

Approaching promptness

This 2006 double issue finally reconciles our dates. From here on, POLITICS AND THE LIFE SCIENCES should appear almost normal. A little late, now and then, but not arriving unexpectedly as if just discovered in a truckload of misdirected mail. We are still likely to have the “e-pub” dates of some papers be more recent than the cover dates of the issues containing them — as will be the case in our first 2007 issue — but the temporal spread will be less jarring. The forbearance of our readership has been much appreciated during the long catch-up period now closing.

As noted previously in this column and worth noting again, PLS papers are becoming easier to find. We are once again up-to-date in MEDLINE and are available also in Academic Search Alumni Edition, Academic Search Premier, Academic Search Product Family, International Political Science Abstracts, Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection, and Social Sciences Abstracts — all aggregated for institutions by EBSCOhost,[®] a commercial service.

I am pleased to report now that PLS papers are also becoming easier to *buy*. On New Year's Day 2007, we joined BioOne,[™] a prominent not-for-profit journal aggregator, as an inaugural component of its new second collection, BioOne.2,[™] which is accessible online in subscribing libraries worldwide. Titles, abstracts, and full text are now sent directly from Allen Press, our printer, to BioOne.2[™] to be indexed for searching. All Internet users searching BioOne.2[™] can see all PLS titles and abstracts starting with VOL. 23, NO. 1. Anyone searching through subscribing libraries can, of course, download full-text PLS papers at no charge. Now, additionally, anyone searching BioOne.2[™] independently — from anywhere — can download these papers on a “pay-per-view” basis. We expect more good news along this line, as “print-on-demand” should soon make possible the purchase of neo-old-style author reprints, for those who miss the look and feel of the traditional item. Whole journals or, say, complete symposia from a particular issue should also be easy to order. (And, yes, the dot in BioOne.2 is pronounced “dot.”)

Now on to substance. This second of two double issues contains more pages, more variety, and fewer papers than usual.

David Prindle starts with a consideration of Stephen Jay Gould as a political theorist and as the source, or co-source, of ideas used by — but not always used as intended by — political scientists. He then “consider[s] the possibility that a comprehensive theory of life, a theory that must include political values, might approach traditional questions of political thought more satisfyingly than has conventional philosophy.”

Autumn Fiester follows with a rehabilitation of casuistry in the moral evaluation of animal biotechnology, whose ambitions and methods have disquieted commentators more often than may have been indicated.

In a *Field Notes* feature, Dustin Tingley discusses evolutionary theory and political theory as complements, not substitutes, finding particular promise in the work of scholars analyzing politics in evolutionarily sophisticated terms.

In a *View Point* feature, Julianne Lutz Newton, Eric T. Freyfogle, and William C. Sullivan discuss land's influence on democratic governance and whether applying five specific lessons of ecological research might make that influence more benign.

Susan Wright contributes a history — and a revision — of the assumption that terrorists are especially attracted to and may readily find or make and then master biological weapons. While it gained its widest currency after the “Amerithrax” attacks of 2001, this assumption dates from years prior, during the Clinton administration, when sensible biosecurity concern met political, professional, and economic opportunity.

Readers missing our regular book-review section, displaced this time by original contributions, will find it restored to its accustomed place in our next issue.

R. H. Sprinkle
Editor-in-chief