

International Society for Environmental Ethics

Newsletter

Volume 14, No.4 Winter, 2003

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bibliographic help requested. Holmes Rolston, the principal compiler of the ISEE bibliography, would welcome some help (in addition to editing help he now kindly receives). What is your particular interest area? Do you pay any attention to the publishers' catalogs that cross your desk? To recent bibliographies and footnotes? I am looking for half a dozen people, not one or two. (1) Would you be interested in being responsible for books and anthologies in environmental ethics? (2) In environmental law? (3) In ecology of interest to environmental ethics? (4) In biodiversity, relevant evolutionary and molecular biology (5) In religion and environment? Alternately, for half a dozen others, would you be willing to track articles (not books) in these same areas? You would need to track them across each three months, include a couple sentences in description, if possible (and it is often not possible, too much work!), and send me your results early April, July, October, and December, in a form as nearly as possible to what is used in the bibliography below. Take care that there is enough accurate information that readers can retrieve the items if they wish. Needs to be already keyboarded electronically; I can't type or scan it. E-mail: rolston@lamar.colostate.edu.

Alicia Bugallo, ISEE member from Argentina, attended the XXI World Congress of Philosophy in Istanbul and read a paper on "Deep Ecology and conservation of nature: new challenges" at the Philosophy and the Environment section. She will attend the XV Inter-American Congress of Philosophy in Lima, Perú, January 12-16 2004, to read her paper on "Pluralism and tolerance in Environmental Philosophy."

Central Division ISEE Program, to be held in Chicago, April 22-25. Session I: Speaker: Roger Gilman, Northeastern Illinois University: "The Additive Principle of Intrinsic Value." Speaker: Darren Domsy, York University: "The Aliens Argument Against Communitarianism." Commentator/Chair: TBA.

Session II: Panel on Biotechnology and the Environment. Jointly sponsored by the International Society for Environmental Ethics and the Society for Philosophy and Technology. David Castle, University of Guelph. Dane Scott, Western Carolina University. Inmaculada de Melo-Martin, St. Mary's University, San Antonio. Organizer and Chair: Paul B. Thompson, Michigan State University.

Holmes Rolston will be honored at the Pacific APA divisional meetings in Pasadena, CA, March, 2004, with a special session devoted to his work. Commentators are Clare Palmer, Baird Callicott, Eugene Hargrove, Ned Hettinger and Kate Rawles, with a response from Rolston. Session chair: Phil Cafaro.

Pacific Division ISEE Program. ISEE will sponsor two sessions in Pasadena in March. Session I, Thursday night: Author Meets Critics: Lisa Sideris' *Environmental Ethics, Ecological Theology, and Natural Selection*. Chair: Louke van Wensveen (Loyola Marymount College). Critics: Holmes Rolston III (Colorado State University), Clare Palmer (Lancaster University) and Daniel McFee (Mercyhurst College). Respondent: Lisa Sideris (McGill University).

Session II, Saturday night: Environmental Ethics: Practical Applications. Chair: Jeremy Bendik-Keymer (Colorado College). Speaker: Kate Rawles, (Independent Scholar) "Outdoor Environmental Philosophy." Commentators: Mark Woods (University of San Diego) and Chaone Mallory (University of Oregon). Speaker: Rob Loftis (Saint Lawrence University) "Germ-Line Enhancement of Humans and Nonhumans." Commentators: Geoffrey Frasz (Community College of Southern Nevada) and Jeremy Bendik-Keymer.

Chinese Environmental Ethics. Environmental ethics is alive and well in smog-filled Beijing! On November 30, 2003, Los Angeles-based ethicist Louke van Wensveen met with five Chinese scholars at a restaurant in the Chinese capital. Their substantive dinner conversation (in Mandarin, English, and German) covered a range of common concerns, including philosophical foundations of applied ethics, abortion and population control in Japan and China, and the relevance of neuroscience for environmental virtue ethics. The dinner, organized at the initiative of Dr. Yang Tongjin, was sponsored by the Center for Applied Ethics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Present were:

Dr. Yang Tongjin, Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy at CASS, translator of R. Nash's *The Rights of*

Nature (1999) and H. Rolston's *Environmental Ethics* (2000), and (co-)author of three books, including *Toward A Deep Environmentalism* (2000) and *Ecological Ethics: Spiritual Resources and Philosophical Foundations* (2002).

Dr. Yu Yong, Ethics Program Director and Professor at the Institute of Philosophy at CASS, 2001/02 editor of *Chinese Applied Ethics*, translator of Adam Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (2002), and author of *An Inquiry of Moral Rights* (2002).

Dr. Gan Shaoping, Vice President of the Center for Applied Ethics and Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy at CASS, 2002/03 editor of *Chinese Applied Ethics* and author of five books, including *A Study of Frontier Issues of Applied Ethics* (2002). His PhD is from the University of Munich, where he focused on the work of Habermas.

