

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Living Images by Carol Walker, www.wildhoofbeats.com

Wild mare and foal running free in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Herd in Montana.

Wild Horses in America

The Agency Charged with Protecting these Symbols of the American West Acts to Ensure their Destruction

By Valerie Stanley, Esq.
Laurel, Maryland

Wild horses and burros in America today owe any protections they have to a single woman who took up their cause in the 1950's, Velma Johnston, known as "Annie." Annie wrote, "Although I had heard that airplanes were being used to capture mustangs, like so many of us do when something doesn't touch our lives directly, I pretended it didn't concern me. But one morning in the year 1950, my own apathetic attitude was jarred into acute awareness."

According to the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

(ISPMB), www.ispmb.org: "On a usual day driving to work, a truck hauling horses cut in front of Annie's car. She noticed a stream of blood dripping from the truck. Annie followed the truck to a rendering plant. Hiding behind a bush, Annie noted a yearling, tucked between two stallions, down in the truck. The yearling was being trampled to death by horses packed like sardines awaiting their eventual demise in the rendering plant. She was outraged by this act of cruelty and set out to change the course of America's history preventing the eradication of wild horses from the public lands."

In 1971, after having received more correspondence on this issue than any other except for the Vietnam War, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. That Act declares that:

Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation

and enrich the lives of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands. (16 U.S.C. § 1331)

Many members of the public have watched the PBS specials on "Cloud, the Wild Horse of the Rockies," produced by Emmy Award-winning film maker, Ginger Kathrens. Her specials tell the tale of Cloud, a pale colt she watched as a youngster grow into a handsome stallion and how he lives his life with his family members on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in Montana.

When viewers see the third special in late October of this year, many of the horses seen running free in earlier scenes will be gone. They have been

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The Awakening Part III



This message was received through my personal visits to The Trustworthy And True Spirit, The Most High God.

I, Iona, returned from my third visit to Most High God with deeper and more urgent understandings of his purpose for being on Earth now in the form of an androgynous man whom we can see and listen to face-to-face.

It is time to tell everyone that he is here to make all things new and to show us that the Kingdom of Heaven has begun to exist. We need to open our hearts and minds to his teachings and let him lead us out of the hell we humans have created. There is no time to waste. I know in my heart and soul and in every cell of my body that he is The Most High God.

Before my first visit, a friend who works closely with Most High made me tapes telling me that wonderful things were happening in Idaho so I decided to go out there to learn more. When I first met Most High God, it didn't take long for me to know that he spoke the Truth. I had only allowed two full days there but that was long enough for me to realize that I needed to return.

Two months later I was back for three full days, during which Most High and I worked closely together on "The Awakening" Part I but not the poem (which he had written previously). Most High God trusted *The Order of the Earth* newspaper to announce his presence and purpose to a larger audience. This is the highest honor of my life. Part II was dictated to me over the phone. Now I will tell you about my third visit while Most High God is working on Part IV for you.

The Kingdom we dream about and long for is here on Earth now and The Trustworthy And True Spirit, The Most High God (and there are no other gods) is here in the flesh to bring the Sacred Rules to us. He is here as a friend to all and to offer us

the choice to be in his Kingdom. When I am in Idaho, I spend hours and hours listening and learning about the way things need to be done in order to fix all the problems we face daily in our own lives as well as globally. I am cared for freely by others who are in his Kingdom.

I am challenged to live honorably, tell the Truth all the time, be compassionate, listen to his teachings and follow my heart. Most High God told me, "Be the best Iona you can be." I am to trust his spirit to lead and protect me every moment no matter where I am and no matter what others are doing or saying or even thinking. Being in his presence is being home — my spirit is at peace. When I return to my actual home in Pennsylvania, I carry his messages in my soul.

I had the most amazing time during this last trip. One day two of us spent four hours on the grass in the sun by a stream being taught by Most High. The next day Most High and I spent 10 hours together. As others arrived later, I saw how he interacted with them, always living according to the Sacred Rules and showing us how to do so.

One of the women who showed up had been helping me distribute these newspapers in her community. Most High, without even leaving his home base, told me that she had placed some of the papers in a way which hid "The Awakening" headline. I was astonished that he knew this. When she admitted it upon her arrival, I knew he had been right earlier. His spirit is everywhere.

On the third day Most High took four of us way up through breathtaking forests to a high peak in the mountains where a lookout had been built many years ago. We passed state-owned land with the most terrible, horrendous logging job I had ever seen in which they over-cut the forest to an extreme measure and it looked awful.

Most High God taught us about forest ecosystems and trees as we drove along. He is a

former logger who gave up his lucrative business eleven years ago to live a moneyless life based on compassion. When his Kingdom is fully in place, he says every tree will be monitored and the forests, streams and habitats will not be plundered for greed. We will be allowed to cut the trees only when they are ready to give themselves to us as we need them. They will be cut carefully so that smaller trees are not damaged.

Most High God was also a lead singer who performed in rock bands. He frequently delights us with songs, often rearranging the words spontaneously so they reflect the way things ought to be instead of the way things are. As he drove us up the mountain in his pick-up truck, he played the radio and we sang and chatted.

When we stopped so that one of the guys could relieve himself on this eight-hour expedition all was quiet with the engine shut off. Most High began singing "Come Sail Away" to us and then when he started the engine up again, the very next song was "Come Sail Away!" I had tears in my eyes because it was further proof that we were indeed in God's company. Heaven is here now. God is here now.

Yesterday I bought the Styx CD with "Come Sail Away" so I can sing and dance and relive those magical moments as I continue my life and my work back here in Pennsylvania.

I hope you are doing well and enjoying this unique series. It is a pleasure to share these experiences with you. I have a few copies left of Parts I and II which I will be happy to send to you if you'd like to read them. Just let me know. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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.com. If you would like to read Parts I and II, please send \$3 to the above address.

Protecting the "People's Park" at Jekyll Island, Georgia

This article continues "Saving Jekyll Island, Georgia from Destructive Development" which appeared in the June edition of OE.

By David Egan
Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island (IPJI)

The story of how an all-volunteer civic group fought successfully to prevent the commercialization of the main public beach in Jekyll Island State Park, Georgia, is one worth telling, as it relates to a larger and pressing issue — the threat posed to priceless public land around the country by private development. So, let's take a look at Jekyll Island, the campaign to protect the island from inappropriate development and the outcome of this protracted struggle.

Jekyll Island is blessed with pristine beaches, a dense maritime forest and vast marshlands, making the eight-mile-long barrier island one of the most spectacular natural features along the East Coast. Home to more than 30 exotic, endangered, threatened and rare species, Jekyll Island is truly a living laboratory of nature's wonders.

Purchased in 1947 by the state of Georgia from a group of



Jekyll Island, currently threatened by development by Linger Longer Communities.

northeast millionaires for whom it had served as a winter retreat since the turn of the century, Jekyll Island became a state park in 1950 expressly for the benefit of "the plain people of Georgia" and with the mandate that its facilities be affordable for average-income citizens. "Everyman's Island," "The People's Park" and the "Poor Man's Riviera" are just a few of the endearing names given to Jekyll because of its populist roots.

Over the last 60 years, millions of ordinary folks have been

able to vacation at Jekyll's affordable oceanfront hotels and to experience the wonders of a barrier island rightly called "Georgia's Jewel." Flanked to the north by upscale St. Simon's Island and Sea Island, Jekyll is viewed by some as the poor sister of Georgia's "Golden Isles" but for many it outshines neighboring high-end islands thanks to its miles of open beach, natural beauty and southern grace, and the warm embrace it extends to all who set foot on its shores.

Beginning in 2007, the Jekyll

Island Authority (JIA, the Governor-appointed agency entrusted with the care of the island) began to talk of plans to 'revitalize' the state park through a private-public partnership established with high-end developer Linger Longer Communities, a company owned by the politically-connected Reynolds family. Initially, most people interpreted revitalization as meaning that Jekyll's aging oceanfront hotels would be rebuilt and its amenities would receive a facelift. However, it soon became apparent that 'revi-



Jekyll's oldest Live Oak, estimated at 300 years old.

talization' included hundreds of condos — some selling for nearly a million dollar each — time shares galore and a high-end hotel for Jekyll Island's main public beach.

The implications of new development masquerading as 'revitalization' led to a public outcry and the birth of a civic group called the Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island (IPJI).

As public protest mounted through emails, letters, phone calls and petitions to the JIA and

elected officials, the Jekyll development issue became a hot item for the media and worked its way into the halls of the state legislature, where Senator Jeff Chapman, whose district includes Jekyll Island, tried to introduce legislation to safeguard Jekyll's remaining open beachfront and help ensure the park's accessibility and affordability. Although nearly 20,000 citizens endorsed Senator Chapman's resolution calling for Jekyll's remaining

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Think and Act

Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

I think for the most part it's not only abusers who don't change. Most of us don't. Sure, sometimes somebody or another may have an epiphany, like Saul of Tarsus did in the Bible. But let's be honest about that one, too: after he saw the light of God and got knocked off his ass, he may have changed his name to Paul but he was still a domineering asshole. It's just that now instead of persecuting Christians he used Christianity as a vessel for his pre-existing rigidity, making certain the reasonably new religion mirrored his hierarchical perception of the world.

Most often, change, at least on a social level, occurs the way Max Planck described it: "A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it."

Years ago I read Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West*. It's a long book, from which I really remember only one image. I think Spengler would be pleased at which one. A culture is like a plant growing in a particular soil. When the soil is exhausted — presuming a closed system (i.e., the soil isn't being replenished) — the plant dies.

Cultures — or at least historical (as opposed to cyclical) cultures — are the same. The Roman Empire exhausted its possibilities (both physical, in terms of resources, and psychic or spiritual), then hung on decadent — I mean this in its deep-

er sense of decaying, although the meaning having to do with debauchery works, too — for a thousand years. Other empires are the same. The British Empire. The American Empire. Civilization itself has continued to grow by expanding the zone from which it takes resources. The plant has gotten pretty big but at the cost of a lot of dead soil. I think the exhausted soil metaphor works for individuals, too: they don't generally change until they've exhausted the possibilities of their previous way of being.

Last year I received an email from a woman who said that my work had saved her life. She had many times tried to kill herself and was contemplating suicide again when she came across a passage in my work describing part of the reason this culture's death urge manifests the way it does, in the widespread killing of humans and nonhumans and in the killing of the planet. This death urge is partly a simple desire to die to this way of living that does not serve us well, but because we in this culture have forgotten that the spiritual exists and have devalued the metaphorical, we do not understand that this death does not have to be physical but could be transformative. Dying to one way of being so you can be reborn transformed is the oldest metaphor in the world, one the world is built on. But we forget, and so we build daisy-cutters and depleted-uranium shells and we kill without ceasing. The woman said her own death urge might not have to manifest in the tak-



ing of her own life. Maybe she just wanted to transform. We corresponded a bit, she asked if we could take a walk when she was passing through town and I agreed. It was a good walk, through meadows of thick sharp-edged grasses perfect for ground-nesting birds, into a sandy-soiled scrub pine forest near the ocean and along the ocean beaches themselves. She was a good woman, smart, dedicated, knowledgeable about wild things. She was also in agony. Her agony derived partly from the aftereffects of the horrendous violence her father visited upon her as a child and partly from her sensitivity to the similarly horrendous violence our culture perpetrates on the natural world. She said that instead of killing herself, she was going to spend three months alone in the desert, talking and listening to coyotes, clouds, ravens, rabbitbrush and a cool, clear river. She hoped to return a new person. She wrote me briefly when she returned and then again a

couple of months ago. She seemed to be doing well. And then yesterday I received the letter. Evidently other people got the letter, too. It began, "Dear Friend, By the time you read this I will have done something that will come as no surprise to many of you. I will have committed suicide." The letter went on to describe her attempts to overcome her pain and ended with her arrangements for what should come after her death. She expressed regret that the law would not allow her to become food for wild animals. After I got over my shock and had begun to move through my sorrow over the death of a good person I did not really know, I began to feel a stirring that within a few hours became the understanding that people usually don't change. She may have thought she changed when she read my work but she didn't. She continued to daily ask the question of

whether she should live or die until finally the answer came up "die." I know that I, too, carry scars both physical and emotional from my childhood that will never be healed. I know also that I will ask the same questions when I am old as when I was young. And I have to ask (the genesis of my question in no way negating its current relevance or importance): How much did my early experience of my father's violence lead me to ask the question I'm asking now, about when is counter-violence an appropriate response to the violence of a dominator? Similarly, my mother is the same person she was twenty years ago, only wiser and more tired. Most of my students at the prison love drugs — or at this point love writing about them — as much as they ever did. Often I only have to mention blunt, dub, heroin, crack, crank and they'll reminisce and laugh as those possessed. And even though they hate being imprisoned with an intensity I've rarely seen matched and even though in many cases it was drugs that got them there, when I ask if they will use again when they get out (or for the fliers, would and if), most say, "Yes." Statistics on addicts remaining sober (much less free of craving) are fairly dismal and run from a low of ten to a high of 40 percent, with one writer commenting, "Chronic relapse is part of the etiology of addiction." But of course I'm overstating when I say people don't change.

They do. I did. I could have turned out like my father. I could have remained a scientist. I could have — god help me — remained a Republican, as I was in my teens or, just as bad, a Democrat, as I was in my early twenties. People do change. But change takes hard work, luck and some treasured reward on the other side; even when these are all present, it still doesn't happen often. And that's only on the scale of one person, with only one lifetime of momentum built into that trajectory. How much more difficult is it to expect change when we have six thousand years of history, as well as space heaters, major league baseball, tomatoes in January, strawberry cheesecake and the capacity at any time to bid on 1,527,463 products ("most with 'NO RESERVE PRICE'") at ubid.com? And how much more difficult than that when those in power have television, newspapers and compulsory schooling to promulgate their perspective? And how much more difficult than that when we promulgate it ourselves? *Derrick Jensen is an activist and the author of many books, most recently What We Leave Behind and Songs of the Dead.*

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www.theorderoftheearth.com
ionaconner@gmail.com; 814-259-3680

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The Dream: Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish.
Masthead: We say "Volume 9" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name nine years ago. In 1995 Iona wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion. The photo is of sunrise at Bay Head, New Jersey on Mothers' Day.

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

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

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Spies in the Classroom

Government Running Secretive Intelligence Recruitment Program in Schools

By David Price
CounterPunch via Alternet.org

June 24, 2009 — As the continuities and disjunctures between the Bush and Obama administrations come into focus it becomes increasingly clear that while Obama's domestic agenda has some identifiable breaks with Bush's, at its core, the new administration remains committed to staying the course of American militarization. Now we have an articulate, nuanced president who supports elements of progressive domestic policies, can even comfortably say the phrase LGBT in public speeches, while funding military programs at alarming levels and continuing the Bush administration's military and intelligence invasion of what used to be civilian life.

