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www.RealityNewsMedia.com January 2025 Vol. 16, No. 1

"The essential quality of a market system, contrary to popular thinking, is not that it promotes greed; But rather, that it renders greed harmless." Israel Kirzner

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Trump's Triumphant Return

By Joan Beglinger

Every day since Donald Trump was re-elected I am struck by how different life would be with a different election result. I am overjoyed, relieved, grateful, and optimistic about the new administration just around the corner. The nightmare of a Harris-Walz presidency makes me shudder. It was way too close for comfort and should serve as a stern warning that keeps complacency at bay.

With Trump once again in the Oval Office we have the opportunity we hoped and prayed for, but it must be seized. It would be a serious mistake to ignore the lessons from history… opportunities can also be squandered. Trump intends to lead the charge in taking our country back but he cannot do it for us. Career politicians, the media and bureaucrats embedded deep within government agencies will be working hard to obstruct him at every turn. The work is just beginning and it will require the engagement of every freedom loving American.

In Wisconsin, our plate is full. The fundamentals haven't changed. Our election system flaws make it highly vulnerable to cheating and our state legislators, the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and the political parties have made it clear they like it that way. The self-proclaimed

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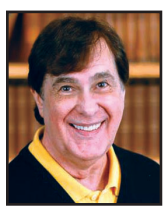
Change The Debate And Take Back Liberty Locally

By Tom DeWeese



Most Americans tend to think of private property simply as a home – the place where the family resides, stores their belongings, and finds shelter and safety from the elements. It's where you live. It's yours because you pay the mortgage and the taxes. Most people don't give property ownership much more thought than that.

There was a time when property ownership was considered to be much more. Property, and the ability to

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Bill Gates' Philanthro-Capitalism

By John Leake

Is Bill Gates a wolf in sheep's clothing, or did he have a conversion experience after 1998, when the United States sued Microsoft for violating the Sherman Antitrust Act?

Chapter 45 of our book—The Courage to Face COVID-19: Preventing Hospitalization and Death While Battling the Bio-Pharmaceutical Complex—details the vast influence of Bill Gates over international public health policy. The chapter begins with a review of Gates's 2010 TED Talk about what is required to reduce CO2 emissions. He began by addressing the the factor of world population.

First, we've got population. The

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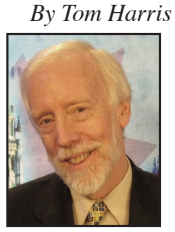
To Win the Climate Debate, We Must Use The Same Tools That Were Used To Defeat Science and Common Sense

By Tom Harris



One of the reasons conservatives have steadily lost power to the left over the past 50 years is because we have not made a proper study of the tools used against us. In an effort to help correct this situation, this is part one of a three-part series that will examine what happened and

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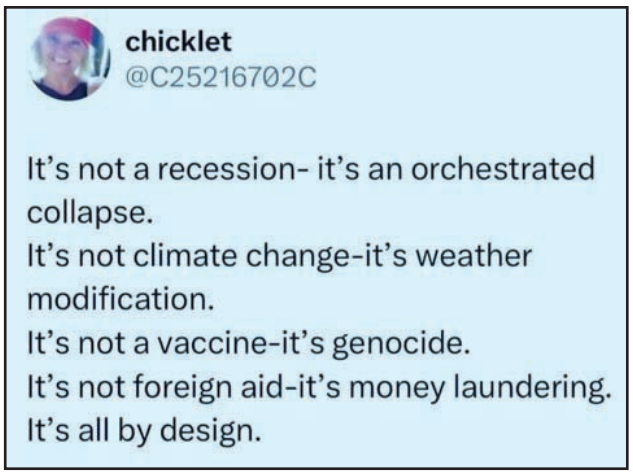

Bird Flu Should Be the Subject of a Criminal Investigation

By John Leake

Current discussion about the reality of H5N1 - i.e., whether it's fact or fiction - ignores that the matter should be the subject of a criminal investigation, not merely scientific debate.

When Dr. Peter McCullough, Nicholas Hulscher, and I investigated reports of what is being represented to the public as a new clade of H5N1 bird flu, it became apparent to me that life sciences professionals—at least those outside of the clique that are performing Gain-of-Function research on H5N1—are not in a position to ascertain the reality of this phenomenon.

This is why, in our discussions about our paper—Proximal Origin of Epidemic Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 Clade 2.3.4.4b and Spread by Migratory Waterfowl—I emphasized the urgent need for further investigation of this phenomenon. As we wrote in our Conclusion:

The proximal origins of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 Clade 2.3.4.4b may be the USDA Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (SEPRL) in Athens, Georgia and the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Genetic evidence and historical context suggest that laboratory activities,

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When DOGE Meets Political Chaos

By William Kovacs

DOGE stands for the Department of Government Efficiency, a creation of President-elect Trump.

DOGE aims to revolutionize the federal government's efficiency and size. Imagine DOGE as a Rubik's Cube, with government



departments and regulations as its squares. Trump has convinced two of the brightest minds, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy ("M&R"), to get all the same colors on the same sides. Yet, the various predecessors of DOGE have littered Washington with many great expectations and recommendations

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Biden Awards Pope Francis the Medal of Freedom, Calling Him 'The People's Pope'

By LifesiteNews

Outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden awarded Pope Francis the nation's highest civilian honor on Saturday, saying the Pope is "a light of faith, hope, and love that shines brightly across the world."

In a statement issued from the White House on Saturday, Biden's awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope Francis was made public. The statement read:

Today, President Biden spoke with

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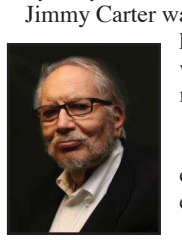
Biden's Failed Legacy Surpasses Carter's Presidency

By Lary Bell

Jimmy Carter was blessed by a century-long life and righteous



knowledge that his historic legacy as America's worst president has now been eclipsed by the most recent Oval Office resident.

Biden Family Corruption

Future historians will chronicle seemingly countless episodes in which Joe Biden exploited positions

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Steve's Say . . .

On the Threshold of a Dream



Change is upon us.

Within the next week, We the People will see just how fast and how all-encompassing Trump's resolve to obliterate the Deep State begins. Since he came down the escalator in 2015, Trump displayed to the country the depth of corruption of the Globalist Deep State, systematically uncovering and exposing each component within all Federal agencies and the bodies of our political institutions. Now everyone sees how Congress allocates the Fed's borrowed fiat currency and launders it to themselves and all of their criminal allies in the Military-Industrial complex, Intelligence agencies, Drug Cartels and Human Trafficking networks. They pay Big Pharma billions to create death jabs and fake cures so they can run stupid ads on the Fake News networks to keep them afloat.

One way or another, all of this ends. The final battle awaits us.

Maybe the Deep State players manage to pull off some massive false flag event bigger than 911 which kills off much of MAGA leadership in one fell swoop. An example would be a massive bombing or Direct Energy Weapon (DEW) attack on the location hosting the Cabinet Reception and Vice President's dinner on this Saturday night. Called a decapitation event by our friend Juan O'Savin, they intend to abruptly sever the steady and seemingly unstoppable MAGA movement Trump fearlessly leads. If they fail, these criminals will begin disappearing rapidly. This seems to me like the only move they have left. Hopefully these bad actor's capability to pull off such an plot has been weakened to the point of impossibility. Keep in prayer, and never forget this is God's Great Awakening.

Trump's detailed Deep State dismantling plan he articulated over the last year will completely obliterate the Deep State if successfully implemented. I can't wait. In the last few days, the confirmation hearings displayed the impeccable competence of Trump's cabinet choices and ineptness of the installed politicians, oblivious to the idiocy of their questioning and their lack of any tangible knowledge required by these positions. Fools don't know they're fools.

Another major front Trump opened over the last 2 weeks involves his plan to liberate the rest of the world from the Globalist Deep State tyranny. On the one hand he's talking quite seriously of obtaining Greenland, making Canada the 51st state, and reclaiming the Panama Canal to American control. That's quite a direct and bold statement of power projection to our enemies abroad and a love message to the subjugated people of these lands to break free of their shackles. On the other hand, Trump destroys all aspect of the Green New Scam, articulating all of the falsehoods, inefficiencies and ineffectiveness of wind power and other faux technologies forced upon the peoples of the world. His mantra: Energy Independence. Drill baby drill.

But the financial components of Trump's plan really brings this whole takedown of the Deep State cabal together. His commitment to eliminate income taxes, deeply cut Federal spending by massive employee dismissals, eliminating whole agencies and re-instituting tariffs as the federal government's funding mechanism will kill them off. Good-bye to their mammoth world-wide money-laundering enterprise, bioweapons research and manufacturing facilities, and human slavery network, destroying their mechanism to ensnare, bribe, extort and imprison people in positions of power in all parts of society. The realization of these goals cannot come soon enough for We the People and all of those victims trapped in their dungeons of doom.

Great leaders get great results. Trump's proven leadership reaches new heights daily as he continues forward with the MAGA agenda. While he certainly deserves credit for his dogged determination, brilliant insights and love of America, he continues to invoke humility in his speeches and thankfulness for We the People. But most properly and importantly, he acknowledges where the true credit lies: with God Almighty, the source of all truth and goodness. For America is not governed by some people in Washington DC, but by God's Law, with Christ the Lord, King of Kings, ruling over all. Our Declaration of Independence clearly states this truth for all to see.

This next week, and likely many weeks and months afterward, will test our fortitude and faith in our movement and in our God. Who knows what wicked stunts these soulless, demon-possessed creatures will attempt to pull off to cover up their legacy of criminal activity. Stay strong Patriots, for the fire testing of the metal reveals the true gold content. And always remember, great leaders must be raised up from the people. Every great leader stands upon the sea of the seemingly mundane accomplishments of all the little people below. The victory against the Deep State Trump leads us to could never occur without all the little contributions every one of us makes to the MAGA movement. Everyone's effort matters, no matter how small you think it might be.

America faces its truest test of its declared trust in God and commitment to the Liberty of all. Let us stay united and pass into our brave new world, the Golden Age of America, with our fearless leader, where God's abundance and prosperity await all those with a pure and open heart to His ways and His law.

We know God always wins, so embrace His love and mercy and display it in your life each day. By His love we will defeat all enemies wishing to subjugate the world to an endless system of slavery and human misery.

When I (unintentionally) began my active Activist career back in 2007, I dreamed of a day where we would be truly free of the lies and deceptions, of being left alone to pursue our goals and dreams of faith, work and family. To not be marauded by tax collectors, regulators and administrators. And I truly believe now that we are On the Threshold of a Dream.

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"I choose gratitude and forgiveness over anger and bitterness. This allows me to see and apprreciate the beauty and blessings in most everything."

-Ppage 182 in "Something Beautiful is Going to happen..."

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Why California Wildfires are NOT Climate Driven: A Historical and Meteorological Perspective

By Anthony Watts

The tragic wildfires currently raging in Los Angeles have reignited the predictable chorus blaming climate change for natural disasters. As articles from outlets like Axios, Newsweek, and the BBC demonstrate, there's a growing tendency to tie every fire, flood, or storm to climate change. However, a closer look at history, meteorology, and land management reveals that these claims are often oversimplified by low-information journalists, and fail to address more immediate, actionable causes.

It's essential to separate the headlines from the science to understand these wildfires in their proper context. The current fires, like many before them, are largely driven by well-documented weather phenomena, historical land-use patterns, and human decisions—not by a nebulous, all-encompassing narrative of "climate factors."

Wildfires: A Part of California's History

California's relationship with fire predates the Industrial Revolution and certainly modern climate discussions. Historical records and studies consistently demonstrate that large wildfires have been a natural part of the state's ecosystem for millennia. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the frequency of large wildfires in Southern California has remained relatively consistent over the last century, with human settlement and land management playing a much larger role than global temperature trends (source).

A map of wildfires dating back to 1878 shows that they are endemic to California:

As the Newsweek article points out, fires like the Palisades Fire are often attributed to "climate change," by media but they rarely pause to acknowledge that human activity—like arson, accidental ignition, or poor land management—frequently sparks these events. Controlled burns, a practice used by Native Americans for centuries, were abandoned with the advent of European settlement. This led to the buildup of dense, fire-prone vegetation. In fact, a major portion of the state's wildfire problem today stems from these overgrown landscapes, not from incremental changes in global temperatures. For example, a study published by the U.S. Forest Service highlights

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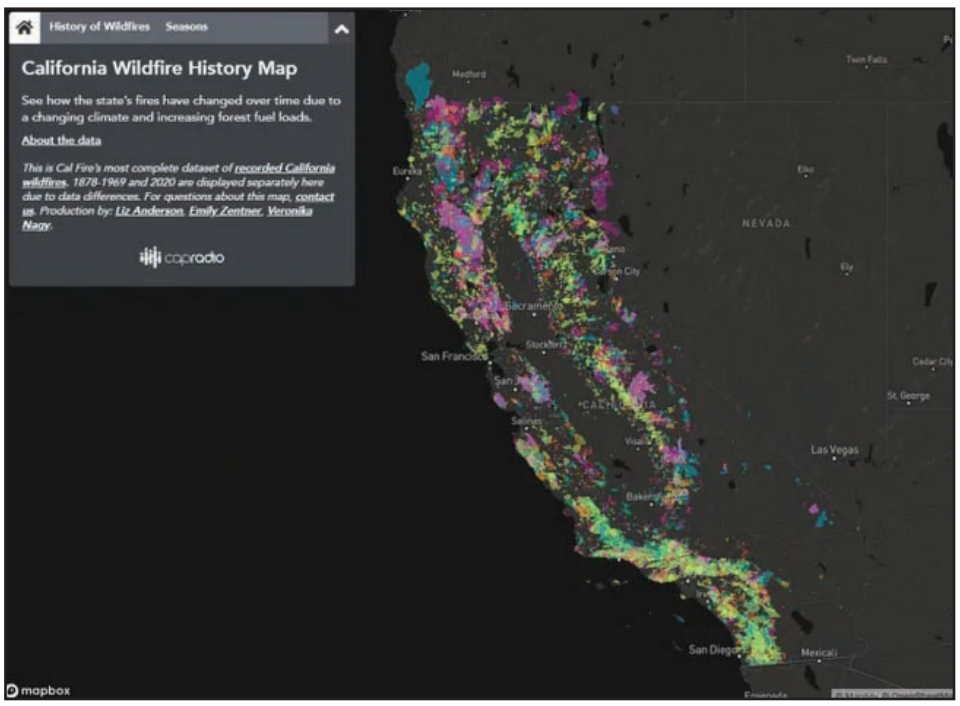

Manufacturing Consensus on Climate Change

By Richard S. Lindzen PH.D

Modern political movements have not infrequently laid claim to being based in science, from immigration restriction and eugenics (in the U.S. after WWI), to antisemitism and race ideology (in Hitler's Germany), to Communism and Lysenkoism (under Stalin). Each of these falsely invoked a scientific consensus that convinced highly educated citizens, who were nonetheless ignorant of science, to set aside the anxieties associated with their ignorance. Since all scientists supposedly agreed, there was no need for them to understand the science.

Of course, this version of "the science" is the opposite of science itself. Science is a mode of inquiry rather than a source of authority. However, the success that science achieves has earned it a measure of authority in the public's mind. This is what politicians frequently envy and exploit.

The climate panic fits into this same pattern and, as in all the preceding cases, science is in fact irrelevant. At best, it is a distraction which has led many of us to focus on the numerous misrepresentations of science entailed in what was purely a political movement.

In the United States, the obsession with decarbonization (i.e., Net Zero) originates in the reaction to the amazing post-WWII period, when ordinary workers were able for the first time to own a house and a car. I was a student in the '50s and early '60s. It was commonplace to mock the poor taste and materialism of these so-called ordinary people. With the Vietnam War, things got amplified as the working class got drafted while students sought draft deferments.

Students, during this period, were still a relative elite; the massive expansion of higher education was only beginning. Many students justified their behavior by insisting that the Vietnam War was illegitimate, while ignoring the obvious fact that Vietnamese people were fleeing south rather than north. It was fashionable to regard the U.S. as evil and deserving of overthrow. Opposition often turned to violence, as in the case of groups like the Weather Underground and SDS (Students for a Democratic Society).

In 1968, I was teaching at the University of Chicago. My wife and I were spending the summer in Colorado, and we had a student taking care of our home. When we returned, we found a police car monitoring our apartment. The house-sitter had apparently turned it into a crash pad for the SDS during the Democrat Party Convention. Our apartment was littered with their literature, which included instructions for poisoning Chicago's water supply. This period seemed to end with Nixon's election, but we now know that this was just the beginning of the long march through the institutions—a march being conducted by avowed revolutionaries intent on destroying Western society. For the new revolutionaries, however, the enemy was not the capitalists: it was the working middle class. Capitalists, they realized, could easily be bought off.

Currently, there is great emphasis on the march through the educational institutions: first the schools of education, then higher education in the humanities and the social sciences, and now STEM. What is usually ignored

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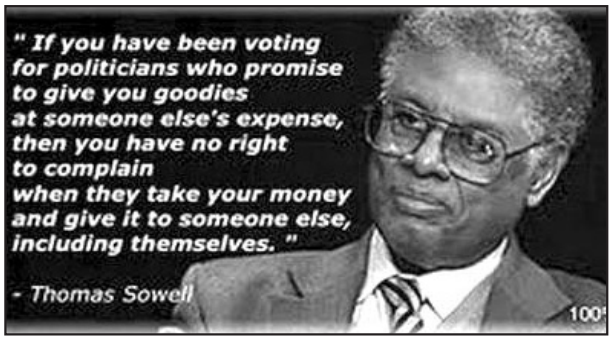

Our Vision

We aspire to a world in which people, made in the image of God, reconciled to Him by Jesus Christ, and reflecting God's own creativity, work together to enhance the fruitfulness, beauty, and safety of the Earth, enabling more and more of our neighbors to enjoy good health, long life, freedom, justice, and spiritual and material abundance, for the glory of God and the good of our fellow man, thus fulfilling the two Great Commandments to love God and love our neighbor.

Our Mission

We seek to magnify the glory of God in creation, the wisdom of His truth in environmental stewardship, the kindness of His mercy in lifting the needy out of poverty, and the wonders of His grace in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Identity

A coalition of theologians, pastors, ministry leaders, scientists, economists, policy experts, and committed laymen, the Cornwall Alliance is an evangelical voice promoting environmental stewardship and economic development built on Biblical principles.

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The Heartland Institute is a national nonprofit research and education organization devoted to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to social and economic problems.

Are Net Zero's Days Numbered? —Heartland Comes to Europe

By H. Sterling Burnett

The Heartland Institute's influence on climate and environmental policy around the globe is spreading, nowhere more so than in Europe.

Heartland has long had a presence in Europe in the sense that we have worked with allies there over the years to encourage the European public, business community, and politicians to embrace sound climate science and avoid costly climate and energy policies that take Europe and the globe down the road to climate serfdom.

Heartland worked with the Polish labor union Solidarity to shore up its government's rightful defense of the continued use of coal to generate power, in the face of EU pressure to end coal use and rely on imported power derived from unreliable renewables. Heartland also cohosted multiple international climate conferences with Germany's premier climate realist organization, EIKE, to promote sound science and counter efforts of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to impose ever-stricter greenhouse gas restrictions on EU citizens and companies.

Our joint efforts haven't always succeeded in preventing sharper restrictions, but in our role as gadfly we have helped foment dissent and encouraged and publicized protests against higher energy taxes, climate restrictions, and wind and solar subsidies. Based on the fact that a number of energy taxes in different EU countries have been delayed, reduced, or scuttled altogether and climate policies have been modified to reduce their economic impact, there is at least some evidence our efforts have borne positive policy fruit.

In the past year, what was previously a trickle has quickly grown to a torrent.

After visiting Heartland's website and reading an online version of Heartland's Climate at a Glance for Teachers and Students (CAAG), Harald Vilimsky and Roman Haider, two members of the European Parliament representing Austria, visited Heartland's offices in June 2023 to meet with Heartland President James Taylor and Heartland Vice President Jim Lakely. They requested Heartland's help to counter climate alarmism. Heartland accepted the challenge.

Following up, Vilimsky and Haider invited Taylor to present information on March 13, 2024, at a special EU Parliament session on climate change, ESG, and proposed legislation that would require net zero EU carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

Prior to the meeting, Vilimsky and Haider had informed Taylor that the net zero legislation had sufficient support to be approved, based on Hungary's representatives indicating that country would support it.

Taylor had met some of Hungary's representatives at a previous event in Vienna, and he renewed acquaintances just before the March 13 special session. During the session, Taylor explained why there is no climate crisis according to the best available data, and he warned of the economic, political, and geopolitical suicide that net zero would bring. After the session, Taylor met informally with many of the Hungarian MEPs, continuing the conversation over dinner.

Less than two weeks later, the media reported stunning news. On March 25, in a striking defeat of the global climate establishment in the European Union, MEPs sponsoring the net zero legislation pulled it from consideration, after Hungarian MEPs announced they had changed their position and would vote against it. This left the net zero proposal with insufficient support to pass. Vilimsky and Haider credited Taylor's efforts as providing cover to reject the bill. The bill was considered a slam dunk to be approved by the EU Parliament—until The Heartland Institute got involved.

In mid-October, the leaders of Solidarity brought Taylor back to Krakow and Katowice. Their plan was to educate Taylor on the specific issues and opportunities surrounding energy and climate knowledge in Poland. Taylor dined with Beata Szydlo, who was Prime Minister of Poland in 2017-2019, along with Polish representatives to the European Parliament, several of whom who flew in just to meet and talk with Taylor. Solidarity also introduced Taylor to leaders of heavy industry and agriculture and to scientists at one of the country's top research universities. Solidarity brought Taylor in, in particular, to shape a plan to fight the so-called "Green Transition" that is destroying jobs throughout Poland.

In a presentation, Taylor gave an overview of The Heartland Institute and explained how climate activists are defying sound science and imposing devastating impacts on affordable energy, agriculture, the environment, and individual freedom in Poland and throughout the world. Heartland's Jim Lakely and Keely Drukala set up a livestream with Obama administration Undersecretary of Science in the Department of Energy Steve Koonin to address the meeting.

The policymakers emphasized that there is no entity in Poland or anywhere else in Europe that they can rely on to help them fight for freedom, especially in the realm of climate change policy. They asked Heartland to plant a flag in Poland and create and lead a trans-European or transatlantic alliance of public-policy and grassroots entities to fight the climate activist agenda and promote freedom-focused policy in all issue areas.

At the conclusion of the meetings and tours, the leadership

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Coal Use Sets New Record Despite Paris Climate Commitments

By H. Sterling Burnett

Deadlines to cut emissions, deliver funding, and set stricter emission reduction goals established under the 2015 Paris climate agreement have come and gone with none of the commitments being met. Indeed, ten years after the Paris agreement was inked, despite it being generally agreed by all the signatories to the agreement that the quickest, most meaningful way to cut emissions would be the cessation of coal use for electric power production (along with cuts in the use of oil and natural gas), the use of coal set new records in 2024, and oil and gas use has grown as well.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Coal 2024 report details the fact that demand for coal has set new record highs for three years running, after the brief pandemic dip.

For at least the past half-decade, the IEA's coal demand outlook projections have been consistently wrong. During the pandemic, the IEA forecast an 8 percent decline in coal use, but the decline was just half that. In 2022, the IEA forecast coal use would peak by 2025, yet it has set records three straight years since that prediction. In 2023, the IEA forecast the decline of global coal demand even sooner, saying coal use would peak in 2023—a year when it set a new record for use, followed by 2024's new record for production and use.

In its "Coal 2024" report, the IEP now predicts the world will hit peak coal use in 2027. This despite continued strong growth in Asia and a modest resurgence of coal use in Europe and in the United States.

China remains the biggest driver of coal use, as detailed by the IEC for almost 30 years now, consuming 30 percent more than the rest of the globe combined, driven by electricity demand. The IEA reports that India, Indonesia, and other emerging economies are also behind the increase in demand for coal.

Using coal means mining coal. The IEA reports coal mining topped new production records in 2024, with each of the top three producers—China, India, and Indonesia—setting new production records.

It seems that King Coal's demise has been greatly exaggerated. So have the steep emission cuts and funding increases called for under the Paris climate agreement. King Coal is dead; long live the king!



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The Heartland Institute is a national nonprofit research and education organization founded in 1984 and located in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

We have deep expertise on climate change and energy policy, budget and tax issues, school reform, health care policy, and the rise of socialism.

We host several websites including heartland.org, heartlanddailynews.com, climaterealism.com, climateataglance.com, and stoppingsocialism.com.

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Germans' Pushback on Green Energy Topples Gov't Leadership



German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz

By Larry Bell

We on this side of the pond are well advised to take hard lessons regarding affordable green energy fantasies from economically and socially suicidal Western European experiences — Germany most particularly.

Two months ago, a shaky three-party coalition headed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz that has governed Berlin since 2021 collapsed in large part due to a dispute over acceptable environmental spending.

Whereas Chancellor Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SDP) is internally divided on climate issues between its labor-union base and its upper-income urban wing, its other large coalition partner, the Green Party, is all-out committed to fighting "climate change" at any cost.

This leaves Free Democratic Party (FDP) junior partner headed by Finance Minister Christian Lindner somewhere ineffectually lost in the muddled middle between green ethos sympathy and its concurrent anti-business hostility.

Bending to obvious lack of public confidence, Scholz has called for an early election in February which prevalent odds predict he will lose.

This has occurred after he fired Linder who published a paper arguing that meager global benefits of net zero policies to decarbonize Germany aren't worth the consequential fiscal and economic harms.

German electricity currently costs 30 cents per kilowatt hour — more than twice the U.S. price, and three times more than China pays.

Simultaneously, Germany has installed enough solar and wind power to supply nearly 70% of its electricity needs with a huge caveat: It excludes cloudy and windless days as have occurred twice in recent months when these "renewables" delivered less than 4% of daily power requirements. And Germany's entire emergency battery storage is limited to about 20 minutes.

Since modern societies require around-the-clock power depending in this case upon two systems, renewables and reliable backup, this leaves a need to always have a ready supply of mostly natural gas turbines on hand to make up the difference, although operating at low efficiency and profit margin costs for suppliers who are forced to charge more.

This natural gas dependence price escalation has been exacerbated by Russia's 2022 Ukraine invasion that has occasionally driven wholesale prices to a staggering $1 a kilowatt-hour.

The Ukraine event also triggered a German national-defense crisis which prompted Scholz to pledge to expand military spending by at least €100 billion in coming years — in turn competing with already burdensome energy budgets.

Topping off all this are self-destructive government coalition net zero fetishes that have not only worked to phase out coal, but incredulously shut down noncarbon nuclear power as well.

Meanwhile, China has added more coal than solar and wind over the past couple years, while other large energy consumer India has added three times more.

A resounding public wakeup call from woke German green energy subsidy extravagance came in the form of a 2023 top constitutional court order mandating that government climate spending must be paid and accounted for on a balance sheet rather than hidden via off-balance borrowing as the Scholz coalition obviously intended.

This meant that if the government wanted to fund the green transition, it would need either to raise new revenue or to seek and implement offsetting spending cuts elsewhere.

