

A 21st CENTURY  
STEWARDS HANDBOOK

During development of this book, the early manuscripts had various names. Some of these manuscripts were forwarded to a variety of respected people for evaluation.

Some of the evolving names were:

Logic, and the Sacred Cow Syndrome

Malady of a dying planet

A Troubleshooter's Analysis of the human predicament,

The following are a few letters received from early readers, who gave both encouragement and valuable advice.

Don Chisholm

THE DIRECTORY OF  
**SOURCES**  
FOR EDITORS, REPORTERS & RESEARCHERS

06 June 94

Don Chisholm  
President  
GAIA Conservation Coalition  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Don:

Since 1961 I've been concerned about an excess of human population. That year I enrolled in a course titled "Population Problems" at The University of Michigan.

Today your organization is pursuing invaluable work in educating about this ongoing -- and worsening -- problem.

While I fear we are well into "overshoot and dieoff" we must continue to do all we can to secure the future. Your organization is to be commended for its pursuit of that worthy end.

With best wishes,



Barrie Zwicker  
Publisher

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May 27, 1994

Dear Don Chisholm:

I am delighted to hear about your display, since it will permit far more people to learn about your very important message. The work of the Gaia Preservation Coalition and other organizations is crucial for the survival of our civilization!

*Best wishes,*

*Allen*

January 10th 1993

## THE CLUB OF ROME

Mr Don Chisholm,  
162 Glengarry Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M5M 1E2

Dear Mr Chisholm,

I have read your manuscript with the greatest interest. It is a very brave book, in that you have ignored all the taboos. I think that its message is so important for humanity that it should be published and distributed as soon as possible.

As your list of references indicates, many other writers are concerned with the various individual problems and trends which you described, but your approach is significantly different and potentially more influential for a number of reasons which I shall list here.

Firstly, most books discussing contemporary world problems are concerned with single issues such as the failure of the economic system, problems of transition from communism in Eastern Europe, environmental threats or the population explosion. You have endeavoured to paint the "big picture" as you call it, indicating the interactions between these and other issues and presenting a cumulative menace which demands radical changes in policies and attitudes if it is to be mastered.

The style and structure of your approach is interesting in the way you personalize the arguments with indications of your own insights, doubts and inner conflict. This should help to make an impact on the reader and arouse his or her personal involvement in a way which more conventional or scientific accounts of the same problem analysis is less likely to achieve.

You indicate clearly how in the management of human affairs and in the taking of critical decisions, irrationality often dominates over the rational. This inevitably leads to the identification of taboos and the avoidance of discussion of fundamental issues. This is well illustrated by your mention that at the Earth Summit at Rio, the critical issues of population growth in the South and excessive consumerism

in the North, were tacitly avoided.

You clearly understand that the great problems that confront humankind are, in fact, caused by the behaviour of people both individually and collectively. "The common enemy of humanity is man", This means that in analysing the world problematique, it is necessary to include discussion of human nature, the place of religion and other matters not normally taken into consideration'

Your recognition of the inadequacy of both the economic and the political systems with their obsession with short term issues, to face up to the fundamental problems of our time makes it inevitable that you would propose in your rescue scenario, a solution which must appear revolutionary if not utopian. What you are really advocating is the exercise of "people's power" based on an awakened understanding of the chaos and disaster which acceptance of the status quo is preparing for us. This seems to me to be a sound approach and possibly the only one open to us.

The big question is whether the awakening can be achieved in time. I remember an occasion a decade ago, when the Club of Rome had persuaded a dozen prime ministers and presidents to discuss world problems with us. We were agreeably surprized by the extent of understanding of the longer term issues which these political leaders displayed. Why then did they not act? At the end of the meeting one of them summed up his position by saying that they all more or less accepted the Club of Rome's position, despite their ideological differences. However, were he to act on this substantially, he would be out of office, not at the next election, but in a few months. It would take his successor some years to understand the basic problems and if he reacted as he should, equally he would be eliminated politically. The only solution lies in an increase in depth and extent of public understanding of the dangers which confront us.

