

## WILL THE BIG DRY MAKE US WETTER?

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### FUNDING FOR FUTURES RESEARCH

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Could the global water crisis be the catalyst for a shift towards more futures thinking in public policy? Might the political dries, who have so long resisted worldviews other than economic rationalism, finally move out of denial under the pressure of physical reality? At last there are some signs that this is beginning to happen.

More than five million people die each year from water-related diseases. Three million of them are children under the age of five. Global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, twice the rate of population growth. A westerner uses as much water just flushing a toilet as someone in a traditional culture would use to wash, cook, clean and drink each day.

Imagine the reaction of future generations when they learn that people in our time actually washed their cars (their what?) with drinking water. Even sprayed it over the land. And that as late as the 21st century, toxins from cities, factories and farms were still being allowed to pollute fresh water supplies.

As the long-anticipated water crisis bites, perhaps it's not surprising to find that one early adopter of futures thinking in public policy has been Land & Water Australia, the government body charged with "providing national leadership, informing debate and inspiring innovative responses for natural resource management in Australia." And the good news is that they are not only asking what they need to know about factors directly affecting the physical environ-

ment, but are also working to identify key influences in the social and institutional environment.

Members of the Futures Foundation have taken part in recent workshops looking at the issues we will face in the next 5-50 years, and what we will need to know to avert big problems and seize opportunities. These workshops underscored the central importance of human worldviews and behaviours in any approach to environmental sustainability and natural resource management.

Projects in Land & Water Australia's current social and institutional research program are already addressing this area. They range from exploring the role of "citizens' juries" and other forms of public participation in policy-making, to assessing and managing burnout in people active in voluntary environmental management.

Alice Roughley, who coordinates the social and institutional research program for Land & Water Australia, has revealed in her own research the cultural gulf between non-political "dries" and "wets" -- the biophysical scientists and the social scientists in natural resource management. In a story that's all too familiar to futurists and other agents of change, she tells of the frustrations and isolation of the people who first tried to bring a human perspective to NRM.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, the agencies established to deal with resource depletion in Australia recognised that people were central to both



## EDITORIAL

**A**t first sight, our theme this issue is the growing crisis in water and the way it is affecting food, health, power generation and even migration as well as our daily lives.

But if we look beyond the physical factors, as Land & Water Australia is doing, we see that simply engaging with this (or any other) issue at the physical level will not resolve a problem that comes from a deeper level. For a start, we need to understand the social context and the role of humans in both the problem and possible solutions.

It is tempting to follow Inayatullah's Causal Layered Analysis process through the deeper levels of system, worldviews and the myths from which we derive our ideas of who we are (and how our relationships with water might be different).

But to me, the linking theme for this issue is human learning. Does it have to be so painful? Does it have to be so slow?

It is sad, for example, to read Alice Roughley's stories of pioneers in government agencies being marginalised and isolated for wanting to include social perspectives in resource management policy. How long did it take for them to be heard?

Julian Crawford reflects on his green learning journey, and Edward de Bono (see p8) adds his out-of-the-box view.

When it comes to war and peace, it seems we are also slow learners, though more and more people around the world have learned a lot about the cynicism of global leaders and the need for independent media.

Charles Brass considers the long, long human journey and what kind of vision might guide a journey of 1,000 years from now. And for light relief :-)) we look at how we might spend \$87 bn..... Enjoy!

**Jan Lee Martin**

## FUNDING FOR FUTURES RESEARCH

**Efforts to imagine and influence potential futures require smart intelligence gathering and active risk management, says Land and Water Australia. It wants to identify research issues that are important in preparing Australia for plausible futures, that are amenable to research, that are not targeted by other R&D programs, and may involve novel approaches. To help in this venture, the agency is looking for outstanding researchers to answer its futures research call. Its Futures Arena targets longer time frames (10-100 years), explores all landscape attributes and seeks quantum leaps in sustainability. "We want to improve the knowledge base to underpin long term sustainability of Australia's natural capital base and our rural landscapes," it says. For more information and how to apply visit [www.lwa.gov.au](http://www.lwa.gov.au).**

## THE BIG DRY (from p1)

degradation and to sustainable management. Tackling these problems required the assistance of social scientists as well as biophysical scientists," she wrote. "Yet over the past 25 years, Australian natural resource management agencies generally failed to bring social scientist pioneers into their ranks successfully."

