby points. This makes the biggest difference in the Arctic, which is warming substantially faster than the globe. I think the interpolation/extrapolation approach is a better solution."

Analyses Are in Close Agreement

Interestingly, at least six other methods for determining global temperature anomalies were devised prior to the 1970s and one of these actually dates all the way back to 1881. Yet despite the generally less sophisticated tools available for these earlier analyses, they still agree with each other quite closely - and also with the more modern analyses. This is true going as far back on the trend-line as 1900, when there were many more geographic gaps in coverage than there are today.

The closest agreement is between the three main modern analyses - by NASA, NOAA and HadCRUT. Phil Jones, director of the CRU (and focus of much of the email controversy), points out their results are all within each other's estimated error bars. In fact, according to a Climate Central analysis, during the past 130 years the three surface temperature datasets differed by just 0.043°C on average.

The close agreement between the analyses prompts Schmidt to ask this: "Who is making any decision based on a tenth of a degree Celsius change in global temperature?" Besides, monthto-month and even year-to-year temperature rankings aren't really all that important - if you're interested in climate change. That's because phenomena like the El Niño-Southern Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation can cause all sorts of up and down squiggles in the temperature trend-lines over a period of months and years.

"But we'd expect anthropogenic warming to be evident on decadal timescales," Jones says. "So it isn't the warmth of 2010 or 2005 or 1998 that's significant but the warmth of the 2000s versus the 1990s versus the 1980s."

And for those decades, there really is little scientific doubt about what's been going on.

Tom Yulsman is a freelance writer and the co-director of the Center on Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Two Women Research Aerosol Spraying Programs and Biological Warfare

By Bonnie Hoag

Shushan, New York Dedicated to a Healthy New Year!

Iona, since I was last in touch with you and your readers I have been led to investigate the possible relationship between the aerosol programs - by any name: Persistent Jet Contrails, Chemtrails, Solar Radiation Management – and the history of biological warfare, including entomological and bacteriological warfare. My colleague, Cynthia Pikoulas, and I have expanded our research to examine, microscopically, what is falling onto us all from the stolen Sky.

We are reading the books in the sidebar about the bio-warfare programs that were born out of WWII, especially by way of Nazi scientists who found "amnesty" from their crimes abroad by way of Project Paperclip. These books are full of revelations about the "progress" of germ warfare since about 1940. Not everyone is aware of the experimental programs perpetrated on human populations without their awareness and certainly without their informed consent. Cindy and







Photos courtesy of Bonnefire Coalition

L to R: 1. Snow (50X) December 2010; what makes the "rainbow?" What is that string of jewels? 2. Magnification of 50X, (mentioned in article as "fine webbing") collected on Long Island October 2010. Is it a Polymer? Transgenic goat/ spider silk (U.S. patents)? 3. Greenfibers (100X) from dry stream-bed Arizona Spring 2010, also mentioned in article.

I are researching the fallout from sample melted into gel-like splotchcurrent aerosol programs by collecting samples of rain and snow directly onto glass slides for viewing under the lenses of our microscopes. For example, Cindy collected snow from outside her home on Long Island on December 26, 2010. The slide shows many long and colorful fibers, gel-like splotches and bright yellow fragments.

I also collected snow directly onto slides in upstate New York where I live. My January 7, 2011

es which contain filaments (fibers) which appear to grow. Even without being able to

identify these substances, we can safely conclude that this is not the kind of snow you'd want to pour maple syrup over, nor send your children out to play in. What happens to these substances when they enter the soil and our lakes and streams and, inevitably, our bod-

We are photographing the slides

under magnification and can email the results to your readers who might be interested in seeing them and in helping us name what we are seeing. We'd welcome the knowledge microbiologists who understand the seriousness of the aerosols.

We also welcome samples from others who would like to contribute to our research.

For details on how to collect and send samples, email me at bonne_ fire@yahoo.com, with "Iona sent me" in the subject line. We are currently examining 1) matted fibers from a dry stream bed in the mountains of Arizona - found after a period of heavy aerosol spraying; 2) fine webbing from the lawn, trees and bushes outside a Long Island home; 3) and blue fibers pulled from the face of a California man.

Many people continue to collect rain, snow or air samples in order to ascertain the levels of aluminum, barium and other toxins which are expected, given the materials named in many U.S. patents for aerosols dispersion. We decided to be more direct in our collection and examination of the fallout.

We urge others to join us in this research. If they'd like to start their own research where they live we might be able to help with this, too. The Bonnefire Coalition's Web site is accessible at www.californiaskywatch.com. Cindy Pikoulas can be contacted through www.longislandskywatch.com.

The new documentary "What in the World are They Spraying?" can be used to introduce this issue to one's community and initiate discussion about the programs. We also recommend www.geoengineeringwatch.org and www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org. For those grappling with so-called Lyme disease (Plum-Island disease), the film "Under Our Skin" explains the political complexities which keep the victims poorly diagnosed and treated.

Biowarfare & Terrorism Francis A. Boyle

SUGGESTED READING

Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government Secret Plum Island Germ Lab William C. Carroll

Osler's Web: Inside the Labyrinth of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic – Hillary

Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Tests Over Populated Area - Leon ard A. Cole

Germs Gone Wild: How the Unchecked Development of Domestic Biodefense Threatens America - Ken-

The Brucellosis Triangle: The Neuro-degenerative/ Systemic-degenerative Dis eases and The Extremely Unfortunate Skull Valley Incident – Donald W. Scott & William L.C. Scott

Weapons: Tomorrow's Nerve Gases and Germ War fare, The Morality of Toxic Warfare and Its Implications for Peace - Brig. Gen. J. H. Rothschild