

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 9 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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BFI BOARD CHALLENGE GRANT

The BFI Board of Directors has committed itself to a \$20,000
Challenge Grant to inspire the financial support of our e-bulletin
subscribers, store customers, members and other supporters.
We encourage you to seize this opportunity to help us meet the
Board's challenge. It is with complete confidence in the
quality of our new programs and the caliber of our team that we
extend this invitation for you to join our Membership as soon
as possible.

If you make your donation before December 31, 2005, your
money will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Board's
Challenge Grant!

To become a member, renew your membership, or simply make a
donation, please visit:

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

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DESIGN SCIENCE LAB 2006

The first annual Design Science Summer Lab was a complete
success and planning is already underway for next year's
lab. For more information or if you are interested in
participating in next year's program, please sign up for
the 2006 mailing list using the link below:

<http://www.bfi.org/summerlab/2006mail.php>

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DYMAXION ARTIFACTS STORE UPDATE

Featured Items: Out of Print Books

BFI carries all of Bucky's out of print books, from Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth to Nine Chains to the Moon. Some of Bucky's earliest works are also his most innovative and revolutionary.

To browse through our collection or place an order, please visit the Dymaxion Artifacts online store.

<http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/>

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Think of it...We are blessed with technology that would be indescribable to our forefathers. We have the wherewithal, the know-it-all, to feed everybody, clothe everybody, give every human on Earth a chance. We dwell instead on petty things. We kill each other. We build monuments to ourselves. What a waste of time. Think of it. What a chance we have...

-- R. Buckminster Fuller

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TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

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Defective nanostructures make breaking water to extract hydrogen easier

Scientists at North Carolina State University have discovered a nanoscale method for extracting hydrogen from water that requires only half the energy of current hydrogen production methods. The researchers discovered that defective carbon nanotubes make it easier to break water molecules and extract hydrogen. The discovery could have big implications, namely, lower hydrogen production costs, for industries looking to hydrogen as an alternative fuel.

http://www.ncsu.edu/news/press_releases/05_09/188.htm

(Source: North Carolina State University)

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Three share Nobel Prize in chemistry

Two Americans and a French scientist won the Nobel Prize in

chemistry Wednesday for developing a chemical "dance" that makes molecules swap atoms, a process now used to create medicines, plastics and other products with more efficiency and less environmental hazard.

"What a great day for chemistry," declared an advocate of environmentally friendly "green chemistry," Paul Anastas of the American Chemical Society

<<http://www.newsday.com/news/health/sns-ap-nobel-chemistry,0,1688161.story>>

(Source: Newsday)

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Computer puts big quake odds at 25% within 20 years

A UC Davis computer scientist, using a new computer-based system to forecast quake probabilities in the Bay Area, concludes that there's a 25 percent probability that the next big earthquake with a magnitude of 7 will occur on the San Andreas Fault within 150 miles of San Francisco sometime during the next 20 years.

<<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/10/11/BAGB4F6L2I1.DTL>>

(Source: San Francisco Chronicle)

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Citizen scientists

In neighborhoods across the country, a growing number of ordinary people are taking up side careers in science. Wielding salinity meters and sterile flasks, speaking in scientific names, and keeping a sharp eye on their birdfeeders, the latest worker bees in scientific research are as likely to have taught high school history as worn a white lab coat. "More and more organizations are realizing the power of the citizen scientists and this incredible research they've got [going on] in their own backyard," said Shawn Carlson, executive director of the Society for Amateur Scientists, a group that lobbies on behalf of the backyard tinkerer.

<http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2005/10/03/citizen_scientists/>

(Source: Boston Globe)

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Offshore wind energy collaborative

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), General Electric (GE), and the U.S. Department of Energy have formed an Organizing Group to discuss and create guidelines for an offshore wind collaborative, with input from a wide range of stakeholders interested in sustainable, technologically sound development of offshore wind energy resources.

