

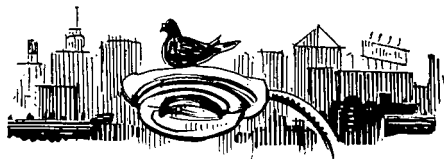
belonged to her mother. David looked handsome and young. He was full of ideas about the election, which I think I'll keep to myself for now.

Suffice it to say, seeing Julie always makes me cry because I recall how she suffered during Watergate. She is probably as fine a woman as there is, and she was crucified on the Golgotha of that vendetta against her father. However, she is risen, looks fabulous, and I went to sleep happy that she is happy.

Ugh and double ugh. I am flying back on United and they are obviously determined to torture me. My stewardess in first class yelled at me because I told her the fish was tasteless. "I wish you had never gotten on my flight, Mr. Stein," she said. "You're determined to complain about everything." I told her that it was not unusual to complain about terrible food, but she just yelled at me more and told me I was

Monday
unwelcome in "her" first class cabin. I slunk back to coach but I do plan to get some amends out of United for having a stewardess who was having a terrible day and took it out on me.

Anyway, I finally got home, kissed my little boy and my wife and my dog, and went into dreamland. I love being home. In my big bed with my dog and my Christmas lights on my ficus (I keep them up all year) and my stereo headphones on Mozart. *La vida es suena.* ❧



THE NEW YORK SPECTATOR

by Jackie Mason and Raoul Felder

Personal Questions

As usual, a Frenchman had all the answers.

In 1894 Anatole France observed that, "The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets, and to steal bread." Well, we were not in the neighborhood at that time, don't know anything about the bridges over the Seine, Paris, or the people who live there—the Parasites—but Mr. Anatole certainly seems to know a lot about New Yorkers and their politics in the year 2000.

A radio interviewer asked Hillary Clinton a question about her personal life and all the forces of an outraged civilization rushed to her defense. Rep. Carolyn Maloney said, "I find it personally disgusting."

JACKIE MASON's all-new, one-man Broadway show, *Much Ado About Everything*, previews at the Golden Theater in November. He is also a nationally syndicated radio host ("The Jackie Mason Show").
RAOUL FELDER is a lawyer and nationally syndicated radio talk show host and legal commentator ("The Felder Report").

We would be more impressed by Ms. Maloney's Richter scale of disgust if she had expressed equal disdain for Hillary's aiding and abetting a trail of degeneracy and deception that spread from Little Rock hotel rooms to the Oval Office. But what does all of this have to do with Mr. Anatole in 1894 and laws not allowing both rich and poor people to sleep under bridges?

Mayor Giuliani's previously stated position that he would not talk about his personal life was cited as an equalizing factor in Ms. Maloney's quest to have a mutual hands-off-on-personal-questions for Mrs. Clinton.

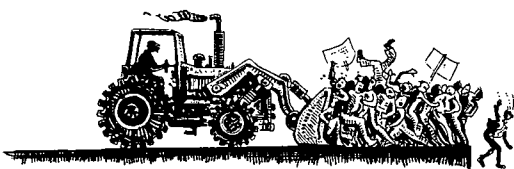
Gossip mongers have in fact, as is usual with many famous people, made suggestions about the mayor's private life. But the point is that these insinuations were part of the mayor's life that is his own, and one that has nothing to do with the public. Inquiries into Mr. Giuliani's life that have to do with what goes on within four private walls cannot be equated with legitimate areas of inquiry about Mrs. Clinton. Her activities, which might be in areas that

most people would keep private, are now the appropriate stuff of public discourse.

The mayor is not the Senate candidate that is seeking office on the I'm-a-victim-of-a-dysfunctional-marriage-and-am-running-as-therapy-and-to-validate-myself-worth-all-women-should-identify-with-me platform. The mayor did not enable, aid, or assist a spouse in lying to the country or keep the nation in turmoil for many months and needlessly cause tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars to be spent. The mayor did not then embark upon a campaign to demean and vilify detractors, appear on television and accuse them all of being part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

It is a short and predictable step to suggest that all talk of Whitewater, Travelgate, Filegate, transmutation of \$10,000 to \$100,000, and knowledge of cover-ups with legions of semi-raped women will fall under the category of objectionable "personal questions."

