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Monthly Planet

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ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



November 1982

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The Bottle Bill Returns

by Guy Roberts

On November 2, Washington voters may choose to put a five cent deposit on beverage containers sold in this state. The sponsor of Initiative 414 is an alliance called Citizens for a Cleaner Washington (CCW). The groups director, Bob Swanson, is convinced the bill will reduce litter in recreation areas and along roadsides, increase recycling, reduce solid waste, and strengthen Washington's economy by creating jobs while conserving energy and resources. In addition, Swanson and the CCW reason that the public's overall interest in recycling will increase once they begin returning containers for their deposit.

Initiative 414's nickname, the "Bottle Bill," is somewhat misleading. In addition to glass bottles, aluminum cans and even plastic containers will have a five cent deposit.

This is the third time a deposit initiative has been put before the voters in Washington. Despite widespread public approval of similar initiatives in the past, there has always been a powerful and highly visible opposition, backed by many whose businesses would be effected by the new law.

Out of ten attempts to pass deposit initiatives in other states all but two have failed, with the industry outspending recycling advocates by ratios as large as 67 to 1 in Washington in 1970, and 45 to 1 in Montana in 1980.

In addition to the usual media blitz aimed at confusing the voter about the bottle bill, opponents are trying to turn grocery store shoppers into walking billboards by using sacks printed with "No on 414" messages.

Please Recycle

This opposition to I-414 has been organized and funded by a group called the Committee for Litter Control and Recycling (CLCR). Members of the committee include local and national bottlers and distributors, grocers, some labor unions, and independent recyclers. In a recent letter in the Bellingham Herald, Gene Turra, President of the Washington State Recycling Association and co-chairman of CLCR stated that passage of I-414 would cause unemployment, waste energy and resources, increase the cost of beverages to the consumer, generate unsanitary conditions in grocery stores and put recyclers out of business. The committee also believes that Washington's Model Litter Control and Recycling Act (MLCRA) is solving the state's litter and solid waste disposal problems.

The MLCRA was passed ten years ago. It requires fast food restaurants, retail grocers, soft drink and beer bottlers, dairies and other potential sources of litter to help absorb the costs of litter control. \$170 million in taxes were collected last year and about 800 youth were employed by the state to pick up bottles, cans, food wrappers and other waste. According to the Everett Herald, since the MLCRA was passed on unreturned bottles, litter along roadways has been reduced by 62%. The total amount of litter throughout the state has been reduced by 13%.

But with the act only 10% of Washington's waste is recycled, and according to Bob Swanson, that includes only 20% of the beverage containers sold in Washington.

continued back page

The Greening of the PACs

by David Goldsmith

The Reagan Administration's relentless assault on the environment has propelled environmental groups into more sophisticated forms of political activism. As wilderness areas, natural resources, and clean air are increasingly threatened by economic interests, environmental groups are organizing to become a powerful political force known as the "Green Vote."

In the past, environmentalists have avoided electoral politics, in part because environmental issues have rarely determined election results. This year, however, they will have spent nearly \$2 million on 1982 election campaigns, on the assumption that unrest over Interior Secretary James Watt and the Reagan Administration's environmental policies will guide many voters' decisions.

Behind this surge in activism is the formation of more than 30 state Political Action Committees (PACs) to raise money and recruit volunteers for candidates who support environmental issues. Five national groups, including the Sierra Club, Environmental Action, Friends of the Earth, the Solar Lobby and the League of Conservation Voters have coordinated major campaign efforts this year.

Environmentalists recognize that they will probably never be able to match corporate PACs dollar for dollar. It is estimated that the amount spent by corporations, trade associations and independent PACs will exceed \$300 million for the 1982 elections. But environmental PACs intend to compensate for their lack of money by providing volunteers, campaign expertise and issue appeal. Through

continued back page

In Life and Death – New Freedom for Orcas

by Roy Meyers

Haida's death could not have been more timely from the point of view of his wild kin.

A public entertainment facility called Sealand Aquarium in Victoria, B.C., used the Orca (or killer whale) in performances which featured Haida leaping from his tank to get morsels held by a trainer. It is a rather demeaning occupation for an animal who, by birthright, should roam the Northern Pacific at will.

