



Joe's *Guaranteed...*

End Global Warming Formula

by "average Joe" Schriner

**This booklet may be photo-copied...*

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dedication

This is dedicated to the people in Arcadia, California, who are trying to develop a “car free town.” It’s dedicated to people in Winona, Minnesota, who have developed a Home-Share Program that, in part, has people sharing lights, heat and household goods to cut back on energy use and urban sprawl. It’s dedicated to the people of Tehachapi, California, who have surrounded themselves with wind turbines. It’s dedicated to the people of Nebraska City, Nebraska (pop. 7,000), who, in an attempt to curb global warming, are planting 10,000 trees in their town. (Trees absorb carbon dioxide.) And it’s dedicated to all those others out there on the environmental cutting edge who are trying to point the way for us – before it’s too late!

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**This booklet edited by: Peter Quilligan and Dan Dragony*

introduction

Then comes the sobering part

I'm a candidate for president of the United States.

I have run for president successively the past seven years over three election cycles, to date (8/30/06).

My wife Liz and I are your “average” concerned Midwestern parents. What we're concerned about is: abortion, mounting levels of violence on the streets, drugs, poverty in the inner city and the Third World, rising pollution levels...

And the type of pollution we're most concerned about these days is greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases that are contributing tremendously to: global warming.

And it's global warming that is in the news all the time now.

Antarctic ice shelves are melting at an unparalleled pace. Polar bears are drowning. Sea levels are starting to rise.

The permafrost in Alaska is melting. It has never melted.

Oceans are heating up. And super-charged hurricanes and typhoons are slamming into coastlines.

Glaciers are receding up the mountains...

This would all sound like the makings of a dramatic, science-fiction horror movie – if it weren't real.

Global warming is happening. It is happening in both living color, and computer generated color.

The predominant color currently is: yellow.

According to an *ABCNews.com* article (Aug. 5, 2006), the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado has a “super computer” that operates to track past climate patterns and calculate the Earth's future climate.

Digitized projectors paint the globe, starting in 1870. The predominant colors are green and blue for cooler temperatures – until about 1990 when the globe grows more yellow – warmer – and is entirely yellow by 2001, according to the article.

Then comes the sobering part. Red for much warmer, starts to appear in North America – and other continents – and by 2051 the United States is almost entirely red.

That's only 45 years from now, when today's toddlers will barely be in middle age.

The red means disappearing glaciers worldwide, much more drought and famine, increasingly frequent and more intense hurricanes and typhoons, millions of species in the ecosystem scrambling for cooler ground...

Even scarier, according to the article, is the possible emergence of millions of methane bubbles in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California. (Methane is 20 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.)

Methane bubbles up naturally from enormous undersea reserves, but the gas is mostly locked into the frozen mud under the sea bed.

However, if global warming continues and these frozen mud barriers thaw, the explosion of methane into the air would add a tremendous exponent to global warming – “taking the earth up into temperatures humankind never experienced – and probably could not survive.

“That’s why they (scientists) insist we must stop the unnatural burning of fossil fuels – oil, coal and gas – which risks giving such a methane mega-burp an artificial kick that could – hard as this is to take – end civilization,” said reporter Bill Blackmore.

And Blackmore ended his piece by saying no child wants to think it can harm the basic well being of a protective parent who is providing their only world. “Yet climate scientists are telling us we are doing just that to our own Mother Earth.”

And I couldn’t help but think, conversely, that as extremely ‘non-protective parents,’ our generation is destroying the earth for our children.

What a horrible legacy.

Yet, that’s exactly what we’re doing – whether we’re willing to connect the dots, or not.

During the past seven years of campaigning, we have traveled the country trying to help people ‘connect the dots’ on any number of pressing issues.

And after reading this report (and many others), our family believed it was time to head out to help people connect the dots on this global warming thing – before it’s too late. We also headed out to learn more about how to reverse global warming.

So we came up with the idea for an **END GLOBAL WARMING TOUR**, customized some ‘bicycle rigs,’ and started counting down to a most unique trip.

A trip that would not only help sound more of the global warming alarm, but a trip that would, ultimately, provide us with a *guaranteed* formula for reversing global warming.

chapt. 1

It's no mystery...

We're off...

We set out from Cleveland's inner city today on our **END GLOBAL WARMING TOUR!**

Prior to leaving, we stopped at the nearby Catholic Worker House to say goodbye to some friends.

As Bob Steinhardt was making some last minute adjustments to Liz's 21-speed Cannondale bicycle, he told me he had a friend that bicycled all the way across Canada alone.

"It got so lonely, he would recount movie scenes in his head to keep himself occupied," said Bob.

I glanced from our three-year-old to our eight-year-old to our 10-year-old, then said to Bob:

"I doubt I'm going to find myself doing the movie thing."

Just as we were about to leave, another friend, Tim Musser, stopped by to say goodbye as well. He had donated the bike I would be using.

It is a purple, "retro-style" Schwinn, with 20 speeds less than Liz's.

Read: one.

We waved goodbye to Tim as we headed down W. 38th St. and out onto the open road.

Well, actually it wasn't all that open, yet.

In fact, it was kind of congested – as we moved out into the beginnings of Cleveland, late-afternoon rush hour traffic.

Not good planning.

Especially given what we were going to have to get used to maneuvering out on the road.

"...polar bears are drowning."

Liz had Jonathan, the three-year-old, on a used bicycle seat we'd gotten at the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op. And she was pulling a rather heavy trailer.

Behind my bicycle was an "attach-along" bicycle for our eight-year-old Joseph, and then behind that was another rather heavy trailer. This rig looked like the equivalent of a bicycle 18-wheeler, it was *that* long.

Several people honked encouragement. One man honked particularly loud, then

yelled: “**YOU IDIOTS!**”

Otherwise, most people sped on seemingly indifferent, I’m sure quite focused merely on their next destination in life.

And therein lies the problem.

We made the 15 miles to my sister’s place in suburban Westlake, Ohio, in about an hour and a half. Kathy made some burgers and threw a bit of a birthday celebration for our son Joseph, who would be turning nine a couple weeks from then.

Kathy gave Joseph a fishing pole and my mother gave Joseph a digital watch. With Joseph on the bike behind me, I couldn’t help but believe I was going to hear what the time was *way more* than what would be necessary.

We were preparing to launch on the next leg from in front of my sister’s Kathy’s Kolackes Pastry Shop the next morning. In the parking lot, I noticed a car license plate that read “ECOWICH.” I asked Kathy about it.

She said it was the hybrid car of a lawyer who worked upstairs.

A woman then approached us and said she thought it was “great” what we were doing. She continued that she had just seen Al Gore’s documentary on global warming called: *The Inconvenient Truth*. She said you could “hear a pin drop” in the theatre through the whole movie, people were *that* alarmed.

What’s more, she said the documentary indicated that we had just 10 years to turn global warming around – before we reached a point of no return.

That was scary.

This morning before leaving, I wrote a short speech to give throughout the tour. It read:

“The glaciers are melting.

“The polar bears are drowning.

“The planet is heating up, causing drought, famine, high powered hurricanes and typhoons.

“The way things are going, shortly there won’t be a world left, not only for the polar bears – but for our children.

“It’s no mystery what’s causing global warming.

“It’s carbon dioxide.

“And in that spirit, my family and I are bicycling through Ohio to bring attention to this issue..

“An issue we believe is critical to the future of the planet.

“An issue we believe is critical to the future of our children.”

lethal transportation system?

