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vast majority of the expertise and rhetoric of the conservation world is focused on 'nature' rather than people. Why is this and does it need to change? From species and spaces to people

available to them.

activists. It is time to change ourselves into a major force within the

APS. I call on every member of our group to actively recruit new members. Perhaps the committee could offer a PD voucher to members for finding each new one? Please do not print this newsletter. It is better to annoy electrons than to

consume dead trees. "Three concepts are almost completely foreign to people who are not ecologists: (1) natural ecosystems provide services on which our economic, social, cultural and political systems depend; (2) when these

processes are altered, our quality of life declines; (3) when the processes fail, life becomes very difficult or impossible. As a result of this ignorance, conservation is seen by many as a minor amenity benefiting a small cadre of birdwatchers or backpackers that stands in the way of 'progress' that benefits all." Brussard and Tull, (2007), Conservation Biology and Four Types of Toronto First North American Advocacy, Conservation Biology, 21 (1) 21 - 24).

**Opinion** 

Conservation is not about nature Dr Joe Zammit-Lucia Conservation is all about people. This statement is found on the website of IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication. It is a vital statement that should guide the

Years ago, a friend of mine working on a conservation project in Madagascar was puzzled that the local people did not seem engaged in efforts to develop sustainable use of the local forests. Only by chance did the team come across an explanation -- some sociology research that explained that the local culture is rooted in its past with little concept of planning for a future.

## made by businesses, industries and global market makers, to the political decisions made at local and international levels. Yet, while our team in Madagascar had a great deal of accumulated expertise in biology, endangered species and ecology, they had no significant expertise in matters of human behaviour, cultural studies, economics, business management or politics. Though the team understood these needs, such expertise was not readily

The conservationists' culture The situation described above bedevils much conservation work. It should go without saying that successful conservation efforts are purely a question

of human behaviour, be that behaviour at political, industrial, community or individual level. Yet the bulk of the expertise that has been accumulated within the conservation community is not about human behaviour, it is focused on 'nature' and the know-how and science that underpins that nature. While this know-how is essential to conservation success, it is an insufficient basis on which such success can be built. At least as important is a capability to understand and focus on the needs of individuals and communities and to work to improve people's lives in a manner that is consistent with conservation aims.

Today's conservation culture and rhetoric are primarily focused around

destructive dichotomy between the Human and the Natural -- the Natural as a

80-90% of press items related to conservation are negative, painting people,

'nature' and its conservation. This culture encourages a negative and

their economic activities and their search for self improvement as a

destructive influence on nature.

1. People first

your life.

...and it's not about 'communication'

romanticized ideal that we are trying to preserve and the Human as the interloper that is wrecking our idyll. On a quick review, I calculate that

efforts of the whole conservation community yet it is widely ignored. The

This anecdote highlights the reality of conservation. Successful

the behaviour of those earning a living in biodiversity hotspots to the behaviour of consumers in developed countries to the investment choices

conservation is about understanding how to focus people's behaviours, from

Whenever I talk to conservationists about changing people's behaviours, I am met with nods of agreement and then quickly pointed towards "the communications people". This betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of the issues. Changing behaviour is not about developing our own agenda focused on nature and then trying to find some slick marketing wheeze or educational programme to convince people that we're right and they must change their ways. Success can only come through putting people first and framing what we do as being about finding ways to improve their lives. It requires much more than communication of our established ideas and approaches, it requires a re-framing of what conservation projects should be about. A framework for success I would like to propose both a shift in mindset and approach and the building of new capabilities within the conservation community.

People should claim the centre of conservation rhetoric and individual conservation initiatives. Here there are two components to success and they

We should stop telling everyone that they are bad people because of their search for development or self-fulfilment or because they want to improve their lives, or because they enjoy their consumption -- as we all do -- even

Every conservation statement or project should ask: how am I going to improve people's lives through this work? And 'improve' should not be defined in narrow economic terms. There are many non-financial ways to

achievement, creating a sense of community with shared goals, providing

We could all benefit significantly from expertise that helps us understand the drivers of human behaviour and think through conservation agendas with people's behaviour in mind. This expertise needs to be built within the core of conservation strategy and activity, not as part of some separate function, off to the side while proper conservationists get on with their science of nature.

Who, today, is providing people with jobs, a living wage, the ability to build a life and the ability to have the products and services that they need or

Industrialization has led to a massive improvement in people's quality of life in the past 150 years and most people continue to look to industry as the most likely source for meeting their aspirations. Unfortunately, industrialization has also led to the environmental degradation we are now trying to slow

want? Largely these functions are provided by industry and business.

improve people's lives such as giving people a sense of pride and

are applicable to both developed and developing countries.

aesthetic or recreational benefits, and many others. We have seen examples, in IUCN projects, where success comes from a focus on improving people's lives. One such example is Speak up and change

2. Develop the expertise

3. Work with others

down or stop.

**Moving forward** 

nature

policies:

those of us who preach conservation.

The conservation agenda simply cannot be achieved without the deep involvement of industry. Industry has the resources, expertise and political clout that, well focused, can achieve the sort of behavioural changes that we all seek. And industry has shown itself able to achieve widespread behavioural changes at all levels, from the individual consumer to the highest levels of political decision making. And, at a practical level, we can achieve little without industrial

involvement. From the development of alternative energy, to finding ways of

managing forests sustainably, to changing consumer behaviour, we are dependent on those respective industries to move forward and to do so in a

way that still provides jobs and meets people's legitimate aspirations.

nature', or using grand slogans such as 'saving the planet'; or to speak in tongues using terms like 'biodiversity' and 'ecosystem services' that the average person doesn't understand, much less care about. Neither is conservation merely a science or a technical discipline. Conservation is a cultural construct and a set of values; values that should be focused on improving people's lives in a cultural framework that is consistent with maintaining the many, varied benefits of a well-functioning natural world. In a world of seven billion people, and growing, this is purely a matter of human behaviour. Our conservation success depends on human behaviour first, second, third and last. Conservation is as much about sociology, psychology, cultural studies and the humanities as it is about biology and ecology. It is about

politics as much as it is about climate science. It is about industry, finance and economics as much as it is about NGOs and philanthropy. It is about people as much as about nature. And it should be about aspirations and

We have had the Year of Biodiversity. We are having the Year of Forests.

