Monitor Newsletter April 22, 2002

Bowling Green State University

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Watch for environmental roadsigns, says Scherer

If a poem were to be chosen to capitalize on two new books by Don Scherer, philosophy, it could well be Robert Frost's 'The Road Not Taken.'

Both of Scherer's books, published this month by the California Academic Press, deal with environmental issues and chronicle crucial turning points at which disaster was either averted, by taking the right road, or experienced, through inattention to all the road signs pointing toward it.

"Too many people think that environmentalists want us to freeze in the dark, but I say the clues are there. If we pay attention, we can get a lot smarter about finding out how to live in beautiful, sustainable surroundings that are, after all, our home," Scherer says.

In We Never Aimed for Blight: An Historical Approach to the American Environment, Scherer details the many unintended and unanticipated environmental problems historically faced by America. From the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to the tragic results of DDT use to New York's Love Canal debacle, he outlines case studies in which those involved failed to recognize the pattern events were following and the inevitable outcome. As a result, we have often degraded our environment, depriv ed our resources, poisoned our water and polluted our air. Though greed and negligence are sometimes at work, Scherer points out that in many other cases degradation resulted from lack of attention to the bigger picture.

He shows that these results were not in fact foreseeable and gives advice on how to recognize these disastrous patterns as they occur so that environmental degradation may be avoided and sometimes reversed.

The second book, Our Greener Ways: America's Emerging Environmental Ethic, with a preface by Jordan J. Lindberg, tells a happier story over the last 30 years in which the correct environmental path has been recognized in time and disaster avoided. The accounts Scherer gives provide a refreshing counterbalance to the negative news of environmental neglect, and show that citizens, businesses and governments can effect positive outcomes.

Scherer recounts the moving stories of how strong-willed people have saved their homes, rebuilt their neighborhoods and protected their communities. Our Greener Ways offers examples of corporations acting out of convictions and finding the incentives that make them good environmental citizens. A decade of research reveals effective strategies for environmentally concerned people and organizations that have used and can continue to use to overcome fear, misunderstanding and political opposition. Scherer illustrates how to make the connections and marshal community resources to tackle big issues.

Both books are designed not just for academics, but also for environmental activists and community organizers. Our Greener Ways contains a CD-ROM that invites participation in a virtual community of environmental concern.

Earth Day speaker Jensen equates human and environmental abuse

Silence speaks louder than words, as Derrick Jensen, author of A Language Older than Words, can readily attest.

As part of the annual Earth Week celebration at the University, Jensen will discuss 'Speaking Silencings: Environmental Denial, Abuse, and Arclorie.' His talk will begin at 7 p.m. April 24 in 228 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Jensen's childhood was plagued with abuse from his father. In sharing his life experiences, Jensen illustrates the patterns of silencing that allow abuse of humans, animals and the land to proceed. Using riveting examples to explore the vast number of environmental abuses and amnesties that have existed, he describes how we continue the silence and thus condone these activities.


The program is sponsored by the BGSU Center for Environmental Programs and the Environmental Action Group.

Peter Way wins 2001 Peterson Award

Peter Way, chair of the Department of History, has won the 2001 Harold L. Peterson Award for his article, "Rebellion of the Regulars: Working Soldiers and the Mutiny of 1763-1764." This piece documented a general mutiny in the British army at the end of the Seven Years' War. Way makes the argument that soldiers should be considered workers, and their resistance to army discipline thought of in terms of class struggle, joining labor and military history.

Way has published numerous articles including "Common Laborer: Workers and the Digging of North American Canals, 1780-1860," for which he received the 1994 Fredrick Jackson Turner Prize. Way's new project, titled "Arsonas of War: Common Soldiers and the Making of the Seven Years' War in America," continues to explore ideas about treating soldiers as workers and the professional army as an industry.

The Harold L. Peterson Award is a prestigious prize honoring the former chief curator of the National Park Service and chairman of the board for Eastern National. It is awarded annually to the best article in American military history.

in brief

ASC scholarship raffle was a success

The Administrative Staff Council Scholarship Committee thanks the BGSU community for their continued support of the annual scholarship raffle. This year the committee sold 2,897 tickets and earned a total of $2,026. The raffle drawing was held on March 7. For a list of the winners, visit Monitor online.

Director of General Education sought

The University is searching for a Director of General Education. Previously an administrative staff position, it will now be a faculty position with half-time responsibility as director and full secretarial support. A complete job description may be found in Monitor online.

Candidates are asked to provide a written statement of their interest in and qualifications for the position, and a curriculum vitae. These should be sent to the search committee, in care of Tom Knox, history. The committee will accept applications through May 15.

ITS to extend its test scanning hours

ITS will extend the test scanning hours for final exams to include Saturday morning, May 11, from 8 a.m. to noon. Participants should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall.

The window at 301 Hayes is open during the noon hour every weekday. During finals week, the window will be open until 6 p.m. weekdays.

Student Union dedication is sold out

The Development Office is happy to report that all the tickets to the Bowen-Thompson Student Union dedication, on Saturday, April 27, have been sold. It promises to be a memorable evening, thanks to all who have shown their support.
Monday, April 22
Visiting Director. "Lobo" (1992), Mexicali, 7 p.m. Gish Film Theater. Award-winning Mexican director Francisco Attue will intro-
duce his film and answer questions. Sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies.

Tuesday, April 23
Visiting Director, "Fiber Optics" (1967), Mexico, 7 p.m. Gish Film Theater. With director Francisco Atue (see above).

Student Composers' Forum, noon. Bryan Recital Hall, MMAC. Free and open to the public. Jazz Guitar Ensemble, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, MMAC.

Wednesday, April 24
Workshop: "Women and Development in Honduras," presented by Sarah Stafford, Honduran Christian Commission for Development, noon 1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall. Sexual Harassment Prevention Workshop, last of the semester. 1:30 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library. Pre-registra-
tion not required. Hosted by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Coen Brothers Film Series, "The Big Lebowski." 7:15 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Guest director, "War Zone: The Abuse of Women on the Streets of America," with filmmaker Maggie Hadleigh-Jones, 8 p.m., BTSU The-
ter. Hosted by the Office of Resi-
dence Life's Diversity Committee. Performance, "New Works for Youth: A Cross-Cultural Partnering of South Music Ensembles," featuring perfor-
mances by local elementary and middle school students. 7 p.m., Koehler Hall, MMAC.


Thursday, April 25
Teleconference, "The Changing Mosaic: Designing Successful Experiences for the New American College Student," 1-4 p.m., 113 Olscamp Hall. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost for Aca-
demic Studies and the Division of Student Affairs.

Peterson Lecture Series, "Values, Citizenship, and the Pur-
pos of Liberal Education," presented by Don Nieman, dean, College of Arts & Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 101A Olscamp Hall.

Latinos Issues Conference, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, BTSU. Call the Center for Multicultural Academic Initia-
tives at 2-2642.

ASC says, "Invest in Yourself"

All BGSU faculty, staff and students are invited to devote some time to themselves at a free professional development program next month. Participants may choose two out of six enlightening options to refine self-image, gain insight into stress or improve investment skills. "Invest in Yourself" will be held from 8:15 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 2, in 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The program is sponsored by the Administrative Staff Council. For more information or to register, call Continuing Education, International & Summer Programs at 2-8181.

World Percussion Night, featuring the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble and the Kossuth San Gimilai. 8 p.m., Koehler Hall, MMAC.

Friday, April 26