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Fall: Sept. 18, 2006-Jan. 22, 2007

Overview

Welcome, tradition, video

Courses

Course search, citations

Distance Education

Online courses

Programs

Degrees, certificates, info sessions

Registration

Tuition, transcripts, financial aid, international students



As a graduate student in the classics at Harvard Extension School, aspiring anthropologist **Aimee Scorziello** spent her evenings in the classroom and her summers in Pompeii.

What are you doing tonight?

Extend yourself at Harvard. Evening classes, part-time programs



Bring Harvard to your laptop this fall

Learn more about the distance education experience

News & Notices

- Take a real LSAT exam for free, September 24
- New course helps teachers integrate technology into their classrooms
- Architecture course inspires students who love old houses
- Online and on campus course explores dog psychology
- Cyberlaw course meets in the virtual world
- Harvard College courses among online offerings
- Computer discounts for students and faculty
- Legendary music course *First Nights* online this fall
- [More news](#)

Aimee Scorziello (right) is featured in our [profiles](#) section.



Choose a Related Website



Harvard Extension School 2006-07

Distance Education

- ▶ Overview
- ▶ Courses
- ▶ Viewing Online Lectures
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Distance education allows students living anywhere in the world to experience Harvard through courses available via the Internet.

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The Distance Education Experience



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Online Registration

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Courses

Most courses run in 15-week fall and spring terms. See the [academic calendar](#).

Browse Courses by Subject

Use the menu below or the [list of subjects](#) to browse courses.

Environmental Studies

Advanced Course Search

[Search for courses](#) by specified preferences (for example, by instructor, course reference number, and meeting day and start time). Search results include current course enrollment numbers. Please note: Institute for English Language Program ([IEL](#)) courses are not included in the search.

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- [Distance Education](#)



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Environmental Studies

Also see the [Master of Liberal Arts in Environmental Management](#) and the [Certificate in Environmental Management](#).

Courselist

- [ENVR E-101](#) Environmental Management I (Fall)
- [ENVR E-102](#) Environmental Management II (Spring)
- [ENVR E-105](#) Strategies for Environmental Management (Spring)
- [ENVR E-110](#) Ocean Environments (Spring)
- [ENVR E-115](#) Introduction to Sustainable Development (Fall)
- [ENVR E-117](#) Sustainability: The Challenge of Changing Our Institutions (Spring)
- [ENVR E-119](#) Sustainable Buildings: Design, Construction, and Operations (Spring)
- [ENVR E-120](#) Environmental Ethics and Land Management (Fall)
- [ENVR E-130](#) Global Climate Change: The Science, Social Impact, and Diplomacy of a World Environmental Crisis (Spring)
- [ENVR E-132e](#) Principles of Occupational Health (Spring)
- [ENVR E-140/W](#) Fundamentals of Ecology (Fall)
- [ENVR E-145](#) Introduction to Environmental Justice (Spring)
- [ENVR E-150](#) Life Cycle and Risk Assessment (Fall)
- [ENVR E-160](#) Critical Thinking about Environmental and Public Health Issues (Spring)
- [ENVR E-200](#) Graduate Research Methods and Scholarly Writing in Environmental Management (Fall)

Related Courses

- [BIOL E-118](#) Deep Sea Biology
- [BIOL E-146](#) Woody Plants and New England Forests
- [EXPO E-55](#) Writing about Nature and the Environment
- [GEOL E-145](#) The Environment of the Earth's Surface
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ENVR E-120 Home

Course Information



Environmental Studies E-120 : Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Harvard Extension School: 11926

Fall 2006-2007

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

Location: Maxwell Dworkin G115

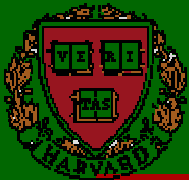
Meeting Time: Thursday 7:35-9:35 pm

This course examines the ethical dilemmas faced by human cultures throughout history in their use of land and natural resources. Topics include the environmental ethics of game and wildlife management, natural resource use, water management, biological diversity, fisheries, ocean protection, and agricultural production. Emphasis is given to the different perceptions of the environment and the different strategies that cultures have employed to resolve ethical disputes over land management and resource use. The tensions between urban, suburban, agricultural, ranching, and mining communities over the management of federal land, water projects, national wildlife areas, national forests, and national parks receive particular emphasis. Special attention is devoted to the problem of suburban sprawl.

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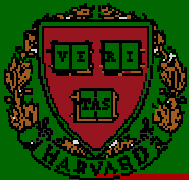
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This is our official address in Harvard's cyberspace.

<http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/ext/11926>

Check the site often -- several times a week -- for assignments, news, announcements, etc.





ENVR - E-120 - Fall Semester 2006 Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Harvard Extension School

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

Timothy C. Weiskel

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[Week 2](#)

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Related Courses

Class [Schedule](#) | Course [Readings](#) | Teaching Assistants: [Robert Burns](#), and [Zachary Zevitas](#)
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Course Description:

Our environmental circumstances pose problems of value and choice for each of us and challenge us to reconsider the way we act individually and collectively in an ever changing ecosystem. Whether we like it or not there is no escaping the fact that ethical values are embedded in the premises and assumptions of all decisions we make concerning land and resource use.

Responsible land management has come to include concern for land as habitat -- not just for humankind alone -- but for other communities of species that inhabit it as well. In addition, we have come to understand that land management needs to reflect an understanding of the land in its ecological context, including its local and larger significance in the hydrological cycle, the carbon cycle, public health, etc.

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ENVR - E-120 - Fall Semester 2006 Environmental Ethics and Land Management

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Timothy C. Weiskel

The Climate Talks Project

<http://ecoethics.net/hsev/>

Tim@EcoEthics.Net



Climate Talks Project

Archives of the
*Harvard Seminar on
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(1996-2002)

- [2001-2002](#)
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[Working Group on
Environmental Justice](#)

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*

Internet



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How will this differ from what you
have been taught so far?

Time for a little self-reflection on your education...

What has your education prepared you for so far?

To get this far, what have you been rewarded for?
Punished for?

