

During a photo-op visit to Ellis Island on July 10, 2001, both President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft repeated many of the clichés about our history that are standard fare among proponents of mass immigration. Attorney General Ashcroft claimed that the Statute of Liberty is a symbol that America embraces immigration “from all parts of the world” and that Emma Lazarus’ poem is “testimony to the uniquely American experience which provide a basis for new Americans finding now just a welcoming, but an unapologetic expression of confidence in the power of freedom. Miss Lazarus did not write, ‘Give me your top 10 percent or give me the cream of your crop, give me the merit scholars on the SAT.’”

President Bush, welcoming twenty-nine newly sworn-in citizens at the Ellis Island ceremony, pledged to accelerate the immigration process. “Immigration,” he went on, “is not a problem to be solved, it is a sign of a confident and successful nation...This is one of the things that makes our country so unique: With a single oath, all at once you become as fully American as the most direct descendant of a founding father...New citizens bring renewal...We’re a diverse country and getting more diverse, and these virtues—self-government, our sense of duty, loyalty, self-confidence and regard for the common good—are what keeps this great country together. Believing in them and living by them, this great land will always be united.”

Attorney General Ashcroft is apparently unaware that the statue, officially titled *Liberty Enlightening the World*, was raised not as a symbol to immigration, but as a testimony to what the project’s nineteenth-century French sponsors saw as the remarkable success of America’s republican institutions. They hoped that similar democratic customs would take hold elsewhere around the world.

President Bush revealed that he has an even poorer grasp of the issues at stake than did his predecessor, Bill Clinton. Like the former Soviet Union, and the Habsburg Empire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, America is rife with ethnic strife. And the sheer numbers of immigrants (and their descendants) who have arrived over the past thirty-five years contribute to environmental costs and resource stress. As in our past, when waves of in-migration were followed by strict curtailment, a time-out from mass immigration is required to enable us to address a host of population-related concerns.

While the public remains unconvinced about the benefits of an amnesty or guest worker program, special

interests are vigorously pushing this agenda. Those of us involved in these issues have a lot of work to do.

WAYNE LUTTON, Ph.D.

### *Letters to the Editor*

Editor:

In his speech at Ellis Island on July 10, 2001, President Bush said: “Immigration is not a problem to be solved. It is the sign of a confident and successful nation.” That is like saying: “Drinking while driving is not a problem to be solved. It is the sign of a confident and successful individual.” Or: “Incessantly eating more food than you can digest is not a problem to be solved. It is a sign of happiness and enjoyment of life.” Or: “Destroying every familiar and historical aspect of your society is not a problem to be solved. It is a sign of confidence and faith in the future.” Or: “Submitting yourself to an operation in which your face, your body, your blood, your brain and your soul are all replaced by a different face, body, blood, brain and soul is not a problem to be solved. It is a sign of adventurousness and the love of freedom.”

LAWRENCE AUSTER

New York, New York

Editor:

As a veteran and cop I am very concerned with what is occurring in our country and especially in the southwestern states and cities.

There are vehicle theft rings, drug rings, burglary rings, and more, operating here causing the death of American citizens as well as murdering police officers at an increased rate. Can you imagine what else has come across this border—reference possible terrorist activity? And if it has not happened yet it is only a matter of time. Over one million a year are crossing over undetected. Are they all helpless women and children? I don’t think so. With ever increasing frequency cops are being murdered by individuals that don’t even belong here. Just recently a Phoenix officer was ambushed by three Mexican males who flagged him down on the side of the road then opened fire on him. They drove away in a vehicle with Mexico plates. There was absolutely no provocation for this attack. I have been a cop here for over ten years and have had to release almost every illegal I have come across because the INS has told me to. This has even happened with illegals that possessed assault rifles.

JOHN FRIELING

Phoenix, Arizona

# Donella Meadows

*In tribute to a departed sustainability pioneer, scientist, prophet, farmer, writer, teacher*

by Leon Kolankiewicz

This past February, one of the guiding lights of the movement for an environmentally sustainable society, nation, and planet was abruptly extinguished. Donella Meadows, 59, died in New Hampshire after a brief but hard-fought struggle with cerebral meningitis.

Dr. Meadows was a scientist, educator, farmer, and syndicated columnist, in addition to filling many other roles that mattered at least as much — daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, and colleague. But to the world at large and to posterity, she will most be remembered and appreciated as an intellectually courageous, indefatigable pioneer on the frontiers of the search and struggle for sustainability. Her vision of a sustainable world was one of a just society in ecological equilibrium with earthly limits, one that avoided the ravages of the “overshoot and crash” catastrophe toward which many environmental scientists believe humanity is hurtling. In this, Meadows was an inspiration to many thousands of sustainability advocates around the world.

Dr. Meadows, known as “Dana” to friends and colleagues, was one of those extraordinary individuals whom historians will credit with having helped found a movement of long-term import. She will be compared to the likes of Aldo Leopold and Rachel

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Carson. Their seminal works, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) and *Silent Spring* (1962), are now regarded as classics in the conservation and environmental fields. And like Meadows, these two pioneers died before their time. Leopold perished while fighting a brush fire in Wisconsin even before *Almanac* appeared, and Carson succumbed to cancer (which she is said to have suspected was attributable to the very environmental toxins she wrote about) just a year after *Silent Spring* was published.



Donella Meadows  
1941-2001

Photo by Medora Hebert  
Valley News, Lebanon, NH

In Dana’s case, while her book catapulted her to prominence, unlike Leopold and Carson, she had the good fortune to survive the publication of her own landmark work by nearly three decades and was able to defend, build on, and update its message. In 1972, barely thirty and barely out of graduate school, she was the lead author of *The Limits to Growth* (co-authored with Dennis L. Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III), which sold more than nine million copies and was translated into twenty-eight languages. This small book that packed a big wallop was a

report for the Club of Rome’s project on “the predicament of mankind” with its interrelated social, economic, and political problems: poverty amidst prosperity, environmental degradation, unchecked urban sprawl, loss of faith in institutions, alienation of youth, inflation, insecurity of employment, and rejection of traditional values. The club came to call this complex the “world problematique.”

In the summer of 1970, the Club of Rome held meetings and workshops in Bern, Switzerland, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and began its project on the predicament of mankind. With the financial assistance of the Volkswagen Foundation, the club