Groupe de Recherche d'Intérêt Public de l'Ontario

OPIRG/GRIPO

Ontario Public Interest Research Group

The University of Toronto
Green Master Plan
Recommendations for change

Incredible chronicles of the OPIRG-Toronto Environment working group

sept '90 - april '91

- a scrapbook of press cuttings + photos

The Varsity, U of T
10 Sept 1990

In the public interest *or* what is OPIRG?

BY BRIAN BURCH

The Ontario Public Interst Research Group (OPIRG) is a province-wide organization, based on seven campuses. OPIRG investigates a wide variety of social and environmental issues, integrating research, education and action.

OPIRG members have also helped develop a "Green Master Plan" for the U of T and brought in guest speakers to help spark debate on some of the more pressing concerns of our time. All this is done under the guidance of an elected board of directors through working groups that are always seeking more members. The OPIRG Resource Centre, 455 Spadina Ave, Room 202 (above Tip-Top Taylors), offers visitors resources included the varied OPIRG publications and a good selection of periodicals, books and files.

This year,OPIRG Toronto will continue its "lug-a-mug" campaign, work on improving U of T's enviornmental polices, work with other organizations on wilderness preservation campaigns and host a conference on envrionmental issues during Environment Week. The weekly radio show on CIUT airs every Thursday morning and the OPIRG newsletter, *In The Public Interest*, will keep students informed on what's going on and what to do to change things.

Drop by the OPIRG Resource Centre, phone us at 598-2199 or come to an information meeting in the Cumberland Room, International Student's Centre on Tuesday, 18 September from 5:15 to 7:15 or 7:30 to 9:30 to find out more about OPIRG and how you can be an inportant part of a movement for social change with a history of over a quarter century of success.

Brian Burch is a member of OPIRG

The Varsity, U of T
19 Sept 1990

Ontario's nuclear depedence

BY TOMISLAV SVOBODA

Last week's election of the New Democratic Party could have incredible consequences on Ontario's energy supply, its effects on the ennvironment and the province's economy given premier Bob Rae's promise to freeze nuclear expansion.

NUCLEAR POWER

In December of last year, Ontario Hydro released a long-awaited report that angered the province's environmentalists while delighting Canadian nuclear industry officials.

The report, known as Ontario Hydro's "Demand Study Plan", maps out Ontario's energy requirements and how to satisfy these for the next 25 years. To meet a projected demand 50 per cent higher than today's, more than half of required energy is to be provided for by new nuclear power plants, making Ontario the most nuclear-dependent area in the world.

Many of us are familiar with environmental and health risks associated with nuclear energy, but few of us realize what an economical disaster it is. The $76 billion cost of the DSP will make it one of the largest public expenditures in Canadian history.

Ontario owes most of its existing $27.4 billion debt to its nuclear program. Nuclear energy relies heavily on government subsidies. Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., has already recieved $14 billion in federal subsidies and continues to receive $140 million annually.

The cost of a nuclear power plant is also very unpredictable. The Darlington nuclear generating station was estimated to cost $2.5 billion but the actual cost to date has been more than five-fold at $12.7 billion. Safe disposal of nuclear waste is still in its early planning stages and no nuclear reactor has yet been decommissioned. This alone could cost up to 100 per cent of the initial capital cost.

More than 150 million tonnes of radioactive tailings (containing 85 per cent of the original radioactivity) lie in northern Ontario, where they leach heavy metals and deadly radiation into the lakes and land surrounding uranium mines where they are dumped. The cost to clean up this environmental nightmare has already been estimated at as much as $18 billion.

Because of these uncertainties, the Independent Power Producers Society of Ontario has predicted that the DSP will cost up to $200 billion--that's $100,000 per Ontario household.

There are many alternatives to nuclear energy and the DSP. Reports by the Ministry of Energy and other sources have found that electricity consumption can be reduced anywhere between 25 and 75 per cent through conservation and improved efficiency. The DSP plans for only 6 per cent.

Cogeneration, three times more efficient than nuclear generation, provides 30 per cent of West Germany's electricity. In Ontario, it will only be used by a few of the independent producers. Great leaps are being made in solar technology. One German firm has developped a system more than 3 times more efficient than conventional solar power systems. The list of alternatives goes on and on.

These and other facts raise serious questions about Ontario Hydro's ability to responsibly serve our needs.

Members of the U of T community interested in learning more about the DSP can contact the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG Toronto). OPIRG's environment group has worked extensively on the DSP issue, producing a comprehensive fact sheet, and is working on a petition calling for the phaseout of nuclear power in Ontario.

OPIRG's number is 598-2199 and there is an Environment Group meeting this Wednesday at 6pm. You can also write to Bob Rae expressing your concern and asking for a new, nuclear-free and environmentally friendly DSP. Like Rae, David Peterson also promised no more nuclear reactors only 5 years ago. Look what almost happened.

Tomislav Svoboda is an OPIRG volunteer and member of its board of directors.

The Gargoyle . U of T
20 Sept 1990

Environment

by Tomislav Svoboda

The Environment Working Group at OPIRG-Toronto is comprised of student and community volunteers working for change to save the imperiled environment. The group emphasises all three of OPIRG's cardinal aspects for effecting social change; research, education and action.

During regular meetings, volunteers lobby for change and apply pressure on politicians, industry officials and community leaders by writing them letters after a short presentation is given on an item of concern by one of the group members. These letter writes are modelled after the highly successful and widely acclaimed Amnesty International letter writing sessions. On going projects are then worked on.

During the summer, other environmental groups were joined in a province wide effort to raise peoples awareness of Ontario Hydro's 25 year Demand Supply Plan and make it an election issue. An extensive fact sheet was produced and a petition signing campaign was coordinated, asking the provincial government for a phase out of nuclear power until environmental and health concerns were adressed to the satisfaction of the Canadian public. In the upcoming year we will focus on pushing for the implementation of the Green Plan at U of T. This plan was produced by people hired over the summer by OPIRG-Toronto and UTEC on an Environmental Youth Core government grant. Other projects may also include working on a campus and community composting program as well as making the environment a key issue in the 1991 municipal elections by producing a candidates report card and releasing it to local media.

The environment working group is an opportunity for people to take on or design meaningful projects with the help of OPIRG's pool of expertise, experience and resources. Join OPIRG. Join the environment group. The success of our society and your concerns depends upon getting actively involved.

Activities

Some of the Toronto chapter's activities include:

FOOD GROUP
- organization and leadership of supermarket tours
- lectures on food issues

ENVIRONMENT GROUP
- U of T Green Master Plan
- Nuclear Phaseout Petition Campaign
- SAC environmental awareness week
- Reduction of traffic and parking on campus
- 1991 municipal elections

RADIO GROUP

COMMUNICATION GROUP
- organization of newsletter and resource centre
- public outreach

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- coordinate, administrate OPIRG locally and provincially

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
- Native Rights
- Unlearning Sexism and Racism workshops
- Popular theatre

Come to our office and rap!
455 Spadina Avenue, room 201
598-2199

Environmental Group - Thursday
September 20, 27 at 6 pm
Drop-in Tea - Tuesday
September 27, 2-5 pm

The Gargoyle. U of T
30 Sept 1990

Green Master Plan Hopeful

by Georgiana Boehnke

Over the summer, OPRIG, in conjunction with the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC), obtained an Environmental Coalition Youth Corps (EYC) grant for seven environmental researcher positions. This group has created a Green Master Plan for the University of Toronto.

The plan looks at various environmental areas, including waste reduction, recycling, energy use and hazardous substances. The group first determined what the university hasd already done in those areas, and then recommended further changes.

The principal goal of the Green Master Plan is to demonstrate to all levels of the university community, from the administration to the student body, that changes in attitude and policy are possible and, more to the point, they are an obligation on the part of all of U of T. As an institution at the forefront of new ideas, we should be attempting at all times to set an example for the greater community.

Further, the school is obliged to address these issues because, as a citizen of the world, it must play a part in caring for what belongs to all of us.

The univeristy has begun a recycling campaign, and has been slowly looking at other areas of waste reduction. We are hoping that with our plan, this process will be stepped up. We are particularly interested in areas not addressed in the administration's present reduction policy.

Though waste of paper is probably the most obvious problem, it should not blind us to other concerns, such as hazardous chemicals in cleansers, in our lawns, in our art supplies, or in the walls and ceilings.

In many of the older buildings, energy consumption is phenomenal, yet quite easily reduced. We have a nuclear reactor on campus, and far too many cars. These issues just scratch the surface of what should be tackled to make U of T "greeen".

It would not be fair to maintain that administration, faculty and students do not care, but rather that they seem unaware of the urgent need for change, as well as the steps to begin the transition.

It is the purpose of the Green Master Plan to highlight new directions for the school to take. It is not easy to change, but it is certainly not impossible.

The changes we must make will be ongoing, and the Green Master Plan will be in need of regular revision, but the philosophy of the document is timeless. When we make any decision, the heath of the planet must always be at the forefront of our considerations.

Following the Green Master Plan's recommendations will be a start, though definitely not enough. Our document is meant to be a beginning. It should create the impetus for action, action that will lead to further change. We at the University of Toronto can make a difference. Over 50 000 people can change a part of the world. What are we waiting for?

The Varsity . U of T
18 Oct 1990

Special week not just big pamphlet

BY MATT WOOD Oct 18, 1990 The Varsity

Some people think that through awareness we can change the world.

For example, environmental groups of all sorts will expend most of their time and effort on pamphleting and information seminars to get their point across and to breed change for the better.

ENVIRONMENT

But what role does information and awareness play in changing our society; does pamphleting really work?

Can information lead to compassion and caring? That is, will John Doe who hates whales help save them once he's told that they're dying?

Does knowledge of recycling in any way impel people to recycle?

Can information be made potent enough to overcome inconveniences and social norms if need be?

With these questions in mind it's clear that "awareness" projects have much more work cut out for them than just information if they're going to be effective. And as environmentalists, or activists of any kind, we've got to radically expand and develop the notion of awareness to make it really work for us.

As with John the whale-hater, information can't be effective unless it appeals to the pre-set values of the listener, or in some way tries to change those values.

The thousands of people at U of T who know all about recycling but throw their pop cans away instead of taking them to a Blue Box tell us that convenience can be more powerful than "know-how" or even "know-why" to do things.

Finally, social stigma has to be overcome. It isn't as goofy as some people think to carry an empty pop bottle around.

So it seems we have a daunting task ahead of us. We cannot merely inform. We must appeal to or change values, attempt to breed compassion and penetrate the structures of society to overcome inconvenience and petty societal norms.

We have to make awareness more than just a means of helping those who are already "converted" to environmentalism.

So here at U of T we're headed into "Environmental Awareness Week" -- a week-long pamphlet. Will this event promote this new, well rounded and "wholesome" awareness we need?

From all indications, yes.

The week will be full of reward and punishment motivation; cars will be ticketed for ecological crimes and cyclists, pedestrians and TTC users will be rewarded with "no fuel to school" buttons.

The week will be turning the tables of convenience, by closing metered parking on St. George Street and creating bike lanes on that street -- provided all goes well at City Hall.

Organizers will be providing structures within which to be environmentally friendly, by implementing the bike lanes, organizing a paper drive and selling mugs.

The Green Master Plan will be released wherein the U of T Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) will be putting forward blueprints for action and implementation.

Finally, the week will appeal to converted activists during the Bikes not Cars demonstration. The various speakers and the "fact fair" in Sid Smith will also be giving information on the numerous environmental groups and their programs and products.

But there's a darker side to the week.

It is only a week and it's a special week at that.

This may not seem to be a dark side at all. But the successful environmental movement will only be complete when it is not "special" but commonplace.

And so we find ourselves back with pamphleting, or punctuated "awareness" events of any sort.

The information given will help the movement. If it's presented well it may help immensely.

But the point is not information but inundation. The successful environmental movement will be underway when everyone can't help but eat, sleep and breathe environmental consciousness and caring.

The successful environmental movement will only be complete when, as this happens, people aren't even aware that it's happening.

Matt Wood is a member of the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition.

The Toronto Star
23 Oct 1990

GREATER METRO

U of T 'Green Plan' seeks limits on cars, parking

By Peter Gorrie
TORONTO STAR

The University of Toronto should restrict cars as part of a major effort to clean up its environmentally unfriendly campuses, says a report to be released today.

"We at the university are degrading our environment and that of future generations," states the Green Plan, produced by the U of T Environmentalist Coalition and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

It says the U of T governing council should lobby city hall to rescind a requirement that the university provide at least 2,030 parking spaces — used mainly by faculty and support staff.

The report also calls for slighly higher parking fees to match the cost of a TTC Metropass, and asks the university to push for lower student fares on the transit system.

The university, with a total of 60,000 employees and students on its three campuses, "has a significant negative environmental impact on our community," project co-ordinator Georgianna Boehnke says in a statement accompanying the 130-page report and 13-page summary.

So far, environmental-protection measures amount to little more than recycling some paper, the research group's Maury Mason said in an interview. "It's just scratching the surface."

The increase in parking fees is viewed as a symbolic step rather than a deterrent, Mason said. Calling for large fee hikes would have reduced support for the plan from faculty members, he said.

The report also proposes that cars be restricted in much of the downtown campus, and that the university buy fewer vehicles.

Other recommendations include:

- ☐ Reducing the university's mountain of waste paper by reusing envelopes, purchasing photocopiers that print both sides of a page, and whittling down distribution lists for campus publications.
- ☐ Eliminating many of the 12,000 throwaway coffee cups used each day at the university by encouraging staff and students to carry mugs.
- ☐ Conserving energy and cutting electricity bills by turning off lights, installing high-efficiency bulbs in residence lamps, and increasing the budget for maintaining and upgrading electrical equipment.
- ☐ Composting cafeteria food scraps and garden waste.
- ☐ Making energy efficiency a top priority in designing and constructing buildings, even when efficiency measures increase the initial cost. Such measures were scrapped during construction of the university's new earth sciences complex when over-all costs rose, the report complains.
- ☐ Scrapping the rule that requires any project to pay for itself within five years for purchases of energy-efficiency equipment or other measures to protect the environment.

The Toronto Sun
24 Oct 1990

Students have lesson for teachers

It's time for the students to do the teaching.

University of Toronto students released a Green Plan for their community of 60,000 students and staff yesterday.

The 130-page plan was put together by seven students who are members of the U of T Environmentalist Coalition and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

The lesson these students are trying to teach their school is not simply about how many parking spaces should be allotted or what types of paper should be recycled. They're trying to change a bureaucratic mindset.

The university does not have integrated recycling of its waste paper, cans and bottles. Every day the university tosses away 12,000 disposable cups.

And even more critically, students charge they are not being environmentally educated to enter a changing world.

They say the same old attitudes are still being drummed into youthful heads. In short, the U of T is a follower and not a leader.

University vice-president Gordon Cressy acknowledged the school has lagged in this area. But he said the newly formed Waste Reduction Advisory Group is studying the problem.

Jack Layton, the City of Toronto's greenest councillor, attended the student press conference to lend his support to the plan and urge the group to bring their recommendations to city council.

Layton promised the students that the city's Blue Box recycling program — which the city has twice previously denied extending to the university — will be forthcoming.

GORDON CRESSY
Admits shortcomings

The Green Plan also called for: composting cafeteria food waste; installing energy-efficient lighting; elimination of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on campus and incorporating energy efficiency into new facilities.

U of T's campuses cover a lot of area in Mississauga, Scarboro and downtown Toronto. Despite its size the U of T is an oasis of green in a forest of concrete and cars.

It's time to turn green

An interesting note: Of the seven students who put the Green Plan together, six are women. Yes, women are rapidly moving to the forefront in caring for the planet.

The future well-being of embattled Mother Earth appears to be in the capable and concerned hands of her sisters.

• • •

Consumer Glass is hungry for more. The company buys 65,000 tonnes of Blue Box glass every year for recycling and they have capacity for 235,000 tonnes.

Consumer is importing glass from the U.S. to keep their furnaces running properly. They're worried that some people are not putting glass wastes in the Blue Box because they can't be bothered washing the label off.

The fact is, you *don't* have to wash it off.

The label is removed in the cleaning process.

If you don't want to throw the metal cap away, throw it in a can.

The Toronto Star
24 Oct 1990

U of T kicks off 'green' campaign

By Peter Gorrie
TORONTO STAR

The University of Toronto has begun a campaign to reduce the mountain of garbage produced on its three campuses.

But it won't immediately follow all the recommendations in a "green plan" prepared by environmental groups, including recommendations to restrict cars and parking, administration officials said yesterday.