Dr. Gong Ying, Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy at CASS, and author of *Modern Japanese Political Thought* (forthcoming). Her PhD is from Xiantai University in Japan, where she focused on comparative ethics and bioethics.

Dr. Lu Feng, Professor of Philosophy at Qinghua University, editor of *An Introduction to Applied Ethics* (2002) and author of three books, including *After Enlightenment* (2003). His Ph.D. is from the University of Manchester.

Gaoshan (Karen), student protégé of Dr. Yang Tongjin and self-taught ecofeminist (possibly the first in China). She has applied to the Ph.D. program in environmental ethics at Beijing Normal University.

Dr. Louke van Wensveen, Independent Ethicist and Consultant (formerly Associate Professor of Theology at Loyola Marymount University), and author of *Dirty Virtues: The Emergence of Ecological Virtue Language* (2000). Her Ph.D. is from Princeton Theological Seminary, where she focused on business ethics.

OPPORTUNITIES

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies seeks to make an appointment at the level of full or associate professor, with a specialization in any area of applied ethics. The position involves teaching courses in both theoretical and applied ethics within the department and teaching ethics courses in other programs in the university. In addition, the successful applicant will be expected to coordinate the development of an ethics across the curriculum program. The department will soon inaugurate an M.A. degree in philosophy, and the successful candidate will contribute to this program as well. We are looking for candidates with demonstrated excellence in both scholarship and teaching. EEO/AA. We will begin reviewing applications on Dec. 1, 2003 and will continue until the position is filled. Send CV, letters of reference, and a sample publication to Prof. David Kaufmann, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Mailstop 3F1, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030.

University of North Texas, Denton, TX. Applications and nominations are invited for Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies. AOS: Environmental Philosophy (or Environmental Ethics) or Religion and Nature (or Ecology) or Comparative Environmental Philosophy. AOC: Open. Interdisciplinary interests are desirable. Appointment will be at the level of Associate or Full Professor, beginning September 1, 2004. Qualifications for the position include: a Ph.D. in Philosophy or Religion, a distinguished record of scholarship, and a demonstrated commitment to excellence in teaching and service. Teaching responsibilities include 1 course per semester (fall, spring, summer). Review of applications begins January 15, 2004. The department offers an M.A. in Philosophy with a Concentration in Environmental Ethics, a B.A. in Philosophy, and an Interdisciplinary Minor in Religion Studies. It is awaiting approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of a Ph.D. in Philosophy. The university has over 31,000 students and is one of the top five graduate institutions in the state. It is located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, 35 miles from both Dallas and Fort Worth and 28 miles from DFW airport. Please send letter of application, C.V., and a list of references to Eugene C. Hargrove, Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas, P.O. Box 310920, Denton, TX 76201-0920. Inquiries are welcome at 940-565-2266 or philosophy@unt.edu. Website: www.phil.unt.edu. AA/ADA/EOE.

Jobs for Philosophers. Volume 159 of the APA's *Jobs for Philosophers* (October 10, 2003) lists a number of positions in environmental ethics or environmental philosophy. The philosophy department at Penn State University seeks to make a senior hire in environmental ethics and philosophy. Both the University of Idaho and the University of Washington advertised jobs in environmental ethics. Princeton University and Tulane University both advertise post-doctoral fellowships in applied ethics that would be appropriate for those working in environmental ethics. See the APA website or the websites of individual departments for further information.

NYU Workshop in Environmental Education. While many college-level environmental programs in the United States offer courses on environmental ethics, the overarching goal of devising tools for systematically examining environmental ethics and values in social science and natural science curricula is under-achieved. The primary goal

of this three and a half day workshop is to devise intellectual and pedagogical tools that will enable faculty to incorporate an understanding of environmental ethics and values into their research and teaching. In addition to the themes described above, this workshop will focus on two subjects related to these objectives: first, the development of the concept of "ecological citizenship" as a component of environmental ethics and environmental education; and second, overcoming the gap between the academy and those public and private organizations involved in environmental advocacy and protection. The workshop is open to faculty involved in environmental studies at the undergraduate level and within professional schools. They especially welcome applications from faculty interested in developing environmental studies programs within their home institution. The workshop will feature talks and discussion sessions led by guest scholars and practitioners in the field (including Dale Jamieson and Andrew Light from NYU). Applications must include:

*A completed cover page, available in PDF form at

<http://www.cceia.org/page.php/prmID/50?PHPSESSID=56ed92fbc2672485861389439ba187ad>.

*Resume or Curriculum Vitae.

*A 2-3-page statement of interest, including how the workshop would benefit your future research and teaching.

*List of three references.

*Letter of support from your university or college.

Completed applications must be received by January 15, 2004; selected participants will be notified by February 15, 2004. Applications may be sent by email or post to:

Yesim Yemni, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, 170 East 64th Street, New York, NY 10021. (212) 838-4120. yyemni@cceia.org.

CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

ISEE Sessions. Proposals are invited for individual papers or group sessions for the APA Pacific, Central and Eastern Division meetings. For the Pacific, contact Philip Cafaro, acting on behalf of ISEE treasurer Lisa Newton, at cafaro@lamar.colostate.edu. For the Central, contact ISEE secretary Paul Thompson, thomp649@pilot.msu.edu. For the Eastern, contact ISEE Vice-President Clare Palmer, c.palmer@lancaster.ac.uk. Snail mail addresses and telephone numbers at the end of the newsletter. The deadline for proposals is September 1 for the Western and Central, March 1 for the Eastern.

Environmental Philosophy Coming Together. The first annual meeting intended to bring together the environmental philosophy community will occur from June 1-4 at the Highlands Center, on the border of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. The meeting is sponsored by the International Association for Environmental Philosophy and the International Society for Environmental Ethics. In addition to contributed papers, the program will include leading figures in the field. The provisional format, designed to maximize discussion, will include: Plenary presentations on the evenings of June 1 and 2; Presentations (20 minutes each, with 10 minutes for comments and 30 minutes for discussion) from 9am-1pm, with afternoons free. Papers available beforehand on-line

The meeting will be held at 8500 feet at the Highlands Center, a recently constructed (2002) retreat center which includes rooms, meeting space, and a cafeteria. Longs Peak (elev. 14,000) hovers above the conference center and is within close hiking distance. Rooms are available at the Highlands Center ranging from \$80 singles to \$100 for 4. We have reserved 20 rooms, each of which comfortably house between 2 and 4 guests. (see http://www.highlandscamp.org/retreat_center.htm for further information). In addition, camping facilities are available nearby. Our hope is to attract a broad cross-section of the environmental philosophy community.

Abstracts should be 300 words in length, submitted by February 1, with acceptances announced by March 1, 2004, and completed papers due by May 1. Mail abstracts to either: Robert Frodeman, Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Colorado/CIRES, 1333 Grandview Ave, Campus Box 488, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0488. Or: Dale Jamieson, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University, 246 Greene Street, Suite 300, New York, NY 10003. We also welcome volunteer commentators and session chairs.

Natur und Kultur, published in Austria, is the primary German-language journal publishing work in environmental sustainability, with a strong emphasis on environmental ethics (see www.natur-kultur.at). Dr. Thomas Seiler, editor of the journal, would be interested in an scholarly, yet comprehensible article giving a comprehensive overview of John Muir's environmental ethics. As Muir is not well known in the German speaking world his life and the general US-attitude to nature at that time should be explained as well. The length of the article should be between 50 000 and 70,000 spaces. If you would be interested in writing such an article, contact him at [<naturkultur@gmx.at>](mailto:naturkultur@gmx.at).

Agriculture to Culture: The Social Transformation of Food is the title of the Joint 2004 Annual Meetings of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS). They will meet Thursday, June 10 - Sunday, June 13, 2004 at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park,

NY - 12538. Contributed Paper Abstracts or Proposals for Sessions/Panels are due February 21, 2004. According to ISEE treasurer Paul Thompson, these groups have always welcomed presentations from philosophers, and he would encourage anyone working on any topic in environmental philosophy to consider submitting an abstract. For further information about ASFS or AFHVS and the upcoming meeting, visit their websites: <http://www.nyu.edu/education/nutrition/NFSR/ASFS.htm> or <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhvs>.

Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion. Papers are invited for a special edition of the journal on "Teaching Environmental Ethics". The edition will have two sections. The first will address more theoretical questions such as: "Why teach environmental ethics? Should teaching environmental ethics entail the promotion of a position of commitment to an environmental ethic?" The second section will focus on the more practical teaching of environmental ethics, asking contributors to discuss and reflect on issues such as how they actually teach classes, what material they include and whether there are particular techniques or settings (such as the outdoors, the use of field trips) that enhance or detract from their teaching.

Papers are welcomed not only from those who teach environmental ethics within philosophy and religious studies, but also from those who incorporate it into their teaching in subjects such as biology, environmental science, management studies or geography. The maximum length of papers will be 4000 words; given the nature of this edition there is no minimum length, as it is expected that some contributions will be quite short. All papers will be reviewed in line with the journal's normal procedure. However, the final choice of articles will depend not only on merit, but also on considerations of how well they fit thematically with the set of papers finally chosen for publication in the special issue.

Papers should be submitted by March 1st 2004, but expressions of interest to the editor would be welcomed as soon as possible. Please contact Clare Palmer, Centre for Philosophy, Institute for Environment, Philosophy and Public Policy, Furness College, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG. Phone: +44(0)1524 592501. Fax: +44 (0)1524 592503. e-mail c.palmer@lancaster.ac.uk.

Nature, Human Nature, and the Mimetic Theory will be the theme of the annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion (<http://theol.uibk.ac.at/cover/>) at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, June 2-5, 2004. The conference will analyze human violence against nature using the mimetic theory of René Girard as the basis for a fresh approach to the issue. French philosopher Michel Serres, literary anthropologist René Girard, field anthropologist Simon Simonse, and theologian Robert Daly will be featured, along with other scholars and activists. For more information, call conference organizer Britton Johnston (505) 983-8939 or view web page URL: www.covr2004.org.

The Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World will hold its 11th annual meeting at Western Carolina University Cullowhee, North Carolina, July 17-21, 2004. The Society invites submissions in which philosophical research engages issues of our time, including environmental issues. Diverse philosophical approaches and methodologies are welcome. Standard submissions: 3000 word maximum paper. Alternative presentation formats and creative proposals will be given consideration.

Submissions Are Due on February 1, 2004 and electronic submissions are preferred. All papers accepted for presentation will be considered for publication in the journal. Questions and submissions (prepared for blind review) should be sent to either of the program co-chairs: Siegfried Van Duffel, Ghent University (Belgium), siegfried.vanduffel@pandora.be. Andrew Fiala, University of Wisconsin (Green Bay), fialaa@uwgb.edu. For more information check the society's website: <http://www.phil.stmarytx.edu/SPCWhm/index.htm>.

Special Journal Issue on the Precautionary Principle. The *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues* has issued a call for papers focused on any aspect of the implementation of the precautionary principle in the context of international environmental law and policy. All invited papers will undergo the Journal's peer review process. General guidelines for preparation of manuscripts can be found on the Journal's website, <http://www.inderscience.com/catalogue/g/ijgenvi/ijgenvi.html>; however, prospective contributors should also contact the editor, to receive more specific guidelines for citations, which will conform closely to the Harvard Bluebook Uniform System of Citation. The deadline for submission of first drafts will be March 1, 2004. Prospective contributors are asked to submit abstracts by December 15. Editor: William C.G. Burns, Co-Chair, American Society of International Law - Wildlife Interest Group, 1702 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito, CA 94530 USA. Ph: 650.281.9126. Fax: 801.838.4710. Email: ASILWildlife@internationalwildlifelaw.org.

A Seminar on The Cultural Context of Environmental Issues: Past, Present, Future will take place. The role of religious and philosophical values in shaping environmental issues, environmental research, and environmental policy. By examining how such values inform ecology and environmental issues both historically and in the present, the seminar will provide a forum for doctoral students to explore how their values may be fruitfully linked to their research and its implications. Available to students from all branches of environmental studies -- the natural and

social sciences, the policy sciences, as well as theology, philosophy, and the other disciplines of the humanities. The seminar is sponsored by the Erasmus Institute and will be led by Christopher Hamlin, Professor of History, University of Notre Dame, and Steven A. Kolmes, Rev. John Molter, C.S.C., Chair in Science, University of Portland. Held at the University of Portland, Oregon. The Institute will fund meals, lodging, and transportation plus a \$500 stipend. For application instructions see the Erasmus Institute web site: www.nd.edu/~erasmus. Application deadline: February 17, 2004. Erasmus Institute Summer Seminars 1124 Flanner Hall University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN 46556-5611.

Ecological restoration. The editors of Ecological Restoration, a quarterly print and on-line journal (www.ecologicalrestoration.info), seek manuscripts for possible publication. All manuscripts should concern themselves with philosophical issues related to the human effort to restore, rehabilitate, or recreate natural or historic plant and animal communities within the context of post-industrial world. While the editors remain interested in the kind of dialogue that has taken place around the topic of authenticity (e.g., Katz, Light, and others), we encourage contributions that move beyond that debate and look into topics such as the development of ethical standards for restoration activities, the relation of ecological restoration to democracy and other political systems, and the concepts of wilderness, wildness, and cultured landscapes as ideological models for restoration efforts. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed. Manuscripts should be sent via e-mail to Dave Egan, Editor, Ecological Restoration, University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, djegan@wisc.edu.

Animal Ethics. Essays in Philosophy, an online journal, will publish a special issue on animal ethics. Special editor will be Susan Armstrong, Humboldt State University. Topics of interest may include but are not limited to: analysis of "equal consideration" as applied to individuals of differing species, the role of feelings in moral theory concerning animals, assessment of methodology in studying animals (anecdote, anthropomorphism, field and laboratory research), animal pain and suffering, animal minds, animal emotions, animal language, animal culture, issues of personhood, the treatment of animals in agriculture, animal experimentation, xenotransplantation, genetic engineering of animals, sport hunting, rehabilitation, exotic species, zoos, aquaria and animals in entertainment, animal companions, and animal law and activism on behalf of animals. Please send all submissions to the General Editor Michael Goodman via eMail: mfg1@humboldt.edu. Submission deadline: 15 January 2004. Publication date: June 2004.

