Strong Words from the Captain
Reaction to Paul Watson’s public talk at Carleton on 9 January.

When one envisions pirates, one is inundated with romantic images of large chests full of treasure, adventure on the high seas, and the menacing image of the Jolly Roger flapping in the wind. Stories of pirates and their adventures have been relegated to the annals of history and have become some of the most popular and prolific myths and tales in our society. I mean, who hasn’t read Treasure Island, or heard of the evil Captain Hook and the ruthless Red Beard, or seen the quintessential ‘80s movie The Goonies? Pirates were and are outlaws of the ocean, doing what they want and going where they will.

Although they are a relic of the past and occupy mythical status, pirates still exist to some degree today, but the images they conjure up are quite different and are certainly not romantic. Today’s “pirates” may be more aptly termed poachers. The search for chests full of treasure have been replaced by the illegal hunting and slaughter of endangered and threatened species of marine wildlife. These “pirates” are no longer in business for themselves, but are often employed by large commercial fishing organizations and in several cases by sovereign nations, such as Japan and Norway, who are interested, for instance, in subverting the laws and regulations on whaling operations imposed by the International Whaling Commission. Such activities contribute to the destruction of invaluable ecosystems by removing natural habitats and fueling the loss of biodiversity; the ocean is rendered empty and colored a deep red from the blood of countless numbers of butchered whales, seals, sharks, sea turtles, and dolphins.

In the face of this pervasive threat to the ocean’s wildlife, Captain Paul Watson, one of the founders of Green Peace and the founder and president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, has devoted his life to the protection of all species of marine wildlife. Watson’s public talk at Carleton drew hundreds of students and faculty, who were treated to a rousing speech on conservation ethics, the role and importance of the media in environmental issues, and personal accounts of encounters with poaching and illegal fishing operations. In his efforts to protect marine wildlife and ecosystems, he has been characterized as a radical, a criminal, a terrorist, and yes, he’s even been called a pirate. He doesn’t abhor the idea of being referred to as a pirate though, but rather likes the characterization. In reference to his involvement in stopping and disrupting poaching operations, often by using force, he asserts with a smile that, “it takes a pirate to stop a pirate.” He even designed the logo on his vessel’s flag to resemble the infamous skull and crossbones of the Jolly Roger.

Despite his passion and unfettered devotion to the protection of marine wildlife in the face of poaching, many people, fellow conservationists included, find fault with his approach. Watson admittedly has little time for or faith in international conferences, where representatives of various nations get together to discuss what should be done about poaching and the over-fishing of the world’s oceans. Even when these conferences do establish international laws regulating which species can and cannot be hunted and restricting certain methods of hunting and places where that hunting can take place, there is more often than not no enforcement of these statutes. In fact, Watson claims that his organization is the only organization that is attempting to uphold and enforce the laws enacted by these international conferences. Therefore, as Watson states, “We’re very good at talking and discussing, but we’re very bad at getting things done.” In response to those who criticize his “radical” approach to stopping poachers, Watson says, “I don’t care what anyone thinks or says about what I do, I don’t do what I do for humans, I do it for the animals.” (Captain – Continued on page 2)
Watson believes in the power of individual action over all else, commenting that it is the action of individuals and groups of individuals that actually creates change. He ended his speech at Carleton by slamming home the point that everyone, no matter what they do with their life, can make a difference if they want to, asserting that, “The most noble achievement that you can have on this planet is to say that, because you were here, a species survived or an ecosystem exists.” All of us can, and should, take something away from Watson’s message and learn to live in a manner that respects the natural world by protecting ecosystems and promoting the conservation of biodiversity worldwide.

**Composting Program for Off-Campus Houses**

After much discussion and anticipation, Carleton has embarked on its first large-scale effort to implement a student composting program. With the Student Organization for the Protection of the Environment (SOPE) providing the impetus and vision for the composting program, the support from the Superintendent of Grounds, Dennis Easley, and others in the facilities department, and the hope for responsible student use of the facilities, this promises to be a successful project that will contribute to Carleton’s continuing efforts to operate in a sustainable manner.

As of last week, all of the college’s off-campus houses and townhouses were provided with a 5 gallon plastic bucket, in which students living in the houses will dispose of organic food waste that would otherwise have to be thrown away. They will transfer this waste material to larger, communal containers located near where the students normally dump their trash. College Grounds will pick up the compost material on a regular basis, starting once a week and increasing or decreasing the frequency of pickups as use dictates.

