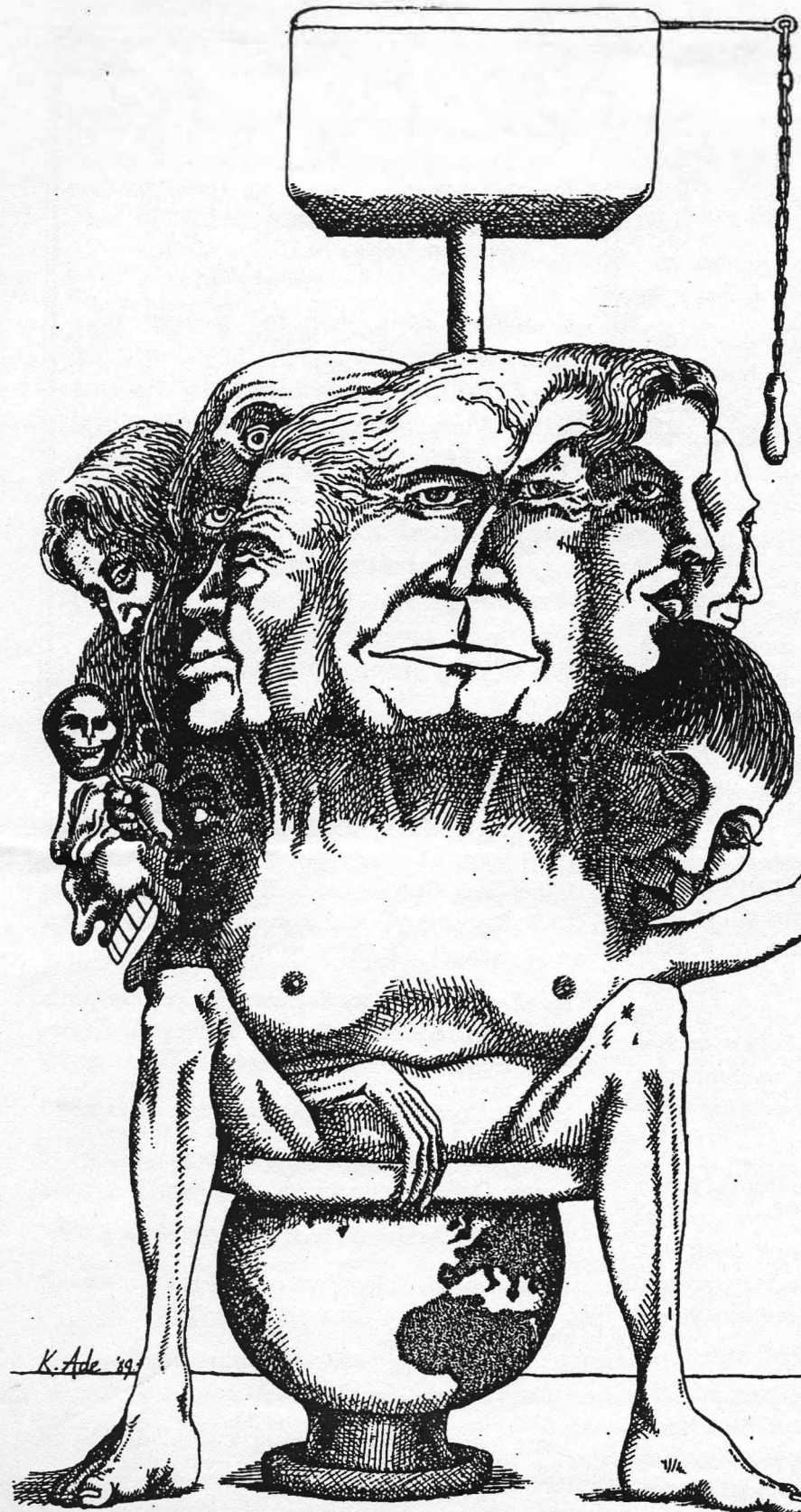


inside:

- Recycling Update
- Native Sovereignty
- Rainforest Project
- Vegetarian Life
- Eco-Poetry
- How To's



...don't forget

PANEL DISCUSSION

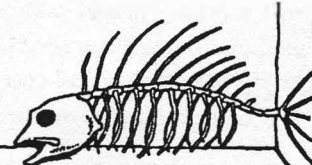
**Technological
Advancement &
Environmental
Conservation:**

**Are they
Compatible?**

Wed. Mar 20

11:30-1pm

Rm 1A-197



EEO.RAG

Recycling Update



by Recycling Center Staff

As winter is coming to an end we wanted to update you on the activities at the Recycling Center.

