

Environment, Technology, and Society



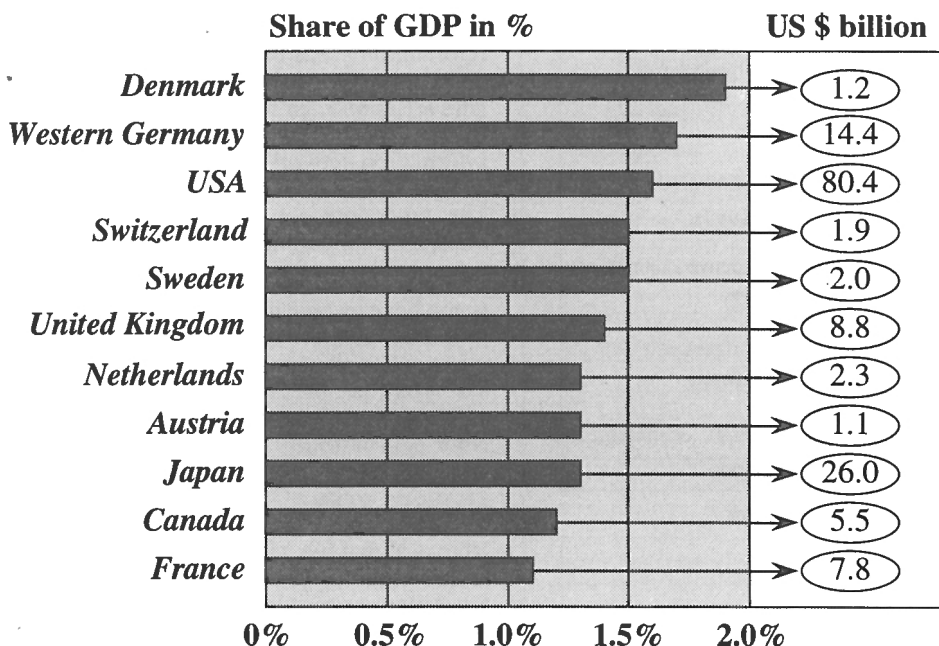
Newsletter of the Section on Environment and Technology
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Environmental Spending[†] for Selected Industrial Countries in 1994

This chart is from a paper titled *Energy Efficiency and Environmental Technologies* that was presented by Dr. Wilfried Czernie, Vice-President, Ruhrgas AG, Essen, Germany, at the Energy Policy Forum in Aspen, CO, July 9, 1994. He said, in part, that "favourable investment conditions and not more expensive energy are the precondition for further advances in energy conservation. ...improvement of resource efficiency as well as climate and environmental protection have become a significant cost factor...along side labour and capital. ...different levels of national environmental spending indicate that different standards exist in international protection of the environment. The commendable progress made in the context of GATT is likely to be undermined by these national disparities. Resource-intensive industries will migrate to countries with low environmental standards, thus moving the resolution of the world's environmental problems into the distant future."



Source: Czernie, W. 1994; OECD.

[†] Public and private sector spending in 1985 prices and exchange rates, estimated data.

Plastic Policies, Prologue And Parable: Reframing Recycling

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Reframing Recycling

In the course of work in recent months (Schnaiberg 1994), I have become aware of some interesting policy conflicts in the arena of plastics recycling. The following extract relates to some of these tensions as regards recycling of plastics (Forman 1991). But the the dialectical tensions inherent in the modern treadmill of pro-

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Notes from the Editor

Great material is flooding in to the newsletter via my mail box and the internet – a reflection I think of the vibrant meetings and interactions that we experienced in Los Angeles at the annual meeting. Fitting it all into the newsletter is becoming a challenge, though a more gratifying one than the alternative of having too little material. As we proceed ever further down the path of the information superhighway, we find ourselves with a new opportunity and a new challenge. As a result of the efforts of several section members, particularly **J. Timmons Roberts**, we have set up a listserver (computer discussion group) at the University of Colorado. As this edition goes to press, we have 44 members of the Section actively connected now. The Section *strongly encourages* members to sign up right away. We have been and will continue to distribute timely new information to members via the listserver system, and I anticipate that we will soon reach a point where we will no longer duplicate information in the newsletter that has gone out over the internet. The challenge, in part, is to define for ourselves what we want our newsletter to look like in the context of the information age. Another issue is how to fairly address the information needs of members who do not have access to the internet. We will be compiling a list of all Section members who have an e-mail address, indicating those who are connected to our listserver. For those who don't have internet access, we would like to hear your suggestions about how best to keep you tied into our information networks.

The procedure for subscribing to the listserver is easy: send a message to <listserv@csf.colorado.edu> with only the text:

Sub ENVTECSOC Yourfirstname Yourlastname

If you have technical problems subscribing, please communicate directly with Lynn Schaper at our host site, Communications for a Sustainable Future: <schaper@csf.colorado.edu>

To post a message directly to the list, send your message to: <ENVTECSOC@csf.colorado.edu>

Note: only currently subscribed users can post to the list. If you wish to communicate with individual members of the section, e-mail them directly. If you have other questions, contact Chris Cluett or Timmons Roberts.

Note also that we will be archiving the exchanges on the listserver so that you can review what happened before you arrived. These archives include papers and data sets that are accessible to anyone with Gopher capabilities. To access the ENVTECSOC archives, use your Gopher to get to Colorado/CSF/ and then move into the environment front-line directory. These archives are open to both ENVTECSOC subscribers and all others. Still, we encourage ENVTECSOC archive users to join ENVTECSOC, and we will attempt to keep the net clear of extraneous postings and make it possible for several more focused discussions to go on at the same time.

Users are already posting syllabi for environmental sociology courses, meeting notices, and research inquiries. One caution however: when replying to a posted message, avoid accidentally replying to the entire list. If you do intend to reply to the list, you must FORWARD your message to ENVTECSOC. We hope you will join and enjoy ENVTECSOC, and help make it a lively networking and discussion tool.

Environment, Technology and Society Newsletter

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Publication Schedule

The deadline for the Winter issue will be Jan. 15, 1995. If it is possible for text items of any length to be submitted electronically, that greatly facilitates the newsletter production process. Use my Internet e-mail address: <cluett@battelle.org> Also, please contribute articles on current research that can be presented graphically on the front page.

Plastic Policies, Prologue and Parable... (cont.)

(continued from page 1)

duction (Schnaiberg & Gould 1994) are well illustrated by recycling programs, where citizens struggle between politics and markets. Rather than restate some of my earlier analyses (e.g. Schnaiberg 1993; Weinberg et al. forthcoming 1995), I thought a more literary narrative might stimulate more imaginative sociological reflection among the readers. I thus offer a prologue and a parable about recycling in general, and post-consumer plastics recycling in particular.

Policy Conflicts In Recycling Plastics

"The definition of the term 'post-consumer' is a potential time bomb waiting to destroy residential plastics recycling initiatives. When we define post-consumer in terms of material that has 'satisfied its intended use', we go nowhere far enough in providing a definition to help enhance post-consumer residential plastics recycling. It is easy for any of us who are actually in plastics recycling to come up with material that will meet some of the new definitions and offer twice the quality at half the price of material that really came out of household trash. If we really want to help recycle plastics from used beverage containers and other household plastic containers, we should refine the definition of 'post-consumer' by adding the words industrial-commercial (PCIC) or residential (PCR). If we begin to use the terms PCIC and PCR when it comes to recycling labels, we will better inform those who buy these products about the actual origins of the material. ... It would be absolutely ludicrous to suggest that industrial or commercial high quality scrap should not be recycled, and this is not my intent. However, it would be equally foolish not to recognize the added costs that are necessary in collecting, sorting, and cleaning post-consumer residential plastics waste compared to post-consumer industrial-commercial materials. To merely use an arbitrary and somewhat capricious definition of 'post-consumer' on a label describing content will actually prove to deter recycling." (Forman 1991: 103-104)

"Chances are, if you go to a grocery store to buy some bologna, you will find it packaged in plastic. This is as it should be. The trouble is, when it comes to plastics recycling, you'll likely find much of what you hear packaged in baloney. ... In its haste to atone for the lack of plastics recycling, the plastics industry rushed to embrace ... ill-conceived dinosaurs as mixed plastics commingled extruded profiles for much bally-hoed products such as picnic tables, park benches and driveway bumpers — we're tired of hearing about them. (Forman 1991:102)

"There is no phrase that sounds better in concept but has so great a potential for catastrophe as 'closed loop recycling'. Those who use the term believe that recycling doesn't truly take place until that which was once, is again... In reality, this proves to be an idea with an enormous 'anti-recycling' potential. The purpose of recycling is to take an item that has served its intended purpose and in some manner add value to it so that it can be returned once again to a useful life. ... There is no environmental good, or any other use for that matter, in forcing a material to be recycled back into its original form. ... The long and the short of this whole issue comes down to the following: 'Recycling is the goal.' We simply need to recycle old containers into useful products, period. (Remember, we live in a free country.)" (Forman 1991:103)

A Prologue For Curbside Recycling

Behold the wondrous municipal recycling bin,

Which collects the trash we've been drowning in.