Leaving Kathy’s place (with a donated bag of pizza slices and some cookies), we

headed west.

At midday, we stopped at a park in North Olmsted, Ohio, to eat the pizza slices. While we were eating, my back tire went flat.

With the back tire of a one-speed bicycle, Liz commented on how “simple a procedure” it is to change it.

When explaining to people why I’m using a “retro” one-speed (with big white-walls), I say our platform calls for a return to a time when things were much simpler and slower paced.”

After cycling another 17 miles that afternoon, we stopped at the Carlyle Restaurant on the outskirts of North Ridgeville, Ohio. A local minister approached and thanked us for what we were doing.

In the discussion that ensued, I said we believed how we treat the environment is very much a “moral issue.” He agreed.

I also said we believed that there needed to be voices out here proclaiming that. He biblically enjoined:

“For those who have ears to hear...”

We cycled on again.

It was getting toward sunset. And about seven miles east of Oberlin, Ohio, we stopped at a house next to a small country church. We asked a husband and wife (who, it turns out, were not connected to the church), whether they thought anyone would mind if we put up some tents in an open field behind the church for the night.

Just a couple days before, an elaborate terror plot to blow up a series of airliners out of England to the U.S. was uncovered. The husband said with the United States at “Code Red,” he wasn’t sure how much suspicion would be raised locally if a couple of phantom tents went up unannounced.

I turned to look at my family.

Jonathan was drooling a bit. Sarah had on her cute, pink bicycle riding gloves. And Joseph, who looked closest to being a terrorist at this point, was throwing a small rock at a tree.

I thanked the couple for the heads up on the “Code Red” advisement. And we moved on.

However, we were to soon come across a “Code Red” (for blood) just up the road.

Just beyond the Oberlin City Limits sign was an accident. A man on a motorcycle had run into a van, apparently at a high rate of speed.

The motorcycle was totaled and the motorcyclist was writhing on the ground as the paramedics tried to attend to him.

We don’t know if the man made it. But we do know that some 33,000 people die

on America's roads every year – one every 13 minutes.

We often say, with blind assuredness: “Well, it was just their time to go.”

But was it?

Or did God intend for each of them to live longer, and it was us who messed that up by setting up a: quite lethal transportation system?

And it is lethal on more than one count.

That is, motor vehicle emissions contain carcinogens. These carcinogens, when breathed in, sometimes cause cancer – and a variety of other respiratory problems.

We, for instance, now have regular smog alerts over many of the major cities, where people, at times, are advised to stay inside.

And the transportation system could become ‘ultra-lethal,’ if it continues to significantly fuel global warming.

chapt. 2

“We are passing on our values...”

In Oberlin, Ohio, we met with Jon Good and Sam Merrett at “*Full Circle Fuels*.” It is a service station that gives the phrase “full service” a new twist.

They specialize in converting diesel engines to run on straight vegetable oil. Their pumps have bio-diesel and ethanol.

Good told me that conventional bio-diesel comes in standard, pre-mixed blends (like B-20 or B-50, etc.) Within the month, Full Circle Fuels was planning on being the first service station in the country where you could dial in whatever percentage of bio-diesel you wanted (from B-1 to B-99).

Good explained when you burn bio-diesel, you are burning plant matter that recirculates into the environment and is absorbed back into plants. It is tremendously less polluting than burning straight gasoline.

What’s more, bio-diesel can be derived from crops grown in this country, which Good noted reduces our dependence on foreign oil and has the potential to create more farm jobs.

Full Circle also sells all “green” products, like 14-watt fluorescent light bulbs that give off the same light as a conventional 100-watt bulb and last nine years. Price: \$3.

“Unlike other service stations, we believe it’s better to sell this kind of stuff than things like candy bars and pop, which are bad for you,” said Merret.

Full Circle will also soon be selling their first crop of fresh, organic vegetables, which are being grown in a community garden out back. Youth from Lorain County’s Boys & Girls clubs are spearheading this project.

Note: Merret had recently graduated from Oberlin College and had developed the “Oberlin College Bio-diesel Project.” He had set up a “bicycle-powered” reactor to make bio-diesel, which the campus trucks ran on.

He told me he made it bicycle powered to reduce the “energy inputs” (from burning fossil fuels) needed to create the bio-diesel.

After meeting with the guys from Full Circle, I was interviewed by *The Chronicle Telegram* newspaper’s Catherine Ashenhurst.

I told her that what we learned at Full Circle, we will take to other parts of Ohio, other parts of the country. In turn, this might inspire others to start their own alternative fuels center.

Ms. Ashenhurst also asked Liz about how the campaign is influencing our children (who had sat in on the Full Circle meeting as part of their home schooling).

“We are passing on our values to our children while working and playing alongside them,” Liz said. “We are doing this as a team, and in the process, we are gaining something critical that most Americans have lost.”

I explained to Ms. Ashenhurst that at home in Cleveland, our family walks or bicycles 95 percent of the time within a 5-mile radius. And we believed we were setting an example by being on the bikes out here as well. That is, if a family of five can ride bicycles throughout Ohio on an extended tour like this – most people should be able to ride a bicycle a mile up the street to the local market.

Toward the end of the interview, I talked about a series of things the average American can do to help avert global warming. One of them was to plant as many trees as possible. (Trees absorb carbon dioxide.)

Ms. Ashenhurst ended by saying she wanted a picture of the family. So we walked across the street to where the family was resting on some grass in the shade of a tree. That is, *most* of the family was resting.

Joseph had brought along a pocketknife and one of the attachments was a miniature saw – which he was using to cut a low hanging (and pretty good size) limb off the tree.

I joked that our kids weren’t “the Kennedy kids.”

...whole lot of slow motion bullets

I received an e-mail from a woman who asked me what my position on the rising gas prices was. My consistent response to this particular question is: “I hope the prices go up *way* more.”

The higher the gas prices, the less people will drive and the more they will explore alternative forms of transportation.

And it was on our alternative form of transportation that we headed to Wellington, Ohio. And, as coincidence would have it, a front-page story in this week’s *The Wellington Enterprise* was about how local people were handling the gas price hikes.

A quote that particularly stood out was that of Wellington resident Sarah Yeager: “I don’t have the freedom I once had to go everywhere. Now you’ve got to go when it’s necessary only.”

‘Well good,’ I thought.

It was also in Wellington that I was asked to give a talk during the Sunday Service at First Methodist Church on: environmental stewardship.

I started the talk by having our Sarah read from *Genesis* about how God put a “dome” above the earth and called it: sky.

I then said the “elephant in the living room” these days, at least in churches, is that few people are talking about their responsibility for all the man-made carbon dioxide that has accumulated in this ‘dome.’

And the U.S.A., by far, is the biggest culprit.

Environmental Science Professor Bob Antibus told me that if the whole world burned fossil fuels like the U.S.A. – *we'd need three planets*.

“In my book,” I told the congregation, “that’s the sin of: gluttony.”

I then read an excerpt from a recent *Washington Post* article:

When Peruvian farmers look upon the Andes Mountains, instead of ice and snow, they see the bare brown edges of the mountaintop. They’ve heard the scientific talk that the blue ice that dressed these peaks for thousands of years and fed the streams below is disappearing rapidly. This they don’t dispute.

They despair. The steady supply of water they need to grow crops has become erratic.

“If there is no water, this land becomes desert,” said Benedicto Loayza, a 52-year-old farmer in Cuxco, Peru.”

