

# NEWSLETTER UNAA (sa)

AUTUMN 2008

## Our President's Wake-up Call

In this issue we wish to highlight Prof. John Langmore's sober warning - "Pulling back from the Nuclear Precipice".

Most Australians, he wrote, no longer think about the nuclear threat, yet the Bulletin of Atom Scientists said in Jan.07 that the **minute hand of the 'Doomsday Clock' had moved from seven to five minutes to midnight.**

We stand on the brink of a second nuclear age. Think India, Israel, Nth Korea, Iran. Think the renewed US emphasis on the military use of nuclear weapons (and 'Star Wars') Russia and the US have some 26000 such in readiness. So much for the NPT ... Non Proliferation Treaty!

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Australia's role in the global survival strategy must include active Policies re the US alliance; the export of Uranium; joining with the strongest advocates ..Canada, N.Z.,etc, of a nuclear weapons convention; sustaining the S.Pacific N-Free Zone Treaty and insisting on rigorous scrutiny of the uses of uranium exports

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*John Langmore is a Melb.Uni. Professor and National President of the UN Association of Australia.*

*He was formerly a Fed.Labor MP and a Director In the UN Secretariat in New York.*

## "THE YEAR OF..."

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2008 ... Potato       | 2009 ... Reconciliation |
| 2008 ... Sanitation   | 2009 ... Natural Fibres |
| 2008 ... Planet Earth | 2009 ... Astronomy      |



The Universe is to  
Be thought of as a  
Communion of subjects  
Not as a collection  
Of objects.  
(T.Berry)

## Also in this edition:

E.D.O. Greenlaw  
UNYA's Ogy Simic  
Satellite Shoot .....  
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Earthkeeper Hero .....  
International Law .....  
UNEP Climate Change.....  
UNESCO's Australian Memory.....

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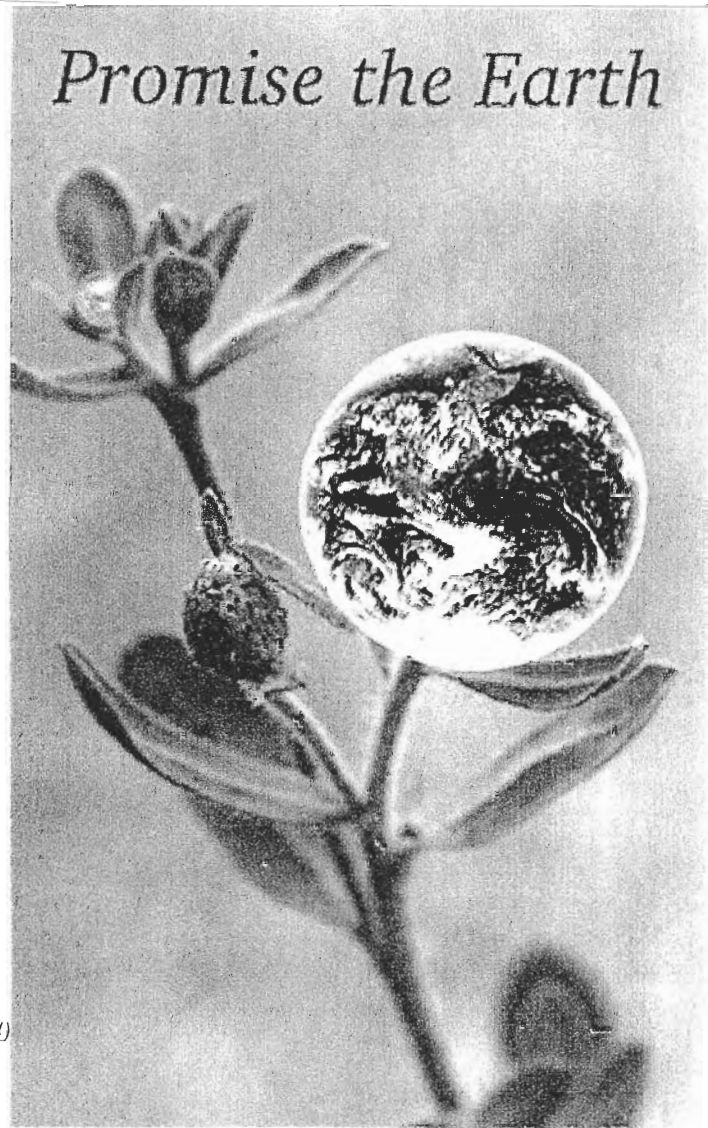
## PROMISE THE EARTH