Its alchemy is transforming "trash into cash."

But landfills are groaning,

And officials are moaning:

Their municipal budgets have been turned into hash!

A Political-Economic Parable About Plastics

Once upon a time in the rich kingdom of Nacirema, the capitol's streets were neat and clean. But local vendors began to sell citizens attractive products in bright new packages, and Nacirema's citizens soon tired of bringing these wrappings and containers home, or to their place of work to be disposed of. They merely dropped such addenda of affluence upon the grounds wherever they ate, drank, or were merry.

The emperor Nodnyl became eye-sore afflicted by these droppings, and consulted wise people in his kingdom. Some said, "behead the droppers of dross!" Others called for a "dropping tax on waste-droppers." Still others called for vendors to be charged a fee for each package, to be repaid only when the empty packages were returned to the manufactories or to the emperor's warehouse. But vendors and manufactory owners cried "foul," since these transactions would slow their commerce. This would lower the taxes they paid to Nodnyl's treasury, whose power would thus decline.

'Twas Nodnyl's wife Dribydal who came up with the perfect answer to this imperial problem. "My seers have suggested another path," quoth she: "Neither behead nor tax. Instead fill the streets with benign buckets, for every citizen to drop within their scatterings from eating, drinking, and being merry. Then would you, Nodnyl, be less sore of eye, since the new buckets would be pleasing to thine eye, for the droppings would be out of sight."

"Aha," replied Nodnyl, "I am indeed fortunate to have a spouse as wise as thee, Dribydal." And his Council of Emperor's Advisers cheered too, for the vendors and manufactories would be pleased. And so it was, and it was good... for some time at least. Benign buckets were used, or nearly used, wherever three or more Naciremans gathered at work or at play. And each day, benign bucket brigades came to empty them, and the Nacireman streets were clean. Each bucket bore the legend, "Neighborly Naciremans Navigate to Benign Buckets," and it was peaceful and pleasing to walk the streets.

So well did the benign buckets work that still more manufactories and vendors began to make and sell products in bright and shiny new "begone-packs" [never to be returned to their source of creation or distribution]. The manufactories of benign buckets were busied night and day, producing new buckets to catch these aspects from affluence. Bankers and tax-collectors cheered too, since the new "begone-manufactories" and their vendors were able to make more products and profits, because they needed fewer Nacireman workers to pick up and return the outmoded "re-usable packets."

However, within the office of the Grand Vizier, doubts began to grow. In each province, some rumblings from Pastoral Ministers and their staffs were heard. "Woe begones," they cried, "for the buckets are not benign, it seems. Now armies of serfs are needed to tend the ever-growing benign buckets each day and night. And the transports bring daily a larger mound of begone-packs, and where are we to put them? Our commons pasture is getting filled up quickly, and the cattle (and natives) are restless, for where will we find new pastures?" And ominously, in distant provinces, where toiled the manufactories of the bright, shiny new begone-packs, serfs and Knights began to wonder at the changes in their Nacireman landscapes. Fish drowned, frogs croaked, and cow-piegs turned white as snow. Yet the seers in the

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Plastic Policies, Prologue and Parable... (cont.)

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manufactories glowed with new economic health. For did they not produce goods in begone-packaging that lasted for months on Nacireman streets and shop shelves without despoilation? New Living Through Alchemy, they proclaimed in their Annual Council of Political Economists Report to the Emperor! Moreover, they noted therein that "what's good for the fiefdom is good for the serfs!"

"Fear not," trumpeted the editorials in the National Nacireman News (wholly controlled by the Grand Vizier's Office of Public Instruction). "All is well in our country," and "The state will ensure the continuance of our economic wonders," they reassured the populace through the town criers' sound-bites. The new emperor, Nagear, dismissed the provincial fears as due to the "nattering nabobs of non-Naciremanism," proclaiming "You've seen one cow pasture, you've seen them all!" And he ordered all his Governors and Pastural Ministers to erect monuments to Nacireman knowledge by binding up the begone-packs, mounding molehills into mountains of manufactory management. And it was good... for the Governors, at least.

Strange wonders began to occur, though, testing the populace's faith in their state and producers. These mountains began to grow to unprecedented heights, and children were sometimes swallowed up in their depths. When the monsoons came, some of these manufactory mountains slipped, drowning everything in their path. And those living in the foothills began to suffer boils, scourges, and sickening of their stomachs, until they felt like Job being tested. Indeed, soon these mountains of manufactory began to block out the sunlight, reducing the cropping of corn and oats, and making the fish disappear from the nearby streams. And the people were sore afraid, and petitioned the Grand Vizier to "do something."

In his wisdom, this venerable official gathered together in the Imperial Nacireman Palace the mandarins of manufactories, as well as some "citizens of good will and earnest effort." These mischievous mountains must be contained, they agreed, but how? One timid citizen suggested returning to the packaging of pre-begone packaging, but she was derided as anti-Nacireman and anti-progress, and quickly returned to her foothills. The mandarins called in the alchemists, who scratched their beards, until one said:

"Eureka! We'll turn the begone-packs into benign buckets and benches for beaches

and bar-stools for beverage stands! Hence the mountains will not grow larger, and citizens can continue to have the convenience of begone packs to lighten their daily load. And Governors can collect the discarded begone packs and sell them to the artful alchemists."

This wondrous social transformation of "trash into cash" would happen because the mandarins and their manufactories would collect these packs, and turn them into socially-useful goods once more. Citizens cheered, Governors grovelled in glee, Pastural Ministers praised this wisdom, and the Grand Vizier's vision of the future was once more clear and bright.

Alas, this joyous state soon passed, and boisterous bickering once more bedevilled the kingdom. In each manufactory, anxious accountants chastened their artful alchemists: "To mash this trash into Nacireman necessities costs too much. We will not mash any trash before its time, unless we obtain cash from the manufactory mash into which we can turn the trash." Or, "No buck, no manufactory muck! Only those benign buckets that can generate bountiful bucks from new benign buckets, benches and bar-stools shall we transform alchemically! And the rest? Begone with it!"

Soon, by day, the streets of Nacirema were filled by alchemical trucks, emptying the benign buckets and pleasing the woe-men on the street. Alas, by night, cartloads of "profitless-putrescences" were quietly taken from alchemy centers and from some of the manufactories themselves, to be melded into the manufactory mountains. All too soon, bewildered citizens declaimed, "How is it that our alchemists daily divert so many begone-packs, and yet our manufacteried mountains still grow and reek?"

This plaintive wail reached from Governors and Pasture Ministers up to the Grand Vizier himself, who promptly placed the problem before his mandarins of manufactories, as well as his Council of Emperor's Advisers. "Ah, 'tis simple what the problem is," they cried: "Naciremans just don't pay enough for benign buckets, benches and bar-stools for manufactories to turn trash into cash! For each good citizen, let us add a mash-ination tax to their daily purchases of begone-packs. And let us demand of them to purify these begone-packs by steam and soap, to make them more mash-able! And finally, let the Grand Vizier order more benign buckets, benches and bar-stools for the kingdom, to make the manufactories able to turn more mash into more cash. Thus will be problem finally be resolved!"

When the Grand Vizier pronounced in the Imperial Courtyard this profound parable, most citizens cheered. Except, away in a corner, a wizened sociologist was heard to mutter, "Why beget begone-packs, if the begetting becomes a woe in the begoning? Manufactories have made a hash of the plan for mash, and to have us give them the mash-ination tax turns our mountain of misery into their molehill of money..."

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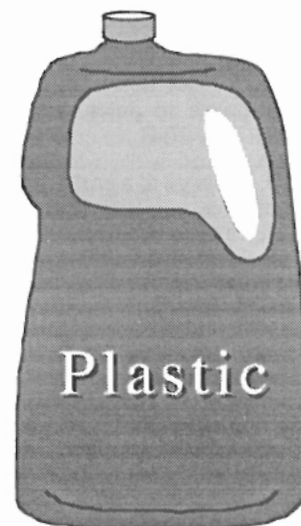
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E&T Council Meeting Minutes: Los Angeles, August 7, 1994

Loren Lutzenhiser

Council members and others in attendance: Penelope Canan, Chris Cluett, Kurt Cylke, Tom Dietz, Wendy Espeland, Ken Gould, Loren Lutzenhiser, Timmons Roberts, Gene Rosa, Tom Rudel, and Carole Seyfrit.

