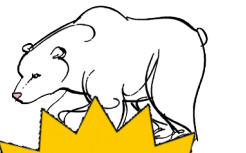




ECO COLUMBIA

"THE SCOOP ON ALL THINGS SUSTAINABLE"



GRADUATION
ISSUE

MAY 2010 VOL. 1, ISSUE 6 A COLUMBIA COLLEGE COLLABORATION



DEAR READERS,

Enjoy it. You earned it. Another semester in the books for some, the end of an era for others. For graduates, that dim light flickering years ago at the end of the tunnel is now a bright light foreshadowing your own Columbia closure. Who have I become? This is a question I like to ponder and believe is especially important when coupled with a momentous occasion. Milestones in life open the floodgates for memories, "Remember when..." and "I can't believe I..." I hope you look back at these moments and smile. What else can you do, really? We all make mistakes and this makes us human. The bumps along the road, each has its own lesson. If you are open to it this lesson is going to guide your path even further. It is fun to compare and contrast how one defines themselves and has changed over a time period. For me, I could write an essay on perspective shifts from growing up in a small town and moving to the city. We are ever-changing beings, and accepting constant change is essential. Whatever is the next step, I hope that you take time to think about how far you have come in these (fill in the blank) years at Columbia. The ceremony is great, don't get me wrong. A ritualistic close to your years of dedication. But it is going to be the nights staying up until 4:00am laughing with friends that will be remembered longer. That guy in class who always had something inappropriate to say, those comments made the best status updates. That epic house party: a topic of conversation for years to come. Don't forget to stop and smell the trees and flowers, graduates. Take it all in. And remember, your self is a work-in-progress. Congratulations!

Peace,
Neale

Please support:
<http://cleanpowerchicago.org>

FACTORY FARMING

A POETIC PIECE ABOUT AN UGLY TRUTH

Barns and
Farms and
Corrals
Just a portion of the picture
Painted by pigs in suits
Covering Packages
Portrayed for consumers
While factory farms form monopolies
Stealing government subsidies
We must stop this manifest gluttony

Captured and confined
Captives to our sins
They stew in their filth
Destined for darkness
Knee deep in manure
An above ground sewer
Breeding disease
Lower than women in third world countries
Force fed with a tube
Man made cannibals

These desperate animals
Their muscles atrophied
Never knowing fresh air
They stand shoulder to shoulder
Desensitized to torture
Machines whirring
Masked humans barking orders
Mindlessly anticipating
Big business firing squads

Equipped with

Pills and syringes
Shot full of
Pesticides and hormones
Lucky to die on the first blow
A ticking global pandemic
We are the mad scientist
Who doesn't know the aftermath
Worse than Hiroshima
We are the animals who eat the animals
Their pain we consume

We are the savage
Genetic traits we ravage
Forget Darwinism
We'll create our own schism
Man as creator
Genetic Frankensteins our creation
One nation
Under evil experimentation
Unnecessary physical, mental, spiritual degradation
Suffering for a simulated satiation
For the good of the almighty corporation
And the concentrated animal farm operations

If crops are grown to feed the farm
And energy is lost each trophic level
While millions starve
Who's needs do we serve?

Killing ecosystems
For drive thru desires

Clear
Cut
Cravings
Big Macs at midnight
Methane destroying ozone

Sorry Mr. Hyde
There is no quick fix elixir
Time is of the essence Doctor J. Kill
Prescribing cancer
Rotting teeth
And diabetes
Through red meat and poultry
We must let go
Of the status quo
Dare to say no
To the likes of agribusiness and Monsanto

In an uneven fight
Anything you say can
And will be edited or misconstrued
Spread with scare tactics
But this is no excuse
I still have a dream
Because nature cannot take this abuse
We must revolt
We must invent
Launching offensives with dollars spent
Because they will follow
Don't you see?
Don't be afraid
Knowledge is power

Poem by Neale Baldyga

FUTURE EPIC DATES

UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS & DEADLINES EPIC WANTS YOU TO KNOW

May 22, 9:00a-1:00p
FREE

Come join others as they clear trash and debris from the Auburn Gresham neighborhood! Snacks and drinks will be provided to all volunteers as well as t-shirts. After the event volunteers have the chance to tour the Gaia facility, to learn more about recycling and the re-use of clothes and renewable energy sources. Please RSVP for the event by emailing Mary K. Abeleda at mabeleda@gaia-movement.org 8918 S. Green Street Chicago, IL