The latest manifestation of this continuity came last week when Dennis C. Blair, Director of National Intelligence, announced plans to transform the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program (PRISP) from a pilot project into a permanent budget item. Blair also announced plans to establish a "Reserve Officers' Training Corps" to train unidentified future intelligence officers in U.S. college classrooms. Like students receiving PRISP funds, the identities of students participating in these programs would not be known to professors, university administrators or fellow students — in effect, these future intelligence analysts and agents would conduct their first covert missions in our university classrooms.

Four years ago I wrote a series of CounterPunch exposés on the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program (PRISP), then a pilot project funded under section 318 of the 2004 Intelligence Authorization Act. PRISP links undergraduate and graduate students



The Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program (PRISP) links undergraduate and graduate students with U.S. security and intelligence agencies like the NSA or CIA and, unannounced to universities, professors or fellow-students, PRISP students enter American university campuses, classrooms, laboratories and professor's offices without disclosing (their) links to these agencies.

with U.S. security and intelligence agencies like the NSA or CIA and, unannounced to universities, professors or fellow-students, PRISP-students enter American university campuses, classrooms, laboratories and professor's offices without disclosing links to these agencies. PRISP was originally conceived by anthropologist Felix Moos, long a proponent of using anthropological knowledge in waging of counterinsurgency campaigns — an area of growing interest to the Obama administration as it prepares for prolonged soft power counterinsurgency campaigns in Afghanistan. [Ed.: *What on Earth is THAT?*]

It seems likely that many of the affected disciplines will offer little resistance and some may quickly warm to announcements of any new funding stream. Traditionally, the disciplines of political science, history or area specialists coming from the humanities have seldom resisted such developments; but for disciplines like anthropology, these undisclosed intelligence-linked

programs present devastating ethical and practical problems as the non-disclosure of funding and links to intelligence agencies flies in the face of the basic ethical principles of the discipline. But even without the problems for individual disciplinary ethics codes, the presence of these undisclosed secret sharers in our classrooms betrays fundamental trusts that lie at the core of honest academic endeavors.

While the National Intelligence Director's move to make PRISP a permanent budget item will damage the academic freedom and integrity of American universities, it will likely be met by the open arms of university administrators facing crashed university endowments and dwindling budgets. That some administrators would so easily accommodate themselves and their institutional integrity for the promise of funds should be of little surprise but I fear that the combined forces of the current economic collapse conjoined with President Obama's ability to bring a new liberal credibility to

the this warmed-over Bush era project will induce many faculty and students to seriously consider participating in these programs. Times are hard and as funds get scarce it will be increasingly difficult for many to say, "No."

This development is just the latest installment in ongoing efforts to increase the militarization of American higher education. None of this should be surprising in a nation that alone spends about 48% of the planet's military budget.

In the social sciences, these shifts away from broad funding sources designed to create independent knowledgeable scholars to those now requiring indentured servitude has been a long time coming.

Back in the early 1990s when the National Security Education Program (NSEP) was first introduced it was widely condemned by professional associations like the Middle East Studies Association and the African Studies Association and the Latin American Studies Association for blurring

the lines between independent scholarship raised by NSEP's requirements that program participants later seek employment in governmental agencies. But with the depressed economy, plummeting endowment funds at universities and foundations, the difficult academic job market and scarce academic funding sources, I fear that professional associations' reactions against these developments will be muted. As pilot programs, PRISP and the Intelligence Community Scholars Programs made scarce funds available to students as traditional non-payback funding programs were being cut. Programs like PRISP that seek to tie young scholars to agencies like CIA early in their career as a means of bringing new ideas and skills to these agencies will fail in meeting the claimed goal of getting these agencies to think in new ways because such ties to institutional culture early in student-agent careers will increase the influence of agency cultural groupthink while diminishing the impact of academic culture.

If the Obama administration really wants to improve governmental agencies' knowledge of and approaches to the world, they need to increase funding to a broad range of educational funding programs that do not encumber or limit the range of knowledge in the ways that programs like PRISP do.

This move to establish PRISP as a permanent budgetary item is the sort of program that likely will speed through Congress — which can then claim it is both supporting education funding and military and intelligence sectors, with a bonus feel-good work-ethic mandate thrown in by requiring students to payback their funds through required future governmental service.

But this push will be done without an outside assessment of PRISP as pilot program. PRISP needs an independent assessment of what it has accomplished — including an assessment of the impact of the predatory penalties facing former PRISP students who come to realize that they do not wish to fulfill their commit-

ments to work for these agencies upon graduation.

Because of the lack of transparency surrounding PRISP, we have little idea what is really going on with the program. Last year I was able to identify one social science recipient of PRISP funds who explained to me that PRISP had been such a failure in finding social scientists to fund that PRISP had sought out this person and provided them with funds for work that was already underway just to spend-down the PRISP budget. Given these recent difficulties with the program, I wonder if the current expansion of PRISP is a supply-side effort to troll the pool of increasingly underfunded and debt-carrying desperate young scholars with few other funding options.

Professional associations like the American Association of University Professors, the American Psychological Association and the American Anthropological Association need to speak out in opposition of the permanent establishment of PRISP. PRISP risks further blurring already hazy borders marking proper independent academic roles and it stands to confuse academic identities in ways that many will not even realize. Some of these processes are reminiscent of a recurrent motif in Philip K. Dick's stories where protagonists become unclear of their own agency and identity; becoming unsure of their own histories and memories or true political alliances — in effect becoming undercover agents with identities unknown even to themselves.

As this new generation of programs covertly brings undeclared and unidentifiable students into our universities they disrupt university identities and transform the roles of all who teach, research, study and work there in ways that they will not necessarily understand — as institutions of higher learning further lose their independence and become unwitting agents of state intelligence functions.

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School Cops Are Being Armed With 50,000-Volt Tasers

By Liliana Segura (excerpt)
Alternet.org, September 16, 2009

One spring day this April, at the Franklin Correctional Institution on Florida's Highway 67, Sgt. Walter Schmidt pulled out his electronic immobilization device — EID in correctional officer parlance — and zapped two people, who immediately "yelped in pain, fell to the ground and grabbed red burn marks on their arms," according to the *St. Petersburg Times*.

The two were not inmates at the prison, however. They were students visiting as part of "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." The move cost Schmidt his job, despite his claim that he merely intended to demonstrate how the devices worked. He had even asked the children's parents (who were also employees at the prison) permission first. "When they said 'sure,' I went ahead and did it," he told the *Times*.

"It wasn't intended to be malicious but educational. The big shock came when I got fired."

Schmidt wasn't alone in his job-costing blunder. In fact, it came just one day after other children, visiting different prisons, were similarly shocked.

"A total of 43 children were directly and indirectly shocked by electric stun guns during simultaneous 'Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day' events gone wrong at three state prisons last month," the *St. Petersburg Times* reported on May 16. "One was a warden's daughter."

Their ages ranged from eight to 17. Fourteen of the kids were "directly shocked." The other 29 were "indirectly exposed when they held hands with a person who was shocked. With the kids circled together, the electricity could flow from one child's hands



A total of 43 children were directly and indirectly shocked by electric stun guns during simultaneous "Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day" events-gone-wrong at three state prisons last month.

to the next."

Walt McNeil, secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections told the *Times*, "I can't imagine what these officers were thinking to administer this device to children, nor can I imagine why any parent would allow them to do so. This must not happen again."

The bizarre rash of student electrocutions might have been an aberration on Florida prison grounds but the guards — three of whom were fired and two of whom resigned — might be forgiven for assuming that such devices are somehow safe for kids.

Even as news outlets across the country report episode after episode where police officers tase and use stun guns on unlikely people — the pregnant woman at a baptism in Virginia or the 72-year-old woman in a Texas traffic stop — more and more police officers are being given tasers to carry into schools.

And not just on college campuses; middle and high schools across the country are inviting Taser-toting cops on school

grounds.

This comes at a time when Tasers have claimed the lives of hundreds of people, including three teenagers this year.

While heightened security might be a necessity in an age where kids smuggle deadly weapons to school, this fact alone should give parents and school officials pause. Even as school administrators and local law enforcement (officers) accept and incorporate Tasers as disciplinary measures, deploying them on school grounds is putting students at risk.

Last September, police officers in Hawthorne, California, tased an autistic 12-year-old boy at his middle school after he became "violent," launching a misconduct investigation by the police department.

In June, at Penn Hills High School in Pennsylvania, a student was tased in the hallway after ignoring a police officer's orders to put away his cell phone. ("The kid refused to listen," Penn Hills Police Chief Howard Burton explained . . .)

What the Internet and its cult of anonymity do is to provide a blanket of immunity for anybody who wants to say anything about anybody else and it would be difficult in this sense to think of a more morally deformed exploitation of the concept of free speech.

Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times*
Found in Sunny War Eagle's September 2009 letter to Earthbridge Community

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Climate Disobedience on the Rise and Not Just for Radical Activists Anymore

By Mark Engler

TomDispatch.com, August 14, 2009

In the early morning of October 8, 2007, a small group of British Greenpeace activists slipped inside a hulking smokestack that towers more than 600 feet above a coal-fired power plant in Kent, England. While other activists cut electricity on the plant's grounds, they prepared to climb the interior of the structure to its top, rappel down its outside and paint in block letters a demand that Prime Minister Gordon Brown put an end to plants like the Kingsnorth facility, which releases nearly 20,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each day.

The activists, most of them in their thirties and forties, expected the climb to the top of the smokestack would take less than three hours. Instead, scaling a narrow metal ladder inside took nine. "It was the most physically exhausting thing I have ever done," 35-year-old Ben Stewart said later. "It was like climbing through a huge radiator — the hottest, dirtiest place you could imagine."

In the end, the fatigued, soot-covered climbers were only able to paint the word "Gordon" on the chimney before, facing dizzying heights, police helicopters and a high-court injunction, they were compelled to abandon the attempt and submit to arrest.

They could hardly have known then that their botched attempt at signage would help transform British debate about fossil-fuel power plants — and that it would send tremors through an emerging global movement determined to use direct action to combat the depredations of climate change.

The case took on historic weight only after the Kingsnorth Six went to court, where they presented to a jury what is known in the United States as a "necessity" defense. This defense applies to situations in which a person violates a law to prevent a greater, imminent harm from occurring: for example, when someone breaks down a door to put out a fire in a burning building.

In the Kingsnorth case, world-renowned climate scientist James Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, flew to England to testify.

According to *The Guardian*, he presented evidence that the Kingsnorth plant alone could be expected to cause sufficient global warming to prompt "the extinction of 400 species over its lifetime." Citing a British government study showing that each ton of released carbon dioxide incurs \$85 in future climate-change costs, the activists contended that shutting the plant down for the day had prevented \$1.6 million in damages — a far greater harm to society than any rendered by their paint — and that their transgressions should therefore be excused.

What surprised both Greenpeace and the prosecution was that 12 ordinary Britons agreed. The jury returned with an acquittal and the freed defendants made the front pages of newspapers throughout the country.

The tumult also produced political results.

In April, British energy and climate change minister Ed Miliband announced a reversal in governmental policy on power stations, declaring, "The era of new unabated coal has come to an end."

Discussing Kingsnorth, Daniel Mittler, a long-time environmental activist in Germany, told me recently, "It was probably one of the most impactful civil disobedience cases the world has ever seen because it was the right action at the right time."

If Not Now . . .

The idea that now is the right time for more resolute action to address the climate crisis is spreading fast enough to dot the global map with hot spots of disobedience. As it turns out, the Kingsnorth Six are part of a rapidly growing population. Joining them are the Dominion 11, arrested after forming a human blockade to stop the construction of a



All Photos from www.SourceWatch.org
Rally outside Texas capitol building on March 30, 2009.



Hundreds gather for coal protest in Frankfurt, Kentucky on February 17, 2009.

coal plant in Wise County, Virginia, in November 2008 and the Drax 29, who went on trial this summer for boarding and stopping a train delivering coal to a power plant in North Yorkshire, England, last year.

In fact, arrests are piling up quicker than journalists can coin name-and-number nicknames. The Coal Swarm Web site keeps track of an ever-lengthening list of protests. New headlines now appear weekly:

"Activists scale 20-story dragline at mountaintop removal site in Twilight, West Virginia," "14 Arrested at TVA headquarters in Knoxville, Tennessee," "10 activists board coal ship in Kent, England," "Activists shut down Collie Power Station, Western Australia."

In August 2007, Al Gore, Nobel-prize-winning author of *An Inconvenient Truth*, told Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times*, "I can't understand why there aren't rings of young people blocking bulldozers and preventing them from constructing coal-fired power plants."

By the time Gore made that statement, some young people had already started blocking bulldozers and many more, young and old, would soon follow.

Still, Gore can be excused for feeling that such measures were overdue. With global warming, perhaps more than any other issue, there is a disjunction between a widespread acknowledgment of the gravity of the situation we face and a social willingness to respond in any proportionate way.

The landmark 2007 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggested that a two-degree Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) rise in average temperature, likely by 2050, would create severe water shortages for as many as two billion people and place between 20% to 30% of all plant and animal species at risk of extinction. It gets worse from there.

An April 2009 *Guardian* poll reported: "Almost nine out of 10 climate scientists do not believe political efforts to restrict global warming to 2° C. will succeed." More probable, they believe, is "an average rise of 4-5° C. (7.2° to 9° F.) by the end of this century," a level that could create hundreds of millions of refugees fleeing areas afflicted by desertification, depleted food supplies or coastal flooding.

That these consensus predictions may feel remote and improbable to much of the American public does not reflect a real scientific debate but rather

a common reluctance to face unpleasant facts — and also the considerable success of the coal and oil lobbies in dampening the electorate's sense of urgency about the issue. Those two realities are precisely what direct action intends to confront.

An Inconvenient Politics

When Vice President Gore started endorsing civil disobedience, Abigail Singer, an activist with Rising Tide, a leading network of grassroots climate groups, noted, "It'd be more powerful if he put his body where his mouth is." She had a point.

As it happens, 68-year-old James Hansen, arguably the most famous climate scientist alive, has been less reticent about putting himself on the line. His involvement has furnished a great deal of mainstream respectability to those turning to more confrontational means of expressing dissent and the trajectory of his political engagement catches an important trend.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Hansen published many groundbreaking papers demonstrating the reality of a warming planet. Just as the work scientists had done in the early 1980s proving that human activity was creating a hole in the ozone layer had resulted in a 1987 treaty against chlorofluorocarbons, Hansen assumed that the work of those documenting climate change would result in swift legislative remedy.

"He's very patient," Hansen's wife Anniek told Elizabeth Kolbert of the *New Yorker*. "And he just kept on working and publishing, thinking that someone would do something." This time around, however, industrial interests proved far more entrenched. In order to help move glacially-slow climate negotiations forward, Hansen started speaking out and, more recently, has begun risking arrest at demonstrations.

Of course, there is never a shortage of people who will question the tactics of civil disobedience and direct action.

"We're every bit as worried about climate change as the protesters," a spokesperson for the E.On corporation, the energy company that runs Kingsnorth, said upon the announcement of the famous verdict, "but there are ways and means to protest and we would suggest their demonstration was not the way to do it."