We, the youth of the world,  
recognise that we have spoiled Earth,  
but, from now on,  
**we promise Earth**  
that we will respect all its life forms,  
and celebrate them  
as valued members of the Earth community;  
**we promise Earth**  
that we will care for Earth,  
protect the Earth community from harm,  
and preserve its resources so that future generations  
will have good food, air, water and soil  
to live full lives;  
**we promise Earth**  
that we will struggle to overcome those forces  
that keep members of the Earth community  
poor, oppressed or unwanted  
and to share with all the resources of Earth;  
**we promise Earth**  
that we will support ways of improving life  
and ensuring a future for all the Earth community  
by using all its resources to sustain life,  
rather than exploit it.  
**Yes, we promise the Earth.**

In support of *The Earth Charter*  
Website: [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)

Artwork: Jonquil Mackey  
Text: Anjali Habel-Orrell (age 14)

*Jonquil is married to Prof. Brendan Mackey of ANU, the No. 1 Earth Charter Rep. in Australia.  
Anjali, at time of writing, was attending a private secondary School in Adelaide.*



## U.N.Y.A.

Those of you who attended  
the Annual Dinner last Oct.  
may well have met a very  
impressive "table" from UN  
Youth Association. Among  
them was **Ogy** . . . . .

## From Sarajevo to Sweden via Tranmere

By Kate Jenkinson

HE is a long way from war-torn Sarajevo but Ognjen Simic can still remember dodging bullets with his family as they ran for freedom 16 years ago.

"I remember the streets were completely clear of people and us having to dodge bullets," he says of his escape from the civil war.

"We crouched behind bins to get to the airport."

He was just four years old.

"I remember excerpts of things, but overall I think I've been able to move on from that fortunately."

Now a proud Australian and nominee for the 2008 Young Achiever Awards, Ogy, 20, of Tranmere, is doing what he can to help others who come to Australia looking for peace and a new life.

"I want to help new arrivals who don't have a lot of experience in Australia," he says.

"In the future I want more and more to be able to support those people, having come from that background as well.

"I am very fortunate to live



“ I remember excerpts of things, but overall I think I've been able to move on from that fortunately

Ogy Simic

here and be able to contribute.”

The former Norwood Morialta student is the United Nations Youth Association's policy director and was the 2006 South Australian Young Citizen of the Year.

In 2006, he was also the ambassador of the Australian delegation to the Hague International Model United Nations conference and in

2007 convened the Evatt Trophy Competition. "The work I do, it all centres upon the point that young people are very important leaders of today and tomorrow and can have a meaningful contribution."

Ogy says his mother is his inspiration.

"She has always been a very strong person.

"Mum had to strive for us to go somewhere else.

"She could have given up - she was much stronger than that."

Ogy's father died in 1989, and it was his mother who got the family away from the raging war in the former Yugoslavia.

The family travelled to Serbia, and then Germany before arriving in Australia in 1998.

Ogy's next challenge is in July when he will travel to Sweden to continue his university studies for a degree in law and international studies.

## Geothermal Power In Aotearoa

Volcanism must be one of the defining features of New Zealand. In the Rotorua region of the North Island steam escaping from the ground makes a remarkable sight. The Maori people continue to make use of the numerous pools of boiling water for cooking and heating purposes, as do many pakeha. A visit to the Maori village at Rotorua will enable you to sample food cooked in this manner as well as observing geysers, fumaroles and boiling pools of mud.

Aoteroa's location on the boundary of two tectonic plates, the Pacific Plate and the Indo-Australian Plate, has given rise to this outpouring of heat as well as significant earthquake and volcanic activity. The conjunction of the two plates can be observed in a rock face in Milford Sound.

