

Letters to the Editor

1. From Ms. Nancy Pearlman
2. From Mr. Steven Wolfe

Space Potential for Earth's Environment

Dear Editor,

When growing up, I kept hearing how the oceans of the world were so vast and bountiful that they could sustain us forever. There was supposed to be enough food, minerals, and even potential habitat (if artificially made) for human settlement. However, since the 1970s' environmental movement, we have learned that the oceans are very threatened with pollution, noise, over-exploitation, and other human misuses and abuses.

People believed that fresh water would never be scarce because we could always turn to the ocean, which covers 71% of the Earth's surface and contains 91% of the planet's water. But later we realized that desalinization is neither cost-effective nor eco-friendly. Most fish are depleted due to overfishing. The "garbage patch" with plastics and other materials that do not biodegrade is covering a massive area in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. And the list goes on. Homo sapiens must be better stewards of the earth and treat space with equal respect.

On Earth there is not now enough food, water, and shelter for everyone. Forecasts are bleak. Energy is scarce and the cause of huge global problems. The carbon footprint of Americans and many others in the developed world is causing climate change. Climate change in turn has caused problems, with more severe cases predicted. Animals are starving to death because of inability to feed (such as the polar bears) and temperatures are rising, so that agriculture and polar ice are being affected.

I have devoted forty years to the study and communications of Earth's ecosystems decline. Becoming aware of the existence and potential of Space meeting the needs of Earth's people has been an exciting learning process for me after a long period of observing increasing shortages with increasing problems here on Earth. Dr. Bob Krone and I have been friends for five decades due to his parents and mine joining forces to found the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts in the San Jacinto Mountains East of Los Angeles and West of Palm Springs. Reading Bob's edited *Journal of Space Philosophy*, which he founded just last year, reminds me of the exhilarating times I experienced hiking the outdoors around the world. The history, science, technology, and philosophy contained in the first three issues of this Journal give me hope that there are solutions for the chronic problems on Earth – and that Space is the source of those solutions.

Readers will discover those solutions for themselves; but they all fall under *THE LAW OF SPACE ABUNDANCE* that the leadership of the Kepler Space Institute formulated in 2009. It states: “*Space offers abundant resources to meet human needs.*” Communications have been my profession, so I was aware of the tremendous advances Space systems have created for global communications. I was not aware that science and technology has actually produced demonstrations of space-based solar powered systems that will make the energy of the sun available everywhere on Earth. Solving Earth’s energy needs will also solve so many of Earth’s other ecosystems problems, which I have covered in my radio and television series. And I have learned that the transition from all-government Space sponsorship to private business over the past fifteen years means that the future of humans in Space has moved from fiction and theory to feasible science and technology programs, which have begun since the year 2000 and will blossom this decade over the next decade. Mining asteroids may be the first huge industry from Space. Space tourism has begun. The increasing amount of trash in Space now has companies ready to solve that problem. And human Space settlements are being designed by engineers and students in many nations. Even more exciting are the studies that describe the probability of international cooperation to achieve Space exploration, development, and settlements, leading to new government and decision-making models that will be able to transfer peaceful advances in Space to the resolution of conflicts and wars on Earth.

Over twenty years ago I had little concept of what Space resources could do to solve the World’s environmental crises. Now my pessimism has turned to optimism. I hope to publish in my 2025 *THE COMPENDIUM NEWSLETTER* issue “*How Space has Saved the Earth.*”

Copyright © 2013, Nancy Pearlman. All rights reserved.

About Nancy Pearlman. Ms. Pearlman is an award-winning broadcaster, environmentalist, college instructor, anthropologist, editor, producer, on-air personality, and outdoorswoman who has made safeguarding the Earth’s ecosystems both a vocation and an avocation. Nancy founded the Ecology Center of Southern California in 1972; Project Ecotourism in 1993; Humanity and the Planet in 2001; Earth Cultures in 2004; and Nancy Pearlman, Eco-Traveler in 2007. She has over 2,000 radio broadcasts of her Environmental Directions radio series. She is Executive Producer and host of the three-time EMMY-nominated environmental television series *ECONews* and has created over 600 video documentaries. Nancy Pearlman has been an elected member of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees since 2001. Her athletic achievements include completing the Western States 100-mile run, finishing the Ironman Triathlon, climbing more than 100 listed peaks in California, winning long-distance races such as the 1980 Regional Championship 50-mile race, and performing in equestrian events.



Editor's Postscript. It's a special pleasure for me to publish this letter from Nancy Pearlman. We have been personal and professional friends since the late 1950s due to the friendship of our parents since we were youths. Nancy is a dynamic and productive professional who will be a contributor to future issues of the *Journal of Space Philosophy*. *Bob Krone*.

