

# No Place To Hide

Volume 3, Number 3

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## Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director of World Health Organization: “Cell Phones, Computers Make Me Ill”

“It’s not the sound, but the waves I react to. My hypersensitivity has gone so far that I even react to mobile phones closer to me than about four meters,” says Gro Harlem Brundtland.

She is the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), and she was talking to Aud Dalsegg, who interviewed her for the cover story of the Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet* on March 9, 2002.

The former Prime Minister of Norway never owned a mobile phone herself, but she often received calls on her associates’ phones. Now she says there is reason to be cautious about the technology.

“In the beginning I felt a local warmth around my ear,” she told Dalsegg. “But the problem grew worse, and turned

into a strong discomfort and headaches every time I used a mobile phone.” At first she tried to avoid the pain by cutting her calls short, but this did not work. Nor was it sufficient to stop using the phones herself, because everyone around her, including at her workplace at the WHO in Geneva, uses them.

“I gradually understood that I had developed a sensi-

tivity to this type of radiation.

“And in order not to be suspected of being hysterical—that someone should believe that this was only something I imagined—I have made several tests: People have been in my office with their mobile phone hidden in their bag or pocket. Without my knowing whether it was off or on, we have tested my reactions. I have always reacted when the phone has been on—never when it is off. So there is no doubt.”

As for wireless home phones, Brundtland said, “I get an instant reaction if I touch such a phone.”



She also spoke about her reactions to computers:

“If I hold a laptop in order to read what is on the screen, it feels as if I get an electric shock up through my arms. So I must keep portable computers away from me. I have a regular desktop computer in my office, but only the secretary uses it. I have not noticed the same symptoms near it, but I turn it off as soon as I come in.”

The headaches she gets from mobile phone radiation subside about a half hour to an hour after the exposure stops, she said.

A medical doctor and master of public health, Brundtland gained international recognition in the 1980s for championing the principle of sustainable development as chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission). In October 1996 she stepped down as Prime Minister of Norway, after being head of her government for more than ten years. She has headed the World Health Organization since July 12, 1998.

Brundtland was careful, in the interview, to say that the danger from mobile phones has not been scientifically proven: “We do not at present have enough scientific evi-

*continued on page 6*

***The Work of  
Dr. William  
Morton, p. 19***

***2000 Antennas  
Dismantled in  
Spain, p. 12***

# Joan Lesley Griffiths, 1932-2002

*In 1995, Schatzie Hubbell of Fort Worth, Texas wrote a report about a low-frequency noise that was disturbing people all over North America, indeed all over the northern hemisphere. Dubbed the "Taos Hum", it was certainly not confined to Taos, New Mexico, but it had been the subject of a government investigation, and a 1993 report issued by the University of New Mexico, in response to complaints by residents of that New Mexico city. It was estimated at that time that 12% of the residents of Taos heard this sound. Two year later, Schatzie compiled a list of hundreds of hearers throughout North America, with contact information for some.*

*On that list was Joan Lesley Griffiths of Summerland, British Columbia.*

*In September 1999, when I wrote a story about the Taos Hum for No Place to Hide, I mailed a copy of that issue to all the people on the lists of Schatzie Hubbell, the University of New Mexico, and a few other sources. My correspondence with Joan dates from that time. I am sad to report that on January 23, 2002, Joan was found frozen to death outside her home. She had taken sleeping pills and left a suicide note.*

*This issue of No Place to Hide is dedicated to the memory of Joan Lesley Griffiths, born April 29, 1932 in Blackpool, England. She leaves behind sons David, Steven, and Jonathan, and grandchildren Ben, Craig, Colette, Danielle, and Sydney. Reproduced here are some of the correspondence she sent to me and others during the last three years of her life. Her story speaks for itself, and for us all.*

Arthur Firstenberg

## SCHATZIE HUBBELL'S REPORT October 6, 1995

Started hearing the hum in early 1991, on the 3rd floor condo in White Rock, BC, Canada. White Rock is on BC/Washington State border, north of Seattle. She hears it all the time in her home, both ground floor and second. It is more intense indoors and after 8 p.m. It sounds like a large truck motor, running continually, which causes "great pressure buildup in the ears." Mrs. Griffiths has heard it in "many areas of the Province, 100 or more miles from home, and also on the northwest seacoast in England, in Lancashire County."

Summerland is approximately 80 miles north of the U.S. border, roughly above Omak, Washington, population of 8,500. It is mostly vineyards, artisans, orchardists, and retirees. Geologically it is composed of sandy clay. Their home is surrounded on three sides by hills, and on the fourth by a lake. The "hum" is more discernable at night. It does have a pulse. She states that it does cause headaches, tension, nosebleeds, muscle spasms, eye strain, inner ear pressure, balance problems, plus nausea and clenching of the jaw. She did contact her local Electrical Engineering Dept. There was no assistance.