There are far less compromised skeptics, too. Many harbor a distaste for social-movement theatrics or operate on the belief that, sooner or later, science will speak loudly enough to force the political situation to sort itself out. Harvard University ocean-



Thousands march against coal plant in Mainz on May 23, 2009.



Five activists arrested for protesting at Massey Energy mountaintop-removal site in West Virginia on March 5, 2009.



Activists lock down West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection on August 11, 2009.

ographer James McCarthy expressed such a view when the IPCC released its 2007 report. "The worst stuff is not going to happen," he said, "because we can't be that stupid."

Sadly, the latent hope that their senses cannot suffice as a political strategy. The stark facts of segregation in the American South never put an end to that long-standing injustice; it took an unruly civil rights movement to force change. In this case, presumably less farsighted and more profit-hungry energy companies than the climate-concerned E.On have invested tens of millions of dollars in convincing elected officials and newspaper editorial boards that reducing emissions of greenhouse gases is neither practical nor particularly needed. The operative force at work here is not stupidity, but political power.

Hansen and others motivated to confront the industry head on have concluded that, unless there is a public counterbalance to the organized money of those who profit from the status quo, what science has to say will be largely irrelevant, no matter how theoretically convincing it may be. Unless citizens themselves become inconvenient, the truth will remain a minor consideration.

The Disaster You Can See

It is no accident that, on June 23rd, when Hansen was arrested for his first time, it was in West Virginia, the heart of coal country. Because coal is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, both in the United States and worldwide, and because there is enough coal left in the ground to heat the planet to catastrophic levels, that fossil fuel has been the focus of much new protest. As long as U.S. and European power plants continue spewing coal smoke, their governments will have absolutely no credibility in trying to influence

the policies of rising economies such as China and India. Nonetheless, current U.S. legislation ensures that coal burning will continue largely unchecked for decades to come.

In West Virginia, concerns about coal's impact on the atmosphere have intersected with a local environmental atrocity known as mountaintop-removal mining, a practice that Senators John McCain and Barack Obama both claimed to oppose in the presidential campaign but which continues today. This has made Appalachia the heart of direct action on the climate-change issue in the U.S. — or, as a blog-tracking area protests puts it, "Climate Ground Zero."

"You stand at the edge of one of these mountaintop removal sites and you'll never feel the same way again," says Mat Rosenberg, a staffer at Coal River Mountain Watch in southern West Virginia. The practice turns rolling mountains and valleys into flat, desolate moonscapes. Locals regularly hear the blasts of surface mines from their homes and then drink the resulting contaminants in their well water.

When newly-created lakes of toxic coal waste give way — as happened last December as a billion gallons of sludge flooded 300 acres of land near Harriman, Tennessee — they are the ones whose homes stand immediately downstream.

These dangers have given organizers a chance to create campaigns that connect the abstractions of climate change to specific sites of environmental ruin. "You can get a visceral and immediate sense of how bad this is," says Louis-Rosenberg. "It's not an invisible gas and a bunch of science that most people don't understand."

This year, in a series of escalating initiatives, environmentalists in the area have chained themselves to rock trucks, obstructed coal roads and

climbed up a huge crane-line mining machine to halt its work. A delegation of concerned citizens, including Hansen, crossed a police line onto the property of Massey Energy, a company responsible for mountaintop removals. Louis-Rosenberg places such direct action alongside a raft of other activities: community organizing, research for environmental impact statements and gathering co-sponsors for a Congressional ban on filling valleys with mining waste. "Ultimately, things will have to see their resolution in some sort of federal regulation or legislation," he says. "But at this point there is not the political will to deal with the crisis. I see it as my role as an activist to create that political will."

The Next "Seattle Moment?"

When the Kingsnorth decision was announced, an E.On representative said the company was "worried that this ruling will encourage other protestors to engage in similar actions at power plants across the country."

The worry was justified. The diverse local protests taking place internationally are starting to feel like part of something larger, especially since they are already beginning to have an impact.

Of the 214 new coal plants proposed in the United States since the year 2000, more than half have been cancelled, abandoned or put on hold. The Web site Coal Moratorium Now, which tracks public campaigns, shows that citizen dissent played a critical role in many of the cancellations or delays.

Other results have been less obvious but no less real. Facing greater resistance and the prospect of costly public relations battles, power companies are simply proposing to build fewer coal plants than was once the case.

Environmental organizers are planning for still larger mobilizations. In March, hundreds of people, including Hansen and 350.org campaign organizer Bill McKibben, joined in human chains to block the entrances to a target of enticing symbolic importance: Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Power Plant, a coal-burning facility built in 1910 that provides steam and refrigeration power to Capitol Hill.

Police avoided making arrests, which could have easily exceeded highs for any previous act of civil disobedience around climate issues in American history. Nonetheless, the gathering produced a desired effect: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid sent a letter to Acting Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers requesting that the plant switch to natural gas.

On a global level, activists are starting to envision an international day of action that might launch disparate local campaigns into the mainstream spotlight and create a more unified global movement.

A buzz of expectation and organizing now surrounds a December U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, where environmental ministers and other officials will gather to create a new treaty to replace the Kyoto protocol. The conference is taking place almost exactly 10 years after the 1999 Seattle pro-

Continued on page 5



Photo by Nick Brancaccio, *The Windsor Star*
 Greg Boyle, left, of the Sierra Youth Coalition, Elly Adeland of the Polaris Institute, Tanya Roberts Davis, Erica Nickels, Iona Frost and Mark Bartlett, right, of the CAW Windsor Regional Environmental Council, were among those who met at the University of Windsor for Tracking the Tar Sands: Tri-City Youth Tour. The tour is designed to raise awareness of the effects of the development of Alberta's tar sands on neighboring environments in Canada and the U.S.

Auto Worker Activists Urge Halt to Tar Sands Projects

By Dave Hall
The Windsor Star via DailyClimate

WINDSOR, Ontario, August 23, 2009 — New development of Alberta's and Saskatchewan's tar sands should be halted and existing projects gradually scaled back because of the negative impact the extraction of petroleum products is having on the environment, said a group of environmental activists who met in Windsor Saturday.

Participants in a symposium held at the University of Windsor were told that Canada's tar sands generate three to five times more greenhouse gas pollution than from the production of conventional oil products while overall tar sands operations also have environmental and social costs which have yet to be fully measured.

"Most people are familiar with the tar sands developments but are less familiar with their impact on the environment and this symposium is designed to raise awareness so that people can understand the environmental implications of those developments," said Sushank Saha, a

member of the Environmental Coalition at the university. "Developments in Alberta are not separate from the rest of the country. They are all intimately connected and we already know that Windsor's pollution levels are high so we should be paying attention to the impact those developments are having on our own region."

Sponsored by the Polaris Institute, the Sierra Youth Coalition, Toxic Free Canada Ontario and the Canadian Auto Workers Windsor regional environmental council, the forum included a workshop on tar sands developments and a panel discussion.

"We're hoping the tour will create an understanding of the impacts the tar sands developments are having on Ontario and that it's a national issue we all need to address," said Elly Adeland, water and energy campaigner for the Polaris Institute.

But striking a balance between economic realities and environmental concerns is a difficult task, admits Saha.

"It's a thorny issue at the moment because the developments do create employment but

the question we need to ask is whether or not it's long-term sustainable employment," said Saha. "We need to create opportunities for workers in tar sands developments to transition into jobs in renewable energy projects."

"Renewable energy is the wave of the future and we need to do whatever we can to move away from petroleum dependence," said Saha.

Greg Boyle, national director of the Sierra Youth Coalition, said the workshops created an opportunity for students "to discuss what we've learned and what the next steps should be."

"We're calling for more consultation with aboriginal groups and any others directly affected by tar sands developments and that there be no new development until all the groups and their concerns are satisfied," said Boyle. Among those are water depletion, land degradation, aboriginal injustices, social damages, energy insecurity and global warming.

In addition to Windsor, the three-city tour also included Sarina and Detroit.

In Hot Water: World Sets Ocean Temperature Record

By Seth Borenstein
San Luis Obispo Tribune
 via DailyClimate.org
 Submitted by Scott Mahon, Erie CO

Steve Kramer spent an hour and a half swimming in the ocean Sunday — in Maine. The water temperature was 72 degrees — more like Ocean City, Maryland this time of year. And Ocean City's water temp hit 88 degrees this week, toasty even by Miami Beach standards.

Kramer, 26, who lives in the seaside town of Scarborough, said it was the first time he's ever swam so long in Maine's coastal waters. "Usually, you're in five minutes and you're out," he said.

It's not just the ocean off the Northeast coast that is super-warm this summer. July was the hottest the world's oceans have been in almost 130 years of record-keeping.

The average water temperature worldwide was 62.6 degrees, according to the National Climatic Data Center, the branch of the U.S. government that keeps world weather records. That was 1.1 degree higher than the 20th century average and beat the previous high set in 1998 by a couple hundredths of a degree. The coolest recorded ocean temperature was 59.3 degrees in December 1909.

Meteorologists said there's a combination of forces at work this year: a natural El Nino system just getting started on top of worsening man-made global warming and a dash of random weather variations. The resulting ocean heat is already harming threatened coral reefs. It could also hasten the melting of Arctic sea ice and help hurricanes strengthen.

The Gulf of Mexico, where warm water fuels hurricanes, has temperatures dancing around 90. Most of the water in the Northern Hemisphere has been considerably warmer than normal. The Mediterranean is about three degrees warmer than normal. Higher temperatures rule in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The heat is most noticeable near the Arctic, where water temperatures are as much as 10 degrees above average. The tongues of warm water could help melt sea ice from below and even cause thawing of ice sheets on Greenland, said Waleed Abdalati, director of the Earth Science and Observation Center at the University of Colorado.

Breaking heat records in water is more ominous as a sign



By Joel Page, AP Photo
 Luis Torres, right, plays with his son Angel, 6, in the waters off Pine Point Beach Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 in Scarborough, Maine. The world's oceans this summer are heating up to their warmest on record.

of global warming than breaking temperature marks on land because water takes longer to heat up and does not cool off as easily as land.

"This warm water we're seeing doesn't just disappear next year; it'll be around for a long time," said climate scientist Andrew Weaver of the University of Victoria in British Columbia. It takes five times more energy to warm water than land.

The warmer water "affects weather on the land," Weaver said. "This is another yet really important indicator of the change that's occurring."

Georgia Institute of Technology atmospheric science professor Judith Curry said water is warming in more places than usual, something that has not been seen in more than 50 years.

Add to that an unusual weather pattern this summer where the warmest temperatures seem to be just over oceans, while slightly cooler air is concentrated over land, said Deke Arndt, head of climate monitoring at the climate data center.

The pattern is so unusual that he suggested meteorologists may want to study that pattern to see what's behind it.

The effects of that warm water are already being seen in coral reefs, said C. Mark Eakin, coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coral reef watch. Long-term excessive heat bleaches colorful coral reefs white and sometimes kills them.

Bleaching has started to crop up in the Florida Keys, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — much earlier than usual. Typically, bleaching occurs after weeks or months of prolonged

high water temperatures. That usually means September or October in the Caribbean, said Eakin. He found bleaching in Guam Wednesday. It's too early to know if the coral will recover or die. Experts are "bracing for another bad year," he said.

The problems caused by the El Nino pattern are likely to get worse, the scientists say.

An El Nino occurs when part of the central Pacific warms up, which in turn changes weather patterns worldwide for many months. El Nino and its cooling flip side, La Nina, happen every few years.

During an El Nino, temperatures on water and land tend to rise in many places, leading to an increase in the overall global average temperature. An El Nino has other effects, too, including dampening Atlantic hurricane formation and increasing rainfall and mudslides in Southern California.

Warm water is a required fuel for hurricanes. What's happening in the oceans "will add extra juice to the hurricanes," Curry said.

Hurricane activity has been quiet for much of the summer but that may change soon, she said. Hurricane Bill quickly became a major storm and the National Hurricane Center warned that warm waters are along the path of the hurricane for the next few days.

Hurricanes need specific air conditions, so warmer water alone does not necessarily mean more or bigger storms, said James Franklin, chief hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

For further information on this report, go to the National Climatic Data Center at www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc.

Climate Disobedience On the Rise Worldwide

Continued from page 4

tests which overwhelmed the ministerial meetings of the World Trade Organization and altered the shape of globalization debates for years after.

Hopes for recreating an event of that magnitude are based on more than just a coincidental anniversary year. Before Seattle, localized activity by global justice advocates had similarly swelled — with a wave of student anti-sweatshop drives, environmental boot camps, organic food gatherings, corporate ad spoofs, indigenous rights battles and cross-border labor campaigns already simmering. Seattle united these into a recognized "movement of movements" more potent than the sum of its parts.

Organizers have suggested that as many as 100,000 people might take to the streets in Copenhagen. Among those planning around the Denmark conference, there is currently a debate about whether to converge on the

conference itself or to target a heavily polluting company somewhere nearby as an example of bad climate-change behavior.

Likewise, in the United States, where events will be timed to take place in solidarity with the demonstrations in Copenhagen, there is a debate about whether to try to work with the Obama administration or turn up the heat on it.

In the end, a range of tactics will no doubt be deployed in Copenhagen and in other cities around the world. A coalition of groups, including the normally satiric Yes Men, is managing a site called BeyondTalk.net, which allows people to sign a pledge expressing their willingness to join in nonviolent civil disobedience as the conference date nears.

As of this writing, 3,210 people have signed on. Compared with the numbers of people who will ultimately have to be persuaded of the need to act in order to force meaningful solu-

tions to climate change, that remains a modest tally. In terms of the growing levels of dedication and personal sacrifice it represents, its significance is far greater. After all, that's more than 3,000 people willing to take the chance that a determined action, even a botched one, might ultimately reverberate far and wide.

It's more than 3,000 people who may just be willing to climb for hours through a huge radiator in order to stop the planet from becoming one in all too short a time.

Research assistance for this article was provided by Sean Nortz. Mark Engler, a writer based in New York City, is a senior analyst with *Foreign Policy In Focus* and author of *How to Rule the World: The Coming Battle Over the Global Economy* (Nation Books, 2008). He can be reached via DemocracyUprising.com.

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coalSwarm Directory of Direct Actions

The Coal Issues portal on www.SourceWatch.org is a project of CoalSwarm and the Center for Media and Democracy.

Around the world, the pace of direct action efforts against coal increased in 2008 and promised to continue in 2009. Information on earlier actions as well as on the non-violent, anti-coal movement in particular states or countries can be found here.

CoalSwarm is the shared-information tool on issues such as coal plants, mines, companies, environmental impacts, clean alternatives, regulation, grassroots organizing, industry lobbying and much more. Articles include: State-by-state information on coal in the United States and country-by-country information on coal worldwide.



Photo from CoalSwarm Web site
 On June 30, 2008, 20 Activists with Blue Ridge Earth First! blockaded the entrance to Dominion Resources' corporate headquarters to protest the company's plan for a new coal-fired power plant in Southwest Virginia.

