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## Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2001, April 16

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# ecotones

"The heartbeat of Huxley"

Huxley College of the Environment

<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~ecotones>

Special Earth Week Edition

Monday April 16, 2001

*Ecotones*

*Spring Staff*

- Editor: Kate Koch
  - Web Editor: Sarah Loehndorf
  - Copy Editor: Marta Taggart
  - Writers: Courtney Brousseau, Matt Parker, Emi Morgan
  - Advisor: Scott Brennan
- Special Thanks to Robert Redford*

## Huxley changes name

*Excitement, chaos, or no big deal?*

By Emi Morgan

The name of the college you attend will be used numerous times throughout your life. You will write it out on countless job applications. You will mention it to inquiring friends and colleagues at dinner parties. You will fondly tell it to your grandchildren as they sit on your knee.

Thus it is important that you actually know

## I have been waiting so long...

By Robert Redford  
(with a little help from Matt Parker)

Not since "The Horse Whisperer" opened in the Kent valley has there been an event this anticipated on the West coast.

Yes, back in January I cleared the week of April 16 to April 22 on my calendar to escape the confines of my ranch in



the name of the college you attend. The Huxley College of Environmental Studies has recently become Huxley College of the Environment. After many hours of debating on the exact wording of the college's new title, a consensus has been

Wyoming to voyage to the balmy Western Washington University campus for this grand celebration of Earth Week. And, I might add, for a meal at the Viking Commons

(anybody have a guest pass...?).

The first EVER Earth Week promises to entertain, excite and educate, exploding onto

*(Continued on page 2)*



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The centers were already functioning simi-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Health, Environment, and The Planet

By Courtney Brousseau

A cigarette lighter pokes out of the shoreline. A child digs in a playground and finds a layer of diesel oil under a few inches of dirt. A drainpipe drips pesticides into Lake Whatcom. A woman has a hysterectomy at age 39 due to radiation exposure.



On the cover of the Winter 2001 *Planet*.  
Photo by Chris Goodenow, courtesy of the *Planet Magazine*

These images are from the pages of *The Planet* Winter 2001 issue. Ten articles chronicle the rela-

tionship between health and the environment by investigating local stories. Some from the widespread pollution in Drayton Harbor to the effect of trash on beach wildlife.

“We tried to look at local stories that aren’t otherwise covered,” said editor Tiffany Campbell. “We wanted to raise awareness about these issues and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Earth Week (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

the Western scene with performances, food, demonstrations and opportunities for hands-on participation.

Earth Week was created by LEAD (Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery) program coordinators to gather dozens of university and community environmental groups for a week of education and celebration. The events of the week will make it easy for students to explore the many different environmental activities available in Bellingham, and enjoy various festivities leading up to Earth Day on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Monday morning from 10:00 to 3:00, after I kick the week off on

with personal fly-fishing instructions in the fountain, an environmental showcase will feature local environmental groups in Red Square. Many environmentally concerned groups will be hosting tables at this central location where you can stop and sign up for volunteer work, gather information, get your bike tuned by the Outdoor Center or fill up your travel mug with free Tony’s coffee. Take your pick of groups to chat with, from *Target Earth* to *The Sustainability Committee* to the *Women’s Center*.

Check out the calendar in this week’s *Ecotones* for some of the stellar events you can attend

throughout the week. On Tuesday, in front of the Performing Art Center (PAC), there is an Art and Music Celebration from 10:30 to 2:30. That night, there will be a “Vegan Festival” complete with vegan meals and healthy-living guidance tips from Western’s Animal Rights group, WARN. I will personally be attending Huxley Instructor Scott Brennan’s “Earth Day Celebration Slide Show” on Wednesday night as he shows personal photography from all corners of the globe, including Tibet, Patagonia and Hawaii.

On Saturday, put on your

*(Continued on page 3)*

Don't forget EARTH DAY!  
Sunday April 22, 2001

## Planet (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

show that these are national issues, not limited only to Bellingham."