STEVEN M. WOLFE

780 Riverside Drive #9A ♦ New York, NY 10032 ♦ 917-443-7240 ♦ wolfesm@aol.com

September 23, 2013

Dear Bob Krone:

Congratulations and thank you for creating the *Journal of Space Philosophy* (JSP). The articles I've read exhibit a deep contemplation on the essential imperative that human life expand beyond this planet. This dimension of the space experience is too often lost in programmatic and political discourse. You are providing a singularly refreshing place for readers looking for deeper meaning in space exploration.

As you know, I recently published a book, *The Obligation*, that I hope contributes to this vital dialogue about the space settlement imperative and your *Law of Space Abundance*. In my work, I theorize that humankind emerged from the animal kingdom, with all of his unique faculties, for the very explicit purpose of being the *agent* species to carry the seeds of life from this planet to other parts in the universe.

This can be a divisive claim, even among strong space advocates (as I have discovered from some of my readers). So, let me break it down a little. When someone says that space exploration is "in our DNA," in most cases they say so by default because there isn't any other clear cut way to explain the human drive to rocket to other worlds. We have an urge to explore the heavens, but we can't say exactly why that is. So, we revert to a somewhat simplistic explanation that such urges are *part of who we are*—that's all. Those of us who feel this same motivation nod in agreement. We need no other reason.

The Obligation is an attempt to say that in fact space exploration *is* in our DNA. And while we cannot point to the specific *space gene* just yet, we can, like Darwin, analyze

the patterns in the evolution of civilization for strong clues, if not proof, that such a space gene exists. *The Obligation* invites readers to examine the patterns of human behavior from the moment we left *the Garden* to our ascendance to total global dominance. If we look at the march of human history from the right perspective we see that our progression has always been leading us to one thing more than any other: the expansion of life from this world.

Without us, space travel is not possible. With us it is inevitable. We did not randomly evolve our way to the brink of multi-planetary existence. We have been unconsciously moving in the spacefaring direction since our earliest days, prompted by a process that we cannot yet fully understand.

Our long history of social and technological evolution, I argue, was a *developmental* process that allowed us to obtain the wherewithal to construct the ships, or seedpods, to send the seeds of life out into the cosmos. Whatever else we have achieved or may yet become in pursuit of our own actualization, the human family also serves in an essential role in a universal process much bigger than ourselves.

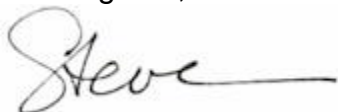
I believe that placing space exploration and settlement in such a broad context can help to ease our transition to a multi-planetary species. I think it is essential that we, as a global culture, reach a point in our collective understanding that human expansion into space is simply part of who we are as a species—not figuratively, but literally. Once this sense of an *Obligation* can be broadly accepted, the way forward will be much smoother for the engineers and designers, governments and entrepreneurs.

In the search for a meaningful *philosophy of space*, we are looking for a thesis that explains the “rightness” of human space endeavors beyond a shadow of a doubt. There are, I suspect, many ways of explaining that rightness. Again, I hope that my work constructively adds to that exploration.

In an upcoming issue of JSP, I will provide a detailed summary of the tenets contained in *The Obligation*. I wrote *The Obligation* as a work of fiction with the intention of making the philosophical content more accessible to a wide audience. In the non-fiction treatment, I look forward to adding a bit more scholarship meat to the theory.

Again, congratulations on the *Journal of Space Philosophy*. I also wish to thank you for inviting me to serve on the JSP Board of Editors. I look forward to participating.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve" with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven M .Wolfe

Copyright © 2013, Steven Wolfe. All rights reserved.

About the Author: Steven Wolfe has been a writer, speaker, and advocate for the advancement of the space settlement concepts and related ideas for more than 25 years. He was a legislative aide for the late Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., where he served as executive director of Congressional Space Caucus. He served on the board of directors of the National Space Society, president of the New York Space Frontier Society, and Advocate of the Space Frontier Foundation. Steve drafted the Space Settlement Act of 1988 for Cong. Brown. The bill was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan as part of the NASA Authorization bill. Steven is currently a consultant in the solar energy industry. His bio can be found at <http://theobligationbook.com/author.html>.



Editors' Postscript: Steven Wolfe is a welcome addition to our Board of Editors beginning with this Fall 2013 issue of *The Journal of Space Philosophy*. The conversion of fiction to reality is an increasing phenomenon in the Space Age. When the author has solid Space knowledge combined with long experience with government decision clusters, as Steve Wolfe does, the probabilities of his thinking becoming reality are good. His messages in *The Obligation* resonate with much of the philosophy and vision readers will find in our Journal related to Space exploration and human Space settlements. His fundamental theme that we on Earth have an obligation to explore and settle for the benefit, even survival, of humankind everywhere supports *The Law of Space Abundance* formulated by Kepler Space Institute leadership in 2009 which reads: "Space offers abundant resources for human needs." We believe his writings can change the thinking of Space pessimists and reinforce the thinking of those who have always believed that Space has solutions for many chronic problems on Earth. We look forward to his forthcoming article in the Spring 2014 issue of the JSP. *Bob Krone and Gordon Arthur*.