January was a slower month than usual due to the school closure and endless amounts of snow, but we still managed to intercept 7,053 kgs. of paper and 6,000 cans from moving to the local landfill. In February we collected 8,500 kgs. of paper and 7,000 cans. Thank you for your continued efforts to support this program.

Financially, we are experiencing some friction, but even though the program is currently costing the S.A. (meaning your student fees), approximately \$1500 per month, we feel it is a small price to pay for the welfare of our planet. If we leave the "mess" for our children to clean up, or even B.C.I.T. administration, who knows how much it will cost after years more of damage.

There are recycling programs in place at other post secondary institutions, however ours is the only one that receives little support from the institute it services. In fact, the large majority of institution recycling departments are run by teachers and administration, and are funded by the institute with little or no support from their student associations. At U.B.C., S.F.U. and the University of Alberta, the only support given by their student associations is their continued efforts to recycle the paper that they personally use. B.C.I.T. administration has reaped the benefits of our labor without having to similarly invest in the operations.

I hope I haven't given the impression that the S.A. is reconsidering its commitment to recycling. In fact, the time and effort we've made has allowed us to work closely with students, staff and faculty and we have been both empowered and encouraged by the support and commitment you've shown. The S.A. is committed to waste reduction.

We are currently undertaking a waste audit, with the help of some Operational Management students, in order to develop a strategy for reducing waste by 50%. This goal is in accordance with the Provincial governments \$150 million plan to reduce waste by 50% per capita by the year 2000.

However, it is certain that the S.A. will not be able to expand the recycling program any further without the help of the Institute. So if you happen to see John Watson on your travels through the school ask him what he's doing to ready B.C.I.T. and its students for this growing industry.

ECO-RAG

Published by the BCIT Students Association
Editor: Susan Spence • Assistance: Gavin Davidson
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Eco-Rag is a special paper put together by the Recycling Dept. of the Students Association to coexist with Environment Week starting March 18. It deals with issues both globally and locally that are affecting our natural environment. If you enjoy this issue, and would like a similar paper to continue, please comment to your student rep. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The Editor

Roll Out The Red Carpet... The Sorting Bins Are Here!!

Ladies and Gentleman, Staff and Students... the B.C.I.T. Recycling Center is proud to present to you, the one, the only... B.C.I.T. SORTING BIN!!!

It's all you've been waiting for and more; this bin is the ULTIMATE in Recycling Technology. And if you don't believe me just read these reviews.

Einstein: "You would have to be brain dead not to use it."

Shirley McLaine: "This bin is beyond anything I've ever seen. Definately on a limb of it's own."

General McArthur: "I Shall Recycle."

David Suzuki: "Now, with this bin, I can actually talk about a solution to our problems."

Louis Armstrong: "This bin is one small step for recycling, but one giant leap for mankind."

Here's how it works; bring any ALUMINUM CANS, NEWSPAPERS, WHITE PAPER, or COLORED PAPER that you might have to one of the two bins on campus; 1A NORTH FOYER or the Breezeway by the 2N TNT.

It's that simple. If these locations prove to be inconvenient or you have any questions, contact the Recycling Center at 438-8288. We're here to make recycling easier for you. Have a good day.

BCIT's Rain Forest Preservation Project

by Gavin Davidson

This week, March 18 - 22, The Student Association is mounting an effort to raise money for the preservation of Amazonian tropical and British Columbia's temperate rain forests.

THE PROBLEM

The Tropics

The incredible biological diversity of the Amazon is under siege. In 1988 alone, 3.2 million acres of the Brazilian Amazon were burned for ranching. Hydro-electric dams, road construction, and slash-and-burn farming have increased the toll. Fueling these activities are the pressures of poverty, a burgeoning population and mounting debt payments.