The court order exposed embarrassingly basic unanswered coalition questions regarding climate war cost benefits — or lack thereof — and quantifiable impact burdens upon energy consumers and taxpayers, along with a calamitous decline in industrial production and employment.

Adding grief to misery and peril to pain, the German EV mandate is not only transferring more energy demand to the electric grid, but depleting auto workers' lunchboxes as well. Volkswagen, whose third quarter year-over-year after-tax profit fell 64% is considering closing three factories, axing 10,000 jobs, and slashing pay for those who remain employed.

Other national governments have avoided coming to terms with the same fundamental trade-off issues.

As pointed out by Copenhagen Consensus President and Stanford University Hoover Institute visiting scholar Bjorn Lomborg, many countries with the greatest reliance upon solar and wind power — who along with Germany include U.K., Spain, and Demark — have some of the world's most expensive electricity.

The International Energy Agency's latest data (from 2022) indicates that increased solar and wind power generation costs across 70 countries have yielded 12 cents per kilowatt-hour higher average energy costs.

It appears that citizens of more and more countries are beginning to wise up to the fact that renewable energy doesn't come free.

The French government has warned that meeting its net zero targets will require households to lower winter temper thermostats and reduce travel plans.

Meanwhile, Britain's Labour Party government has announced plans to scale back its 100% green electricity pledge made last summer along with an electric vehicle mandate.

There are even more optimistic signs of emerging energy sanity in America, with major U.S. banks and asset managers retreating from United Nations net zero commitments in response to threats of antitrust lawsuits by several state attorneys general charging violations of fiduciary duty to customers and investors.

Citigroup, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo are finally retreating from the U.N.s' 140-member Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), and JPMorgan Asset Management, BlackRock and State Street Global Advisors have exited the U.N.'s Climate Action 100+ compact.

Above all, just as pursuit of destructive green fantasies played a key role in toppling Germany's government, grateful recognition is also warranted for an American wakeup call regarding inflationary Democratic Party net zero policies contributing bigly to Donald Trump's reelection, a GOP majority Congress, and a promised recovery of former fossil energy-driven prosperity free of attempted U.N. sabotage.

Larry Bell is an endowed professor of space architecture at the University of Houston where he founded the Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture and the graduate space architecture program.

Depraved Indifference: Net Zero 2050 *Peculiar Spending Priorities*

By Alan L. Stewart

A person has a depraved indifference to human life when that person has an utter disregard for the value of human life. US legal definition.

The statistics on global poverty are staggering. According to the United Nations Millennium Project, there are currently 1.2 billion people living in poverty. Fifty thousand deaths per day (18,000,000 annually) occur worldwide as a result of poverty. Every year more than 10,000,000 children die of hunger and preventable diseases.

The estimated cost of Net Zero by the year 2050 in the U.S. is $75 trillion ($3 trillion per year), according to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

All Climate dollars spent are presented as being lifesaving, virtuous. The graph below presents mortality data that begets the question: "Are we seeing Virtue or Indifference?"

(Look at the last two entries. 53,537 vs 18,000,000) This wanders perfectly within the Globalist's call for population reduction as a solution to Global Warming.

Electric Vehicles: Pretty Lady, Potty Mouth

Engineering Rule #1: For any moving device such as a car, truck or airplane increased efficiency is produced with decreased weight. Electric vehicles do the exact opposite due to battery weight.

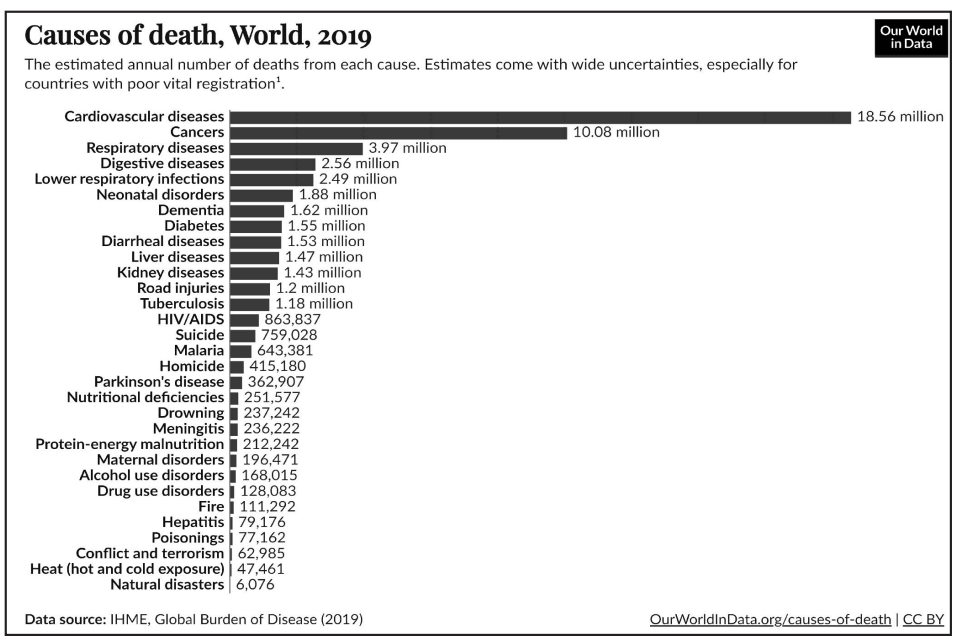
Back to the drawing board. Sure I might buy one if you give me the same "Bang for the Buck" that gas powered vehicles provide.

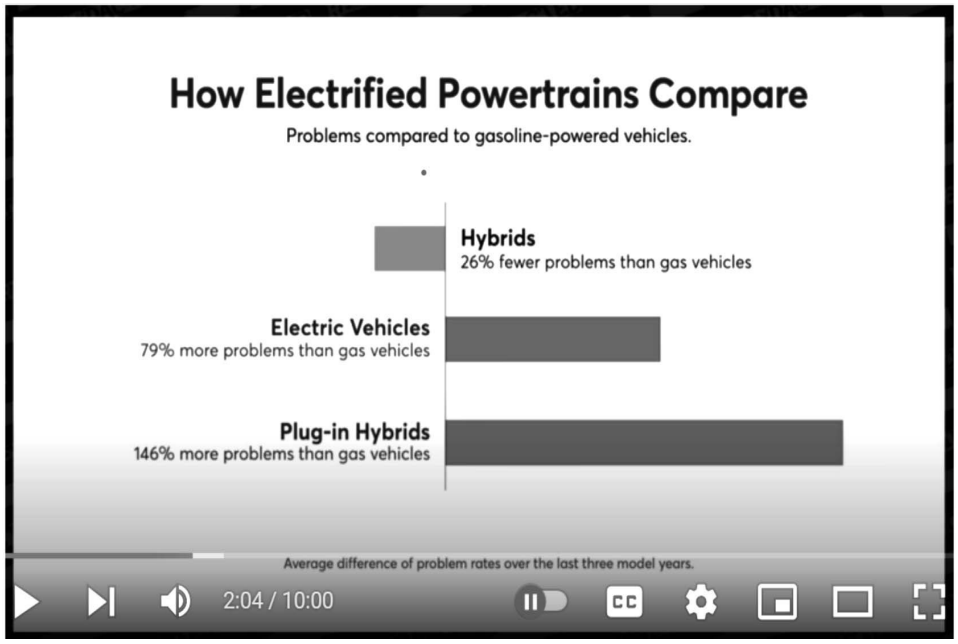
- Cut refill (recharge) time to the same as gas
- Make refill range the same as gas
- Supply an equal number of convenient recharge sites as gas
- Solve the battery weight problem
- Reduce purchase prices to the same as gas vehicles
- Stop the EV tax rebates that even people using bicycles pay
- Engine replacement: Gas engine replacement is ~1/10 the cost
- Cold weather/heat problem
- Battery fire problem

More Data

Natali Morris from "Redacted" website.

continued on page 14





SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROJECT

The Week That Was January 11th, 2025

Quote of the Week:

I have approximate answers and possible beliefs in different degrees of certainty about different things, but I'm not absolutely sure of anything.— Richard Feynman (1981)

Number of the Week: *ZERO*

This Week:

By Ken Haapala, President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

The Science & Environmental Policy Project began in late 1990 as a research effort by atmospheric physicist S. Fred Singer and a handful of graduate students working out of a small office in downtownWashington, D.C.The Project had two goals: (1) to gather material for a book on global environmental issues,and (2) to conduct a survey of scientists affiliated with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to determine the extent of what was, even then, being touted as scientific "consensus" on global warming.

What the graduate students discovered with their survey convinced Dr. Singer to set his book aside and instead to circulate among senior members of the American Meteorological Society a "Statement by Atmospheric Scientists" on greenhouse warming, which was quickly endorsed by 46 leading climatologists and atmospheric physicists (and eventually by nearly 100). That statement, issued on February 27, 1992, drew widespread media attention and was cited more than 150 times in the press. It was the first inkling journalists had that there was no scientific consensus on the reality of a global warming. Indeed, there was raging debate.

The Science & Environmental Policy Project was incorporated in the state of Virginia in 1992, and established as a nonprofit, 501(c)3 educational organization in late 1993.Today, having expanded from that core of 46 scientists, it draws on an international network of some of the finest minds in science who donate their time to promoting sound, credible, peer-reviewed research as the only basis for the health and environmental policies that affect us all.

You can help in two ways:

1. Download SEPP reports, press releases, and articles and pass them on – to newspaper editors, journalists, educators, civic leaders, and others. Help stop the fearmongering and the distortion of science.This is the most important thing you can do.

2. Support SEPP with your tax-deductible contributions. The environmental pressure groups, which present so much wrong information, have a combined clout of more than $1 billion a year.The Science & Environmental Policy Project has had far-reaching impact on less than one-hundredth of one percent of that figure. It's money well and effectively spent.

Send your contributions to:

The Science & Environmental Policy Project
Attn: Fundraising
1600 South Eads Street, Suite #712-S
Arlington,VA 22202-2907
Tel/Fax 703-920-2744

And thank you.

Scope: This Week begins with a paper by van Wijngaarden and Happer estimating the role of clouds in a varying climate. Then it discusses another paper by van Wijngaarden and Happer estimating the role of Methane on today's climate. Japanese researcher Kyoji Kimoto asserts that many modelers ignore the atmospheric window. Wallace Manheimer cautions scientific societies on their unsupported assertions regarding climate change. A new form of estimating carbon dioxide concentrations in periods with different climates is questioned. A Nobel Prize in Medicine is questioned. Also discussed is the failure of government entities in southern California to recognize changing weather.

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Clarifying a Cloudy Issue? In the No Tricks Zone, Kenneth Richard briefly discusses a new paper by Atomic, Molecular, and Optical (AMO) physicists William van Wijngaarden and William Happer "Radiation Transport in Clouds" published by Klimarealistene (Norwegian, Climate Realists), in The Science of Climate Change. As Nobel Laureate John Clauser and others have pointed out, the importance of variation in clouds is overlooked by the IPCC and its collaborators, as is the variation in the intensity of the sun and the solar wind. The paper includes high level mathematics and this TWTW will briefly discuss the new van Wijngaarden and Happer paper and discuss it further in a subsequent issue.

The abstract states:

"We briefly review the dominant role of clouds in Earth's climate. The earliest observational studies of heat transfer through Earth's atmosphere, for example, those of John Leslie around 1800, showed that clouds have a large effect on radiative heat transfer from Earth's surface to space. Greenhouse gases also affect heat transfer, but much less than clouds. For example, "instantaneously doubling" CO2 concentrations, a 100% increase, only decreases radiation to space by about 1%. To increase solar heating of the Earth by a few percent, low cloud cover only needs to decrease by a few percent. The first half of this paper reviews observational facts about how clouds affect heat transfer. The second half gives a brief summary of the new 2n-stream radiation transfer theory for quantitatively analyzing how clouds scatter radiation incident from outside the cloud, and how they emit thermal radiation generated by their particulates." [Boldface added]

The "new 2n-stream radiation transfer theory" needs to be carefully explored, subsequently. It goes into AMO physics. Here n is an integer of axially symmetric radiation (unchanged if the axis is rotated). What happens when light, electromagnetic energy, hits a droplet in a cloud? How does the collision scatter the energy? The work of van Wijngaarden and Happer previously presented in TWTW deals with cloudless skies. How do clouds affect the warming and cooling of Earth and the greenhouse effect?

Further, how do clouds and aerosols scatter infrared radiation?

Based on limited, historic records, principally from Europe, during the Little Ice Age, the skies were cloudy and growing seasons were short. In northern latitudes grains did not ripen, famine and diseases associated with the toxins developed in un-ripened grain were common. IPCC and its collaborators dismiss this period as a regional event. But clouds cover over 50% of the blue marble. Dismissing clouds is ignoring Earth.

Van Wijngaarden and Happer conclude their new paper with [citations omitted here]:

"In conclusion, radiative transfer theory shows that doubling the concentration of the most important anthropogenic greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, for a cloudless sky only decreases radiation to space by 1%. However, clouds cover more than half the planet as shown by the iconic Blue Marble photograph in Fig. 15. An increase in low cloud cover of only about 1% could largely compensate for the doubling of CO2.[Boldface added]

2n-stream radiative transfer theory is an invaluable tool to model clouds and particulates such as aerosols that scatter infrared radiation. It is essential that accurate measurements of cloud parameters such as the single scattering albedo, optical depth and scattering phase function be made as these quantities are essential inputs into any calculation. The dependence of these parameters on infrared wavelength as well as an understanding of how they vary for clouds at different altitudes or consisting of different amounts of water droplets and ice crystals is essential for meaningful progress in climate modelling."

This is important work in a field that the IPCC and its collaborators have attempted to suppress further research by declaring "the science is settled." It is anything but settled. See links Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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Methane and Climate: The CO2 Coalition has issued a report by van Wijngaarden and Happer, Methane and Climate. This is for a cloudless sky and uses the HITRAN database based on experiments and updated by observations using spectroscopy instruments on weather balloons and satellites. There is no finer data existing for evaluating the role of atmospheric greenhouse gases in slowing the emission of energy from Earth to space. The abstract states:

"Atmospheric methane (CH4) contributes to the radiative forcing of Earth's atmosphere. Radiative forcing is the difference in the net upward thermal radiation from the Earth through a transparent atmosphere and radiation through an otherwise identical atmosphere with greenhouse gases. Radiative forcing, normally specified in units of W m−2, depends on latitude, longitude, and altitude, but it is often quoted for a representative temperate latitude, and for the altitude of the tropopause, or for the top of the atmosphere. For current concentrations of greenhouse gases, the radiative forcing at the tropopause, per added CH4 molecule, is about 30 times larger than the forcing per added carbon-dioxide (CO2) molecule. This is due to the heavy saturation of the absorption band of the abundant greenhouse gas, CO2. But the rate of increase of CO2 molecules, about 2.3 ppm/year (ppm = part per million), is about 300 times larger than the rate of increase of CH4 molecules, which has been around 0.0076 ppm/year since the year 2008. So, the contribution of methane to the annual increase in forcing is one tenth (30/300) that of carbon dioxide. The net forcing increase from CH4 and CO2 increases is about 0.05 W m−2 year−1. Other things being equal, this will cause a temperature increase of about 0.011 °C year−1. Proposals to place harsh restrictions on methane emissions because of warming fears are not justified by facts."

Thus, when one accounts for the concentration of methane compared to the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere and the amount of methane emitted annually; the emissions of methane from livestock and from oil and gas operations are insignificant in warming the globe. The evidence is contrary to the US EPA's misleading claim that "Methane is more than 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere." Further, the "EPA's Final Rule to Reduce Methane and Other Harmful Pollution from Oil and Natural Gas Operations and Related Actions" is another example of regulatory excess without physical justification. There is no reason to fear these emissions.

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane for EPA's version of the importance of methane, and https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-operations/epas-final-rule-reduce-methane-and-other for EPA's final rule on oil and natural gas operations, which is an attempt to significantly damage the industry without justification, except political ones.

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Atmospheric Window: There are specific ranges of frequencies (or of wavelengths) in which incoming solar radiation and infrared radiation emitted by Earth to space pass through the atmosphere without any or with little interruption (blocking) from greenhouse gases. These are called atmospheric windows. The most pronounced one is for visible light. A smaller one exists for outgoing infrared radiation. P. Gosselin presents a paper by Japanese energy researcher Kyoji Kimoto who asserts that:

"climate models were developed by Manabe, Hansen, Cess and Schlesinger using the energy budget of the earth … with no atmospheric window."

His point is well taken. Amusingly, without an atmospheric window, certain constrictors such as pythons which are an invasive species in the Everglades, and all pit vipers such as cottonmouths could not successfully hunt warm blooded prey. The high-water vapor content in the humid air of swamps would prevent their ability to sense the infrared radiation of their prey. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

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Scientific Societies: Long-time US Naval Research Laboratory scientist Wallace Manheimer has a paper expressing significant concerns of pronouncements by scientific societies on climate. The abstract of the paper states:

"The assertion that a climate crisis is rapidly approaching due to excess carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere is said to be based on science. This science is summarized in the statements of the major scientific societies. These statements have motivated governments, the media, and much of the public to commit to abandoning fossil fuels, i.e., going to "net zero" at some time in the not-so-distant future, perhaps by 2050, 26 years from now. The

continue reading at www.sepp.org

Number of the Week: ZERO: A few years ago, the UN Environmental Programme showed off a list of financial institutions that were parties to the Net Zero Banking Alliance that included the six major banks in the US, the major world economy. Now there are zero, with the departure of JP Morgan. BlackRock, the world's largest assent manager with US $11.5 trillion under management, has announced it is leaving. Are these funds leaving a bad investment? See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Net Zero *cont. from page 4*

of Solidarity's division of mining and energy and Taylor signed a joint declaration on climate change and energy policy and a statement of intent for Heartland and Solidarity's mining and energy branch to work closely together in promoting climate realism.

As part of that commitment at the request of Solidarity's leaders, Heartland updated 10 Climate at a Glance fact sheets and translated them into Polish to be published there. Taylor also developed two documents detailing a transatlantic alliance, one laying out principles and steps to advance freedom in general, and one to advance energy development and reduce climate restrictions. These documents will serve as the core of Heartland's wider international efforts, open to allies in all EU countries and the U.K. to join, to cement and guide ongoing cooperation on issues and policies.

Heartland's biggest move in Europe to date was still to come.

Nigel Farage, a former representative of the U.K. in the European Parliament and current member of the British Parliament and leader of Reform UK, spoke with Taylor at Heartland's 40th anniversary dinner, at which Farage was the keynote speaker. Farage encouraged Heartland to form a beachhead in Europe, in particular in the U.K., pledging to support the effort.

Heartland had previously worked with CAR 26, a leading U.K. group promoting sound climate science and policy, headed by Lois Perry. In conversations with Perry, she emphasized that their efforts would be more effective with a stronger, permanent Heartland presence.

Thus it was that on December 17, 2024, Heartland officially launched what may be the first of several satellite affiliate offices in the U.K., Heartland UK/Europe, with former Prime Minister Liz Truss, Farage, and other prominent luminaries from the political and business communities in attendance.

Perry was hired as executive director of Heartland UK/Europe.

"The Heartland Institute has a proud history of providing research and resources that shape conservative and freedom-oriented policymaking in the United States," said Taylor at the meeting announcing the launch. "During recent years, a growing number of policymakers in the UK and continental Europe have requested Heartland establish a satellite office to provide resources to conservative policymakers throughout Europe. With our UK and European launch, we aim to fulfill this requested impact throughout Europe, championing the principles of liberty and economic prosperity in an era of increasing regulation and anti-growth policies."

"The Launch of Heartland UK/Europe is a signal of our commitment to bringing bold, evidence-based solutions to the forefront of European policy discussions," said Perry. "By uniting key leaders and thinkers from both sides of the Atlantic, we are fostering a vital dialogue to counter ideologically driven overregulation and advance policies that empower individuals and communities."

The writer of an article covering the formation of Heartland UK/Europe asked hopefully, "Are Net Zero's Days Numbered?" Among the other points made in his article, author Harrison Pitt wrote:

The resources that Heartland UK/Europe can provide, both intellectual and financial, are bound to be invaluable. In truth, this kind of American presence in Britain could neither be better timed nor more sorely needed. Evidence suggests that the UK is currently engaged in a mortifying contest with Justin Trudeau's Canada to see who can claim the ultimate nagging rights as the most poorly governed, declining nation in the Anglosphere.

Nowhere is our bid for this title stronger than in the British state's quixotic, utopian obsession with 'achieving' net zero emissions. Cheap, efficient, dependable energy is the lifeblood of an advanced industrial economy. Without it, capital is harder to come by, homes are more expensive to heat, and people's overall quality of life goes down. . . .

The Heartland Institute is a long-standing opponent of [the] weaponization of science. They view the scientific enterprise as a process and a method, not a moment or a catechism. This is because all true scientists proceed, as the philosopher Karl Popper urged, by "conjecture and refutation"—the idea being that any scientific knowledge we believe ourselves to have grasped, while it may have proved itself against attempts at falsification, should be treated as provisional.

Managerial politics is what happens when claims to scientific knowledge are instead treated as unquestionable certainties and enlisted to justify large-scale social engineering projects. And, in textbook managerialist style, the central planners conscripting the rest of us into whatever mission they happen to prize will for the most part be insulated from the unglamorous consequences of their grand designs.

In the case of the net zero agenda, it is ordinary working people—those for whom the Labour Party claims to speak—who are suffering, and will continue to suffer, most of all. One saving grace is that this means their political loyalties will be up for grabs over the next five years. With the intellectual heft and scientific firepower of the Heartland Institute now behind him, Farage stands an even greater chance—not just of winning people over, but keeping them on-side with practical results if he ever makes it to No. 10.

It's onward and upward for climate realism around the world, with The Heartland Institute leading the charge.

Win Climate *cont. from page 1*

how we can effectively fight back in the climate change debate.

"What follows is for those who want to change the world from what it is to what they believe it should be. The Prince was written by Machiavelli for the Haves on how to hold power. Rules for Radicals is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away."

So begins "The Purpose," the first chapter in "Rules for Radicals – A Practical Primer for Realistic Radicals." Written in 1971 by Chicago-based community organizer Saul D. Alinsky, Rules for Radicals showed leftists, then on the outside of most institutions looking in but wanting very much to run the show, how to acquire the power to control society.

And, boy, did they ever take Alinsky's rules seriously. In many ways, it became the "progressive" Bible, guiding their actions as they fought tooth and nail for decades until today the left control vast swaths of our universities, schools, corporations, governments, churches and of course mainstream media. Even before Rules was published, Hillary Clinton recognized the importance of Alinsky's work writing about his methods in her undergraduate thesis at Wellesley College, a private women's liberal arts college in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Her 1969 thesis was titled "There Is Only the Fight: An Analysis of the Alinsky Model" and, after interviewing him, examined his approach and its effectiveness in creating social change. Interestingly, Wellesley sealed Clinton's thesis at her request during Bill Clinton's presidency.

Today, the roles are reversed from when Alinsky wrote Rules and it is conservatives who are now on the outside looking in at woke institutions that control much of our every day lives. Universities are especially infected. For example, my own alma matter, Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, is apparently now a politically-correct enforcer of woke group-think when it comes to climate change and COVID policies. If conservatives are to stand any chance of getting back in charge of our schools and the rest of society, then we must learn how we lost control in the first place. And one of the best places to start is to carefully read Rules for Radicals in its entirety. It can be read online for free at Rules For Radicals : Saul Alinsky : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive.

One of Alinsky's rules that conservatives should take particularly seriously is Rule #4:

"Make opponents live up to their own book of rules. You can kill them with this because no one can possibly obey all of their own rules."

So, what are the contents of the "book of rules" of progressives when it comes to climate change and energy? Well, generally speaking, they want everyone to at least think they support:

- The science promoted by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Social justice: caring for the poor, the elderly and those who are disadvantaged in society
- Protection of wildlife and the environment

Tolerance of alternative lifestyles & opinions

- Rejection of authority & absolutism

But their blind adherence to the hypothesis that our use of hydrocarbon fuels—coal, oil and natural gas—is causing a climate emergency and only a massive energy transition to so-called green energy will save the planet actually results in a situation where all of these worthy objectives are in fact violated.

Alarmists' fears about increasing floods, extreme rainfall, heat waves, intense storms and forest fires are not supported by the UN IPCC. In particular, Working Group 1 of the Sixth Assessment Report had "low confidence in the direction of change" of most of the climate impacts that most excite activists, sensational media, and politicians, namely precipitation, drought, fire weather, cyclones, and hurricanes, snow and ice, sea levels, coastal erosion, and ocean acidity, you name it. Generally, it also has "low confidence" that a wider range of detrimental climate impacts will occur beyond 2050, except under "worst case" scenarios.

So, whenever conservatives have the chance to publicly question climate alarmists, be they from government, the press or any other institution that promotes climate fears, we must ask:

"What science are you using to support your claims of climate catastrophe?"

The answer will usually be, "We follow the science of the UN IPCC," or words to that effect. Then we must say, loud and clear so that everyone in the audience can hear, "The IPCC does not support your claims about x," where x could be any one of their excited statements about items listed above. You could also add,

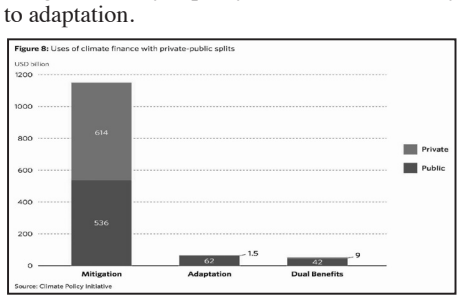
"the terms 'climate emergency' or 'climate crisis' are only mentioned once in the latest IPCC assessment reports, and that is merely with regard to media coverage, not what the IPCC actually says is real."

And then you could quote the IPCC directly as follows:

"Some media outlets have recently adopted and promoted terms and phrases stronger than the more neutral 'climate change' and 'global warming,' including 'climate crisis,' 'global heating,' and 'climate emergency' (Zeldin-O'Neill, 2019)."

Few climate alarmists have even read the IPCC reports, relying almost entirely on mainstream media coverage of what is in the reports, so your response will take the wind out of their sails entirely. So it must be done every time they bring up problems with precipitation, drought, fire weather, cyclones, hurricanes, snow and ice, sea levels, coastal erosion, and ocean acidity.

Progressives' supposed support for "social justice" can also be used against them effectively. After all, the overwhelming focus of the world on climate change "mitigation," namely attempts to control the climate, is robbing people who actually need help adapting to real world climate change from the funds they need to survive whatever nature throws at them next. Note in the following figure from the San Francisco-based Climate Policy Initiative that roughly 90% of the 1.27 trillion USD dedicated to "climate finance" in 2021/2022 went to mitigation. Only a paltry 5% went exclusively to adaptation.



"Is this Social Justice?" conservatives must ask progressives.

Similarly, conservatives need to point out the human rights abuses that accompany the production of electric vehicle batteries as well as wind and solar power. Click on the following image to show an excellent example of someone doing just that—Danielle Maillot, former Ottawa chapter lead for Action4Canada—questioning candidates for mayor about their support for batteries made with cobalt mined by children in the Congo in mines owned and operated by Chinese companies. The answer from the leading candidate for mayor exposed her as completely uninformed about the issue.