Even if you have always been a *good student*, what have you been taught?

What haven't you been taught?



Four Simple Thoughts

There are some major historical discontinuities that will most probably intrude upon your lives.

Currently, you are not being told about these discontinuities.

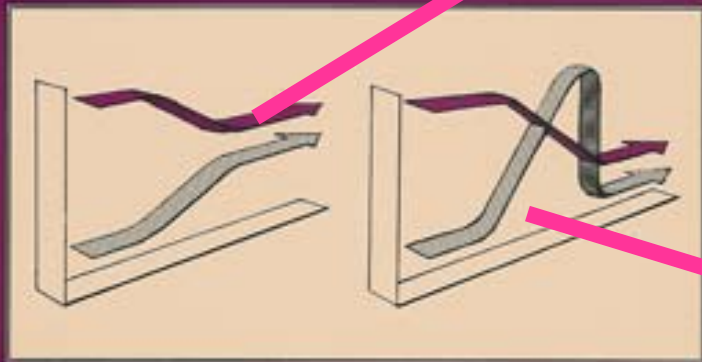
But ignorance will be no excuse. You will be wacked by them anyway... There will be no escaping the potentially catastrophic discontinuities.

You will need to develop an environmental ethic of your own to survive.

*Environmental Decline
and
Public Policy*

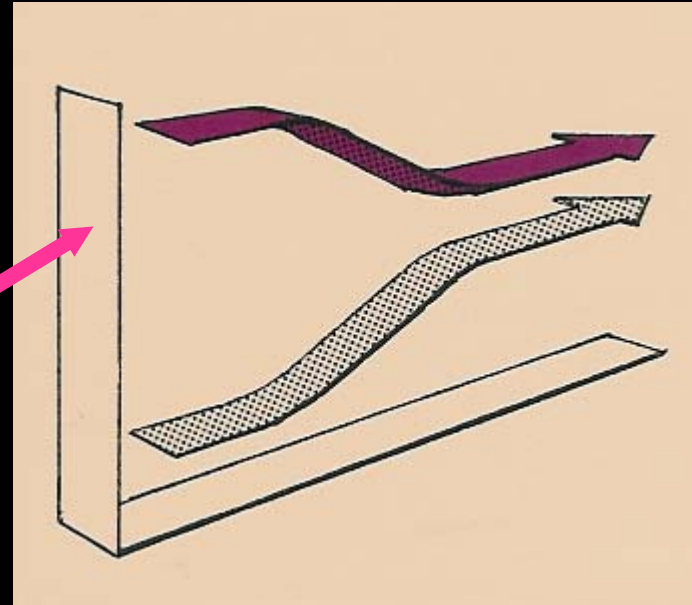
Pattern, Trend and Prospect

Timothy C. Weiskel
and
Richard A. Gray



THE PIERIAN PRESS

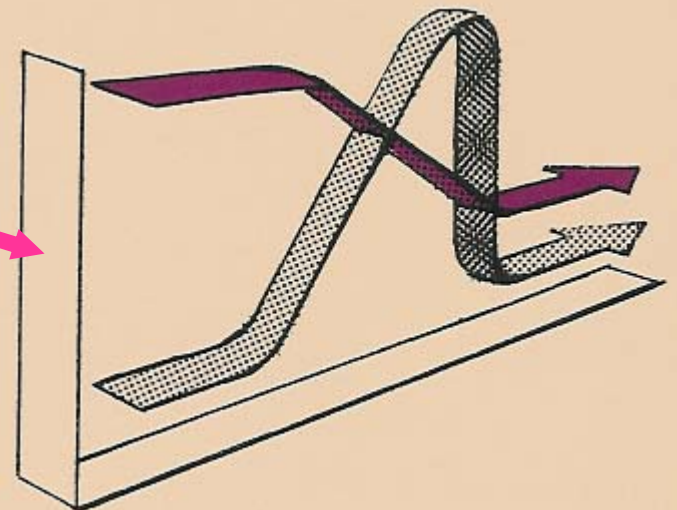
Sidebar: *What is a
“discontinuity?”*

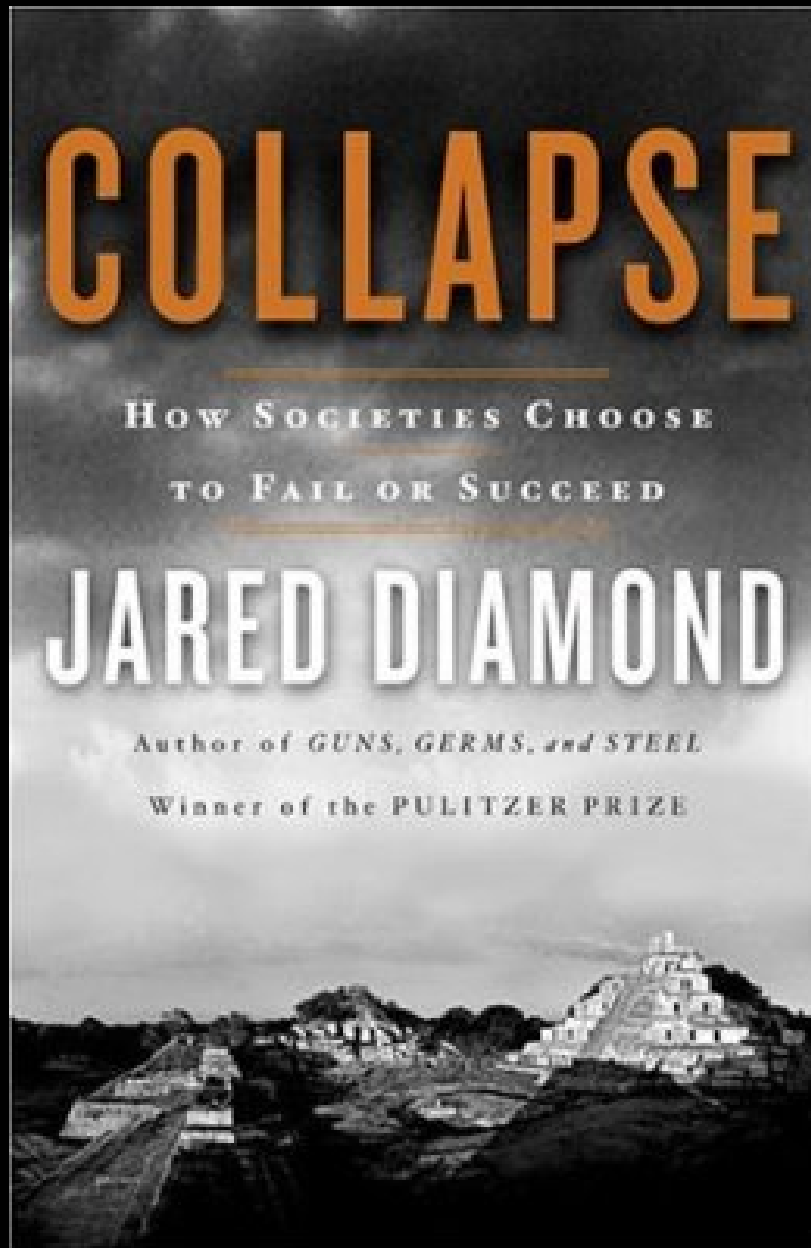


*..many
kinds*

or

?





Many scholars and authors have begun to write extended studies and popular press accounts of the abrupt discontinuities that have characterized cultures in human history.

Four Simple Thoughts

There are some **major historical discontinuities** that will most probably intrude upon your lives.

Currently, **you are not being told** about these discontinuities.

But **ignorance will be no excuse**. You will be wacked by them anyway... There will be no escaping the potentially catastrophic discontinuities.

You will **need to develop an environmental ethic** of your own to survive.



ENVR - E-120 - Fall Semester 2006
Environmental Ethics and Land Management

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[Timothy C. Weiske](mailto:TWeiske@FAS.Harvard.Edu)

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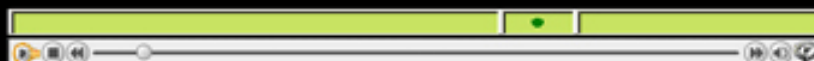
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[- Human Health and Global Environmental Change](#)
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"Al Gore on global warming," BBC Breakfast, (9 September 2006).



Click Controls to Pause, Start, or Stop

Al Gore....

...you will be asked to listen to his arguments and analyze his implicit theories.

What truths does he cite, respect, and regard as authoritative?





