



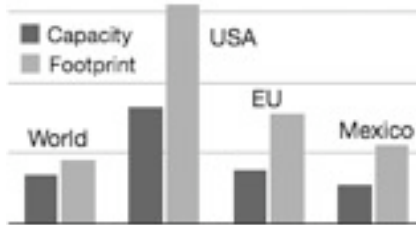
Balanced View

August, 2009

*Population education — promoting awareness about sustainable population to benefit everyone!**
** Pro-life and pro-choice members respectfully agree to disagree in order to promote fair and humane population stabilization.*

6.7 Billion People Overconsume by 30%

The Global Footprint Network reports that the world's 6.7 billion people are now consuming resources 30% faster than the *sustainable* rate of consumption. Our consumption of resources has more than doubled over the past 45 years as a result of population growth and increasing individual use. We are in *overshoot* – both in numbers of people and in consumption of resources. *Ecological Footprint* is the amount of productive land and sea area it takes to produce the resources a population consumes and absorb its carbon dioxide and other wastes.



The enclosed “Global Biocapacity and Ecological Footprint” sheet (see page 6) summarizes this latest information. WPB President David Paxson now distributes this sheet as a handout to audience members during all of his live presentations. He then spends several minutes helping everyone understand the sobering information and discusses the obvious need to humanely and compassionately reduce birth rates during the next century so that total numbers decline to a truly sustainable level.

This handout can be an important tool in getting population and resource facts in front of people. If you would like to distribute this sheet to your family, friends, media, or elected officials and want tips about introducing it to them, please call our office (612) 869-1640. If you make appointments with media or elected officials and would like one of our staff members to join you, please call us.

Your Support is Crucial!

by Carolyn VandenDolder

President David Paxson has been *busy!* He collaborates with heads of other organizations across the country who are working to promote sustainable population and resource consumption. He consults with countless authorities on what is happening now and how it relates to population growth and resource depletion.

He has given dozens of radio interviews all over the country and speaks at schools, colleges, churches, civic, and other groups. He is also working on a book about population and is ever refining his presentation and interview material. His goal is to craft more convincing population messages that reach people who believe population is not a valid problem. He is working hard on behalf of each of us who realize that a sustainable population level is crucial to our future quality of life.

The success of *World Population Balance* is more important than ever. The problem of too many people consuming ever-shrinking resources is becoming more and more evident.

Live Radio Interviews

David Paxson, on behalf of *World Population Balance*, participated in a nationwide initiative to place population experts live on radio stations across the nation. He has done several dozen interviews on radio stations around the country. The eight interviews in May included stations in New York City, San Francisco, Boston, and several other cities.

In all of his interviews, Paxson urges listeners to prevent *inhumane* population reduction – more famines, wars, diseases, and droughts resulting in more deaths. Instead, we need to support humane and compassionate reduction in birth rates to allow total

Most environmental organizations stress “going green” as the answer to our resource challenges. Of course, any green gains will be overshadowed or eliminated by the relentless increase of human numbers. WPB’s message of a *sustainable* population level needs to be understood as we work for effective solutions to our current challenges to secure a brighter future.

The current economic downturn has cost many of us our jobs or our peace of mind. The climate these days has many of us tightening our belts. Unfortunately, this has meant that WPB’s income has declined. Many have faithfully supported WPB with contributions during the past year. But far more have not. While WPB continues to be extremely careful with expenses, making the most of every dollar, *your help is needed* to continue this important work.

Please make a contribution now, if your circumstances allow. *Every dollar* is appreciated! There is a contribution form in this issue of *Balanced View*. And thanks for your support – both moral and financial!

Carolyn VandenDolder is Secretary of the World Population Balance Board



population numbers to drift back to a truly *sustainable* range. Many listener-callers as well as radio hosts were stunned to learn the grim reality that both global and national population are already vastly above

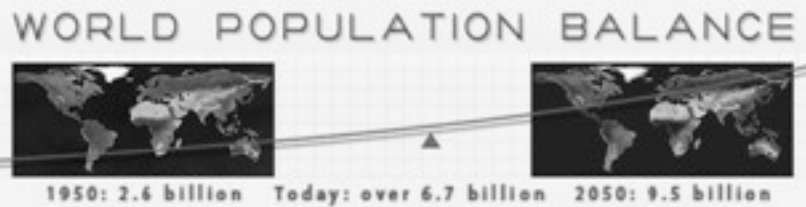
levels that are sustainable with our rapidly declining resources.