Haida had been at Sealand for fourteen years. He was about 25 years old when Sealand officials decided to return him to his natural habitat in exchange for two younger Orcas. After securing a permit from the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries and Wildlife to hunt their new whales, Sealand officials decided to release Haida upon their capture.

Sealand hunted their hopeful replacements in Pedder Bay, south of Victoria. Orcas typically enter the bay from the south, near the area where Sealand had prepared to capture their prey. Greenpeace however, prevented the whales from entering the bay by banging pipes together under water. While Greenpeace members kept vigil on the whales Haida died of a massive bacterial infection while still in captivity. In the meantime Sealand's hunting permit expired.

Although Sealand applied for an extension on their permit, the death of their main attraction forced them to close their doors on October 3. Since then, other animals at the site have been transferred to aquariums in Canada and the U.S.

The capture of two young orcas would have severely disrupted the habits of other whales in their pod. In their natural habitat, killer whales travel in pods, groups of 5 to 50 closely related adults and their young. It is believed they stay in these pods for life, because they have been sighted in the same groups from year to year. Only through birth or death do whales join or leave the pod.

In 1976 the Canadian Government announced that no more orcas could be captured in Canadian waters except as replacements for those whales that died in Canadian aquariums. In the past, whales in captivity provided scientists with knowledge about the mammals, but now research can be conducted in the wild from boats and land, making their capture even less necessary than before.

It sometimes requires a tragedy to make people see beyond capital ventures. Perhaps this is an important time for the public to redefine their values, and to begin appreciating orcas in their liberty, not imprisonment.



There is, one knows not what sweet mystery about this sea, whose gently awful stirrings seem to speak of some hidden soul beneath...

- Herman Melville

Environmental Advisory Council

An Interview with the Dean

by Susan Lamb

Last April, following months of discussion, negotiations, and heated controversy, the Environmental Advisory Council of Huxley College was officially established. For some this was viewed as a positive step towards bridging the gap between industry and business on the one hand, and Huxley College on the other. But for others, this achievement signaled a new direction, a selling out of the values Huxley College supposedly represents. It appears that both views may be accurate.

In a recent Monthly Planet interview Huxley Dean, J. Richard Mayer, spoke at length about the advisory council, environmentalism and the future direction of Huxley.

The Council has 11 members consisting of business and industry leaders from Peoples State Bank, Arco, Intalco, Georgia-Pacific and Shell Oil. Government agencies and the Bellingham community are represented by individuals from the Washington Environmental Council, Puget Power, Bellingham's Community Development Office, a Water District Commissioner and the Whatcom County Council Executive. For Mayer, the main motivation in forming the Council was to "launch the graduate program at Huxley." The Master of Science degree has been a major goal since Huxley's beginning in 1968. The proposal is now pending final approval from the Council for Postsecondary Education in Olympia.

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WEnPAC Rates Candidates

by Jon Sitkin and David Goldsmith

The Washington Environmental Political Action Committee (WEnPAC) has joined a growing number of nationwide coalitions to help elect candidates "capable of restoring some environmental leadership." Such is the goal of WEnPAC staff member Allen Jones, who stated in a recent article in the Washington Environmental Council's newsletter, that to do this, "environmentalists are becoming more politically sophisticated, a part of the electoral-political machinery." He added, "if you elect the right legislator it's not just one bill, it's hundreds of bills your affecting."

WEnPAC is organizing volunteers and publicizing incumbents' voting records on key environmental issues throughout the state. They gave percentage ratings for "good" votes on 17 environmental bills that came before the House and 14 that came before the Senate. Legislators scored between 0 and 100 percent, and those who earned less than 15 percent WEnPAC labeled a "zero."

The following are the environmental voting records of incumbent candidates in districts 40 and 42. The Monthly Planet believes they speak for themselves.

40th District

Position 1: Pat Fiske, Rep. 20%

Position 2: H. Lundquist, Rep. 12%

42nd District


Position 2: R. Van Dyken, Rep. 12%

State Senator: H.A. Goltz, Dem. 50%

According to WEnPAC Chairperson Vim Wright, a "good" candidate running against a "zero" candidate deserves conservationists' support. Accordingly, WEnPAC is working on behalf of Pat McMullen, the Democratic candidate opposing Homer Lundquist in the 40th district. Lundquist is known among conservationists as a proven enemy of the environment. He has supported bills which weakened state environmental policies such as the Shoreline Management Act, and which permit nuclear waste dumping at Hanford.