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Protecting Jekyll Island

Continued from page 1

open beach to be a development-free zone, leaders of the state's majority party nonetheless chose to back Linger Longer's plan, leading to the death of the Jekyll bills in committee and clearing the way for the beachside project to move forward.

In response to the media attention garnered by Senator Chapman's Jekyll bills and the growing public uproar over the proposal to commercialize Jekyll's most popular public beach, the JIA and Linger Longer went on the attack, claiming that the people opposed to the beach village project were but a small group of malcontents trying to sabotage Jekyll's 'improvement' for their own selfish reasons.

To quote an op-ed piece written by Linger Longer's project manager, "A very small group of detractors say that they don't want anything to change on the island. They see the island as their private 'discovery' and they really don't want any more visitors. But the vast majority of Georgians are sad that the island is not a fun destination anymore and they are eager to see their old friend Jekyll revitalized. Those that see the details of the Linger Longer plan believe that this plan has the right amount of development without going too far. Georgians want to come back to the island and bring their families — but only after the new project gives them compelling reasons to return."

Ironically, the above statement was made after Linger Longer had presented its project proposal at a series of public meetings around the state at which **over 90 percent of the participants voiced opposition to the beach village plan.** [bold added] Conveniently, when Linger Longer placed the videotape of the town hall meetings on YouTube, the public comments were omitted, leaving only a glitzy presentation made by Linger Longer's representatives in which the alleged benefits and popularity of the beach village project were extolled.

Deception deepened when the chairman of the JIA board of directors amplified Linger Longer's misrepresentation of public opinion, stating in a letter to state legislators, "A select group of individuals, most of whom live full-time on the Island they like to call a 'state park,' believe that vacationers should not be able to stay in accommodations along the shoreline, which is, of course, where most people would naturally like to stay. This group of individuals has started a campaign to 'save' what essentially is a large asphalt parking lot along the beach. What they really want to do is stop the beach village project." This statement was made after IPJI had presented the JIA with more than 200 pages of public comments from people around the state protesting the beach village project, and after IPJI had released the results of its survey of more than 10,000 Jekyll visitors from over 350 towns in Georgia and 49 states, which recorded nearly unanimous opposition to what Linger Longer was proposing.

The JIA and Linger Longer also attempted to counter the growing evidence that the beach village project was wildly unpop-



Photo Courtesy of IPJI

Inland (pocket) marsh with meandering tidal estuary at Jekyll Island, Georgia.



Photo Courtesy of IPJI

Weathered Live Oak in maritime forest.

ular with Jekyll's visitors by claiming that the written comments they had received about the project were overwhelmingly favorable, yet both parties refused to make those comments public when asked to do so by IPJI.

Knowing that the truth was being misrepresented, IPJI filed an Open Records Act request in order to get a look at the comments sent to the JIA. An analysis of those comments revealed, to no one's surprise, that the vast majority were, in fact, critical of the project.

Given the JIA's intransigence and misrepresentation of the facts and the political clout wielded by Linger Longer, it appeared that the mega-beach village project — despite public opinion — was unstoppable but, as fate would have it, those who were pushing the project had failed to do their environmental homework. IPJI learned that nearly two-thirds of the beach village project fell within the jurisdiction of Georgia's Shore Protection Act (SPA) and would require a permit to move forward. The SPA provides for the right of public appeal should the permitting committee rule favorably on a development proposal. Since appeals of this sort have tied up development plans in court for years and because IPJI made it clear that legal action would follow if a permit were to

be granted for beach village project, the project lost much of its luster for Linger Longer. The JIA, claiming to be ever mindful of public opinion, promptly announced the beach village project would be scaled back by two-thirds, allowing Jekyll's most popular public beach to remain development-free.

What was once branded as "a small group of local malcontents" suddenly was translated into "statewide public opinion" by a JIA now eager to claim that it was taking seriously the mandate that it honor public trust. Ideas for a small Jekyll village that were once mislabeled as the views of a group "opposed to all change on the island" now became the official plan for the Jekyll village. The people's proposal for keeping Jekyll's main public beach largely unobstructed by commercial development had, after 18 months of protest, come to fruition.

"All's well that end's well" would be an appropriate epitaph for the Jekyll development story if the story were to end here but, unfortunately, it does not. The JIA and Linger Longer have recently entered into a 25-year partnership which includes two additional phases for Jekyll's 'revitalization' beyond the scaled-down beach village project. Privatization of the park's key amenities, the conversion of a

major recreational facility into a condo community and commercial/residential development of currently forested areas of the island are on the JIA's development agenda for the next five to ten years.

IPJI will continue to monitor the JIA's 'revitalization' plans and to support responsible renovation of Jekyll Island State Park, the imperatives of which are:

- Rebuild what needs rebuilding but do not build along Jekyll's remaining open beach-front.
- Refrain from building near Jekyll's environmentally-sensitive areas.
- Ensure that Jekyll's character, feel and grace are not compromised by development.
- Remain true to Jekyll's tradition of affordability for average income citizens.
- Give pride of place to the vision of Jekyll's future held by its principal stakeholders — those "plain people of Georgia" for whom the park was set aside 60 years ago.

For further information on the Jekyll development saga, visit: www.savejekyllisland.org.

Group Targets Coal Mines in Powder Basin

Billings Gazette via DailyClimate.org Associated Press, August 25, 2009

CHEYENNE, Wyoming (excerpt) — An environmental group has been urging people to oppose the proposed expansion of three Wyoming coal mines on grounds that coal is a primary source of greenhouse gas emissions.

WildEarth Guardians, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has set up a Web page to encourage people to email comments to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on proposals to expand three coal mines in the Powder River Basin: St. Louis-based Arch Coal's Black Thunder Mine, Gillette-based Rio Tinto's Jacob Ranch Mine and St. Louis-based Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle Mine.

Wyoming produces far more coal than any other state — nearly three times as much each year as the second-ranked coal state, West Virginia. Virtually all of the coal is burned in power plants and scientists say such plants contribute to climate change by releasing carbon dioxide.

"Clearly the coal mines aren't going to go away tomorrow and coal's going to be here," Jeremy Nichols of WildEarth Guardians said Tuesday. "But we need to start charting a path for a clean-energy future."

Nearly 14 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions originate from coal that is mined from Wyoming's Powder River Basin and burned in power plants, according to a recent estimate by the BLM in Wyoming.

That makes Wyoming ground zero for greenhouse emissions, Nichols said.

"Global warming threatens the wildlife, wild places and wild rivers of the American West. It's time to shift away from coal. It's time for the Bureau of Land Management to be a leader in safeguarding the climate," reads part of the group's suggested comments to the BLM.

The proposed expansions

would open up nearly 22,000 acres to strip mining to unearth an estimated 2.4 billion tons of coal over about 10 years, according to the BLM.

Spokespersons for two of three companies — Greg Schaefer with Arch Coal and Heidi Lowe with Rio Tinto Energy — did not respond to requests for comment on the group's effort. Beth Sutton, spokeswoman for St. Louis-based Peabody Coal, declined to comment.

Environmentalists in recent years have opposed coal-fired power plants because of the plants' greenhouse emissions. Opposing coal mining in Wyoming because of climate change is new, said Nichols.

"We're trying to leverage this issue in a way that's never been done before," he said.

Also new — within the past year or so — is the BLM's estimate that about 14 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions comes from burning Wyoming coal, said Mike Karbs, assistant district manager for solid minerals in the BLM's Wyoming High Plains District.

"Nobody really knows if and how much that would change the climate," Karbs added.

Like all mines, Wyoming's coal mines need to expand to remain productive. The emissions estimate is contained in a draft environmental study of the proposed additional coal mining.

A 60-day public comment period on the document ended Tuesday. As of last week, the BLM had received between 300 and 400 email comments on the study, Karbs said.

He said he wasn't sure yet how many comments originated (from) the WildEarth Guardians' email form.

Separately, the BLM recently issued a final environmental impact statement covering the proposed expansion of four other mines in the Powder River Basin . . .

"The Order" is Available in PA at:

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Burnt Cabins
- **Four Quarters**
Artemis
- **Health by Choice**
New Enterprise
- **Miller's Diner**
Mill Creek
- **Neelyton Post Office**
- **Pennsylvania Visitors Center**
I-70 Northbound
Fulton County
- **Sandy Ridge Market**
Orbisonia
- **Weavers Natural Foods**
Manheim
- **Wholesome Living Marketplace**
Bedford

And in New York at:

- **Magnolia's Cafe**
Patterson

And in West Virginia at:

- **Community Garden Market**
Berkeley Springs

And in Canada at:

- **Books & Company**
Picton, Ontario



How Did OE End Up in Canada?

Iona,

Our annual sojourn to Prince Edward County is always quite relaxing. Plus, I persuaded the Picton book store owner to sell a half dozen copies of the August *Order of the Earth*.

Allen Hengst, Washington D.C.

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The Tree House Tree!

Pennsylvania's Champion Eastern White Pine Tree

By John Stoneman
Bradford, Pennsylvania

The locals just call it "The Tree House Tree." What is it? The biggest pine tree in the state of Pennsylvania, a giant Eastern White Pine tree, the state champion Eastern White Pine. Let me tell you a bit about how I first came across this champion tree.

Years ago, when the Marilla Trails System was being built here in Bradford on Bradford Water Authority property, the head of the water authority (Kim Benjamin) told me that their forester reported a stand of old growth or "virgin" white pine trees just off the main "Marilla Springs Trail" they were laying out. Kim thought I might be interested in checking them out. And he was right! I am very grateful for his tip.

After months of exploring the area (the proposed "Marilla Springs Trail" as well as the "Marilla Bridges Trail") I documented two giant Eastern White Pine trees, "Miss Marilla" and "King of the Marilla Giants," along with a stand of 13 other giant white pines.

Not being a "tree person" *per se*, I did recognize that the trees there were a significant find. There are not that many trees that big and that old left standing today, unfortunately.

It was quite a find!

Eventually we laid out a side trail to the stand of 13 White pines, now called "The White Pine Trail" a spur off the main Marilla Springs Trail. The two named giants (as well as a few of the biggest in the stand of white pines) may very well be champion trees. We have not as of yet, measured them — except for their circumference. Miss Marilla measures 13' 4" around, while the King of the Marilla Giants, measures 13' 8" around. They both look to be about 125 feet tall.

I was so excited about this find that I called my friend, a world renowned "tree expert," Bruce Kershner, who came down from Buffalo to see them and he agreed we had quite a find here.

Besides this group of giant, old-growth Eastern White Pine trees, Bruce identified several old trees including an old Birch tree that he thinks might be about 450 years old! Being a Birch, it's not real big but he believed it to be the oldest tree in the area. He thought some of the White Pine trees were up to 350 years old.

My outdoor adventure club (www.alleghenyoutdooradventures.com), did several hikes to the area to visit these trees. On one particular hike, a woman named Lori Vickery said, "They ARE big but I know where there is a bigger one." I was intrigued, doubtful, but interested in seeing her big tree — especially since I've been all over this area and often hike Zoar Valley where there are old-growth trees and none of them are noticeably bigger than these trees here.

But she insisted that she knew of another big tree right here in Bradford that was bigger than the trees I just showed her. AND she said the tree was near-by! AND she offered to show it to me.

Of course I was a bit skeptical about her claims but off we went to see this "real big tree" that Lori called "The Tree House Tree."

Lori explained that as a girl she played in this tree and that it once had a three-story tree house in it — three stories! This tree is located just off Langmaid Lane in Bradford behind the nursing home. It's just a short walk into the woods.

When I first laid eyes on this tree I just couldn't believe it! What a giant tree! It's hard to imagine how big this tree really is! Besides being big in diameter, it's also tall and has an amazing spread to its crown. Near the bottom and close to the ground are these giant branches coming off and turning to the sky. You can actually climb right up into this massive tree.

There is no longer a three-story tree house in this tree but it is there in pieces on the ground



The champion "Tree House Tree," the largest Eastern White Pine in Pennsylvania!

Photo by John Stoneman



Above Left: Stan Hess, the DCNR/Bureau of Forestry county forester for McKean County measuring our champion tree. Above Right: Measuring the circumference, an amazing seventeen feet and six inches!

Photos by John Stoneman



Left: "Miss Marilla," a giant Eastern White Pine, and friends. (Author is in the foreground.) Photo by Bill Belitskus



Right: The "King of the Marilla Giants!" It takes four tree-huggers to embrace this giant White Pine! Photo by John Stoneman

around it. And you can see some nails or some boards still in the tree where the tree house once was. Lori told us that as a young girl (back in the 1960's) she played in this tree. And in the three-story tree house that was in it. She told me that she only got as high as the second floor of the tree house and never made it to the third story.

Well, I went back to this tree to measure its circumference, and was amazed that it's actually 17' 6" at 4 1/2' off the ground! Surely this must be a champion tree I thought. So I got on the Internet and started looking up

champion trees in Pennsylvania. "Champion Trees of Pennsylvania" (<http://www.pabigtrees.com>) has the list of all the big trees in the state broken down by species. This Eastern White Pine was bigger in diameter than any other pine tree in the state! So I reported this tree to the Web site and asked if they would be interested in coming up here and measuring the tree. I was contacted by a guy named Scott Wades and he put me in contact with Stan Hess, the DCNR/Bureau of Forestry county forester for McKean County. Stan Hess was very interested and we

made plans to meet and measure the tree together.

As it turned out, it was very difficult to measure. One, it was surrounded closely by other big trees. It was nearly impossible to sight the very top of the tree. And two, the tree was on a fairly sharp slope. We measured the tree from three different directions to calculate the height of the tree. Measuring the "drip line," the furthest-out branches for the size of the crown, from several different views was also quite the task. The easy part was the circumference! As soon as we got the measurements we real-

ized that we had a state champion on our hands.

"Champion Trees" are rated by a number that is calculated by the height in feet, the circumference in inches and the average of the width of the crown in feet. For more information go here: <http://www.nativetreesociety.org/measure/treemeasuring?guidelines.htm>.

Our "Tree House Tree" has a circumference of 308.6 inches, the height is 112 feet and the average crown spread is 69.5 feet, giving this tree a champion rating of 338. The previous state champion was a tree in Cook

Forest that rates at 335. The tree in Cook Forest has held the record for many years. And not only is the Tree House Tree the largest Eastern White Pine tree in the state of Pennsylvania, it's also the largest pine tree of any species in the state!

While we were measuring the tree and when Stan Hess was figuring out the final champion number, he looked up at me and said, "Now this is a serious matter; those who have champion trees take this stuff very seriously, everybody you bump down in rating with this tree will be very mad." He then told me that they might rush up here to re-measure this tree to confirm our measurements!

Stan was right! Just a day after our tree was listed on the "Champion Trees of Pennsylvania" Web site, I got an email from Dale Luthringer, the environmental education specialist at Cook Forest State Park and an "old friend of Dr. Bruce Kershner." Yes, the same Cook Forest that had the previous "state champion tree" for all those years! Dale in fact wants to come up and measure this tree with more accurate instruments and to verify that we do in fact have the state champion Eastern White Pine tree.