Climate alarmists in government, the press, universities, etc. also need to be taken to task for the huge increase in electricity rates that is the natural result of the transition to wind and solar power. After all, it is the poor and those on fixed incomes who most suffer when power rates go through the roof when "green energy" is introduced into the grid.

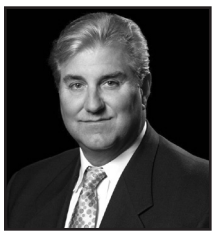
And of course there are many examples of how renewable energy such as biofuels are seriously violating human rights across the world. Quoting U.N. Special Rapporteur of the right to food, Jean Zeigler makes sense here:

"It is a crime against humanity to convert agricultural productive soil into soil which produces foodstuff that will be burned into biofuel." (2007)

After citing the above examples of how the climate scare is violating real world "social justice" concerns, conservatives need to ask their opponents point blank in public meetings:

"Is it ethical to enable policies that hurt people today because of the possible benefit to people yet to be born?"

Note: In part 2 of this series, I will discuss how to apply Alinsky's rule #4 to take advantage of the left's supposed support for Protection of wildlife and the environment.



Our Presidential Puppet Further Cripples U.S. Energy Independence On His Way Out The Door

By Gary Wickert

It appears that the Democrats didn't get the message voters loudly sent them last November. The message was clear—making Donald Trump and J.D. Vance our next President and Vice President, and giving both houses of Congress to the Republicans. Granted, Joe Biden doesn't even know what year it is, and all of his political foibles are the result of those pulling his puppet strings, including Barack Obama and Susan Rice, the latter of which left Biden's straw cabinet in April of 2023 only to become director of the Domestic Policy Council (DPC) of the United States. For those who aren't aware or have never heard of the DPC, it is the principal forum used by the president of the United States for the consideration of domestic policy matters and senior policymaking, and includes Cabinet members and White House officials. It is part of the Office of Policy Development, which itself is within the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Make no mistake about who is making important decisions for our country.

When Joe Biden was investigated for his handling of classified documents (you know, the documents he wasn't charged for begin in possession of while Donald Trump was?), the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland went to bad for the clueless president by saying that Biden would be able to present himself to a jury as an "elderly man with poor memory" and wrote that his memory "appeared to have significant limitations." Nonetheless, on January 6th, his puppeteers' issued two executive orders which permanently ban offshore drilling over more than 625 million acres of ocean in order to assuage the environmental whackos and global warming sycophants who still believe in the nonsense of anthropogenic climate change. It bans future oil and gas drilling off the entire East and West coasts, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the remaining portions of Alaska's Northern Bering Sea where drilling was still permitted.

As you may recall, back when our president was able to choose his own words, he promised that climate change would be a big focus of his presidency. Forget for the moment that this was the practical and scientific equivalent of saying that the sun shining was a big focus of his presidency. The Keystone XL Pipeline was first on his hit list.

You may recall the Keystone XL Pipeline, also known as the Gulf Coast Pipeline. It was a 1,300 mile pipeline being built by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline GP Ltd and projected to transport nearly 1 million barrels of per day of valuable and much-needed crude oil from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska, and ultimately to Gulf Coast refineries. The Keystone XL actually comprises two segments. The first, a southern leg, had already been completed and now runs between Cushing, Oklahoma, and Port Arthur, Texas. It enters the U.S. at Morgan, Montana, traveling through Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska. The pipeline was Part IV of a four-phase project, the first three phases of which have been completed:

• Phase I: The first phase of the Keystone Pipeline involved converting a natural gas pipeline in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to carry crude oil.

• Phase II: The second phase of the Keystone Pipeline is operational.

• Phase III: The Gulf Coast Pipeline Project was completed in 2014 and runs from Cushing, Oklahoma to Nederland, Texas.

The fourth, proposed pipeline expansion segment Phase IV, Keystone XL, was rejected by the outgoing Obama Administration on November 6, 2015, citing environmental concerns. But as has now become readily apparent, this energy masochism on the Left isn't about the environment. These self-inflicted injuries to our energy independence are promulgated by leftist mobs such as Hamas supporters, the Black Lives Matter movement, and Antifa, as a vehicle for tearing down the values of our country. They are simply lies liberals tell us to distract us from their real agenda—a socialist attack on the nation based on lies, anarchy, hijacked protests and racial division. Energy represents the success of an evil nation in their view. It must be stopped at all costs, no matter how many lives are lost. It's the ultimate virtue signaling. This, despite a January, 2014 "final environmental impact statement" which drew the same conclusions of its past environmental impact statements. It found that pipeline would pose no significant environmental risk and would not contribute substantially to carbon dioxide emissions (for those keeping score in that silly game). Even Obama's first secretary of energy, Steven Chu, called the debate over the pipeline "a political one and not a scientific one."

When Trump was elected the first time in 2016, he vowed to revive the Keystone XL, along with the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), a 1,200-mile-long pipeline transporting crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois. One of the first things he did was sign an executive order allowing both to move forward. He approved a cross-border permit for them and after the permit was struck down by a liberal court, reissued the permit again personally. The Trump Administration also approved a right-of-way allowing the pipeline to be built across U.S. land.

On January 20, 2021, the first day Joe Biden stumbled into office, he was asked to sign something which turned out to be Executive Order 13990 revoking the permit for the pipeline formerly granted to its developer, Calgary-based TC Energy Corporation. Tired of the see-saw, on June 9, 2021, TC Energy abandoned the project. It is hard to blame them. The back and forth political see-saw takes its toll. The pipeline's permit to cross the U.S.-Canadian border was first rejected in 2015 by President Barack Obama. Trump in 2017 reversed that decision and approved the border crossing — only to have that decision revoked again by Biden in January 2021.

At the time of the project's cancellation, approximately 10% of the pipeline had been constructed. Joe Biden's puppeteers destroyed the energy independence the U.S. enjoyed under President Donald Trump. They canceled a project that would have boosted U.S. gross domestic product by more than $3 billion, carried 830,000 barrels of oil daily from Canada to the United States, and directly and indirectly provided up to 26,000 jobs—11,000 of which were instantly lost. Climate czar John Kerry had some sympathetic advice for those 11,000 people: "Go to work to make the solar panels."

The United States already has half a million miles of crude oil, petroleum, and natural gas pipelines and twice that much for natural gas distribution. Pipelines are quite literally the safest mode of transporting oil and gas. Donald Trump has pulled off some economic miracles in his first term; and I suspect he is just getting started. President Donald Trump has vowed to once again revive the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day back in office. But his magic act will now be the equivalent of doing the same trick blind-folded. TC Energy no longer owns the pipeline system and portions of it have been dug up at the insistence of the whacko left. Local permits will once again have to be obtained. But one thing is certain: If you want to see Donald Trump do something positive for America, just tell him he can't do it.

So Much for an 'Orderly Transition' — Biden Bans Oil, Gas Drilling

By Larry Bell

So what happened to that goodwill promise President Joe Biden made in the White House Rose Garden on Nov. 7 to do everything he can to support an orderly transition to the upcoming Trump administration?

Calling on people to bring down the temperature after the heat of the presidential campaign, he said, "We accept the choice the country made. I've said many times, you can't love your country only when you win. You can't love your neighbor only when you agree."

The gap here between generous words and consequential deeds is expansive.

Recognizing that the Trump campaign put a return to energy affordability, reliability, and independence a front and center priority, just two weeks before White House keys are turned over to freshly inaugurated President Donald Trump, outgoing Biden invoked a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing over an incredibly vast expanse covering 625 million acres of offshore waters surrounding the country.

If allowed to stand, this action taken in accordance with an arcane 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, will essentially remove the entire Atlantic Coast, eastern Gulf of Mexico, the West Coast and Alaska's Northern Bering Sea from future exploration, development, or production.

Congress's goal in passing the legislation was to promote more domestic oil and gas development while also preserving a president's discretion over private leasing to set aside certain federal waters for conservation subject to time limits … not to stave off climate change or transition to "clean energy" as Biden's ban offers as justification.

President-elect Trump's spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt, called Biden's action "a disgraceful decision designed to exact political revenge on the American people who gave President Trump a mandate to increase drilling and lower gas prices."

Although incoming President Trump pledged at a news conference to "revoke the offshore oil, gas drilling ban on day one," Reuters advises that legally doing so will likely require action by the new GOP majority Congress, and in any case will involve a blizzard of contested lawsuits.

Trump's "drill, baby drill" priority also includes reopening oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a policy of his first office term that was ended by the Biden administration.

The Trump administration approved a large Alaska ConocoPhillips Willow drilling project at the tail end of the former president's term, but it was subsequently blocked by a judge for further review.

The Biden administration later authorized the Willow project in response to a 2023 court order, a decision that came a day after it had restricted offshore oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean and barred development in 13 million acres of Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve.

Meanwhile, the Biden White House has endorsed a total of only three offshore allowances in the Gulf of Mexico for 2025, 2027 and 2029 under a five-year Democrat drilling plan authorized by Congress in 2023 as a condition for expanding offshore wind development.

Under the terms of a 2022 climate law passed after months of contentious Senate trade-off wrangling, the government must offer at least 60 million acres of offshore oil and gas leases in any one-year period before it can offer offshore wind leases.

A Trump presidency and GOP-majority Congress will decisively tip the calculus of that energy policy trade-off in favor of drilling.

Recently speaking to reporters at Mar-a-Lago, Trump criticized wind industry reliance on government subsidies and high production costs stating: "We're going to try and have a policy where no windmills are being built … they don't work without subsidy, you don't want energy that needs subsidy."

Trump added that windmills are "littered all over the country" and benefit only those profiting from the subsidies.

Although the former and soon-to-be next president pledged back in May to end offshore wind production by executive order on his first day in office, his latest comments appear to include halting onshore projects as well.

And while Trump cannot directly prevent wind farms from being built on private lands, he could phase out production tax credits, a key government subsidy for private wind projects.

Donald Trump isn't wind energy's only opponent and critic.

Local governments, including over 400 counties, have blocked new wind and solar projects over environmental and public nuisance concerns through bans, moratoriums, construction limits and other policies that make new plants difficult to finance or build.

As for the end game, don't bet against a return of President Trump's affordable, reliable, U.S. emergency independence policies ultimately winning out over costly, inflationary climate-alarm-driven green dreams.

Democrats are well advised to seriously heed the public mandate evidenced in Trump's landslide election as a wakeup call to cut repeat losses in Congressional midterms.

But then again, don't necessarily encourage them to do so.

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Textbook Case of FBI Grooming a Troubled Young Man to Commit Violent Crime

By John Leake

In researching the strange cases of Thomas Matthew Crooks and Luigi Mangione, I have wondered with whom they were in contact, and if they were possibly groomed by an undercover FBI agent who—for reasons that are unclear—wished to incite these young men to participate in violent crimes.

I first started wondering about FBI grooming when I learned about an undercover FBI agent's involvement in the 2015 plot to attack a convention at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland, Texas (see my post "Tear Up Texas": FBI Encouraged a 2015 Shooting & Did Nothing to Stop It).

This morning I learned about the remarkable case of a 23-year-old diagnosed schizophrenic named Jerry Drake Varnell who—with the encouragement and assistance of an undercover FBI agent in 2017—participated in what he believed was a plot to blow up the BancFirst building in downtown Oklahoma City. He was found guilty in 2019. In 2020 he was sentenced to 25 years in prison "for attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction at BancFirst in downtown Oklahoma City."

According to the US Attorney's Office press release on the conviction:

At trial, the jury heard testimony from an informant who made recordings of his conversations with Varnell. It also heard from the undercover FBI agent who helped Varnell build what he thought was a bomb, an FBI bomb technician, and others. It listened to numerous recordings in which Varnell planned the attack and reviewed numerous written electronic communications that corroborated his intent. Furthermore, it heard the testimony of a defense expert concerning Varnell's mental health. Through its verdicts, the jury concluded any mental health problems did not prevent Varnell from forming the intent required for conviction. It also determined the FBI did not entrap him.

To me, what is most striking about this case—apart from the fact that the offender was a diagnosed schizophrenic—is how he drew the attention of federal law enforcement. As reported by KGOU (an Oklahoma NPR station):

Government witnesses said they deemed Varnell a threat based on his online activity such as "liking" anti-government groups on Facebook and messages referencing Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and Tyler Durden, a split personality character from the 1999 film "Fight Club." Agents also said Varnell claimed he had built homemade explosives during conversations with undercover FBI agent Williams and an FBI informant named Brent Elisens.

As was repeatedly pointed out by Varnell's defense attorney:

Varnell is a diagnosed schizophrenic. He told federal agents that his anti-government sentiments started around age 16, the same age his parents say his schizophrenic episodes began.

Defense attorneys asked FBI agents if they knew of Varnell's paranoid schizophrenia. Retired FBI agent Jennifer Schmidtz, who testified Wednesday, said she knew of "allegations" in a Custer County case involving Varnell and self-reported mental health issues in Varnell's college transcripts. In a 2017 statement, Varnell's parents claimed he has been institutionalized on multiple occasions.

The defense has team also focused on an FBI report from Dec. 2016 that stated, "Varnell does not have a job or a vehicle. The threat has not been repeated. Varnell does not have the means to commit the act at this time."

By August 2017, the defense pointed out, Varnell was still unemployed and without a car. …

Varnell's property was searched the day of his arrest, and Schmidtz, who supervised the search, testified there was no physical evidence showing Varnell experimented with chemicals capable of causing an explosion. The search did uncover a speech written by Varnell laiden with conspiracy theories about developing psychotropic drugs, the Clintons and Timothy McVeigh.

During cross examinations the defense continued to point out that Varnell never followed through on pieces of the plan he was responsible for, like choosing a time and place and supplying barrels. Varnell came up with a list of locations after encouragement from undercover agent Williams, and he settled on the on the BancFirst location after Williams took him to scout the location on July 13. He suggested Nov. 5 as an attack date, but Williams said it was too far away. And Varnell never supplied barrels, so Williams provided them.

In other words, "undercover agent Williams" was the chief planner and executor of the apparent plot. Jerry Varnell participated in this plot with the encouragement of undercover agent Williams and under the direction of undercover agent Williams.

Wildfires *cont. from page 3*

the significant role of wildfires in the natural ecology of California, with fire-return intervals ranging from decades to centuries, depending on the ecosystem.

Santa Ana Winds: Weather, Not Climate

A critical factor in the Los Angeles wildfires is the role of the infamous Santa Ana winds, which are neither new nor related to climate change. These dry, gusty winds are a recurring weather phenomenon caused by high-pressure systems over the Great Basin that force hot, dry air down through Southern California's mountain passes. They've been a well-documented driver of wildfires for as long as records exist. The Sky News article acknowledges the role of these winds in rapidly spreading the flames, but then pivots to climate change without making a concrete scientific connection.

To clarify: Santa Ana winds are a short-term weather event, not a long-term climate trend. Conflating weather with climate—something the media routinely does—misrepresents the science. Climate refers to patterns observed over decades or centuries, while weather deals with immediate atmospheric conditions. Ignoring this distinction fuels alarmism at the expense of nuanced understanding.

Land Management and Urban Growth

Another overlooked issue is land management. Decades of fire suppression policies have allowed dry brush, dead trees, and dense vegetation to accumulate, creating the perfect conditions for catastrophic fires. The Palisades Fire, for instance, was fueled by dense vegetation that had built up over years, according to reports cited by Newsweek.

Urban sprawl into fire-prone areas—the wildland-urban interface—further exacerbates the problem. California has seen a significant increase in housing developments encroaching into areas historically prone to fires. A report from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) highlights how poor planning and a lack of defensible space around structures are key contributors to wildfire destruction (source).

Controlled burns and vegetation management, both inexpensive and effective, are vastly underutilized. Even the BBC article acknowledges that poor land management plays a significant role, although it glosses over this point to focus on climate change narratives.

Media Hype and the Climate Change Narrative

It's become all too common for the media to frame natural disasters as evidence of an impending climate apocalypse. The Axios, Newsweek, and Sky News articles are prime examples of this trend. While they acknowledge weather and land-use factors in passing, their focus inevitably returns to vague, unsupported claims about "climate factors."

The problem with this approach is that it misleads the public and policymakers alike. By blaming wildfires primarily on climate change, we risk ignoring the more immediate, solvable issues at hand. The media's fixation on climate change as a universal scapegoat leaves critical factors like land management, urban planning, and fire prevention under-discussed.

The Danger of Misguided Policies

Blaming wildfires on climate change makes for dramatic headlines, but it distracts from practical solutions. For instance, California's increasing reliance on renewable energy mandates and electric vehicles might help lower emissions over time, but they do little to address the state's wildfire risks today. Worse, these policies often divert resources from pressing issues like fire prevention and infrastructure improvements.

A report by the Little Hoover Commission emphasizes the urgent need for better forest management practices, including thinning dense forests and conducting prescribed burns. Yet these solutions are frequently ignored in favor of policies that sound good politically but fail to address the root causes of wildfire devastation.

Conclusion: Facts Over Fear

California's wildfires are tragic, but they are not unprecedented. Historical fire records, the role of Santa Ana winds, and the impacts of poor land management reveal a much more complex picture than the climate change narrative suggests. As the Sky News and Newsweek articles inadvertently highlight, there are many proximate causes of wildfires that demand our attention—causes that have little or nothing to do with global climate trends.

The rush to attribute every fire to climate change oversimplifies the issue and distracts from actionable solutions. Improving forest management, enforcing defensible space requirements, and addressing urban sprawl into fire-prone areas are steps we can take today.

It is crucial to separate hype from reality. These fires are not proof of a climate crisis but a reminder of the importance of thoughtful land management and disaster preparedness. Let's focus on solutions grounded in science, history, and practicality—not fear.

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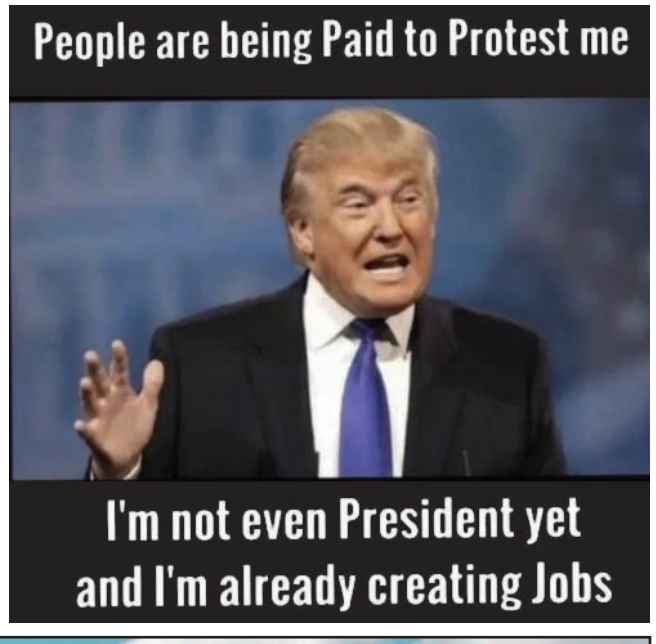

Trump *cont. from page 1*

conservative radio talk show hosts, broadcasting out of WISN in Milwaukee, have turned a blind eye to this most significant threat to the will of the people while prattling on about matters that pale in significance. We will have to ratchet up our demands for election system reform until we become too loud and persistent to ignore.

We have to replace legislators who do not understand they work for the people. We have a critical April election, which is our opportunity to return the Supreme Court to a conservative majority by electing Brad Schimel. In the same election we must oust Jill Underly, Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a pathetic excuse for an educator or an administrator.

We have to beat back the sources of social decay that have brought our country to the brink of destruction. The nuclear family is vital to a functional society. There are only two genders and they can't be changed. We are one nation under God. Truth and personal responsibility are fundamental to a righteous society. The American dream is accessible to everyone who is willing to work for it.

The inauguration of Donald Trump on January 20, 2025 will be a great day.



HOT GOVERNMENT HOT JACK

Shaming

By Jack

Did you notice that the Left is always changing the Lexicon in order to advance their power and control over you and your money; to manipulate you into doing or not doing whatever they want? One definition of "Shaming" is: Shaming is the act of public criticizing or humiliating someone, often causing feelings of disgrace or embarrassment. It can be expressed through words, actions, or social media, and is often seen as an aggressive behavior that impacts a person's self-worth.

Well, maybe "someone" should be publicly criticized and humiliated. Maybe then they'd be a little more responsible for their actions and a whole lot less STUPID. Oh, oh. Am I about to shame someone? Count on it.

Let's start with voters, assuming that elections are not being stolen. Time out. If you really think that elections are on the up-and-up and your vote is never stolen, then YOU should be framed as an idiot and SHAMED. Back to voters. Unfortunately, most voters are like a herd of hogs or cows just following along, right to the slaughterhouse. No more thought is involved in supporting a candidate than your average pound of bacon gives to its destiny.

What voters am I talking about? Certainly, voters across the State fit the bill. But specifically let's call out the Voters of the 33rd Assembly, the Voters of the 98th Assembly, Voters of ANY Senate or Assembly Candidate that WILL VOTE FOR increased State-Budget Spending in the upcoming budget. And that's a lot of YOU. You should be SHAMED, but only because public flogging has gone out of style. YOU should be called out and blamed for the 8% rise in PROPERTY TAX. The additional Increase in County or City SALES TAX. Any of the $Billions in State Referendum School Spending. And the list goes on and on.

But wait. There's a shot at self-redemption. YOU, the voters have a chance to flip this whole SHAMING thing on its head. Instead of being the "shamee" you can be the "shamer." You can publically call out and SHAME your "elected" officials into doing the right thing with the upcoming budget. Demand that they hold the line on spending. Don't allow them to say that they need MORE unless they can tell you for certain just how much MORE is. And you know that they can't. To them, MORE just means MORE! And it's never enough.

So let me start. My Assemblyman is Chuck Wichgers, and my State Senator is Julian Bradley. Guys, what did you run on? Was any part of your campaign about fiscal responsibility and lower spending resulting in lower taxes? Are YOU going to support the Vos-Evers Budget and just let spending grow and grow? Or is NOW the time to stand up to "Politics as Usual" and actually represent the people who put you in office?

Really, it's quite simple. You are not required to pass a budget at all. If a new pork-filled budget is NOT passed, the State simply operates under the OLD budget. (That's the price of a Happy Meal less than $100Billion) Our, your voters' budgets are being squeezed every day.

We need to make cuts and choices in our lives. WHY SHOULDN'T GOVERNMENT do the same? You've heard the term "Let Freedom Ring"? Well, let YOUR phones ring.

Keep this in mind: "Spending a dollar less than what Tony wanted is NOT the definition of being fiscally responsible."

Talk to you soon…… And often.

The Beglinger Blast..... Dig A Lot Deeper

By Joan Beglinger

Last Sunday, in a rare disclosure of election irregularity, Ann Jacobs, Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), made the rounds to political talk shows. In a political climate of mistrust of the integrity of Wisconsin's elections, Jacobs seemed to be on a preemptive mission to keep the response to the election irregularity in Madison under control. Jacobs has been steadfastly resistant to voter concerns about the integrity of Wisconsin's election systems and has shown no interest in correcting the serious, well-documented flaws that make Wisconsin's elections vulnerable to cheating and unverifiable.

Appearing on Capital City Sunday broadcasting out of WKOW in Madison, Jacobs explained to host Darrielle Fair, pictured above, what happened and what the Commission is doing about it. On November 12 and December 3, just under 200 uncounted ballots were discovered in Madison. Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Madison City Clerk, chose not to report the uncounted ballots to the Commission until December 18, weeks after the Commission had certified the election on November 29. On December 26, Witzel-Behl issued a public statement disclosing the finding to the citizens of Madison and stressing the uncounted ballots would not have changed the outcome of any election. Jacobs told the viewing audience that the Commissioners unanimously used their authority to launch an immediate investigation. Don Millis, another Commissioner, said it was urgent that the Commission figure out if there was failure to follow procedures or if the procedures "aren't good enough."

Jacobs said the Commission will investigate "why the ballots weren't included, what processes allowed this to happen, and how to prevent a similar occurrence in the future." When asked by the host what the Commission

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DOGE *cont. from page 1*

that remain as dashed dreams.

So, what is this DOGE? It is easier to state what it is not. It is not an agency of the federal government or a federal advisory committee. So far, it lacks staff or access to government resources. It was not established by Executive Order. DOGE appears to be a government-approved, private-sector group that advises the Office of Management and Budget on driving waste, fraud, and abuse ("WFA") out of government. It will function as a government-approved lobbying organization that recommends restructuring the government.

DOGE is short-lived, expiring on July 4, 2026. What happens in between is anyone's guess. The only public information is that Musk is recruiting only "super high-IQ small-government revolutionaries" who must pay X a subscriber fee for the right to apply for a job that pays zero. This job description appears to be code for hiring young Wall Street investment bankers and lawyers whose firms will pay them to work on DOGE to protect their interests.

The pressure will be on the "M" part of M&R to perform a miracle. Musk owns Space X, a space exploration company that is literally NASA's recuse mission. Musk can send a rocket to a space station and return it to Earth by perfectly parking it in the confines of its launchpad.

Musk can accurately calculate trajectories and outcomes in space travel by following the laws of physics and mathematics. In government reform, however, M&R will quickly discover that the government operates under the chaos theory.

The chaos theory is the foundation of congressional action. The chaos theory explains the behavior of dynamic systems susceptible to initial conditions. While tiny errors between measurements taken closely in time do not make a significant difference, these minor errors between the first and last measurements over a longer period can be so substantial as to prevent an accurate forecast of anticipated behavior. Such a massive miscalculation is explained as the "Butterfly effect," in which a butterfly flaps its wings in one location, and all the insignificant changes in the winds over long distances cause the formation of a hurricane half a world away.

For "M" and his "high-IQ" revolutionaries to succeed, they must deal with Congress, one of the planet's most chaotic but essential institutions. M&R will not be able to calculate a starting point since every member of Congress is a potential measurement disruptor. Moreover, the non-paid helpers will recommend changes that simultaneously eliminate the 'legal privileges' given to many citizens while leaving the privileges of others intact. This disparity of treatment will multiply the uncertainty of its success. Dealing with the interplay of political, social, cultural, and economic forces is a matter of common sense and negotiating skills, not IQ.

The disconnect between common sense and a super-high IQ raises the question of how successfully DOGE can navigate chaos. It will be a real test of genius vs. chaos.

The essence of political chaos. Any chance of an outcome that benefits the nation must start with the essence of political chaos. Members of Congress represent constituents; as such, they do not hold power as individuals; they hold power as representatives of the people and trustees of the Constitution. The DOGE revolutionaries represent a cause.

Let's face it: For presidents who want to spend more money than they have or cut taxes to benefit parts of society, the universal "pay-for" is reducing WFA in government. Presidents utter those words instead of "abracadabra" to produce the illusion that they have special knowledge to make the impossible happen.