To hear an MP3 recording of the New York City interview, simply go to <http://www.sheaiden.com/downloads/popbalinterview.mp3>

New Web Design

Teachers and many others from across the country continue to rave about our web site. Many are especially impressed that we remain strongly focused on the sobering collision between too many people scrambling for ever-declining vital resources. This is the undeniable, mega-problem of our time on this planet. And humane and compassionate population stabilization and reduction are our greatest challenges.

While we do appreciate the many compliments about our site, we have long realized that it's been overdue for a major redesign. We are pleased that the first stage of this process is nearly complete, and we are thrilled with the totally new look.



Senior Research Fellow Alan Ware is updating and expanding the content, and we will be posting it in the coming weeks. So we invite you to stay tuned, at <www.WorldPopulationBalance.org>.

Cyclist Finds Our Web Site

We continue to receive many e-mails raving about our web site. Bicyclist Scott Mullen came onto our radar recently when he sent us the following e-mail:

Subject: too many of us

It was only today that I stumbled on the worldpopulationbalance.org site from a Google search. I'm currently on month three of a bicycle ride from Florida to Alaska. The bicycle trip I've undertaken didn't start off with the

*intention of highlighting the problem of overpopulation. However, it's been difficult **not** to see the impact of it. I've ridden through 12 states now, and 99% of the land I've passed is fenced/cultivated/developed for the sole purpose of sustaining our growing population. That's over 3000+ miles of land.*

The swelling human population is something that has always seemed painfully obvious to me as being the single greatest cause of virtually all

social/environmental/economic issues facing us. I'm glad organizations like yours exist.

My Google search was an attempt to find a group targeting this issue in a sensible way. Someone was interested in donating to my bicycle trip. However, much more good would come from the money going to your cause, so I gave them your URL.

Of course, we're delighted to hear from Scott and to have him join our efforts to humanely and compassionately reduce global and U.S. population to a truly sustainable level.

Weinstein Joins Advisory Board

We welcome Charles Weinstein, Director of the Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership, as the newest member of our Board of Advisors.

Chad has long been concerned about sustainable population. He strongly believes that "citizens and decision makers must be aware of the realities and implications of global population

growth. *World Population Balance* seeks to educate and inform with unbiased and fact-based programs."

We remain grateful to all the members of our Board of Advisors for their devotion and support during the past fifteen years. The involvement of all of these great leaders continues to open many doors for spreading our message.

Board of Advisors

George Archibald	Co-founder, International Crane Foundation
Albert Allen Bartlett	Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Colorado
David Bengston	Ecological Economist and Adjunct Professor, U. of Minnesota
Norman Borlaug	Nobel Peace Prize laureate and "father" of Green Revolution
Nina Leopold Bradley	Director, Aldo Leopold Foundation
Ulf S. H. Christiansen	Retired Norwegian Ambassador
Vijaya Dasgupta, M.D.	Physician, State of Wisconsin
John B. Davis	Former college president and school superintendent
Lowell Erdahl	Bishop, St. Paul Area Synod, ELCA (retired)
Richard Flint	Attorney and conservationist
Richard Grossman, M.D.	Practicing obstetrician/gynecologist
Thomas Hale, M.D.	Author and medical missionary in Nepal
Sister Marlys Jax	Assisi Heights Catholic Community
Ed McGaa, Eagle Man	Oglala Sioux lawyer, writer, and lecturer
William G. Milliken	Former Governor, State of Michigan
George Pillsbury	Retired businessman and former Minnesota State Senator
Father Tim Power	Pastor, Pax Christie Catholic Community (Retired)
Gretchen Quie	Former First Lady, State of Minnesota
Arthur Rouner	Senior Minister Emeritus, Colonial Church of Edina, UCC
Karen Shragg	Environmentalist, naturalist, and author
Charles A. Weinstein	Director of the Hill Center for Ethical Business Leadership
Sister Mary Zirbes	Field of Social Justice

Current Population

World: 6,795,813,189

U.S.: 306,983,901

Balanced View

is a publication of

World Population Balance

David Paxson, Editor

www.WorldPopulationBalance.org

paxson@worldpopulationbalance.org

Fred Waltz, Co-Editor

Our Mission

To alert, inform, and educate that humane, compassionate population reduction is crucial to creating a truly sustainable future and preventing inhumane global catastrophe.

