

From the Editors ...

The year 1995 juxtaposed the anniversaries of two very different twentieth century milestones. Fifty years ago the atomic bomb shattered all creation's calm and erased thousands of innocent souls in the twisted name of "peace." Twenty-five years later, the first Earth Day demonstrated that the generation born under the nuclear pall carried a new world view.

That same year (1970), a handful of King Hall students started meeting during lunch to talk about the many exciting environmental and political issues facing the day. These informal gatherings eventually spawned UCD's Environmental Law Society (ELS). ELS graduates went on to help shape the comprehensive statutes that today form the very body of environmental law. In September of this year, past and present King Hall students came together to celebrate ELS's 25th Anniversary — an informal changing of the guard.

The current generation of ELS members face some very different challenges than did our predecessors. Today we must counter a political backlash against environmental regulation that pits conservation against property owners' rights. In this issue, **Anne Martorano** explores how the Supreme Court's holding in *Lucas* will affect this debate and the hot issue of takings. **Jane Takenouchi** examines how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) incorrectly focuses on the symptoms of biodegradation rather than the disease of ecosystem decline itself. **Paul Gross** takes a middle tack and melds these two subjects to see how takings factor into the future of the ESA.

Even as we face new environmental challenges, the legal profession itself is changing the way it handles disputes. **Jennifer Harder** delves into a case study of how alternative dispute resolution integrates into the arena of environmental law. Unfortunately, this willingness to resolve problems out of court does not necessarily mean we are evolving to a higher level of consciousness. As the heirs of the Green Revolution, we must ask ourselves if we are meeting the standard of discussion and political activism that those early ELS members set. To test that motivation, **Conrad Huygen** critiques a loose policy that the State Water Resources Control Board has in mind for California's groundwater basins.

Environs itself is also approaching a major milestone - next year will be our 20th anniversary. As environmental law has grown and developed over the past twenty years, so has *Environs*. We have come from a single-stapled, mimeographed document, to the issue you hold in your hands now. And further development is on the horizon. As King Hall strengthens its commitment to the environmental law curriculum, *Environs* is charting a course for the future. Where this course will lead remains to be seen, but *Environs* will certainly only become stronger in the years to come. We invite you to renew your commitment to *Environs*, and help us shape its future.

The erosion of environmental integrity is, sadly enough, as much a product of our own apathy as it is the result of political backlash. Looking back 25 years from today, can we afford to be left scratching our heads and asking, "Did I do enough?" Or worse, "Did I do anything?"



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