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September 20, 2006

Documentary makes global warming a hot topic

Global warming, the moral and ethical challenges it presents, and what should be done about it will be up for discussion following screenings of Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* at Sacramento State on Thursday, Sept. 21, in the University Union Ballroom. Screening times are 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. Panel discussions are at noon and 8:40 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The critically acclaimed documentary explores the global warming phenomenon and the impact extreme weather patterns have had on the planet, including floods, droughts, rising sea levels and heat waves. The film also deals with the myths that surround global warming and points to human activity as a significant cause of global warming.

But the film also points out that climate changes on the planet are not irrevocable

There is a growing awareness of the moral and ethical dimensions of environmental issues.

Who should take this course?

I received the following e-mail

```
=====¶
Your'e kiddin-Right?¶
¶
I was looking at taking your class and then I saw one of your¶
readings is from the inventor of the internet, inspiration for¶
"Love Story" and leading scientist Al Gore -¶
my only conclusion is your a left wing nut and your views of¶
course will spill over into your teaching.¶
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THEM.....I WANT UNBIASED FACT BASED¶
TEACHING¶
¶
¶
I'll pass,¶
GM¶
Los Angeles¶
(let alone requiring the 'Times' and not lets say 'Scientific¶
America')¶
¶
_____¶
Do You Yahoo!?!¶
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around ¶
http://mail.yahoo.com ¶
¶
=====¶
¶
```


E-mail Response....

¶
Dear GM,↵

↵

Thank you for your note.↵

I am sorry you won't be taking the class, but it sounds like you already know all you think you need to know about this subject, so I am not sure you would have benefited from the course very much in any case. Perhaps its best, as you say, to pass it up.¶