We are a nonprofit organization promoting our message through public presentations and conferences, appointments with elected officials, written articles, our newsletter, web site, media interviews, and advertisements.

Teens Learn and Take Action

By Alan Ware

Every year David Paxson and Frank Babka do live presentations to thousands of students about increasing world population and declining vital resources. Some are as young as fourth grade, others are in college, most are in high school.

A day David spent at Edina High School is typical of many. He did six population assemblies with juniors and seniors. David began with a chart illustrating that hardly any of the world's 6.7 billion people spend time thinking about the entire planet or about the next several decades. Next he held up a fast-ticking metronome to serve as a visceral representation of the increase of humans on the planet – 150 per minute. Over 200,000 per day, net increase.

Holding up an inflatable globe, he then asked, “How many of you think that the amount of oil in the world has increased in the past twenty-four hours to keep pace with an **additional** 200,000 people? How about fresh water? Topsoil and farmland? Ocean fish stocks? Rainforest?” Not a hand went up, and a powerfully persuasive point had been made. “Not only have these vital resources not increased; they have all **declined**,” he continued.

David then mentioned several horrendous disasters that left many dead and thousands more wounded and homeless. And media coverage of each of these events was extensive. He then pointed out that the daily addition of 200,000 more people on the planet quickly reduces these catastrophes to an asterisk in the history of our species' population explosion. Through their focus on short-term disasters, the media give precious little attention to the slow-motion catastrophe of unsustainable and overwhelming population increase.

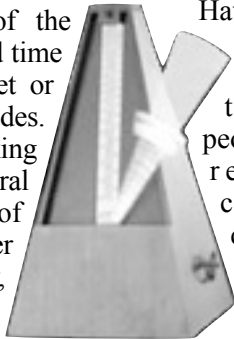
The students then watched a short video showing the exponential increase of world population during recent centuries. Starting 2000 years ago, we see a few lights on a world map. Each light represents a million people living

at that time. For the first several centuries very few additional lights pop on, because higher death rates were not much below the higher birth rates during those years. Beginning in the 1800s the lights blink on noticeably faster as higher food production and advances in public health, medicine, and sanitation lower death rates around the world. In the 20th century, the lights are added at a blindingly fast pace, so that by the end of the video much of the world is a solid mass of light.

Having made the point of how fast our species has spread around the globe, David then asked the question, “How many people can the planet's natural resources support at a comfortable and sustainable quality of life?” With the help of a chart showing the ecological footprint and biological capacity of different nations and the world (see page 6), David showed how our current consumption overshoots the earth's sustainable resource capacity. Recent research demonstrates that the earth's resources can **sustainably** support only about 1 to 2 billion people at a European standard of living. Or, four billion people could sustainably exist if their average consumption level was only one **fourth** that of an average American (or about one **half** of an average European).

In pointing to answers, David mentioned that although technological advances are needed and can help, the ecological strain of unprecedented billions of people over-consuming and overshooting resources is creating problems far faster than our technology can provide solutions. He emphasized that every nation needs to stabilize its population. Currently, the U.S. is growing faster than all other industrialized countries combined.

This rapid population growth, coupled with high per capita consumption, makes our nation's impact on resources far above the world average and doubly unsustainable!



In response to a student asking, “What should we do?” David emphasized the importance of raising awareness of the slow-motion crisis of unsustainable human numbers with elected officials and the media. David ended by noting that the longer we wait, the fewer our humane options will be. If we don't humanely and compassionately decrease human births soon, the tragic and inhumane consequences of increased death, suffering, and diminished quality of life for earth's billions will likely follow.



David Paxson

After many of David's presentations some students become actively involved in working on the population-reduction issue by learning more about the issue and doing research projects, contacting and educating their elected officials, and enlightening their friends and family members.

Alan Ware is Senior Research Fellow at World Population Balance.

A Compelling Web Site: CHRISMARTENSON.COM

Interested in a fun way to better understand how rising population, our struggling economy, and declining supplies of oil and other vital resources are all related? Then you will find the “Crash Course” at <http://www.chrismartenson.com>, an exciting and tremendously enlightening experience!

Many *World Population Balance* members have already viewed the Crash Course and are enthusiastically recommending it to their friends and relatives. If you do not have time to watch all of the Crash Course, we highly recommend that you look at the later chapters on Energy and Environment.