Interviewing these early social scientists yielded stories of difficult careers amid the silos of the biophysical sciences, with the pioneers feeling isolated and frustrated: "[I] often chose to remain silent because in emphasising the human dimension in natural resource management, I started to sound like a one-trick pony".

Nonetheless it was the beginning of a slow journey from dry to wet, or perhaps optimally damp. And, says Dr Roughley, lessons from the experiences of those pioneers are useful for the future.

Details of Land & Water's social and institutional research program are available at [www.lwa.gov.au/sirp](http://www.lwa.gov.au/sirp).

## When is a good not a good?

**I**s access to water a fundamental right, or is water a saleable good? This is the central question addressed by authors Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke in *Blue Gold*, a book that details "the fight to stop the corporate theft of the world's water". They claim that Perrier, Evian, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and the big French water companies, Vivendi and Suez, are buying up rights to access public aquifers, then bottling and selling the water as brand-name products around the world.

Like other writers, they quote the example of Cochabamba in Bolivia, where the US water company Bechtel secured the rights to manage the water system of the town. To recoup its investment, Bechtel apparently increased the cost of water to the point that the poor could not afford to buy it. The riots that followed led to the departure of Bechtel and the return of the assets to the community.

These authors see the commodity view of water winning, with rulings by the World Trade Organization, the

International Monetary Fund and the World Bank treating water as an economic good. Like others (see next page), they are concerned for the poorer countries who cannot afford the capital costs of effective water management and have therefore invited private companies to run their water systems. Sometimes this involves ceding control of foreign interests, for whom, write Barlow and Clarke, maximising profit is the prime goal, rather than ensuring sustainability or equal access to water.

In another recent book, *Water Wars*, Diane Raines Ward also writes about global "drought, flood and folly". In a wide-ranging review, from the ruins of a 5,000-year-old dam in the Egyptian desert to contemporary mega-projects around the world, she contemplates humanity's relationship with water and is saddened by the way we destroy it. She argues that many of today's greatest victories are double-edged when it comes to water: that, as so often in human affairs, today's solution is tomorrow's problem.

# Who will provide water to poor countries?

**A**fter a number of social and financial disasters, private companies are no longer rushing to provide water to poor countries, writes John Vidal in the Guardian (UK). He wonders who will.

According to Vidal the public sector -- which still maintains 95 per cent of the world's water -- is considered by banks and governments to be inefficient, ineffective and incapable of handling large contracts. On the other hand, the private sector's record in more than 400 major contracts awarded in the 1990s has been scarred by bungles and bad deals.

"It has been accused of steamrolling poor countries into disadvantageous contracts, of expropriating profits, of raising prices far too much, of firing workers, profiteering, corruption, doing deals in secret, cherry-picking the most profitable contracts, and failing to fulfil its obligations to bring water to the poorest."

**"civil society is now an active force, and companies are not nearly as confident of making profits"**

As in Australia, (see p1) there are lessons to be learned from a painful journey. One of the world's largest water companies, Suez, has admitted that in the early days of privatisation, it did take advantage of poor countries. Now it has withdrawn from ventures in developing countries, and two other large European water companies have indicated that they, too, have increasing reservations about investing in water in these areas. According to Gerard Payen, a vice-president of Suez: "We now agree that water is a public asset and should not be appropriated by the private sector. Water is a public service and that belongs to everyone. All people should have the right to water, but we need to transform that right into a reality."

Dozens of cities now regret that they privatised their water too hastily in the 1990s, says Vidal, "but in the past few years the attitudes of governments and companies have changed. The World Bank, the European Union and governments such as Britain's may have pressed to get developing countries to privatise their water systems for the benefit of their own companies, but **civil society is now an active force, and companies are not nearly as confident of making profits.**"

John Vidal's stories on the topic can be found via [google \(john vidal+water+poor countries\)](#).

## Where Tampa is not a bad word...

America's first major water desalination plant, at Tampa, Florida, is expected to produce 25 million gallons of drinking water a day, or ten per cent of the needs of three county areas. The water will sell at \$1.88 per thousand gallons, compared with \$1.50 to \$1.75 for water from traditional sources, which the company says will be the world's cheapest desalinated water. As advances in technology reduce costs, other states are seeking funding to build coastal desalination plants, while some inland cities want subsidies to allow them to treat brackish groundwater.

