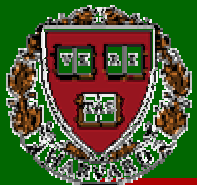


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Fall 2004

ENVR E-120

Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Timothy C. Weiskel
DPhil
Research Fellow
W. E. B. Du Bois Institute
Harvard University

Location: Emerson Hall 108
Meeting time: Tuesday 7:35-9:35 pm
CRN: 11926

Course Syllabus

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October 28, 08:30 - October 30 09:00 PM

Mesopotamian Marshes & Modern Development: Practical Approaches for Sustaining Restored Ecological & Cultural Landscapes



Students discussing leadership issues at the Boston-Area Campus Environment Leadership Summit co-hosted by the Harvard University Center for the Environment on October 27-28, 2000.

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Fall 2004

ENVR E-120

Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Timothy C. Weiskel

DPhil

Director

Harvard Seminar on Environmental Values

Harvard University

Location: Emerson Hall 108

Meeting time: Tuesday 7:35-9:35 pm

CRN: 11926

Course Syllabus

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Timothy C. Weiskel



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Biographical Sketch

Tim Weiskel is trained as an historian and social anthropologist. He completed his B.A. at Yale University (*magna cum laude*) in 1969 and undertook graduate work at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (VI^e - Section) in Paris and at Balliol College, Oxford where he completed his doctorate (D.Phil) in 1977 as a Rhodes Scholar (New Hampshire, 1969). Mr. Weiskel has received research grants from the Danforth Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science Research Council, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Lilly Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has taught African history, historical ecology, and ecological anthropology at Williams College, Yale University and Harvard University.

Dr. Weiskel has had field experience in Syria, Lebanon and throughout West Africa from Senegal to Gabon. In 1966-67 he worked as the West Africa Representative for the volunteer organization *Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc.* Since then he has returned to West Africa for field work among the Baule peoples of the central Ivory Coast. His field work and archival research on the history and anthropology of the Ivory Coast peoples led to the publication of *French Colonial Rule and the Baule*

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	September						
Week 1	19	20	21 Class Begins	22	23	24	25
Week 2	26	27	28	29	30	October 1	2
Week 3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9





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SEARCH: FULL CATALOG

Browse an Alphabetical List ([? When to use Browse](#))

- Author (last name first) ▲
- Title beginning with... ▼
- Subject beginning with... ▼
- Medical subject beginning with... ▼

e.g. **dickens c (last name first)**
dickens charles
american chemical society
Conference on Afroasiatic Languages

Browse for:

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Keyword Search ([? When to use Keyword](#))

- Keywords anywhere ▲
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e.g. **detective and chandler**
myster? and fiction

Search for:

or

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Harvard Extension School

<http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre120>

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[Course - Home Page](#)

[Writing Center Information](#)

[- Course Calendar - Fall 2004](#)

Library Resources:

[- Harvard Library \(HOLLIS Connection\)](#)

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[- Environmental Research Resources at Harvard](#)

Class Resources

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Related Courses

[- Certificate in Environmental Management](#)

[- Harvard Extension School- Environmental Studies Courses](#)

[- Human Health and Global Environmental Change](#)

General Science News Portals

[- NYT Science Section](#)

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[Science & Health News](#)

[- Science Magazine](#)

Class [Schedule](#) | Course [Readings](#) | [Course Procedures -- Summary](#) | Teaching Assistant: [Robert Burns](#)
Class - Emerson Hall 101, Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 | Discussion Section, Tuesdays 6:30.

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ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Environmental Information Center has moved to Littauer Library.** Due to the recent move, access to some parts of the collection may remain limited, so please plan ahead. Email [<enviro@fas.harvard.edu>](mailto:enviro@fas.harvard.edu) for more information.





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Environmental Research Resources at Harvard

[Introductory Info](#)

[Environmental Collections at Harvard](#)

[Conducting Research at HCL](#) (Harvard College Library)

[Databases--Start Research Here](#) Includes HOLLIS, the main Harvard library catalog, general and environmental indexes, and other resources for finding environmental information. For most citations, check HOLLIS to see if the item is available at Harvard, either online or in print.

[Environmental News and General Newspapers](#)

[Environmental Science and Public Policy Archives](#)

[Harvard University Center for the Environment](#)

[Class and Group Research Guides](#)





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Class Research Resources and Assignments

Week 1

Introduction to Course

If you are enrolled to take this course, please fill out the [Student Information Form](#) for the course.

When you have completed the form, check your computer configurations to make sure that you have installed on your computer a [RealPlayer](#) to be able to hear and view streaming media files. In addition you will need to install an [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) in order to read PDF (Portable Document Files).

You can obtain free copies of these software programs by clicking on the following icons and following the instructions for downloading and installation.



When you have installed these programs, click on the following links to test whether or not you can receive the appropriate file types.