I then posed these questions to the congregation:

What if this land becomes desert because of global warming, in no small part, from our gluttonous lifestyles here?

What if people die?

When we Americans get to Judgment, does God hold us accountable for helping kill these people in Peru (Uganda, the Sudan...)?

Haven’t we, indeed, broken the 5th Commandment (Thou Shall Not Kill.)?

Given the global climate change scenario going on these days, wouldn’t living the lifestyles we do in America be just like shooting a whole lot of guns – with a whole lot of slow motion bullets – at these people in Peru (Uganda, Sudan...)?

Well, sure.

After the talk, a woman approached me and said this summer she made a decision to ride her bicycle daily to work five miles away at: a car dealership. And she lamented that there has hardly been a day when people there don’t chide her. For instance, they call her the “Wicked Witch of the North.”

chapt. 3

And we all started getting ‘fatter’

In Wellington, Ohio, I connected with an old friend of mine, Herb Bennett. We met at an outdoor table at “Bread & Brew,” a downtown coffee shop.

Halfway into catching up, an older gentleman stopped by the table to say hello to Herb. It’s a common occurrence.

Herb said he is often at the coffee shop when this man walks by with his three-wheeled walker. He had just turned 95-years-old and his ritual is to walk around this particular downtown block five times in the course of a day.

I marveled at how well he looked for 95.

After he had left, Herb said one day last year this man’s 70-year-old twin sons had come to visit him. As he came around the corner, with the twins just behind, Herb looked up, smiled and called out:

“I see you’re out walking your boys John.”

Walking is often such a key to good health and longevity. And it is wonderful for community building.

When you’re speeding by, day in and day out, encased in metal and glass, community building is, for the most part, an occasional wave to a neighbor. Whereas when you’re walking, you’re much more approachable, people are more apt to stop and talk – and the neighborhood becomes closer as a result.

During an interview with reporter Megan Oster of *The Wellington Enterprise*, I said many of us would do well to walk and bicycle in town – unless it’s absolutely necessary to drive. I also said we are asking people to turn off their air-conditioning, for good.

And I continued that we are asking people to dial back their thermostats 10 to 20 degrees in the winter, wear sweaters and close off parts of their home. (We also forget that central heating is a relatively new phenomenon as well.)

What’s more, I added we are asking people to buy considerably less items. It takes the burning of fossil fuels to manufacture most items currently.

Some of this fossil fuel is coal.

About 10 miles south of Wellington, we stopped for a break at a park in Rochester, Ohio. A train came by.

Jonathan ran to the edge of the park to watch. I followed.

Jonathan was fascinated. I was dismayed.

Each freight car carried mounds of coal. All I could see was more acid rain and global warming speeding down the track, and into Jonathan’s future.

We then cycled into Nova, Ohio, where we stopped at a small restaurant for lunch. There, as providence would have it, were Jo Ann Hertzog and Helen Roudebush. They are sisters.

Their father was the late Jim Beres, who was a bicyclist *extraordinaire*.

The sisters told me their father competed in the Olympic trials for bicycling in 1946, was the president of the Cleveland Wheelman's Association and owned a bicycle shop in Akron, Ohio, for 40 years.

Besides the bicycle club in Cleveland, Mr. Beres also helped start a bicycle club in Akron. And it occurs to me that local clubs like these, for all levels of cyclists, would go a long way in supporting more people riding their bikes.

The sisters told me their father rode a bicycle until he was 85-years-old, then suffered a stroke. (He lived until he was 91.)

Jim Beres had come to the U.S. from Hungary. He was a baker's apprentice in the "old country," and rode a bicycle all about town delivering bread.

Perhaps his most spectacular bicycling feat was riding 216 miles in 12 hours on an 8-speed bicycle in 1955. (He went from Akron, Ohio to Buchanan, West Virginia.)

It had taken us a good hour and a half just to get the 12 miles from Rochester to Nova, Ohio, with Liz and I pulling heavy trailers to a chorus of: "Are we there yet?"

fuel economy ranks in top third

Later in the day, I read a *Washington Post* piece that said the U.S. leads the world in emission of greenhouse gases, accounting for about 21 percent. China is second with 15 percent.

The article also said: "If global warming turns out to be either abrupt or greater than anticipated, it might well inflict catastrophic losses..."

As oil prices go up, there has been a push for more hybrid cars, according to a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article I also picked up today. It said that two years ago, when the average price for gas was \$2 a gallon, fuel efficiency ranked 19th among 34 attributes customers favored when buying a new car.

Also according to the article: Today, with the national average above \$3 a gallon, fuel economy ranks as a top-three concern, along with safety and quality, said Tom Watson, Ford's manager of hybrid propulsion systems.

And as hybrids are becoming more popular, bio-diesel and ethanol are also becoming more popular.

In Ashland, Ohio, I interviewed Justin Finley, who is a representative of the Santmeyer Oil Co. He said their entire tanker division, which numbers 160 trucks, is switching to a B-20 blend of bio-diesel.

What's more, he said "E-85" (85% ethanol) pumps are becoming more and more

prevalent in the area. Finley said this ethanol is made from corn and soybeans from area farmers.

And Mr. Finley added: “While I’m in the ‘gas business,’ I am supportive of what you’re doing (with the tour).”

wanderlust

On our way out of Ashland, the hills had gotten decidedly steeper.

Several times we had to get off our rigs and push up particularly steep hills. It was a struggle.

Yet Liz, at one point, mustered:

“Just think of what the early pioneers had to go through on the Oregon Trail.”

That helped to keep me pushing.

Toward early evening, a man drove past slowly honking encouragement and raising a thumbs up through his sun roof.

This helped to keep us going as well.

In the small town of Hayesville, Ohio, we stopped at the Old Rte. 30 Inn. It’s a restaurant with, perhaps, the oddest seats we’ve seen in all our traveling.

Around the counter are steel milking pails with old John Deere metal tractor seats fastened atop the pails.

Incidentally, Old Rte. 30 was the first “Coast-to-Coast” road in America. It spans 3,333 miles. There was a big push by the car companies to get this done to promote more long distance driving.

But, ultimately, this long-distance traveling would become spoiling, and addictive, for many.

Vacations in one’s backyard, or in one’s state in general, started becoming somewhat passé for many. Wanderlust (for some an actual sin, read: *lust*) set in. Millions of dollars are now spent every year by tourism bureaus promoting various states and cities. And billions of dollars (with tremendous amounts of carbon dioxide emissions) are spent driving to various other states to vacation and, for instance, see relatives – who were able to move more easily because of the improved transportation infrastructure.

But for the sake of family solidity and community building, was their moving the sanest thing in the first place?

...before it’s too late

There was a brief review of Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* in the *Mansfield News Journal* today. Part of it read: People caused global warming, says Gore, so he calls on people – world leaders as well as everyday citizens – to do their part to reverse the trend, before it’s too late.

One of these ‘everyday citizens’ is Scott Savage. We stopped to see Scott and his family just north of Loudonville, Ohio.

Scott grew up in mainstream America, if you will, then converted to being an Old Order Quaker. Several years ago, he walked 100 miles to the Motor Vehicles Division in Columbus, Ohio, to *turn in* his driver’s license. (He said the workers there looked, oh, a bit quizzical at him.)

Scott, and his family of 10, walk, bicycle or buggy practically everywhere (as do Old Order Amish, Old Order Mennonite...)