Dr Joe Zammit-Lucia is an artist, author and independent scholar on

conservation issues. He is President of WOLFoundation.org, a member of IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication

http://www.iucn.org/involved/opinion/?8195/Conservation-is-not-about-

Economic collapse threatens caring for the environment. However,

people." said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurria. The OECD

water and the health impacts of environmental pollution. Without new

from emerging economies (for North America about +15%, for OECD Europe +28%, for Japan +2.5, for Mexico +112%) and still 85% reliant on fossil fuel-based energy. This could lead to a 50% increase in greenhouse gas

(GHG) emissions globally, and worsening air pollution.

**OECD** warns us

"Greener sources of growth can help governments today as they tackle these pressing challenges. Greening agriculture, water and energy supply and manufacturing will be critical by 2050 to meet the needs of over 9 billion

Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction presents the latest projections of socio-economic trends over the next four decades, and their implications for four key areas of concern: climate change, biodiversity,

World energy demand in 2050 will be 80% higher, with most of the growth

improvement more, much more, than about guilt and austerity.

How about the Year of the People as our next effort?

and acts as Special Adviser to the Director General.

Conservation cannot be framed simplistically as the task of 'conserving

Urban air pollution is set to become the top environmental cause of mortality worldwide by 2050, ahead of dirty water and lack of sanitation. The number of premature deaths from respiratory failure due to air pollutants could double to 3.6 million pa globally. Because of their ageing and urbanised populations, OECD countries are likely to have one of the highest rate of premature death from ground-level ozone in 2050, second only to India. On land, global biodiversity is projected to decline by a further 10%.

biodiversity in rivers and lakes worldwide has already been lost, and further

Global water demand will increase by some 55%, due to growing demand from manufacturing (+400%), thermal power plants (+140%) and domestic use (+130%). These competing demands will put water use by farmers at risk. 2.3 billion more people than today --over 40% of the global population

Mature forests are projected to shrink by 13%. About one-third of

"We have already witnessed the collapse of some fisheries due to overfishing, with significant impacts on coastal communities, and severe water shortages are a looming threat to agriculture. These enormous environmental challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. They must be managed in the context of other global challenges, such as food and energy

Tackling environmental problems can also help to address other environmental challenges, and contribute to growth and development.

to 2050, the report recommends a cocktail of policy solutions: using

Cutting GHG emissions also reduces the economic burden of chronic health problems. Climate policies help protect biodiversity, for example by reducing deforestation. To avert the grim future painted by the Environmental Outlook

environmental taxes and emissions trading schemes to make pollution more costly than greener alternatives; valuing and pricing natural assets and

ecosystem services like clean air, water and biodiversity for their true worth; removing environmentally harmful subsidies to fossil fuels or wasteful irrigation schemes; and encouraging green innovation by making polluting production and consumption modes more expensive while providing public support for basic R&D. Green growth policies are already in place in many countries. For example, Mexico's new pilot programme gives direct cash transfers to farmers instead of subsidising the electricity they use to pump irrigation water, thus removing the price distortion that encouraged over-use of groundwater. The UK government has earmarked GBP 3 billion for the new UK Green Investment Bank; this should leverage an additional GBP 15 billion of private investment in green energy and recycling by 2015. The US government has been working to phase out preferential tax provisions worth about USD 4 billion per annum that continue to support the production of fossil energy. Capitalising on its knowledge-base and environmental technologies, city of Kitakyushu in Japan is working with businesses to

losses are projected to 2050.

-- will be living under severe water stress.

So, there is urgent need for new thinking.

security, and poverty alleviation," says Gurria.

enhance its competitiveness as a "green city" for low-carbon growth. Governments, businesses, consumers all have a part to play to move towards greener growth. Read the Key facts and figures [PDF] from the Environmental Outlook to 2050. To obtain a copy of OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction please e-mail news.contact@oecd.org.

I have reproduced this as a discussion piece, although I have a couple

1. It's straight-line thinking: projecting current trends as if they could continue. They can't: every natural exponential has a breaking point. If

On my analysis, even this is optimistic. So far, every prediction has

2. It is still implicitly hooked on economic growth. That is the main driver of the problem. We need to switch to sustainability instead.

> Above all, do no harm by Bob Rich

This is a slightly modified extract from one of the books I am writing.

In times past, people sometimes accused me of being a hippy. I resented this, because nothing could have been further from the truth. For one thing, I

Well, I did have a lot of idealism, and still do, but it was all too realistic. I

motivation was to prevent life from degenerating into exactly what we have now. Most people considered that it was unrealistic to hope that greed, shortsighted (and therefore truly unrealistic) self-interest and a cynical disregard for common welfare would lose out to decency, caring and cooperation.

The term "hippy" had implications of unrealistic idealism, drugs,

was part of a vigorous movement that tried to change the world. Our

these projections come true, we are GUARANTEED not to reach 2050. In a Smithsonian Magazine article, CSIRO physicist Graham Turner examined the predictions of *The Limits to Growth*, published in 1972. We are on track; those predictions are accurate. He gives us till

of arguments with it:

2030 till complete collapse.