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[Writing Center Information](#)

Class [Schedule](#) | Course [Readings](#) | [Course Procedures -- Summary](#) | Teaching Assistant: [Robert Burns](#)
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- 🔊 - [Living on Earth](#)
- 🔊 - NPR - [Talk of the Nation: Science Friday](#)
- 🔊 - BBC - [One Planet](#)
- 🔊 - BBC - [Science In Action](#)

Further Research Tools:

- [Subject Bibliographies in Environmental Ethics](#)
- [Short-Title Topic Lists](#)
- [UN Wire](#)
- [Earth Trends](#)
- Search [Library of Congress](#)
- Search [Amazon Books](#)
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- BBC Search
- Archives of the Harvard Seminar on Environmental Values

Event & Jobs Listings

- Cambridge Climate Calendar
- Harvard Gazette Calendar
- EnvJobs-L

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Related Courses

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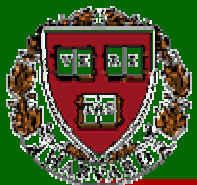
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So, to begin with...

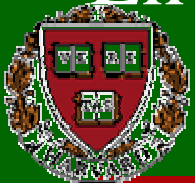
Key question:

[please write your answer on the paper provided & print your name clearly at the top]

What does “environmental ethics” mean to you?

With a short paragraph, in your own words, complete the phrase....

“Environmental ethics concerns itself with....”



-
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An appropriate pause for you to think
and write



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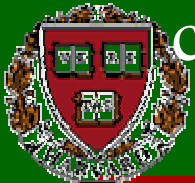


What this course is NOT

This course is NOT:

- An introduction to environmental studies
- A field or laboratory course in environmental science
- A course in environmental policy making.
- A course in the history of environmentalism
- A survey course in the literature of environmental ethics

In effect, it will help you place all these other kinds of courses in perspective.



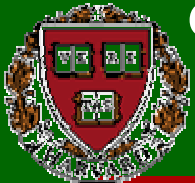
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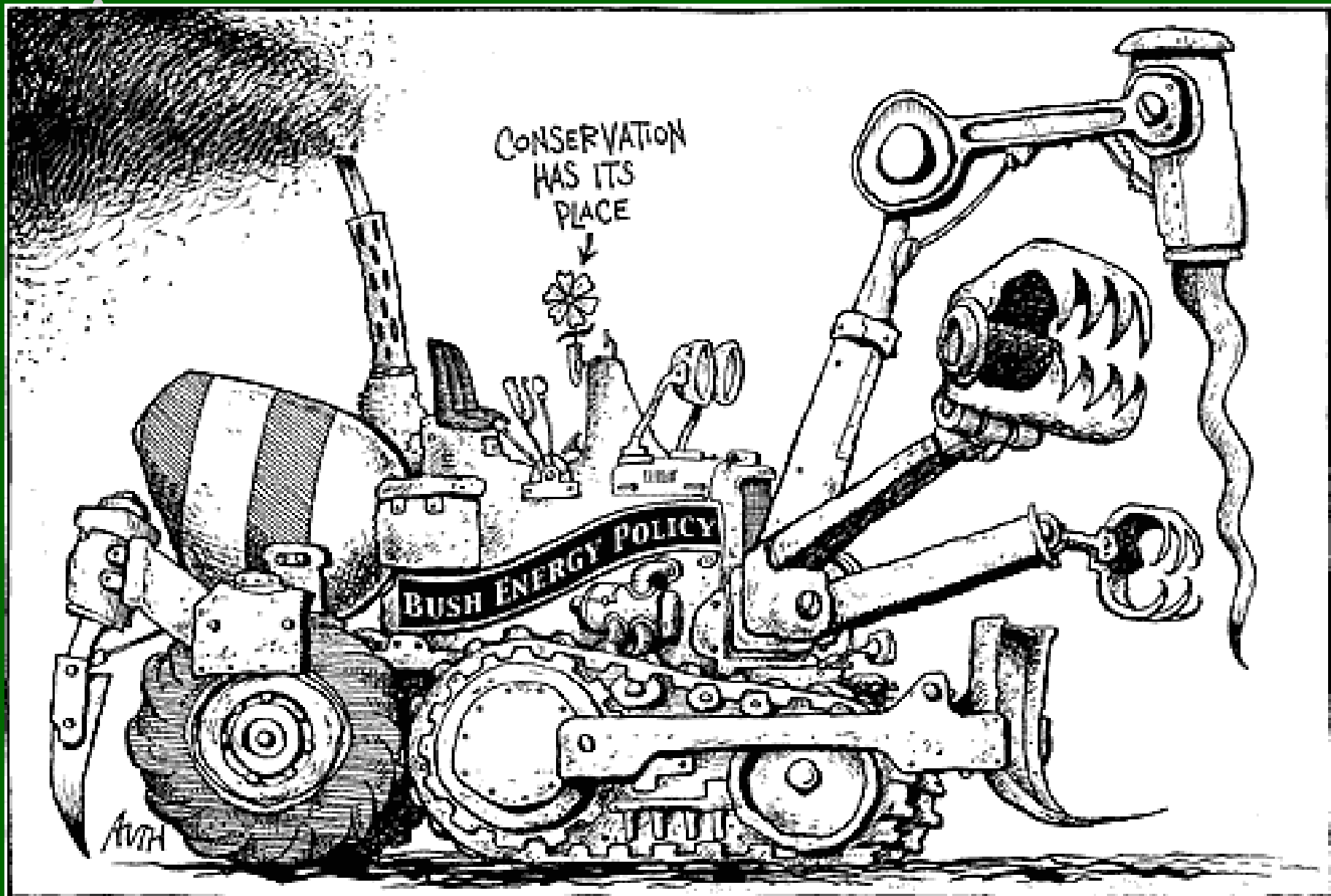
We will take on....

