**Voluntary human extinction: One brick shy of a full solution?**

Sounds like paradise, doesn’t it? Gaia completely cured of post humanus. Without us meddling with humans, all other species would get their fair share at survival.

We aren’t salmon— we don’t spawn and die. Most of us will be around to see our progeny beget, and those begotten beget to boot.

When a couple of us replaces themselves, our environmental impact doubles—assuming our offsprings’ lifestyles are as environmentally friendly as ours, and that they won’t reproduce themselves.

The “stop at two” message actually encourages reproduction by “qualified” couples. A wanted child is better than unwanted, intelligent (whatever that is) better than stupid, and well-cared-for better than neglected, but each of us in the over-industrialized world has a huge impact on Nature regardless of these factors.

For example, in terms of energy consumption, when we stop at two it’s about the same as an average East Indian couple stopping at 66, or an Ethiopian couple stopping at one thousand.

Two is better than four, and one is twice as good as two, but to purposely set out to create even one more of us today is like selling berths on a sinking ship.

Regardless of how many progeny we have or haven’t produced, rather than stop at two, we must stop at once.

Take billions of humans to destroy massive ecosystems, as shown by the exploits of empires from ancient times through the present.

No, human extinction alone won’t save Earth’s biosphere. Our collective consciousness must evolve from homocentric to ecocentric: to where Earth has first priority. Then, finally, our efforts will shift from desperate, often futile, “damage-control” to a hopeful restoration of natural balance in Earth’s ecosystems.

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Printed on recyclable paper
Of course it’s recyclable. Everything’s recyclable if you wanna spend enough money on it. That doesn’t mean it’s ever gonna happen.

Rather than recycling this, please pass it along.
"Motherhood is a proud profession" the wise old bumpersticker says. Hard to argue with that, except to include both genders. Parenthood is one of the most critical, and yet under-valued endeavors we can undertake today.

Earth Firster parents have written to the Journal, complaining about an attitude expressed by others in the movement, especially by the bumpersticker "Love your mother, don't become one". Space is short on those stickers, so it's not possible to explain that it doesn't mean we should abandon our children nor that mothers can't love Mother Earth.

Many VHMET Volunteers and EPers are parents, having achieved awareness after making their heirs. And many non-breeders are more lucky than righteously. The past is history. What really matters is the number of offspring we don't create in the future.

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...having exactly like a cancerous growth on Earth's biosphere. So, when some loud bragger tries to put us down, says we be tumorous and bad, just tell 'em right away, "Hey, what's the matter buddy, ain't you heard of our logic and love? They're number one in the cosmos." We're not malignant, we're benign.

Eudaimonia is reaching the point that the worst of the worst has been eaten. The vehement voice of the Catholic Church, or who have no health insurance at all, may be hard pressed to come up with $300. Even subtracting gay, infertile, and celibate cohorts from the computation, this tally is absurd. Men can do better. Unwanted conceptions strike millions of women — every one caused by a man.

Vasectomy prevents abortion

Ignorance and superstition continue to surround male surgical contraception, though it's the surest, safest, and most economical contraceptive available. In the US, only 20% of men over 30 have tied the lover's knot. Even subtracting gay, infertile, and celibate cohorts from the computation, this tally is absurd. Men can do better. Unwanted conceptions strike millions of women — every one caused by a man.

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Red herrings raise stink in think tank

How many times has this happened to you? Discussion is rolling along and everyone seems to be making progress in awareness, when all of a sudden someone drags out a red herring and you're off on some dead end trail. Maybe it's that new world odor. Here are a couple of typical stinkers you may have caught wind of:

"Over-population is more a symptom than a cause of our fundamental problems."

So, this means that Earth has too many people on it because of our problems rather than Earth having problems because there are too many people on it. It's like:

"Gee, Dear, there's sure a lot of noise and pollution in the air."

"Yeah, I wish we could breathe."

Huh? Oh, we can still breath. C'mon, co2, co2, let's make more of us.

Or maybe you can imagine:

"I'm outta work, homeless, and got a bad disease... makes me feel like creating an heir to share all of this with."

