

# YOOPER SCOOPER

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MAY 2008

Upper Peninsula Patriots

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Green Scam

## The Big Green \$cam

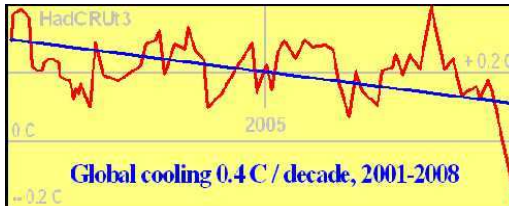
In case you've been hiding under your bed for the last month or so, you've missed the new trend in the global warming game; it's now simply called

a global climate crisis.

While the inept like Dr. Heidi Cullen of The Weather Channel had called for the decertification of meteorologists who defied the facts of global warming, it is perhaps time for those who had bought into the Al Gore and the UN Agenda 21 hoax be decertified themselves.

Hans Schreuder and many other scientists are challenging the UNs' selected panel of scientists who declared that the cause of "global warming" is manmade - i.e., man's activities are causing the polar cap to melt.

[Please visit the links listed below The Big Green \$cam under Recommended Links on the last page.]



**The trend that caught the IPCC by surprise: Since late 2001, the trend of global surface temperatures has been downward. "Global warming" stopped in 1998; and, though it may resume in future years, the rate of warming is self-evidently less than that which the IPCC had expected and is very likely to be harmless.**

Actually, we're in a period of global cooling, not warming, but in order to control the activities of man and mankind, itself, and continue with the UNs' Agenda 21-Sustainable Development Program, the "global warming" hoax must be perpetuated. Al Gore and his minions are doing just that - perpetuating a myth - and they're not doing it to "save the planet"; they're doing it to get control of every drop of water, every grain of soil, and profit immensely in the process.

Hans is an analytical physicist who lives in the United Kingdom. Hans has been corresponding with the Scooper's own CJ after her article regarding the polar bear photo scam appeared in News With Views. [Also linked]

In modern society we can easily define the term hysteria by watching the global alarmist and limo-crats go to work on offsetting our carbon footprint. Hybrid vehicles which use ethanol are far less fuel efficient than the gasoline engines. In fact, it is estimated that it takes 1.29 gallons of gasoline to produce one gallon of ethanol. The starch from the corn-based ethanol is removed and the remaining residuals are sent on to livestock farmers to feed their livestock. The low quality product has reduced the quality of meats and the use of corn for fuel has been heading us toward a famine.

Finally, coal-to-diesel is made far more cheaply than oil-based diesel; but who's funding that effort?

## Statistical Coincidence?

**In Just One Year, from a little over a year ago:**

- 1) Consumer confidence stood at a 2 1/2 year high;
- 2) Regular gasoline sold for \$2.19 a gallon;
- 3) The unemployment rate was 4.5%.

**Since voting in a Democratic Congress in 2006 we've seen:**

- 1) Consumer confidence plummeted;
- 2) The cost of regular unleaded gasoline has soared to over \$3.50 a gallon;
- 3) Unemployment is up to 5% (a 10% increase);

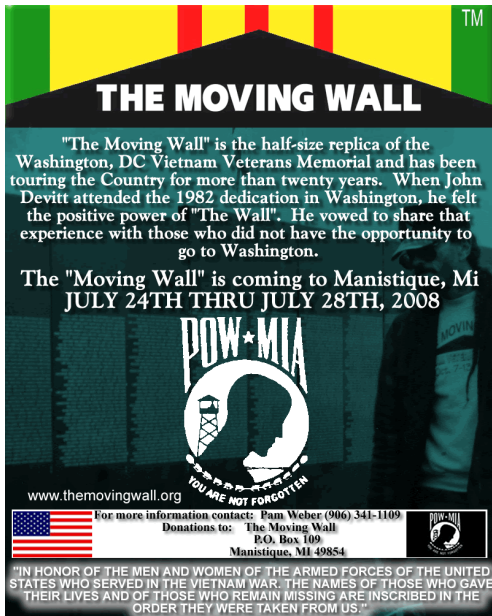
4) American households have seen \$2.3 trillion in equity value evaporate (stock and mutual fund losses);

5) Americans have seen their home equity drop by \$1.2 trillion dollars;

6) 1% of American homes are in foreclosure.

## Vietnam War Moving Wall Memorial Due in Manistique

<http://www.myspace.com/themovingwallmanistique>



**THE MOVING WALL**

"The Moving Wall" is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the Country for more than twenty years. When John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the positive power of "The Wall". He vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington.

The "Moving Wall" is coming to Manistique, Mi  
JULY 24TH THRU JULY 28TH, 2008

POW/MIA  
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

www.themovingwall.org

For more information contact: Pam Weber (906) 341-1109  
Donations to: The Moving Wall  
P.O. Box 109  
Manistique, MI 49854

"IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR, THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED IN THE ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US."

