



from Mudd, Stiles & the Heath Monitor Files...

SMARTPHONE ADDICTION?

How long can you go without checking email, or glancing at your smartphone? Clifford Nass, a psychology professor at Stanford University, says today's nonstop multitasking actually wastes more time than it saves—and he says there's evidence it may be killing our concentration and creativity too. NPR

<http://www.npr.org/2013/05/10/182861382/the-myth-of-multitasking>

MORE WIND...



DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa's largest energy company announced plans Wednesday to spend \$1.9 billion to install hundreds of wind turbines by the end of 2015, marking what the governor described as the largest economic development project in the state's history... The company wants to build 656 turbines, though the

locations have yet to be chosen.... MidAmerican began building wind turbines in 2004, and it currently has 1,267 wind turbines in Iowa.

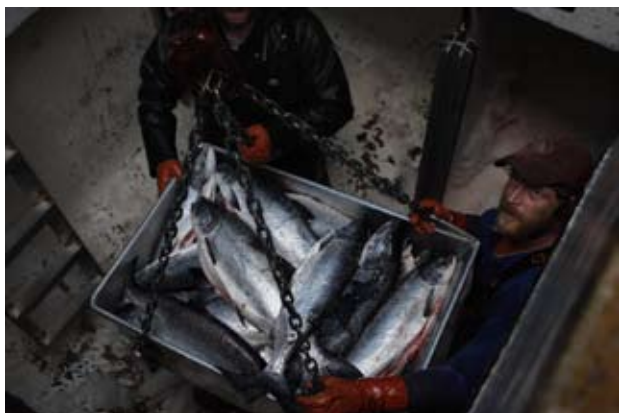
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/09/midamerican-energy-wind-projects-farm-turbines_n_3241205.html?ref=topbar

MERCURY RISING

Coal burning, gold mining, and other human activities release mercury into water bodies or the atmosphere, where it can travel great distances before settling back to Earth. Mercury contamination is ubiquitous and hotspots are common around the world, with fish and human hair collected in 14 countries regularly exceeding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, according to a BRI report released just before the Geneva negotiations. And while mercury emissions are declining in North America and Europe they are rising quickly in the developing world, according to the United Nations Environment Programme, the treaty coordinator.

Harmful levels of mercury have turned up in all sorts of animals, from fish and birds living around the world to pythons invading the Florida Everglades and polar bears roaming far from any sources of pollution. In recent years, biologists have been tracking mercury's footprints in unexpected habitats and species. Their research is illuminating the subtle effects of chronic exposure and is showing that ever-lower levels cause harm. Yale Environment 360

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/mercurys_silent_toll_on_the_worlds_wildlife/2617/



MMM...MMM... INFECTED SALMON!

"For the first time, Canada's food safety regulator is allowing Nova Scotia salmon infected with a flu-like virus to be processed for supermarkets and restaurants.

Last week the Canadian Food Inspection Agency declared fit for human consumption 240,000 Atlantic salmon with infectious salmon anemia — a disease it says poses no risk to human health. The ruling is the first time

the CFIA has opted not to destroy fish carrying the virus since it started regulating the fish farming industry in 2005. Because the U.S. won't import fish with the virus, the fresh whole salmon, fillets and steaks will have to find dinner plates to land on somewhere in Canada."

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/02/01/infected_salmon_declared_fit_for_human_consumption_by_canadian_food_inspection_agency.html

WHO MOVED MY FRACK?

The natural gas extraction technique known as fracking uses so much water that it could threaten groundwater resources, especially in the Western U.S., two new reports conclude.....The first report, from the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC), found that hydraulic fracking removes 7 billion gallons of water every year in just four states: North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. The organization blames inadequate federal and state-level protections for the use and/or contamination of fresh water. Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/09/fracking-water-use-draining-water_n_3239879.html?utm_hp_ref=mostpopular,energy



Wildlife That Isn't Wild And Isn't Alive

Bit by bit, bot by bot, robots are slipping into the real world. Yes, they are born in science labs, but more and more, they're joining us outdoors, up in the sky as drones or spy-

bots or swimming in the ocean. These newborns are built to cope with what's out there. They're tough. They have to be because outdoors isn't like an MIT lab; it's got gullies, streams, weather and Things That Get In Your Way, like, for example, trees. NPR (excerpt)

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/kruhwich/2013/05/08/182229047/wildlife-that-isn-t-wild-and-isn-t-alive>



DECLINE OF THE BEES

Despite getting fewer headlines in recent years, the population of U.S. honeybees has continued to plunge, with billions dying each year from a condition known as colony collapse disorder (CCD). The demise of the bees is

now raising greater concerns about the cost to the nation's food supply and the sustainability of the beekeeping industry itself. CNBC

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/100716771>

WE'VE SCREWED EARTH...LET'S SCREW MARS!

Huge numbers of people on Earth are keen to leave the planet forever and seek a new life homesteading on Mars. About 78,000 people have applied to become Red Planet colonists with the nonprofit organization Mars One since its application process opened on April 22, officials announced Tuesday. Mars One aims to land four people on the Red Planet in 2023 as the vanguard of a permanent colony, with more astronauts arriving every two years thereafter.

"With 78,000 applications in two weeks, this is turning out to be the most desired job in history," Mars One Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Bas Lansdorp said in a statement.

http://science.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/07/18108809-78000-apply-to-leave-earth-forever-to-live-on-mars?lite



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SEDONA, ARIZONA

ANNE SNOWDEN CROSMAN