Worldwide, more than 13,500 desalination plants are already operating, with private companies actively seeking opportunities in the most promising markets, including Asia. Chief executive of Vivendi Environment, Henri Proglio, has reported that the company's Asian sales doubled last year to 600 million euros and that growth was set to continue. While China is the biggest emerging market, the Asian Development Bank expects half the region's population to be living in cities by 2020, with 80 per cent of the wealth generated in urban areas. This increasingly wealthy urban population is driving demand for clean water and sanitation.

## SAUDIS TOLD TO LEAVE

Saudi Arabia, and particularly its capital, Riyadh, already faces a serious drinking water shortage and Saudis are being urged to emigrate as one solution to the problem.

"Within a few years we won't have a single drop of drinking water left, and we'll have to rely entirely on our desalination plants," said Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a Unesco special representative on water issues.

"This is already largely the case, even though there are still some artesian wells in the centre of the kingdom. The trouble is that the cost of building desalination plants, as well as their maintenance, is extremely high, not to speak of the risks they run. Imagine what would happen if an oil tanker had an accident or exploded, and oil got into the plants.

"The minister for water, Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, has already sounded the alarm. I would add, for my part, that we should seriously think of emigration as a solution, otherwise our children and grandchildren won't have any water to drink."

This year's sizzling summer put France's river systems at risk after regulations on the operation of nuclear stations were relaxed. The plants were granted permission to pump their cooling water into rivers at a higher temperature than usual. Some rivers were so low that several reactors stopped working and others operated at much reduced capacity. Nuclear power stations generate about 75% of France's electricity.

## Blueprint for a national water plan

**T**he Wentworth Group, an alliance of "concerned scientists", has published a 13-point plan for managing the health of Australia's rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater systems. It calls for:

- a "guaranteed first priority call" on water for our rivers
- a set of public water accounts to be kept for each river valley and groundwater system
- bringing these systems into balance, with financial assistance to ensure nobody is unfairly affected
- securing the return of an extra 100GL a year to the River Murray and reviewing progress regularly until the river's health is restored
- public funding to secure additional environmental flows and improve management in all stressed river and groundwater systems
- water users who benefit from reform to contribute to river health
- a national system with funding to identify and protect Heritage and Conservation rivers
- a review of information gaps and research needs for improving catchment management and water use
- a nationally consistent system of water entitlement, licensing and trading framework
- all major water catchments to have properly resourced, statutory, community-based catchment management authorities by 2005
- Environmental Water Trusts to acquire and deliver water in all stressed river and groundwater systems
- A River Murray Environment Water Trust to be established immediately
- Australia's cities to commit to reducing fresh water use through greater efficiency and recycling.

## Walking the talk

**S**ustainability consultant Julian Crawford lays himself on the line in a recent issue of the EcoSTEPS netletter, highlighting the gaps between understanding the significance of finite natural resources, and changing behaviours accordingly.

"I was at secondary school in 1972 when Limits to Growth was released. We studied it in Biology. I understood the arguments and pretty much accepted them. I did not change my personal behaviour one iota.

"Thirty years later and the evidence is ever more compelling. On almost every conceivable biophysical indicator, on a global scale, we are stuffing up the world. I'm partially responsible. I know I am. Tools such as ecological footprint and The Natural Step tell me so.

"The good news is that my own impact is changing and starting to reduce - albeit slowly and slightly. Modest changes to behaviours and purchasing decisions will, over time, have a cumulative impact. But the biggest impact so far has been inside my head. My attitude has changed.

"I think differently about the issues now.... in working with organisations around sustainability issues, we have learned to frame our approach in terms of the WIIFM (What's in it for me?): "How do I make better widgets, cheaper, faster and more profitably?" We need to be able to recognise and influence the fundamental business drivers that underpin any organisational changes towards sustainability. This approach has given us further insights about the personal and organisational barriers that we individually and collectively face. In turn, this has led to our current focus: "What are the decision making processes that control the allocation of scarce resources?"

My personal impact on this sustainability agenda has been globally inconsequential - but personally compelling.

