

# ***SIGNIFICANT QUOTES***

*Editor's Note: As a regular feature in each issue, Proceedings will include quotes of writers and other persons which are considered to be of significance to the human predicament and the health and survival of our planetary ecosystem.*

## **The "Bottleneck" Humanity Must Pass Through**

"Although anthropologists tell us that humans are capable of appraising their circumstances and acting prudently to save their society, the signs that such foresight is occurring on anywhere near the scale it needs to occur are not apparent. On the other hand, evolutionary biologists (Morrison, 2002) appear certain that our genes have led us into plague species status, which means that we are overrunning the planet with people and pollution. This genetic explanation implies that there is little we can do to save ourselves as a species.

"Abiding by the criteria I laid out at the beginning of this section of overshoot, I think a die-off of human life --as well as great destruction to the earth's biosphere -- is possible within this century . Oil is the initial resource to become critically scarce. But as most of you know we face a plethora of interrelated environmental crises, what E.O. Wilson terms the "Bottleneck" humanity must pass through to survive what it has wrought."

Dr. G. Daniel Bednarz

January 27, 2006

## **Everything Suddenly Looks Contingent**

"I don't have to remind you of the two forces which are converging on our lives. We are faced with an impending shortage of the source of energy which is hardest to replace – liquid fossil fuels. And we are faced with the environmental consequences of the fossil fuel burning which has permitted us to be standing here now. The structure, the complexity, the diversity of our lives, everything we know, everything that we have taken for granted, that looked solid and non-negotiable, suddenly looks contingent. All this is a great tottering pile balanced on a ball, a ball that is about to start rolling downhill."

George Mombiot, Manchester Guardian

2006

## **Current Levels of Carbon Dioxide**

".....we can say with certainty that there have not been the current levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for 400,000 years, possibly for 4 million years. That puts the history of our species into perspective. The 10 warmest years on record have been since 1991, the five warmest since 1997, and the single warmest last year."

Sir David Manning, UK Ambassador to the United States

March 13, 2006