Some Like it Hot…Lots More Don’t

DAVID W. ORR
PAUL SEARS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND POLITICS, OBERLIN COLLEGE
JAMES MARCH, PROFESSOR-AT-LARGE, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

David W. Orr holds a BA from Westminster College (1965), a MA from Michigan State University (1966), and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania (1973). He is the author of five books: Design on the Edge: The Making of a High Performance Building (MIT Press 2006); The Last Refuge: Patriotism, Politics, and the Environment (Island Press 2004); The Nature of Design (Oxford 2002); Earth in Mind (Island 1994/2004); Ecological Literacy (SUNY, 1992) and co-editor of The Global Predicament (North Carolina 1979) and The Campus and Environmental Responsibility (Jossey-Bass 1992); and the Sage Reader on Environment and Society (2007). He has published 170 articles in scientific journals, social-science publications, and popular magazines.

He is best known for his pioneering work on environmental literacy in higher education and his recent work on ecological design. He raised funds for and spearheaded the effort to design and build a $7.2 million Environmental Studies Center at Oberlin College, described by the New York Times as “the most remarkable” of a new generation of college buildings and by the US Department of Energy as one of 30 “milestone buildings” of the 20th century.

Orr is the recipient of a Pioneers Award, a National Conservation Achievement Award by the National Wildlife Federation, and a Lyndhurst Prize by the Lyndhurst Foundation. He was named “an Environmental Hero for 2004” by Interiors & Sources Magazine. He holds three honorary doctorates and has been a distinguished scholar in residence at the University of Washington, Ball State University, and Westminster College.

He is also the contributing editor of Conservation Biology and has served as a Trustee of the Educational Foundation of America, the Compton Foundation, and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. He serves on the Boards of the Rocky Mountain Institute, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Center for Ecoliteracy, and the Center for Respect of Life and Environment. He is also an advisor and consultant to the Trust for Public Land and the National Parks Advisory Committee. He has lectured at hundreds of colleges and universities in the US and elsewhere.

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