Philosophy of Technology. Essays in Philosophy, an online journal, will publish a special issue on philosophy of technology. Special editor will be Peter H. Denton, Royal Military College of Canada. Papers that consider the philosophy of technology in any of its forms are welcome; papers on the relationship between values and technology; the nature of technology in western scientific culture; or philosophical aspects of indigenous or non-western technology, are particularly welcome. Please send all submissions to the General Editor Michael Goodman via eMail: mfg1@humboldt.edu. Submission deadline: 1 October 2004.

The International Association for Environmental Philosophy's seventh annual meeting was held at Boston Park Plaza Hotel on November 8-10, 2003. 50 people registered for the meeting. This year's Saturday evening guest speaker was Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Professor of Philosophy and Concurrent Professor of Biology, University of Notre Dame. Professor Shrader-Frechette's presentation, "The Best Science Money Can Buy: Nontransparent Science and the 2003 Demise of UN Radiation Protection," was warmly received.

Sunday's sessions began with a workshop on teaching environmental philosophy led by Robert Kirkman of the Georgia Institute of Technology. The workshop's particular focus was on what students could learn in our classes that can be transferred into their professional and civic lives. The rest of Sunday was spent in sessions that addressed the following topics: "Awareness of Animals," "Heidegger and Environmental Thinking," "Modifying our Ways of Thinking," "Place, Space and Wildness," "Environmental Policy and Its Foundations," and "Levinas and Scheler."

This year's Monday IAEP symposium was held on the topic of environmental aesthetics. Representative of these two sessions were talks such as "Aesthetic Play and Ecological Ethics," by Jacob Metcalf of Kalamazoo College and "The Art of Ambling: Environmental Aesthetics on the Move," by David Macauley of Oberlin College. For the full program see www.environmentalphilosophy.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS IN INDIA

"Eco Conference 2003, Nature Science, Technology and Religions: Our Common Bioethical Issues – An International Dialogue" was held during November 25th to 29th, 2003 at Muttukadu (near Chennai) and was organized by the Eco Vision Department, Church of South India, Diocese of Madras. The Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in Madras chaired the inaugural session. His speech traced the historical roots of the Church in its social concerns. Prof. Dr. Darryl Macer, Institute of Biological Sciences, Tsukuba University, Japan also spoke. National and international scholars presented about 70 research articles in sixteen scientific and philosophical

sessions. It was truly cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary. There were seventeen overseas experts from the USA, UK, Netherlands, Poland, Israel, Australia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. There were agnostics, atheists, pagans, Christian (Roman Catholics and Protestants) theologians, scientists and Social Scientists, social activists, Hindus, Hindu *Sanyasies* (saffron clad *yogi*), *Aiyappan* Devotees (A Hindu sect with black dress) and Muslims who shared their views on many bioethical issues such as Medical Ethics, Globalization, Health, Spirituality, Cloning, Euthanasia, Food habits & Food Security, Biodiversity, Preservation of Marine species, Genetic Engineering, War & World Peace. A workshop on High School Bioethics was held and Darryl Macer addressed the school-teachers. The last day of the conference was devoted to consolidation and finding common ground. The draft "Conference Statements" is being circulated among the participants for concurrence and will be published soon. Dr. Jayapaul Azariah acted as Coordinator for the conference, T. Kumar as Organizing Secretary.

In Session I, Dr. Michael, Department of Sanskrit, Gulbarga University, Karnataka, India, spoke on the necessary role of spirituality in helping solve ecological problems. In Session II, Prof. Ramanathan spoke on Indian Dietary and Dining customs and rules in Vedic literature and Dr. Michael of Gulbarga University spoke on the Vedic way of life, discussing the significance of the Vedic hymns and Bhagawath Gita. Session III focused on the Philosophy of Globalization and Health. The session displayed the equivocal double face of globalization and the discussion raised controversial philosophical questions. The moral evaluation of globalization depends on whether the process serves sufficiently the life quality of a given population.

Session IV focused on modern philosophy and the sociology of ethics. Dr. Jan Wawrzynak from Poland emphasized the danger of using the environment as a commodity. A second paper entitled "The Environment as a Commodity" was presented. • M a r c h 21, 2003

Steve Currey, Pawnee National Grassland, Greeley, CO

Hello Steve, Hope this letter finds you happy and healthy, and shoveled out from all the snow that has been dumped on us this week. This is just a short note, to discuss some issues on the Pawnee.

Last Sunday, March 15, I spent a day exploring the northwest part of the Grassland. Driving route 640 I saw, for the first time, the Main Draw ORV area. Frankly, I was appalled. Not only is the area itself completely trashed and denuded of vegetation. But motorcycles and other ORV's were heading off across the prairie, toward the chalkbluffs and in other directions, miles outside the designated area. The huge clouds of dust they kicked up were visible a dozen miles away.

I am all for multiple-use of our national grasslands. But shouldn't those uses be compatible with the health of the grasslands themselves . . . ?

Best wishes, Phil Cafaro, bird watcher, tree hugger, college professor

June 27, 2003

Philip Cafaro, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Dear Phil, Thank you for the comments contained in your letter. The concerns you expressed with the Main are issues that we are aware of, and are working to mitigate with a Travel Management Plan. The travel management process, scheduled to begin later this year, will explore many options of where to allow all terrain vehicle (ATV) and single-track motorbike use . . .

