
isms that help their relatives, "because by doing so they increase their total genetic representation." Nepotism, it would seem, may be an almost universal fact of life.

Beyond Recycling

"Time to Dump Recycling?" by Chris Henrickson, Lester Lave, and Francis McMichael, in *Issues in Science and Technology* (Spring 1995), University of Texas at Dallas, P.O. Box 830688, Mail Station AD13, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688.

Recycling, that seemingly unimpeachable symbol of environmental virtue, has become standard practice in much of the nation. Unfortunately, contend professors Henrickson (civil engineering), Lave (economics), and McMichael (environmental engineering), all of Carnegie-Mellon University, recycling today is both extremely uneconomical and a detriment to the environment.

As an economic venture, recycling has several serious problems, the authors note. One is that the overall demand for recycled glass, plastic, metal, and newsprint fluctuates widely. According to a recent study, the price (in constant 1992 dollars) of a typical set of recyclable materials dropped from \$107 per ton in 1988 to \$44 per ton four years later. A bigger—and often overlooked—problem is the cost of collecting the recyclable materials.

In Pittsburgh, for example, it cost \$94 per ton in 1991 to collect regular garbage, but it cost \$470 per ton to collect recyclables. The recyclables, being less dense, take up more space in collection trucks, and the trucks also pick up much smaller amounts at each house. That translates into more truck travel to collect the same tonnage. In Pennsylvania and elsewhere, many urban officials have begun to realize that and to scale down their recycling programs.

Recycling is also environmentally costly. Every mile of truck travel in the pursuit of cast-off newspapers and aluminum cans adds carcinogenic diesel particles, carbon monoxide, organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, and rubber particles to the environment. The construction and upkeep of trucks and recycling facilities also use energy and other limited resources. Overall, the authors suspect, recycling consumes more resources than it saves.

The basic problem, the three analysts argue, is that Americans each generate 1,600 pounds of solid waste annually. They are consuming "too much of our natural resources" and degrading the environment. The key to solving that problem, the authors believe, is not mandated recycling but making prices for raw materials and products reflect "their full social cost, including resource depletion and environmental damage."

ARTS & LETTERS

Sexuality and The Sculptor

"Auguste Rodin" by Millicent Bell, in *Raritan* (Spring 1995), Rutgers Univ., 31 Mine St., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) was already in his forties when he began to taste success with masterpieces such as *The Thinker* (1880) and *The Kiss* (1886). Much of his subsequent work was given over to bold and searching depic-

tions of his female models. His contemporaries seldom failed to link this turn in his art to the sculptor's notorious womanizing. Bell, an emeritus professor of English at Boston University, sees more profound forces at work. Sexuality played a role in *all* of Rodin's work, early and late, she says, and it emerged as a theme "not only from his personal life but from his deep sense of a whole culture's becoming what we call *modern*."

When as a 20-year-old, Rodin failed to