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Food For Thought

The present evolutionary crisis of humans on planet Earth is that of a final examination for their continuance in Universe. It is not an examination of political, economic, or religious systems, but of the integrity of each and all individual humans' responsible thinking and unselfish response to the acceleration in evolution's evermore unprecedented events.

Buckminster Fuller, 1982

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Trends and Perspectives

Exorcising Einstein's Spooks

Albert Einstein never liked some of the counterintuitive predictions of quantum theory, arguing instead that there was a further, hidden layer to reality it failed to describe. Now Karl Hess and Walter Philipp of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign provide evidence that Einstein may have been right to be sceptical - there may indeed be another set of rules underlying quantum theory.

<http://www.nature.com/nsu/011129/011129-15.html>

(Source: Nature)

Iceland Launches Energy Revolution

With a new, government-approved plan to become the world's first hydrogen-based society, Iceland is emerging as the protagonist of the clean energy revolution. The nation plans to end its dependence on fossil fuels (and hence on foreign energy sources) through the use of fuel cells, which combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce energy, yielding water as a harmless byproduct. With much of its power coming from hydroelectric and geothermal sources, Iceland already leads the world in renewable energy; now that same clean energy will be used to power fuel cells and create an entirely eco-friendly energy loop.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1727000/1727312.stm

(Source: BBC)

Nine European Cities to Get Fuel Cell Busses

The famous red double-decker buses on the streets of London will soon be joined by zero emissions fuel cell-powered buses. London is one of nine European cities wishing to introduce buses powered by fuel cells into their public transport systems that have received a funding boost from the European Commission.

<http://ens-news.com/ens/dec2001/2001L-12-20-02.html>

(Source: Environmental News Service)

Plankton Power: Organic Matter Harnessed In Underwater Fuel Cells

This organic matter deposited on the ocean floor by plankton is a rich and practically inexhaustible source of energy for animals and microorganisms that normally live at the bottom of the sea. Research jointly funded by the Office of Naval Research and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is trying to harness just a small portion of this energy to power up small remote instruments.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2001/09/010920071528.htm>

(Source: Science Daily)

Carbon Dioxide Can Clean Radioactive Soil

Even dirt can be dirty. It can become contaminated with toxic chemicals or infused with radioactivity. Now, researchers have found a way to clean soil contaminated with two radioactive elements produced by past nuclear weapons development and nuclear energy research.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/10/10162001/carbon_45266.asp

(Source: ENN Worldwire News)

Iron-Loving Bacteria Can Learn to Consume Uranium

For more than 50 years the United States has used nuclear energy for power generation and for military purposes. Now, the nation must deal with radioactive materials generated by these facilities that contaminate about 40 million tons of soil and debris, enough to fill 17 professional sports stadiums.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/11/11262001/iron_45659.asp

(Source: ENN Worldwire News)

For other stories on decontamination using using natural processes visit:

<http://www.nature.com/nsu/011227/011227-10.html>

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Resources

Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology

CREST's goal is to accelerate the use of renewable energy by providing credible information, insightful analysis, and innovative strategies amid changing energy markets and mounting environmental needs. Its software and Internet services provide access to a broad range of topics: innovative public policy reports generated, interactive media, renewable energy success stories, and informative on-line discussion groups. One of the finest educational renewable energy sites available.

<http://www.crest.org>

"What We Learned in the Rainforest: Business Lessons from Nature"

by Tachi Kiuchi and Bill Shireman

What We Learned in the Rainforest teaches that nature isn't just a source of resources for business it is a powerful model for superior business performance in the emerging economy. The authors show that the old model of business the machine model that pitted business against nature is growing obsolete. In the emerging economy, businesses excel when they emulate what they once sought to conquer. What We Learned in the Rainforest presents examples from leading companies business strategies and management practices that maximize business performance by all measures: economic, social, and environmental.

You can get a discount at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

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Events

"Ten Shades of Green" Illuminates Sustainable Architecture

January - late March, Municipal Building in Salt Lake City, UT
April 6 - June 29, Orange Country Museum of Art in Newport Beach, CA

The exhibit "Ten Shades of Green" sponsored by the Architectural League of New York features photos, blueprints, models, and information about 13 edifices. The structures featured in the exhibit meet the ten shades with varying degrees of success and aesthetic appeal. But all were created with sustainability as a motivating factor and have contributed to the building technology of the future.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/01/01032002/s_45972.asp

FOR OUR FRIENDS LOCALLY:

Ecological Design (part 2 of a seven-part lecture series titled "The Art of Natural Building") with Joseph F. Kennedy

January 24, New College of California, Santa Rosa, CA

This lecture covers the basics of site and building design, utilizing principles based on the wisdom of nature. We will discuss regenerative design, passive solar strategies, efficient layout idea, and other topics.

For more information on this event or this series, please call 707-568-3090 or visit

<http://www.newcollege.edu/northbay/events.htm>

A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe with Michael Schneider

Nine part series January 26 _ April 27, San Anselmo, CA

Traditional Sacred Geometry Classes with the author of "A Beginner's Guide To Constructing The Universe: The Mathematical Archetypes of Nature, Science and Art"

In the spiral of the nautilus shell, in the veins of a maple leaf, in the bonds of the benzene ring--everywhere he looks, Schneider sees a cosmic geometry. Of course, the lines of this geometry have long attracted the attention of probing minds, including Pythagoras, Plato, the Psalmist, Demetrius, and Plotinus. Schneider weaves the insights of these thinkers and many more together in a tapestry of reflections.

<http://paperships.com/geoman/classes.htm>

Seating is Limited -- Advance Reservation is required

To register call (415) 457-3799 or email geoman@pb.net

Common Sense in the Nuclear Age with Dr. Helen Caldicott

January 23, Institute of Noetic Sciences, Petaluma, CA

Australian pediatrician, activist, founder of Common Sense in the Nuclear Age, and one of the most influential leaders of the worldwide peace movement since the 1970s will be visiting for a lecture and discussion on Common Sense in the Nuclear Age.

For more information visit:

<http://www.ions.org/Ions/events/sevents.asp>

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BFI Update

Our Trintab newsletter Vol. 14 No. 4 is now available online and downloadable as a PDF file.

Articles include:

- At Earthian's Critical Moment, A Note from Joshua Arnow, BFI President
- A New Marshall Plan, by the Worldwatch Institute
- Preventing War and Global Recession, by Hazel Henderson
- Brittle Times, RMI's Response
- The Day the World Came to It's Senses?, by Bill Moore

<http://www.bfi.org/trimtab/winter02/TrimtabWinter02.pdf>

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