Finally, ATV and single-track motorbike use is a legitimate use of the National Grassland under the multi-use mission of the US Forest Service. Therefore, I am interested in your thoughts of where such uses should be allowed if not in The Main.

Signed, Steve Curry, district ranger, dedicated public servant, weary correspondent

The preceding exchange of letters with the district ranger (head honcho) on the Pawnee National Grassland will probably sound familiar to readers who have worked to reform management of our national forests and grasslands. A complaint that some activity is harming the forest or grassland is met with the claim that this is a legitimate, or "traditional," use of "the resource." Legally, this is correct; USFS is directed to manage its holdings to allow some ORV use, and this is written into forest plans for the dozens of national forests across the country. But are ORV's a "legitimate use" of our forests and grasslands?

In my reply to Steve, I argued that they aren't, no matter what his forest plan or USFS national policy says. ORV's are an illegitimate use, because they harm the forests and grasslands. Therefore, I stated, Steve should not allow them on a single acre of the 192,000 acres entrusted to his care. Nor should he "mitigate" their harms; he should

prevent those harms in the first place.

It doesn't matter that lots of people think they are fun to use. It doesn't matter that there is a tradition of using them. Uses that harm the landscape should be prohibited. Furthermore, I argued, by allowing ORV use on the Pawnee, USFS was teaching people that it is ok to harm public lands for fun, a lesson that they would take with them to other public and private lands.

In recent years, there has been much sophisticated philosophical and scientific discussion of the concepts of land health and ecosystem integrity. My discussion with Steve reaffirmed my belief that whatever the problems with operationalizing these concepts, they are absolutely crucial to practical conservation work. Across the country, national forest supervisors have prohibited popular activities such as target shooting or ORV use, when these have been shown to be harmful to the land or to its native flora and fauna. They have shot down or scaled back ski area expansion plans, costing powerful corporations millions of dollars. In these cases, an appeal to the health or integrity of nature was crucial to winning environmental victories.

Recently, the White River National Forest in central Colorado tried to institute a new forest plan, which would have made land health the central planning component for all major management decisions. In essence, activities which harmed the health of the forest, itself, would have been banned or severely curtailed. Martha Kettle, the forest supervisor, pushed hard for the plan, but powerful interests, led by the Vail corporation and Colorado's Senator Ben Campbell, forced her to retreat to a forest plan that focused more on "multiple use."

Land health and ecosystem integrity are necessary components of any environmental ethics built on recognition of nature's intrinsic value. Like human health and integrity, these can be slippery concepts, but they are necessary. When, in the not too distant future, ORVs are banned from the Pawnee National Grassland, this will come about because people have recognized the intrinsic value of native landscapes and species, and understood what is necessary to protect their health and flourishing. It is well worth reminding our public land managers that we care about our public lands, themselves. We thereby give these managers the political cover they need to do the right thing and protect the land. Like Steve Currey, most of these public lands managers also care about the health and integrity of the land. They've just never gotten in the habit of making that the most important part of their decision-making. Isn't it time they did?

MEDIA

Forestry Media Center, Oregon State University has over 120 forestry education videos, multimedia, slide-tapes, films. <http://fmc.cof.orstl.edu>. 250 Peavy Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-5702.

Convention on Biological Diversity Website: <<http://www.biodiv.org/>>. The home page contains information about upcoming meetings, news, and events, such as the expert meeting on the global strategy for plant conservation and the various constituent groups that make up the Convention. The number of online documents available here is quite prodigious, and is divided into groups that include quarterly reports, global biodiversity outlook reports, and case-study documents. There is a search engine.

Razing Appalachia. 54 minutes. Mountaintop removal mining near Blair, West Virginia, by Arch Coal, Inc., the second largest coal company in America. Available from Bullfrog Films. www.bullfrogfilms.com.

Earth as Art: A Landsat Perspective. <<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/earthasart/>>.

Many Landsat images have an aesthetic quality, and here is a selection of some three dozen by the Library of Congress, also currently on display there.

RECENT ARTICLES AND BOOKS

Thanks to Chris Drinkwater, United Kingdom, for his help with the bibliography. Thanks to all the various people who send in items regularly. International items are especially welcome, but translate (as well as transliterate if necessary) the titles. Summaries should be in English.

--Adams, Rod D., [Liberal Education and the Environment: An Analysis of David Orr's Green Proposal for Higher Education](#). M.A. thesis, Colorado State University, Fall 2003. Liberal education, David Orr argues, has been equipping students with industrial minds and proposes educating for ecologically literate minds instead. I examine his proposal in the light of the history of liberal education, which has two competing traditions, the rhetorical and the philosophical. Universities tend to emphasize one or the other at various times; a better education would enable students to make their own choices here. Orr requires ideals from both traditions, as well as elements from ancient, modern, and postmodern philosophy.

