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percent from what it was. And that that number will be 30 percent by mid-century. That's pretty profound, if you think about it. That's pretty much the most basic measure of what humans need to do, have to do, want to do. For somebody who can just escape into an air-conditioned office and sit in front of a computer, it's not as immediate. But for people who are on the streets or who are in a Bengali field, Liberian market garden, or on a plantation at work, it's harder than it used to be.

S.Z.: In your April 2013 piece in the *Rolling Stone*, "The Fossil Fuel Resistance" you referenced a study from the University of Delaware from December that showed that by 2030 "we could affordably power the nation 99.9 percent of the time on renewable energy." Why doesn't every home and business in America utilize solar and wind power?

B.M.: Because the system that we have makes it difficult to make this transition. The thing that makes sure that system never changes is the enormous fossil fuel industry. Their political power and their ability to force the status quo into a kind of stalemate are profound. That's why we fight hard against the fossil fuel industry in an effort to break that stalemate.

S.Z.: Germany set a fantastic example recently.

B.M.: Yeah Germany, having been responsible for more than its share of 20th century woes, is doing it's best to step up and solve some of this century's biggest problem.

It really is impressive to go there. There are, by last count, more solar panels in Bavaria than there are in the United States. This in a country that really isn't well known for its sun. Very few people set out for their sun soaked vacation on the shores of Ulrich, Germany.

S.Z.: For which geographic locations is it too late in terms of climate change?

B.M.: I'm uncomfortable announcing doom for everybody because everybody everywhere (in the world) is trying really hard and nobody wants to think of themselves as a victim.

Our friends that we work with a lot on the islands of the Pacific Nation of the Indian Ocean are adamant. They did a great day of action this spring across the Pacific Island.

Warriors, traditional warriors from every country, had the slogan "We're not drowning, we're fighting." You should Google it because the videos of these guys are amazing.

They're in as tough a situation as it gets. They're in poor countries to begin with, a couple of meters above sea level.

They understand that they have to reach out. They can't do it by themselves so that's why they're involved in big global network like 350.org.

S.Z.: You founded 350.org. Tell me about the organization.

B.M.: It was designed by necessity to fit with the world in which we now live. It's dispersed. We run these big days of action

where we'll have 5,000 demonstrations in 5,000 places around the globe. We leverage those to make them more than the sum of their parts. We've been quite successful in the educational bent. I think we've had about 20,000 demonstrations.

In the last couple of years, we've tried hard to also take that education and make it really tell, make it really turn into some kind of power. So we've fought very hard on this fight over the

Keystone Pipeline.

S.Z.: What's the significance of the number 350?

B.M.: 350 is probably the most important number in the world, but nobody knew it until about 2008.

That's when our premier climate scientist Jim Hansen and his team at NASA published a paper saying we now know how much carbon in the atmosphere is too much. Any value for the CO2 greater than 350 parts per million is not compatible to the planet on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted. Yikes!

We took that number (as our name) because we wanted to dramatize how serious the problem was.

We are already past 350. We are past 400 this year. That's why the Arctic (glacier) is melting. But we also needed a name that would work around the globe and Arabic numerals do that.

People around the globe now understand that we're too high. We have too much carbon in the atmosphere.

S.Z.: Not only that, but as I understand it, the resources that governments have that they are planning to use far exceed anything viable.

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(demand).

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S.Z.: The efforts you have led, or participated in, have been responsible for the stalling and blocking of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

B.M.: So far ...

S.Z.: So far. Then there is Enbridge and the Eastern Gulf Pipeline and another Trans Canada project that was announced recently to bring a pipeline East across Canada.

B.M.: I don't think they are going to get any of these built. I certainly don't think they will get any of them built without huge opposition.

They'll keep trying. There are trillions of dollars of crude oil there in Alberta. So Koch Brothers, et. al., will keep trying to make their investments pay off.

But they are being fought at every turn. The Canadians have already beaten the only other pipeline that had any other real chance of being built. The so-called, Northern Gateway Pipeline. The rest are just proposals on paper someplace. And there is a huge, sprawling coalition of indigenous people that are involving all of the rest of us and making life hard (for the fossil fuel proponents) at every turn.

We can't, however, just play defense against bad projects. We also have to fight offense against this industry.

We have a big divestment campaign, which is spread widely.

S.Z.: What does our future look like, in your opinion, 100 years from now if we do nothing?