Here is a great twist to the story. Lori Vickery, the girl who showed me this tree, has an old letter her dad saved. Apparently her dad, back in 1980, reported the tree to the state. Stan Hess who measured trees way back then, came to Bradford and measured this tree in 1980! At the time, some thirty years ago or so, he measured the height as 95 feet and a circumference of 14'. Somewhat smaller than this tree is today, as expected. But when I told Stan of this letter Lori has, that he signed, he said he has no memory of ever measuring this tree before. That can be expected since he has probably measured thousands of trees since 1980!

Before seeing the "Tree House Tree" in Bradford, I had already thought we had a significant find out in the Marilla Reservoir area with the Miss Marilla, the King of the Marilla Giants and the stand of 13 old-growth White Pine trees out there.

I expect when we actually measure them that we might add more to the "record books" from this area but in the meantime, as of today, we do have the biggest pine tree in the whole state of Pennsylvania right here in Bradford — great tourist attraction for sure!

This tree has to be seen to be believed! But if you come to Bradford to see this giant, be sure to visit the other big Eastern White Pine trees in the Marilla area. One is off the Marilla Bridges Trail and the others are off the Marilla Springs Trail and all our giant trees are within a relatively few miles of each other! Definitely worth the trip for the "tree people" among us or anybody who might want to see (and photograph) some really big, old trees!

Note from John Stoneman:

I am what you might call an "inadvertent tree person." I have been an environmentalist all my life, thanks in part to my dad's and grandfather's interest in the outdoors, but I never considered myself a "tree person." But by my frequent association with trees as a forest wanderer, I inadvertently learned about them. After exploring the woods in Northwestern Pennsylvania for 25 years I slowly developed a knowledge of the different trees. Added to that experience, was a very brief friendship with a real "tree expert," Dr. Kershner, and his friend, Don Shelters. Both taught me a lot about identifying old trees. I also spent a lot of time exploring Zoar Valley, New York, where there are many stands of "hidden" old growth or virgin trees. But even though I locate, measure and document old growth or rare trees, I still don't consider myself a "tree person." Others call me a local "tree expert," but my main interest is large rock outcroppings and caves! But I do have to walk past a lot of trees in my travels through the forest exploring for caves. I'm not a "tree person" *per se*. Call me an "inadvertent tree person" since I learned all I know about trees accidentally or inadvertently! . . . And yes, I have hugged my fair share of trees. You can call me a tree-hugger!

Report Finds Cell Phones Cause Brain Tumors

BERKELEY, California and SUTTON COLDFIELD, England (BUSINESS WIRE, August 26, 2009) — A new report, "Cell-phones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern, Science, Spin and the Truth Behind Interphone," was released today by a collaborative of international EMF activists. Groups affiliated with the report include Powerwatch and the Radiation Research Trust in the U.K., and in the U.S., EMR Policy Institute, ElectromagneticHealth.org and The Peoples Initiative Foundation. The exposé discusses research on cellphones and brain tumors and concludes:

- There is a risk of brain tumors from cellphone use,
- Telecom funded studies underestimate the risk of brain tumors, and
- Children have larger risks than adults for brain tumors.

This report, sent to government leaders and media today, details eleven design flaws of the thirteen-country, Telecom-funded Interphone study. The Interphone study, begun in 1999, was intended to determine the risks of brain tumors but its full publication has been held up for years. Components of this study published to date reveal what the authors call a 'systemic-skew,' greatly underestimating brain tumor risk.

The design flaws include categorizing subjects who used portable phones (which emit the same microwave radiation as cellphones) as 'unexposed;' exclusion of many types of brain tumors; exclusion of people who had died or were too ill to be interviewed, as a consequence of their brain tumor; and exclusion of children and young adults, who are more vulnerable.

Lloyd Morgan, lead author



and member of the Bioelectromagnetics Society says, "Exposure to cellphone radiation is the largest human health experiment ever undertaken without informed consent and has some **four billion participants** enrolled. Science has shown increased risk of brain tumors from use of cellphones as well as

increased risk of eye cancer, salivary gland tumors, testicular cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukemia. The public must be informed."

International scientists endorsing "Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern" include Ronald B. Herberman, MD, Director Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; David Carpenter, MD, Director, Institute for Health and the Environment, University at Albany; Martin Blank, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, Columbia University; Professor Yury Grigoriev, Chairman of Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection and many others.

Contacts: Radiation Research Trust, 510-841-4362 (U.S.A.) Scientific Advisor bilovsky@aol.com or Powerwatch Alasdair Philips, 01353 778422 (UK) at alasdair@powerwatch.org.uk.

In a world where a drug cannot be launched without proof that it is safe, where the use of herbs and natural compounds available to all since early Egyptian times are now questioned, their safety subjected to the deepest scrutiny, where a new food cannot be launched without prior approval, the idea that we can use mobile telephony, including masts, and introduce WiFi and mobile phones without restrictions around our five-year-olds is double-standards gone mad. I speak, not just as an editor and scientist that has looked in depth at all the research, but as a father who lost his beloved daughter to a brain tumor.

Chris Woollams
M.A. Biochemistry (Oxon)
Editor Integrated Cancer
and Oncology News

'Crude:' The Film Chevron Doesn't Want You to See

By Han Shan
AlterNet, August 26, 2009

American oil giant Chevron is now the 5th largest company on the planet. But I doubt Chevron executives have had much time to savor their 'Masters of the Universe' status lately.

Instead, I imagine them working overtime with their internal public relations team and mercenary army of PR spin-masters, lobbyists and sponsored bloggers they've brought on to fight what looks more and more like a losing battle.

What's got them burning the midnight oil?

September 9th a powerful new documentary film opened in New York and then played in select theaters across the country. Called CRUDE, the film tells a shocking story that Chevron does not want the world to know.

Three years in the making by acclaimed filmmaker Joe Berlinger (*Brother's Keeper*, *Paradise Lost* and *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*), CRUDE chronicles the epic legal battle to hold Chevron accountable for its systematic contamination of the Ecuadorian Amazon — an environmental tragedy experts call the "Amazon Chernobyl" and believe is the worst case of oil-related contamination on Earth.

While drilling in the Ecuadorian Amazon from 1964 to 1990, Texaco, now Chevron, deliberately dumped more than 18 billion gallons of toxic wastewater, spilled roughly 17 million gallons of crude oil and left hazardous waste in hundreds of open pits dug out of the forest floor. The company operated using substandard practices that were obsolete in order to increase its profit margin by \$3 per barrel of crude. Of course, the local people and ecosystems paid the price instead but they're fighting back.

Centering on a landmark lawsuit filed by the indigenous people and campesinos who continue to suffer a severe public health crisis caused by Chevron's contamination, CRUDE is a high-stakes David vs. Goliath legal drama with 30,000 Amazon rainforest dwellers facing down the San Ramon, California-based oil behemoth.

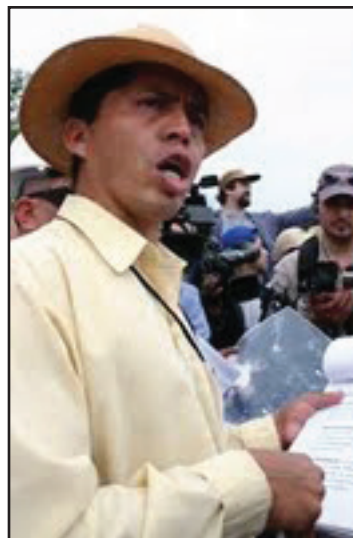
Amazon Watch's 'Clean up Ecuador Campaign' — featured in the film — is leading grassroots efforts to promote the theatrical release, enlisting human rights and environmental allies across the U.S. in an outreach and word-of-mouth marketing campaign. Numerous organizations have pledged support and committed to concrete efforts to build the profile of this must-see film, including Rainforest Action Network, Oxfam USA, WITNESS, EarthRights International, Human Rights Watch and Global Green, to name just a few.

CRUDE is not a simplistic piece of agit-prop. Filmmaker Joe Berlinger shows all sides of this monumental case and the stories and people behind it. Chevron is given plenty of opportunity to share its perspective. Unfortunately for them, in the end, truth does appear to pick a side and it's not Chevron's.

Ultimately, the film gives us a



Chevron's contamination of the Ecuadorian Amazon is an environmental tragedy experts call the "Amazon Chernobyl" and believe is the worst case of oil-related contamination on Earth.



Pablo Fajardo, the young former oil field worker who completed his law degree by correspondence course and is now the lead attorney for the plaintiffs.



Pamela Ramirez, of San Carlos at the epicenter of Chevron's 'Rainforest Chernobyl.'

glimpse of the beauty and mystery of the Amazon and its indigenous cultures and puts a human face on the devastation left there by three decades of oil operations. But it does a lot more. Among other things, it also tells the story of what it takes to go up against one of the most powerful companies on the planet.

Especially inspiring is the story of Pablo Fajardo, the young former oil-field worker who completed his law degree by correspondence course and is now the lead attorney for the plaintiffs. Pablo argues passionately and courageously for the impacted communities and you won't be able to help cheering him on.

Advising Pablo is another lawyer named Steven Donziger, who helped file the original lawsuit in New York back in 1993. Coming across as somehow simultaneously cynical and idealistic, Donziger is brash and big and

loud and manipulative. And if you're rooting for the plaintiffs, you'll find yourself thinking, "I'm glad he's on our side."

And there are a slew of other fascinating, real-life characters from a Cofán indigenous leader who travels from the jungle by foot, canoe, bus, train and plane to speak about the plight of his people at a Chevron shareholder meeting in Houston, to a Chevron attorney who comes across like the Tilda Swinton character from Michael Clayton (how does she sleep at night?). We meet Trudie Styler — wife of Sting and founder with him of the Rainforest Foundation — who visits the affected communities and quickly becomes passionately, earnestly involved.

It's easy to get behind CRUDE because it not only tells an important story, it tells it in an inspiring, powerful, engaging and, dare I say it, entertaining way. Joe Berlinger had a hit with his last film about Metallica going through group therapy. He brings the same storytelling acumen to this story that already had dramatic elements galore.

The theatrical release of CRUDE comes at a moment of unprecedented importance in the campaign to hold Chevron accountable and achieve justice for the people of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

What's more, a victory for this grassroots campaign will send shockwaves through the oil industry and corporate boardrooms around the world, forever changing the way companies do business.

With CRUDE coming out in theaters, we have an unprecedented opportunity to massively increase public awareness of this issue and massively increase public pressure for Chevron to be held accountable. But it begins with getting people out to the movies!

The film opened in New York on 09/09/09, followed by runs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and thirty more smaller cities across the country. This sounds great but think of it compared to 'G.I. Joe,' which was playing in 4,000 theaters at the same time a couple weeks ago! Theaters nationwide will be watching to see how the film performs in the first few weeks to decide whether to screen it themselves so please, help us spread the word.

Blog about CRUDE, post the trailer and poster and Web banners on your social networks, follow and retweet @crudethemovie and @amazonwatch, become a fan of the film on Facebook and join our mailing list for news, updates and action alerts.

Visit www.ChevronToxico.com/crude for resources to help you promote CRUDE and get involved with the Clean Up Ecuador Campaign. Join us now so you can join us for the campaign's victory party in the near future!

You can also visit www.crudethemovie.com.

Han Shan is a human rights and environmental justice campaigner living in New York City. He is currently serving as a coordinator of the Clean Up Ecuador campaign for Amazon Watch.



Photo From Office Publisher

U.S. NAVY TO CONDUCT MASSIVE ATMOSPHERIC EXPERIMENTAL TESTS

By Rosalind Peterson
NewsWithViews.com

An article in Space.com titled, "NASA Rocket to Create Clouds Tuesday" by Clara Moskowitz, Staff Writer — September 14, 2009, was unexpectedly forwarded to me today.

According to the article: ". . . A rocket experiment set to launch Tuesday aims to create artificial clouds at the outermost layers of Earth's atmosphere. The project is called the Charged Aerosol Release Experiment (CARE) . . ." "This is really essentially at the boundary of space," said Wayne Scales, a scientist at Virginia Tech who will . . . study the physics of the artificial dust cloud as it's released . . . CARE is slated to launch Tuesday between 7:30 and 7:57 p.m. EDT from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia . . ."

". . . CARE will release its (aluminum oxide) dust particles a bit higher than that, then let them settle back down to a lower altitude." What the CARE experiment hopes to do is to create an artificial dust layer," Professor Scales told SPACE.com. "Hopefully it's a creation in a controlled sense, which will allow scientists to study different aspects of it, the turbulence generated on the inside, the distribution of dust particles and such." CARE is a project of the Naval Research Laboratory and the Department of De-

fense Space Test Program. The spacecraft will launch aboard a NASA four-stage Black Brant XII suborbital sounding rocket . . . Researchers will track the CARE dust cloud for days or even months to study its behavior and development over time . . . If CARE cannot launch Tuesday, the team can try again between Sept. 16 and Sept. 20, 2009 . . ."

The U.S. Navy, NASA and the U.S. Defense Department have made a decision to conduct one or more atmospheric tests in order to create an aluminum oxide dust cloud without the permission and, for the most part, the knowledge of the citizens of the United States. These aluminum oxide particles will eventually return to earth polluting our air, water and soils. The tests may damage the various atmospheric boundaries that protect life on Earth — no one has any idea what damage this dust cloud and the testing on this dust cloud may do to our climate, agriculture, human health or the amount of infrared and UV radiation reaching the Earth.

It is time to contact elected officials today and protest this action which may begin as early as today, September 14, 2009. The Navy is already conducting warfare testing in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico and has more ranges in the planning and permit stages. Senator Dianne Feinstein and

Senator Barbara Boxer noted in a June 19, 2009 letter to Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce:

" . . . the Navy plans to increase the number of its exercises or expand the areas in which they may occur and virtually every coastal state will be affected. Some exercises may occur in the nation's most biologically sensitive marine habitats, including National Marine Sanctuaries and breeding habitats . . ." This involves the decimation of more than 11.7 million marine mammals over five years and will increase with each new warfare testing range expansion."

TESTING IN THE PACIFIC, ATLANTIC, GULF OF MEXICO, HAWAII & ALASKA INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- * Gunnery Exercises
- * Bombing Missions
- * Missile & Torpedo Firing
- * Underwater Detonations
- * Research & Testing
- * Vessel Sinking
- * Use of hundreds of toxic chemicals, like lead, mercury, tungsten, aluminum coated fiberglass (chaff), Airborne Obscurants like Red & White Phosphorus, fog oils, rocket and jet fuel emissions
- * Undersea Warfare Training Range Exercises (USWTR)
- * Mid and High Frequency Sonar Experiments
- * Both land and ocean exercises will use planes, drones, rockets and sonic booms
- * Other classified warfare testing experiments will be conducted in these areas.