--Alkorta, I; Albizu, I; Garbisu, C, "Biodiversity and agroecosystems," [Biodiversity and Conservation](#) 12(no.12, 2003):2521-2522.

--Armstrong, Susan J., and Botzler, Richard G., eds., Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence. Third ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2003. Third edition of one of the most popular texts in environmental ethics. Over sixty percent of the readings are new, including land rights, biodiversity, environmental justice, and genetic engineering. Multidisciplinary. Includes non-Western perspectives. Ecofeminist perspectives. Cutting-edge articles in environmental theory. Includes a structure and standardized terminology for this developing field. Instructional aids for each chapter. Armstrong is in philosophy, Botzler in biology at Humboldt State University, California.

--Asmar, BN, "The Science and Politics of the Dead Sea: Red Sea Canal or Pipeline," Journal of Environment and Development 12(no.3, 2003):325-339.

--Bailey, Britt and Lappé, Marc., eds., Engineering the Farm: Ethical and Social Aspects of Agricultural Biotechnology. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2002. Bailey and Lappé are at the Center for Ethics and Toxics in Gualala, CA.

--Baker, S, "The Dynamics of European Union Biodiversity Policy: Interactive, Functional and Institutional Logics," Environmental Politics 12(no.3, 2003):23-41.

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--Loftis, J. Robert, "Three Problems for the Aesthetic Foundations of Environmental Ethics," Philosophy in the Contemporary World 10 (no. 2, Fall-Winter 2003):41-50. A critical look at aesthetics as the basis for nature preservation, presenting three reasons why we should not rely on aesthetic foundations to justify the environmentalist program. First, a comparison to other kinds of aesthetic value shows that the aesthetic value of nature can provide weak reason for action at best. Second, not everything environmentalists want to protect has positive aesthetic qualities. Attempts have been made to get around this problem by developing a reformist attitude towards natural aesthetics. These approaches fail. Third, development can be as aesthetically positive as nature. If it is simply beauty we are looking for, why can't the beauty of a well-constructed dam or a magnificent skyscraper suffice? Loftis is in philosophy, University of Alabama.

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of people on them, who bring in the seeds. In the face of expanding ex-urbia and limited nature reserves, the authors conclude that attention to biodiversity conservation on ranchlands is quite vital. Maestas is with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Provo, Utah.

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--Mathews, Freya. For Love of Matter: A Contemporary Panpsychism. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2003. Challenges basic assumptions of Western science, modern philosophy, and environmental philosophy, arguing that the environmental crisis is a symptom of a larger, metaphysical crisis. Western science rests on the premise that the world is an inert backdrop to human presence rather than a communicative presence in its own right, one capable of dialogical congress with us. Mathews explores the transformative effects of a substitution of the latter, panpsychist premise for the former, materialist one. She suggests that to exist in a dialogical modality is to enter an expanded realm of eros in which the self and world are mutually kindled into a larger, more incandescent state of realization. She argues that any adequate philosophical response to the so-called "environmental crisis" cannot be encompassed within the minor discipline of environmental philosophy but must instead address the full range of existential questions. Freya Mathews is Senior Lecturer of Philosophy at La Trobe University. She is the author of The Ecological Self and editor of Ecology and Democracy.

--Matzke, Jason P., A Pluralistic Humean Environmental Ethic: Dealing with the Individualism-Holism Problem, Ph.D. thesis, Michigan State University, Spring 2003. Environmental ethicists often argue for ethical holism, granting moral standing to ecosystems and species. However, this conflicts with traditional ethics which attributes moral standing to individual organisms. This is the individualism-holism problem. Marry Anne Warren and J. Baird Callicott have each offered solutions which they claim are monistic. I synthesize their views and reinterpret them as a pluralistic Humean environmental ethic, one which ameliorates but cannot fully eliminate the conflict.

Warren's principles are revised here in light of my contention that interests play the central role in determining the moral standing of individual organisms and this provides substance to Callicott's otherwise more abstract approach. Callicott's work, in turn, provides theoretical coherence for Warren's principles.

Humean sentimentalism, however, is open to the charge of relativism, especially since Hume's appeal to universal agreement on central moral beliefs cannot be sustained in a world so obviously diverse. Humean sentimentalism can be reinterpreted pluralistically. Differences in experience and culture prevent universal agreement, but the common experience of living as humans in this world, with its particularities, limits the range of acceptable alternatives. Furthermore, because reason informs sentiment, there are grounds for critically assessing Humean moral claims.

A pluralistic approach to moral reasoning provides an alternative to the continuing theoretical and practical stalemate between individualists and holists. Choices may have ethical remainders, but neither side of a debate can so easily insist that compromise threatens their moral integrity. The thesis advisor was Fred Gifford.

