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Editorial

Valerie Chamberlain
University of Idaho

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This issue of the Electronic Green Journal presents papers and research reports from a conference held at the University of Idaho, April 15-19, 1998, titled "Planetary Stewardship: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment," and sponsored by the University of Idaho's Borah Foundation and Martin Institute. It represents only a small fraction of the whole conference, which consisted of almost 100 papers distributed among 20 concurrent sessions and panel discussions. Other events included field trips to local sites of environmental controversy, a one-woman play by Kaiulani Lee on the life of Rachel Carson, and keynote addresses by guest speakers. Two of our keynote addresses are included in this issue (Noss and Pimental). The other guest speakers were Cecil D. Andrus (former Governor University of Idaho) who spoke on "Accomplishing Conservation," Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (Professor at the Environmental Litigation Clinic at Pace University) on "Our Environmental Destiny," Edward Miles (Professor of Marine Science and Public Affairs at the University of Washington) on "The Science and Politics of Climate Change," Malcolm Wells (independent architect) on "Gentle Architecture," and Charles Wilkinson (Moses Laskey Professor of Law at the University of Colorado) "Coming to Grips with Rampaging Growth."

The primary sponsor of the conference, The William Edgar Borah Outlawry of War Foundation, was established in 1929 through a donation from Salmon O. Levinson, a Chicago attorney, who wished to commemorate and continue the work of William Edgar Borah, Idaho Senator for 33 years (1907-1940) and ardent peace monger. The mission of the Foundation is to sponsor, at the University of Idaho, an annual program designed to improve our understanding of the causes of war and the conditions for peace. In recent years this program has usually consisted of a lecture series or a public debate, augmented by special courses at the University of Idaho, and, sometimes, lunch hour seminars. If you are interested in more information concerning The Borah Foundation, Senator Borah, or recent Borah Foundation programs at the University of Idaho.

The 1997/98 Borah Foundation committee decided to organize a more ambitious program than usual, aiming to involve more people from both public as well as academic circles, to educate more students, and to

attract participation from the entire StateUniversity of Idaho as well as from the Pacific Northwest, and the rest of the nation. Thus, in April 1998, we sponsored our first academic conference with the theme of "conflict and the environment." Competition for scarce resources is rapidly becoming a very common cause of war and sustainable living, a condition for peace.

We invited participation from academia, industry, and the professions, from the University of Idaho and other institutions of higher education in the State and in the region, from individuals in industry and the professions working in the field of the environment and natural resources. We advertised on the web, sent out thousands of mailings, and posted flyers and handbills. We apologize if we did not find you, but we tried. Please get in touch with us if you would like to participate in our next conference. We cannot hold one every year due to "committee burn-out," but presently our next one is scheduled for the spring of 2000, under the chairmanship of Dennis Scarnecchia (Borah Committee, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844)

The extracts from "Mahatma Coat" a poem by Christophe Caron, displayed in Toronto's downtown "Skywalk", declares our desire for peace and brotherhood, expressed through planetary stewardship.

"we rush through tunnels and towers of steel and glass.
... have we lost all sense of place?
of our place in the grand design? we think we love this planet,
but the planet wonders if we think at all.
... stop.
pause,
slow down.
look at the world, the grace of a flower,
a stand of trees: sinuous, sensual strength.
a silent reminder...."

christophe caron

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