This course will take on controversy.

It will touch upon many of the current debates in the field -- like those surrounding the recent publication of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*

It will include -- where ever possible -- interviews, video clips, news reports and multimedia documentation relating to contemporary and historical environmental problems that illustrate clear conflicts in environmental ethics. *





6-2 of the President's Policy: UNUSUAL POLICY EXPLORE.

BBC NEWS

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Monday, 29 January, 2001, 11:09 GMT

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Analysis: Oil and the Bush cabinet



By Katty Kay

A majority of President Bush's new cabinet are millionaires and several are multimillionaires.

According to information from financial disclosure reports, released by the Office of Government Ethics, most cabinet appointees have amassed their fortunes in stock options.

Now a Washington-based think tank is questioning whether some of the cabinet members could face a possible conflict of interest.

It is not unusual for American politicians to be

" >

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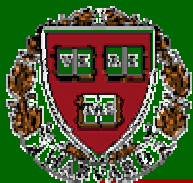
Divided nation

Recession question

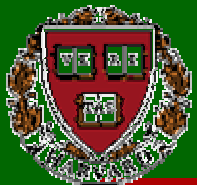
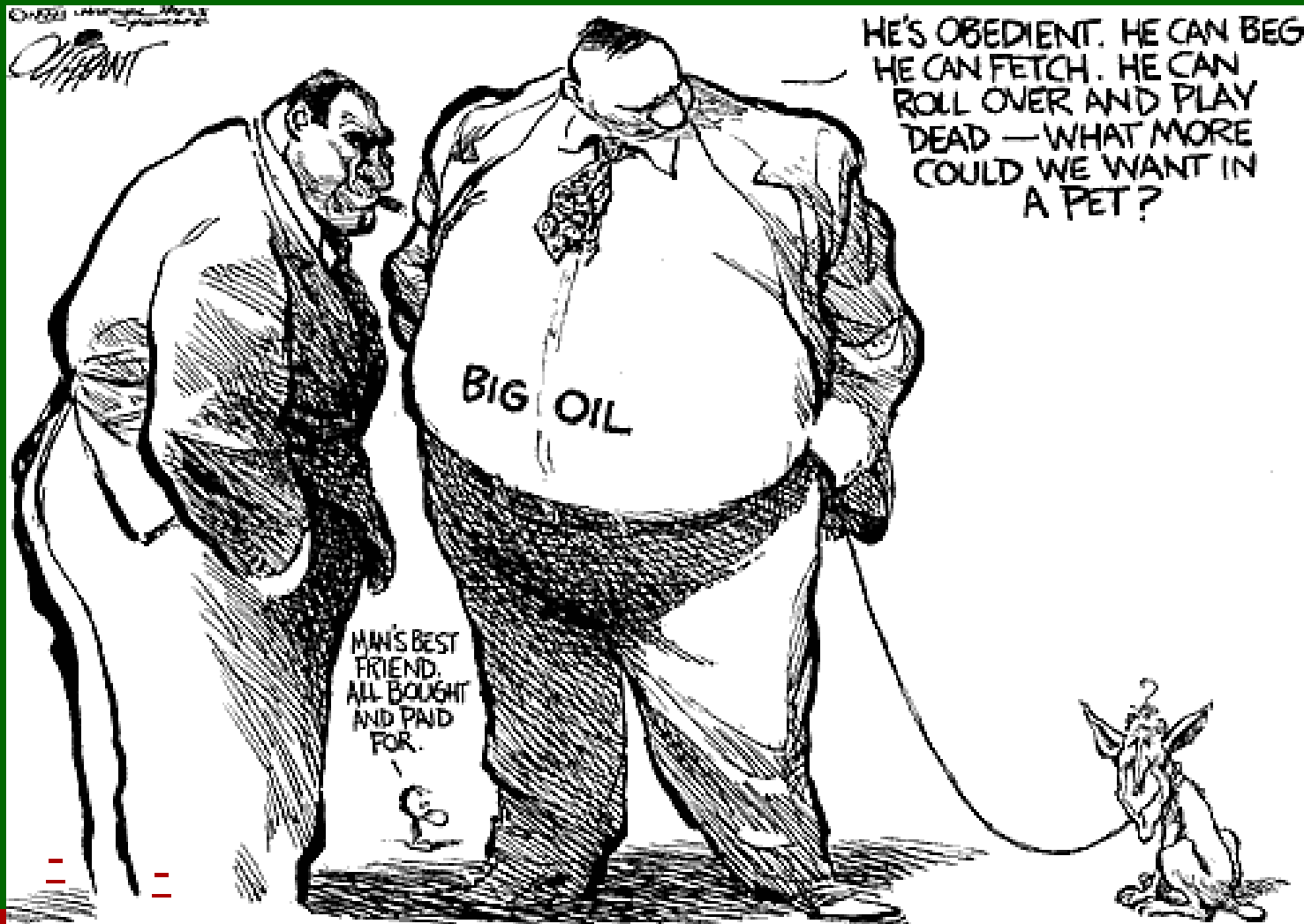
Missile defence