Since the 1950s geothermal power has become an important contributor to New Zealand's energy output. However, Hydroelectricity still dominates, providing around two-thirds of New Zealand's electricity, the remainder comprising geothermal as well as thermal (coal and gas) power. New Zealand's hydroelectricity is generated principally in the South Island, whereas the North Island has most of the population and industrial activity. A submarine cable under Cook Strait allows electricity to flow between the two major islands. Given the nation's reliance on hydroelectricity, supplemented by geothermal power, along with natural gas, and the relatively low dependency on coal fired power stations, this means that New Zealand's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions represents a much more favourable situation than Australia could claim.

Large pipelines traverse the landscape, their relief valves frequently belching steam, as they wend their way to the geothermal power plants. The excess water from the Wairakei Geothermal Power Station is discharged in to the Waikato River. This river also serves as a source of water for the plant's cooling operations.

The accompanying photo shows the Wairakei Geothermal Power Station, the second geothermal power station developed in the world, having been commissioned in 1958. To increase efficiency a binary system of power generation is employed which allows heat to be reused. Some of the heat is also used in a nearby prawn farm before being reinjected into the steamfield.

**Footnote:** The above comments are based on a recent visit to Aotearoa by one of our members. It is interesting to note that South Australia is also exploring the possibility of generating power from heat existing below the earth's surface. Hot rocks technology may help us to reduce our ecological footprint in a similar way to our New Zealander friends.



*This composite picture of the Wairakei Geothermal Power station shows the binary plant in the foreground with the two power stations beyond with their switching yards on the far left. The prawn farm ponds are behind the clouds of steam. To the right of the binary plant can be seen the pipes from the steam fields.*

## EDO Environmental Defenders Office

Latest Newsletter, aptly titled "Greenlaw", carries the good news that the SA Gov't has finally introduced a Bill in relation to site contamination. The EPA under this Bill can order either the person who caused the contamination, or in some circumstances the person who owns the land to carry out a site contamination assessment to discover its nature and extent, and if such is proven, this person can be ordered to remediate the site.

EDO volunteer lawyers are also working to safeguard Arkaroola Sanctuary threatened by a proposed Uranium Mine

EDO is moving into uncharted territory on March 13 by mounting a full-day seminar on Water



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### United Nations experts welcome Australia's apology to indigenous peoples

18 February 2008

*The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the rights to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued the following statement today:*

We warmly welcome the speech delivered by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the Federal Parliament on 13 February 2008, offering an apology to Australia's indigenous peoples for the pain and indignity they have endured as a consequence of past laws and policies. We are specially moved by the apology offered to the members of the Stolen Generation and their families, victims of a deliberate policy of assimilation of the Aboriginal culture that contradicted the basic human rights principles of equality and dignity. We welcome the Australian Government's commitment to build a common future with the indigenous peoples of the country based on mutual respect. Australia's efforts to acknowledge historical injustices and to promote reconciliation set an example of how to enhance harmonious and cooperative relationships between indigenous peoples and States, in the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This apology will strengthen the moral fabric of the country and reinforce the Aboriginal contribution to Australian society.

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### Hold Everything Dear

#### Dispatches on Survival and Resistance

by **John Berger** (Verso ISBN 978 1 84467 138 0)

'The eternal,' according to Spinoza, 'is now', and this book is John Berger writing to the moment. The 'dispatches' collected in it exemplify a rare, because brave, form of journalism. They are a way of taking history personally.

'The present period of history is one of the Wall,' he writes, for example. 'When the Berlin one fell, the prepared plans to build walls everywhere were unrolled. Concrete, bureaucratic, surveillance, security, racist walls... The walls cross every sphere, from crop cultivation to healthcare. They exist in the richest metropolises in the world...'

Written between 2002 and 2006, there are notes on a visit to the Palestinian Territories and on the America that now offers the world 'shock and awe'. The fiction of Andrei Platonov, still little known outside Russia, is explored, as are the work of the great Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet and the music of Dvorák. A film of Pasolini's, never publicly shown, is reviewed 40 years after it was made.

'[Berger] writes about what is important, not just interesting,' Susan Sontag observes in the blurb and her distinction is, now more than ever, to the point. We 'can choose within ourselves,' he writes, 'which side of the wall we are attuned to. It is not a wall between good and evil. Both exist on both sides. The choice is between self-respect and self-chaos.'