<http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/owec.htm>

(Source: Massachusetts Technology Collaborative)

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RESOURCES

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The \$600 solution

\$600 isn't enough to convert one's entire life to off-grid solar living, but it's a functional start. Moreover, it makes an interesting moving target: as organic photovoltaics and other forms of plastic solar come on the market, and as more money goes into making this technology more approachable for non-technical folks, we should start to see what's possible with \$600 worth of gear. And it's not just improvements in photovoltaic technologies that will make a difference here -- better batteries, cheaper high-capacity inverters, even more efficient "wall warts" would help (after all, many power supplies for consumer electronics only pass along 20-40% of the electricity they draw to the devices they power!).

<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/003611.html>

(Source: Worldchanging.com)

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Greendrinks.org

Every month people who work in the environmental field meet up for a beer at informal sessions known as Green Drinks.

We have a lively mixture of people from NGOs, academia, government and business. Come along and you'll be made welcome. Just say, "are you green?" and we will look after you and introduce you to whoever is there. It's a great way of catching up with people you know and also for making new contacts. Everyone invites someone else along, so there's always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, self-organizing network.

<http://greendrinks.org>

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EVENTS

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Games for Change Conference
Friday, October 21st 9am - 8pm
Saturday, October 22nd 9am - 6pm
The City University of New York in the Heights
108 Cooper Street at 207th Street
New York, New York

This year's conference will bring together non-profits and their partners in game design, the arts and academia from across the U.S. and overseas to explore best practices for social change, open source gaming technologies, successful distribution models, and more. It will also be a day to discuss industry partnership opportunities and will allow ample opportunity for networking and the sharing of resources.

In keeping with G4C's commitment to innovation for a better world, the conference will be action-oriented, provocative, original and fun. Set in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, the food will be spicy and Spanish (with a few milder options of course); the funder's panel is stocked with strong foundations and business development groups; the Games Expo will be a lively and informative showcase of the best in social change games; there also will be a game design session by the industry's leading innovator and author Eric Zimmerman, CEO of gameLab.

Celia Pearce will also be speaking about Spaceship Earth: The Game, a collaborative project of the Buckminster Fuller Institute and University of California, Irvine.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.seriousgames.org/gamesforchange/conference/2005/index.htm>

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Synergetics Fall 2005 Symposium "Synergetics in the Arts"
Noguchi Museum
32-37 Vernon Blvd.
Long Island City, New York 11106
Saturday, November 19 2005, 10AM - 6PM
Sunday, November 20 2005, 10AM - 6PM

SNEC will be holding a juried art show and symposium focused on the relationship of Buckminster Fuller's Synergetics to the arts. Representative projects include literature, poetry, music, painting, film, photography, sculpture, theater, dance, architecture

and virtual arts with a central relationship to Synergetics.

For more information including directions and registration info. please visit:

<http://www.cjfeanley.com/snec/snec.announce.meeting.2005.11.html>

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International Congress of Nanotechnology 2005
San Francisco, CA
October 31 - November 4

Special focus: The ROAD MAP for NANOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY will be presented at the General Assembly of the ICNT 2005 on November 1, 2005.

As of August 1, we are pleased to have more than 175 speakers and presenters from 35 countries.

The International Congress of Nanotechnology will cover a complete spectrum of the emerging field of Nanotechnology: from the latest research and development in nanomaterials, nanoelectronics, nanophotonics, nanobiotechnology, nanomedicine, nanoethics, education, environmental, societal and health and safety implications, to nanotech venture capital investment and technology joint venture.

To view a partial list of speakers, please visit:

<http://www.nanotechcongress.com>

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History and Mystery of the Universe opens in Montreal

Théâtre Alambic and Théâtre Denise-Pelletier present
R. Buckminster Fuller HISTORY (and Mystery) OF THE UNIVERSE
by D.W. Jacobs
translated by Maryse Pelletier
from the life, work and writings of R. Buckminster Fuller

>From October 18th to November 5th, 7:30 P.M.
at Theatre Fred-Barry, 4353 Ste-Catherine St East
(Montreal, Quebec, Can)
Res: (514) 253-8974

Jean Boilard plays Bucky
Director: Bernard Lavoie, assisted by Julie-Anne Richard

Regular fee: 23\$
Students and Senior: 16.50\$
Equitable fee: 35\$

For more information, please visit:

<<http://www.denise-pelletier.qc.ca>>

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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

If we use your suggestion for future e-bulletins and you would like to be credited by name, please indicate it in your e-mail.

Thank You!

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