Our biggest problem, destruction of Earth's biosphere, is undoubtedly a symptom rather than a cause of over-population.

But to be fair, it's true that some of our problems promote higher birth rates—especially mental problems like mindless conformity and massive denial.

In addition, problems like high mortality rates, a lack of care for the elderly, low status for women and t actuately motivated, beneficial cycle of solutions and promote higher birth rates again. After evolving at the expense of kabilions of other species, and passing genetic coding on through hundreds of millions of years, any species alive today deserves profound respect and reverence, including our own.

In a sense, all living things are at the peak of evolution. Sacrificing the very existence of any lifeform for something as superfluous as money is an outrageous crime against Nature.

The current extinction rate is nearly one thousand times the average for the eons, and virtually every species' demise stems from the activities of one species. Guess who.

Our voluntary extinction for the eternal good of all other life on Earth will be the ultimate demonstration of the best qualities of humanity: compassion and reason.

Official Movement Position

Since the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement isn't alive with a brain or a mouth, it can't take positions, have opinions, or get punched for being a smart alec. Like Earth First! there is no national organization to become self-serving over time. No committee of Movement shakers has to decide what position everyone else should take because the name is it.

Most VHEMT Volunteers subscribe to the philosophy embodied in the motto: "May we live long and die out," but if someone doesn't want to live long that's their business.

All may consider themselves VHEMT Volunteers if they answered "YES" to receiving a test before being a man and answered "NO" to passing genetic coding on through hundreds of millions of years, any species alive today deserves profound respect and reverence, including our own.

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This distraction is a statistic: "Extinction is natural. 99.9% of all species of plants and animals that have ever existed have gone extinct."

Put it into perspective, doesn't it? We shouldn't get peevved about a few million extinctions today. It's all part of the natural process of life on Earth.

By the same reasoning, we shouldn't care about people dying young. Most people who have ever lived are already dead, and all of us will die eventually. It follows that extinction of the human race shouldn't raise an eyebrow, either.

However, it's true that species alive today represent only 0.1% of Earth's entire biological history, their extinctions are all the more tragic. After evolving at the expense of kabilions of other species, and passing genetic coding on through hundreds of millions of years, any species alive today deserves profound respect and reverence, including our own.

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Should everyone be required to pass a minimal intelligence test before receiving a "License to Breed?"

In light of the 40,000 children dying of malnutrition each day, and considering the number of species going extinct as a result of our excessive reproduction, do you think it would be a good idea to create another of yourself?

\[ \text{YES} \quad \text{NO} \]

If you answered YES: Sorry, your intelligence is not high enough to perform basic logic. Thank you for trying. Please consider the many options to creating "one of your own".

If you answered NO: Congratulations! You're smart enough to pass on your genes. Thanks for not doing so.

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Vaso-Rap

By Thom Metzgar

My band Health and Beauty did a rap which included the following:

Hey everybody now listen to me
My name is Thommy M, I had a vasectomy
They cut me open and they tied that thing
and now I can't have any offspring
I give it to you straight, no if ands or buts
If you want to be a man you got to get yourself cut
Now you may say "Thommy that's a big disgrace"
Well I won't be happy till there ain't no human race.

Resource conservation tip

Each new North American human we don't create is the equivalent of 72 years of 100% recycling. We save 56 years of car driving, avoid tons of pollution, and prevent the potential for additional procreation 20 years later.

When the impact our descendants' descendants would have had on Earth's biosphere is added to what we are saving, it becomes astronomical. And, if we decide to not make two more of us, it's astronomical doubled.

Volunteers who are ready to make even more of a commitment might consider not producing 10 new people: 720 human-years of industrial consumption and pollution saved by just one pair of us. Congratulations!
**Facing Cybernetic Reality**

by Frank Forencich

It's just like a thermostat, you know, only bigger. When something gets too hot, too cold, too big, too acidic, too strong or too numerous, the power of self-regulation kicks in and gives it a dose of opposition. This is the way of all healthy eco-physiologies, from the micro to the macro.