.....¶

All the best,↵

↵

Sincerely,¶

¶

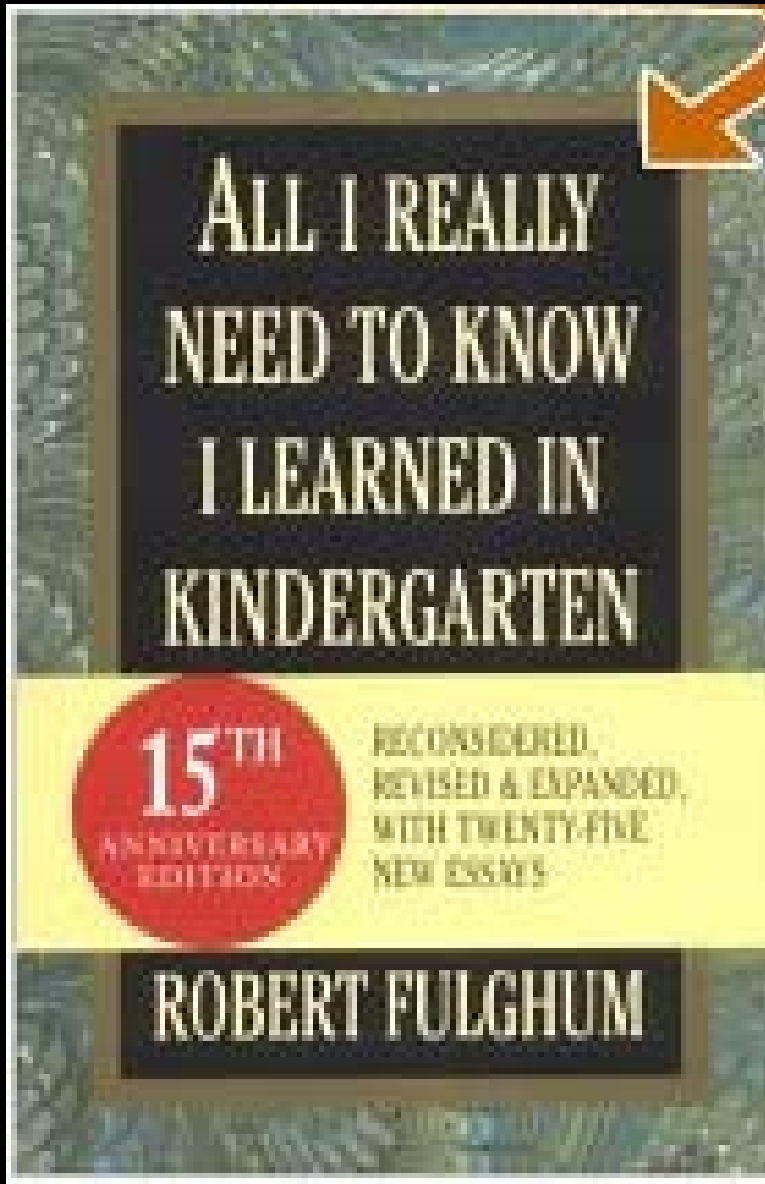
Prof. T.C. Weiskel ¶

Environmental Ethics - Harvard Extension School¶

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

=====¶

¶
¶



Presumably, my friend might have preferred something a little more with it. Perhaps something that had stood the test of “best seller” distinction over time and was in its 15th Anniversary edition...

UPDATED AND EXPANDED



The World Is Flat

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

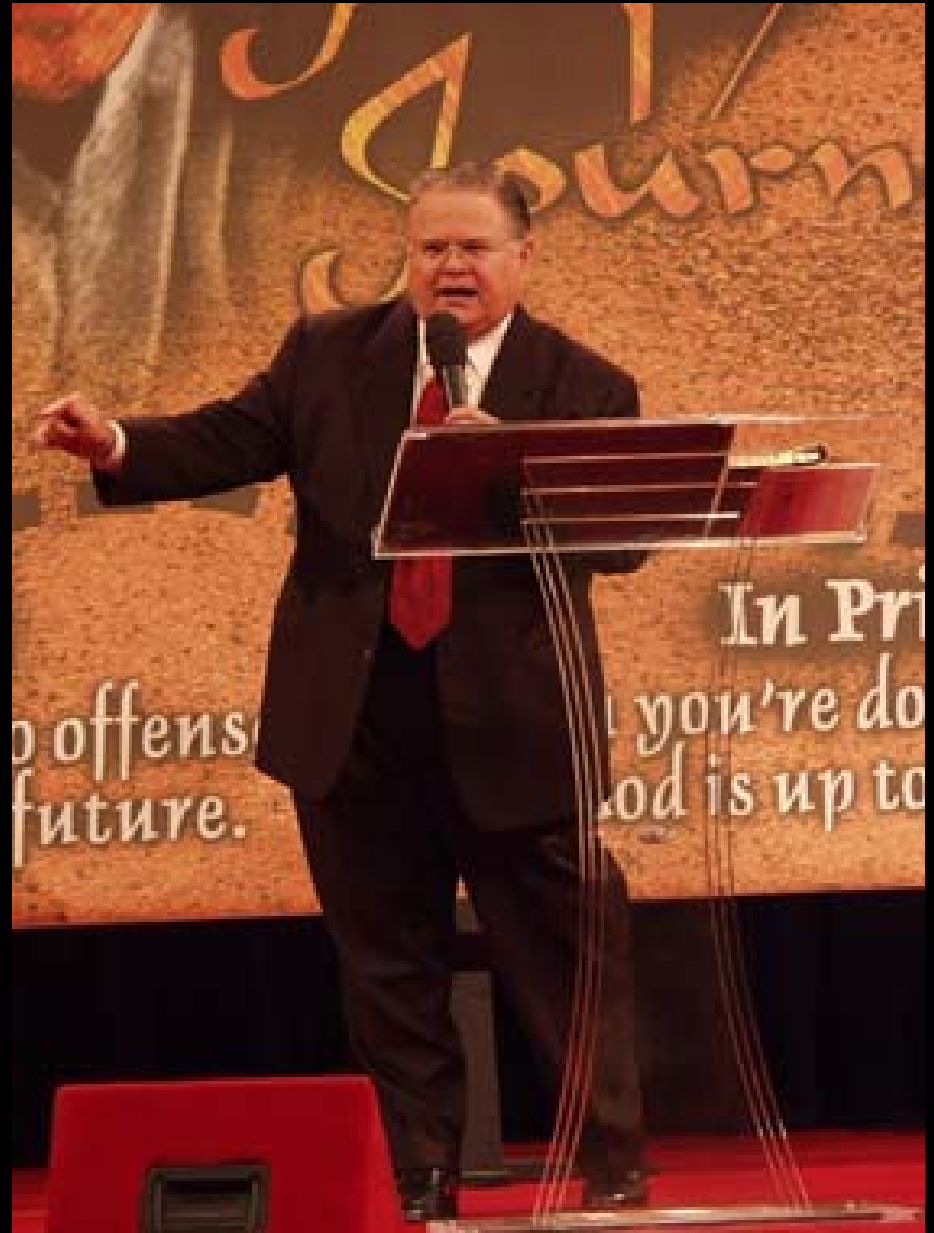
Thomas L. Friedman

...or perhaps some other best seller that will encapsulate in a brief form the history of a century that is only a few years old?

Rev. John Hagee

...you may want to listen to his arguments and analyze his implicit theories.

What truths does he cite, respect, and regard as authoritative?



Aldo Leopold

...you will be asked to listen to his arguments and analyze his implicit theories.

What truths does he cite, respect, and regard as authoritative?



So, to begin with...

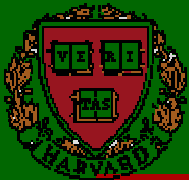
Key question:

[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, and elaborate in a few sentences....