After you have viewed the Crash Course – or even just a part of it – we would very much like to hear what you think about it. So, please send us an e-mail at

Paxson@WorldPopulationBalance.org

Economic Irony, Limits, and the Durable Community

By David Thomas

Long-time World Population Balance member; David Thomas, recently wrote a version of this excellent article for the Ashland Daily Press in Wisconsin. A durable community is one that has true long-term balance between its rate of overall resource consumption and its population level.

As the world economy spirals downward, folks are wondering what effect a deep recession will have on our local communities. Record oil prices last summer helped trigger the current economic meltdown. Confronted with rapidly rising food and energy costs, many highly-leveraged households couldn't pay their bills. Having borrowed (and

And therein lies the rub. *There can be no indefinite economic growth in a finite environment.* The implications of this simple observation are unthinkable today, and therefore generally ignored.

Science and common sense tell us there are limits to the resources we use to produce goods and services. At some point these resources (particularly oil) will become less available and more expensive, growth will slow and reverse, and competition for remaining resources will create social and political instability. If we exceed the capacity of our resource base by carrying high levels of population and economic activity, then crisis is inevitable.

When rational consumers choose to satisfy limited "needs" instead of infinite "wants," we strengthen our

the public and tirelessly build consensus — not an easy task. It's already difficult to do in our current comprehensive planning process, where old models and familiar assumptions are simply projected ahead. It may be impossible when new models and unfamiliar concepts require us to make difficult decisions about the future of our community.

But try we must, and with great urgency. There is no time for a leisurely transition. *Those who think that hyping "green" products and using efficient light bulbs will secure our future are mistaken.* Nothing less than systemic change is required to make our communities more durable.

Solutions seem obvious: locally-based food and energy production provide reliable supplies, promote responsible practice, and keep dollars in the local economy. Locally-based housing and transportation systems use locally-sourced labor and materials, support local industry, and may offer greater expertise in design and efficiency. A more self-reliant economy protects communities from shortages, monetary instability, and the vagaries of international markets.

But how many residents can be supported with locally produced food and energy? How much pollution is allowed without lowering air and water quality? How much land development can be sustained without long-term degradation of topsoil, habitat, biodiversity, and vital ecosystem services? *A systems-thinking approach requires a durable community to remain within*

local carrying capacity, create a "steady-state" economy, recycle pollution, cap development, and limit the number of community residents.

The consequences of overshooting carrying capacity are dramatic and far-reaching. As the economy exceeds environmental limits, growth becomes "un-economic," it produces "bads" as well as "goods," new technologies show diminishing returns, renewable resources become nonrenewable, and society must spend "principal" instead of living off "interest." (continued)



spent) available home equity, and pressured with credit card debt and zero savings, they defaulted on their mortgages.

Those able to keep their homes prudently cut household spending. But consumer spending is the engine that powers our modern capitalist economy and keeps it growing — it's required in order to maintain our standard of living, say the experts. So, industry must produce and consumers must purchase enormous amounts of goods and services to maintain economic growth.

household but weaken the national economy. When responsible citizens reject a high-impact global consumer society and embrace a low-impact locally-based society, we strengthen our community but weaken traditional business models and undermine municipal planning. If not done carefully, the transition to a durable economy will be traumatic for government, business, and consumer alike.

A smooth transition requires community leaders to actively educate

Some people are able to connect the dots between population growth and a diminishing resource base, between economic growth and the deterioration of life-supporting ecosystems. ***Some understand that the economy is a subset of the larger environment and know that if we degrade our environment, our economy will go bankrupt.*** Determining optimum levels of population and economic activity for a community – and for a state and nation – may become the most urgent and responsible public policy debate of our time.

So far, most community leaders fail to see these connections and advocate “growing” our way out of recession. But ***growth is only a short-term fix*** in a closed environment when population levels are low, resource levels high, and pollution insignificant. Not so today. With the U.S. population over 300 million (nearly 7 billion globally), many of the world’s oil fields in decline, and rising CO₂ levels, we are far beyond carrying capacity. Adding 3 million more Americans (80 million globally) every twelve months is clearly unsustainable.

Clinging to an outdated, inaccurate growth mantra, community leaders block efforts to find long-term solutions and thereby tighten our downward spiral.

Unlike other regions of the world, there is no widespread hunger or homelessness in our area, no soup kitchens or shantytowns, no rioting or violence. The coming crisis has not yet arrived. Nor does it need to.