Profiles

George W. Bush



We will examine the current administration's energy policy and what forces lie behind it...



BBC NEWS

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Monday, 16 April, 2001, 12:29 GMT 13:29 UK

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Greens urge US oil boycott *



The Greens hope to hit oil companies where it hurts

An international conference of environmentalists has called for a worldwide boycott of United States oil companies after President George W Bush said he would not support the Kyoto climate change treaty.

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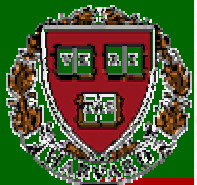
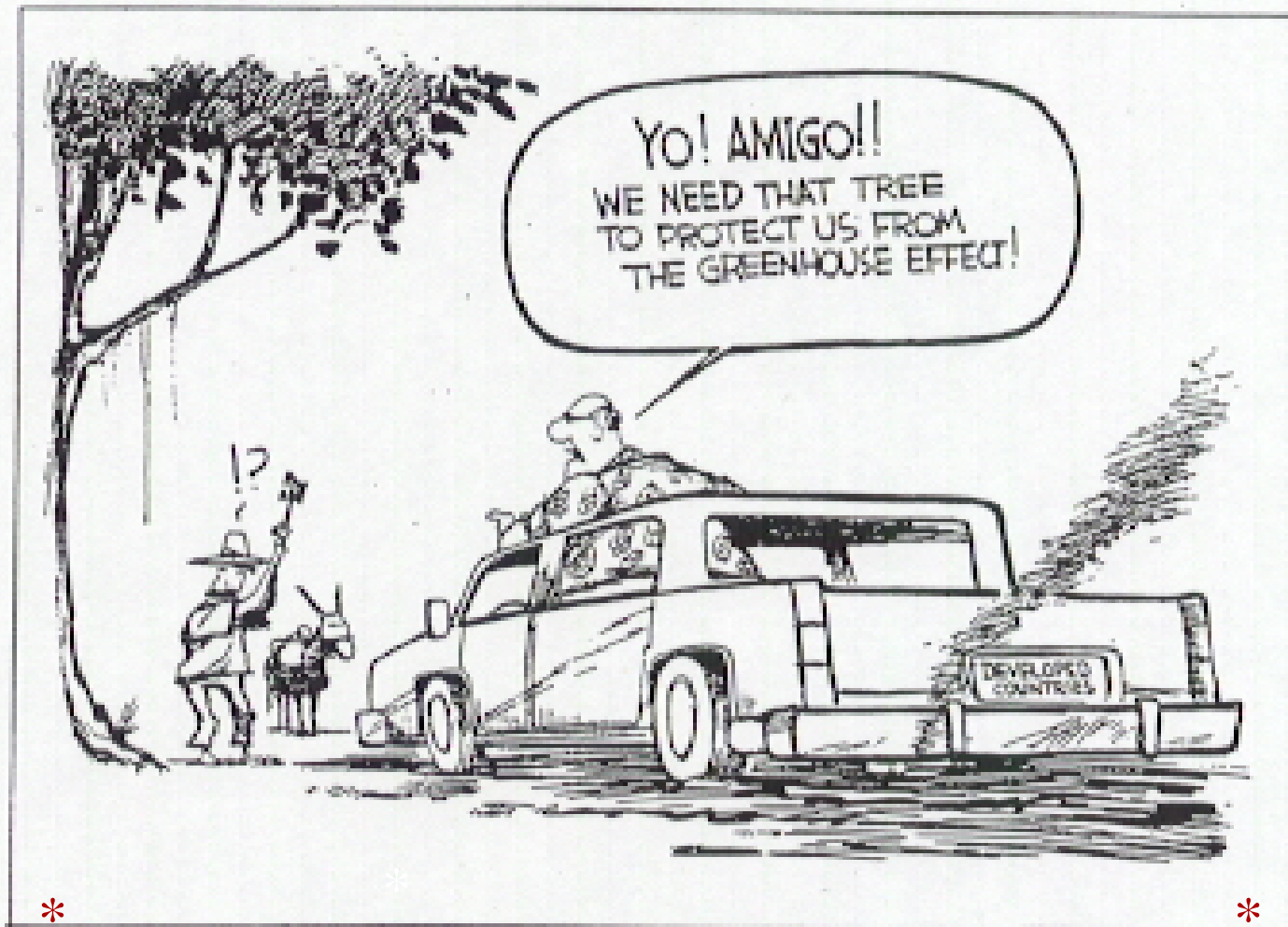
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Sting slates Bush over Kyoto
- 06 Apr 01 | Sci/Tech
Prodi 'shocked' by Bush



