

# What the 104th Congress Means for the Environment

## Endangered species protection may be eliminated

SCOPE (Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment) has recently become aware of serious actions by the new majority leaders with their "Contract with America."

Anything that affects taxes and the budget also affects students who will seek or are seeking an education. As new majority leaders, Senator Bob Dole (KS) and Rep. Newt Gingrich (GA) are pushing to pass measures that would create havoc with our nation's current environmental policies: the Takings campaign, Risk Assessment legislation and unfunded mandates.

Assessment provisions subject virtually all governmental actions to a costly, unnecessary review of their "takings implications." "Takings" compensation provisions require payment when government actions may restrict landholder's future development of their property, no matter how reasonable the restriction is.

SCOPE wants students to know that the "Takings Campaign" in Congress and in state legislatures around the country consists of well-funded corporate coalitions waging a special interest buy-out to peel back hard-won public protections, including crucial health, safety, labor, civil rights, consumer and environmental laws. Environmental racism against the poor (many of whom are students) is a potential money-making venture for SPECIAL INTERESTS who are seeking to make generous profits at the expense of the environment and at the expense of all American taxpayers (including stu-

dents). These special interests are now represented strongly in Congress.

The way Republicans (and other lobbyists) sell the plan to America undermines all current environmental legislation (such as the Endangered Species Act). They are telling the American public (as they have already started to do) that "Takings" bills are efforts to protect the rights of property owners, an innocent sounding plea that many under-educated Americans have been taken in by. The real purpose of the "Takings" legislation, however, is to create the legal loophole petroleum, mining, timbering, grazing, and real estate interests need to make Americans pay for enforcing environmental protection.

SCOPE is urging students to take action against H.R. 490/S. 191, otherwise known as the "Farm, Ranch, and Homestead Protection Act of 1995." Introduced by Republican Lamar Smith (R-TX), it would weaken the Endangered Species Act in three crucial areas:

1. H.R. 490/S. 191 would require taxpayer-funded payments to all nonfederal landowners (state and local governments as well as private landowners) who suffer ANY loss of property value that results from a critical habitat designation. Even when ESA's restriction on property usage is minimal and when it is only to ensure proper stewardship of the land, passing this legislation would require taxpayers to foot the bill for any claims. Students should be aware that this could mean paying huge amounts of money for many years to come, particularly to corporate interests for even the smallest restrictions.

2. H.R. 490/S. 191 would prohibit all listings of species as

## Commentary

BY GENA BERLETT

threatened or endangered and all critical habitat designations. Listings and critical habitat designations are essential ESA tools

for informing the public about which animals and plants are headed toward extinction and what habitats are needed to save them. If passed, protection for animal and plant survival would be taken away.

3. H.R. 490/S. 191 would also eliminate federal agencies' obligations to comply with Section 7 (a) of the ESA. Section 7 (a) requires agencies to consult with federal biologists to ensure that federal projects DO NOT jeopardize the survival of listed species or destroy critical animal/plant habitats. Major federal projects, such as highways or dams, could go forward without any attempts to minimize the harmful impact on endangered and threatened species, even if the projects would send fish, wildlife and plant species into extinction.

Societal restrictions on the use of property are widely accepted by the Supreme Court and most people to protect the public health, safety and the environment. Except in extreme cases, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the government is not required (under the 5th Amendment) to pay regulated landowners when land use restrictions caused a loss of property value.

SCOPE encourages students to know that H.R. 490/S. 191's reckless assault on the federal treasury would make a mockery of Congress's call for a balanced budget.

Students and others are urged to join the Letter Writing Campaign to stop H.R. 490/S. 191. Tell each representative in Congress to vote against both measures. This will support both the basic protections of the ESA and the federal treasury.

## Officer

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student who was well-liked by his fellow students," Cross said.

Cross said Elizondo came to see him a few times while he was a student but never mentioned his desire to be a police officer. "I heard that he had become a police officer after he graduated," Cross said. "I guess that didn't surprise me. He had a lot of what it seemed like to me, basic values. He believed in family, order and working hard."

