

Sunday, March 26, 2006

### **Cabell County Politics 2006**

The Cabell and Wayne County West Virginia Democratic Executive Committee's held a meet the candidates event last night at the Huntington Civic Center. In addition to some of the local career politicians who showed up, there were some new faces as well. I noticed Judge Darrell Pratt and Delegate Don Perdue were present from Wayne County, and I saw former Wayne County Commissioner Don Bias as well. All are aging gracefully. One of the most hotly contested primary races in Cabell County is between Bob Bailey and L.D. Egnor for the job of Cabell County Commissioner. Bailey is a former Sheriff and L.D. Egnor is a former circuit judge. Both candidates are well qualified for the job. Bob Bailey has good social skills and no shortage of buddies, however L.D. Egnor being a career attorney and a former circuit Judge has an excellent legal mind and an understanding of the laws that regulate govern the county commission. It is the voters option as to what skill sets they desire on the County Commission. If you need a leader with an open door policy in the event you need a political favor, Bob Bailey is your man. Bailey is well known for being flexible. If you desire a leader who runs things by the law, of the law, and for the law. L.D. Egnor is your man. Egnor is well known for making people toe the line as far as the law goes. That cabell county commission race should be quite interesting as the local politics and local news play out between now and election day. I hear that the Cabell County Sheriff Kim Wolfe is running against Congressman Rahall. Kim Wolfe is a former Huntington Police Officer, who got himself elected as sheriff as a Republican. Kim Wolfe is the one who used to run the Huntington Police Departments "Horse Patrol" in downtown Huntington in the late eighties and early ninties. The "Horse Patrol" used to hassle the prostitutes in the alleys downtown. I remember that the street people used to call the HPD Horse Patrol officers by a funny nickname. "Hossie the Ho-Hassler". Rahall has a well oiled political machine that will run over Kim Wolfe like a speeding freight train because Rahall has the money to run a congressional campaign and Wolfe does not. I can well imagine that C.A. Adams will not cry when when that happens.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Cabell County West Virginia at 13:58

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

### **Bush Wheeling West Virginia**

I just got finished watching President Bush address what appears to be a handpicked crowd in Wheeling West Virginia. The well choreographed crowd applauded President Bush on numerous occasions. President Bush wants to convince the citizens of West Virginia that the War in Iraq is predicated on promoting democratic values in the middle east. It is my position that a war that is founded on democratic ideals needs no salesman to make it palatable. A war that is not being fought for self explanatory reasons needs no advocate. The majority of the American people see this war as having its roots in money and oil and has nothing to do with democracy. Large federal contractors with close ties to the GOP are making huge profits. The perception of some in West Virginia is that the Presidents speech in Wheeling West Virginia was more of a staged political media event rather than an open discussion of the issues. The questions posed to President Bush in Wheeling West Virginia appeared to intend to help President Bush make his point. There were no hard questions posed, and to this extent I perceive the presidents actions in Wheeling West Virginia to be more of a staged political sermon rather than a legitimate "town hall" style meeting. West Virginia Politics has no place for those who sell war as though it was a commodity traded on the stock market. I very strongly support our troops overseas, however I reserve the right to question the motives of those who set the policies that send the troops to war. Stephanie Heck / Huntington West Virginia

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia Politics at 13:48

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

## **Global Warming Interview**

Introduction: I was recently approached for an interview by a school girl here in West Virginia studying global warming. I am publishing her questions and my replies because I thought it might be educational to other students doing a class project. Global Warming Interview

QUESTION: Can you explain what you do and how you became involved in Global Warming? ANSWER: I am a longstanding advocate and activist for environmental concerns. I was first approached for this interview because I run an Internet blog that has some articles on the topic of global warming and other environmental concerns. I first became interested in climate changes based upon my observations over the years. A small change in the average yearly temperature can have drastic effects on the climate. We have more tornadoes and hurricanes in the USA than we once had decades ago, simply because the climate is changing as the result of greenhouse gases emitted from fossil fuel consumption. Rest assured that the winters here in West Virginia are generally milder than they were when I was a child 40 years ago.