One article, "Thirsting for Justice" by Katie Stephens, examines the dangers of chemical exposure to migrant workers in Whatcom County. Due to dangerous levels of chemicals in drinking water, the migrant worker population is the most susceptible to toxic exposure in Whatcom County. This is not a

major news story in around Bellingham or in national news yet The Planet gives voice to this subject, and many others, that would otherwise to unspoken and unheard.

Looking ahead, The Planet's Spring 2001 issue turns its sights towards Blanchard Mountain, a hump of

land located in the Chuckanut Range along the north border of Skagit County. It is a recrea-

tional area and a haven for wildlife. The land itself is managed as timberland by the Department of Natural Resources. Approximately 3000 acres of forestland are under consideration for harvesting purposes.

"We wanted to raise awareness about these issues and show that these are national issues, not limited to Bellingham."

-Tiffany Campbell, The Planet

"The Planet will do a comprehensive profile of Blanchard Mountain and the environmental threats surrounding it", Campbell said. "We're researching issues like logging,

the mountain's ecosystem, trust lands in the area, and the land itself."☼

## Earth Week (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Carhart pants and participate in the Squalicum Creek cleanup, Squalicum Beach cleanup or Whatcom Creek Restoration.

The week climaxes on Earth Day, Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with an all-day "Earth Day in the Out-

back Celebration" just south of the Fairhaven dorms. The excitement of this event will leave you breathless and singe your eyebrows after performances by several different bands and speakers. Expect more food, interesting curios for sale and a raffle as well.

At the end of the evening, after much excitement and specula-

tion, I will premiere the sequel to "The Natural." This time around, my character trades his baseball bat for a rake as he joins an organic crop-growing commune in Blaine.

Don't miss it.☼

Check out the last two pages of *Ecotones* for a list of the week's activities!

## Technology Update

By Kate Koch

Students, faculty, and staff of Huxley, lend me your ears! I come to praise you, not to bite your heads off.

I received quite a few responses to last week's edi-



torial regarding *Ecotones'* recent regression into a papered past. I was surprised at the number of comments supportive of our attempts to conserve paper and enjoyed the constructive criticism from some of Huxley's finest.

Some suggest that

faculty place links to the *Ecotones* homepage from their own websites and course pages for easier access.

My favorite comment regarding the e-mail edition of *Ecotones* was "100% recycled electrons." You're right! That didn't occur to me!

(Continued on page 6)

## Name Change (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

lar to departments, but the formal switch slightly altered the way they were constructed; along with the way Huxley is able to interact with Western's administration. The name issue

arose when the center of Geography and Social Sciences became the department of Environmental Studies including majors such as Education, Policy and Planning. Huxley College of Environmental Studies was therefore divided into the department of Environmental Studies and the department of Environmental Science. There was a concern that

the overlap of "studies" would cause confusion to those outside Huxley and that the postal service would have difficulty differentiating mail being sent to the departments. The title also excluded the science department, which is a significant segment of the college.

*(Continued on page 5)*

### "How do you feel about the Huxley College of Environmental Studies switching its name to Huxley College of the Environment?"



"It should have stayed the same. Environmental Studies sums it up well enough."

*Gina Kendall,  
Environmental Education*

photo left



"I found out about it yesterday and I don't really care."

*Adam U,  
Geography*

photo right

Photos by Emi Morgan

## Name Change (continued)

*(Continued from page 4)*

The new name, Huxley College of the Environment, is strong, simple, and encompasses a variety of majors. Other colleges throughout the United States with similar goals and interests

have also included "of the Environment" in their title. So Huxley is keeping up with widespread academic trends within esteemed institutions. Jack Hardy, director of the science department, assures that the technical processes of changing the name is not large. Students can rest assured that a simple name alteration will not cause

much chaos or even significant change in Huxley's structure.

Because the process of changing names has gone relatively smoothly, there has not been a large amount of student input surrounding the title alteration. In order to discover the opinion surrounding Huxley's name change we asked...☀

"That's stupid. There are more important things to worry about than a college changing its name. Stupid."

*Chad Kauppi,  
Environmental Planning  
photo right*



"I'd drop out."

*Scott Morton,  
Environmental Economics*

photo left

## Book Reviews

### *A Fish Caught in Time*

Have you recently read a fantastic book? Are you just dying to tell someone about it?

