

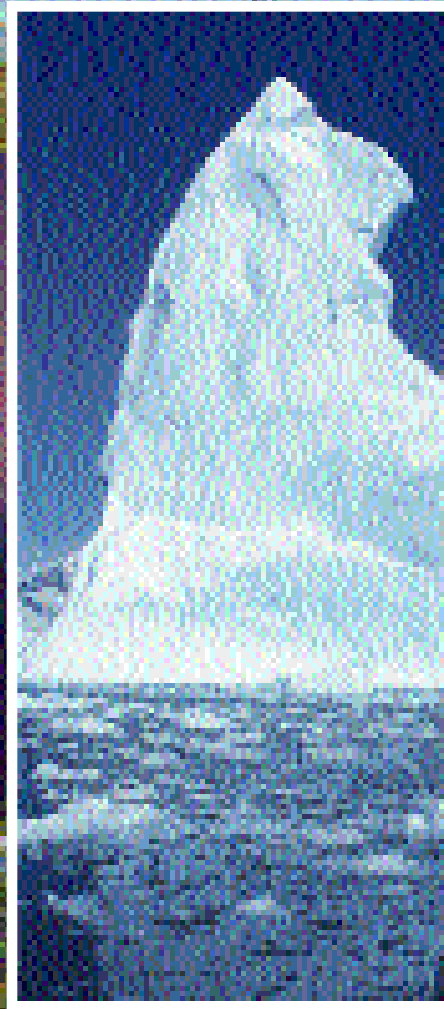


the reporter

ZPG



POPULATION and the ENVIRONMENT: OUR ENDANGERED Earth





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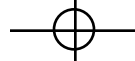
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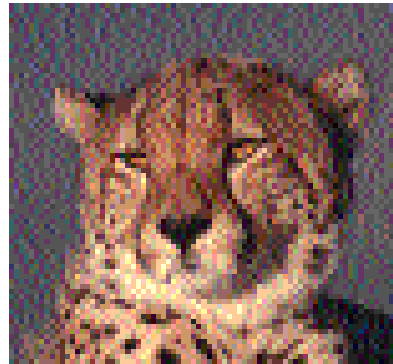
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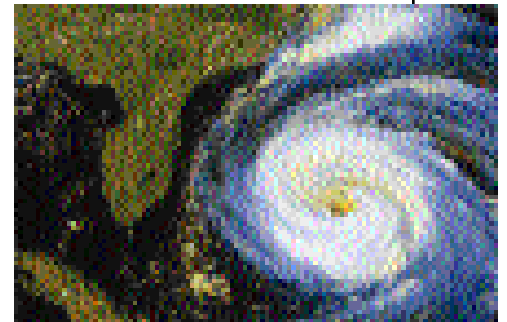
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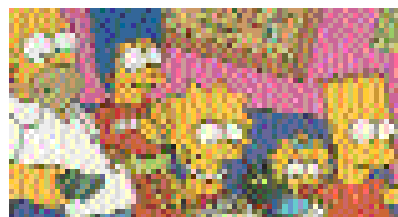
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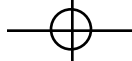


Photo: © Gayle Kruglow Photography



From the...Editor

Have you ever tried to talk about population with someone unfamiliar with the issue?

Then you probably know how difficult it is to communicate to others the problems caused by rapid population growth—or even that rapid population growth causes problems.

Of course, you, as our members, certainly “get it.” You realize how population growth negatively impacts the environment—global warming, species extinction, the threat to biodiversity. That’s why you joined ZPG—to do something about the problem. But I’m sure that you’ve spoken to many people who don’t realize that these problems are a direct result of population growth.

Our theme this month is “population and the environment.” I know: this seems pretty obvious. But I hope that this issue, with its special articles on global warming, extinction, and growing water shortages, reminds our readers even more clearly of the problems caused by rapid population growth. And I hope it reminds you that—despite what the non-believers say—this is an ongoing and urgent problem.

Therefore, I urge you to first read these fascinating articles. Then, pass this magazine along to a friend, a relative, or to a young person you know. Use this issue to show people that there is a real problem.

But, also, remind people that it’s a problem that we can solve. Population stabilization can be achieved, and we know what works to achieve it: the empowerment of women, complete and full access to family planning, and the right to choose if and when to have a family. With will and know-how, we can beat the problems of rapid population growth, and we can preserve the environment.

