

Constant pair all the time

A.6.

Earth Day, Xtal Cath.

I have not located their transcription of my talk.
Here are my notes. - M.S. 10 Feb. 93

1

EARTH DAY, CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL

Mason Gaffney, April, 1990

(These notes were used in speaking to the Homebuilders' Group, The Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA, on "Earth Day," 29 April 1990. The talk was recorded and transcribed by Church personnel, and distributed to church members.)

1. "Every Day is Ladies' Day with Me"

Remember, EARTH is a lady: she's your Mother!

Remember, every day is her day. Not just once in 20 years!

Remember Tom Lehrer's message re Nat. Brotherhood Week.

Oh, the poor folks hate the rich folks
And the rich folks hat the poor folks
All of my folks hate all of your folks
It's American as apple pie.

But in Nat. Brotherhood Week, Nat. Brotherhd week
New Yorkers love the Puerto Ricans 'cause it's very
chic

It's fun to eulogize the people you despise
So long as you don't let 'em in your schools.

2. As a land economist I love Earth Day, but it shames me for my profession. Ecsts. neglect Earth badly -- half of them even deny there is such a thing, it's just a minor subdivision of "capital," not significantly different. The other half aren't so bad. We say land is different, and the solution is to economize on it.

I have 24 differences, why land is distinctive. No. 1 is it was not produced, not stored up, it was Created by some Force outside man. Not just Created but maintained, every day the sun rises.

3. It also came with a manual of instructions. A Covenant. Not 100% clear, but certain ideas keep repeating.

a. This is your promised land, that I give you to possess. Sounds like a possessory interest. Nowhere does it say I give it to you to own.

b. The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine, and you are strangers and sojourners with me. It is just a possessory interest.

c. You must do justice. Share with the poor.

d. Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, until there be no place, that they may be alone in the midst of the earth.

There is only so much land. You can build a big house by saving up capital, take from no one else, add to total stock of wealth. You can write a song and share it with millions. But you can only get more land by keeping it from others. It is fair to conclude God is not happy with several of s. Calif's largest landowners who hold land off the market while homeless people struggle to survive in cardboard shelters on the streets.

e. If you fail to keep the Covenant, you're out! Don't blow it. Don't think I'm giving you another Promised Land if you mess up this one. Rather, I'm taking it away from you -- off you go to captivity in Babylon.

4. Everyone gives Earth Day his own twist. Many of the dominant ones strike me as contrary to the manual of instructions.

a. Anti-population. Bible says be fruitful and multiply. The good news is, the leading anti-populationist, Paul Ehrlich, is at end of life coming around to a good economic view, i.e. the problem is not so much people, but people who consume more than their share of land. I'll return to that theme.

b. Anti-immigration. I'm for some controls, but much immigration pressure comes from nations where our govt. supports oligarchies where 1% of the pop. owns 60% of the land. That forces the dispossessed to emigrate. It would make more sense to shift our support toward promoting more justice in those lands, or at least just get out and stop supporting injustice. Then their poor wouldn't have to emigrate. Maybe some of us could migrate there.

c. Anti-demolition, preservationists. These seem to overlook the time-sharing exhortation, "the land shall not be sold forever." To me that implies it is ok for Pickfair to be demolished for the next generation of use.

d. "Ecosploitationists." E.g. of RANPAC, Temecula. Won Yoo offers to sell part of "his" Sta. Rosa Plateau to Cty., to "honor Earth Day," for 12 times what he paid for it 2 years ago.

Cf. Zeckendorf and his rendering plant.

5. The right twist

We should consume less land. But what does it mean to

"consume" less land?

A. Pollute less. Avoid destroying land, or creating entropy. Builders may be getting a bum rap here, will return to that.

B. Occupy less. How to turn a small lake into a large one. Case of Lake Arrowhead; Kaiser motorboat at L. Tahoe; swimming in Wisconsin; etc.

C. Own less. What does it mean to consume land? To exclude others. Most land doesn't wear out. Its services perish with the passage of time, and are lost forever. Land is a potential, every year, every minute. Use that potential, or release your surplus for others. "Take what you need and leave the rest," is the proverbial wisdom.

