

# What On Earth?

May, 1995

Environmental and Wildlife Club

Providence College

## A New Look At Recycling At A Major International Company

by Luisa Jorge

Throughout the country and throughout the world people, groups and companies discuss issues relating to the environment. Whether the discussion involves environmental awareness, environmental safety, reduction and disposal of hazardous waste, recycling, or water preservation, it is good that at least people are acknowledging that there is an issue to discuss. However, more often than not, when you turn on the television or pick up a newspaper there is a story about how a company is causing some kind of environmental destruction. Rarely do you hear a story of a company that is actually trying to achieve a balance between the environment and business. More often than not the news is negative in terms of the appalling environmental damages being caused.

Well, it is time for positive news regarding a major company's interaction and involvement with the environment. The company's name is Smith and Wesson located in Springfield, Massachusetts. Many know Smith and Wesson as a major international company in the production of firearms. However, no matter whether or not you agree with what Smith and Wesson produces, in the past few years the company has taken several major steps in making itself environmentally friendly.

Smith and Wesson uses water as a coolant in a heat treatment system that cools down metal parts. In the past the company has used over 145 million gallons of water annually. With a cost of over \$65,000 a year for water alone, Smith and Wesson decided that it was time to change the way the Heat Treat Department used water. In March of 1994 Smith and Wesson implemented a new project in which a closed loop cooling system replaced the existing open loop cooling system. This new cooling system involves the continuous use of the same water which passes through a heat exchanger and a cooling tower. In this way the water is not disposed of, but is recycled over and over

again with only a little loss of water due to evaporation. The company now saves over \$50,000 in water costs each year. This translates into 138.3 million gallons of water annually. As Senior Plant Engineer, Mauro De Maio stated, "It's a half million gallons of water a day that doesn't have to be taken out of nature and treated with chemicals."

In addition to saving water, Smith and Wesson is also currently implementing a widespread recycling program that involves recycling white paper, junk mail, once fired brass and scrap metal. Also, the company reshapes cutters instead of buying new ones, recycles their petroleum based coolant and metal chips which are a byproduct of production.

Smith and Wesson has shown that recycling and preservation can indeed work hand in hand with business rather than act as a barrier. It is the duty of each company, each group and each person to help preserve our natural resources (Continued on page four.)

### *Are You A Green Consumer?*

Do you...

- ... buy "dolphin safe" tuna?
- ... recycle soda and food containers?
- ... use biodegradable bags?
- ... use low watt or fluorescent light bulbs?
- ... use phosphate free and biodegradable detergents and soaps?
- ... you buy organically grown fruits and vegetables.

If the answers to these questions are no then perhaps it is time to rethink the way you shop. A "green consumer" recognizes the importance of always considering the environment in his/her shopping.



## The Environmental And Wildlife Club At Providence College

by Luisa Jorge

The Environmental and Wildlife Club at Providence College has been very active this year and it is appropriate to recap the events of the year.

Throughout the year the Club has been involved with the local animal shelter in Providence where Providence College student volunteers walked the dogs every Saturday.

First semester the Club was involved in planting trees in cooperation with the Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endorsement. Two days were spent planting trees by Veazie street.

Local clean-ups have also been an essential task for the Environmental and Wildlife Club. The major clean-up of the year was done at Steer Mill, one of the local historic old mills in Rhode Island. The neighborhood wanted to make the area into a park and community center, however, it may be sold for development instead.

There was a trip to New Hampshire in which students had an opportunity to connect with nature. The students hiked up Carters Notch and had a great time.

In addition, the Club sold recyclable mugs this year for \$1.50 each. The proceeds of these mugs were used to pay for the expenses of the Steer Mill cleanup and to help save the rain forests. Local restaurants and businesses both on campus and off campus helped support the sale of these cups by offering discounts to patrons who used their cups to purchase beverages. The Environmental and Wildlife Club would like to express their sincere appreciation to The Ice Cream Coffee House, Argos, Slick Willies, Cookie Connection, Mondo, The North Cafe, Au Bon Pain, Coffee Exchange and Meeting Street for their support.

The Mondo Monster, another Club project, was an attempt to raise awareness about the production of waste, the need to recycle and reuse, the amount of trash created by each person and the complexity of its disposal. Students collected trash in Mondo and piled it up so as to show the amount of waste that the people that eat in

Mondo produce.