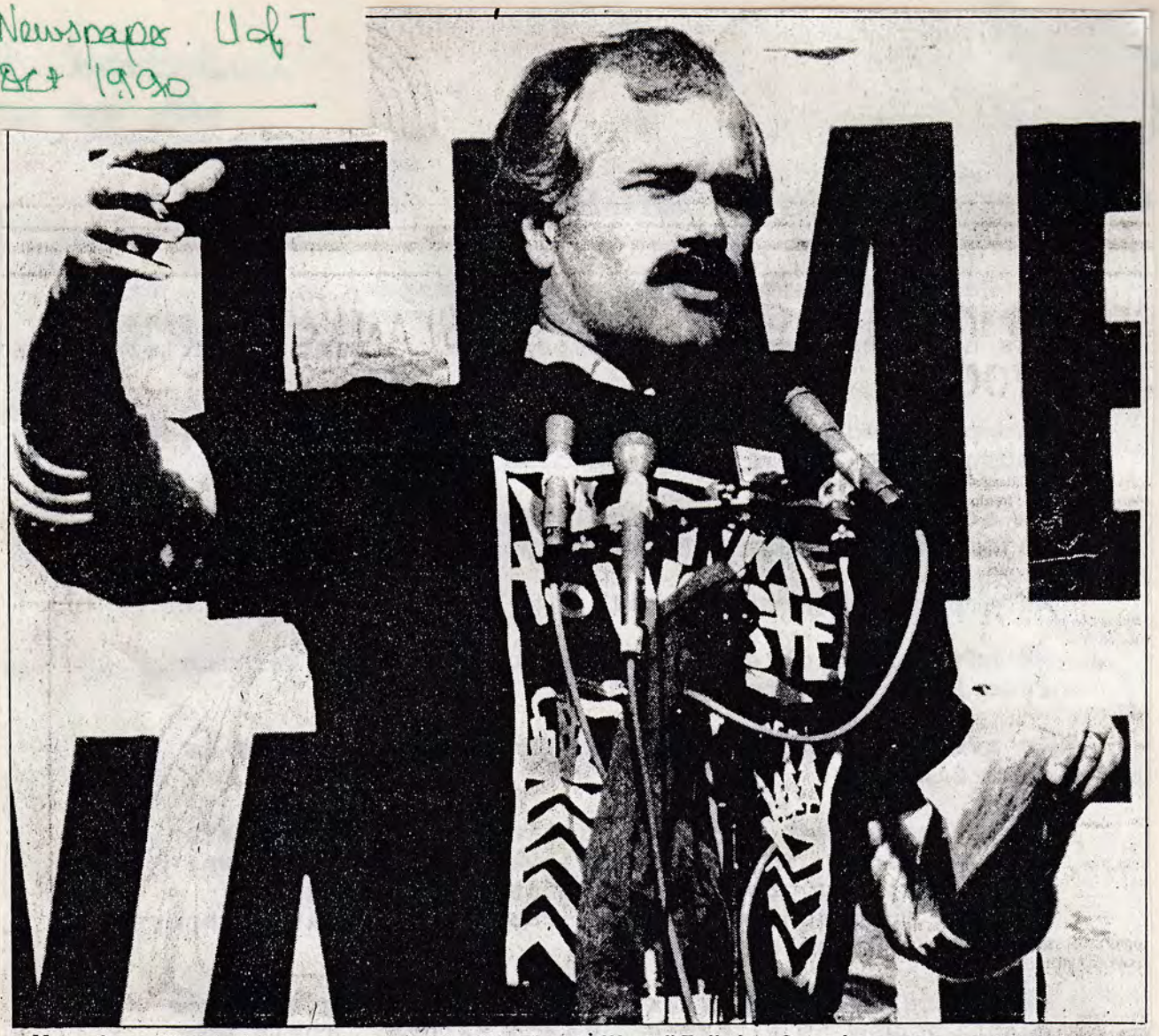
While the plan was being presented at a news conference in Hart House, about 75 staff members and students in the same building were at a meeting called by the administration to launch a campaign aimed at cutting paper use and encouraging recycling.

The university produces 287 tonnes of garbage each month.

The university is also encouraging its 60,000 staff members and students to "lug a mug" to cut down on the 12,000 disposable cups used each day, she said.

But the green plan, prepared by the U of T Environmentalist Coalition and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, goes far beyond the steps discussed at the kick-off meeting, its authors said.

The Newspaper. U of T
21 Oct 1990



Metro Councillor Jack Layton speaks at the "No Time to Waste" Rally last Saturday.

Green Rally Draws Diverse Groups

ERIN O'BRIEN
News Bureau
The Newspaper Oct 24/90

The rally billed for "Peace and the Environment" drew a sizeable and diverse crowd last Saturday.

According to police estimates, some 5,000 people protested at Queen's Park before embarking upon a noisy but enthusiastic march to Grange Park for further protestation and speech-making.

The rally was launched with two speeches delivered in front of the Provincial Legislative Building by Greenpeace and the Toronto Disarmament Network (TDN), the co-sponsors of the days proceedings.

A loose coalition of supporters ranged from Mohawk Warriors to animal rights activists as well as environmentalists and anti-nuclear protestors.

One protestor carried a black coffin marked "Guatemala" on the side. The broad range of interest groups represented, distressed some protestors.

As UofT student Alex Ross said, "The organizers seemed to take it for granted that if you believe in one cause, you should believe in every other."

Another UofT student, Heather Plah, complained that, "They took a lot of liberties with the word 'environment'".

Stephanie Hurman, a full-time canvasser for Greenpeace, defends the diversity of issues represented under the aegis "Peace and the Environment" by responding: "Mohawks are peace. These issues are all related. Money spent on the military budget is financing the destruction of the environment."

The agenda of Greenpeace and the TDN is fourfold: zero chemical discharge into the Great Lakes; cutting carbon dioxide emissions: ending the

UofT's involvement in these activities comes partially from "Greenpeace", jointly administered by the UofT Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG). This involves a "project-oriented approach", according to Matt Wood, one of UTEC's organizers.

The areas targeted under the investigation are researched by small sub-committees in order to obtain more research.

According to Greenpeace spokesperson Jay Patter the greatest trial for UofT in its attempt to participate in environmental reform will be "to re-establish an environmentalist culture."

Indeed, more student involvement in Greenpeace's projects would be welcomed, said UTEC co-chair Tara Somerville.

The Varsity, U of T
24 Oct. 1990

Rally wastes no time, draws a crowd of 4,000

BY GLORIA MOTTAHEDIN

Over four thousand demonstrators showed up for the "No Time to Waste" rally co-sponsored by Greenpeace and the Toronto Disarmament Network at Queen's Park on Saturday.

Among the speakers was Ontario premier Bob Rae. Rae said the NDP government, unlike past governments, is going to make peace and environmental changes.

"Our government realizes we can't do what other governments have done to dither and delay," he said.

Rae told the rally he looked forward to working with the disarmament and environmental people in making a cleaner, better Ontario.

Greenpeace and the TDN spoke about environmental issues, which included ending global warming by reducing car emissions, ending military spending by cutting weapons testing and asked for zero waste discharge to stop the poisoning of the Great Lakes.

Many U of T clubs were present, such as Students for the Equal Treatment of Animals, the NDP club, and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group. Supporters came from as far as Windsor, Kingston and Detroit.

Kevin Brant of OPRIG was pleased with the rally and said it was successful.

"It shows a number of people are willing to make changes."

Though most demonstrators agreed with this sentiment, many were quick to add that the government should be following up on their election promises to end pollution.

"The rally isn't effective until you see its effects in the government's policies," said David Sztybel, a member of SETA.

Environmental artist Cameron Burke said it's up to everyone to work for change.

"The people of Canada are too content, sitting around and waiting for others to do something," he said.

After many heated speeches, the people took to the streets of Toronto and finished up the march at Grange Park.

The Gazette. U of Waterloo
26 Oct 1990

U of T's 'Green Plan' major sweep on-campus

By Derek Shelly
The Gazette (Oct. 26/91)
(Univ. of Waterloo)

A study on environmental protection at the University of Toronto released Tuesday calls for limiting the number of parking spaces to encourage mass-transit use.

The same day the report was issued, the U of T administration officially launched a recycling campaign aimed at reducing the estimated 287 tonnes of trash produced on-campus each month by reducing paper use and recycling what is used.

The study contains several recommendations that could be applied to Western's environmental program, said Maury Mason, Ontario Public Interest Research Group co-ordinator.

The City of Toronto currently requires the university to provide a minimum of 2,030 parking spaces, a requirement the report states should be rescinded.

"It calls for a fundamental paradigm shift," Mason said. "Sacrificing the environment for personal convenience is not something we have the luxury of doing anymore." He added that this is unfair and irresponsible to future generations.

The report is geared specifically towards the U of T campus, but can be adapted to other locations, Mason said.

"(The report) is a research template. It's a framework, but the same thing can be used anywhere. The mayor of Mississauga says it can be used in that city."

Western's recycling program suffered a major setback in August when 150 fine-paper recycling bins were declared fire hazards. The program's status will be decided in the near future when next year's department budgets are finalized.

Besides the parking space limit, the report recommends that faculty and students carry mugs instead of contributing to the more than 10,000 styrofoam cups used daily. Other suggestions include purchasing photocopiers that use both sides of a page to cut paper waste, composting food leftovers, and prioritizing energy efficiency over cost in building construction.

Mason said the administration's plans do not go far enough. "(The administration) is missing some very important issues." He cited dangerous chemicals on-campus and the need for more organic (pesticide-free) foods in the cafeterias.

"The university can set an example. Sixty thousand people represents a lot of buying power." Mason said his group will be watching the administration's campaign closely, and added there is student interest in forming a student-administration task force on environmental concerns.

Mason said he thinks such a task force would be beneficial to all involved. "The students can teach the administration about environmental issues, and the administration can teach the students about the reality of forming such an organization."

He also thinks Western is capable of solving its own recycling difficulties. "Get together and solve the problems directly," he said. "You'll be amazed at the number of solutions."

The Varsity, U of T
25 Oct 1990 (front page)

Study spotlights 3 Rs, toxics, food and energy

Students unveil U of T Green Ma

BY JENNIFER MORROW
AND MAYLIN SCOTT
Varsity Staff

A student-drafted plan for making U of T more environmentally sound was released on Tuesday, recommending some sweeping changes in university policy.

The Green Master Plan, the result of five months of research by seven U of T students, offers 48 recommendations on how the university can implement policies to reduce environmental damage.

The plan covers wide ranging issues such as reduction, recycling, toxic and hazardous substances, energy, food and the lug-a-mug campaign, and makes recommendations within each of these sections.

Georgiana Boehnke, who co-ordinated the research, said she hopes the plan will set an example for the greater Toronto area and influence the kind of education students are getting at U of T.

"U of T is a community of about 60,000 people. If U of T can make a difference in the way it treats the environment, we can make a very great difference to the greater Toronto area," she said.

Frankie Wood, one of the researchers, said the university's reaction to it is very positive.

"I felt a lot of positive vibes at the press conference," she said. "We can probably get a lot done and I hope so because I'd hate to see all that research go to waste."

Gordon Cressy, vice president of Planning and Development, said the plan was a report of substance.

"It has substantial recommendations, some of

UTEC calls for green committee

continued from pg. 1

voice," said Wood. "We can learn a lot about the administration and they can learn a lot about the environment."

But Cressy said a joint committee is only one option for examining the plan.

"I think it's premature to set up a joint committee," he said. "What we want to do is work on it."

He said two existing committees on campus, one on waste reduction and another on parking, could cooperate with the Green Plan authors on some of the proposals.

But Boehnke says these two committees do not cover all of the recommendations.

"I'm glad that these committees are around, but they don't really answer what we're asking," Boehnke said. "I don't want the emphasis to be only on the issues of parking and waste reduction."

Wood agreed. "I sat on the waste reduction advisory group over the summer," she said. "They are a well-meaning group but don't have the knowledge or the bigger picture in mind when dealing with the environment. These people also have full-time jobs and not enough time to devote to it."

The Green Plan and the proposal for the joint committee will be presented at the Nov. 20 meeting of the Priorities and Planning committee of Governing Council, U of T's final decision making body.

Wood said although some aspects of the plan could be implemented immediately, she doesn't think much will be done till after the meeting.

"I would definitely like to see some form of definitive action taken by the new year," she said.

Boehnke said she wants the Green Plan to be an on-going study.

"We don't want it to end with a plan ... it's an attitude change, a lifestyle change and that way, it doesn't end today. It should never end and that's the hardest thing."

Green Plan highlights

The Green Master Plan is a 135 page document divided into six categories -- reducing, recycling, toxic and hazardous substances, energy, food issues and the lug-a-mug campaign. It contains recommendations for improving the university's policies in each of these sections. In future editions, The Varsity will be focusing on each of these sections in closer detail and the recommendations some of which include:

- ❑ installing a cogeneration system on campus. This would save energy by redirecting the extra heat produced through
- ❑ establishing a chemical exchange program between departments;
- ❑ integrating energy options into plans for future buildings;
- ❑ extending energy efficiency courses to the faculties of Engineering and Architecture;
- ❑ upgrading campus photocopiers to allow them to photocopy on both sides of paper;
- ❑ Endorse quick fix energy conservation measures in all college residences, including greater heat regulation, shorter showers and appliance usage, and energy audits.

toilets and shower heads in university residences and across the campus;

- ❑ aggregating the recycling initiatives on campus, to facilitate campus-wide recycling of plastic, glass, cans and newspapers with the help of City Council;
- ❑ implementing a Code of Practice which will oversee the health effects of cafeteria foods;
- ❑ eliminating disposable mugs, plates and cutlery on campus within five years.
- ❑ eliminating a policy obliging new projects to pay for themselves within five years

Environmental Digest, Vol 1 #17
29 Oct 1980

Green plan targets U of T's unfriendly campuses

The University of Toronto has been called on to clean up its environmentally unfriendly campuses by restricting cars and cutting waste. Details of the U of T Green Plan appear in a 130-page report recently released by the U of T Environmentalist Coalition and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

The report points to the huge amount of garbage produced by the university each month as excessive. It also seeks to discourage the use of cars by limiting parking spaces and raising parking fees minimally -- to match public transit costs.

The Green Plan's authors, fearing a backlash from faculty members, intend the fee hike as a symbolic gesture. They do recommend, however, that the City of Toronto lift a requirement that requires a minimum number of parking spaces be made available to students and staff. Other recommendations include:

-restricting automobile traffic on university campuses
-installing high-efficiency light bulbs and allocating more money to improving electrical equipment;
-reducing waste by purchasing photocopiers that print on both sides of a page, reusing envelopes for on-campus correspondence, and cutting the distribution of campus publications;
-promoting a "lug a mug" campaign to reduce the thousands of disposable cups used daily;
-composting garden waste and food scraps;
-making energy efficiency a top priority in the design and construction of new buildings;
-doing away with the requirement that higher-cost energy-efficient equipment pay for itself within five years.

Over 60,000 students and faculty live and work on the university's three campuses. Together they produce 287 tonnes of garbage each month, use 12,000 disposable cups each day, and occupy over 2,000 parking spaces.

The Strand, Victoria University
31 Oct 1990 (front page)

Writers of the Green Master Plan at the Oct. 23 press conference.

Green master plan comes to light

By Hugh Graham

The greening of U of T has begun.

The University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the Ontario Public Research Interest Group (OPIRG) unveiled the U of T Green Master Plan on October 23.

The plan is a collaboration between the two groups, written after five months of research.

"It's the right of students to have a voice in something as important as their world," said UTEC coordinator Georgianna Boehnke.

The plan examines the University of Toronto's contribution to the environmental decline of our planet and makes 48 recommendations for improvement.

It includes recommendations on reducing waste, recycling and conserving energy. The plan also suggests a campaign to eliminate the 12 000 disposable styrofoam and paper cups used on campus every day.

Boehnke said adoption of the Green Master Plan at the University of Toronto will have far-reaching effects.

"U of T is a community of 60 000. All these people will take with them the knowledge of how to make change," she said.

City of Toronto representative Jack Layton was supportive of the plan. He pointed out that U of T has a major impact on the environment because of the number of students and the amount of waste it produces.

Boehnke said so far there has not been much of a response from the administration.

"[U of T vice-president Gordon] Cressy didn't sound too enthusiastic but it is too early to tell what they think. I would hope we wouldn't have to wait too long to hear yes or no. Hopefully we'll get student support which would put pressure on the administration," said Boehnke.

Cressy said because the administration had only had ten days to examine the report, they did not have time to respond to the suggestions.

Governing Council (GC), U of T's highest governing body, has not yet decided whether it will adopt the recommendations outlined in the plan.

