

## CLASS ACTION

Clerk:

Judge:

Pros #1: Prosecution

Pros #2: Prosecution

Defs: Defense

Ozone= Ozone Layer

JH: Joe Hummer

Welcome by Board Member:

Clerk: Hear ye Hear ye! All Rise, in spirit or in body. The Court of Mother Nature, the Four Elements, All the Animals and Father Sun is now in session. The honorable Judge Gaia presiding in the case of the Youth of the World vs. The Old Fogies, on the charge of reckless destruction of the planet.

Judge: You may be seated. I call this court to order with opening words, written and read by Amy Hosking, entitled "Not Just a Kink". ...

Judge: On the Charge of reckless destruction of the environment how do you, the old fogies, plead?

Congregation: Not guilty

Judge: not guilty?

Congregation: not guilty

Judge: are you sure?

Congregation: Yes

Judge: let the record show the defendants plead not guilty.

Clerk: Before the trial begins I would invite all those young, or young at heart to come up to the front for the story for all. This story is called *The Lorax*....

Hymn: This little light of mine

Judge: I call upon the prosecution to introduce their case against the old fogies.

Prosecution #1: My Lady Mother Earth, I think it is ridiculous that the defendants are so indignant about their innocence when all the facts will show that their gross negligence has destroyed the planet. Green House Gas levels are at an all time high, extreme weather has become commonplace with events such as Katrina, record typhoon seasons in Asia, and Germany's first Tornado plaguing our planet. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC, has proven a scientific consensus on human induced climate change, caused by years of destructive CO2 emissions. Just two weeks ago a giant piece of the Antarctic seven times the size of Manhattan broke off into the sea. And why is this? It's because of the old fogies' life styles, because of the cars they invented, and haven't made fuel-efficient. It's because of their refrigerators with CFC's that destroyed the ozone layer. It is their generation that lives lavish lifestyles with three cars, two houses, vacations to Mexico every year. It is they who have destroyed the planet. The youth are mere children that have inherited this dying world from their forefathers and are left to pick up the pieces. The prosecution will be calling witnesses to prove this, the first being the Ozone layer.

(enter ozone layer)

Judge: please place your right hand on the bible

Ozone: that's not a bible, that's a copy of David Suzuki's new book

Judge: same difference, do you swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you Suzuki?

Ozone: I so swear

Judge: you may proceed

Pros #2: Mr. Ozone layer, how are you doing?

Ozone: Here and there really. A bit patchy

Pros #2: that's sad to hear, how long has the patchy feeling been persisting?

Ozone: Well, I was first diagnosed in 1985 with discovery of the Antarctic "ozone hole" by British Antarctic Survey scientists.

Pros #2: An ozone hole -- what is that?

Ozone: it is a huge patch of the stratosphere that has a significantly decreased amount of ozone.

Pros #2: Has there been any other damage?

Ozone: My overall depletion is at roughly 4% per decade

Pros #2: what caused this depletion?

Ozone: the release of CFC's from such things as aerosol cans and refrigeration units

Pros #2: Was this before any of the youth of the world were born?

Ozone: I would assume so, yes, it was caused by problems way before 1985.

Pros #2: What does Ozone depletion cause?

Ozone: Well ozone blocks UVB rays, which can cause skin cancer, destruction of crops and could cause the mass extinction of plankton!

Pros #2: Caused by the old fogies, no more questions

Judge: Defense would like a cross-examination?

Defs: One quick question: does January 1<sup>st</sup> 1989 mean anything to you?

Ozone: Of course! It was the day that the Montréal protocol, which banned CFC's came into force.

Defs: Sorry, and who signed that, the youth or the old fogies?

Ozone: the old fogies

Defs: no further questions

Judge: we will take a short recess to sing hymn #173, *In the Branches of the Forest*, and then have a time for meditation. For the hymn, our accompanist Alan Jessop will play it once through, then I ask you to all rise in body or in spirit to join us in singing.

...

Clerk: **MEDITATION: #550, We Belong to the Earth**, by Chief Noah Sealh. ...

We will now have a minute of silent meditation, followed by music. After the musical meditation, we invite you to light a candle and speak briefly about a personal joy or concern.

### **CANDLES of Joy and Concern**

Judge: I light this candle for all the joys and concerns that remain unspoken.