Together with the special theme of “Population and the Environment,” this Reporter also includes our usual interesting articles and features. Beginning with a photographic essay on our most recent Capitol Hill Days 2000, you’ll find several articles that focus on the upcoming elections and that will give you ideas about bringing population into the equation.... You’ll also read about the young talent discovered by our 2nd Annual Pop-TV Writing Contest.... Find out about ZPG’s new partnership with the eco-tourism company, Away.com.... Get an update on the exciting upcoming ZPG Annual Awards Dinners.... And find out what’s going on at ZPG!

Lee S. Polansky
Editor



Kenneth M Jones

This issue on “Population and the Environment” is due in part to a generous grant from Mr. Kenneth Malcolm Jones. A longtime ZPG member, Mr. Jones tells us he became interested in population through “issues I now see as symptoms of the population crunch.” Mr. Jones was active in the anti-Vietnam war movement and the early Earth Days. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Jones says, “I became involved with the feminist movement and particularly with women’s reproductive and other rights... We have come to a place in which we must realize that we live on a planet with finite resources.”

Are you interested in sponsoring The ZPG Reporter? Please contact Liz Borg, Director of Membership and Development at 1-800-767-1956, or e-mail her at liz@zpg.org



From the...President

The Everglades ... The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ... The Amazon Rain Forest ... Your local Wal-Mart. They're all part of our global system, for good or ill—even Wal-Mart!

And some of what's going on at your local Wal-Mart is very bad news for efforts to stabilize global population.

Here at ZPG, we're definitely not smiling about Wal-Mart these days.

I'm talking about Wal-Mart's repeated refusal to carry Preven—a safe and effective FDA-approved emergency contraceptive—in its more than 2,400 pharmacies nationwide.

In countless TV ads, Wal-Mart touts the claim that they sell everything from diapers to drills, from televisions to tomato juice. Yet Wal-Mart refuses and refuses and refuses to meet the needs of women in crisis—women who desperately need to prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

Time and again, Wal-Mart—the world's largest retailer and a leading pharmacy chain—calls its ban on Preven a “business decision.” If so, it's the worst possible kind.

Or, did Wal-Mart simply succumb to pressure from fringe anti-choice zealots like the 1,500-member Pharmacists for Life International and the extremist American Life League?

Wal-Mart banned the newly approved drug Preven in 1998. Since then, there have been over 3 million unintended pregnancies that could have been prevented through the use of emergency contraception.

ZPG just won't allow this blatant contempt for both women's rights and the overpopulation crisis that's ravaging our nation and entire planet.

You see, as ZPG's president, I've made a personal commitment to hold Wal-Mart accountable. From the San Francisco Bay area to the Atlanta suburbs to Baltimore to Boston, we've already held televised news conferences right in front of local Wal-Marts.

We've already alerted millions of Americans to this disgraceful decision. And we're going to continue to keep up the pressure as we spread the word from coast to coast.

Here's what makes this terrible situation even worse. In some rural communities, Wal-Mart is the only pharmacy in town. Or, at a minimum, the only one covered by some of the biggest insurance plans.

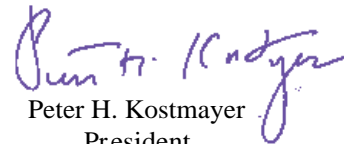
Preven can be used up to 72 hours after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure to prevent pregnancy.


Yet Wal-Mart has adamantly and repeatedly refused to carry Preven. And Wal-Mart has shown no interest whatsoever in Plan B, a second emergency contraceptive prescription pill that has recently won FDA approval and is now on the market.

Unintended births are the major factor in our population explosion. And whatever can be done safely and effectively to stem the tide of rapid population growth should be encouraged, not dismissed in such a cavalier fashion.

So, we'll continue to stage rallies, protests and news conferences in front of Wal-Mart after Wal-Mart—all of them if that's what it takes!

While we all intensify our efforts to preserve our threatened natural areas, we can also help by making sure that the Wal-Marts of the world don't make the task of curbing population growth an even tougher challenge.


Peter H. Kostmayer
President

 Join Zero Population Growth's E-Mail Action Network:

www.actionnetwork.org/zpgaction

Wal-Mart refuses to stock emergency contraceptives.

