



## IN THE NOW NEWS



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### **C**onscious Sustainability

## Space Tourism: A Sustainable Solution to Global Issues

*By Samone Myers Copyright 2007 All Rights Reserved*

“That’s one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind” were the words spoken by Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969. It happened to also be my father’s birthday. I was a child glued to the television set and my dad, a retired military officer was just as enthralled as I was watching the landing on the moon. The excitement was palpable as millions of people from all corners of the world watched. It was a culmination of hundreds of thousands of men and women’s drive, intellect, and sense of adventure that resulted in successfully getting human beings to the moon.

Yet, three and half decades have passed, and the excitement has died with unprecedented numbers of people now leaving the Aerospace Industry, or getting laid off, and turning toward industries that offer some sort of opportunities for employment [a]. Telecommunication and the Information Technology (IT) Industry are benefiting from the Aerospace Industry’s loss. Because the IT Industry is profit-oriented with the only technological achievements being done for profit, technological advancements and solutions that are environmental or beneficial to humanity are relatively nonexistent. No amount of designing the next cell phone, software program or iPod will carry anything near to what the Apollo Program held as creative innovation and touch at the common desires humanity has for space exploration. What has happened?

The decline in innovative research from Aerospace is due in part to NASA. Although presented to the public to be a “civilian agency,” NASA is primarily run by the military, particularly the U.S. Air Force, along with several intelligent gathering agencies. This keeps information gained from Aerospace programs out of the public’s hands and use. Also, NASA continues to fail in attempts to keep a good public image. Their recent strategy is eliminating a key statement from their current mission statement, “*To understand and protect our home planet.*” According to an article in July of 2006 [b], NASA Climate

Scientist James Hansen indicated, “The elimination of the phrase involving protecting the planet might reflect a White House desire to shift the spotlight away from global warming.” This only emphasizes how NASA continues to distant themselves from the needs, desires, and *rights* of the people.

[Read more of the article...](#)

## **U**nified Community

### **PEACE AS A WAY OF LIFE**

*By Peter Phillips Lukwiya,  
Executive Director, Uganda Peace Foundation Initiative*

The world’s deferent civilizations, cultures and religions have a common purpose in the good of humanity and this is peace; this is a fundamental philosophy which is to be embodied by all nations and perpetuated by anyone who often feels the inner circle of his/her own spirituality in action. It is imperative that the world’s civilization always strive to attain peace through diplomacy, dialogue, community campaigns and other viable means, peace is not a dream but a goal provided we ourselves are sincere and committed in its desire to seek, create and maintain, peace is a reality which can be attained and sustained. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General. (Global future 2003) said that “Effective conflict prevention is along-term investment; successful conflict prevention therefore requires all sectors of society to do their part-not just government”

**“The long running conflict in Northern Uganda  
is one of extreme brutality and callousness.”**

*-Jan Egeland, Former U.N. Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs*

For almost 20 years, a culture of peace and a philosophy of non-violence has been eroded and quashed aside among communities in northern Uganda. A cult-like rebel group called the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) has been waging war against the government and local Acholi people, launching horrific attacks on villages, towns and camps for the internally displaced. The group has abducted more than 20,000 children, forcing them to fight, carry ammunition and supplies and to serve as sex slaves for LRA commanders.



*Patrick Odong, 13, holds his mouth, which was shattered when a bullet smashed his lower jaw in May 2005 as Ugandan troops battled with Ugandan rebels in his village near Gulu town.*

Many of these children have been forced to perform terrible atrocities - including killing their families and other children - or face death themselves. Child soldiers have been estimated to make up 80 percent of the LRA's manpower; their experience is marked by kidnapping, rape, killings, ransacking and unimaginable war crimes as well as battling government forces. The rebels have targeted their own Acholi ethnic group, who are their main victims. About 90 percent (2 Million) of people in Acholi land (Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts) live in crowded into squalid settlements referred to as Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps out of fear of the rebels. The other half were forced into the IDP camps by Ugandan soldiers where they lack food and clean water are vulnerable to disease and LRA attacks that killed about 1,000 people a week. The United Nations calls it as one of the world's most neglected humanitarian crises.

[\*Read the rest of the article...\*](#)

**R**esearch from the Heart

## **THE GILGAMESH PROJECT**

**THE SEARCH FOR LONGEVITY AND MORE...**

*By Andrew Sokar © 2007*

Numerous myths stretching back to the dawn of civilization have related man's quest for perpetual youth. Perhaps the earliest of these is the pre-biblical legend of Gilgamesh, the Sumerian cultural hero who discovered a plant that bestows immortality upon those who consume it [1]. Due to Gilgamesh's carelessness, man was denied the secret of eternal life, but today, over 4000 years later, modern science can give mankind what Gilgamesh could not.



**Epic of Gilgamesh : Quest for immortality**

As a biologist, my primary research interest has been the determinants of the cell growth cycle—that is—what causes cells to grow, divide, and ultimately stop dividing, lapse into senescence and die. These factors determine the biological age of multicellular organisms such as humans and are also behind a number of disease states such as cancer.

During the course of my education, I designed and tested numerous classes of natural and synthetic compounds that caused cancer cells to go into apoptosis (programmed cell death) but that were harmless to normal cells. Before graduating from college with my B.S. in biology, I was inducted into the American Chemical Society and scientific honoraries such as Sigma Xi. I was the recipient of numerous awards such as the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and my work received media coverage on local television news programs and in newsprint.

[Read the rest of the article...](#)

## **E**ducating with Humor

### **Humor First**

In the early 1990s, the Rick Dees Show was one of the most popular radio programs on the air in Los Angeles. One morning on my commute to work, Rick announced a new contest for parents of children under five years old. Children were to finish famous sayings, and those with the best responses would win prizes. So the first call is received from a local housewife. The conversation went something like this:

“Hi, I am calling about your contest. I have a daughter who I would like to enter.”

“What is your daughter's name?” Rick asks.

“Britney” responds the mother, “Here, I will put her on the phone.”

*<Shuffling noises>*

A young girl’s voice says, “Hi.”

Rick responds, “Hi. Is this Britney?”

“Yes.”

“How old are you, Britney?”

“Four.”

“Ok. Has your mom explained the game?”

“Yes I have,” the mother replies.

“All right, Britney. Here we go.” Rick says slowly,

“People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw \_\_\_\_\_”

*<Long pause>*

“Up!” Britney says loudly.

*<Laughter from the studio>*

*<Laughter from the mom>*

“Well, was I right?” asks Britney.

“Yes! We are counting that as a correct answer.” Rick then goes to commercial, claiming he has to compose himself.

## Education Second



“People in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones” is the actual expression and is pertinent to today’s prevailing attitude among many who persist on poking fun or cutting down those involved with getting the messages out about global warming. Case in point is the onslaught of media recently condemning Former U.S. Vice President, Al Gore on the documentary, “Inconvenient Truth” or worse, attacking him for gaining a few pounds.

The latest accusatory behavior has been on his personal habits and how he lives his life.

So what if Al Gore still uses plastic bags, drives a typical gas-

guzzling car, and doesn't have energy saving devices for every appliance in his house. How many of us do? Instead of shooting the messenger, *listen to the message!* Then, take your own steps to reduce your ecological footprint, and leave Al Gore alone. Better yet, give thanks to him for courageously bringing this issue to the public's attention in spite of knowing he might be personally attacked.

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