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Food For Thought

"Love

Is omni-inclusive,

Progressively exquisite,

Understanding and tender

And compassionately attuned

To other than self."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

(Happy Valentine's Day)

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Trends and Perspectives

Biomimicry: Super Fly

Researchers are trying to replicate the incredibly accurate hearing mechanism of a rare fly -- the *Ormia ochracea* -- and use it to create everything from the world's most sophisticated hearing aid to tiny microphones. The hearing mechanism of the *Ormia ochracea*'s ears has evolved the ability to pinpoint the location of chirping crickets, thanks to its two eardrums. This technology will overcome the limits of in-ear hearing aids, which don't let you "focus" your listening by providing cues on the direction of sounds. A cluster of them dropped over enemy terrain would be able to detect the origin of sounds through triangulation and then wirelessly transmit the information back to a listening station.

http://www.kurzweilai.net/news/frame.html?main=/news/news_single.html

(Source: Kurzweil AI)

Environmental Economics: The New World Order

Whether it's soul pleasing or not, the fact is money makes the world go 'round. Economics is the driving force in our global community. As such, it is important to analyze the way the mainstream economic system functions and to consider whether that system is sustainable.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/01/01182002/s_46171.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

Invisible Circuits Top Science Honors

The top scientific breakthrough of 2001 has been learning to wire up the tiny electronic components created from individual atoms and molecules by nanotechnology researchers. So say the editors of the prestigious

US-based journal "Science", who publish a top ten breakthroughs list at the end of each year. "The possibilities are remarkable, because the scale is thousands of times smaller than that embodied in the very best contemporary computer chips," they say.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1721000/1721485.stm

(Source: BBC News)

New Steels Can Help Vehicles Achieve Five-Star Crash Rating, Double Fuel Economy at No Additional Cost

DETROIT, MI -Greater use by automakers of new grades of Advanced High-Strength Steels (AHSS) will provide an unprecedented, high level of crash safety performance at no cost increase, according to a new study from the global steel industry.

For full Text:

<http://www.ewire-news.com/wires/BCD15E2B-86FF-48A1-8FBCCA97F0370249.htm>

(Source: E-wire)

From the Best Minds in the World

OSLO, Norway - At the Nobel Peace Prize Centennial Symposium here celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Nobel prize, 100 Nobel laureates have issued a brief but dire warning of the "profound dangers" facing the world. Their statement predicts that our security depends on immediate environmental and social reform.

To read the full article, please go to <http://www.oasistv.com/archives.html> and enter the title: "From the Best Minds in the World" as the search term. The search will bring up the archived story.

(Source: OTVNewswire)

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Resources

Inventing Modern America

by David Brown, Lester Thurow, James Burke

Inventing Modern America profiles thirty-five inventors, including R. Buckminster Fuller, who exemplify the rich technological creativity of the United States over the past century.

Inventing Modern America is designed to create excitement about invention through the personal stories of these American scientists, technologists, and researchers. It is accessible enough to engage high school students yet wide-ranging and interesting enough to appeal to anyone who has ever wondered where microwave ovens and traffic lights come from.

200 pages 1st edition (November 1, 2001) MIT Press; ISBN: 0262025086; \$29.95

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<http://www.energystar.gov/products>

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Events

R. Buckminster Fuller Conversation Series and Design Exhibit

January 16 - March 13, 2002 Stanford, CA

In conjunction with the exhibit, "Fuller | Sadao: Partners in Design" (from Dec. 2, 2001 - March 18, 2002 at the Peterson Exhibit Gallery Stanford University) the Stanford Humanities Laboratory, Stanford University Libraries, and the Cantor Center for Visual Arts are jointly hosting a series of informal conversations with some of Fuller's most notable collaborators. Those interested in attending must send e-mail, at least two days prior to each event, to dfrank@stanford.edu.

Featured speakers are:

Shoji Sadao , E. J. Applewhite, Thomas T. K. Zung, Stewart Brand and Arthur Loeb.

For more information on the exhibit and conversation series, please visit

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/shl/>

Schedule:

- February 27 - Stewart Brand - 3:00-5:00pm
- March 13 - Arthur Loeb - 3:00-5:00pm
- Previous speakers:
- January 16 - Shoji Sadao
- January 30 - E. J. Applewhite
- February 13 - Thomas T. K. Zung

Conference on Trade, Sustainability and Global Governance

March 2, 2002, New York

The Environmental Law Society of Columbia Law School has gathered over two dozen of the world's foremost experts on the issues from the NGO world, the United Nations, the World Bank, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office, the major thinktanks and academia. Among the important questions that will be explored will be the following:

- What are the crucial issues of trade and sustainable development that will arise during the next few years, and what are the outlines of some solutions?
- How is the relationship between international economic and environmental governance evolving?
- Should civil society have a stronger voice in these discussions?
- How do new trade negotiations - for example on agriculture, services and intellectual property - relate to broader concerns about the environment and sustainable development?

For more information, visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/els/conference.htm>

National Energy Modeling System/Annual Energy Outlook Conference

March 12, Arlington, VA

Invited speakers present topics important to the analysis and forecasting of energy markets over the next twenty years. The event is presented by the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/conf>

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BFI Update

Have You Visited spaceshipEARTH.org Yet?

spaceshipEARTH.org, BFI's flagship project was launched in May last year and has been continually upgraded since. Take a closer look at <http://www.spaceshipearth.org> and tell us what you think. The project is in ongoing development with the following goals:

- Content will focus on the most urgent design challenge in the history of human civilization to equitably meet the needs of all humanity without fatally disrupting the delicate balance of the earth's natural

systems.

- The site will serve as a resource for strategizing, communicating, and implementing sustainable solutions.
- Format will be interactive and visual, offering easy to understand "big picture" overviews -- designed to appeal to a broad audience, including students, educators, policy makers.
- The core graphic feature is the EARTHscope; a dynamic visualization tool that helps make the invisible VISIBLE
- Learning frameworks will offer a tool chest for whole systems thinking and "design science" problem solving. Tutorials will demonstrate the pragmatic application of nature's operating principles and strategies.

<http://www.spaceshipearth.org/EARTHSCOPE/earthscope.html>

Correction

Issue number Vol.2. No.10 was misnamed and should have appeared as Vol.3 No.1.

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