B.M.: Hot and damp and pretty miserable. Basically, our civilization will be mostly in a kind of an emergency response mode.

S.Z.: And if we take climate change seriously?


B.M.: Hopefully what it looks like is a much more localized world - with dispersed energy instead of centralized energy. That's a beautiful, much more democratic kind of world.

S.Z.: What can the average person do to make change on a small, but meaningful level to address climate change in his or her community?

B.M.: They can organize.

S.Z.: What about the naysayers?

B.M.: This is why we have science. We are able to study and look at what all of the thermometers tell us around the world. That's the useful thing about science.



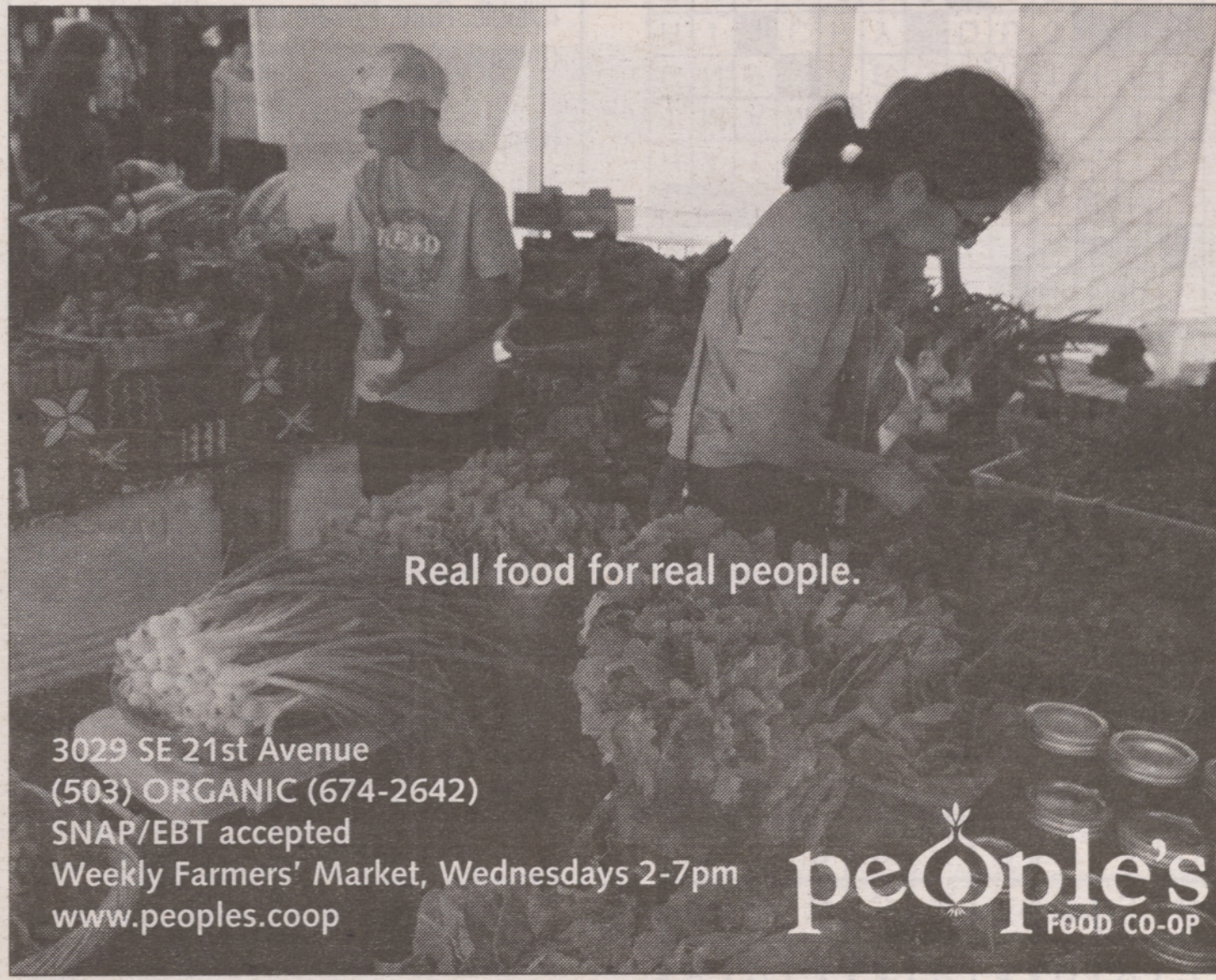
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