It is this unflinching internalization of the bigger picture which makes this kind of writing different. Read Berger attentively for how much more words can do.

★★★★★ HM

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

**JOHN BERGER**

**HOLD EVERYTHING DEAR**

DISPATCHES ON SURVIVAL AND RESISTANCE



Different  
Authentic  
Important  
Courageous  
Challenging  
Ed.



UNESCO/The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, established in 1946, works to free humankind from illiteracy, advance the spread of scientific knowledge, and increase international understanding through the exchange of education, science and culture. Headquarters: Paris. [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)



## UNESCO Australian Memory of the World

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In 1992 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established the Memory of the World Programme. UNESCO released the following statement:

*Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But this memory is fragile. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this memory disappear for ever.*

*UNESCO has launched the Memory of the World Programme to guard against collective amnesia calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world, ensuring their wide dissemination.*

The Australian Memory of the World program is one of over 60 Memory of the World programs worldwide. The Australian program aims to:

- develop the Australian Memory of the World Register
- establish a Register of lost and missing Australian documentary heritage
- propose nominations to the Memory of the World International Register

In 2004, the State Library successfully nominated the South Australian Company *Deed of Settlement* (1836) to the Australian Memory of the World Register.

In June 2007, the State Library of South Australia nominated three significant Collections for inclusion on this Register:

- William Light Collection PRG 1  
(joint nomination with Adelaide City Council)
- Joseph Stanislaus Ostojka-Kotkowski Collection PRG 919  
(joint nomination with University of Melbourne)
- Mountford-Sheard Collection PRG 1218

Selected items from these collections are exhibited in the Library's Treasures Wall.

Successful nominations will be announced on Friday 22 February 2008 at the Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme, held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

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The new inscriptions record iconic events such as the landing at Gallipoli in 1915, the genesis of the Australian Labor Party in Queensland in 1892; and the achievement in 1894 of women's suffrage only a year after its first adoption in New Zealand.

# THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

UNITED NATIONS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 08

21 -23 August 2008

Parliament House Brisbane Queensland.



### UN ASSOCIATIONS - INTRODUCTION.

Following the League of Nations not fulfilling the international role to sustain peace and justice, the United Nations was formed in 1945. Sixty years on the UN continues to play a major role in international affairs.

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) was founded in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 2 August 1946 by 22 United Nations Associations.

United Nations Associations (UNA) are made up of people who support the United Nations. Today, we have become a global network of hundreds of thousands of people linked together through United Nations Associations in over 100 member states (countries) of the UN. Our networks enable people to connect with each other on critical global issues affecting us all, from peace and human rights to the spread of democracy, equitable development, and international justice.

*The **mission** of the World Federation of United Nations Associations is to inform, sustain and energize a global network of United Nations Associations to support the principles and programs of the United Nations and to help shape its agenda.*

The **objectives** of the World Federation of United Nations Associations are:

1. To be a peoples' movement and voice for the United Nations.
2. To co-ordinate and further the activities of its Members and to promote the establishment of new UNA's
3. To co-operate, where appropriate, with other organizations whose objects include the support of the United Nations and it's development.
4. To promote tolerance, understanding, solidarity and co-operation among men, women and children throughout the world without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or political orientation.
5. To contribute to the removal of obstacles to peace, to work for justice, security and disarmament, and to promote the development of peaceful co-existence and co-operation among nations.
6. To strive for the recognition of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world and for the recognition of the responsibilities and duties which those rights involve for individuals, groups, and States.
7. To promote economic development, enhancement of social progress and better standards of life.
8. To promote research, information and education about the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and the work of the United Nations system.

The United Nations Association in Australia (UNAA) was formed in 1945 and has organised annual National Conferences for some 25 years. This year the National Conference will be held in Queensland from 21 -23 August 08 at Parliament House Brisbane and will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

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*Human and Ecological Sustainable Development: Relating to One another and Our Planet  
The Role of a Renewed United Nations".*

## Cause for Thought : Satellite Shoot-down ... claim.

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The planned Pentagon shoot down of the wayward U.S. military satellite is nothing more than an opportunity to test new Star Wars anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) technology says the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space.

"The Bush administration is magnifying the risk to justify the testing of new dangerous and provocative offensive space warfare technologies," says Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network, which is based in Maine.

