

# Each person must accept responsibility

By JIM HOLLINGWORTH, M.D.  
As my psyche rests in the rubble of the Persian Gulf War, I ask myself the perennial question: Who am I and what am I doing here?

There is probably no simple answer, but I suspect that a key ingredient to the answer lies in the study of evolution. A study of

who has amassed vast amounts of material wealth; but one who has learned to live in harmony with nature, taking as little as is necessary from the natural world and who, in return, is thankful and feels blessed.

As individuals and societies change, politicians will have little choice but to develop ecologically



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evolution which goes beyond the commonly understood and accepted Darwinian concept of the evolution of species. A study which includes the evolution of awareness, responsibility and ecological values at a personal, societal, political, industrial and military level.

At a personal level, we have to evaluate our responsibility for environmental damage. Each time we make a purchase or choose a lifestyle, we need to assess the impact that this will have on the environment. We can no longer make personal choices based on dollar costs alone. If we are to evolve, we will have to consider ecological costs. We will have to understand that our long-term evolution and well-being is more dependent on ecology than on any man-made economy.

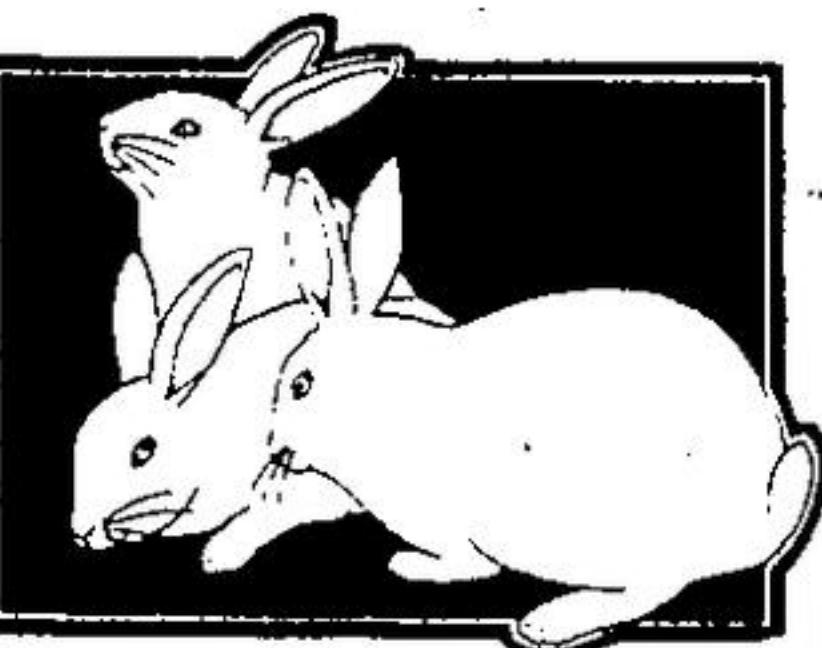
As individuals change and incorporate sound, sustainable ecological values in their decision-making process, so society will change. For society is nothing more than a collection of individuals. Society will become intolerant of those individuals, politicians, institutions and industries which disregard the environment. The "successful" person of the future will not be one

sound policies. As recent history has shown in Europe, eventually the mightiest of governments have to respond to and ultimately represent the wishes of the people they serve. Two years ago, who would have thought that the power of ordinary people could have toppled the hard-line communist regimes in Europe? Our evolution now demands that governments of the future must insist on ecologically wise policies and practices. It is the mandate of ordinary people to make sure that this happens.

Industries in turn will have to respond to citizens demanding ecologically viable industrial practices. Industry is dependent upon ordinary people to buy its products, to work in its factories and to invest in its stocks and shares. Individuals have already started to make ecological demands on industry. There have been some early promising responses. This process of change must accelerate for our human evolution to be guaranteed. It is time for each of us to develop our ecologically aware Ralph Nader-like personality.

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