

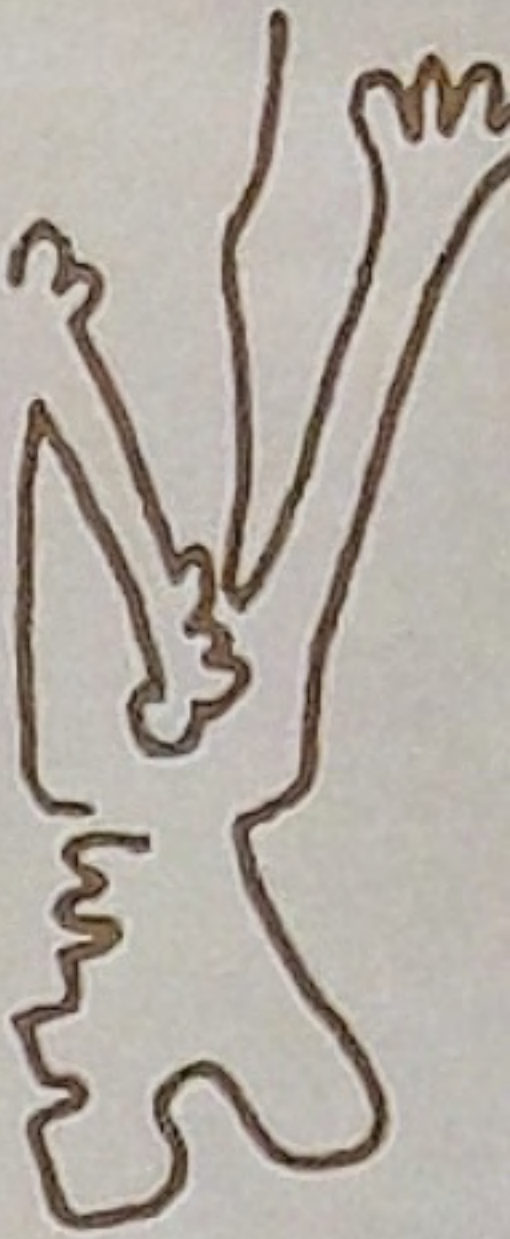


Ecology Action

1969

educational institute
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Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage
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Berkeley, Calif.
Permit No 757



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Ecology Action

Ecology Action is concerned about the environment in which we live, not with domination of the environment, certainly not exploitation, nor even control. We must understand it and ourselves and our interactions and transform our lifestyles and social systems so that our actions do not lead inevitably to an exhausted planet, to the destruction of life on this earth.

We are involved in halting the destruction of mankind from over population in a finite environment, and with the present and future destruction of the environment in an ever more futile attempt to support an increasing population. What to do? The first step is to face the problem and realize it exists and inform others.

Our organization was founded to inform people of the problems that do exist and to facilitate this requisite social transformation, a transformation of our lifestyles necessary for survival. Activities exist on many fronts. Ecology Action Educational Institute headquartered in Berkeley is a non-profit corporation to which tax deductible contributions can be made. The main purpose for which it was formed is to promote exclusively educational, scientific, and charitable purposes by studying and developing methods for the creation of a balanced relationship between the needs and aspirations of society and the limitations of the environment. There are also direct action groups on many campuses who take various types of political action.

What's the Action? The Educational Institute has exhibits on the Environment of Man and on the population crisis. We distribute information on environmental problems prepared by many people for publication and on radio. Information at the scholarly level is available in reprints, and articles at the slogan level from bumper stickers, at the artistic level in posters. We sponsored an environmental fair so that groups concerned with specific problems could display exhibits and distribute information. We are sponsoring an effort to produce a "Century Report" to delineate the ecological crisis and a weekly newspaper column called "The State of the Earth," containing similar information for the public. We are distributing information to schools, civic groups and environmental groups. Our services will grow. Indeed our only real limitation is monetary.

Direct action by the campus group has been taken by seizing open space and building a park. Subsequent negotiations with the city yielded a mini park on a traffic island that was to be a bricked over area. We have informed people how to prepare for and react to earthquakes when the local governments shirked this moral responsibility. We called for city governments to exercise their ethical obligation in informing their citizens and enforcing sane zoning laws, instead of having earthquake parties in the streets. We unfilled the bay in a symbolic gesture to let the "owners" and legislators know we do not want OUR Bay filled. Money bags of Bay fill were presented to selected individuals to let them know if they are interested in Bay fill, we can let them have some.

