Journal #3103 from sdc

Alaska becomes the second state to officially recognize indigenous languages Young People Are Taking the Government to Court Over Its Failure to Address Climate Change Parent calls cops on teen for giving books away at a book giveaway Sightseeing With Ears Wide Open Archival Resources 1 is 2 Many Campaign Releases New Public Service Announcement on Sexual Assault Milton Hooper

5.1.14

Alaska becomes the second state to officially recognize indigenous languages

Dedicated supporters staged a 15 hour sit-in until the early this morning, when the Alaska Senate passed the measure on an 18-2 vote. ktoo.org

Young People Are Taking the Government to Court Over Its Failure to Address Climate Change April 28, 2014 by Simon Davis-Cohen *post first appeared in The Nation*.

Masses of ice up to 120 feet above the water level are seen floating near the Southern Shetlands archipelago in Antarctica during the southern hemisphere's summer season. Scientists researching the effects of global warming on the frozen continent say the phenomenon is causing the giant icebergs to loosen and eventually melt. (AP Photo/Antonio Larrea)

In an unprecedented federal court case that has made it to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, young people from California are suing the Environmental Protection Agency and Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Defense under the historic "public trust doctrine" for failing to devise a <u>climate change</u> recovery plan. In their legal brief, they argue, "Failure to rapidly reduce CO₂ emissions and protect and restore the balance of the atmosphere is a violation of Youth's constitutionally protected rights and is redressable by the Courts."

The public trust doctrine has its roots in antiquity, deriving from the Roman "Code of Justinian." Elizabeth Brown of Our Children's Trust, the group coordinating the legal effort, explains that the doctrine represents a duty for all sovereigns to safeguard public resources that future generations will depend on for survival. It is an "attribute of sovereignty," "implicit in our constitution," she says.

The National Association of Manufacturers, which is intervening in support of the government agencies, argues in its brief that "in no case has any court ever invoked the doctrine to compel regulatory action by the federal government, much less adoption of a sweeping new regulatory agenda of the type sought by these plaintiffs."

That's true. There is no precedent. But that's kind of the point. Conventional efforts to harness climate change through litigation have failed. The public's trust in government to tackle climate change has been squashed. The agencies the youth are suing have come up short on the issue of the millennium. We're clearly in need of some precedent-setting litigation.

In tandem with the federal lawsuit, similar efforts by American youth, also guided by Our Children's Trust, are aimed at state agencies in Alaska, New Mexico, Oregon and Texas.

In an amicus brief in the federal case, a group of sympathetic law professors explained that a legislature cannot deprive "a future legislature of the natural resources necessary to provide for the well-being and survival of its citizens.... Through the Public Trust Doctrine, the Constitution



governs for the perpetual preservation of the Nation." Since climate change would cripple the government's ability to provide for its citizens, they argue, the use of the public trust doctrine is appropriate and necessary.

Citing case law from the 1890s, these young people and their advisers are digging deep to find a tool to wield against a government that has legally betrayed their trust. Whether the case makes it to the Supreme <u>Court</u> is yet to be seen (the appeals court hearing is scheduled for May 2). But for the climate movement this is really a win-win. Either a landmark case compels the US government to act on climate change, or yet another betrayal of trust radicalizes an organized, and legally savvy, network of youth.

http://www.dailydot.com/geek/teen-policed-for-giving-away-absolutely-true-diary/

Parent calls cops on teen for giving books away at a book giveaway

So, this happened: Someone called the cops on a teenager for giving away free books.

At—wait for it—*a book giveaway event*.

Just last week, <u>we wrote about</u> the difficulties Sherman Alexie's acclaimed <u>Young Adult</u> novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, had faced during its four-year run as one of the most banned books in the U.S.

Two weeks ago, parents in the Idaho school district of Meridian <u>successfully campaigned</u> to remove Alexie's novel from its 10th grade reading curriculum and additional reading lists. A National Book Award winner, *The Absolutely True Diary* is a searing coming-of-age story about a Native American teenager who decides to attend an all-white high school outside of his reservation. It's a powerful narrative about modern race relations in the U.S. But the Meridian school board sided with parents who objected to its alleged sexual and anti-Christian content, along with, <u>as noted</u> by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, other stuff:

[A]n adult named Lonnie Stiles complained that the Alexie novel contains language "we do not speak in our home."

