

# Earth Day Calls for Change

By Jenna Montgomery  
Assistant Editor

Earth Day was established on March 21, 1970, as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on our planet. In October 1969, John McConnell of San Francisco proposed a global holiday to celebrate the natural wonders of our planet as well as our global unity. McConnell gained support of community leaders who were similarly interested in caring for and improving our natural environment. The Earth Day movement quickly gained support; catching on statewide, nationally, and globally.

The observance of Earth Day alerts concern and interest for our planet. We each have a right to use our global home, but with that comes equal responsibility to preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life.

As the official Earth Day proclamation states, think of Earth Day as a way to remember Earth's tender seedlings of life and people; a day for planting trees and flower, for cleaning streams and wooded glens.

The amount of waste and pollution we generate each day is staggering. Our landfills are reaching capacity and the ozone layer is being depleted all due to our carelessness. Animals are being added rather than removed from the endangered species list. We face deforestation from the extensive logging done to provide wood and cleared land for developing houses. Our fossil fuels are being depleted when we should be exploring new methods of energy.

This gives everyone good reason to act on his impulse to reclaim our planet. Just as the Fourth of July reminds us to love and honor our country, Earth Day reminds us to love and honor the Earth and our fellow creatures.

Here are some tips for Earth care and living gently on our planet:

- Recycle paper, metals, glass and plastics.
- Repair and give away what you do not need.
- Use your hands.
- Grow some of your own food.
- Share cars, newspapers, whatever you can.
- Set up a compost pile.
- Use your legs.
- Conserve

You are your most important resource. Your concern about the Earth, plants, animals and other humans is very powerful in making changes. Your caring helps you find ways around obstacles. Always remember that you can make a difference. Above all, bear in mind that Earth Day is every day.

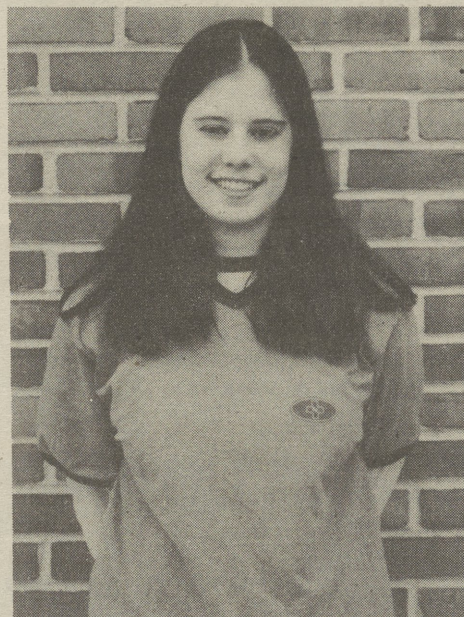


"Chillin' with my fiancée." - Gouda  
Photo by Phillip Yi



"Going to the shore, volleyball." - Jamie Pranton  
Photo by Phillip Yi

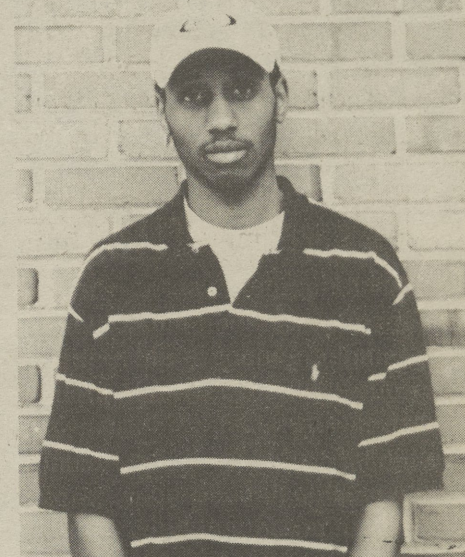
## People Poll: What Are You Doing This Summer?



"I'll be down the shore a lot and unfortunately working a lot, too." - Jennifer Scocca  
Photo by Phillip Yi



"Sleep and work!!!" - Olivia Karen Myers  
Photo by Phillip Yi



"Chillin' with my girl." - Terry  
Photo by Phillip Yi

# Earth Day: A Look at What Can Be Done to Save Our Planet

By Aimee Stone  
Assistant Editor

As the environment gains the spotlight in the upcoming Earth Day, people across the nation will acknowledge the problems surrounding human impact on our planet. Many major issues will be discussed, contemplated, and then forgotten by many on the following day. However, eco groups across the nation and planet will be hard at work making sure there will be another Earth Day.

On March 24, RAN

(Rainforest Action Network) demonstrated against The Home Depot. The nonviolent protestors arranged themselves in store fronts, on store roofs and in the parking lots. Banners were dropped from all sides of the building. The Home Depot is a major force in the destruction of the world's ancient forests. The lumber and wood products found in the stores are from areas such as North America temperate rainforests, Southeast Asia forests the Amazon rainforests.

In 1992, The Home Depot stated, "We have aggressively pur-

sued and are continuing to pursue alternatives to rainforest and other endangered wood." Seven years later The Home Depot regurgitates that sentence.

Another company that has been under protest for some time is Mitsubishi. Mitsubishi is one of the largest corporate destroyers of the world's forests. The Mitsubishi Corporation consists of 160 interlinked companies, (Nippon Kogaku of Nikon cameras and Mitsubishi Motors to name a couple), all except two contribute to the destruction. Mitsubishi logs and imports timber from several countries, many of the logging companies the company owns.

Companies like The Home Depot and Mitsubishi need to be stopped before it is too late. On Earth Day, people everywhere should focus on the life of our planet and the devastation it is headed towards.

## Ignorance: Cancer of Culture

By Doris Ruiz  
Lion's Eye Staff Writer

America. The melting pot. The place where all cultures can live together in perfect harmony, or can they? We as American College students feel we know everything there is to know about other cultures. But the fact of the fact is that we don't. Here at your very own campus, inconsiderate remarks are being made towards people of other cultures. No, we don't mean it; we just don't realize it because we aren't cultural enough. For instance, I am of South American background and have innocently been asked many times if I speak "Mexican or Puerto Rican". Most of the time it doesn't bother me, I just laugh it off. But some remarks get a little carried away. For example, a Jewish professor was once asked where her "tail" was, and a catholic student was once asked, "Does the Pope condone the massacre of Muslims?" Those comments are enough to anger anyone.

We all make mistakes, but we should be intelligent enough not to make them again. We are lucky in one way, though. Penn State offers a variety of diversity programs and activities. The Black Student League, for instance, does a very good job at expressing their heritage. There are also other organizations that promote their cultural and diverse programs, and they are always looking for interested members to join.

So the next time you have a cultural question for anyone, first get educated and get involved.

- Asian American Student Caucus - atn1@psu.edu
- Black Student League - cxr16@psu.edu
- Caribbean Club - jpx301@psu.edu
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Friends Alliance - krg6@psu.edu
- Multicultural Club - cxx13@psu.edu
- Nittany Christian Fellowship - sxs25@psu.edu

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