



Family Living

Have a happy
Easter

Earth Day, is mankind a titanic failure?

By Fred L. Smith Jr.
For The Portland Observer

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio, a spokesperson for Earth Day 2000 (April 22), has bought into environmental alarmism. "The Earth is heating up and everyone's Future is at risk," he exclaimed, "Please join us [this Earth Day] in sending a strong message to our governments that now is the time for action to prevent violent changes in our climate."

Mr. DiCaprio's sentiments reflect the environmental establishment's austere view.

To DiCaprio, mankind is the problem, the cause of the environmental "crisis." He ignores the fact that mankind is also a problems solver and pretty good at it too.

History proves that mankind is more a "problems solver" than a problem. Humanity has dramatically improved its diet, mobility, health, and overall quality of life.

In American and much of the world, people live longer, work less and have more time to enjoy their lives. Moreover, our increased time and resources have allowed (and encouraged) us to better appreciate, protect, and improve the environment. Population and economic growth mean that more people are more able to resolve a broader range of environmental problems beyond their own health and welfare.

A wealthy economy makes for a healthy environment, and technological innovations make it possible for us address more environmental issues. A wealthier world is a cleaner, safer, healthier and fairer world.

Those who see man, wealth, and technology as environmental "problems" suffer from the "Terrible Toos": they believe there are already "too many" of us, we already consume "too much" and we already have allowed "too many" innovations. They see more to fear than revel in biotechnology, the expanded use of energy, suburban development, and global trade to these alarmists, our current lifestyle an environmental "crisis": we are depleting natural resources, causing global warming, destroying the natural environment. The American lifestyle, they warn, is unsustainable; allowed to continue, it will lead to global destruction.

Their solution to the earth's gloomy prospect? Massive government intervention to slow and direct economic and technological change. Unfortunately for the eco-catastrophists' thesis, environmental quality continues to improve along with affluence and population.

For instance, the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Earth Report 2000, published this year by McGraw-Hill, says "Today, almost twice as many people are fed per acre of cropland as were fed about [100 years] ago. " Truly, mankind is a problem solver.

Moreover, our problems are best solved when people are free to use their intellect to discover new ways to address old problems. That process allows us to use more resources. While decreasing our stress on the planet

This Earth Day, policymakers should ponder this point before endorsing increased government controls on resource use, economic activity and

technology. Such controls are all too likely to cripple the innovative process, and to create unnecessary tensions between environmental and economic values.

Slowing economic and technological growth weakens the process by which we have, to date, fended off ecological and economic disaster.

If Leonardo DiCaprio and his doomday followers have their way, they'll be right!

Thus, on this April 22, let us commit to both a freer and a cleaner world. The fact is, you really can't have the latter without the former.

How to Achieve Quality Family Time

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When was the last time you and your family spent an evening together without watching television? Can't remember? That's because, like for most Americans, television seems like the only source of relaxation. We forget that it is possible to spend quality time with the family and still have fun. That's why you need to start setting aside some quality family time, even if it's only a couple of hours a week, without watching television.

To Help parents do this, one week out of every year is designated as

National TV-Turnoff Week, when families across the country voluntarily turn off their television sets and turn to other ways to have fun with their families.

You can make it easier for you, Hasbro, the makers of some of the best-known classic games, is here to help. They have come up with a new way of bringing families closer together by helping them spend quality time while having them take advantage of their time together by interacting with each other, face-to-face, playing board games rather than separately. Introduced during the fall of 1998 as a practical way to put some real quality time back into your busy life, Hasbro

has brought together some of its most well known games for the Family Game Night theme.

They include, the Monopoly game, Scrabble game, The Game of Life, Sorry, Clue, PayDay and Yahtzee. "We believe that playing games makes family time together more meaningful and fun, says John Chandler, senior vice president of marketing for Hasbro Games.

"We know from our own families that when you play a game there are two experiences—the actual game where you strategize and the emotional experience of enjoying each other's company. There are many families rediscovering the wonder of board

games, according to the Toy Manufacturer Association. Sales of family and adults games were up more than 10 percent in 1999.

For parents who need a little extra help planning a Family Game Night, Hasbro has made a fun and interactive brochure outlining the benefits of family gameplay that also provides creative ways to plan family game night. To Order your free brochure, send your address via e-mail to fgn@hasbro.com or write to Hasbro Family Games Night, P.O. Box 5659, Pawtucket, RI 02862. For more information about Family Games Night, visit www.familygamenight.com

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limitations, whether we are white people or black people or brown people... The answer to that question is yes. White people can also build around them teams of people who live and work in those communities that they are serving and empower them to make sure that they serve as a liaison between them and those communities.