Does that make you angry? Do you want to do something about it?

Point your cursor to:
www.actionnetwork.org/zpgaction and sign on to send a letter to Wal-Mart.

Keep informed.
Keep active.

When you sign on with the EAN, we'll send you an E-Mail Action Alert when important issues come up. All you have to do is personalize the sample letter and click “reply”. Your reply will be faxed to the targeted policymaker.

It's as easy and simple as that.
E-Mail e-action@zpg.org for more information.



Extinction: What Can We Do?

by Virginia Morrell

Most of us don't think about extinctions when we think of Hawaii. But for conservation biologist Stuart Pimm, that's the first image that enters his mind. Since 1978 he's been involved with studies of the last of these islands' native birds—only 30 species. Scientists believe 135 bird species inhabited the isles before the first human settlers arrived by canoe 1,500 years ago. And of these 30, says Pimm, only ten have any chance of long-term survival. "You can find ten of them with a little searching," he says. "Ten are really rare, and another ten are so rare that there are no hopes of our being able to save them. It's like going to a restaurant to meet your friends, and suddenly finding that two-thirds of them are dead."

"We are in the midst of a human-driven extinction"

And it's not just native birds that are on the verge of becoming extinct; much of Hawaii's plant and insect life is similarly threatened. Nor are such extinctions limited to these islands. As Pimm and other conservation biologists have discovered over the past two decades, species have either become extinct or are in the process of disappearing almost everywhere. Not since a meteorite slammed into Earth some 65 million years ago, eliminating much of life—including the dinosaurs—has our planet experienced such a high rate of extinctions among complex organisms.

Today's mass extinction event, however, is different from those of the past. Earth's plants and animals are not vanishing because of some external factor, such as a meteorite or climate change.

Instead, the cause is us—humans. This is most easily documented, notes Pimm, in the Pacific Islands, since people arrived there relatively recently. But whatever lands humans have migrated to have experienced similar

mass extinctions. He and others point to the loss of Australia's megafauna—giant kangaroos and marsupial lions—and to the similar extinction of North America's mammoths.

"We are in the midst of a human-driven extinction," says Pimm, "one that seems to have started as soon as modern humans moved out of Africa some 200,000 years ago and began entering new lands."

Now with people spread across the globe—and our population rising—species are disappearing at an astonishing rate. "I think we are likely to lose 25 to 50 percent of God's creation over the next century," says Pimm. "And that raises many ethical questions. Don't we have a moral responsibility to the other creatures around us?"

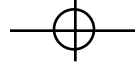


For Pimm that answer is yes. "I think we have to stop and think about the decisions we make in our individual lives and in our societies. We tend to be very shortsighted, driven by short-term gains. And somehow we've got to recognize that the environment is the center of our lives; it is not a marginal issue. We have to make that shift—or the environment will make it for us."

In driving Earth's creatures to extinction, humans are diminishing their own world in an irreversible manner. Extinction, as Pimm says, is forever.

Reprinted from *The National Geographic* online, February 1999.

Photo: Jack Jeffrey



The Ramifications of Population

Population and Environment



WATER. Humanity's use of freshwater soared sixfold over the last century, and continues to rise. Demand is expected to increase by over a third over the next 25 years and to almost double for drinking water. And yet water is getting scarcer. Already, one-third of the world's people live in countries where water is in short supply; by 2025 two-thirds of them will do so. About one in every five people on Earth now lacks safe drinking water.

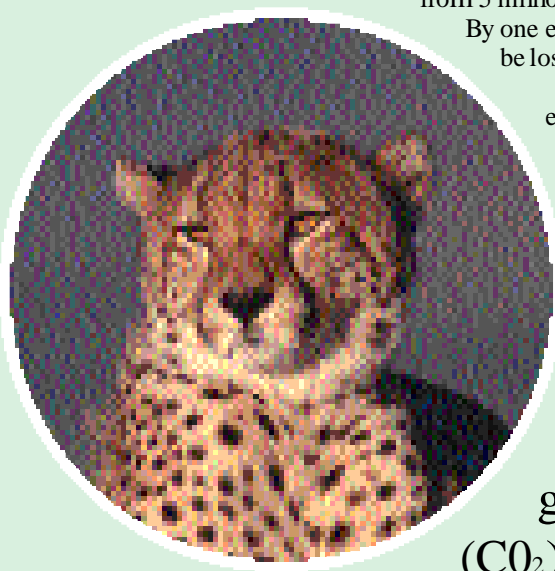
Acquifers of underground water, built up over millennia, are being exploited faster than they can be replenished; every year, 160 billion tons of water are being "mined" in this way in China, India, North Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the United States alone. The water table under the north China plain, which produces 40 percent of the country's grain harvest, is falling by 1.6 meters a year, while the

