

Booknotes

Cathy Mathias

"Humanity's Environmental Future: Making Sense in a Troubled World"

by William Ross McCluney,
(SunPine Press, paperback,
420 pages, \$44.95)

McCluney sets sights on helping environment

"Without a major change in direction, we may be the first species to extinguish itself," warns local resident, Ross McCluney, in his latest book. As principal research scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center located in Cocoa, McCluney is sounding the alarm about the continuing destruction of our planet.

Like a voice crying in the desert, which was once a lush green meadow before the polluting industries moved in, McCluney warns unless we take some drastic steps, the human race is on a fast track to self-obliteration.

McCluney is no fool; he realizes all the goodwill speeches, marches and posters will do little toward an overhaul of our environmental policy because the real cattle-prod is money. Industry will not willingly adjust itself until it is demanded by the marketplace.

Therefore this author suggests a steady but gradual increase in the price of fossil fuel energy sources to give the economy time to adjust and provide a wake-up

call to manufacturers. This would encourage greater fuel efficiency and more reliance on renewable energies. It also might discourage the American love affair with gas-hogging SUVs and our need to send soldiers to protect our fat share of oil in the Middle East.

Part I is a study of our present situation, Part II explains how we got ourselves in this mess, and Part III offers specific reform proposals.

"How did humanity arrive at the point of becoming a species that systematically takes apart its own life-support system?"

McCluney has been captivated by a fervor to educate the public about environmental issues ever since he was a student leader in the University of Miami's first-ever Earth Day observance in 1970. As a graduate student at UM's Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, he edited a collection of essays on the woes of our state which was published in 1971 by The University of Miami Press entitled "The Environmental Destruction of South Florida."

McCluney has also published a companion piece — a collection of essays by prominent environmental writers like Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold and David Price —entitled "Getting To The Source" and is available from SunPine Press for \$39.95.

In 2003, the author established his own company, SunPine Press, in Cape Canaveral in order to publish these two most recent books. At McCluney's Web site, www.sunpinepress.com, he encourages environmentally-concerned writers to contact him about future books for children. He is also interested in publishing "how-to books" on the practical aspects of restructuring society.

A lofty goal indeed. ■

E-mail Cathy Mathias at
cat1357@cfl.rr.com



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