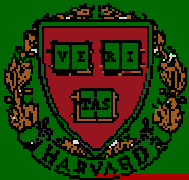
“Environmental ethics is concerned with....”



-
-
-



*...a pause for you to think
and write*



-
-
-
-
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ENVR - E-120 - Fall Semester 2006 Environmental Ethics and Land Management

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[Timothy C. Weiskel](#)

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The Context of Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Consider Earth from outside its atmosphere. Watch it in silence and in wonder. Then, think for a moment about how we might answer the question: **"How should its participant-inhabitants behave?"**



[Composite serial animation of NASA photographs]
[Environmental Ethics & Land Management ... Click Here to Continue](#)



ENVR - E-120 - Fall Semester 2006 Environmental Ethics and Land Management

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The Context of Environmental Ethics and Land Management

Is any received tradition of ethics adequate to answer this question?



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The Context of Environmental Ethics and Land Management
If so, which one(s) will work to establish stable and enduring systems of self-imposed, self-restraint required for human survival in a complex ecosystem?



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[Environmental Crisis](#)

The Context of Environmental Ethics and Land Management
If no received tradition of ethics is currently adequate to inspire self-imposed, self-restraint, how should humans proceed if they expect to survive?



[Composite serial animation of NASA photographs]
[Environmental Ethics & Land Management](#)
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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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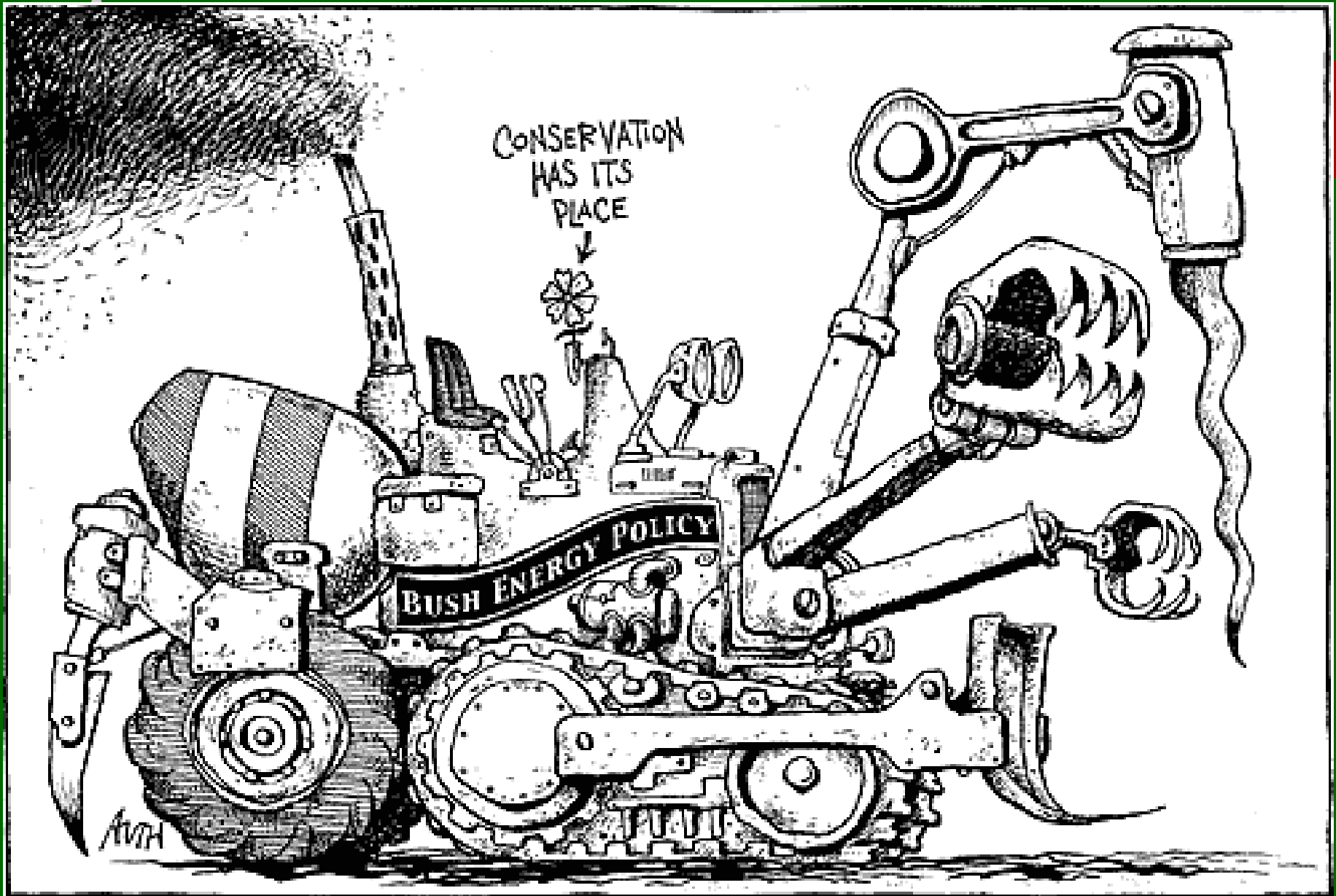
We will take on....

This course will take on controversy.

It will touch upon many of the current debates in the field -- like those surrounding the 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 PRESS OPINION.



BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Americas
Monday, 29 January, 2001, 11:09 GMT

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- Letter From America
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- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
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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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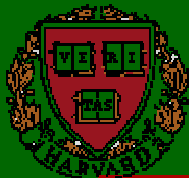


Key stories

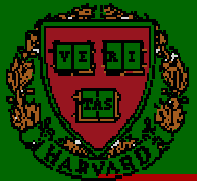
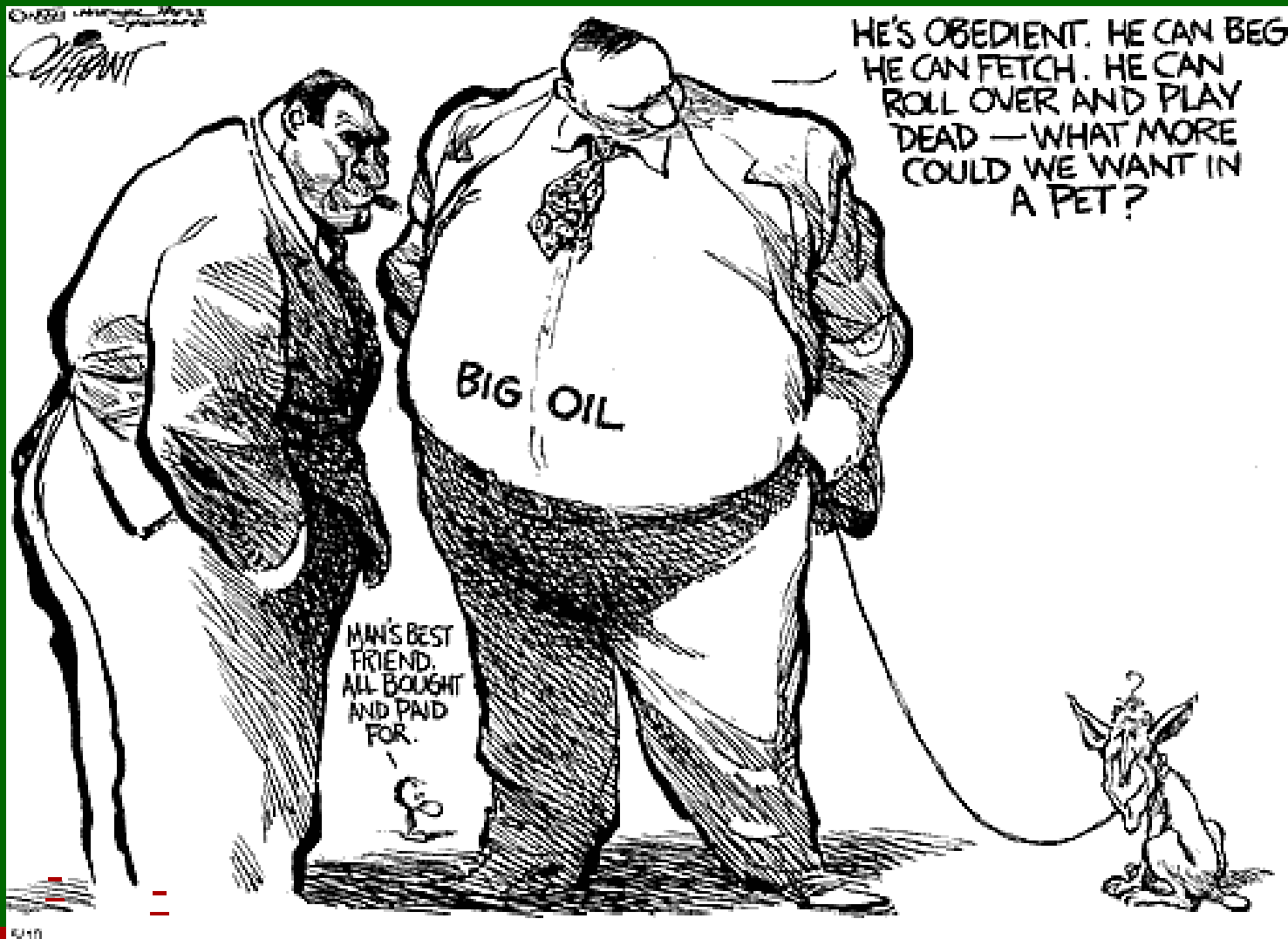
- First 100 days
- China test
- Bush team
- Divided nation
- Recession question
- Missile defence

Profiles

George W. Bush



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



BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Asia-Pacific
Monday, 16 April, 2001, 12:29 GMT 13:29 UK