Tribute to Don Harkins Publisher of the Idaho Observer

Don Harkins (1963-2009), who gave me both moral support and concrete ideas for starting "The Order of the Earth" newspaper, died of acute leukemia on September 19th.

Don was a crusader for truth and justice in our world; he was passionate about helping to correct the wrongs in our society. His Chemtrails articles got me started on our series. Don's wife, Ingri, was also helpful to me in the early days of "OE" and I send her love during this tragic time.

It was due to Don's willingness to publish a free ad for "OE" that I ended up being connected to people in Idaho and then going on to meet The Trustworthy And True Spirit, The Most High God (page 1) and publicize and participate in his work.

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Wolf Family

By Terry Carnila, Bedford PA

I am alpha wolf.
These woods, mountains and waters have been our home forever.

My spirit will be reborn, when I leave this body,
as it has been since time began.

Our family venerates all living things.
We love one another and seek only to protect our land.
We are respectful of life,
and take only what is needed to survive.

Our song flows across the land as we sing to our spirit friends,
who rest still on hallowed ground.
The peace we long for has been difficult to tame.
We are not deterred!
Mankind must help us or all is lost.

You who work miracles should continue in your efforts.
We pray for a better life for you.
It is well deserved.

Remember —
Wolf family loves you and will always be nearby.

Currency of Kindness

By Mare Cromwell
Baltimore, Maryland

I wish that instead of greenbacks, our currency were kindness and gratitude. Banks would be set up to take deposits and offer loans in generosity and thank yous.

Interest would be paid in the form of flowers and vegetables and tree seedlings — vegetables and tree seedlings in the warmer months and orchids and amaryllis in the winter. Free bags of manure and pouches of orchid fertilizer would be available in the parking lot.

There would be no penalties if someone did not make a payment — the amount due would simply come from another person's account who has surplus in giving thanks or being kind.

On special holidays, vouchers for forgiveness would be mailed out to all the bank customers and blessings of chocolate would be available at each bank branch.

If any customer left without a smile and a lighter step, there would be serious evaluations within that bank and federal deposits of the highest positive order would be issued to that branch. Those would be quantified in heart-gilded blessings and would be instantly made available to every member of that bank.

If one bank customer had a spare room in their house, they would offer it into the 'roof over your head' exchange program where a person recently out of a job and on the verge of homelessness would be provided that room with payments of dish-washing and window-cleaning agreed to on a monthly basis.

The bank would have a vegetable garden growing



Photo From Office Publisher

In an alternative world of money, interest would be paid in the form of flowers and vegetables and tree seedlings, among other useful and beautiful things.

around its periphery and solar panels and composting toilets included in its construction. Plants would grow on the roof. Employees would be given days off for royal bad moods and really lousy mornings and other volunteers who were feeling particularly good that morning would fill in for them.

And the sun would shine. The plants would grow. People would feel like people instead of like mini-cogs.

And children's joy would soar higher than our current national debt.

In the following order of wacked priorities, Mare Cromwell weeds, blogs, cooks, sits on the beach at Assateague and occasionally works on her second book. After writing her first book, If I Gave You God's Phone Number... Searching for Spirituality in America, she's convinced that God has a phone number but she can't give you yours. www.sacreddogllc.com <<http://www.sacreddogllc.com>> and marecromwell.wordpress.com are two venues to track Mare's distorted life. ;~)

Update on Wolf-Hunting

Letter submitted by Doug Davis
September 11, 2009

Dear Doug,
We may have lost the latest courtroom battle for wolves but it now appears we have a good chance to win the war.

First, grim news from the battlefield: a federal judge is allowing wolf hunts to move forward in Idaho and Montana, which means as many as 325 wolves could be gunned down in those two states this fall.

We disagree strongly with the decision that hunting will not do long-term harm to the population of some 1,350 wolves in Idaho and Montana. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) joined with Earthjustice and 12 other groups in a last-minute legal attempt to block the first public hunting of wolves in the Northern Rockies in decades — but to no avail.

It is a sad day indeed when Americans are allowed to hunt endangered wildlife. I know you

share my sense of shock and disappointment. And I want to assure you that NRDC will not relent in our campaign to rally the public against the cruel and senseless slaughter of wolves.

But let's turn our focus for a moment to the bigger picture because there was also exceptionally good news in Judge Donald Molloy's ruling. He stated that Interior Secretary Salazar's decision last March to strip these wolves of their endangered species protection was probably a violation of the law.

And he found that NRDC is "likely to prevail" in our overall case, which seeks to restore wolves to the endangered species list and shield them from further state-sponsored hunting.

That is fantastic news! It sends a message loud and clear to the federal and state governments that the vulnerable wolves of Montana and Idaho are likely to regain their endangered species protection.

Simply put, the government may well lose the larger war over

wolf protection.

Of course, NRDC must still fight and win that case, which will unfold in Judge Molloy's courtroom in the months ahead. You can be sure that we will go all out to win a final ruling that protects wolves, prevents further slaughter and ensures a full recovery of the wolf population to sustainable levels in the Northern Rockies.

In the meantime, with your ongoing support, we will not forget or ignore the plight of defenseless wolves caught in the hunters' crossfire this fall. NRDC will be mobilizing a nationwide outcry over the Interior Secretary's abandonment of wolves to state-sponsored hunting.

As hundreds of wolves make their last stand in Idaho and Montana, we are more determined than ever to win a legal victory that ensures a future for wolves in the Northern Rockies. I know we can count on your help to make it happen.

Sincerely,
Frances Beinecke, President NRDC-



Suggestion for New American Currency (Good in other countries, too!)

The government could give the Oscar Mayer company 500 billion dollars to print up and distribute the new 'notes.' The 'notes' could be redeemable for packages of lunch meat.

Example: The 'note' above could be redeemed at any food store for **two** packages of baloney!

This is a return to currency backed by **something**.

Created by Hal Zack, Washington State

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Life is My Career: *A Late Summer Harvest of Thoughts*

By Christine Maccabee
Sabillasville, Maryland

Where to begin on this gorgeous morning in August? I will begin, as is recommended by many spiritual sages, with Gratitude. Even if my heart is breaking, there is still the miracle of life just outside my door waiting for me to wake up and see it. I can hear it too . . . the early morning calling of crows through the valley, the final chorus of crickets followed by the cheerful clamor of cicadas which will continue all through this very hot day.

I sit here thankful for the coolness of the morning hours and for the sweet songs of birds which bring comfort to my soul. Even the hum of car engines as they travel along the road reminds me of the reality of life as it truly is, an ongoing movement, a journey of time and wings and songs of which I am an intimate part.

Every winter I miss the summer and live for the coming of spring. Even though the winter grays and browns and the extremes of cold are beautiful too, I miss the green leaves and the sounds of insects and birds.

I patiently await the warming of the air and the return of the healing aroma therapy from the many flowers which bloom on

my property from spring through fall. The air is pure and healing here and for that I am grateful.

When the bitter winds
around me
blow,
deep within my heart
the flowers
grow.
I can see all their hues,
purples, yellows
and blues.

And I dream of
happy hours
spent
As I turn the soil,
my soul
invent;
With each seed I sow,
nature's wonders
to know.

However, when August heat kicks in with its 95-degree weather, gratitude takes a backseat to the will to survive. Last year I chose not to put my few precious pennies into fixing the air conditioner when it died. I had always wondered if I could manage without one anyway and so this year I have taken on the challenge of living like our poorer cousins in third world countries. Of course, I am far more fortunate than they in that



Image from Office Publisher

I have a system of fans but, much like them, I find myself lying around in the shade on longer-than-usual siestas. Time seems to move much more slowly on these long hot afternoons and, yes, I do struggle with gratitude. However, thank God for a good book to read and the radio!

I have digressed from the world of which I long to speak, that being the natural world.

Due to an incredibly wet, cool spring, all my wild plants are taller than ever. The lance-leaved goldenrod is now in full bloom with thankful little bumble bees all over it. Did you

know that many bumble bees even fall asleep on the flowers they feed on?! Seeing them settling down on a flower to sleep gives me a peaceful feeling just as I am settling myself down for the evening here on my little homestead.

Several other species of goldenrod are free to grow on my property as I understand their incredible value to pollinators.* One of my first years here I let the entire hay field go to flowers and in September I witnessed a miracle. For three days and three nights I saw thousands of monarch butterflies feeding and resting on them before their

long journey south to Mexico. To witness such a thing is life-transforming. I have not been the same ever since and must continue to witness to the necessity for all who are able to preserve or create areas of wild plants in order to sustain the lives of our precious pollinators as well as the incredible diversity of other fascinating insects and then, of course, the many birds which survive by feeding on the insects and the seeds.

I do not take my participation in the incredible chain of life lightly and to feel it is a joy. I truly believe that we as humans are here on this Earth to be co-creators and caretakers. As we care for the Earth, it will care for us. This I believe.

I have never seen such tall wild aster as I am seeing this year! Some of them are now towering over my head some one or two feet. I think they know I love them. They are the ones just about every property owner cuts down before they even become knee high, deeming them weeds. However, if permitted, they spend all summer long growing tall and full, only to burst forth with a million tiny, star-like flowers in September. Seeing them and hearing the symphony of happily feeding buzzing bees in early

fall is but one more miracle I am witness to.

I do believe I am the luckiest person in the world even without an air conditioner, a dryer or a man . . . though a good man would be a great help for this woman. But that is another chapter in the book of my life.

Thank you for letting me share this one.

Off I go to life's little duties, bills and animals and cleaning and people but, first, one more poem titled "Moments in Time" . . .

The clearest day
Late summer
Cicada is singing
Corn is high.

Summer comes
Summer flows
Children come
Children grow.

All too soon
Corn is yellow
Singing stops
All too soon.

*According to *Magic and Medicine of Plants*, "Goldenrod was once badly maligned as a cause of hay fever until it was shown that its pollen is not airborne. It blossoms at the same time as ragweed, the real culprit, which has inconspicuous flowers."

Earth Psalms: Song 2

By Angela Magara ©
www.angelamagara.com

Voices rage and vision is shortened to a moment.
Leaders join together in blindness,
And take counsel of the most foolish;
To lift themselves above mercy and
Celebrate justice without compassion.
"Truth is ours to know," they say, "all shall be guided by our power."
So people labor in deception and die without reason.

But the Universe is not beguiled,
Nor the Earth deceived by rhetoric.
She is fixed in her Cycles
and changes only within that Change.
Yielding fruit of the seeds sown.

War cannot yield peace,
Nor violence blossom into respect.

Truth is not hidden
but declared in the gathering of every harvest
and the fledglings of each species.
Nature wonders at our ignorance,
waiting for the turning of the season.

I will speak what I see and give voice to what I know.
Balance and mercy are the rule of this world.
Forgiveness and love shut the mouth of
Hatred and fear.

Be wise, all you who call for battle,
Be humble, and lift the veil from your eyes
That you may know the treasure,
The counsel of creation.

The end of all violence is violence
But the fruit of peace is the fullness of life.

*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.
More Earth Psalms will follow next month; printed with the author's permission.*



Pumpkin Photo by Iona

The Examined Life

On All the Souls and Saints

By Marion Stuenkel
Madison, Wisconsin

My grandson began a rainy-day visit sitting on my lap in the rose-colored rocker watching out the window as the leaves bounced when raindrops fell on them. The ridiculous word to mimic the action that came to my mind was "baa-boop," which we were soon repeating more or less quickly as the rain came down fast or slow. We passed a delightful time of baa-boop, baa-boop, baa-boop. I wondered why those were the sounds I identified. I wondered if long ago when I was only three had I sat with some beloved oldster who called out "baa-boop" when leaves were tickled by raindrops? What ancestor had coined the word? How long ago since "baa-boop" cropped up, only to be forgotten as each childhood faded until years later it was spoken when old arms circled a young tummy passing time watching raindrop effects.

I know I had times watching with a grownup when I was a child. I don't remember any but how else would I know how to watch with children? I don't know just what a child sees; I only know that he or she must have the opportunity. I am compelled to it. Watching an ant crawl across the walk with a crumb twice his size, never minding a barrier, just plodding around it, is simply an event for the child but a metaphor for old me. We watch the harmless Daddy Long-Legs cross the screen waving his delicate limbs.

I think how his waving leg is wielded like the white cane of my blind friend gracefully walking the park path. My grandson remains wary.

One winter day, quite cold, five Mourning Doves nestled in line standing in several inches of snow on a downed tree trunk. We saw a squirrel plunge through the snow and stop by the upended roots. He leaned back on his haunches quivering muscles gathered. He tossed back his head as though to shout "Yee Haw" then lowered his chin, jumped up, ran and butted each dove who fell over its neighbor and flew up just like cartoon birds even to a feather or two drifting down.

Mr. Squirrel stood at the end obviously as amused as were we.

My grandson heard of ant lions from his father. When we could find none, we observed the chain of life lesson by tossing a sacrificial ant on a spider web.



Image from Office Publisher

"I know I had times watching with a grownup when I was a child. I don't remember any but how else would I know how to watch with children? I don't know just what a child sees; I only know that he or she must have the opportunity."

We both jumped as the spider pounced, then rapidly wrapped up his prey.

One evening, after chasing them, a firefly got in my apartment. We enjoyed his beacon of light flashing until he flew into a web on the ceiling in the corner. Clearly stuck, his struggle shook the web hard enough that the spider could not progress along the shaking threads. My grandson screamed and then cried for me to save the lightning bug. This proved impossible. I finally pulled the web down. The disgruntled spider crawled behind the curtain rod.

We (my grandson tearfully) took the lightning bug outside entangled in the web shroud. We said words over the body, buried it, came inside and lit a candle. I asked my grandson why he was so distressed about the firefly being consumed but not the ant. He replied that the firefly was beautiful. I had recently read up on fireflies — cannibalistic, self-centered creatures with none of the hardworking, community-centered virtues of ants. But the distinction between what was okay and what was not was of a different order. Had a bird swooped down and swallowed the light

there would have been acceptance.

Socrates wrote "... The unexamined life is not worth living." Watching nature with my grandchildren I feel a passing on of wisdom that was seen by me as a child with someone who had watched with someone yet older when they were a child. Generations passing essence of humanness on by watching the plants and creatures with whom time is shared.

So the other day when we watched the wind gusting through the trees setting first this branch then that swaying, moving, I started singing, "When the saints . . . go marching . . ." Grandson and I sang call and response while the branches waved. Did they wave at us?

This October come All Soul's then All Saint's days, I am going to honor all those who came before and thank them for the time for me to see.

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

ENCOUNTERS WITH WONDER

Vigil

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

I waited. High up in the Smokies, where mist curls from the treetops like steam in a hot green cauldron. Where clouds stack up like mountains and mountains roll away like clouds, rippling to the horizon in an undulating current of hill and vale, high and low, a pulse as regular as wingbeats, up and down, a vertical in-ing and out-ing, like the tide.

