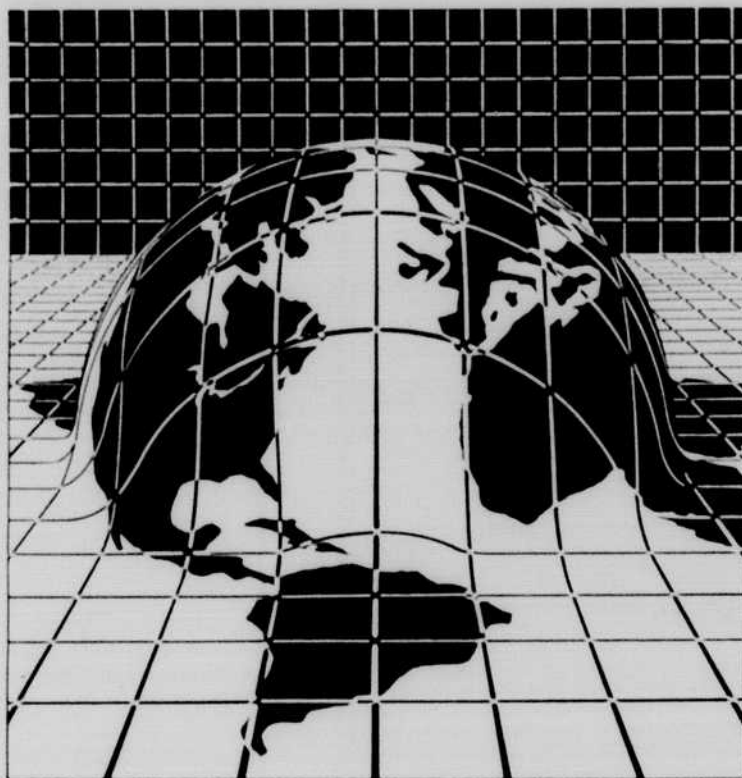


EARTH



NOTES

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OZ and US

No, not Oz as in the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. But this Oz is older than my childhood pet-rock, Gor. Oz lives way, way up there (six to thirty miles in the Air). No, Oz is not an immortal bird fossil. Oz is an invisible blanket above that shields us and the earth's surface from those ominous ultraviolet rays.

You guessed it, Ozone! To you and me Oz helps protect us from skin cancers, cataracts and suppression of our immune systems. Oz also protects crop yields and fish populations. For us, Oz is somewhat of a hero and yet, we are Oz's worst enemy. Creatures of convenience, our use of products such as aerosols, styrofoam and especially freon, which contains CFCs, have created a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica the size of the United States. In the U.S., the ozone layer has decreased by as much as 3% since 1979. Penetration of U.V. radiation to the earth's surface will increase by 2% for every 1% decrease of the ozone layer. A 10% increase of U.V. radiation leads to a 7.5% increase in melanoma and a 10% increase in basal and squamous cell carcinoma. A 1% increase in U.V. radiation leads to .5% increased incidence of cataracts. I have my #25 sunblock body lotion and U.V., sun-protected sun glasses but I'm wondering if my pet turtle will need a set of mini, U.V., sun-protected glasses too!

The culprit, chlorofluorocarbons (destroyers of Oz) rise up about 25 miles into the atmosphere where ultraviolet rays from the sun free the chemical chlorine from the chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs. Only one atom of chlorine destroys about 100,000 molecules of ozone!

Here are some suggestions from the book *50 Simple ways to Save the Earth* to limit CFCs escaping into the atmosphere:

- Avoid using aerosols especially those with CFCs in them.
- Does your car really need that air conditioner? When air conditioners break they release CFCs into the atmosphere. Make sure the air conditioner is fixed properly before you refill it with freon again.
- Avoid hard foam insulation with CFCs in it. There is non-CFC foam insulation available that is effective.
- Avoid polystyrene foam. This is the kind of foam used in form-fitting packing materials used for electronics, "peanut" foam and picnic coolers.

CFCs are the target of an international phaseout by the end of the 1990's. CFCs total about \$28 billion annually in the value of goods and services in the U.S. and ozone-safe alternatives are neither cheap nor easy to find. Steps to save Oz won't be painless but will definitely be worth the cost!

3 Re's 4 U's

1-re, 2-re, 3-re, try to say that fast ten times and you'll be happy to know it doesn't matter! But what does matter is knowing what these three "Re's" stand for — reduce, reuse and recycle. Now you're on your way to become an environmentally aware shopper. Did you know Americans spend 1 of every 11 dollars on food for packaging? That's more money spent on packaging than the net income of American farmers!

According to OSPRIG, packaging is the largest source of waste — comprising 50% of the solid waste stream by volume and 30% by weight. Packing constitutes a large part of the wasteful use of precious resources like trees. Even more dubious, some of this packaging waste will still be around for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to see (something I'm sure they'd rather not see!).