International Water Management Institute estimates that the depletion of Indian aquifers could cut the country's grain harvest by a quarter. Meanwhile, international tensions over shared rivers are rising, threatening water wars.

SOIL. It can take up to 1,000 years for a couple of centimeters of topsoil to form. But increasingly this much soil is being washed or blown away in a few seasons. Every year, the world loses some 25 billion tons of soil. Some 2 billion hectares of arable and grazing land worldwide, an area larger than the United States and Mexico combined, have been moderately or severely degraded, reducing its ability to produce food. Desertification costs the world \$42 billion a year in lost income. Soil erosion puts the livelihoods of nearly a billion people at risk. By one estimate, if degradation continues at its present rate, crop yields in Africa could be cut in half within 40 years.



FORESTS. Four-fifths of the forests that originally cloaked the Earth have been cleared, fragmented or otherwise degraded. About 40 percent of what is left is under threat. Some 16 million hectares of forest, an area about twice the size of Austria, are felled every year. As the trees disappear, the rainwater rushes off the land, stripping away topsoil and causing floods; it fails to percolate into the ground, causing water sources to dry up. Species become extinct, and global warming increases.



SPECIES.

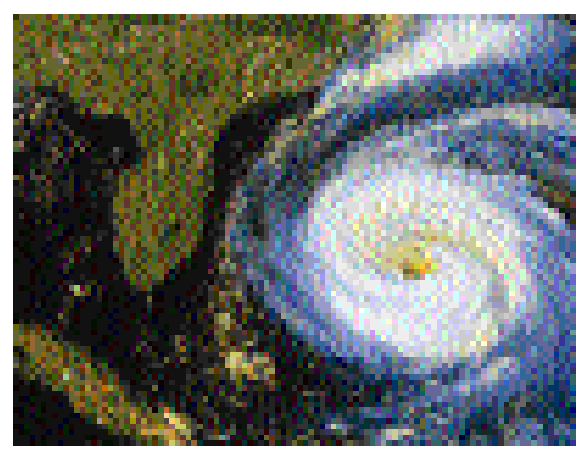
Species are being driven to extinction at least 1,000 times—and maybe 10,000 times—faster than they would die out naturally. No one knows how much damage is being done, partly because no one even knows how many species there are on Earth; estimates range from 5 million to over 100 million. But the damage is clearly accelerating. By one estimate, up to two-thirds of all the species on the planet may be lost over the next 100 years.

The world appears to be in the early stages of a mass extinction, to rival those of prehistoric times, the latest of which wiped out the dinosaurs. Great holes will be torn in the web of life, and countless species that could have brought great benefits to medicine and food supplies will be lost. On past evidence, it will take 10 million years—far longer than the expected lifespan of the human species—for the planet's life to recover its diversity.

On balance, human activities are contributing to global warming, as greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) are emitted and forests are felled.

WASTE.

Many countries have tackled the grossest forms of pollution over the last half century. Rivers have been cleaned up and skies cleared, particularly in developed countries. But 5 million of the world's poorest people die each year from diseases related to diarrhea, largely because they lack safe water. Another 2.2 million die of respiratory conditions through burning smoky fuels in their homes. Meanwhile, newer forms of pollution, such as persistent organic pollutants (which concentrate up the food chain and can have severe health effects) and endocrine disruptors (which interfere with the hormone system) are causing increasing concern.



CLIMATE.

The climate is getting warmer. Eight of the hottest ten years on record occurred in the last decade. Glaciers are smaller than at any time in at least 5,000 years, and the Arctic Ocean has lost 40 percent of its ice cover in the last 30 years. Meanwhile, economic damage from disasters caused by extreme weather in 1998 alone exceeded the total for the whole of the 1980s.