Voting records for candidates running for national office could not be obtained. Nevertheless, the same principle applies: vote for candidates who are known friends of the environment. Read a candidates literature, listen to their speeches, or contact their party headquarters.

But Lundquist is only one of many candidates running for state and national offices. The purpose of organizations like WEnPAC is to identify those candidates who best represent the environment as well as their constituency, and to help secure their victory at the polls. It is up to the voter, then, to make good their efforts, to approach the elections with an informed and responsible perception of the choices at hand. The interests of the environment—your interests—depend on it. 

I have experienced many inner conflicts working for a river company. This is largely due to the contradictions and hypocracies that exist in the business, particularly with respect to an environmental consciousness. It is commonly assumed that the rafting world consists of individuals who are well aware of environmental problems and genuinely concerned about their resolution. From the owners of outfitters to the guides they employ, and among the diverse groups taken down the river each season this misperception prevails. This is a difficult paradox to accept. I am constantly having to ask whether my involvement in this business is promoting the conception that wilderness exists only for human recreation and exploitation.

Rafting company owners are concerned more often with profits than with the preservation of rivers and environmental education. The concept of running rivers as a profit making venture is hard to understand, but some company owners are businessmen first; they have invested large amounts of money and do not consider themselves conservationists.

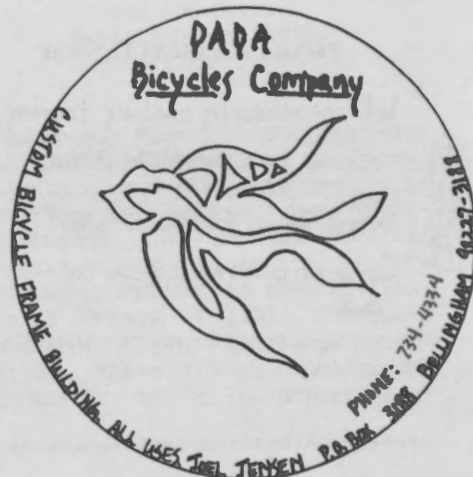
If this attitude is in the company management, it tends to trickle down to guides as well. I have worked with many who show little concern for river preservation and have no interest in helping to create an awareness of the interdependence and complexity of nature. For many it is just an exciting, challenging, outdoor job. Others tend to enjoy the macho, rugged image of a white-water guide.

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Notes of a River Guide

by Sarah Hamilton

Attempting a social commentary on America's attitude toward nature, while using the world of commercial white-water rafting as a back drop, is a difficult if not odd endeavor. However, because of the many people one comes in contact with, a river guide is in ideal position to observe people's behavior, specifically their perception of and interaction with nature.



"The Specter of Environmentalism"

by David Goldsmith

"Environmental groups threaten to undermine natural resource development and economic growth." Extremist environmental groups like the Sierra Club are spearheading this campaign, "intent on promoting environmental interests largely to the detriment of energy development and economic prosperity." These are only two of the conclusions reached by a recent U.S. House Republican Study Committee report entitled, "The Specter of Environmentalism: The Threat of Environmental Groups."

The thirteen-page report was circulated as an "information service" by the committee, a group of Republican conservatives which includes 154 of the party's 192 House members. The report credits environmental groups with proven effectiveness as lobbyists, and discusses the determination of environmentalists to enter the political process. It examines the new role of environmental political action committees in electoral politics, noting conservationists' efforts to raise money and provide candidates with campaign workers. "Environmentalists," the report states, "are convinced that their campaign volunteers can dramatically determine electoral outcomes and environmental policy."

Although environmental PACs support both Republicans and Democrats, the report misleadingly states that liberalism has engulfed environmental groups. "Environmentalism now transcends the simple desire to protect the environment," the report says. "It has been expanded to encompass an entire outlook of broad political and social affairs."

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In contrast to recent polls by such independent researchers as Lou Harris and Peter Hart, the Republican Study Committee Report concludes that "the views advocated by environmental groups do not reflect the vast preponderance of the American populace." This hypothesis is based on surveys asking people if they considered themselves actively involved in the environmental movement. Because thirteen percent said yes, the report concludes that "it can be safely asserted that environmental groups represent only a minority fringe of the American public."