Focusing on WFA distracts the attention of presidents and Congress from the real issue. Yes, the federal government is too big and powerful and is mismanaged. The fundamental question is, who should reform it under our Constitution? The U.S. legal system comprises over 3000 separate criminal offenses in 53 titles of the U.S. Code, 23,000 pages of federal law, over 215,000 regulations, hundreds of millions of words, and an incomprehensible 7.7-million-word revenue-raising system. Beyond complexity, political chaos is made more unstable as Presidents regularly superimpose their demands over the intent of Congress by issuing hundreds of Executive Orders and twisting regulations beyond what Congress intended. The federal government is in a constant state of chaos.

Political chaos, however, allows the elite to persuade the government to grant them privileges not given to all. It is impossible to eliminate the chaos since every change produces more change. The clearest example of privilege is the federal tax code, a lobbyist-created money laundering scheme. My articles have argued for a return to the 1913 four-page Form 1040 for years. It taxed all income the same in the same income range with very few deductions. While it is the same for everyone, it is utterly abhorrent to the elite since their privileges would be eliminated.

So, what reform can DOGE propose that could become law? It depends on how it proceeds. If M&R acts as corporate chieftains barking pronouncements at the masses or as lobbyists for business interests, reform will fail miserably. To succeed in reform, DOGE must persuade Congress and a nation 80% distrustful of the federal government that their recommendations will produce a level playing field.

First, M&R and President Trump must set their guiding principles for the reform effort. The principles must be more than mouthing "efficiency" and "transparency" on X. Are they deficit reduction, tax fairness, regulatory relief, shrinking government, a return to the free market, or federal workforce reduction? Or all of the above and more? How will the DOGE make its decisions to achieve its goals? How will it measure success? How will it listen to the public? Most importantly, will its decision-making include Congress, a co-equal branch of government with the constitutional responsibility for raising and spending money and legislating? Or will the DOGE try to persuade President Trump to wrest control from Congress by impounding appropriated funds and jamming several Executive reorganizations through Congress?

Yes, working with Congress and being open to citizen comments is an excruciating process that will be utterly boring to the "high-IQ" revolutionaries. President Trump should not waste the time of M&R and the "high-IQ" geniuses to do another government audit that identifies WFA. Many WFA audits have been done, the reports rendered, and an enforcement structure is in place. If President Trump truly wants WFA reform, he should immediately implement the many excellent reports filed by previous commissions, GAO, CBO, and Inspector Generals over the years. A rapid implementation effort could save taxpayers tens of billions, perhaps hundreds of billions, but these WFA efforts will only make a small dent in the national debt. The highly respected Peterson Institute noted, "Curbing waste, fraud, and abuse sound[s] great but would not produce very significant savings."

The new Republican majority (White House and Congress) must think more deeply than WFA audits, firing civil servants, and shrinking agencies. A substantive restructuring of the federal government will require devolving many of the federal domestic powers to the states, the creation of a simple and fair income tax, and the return of the tens of millions of acres of unappropriated western lands it forced the states to relinquish as the price of admission to the union. These unappropriated lands give the federal government unreasonable control over the economies of many western states. These changes will allow the federal government to focus on its essential responsibilities—national defense, international commerce, and the economy.

If President Trump sincerely wants a smaller federal government, he should work with the Republican Congress to reestablish genuine federalism in the U.S. Otherwise, DOGE is only entertainment to distract citizens as it accumulates more power in the presidency.

William L. Kovacs, author of Devolution of Power: Rolling Back the Federal State to Preserve the Republic. It received 5 stars from Readers' Favorite. His previous book, Reform the Kakistocracy, received the 2021 Independent Press Award for Political/Social Change. He served as senior vice president for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and chief counsel to a congressional committee. He can be contacted at wlk@ReformTheKakistocracy.com

GOVERNMENT CIRCUS

Dig Deeper *cont. from page 10*

response might be if procedures were not followed, Jacobs emphasized that the intent was remedial not punitive. She said if the Clerk didn't follow procedures, she would be ordered not to do it again. Before this latest fiasco Maribeth Witzel-Behl already had a track record that should disqualify her for a City Clerk position. She is the Clerk who, during the COVID pandemic, presided over "Democracy in the Park" in Madison, an unlawful application of early in-person voting. When questions were raised by members of the public about the legality of these early voting events, rather than pause for review, Witzel-Behl defiantly and quickly merged those ballots with other ballots cast legally, preventing disqualifying any ballots determined to be illegal. There was no penalty for her "in your face" response. She is also the Clerk who allowed a full-time employee of her office, Bonnie Chang (featured in the January 5 Blast) to defraud the Madison taxpayers by working as a key member of the Madison staff while simultaneously working full time in Milwaukee as the Deputy Director of the Election Commission. Chang collected two full time paychecks and claimed residency in both Milwaukee and Madison for most of 2024. After the fraud was exposed, Chang was welcomed back to her position by Witzel-Behl.

The Wisconsin election system is riddled with serious flaws that make our elections unverifiable, yet program host Fair had no probing questions to ask. She was content to keep her focus narrow and provide Ann Jacobs the venue she was seeking to reassure the public that all is well with Wisconsin elections. It is likely the softball interview did not sit well with many voters across the state who have been fighting for the changes that will secure Wisconsin's elections from cheating.

The after program "smack down" that came next was right out of the liberal playbook of members of the media who don't do their jobs. One Wisconsin voter immediately reached out to challenge Darrielle Fair for neglecting to seriously investigate. He asked, "why reporters aren't more interested in asking more important questions." He made the case that investigating 200 uncounted votes in Madison was insignificant when compared with the real priorities for investigation such as the outrageous claim of nearly 90% voter turnout in Milwaukee County in the general election (20 points higher than the national average in the 50 largest cities) and the potential source of fraud created by thousands of driver's licenses issued to noncitizens. The viewer's conclusion: "When reporters don't dig deeper, confidence in reporters goes away. Because you didn't ask the important questions, my takeaway from this interview was that it was untrue. Perhaps it's a smokescreen to deceive watchers into thinking the WEC is 'on it' when it's really facilitating voter fraud or just incompetent."

Fair immediately fired back with one of the favorite liberal go to positions: racism. "There is no proof/evidence whatsoever of widespread voter fraud in this state although your very present bias and belief system wants that to be the case. I understand that Milwaukee is the city with the largest minority population size in this state, but I can assure you that has no bearing, nor does it make a 90% voter turnout rate unbelievable…as I am sure your bias would also like to create the fallacy that non-eligible voters are fraudulently casting their ballots in state elections, once again, you lack any sort of evidence to back your claims." "I will ignore your false claims on my journalistic integrity as I understand the purpose of this email…"

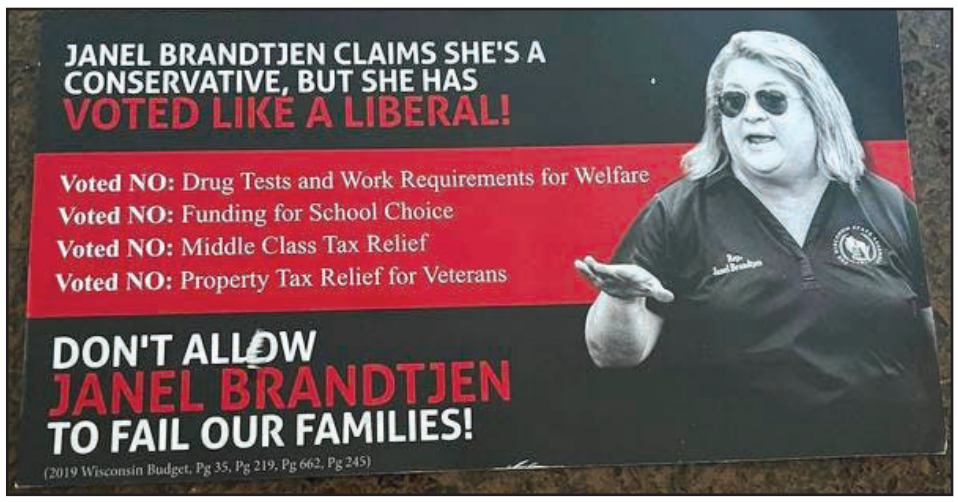
Nearly every week new evidence fuels the determination of a growing army of Wisconsin voters intent on correcting the flaws that make our election systems unverifiable. We are up against a legislature that has been unresponsive, a Wisconsin Elections Commission that is abetting voter fraud with faulty systems, and members of the media who act more as an arm of the Democratic party than champions of truth. We are rapidly approaching the April 1 election which will be as consequential for Wisconsin as the reelection of Donald Trump. Regaining a conservative majority in the Supreme Court with the election of Brad Schimel is on the line. There are 1,850 municipal clerks in the state who will be making decisions about local elections. While it is reasonable to assume most are diligent people working to ensure the will of the people prevails, there is no way to know how many Maribeth Witzel-Behls are out there. Spring elections are often decided by slim vote margins. There is no time to make the structural changes that are necessary or replace the unresponsive legislators and WEC Commissioners before April 1. Once again we are challenged to make the spring election too big to rig with massive voter turnout.

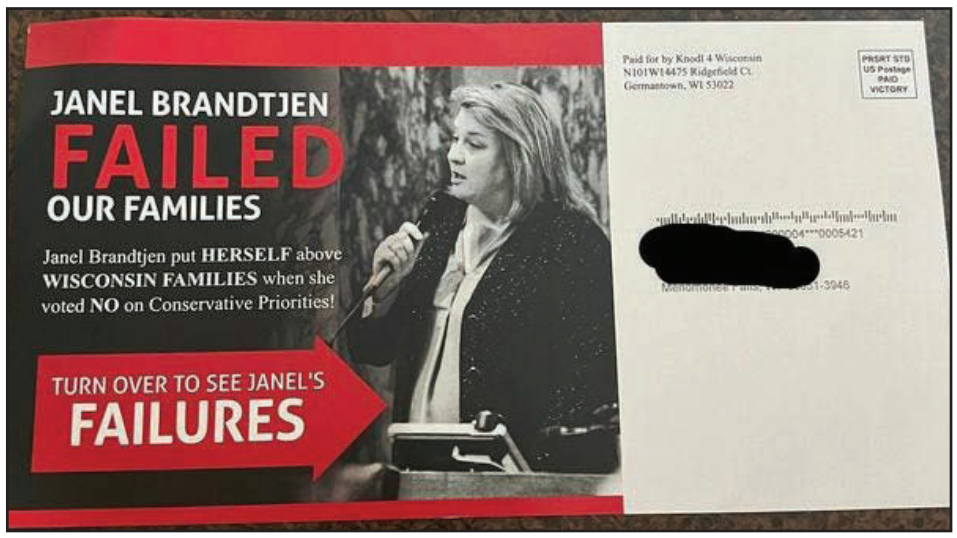
Throughout 2025 it will be critical to intensify and accelerate the election integrity movement and reject the continuous attempts to flip responsibility onto the voters. It is not the responsibility of the voters to prove voter fraud. It is the responsibility of the legislature to guarantee election systems are designed to make it possible to verify that every ballot cast is cast by an eligible voter. As we move forward, in the words of one Wisconsin voter, we have to dig a lot deeper.

No Honor in Wisconsin

By Bill Savage

Last August Dan Knodl "won" a primary against Janel Brandtjen by mailing this dishonest piece of garbage to voters in the district (see below). I have outlined quite clearly in past substacks how Dan Knodl's track record could not come close to matching Brandtjen's. See it here. I've often used the quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes "if the facts are with you, use the facts, if the facts are against you, pound the table" and below is a clear example of Dan Knodl pounding the table.





The flyer above is for Paid For By Dan Knodl! The flyer below is paid for by your truly!! :) I circulated the below flyer the Monday before the general election to a few thousand homes in Gundrum's district. I didn't want to cause Gundrum to lose. If he runs again it will be to every home in the district. He must be primaried as he has no honor. Gundrum proudly supported Dirty Dan Knodl even though Gundrum himself voted no on the same ridiculously bloated budget that the piece references. Senator Steve Nass also voted no and this flyer could just as easily have his name and picture on it. Nass is up for reelection in 2026, it's a shame that Nass didn't say a damn thing about Dirty Dan Knodl's antics. Maybe I'll stay quiet when it has Nass's name on it.

NOTE: I asked Senator Stroebel and the senator agreed it was "over the top" but then hid under his desk. Then he lost a republican leaning seat to a extreme liberal. Maybe Lt. Kendricks (A Few Good Men) was right, "He had no honor, no code, and God was watching."

ANOTHER NOTE: Any chance we will just "forget" and pretend this never happened? Not a snowball's chance in hell.

continued on page 21

Weaponize Crime History to Win
StopCrimeTosa.com

The Madison Monday Morning Report
Now on Substack!
THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATIVE DIGEST
wisconsinconservativedigest.substack.com
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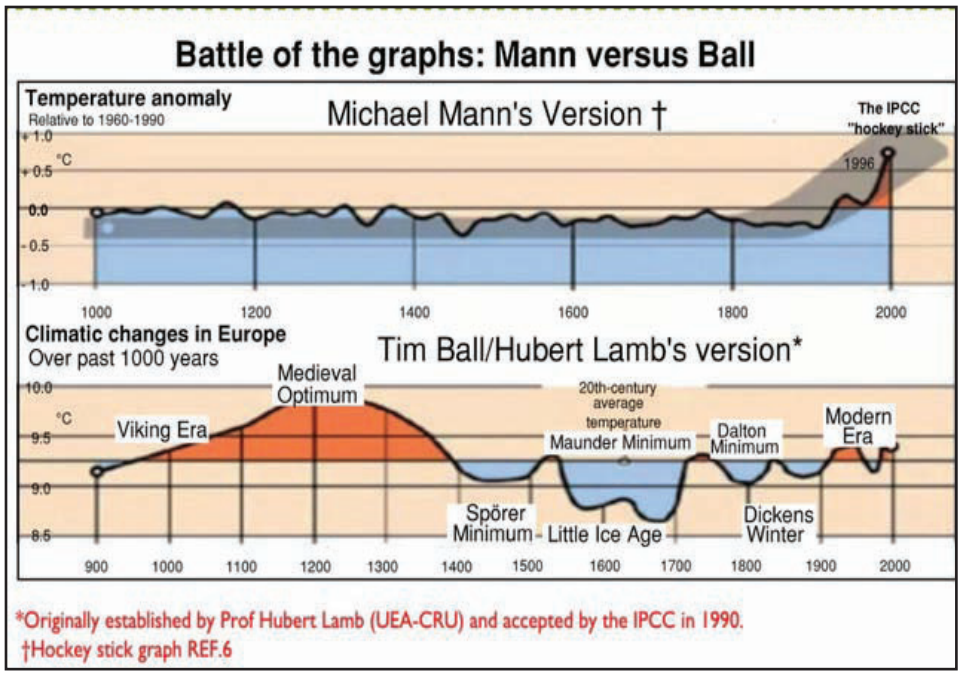
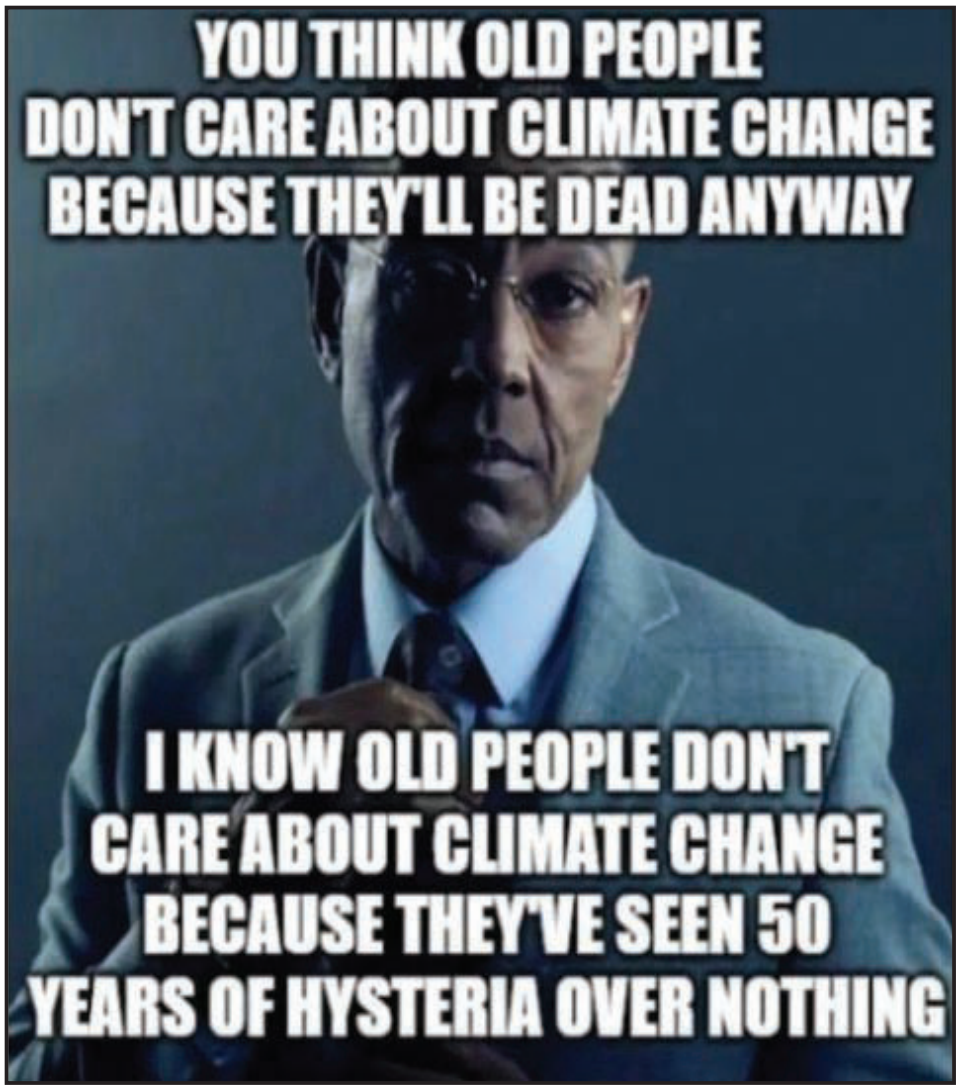
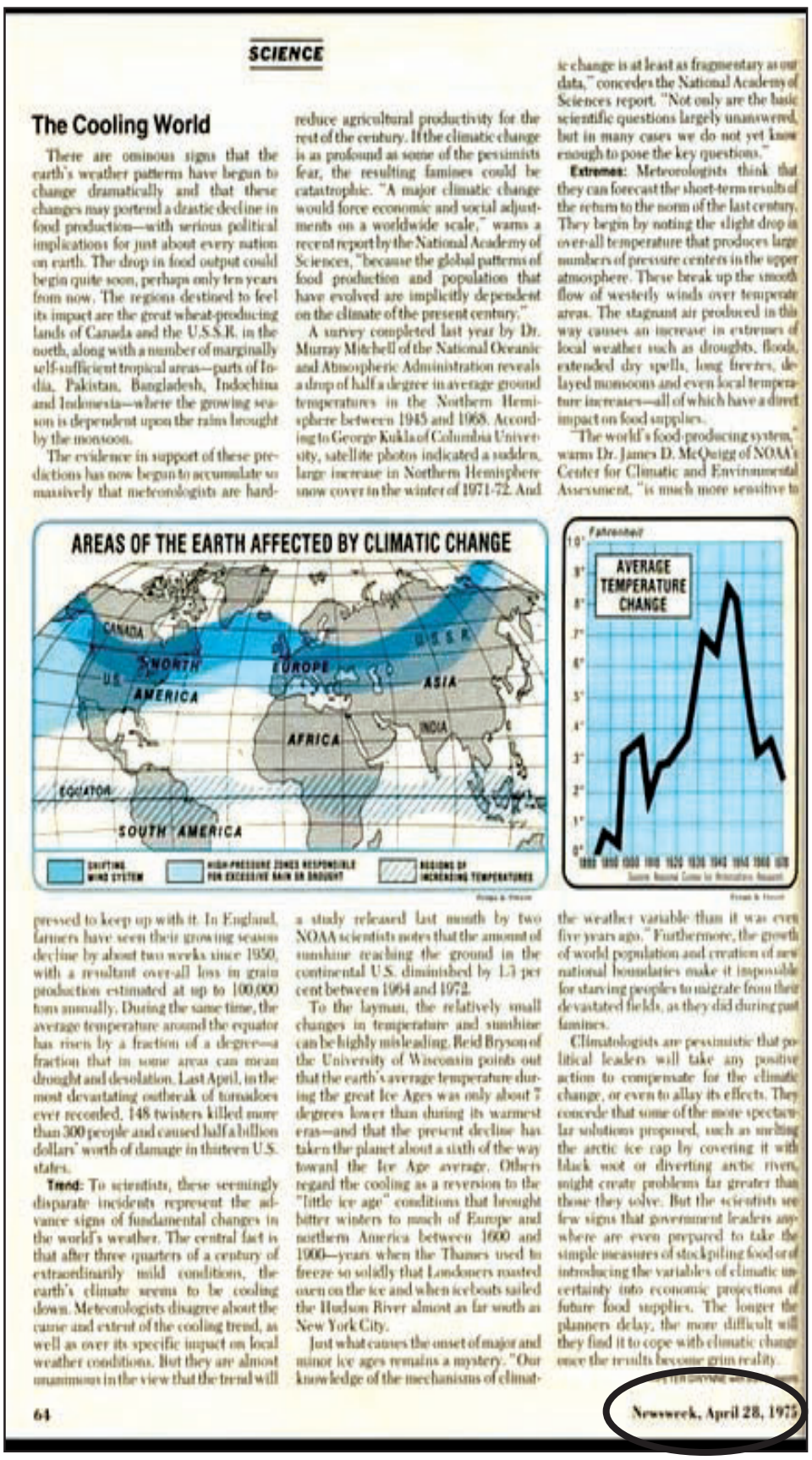




Newsweek Article, April 28, 1975



SCIENCE

The Cooling World

There are ominous signs that the earth's weather patterns have begun to change dramatically and that these changes may portend a drastic decline in food production—with serious political implications for just about every nation on earth. The drop in food output could begin quite soon, perhaps only ten years from now. The regions destined to feel its impact are the great wheat-producing lands of Canada and the U.S.S.R. in the north, along with a number of marginally self-sufficient tropical areas—parts of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indochina and Indonesia—where the growing season is dependent upon the rains brought by the monsoon.

The evidence in support of these predictions has now begun to accumulate so massively that meteorologists are hard-pressed to keep up with it. In England, farmers have seen their growing season decline by about two weeks since 1950, with a resultant over-all loss in grain production estimated at up to 100,000 tons annually. During the same time, the average temperature around the equator has risen by a fraction of a degree—a fraction that in some areas can mean drought and desolation. Last April, in the most devastating outbreak of tornadoes ever recorded, 148 twisters killed more than 300 people and caused half a billion dollars' worth of damage in thirteen U.S. states.

Trend: To scientists, these seemingly disparate incidents represent the advance signs of fundamental changes in the world's weather. The central fact is that after three quarters of a century of extraordinarily mild conditions, the earth's climate seems to be cooling down. Meteorologists disagree about the cause and extent of the cooling trend, as well as over its specific impact on local weather conditions. But they are almost unanimous in the view that the trend will reduce agricultural productivity for the rest of the century. If the climatic change is as profound as some of the pessimists fear, the resulting famines could be catastrophic. "A major climatic change would force economic and social adjustments on a worldwide scale," warns a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences, "because the global patterns of food production and population that have evolved are implicitly dependent on the climate of the present century."

A survey completed last year by Dr. Murray Mitchell of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reveals a drop of half a degree in average ground temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere between 1945 and 1968. According to George Kukla of Columbia University, satellite photos indicated a sudden, large increase in Northern Hemisphere snow cover in the winter of 1971-72. And a study released last month by two NOAA scientists notes that the amount of sunshine reaching the ground in the continental U.S. diminished by 1.3 per cent between 1964 and 1972.

To the layman, the relatively small changes in temperature and sunshine can be highly misleading. Reid Bryson of the University of Wisconsin points out that the earth's average temperature during the great Ice Ages was only about 7 degrees lower than during its warmest eras—and that the present decline has taken the planet about a sixth of the way toward the Ice Age average. Others regard the cooling as a reversion to the "little ice age" conditions that brought bitter winters to much of Europe and northern America between 1600 and 1900—years when the Thames used to freeze so solidly that Londoners roasted oxen on the ice and when iceboats sailed the Hudson River almost as far south as New York City.

Just what causes the onset of major and minor ice ages remains a mystery. "Our knowledge of the mechanisms of climatic change is at least as fragmentary as our data," concedes the National Academy of Sciences report. "Not only are the basic scientific questions largely unanswered, but in many cases we do not yet know enough to pose the key questions."

Extremes: Meteorologists think that they can forecast the short-term results of the return to the norm of the last century. They begin by noting the slight drop in over-all temperature that produces large numbers of pressure centers in the upper atmosphere. These break up the smooth flow of westerly winds over temperate areas. The stagnant air produced in this way causes an increase in extremes of local weather such as droughts, floods, extended dry spells, long freezes, delayed monsoons and even local temperature increases—all of which have a direct impact on food supplies.

"The world's food-producing system," warns Dr. James D. McQuigg of NOAA's Center for Climatic and Environmental Assessment, "is much more sensitive to the weather variable than it was even five years ago." Furthermore, the growth of world population and creation of new national boundaries make it impossible for starving peoples to migrate from their devastated fields, as they did during past famines.

Climatologists are pessimistic that political leaders will take any positive action to compensate for the climatic change, or even to allay its effects. They concede that some of the more spectacular solutions proposed, such as melting the arctic ice cap by covering it with black soot or diverting arctic rivers, might create problems far greater than those they solve. But the scientists see few signs that government leaders anywhere are even prepared to take the simple measures of stockpiling food or of introducing the variables of climatic uncertainty into economic projections of future food supplies. The longer the planners delay, the more difficult will they find it to cope with climatic change once the results become grim reality.

AREAS OF THE EARTH AFFECTED BY CLIMATIC CHANGE

CANADA
U.S.S.R.
NORTH AMERICA
EUROPE
ASIA
INDIA
AFRICA
EQUATOR
SOUTH AMERICA
SHIFTING WIND SYSTEM
HIGH-PRESSURE ZONES RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE RAIN OR DROUGHT
REGIONS OF INCREASING TEMPERATURES

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE CHANGE
Fahrenheit

64 Newsweek, April 28, 1975





Short Takes

By Ken Van Doren

We relish news of our heroes, forgetting that we are extraordinary to somebody too. -Helen Hayes

Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality. -Emily Dickinson

The best thing commercially, which is the worst artistically, by and large, is the most successful. -Orson Welles

The trouble with super heroes is what to do between phone booths. -Ken Kesey

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut, that held its ground. -David Icke

God cannot alter the past, though historians can. -Samuel Butler

Each moment of a happy lover's hour is worth an age of dull and common life. -Aphra Behn

I continue to get further away from the usual painter's tools such as easel, palette, brushes, etc. -Jackson Pollock

Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing. -Wernher von Braun

America forms the longest and straightest bone in the earth's skeleton. -Ellsworth Huntington

True originality consists not in a new manner but in a new vision. -Edith Wharton

Love is the ultimate expression of the will to live. -Tom Wolfe

Nature scarcely ever gives us the very best; for that we must have recourse to art. -Baltasar Gracian

The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret. -Henny Youngman

God gives the nuts, but he does not crack them. -Franz Kafka

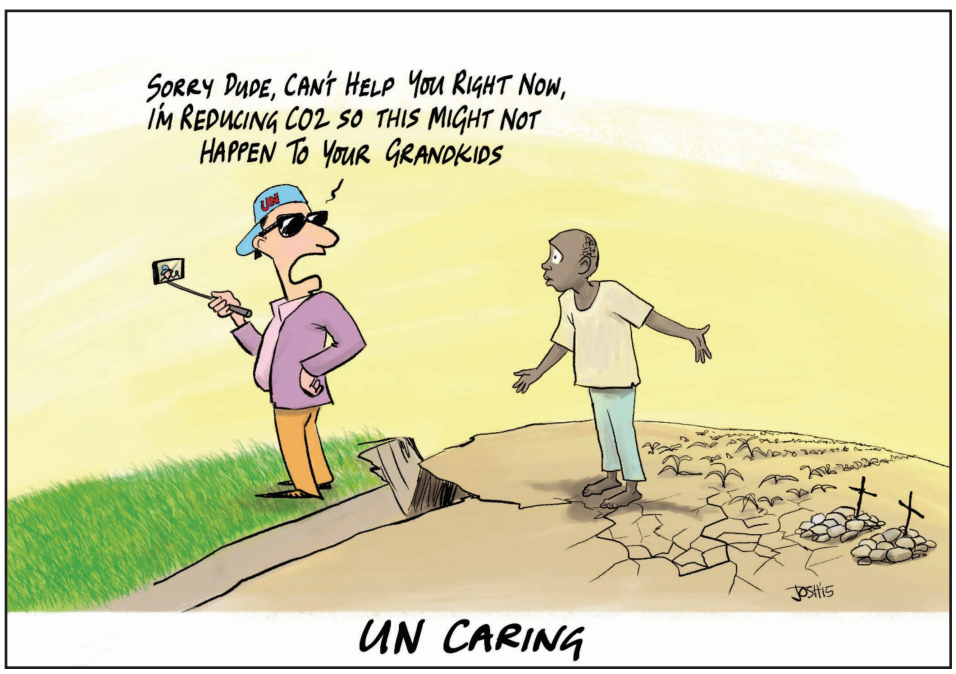
Vegetation is the basic instrument the creator uses to set all of nature in motion. -Antoine Lavoisier

We've had bad luck with our kids - they've all grown up. -Christopher Morley

You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection. -Buddha

Wisdom to Live By

"When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear." - Thomas Sowell

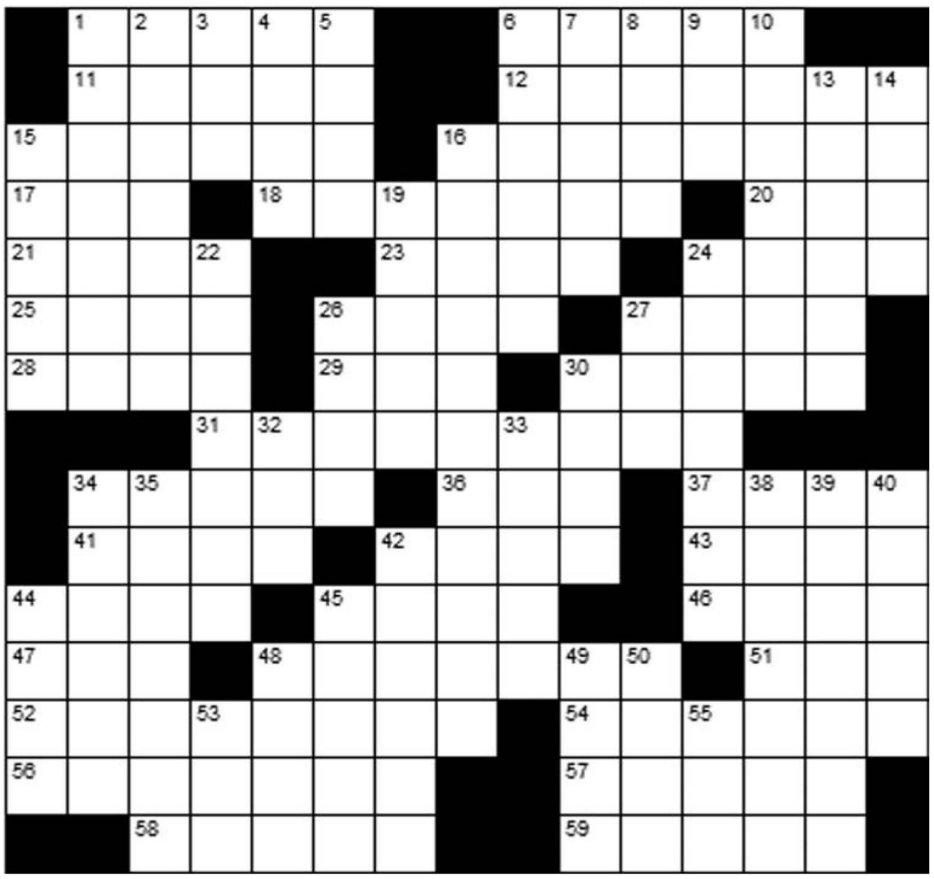


THE GAME PAGE

Crossword Puzzler

ACROSS
1. Pathfinder
6. Assists
11. Purple shade
12. Emissaries
15. Middle
16. Egregious
17. Possessed
18. Deciduous horns
20. Letter after sigma
21. Colored part of an eye
23. Pigs
24. Lacking intellectual acuity
25. Docile
26. Pout
27. Carry
28. Countercurrent
29. Hotel
30. Artist's workstand
31. Parties (slang)
34. Kiss lightly
36. Terminate
37. Footnote note
41. Trim
42. Mining finds
43. Therefore
44. Breeze
45. Journey
46. Peel
47. American Dental Association
48. A type of chapel
51. Band booking
52. Providing (food or tales)
54. Ventilate
56. Soon
57. Coast
58. Chain of hills
59. Church officer

DOWN
1. Besmirched
2. Sugar-coated
3. Not in
4. Eye layer
5. Small slender gull
6. Accuse
7. Tolerates
8. Hens make them
9. Black gunk
10. Ordinance
13. Hard glossy coating
14. Counterfoil
15. Ring
16. Struggling
19. G-string
22. Heavenward
24. File
26. Furry mammal
27. Children's game
30. Concludes
32. Frozen water
33. Bumbling
34. Arachnid
35. Coach
38. Army unit
39. Lighter
40. Avoid
42. A citrus fruit
44. Merchandise
45. An object
48. Lummox
49. Anger
50. Scream
53. Anagram of "Ail"
55. Disencumber



Answers on page 19

Soduko

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

9		6				4		2
7			9		3			5
			4		1			
	6		8		7		4	
4	9						2	7
	7		5		2		9	
			6		4			
2			1		5			4
6		5				7		1

Answers on page 19

Consensus *cont. from page 3*

is that professional societies were also obvious targets. Such societies are generally led by an executive director who can, sometimes indirectly, speak for thousands of members who are busy with their professional activities. Capturing a single figure is likely easier than capturing department faculties. My wife attended a meeting of the Modern Language Association in the late '60s, and it was already fully "woke." Foundations, flush with cash, were also obvious targets. The Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation are notable examples.

The Long March Through the Industries

While there is currently a focus on the capture of education, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) was not the only goal of the march through the institutions. I think it would be a mistake to ignore the traditional focus of revolutionary movements on the means of production. The vehicle for this was the capture of the environmental movement. Prior to 1970, the focus of this movement was on things like whales, endangered species, landscape, clean air and water, and population. However, with the first Earth Day in April of 1970, the primary focus turned to the energy sector—which, after all, is fundamental to all production and, relatedly, involves trillions of dollars. As we will see, this last item was fundamental.

This new focus was accompanied by the creation of new environmental organizations like Environmental Defense and the Natural Resources Defense Council. It was also accompanied by new governmental organizations like the EPA and the Department of Transportation. Once again, professional societies were easy pickings: the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and even the honorary societies like the National Academy of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, etc. The capture of the Royal Society in the UK was an obvious European example.

There was a bit of floundering to begin with. The movement initially attempted to focus on global cooling due to the reflection of sunlight by sulfate aerosols emitted by coal-fired generators. After all, there seemed to have been global cooling between the 1930s and the 1970s. However, the cooling ended in the 1970s. There was an additional effort to tie the sulfates to acid rain, which was allegedly killing forests. It wasn't long, however, before the affected forests had recovered. In the '70s, attention turned to CO2 and its contribution to warming via the greenhouse effect.

The attraction of CO2 to political control freaks was obvious. It was the inevitable product of all burning of carbon-based fuels. It was also the product of breathing. However, there was a problem: CO2 was a minor greenhouse gas compared to naturally produced water vapor. Doubling CO2 would only lead to warming of less than 1oC. Then, in the early '70s, a paper by Syukuro Manabe and Richard Wetherald came to the rescue.

Using a highly unrealistic one-dimensional model of the atmosphere, Manabe and Wetherald assumed (without any basis) that relative humidity would remain constant as the atmosphere warmed. They found that the resulting positive feedback would amplify the impact of CO2 by a factor of 2. This violated Le Chatelier's Principle, which held that natural systems tended to oppose change. But, to be fair, the principle had not been rigorously proven.

Positive feedbacks now became the stock-in-trade of all climate models, which suddenly began producing responses to doubling CO2 of 3oC and even 4oC rather than a paltry 1oC or less. The enthusiasm of politicians became boundless. Virtue signaling elites promised to achieve net zero emissions within a decade (or two, or three) without the faintest idea of how to achieve this without destroying their society (and, in the case of off-shore wind, killing marine mammals).

Ordinary people, confronted with impossible demands on their own well-being, have not found warming of a few degrees to be very impressive. The warming projected was within the range that everyone successfully negotiates every day. By contrast, most educated elites learned how to rationalize anything to please their professors—a skill that leaves them particularly vulnerable to propaganda. But few ordinary people contemplate retiring to the arctic rather than Florida.

Excited politicians, confronted by this resistance, have frantically changed their story. Rather than emphasizing small changes in their temperature metric (which, itself, is a false measure of climate), they now point to weather extremes which occur almost daily some place on earth, as proof not only of climate change but of climate change due to increasing CO2 (and now also to even more negligible contributors to the greenhouse effect like methane and nitrous oxide). Such extremes show no significant correlation with the emissions. From the political point of view, however, extremes provide convenient visuals that have more emotional impact than small temperature changes.

Birth of a Consensus

The desperation of political figures often drives them so far as to claim that climate change is an existential threat (associated with alleged "tipping points"). This despite a complete absence of theoretical or observational support, and despite the fact that official documents produced to support climate concerns (for example, the Working Group 1 reports of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC) never come close to substantiating these worst-case projections.

There was one exception to the obsession with warming, and that was the ozone depletion issue. However, even this issue served a purpose. When Richard Benedick, the American negotiator of the Montreal Convention which banned Freon, passed through MIT on his way back from Montreal, he gloated over his success. But he assured us that we hadn't seen anything yet: we should wait to see what they would do with CO2. In brief, the ozone issue constituted a dry run for global warming. To be sure, the EPA's activities still include conventional pollution control, but energy dominates.

Of course, the attraction of power is not the only thing motivating politicians. The ability to award trillions of dollars to reorient our energy sector means that there are recipients of these trillions of dollars. These recipients must share just a few percentage points of these trillions of dollars to support the campaigns of these politicians for many election cycles and guarantee the support of these politicians for the policies associated with the reorientation.

That the claim of consensus was always propagandistic should be obvious. But the history of the claim itself is interesting in its own right. Global warming was first introduced as a concept to the American public in a 1988 Senate hearing, at which James Hansen from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York testified. This, itself, was somewhat surprising. Hansen was primarily a space scientist. He was not considered a specialist in climate. How he came to be the voice of climate alarm is worth recounting.

In the 1960's, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland created a satellite center in New York, the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) that was headed by Dr. Robert Jastrow. When Jastrow left GISS in the 1970's, Greenbelt attempted to close GISS, and, indeed, most of the people at GISS returned to Greenbelt. However, a small group, led by James Hansen, decided to remain in New York. NASA cut their funding. But EPA came to their rescue with the proviso that the research at GISS turn

continued on page 15

Depraved *cont. from page 5*

A "Statistically Insignificant" Number

For the average person their bank balance number is extremely important and the closer it approaches Zero the more significant it becomes. Here are how those words are used in Science.

A "Statistically Insignificant" number is one that is so small that it's effect is Zero or nothing and ignored in any scientific theory/computation.

Numbers

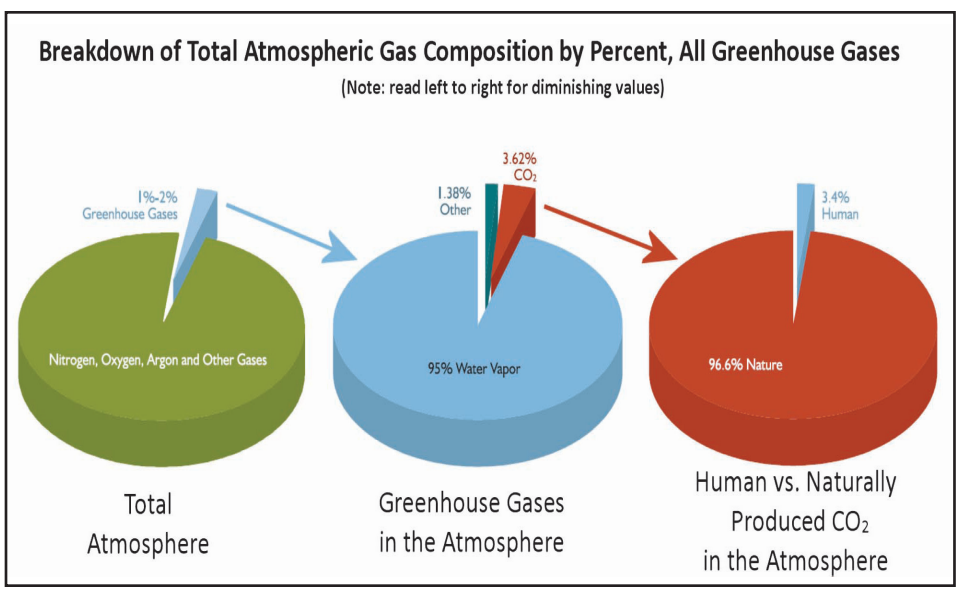
- Estimated size of earth's atmosphere~4.2 Billion cubic Kilometres
- Estimated Global Warming since 1850~1.1°C (14 to 15 degrees C/7.14%)
- Estimated rise in C02 (Carbon Dioxide) since 1850 -140ppm (parts per million/280 to 420)
- Estimated present atmospheric C02 Anthropogenic (man made) amount – 3.4%
- 3.4% of 140 ppm = 4.76 ppm (parts per MILLION)

Question

We have been told that all Global Warming has been Anthropogenic, caused by burning Fossil Fuels. Therefore, using the values cited above, is that a logical theory??

Data

Heartland.org is a 40 year old non profit organization that has recently created a series titled Climate at a Glance. Here is the Link. Open this link re the presentation below for more data. Note the source citations, most of them being government.



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Sat., February 8; 10:00 AM - 2:00PM
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Prospering Lives. CFACT works to help people find better ways to provide for food, water, energy and other essential human services.

Promoting Progress. CFACT advocates the use of safe, affordable technologies and the pursuit of economic policies that reduce pollution and waste, and maximize the use of resources.

Protecting the Earth. CFACT helps protect the earth through wise stewardship of the land and its wildlife.

Providing Education. CFACT educates various sectors of the public about important facts and practical solutions regarding environmental concerns.

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Exploiting California's tragic fires for climate propaganda is just wrong

By Craig Rucker

Shameless!

Thousands of Californians have been burned out of their homes. The danger is not yet over. It's hard to breathe. People lie dead in the ashes of their American dream.

For people of good conscience, this is a time for empathy, prayer, and whatever aid is needed to keep survivors safe, help them rebuild, and improve government's ability to prevent and respond in the future.

For climate kleptocrats and ideologues, every crisis is an opportunity to increase their wealth and power.

Climate campaigners are "weaponizing every weather event," is how CFACT's Marc Morano put it on the radio.

Bogus "attribution" has become the woke-climate campaigner's favorite weapon. Whenever tragic weather strikes, the media parrots campaigners' claims that climate change makes extreme weather "more likely."

How much more likely?

If the media was doing its job, reporters would vet these claims by following up with, "how meaningful was the climate change impact on this event?" This would force campaigners to concede that the impact was minimal, or not present. Particularly, if opposing analysis was fairly included.

We posted an explanation by data prodigy Chris Martz at CFACT.org.

"To a hammer," the saying goes, "everything looks like a nail." To Socialist Senator Bernie Sanders, everything looks like a pretext to expand the power of government.

Sanders, predictably, jumped on X, attributed the fires to climate and demanded that "Donald Trump must treat this like the existential crisis it is," i.e, submit to the UN climate regime.

Chris Martz was having none of it.

"Hi there Colonel Sanders." Chris tweeted. "Do you like facts? I hope you do, because you're about to be sacked with some."

Take a look at the epic sacking that ensued. Chris laid out the hard, historical weather data with detailed support from the high holy peer-reviewed scientific literature on California, fire and climate.

To sum up, the Santa Ana Winds blow hard every year. Past fires have been almost universally attributed to human causes, not how you use energy. Fallen power lines are frequently to blame, along with other accidents, and arson -- which is no accident at all.

This current round of fires became a blast furnace when the Santa Ana winds reached hurricane force at the same time the fires burned. No amount of wind turbines, solar panels or electric vehicles could have saved the day.

Better forest, water and emergency management might have minimized them, and certainly would have mitigated their impact.

The Pacific Palisades have burned before. That is historically normal. What is new is the billions of dollars of development that has occurred since the last time they did.

How meaningful would the impact of better, smarter government have been? Very meaningful.

Pray for those whose lives and homes have been lost.

Lend them your helping hand.

Take action to ensure California is better prepared next time.



President Trump gets it on wind

By Craig Rucker

President Trump famously predicted that Americans would "get tired of all the winning."The incoming President made clear in a Mar-a-Lago press conference just how thoroughly in sync he is with CFACT's position on wind turbines.

This is a big win for America, though we at CFACT don't expect to tire of winning just yet.



"Windmills are littered across our country like dropping paper, like dropping garbage," Trump said. "It is the most expensive energy ever. They only work if they get subsidies. The only people who want them are the people getting rich off the subsidies. So we're going to try and have a policy where no windmills are being built... Off the coast of New Jersey they want to build like 200 windmills and people are going crazy. Nobody wants them... You see what's happening in the Massachusetts area with the whales. They had two whales wash ashore in a seventeen year period and now they had, what, fourteen this season. The windmills are driving the whales crazy."

Yet, wind turbines and solar panels have developed cult status in the climate world.

Indeed, CFACT once erected model wind turbines beside models of the famous "Moai" heads of Easter Island at a UN climate conference in Bonn. We named the turbines "totems of our times" and mused on future archaeologists wondering why exactly we erected them. Maybe they served a ritual purpose for the cult of the day?

President Trump went on to explain the impossibility of recycling the massive fiberglass turbine blades and the critical need for a reliable electric grid in light of the increasing power demands of the A.I. revolution.

The climate kleptocrats cashing in on wind and solar will fight tooth and nail to keep their money. Climate pressure groups will claw along beside them to retain their power.

Stopping further environmental destruction from wind and solar and fostering affordable, realistic electricity generation won't be easy.

We admire President Trump for understanding our nation's energy needs and taking a clear stand.

CFACT looks forward to providing the new Administration and the public with the facts we all need to power our future.

Consensus *cont. from page 14*

to climate. Apparently, Hansen's friend, Michael Oppenheimer, then the Barbara Streisand Scientist at Environmental Defense (subsequently a professor of climate policy at Princeton), was on the EPA review panel that recommended this.

In covering Hansen's testimony, Newsweek Magazine printed a cover showing the Earth on fire with the subtitle "All scientists agree." This was at a time when there were only a handful of institutions dealing with climate, and even these institutions were more concerned with understanding the present climate rather than the impact of CO2 on climate (in fact, many very prominent scientists opposed the claim that increasing CO2 was a significant danger to climate due to man's industrial emissions. A select group of these are listed in the linked appendix). Nonetheless, a few politicians (most notably Al Gore) were already making this their signature issue. And, when the Clinton-Gore administration won election in 1992, there began a rapid increase by a factor of about 15 in funding related to climate. This, indeed, created a major increase in individuals claiming to work on climate, who understood that the support demanded agreement about the alleged danger of CO2.

So it was that whenever there was an announcement of a discovery that needed to be made (e.g., that the medieval warm period never happened, or that some historical change or other could be attributed to CO2), there were inevitably so-called scientists who would claim to have found what was asked for and who then received remarkable rewards and recognition despite making highly questionable arguments.

This did produce a consensus of sorts. It was not a consensus that we were facing an existential threat, but rather that the projected increase in GDP by the end of the 21st century would be decreased from about 200% to 197%. Even this prediction is an exaggeration—especially since it ignores the undeniable benefits of CO2.

So here we are, confronted with policies that destroy western economies, impoverish the working middle class, condemn billions of the world's poorest to continued poverty and increased starvation, leave our children despairing over the alleged absence of a future, and will enrich the enemies of the West who are enjoying the spectacle of our suicide march, a march that the energy sector cowardly accepts, being too lazy to exert the modest effort needed to check what is being claimed. As Voltaire once noted, "Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities." Hopefully, we will awaken from this nightmare before it is too late.

This piece originally appeared at AmericanMind.com and has been republished here with permission.

Bird Flu *cont. from page 1*

including serial passage and GOF research, could have contributed to the emergence of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b. However, causation has not been established, and further investigation is urgently needed to confirm these findings and to identify all H5N1 laboratory leaks that may have occurred with a focus on mallard ducks and other migratory waterfowl, which have the potential to infect a large number of poultry and livestock facilities around the world. A moratorium on GOF research including serial passage of H5N1 is indicated to prevent a man-made influenza pandemic affecting animals and humans.

A few notable life science professionals who publish on Substack have apparently drawn the conclusion that concerns about Gain-of-Function work on H5N1 are either overblown or completely unfounded. Based on my careful reading of the literature on H5N1, I am not so sure.

The public is being told that there is an influenza virus circulating that primarily affects birds, but that has also expanded its host range to infect mammals—most notably domesticated cattle and marine mammals. I suspect that some elements of this representation are based in factual reality, while others may be exaggerated or fabricated.

The proper why to get to the bottom of this story is to launch a criminal investigation, the rationale for which is the massive destruction of property that has already occurred—namely, the culling of millions of chickens and the purported deaths of hundreds of thousands of cattle in California.

Cattle in California allegedly killed by latest clade of H5N1 bird flu.

If these animals were killed by masked brigands, an investigation would be performed to detect the perpetrators and to prosecute them for wanton destruction of livestock. It is only because the deaths of these animals are allegedly the result of a natural phenomenon—and not human agency—that no criminal investigation has been launched.

Here it should be noted that the USDA is aware of a 2021 paper titled 'H5Nx Viruses emerged during the suppression of H5N1 virus populations in poultry' by a research team of the University of Georgia:

We show that H5Nx viruses emerged during the successful suppression of H5N1 virus populations in poultry [in China], providing an opportunity for antigenically distinct H5Nx viruses to propagate. Avian influenza vaccination programs would benefit from universal vaccines targeting a wider diversity of influenza viruses to prevent the emergence of novel subtypes [6].

The findings of these researchers present an illustrative case of Dr. Geert Vanden Bossche's thesis that mass vaccination with nonsterilizing vaccines can result in the emergence of a new, more virulent viral strain [7]. As the University of Georgia team note, "In particular, we show that the widespread use of H5N1 vaccines likely conferred a fitness advantage to H5Nx virusesdue to the antigenic mismatch of the neuraminidase genes" [6].

Likewise, conventional wisdom has it that H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b was first detected in October 2020 in the Netherlands, and that this clade purportedly evolved from H5Nx viruses and possesses even greater pathogenic functions [8].

An especially striking feature of the newly emerged H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b is how rapidly it spread from birds in Europe to birds in North America. This rapid spread contrasts with the previously slow intercontinental spread of the goose/ Guangdong-lineage of H5N1. After emerging in China in 1996, it was first detected in Europe in 2005, and then in the United States in 2014 [9].

While it apparently took nine years for earlier variants to spread from Europe to the United States, H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b was first detected in the Netherlands in October 2020 and then in the United States in late 2021 [8,9]. What could account for the new variant's extraordinarily rapid intercontinental spread?

In a July 11, 2022 paper in Nature titled 'Transatlantic spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 by wild birds from Europe to North America in 2021,' a large international team offered the hypothesis that birds migrating from Europe to Iceland and other North Atlantic islands, and from there to North America in 2021, must have carried the virus across the Atlantic [10]. As they noted in their conclusion:

The HPAI H5N1 viruses that were detected in Newfoundland in November and December 2021 originated from Northwest Europe and belonged to HPAI clade 2.3.4.4b. Most likely, these viruses emerged in Northwest Europe in winter 2020/2021, dispersed from Europe in late winter or early spring 2021, and arrived in Newfoundland in autumn 2021. The viruses may have been carried across the Atlantic by migratory birds using different routes, including Icelandic, Greenland/ Arctic, or pelagic routes. The unusually high presence of the viruses in European wild bird populations in late winter and spring 2021, as well as the greater involvement of barnacle and greylag geese in the epidemiology of HPAI in Europe since October 2020, may explain why spread to Newfoundland happened this winter (2021/2022), and not in the previous winters" [10].

This conclusion contains an implausible element and a notable omission. First, the hypothetical spread of a new avian influenza variant by migratory birds from Europe to North America by crossing the North Atlantic has never been documented before and therefore appears to be unprecedented. Second, the paper's conclusion omits the fact that at the same time (December 2021) the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b was purportedly detected in birds in Newfoundland, it was also detected in ducks in South Carolina, just two hundred miles east of the USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (SEPRL), which began performing serial passage experiments with H5Nx viruses on mallard ducks in the spring of 2021 [11-13]. H5Nx viruses share the H5 hemagglutinin (HA) protein but have different Neuraminidase (NA) proteins, ranging from H5N1 to H5N9.

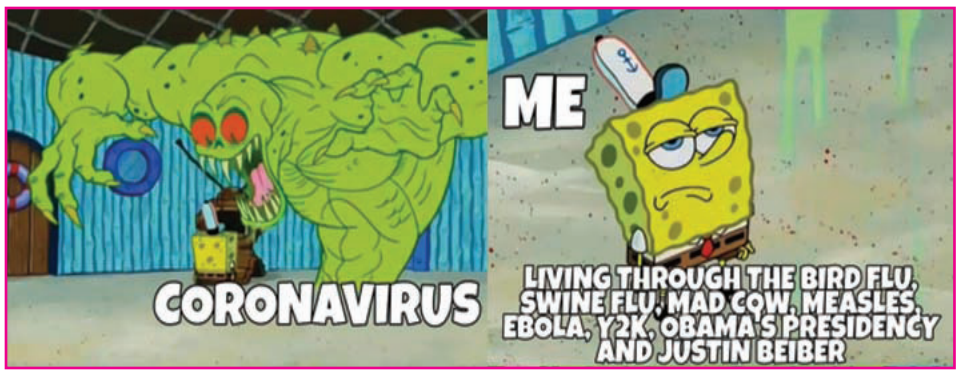
It seems to me that simply dismissing the entire literature on H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b as mere fiction—fabricated for the purpose of manipulating the public—is not a sensible approach to this phenomenon. There is indeed abundant evidence that the true objective of Gain-of-Function research is to create new pathogens in order to justify the world's government spending billions on new vaccines, thereby enriching people in the vaccine business.

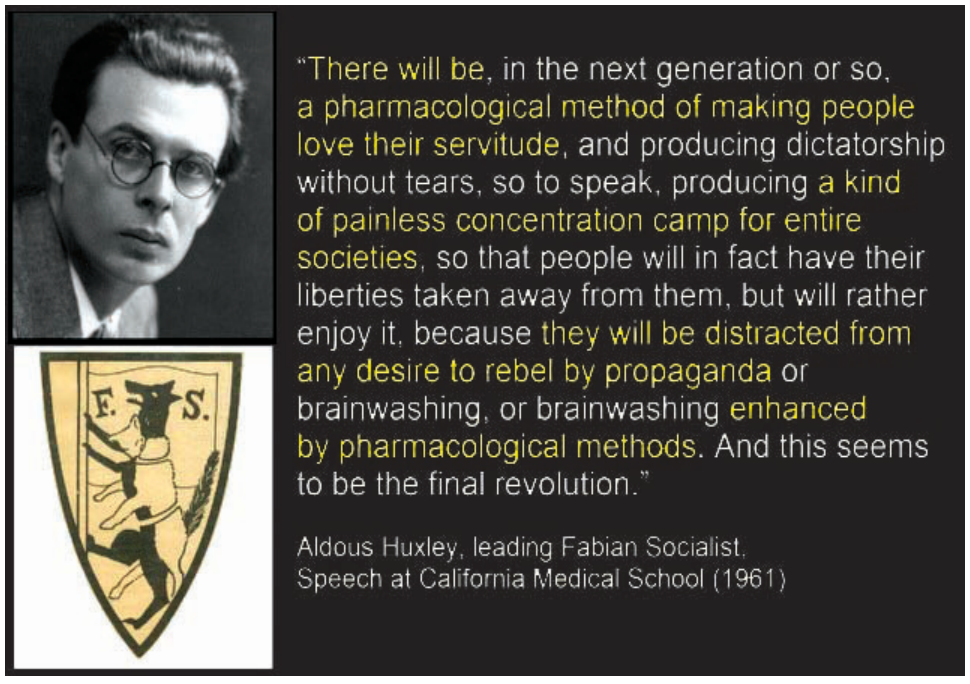
However, this does NOT warrant simply dismissing the proposition that GoF-manipulated H5N1 viruses pose a clear and present danger to human health. Dismissing this proposition ignores mankind's recent catastrophic experience with SARS-CoV-2 and the mountain of evidence that it originated in a lab.

Whether or not the public can be manipulated into accepting yet another dubious mass vaccination campaign will likely depend on whether or not an alarming number of people fall gravely ill. Theoretical models of disease spread and news media reporting probably won't suffice. Reasonable adults will only become afraid if they have the experience of friends and family members falling gravely ill.

However, it seems to me that the phenomenon that is being called H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b should not only be a matter of debate among life science professionals, but should be the subject of a rigorous criminal investigation.

There is plenty of evidence that this virus is being manipulated in university and USDA laboratories. What exactly these bio-technicians have done and continue to do should be ascertained by law enforcement agencies with the power to subpoena documents and witnesses.









Bill Gates *cont. from page 1*

world today has 6.8 billion people. That's headed up to about 9 billion. Now if we do a really great job on new vaccines, healthcare, reproductive health services, we could lower that by perhaps ten or fifteen percent.

It is difficult if not impossible to understand how vaccines—which are supposed to prevent people from dying of infectious diseases—will help to reduce the world's population. It is also notable that Gates linked vaccines not only to public health, but also to his other great project for humanity and planet earth—reducing carbon emissions.

In 2010, Gates proclaimed at the WEF's annual meeting in Davos, "We must make this the decade of vaccines." To pursue this objective, his foundation collaborated with the WHO, UNICEF, and NIAID "to increase coordination across the international vaccine community and create a Global Vaccine Action Plan." Nine years later—at the January 2019 WEF meeting in Davos—he announced his foundation's return on the $10 billion it had invested in vaccine development.

"We feel there's been over a 20-to-1 return, yielding $200 billion over those 20 or so years," he told CNBC's Betty Quick on Squawk Box. This was, as he'd written in an essay for the Wall Street Journal the week before, "The Best Investment I've Ever Made."

In January 2019, Gates was the patron saint of the Bio-Pharmaceutical Complex. His public image had come a long way since 1998, when the United States sued Microsoft for violating the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1898. The government successfully argued that Microsoft had abused its monopoly power with its operating system and web browser integration at the grave expense of several competitors. Gates's videotaped deposition on August 27, 1998, was leaked to the public, and many remarked that it was a masterpiece of sullen arrogance and petulance. The video recordings "show a mogul who is incredulous that the government would dare to obstruct his route to world domination," as Professor John Naughton wrote in an opinion for The Guardian. Gates was, it seemed, a man unaccustomed to being challenged by anyone.

Presiding U.S. District of Columbia, Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, wrote of the defendant as follows:

Microsoft is a company with an institutional disdain for both the truth and for rules of law that lesser entities must respect. It is also a company whose senior management is not averse to offering specious testimony to support spurious defenses to claims of its wrongdoing.

At the time Judge Jackson wrote this opinion, it wasn't controversial. In 1998, the 43-year-old year old Gates—the world's richest man—was frequently compared to John D. Rockefeller, widely regarded as the most ruthless monopolist of all time. Reflecting on Judge Jackson's opinion in a June 2000 essay, University of Illinois history professor Richard Jensen referred to Gates as "the new Rockefeller" for his strong-arming of PC companies "in order to squelch the competitive threat posed by Netscape."

At about the same time Professor Jensen penned his essay, Gates founded the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He modeled it after the Rockefeller Foundation, which was started by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and his son John D. Rockefeller Jr., along with their advisor, Frederick Taylor Gates (no relation to Bill) in 1913. In recent years the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations have collaborated on many international public health issues. In 2016, a major study of their activities was published by the independent Global Policy Forum. As the Guardian reported the study:

Using their immense wealth and influence with political and scientific elites, organisations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and others are promoting solutions to global problems that may undermine the UN and other international organisations, says the report …

"Through the sheer size of their grant-making, personal networking and active advocacy, large global foundations have played an increasingly active role in shaping the agenda-setting and funding priorities of international organisations and governments. … Through their multiple channels of influence, the Rockefeller and Gates foundations have been very successful in promoting their market-based and bio-medical approaches towards global health challenges in the research and health policy community—and beyond."

In the same year that Bill Gates started his foundation, he invited NIAID Director Anthony Fauci to visit him at his $127 million mansion on Lake Washington. As Fauci later recalled the occasion:

"Melinda was showing everyone on a tour of the house. And he said, 'Can I have some time with you in my library,' this amazingly beautiful library. … And it was there that he said, 'Tony, you run the biggest infectious disease institute of the world. And I want to be sure the money I spend is well spent. Why don't we really get to know each other? Why don't we be partners?'"

The partnership between Bill Gates and Anthony Fauci—along with their ally the Wellcome Trust—controls somewhere around 57% of global biomedical research funding.

The Gates Foundation also wields vast influence is the mass media. On August 21, 2020, the Columbia Journalism Review published long, meticulous report titled "Journalism's Gates keepers." The reporter, Tim Schwab, found $250 million of Gates Foundation grants to radio and television newsrooms (including $17.5 million to NPR alone) newspapers, journalism organizations, and advertising firms that create content. The Foundation has also given grants to the Poynter Institute and Gannett, whose PolitFact and USA Today fact checking departments have defended Gates from what they characterize as "false conspiracy theories" and "misinformation" about his influence over public health policy. As the author pointed out, "The full scope of Gates's giving to the news media remains unknown because the foundation only publicly discloses money awarded through charitable grants, not through contracts."

The Gates-Fauci partnership also works closely with major pharmaceutical companies, which have well-documented histories of suppressing old but effective generic drugs in order to promote new, commercially valuable medications. A 2017 article in the Harvard Business Review titled "How Pharma Companies Game the System to Keep Drugs Expensive" enumerated the tricks of the trade. This report derived much of its data from a 2016 study published in the Blood medical journal. Reviewing the industry's influence in shaping public perceptions and policy, the authors wrote:

From 1998 to 2013, pharmaceutical lobbying interests were 42% larger than the second highest-paying industry (health insurance). The $2.7 billion effort … almost equaled the combined contributions of Big Oil ($1.3 billion) and the defense industry ($1.5 billion). An even greater financial commitment is made to advertising. The United States and New Zealand are the only 2 countries that allow prescription medications to be advertised on television. In 2012, nearly $3.5 billion was invested in the United States in pharmaceutical marketing. For every dollar spent on research, an average of >$2 (sometimes up to $19) is spent on marketing. Nine out of 10 large pharmaceutical companies spend more on marketing than on research and development.

This morning I saw an interview of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. posted on X in which he characterizes Bill Gates as a "Philanthro-Capitalist." As he states:

I know most about Gates, you know, because I've written a book about him and that what he calls philanthro-capitalism, which is you use philanthropy to make yourself rich and you use it strategically and that's what he's done again and again. He's gotten control of the World Health Organization so that they mandate vaccines all over the world and the companies that make those vaccines are, Gates' and many of them the major shareholder.

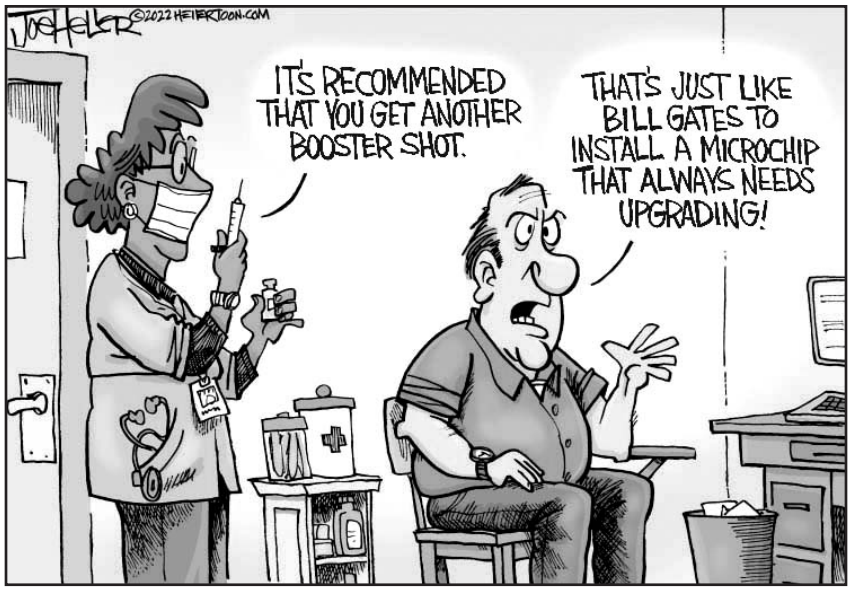
And so and he did the same thing with the green revolution. He got a hold of the the regulatory agencies in African countries and forced them to take, to change the nature of agriculture. You know, there there's there's 20,000 generations of agriculture of of people being, growing, crops like sorghum and plantains and yucca and all these plants for subsistence. And he said, no. We're gonna transfer them all to these, you know, GMO monocultures of corn, and then we're gonna bring in, the companies that he owns Kraft, Coca Cola, McDonald's, these big food companies, processing companies to buy that and that's gonna be the deal. And then of course during COVID, all of that shut down and you had, you know, there's 30,000,000 Africans now as a direct result of Gates's policy who are now on the edge of starvation.

I think the the big the real tell was what happened with the DTP vaccine, which is diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Because of Gates pushing this this shot, it's now the number one vaccine in the world, DTP. And it's mainly given in Africa. It was that particular shot is discontinued in the United States because it was killing 1 out of every killing or badly injuring 1 out of every 300 kids who took it. We ended it in Europe and the United States, but there's Gates giving it to every kid in Africa.

And in 2017, he asked the Danish government for money to support this program and he said, we've saved we've saved 20,000,000 kids. The Danish government said, can you show us the data? He couldn't. So the Danish government went and did its own study, and they had records of 30 years of this vaccine in a country called Guinea Bissau. And, they looked at the records and what they they realized in retrospect, which they were never seeing, is that the the girls who were getting that vaccine at 6 months of age were 10 times more likely to die over the next 6 months as children who didn't get it. Wow. And they were dying of things that nobody on the ground had ever associated with vaccination. They were dying of anemia and bilharzia and malaria and dysentery, and, and, and nobody had ever had made the connection that it's only the girls who got the vaccine who were dying of those things, that the other kids were much healthier.

And the Danish government had hired the retained the greatest, vaccine scientist all and were pro vaccine. A guy called Peter Aaby who's like a deity in that space, and another guy called Soren Morgensen. And a whole team of scientists did that, and those scientists started speaking up and saying you got to discontinue this vaccine. And their careers, Gates made sure their careers were destroyed. So that's when I understood that he actually understands what he is doing. And, you know, this is not just him being hypnotized. He knows that this is wrong because he's this science was indisputable. And it really made me wonder about what his motivations are.

Why do you think? Is Gates a wolf in sheep's clothing or has he merely placed too much faith in the efficacy and safety of vaccines as a primary public health tool?





Jesus, Y'shua and Isa: What's in a Name?

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:1

By Riley J. Hood

I keep getting a form letter about missionaries who were chased by a mob of machete swinging Muslims. The story, which promotes "the retreat into evangelism" says that 167 people came to Christ after seeing a film about "the Great Prophet Isa." If 167 people became Christians, thank God. Unfortunately, I question this group's methods. It comes down to what's in a name?

Jesus: The Greek name for the Hebrew, Y'shua, meaning YHWH saves. In a way, "Jesus Saves" is an emphatic repetition. YHWH means "I AM," or the self-existent God. Y'shua is also rendered Joshua and Hosea, meaning "YHWH saves." In high school, I read a Jewish writer who referred to Jesus as "Joshua the son of Joseph." In other words, he referred to the man, but didn't believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. When Christians use the name Jesus, they mean the Biblical Jesus Christ, the Son of God Incarnate, who was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. Having stated doctrine, Our Lord, the 12 Apostles, and the Apostle Paul were Jewish, and there are Jewish believers today that refer to Jesus Christ as Y'shua Messiah.

Isa is the Islamic corollary to Jesus. As pseudo-Christian cults have false concepts of Christ, so does the Christ rejecting religion of Islam. The Islamic Isa wasn't the Son of God, as the Quran declares, "say not Trinity" and "Allah has no Son." The Islamic Isa was a prophet, a preacher of Islam, and subservient to Mohamed. Similar name, different person. Islam also views Adam, Noah, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Miriam: David, Solomon, and every other Old Testament saint as preachers of Islam.

Are there Jewish guys who don't believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Obviously yes. Their reasons to reject the faith vary, but the holocaust and pogroms are major barriers to the faith. Are there people who grew up in "Christian nations" and in churches who reject the faith? Again yes, because faith requires a personal commitment, no matter what community you hail from. But the Islamic community follows a religious system that is explicitly antichristian, and it isn't just the statements of their leaders, or personal opinions, it written into their Quran. In light of this basic knowledge, you can see where showing a film about "the Great Prophet Isa" sounds like Christian workers have been co-opted into preaching Islam to Muslims who need to hear about the real Jesus, from the Holy Bible.

Mel Gibson tells Joe Rogan how lightning strikes on 'Passion of Christ' set deeply affected crew, cast

By LifesiteNews

Catholic actor and director Mel Gibson affirmed that his film The Passion of the Christ deeply impacted people on the set, including through lightning strikes on a young man involved, during a new episode of Joe Rogan's podcast.

Almost two hours into the interview, Gibson told Rogan about how he felt he had to spiritually prepare himself for creating the upcoming Passion sequel film, Resurrection.

"You can't go into a project as profound in nature as that without preparing yourself for it," Gibson said. "And that's going to take some sacrifice … I have to try to be better somehow to go and make that film."

Rogan then highlighted how Jim Caviezel's own role in The Passion of the Christ deeply affected the actor. "One of the things that I thought was fascinating was listening to Jim Caviezel talk about his experience playing Christ in your film. It truly changed the course of his whole life," Rogan noted.

"It was fascinating to watch him work, actually," Gibson replied. He told how he was never able to "buy" the performance of past portrayals of Jesus Christ in film — but with Caviezel, it was different.

Regarding Caviezel, Gibson said, "He did something that nobody else did, and I think he pulled it off, because I believed it. What did he do? He emptied himself out. And he invited something else in. He emptied himself out, and he meditated. And he let Christ in."

"That role seemed to have a profound effect on him as a human being," remarked Rogan, to which Gibson replied, "Oh, absolutely."

Caviezel has publicly discussed many times how his role involved much suffering, acknowledging that this suffering helped him to grow, and even that it "made" his performance. This suffering included being accidentally scourged twice, open-heart surgery after five-plus months of hypothermia, and being struck by lightning.

"I was lit up like a Christmas tree," he told the Washington Examiner of being struck by lightning while enacting the Sermon on the Mount.

Caviezel's shoulder was also dislocated while carrying the cross during filming, which he continued to withstand to finish the film.

Yet, Caviezel has recently said that his greatest suffering during the span of filming was not a physical one.

"The greatest pain I felt on that film, even more than the hypothermia, was this. I was in a dream and I felt God's love so powerful, but I knew He wasn't close enough. I said, 'You're not close enough to me and my concern is, the world won't see Jesus.' When we were on the cross together, He was completely playing the scene, and that was my prayer. But the pain I felt was all those people in the world that do not love Him," Caviezel said during an interview with TBN.

Caviezel was not the only one to be deeply impacted by the filming — or be struck by lightning — on the set of The Passion of the Christ. Gibson told Rogan how then-22-year-old Jan Michelini, a tall assistant on set, was moved after being twice struck by lightning on the set.

Gibson said Michelini was first "zapped" by lightning while holding an umbrella as they walked off a hill to avoid this very scenario — and Michelini seemed to brush it off.

"But he's 22 and he goes to the disco all night. He comes back the next day and he was like, yeah, it was great," Gibson told Rogan.

The second time it happened, the young man was with Caviezel — according to other reports, only five minutes after Cavizel himself was struck. Gibson said he found him curled up, "with his knees up around his ears, and he's, like, waiting for the third strike."

"He's like, this just doesn't happen twice. And he says, 'I have to change my life.'"

What Gibson and Rogan did not discuss were the full-fledged conversions experienced by prominent actors in the film: that of Luca Lionello, who played Judas; and of Pietro Sarubbi, who played Barabbas.

Lionello was a self-proclaimed "angry atheist," but before end of filming, "He asked for confession," according to on-set priest Father John Bartunek.

"Apparently, he had been completely transformed by the experience. He baptized his children, sanctified his marriage and came back to the Church," Bartunek said.

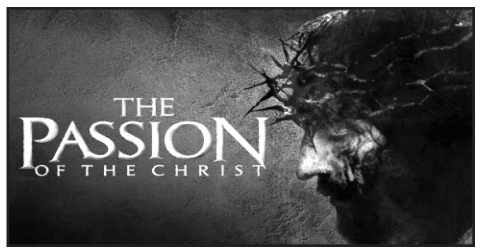
Sarubbi has written a book about his conversion experience, which was sparked by the moment he emerged in the film and sees Jesus for the first time as he is being released to freedom.

"When our eyes met, I felt a sort of surge. It was like I was really seeing Jesus. I had never experienced such a thing in all my years of acting," the Italian actor said.

"It was a big impact," he told Zenit. "I felt as if there was an electric current between us. I saw Jesus Himself."

"I am not embarrassed to say that during the filming I had a conversion. All of the actors who took part changed a little bit after this experience, but I have learned much more from the film than from any conference," Sarubbi told CNA.

He said his spiritual search "began many years ago and took me around the world. I have done extensive anthropological research, as a man and as an actor. I have been instructed in the martial arts … I lived in a Tibetan monastery for six months with a vow of silence. I have practiced meditation in India, I have lived in the Amazon. I have reached the final goal of this search in Jesus."



Biden Awards Pope

cont. from page 1

His Holiness Pope Francis and named him as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors. This is the first time that President Biden has awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction.

Biden's laudatory message summarizing the aspects of Francis' life that had been taken into account for the award cited the Pope's activism "serving the poor" and his calls for peace and climate change action.

The president also mentioned Francis' relationships with "different faiths" and styled him "the People's Pope":

As a young man, Jorge Bergoglio sought a career in science before faith led him to a life with the Jesuits. For decades, he served the voiceless and vulnerable across Argentina. As Pope Francis, his mission of serving the poor has never ceased. A loving pastor, he joyfully answers children's questions about God. A challenging teacher, he commands us to fight for peace and protect the planet.

A welcoming leader, he reaches out to different faiths. The first pope from the Southern Hemisphere, Pope Francis is unlike any who came before. Above all, he is the People's Pope – a light of faith, hope, and love that shines brightly across the world.

A few days earlier, Biden had awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a number of people, including George Soros and Hillary Clinton.

"These 19 individuals are great leaders who have made America and the world a better place," a White House statement read. "They are great leaders because they are good people who have made extraordinary contributions to their country and the world."

Such a decision was, however, widely criticized, with commentators slating Biden's choice of recipients for the award.

Linking Francis' reception of the award to Clinton and Soros, former U.S. Nuncio Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò drew a comparison between the three:

Along with these exponents of the Radical Left, Joe Biden supports the antichristic and criminal Agenda 2030 plan, adherence to woke and LGBTQ+ ideology, gender theory, climate change hysteria, mass vaccinations, abortion and infanticide, and ethnic replacement through uncontrolled immigration.

How can one be surprised if among this very select group of medalists is also Jorge Mario Bergoglio, whom the deep state arranged to be elected as head of the deep church precisely to promote the same criminal globalist coup?

Current U.S. Nuncio and Viganò's successor Cardinal Christophe Pierre was in attendance at the White House for a photo shoot with Biden to present the award to the Pope from afar.

Biden had been due to visit Rome and the Vatican City State at the end of last week but announced January 8 that he had canceled his visit. The brief statement cited the recent devastating fires in California as the reason for Biden remaining in the U.S.

The trip was due to be the swan song of Biden's presidency, as the politician looked to cite his identity of a "Catholic president" one last time and crown his career with a final Papal audience.

Biden last met with Francis briefly in June during Italy's hosting of the G7 meeting. But it was an October 2021 private audience between the pair that drew the most attention.

Emerging from the meeting, Biden asserted that the Pontiff "was happy I'm a good Catholic" and told him to "keep receiving Communion." Summary press releases from both the White House and the Holy See Press Office briefly noted that the conversation revealed around the "world's poor," as well as the "climate crisis" and issues regarding COVID-19 and refugees.

However, despite Biden's prolific political record advocating for abortion and LGBT issues, the topic of abortion apparently was not raised in the meeting. Some observers suggested that if Biden had been told to "keep" receiving Communion, then the topic of abortion must have been discussed.

The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is always wrong because it kills an innocent human being, thus violating the Church's prohibition on murder, a teaching that "remains unchangeable."

"Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense," the Catechism of the Catholic Church states. "The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life."

Furthermore, the Church's canon law stipulates that under no circumstances are those who persist in manifest grave sin to receive the Holy Eucharist. "Those who have been excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy communion."

I'm a Black Ph.D. and here's why I left academia

By Erec Smith

Being an academic is not what it used to be. The list of acceptable things to say, do, or teach became much shorter over the past decade, and things that were relatively innocuous in 2014 may get someone fired in 2024.

A tide of grievance has swept through academia, leaving in its wake the irrelevance of intention, the concept of microaggressions, the use of critical social justice as an ideological foundation, and a narrative that renders White people perpetual oppressors. What's more, the new grievance believes critical thinking is inherently White, critical inquiry is tantamount to a violent attack, and minorities, especially Black people, as rendered perpetually oppressed.

These sentiments had been lingering for years but became the cudgels of social justice initiatives at colleges and universities all over the country. Entire fields, especially my field of rhetoric and composition, were captured, even if the initiatives contradicted a field's primary purpose. Wokeness' usurpation of academia was swift, relentless and egregiously illiberal.

I have little confidence in academia. My confidence was initially shaken by the fact that critical thinking, a key outcome of a college education, became critical feeling. Sadly, that critical feeling skewed negative and reflected intolerance of anything that did not center and emphasize resentment toward Western Civilization. I discovered this when I was told by colleagues, in vitriolic fashion, that the concepts of argumentation, knowledge of standard English, and reason, itself, were considered "White ways of knowing."

Because I embraced such ways of knowing, White, Black, and Native American people called me — in so many words — inauthentically Black. This is not an outlier's opinion; many academics, out of either sincerity or peer pressure, promote this idea. Why would I want to stay in a place where so many people feel a sense of duty to label me "phony," "traitor," or academia's favorite "four-letter word," conservative?

Academia has devolved into an enclave for people with high IQs, but low EQs (Emotional Quotients) – a place full of brilliant people who can't "adult." I have spent time writing and speaking about the "middle school mean girl" antics of academics in my field and the humanities in general, including students, faculty and administration.



My dedication to the preparation of my students for a free, pluralistic and liberal society induced a rancorous and multiracial tantrum from those dedicated to destroying said society — and in academia their numbers have become legion. My desire to empower my students was taken as an apologia for settler colonialism, a manifestation of my internalized anti-Blackness, a preference for White supremacy and a promotion of modern-day fascism.

Rhetoric and composition, the field of academia I entered upon finishing graduate school had its issues, but it was not the rabidly illiberal enclave it is now. That change has proven too much for me to bear. This is because emotion, not critical thinking, is the primary epistemology for the loudest among them. They have demonized reason and rationality as "White ways of knowing," projected evil onto anyone who disagrees with their outlook, and have created an epidemic hatred of free speech. The "life of the mind" I thought I was entering has instead become the life of the heart I am gladly exiting.

Perhaps my biggest issue is with the role of Black people in academia, especially the humanities. The illiberal dispositions of academics are often justified as the stances of social justice activists trying to make things right for the historically downtrodden, most often represented by Black Americans. The grade inflation (if there is grading at all), the deprecation of standardized English, the dismissal of tried-and-true critical thinking skills and other ways of jettisoning merit from fundamental learning outcomes are all done in the name of Black racial justice.

I see a conversation in the not-so-distant future in which one person asks, "Why did academia become such an illiberal and anti-intellectual institution?" to which the answer would be, "Well, you know, the Black people." I do not want to frequent the places where I am most likely to hear such a conversation.

For this reason, and with no attempt at hyperbole, I say that academia, like other distinctly leftist institutions, has no use for a Black person who does not identify as a victim, e.g., me. Ultimately, academia simply does not like me. At best, I was invisible.

