



The LaRouche Youth Movement's walking nuclear cooling tower which haunted the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City. Inscription reads: "Jose López Portillo Was Right: Mexico Needs 20 Nuclear Plants."

'ONLY ANIMALS SAVE WATER; HUMAN BEINGS GENERATE IT'

So polemicized a giant banner deployed by the Mexican LaRouche Youth Movement outside the March 16-22 Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City, which brought together several thousand government officials and experts from 140 countries. Amid stultifying discussions on how to conserve, put a value on, and privatize the dwindling fresh water resources of the world, the Mexico City youth intervened like a cool drink on a hot summer's day, calling for nuclear-powered desalination of sea water and large-scale water diversion projects. One of the youth paraded around the conference site dressed as a nuclear cooling tower.

Four of the youth attended the closing ceremony, where they unfurled two giant banners and sang a song composed for the occasion by Laura Flores, to the tune of the American civil rights song "Oh, Freedom":

Let's make water,
Drinking water,
Let's make water from the sea,
And before I'll be a camel
I prefer to be a human
And make water from the sea
To live.

Nuclear power
Nuclear power
Don't be fearful about it,
And instead of saving water
We should start desalinating
And make water from the sea
To live.

CHINESE SPACE OFFICIAL WARNS: 'A CLOSED SOCIETY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND'

From the 1950s through the 1970s, China was a closed society, China's National Space Administration Vice Administrator Luo Ge told a Washington audience April 3. During trips to the United States in the following two decades, Luo said he admired the openness of this country. "Now it's the other way around," he remarked, in reference to the American refusal to cooperate with China in civilian scientific space programs. Luo spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, after a meeting he had held earlier that day with NASA Administrator Mike Griffin.

Luo summarized China's plans for the unmanned exploration of the Moon, a constellation of disaster-monitoring satellites, and the development of a heavy-lift launch vehicle, which he described as "non-polluting," which most likely means it will use more energetic and advanced liquid hydrogen for fuel. There have been strong reactions in the U.S. Congress to China's announcement that it plans a manned lunar landing in around 2017, which is similar to the date planned for the U.S.-manned return to the Moon.

SCIENTIST CALLS FOR EBOLA VIRUS TO WIPE OUT 90% OF POPULATION

Asserting that human overpopulation was ruining the planet, ecologist Eric Pianka invoked a pestilence, in the form of an aerosol-spread form of Ebola virus, to sweep 90 percent of the population from the face of the Earth. Pianka made the comments in an address to a meeting of the Texas Academy of Sciences held March 3-5 at Lamar University, where he received the 2006 Distinguished Texas Scientist award. The gruesome speech, bolstered by a powerpoint presentation including blood, skulls, and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, was given a rousing ovation by the audience of scientists and students!

Although that portion of the program was not recorded, at Pianka's request, a member of the Texas Academy of Sciences, Forrest M. Mims, took copious notes and snapped a picture of the maniac. Mims's account of the event was printed in one local Texas newspaper, and on his online magazine, *The Citizen Scientist*, and can be viewed at: www.sas.org/tcs/weeklyIssues_2006/2006-04-07/feature1p/index.html.



This is the first electron micrograph of the Ebola Zaire virus, causative agent for ebola haemorrhagic fever. It was taken in 1976 by Dr. F.A. Murphy.

CHINA BEGINS TESTING SUPERCONDUCTING FUSION TOKAMAK

The Institute of Plasma Physics, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, recently announced successful initial testing of several crucial components of its newly constructed Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST). EAST will be the first full superconducting experimental tokamak fusion device in the world. The superconducting magnets will confine the fusion plasma.

The project under way in Hefei, Anhui Province, is an upgrade of China's first such experimental device, the HT-7, which was built in partnership with Russia, in the early 1990s. Discharge tests are planned for July or August of this year, and are expected to produce of 50-100 million°C temperatures sustained over 1,000 consecutive seconds. EAST will prepare China for its participation in the International Thermonuclear Experiment Reactor, or ITER, which includes Russia, the United States, the European Union, South Korea, Japan, and India.