### UPPER PENINSULA Vietnam Veterans Who Have Made the Ultimate Sacrifice:

FERZACCA, Michael PFC/Army Munising\*

JOHNSON, Bruce Michael PFC/Army Wetmore\*

MOORE, William Vincent PFC/Army Au Train\*

NIEMI, Martin Roy LCPL/USMC Sundell\*

TALLMAN, Roger Lee SP4/Army Munising\*

BELLAIRE, John Michael SGT/Army Baraga\*

OVIIST, Davis Emanuel CPL/USMC Pelkie\*

PICCIANO, Terrance Alan LCPL/USMC Baraga\*

RAJALA, Stanley Robert CPL/Army Watton\*

SHAFER, Roger Dale SP5/Army Baraga\*

BELL, Harrison Bruce SGT/USMC Sault St. Marie\*

BELINSKI, James Gerald PFC/Army Stalwart\*

BUMSTEAD, Donald Royce PFC/USMC Brimley\*

CASINO, Joseph Walter SSGT/Army Dafter\*

DESORMEAUX, Harry Henry SGT/Army Sault St. Marie\*

HOWARD, Charles Vincent SGT/Army Brimley\*

KING, Ivan Claus SSGT/Army Kincheloe\*

MAKI, Frank Rudolph MAJ/Army Fibre\*

MEEHAN, Michael Allen CPL/Army Dafter\*

POLISKI, Michael C. PFC/Army Sault St. Marie\*

SMITH, Larry James PFC/Army Pickford\*

SOMES, Ronald Lee SP4/Army Sault St. Marie\*

VERRETT, Kenneth Emery SP4/Army Sault St. Marie\*

WIRT, Dennis Aethur SP4/Army Sault St. Marie\*

WYDRA, Milan Chauncey CPL/USMC Sault St. Marie\*

ANGLIM, Adrian James SSGT/Army Gladstone\*

COOK, James John SGT/Army Gladstone\*

CRAIG, Bruce Keith PFC/USMC Escanaba\*

FILLION, William Henry SGT/Army Escanaba\*

JOHNSON, Richard Arnold SP4/Army Escanaba\*

LACOSSE, Jimmy John PFC/Army Rock\*

LEWIS, Richard Kenneth PFC/Army Escanaba\*

MORAS, Robert John NA/FN Escanaba\*

PEPIN, John Frederick SP4/Army Escanaba\*

PROEHL, Paul A. SGT/Army Rapid River\*

RUSHA, Gary Edward SP4/Army Escanaba\*

STEWART, Charles L. Jr. SP4/Army Gladstone\*

STOCKHOLM, Dwight Ross PFC/USMC Gladstone\*

FAULL, Clifford Leonard SGT/Army Norway\*

GERSTNER, Ronald Edward SP5/Army Sagola\*

HULTQUIST, Edward C. PFC/Army Norway\*

MATCHETT, James Steven PFC/USMC Kingsford\*

PAUL, Gary Michael LCPL/USMC Norway\*

WENDER, Terry Authur SP4/Army Iron Mountain\*

DAVIDSON, Thomas James PSGT/Army Wakefield\*

GRANDAHL, Jack William SP4/Army Ironwood\*

JOHNSON, Carl Irving SGT/Army Wakefield\*

LACOST, Regnold Joseph LCPL/USMC Ironwood\*

NEGRO, Daniel Lee PFC/Army Wakefield\*

SHERMOS, John Daniel SFC/Army Ironwood\*

BATTIN, Darrell Gene NA/HN Mason\*

CAVIS, David Jude 2LT/Army Hubbell\*

COPPO, Patrick Brian SGT/Army Calumet\*

FREDRICKSON, Alan D. PFC/Army Houghton\*

KIPINA, Marshall F. SSGT/Army Calumet\*

KOLKA, Edward Louis SGT/Army Hancock\*

LINNA, Steven Paul SP4/Army South Range\*

LONG, James Robert SSGT/USMC Hancock\*

MARCOTTE, Dennis W. PFC/Army Hancock\*

MOILANEN, Dale Burton SGT/Army Hubbell\*

MUSICH, John Paul SP4/Army Calumet\*

ONKALO, Philip Gordon PFC/Army Baltic\*

PELLOSMA, David John LCPL/USMC Alantic Mine\*

PIRKOLA, Paul Henry PFC/Army Calumet\*

RHEAULT, Willis C. SGT/Army Lake Linden\*

SHIRODA, Robert L.Jr. SGT/Army Houghton\*

ANDERSON, John Perry LCPL/USMC Iron River\*

BLACK, Ralph Roland SP4/Army Crystal Falls\*

JACOBSON, John W. SR. SP4/Army Crystal Falls\*

MAKI, Glen Arvid CPL/USMC Iron River\*

PAKULA, Thomas Vincent SP4/Army Stambaugh\*

REMONDINI, Leo A. JR. SGT/Army Caspian\*

KOSKI, Gene Raymond SSGT/Army Mohawk\*

GRUEZKE, James A. WO/Army Newberry\*

HETRICK, Gerald Everett LCPL/USMC Newberry\*

NESBIT, Roger Charles PFC/USMC Newberry\*

TAYLOR, Donald Thomas SP5/Army Newberry\*

THORSON, Wallace R. JR. LCPL/USMC Newberry\*

WILLIAMS, Clifford Dan SGT/USMC Newberry\*

DANKOWSKI, James H. SP4/Army Mackinac Island\*

FENELEY, Francis James MAJ/AF Curtis\*

ARBOGAST, Carl F. Jr. SP4/Army Marquette\*

BELL, James Edward SP4/Army Marquette\*

CARTER, Terry Alfred LCPL/USMC Marquette\*

DELLANGELO, David J. SGT/Army Negaunee\*

DERRICK, Robert Allen SGT/Army Marquette\*

HALEY, Gary Robert LCPL/USMC Marquette\*

KESKI, Keith SP4/Army Michigamme\*

BECK, Glen Ray PFC/Army Ontonagon\*

BINDER, Quentin Wayne SP4/Army Bruce Crossing\*

EKSTADT, John Milton SP5/Army Bruce Crossing\*

GARRICK, Jerry Arthur SSGT/Army Trout Creek\*

LUNDBERG, William R. SP4/Army Ontonagon\*

PIERPONT, William M. 2LT/Army White Pine\*

SKINNER, Ernest Mack SP5/Army Ontonagon\*

SOMERO, Kenneth Edwin SGT/Army Greenland\*

Manistique's OWN: \*\*\*

JENKS, Joseph William PFC/USMC MANISTIQUE\*

TIGLAS, Thomas Lee NA/FA MANISTIQUE\*

FENELY, Francis James USAF Curtis - MIA (MISSING IN ACTION)\*

SEABLUM, Earl Francis ARMY Ishpeming\*

"If you are able, save for them a place inside of you and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go. Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always. Take what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own. And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

Major Michael Davis O'Donnell  
1 January 1970 Dak To, Vietnam  
Listed as KIA February 7, 1978



## “The Gang That Couldn’t Shoot Straight”

By Jon Galt

**“He had delusions of adequacy.”...Walter Kerr**

The title of Jimmy Breslin’s book, along with the quote by Walter Kerr, pretty well sums up the despair when Michiganders realize that their legislature is using last year’s box of crayons to write legislation.

At first I thought it was April Fools’ Day when I spotted a bizarre blurb crowing that some outfit called the Pew Center had issued a proclamation that Michigan was ranked as the second best run state in the union. I half expected to read that these Pew people also thought the Detroit Lions were the second best team in pro football. Then it dawned on me that the gullible press had slurped up this piece of drivel and had probably misspelled the word phew. The report’s stench of duplicity, like a road kill skunk, will linger on well after this verbal assault on our sensibilities has floated off and been transformed into political pond scum.

Doesn’t it make you wonder if some Lansing politician’s brother-in-law works for the Pew people? It should be obvious that these think tankers may have an I.Q. that only registers mid range on the Richter scale and they may need to pickup their marbles and go home.

With all the wailing lately about the aborted Michigan Presidential Primary not counting, you have to wonder about the reliability of not only our legislature, but the lap dog talking heads who swallowed their feigned indignation.