Apparently the adults who objected to the book weren't thinking about the teens living on Idaho's *five Native American reservations*. But the district's local teens fought back, organizing <u>a petition</u> to have the book reinstated. In response, the local Boise bookseller Rediscovered Books <u>crowdfunded a \$3,400 campaign</u> to buy copies of the book for each of the 350 students who signed the petition.

That meant there were a lot of books to give away. Junior Mountain High School student Brady Kissel went to Kleiner Park in Meridian to distribute the books Wednesday evening. Kissel had arranged the giveaway with Rediscovered Books as part of a national book giveaway event called <u>World Book Night</u>.

The goal of World Book Night is to put a free, ultra-readable book into the hands of a reluctant reader. Kissel and her fellow teens had no problem finding takers for Alexie's controversial book. They gave away all but 20 copies.

And then, of course, irate parents ruined it by literally calling the cops to the scene. Boise news station <u>KBOI reported</u> that even the cops were baffled about why they'd been asked to police a book giveaway.

KBOI reported that police had been summoned by "someone concerned about teenagers picking up a copy of the book without having a parent's permission."

Gee, it's almost like banning books from schools makes teens *more* likely to independently find and read those books. The cops apparently saw nothing wrong with Kissel's activities, nor with the book's brief mentions of masturbation, one of the oft-cited reasons for its being so frequently challenged.

Alexie's publisher, Hachette Book Group, has responded to the students' campaign by sending Rediscovered Books an additional 350 copies. So if you're in Meridian, go pick up a free copy.

Meanwhile, we'll just leave you with one of our favorite (and fitting) quotes from *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian:*

"You should approach each book—you should approach life—with the real possibility that you might get a metaphorical boner at any point."

"A metaphorical boner?" I shouted. "What the heck is a metaphorical boner?"

Gordy laughed.

"When I say boner, I really mean joy," he said. "Boner is funnier. And more joyful."

In Wellpinit, I was a freak because I loved books.

In Reardan, I was a joyous freak.

Clarification: We originally reported that Rediscovered Books of Boise organized the giveaway. Sara Baker and Jennifer Lott of Washington organized the <u>crowdfunding project</u> and partnered with Rediscovered Books to distribute the books.

Now that most communities are into photo/video documentation of tribal members and physical structures, it would also be relevant to record sounds.....particularly of the other creatures that are fast disappearing. sdc

NYT'S CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK Sightseeing With Ears Wide Open By CORINNA da FONSECA-WOLLHEIM

In "The Sound Book: The Science of the Sonic Wonders of the World," Trevor Cox makes the case for more

mindful listening with all kinds of sound.

The Clean Water Act is broken and the drinking water for 1 in 3 Americans is at risk.

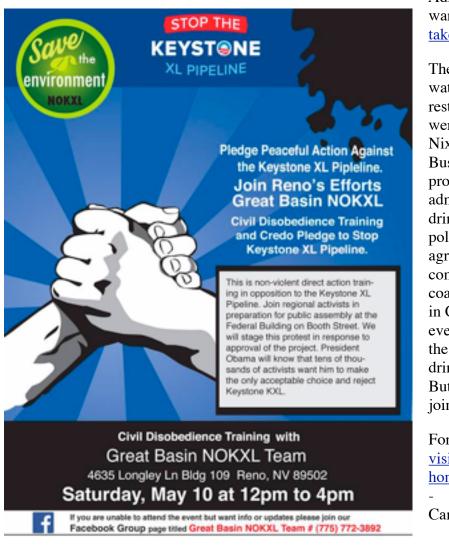
That sounds bad – and it is – but there is something you can do about it. **Tell the**

Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) you support the commonsense proposal to close polluter loopholes that have left streams and wetlands across the country vulnerable to pollution - <u>take action</u> <u>here</u>.



The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 and for years polluters did everything they could to weaken it. Ten years ago they finally got their wish when the Bush administration broke the Clean Water Act and took away protections for nearly half our streams and 20 million acres of wetlands. We've been trying to fix it ever since. Today President Obama took action and proposed to close the loopholes that have left our water vulnerable. Make sure the



Administration knows you want to #ProtectCleanWater – <u>take action now.</u>

The proposal to protect clean water is nothing new - it restores the safeguards that were in place under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. With this proposal, the Obama administration is putting drinking water first again. But polluters like industrial agriculture, oil and gas companies, and mountaintop coal mining- and their allies in Congress - are doing everything they can to keep the loopholes that have put our drinking water at risk in place. But you can stop them if you join us today. Take action now.