Note: We have researched the Old Order Amish at length. One strong attribute is that they pray considerably and go through a lengthy spiritual discernment process before they accept any new technology. They weigh whether a new technology will affect community, the environment, their pace of life... And they have determined motor vehicles do all of these, in spades. Meanwhile, ‘mainstream America’ accepts almost every new technology that ‘comes down the pike’ without, practically, any spiritual discernment.

Where are the ‘mainstream’ spiritual leaders in all this?
Driving their Subarus.

shocked

In Ashland, we met with Kathy Kollar. Her household is part of a “Home Stay Program” for international students attending Ashland College. The Kollas were currently hosting two students from South Korea.

When I asked one of the students what was their biggest surprise in America, she said she was shocked at how many obese people there were in this country, and shocked at the amount of food that was served at a typical meal.

(This particular morning, *National Public Radio* had done a piece saying two-thirds of Americans are now over-weight and at least one-third of them were obese.)

There is no escaping it. We are a society that’s gotten fat.

Fat on food.

Fat on energy.

Fat on comfort.

But it wasn’t ‘comfortable’ cycling the now rather rolling hills into our next stop, Loudonville, Ohio.

It was a Wednesday night when we arrived. And the First Baptist Church doors were open. It was a Bible Study.

We walked in sweaty, with bicycle helmets in tow.

The reading was from Psalm 37:

**“Do not fret because of evil doers,
“Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity
“For they shall soon be cut down like the grass
“And wither as the *green* herb...”**

This was the perfect time to talk about our END GLOBAL WARMING TOUR! I never skip a beat.

And I also wondered: If we allow the ‘green herb’ (and a bunch of other plants) to wither, even go extinct (not to mention millions who might die), aren’t we, in fact, the “evil doers”?

After the Bible Study, a couple of men told me they would be off work the next couple weeks because their Mansfield Plumbing Products facility would be temporarily shutting down due to slower sales, in part because of outsourcing.

The next day while being interviewed by *The Loudonville Times*, editor Jim Brewer mentioned the area used to have some 2,500 manufacturing jobs. Now it has 600.

He lamented about that.

I didn’t.

That night we stayed with Rita and Chuck Henley. One of their daughters had just graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. I picked up one of her textbooks titled *Making America*.

I opened it at random, right to a section on “Industrialization.”

It said the word “manufacture” *used* to mean man-made craftsmanship with an apprentice, and so on. But with the advent of electricity and assembly lines, there was no longer a need for individual craftsmanship using talents God inspired.

Now people stood on assembly lines doing mind-numbing jobs to pump out mass-produced items – at lower costs.

Human dignity, among these workers, diminished in kind. And greenhouse gases started spewing out of the plants.

And we all started getting ‘fatter.’

Chapt. 4

‘Green House’ Effect

We cycled out of Loudonville, Ohio, to Jelloway, Ohio, today. And that’s how our legs felt after going up more than a few steep hills, like Jello. (Sorry.)

Actually, through Jelloway we encountered several hills that would make Mt. Everest seem like, well, a mound. The grades were so steep, in fact, that we left one of the ‘rigs’ (bicycle, attach-along and trailer) at the base of each of these hills, and the whole family helped push the other rig up. Then when we got to the top, we all descended to start pushing the other rig up as well.

We would have definitely lost some time if it had been the Tour De France. Nevertheless, the ‘Tour De Ohio’ inched on to Mark and Judy Hedge’s place on the outskirts of Jelloway for yet another leg of our END GLOBAL WARMING TOUR!

And if you want to help avert global warming, the Hedges have an excellent model. They are off the grid and they’ve built a log cabin home for two families.

Each side of the house has three bedrooms and a bath. In the middle is common living space (good size living room and kitchen).

By sharing a home, you share heated air, you share appliances, you share lawn equipment and expenses in general. (The Hedge home is on a farm, so you share farm equipment as well.)

During our campaigns, we have often touted house-sharing as a way to share energy, curb urban sprawl and save money – that can, say, help people in the Third World have at least the basics in adequate shelter, food, medicine...

All that house sharing entails is sacrificing some space and privacy that we have, in fact, often gotten spoiled with in this country.

Another thing we often tout is the use of clean, renewable energy. And the Hedge home is powered by solar energy. Mark told me there are 18 solar panels that provide for all the electrical needs.

He said the system cost \$9,000 and will pay for itself in 20 years.

The Hedges are also quite energy conscious. Instead of standard light bulbs, they have gone to 14-watt incandescent bulbs (mentioned earlier) that give off as much light as a standard bulb and last many times longer. They also have a washing machine that was made in Ohio and uses 10% of the power and 30% of the water of a conventional machine. Instead of a dryer, they use a clothesline.

In the future, Mark Hedge (who has an engineering background) will also be designing and building his own wind turbine.

Note: People will often balk at the initial outlay for a solar or wind turbine system, even if they have the money. That is, they have the money in a quite padded retirement account, or in savings for a newer car, or in savings for a new home addition... yet the world stands on the brink of global environmental disaster.

This is like the New Testament parable where Jesus talks about the farmer who has a good harvest and fills his barn. Then instead of giving away his excess – he builds a bigger barn. God then comes to him and calls him a “fool” because he is to die that night.

The inference being that the farmer’s actions are a ticket to Hell.

Likewise, taking our excess for ourselves, instead of (in this case) investing in alternative energy systems for the well being of future generations – would seem just the same, spiritually, as: building another barn.

going ‘green’

We arrived at the Hedge homestead just at the same time that the latest edition of *Handy* (*Handyman Club of America Magazine*) arrived.

The lead story was titled: *Going Green* (*Home improvement ideas to save money – and your planet*).

The article started with: “Even if you’ve never given a hoot about the spotted owl [a pun], succumbing to the ‘green house’ effect is a worthwhile cause.”

The article goes on to talk about using better insulation and energy efficient windows in retrofitting a home. And when remodeling, it suggests recycling old doors, window casings and other material for another use in the home, or sending these to a salvage business, instead of just throwing them away. (These all represent harvested trees and often the burning of fossil fuels to produce them.)

And the new wood that is used should have Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The FSC promotes responsible forest management and use of rapidly renewable woods versus old growth timber and tropical hardwoods. (Harvesting these precious resources destroys forests, potentially accelerating climate change.)

(Our administration, in fact, would provide tremendous incentives for tree farms and would end logging in old growth forests. And while these new trees were growing, there would be that much more reduction in greenhouse gas.)

The article also gave advice for using things like radiant floor heating to cut down tremendously on energy use, refrigerators that are no larger than necessary, “task lighting” with fluorescent or halogen lights...

And when adding room additions, it was advised to choose a location that optimizes sunlight and wind exposure – and doesn’t damage existing trees and landscaping.

Also, for advice on what to put in these homes – or rather *not* put in these homes – I

stopped by an Amish farm.

plain and simple

While in Jelloway, I also went to the Amish homestead of Eli Hostetler late one Saturday evening. It was a quintessential Americana scene. To candle light, a group of Amish men were sitting about on the Hostetler porch discussing current events.

Sitting in on the conversation, I was particularly struck by one man's comment that many Americans' purchasing patterns around cheap foreign products at stores like Wal Mart seem very much "addictive processes" these days.

Tying this into global warming... it takes the burning of fossil fuels, for the most part, to make these cheap products at the factory.

And many foreign countries, like China, have very lax pollution control standards – adding even more to greenhouse gas emissions.

(Our administration would exhort people to buy less. And we would propose high tariffs on imports from foreign factories that didn't have the same pollution control levels as comparable factories in the U.S.)