The hierarchies of both political parties told the whiz kids in the state legislature that if they ‘violated’ the rules of their respective charters, they could kiss the results of any election goodbye. Supposedly this bit of infor-

mation sunk in to everyone else in the country, but could not penetrate the dense fog in Lansing. Flying high on the euphoria of their recent income tax hike, they promptly flushed about ten million dollars down the toilet by holding a boondoggle election, which, as it now turns out, is comic fodder for every late night comedian. Paris, Britany, and even the philandering New York politicians can rest easy; the Michigan legislature has again claimed the title as the nation’s dunce cap.

It seems that Michigan and Florida have now cornered the market on running infamous elections. Gone are the jokes about hanging chads and the mental capacity of the brightly colored polyester crowd lining up for the ‘all you can eat’ buffets. Instead, we have every major newspaper and TV network in the country wondering how anyone who can screw up a simple primary election and make it illegal can have the wherewithal to run a state with a budget of some thirty-eight billion dollars. The residents of Michigan already know the answer; they can’t. It seems the legislature is so used to breaking laws to satisfy their whims that one more law didn’t mean much to them.

To make matters worse, the legislature decided to have a Hugo Chavez style election. Anyone who voted in the faux presidential primary had to declare which party they were voting for. After the election all of these names were then available to the respective parties so they can send junk mail for the rest of your life, begging you for donations to fund their feeble causes. In addition, numerous state bureaucrats will have access to this information and how long do you think it will take before they start blabbing?

The politicians assured the voters (or at least those that bothered to vote) that no one would have access to this infor-

mation. Let’s see now. A fourteen-year-old kid was able to hack into one of the main computers at Microsoft, and our legislature thinks this information is safe? Every catalog company and telemarketer in the world has set up camp outside the legislative building in Lansing, licking their chops at the idiocy that is going on inside.

Some states have floated the idea that habitually impaired drivers be issued special license plates to be worn as a warning sign, like the Scarlet Letter. It appears that most of our legislators have been visually and mentally impaired for years and maybe the taxpayers should insist that special license plates be issued to each legislator, possibly ones’ displaying a very large zero. This would allow us to track them while they are cozying up to their lobbyist friends and otherwise making fools of themselves by enacting legislation that is thoughtless and harmful to normal citizens.

We might take this one step further and have ignition-locks installed on their cars. Every time they attempted to go back in session to continue their tomfoolery, a little bird would pop out of the ignition shouting, cuckoo-cuckoo. Kind of reminds me of the bumper sticker that says, “Stupidity does not qualify as a handicap: find a regular parking space”.

Now the shell game starts. Each legislator has on their staff hatchet men who are experts in deploying one-syllable words so their legislative boss can understand them. The job of these yeah-but-ers is to draft vague press releases trying to shift the blame to innocent third parties. What about taking a page from baseball; can we trade the whole bunch to South Dakota for a couple of semis of pothole filler and a bucket of sauerkraut?

*Editor’s Note: Jon Galt hails from the Ontonagon area.*

## Texas showdown: Balancing child welfare, religious freedom

By CHARLES C. HAYNES

Texas officials are trying hard to keep the focus on child abuse—and away from religion—in the custody battle involving 437 children seized from a polygamist religious sect this month.

If only it were so simple.

Like it or not, this conflict is about far more than the issue of older men having sex with under-age girls in violation of Texas law. It's also about religion—specifically the religious culture of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (FLDS).

Defenders of the church argue that the raid was an overreaction to one telephone call (that might have been a hoax) and was motivated by long-standing animus toward the FLDS community. The state counters that dramatic measures are justified when evidence points to children trapped in a religious culture that promotes child abuse.

The only way to sort out the truth, and determine the fate of the children, will be to put the FLDS way of life on trial.

Polygamists get little public sympathy—despite the positive spin on HBO's "Big Love." But polygamy and under-age marriage are only part of a larger public concern about the psychological and physical harm children might suffer from being raised in what appears to be an insular, authoritarian environment.

Ordinarily, I bristle when someone labels a religious group a "cult"—a term that, in popular parlance, is often used to describe "a religion I don't like." Adherents of faiths considered mainstream today—Catholics and Mormons, among others—were

derided as "cult members" in the 19th century.

FLDS, however, has all of the marks of a more academic definition of cult: isolated from the world, secretive and beholden to a charismatic leader who exercises absolute power and authority.

Under the First Amendment, of course, cults, sects, and a wide range of religious movements, new and old, are protected in the practice of their faith, no matter how unpopular or isolated from society. Although the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld some limits on religious practice (starting with polygamy in 1878), such cases are rare.

But religious freedom ends when child abuse begins. Adults, for example, might have a right to refuse life-saving health care, including blood transfusions, for themselves—but not for their children.

Defining "abuse," however, is itself subject to abuse, sometimes creating a slippery legal slope that gives people license to persecute unpopular religious groups.

In the early 1800s, the presence of children in Shaker communities led some states to pass laws restricting the rights of Shaker parents, including giving the state power to "rescue children" by awarding custody to the parent who was not a Believer.

More recently, in the 1960s, law enforcement sometimes looked the other way when "de-programmers" snatched young people from new religious movements at the instigation of fearful parents.

Today, Texas officials are employing a sweeping definition of "child abuse" by removing 437 children from their FLDS families. Now the state must

justify its actions by arguing that all of the children were harmed or potentially harmed by life in the church culture. As Tom Vick of the Texas Bar Association (who is rounding up lawyers for the children) puts it: "If it's a dangerous situation for one child, it's a dangerous situation for all."

This is a high bar, far more difficult than a limited investigation into specific allegations of under-age marriage. A victory for the state could mean that none of the children can be safely returned to the church. That could well spell the end of the FLDS community, at least above ground.

That's why Texas should proceed with caution from here on. The outcome of this case could create new grounds for intervention when the government decides an unpopular religious group is inherently detrimental to child welfare.

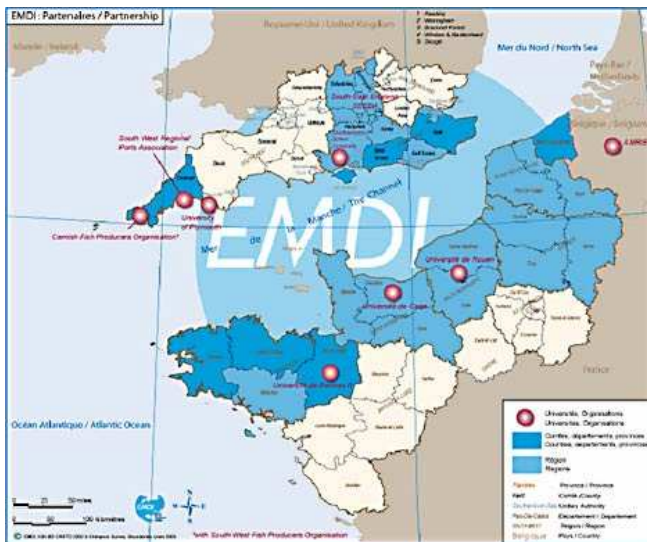
Temporarily removing the children might have been justified in this case—that's what the courts will need to determine. But the ultimate decision about the children's fate should be based on whether there is clear evidence of systematic sexual abuse rather than on general condemnation of the beliefs of FLDS followers or prejudice against their way of life.