QUESTION: I have learned that some scientists and professionals in the field do not believe in the Greenhouse Effect. Do you believe in Greenhouse Gases (Global Warming)? ANSWER: There are some propagandists who debunk the well-established science of combustion chemistry. Combustion of hydrocarbon fuels such as petroleum and coal produce large volumes of Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a byproduct of high temperature oxidization (Combustion). It is a matter of common knowledge among intelligent people that the physics of the Carbon atom gives Carbon qualities conducive to the absorption of radiation. This is why some nuclear reactors use graphite and other carbon polymers as an element of the control rods that are used to regulate the nuclear chain reaction within the reactor. We know that the sun produces radiation that creates heat and light within the atmosphere and carbon absorbs radiation. When radiation is absorbed, heat is produced as a byproduct. Therefore it is reasonable and rational to extrapolate a conclusion that the greater the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere as the result of fossil fuel consumption, the more potential heat is absorbed from solar radiation. The percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is directly proportional to the ability of the atmosphere to absorb heat from the sun.

QUESTION: Have you studied Global Warming? ANSWER: I have studied the chemistry and the physics of the theory, and perceive the theory to be based on generally accepted principles of science. Once the debate is stripped of the political spin from the fans of the coal and oil industry, it is really pretty basic science.

QUESTION: How do scientists research something like this? ANSWER: Statistical analysis of long term NOAA databases used to maintain the history of weather patterns over a period of several decades to arrive at a statistical pattern of weather over the multi seasonal spectrum. Statistical Meteorology.

QUESTION: How do you research this issue? ANSWER: I try to look at the data with a detached point of view; in short I am objective in my analysis. I m no science guru, nor am I stupid.

QUESTION: What do you think is the main cause of Global Warming? ANSWER: Excessive consumption of carbon based fuels emitting huge volumes of Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide form the majority of "greenhouse gases".

QUESTION: What effect is Global Warming having on mankind? ANSWER: The erosion of the polar ice caps is already creating problems in navigation in polar oceans. Bigger Icebergs. Eventually this influx of fresh water from the polar ice caps into the ocean will affect the saline levels of ocean water exterminating some saline sensitive species, and deterioration of the polar caps will affect the actual sea level in the long term.

QUESTION: What effect is Global Warming having on plant life and animals? ANSWER: A slight fluctuation in temperature will have great impact on growing seasons and crop production in agriculture. Migratory patterns of certain aquatic species will change as well, affecting the food chain.

QUESTION: What effect is Global Warming having on your community? ANSWER: Last Summer was pretty warm, that trend will continue. Last winter was pretty warm too compared to what it was decades ago. You young people need to ask the old timers to confirm this.

QUESTION: What do you know for sure will happen for us in the future, due to Global Warming? ANSWER: A gradual rise in the temperature of planet Earth and drastic changes in climate in the long run.

QUESTION: What do you suspect will happen (in addition to the things you know for sure) for us in the future, due to Global Warming? ANSWER: Siberia will get warmer, and the growing season will get longer in Siberia. Food production will increase in Northern Latitudes.

QUESTION: What are your personal feelings concerning Global Warming? ANSWER: The USA needs to become more committed to the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (fostered by the UN) through the research and implementation of alternative fuels such as hydrogen, and atomic power. New scrubber technology can be used to reduce carbon gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

QUESTION: Do you think Global Warming is a serious issue that the World needs to think about? ANSWER: The world has thought about it and has developed a strategy to reduce the problem in the Kyoto Protocol. However the USA and China are not adding much effort to this international collaborative agreement.

QUESTION: What do you know of what is being done Worldwide to fight Global Warming? ANSWER: The Kyoto Protocol is the best hope we have right now. More research needs to be done to find new strategies.