Note: Julian Crawford's ecological footprint is 81 percent of the average American footprint (as at 19 June 2003) - That means he only needs about five worlds to support him in his present consumptive lifestyle. In other words, he's living off the Earth's renewable bounty for 20% of his needs - the other 80% is coming from irreplaceable natural capital... You can work out your footprint at [www.RedefiningProgress.org/ecologicalfootprint](http://www.RedefiningProgress.org/ecologicalfootprint).

Every Australian creates one tonne of rubbish each year, making us the second largest waste creator after the US says the Australian Bureau of Statistics. You can rate your own quarterly usage at [smh.com.au](http://smh.com.au).

# Visioning Humanity 3000

## Do we have reason to live for another 1,000 years?

What does it mean for humanity to strive for something? And how big a vision does it need to have in order to sustain it during the next 1,000 years? Charles Brass, chair of the Futures Foundation, asked himself these two questions in a second paper for the Seattle seminar hosted by the Foundation for the Future this year - and made a start on answering them. He also speculated on the sort of vision which might in fact motivate an entire species.

The premise of this paper is that a conscious attempt at designing humanity's future is both necessary and possible, and that a viable vision is a fundamental precursor to such a design.

What then might comprise such a vision?

Historically religions and monarchs have had a near monopoly over the development of visions designed to inspire large aggregations of people (though philosophers and modern industrial economists have made valiant attempts).

Religious visions, with their implications of divine (or at least ex-human) inspiration have typically outlasted their human created cohorts, but neither are proving particularly attractive in the twenty-first century.

Arguably the most universal human vision has been emerging for the 500 years since Copernicus and Newton revealed our true place in the universe, and is perhaps epitomized by the images of earth from space taken by Apollo astronauts.

This vision has various names and manifestations, including the notion of earth as a holistic system or entity in its own right (the Gaia hypothesis), and is an attempt to identify the true place of homo sapiens on the earth and in the universe.

Its adherents would ascribe a special (for all we know unique) responsibility to homo sapiens because of our capacity to be self-aware.

The primary impediment to the actual exercise of any collective human self-awareness based on such a responsibility has been individual self-awareness (something being raised to near God-like status over the past hundred years in the Western world at least); though the emergence of collaborative action in time of crisis suggests collective self-awareness is not yet deceased.

Which is a good thing, since it seems to me that any viable vision for humanity's future must arise out of collective self-awareness.

My interest here, then, is to explore what might sustain collective self-awareness for sufficiently long for a coherent global vision to emerge.

Obviously one answer is a crisis. And not just any crisis. Most earth-bound crises are too localized to cause sustained changes in attitude or behaviour. And those that aren't localized are likely to be so traumatic that immediate survival becomes an overwhelming priority. The ideal crisis would be one which didn't actually occur until 3000, but was sufficiently compelling to require awareness for the next thousand years.

Crises might cause an increase both in collective awareness and in the creation of future visions. However, I would prefer to believe that the same result could be achieved without a crisis. And there is some evidence that this might be possible.

Some anthropologists believe that homo sapiens' ancestors had a greater capacity for, and reliance on, collective awareness. If this is the case, then perhaps this is a latent trait still wired into us, but hardly used.

If, as I believe, we are reaching the zenith of our focus on the importance of individual awareness then perhaps a re-connection with collective awareness is not so far away.

Collective awareness is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the emergence of a global vision for humanity. It is entirely possible to be aware in the moment and uninterested (or at least disinterested) in the future.

A certain arrogance must also be present. A sense that one can in fact make a difference through one's conscious intentions.

At the individual level such arrogance is clearly present today (it might even be said to be determining the direction and outlook of entire nations).

In the absence of a crisis which causes humanity to regress, I argue, the necessary arrogance is likely to survive a shift from individual to collective awareness. Hence, our re-connection with collective awareness will include our memory of the impact our individual actions had on the world.

My final thesis, therefore, is that a viable vision for humanity in the year 3000 is only capable of emerging from a powerfully collective self-awareness; and that once this condition prevails (as it will) the emergence of such a vision is inevitable.

