



In Memoriam
Today we are all Hokies.

TeenStar

MyTeenStarTV

Watch Melanie Eppright of TeenStar and Kristina Beverlin of MyTeenStarTV discuss Earth Day: 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Channel 62, cable channel 10.

TEENSTAR

THE RAIL

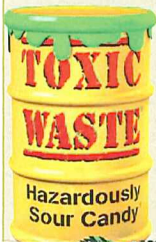
Zero CO₂, zero sweat

For those of us who are both eco-friendly and lawn haters, some folks in Georgia have devised the ideal tool. It's called LawnBott. Yes, that means a lawn mowing robot. Promoters say it costs up to \$10 dollars *per year* in electricity to run. Some of us would pay that much a week. And here's the neat thing: It even puts itself away. Try that with a John Deere. Check it out at www.productivity.net/LawnBott/PRLawnBott.htm.



A dummy's guide to toxic waste

The makers of Toxic Waste, which is described as a "hazardously sour candy," are sponsoring a "Toxic Takedown Challenge," a contest to improve the environmental awareness of young people. Contestants are asked to describe one idea to improve the global environment. The winner gets a \$500 savings bond. To enter, go to www.toxicwaste-online.com. And stay long enough to play Mr. Toxie Head's Seriously Hazardous Game.



Think, know or do

Think you know something about trees and forests? Guess again. Or go to the press room at www.abundantforests.org.



No waste and chaste

There's a clothing line called, "Sworn Virgins," which makes clothing entirely out of bamboo, one of the Earth's most renewable resources. The line can be seen at www.bigdropnyc.com and it's sold in popular boutiques all around North America. P.S. Their name has something to do with purity.



ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES BLOOM | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

ENVIRONMENT | Earth Day

THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN OUR HANDS

Each of us can affect the health of the planet.

By MELANIE EPPRIGHT
TeenStar

As a subject for discussion, in the minds of some people the word "ecology" calls up images of hippies and tree huggers.

Others are bored by it: They think "environment shmenvironment — who needs it? It doesn't affect me."

That's why, for years, organizations such as Kansas City's Bridging the Gap have been trying to turn on and tune in the public about environmental issues, because the environment affects everyone, not just a specific group of people.

Now, more than ever, environmental awareness ought to be at an all-time

high. The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that the global warming now occurring is almost entirely due to human activities, which include everything from the fuel we burn to the kinds of foods we eat.

Scientists are not saying the situation is so bad we ought to just throw in the towel and give up. But how long we have before we in the Midwest actually see our lives affected by more than just high gas prices is the subject of some disagreement. Just the other day author and environmentalist Bill McKibben told PBS he thought we have about 10 years to halt or reverse some of the damage.

Taking care of the environment has always been a challenge. And some peo-

ple, companies and nations have begun to tackle the problem in ingenious ways:

| In the Netherlands a new nightclub's dance floor will generate electricity by capturing the energy generated by dancers' weight and steps.

| By 2010 the European Union wants its 490 million citizens to give up incandescent light bulbs in favor of compact fluorescent lights. By one estimate, the bulb change in Europe would cut the need for 27 existing power plants. In California, a state legislator wants to ban incandescent bulbs from the state. And Australia is thinking of a three-year phase-out of incandescent bulbs. Also, on March 31 as many as 4 million people in Sydney turned off their lights for an

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ENVIRONMENTAL NUGGETS

Not so cool anymore

Learn more about global warming and its effects by visiting *The Christian Science Monitor's* global warming page at www.csmonitor.com/globalwarming.

'I'm melting, I'm melting'

To see a slideshow of how increasing temperatures are affecting the Antarctic, go here: tinyurl.com/2v6u25.

To see an Associated Press photographer's slideshow of the ice melt on Greenland, which some scientists call "the canary in the mine shaft alerting us" to what's coming from global warming, go here: tinyurl.com/2aq2zz. By one estimate, if all Greenland's ice melted, tides would rise 20 feet worldwide.

Hotter, drier

Melting polar ice caps doesn't mean more water inland. Instead, the hotter it gets, the drier. And the drier, the less productive.

Latin America

By 2050, productivity of crops and livestock will decline.

Europe

By 2070, 16 to 44 million people will suffer water shortages.

Africa

By 2020, rain-fed agriculture could decline as much as 50 percent.

By 2080, the African wheat crop may disappear.

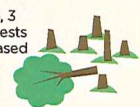


Gas attack?

Today the level of CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere is estimated to be 37 percent higher than it was before the Industrial Age. Climatecrisis.net estimates the average person generates 7.5 tons of CO₂ a year. But scientists, such as those at co2science.org, disagree that increased CO₂ levels are to blame for global warming.

Knock on wood

Between 1995 and 2005, 3 percent of the global forests vanished but have increased in industrial nations.



U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, The Associated Press

ON THE WEB

Go to www.kansascity.com/teenstar to see special one-page and downloadable guides to global warming and Earth Day, provided by McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

