

# UnderCurrents

## tenth anniversary issue

Dear Reader,

It was roundabout ten years ago that a wandering band of Environmental Studies graduate students at York University formed the first UnderCurrents Editorial Collective, with the intention of starting a small annual journal to fill a more-or-less unique niche. This journal would attempt to reflect and augment the diversity and philosophy of what remains today a one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary educational institution: the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) at York University, Canada. In speaking to the interests of the FES community while providing a vehicle for communicating that perspective to a wider audience, this journal would provide an accessible opportunity for writers and artists from the York community and elsewhere to present what is often their first published work, as well as allowing editorial volunteers to try their hands at running a small magazine. Of course, the exact vision of those founding mothers and fathers is impossible to say; what is mentioned here merely represents what has come to be.

Although many of the philosophies informing the approach of the Editorial Collective over these years have remained constant, it is clear from a perusal of back-issues that each year's offering essentially stands on its own -- so different have been the themes, contributions, and editing perspectives which have mingled from time to time. Each theme has crystallized around the interests of volunteer editors, the complimentary and accidental interplay of submissions, and the timeliness of certain subjects of debate. As a result, each individual issue has become something of an anachronistic snapshot; a limited cross-section of the mind-boggling variety of perspectives interacting at any particular time within the environmental studies community.

And things have certainly changed. Long time readers might note with irony that, while early issues of this journal adhered fairly strictly to a mandate of soliciting and publishing articles explicitly designed to critique mainstream Western conceptions of 'nature,' the word 'nature' does not actually occur in the titles of any of this year's featured pieces. Nor do the words 'ecology' or 'environment,' for that matter. While such inconsistency may at first seem, well, inconsistent, this is perhaps seen as a fitting testament to the multiplicity of perspectives which have sought voice between these pages over the last decade. Herein might also be read hints of the shifting emphases which have characterized a decade of critical environmental thought, wherein substantial reconsideration has taken place concerning what may be talked about under the banner of 'environmental,' and wherein the role of the 'cultural' has achieved expanding recognition as a factor to be weighed in conjunction with the 'natural.' And perhaps such changes might lastly be welcomed as an indication of the (if we might be so bold) maturing evolution of an environmental journal seeking to widen its vision by speaking to a fuller readership of interest within interdisciplinary environmental studies.

That said, the members of the UnderCurrents Editorial Collective would like to take this opportunity to pay homage to history by thanking all of those readers, editors, contributors, providers of funding (especially the Faculty of Environmental Studies, GESSA, Graduate Students Association, and everyone who has come out to our fundraisers), purveyors of advice (past editor and present cool-handed signing authority Joanne Nonnekes in particular), technical gurus (Frances Chan, Computer Co-ordinator; FES; Rick Geater, Computer Services, FES; Dr. Grant Sheng of the York Centre for Applied Sustainability (SCAS) Applied Technology Group; Gustavo Moran, YCAS Research Fellow; Neil MacKay, Computer Co-ordinator, Calumet College; Neil Bowen, Student Network Administrator, Calumet College; and Bryan



Cover illustration by Derek Evernden

Tinlin FES Alumni), and various other potentates of plentitude who have in tandem allowed us to mess around a little bit and bring you this, the tenth anniversary issue of UnderCurrents, somewhat pretentiously titled "Other Ways of Telling." It is hoped that you will enjoy. Grace.

Yours truly,  
**The Editorial Collective**