

EcoNews

Published by the Ecology Graduate Student Association

Printed on Recycled Paper.

February 1991

FOURTH ANNUAL EGSA CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP! Sunday and Monday, Feb 17-18 (President's Day Weekend)

We will be staying overnight at the Peter Grubb Hut in the Sierra Nevada on Sunday night. We'll leave on Sunday, 2/17, at 7 or 8 AM and return to Davis on Monday evening. There is room at the hut for approximately 10 people. The trip requires skiing in about 3 miles with backpacks, with an elevation gain of about 800 feet. Space is limited, so if you are interested, reserve now by contacting Sheila Ward at 753-4630 (evenings), or leave a message for Sheila at the Botany Department. With snow finally falling up there, this is sure to be a great trip!

Graduate Group Funding Crisis Update

Although a final solution is still forthcoming, it appears that definite progress has been made to resolve the current fiscal problems faced by the Graduate Group in Ecology. Over the last few weeks, the Executive Committee of the Graduate Group in Ecology (with participation by EGSA members) has met numerous times with the university administration, college deans, and various faculty members and department chairs. It is possible that an acceptable solution will be in place very soon so that a smooth admissions process can take place and Group administration can proceed without impacting current students. Ted Foin has agreed to continue serving as Ecology Graduate Group Chair as long as efforts continue to resolve the financial difficulties. In general, we have seen tremendous support for the Ecology Group from students, faculty, and staff. Everyone recognizes the important role the Group plays on this campus, and the need to keep it running effectively.

In related news, Chancellor Ted Hullar stated in a recent address to the Graduate Student Association that he wants "adequate funding for graduate groups by July 1st." Hullar noted that a permanent solution to the fiscal problems facing all graduate groups is critically needed and is a high priority by the administration. Ecology graduate students have been actively involved in all of these issues, hoping to solve these problems as quickly as possible and with the least amount of impact to graduate students.

Money, Money, Money!!

Information on funding sources for EGSA members is being assembled in the slot below the EGSA mail box in the DES office. Feel free to take a look and copy anything that interests you, but please don't run off with it, so we can all have the chance to use it. If you have any information to contribute, go ahead and add it to the collection!

Ecology Graduate Students:
Please join us for an evening of food and drink at the

Environmental Studies Club Faculty/Student Wine and Cheese Party

Thursday, February 21st
6:00 PM
1400 Union Drive

Bring a bottle of wine, cheese, or other delicious foods to share. For more information, please contact Aimee at 753-3079.

Radical Environmentalism

**A conference at UC Santa Barbara,
March 1-3, 1991.**

For more information, you can write to Radical Environmentalism, AS Student Lobby, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, or call (805) 893-2139. Call Catherine McCarthy (2-6609) for more information about other UCD people planning to attend and go down together.

12th Annual Pacific Ecology Conference

March 15-17, 1991

University of Oregon
Oregon Institute for Marine Biology
Charleston, Oregon

The PEC is an academic conference run by and for graduate students. Registration and paper/poster abstract forms are available from Silvia in the Ecology Graduate Group office. Deadline for registration and abstracts is February 28, 1991. If you have any questions, please call Roger Harris (graduate student organizer): (503) 346-4502 or write to PEC, Dept. of Biology, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1210.

EGSA BULLETIN BOARD

The EGSA Bulletin Board is located on the second floor of Wickson Hall near the Division of Environmental Studies main office. Stop by and check the Board for information concerning EGSA and environmental happenings in the area.

EGSA PHOTOGRAPHS

It's not too late! EGSA is still interested in any photographs of Ecology graduate students. Just write your name on the back of a photo of yourself and mail it in campus mail to EGSA at the Division of Environmental Studies, or drop it off to the EGSA mailbox at the DES offices on the second floor of Wickson Hall.

NEXT EGSA MEETING

**Wednesday, February 13
6:00 PM
2120J Wickson Hall**

Pizza at Steve's after the meeting!

A National Institutes for the Environment?

During the past year, a coalition of scientists and organizations have called for the creation of a National Institutes for the Environment (NIE). Creation of the NIE would allow for the setting of national priorities for research and graduate training in the environmental sciences. The NIE would recognize the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and support the natural, social, and engineering sciences. The NIE will explore the policy implications of its research programs and will play a key role in the environmental education of policymakers and the public. The NIE would also create a National Library for the environment and a global environmental database. In sum, the NIE will assign environmental priorities, focus research, develop policy, and educate the public on environmental problems of immense practical significance to human progress.

The estimated costs for the NIE (\$100-\$500 million) seem modest compared to the budgets of federally sponsored health research (\$5.5 billion) and military spending (\$200+ billion). A National Academy of Sciences study has recently been funded to study the feasibility of NIE establishment.

For further information on the NIE, you can contact:

Dr. David E. Blockstein, Director
NIE Committee - Washington Office
730 11th Street, NW
Washington, CD 20001-4521