All animal bodies regulate the growth of their individual parts. Failure to control the proliferation of cells is what we call cancer. If a population of cells manages to overcome the chemical and genetic checks on its number, it spreads throughout the body, killing it. The parallel is too obvious to be ignored. The scale is different, but the fundamentals are the same: an excess proliferation and a failure of control. We have met the neoplasm and it is us.

In *The Hot Zone*, Richard Preston describes the discovery and near-apocalyptic spread of the super-lethal Ebola virus:

"In a sense, the earth is mounting an immune response against the human species. Perhaps the biosphere does not 'like' the idea of five billion humans. Nature has interesting ways of balancing itself. The rain forest has its own defences. The earth's immune system, so to speak, has recognized the presence of the human species and is starting to kick in."

The traditional methods of cancer treatment — cut, burn, or poison — are obviously out of the question. But what if the cancer cells were sentient? What if they had enough intelligence to become aware of what they were doing? Surely they would change their ways. After all, even the cancerous cell depends on the host for its continued survival. If cancer cells could think, they would realize that the only rational solution would be to stop their proliferation.

The choice is simple. Either we draw the line on our proliferation, or we suffer the effects of the negative feedback which will surely come our way. Gaia is no mere billiard ball. Pump another million tons of carbon into the atmosphere and raising sea levels will do another kind of regulating act. Nothing personal, you understand, just Gaia taking care of her own health.

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**You may already be a VHEMT Volunteer**

Although this may be the first you've heard of the voluntary human extinction movement, you may already be a VHEMT Volunteer. With an Earth First! perspective, the decision to make no more of us comes naturally.

In fact, anyone who accepts the facts, and applies an eccentronic morality to their thinking, will eventually reach the conclusion that humans are incompatible with Earth's biosphere and should be phased out.

When Ice Age humans hunted animals to extinction, at least one of the Neanderdances among them must have ginned to bewildered disappraoach. As the Fertile Crescent became a barren desert, and the Cedars of Lebanon were sacrificed for ships, someone must have thought, "this bodes ill," or words to that effect.

What we're going to do is create the ever-expanding Sahara by clearcutting forests to fuel their empire, someone must have remarked, "Humanus non gratis." Someone had to get the idea that the planet would be better off without some busy bores.

Today the situation is critical on a global scale. As a result, there must be thousands, if not millions, of people around the world whose inate sense of justice has guided them to make the moral choice. A large portion of today's VHEMT Volunteers were vehement extinctionists before they read *These EXIT Times*.

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**Handy Volunteer, Supporter, or Subscriber form**

- **VHEMT Volunteer**: "All of us should voluntarily refrain from reproducing, bringing about the eventual extinction of Homo sapiens." Volunteers receive all mailings.
- **VHEMT Supporter**: "Intentional creation of one more of us by any of us is unjustifiable at this time, but extinction of our species goes far too far." Supporters receive most mailings.
- **These EXIT Times Subscriber**: "Just send the newsletter and stop trying to put words in my mouth."

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**Sex • Sex • Sex**

Sex is the way most babies are started, but is sexual intercourse really the primary cause of human reproduction? Let's consider the statistics:

The World Health Organization estimates that 100 million couples engage in sexual intercourse on an average day, which is only 3.6% of the world's 5.6 billion humans. This pitifully low figure results in around 910,000 pregnancies. For a variety of reasons, 55% of these zygotes don't make it through fertilization to live birth. According to a current Population Reference Bureau estimate, 385,679 do it daily.

So, less than 0.4% of each day's heterosexual trysts result in the creation of new humans — a statistically insignificant correlation for proving causation.

Try it for yourself. Estimate how many times you've engaged in sexual activity in your lifetime. Now estimate how many times you were trying to make a baby. Dividc the little number by the big number to give you the percent of times sex and procreation have simultaneously motivated you.

Perhaps if there were more opportunities for sexual gratification, so many people wouldn't feel the need to fill a nagging emptiness with a needy dependent.

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**Earn Big Fun in Your Spare Time**

These EXIT Times provides technical support for those who wish to share the VHEMT concept at environmental events such as Earth Day. A basic Volunteers' Booth Kit includes an inventory and helpful hints for a good time. See form at left to order.