Cressy said there are already committees working on problems like parking and waste-management.

But UTEC member Tzeporah Berman said, "To say there are only two issues U of T is ignoring is belittling this report. Parking and waste are not the only issues U of T should address."

Boehnke said she hoped the plan would increase awareness amongst administration and students.

cont. on p. 2

implementing the recommendations because she had not yet seen the plan.

Student reaction on campus was generally positive. Second year Environmental Sciences specialist Chris Boehm said, "As one of the largest non-governmental organizations in North America, U of T's Green initiative establishes a vital precedent which will inevitably encourage other organizations, particularly universities, to pursue similar environmental plans."

Residence Council president Mark Pathy was pleased with the plan and had some advice on how to reduce

preventing cafeterias from using synthetic chemical preservatives.

The Varsity, U of T
1 Nov 1990

Chemical waste goes down drain

BY JENNIFER MORROW
Varsity Staff (Nov. 1/91)

There's too much research and teaching at U of T that involves hazardous and toxic substances, says an author of the U of T Green Plan.

The Green Plan is a campus master plan for proposing environment friendly alternatives released last week.

Frankie Wood, who researched the section of the plan dealing with hazardous and toxic substances, says undergraduate students need to be more aware of the effects of the substances they use, while graduate students and professors should change the direction of their research.

In a survey of Chemistry 135 students she conducted this summer, 20 per cent said they had never been enrolled in a course where they used hazardous substances.

But students in this course use hazardous substances, including mercury, lead, silver and benzene, a carcinogen.

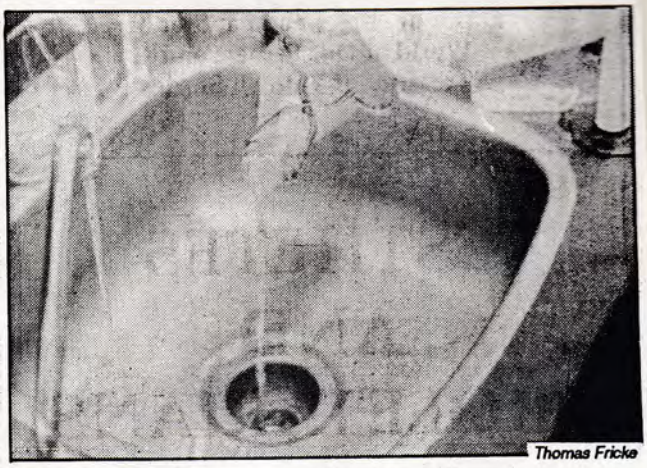
"To be using benzene and not know you're dealing with something that's hazardous is really scary," Wood said.

Katherine Cook, a fourth-year organic chemistry student, agrees, and says teaching staff should encourage students to know the hazards they encounter.

"In all the labs I went through, we were told what was hazardous, but the emphasis on safety awareness seems pretty dependent on the particular lab supervisor.

"I think in general there could be more encouragement for students to take that extra step and look up toxicities and hazards before entering the lab."

Wood's survey also found that over half of the students surveyed admitted that they, or someone they knew, knowingly poured toxic or hazardous substances down the drains in labs.



Thomas Fricke

U of T chemicals are getting in the drinking water.

Students are taught regulations pertaining to toxic and hazardous substances, particularly those of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

"A problem is that when students are being taught these regulations, they're just being taught, `This is a rule. You have to follow it.' They're not being taught, `If you pour benzene down the sink, you drink it tomorrow'," Wood said.

See Waste, pg. 2

continued from pg. 1

Cook says that lack of class time is another problem.

"At the end of a lab, a student is often so rushed that he or she may throw everything down the sink in an attempt to get out on time, unless disposal containers are easily accessible and clearly labelled."

U of T offers training programs for graduate students, lab technicians, and people in Physical Plant, says David Gorman, the director of Environmental Health and Safety on campus.

"But some professors simply won't come to the training sessions," even though it is unlawful, he added.

Individual departments can install their own regulations to implement the workplace regulations.

Wood also pushes for a reduction in the number of toxic and hazardous substances used in science classes and in research. She says some experiments in undergraduate Chemistry classes are redundant and need not be done.

"While it may be valuable some of the time to have hands-on experience ... for that small amount of education you're jeopardizing so much else that it's just not worth it any more."

But Chemistry chair Michael Dignam says few hazardous substances are used in undergraduate courses, and the department is already moving toward reducing the volume of certain chemicals used.

"We're thinking of working with microquantities [of chemicals]. It requires a whole new set of equipment but it allows the same chemistry to be done using much smaller amounts ... in the long run it actually saves us money.

Most hazardous substances used in science at U of T is in graduate work and research.

"We have the least problems with the undergraduate labs. They're extremely strictly controlled," says Elizabeth Krivonosov, U of T's Chemical Safety Officer.

Graduate projects and research also often involve hazardous substances. Wood says the direction of research should be changed, which will eliminate the need for certain dangerous experiments.

"The way research, especially in the sciences, is geared, is to learn how we can master things and control elements to make them do what we want them to, instead of learning how we work with the earth," Wood said. "We're so entrapped in the way of our thinking that we always try and find band-aid solutions to what we've done."

Cook agrees, but warns that basic research is still necessary.

"While it's true that technology often creates the need for more technology, the ultimate idea is to use it to simplify and not to complicate. So if you want to produce an environment-friendly pesticide, and, say, this compound has a particular stereochemistry, a lot of work on more basic systems might be necessary before the methodology required can be developed."

"The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG-Toronto) and the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) have compiled an environmental audit of the University of Toronto (U of T) entitled The University of Toronto Green Master Plan: Recommendations for Change. The Plan includes forty-eight recommendations for changes in the following six areas: Reduction and Reuse, Recycling; Toxic and Hazardous Substances, Energy Conservation, Food and the Lug-a Mug Campaign.

Do you support the implementation of the environmental changes outlined in the U of T Green Master Plan in order to make U of T, as a community, a forerunner of ecological responsibility?"

SIGN TO SUPPORT IT!!

OPIRG-Toronto and UTEC

PETITION DRIVE starts

FEBRUARY 12th

Referendum and Rally in March

Watch for posters!

Green Master Plan
Petition Campaign
Feb 1991

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group-Toronto
&
The University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition
PRESENT:

An Environmental Assessment of the University of Toronto

THE GREEN MASTER PLAN

FOOD *LUG-A-MUG CAMPAIGN*
REDUCTION AND REUSE *ENERGY* *TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES* *RECYCLING*

IN A LIBRARY NEAR YOU!!!!!
GET INFORMED!!!!! GET GREEN!!!!!

RALLY

Thursday, March 28th
in front of Simcoe Hall
4:30 pm
For more information contact OPIRG-Toronto at: 598-2199

RECYCLE THIS FLYER

The Innis Herald, U of T
March 1991

Environment

The Green Master Plan: A Referendum Question

The article was created through the combined efforts of OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group) and UTEC (University of Toronto Environ- mentalist Coalition)

On February 6th, the SAC Board approved OPIRG's referendum question to be added to the election ballot on March 13th and 14th. A majority vote from students on the referendum question will act to persuade Governing Council that stronger environmental initiatives must be taken.

By approving OPIRG's referendum question, SAC has given the go-ahead for students to have an oppurtunity to vote for implementing the necessary changes to U of T operations as outlined in the Green Master Plan. This Plan is a comprehensive audit of U of T's environment impact and provides 48 recommendations for change in: energy conservation, food issues, the three R's, toxic and hazardous substances and the Lug-a-Mug campaign. These 48 recommendations will be listed at each ballot box for reference when voting.

The following is a condensation of the U of T Green Master Plan, designed to change both environmental practices and attitudes. The full Plan is not reprinted for reasons of space. If you would like to see the full Plan, contact OPIRG or UTEC for details.

Reduction and Reuse:

Excess consumption leads to many serious problems such as the loss of non-renewable resources, overflowing land-fill sites and global warming. The gravity and reality of these problems is well known. Thus reduction, the first R, is the preferred waste control option as it creates no contamination and preserves resources. Reduction can be achieved in the following ways:

~Office paper use should be drastically reduced: provide multi-use envelopes for campus mail; reuse regular envelopes; allow backs of used paper to be made into note pads.

~Upgrade campus photocopiers to include duplexors, which allow for two-sided copying.

~Circulation numbers of campus publications should be reviewed and reduced if production exceeds demand.

~Food services should use durable and refillable containers, eventually discontinuing the use of disposables.

~Until composting begins, food wastes should be supplied to licensed swill operators.

~Water-efficient appliances should be installed across campus. These would include low-flush toilets and water-efficient faucets and shower-heads.

~A Swap Shop should be re-established on campus. Each year, a large quantity of used campus furniture and supplies are discarded, ending up in land-fill sites. Space should be set aside to provide a Swap Shop, a place to buy, trade or pick up used items. Any items not sold or taken should be given to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

~Cycling, walking, shuttle buses, car pooling and city transit should be actively encouraged. The U of T should raise parking fees to the price of a TTC Metropass to encourage the use of public transportation, and should lobby the TTC for reduced rates for university students.

~Cars should be restricted from St George Street, Huron Street, Willcocks Street and Devonshire Place to benefit and encourage bikers and walkers. The number of bicycle racks should be increased.

~The University's own automobile use and purchasing practices should be scrutinized and revised to reflect environmental concerns.

Recycling:

The last few decades have seen a rapid increase in the amount of garbage generated in Canada. U of T must reduce the amount of garbage it produces. One method of waste reduction is recycling, which slows the rate at which resource depletion occurs. It also decreases the rate at which solid wastes accumulate. Recycling new products from secondary wastes uses less energy than production from virgin resources and causes far less air and water pollution. The suggestions for recycling are as follows:

~Integrate all current recycling efforts into a single, centralized recycling program.

~Expand the fine paper recycling program with Domtar packaging to include coloured paper. Separate bins should be provided to keep the white and coloured paper apart.

~Lobby the City of Toronto to initiate a campus-wide recycling program for newspapers, cans, bottles and plastics. The U of T should be provided with Blue boxes and large recycling receptacles such as Toter bins. Since U of T has over 60,000 staff and students, it should be considered a community within Toronto, and as such be serviced by the municipal government, as apartment complexes are.

~Composting on the Scarborough and Erindale campuses should begin immediately. The resulting compost should then be used as fertilizer on gardens and lawns around campus.

~There should be markets provided for recycled products through U of T purchasing practises. All U of T photo-copiers should be using 100% post-consumer, recycled, unbleached paper.

~U of T publications should be printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled, unbleached paper and campus newspapers should be required to use at least 50% recycled newsprint within two years.

~Wooden crates should replace cardboard boxes wherever possible.

Hazardous and Toxic Substances: The use of natural and synthetic chemicals has provided us with countless benefits. We must, however, remain cautious when dealing with many of these potentially hazardous substances as they often have negative effects upon both human life and the environment in general. A survey conducted by OPIRG/UTEC of first-year chemistry students at U of T indicated that regulations governing use of chemicals are usually well taught but not thoroughly adhered to. Some recommendations:

~Ensure that the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulations are fully explained and enforced. Drains and ventilation systems on campus should be redirected so that hazardous wastes are treated before being directed into the regular disposal system.

~The use of hazardous or toxic materials must be reviewed to minimize risks posed by these substances. The number of experiments involving hazardous materials could be reduced through group, rather than individual, study units.

~A chemical exchange program for professors and departments should be established rather than the continual disposal of "used" chemicals. A purity control and dispensing centre should be established as the program's core.

~The replacement of the usual poisonous cleansers used on campus with safer alternatives should be effected immediately. The U of T should alter its present purchasing practices to include companies who supply non-hazardous cleansers.

~Artificial pesticides and fertilizers should be eliminated from campus. The U of T should adopt alternative gardening methods, including composting.

~The recommendations of the newly formed Asbestos Committee should be incorporated into the University's plans.

Energy Conservation:

Since the industrial revolution, coal, oil and gas have been the main sources of fuel for the generation of power. Scientists have now linked CO_2 emissions from the burning of fossil fuels to a dangerous trend towards global warming. Other elements of environmental degredation and human health risk have also been associated with fossil fuel extraction and use.

Scientists are seriously searching for other fuel sources. Soft energy paths such as wind, solar and tidal power and biomass all have great potential. But their feasibility is restricted by climate and other geographical considerations, and they have suffered from a lack of research funds from government and private industry.

As a result, Canada and other countries have turned to nuclear power as an alternative to fossil fuels. Nuclear power does not produce greenhouse gases or acid rain, but it is by no means a solution to our growing energy predicament. Aside from the exorbitant capital and development costs and the short life span of plants and generators, nuclear power presents us with the problems of waste manage- ment, arms control and nuclear disaster. Nuclear power is Ontario's principal power source.

As a responsible community, the University must aim to reduce its energy demands. By doing so we can make a significant contribution to ensuring that no new nuclear plants are built. The best option, less expensive than any new energy source and guaranteed to have no negative environmental repercussions is increased energy efficiency. The following are some recommendations:

~Extend or eliminate the five-year payback policy, which states that if a project does not pay for itself in five years, it will not be adopted. It is imperative that decisions be made with environmental rather than economic considerations in the forefront. This policy has prevented the purchase of a swimming pool cover in the Athletic Centre.

~Award the U of T utilities branch of Facilities and Services an ongoing energy fund to ensure repair and maintenance of equipment. The fund would allow for the upkeep and installation of energy efficiency projects.

~Integrate energy options into the University's plans for future development. When costs rose during the construction of the new Earth Sciences Complex, energy efficiency measures were dropped when they should be a top priority.

~Install a cogeneration system of energy production on the downtown campus. Cogeneration is a system that captures waste heat from primary natural gas generation, turns it into steam, and then uses it for secondary generation of energy. This system reduces the required use of other primary gas burning generators and uses the 1,200F thermal emissions for power that would otherwise be released into the air as thermal pollution.

~Endorse residential quick-fix plans at all eight colleges. Simple things like looking for cracks near windows, regulating heat with *individual* thermostats and turning lights and stereos off when not in use will add up to savings.

~Install compact flourescents in all the residence rooms campus wide. This would lead to a significant reduction in the energy bills of the colleges. Ontario Hydro offers various incentives for changes in lighting design.

~Install low energy exit signs, replace pot lighting with compact flourescents, and continually check on the physical condition of buildings on campus.

~Extend energy efficiency courses to the faculties of Engineering and Architecture to stress the importance of choosing sound energy options.

Food Issues:

At one time, food was valued primarily for its nutritional benefits. Today, it is valued more as a commodity within the market place. This shift has resulted in changes within the food industry. These changes include increases in unnecessary packaging, convenience foods, additives, pesticides and farming practices which favour the manipulation rather than the preservation of the environment. The exploitation of workers and animals has also become a prominant feature of the contemporary food system.

It is now more important than ever that people choose products that are most beneficial to the social, political and ecological health of their community and the community where production takes place. Viable alternatives to comtemporary agricultural practices and alternatives to common buying practices do exist. These are some suggestions:

~U of T should ensure the purchase of organic foods to avoid appearance enhancement additives and synthetic chemical pesticides now commonly used in food production and selling.

~If U of T does not purchase organic produce, it should ensure that all cafeterias wash all produce in water with a mild, non-hazardous detergent and peel the produce when feasible. The will reduce the pesticide residues left on foods and remove the wax (this can only be done by peeling) where it is used.

~Research and testing of synthetic chemical residues in food and their health effects on individuals and the environment should be part of the University curriculum in relevant courses.

~A Code of Ethics and Practices should be established at U of T. This Code would set guidelines and regulations to ensure that food services and individuals be environmentally and socially responsible in their consumer choices. For example, the University should only purchase products that are produced and imported by companies that assure the health and prosperity of their workers.

~The University should not purchase products from companies that use chemicals or practices in food development that have been banned in Canada.

~It should be ensured that cafeterias do not use synthetic chemical preservatives or chemical food additives themselves.

Mug Campaign:

OPIRG and UTEC launched a Lug- A-Mug campaign last winter based on the principle of individual respons- ibility. People could personally contribute to the reduction of waste on campus by carrying a durable mug to use instead of styrofoam or paper cups.

Before starting the campaign, UTEC and OPIRG conducted a survey of the campus cafeterias which revealed that over 12,000 disposable cups were being used daily. These cups are not only a frivolous waste of non-renewable resources but are also contributors to pollution and to waste management problems. The approximately 1,600 mugs sold last year saved an estimated 26,000 disposable cups in as little as three months. Here are a few more recommendations:

~Endorse the mug campaign through the passage of a resolution in favour of it. If the Governing Council publicly supports the campaign, students and faculty will understand that the administration supports a healthy environment.

