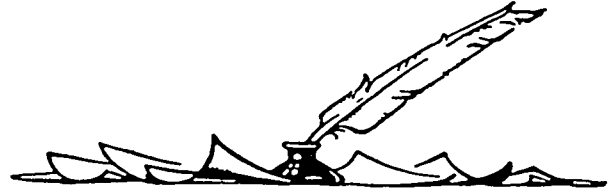


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: *ENVIRONS AND THE FUTURE*

ENVIRONS, much like the environmental movement which fostered its birth, has experienced growing pains over the years. The journal has faced inconsistent production schedules, funding problems, backlogs, out-dated production methods, inadequate supplies and workspace, and a virtual absence of support, moral or otherwise, from the King Hall administration. Yet in spite of these obstacles, ENVIRONS has managed to survive since 1976 as a totally student produced, authored, and funded environmental law journal. One thing, however, which ENVIRONS has never lacked over the last thirteen years has been its small, highly dedicated staff and its ever-supportive faculty advisor, Professor Harrison C. Dunning. Without these individuals, ENVIRONS would not be where it is today.

And that is exactly what I intend to write about in the first of hopefully many "Letter From The Editor" columns: where ENVIRONS is today and where it hopes to go in the future. Many of you might have been surprised to see the many changes taking place in ENVIRONS in the past few issues. ENVIRONS switched to a two column format. Settled on a more precise, readable typestyle. Added a table of contents. Grew dramatically in size -- from a mere eight page issue two years ago to a record-breaking 48 pages in this current issue. The previous editor-in-chief, Marc Picker, the future editor-in-chief, Chris O'Shea, and I decided on these and other changes over the past two years to improve ENVIRONS' quality, consistency, and readability. We were rewarded by watching ENVIRONS grow in both size and prestige. This growth brought with it a burst of unprecedented momentum. Student input and dedication seemed at an all time high, and ENVIRONS began to expand in all directions. My hard work and long hours had paid off. Unfortunately, however, ENVIRONS' expansion brought trouble as well.

Lengthier issues meant higher production costs. More paper, more ink, more stamps. Soon ENVIRONS lost the cost reduction gained by utilizing "desktop publishing" rather than manual typesetting. Student bakesales, the Environmental Law Society's (ELS) traditional ENVIRONS fund raiser, proved insufficient to match our growing debt. King Hall turned a deaf ear on pleas for additional funding, although it never refused the extra publicity ENVIRONS acquired. With a growing feeling of desperation, Chris and I, along with the other ELS officers, met to discuss our options with respect to ENVIRONS. We refused to sacrifice ENVIRONS' informal feel, its lack of "legalese," its newly gained momentum, and its dedication to the environmental movement. With these considerations in mind, we



arrived at the largest, as well as the smallest, ENVIRONS policy change to date.

I write "the smallest change" because it really is no change at all. Starting with this issue, ENVIRONS will be an *environmental law and policy journal*. This change will have several advantages: 1) ENVIRONS will have a much broader focus, encompassing more environmental issues, 2) ENVIRONS staff will no longer have to struggle to find a plausible "legal hook" off which to dangle each article, 3) non-legal policy articles will tie in well with ENVIRONS' informal, layperson-oriented style, and 4) ENVIRONS has discreetly followed this policy for many years now. I hope that this policy change opens the door for graduate students in other environmentally-related fields on the U.C. Davis campus to seek publication in ENVIRONS. I gladly encourage those students, as well as anyone else with knowledge or interest in an environmental issue, to submit articles to ENVIRONS.

In addition to this policy change, ENVIRONS will undergo one other small alteration. For the past few years, ENVIRONS editors have struggled at the end of each semester to juggle editing responsibilities with final exam cramming. Many writers have faced the crunch as well. For the last three semesters, I spent "Dead Week" working on ENVIRONS rather than doing some much needed studying. Chris, the associate editor, faced the same fate after this issue's publication. Therefore, for the academic success of the entire ENVIRONS staff and for ENVIRONS' continued improvement and growth, the Environmental Law Society will now publish ENVIRONS biannually in the spring and fall rather than in the early winter and summer. This change will allow students more time to write their articles and will provide ENVIRONS editors with some much needed breathing space between publication and finals. This issue marks the first spring publication date. I sincerely hope its delayed arrival has not caused you any inconvenience.