# Other Things You Might Do With \$87 bn

Some suggestions from Russell Mokhiber, Robert Weissman and Jeffrey D. Sachs

You can actually get a few things done with \$87 billion, the amount that President Bush has asked Congress to appropriate for expenditures related to the military occupation and reconstruction of Iraq. For example:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN bodies estimate the cost of providing treatment and prevention services in developing countries for tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria at \$12 billion a year. The WHO ... estimated that donor investment of \$27 billion a year, including expenditures on TB, AIDS and malaria, as well as to eliminate death and suffering from other infectious diseases and nutritional deficiencies, could save 8 million lives a year. That's eight million lives. A year.

The UN Development Program estimated in 1998 that the annual additional cost of achieving basic education for all was \$6 billion.

Prefer to spend some or all of the money at home? Even in the United States, where the dollar doesn't go as far, \$87 billion can perform some pretty impressive feats.....

We accept that having imposed devastating economic sanctions on Iraq for a decade and twice waged war on the country, the United States has a major obligation to support reconstruction in Iraq. But three-quarters of the president's request is for military expenses, not reconstruction, the request follows a previous \$79 billion appropriation, additional requests are certain to follow, and much of the money being spent on reconstruction is being funneled as poorly scrutinized corporate welfare to Bush and Vice President Cheney's buddies at companies like Halliburton and Bechtel....

A strange circumstance has evolved in the United States. Military expenditures can be justified at almost any level. ("Whatever it takes to defend freedom.") Politicians don't say, "Whatever it takes to make sure every child in this country has a decent education." Or, "Whatever it takes to deal with the worst health pandemic in the history of the world (HIV/AIDS)." When it comes to the military, there is neither a sense of proportion, nor of trade offs.

This state of affairs is a tribute to the military contractors and political leaders who have ridden to power by instilling fear in the populace. It can be traced in no small part to campaign contributions and lobbyist influence, but the problem runs much deeper than that. Fear has penetrated deep into the culture.

But the administration's overreach in Iraq now offers an opportunity to create a new sense of priorities. It is now even more apparent than it was before the war that Iraq posed no security threat to the United States. And the sums of money requested by the administration -- and more will be coming -- are so extraordinary that they practically demand consideration of alternative expenditures.

After all, you really can do quite a bit with \$87 billion.

**Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman are co-authors of 'Corporate Predators: The Hunt for MegaProfits and the Attack on Democracy'**  
[www.CommonDreams.org](http://www.CommonDreams.org) Thursday, September 11, 2003

The world is out of kilter when President Bush asks for \$87 bn for Iraq and only \$200 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The administration ... is ready to pump tens of billions of dollars into a middle-income oil-rich country of 24 million people, while utterly neglecting 500 million impoverished Africans, 10 million of whom will actually die this year of extreme poverty, too poor to buy the drugs, bed nets, fertilizers, tube wells, and other basic contrivances that could keep them alive....

We are told that the Iraq War was an act of compassion and liberation, when in fact the Bush administration is without compassion for those who most need it.... Why would a US government that overlooks suffering around the world and poverty at home be ready to invest \$150 billion in Iraq over the course of two years? The argument that the war was about an imminent risk from Iraq has been thoroughly trashed. The war had

**"The US annual contributions to fight malaria are less than the costs of one day's occupation... as a result, 3 million Africans will die needlessly..."**

nothing to do with any immediate threats from Saddam Hussein, and the intelligence agencies knew that last fall.... The war was about oil, specifically about a long-standing and simplistic US vision about the need to militarize the Persian Gulf in order to ensure the steady flow of petroleum.

Since the 1950s the United States, often with the partnership of the United Kingdom, has put the highest national priority on securing alliances and military bases in the Persian Gulf, changing partners as one situation after another has soured.... The repeated outcome of this policy, however, has been "blowback." America's long-standing record of putting oil before the interests or voice of the region's people has created a deep reservoir of ill will, suspicion, and unrest....

Nine months ago, Bush spoke movingly about the tragedy of millions of people with AIDS turned away from African hospitals, because they were too poor to afford the drugs. During those nine months another two million or so Africans died, and the US accomplished absolutely nothing to change the situation. The president's much vaunted \$15 billion five-year program for AIDS is on paper only. This year Bush asked for only \$200 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, a sum equal to 1.5 days of spending on the US occupying forces in Iraq. The US annual contributions to fight malaria are less than the costs of one day's occupation, and as a result, 3 million Africans will die needlessly from that preventable and treatable disease.