Barring such abuse, these children belong with their parents. Being raised in an unconventional religious system might appall or offend outsiders, but it is not by definition abusive. As much as Texas officials might not want to deal with it, this case is not only about child welfare—it's also about religious freedom.

Charles C. Haynes is senior scholar at the First Amendment Center, 555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

## EU wipes England off the map - as Gordon Brown flies the flag of St George over Downing Street

Last updated at 16:23pm on 23rd April 2008



The Tories have issued a St George's Day rallying cry against plans by Brussels to "wipe England off the map" and create a United Europe.

As Gordon Brown hoisted the English national flag over 10 Downing Street to celebrate St George's Day, it was revealed that EU officials had revised a map wiping out the country and the Channel.

The change splits England into three and lumps those parts together with chunks of other countries to create "transnational regions".

It is claimed these zones - which have been allocated their own budgets - are intended to boost trade between EU nations.

But the Tories yesterday accused the Government of trying "to create a European superstate via the back door".

Under the programme, known as INTER-REG, counties along England's south coast form the "Manche Region" along with northern France.

The "Atlantic Region" takes in western England, along with Ireland, Wales and parts of Portugal, Spain, France and Scotland.

Meanwhile eastern England is part of the "North Sea Region", which covers areas of Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Norway and the Netherlands.

The UK Government is fully behind the project, even though the words "England" and "Britain" are left off official maps of each area and the Manche Region renames the English Channel "The Channel Sea".

Each region, which will be given taxpayers' money to promote trade links, cultural ties, transport policies and tourism, is to be run by a "managing authority" of unelected officials overseen by a director.

None will be based in the UK, with Manche ruled by the French, Atlantic by the Portuguese and North Sea by the Danes.

The regions have legal status and Manche has a budget of £261million between 2007 and 2013, Atlantic £127million and North Sea £219million.

Every project funded by a region must have a publicity campaign which ensures "there is provision for flying the EU flag at least one week every year".

Eric Pickles, the Conservatives' communities spokesman, said: "We already knew that Gordon Brown had

hoisted the white flag of surrender to the European Constitution.

"Now the Labour Government has been caught red-handed conspiring with European bureaucrats to create a European superstate via the back door.

"Gordon Brown literally wants to wipe England off the map."

But a spokesman for the Department for Communities and Local Government insisted: "It has nothing to do with altering names on maps.

"It is about support for business, helping boost employment and turning around deprived areas... helping firms in Kent do business with people in Northern France or promoting joint tourism initiatives between different countries."

The move came as Gordon Brown ordered that all UK Government buildings with two flag poles should fly the cross of St George alongside the union banner.

It follows a review of flag flying practices. Number 10 will in future fly the Scottish and Welsh flags on their patron saints' days.

Northern Ireland does not have an official national flag, and so the same practice will not apply on St Patrick's Day.

"The Prime Minister's view is that of course we should celebrate our Britishness, but celebrating our Britishness does not mean we cannot also celebrate our Englishness, Scottishness, Welshness or Northern Irishness," said the spokesman.

The English flag last flew over Downing Street during the 2006 World Cup.

## Michigan Arsonists Plan Fires for '08

By C. J. Williams

On Oct. 18, 1908 the New York Times reported news of a devastating forest fire that swept through miles of Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties in northern Lower Michigan. In its wake hundreds were left homeless and the remains of the less fortunate, many of them women and children, were found charred in their homesteads and along escape routes, including unrecognizable bodies in a refugee train that jumped the tracks in the burning forest. In fact, at that time most of northern Michigan was burning, as were forests near Sault Ste. Marie.

"The whole country is a firetrap," said Bishop Charles Williams of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, who managed to make his way to the area. "The woods are full of dry, fallen timber, left by the old lumbermen; slashings and old mills with seasoned wood are everywhere...Everything is parched with drought, yet the people carelessly clear the lands with fire."

Over the years government agencies and timbering companies worked hard to better manage forests so similar catastrophes wouldn't happen. Now, almost 100 years after the devastating fires of 1908, we're learning that the Nature Conservancy (TNC) is dictating management policy to government resource agencies so "ecosystems" in Michigan and other states can be restored to pre-European settlement condition through intentionally set fires.

These fires, known as "prescribed burns", often get out of hand and result in what the Conservancy refers to as "slop over" when private property is destroyed, as happened in the Shakey Lakes area of the Escanaba State Forest several years ago.

In 1980, a "prescribed burn" near Mio in the Mack Lake area of Oscoda County got out of control. It's been

noted that few documented wildfires have exceeded the fire's spread rate (2 mi/hr) and energy release rate (8,800 Btu/ft/sec) and that the fires' extreme behavior resulted from high winds, low humidity, low fuel moisture and jack pine fuels.

Now billed as a "tragic accident", the Mack Lake fire was intentionally set by the U.S. Forest Service as part of its habitat management strategy for Kirtland's Warblers. Unfortunately, what should have been a 200-acre burn turned into an inferno that consumed almost 24,000 acres, destroyed 40 homes, and killed one Forest Service worker.

On April 27, 2007, Ottawa National Forest Service personnel intentionally set fire to several spots in the Baraga Plains just south of Prickett Dam. This, too, was designed to enhance habitat for the Kirtland's Warbler, which takes to jack pines like babies take to milk. Two days later, after the fires were thought to be under control, a hot spot erupted and before that fire was contained 1,121 acres burned due to high winds, low humidity, and tinder dry fuels due to long-term drought.

Not only does the Forest Service engage in arson to create habitat for birds and butterflies, but so does the MI-DNR, which boasts on one Webpage to be managing its public land in Roscommon and Ogemaw Counties for Kirtland's Warblers, too. Prescribed burns are part of the land management strategy there, as well.