~Set an example by using endurable mugs everywhere on campus.

~Declare Simcoe all a disposable-free zone and encourage individual faculties and departments to do the same. A stock of durable mugs should be made available for visitors and for use at meetings.

~Finally, the University should ensure the elimination of disposables on campus within five years.

The Green Master Plan for the University of Toronto explores how we at the University are degrading our environment and that of future generations. But most importantly, it is a *plan for action*. This article and the whole Plan have offered many recommendations to improve the situation on campus. All are achievable. It should be stressed, though, that what has been recommended here will merely begin the much-needed process of change. Ongoing environmental concern must be maintained and actively encouraged if we are to make a difference.

The Green Master Plan is the result of months of research into present practices at the U of T. Further references, research, background study papers on each specific section and recommendations in greater detail are available from OPIRG and UTEC.

Remember to consider the Green Plan on your election ballot on March 13th and 14th.

To Make The Most Of Life

You know there's nothing left inside you -
You're a hollow empty shell,
But you haven't got the guts to simply quit!
Hanging by your finger nails
The drop below's to Hell!
And the vultures on the ledge above - just sit.

It's no wonder that you cry out
For the hand of any friend,
To save you from the horrors of the pit.
But no one heeds your feeble cry,
There's no hand that is to lend
For frankly, no one gives a bloody shit!

And so you keep on sinking
In the mess that's all around,
And your body feels about to fall apart.
You wish the hell t'was over
Or that you'd find some firmer ground,
Where you'd have a chance to make another start.

The only thought that saves you
As the daylight slips away.
While you vainly try to hold the fading light.
Is that life's just another play
That's acted day by day
And the final scene you still have yet to write

John Lash

The Innis Herald, U of T
March 1991

Environment

Green Plan 101: The Mid-Term Report

It's about time the administration got a mid-term report. The University of Toronto has had five months to implement the recommendations found in the "University of Toronto Green Master Plan: Recommendations for Change". To evaluate their progress, the OPIRG environment group, who released the Plan with the help of the U of T Environmentalist Coalition, has compiled a scorecard: "Green Plan 101: the U of T's Mid-term Report".

The OPIRG group interviewed many people in many different administrative positions. From the compilation of this information, grades of A, B, C, D or F were given depending on the progress in each area of potential improvement. Grades are based on the following scheme:

A -- Significant effort; excellent results.
B -- Good effort; working towards goal.
C -- Awareness and desire to change; slight attempt made, but no driving force to overcome obstacles; sparse results.
D -- Awareness of issue, desire to change; inadequate attempt made; no results.
F -- No awareness; or, awareness, but no desire to change.

Recommendation	Comments	Mark
Reduction and Reuse: Office paper use should be drastically reduced.	Despite marginal effort to reduce consumption, the Purchasing Dept has not reduced the amount of paper ordered.	D
Circulation numbers of campus publications should be reviewed and reduced if production exceeds demand.	The Waste Reduction Advisory Group (WRAG) recycling committee has set up a consultative process with the publications to seek co-operative ways to reduce production.	B+
A Swap shop should be re-established on campus.	Facilities and services have planned and found a location, but have not yet allocated personnel nor set a time-line.	B
Recycling: Lobby the City of Toronto to initiate a campus-wide recycling programme for newspapers, cans, bottles and plastics. Lobby Metro to include Queen's Park and St George St. in the third phase of its recycling programme (blue igloos).	These programmes will be complete with the two igloos (soon to be three) and the five recycling depots (soon to be twelve) across campus. The Metro ban on dumping recyclables has made U of T look into office sized recycling receptacles.	A-
Composting on the Scarborough and Erindale campuses should begin immediately.	At Scarborough only the Garden Club does some informal composting. Cafeterias are renegotiating a swill contract.	N/A
Hazardous and Toxic Substances: A chemical exchange programme for professors and departments should be established.	A process for exchange programme has been established; the first inventory list is to be distributed in March. But the use of the programme has not been made mandatory.	B
Alter purchasing practices so that only non-hazardous cleansers are used at U of T.	Having tried some alternative cleansers, U of T maintains a policy of sparkling cleanliness, submitting to unenlightened complaints about cosmetics. Using elbow grease is not favoured.	F
Energy Conservation: Install a cogeneration system of energy production on the downtown campus.	A cogeneration system at the Central Steam Heating plant on Russel Street has been approved by the business board of Governing Council, to be started in the late fall of 1992.	A
Extend or eliminate the five year payback policy.	The cogeneration system shows that U of T has overstepped its unbending five year payback policy. Savings from the facility will pay it back over a ten year period.	N/A
Food Issues: U of T should: ensure the purchase of organic foods; buy products that are produced and imported by companies that assure the health and prosperity of their workers; ensure that all produce is washed carefully with a mild, non-hazardous detergent and peeled when feasible; ensure that all cafeterias do not use synthetic chemical preservatives or chemical food additives.	The University refuses to take any responsibility for these issues. They do not believe that these are factors in their contract negotiations with Marriot, Beaver or other caterers. U of T is not demanding ethical or environmental improvments from their food suppliers; therefore, these companies are not induced to change their practices.	F
Mug Campaign: Declare Simcoe Hall a disposable-free zone while encouraging individual faculties and depts to do the same.	Simcoe Hall has all but eliminated disposable cups. Work on bulk sugar and cream dispensers is the next step.	B
Eliminate disposables on campus within five years.	No long-term effort, as of yet, has been made. No process is envisioned.	F

Information compiled by OPIRG and UTEC

The Newspaper . U of T
Le March 1991

SAC Referendum Focuses on Levy and the Environment

FAWZIA SHEIKH
News Bureau

The Students' Administraive Council (SAC)'s upcoming election will present a referendum question regarding a SAC fee increase and implementation of UofT's Green Master Plan.

SACs last fee increase was in 1983. A proposed $2.25 student levy is slated for next year and the following year pending support of the student body.

The fact that eight years have passed since the last fee increase has been problematic, says SAC President Tim Costigan.

Present SAC fees represent approximately 40 to 50 percent of what they were then. Along with staffing costs and inflation, a limited budget has hurt a variety of programes, like UofT's free films, said Costigan.

With an enlarged expenditure, Costigan said, SAC plans to address various campus issues.

"We were hoping it will do a number of things," he said. "We want to do more in the area of women's issues like a major date-and-acquaintance-rape campaign."

Costigan also insisted that money raised at Erindale and Scarborough Colleges would be appropriated by the suburban campuses to various areas of concern. This policy would improve SAC's service-effectiveness throughout the university.

'For instance, we now have an office at Erindale, and we'd like to provide a part-time staffing person there to help let Erindale students know exactly what SAC is and what we do for them."

In addition, Costigan stated that a [illegible]e would enable SAC to make a greater contribution to the environment.

"There's a whole series of things that we have started with UofT's Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the Ontario Public Interest Group (OPIRG) that we should be continuing and expanding. Over the last year, we helped fund a lot of the recycling bins that were placed around campus. It was a fairly expensive venture."

This introduces the second compnent of the SAC referendum, the Green Master Plan, which was placed on the ballot at the request of both UTEC and OPIRG.

The Green Master Plan is an assessment of UofT's enviromental impact and lists 48 recommendations for change in areas concerning energy conservation, food issues, reduction and recycling, toxic and hazardous substances, and the Lug-A-Mug campaign.

Regardless of whether the Green Master Plan is accepted, Costigan urged that, "There's a lot of other things involved, it's a simple question but there's no simple implementation of it. That kind of thing just doesn't happen."

If the plan is approved by a student referendum, it still has to be accepted by Governing Council, UofT's highest administrative body.

A February petition drive undertaken by OPIRG raised student awareness of the need for the university's ecological responability with a collection of 2,000-plus signatures in two days.

SAC elections will be held March 13 and 14.

The Varsity. U of T
11 March 1991

This week, cast a vote for the air you breathe

BY VICTORIA TAYLOR

When students vote for their SAC president this Wednesday and Thursday, they will also have a chance to support, in principle, a document known as the *U of T Green Master Plan*.

Drinking coffee from a disposable cup, pouring toxic chemistry lab concoctions down the drain, eating pesticide injected food from the cafeteria ... a typical morning for many students, but if you stop to consider that this routine occurs thousands of times every day, the meaning of "environmental impact" is clear and the need for student support behind the *U of T Green Master Plan: Recommendations for Change* hits home.

Produced by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC), the Plan is an environmental audit of the campus focusing on energy conservation, reduction and reuse, recycling, toxic and hazardous substances, food issues and the now popular Lug-a-mug campaign.

green master plan

The Plan outlines many solutions to environmental problems on campus. Student support can make a change, for example, by lobbying for the elimination of disposables on campus and the supporting the move to change cafeteria purchasing practices.

The Lug-a-Mug campaign in the *Green Master Plan* explains that by purchasing a portable mug from OPIRG or UTEC, students will help to reduce the daily use of over 12,000 disposable cups on campus. From the Plan we learn that "while Styrofoam is no longer produced by using harmful CFCs, it is produced using HCFC-22 which also depletes the ozone layer, although at a slower rate than CFCs." Why deplete the ozone layer at all?

Currently, the university refuses to take any responsibility for food issues in the cafeterias. Many things need to be improved upon to ensure the future health of students, staff and faculty. U of T should ensure the purchase of organic foods -- food grown without the use of pesticides and other chemicals proven toxic to human and animal health -- and to purchase only products which are produced and imported by companies that assure the health and prosperity of their workers.

The Administration does not believe that these issues are factors in contractual negotiations with caterers such as Marriot and Beaver. U of T should demand ethical and environmental improvements of their food suppliers.

Your vote on the referendum ballot affirms your support of these issues. Support the environmental efforts of OPIRG and UTEC and other environmentally conscious students. Go green to get our campus green.

Vote "yes" on your SAC election ballot, giving your support to the *Green Master Plan* and its 68 recommendations for environment changes. Your vote will say you care about the environment and an ecologically sound campus.

A list of the 68 recommendations for change will be posted at each polling booth. You can also inform yourself before the vote. The full document is available at the OPIRG resource centre and at the Sigmund Samuel, Institute for Environmental Studies, Erindale, Scarborough and Innis College libraries. If you would like further information or would like to help implement the recommendations in the Green Master Plan, call OPIRG (598-2199) or UTEC (978-7199).

Victoria Taylor is involved with OPIRG's Environment Group and is a U of T student in Environmental Studies.

The Varsity. U of T
18 March 1991

SAC wins yearly increase in levy

BY NANCY HOWDEN
Varsity Staff

Referenda results from the Students' Administrative Council election show U of T has thrifty spenders and environmentally conscious students.

Students voted against a $2.25 levy increase in each of the next two years, 1,214 voting for the increase and 2,016 against.

"The results were disappointing simply because council really needs it," said SAC president Tim Costigan.

According to Costigan, SAC receives one of the lowest student levies in Canada, and the rejection of the increase was the result of confusion.

"I think there was confusion among students as to what the increase would go to," he said. "Our main focus has been on explaining to students their rights during the (TAs) strike. We don't have the resources to make students aware of everything at U of T. It's a chicken-and-egg question. We need resources and we don't have any. That's why we need money."

Though the $2.25 increase was shot down, an annual cost of living increase for SAC passed. 2,004 students voted for the increase and 1,626 against.

"I think it's a good sign," said Costigan. "The students' council can use it."

SAC president-elect Peter Guo agreed but does not have any concrete plans about where the new money will go.

"It will probably be put to use by making what SAC does already better," said Guo. "But I can't say yet what it will go to."

Students also voted to endorse the Green Master Plan, a student-drafted document that recommends several new environmental initiatives for U of T. This approval showed a growing concern for the environment among students though results from this question are not binding on SAC, said Costigan.

Of those who voted, 3956 supported the Plan while 290 voted against.

"It's a kind of `parenthood' question about responsibility to the environment," said Costigan. "We already knew the answer to that one. We were just asked to put the question there so we did."

Students voted to support environmental initiatives

The Varsity, U of T
14 March 1991

Enviro report card

U of T gets poor grades

BY ROSE PACHECO
Varsity Staff

A Toronto environment group has released a follow-up report card grading U of T's progress based on the student-drafted Green Plan recommendations.

The Green Plan was written last summer by seven U of T students in conjunction with a Toronto chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group. It was presented to the university in October, and makes environmental recommendations in areas including reduction, recycling, toxic and hazardous substances, energy, food and the lug-a-mug campaign.

But the only things U of T received an "A" for were the campus-wide recycling program for newspapers, cans, bottles and plastics, and its plans to build an energy-saving cogeneration system at the Central Steam Heating plant on Russell St..

Tzeporah Berman, one of the authors of the Green Plan, said the university as a whole is not doing well and the administration has not taken the report seriously.

The reduction and re-use of office paper received a "D" because the purchasing department has not reduced the amount of paper ordered.

It is easier to recycle paper than reduce it, said U of T recycling co-ordinator Renee Dello, but recycled paper is not popular because it is not as white as new paper and people complain about double sided paper. Many photocopiers use recycled paper but most photocopiers come from Japan and are made for the type of market they are going to, she added.

"It is harder to change methods of doing things," said Dello. "You have to force people to make that kind of change. Reduction will take a lot of education."

The recommendations for Hazardous and Toxic Substances included a chemical exchange program and using non-hazardous cleansers. Elizabeth Krivonosov, U of T's Chemical Safety Officer, said a chemical exchange program -- allowing researchers can submit used chemicals so they can be used by other researchers -- was in the works before OPIRG made their recommendations. OPIRG rated this program a "B" because the program has not been made mandatory.

Jim Yates, U of T's Purchasing Officer for janitorial products, said the two main areas looked at when purchasing cleaning products are effectiveness and cost. Suppliers are also moving towards the whole idea of environmentally friendly products.

"There are bio-degradable and environmentally products on the market, but do they do the job?" said Yates. "The ones we have been shown are not as effective. In many cases they will be toxic, there is no way around it. They are used to kill bacteria and if it is not toxic it is not going to work very well. It is part of the whole idea of cleaning." Yates said the purchasing department tries to get environmentally friendly products as much as possible. Janitorial paper is recycled, in most cases 100 per cent.

"Bio-degradable products are purchased if it performs as well as the products we are using at a

U of T doesn't pass the grade on disposable cups

OPIRG deals out "F"s

continued from pg. 3

cost roughly equal. No product is written in stone. The Facilities and Services have a budget and we have to work within it. If we buy something that does not work as well, you end up using twice as much, there are really no savings."

Berman disagreed.

"Certain cleaners like Borox are biodegradable and can also be bought in bulk. We think it is an information problem."

This area received an "F".

OPIRG has applied for a grant from the government for money for teach-ins to bring awareness to staff and students of what options are available.

Berman suggested each student receive a lug-a-mug during orientation and lunch kits in the cafeterias be sold, similiar to ones already available at the University of Guelph. These kits are recycled plastic, like Tupperware, with a plate for sandwiches and cutlery which students can carry around.

"Things will improve with time because consumers are demanding it. We are working on time restraints because of the environmental crisis," she said.

U of T should also take quicker action on reducing disposables in cafeterias, Berman feels.

"Cafeteria workers should not have to do something about it themselves, they are over-worked and understaffed. What has been done has resulted by others looking at the issues."

Dello, however, said she is pleased with the progress in the past year because there has been more interest and concern.

"We're working with a small budget. We need more money for can and glass recycling containers in larger cafeterias and for depot stations around buildings," Dello said.

The Varsity. U of T
26 March 1991

A scientist rebukes kneejerk environmentalism

BY MARIANNE ROMANSKY

In the March 11 issue of *The Varsity*, Victoria Taylor exhorted students to support and vote for the Green Master Plan, and environmental campus audit, in that week's SAC elections.

green master plan: a response

She resorted to gross generalizations to catch the readership's attention and drive her point home. Unfortunately, while attempting to inflame undergraduates' passions for environmental correctness, she neglected certain aspects of the issues she cited as examples.

For a more balanced assessment, two of the more contentious points in the argument should be addressed.

❑ "Pouring toxic chemistry lab concoctions down the drain ..."

As a former lab demonstrator, I know that only happens when students completely and obliviously ignore all the signs posted in their labs, instructions in their lab manuals and instructions and orders from the lab demonstrators.

Should we ban automobiles because of the presence of a minority of idiot drunken drivers? Should we use only the most benign substances available and deprive students of the knowledge of a basic science, the principles and practices of which are recognized as being absolutely necessary to the study of biological and medical subjects? What is the definition of "benign"?

A typical toxic substance used in first-year chemistry labs, such as Chem 135, is sodium hydroxide (NaOH). Students use a dilute solution of NaOH in water for some experiments; this solution on prolonged exposure to bare skin will cause irritation similar to dishpan hands. However, fairly pure solid sodium hydroxide, also known as lye, is found in many homes.

