



DrumBeat: August 17, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on August 17, 2006 - 9:10am

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[Update by [Leanan](#) on 08/17/06 at 9:13 AM EDT]

[US suffers world's first climate change exodus](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The first mass exodus of people fleeing the disastrous effects of climate change is not happening in low-lying Pacific islands but in the world's richest country, a US study said.

"The first massive movement of climate refugees has been that of people away from the Gulf Coast of the United States," said the Earth Policy Institute, which has warned for years that climate change demands action now.

Institute president Lester Brown said that about a quarter of a million people who fled the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina a year ago must now be classed as "refugees".

"Interestingly, the country to suffer the most damage from a hurricane is also primarily responsible for global warming," he said.

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Matthew Herbert's latest masterpiece sounds off against the oil industry

...Speaking of which, your latest album, "Scale," is a statement against the

oil companies and our relentless pursuit of fossil fuels. It's a timely subject, but one that the world has been struggling with for quite a while. What made you decide to pursue this topic at this particular moment?

Personally, it was part of my research for "Plat du Jour," my previous record, which was all about the food industry. I've been reading about oil for a long time but went a little further and realized the biggest consumer of oil is the food industry. We associate oil with cars and high prices in our gas tanks, but actually it's the entire structure of our civilization in the West. I've always been aware of it, but it wasn't until "Plat du Jour" that I realized quite how entirely we rely on it. Then reading further, it seemed we may have actually reached "peak oil," in which case we've got quite a big adjustment immediately ahead of us.



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