For more information, <u>please</u> <u>visit our #ProtectCleanWater</u> <u>home</u>.

- Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director

We're in the middle of a sixth mass extinction, and this will be the first one—and possibly the last—we will witness as human beings.

Video games usually provide you with multiple lives. If you step on a landmine or get hit by an assassin, you get another chance. Even if such virtual reincarnation is not built into the rules of the game, you can always reboot and start over again. You can try again hundreds of times until you get it right. This formula applies to first-person shooter games as well as simulation exercises like SimEarth.

The real Earth offers a similar kind of reboot. Catastrophe has hit our planet at least five times, as Elizabeth Kolbert <u>explains in her new book</u>, The Sixth Extinction. During each of these preceding wipeouts, the planet recovered, though many of the life forms residing in the seas or on land were not so fortunate ("many" is actually an understatement—<u>more than 99 percent</u> of all species died out in these cataclysms). As Kolbert points out, we are in the middle of a sixth such world-altering event, and this will be the first—and possibly the last—extinction that we will witness as human beings. The planet and its hardier denizens may soldier on, but for us it will be game over.

A subset of environmentalists is already preparing for the end game. In the latest New York Times Magazine, Paul Kingsnorth-the author of the manifesto Uncivilizationconfesses that he has given up trying to save the planet. He rejects false hopes. "You look at every trend that environmentalists like me have been trying to stop for 50 years," he says, "and every single thing had gotten worse." He's heading to the wilderness of Ireland to grow his own food, homeschool his kids, and prepare for the difficult days ahead.

Survivalism: it's not just for right-wing wackos any more.

Meanwhile, the rest of us are still trying to figure out how to avert disaster. The United Nations recently released another in its series of reports on climate



change. This one tries to put a price tag on what we need to do over the next 15-20 years to stop the global mercury from rising.

To implement the recommendations of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), governments must dramatically increase their investments in low-carbon energy sources. Each year, governments <u>will have to spend</u> an additional \$147 billion on such renewable sources of energy as solar and wind power. On top of that, governments need to put \$336 billion each year into greater energy efficiency in public and private infrastructure. If we follow all the IPCC recommendations, we can expect to save about \$30 billion from eliminating subsidies to industries in the dirty energy sectors.

That still leaves an annual bill of more than \$450 billion. This is probably a lowball figure, given the commitment that the industrialized world has made to help the developing world continue to grow economically without expanding its carbon footprint. This figure also doesn't cover current climate change costs associated with extreme weather events, droughts in food-growing areas, the preservation of coastal areas, and other catastrophes in the making. The bill for <u>upgrading U.S. infrastructure</u> alone will run into <u>hundreds of billions of dollars each year</u>.

If you're planning to remodel your kitchen, you're supposed to get a couple of different estimates. So, with a task as large as saving the world, it's probably wise to check in with a couple other sources.

But those looking for salvation on the cheap are going to be disappointed. The International Energy Agency, an intergovernmental organization connected to the OECD, estimates that the world needs to invest <u>a trillion dollars</u> into clean energy—every year between now and 2050. Then there was the Stern Commission report on the economics of climate change that came out in 2006. At the time, Nicholas Stern estimated that stabilizing the current level of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere would require an investment of 1 percent of global GDP, which at the time was a little more than \$300 billion. He revised that up to about \$600 billion a couple years later, though nowadays he's talking more in the trillion-dollar range as well.

Of course, these costs should be compared to the price tag for not addressing climate change quickly and resolutely. This, Stern estimated, would add up to 20 percent of global GDP. At some point, of course, we will hit a tipping point at which no amount of money can turn back the clock.

Where will the money come from? A <u>"climate security" tax</u> on military spending would make sense, forcing governments to turn swords into windmill blades. We're currently wasting over <u>\$1.7 trillion a year</u> on the enormous potlatch otherwise known as the global military budget.

Another "simple" answer is to not only remove subsidies from dirty energy but to tax it as well. In this way, governments discourage the use of coal and oil and raise the revenue necessary to invest in clean technologies. It seems an elegant solution, except that the energy companies and their political representatives have bitterly fought against carbon taxes. In 2011, the Labor government in Australia pushed through a carbon tax and established a \$10-billion "green bank" to support sustainable energy projects. That hasn't lasted long. The new center-right government has vowed to repeal the tax, but the Australian parliament has so far <u>turned back</u> the government's repeal effort.