The Section Council meeting of August 7, 1994 was called to order by Chair Penelope Canan, who asked for the approval of the minutes of the 1993 Council meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The problems of shallow committee membership and difficulties in soliciting nominations for Section offices were discussed. Ken Gould will remain on the Nominations-Elections Committee, where he will assist Wendy Espeland (the new chair) to devise ways to expand participation.

Discussion of Section membership followed. Membership is down from 432 in 1993 to 403 in July of 1994 (a 7% decline). Some reports of possible problems with computer enrollment in sections on the ASA annual dues notice (perhaps registering some members in adjacent Sections on the list) were discussed. Informal investigation of this possibility by Council members will be pursued. [Addendum: The ASA reports that we have 408 members as of Sept. 30, 1994, the cut off date (263 regular, 110 student, 27 associate, and the balance emeritus members.)]

Penelope Canan moved that the Section buy 20 student memberships (@ \$5 each; total cost of \$100). Passed unanimously.

Kurt Cylke agreed to serve as Membership Chair for one more year, with the need to find someone to work with Kurt for the next year and then to take over as membership chair noted.

Chris Cluett would like to see more members sending in interesting material for the newsletter, such as pieces that illustrate what people are doing. He wants this to continue to be a lively and useful vehicle for the Section and the discipline. An example of a nice contribution are book reviews by graduate students (Carole Seyfrit has done an excellent job of soliciting these).

Loren Lutzenhiser summarized the financial report from Kent Van Liere, who was unable to attend. During the past year the Section's primary expenses were: \$600 (\$200 + \$400) for two student awards, \$75 contribution to the 1994 Honors Reception, a \$200 donation to Rik Scarce (who was incarcerated for refusing to share his field notes with a grand jury), and \$338.16 for the 1993 Section reception, for a total of \$1213.16. Receipts from dues for this period totaled \$1108. The section currently has a balance of \$1957.52.

Awards: A new award, the Robert Boguslaw Award, has been offered to the Section by his family and colleagues. Based on Dr. Boguslaw's wishes and those donating funds to establish the award, it would honor work by doctoral students or young investigators conducting research on technology and human affairs, par-

ticularly work whose humanistic focus on technology "reflects the concerns of ordinary people, rather than those of established organizations and institutions." A motion to accept administration of the Boguslaw Award passed. The nature of our existing awards was reviewed: 1) Marvin E. Olsen Graduate Student Award: best paper competition; and 2) Distinguished Service Award: honoring work in one or more of the following areas: scholarship, practice, service (i.e. the promotion of environmental sociology as an intellectual agenda).

Penelope Canan announced that the 1994 Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award will be awarded to Glynis Daniels of The Pennsylvania State University for her paper *The Forest Related Content of Children's Textbooks: 1950-1991*. Valerie Kuletz (UC-Santa Cruz), Anna Triandafyllidou (European University Institute, Florence), and David John Frank (USC) will receive honorable mention.

Penelope Canan announced that Tom Rudel would receive the Section's 1994 Distinguished Service Award.

Carole Seyfrit presented a proposed design for administration of the Robert Boguslaw Award. A discussion of alternative ways of structuring the award committee resulted in a motion that the award be made by a five-person committee composed of three members of the Environment and Technology Section, one from the ASA's Science, Knowledge and Technology Section, and one from the AAAS Section K (political, economic and social sciences). The motion passed. The award would consist of a small monetary payment (probably in the neighborhood of \$100 at first—this all depends upon the size of the endowment, which is not fixed and is still growing) and a commemorative plaque. Eligible candidates would be doctoral students and scholars less than five years past the Ph.D. Award procedures will be clarified in a change in the by-laws.

Networking: Tom Dietz was recently appointed to the new NSF Sociology review panel (a first for environmental sociology). Loren Lutzenhiser reported that the Committee for the National Institute of the Environment (NIE) was making slow progress at building political support for this reorganization of federal environmental research. Some concern had been reported to Council members about the successive narrowing of the role of the social sciences in the NIE proposal. Loren will draft a letter for Penelope expressing the Section's continued support for the NIE concept, and our concern that even any perception of marginalization of the social sciences would not benefit the effort. Tom Dietz noted that the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) now has visible social science representation. He also noted that an NSF request for proposals would be issued in the Fall for institutions wishing to establish a center (or centers) for the study of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. Approximately \$6 million could be made available. [Addendum: A letter from Penelope was sent to NIE on 11/4/94 and she has requested

additional information from NIE. See *NIE Update* in this newsletter.]

This Year's Meetings: Penelope Canan reported that this year the Section is sponsoring three sessions, one joint session (with the Section on Medical Sociology), twelve Roundtables, and is co-sponsoring the ASA Honors Program Reception.

New Business: Discussion of the undesirability of Section expenses exceeding its income resulted in a motion to recommend to the membership at the business meeting that the student paper award be reduced from \$400 to \$200. The motion passed. Further discussion of fundraising possibilities (e.g., selling advertising in the newsletter, voluntary contributions, other Section's sources of income from book sales, etc.) resulted in a motion that a membership ballot be initiated as soon as possible on the question of increasing annual Section dues from \$10 to \$12. The motion passed. [Addendum: The subsequent vote of the Section was 98 for, 14 against.]

New Committee Assignments: Penelope Canan announced committee assignments for 1994-95. Barbara Farhar will Chair an expanded Liaison Committee whose members will include Riley Dunlap (ISA), Dora Lodwick (SAS), Loren Lutzenhiser (CNIE), Barbara Farhar (DOE), Tom Dietz (NRC, NSF, other social science groups, e.g., APSA), and Gene Rosa (AAAS, Section K).

Wendy Espeland will chair the Nominations/Elections Committee, and Ken Gould will continue to serve on that committee. Kurt Cylke will continue as Membership Chair. It was agreed that efforts would be made to bring in a successor to Kurt who could work with him during the coming year. Chris Cluett agreed to continue as Publications Chair and Editor of *Environment, Technology and Society* for another year. He needs a continuing flow of good information, articles, reviews, etc. The newsletter has become an exemplar in the ASA, and we want to maintain its high quality.

Awards for 1994-95 will be handled by Marilyn Aronoff (Olsen Student Paper Award), Tom Rudel (Distinguished Service Award), and Dora Lodwick (Boguslaw Award).

The Chair appointed a new committee to explore and promote the possibilities for the Section of electronic communications (e-mail conferences, bulletin boards, interest groups, exchange of works-in-progress). It will also have responsibility for the membership directory. Timmons Roberts will chair the committee. Other members are Ken Gould, Loren Lutzenhiser, Kurt Cylke, and Chris Cluett.

After some discussion, Chair-elect Gene Rosa summarized the Section session themes for next year's meetings. These are: (1) environment, technology and law; (2) population and economic development; and (3) sustainable community. It was agreed that individual Section members would propose sessions on related topics. Respectfully submitted. ∞

E&T Section Business Meeting Minutes: Los Angeles, August 8, 1994

Loren Lutzenhiser

The Section business meeting was brought to order by Chair Penelope Canan, who recapped the results of the Section's Council meeting and called for the approval of the minutes of the 1993 business meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Council Report: The Chair reported that the Council had discussed the Section's budget limitations and had voted to recommend that the student paper award be reduced from \$400 to \$200. The Council also initiated a membership ballot on the question of increasing annual Section dues from \$10 to \$12. The Council adopted guidelines for the Boguslaw Award, and as a result of concern for a Section membership level hovering around 400 (the minimum number needed to qualify for three paper sessions at the annual meetings), the Council voted to purchase 20 student memberships at \$5 each. Section members are urged to identify ASA student members who might be brought into the section in this way.

Old Business: The Chair reported on behalf of Membership Chair Kurt Cylke that the Section currently has 403 members. Loren Lutzenhiser delivered the finance report for out-going Secretary-Treasurer Kent Van Liere. He reported that the Section raises only about \$550 per year at present membership levels (the bulk of dues are retained by the ASA Executive Office to support the newsletter and administrative services). At current spending levels, however, routine expenses (e.g., \$400 Student Award, plaques, etc.) consume that income, without allowing the Section to support a reception or to undertake other worthwhile projects.