Before the advent of Draino and Liquid Plumber, our grandparents used lye for unstopping clogged pipes and drains, because this concentrated "caustic soda" will eat through a variety of materials. A rather nasty form of suicide was consumption of lye; it eats through the alimentary passages and causes a painful death by internal bleeding.

Sodium hydroxide is still present in many bathroom cleaning products; the instructions to wear gloves should be followed. Even the making of soap in Roman times would not have been possible without the use of lye; the process has not changed much since then.

So here we have a substance that has an "acute local high" toxicity rating, as described in Newton Sax's *Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials*; it "May cause death or permanent injury after very short exposure to small quantities," yet we keep it in the bathroom beside the mirror cleaning fluid.

The point is that chemistry and chemicals are not such dreadful dangers. Our illiterate ancestors coexisted with and used "toxic" chemicals. It is what uninformed or careless people do with potentially useful and beneficial substances that causes problems!

❑ "Eating pesticide injected food from the cafeteria ..."

Contact any university or government agriculture department and ask the researchers why pesticides are used. Speak to any farmer over 60 years of age, and ask how his or her productivity and income per acre has increased with the use of pesticides. Look at agricultural statistics; compare the numbers of people that one farmer could feed a century ago, and how many people a farmer feeds nowadays.

Through the marvels of genetic engineering and selective hybridization, some disease and insect resistant crops are being developed; a reduction in pesticide use is now feasible for some crops.

"Organic" foods are usually more expensive than "regular" foods because of the increased labour required for chores such as spreading manure rather than fertilizer, and companion planting. Is the university community willing to pay for the increased cost of "organic" food in our cafeterias, with some unquantifiable possible benefit to the health of the populace?

This environmental audit is a good way to make the university community aware of environmental issues on campus, but a more balanced approach to the issues is needed for intellectual honesty.

But then, nobody wins a vote by giving both sides of the story.

Marianne Romansky is a graduate student in polymer chemistry.

The Newspaper. UofT
20 March 1991

The Newspaper. March 20, 1991 p.1

University Far From Green

OPIRG Says UofT is Lazy About the Environment

DANIEL MILLER
News Bureau

Five months after submitting its Green Plan on the environment to the University of Toronto administration, the Ontario Public Interest Research Group has issued a mid-term report. The judgement is not entirely favourable.

"We wanted to give them praise for what they have done, so that they realize it is appreciated when they do things. But overall they haven't done that much," said OPIRG's Mark Manley.

The report isconcerned with hazardous and toxic substances, reduction and re-use, recycling, food issues and the lug-a-mug initiative, examining different areas under these five. Although UofT has been given a few relatively high marks, there are also three rather glaring F's, and Manley stated, "Overall, I'd probably give them a D."

"I can understand the bureaucracy," he said. "It takes a lot of time to get things implemented, but I think they could do it a little more efficiently."

Manley also expressed a belief that students could do more in the spirit of the Green Plan, saying that "a lot of the onus is on the student body for the effort."

One of the areas in which UofT has scored very high is in recycling. The mark is an A -

"I think that's wonderful. It sort of lets me know that, yes, I am getting somewhere and they feel that I'm getting somewhere as well," said UofT's Recycling Coordinator Renee Dello.

Dello pronounced herself very much in favour of the mid-term report, saying "it's necessary to keep prodding the administration to get things done."

Dello was quite surprised, however, that the mark was so high, and believes that UofT still has a long way to go.

"There's still a lot to do and it's frustrating at times that things do move so slowly. I would like to see things happening more quickly, and it would be nice if there would be a bit more support," she said, adding that there was still a problem with student and staff ignorance and abuse of the recycling program.

UofT's recycling coordinator encouraged the Uof T community to make more frequent use of the blue recycling igloos, because "if we want to get more on campus, Metro will definitely be looking at that".

In last week's Student Administrative Council elections, OPIRG asked students in a referendum question whether they supported UofT action on the environment. The result was very encouraging.

"We knew it would get an overwhelming 'Yes', " said outgoing SAC President Tim Costigan.

"If it hadn't, I think I would have fainted."

He cautioned, however, that the positive result was of symbolic value only, and that substantial action on the environment requires "a lot of lobbying, a lot of frank discussion, a lot of cost analysis".

Costigan also encouraged student initiative on the question.

"SAC is like a federation. If you want to do something with the environment, come out and do it yourself. The SAC name carries a lot of weight at Simcoe Hall [the seat of the UofT administration]."

OPIRG will hold a rally March 28 in front of Simcoe Hall, at which it will distribute copies of its mid-term report to administrators. New SAC President Peter Guo is already in possession of the report.

The Newspaper, UofT 27 March 1991

New Fines Force University to Intensify Recycling Efforts

KATE ZERNIKE
NewsBureau
Mar 27/91
The Newspaper p. 1

New Metro regulations will cost the University of Toronto $300,000 in garbage violations over the next year unless the campus makes a better effort to separate recycleable products from solid waste, says Ron Pansino of UofT Facilities and Services.

On April 1, new Metro regulations will impose a fine of $350 per tonne for any solid waste loads containing recycleable products.

Pansino estimated that 56 percent of the university's annual 3,000 tonnes of waste is "contaminated" with recycleable goods.

But coordinators of UofT's Waste Reduction programme say their efforts to improve this percentage have been frustrated by students, administration, the city, and Metro itself.

Renee Dello, who was hired in November 1989 to coordinate the university's Waste Reduction Advisory Group, said she has encountered a number of difficulties in getting the bins needed to separate recycleable materials from solid waste.

The University of Toronto Environmental Coalition started a successful fine paper recycling programme a year ago with money from the Students' Administrative Council.

The university administration, however, has not given Dello any money to buy additional bins. As a result, she spent almost a year trying to convince the city to provide recycling blue boxes.

The boxes finally appeared when Metro Councillor Jack Layton mistakenly suggested in a speech last October that the university had already received the bins.

"Someone who had worked with me told (Layton) quietly that we, in fact, had struggled for weeks to get them," said Dello. "After that he put the push on."

But the city refused to empty the bins until a few weeks ago, claiming it did not have the trucks, staff, or capital to service the 170 buildings on campus.

And Metro Toronto, while imposing regulations for recycling, has not made the university's efforts any easier. Dello says she had to overcome "political problems" to get two new "igloos" to collect cans, glass, and plastic outside Sidney Smith Hall and the Koffler Centre.

"York had been asking for them, and Metro worried that if they gave one to UofT, they'd have to give one to York."

The igloos were placed at UofT instead of York because they were originally intended as part of a Metro project for public places.

"They finally said York is too far away," said Dello, "It was easier for them to justify St. George Street as a public place."

The Waste Reduction Advisory Group has met its latest problem in the student newspapers, who say they are being unfairly targetted in the university's recycling campaign.

Alvin Bregman, assistant vice-provost, Arts and Science, coordinates the administration's recycling efforts, says newspapers can be more efficiently recycled if the administration regulates the way the papers are distributed on campus.

Bregman argues that one of the biggest problems in dealing with Metro's new regulations against contaminated solid waste is the abundance of recycleable newspapers in trash cans.

By September, the administration will require newspapers to provide display racks for the distribution of papers on campus. He also wants each paper to produce fewer copies.

The newspapers, however, note that the new regulations do not require newspapers to be separated from solid waste. Several of the smaller college papers say they cannot afford stands.

"We're willing to reduce our circulation," said Terrance Moloney, editor of the *Mike*. "But we can't afford stands. I find it hard to believe that the university, with its budget of millions, can't find the money for stands. If they tax us, we'll tax the student. They might as well raise tuition."

"He can afford stands, he doesn't want to," said Bregman, adding that this resistance is typical of students' lack of support for the efforts of the waste reduction group.

Despite the display of lug-a-mugs on campus and the recent undergraduate approval of the Ontario Public Interest Group's environmental Green Plan, Bregman says he has seen negligible support from students or from SAC as the students' representative.

Dello adds that the university administration has not provided symbolic or monetary suport for her efforts. "To be fair, they've had the strikes to deal with recently."

Pansino agreed that a lack of cooperation has hurt the efforts of the Recycling group. "The whole university has to act with one mind to make sure contaminants aren't in the waste bins."

Dello also acknowledges that part of the problem is a lack of awareness about the large city recycling bins, which are located at University College, the Graduate Students' Union, the St. George Graduate Residence, Victoria University, and behind the Earth Sciences Centre.

In this way, environmental concern poses a problem for itself. "It's hard to get the message out without a whole bunch of posters," said Dello, " How do you know how to weigh the environmental cost of the posters? How do you justify using all that paper?"

The Newspaper, UofT
27 March 1991

SAC Stole Credit For Green Plan Lobbying

The Newspaper
Mar 27/91 p.5

To the editor;

Recent issues of campus newspapers have contained election and referendum results. It has been noted that the referendum question of whether or not students support The Green Master Plan, an environmental audit compiled by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group and the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition received an impressive "yes" vote of 93 percent. Within several of these articles, Students' Administrative Council President Tim Costigan was quoted on his oh-so-very-enlightened views of the referendum.

The question that initially comes to mind is why Tim was quoted at all when he had nothing to do with the campaign and very little to do with the referendum question. Tim's response to the 3,956 "yes" votes was belittling, condescending and patronizing. He has been quoted as saying that it is a "parenthood" question with only symbolic value and that if the question had not passed, he "would have fainted". Tim goes on to posit that the "SAC name carries a lot of weight at Simcoe Hall" and that if students want to do something about the environment they should come out and do it with SAC. In addition he notes that substantial action on the environment requires a lot of lobbying. Indeed. What do you suppose Tim thinks that the dedicated students at OPIRG and UTEC have been doing for the past six and a half months?

Well... we have released the document at a successful press conference in October, held a petition drive where over 2,000 signatures were obtained within two days, released an administrative report card which documents the effect of the Green Master Plan and the changes since October as well as organized a referendum campaign during which the strikes were honoured (which meant no posters or information tables). Yet encouraging results were obtained. All of the students that signed the petition (2,000 of them!!!) were telephoned and urged to go out and vote, and pamphlets were given out on the street. Honey, if this isn't "a lot of lobbying", I don't know what is.

And where was SAC during all of this with its oh-so-influential name? Your guess is as good as mine.

Tim was right in that the referendum results are not legally binding. However, the question was meant to raise students awareness and to be an impetus for greater student action and education on environmental issues. Tim's belittling comments are uncalled for and could be detrimental to these ends.

The campaign for a socially and ecologically responsible university continues on March 28 at 4:30 pm in front of Simcoe Hall at the Student Action Rally where ten other groups and several talented musicians will join us in lobbying for change.

Tzeporah Berman
Innis College, III

The Strand. Victoria University
27 March 1991

letters to the editor

The Strand Mar. 27/91 p.5

Green Plan yes

Recent issues of campus newspapers have contained election and referendum results. It has been noted that the referendum question of whether or not students support *The Green Master Plan,* an environmental audit compiled by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) received an impressive 'yes' vote of 93%. Within several of these articles, SAC president Tim Costigan was quoted on his oh-so-very-enlightened views of the referendum.

The question that initially comes to mind is why Tim was quoted at all, when he had nothing to do with the campaign and very little to do with the referendum question. Tim's response to the 3956 'yes' votes was belittling, condescending and patronizing. He has been quoted as saying that it is a 'parenthood' question with only symbolic value and that if the question had not passed, he "would have fainted." Tim goes on to posit that the "SAC name carries a lot of weight at Simcoe Hall" and that if students want to do something about the environment they should come out and do it with SAC. In addition he notes that substantial action on the environment requires a lot of lobbying. Indeed. What do you suppose the dedicated students at OPIRG and UTEC have been doing for the past six and a half months?

Well... we have released the document at a successful press conference in October, held a petition drive where over 2000 signatures were obtained within two days, released an administrative report card which documents the effect of the *Green Master Plan* and the changes since October as well as organized a referendum campaign during which the strikes were honoured (which meant no posters or information tables) yet very encouraging results were obtained.

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The campaign for a socially and ecologically responsible university continues on March 28, at 4:30 p.m. in front of Simcoe Hall at the Student Action Rally where ten other groups and several talented musicians will join us in lobbying for change. For more information call OPIRG at 598-2199.

Tseporah Berman

Editor's note: The quotes attributed to Tim Costigan in this letter appeared in The Newspaper *and* The Varsity.

The Varsity . U of T
1 April 1991

Diverse groups attend student rally

BY LASZLO HERCZEG
Varsity Staff

The Varsity
Mon, April 1/91
p. 1

While U of T student Jonathan Colvin flew his kite in front of Simcoe Hall on Thursday, roughly 50 members of various student groups held a joint "rally for student action".

Featuring volunteer performers and complimentary cookies, the rally -- organized jointly by the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group -- was attended by a convivial crowd of students and faculty.

OPIRG member Victoria Taylor said the rally was to allow student groups that focus on environmental and social change to speak to members of the university.

Giving the campus back to students was the main theme. Anne Hansen, founder of the Bikes Not Cars coalition, said cars have taken too big a bite out of Toronto, especially the university campus.

"Some people today might have a hard time imagining cities without cars, but our grandparents would have had a harder time imagining cities with brown air," Hansen said.

Pointing at the asphalt pavement in front, she said King's College Circle could have planters "full of flowers and benches to sit on.

"In the summer, we could play volleyball in the parking lot where president Prichard parks his car."

A speaker from the U of T New Democrats voiced concern over the chronic underfunding of universities. She also said she was disappointed by the tentative approach taken by the new NDP government.

"Where is the people's premier, anyway?" she said. "We call upon Bob Rae to come out of Queen's Park and help us reclaim our university."

Glenn Benoy, leader of the U of T Group for Environmental Studies, said they are lobbying to create a faculty for the

See Student, pg. 3

Student action continued

continued from pg. 1

currently underfunded programme at Innis College.

He also said that programmes with smaller enrollment than Environmental Studies already enjoy departmental or faculty status, such as Forestry and Botany. "We are bigger than Botany, and these guys have got a bloody whole building."

There are now 500 students enrolled in Environmental Studies courses, and about half of them are also majoring in the subject, said Benoy.

During the rally, the Committee On Homophobia circulated a petition to include gay men and lesbians in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. One speaker talked about the widespread homophobia still prevalent on the campus.

"Our love is just as legitimate as any other kind of love," he said.

Taylor said the university is not making serious attempts to eliminate disposable containers, one of the major recommendations in the student-drafted U of T Green Plan.

"Every student who is enrolled at the university should be given a free mug upon enrollment," Taylor said.

Altaf Khan -- member of the United Coalition Against Racism -- wrapped up the rally by a speech entitled "The Tale of Two Committees."

Khan said U of T president Robert Prichard appointed a committee in the fall to study race relations at the university, but when the committee produced its report -- which included the recommendation to extend base funding to the African Studies Programme -- he stalled and retreated behind a "bureaucratic wall of silence."

According to Khan, president Prichard dismissed the declaration of a Martin Luther King Day, one of the UCAR demands, as a "matter of cultural diversity."

At this point the crowd began chanting "Hey, Prichard, get the news, we want action, not your shmooze!"

The Varsity . U of T
(editorial)
1 April 1991

Crying wolf

Activists at U of T went up against the biggest windmill of them all last week: themselves.

About 50 students and faculty -- representing almost 20 student groups -- crossbred ideologies and shared generic chants at the Student Action Rally held last Thursday on the steps of Simcoe Hall. In what was no more than a networking session for the politically correct, any hope of a clear message was lost in the dull roar of rhetoric.

The poster listing the purpose of the rally betrays the helplessness of the organizers who desperately wanted to have a focus for the event.

It reels off the environment, anti-racism, women's issues, "positive curriculum changes", gay and lesbian issues and ends with "and other issues.. Rally for Change!!!". This intellectually implosive mantra offers no explanation of what change is desired, nor what any of the specific problems are.

The problem with the rally is not the issues. U of T needs to make substantial changes before it can claim to be supportive of any of these causes and all of communities represented have legitimate grievances about the way U of T treats them. The problem is in the execution.

By trying to address all these issues in one grand sweeping rally, the demonstrators ended up saying little. The reality is that the participating groups often have nothing in common. What, for example, is the bond between Bikes Not Cars and the Latin American Solidarity Coalition, or the New Age Forum and the U of T Coalition for Troops Out of the Gulf?

The problem -- to steal a catch phrase from the anti-war movement -- is linkage. Neither on the posters nor in the speeches at the rally were links made that explained why everyone was there. This brought about the comically bland chants of "we want change" and "hey Prichard get the news, we want action not your shmooze". Action on what? Oh, yeah -- everything.

Such an unfocused presentation of the problems makes it impossible for anyone who actually wanted to help out to know where to begin.

Nowhere is the result of this confusion more evident than in the turnout for the rally: 50 people for about 15 causes.

None of this is news, probably not even for the protestors. Rallies these days have a palpably tired air to them, as if even the participants realize the whole method is losing its effectiveness.

None of this is to say that protest is a useless way of doing things. It isn't, if it's done in a focused manner, in a way that doesn't shy away from civil disobedience. The current middle ground is too polite and therefore too easily dismissed.

The alternative is to work through administrative channels, trying to effect change from within -- a process that demands a close knowledge of university decision-making procedures and a willingness to sift through the paperwork and backroom lobbying.

Neither way is easy. Either way can have an affect.

But currently, neither is being done.

The Varsity. U of T
11 april 1991

back talk ...

Rally for change

Re: your editorial (April 1)

There are a number of points that need rebuttal. Firstly, what was the point of the rally? There were two goals: first, was the celebration of student actions during the year. To name a just a few there were the Committee on Homophobia's "Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week," the Women's Centre and their successful Safety Audit project, OPIRG/UTEC's winning of the Green Plan referendum, and UCAR's calling to account of the administration's abysmal human rights record on racism. Second, there was a recognition as students that we needed to listen to each other's different issues. This is how coalitions of disparate interests begin and learn to work together. The rally was effective in leading us in this direction as well as providing a politically fun basis for dancing on the street to "Suburban Underground".

Yes, there is a "problem" with "linkages" but not because they don't exist but because we haven't always taken the time and effort to explore them. Secondly, trying to put together a rally in three weeks' time and during the busiest time of the academic year is no easy feat. Third, getting different student groups to agree on one single agenda and single focus is not only logistically impossible in such a short time but it is contrary to the whole idea of recognizing that there are indeed different focuses on the campus.

This brings me to your last point about methods of change at U of T. Should we work through administrative channels to try to effect change from within? Of course we should. It should be obvious to you that groups like OPIRG and others have been doing that all year. It should also be obvious to you that students are in many ways excluded from exercising meaningful power to make the decisions at U of T. (Check out and compare the number of student representatives on Governing Council or the President's Committee on Race Relations). Power deserves to be exercised in the open and not behind benevolent backroom doors. It is not simply a question of getting something "successfully" achieved. It is also a question about the way in which decisions are made: whether it be national issues like Meech Lake, municipal issues like Harbourfront or U of T issues like those we raised. That is what the Rally for Change is all about.

Rick Wallace
Graduate student

The Varsity, U of T
11 april 1991

editorial response

Working for change

Your editorial (April 1) was riddled with arrogant, misinformed statements and offensive, belittling comments. The authors claim that the Student Action Rally held on March 28 at Simcoe Hall was ineffective and "... was no more than a networking session for the politically correct," from which no clear message was received nor any clear linkages between the issues made. The authors go on to say that neither the posters nor the speakers gave any indication of what change was being called for nor what the problems were. In addition, they suggest that a more focused lobbying approach is necessary to attain change. This author can only suggest that the editors attend the events they are covering and in addition read the newspaper that is being edited.

The same issue of *The Varsity* contained a positive piece about the rally and a letter to the editor which outlined the focused lobbying that the same group organizing the rally (OPIRG) had done all year, and the need for greater student involvement and action on campus. The inconsistency in *The Varsity* is reflected in the logical inconsistencies apparent in the editorial. The title of this "enlightened" piece is "Cry Wolf" -- yet within it the editors note that there is indeed a problem, and that the campus groups involved in the rally have legitimate concerns.

Although many of the participating groups have divergent interests they were rallying together for specific changes at U of T. If the editors had heard the opening address at the rally they would have been clearly told what the links between the issues are. The Student Action Rally was meant to educate students at the university on various important campus issues. It was also meant to be an empowering event and an impetus for change. Whatever the specific agendas of these 16 campus groups, none will achieve anything unless the administration can see that there is a powerful dissenting voice at this university. This was not "a networking session" but a chance to support each other and address the underlying systemic causes of the many problems at the university.

Many of these groups are continually being told there is not enough money to address these issues. Yet in previous years the university has shown a surplus and has been able to find enough money to pay President Prichard an exorbitant amount which is roughly as much as nine library workers and refurnish his office. The linkages between the issues are obvious; the issues that are being addressed by each of the campus groups are not being seriously addressed by the administration. In order to "work through administrative channels" as the editors suggest it is necessary to educate students on campus about the issues and create a powerful student lobby.

Other events on campus the week of the rally reflected the importance of the event and the coalition building that preceded it. Numerous homophobic and violent messages appeared across the campus. The North wall of Robarts read, "Homos Die" and the entrance to the Earth Sciences complex which had been postered heavily read, "Don't Let It Be the Norm -- Kill Fags." Whether this incident is related to the 700 posters for the rally that disappeared across campus we may never know. However, this type of ignorance indicates even more reason for campus groups who are striving to make change to bond together and support each other's causes.

As for specific changes, and what students could do to help out, in the opening and closing address the demands that were given in a letter to President Prichard were read out and all of the groups present were listed and contact names were given. In addition, it was suggested that students write letters to campus press, Robert Prichard and SAC to voice their concerns.

It is no easy feat to build a coalition, overcome student apathy and organize a rally in three weeks on a limited budget and with numerous barriers to overcome. I know. I organized it. I can only suggest that if the editors feel they have a more coherent political vision and the ability to empower student activism and make progressive change then they should do so.

Tzeporah Berman
Innis III

The Varsity . U of T
April 1991

Green Plan, parking and recycling key issues

Environment debate recycled

The pressure was on the university this year to begin implementing environmentally sound policies. Seven students released the Green Master Plan in October. Parking also remained an issue as groups like Bikes Not Cars pushed for a car-free campus. In March, OPIRG released an environmental report card. U of T received failing grades in reduction and re-use of office paper, and cutting down on hazardous cleansers.

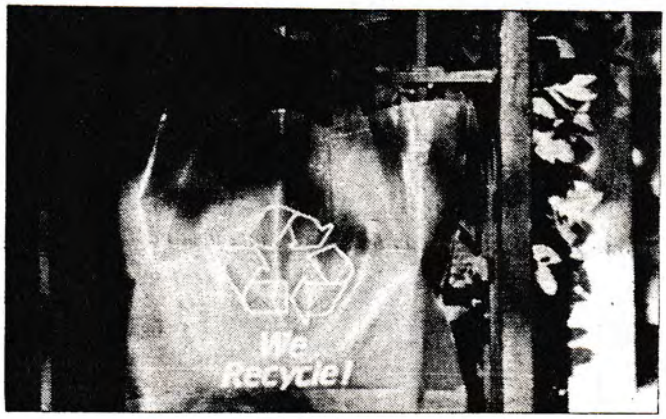
"You could manually pull the concrete blocks away and dive down 18 feet into the pool and then be in a hazardous radiation field, but on average it poses no threat to anyone."

Ron Hancock supervisor of U of T's own nuclear reactor, the Slowpoke. (Oct 4th)

"A problem is that when students are being taught these regulations, they're just being taught 'This is a rule. You have to follow it.' They're not being taught, 'If you pour benzene down the drain, you drink it tomorrow."

Green Plan author and student Frankie Wood says a rule is a rule is a rule. (Nov 13)

At a parking committee review meeting in February, the two sides of the metre came out clear. On the one hand, professors argued driving to work was an essential necessity.



Polyethelene bags are the way of the future.

"If I take the streetcar I really don't want to have to listen to foul language. It can be a pretty rough crowd. Somehow streetcars bring out the worst in young people."

Professor Peter Wright. (Feb 25th)

Professor Ken Norwich agreed.

"The car and parking gives to the faculty the ability to move back and forth quickly."
(Feb 25th)

Profs also argued that reducing parking on campus would make other universities more attractive to professors. But U of T Environmental Coalition co-president Matt Wood said they don't know nothin'.

"Why should we be attracting academics who will be blackmailing the university into destroying the world? I mean how can they possibly say they're on the razor's edge of knowledge when they want to drive?"
(Feb 25th)

OPIRG provincial News Release

NEWS RELEASE
APRIL 1991

U.of T. STUDENTS WIN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

OPIRG-Toronto's **Environment Working Group** has been presented a **Peggy McKay Award** for its efforts to reduce the negative environmental impact of the University of Toronto community. During this year of growing environmental awareness and concern, the Environment Working Group's **Green Master Plan Campaign** helped focus the attention of U.of T. students and administration on environmental issues in their own back yard. The **Green Master Plan** (published by OPIRG-Toronto in Oct.90) offered 68 recommendations for improvements in the areas of waste management, hazardous substances and food issues. The goal of the Campaign was (and is) education for action on the 68 environmental recommendations.

The **Peggy McKay Awards** recognize the two best OPIRG projects for preserving the environment in each academic year. Every year hundreds of OPIRG volunteers devote thousands of hours to projects for preserving the environment. Projects nominated for the Awards this year include a community clean-up, an environmental film series, research projects, an environmental newsletter and an environmental fair.

The **OPIRG-Toronto Environment Working Group** was chosen for their creative, effective and timely use of a wide variety of public education and lobbying techniques: petitions, public meetings, articles, radio shows, classroom speeches, information tables and a referendum campaign.

The **second project selected** by the Awards Committee was an essay by two Brock students (Mike Muller and Dave Peters) entitled **"The Top Ten Ontario Industrial Direct Dischargers into the Great Lakes Region"**.

The **Peggy McKay Awards Fund** was established by journalist Paul McKay in memory of his mother, who died of environmentally induced cancer in 1988.

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more...

a wonderful surprise to end a year of hard work!

here we are!

Members of the OPIRG-Toronto Environment Working Group.

Henry and Paul McKay toast the OPIRG-Toronto Environment Working Group.

Student Action Rally
20th March '91
Simcoe Hall
4pm PM

photos .... →

Kate Fries

NDP

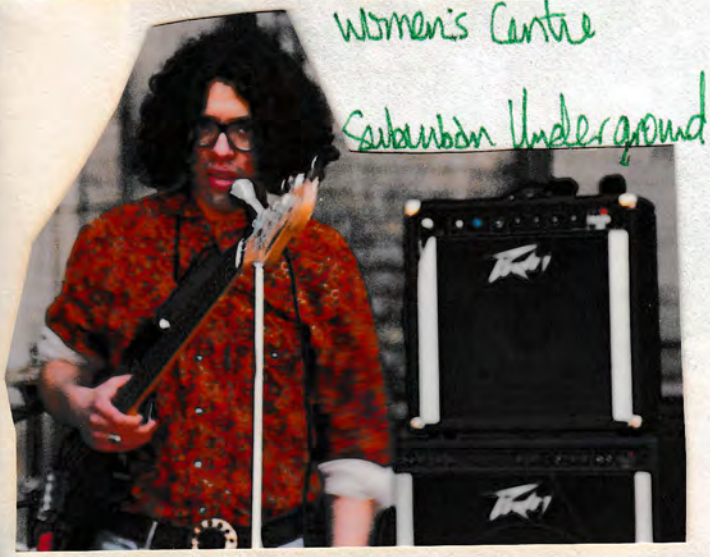
LUTEC

UCAR

CUPE.

Women's Centre

Suburban Underground



Uot T Students for Environment Studies

listen up Rob

you tell em Tzeporah!

Tyler James Ellis

faithful Supporters

OPIRG

Students costing Green Plan

BY SCOTT FINLEY

Several U of T students are spending the summer evaluating the cost of making the university more environmentally sound.

Eight students at the Ontario Public Interest Research Group are taking action for change, said Tomislav Svoboda, a second year med student who is coordinating the project.

OPIRG is working with the administration, local politicians and student groups to make last year's Green Master Plan -- which recommends changes in reduction, recycling, food and energy policies -- into a practical reality.

Svodoba said one area of study is the feasibility of closing St. George Street to cars, taking into consideration food trucks and parking lots which are only accessible from St. George Street.

"We will shut down St. George Street," he said. "There is no student who does not support this."

OPIRG is also aiming at reducing parking 20 per cent, he added.

Victoria Taylor, an environmental studies student, is evaluating the Hart House renovations. She is making cost estimates on improving the water and energy efficiency of the women's locker

room. She said the current shower facilities are in need of repair, citing a running shower which could not be turned off.

Taylor said a big problem with energy efficiency is the cost.

"Facilities and Services have all the new ideas coming in but the problem is finding the money to spend on these kinds of initiatives," she said. "The initial cost is very high. There's a payoff at the end, but it's down the road. I think it's too bad that the university can't see down the road."

She said one way the university could find funds is by putting the money saved from energy saving devices, back into funding new initiatives.

"Generally when the university saves money on energy it doesn't go back into saving more energy," she said. "I guess I can understand it, because as the money comes from Simcoe Hall, it goes back there for investments or whatever, but it's a barrier to future projects."

She said she also hopes to link U of T to Ontario Hydro's incentive program, which lends money to institutions for energy saving projects.

Another area of environmental concern is the university cafeterias. Sandra Rodriguez, an international development student, is comparing current practices on university campuses and researching the feasibility of creating a prototypical cafeteria. She is evaluating the cost of using china and dishwashers instead of disposable utensils, and the possibility of buying and composting organic foods.

OPIRG is also working with the U of T Bookstore, to have canvas bags sold to students to cut down on the use of plastic. The bags would display sponsors' logos to offset the cost

The students are funded by the Environmental Youth Corp program through the Ministry of Natural Resources. Last year the U of T Green Master Plan, the basis for their work, was created by a similar grant to OPIRG and the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition.

Varsity May 1991

NOW MAGAZINE
May 30 - June 5 1991

NEWS ▼ FRONT

Students give vote to green

U of T elections support recycling, fewer cars on campus

ENVIRONMENT

By GLENN COOLY

A bid for sweeping environmental reform at the University of Toronto has been bolstered by a referendum in which students voted 3,956 to 290 in favour of reducing car traffic on campus and other anti-pollution measures.

Held as part of elections for next year's student government, the referendum was followed by a petition campaign that gathered 2,000 signatures in two days. Campus environmental groups are hoping that the apparent groundswell of support can be used to force U of T administrators into adopting the so-called Green Master Plan for the campus.

The green plan, a series of 68 recommendations, was unveiled last year by the U of T Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the campus chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG).

They call on the U of T to cut back on the number of parking spaces available on campus, raise parking fees to the price of a TTC Metropass, and consider reducing traffic or banning cars entirely on St. George, Huron and some other campus thoroughfares.

They also suggest that the U of T cut back on its own fleet of cars and actively promote cycling, car pooling and public transit.

Green schedule

"So far everybody has been positive, but nobody has the time or the money to do anything about it," says OPIRG spokesperson Tomislav Svoboda. "We're doing the work for them, so that when it comes time for making decisions, all the administrators have to do is say, 'yeah.'"

U of T vice president for development and university relations, Gordon Cressy, expresses support for OPIRG's initiatives, saying that prohibitive implementation costs notwithstanding, "in principle, we are probably ready to move very far."

At the same time, Cressy talks about the U of T administration's own green plan, which includes at least one OPIRG anti-traffic proposal — closing St. George to car traffic between Bloor and College.

Isabella Heathcoate, the outgoing chair of the environmental studies program, is less than optimistic about the prospects for quick progress.

"The U of T is not quick to move on these things, and my guess is that it will be a slow process," says Heathcoate, one of the dozens of U of T professors who have endorsed the green plan.

"I used to live on campus, and I'm concerned about the safety issues in addition to pollution ones. Cars come whizzing by, and it can be a risky place to walk." ●

Varsity Editorial Oct. 28th 1990

Saving green

One of the focal points of the Green Master Plan is energy conservation. The goals of the recommendations in this section of the plan are to make present energy use more efficient and future energy needs environmentally safe. The money saved by U of T over time would make projects worthwhile.

But the long term environmental and economic benefits are being cut off in favour of a short-sighted policy of instant financial gratification.

Presently, U of T will only fund projects which will pay for themselves in 5 years. For example, a million dollar renovation would have to save U of T $200,000 per year. As the costs of construction and technical equipment skyrocket, all but the most revolutionary renovations are deemed `unfeasible'. It is time to rethink the policy.

U of T should be making plans for the longer term efficiency of its energy and financial resources. It also must begin to incorporate discussions of the environmental impact of any developments. If costs need to be cut on a project, environmental protection and energy efficiency should not be the first to go.

For a financially strapped school, laying out more money in the short term and having to wait longer for the payback is an unwelcome, but not impossible burden. If the savings are real and the environmental damage lessened, it is an efficient and necessary policy change.

