

Earth Day Panel's Conclusion: No Easy Answers

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An Earth Day panel discussion hashed out the problems of environmental degradation before an audience of some 200 Wednesday night at Cabrillo College. The only answer it came up with is that there are no easy answers.

There was one general conclusion: Government may have dragged its feet in the effort to preserve the environment, but government isn't responsible for fouling the earth — people cause pollution. Solving the problem of environmental degradation must ultimately lie

with the individual, but he can make his voice better heard if he bands together with others who want to save their surroundings.

The audience was about 80 per cent students, and it saved its roughest goings over for two panelists: Supervisor Russ McCallie and Paul Matthew of Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

During his initial address, McCallie claimed the county had been working on environmental preservation for several years. If that is true, he was later asked from the audience, then why is the county now wallowing in pollution?

McCallie's answer was supervisors' efforts were hampered by a lack of funds. If the public really wants environmental preservation and is willing to pay for it, he indicated, the county will provide it.

"Why does PG&E spend seven times as much on advertising as it does on anti-pollution research?" Matthew was asked. The audience maintained the advertising was to make people use more electricity which in turn calls for more power plants and more pollution.

Matthew maintained PG&E only gives the public what it

wants. "Yes, but the masses are stupid," one girl answered.

But another girl agreed with Matthew. She maintained individuals are going to have to start doing without things if they want to save the world from themselves. She called for controls on such things as the amount of private transportation to be allotted a family, as well as power and water consumption limitations.

Cabrillo student Charles Woods led off the panel speakers' opening addresses with a revolutionary talk which called for a new society to whip such

problems as destruction of the environment.

He said the U.S. government, as presently constituted can't handle the problem and the vested interests of the big corporations present an insurmountable stumbling block.

"We must create a new society based on a new assumption of man — a cooperative man." He added that the new institutions, be they communes or whatever, must recognize that assumption.

He claimed Cabrillo College has failed to meet the new challenges and remains a training ground for old ideas.

He offered grim advice to local

decision-makers: "Act now, because if you don't, the decisions won't be yours anymore."

McCallie, as he took the microphone, said that many people now clamoring for environmental preservation didn't realize the county had been working on the problem a long time.

He noted supervisors six years ago had created a committee to establish industrial performance standards which since have been adopted by the county.

He cited the county's participation in the Monterey - Santa Cruz County Air Pollution Control District and the stringent

restrictions adopted by that agency which have resulted in improved emission controls by several area industrial firms.

He noted the county currently is making a study to determine if its own vehicles can be made to run on natural gas. The supervisor also mentioned the county's new cut-and-fill garbage disposal method, its strong stand against off-shore oil drilling, steps taken against fresh water pollution, a proposed land grading ordinance to prevent erosion.

To accomplish more, McCallie concluded, local government needs the cooperation of people willing to work on the problem. The technology to preserve the environment is available if the people are willing to spend enough, he said. "We can preserve the environment if you really want us to."

Matthew, as he attempted to tell PG&E's side of the story, delivered a semi-technical talk on his firm's efforts to cut down pollution emissions from its 12 generating plants in the San Francisco Bay area.

He noted the emissions at the Moss Landing plant had been cut by 80 per cent. He said the cut stands at 50 per cent for all 12 plants, and PG&E is working on further cuts.

Matthew noted his firm is planning nuclear plants for the future to end the necessity of burning fuel for generating purposes.

That comment opened up another can of worms, because one of the atomic plants is proposed for location near Davenport, and the audience told Matthew plainly it didn't want the facility.

The power firm representative said the nuclear power industry was the safest in the world because of the strict controls imposed by the Atomic Energy Commission.

He added the atomic plants are necessary only because of the public's demand for more electricity.

Dr. Fred Schuierer, Cabrillo biology instructor, said the principal dangers to ecology are 1. population, 2. social groups and minority groups not in the mainstream of life, and 3. environmental disorders.

First step in combatting them, he noted, is for everyone to make himself aware of the problems.

Schuierer said the current evidence of interest in ecology is an indication the public is, in fact, becoming aware.

Some of the problems can be solved only by individuals, he observed. But at the county level, what is needed is a central plan for environmental protection covering the next 50 or 100 years. At the state level, more and better controls — not necessarily oppressive ones — are advisable.

Phil Harry, candidate for Third District supervisors, said he had decided to run for the post because he wondered "whether we're going to look like Los Angeles North or will try to retain our natural beauty."

"Freeways aren't an answer," he charged, "and a moratorium is not a solution."

(County supervisors have called for a moratorium on local freeway planning.)

"All we need to say is we don't need a freeway because we're not going to develop this area like Los Angeles."

Harry declared the county needs a planning study to preserve its natural attributes, particularly in the north coast area where large plots of land are in unclassified zoning.

Clean waters of the Monterey Bay are the county's biggest asset, since tourists will desert the area if the bay becomes too polluted for water sports, Harry charged.

He said the county needs a sewage plant for total treatment of effluent to preserve the bay.

Robert Scott, M.D., of Capitola, president of the Western Surfing Association, delivered a short address whose theme was there is strength in numbers when it comes to environmental protection.

Scott noted 1,700 surfers appearing before a Southern California hearing had shouted down a boat harbor which threatened surfing waters at Malibu.

McCallie and Harry, competing for the same supervisorial post, got off the ecological track with a political squabble. Harry claimed the supervisors have been neglecting their environmental chores. McCallie maintained Harry hadn't "done his homework" since he made a number of errors in his presentation.

Wally Trabing's
Mostly about
People



War Dead — Business As Usual

There is something that keeps bothering me about the service man in Vietnam and the flag of the United States.

Our flags fly at half mast in visual honor of a deceased president, or a civil leader such as King and most recently, following the tragic death of four young California Highway Patrolmen. And this is as it should be.

But, as far as I have been able to ascertain, it has never been lowered locally for the death of a Santa Cruz County soldier who died in Vietnam.

Yet, ironically, the government insists that the whole reason for our involvement in Vietnam is to keep that flag flying here, and those now dead forever, from that cause, have made the ultimate contribution to it.

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That in my opinion the war is wrong, a crime against people, is not the point. Normally one goes when one is called.

I believe that every time a county resident is announced killed in the war, all flags should be flown at half mast for a week.

Most victims of the war are young men who never had the chance to develop themselves into persons of note, to become attached to the federal government or state governments from where most of the flag-lowering directives emanate.

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But even the lowering of the flag is not my main point. I am principally bothered that the public conscience has not concerned itself with this long ago.

Don't go yakking about it being The Establishment's fault or city hall's fault. There is no hard and fast rule about when the flag can be lowered and city leaders cannot recall anyone having requested it for a Vietnam victim. If there is any fault involved, it should be laid directly on the shoulders of the public.

War dead to us is business as usual. War is a business. The government has borrowed its people to be used in Vietnam.

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Forum On Coast Land Uses Set Friday As Spring Fair Event

Phillip Berry, president of the Sierra Club, and Dr. Leslie E. Carbert, tax economist for PG&E, will lead a forum on coast land uses in Santa Cruz County at 8 p.m. Friday in civic auditorium.

The session is open to the public and one of the high points of the Santa Cruz Spring Fair. Admission is free.

Dr. Carl Nelson, general chairman of the Santa Cruz Citizens Planning Advisory Committee, will be the moderator.

Both Berry and Dr. Carbert will make presentations and

then open the session to questions from the audience.

Berry, 33, is a Sierra Club member and principle partner of an Oakland law firm.

A graduate of Stanford University, Berry has served the Sierra Club on the legal committee and as secretary on the board of directors.

As tax economist for PG&E, Dr. Carbert has been involved in open land use problems throughout the nation.

Two weeks ago, PG&E announced plans to take out an option to buy 6,800 acres of Coast Dairies and Lands proper-

ties in the Davenport area. PG&E said only a portion of those acres are proposed as a site for a \$200-million atomic generating plant. Some opposition has formed against the proposal.

Dr. Carbert received his master's degree and Ph.D in economics at Columbia University and has taught at University of British Columbia, Hofstra College and UC, Berkeley.

He recently completed an assignment in Sacramento as state planning officer, serving on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Bay Area Transportation Study Commit-

tee and Governor's Advisory Commission on Ocean Resources.

Dr. Carbert was active in development of the State Scenic Highway Program and has served on many state and national advisory committees dealing with open lands. He is a member of the board of directors of People for Open Space, representing Santa Clara County, and has just completed an assignment as consultant to Hawaii to review that state's land use policies.

The forum is only part of the fair. Numerous exhibits, music, movies and slide presentations on ecology will be made Friday and Saturday on the Pacific Avenue Mall and UCSC campus. Saturday, the fair activity moves to UCSC, where a free lunch will be offered and panel discussions held from 1 to 3 p.m.

Bike Ride Free Baby-Sitting To Spring Service For Fair

(Political Advertisement)