

WILDFIRE™



LIVE

REPORT



THIS IS MICHELLE CRAWFORD FOR KCLA NEWS. LOS ANGELES IS ON FIRE. FROM DOWNTOWN, TO MIDTOWN, TO THE BEACH CITIES, THE WHOLE CITY IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES WITH VERY LITTLE CONTAINMENT REPORTED AS OF YET.

Griffith Park Observatory

Los Angeles in Flames

casualties on the rise



EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE OVERWHELMED AS EVACUATIONS CONTINUE TO CONTAINMENT AREAS. CASUALTIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, AS WHAT WAS ONCE THE CITY OF ANGELS IS NOW A CITY OF ASH.





3 DAYS EARLIER.

WELCOME BACK TO CROSS TALK, I'M MICHELLE CRAWFORD, YOUR HOST. FOR THIS SEGMENT I HAVE DR. BETH SILVA, FORMER CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, AND NOW A PRIVATE RESEARCHER WORKING ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD. WELCOME BACK TO OUR PROGRAM.

THANKS, MICHELLE. IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.

SINCE THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE, YOU'VE SWITCHED FROM THE TEACHING SIDE TO THE RESEARCH SIDE. HOW HAS THAT TRANSITION BEEN FOR YOU?

IT FEELS THE SAME. I'M STILL ON CAMPUS WORKING WITH PROMISING YOUNG MINDS TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

AND WE ALSO HAVE DR. GERALD LERNER, LEAD SPOKESMAN AND FOUNDER OF GREEN AWARE, AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR ORGANIC PRODUCE AND VOCAL ADVERSARY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS. WELCOME ALSO TO THE PROGRAM, SIR.

THANKS FOR HAVING ME ON, MICHELLE. I'M A BIG FAN OF THE SHOW.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION AND CONTROVERSY ABOUT *GMO*, GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, IN THIS CASE SPECIFICALLY GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD. *GE FOOD* AS THEY CALL IT.

WE'VE HEARD TERMS LIKE *FRANKENFOOD* TOSSED AROUND. DR. LERNER, LET'S START WITH YOU. TELL US ABOUT GREEN AWARE AND WHY YOU'RE SO OPPOSED TO THESE *GE FOODS*.

I STARTED *GREEN AWARE* WHEN I REALIZED THAT COMPANIES WERE GENETICALLY ALTERING SEEDS, FOOD, AND ANIMALS WITHOUT ANY OVERSIGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

CREATING POTENTIALLY DEADLY ORGANISMS, PURPOSEFULLY OR ACCIDENTALLY, COULD ALTER OUR ECOSYSTEM FOREVER.

ONE COMPANY I WON'T NAME, BECAUSE THEY LITIGATE LIKE MAD, HAS CORNERED THIS MARKET AND PATENTED THOUSANDS OF SLIGHT GENETIC VARIATIONS. THEY NOW HAVE MONOPOLY CONTROL THAT OUR GOVERNMENT ALLOWS.

Dr. Gerald Lerner

Founder of Green Aware

WHY? I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T GET A SINGLE MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND TELL ME WHY THEY ALLOW THIS.

SO I STARTED MY OWN FOUNDATION, WITH MY OWN MONEY, AND HAVE STARTED RAISING AWARENESS.

OUR CITIZENS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS UNWITTING GUINEA PIGS.



I CAN ASSUME YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *BIOGENESIS*. THEY FUND THE GRANT THAT ALLOWS MY RESEARCH. LET ME STATE THAT UP FRONT, AND THEY'VE BEEN GREAT WITH US. NO INTERFERENCE, VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE SCIENCE, AND LET US DO OUR THING.

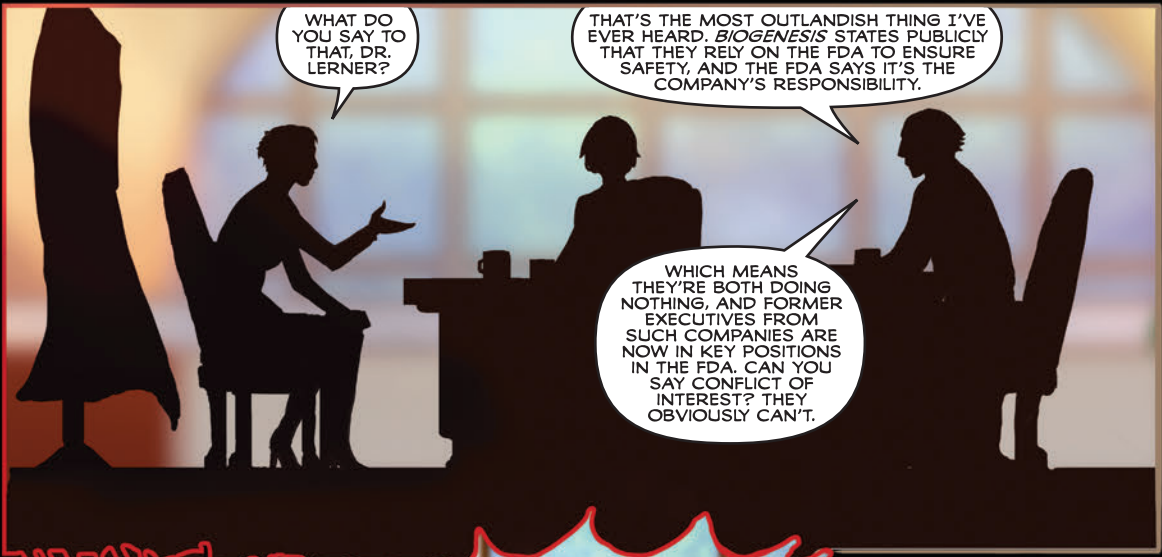
SAYING THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT IS ABSURD.