"At the time when we need to be constraining space debris-creating ASAT testing, this test will throw open the door to a new arms race in space."

The Strategic Command's (StratCom) high-tech Global Operations Center, buried beneath Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, will play the lead role in coordinating the ASAT test. StratCom now heads all military space operations since merging with the U.S. Space Command in 2002.

"The decision to destroy the American satellite does not look harmless as they try to claim, especially at a time when the U.S. has been evading negotiations on the limitation of an arms race in outer space," a Russian Defense Ministry statement has concluded.

For many years Russia and China have gone to the United Nations General Assembly with a resolution calling for a treaty to ban all weapons in space. The U.S. and Israel have annually voted against the treaty while every other nation in the world supports such a new legal ban on space weapons.

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## "DEPLETED" URANIUM - D.U. [From N.I., Nov.07]

### Refuses to Disappear . . . . (Got a Geiger? Check out Shoalwater Qld

*And Delamere Range, N T)*

DU ammunition rained down again during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. NATO and the US Department of Defense at first denied its use, then refused to reveal the locations. It was only after the intervention of then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that this information was extracted. In 2001 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) teams began examining six of the battlegrounds, all of which had already undergone clean-ups (including the removal of tons of earth) by the Yugoslav federal authorities. And yet 'widespread DU contamination' was found in soil samples from five of the six. Airborne DU particles were still lingering in two of the sites, giving the lie to the claim that due to DU's density, particles fall quickly to the ground. Corroded penetrators were recovered, suggesting the possibility of groundwater contamination. Notwithstanding all this, UNEP confidently pronounced: 'No alarming levels of DU contamination were detected.'<sup>4</sup>

And some soldiers returning from Iraq after the most recent conflict have also come down with baffling multiple illnesses. Studies of these syndromes report problems with the circulatory, blood, urinary, neuro-muscular and reproductive systems. Cancers, both in the soldiers themselves and in children born to them since, have risen, as have congenital disorders. From the civilian population of Iraq come reports of elevated rates of cancers and birth malformations rising nearly tenfold in some places. Lymphomas, leukaemia and bladder cancers are abnormally high, results which had been predicted by theoretical work on DU exposure.

**Just one microscopic particle of DU lodged in the lungs could start the reaction in one cell which could lead to a fatal cancer**

## International Humanitarian Law

### D.R.Congo Warlord at the Hague

The ex-rebel leader Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui from the Democratic Republic of Congo has appeared at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on war crimes allegations. Prosecutors allege he planned a brutal attack by his National Integrationist Front (FNI) fighters on Bogoro village in eastern Ituri region in 2003. He is the third Congolese warlord to be sent to The Hague. Col Ngudjolo's arrest warrant lists nine counts including: Three counts of crimes against humanity including murder, inhumane acts and sexual slavery and six counts of war crimes including the use of children soldiers. Fighting in the gold-rich Ituri region broke out in 1999 and continued until 2003. The conflict in Ituri manifests itself as an ethnic war, but its root cause has been attributed to the criminal mining of the region's gold and other minerals. An estimated 50,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands left homeless. See: BBC

### Cluster Munitions : towards a new treaty

Recently, countries involved in the Oslo Process on Cluster Munitions met in NZ at Wellington.

Cluster munitions have been a persistent problem for decades. The wide-area effects of these weapons and the large numbers of submunitions that fail to explode as intended have caused large numbers of civilian casualties. Although only a limited number of countries have actually used cluster munitions, 75 have these weapons in their stockpiles. If even a fraction of the cluster munitions in current stocks are used or transferred to other countries or non-State armed groups, the consequences could far exceed those of anti-personnel mines. Unfortunately, technological improvements to cluster munitions have not provided an adequate solution. It is unlikely that any single technical improvement could adequately address the humanitarian problems caused by these weapons. See: <http://www.icrc.org/web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/cluster-munitions-factsheet-010208>, Cluster munitions: Decades of failure, decades of civilian suffering, Cluster munitions: ICRC calls for urgent action, Living with Cluster Munitions in Lebanon and The Cluster Munitions Process