I waited. On the first night, dark blue cloud-tongs opened briefly, letting fall to earth a glowing ember of sun but I saw no stars. On the second night, the clabbered clouds parted long enough to reveal a pearl white moon on a luminescent chip of pink sky-shell but I saw no stars. On the third night, I rose at midnight, peering past black lace leaves onto an unfurling bolt of ebony velvet. From tree to tree I heard the antiphonal chant of crickets and frogs but I saw no stars.

Six nights I waited. Flesh of my flesh, I thought, bone of my bones. Elemental ovens, where carbon, nitrogen and oxygen were synthesized, released, refashioned, relinquished, formed all over again then set free to make all the planets and every manner of thing inhabiting them. Billions of years up and down, infinity's wingbeats, billions of years in and out, a cosmic tide. How I longed to see them, my ancestors, my companions, my guides. Six nights I waited and on the seventh day, it was time to come home, where

artificial light has long since replaced starshine in the night-time sky.

The word 'vigil' means 'awake, alert, watchful.' There are formal times set aside for such watchfulness — on the eve of special festivals or holy days. There are times when life makes spontaneous demands of alertness from us at the bedside of a sick child, a dying friend. On the eve of Yom Kippur, the Jewish holy day celebrated in autumn, the congregation prays, "May all the people of Israel be forgiven, including the strangers who live in their midst, for all the people are at fault."

When I was in North Carolina, I kept my evening vigils, praying to see the stars. By day I drove on steep narrow roads through a thick cloth woven from sunlight and shade, embroidered with the sounds of birds and insects. I drove through the V-shaped folds, up and down, in and out, thinking of the Cherokee people who had lived in those mountains for 10,000 years until, coveting what belonged to others by virtue of ancestral gift, the strangers living in their midst claimed the land as their own.

Back into the thick cloth that is Southern Maryland, my pen stitches the names of the people who lived here for 10,000 years — Patuxents, Piscataways, Nanjemoy, Mattapanys, Wicomicoes, Portopacos, Mattawomans, Chapticos — until we took the land they lived on and their inheritance became ours.

In October we celebrate Columbus Day. Guided by the

stars, Columbus made his voyage of discovery and stumbled on this continent. The stars guide us still, for tomorrow's new world is today being synthesized in the elemental ovens of all the people's hearts. Flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone, we are learning to say to each other, to the Earth. Everyone at fault, everyone forgiven, everyone set free to begin a new voyage of discovery that will take us, not out, but in.

Shall we acknowledge that life on this planet is making a spontaneous demand of alertness from us? Shall we begin our vigil now? In the great cycles of day and night there is a light appropriate to every work: the sun for growing up, the moon and stars for growing down.

Tonight, as our eyes flutter closed and darkness covers the waters of our sleep. As all thinking and desiring melt away. Let us pray for something deeper than thought or desire: that the Earth's own wanting will take hold of us, that the Earth's own dream for herself will take shape within us. So that tomorrow, as our eyes flutter open, we can say, "Let there be light."

Elizabeth Ayres, author of Know the Way and Writing the Wave, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). You can hear Elizabeth read on Internet radio (wryr.org), Monday evenings at 8:30 p.m. eastern time, or catch more reflections at <http://elizabethayres.wordpress.com>. "Vigil" first appeared in the 10/9/08 issue of Bay Weekly.



Photo by Iona

Visit or live next to a waterfall or flowing stream. Its energy will guide you in your dreams at night and assist you in being ever so clear about your life during the day.

A Message From Mother Earth

SWITCHING CHANNELS

By Doug Davis
Cosmic Traveler

"Happy, joyful days are ahead. Can you feel my rhythm? Follow my beat. If you can't hear it yet, you can feel it. Be in quiet meditation and feel the gentle beat of my pulse. It is life-giving and self-sustaining. It brings out the joy in you — the joy you buried a long time ago and forgot about.

"There are ways you can tune in to my rhythm and be in tune with nature and the Universe. You will be centered and balanced and you will heal all physical maladies. In order to shift your physical being to my rhythm it is important to go out into nature every day. It is important to relax and breathe in my clean, pure air. Take deep breaths and visualize my life force energy entering your lungs and renewing your body and soul. Look at the land and feel its pulse. Be still and notice how beautiful it is. Notice its perfection, just the way it is.

"Bring plants into your home and be in quiet stillness with them. You can speak joyfully to the plants that you have

both indoors and out. They will appreciate it even if you are not sure of receiving a response.

"Listen to a low drumming beat on a natural drum. Allow it to relax you and focus you into the present moment. This will serve to align your frequency with mine. It will invite meditation and open doorways to other realms.

"Visit or live next to a waterfall or flowing stream. Its energy will guide you in your dreams at night and assist you in being ever so clear about your life during the day. The sound of water will keep you younger. It will call to you every day and bring your hidden joy to the surface. Water is soothing and will keep you emotionally balanced.

"Be sure to listen to the wind in the trees. It has a message for you. Listen carefully, not for words but for nature's joy to overwhelm you. All of nature's sounds are soothing and will place you at the proper vibration for healing. And move slowly, please. There is never a reason for you to rush and become stressed.

"Switch from "low" to "high." In other words, switch channels! It is as simple as that.

Make a conscious decision to change frequencies. Your media, governmental, religious and educational institutions keep you in the low frequency range. In this range you feel drained of energy and fearful, plus disease and accidents are always possible. Take the high road, please. Tune your personal frequency to Gaia and Love and Nature. This is the path of high energy and the path of balance, good health, love, joyful rhythm, abundance, invisibility and wonderfulness, mysterious synchronicities.

"The message is clear! You do have a choice as to which frequency you are on. Please trust in me. You will feel the difference!"

Mother Earth

Doug Davis is a clairvoyant and spiritual medium. He also loves to garden and grow beautiful plants of all kinds and is the founder of Sacred Earth Seed Co. You are invited to contact him at Sacredearth88@aol.com.

Nature's Defense Awareness Quiz: Part II

More True/False Questions to Challenge Your Gray Matter

By Al Fry
Garden Valley, Idaho

- Sea turtles' greatest enemy:
 - sharks
 - man
 - Pollutants
- Leatherback sea turtles eat mostly:
 - plankton
 - jellyfish
 - fish
- Walrus feed on:
 - fish
 - plankton
 - clams
- Toxic compounds like PCBs are highest in:
 - North American bears
 - Polar bears
- Amphibians like frogs in mountain regions are now being devastated by:
 - global warming
 - chemicals in water
 - fungi
- One enemy of frogs in mountain regions is:
 - radiation
 - fungi
 - fish that eat tad poles
- Estimated number of frog species:
 - 6,000
 - 12,000
 - 20,000,000
- Exxon's costs for 1988 Valdez oil spill:
 - \$2 billion
 - \$2.2 million
 - \$3.3 billion
- Tanker spills produce what percentage of oil spills:
 - 2%
 - 8%
 - 20%
- Natural seepage produces what percentage of oil spills:
 - 45%
 - 2%
 - 15%
- Australia's worst drought in history caused by:

- global warming
 - falling 15 billion trees
 - solar radiation decrease
- Global weather changes generally cause:
 - warmer areas to get warmer
 - less dampness in upper Europe
 - cold areas to get colder
 - Rabies bites in the U.S.A. have come mostly from:
 - skunks
 - raccoons
 - bats
 - The Arctic land grab includes five countries feverishly claiming areas they scan and chart beyond the 200-mile previous claims. There mostly appears to be plentiful supplies of:
 - gas
 - oil
 - coal
 - Firefly populations are decreasing because of:
 - more artificial light
 - snail population decline
 - insecticides
 - Starving populations currently run around:
 - 10 million
 - 50 million
 - 35 million
 - Ethanol soaks up around what percentage of U.S. corn crops:
 - 10
 - 30
 - 50
 - Percentage of the world's grain used to feed livestock:
 - 15
 - 35
 - 55
 - Asia's Green Revolution to increase food production has doubled and tripled:
 - cancer rates
 - suicides
 - crop outputs
 - Approximately how many acres of forest are destroyed or damaged yearly across the globe?
 - 12 million
 - 9 million
 - 18 million
 - Wild horses were from escaped Spanish stock but often have mixtures of:
 - Palmino
 - Morgan
 - Arabian
 - Ten thousand East Java residents are homeless from recent:
 - volcano
 - mud
 - tsunami
 - Approximately what percentage of our toxic electrical junk winds up in landfills?
 - 20
 - 70
 - 80
 - TV and computer CR tubes can contain up to how much toxic lead:
 - 8 pounds
 - 12 ounces
 - 3.5 ounces
 - Now the most prominent health problem from our high-tech lifestyle:
 - heart disease
 - cancer
 - diabetes

Answers

- b
- b
- c
- b
- could be a, c
- c
- a
- a
- a
- a
- could be a, b
- a and c
- c
- a
- a and b and could be c
- c
- b
- b
- all three
- a
- a and b
- b
- b
- a (go to epa.gov/encycling for recycling data)
- b

MY SCORE: _____

Anastasia Editor's Notes

By Dr. Leonid Sharashkin

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

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

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



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

Wild Horses in America

Continued from page 1

removed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the Department of Interior, in what can only be described as a cruel and heartless round-up by an agency bent on doing whatever it wants, without any accountability to the public or Congress, much less to the animals they are charged with protecting.

After denying a request for a Temporary Restraining Order by the non-profit Ms. Kathrens started to protect wild horses (The Cloud Foundation, www.thecloudfoundation.org) and another non-profit (Front Range Equine Rescue, www.frontrangeequinerescue.org). BLM acted ruthlessly and cruelly in conducting the roundup. On the first days of the roundup, when national media was present, BLM gently herded seven wild horses into a corral at the bottom of the mountain.

The next day, as temperatures soared into the low 90's and with media still present, BLM called off the helicopter roundup due to "heat." Over the next two days, over the Labor Day weekend last month, after the national media had left, BLM chased the wild horses down the mountain with a helicopter, a vertical drop of 5000 feet, running them for 10 miles in temperatures of high 80s to low 90s. Among the horses they chased were several young foals, who were exhausted, lame and in pain at the end of their ordeal.

BLM had arranged to "pluck hairs" off of all the horses rounded up for the supposed purpose of doing genetic testing. Once captured, the horses were filtered into a long, narrow alleyway, then squeezed into a holding cell. This is a frightening experience and the horses reared in an attempt to escape.

In the holding cell, the horses were freeze-branded if they were going to be held for adoption or sale and most mares were administered PZP, an immune-contraceptive, before being released back onto the range.

Capture is a very traumatic experience for a wild horse or burro. Upon realizing that they have been caught, wild horses have been known to jump or attempt to jump the six foot panels of corrals in which they are held and/or throw themselves against the panels out of fear or in a desperate attempt to escape the restrictions on their movement imposed by the corrals. Some of these horses run headlong into the barriers that restrict their escape, break their necks and die. Others severely injure themselves in the process or are



Photo by Elyse Gardner

Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Ichalay, a young stallion, is immobilized in a squeeze chute so BLM can freeze-brand him and pull hairs from his body for genetic testing. Notice how tightly his neck is tied.

shot due to their injuries. Still other trapped wild horses suffer from what is called "capture myopathy," in which they become depressed and despondent over the loss of their freedom or separation from their family members.

BLM planned during the roundup that it would remove wild horses that were over 10 years old from the range. These horses are the leaders of the herd, showing younger members how and where to seek shelter from the long and frigid Montana winters and where to go to get water. A horse that has been wild and living on the range for 10 or more years will not adjust to captivity well and will be difficult to train.

BLM has ignored pleas from all over the country to release these older horses to live the remaining years of their lives in peace, on the range, where they grew up.

Why would BLM do such a thing?

A 2004 Amendment to the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act authorizes BLM to "sell without reservation" (i.e. to anyone who wants the horse, including those who secretly plan to sell the horse to slaughter) any wild horse that is over 10 years old or who has been offered for adoption unsuccessfully three times.

That Amendment never saw any

Over 40% of America's wild horses have been removed from the wild from 2000-2008 alone and if the agency responsible for managing our wild horses, the Bureau of Land Management, does not change, we are in danger of losing the last of our wild horses. Over 100 herds have been zeroed out from the over 19 million acres legally designated for their use. The BLM needs to return wild horses to these areas — over 30,000 are now in government holding facilities. A bill currently pending in the U.S. Senate, S. 1579, the Restore Our American Mustangs Act (ROAM) would seek to improve management of wild horses on public lands. The House version of this bill has already passed. Call your U.S. Senators and express your opinion on ROAM today.

debate and was cowardly snuck into a massive Appropriations Bill to escape scrutiny. If BLM targets these horses for removal, it can avoid spending any money to care for them in the various holding facilities it maintains for captured wild horses throughout the West.

In fact, it is estimated that BLM currently holds over 30,000 wild horses and burros in captivity. By some estimates, this number surpasses the number of

wild horses and burros now living on the public lands. BLM has conducted numerous meetings to address how it can rid itself of these captive animals that it must supply with hay and water on a daily basis. Documents obtained from the Bureau of Land Management via the Freedom of Information Act by a Phoenix-based non-profit (The Conquistador Program) reveal shocking and detailed plans to destroy healthy wild horses in government holding facilities as well as those still remaining in the wild on public lands. BLM employees, as well as a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian, held weekly "Implementation Team" meetings beginning in July of 2008 in which they discussed and developed strategies aimed at ridding BLM of thousands of mustangs. In October they completed a 68-page document entitled "Alternative Management Options." Tactics included in this document are reminiscent of those used to wipe out Native American tribes in the 1800s.

The BLM team created scenarios for killing mustangs using barbiturates, gun shots or captive bolts. Bodies would be disposed of through rendering, burial or incineration. They discussed killing 1,200 to 2,000 wild horses per year. The document states that "the general public would be prohibited from viewing

euthanasia." Additionally, the Team felt that "increased support from public relations and management staff would also be needed to insulate those doing the actual work from the public, media and Congressional scrutiny/criticism."

The report created an option in which wild horses of all ages could be sold "without limitation." In other words, horses could be sold directly to killer buyers in unchecked numbers. The Team admitted that "some wild horses will go to slaughter."

Team Members formulated ways in which they could circumvent the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), asking "How many (wild horses) could be euthanized during a gather (roundup) without having NEPA?" BLM discussed ways to circumvent the federal carcass disposal law (43 CFR 4730.2). Conversations included how many wild horses could be rendered at the Reno Rendering plant or "disposed of in pits."

Not only is BLM working to rid itself of the wild horses and burros it has removed from the public lands but it has undertaken policies which threaten the continued existence of wild horses on the public lands, where Congress declared they are to be an integral part.

BLM has set population target levels for wild horses, misnamed "Appropriate Management Levels" (AML), for numerous wild horse populations that are at numbers that threaten the genetic viability of these herds. In the 10 Western states with wild horse populations, there are 199 "herd management areas" but 130 of these have AMLs that are set at such low numbers that the herds are at risk for their continued existence.

