

What On Earth?

April, 1994

HELPING TO SAVE OUR WATER

by Luisa Jorge '95

For centuries people have taken the environment for granted. Even today we are slowly ruining the Earth for ourselves and for future generations.

Water, the one substance that no human being can live without, has been one of the most abused environmental resources in the world. People do not realize, or they simply do not care, that not only is water contaminated when something is dropped or poured into it directly, but whenever we spill something on the ground it finds itself back to water. Since water is continually flowing and moving, it comes in contact with other water and so the pollution spreads.

It is vital that all of us take steps to save our water. We must be intolerant to people, companies and governments that would allow the destruction of our water or that continue to participate in its destruction. Each of us must do our part to stop this "vandalism" of the most valuable resource known to man.

Helping to preserve and conserve our water is not necessarily a difficult task. Simple things such as not running the water when you brush your teeth and not allowing oil from your car to be soaked into the ground can help to conserve and preserve the water that is so valuable to our survival.

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Earth Day

Earth Day was begun by college students twenty years or so ago. It was done to promote environmental awareness. Today Earth Day is a widely recognized celebration of environmental awareness. It occurs every year on April 22nd.

Join us for Earth Week to help preserve our Earth by learning more about environmental issues that concern us all.

Monday, April 18	Recycling Information
Tuesday, April 19	Rainforest Preservation
Wednesday, April 20	Water Pollution
Thursday, April 21	Careers in the Environment
Friday, April 22	Local Environmental Organizations
Sunday, April 24	Earth Day Concert

"The Environmental Ministry"

by Peter Redington '97

Environmentalism has become more and more popular in recent years, and continues to grow. The latest to join the struggle to save our dying planet is environmental ministries. All over the country, churches and church-related groups are beginning to form and take action. There is the Joint Appeal by Religion and Science for the Environment, who recently have published A Directory of Environmental Activities and Resources in the North American Religious Community, listing the congregations involved. Another organization, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, includes the U.S. Catholic Conference, National Council of Churches in Christ, Consultation on the Environment in Jewish Life, and the Evangelical Environmental Network.

A pioneer in the field of environmental ministries is Jefferey M. Gollhofer, Episcopalian priest, anthropologist, and the author of Making Connections: Steps to a Sustainable Earth Ministry.

Gollhofer grew up in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina and now is based in New York's St. John the Divine. He often preaches on the road (New England mostly), and has connections with the Episcopal Preparatory School in Littleton, MA, the White Mountain School. He also works with Wise Use, a company that works with waste management plants and recycling centers.

Gollhofer concentrates on the relationship between humans and nature. "Part of the reason for the mess we have gotten into as a planet today is that we have fostered ways of thinking that have encouraged people to exploit each other. That is sin, that is domination, that is taking the power of pride and self-centeredness and claiming that we are sovereign rather than God. One of the most important things that the church can do is preach the gospel about the misuse of power." He does not wish to scold people, but rather to show them their role in God's creation. The purpose of this environmental ministry is to make people realize they can live in a more substantial way by examining a connection between the environment and their religion.

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"MIND THE GAP"

There is a gap between us and our world,
 In winter we have fallen from our trees,
 After the nuclear missile was hurled,
 We were transplanted to lifeless cities;
 Yet spring has come to bring us once again
 To the lifegiving limbs of our mother,
 There we will find, develop and regain
 Unity with nature and each other.
 Let us share the earth with all things that live,
 All things come from and return to her soil;
 Let us give thanks for all that she will give
 And not create anything that will spoil
 Our home, in which we will live hand in hand
 Loving, sharing and caring for the land.

Sonnet by Joel Pace '94

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"The Environmental Ministry" continued from Page One:

Genesis 1: 26-27 reads:

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." For God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

This is the passage that people have used over the years to claim the right to use the environment as they please. Golliber interprets it differently. "Our place in creation is defined much more by our responsibility to care for it and for each other than it is by how Creation might be useful to us."