Tell us!

*Ecotones* is dedicated to providing a voice for Huxley's faculty, staff, and students.

If you've just read a book with an environmental theme, message, or new concept please send us a book review about it.

Share your exciting story with everyone!

Send book reviews to:

[contact\\_ecotones@hotmail.com](mailto:contact_ecotones@hotmail.com)

How can it be that a prehistoric creature, seemingly older than the dinosaurs, can exist undisturbed, unchanging for over 400 million years and yet within 60 years it can be in danger of becoming extinct?

*A Fish Caught In Time* by Samantha Weinberg is an excellent account of the unbelievable newfound existence of the Coelacanth, a huge ancient fish thought to have gone extinct millions of years ago and in danger once again....

Erin Shaw

### PAID INTERNSHIP

1 field assistant needed to assist Huxley graduate student in conducting bird surveys in NCNP from May 1 - July 31.

Applicant must be: 1) knowledgeable of North Cascade bird species by both sight and sound, 2) physically fit and willing to camp in the backcountry, and 3) able to endure black flies, mosquitoes, and superb scenery.

Pay: \$300/week plus some benefits. Please contact Ed Curtis by e-mail at [curtise@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:curtise@cc.wvu.edu) or by phone at 650-7742.

## Technology

(continued)

We also received an e-mail from an off campus reader and since this is a rare occurrence we've chosen to publish it for all to see. (see below)

Students responded well too. As a result of students action we are printing 20 less copies this time around. We'd like to lower that number even more in the future but it's up to you.

We plan to keep the box outside of ES 341 until the end of this quarter. For every copy of *Ecotones* we find in the box we will print one less next week.

Thank you Huxley, especially to those who have stepped outside of their comfort zone.

The internet is new and change is hard, but make that first step, start reading *Ecotones* online. It's one small step but it could alter our course just enough.☀

## Letters to the Editor

We encourage letters to the editor as a form of communication from you, the reader, to us, the reading. This line of communication is an important tool to let us know if we are meeting your needs as a publication.

Send e-mails to

[contact\\_ecotones@hotmail.com](mailto:contact_ecotones@hotmail.com)

*Great article. ["I hate computers!" April 9, 2001] I am not a student but know one and read Ecotones online via my pocket pc. I have been desperately working on the paperless office. The computer reduces paper if used correctly. We must teach the next generation to use only the electronic medium to obtain the written word. Please do an article on junk mail, I get tons of junk mail, advertisements, credit card applications, retail sales ads it seems endless.*

*I also read the article on printer waste. In our office, I see at least a ream every two weeks being blank or printouts of web pages, printouts of email, bad print jobs, stupid jokes, test prints of incomplete documents. We need to begin early and teach students in grade school how to read from the electronic medium and how to manipulate it to eliminate the wasted paper.*

**I LOVE COMPUTERS!**

From: Vern Blystone



# Earth Week Calendar



## Monday, April 16

**Environmental Tabling:** 25 environmental groups will have tables and information. Red Square, 10:00AM-3:00PM.

**Free Bike Maintenance:** Free tune-ups and checks. Red Square, 10:00AM-3:00PM.

**Free Coffee:** Free Tony's coffee for those who bring their own travel mug. Red Square, 10:00AM-3:00PM.

**Campus Interpretive Walk:** Jason Darling will explore the wonders of nature with a walk through Sehome Hill Arboretum. Meet at the Red Square fountain, 3:25PM.

## Tuesday, April 17

**Art and Music Celebration:** An Earth Week celebration with environmental art and music expo. In front of the Performing Arts Center, 10:30AM-2:30PM.

**Third Annual Veganfest:** Enjoy a vegan dinner, fashion show, cakewalk, the Jan Peters Band and speaker Vesanto Melina. \$2 donation, 5:00PM-8:00PM.

## Wednesday, April 18

**Environmental Debate:** The WWU debate club will take on the issue of oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Outside the PAC, 12:00PM.

