

# THE BIOCENTRIC INSTITUTE

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# MEMORANDUM

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For the last 22 years, William B. Dickinson has been writing mini-essays for the Biocentric Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to the enhancement of quality of life for all peoples. “My particular effort comes to an end with this letter, as old age and foundation priorities dictate,” Dickinson, a former Washington editor and journalism professor, writes. “I am grateful for my long run and the complete freedom to explore the many components that go into quality of life.”

Most of Dickinson’s pieces have addressed the evolving controversies over environment and population – deeply intertwined components of a balanced, sustainable life on planet Earth. But other issues, still unresolved, often impact the day-to-day and generation-to-generation lives of Americans of every race and economic condition. Looking back over two decades of foundation work, Dickinson finds several articles of special interest. They include such issues as criminal justice and prison reform, a spreading mania for gambling, status of the military draft, the discontents of democracy, and the importance of biodiversity.

The last 10 years of his Biocentric Institute essays are available on a web site maintained by The Clifton Institute, his sponsor. (Go to [www.cliftoninstitute.org](http://www.cliftoninstitute.org), and click on Biocentric Institute Newsletters for the complete archive. These pieces may be reprinted in whole or in part, or quoted, without charge or restriction. Opinions expressed are those of the contributing author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Clifton Institute.

Dickinson believes that overpopulation threatens to undo or make impossible a better quality of life for billions of people, especially in poor nations, often headed by autocrats with little interest in a better life for their subjects. “Such places, Africa in particular, will account for much of the projected growth in world population from 7.2 billion today to 9 billion by 2050,” he says. “Will we witness an era of mass migration to Western Europe? ... We mistakenly equate economic growth with population growth, creating a scenario in which only those developed nations willing to increase their numbers by procreation or immigration can prosper in a Darwinian globalized society. Will this become a race to the bottom?”

“I worry, too, about the unexamined rush to urbanize. China intends to move 10 million people a year for the next decade off their ancestral land into pop-up high rises in big cities. Is this policy designed to improve quality of life or to make it easier for China’s regime to control its restive people? Such are the questions that fresh minds will need to address.”