

EARTH DAY

Printing department environmentally aware

Earth Day is turning 25 this year. Each spring people take this day to celebrate the environment, and environmental laws have been enacted to protect the earth and its resources.

Earth Day is the time to celebrate this environmental progress. But people should also recognize the efforts taking place on campus that support and aid the environment.

The University's Printing Services is environmentally conscious in every way it can be. At least five years ago, the use of recycled paper was an idea only pushed and promoted. Recycled paper was used much less frequently than it is now. Today recycled paper is the only type of paper used at the printing facility.

J.R. Gaddis, director of Printing Services, said virgin paper runs smoother and petroleum-distillate paper dries better. But to maintain environmental concerns, 100 percent recycled paper is used.

When Gaddis started working at Printing Services a year ago, use of recycled paper was 70 percent to 80 percent. Those figures have since risen to approximately 95 percent to 100 percent.

Recycled paper isn't the only environmentally-friendly product found at University Printing. For people concerned about tree conservation, tree-free resources are also available. The two brands Printing Services has are Tree Free Eco Paper, which is made of 50 percent hemp and 50 percent cereal straw, and Traditions, which is 10 percent hemp, 70 percent agricultural waste and 20 percent post-consumer waste.

Printing Services' commitment to the environment extends beyond the type of paper it uses. The inks are environmentally safe; up to 40 percent to 50 percent are vegetable-based (soy) inks for 40 percent to 50 percent of the colors. Unfortunately, not every color falls under this category. Varnishes and metallics, such as gold and silver, cannot be vegetable-based.

In addition to inks, Printing Services avoids the use of Astrobright colors, which are heavily dyed and harder to recycle. Aqueous plates and alcohol-free dampening solutions are used in the presses. Ten years ago, chemicals and alcohols were used. Within the last five years, strides have been made to eliminate them.

According to *Campus Environmental Stewardship*, a book from the National Wildlife Federation, the University ranks in the top 5 percent to 10 percent among universities in the United States in its use of environmentally-sound papers, inks and aqueous plates.

These efforts are only the tip of iceberg. Printing Services has established an Environmental Issues Committee. Gaddis is in charge of a subcommittee, which has worked to create a paper policy.

"The paper policy is being formed to make the community aware," Gaddis said.

It will be implemented in early May, gearing the University to use recycled papers, to move away from heavily dyed papers, to use two-sided copying and to reduce paper consumption.

— Kim Weiss

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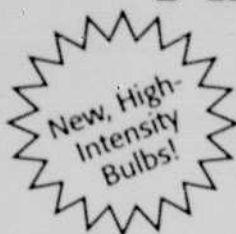
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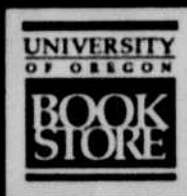
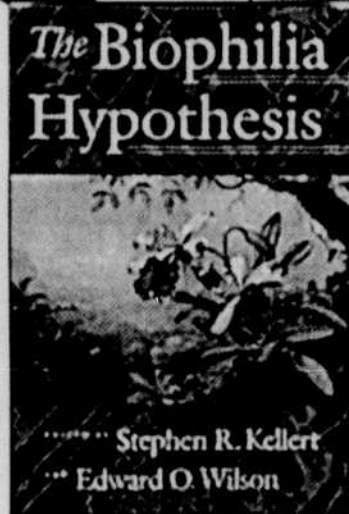
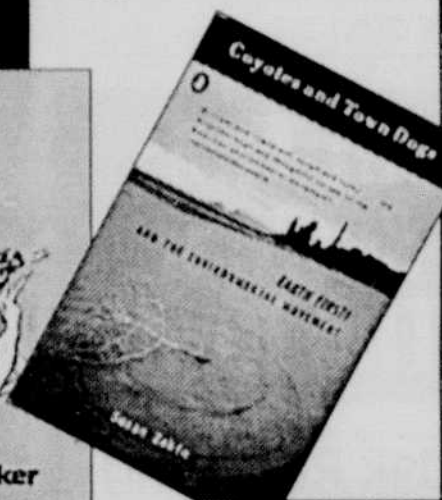
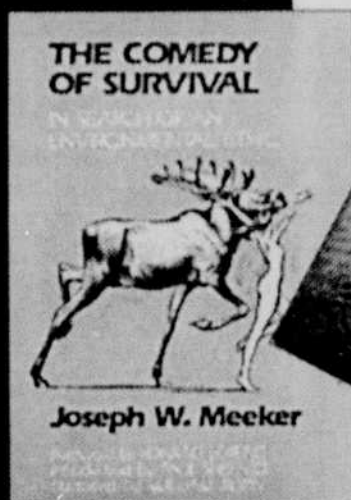
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Celebrating Earth Day!

Stop by and look for these enlightening books in the Ecology Section.



Open Daily

• recycle a styrofoam cup • or better yet, use a mug • save a piece of paper • throw your bottle in the bottle bin • say "no thanks, i don't need ANOTHER paper bag" • hey, it's earth week. make your mother proud.