

Two groups call Earth Day 'war against humanity'

Organizations plan a third consecutive trip to Washington, D.C., to protest environmentalism

By Kathryn Petersen
for the Emerald

For the past 32 years, people have celebrated Earth Day in various ways. The University campus has its own celebration planned that involves a festival, speakers and educational events. But two organizations, the Center for the Moral Defense of Capitalism and the Ayn Rand Institute, have much different plans than others.

Following their tradition of the past few years, these two organizations have gathered their allies and plan a third consecutive trip to Washington, D.C., to protest Earth Day and environmentalism.

"The real meaning of Earth Day and the environmental movement as

a whole is the rollback of industrial civilization," said Nicholas Provenzo, chairman and co-founder of the Center for the Moral Defense of Capitalism. "Environmentalism is a wholesale war against humanity. By placing nature over people, environmentalism actively works to return man back to the stone age."

Dr. Onkar Ghate, resident fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute, agrees with Provenzo. "If you actually look at what environmentalists say and do, they have a different goal, and people don't realize that," Ghate said. "Environmentalists sacrifice the interests of man for so-called wilderness and nature, and that needs to be exposed."

Vivian Vassall, the chapter chair for the University's OSPIRG chapter, does not fully understand the two organizations' position on the topic.

"Seeing that Earth Day is not political and it's a celebration that everyone can take part in, it's interesting

that people would protest it," Vassall said. "Earth Day is probably the least controversial aspect of the environmental movement, if an aspect at all."

While Vassall described OSPIRG's philosophy of Earth Day as "spreading consciousness of the problems on our planet," Provenzo and CMDC's philosophy is much different. They believe that Earth Day is and should be "a day dedicated to celebrating the benefits of industry and technology, the critical importance of property rights, and the larger notion that man has the ability to properly solve the problems and challenges of his existence without sacrificing his life or lifestyle," Provenzo said. But University Professor John H. Baldwin, director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, rejects that idea.

"Ridiculous," Baldwin said. "Oh, the right-wingers. What on earth are they talking about? It sounds to me like they are bas-

tardizing science for a profit."

While the environment may be cleaner and healthier because of the Environmental Protection Agency and clean air and water legislation, Ghate and the Ayn Rand Institute do not think that the innovations and regulations are good for humanity, Ghate said.

"I don't think that something like the EPA or endangered species acts should exist at all," Ghate said. "I do not think that animals and trees and so on have life. Humans have life. We should be able to develop any land we own to further mankind. We are definitely pro-man."

Baldwin, however, suggested that furthering humanity and the environment are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

"There is a middle ground," he said. "I'm all in favor of sustainable economic development. You can be green, into the economy and

pro-man."

Provenzo disagrees. "There is no balance between a view that says that man's life is a primary value and a view that says that wilderness comes first," he said. "That many people think that there can be a union between the two shows that unfortunately, many people don't fully understand what is being debated here."

For anyone who wishes to publicly debate Provenzo and his ideas, he has renewed a challenge to "debate any member of any environmentalist organization at any college campus in America." He can be contacted at (703) 625-3296 or at <http://www.moraldefense.com/Pro-Tech>. More information on ARI's stance on environmentalism is available at <http://environmentalism.aynrand.org>.

Kathryn Petersen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

New dumpsite proposed off Washington coast — largest ever in Pacific Northwest

By Hal Bernton
The Seattle Times

CHINOOK, Wash. (KRT) — Six miles off shore and 210 feet below the surface of the ocean spreads the largest dumpsite ever proposed off the Pacific Northwest coast.

It's a 14-square-mile patch that may eventually hold tens of millions of cubic yards of sediment dredged up from the mouth of the Columbia River in the annual effort to keep the river mouth clear for seagoing vessels.

Army Corps of Engineers officials say they are running out of places to dump and want to use at least some of this site in the decades ahead. But the deep-water plan would waste a precious resource: sand that could bolster a 70-mile stretch of eroding Washington beaches north of the river.

The Columbia River once played

an extraordinary role in building up the southwest Washington beaches. The old free-flowing river — which drains 259,000 square miles of United States and Canada and is subject to intense seasonal flooding — washed down vast amounts of sediments, which then were flushed north by coastal currents. Studies indicate virtually all the sand on the southwest Washington coast came from the river.

But during the past half-century, much of the Columbia has been tamed by dams that created a network of slack-water pools. The sand flow has dropped by nearly 70 percent, and its movement north is impeded by a river-mouth jetty built to help large-vessel travel.

The prospect of chronic beach erosion has some people calling for a fundamental rethinking of yearly dredge disposal at the

mouth of the Columbia. Rather than dump at sea, corps critics say, it's time for a more aggressive — and more expensive — effort to get sand into the surf zone or directly up onto the shrinking beaches.

"We're looking at some 20 years until we get to a critical point — but if we wait to do anything until then, it will probably be too late," said George Kaminsky, a Washington Department of Ecology geologist.

Even with less sand washing down from inland reaches, the river mouth still clogs with sediments. Most of the sand now moves in from the offshore seafloor, according to Kaminsky, who coordinates a long-term study of the southwest Washington coastline.

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