With visionary leadership, greater public awareness, and direct action we can transition to a durable community that will shelter us from the worst trends of this deepening recession.

David Thomas has a degree in Economics and worked in the aviation industry for nearly 30 years. He’s traveled around the world, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, worked in green politics, started a land trust, and been active in the sustainability movement. He now reads, writes, and raises chickens, geese, and draft horses on an organic farm off the coast of northern Wisconsin. You can reach him through our office at office@worldpopulationbalance.org.

Spotlight on Alan Anderson

Several decades ago a forty-five year old Alan Anderson grew alarmed about the overwhelming impact of more and more people on declining resources. Rachel Carson, Jacques Cousteau, and other leading environmental thinkers helped enlighten Alan. He grew more concerned about the connections between expanding human activity and escalating depletion of resources.



As a political conservative, Alan also became deeply concerned with the corrosive effect of large population numbers on our republican form of government. Larger populations require more complex, centralized government, which means less personal freedom and more authoritarianism.

Since childhood he has seen explosions in population and consumption – both in the U.S. and around the world. He grew up near Lake of the Isles before WWII. At that time there were no suburbs, and the streetcar went through many miles of fertile farmland all the way to Lake Minnetonka. In college Alan studied

history, government, and economics. These remain abiding interests that shape his understanding of environmental and population issues.

Alan first heard David Paxson speak in 1995 and immediately became interested in learning more about *World Population Balance*. Soon after that he volunteered to help improve our financial record-keeping, and he spent several months on this vitally important project. Next came membership on the Board of Directors where he has continued ever since. Twice he chaired the board and still serves as treasurer.

Alan is pleased that *World Population Balance* has developed such a strong and successful educational message about overpopulation, overconsumption, and overshoot of our vital resources. “We’re fortunate to have David Paxson and others working on the overpopulation issue with their years of local, national, and international experience. We must increase awareness of this crucial issue so that everyone supports humane population stabilization and reduction.”

We are tremendously indebted to Alan, now a youthful 89, for all his many years of wisdom, counsel, and dedication. We are grateful that his steady hand continues to benefit *World Population Balance*.

Thank you, Alan!
Alan spent his career as proprietor of Anderson’s China Shop in downtown Minneapolis.

Anderson on Public Radio

In May, many *World Population Balance* members in Minnesota were impressed to hear former Board Chair, Alan Anderson, phone in the following comment on public radio’s *Midday* program. He did a great job of framing the overpopulation and overconsumption issues.

“When I was 10 years old in 1930 there were 2 billion people on the planet. Now there are over six billion. If we really think we can have the prosperity we’ve had in the past, or in the time *I’ve* lived, I think we’re dreaming.”

“Six billion people are competing for all the resources, and basically we’re all dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is now under corporate

control, and they’re mining the earth. Half of Iowa’s topsoil has gone down the river. And this added production to feed more people has helped build the population.”

The economist’s response was “. . . the other way of looking at it is we had two billion customers, and now we have six billion customers . . .”

It was obvious that this pundit does not understand the simple reality of too many people competing for ever-shrinking supplies of many vital resources in the country and the world.

We are convinced that if this person lives another decade or two, even ***he*** will wake up!

GLOBAL BIOCAPACITY AND ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

We 6.7 billion people are in population and resource overshoot. Since the mid 1980s we have been consuming resources **faster** than the **sustainable** rate of replacement. We are consuming our resource base. **By 2005 the overshoot rate was above 30% and rising.**

The world's 33.6 billion acres of biologically productive land and water (biocapacity) divided by the world's 6.47 billion people in 2005 equals 5.1 acres per person. This was the average resource consumption amount per person that would be **sustainable**.

Data below from www.footprintnetwork.org/atlas

	Population	Total Biocapacity	Total Ecological Footprint	Ecological deficit (-) reserve (+)	Percent Overshoot
2005 data	millions	global acres/person	global acres/person	global acres/person	
World	6,476	5.1	6.7	-1.6	31%
Low income countries	2,371	2.2	2.5	-0.3	14%
United States	298.2	12.4	23.3	-10.9	88%
European Union (EU25)	487	5.7	11.6	-5.9	104%
Mexico	107	4.1	8.4	-4.2	102%
Poorest Countries					
Afghanistan	29.9	1.8	1.2	0.6	33%
Haiti	8.5	0.7	1.3	-0.6	86%
Bangladesh	141.8	0.6	1.4	-0.8	133%

Special note: All Earth's biocapacity is allocated, above, to **human** consumption. To stop the greatest mass extinction in modern history and provide habitat for all other living things, a third to half of earth's biocapacity must be set aside for wildlife – a stunning increase from less than 15% now.

