



The Buzz

Local, Global, Whatever

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Politics of Global Warming

by Joe Steinberger

Some people believe that if we don't take immediate and drastic action to stop global warming, life on earth will end soon. Others believe that "global warming" is just a phony threat used to promote global communism as the only solution. Both views are wrong, and both contain elements of truth.

It is true that burning fossil fuels adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. That levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have increased by 45% since the start of the industrial revolution, and that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas: it traps heat in the atmosphere and increases solar warming of the earth. It is also true that carbon dioxide levels were 1000% higher many millions of years ago, and yet at that time the earth teemed with animal and plant life. It is also true that higher levels of carbon dioxide are great for plants, and that this is the reason that we have fossil fuels today: luxuriant growth of plants built up thick layers of plant material that eventually became our gas, oil and coal. This process trapped large amounts of carbon in these fossil fuel deposits, which is why levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide fell so greatly.

It is also true that today's increasing levels of carbon dioxide are likely to cause huge disruptions in world ecosystems, indeed are already causing significant disruptions, and that some places that are now habitable for humans will become uninhabitable. It is also true, however, that some places that are now uninhabitable will become habitable.

So while life on earth is not coming to an end, it is clearly desirable that we reduce our consumption of fossil fuels in order to minimize the disruptions that global warming causes. Reducing consumption is important also because gas, oil and coal are extremely useful resources that we should conserve for future generations.

We have two problems to solve. One: how do we reduce global consumption of fossil fuels? Two: how can we adjust to the climate changes that are in some degree inevitable now - how can we make sure that people living in places that are badly affected (for example places that are inundated by rising sea levels, or places that become deserts) can move to places that remain, or become, habitable?

Both problems are easy to solve if we choose to solve them. We, the people of this earth, can choose to burn less fossil fuel and we can choose to welcome our migrant neighbors, but we face that old dilemma: why should I do this if you don't? How can we organize the collective behavior, the community behavior, that is needed to solve our shared problems?

We have a few thousand years of experience with such organization. It is called civilization, and the fundamental tools are government and law. The Egyptians had it worked out already in 3000 BC.

We could follow that model. A global Pharaoh could dictate the necessary climate-saving behavior, those who resist could be summarily executed. Perhaps some of those who believe that global warming is an existential threat to life on earth would choose such a solution, perhaps especially if they could hope to rank on the Pharaoh's palace staff, but most of us would have misgivings.

Most of us, I think, place a high value on our tradition (not as old as the Pharaohs perhaps, but with over a thousand years of history now) of freedom and democracy. Government, for us, should be under popular control, one person one vote, and laws should leave room for individual freedom.

Organizing an adequate response to global warming is more difficult under democracy than it would be under a Pharaoh, more difficult when individual freedom must be respected, and more difficult also because we have a world of many sovereign nations rather than one world government. The "sky is falling" end-of-the-worlders find this a nuisance, and prefer an authoritarian global government of technocrats and planners, a solution which they call "socialism."

The problem, in their view, is "capitalism." They do not say that the problem is democracy or freedom or national sovereignty, but that is the logical extension of their argument. If they were to say that the problem is the unrestrained power of huge corporate monopolies that manipulate government and the popular consciousness for their profit, they would have a point, but instead they blame "capitalism" itself. In other words they blame freedom of enterprise. All economic activity, everyone's livelihood, should be organized by government, wisely planned by the authoritarian technocracy which they hope to be a part of.

Is this conclusion the result of their concern for the disaster of global warming, or is spreading fear of climate disaster a tactic for the promulgation of their preferred political program? Perhaps for many it is just a "me too" eco-correctness that gets them admitted to the club of the enlightened and educated progressive elite.

If this enlightened club could help us reduce and mitigate the effects of global warming, that would be great, but they are having the opposite effect. Their foolishness is driving an equally foolish reactionary movement of climate change denial. By making their goal the destruction of "capitalism" they are pushing a false choice. Instead of being forced to choose between these false opposites, we need an approach which is both conservative of our tradition of liberty and democracy, and progressive in facing the global challenges of climate change.



Will Rapp and his Up in Smoke BBQ at 65 Tillson Avenue. Will built his own BBQ grills after taking a welding course at the Mid-Coast School of Technology. Photos by Ron Tesler.

America & Saudi Arabia: An Unhealthy Alliance

By Steve Carroll

Following the recent attack on a Saudi oil refinery, President Trump has accused Iran of instigating this aggressive action. Iran has denied it. Trump tweeted "there is reason to believe that we know the culprit, are locked and loaded, depending on verification, but are waiting to hear from the kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of the attack and under what terms we would proceed." Tulsi Gabbard U.S. representative (D, Hawaii) and presidential candidate blasted Trump for "awaiting instructions from his Saudi masters", says "he's making U.S. Saudi Arabia's bitch."