The administration's stance underscores that the US has become a culture of consumption in a world of constraint





Bush Defends New Environmental Rules

More Debate Follows Assertion That Economy and Air Will Benefit

By RACHEL L. SWARNS

MONROE, Mich., Sept. 15 — President Bush toured one of the nation's largest power plants today and hailed the sprawling complex here as a symbol of how the relaxation of clean air rules would boost the economy and protect the environment.

After donning a white hard hat and viewing the roaring turbine generators at the Detroit Edison plant here, Mr. Bush told cheering workers that cumbersome and complicated government regulations had prevented the plant from upgrading to cleaner and more efficient generators for nearly five years.

Last month, in one of the most far-reaching environmental decisions of his tenure, Mr. Bush eliminated those rules, allowing thousands of power plants, refineries and factories to make extensive upgrades that increase pollutants without hav-

cy, quickly reignited the fierce debate between government officials and environmental groups. While Mr. Bush was greeting workers, environmentalists said the relaxation of clean air rules known as the new source review would allow this plant to increase emissions by more than 30,000 tons a year, a 56 percent increase over current levels.

A power plant is used as an argument for and against Bush's policy.

advocacy director of the Clean Air Task Force, an environmental group. "We want to see real power plant cleanup legislation that will protect the health of every American."

Senator James M. Jeffords, the Vermont independent and ranking minority member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, echoed those concerns. He described Mr. Bush's policies as "the exact opposite of what the nation needs."

"The administration's deregulatory agenda, specifically the gutting of the new source review program, will lead to more pollution and therefore more disease and premature deaths," Mr. Jeffords said.

Government officials dismissed the concerns raised by environmental groups.

"They're wrong," said James L. Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, a

This cannot and
will not
continue....

The
question is:

Can we
devise an
ethic to
govern
human
behavior
and
preserve a
human
presence...



...in this
complex and
precious
ecosystem
we inhabit.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, partly cloudy, less humid, high 79. Tonight, clear, cool, low 61. Tomorrow, mainly sunny, not as warm, high 75. Yesterday, high 77, low 72. Weather map is on Page D8.

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NEW YORK, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