If Ms. Maloney had a neighbor who committed mass murders, would she say the police could not question him about them because they did not question her about the subject? Even Mr. Anatole back in 1894 could answer that question. ❧



by Arthur B. Robinson and Noah Robinson

Some Like It Hot

The global warming business could bankrupt our Earth.

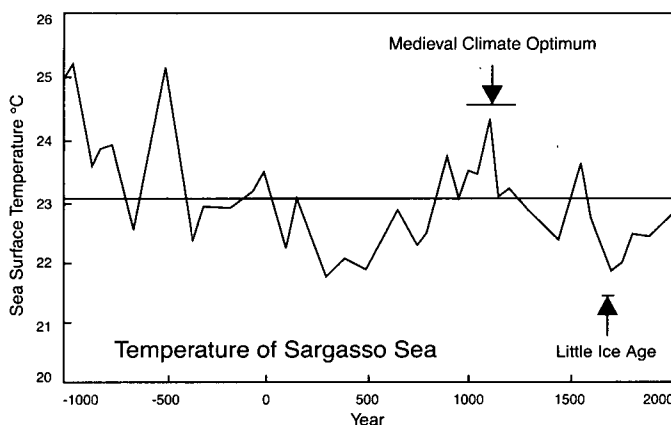
Everyone knows by now that the Earth is ill. It must be because its temperature is reported to be rising. Well, it's not so simple. A warming trend began about 300 years ago, during the Little Ice Age, but this has nothing to do with human activity, or the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The 300-year trend and the fluctuations within it are closely correlated with solar activity.

Within this trend there are smaller cycles, up and down, and we don't have enough information to know exactly where we are within such cycles. Uncertainty about natural phenomena should not become the excuse for governments to restrict the use of fossil fuels, but the crazy fact is that if the sun continues its 300-year warming trend, in the next few years environmentalists may succeed in closing down half of humanity's energy supplies.

For this reason, research on atmospheric temperatures has taken on a new urgency. Documenting the natural factors that affect the Earth's temperature—especially that of the sun—will allow us to prevent such political disasters. We are now in a race between the irrational religion of pseudo-environmentalism and the truth about atmospheric science.

The accompanying graph places all this in historical perspective. Derived from isotope ratios in the skeletons of marine organisms deposited in the Sargasso Sea, this record shows temperatures during the past three millennia. Clearly seen are the Little Ice Age and the much warmer period about

1,000 years ago known as the Medieval Climate Optimum, so named because the recorded climate was unusually benign. Earth temperatures are now near the 3,000-year average and not unusual.



What will temperatures be during the coming century and beyond? No one knows. Astronomers cannot yet predict future solar activity. If recent trends continue, however, our environment will be much improved. Already, plant growth and diversity—from the forests and fields of North America to the rain forests of South America—have shown a marked increase. This is the result of carbon dioxide fertilization. Mankind is moving carbon from below-ground deposits of coal, oil, and natural gas into the atmosphere, where it is then used to make more plants and animals.

Studies indicate that North American forests are growing so fast that they are storing all of the human-released carbon from North America. According to the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture, the total amount of large-tree

standing timber in the United States alone has increased by 30 percent since 1950. Because they use plants for food, animals have also increased. When this biological miracle stabilizes within one or two centuries, the plant and animal population of the Earth may have doubled. Farm production is already increasing from carbon dioxide fertilization. Wheat crops in dry

areas are growing 10 percent faster as a result of atmospheric carbon dioxide increases during the twentieth century (from 280 parts per million in 1900 to 360 in 2000). Trees are more strongly affected. Young orange trees and pine trees are growing more than 25 percent faster.

Measurements of South American rain forests show similar accelerations.

Gradual, natural changes in the environment have been distorted by politicians. Both Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Vice President Al Gore visited Glacier National Park to bewail the current diminution of its glaciers. Geologists know, however, that those glaciers have come and gone many times as Earth's temperature has risen and fallen during past millennia.

Will the sun and therefore the Earth ever become too warm to suit human activities? No one knows. From past changes, however, it is known that any such increase would likely occur gradually over many thousands of years. Moreover, should our distant descendants ever wish to adjust the Earth's thermostat, they could more easily adjust it downward, rather than upward. American scientists have pointed out that

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