

The poet Rainer Rilke (1875-1926) said, "We must change our way of life!" Likewise, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel Fifth Assessment Report, "Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis."

Further, carbon fuel use is so deeply and massively embedded in the infrastructure, investment and way of life we share in the existing social world that it requires a revolution of religious and moral motivation and perspective to identify each person, corporation, nation, etc., with the whole global system to overcome externalizing the costs to another nation, corporation, community, person, and the finite natural environment — including the O&C forests. There is no such other, and we'll either swim or sink together. So, we must change in part by waking up to the reality we're socially and ecologically connected.

We need impossible *practices* to meet ecological Armageddon — and hellhounds of inequality and nuclear proliferation. But, remember, history is about attaining the impossible. We shouldn't dwell on doom and gloom but on the greatest challenge human beings have ever faced. We should focus on how tremendously exciting it will be to meet it. Rather than Jeremiads and

denouncing, we should call on the best in us to rise to the occasion.

Sam Porter
Eugene

MARCH HARE POLITICS

From the 1950s to 1980s, the Republican Party prided itself on fiscal responsibility and accountability. They insisted on making sure all government programs had sufficient funds to cover costs. Well, how things have changed. The neo-Republicans toss the country's credit rating around as if they were playing touch football. The Republicans of yesteryear had a sense of drama and dignity. They disagreed but had a workable alternative to offer the country.

Today Brazil and Germany might criticize the U.S. for bugging their embassies, but the bigger fear is watching the "world's leader" self destruct. Many in Congress wanted to send missiles to Syria, yet, these same individuals care little about how a U.S. default will rock the entire world economy.

China owns only 7 percent of our debt, yet how embarrassing if that government demanded a piece of the Smithsonian or the Bonneville Power Administration?

Meanwhile the Democrats enjoy looking on, smiling like Cheshire cats instead of mending their own party values and using Howard Dean's policy of grass-roots activism to realign Tea Party districts.

Today's Congress has all the perks in its pockets, a hefty salary, multiple adjournments, great health benefits and golden pensions. Meanwhile, state, county and city governments strip away the safety net for their workers.

The media chimes in by attributing a USPS deficit as a threat to our mail system. The deficit arises from Congress insisting that the Postal Carriers Union pay the full amount into their pensions now. Well, Social Security does not require that obligation. Instead of Tea Party should not the media label these actions as Grover Norquist follies?

March Hare politics can only stop when voters speak up and get out the vote. Our representatives get into office with only minority of ballots cast. The majority stay at home watching Monday Night Football. Government by the people can only happen if all eligible voters participate.

Vincenza Scarpaci
Eugene

BOLSHEVIK TACTICS

Tea Party-favorite Ted Cruz playing the role of Lenin? While hard to imagine, today's GOP has embraced the tactics that brought the Bolsheviks — yes, those Bolsheviks, who became the Soviet Communist Party — to power.

From February to October 1917, the Bolsheviks did everything they could to obstruct the nascent democratic government in Russia. The Bolshevik goal was simple: to ensure that post-Tsarist democracy failed. Lenin sought to weaken and discredit liberals and social democrats by creating the impression that government couldn't deliver basic services to the people. Health care included. Sound familiar? And once the Bolsheviks overthrew the government and assumed power, the country suffered a long and bloody civil war, followed by 70 years of authoritarian rule.

Moreover, Sen. Cruz and the Tea Party have also aped the Leninist tactic of claiming a non-existent majority. When his original party ceased to serve Lenin's purposes, he labeled its old-guard moderates as *Mensheviks* ("minority") and claimed the title *Bolshevik* ("majority")

VIEWPOINT BY MEGAN KEMPLE

Where Food Comes From

LEARNING ABOUT HEALTHY EATING AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL

What better time to celebrate the connections being made between kids and local food than October with the harvest season at its height and the school year in full swing. The Willamette Farm and Food Coalition's Farm to School Program is actively working with the Bethel, Eugene, Springfield and Oakridge school districts to educate students about where their food comes from, provide their families with resources to access healthy, locally grown foods and assist district Nutrition Services in incorporating more locally grown foods into school meals.

Our education program is provided to students in six schools, prioritizing the schools in Lane County with the highest percentage of students in poverty. Students receive a lesson on where food comes from and the health, environmental and community benefits of eating from farms close to home. Students participate in farm field trips and prepare a snack or meal with food they harvested themselves at the farm. They also receive classroom nutrition lessons focused on fruits and vegetables, and sessions in their school garden during which they have the opportunity to plant, nurture, harvest and eat vegetables. (School garden sessions are provided by our partner organization, the School Garden Project of Lane County.)

We know the program is needed. Many of the families in the schools we serve do not have the resources to provide healthy meals at home, and

for some, free school meals are the only nutrition their children reliably receive. Many children don't know where food comes from and have never seen food growing in a field, tasted fresh organic produce or even tried most vegetables. After participating in our program, students show enthusiasm for eating fruits and vegetables, as well as increased knowledge of where their food comes from and how it is grown.

It's exciting to provide kids with these experiences, but we know it's only part of the work of education and inclusion. The majority of students in the schools we serve are living in poverty. Low-income families struggle to put food on the family table, and often lack the resources to explore their options for accessing locally grown food. Introducing children to local food can be a transformative moment. Helping low income families learn how to access nutritious locally grown food can transform that moment into change that lasts a lifetime.

To foster this change, in 2012 we broke new ground by establishing our Farm to School Family Outreach project to bring the bounty of the Willamette Valley's harvest into the kitchens of low-income families. Farm to School staff and volunteers coordinate family field trips to local farms and farmers markets. Families receive produce to take home, coupons for use at farmers markets or farm stands in their area,



and information about how to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at these locations. Families also receive Oregon Harvest for Schools Family Newsletters, which encourage the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables at home.

In addition to educating kids and families, Willamette Farm and Food Coalition is also working with these districts to support them in incorporating locally grown foods into school meals. During the 2012-13

school year the Bethel, Eugene, Springfield and Oakridge school districts purchased Oregon-grown and processed products valued at \$877,115. These numbers are increasing every year. The Bethel School District is a leader in Oregon; 33 percent of the district's purchases came from Oregon farms and processors last school year. Bethel, Springfield and Oakridge all received grants this year from the Oregon Department of Education to purchase Oregon-grown and processed products and to provide food and garden based education.

Farm-to-school efforts connect kids to the source of their food and support local farms in the process. By educating kids about where their food comes from, providing their families with resources and opportunities to access fresh, healthy produce and assisting school districts in procuring locally grown products we are strengthening our local food system, which leads to healthier children and a stronger community.

Megan Kemple is the Farm to School Program director for Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, Oregon state lead for the National Farm to School Network, and co-lead of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network.