ONE DOLLAR

RETIREES ALARMED AT THREAT OF CUTS IN DRUG BENEFITS

ISSUE FOR MEDICARE BILL

Congress Weighs Giving Tax
Credits to Employers Who
Uphold Coverage Levels

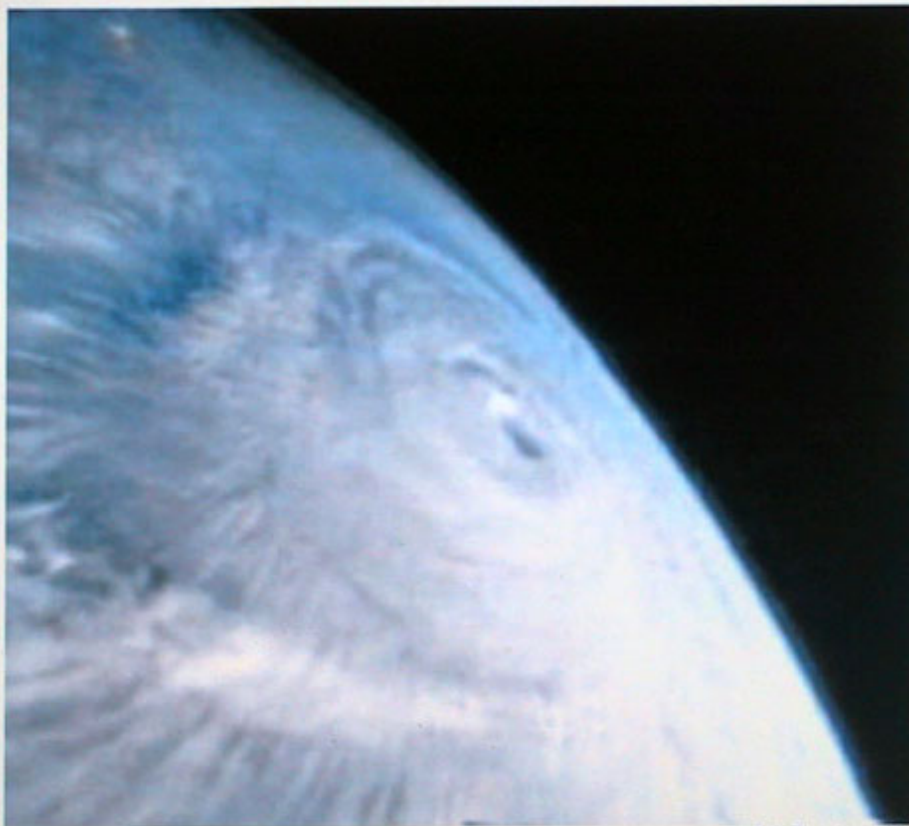
By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 — As Congress works on legislation to cover prescription drugs under Medicare, lawmakers have been deluged with complaints from retirees who fear losing drug benefits they already have from former employers.

Some lawmakers say this issue is emerging as the most immediate threat to the legislation.

Congress is frantically seeking ways to address the concern, by offering tax credits, subsidies or other incentives for employers to continue providing drug benefits to retirees. The tax credits would be available to employers who maintain drug coverage or supplement what Medicare provides.

Medicare generally does not cover outpatient prescription drugs. Some employers voluntarily provide such coverage though they are not re-



NASA TV, via Associated Press

Hurricane Isabel, as seen yesterday from the International Space Station. Its landfall is expected on Thursday.

CALIFORNIA'S VOTE DELAYED BY COURT OVER PUNCH CARDS

*Error-Prone Machines Could Alter
Outcome, U.S. Judges Say*

By DEAN E. MURPHY

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 15 — A federal appeals court here today ordered that the recall election for Gov. Gray Davis be delayed, ruling that the scheduled date, Oct. 7, did not give several counties with large minority populations enough time to replace outdated punch-card voting machines.

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, all Democratic appointees, said a postponement was warranted because "punch-card voting systems are significantly more prone to errors" than other systems and could lead to an inordinate number of ballots being disqualified.

"This is a critical time in our nation's history when we are attempting to persuade the people of other nations of the value of free and open elections," the judges said in their ruling. "A short postponement of the election will accomplish those aims

in session and it was unclear when or if it would take up the matter.

"The voters deserve finality," said Thomas Hikachik, a lawyer for the group, Rescue California, which represents the recall's original proponent, Ted Costa. "We need, and the voters deserve, to know sooner rather than later if this election is going to happen."

Mr. Hikachik accused the three judges of "making up" and "twisting" facts to reach their conclusion, particularly in arguing that about 40,000 voters in the punch-card counties would be disenfranchised because of anticipated problems on Election Day. Rescue California argued that there was no evidence that punch-card machines have a higher rate of error than other forms of voting.

"They simply ignored the evidence that was offered to them," Mr. Hikachik said.

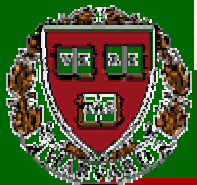


Getty Images

Huge Typhoon Lashes South Korea

A floating hotel in the South Korean port city of Pusan, about 280 miles southeast of the capital, Seoul, lay on its side yesterday after being knocked over by a powerful typhoon that hit the southern part of the country. The typhoon, called Maemi, has left at least 72 people dead.

Does anyone think that they can “control” the water cycle?



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

National Report

The New York Times

East Coast Warily Waits as Forecasters Warn of Dangerous Storm

By PATRICK HEALY
and ANDREW C. REVKIN

With weather forecasters all but certain Hurricane Isabel will strike the central Atlantic coast late this week, state and local governments up and down the Eastern Seaboard are bracing for what is expected to be an extremely dangerous storm.

Computer models showed yesterday that a region from New Jersey to North Carolina was at highest risk for a direct hit, with Washington nearly in the dead center of the storm's projected path, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported.

Michelle Mainelli, a meteorologist for the administration's National Hurricane Center, said the most recent forecasts showed tropical-storm-force winds lashing the coast of North Carolina early Thursday and hurricane-force winds of 71 miles per hour or more striking Maryland's Chesapeake Bay area later that day. The hurricane could veer as far north as New York and New England or as far south as South Carolina.

Weather experts acknowledged that such predictions were never ironclad. But for the first time in the eight days that federal officials have issued advisories about the storm, they said there was almost no chance it would miss the coast entirely.