September 20, 2000

Dear Mr. Firstenberg, Arthur, if I may,

Thank you for the publication *No Place To Hide*. I have been trying to respond since the spring but due to declining health I have been unable to. I presume you got my name from Mrs. Hubbell, so (you know the details) I have been, and am badly affected by the low level noise.

For the past few years, I have become intensely ill with heart problems, excruciating headaches, vision problems,

and continual dizziness. Any place in my body where I have had a previous injury or surgery gives me extreme pain. An 18-year-old cancer scar flared up and became red and painful. I get such a burning tingling vibration through my feet and body, even my teeth ache. I feel as though I am being "broiled" from the inside out, and going to die and wish I could. The problem with the cancer scar resulted in a scan (more radiation) (results negative—no cancer). Then in August past I had a minor stroke, temporarily lost vision in my left eye. Another scan—C.T.—after which I nearly went mad with head pains. When your publication came I realized I was living near to a cell tower. I began looking round Summerland, and counted three right in town, and a couple of huge ones on a mountain overlooking the town.

*No Place To Hide* is a publication of the Cellular Phone Taskforce, an environmental organization dedicated to halting the expansion of wireless communications. We serve as a clearinghouse for information about injury to health and environment from wireless broadcasts.

Arthur Firstenberg, Editor.  
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No Place To Hide



I have just written to our council enclosing some of your findings as they were going to put up yet another overlooking the town, but close in. How many do they need for a population of 12,000?

I have tried informing my doctors of the dangers but I am met with either downright derision or patronizing amusement.

I cannot read or write for very long, drive or do needlework. I am going broke moving around trying to find a place where I can heal. Since the stroke I am too dizzy to travel far. At present I am staying in a village close to Summerland where there is *no* cell phone service. I am not getting any better—the “noise” is horrendous, everyone has a satellite T.V. dish as there is no cable. I don’t know what to do. Is there some radiation from the source of the noise? Summerland is situated directly north of George, Washington, and east of Williams Lake and Port Hardy (Loran-C towers). Something atmospheric is causing my ills. I have always led an active life (never smoked, not overweight), swimming, walking, tennis, and volunteer work.

In this area we have recently had bighorn sheep dying at a tremendous rate. Once again I sent the “cell phone tower flyer” but got no response. In the paper they called it “viral pneumonia”, no mention of how they acquired the pneumonia. I have written a well known Canadian environmentalist, Dr. David Suzuki, I did receive a reply, saying he could not take on any more “causes”, as he was involved in too many now, but encouraged me to keep trying. Other things have crossed my mind—we are having a lot of unprovoked animal attacks on humans by bears and domestic dogs. Are they suffering as we are?

I hope this letter makes sense, my head is so “woolly”. I have such a hard time searching for words and concentrating, most days I am unable to function normally. I understand exactly the plight of the French lady, Martine Charpenet. I wish I knew someone in my vicinity who understood. Friends and family are sympathetic but at a loss to know how to help, as they can’t sense anything. I worry for my new baby granddaughter.

Thank you, once again. I will be sending you some funds for a subscription when I return to Summerland. I’d be interested to know, do you hear “the noise” in Mendocino?

Sincerely,  
Joan Griffiths

November 2, 2000

Dear Mr. Bowling,

I was not aware we had a Task Force Against Electromagnetic Radiation in B.C. until receiving my latest copy of *No Place To Hide*. I spoke with Environment B.C. in June about this problem, but they did *not* give me your name.

I became very ill from living by a wireless communication tower in Summerland. I had to sell my home, since then I have spent many dollars trying to find a place of refuge. I tried moving back to White Rock but my symptoms increased, the head and body pain and shaking were unbearable. I returned to Summerland August 1st, staying with a friend, August 4th I suffered a stroke, losing vision temporarily in my left eye. While in hospital I tried, once again, to explain to the doctors the cause but was treated as usual with derision. Because of the symptoms I have suffered over the past few years I have been subjected to many scans, x-rays and ultrasounds (more radiation). I had no idea what the cause was until I heard from Mr. Firstenberg and realized I had reached saturation point. Just now I am staying in Hedley, a small community an hour’s drive south of Summerland. It is better, there is no cell phone service, no cable TV, hence there are many satellite dishes which are *not* good for me—especially those monstrous ones.

Cellular towers are very prolific on either side of Okanagan Lake and Skaka Lake from Okanagan Falls up to Vernon and Kalamalka. There are so many in Summerland for a community of 12,000 population. Recently another was proposed by a cable company for Giants Head Mountain. A few people complained because of the aesthetic appeal. I wrote a councillor, one of only two who opposed the tower, and told him of the dangers. Decision will be made on November 28. Already they are talking of hiding it in another location.