The report also attacks the public's opinion of environmentalists as altruistic, stating "environmentalists are fundamentally self-interested," and "act as self-interested contenders for a publicly controlled resource." The report then states that because environmentalists are comprised of only the elite and affluent, "they are largely insulated from the consequences of stagnate resource development and economic growth."

The report cites examples of the tactics environmental groups employ which supposedly illustrate "the inordinate influence of environmental groups." Chief among these is media manipulation, where environmental groups manipulate sympathetic media to propagate their concerns. In addition, the report asserts that conservationists manipulate the litigation process, and even "shop around to find the most sympathetic courts in which to initiate their suits." Infiltration of academia is also supposedly a clear indication of the disproportionate influence of environmental organizations. Citing the University of Oregon Law School environmental law clinic and the Institute of Resource Management at the University of Idaho and Washington State University, the report states that environmental groups are attempting to collude with colleges and universities in order to promote "environmental concerns under the guise of a respectable state university natural resource institute."

The "Specter of Environmentalism" is a noticeably hostile and fallacious report. The reaction to it so far has been diffuse although some editorials have condemned it, such as one in the Gainesville Sun. Blasting the report, the Sun wrote, "Thorough reading reveals this document to be probably the sickest ever birthed within the GOP. It obviously attempts a rationale to rip off Mother Nature regardless of human cost, to pollute, destroy, and level for sheerly economic purpose, to justify a ruthless corporate state." According to the Washington Post, the executive director of the Study Group, Richard Dingman, has received many unfavorable responses about the report: including a "mild reprimand" from Rep. Robert Badham (R-CA), the committee's new chairman, who believes that Dingman "was a bit too strident in (his) language."

*Internationalism does not mean
the end of individual nations.
Orchestras don't mean the end
of violins.*

- Golda Meir



COMMENTS

I Think, Therefore I Recycle

Surely you know that Western Washington University has a full-time recycling center at 519 21st Street (south side of campus). And surely you know that it is available to the general community.

But did you know how basic the concept of recycling is to ecology and the healthy functioning of all of life's systems? Unfortunately, in our consumer oriented society, people tend to ignore this principle. They have created, in effect, the antithesis of recycling: excessive waste.

My question is this; How can people simply throw away recycleable items, or anything for that matter, without wondering (or caring) where it goes?

My answer is this; Your "trash" or "garbage" goes to the landfills (visit one sometime), or is dumped in the oceans. Though a horrifying problem, it continues to be "The American Way."

My goal is to increase the awareness of people from all walks of life, in any way I can. I have tried to clone myself and hide in trash cans, but that did not work. So I write this today - to present Recycling to All.

I only ask that you make time to be aware of what you are carelessly throwing away. Come visit us at the AS Recycle Center for more exciting details. Once you take the quality, caring and conscious plunge, you will never go back.

Peedy Witter
Recycler

Editor's Note

As of October 11, the Associated Student's Recycle Center took over the academic building waste paper recovery program, previously run by the university commissary. The change puts all of Western's recycling under one roof, allowing more complete recovery of the university's waste paper. Initially the academic building paper pick up will be conducted in the traditional call-in manner; those who have saved paper should call the recycle center at 676-3088 and leave their name, number, location, and the approximate amount of paper to be recycled. The recycle center plans to eventually replace this system with regularly

scheduled pick-ups. Those who have questions, suggestions, or requests regarding both on and off campus recycling should contact the recycle center.

OPEC: In Search of Naturalists

As coordinator of Western's Outdoor Program, I would like to extend an invitation to all students and faculty to get involved in an exciting year of outdoor adventures. In particular, I would like to continue emphasizing the value of trips, from a recreational perspective to a broader, educational perspective. To do this I encourage all students and faculty who have naturalists skills and an understanding of local environmental issues, to join our trips and share their knowledge with others. The concerns of outdoor enthusiasts and environmentalists are inexorably tied together; certainly there is much to learn from one another. Come see me at OPEC (Outdoor Program-Environmental Center) located in VU 113.