May 22, 10a-7p, May 23, 11a-6p
Price Varies

The festival showcases more than 350 diverse local and national green businesses. More than 150 renowned speakers appear for insightful panel discussions and presentations. You'll also enjoy how-to workshops, a Fair Trade pavilion, an Organic Food and Gardening pavilion, a Community Action and Green Careers pavilion, a Sweet Spot Café and delicious organic beer, wine and cuisine. Navy Pier 600 E. Grand Ave. Chicago, IL

May 27, 7:45p-10:15p
FREE

Come together under the full moon to enjoy fire spinning, drumming, and the overall atmosphere. When the sun goes down the drumming begins. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy the evening! The jams are a leave-no-trace family event. <http://www.pyrotechniq.org/content/chicago-full-moon-fire-jam> 5050 N. Simonds or 1/2 mile south of Foster Ave. Beach Chicago, IL

HAVE A FUN, SAFE & GREEN SUMMER!

THINK GREEN FOR FINALS

GREEN BOOKLET MORE ECO-CONSCIOUS THAN BLUE

With the semester coming to a close (thank goodness), you are probably scrambling to ready for finals. To make things a bit easier, we wanted to present you with a few sustainable options available from our campus bookstore.

One of the most important things to you is probably saving money. As many of you may know, the bookstore holds their Cash for Books event. Stop in between May 10th through the 15th with your used textbooks. There are some guidelines for what can be purchased (<http://www.bkstr.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/PromoBuybackView>). And remember, whatever you have left that you do not want, please recycle your books. There will be receptacles outside the store for

recycling.

But that is not all the bookstore has to offer. They sell a wide variety of eco-friendly products. Some are made from recycled content others are made from sustainable materials. Alex Perez, text manager of Columbia's bookstore states, "We have a multitude of biodegradable green products. These include an index card holder, document folder, binder dividers, sheet protectors, portfolios, 3 styles of an expanding files, and binders."



PHOTO CREDIT | NEALE BALDYGA

When you are taking finals, don't forget your pencils. Grab some EnviroSticks, pencils made from reforested premium wood, with a biodegradable latex-free eraser. If you need to use a blue book for any exams, try "Green Book" the new counterpart. These are green-colored, the same size as the blue booklet, made with 100 percent recycled paper, where 30 percent of it is post-consumer waste.

For your fall semester, keep these green products in mind when you are purchasing your supplies. Bring your reusable bag to carry all this stuff away, or purchase one from the bookstore. They have everything! Good luck with finals.

Article by John Wawrzaszek, Recycling Manager of Columbia Recycling Program

"We have a multitude of biodegradable green products. These include an index card holder, document folder, binder dividers, sheet protectors, portfolios, 3 styles of an expanding files, and binders."

contact us

Want to join EPIC, submit something for the newsletter (all mediums accepted) or ask a question? We can be contacted at nbaldyga@colum.edu.

spread the word

Tell your friends about this newsletter and how to be more environmentally-conscious. Every little action helps.

other info

Try these other sites for more eco-info: www.grist.org, www.epa.gov/, earth911.com, & www.colum.edu/recycling.



2ND ANNUAL ECO FAIR SUCCESS

ECO-EVENT DRAWS NUMBERS

On Thursday April 22nd, hundreds of participants at 1104 S. Wabash were engaged in a variety of earth-centric stations and activities at the second annual Eco Fair. There were handmade crafts, silk-screening, an art installation, and a photo op. with the recycling programs mascot, Pete the Polar Bear. Over 20 excellent Chicago-area businesses and organizations were present to spread their message to students and others from the community.

Those included:

Five Accessories, Brittanie's Thyme, I-Go cars, Epic Burger, West Town Bikes, Citizen Action Network, Chicago Rarities Orchard Project, Eco Justice Collaborative, Chicago Biofuels, No Foam Chicago, Mindful Metropolis, Reuse First, Local First

Chicago, and Mercy for Animals. The Eco Fair is an annual Earth Day gathering held at Columbia College to connect the public to businesses and organizations that strive to make a positive environmental and social impact. It is a time to celebrate and have fun while educating the community about environmental issues.

This year, the Columbia Recycling team pushed the event be as interactive as possible to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. They collaborated with campus departments the Center for Book and Paper Arts, the Learning Studio and the student group E.P.I.C (Environmental Protection Initiative at Columbia), as well as volunteers from Michelle Sayset's Writing and Rhetoric II service learning class.