**Native Plants and Creating Interpretive Signs:** Learn about plants and ecosystems while designing signs for the Outback. Outback farm, 3:00PM-5:00PM.

**Earth Day Celebration Slide Show:** Scott Brennan will lead a slide show appreciation of the world's natural wonders including Patagonia, Nepal, Tibet, and Hawaii. SMATE 130, 8:00PM-9:00PM.

## Thursday, April 19

**Trash Display:** The waste of WWU in one day will be displayed for all to see. Red Square, 10:00AM-1:00PM.

**Take Back the Night:** A powerful march and demonstration in honor of women. Aurora Levins Morales and others will speak on interlocking oppressions and feminism PAC Concert hall, 6:30PM. The march will leave the PAC around 8:30PM.

## Friday, April 20

**FTAA Teach-in:** Learn about the FTAA and the protest at the Peach Arch. Fraser 3, 6:00PM-11:00PM.

## Saturday, April 20

**Squalicum Creek Clean up:** Plant native trees and remove non-natives with Nootsack Salmon Enhancement Association (715-0283). Cornwall Park, 9:00AM-12:00PM.

**Lake Friendly Gardening Workshop:** Learn about how to landscape without polluting the lake. Free, but RSVP necessary



Ecotones  
c/o Huxley College  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
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**Mission Statement:**  
Ecotones is a student publication devoted to providing a voice of the Huxley community and reporting on current events and issues affecting everyone.

## Earth Week Calendar (continued)

(676-6736). Bloedel Donovan Park Pavilion, 9:00AM-11:00AM.

**Beach Clean up:** Help clean the beach with Robyn du Pre (733-8307) and others. Bring gloves, raingear, lunch and drinking water. Squalicum Beach, 10:00AM-1:00PM.

**Restoration on Whatcom Creek:** Remove blackberries and prepare the trail for plantings in the fall. Bring tools if you have them. Park on Racine St., South of Iowa, the trail starts where Racine dead-ends, 10:00AM-12:00PM.

**March at the Arch:** Join thousands of others to protest the FTAA Peace Arch, 10:00AM-4:00PM.

**Ends of the Earth: From Bellingham to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Tierra del Fuego:** Music by the Casey Neil Trio and Dana Lyons. Speakers from South America, and the Gwich'in Nation to discuss the FTAA, logging and oil exploration. PAC Plaza (VU 565 for rain call), 6:00PM-10:00PM.

**First Annual Countywide Garage Sale:** Join your neighbors to get rid of old stuff, gain \$ or get good deals. Varied Locations and times (April 21&22), 676-7695 for more info.

### Sunday, April 22 EARTH DAY!

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day in the Outback Celebration:** Celebrate Earth Day with local and regional music on the soar powered outback stage and enjoy children's booth, kids parade, opening ceremony, local speakers, Earth Day family photo, community dinner, art stations, garden tours, lots of fun, and more. See schedule below.

10:00AM Earth Day flag raising.

10:30AM Akaraka, fresh acoustic fusion

11:30AM Opening Ceremony with Dean & Dudly Evenson

12:00PM Juba Marimba, fun and lively marimba dance music

1:00PM Jeffery Utter, alternative energy sounds speaker

1:30PM Beth Quist, four-octave soprano and multi-instrumentalist from Seattle

2:30PM Kids parade

3:00PM Barb Wire Cutters, old time lively bluegrass with a touch of spice

4:00PM Earth Day family hillside photo and community raffle giveaway

4:30PM Jan Peters and Stell Newsome Band, danceable bluegrass with a twist

5:30PM Community dinner circle, a healthy organic meal, \$7

6:00PM Katya Chorover, passionate songs from the heart

6:30PM Land of Mu Circle Show, Afro-Cuban-Folk-funk-fusion

8:00PM Closing Ceremony

### Monday, April 23

**Earth Day Poetry Reading and Open Mike:** Hosted by Kevin Murphy, bring something to share. Swan Café at the Community Food Co-op, 7:00PM.

**Free Saplings:** Pick up free trees that are ready to be planted. Community Food Co-op, April 21-23.

Check us out online!  
[www.ac.wvu.edu/~ecotones](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~ecotones)