The World Meteorological Organization/United Nations' Environment Programme's Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that, on balance, human activities are contributing to global warming, as greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) are emitted and forests are felled. CO₂ is now at record levels in the atmosphere.

The IPCC's best prediction is that global temperatures will rise by the greatest warming in 10,000 years, while sea levels will rise by 50 centimeters, enough to flood millions of people in low-lying deltas and coastal areas and to submerge some island nations beneath the waves. Such is the inertia in the world's system that once global warming has begun, it will be very hard to stop on any reasonable time scale.

Reprinted from *Our Planet: The United Nations Environment Programme*, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2000, written by Geoffrey Lean.

Thirsty Planet: Will Water Trigger the Next War?

by William Ickes

Water, the stuff of life, has become the source of dangerous friction, with developing nations jousting over water supplies as their populations soar and their environment deteriorates.

Ministers at the World Water Forum, which met in the Hague on March 21–22, 2000, were asked to help defuse the tensions by endorsing the idea of an international mediator in cross-border water disputes.

“Worldwide, at least 214 rivers flow through two or more countries, but no enforceable law governs the allocation and use of international waters,” Sandra Postel, a senior researcher for the U.S.-based environmental group World Watch Institute, points out.

According to the World Commission on Water, a 20 percent increase in fresh water will be needed by 2025, when the world’s population of six billion people is expected to have increased by three billion.

Ismail Serageldin, vice president of the World Bank, made an ominous prediction in 1995. “Many of the wars of this century were about oil—but the wars of the next century will be about water.”

The biggest flashpoint is the Middle East, a region that is predominantly desert in climate. The Middle East has a huge rate of population growth, shrinking aquifers, and a seething tradition of strife.

Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria all draw water from the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers, while Jewish settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank are heavily dependent on the Yargon/Tanninim aquifer and two others which lie under most of the areas’ disputed settlements.

In Gaza, the groundwater level is reportedly sinking by 15–20 centimeters (6–8 inches) a year, while its quality deteriorates due to encroaching seawater.

In Turkey, the massive Southeastern Anatolian Project’s dam system will have a

major impact on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, with untold consequences for Syria and Iraq downstream.

In Asia, the Ganges is crucial to India’s massive population of 1 billion, and that of Bangladesh, while five countries in central Asia share two rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya. They feed the Aral Sea, which has lost half of its area and 75 percent of its volume due to excessive river diversions for cotton production, stranding three million of the region’s 55 million people on its drying banks.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are seeking solutions to the crisis, but no recognized treaty allocates the basin’s water.



An irrigation drain on Africa



In Indochina, tension is rising along the Mekong, where dam projects in China and Laos and water diversions in Thailand will radically affect the river's ecological balance, to the probable detriment of Cambodia and Vietnam.

Around 60 million people depend on the basin below the southern Chinese province of Yunnan, and saltwater intrusion is already a serious problem in the Mekong Delta.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, the need for freshwater is greater in Africa than anywhere else in the world. "Africa has 19 of the 25 countries in the world with the highest percentage of populations without access to safe drinking water," says the agency's spokesman, Jorge Illneca.

Algeria and Tunisia are among the countries already suffering from water stress, a term that applies to freshwater consumption that exceeds 10 percent of the available supply.

Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan are among the eight thirsty countries drawing water from the Nile. Egypt's population is expected to breach the 100 million mark over the next three decades. U.N. and independent relief officials, meanwhile, fear that up to eight million Ethiopians may suffer hunger or starvation this year because of drought.

Farther south, UNEP has had some success in mediating water disputes in the southern Zambezi river basin and in the Lake Chad basin, according to its executive director Klaus Toepfer. Toepfer hopes to transform UNEP into a global mediator on water conflicts, after convincing the governments of Bolivia and Peru to sign a treaty over the disputed Lake Titicaca.

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the zpg reporter

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WELCOME to all who have recently joined ZPG and are receiving The ZPG Reporter for the first time. And thanks again to all of our members; we deeply appreciate your concern, your participation in ZPG's on going projects, and your financial support. You make our work possible and effective.

What's Eating the World? Ecological economists say supply of natural resources is limited

by Kirvil Skinnarland and Amy Solomon, Special to The Seattle Times

Two things are unlimited: the number of generations we should feel responsible for, and our inventiveness. The first provides us with a challenge: to feed and provide for not only the present, but all future generations, from the Earth's finite flow of natural resources. The second, our inventiveness, may create ideas and policies that will contribute to meeting that challenge."