He cites Jesus' command "love thy neighbor" as another biblical passage with environmental connotations. He asks what it means in relation to the United States exporting hazardous wastes to Africa. He argues that all people are your neighbors, whether you know them or not. "If I dump my waste so it goes downstream and pollutes your well, that is a sinful violation of the second great commandment."

The environmental ministry, despite its success, has met with its share of opposition. There are those who think it is promoting paganism and the worship of nature. Golliber denies this accusation. "You can't love and destroy creation. The times demand that we speak clearly about this: it is a sin to destroy God's creation."

Based on Steve Lerner's article "Preaching the Gospel of Green," *Audobon* Jan-Feb 1993.

Problems With Recycling At PC

"At Providence College, a mediocre effort is made to ensure that certain materials get recycled. Certain places, like Raymond and Alumni Cafeterias, do an excellent job of recycling. Others, like the residence halls and the businesses in the Mini Mall, pay less attention. The literature PC provides to its perspective students states that we are an environmentally aware campus. Maybe we are, but we are not doing much about it.

In Raymond, an employee works twenty hours a week just separating trash. Along the wall in the basement, barrels are labeled for cardboard, glass, metal cans, and plastic jars. In Alumni Cafeteria (Mondo), there are several blue containers marked cans and glass.

Through the rest of campus, the recycling being done is unsatisfactory. For materials to be properly recycled, they must be separated. The responsibility to separate does not belong to the cleaning service workers or the physical plant. 'Recycling starts with the user, the student,' says Gale Gennaro, Environmental and Health Safety Coordinator.

Why then do most people and students chose to forgo effective recycling? 'For most students,' commented a member of the Environmental and Wildlife Club, 'recycling seems futile and not worth doing.' Therefore, since students do not directly feel the adverse effects of not recycling, then for the most part it is simply, 'out of sight, out of mind.'

As another student commented, 'I don't feel any of the consequences of choosing to recycle or choosing not to.' Following this line of reasoning, it appears that most people will not consciously recycle unless something devastating occurs that is directly felt.

PC requires that we use clear trash bags in the residence halls. The clear bags allow the physical plant workers to see into the trash and determine if the bag is recyclable or not. If the bag contains mostly aluminum cans, but has 10% trash inside, it is not recycled. Absolute separation is imperative. Separate your trash and save the Earth. It takes two extra seconds."

Excerpts from *The Owl* 11/2/93 and 12/2/93

T-Shirt Sale and Raffle



The Environmental and Wildlife Club will be holding a T-Shirt Sale throughout Earth Week, April 18 through April 24, in lower Slavin. The shirts are made from 100% unbleached cotton and printed with environmentally safe dye. They will be sold for \$10.00 a

piece. A raffle ticket will be distributed with each purchase of a shirt. At the Earth Day concert on Sunday, April 24th one winner will be drawn. The prize will be a \$40 gift certificate to the restaurant Extra Sensory.

FREE EARTH DAY CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH
1 TO 5 PM
SLAVIN LAWN
(Rain Location 64 Hall)
FREE FOOD!!!

Bands:
BLAIR'S CARRIAGE
GRAND CHAMPIONS
LUNG MUSTARD
RHINO

"THE GREEN CONSUMER"
by Luisa Jorge '95

Many of the students at Providence College like to shop and often they are concerned about finding what they want at a reasonable price, which is understandable. However, PC students, and shoppers in general, should be concerned about something else as well. They should be concerned about being a "green consumer." A green consumer is a person who is informed about the products that he or she purchases and who chooses to purchase products that are environmentally safe.

It is important for each consumer to be aware of what they purchase. Each of us as consumers should ask ourselves questions like: Is this product tested on animals or is it "cruelty-free?" Can what you are purchasing be recycled? Is it made out of recycled materials? These, among others, are important questions that shoppers should have in mind when they are choosing their purchases.

