

# 'Moderate' Gore inhabits environmental fantasy land

By KENNETH LEONARD

To see Senator Albert S. Gore, Jr. (D-Tenn.) trying to portray himself as a "raging moderate" is a lot like watching Pat Buchanan trying to make himself look the same. Gore is an environmental kook as extremist as any other.

The best source of information about just how crazy this man is happens to be *Earth In The Balance* by Senator Al Gore. In this book, he speaks of the spiritual forces of rivers and animals which are disrupted by damming and the use of animals for hides and meat. He laments that Christianity wiped out most of the goddess worship from the world because the goddess-worshipping Druids were far more "earth-friendly." (In between human sacrifices, I guess, they went and cleaned up dirty rivers.)

When most of us read Genesis 4:10, we read God talking to Cain after he has murdered his brother Abel. "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground." To most of us, it seems that God is furious at the murder. Nope. Senator Al says this was "pollution." Although he says the waste of human life (not counting feticide, I guess) is the worst kind of pollution, to equate murder with tossing a styrofoam cup in the Tar River is a bit more than most rational human beings are willing to accept.

Al Gore claims that this book is spiritual in nature (no pun intended) and if so we have a New Age leftover (emphasis on "left")

## Opinion

who worships a small pantheon of nature spirits.

Do you remember the "ozone hole" that allegedly appeared over North America? Al Gore would just as soon you forget it, I imagine. The scare was based on a flawed, inconclusive report from NASA based on a single flight from a single CFC-monitoring plane. Since CFC levels vary wildly from day to day, it was foolish to base any conclusion on the data. Yet Al Gore offered stacks of new legislation instantly. When the data came back pointing out that there was no such fear, Al Gore dropped the subject like a hot potato.

If, as Al Gore contends, the earth is heating up, why aren't the earth's temperatures going up? Looking in past news magazines, we can see the same prophets of doom-and-gloom global warming preaching global cooling caused by industrial emissions just a couple of decades ago. Although Gore claims that there is consensus in the scientific community about global warming, even Greenpeace — never accused of moderation on the environment — found that only 13 percent of scientists involved in global climate studies agreed with the theory, 47 percent rejected it, and a few considered it probable or possible. Gore, however, repeats a 98 percent figure that appar-

ently comes from the Lady of the Lake.

Exactly how, pray tell, Mister Senator, did the Ice Age end? Global warming, perhaps?

Any environmental extremist trying to pose as a moderate should have written less than Sen. Gore. In a newspaper article, Gore wrote, "The environment indicts our civilization." There you have it, he hates Western civilization! In the article he endorses environmentalists Frederico Zaragoza and Rep. Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island.

Zaragoza, incidentally, wants to form a military force through the United Nations to act as the Peacekeeping Forces, only this time to protect the environment. Rep. Schneider wants to cut off all aid to nations other than those developing through "least-cost energy," specifically "... pack animals and similar affordable, non-motorized vehicles."

Even for people who have to fall back on the "we have to do this just in case, we don't have time to wait for research" argument, these steps are a bit much, I think. On any other issue, we would have to prove that a threat was possible and real, and that we *had* to solve it. To an environmentalist, a theory is enough to sell over the entire nation.

So let's throw in a few facts to mull over. In the laboratory, CFCs did not destroy ozone. Over Antarctica, ozone thins in a regular cycle because it is created by solar energy, and the sun is below the horizon for six months of the year. Computer models which predict global warming ignore many factors, including oceans.

So far, the only environmental scares that have been proven conclusively have been proven wrong. Since Al Gore claims that environmentalism is a spiritual issue, let's probe him on it. I think we'd all be surprised.

## Growing

I fell off the main stem  
Now I'm searching for the light  
Pushing through the shadows  
To find a spot just right.

I'm a tiny sprout  
In a forest rather tall  
With older trees around me  
Casting darkness on us all.

I may not be as tall  
My trunk might not be straight  
But my roots are growing deeper  
And finding light is fate.

—Stewart A. Crank, Jr.



## Dickens made readers take notice of world

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wrote every day. Sheer hard work — both in reading and writing and in actively pursuing life — is also necessary for the kind of books Dickens left us.

Ackroyd writes, "His genius lay in the imaginative sympathy so strong that the world overpowers him; in a linguistic mastery so great that in turn he can recreate both himself and the world." Studying Dickens' works and his biography suggest that art is always in some way autobiographic, but not in the gross sense.

Dickens did walk the streets which he describes in his books, and he suffered the pangs of hunger and poverty. But more importantly, even in his early sketches, he gave form to a world which was experienced by his contemporaries but not realized by them. His realization of it is what we continue to celebrate.

Ackroyd quotes from an 1833 trial transcript, and we immediately hear that Dickens' use of the vernacular in his novels rings true: "T'se quite hinnocent, your worship. I was a walking along, and I see these here trouser a

hanging, vich I wishes I'd a never seed at all."

Dickens made his readers notice all the pieces of their world which they usually took for granted. He showed them what they were always looking at.

## Library no place for athletes' noise

(Continued from Page 4)

too harsh a word) to my first amendment rights as a journalist. Reading an article to be assured of its correctness, no matter how sweet it sounds, is pre-censorship.

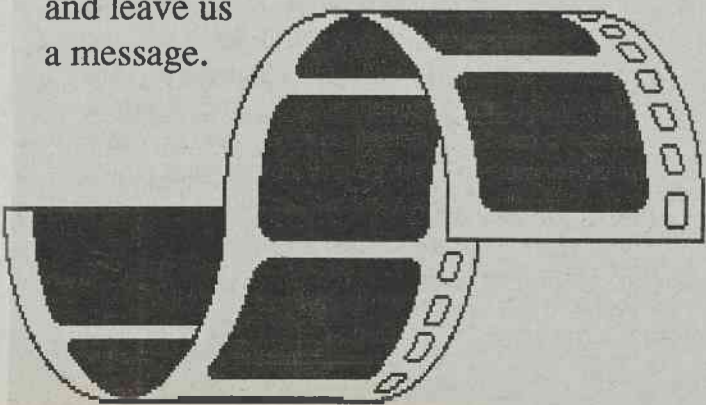
I am not intending to anger this person. I am just expressing my disappointment. The article was to appear in this year's first paper. I could not bring myself to write it and am just now expressing why.

I applaud Dr. Bennett for assuring that no administrator or member of the faculty interferes with the *Decree* and the freedom of the press. A gentle reminder that at Wesleyan the students are supposed to come first.

Joanna C. Holladay

## Flik piks...

If you have any suggestions of what movies you would like to see shown on campus, please call 5224 (SGA Hotline) and leave us a message.



## Bound & Gagged

By Dana Summers

