

Things in Motion

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice.

--Heraclitus (540?-480?) B.C.

WHAT'S NEXT?

A large percentage of people who read this will remember WWII, Korea, Viet Nam and a number of other calamities that the world has endured, but none will have previously experienced the onset of a global change such as we are now becoming aware of: we call it *global warming* and understand that it is just the latest in a series of events that extend backward to the realization that for years we have been playing with fire by our use of fluorocarbons, the dumping of emissions from countless automobiles and airplanes into our atmosphere, and our general apathy toward finding ways to stop endangering our very existence. The discovery of a huge hole in our ozone layer should have been the warning that brought immediate and worldwide corrective action, but it did not.

Recent articles by visitors to arctic climes offer evidence that our polar ice is melting—and at a rapid pace. There are warnings that the polar bear may become extinct. The Greenland icecap is melting and there was a recent discovery that the Ross ice shelf is breaking up. There have been predictions that global warming may result in a rise in sea level that will bring catastrophe to our shores. What are we doing to prepare for such disaster?

Since I am not privy to the discussions between and among nations, I have no basis for an answer, however I hope and would expect that the world's scientists are sufficiently forward-thinking to have already been searching for ways to cope with climate changes, and that our governments are alert to scientific findings that may offer viable solutions.

What can John Doe offer toward preparing for the changes that are coming? Our best and most logical action is to urge our government's involvement at all levels by contacting the people we have elected to represent us and to make them aware of our concerns and fears. If we wallow in apathy, our seaside homes could well be washed out to sea; our lowland cabins could become wildlife habitations and untold thousands of us will become homeless—driven off our estates by rising water. The harsh reality of New Orleans after Katrina could repeat itself along thousands of miles of our seashores.

Imaginative minds can offer scenarios of far greater disaster than I suggest here; cities awash in seas that drive millions to mountains where most will perish in freezing temperatures and as a side effect of such panic, the lack of food and resulting starvation of the masses. While it is true that man has survived past variations in world climate, we have a far greater potential for loss of life, regardless of our superior technologies and the means to save ourselves. Our worst enemy is (you guessed it) ... apathy.

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Disappearing?