But who is talking about \$87 billion for the 30 million Africans dying from the effects of HIV/AIDS, or the children dying of malaria, or the 15 million AIDS orphans, or the dispossessed of Liberia and Sierra Leone, or the impoverished children of America without medical insurance?

True security in the world will not be bought by US hegemony. The world will not tolerate unilateral control by a country that accounts for less than 5 percent of humanity. **Jeffrey D. Sachs is a professor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. This article appeared in the Boston Globe on 13 September 2003**

# The Butterfly Effect in Global Politics

**B**ack in the early eighties, IBM decided that there might after all be a market for personal computers. They had decided the market would be too small, but the rapid growth of Apple, Atari, Commodore, and other manufacturers changed their mind. But before they could produce their own PC, they needed a new disk operating system. They decided to hire a small company with some experience in this area to write the software for them.

An owner of the company, a Mr Bill Gates, met the IBM executive in charge of the software to make a deal. He wanted a royalty on every disk operating system (DOS) sold. IBM still took the line that PCs would never be a really big market, and calculated that this was a fair deal. For reasons we may never know, perhaps he had not had a good night's sleep, or had had one too many cups of coffee that morning, the executive failed to think "just supposing, against all odds, the PC takes off and sells millions upon millions. Will this still be a good deal?" It did take off. Bill Gates became the richest man on the planet, and Microsoft came to dominate the software industry worldwide. The world might be a very different place if the mental butterfly that flitted through that executive's mind had not caused him to miss the weakness in the deal....

Back in 2000, Theresa LePore had the idea to enlarge the typeface on the ballot paper she was designing for Palm Beach voters in the US Presidential election, thinking it would make it easier to read. Whether she had not had a good night's sleep, or had had one too many cups of coffee that morning, we may never know, but she did not notice that the new design, which now became two pages instead of one (and as a result was most aptly named "the butterfly ballot") could confuse voters about which button to press to register their vote.

As a result 19,120 voters punched holes for both Pat Buchanan and Al Gore, and their ballots had to be thrown out. Another 3,407 people appeared to vote for Pat Buchanan, which he himself found most surprising, expecting only a couple of hundred votes. The net result of Ms LePore's oversight was that approximately 22,000 votes destined for Al Gore did not get counted. Had they been counted, Florida would have fallen to Gore, and he would have become the next US President.

Instead, the election for the whole US was now undecidable, and eventually the Supreme Court settled the matter by selecting George W Bush to be President....

The world might be a very different place if the mental butterfly that flitted through Ms Lepore's consciousness had not caused her to miss the problem with her new design.

[www.peterussell.com](http://www.peterussell.com)

# Spinning September 11 into a Useful Political Ploy by Ellen Goodman

**T**here are dates that simply won't stay put. They leap off the calendar like a headline in the agate type of time. Dec. 7, 1941, is like that. So is Nov. 22, 1963. And of course, Sept. 11, 2001....

Last year, on the first anniversary, when 9/11 ran 24/7, I thought the media had turned a disaster into an industry. I worried that our emotions had been marketed into movies and books and T-shirts. Now, on the second anniversary, I am watching politicians take Sept. 11 out for a spin.

The day, with its emotional scars and lessons, is being manipulated, handcuffed to the "war on terrorism." Nearly every battle, every action, every foreign policy, every call to follow the leader, is justified — no, sanctified — in the name of Sept. 11.

Sunday night, we saw a sober president admitting that the scenario of swift victory in Iraq was far too rosy. This was no flight deck photo op. The "Mission Accomplished" speech of May has become the "Mission Prolonged" speech of September — with an \$87 billion price tag.

But repeatedly, deliberately, the president connected the dots between Sept. 11 and the war in Iraq. Since "those deadly attacks on our country," he said, "we have carried the fight to the enemy." "For America," he said, "there will be no going back to the era before Sept. 11 — to false comfort in a dangerous world." And finally, he told Americans that we are fighting the enemy today, "so that we do not meet him again on our own streets in our own cities."

The trouble is that the dots he connected are cartoon bubbles drawn by the White House and its speechmakers.

Nevertheless, Americans have followed them. A Washington Post poll recently showed that 69 percent of Americans still believe it's likely or very likely Saddam Hussein was involved in Sept. 11. ...