But enough of the nuts and bolts information. Since this issue provides me with my last chance to communicate with you as Editor-in-chief, I wanted to write a few words on my hopes for ENVIRONS and the environmental movement as a whole. Because for me, ENVIRONS has been a labor of love. A means to

promote an issue which lies close to my heart. And I have a dream: that one day, not only will people of all colors and genders learn to walk together in equality, but that they learn to walk without trampling the grass beneath their feet. That they learn to treat this earth on which we all live with just a little more respect. That they learn to stop stealing from their children and preserve scarce resources for the future. Past generations have made some progress in this direction, but it is much too slow. Too slow to stop the many harms we continue to inflict daily upon the land. I can only hope that my children's generation proves faster and wiser than mine -- for all our sakes.

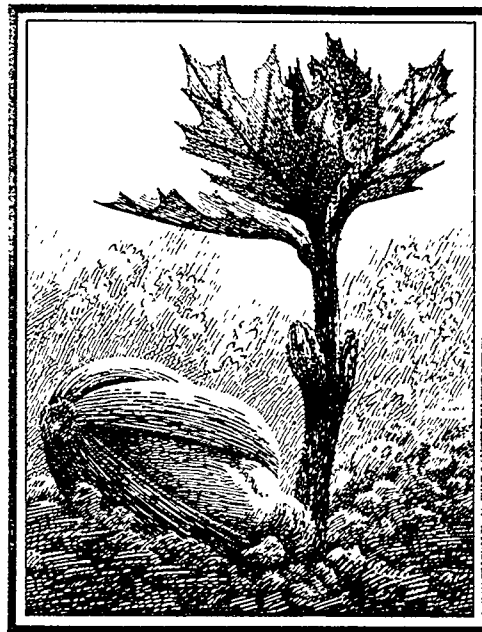
So please, read ENVIRONS. Because I firmly believe that the key is understanding. If nothing else, understanding how much we really still do not know. We pride ourselves on what little knowledge we have obtained while wallowing in ignorance thick and black as tar. And as difficult to remove. Some claim what we don't know won't hurt us. I say it will. But only our children will know the answer, and by then it's too late for all of us.

One day I hope everyone understands what part the human race plays in the environment. Until then, ENVIRONS' goal is to help us all understand our environment just a little better. And hopefully, this issue will start us down the path to a cleaner, safer environment. Before it's too late.

Enjoy!

Cynthia Patton
Editor-in-chief

P.S. -- In case you missed my subtle hints, ENVIRONS still desperately needs your generous donations. Won't you please consider a basic subscription or an additional donation? The appropriate form is located at the back of the issue. Thank you.



The Antarctic Minerals Convention: Opening Pandora's Box?

by Ruth Berkowitz and Jeff Swanson

INTRODUCTION

Mention Antarctica and many people have images of a distant world consisting solely of penguins, blue ice, and cold temperatures. Yet Antarctica consists of much more than this common mental image. Located south of 60 degrees South latitude, Antarctica is a remote and inhospitable continent which no individual or country owns. Dedicated to peaceful purposes, scientists use Antarctica as a pristine laboratory; politicians praise its international cohesion; environmentalists cherish it as the world's last true wilderness. Yet Antarctica's remoteness and inhospitable terrain can no longer protect it from commercial exploitation. Scientists believe that Antarctica contains a wealth of minerals. The Transantarctic Mountains may yield deposits of coal, copper, lead, zinc, and silver. The Prince Charles Mountains contain iron ore, and individuals have located gold, chromium, nickel, cobalt, tin, uranium, and titanium. Experts also speculate that

beneath the continent lies billions of barrels of oil. The Gondwanaland theory of continental drift holds that Antarctica was once united with India, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Malagasy, and thus, has similar geological composition to those regions. If so, Antarctica should have a wealth of exploitable resources.

Balanced against this prospect of great mineral wealth are the difficulties and consequences of extracting minerals. Antarctica's geography and climate pose considerable technological and financial obstacles to developers. Ice an average thickness of one mile covers ninety five percent of the continent's landmass. Mining in antarctic temperatures and wind conditions requires sophisticated machinery. Offshore, icebergs the size of small mountains and pounding waves can easily demolish oil rigs and tankers. Further, the distance to markets, colossal transportation problems, the lack of an industrial infrastructure, and numerous other logistical barriers