Although Cross said he has known students of his who have died during his 10 years in teaching, he called Elizondo's death "the most traumatic."

Elizondo was described by Cross as a solid B student and

"just a solid citizen."

A private ceremony was held for Elizondo Wednesday, followed by visitation at the Davis Funeral Home.

Mass will be held today at 1 p.m. at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church at 55 East Reno Ave., with the officer's burial to follow

at Davis Brothers Cemetery at 6200 S. Eastern Ave.

The slain officer will be buried in his uniform, accompanied by an honor guard, 21-gun salute and a police procession.

A memorial fund has been established in Elizondo's name at First Interstate Bank.



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## News Briefs

### Career Day Recruitment Opportunities

Although the deadline has passed and space has been filled for February's interview sessions in conjunction with the 16th annual Career Day, there is still time to participate.

A list of interview candidates and times will be posted by 4 p.m. on Feb. 7. For those who have interviews scheduled, a copy of your schedule may be picked up at the front desk. If you are unable to make your session, please cancel so others may have your spot.

Students that have not signed up for interviews are still encouraged to do so. Some of the companies on the agenda for February are Disneyland, Hyatt Hotels, J.C. Penney and the U.S. Dept. of Energy. Any cancellations received will be offered to other students on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Career Day 1995 is scheduled for March 1, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the second floor of MSU and TBE Great Hall (for technical/science majors). Over 120 employers participated in last year's event.

For more information on this opportunity, please go to Career Services, located in Reynolds 300 or call 895-3495.

### Outstanding Student Nominations Sought

Nominations are being solicited from students, faculty and staff members to select outstanding UNLV students for the 1994-95 Board of Regents' Outstanding Student Award.

An award of \$500 will be given to one undergraduate and one graduate who meet the following requirements and criteria.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

Undergraduate: must be registered for nine credit hours. Graduates: must be

registered for six credit hours. All students must have good academic standing (minimum GPA of 2.5 is required).

#### SELECTION CRITERIA:

Your nominee must have made exceptional contributions in the area of academic accomplishments/record, participation and leadership in academic/extracurricular activities, citizenship and service contributions to UNLV and a potential for future achievement.

All letters of nomination must be returned to either:

Jay De Leonard  
Undergraduate Advisor  
College of Business & Economics  
Mail Code: 6024

or  
Liz Baldizan  
Director  
Student Development Center  
Mail Code: 2001

Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 6. Upon receiving nomination, student will be contacted by selection committee to complete an application.

For more information, please contact the development center at 895-0667.

### Twain and Thomas Highlight University Forum Lecture Series

Writers Mark Twain and Dylan Thomas come to life as actor/author David Dekker portrays them during a Feb. 8 lecture.

"Adam and Eve/Dylan and Cat," part of the continuing University Forum Lecture Series, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the CBC Room A-108 and is open to the public free of charge.

For more information on this lecture, please call 895-3533.

## Attorney

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The Crime Act, a hard won victory for the Clinton administration, commits \$30 billions over a period of six years to implement. After that, the states will phase out federal money and continue to support the most effective programs themselves. If the Republicans revamp the Crime

Act, the assistant attorney general felt the prevention programs would be the first to go. "The attacks on these programs were vigorous, to put it mildly. They (prevention programs) were considered pork programs."

Schmidt, who ranks third in the Justice Department, said the Crime Act was all about citizens wanting to feel safe in their neighborhoods.



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## Student

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fall.

He was killed by a gunman Monday in North Las Vegas.

The exact amount of the scholarship has not been finalized, but James Cross, chairman of the Marketing Department, said it will be "substantial, probably a \$1,000 award."

Cross said faculty members were looking for ways to target Marketing scholarships and added, "This is a perfect scholarship to establish." He said the specific type of student selected for the scholarship will be decided by Elizondo's family.