Chris Cluett's efforts as editor of *Environment, Technology and Society* were widely complemented by those in attendance. It was remarked that ETS is seen as an exemplary ASA section newsletter. Networking Committee reports were given by Tom Dietz (NSF and NRC) and Loren Lutzenhiser (NIE). Increased opportunities for social research on interdisciplinary environmental topics were noted, but caution about over-optimism was urged. The Chair will write to the Committee for the NIE conveying the Section's continuing support for the NIE concept, but voicing concern about what some have seen as an erosion of the role of the social sciences in discourse about the proposal.

The Chair reported that, despite editor Riley Dunlap's recent medical problems and surgery, the *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* is in final stages of preparation and should be available next year.

Ken Gould reported the results of this year's elections. Outgoing Council members Shirley Laska, Willem Van Vliet, and Kent Van Liere were thanked for their service to the Section.

Dora Lodwick and Tom Rudel were welcomed as new Council members and Loren Lutzenhiser as new Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chair reported that this year the Section sponsored three sessions, one joint session (with the Section on Medical Sociology), twelve Roundtables, and co-sponsored the ASA Honors Program Reception.

Awards Committee: Fred Buttel (University of Wisconsin, Madison) received the 1994 Distinguished Contribution Award, which was announced at last year's meeting in Miami. The Awards Committee also announced that the 1995 Award would be presented to Tom Rudel (Rutgers University).

The Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award was presented to Glynis Daniels of The Pennsylvania State University for her paper *The Forest Related Content of Children's Textbooks: 1950-1991*. The Committee also reported that Valerie Kuletz (UC-Santa Cruz), Anna Triandafyllidou (European University Institute, Florence), and David John Frank (USC) received honorable mention.

New Business—Financial Affairs: The Council's decision to ask for a membership ballot on an increase in Section dues from \$10 to \$12 dollars was discussed. A straw poll showed unanimous support. A ballot will be distributed soon after the meeting in order for this change (if approved by the membership) to appear on the 1995 dues notice.

The Council's recommendation that the amount of the Graduate Student Award be changed from \$400 to \$200 was also discussed. A motion to decrease the amount of the award in 1995 and thereafter passed unanimously.

Boguslaw Award: Carole Seyfrit presented recommendations for administering the Robert Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism. Based on Dr. Boguslaw's wishes and those donating funds to establish the award, it should honor work by doctoral students or young investigators conducting research on technology and human affairs, particularly work whose humanistic focus on technology "reflects the concerns of ordinary people, rather than those of established organizations and institutions." The Council recommended that the award be made by a five-person committee composed of three members of the Environment and Technology Section, one from the ASA's Science, Knowledge and Technology Section, and one from the AAAS Section K (political, economic and social sciences). The award would consist of a small monetary payment and a commemorative plaque. Eligible candidates would be doctoral students and scholars less than five years past the Ph.D. After discussion, it was decided that Carol Seyfrit would develop more detailed guidelines for ad-

ministration of the award according to these principles and provide those to Dora Lodwick, who will chair the Boguslaw Award Committee. The proposal will appear on the Spring ballot.

IECQ Cooperation: The chair presented a proposal from the editors of *Industrial and Environmental Crisis Quarterly* (IECQ), who seek closer cooperation with the Section and its members. IECQ that would (1) reduce subscription rates for Section members from \$50 to \$35 per year, (2) place five Section members on the sixteen-member IECQ editorial board, and (3) ask the Section to put out one special issue each year. Discussion identified this as a "tribute" to the Section's growth and development in recent years. It was decided to decline formal affiliation with IECQ at this time, although individual members are encouraged to continue and expand their contributions to IECQ.

Committee Assignments: The Chair thanked Tom Dietz for his work as Chair of the Liaison Committee, and announced that Barbara Farhar would be the Chair for 1994-95. Committee members will be Riley Dunlap (ISA), Dora Lodwick (SAS), Loren Lutzenhiser (CNIE), Barbara Farhar (DOE), Tom Dietz (NRC, NSF, other social science groups, e.g., APSA), and Gene Rosa (AAAS, Section K).

Wendy Espeland will chair the Nominations/Elections Committee, and Ken Gould will continue to serve on that committee. Kurt Cylke will continue as Membership Chair. Chris Cluett has agreed to continue as Publications Chair and Editor of *Environment, Technology and Society* for another year.

Awards for 1994-95 will be administered by Marilyn Aronoff (Olsen Student Paper Award), Tom Rudel (Distinguished Service Award), and Dora Lodwick (Boguslaw Award).

The Chair appointed a new committee to explore and promote the possibilities for the Section of electronic communications (e-mail conferences, bulletin boards, interest groups, exchange of works-in-progress). Timmons Roberts will chair that committee. Other members are Ken Gould, Loren Lutzenhiser, Kurt Cylke, and Chris Cluett. Timmons has already arranged for a Section listserver: <envtecsoc@csf.colorado.edu>

1995 Program: Gene Rosa, Chair-elect, announced the Section sessions for next year's meetings. These are: (1) environment, technology and law; (2) population and economic development; and (3) sustainable community. Individual Section members have proposed sessions on related topics.

Sixty-one members of the Section were present at the business meeting. ∞

ASA Annual Meetings

ASA Annual Meeting: 1995

The Section on Environment and Technology invites the fullest range of scholarship on human ecology, environment, and technology at the 1995 meetings in Washington, DC. The Section is entitled to three sessions, described below, but we anticipate that other sessions relevant to members of the section will appear as part of the general submissions. We will be certain to inform you of such other sessions when they appear. **Chris Cluett** is Session Organizer for the ASA's regular session(s) on Environmental Sociology. In addition to our Section's regular sessions, we will continue with the past practice of creating as many refereed roundtables as necessary to accommodate other worthy theoretical, methodological, substantive, or applied topics. The deadline for submissions is: **January 14, 1995**. Except as noted below, papers should be sent to: **Eugene A. Rosa**, Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020; Ph: (509) 335-4621; Fax: (509) 335-6419; e-mail: <facrosa@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu>

The proposed thematic sessions are:

1. *Environment, Technology, and the Law* (co-sponsored by the Section on Law)
2. *Population, Environment, and Development*
3. *Sustainable Communities* (Submissions specifically devoted to this topic should be sent to:

John Wardwell, Department of Rural Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4006, Tel: (509) 335-2771; Fax (509) 335-2125, no e-mail address.

ASA Annual Meeting: 1996

The 1996 Program Committee invites our suggestions for topics and organizers for the plenary and thematic sessions and for the regular sessions of the Chicago meeting. Suggestions postmarked by 11/25/94 will be considered at the Committee's first meeting in December. Suggestions received between 11/25/94 and 1/25/95 will be considered at the Committee's February meeting. Send your suggestions to Maureen Hallinan, Committee Chair and President-Elect of the ASA, at 400 Decio, Dept. of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Please communicate your ideas with **Penelope Canan**, Section Chair, in order that we can coordinate our Section's planning.

From My Corner

Penelope Canan

This is an exciting time to serve as Section chair. From my corner I see a fine bunch of dedicated sociologists cooperating to make a contribution to issues of environment and technology. I see that you are working hard and doing important scholarly and policy work. I see committed Council members following through on our behalf. I see this fine newsletter and our new electronic network keeping us informed and connected with each other. I see our members successfully building bridges between our group and other sections within the ASA (race and ethnic, medical, community, law, over the last several years). I see that we are establishing membership overlaps with regional groups and with the ISA, SAS, AAAS, CNIE, and the Society for Human Ecology, to name a few. I see that genuine public concern over environmental issues is high; that business firms and governmental agencies alike are searching for ways to make a shift toward more environmentally sound behavior; that research support is available (Human Dimensions of Global Change at NSF, for one example), and that interest among undergraduate and graduate students is growing.

From my corner I also see that Felice Levine and the staff at the ASA Executive Office are very supportive of our interests and share a view of governance that is one of cooperation and joint responsibility. The ASA's new Governance Coordinator, Elizabeth Czepiel (e-mail: ASA_Governance_Sections@MCIMAIL.COM), just sent out a packet of information and deadlines that will help the Council make this year go smoothly. A new Section Manual is due out shortly. Felice and Barbara Farhar and I are working on an advocacy strategy that focuses on several federal agencies where we hope to encourage more involvement of the social sciences. In sum this is a time for quiet appreciation, even harder work, and ever more collegiality.

Cheers from Denver. PS: So who's coming to ski the Rockies with me?

NIE Update

November 2, 1994

Loren Lutzenhiser provided this information from the National Institute for the Environment:

Meetings to Discuss Interdisciplinary Science in the NIE to Be Held in Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Nashville.