One cannot preach a change without proposing alternatives. We are doing this also. Work is underway to decrease man's impact on the environment by decreasing the level of consumption and waste by reusing what we now call unusable. We are attempting to improve the urban environment by returning as much area as possible to vegetation. We are developing themes for intelligent land use planning.

you

But we are more of a movement than an organization. It is not our organization that is that is important, but the ideas we are communicating and the changes we are facilitating. Trees have been planted, but probably more important, ideas have been planted in people's imaginations.

Ecology Action is not a closed organization of fixed structure and irreplaceable persons. It is people sharing a common concern. It has room for you and your ideas.

More important, the world in which we live has room for other organizations with similar concerns and ideas. Do your thing with us, or help us do ours, or do your own, but for the world's sake do it.

Membership

Ecology Action is something you do, rather than something you join. However, if we are going to facilitate a social transformation we need your help and ideas, your money and time. We have requests for literature, speakers, exhibits and advice that are difficult to fill.

In order to continue our work we need monthly pledges and grants for specific projects. If you have no time to devote but would like to become like to become a sponsor, any amount you can donate will be well used. You will be sent a monthly bulletin describing our activities.

Sponsorship/Help

Name _____

Address _____

Donation/Pledge _____

Skill/Profession _____

Clip and mail to Ecology Action, Box 9314, Berkeley, California 94709

Annual Sponsorships

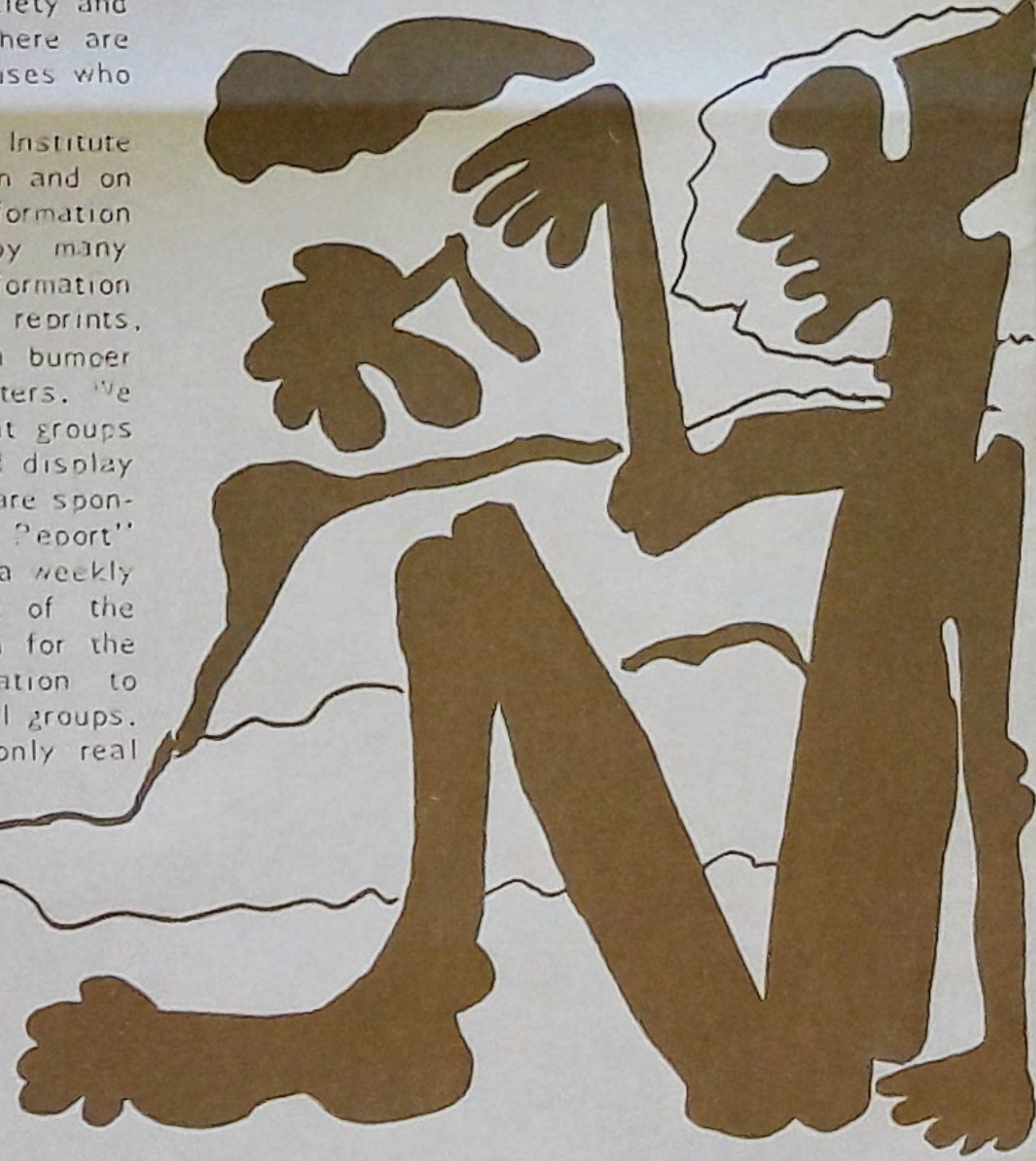
Students	\$1.00
Sustaining	\$10.00
Supporting	\$25.00 to \$99.00
Sponsoring	\$100.00 or more

