

Foreword

We still have on the shelf the early volumes of the *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*. They were published in a magazine format at that time, and the first volume treated issues of the Louisiana coastal zone that remain difficult and in continuing motion: coastal land ownership, public access rights, wetland damages, an environmental use tax, and fisheries management. Its authors included a former Governor of Louisiana and the state's leading property rights expert, and two of its editors are now adjunct law professors. Its Editor in Chief is a partner with a firm in Cincinnati, Ohio (and a law review author in her own right), one Managing Editor is of senior counsel with the United States Army Corps of Engineers here in New Orleans, another represented 1000 Friends of Oregon for more than a decade, yet another is general counsel to one of the largest industries on the Mississippi River, and, alas, several have gone off radar.

And that was only the beginning. Running over the volumes published since, we are struck by the range of scholarship they contain. Most offer the diversity of topics characteristic of modern journals. But a number presented notable symposia, including a fisheries colloquium with key legislative, administrative and academic players following the Magnusson-Stevens amendments (Vol. 9, Issue 2, 1996), and a Cuba issue (Vol. 16, Special Issue, 2003) based on in-country workshops with US professors and Cuban experts that remains the only one of its kind. Indeed, that year the Journal published this collection as an overload, third issue. That's dedication.

What is equally impressive is the lives these journal members have gone on to lead. Most striking, again, is their diversity. Good people take many directions. Some are now courtroom lawyers of the take-no-prisoners school. Others are in corporate, government and solo practice, at least three are in politics, and we know of two librarians. What they have in common is that experience familiar to anyone who has served on a law review, a kind of boot-camp-cum-advanced-infantry-training that forms a bond, and prepares the way for other kinds of commitments that life requires.

The Journal now faces new opportunities. As the world's environmental problems magnify, so does the need for objective, reflective and innovative scholarship. Likewise, as all media move into the frontier of cyberspace, the Journal's reach and impact will continue to

expand. All of which emphasize the need for continuing quality, for which the Journal is increasingly read and recognized.

At the close of the academic year, as nearly all reviews do, we celebrate the Journal's work at a banquet. There is something special about an environmental law journal banquet, however, and it relates to the environment itself. The idea of environmental protection, its excitement, provocations, potential solutions, and the roles that these young lawyers can play in them all mix together and fill the room. And most of all, the transcendent idea that, of all things to which one can dedicate one's energies, if only for the law school moment, this one matters.

There is, then, more than a law journal here. There is an effort at answering one of the most haunting questions of humans on earth: whether we and the earth can long endure. To the contributions that this and all environmental law journals make towards a positive answer, we raise our glass.

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