Varsity Oct 28 1990

Five-year payback goals hurt environment initiatives

BY JOANNE D'ADDIO

Proponents of the U of T Green Master Plan released last week say a major setback to total energy efficiency at the university is U of T's five year pay-back policy.

The pay-back policy states that U of T won't adopt new environmental projects that can't pay for themselves in five years, says Shelagh Sturtridge, a U of T student who researched the energy conservation section of the Green Plan.

"Ideally, we'd like to get rid of money and take a stand environmentally. Obviously you have to be reasonable but when you look at the gains it should not just be economical ones," Sturtridge said.

Richard Criddle, U of T's vice president in charge of Administration, agrees with the Green Plan but he said environmental investments vary according to their importance.

"Sometimes environmental actions will be predominant and sometimes not. We need to look at each project and determine what the issues are."

Recently, a proposal to create a centralized hot water heating system at the university was rejected because it would be too expensive and would not be paid back within five years. Instead, the university will have five separate locations for hot water heating, said Atilla Keszei, a Resources Management engineer with Physical Plant.

"With five seperate heating systems, we're using much more energy and we will have five different sources where we will create some sort of pollution," said Keszei. "It's heartbreaking for me to see that this system is not extended. But when you go against economics, what can you do? Money talks."

Janice Oliver, U of T's assistant vice president in charge of facilites, said the elimination of the five year pay-back policy is a good suggestion but not very feasible.

"That's nice, but I don't think it's realistic," Oliver said.

But Sturtridge said the policy is too restrictive and will prevent the university from becoming environmentally responsible.

"Saying that you have only five years to have technology pay for itself is narrow minded."

Keszei agreed. "The whole North American approach over to energy savings is too short term. In Europe, they have twenty to twenty-five years payback. Five years is not realistic. If the policy was extended to ten years, more projects would be economically feasible."

The Green Plan, released last week, was a joint project of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group and the U of T Environmental Coalition.

U of T approaching green with caution

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of going green is finding out exactly how to do it.

This summer, seven researchers from the University of Toronto Environmentalist Coalition (UTEC) and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) made going green at U of T very easy indeed. Last week they introduced the results of their efforts: a Green Plan for U of T, including forty-eight specific recommendations to guide U of T into greenness.

The timely introduction of the plan raises the second biggest difficulty about going green: going through with the plan once you have it.

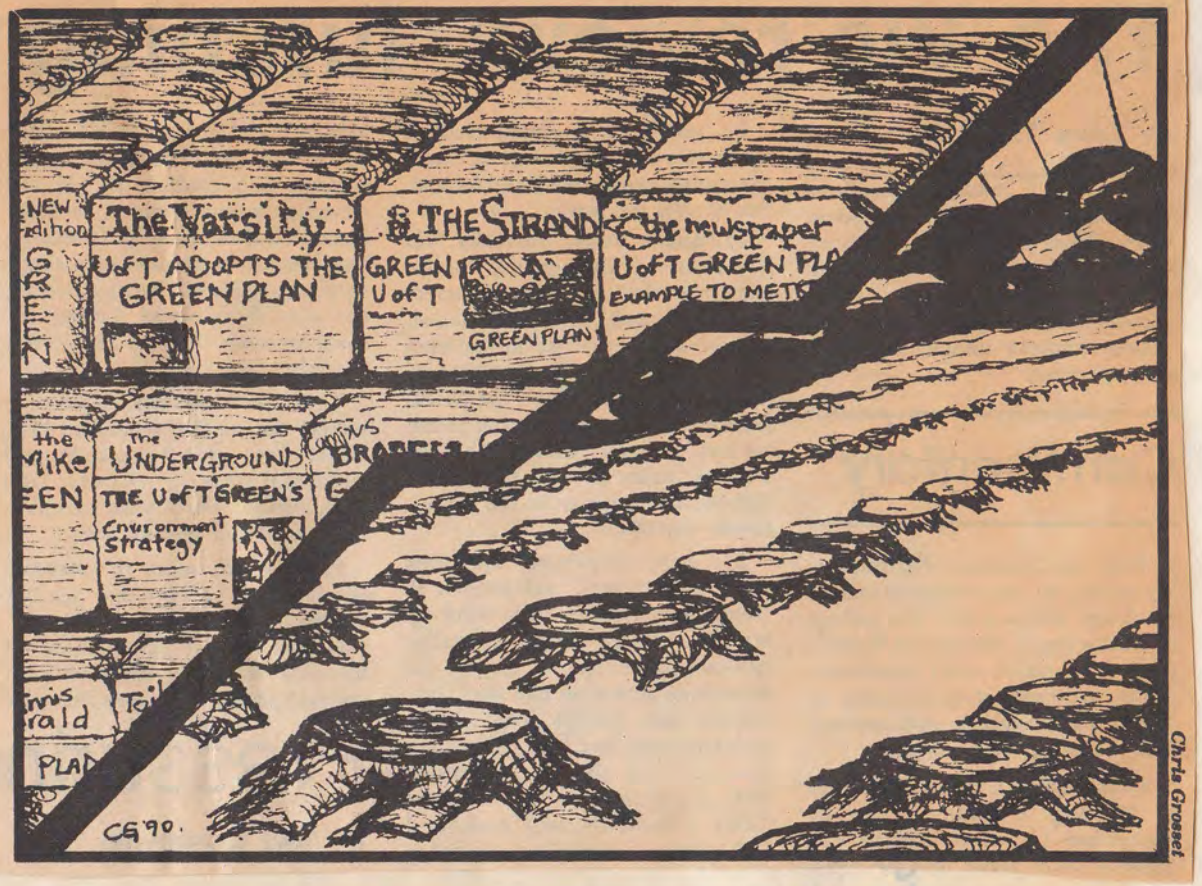
Many of the Green Plan's initiatives are actually going to demand some time and energy if they are to be implemented at all: GC would have to lobby City Council to rescind a by-law requiring over two thousand parking spaces at U of T; it would have to upgrade the energy efficiency of all its buildings; and, most importantly, it would have to eliminate its policy requiring all new projects to pay for themselves in five years.

It's unreasonable to apply a five year pay-back restriction to the Green Plan. Both the University and the environment will probably still be around long after five years have elapsed, and their relationship will still be combative if the plan is not adopted. Eliminating this requirement will prove the biggest challenge to U of T's commitment to the environment. If the university can actually change economic policy in favour of environmental policy, it will truly break new ground.

The Administration must also devote the necessary staff to implementing the plan. The authors of the proposal are calling for the formation of a joint committee with the administration to implement all the recommendations, and the administration is hesitating.

Instead, the administration suggests that two existing, one dealing with waste reduction and another with parking, could work with the authors of the Green Plan to implement some of the recommendations. Clearly, this commitment is not enough.

As a community of about 60 000 people, U of T has an impact on the environment similar to that of the average township. Addressing the issues of toxics, energy efficiency and waste reduction with a few token committees does not even begin to offer real solutions for the environment. Students at U of T have created a feasible initiative with the Green Plan; the administration now has the responsibility to respond with the necessary time, energy and funds to make the Green Plan a permanent feature at U of T.



Editorial -
The Strand Oct. 31st 1990

New Plan Ready to Reduce Waste

The Newspaper
Oct. 31st 1990

MARK COAKLEY
News Bureau

UofT will start helping to improve the health of the environment if the recommendations of the new Green Master Plan are implemented by the university administration, say members of the Ontario Public Interest Group (OPIRG).

The plan was created by members of the OPIRG and the UofT Environmentalist Coalition. Its recommendations include:

—eliminating the sale of disposable containers on campus;

—raising parking fees to encourage the use of public transportation;

—the removal of car traffic from St.. George St., Huron St., Willcocks St., and Devonshire Place;

—starting a campus recycling programme;

—requiring UofT publications to use 100 per cent recycled paper;

—stopping the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers on campus;

—eliminating cafeteria sales of non-"organic" foods.

Georgianna Boehnke, UTEC co-rodinator, said "UofT is a community of about 60,000 people. If UofT can make a difference in the way it treats the environment, we can make a very great difference to the Toronto area. We could set an example for the rest of the city."

UofT Vice President Gordon Cressy said, "(The Green Master Plan) has substantial recommendations, some of which can be acted upon now, some of which take some time, some of which take some money."

When asked for their opinion of the plan, most people interviewed on campus spoke positively of it.

Cara Mumford, UofT Green Party representative: "We definitely support the Green Plan. You can always take something farther, but realistically you want to set goals that can be reached.

Green

I write to support the objectives of the Green Master Plan and to offer those involved in its production a formal role in making this Plan a reality. However, I should point out that this role has always been theirs to play. The authors of the Green Master Plan all participated in the committees of the University's Waste Reduction Advisory Group during the summer. They received help and encouragement in numerous ways from many members of the Group. I was not a little dismayed to see quoted in your coverage a number of insensitive and uninformed criticisms aimed at the Group and its members.

Some of the changes called for in the Green Master Plan were being discussed by the Group during the summer and are already underway to being implemented. Indeed, at the very moment that the Green Master Plan was launched, a meeting of approximately ninety "environmental coordinators", representing most of the University's formal divisions, was taking place. The role of these coordinators is to help bring into effect the University's Waste Reduction Policy, passed at Governing Council in June 1990. What we hope to create is a revolution away from wasteful and environmentally harmful practices at the University of Toronto, and we have preferred to begin the process in the way best sanctioned by the Green movement, through local activism and responsibility.

My point is this: at the same time that the authors of the Green Master Plan call for organization, a broad-based organization exists; even as they ask for staff to be hired, a full-time Recycling Coordinator is on the University payroll; even as they cry of institutional commitment, a Governing Council policy is being pursued. Without the backing and participation of the entire community, our shared goals cannot be realized. Rather than begin again from scratch, supporters of the Green Master Plan are urged to join -- and help lead -- the University's genuine efforts to make itself environmentally sound. Let us succeed together.

Alvan Bregman
Chair, Recycling Committee
Waste Reduction
Advisory Group

Plan

Thank you for your extensive and supportive coverage of the release of the "Green Master Plan".

In your coverage, however, I felt that the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG-Toronto) had not been credited enough for the fundamental role that it played in the production of the document.

OPIRG provided the lion's share of the inspiration, preparation and follow up effort to make the Green Plan a success.

The environment group of OPIRG-Toronto also ensured the success of the press conference and is working concertedly at keeping the Green Plan vital to both students and administrators.

Although UTEC provided the summer office space and is now helping with the follow up, OPIRG provided the consistency and organization over the five and a half months of the project to make it the substantial document it is.

The seven students hired by OPIRG and UTEC to research and prepare the plan, of course, also deserve immense credit and thanks.

For information please phone OPIRG on the Green Plan at 598-2199 or UTEC at 978-7199.

Matt Wood
Co-chair, UTEC

Meat

I've got a beef I'd like to address to many so-called "environmentalists:

You can't be serious about the environment if you're still eating meat!

Oh, sure, I know you're probably involved with environmental groups like Greenpeace, go to save the earth rallies, recycle, compost, wear t-shirts with environmental messages, don't use Styrofoam anymore, wouldn't dream of buying tuna, etc. All that is certainly admirable, and I applaud your efforts. But I can't help but wonder why, if you're truly so concerned about the environment, are many of you still eating meat and wearing leather jackets or shoes?

Clearly one of the most effective and immediate ways that each of us can make a significant contribution to our planet's future is to kick the meat habit. Just consider some facts:

1) Meat production is one of the most wasteful uses of our resources. Over 16 kilograms of grain and high-protein soybeans must be fed to cattle to produce just 1 kilogram of beef. It takes 100 times more water to produce a pound of beef as it does a pound of wheat. Over half of all the water used in North America is for livestock production. The amount of land needed to feed just one person consuming a meat based diet can feed 20 pure vegetarians.

2) Huge factory farms and meat processing plants, which produce almost all the beef, chicken, and pork sold in our supermarkets, are major polluters of our environment. Millions of pounds of animal excrement, blood, fat, entrails, and hazardous chemicals are dumped into our sewage systems and rivers or seep into our ground water.

3) A major contributing factor to the destruction of the tropical rainforests is the meat habit of North Americans, as vast areas of land are cleared for raising livestock that eventually end up on your plates. An entire acre of trees is spared per year by each person who switches to a pure vegetarian diet. So how can you fight to save Temagami on one hand, while at the same time you cause the destruction of forests every time you eat meat?

4) Meat is in no way essential for a healthy diet. In reality, meat's high concentration of fat, cholesterol, pesticides, and antibiotics makes it hazardous to our health. All the protein and nutrients essential for a healthy, long life are easily obtained from vegetarian meals.

5) Over 500,000 animals are slaughtered *every hour* in North America to satisfy our demand for meat, most having first spent their short lives in miserable conditions on factory farms. Surely the philosophy of Earth Day compels us to extend to all sentient creatures who share our planet the same fundamental rights of life and freedom that we demand for ourselves.

So come on all you meat-eating "environmentalists", get serious!! Good intentions are not enough. Old habits can, and must, be changed if our planet is to survive. Making the commitment to a vegetarian lifestyle should be one of the first steps for anyone genuinely concerned about saving our environment. Otherwise, you're just another one of the causes of its destruction.

Michael J. West
Canadian Institute for
Theoretical Astrophysics

Varsity
Nov 1st, 1990

Gargoyle Nov 1st 1990.

Green Plan offers solution of substance

by Kathleen Olmstead

"No fuel to school" is just one of the slogans which a group of concerned students are using to pressure this university towards environmental viability.

At a press conference held Tuesday October 23rd, the Green Master Plan was officially released. The 134 page document is a thorough examination of the daily habits of the University of Toronto and the measures that need to be taken to make it "environmentally acceptable."

This Master Plan is the result of a five month project (sponsored by UTEC and OPIRG) conducted by seven people. It covers six major areas of concern: reduction and reuse, recycling, hazardous and toxic materials, energy conservation, food issues and the Lug-a-Mug campaign. It calls for staff, students faculty and administration to "work together to make the University of Toronto an example of an environmentally sound community."

Green Master Plan addresses these kinds of horrors

Among the Green Master Plan's recommendations are a great reduction of cars and the elimination of disposables on campus within the next five years. It also calls for photocopiers to include duplexors and for publications to be produced on recycled paper, the integration of recycling programs across campus, that our food be chemical-free and that the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers be eliminated.

According to Georgianna Boehnke, the co-ordinator of the project, we need a change of ideology. We can no longer continue to be a "disposable society."

Boehnke says that there are three reasons why U of T should follow up on this plan. This university is a leader in education and should therefore be a leader in environmentalism. "If students are not in environmental studies, they will hear little, if anything, on the subject."

Our graduates are not prepared to be environmentally conscientious. If the university was more responsible on a day to day basis, as well as on a larger scale, everyone would see that such practices are indeed feasible.

U of T is also responsible for producing future decision makers. They need to know how to deal with the crisis situation on environmental issues.

Boehnke's third reason is that U of T is a community of 60,000. "If we did something we could make a difference in Toronto."

Jack Layton, a member of Toronto city council, spoke at the conference, as did Gordon Cressy, Vice-President of Development and University Relations. Both offered their congratulations to the authors of the report. "This is a report of substance, not of image," noted Cressy.

Boehnke asked that a committee be set up between the students and administration to discuss the implementations of these recommendations and to set up a definite time line. Cressy said that he would be "pleased to meet with the authors."

It was stressed that time is of the essence. We can not "blame each other for our problems" anymore and must move ahead.

The complete report is available to all staff and students at the OPIRG office. Everyone is encouraged to come and examine it.

Greens wash mugs

By Matt Wood

A new U of T service is inspiring Vic to be more environmentally conscious.

Orientation's Scarlet and Gold dance took advantage of the 'Green Crew', an initiative of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG). 'Green Crew' volunteers washed re-usable beer mugs at several Orientation events this year in an effort to reduce waste produced by disposable cups.

OPIRG members say the initiative saved over 6500 disposable cups during orientation week.

However, over half of the re-usable mugs offered by OPIRG were not returned. The organization began its service to various orientation activities across the campus with 600 mugs; they have lost over 300.

"The outstanding problem for the Green Crew has been loss of mugs" said OPIRG volunteer Tomislav Svoboda, "but [at Vic] we only lost 5 to 10."

Kris Begic, vice president of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council (VUSAC), praised the effort. "Some people felt there would be line-ups... [but] we never ran out and we were never waiting." he said.

OPIRG will continue to deliver mugs to event organizers across campus throughout the year, though the dish washing service was a promotion during orientation only.

