

Price is a factor when buying recycled

By Nikki Okimoto
Entertainment Reporter

For many students, an important lesson to learn during their college years is how to budget their money when it comes to grocery shopping. Decisions must be made about which products to buy and why.

A major decision consumers face is whether or not to buy recycled products.

Suzanne Perga, a senior accounting major, said she considers price when making her shopping decisions.

"Price is an issue," she said. "But I do try to buy recycled."

The decision is a personal one, but your options at the grocery store are often controlled by the selection available on the shelves.

At Safeway on 18th Avenue, for example, the small paper goods section doesn't offer any recycled paper choices in toilet paper, facial tissue or paper towels. The closest thing they have is a brand of toilet paper called Purely Cotton that is made out of 100 percent cotton instead of trees.

Safeway does, however, offer a selection of alternative laundry detergent choices.

Planet brand laundry detergent comes in a box that reminds the consumer that "you can make a difference." The box also says

Planet is biodegradable, phosphate free and is not tested on animals.

At \$4.39 for 34 ounces, or 20 loads, Planet is also a little spendy.

Another environmentally conscious choice is Ecover.

Its box claims that it is "biodegradable in 3 to 5 days" and comes from an "ecological factory." Ecover is also not tested on animals.

At \$6.39 for 72 ounces, or 48 loads, Ecover is a better value than Planet, especially if you want to buy a larger amount of the product.

Popular brand Tide offers two different types of packaging for their regular "Ultra 2" product. Its box is made of 100 percent recycled paper and says its cleaning agents are "biodegradable and phosphorus free." The medium size is \$8.09 for 92 oz., or 42 loads.

Tide also offers their "Ultra 2" in the "Enviro-Pak," a plastic bag that is made of at least 25 percent post-consumer recycled plastic. The plastic bag contains "80 percent less packaging than cartons."

At \$12.29 for 142 ounces, or 65 loads, the "Enviro-Pak" does not offer huge savings.

At Albertson's on 18th Avenue, there are several recycled paper

options in the facial tissue and toilet paper section.

Green Forest brand offers recycled facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels and napkins. Their packages announce the manufacturer, the Fort Howard Corporation, won the EPA Administrator's Award for National Recycling Leadership.

Green Forest facial tissue is made of 100 percent recycled materials. The box contains 175 two-ply sheets for 85 cents.

The Green Forest brand is comparable to the regular size Kleenex in the classic '70s-style foil-look box. The Kleenex brand box costs \$1.29 for 175 two-ply sheets.

In this case, the recycled product is a much better value than the leading brand.

Green Forest toilet paper is also a good deal. At 99 cents for four two-ply rolls of 280 sheets each, it is the same price as MD brand toilet paper, which is also four two-ply rolls of 280 sheets each.

Recycled products can be comparable to the leading brands. In response to the competition, the leading brands are also trying to market their products as environmentally conscious.

In the end, the decision of which products to buy is up to the individual.

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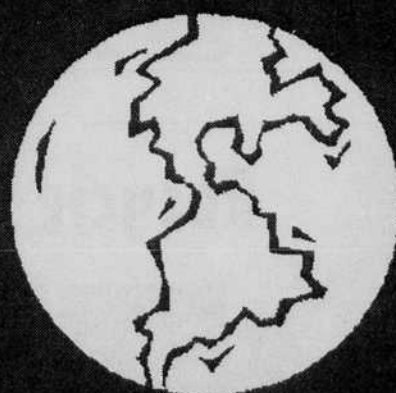
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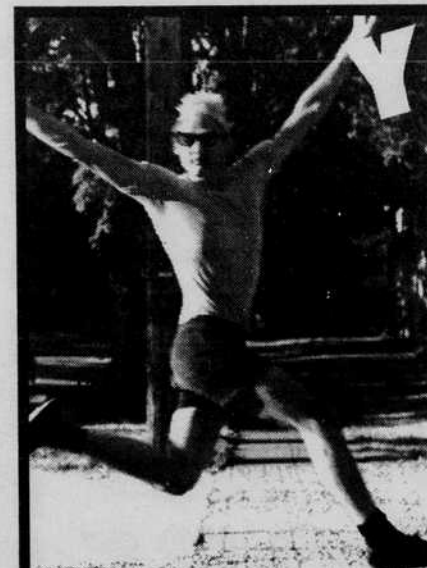
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