Understanding of the dangers has indeed increased considerably during the last two decades. but it is still too slow. Your book would be an important contribution towards the generation of widespread recognition of the precarious situation of humankind at the end of the twentieth century with the hope of positive action to follow. My deep hope is that it will appear rapidly.

yours sincerely,



Alexander King (C.M.G., C.B.E., D.Sc., Ll.D.)  
President Emeritus and Co-Founder

JULY 12

DON

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YOU EARLIER.

YOUR WORK HAS CONVINCED  
ME, + HAS ALSO GOT ME  
WONDERING WHY (ALMOST) NO ONE  
ELSE IS STRESSING THE ISSUE OF  
POPULATION THE WAY YOU ARE.  
NOW THAT YOUR MANUSCRIPT IS  
READY FOR PUBLICATION, IT IS IMPERATIVE  
THAT THE BOOK BE MARKETING  
PROPERLY, SO AS TO REACH THE  
KIND OF AUDIENCE IT BOTH NEEDS  
AND DESERVES. TO BE BLUNT, YOUR  
BOOK IS TOO IMPORTANT TO END  
UP IN THE 'REMAINDERS' BIN AT  
BOOK CITY, BUT IT IS A REALITY  
THAT QUALITY WORK OFTEN GOES  
UNREAD. THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO  
HAPPEN TO YOUR WORK.

LET'S SPEAK SOON.





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Director of Christian Development

Mr. Lou Chisholm  
162 Hengary Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario

July 30/94

Dear Mr. Chisholm,

Thank you for the opportunity of reading your manuscript  
A 21st Century Straws: Handbook. I cannot claim to have studied  
it, or even given it the time and attention it deserves, but I have read  
it and have reacted as some others have. It is a frightening document  
hard hitting and challenging as most prophetic messages are.

In my area, one is no stranger to apocalyptic voices  
welcoming (it often seems) "the end of the age". Your thesis is not of  
that kind and acknowledges our responsibility for the earth,  
the global village we share with the whole created world. The  
challenge is, of course, to accept what that will mean for us who  
"have so much".

I was struck by your figures which show how much  
more of the earth's resources we in Europe and North America  
consume compared to the two-thirds world. We so easily forget them  
for overpopulation - as if they were the earth's burden and enemy.

Will we see and hear this hard hitting message as "good news"  
If there are ways we can help in the propagation of this message,  
how is that?

Riverdale Center  
Of Religious Research  
5801 Palisade Avenue  
Riverdale New York 10471

July 3-94

Donald Christensen  
Gala Preservation Coalition

Dear Don -

I have been in such a rush since March that I have neglected the huge stack of mail on my desk.

It is probably too late to help with permission to use quotations from *The Treason of The Earth*.

But if it should not be too late please feel free to use any quotes that you find helpful as my pages as you wish.

I wish you well in getting your book published. Now that I am catching up on my mail, I will provide my recommendation you wish.



1065 Don Mills Road  
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September 7, 1994

Mr. Don Chisholm  
President of the Gaia Preservation Coalition  
Box 43051  
4841 Yonge Street  
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Dear Mr. Chisholm:

Thank you for the opportunity to read your Manuscript on "THE 21ST CENTURY STEWARD'S HANDBOOK". You have put into words clearly and convincingly what many thinking people have silently pondered for many years now - the ever increasing reality of total ecosystem failure on the planet due primarily to uncontrolled human proliferation with its many attendant perils.

As the dominant species (self-proclaimed and brutally enforced) on planet Earth, humans are lemming-like heading towards the final precipice. Your suggestions on how this mass migration to destruction can be slowed or even halted through discussion, education and focused action by society's human members provide hope for continuance of life in all its many wondrous forms on Earth in the 21st century and beyond.

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development presently being held in Cairo, Egypt does indicate a growing awareness of the problems outlined in your Manuscript. A very realistic solution to the problem - the empowerment of women to control their own lives, especially in the area of reproductive freedom - is finally being recognized by many of the world's peoples - albeit not by repressive, male-led, tradition-bound Islamic nations or by the misogynist head of the Vatican - the 'Boys Club of Rome'.

The long-standing struggle by feminists for the recognition of women to have control over their own bodies and lives - a basic human right men take for granted but many of whom are quick to deny to women due to their fear of NOT BEING IN CONTROL of reproduction, etc. - may be the only solution to save this planet from total destruction.

Yours truly,

  
Muriel Pigeon