

**Bernie Mooney**

NY Changing Culture Examiner

Subscribe Sponsor an Examiner

< View all of Bernie's articles

Twitter Facebook Email Print

# Fear of a GM Planet IV: The Future of Food

February 25th, 2011 7:45 pm ET

Why won't they at least listen?  
Photo: public domain

**Related articles**

- 'American Idol' premieres Jennifer Lopez' new music video (View VIDEO)
- The UNICEF Tap Project and its kick-off fundraising event in NYC
- Morning coffee: Facing age-related changes for women over 60
- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire centennial anniversary
- Oscar winning couple, Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz son's name revealed
- A Quiet Revolutionary: Being Anna Elisabeth Brix Thomsen

**Popular articles**

1. Keeping a watchful eye on the doomsday clock
2. Low cost dental clinic
3. President Obama tours struggling Miami school with Arne Duncan and Jeb Bush
4. Let the James Ray Trials Commence!
5. Eleanor Roosevelt (1905-1932)
6. Stacy Karacostas, The Unchained Entrepreneur: 'Put Your Marketing on Autopilot'

**Popular slideshows**

1. Bangkok named World's Top City

**Most commented articles**

1. G.O.R.K. (God Only Really Knows) -- mystery solved?
2. Sarah Palin takes aim at vegetarians in Going Rogue
3. Amanda Knox's prosecution part of a long history of witch hunts
4. When Glamberts attack: Adam Lambert's fans are fiercely loyal
5. Videos show Epic Beard Man, 67, throwing fury of fists on city bus, explaining the fight
6. AARP members bash Obama health care plan

**Do you like this Article?**

Curtir Cadastre-se para ver do que seus amigos gostam.

During the week during of immersion in this topic, I came across work done by Pamela Ronald and Raoul Adamchak, known as the *Romeo and Juliet of academic agriculture*. Both work at UC Davis. She is Professor of Plant Pathology and he teaches organic production practices and manages the certified organic [Market Garden](#) at its student farm. Both are top notch in their fields .

They are big proponents of the using organic and conventional farming methods in combination with GM as a means of creating sustainable, environmentally friendly farming. Their book, *Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food*. A review at [organicgardening.com](#) says the book is "interspersed with nuggets of science, home made recipes (really) and anecdotes."

The duo is also featured in an online video. It is a talk they gave at The Long Now Foundation in San Francisco and is called [Organically Grown and Genetically engineered](#).

Now, you would think that being smart people, the AGMs would want to see what these people have to say. But you would think wrong. The issue is settled. GM is bad. No need to hear from these scientists. And then they point you to more pseudo-scientific articles that bolster their stance.

Ronald appeared on the TV show Dr. Oz last December to clear up some misconceptions and refute the worst "woo woo pseudoscience" but it was difficult. (That's right TV doctor who wears scrubs on his show is in the AGM camp.) As she wrote on her [blog](#), "It was a tough go, though, because one of the other panelists... with no discernible scientific or agricultural training... believes that eating GE crops causes infertility, organ damage and endocrine disruption. Of course, the scientific evidence for these statements is about as strong as saying that looking at carrots will give you brain tumors."

And was the anti-GM guest? None other than the yogic flying Jeffery Smith.

She also wrote, "What we do know is that after 14 years of consumption there has been not a single instance of harm to human health or the environment."

Wow. That's a pretty bold statement. Who is this woman anyway? According to her university bio, "Ronald was a Fulbright Fellow from 1984-1985, was

**WRITE FOR US!**

**Offer of the day**

livingsocial



Admittedly, we have a certain wariness about having other...  
More info \$100.00 |74%

**New York Events**

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
04	05	06	07	08	09	10

**Today's events**

**How to Succeed in Business Without Re...**  
Al Hirschfeld Theatre (formerly Martin Beck)

**Book of Mormon**  
Eugene O'Neill Theatre

**Arcadia**  
Ethel Barrymore Theatre

[View more events in New York >](#)

**New York business directory**

**Popular searches:** New York Auto Repair, New York Food and Dining, New York Real Estate Sales and Services, New York Attorneys, New York Lodging

**Recent Activity**

**Sign Up** Create an account or **log in** to see what your friends are doing.

Facebook social plugin  
Examiner.com on Facebook

**Bernie Mooney's recent articles**

- Fear of a GM Planet V: Q&A with Raoul Adamchak
- Fear of a GM Planet III: Crop drift and cherry

named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2000. She is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a 2008 Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. In 2008 she and her colleagues were recipients of the [USDA 2008 National Research Initiative Discovery Award](#) for their work on submergence tolerant rice. In 2009, they were finalists for the [2009 World Technology Award for Environment](#) and nominees for the [Biotech Humanitarian Award](#). In 2009 she also received the [National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Journalism Award](#).