Conserving land then is not preserving it or hoarding it, but using it intensively.

6. That doesn't mean using the entire Earth intensively, but the contrary.

It is amazing what a small piece of land produces when used intensively. E.g. forestry. John Baden's short course in forestry: grow timber where it is warm, wet and flat. Do that and there is no need to invade rainforests, and steep slopes in the Rockies, etc.

E.g. my garden. Problem is not producing food, but storing and distributing and preparing and serving it. Farmers always crying about how little of the food \$ they get, but that's all they deserve. A good Harvestore silo is worth several cornfields, and requires no pesticides.

So use the earth well, the good land first, and there is plenty left over for wildlife and open space.

7. This simple formula also solves the major social and economic problems of our times, and all times.

A. It produces goods and services, including shelter for the homeless. This is supply-side economics as it should be.

B. It creates jobs and incomes to buy those goods and services. Demand-side economics.

C. It pays taxes to pay for infrastructure, pay off public debts, and thereby create domestic capital.

8. As to taxation, is that at odds with 7,A and 7,B?

Depends on how the tax is imposed -- what is the taxable event. Refer to Margil Wadley, a distinguished member of this Congregation who played a leading role in organizing this Earth Day observance. Tax land-consumption, as I have defined it -- excluding others from using. That discourages land-consumption; encourages intensive use.

9. The crisis in shelter.

Is overtaxation the cause of homelessness and unattainable homeownership for the young?

Housing pays no income tax. Your home is #1 tax shelter.

After P-13, housing in Calif. pays little prop. tax. My prop. tax is less than my insurance.

Result? High land prices, a private tax levied on new buyers. Result? Anti-growth movements, as those who paid for the old infrastructure resist sharing it with new comers who will pay less.

Conclusion? Preferential low taxation does not solve the housing problem. Sharing the Earth better is called for.

10. Does your own sweat stink?

Builders as such are not very stinky. Bigger offenders are refineries, vehicles, pesticides. Builders may indirectly increase need for those, but that depends on where they build.

Builders may also cut and fill a lot, but that too depends on where they build.

Why are builders made villains? There are bad reasons, and maybe a few good ones.

A. They are outriders of sprawl. They do not create the forces, but they are the most visible leading agents.

B. In their desperate search for land they build anywhere, e.g. on flood plains, sticking the whole community with extra social costs.

C. They play the game with city councils, and become a corrupting influence, eroding local control.

D. They play the game of annexation and utility extension, getting subsidies. On the state level they push things like CWP and Peripheral Canal.

E. They want it all: lower taxes from P-13, plus same old public services. Tack onto existing infrastructure paid by previous taxpayers.

So, let him among you who is without sin cast the first stone. Casting stones solves few problems. For Earth Day let us shift into a problem-solving mode and stay there. Keep uppermost the manual of instructions: possess the land; take what you need and leave the rest; let it go for the next generation, or recycle; render Justice; pay your share in taxes.

22 April 1990

1

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a. This is your promised land, that I give you to possess.

Sounds like a possessory interest. Nowhere does it say I give it to you to own. *Possess implies physical presence + participation.*

b. The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine, and you are strangers and sojourners with me. It is just a possessory interest.

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~~5.~~ Conserving land then is not preserving it or hoarding it, but using it intensively. *That includes recycling land.*

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It is amazing what a small piece of land produces when used intensively. E.g. forestry. John Baden's short course in forestry: grow timber where it is warm, wet and flat. Do that and there is no need to invade rainforests, and steep slopes in the Rockies, etc.

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1. Earth Day
Last week?
"Every Day is Lady's Day w. Me"
Earth is a lady
Tom Lehrer
2. As land exists, I love Earth Day.
But it skews other exists, who deny Earth.
3. For land exist, solution is simple = edge on land,
esp. good land. E.g. grow timber where warm, wet & flat.
a. Supply side. Produce. Stop infl. Stop
imports.
b. Demand side. Hire people. Make jobs,
generate incomes.
c. Fiscal. Pay taxes. Pay off int. debt.
Create domestic K.
4. But taxes inhibit land use
Depends on taxable rent.
5. Also solves distrib. qu.
Ownership highly concd.
Incentive consistent w. prgreivity

Homebuilders — Ideas Earth Day

~~Time sharing~~

~~Recycling land~~ - Pickfair

Stagnant, "mature" ec. gloom of '30s.