SUSTAINABLE WORLD AND U.S. POPULATION

To halt resource depletion-overshoot and mass extinction, human numbers need to return to 3 billion or less. And U.S. resources can **sustainably** support about 200 million – less than two thirds of our current population. **And that's only if we slashed our average consumption in half!**

Therefore, it is **crucial** to our viability on the planet that we reduce births (and in the U.S., births and immigration) to allow population to drift back to a truly **sustainable** level, long-term.



More Information and speakers are available at

WORLD POPULATION BALANCE

www.WorldPopulationBalance.org P.O. Box 23472, Minneapolis, MN 55423 612-869-1640

Film Review: Documentary Explores Crucial Issues

By Fred Elbel

We are very close to a turning point, where life after peak oil will be notably different from how we live life today. As Richard Heinberg succinctly observes in the film documentary *Blind Spot*, “This is the most serious problem to face the human race – since we’ve been human.”



2008 DVD; 1:24. \$16.00 at Film Baby!
www.filmbaby.com/films/3368
 Film by Adolfo Doring
 Producer: Amanda Zackem
 Website: www.blindspotdoc.com

Blind Spot is a fascinating presentation of this event in human history, how we got in our current predicament, why we will need to change, and why we are averse to change. It focuses on our huge population numbers and our relationship to the earth. It considers our increasing

demand for oil at a point where supplies are about to diminish, and how increasingly-abundant cheap energy has led us to our current predicament.

Blind Spot begins and concludes with the statement “*The world is saying, ‘Either you can fix it or I can fix it, and if I fix it you are not going to like it because I’m going to throw everything away.’ And everything means most of us.*”

The film contains a rich tapestry of interwoven visual images and commentary, and is decidedly not stilted, boring, or dry. It presents facts, yet only three charts are briefly shown. Tone and pacing are excellent. Absent the boring monotone of a single narrator, this documentary interweaves statements of notable environmentalists and scientists—which alone make it worth watching more than once. Interviewees include Albert Bartlett (WPB Advisory Board member), William Catton Jr., Derrick Jensen, Max Fraad Wolff, David Pimentel, Kenneth Deffeyes, Joseph Tainter, Terry Tamminen, Jason Bradford, Elke Weber, James Hansen, Mary Anne Hitt, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, Bill McKibben, David Korten, Matt Savinar, and Lester Brown.

The film stresses that increasing energy use is the key to understanding the last 200 years of history. Abundant energy has allowed us to construct a paradigm where we believe that growth is normal and can continue forever. We believe fundamental “truths” without question: that oil will last indefinitely, population growth is not an issue, technological fixes will solve all our problems, and our current system of investment creates real wealth.

Lester Brown: “I think the world of declining oil production will be so different from the one of rising oil production and oil use that we’ll hardly recognize it. It’s going to change almost everything we do – every facet of our lives... There’s been a public information campaign to *discourage* the world from gearing up and seriously preparing for a world in which oil production will be declining.”

Al Bartlett: “In general, people are innumerate – which is the mathematical equivalent of illiteracy... If we don’t stop population growth, nature will.”

Jabon Bradford: “We have developed a culture that reinforces the idea that we can always get more... All anyone who’s alive today can see is this era of human progress and then assume it is going to stretch out to the future.” Yet most of our major assumptions are false. Challengers of the existing paradigm are “challenging generations of beliefs and assumptions. Those who challenge it are essentially putting themselves outside of their own culture.”

The film focuses on why we are in our current predicament. We may be dimly aware of the critical issues of overpopulation and peak oil, yet we conduct business as usual. Elected political leaders avoid even a mention of them. We seem to be living in a detached world, out of touch with the reality of our future.

William Catton notes that “Preoccupation with routines of life prevents people from thinking about [the issue]... We have been through a period of history in which expansion was tantamount to progress.”

(continued on page 8)

View segments of *Blind Spot* at www.albartlett.org/interviews/bartlett_interviews.html and at www.blindspotdoc.com

World Population Balance

Contribution, Membership, & Change-of-Address Form

Please detach and return this form with your tax-deductible contribution. Please make checks payable to

World Population Balance

and mail them to **World Population Balance**

P.O. Box 23472 Minneapolis, MN 55423 U.S.A.

