

The editor's page of *American Laboratory* (May 1986) recounts a thought-worthy connection between an Austrian "accident" that occurred five years ago when an area of sick forest became heavily coated with gravel dust, and the publication in that same magazine in 1983 of a book review – *The Survival of Civilization* by John Hamaker and Don Weaver. The author had proposed in 1961 that the gradual depletion of available soil minerals by forests and other vegetation, following the retreat of glacial advances, triggers the cycle of events that initiate a new glacial advance. Their thesis is briefly outlined in the editor's page, as is the news that the gravel dust in Austria, instead of sealing the fate of the sick forest, rejuvenated it.

"Within a few months, all sick fir trees became healthy and subsequently all of the trees recovered completely from damage caused by acid rain. They grow 50 percent better than before; the beech trees lose their leaves four weeks later than usual. Grass, herbs, blackberries, and raspberries grow like never before, and the berries taste better than those from areas not exposed to the gravel dust. The deer population has grown and prefers the exuberantly growing grass," according to Fred Scott, Jr., *American Laboratory* editor.

Scott describes in some detail the Hamaker-Weaver thesis, and then writes:

"Despite extensive evidence supporting many aspects of the thesis, grant givers and recipients, both scientific and political, disdain to consider it. 'Acid rain' seems to conveniently explain forest decline and a bogus 'warming theory' seems sufficient to quell any serious examination of increasing atmospheric CO₂ while we proceed with the terminal rape of the planet."

Gerry Wright, wildlife biologist at the NPS CPSU, University of Idaho, who sent in the item, asks: "Are we in natural resource management missing the big picture? This fellow certainly sees beyond his test tubes!"