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# win *magazine*

## ECOLOGY



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# Ecology Action IS:

more of a movement than an organization. We are composed of individuals deeply disturbed by the massive destruction being heaped on the earth and its inhabitants . . . We feel the issue is survival. Based in Berkeley, we have been in existence for about two years. We have no funding; existing on donations and the meager resources of our own pockets. We first formed as an Ecology Caucus within the Peace and Freedom party. At that time we were composed of four individuals; Chuck Herrick (architect-zoologist-mime troupe technician-digger) Betty Schwimer (musician) Cliff Humphrey (Berkeley student-human ecology) and his wife, Mary (an artist). We gained wide support within the P&F, but never enough to counteract the in-political hassling going on. Not many people realize that in P&F's founding principles is written: "Peace and Freedom Party bases its platform on a framework of ecology, that is the interrelationship between man and his environment and the limitations thereof".

A short two months after we formed, Chuck Herrick was killed in an auto accident enroute to a national organizing meeting. Two days after his untimely death we seized a small plot of land at Dwight and Telegraph and constructed Herrick Peace and Freedom Park. It lasted for three weeks before the bulldozers came. After months of working with city officials and planners we finally had a sterile, overly-planned, vest-pocket park on a very large traffic island.

Meanwhile we were faced with the problem of where to begin. The issues involved are political but massive education seemed needed. Cliff Humphrey began a class at the Free University of Berkeley called The

Politics of Ecology. From that course came our nucleus of activists. We constructed an exhibit called The Environment of Man: A Growth Economy vs. A Finite Life Support System. Seventy-five feet long, 26 flats, constructed out of driftwood from San Francisco Bay. It had an impact we had not anticipated. At each place it was displayed, a few hundred people would sign our mailing list. Ecology Action groups began to form on some campuses. Meanwhile, we held classes, distributed literature (short guide to environmental problems, with reading list, suggested actions, various essays, most of it mimeographed, and answered any and all requests for speakers. Cliff Humphrey started a Politics of Ecology column for the *Freedom News* in Richmond and Marc Lappe a column in the *Daily Cal* at Berkeley.

We are organized around projects rather than parliamentary procedures. What gets done depends upon the resources presently available. Our manpower shifts a great deal—classes, finals, vacations. We try to remain flexible and have informal gatherings around a meal, rather than meetings as such. Recently a lawyer donated his services to form a non-profit corporation: the Ecology Action Educational Institute. Instead of turning into a large bureaucracy we have split into co-operating groups. Thus the non-profit institute is involved with printing pamphlets, making exhibits, supplying speakers, and conducting classes and workshops. It is presently constructing a large exhibit on population for the 'opening of the Oakland Museum. The campus groups are more involved with raising the political issues, petitions, various forms of direct action. The tactics are evolving

into a form of street theater. Right now they are working on getting DDT banned. Always emphasized is individual action and personal ethics. On June 7 at the Ecology Fair sponsored by Ecology Action, Cliff and Mary Humphrey removed their 1958 Rambler from the road. With the help of 60 people it was transformed into a sculpture, a monument to the gods of clean air.

We feel the best way to work is in small groups cooperating with each others. It is obvious that cultural transformation is needed. Energy can only be wasted in arguing over tactics. One or two people can conduct a class . . . you don't need much money to pass out a leaflet or a petition. You need facts but there are plenty floating around. What is needed is dedication, the will to do something . . . big plans are great but you can spend all your time looking for money and never get around to doing anything. It all comes down to the basic fact of accepting responsibility for the world we live in and accepting the responsibility for changing it.

An ecological revolution is underway. No one can contain it or direct it. It is evolving out of the necessity for survival. Ecology Action hopes to be, in part, a facilitator of the necessary cultural transformation.

Ecology Action may be contacted by writing box 9334, Berkeley, Ca. 94709. Write for various contacts in the country. If in Berkeley San Francisco Area—call 452-3673, 848-1763.

—Ecology Action

## ABOUT OUR SYMBOL

The three circles represent the earth, universe and the elements (water and air). The three wavy lines represent the intellect in action. It is a combination of two old English symbols.