Finally, the Club ended the year's activities with a celebration of Earth Week. Sunday there was a Earth Day Concert on Slavin Lawn. Profits from the concert were used to adopt a couple of acres of rain forest in Costa Rica, a program run by the Nature Conservatory. Also that week there was a Sunrise Hike with Dr. Schulty and the biology department. There was a "Greenpeace" day with a representative of Greenpeace available to answer questions and dispense information about the environment. Also held that week was the First Campus Earth Summit.

Overall, Earth Week was a great success and this year has been a very productive one. The important thing is that students became aware of some of the problems involving our environment. Awareness is the first step to change and change is what is needed to maintain our natural resources and to help every aspect of our environment.

### *Save The Bay: What You Can Do To Help*

by Holly Oberg

You have probably heard of Save The Bay but you may ask yourself "what is it?"

Save the Bay is a private non-profit organization started in 1970 and is a member of the Environmental Federation of New England and the National Alliance of River, Sound and Bay Keepers. Their main goal is to preserve and improve local water bodies.

Here in Rhode Island, the Narragansett Save The Bay mission is to ensure that the environmental quality of Narragansett Bay and its watershed is restored and protected from the effects of harmful human activity.

There are many ways in which you can become involved with Save The Bay. By becoming a volunteer or "Baywatcher," you can take an active role in assisting cleanups, partaking in sur-

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## The East Side Bicycle Path: A Place For The Biking Enthusiast

by Holly Oberg

If you have a bicycle or access to one and are tired of the same old route then maybe you are ready for the 14.5 mile East Bay Bicycle Path. The path begins in Providence and ends at the ocean. This paved trail which is designed specifically for recreational purposes is a great way to see Rhode Island and avoid the lines for the stationary bikes in Peterson.

The trail begins in Providence around the George Washington Bridge and goes to 195 to the Taunton Avenue Exit. It then bears right at the split. There are several parking lots along the Veterans Memorial Parkway which runs parallel to the trail. The trail leads you through beautiful terrain, passing the quintessential New England village of Barrington and finally ending in Bristol. Go early in the morning and stop at one of a number of different water ways along the trail. Either way, it is definitely a well deserved trip.

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veys or monthly water quality monitoring. You decide on the amount of participation you would like to have depending on your time and interests.

Too busy? There is always the traditional method of assistance through monetary donations. In this way you can become a member and help enable others, through your donation, to do the legwork needed to help save our water.

Everyone enjoys the water so "make the plunge" and get involved. For more information please call Save The Bay at (401) 272-3540 or contact the local chapter of Save The Bay in your home state.

### Information About Environmental Organizations

If you are interested in obtaining information on 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



## Some Tips to Help You Recycle

- \*Share magazines and newspapers
- \*Save and reuse containers, boxes, envelopes and packaging materials
- \*Do not buy food in single servings or in disposable containers
- \*Look for minimal packing for items that you buy
- \*Have your name removed from mailing lists.  
Write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017
- \*By items that are packaged in recycled containers
- \* Recycle paper products that can be recycled
- \* Sell unwanted books back to used bookstores or give them away to charity
- \* Give old clothes to charity rather than throwing them away
- \*Recycle everything that is recyclable in Rhode Island

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and the planet. It is wonderful to see that some companies are taking this task seriously. Perhaps Smith and Wesson can serve as an example to other companies that have yet been converted to the idea that they too are responsible to help maintain our environment.

## The Environmental and Wildlife Club

President:  
Elizabeth Beak

Vice President:  
Luisa Jorge

Treasurer:  
Greg Sayegh

Secretary:  
Sue Gayton

What On Earth?  
Luisa Jorge

### *A Few Interesting Environmental Facts To Ponder*

Did you know that....

Each person in the United States uses the energy equivalence of eighty pounds of coal each day.

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Recycling a ton of paper saves thirteen trees, prevents three cubic yards of waste paper from going into a land fill and uses 64% less energy than paper produced from new trees.

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Only three percent of the world's water is fresh water and 75% of that is frozen in the North and South Poles.

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There are over 9,000 endangered species in the United States alone.