The Committee for the NIE (CNIE) will host a series of half-day meetings around the U.S. to discuss interdisciplinary science in the NIE. The purpose of these meetings is to elicit views and expertise from scientists and other interested parties that will be essential for the successful establishment of the NIE, once legislation authorizing and funding the NIE has passed. As you know, bills calling for "extramural, peer-reviewed research" may sound specific to a lay person, but any number of programs with varying degrees of effectiveness, might find a home under such a broad rubric. We want to avoid the errors of the past, and select different kinds of programs that will fill different kinds of needs in promoting the best possible environmental research and education. Therefore, we need your help. Meetings will be held at U-Illinois at Chicago (Nov. 16), at U-Michigan (Jan. 26) and at Vanderbilt Univ. (week of Jan. 9).

These meetings will in themselves provide insight in "how to do it right." We also hope to establish a mechanism for an ongoing discussion of implementation issues. The goal is to bring enough people of very different intellectual or professional persuasions together over a period of years to ensure proper insight, and nurturing, of an infant NIE.

We want insight from experience of those who have dealt with one or more federal, state, or private sector funding programs, served on peer panels, etc. We want to know what works from your perspective, and what does not. We want to know which approaches are best at producing useful, problem-oriented research, either basic or applied. Depending on the turnout, we will either discuss as a group or break into committees. For additional information, please contact our office.

More Inclusion of Non-Biological Disciplines Needed in CNIE

Since its founding in 1989, CNIE has been troubled by the perception that the committee lacks interest in aspects of environmental science outside the fields of biology. This misinterpretation stems from the composition of the Committee's academic component, in which the biological sciences are particularly well represented. However, we want to make clear that NIE research programs will draw upon whatever social, biological, or physical sciences, engineering, or humanities are needed to understand a given environmental issue.

Please help ensure that CNIE represents the diverse perspectives of all fields of study related to the environment equally. If you are in the biological sciences, please refer us to colleagues in other departments likely to be inter-

(continued on page 10)

NIE (cont.)

(continued from page 9)

ested in the NIE. If you are in a field outside biology, please tell your colleagues about the NIE and send us the names of interested individuals. Alternatively, send us a request for several copies of CNIE literature to go out under your own cover. Just be sure, one way or another, that we achieve our goal of increasing the representation of non-biological fields in CNIE. This is terribly important! Send us those names!!

Electronic Discussion For NIE May Be Forming — Advice and Moderator Needed

We would like to enable the scientific community to discuss aspects of the NIE and other federal environmental R&D programs. The NIE could mean massive changes in the way the federal government supports environmental research and education. We would like to enable those with views on the NIE to discuss the issue openly. We can also talk about other related issues such as the experiences with the tinkering around the edges at EPA's Office of Research & Development, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, NSF's new center for environment, and so forth. Certain questions come up over and over again. Rather than publishing all our correspondence, we thought we would try an electronic journal to allow for public discussion and elucidation of the NIE. We also hope to edit and archive the monthly discussion into a notebook to be posted electronically in gopherspace. Please respond to Bart Thomas via e-mail if you would like to help get this group off the ground and/or have had any experience in the moderation of similar electronic discussion groups.

Publications Available For You and Your Colleagues

- 1) Standard Information Packet — includes the executive summary of the NIE Proposal, lists of endorsements, and notable press coverage.
- 2) CNIE Fall Newsletter — hot off the press.
- 3) National Library for the Environment.
- 4) Environmental Justice: Breaking New Ground.
- 5) Environmental Effects of Stratospheric Ozone Depletion.

Contact our office (Bart Thomas, Ph. (312) 413-0023; e-mail: <bartman@uic.edu>) to receive any of these free of charge. Please include number of copies needed and a donation if you can afford one. [Ed. Note: *Penelope Canan has sent for this information and has written a letter to NIE. Sections members who are able to attend one or more of the meetings are encouraged to do so, and to report back to the Section.*]

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Meetings

Communication and Our Environment. An Interdisciplinary Conference. Chattanooga, TN, March 30-April 2, 1995. For information, contact: M. Killingsworth at (409) 845-9936 or <mjk1136@tamvm1.tamu.edu>

Integrating Social Sciences in Ecosystem Management: A National Challenge. Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA. December 12-13, 1994. For information, contact: Linda Caldwell at (706) 542-5064 or <lcaldwel@uga.cc.uga.edu>

The 1995 Pacific Sociological Association meetings (April 6-9, 1995, San Francisco) will include the following sessions on the environment:

- 1) *Environments of the 21st Century: Social Constructions of Natural Phenomena.* **Loren Lutzenhiser**, Dept. of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020.
- 2) *Sociological Practice: Constructing Future Environments.* **Jan Mejer**, Sociology/Environmental Studies, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA 99362.
- 3) *Public Policy and the Public Use of Natural Resources.* **Sheila Cordray**, Dept. of Sociology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-3703.

The 1995 Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology has the theme: Environment, Development and Health. March 29-April 2, Albuquerque Hilton. Contact: SAA, P.O. Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73123; Ph. 404-843-5113.

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society has the theme: Sociology and the Pursuit of Social Justice. April 6-9, 1995. Atlanta. Contact: John Gaventa at University of TN in Knoxville.

The Banff Centre for Management is sponsoring the sixth annual seminar on *Valuing Natural Resources* March 19-24, 1995. The seminar is designed for decision makers who have responsibility for policy development and analysis, resource valuation and allocation decisions, land management and land use decisions, and the reconciliation of user/special interest group conflicts. This workshop will review current methods of resource valuation and their challenges, focusing on perceptions of environmental risk, stakeholder identification and involvement, fairness and trust, eliciting and structuring public values, and choice over time. For information, contact: Debbie Stephan, Program Coordinator. Ph. (403) 762-6133. ∞

Position Announcements

Michigan State University announces position #SS-791, *Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management*. This is a tenure track 12 month appointment at the assistant professor level, though associate professor may be considered. Principal responsibilities include conduct of applied social science research and survey research in policy analysis, public-choice, program evaluation, and social impact assessment in wildlife and fisheries management and natural resource organizational contexts. Tenure home is in Sociology, Geography, or Political Science. Ph.D. required. Position could begin March, 1995. For further information, contact Dr. R. Ben Peyton, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1222. Phone: (517) 353-3236; E-mail: <20570mgr@msu.edu> Call regarding current deadline of 11/15/94.

Position: Africa And Environment. Gettysburg College is seeking applications for a visiting scholar to participate in the College's 1995-97 Africa Area Studies Program. The visiting scholar will teach two courses each semester in areas of her or his speciality and assist in a year-long interdisciplinary seminar dealing with Africa's environmental challenges in a socio-historical context. Expertise is welcomed in any field which relates to African society and the environment, especially in the areas of African economic history and development, African politics, history, geography, or anthropology. Length of appointment is negotiable from one to two years. Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Salary is commensurate with experience. Housing is provided. Gettysburg College is a highly selective liberal arts college located 80 miles northwest of Washington, DC, and 60 miles northwest of Baltimore, Maryland. As an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, Gettysburg College actively seeks minority and female applicants and offers among its benefits a partner assistance program. Please send letter and dossier to: Professor Lisa Portmess, Global Studies, Box 404, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA 17325. For fullest consideration materials should be sent prior to **January 15, 1995.** ∞

Publications

Alario, M. 1994. *Mobilization Against Environmental Destruction and Risk: Strategic Considerations*. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. (35): Forthcoming.

Alario, M. 1994. *Environmental Destruction and the Public Sphere: On Habermas's Discursive Model and Political Ecology*. *Social Theory and Practice*. 20(3): Forthcoming.

Allen, John C. and Don A. Dillman. 1994. *Against All Odds: Rural Community in the Information Age*. Westview Press: Boulder, CO. (August). [The authors explore a small town in the Northwestern U.S., describing its inner workings—from business to schools, town council to churches, the resident doctor to the annual local fair—within the framework of a unique community organization model. The book identifies pride, determination, and a sense of belonging that must be nurtured in order to keep a small town alive in the face of powerful disruptive forces.]

Beato, Fulvio. 1993. *Rischio e muramento ambientale globale: percorsi di sociologia dell'ambiente*. Franco Angeli.

Benton, Ted. 1993. *Natural Relations: Ecology, Animal Rights and Social Justice*. Verso.

Bell, Michael. 1994. *Childerley: Nature and Morality in a Country Village*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago and London. [This book is an ethnographic study of what nature and countryside mean to the inhabitants of an English exurban village—a kind of ethnography of nature that provides a portrait of life in the village of Childerley in contemporary England. Michael Bell shows us how the villagers reflect and project onto nature their own most basic assumptions about themselves and their world. Along the way, we learn much about the place of nature in modern life, particularly its role as a compass by which we, like the residents of Childerley, take our moral bearings and define what it means to be human.]