Story via *The Loop at Columbia*



A reminder: Don't forget to check the Recycling Program's blog for recent green job and internship opportunities for students! You can find the blog at <http://cccrecycling.blogspot.com>

This newsletter designed and created by Alexa Heinrich. *Green Revolution* image designed by Simon Cervania. Thank you to anyone who contributed to the *Eco Columbia* newsletter!

Attention students living in the UC! The UC is seeking students to work on a recycling project until the semester ends. Sign-up applications are in the management office of the UC!

POINT A TO POINT B

MAN VS. NATURE

We view the world and ourselves in a linear fashion. The road ends at one point. Take the straight, flat path and turn right at a 90 degree angle until you reach a flat, rectangular door. Walk up the staircase step by step to reach your final destination and return home on the same route you came. No variation and not natural. Dwellings around the spherical Earth have unique planning based on the landscape. Circular towns in valleys allow more possibilities. They resemble a cycle instead of a destination and points from the center to the edges are equidistant, which

explains why the center is where people gather. When building on land, considerations should be noticed from the features nature offers us to build with. Keep the ecosystems in proper proportions to ensure that they can remain healthy. There is no need to wonder about how we perceive the world and how we react to it. Comprehend it as you see fit. The planning of many cities does not allow any consideration for natural habitats and therefore we don't consider nature often. If cities can be less polluting, cities can coexist with precious ecosystems without harming them. Health and happiness always revert to nature.

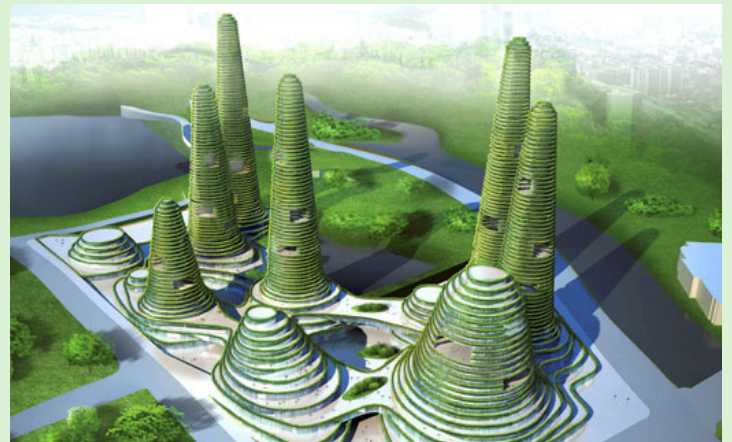


PHOTO CREDIT | IMAGESHACK

Article by Dan Pizzoferrato

EARTH

"Take a look at this one"

A man pulled from one of his bulging coat pockets a cylindrical blue stone.

"I'm a geologist, Mrs. Leanne. May I?" He pointed to a miniature spy glass and set it between his cheek bone and his brow to gaze at the beautiful stone.

"Is it Sapphire, Mr. Brightlinger?" A young shop girl asked from behind the counter whilst cleaning a dream vase.

"No! It's new, something completely different!"

"Mhmm"

"Do you remember that woman

I told you about? The one who keeps finding me during my digs?"

"The barefoot one? Who appears to you wearing hardly nothing? You told me about that woman, Mr. Brightlinger. If you don't mind, I don't want to hear the rest of whatever you are about to tell me!"

"That's her! But don't think she's some sort of apparition! She's real I swear! I talk to her about what I am doing and why I am digging. But she says nothing. She just looks at me as I dig and sometimes she joins me in my dig. Wh-y," Brietlinger chuckled, making the spy glass tremble in his eye socket, "just yesterday we dug a good ten

feet into the ground together, simply enjoying our work and looking at the past unfold in front of us!"

"You don't say," came the bored reply from behind the desk

"Yes! And this is what we found!"

He stared at the rock like it was worth something, thought Mrs. Leanne.

Later that year, Brightlinger could be found roaming the woods wearing a long trench coat filled neck to ankle with pockets full of rock samples a young woman had shown him. A young woman who disappeared when he called for her and arose from the ground to show him new beauties.

She was Earth.



Story by Samantha Christmann

COLUMBIA COLLEGE | WORKING TOWARDS A GREENER CHICAGO...

To our faithful readers: thank you for your dedication and making the first volume of EcoColumbia a fantastic one!