After the conversation on the porch, I was given a tour of the Hostetler home. What particularly struck me was how plain, simple and functional it was.

The living room had a few pieces for furniture and a hardwood floor. Each bedroom consisted of a bed, a dresser and one or two things on the wall. There were no TVs, no radios or other electronic gadgetry. (Things we've come to think are necessary. But are they, really?)

In all this, there is no energy drain. Which means, at a nearby power plant, there's no carbon dioxide being attributed to the Hostetler's home. (They do have a few light bulbs which are powered by solar panels.)

Most Amish don't use *any* electricity. They think they are better environmental stewards this way.

We agree.

Chapt. 5

“...borrowing it from our children.”

Just after getting into the city limits of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, we saw Paul O'Dell driving along in his small, electric-powered pick-up truck.

Several years ago, on another campaign stop in Mt. Vernon, we had interviewed Mr. O'Dell. He said he was tired of paying high prices for gas so he decided on the electric vehicle.

What's more, since he bought one, four other people in Mt. Vernon had purchased electric vehicles as well. He told me the truck is able to go the speed limit on city roads and his electric bill increase has been minimal, at best.

Given all this, it's amazing to me (given the mounting global warming crisis) that, at the very least, almost every family's second car – for town driving – isn't electric.

Note: On Buckeye Lake in Ohio, we came across a village several years ago where the main mode of transportation (around the village) is: electric golf carts. People drive them primarily during the warmer weather. There are some 40 golf carts in the village that are used for local transportation.

In addition, in Tipp City, Ohio, we interviewed a man who had customized his golf cart with a heater, a canvas top and vinyl windows, so he could drive it around town in the winter.

With both municipalities, no license or tags are required to drive these vehicles on the roads – adding to their desirability.

“plugged in”

We cycled into Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where Liz and I gave a talk to a gathering of some 20 people at Caroline and Kelly Schermerhorn's residence. I said each of us have a responsibility to sacrifice in a *major* way (much less driving, no air conditioning, lowering the thermostat considerably in the winter...) for future generations in regard to this global warming crisis.

Ohio State House Representative Thom Collier approached me after the talk and said: “So your message is: ‘It's not what they do at the White House; but rather it's what you do in your *own* house.’”

I said “exactly.”

EWTN's (Catholic TV Channel) Marcus Grodi was also at the talk. He's the host of the popular *A Journey Home* show.

Mr. Grodi said the technology these days is coming at us with such speed that

there hardly seems time to spiritually discern whether to adopt, or reject, each new innovation.

Many of these “innovations” (faster computer, wider screen TV, latest appliance...) seems to have us “plugged in” more and more and more... using yet more and more and more... energy.

Whereas, considerably limiting time on the computer, on TV, on appliances... all save commensurate amounts of energy.

The next day, I told a reporter from the *Mount Vernon News* that while the scientific community is on both sides of the fence with global warming, it was my opinion that it was better to err on the side of believing it's real. I mean, if it is real and we sacrifice – we save the planet. If it's not real and we sacrifice – so what?

I was then interviewed on Mount Vernon's radio station.

I asked what “responsible parent” would go on with their gluttonous, energy consuming lifestyle – knowing they could be literally destroying the planet for their children?

Note: There is an old Native American saying that goes: “We have not inherited the earth from our parents, we are borrowing it from our children.”

decentralism

The day after the talk at the Schermerhorn home, it rained. We decided to stay an extra day and found ourselves in a conversation with Kelly Schermerhorn.

He is an administrator at a local Credit Union and travels the country giving seminars on Credit Union dynamics.

Kelly said a Credit Union is a true financial cooperative.

He said the collective power of local people funding local projects, etc., is best displayed in Credit Unions.

This is an essential component of “decentralism,” a paradigm we push consistently during the campaign. And one that ties in tremendously in reversing global warming.

To best describe decentralism (versus centralism – which dominates the U.S. these days), I offer the following:

During Campaign 2000, we met James Styron, 61, in tiny Sea Level, North Carolina. He spent his whole life in this town.

He grew up around a cluster of small oyster packing places, a grocery, a couple restaurants, and a General Store where the kids listened to “old guys” talk over checkers around a pot belly stove.

People were close.

Styron told me his granddaddy was one of the first in Sea Level to own a Model T, the first affordable automobile for the “average Joe” in America.

The grandfather started driving a bit out of Sea Level, then a bit more, as others were now doing.

Bigger stores, with cheaper prices (because they had more volume) started going up in more ‘central’ locations between these clusters of towns. (These stores eventually morphed into Wal Marts, K-Marts, Home Depot...)

What’s left in downtown Sea Level now?

Nothing.

Part of the byproduct of moving to ‘centralism,’ as it relates to global warming, is, simply, most everyone is driving farther, creating all kinds of greenhouse gases. Whereas, if things were to revert back to decentralism, communities would again be closer and we’d cut back on greenhouse gases exponentially.

Note: In High Springs, Florida, we interviewed Dan Burden who *Time Magazine* called one of the top environmentalists in the country. He travels the U.S. doing seminars to show towns how to once again become “Walkable Communities.” His designs include widening bicycle lanes, slowing speed limits, creating diagonal paths to the center of town to shorten distances, locating senior facilities above mercantile sections... In tandem, downtown revitalization projects are starting around the country to reestablish small stores in the heart of the downtown.

For instance, in Platteville, Wisconsin, I interviewed Bob Metzger, who is the president of the town’s rather creative Main St. Downtown Revitalization Project. He said a group of shop owners there have moved in above their stores, making the downtown their “front yard.” (Metzger and his wife live above their Badger’s Brothers Bagel Shop.)

These shop owners have come up with a “4-Point Plan” that includes: sponsoring regular events downtown, recruiting businesses, publishing a newsletter and raising awareness about why it’s important to shop locally.

And what’s more, as towns become more ‘walkable’ and bicycle friendly, and an increase in local downtown stores offer more of the ‘stuff of life’ – the more apt people will be to walk, bicycle or use slower, non-polluting alternative vehicles to shop locally. As opposed to yet another longer, and greenhouse gas producing trip out to Wal Mart, K-Mart, Home Depot...

National Bike Trail System

Heading out of Mt. Vernon, we talked with police officer Brian Weiser. Last year he did a 2,862-mile solo bicycle trip from San Francisco to Mt. Vernon. It took him 34 days. He averaged 92 miles a day.

He followed the *Adventure Cycling* maps for the most “bicycle friendly routes,” he said.

(During Campaign 2000, we interviewed Martin Krieg in Santa Cruz, California. He is the founder of a movement to get a *National Bike Trail System*, just like there is a National Highway System. This would add tremendously to “bicycle friendly routes” and encourage more people to, say, vacation on bicycles. For instance, the Greenbrier River Trail, converted from the abandoned Chesapeake & Ohio rail line is a 77-mile bike and hiking trail, with various restaurants and bed & breakfasts in West Virginia. For some individuals and families, a trip down the trail has become an ‘alternative vacation.’)

On his bicycle vacation, Mt. Vernon’s Officer Weiser slept in a sleeping bag in the desert, in the homes of those he met along the way, in motels... but perhaps the most unusual (yet familiar) place he stayed was in Blanding, Utah – in a jail cell.

He had called ahead asking about places to stay. And they said, if he didn’t mind, that several of the jail cells were open. After sleeping with rattlesnakes and coyotes, the Blanding Jail, I’m sure, seemed like the Hilton.