"Everything points to a landfall," Ms. Mainelli said.

Forecasters said they expected Isabel to weaken slightly as it neared land, falling from a Category 5 or 4 storm, the most destructive classes of hurricane, to a Category 3.

Joe Bastardi, a hurricane expert



Logan Mark Bering/Getty Images

Surfers left the beach yesterday as clouds gathered over Wrightsville Beach, N.C. Some state residents are already preparing for Hurricane Isabel.

Jamie Turner, director of Delaware's Emergency Management Agency. If it appears that hurricane-

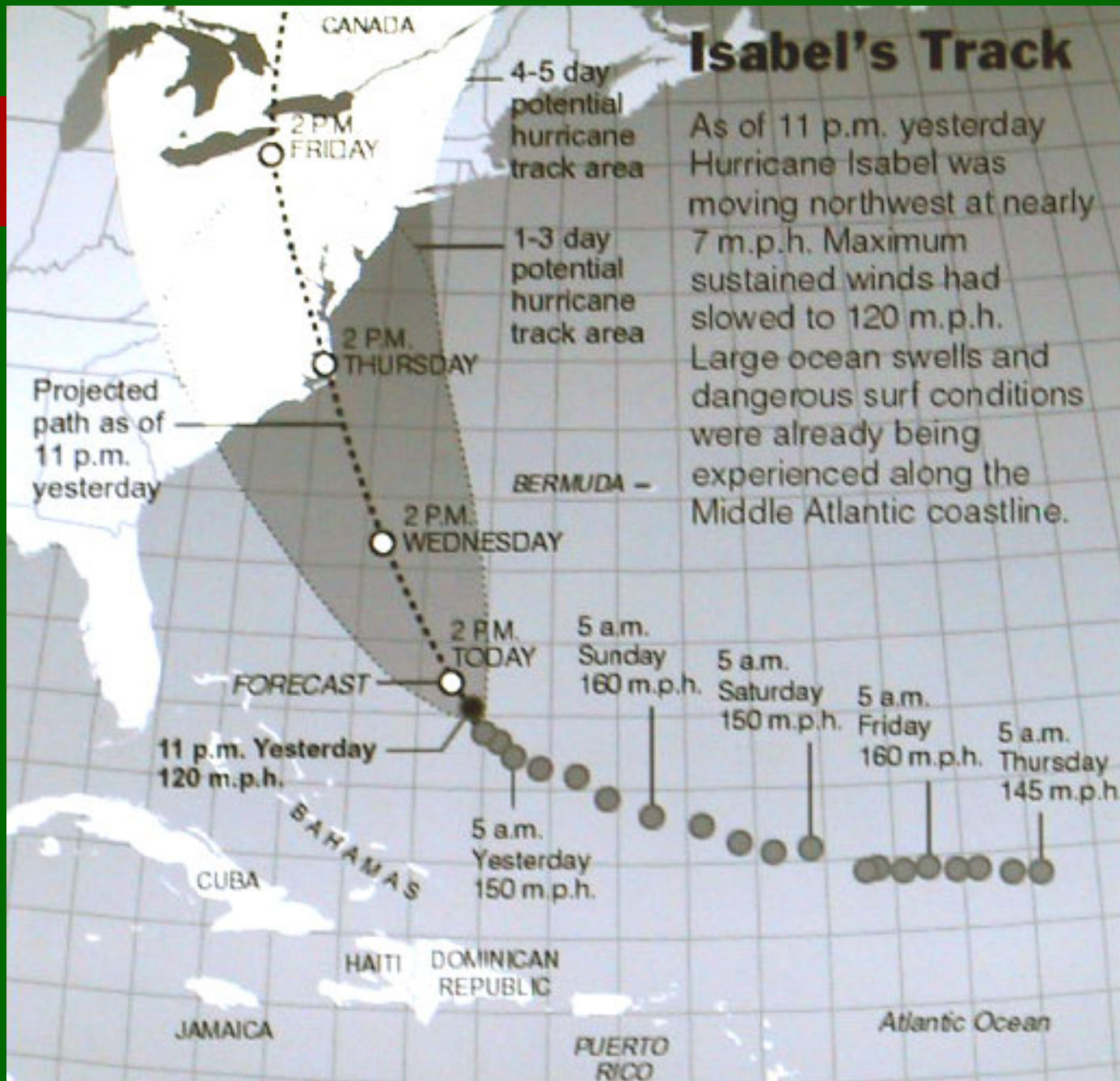
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(9/19)

CANADA

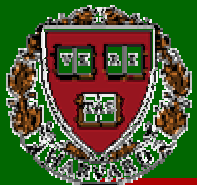
Isabel's Approach

Isabel's Track

As of 11 p.m. yesterday Hurricane Isabel was moving northwest at nearly 7 m.p.h. Maximum sustained winds had slowed to 120 m.p.h. Large ocean swells and dangerous surf conditions were already being experienced along the Middle Atlantic coastline.