The plants and animals of the Amazon are in desperate trouble. Their forest home is disappearing at a rate of 50 acres per minute. If we do not reverse this trend it is estimated that by the year 2000 one wildlife species will become extinct every hour.

At home in B.C.

Here we are also facing conflicts which result from land use issues. Many communities are facing difficult times ahead as their forest base is being harvested in an unsustainable manner by multi-national logging companies, who don't often have the community's best interests at heart. Over-harvesting not only means that jobs will be lost in the logging industry; tourism, fishing and hunting industries are also negatively affected by the logging scars which result.

Clearly it is time for communities in BC to take stewardship of the forest resources which surround them.

THE SOLUTION

From March 18-22 each set will be asked to donate money which will go toward the preservation of a forest area.

In the tropics each \$25 pledge will go toward World Wildlife's "Guardian of the Rain forest" program and specifically toward the preservation of 1 acre of the Amazon, "bringing protection to parks and natural areas.... This project will initiate urgently needed preservation plans for priority areas"

In B.C. the money will be put into a trust fund for the purchase of Lot 309 on Read Island, each \$25 donation will preserve 1/10 of an acre of coastal temperate rain forest. Once the entire lot has been purchased The Surge Narrows Association hopes to create a wholistic community-based experiment in resource management. Some of the area, such as that which we purchase, will be preserved in its natural state as a park, while selective logging will be practised on the remainder.

The Read Island proposal has been endorsed by Dr. Roy Strang, Associate Dean, Renewable Resources, BCIT. Dr. Strang would eventually like to have BCIT students visit Read Island, in order to help them develop a natural resource management plan for the area. (For more information on this project please visit the Surge Narrows booth in the S.A.C. on Tues. or Wed.)

The set which manages to raise the most money per capita for rain forest preservation will have the name of every class member engraved on a plaque, to be hung in the S.A.C. The winner will be announced March 27.

And now... Some Good News!

(United Press International)

SAOPAULO, Brazil- The rate of deforestation of the Amazon rainforest decreased 27 percent in 1990 over the previous year.

The decrease is due in part to the elimination of government subsidies on agriculture products and a drop in demand for wood exports, government officials said.

The figure, collected by a U.S. made Landsat 5 satellite, were released by the National Institute of Space Studies in Brasilia.

The study reports 14,000 square kilometres of Amazon rainforest were destroyed in 1990, compared with 18,500 sq. km the previous year.

Brazil's secretary for science and technology, Jose Goldemberg, said less land is being burned in the Amazon because of the elimination of government subsidies and incentives to develop the region.

In a study released late last year, the timber industry also said fewer trees were being cut because of a drop in demand for wood exports, brought on by worldwide pressure by environmentalists.

A 425,000 sq. km area of the Amazon is bare today because of destruction- about 8.4 % of it's original size.

Industry & Environmentalists Square Off at BCIT

On Wednesday March 20, from 11:30-1:00 in 1A 197, representatives from the environmental movement and industry are gathering for a panel discussion on the environment. Several of the participants have cancelled previous engagements, in light of the opportunity to "present (their) views to a group of potential BCIT graduates." The panel members include the following;

- Stuart Hertzog, NDP candidate and member of the Green Caucus
- Paul West, Director of Environmental Studies, UVIC
- Christine Mungen, Operations Superintendent, B.C. Building Corporation
- Dr. Norman Streat, Director, Technology Transfer Centre, BCIT
- Lenore Herb, President, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
- Ann Hillyer, Environmental Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law Assoc.
- Dr. Lorne March, B.C. Hydro, Director of the Environment

Each of the above will be asked to respond to the question:

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION— ARE THEY COMPATIBLE?

After all of the above have spoken, a question and answer period will follow.

"Considering the quality and variety of speakers, there should be a lot of interest. We're expecting a large turnout." said Gavin Davidson, BCIT's Recycling Coordinator and moderator for the event.



Recycling How (& Why) To's...

Building a Composter

by Ian Plischke

To dispel a few myth's composting does not need a lot of space nor does it take a lot of time. It can be done on a apartment balcony in under a few minutes a day (with or without worms).