The first "Re," reduce our amount of packaging, is the best and cheapest way of using and controlling resources wisely. You can do this by:

- 1) Select the product with the least amount of packaging possible. For example, buy the larger quantities instead of individually wrapped packages.
- 2) Buy products with recycled packaging, packaging that is biodegradable or that can be recycled i.e. glass or aluminum.
- 3) Avoid plastic containers. They are not biodegradable. The "squeezeable" plastics are usually made up of different layers of plastics which are more difficult to recycle.

4) Buy products in bulk. This uses less packaging. You can bring your own container to cart away your groceries with.

5) Buy eggs in cardboard cartons rather than styrofoam.

The second "Re" is to reuse:

- 1) Glass containers can be used over and over again.
- 2) Don't throw away those cardboard boxes, chances are you'll use them again.
- 3) Repair your durable goods such as clothes or give them away to someone who can use them.
- 4) Use cloth diapers. Diapers take up to 500 years to decompose in a landfill.

The third "Re" is to recycle. Recycling reduces pressure on forest resources and lengthens our mineral ore resources. Recycling uses fifty to ninety percent less energy than producing the same product from virgin materials. Finally, recycling produces less pollution than using virgin materials. Recyclable materials include: glass, tin cans, aluminum, paper, plastic, soda bottles, milk cartons, Telephone books and more.

As a consumer remember that you possess consumer buying power. This simply means your money collectively dictates your wants to the manufacturers. The more eggs sold in cardboard cartons the less the demand will be for styrofoam cartons thereby lessening the destruction to our environment. Choose intelligently and remember the three re's — reduce, reuse and recycle.

How Tos . . . Where Tos

- ◀ If you eat cereal, buy cases of pop or beer, boxed rice, baking mix, crackers or anything that comes in a waxy cardboard box, you can recycle that by removing the liners, flattening it and placing it in a grocery sack. When the sacks pile up, take them to Weyerhaeuser Paper Company's Secondary Fibers Division 2070 Cross Street. If you have questions, call 688-2123. Secondary Fibers also takes newspapers, all waste paper grades, magazines, books, egg cartons and coated paper.
- ◀ Make a stack next to your desk for notebook, typewriter and computer paper. Rather than tossing this in the trash, carry it to one of the many recycling bins located throughout every campus building. If you are a student, you probably go through a small forest of paper products in one term . . . please recycle this!
- ◀ Call BRING recycling and ask how you can get involved in recycling in Lane County.
- ◀ For all you environmental movers and shakers, stop by the Survival Center and/or OSPRIG in Suite One of the EMU. Both of these organizations offer activities and educational services in a wide range of environmental and social issues.
- ◀ Save those juice jars, wine bottles, peanut butter jars, cider jugs, ketchup bottles, mustard jars . . . and rinse them out. When you're sick of them piling up in the closet, take them to the Glass Station on 24th and Hilyard and sort them into the bins there by color.
- ◀ Call your trash collector and ask them about curbside recycling.
- ◀ Next time you have to have a packet copied, a few articles, a survey, a term paper . . . ask the copy shop if they offer recycled paper.

Recipes for the Toxic Revolutionist

- Air Fresheners** — Set vinegar and lemon juice out in an open dish or use herbal mixtures.
- Dishwasher Detergent** — Mix 1 part borax and 1 part washing soda.
- All-Purpose Cleaner** (floors, counters, appliances, etc.) — Mix 1 gallon hot water, ¼ cup ammonia, ¼ cup vinegar, and 1 T. baking soda. For a stronger cleaner, double the amounts of all ingredients except water.
- Carpet Cleaner** — Mix 2 parts cornmeal with 1 part borax. Sprinkle liberally, leave one hour and vacuum.
- Insect Spray** — Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 T. dried hot peppers and 1 tsp. pure soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Let set 2 days, strain and spray.
- Laundry Detergent** — Use powdered or liquid biodegradable soaps.
- Furniture Polish** — Mix 2 tsp. lemon oil and one pint mineral oil in a spray bottle. Spray, rub in and wipe clean.

(Many thanks to OSPRIG!)

FOR THE FACTOPHILIAC

- The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes.
- Annually, America produces the equivalent of 10 lbs. of plastic for every person on earth.
- Packaging Mania: About 50% of paper in the U.S. is used solely for packaging.
- Americans produce enough "styrofoam" cups every year to circle the earth 436 times.
- 80% of all ivory is taken from elephants that are illegally hunted and killed — and 30% of it is bought by Americans.
- It takes an entire forest — over 500,000 trees — to supply Americans with their Sunday newspapers every week.
- Up to 60% of pesticides are used for cosmetic purposes only.