It should be noted that the Sleeper Lake fire last summer, which burned thousands of acres in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, cost thousands of dollars to contain, and endangered people's property and firefighters' lives, rampaged through an area managed by the Nature Conservancy. While blamed on lightning, TNC is noted for setting fire to forests and fields all over America and it well may be that the Sleeper Lake fire

was another intentional burn that got out of control. A "prescribed burn" in that area would certainly account for the MI-DNR's sudden decision to close several state campgrounds in that area just prior to the inferno.

As recently as Jan. 2008, a prescribed fire in Florida burst its bounds and likely contributed to a multi-car pile up on Interstate 4, causing the death of several people. The planned 10-acre burn became a 400-acre wildfire that ignited a peat bog, which burned for days. It's thought that the heavy smoke, combined with fog, blanketed the highway and led to the devastating multi-car accident.

According to the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council's March 2008 meeting minutes, the Conservancy is planning to burn more acreage at the exclusive 27,000 acre Turtle Lake Hunt Club not far from Mio in Montmorency County; the U.S. Forest Service was still working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate with TNC on burns; an MOU between the TNC and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service already exists; 36 TNC intentional burns are planned, but most aren't on TNC lands; the MI-DNR Parks & Recreation Division has 56 burns planned (about 6,500 acres); and the MI-DNR Wildlife Division has about 200 burns planned, but the lack of trained personnel, especially burn bosses, limits what the DNR actually gets burned, even if the weather is favorable.

Favorable weather or not, one of the first wildfires to rage through northern Lower Michigan this year occurred on April 26 near Grayling in Crawford County, an area where the MI-DNR manages lots of land. The fire burned at least 1,100 acres and jumped Interstate 75, which was closed due to heavy smoke that made visibility impossible. Fortunately, no lives were lost though there was a great deal of property damage. ~Cj

## The natural cycle of collapse and rebirth

Comments by Mike Adams, the Health Ranger - June 21, 2007

Mike Adams is the Editor of NaturalNews.com - (<http://www.naturalnews.com/index.html>)

So where is it all heading?

To a desperate place, unfortunately. It's a natural cycle of nation states. Following abundance comes greed, then corruption, then police state tyranny, then collapse. After the collapse there's rebirth, reconstruction and a new cycle of abundance until the whole thing repeats itself over and over again, one century after the next. Read your world history to hear this same story repeated over at least fifty empires that once existed on Earth. The American empire will be no different: It will drown in its own greed and corruption, collapsing into a state of moral and financial bankruptcy, and then will likely be reborn as a series of smaller nation-states like the Washington / Oregon / Idaho / Northern California region that has very different values and interests than, say, the Texas region.

During all this, there will be lots of social unrest, poverty, personal bankruptcy, police state arrests and perhaps even the widespread use of detention camps to indefinitely hold troublemakers who dare to protest or speak out against government corruption. This is what's coming for America, and the interesting part is that almost nobody in America seems to be able to anticipate this. Yet the writing is on the wall, and it's as obvious as the dot-com crash was before 2000.

I publicly predicted the dot-com crash starting in 1998, and urged everyone to get out of the market through 1999, 2000 and right up until the bursting of the dot-com bubble in early 2001. All this time, nobody listened. Virtually everyone was caught up in the insane illusion that we would all get rich by selling each other pieces of paper with increasingly large numbers written on them (those are the stock prices, you see). Almost everybody was swept up by Groupthink, believing that the laws of

economics had changed forever. CNBC became the cheerleader of unbridled greed, and brainwashed idiots at the American Enterprise Institute were publishing books predicting a Dow of 36,000 that would create infinite wealth requiring no effort or productive work.

Meanwhile, I was urging everyone to sell their stocks, which of course made me look utterly insane given that everybody else in the world was telling people to keep buying -- including all the stock brokers and investment fund managers, who it turns out know almost nothing useful about finances or investments and are just as easily swept up by Groupthink as anything else. When the bubble finally burst, I was completely out of the market and lost nothing. But many people I knew lost big portions of their life savings.

Now, I told you that story to tell you this: **What's coming in America's future is going to be far, far worse than the dot-com fiasco.** Imagine the financial market breaking down, the U.S. government defaulting on its debt, the dollar going through massive hyperinflation, wiping out the value of the life savings of virtually all Americans. Think it can't happen here? That's what the Groupthink thinks. But it will happen here, and the massive corruption in our government is making sure of it. Whatever dollars you have in the bank will, in a few years, become virtually worthless. Hyperinflation is inevitable. Study the history of Germany following World War I to gain additional insight on this topic.

### Sacrificing the future for today's profit

**When the corporations run a nation, that nation has no real future, because corporations only think in terms of the next quarter, not the next generation.** Corporations will naturally do whatever they can to maximize their profits right now, including poisoning the children with vaccines, poisoning the population with toxic food products,

sacrificing the financial future of the nation for short-term gain, destroying the environment, ignoring the health care needs of the People, inciting war so they can sell more profitable weapons to war-torn countries around the world, and so on. Essentially, corporations will sell out the future for higher profits today, and that's exactly what they've done in America.

America has no real future. Not a good one, anyway. I give the nation anywhere from 5 to 25 years before it will self destruct under a mountain of debt, disease and corruption. You can thank the corporations and corrupt politicians for that. They've thrown away the dream of a nation that was once great and could actually be great again, if not for the greed.

My message to all U.S. citizens is to prepare yourself now for what's coming. Get out of debt. Get healthy. Invest in your education and learn some practical skills like gardening, bicycle repair or natural medicine. Own some productive land and learn how to use it. Be near a source of fresh water. When the oil runs out, and the fresh water tables are drained, and the financial system collapses, and the real estate bubble bursts, life is going to be a whole lot harder than it is today. Forget about shopping malls, must-see TV and the latest fashions. Most families are going to be struggling just to put food on the table.

This is all several years away, of course. And until then, most people are going to continue the pursuit of even more debt and disease, oblivious to the future that awaits them. A great book to read on how that future might play out is *The Long Emergency* by James Howard Kunstler. Or *The Party's Over: Oil, War and The Fate of Industrial Societies*.

*Editor's Note: The renovation of the U.S. economy is under way; heed his words!*

<sup>1</sup><http://www.naturalnews.com/corporations.html> - <sup>2</sup>[http://www.naturalnews.com/United\\_States.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/United_States.html)

<sup>3</sup><http://www.naturalnews.com/hyperinflation.html> - <sup>4</sup><http://www.naturalnews.com/politicians.html>

## An open letter to our politicians

By Ron Ewart, President—National Association of Rural Landowners - [www.narlo.org](http://www.narlo.org)

### “Dear politician:

We finally get it! For a growing number of us, it's now crystal clear what you are trying to do and have been doing for far too long. You think we're ignorant, stupid, naive and apathetic. Some of us are, but our eyes are open now. It took eighty to one hundred years of us looking the other way, while you pretty much did whatever you wanted to do. But those days are over. The pendulum swings slowly, but it swings nevertheless, and it now swings towards freedom.