I am also bothered by the low level pulsing noise which is very distinct and bothersome here in Hedley. I presume it is from the Loran-C tower in George, Washington State, which is directly south of here.

What are we doing to our environment? I am a senior citizen and I just don’t know where to go—I’m too old for living in the bush! I’m very concerned for my grandchildren. I don’t think I am going to make it much longer if I don’t improve here or find somewhere, but I hope we wake up before long because of the children.

I just heard today, on the radio, Bell Canada is going to have a project in Alberta, bigger and better internet service for every home in the Province!

I have gone from an active, involved person to someone whose life is now severely limited. I can’t drive far because of dizziness and visual problems. I can’t read or do needlework or watch television. Can you put me in touch with anyone who is suffering and as debilitated as I?

Thank you for reading my letter, all the very best to you in your challenges, keep up the good work. We need you.

Sincerely,  
Joan L. Griffiths

## Satellite Update

Teledesic has downsized its planned satellite fleet again. On February 1, 2002 the company announced that it has signed an agreement with the Italian satellite manufacturer Alenia Spazio to build the first satellites for its planned global, broadband Internet-in-the-Sky communications network. But instead of the 800 low-Earth-orbit satellites of the original design—which had since been reduced to about 300—the new plan calls for only 30 medium-Earth-orbit satellites. Previously the company had announced its goal of deploying the system by the year 2003. The February press release did not give a date, saying only that the satellites would be launched in two phases, with operations to begin in several areas of the world after the first 12 satellites are in place.

The reduced scale (and expense) and higher orbit make it more likely that the system will actually be built, and

more of a question mark regarding the expected effects on the global environment and health.

## The Fight Becomes More Urgent (continued from page 29)

Bryant Park has decided to install a wireless Internet network “to bathe the entire park in bandwidth this summer.”

Every Starbucks coffee shop in Greenwich Village apparently also has Wi-Fi access.

In San Francisco, entrepreneurs have set up a wireless “cloud” over parts of the Presidio, which residents and visitors can use free. Tim Pozar is trying to put wireless access stations on the hills ringing the entire city.

And Tallahassee, Florida has perched 50 Wi-Fi transmitters on street lights and traffic signals in a five-block area around the State Capitol complex.

## Resources

Chemical Injury Information Network, Cynthia Wilson, Director, PO Box 301, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645.

The Electromagnetic Research Foundation, c/o Dr. Duane Dahlberg, 1317 Sixth Ave. N., Moorhead, MN 56560.

Disability Council of the White Mountains, c/o Susan Molloy, PO Box 483, Snowflake, AZ 85937.

EMR Network, Janet Newton, President, PO Box 221, Marshfield, VT 05658.

*Heavy Metal Bulletin*: international forum focusing on immuno-toxic effects of dental fillings and related disorders. Monica Kauppi, Editor, Lilla Aspudsv. 10, S-126 49 Hägersten, Sweden.

Electromagnetic Radiation Task Force Canada, Milt Bowling, Director, 3570 Corsica Way, Vancouver, BC, V5S 4J3, Canada.

Council on Wireless Technology Impacts, Libby Kelley, Executive Director, PMB 206, 936-B 7th St., Novato, CA 94945.

## New Books

Lyn McLean, *Watt's the Buzz: Understanding and avoiding the risks of electromagnetic radiation*, Scribe Publications, 2002. Lyn is the Executive Officer of the EMR Association of Australia, and the editor of its newsletter, *EMR News*. Contact EMRAA, P.O. Box 589, Sutherland, NSW 1499, Australia.

## Decals for Sale

Attractive stickers for your home or business, containing the “No cell phone” symbol and text:

“For the health and well-being of our patrons and staff: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE NOW. This is a cell-phone-free zone. Thank you for maintaining a pleasant environment.”

Dimensions 4"x5¼", two-sided for applying to glass doors or windows. \$3.50 for one or \$3.00 each for 10 or more (shipping included). Thanks to Tim McNerney for making and donating these.

## Back Issues

\$4.00 each: Vol. 1, Nos. 1-4, Vol. 2, Nos. 1-4.

\$10.00: Vol. 3, No. 1 + Supplement (Special Issue on Russian and Ukrainian Research; includes index to Vols. 1 and 2).

\$5.00: Vol. 3, No. 2.

Please add shipping: \$1.00 (\$3.00 Foreign) for the first item, and \$0.75 (\$1.00 Foreign) for each additional item ordered.

## Submissions Welcomed

You can help keep this publication going by sending your letters, your articles, and your drawings and photographs, related to what is going on in your part of the world. Poetry, comic strips, and anything else that would enliven these pages are also requested. Please mail submissions to the Cellular Phone Taskforce, PO Box 1337, Mendocino, CA 95460.