Joe Ordenez
Coordinator

FEMATAGE

If the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is supposed to provide relief in the event of a nuclear war, we have every reason to be very concerned. On October 12 Agency officials withdrew from a national civil defense conference in Portland on because sponsors allotted 90 minutes to the Physicians for Social Responsibility, an anti-nuclear war group.

A FEMA spokesperson said the group would be "distracting." But it also appears that agency officials are frightfully hesitant to be associated with a group of physicians who are fighting to ensure that the need for FEMA never exists.

I must say that the last time I felt this good about the government's "nuclear preparedness" efforts was about three months ago, when officials began initiating plans to guarantee mail delivery at least two days following a nuclear attack.

D.G.



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The Monthly Planet is a biquarterly publication that strives to inform, entertain, and stimulate thought on environmental issues. Reader participation is invited in all aspects of its publication. Submit any contributions to the Environmental Center, VU 113. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Associated Students or any of the advertisers.

Environmental Studies in Transition The Ecology of Education

by David Waddell

"Concern for humanity must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors in order that the creations of our minds shall be a blessing, not a curse to mankind. Never forget that in the midst of your diagrams and equations."

This is not a quote from Brower. It was written by Albert Einstein well before Earthday made ecology a household term and environmentalism a buzz word. One of the more profound results of Earthday and the early environmental movement was to create a strong demand for information about environmental topics, i.e. pollution, resource depletion, pesticides, etc., thus encouraging the development of environmental studies curricula at many colleges and universities throughout the United States, Huxley College being one of them. Most programs were oriented towards the concerns for humanity rather than strictly technical endeavors. Few schools developed specialized programs, and instead offer both general and technical classes with degrees in Environmental Sciences and Human Ecology.

Until recently, enrollment funding for these programs was increasing. High unemployment rates, however, have led to a change in students' perceptions of what a college education ought to include. Students are rapidly becoming more job oriented and are pursuing degrees offering better prospects for post-graduate employment. This is leading to an interesting crisis in the Environmental Studies field. Enrollments are dropping and ES administrators are scrambling for ways to keep new students coming into the fold. There has been a noticeable increase in brochures and lectures on how an ES degree can help your job hunting prospects.



This is a laudable trend in itself. However, as in all ecological concepts, this trend is connected to other concepts, often with disturbing results. To be specialized in a field requires the acquisition of tremendous amounts of knowledge and directly pertinent information. This leaves little time for acquiring much in the way of general knowledge.

Also, and to some, more disturbingly, with funding to education becoming more scarce there is a greater chance these changes will be at the expense of Environmental Humanities programs, such as Human Ecology and Environmental Education.

These developments would be particularly disturbing since they would come at a time when there is a general agreement among environmental philosophers that the environmental crises we face now and in the future are crises of mind and behavior. In order to resolve these problems, we must change our view of who and what we are, thereby creating a new social order which can adapt to a dramatic shift in the underlying structure and values of our society.

Our society is somewhere between a cumbersome death and a painful rebirth. There are tremendous forces working against social change. Education should provide the insights necessary to see past short term difficulties to long term solutions. We must learn to think globally and act locally. Some specialization is necessary, but only an integrative education can allow us to perceive ourselves as global entities. Environmental Studies programs should strive to integrate various disciplines, so we can have a chance to assess what's going on, why it's happening, and what we should do about it.

"I know that the great tragedies of history often fascinate people with approaching horror. Paralyzed, they cannot make up their minds to do anything but wait. So they wait and one day Gorgon devours them. But I should like to convince you that the spell can be broken, and that there is only an illusion of impotence, that strength of heart, intelligence and courage are enough to stop fate and sometimes reverse it. One has merely to will this, not blindly, but with a firm and reasoned will."

—Albert Camus

Ideas are the keystone. They leave their mark on the landscape just as surely as chain saws and bulldozers. Machines, after all, are only the agents of a set of ethical precepts sanctioned by the members of a particular society. The most serious form of pollution is mind pollution. Environmental reform ultimately depends on changing values. The responsibility of higher education is clear.

— Roderick
Nash



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BOOK REVIEW

The Fate of the Earth

by Jonathan Schell



by Megan Barton

The competition has been long and tedious. Much time, money, and human ingenuity has been spent, and many sacrifices made, to influence the final results. But we long ago rounded the last curve, now heading pell-mell down the final stretch. Indeed, the end is near - it's the last sprint for the finish line of the nuclear arms race ...

