

PLANETARY OBSERVATIONS...

From Stiles & The Heath Monitor Files



GOODBYE PANDA?

There are almost 7 billion humans on Planet Earth now and 1.3 billion of them live in China. And within that crowded mass, only 1590 pandas still live wild and free. And while the panda is as much an icon to China as the bald eagle is to America or the kangaroo is to Australia, as Chinese industrial expansion continues to destroy or divide its habitat, the World Wildlife Fund believes the wild panda may be extinct within two or three generations. According to a report in Eco-Friendly:

“Fan Zhiyong, Species Program Director at WWF Beijing says that if some of the infrastructure construction is not stopped, conservation efforts face a 20-year setback. He explained that highways and hydropower stations are separating pandas from each other, increasing the risk of inbreeding. He also noted that local governments find it hard to resist the lure of 400 million yuan (\$58.8 million) in tax income from building hydropower stations, but that the tradeoff would mean losing the wild panda.”

And unlike their human counterparts, apparently, pandas do not have libidos that would ignite a population boom anytime soon, no matter how easily accessible other panda populations might be. But I’m sure future human generations will find a way to maintain the panda in zoos and animal parks and will never notice that the panda, like themselves are no longer free.

<http://ecoworldly.com/2009/08/17/chinas-iconic-panda-may-face-extinction-in-two-to-three-generations/>

KIWI NOT ARRESTED FOR ROASTING DOG...

It’s not IF you cook him...it’s HOW that matters.

The New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has expressed an opinion about a man from South Auckland who roasted and ate his dog at his backyard barbeque.

Paea Taufa skinned and gutted the animal and had half roasted man’s best friend when SPCA officials arrived on the scene. Mr. Taufa was shocked by the attention and insisted dog is a delicacy in his native land.

SPCA determined that Mr. Taufa had killed the animal humanely, however, and under NZ’s Animal Welfare Act, as long as the animal is killed painlessly, and had thus broken no law.

SPCA’s chief executive Garth Halliday said, however, that while the killing may have been legal, it was still “unacceptable.” While acknowledging cultural differences, Mr. Halliday hoped that roasting dogs was not becoming more popular.

CAMPING WITH A BUTLER...ECO-POSH

Words fail...here’s the link:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/17/AR2009081701621.html?wpisrc=newsletter&wpisrc=newsletter>

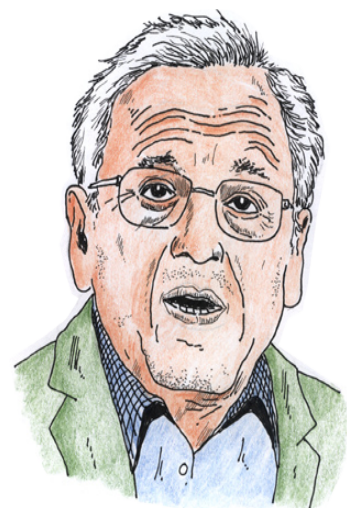


CANTEEN CHIC

I once lamented the demise of the canteen. In fact, a few years ago, I entered a popular sporting goods store in Grand Junction and asked the young clerk behind the counter where I might find one. He had never heard of a canteen before. I explained a canteen’s purpose and he said, “You mean a portable hydration system?”

But now it appears the canteen is not only making a comeback, but a chic return to boot. I recently discovered the website www.uscanteen.com

Be the first on your block to own an \$80 canteen and make a fashion statement as well.



HANSJORG WYSS.. 'BIO-ENGINEERING' THE PLANET?

Noted philanthropist Hansjorg Wyss has donated \$125 million to create “The Hansjorg Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.” According to news reports the institute “will attempt to discover the engineering principles nature uses to build living things, then use that information to create devices and technologies to meet medical needs.”

Does this sound a bit like “The Rise of the Machines?”