Composters can be bought at most garden centers or easily constructed yourself. The simplest approach is a large container, i.e. garbage can, wooden box, with holes in the sides allowing for circulation. If the composter is placed directly in the garden then knock the bottom out. Composting works best on level ground with plenty of sun and air circulation.

Composting is a natural process of decomposition of organic matter. Any organic substances can be placed in your new composter, shells, leaves, plants, ashes, peels, straw, hay, grass, clippings, tea bags, egg shells, hair and vacuum cleaner contents. A few exceptions are diseased plants as well as meat and dairy products which attract vermin.

Fill your compost with alternate levels of mature compost, organic waste, and garden soil and turn the pile every 2-3 weeks for proper air circulation. The composting is done when you're left with a dark, crumbly matter below the surface layer.

Helpful Hints

- chop wastes into small pieces for faster composting
- keep a top layer of soil to retain heat and detract flies
- keep the pile moist, not wet
- provide a cover in the wet seasons

For a demonstration of composting in action (including worm action) visit the City Farmers booth at the Environment Fair this Wednesday and Thursday.

The Bottom Line On Disposable Diapers

By Sharlene Lilley

There's a lot of hype about "recycle-able" or "biodegradable" diapers. The truth is that disposable diapers in any form are still garbage and are a problem.

It takes 7000 tons of plastic and 2.4 million trees to produce a years supply of diapers for Canada. 1.7 billion disposable diapers weighing 470,000 tons are trashed each year in landfills; and the majority of our operating landfills will reach capacity in five years. It doesn't make sense to turn environmentally sound material into non-renewable problems.

In addition, human excrements in landfills create two serious health problems; bacteria and viruses leak into ground water, and landfill employees handling the diapers are exposed to pathogenic micro organisms.

By using cloth you can help the environment as well as save yourself money. The cost of diapering a child for 2.5 years is approximated as follows.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| • Cloth | \$ 870 |
| • Diaper service | \$ 1200 |
| • Disposable diapers | \$ 2300 |

So, not only are disposable diapers bad for the environment, they are also bad for your pocket book. And the money you save by using cloth could allow you to send your child to Harvard!*

The best alternative is to use cloth diapers. Only cloth alternatives support the three R's of waste management; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Sacrifice a little smell and inconvenience now and win big over the long run. Over the 2.5 year period that children are in diapers you save \$3757, compounded annually for 20 years at 10% interest equals \$24,051.



Getting to know WWFC

by Sharla Temple

Although the world (and most Canadians) see Canada as a vast, empty wilderness, teeming with wildlife untouched by the evils of pollution, this is not so. Many people would be surprised at the number and variety of Canadian wildlife that approach the endangered species list (or even extinction) today. The Vancouver Island Marmot, the Piping Plover, the Peary Caribou, the Peregrine Falcon, and the Eastern Wolverine are but a few of the 183 species at risk.

Says Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund Canada, "Habitat loss is having a huge impact... Canada's endangered spaces are the key factor contributing to the endangered species list."

At this time Canada's national park system is only 54% completed. Members of the WWFC are hard at work to change that figure, as well as provide aid to endangered species; aid in the form of enhanced food supply, breeding programs in captivity to restock depleted wildlife population, and research to determine the causes and cures of the species danger. In Canada's primarily natural resource driven economy, this is an uphill battle.

WWFC is fighting the battle through determination, dedication, and foresight. Also, many companies, such as Petro-Canada, Canada Trust, and the Body Shop, sell t-shirts, coupons or collect donations to support the goals of WWFC. You too can support WWFC's efforts by donating to B.C.I.T.'s Rain Forest Protection Program. To learn more see your set rep or visit the Forest Protection booth located in the SAC lobby Wednesday March 20 and Thursday March 21.

Lil'Wat Sovereignty

by Alison Davis and Gavin Davidson



During the early 1700s, a poverty stricken group of pale Easterners arrived in North America. Their lives of subsistence farming and town living had ill equipped them for dealing with the harsh frontier conditions. In such a state, they were hard pressed to survive, let alone fight for a piece of land with the securely established Native Nations.