Bob

turned out to be too conservative.

Comments welcome. Am I right or wrong?

don't have a hip to speak of: straight up and down sides.

indiscriminate sex, unwashed bodies, raucous music.

Labelling us as hippies meant that we could be dismissed instead of listened to. As for the other supposed features of a hippy... My only addictions were for distance running, hard work and good, wholesome food. The sexual revolution passed me by (actually, I find it revolting). I was, and am, happily married to the one person. I often tell people I'm no good at getting married, having done it only once. I like hygiene regarding my own body, and that of any other person within smelling distance.

As for music, my preference is for Chopin, Beethoven, Bach and the like.

All the same, I have a great deal of admiration for a person who may well

ABOVE ALL, DO NO HARM

for every person in every circumstance. Insofar as my fallible abilities and

Just suppose that every person on planet Earth started living by the Hippocratic oath. Imagine: no murder or other forms of violence. No theft. No bullying, malicious gossip or taking advantage of the weaknesses of another. No more "caveat emptor," but strictly honest business dealings. No

This is a good guide for medicine. It is also a good guide for everyday life,

If we could do that right now, the whole of humanity would be able to work

In the early 1970s, the wonderful Ecologist magazine published a cartoon. A man had fallen off a skyscraper, and is just passing the halfway mark to the ground. He is saying, "So far so good!" Not wanting to violate copyright, my

together to lessen the impacts of the catastrophe that has already started,

friend Alfredo Zotti and I have borrowed the idea: he is falling off a cliff instead of a building. You have been scrolling past his passage down, down,

When does disaster start? Not at the SPLAT but at the OOPS. That is

Millions have already been killed by the cataclysm, for example:

search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq; • In unprecedented floods on the Indian subcontinent;

down. Only, now he is almost ready to go SPLAT. Determinedly not looking

In resource wars such as the conquest of Tibet by China and Bush's

• In unprecedented heat waves and fires in Russia, southern Australia

• Hurricanes/cyclones/typhoons of unprecedented fierceness, further

• By winters of unprecedented severity in Europe and North America

• By suicide and addictions, people's response to an unliveable lifestyle...

Lance Olsen on changing attitudes

Hippocrates, and he is considered to be the father of medicine. To this day, physicians and surgeons swear a Hippocratic Oath, which obliges them to a

have had the nickname of Hippy in his childhood. His full name was

So, no. I never was a hippy.

number of things, the most important being:

habits allow me, I follow it in everything.

amassing wealth at the expense of others.

although few people recognise it as yet.

down, he is still saying, "So far so good!"

and Texas;

Join me?

rewarding.

by combustion.

varied tests of theory.

lifestyles spiral out of control.

They include:

Lance

already history; it was already history in the 1970s.

from the equator than ever before;

and stress in the lifestyle;

That of course makes me unrealistically idealistic.

You can see the rest of it here: <a href="http://www.miller-mccune.com/environment/adding-people-to-the-">http://www.miller-mccune.com/environment/adding-people-to-the-</a> climate-change-equation-40816/ A few years back, when a reporter interviewed a variety of psychologists about public attitudes on climate change, one of them said something very much like "Of course psychologists can change attitudes. That's what we do." Well, hubris from one panting enthusiast aside, the behavioral/social sciences do have something to offer. But it's substantially in terms of explanatory concepts that can help others "make sense" of human attitude, perception, motivation, etc., including 7 of my favorites:

Terminal materialism Czikszentmihalyi, M. & Rochberg-Halton, E.

bible on the topic is McGuigans' 1970s text, Cognitive Psychophysiology.

recommend modest expectations for their capacity to effect change.

respond to Earth's changed radiation balance until they feel it on them.

outward, including nature, is limited to "fortunate" cases.

greater extent in a field that has been seen as a biophysical sciences playground.

address, "At this conference, the social sciences and humanities are taking center stage."

of some very good recent lit reviews banging around out there somewhere in journal land.

These and others could be fertile fields, if only for explanation of attitude and behavior. But I

**Top Tips for the Sustainability Journey** by Nancy Roberts

"sustainability wagon." The other day I ate some bacon, or drove when I could have walked, or bought something I didn't need that was made far away by workers who were not paid a living wage. What matters is not that you're not perfect, but that you keep trying. If you give in to temptation and have a banana split, just try again tomorrow. Just don't give up and eat a grilled cheese sandwich on top of the ice cream. • Get -- and stay -- inspired. Keep a journal, write yourself a memo, or find other ways to remind yourself that we have so much to appreciate on this brief, wild ride.

every day... and we can enjoy the journey. Happy Earth Year!

as we inquire about who they are we learn much about who we are.

inconsistently?"

http://www.care2.com/causes/top-tips-for-the-sustainability-journey.html#ixzz1tc7Z4UGK

Resources

The National Museum of Animals & Society by Marc Bekoff

A great place to explore and enrich our interrelationships with other animals.