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Letter From America

UK

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Sci/Tech

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BBC VOTE 2001

BBC SPORT

BBC Weather

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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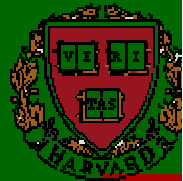
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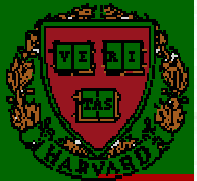
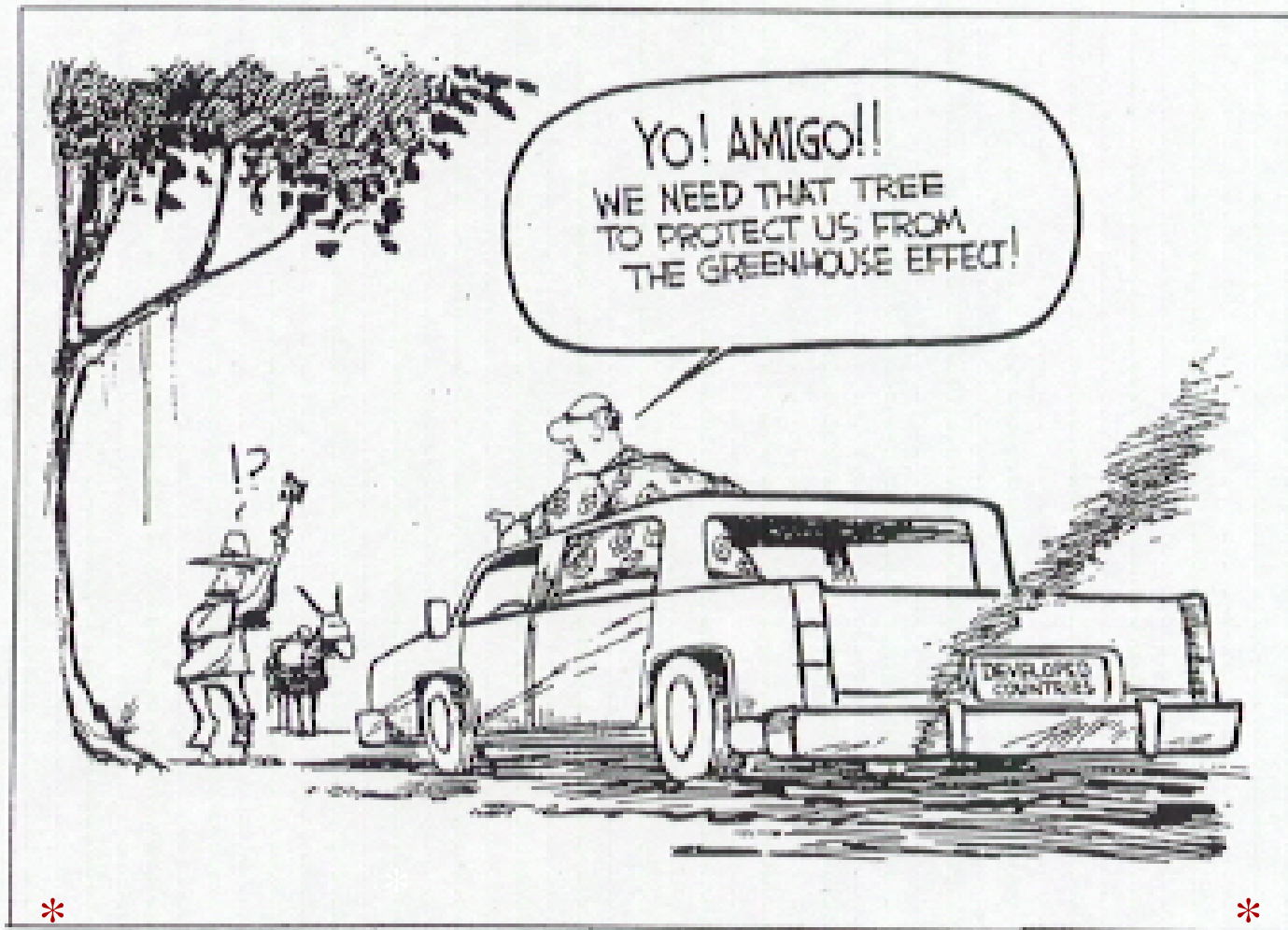
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- 13 Apr 01 | UK Politics
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- 09 Apr 01 | Music
Sting slates Bush over Kyoto
- 06 Apr 01 | Sci/Tech
Prodi 'shocked' by Bush



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.

VOL. CLII . . No. 52,608

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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 Hikachk, 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. Hikachk 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. Hikachk said.



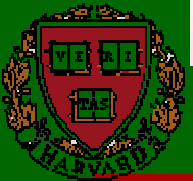


Getty Images

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 Boring/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-

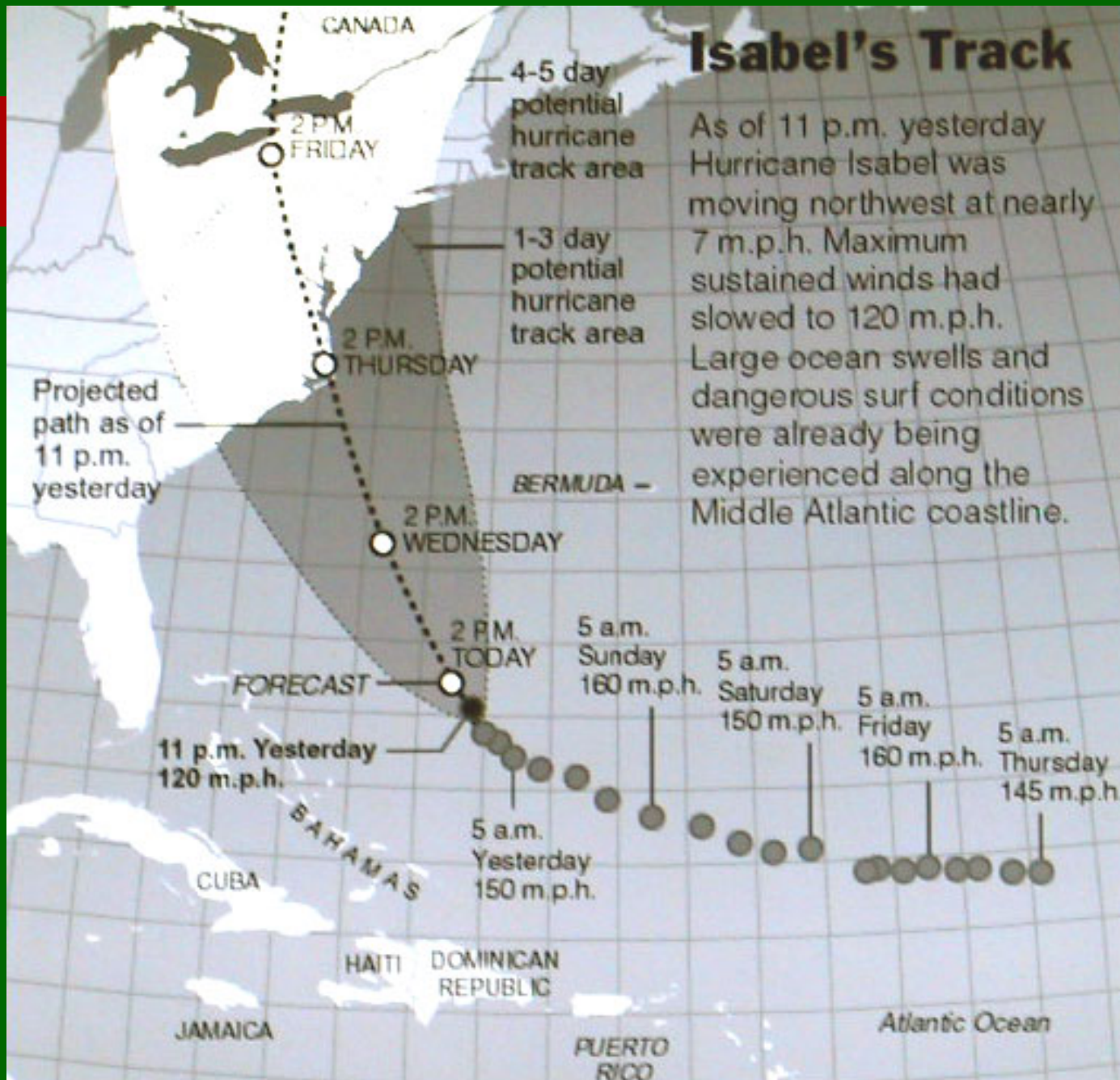
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CANADA

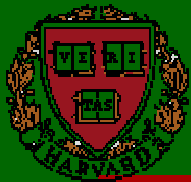
Isabel's Approach

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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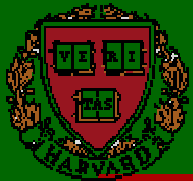
Did you see this coming?

