

Open letter to Economists:

A friend of mine is the head of the Economics Dept. at a respectable University, and he won't talk to me quite yet. That's because I've been telling him for years that Economists are missing a few critical elements to make Economics work. – He is a Fantastic Economist in his personal life! He splits his own fire wood, insulated his walls and uses a clean wood stove convection system. Does all his own woodwork and drives a bio-diesel that gets 45mpg. At the university he teaches his students some very fancy matrix equations to feed into their computers, so they can make models as eye-popping as the weather models that mesmerize us on the evening news. But just like the weather, the ability to accurately predict it hasn't gotten any better since they added all the bells and whistles. – It just keeps them up with the Weather Joneses, so the people will keep watching with glazed eyes, and the tuition will keep coming in...

Meanwhile Economies across the globe are collapsing as we watch the stock market tickers roll up and down, and listen to the detailed analysis by the Economists who seem to know a hell of a lot about multi-syllabic financial mechanisms, yet appear clueless how to introduce ideas for people and countries to work together on long term maintenance of the Earth-based habitat that has always made our lives possible...

I may seem just a tad cynical about Economists and Economics... I feel pretty much the same way about lawyers and the legal system, and politicians...

But what's happening here on Earth is at least as much my fault as it is theirs.

(So I apologize if I've offended anyone, or failed to delineate the myriad of professions that have also become grossly inefficient or corrupted by the morphological 'Monopoly' game that has simply been played for too long...)

- Back to me being at least as much to blame as anyone else. - I've enjoyed some of the ride of the 'American Delusion', and the boom years of laissez-faire, runaway free-enterprise capitalism, and the first one that has always been free... But, like I said a moment ago, "This game has simply gone on too long..." - In my opinion, for quite some time, the Economy has actually been consuming itself, as, collectively, we have never taken into account the depletion of the resource base, exponentially increasing human population levels, pollution of the air, water and soil, natural disasters and now the increasing ramifications of a warming planet.

Even if we completely ignore the warming aspect; I think everything else is all of our faults added together. - And I think it's time we all faced up to it...

If we take into account the combined effects of human population growth, resource depletion, pollution and natural disasters; then it should be obvious that a Consumption-based Economy is not only obsolete, but hazardous to the health of every country's Economy, and all the higher forms of life on Earth. (We will always need to consume food, water and some energy; however, the idea that all consumption and growth is 'good' is simply 'wrong')

I perceive Adam Smith's "Invisible Hand" as 'reactionary'.... And therefore incapable of the forward thinking that is required now that all these limiting factors have gone exponential... – The Infinite Consumption model of Economics is now contributing to the escalation of war and violence for nearly every human society on this planet. –

- People are fighting each other all across this planet. As our Economies have consumed the resources, they have also been consuming the opportunities for working class people. They have been consuming the hopes that people could prosper, or simply survive with dignity, through honest work. –

In a world of diminishing opportunities for survival, dignity and fulfillment through honest means; corruption has risen to fill the void. Gangs and terrorist organizations have risen in large-part because we have not used 'Economics' to create the jobs; the opportunities, which help maintain the Earth habitat and dignify our existence. The United States may have unwittingly led the world to believe that greed is good. - That a philosophy of 'Screw you, I got mine' is good. – It's not good...

Now, I'm Not suggesting that 'fixing Economics' is a panacea, which could eliminate all of our failings. - However, I am saying that this is something we can actually do, that could have a profoundly positive effect on nearly every aspect of our lives...

So my challenge for Economists is to accept the 'fact' that the infinite growth and consumption model is a dinosaur that will kill us all. – Let it go..... – Take a deep breath; and begin to develop models for Conservation-based Economics; where we 'reward ourselves' for conserving and regenerating the soil, the water, the air, the fuels and all the resources that we need today. – Create computer models that show how we might apportion the enormous amount of work that needs to be done into 'jobs'. – And, also, how can the financial and investment community change with us; together? How can they / we help make a long-term Economy plausible, as well as possible?

I think it would help if every single one of us spends at least part of our existence with our hands in the earth. – pulling weeds, planting seeds, and 'working' the land... Indoor and outdoor gardening should be part of our currency and our 'normal' existence... - This is not just tree-hugging philosophy (I'm not that illuminated*). This is practical. - It's Thermodynamics: We cannot continue to take out more than what we input. "We can conserve it and regenerate it." – And yes, I also believe that what is good for the soul is good for the body...

I look forward to hearing from you..

Truce,
Jordan Macarus

Earlier Perspectives:

Simplifying Job Priorities (9-3-11):

http://enviromonster.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52:simplifying-job-priorities-9-3-11&catid=9:archived-articles&Itemid=3

A partial list of jobs in a Conservation-based Economy (from The Alien Papers, 2010):
http://enviromonster.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26:sustainable-jobs&catid=41:sustainable-jobs&Itemid=29

*: I believe the people who hug trees and really 'feel it' on a regular basis are close to the Earth. – They're like Jesus and the Buddha...