We're watching and we're learning and we're telling others to watch and learn, as well. Your free hand to strip us of our individual rights, our property and our pride, and tear down our institutions of freedom and liberty that made America one of the greatest, most prosperous and most generous nations on Earth is finally over. Oh, you may have a few more years yet to chip away at our freedom and our sovereignty, but nothing lasts forever and we're waking up to the dawn of what you've created and what we let happen.

We're finally able to see through the clouds you have used to shroud the light of our Sun as well as our liberty. The proud people of other new-world countries, like Canada, Australia and New Zealand, are waking up to what their governments are and have been doing, as well. Their voices are now being heard and added to ours.

Sure, you've been successful in buying off a large segment of the American population and they won't bite the hand that feeds them, but there are *those among us* who have pierced the veil of your deceit and are now on a path to return you to the limited powers strictly authorized by our constitution.

Because of our in-attention, you have become corrupt and filled with your own power. Your egos have become blown out of proportion by years upon years of no resistance to your chicanery.

Because you see, Oh arrogant politician, there are *those among us* who remember what it was like before our government began to become seriously intrusive into our private lives, our property, our income and, ultimately, our freedom.

There are *those among us* who have an indelible memory of the principles upon which this great land was founded and have been witness to the irresponsible and unconscionable erosion of those principles.

There are *those among us* who have watched over the years as the “frog” (*us*) was slowly heated (*freedoms denied*) and died (*became captive*) in the pot because the changes in temperature over time were almost imperceptible.

There are *those among us* who realize our freedom is directly related to the level of our involvement in the process that maintains those freedoms, but have lost our voice in screaming our concerns to the multitudes and the politicians who have rejected our message.

There are *those among us* who are acutely aware of the inescapable fact that the “**Price of Freedom and Liberty is truly Eternal Vigilance**”. We give homage and sincere honor to those brave souls who've been wounded or died to maintain that freedom.

There are *those among us* who know we have allowed our government to buy our vote in return for compensation that had no relation to our labors or our investments. Nothing comes without a price and the price has been the loss of pride, dignity, honor, self-respect and most important, our individual freedom. We've been seduced, undressed, lined up and given our marching orders without a shot being fired.

There are *those among us* who still remember the sweet smell of individual accomplishment and achievement and the rewards we received for our hard work.

There are *those among us* who still set high moral and ethical standards for ourselves and those around us.

There are *those among us* who've watched in silence for way too many years as you increased your power by creating law after law and then creating bloated bureaucracies to pass even more law without your oversight, which is your constitutional duty to maintain as legislators.

You have wrapped the people of America in a tangled web of laws that overlap, contradict and conflict with each other, allowing the vultures of our society, the lawyers, to straighten out the mess you created. But the lawyers don't straighten out the mess; they make it even more complicated, all the while filling their own bank accounts at the expense of the naive and ignorant.

There are *those among us* who've watched the U. S. and state Supreme Courts, as well as the lower level courts, twist and turn our constitution and the law and legislation you pass into travesties of injustice and betrayal.

We have watched as courts uphold laws in order to bolster the power of the legislative and executive branches of government, all the while thumbing their collective noses at the CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED and the Supreme Law of the Land.

But we're done watching. We have awakened from our long sleep and we are awakening others. The days of you raising your right hand and swearing an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and then do just the opposite are coming to an end. There is a price for lying, deceit, propaganda and corruption and that price will catch up to you for the natural law states that, eventually, no bad deed goes unpunished.

The job of the politician is to uphold the Constitution upon which they swear solemn oath. The job of the politician is to protect the American people from all enemies, foreign or domestic, even if the domestic enemy is advocating laws that violate our constitutions, as do most social and environmental laws. The job of the politician is to vigorously defend the individual freedoms granted to the American people by their creator and

codified into law in our constitution.

However, the job of the politician is not to micro-manage every individual's life to some set of unreasonable standards that were created by some commission staffed with over-educated idiots, or a bureaucrat, or politician that have the arrogance to think they know better how to manage our individual lives than we do.

In short, Mr. and Mrs. Politician and Bureaucrat, you don't own our land, you don't pay our taxes or our mortgages, you don't own our lives and you do not know what is best for us.

Mr. or Mrs. Politician, live up to your sworn oath and constitutional duties, stay within your constitutional limits, protect us from all enemies foreign and domestic and get out of our individual lives. We don't need you and we don't want you. We can take care of ourselves or each other. That is what true freedom is all about and that is exactly what we intend to defend.

We, who have the right to exercise "THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED" will reassert our power over the government and stop you cold from morphing this once proud and great land into the mind-numbing mediocrity of European-style socialism.”



## Michigan Schools Miss NCLB Targets - Forced to Restructure

WASHINGTON - April 23, 2008 - The number of Michigan schools in restructuring under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) rose for the 2007-08 school year, according to a new report from the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Education Policy (CEP). The report attributed this rise, in part, to a greater number of high schools failing to meet state targets on a new state-mandated high school test.

The study also found that Michigan has refined strategies for assisting schools in restructuring to provide more targeted options, ending what had been a "smorgasbord" of choices. Michigan has been developing strategies for NCLB school restructuring since 2003-04. NCLB requires schools to undergo restructuring after they fail to meet state test-score requirements for five consecutive years.

"Before [restructuring] was like a buffet," said Betty Underwood, interim director of Michigan's Office of School Improvement. "Now we've moved on to a sit-down dinner. You have to have your protein. You have to have your vegetables. And you have to eat your dinner before you have dessert."

The report, *The Sit-Down Dinner: Formalizing Restructuring Under the No Child Left Behind Act in Michigan*, also finds that more than half the schools in restructuring (34) recently entered the planning phase, with the majority (27) of these being high schools. If not for these high schools, the number of Michigan schools in restructuring would again have declined. The report notes that for the first time, high schools were evaluated based on the performance of 11th-graders on the Michigan Merit Exam, which replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Plan in 2007.

*Editor's note:* The April 22, 2008 Michigan schools report can be read at this link: [http://www.cepd.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document\\_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=237](http://www.cepd.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=237)

In the 2007-08 school year, 63 Michigan schools that receive federal Title I support are in the planning or implementation phase of restructuring. That is down from a high of 109 in 2004-05, but well above the 46 schools in restructuring in 2006-07. Geographically, most of the 63 schools (84 percent) in restructuring in 2007-08 were in urban areas, and 68 percent were from Detroit, including one charter school.