If there are mistakes in your name and address on the back of this form, please make corrections.

Also, please add phone(s) and e-mail address(es). Thank you. Sign up your friends or relatives for a free year’s subscription!

Thank you.

Please print clearly.

Name(s):

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone(s):

E-mail:

_____ \$1,000 Stabilization Sponsor _____ \$35 Member
 _____ \$100 Supporting Member _____ \$_____ Other

We welcome your contribution at any level.

(*Blind Spot* continued) **Elke Weber** insightfully observes “People are incredibly impatient and favor immediate consumption.... So a *blind spot* is something to which we don’t pay attention because it is often- times removed from us, either in time or in space, and therefore doesn’t threaten us in any immediate way.”

What kind of future do we want for our species—and for all species? If we can’t have infinite growth on a finite planet, can we re-examine our beliefs and our way of life in sufficient depth in order to construct a sustainable world?

James Hansen asks: “So the question is: do we want to preserve the planet that

resembles the one we inherited from our ancestors?” **David Korten**: “This is a fundamental rethinking of what it means to be human.”

Blind Spot is indeed worth watching – not only by those who are familiar with the issues of overpopulation and peak oil, but especially by those who know little about them. The appealing visual imagery of this informative documentary is mesmerizing and perfectly complements the speakers’ comments. This film draws one back for repeated viewings and enduring reflection.

The film certainly has a forceful impact by the direct manner in which it addresses the serious problems we now

face. Yet it also offers hope by showing that serious people are earnestly considering these problems and that others are invited to join the dialog.

The film makes no hysterical and alienating cry for action, yet leaves one with a deep understanding of why we have little choice but to take action. Very well done.

Fred Elbel is the proprietor of Elbel Consulting Services, LLC, complete webdesign and hosting solutions, software engineering, audio and video editing. He has recently redesigned our web site, WorldPopulationBalance.org. This review appeared in the Spring, 2009 Social Contract Journal <www.TheSocialContract.com>

Donate Your Vehicle

Turn your unwanted vehicle, running or not, into a tax-deductible contribution to *World Population Balance*! In a cooperative effort between *World Population Balance* and *Donation Line*, your vehicle can be donated to our organization, running or not. And you receive a tax deduction from *World Population Balance*!

In addition to cars, you can donate trucks, vans, boats, motorcycles, even airplanes. You must have clean title. Free towing. No hassle. Pick up ASAP. See the link on the WPB website <http://WorldPopulationBalance.org/donate>



or call
1-877-
CARS-4-
US, ext.
2255.

Several WPB members have generously donated a vehicle to help our sustainable population efforts. And we are equally delighted that several new people from around the country stumbled onto us, and chose to donate their vehicle as well. *Thank you, all of you!*

Prefer to no longer receive this newsletter?
If so, please leave a message (612-869-1640) or e-mail (office@worldpopulationbalance.org) and we will remove your name. *Thank you.*

www.worldpopulationbalance.org

Too Many People in the Most Beautiful Canyon

By Cindy Koehler

My husband Larry and I had a sobering experience when we spent two years trying to plan a trip into the Grand Canyon. During the first year, we attempted to secure a bed in a bunkhouse at the bottom of the canyon. The requirement was that we had to call at 8 a.m. on the first day of the month *one year in advance*. We were on the phone continuously until 10:30 a.m. before we got an open line, and then we were told that all beds were taken.

After two more attempts, we decided to try to reserve a campsite instead. The procedure was that the first day of the month *four months before the desired date* we were required to fax a reservation form. Again, all lines were busy and we felt discouraged about our prospect of ever fulfilling our dream of experiencing the lower part of the Grand Canyon. We were surprised a few days later when we received a coveted campsite permit that eventually allowed us to have that long-anticipated adventure.

Many of our great parks now have long waiting times to visit. Wouldn’t our great-grandparents be shocked by such restrictions? The long months of hassle and hoop-jumping just to visit these places are growing even longer, driven largely by population growth. If we allow overpopulation to continue climbing, more and more people will find it impossible to ever experience these incredibly rich natural places. A tragic result will be far fewer of us having deeply-grounded connections to the natural world, and that will be a tragic and profound loss for all humankind.

Cindy Koehler is a member & volunteer with World Population Balance.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 155

World Population Balance
P.O. Box 23472 612-869-1640
Minneapolis, MN 55423 U.S.A.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED