

ECO-JOURNAL

Volume 3, Number 6

November-December, 1993

Industry recycling program raises questions

A PLAN BY PACKAGING PRODUCERS and the provincial government to bring widespread recycling, including curb side pick-up in major centres, to Manitoba hasn't exactly got environmentalists jumping for joy.

You would think that stewardship by the industry that creates so much of our solid waste is exactly what we've been waiting for, and in principle most environmentalists would agree. But with legislation to facilitate the Manitoba Stewardship Initiative in the drafting stages, a working group already negotiating the terms of a government-industry "partnership" and a timetable for "roll out" (first phase implementation) in Winnipeg of June 1994, proponents of the plan met with some very pointed questions at a recent Recycling Council public forum.

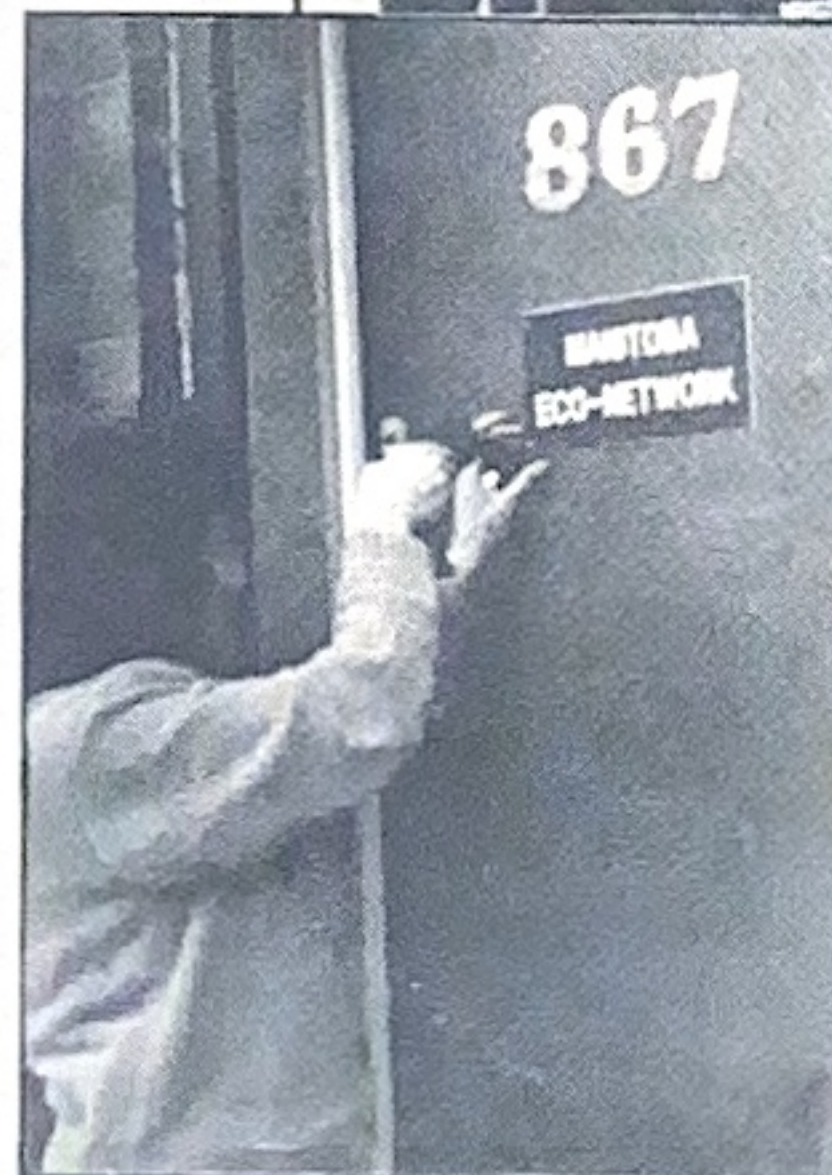
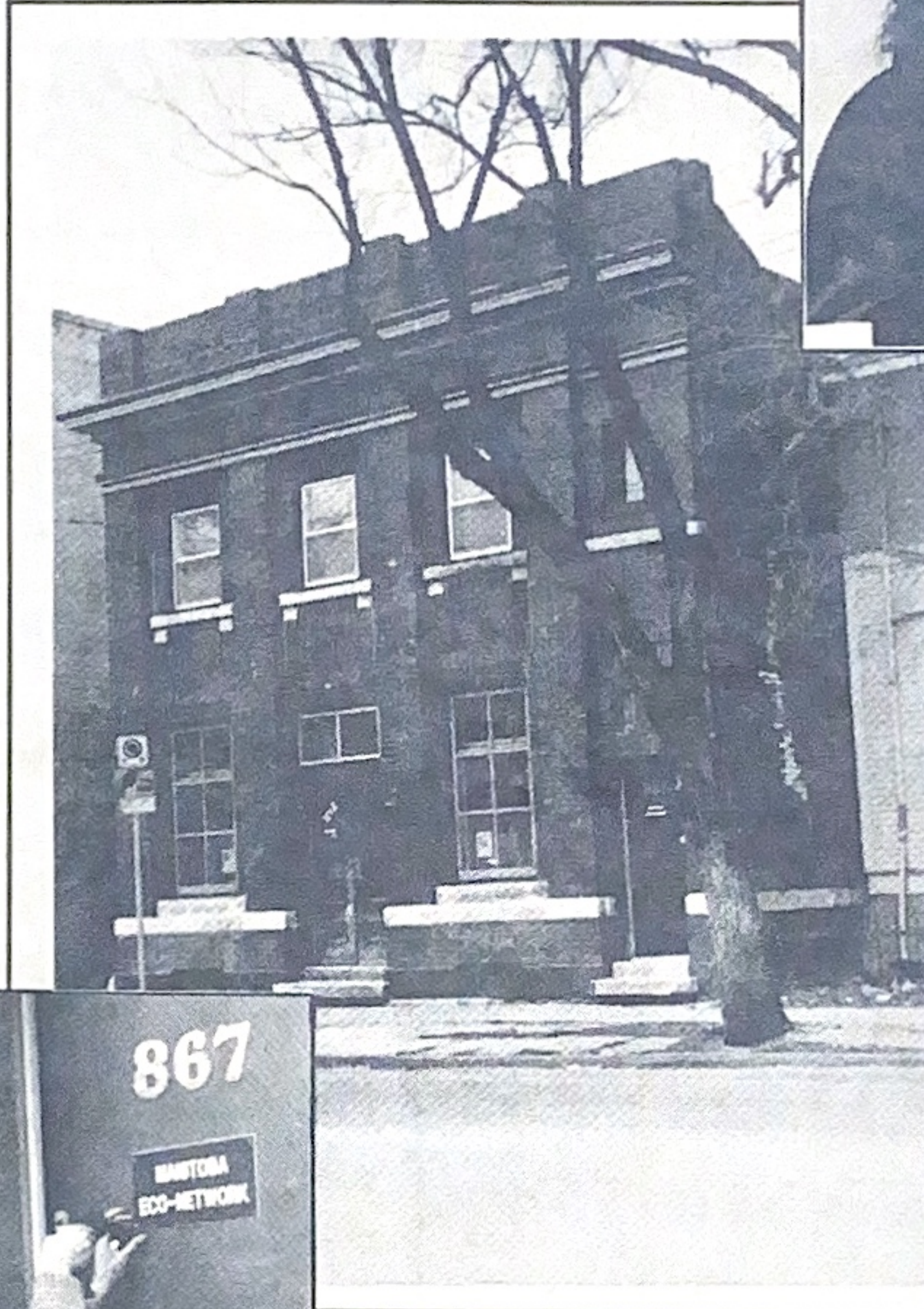
Provincial Waste Reduction Action Plan (WRAP) coordinator Jim Ferguson outlined the basic concept of the multi-material program, but it was Canadian Industry Packaging Stewardship Initiative representative Michel Primeau who fielded most of the questions. No documentation for the proposal except a business plan CIPSI presented to the province exists yet according to the proponents, but Primeau said that "we will be glad to share (the business plan) with you when it is released."

Chief among the questions to

See Control page 14

We moved to 867 Westminster!

Drop in and check out our new location



Shelfless volunteer

Manitoba Eco-Network volunteer Evelyn Teichman restocks the Environmental Resource Centres shelves at our new location 867 Westminister. A corps of volunteers manage the resource centre. The new space is a bit of a squeeze for shelf space but it's also brighter and part of a

community that includes member organization Harvest Collective, a whole grains bakery, a progressive book store and an environmental store.

Executive Director Sharon Segal (left) hangs our shingle on the door (left). Drop in (M-Th 9:30 to 4) with any question, or just to say hello.

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Reread: short clips, snips and quotes from all over

compiled by Toby Maloney

Nuclear tourism

Some unusual sources for this instalment of Reread. First up is an editorial from the **Thunder Bay Times-News/Chronicle Journal** regarding a community considering "hosting" a "low level radioactive waste storage site." For about four years Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. has been searching for a site to dispose of low level radioactive waste, most of which is currently stored temporarily in the Georgian Bay area. The Times News editorial "Blessing in Disguise? N-Waste Site may aid tourism" apparently in response to opposition to the plan in the community of Geraldton 200 kilometres to the east of Thunder Bay, began:

"A nuclear waste storage facility won't hurt Geraldton's tourism industry. In fact, the construction of a low-level radioactive waste storage site may even help it.

What's the big attraction there now?" Pristine lakes, forests and rocks? That's not exactly a marketing niche, when dozens of other centres in Northwestern Ontario offer the same."

This isn't a spoof folks, they're serious. And here's the clincher - the next paragraph goes on to say "this isn't an attempt to tell people in Geraldton they should vote yes or no when it comes down to deciding on whether or not to host the storage site."

This kind of pseudo objectivity is unhelpful to real debate in any context.

Editorial, Thunder Bay Times News, November 7, 1993

Science curriculum foretells the future

To me the most interesting thing about language is that one small slip can alter meaning completely. I came across a wonderful malapropism in the Sustainable Development Strategies section of the core curriculum for Grade 3 science in Manitoba:

"Sustainable development is the process of maintaining our natural heritage. It is important that students be made aware of the need for **judicial** (my emphasis) use and management of
Please See next page

1992-93 Eco- Network Steering Committee

Marnie Preston,
University of Manitoba Recycling and
Environmental Group
Nick Carter,
Manitoba Naturalists Society
Jack Dubois,
Wildlife Society, Manitoba
Bill Goddard,
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Dianne Cox/Dennis Bayomi,
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Steve Rauh,
Association of Mental Health Workers
for the Environment
Rhoda Rempel,
Project Peacemakers
Celia Sarbit/Debbie Jennings
Marquis Project
Lori Palano,
U of W SAFE

our natural resources."

Now, I suspect the writer meant to say **judicious**, and as a frequent creator of typographic and other errors myself, I shouldn't be so wicked, (what goes around comes around) but do you suppose some force of nature altered those last three letters to reflect our current system of decision-making? Typographic truth-telling?

*Science: Grade 3 interim guide
Manitoba Education and Training, 1991 (page 11).*

Speaking of education

A biology class in Ontario also got a lesson in community development and politics when it decided to role play a town hall meeting on the issue of pesticide use for lawn care. According to **Green Teacher Magazine**, Grade 11 biology students at Oakville Trafalgar High staged a full "public meeting" with students playing the roles of mayor and town councillors, an expert panel with representatives from environment groups, health, business and government departments and town citizens who portrayed concerned town citizens attending the "meeting." The result was that many of the dynamics of a "real" meeting occurred and "because students had to assume roles, they had to apply reason to the issues as well as emotion."

"The Great Pesticide Debate: Environmental Awareness through Role Playing" by Robert Hart, *Green Teacher*, Oct.-Nov. 1993.

Habits not laws of nature

A sheaf of articles, donated to the Eco-Network by an avid Rereader, contained an interesting essay from a magazine called *Edges*. Rupert Sheldrake, author of *A New Science of Life* and *The Presence of the Past* argues that the "laws of nature" as advanced by Newton and centuries of followers may be more like English Common Law in that the laws evolve and change continuously and that regularities in nature are more like habits: "There's a kind of memory inherent in nature, inherent in fields, which organize things at all levels of complexity and are influenced by similar things that have gone before. A hedgehog, for example, as it develops as an embryo is influenced by a hedgehog field which contains a kind of memory of past hedgehogs... its instinctive behaviour is shaped by the behaviour of past hedgehogs..."

Nature Speaks Back, by Rupert Sheldrake, Edges, June 1991

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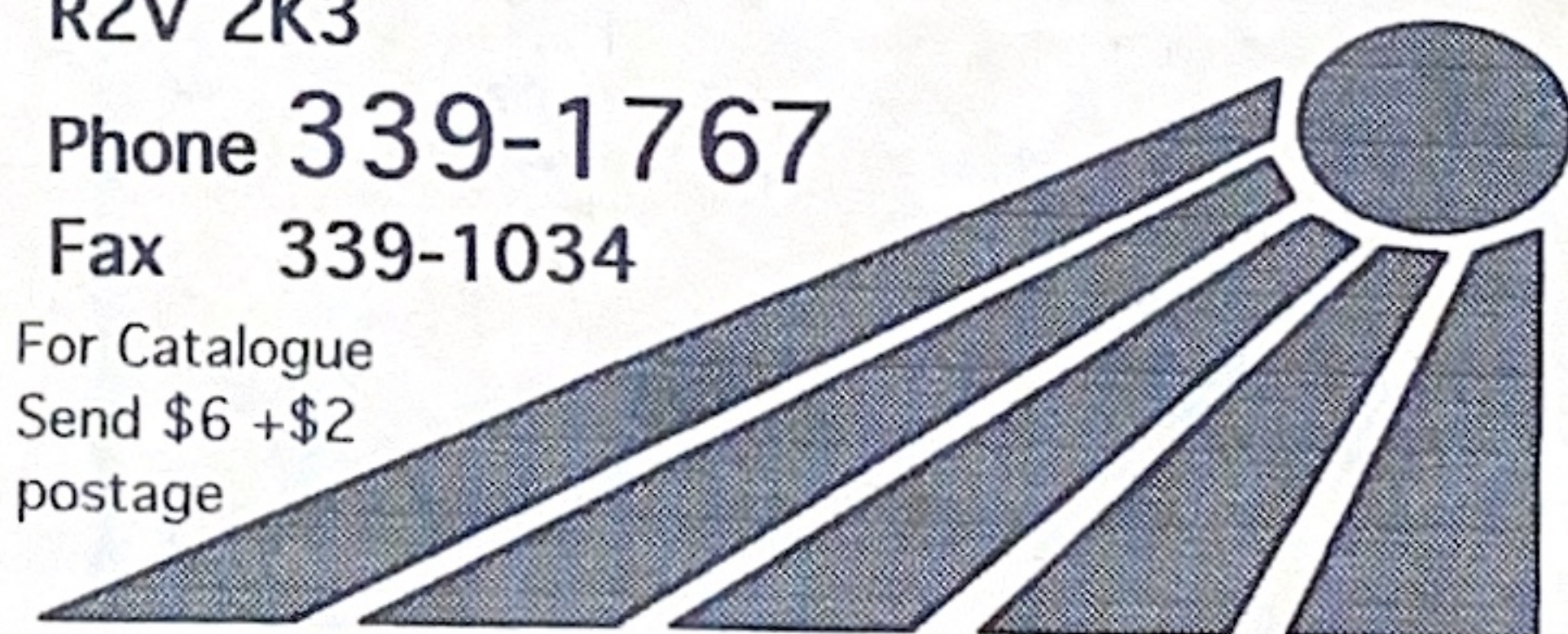
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Codifying forestry

One of the side results of the blockade and protest at Clayoquot Sound has been that the British Columbia government has felt the need to respond to the criticisms over forest practices by environmentalists and others. Check out the just released B.C. Forest Practices Code (proposed) in our just reopened Environmental Resource Centre at 687 Westminister Avenue.

The document, circulated for comments as the first part of a lengthy consultation process, promises to set "new levels of forest practice that will establish British Columbia as a world leader in the attainment of environmental and resource sustainability."

Subtitled "Changing the way we manage our forests. Tough enforcement," the report outlines new requirements to maintain biodiversity, assessment and mitigation of cumulative impacts, restrictions on clear-cutting and "tougher and more environmentally sensitive road building standards." The proposed code is in four parts: A proposed Forest Practices Act; regulations (Forest Practice Rules for British Columbia) which would be universal for the

province as well as specify "best management practices" and "required process(es)"; Standards, which expand the regulations and provide region-specific details; and Field Guides, which won't be legislation but Ministry guidelines supporting the regulations with specific criteria and objective as well as a testing ground for new regulations.

At first glance the Code looks genuine, but, notwithstanding the heading "tough enforcement" on the cover it doesn't really address the outstanding issue in all forest and resource conflicts - weak or non-existent enforcement. Now I know you can't somehow write political will to enforce environmental laws into the legislation, but even if the code is as good as it sounds, in the short term mostly voluntary compliance by industry is probably the best we can hope for.

Still the code promises to be a model for future practices on crown land elsewhere in Canada and worth a look for anyone interested in forest concerns here or anywhere. You can try writing away for your own copy to:

L.C. 4723
Forest Practices Code/Rules Document
Ministry of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B. C.
V8W 3T3

or you can just peruse the Eco-Network copy
in the Environmental Resource Centre.

NAFTA Facts

A last minute layout switch pushed a couple of important resources of the end of an article by Bill Goddard about an International Affairs Caucus meeting on sustainability and trade. It may be a little late for action on NAFTA politically but it's never too late to try to understand. "The Environmental Implications of Trade Agreements," prepared by Canadian Environmental Law Association for the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy (August 1993, 353 pages) is a must for any environmentalist looking at impacts of trade. Call CELA at (416) 960-2284, or the Ministry Information Centre at (416) 323-4321 for a copy (while copies are still available).

Six fact sheets on the specifics of NAFTA and the Environment - Water, Energy, Agriculture etc. are also available from the CELA. Samples can be perused at the Eco-Network Environmental Resource Centre 867 Westminister Avenue. The Centre also has a copy of the CELA Report for perusal.

Calendar of events

Environmentally Speaking airs on VPW Channel 11 every second Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. on both sides of the Red River and the following Saturday on the west side of the river only. Environmentally Speaking is a program about environment issues of concern to Manitobans sponsored by the Manitoba Environmental Council. Call Producer Connie Menzies 235-1353 for more information.

Happy Holidays -- take a
break from all the meetings

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A Step In The Right Direction

Forks development still on wrong track

OPINION

by Barry Hammond
with Marcia Nozick and Jeff Lowe

The unveiling of the Forks Renewal Corporation's Phase Two development proposals have not laid to rest any of the concerns raised by community activists and environmentalists. The Forks is a city, provincial, federal and international heritage site. Its preservation is being threatened by the management and development of mandate assumed by the Forks Renewal Corporation. The following facts are being obscured by the Forks Renewal Corporation (FRC):

The public is not being heard. No public hearings are scheduled and other citizen participation is limited. What is needed are public hearings not public meetings. There is little public accountability by the FRC through any level of government. There are great economic inefficiencies in the present top-down model of decision-making by the FRC. According to a recent audited report, expenses for the FRC for the year ending March 31, 1993 were over \$3.3 million. This led to net loss of \$1.8 million.

Much of this loss is caused by administrative costs, salaries and the Directors' fees. Over \$700,000 was spent on these administrative costs. If most of these costs could be eliminated the FRC would not need the \$500,000 in tax breaks it is seeking. As taxpayers we know that the tax break to a Corporation simply means that our tax bills must increase by the same amount. The City could build and maintain a park for less than what it costs to bankroll the FRC since its inception in 1987. In brief, the cost of maintaining the FRC is much more than building and maintaining a major green space in Winnipeg.

What is to be the use of the Forks? The McKnight study of Winnipegger's attitudes to the Forks found that while 48 per cent found open space most appealing, only 8 per cent like shopping the most. Also, while 94 per cent listed recreational uses, and 93 per cent listed the historical/cultural aspects as most appropriate, "supportive" commercial components such as the market and boat rentals ranked only third as 86 per cent. It appears the people like the recreational and historical development the most, and want these to continue in Phase II.

The future of the Forks must be tied to a sustainable plan for the whole of Winnipeg. The Forks is already undermining the revenue accessible to other areas of downtown such as North Portage and the Exchange District. Development of these areas has, in the past, cost the City a lot of money. Winnipeg should not be competing against itself.

But revenue is only one concern. The development costs for housing and commercial areas is much higher than the costs of infrastructure for a park. Developing condos or malls will drain away funds needed for infrastructure development in other parts of the city. Development at the Forks must be coordinated with Plan Winnipeg: 2010 and with the plans of City council. For example, the York-St. Mary extension seems to be assumed by the FRC whereas they were deleted from Plan Winnipeg. Also in Phase II the FRC has failed to create the transit and pedestrian linkages necessary to foster a symbiosis between the Forks, the existing areas of downtown, and the surrounding area of the inner city neighbourhoods.

The meaning of words often gets twisted by the FRC. The people seem to take "supportive" to mean refreshment stands and craft shops, while the FRC takes it to mean high rise housing developments and malls. By "development" people mean cleaning up the debris and creating a park, while the FRC appears to define development as building large commercial outlets. By "self-sustaining" people mean maintaining the site with no future drain on the taxpayers, while the FRC means keeping their Corporation alive.

And what of the boundaries of the Forks? What are they really? The FRC tries to create the impression that it only controls what is to take place on land to which it has title, that is south of York Avenue.

In fact, the FRC has responsibility for coordinating development over the entire area inside the railway main line and bordered by the two rivers, and bordering on Main Street from the Fort Garry Curling Club up to Water Street. The people correctly regard all of this as constituting the Forks. This includes the City of Winnipeg land

The Forks is already undermining the revenue accessible to other areas of downtown Winnipeg should not be competing against itself.

north of the York Avenue extension.

This is also one area proposed for a downtown arena. This is not what the people had in mind when they said that the Forks should contain recreational opportunities. The majority of people don't want economic development, they want green space. While the FRC views parks as empty space, the people view parks as space for picnics, cross-country skiing and year round leisure.

Much more consultation must take place with heritage, Aboriginal, environmental and business groups, and with City council if the FRC is to continue. For example, the proposal that the Forks be managed as a heritage land trust was not mentioned in Phase II.

The suggested merger of the FRC with the North Portage Development Corporation will only be a positive step if the combined groups eliminate the \$700,000 drain on the taxpayers, and if the new group is accountable to the people in their hopes for development of the Forks.

Reprinted with permission from JUST CHOICES published by CHOICES: A coalition for social justice. For information about citizen opposition to the Forks Renewal Corporation development plans call Marcia Nozick at 489-2452. To contact the CHOICES action line call 944-9408.

OPINION

by Anne Lindsey and Nick Carter

There have been some disturbing new developments in the area of ozone protection by our province in the last few months.

Although Manitoba was one of the first provinces to introduce legislation to control ozone depleting substances, there are signs, beginning with the Spring budget and continuing with ineffective enforcement of ozone protection legislation that the government intends to disengage from involvement in the issue.

To understand the subtleties of provincial policy it is necessary to examine some background to the story: Manitoba was one of the first provinces to introduce legislation to control and eventually phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS's), such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's). It wasn't until early 1992, however, when the world was rudely awakened to the impending crisis in

Province abdicating its responsibility for ozone protection

the ozone layer, that regulations to implement the legislation were finally promulgated.

To its credit, the Department of Environment took the unusual step of asking representatives of industry, and environmentalists to come together with government in a Working Group to advise on the new regulations. Nick Carter represented the Environmental Council, and Anne Lindsey attended on behalf of the Eco-Network. The National Energy Conservation Association (NECA) was also represented at the table.

In January of 1993, the Working Group submitted substantive recommendations on the regulations which have reportedly been accepted by Legislative Council (almost a year later).

The Working Group met regularly to go through the regulations step by step, identifying possible loopholes, wrestling with difficult issues of enforcement and compliance, and fashioning solutions when problems were recognized. The achievements of the group were substantial: industry associations such as the Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Institute (HRAI) played a major role in the certifying and training of technicians, approaches to data collection, development of manuals and a code of practice for working with ODS's. Moreover, there was an atmosphere of genuine commitment to the goal of reducing emissions and protecting the ozone layer.

In one example, Autopac was not complying with the spirit of the legislation by refusing to make provisions for draining air-conditioner refrigerant from vehicles being re-sold. The Working Group brought considerable pressure to bear on the Minister responsible (ironically, this was Glen Cummings, also Minister of Environment) to

ensure that the government agency would come into line with the rest of the auto industry. Autopac has now done so, and in the process, utilized an innovative (and considerably cheaper) system for removal of CFC's from car air-conditioners.

The incentives for industry to behave responsibly were substantial. The legislation mandates tough fines for non-compliance, and the costs involved in certifying technicians and upgrading equipment are substantial. Having made these investments (worth literally millions of dollars) in good faith, industry could stand to suffer financially if made to compete with "fly by night" operators ignoring the regulations, especially in a regime of weak enforcement by government.

Knowing that advice would be taken seriously by government (partly because of the partnership nature of the exercise), gave members of the Working Group an added incentive to contribute considerable time and effort to the process. In short, this Working Group model was a rather unique and productive way to implement environmental legislation.

Cut from the budget

During the past year, however, several changes have come about. First, the department moved to dissolve the ozone program in the context of a major Spring budget cut. This caused an uproar amongst members of the Working Group since many issues remained to be dealt with. Negotiations ensued to attempt to maintain the program, with its necessary secretariat support and liaison with government.

A brief respite was obtained, but the current situation has the Working Group setting up as an arms length industry association (Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Asso-

The provincial Environment Department officer responsible for the enforcement of ozone regulations has only one day per month to devote to the issue. Predictably, only one conviction has been made.



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ciation or MOPIA), with a first year grant of \$50,000 from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. The formal relationship with government has been lost, and continued government funding is not guaranteed.

Views are mixed on this development. On the one hand, MOPIA is seen as a logical outgrowth of the original Working Group, with industry continuing, in a sense, to regulate itself. The enforcement officer in charge of the regulations will attend meetings, and other interested parties, including environmentalists, are encouraged to participate actively. The group has hired Mark Miller (who formerly acted as the government employee providing administrative support to the Working Group) as its co-ordinator. Mark is optimistic about the long-term possibilities for the Group, especially given the co-operative atmosphere established over the past year.

Others are less sanguine. For example, Brian Baker, currently President of the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society, an industry group, foresees an eventual conflict within the organization over financial issues. Major costs will be incurred to maintain an association doing work that should rightly be the government's responsibility, he says. He also notes the potential difficulty in ensuring continuity in representation to the group, and communications with the several thousand certified technicians in the province.

In Baker's view, government has seen a way out of continued responsibility for its own regulations, a situation that may lead to a relaxation of monitoring and enforcement in the years ahead. Industry may feel appropriately cheated, and over time and depending on experience, could collectively decide, in its own financial self-interest, to behave in a less responsible manner.

Disengagement a problem

From an environmental standpoint, we believe the disengagement of government is a big problem. While it is desirable to have the co-operation and initiative of industry working to solve environmental problems, there is a clear need for a "third party" to ensure that regulations are enforced.

Unfortunately the officer responsible for enforcing ozone regulations in Manitoba has only one day per month to devote to the issue. Predictably, only one conviction has so far been made under the Act. (Four more charges are pending).

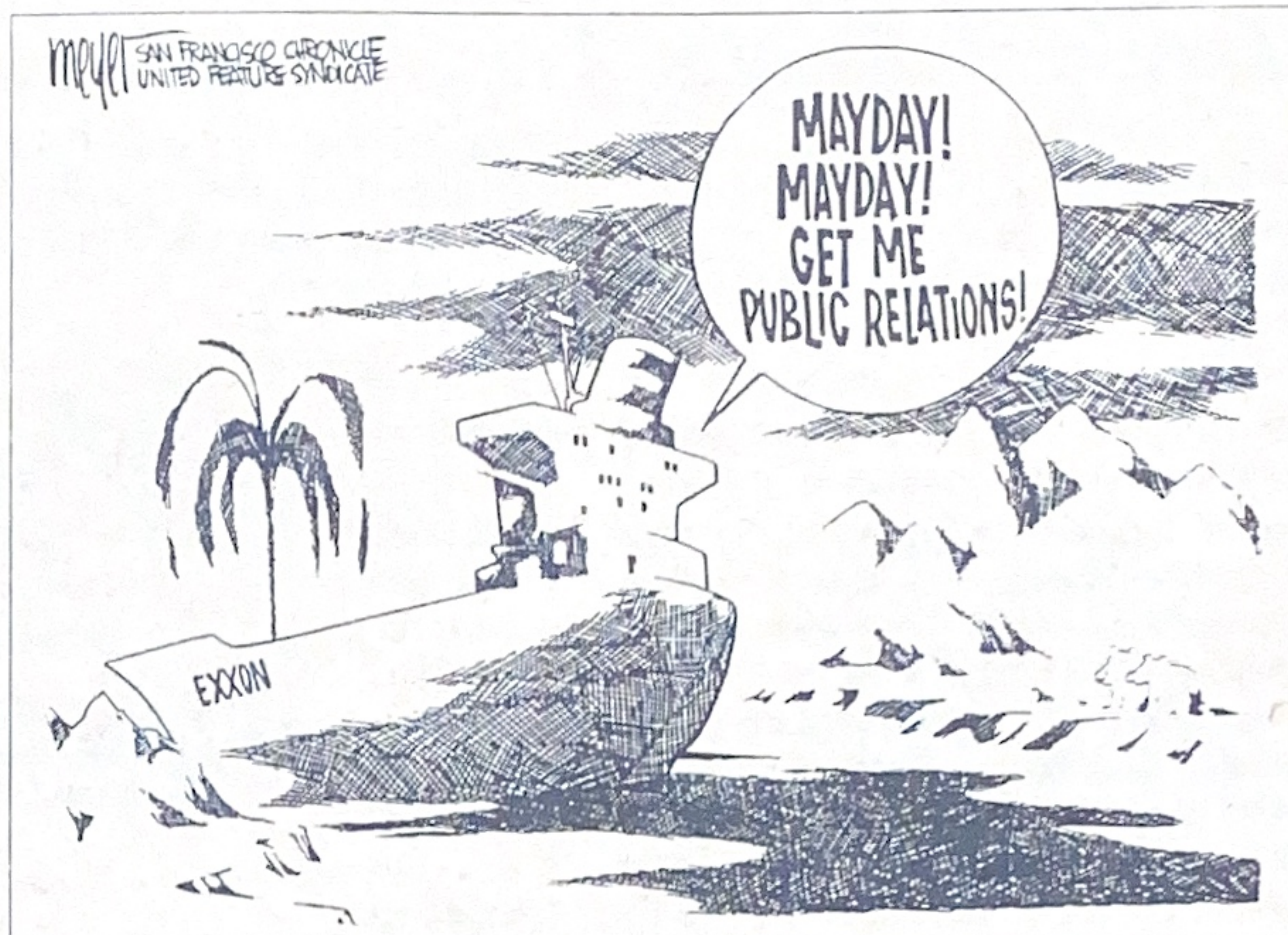
If industry itself should become disenchanted with the policing of ozone-related practices, the situation could become extremely difficult to control.

Government cannot afford to treat as serious a problem as ozone depletion in a cavalier fashion. Earlier this year, Friends of the Earth gave Manitoba an "A" rating for its legislation, and the government has made much of that. Instead of now backing away from its own legislation, Manitoba Environment needs to strongly reaffirm its commitment to ozone protection.

There are three important conditions for MOPIA to be an effective model for tackling ozone depletion in our province:

The first is continuing co-operation within the industry, between industry and government, and with the public by both of them;

Second, forthright implementation of the legislation by govern-



ment is an absolute necessity. It must comprise adequate inspection, very rapid investigation and response to alleged offences, and an appreciation by the judiciary that offences harm Manitobans and all humankind far more seriously than speeding in an automobile;

And last, we must accelerate the process of public understanding – We have to do better than a twenty year campaign as was the case with convincing ourselves that smoking is dangerous to one's health! We don't have 20 years!

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Vandana Shiva: Tree hugger with 40 Arms

by Fiona Muldrew

[reprinted with permission from Action - (Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women Newsletter)]

Eco-Feminist, International Development Advocate, Chipko Activist, Writer... Asked to describe herself before a talk at the University of Manitoba in September, Vandana Shiva replied that she doesn't choose one over the others because she is a combination of all these aspects of her life.

She explained by speaking of the importance of the Goddess Shakti to women in India. Shakti has 40 arms which represent distinct identities and multiple talents in ever woman as well as the ability to see the multiple identities of the patriarchs at various levels: in the home, the community, government and the World Bank.

Vandana spoke of Indian women as the experts in the "in-between zones" making the important links between agriculture, forestry and livestock. "Development experts" are usually male foreigners unaware of the big picture. They see most aspects of

the environment in isolation. For example, they bring Jersey cows, solely for milk production, to replace what they call "inferior breeds" which are adapted to the local conditions - to the cool mountain temperatures and for efficient use of local feed. Vandana

joked sarcastically about the horrendous results of this "expert" advice: "The Jersey cows died because they didn't have jerseys."

The development experts, from Canada and other countries, often ignore the original expertise of women in self-reliance, protecting the environment and making decisions locally to provide for their children.

with the men spending the money on alcohol. Women have quickly seen the negative effects of alcohol sales on their communities. In

the state of Andra Pradesh, women came out in the thousands day after day, in a grassroots effort to tear down the liquor stores until the government cancelled its involvement with liquor sales.

The "logic"

of this sort of capitalist economics is described by Madeline Waring in her book *If Women Counted: Feminist Economics*: If you produce what you consume, you're not producing. You are penalized for being self-reliant and rewarded if you are a parasitic intermediary.

For instance Vandana characterizes the Intellectual Property rights movement of multinational companies, an effort to control the patents and seed varieties farmers use worldwide, as "Intellectual Piracy Rights." She says that women have spent centuries selecting and adapting seeds, but their work is ignored. When a seed is brought into a lab or packaged differently, then it becomes worthy of a patent. The creativity of the women of the Third World is seen as reproduction not production. World wide, women are seen as "natures" (exploitable) and men as "culture" (saleable, valuable). Vandana believes that this undervaluing of women's creativity and knowledge comes from a deep patriarchal fear of birth - the ability to create life.

"Choices" not real

Male academics have devalued creation from nature or sources of life and have switched value onto creation from the mind or disembodied thought leading to what Vandana calls post-modern piracy: free trade and other patriarchal structures which destroy life processes. Vandana states, "you can only understand the rape of women and nature by realizing that patriarchal aggression is aimed at everything that dares to be alive."

If you produce what you consume, you're not producing. You are penalized for being self-reliant and rewarded if you are a parasitic intermediary...

Madeline Waring, *If Women Counted: Feminist Economics*

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The results of this maldevelopment are severe marginalization of women; environmental degradation, and demographic instability.

Population growth has always resulted from poverty caused by the hoarding or enclosure of some people's resources. When people have their land taken away from them, sometimes the only resource they have left is their children. It makes good economic sense for dispossessed people to have big families, because of poor health facilities (therefore high mortality rates) the need for more hands to help the family survive, and for security in their old age. Sadly, many environmentalists and development experts see Third World People (read women) as the major threat to world resources even though the richest 20 per cent of the world consumes 80 per cent of the world's resources. Many population control programs in Third World countries may be seen by the West as offering choices to women but Third World women know that choices are only how to do violence to themselves in different ways. Many contraceptives and drugs which are banned in North America are pushed widely in the south regardless of harmful side effects.

When asked what guides or inspires her, Vandana replied, "Think of the person who is least privileged and try to judge your actions by how they will affect that person. Look at how the poor do so much with so little. I went to a meeting with some steelworkers in a remote part of India. We talked all day. I was exhausted and they danced all night and talked all the next day. I save a lot of time and energy by not taking myself too seriously."

Vandana has written a book *Staying Alive* and is working on a film *The One Creative Seed*. The film title is taken from a poem by a Palestinian woman:

*You can destroy my history
You can destroy my villages
You can destroy my poetry
But I'm not afraid of your
destruction.*

*I have the one creative seed
and out of it I will create the
future.*

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1994 Christmas Check List

Christmas ideas from the World
Home Environmentalists newsletter

To tree or not to tree

Canada produces about 3.5 million Christmas trees annually not counting the wild ones cut in private woodlots. In Ontario and Quebec, nearly all are grown on marginal farmland. Christmas tree farms range from seven acre family operations to sprawling plantations owned by multinational corporations.

Commercial tree growers are likely to have used fungicides, herbicides and insecticides during the seven years it took the trees to reach market size. And for almost

a decade, many Christmas trees have been hand-sprayed with a vegetable-based dye to make them greener and to hide the effects of acid rain and airborne pollutants.

Scott C. Scot, vice-president of J. Hofert Ltd, which is based in Washington State and grows about a million trees on Canadian plantations, says his company sprays trees to give its customers what they want. "Yellow needles just aren't acceptable in the U.S. market," he says.

People who live in Christmas tree growing areas face more ominous concerns than whether or not to dye. Environmentalists in the sprawling tree-growing belt of central Ontario, where about half of this country's crop is produced, want growers to stop stripping topsoil from land and to stop aerial spraying of pesticides.

Peter Brasher, a retired surgeon living in the middle of a Christmas tree growing area worries that the desire for perfect trees is leaving land barren:

"These insecticides are getting into the food chain and poisoning the birds that eat insects. Are we going to see the songbirds disappearing again as they did with DDT? Why do we need insecticides on things as irrelevant as Christmas trees? Do they really need to be that perfect?"

World Home Environmentalists, an organization based in British Columbia suggests decorating a living tree outside with bird treats or buying a living potted tree that can be used year after year or planted after Christmas rather than buying a cut tree. WHEN also suggests that groups which raise funds by selling trees could raise money and awareness by selling potted trees.

The family ecology page

Making Peace on earth (and in the home)

1 Declare your home a "war toy free zone." Provide children with more acceptable ways to expend energy; water play, cooperative games, hammering, building etc. A Winnipeg group Building Peace Through Play organizes an annual Play Festival emphasizing alternatives to toys, games and entertainment that is violent, sexist or racist. Contact the group through Project Peacemakers (775-8178) for more ideas and information.

2 Be aware of what children are watching on television. Help them choose more valuable programs and set an example with your own viewing decisions. At birthdays and holiday time make sure your own gift-buying is constructive and suggest alternatives for relatives.

3 Let toy manufacturers and retailers know how you feel about violent, sexist and racist toys and images. Letters to the editor and petitions are a good way of expressing consumer demand.

4 Spread the word by example and buy sponsoring presentations for school, church and play groups. Organizations such as CCAVE (Canadians Concerned About Violence in Entertainment) PACIOU in Quebec and Building Peace Through Play in Winnipeg can all provide assistance. Form your own group to support families that choose to avoid violent entertainment.

Creative Gifts

If you haven't already spent your gift budget at the Gifts that Go on Giving alternative gift fair, the book "Under the Tree: Creative Alternatives to a Consumer Christmas" (McClelland-Bantam) Canadian authors David and Elizabeth Morley explain why so many of us feel disappointed at Christmas, as if we've missed out on all the peace and goodwill. The book is full of great ideas to help you move away from the commercial focus of Christmas.

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by Milton McClaren

Recently some have argued that environmental education be replaced by education for sustainable development. But to educate "for" any ideology is indoctrination, not education.

While the term education is very broad, nevertheless most philosophers describe education as the process of helping human beings learn skills and understand concepts considered to be essential and valuable to their full participation in human culture. Education is not a value-free concept.

Philosophers of education consider the while learning may be necessary for education it is not sufficient to it. When we learn things which are false we are not being educated. When we are indoctrinated in single positions without due consideration of either how the position was discovered and constructed, its limits or of alternative points of view, we are not being educated. The purposes of education are the development of understanding and the development of commitment to the search for truth and knowledge.

To be educated implies certain habits of mind: the formation of rational arguments, appreciation of how various disciplines construct knowledge and assess truth and value, an appreciation of logic, a desire to form

Understanding and communicating the relationships between ourselves and other elements of the environment

one's own views, and a willingness to reflect on those views in the context of differing ideas. To be educated also implies a resistance to propaganda, indoctrination and ideology.

People have long pondered the position of human kind in the natural fabric. In recent times scientific understanding has clarified the complexity of our dependence on the planet's systems and the ways in which our activities can modify those systems. We have begun to understand that some of our activities are destructive to the capacity of the biosphere to regulate and sustain itself and

may damage the systems on which our species most directly depends.

When we attempt to understand the relationships between ourselves and the other elements of the environment, when we think creatively and critically about those connections, when we actively seek to find the truth about those interactions and try to anticipate the consequences of certain behaviours and

education are the understanding and of commitment to h and knowledge.

Any programme of education attending to developing understanding of the environment would have to consider the major concepts currently available about the environment and to

recognize that activities which eventually destroy the planetary base on which human life depends are ultimately irrational and will not be profitable in the long term. The concept requires that we develop criteria of value with which we can assess the appropriateness of our economic activities in environmental terms. An activity which may generate eco-

nomie value today, but which does so by destroying the environmental capital on which other humans or species depend, and which will make it impossible to continue the activity in the future, or which will limit the options and choices available to future generations, is not considered sustainable.

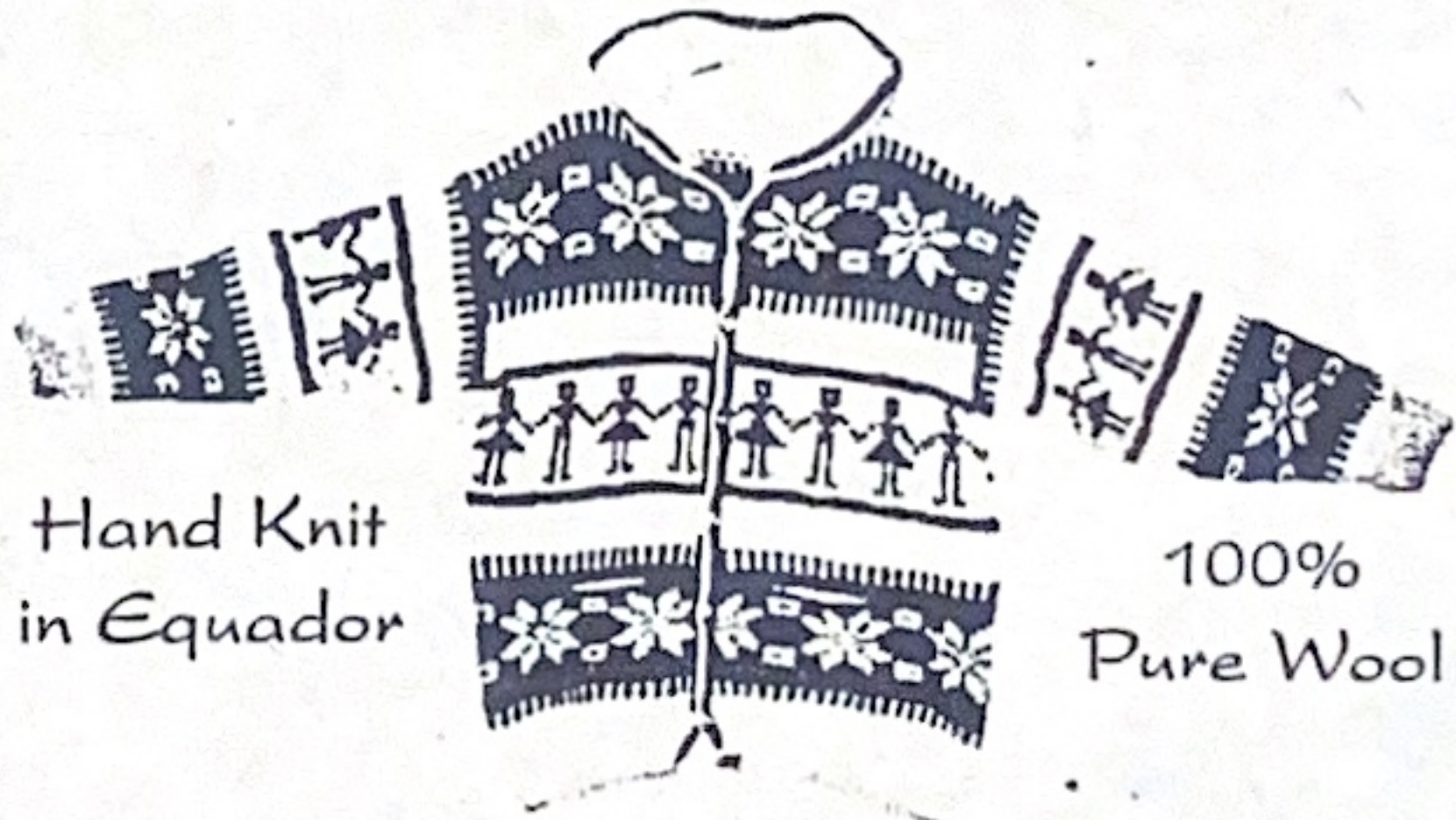
In practice sustainability works only if criteria of economic value can be defined which satisfy the requirements of the concept. To some, conventional economic thought is sufficient to develop these. To others it is not. Thus many critics have noted that mainstream economics often tends to undervalue activities which do not generate money, at least not in an immediately measurable way. Many women have worked in the home to raise children. But because that work was unpaid, it was essentially without value in an economics driven by monetary definitions of value. Moreover, market values are different from intrinsic values. What is the market value of an elderly person, of your grandpar-

Continued on next page

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Subverting educational purposes to indoctrination

(continued from previous page)

ent? What is the value of a wild orchid of a sunrise?

Even if one stays strictly within the boundaries of the discipline of

economics, fierce controversies will be found concerning these problems. If one considers conventional economics to be based on flawed assumptions, as a number of major current thinkers do, then the problem of defining sustainability becomes awesome.

Why is this of importance for environmental educators? It is important because some writers argue that environmental education has been usurped by environmentalism,

which is viewed as irresponsible tree hugging ideology, an obstacle to sound business practices, to development, and a barrier to progress and modernity. In its place they would put education for sustainable development, or education for a sustainable future, to use the current terminology. But what this position essentially proposes is to replace one ideology, environmentalism (however vaguely or eclectically defined) with another, called sustainability or sustainable development.

I don't know what environmentalism is. I do know that a great many different scholars interested in human environment interactions hold a wide range of views about these interactions. Moreover, even among those who do support the utility of sustainability as a concept there is a wide range of ideas how sustainable development could be achieved.

Misrepresentation

My concern is that when the words "education for sustainable development" are combined, education itself is being misrepresented. Education is essentially anti-ideological. It is not for specific programmes. Instead, education is intended to allow people who behave intelligently, to weigh options and alternatives, to make wise choices, and to generate possibilities which might not have been recognised. If environmental education were termed "education for environmentalism" then it would also misrepresent the purposes of education and subvert them to indoctrination. This is a problem which has affected conservation education. Conservation education implies that conservation is the only option available. It may be the only sensible option in the view of many, but it is not the only one. When education programs are torqued so as to be directed to single policies and points of view they are no longer educational.

The concept of sustainable economic activity is a very important element of current thought about the environment -- important enough to justify that educational attention be directed at it. It is not, however, the entire domain of education which intends to develop understanding about the environmental issues. If sustainable development is converted into an ideology rather than remaining an idea in the process of development, a working set of principles, then it will be intellectually fossilized, an insect trapped in conceptual amber.

The most important requirement of sustainable development is the development of the concept itself.

Milton McClaren is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. Reprinted with permission from *Green Teacher* (Issue 35, October-November 1993). A one year subscription to the magazine (published five times during the school year) costs \$27. Mail to:

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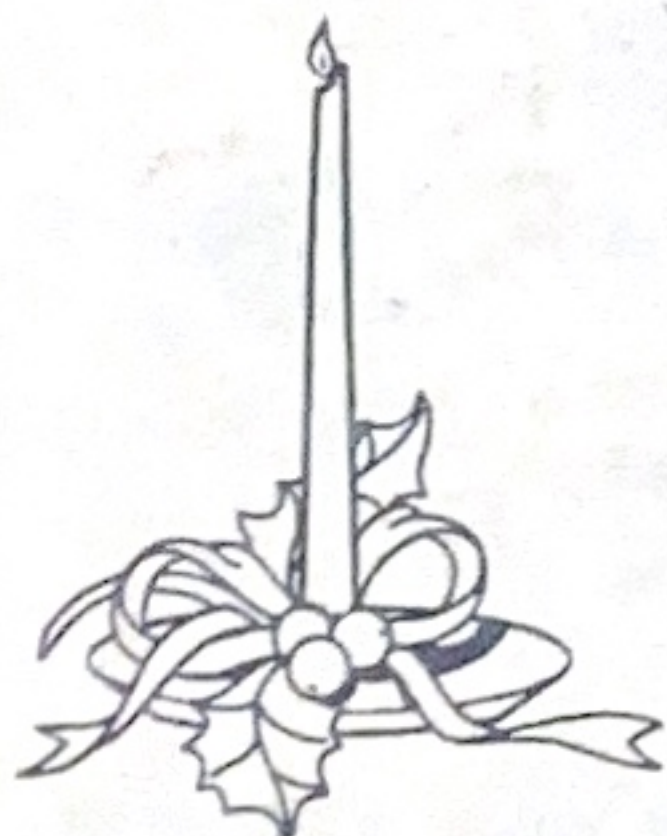
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Reading the planet's vital signs

Vital Signs, 1993

Worldwatch Institute

Norton, 1993 Oversize paperback \$13.99

reviewed by Ron Robinson
(first appeared on CBC Radio program Brand X)

Should a man whose wardrobe has gone in and out of style a great many times without ever being replaced be trusted to review a book about trends?

Fortunately the paperback Vital Signs 1993 from the Worldwatch Institute has bigger fish to fry than fashion. Worldwatch claims to have its finger on the world's pulse.

Now, I hang around the reference section in my favourite book stores — I'm the guy with the Scotch tape holding his glasses together — and I'd never heard of the Worldwatch Institute. Probably because this is only the second year for this publication; although the Institute has been gathering information for its information base for the last 19 years. And that info shows up in their annual State of the World report.

Where do they get their information? United Nations publications, Western sources mainly. Worldwatch's Board of Directors is from around the world, though.

Still, I was suspicious of a publication only 150 pages long that claimed to sum up the world, past, present and future. I kept expecting some hidden agenda or appeal, something like, "so all our problems could be solved if we just worshipped the Great Pumpkin." Aha! But not so.

What we have here is an attempt to communicate, without jargon, and briefly, on 42 key indicators. These track change in our environmental, economic and social health. The first part of the book contains trends for which global data is available. Each is presented in two pages, one with text and the other with data and

graphs. Part two contains essays on trends that are obviously important, but for which no global data exist.

Now this has the potential of being better than warm milk at bedtime to put you to ... zzz. But it doesn't. This book has been bed tested after midnight, and you can read it and still operate heavy equipment.