The Michigan Department of Education is taking a more prescriptive role in helping schools in restructuring, the report finds. In the 2007-08 school year, the state for the first time offered a set plan of restructuring assistance: leadership coaches who work with principals in their schools, professional-development fellowships for principals, auditors who monitor schools, and Process Mentor Teams that review the improvement process and help set goals.

"Yesterday, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings called on states and schools to go beyond efforts that have not helped improve our lowest-performing schools. Michigan appears to be moving in this direction with its new strategies to help schools in restructuring," said Jack Jennings, president and CEO of CEP.

Officials at the nine restructuring schools featured in the report said they welcomed the new assistance from the state. They especially appreciated that the assistance was tailored to school needs. Several, however, said the Process Mentor Teams and leadership coaches were slow in starting and hoped that next year the assistance would be available at the very beginning of the school year.

In addition to the new state assistance, schools are still required by federal law to

choose a restructuring strategy. Hiring a turnaround specialist or coach remains the most common option chosen by schools in restructuring in Michigan and is recommended by the Michigan Department of Education to most schools.

The state discourages replacing most of the school staff, and the percentage of schools using this option is relatively low, just 7 percent. The state also discourages the "any other" option available to schools because it is vague and difficult to monitor. In fact, the percentage of schools using this option decreased from 23 percent to 7 percent in 2006-07.

According to the report, which draws on interviews with state and local officials and from an extensive review of state records from September 2007 through February 2008, a combination of multiple strategies continues to be more effective than a single strategy. More than half (57 percent) of schools using three or more options over two years exited restructuring while only 22 percent of schools using two or fewer exited that status.

"Most school and district officials see restructuring as an ongoing process that requires various strategies rather than relying on any one option as the guaranteed fix," Jennings added.

The Center on Education Policy has conducted a series of analyses of the school restructuring efforts in California, Maryland, and Michigan as part of its comprehensive, multiyear study of the No Child Left Behind Act. In 2008, NCLB school restructuring efforts in Ohio and Georgia and will also be studied. The restructuring reports and other CEP publications on NCLB are available at [www.cep-dc.org](http://www.cep-dc.org).

## Heroic Lunacy By Hans Schreuder

Even if the entire Western world were to close down its economies completely and revert to the Stone Age, without even the ability to light fires, the growth in emissions from China and India would replace our entire emissions in little more than a decade. The CO2 emissions "savings" from shutting down the entire state of Colorado would be replaced in the atmosphere in less than two months from just the increase of world emissions, to say nothing of natural flux. In this context, any

cuts in emissions from Colorado would be extravagantly pointless.

To summarize, SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation) found that by the year 2020, average annual household income in Colorado would decline by \$977 to \$3167 and by the year 2030 the decline would increase to between \$4019 and \$7328. The state would stand to lose between 21,000 and 31,000 jobs by 2020 and between 57,000 and

76,000 jobs by 2030. At the same time gas prices could increase by over \$5 a gallon by the year 2030 and the states' Gross Domestic Product could decline by then by as much as \$11.6 billion/yr.

All this economic hardship and human suffering would come with absolutely no detectable impact on the course of future climate. This is the epitome of a scenario that is all pain and no gain and a capital case of heroic lunacy.

# Agenda 21, Analyses in brief.



Editor;

What IS Agenda 21?

"Agenda 21" is the title of a very comprehensive document authored by The United Nations. The subject

matter is the reorganization necessary to achieve total control of human activity on the entire planet, including all other creatures occupying space on it's surface. It is also a master plan of action for regulating the methods humanity employs to harvest the natural resources available that serve the needs of our existence. Simultaneously it's purpose extends beyond physical activity and enters the mental realm of every living being. (Except the grand masters)

## Where

The first suggestion of this plan I could find, reaches back to the German philosopher Karl Marx 1818-1883. His "Manifesto" outlined a model for world domination, which was followed by contributions from two other German social scientists, namely, Max Horkheimer (1895-1973 ) and Herbert Marcuse, (1898-1979). They co-founded " The Encyclopedia of Marxism" in Frankfort during the early years of the second decade in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## How

The Russian revolutionary, Vladimir Lenin, used the philosophical ideals of this trio to formulate his plan for Russia's Bolshevik revolution beginning in 1914. He succeeded in transforming the examples of abstract philosophy into physical reality by forcefully overpowering the Russian guard and removing and executing the ruling Czar and his family. He replaced them with a society governed by a central government controlling a communal living system for the Russian people. He labeled the new society "The Soviet Union." The physical revolution was completely successful, but the following cultural social experiment failed after an uninterrupted 73 years. The new government is now engaged in a slow recovery via a primitive form of democracy.

## When

The concept of Communism didn't end there. After the collapse of The Soviet Union, the unemployed political leaders, now officially labeled as "Communists," slithered into the western nations, (particularly the Americas) where they now operate and live comfortably. However their political philosophy did not restart with the new arrivals because we already had a sufficient amount of American born ultra-

socialists living and operating here. You can discover them firmly embedded as professors in our institutions of higher learning. Others are leaders in industry, science and social studies. A multitude of foreign disciples operate in our government facilities as ambassadors and staff members. They sit in their cubicles of contrivance in a skyscraper called "The United Nations Building" in New York City. It is there, that most of the compositions gleaned from the contributors both past and present, are bound together in this document we know as "Agenda 21." They have taken the old concept of communism and redefined it as "Globalism" or "The New world Order" to make it more palatable for the public. "Agenda 21" was made public in 1993 and continues to be redefined, promoted and peddled by the elite of the intellectual community. The general plan is already well into the implementation stage, especially here in the United States, because we are suckers enough to pay for their intention of controlling our future.

## Action

The magic words in the program are "Sustainable Development." Most of the recent contributors are sponsored by The United Nations organization. Each contributor selectively applies the latest information available, relative to his field of expertise, to create a thesis on how this information can be translated into a practical application of action dedicated to the restoration of the planet as close to how it was in a primeval period, before the intrusion of human existence. The intent is not to eliminate humanity completely, but rather to minimize our effect on the environment by severely limiting the number of people they feel the planet can support without exhausting it's resources. When you first read portions of the contributor's essays, it all seems innocent enough, because we all want to preserve our environment for future generations. However, this reorganization is not confined to land or water control. If it were fully implemented, the tentacles would extend into how we produce and use our energy, what access we have to areas under government control, what type, and how many aircraft will use our skyways, what subject matter will be taught to our children, what traditional American values will be discarded, how much of our individual travel will be curtailed, Will our borders be protected? Will the economy continue to function on a free market basis? Will the "Bill of Rights" still protect us? Will our system of jurisprudence belong exclusively to American's? Will America survive as a sovereign nation???. The answer to the last five questions is a resounding "NO."