This is perhaps a light hearted analogy to our nuclear predicament and the holocaust that would render us all losers. But the human mind is painfully limited in trying to comprehend an event of this magnitude and its horrific implications. Thus, we resort to relatively trivial comparisons.

In The Fate of The Earth, however, Jonathan Schell transcends these limits and scrutinizes our nuclear predicament in all its terrifying proportions. He provides us with a compelling and comprehensive treatise on the physical, biological, and political dimensions of this menace, and its ultimate effects on civilization, the human species, and Earth itself.

From the beginning, Schell carries the reader quickly and relentlessly into the stark realities of the nuclear age. The book begins with a telling description of "the basic power of the universe" and explains how society has unleashed this stupefying force in senseless pursuit of scientific progress.

Schell provides a technical and lucid analysis of nuclear physics, the destructive power of nuclear weapons and their effects on the ecosphere, yet not so simplistic as to undermine the impact of his analysis. In chilling detail he describes the chain of events likely to occur in a nuclear attack, ranging from a single megaton blast to full scale nuclear war. Though relatively temperate in tone, Schell's message is clear: human's now have the power to end the world. But of greater significance to present debate, Schell successfully explicates the absurdity of a "limited nuclear war." At best, there is little reason to believe that either the United States or the Soviet Union would abide by the rules of a "limited war" if those rules made their defeat a virtual certainty. defeat. But worse, the outbreak of nuclear hostilities in itself assumes the collapse of every usual restraint of reason and humanity, thus ensuring global holocaust.

The greatest impact of the book, however, is Schell's insight into what may be more powerful in the abstract than the physical devastation of nuclear war itself. It is the "second death" of human extinction - our mortality in its ultimate and most final sense. He forces us to confront this threatening void - this "absolute and eternal darkness ... in which never again will a child be born; in which never again will human beings appear on Earth, and there will be no one to remember that they ever did."

Schell returns to this thought repeatedly, expanding on the unnerving realities of extinction in an all encompassing view of the human condition and our "common world" in time. He draws upon the profound effects on countless future generations, in addition to our ties with the past and our lives in the present. In effect, Schell explains that the "invisible but terrifying pressure" of the nuclear peril throws our existence into disorder, compromising the human

potential by wreaking havoc on our psychological well being, and deeply disturbing our perception of continuity in time. It is, according to Schell, a time when even art has become a fleeting act for its own sake, and when "all lives and deaths are threatened with a common meaninglessness."

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Book review cont.

It has been argued that Schell's book is redundant, flawed by his constant reiteration of themes and visions held by many. For those readers well grounded in the horrors and hypocracies of the nuclear age, this repetition is less necessary. But unwarranted it is not. For those like myself, The Fate of the Earth helps bring our predicament into focus. And, though the menace is undeniable to many, there are obviously others who discount its true dimensions and ultimate implications. It is the few who possess this power to determine the fate of future generations and of the earth, who fall with frightening frequency into this latter category. That they may never read Schell's book is irrelevant. For to date, it represents the most complete and timely assessment of our nuclear predicament, integrating well known or widely understood data with deep insights into the nuclear nightmare. While profoundly disturbing, the Fate of the Earth is an eloquent call "from arms." It is comprised of the vigor we need to pull us from our despair and inaction, to feel hope and demand change. It is a means to answer Schell's call. It is a book to be remembered even by those who never touch its cover.



Editor's Note

On October 19-21, in New York, The Friends of the Earth initiated the First Biennial Conference on the Fate of the Earth. This conference, like Jonathan Schell's book, was meant to encourage change. But it also represents an important turning point in the views of many conservationists, who, until recently, were content to work for their usual constituency: "Life in its miraculous diversity of forms." As FOE states; "We have argued that human well being cannot be separated from the health of the natural world from which we all emerged. We have left it up for others to argue about war."

The fact is, the threat of nuclear war and the preparations for it "should be seen as the very center of the ecological crisis." As Jonathan Schell states: "Both the effort to preserve the environment and the effort to save the species from extinction by nuclear arms would be enriched and strengthened by this recognition. The nuclear question, which now stands in eerie seclusion from the rest of life, would gain a context, and the ecological movement, which, in its concern for plants and animals, at times assumes an almost misanthropic posture, as though man were an unwanted intruder in an otherwise unblemished natural world, would gain the humanistic intent that should stand at the heart of its concern."