Source: National Hurricane Center





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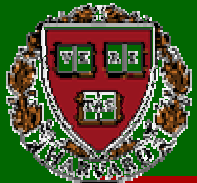
Did you see this coming?

Were you surprised by this?

Have you ever asked: “*Why?*”
-- not only “*why did it happen?*”

But, “*why were you surprised?*”

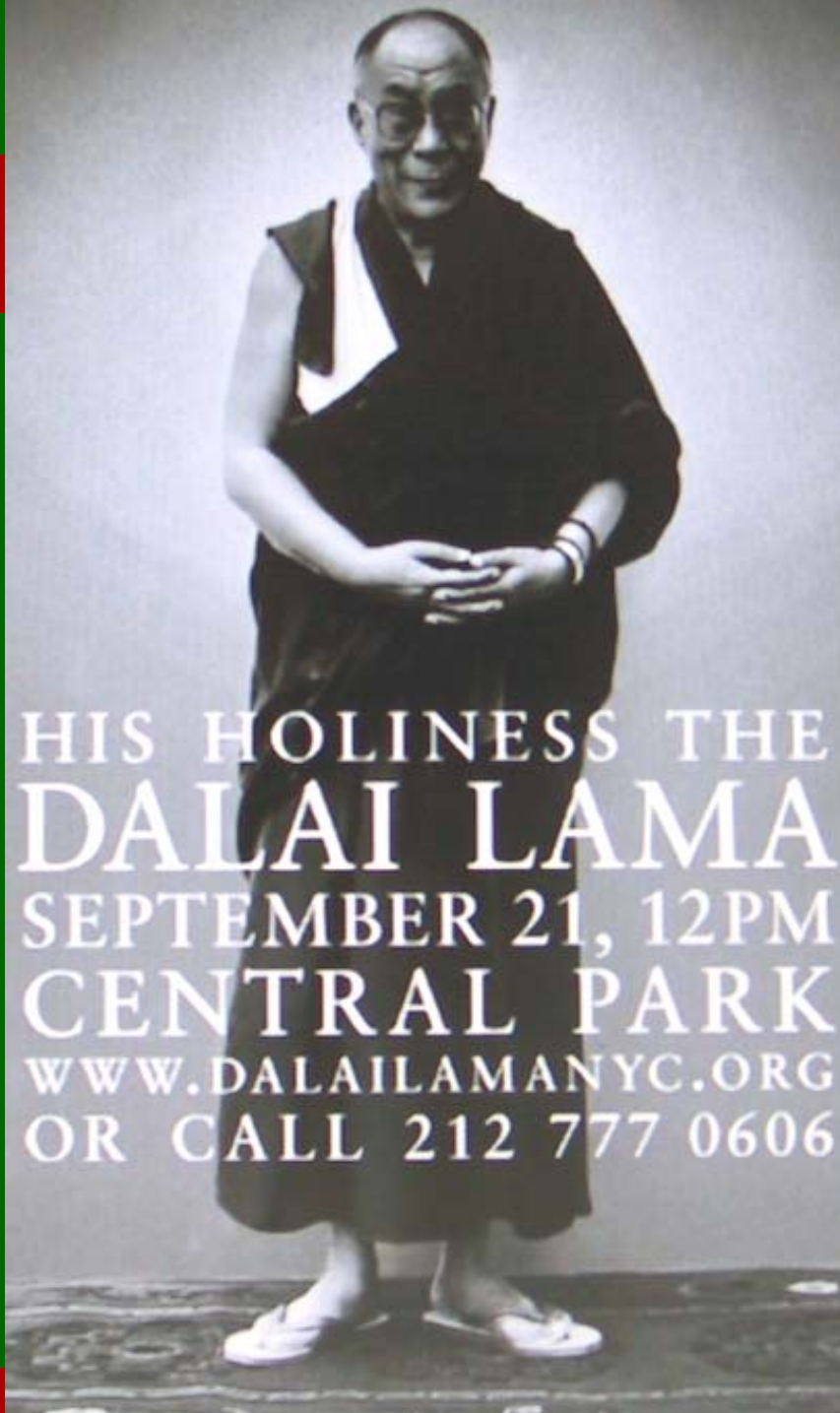
What other “blind spots” to we suffer from as a culture?



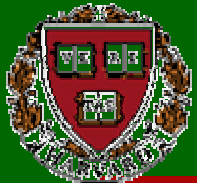
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Other cultures have their own blind spots as well as their unique insights on the human-ecosystem interaction.



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Our task will be to devise a convincing set of principles of self-imposed, self-restraint – an ethic – for human behavior to sustain human life as part of the complex ecosystem we have evolved within and cannot live without.