Reema Khawja, a co-manager of this year's Vic Pub, said they were considering similar changes. "We've been thinking of providing two staff to clear beer bottles, or charging perhaps 75¢ for plastic beer cups." she said.

Varsity
Sept 11th 1991

Varsity Sept 16th 1991

Deadly chemicals join you for lunch on U of T lawns

BY TZEPORAH BERMAN

Despite numerous complaints over the past couple of summers, U of T has once again attacked their lawns with a barrage of toxic chemicals. And all in the name of better "lawn care".

Diazion, Malathion, MCPA, Diacamba, Round-up ...the list goes on. And of course, we can't forget the famous herbicide "Killex" or 2,4-D.

2,4-D is a known carcinogen and teratogen (causes birth defects). It has been directly related to a rare, generally fatal cancer of the lymph system known as non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Yet, although more than 50% of the chemical remains on the lawn for 14 to 28 days after the initial spraying, government legislation only requires warning signs to be posted in the area for 48 hours. These signs are obviously inadequate protection for the community.

When sprayed on the St. George campus on August 1, 1991, only three signs were posted in an area stretching from Willcocks St. to Harbord St. along St. George. The areas facing Harbord and around the back of the residences were also sprayed, yet no signs were posted .

Students were seen sitting on the grass, only an hour and a half after the spraying, eating their lunches. These spraying practices are dangerous and unacceptable.

As well, the spraying was done at approximately 11 a.m. when the wind speed was 26-37 km/h. Though provincial guidelines stipulate that 2,4-D should not be sprayed if the windspeed exceeds 11 km/h, U of T continued to spray on that day. The high wind speeds cause considerable drift of the chemical. This endangered students and staff in the immediate vicinity.

Medical literature indicates that pain, numbness and/or paralysis of fingers, toes and limbs has occurred following minor exposure of skin to diluted mixtures of 2,4-D.

Although 2,4-D is often rapidly eliminated from the body, several cases have shown that individuals briefly exposed to 2.4-D on their skin have developed nerve damage in their arms and legs weeks later.

In addition, the short-term symptoms from exposure include: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of vision, reduced ability to form blood clots, impaired concentration and memory problems, hypersensitivity to other chemicals and chronic respiratory impairments.

Play now, get painful form of cancer and die later

This herbicide was first utilized not for lawn care purposes but for chemical warfare. In a 1:1 ratio with 2,4,5-T, it produced Agent Orange which was used as a defoliant during the Vietnam War.

The chemical is, by its very nature, toxic to humans.

When approved for use as a pesticide in Canada in 1946, no detailed health studies of 2,4-D's safety were required.

But U of T has alternatives to 2,4-D.

The Ontario government has committed to a 50% reduction in pesticide use by the year 2002. The use of 2,4-D has been banned in the cities of Vancouver and Ottawa. The North York, East York and Metro Toronto Separate school boards have all discontinued any use of the chemical on their properties.

It is imperative that the University also impose a ban on this dangerous herbicide before any more spraying is done this semester.

Are broadleaf weeds a greater threat to the community than rampant spraying of expensive toxic chemicals? Are clover or wildflowers really that offensive an intrusion to grassy areas that the use of toxic chemicals are necessary?

A weed-free lawn isn't worth the risk of even one human life. U of T will just have to do without it.

Tzeporah Berman is a researcher and member of the board of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (Toronto).

Killex pesticide sprayed on campus

BY WYNNE HARTVIKSEN
Varsity Staff

U of T is spraying a carcinogenic pesticide, banned in several cities, on the St. George campus.

And environmental activists say the university may have risked students' lives by spraying under unsafe conditions.

Jack Funk, landscape supervisor for the St. George campus, said the university sprayed the herbicide, Killex, on the downtown campus on Aug. 1 for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. Killex contains the chemical 2,4-D which is believed to cause cancer and birth defects.

2,4-D was sprayed on campus August 1.

Ottawa and Vancouver have banned the use of 2,4-D as have the North York and East York school boards.

"I think it is absolutely horrendous," said Minga O'Brien, chair of last year's Environment Week and a member of U of T's Environmental Coalition. "The word pesticide puts a chill in my bones and especially on the U of T campus, it's ridiculous. We don't need it at all."

Tzeporah Berman, a member of the Ontario Public Interest Group, questioned in a written report whether the spraying done by U of T on that day adhered to provincial guidelines pertaining to the spraying of 2,4-D.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment recommends that windspeeds not exceed 12-13 km per hour when spraying is being done to prevent the drifting of the chemical into areas where warning signs are not posted.

"If the windspeed is excessive it will cause a drift, no question about it," said Paul McCobbin, a regional pesticide officer for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. "If it drifts it won't get in the target area and the problem with that is people not in the target area will be exposed. Why should they be exposed if they don't need to

See Windspeeds, page 8.

Windspeeds exceed

Continued from page 1.
be?"

Yet on Aug 1, the windspeed rose from 16 km per hour in the morning to 30-40 km per hour in the afternoon according to the Atmosphere Environment Service.

Funk said when he sprayed on Aug 1 in the afternoon, it wasn't windy in the area he sprayed.

"It wasn't windy there and there were hardly any people around. With the new nozzle we have, it can be quite windy without getting any drift," said Funk.

But McCobbin said new drift prevention methods can't prevent drifts when the windspeeds are high.

"There are things you can do to prevent drift but the be all and end all is that there's material moving off. If it's moving off target you shouldn't be spraying."

Provincial guidelines also require warning signs be posted every 100 metres and in all normal access points in the areas being sprayed.

Berman's report said warning signs were not posted properly in the St. George area and that students were seen eating lunch on the lawns an hour and a half after they'd been sprayed.

Funk said the signs were not in place for a while because students took them down.

"You put them up, they (students) throw them away," he said. "They did that day. So I put up new signs. Lots of them ignore the signs anyway. They don't care less, most of them."

Varsity
Sept 16th
1991

Carleton University sprays campus with banned carcinogenic herbicides

BY KATIE SWOGER
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA -- Carleton University sprayed its property with a carcinogenic herbicide last month despite promising in April to suspend its use.

Chris Soutter, an Ontario Public Interest Research Group coordinator, said students notified his office in August, just, days after campus property was sprayed with 2,4-D.

Groundsmaster, the company contracted by the university to spray the fields, placed signs saying "Pesticides in use", said Soutter. On the back of the sign was a list of the chemicals being used, including 2,4-D.

Repeated high doses of 2,4-D lead to a higher incidence of cancer, while low doses can cause nausea and headaches, according to a 1989 study by the World Health Organization.

The chemical has been banned for use on public property in large cities including Ottawa. However, the university is considered private property, exempting it from the municipal bylaw.

Chuck Watt, a Carleton vice-president, had told OPIRG in an April letter that the university would not use the herbicide until a review of campus turf management was completed.

However, Soutter said university employees told him they believed sports fields were exempt from the agreement.

Watt's letter made no reference to any exemptions to the policy, he added.

"I think they are trying to get away with what they can," said Soutter. "I'd like to believe they made a mistake, but they should have consulted us first (before spraying) in any case."

Exposure to the herbicide can also cause skin rashes, eye and throat irritation, as well as disorders of the digestive and nervous systems, and liver damage.

Varsity Sept 10th 1991

Hopefuls greener than green

By CHRISTINA BLIZZARD
Toronto Sun

One of Toronto's mayoralty candidates donned an anti-pollution mask last night as the four tackled environmental issues in a gruelling 2½-hour debate.

In a debate sponsored by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, an environmental body, and *NOW* magazine, candidates were asked their views on global warming, transportation, water pollution and urban sprawl.

New Democrat Jack Layton donned a pollution-screening face mask and said he didn't want the city to become a place where people riding bikes, jogging or walking had to wear such apparel as a matter of course.

The largely partisan audience applauded Layton when he talked about measures to get people into public transit.

But they booed June Rowlands when she pointed out that if the TTC were to become central to transportation, "it should be considered essential."

"They (cars) are part of the reality that we are going to have to deal with, but not nearly as generously as we do now," Rowlands told the crowd of over 200.

"Right now we are paying parking for councillors and we don't pay them to take transit," Layton said.

"We also pay for your taxi cabs, Jack," snapped back Councillor Betty Disero.

One questioner asked which candidates drove, rode a bike, had a heat pump, drank bottled water, owned an air conditioner and had a water-saving shower head in in their bath.

Layton, who lives a short walk from City Hall, said he does not own a car, rides a bike, doesn't drink bottled water and has an air conditioner in his rented home but doesn't use it.

The other candidates all own cars and all said they had water-saving shower heads — except for Susan Fish.

"I'm one of those people who turns the water on when I'm wetting up, turn it off when I'm soaping down and I turn the water back on to shower off," she said to scattered applause.

JACK LAYTON
Delivers veiled warning

Toronto Sun Sept 26th 1991

Cut role of cars, candidates advise

Transit, bikes find backers

BY SEAN FINE
The Globe and Mail

TORONTO — The four leading contenders for mayor of Toronto promised last night to take space on the city's roads away from cars and give it to public transit, cyclists and pedestrians.

Of the four, only June Rowlands offered a strong defence of the car, and criticism of cyclists, at a forum on the environment that drew an audience of 200 last night.

"The automobile is here to stay, for a little while anyway. That is a reality. . . . We can't simply change the city so that people will be encouraged to leave."

If people leave, she said, the city might be quieter and cleaner, but it would also be poorer. "There's a certain comfort level that has to be maintained, and for most people if that comfort level drops they simply leave."

"Good," commented one man who heckled Ms. Rowlands persistently during the forum at a downtown auditorium.

As for people who ride bikes, Ms. Rowlands, a former chairman of the Metro Toronto Police Services Board, said they need a "vast education campaign" on safety, noting that whenever she visits a senior citizens' home someone complains of being hit by a cyclist.

Betty Disero, now a city councillor, proposed using hydro corridors for bike routes and setting aside a lane for bicyclists on each of Richmond and Adelaide Streets, two one-way arteries in the downtown core that have four lanes each.

Jack Layton, who rides a bicycle to his job as councillor at City Hall, said cars take up 20 per cent of the ground space in the city, and parking and service stations take up another 20 per cent. He called for a "radical re-thinking" of transportation corridors that would include "carving out space for bicyles."

Susan Fish, a former Ontario cabinet minister for the Progressive Conservative Party, said she would take away space from cars to create lanes reserved for public transit, cyclists or pedestrians.

Globe and Mail
Sept 26th 1991.

the photo: Thomas Fricke

Susan Fish , who turns off the shower whelist lathering, explains how she plans to single handedly save the planet..

Candidates Plot to Save Toronto at Environmental Debate

BY THOMAS FRICKE
News Bureau

Betty Disero, Susan Fish, Jack Layton and June Rowlands outlined their plans to put Toronto in the forefront of environmental protection last Wednesday at the Ontario Public Interest Research Group's (OPIRG) and NOW magazine's 'Greenplan 91' environmental debate.

The four mayoral candidates held the debate at the Education Center on College street which was audienced by mainly university students concerned about matters such as parking, housing and traffic reduction in Toronto.

Asked how they plan to integrate the recommendations of Cityplan 91 which appeals ammendment to the cities official plan with regards to environmental issues, Jack Layton said, "the way we have to do it is by helping the people of this city help themselves. We have to go beyond current laws and be creative."

June Rowlands added, "It's important for the large utilities to enter into very focused conservation policies and to adopt the responsibility to educate us on environmental issues.

A main focal point of the debate was directed towards the detriment of the high density commuter traffic to Toronto's environment. Candidates were asked whether they were prepared to allow for development which did not provide for the car.

"I think we need a dramatic reduction in the number of parking space that are provided in buildings. That's the only way you're going to cut back on cars", Layton said.

Betty Disero stressed throughout the debate the importance of providing space for cyclists and people who walk to work.

"We need to start creating bicycle paths that are not only for recreation but also for commuter transportation", she said.

Throughout the debate, the candidates commented on their own contributions to environmental protection. Susan Fish said she turns off the tap when she lathers up in the shower. Betty Disero said she wraps her Christmas gifts in newspaper. Jack Layton wears a dust mask when he cycles to work and June Rowlands seeks to monopolize the sun's hydrogen into a marketable energy source.

Mayoral front runners go green

By Matt Wood

Each of Toronto's mayoral candidates considers himself or herself an environmentalist. At least, each of them did in front of an audience of 200 during "Green Debate '91," on Sept. 25.

The debate was organized by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and Now magazine to highlight the mayoral hopefuls' positions on the environment.

The issues ranged from transportation and global warming to energy use, water purity and treatment. Each of the candidates had their own suggestions concerning these problems, but there was widespread agreement between their positions.

Each of the candidates supports more bike paths, each supported cleaning up city hall, and each supported taking away resources and space from the automobile.

Most outspoken, and most popular with the crowd, was Jack Layton, who referred to his numerous environmentally-friendly development plans often. "We need targets and we need dates," Mr. Layton said.

"We've got to get minds such as those that worked on the railway lands proposal together," Mr. Layton said. "We have to go beyond current laws and be creative."

Susan Fish explored education as an answer to environmental problems.

"I'll say it again: Education coupled with advocacy is the long term solution to many of these problems," she said.

Betty Disero, who has since dropped out of the race to support June Rowlands, cited bike paths and biomass energy numerous times as alternatives to current practices.

"I'm just reinforcing the idea that we do have alternatives," Ms. Disero said.

The only dissenting voice came from June Rowlands. "There is a level of comfort which we've come to expect and this is a reality we have to recognize," she said.

"We may end up with the worst of both worlds: not having enough energy and not cleaning up our environment enough. There's a balance to be struck."

All candidates rejected the use of the term "world class," when referring to the city of Toronto.

Now/OPIRG statistics on the popularity of the candidates were compiled from ballots handed out during the debate.

Mr. Layton scored highest on the Now/OPIRG straw poll with 63 per cent of the vote. Ms. Fish got 25 per cent, while Ms. Disero won over 11 per cent of the crowd. Ms. Rowlands had the lowest amount of support with only 1 per cent of the ballots returned.

Success within the system

By Charles Levi

Two years ago, the University of Toronto decided to increase their parking supply in order to comply with parking regulations set down by the City. Furthermore, they had a consultant's study that said it would be a good thing to tear up the Back Campus of University College, put in an underground parking lot, and cover it over with astroturf. The whole concept seemed nightmarish. It is now two years later and the issue is still not settled. But the whole process has been a useful experience in how the system works and why working within the system is the only viable means towards environmental change.

At the beginning of the struggle, is became clear to those involved that violent protest was not going to solve the problem. The parking issue involved several vested interests, entrenched privileges, and a weight of supporting paperwork that all pointed to an acute shortage of parking on campus. This was not like the issue of divestment in South Africa. Money can always be invested elsewhere: cars and drivers have nowhere to go when they are displaced. If we had resorted to sit-ins, we would have been either ignored or arrested. If we had gone on a hunger-strike, we would have starved.

This doesn't mean that no protests occurred. There was a brisk petition campaign which gained 400 signatures in four days. A University press conference was disrupted by several dozen students and turned into a confrontational debate. Another short protest occurred before a Governing Council open forum, and that forum was packed with opponents of the garage and of parking in general.

But all these protests could only be seen as a means to get to the table and get the issue re-opened. That was the central aim. We were sure our views would be accepted and our concerns for the environment shared once we could express them. Disrupting the press conference caught the attention of the Department of Student Affairs. We apologized, and then we began serious discussion. In addition, several written reports on the parking issue were prepared and submitted to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Governing Council.

The experience of putting demands in writing is not one that should be avoided. Protesting Governing Council decisions is easy, but writing good opposition is more challenging. Protests are ephemeral, but documents stay on file forever. The authors of the *Green Plan* should be given a thousand cheers for their efforts.

The effects of all our work led to the striking of yet another committee, the Special Committee on Parking, which has been sitting now for almost a year and a half, discussing the parking issue from all sides in great detail. Our original reports were revised to provide more constructive solutions to the parking problem, and these solutions were taken to an open forum held by the Special Committee.

All that was left was to wait and watch the process. And the waiting and watching continues. Almost my entire undergraduate career has been tied up with the parking issue, and sometimes the delays are frustrating. Beyond that, the slow pace of the process has often led to confusion. I am still smiling over the *Varsity Handbook* that contended that student power had stopped the Back Campus Garage. In reality, all it did was delay the project and promote further discussion. However Governing Council proved willing to discuss the issue, looking at more than just the demands of those who view parking as a "convenience" not to be denied. The system is moving forward, and it does listen.

And the Back Campus is still covered with grass.

Charles Levi is a member of the Coalition for Reduced Parking and a full-time representative on the Academic Board of Governing Council.

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ORIENTATION TOUR '91

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