

Episode 56FGb June 18, 2023. Taylor Swift, kindness and fairness, and the guard in the Wizard of Oz.

United States

RAWSEP View: Casting a wide net to find new Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, one wonders what young people are concerned about and on what issues young people label themselves environmentalists, and on what issues they are post-environmentalist. When feminists throw up their hands about younger women who act like throwbacks to the clichés of the 1950s, those younger women are sometimes called post-feminist, a subtle pejorative term for women who have no knowledge of a painful history before feminism made hard-won gains for all women. Post-feminists are seen by feminists as women who feel no need to continue any fight on any issue for equality of women with men, since every gain seems to have already been made, and made effortlessly in the past.

By the same token, post-environmentalist young people may feel no need to continue any fight on any issue which would slow climate change or any issue that would stop air pollution, since every gain seems to have already been made, and made effortlessly in the past.

Would young people fight to stop air pollution from residential wood burning? This article about the idealized characteristics of a certain group of young people (seemingly mostly young women) who follow Taylor Swift, gives older people hope, in a way, about the younger generation. Young women “raised on a healthy diet of kindness and fairness” seem the ideal candidates to stand up for the environment, stand up against air pollution and stand up for slowing climate change. A couple of my young female relatives were able to go to a Taylor Swift concert recently and it rocked their world. It was raining, and they loved that they overcame that hardship to get the priceless experience. Knowing that their idol is kind and fair makes me hopeful that kindness and fairness will continue to be the bedrock of what motivates them to take idealistic actions in the future.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/17/opinion/taylor-swift-mental-health.html>

Taylor Swift Has Rocked My Psychiatric Practice

The New York Times

June 17, 2023.

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates.

Swiftie culture, the constant access to the music, the shout-outs on the street, the sharing of songs and lines of poetic code via text, (is) a party that is raging all day and all night. Who is the Swiftie? **Raised on a healthy diet of kindness and fairness**, she is sensitive, ambitious and a bit of a perfectionist. Her self-doubt perpetuates a vicious cycle in a world where she is timid, young and others may **assume she knows nothing**. She’s hard-working and frustrated, and wonders if she’d **get there quicker if she was a man**. What would Taylor Swift do?” is a refrain among certain (teenagers).

Teenagers suffer for many reasons. One is being fragile and in formation, a human construction site. Another is being surrounded by others who are fragile and in formation. Taylor Swift articulates not only the treachery of bullying but also the cruelty just shy of it that is even more pervasive: **meanness**, exclusion, intermittent ghosting. She says: **Borrow my strength; embrace your pain; make something beautiful with it**, and then, you can **shake it off**. (Taylor Swift) has created a cohesive community, particularly for the pandemic generation.

RAWSEP View: The pivotal moment in the Wizard of Oz is when Dorothy is chased, under stormy skies, into a corner of the turreted castle of the Wicked Witch of the West by the Wicked Witch’s guards. The plot of the Wizard of Oz had gone like the following up to that point. Dressed as guardsmen, the Lion, the Tin Man, and the Scarecrow sneak into the castle and free Dorothy. They’re discovered before they can escape, however, and the witch and her guards corner them and **set the Scarecrow on fire**. Dorothy douses him with a pail of water, splashing the witch by accident. The water causes the witch to disintegrate (“I’m melting!”). The guards are happy to let Dorothy have the witch’s broomstick, and Dorothy and her friends return to the Emerald City. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032138/plotsummary/#synopsis> **The most shocking moment in the movie is when a guard tells Dorothy, after the wicked witch is melted down, not that the guard is going to kill Dorothy and her friends, but, “Hail Dorothy. The Wicked Witch is dead”. When it is safe for the guard to celebrate that the wicked witch is finally gone, all the guards agree that the witch and her regime was evil, harmful, and wrong.** The shackles have come off from even the Wicked Witch’s guards, after her regime is over.

Residential Wood Stove users, you have nothing to lose but your chains to your wood stove.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYKPMYtCRFI> It shouldn’t have been a shocking moment, since the guards were protecting an evil, hateful person who set flying monkeys on the witch’s adversaries, as wood stove industry lobbyists send out lies that wood burning is not polluting. Earlier, when Dorothy asked for help from the Wizard, like a

government official who succumbs to wood stove industry lobbyists and is working with lobbyists to ensure polluting wood stoves continued to be sold, Dorothy was told to “Go Away” and close the curtain on the Wizard, so the real person could not be seen. The Wizard was just a huckster, trying to make a buck, like the wood stove lobbyists are interested in the “saving our wood stove” industry in order to continue making a dirty buck.

<https://youtu.be/33R6ZCGOrQg> The point is, **this is really a story about the need to have a safe home, where Dorothy can keep her dog Toto safe**, and where people can go out in their yards and live in their homes without unnecessarily breathing in the wood smoke from their near neighbors who are residential wood burners, smoke which will, if statistics are true, eventually cause them and their loved ones illness and early death. Is telling the story of the Wizard of Oz as an allegory for fighting against residential wood burning, which causes air pollution and hastens climate change, a way to reach young people, or people of any age? In a fight, and this has to be a fight, **we have to win the hearts and minds of the people who are being oppressed, or they will continue to march in lockstep to the advertising of the wood stove industry and its lobbyists**, “o ye o, I love the smell of wood smoke (pollution)”, “o ye o I love pollution”. In the end of the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy can live peacefully with Toto in her familiar home, singing and believing that she doesn’t have to live “over the rainbow”, because the rainbow is in her own back yard, and she doesn’t have to escape her home to be free and healthy.

Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, see <https://RAWSEPresidents.wordpress.com> and click on the nearest right icon for the latest month, June 2023, of PDFs of articles with U R L’s to search on. To the right of that, Games such as 1)Bingo for RAWSEP, 2)Crosswords for RAWSEP, 3)EndWoodSmokeJeopardy. 4)EndWoodSmokeMonopoly Games, 5) a RAWSEP Flyer, 6)the Un-Twist-it Game, and 7)“Vending Machines for PM2.5 monitors”, and icon links to 30 minute Youtube videos and Spotify podcasts as well as podcasts on Amazon Music Prime (free for Prime subscribers), podcasts.google.com, Cast Box, and Pocket Cast (Pocket Cast is only free on the phone App. Pocket Cast works on Apple phones) and, below those icons, icon links to monthly PDFs of articles with URL’s to search on, from May 2023 to May 2022.