The following are the proposed general compost pick-up locations:
- Townhouses
- Stadium
- Parish
- Faculty Club Annex
- Union St. Area
- Huntington House Area
- Seccombe and Jewett

Farm House and Parr House will continue to manage their own composting program and organic garden independently.

Although the composting program was initially supposed to provide decomposable plastic bags for the individual house buckets as well as the communal containers, a supplier has yet to be found. Until these bags are acquired, houses should use a plastic bag to line their collection buckets and dump the waste out of the bag and into the communal container (reuse the plastic bag if possible!).

**Compostable Material:**

- **YES:** food scraps (including egg shells), floor sweepings, cotton, and dryer lint.
- **NO:** meat products, bones

With student participation, the new composting program can be a resounding success. The compost generated may be used in a variety of ways, including landscaping projects on campus and in the organic garden. This is a great opportunity for students to play an active part in helping Carleton cut down on its waste.

Citing several examples of existing successful dining hall composting programs such as those at the University of Massachusetts, Brown University, and Yale University, Jamie Long ’04, co-founder of SOPE, indicated that he would like to “expand the composting system in the near future to include the dining halls at Carleton.”

This composting program is a great opportunity for students and the college itself. In addition to the environmental benefits using the composting facilities will have, your garbage won’t smell as bad and you won’t have to empty your trash as often. So start composting today!
You have no doubt read about the imminent flight of Petricka’s to the highway in the Carletonian. Yes, we’re all sad that we won’t be able to walk there at three in the morning to do our grocery shopping anymore, but the broader issue here is the march of (sub)urban sprawl. In how this project to replace the downtown Petricka’s with a Cub Foods next to Target came about, we can catch a glimpse of the forces at work that are driving this kind of development.

First a little background: eight years ago, Petricka’s was in a different downtown location, near Econofoods. Frank Petricka, the owner, wanted a bigger store, and was looking at locations on Highway 3. The city council, recognizing that the grocery store was a valuable part of downtown, asked to work with Petricka to find a suitable in-town location. Eventually, the city council helped put up the current store by using eminent domain to buy and demolish the houses that occupied the block at the time. Now, only eight years later, the store is moving to the highway after all. Why did the consensus that the store must remain in town dissolve?

This current development is really just a second part of the Target site. Whether or not to allow a Target to be built on Highway 3 was very controversial three years ago when it was being considered. I haven’t heard the full account of how things unfolded, but essentially the city council decided that it was too contentious for them to come to a decision, and should just be put to a referendum. A proposal was put together that set out the zoning for the Target and the yet-undetermined development of the parcel next to it. There was some speculation on what might be built next to Target, but no actual proposals had been made. When the proposed development was voted on in a town-wide referendum, it passed by only about eighty votes.

With this referendum, the city council gave up a good deal of its authority over the development. Any proposal that fit the guidelines set down in the referendum would have to be approved. As it turned out, the first proposal to build next to Target was from Oppidan Development. In conjunction with Supervalu, the parent company of the Cub Foods and County Market brands? Oppidan wanted to build a new grocery store on the site, with an additional restaurant-type building. The total size proposed was about 65,000 square feet, 9,000 square feet more than allowed by the zoning approved in the referendum, and an example of the upward creep of development.

The reasons behind this particular proposal were fairly straightforward; Supervalu “co-develops” with Target, meaning that they like to place their stores next to Target locations. Even though Petricka’s County Market (owned and operated by Mr. Petricka) is also part of a Supervalu chain, the company wanted a new Cub Foods, which they thought would be more profitable. Building this new store was a profitable proposition from Oppidan's point of view, as well; they got the chance to sell it to Cub Foods.

Where does the departure of Petricka’s fit into this picture? Well, Frank Petricka made an agreement with Oppidan to move his grocery store and become the new Cub Foods in their development. However, when Mr. Petricka spoke on the matter at a city council meeting, he said that he didn’t actually want to move his store, but that he was giving in to a business reality. As was clear to everyone, the town cannot support three grocery stores. Thus, Mr. Petricka reasoned, since Oppidan had decided to build a grocery store next (Petricka’s – Continued on page 4)
to Target, he would be put out of business if it opened. Faced with staying put and facing that fate versus moving his store and taking the location himself, he took the latter.