Below is a guideline to help students to be more environmentally conscious when they shop. Please read it and remember it next time you go shopping.

How To Become A Green Consumer

PRODUCT	QUESTION
Canned tuna	Make sure it is "dolphin safe."
Fruits and vegetables	Buy organic and reduce pesticide intake.
Soda	Remember to recycle the container.
Deodorant/Hair spray	Do not use a spray, it harms the atmosphere.
Plastic bags	Buy degradable bags or use paper bags instead.
Light bulbs	Use low watt or fluorescent bulbs.
Razors	Do not use disposable razors.
Detergent and Soap	Use phosphate free/biodegradable detergents and soaps.

(Information taken from What Can I Do to Make a Difference by Richard Zimmerman, Page 43)

What You Can Do To Save The Earth

- * Share magazines and newspapers
- * Save and reuse containers, boxes, envelopes and packing materials
- * Give clothing, shoes, furniture and toys to charity
- * Use reusable tote bags or bring grocery and produce bags back when you shop (many grocery stores give money back if you do)
- * Do not buy food in single serving, disposable containers
- * Avoid disposable items such as razors, lighters and dinnerware
- * Look for items that are unpackaged or minimally packaged
- * Service your car at stations that recycle used motor oil
- * Have your name removed from mailing lists. Write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017
- * Recycle everything that is recyclable in Rhode Island

What to Recycle At PC

Glass Containers - You can recycle green, brown and clear glass. Please remove metal caps and rinse.

Aluminium Cans - Just empty and rinse.

Tin Cans - Just rinse.

Plastic Milk Jugs and Soda Bottles - Remove caps and rinse. No other types of plastic containers are recyclable.

Newspapers - Place them in buckets, not in plastic bags. You can include colored newspaper and color inserts, but not magazines.

THE COOKIE CONNECTION

IF YOU BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUG,
THEY WILL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT.

Flavored coffee normally \$1.00
With your own mug only \$.65

Helping to Save Our Water continued from Page One:

We all need to be conscious of how our behavior affects our environment in general and how it affects our water in particular. Below are listed a few ways in which you, as an individual, can help to conserve and preserve our water. Only through a combined effort can we help to save our environment from ourselves. We must work together to save our water and in doing so we will help ensure that we will have water for future use.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CONSERVE OUR WATER:

1. Take a shower rather than a bath. It conserves water.
2. Do not run the faucet when you brush your teeth. Use a cup or a glass. All the unused water that is going down your drain could be conserved and used for something else.
3. Do not leave empty containers, especially those that contained gasoline, oil, etc., on the ground. Dispose of them safely.
4. Take your old automobile oil to an Auto Service Center that will recycle it. Do not allow it to soak into the ground.
5. Scrape your dishes before you rinse them. In this way less water is used.
6. Collect as much laundry as possible rather than doing small loads. If you have only a small load and need your clothes washed, try doing laundry with a friend.
7. Look for the recycle symbol when shopping for items that can be made from recycled material.
8. Buy products that have a minimal amount of packing.
9. Bring your own shopping bags when you go shopping.

The Environmental and Wildlife Club

President:
Patti Coogan

Treasurer:
Chuck Turco

What On Earth?:
Luisa Jorge

Information About Environmental Organizations

If you are interested in obtaining information about the environment, please feel free to contact any of the following organizations.

Local Organizations:

Clean Water Action
2 Charles Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
(401) 331- 6972

Save The Bay
434 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
(401) 272 - 3540

Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corporation
260 West Exchange Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
(401) 831 - 4440

OSCAR--Ocean State Cleanup and Recycle Department of Environmental Management
83 Park Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1037

National Organizations:

People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals
P.O. Box 42516
Washington D.C., 20015-0516
(301) 770 - 7444

Greenpeace
1436 U Street
N.W., Washington D.C., 20009

Student Environmental Action Coalition
P.O. Box 1168
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-1168
(919) 967 - 4600

Environmental Defense Fund
257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010