

WHIPPOORWILL
E-COMMENT

Number 16 May, 2004

FINAL RESTING PLACE

IN HUGH SINGLETON'S fine latest issue of *Twin Peaks*, his AAPA E-journal, he discusses a topic not usually spoken of in public – his instructions for disposal of his body after death. I applaud his choice – cremation and spreading of his ashes. I was a one-time biology professor who discussed the subject of Ecology with my students. Ecology is the study of organisms and their roles in the environment, and as part of life on earth we are bound by certain laws of nature – the laws of thermo-dynamics, and ecosystems and food webs and food chains. All food chains start with green plants and end with organisms of decay -- bacteria, and fungi. It is the rule of nature that we are recycled exactly the same as all organisms, eventually disintegrating and being recycled – assimilated by plants and becoming part of a new cycle of matter. Energy, of course, is not recycled. So why do we deny the inevitability of the decay process? Why do we insist on locking up the components of our disintegrated bodies in metal boxes and not allow them to be recycled immediately? The obvious way to be recycled is to be cremated and our ashes spread

to be available for assimilation into a new generation of plants. I have suggested to my students that there is an even faster way – to be cremated and my ashes spread on the nearest marijuana patch. I will have a better chance of being incorporated into the bodies of humans fairly directly then. And Kentucky is a good place do that. I read that the illegal hemp crop is larger than the crop that the state usually brags about – burley tobacco. And apparently there is much more money in hemp than in tobacco. As a printer, I always wanted to use hemp to make some paper on which to print small books. I wanted to put instructions in the introduction to the reader – “Read this book and then smoke it!”

ON the subject of paper – and the obvious immediacy of an e-journal, the paper I print other e-journals on with my own printer is considerably better than the 20 pound bond stocks that comprise the bundle. And the idea of an *E-Ink Cahoots* keeps rattling around in my head. We could print out and bind our own. I have no intention of trying to do away with or replace *Ink Cahoots*, which I consider the finest single publication we have ever done as a hobby printing group. It has a permanency that most bundle papers do not.

Whippoorwill E-Comment is the electronic journal of J. Hill Hamon of Frankfort, Kentucky. If I can create 16 e-journal issues since the first of the year, others ought to be able to also! Join the fun. Share your ideas and writings. ---