

A Nation That Destroys Its Soil, Destroys Itself

Guest Commentary
by Aymi Franklin

Massive participation in the first Earth Day in 1970 helped our Congress and President Nixon to enact sweeping environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Since then, hundreds of millions of citizens from around the world have taken part in Earth Day events, particularly during the 20th Anniversary celebration in 1990. The event helped force the media, political, and business leaders to pay attention to a wide range of environmental problems and inspired citizens to make lifestyle changes to help solve them.

On April 22, the 25th anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated. Yet, the

House of Representatives and most state legislatures want to enact bills that may roll back 25 years of environmental progress. They hope to win the "War on the Environment" by concealing their bombs inside the Contract with America.

If most Americans remain unaware that their air, water, and lands are in danger, that's understandable-the Contract with America never directly mentions the environment. That, too, is understandable. Recent polls show that a majority of Americans not only want tougher environmental protection, but are willing to pay for them.

Yet, the Contract contains four radical proposals that could roll back decades of hard won victories on behalf of public lands, public health, and public safety. It is in truth a "Polluters Bill of Rights".

The proposals that make up this polluter's bill of Rights would diminish our basic environmental protection in four ways: 1) They would reverse the principle that polluters should pay to clean up their own mess and would shift the burden and costs to the taxpayer.

2) They would allow state and local governments to shirk their responsibility to protect their citizens and ensure for them a safe and healthy environment, unless the federal government paid for the clean-up.

3) They would allow polluters to play Russian Roulette with a new form of "risk assessment" that proposes that chemicals should be innocent until proven guilty-even if we are being exposed to them without consent or knowledge. 4) They would remove crucial restraints on corporate misconduct by making it more difficult for citizens to

take corporations to court and by limiting corporate wrongdoing.

Of course, this Polluter's Bill of Rights is well hidden in the euphemisms and rhetoric of the Contract with America. But sections 8 and 9 of the Contract contain extremely radical forms of each of these principals. It is difficult to believe that given the strong public support for environmental protection, Congress would seriously consider such proposals.

Over the past 25 years the United States has developed an environmental protection system that is among the best in the world. And we must celebrate days such as Earth Day, because it is a reminder to be thankful for natural beauty. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself."

Spring Formal-A Night To Remember

Chirs Theokas
Clarion Staff Writer

April 22 came and went for most people. It was a balmy Saturday night, the night was relatively clear, the air sweet. There was a lazy feel to the night as a whole, not much to do, and no one to do it with. Unless you went

to the formal at the Silvermont, because those people were dancing all night long.

From nine p.m. to one in the morning, there was music, laughter, good food, good friends, loved ones, and loud music. Luminaries guided you from your car under the branches of

newly green trees to the steps of the mansion, where Lyle Alexis took up the tickets, and even sold a few more. Everything was like a whirlwind from the moment you stepped in the door to the moment the last slow song was played. Adcock's photography was there taking pictures on the grand steps of the Silvermont. To your right there was food, meatballs, punch, petit-fours, vegetables, and fruit. There were two dance floors, although one was used for gawking, while the other was actually danced upon.

The DJ took requests, and, as Timothy Higgins commented, "There

were some fast-paced songs, but there were also...slow songs that I enjoyed dancing to." There was no smoke curling up from the floor at this dance though. The atmosphere was romantic enough without it. The lights were low, and the mood had already been set by the decorations around the mansion, and by the dancers on the floor.

And one a.m. finally came, and the evening was over. The night had been long for some, not long enough for others. Couples left together, arm in arm, walking down the path that was lighted by the luminaries. It truly had been "Some Enchanted Evening."

Summer music program is planned for July

Special to the Clarion
from the B.C. News Bureau

Brevard College will host a fresh and creative program called "Music in the Mountains" from July 2-8.

The total cost for the entire week-long program is only \$325.00 per person. This includes all meals, lodging, tickets, transportation, and other fun perks. Optional tickets to the Biltmore Estate are available at an additional \$25.00.

Mornings will include engaging classes which will be taught by Laura McDowell, a member of the Brevard College faculty, and Shirley Swain, who is associated with the Brevard Music

Center. Joy Rising, who brings a myriad of tour experience, will serve as the week's hostess.

During the afternoons, field trips will be planned to local sites such as the Pisgah National Forest, Looking Glass Falls, Cradle of Forestry, and the shops of downtown Brevard.

The week's package will also include all tickets for the evening performances at the Brevard Music Center.

"Music in the Mountains" is designed for everyone. No prior musical background is necessary.

For more information, call David Huskins, Director of Alumni Affairs, at (704) 884-8202.

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