

# ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY GREEN TEAM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

## 10 Fair Trade

### Products to Look for:

1. Chocolate
2. Spices
3. Sugar
4. Rice
5. Wine
6. Vanilla
7. Olive Oil
8. Coffee
9. Tea
10. Handicrafts

## 10 Things You

### Should Never Buy

1. Styrofoam cups
2. Paper towels
3. Bleached coffee filters
4. Bottled water
5. Chemical pesticides and herbicides
6. Conventional household cleaners
7. Toys made with PVC plastic
8. Plastic forks and spoons
9. Farm raised salmon
10. Teak and mahogany

## 8 Body Care

### Toxins to Avoid:

1. Mercury— also avoid the mercury preservative “thimerosal”
2. Lead— listed as “lead acetate”
3. Nanoparticles
4. Placenta
5. Hydroquinone skin lightener
6. Phthalates
7. Petroleum by-products— ex. 1,4-dioxane
8. Fragrance

## CLUB COLLECTIONS

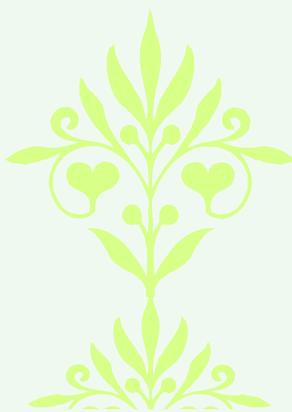
### Environmental Club

- ◆ The Environmental Club is currently collecting ink cartridges. Collection boxes are located around campus.



### Phi Beta Lambda

- ◆ Every year Phi Beta Lambda collects soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please collect these tabs and watch for future collection information.



## Single Stream Recycling

Single stream technology allows multiple items to be processed together as it is sorted and separated.

### Acceptable Items:

- ◆ Flattened cardboard
- ◆ Magazines
- ◆ Office Paper
- ◆ Brown Paper Bags
- ◆ Newspapers
- ◆ Paperboard
- ◆ Paper cardboard (dairy and juice containers)
- ◆ Junk mail
- ◆ Phone books
- ◆ Plastic bottles and containers #1-7
- ◆ Glass bottles and jars
- ◆ Aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins
- ◆ Tin or steel cans



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## *Words from Professor Jim Klucsarits: Earth Day of Service*



This essay was written for Earth Day 2010 but was not completed due to being blown off stage due to

Mother Nature's intervention on Earth Day 2010. This is my condensed version for Earth Day 2011.

### **“Celebrating Mother Nature’s Services, Lessons, and Gifts, her Biodiversity”**

Happy Earth Day Alvernian Fellow Earth Citizens,

My earth day messages for Earth Day and things to ponder are to: 1. Appreciate Mother Nature's Services & Lessons; 2. Examine and Know your place in natural world; and 3. Express concerns of the sixth Mass extinction of earth's biota, the greatest and most rapid extinction event on the planet.

Our Planet Earth is a beautiful and wondrous planet of many species and ecosystems. Our planet is resilient, yet a changing, and fragile planet. We need to coexist with the many animal, plant, microbial species, and Humans need to be in a mutualistic relationship with Nature because we are interdependent with Nature and her natural gifts for our survival as a species. Our Natural Biota is experiencing unexplained declines in population numbers all over the globe. Some population

declines are subtle signs, others are more dramatic. E.O. Wilson and other experts in Biodiversity have predicted that 27-47% of the species on our planet may be extinct within the next 50 years. The Conservation of our Microbial, Plant, and Animal Resources (our Biodiversity) is the most important Environmental Issue, because of our interdependence with the natural world and her creatures.

On Earth Day, we need to thank Mother Nature for her services and teachings that go underappreciated each day. On Earth day you should make promises to Mother Earth as to how you will become a better earth citizen this year. In 1970, the first Earth day theme was “only one earth”. This started to get people aware that there needs to be global concern regarding environmental issues. A reality is that there is still only one earth, 41 years later; there are no new frontiers, or planets for us to exploit. And although environmental awareness has increased, many environmental issues are at critical points in our history.

Mother Nature provides us with many natural resources and ecological services that we take for granted each day, for example: Nature runs its Energy Budget powered with Solar Energy.

And she provides resources such as clean air, water, healthy soil, and minerals, free of charge. Other examples of Ecological Services that Mother Nature provides include; the Biota, including Microbes, Fungi, Plants, Protists, and numerous Invertebrate and Vertebrate animals that help us to regulate the climate, and levels of gases in the atmosphere on the planet every day. Nature also provides many diverse habitats and ecological niches for the myriad of species on the planet. Nature does not produce nonbiodegradable wastes, and provides us with free waste management. Microbes recycle important nutrients in our biogeochemical cycles, important in the food web of life. Natural wetlands help to filter our pollution. Natural predators help with pest and disease organism control, and to keep natural populations in balance with the environment.

In return for nature's services, humans need to stop polluting her soils, air, and aquatic ecosystems with toxins, and stop overloading natural ecosystems and warming the planet. We need to practice conservation of the many natural resources. We need to stop overconsumption, and promote sustainability of our natural capital. We need to rethink our simplified human ecosystems, such as

our agricultural systems, and energy systems that run on primarily non-renewable resources and plan for future generations using sustainable technologies that rely on renewable energy.

A vast majority of Humans have lost sight or never realized their connection to biodiversity and nature. E.O Wilson, a leading authority on Biodiversity has stated 'Humanity is part of nature, a species that evolved among other species. An enduring environmental ethic will aim to preserve not only the health and freedom of our species, but access to the world in which the human spirit was born.' Wilson's point is that we need to realize that we are but another species that has evolved with other life on the planet, and that if we are to progress in a sound direction for all life, our environmental ethic must be based on this realization of our innate connection and need of the natural world.

Humans evolved with other life on the planet, yet many have forgotten or lost this connection and have assumed an Anthropocentric, or human-centered environmental ethic that assumes the earth is ours to control and dominate. A Biocentric attitude reflects a stewardship toward the environment and living organisms. It gives moral rights and values to all species, not just those that may be useful to

us.

Finally, why is there a biodiversity crises and the sixth greatest extinction occurring at this point in time?" E.O. Wilson's HIPPO acronym, which stands for Habitat loss and destruction, Invasive species, over Population, Pollution, and Overconsumption, is an acronym for the causes of extinction. We need to preserve ecosystems—our forests, grasslands, rivers, lakes, oceans, and coral reefs. All are under stress from our species' activities. What can you do? Become a Citizen scientist, help scientists to monitor the planet's biodiversity, air, water, and soil. Support biodiversity organizations, research, and conservation efforts. Humans must balance their needs with Nature's; we need sustainable management of our biological wealth, for peaceful coexistence and security of natural resources for the future of the planet.

A mass movement is required to change our species environmental consciousness, with an environmental ethic that will become the standard way to live. It should not be hard to be an environmental citizen. Education is critical to fuel this movement. The answers to our environmental dilemmas lies within an environmentally educated society of earth citizens, living the way we need to live, to sustain the planet for future generations. To quote Mahatma

Gandhi, "Live simply so that others can simply live." And remember to Love your Mother Earth. As John Lennon sang, "Love is all you need."

Peace and Sustainability to all!

Do you have News or Suggestions?

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