

by Sarah Fish
Clarion Reporter

*"In this heartland,
She feels like water in my hand.
Freeway like a river, cuts through
this land
Into the side of love like a burning
spear.
And the poison rain brings a flood
of fear
Through the ghost ranch hills,
Death Valley waters
In the towers of steel belief goes on
and on."*

U2

The deep-seated concern for the threats planet Earth is facing is echoed through the voices of millions of people worldwide. The concern is directed toward rain-forest destruction, holes in the ozone, and emission of gases that are creating the greenhouse effect. 1990 is the 20th anniversary for Earth Day, a demonstration in 1970 that gave birth to the Clean Air Act of 1970 and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. National organizers of Earth Day 1990 expect a turnout five times larger than the one 20 years ago. Rolling Stone Magazine, Feb. 8, 1990 edition says, "Earth Day 1990 is an attempt to tap into the heat generated by the growing anxieties over the environment in the past couple of years."

On campus at Brevard College, students will be given the opportunity to participate in numerous Earth Day activities that last all week.

BC's Environmental Awareness Group, headed by faculty advisor Sharon Brown, has planned a busy schedule

Saturday, April 21: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. participate in the Transylvania County Earth Day Celebration at South Broad Park. There will be over 15 exhibits and live music. EAG will present a 10 minute video on global warming.

Sunday, April 22: 1:30-4:30 p.m. Dig up trees and deliver to the Brevard Elementary and Middle School. Also, an erosion project is tentatively scheduled.

In addition, the James Addison Jones Library at the College will have displays for Earth Day. The Library has

recently added several "green" titles to its collection which the faculty and students are encouraged to check out, titles ranging from tops on ecology, to the ozone crisis to clearcutting to acid rain, and more.



Earth Day

Brevard College is joining in...

Monday, April 23: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Clean Stream Day. Also, Bill Thomas, Chairman of the N.C. chapter of the Sierra Club, will speak on environmental concerns at 8:15 p.m. in the Auxiliary Gym.

Thomas, who lives in Cedar Mountain outside Brevard, has been active in this region preserving the endangered areas of the WNC environment. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin and worked for 33 years as a researcher at the local DuPont plant. After joining the Sierra Club in 1978, he helped preserve the Horsepasture River by securing National Wild and Scenic River status for the river in 1986. The N.C. Chapter Chair since 1989, he was appointed to the Governor's Western Environmental Council that same year.

Prior to his address in the gym, environmental displays by various agencies, such as the Forest Service, the

Girl Scouts, the Sierra Club, and others, will be set up at 7:30. The public is invited, but as admission fee, people are asked to bring items to be recycled, such as aluminum, glass or newspapers.

Tuesday, April 24: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Clean Forest Trail. Also, the Great BC Meat Out. The EAG is urging students to give up eating meat for one day to help protect the environment. Sign a petition in the cafeteria. The money ARA would have spent on meat will go to student-designated organizations. Some of the causes that could benefit include the conservation of the rain forests, Greenpeace, and Hugo relief fund.

Wednesday, April 25: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Plant Trees in the community. Live music on the quad.

Thursday, April 26: Fast meal of soup and bread, with donations going toward environmental concerns. More planting of trees during the afternoon.

All week long: signing petitions to help protect Antarctica.

Some polls show an increased amount of interest in concern for the environment. Executive director for Earth Day 1990 is Christina Desser. She says, "As much as anything, Earth Day is about setting a climate for change." The Earth has limited resources and such an environmental movement makes the "whole Earth" spirit of the late sixties seem born again.

In the Eighties, environmentalism was not as valuable as in the present and past. There was, instead, an era of conspicuous consumption for the sake of business. The Nation's natural resources were exploited.

The Smithsonian says that abusing nature is virtually causing all environmental problems. Rolling Stone says, "The point of Earth Day is to make the environment a mass movement again. Organizers want to baptize a new generation of activists."

National coordinator for the first Earth Day and chairman of Earth Day 1990, Denis Hayes, says the number one issue for the movement today is global warming. Global warming is generated fundamentally when carbon dioxide is sent forth by burning fossil fuels. One solution would be to cease the use of oil, coal and nuclear energy in the next 25 years. That would mean one of the most omnipotent economic benefits in the world, the fossil-fuel industry, would have to engulf a tangible slice in its gross income for the next few decades. Currently, the environmental movement is not durable enough to denounce this industry.

Whatever happens on Earth Day 90, Brevard College students will have a chance to join in that mass movement. Whether it will be remembered 20 years from now as another genesis for this generation remains to be seen.

Appreciation

*Somehow I've never wondered
What tomorrow would be like
Without flowers,
Never again
A sign of spring,
Only rain
And colorless flatlands.
The beauty of a blossom
Shows life and
Prosperity -- the
Promise of hope
And a future.*

-- Sarah Fish