The unfortunate thing about this project is that the motivation for it came from outside Northfield, and against what many who actually live here think would be best. As a look at the letters section of the Northfield News can easily demonstrate, the opposition to downtown grocery stores moving out to the highway is still present, as it was eight years ago. It’s certainly not what Frank Petricka wants. Nor did the city council pursue this itself. The driving forces behind removing this grocery store from downtown and plunking it down on the highway are the self-interested calculations of two companies.

In the end, Oppidan began to fear that their requested amendment to the zoning for the site would not get approved, and they decreased the size of their proposal to conform with the original regulations just before the city council meeting last week. It was approved in that form, and Petricka’s will probably move to the site sometime next year. The only thing that can stand in the way of this becoming a recurring pattern is a city council that is more willing to take town-planning considerations into commercial development.

$5,000 Scholarships Available for Students Committed to the Environment

The Udall Foundation offers a number of scholarships of up to $5,000 for sophomores or juniors who are committed to a career in an environmental field or Native Americans or Alaskans studying health care or tribal public policy. Carleton may nominate up to six individuals to be considered for the scholarships. Several Carleton students have been awarded scholarships in the past. Applicants from any major are eligible as long as they can demonstrate a commitment to the environment or are Native Americans or Alaskans studying health care or tribal public policy, have maintained a B average, and are a U.S. citizen or permanent alien. If you are interested in applying for this award please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz at x7629 or email <jmulvihi> to get more information and to begin the application process. Applications are due to Jason SCIX 104 or to Professor Norm Vig SCIX 116A by February 11.

ENTS Summer Mellon Fellowships

The ENTS Program offers three stipends of $4,000 to ENTS concentrators for independent and self-directed projects related to the environment. Students are invited to develop proposals for non-credit projects to be carried out over four to eight weeks, usually over the summer break. Those awarded a fellowship will be expected to make a public presentation of their experience and research upon their return to campus. Applications are available from Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz in SCIX 104, and applications are due on March 5.

ENTS Summer Internships

The ENTS Program offers four stipends of $3,800 to ENTS concentrators who have arranged or applied for internships doing environmental work with organizations that cannot adequately compensate the student. These stipends are meant to cover the cost of living for the summer as well as some travel expenses. Applications are available from Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz in SCIX 104, and applications are due on March 5.
Global Climate Change and Society Program:
(Scientific, Political, and Philosophic Themes)
The Center for Science and Technology Policy Research
University of Colorado & The National Center for
Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

June 17-August 9, 2002
Boulder, Colorado

R. Frodeman, M. Bullock, and R. Pielke, Jr, Directors

Global Climate Change and Society consists of three
program leaders (a philosopher, atmospheric scientist, and a
policy scientist) and twelve students, the latter drawn from the
physical sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.
Students explore the nature of scientific knowledge--its
epistemological character, and its social and philosophic
implications--and the contribution that social scientific and
humanistic perspectives can make in public policy debates.

These themes are developed through an examination
of the issues surrounding global climate change.

Issues include:

How is climate modeled? What are the predictive
abilities of these models, and what are their assumptions,
boundary conditions, and initial conditions? Which limits of
global climate models are inherently fixable (with more data
and more efficient algorithms), and which are fundamentally
unaddressable by the scientific method?

What is the nature of scientific knowledge? Does
scientific knowledge offer a single, objective methodology
that provides an unequivocal knowledge base for the
fashioning of public policy? Or are we instead asking science
and technology to address questions or problems that are also
fundamentally political and/or philosophical in
nature? How certain must the science be before the scientist
comes before the public?

What contribution can the humanities make to our
public life? Is it possible that our environmental problems
require that we learn how to blend the insights of the
humanities with those of the social and physical sciences?

Qualified applicants will receive:

- Housing, $2000 stipend, and limited travel support

Prerequisites:

- One course each in the physical sciences and in
philosophy
Upcoming ENTS Events:

Speaker: Jeff Mow, ’81 Carleton alum and the National Park Service’s Bevinetto Congressional Fellow, will be on campus on February 6-8. He will meet with students about careers in the Park Service, ENTS faculty, and will give a public talk Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

- Thursday (2/7) at 7:00pm in Olin 141
  **Public Talk:** “Seal Oil, Snake Oil, and Crude Oil: Reflections on a Park Service Career in Alaska”

- Friday (2/8) at 1:30pm in Mudd 73
  **Career Seminar:** “Becoming a Park Ranger: Are You Ready for Adventure?”
  Question and Answer Session