Cauthen, Nancy and James M. Jasper. 1994. *Culture, Politics, and Moral Panics*. *Sociological Forum*. (September). Pp. 495-503.

Dunlap, Riley E. has prepared a section on *Environmental Sociology* for a new book: Eblen, Ruth A. and William R. Eblen. (Eds.) 1994. *The Encyclopedia of the Environment*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Pp. 655-657. [Ed. Note: I will print this section in its entirety in a future edition of *E.T.&S*] Environmental sociologists contributed such essays as: *Animal Rights* by James Jasper, *Communities* by William Kornblum, *Environmental Movement* by Riley Dunlap and Angela Mertig, *Environmental Organizations* by Mertig, Dunlap and Robert C. Mitchell, *Green Movement* by Wolfgang Rudig, *Housing* by Willem Van Vliet, *Hunting* by Thomas Heberlein, *Natural Disasters* by E. L. Quarentelli, *Rural Communities* by William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling, and *Risk* by

Vincent Covello. The *Encyclopedia* also includes entries on the *Conservation Movement*, *Deep Ecology*, *Earth Day*, *Eco-feminism*, *Grassroots Environmental Movement*, *Green Consumerism and Marketing*, *Radical Environmental Movement*, and *Social Ecology*.

Riley Dunlap reports on several articles of interest that are included in a *Symposium on Sociology of Environment*, *American Sociologist*, Vol. 25 (Spring, 1994). The following are included in this issue:

Riley E. Dunlap and William R. Catton, Jr., *Struggling with Human Exemptionalism: The Rise, Decline, and Revitalization of Environmental Sociology*.

Loren Lutzenhiser, *Sociology, Energy and Interdisciplinary Environmental Science*.

Andrew J. Weigert, *Lawns of Weeds: Status in Opposition to Life*.

Adam S. Weinberg, *Environmental Sociology and the Environmental Movement: Toward a Theory of Pragmatic Relationships of Critical Inquiry*.

Riley Dunlap obtained the following information on a special edition of *Innovation in Social Sciences Research* at the World Congress: *Environmental Sociology*, Vol. 6, No. 4, 1993. Papers are included under two sections: *I. Sociology and the relationship between society and nature*, and *II. Environmental Awareness and Environmental Movements*. Contact: Carfax Publishing Co., P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE, United Kingdom.

Foster, John B. 1994. *The Vulnerable Planet: A Short Economic History of the Environment*. Monthly Review Press: New York. [This book provides a short history of the global ecological crisis, tracing it to the inherently destructive nature of our world economic system. The final chapter makes the case for saving the earth beyond visions of doom, arguments about sustainability, and individual solutions.]

Freese, Lee (Ed.). 1994. *Advances in Human Ecology*. Vol. 3. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.

Gibson, J. William. 1986. *The Perfect War: Technowar in Vietnam*. Atlantic Monthly Press.

Gibson, J. William. 1994. *Warrior Dreams: Violence and Manhood in Post-Vietnam America*. Hill and Wang.

Goodin, Robert. 1992. *Green Political Theory*. Polity Press and Basil Blackwell International.

Jaeger, Carlo C. 1994. *Taming the Dragon: Transforming Economic Institutions in the Face of Global Change*. Gordon and Breach.

Jasper, James M. and Jane Poulsen. 1993. *Fighting Back: Vulnerabilities, Blunders, and Countermobilization by the Targets of Three*

Animal Rights Campaigns. *Sociological Forum*. 8(4): 639-657. (December).

Leistriz, F. Larry and Rita R. Hamm. 1994. *Rural Economic Development, 1975-1993: An Annotated Bibliography*. Greenwood Press: Westport, CT. [This bibliography brings together the salient works on the process of economic development and economic revitalization in non-metropolitan areas. The literature cited reviews 1) the forces affecting different economic sectors and the potential of these sectors to contribute to rural economic development, 2) the forces affecting various types of firms and the potential of these types of firms to contribute to rural economic development, 3) contextual factors, such as markets, business climate, and technological change, and 4) economic development policies and strategies that various levels of government could employ. Price: \$65.00; ISBN 0-313-29159-4; 320 pages]

Martell, Luke. 1994. *Ecology and Society*. Polity Press and University of Massachusetts Press.

Murphy, Raymond. 1994. *Rationality and Nature: A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*. Westview Press.

Murphy, Raymond. 1994. *Rationality and Nature: A Sociological Inquiry into a Changing Relationship*. Boulder: Westview.

Murphy, Raymond. (Forthcoming). *The Sociological Construction of Science Without Nature*. *Sociology: The Journal of the British Sociological Association*.

Papadakis, Elim. 1993. *Politics and the Environment: The Australian Experience*. Allen and Unwin.

Redclift, Michael and Ted Benton. 1994. (Eds.) *Ecology, Society and the Quality of Social Life*. Transaction Publishers.

Salant, Priscilla and Don A. Dillman. 1994. *How to Conduct Your Own Survey*. John Wiley Co.: New York, NY. (October).

Sanders, Scott and James M. Jasper. 1994. *Civil Politics in the Animal Rights Conflict: God Terms Versus Casuistry in Cambridge, Massachusetts*. *Science, Technology, and Human Values*. 19(2): 169-188. (Spring).

Strassoldo, Raimondo. 1993. *Le radici dell'erba: Sociologia dei movimenti ambientali di base*. Liguori Editore.

The *Journal of Applied Sociology* (the journal of the Society for Applied Sociology) is seeking submissions for peer review for future publication in the following topical areas: Articles; teaching notes; professional notes; research reports; practice issues; and, book reviews. The journal is dedicated to the work of sociologists who seek to improve social life through the application of sociological perspectives. Its

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goal is to help develop basic sociology through the feedback of these application experiences. The journal is addressed to a wide audience of practitioners, policy makers, teachers, and students committed to the application of sociological knowledge. For further information, contact **John Miller**, Editor, at: (504) 549-2101; E-mail: <jsmiller@selu.edu>

For subscription information or sample issues about the journal *Technology Studies*, contact the publisher directly at: <100143.1413@compuserve.com> For information on submissions of papers and news contact Urs Gattiker, Editor, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4, at: <cetus.mngt.uleth.ca>

Global Change Biology is a new international journal that seeks to promote understanding of the interface between all aspects of current environmental change and biological systems. The journal will provide a focus for those concerned with the impacts of global change on living organisms, and will aim to integrate across levels of organization from the molecule to the biome and earth system. For more information, contact: Anna Rivers, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL, UK. Phone: 44 865 206206; Fax: 44 865 721205.

The *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* is a new interdisciplinary journal from Carfax Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2025, Dunnellon, FL 34430-2025. The central aim of the journal is a focus on the integrated planning and management of environmental resources. Topics covered encompass applied research, the application of new approaches and techniques, and the evaluation of policy and practice. Contributions from integrated and cross-disciplinary research teams and from policy makers and practitioners are especially welcome. Papers must make a new conceptual, factual, technical or methodological contribution of likely interdisciplinary and international interest, or involve the critical analysis and evaluation of existing policies and practice.

The *Journal of Environmental Systems* is edited by Sheldon J. Reaven, SUNY at Stony Brook. The journal examines environmental problems as systems in which complex natural phenomena affect, and are affected by the human world of economics, regulation and law, and culture, behavior, and public perceptions. Topics addressed include waste management, energy and resources, and local and global water, land, and air pollution. The emphasis is on practical environmental problems, such as recycling and waste minimization, but approached in ways that also pinpoint underlying theory and foundational issues. The journal is published by Baywood Publishing Co., 26 Austin Ave., Box 337, Amityville, NY 11701. Ph. (516) 691-1270. ∞

Papers/Presentations

The Sound Of Crashing Timber: A Meditation On Social And Ecological Change Spirals[†]

Ruth L. Love
3335 NW Luray Terrace
Portland, OR 97210
(503) 227-1879

An ecological sociology is needed as well as the "social construction of reality" for studying the reciprocal effects between social action and bio-physical conditions.

With the social construction approach, bio-physical facts become social claims with no independent existence. In a world of shrinking limits this is like admiring the emperor's new clothes.

Lack of articulation between bio-physical facts and social facts on the political front characterizes such policies as over cutting on Federal forests just when the Pacific Northwest timber industry was undergoing a long term secular employment decline, during the 1980s. An ecological sociology would help in analysis of the conflicting consequences of such policies.

