Aldo Leopold said we should learn to "think like a mountain," recognizing a complexity and independence in natural entities that ground an obligation to respect and protect them from destruction by humans. I trace the history of a shopping mall that was built in Columbus, Ohio in the 1980s and flourished for some years before declining into bankruptcy and eventually being demolished. Malls too, I argue, possess complexity and independence, and yet unlike mountains they seem (like Rodney Dangerfield) to get no respect: nobody seems to find their destruction morally objectionable. I ask why, and propose that actually mountains and malls have more in common than one might imagine -- a conclusion with important implications, I argue, for environmental thinking.

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Time: 4:00pm
Place: CBS 114 (College Building South)