Were you surprised by this?

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

But, “*why were you surprised?*”

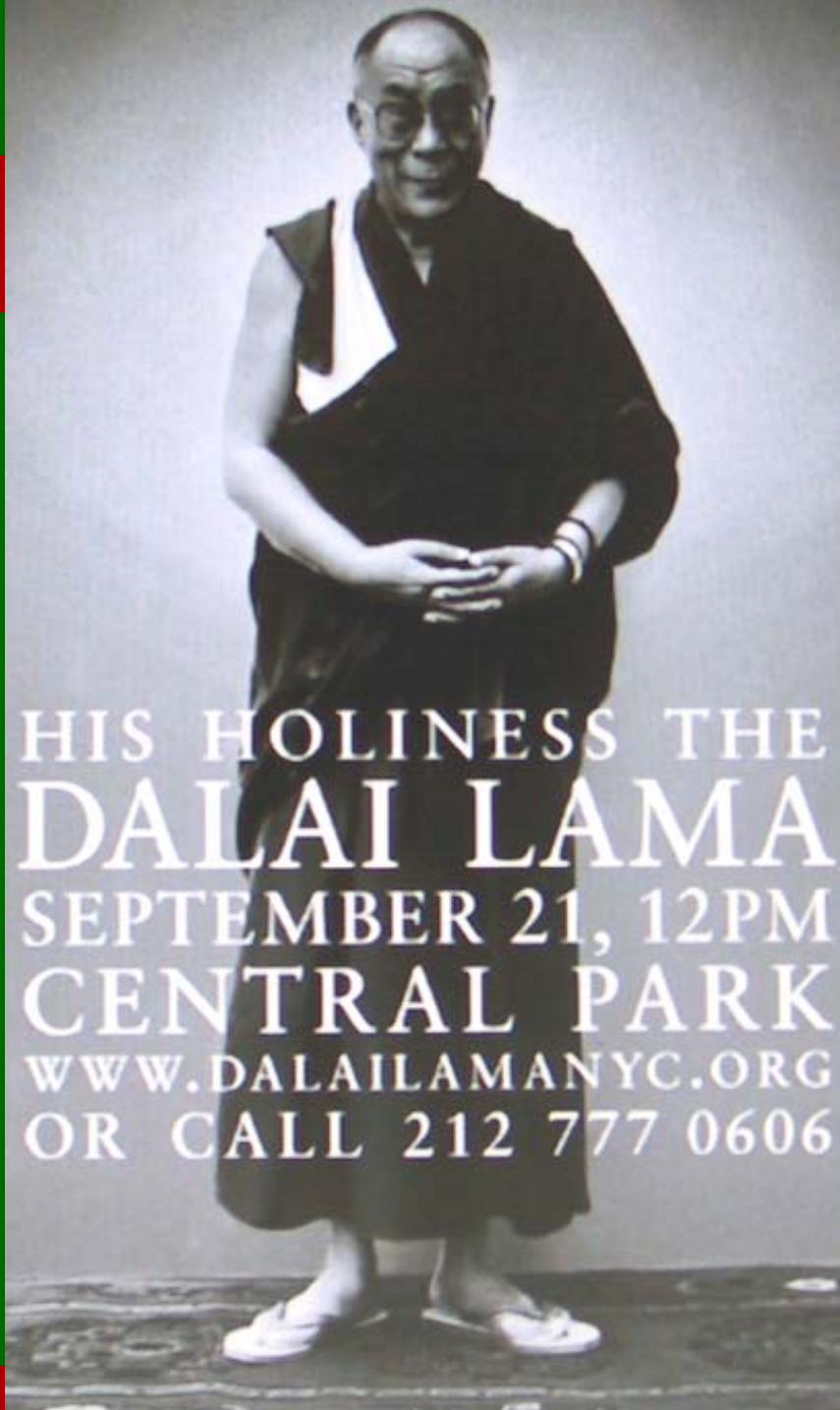
What other “blind spots” do we suffer from as a culture?



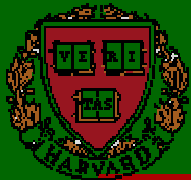
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Other cultures have their own blind spots as well as their unique insights on the human-ecosystem interaction.

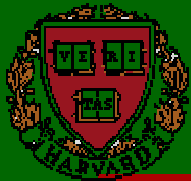


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Our task will be to devise set of principles of self-imposed, self-restraint – an ethic – for human behavior to sustain human life as part of the complex ecosystem we have evolved within and cannot live without.



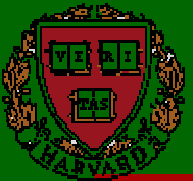
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Who Should Take This Course?

Anyone who wants to orient themselves in the ecosystem in which they live.

Anyone who wishes to understand the trends and directions of evolution in both natural and socio-political systems around them.

Anyone who wants to live with themselves through complex and conflict ridden times.



Why Should You Take This Course?

You should pay attention to how your mind is furnished....

You will have to live with it for the rest of your life.

Your own sanity is worth a great deal in a world and way of life that is showing signs of collapse.

If you don't furnish your own mind, someone else will do it for you (corporate, government, religious ideologues).

If you don't learn to stand for something, you can fall for anything...and probably will.

