

# A Personal Side to the Story of the Century

By Ricky P. Anizu

I don't know how many times I've heard the same lecture over and over. Its message is clearly drilled in my brain to the point where I can recite it to any stranger on the street.

Stand for what you believe in. Sure, why not. I pretend I am this one guy, you know, the one that served as Clinton's Vice President. So I pretend I am him and all that jazz with my mighty expensive suit. I go up to Congress and deliver this one presentation I made, you know, *An Inconvenient Truth*. I'm sure you've heard of it. And then I do my little speech. Then I see what happens.

Now in all seriousness, if I were this man I was just talking about, I would probably be proud of the United States...to a certain extent, that is. So, I might hear that a new solar powered vehicle is on the market. What good will those do when they cost a million dollars and there's only one of the type? I hear this state has new clean air regulations. Well what good is that if it won't take affect until three years from now? And yes, how could I ever forget this one. I present the facts. They get rejected like a thirteen year old geeky kid asking a beautiful blonde on a date to the school dance.

Personally, I don't know how this man does it. I don't know how he gets through all the neglecting and the negative feedback from so-called scientists about the one thing that could determine man kind's future. To me, he is more than just another crazy environmental activist, like the ones from the conferences my AP Environmental Science teacher attends. To me he is more than just a presidential candidate from eight years ago. He is possibly the only vision I have left of a positive and green future.

Now I could have written about a variety of things in my short story here. But I choose this kind of topic. It's not really a topic, but more of a place where I can vent how I truly feel about the Earth warming up.

In all generalness, I am pissed off. Excuse my language, but that is the strongest I can use here without actually getting in trouble for my writing. I'm getting very irritated with breathing smoggy air. I don't know about any of you, but I actually have goals in life, you know, things I want to accomplish and do. Lung cancer from a lifetime of breathing in harmful air particulates just isn't scheduled in my book of life. Having to pay more to keep my wonderful air conditioning on more often, isn't a part of my plan either.

You know, I can already hear the immature and uneducated teenagers in the northeast arguing that global warming doesn't exist because it still gets really cold there. All I can say to that is nothing. But I do have one word for it. *Stupidity*. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, human beings, and the rest of you; global warming is the most terrifying disaster to wreck havoc on the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I don't know who needs to tell you in your face; I don't know who needs to show you the facts to get you to believe in this; I don't know what else to do to motivate you to change your habits and encourage those around you to do the same. Because when we all come as one, our little changes become bigger changes. That, by the way, is another one of those lessons that has been drilled into my brain.

So for you people who just love being confused all the time, here is a crash course into global warming, brought to you by, yours truly. You need one cup of big emission-producing power plants. Add two cups of Earth's atmosphere. Sprinkle a little radiation,

and BAM, there you have it. Okay, that wasn't too funny, but here it is for you non-humored folks. Emissions from power plants seep into the atmosphere. At the same time, sunlight is warming the atmosphere and the Earth. Sunlight and radiation is lost into space. The gases in the atmosphere, however, trap this escaping sunlight and re-emit it down below. This causes heat to be trapped. Folks, I present to you, the Greenhouse Effect. Don't get me wrong though, this effect is normal and has been normal since the Earth was a little baby. But us humans, thinking we're all that, have dramatically increased the effect. This is a bundle of joy.

I don't know what else to say. If you can't see the facts, if you can't accept them, may the Lord help you. Remember the man I was talking about earlier? He stood up for what he believed in and so am I. I could less if I win the \$250. As long as someone reads this and knows how I feel about this issue that my generation will desperately need to fix all because *someone* wouldn't sign the Kyoto Protocol, I'm content.

But I have confidence in my generation. Yes, I even have confidence in the uneducated teenagers, believe it or not. In the words of Helen Keller, I will conclude with this... "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can still do something; I will not refuse to do something I think I can do..."

*With much respect and hope for a greener future*

*-Ricky was here*