

EDITORIAL:

Resisting the Current

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Responses

Please consider writing a response to this paper in the WePaste forum for JASTE 1.1 (www.wepaste.org).

We have been heartwarmed by the wonderful responses to our requests for submissions to the first issue of JASTE. We started this journal (and online forum) as a vehicle for promoting solidarity among activists who want to address socioscientific issues in ways that might improve the wellbeing of individuals, societies and environments. Setting ambitious beginnings for this project were Derek Hodson, Wolff-Michael Roth, Michael Tan, Leo Elshof, Lyn Carter and Shiv Chopra. We are thoroughly grateful for their generous and expert support for this emerging space.

Due to a technical ‘glitch’ with the online software, nobody was able to engage in commentary surrounding these contributions through the WePaste forum on the site. That problem is now fixed and we invite you to look back at issue #1 for 2009 and engage in critical and enabling conversations about the first issue’s contents (in the JASTE 1.1 forum).

In this second issue for 2009, we feel, again, very thankful for the generous contributions of several prominent educators. They all have strong commitments to activism that might improve the wellbeing of individuals, societies and/or environments in ways that relate to science and technology education. As with issue #1, the contributions in this issue span a considerable breadth of topics. This reminds us of the diversity of challenges faced by science and technology education activists. But the depth and passion of their writing is inspiring; leaving us with a sense of hope for our world. Your positive and enlightening feedback on their contributions, posted to the JASTE 1.2 forum, will help in energizing this movement.

This project clearly needs as much support as it can get. Unregulated capitalism continues, despite exposure of its weaknesses (e.g., the recent financial crisis, largely brought on by de-regulation), to dominant the global zeitgeist. Sometimes it seems similar to the experience of the person in the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQMgfhE3Nzc>. We need to continually ‘stand up against the forces of unregulated capitalism’ (if not capitalism itself...).

The wellbeing of individuals, societies and environments appears to be threatened in ways that often relate to professional science and technology and to science education. Arguably our most pressing problems pertain to the many sources of Climate Change, including ‘greenhouse gas’ emissions from factories, modes of transportation and energy generation stations. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for example, Earth is on course for catastrophic loss of life, assuming the currently-predicted average global temperature increases by about 6°C within the next 100 years (Lynas, 2008). There are many other problems, however, including health and social justice issues relating to: fast foods and other processed foods (e.g., Schlosser, 2001; Weber, 2009), pharmaceuticals (e.g., Angell, 2004), various biotechnologies (e.g., Krimsky, 2003), toxic chemicals in everyday things (e.g., McDonald, 2007; Vasil, 2007) and agricultural research and practices (e.g., Kleinman, 2003).

For our third issue of JASTE (Spring, 2010), we hope to include several contributions from activists dealing with a particular theme. Among the many issues threatening the wellbeing of individuals, societies

and environments, few seem more fundamental — than, perhaps, climate change — than those pertaining to agriculture and food. A wonderful source of ideas about this issue is at: <http://beyondfactoryfarming.org/> We also happen to know several activists with concerns and expertise relating to this theme. At the same time, we are quite sure that there are many more such activists ‘out there.’ So, we invite you to consider a contribution to the next JASTE issue on agriculture and food concerns and activism. Some guidelines for these contributions are, as follows:

- Consider using non-traditional formats, such as ‘zine’ style, websites, YouTube™ videos, etc.
- Contributions should include about 6,000 words of text.
- Use whatever referencing style, such as APA, that suites you; but, use it consistently.
- Format your contribution, if possible, with these general parameters: Microsoft™ Word .doc files; 0.75 in margins on all sides; left & right justified for all text, except reference list; single line spacing, but with 6pt spacing after each line; Garamond font throughout; 16-pt title, 12-pt text; 0.25 indents; Brief title in Header, 10-pt font (We will reformat this); 0.25 indent for line 2+ of every reference; Figures and Tables inserted in their location, with text boxes below Figures and above Tables for titles.
- Contributions should be sent via email, by the end of February 2010, to: larry.bencze@utoronto.ca and SAlsop@edu.yorku.ca.

All the best,

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