

How, When, Where, and Why

The idea of an environmental ethics journal first occurred to me at the Western Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association in 1977 at about 10:30 A.M. on April 29, somewhere between the tenth and fifteenth floors on an elevator in the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel.

My involvement in environmental philosophy began in 1973 when my friend, Ben Duffield, then a field representative of the Nature Conservancy, concluded that, since I was both a philosopher and an environmentalist, I *ought*, therefore, to become an environmental philosopher. Following Duffield's advice, somewhat belatedly, I became a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in Environmental Affairs in 1976 with a project on the historical foundations of environmental ethics.

The journal idea grew out of this project. It became a reality when the John Muir Institute, administering my fellowship, agreed to help and managed to obtain the support of the University of New Mexico, the American Conservation Association, and Chevron USA for the publication of the first few issues.

The journal, as I have always conceived it, has two purposes: first, as a forum for diverse interests and attitudes, and, second, as a means towards the establishment of an environmental ethics institute, by creating the technical material which will make such an institute possible.

The journal will not have a specific point of view nor will it advocate anything. It will often publish articles with which many readers may not agree, and with which the editor himself may not agree. The contribution of the journal to environmental philosophy will depend largely on the debate over such articles, and not on the mere publication of articles as such.

The publication of a new journal is always hazardous. I want to thank the John Muir Institute, the University of New Mexico, the American Conservation Association, and Chevron USA for their support, without which this issue would not exist, but I want to stress, too, that the fate of this journal depends not only on people who contribute articles, but also on those who contribute their subscription money, this year and in the years to come. If our subscriber list is small, we will limp along with the present format as best we can. If it is large, the number of pages and perhaps the page size will be increased accordingly.