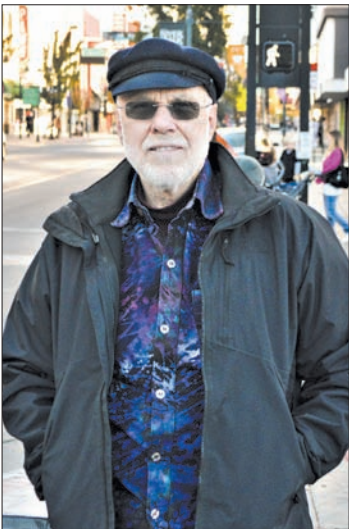


Fast talker

Dr. Bill Miller, a retired palliative care and hospice chaplain, is a member of Citizens' Climate Lobby—a group that lobbies on behalf of the proposed Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 763. Recently, Miller asked other members of the group's Reno chapter to join him and fast on Fridays in solidarity with the young people behind the Fridays for our Future movement. On Friday afternoons in front of Reno City Hall, they'll be out to engage passersby in conversation about climate change.

Why is fasting the way to make your point?

It was a bit out of desperation. There was so little going on here. I started it before I discovered [Citizens' Climate Lobby]. And, you know, I wanted to symbolically sacrifice. It's something Boomers were not raised to do. We're quite an indulgent generation. And we can't solve this crisis without some sacrifice. On the other hand, there's enormous benefits to solving it. I mean not just the planet surviving, but we can create new jobs that can't be outsourced, can't be sent overseas. We can rebuild our economy. There could be literally millions of new jobs. There's a lot of benefit to acting on this crisis.



PHOTO/JERI DAVIS

New jobs in things like renewable industry and?

Yeah, in renewable energy, in all kinds of sustainable energies, in retrofitting houses.

Sure, things like retrofitting can't be outsourced.

No, and windmills can't be and solar panels can't be and, to a certain extent, electric cars can't be—although the Chinese are providing stiff competition, no doubt about that. But the other side of the equation is that there's going to have to be some sacrifice. We're going to have to change. We're going to have to let go of things.

How long have you been fasting every Friday?

I started in late August. And I was actually out by the river. I was handing out little fliers.

Now you're doing the same with Citizens' Climate Lobby. So, how do you engage people out here?

Poorly! [Laughs] Opinions are pretty well formed, whether informed or not. So we try and meet people where they are. We ask them questions. We try not to argue but just to have a conversation and, you know, we're really hoping to put down a marker here because what we're doing in this hour is we're supporting the student climate strikes as elders.

I understand another of your goals is explaining the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Who's stopping to talk? How many Fridays have you been out here?

This is only our second time. So we're still figuring it out—even if this is the smartest time and place. You know, it's just passersby. ... We're just trying to see if we can put an anchor down to raise awareness that the issue hasn't gone away and there's ... a very ingenious solution. So as dire as it is, it's not hopeless.

NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE



Like a rug

When the Mad King's tender eggs find themselves in yet another political vise, his protective lick-spittles jump into action, circling around those precious little raisinets so as to save them from being squished into a vile, mealy goo that would make the Kimberly Guilfoyle Bod-Bot recoil in titanicly-titted terror. These sycophant droids guarding The Blunderer In Chief are like worker bees surrounding their threatened queen, prepared, if need be, to defend their endangered monarch to the death ... of their re-election chances.

Which is to say here comes the ReTrumplican campaign of national bamboozlement, to be quickly followed by a relentless blast of general gaslighting. Never has the old axiom, "If you can't dazzle 'em with brilliance, baffle 'em with bullshit," been more in play.

And don't buy into that initial slaphappy portrait of Lovable Lev

and Illin' Igor being dopey shlubs of Rudy Ghouliani. Total horseshit. These guys ain't schmucks. Far from it. In fact, it's now obvious that Rudy was working for them, not the other way around, and that Lev and Igor were highly connected with the Russian Mob that was paying Ghouliani the big bucks to get our decent diplomats axed in Ukraine. Then, and only then, could Team Capone make the power plays it was eager to make since, as Prez Pelosi so accurately summed up, when it comes to Trump, all roads lead to Putin. And he had some fat cat Russkies to please!

But ... oh, no! Lev got his feelings hurt! Awww, isn't that just the sweetest? Lev got his widdle heart broke when Pouty Potus said of him and Igor, "I don't know these guys." Dump's tossing of the starstruck Parnas under the nearest bus doesn't

appear to have sat well with ol' Lev, since Lev had posted about 47 pictures of him kissing Trump's ass on Instagram, pics that invariably show Lev and Twitler mugging with ever-moronic thumbs up, Agent Orange grinning like some nitrous-baked jack-o-lantern. So Lev got his feelings hurt, and then he got pissed, and then he told his lawyer, "Fuck it. I'm ready to lunch with Adam Schiff."

Nuts to all this bullshit about *quid pro quo*. Drop the effing Latin already. Let's talk instead about bribery and extortion. Let's talk about graft and piles and piles of utterly endless corruption. Trump is lying. Rudy is lying. Sondland is lying. Pompeo is lying. Barr is lying. Pence is lying. Moscow Mitch is lying. All of them lie. All the time. About everything. That Kool-Aid 45 must be strong stuff.

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