Judge: Would the defense like to make an opening statement?

Defs: My lady Mother Earth, my client is clearly not guilty. We don't even know if climate change is true.

Pros #2: Objection!

Judge: On what grounds?

Pros #2: falseness, lying, ...

Judge: Over-ruled!

Defs: Even if it is true, it is not the fault of the adults

Pros #2: Objection, they're called old fogies

Judge: SIT DOWN!

Defs: the fact is, even if it's true, the older generations had no idea about the problems with their life style, with the CO2 emissions, all that stuff. When the science has been confirmed the adults have acted such as the Montréal protocol. It is not fair to hold us responsible for things we didn't know. To prove this I will call our first witness, Joe Hummer.

Judge: do you swear to tell the truth all the truth and nothing but the truth, so help you Suzuki?

JH: yeah.... Whatever

Judge: you may proceed

Defs: If I say climate change what do you say?

JH: bah humbug

Defs: When were you born?

JH: April 23 1950

Defs: You're 57 years old?

JH: what's it to you?

Defs: when did you start hearing of the environmental movement?

JH: You mean the hippies??

Defs: the environmentalists, So the 1970's

JH: maybe a bit, but not much, until recently

Defs: Do you know for example that idling your car is bad for the environment?

JH: That's rubbish, what are you talking about? It improves the environment

Defs: How so?

JH: Well it kills the weaker species and will create a world full of super-strong smoke-resisting animals and people.

Defs: Thanks, no further questions.

Judge: Any questions on cross?

Pros #2: What's the capital of Ontario?

JH: I don't know..., Iowa?

Pros #2: very reliable witness you have there

Pros #2: Doesn't it make sense to, for example, turn off a light when you exit a room?

JH: whatever.

Pros #2: Would it not also be much less expensive because you are using less energy?

JH: I guess

Pros #2: no further questions

Judge: We will take a short recess before we hear closing arguments. While the offering is taken for the work of this church, we will listen to a song called "Union" by the Black-eyed Peas. The youth chose this song because the lyrics talk about all people needing to work together.

### **Song – offering**

Defs: Mother earth, as you can see these charges are preposterously ludicrous, it is clear the adults had no idea about the need to protect the environment, the science was not there, and if it was, they reacted. If anything, it is the youth today with their cars and lavish lifestyles that are destroying the planet, and they know the problems! Mother, this case is charging my clients with ignorance and nothing more, and they should be found not guilty.

Judge. And the Prosecution...

Pros #1: Mother, It doesn't matter if they knew about it or not; they still destroyed the world! This is like saying, I didn't know arson was bad, so when I burned down that house, I can't be held responsible. They did the crime, they should be punished, they leave our generation with a debt of environmental destructions that we have to live with. Guilty, their hands are dirty with the blood of the planet!

Judge: I will deliberate while we sing hymn #175, *We Celebrate the Web of Life*. I invite you all to open your hymnals to number 175, and to remain seated at the beginning. We will all sing, but only when I point to your row. When I indicate you should start, please stand and join in with the song. Please continue to sing the song until the entire congregation is singing.

## **HYMN**

Judge: Now I will give you my verdict. H.E. Luccock once said, “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to do it.” The global environment is at the root of all existence; it is what sustains our economies, our culture and our way of life. It’s not a question of balancing competing values; it’s about finding a solution to a problem of epic proportions. It no more matters whether the problem is from the older generation or the new, nor if it is from the west or the east, the north or the south; the problem lies with all humanity. No one can take the problem on alone, just as no one can whistle a symphony. It takes a global, concerted effort from all individuals. I am dismissing this case outright.

It takes everyone to make a difference, for if just one person ceases to sing, the entire song loses out. When we are gambling with something as irreplaceable as our planet, I hope everyone steps up and sings. This court is adjourned.

Clerk: Our closing words today will be in the form of a song, this song was written and composed by the junior youth group, with special help from Greg O’Neill. It’s entitled Right as Rain. The words are in your order of service. Please remain seated, and we invite you to join us in singing the chorus.

Clerk: We thank you for participating and attending our service. To conclude our service today we will sing hymn number 123 Spirit of Life, the words are in your order of service, and are also posted on the walls. Please rise as you are willing and able.