Though they surely could have wiped them out, the natives benevolently spared the first immigrants. In order to preserve a 'friendly' relationship and to 'protect a fragile military alliance', the British put forth the Royal Proclamation of 1763. This states that "the several Nations or Tribes of Indians...should not be molested or disturbed in the possession of such Parts of Our Dominion and Territories as, not having been ceded to or purchased by Us, are reserved to them."

Because "colonial governments... were created by the British Crown as subordinate governments, not as sovereign ones", the Canadian legal system has no right to alter the Proclamation, except through a change in our very constitution. This has not been done, in fact, just the opposite has occurred. In 1982, the newly formed Constitution Act gave protection to "existing aboriginal rights." Therefore, First Nations people need not be negotiating for the right of self government, since it is already theirs.

In this perspective the Lil'Wat case is attempting to force the Canadian legal system to stand trial. To date Justice Wentmore, the appointed judge, has neglected to permit the native peoples to cite any legislation

which establishes that they have a constitutional right to govern the land in question—a sacred land through which a logging road plans to disrupt native grave sites, pictographs and culturally modified trees.

The Canadian government's denial of native sovereignty has led communities to believe that they could rely on the entire land base for resource extraction, forcing the Lil'Wat Nation to deal with resource issues rather than the broader issue of native sovereignty. However, Justice Wentmore has, in a sense, challenged the Lil'Wat Nation by stating that "since physical evidence of spiritual values was a contradiction in terms, the law offers no protection against desecration of the site of the aboriginal people. By this logic, one could equally accept the image of an autobahn plowing through Flanders' Fields."

It's ironic that the supremacy of God was one of the founding principles of our legal system, and now cannot even be argued in our courts. Furthermore, it is poetic justice to think that the very religious principles which were used to derive the First Nation the right to their own spirituality, might now be the savior of the Native's culture.

As Canadians, the new people of this land, we should be taking progressive steps to learn how to live in a healthy coexistence with the First Peoples of this land, starting by recognizing their sovereignty. We need not worry about the native peoples mimicking our action in greedily usurping that which come under our jurisdiction, for as Lovina White says: "sharing is at the heart of Native culture."

AS IF WE DID NOT NEED THE BIKE PEOPLE

by Wreford Miller & Kedrick James

as if it hasn't come to blocking the roads
as if it's not hard enough breathing in a state of confusion
as if there is no other transportation than the automobile
as if we need to import cars
as if we need to deport people
as if the ozone's on vacation
as if the greenhouse effect will be good for our tomato crops
as if the forest were created by scientists
as if Fantasy Gardens was a drive-thru reality stand
as if the windscreen were clearer than the screen
as if we are not our own roadkills
as if there is no need for bikepaths
as if the earth will wait for us to get our shit together
as if the shit will wait for us to earth our together
as if my street smelled like roses
as if General Motors made my lungs
as if the State is a community
as if the air was not being carbon-dated
as if city hall needs more parking stalls
as if city planners had foresight
as if the streets were safe for women to walk at night
as if politicians can legislate our bodies
as if a chicken would make it across this road
as if we're soooooo superior
as if it's a race to the end of our resources
as if my car is my sex
as if my cock has a firebird tattoo
as if I should DRIVE to the fitness center
as if behind the wheel gives more strength than above the wheel
as if we couldn't help it
as if the fat of the land could become gas-oh-lean
as if lead was our only problem
as if horses give cars power
AS IF
A CARBURETTOR ISN'T A GARBORATOR IS A
DELEGATOR IS A DEFACATOR IS AN
OBLITERATOR IS A PROCRASTINATOR

BROKEN LANDS

by Susan Spence

I'm sick of all the hatred
tired of all the pain
the barrel is still pointed
shooting through the acid rain

How many men are fighting
land, religion, freedom, fame
how many lives are wasted
acid rain falls just the same

Through all the times and troubles
lessons learnt and wisdom won
we still waste our beauties
letting smog reach to the sun.

Why don't we pull our sources
dropping weapons, joining hands
we'd realize Mother Earth
needs pure rain, not broken lands.

