I. Introduction to Environmental ethics

A. Point of Departure: Two assumptions

1. Assuming as a given that there is an environmental

crisis

A. Warnings

i. 1992 Union of Concerned Scientists, 1600

including most of living Nobel Laureates

ii. 1992 Rio Earth Summit: species diversity and Co2

iii. Worldwatch Institute "there is not one

life support system upon which the biosphere

depends for its existence that is not severely

threatened and getting worse 1993

iv. 1995 Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Control 2500 climatologists from

60 countries

"widespread economic, social, and environ

mental dislocation over next century"

iii. 1997 UN Report on global assault - same level of assault or worse

iv. 1998 US Geophysical Union 35,000 scientists human induced global warming

a serious threat

v. 1997 Kyoto Accords and the Hague all countries except US agree UCS "call to action"

vi. 1998 NASA record for temperature

vii. 1999 directors of US National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration and

British Meteorological Office "ignoring climate

change will surely be the most costly of

all possible choices, for us and our children"

vii. NAS global warming is undoubtedly real

and occurring at a rate 30% faster than

originally estimated By IPCC

vii. 2001 Un Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Control greater than predicted

2. World Watch Institute: Five global megaphenomena

a. rising CO2 and other human produced

greenhous gases causing climate change

i. discussed among scientists since 1957,

greenhouse effect

ii. 1988 public discussion Dr. James Hansen

NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

iii. causes auto exhausts, coal-burning power

plants, factory smokestacks six billion tons

of carbon dioxide into earth's atmosphere

each year

iv. more extreme weather, rising sea levels,

changing precipitation patterns, ecological and

agricultural dislocation, spread of human disease

b. massive species extinction

c. excessive consumption of resources

d. population explosion

e. massive chemical pollution

B. Second assumption this raises significant and novel questions about human beings and their relationship to the environment

1. Raises questions regarding values, questions of right

and wrong, good and bad, how we ought to live our

lives, how society should be organized and what policies to pursue

2. These are all traditionally philosophical questions, and

most are questions having to do with the branch of philosophy known as ethics

3. The origin of philosophy and philosophical ethics is

with Socrates

a. how ought I live my life

b. began by questioning the basic assumptions

of his society in regard to their beliefs, values,

customs

c. suggested the unexamined life is like living in

a cave "The Allegory of the Cave"

4. We will use Socrates as our model and question the

norms, values, ideals, practices of each of us and our

society in relation to the environment

C. Worldwatch Institute - "Why we are not astonished"

1. Americans believe in their god given right to consume

a. Americans specifically 5% of population, 70%

of hazardous waste, 25% of greenhouse gases

b. America through globalization is exporting

this ethos of consumption

c. advertising and marketing targeting children

i. create a consumer psyche that organizes life around hyperconsumption

ii. conceals environmental costs of consumption

2. spend most of our time in artificial environments

a. malls, stadiums, theme parks, gyms

b. alienated from environmemt and knowledge about it

3. Corporate news and corporate Pr

a. corporate owned and advertising sponsored

b. news is for profit

i. Kolata and NY Times

ii. Our Stolen Futures 4000 studies 400

scientists

c. PR

i. Toxic Sludge is Good for You

ii. Trust Us We're Experts

D. Pr and global warming

1. accepting the truth about globl warming is threat

to profits of oil, coal, auto, and manufacturing industry

2. spent millions of dollars on PR to debunk global warming

3. create confusion so that people believe that it is really

controversial

4. 1989 Global Climate Coalition created by Pr firm

Burston-Marsteller, chr by William O'Keefe of the

American Petroleum Institute

a. members Chevron, Exxon, Ford, Chrysler, GM,

Shell

b. since 1994 spent $63 million plus to combat

progress in dealing with climate change

c. this is in addition to lobbying and campaign

contributions by the same industries

i. in 1998 oil and gas $58 million lobbying

ii. environmental groups 4.7 million on all

issues

d. method

i. glossy handouts

ii. heavy lobbying at international conferences

5. ICE Information Council for the Environment

a. front group for coal, oil, and power plants

b. created Scientific Advisory Panel

c. Fred Singer, Patrick Michaels, Robert Balling,

Sherwood Iso

i. all have conflict of interest

ii. received from $150,000 to $300,000 from

industry

iii. Singer is now consultant for ARCO, Exxon

iv. they all write letters to the editor, do

interviews, and testify in Congress as if they

are independent

v. they have little standing as scientists, they

don't do research, and if they do, it is not

published in peer reviewed journals

6. other groups

a. Global Climate Information Project

i. Chemical Manufacturers Association

ii. 13 million on newspaper and tv ads

b. The Coalition for Vehicle Choice

i. pretends to be grass roots, but front group

for auto manufacturers

ii. budget in 1993 wast $2.2 million all from

big three auto makers

c. The National Center for Public Policy Research

i. industry funded think tank

ii. assistance to journalists seeking interviews

with experts

d. The Advancement of Sound Science Coalition

i. funded by chemical industry

7. The other side - four petitions

a. Heidelberg Appeal 1992 4000 scientists and

72 Nobel Prize winners

b. global warming is myth, pesticide poisoning is

a myth, anti-biotice resistant diseases is a myth

c. only problem is the text doesn't say any of this,

statement affirming science and reason

b. Leipzig Declaration signed by 110 people and

mentioned in most US newspapers as example of

other side

i. 25 signers were TV weathermen

ii. dentist, medical laboratory researchere,

civil engineer, and amateur meteorologist

iii. 33 Euro signers 4 not found, 12 denied signing, medical doctor, nuclear scientist,

expert on flying insects

iv. 20 had anything to do with climate change

and many of those had receive money from

Euro industries

C. Oregon Petitions

i. appeared to be reprint of article prepared

by, for NAS, with cover letter from 60s pres

ii. not a reprint of article, never published,

never peer reviewed, no standing, declared

ozone depletion a hoax

iii. NAS issued a denial and "greenhous

warming poses a potential threat sufficient

to merit prompt responses

iv. 16,000 signatures anyone can sign, Frank

Burns, BJ Honeycutt

v. most scientific signers were physicists not

geophysicists, climatologists, or

8. American Petroleum Institute reported in NY Times

a. $5 million to maximized the impact of scientific

views the same as ours

b. $600,000 to cultivate and train five respected

climate scientists "independent" for media outreach

4. Specialization of scientists

a. experts more and more specialized

b. more and more tied to large corporations that fund research and academic chairs