

Human Ecology Now Heard More Frequently

By W. A. Leavell, Ph.D.
The term "Human Ecology" is starting to be heard more and more. Ecology refers to the chain of interactions between man and his environment. The term as it is now used relates to the people in our world and how they get along with nature and the effects of technological gains. As an example, not too long ago in North Borneo some well-meaning health authorities decided it was time to stamp out malaria which had plagued the natives for many years. Since malaria is carried by mosquitoes, the authorities sprayed the villages with DDT and killed the mosquitoes. Everyone was happy. No more mosquitoes, no more malaria. Simple? Well, not quite. Along with the mosquitoes, the villages were blessed with more than a few cockroaches. The cockroaches were more resistant to the DDT and were not killed, but they absorbed the poison. Other small creatures ate the poisoned cockroaches and these small creatures were in turn eaten by the village cats. The cats died from the DDT residue in the cockroaches. As soon as the cats start-

ed to die out the rats started coming out of the forests and taking over the villages. By not understanding the "Human Ecology" of the situation, the well-meaning health authorities traded the threat of malaria for the threat of plague carried by the rats. To correct their error, the health authorities had to get rid of the DDT infested cockroaches and then bring in a fresh supply of cats who in turn drove the rats back into the forests. This is just one example of how man, combining ignorance with his pursuit of the immediate benefits of modern technology, is manipulating his environment to and beyond the brink of destruction. Most of man's little innovations and inventions, of which he is so proud, have obvious side effects. Most of the technological gains built in "Ecological Insults" or threats to our social and mental condition. The factories that turn out all our little goodies also pour out fumes and pollutants. Our wide freeways and multi-billion dollar highways dump motorists into massive traffic jams. Disposable clothes, instant foods, cans, bottles and all the modern conveniences have quadrupled man's garbage in the last fifty years to a total of nearly a ton (2,000 pounds) per person per year. Even the modern miracle drugs we bow down to

when we are sick are not without harmful side effects. Some of these side effects may even offer sinister genetic threats to the generations to come. Not long ago pesticides were hailed as one of man's greatest achievements. Scientists are now taking another look at their use. Recently they have discovered pesticide residues in the Antarctic. By killing a few insects that feed on our crops we might be poisoning our environment. Lest we forget, we better keep right on top of another dangerous type of "Ecology." It could end our time on earth quicker than the pollutants we pour on our environment. I am talking about "Political Ecology." Like the balance of nature, our political structure is a delicate system of checks and balances. Our constitution has worked for a long time. It has proved itself to be the finest document around on which to base a government. What we have today in the USA

might not be perfect but it is so much better than anything else around that we better think long and hard before we shake it or change it. Take our Washington "Flock." Goodness knows they are not perfect. Sometimes I even doubt if they are even on our side but hard as they try, they have been unable to mess up the country beyond repair. For years now they have been trying to spend us broke but while the dollar won't buy near as much as it used to, it is still the strongest currency around. Our dedicated civil servants are not always civil. They are not always as bright as we would like but somehow, some way, they keep the wheels of government running. Our elected officials, those good old glorious leaders, those hand pumping, vote grubbers, they have more faults than a street dog has fleas but who would swap one of them for the finest Dictator or Commissar? Not me! I'll take the USA.



CURVE SETTERS—The growing Industrial Arts Department at Elizabeth City State University welcomed its first female students when sophomores Jo Ann Walter, left, and Barbara Tyson, right, changed their majors. After yielding to the advice of close friends and relatives, Jo Ann of Edenton and Barbara of Greenville, decided to switch from the areas of business education and music. The new curve setters in Industrial Arts at ECSU plan to specialize in the areas of interior decoration and drafting.

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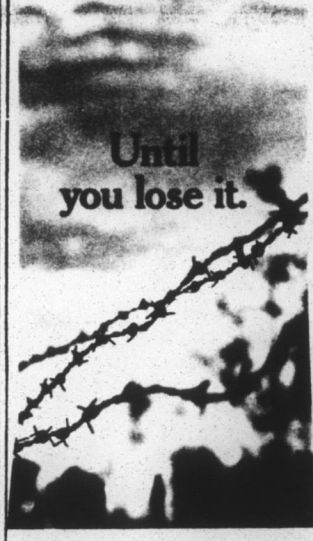
Mrs. Hobowsky Taken In Death

ENFIELD—Mrs. Fannie Lesser Hobowsky, 96, died Sunday.

Funeral services were held Monday at 12:30 o'clock in the Oliver Funeral Home in Norfolk, Va., with Rabbi Brownstein officiating. Burial was in the B'Nai Israel Cemetery, Norfolk.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Edward Meyer of Enfield, and one son, Jacob Hobowsky of Edenton. There are five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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 - 1 - 3-Piece Platt Luggage Set \$49.95
 - 6 Sets Slip-Over Seat Covers \$3.95
 - 1 - 6-Pack Ice Chest 77c
 - 1 - Part Cabinet \$2.59

ANNOUNCING ANNUAL MEETING

September 13
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HERTFORD, N. C.

Reports - Election of Directors
Prizes - Entertainment

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