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Volume 2, Number 8

A Special Note:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead, 1901-7

It is our responsibility to discover how each one of us may serve in creating the world we want to live in.

We can and will change the course of history to create what Bucky envisioned as a world that "works for 100% of humanity through spontaneous cooperation without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone."

Our hearts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected by these tragic occurrences.

From all of us at the Buckminster Fuller Institute

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Food For Thought

"To make the world work for 100% of humanity in the shortest possible time through spontaneous cooperation without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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Trends and Perspectives**Solar Power Within Your Grasp**

Solar energy and fuel-cell power may soon be in the palm of your hand. The Fraunhofer Institute in Freiburg, Germany, has introduced prototypes of handheld devices that run on either solar or fuel cells - completely independent from the grid - that could be in mass production in one to three years.

<http://www.wired.com/news/gizmos/0,1452,45092,00.html>

(Source: Wired News)

Ford Develops Hydrogen-Powered Engine

Ford Motor Co. has unveiled a retrofitted gasoline engine that can run on cheaper, clean-burning hydrogen gas. The P2000 H21CE concept vehicle is a Ford Focus compact equipped with a version of the 2.0-liter Zetec gasoline-engine that has been modified to use hydrogen. Ford said hydrogen improves the internal-combustion engine's efficiency by 25 percent to 30 percent.

http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2001/08/08232001/upi_ford_44730.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network - <http://www.enn.com>)

Sanyo Unveils World's First No-Detergent Washing Machine

Sanyo has unveiled the world's first washing machine that doesn't need detergent. The Japanese company's Denkaisui model range uses ultrasonic waves and electrolysis instead of liquids or powders. The ultrasonic waves produce bubbles that batter dirt particles. They are then dissolved by a combination of activated oxygen and hypochlorous acid generated by electrolyzing the water.

http://www.ananova.com/business/story/sm_335465.html

(Source: Ananova - <http://www.ananova.com>)

Nanotechnology

I.B.M. Creates a Tiny Circuit Out of Carbon

In another step toward post-silicon computers, I.B.M. scientists have built a computer circuit out of a single strand of carbon. The circuit performs only a single, simple operation — flipping a "true" to "false" and vice versa - but it marks the first time that a device made of carbon strands known as nanotubes has been able to carry out any sort of logic. It is also the first logic circuit made of a single molecule.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/08/27/technology/27NANO.html>

(Source: New York Times - <http://www.nytimes.com>)

Leaf-Like Generator Could Be on the Way

Scientists looking for a cheap and clean form of energy are creating a power pack which works like a leaf. Their research was aimed at finding a way of converting light into a chemical just like plants do. The new compound, invented by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, produces hydrogen gas when it is zapped by light.

Although the reaction isn't perfect Professor Daniel Nocera and former graduate Alan Heyduk believe they are making progress. They based all their work on photosynthesis which is the method used by plants to get a usable form of energy from sunlight. Their current hydrogen producing technique needs just a compound based on the metal rhodium, a catalyst to speed the process along and a flash of light.

The pair have reported their discovery in the journal Science and on the MIT website.

http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_392917.html

(Source: Ananova - <http://www.ananova.com>)

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Resources

How Economists Have Misjudged Global Warming, article by the Worldwatch Institute

"The Bush administration's rejection of the Kyoto climate treaty is based on a fallacious economic theory. The proof that this theory is wrong lies in the real history of how technological progress drives economic growth."

This article from the September/October issue of Worldwatch Magazine can be downloaded for free from the Worldwatch home page at:

<http://www.worldwatch.org> (free registration required)

Earthlights

Panoramic view of the world from the new space station. Scroll East-West and North-South. Canada's population is almost exclusively along the U.S. border. Moving East to Europe, there is a high population concentration along the coast of the Mediterranean. Check out the development of Israel compared to the rest

of the Arab countries. Moving East, striking difference between North and South Korea. Picture of the Earth taken from the Boeing-built Space Station.

http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmsp.jpg

Web Based CO2 Calculator

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation has sponsored a web site that allows visitors to calculate the amount of carbon dioxide generated by travel and energy use. At the same time, the site offers ways to mitigate this impact by supporting clean, renewable energy sources.

<http://www.b-e-f.org/>

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Events

BFI's Design Science Forum

Four evening events presenting the power of Design Science as a context for understanding and addressing the challenges facing humanity.

The series will be presented on four Thursdays at the New College of California in Santa Rosa, California beginning at 7:30 PM on the following dates:

- September 27 - Carol Misseldine: "Designing with Nature's Principles"
- October 11 - Gil Friend: - to be announced
- October 25 - Hardin Tibbs: - to be announced
- November 8 - Foster Gamble: "Fundamental Patterning of the Cosmos and You"

\$10 suggested donation at the door.

Details of the individual presentations will be announced on our web site at <http://www.bfi.org> after Monday, September 17th and through this BFI_News e-bulletin.

Paradox III Conference

Third Millennium Habitats: Integrating Community, Virtuality, and Nature

September 21, 22 and 23, 2001
Arcosanti, Arizona

Join leaders in green development, urban design, cyberspace, new community models and transmodern culture for a full weekend of interdisciplinary panel discussions, special presentations, music and entertainment. Enjoy Cafe at Arcosanti cuisine - and the enriching experience of Arcosanti, located in the high desert 65 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona.

This 3rd Paradox conference promises to be a unique and enjoyable exchange for all participants. Attendance is limited to 300.

<http://www.arcosanti.org/paradox/>

Earth Charter Summit

On September 29, 2001, thousands of good hearted and like minded people will join in festive celebration and inspiration to make the Earth Charter principles come alive in our personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

The Earth Charter is a Declaration of Interdependence that recognizes that humanity's environmental, economic, social, cultural, ethical and spiritual aspirations are all interconnected. Over the course of 12 years, thousands of people have gathered in cities, villages, meeting halls, schools, and in the open air in 56 countries to weave their shared dream for a better world into the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter is being presented to the United Nations General Assembly in June 2002 for endorsement.

<http://www.earthchartersummits.org>

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BFI Update

BFI's Design Science Forum

Please see our events section above for details on our upcoming Design Science Forum to be held in Santa Rosa, California beginning September 27th. We hope that many of you in our area will be able to join us and will tell your friends about it.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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