QUESTION: What do you know of what is being done in the US to fight Global Warming? ANSWER: Not much of anything because the oil industry, and the coal industry, denies the existence of problem. Those industries have a lot of friends in

Congress.QUESTION: What do you feel the World Governments can do?ANSWER: Formulate a global broad-spectrum strategy to abate the problem.QUESTION: What do you feel that the US Government can do?ANSWER: Encourage the sensible use of energy and reduce wastage. QUESTION: What do you feel the Local Governments can do?ANSWER: It would help if local governments encouraged business entities to turn off electric signs and lighting when the store or businesses are not open for business. The energy savings would be tremendous. Less fuel would be used to generate electricity and greenhouse gases would be reduced as a result. Local governments need to pass ordinances against the frivolous wastage of energy. This would reduce our dependency on imported fuels and maybe the fines from the citations would generate a wee bit of income for cash strapped municipalities. QUESTION: What can individuals and families do to help?ANSWER: Save energy whenever possible.QUESTION: What actions have you personally taken to help prevent Global Warming?ANSWER: I ride a bicycle to save money on gasoline sometimes; besides being good exercise it saves gasoline and reduces pollution.QUESTION: What actions can you suggest that my class can take to help prevent Global Warming? ANSWER: Your class members need to ask your grandparents and other mature people if the climate has changed over the last 40 years. Ask them if the winters of today are milder than the winters of decades past. Then if you are convinced the worlds climate is changing, act accordingly to minimize your use of energy from fossil fuels.QUESTION: Do you use any Energy Star labeled objects? ANSWER: Yes, many energy efficient products are superior in construction to standard products. I use a laptop rather than a desktop computer to reduce energy usage. QUESTION: Do you have any interesting facts to share with me that I have not covered with my questions?ANSWER: Your questions are pretty extensive.QUESTION: Do you have any books, magazines or websites you could recommend to my class?ANSWER: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html> A UN Affiliated WebsiteQUESTION: How can I help make people care about Global Warming?ANSWER: Ask them what kind of world that they want to leave for their great grandchildren?Stephanie Heck / Huntington West Virginia.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Global Politics at 11:40

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

### **Golden Oldies Streaming Radio Station**

B 97.1 FM Radio in Coal Grove Ohio has an excellent online stream of golden oldies. Classical 60's 70's 80's Rock & Roll and they offer online streaming music for those who are fond of Internet Radio. I frequently listen to this radio station in the car and at home. Now I can listen to it online at the link below. Take a listen, and you will like it. It will play on a standard Windows media player. This is an up and coming radio station in the tri-state area serving Huntington WV, Ashland Ky, and Ironton Ohio. [http://2005.b97fm.com/cc-common/streaming\\_new/index.html?refreshed=yes](http://2005.b97fm.com/cc-common/streaming_new/index.html?refreshed=yes) Radio stations in West Virginia and Ohio are streaming media to the internet in larger numbers and this B97.1 radio station is doing well to exploit technology. I like internet radio and I commend and recommend this radio station. Bookmark the radio station link above.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Huntington WV at 22:13

Sunday, March 5, 2006

### **Welch West Virginia**

The Welch West Virginia police chief is accused in a federal lawsuit of stopping a would-be rescuer from performing CPR on a gay heart attack victim because he assumed he was HIV positive. Claude Green, 43, died June 21 in Welch West Virginia after suffering the heart attack, yards from the Welch City Hall. The West Virginia Civil Liberties Union ( ACLU affiliate ) filed the suit against Bobby Bowman on behalf of Green's mother. The lawsuit alleges Police Chief Bowman pulled Billy Snead who was Green's friend, off of the man as he was performing CPR. I am familiar with Welch. It is a small coal town in southern West Virginia ( Appalachia ). I hope that there will eventually come a time when no person will die because of the denial of medical care by a bigoted public servant. The right to medical care is not dependant on ones orientation in Welch West Virginia or any place else. Medical care is a human right that is independent of stereotypes.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia at 01:01