

Stringing you a thread

Summit details

- UN Summit 26/8-4/9
Sandton Convention Centre
www.johannesburgsummit.org
- Civil Society Summit 18/8-2/9
Nasrec
www.worldsummit.org.za
- Business Action for Sustainable Development Forum 28-30/8
The Hilton Hotel
www.basd-action.net
- International Council for Local Environment Initiatives 27-30/8
Sandton Crowne Plaza
www.iclei.org
(Contact 27-11-4076729)
- South African Business Week 30/8-2/9
Gallagher Estates
www.businessweek.co.za
- Ubuntu Village 10/8-10/9
Wanderers Stadium
www.joburgsummit2002.com
- WaterDome 28/8-3/9
The Dome in Northgate – www.waterdome.net –
(Contact Tom:
27-11-7945800)

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The World Summit on Sustainable Development is a great, big, huge thing. The issues are planetary and they affect everybody alive. The political investment is global and very intense (if you thought the Racism Conference was tense, wait for the issues that hit the industrialised nations in the pocket). The infrastructure to host the event is enormous and the money involved almost intergalactic (at least for this country in the south of Africa). Johannesburg is expecting 65 000 delegates and that's just to the main UN Conference of heads of state. There are at least six major events, with attached exhibitions, cultural events, etc. Nine thousand journalists are expected to converge on Johannesburg for the approximately three weeks this will all happen.

Already the summit has its avowed enemies – people who believe that the UN brouhaha is a complete waste of money and there are many journalists who are watching the roadshow come to town by indulging in their favourite pastime – cynicism.

Well, *Review* is not buying into the cynicism. Mostly because the issues are really important and worth talking about. And there is always a way to find a crack in the official agendas (and the multiple subterranean agendas) to use the space to do important journalistic things. It's all about being ingenious.

But because we recognise that the issues are so big and planetary, this *Review* is not trying to pot you a version for easy consumption. Rather, in this special edition, we are stringing you a thread to help you find a path through the rain forest.

We've divvied it all up into three sections. In section 1 we try to unravel some of the key issues (what's the history of all this? What is sustainable development?) with the help of those who've

watched the global play unfold for at least the last 10 years. In section 2 we look at Johannesburg as the site of the summit and how that city is focusing on itself not just as host but as the home of the biggest urban population in South Africa. In section 3 we look at some local examples of where environmental journalism has – and hasn't – worked. Again we are not trying to be comprehensive. The authors of these pieces have applied their minds to what they see in their situations and articulated the concerns that while very local are simultaneously totally global.

Being editor of this edition has been a fascinating experience. Once I got beyond the forest of people who say things like "sustainable development is a buzzword, a catch-all, a fuzzy use of language", I started meeting those who have meticulously picked their way through the issues to emerge on the other side having figured out how best to operate as journalists in this complex world. There were far more out there than are represented in this edition of *Review*, which is very heartening.

If I can give my take on what's going on: I think as human beings we're reaching that place where we've finally realised that working separately on major issues (scientists over here, politicians over there, civil society shouting from the sidelines) is no longer viable for this planet. And we're realising those old doom-laden tactics employed by the environmentalists (the equivalent of the sandwich board saying "The end is nigh") just don't work so well any more on media savvy populations. That's maturity.

Of course there'll be politicking, of course there'll be aims not achieved, of course the US will behave in ways that set it apart from the rest of the human race.

But it's too important to let all this happen without the journalists in the thick of things – asking the right kind of questions and crafting the cleverest kinds of responses.

Anthea Garman
Editor
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The Konrad Adenauer Media Project in Southern Africa

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is one of the six political foundations of the Federal Republic of Germany maintaining close links to the Christian Democratic Union party. The overarching goals of KAS are the worldwide promotion of democracy on the basis of a Christian conviction. Konrad Adenauer, Germany's first democratic chancellor after the World War II, was the driving force behind the reconciliation of Germany's former war enemies and the victims of the Nazi era. He was also a committed believer in European unification and highly influential in its initial

phase. The new KAS Media Project in the Sub-Saharan Region therefore views its the media as a main pillar of democracy, integral to civil society essential functions. To encourage long-term development in the media sector in sub-Saharan Africa, KAS engages in various training activities for journalists and media managers, covering all relevant aspects of professional journalistic life. Special attention is given to electronic media and their particular opportunities for Africa and to strengthening research as fundamental to investigative journalism in the region. (www.kas.org.za)

EWK – the illustrator

Evert Karlsson was born in 1918 in Mogata, Sweden, a small agricultural community. He began to draw when he was working as an overseer on a farm. He would send his drawings to farmer federation newspapers and in 1951 resigned to work for a newspaper. His cartoons began to regularly appear in the *Aftonbladet* from 1960 as he drew increasing recognition for his drawings of politicians and political life. Environmental matters were important to him and he was one of the first cartoonists to draw attention to them. He began to receive interna-



tional acclaim and in 1972 appeared as a visiting illustrator for *The New York Times*. Several times he was awarded the Salon International de la Caricature in Montreal and in 1969 received the Grand Prix for a cartoon of Mao Tse Tung. His unique style gave him a place alongside leading political illustrators such as James Thurber, Saul Steinberg, David Low and Ronald Searle. EWK received an honorary doctorate from Linköping University in 2000. The EWK Sällskapet (society), the Municipality Söderköping and the Östergötland Regional Museum are fundraising to establish a museum of political illustrations using EWK's 40 000 drawings as the core works. (www.ewk.se)