--McGregor, Liz, "Kruger's thriving elephant herds face a new cull," The Observer (U.K.), International Magazine, Sunday August 31, 2003. More than 3,000 elephants in Kruger National Park in South Africa face culling. There are 11,000 elephants in the park and they are reproducing in this protected and benign environment at about 1,000 per year. Elephants reproduce about once every four years between the ages of 14 and 45. They are good parents and infant mortality is negligible, and they live for up to 70 years. They are eating up the park, say officials. Contraception methods have failed.

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- Osborne, K, "Review of: The U.S.-Mexican Border Environment: Economy and Environment for a Sustainable Border Region: Now and in 2020 by Paul Ganster (Ed.)," Journal of Environment and Development 12(no.3, 2003):345-348.
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requires a healthy global ecosystem. There is no realistic way or current technology available to replace declining natural ecosystem services (e.g., climate stabilization, water purification, waste decomposition, pest control, seed dispersal, soil renewal, pollination, biodiversity and protection against solar radiation) that are essential to health. Jameton is with the Department of Preventive and Societal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NB. Pierce is with the Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO.

--Post, Stephen G., editor in chief, Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 3rd edition. 5 vols. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003. Some articles relevant to environmental philosophy and animal issues: (These are mostly carried over from the 2nd edition, Warren T. Reich, editor-in-chief, Macmillan Library Reference, Simon and Schuster, 1995, with Holmes Rolston, III as area editor for environmental ethics and animal welfare issues.

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Humans have long influenced forests, although scholars dispute how significant these influences were. But, despite local influences, generally people really had not put much of a dent in the world's forests as a whole until the last 500 years. Until 1900 the largest impact was in temperate forests, but today the largest impact is on tropical forests. Wood for fuel is part of the picture, but clearing for agriculture is the overwhelming cause. Industrial uses is another factor. There are few visible solutions in prospect for this tangled mess.

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ISSUES

Mardy Murie. Wilderness lost a champion in October with the death of Margaret Murie at her home in Moose, Wyoming. She was 101. Murie stood as the inspiration and mentor for several generations of American wilderness advocates. Born in Seattle in 1902, she moved with her family to Fairbanks, Alaska, while still a youth. In 1924, she became the first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Also in 1924, she married naturalist Olaus Murie. They began a partnership to study and protect wildlife and wild lands that changed the face of American land protection over the next half century. The Muries moved to Moose in 1924 and built a log cabin that remained their home for the balance of their remarkable lives.

Alaska was always uppermost in Mardy's mind. In 1956, she and Olaus spent a summer on the south slope of the Brooks Range. The fact that that place is now part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge owes much to the couple's impassioned advocacy for its protection. Mardy also threw her energy into the passage of the Alaska National

Interest Lands Act that became law in 1980, protecting millions of acres of wild Alaska as parks and refuges. "When I was a child," she once recalled, "Alaska seemed too vast and wild ever to be changed, but now we are coming to realize how vulnerable this land is. I hope we have the sensitivity to protect Alaska's wilderness."

The Group Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) filed a civil suit against the USFS October 7 for its regular use of chemical fire retardant in fighting wildfires on national forests. This is apparently the first-ever lawsuit challenging the Forest Service's firefighting mission and practices. Their complaint is that the Forest Service failed to prepare an environmental compliance document as required by NEPA and failed to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as required under the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit is fairly focused, but FSEEE's broader agenda is to end the war on fire in order to reduce the risk to firefighters and for environmental and financial reasons. (From John Austin, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks).

Richard Leakey puts wildlife at top priority, over people. The wildlife conservationist Richard Leakey stirred up controversy at the World Parks Congress in Durban (in a speech Sept. 11) by saying that conservation had to come before the rights of indigenous peoples. Protected nature areas are too important to be "subjugated" to people complaining of eviction from ancestral lands in the name of biodiversity. Indigenous people deserve compensation but to let them manage the parks where they once lived risks unravelling environmental and economic gains. These parks belong to the world. Rory Carroll, "Leakey Puts Wildlife at Top of Tree," story in The Guardian (London), Friday, September 12, 2003.

Berlin builds frogways. Berliners are spending \$ 450,000 to build 12 little tunnels so that frogs can cross one of their main roads in peace. The road crosses a nature reserve. Estimates are that 3,000 amphibians will use the tunnels every spring. Science 299(2003):1839.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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* Ben Minteer and Robert Manning, eds., Reconstructing Conservation: Finding Common Ground. Washington: Island Press, 2003. Brings together 23 leading scholars and practitioners to examine the classical conservation tradition and its value to contemporary environmentalism.

* Martin Gorke, The Death of Our Planet's Species: A Challenge to Ecology and Ethics. Washington: Island Press, 2003. Sets forth a sound and original argument about the philosophical and ethical dimensions of species conservation. Originally in German.

* Bruce Morito, Thinking Ecologically: Environmental Thought, Values and Policy. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2002. Explores the ethical and valuational directions taken toward the environment in Western thought. From a critical evaluation of these directions, Morito develops an approach to environmentalism based on attunement.

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