Intellectual disciplines and categories of knowledge tend to flow into one another unless prevented by artificial barriers. Rather than impeding such flows, universities should recognize and encourage them.

- Joseph Meeker



Interview cont.

Mayer also hopes to review the Council's "advice on the interests and needs of our region for employment, in addition to internships for Huxley students." He anticipates other benefits such as additional funding. One main goal, however, is to demonstrate that Huxley has the support and cooperation of the community. "I need the political clout of these people (Council members) to get Olympia's approval of the graduate program," Mayer said.

To do this Huxley needs to change its image in the community, and Mayer sees the Council as an important beginning. Huxley's reputation is poor "because it has not taken into account industry's concern about the environment as well," Mayer said, and "we have not taught our students this."

"The real world isn't being taught to today's students," said Council member John Louws, a Whatcom County executive. "They must be given a broader background including business administration."

Mayer said students need "to connect with the real world," but defended the importance of science courses, particularly in the graduate program.

During the Council's first meeting last May, Mayer described the environmentalism of the 60's and 70's as "too aggressive, trying to make too many changes at once." When asked how he would characterize the environmentalism of the 80's, Mayer made a distinction between what he calls emotional and appropriate environmentalism.

Emotional environmentalists, Mayer said, "look at industry and say these are bad guys, we've got to fight them," even as they consume the industry's products. "Appropriate environmentalism is taking "a much broader viewpoint."

"I think we have to be more willing to listen than we have in the past. We want to be partners with other sectors of society, such as business and industry, for after all, they're here to stay. They provide jobs. They're part of our system."

"It is my belief that environmental activism is not the job or mission of Huxley College. It very well may be and should be the mission of individuals and certain organizations." "But at Huxley," Mayer continued, "our mission is instruction and research, not activism."

The historical context of the 60's and 70's that gave rise to the environmental movement does not exist today Mayer said. He cites the passage of the National Environmental Protection Act and other environmental legislation as evidence of a greater concern and commitment to environmental protection.

"Times have changed, students have changed and government has changed." Mayer believes "people studying environmental problems need to realize that people in industry are environmentalists, too." He is quick to point out that he is not advocating a "James Watt kind of environmentalism. I have no use for him or his policies," he added.

Mayer wants students at Huxley to "recognize where we're at in the real world." Recognizing what the forces are around us, we must reach out in a cooperative way to the sectors of society which, after all, we are supposedly here to serve, and that includes business and industry," Mayer said.

Mayer was asked how much control the council would have in determining Huxley's curriculum and he said, "none, none whatsoever."

There has been some concern that Huxley is deemphasizing the social sciences and the types of philosophical issues they raise, in favor of greater emphasis on the natural sciences. In response Mayer said that three things are true about the curriculum now.

First, the hard sciences have been "beefed-up" especially in the graduate program where hard sciences are essential. Mayer said the sciences were weak and needed improvements but he "would have to be shown how the social sciences have been lessened."

Second, Huxley lost the planning program which Mayer admits was very unfortunate. "That hurt," he said, "but we have Ernst Gayden on the faculty, a planner who teaches Human Settlement and Design."

Third, Mayer believes there is now a certain balance between the "hard" and "soft" sciences. This does not imply equality, Mayer said, but "an appropriate and significant amount of input." Three core courses focus on social science questions and issues, and two are technical.

"I feel we are on the right track", Mayer said, it is not without its hazards and risks but I think we're on the right track." He encourages students and faculty to discuss these issues. Let Mayer know what you think.



Notes cont.

As rafting becomes a more popular American sport, the diversity of people involved also increases. Rafting continues to appeal to predominantly white middle-class Americans, but the economic and social backgrounds are becoming increasingly more varied. Irrespective of their background, many view the wilderness as a vast and scenic playground. They bring cases of beer, firecrackers and martinis, all to help them have "a good time." They bring inflatable double beds, propane powered blow dryers, and lawn chairs to help them feel more at home in the outdoors. They see themselves as apart from nature, and, unfortunately, these amenities separate them even more.