We traveled on, not toward Blanding, Utah, but rather toward Granville, Ohio.

buying locally

On Rte. 661 we came across a most refreshing small country store in tiny Homer, Ohio. It had just opened and featured practically everything “Ohio grown” or “Ohio made.”

Owner Jean Scherer told me she sells only fresh produce and meat from farmers in the area. What’s more, she went to the website: www.ohio.gov where there is a list of Ohio made products.

The Homer Market sells duct tape from Avon, Ohio (that’s where it originated), Crystal Dog Food from Mansfield, Ohio, Ensure supplement drink from Columbus, Ohio...

“I like to keep the local economy strong by keeping the money in Ohio, the tax dollars in Ohio,” Ms. Scherer said.

What’s more, by buying from within the state, you cut down tremendously on interstate commerce – which means you’re cutting down tremendously on trucking that’s creating all kinds of global warming gases.

And Homer librarian Alan Megaw has thought of another way to cut down on global warming gases. He said airplanes contribute a tremendous amount to greenhouse gas pollution, injecting it directly into the sky.

He said we should use the grassy median strips between most highways to create a high-speed, electric mono-rail system throughout the country. The goal, he said, would be to replace domestic airlines and cut down considerably on greenhouse gas.

(To provide the energy for the mono-rail system, large wind turbine farms could

be established in high wind potential states. For instance, on a stop in Weatherford, Oklahoma last year, we learned there are almost 1,000 wind turbines. When these turbines are operating optimally out on the Oklahoma Plain, they provide power for some 40,000 households. And that would be even more, if people were much more energy conservation oriented.)

To cut down on interstate vehicular traffic in general, our administration would propose extremely high tolls on Federal Highway System thoroughfares and we would ask states to consider the same. This would serve a couple purposes.

First, more people would be apt to consider traveling locally. And the tolls that were generated would be put in a fund to develop more alternative transportation and alternative energy technology.

an irony

Further down Rte. 661, we passed a “Tree Farm.” As mentioned earlier, there should be tens of thousands of these around the country.

We then headed into Newark, Ohio, where we stayed with a family on a small farm. They offered Jonathan some toys to play with. They were almost all small: cars and trucks.

That, in fact, has been almost maddening for me this trip (Of course, I might be a little sensitive given the theme of the tour.). That is, I can’t remember a stop where people didn’t offer Jonathan a good selection of small cars and trucks, including at one stop, a remote-control “Herbie” (from the movie) Volkswagen.

At this home in Newark, Jonathan was also offered a pedal powered tractor. That same night, I was told one of the family’s relatives was killed on a tractor. (We were told about a similar incident at the Hedge farm back in Jelloway.)

In fact, apparently tractor rollovers are the biggest cause of accidental death on farms. What’s more, tractors (combines, seeders...) are all run primarily on gasoline, which again, adds significantly to greenhouse gases. Meanwhile, the Amish, and a handful of organic farmers, still use non-polluting draft horses to do the work on the farms.

At the Agricultural Complex in Tulare, California, a few years prior, we viewed a display of the technological evolution of farming starting with the draft horse and plow, moving to the early tractor, then the more advanced intermediate sized tractors, then the huge combines...

I couldn’t help but think that this advancing farm implement technology, while time-saving to the early small farmers, ultimately spelled their demise. That is, as the machines got bigger, they allowed for the evolution of the mega farms which are now pushing the small family farmers out, by the scores.

How ironic.

And it was irony I was left with in Newark.

On the day we arrived in Newark on our bicycles, the front page of the *Newark Advocate* newspaper featured the total antithesis of bicycle travel.

Dragsters.

The lead article said: “Lincoln County lost it’s largest spectator event when the National Hot Rod Association announced Tuesday it was pulling the race that draws 100,000 spectators...” It was a National Dragster event sponsored by Pepsi that officials believed would draw better at the Norwalk (Ohio) Raceway.

Dragsters not only run on high-octane fuel, but some use methane as well.

The same methane that is trapped (but who knows for how much longer) below the frozen mud bed at the bottom of the Pacific.

Methane that, if it is released – will destroy civilization!

And here we are, or at least 100,000 of us, in Lincoln County, Ohio every year, drinking Pepsi and watching ultra-fast cars simply going from point A to point B (not even to get groceries or anything), while they send plumes of carbon dioxide and methane (20 times worse than carbon dioxide, if you recall) into the atmosphere to help destroy civilization.

And maybe this scene has, indeed, become a metaphor for a society on a ‘fast track’ to destruction.

Or then again, maybe not.

Conclusion (the plan)

Now I could go on for chapters. But that would just be more paper, which would mean there would be less trees.

And we need all the trees we can get at this point.

Kyoto Protocol Home Zones

How we reverse global warming is simple, yet hard.

Simple in that we know what is causing global warming.

Hard in that it will entail sacrifice to reverse it.

At a Conference on the Environment at Antioch College, I told the general assembly that, while the Bush Administration didn't sign the Kyoto Protocol (a UN generated treaty to curb global warming gases), this doesn't mean that each one of us can't establish *Kyoto Protocol Home Zones*.

Our family has.

For instance, as mentioned earlier, we bicycle 95% of the time – within a five-mile radius – from our inner city home in Cleveland. And let it suffice to say, Cleveland is not the most bicycle friendly place in the country.

In the winter, we cut back the thermostat and wear sweaters. What's more, we have often closed off part of our place during the winter so there is less space to heat.

We have also co-housed, sharing: heated air, expenses, appliances, lawn equipment...

We don't use air conditioning.

We don't watch television.

We don't buy a lot of stuff.

We share bath water (in half a bath) to cut down on energy needed for the hot water heater.

We're continually vigilant about turning lights off, cutting back on the use of the oven, have a minimal amount of electric appliances.

We cut the grass with an engineless push mower.

We rake the leaves with a rake, not a leaf blower.

In fact, we've felt so good about our efforts (although we don't do it perfectly) that we've put a sign in our front yard that says: "*Kyoto Protocol Home Zone*."

It got the neighbors asking.

Anyway, that is us.

But what about in general?

changes in lifestyle

Toward the end of our END GLOBAL WARMING TOUR, I gave a talk to

a group in Granville, Ohio, on global warming. And I tied it into a U.S. Catholic Bishop's "Political Responsibility Statement."

The statement noted that the late John Paul II referred to our current environmental crisis as a "moral challenge." The statement goes on to say that the whole human race suffers as a result of environmental blight and generations, yet unborn, will bear the cost for our failure to act today.

Pretty weighty spiritual stuff.

The statement added that what is needed is the will to make changes in policy and lifestyle to arrest, reverse and prevent environmental decay in our present time.

The key here being: *changes in lifestyle*.

And the first change needed is not so much a lifestyle shift as it is a paradigm shift. That is, we have to change our current "biophobia" to a love for nature. Or at the very least, be willing to experience nature once again.

Almost everything in the U.S. in this day and age has become "temperature controlled." Our homes, our businesses, our motor vehicles... are all now temperature controlled. The closest it seems anyone gets to weather (except for a few mild, sunny days here and there) is: the Weather Channel.

To turn this global warming thing around, we have to be willing to turn the air conditioning off – and be hot. And to naturally curb some of this hotness we can, say, plant trees around the house for shade.

This not only cools things down with the more trees, but the more carbon dioxide gets absorbed as well.