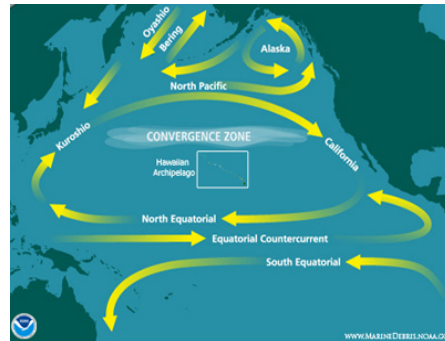
Wyss said, “Little did I dream when I began my career in engineering that we would reach a point where engineers and biologists would be using

nature’s templates to create solutions to our medical and environmental challenges.”

Maybe he can bio-engineer endangered species and even entire eco-systems that can withstand the ravages of climate change and ultimately even bio-engineer eco-tourists to visit the bio-engineered landscapes he saved, just before humans made themselves extinct!

The mind boggles at the possibilities!

Mr. Wyss is a major contributor to mainstream environmental organizations and is a board member of The Wilderness Society, the Grand Canyon Institute and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.



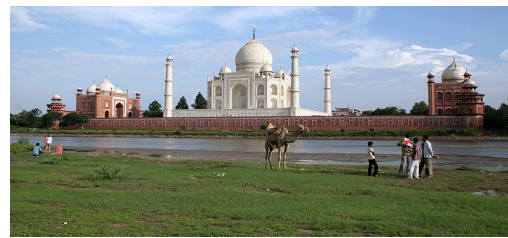
‘THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH’

Out of sight...out of mind? Almost.

For decades the plastic detritus of our society has been making its way to the sea. Now scientists from California’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography are on their way to “The Great Garbage Patch” in the northern Pacific Ocean. That area, called the “North Pacific Ocean Gyre,” has become the final resting place for billions of particles of

plastic, much of it microscopic in size. Except it’s not really at rest...the Gyre is a great swirling “convergence zone,” hundreds of miles wide where the plastic is trapped. While the plastic breaks into ever smaller pieces, plastic never returns to a natural state because there was never anything natural about it to begin with...it just gets smaller.

According to Scripps deputy director, Bob Knox, “The concern is what kind of impact those plastic bits are having on the small critters on the low end of the ocean food chain,”



TAJ MAHAL WORLD!

There is no man-made structure more majestic than the Taj Mahal, but apparently the iconic India landmark has lost its whatsee...Plan are under-way to surround the Taj Mahal with “ropewalks, a suspension bridge, cable cars and a Ferris wheel.”

Taja Mahal World!

Critics call the plan the “most insensitive imaginable.” But government officials in the state of Uttar Pradesh are moving forward anyway.

We wonder if you can twitter from there as well?

BEWARE!!! FACEBOOK BURGLARS!

Need another reason to be careful how you choose your Facebook “friends?”

Tyler Glass and Spencer Shivers were arrested and charged with five counts of burglary. Their modus operandi was brilliant. They simply sent Facebook “friend” requests or accessed “friends of friends” to obtain details about their personal lives and especially to determine who might be on vacation. It was brilliant while it lasted.



“GLAMPING”

...more bad news...too painful to repeat: But be sure to check out the battery-operated portable mosquito repellent device offered by Gander Mountain...more proof that we face the end of “civilization as we know it.” Or remember it...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/17/AR2009081701621.html?wpisrc=newsletter&wpisrc=newsletter>

AND NOW...

MUDD FINDS THE DIRT...from Ned Mudd

Christian Science Monitor: “The avian bird flu predictions in 2005 included estimates of millions dead. Worldwide, 282 people died.”

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0827/p02s04-usgn.html>

From the *Wall Street Journal*: One of the better rants against social networking on-line.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204660604574370450465849142.html>

This just in from *Newsweek*: “We are a culture of liars, to put it bluntly, with deceit so deeply ingrained in our psyches that we hardly even notice we’re engaging in it.”

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/213575>

What was that about flat population growth over the drink? Buckle up, UK, the press is on!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/6098326/Baby-boom-sees-UK-population-pass-61-million.html>

Hold the presses! As the New York Times reports, “.....teenagers fueled the early growth of social networks, today they account for 14 percent of MySpace’s users and only 9 percent of Facebook’s.”