## Why

George Bush the senior got us into this monumental mess by signing on to "The Rio Accords" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 without even reading it. I believe that, because it isn't possible to fully understand the consequences and retain the massive amount of material in the document in a few short days at a conference. He had to accept the opinions of the agenda supporting advisors. Bill Clinton further promoted the agenda in 1993 by appointing a commission to implement action on securing resources to bring under U.N. control. It is called "The strategic plan for the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program," it contains well over 47 existing biospheres with 44 million acres under control and growing fast. Dozens of our nations major parks, such as Yellowstone, Yosemite, The Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall are all currently under the control of The United Nations.

## The Reason

I am writing this extremely condensed article on "Agenda 21" because whenever I mention this document to acquaintances, most of them give me a blank stare indicating absolute innocence on the subject and that frightens me very much. This Agenda has the potential of destroying the Constitutional sovereignty of The United States and we are allowing it to happen and paying for most of it, as it happens. If you can't spell "Agenda 21" or ' Globalism' or 'The new World Order,'-try 'Communism, because that's exactly what it is.

We as FREEDOM loving Americans must separate ourselves from The United Nations. American intelligence is second to none throughout the world, and we can handle any environmental or social problems we have without the help of foreign dignitaries whose ultimate goal is our destruction. Use your pens, e-mails and voices to let them know we will not surrender our LIBERTY to anyone.

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*Editor's Note: Don Hooper hails from Iron River and has been a candidate for the US House of Representatives in Michigan's 1st District. He has served on the Board of Directors of ACE <http://aAce.org/>. He is viewed by many as a true Patriot.*

## Upper Peninsula Patriots

### DISCLAIMER—KOA STATEMENT

The Yooper Scooper is a private newsletter to be exchanged among friends and like-minded individuals via the internet or through a hard copy printed at personal expense. Even though Democrats can campaign from the pulpit while conservative ministers have to remain silent with threats of being removed from their non-profit status by the Democrats, the freedom of speech still has meaning and relevance among the people. We would like to take this opportunity to stress that if you take offense to the content of this newsletter you are probably indeed a descendent from monkeys. As for the rest of us, we hold the truths of God, Creationism, Free Will, the Ten Commandments and the Constitution close to our hearts and within our souls.

~ J. C. Powers, Editor

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## RECOMMENDED LINKS

Disclaimer—These links are here for your review and deliberation.

Some may contain opinion while other may be completely researched—others may be a mix of facts and fiction.

### The Big Green \$cam links from the Front Page

[http://www.ilovemycarbon dioxide.com/Greenland\\_ice\\_cap.html](http://www.ilovemycarbon dioxide.com/Greenland_ice_cap.html)  
<http://www.ilovemycarbon dioxide.com/indexf.html>  
<http://www.dmi.dk/dmi/index/gronland/iskort.htm#ugekort>  
<http://www.newswithviews.com/Williams/carole7.htm>  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/04/060414014526.htm>

### The Gore Score

\*\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation\\_Investment\\_Management](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation_Investment_Management)  
[http://riehlworldview.com/carnivorous\\_conservative/2007/03/al\\_gores\\_inconv.html](http://riehlworldview.com/carnivorous_conservative/2007/03/al_gores_inconv.html)  
<http://www.secinfo.com/d13P5q.u1q.htm#1stPage/>  
[http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2007/april/18/algore/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2007/april/18/algore/)  
[http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2007/3416gore\\_bush\\_barrick.html](http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2007/3416gore_bush_barrick.html)  
<http://www.opinionjournal.com/diary/?id=110009804>

### Synthetic Fuels

<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article4290.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetic\\_fuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetic_fuel)  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/04/060414014526.htm>  
[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0418\\_060418\\_coal\\_energy.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0418_060418_coal_energy.html)  
<http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/aureview/1981/jul-aug/becker.htm>

### Michigan's White Pine Mine

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-58915106.html>  
[http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/ces/ces11/geophysics/microcq/preprints/whitepine/White\\_Pine\\_BSSA.pdf](http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/ces/ces11/geophysics/microcq/preprints/whitepine/White_Pine_BSSA.pdf)  
[http://hunts-upguide.com/white\\_pine\\_detail.html](http://hunts-upguide.com/white_pine_detail.html)

### Heroic Lunacy

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/colorado\\_climate\\_change.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/colorado_climate_change.html)  
[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/colorado\\_climate\\_change\\_2008.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/colorado_climate_change_2008.pdf)

## This Side UP By J. C. Powers



I have to confess that I was sincerely moved when I had to place the list of the men who gave their all in Vietnam on Page 2. Around 102 men are listed and so many more eventually succumbed to other war-related afflictions. Nearly every town in the Upper Peninsula had sent at least one of their finest young citizens to serve in Vietnam; some never returned and some of those who had returned did not come back completely.

Many of us remember CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite; the newscast provided the daily or weekly casualty list. Often we would see a graphic with figures like 3 Americans killed and 1,417 North Vietnamese killed. We didn't become desensitized to the death count; it gave the appearance that we were winning and our men and women were making significant headway in keeping South Vietnam out of the hands of the communists.

As history would later reveal, the war in Vietnam was mostly based on fictitious information. That information had helped compel Americans to support the war. The combination of falsified information and the use of conscription (draft) to force young men to fight in a poorly conducted war had left many men and women quite suspicious about our government's true motivation in years to come.

As we read down the list and ponder on the names on the Wall, we have to wonder if all these men and women died for naught. Keeping advisors and supporting the South Vietnamese may have been a better way to prevent an invasion from the North, but that's only speculation. The War in Vietnam raged on for ten years; we had been in-country for nearly 15 before it was all said and done.

No. Many of us refuse to surmise that our men and women died in vain.

The tragedy of any war is the loss of life and permanent life-long damages which are incurred during battle; often after the battles have ceased. There is no doubt that those who had served their nation when they were called should be recognized for their service and honored as true patriots.

The divisiveness experienced by this country during Vietnam is repeating itself today. Unfortunately, politics supersedes patriotic responsibilities and conviction to convincingly engage in whatever it is that helps our troops decisively win and leave a nation and her people better off than we found them.

No matter which side of the war you were on; then or now—you should be more contemplative on our objectives and purpose. If the United States falls to tyrannical rule we have no one out there to rescue us; we need to survive. ~JCP