"...animals are always the observed. The fact that they can observe us has lost all significance." (John Berger, About Looking, 1980)

Our relationships with other nonhuman animals (aka animals) move us all over the place. We love some, hate others, and are indifferent to a wide range of fascinating species. Animals intrigue and inspire us and

John Berger, a famous art critic, painter and author spent a good deal of time in his seminal work called

documentary, take a trip to a sanctuary in order to feel connected with them, and marvel at their amazing cognitive, emotional, and moral capacities. An important question on which many people often reflect is,

About Looking analyzing what it means to gaze at animals. We stare at them for hours in a nature

"Why do we engage with other animals in a myriad of ways, often highly contradictory and

neighbors to volunteering, are all that can make a difference.

actions that make a difference in the end.

dog park? What is happening in their hearts? How do we give animals their due and recognize that they too observe us and also hear and smell us, that they too are sentient, thoughtful, and emotional beings who share and engage in this world with us? There are many books, documentaries, and other venues that can help us answer these and many other questions that center on our relationships with other animals. The relatively new field of anthrozoology that is concerned with research on the nature of humans-animal interactions is gaining a good deal of momentum from researchers representing many different disciplines. What has been missing, but no longer is, is a museum that can also help us learn more about humananimal interactions. For the past year I've had the pleasure and honor of serving as an advisor to the

National Museum of Animals & Society (NMAS), based in Southern California. This museum is

dedicated to enriching the lives of people and animals through the exploration of our shared experience when we and other animals encounter one another. In their collections, exhibitions, programs, and educational efforts the museum centers on the full spectrum of human-animal studies (our relationships with, and perceptions of, other animals), the history of protecting animals by organizations as well as by

animals from cruelty and to challenge the ways in which we habitually think about and relate to other animals in the grand scheme of things. While sages such as Socrates and his contemporaries gave thought and energy to questions about the welfare of animals, it wasn't until the mid-1700s that the movement to protect animals gathered momentum. In fact, around this same period of time, there was much overlap among several social justice causes, such as those to abolish slavery, fight for women's suffrage, and advocate for the interests of children and laborers. Interestingly, these other organized efforts have been

and urgent action on climate change.

Humans have long grappled with the moral, legal, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of our interactions with, and representations of, nonhuman animals. This has included numerous debates about our responsibilities to companion animals as well to wildlife in crisis, the awe and revulsion experienced when witnessing animals in zoos and circuses and our feelings about how they are represented in literature, art, and film, and our inspiration as artists, writers, photographers, and audiences that awakens our best sensibilities about the lives of the many animals with whom we are active participants in different areas of society. All this is what NMAS calls "our shared experience." Historically, such experiences have motivated many people, at different points in time, to protect

widely represented and discussed in museums, but not that of animals -- until now. **Psychology for a Safe Climate** This group aims to focus on dealing with psychological responses to Climate Change: Contributing psychological understanding within the community to support and facilitate strong and urgent

action on climate change. **Our Objectives** 

environment, and this covers a very wide range of issues. However, in today's world, the negative effects of humans on the natural environment are, literally, a matter of life and death. This is not limited to climate change. There are also the greatest rate of plant and animal extinctions since the evolution of *homo* (arrogantly

depression, immune system disorders and so on. All of these maladies are symptoms of a disease: a very sick culture. Environmental psychology is the approach for studying the interactions causing this, and therefore the basis for doing something about it. I am far more busy than the average bear (or even the average psychologist), but this is why I have persevered with this newsletter. In the world we live in, really, every psychologist should be an environmental psychologist. And yet, our interest group is a small one, kept barely alive by a few

so-called) sapiens; resource depletion; increasingly chronic economic collapses; resource and emotion-based wars; the epidemics of cancer,

Environmental psychology is about the interactions of people with their

The editor's rave

May, 2012

so good! A.Zotti • By the epidemic of cancer and other diseases due to the combination of muck in the environment I could go on for several pages, but it is not too late to reduce the effects of cataclysm, to save something worthwhile. All we need is for as many people as possible to follow me as I follow Hippy. "...scientists from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds at the recent Planet Under Pressure Conference moved a step closer to creating a new, integrated entity to coordinate and advance research on global environmental change. A key aspect of the integration is including behavioral science to a much As David Willetts, Britain's Minister of State for Universities and Science, said in his closing-day

So far

Extinction burst Skinner, B.F. Lest anyone think that a behavior just disappears when it stops being Socal trap Platt, J. This one's a very good match for humanity's entrapment in a growth mode powered Social interest Adler, A. (See especially Ansbacher & Ansbacher) Caring beyond self and family, Peer pressure/pitfalls & advantages of group decison-making after decades of studies, there's certainty Stimulus-bound behavior/thinking important idea, in every day terms, living in the moment. My basic "resistance/inertia/procastination/ego defense" various, and lit reviews must be out there representing Intervention is often easier said than done. It ,like so much else, is effective only up to certain limits. After all, understanding how and why the tide comes in isn't enough to change it, and tides of human opinion can be just as hard to turn. Like lion-ambushed deer, many people won't, and many simply can't, Throughout this April Earth Month, Care2 cause bloggers have been tackling the myriad issues that make up sustainable living -- or a lack thereof. From deforestation to fracking, ocean pollution to the decline of bees, the challenges of living lightly on the earth are everywhere. Most of all, it is the pressure that those of us in the developed world often feel to keep consuming at all costs that is making our

To be truly effective, living sustainably goes beyond measures like avoiding plastic bottles, using less electricity, eating real food produced locally -- though all of those things are important -- to approaching everything that we do with a long-term, all-embracing, global view. Remembering that our actions matter because all beings are connected helps us to derive certain basic guidelines to a life sustainably lived. • Think globally, act locally. One trick to evaluating a green choice is to think of the consequences if everyone "did it like that." If six billion people were to eat meat 3 times a day, drive a car, and live in a large, single family home in the suburbs... where would we be? Out of planet, and pretty quickly. It is tempting to fall into the trap of thinking that my single actions don't make a difference, yet we see time and again that individual choices and acts, from signing petitions to talking to • Remember what matters. A recent article paints a moving picture of the top regrets of the dying, as gathered by a palliative care nurse. Few people regret not earning more money, buying more stuff, or having a fancier car; instead, the dying most often wish they had spent more time with loved ones or not worked so hard. Connecting to people and to nature are low-impact, high gratification • Be kind to yourself. Like going on a diet, it's important not to punish yourself if you fall off the • The Care2 community is a great resource of information and support to everyone who understands that that we're all in this together. We have the opportunity to make more sustainable decisions every day. If we mess up on one individual choice, there are lots more chances to make it up to ourselves and to the planet... for now. Living sustainably is a path that extends past Earth Day to

We also need to ask, "What about the animals who are staring back at us?" What is taking place behind the eyes and between the ears of a chimpanzee or a mouse in a laboratory, a deer or a bird darting through rush hour traffic, a wolf running from those who want to kill him, or two dogs romping here and there at a

everyday people, and the importance of humane education. NMAS is the first museum to take on this subject matter from the perspective that respects the lives of individual animals. Its subject matter is near and dear to the hearts and minds of millions of people and most likely dates back to our very first interactions with other animals.

• To contribute psychological understanding within the community to support and facilitate strong • A particular focus will be the psychological defense of denial.

• Throughout our work our intention and hope is that people will become free to act rather than react or withdraw in despair. Our strategies include:

movement in Melbourne for the last few years

- Contributing to understanding by writing papers and articles about the psychological response to climate change.
- Drawing on evidence and research on how attitudes and values can change with regard to climate change.

Libby Skeels (treasurer)

• Conducting action-research, such as the use of sociodrama and interviews. • Developing tools, such as games, that will engage people at an emotional level.

• Reflecting on and using our own emotional response to climate change.

**About Us** 

We are a group of psychologists and helping professionals working together to contribute psychological understanding within the community to support and facilitate strong and urgent action on climate change.

We are based in Melbourne, Australia. Our Co-ordinating Committee has the following members: Carol Ride (convenor) - a psychologist and couple psychotherapist, who has been involved in the climate

Rosemary Crettenden - a psychologist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Melbourne Sue Pratt Contact us

Contact@PsychologyforaSafeClimate.org. We welcome inquiries and new members.

Sue Pratt Member. Families for a Safe Climate. www.climatechange.org.au

Breaking down the stereotypes An American study on who uses solar electricity is a very good source of ammunition for breaking down resistance to sustainable energy.

The link is <a href="http://lbog.org/blog/infographic-9-surprising-things-about-people-who-go-solar/">http://lbog.org/blog/infographic-9-surprising-things-about-people-who-go-solar/</a>.

**Producing sustainable psychologists** 

Pittsburgh, Pennsilvania has a syllabus that trains students to be active on social and environmental issues.

A counselling (well, given it's American, counseling) psychology course at Chatham University,

While this is a small university, it has a proud history. For example, Rachel Carson is an alumna.

Mercury poisoning? http://blog.cleantechies.com/2012/04/19/debunking-energy-myths-2/

The course is described in an article in **Ecopsychology**.

you're closed, you tend to be more conservative.

alternative energy and related topics. It is well worth keeping track of. The link points to an illuminating article about the mercury content of compact fluorescents. There IS an urban myth that they are terribly dangerous. One person has told me in all seriousness that if one breaks in my house, I should put on breathing protection and take all sorts of other protective measures to stop myself being poisoned by the terrible mercury.

This blog presents scientifically validated information debunking various false statements about

Read the facts.

Can You Understand the Republican Brain?

by Mark Karlin Scientific American lauds author Chris Mooney "as one if the few journalists in the country who

specialize in the now dangerous intersection of science and politics." Having interviewed Mooney about his first book, the highly praised The Republican War on Science, Truthout/BuzzFlash interviews Mooney about his latest release, The Republican Brain: The Science of Why They Deny Science -- and Reality.

**EXCERPT** 

MK: How does the open personality as compared to the closed personality affect political outlook?

CM: The evidence here is pretty hard to escape. Across studies, even across countries, scoring high on "Openness to Experience" -- one of the big five personality traits -- strongly predicts political liberalism. Indeed, in a study I ran myself in the book, the liberalism-openness relationship popped up, just as it always does. So if you're not open -- which means open to trying new things, including new ideas -- if

liberalism and higher education, and between economic conservatism and having a higher income. So we're talking about an effect at least as significant as these factors -- education, income -- that everybody knows strongly affect ideology. See it all here.

> At U.N. Summit, A Coal Pile In the Ballroom **Charles Eisenstein**

This is a remarkably powerful, clear and cogent analysis of what is wrong with the world, why we are destroying ourselves. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand humanity's real place in our

I want to emphasize how powerful this finding is. In one study of over 14,000 people, the relationship

between liberalism and openness was as strong as, or stronger than, the relationship between social

world, the disastrous consequences of the assumptions of the pseudo-science of economics, and why the world monetary system is guaranteed to cause unhappiness. I spent the day last Monday at the United Nations by invitation of the Bhutanese government (along with about 600 other guests). The event was called "High Level Meeting on Well-being and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm." I thought, "It must not be very high-level if I am invited."

Nonetheless, there I was among 600 activists, economists, NGO workers, bankers, et al from around the world, listening to speeches by prime ministers and Nobel laureates. Except for the monks, I was the only

man not wearing a necktie. But that wasn't what disturbed me about the meeting.

Let me give you a bit of background. In 1972, the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, remarked that, instead of gross national product (GNP), the nation should strive for "gross national happiness" (GNH). I believe he meant merely to point out that GNP (or GDP, as is more commonly used today) is a poor indicator of a nation's well-being. The concept of gross national happiness had traction, though, and it wasn't long before psychologists and economists were trying to come up with metrics to put a number on the concept. Adding impetus to this effort was a growing awareness among social critics that GDP is a

very poor indicator of a people's well-being. In the United States, real per-capita GDP has risen three-fold since the 1950s, but people are not three times happier by any measure. If anything, they are less happy. **Goods and Growth** 

That GDP and happiness are poorly correlated actually presents a deep challenge to economic dogma. Economics associates GDP closely with "utility" -- that is, with "goodness." After all, you won't buy something with your hard-earned cash if it doesn't benefit you, right? If, for example, you decided to sacrifice some of your leisure time in order to buy a new car, that must mean the car will make you

happier than that extra hour of leisure every day. In a free market, two parties won't make an exchange if it is not to their mutual benefit. Therefore, say the economists, the more exchanges being made, the more total benefit is being had. That is why, in economics, it is those things that are exchanged for money -- and only those things -- that are called "goods." The fact that economists were at the podium questioning the equivalence of happiness and GDP is a

hopeful sign, a sign of a deep crack in the foundation of the economics discipline. But it is one thing to say there is more to happiness than economic growth; it is quite another to propose that economic growth is inimical to generalized happiness. None of the speakers advocated an end to growth -- that would be called, in the present vocabulary, economic stagnation or recession. Instead, they invoked, again and again, "sustainable development," a phrase I must have heard 30 times. The main message seemed to be, "Of course we will continue to have economic growth and sustainable development, but alongside it we

should adopt policies that foster the well-being that GDP doesn't measure."

the editor (journal@selfsustain.com)."

particular debate or point of view.

downloaded here.

publication.

Joe

reason.

the summer.

Dr J Zammit-Lucia

www.theintersectionist.com

**Disintegration of the Larsen Ice Shelf** 

1995-slideshow.html#ixzz1rGCRcR35.

Matterhorn and fall down its rocky slopes.

publication of the American Geophysical Union.

-- and two mills have exploded, killing and injuring workers.

you the opportunity to receive future updates.

But of course, the milder winters couldn't possibly have anything to do with us...

I received an email from you regarding Australian Paper's fibre sources.

in Victoria. Our latest update on these plans can be found here.

http://www.enn.com/top\_stories/article/44240.

linked to climate change.

shape of the mountain.

From Care2.com

Dear Bob,

their plans!

difference.

crucial campaign.

Kelly O'Shanassy

work to create a safer climate.

and the Team from Environment Victoria

pluses, is gradually gaining converts.

roofs.html#ixzz1sOEvXK6L

Payeng planted single-handedly.

That was the turning point of his life.

increasingly at risk from habitat loss elsewhere.

This post was originally published by <u>TreeHugger</u>.

enough.

recital hall in Sydney city.

livable, enjoyable and viable city."

he came to leave such an indelible mark on the landscape:

station shouldn't have been approved at all.

accessible, enjoyable, non-technical style.

Washington DC. His essay can be downloaded <u>here</u>.

(http://www.liebertpub.com/manuscript/ecopsychology/300/).

Read on. Call for papers Call for Papers -- Psychology and the Natural Environment: Insights from Australia and New Zealand

The Ecopsychology journal is proud to announce its first place-based call for papers: "Psychology and

Eco-Psychology approaches are welcome along with indigenous perspectives and contributions from the

Submissions are due by 31 May 2012 but Dr Thomas Doherty has emailed me that "the journal is willing to extend the deadline for promising proposals and invite those interested to note their interest to

For manuscript submission, see the Ecopsychology journal's Information for Authors page:

For questions, please contact the Ecopsychology journal: journal@selfsustain.com.

the Natural Environment: Insights from Australia and New Zealand." We are seeking submissions illustrative of theory, research and practice regarding environmentally focused psychology--broadly conceived--with a focus on the ecological and cultural contexts of Australia, New Zealand, and neighboring areas of the South Pacific. Writings from a range of Environmental, Conservation and

social sciences, healthcare, activism, and the humanities. Potential topics include psychological examinations of the role of nature, place, or other species in individual or cultural identity, including impacts and responses to extreme weather and climatic variations associated with the region. Topics may also include examples of environmental educational or behavior change programs, ecotherapy practices, and grass roots or government-sponsored efforts toward climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We are seeking Fresh ideas, Freshly presented. WOLFoundation - the Web of Life Foundation â€" is seeking submissions of essays to its annual competition that carries \$2,000 in prizes. (see www.wolfoundation.org) WOLFoundation is a non-profit organization aimed at encouraging fresh thinking and clear, accessible, enjoyable writing on subjects related to our environment. We are looking for ideas presented in a high

**WOLFoundation writing contest** 

quality, non-technical style. We welcome any opinion on environmental issues - be they for or against any

We are looking for clear, compelling writing in the English language showing original thinking and new ideas. We welcome any form of writing - essays, fiction short stories or any other form of prose written in

This year's winner was Jason M Brown from Utah Valley University and the winning essay can be

Second place Winner was Paul Wapner from the School of International Service, American University,

Submission Requirements: Manuscripts must be written in English, double spaced, no longer than 2,000 words and contain no abstract, list of references or footnotes. Images are allowed as part of the

manuscript. Manuscripts must not have been previously published nor have been submitted for

There are no fees or membership requirements for submission. Deadline for submission is September 30th. More details of the Foundation and the detailed guidelines can be found at www.wolfoundation.org. Thank you for considering submitting. I would be grateful if you could pass on to anyone who you think may be interested and apologies for cross-posting.

**Evidence** 

**Antarctica's Ice Shelf Shrinking** by Kristina Chew

One of Antarctica's ice shelves has shrunk by 85 percent in the past 17 years according to images taken

by the European Space Agency (ESA)'s Envisat satellite and scientists say that climate change is the

In 1995, the Larsen B ice shelf was 11,512 square kilometers (4,373 square miles), an area about the size of Qatar. Now it is only 1,670 sq km (634 square miles). Prof. Helmut Rott of the University of Innsbruck said that the satellite's images indeed "confirm the vulnerability of ice shelves to climatic warming and demonstrate the importance of ice shelves for the stability of glaciers upstream."

Ice shelves are thick masses of floating ice made from runoff from glaciers and are attached to the shore. They differ from ice sheets, which are vast masses of glacier ice that cover Antarctica. Ice shelves are highly sensitive to changes in the temperature and can be hollowed out from below by warmer ocean currents. Ice sheets seem to be stable so far; were they to melt, sea levels would rise and endanger coastal cities and small island states.

The Larsen ice shelf is a series of three ice shelves that run from north to south on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. The smallest shelf, A, disintegrated in 1995, says the ESA. C appears stable so far, but Envisat has revealed that it too is thinning and that "melt events" are occurring for longer periods in

From http://www.care2.com/causes/antarctic-ice-shelf-85-percent-smaller-since-

be air-lifted to safety in one of the largest rescue operations ever in the Alps.

need to be examined carefully should they rest atop one of these icy fissures.

The Matterhorn is coming apart by David Gabel The Matterhorn is the iconic peak of the Alpine mountains on the border of Switzerland and Italy. Its majestic spire soars over 14,600 feet in the air, making it quite a sight to behold. The glaciers at the top of the mountain have been receding due to the changing climate, causing an increase in glacial melt water.

The study was conducted by scientists from the University of Zurich who began to closely examine the mountain in 2007. Their investigation was kick-started by an event which occurred in July, 2003. At the time, there was a huge rock fall at the Hornligrat part of the mountain, trapping 50 climbers. They had to

According to a new study, the melting glaciers are causing large chunks of rock to be dislodged and tumble down the mountain. The deluge of water is penetrating cracks and fissures high up the mountain. The yearly freeze-thaw cycle causes these fissures to expand until entire boulders come loose of the

The Zurich researchers relied on sophisticated monitoring devices located in 17 key parts of the mountain. Their research has found an increasing frequency of rockfalls which they believe are directly

The problem of melting glaciers penetrating fissures is not a problem solely of the Matterhorn, but of the rest of the Alps as well. The study also suggests that the effects of global warming on mountain ranges are much greater than previously believed. It not only raises temperatures, but has the ability to alter the

Lead researcher, Stephan Gruber warns of the safety implications of this phenomenon. There are many ski resorts in the Alps which use gondolas to transport skiers up the mountains. The cable car structures

The University of Zurich study has been published in the Journal of Geophysical Research, a

Canada's forests -- and timber workers -- devastated by climate change

Beetles are killing these trees in the Canadian forests. Until recently, the damage was minimal because the bitter winters kept beetle numbers in control. Now, things are so bad that timber mills are forced to process large quantities of dead trees instead of milling green ones. This has resulted in far more sawdust

Success

Much has happened since then and I would like to briefly update you on these developments, and offer

Last year, after extensive consultation with our diverse range of stakeholders, Australian Paper announced our Future Fibre Strategy -- our plans for sourcing fibre over the next thirty years.

The majority of Australian Paper's fibre -- almost two thirds -- comes from plantations and recycled sources and our plan under the Future Fibre Strategy is to increase our fibre supply from both these areas. In particular, we have announced that we are conducting a Feasibility Study into a major Recycling Plant

This is a once-off email to people who contacted me about the Ethical Paper pledge. Your contact details have been only used to send this email, you will not receive any future updates unless you subscribe to the On Paper newsletter. Jim Henneberry Chief Executive Officer Australian Paper Dear Bob,

Just a quick note to give you some good news. Last year you supported our Emergency Appeal to stop

Part of Environment Victoria's campaign to stop this potential big polluter included our legal challenge against the Environmental Protection Agency's approval of HRL. As an indirect result of our arguments in this legal challenge, which we were able to take on because of your support, HRL have put the brakes on

It happened like this. The EPA had previously approved half (300MW) of HRL's proposal to build a 600MW dirty brown coal-fired power plant. Both Environment Victoria and HRL challenged the EPA's decision. HRL mounted a challenge for an approval of the entire 600MW and we argued that the power

Although HRL won their case, the arguments presented in our challenge led to some important restrictions being placed on HRL. VCAT imposed a condition requiring that HRL is only allowed to

commence development if another brown coal-fired power station has signed a contract to be closed under the federal government's Contracts for Closure program (the program is part of the carbon price package and a win that Environment Victoria single-handedly secured -- thanks to your support once again!)

This restriction by VCAT led to an announcement by HRL yesterday that they were stopping work on design and pre-construction activities related to the proposed coal-fired power station -- indefinitely.

Hearing this news that HRL is on ice and knowing that we're getting closer to Hazelwood being closed due to the campaign we undertook illustrates that if we work together as a team we can really make a big

But it's not over yet! HRL can proceed at any time if they choose to. We must stop this project from going ahead once and for all. We know that the next 10 weeks is critical in the lead up to the federal government's decision on HRL's funding. I'll be in touch soon to let you know the next steps in this

Now we can embark on this next chapter knowing that we are capable of driving great change to create a brighter future for the next generation. Thank you so much for your support of this campaign and our

> **Toronto First North American City to Require Green Roofs** by Cathryn Wellner

Toronto is making history. The first city in North American to require green roofs on new developments

Adopted in 2009, the bylaw required the environmentally friendly roofs on residential, commercial and

These include policy development, benefits of green roofs, bylaw language, and construction standards.

of a green roof like the one at the Toronto City Hall, coupled with utilities savings and environmental

http://www.care2.com/causes/toronto-first-north-american-city-to-require-green-

There was nobody to help me. Nobody was interested," says Payeng, now 47.