PRODUCTION OF NEUTRONS FROM PYROELECTRIC 'DOUBLE CRYSTAL' FUSION

Researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute announced the development of a tabletop device that produces thermonuclear fusion at room temperature on Feb. 13. Fusion is produced by accelerating deuterium ions in the charge produced between two pyroelectric crystals. This very simple device might have practical applications in laboratory and sensor technology.

Pyroelectricity is the phenomenon known since ancient times, by which certain crystalline minerals, such as tourmaline, produce a difference of charge on opposite faces when heated. Research by Paul-Jean Curie and Pierre Curie in the 1880s showed that 10 of the 32 crystallographic classes exhibit pyroelectricity. In the course of the research, a related new phenomena, piezoelectricity (the generation of current by pressure on the crystal faces) was also discovered.

To produce fusion, the Rensselaer group heats two opposed lithium tantalate crystals of about 1-cm thickness in a small vacuum chamber containing deuterium gas. The crystals are heated to 130°C, and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting electric field pulls electrons off the gas molecules, and accelerates the remaining deuterium ions into the negatively charged crystal face, which contains a deuterium target. Neutrons of 2.45 MeV, characteristic of deuterium fusion, are detected.

The idea of using the high charge density obtainable from pyroelectricity to accelerate deuterium ions was proposed in 2002 by Seth Putterman, a sonoluminescence researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles (see *21st Century*, Winter 1991). Funding for Putterman's proposal was rejected in May 2002 by the University of California Energy Institute. Although peer review found the proposal workable, it was rejected because it was "more of a science proposal than one that has direct relevance to an energy problem."

GREENLAND ICE SHEET GROWING; GLOBAL WARMING PROPAGANDA, TOO

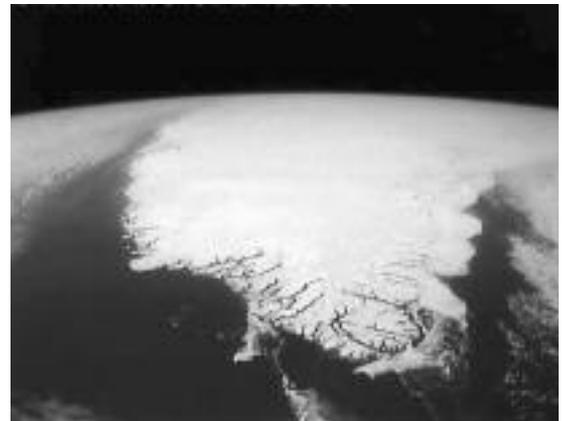
The Greenland ice sheet increased slightly in mass from 1992-2002, according to a study published in the *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 51, No. 175, 2005. The East Antarctic ice sheet also increased in mass, but a greater decrease in the West Antarctic ice sheet means a slight net decrease in global ice mass over the 1992-2002 decade. The study by H. Jay Zwally, et al. is based on the most precise satellite altimetry data ever gathered, using the European Remote-sensing Satellites ERS-1 and 2, and other observations.

The net contribution to global sea level of the decrease in ice mass comes to +0.05 millimeters per year, with an error margin of ± 0.03 mm. Thus, if current trends were to continue over the next century, the resulting rise in sea level would amount to between 2 and 8 millimeters, or less than one-third of an inch. However, any such extrapolation from a decade-long statistical trend is meaningless. Three astronomical phenomena suggest that the Earth is moving towards an Ice Age: Northern Hemisphere Summer is occurring near aphelion; orbital inclination is high at 23.5 degrees; and ellipticity is moderate. These long-term trends situate the Earth about 11,000 years into an approximately 20,000-year-long interglacial. Climatic optimum was reached nearly 5,000 years ago, and the Earth has been cooling since.



Institute of Plasma Physics

China's newly constructed Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) is gearing up for high-temperature discharge tests in July.



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The southern end of the Greenland ice sheet. Global warming hot air has not prevented the Greenland ice sheet from expanding over the last decade.