I was not doing distinctly Black scholarship. That is, I am a rhetorician, but I do not do distinctly Black rhetoric. I teach American philosophy, but I do not focus primarily on Black scholars. It is as if the academic collective is saying, "Why do you want to teach a class on classical rhetoric? We have a White guy for that." Again, why would I stay in such a situation?

Now, I know what I am describing does not apply to all institutions of higher education. I can say with the utmost sincerity that my time at York College had nothing to do with it; I enjoyed my time at that institution the most. My issue is with my field in particular and academia in general. Even exempting my experience, academia seems to be a sinking ship. Most colleges are seeing a clear dip in enrollment, especially from males. Departments, if not entire schools, are being shuttered for budgetary reasons. Most schools do not have Harvard's endowment.

Also, academia does not house the fair-minded and well-balanced life of the mind. Academia's liberal to conservative ratio is 12 to 1. This is not the fair representation of viewpoints that are supposed to be a main characteristic of higher education and the liberal arts in general. Academics evade having to defend their ideas by only hiring people who already share them. I want an environment where the best argument wins, not where arguments are avoided by exclusion of counterarguments.

All this said, there is a noticeable regression of woke initiatives. Some schools have either rolled back or eliminated their DEI positions and offices. Some have reallocated funds originally earmarked for social justice programs. Corporations have forgone projects like implicit bias training.

What's more, the public's knowledge of the

continued on page 22

Biden's Failed Legacy

cont. from page 1

of high national office as influence peddling opportunities with foreign adversaries to economically enrich himself and his family to the tune of tens of millions of dollars.

Recall evidence for example refuting the former Vice President Biden's repeated insistence that he was unaware of son Hunter's foreign business dealings and specific denials that the family had received money from China.

Both lies were exposed by a threatening July 2017 WhatsApp text message from Hunter demanding payment from Henry Zhao, a Chinese Communist official, stating: "I am sitting here with my father and we would like to understand why the commitment made has not been fulfilled," and "I would like to resolve this now before it gets out of hand, and now means tonight."

Adding credibility to the threat, a Congressional investigation found $5.1 million was sent to Hunter-linked companies from a subsidiary of Chinese energy company CEFC where an email agreement documents a 10 percent cut for the "big guy" (Joe Biden) — less than two weeks after the message.

House Oversight, Judiciary, and Ways and Means Committee Biden impeachment inquiry investigators have found more than $20 million from various foreign sources allegedly paid to at least nine Biden family members through more than 20 shell companies with no identified services rendered.

Migrant Welfare and Crime

An illegal migrant invasion resulting from Biden administration open southern border policies will burden state and municipal public service budgets while impacting both local and national security over many decades.

Contributions to rampant increases in homeless populations are but one example, with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently reporting 36% growth since 2019 and 18% in the past year alone.

Migrant households reportedly accounted for nearly 88% of New York City's increase in homeless shelters last year, while Chicago attributed an influx of "mostly migrants bused and flown in from other states" accounting for more than 13,000 people in emergency shelters.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data, as of July 21, 2024, nearly 650,000 criminal illegal aliens were currently on ICE's Non-Detained Docket (NDD) and roaming free in communities throughout the U.S., including roughly 15,000 individuals convicted of or charged with murder, more than 20,000 of sexual assault, and more than 105,000 of assault.

Inflation and Debt

Remember when "Bidenomics" inflation caused by profligate government spending was "transitory" — until it wasn't — and "modern monetary theory" assured us that U.S. Treasury presses could simply print more money to cover the ever-deepening debt crater?

When President Trump left office in Jan. 2021 the annual inflation rate was 1.4%. Since then, consumer inflation has surged by 21% and even higher, with electricity for example at 28%, gasoline at 32%, and car insurance at 57%.

Rising prices of goods and services are forcing many households to increase credit card balances which have nationally surged by more than $400 billion to a record $1.17 trillion since the first quarter of 2021 — or $1.29 trillion when adjusted for inflation.

Meanwhile, the current $36 trillion and rapidly growing gross federal debt represents a moral failure that will divert critical resources away from crucial investments in our children's and grandchildren's futures.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), interest spending on the debt alone has increased by $540 billion or 153% in the three years since President Biden took office. It now costs more to service the debt than our country spends on national defense — and will be more than 36% higher within a decade.

Within 10 years, the CBO anticipates that annual net interest costs will exceed $1.7 trillion, deficit projections that have grown 80% since Joe Biden took office.

The Afghanistan Debacle

President Biden's ignominious legacy on the global front will feature his humiliating U.S. troop pullout of Afghanistan before evacuating civilians which left 13 military service personnel dead, hundreds more wounded, and abandoned an estimated $85 billion of advanced weaponry along with our strategic Bagram Air Base to Taliban control.

These Taliban trophies also include more than 100 helicopters, including 33 Black Hawks, four C-130 transport planes, and about 60 other fixed-wing aircraft, making them one of the world's best-equipped military forces and wealthy trading partner with China.

Apparently scheduled to begin late August 2021 to provide vainglorious 20th anniversary victory lap fanfare for responding to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center twin towers and Pentagon that killed nearly 3,000 people, the debacle displayed only military ineptitude which arguably emboldened Russia's Feb. 2022 Ukraine invasion and brutal Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas atrocities on Israeli civilians.

President Joe Biden's corrupt and incompetent legacy is a less prosperous, safe and respected America than Jimmy Carter's harshest critics might have imagined.

Puzzle Answers

■	S	C	O	U	T	■	■	A	B	E	T	S
■	M	A	U	V	E	■	■	L	E	G	A	T
C	E	N	T	E	R	■	F	L	A	G	R	A
H	A	D	■	A	N	T	L	E	R	S	■	T
I	R	I	S	■	■	H	O	G	S	■	D	U
M	E	E	K	■	M	O	U	E	■	T	O	T
E	D	D	Y	■	I	N	N	■	E	A	S	E
■	■	■	W	I	N	G	D	I	N	G	S	■
■	S	M	A	C	K	■	E	N	D	■	I	B
■	P	A	R	E	■	O	R	E	S	■	E	R
W	I	N	D	■	T	R	I	P	■	■	R	I
A	D	A	■	C	H	A	N	T	R	Y	■	G
R	E	G	A	L	I	N	G	■	A	E	R	A
E	R	E	L	O	N	G	■	■	G	L	I	D
■	■	R	I	D	G	E	■	■	E	L	D	E

9	1	6	7	5	8	4	3	2
7	2	4	9	6	3	8	1	5
8	5	3	4	2	1	9	7	6
5	6	2	8	9	7	1	4	3
4	9	8	3	1	6	5	2	7
3	7	1	5	4	2	6	9	8
1	3	7	6	8	4	2	5	9
2	8	9	1	7	5	3	6	4
6	4	5	2	3	9	7	8	1

The Elections of Disgrace: Excerpts from "EUROPE SINCE 1815"

By Matt Warneke

The book "Europe Since 1815" was written by Charles D. Hazen in 1910 and updated in 1923. The preface of the book references a conversation between Romania Queen Carmen Sylva and statesman Take Jonescu on Sunday, August 2, 1914 in Sinaia. The queen asks him what the results of World War I would be? Mr. Jonescu replied that he could not presume or predict the consequences, but he knew four results of the war: 1) a revival of hatred among nations, 2) a lurch to the left toward Socialism, 3) a terrible cascade of thrones except for those such as the British monarchy, who are merely hereditary presidencies of republics, and 4) a delay of 50 years for the U.S. to become moral leader of the world.

He went on to indicate that this experiment of the making of a new civilization by the U.S. will be without prejudices or castes, or monarchial or aristocratic institutions. This would be the most interesting feat mankind has ever accomplished. Mr. Jonescu certainly had a vision, but omitted a tyrannical Deep State to deceive, corrupt and steal from We The People.

It's interesting to point out that Mr. Hazen exposed the British hypocrisy all the way back to the early 1800s. Within 10 pages of the book, he addresses the topics of suffrage, government pay to play schemes, bribery, rule by the wealthy aristocracy, corruption of the bodies of the State at the highest levels including the Church of England, universities, and Parliament. The lower class suffered during their oligarchical rule as their empire expanded and enriched at the cost of many.

At one low point in British history following the 1816 riots in Ely and Spa Fields London, they resorted to censorship by suspending the Habeus Corpus Act in 1817. Parliament's main objective was to suppress political discussion by the public. This extended to matters of medicine, surgery, and chemistry. They resorted to unjust means to damage or silence their political opponents. Does this all sound familiar?

The climax came at the Massacre of Peterloo at St. Peter's Field in Manchester on August 16, 1819. An estimated 50,000 men, women and children attended a public meeting to petition for parliamentary reforms and address grievances. After police attempted to arrest key individuals, the authorities ordered a cavalry to respond which resulted in innocent people killed and injured. The iron rule of Parliament climaxed when they then passed the infamous Six Acts or Gag Laws which further restricted the freedoms of speech, press and public meetings.

The wealth, greed and power of the British elite wasn't enough during this period. Well over half the population of children couldn't afford to attend school, and they were forced into child labor in the manufacturing centers of the industrial revolution. And regarding suffrage, only one in 30 people were allowed to vote, but that number was improved to one in six men ten years later. This was after the French Revolution caught the attention of the crown.

A big spokesman for the lower class surfaced during these times. William Cobbett published a periodical called "The Weekly Political Register". For 30 years he used his power of the pen to fight oppression and fight for parliamentary reform. His three objectives were to 1) champion voter rights, 2) pursue social and economic reforms, and 3) abolish evils of the upper class.

From our recent election, we can draw many similarities to the times of the English commoners 200 years ago. The seat of the Deep State may rest in the UK, as well as our finances within the federal reserve. Moving forward, let us learn from our mistakes and ensure that our voting systems have integrity, and elections have consequences. Cherish your right to vote. We will need it our continued fight against tyranny and greed.

"Too much of what is called 'education' is little more than an expensive isolation from reality."

"When people get used to preferential treatment, equal treatment seems like discrimination."

Change Debate *cont. from page 1*

own and control it, was life itself.

John Adams said, "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the law of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."

The great economist John Locke, whose writings and ideas had a major influence on the nation's founders, believed that "life and liberty are secure only so long as the right of property is secure."

Locke warned that human civilization would be reduced to the level of a pack of wolves and cease to exist because lack of control over your own actions caused fear and insecurity. Private property ownership, Locke argued, brought stability and wealth to individuals, leading to a prosperous society of man. That's because legal ownership of property is the key to productive development.

Private property ownership is the reason the United States became the wealthiest nation on earth almost overnight. Free individuals, using their own land to create commerce and build personal wealth through the equity of their property, are the root of American success. Sixty percent of early American businesses were financed through the equity of property ownership. And sixty percent of American jobs were created through those successful businesses. That's how a free-market economy is built. Private property ownership is the source of personal individual wealth for the average American.

John Locke advocated that if property rights did not exist, then the incentive for an industrious person to develop and improve property would be destroyed; that the industrious person would be deprived of the fruits of his labor; that marauding bands would confiscate, by force, the goods produced by others; and that mankind would be compelled to remain on a bare-subsistence level of hand-to-mouth survival because the accumulation of anything of value would invite attack.

One must only look to the example of the former Soviet Union to see clearly what happens to society when an outlaw government exercises brute force to take control of private property. Under that tyrannical government, each of Locke's predictions came true. Throughout its history, the Soviet government excused its every action under the banner of equality for all. There were no property rights, no freedom of enterprise, and no protections for individual actions. Instead, the Soviet government enforced redistribution of wealth schemes, confiscating homes from the rich and middle class. Shelves were bare, freedom of choice was non-existent, and personal misery ruled the day.

The same basic redistribution schemes of the Soviets were later used by Zimbabwe's former dictator, Robert Mugabe, to destroy that agriculturally rich African nation. Mugabe confiscated farmland owned by white farmers and gave it to friends of his corrupt government – most of whom had never even seen a farm. The result was economic disaster, widespread poverty, and hunger in a land that had once fed the continent. The nation of South Africa is now following in the murderous footsteps of Robert Mugabe as it attacks white farmers, taking their property and again putting it in the hands of those who know nothing about running a farm.

Clearly, John Locke's warnings have been vindicated. Private property ownership is much more than a house. It is the root of a prosperous, healthy, human society based on the individual's freedom to live a life of his own, gaining from the fruits of his own labor. Take that option away, and people will always react the same way. They stop producing.

THE LOST DEFINITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

In the 1990s, an all-out assault on property rights was well underway, led by a radical environmental movement, resulting in massive federal land grabs in the name of conservation. As one can imagine, courts across the nation were flooded with cases of people attempting to defend their property rights from government takings.

In the state of Washington, one of the major targets for such programs, the state Supreme Court realized it didn't have an adequate definition of property rights to use in considering such cases. That's when State Supreme Court Justice Richard B. Sanders wrote a "Fifth Amendment Treatise", which included the following definition of property rights:

"Property in a thing consists not merely in its ownership and possession, but in the unrestricted right of use, enjoyment, and disposal. Anything which destroys any of the elements of property, to that extent, destroys the property itself. The substantial value of property lies in its use. If the right of use be denied, the value of the property is annihilated, and ownership is rendered a barren right."

"Use" of the land is the key. Using the land in a productive way that is beneficial to the owner is what gives the land value. According to Justice Sanders, paying the taxes and mortgage while some undefined government entity can rule and regulate how the property is used, is a "barren right" that annihilates its value.

When you purchase property, how much of the land do you own? What is the depth of the soil? Do you own the water on the land? Do you own the air above it? As property rights expert Dr. Timothy Ball wrote, "All these questions speak to political issues that transcend private, regional, and national boundaries. Nationally and internationally, lack of this knowledge is being exploited by those who seek control…"

HOW TO FIGHT BACK?

For several decades, the radical Left has been dedicated in its efforts to organize at every level of government while advocates of limited government failed to do the required "dirty work" of local organization and activism to protect our freedoms. We gave the Left a pretty clear playing field to organize and seize control, and now we are suffering under the result.

For the dedicated Left, no position is too small. No appointed board is ignored. When was the last time local Conservative activists cared about positions like City Attorney? Yet these are the very officials who enforced the COVID-19 lockdown policies. Local government is now infested with Planners, NGOs, and federal agencies dictating policies. And the only reason they have power and influence now is because the Left fought to elect representatives who then gave it to them.

Today, too many elected officials, even the honest ones, fail to understand the roots and goals of the "Sustainable" policies they are enforcing. In their ignorance they respond to critics, saying, "well, that's just the way it's done." As they surrender their elective powers to appointed boards, do they even think of asking themselves, "Who do they actually represent – the voters or the NGOs and appointed boards?"

The threat of man-made climate change is the center of the Deep State's hold on power. That's the unrelenting fear tactic that claims the earth will become uninhabitable in ten years unless massive government power controls every human action. Power for the state!

Yet there is ample scientific proof that such claims about man's effect on the environment are basically non-existent. However, many leaders of the freedom movement wrongly assume that all we need to do to counter the misinformation from the climate alarmists is to simply write a scholarly paper disproving it and set the record straight. It doesn't work because few will understand it, fewer still will ever attempt to read it. In short, we badly overestimate the knowledge, intelligence and attention span of the average citizen and government official whom we are trying to convince. Emotions tend to decide debates rather than facts.

The first step in fighting back is to stop depending on one person, one icon, one president to lead us forward. We must take responsibility ourselves to ensure that the government does not move forward unattended. We need to be directly involved at every level, especially on the local level.

Change the debate to attack anti-freedom policies and expose non-governmental (NGO) carpetbaggers hiding in the shadows dictating policy. You can change the debate by making private property protection the key to your local fight. Sustainable policy cannot be enforced if private property is protected. Challenge local elected officials to stand with you in protection of private property. If they refuse – expose them. Force elected officials to be personally responsible for their actions.

Picture how different our nation would be if we dug in to elect a majority of governors across the nation who understood and operated under the Tenth Amendment, which acknowledges the States' power to stand against Federal overreach. What if you had a county commission that refused to participate in non-elected regional government? How would your life change if your city council was made up of individuals who guided your community under the three pillars of freedom, including protection of private property, encouragement and support for local businesses, and the lifting of rules and regulations that stifled personal choices in your individual life? How do we make all of that a reality?

Set a goal to turn your local community into a Freedom Pod. Simply focus on making these goals a reality in your community and if successful, as prosperity spreads, the idea will certainly spread to a neighboring community and then to the next. The challenge is to create a successful blueprint and a cadre of dedicated elected representatives that will begin to move from the local to the state level of government.

That will set the stage for effecting a federal government as conceived by our forefathers. The result will be the growth of Freedom Pods across the nation. Here is the end game for the forces of freedom. No matter who is president, we must take control of our cities, counties, state legislatures, and governors. Only then can we stand up to the potential tyranny from Washington, DC. To live your life as YOU choose, start right there in your community – build that Freedom Pod. Act Local and Stop Global!

Patriot News

Patriot Events and Activities

Please email alchem1@earthlink.net with your future events that are coming up.

HOT GOVERNMENT **HOT JACK**

What is Conservative?

By Jack

When it comes to politics, the word "Conservative" really has no meaning. The definition of the word is meant to be innocuous. It is meant to have a different meaning to everyone. It is like the word "beautiful." It is in the eye of the beholder.

A "Conservative" can be pro-choice or pro-life. A dove or a hawk. Fiscally responsible or a big tax-and-spender. High taxes or low taxes. Big government or small government. (You may balk at what I just said but how many politicians say one thing and vote in another direction?) "Conservative" is a label that Republicans paint themselves with at ELECTION TIME in order to pander to voters. You will note that at election time EVERY Republican is a "Conservative." Also, at election time the Dems will define "Conservative" as the epitome of all evil, just as the Republicans might use the terms "Liberal" or "Progressive," which have similar non-definitions.

Why do politicians use these undefinable terms? Because it allows them to LIE. It allows them to talk out of both their mouths and their asses at the same time.

Don't believe me? Just watch the next State Budget process and count the number of "Fiscal Conservatives" who vote for INCREASED SPENDING pretty much across the board. And give credit where credit is due, to their Fearless Leader Robbin' (the taxpayers) Vos, that self-proclaimed "Conservative" Republican. Or, ask

Bryan Steil what's up with the "Smurfing" investigation of BOTH ActBlue and WinRed, now that the election is over?

Maybe someone should put hard words to the term "Conservative." Maybe politicians who claim to be "Conservative" should have that definition jammed down their throats so far that they need a garden-hose enema to politically survive. Maybe after that, they'll only speak out of one body's orifice. But what might that definition be?

How about this: A "Conservative" is one who believes in and works toward the LIMITED GOVERNMENT expressly defined by The Constitution of the United States. One whose actions support the rights and will of the People over those of the Government.

How many of those just elected would fit THAT definition? Would any of you like to change your votes?

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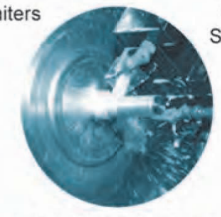

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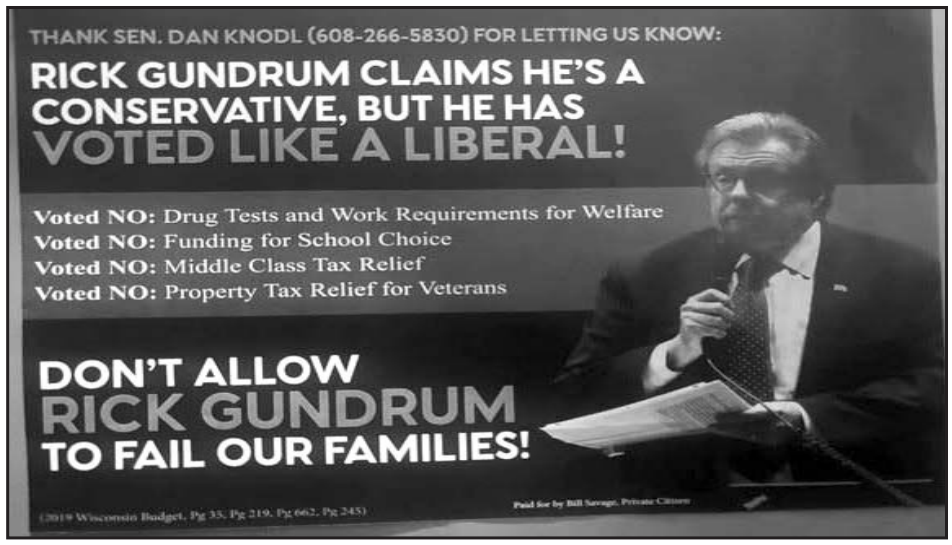
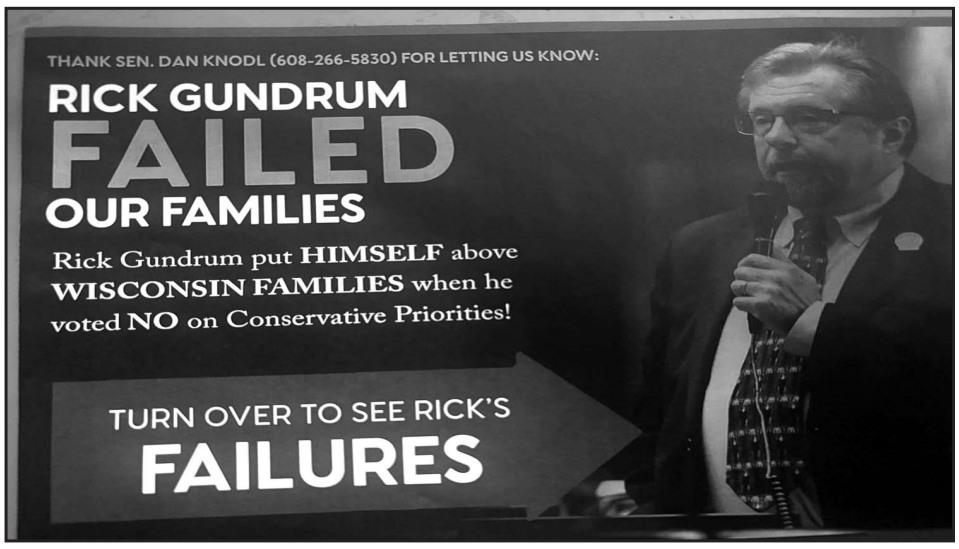
No Honor *cont. from page 11*





The lack of honor was clearly on display from almost every member of the Republican Party. The number of republicans in the legislature who objected to this absolute disgusting hit piece were very very few. Senator Jacque and Rep. Wichgers and perhaps one other were upset that such a vile piece of lit (no rhyme intended!) was used against a fellow republican in a primary.

NOTE: The very people who are ok with this will try to invoke Reagan's 11th commandment when they are up for reelection. The original hit piece that was distributed against Brandtjen came from the RPW, the same clowns that scream about unity and supporting incumbents no matter how disgusting the incumbents might be. See the Substack here.

So, the RPW, Dan Knodl and basically the entire republican legislature is perfectly fine with a hit piece distorting a conservative's no vote on the 2019 budget. Was the budget so worthy of a yes vote that perhaps Senator Nass should apologize for his no vote before the RPW sends out a hit piece on him? Anyone who votes no for a budget from now on, should know that the republican party will be funding hit pieces completely distorting their votes.

NOTE: The 2019 was a horrible budget that increased spending and offered not one line of accountability for the spending. The budget has practically doubled since Walker took office. But… Don't you dare vote against one of Vos's massive giveaways to his lobbyist friends. Review my budget Substack here.

What Happened to Wisconsin's leadership?

It seems that the republicans in the legislature have long forgotten the reasons they were elected in the first place. Actually there is no Republican Party as we used to know it. The party is not fighting for the unborn, or for smaller government or personal reasonability or more freedom. The republican led legislature views their purpose as making deals with lobbyists in exchange for financial support that is used to buy more republican seats so that they can make even more lucrative deals with special interests. The only people who benefit from a larger republican majority are the power brokers within the party. The taxpayers get screwed and every measure of personal prosperity prove that I'm right.

Over the next few weeks I will be outlining the disgusting antics of the republican swamp in Madison. This particular Substack is the first in that series. There are already a number of Savagespeaks Substacks that deal with many of these individual members of the legislature.

Message from Bill Savage - Please consider contributing to my Substack. All monies will go to my "We've Had Enough" Projects. The work is never done! We need Republicans who act like Republicans in the legislature and DC! AND… we need to take back the Wisconsin Supreme Court in April! There is a $50 option and a $240 Charter Member option!

Bill Savage is a former Chief of Staff in the Wisconsin State Capitol. Current editor of the Wisconsin Conservative Digest and author of Savagespeaks.Substack.com.

One Nation Under God

The Fake Genocide

"He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him." Proverbs 18:17

By Riley J. Hood

The Pro-Life movement is a failed movement. Abortion has continued unabated for 52 years. The father of Rescue, Randall Terry was a registered Democrat for years before he rejoined the Constitution Party. He ran pro-life ads on national networks, showing the murdered preborn during his run for US President, which is a valuable service: yet he is unstable. Robert Schenck, left the pro-life movement and since 2018 is pro-abortion, but he is sorry for spending the money in the offering plate on himself as opposed to giving to the cause. Doug Phillips committed adultery with his housekeeper.

Many of the leaders can't stay on mission. They have large egos and love themselves more than Christ: and their preborn neighbor suffers because of this. They are easily distracted into claiming victim status for the murderers. Women who murder their children are criminals, but pro-lifers love their own niceness, rather than the Law of God.

None of this detracts from the rectitude of the cause, but it makes for one tired movement when the leaders scatter people into a million different directions. Singleness of purpose, which is essential for any movement was lost long ago.

One of those different directions is the concept of Black Genocide, as promoted by the liberal infiltrator Mark Crutcher in his documentary Maafa-21. While the movie isn't all lies, it is not all truth either. The true part is the overtly white-racist theory of Evolution, and it's application called Eugenics. It was the breeding of human beings, and Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood was a eugenics disciple. She called black people human weeds, but she also included Hispanics, Asians and White people who were poor, including the infirm and handicapped.

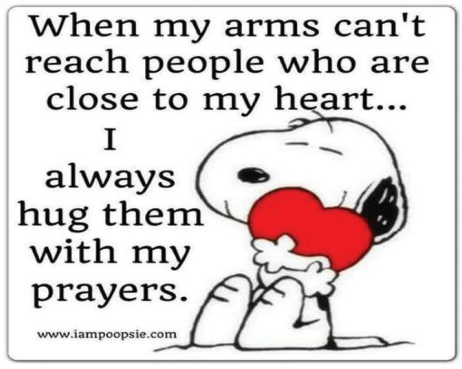
These views were put into law. In the case of Buck v. Bell, involving a white girl, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said, "three generations of imbeciles is enough." Eugenics programs in the USA, were the inspiration for the Nazi T4 program in Germany. Had Maafa-21 come out in 1950, or even 1970, Mark Crutcher would have more of a point, but time marches on and situations change.

As far as "genocide" goes, PP was hardly effective, there are a lot of black people still here, in spite of Sanger who died in 1967, more than a half-century ago. Slavery ended over 159 years ago, and segregation at law ended when affirmative action was imposed in 1964. For Crutcher to cry crocodile tears about the past and say everything is the same, circa 2009, is the work of a white liberal aping Obama's socialist rhetoric.