30 years. Had he been in any other country, he would have been made a hero."

Developers have not all embraced the new bylaw, citing increased costs. However, the marketing pluses

**Indian Man Single-Handedly Plants Entire Forest** by Stephen Messenger

A little over 30 years ago, a teenager named Jadav "Molai" Payeng began burying seeds along a barren sandbar near his birthplace in northern India's Assam region to grow a refuge for wildlife. Not long after, he decided to dedicate his life to this endeavor, so he moved to the site where he could work full-time creating a lush new forest ecosystem. Incredibly, the spot today hosts a sprawling 1,360 acre of jungle that

The Times of India recently caught up with Payeng in his remote forest lodge to learn more about how

It all started way back in 1979 when floods washed a large number of snakes ashore on the sandbar. One

day, after the waters had receded, Payeng, only 16 then, found the place dotted with the dead reptiles.

"The snakes died in the heat, without any tree cover. I sat down and wept over their lifeless forms. It was carnage. I alerted the forest department and asked them if they could grow trees there. They said nothing would grow there. Instead, they asked me to try growing bamboo. It was painful, but I did it.

While it's taken years for Payeng's remarkable dedication to planting to receive some well-deserved recognition internationally, it didn't take long for wildlife in the region to benefit from the manufactured forest. Demonstrating a keen understanding of ecological balance, Payeng even transplanted ants to his burgeoning ecosystem to bolster its natural harmony. Soon the shadeless sandbar was transformed into a self-functioning environment where a menagerie of creatures could dwell. The forest, called the Molai woods, now serves as a safe haven for numerous birds, deers, rhinos, tigers, and elephants -- species

Despite the conspicuousness of Payeng's project, Forestry officials in the region first learned of this new forest in 2008 -- and since then they've come to recognize his efforts as truly remarkable, but perhaps not

"We're amazed at Payeng," says Assistant Conservator of Forests, Gunin Saikia. "He has been at it for

**Fixing Sydney** by Mark England

The City of Sydney hosted a City Talks 2012 event on 30 April titled Poverty Amid Plenty, Exploring ideas for a more equitable and sustainable world. The talk was to a packed audience at the Angel Place

The talk began by ABC radio 702 breakfast presenter Adam Spencer calling for a "more useable,

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney spoke first. As she began to speak representatives from Occupy Sydney started shouting in slogans. They used a harmonic 'sing song' technique, effectively disrupting all proceedings. After coaxing by Adam Spencer the protesters became silent and the Lord Mayor continued speaking. Reference was made to Richard Wilkinson, who maintains that society creates problems by

HRL, the company wanting to build a new coal-fired power station for Victoria.

19/4/2012

institutional buildings starting in 2010. Now, with the addition of industrial developments, all new buildings with a minimum Gross Floor Area of 2,000 square meters will be required to devote 20-60 percent of Available Roof Space to vegetation. Aside from the pollution-scrubbing gift of rooftop parks, the greenery pays off in lower utility bills. Two American green roofs give an idea of potential savings. The Chicago City Hall installed a green roof in 2000 and now saves \$5,000 a year. New York's Con Edison Green Roof absorbs 30 percent of the rainwater that falls on it. It also reduces heat loss by 34 percent in winter and heat gain by 84 percent in summer. Thanks to the bylaw, Torontonians have access to an urban oasis on City Hall's podium roof. They can check out the gardens atop the YMCA of Greater Toronto. If they buy a unit in the Hugh Garner Housing Co-operative, they can enjoy the largest green roof in Canada. They can also visit other green roofs, such as those on ESRI Canada, Duca Financial Services, and Ryerson and York Universities. Other cities considering green roof bylaws will find a lot of helpful resources on Toronto's website.

moves into the third phase of its Green Roof Bylaw on April 30, 2012.

valuing growth above equality. It encourages people to spend more, save less and to be likely in debt. In the city of Sydney, a quarter of residents earn under \$250 per week while at the other end of the spectrum a quarter earn \$1,300 or more a week. One third own or are paying for their house while two-thirds rent. Australia wide, 40% of the workforce comprises casual workers, that is, 4 million workers. To help bring more equality and less debt into peoples' lives in the city of Sydney, the Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan aims to address the chronic shortage of affordable housing in the inner city. Its

life. He believes that the idea of infinite economic growth on a finite planet is ridiculous and that

Paul Gilding, who is formerly head of Greenpeace, and has spoken on the theme that *The Earth is Full* then spoke. Paul observed that it is unusual in human history that so many of us have such a quality of

continued economic growth is not going to happen. The only idea we have had for a long time is growth and yet as we have recently experienced, this economy is very brittle. "We buy stuff we don't need with money we haven't got through investments we don't like." What does make us happy is being connected

• Enough inequality to be motivated but not causing excessive conflict between the haves and the

"We are addicted to growth. We will only change when we are forced to as the system self-destructs.

Paul then spoke optimistically about the ability of humans to respond to this crisis and re-direct human effort so that we do continue to live on this finite planet earth. The major elements of change and effective transformation are in many respects psychological in nature. They concern fear and conflict, recognizing

The panel of speakers comprising Sam McClean (Get Up); Ben Waters; Rachel Botsman; Ross Gittins; and Marc Ahrens (participant, Occupy Sydney) in addition to those mentioned then spoke. There was general consensus that we cannot have a choice between the economy and the environment. We need both. As one speaker pointed out: "We need to move from keeping up with the Joneses to getting to know

underlying theme is to bring communities together via a village plan.

and helping others. He believes that we need:

• To recognize that there is life after shopping.

The apocalypse has happened but the end game is just beginning."

the fear and the need to change and taking appropriate action.

the Joneses if we are to improve on our wellbeing."

have not, and