

# Controversial speaker to lecture on Old West

William Cronon, alternately attacked and applauded by scholars, will address landscape painting

By Kristy Hessman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The topics of history, geography and environmental studies will come together Thursday night in a free, slide-illustrated lecture given by University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor William Cronon.

In "Telling Tales on Canvas: Landscapes of Frontier Change," Cronon will investigate 19th century

American landscape painting and its relation to the human view of nature during that time. The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 177 of Lawrence Hall. "Cronon is one of the leaders, if not the leader, in the discipline of environmental studies," University landscape architecture professor Kenny Helphand said. "His books are provocative, important and beautifully expressed."

Cronon's lecture is part of the Oregon Humanities Center's 2000-2001 Robert D. Clark series, an endowed lecture program that seeks to promote public discussion on the

natural sciences, the history of Oregon and the interface between science and social and cultural affairs.

"Anybody interested in the American West from any point of view, whether literally or legally, would benefit from the lecture," Helphand said.

A professor of history, geography and environmental studies, Cronon is considered by many University professors to be one of the most influential thinkers in the field of environmental studies. His has written several books on the impact of human development on different landscapes, which have been criti-

cized by some environmentalists and scholars.

"I believe that the controversy has a lot to do with critics misunderstanding the way Cronon talks about wilderness," said Peter Walker, a University geography professor. According to Walker, critics focus parts of Cronon's essay "The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature" that they believe puts wilderness areas in a negative light.

In addition to the fields of environmental studies and geography, Cronon's work also applies to landscape architecture, art history and

American history.

The combination of disciplines that Cronon's work embodies is the main reason why Julia Heydon, associate director of Oregon Humanities, invited him to speak. "He is someone who bridges the gap between the humanities and the social sciences," Heydon said. "He is someone of interest for a number of people."

The humanistic perspective that Cronon takes in his research could also be useful to individuals in the areas of the physical sciences, such as biology and chemistry, Walker said.

# Bush, Gore disagree over facts, messages, details

By Ron Fournier  
The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Al Gore said Tuesday, "I'm opposed to big government" and promised he would never expand the federal bureaucracy as president. Rival George W. Bush said voters shouldn't believe it.

Gore said he had worked for eight years to reduce the bureaucracy — federal employment is down about one-sixth during the Clinton-Gore years — and he said he would try to shrink the government to the smallest share of the economy in a half-century.

Bush would have none of it. "He wants to increase the size and scope of the federal government," the Texas Republican said two weeks before Election Day, as both candidates cast wide nets in search of compelling homestretch issues.

Gore, the Democratic vice president, was campaigning in his home state and Bush was visiting once-friendly Florida — a sign that this closely fought race has pushed both candidates to the brink, even in their political backyards.

Revisiting an old issue,

Bush said President Clinton's impeachment is a chapter that Americans "would just rather forget," but he warned that Gore's boss could become an issue if he doesn't stop criticizing the GOP ticket.

"If he can't help himself and starts getting out there and campaigns against me, the shadow returns," Bush said playfully, fielding a question about impeachment from a suburban Chicago voter before flying here. "I may say something in defense of my record, but it's time to move on."

As if on cue, the government announced a record \$237 billion surplus for the fiscal year just ended and Clinton quickly hailed it in an appearance promoting Gore's run for the presidency.

Three of four tracking polls suggest the race for the White House has narrowed in recent days after Bush appeared to be opening a lead over the weekend. But polls suggest voters still have concerns about both candidates, especially Gore's personality and Bush's stances on several issues.

Anxious for any edge,

Gore's team also distributed copies of a new report that raises questions about Bush's education record in Texas. Researchers at Rand, a California-based think tank, suggested that rising state test scores in Texas may be misleading because the students didn't do as well on national tests.

Bush aides denounced the report with help from a Texas Democrat who is touring the nation on the governor's behalf. "It's utterly false," said Sandy Kress, an education advocate.

In the battle of TV ads, the Republican National Committee entered the fray over Social Security, defending Bush against Democratic commercials that say he cannot divert \$1 trillion to pay for personal savings accounts while still paying regular Social Security benefits.

"Why does Al Gore say one thing, when the truth is another?" an announcer asks in the GOP ad. A second commercial says Gore is exaggerating about Bush's Texas record, too.

The tax-and-spend debate is a recurring theme: Gore calls Bush's tax-cut plan risky and Bush calls Gore a big-government Democrat.

# Protested Eagle Creek timber sale under scientific review

By John Hughes  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Independent scientists will review an Oregon timber sale that has been the subject of protests for 18 months and determine whether the sale should go forward, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Tuesday.

If the scientists determine the 1,030-acre Eagle Creek timber sale in Mount Hood National Forest should be changed or canceled, "then appropriate action would be taken," Glickman said in a letter to Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Protesters have targeted the planned sale, saying it will harm wildlife, expose remaining trees to damaging winds and contaminate drinking water for about 185,000 Portland-area residents.

Several of the activists occupied the proposed sale site this summer, sometimes living in tarp-covered forts 150 feet high in the trees and in mesh "pods" suspended over gates. The Forest Service cleared out many of the activists in a pre-dawn raid on July 7.

"Several" protesters remained at the site Tuesday as part of their 24-hour-a-

day, 7-day-per-week vigil to prevent the sale, said Tre Arrow, a spokesman for the environmental group Cascadia Forest Alliance.

Forest Service regional officials in Portland have contended the sale will not harm the environment and that it is needed to fulfill the Northwest Forest Plan, a document directing use of Pacific Northwest forests in the wake of fights over the threatened northern spotted owl.

Wyden in July asked Glickman to suspend the Eagle Creek sale until the Forest Service officials could determine whether they anticipated blowdown as a consequence of the sale and — if so — to document their anticipation.

A blowdown is how foresters and conservationists refer to swaths of downed timber sometimes caused when logging opens the forest to winds.

Wyden said Tuesday he still believes the sale is flawed.

"I am very hopeful that the next administration will clean up this mess and restore public confidence in the management of our public lands through an open, scientifically based public

process," he said in a statement.

Glickman wants Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck to set up the independent review team, including scientists from inside and outside the agency, and said the panel should complete its work by April 15. Plans to log the site are on hold from Nov. 1 through May 31.

Patty Burel, a spokeswoman for the Forest Service's regional office, said regional Forest Service officials "welcome this opportunity for an independent review."

Arrow said he would have preferred that Glickman cancel the sale and that he hopes the panel will take such a step. "I am very excited Dan Glickman has issued this letter," he said.

In 1996, Vanport Manufacturing of Boring bid \$10.4 million to log 1,030 acres in the Eagle Creek area. Since then, Vanport President Adolf Hertrich has expressed concerns to the Forest Service about the amount of blowdown that occurred in an area logged in 1997.

Vanport has logged about 40 percent of the areas under contract. The remaining logging has been thwarted by protesters.

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