It’s aging wonks that drive Twitter into tweetdom. “Use of social networking by people aged 35 to 54 grew 60 percent in the last year.”

As Brother Dave Gardner said, “Ain’t that weird?” (http://www.laugh.com/main_pages/comicpage.asp?cid=209)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/26/technology/internet/26twitter.html?_r=1&hp

Argentina’s Supreme Court, in a bid help its nation become the grooviest place in the Western Hemisphere, has ruled that herb is cool. According to sources at the BBC, the Court recently determined that “it is unconstitutional to punish people for using marijuana for personal consumption.”

Adding fuel to the fire, the Supremes explained: “Each adult is free to make lifestyle decisions without the intervention of the state.” What a relief!

When asked to comment, the American delegate to the International Forum on Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and Dope said, “America doesn’t abide by any Constitution, including our own.”

Traveljetsrusgreenflight.com has reported a 500% increase in air travel to Buenos Aires since the Court’s benevolent ruling.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8221599.stm>

Ahoy Generation W (Woodstockers): A new study from the White Lab Coat Guys indicates that “long-term pot smokers were roughly 62 percent less likely to develop head and neck cancers than people who did not smoke pot.”

Pass the bong!

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32566687/ns/health-cancer/ns/health-cancer/>

DALLAS - A spoonful of sugar? Americans are swallowing 22 teaspoons of sugar each day, and it’s time to cut way back, the American Heart Association says..... a national health survey has shown that kids ages 14 to 18 consume an eye-popping 34 teaspoons of added sugar a day. [MSNBC]

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32543288/ns/health-diet_and_nutrition/



NED MUDD

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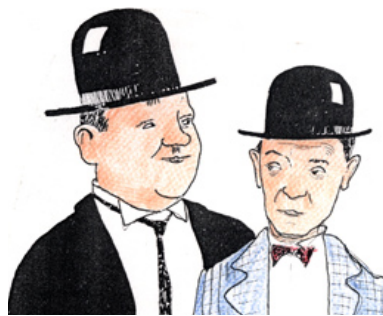
THE FOOTPRINTS Top 10 List

121 East 100 South...Moab, Utah 84532

Top 10 Ways to Reduce Healthcare Costs

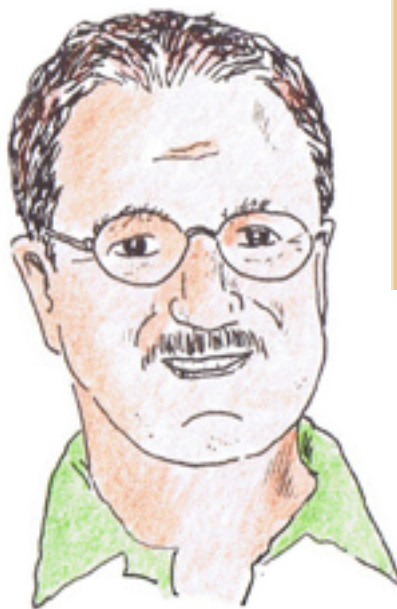
10. All prescriptions will cost less than \$10 - and will be placebos.
9. All surgeries must be approved by your neighbors - who also get to watch.
8. Buy Pez instead of drugs.
The government subsidizes sugar.
7. Ask your doctor how much the procedure will cost. Gasp, faint and fall off the exam table.
The doctor's insurance should handle the rest.
6. Drink yourself to wellness. (Actually, you just won't care about how sick you are.)
5. Acquire a disease that is so interesting that researchers will pay to treat you.
4. Buy the horse tablet version of your meds.
Buy a really big pill splitter.
(Not applicable for some birth control or suppositories.)
3. Change your name to Medicare.
2. Duct tape. Duct tape can fix anything.
1. Designate all citizens government employees.
(We already work for the government anyway.)

(Thanks to Tom Dillon!)



TELL THE NICE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT IS THEY DON'T JOIN 'THE BACKBONE' OR TAKE OUT AN AD, THIS SILLY CYBER-RAG MAY NOT EVEN SURVIVE...

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