Denmark offers a less fractious alternative. The country is currently planning to unshackle itself completely from fossil fuels <u>by 2050</u>. And it plans to do that without relying on nuclear power. The country has invested heavily in wind power, and last year, for the first time, wind supplied <u>more than 50 percent</u> of the country's energy consumption for an entire month. How much will this 40-year transition cost? The estimate is roughly <u>1 percent of the country's GDP</u>. By the end, Denmark will have cut its carbon emissions by 80 percent.

The Denmark model requires a few caveats. The entire scheme involves significant investment in new technologies and infrastructure upgrades. It also depends on a critical variable—the

increasing cost of fossil fuels. If oil and gas and coal remain cheap, capital will not flow into the new technologies. In other words, the possibility of the earth burning up is not sufficient to concentrate our minds and mobilize our efforts. It comes down to a pocketbook issue. Only astronomical prices at the gas pump will force us to change our behavior, individually and collectively.

We could wait for the market to push up these prices, but that will likely be too late. Instead, we need to artificially raise the costs of fossil fuels, and that brings us back to some form of carbon tax. Another part of that strategy would be to leave some of that ancient, liquefied plant and animal matter in the ground and at the bottom of the ocean, forgoing deep sea drilling, refusing to rip up forests for the treasures beneath, and leaving the tar sands be.

But perhaps the most important caveat is this: Denmark will only succeed if we are all on board. We don't have the luxury of sitting back, seeing if the calculations involved in Denmark's fossil-free scenario work out, and then following suit if we like the results. By that time, it would be too late.

As with our individual lives, there is no reset button for the human race (Noah's flood notwithstanding). Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska put it well in her poem "Nothing Twice" (translation by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh):

Nothing can ever happen twice. In consequence, the sorry fact is That we arrive here improvised And leave without the chance to practice

Even if there is no one dumber,

If you're the planet's biggest dunce,

You can't repeat the class in summer:

This course is only offered once.

If humanity fails this particular science class, we're done. It doesn't matter whether we're straight-A students from Denmark or flunkards like congressional climate change denier James Inhofe. We won't be given another chance at the global joystick.

Archival Resources:

Westminster College - Giovale Library

box 1, folder 1: <u>Sheldon Jackson correspondence</u> (1895 January 7-September 30)

box 1, folder 2: Sheldon Jackson correspondence (1895 Octobter 5-November 15)

box 1, folder 3: Sheldon Jackson correspondence (1896 January 2-May 23)

box 1, folder 4: Sheldon Jackson correspondence (1896 November -- 1897 October)

box 1, folder 5: <u>Sheldon Jackson correspondence</u> (1899-1901)

box 1, folder 6: Sheldon Jackson correspondence (1902-1904)

box 1, folder 7: <u>Third party correspondence between Herbert W. Reherd and Elizabeth Lesley</u> <u>Jackson</u> (1951 March 11-August 8)

Biographical Note/Historical Note +/-

Sheldon Jackson was born in Minnaville, New York in 1834. He was raised in Esparance, New York in a strictly religious household. He received his education at two academies: Union College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Jackson entered Union College at Schenectady at 19 years of age and he then went on to attend Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating (in 1858?). He was married a short time after this graduation.

Jackson was a Presbyterian missionary in the early Indian Territory of Arkansas among the Choctaw, but left his teaching position there after one year due to medical reasons. In 1877 Sheldon Jackson was inspired to go to Alaska and survey missionary needs; Alaska proved to be his stomping grounds until his death. He did not isolate himself, however, and remained active in missionary and money making efforts. He is a notable Presbyterian missionary and college benefactor. One of his missionary efforts included helping organize the first Presbyterian Chapter in Utah in 1892, as well as backing Sheldon Jackson College financially upon its inception.

It is said that Jackson stopped by Salt Lake during a return from Alaska and saw the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute operating but not flourishing. He offered \$50,000 of inheritance if a college would be started up in his name, operating under strict Presbyterian guidelines. Westminster College began its work in 1897 under the name Sheldon Jackson College.

In 1895 Sheldon Jackson was appointed the first Commissioner of Education for Alaska, and served in that capacity until 1908. When his term as Commissioner of Education ended he retired to a more quiet life in Washington D.C., where his two daughters, Elizabeth Lesley Jackson and Delia Sheldon Jackson, continued to live. Sheldon Jackson passed away in 1909.

