

Thursday, December 7, 1989

## Book says people must change habits to save Earth Writers list 50 ways to save environment from effects of acid rain, pollution

By Jill Butler

Of The Battalion Staff

Holes in the ozone layer, ocean contamination, the effects of acid rain — people disagree about the seriousness of these problems, but few deny they exist.

Dr. William P. Stewart, faculty adviser to the Texas A&M chapter of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition, said the state of the environment is interpretive.

"There are no black and white issues of good and bad," Stewart, an assistant professor of Recreation and Parks, said.

He said that Earth is not in immediate danger of destruction.

"The world is not in a desperate state,

but there are serious environmental issues we must address," Stewart said.

However, John Javna, coordinator of the book "50 Simple Things You can do to Save the Earth," said that if changes aren't made soon, the world will be destroyed.

"We must do something about environmental problems now, or the next generation will have no place to live," Javna said.

These problems may seem too overwhelming for individuals to solve, but "50 Simple Things You can do to Save the Earth" was written to prove that individuals can make a difference.

"We are not asking for giant changes in people's lifestyles," Javna said. "With small changes in their daily routines, people can have enormous positive effects on the environment."

To affect the environment positively, Javna recommends that people:

- Recycle newspapers. If everyone recycled their Sunday newspapers, more than 500,000 trees would be saved every week, he said.
- Reduce junk mail. By writing to the Mail Preference Service in New York City, people can have their names removed from most mailing lists and reduce the junk mail they receive by about 75 percent, Javna said. The amount of junk mail received by Americans in a single day can produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes, he said.
- Repair leaky toilets. By fixing one leaky toilet, 45,000 gallons of water will be

saved in six months, Javna said.

Javna said this is the only book that makes this type of information available and provides practical suggestions for change.

The book was written by the EarthWorks Group, which collects information from governmental agencies and environmental groups and organizes the data so that readers can understand it.

"We try to use informal formats to communicate important information," Javna, coordinator of the EarthWorks Group, said.

The EarthWorks Group was formed in 1989 and consists of 12 to 15 writers and environmentalists in Berkeley, California.

"We want people to realize that every-

thing they do has an impact on the environment and that the only way to reverse negative environmental impact is a little at a time," Javna said. "These problems were not created overnight and they will not be solved overnight."

Stewart agreed that the best way to solve global problems is to start small.

"There is a cumulative effect at the local level," Stewart said. "Small efforts add up to big changes."

Javna and Stewart both said that raising awareness is the most important step toward environmental change.

Javna said realization is the key.

"People must realize the world is in jeopardy and that we can either change and save the Earth or continue to use it up."

## Who's Who at A&M

The Battalion congratulates the following Texas A&M students who were named to the 1990 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

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- John G. Vandergrift
- Kimberlea A. Ward
- Clayton L. Whitaker

## Ex-professor: 39 percent of women studied make 'token resistance' to sexual advances

By Kevin Hamm

Of The Battalion Staff

Do women who say no really mean yes? According to a former Texas A&M psychology professor, some do.

In a study of 610 A&M women, Dr. Charlene L. Muehlenhard found that 39 percent said they had refused sexual advances by men when, actually, they did want to have sex. Muehlenhard calls this token resistance.

"This does not mean that men can safely ignore women's refusals," she said in the study. "Most women (61 percent) reported that they had never engaged in token resistance."

Also, of the women who had engaged in token resistance, 46 percent had done so only a few times, Muehlenhard found in the study.

Given society's sexual double standard, the belief that women are supposed to act resistant to sex and men are supposed to persist in their sexual advances, token resistance is a rational behavior, she reported in the study.

"If it appears that a woman did not want sex but was talked into it or forced into it, it may seem more acceptable for her to engage in sex," she said.

Token resistance can have negative side effects, however, from discouraging honest communication to increasing the incidence of rape, she said. It can also undermine a woman's right to refuse sex.

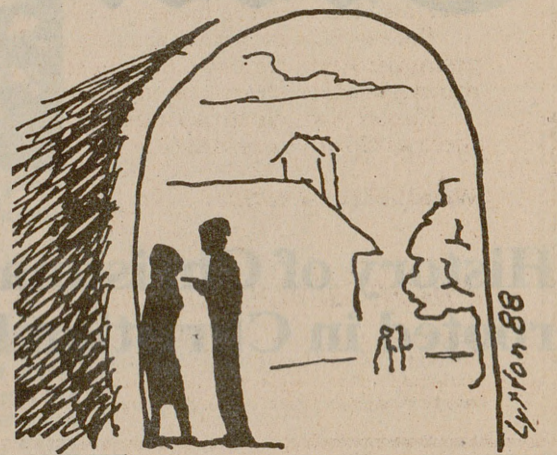
"A lot of men don't believe it when women say no," Muehlenhard said. "It makes sense for women not to say yes to sex too easily because then they would be giving away their bargaining chip."

Muehlenhard, who left A&M in 1988, said the 1986 study received a "very positive" response from people. She is doing follow-up research at the University of Kansas.

In the study, Muehlenhard reported that women might engage in token resistance for inhibition-related, manipulative or practical reasons.

Inhibition-related reasons include emotional, religious or moral concerns as well as fear of physical discomfort. Manipulative reasons involve a woman's anger with a partner or the desire to be in control, she said in the study.

Practical reasons are the most important, she said. They include the fear of appearing promiscuous, uncertainty about their partner's feelings or fear of sexually transmitted diseases.



"Perhaps women who engage in token resistance for practical reasons are responding to very real pressures, such as the sexual double standard," the study said.

Regardless, when a woman says no, she probably means it, the study said.

"If the woman means no and the man persists, it is rape."

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