That submergence rice thing? She and her team developed a strain of rice that can withstand 17 days of flooding in places like Bangladesh. They spent 10 years working on it. In an interview in 2009 she had this to say about "unintended consequences" which AGMs always point out when discussing the issue. *"Everything that we eat today has been improved through some sort of breeding process. Any time you do this, you introduce not only the genes that you know, but some that are not characterized. Some of the risks with conventional breeding are that you introduce genes with unintended consequences."*

What? That can't be. Conventional breeding carries risks? Who knew? Scientists, that's who. They did *precision breeding*, which is the ability to introduce very specific genes into plants without the danger of other genes that might transfer over in conventional breeding.

Tomorrow: Q&A with Raoul Adamchak

Read earlier installments:

[Fear of a GM Planet: Frightened Villagers and pseudoscience](#)

[Fear of a GM planet II: Bad science and good science](#)

[Fear of a GM Planet III: Crop drift and cherry picking](#)

By **Bernie Mooney**  
NY Changing Culture Examiner

Bernie considers himself a native New Yorker even though he wasn't born in the city. He's worked as a musician, freelance writer, neighborhood... [Read more](#)

[View all NY Changing Culture Examiner articles](#)

[Subscribe to the NY Changing Culture Examiner](#)

[NY Changing Culture Examiner RSS](#)

[GMO](#) [GM](#) [psuedoscience. organic farming](#)

[SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [...](#)

Report

picking

- Fear of a GM planet II: Bad science and good science
- Fear of a GM Planet: Frightened Villagers and pseudoscience
- Thanksgiving: A personal tale
- NYC Health Dept. Report: New Yorkers can't hold their liquor

#### Bernie Mooney's Preferred Links

- [Jeremiah's Vanishing New York](#)
- [EV Grieve](#)
- [The Villager](#)
- [Lost City](#)
- [Forgotten New York](#)
- [Coney Island Message Board](#)

#### Preferred city

##### Recently in San Jose

[Westboro Baptist Church brings their diatribe to San Jose](#)

[Partying on Fat Tuesday](#)

[LawPivot: online marketplace for lawyers & clients](#)

[Back to San Jose, CA](#) [change](#)

## Comments

1

### ABOUT [examiner.com](#)

Examiner.com is the inside source for everything local. We are powered by Examiners, the largest pool of knowledgeable and passionate contributors in the world. Examiners provide unique and original content to enhance life in your local city wherever that may be.

### Examiner Categories

- |  |                                      |                               |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Arts &amp; Entertainment</a> | <a href="#">Food &amp; Drink</a>     | <a href="#">Neighborhoods</a> | <a href="#">Religion &amp; Spirituality</a> |
| <a href="#">Autos &amp; Motorcycles</a>  | <a href="#">Gadgets &amp; Tech</a>   | <a href="#">News</a>          | <a href="#">Society &amp; Culture</a>       |
| <a href="#">Bars &amp; Clubs</a>         | <a href="#">Games</a>                | <a href="#">Pets</a>          | <a href="#">Spa &amp; Beauty</a>            |
| <a href="#">Business &amp; Finance</a>   | <a href="#">Green</a>                | <a href="#">Politics</a>      | <a href="#">Sports</a>                      |
| <a href="#">Careers &amp; Workplace</a>  | <a href="#">Health &amp; Fitness</a> | <a href="#">Recreation</a>    | <a href="#">Style &amp; Fashion</a>         |
| <a href="#">Education &amp; Schools</a>  | <a href="#">Home &amp; Living</a>    | <a href="#">Relationships</a> | <a href="#">Travel</a>                      |
| <a href="#">Family &amp; Parenting</a>   |                                      |                               |   |

**WRITE FOR**

**examiner.com**

Examiners come from all walks of life and contribute original content to entertain, inform, and inspire their readers. They are credible, passionate and influential because of their knowledge of a particular topic. Want to join their ranks? [BECOME AN EXAMINER](#)

Copyright © Clarity Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com. All Rights reserved.

**In Your Community**

[Events](#)

[Traffic](#)

[Weather](#)

**Examiner.com Resources**

[Examiner.com Mobile](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Today in Photos](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

[Careers](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

**Examiner.com Company**

[Advertise on Examiner](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Become an Affiliate](#)

[Corporate Blog](#)

[In The Press](#)

[Written Media](#)

**NowPublic.com**

[World News](#)

[Technology](#)

[Business](#)

[Entertainment & Culture](#)

[Environment](#)

[Health](#)

[Sports](#)

[Style](#)

Drupal 7