The President through his dialogue is promoting a strong alliance with the Saudi's and at a time when new evidence is being brought forward involving Saudi Arabia's involvement in the 9/11 attacks. According to the BBC "the US department of justice has said it will reveal a key name sought by people suing Saudi Arabia for alleged involvement in the 9/11 attacks". Fifteen of the nineteen al-Qaeda hijackers who staged the attacks were Saudis.

So why such a strong allegiance to a country whose leaders are opposed to the beliefs we hold dear? Let's start at the beginning. In the final days of world war II leaders from the allied nations met in Bretton Woods New Hampshire in an effort to create a new global economic order. The historic meeting created an international "gold-backed" monetary standard, which relied heavily upon the U.S. dollar. However in the 1960's President Nixon shocked the world when he ended the international convertibility from U.S. dollars into gold.

Two years later, in an effort to maintain demand for U.S. dollars another system was created called the "petrodollar". A deal was struck in 1973 between Saudi Arabia and the US in which every barrel of oil purchased from the Saudis would be denominated in U. S dollars. In exchange, America offered weapons and protection of their oil fields from neighboring nations, including Israel. In recent years several oil-producing countries have begun to question the wisdom of accepting US currency for their oil-supplies, countries such as Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Libya, and North Korea. Despite what stories we are told, hostilities toward these and other countries including China and Russia center around the "petrodollar".

This unhealthy alliance has created a trap the US will find difficult to escape. As the US dollar loses its status as an international currency, and as more countries choose to move away from the "petrodollar," an economic collapse could occur in the United States. Alan Greenspan for several years Chairman of the Federal Reserve was quoted as saying: "I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil". That's right folks in an age of environmental awareness we are starting wars and taking over other countries over oil yes it's all about oil.

(For additional reading: "Preparing for the collapse of the Petrodollar system" by Jerry Robinson)

- Farmers' Markets:** Camden Saturday Market: 9 a.m. to noon at Tannery Park... Rockland Thursday Market: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Harbor Park... Union Friday Market: 3-6 p.m. on Union Common. Union's September 27 market will feature musician Kat Logan
- **Calling All Scarecrow Makers**, for Rockland Scarecrow Days from Saturday, October 5, to Friday, November 1. Clubs, families, solo artists, groups and everybody else are welcome to make one, show it off, and post a photo on social media for judging. For rules and a free scarecrow frame: call 593-6093 or email RocklandDowntown@gmail.com. •"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:

- Book Sale at First Universalist Church, 345 Broadwday, Rockland, on Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fiction, nonfiction, children's books, games, puzzles, CDs and DVDs. A cafe will offer beverages and goodies. Drop off donations at the church Monday to Friday, September 23 to 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More info: 236-8795.
- Good Tern Co-op Community Bash, 3 to 6 p.m. in its expanded parking lot, 750-754 Main Street, Rockland. With free UpRoot Pie Company pizza, samples of seasonal local foods, pumpkin painting, family membership deals, and music by Mike Whitehead Band, Emily Jeffries & Friends, Robin Lane, and Drive by Todd.
- Rep for U.S. Senator Susan Collins in Rockland, at Rockland City Hall, 270 Pleasant Street, from 9 to 10 a.m. Those who need assistance with federal issues and agencies are invited to stop by for a confidential conversation.
- "Moving the Mountain," 6:30 p.m., Friday Night Film Series at Thomaston Public Library. Mixing news footage, protestors' recollections, and dramatic reenactments, the documentary provides a detailed account of the 1989 massacre at Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:

- Figure Drawing at Rockland's Art Loft, 385 Main Street, Suite 9. Katharina Gifford gives a series of demos, then students begin with block-in drawing, learning to see the figure as a whole and developing proper proportions and gesture in a linear way. With a nude model each week. A parent or guardian must accompany students under the age of 18. A donation for the model is suggested.
- Welcome Reception and Panel Talk About Schooner Bowdoin, 5 to 7 p.m. at Sail, Power & Steam Museum, Rockland. To celebrate the schooner's arrival at Rockland public landing (take a free tour of the ship from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), the museum hosts Captain Will McLean, in a conversation with musuem director Jim Sharp and Genevieve LeMoine, curator of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College. Bowdoin is Maine's official vessel and the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy.
- Mushroom Walk & Talk at Erickson Fields Preserve, Rockport, on Saturday, September 28, from 10 a.m. to noon. Naturalist Kirk Gentalen invites everyone on a guided hunt for native mushrooms, with a focus on the nonedible ones. He'll talk about their natural history and their role in the ecosystem – and he'll also point out birds, tracks and other natural features of the preserve. Registration appreciated, but not required: jalbury@mhct, 236-2739.
- Sara Grey with Will Brown will perform at 7p.m. at a Common House Concert in Belfast. Sara Grey is a fine American singer, banjo player and song collector who is immersed in the song traditions of both sides of the Atlantic. Info at <https://sites.google.com/view/bcehc/home>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29:

- "Under Our Skin: The Untold Story of Lyme Disease," 6 p.m. at Camden Whole Health, 91 Elm Street. Camden Whole Health founder Dr. Deb Moskowitz hosts the free screening of the "chilling tale of microbes, medicine and money." A discussion will follow." • Sunday Jams in Rockland, Sail, Power, & Steam Museum, 75 Mechanic Street, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:

- Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m. Catinka Knoth leads the free Monday classes – with a focus on drawing in color – open to all, with all materials provided. "Scenes of September in Maine" will teach students to draw local buildings, a different one each week, with a focus on perspective theory.
- Monday Jams at St. George Grange, at Wiley's Corner, 7 to 9 p.m. through October. Country, gospel, folk, bluegrass.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1:

- Grants Offered to Nonprofits in Knox County and Lincolnville, by West Bay Rotary Foundation, which offers financial assistance twice yearly to local charities and nonprofits. The deadline for January 2020 awards is October 1. For details, email WestBayFoundation@gmailcom.
- Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2:

- Talk by Rowboat Builder and Racer, at 7 p.m. at Lincolnville Community Library. Josh Gerritsen tells how he built an Oxford wherry from a kit and then raced it in the Blackburn Challenge, a 20-mile ocean race off Gloucester, Massachusetts.
- "Creating a Pollinator-Friendly Garden," Wednesday, October 2, 11 a.m. at Owls Head Community Building, 224 Ash Point Drive. Jean Vose – a Master Gardener, certified horticulturist and backyard beekeeper – offers insights on eco-friendlly yards and gives tips on overwintering pollinators. The Owls Head Garden Club program is free and open to all.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3:

- "Losing Afghanistan," Thursday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Rockland Public Library. Speaker Nick Mills trained dozens of Afghan journalists and founded Afghan Media Resource Center in the 1980s and collaborated with Afghan President Hamid Karzai for his 2007 book "Karzai: The Failing American Intervention and the Struggle for Afghanistan." His talk is a runup to February's Camden Conference, The Media Revolution: Changing the World
- Thursday Jams in Warren, Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street, 6 p.m. and Friday Open Mics, second and fourth Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4:

- "A Family for ME" Foster Care and Adoption Info Meetings, for people who have wondered about the process of becoming a licensed foster parent or adoptive parent. For the location and time of the next meeting: AFamilyForMEMaine.org or 615-6011.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5:

- Call for Artists and Crafters of Small Works, for a pre-holiday-season sale at Arts in the Barn, 17 Hathorne Point Road, Cushing, on Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: CushingAITB@gmail.com." • "Katharine Cobey: A Different Voice" Opens at Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, on Saturday, October 5. The Cushing artist builds three-dimensional forms by knitting with unusual fibers, metal wires, and plastics. "Her stitches give shape to her viewpoints, integrating and shaping magical costumes or emblems of memory and loss." The exhibit runs to April 12.

Around Town is compiled each week by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr.

Please submit calendar items to gowrfr@gmail.com

Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.

Response to "Whose Butts These Are"

Joe Bumen, a reader in Cape Neddick, tells us he has another theory about the cigarette butts beside the road in Owls Head:

"You are only seeing the butts that make it to the side of the road. Moving traffic creates a constant wind on the road surface. Butts are round and will roll if encouraged by the turbulence. Some will be crushed by the traffic, but the remainder will be blown to the side of the road, where those with less on their mind will ponder and contemplate their existence...and those with even less on their mind will respond to the contemplated pondering."

Contribute Yourself to The Buzz

Dear Reader:

The Buzz and WRFR are experiments in all-volunteer community media. We are not professionals, we are amateurs, and proud of it. We do it for the pleasure of contributing to our community.

The quality of *The Buzz* each week depends on you, on your contribution. We have been fortunate to have some great contributors and some great contributions, but we also have had weeks when we wished we had more.

Especially we are interested in local stories, local photographs, local art. Are you good enough for *The Buzz*? Is *The Buzz* good enough for you?

If you have a question, a suggestion, a story, a photo, a drawing, please get in touch. Email joe@interhuman.org, or call me at 596-0731.

Joe Steinberger, Editor



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Dunkin Donuts * Rock City Cafe * Camden Nat'l Bank * Main Street Market * Jensen's Pharmacy * Willow Bake Shoppe * Offshore Restaurant * Good Tern Coop * Rockand Library * City Hall * Jess's Market * Southend Grocery