My personal choices for trend spotting? You know the story line in the Doonesbury cartoon strip in which Mr. Butts is trying to expand cigarette sales to the youth in China? It's all in Vital Signs, 1993. See Page 98. And did you know that Russia's appetite for cigarettes is so large that annually the supply falls 100 billion cigarettes short of demand? Mr. Butts is on the march around the world and into your lungs!

That's the bad news. The good news is that increasing the amount of tax on cigarettes has produced a significant drop in the number of people smoking and the age at which they start. Call it the economics of self interest.

One of the things I liked about Vital Signs 1993 was its attempts to make global connections. What happens in "the land of Dairy Queen" can make a big difference in the countries where the chocolate and nuts come from.

Did it make me reach for my cheque book? Yes, and thinking about what kinds of assistance will produce the best long term results; such as literacy programs for women in Africa, believe it or not. I also found the

information valuable in terms of investing. Donald Trump, I'm not, but I was thinking of overseas investments in my RRSP.

Food trends, Energy, Atmospheric, Economic, Transportation trends, they're all here. Did you know that the lowly bicycle continues to ride rings around the automobile as the world's leading vehicle for personal transportation?

Do you sincerely want to appear on Jeopardy, or be ready when the next edition of Trivial Pursuit is on the market?

Then you need Vital Signs 1993.

Ron Robinson is a freelance broadcaster, a contributor to Brand X and CBC Information Radio's Paperback Reviewer.

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Unresolved questions: Who controls the decision-making process?

Continued from page 1

be resolved, most revolve around the issue of who controls the process for deciding how the program will be implemented in Manitoba and who will make the decisions/be included in the organization that is created.

So far the concept is as follows:

Over a three year phase-in period 75 per cent of Manitoba households would be served by multi-material recycling (beverage containers, newspapers, magazines, fine paper, corrugated cardboard, box card, tin (steel) cans, glass jars/bottles).

In Winnipeg and Brandon that would mean curb side pick-up. In rural areas and smaller centres there would be mix of services on a case by case basis with financial help for the municipalities or organizations there.

The program would be funded by a combination of existing funding for garbage disposal and waste reduction at the municipal level and a levy on the manufacturers. The levy could be applied at any level in the chain from retailer to provincial distributor to manufacturer and would be based in the second and subsequent years of the program on the actual cost of collecting the specific materials.

The funding commitment would be long term, not on a pilot project basis like the industry supported Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Initiative which now seems ready to pass costs along to participating municipalities.

The materials would be collected only where markets are available. The levies would be used to fund "market development" for materials which are not yet recyclable on a practical scale.

The fund from the levies would be administered by a Manitoba Stewardship Organization which would pay "top up fees" for collection and finance the development of markets for recyclables. The top up fees would be based on a base cost of an average efficiently-run recycling operation. The establishment of processing of recyclable, a glass recycling plant for instance, would be "market-driven" not subsidized, although transportation fees for recyclables would be part of the top up fees. Recycling operators at the forum objected that the program would subsidize collection but not local processing and could favour transportation of the materials out of province.

Another major concern is the absence of quotas or specific targets for waste reduction by the producers. Primeau, a former ALCAN executive, insists that specific reduction targets would not be necessary because industry will reduce packaging to avoid paying higher levies. As the percentage of any one type of material in relation to the entire recycling stream increases so does the levy on the producer. The only reduction targets would be a voluntary acceptance of the National Action Packaging Protocol committing to a 50 per cent reduction in packaging going to landfills by the year 2000 (based on 1988 figures).

"The role of government is to give us what we call a level playing field. We want to make sure everyone putting packaging on the market to be in the game (of paying for recycling). We don't want government to interfere in the market," Primeau said.

He is open about the industry desire to avoid what is known as command and control legislation forcing the industry to reduce.

"We don't want to be legislated. We don't want legislation to be material specific ... Yes, we want to be legislated if everyone is not at the table (participating in the program)" he said.

The near complete absence of command and control measures in Manitoba is one of the reasons our province has been targeted to pilot the effort. Most provinces have deposit legislation for soft drink beverage containers for instance, but Manitoba has instead preferred a mostly voluntary retrieval system by industry.



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Given the likelihood that the costs of the program will be passed through to consumers in higher product prices or in taxation to pay for the program, the lack of citizen representation in the working groups drafting the legislation and defining the program came in for stiff criticism. When asked whether environment and consumer groups would be equal partners with industry and government Ferguson and Primeau both answered with a promise of advisory groups and a consultation process in which everyone's "input" would be solicited.

"That's not a very level playing field to me," objected one activist in the audience. "I don't want input any more. I want to make decisions. I sit on four advisory boards. I know how useful we are," she said.

What about existing operators?

Recycling entrepreneurs and non-profit recycling organizations both wanted to know what happens to their operations and investment. The proponents answered that remains to be decided, that a combination of collection/processing systems could be part of the plan, but that tenders would be based on the efficiency of a given proposal. City of Winnipeg Waterworks Waste and Disposal representative Tony Kulyk said that could mean a proposal from the CUPE union doing the garbage collection may or may not be the way to proceed.

Ferguson said that one problem he foresees in Winnipeg is that a patchwork of competing recycling businesses and depots cannot be the best way. He said that in his neighbourhood three different companies pick-up on adjacent streets.

What will happen with the City of Winnipeg's investment in a depot system at regional shopping malls? Wait and see is the answer.

So far it appears that the question of the half of all solid waste that is produced before the point of final sale -- the industrial and commercial waste -- is also being left for later discussion. Primeau referred to it as transportation waste -- wood pallets and bulk packaging.

Other questions that remain open include what will happen to the existing waste reduction taxes and deposits in Manitoba? Currently there are taxes collected on disposable diapers, automobile tires and alcohol containers, ostensibly to fund environmental protection. The money currently is pooled in something called the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (formerly the Envi-

ronmental Innovations Fund). When the taxes were announced the money was supposed to be earmarked for innovative solutions by business and environment groups but environment groups other than rural recycling groups have had little success in accessing the more than \$1 million per year that is stashed there. Half of it has been

set aside for the Environmental Industries Development Initiative -- grants and loan guarantees to businesses and a good deal of the rest is allocated for program spending in various government departments -- Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

Another concern that is being addressed mostly with a wave of the hand is the issue of enforcement of the regulations. Ferguson and Primeau are assuming that companies that are carrying their load will point out competitors who are not.

That doesn't take into consideration product areas in which there is very little real competition. Newspaper publishing, for instance, is dominated by two or three players which control regions of the country. The plan also assumes that industry will use waste reduction as an area in which to compete, but the producers in a given product area could all pass along their levies to consumers equally and in effect agree to create a certain level of waste. This is likely in areas where two or three brands dominate the market with basically the same prices and compete for market share on brand differentiation with advertising and marketing gim-

micks, often based on packaging rather than cost considerations.

Another area that needs to be explored in Winnipeg is what are the implications for other developments in the world of waste that are on the horizon, the city's intention to implement user

pay garbage pick-up for instance. As well, the City currently funds its waste reduction programs with tipping fees paid by commercial haulers serving the industrial commercial and institutional waste producers.

One hauler, Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) is actively seeking a site for a landfill in the area surrounding Winnipeg where it could easily undercut the fees charged by the city. That would remove the city's ability to support education directed at waste reduction and hamper rational planning for the region.

The city, government and industry reps left the meeting promising an open consultation process and the chance to fill in the gaps that remain in the concept.

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