



Positive News

from around the world

Monday, 13th December, 2004.

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• World Future Council Launched

An unprecedented initiative to set up a Council to speak for the future of the world has been launched in London. Supported by influential individuals, organisations and parliamentarians from around the globe, the World Future Council is designed to act as a voice for our shared global values and for future generations. Founder President, Jakob von Uexkull, says, "We may decide to trust the authors of our current human story or we can begin to write the new story of the world as a family, not a business opportunity."



• Yusuf Islam 'Man of Peace'

Singer songwriter, Yusuf Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, has received the 'Man for Peace' Award 2004 from Nobel Peace Prize Laureates at a ceremony in Rome. The award cites 'his dedication to the promotion of peace, the reconciliation of peoples and his condemnation of terrorism'. Yusuf Islam was recently denied entrance to the United States.



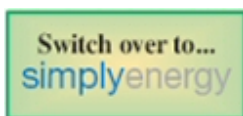
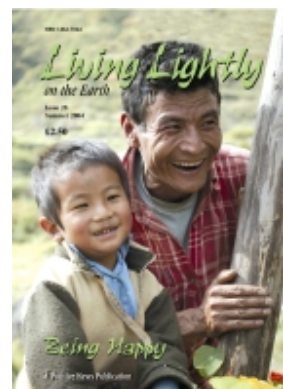
• Sorry Everybody

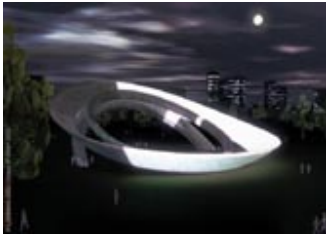
Thousands of Americans, mortified at the results of the American presidential elections, have posted personalised apologies on the web. Sorry Everybody! goes out to the citizens of the world saying: "As our leaders redouble their efforts to deceive you, please remember that some of us are truly, truly sorry. And we'll say we are sorry, even on behalf of those who aren't!"



• Watch Out for 'The Corporation'

'The Corporation', recently released in UK cinemas, is a thrilling psychoanalytic examination of contemporary corporate business strategy. The film by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott, and Joel Bakan, pictured left, features Michael Moore, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein and Vandana Shiva.





- **Tidal-Powered Moon Clock**

A huge tidal-powered Moon Clock which lights up to show the movements of the moon and the sea could become a breathtaking, internationally-recognised waterside landmark. Designer, Laura Williams, hopes the design's cutting-edge technology will remind people that the Earth is governed by ancient natural rhythms.



- **Calling for a GM-Free Sustainable World**

A group of independent scientists, together with politicians and farm leaders, have called on the European Commission to abandon its drive for GM crops and redirect its energies to non-GM sustainable agriculture. Briefing MEPs, Dr Mae-Wan Ho said the tide of scientific evidence was turning against GM technology.



- **Nobel Prize for Wangari Maathai**

Wangari Maathai has become the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Best known as the founder of the Green Belt Movement, which inspired Kenyan women to plant 30 million trees, Wangari was elected to Parliament last year and is now a Minister of Environment.



- **Bianca Jagger wins Right Livelihood Award**

Bianca Jagger has been awarded the 2004 Right Livelihood Award. She shares the £150,000 cash Award with Argentinian scientist Raúl Montenegro and a Russian organisation, Memorial. This year's Awards, widely known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, highlight Human, Social, and Environmental Rights worldwide.



- **Unlimited New Energy from Sun and Water**

A revolutionary new way of harnessing the power of the sun to extract almost unlimited energy from water will be a reality within seven years. "It would be the cheapest, cleanest and most abundant energy source ever developed," say scientists from Australia's University of New South Wales. "The main by-products would be oxygen and water."



- **Running on Sunshine**

Simon Roberts is running his car on sunshine! The photovoltaic panels on the roof of his house in London, supply 80 per cent of the fuel for his Peugeot 106. With his own kerbside electric car charger, he's now enjoying emission free, silent motoring.



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Aluna: A Tidal Powered Moon Clock

An unique proposal for a huge tidal-powered Moon Clock is being hailed by scientists and anthropologists who believe this monumental timepiece could become an internationally recognised landmark.

The Aluna Project, designed by artist, Laura Williams, will be a magnificent glass and steel structure illuminated by tidal energy. Three massive concentric rings, five storeys high and 40 metres across, will make a breathtaking, waterside landmark which will light up to show the movements of the moon and the sea. Light will flow slowly around the rings, each representing the Lunar Phase, the wax and wane of the moon: the Lunar Day, the rise and set of the moon, and the ebb and flow of the tide. The team behind the not-for-profit project hope the design's cutting-edge technology will remind people that the Earth is governed by ancient natural rhythms. "I would like Aluna to be a beacon of hope for a sustainable future, visible from land, sky and sea." said Laura Williams.

The Aluna team is currently looking for a suitable waterside site in the UK for the structure. All it needs is some free land, an open sky and tidal waters. And, with growing interest in Australia, Aluna could also be turned into a dual hemisphere project. In Britain, the Northern hemisphere, Aluna would be aligned with the polar co-ordinates and move clockwise facing due South. The counterpart structure in the Southern hemisphere, Australia, would move anti-clockwise and face due North.

The moon has played a significant role in our religions, cultures and customs for centuries and is universal. It connects all faiths, all ages and all cultures. Wherever you are watching the moon, half the planet is watching it with you.

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