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Volume 3, Number 10

BFI News brings you news from around the world related to humanity's option for success and comprehensive anticipatory design solutions. It also features updates from BFI and periodic special offers for members.

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Food For Thought

That Mysterious Integrity

"It is only at the moment of humans' realistic admission to selves of having made a mistake that they are the closest to that mysterious integrity governing the universe."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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Trends and Perspectives

Fuel Cell-Powered Cars Hitting the Road Ahead of Schedule

The fuel cell economy is developing much faster than expected, as the competition among companies intensifies. This momentum in developing clean sources of electricity for vehicles, as well as homes and businesses, holds the promise of a cleaner energy future, bringing us one step closer to an eco-economy.

Major automakers are on the verge of introducing fuel cell vehicles (FCVs)-in some cases much sooner than anyone anticipated. DaimlerChrysler announced that early next year, 60 Mercedes-Benz A-Class FCVs will be unveiled as part of limited customer fleets in Japan, Singapore, the United States, and Europe. Honda will sell the first of its FCX model to the city of Los Angeles by the end of 2002, and they plan to distribute 30 cars in California and Japan over the next two to three years. The Honda seats four and has a range of 220 miles (354 kilometers).

For the full report, visit <http://www.earth-policy.org/Updates/Update19.htm>

(Source: Earth Policy Institute)

Food Scraps to Power Bacteria-Driven Battery

Food scraps once consigned to the compost heap or the dog could soon be powering a cheap bacteria-driven battery if British scientists have their way.

http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/10/10112002/reu_48654.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

All the World's an MIT Campus

Anyone can get a sneak peek at a top-flight college education on the Web for free now that MIT is posting a sample of its courseware online.

http://go.hotwired.com/news/school/0,1383,55507,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Wired)

Scientist Develops 'Green' Solution to Plastics Waste

As plastic wastes continue to stack up in landfills throughout the country and the world, a Cornell University fiber scientist is edging closer to creating a greener alternative.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/09/09262002/s_48510.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

How Earth's Land Is Used

A new global map taken from space is providing scientists with their most detailed picture ever of the Earth's ecosystems and land use patterns.

The data will aid scientists and policy makers involved in land resource management as well as a range of global monitoring objectives such as determining the amount of Carbon released into the atmosphere that could contribute to global warming.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/sci/tech/2209611.stm>

(Source: BBC News)

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Resources

On-line Version of Synergetics Updated with New Features

The on-line version of Synergetics has some new features:

You can now add comments (with images and web links) to any of the Synergetics sections, list all section that have comments entered and read all the comments.

Please note that the comment feature is not intended to be a discussion forum about Synergetics. It is a place for people to add clarifying comments to the text, provide additional references or to point out errors or corrections.

Anyone may add such comments, and Robert Gray, who maintains the site, hopes that this will make Synergetics more accessible and clearer to everyone.

You can find the complete volumes of Synergetics 1 and Synergetics on the web at:

<http://www.rwgrayprojects.com/synergetics/synergetics.html>

The Hydrogen Balm?

In his new book, Jeremy Rifkin argues that cheap hydrogen could make the 21st century more democratic and decentralized, much the way oil transformed the 19th and 20th centuries by fueling the rise of powerful corporations and nation-states. The book, "The Hydrogen Economy: The Creation of the Worldwide Energy Web and the Redistribution of Power on Earth", gives the hydrogen cause a social dimension. With hydrogen, writes Rifkin, "Every human being on earth could be 'empowered'."

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/02_39/b3801101.htm

Care2 and Co-op America Join Forces for Online Green Business Directory

Online environmental network Care2 and nonprofit consumer organization Co-op America have teamed up to present a Web resource designed to help consumers identify and support socially and environmentally responsible businesses.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/10/10232002/s_48709.asp

<http://www.greenpages.org>

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Events

Dynamic Opening Night at the Bucky Play - Enthusiastic Reviews

San Francisco, CA

The Buckminster Fuller one-man show "The History (and Mystery) of the Universe" had a dynamic opening night October 20th that was attended by BFI staff as well as board members, advisors and Institute members.

Read one of the enthusiastic reviews about the show at:

http://www.examiner.com/ex_files/default.jsp?story=X1016BUCKYw

To find out more about show times and ticket prices, visit the BFI home page at <http://www.bfi.org> or the producer's site at <http://www.foghouse.com>

"Bucky Up Close"

Speaker Series in Association with Bucky Play, San Francisco, CA

In association with the Buckminster Fuller one-man show "The History (and Mystery) of the Universe," BFI is sponsoring a speaker series titled "Bucky Up Close" that features special guests recounting their unique, personal experiences with Buckminster Fuller. Upcoming speakers include:

November 2nd - Vern Krutein, media producer and photographer

November 16th - Jay Baldwin, inventor, author, editor, design teacher

To find out more about the speaker series, visit the BFI home page at <http://www.bfi.org>

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Honors Fuller

November 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Maxim's / Nancy Goldberg International Center, Chicago, IL

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs is honoring Buckminster Fuller with a Chicago Tribute Marker of Distinction, one of 20 commemorated this year.

Reservations for this free event may be made by calling (312) 744-2032.

Chicago Tribute Markers articulate the connection between the city of today and the historic individuals and events that continue to shape our world.

The project website, <http://www.chicagotribute.org/Markers/Fuller.htm>, lists Bucky at his home in 1928, when he, "Guinea Pig B," first began his life-long experiment to create more with less.

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BFI Update

Driver needed to transport BFI maps to Northern California

In about a week our new Fuller Projection satellite maps will roll off the press. We are seeking a volunteer to drive the maps plus our new satellite fold-up globes from Gardena/Los Angeles, CA to Sebastopol or San Francisco, CA. The vehicle needed for transport would ideally be mini van-sized to fit the maps and globes. We are hoping to find someone who can take on this project in the next couple of weeks (by November 15th).

(BFI will reimburse expenses.)

Contact Lauren at 707-824 2242 or lauren@bfi.org to find out details and volunteer.

Thank You!

BFI Needs a Computer

Dear members and friends!

The BFI office is in need of a new Macintosh computer—we are ideally looking for a donation of a G3 or even G4 machine that can take the load of our busy projects.

If you can help with this, please contact Deborah at deborah@bfi.org or 707-824 2242.

If you would like to receive an email when the map is ready, please email lauren@bfi.org with the words

"map poster" in the subject line.

Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience! You can look forward to a beautiful new map!

For other gift ideas, browse our store at