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Dr. Philip Cafaro
Book Review Editor, Biological Conservation
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO USA

Dear Dr. Cafaro,

In 1974, when I was an undergraduate student, the faculty in the department of my major invited a seminar speaker who was known in part for including in his talk numerous images of his scantily clad female graduate students in the field. Strangely, the faculty in my department made an effort to insure that I would attend the seminar, which I had intended to do, as it was on a topic in which I was interested. As it turned out, they wanted to see how I, known as an outspoken and articulate young feminist, would respond to this seminar with these images. I am proud to say that I vocally informed the speaker that the images detracted from appreciation of his research results, which would have been adequately interesting without them. The next day, I had a long talk with my undergraduate mentor, trying to educate him about why objectifying women graduate students in this way was demeaning and dissuaded us from entering and remaining in the field of plant ecology.

I guess I'd hoped that, 40 years later, women scientists would no longer be called upon to deliver these kinds of educational lectures to their mentors and colleagues. Yet, the review by Stuart Pimm of the book *Keeping the Wild: Against the Domestication of Earth*, published in *Biological Conservation* 180(2014) 151 – 152 suggests otherwise. The “metaphore for academic discourse” that he used to open and close the review is utterly demeaning of women. I can't imagine this journal allowing an author to use the “n-word” in an anecdote, yet there in print are similarly objectionable and degrading terms used to objectify and sexualize women, providing yet another example of why women still feel unwelcome in academia. Such misogyny is inappropriate in a respected scientific journal; all of your readers deserve an apology for this lapse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen L. Simms".

Ellen L. Simms
Professor