Arizona Military Museum

The Arizona Military Museum is an official activity of the Arizona National Guard operated by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, Inc. The purpose of the society is to collect, preserve and display the military history of Arizona. The period of military history covers the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors to the present. The museum strives to be of service to scholars, students, past and present servicemen and women and to the general public.

The Arizona Military Museum has displays of uniforms, vehicles, artillery and miscellaneous mementos from military encounters. As you walk by these displays dating from the Spanish Conquistadors, the Civil War to the Indian and Spanish-American Wars, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and finally Operation Iraqi Freedom, the scope of Arizona's extensive military history takes shape.

The Arizona National Guard Historical Society's purposes are: "To enhance the appreciation of the military history of Arizona and the contributions of the Militia of Arizona and the Arizona National Guard to the State of Arizona and to the Nation..." (Bylaws, Article I, Section 1). To accomplish its purposes, the Historical Society shall strive: "...to discover and memorialize the history of the Military of Arizona, the Arizona National Guard, and the general military history of Arizona, and to establish and maintain a museum on land leased, owned, or otherwise

controlled by the Society." (Id.). The policy statement states that the Historical Society is "...to portray events, persons, and other historical information relating to...the military service of Arizonans in wars and other military actions in Arizona and around the world".

Arizona National Guard Historical Society and Arizona Military Museum The Articles of Incorporation for the Arizona National Guard Historical Society were executed on March 28, 1975. The Historical Society was incorporated on April 25, 1975 with the aforementioned purposes and the added purpose as stated in its policy statement "...to portray events, persons, and other historical information relating to ...the military service of Arizonans in wars and other military actions in Arizona and around the world".

On July 14, 1978, the Arizona National Guard General Staff dedicated a portion of the old arsenal building for a museum for the Historical Society. In January 1980, officers and directors were elected who were committed to creating the museum. They did most of the demolition and construction to establish the museum. In December 1980, the Adjutant General designated the museum an official permanent historical activity of the Arizona National Guard. In April 1981, the General Staff dedicated the space for the East Room of the museum. On September 12, 1981, the Arizona Military Museum had its grand opening. On July 13, 1999, the Arizona National Guard Historical Society and the Arizona National Guard executed a Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming their historical relationship and mutual support.

- See more at: <u>http://www.mwdl.org/partners/232.php#sthash.XACaWbMh.dpuf</u>

THE WHITE HOUSEOffice of the Vice PresidentApril 29, 20141 is 2 Many Campaign Releases New Public Service Announcement on Sexual
Assault

Today, Vice President Biden launched a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) encouraging men to speak up and step in if they see someone in danger of being sexually assaulted. The PSA is being launched in coordination with the <u>1 is 2 Many</u> campaign and the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Because while anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, some are more at risk than others: 1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted while in college, and young women, ages 16 to 24, experience the highest rates of sexual violence at the hands of someone they know. The PSA, produced by the White House, features several film and television actors, President Obama, and Vice President Biden. It encourages men to be part of the solution by delivering a simple message: "If she doesn't consent – or can't consent — it's a crime . . . and if you see sexual assault happening, help her -- don't blame her — and speak up."

The PSA will air in select Regal Entertainment Group and Cinemark movie theaters, over NCM Media Networks' Lobby Entertainment Network (LEN), and in movie theaters on military installations and ships underway worldwide starting in May. Joining the President and the Vice President in the PSA are Daniel Craig, Seth Meyers, Benicio Del Toro, Steve Carell and Dulé Hill.

<u>Click here</u> to watch the 60-second PSA. <u>**Click here</u>** to watch the 30-second PSA.</u>

<u>Click here</u> for more information about the Administration's efforts to combat sexual assault.

Quotes from participating actors: Benicio Del Toro

"This PSA is about reaching out to people and letting them know that there is an epidemic of sexual assaults. Those who commit sexual assaults will be condemned, whoever they are. The PSA also encourages any witness to such acts to speak up, do the right thing, and be a hero. It is about protecting and respecting our loved ones--our mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and girlfriends."

Dulé Hill

"One sexual assault is one too many. My desire for this PSA is that it will heighten awareness and in turn be a catalyst for more prevention."

Daniel Craig

"I am honored to be part of such an important and crucial project. The message is clear and simple; everyone has a responsibility. There are no exceptions. There are no excuses. Please watch it and pass it on."