I have painted a rather disconcerting picture of the rafting world. There are of course exceptions to these attitudes. There are individuals who really love, appreciate and feel connected to the natural world. There are a number of companies concerned about preservation. Some donate their profits to environmental organizations, and many guides work long hours for groups like the Friends of the River, striving to educate others about the intrinsic value in wilderness.

In many ways the reactions and attitudes I observe while rafting are indicative of the views held by the public at large. Watching people on river trips, their interaction with each other and with nature, has revealed that a tremendous need exists for more education and more learning. Only then can we expect people to feel a part of nature—intimately related to the rivers and trees and animals that make our outdoor experiences so worthwhile.



What would the path of beverage containers be if I-414 passes? First, distributors of beer and carbonated drinks would buy refillable or re-meltable containers from manufacturers. Labels that clearly state deposit value are placed on cans or bottles, and upon delivery, the retailer pays the distributor five cents for each container.

When the customer buys beer or carbonated drinks, the five cent deposit is included in the price. Upon returning bottles and cans to recycling centers or stores the consumer is repaid the deposit. The store or recycler then sorts bottles and cans by brand, and when distributors drop off full containers their truck is reloaded with empties. The containers are then washed and reused, or in the case of aluminum or plastic, returned to manufacturers to be melted down and remade into new containers. The distributor pays the grocer or recycler the initial deposit on the bottles, plus a two cent handling fee for sorting and storing the bottles.

Will this process create or eliminate jobs? The answer depends largely on how the process is carried out. The path of the bottle could vary according to how distributors decide to deal with returned bottles. But according to Swanson, the likely outcome will be more jobs.

Distributors are concerned that empty bottles picked up along delivery routes would reduce the amount of space available for full containers to be delivered. Fewer deliveries per load might mean more trips between stops, more fuel consumption, and demand for more drivers. But according to one distributor, room for the empties may not be a problem. There would be few containers to pick up, particularly if recycling centers receive even a fraction of returned bottles. Moreover, crushed aluminum cans take up much less space than full cans originally delivered with the bottles.



If I-414 passes, recycling centers would receive more material than they do now and would be little affected by the process distributors choose to use. With the nickel incentive to return containers, recyclers will undoubtedly see an increased flow of empties. Retail stores do not always have the storage space they need and are therefore encouraged to contract with recyclers to avoid handling the containers. Recyclers would receive a 2 cent handling fee per container from distributors, and grocers would avoid the cost of building additional storage space. An expanding recycling business would mean more jobs for communities throughout Washington.

Many grocers feel the returned containers will create unsanitary conditions in their stores. Section six of the recycling act, however, allows retailers, recyclers and distributors to accept only clean bottles. It also holds the consumer responsible for rinsing or at least completely emptying containers before returning them.

As for the increased cost of beverages under Initiative 414, other states with deposit laws have noticed that prices either decreased or stabilized while prices, in non-deposit states went up. Before passing deposit legislation in Vermont, beer was 30 cents more than in New Hampshire and soda was five cents more. Now beer in Vermont is only six cents more than in New Hampshire and soda is five cents less.

What savings can we expect with this bill? First, reuse of materials saves energy. The Everett Herald reported that recycled aluminum saves 95% of the energy and 85% of the new aluminum needed to make cans. Second, reduced costs to the manufacturer lowers the price of the container which is about 40% of the product's cost.

In the end, the inconvenience imposed upon the businesses affected by recycling is repaid by lower consumer costs, increased business and employment, and by resource and energy savings. After ten years, Oregon businesses and citizens have agreed that their deposit law has been an asset. "It's to Washington's advantage to draw from the experiences of other states in making a smooth transition to a stable recycling industry." And if the new industry makes our state less dependent on the defense industry, makes us more competitive in our business ventures, and decreased the rate at which we use the earth's resources, then Initiative 414 will have been an essential and timely choice for Washington's citizens to have made.



Greening cont.

publications, training workshops, and extensive grassroots canvassing efforts, the environmental movement is devoting increasing attention to electoral politics. Since nearly 14 million Americans belong to conservation and environmental groups, they represent a political force of considerable magnitude. In fact, throughout the spring and summer, conservationists scored a number of key primary victories in state and local races. The 1982 elections may not reverse the disastrous course of the Reagan Administration, but they will certainly mark the emergence of the Green Vote in America.

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