\* SEE BELOW

### Former Kmer Rouge chief ... "They all had to be eliminated"

Kang Khek Ieu was Pol Pot's trusted henchman, the brilliant mathematician who calmly fashioned an efficient apparatus of torture and death out of a Phnom Penh high school and who oversaw, during the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror, the interrogation and death of some 17,000 Cambodians. Also known as Duch, Kang Khek Ieu is currently awaiting trial under a hybrid UN-Cambodian tribunal known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The pre-trial hearings began in November 2007 and are ongoing. Between 1975 and the beginning of 1979, under Pol Pot, two million men and women, almost a third of the Cambodian population, were eliminated by the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot died under house arrest before he could be tried in 1998. The bloodiest of his comrades, Ta Mok, died in 1996. But five senior leaders including Khieu Sampan, the Khmer Rouge president, await trial.  
Asia, world -

### Dear Mr Rudd and Mr Fitzgibbon

\* Australia undermined the Wellington Declaration to ban cluster weapons yesterday because "a proposed treaty could make it difficult for the country's military to work cooperatively with nations like the USA, which are unlikely to sign up". (*Cluster Bomb Commitment Sought*, The Australian, 22/2/08). Does this imply then, that because the US has a doctrine of pre-emptive nuclear strike Australian troops have to be trained in nuclear battlefield tactics?

From: SMITH, Gareth



# EARTHKEEPER HERO

**Vandana Shiva** . . . . . arguably one of the world's greatest women - physicist , ecologist, activist, editor, author, and tireless defender of the environment.

She is the founder of Navdanya, a movement for biodiversity conservation and farmers' rights. She is the founder/director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy. Her most recent books are entitled, *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* and *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*.

As a young girl gazing out at the natural wonders of her Indian homeland, the verdant valley of Dehradun and awe-inspiring Himalayas, Dr. Vandana Shiva was inspired not so much to preserve nature as to figure out how it works. In order to accomplish this task, would young Vandana follow in the footsteps of her father, a conservator of forests? Or would she become more like her mother, a farmer with a profound love for nature? The answer, as it turned out, would be neither. Vandana would follow her hero, Albert Einstein. She would become a physicist.

Nuclear physics was Dr. Shiva's chosen specialty until she realized that the science had "...a dark side to it." She changed course to become a theoretical physicist and worked in foundations of quantum theory. She was working on her PhD at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, fully expecting to stay on and become a professor when she was confronted with the nagging thought that she wasn't informed enough about how society works. "We (India) have the third biggest scientific community in the world. We are among the poorest of countries. Science and technology is supposed to create growth, remove poverty. Where is the gap?" She wanted to answer that question for herself, so she took three years off to "look at science policy issues...be a little more educated, socially, and then go back to physics." It was off to the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore where she studied interdisciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy.

"In '87, at one of these seminars, the (agriculture) industry laid out its grand dream of controlling the world. They talked about needing genetic engineering so that there's a technology that they have that peasants can't use so that they can have a monopoly through technology. Patents."

It was then that Dr. Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology. She dropped everything else, her work on dams and forests and mines, to focus on biotechnology and patenting, the very tools being used by huge multinational corporations in their quest to control the global pharmaceutical and food supplies. Though ideas like these sound like the stuff of science fiction novels, the groundwork, Dr. Shiva explains, has already been laid.

"If a patent is granted, for example, on seed it means a farmer who grows a seed cannot save seed from the harvested crop because that is constituted as making the seed and the exclusive right to the seed belongs to the company. It means seed-saving by farmers is now defined as intellectual property theft."

In 1991, Dr. Shiva founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seeds. Dr. Shiva's attention is now focused on preventing imperialism over life itself. "I don't want to live in a world where five giant companies control our health and our food."

This nightmare scenario is made possible, according to Dr. Shiva, by the patent law under the World Trade Organization agreement. "It's in my view the worst of the WTO agreements. It has only a negative function: to prevent others from doing their own thing; to prevent people from having food; to prevent people from having medicine; to prevent countries from having technological capacity. It is a negative tool for creating underdevelopment."

