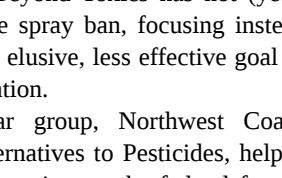
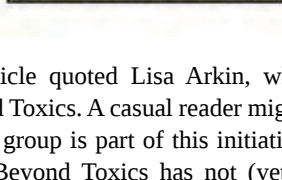
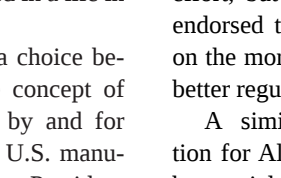
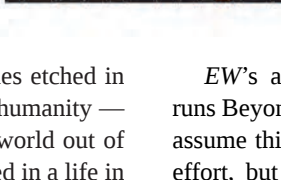
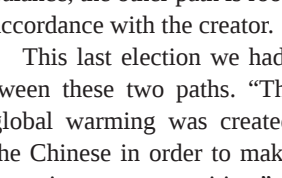
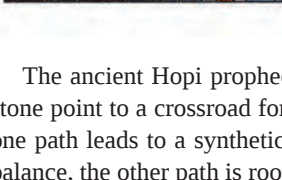
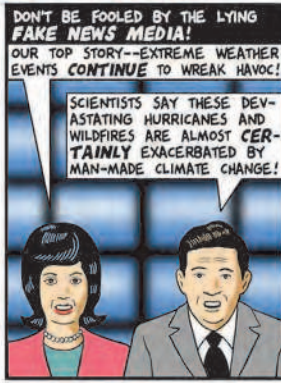


THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2017

The ancient Hopi prophecies etched in stone point to a crossroad for humanity — one path leads to a synthetic world out of balance, the other path is rooted in a life in accordance with the creator.

This last election we had a choice between these two paths. “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive,” says President Trump. Or, “the scientific community is telling us if we do not address the global crisis of climate change ... the planet that we’re leaving our kids may well not be habitable,” says Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Unfortunately, the zig-zag path was chosen, and we will continue to suffer the consequences of that choice.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

BAN AERIAL SPRAYS

The state of Oregon’s new herbicide spray notification website (“The Spray Near You,” Aug. 31) is an improvement over the old subscription system, but a poor substitute for prohibiting these abuses. We don’t need better disclosure about the scale of poisoning; we need to ban aerial spraying of cancer causing biocides over corporate clearcuts.

The ballot initiative to ban aerial spraying in Lane County was mentioned parenthetically in a sentence, but the organizer, Freedom From Aerial Herbicides Alliance, was not.

EW’s article quoted Lisa Arkin, who runs Beyond Toxics. A casual reader might assume this group is part of this initiative effort, but Beyond Toxics has not (yet?) endorsed the spray ban, focusing instead on the more elusive, less effective goal of better regulation.

A similar group, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, helped ban aerial spraying on the federal forests in the 1980s. Now, NCAP claims a “300 foot” no-spray buffer supposedly protects salmon in streams from contamination. Helicopter rotors blow sprays far beyond intended targets, inflicting collateral damage on down-winders. Forest fire smoke reminds us air pollution crosses land ownership boundaries.

Better “regulation” is an illusion — prevention is the only solution to protect public health.

Elected Democrats in Salem and Lane County either support aerial spraying or are hesitant to oppose it. EW barely mentioned the initiative during the signature-gathering phase. I hope EW, Beyond Toxics and NCAP promote the proposed aerial spray ban before the election.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

Editor's note: In addition to mentioning the proposed ban in "The Spray Near You," EW did two stories on the ban in 2017 as well as running letters, activist alerts and a viewpoint.

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