

We all share responsibility on climate change

David Von Drehle's gorgeous article ("Irma reminds us of our limits," Sept. 12) reflected on humanity's imperfect knowledge and the tree of knowledge in the garden of Eden.

One man complains about last-minute forecast changes for Irma. How many Americans think about James Hansen's 1987 climate-change testimony to Congress, and how the big picture Hansen painted of climate change is still accurate?

How many Americans are willing to admit that we heard or read Hansen's words, but we chose to ignore him? We're very much like Adam and Eve. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit to eat. Why didn't Adam refuse to it? The prohibition against eating was issued directly to him, not to Eve!

Eve blamed the snake for tricking her. Why didn't she take responsibility? Why don't we humans take responsibility for our actions?

I bet most of us heard Hansen but didn't change our behaviors. Yet now we seek to blame others for our warming world, and the extreme storms that Hansen predicted. We complain that Congress failed by not enacting legislation after Hansen's testimony. We blame Exxon for playing the snake, and lying to us about climate science results that they trusted in their business decisions.

We rarely accept our share of the evil our inaction created, and our children will suffer for our deflection of blame.

When we acknowledge our responsibility, we'll create the political will to impel the White House, Congress and our governor to cut emissions and fight climate change.

Good comes from taking responsibility.

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