

Earth Day Reflections

"Earth Day" observations have a way of calling attention to some of our most difficult "environmental" problems and "Earth Day" (or Earth Week, this year) was no exception in Eugene and the University of Oregon campus...

Energy, acid rain, nuclear bombs and power were target issues.

"Energy Strategies for the Northwest" featuring noted energy expert and author Amory Lovins and his wife, Hunter, has particularly important meaning for our region. His talk on the University and LCC campuses showed beyond any reasonable doubt that energy demands (particularly electricity) are going down, down, down. He showed a literal history of "falling" energy estimates (nationwide and world-wide), transposing this over the situation in the Pacific Northwest. His new projections show that "the people" are running ahead of the bureaucrats' outrageous present and future energy use estimates, achieving savings by conservation, solar applications and other innovations.

For the Northwest, this means (and Lovins told them so) that the BPA Regional Advisory Council is way off base in their twenty-year future energy projects soon to be made official in a report to be issued any day now. Lovins says that the Northwest is "fuel poor, but energy rich." We have more hydroelectric power for all our applications that require electricity, he observed.

Lovins also stressed that the Northwest gets more than enough sun to apply passive and active solar technology for heating all our buildings and supplying heat for industry. He said that new technology like "super-coated glasses," "photovoltaic," and other applications will also make great energy savings and throw off the huge "energy need projections" put out by BPA, the New Regional Council to BPA, and other industrial and utility persons. His remarks suggested the Northwest will not only *not* need the WPPSS nuclear power plants but won't need the Creston "coal fired" plants which generate the environmentally harming "acid rain."

"We stand at a crossroads. Delay in deploying diverse appropriate technologies pushes them so far into the future that there will no longer by anything left of the fossil-fuel bridge we must use to get to them. We must use our remaining cheap fossil fuels sparingly to finance a transition as nearly as possible straight to our ultimate energy income sources... the sun, the wind, water and biomass." Lovins says, "We shall not have another chance to get there."

"Acid rain," if it continues, may make it impossible for the planet to continue as we have known it and may also make it difficult to get anywhere! That is the conclusion viewers may reach while watching the Canadian film, *Acid from Heaven*, which wowed Earth Week audiences several times.

After viewing several screenings of the film, it seemed to me that the reason that Reagan Justice Department officials labeled it as "propaganda" was that it is so totally effective in getting the acid rain message across. To a "soft path" utility person, such as myself, the meaning of the film is: We've got to do something about it or we'll not only destroy the U.S. as we know it, but the ecosystem of the world. The last Challenger voyage revealed to us that the entire world is being covered by a blanket of smog. An examination by a pH water meter would likely show a

high "acidity" content of that smog.



Acid Rain makes use of an elderly Canadian fisherman named Pete, who loses his lake, fishing, and livelihood to acid rain and is shown in his exploration to find out why and what caused the killing of fish and destruction of the Northeast lakes, streams and ecosystem. It also strongly suggests a political solution to ending acid rain and that is "to do something about it at its source." This means scrubbers and other devices in the fossil fuel-fired plants which may up the cost but will eventually save the planet.

The film with its 'soft sell' documentation tells how the acid rain is formed from sulfur dioxide, nitrous dioxide, and other emissions from fossil fuel-fired plants. The source of acid rain has been discovered and rediscovered except that many industrialists and utility officials have tried to dodge the issue. The Ohio Valley is particularly bad with the production of emissions which go on to Canada to damage lakes and streams there. The entire matter is an international issue and will also have to be dealt with by all industrial countries, including the U.S. and Canada.

Of particular significance to the Northwest (our region), acid rain is most harmful to trees, plants, birds and animals as well as fish. Unless action is taken, the future of tree growing in the Northwest could well be affected by large acid rain emissions.

The film is certainly a "must see" by the general population and hopefully the legal action taken against the U.S. Justice Dept. will be positive, and a large part of the population can see this film. It also seems to be that acid rain will join the nuclear concerns (bombs & power) as one of the major environmental and political concerns in this last part of the 20th century.

Earth Week had much more, but acid rain and energy were two of the major environmental concerns highlighted by the week of seminars, films, and discussions. Members of the University of Oregon Survival Center Group are certainly to be congratulated for a job well done. The caliber of the seminar participants was outstanding and the entire effort was soberingly educational and that's what Earth Week is supposed to be all about, anyway!

