

tem? That's right baby. A mobile fidelity sound lab, half speed master virgin vinyl album playing on a Thorens turntable. Blows those strident CD's right out of the water.

Why do wonderful people like Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson have to retire? I don't like to think of the day when I can't call them with state or local chapter business.

Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?

These are just a few of the things I'll never understand even if I live to be a hundred.

Inconvenient Truths



**GREEN
SIDE
UP**

**By
JOEL JACKSON**

Former Vice President Al Gore spent much of 2006 touting his movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," across the country. The truth, according to Mr. Gore and other "experts," is that the planet earth is in the death grip of a global warming trend, and only if mankind will rein in its burning of fossil fuels can we hope to stem the predicted catastrophic consequences.

I might be able to be convinced that the planet is recording warmer temperatures, but then I've also been told by "experts" that 120,000 years ago the sea level was 20 feet higher than it is today. There weren't any factories or automobiles back then, and something sure melted those ice age glaciers way back then and it wasn't mankind. And then there were those "experts" who predicted another ice age back in the 1970s. Where are they now, predicting global warming?

Inconvenient truths! Mr. Gore, can you stand a few of my inconvenient truths gleaned from reports and observations during my short time on earth? Mine will cover the global warming issue and the current buzz on protecting water quality in Florida.

The earth's forests, fields, green belts (golf courses, parks, lawns, etc) and oceans (66 percent of the planet's surface) are huge carbon sinks that absorb a whole lot of carbon dioxide.

Along with factories and vehicles, humans expel carbon dioxide when they breathe. Will we be required to hold our breath to prevent global warming?

Given the absolutely abysmal accuracy of the 2006 hurricane season due to unforeseen global changes in climate phenomena (El Nino and the Bermuda High), why should we subscribe to the predicted global warming and wreck our economy?

Which is more likely to affect global (planetary) temperature change. Smoke stacks and exhaust pipes or a slight change in earth orbit or solar flares and sun spot activity that happens in periodic galactic cycles?

Regarding water quality and the fixation on fertilizer applications by local officials and activists as the primary cause of nutrient loading in Florida's waterways.

Nutrient loading: All fertilizers may be nutrients but not all nutrients are fertilizers.

Outdated and faulty municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants dump more nutrients in our waterways than fertilizer applications on turfgrass.

It is winter and the geese, ducks and other waterfowl are heading south and filling our bays, lakes and ponds. And here comes the phosphorus and urea with them. How do you stop millions of birds from pooping in the water?

Studies by O. M. Scotts Co. show that approximately 50 percent of homeowners never, ever fertilize their yards, and another 35 percent apply only once or twice.

Only 15 percent of homeowners pursue high-maintenance lawns, applying fertilizers three or four times per year.

A healthy stand of turfgrass prevents

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erosion, filters runoff, uses less water and makes more oxygen than a tree, and it doesn't fall on power line or houses in a windstorm. Maybe they should reduce the number of trees by 50 percent instead of turfgrass in lawns.

It is one thing to be concerned about people living and working in coastal zones and the consequences of rising water levels. Caveat emptor – Let the buyer beware. People have lived and built in flood and danger zones ever since time began. It is another thing to say the "truth" of the matter is that man is causing this global temperature shift.

Asteroids striking the planet and mammoth volcanic eruptions can cause global weather changes along with wobbles and changes in the earth's orbit around the sun. Locally people can foul their nests for sure and there is nothing wrong with cleaning up the air in any smog-affected area.

I marvel at the computer model that recently computed that lawnmower and leaf blower engines contributed 7 percent of the air pollution in California, and now the EPA has granted a waiver to require catalytic converters on small gas engines. Want to compare that to the jet airliner's pollution contribution flying Gore around the U.S. plugging his movie? Give me a break.

The inconvenient truth is each person will believe what he wants to believe in the face of conflicting reports and cherry-picked facts that will support any argument you want to make.

It comes down to motives and character and a willingness to admit that man can't control nature.