Checks should be made payable to Ecology Action. Donations are tax deductible.

If you have ideas, skills or time and would like to work, by all means contact us. There is more than enough to do. Your services are valuable.

If you would like to know what we have available in additional literature, bibliographies, posters, bumper stickers, etc., please ask for a list.

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The Problem

The Problem

Economic pressures arising from an increasing population plus increasing personal consumption are forcing us to make destructive, irreversible decisions regarding our environment.

Our civilization today is dependent upon withdrawing resources and minerals from a reservoir that is not being replenished. For many of these resources each day's mining cancels the deposits of a million years. Capital and technology only provide a more efficient withdrawal, with profit the incentive. Thus, the rate of our present form of economic growth is in one sense an indicator of our earth's destruction. In addition to destruction by removal, we are destroying by contaminating our environment with our wastes. The Earth is finite. How much personal, household, and industrial waste can our environment absorb and still support life?

Our consumption is destructive. While we all recognize that the direct exploiters of the environment are the logging companies, polluters, mining companies, etc., the ultimate responsibility rests with our own desires for more consumption, at a cheaper price. This is strengthened by advertising and reinforced by an economic system that recognizes only the profit motive and not the limitations of our environment or our responsibility to our successors.



A Crisis

A Crisis

The ecological perspective recognizes the rapid growth of population as the world's major problem. A growth economy and the destruction it implies is necessary if we are going to provide subsistence to our increasing population.

Man is precipitating his own ruin. The PROBLEM is one of pollution and destructive of our life support system. The QUESTION is one of survival. Perhaps one half of the world's present population is suffering from malnutrition. Between four and ten million human beings will starve to death this year. We cannot feed the present population at near maximum production, and (at the present rate) we will double the world's population in 35 years or add 70 million people to the population this year.

The population will be limited one way or another! Either rationally by birth control or catastrophically by an increase in the death rate by famine or plague. This is well documented. Why haven't people taken positive action? People do not like to face unpleasant and seemingly unsolvable realities. We would rather rely on satisfying myths. Our desperate attempts to treat the symptoms by increasing the food yield will only add to the ecological crisis. We, as residents of the world must realize that we must either lower the birth rate or expect ourselves and our successors to starve.



A Unifying Idea

The magnitude of these problems reduces the Vietnam War and other conflicts to an absurdity. No policy matches these crimes against our environment for their grossness and waste. Total international cooperation will be required to deal efficiently with the population problem and its manifestations. Any policy of any government which impedes such cooperation acts to assist the forces that are now shaping global catastrophe. Military forces must be recalled from around the world to permit sincere international planning to take place. The problems facing mankind are so grave that it is essential that an ecological congress be convened immediately to possibly declare an international state of emergency. By stopping the arms race we will be able to free adequate material and funds, and provide a spirit of cooperation which can form a newer base strong enough to deal with the population and resource problem.

The ability of any country to undertake any action at all in response to the ecological crisis is threatened by the inertia of segregationist policies and racist ideas. In any environmental crisis it is the exploited minorities who will suffer the most. If equitable rights and respect are not secured for all citizens, countries will be plunged into civil strife. This conflict is an unnecessary waste that will preempt the consideration of the basic question of Survival.

Concern over international conflict, end of racism, pollution and resource depletion are simply a manifestation of a broad, ecological common sense perspective. Care of the environment and preservation of humanity and life is the common bond for ethical action. All efforts and policies of all governing agencies must be directed to these ends.