And in our yards around the trees, we have to go back to the old, engineless push mowers – which were all we used for decades. (Engine powered mowers – which have no emission controls – contribute 5% of all global warming gas in the U.S.)

And then there's the gas powered weed-eaters and leaf blowers.

Case Western Reserve University professor Ted Steinberg recently wrote the book *American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn*.

He writes a car would have to drive 7,700 miles at 30 mph to create as many pollutant hydrocarbon emissions – as using a gas powered leaf blower for half an hour. (You read that right.)

And what would be 'right,' is going back to rakes and hand shears.

Remember those?

changing driving habits

And as for cars... We would do well to once again have a decentralized "Carless Society." (They are trying to move toward this, on a small scale, in Arcadia, California.) And while we can't get from here to there overnight, I believe it's imperative we do it by

the end of the week, so to speak.

In the interim, we have to curb our driving habits considerably.

Amish, in a horse and buggy or on bicycles, will carefully plan one trip into town for all the family needs each week.

However with motor vehicles, we are forever whirring about for that one extra item we forgot, or think we absolutely *need* (that we often really don't). Then there's all the cross-town trips to see people we really don't *need* to see and more trips to do activities we don't really *need* to do.

It's just that we've gotten spoiled on mobility. That simple.

And in fact these days, it seems as if we're continually en route.

As we've campaigned, our children have continually heard about global warming and the corollary to driving. Several years ago, I found myself to be late one day and felt as if I needed to rush out in our motor-vehicle to do something locally.

As I got in the vehicle, our daughter Sarah (who was then seven-years-old) rushed out of the house and up to me. She implored:

"But Dad, what about the sky?"

I turned the engine off.

And at the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota, Winona LaDuke of the Ojibwe Tribe told me her people believe they are environmentally responsible for seven generations of children in the future. (Ms. LaDuke ran as Ralph Nader's vice-presidential candidate during Campaign 2000 on the Green Party ticket.)

decentralism

Also in the interim, we have to, en masse, start using ethanol and bio-diesel when we absolutely have to drive. We have to take the bus, car pool, use hybrid vehicles, electric cars – adding charging stations to each downtown. Just like they have in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

And towns must be rushing to adopt Dan Burden's Walkable Community Model.

As part of this model, we must, once again, buy from the local farmer, from the small, local downtown stores that are selling local products. In addition, the local shoemaker, hardware store, grocery, creamery, General Store... must come back into vogue in a *big* way to make the town as sustainable and interdependent as possible.

And metropolitan areas must subdivide into "Zones" which would, in effect, create small towns in the city. (In Wichita, Kansas, we researched "Go Zone" models that are doing just that all throughout the city.) And zoning laws in these cities need to relax to allow for "farming" in the cities on abandoned vacant lots, etc. (Cleveland, Ohio's City Fresh Program is doing an excellent job of this.)

And the zoning must allow for farm animals to come back into the cities, providing

fresh milk, cheese, eggs, butter... that are sold, along with backyard garden produce, from front porches in each neighborhood – like they used to do in the old days (pre-cars).

In turn, big box stores (Wal Mart, Target, Home Depot...) and centralism in general, must cease.

heating, lighting...

For what heating we'll need, after putting on sweaters and retrofitting our homes with as much environmentally friendly insulation as possible, we will need to turn to clean, renewable alternative forms of energy.

For instance, solar panels, like at the Hedge homestead in Jelloway, Ohio, need to be going up all over. And to supplement government help for those who couldn't otherwise afford the initial outlay, their needs to be environmental funds – by donation and/or generated by local tax – to help neighbors. (In Atwood, Kansas (pop. 1,500) we learned a similar type fund has accrued about 1 million dollars over 10 years.)

And as solar panels are going up, small wind turbines need to be going up on house roofs (or in backyards). In Mandan, North Dakota, Bob Degley told me he put up four small, Whisper 900 Series wind turbines on his barn roof that provide for almost half the electricity he uses on the entire farm.

We also need to get behind large wind turbine farms (like the one in Weatherford, Oklahoma). Some of these wind farms are funded by utility companies, while others are backed by private individual and business money. Actually, it would be quite a socially responsible investment at this point in history.

In addition, while in Old Orchard, Maine, we learned of a pilot project to convert wave action into energy. And this, too, must be wholeheartedly supported.

As should the concept of house sharing.

Again with house sharing, you share heated air. What's more, you share space – helping reverse urban sprawl – which, like an environmental cancer, is eating away at the carbon dioxide absorbing trees, farmland, wetlands... Urban sprawl is also responsible for people driving farther and farther distances.

Also with house sharing, again, you share appliances, lawn equipment, furniture... Which means there are less items being manufactured from plants burning fossil fuels. (First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio, has a lending list.)

And ultimately, we must get back to that individual, non-electric craftsmanship where work was a vocation and people had much more human dignity – as opposed to mind-numbing jobs on assembly lines.

When something is man-made, it is generally more expensive. In turn, it is generally more valued and more taken care of. As opposed to cheaper, mass-produced items

that are easily discarded in our “disposable society.”

And in this is another key.

“Conserver Society”

We are currently leading the world as a “Consumer Society.”

Whereas we need to lead the world as a “Conserver Society.”

“Reduce, Re-use and Recycle” should not just be a feel good motto, but rather it should represent an entire societal ethos.

In parts of New Jersey (as in Germany and other European countries now), you are fined if you throw away an item that is recyclable. We think this should be uniform throughout the country.

In California, I interviewed a professor at Monterey Community College who taught a course solely about recycling. He told me we can recycle practically everything, if we were willing to take the time and use some creative smarts. (We think similar courses should be taught in elementary and secondary schools too.)

And youth, in general, need to be taught to respect and care for nature. But they won’t want to save nature – until they learn to love it.

On a campaign stop in Sharon, Connecticut, naturalist Kathy Amiet told me that with TVs and computers, children are now alarmingly removed from nature. Ms. Amiet, who teaches youth at the local Audubon Society Center, has the answer: “Take them outside.” She said you have to get children “excited” about nature.

And perhaps the best way to ‘take them outside’ is to move to a farm.

Ultimately, to curb global warming (and return to a much saner society), we have to move away from industrialization and back to a small farm, sustainable agrarian base.

And in this new (yet old) society, we have to go back to working at “nature’s pace” – like many of the Amish (and a handful of other farmers) do.

We should plow and plant with draft horses or solar powered tractors. We should weed with a hoe – not a fossil fuel burning tractor pulling a toxic herbicide sprayer.

We should cut high grass and brush with a scythe.

And we should cut and chop wood with an axe.

In Cottonwood, Idaho, we met Sr. Carol Wassmus. She is a Benedictine Nun – and manager of 1,000 acres of forest on the St. Gertrude Monastery grounds.

She said one of the rules of St. Benedict is: We are to treat everything in God’s creation as “sacred vessels of the altar.”

When you are felling trees left and right in a super-charged, chainsaw fashion, it’s not conducive to really appreciating each piece of wood, and in turn, burning it judiciously. Or for that matter, carefully making something (as opposed to quickly

mass producing) out of the wood with care and gratitude to God – as if each piece of wood was, again, a “sacred vessel of the altar.”

And therein lies the crux of the problem.

hot for eternity

We have taken God’s gift of the environment for granted.

Instead of practicing sound environmental stewardship, we in this country have become gluttonous at every turn.

Yet we pass this off as the “pursuit of the American Dream.”

But it can’t go on.

It’s not sustainable environmentally.

And it’s not sustainable spiritually.