WE HAVE STRINGENT TESTING PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND WE WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE FDA FOR APPROVALS TO ENSURE THAT OUR PRODUCE IS SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE CONSUMERS.



THAT'S WHY IT TAKES SO LONG TO BRING ANYTHING TO MARKET.



WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, DR. LERNER?

THAT'S THE MOST OUTLANDISH THING I'VE EVER HEARD. *BIOGENESIS* STATES PUBLICLY THAT THEY RELY ON THE FDA TO ENSURE SAFETY, AND THE FDA SAYS IT'S THE COMPANY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

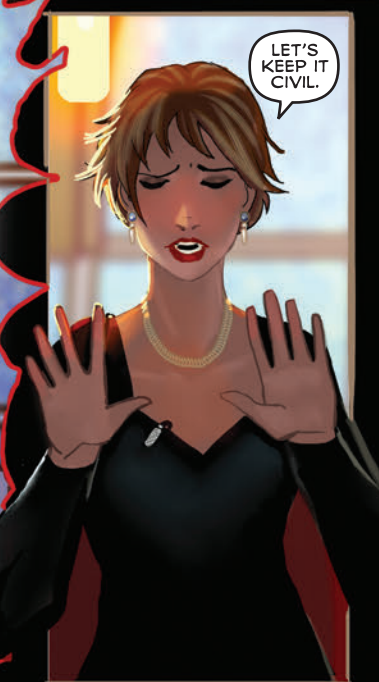
WHICH MEANS THEY'RE BOTH DOING NOTHING, AND FORMER EXECUTIVES FROM SUCH COMPANIES ARE NOW IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE FDA. CAN YOU SAY CONFLICT OF INTEREST? THEY OBVIOUSLY CAN'T.



DR. SILVA IS A SHILL FOR *BIOGENESIS*, AND IS SO FAR IN THEIR POCKET, WE HAVE TO WONDER IF WE CAN BELIEVE ANYTHING OUT OF HER PROFITEERING MOUTH.



I AM A SCIENTIST, SIR. MY ALLEGIANCE IS TO THE TRUTH. YOU, HOWEVER, PEDDLE YOUR LIES TO ANYONE THAT WILL LISTEN WITH WILD UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS.



LET'S KEEP IT CIVIL.



YOU'RE THE WORST KIND OF LIAR; IT'S NO WONDER 50% OF THIS COUNTRY DOESN'T TRUST SCIENTISTS.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES SHOW THESE FOODS ARE DANGEROUS. THEY CAUSE CANCER AND ARE PERMANENTLY ALTERING OUR ENVIRONMENT WITH NO CLEAR IDEA OF THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS.

WHAT GOOD HAVE YOU DONE OTHER THAN LINE YOUR OWN POCKET? YOU DISGUST ME.

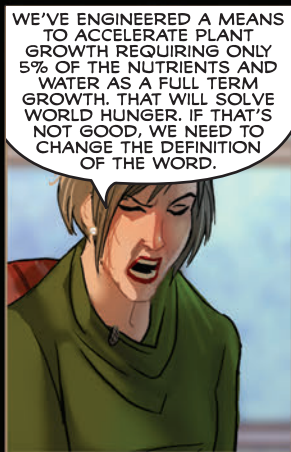


THAT'S ENOUGH -- BOTH OF YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN!

DR. SILVA, I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE LAST WORD.



WHAT GOOD HAVE WE DONE?



WE'VE ENGINEERED A MEANS TO ACCELERATE PLANT GROWTH REQUIRING ONLY 5% OF THE NUTRIENTS AND WATER AS A FULL TERM GROWTH. THAT WILL SOLVE WORLD HUNGER. IF THAT'S NOT GOOD, WE NEED TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD.



WOW! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT THAT. THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE, THANKS FOR WATCHING.

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End of world hunger?