AS IF WE

COULD KEEP THE WHEELLLLLS TURNING ...
BY BURNING
AND BURNING
AND BURNING
UNTIL THE EARTH STOPS TURNING...
AS IF WE DID NOT NEED THE BIKE PEOPLE

The Bicycle People is a group of that is working to make the Lower Mainland safe for cyclists. If you would like to know more please call Richard Campbell at 251-6471.

The Earth Is What You Eat

by Susan Spence (with excerpts from Diet For A New America by John Robbins)

We are rapidly poisoning ourselves and our planet. We are rapidly filling our bodies with foods that are unnecessary and potentially harmful to our health. We are constantly being told that meat, dairy and egg products are needed in our diet. The truth is that a diet consisting of no meat, dairy or egg products not only improves our health, but also improves the welfare of the planet.

- ☞ Percentage of U.S. mother's milk containing significant levels of DDT: 99%
- ☞ Percentage of U.S. vegetarian mother's milk containing significant levels of DDT: 8%
- ☞ Percentage of male college students sterile in 1950: .5
- ☞ Percentage of male college students sterile in 1978: 2.5
- ☞ Reason for sterility in U.S. males: Chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides (including dioxins, DDT, etc.)

Picture a major supermarket where most of the North American population shops. Note the general atmosphere, with its bright fluorescent lighting and vast area. See the huge quantity of merchandise, the rows and rows of products: Yogurt, cheese, whipping cream, homogenized milk, 2% milk, skim milk.

- ☞ The Dairy Council tells children: Milk is nature's most perfect food.
- ☞ The Dairy Council occasionally tells children: The enzyme necessary for digestion of milk is lactase.
- ☞ The Dairy Council never tells children: 20% of Caucasian children & 80% of Black children have no lactase in their enzymes.

Hot dogs, bologna, salami, chicken, pork, sirloin steak, ground beef, pepperoni.

- ☞ Pounds of beef that can be produced on 1 acre of land: 165
- ☞ Pounds of potatoes that can be grown on 1 acre of land: 20,000
- ☞ Current cost for pound of protein from beefsteak: \$15.40
- ☞ Current cost for pound of protein from wheat \$1.50
- ☞ Water needed to produce 1 pound of meat: 2,500 gallons
- ☞ Water needed to produce 1 pound of wheat: 25 gallons

Strokes, diabetes, kidney stones, ulcers, heart disease, hypertension, constipation, colon cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, endometrial cancer. These diseases are commonly prevented, consistently improved and sometimes cured by a low-fat vegetarian diet. But becoming a vegetarian involves more than having a healthy, pesticide free body. It involves better use of the land to feed those who can't feed themselves, it involves investing our tax money into something more economically sound.

- ☞ Number of people who will starve to death this year: 60,000,000

- ☞ Number of people who could be adequately fed by the grain saved if Americans reduced their intake of meat by 10%: 60,000,000

Being a vegetarian supports global problems

- ☞ A driving force behind the destruction of the tropical rainforests: American meat habits
- ☞ Amount of meat imported annually by U.S. from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama: 200,000,000 pounds
- ☞ Amount of meat eaten by average person in the above countries: less than average housecat
- ☞ Current rate of species extinction due to destruction of tropical rainforests and related habitats: 1,000/year

Look at the supermarket with its rows and rows of packages and products. What do we really know about the food we eat? The food we feed to our children? Vegetarianism is only one choice; perhaps, we might want to venture out of the supermarket and head into an organic store.

Look at the organic food store, above hangs a sign "All organic food has been grown without the use of any poisons, including artificial or toxic materials in packaging." Look at the vibrant colors of the fruits, taste the naturally sweetened juices. Organic food supports ecological farmers who have both the earth and our health in mind. It supports the innocent insects, birds, and small animals who are killed by chemicals (Are children small animals?). Organic food supports small independent farms and farm workers all over the globe who are exposed to pesticides and herbicides while working. Supporting Organic vegetarian food supports all life on Earth.

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Native American SPIRIT Natural Tobacco

Herbs Herbal Consultations Available

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Bulk Foods Bring your own bags & containers

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Supporting Native Sovereignty

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1 Thomas Evans, City Farmer