## **Governments Duped over GM Food**

Federal and State Gov'ts have been caught up in a religious-type rapture over Biotech Industry promises. They seem unaware of the economic strategies of these companies which provide for large long-term profits through monopoly control of the food industry

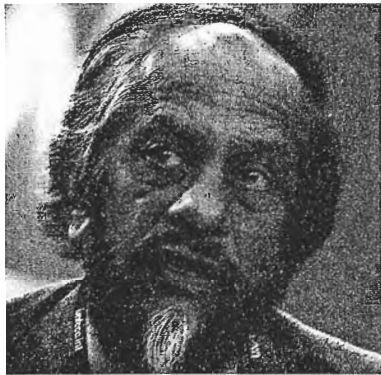
*Dr. Chas. Rue*

**Think Back Fifteen Years.**

Would you have observed Politicians, Celebrities and Scientists on a Common Mission?

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On 12 October, **RAJENDRA PACHAURI**, the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, found out that



his organization had been awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with former US Vice-President Al Gore. "I can't believe it. I'm overwhelmed," he said. "It is really the scientific community that contributes to the work of the IPCC and the governments who support the work of the IPCC who are really the winners of this award." The prize was awarded "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change". Under Pachauri's watch, the world's top authority on global warming has issued a series of increasingly grim reports on the state of the planet, helping to put climate change at the heart of the public

debate. When it announced the prize, the Nobel committee commended the IPCC for creating "an ever-broader informed consensus about the connection between human activities and global warming". Pachauri is also the founding director of the Energy and Resources Institute, a leading environmental think-tank in India.

**LEONARDO DICAPRIO** is the latest prominent Hollywood star to have joined the environmental fray. Echoing the



concern raised in Al Gore's 'Inconvenient Truth', his film 'The 11th Hour' documents the grave problems facing the environment, from global warming to deforestation and species extinction. The documentary, written, produced and narrated by DiCaprio, calls for people to reshape global human activity through technology, conservation and social responsibility. It features dozens of prominent thinkers and environmentalists from around the world including Stephen Hawking, Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai and UNEP Champions of the Earth Mikhail Gorbachev and Sheila Watt-Cloutier.

**TOMMY REMENGESAU JR**, the President of Palau, has devised a bold environmental programme to preserve his Pacific island from encroaching climate change: his government has set aside 20 per cent of the country's land area and 30 per cent of the ocean close to its shore for conservation. Remengesau says the Pacific islands are already experiencing global warming — with coral bleaching, rising sea levels and drought — and is calling for islands across the region to join the fight.



"It is simply time. Time for each Pacific leader to make conservation a priority," he told 20 island leaders at a Pacific Island Conference of Leaders in May. Several of Palau's neighbours, including the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, have already adopted the programme.

Chilean President **MICHELLE BACHELET** recently accompanied UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on a trip to a Chilean research base in Antarctica in order to



observe the effects of global warming first hand — a trip which prompted Ban to make a strong call for action against climate change. As well as being one of the first women leading a major Latin American country, Bachelet brings a heightened awareness of environmental and social issues. She has put poverty high on her agenda, and she signed ten commitments with renowned Chilean eco-leaders as part of her presidential campaign. In September, at the UN's high-level meeting on climate change, Bachelet likened our planet to an island in the universe. "We can destroy it," she told the 80 heads of states at the meeting, "or save it."

**PEOPLE**

<http://www.cranberry.net.com>



**Cranberry SC20**

**Energy-efficient computer**

Computers account for 40 to 60 per cent of the energy used by office equipment — second only to lighting in terms of electricity guzzling. Desktops are the big culprits, using around 70W when active compared to laptops which require between 12 and 22W. A newcomer to the market, the SC20 Smart Client computer, is now raising the stakes, performing "all the business functions of a bulky PC using just ten per cent of the power", according to Cranberry, its manufacturer. The computer, which is the size of a paperback book, has an ultra-efficient microprocessor and "offers a genuinely viable and greener alternative to the vulnerable and power-hungry office PC," says Cranberry CEO Simon Ponsford.

[www.saveourfishfingers.co.uk](http://www.saveourfishfingers.co.uk)



**Sustainable fish fingers**

British food company Young's has introduced what it says is the UK's "first 100% sustainable cod fish finger". The dish is made with line-caught, 100% sustainable, wild Alaskan Pacific cod certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Young's was awarded the 2007 Seafish Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of its efforts to support sustainable fishing.