—Jack Craig

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ON
THURSDAYS
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Soils and Fertility

In order to grow well, plants need nutrients. Some nutrients such as hydrogen (H), and oxygen (O) come from the air; others such as phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) come from the soil and fertilizers. Soil is broken down rock and organic matter which holds plants in place and provides a storehouse for nutrients and moisture. There are three general classifications of soil: sand, silt and clay. Most soil is a mixture of all three. In general, we in Eugene have a clay soil. It is high in nutrients and holds water well. The disadvantage is that a clay soil is "heavy" and needs organic matter in the form of compost or humus, to be easily workable. A soil test is the most accurate way to learn about the quality of your soil. A do-it-yourself soil test kit can be purchased or you can send away a sample to the state extension service or to a professional tester. Soil tests measure the pH, nitrates, phosphorus and sometimes calcium and magnesium present in the soil.

pH is a measurement of the concentration of hydrogen ions in the soil. It is read on a scale between 0 and 14. Seven is neutral pH. 0-7 pH refers to an acid or soil soil; 7-14 pH refers to an alkaline or sweet soil. Garden vegetables like to grow in a soil with a pH of 6.5-7. Strawberries, blueberries, rhododendrons and azaleas like a more acid soil with a pH ranging between 4.5 and 5.5. At a pH of 6.5-7 the nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium are more available for the plants to use. In order to raise the pH from 5.5 to 6.5, add either agricultural or dolomite lime. Dolomite lime, though more expensive, contains calcium and magnesium. A high pH can be lowered by adding sulphur, gypsum or peat moss.

Nitrogen (N) is the "protein source" for plants. It provides for rapid, leafy green growth. Organic sources are manures such as horse and chicken, fish based fertilizers, cottonseed meal and blood meal. Phosphorus (P), a rock product, aids the root growth of plants and hastens the ripening of flowers and fruits. Organic sources are rock phosphate, fish meal, bone meal and cottonseed meal. Potassium or potash (K) increases a plant's resistance to disease. Organic sources are kelp meal, green sand and wood ashes. The micro-nutrients or minor soil requirements of a plant are added with compost, fish meal, bone meal and manures.

An organic or naturally occurring fertilizer is derived from a plant or animal product. A chemical fertilizer is either manufactured or mined. Chemical fertilizers, sold in varying proportions of N-P-K generally are available for plant use sooner than organic fertilizers and do not last more than one garden season. The more refined the product, the sooner it becomes available to plants and the faster it leaches out through the soil.

To increase garden growth, base the amount of fertilizer to be used on the specific needs of your soil and the specific crops to be planted. Have fun.

—Peggy Quinn
Laurel Landscaping



Tuesday

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Meetings

Peace Corps Volunteers, a potluck meeting for all returned Peace Corps Volunteers and anyone else interested in joining the Peace Corps. 6:30 pm at home of Beryl Brinkman, 892 Sprague Rd., Eugene (one mile out West Amazon from the Texaco Station on Hilyard). 345-3504.

Mothers Day Gift Making, a session is offered on May 5 from 1-2 pm at Westmoreland Community Center. Register today, 1545 W 22nd. \$2. All supplies provided.

Bright Wings Cancer Support Center offers a five-week class beginning today called "My Friend Has Cancer: What Can I Do?" Covers home care, support systems, communication skills, community resources. Register at LCC Downtown Center. 342-6053.

Gay Men's Group—Galla Wesley. All welcome. Downstairs Session Center. 686-3360.

Film/Slide Shows

Cascade Alpine Guide Series—Fred Beckey, author, will present a slide/film show titled, "The Mountains of North America." 7:30 EMU Ballroom, free.

Senior Center Slide Show, Mt. St. Helen's slide show by a Public Information scientist. 7 pm.

Concerts

Mummsenzanz, at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, 8 pm.

Odette, dynamic force in American folk music, will perform at the WOW Hall starting at 8 pm. See Music This Week for details.

Workshops/Classes

Central America News to be analyzed in meeting sponsored by Eugene Human Rights Council. 7:30 pm at 1736 Kincaid. 484-5867. Discussion of latest developments from Washington, D.C. and Central America.

Preparing for Law School session to be held starting at 3:30 pm in Oregon Hall, Room 164. Timed to help participants meet the May 19 deadline for law school Admissions test.

Burnin'—The Total Workout includes stretching, isolations and aerobics. First class free. 343-7581. Starting a new session 7-8 am, \$3/class.

Women's Kung Fu for beginners. Class starts today. \$25 fee. From 6:30-8:30 pm at 1002 Jackson St, 2nd & Jackson. For information call Switchboard.


Etc.

Bookmobile is at Garber's University Nursing Center, 10:30 am; Echo Hollow Plaza, Echo Hollow Rd, 2:30-5:30 pm.


TV/Video

Cable 11 (Community Access) features: **Connie's Corner**, seventy-year-old Connie Strubbar tells stories, sings, uses puppets and gives moral lessons for children and adults, 6:30; **Winds of Change**, 7:00; **Nicola Studio One**, instruction in how to paint using European method of wet on wet, 7:30; **Can Do**, variety entertainment show by disabled, hosted by B. J. Ashwill, 8:00; **Draft Registration**, panel discussion with Ann Warner, Dave Fidanque and Peter DeFazio on draft registration and pending draft legislation, 8:30; **Tech Talks**, WISTEC present Guido Rahr, hepatologist, who will show and discuss the Oregon Rattlesnake, 9:00; **Music Notes**, 9:30.

To wish you a happy Mother's Day, I would



climb the highest mountain



ford the deepest stream

or go to **PAPER TRADER'S** * in the 5th Street Public Market for the best possible card!

—Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th—

*And WONDERFUL gifts for Mother at the **PAPER TRADER'S Annex** on the balcony.

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