I outline six phenomena to serve as an initial basis for an ecological sociology, with illustrations from the Pacific Northwest old growth forest controversy. These are intended to complement main sociology in analyzing problems based on bio-physical conditions as well as social facts. The six are: 1) changing ecosystem conditions; 2) changing technology for using and managing ecosystem components; 3) the ebb and flow of occupations tied to a component of an ecosystem, and its conditions; 4) changing structure of firms tied to ecosystem conditions and components; 5) "life cycles" of communities whose residents garner livelihoods from ecosystem components; and 6) linkages between knowledge of ecosystem conditions, and changing government approaches to ecosystem components.

In an ecological sociology, socio-economic, biological and socio-ecological markers can be used for tracking changes in the above phenomena. Because environmental controversies often mask structurally declining industries, there is discussion of labor adjustments, with an illustration from longshoring, an occupation that promotes as much community, pride and occupational identity among members as does logging.

The "jobs vs. X" public fights also mask the complexity of ecosystems and their intertwined social systems. Because of such complexity there is need to consider conflicting consequences and dilemmas that can arise when an ecosystem becomes severely stressed or diminished. Weber's concept of the ethic of responsibility is relevant in considering whether the biological viability of an already diminished ecosystem has more legitimacy than any one claim to a particular occupation or way of life. From the perspective of an ecological sociology, a critical question is under what conditions is a social group or community willing to grant legitimacy to ecosystem viability even at some costs to its immediate interests?

[†]Abstract of paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society annual meeting, August 14, 1994, Portland, Oregon.

M. Alario presented a paper on *Mobilizing Against Environmental Destruction and Risk: Rethinking a Strategy of Intervention in the Public Sphere* at the XIII Sociological World Congress, ISA, Bielefeld, Germany, July 18-24, 1994.

John B. Foster delivered a luncheon address 9/28/94 on *The Vulnerable Planet* to "Watersheds '94", a conference organized by the U.S.EPA, Region X.

Anna Triandafyllidou presented the following papers:

- (1) *Comprendre Le Risque Environnemental: Une Analyse de la Perception et la Communication des Questions Sur le Nucleaire Dans la Presse Italienne.* European Forum on "La Communication Dans le Domaine de L'environnement," Neuchatel, Switzerland, June 3-4, 1994;
- (2) *Le Nucleaire et la Crise de Confiance Envers le Progres Technique.* Delivered at a conference on "Environment and the Mass Media," organized by UNESCO at Berne, Switzerland, Sept. 30, 1994. ∞

Current News

Student Memberships: The ASA section on Environment and Technology is sponsoring new student members. The first twenty new student members to join the section will receive *FREE* section memberships. Please spread the word. Contact: **Elizabeth Czepiel** at the ASA for further information (202) 833-3410, ext.327.

Section Auction: This year E&T will hold its first annual Section Auction, and proceeds will be used to subsidize the section reception at the 1995 ASA meeting. All section members are asked to donate copies of books by section members, unsigned or signed first editions of classic works on environmental topics, article reprints, and miscellaneous items of potential interest to section members. A list of donated materials will be made available in early spring of 1995 and bids accepted. Please send your donations to the membership committee chair: **Kurt Cylke**, Department of Sociology, SUNY Geneseo, 1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454.

Officers for the newly established Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC24) of the International Sociological Association were elected at the XIII World Congress of Sociology in Bielefeld, Germany in July. **Riley E. Dunlap** of Washington State University was elected President of RC24, and will serve in that capacity until the 1998 World Congress in Montreal. The new RC24 was established in 1992 via merger of the ISA Working Group on Environment and Society, formed at the 1990 World Congress in Madrid, and the pre-existing Research Committee on Social Ecology (the "old" RC24). It's 400+ members are drawn from over 30 nations. Thus far RC24 has sponsored a 1992 conference in the Netherlands and a 1993 conference in France, and the goal is to have three annual conferences between ISA's quadrennial World Congresses. RC24 sponsored 16 sessions at the XIII World Congress, covering a wide range of topics, and will do so again at the 1998 World Congress. Individuals interested in joining ISA and RC24 can obtain membership forms and directions for paying dues from Dr. Carlo Jaeger, RC24 Treasurer, Human Ecology EAWAG, Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology, Ueberlandstrasse 133, CH-8600 Dubendorf, Switzerland.

An invitation for Membership in the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS), from **Eugene Rosa**, Chair-Elect of E&T: Among the list of worse things that can happen to anyone is to learn that a brother-in-law has become an insurance salesman. Coming in a close second is to learn that I have recently been appointed Secretary of Section K (Social, Economic, and Political Sciences) of

the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Incidentally, I assume this position in the footsteps of Bill Freudenburg who did an exemplary job during his tenure.

I would like to invite—nay, I urge—members of the Environment and Technology Section of ASA who are not already members of AAAS to consider joining. If you are already a member you can urge graduate students to join as part of your mentoring obligations. AAAS is the oldest general scientific society in the United States (founded in 1848), it is the only society representing all scientific disciplines (including mathematics and engineering) and, with approximately 142,000 members worldwide, it is the largest scientific body in the world. Among the key benefits of membership are: a subscription to *Science* magazine (51 issues per year) that give broad coverage to environmental and ecological topics; collegiality with the larger scientific community, network and bridge-building opportunities with that larger community; eligibility to become an AAAS Fellow; and access to another professional venue for advancing environmental sociology and social science more generally. AAAS also provides an unparalleled opportunity for the wider dissemination of one's work. The annual meetings (held in February) are attended by much broader audiences, including influential policy makers, than is typical of other of our professional meetings. And the meetings attract 600 (this is not a misprint) science writers from around the world. Last year's meeting in San Francisco generated 426 original press articles and more than 4,000 press clippings. So, despite the brevity, due to space limitations, of my statement about the benefits of membership it should be clear that AAAS has much to offer Section members. If you would like additional information or application materials you can obtain them directly from me by writing, phoning, faxing, pony expressing, or e-mailing. Or, you can contact AAAS directly: Office of Membership & Circulation, 1333 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, Ph. 1-800-347-6969 (from District of Columbia 202-326-6417), FAX (202) 842-1065. At \$92 per year (\$50 for students) membership may appear a little pricey, but remember that this includes 51 issues of *Science* magazine. Also, if you have topics you would like to suggest for the AAAS annual meetings or an interest in organizing symposia, please contact Gene. The 1995 Atlanta meetings have already been finalized, but planning for the 1996 meetings in Baltimore will begin soon.

The Academy of Management Board of Governors approved the creation of a new Interest Group on Organizations and the Natural Environment (ONE). The intellectual domain of this Interest Group is research, teaching and practices regarding relationships of organizations and the natural environment. Major topics include: ecological sustainability; environmental philosophies and strategies; ecological performance; environmental entrepreneurship; envi-

ronmental products and services industries; pollution control and prevention; waste minimization; industrial ecology; total quality environmental management; environmental auditing and information systems; managing human resources for sustainability; ecological crisis management; natural resources and systems management, protection and restoration; interactions of environmental stakeholders; environmental policies; environmental attitudes and decision-making; and international-comparative dimensions of these topics. ONE encourages the exploration of organization-ecology relations from multiple perspectives, including, organizational theory, organizational communications, organizational development, environmental consulting, organizational behavior, strategy and policy, managerial careers, human resources, ethical and social issues, technological, marketing, financial, health impacts, entrepreneurial, and others. You can join ONE by indicating so on the Academy of Management membership renewal form. If you have already renewed your membership for 1994-95, simply send \$2.50 to the Academy office (to Ken Cooper, Academy of Management, Ohio Northern University, P.O. Box 39, 300 South Union Street, Ada, OH 45810). If you are not a member of the Academy, you will need to become a member first. If you don't want to splurge, please join the free and famous ONE-L electronic network (Send a message "SUBSCRIBE ONE-L [Your name]" without any subject header, to ONE-L@CLVM.CLARKSON.EDU) to receive updates on this group. We are looking for innovative, creative, (even outrageous) new program ideas for the 1995 Academy Meetings in Vancouver. You may send them to the following or place them on the ONE-L network. **Paul Shrivastava**, ONE Interest Group Chair, Management Department, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Ph: (717) 524-1821; Fax (717) 524-1338; e-mail: <shrivast@bucknell.edu>

The third edition of the "UNESCO International Directory of New and Renewable Energy Information Sources and Research Centres" has been published by James & James Science Publishers, London. This database is part of UNESCO's Energy Information Programme, the objective of which is to improve the flow of information on new and renewable energies through the establishment of regional networks and the coordination of existing information systems and services. The directory contains a total of 3,863 entries, providing information on national governmental organizations, networks training and education institutions, databases/databank, and journals and reference publications from 172 countries. The energy database is also available on diskettes, as well as on UNESCO's CD-ROM among other databases featured on this CD. For more information

(continued on page 14)

News (cont.)

(continued from page 13)

contact: UNESCO, 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France.