As of 2006, BLM has, through its land-use planning process, taken away 19,000,349 acres of wild horse and burro habitat that these creatures used historically, also known as their "herd areas" at the passage of the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Recently, in Nevada, in one planning decision, BLM eliminated 11 such herd areas and called for the removal of all wild horses living there. BLM issued its decision on a Friday and began the roundup on Sunday, frustrating wild horse protectionists from getting into court to attempt to stop this.

To read more about this issue, please visit the Web sites of The Cloud Foundation, Front Range Equine Rescue and the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros. A beautiful color book explaining these issues in more detail is available upon request from the Animal Welfare Institute:

www.awi.org.

Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is the numbers of people all over the world who have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war and millions have been killed because of this obedience. And our problem is that scene in "All Quiet on the Western Front" where the schoolboys march off dutifully in a line to war. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world, in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity and war and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves and all the while the grand thieves are running the country.

That's our problem. We recognize this for Nazi Germany. We know that the problem there was obedience, that the people obeyed Hitler. People obeyed; that was wrong. They should have challenged and they should have resisted and if we were only there, we would have showed them. Even in Stalin's Russia we can understand that; people are obedient, all these herdlike people.

— Howard Zinn, Found on NewAmericanDream.net

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Raising Stones with People Power

By Sally Klein
Bedford, Pennsylvania

ARTEMAS, Pennsylvania — Labor Day honors the work we do, especially those who engage in physical labor. In Bedford County, Pennsylvania, there is an alternative ceremony and celebration held each year over Labor Day weekend called Stones Rising. At Stones Rising, we, the people, install one, two or three very large stones in a circle on a hill in the woods on the land called Four Quarters. We do this the old-fashioned way with ropes, rollers, pulleys and lots of people power. The stones being "raised" form a 200-foot by 160-foot ellipse. Each stone is up to 14 feet high, eight feet wide, over a foot thick and weighs several tons. Together they form a sort of Stonehenge without the top stones.

Four Quarters Retreat Center began creating this annual stone raising ceremony in 1995 and will continue to add stones to the circle for at least the next seven to ten years, a shared multi-generational, community commitment.

With the addition of this year's stone, the circle is half complete. The huge stone installed this year at the west gate was the last stone waiting on the land. More stones required additional money to be transported from the quarry.

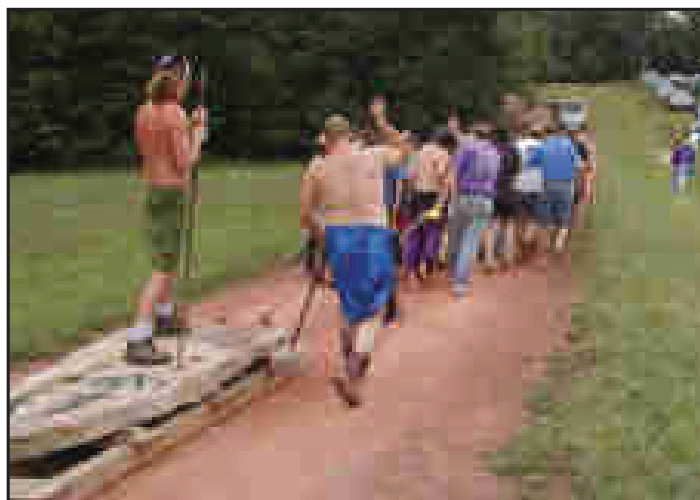
Until this week, it was a mystery how these stones could be delivered to allow the community of Four Quarters to complete their commitment to the Stone Circle by raising more stones next year and in future years.

Three weeks before Labor Day, and behind the scenes, a group of silent anonymous donors co-created a surprise for the entire community by raising enough funds to have seventeen new stones delivered to the land just three days prior to this year's stone raising. What had seemed like an impossible accomplishment, given the current economy and the financial limitations of Four Quarters, turned into a magical surprise. This extraordinary effort by a small group of individuals assures the continuity of the annual Stones Rising event for many more years. There was great joy and celebration as the trucks arrived to deliver the new stones. The first of these stones will be raised with gratitude in 2010.

"Why are we building a Stone Circle?" one might ask.

This special place is used for outdoor ceremony, celebration and prayer by many people from numerous spiritual traditions and by those who claim no specific belief system yet want to honor themselves, nature and the land we call Earth. The essay posted at the Four Quarters Web site (<http://www.4qf.org/>) says this best:

"We are often asked by folks



Photos Courtesy of Four Quarters



who have not yet visited Four Quarters 'Just what do the Standing Stones mean?' And we are almost never asked that question once they have stood inside the Circle. The Standing Stones have to be experienced before they can speak . . . in a language that is universal, the soft words of your own inner voice.

. . . The desire to raise large natural stones is shared by peoples across the planet — in Polynesia, the Americas, Africa and Asia. But it was in Europe that this cultural phenomenon reached its greatest expression with monuments that are still a part of our cultural memory. The Menhirs of Carnac, The Great Circle of Avesbury, New Grange, The Temples of Malta

and Stonehenge. The Circle at Four Quarters began as one Stone, raised in 1995 because it needed to be, without much thought of consequence or the future. It was raised as a statement of purpose but more importantly as a statement of hope in what was sure to be a difficult journey. It was a hard thing to do, not so much the raising of it but everything else that had gone into making it possible — securing the Land, organizing people and motivating them to the task.

During the long, dark winter that followed, a number of things became clear — that the single Stone should not stand alone and that to raise a Circle was a work that would require many people working over

many years with a common purpose. And it became clear that the fundamental purpose of that single Stone was to bind a group of people, as yet unknown to each other, in a common spiritual experience.

In the years that followed, the simple act of surviving each winter in order to raise yet more Stones began to form strong common bonds among a small group of people. And that small circle of people grew to include others, expanding outward from the center. In order to raise those Stones we had to provide a larger conceptual framework, a structure for our experience together — in a word, a church with Policies and Procedures for the camp, plus building the camp.

To ease our way and to join

our hands, we made ceremony. To feed each others' bodies we cooked. To share our joy we drummed, danced and sang. And as the work grew greater, more people joined in to help, thus making room for even more to come. In this way, from the beginning of one lonely Stone on a hilltop, an organism was sparked, which began to grow and assume its own shape, purpose and meaning and to coalesce qualities that were seen only dimly that first winter, creating a tangible rhythm of ebb and flow and human abundance.

In a very real way the Stone Circle has become a psychic and emotional trigger point. A tool as effective as meditation or mantra for beginning an inward journey every time it is entered

and experienced again. It has become a common ground and shared frame of reference for many, many people — source and return as they ride the Great Wheel of their lives. And if you choose to believe in energies, deities, vibrations or cellular memory — yes, they all live there, too.

It is rare that anyone can be unmoved when in the presence of the ancient megalithic monuments because we intuitively sense the social and technical context of the people who created them. And in our own time it would be a simple matter to hire the equipment and erect a stone circle, a simple matter of money.

But to do so would be to miss the point and erect a dead shell mocking the memory of those who went before. For it was through their Sacrifice, Ceremony and Celebration that the ancient Circles rose. And through our own work of years, stone by stone, that the Circles shall rise again."

Completion of the Stone Circle from beginning to end requires the commitment of generations. New babies (welcomed into the community by being passed through the hole in the Mother Stone, one of the first stones erected) will be pulling the ropes for the stones and passing their own babies through the Mother Stone by the time the circle is complete. Reflecting the circle of the seasons and the wheel of life, the Stone Circle will endure beyond the lifetime of any one individual or any one group. The Stones will offer a haven for spiritual seekers for many years into the future — a place of freedom, ceremony, celebration and peace.

To find out more about Stones Rising and Four Quarters Retreat Center go to their Web site, <http://www.4qf.org>. You can request a free annual calendar of events from the Web site or by calling 814-784-3075. Annual memberships are available to Four Quarters which help support the land and the community. Contributions to the Stones, the Building Fund and the Retreat Center are welcomed, appreciated and tax-deductible. Four Quarters is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Sally Klein has been a member of Four Quarters since 1996. She has participated in Stones Rising as a rope puller, singer, dancer, drummer, healer and witness. All members of the community are invited to be part of the ceremony. Everyone is included and honored. Sally is an artist and writer, now retired from two earlier careers. She loves being outdoors and communing with other seekers, especially at the Stone Circle. Sally can be contacted by email at LifeAlign5@aol.com.

China: A Lesson in Transformation

By John Perkins
The Sovereign, July 2009

Note from author: Several times during my Economic Hit Man tenure in the 1970s I stood on a hill in the New Territories outside Hong Kong and peered into China, a mysterious country I was not allowed to enter. China was locked behind a wall of secrecy. About all most of us knew was that the country was in shambles due to Mao's Cultural Revolution.

I finally had the opportunity to visit China in June 2009.

No one back in the '70s believed that any country could sustain double-digit economic growth for more than a couple of years and under no circumstances for a decade.

China accomplished the impossible. And then it did it again. And again. China's economy mushroomed by an estimated ten-fold. In three decades, the most populous nation on the planet rose from the depths of poverty to become the symbol of what human determination —



and capitalism — can accomplish.

We in the U.S. seem to want to focus on China's problems. People constantly point out the negatives, like its greenhouse gas levels recently surpassed ours (although on a per capita basis our emissions are five times greater than theirs). Driving toward my hotel in the modern Pudang district, I was certainly aware of the low-lying mist that I assumed was smog but I have to say that I was most struck by something quite different: the profusion of trees. There were dozens of varieties of them, everywhere. Tall, short, deciduous, coniferous, some bursting with colors — red, pink, white

and yellow flowers — they covered a broad center strip that divided outgoing from incoming traffic, lined the sides of the highway and stretched back as far as the eye could see. Many were tall; all seemed healthy — either naturally suited to the local conditions or pampered. Obviously planted, they were clustered in formations that brought to mind the formal gardens of Versailles.

In addition to creating a most pleasant environment for mile upon mile, they performed another function, that of removing carbon dioxide from the air. It was my first inkling of China's commitment to cleaning up its

environment.

"Yes," Mandy Zhang, an MBA student at the China Europe International Business School replied. CEIBS had brought me to Shanghai to speak at their Being Globally Responsible conference and she was my host on my first evening at a restaurant near my hotel. "We are all very aware of the pollution our economic development has caused. We young people are especially determined to turn it around. Trees are one small part of the plan."

Small though the majority of the MBA students at CEIBS are Chinese, roughly 40 percent come from the United States, Europe, Latin America and other parts of

Asia. Their school was ranked among the top ten MBA programs in the world by *Financial Times* in 2009 — along with Wharton, Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.

Every time I asked them about the environment, the Chinese students agreed that cleaning it up was a priority. I was told again and again that it will happen. Economic growth had been the first goal; now the time had arrived to take care of the problems that rapid development had created. During the six days I was in Shanghai, the government announced that it would levy taxes against polluters, support a company that was developing electric cars by making plug-in stations available around much of the country and offer rebates of approximately \$4,000 (U.S.) to customers who purchased those cars. "When the government says it will happen," I was told time and again, "it will."

The fact that roughly one-sixth of the world's population has turned itself so totally around in three decades signals hope for

all of us. China is a land of many diverse cultures — ones that throughout history frequently fought each other; it has demonstrated the capacity we humans possess for uniting in order to realize a common cause.

Rather than fearing China or criticizing its pollution levels, we can draw on its remarkable example, encourage it to do better and set our own goals of becoming greener than China at an even more rapid pace.

As my plane lifted off from Shanghai airport, I realized that my visit to China had inspired me with a new sense of hope. What a wonderful thing for all of us — and our children and grandchildren — if the new China motivates us, in the U.S. and every other country, to compete to see who can become the most socially and environmentally responsible society on the planet.

John Perkins is the author of Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. Printed with the author's permission.

Orgonite 101: What On Earth Is This?

Continued from page 15

Carol Croft, gifted with a keen sense of discrete energies, realized the significance of this finding and took it a step further by adding small quartz crystals to the mixture for their ability to efficiently collect, transmute and emit etheric energy. This addition to the resin/metal matrix creates a substance which functions as a self-driven, continuously-operating, highly-efficient DOR/POR (negative to positive) energy transmutation factory.

When Orgonite is within range of a source of DOR/negative energy, it will efficiently and continuously transform it into POR/positive energy as it is being transmitted, which essentially creates positive energy transmitters out of any and all emitters of harmful negative energy, which are totally defenseless against the effect.



Photo by Charlie Laux

The three pieces of Orgonite in the back are Holy Hand Grenades, the muffin and nose cone in the center are Tower Busters, the smaller ones are pendant-sized and don't have a name but are still considered Orgonite.

The resin in Orgonite shrinks during the curing process, permanently squeezing the quartz

crystal inside which creates a well-known piezoelectric effect inside the crystal, meaning its

end-points become polarized electrically. It is believed this is also what causes the Orgonite to function so effectively as a positive energy generator.

Thus Orgonite represents a very significant improvement over Reich's early work with orgone accumulators, since Reich's "oracs" attract deadly orgone energy as well as positive and do nothing to transmute it into a purely beneficial form, which Orgonite does inherently and continuously.

Within a year of this development, Don began publishing reports of his and his wife's experiences in, among other things, the tactical deployment of small pieces of Orgonite near any and all sources of DOR, or life-negative energy, such as cellphone towers, nuclear power plants, underground bases and natural Earth energy gridlines and vortices. Don included in his reports

the specific life-positive, cleansing, healing, confirming effects they would notice following such "gifting" activities, causing Don to strongly encourage his readers to replicate his efforts in their own communities.

Note from Charlie:

For information on "How to Make Orgonite" please go to the Web site: Orgonite.info.

Basic Orgonite consists of a crystal, metal (usually shaving of aluminum, copper, and/or brass) and resin. I personally use 14-gauge (though 18-gauge is easier to work with, 14-gauge costs much less) copper wire coils (23.491") and coil spirals (20.625") in my Orgonite Tower Busters, along with four small pieces of hematite, to give the Orgonite an extra kick, but those are not necessary to get fully-functional Orgonite. If you

decide to make some Orgonite, I've found that it's best to do small amounts of resin at a time and pour the resin into the mold (muffin pan, shot glass, etc.) very slowly — this will give you the best results without air holes in the end result.

My main purpose for making Orgonite is to assist Mother Earth in becoming balanced and free her from the bombardment of man-made negative frequencies.

If you are not able or inclined to make your own Orgonite but would still desire to have some give us a call, drop us line or send us an email and we'll see what we can do for you.

We can be reached at:
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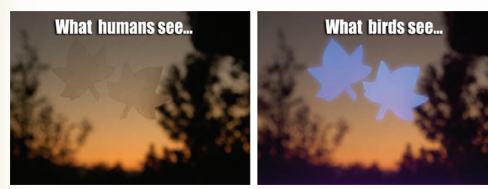
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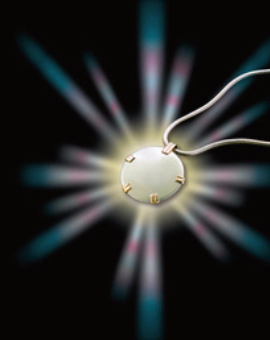
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