

# Mural focuses on information overload

## Students express their concerns about technological pollution by painting a mural of Oregon's fish.

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A&E Editor

Art students, members of Phi Theta Kappa and several high school students recruited from Skills Day designed and painted a mural to represent a growing environmental problem in the United States, and specifically in our local river, the Willamette.

"Most people don't know how to discard of their equipment," said Dave Anderson, adviser of Phi Theta Kappa and a painting instructor. An average family discards its computer every other year, he said. Since they don't know what to do with them, they end up in landfills. Harmful chemicals secrete into downstream waters, creating a tremendous amount of waste and pollution in our rivers. Because of the overflow of technological waste the Willamette River now contains, it has been declared a Super Fund site.

Eighty computer monitors screwed to the wall in the Pauling Art Gallery provide the perfect backdrop to the mural, titled "Don't Drink the Downstream Water." The mural deals issues of pollution due to discarded computers, which contain harmful molecules such as chromium, cadmium, lead, mercury and PCB's.

Michael Amato, vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, the college's honor society, initiated the idea to do something representing technology pollution. Anderson and Amato brainstormed to come up with the idea that would focus attention on the poisoning of fish habitat by computer waste.

Free Geek, a non-profit organization that recycles used technology and provides computers, education and access to the Internet, donated all the monitors for the group mural.

It costs on average \$5 a computer to remove all the harmful chemicals properly. Free Geek will recycle it for just a few hours of community service. The Community Technology Center and Thrift Store is located at 1731 SE 10th Avenue. More information is available about Free Geek on their website, [www.freegeek.org](http://www.freegeek.org).

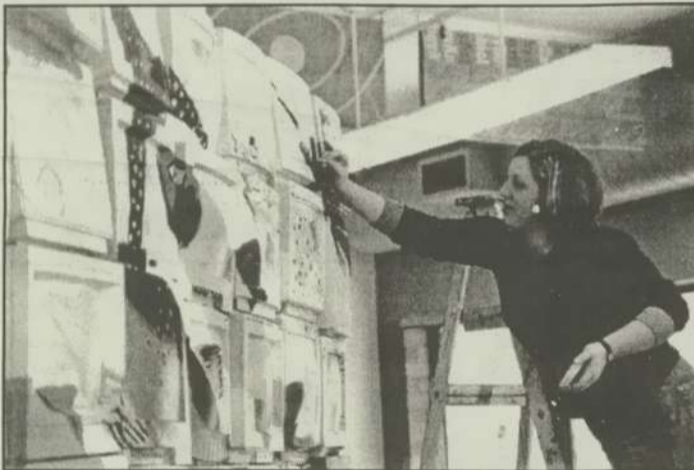
"The idea was to introduce people to the issues," said Amato. "They look at them (computers) as just throw-away."

"Millions and millions of monitors are being discarded," said Anderson.



Left to right: Matt Lauzon, Cate Breman, Zach Anderson, Shelby Haggard and Nichole Trone work together to paint a mural of Oregon's fish life on the front of old computer monitors.

PHOTOS BY MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print



Above: Nichole Trone puts the final touches on a marlin's eye at the top of the mural. After the art display is over, the wall of computer monitors will be taken apart and recycled.



Above: Michael Amato squeezes under a ladder to put on some more detail. Below: Shelby Haggard traces out another fish with the help of a fish wildlife book.



Above: Zach Anderson paints the underbelly of a fish in the middle of the school. The mural is meant to remind us about environmental issues at home in the Northwest and abroad.



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