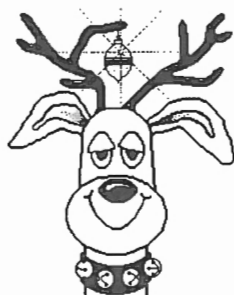
Telephone: (33-45)68-1000.

Fax: (33-40)65-9535.

E-mail: <scpra@frunes21.bitnet>

WANTED!! Sociologists who were active in the 1960s southern civil rights movement. Activities are being planned to recognize these activists at the 1995 Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. A directory will be compiled and made part of the organizational archives. Please direct names and addresses of activists or colleagues who might be informants to: Wilma A. Dunaway, Dept. of Sociology, U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0490. Ph. (615) 573-2921.

Zachary Smith (Dept. of Political Science, Northern Arizona University, Box 15036, Flagstaff, AZ 86011) is planning a European Environmental Policy Trip in May 1995. He will take a group of people to a few selected European capitals to discuss environmental issues with environmental policy makers and activists. If you are interested in how other developed countries have been dealing with environmental problems, this trip might be of interest to you. He will schedule appointments that are both general (i.e. what the regulatory scheme of the country involves) as well as meetings with specialists who will discuss more specific interests—depending on the interests and requests of the participants. For more information, contact Zachary at the above address or via Fax: (602) 523-6777. ∞



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO ALL!**

Commentary

Thomas S. Lough (313-769-2941) offers the following comment on the cover story with a graphic titled *Loss of Tropical Forests in Developing Regions, 1980-1990* in E.T.S. issue No. 75, Spring 1994. He writes: "Deforestation" has been appropriated by the developers so that it applies mainly to the sins of indigenous and local people, especially in Amazonia, Malaysia, West Africa, and other places in the South. This usage is a smoke screen for the deforestation that is occurring in the U.S. and Canada, and to the enormous demand that the U.S. is putting on forests everywhere. The U.S. is the world's largest producer of industrial roundwood (unsawn tree trunks) (Durning 1993, p. 38, citing U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization 1993). The U.S. is also the world's largest net importer of forest products – net imports of over \$5 billion in 1985 (Williams 1990, Table 11-9, p. 195, the source for which is U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization 1986). So not only is the United States destroying forests at a greater rate than any other country, it is also putting more dollar demand for the forest products of other countries than is any other country.

Durning, Alan Thein. 1993. *Saving the Forests: What Will It Take?* Worldwatch Paper Number 117. Worldwatch Institute: Washington, D.C. (December).

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. 1986. *Yearbook of Forest Products, 1984-1985*. Rome.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. 1993. *Forest Products Yearbook, 1991*. Rome.

Williams, Michael. 1990. *Forests*. Ch. 11 in B.L. Turner, II, (ed.) *The Earth As Transformed by Human Action: Global and Regional Changes in the Biosphere Over the Past 300 Years*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bob Brulle offers the following commentary on the ASA's *Sociological Theory* journal which is currently reviewing its policy of publication. He suggests that those of us working in the fields of environmental sociology and human ecology have an opportunity to lobby for inclusion of these areas in this journal. The committee is looking for input on the following topics:

In its "Notice to Authors," *Sociological Theory* states that it solicits work "in all areas of social thought, including new substantive theories, history of theory, metatheory, formal theory construction, and syntheses of existing bodies of theory." We are particularly interested in your impressions of the journal's success in trying to accommodate the great variety of work broadly classified as sociological theory. In your view, does the journal have a good balance of types of articles and of varying theoretical perspectives? Are there some perspectives which you believe should have more exposure in the journal? (Letter dated 13 Sept. from chair, review committee).

Bob says that the ideas of human ecology or environmental sociology have never been considered in this journal. Perhaps E&T Section members may want to provide the review committee with their opinions in this area. Send an e-mail message to Dr. Julia Wrigley, at New York University: <jcwgc@cunyvm>

Call for Papers

Panel and paper submissions are being sought for the September 1995 meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. **Barbara D. Lynch**, section chair for environment, encourages E&T Section members to organize panels. Participants must be members of LASA. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 1, 1994. Contact Barbara regarding possibility of extension of the deadline at 1047 Snyder Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; <b.lynch@fordfound.org>

The National Association for Environmental Professionals will hold its 20th Annual Conference, June 10-13, 1995 in Washington D.C. Paper abstracts are being sought on a variety of environmental topics, and they are due Nov. 4, 1994. Contact the conference sponsors for information about topics and the possibility of the abstract deadline extension at: 5165 MacArthur Blvd, NW, Washington, D.C. 20016-3315; Ph. (202) 966-1500.

The Interdisciplinary Environmental Association (IEA) in conjunction with Assumption College announces an interdisciplinary conference on the environment to be held June 21-25, 1995, at the Park Plaza Hotel and Towers in Boston, MA. This conference responds to the increasing need to combine ideas and research findings from different disciplines to enhance our understanding of how nature works and how the interactions between the natural environment and human institutions are globally interconnected. The conference is aimed at the layperson and it focuses on: 1) What do different disciplines have to offer with respect to environmental and resource problems, their solutions, and the institutions associated with them? 2) What are the implications of the globalization of environmental concerns for all life on planet Earth? Proposed sessions or papers must be submitted by Dec. 15, 1994. For more information, contact: Conference Chair, Dr. Demetri Kantarelis, IEA, Economics/Foreign Affairs Dept., Assumption College, 500 Salisbury street, Worcester, MA 01615-0005; Ph. (508) 752-5615 ext 557; Fax: (508) 799-4502; E-mail: <dkantar@eve.assumption.edu>

TO: Members of the Environment and Technology Section, ASA

FROM: Chris Cluett, Battelle Seattle Research Center, 4000 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98105-5428

PLEASE SEND THIS TEAR-OFF SHEET OR A COPY FOR INCLUSION IN FORTHCOMING EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER. MANY THANKS.

Your current research interest(s) you would like to share with others:

New literature you have published, or found especially helpful. Give full citations.

Forthcoming meetings and conferences. Calls for papers. Papers you have recently presented.

Names of Journals (for articles of E&T interest and opportunity for publication). Include editors, address, etc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Current Research

J. William Gibson, Dept. of Sociology at CA State University, Long Beach, CA is beginning a study of ecological conflicts along the southern California coast. He is particularly interested in how different groups conceptualize the coast, the ocean, and various forms of marine life and their relations to humans. His previous work has concentrated on war and culture.

Raymond Murphy, University of Ottawa, reports that he is working on the implications of environmental sociology for the reconstruction of sociology.

E. Petropoulou (Athens, Greece) proposes to conduct her Ph.D. thesis on *Peripheral Localities and Capitalist Development: A Comparative Analysis of Two Rural Communities in Greece*. She will examine the relationship between capitalist and non-capitalist sectors with reference to social development, along with an assessment of the impact of the availability and management of natural resources on rural people and communities. This study will propose policies that can promote changes intended to enhance both environmental and social development in rural Greece.

Anna Triandafyllidou is currently working on two research topics: 1) The evolution of the concept of "sustainability" (sustainable development or sustainable environment?) in the environmental discourse; and, 2) communicating on environmental problems: 7 years after chernobyl—credibility crisis and/or lack of interest? ∞

Nominations

Nominations for Two E&T Section Awards and Three Section Positions



- 1) The Section's new award, the Boguslaw Award for Technology and Humanism, honors the late Robert Boguslaw. The Award, which includes a plaque and \$100, will be given to a doctoral student or someone who has received a Ph.D. since 1990 based on a paper or published article about technology and human affairs, values or social concerns. The paper should reflect the interests of "ordinary people" and develop innovative approaches for contending with emergent societal situations. Nominated papers should be sent, by May 1, 1995, to the Boguslaw Award Committee Chair, **Dora Lodwick**, at the Sociology Department, University of Colorado at Denver, P.O. Box 173363, Campus Box 105, Denver, CO 80217.
- 2) Manuscripts to be considered for the Section's Marvin E. Olsen Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award should be sent, by May 1, 1995, to the Olsen Student Paper Award Committee Chair, **Marilyn Aronoff**, Department of Sociology, MSU 401 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1111. The Olsen Graduate Student Paper Award is chosen from graduate student authored papers accepted for presentation at the annual meetings and is accompanied by a \$200 award to defray the expenses of travel to and lodging at the meetings.
- 3) Two E&T Council positions will be filled in the coming year for three year terms from 1995 to 1998, along with the position of Chair-Elect for a two year term from 1995 to 1997. Nominations are being sought for these three positions. Please send your nominations, by March 1, 1995, to **Wendy Espeland**, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 1810 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208-1330.

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