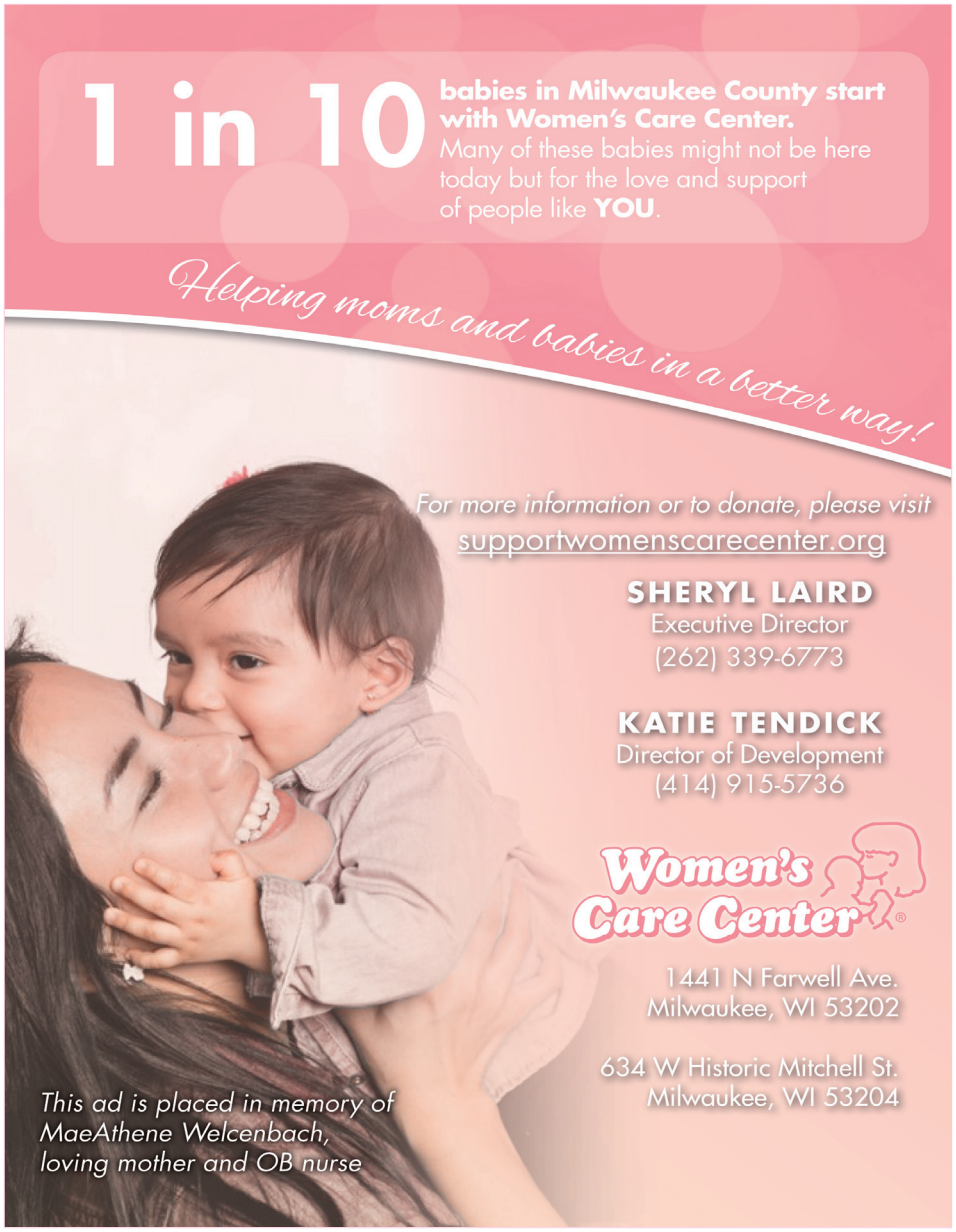
The one characteristic of genocide that is missing regarding abortion is that to be genocide, one people group is being exterminated by another people group. For example, the Rwandan Genocide isn't called the Black Genocide because both the persecutors and their victims were black. The concept of "Black Genocide" in America is that white people are dedicated to the extermination of black people.

Today, there are higher rates of black women killing their babies, but then again, this community has a higher rate of homicide across the board. Having done my share of street ministry, I have had many black abortion-bound women tell me the street level reality, which goes like this, "I got my choice, and I ain't listening to no white man telling me what to do." These ladies were never slaves, and neither discriminated against, they are doing it out of their own hate-filled and arrogant resources.

This movie was successful in guilt manipulating the weak white suburbanite, who suddenly only cared about black babies, as if the untalented others no longer counted, and weren't created in the image of God. It was as if the KKK was herding these people into the abortion mill against their will, and all the abortionists were white. The movie shifted the blame from rebellion against God, to placing the onus on white people, even though there are black abortionists, and white pro-lifers. The other fact is that majority of babies murdered in America's abortion mills are white, even though the rate is lower. Those babies have the same right to Life as the black babies do. And yes, aborting a black baby is murder.



Being 100% Pro-Life, means ALL the babies have the right to be born. Focusing on the pre-born baby, who is voiceless, and choiceless is where the pro-life movement needs to return to. Focusing on what is easy for women and minorities turns a "love your neighbor" movement into a left-wing self-interest/guilt manipulation movement. Were sins and atrocities committed in the past? Yes, but the murder of the pre-born is the current atrocity in our nation. When it becomes forced abortion, like it is in Red China, then the genocide argument may have merit, if one people group is targeted. No one has called China's One Child Policy "The Chinese Genocide," because that would be a misuse of that particular term, although China is guilty before God of mass murder. Even though it is not "black genocide" abortion is our national sin, it is national homicide and national suicide and our national curse.



The Lives that Could Have Been

"And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses." Acts 3:15

By Riley J. Hood

Imagine a lefty in front the Great White Throne at Judgment Day. He yells at God with the argument of today's Atheism. "How could you let people die of Cancer? Covid? ALS?" Now I know God doesn't owe a man like that any explanation, while human sin is the root cause, and the answers are many: here is an answer that you can use to confront left-wing hypocrisy.

God sent the men and women to cure those diseases, to alleviate poverty, and make the world a better place, but socialists like you aborted them. Women have contracted out to medical serial killers to murder their preborn children in their wombs. Americans by and large have loved to have it so. To the tune of over 70 million murdered preborn babies, not counting chemical abortions and that fact that America exports abortion world-wide.

Our nation has been lost since 1973 because we allow for the shedding of innocent blood. The Pre-Born child is innocent, and innocent life is protected by our Constitution, but politicians won't stand up for the preborn, because they can't vote, or donate to their campaign. The "church" is silent, because they don't preach against sin, but have become a "love cult." Thus, the blood still flows, America is aborting her future, and even though Trump won, our National Curse continues with the only end in sight being the Judgment of Almighty God.

I Left Academia *cont. from page 19*

rampant incompetence and antisemitism due largely to wokeness has created a backlash not unnoticed in administrative offices and C-suites. Many see the 2024 presidential election as the woke movement's Waterloo, and the beginning of a return to normality.

My desire to empower my students was taken as an apologia for settler colonialism, a manifestation of my internalized anti-Blackness, a preference for White supremacy and a promotion of modern-day fascism.

If this is the case, why should I leave? Can't I just outlast this movement as it languishes on its deathbed?

I could, but that would not solve the bigger issue. Why don't I stay in academia? Because those who implemented these projects in the first place, those who virtual signal for personal gain, those who insist that words are violence and disagreement is bullying, those who implemented loyalty tests and relegated merit to race, and those whose antiracism is just a different kind of racism are still there, just waiting for the next bad idea to come along. Basically, academia has lost its credibility; I simply can't trust it anymore.

So here I am, embarking on a new, non-academic chapter in my life. I will still study, write, and lecture about rhetoric. I will still write about academia. I will still dedicate myself to "the life of the mind." I am confident that I am making the right move, even though giving up tenure and summers off was initially hard to swallow. I will still promote real racial justice.

Most importantly, I will be myself without having to suffer those who would vilify me for it. This, alone, feels like a step in the right direction. Ultimately, when it comes to integrity, individuality, reason, and — perhaps most ironically — equality, the town square looks more appealing than the ivory tower.

VOICE OF JERUSALEM

The Conflict is not about Land

By Ivan Lang
Part I

We have been told for decades that the conflict regarding Palestine was all about the land, but is it? When one looks at archeology, history, and publications, it is clear that this conflict is not about land. This issue will be addressed over the next three months

The earliest known inhabitants of the land of Israel were the Semitic tribes called the Canaanites. The western territory along the mediterranean was occupied by the Phillistines. The Philistines were a non-Semitic pagan tribe that originally came from the part of Europe on the Aegean sea. About 3500 years ago the Jews first appeared on this land. Archeologists found unique settlements identified as Jews for they had special worship areas, no pig bones in the cooking fires, distinctive four room houses, and ritual baths. One of the most significant ancient Jewish cities with these Jewish characteristics was Beersheva.

The existence of Jewish cities on this land was also found in the stone writings from cultures that existed on or around Israel. One of the earliest was the Armana Letters of 1350 BCE which were written by Er-Heba, the Egyptian ruler of Jerusalem. In his letters he complains of the "Habiru", as attacking and raiding the Pharaoh's lands around Jerusalem. The early Jews called themselves Hebrew, as written in the Old Testament.

The Merneptah Stele of 1213 – 1203 BCE lists conquests of Israel and several Canaanite or Philistine city-states by the 19th Dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Merneptah. This stele states, "Canaan is captive with all woe. Ashkelon is conquered, Gezer seized, Yanoam made nonexistent; Israel is laid waste, bare of seed."

The Elah Fortress of 1025 – 975 BCE was situated on the border between Philistia and the Kingdom of Judah. It was a major strategic checkpoint guarding the main road from Philistia and the Coastal Plain to Jerusalem. The Elah Fortress archaeological site proves the existence of the House of David in 1000 BCE. The artifacts found at the site thus far all indicate that there was most likely a strong king and central government in Jerusalem. This would verify descriptions and narratives found in the Old Testament.

The Tel Dan Stele of the 9th century BCE is a fragmentary stele containing an Aramaic inscription. The surviving inscription details that an individual killed Jehoram, King of Israel-Samaria, the son of Ahab, and Ahaziah of Judah, a king of the House of David. These writings corroborate passages from the Old Testament in the Second Book of Kings.

The Meshe Stele of 850 BCE was uncovered in Dibon and it recorded stories by Mesha, the king of Moab, over the Israelites. Battles between Israel and Mesha are also recorded in the Old Testament. This stone mentioned many cities, i.e.; Moab, Dibon, Atarot, Sharon, Maharith, Jahaz, Bezer, Horonaim; people, i.e., Mesha. Chemosh, Omri the king of Israel, Gad, Nebo, House of David. King Omri, Atarot; alters or temples, i.e., Baal-meon, Medeba, Diblaten; and g-ds, i.e., Ashtar, and YHWH that are also mentioned in the Old Testament. The most significant is the writings about the Jews, known then as the House of David. "And the House of David inhabited Horonaim." Mesha also makes a distinction between the men of Israel and the House of David. This is exactly how the Old Testament states Israel how was divided as a kingdom during this time. Jehosophat was King of Judah from the House of David, while Joram was the King of Israel.

Therefore, archeological evidence has proven that the Jews lived in Israel at least 3500 years ago and had nations in Israel as far back as 3000 years ago, and that much of the text of the Old Testament regarding the history of the Jewish sites and the surrounding cultures is accurate in their names, locations, kings, temples, and dates. The Old Testament lists the names of 60 leaders or kings of Israel and Judah from 1377 BCE to 167 BCE and over half of them have been confirmed from non-Old Testament sources. In no texts or writings of any kind from any culture or from any archeological site during that time period has any people called "Palestinian" or any land called "Palestine" been discovered by anyone.

The House of David split into two Jewish kingdoms, Judah and Israel, in about 850CE. The Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 854 BCE and those Jews were persecuted into non-existence. The Kingdom of Judah continued to survive until it was defeated by the Babylonians in 587 BCE, who also destroyed the First Temple in Jerusalem. The Babylonians expelled many Jews from Israel, but were conquered by the Persians in 538 BCE. The Persians allowed the Jews to return to Israel and they also helped the Jews rebuild their Temple. In 333 BCE the Greeks defeated the Persians and took over Israel. The Greek nation fell apart and was taken over by the Romans in 63 BCE. All through the previous 800 years Jewish Kings had local control over Israel except for a few years of Babylonian rule, but Israel was under occupation by the ruling nations. Some of the ruling nations like Persia allowed the Jews much freedom. In 70 AD, the Jews revolted against the very oppressive military occupation by Rome, but the Jews lost the war and the Romans killed hundreds of thousands of Jews, expelled most from the area around Jerusalem and they completely destroyed the Holy Temple. The Jews revolted again in 135AD, but lost again and again many Jews were expelled from all of Israel. The Romans wanted to completely destroy the Jews as well as their history so they changed the name of the land from Judah to Syria Palaestina. It became a suburb of Syrian and it was named after the primary historical enemy of the Jews, i.e. the Philistines. Over centuries this name changed to Palestine.

The Jews who were expelled from Judah went to Babylonia and Arabia, but some remained in Galilee, Hevron and Ein Gedi. The Roman Empire split in 390 CE and the region became part of the Eastern Roman Empire, known as the Byzantine Empire. Israel was conquered by the Arab Muslims in 635AD. In 691AD, the Umayyad Sunni Muslim King who ruled from Jordan wanted a religious symbol to compete with the Kaaba in Mecca, which was held by the Shiites, so he built the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount, claiming it was the site where Mohammed went into heaven. The Sunni and Shiite Muslims fought for control of Islam for many years. In fact, Mohammed Ibn al-Hanfiya, a Shiite relative of Mohammed, said "The Umayyads pretend that G-d put his foot on the Rock in Jerusalem…" These Muslims ruled until 1092 AD. Israel was then taken over by a series of nations: Seljuk Turks in 1092, Kurds in 1187, Mongols in 1220, Mamluks in 1260, Mongols and Turks in 1360, and Turks in 1517 until WWI in 1917. For almost 2000 years from 135 AD to 1917 AD there is no mention of a group of people or culture or religion referred to as "Palestinians" in any publication or religious texts, e.g. Koran, of any sort even after 1300 years of the existence of Islam.

Over the previous 1500 years of exile from Israel Jews had been persecuted by many people and nations. Under Muslim rule from the 6th to 10th centuries the Jews were treated as dhimmis which were third class citizens. During the Crusades of the 10th to 12th centuries the Jews were murdered in Europe and Israel. The persecution of the Jews continued in western Europe during the Inquisition of the 15th century, and during Pogroms in eastern Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although most Jews had been expelled from Israel, the Jews did have continuous presence in Israel during this time.

Given all this persecution of Jews living outside of Israel in various lands and with various other religious groups for 2000 years, it became clear to Jews that they needed to re-establish the Jewish state where it had been for 1500 years before their expulsion 2000 years ago. A Jewish journalist who was covering the Dreyfus Affair, i.e., Theodore Herzl, wrote a book about this issue in the late 1800's called Der Judenstadt, and conferences were held whose purpose was to establish a Jewish state in Israel once again.

International and state interference in US energy policy must end

Trump and the Supreme Court should restore our national energy and climate sovereignty

By Paul Driessen

America has long considered Europe an exemplar and leader in cultural and political thought. We've frequently cited European laws, policies and viewpoints as guidance for how the United States should change or behave on multiple issues.

Even after the USA eclipsed the Euro continent economically, militarily and (some say) culturally this past century, we have generally continued to do this. In recent years, we've even done so on energy policy, in response to false claims that Earth's climate is changing dangerously due to man's activities.

We've done it despite witnessing how German, British and European electricity prices have skyrocketed, industries have lost millions of jobs, blackouts have become more frequent, and people cannot afford to heat their homes properly, because of those climate and energy policies.

President Obama unilaterally followed Europe in signing the Paris climate treaty, obligating America to stop using abundant, reliable, affordable fossil fuels; switch to expensive, unreliable, weather-dependent wind and solar power for electricity generation, transportation, manufacturing and defense; pay "developing countries" tens of billions a year in "reparations" for climate change; and let UN and foreign politicians and bureaucrats exert control over America's future.

Trump45 withdrew the USA from the pact. President Biden re-subjugated us. Trump47 plans to pull us out again – but should also send the treaty to the Senate for prompt attention, debate and likely rejection under our Constitution's "treaty clause" (Article II, Section 2), as should have been done years ago.

That would be a major step in meeting his pledge for renewed commonsense regulation, energy dominance and resurgent economic vitality.

Meanwhile, a week after Mr. Trump's reelection as President, a legal ruling at The Hague shows European views on energy policy may likewise be moving back toward common sense.

On November 12, The Hague's Appeals Court judges overturned a May 2021 District Court order requiring that Shell Oil Company accelerate its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction levels by 45% by 2030, versus the company's overall 2019 GHG emissions.

The 45% ruling reflected Paris Agreement goals and would have applied to Shell's direct and indirect operational emissions (drilling, production, refining and pipelines), as well as total emissions by its oil and natural gas retail customers worldwide. If the lower court opinion had stood, Shell would have been compelled to more than double its "net carbon intensity" reductions beyond its existing pledge.

The appellate judges refused to impose any specific reduction targets for Shell, citing the company's substantial emissions reduction efforts, plus insufficient scientific consensus around GHG reduction percentages needed by individual energy companies.

Unfortunately, they still held that Shell had a general legal duty to curb the effects of supposed manmade climate change. How that might happen – amid rapidly growing GHG emissions by China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and other rapidly developing countries – the judges did not say. That reality, and the soaring prices and job losses, are driving Europe's rising anger over energy and climate policies.

Other than "red counties" and the new Trump Administration, is America moving toward common sense? The jury is still out, as 30-plus U.S. state and local climate lawsuits are still pending. However, there is at least one bright spot among all that litigation.

In July, a circuit court in Maryland dismissed the City of Baltimore's lawsuit alleging violations of Maryland's nuisance, trespass and deceptive marketing laws by multiple energy companies. Judge Videtta Brown ruled that emissions produced outside Maryland were beyond the authority of state law.

She also called the city's efforts to hold energy companies accountable for supposed misinformation an attempt "to get in the back door what they cannot get in the front door."

This was the third climate lawsuit against energy companies dismissed (New York City's in 2021) or narrowed in scope (Delaware's earlier this year), with claims deemed largely preempted by federal law.

Judge Brown's analysis reflects pro-industry arguments presented by 19 state attorneys general, alleging before the Supreme Court that lawsuits spearheaded by Connecticut, California, New Jersey,

continued on page 24

Scientists At Loggerheads Over Cause Of Wildfires Ravaging California

By Lynne Balzer

At least five people are dead in the wildfires that are claiming a large part of the Pacific Palisades region of Los Angeles and nearby locations. As is their habit, the media are blaming climate change for this raging inferno. [emphasis, links added]

And some scientists, such as fire expert Jennifer Balch, blame warming conditions partially caused by the fact that the jet stream has dipped farther south than usual.

"Climate change, including increased heat, extended drought, and a thirsty atmosphere, has been a key driver in increasing the risk and extent of wildfires in the western United States," said a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

But Jon Keeley, a scientist working for the US Geological Survey, says that just isn't so.

Keeley has been studying the connection between various climatic conditions and fires for the past forty years.

"I don't think these fires are the result of climate change," he told Michael Shellenberger. "You certainly could get these events without climate change."

Keeley correctly pointed out that the conditions causing this type of fire have existed for thousands of years in this part of California.

There have been many Januaries, he says, that were very dry, and other years that there were Santa Ana winds in January.

The only difference, he says, is the dramatic increase in the population of southern California in the last hundred years.

A study conducted in 2017 by Keeley and a team of scientists concluded that similar conditions have existed many times in the past.

"We've looked at the history of climate and fire throughout the whole state," said Keeley, "and through much of the state, particularly the western half of the state, we don't see any relationship between past climates and the amount of area burned in any given year."

This team of scientists has studied 37 climatic regions of the United States.

Another scientist, Daniel Swain, agrees with Keeley, saying there's "no sure connection" between such fires and climate change. Fire Chief David Acuna pointed out that 95% of wildfires in that area have been started by humans.

These fires in the chaparral, fostered by drought conditions and Santa Ana winds, have been called the most destructive in Los Angeles history.

They have so far burned over 42 square miles, an area as large as the city of San Francisco. Over 130,000 people have been ordered to evacuate their homes.

At least 1,000 structures have been destroyed or damaged. Over a million people are without power. Estimated losses have exceeded $57 billion.

This unfortunate series of events will be long remembered in California history. But the conditions fostering such blazes have long existed, the only difference being that this time people got in the way.



Why Was Reservoir Supplying Pacific Palisades Empty?

By John Leake

There's a funny scene in the film Smokey and the Bandit when Sheriff Buford T. Justice tells his son "Junior" to hand over his service revolver so that he can use it to shoot the fleeing Bandit's tires. Junior obeys his father and hands over his pistol, but to Buford's chagrin, the hammer falls on an empty chamber. When Buford asks why his son's pistol isn't loaded, Junior replies, "When I put bullets in it, daddy, it gets too heavy."

Junior found that loading his service revolver made the weapon too heavy.

I was reminded of this scene when I saw the news that the Santa Inez Reservoir, supplying backup water to Pacific Palisades, was empty during the fires.

Coincidentally, last April I attended a garden party in Pacific Palisades. The back patio of the magnificent (and now incinerated) home commanded a sweeping view of the hills, including the reservoir, and I noticed that the 117-million-gallon water storage facility was empty.

Does it really take almost a year to repair a water tank's cover? Or—following the same weird logic that Junior applied to leaving his revolver unloaded—did whoever is in charge of LA's auxiliary water supply conclude that filling the reservoir would make the structure too wet?

As was just reported in the Los Angeles Times:

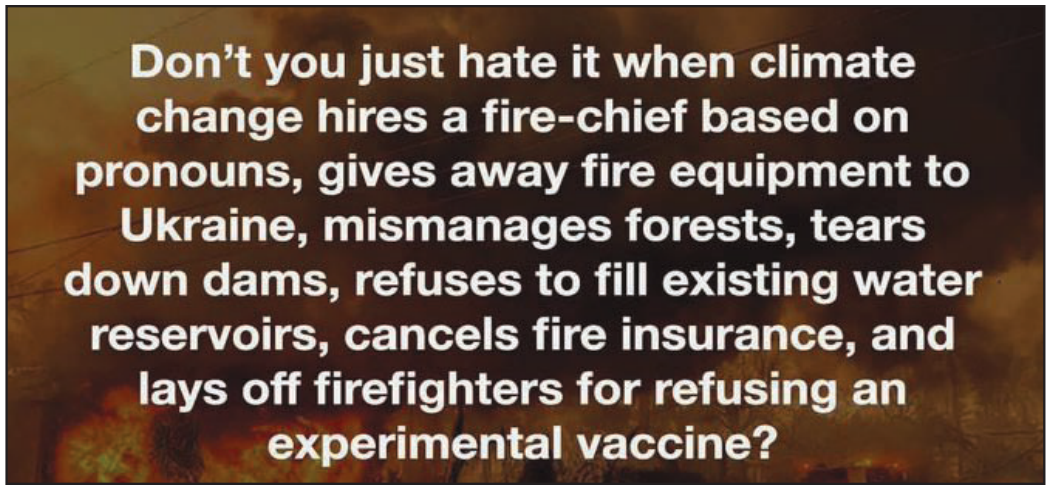
Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday ordered an independent investigation of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power over the loss of water pressure and the empty Santa Ynez Reservoir, calling it "deeply troubling."

"We need answers to how that happened," Newsom said in a letter to leaders of DWP and L.A. County Public Works.

DWP spokesperson Ellen Cheng said, "We appreciate the Governor's letter and believe that an investigation will help identify any new needed capabilities for water systems to support fighting wildfires."

Today I had a long conversation with a man who installs fire sprinkler systems in buildings. Having worked in fire suppression for forty years, he is a walking encyclopedia about fire, how to prevent it, and how to put it out if one flares up. As he explained:

The vast majority of people—including sophisticated people with valuable properties in places with high fire risk—have no understanding of this risk. They believe that big fires that destroy entire neighborhoods are a thing of the past, and they therefore see no compelling reason to invest in fire prevention—neither in the private nor in the public spheres. I can take one look at a property or a neighborhood and spot the risks, but most people don't believe me when I point them out. Sadly, it seems that people only learn through loss.



International

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Minnesota and Rhode Island attempt to regulate energy and commerce across all 50 states.

It's noteworthy that states with the greatest focus on climate change and wind, solar and battery power already have the most expensive residential electricity in America's Lower 48. At 13.9¢ per kilowatt-hour, Maryland is well behind California (19.9¢), Massachusetts (21.1¢) and Connecticut (21.6¢), but pricier than Louisiana (9.4¢), Tennessee (10.8¢) and 32 others. (It's much worse in über-green Germany.)

Despite Maryland's legal bright spot, however, the other 30-plus cases are charging ahead – because green activists have rigged court systems in their favor.

Activists at the Environmental Law Institute's Climate Judiciary Project (CJP) have helped "educate" more than 3,000 judges on how to understand the "facts" of climate change as related to legal issues. Even more disturbing, CJP's materials were crafted by activists who advise state attorneys general and municipalities in these cases and/or support their claims through legal briefs.

It's all part of a coordinated "think global, sue local" strategy – except no thought is given to global GHG emissions from China, India or other developing countries. It also hampers efforts to develop reliable, affordable, accessible coal, oil and gas; and easier for state and local governments to mandate and subsidize expensive, intermittent, environmentally destructive wind, solar and battery electricity.

These cases permeate liberal state politics and affect American consumers nationwide.

Liberal state politicians want "green, renewable" electricity but know it's expensive. To make it seem cheaper, they support tax-funded and deficit-increasing subsidies – and states and municipalities that drag energy companies into $5-trillion tobacco-style legal settlements, to help pay for an ultimately $100-trillion pseudo-renewable energy infrastructure.

Of course, consumers across America will eventually foot this bill via rate hikes and higher taxes – along with lost jobs, lower living standards and blackouts – to support alarmist policies and the "privilege" of having unreliable "green" power for an all-electricity society.

Climate fearmongers think voters and consumers are powerless to stop this, since the process is playing out in state courts, where climate realist views and votes don't count.

However, President-elect Trump has numerous energy and climate options at his disposal. Perhaps more important, the US Supreme Court has signaled an interest in hearing two climate cases: City & County of Honolulu v. Sunoco and Alabama v. California.

The court could rule that energy companies are not legitimate lawsuit targets for the "climate crime" of producing what America and humanity need to survive and thrive. It may also say federal courts have jurisdiction in these cases, and are the proper venue, because fossil fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change are interstate, regional, national and international in nature – and no state, much less any municipality, has jurisdiction or authority to impose narrow, provincial interpretations of law, science and commerce on the rest of the country and world.

Hopefully, the Supreme Court will follow the Hague's common sense in hearing these cases and ruling in favor of fossil fuel energy that truly is the foundation of health, welfare, prosperity and security.

Paul Driessen is senior policy analyst for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (www.CFACT.org) and author of books and articles on energy, environment, climate and human rights issues.