

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 3 of BFI_News, the e-bulletin of the Buckminster Fuller Institute.

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

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BFI UPDATE

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Need to renew your BFI membership? If you are a current member and would like to continue receiving the benefits of membership, please visit our membership homepage at

<http://www.bfi.org/membership.html>

Not a member? Find out what you're missing!

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BFI has added two new staff members and six new Board members. For staff and Board profiles stay tuned for our Spring/Summer '05 issue of Trimtab.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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If humanity does not opt for integrity we are through completely. It is absolutely touch and go. Each one of us could make the difference.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

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TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment highlights global decline

The most comprehensive survey ever into the state of the planet concludes that human activities threaten the Earth's ability to sustain future generations. The report says the way society obtains its resources has caused irreversible changes that are degrading the natural processes that support life on Earth. This will compromise efforts to address hunger, poverty and improve healthcare.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4391835.stm>

For more on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, see:

<http://www.maweb.org/en/index.aspx>

(Source: BBC News)

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The whole-house machine

In a sunny laboratory at the University of Southern California, a robotically controlled nozzle squeezes a ribbon of concrete onto a wooden plank. Every two minutes and 14 seconds, the nozzle completes a circuit, topping the previous ribbon with a fresh one. Thus a five-foot-long wall rises, a wall built without human intervention.

<http://www.discover.com/issues/apr-05/features/whole-house-machine/>

(Source: Discover.com)

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Japan's Frontier Carbon Corporation to manufacture in U.S. will accelerate production of fullerenes for nano-manufacturing

To meet the growing commercial demand for nano-scale products in the United States and Europe, Frontier Carbon Corporation (FCC) of Tokyo, Japan, has established Frontier Carbon Corporation America (FCCA) in December 2004 to begin production of fullerene materials in the U.S. in March 2005 in co-operation with TDA Research, Inc. for serving present and potential customers. The architectural structure of fullerene molecules resembles the geodesic domes created by architect and philosopher R. Buckminster Fuller. Their discovery was recognized with the 1996 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

<http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=1770>

(Source: Nanotechwire.com)

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BigPictureSmallWorld presents: The World in 10 Seconds

This movie is based on the UN Millennium Development Goals. These goals came into being when 147 Heads of State (including the president of the U.S.) signed the Millennium Declaration at the UN in September 2000. They articulate a series of specific goals for the world between now and 2015~ such as cutting in half the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty. They are the organizing force behind everything the UN is doing ^ and will be doing for the next 10 years as they are tied to this time frame for their implementation. In short, they are huge. They are playing a crucial role in organizing international development and the expenditures of hundreds of billions of dollars aimed at improving the human condition.

<http://www.bigpicturesmallworld.com/TenSeconds/introTenSeconds.html>

(Source: BigPictureSmallWorld.com)

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BigBelly has appetite for trash

Ideally, BigBelly, the invention of Massachusetts entrepreneur Jim Poss and some of his Babson College business school classmates, means reduced truck runs, a decrease in drivers needed and fewer diesel fuel fumes. BigBelly can reduce the runs to one pickup every four days, for example, instead of four times a day, according to Poss, founder of Seahorse Power the Westborough, Massachusetts, company that designs, markets, distributes and soon will license BigBelly.

<http://wired.com/news/planet/0,2782,66993,00.html>

(Source: Wired News)

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Citrus peels an alternative energy source

Ener1 Inc. is working on a \$1.1 million project to convert the hydrogen-rich gas released from citrus peels for use in fuel cells at a model interstate rest stop. "It's a big part of the waste here in the state of Florida," said Pankaj Dhingra, president of Ener1. The nonprofit Florida Hydrogen Initiative Inc. has given Ener1 a \$550,000 grant to help complete the project by next year.

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/04/01/citrus.fuel.cells.ap/>

(Source: CNN.com)

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RESOURCES

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End of Suburbia

Since World War II North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too has the suburban way of life become embedded in the American consciousness. Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream. But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, The End of Suburbia explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. World Oil Peak and the inevitable decline of fossil fuels are upon us now, some scientists and policy makers argue in this documentary.

<http://www.endofsuburbia.com/>

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TV-B-Gone

TV-B-Gone universal remote control turns off virtually any Television! It's the ultimate jammer tool for reclaiming public space. It works at airports, bars, offices, any place that needs a break from the idiot box. Clarity of mind, one click at a time.

<https://secure.adbusters.org/orders/tvbgone/>

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(Source: Adbusters)

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The Ecology Building Society

The Ecology Building Society is a mutual building society

dedicated to improving the environment by promoting sustainable housing and sustainable communities. Savings placed with the Ecology Building Society fund mortgage lending on:

energy efficient housing

ecological renovation

derelict and dilapidated properties

small-scale and ecological enterprise

low-impact lifestyles

<http://www.ecology.co.uk/>

(Source: Ecology Building Society)

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EVENTS

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New York City Grassroots Media Conference

April 9-10, 10:00 a.m. ^ 6:00 p.m.

New School University, New York City 65 5th Ave. at 13th St

The NYC Grassroots Media Conference is an annual gathering of community-oriented media in New York City and their allies during the weekend of April 9-10, 2005 at New School University to:

-promote awareness of the grassroots media in New York City

-strengthen and unify our city's independent media

-create strong bonds between community groups and local grassroots media groups

<http://www.nycgrassrootsmedia.org/>

<http://www.newschool.edu>

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EXPO 2005 Nature's Wisdom

March 25 ^ Sept. 25, 2005

Aichi, Japan

Thanks to rapid technological development, the 20th Century was characterized by mass-production and mass-consumption, which in turn led to material improvements in our daily lives. At the same time, these trends resulted in various global issues such as desertification, global warming, and a shortage of natural resources. As these issues cannot be resolved by any one nation, the international community needs to unite in confronting them: we must come together and share our experience and wisdom, in order to create a new direction for humanity which is both sustainable and harmonious with nature.

<http://www-2.expo2005.or.jp/en/index.html>

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Have you come across interesting Design Science news articles, resources, or events?

We invite you to forward them so we can consider them for inclusion in future e-bulletins. Send them to:

mbarron@bfi.org

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