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University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Environmental Studies



and  
Department of Earth & Environmental Science  
present

## Charles A.S. Hall

State University of New York College of Environmental Forestry

### The Great Scientific cover-up of the most important issue facing Western Society

Our nation and the world face today enormous problems related to resources and population. Despite the beliefs and efforts of those who do not believe that nature presents any constraints, it is mostly cheap oil that has kept many of these issues at bay -- and oil is unlikely to continue to be cheap. Climate change is the issue that is most publicly acknowledged, but issues related to peak oil will be more immediate and are already impacting our nation and its economy considerably. Resource and human population issues were widely understood and discussed in academic circles three decades ago but have largely disappeared as a central issue in education. For example, most Environmental Science textbooks focus far more on the adverse impacts of fossil fuels than on the implications of our overwhelming economic and even nutritional dependence upon them or the implications of their depletion. Most critically the human "population bomb" has been disenfranchised from our national and even international discussions in both education and especially political discourse. These issues were thoroughly and for the most part accurately understood and written about in widely available scientific publications in the 1960s and 1970s, and were very much a part of our graduate education at that time. If we are to resolve these issues in any meaningful way we need to make them again central to our education at all levels and debate and stand up to those who negate their importance. It is only then do we have any chance of resolving these issues.

**Date: February 29, 2008 (FRIDAY)**

**Time: 4:00 pm**

**Place: Hayden Hall, Room 358**

On the Penn campus: Smith Walk, 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, between Walnut and Spruce Sts.

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

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