Verdigris NEb. gloom of today.

~~Homelessness.~~

Who wants cheap hsg? NIMBY!
Is cheap hsg a LULU?

People fear change. Bldrs. bring change.

Imbalance of infrastructure.

When P-13 passed, had surplus \$ in Tsy —
also surplus infrastr. No danger!

Do bldrs pay?

a. Shift to buyers?

b. " " landowner sellers.

They only pay if they are the land seller.

Bldg. & polln.

Civ

Non-point - runoff

Does yr. own sweat stink?

Blchs. as such merit your stinky

Big offenders are refrigeration, cars, pesticides.

Depends on where you build.

1.5

The Tao of Earth Day given wrong twist by many
Anti-popu.

Anti-immigr.

Anti-demolition, preservationists

Spec. sellers like RANPAC (p. 3)

The rt. twist.

Care for the Earth

Share " "

Extreme productivity of small garden. No food
shortage.

Conserving products of earth is saving earth

Canning, freezing.

Harvesting

3.

✓

Consuming land means excluding others.

We shd. all consume less.

How turn small lake into large:

Consume less by infilling.

Why are blurs. made villains?

- a. They are outriders of sprawl.
They do not nec. create the form, but are the visible agents.
- b. In desperate search for land, build everywhere.
Flood plaining.
Stick whole comm. w. cost of flood control.
- c. Play the game w. city council.
- d. " " " of annexation.
- e. They want it all -
~~Repeat~~ P-13 lower taxes.
Take onto old infra-str. pd. by previous taxpayers.

RANPAC

Temecula. Sta. Rosa Plateau. Won 400 acres to sell for open space, ~~for~~ to honor Earth Day, for 12x what he (RANPAC) pd. 2 yrs. ago.
"Ecosploitation".

Gf. Zeckendorf + the rendering plant.

"

1. Every Day is Ladies' Day w. Me

Remember, Earth is a Lady - she's yr. mother.
(Nat. Broth. Wk.)

4. 3 uses of Earth:

Produce goods - including shelter. Supply side
Create jobs & incomes. Demand side
Pay taxes. Fight deficit. Pay debt.
Create K - domestic K frnt.

2. Why land is diff.

1. Not produced. - Created.
(Came w. a manual of instrs - Leviticus.

A. Only way to get more is ^{to keep} take from others.

5
Housing.

The great tax shelter. Yet we see homeless.
Why? Hi land price - a prop. tax on new buyers.

2. The Promised Land. The Covenant. Justice

God never said it's yr. prop. "Land is
mine ..."

Woe unto ~~him~~ them...

Jobs vs. Env?

Horsefeathers.

Takes more work to avoid messing env.

E.g. farming w. pesticides.

More study, rubbing, labor for R + energy.

How stay competitive? Lower rent.

April 11, 1990

Dear Faculty, Students and Staff:

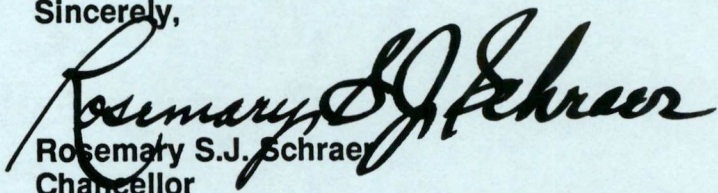
I am happy to proclaim the period from April 16 through April 22 as Earth Week at the University of California, Riverside.

It is fitting that our community set aside a special time to learn about and contemplate the condition of our planet, the challenges to the quality of our environment, and the way in which individual human beings and their communities can live in synergistic harmony within the biosphere. Efforts to understand and assist in the reversal of environmental degradation are integral to our responsibilities as citizens of the planet.

