

Artistic Submissions from J. Wiseman

May 5, 2015

1 - (Comment by J. Wiseman) "Attached is a piece of creative writing associated with the denial of hazards harmful to the environment."

The Ostrich

As a species I sometimes wonder if we most resemble the ostrich. If we duck our heads, ignore the problem for long enough, it will just, maybe, hopefully, please, go away. Or perhaps our approach is more like Bill Clinton's solution to gays in the military - don't ask, don't tell! After all, if nobody talks about it, it isn't there, is it?

My brother-in-law, a house painter and his friend, who is working in the Alberta oil patch sum it up this way: "it's been about 150 years since the Industrial Revolution and we've done this much damage to the environment. We might get another 100 years out of it all."

At a church luncheon, a fellow parishioner relates to me his experience of reading about the poisoning of the St Clare River at Sarnia. "I was there the night the company put that stuff in the ground and supposedly sealed it off." There was pain in his eyes and no doubt, in his heart and in his soul. I stated that it was amazing how many people I speak with, ordinary people, blue collar workers, who understand that we are gradually destroying the planet. He casually observed, "there will be a revolution."

It's hardly unlikely that for some inexplicable reason, I am the only guy who has these conversations. It is more likely that most of us see the truth for what it is. We are gradually, speeding up, speeding up, speeding up, destroying the very planet that gives us life. Suicide or madness? Take your pick, I can't figure it out.

I wonder who our political leaders talk to? Do they have these conversations or are they shielded for their own protection? They don't appear to be losing much sleep about it all as the oil companies drill away, as the auto manufacturers continue to turn out the gas combustion engine, as poisons are released into our rivers, lakes, oceans, landfills - anywhere the millions upon millions of barrels of poisonous waste can be hidden for awhile. Long enough, they hope, to finish making the money, packing up and leaving the deadly stuff behind. Perhaps, like Chernoble, the animals will have another paradise, free of humans, in a future that may be as inevitable as the prediction of my house painter friend - a hundred years or so.

Is it possible to change a future that is rushing towards us virtually unhindered except for sporadic demonstrations and vocal minorities who are often perceived as "radical", "inhibiting progress", "tree-

huggers", "terrorists", "trouble - makers", etc? Most days are like today - I simply have no idea whether we have the rational or empathetic ability to slow down, stop and possibly reverse the race to the "end of the human race."

J. Wiseman
Citizen

2 – (J. Wiseman comments) "This song is an artistic submission."

Don't'cha Go Frackin' 'Round Here

(Em) (Am) (Em) (Am)
(Em) (Am) (Em) (Am)
(Em) Hey Mr. Oilman, (Am) where'd ya get the (Em) face
To (Am) look me in the eyes
To (Am) make those empty promises
And (B7) tell those devil's lies
You (Am) master of dis(Em)guise

Chorus:

(G) Don't'cha go frackin', don't'cha go frackin'
(D) Don't'cha Go Frackin' 'Round Here
We're (C) sayin' it loud, sayin' it clear
Take your (Am) frackin' gear and git (D) out
(G) Don't'cha go frackin', don't'cha go frackin'
(D) Don't'cha Go Frackin' 'Round Here
We're (C) sayin' it loud, sayin' it clear
Take your (Am) frackin' gear and (D) git on outta (Em) here
(Am) (Bm) (Em) (Em)

The (Em) taste of my water when you've (Am) done your dirty (Em) deed
It's (Am) Bob Dylan bitter
You're (Am) poisoning the planet
Cor(B7)rupting our leaders
(Am) Stealing our children's (Em) future

Chorus

Instrumental

(Em) (Am) (Em) (Am)
(Em) (Am) (Em) (Em)

Bridge

**We don't (D) want your tainted (Am) money
You turn (C) water into (Cmaj7) fire (pause)**

Chorus 3x

Tag

Take your (Am) frackin' gear and (D) git on outta here (Em)

Wiseman J. & M.

May 12, 2015

3 – (J. Wiseman's comments) "This is an essay entitled "The Elephant." I will attach the essay which should be included as an Artistic submission. The assumption is that an essay is creative writing."

The Elephant

As citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador, we find ourselves caught up in a process that is supposedly designed to facilitate an "independent" review of Hydraulic Fracturing. A panel has been convened and has been deemed to be independent by the Minister of Natural Resources. NLFAN is being told they asked for an independent panel and they have been granted one.

The problem is that NLFAN asked for a Mercedes Benz. What has been established is a panel that more closely resembles a "used" pick-up truck. The Mercedes Benz would have characteristics such as a limited mandate to determine whether or not NL should allow the fossil fuel industry to engage in the practice of hydraulic fracturing within the province's jurisdiction.

The "used" pick-up truck allows the "independent" panel to conduct a review of current regulatory process in Newfoundland and Labrador respecting hydraulic fracturing operations and identifying needed changes consistent with other jurisdictions and best practices. This presumes a "yes" as the answer to the question for the Mercedes-Benz panel.

NLFAN hardly received the "independent" panel they requested. To suggest they did is "smugness" taken to the extreme.

All of this avoids the issue of climate change – the real "elephant" in the room. Premier Paul Davis recently commented "I think the argument is swaying to the reality that climate change is real and there's numerous evidence to support the concept that climate change is real."

A recent UCSUSA position statement advises that "some energy costs are not included in consumer utility or gas bills, nor are they paid for by the companies that produce or sell the energy. These include human health problems caused by air pollution from the burning of coal and oil; damage to land from

coal mining and to miners from black lung disease; environmental degradation caused by global warming, acid rain, and water pollution; and national security costs, such as protecting foreign sources of oil." This is by no means an exhaustive list.

Hydraulic Fracturing, through the exploration for, the drilling for, the extraction of, the transportation of, and the consumption of oil, contributes to global warming and climate change. It also contributes to the poisoning of water used in the fracking process and of groundwater through leakage of fracking chemicals and through mishandling and disposition of used fracking fluids.

Christophe McGlade, at University College London (UCL) says that "vast amounts of oil in the Middle East, coal in the US, Australia and China and many other fossil fuel reserves will have to be left in the ground to prevent dangerous climate change, according to the first analysis to identify which existing reserves cannot be burned."

I digress from my argument which should be kept succinct for clarity's sake. Climate change is real. Using fossil fuels to generate energy contributes to climate change. If climate change is not brought under control, we risk the extinction of the species. Finding and exploiting additional fossil fuels is reckless abandonment of moral responsibility to our grandchildren. What conceivable reason do we have to frack for oil in Western NL when all common sense tells us to leave the stuff in the ground?

I am about to be a grandfather. I believe that the human species is in danger of extinction if we do not control climate change. I can envision my grandson, in 15 years, asking me if I knew what was happening and what I did about it. I would like to be able to say that we, as a species, had the wisdom to recognize when there was an "elephant" in the room and that we had enough courage to remove the beast from our home.