That is, this is not about waiting for the final environmental crisis to hit and *then* change. If you’re living gluttonously now, and die even before the final stage of the environmental crisis hits – you might have to get used to being hot, for eternity.

inspiring others

Oh, and there’s one other thing.

It’s not enough to just hear this message and change your environmental habits.

We have to inspire others.

We have to help others.

Kyoto Protocol Home Zone signs need to be going up in front yards all over the country.

Membership in the Sierra Club, Audobon Society... needs to swell.

The local papers need to be flooded with letters-to-the-editor about the importance of averting climate change and what you are doing to try to help.

You have to lobby that your town, at the very least, become a “Tree City USA.” To be one, the town has to establish a Tree Board and put aside at least two percent of its budget for planting and maintaining trees.

Or you could lobby that your town becomes an “urban forestry model.” In Nebraska City, Nebraska (home of Arbor Day), we learned this town of 7,000 people, was planting 10,000 trees in a ten-year span.

All this in tandem with planting trees in your own yard.

What’s more, we have to lobby for legislative change.

We have to flood our legislators with letters in support of stricter pollution controls on motor vehicles and on plant smoke stacks.

We have to suggest these legislators end things like the Space Program.

We are currently spending billions going to other planets, when the planet we live

on stands right at the brink of extinction.

Wouldn't that money be better spent on, say, wind turbine farms?

And in that same vein, instead of buying stuff we don't *really* need, which fosters more fossil fuel burning anyway, wouldn't the environmentally sane (and spiritually wise) thing to do be to give this money to a neighbor, or donate it to a town Environmental Fund.

On the one hand, this could be construed as spiritual penance.

On the other hand, it could be construed as "energy offset" for what one has added (or is continuing to add) to global warming.

And there is also the possibility of doing your own END GLOBAL WARMING bicycle tour through your state. I mean, you don't have to be running for president.

If our tour is any indication, you'll get a message out.

As Al Gore has.

...the warmer the Pacific gets

In his book *An Inconvenient Truth* about global warming, Gore writes: "The underlying reality is that we are colliding with the planet's ecological system, and it's most vulnerable components are crumbling as a result."

Exhibit A:

In the introduction, I talked about the *ABCNews.com* report of the millions of methane bubbles trapped below the ocean beds frozen layer in the Pacific. If this thaws and all this methane is released into the sky – we're gone.

Shortly after mentioning this at that talk in Granville, Ohio, I was e-mailed a *New York Times* story by one of the people who had been at the talk.

It's headline: **Study Links Tropical Ocean Warming to Greenhouse Gases.**

Benjamin D. Santer, of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory of the Energy Department, the lead author of a research paper on the study, noted "the only warming influence that could explain the changes in the oceans was the buildup of heat-trapping smokestack and tailpipe gases in the air."

Now it doesn't take "climate experts," or even a rocket scientist (who should be doing something else anyway), to put two and two together on this one.

The warmer the Pacific gets, the more that methane trapping frozen layer down below will thaw.

Even our daughter Sarah can tell you pretty much the same thing – only in much more poignant, and haunting, terms.

"What about the sky Dad?"

Other books by “average Joe” Schriners:

Back Road to the White House

Against all odds, and then some, an “average guy” from the Midwest does the unthinkable. He runs for president of the United States in Campaign 2000. No party machine... No big money... Just a dream – and an old van.

What they’re saying about Joe:

“...he (Schriner) seems to make a lot more sense than most politicians I try not to listen to.” –Steve Zender, editor, *The Progressor-Times newspaper*, Carey, Ohio

“Supplementing the national political debate is not Schriners’s goal, however. He intends to be president.” –reporter Daniel Wood, *The Christian Science Monitor*

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Back Road to the White House 2

Unfazed by a narrow defeat in their Campaign 2000 presidential bid (ok, it wasn’t really that close), “average Joe” Schriners and his family took to the back roads of America again for Campaign 2004. And during a 40,000-mile grassroots political odyssey, the “campaign team” stumped in hundreds of towns, appeared in media practically everywhere they went and had yet more absolutely fascinating encounters with the country at large.

This book is for every ‘average American citizen’ who at one point or another has said: “I should run for president.” And this will definitely put you in the front seat of what that might feel like.

America’s Best Urban Neighborhood (Ohio City 44113)

There’s graffiti. There’re gangs. There’re drugs. There’s pollution. There’re homeless people. There’re homicides... And there’s a scenic (cough) view of Lake Erie that’s next to none. So why would Cleveland, Ohio’s “Ohio City” area be the best urban neighborhood in the country? Because in the midst of all the deterioration, a high-energy group of people has taken a collective deep breath, rolled up their sleeves and moved here from small town and suburban America, to help. And boy, have they!

America's Best Town (Bluffton, Ohio 45817)

The author's groundbreaking first book about Bluffton, Ohio (pop. 3,877), explains why it has the best "quality of life" of any place in the country. A quality of life that has led one of America's top TV journalists, an internationally known doctor, a super-star comedian, a professional football legend, a U.S. presidential candidate, and a host of others to call this small town "home." A quality of life that's not about affluence, climate or scenery (unless you like corn); but rather it is about community spirit, environmental awareness, outreach to the disadvantaged... and this rather odd college mascot. Bluffton is an *Oz*. It's a small town *Field of Dreams*.

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America's Best Town 2 (Bluffton, Ohio 45817)

"Average Joe" Schriener is at it again, seconding his claim that Bluffton, Ohio's community esprit de corps (whatever that means), peace building, civic involvement, political activism, environmental consciousness and a small town Christmas pageant that's next to none... all combine to make it the best town in the country. And if that isn't enough, Bluffton (pop. 3,877) has the most poets per capita of any American town, the best coffee shop, the best university and a furry little mascot that is trying – apparently with some success – to take over the world! And all this is told with just the right touch of small town charm and humor.

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about the author: “Joe Schrinier is a green talking environmentalist,” the *Salinas (KS) Journal* noted. But more than that, Joe told the *Salem News* in Ohio that he is your “average concerned Midwestern parent” who, in the face of global warming, is ‘concerned’ his children are not going to have a world to grow up in. So, through a rather unique, ongoing U.S. Presidential candidacy over the past decade, he has set

Joe’s End Global Warming! bicycle tour route.

out to sound the alarm about this issue (and a host of others).

And in line with “*Be the change you want to see in the world...*,” Joe is not just spreading a message, he and his family are trying to live their messages on every level, the *Star Beacon* newspaper in Ashtabula, Ohio, recently noted in an article about environmental sustainability.

Joe is also the author of: *Back Road to the White House*; *Back Road to the White House 2*; *America’s Best Town*; *America’s Best Town 2*; *America’s Best Urban Neighborhood*.

On a radio show in Mr. Vernon, Oho, presidential candidate “average Joe” Schrinier asked what responsible parent in America would go on with their current lifestyle, knowing they could be destroying the planet for their children? Mt. Vernon was just one of a series of stops on Joe and his family’s 300 mile bicycle tour to sound the alarm about global warming, while giving America a “fool-proof” plan to stop it.



Photo by Virgil Shipley

Mount Vernon News

Joe Schrinier, left rear, and his family are literally pedaling his 2008 presidential campaign message all over Ohio. The Schriners were in town Sunday and Monday on Joe’s End Global Warming Tour. Family members shown are, from left Joe; Joseph, 9; Sarah, 10; Jonathan, 3; and wife, Liz, who is also Joe’s campaign manager.