Whatever your area of expertise or station in life, it is vital to understand the interrelationships of population, food supply, conservation of top soil, availability of clean water and the management of waste materials and toxic substances in relation to pollution of our air, land and water.

The dedicated work and enthusiasm of many faculty, students and staff have been invested in the planning and staging of the events of the week. I am grateful to them and hope that you will profit from participating in the activities of the week. A program schedule is attached.

Sincerely,


Rosemary S.J. Schraer
Chancellor

Attachment

UCR SCHEDULE FOR EARTHWEEK

MONDAY, APRIL 16 Theme: Our Crowded, Polluted Planet

- 12:00-1:00 Kick-off rally with Executive Vice Chancellor Fleischer, plus the Plummeting Planet demonstration, at the Bell Tower, followed by symbolic tree planting near Admin Bldg; Population Curve painted on LS 1500 windows; booths for letter writing, selling T-shirts, and signing petitions.
- 4:00-5:00 Entomology Seminar: Dr. Michael Weiss, "Potential sustainable management strategies for wheat-stem sawfly", Humanities 1212
- 7:30-8:45 Speaker: Anne Ehrlich, "Critical Masses: The Population Explosion", LS 1500.
- 9:00-10:00 Reception for Anne Ehrlich, International Lounge.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17 Theme: Sharing the World's Water and Land

- 12:00-1:00 Mayor Frizzel and other speakers, plus rally for local issues, at the Bell Tower; recycling/waste display; booths for letter writing, selling T-shirts, and signing petitions, especially Marine Resources petition.
- 4:00-5:00 Various departmental lectures.
- 7:30-9:30 Cousteau Society presentation on threats to the global ocean, LS 1500.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 Theme: Crisis of the Global Atmosphere

- 12:00-1:00 Wednesday Nooner: Momma Stud (environmentally sensitive band), Tower Mall; display of items contributing to the greenhouse effect; booths for letter writing, selling T-shirts, and signing petitions.
- 1:00-3:00 Geography & Environmental Sciences Seminar: "Computerized Remote Sensing: (1:00 p.m.) Digital Chart of the World [Dan Sherrill and Avis Webster]; (2:00 p.m.) Role of GIS in Global Conservation [Charles Convis]", Geology 1100

(OVER)

UCR SCHEDULE FOR EARTHWEEK (CONTINUED)

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 Theme: Endangered Life on Earth

- 10:00-5:00 Environmental videos shown in the Pub
- 12:00-1:00 Microphone at the Bell Tower for conservation groups or other speakers; rain forest tent; display on endangered species; bones band parade; booths for letter writing, selling T-shirts, and signing petitions.
- 4:00-6:00 Philosophy Colloquium, Dr. Dale Jamieson, "Ethics, Public Policy and Global Climate Change", Watkins 2240
- 7:30-8:45 Speaker: Prof. Michael Soulé on "Environmentalism in the 1990's: How green are the greens", Watkins 1000.
- 9:00-10:00 Reception for Prof. Soulé, International Lounge.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 Theme: Think Globally, Act Locally

- 10:00-3:00 Environmental Fair - Booths at the Tower Mall for activists, conservation groups, public agencies, vendors of environmentally sound products, and other related groups.
- 12:00-1:00 Congressman George Brown and other speakers presenting conclusions and a summary of Earthweek and what the future holds, Bell Tower; booths for letter writing, selling T-shirts, and signing petitions.
- 4:00-5:00 Various departmental lectures.
- 6:00-1:00 a.m. Earth Festival at the Barn. Eyes of the World band. A celebration of life on Earth will be held at the Barn, consisting of folk music, modern rock music, alternative product booths, skits, food, and drink; creating a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 Theme: Volunteer Day

- 10:00 a.m. March for Parks: Meet at Harrison Park with Pledge Cards and march to Citrus Heritage Park for entertainment and program there.

Other Activities throughout Earthweek

Display of environmental books at the Bookstore
Art Show in the International Lounge
Various skits and demonstrations

Last Revised 4/8/90