When does the small, repeated exploitation of this belief become the big lie? What do we make of a patriotism of fear? ...

So this is how we commemorate Sept. 11, 2003. The pre-emptive, preventive war with Iraq has not made us safer. North Korea and Iran lurk in the nuclear imagination. Patriotism is calibrated by a willingness to follow the dots of propaganda.

On the calendar a sacred space has become a sacrilege. The White House has sent Sept. 11 spinning.

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# Signals in the noise

## Hawks v. doves

Colin Tudge, author of the forthcoming book, *So Shall We Reap*, discusses modern evolutionary theory and reaches the "inescapable conclusion" that natural selection ought to favour behaviour that keeps others happy.

However, game theory queers the pitch. He describes the fascinating idea of cyclical change described by Maynard and others as "hawks and doves" (hawks coming to dominate dove societies until attacked by other hawks).

*Review* 15 August 2003 1150

## Fruits of the forest

When the loggers come calling in the Amazon rainforest, the lure of quick cash can prove disastrous for the local people. But a groundbreaking botany book could change all that: Patricia Shanley, a British ethnobotanist, has turned her research findings into a picturebook that tells local people how to get a good return on their trees. The book has been a big success.

*New Scientist* 19 July 2003 1151

## Positive and negative peace

There are no simple solutions to the problems of war, write David Barash and Charles Webel in *Peace and Conflict Studies*. They argue that "most aspects of the war-peace dilemma are complex, interconnected, and poorly understood", and distinguish between negative peace (prevention of war by diplomacy, disarmament, arms control, etc.) and positive peace (human rights, ecological wellbeing, nonviolence and personal transformation).

*Future Survey* 3 May 2003 1152

## 1000 acts of kindness: it's no joke

A Christian, a Muslim and a Jew went to a Sydney school one day. But in this story, they did it to combat prejudice and inspire children to change the world through acts of kindness. Now 100 schools want the three young men to visit, and children from the first, Epping Public School, are helping out. These children come from 35 different language groups, 63% from non-English speaking backgrounds. The 100 children of years 5 and 6 come from 23 different countries. After starting out to create their own 1000 acts of kindness, they are now seeking 1 million across NSW.

*Sydney Morning Herald* 20 August 2003 1153

## Outside the square

Every creative idea is logical in hindsight, Edward de Bono told Sydney accountants at a luncheon in Sydney. He said humans tend to focus on their objective rather than how to go about achieving it. We are comfortable moving from certainty to certainty, but this prevents us from seeing what is beyond or outside that 'certain' path, Dr de Bono says.

*CA Local News (Charter)* September 2003 1154

## Good corporate citizens outperform the bad

Investments in companies seen as good corporate citizens perform better than in irresponsible companies, according to a survey of 204 companies by consultancy Integrative Strategies. One of Australia's biggest super funds seems to agree. After its own research showed 90% of companies in the S&P/ASX 200 Index do not provide environmental information in their disclosures the combined Public Sector (PSS/CSS) fund and Catholic Superannuation Fund (CSF) has said it is "surprised that the investment community has not done more to ensure dialogue on this important matter".

*Australian Financial Review* 21 July, 2 September 2003 1155

## Spotlight on remuneration

News that the New York Stock Exchange Chairman received \$140 million in deferred pay, bonuses, and retirement benefits continues to provoke outrage and scrutiny, reports *Corporate Reform Weekly*. A study by Bloomberg News found average annual pay for CEOs of companies with revenue of \$5 billion or more was \$12 million a year in 2000-02. Mercer Human Resource Consulting predicts director compensation will rise 15% this year after a 10% rise last year. And Pearl Meyer & Partners predicts that board pay will rise 20% this year and 50% over the next few years.

<http://www.citizenworks.org> September 2003 1156

## Opportunity for UN reforms

The Iraq debacle provides an opportunity for long sought reforms for the UN, writes futurist Hazel Henderson. "The breakdown in the Security Council over the US war on Iraq illustrated its obsolete aspects... The Council needs to dispense finally with the veto - a relic nod to the winners of World War II. Funding ... need no longer rely only on dues from its member countries." The US still owes the UN over \$500 million in back dues. "This shows that new, more reliable sources of funds are needed." The UN's annual budget is a tiny \$1.25 bn (one quarter of New York City's) and other sources have been proposed.

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