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# Editor's Introduction

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As the masthead for this issue makes clear, there has been a change in the editorship of *Landscape Journal*. In 1995 Robert Melnick and I became editors of the journal. Later that year Robert was appointed Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, one of a handful of landscape architects nationally to be in such a position. While he has strived to be a full participant in the life and work of the journal, the demands of the deanship finally led to his reluctant decision to step down from any editorial responsibilities. Fortunately, he will retain his relationship with the journal as a member of the editorial board, where I and future editors, can take advantage of his wise counsel. I thank him for all his efforts with the journal these past years.

A perusal of this and recent issues highlights the maturation of scholarship within the discipline of landscape architecture and the role of *Landscape Journal* in that process. There is much excitement in the contemporary landscape architecture scene. This includes built work coupled with signs of vibrant intellectual debate over significant issues. In this issue, the article by Dave Egan and William Tischler on "Jens Jensen, Native Plants, and the Concept of Nordic Superiority" is a response to a fundamental debate and discussion about the role of landscape ideology and the understanding and uses of history. This discussion was initiated by a groundbreaking series of *Landscape Journal* articles by Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn and Gert Gröning (*LJ* 11:2 and 13:2). That debate



Eugene, Oregon. Annual Eugene Celebration Parade, Slug float complete with slime. Photo by Kenneth I. Helphand.

has subsequently spilled over these pages into other journals and forums. Jeanine Centouri's article "The Residual Landscape of Kent State, May 4th, 1970" deals with a contested landscape whose shifting meaning touches on some of the most disturbing events of recent American history. The questions of how and where to commemorate the events at Kent State shed light on how history is commemorated in all landscapes. Her article intersects with the theoretical questions addressed by Judith Wasserman in "To Trace the Shifting Sands: Community, Ritual, and the Memorial Landscape" (*LJ* 17:1) and with questions concerning cultural meaning posed by K. Ian Grandison in this issue. Paul Gobster's article addresses the matter of an "ecological aesthetic" a topic of frequent con-

cern in these pages. The interests of landscape architects are profound but our work also addresses the commonplace. Anita Van Asperdt's article concerns itself with a ubiquitous yet neglected landscape, the interface of neighborhoods and commercial strip environments. Stan Jones discusses basic questions of citizen participation. All of this scholarship builds upon previous research and contributes to an intellectual and professional debate, which is becoming increasingly both more lively and informed. It is apparent in *Landscape Journal*, other books and publications, conferences and over the Web. It is most welcome.

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