—Jan Tinbergen,
Nobel Laureate in Economics

Almost 30 years ago, the Club of Rome, a group of international leaders from the scientific, business and governmental communities, were concerned enough about the direction of the global economy to commission scientists at MIT to investigate the long-term consequences of economic growth on population, industrial capacity, food production, resource consumption, and pollution.

To carry out their assignment, the scientists created a computer model of the world and used it to analyze many scenarios. The results were published in a 1972 book, *The Limits to Growth*, authored by Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows, and Jorgen Randers.

The authors warned that without limits on growth, the world would experience catastrophic declines in population and industrial output by the year 2100. They concluded that we must move toward an economy that is in equilibrium with the

Earth's finite flow of natural resources. The controversy sparked by this book continues today.

Many economists still believe that continued economic growth is the medicine for most of what ails humanity—a rising tide lifts all boats. To support this position, proponents cite statistics about growth in the global economy, increased life spans, improved agricultural outputs, higher standards of living, etc.

Ecological economists counter that the soaring living standards of industrialized countries have been made possible by the rapidly accelerating consumption of natural resources. While the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been growing, we have been drawing down our stocks of natural resources such as our water, trees, soil and clean air.

Despite critics' assertions to the contrary, those sounding the alarm are not saying that a dire future is inevitable. They do argue forcefully, however, that our future will be shaped by important choices we must now make.

In order to make prudent choices that will ensure a better future for all, we must rethink many of our assumptions about how the world works.

Our economy must change to reflect that most essential bottom line—that over the long term, human activity cannot exceed the sustainable carrying capacity of the Earth.

We must not use up, nor render unusable, those natural resources that our descendants will need for survival. If we run out of clean water, breathable air, and productive soil, economic growth will be the least of our concerns.

Ecological economists believe the global economy has passed from an era in which human labor and technology were the limiting factors in economic growth, to an era where the supply of natural resources is the limiting factor.



For example, the limiting factor in determining fish catch today is not the number of boats or fishermen, it is the reproductive capacity of fish populations; for many types of wood, it is remaining forests, not sawmill capacity.

Yet, our economy still values natural resources based on their extraction cost, not their true replacement value. Governmental subsidies make the use of virgin materials less expensive than other alternatives. And the price is close to zero for using our air, land, and water for disposal of waste.

As a result of inappropriate price signals, the ability of our planet to assimilate human waste, pollution and toxins, and to regenerate itself, is being severely stressed. Many scientists believe the Earth's capacity soon will be exceeded.

At first glance, it might seem that these problems are isolated and disconnected. But there are few areas of the world that are not experiencing decline in their natural resource base.

Close to 50 percent of the Earth's land surface has been altered from its original state by human activities such as filling wetlands, converting tall-grass prairies into cornfields, and converting forests into suburbs.

Approximately 50 "dead zones"—areas of water with little or no oxygen—have developed in ocean-coastal areas as a result of phosphorus and nitrogen from agricultural runoff. The worst of these, in the Gulf of Mexico, covers almost 8,000 square miles, the result of pollution in the Mississippi River.

Even more disturbing is the increasing evidence that we are bumping up against the capacity of the Earth to adapt to the pressures we are imposing on it.

The first unmistakable sign of human-induced change in the global environment was documented in 1985, when a team of British scientists published their findings that the ozone layer above Antarctica had been reduced by more than 40 percent from levels measured in the 1960s.

Scientists discovered that industrially produced chlorinated molecules were the culprits. The ozone layer is essential to life because it shields us from incoming ultraviolet solar radiation (ultraviolet B or UVB). While the biological effects of increased radiation are not entirely understood, scientists do know that exposure to ultraviolet radiation damages the human immune system, causes cataracts, and substantially increases the incidence of skin cancer.

Yields of most agricultural crops and reproductive rates of many marine species decline in response to increased UV-B radiation. While the world community has come together to reduce and ultimately stop production of known ozone-depleting chemicals, the ozone layer continues to thin.

We won't know for another 100 years whether we have responded in time because it takes the upper atmosphere that long to cleanse chlorine from its system.



Who is paying to treat the millions of people who have developed skin cancer, or to compensate farmers and fishers for the decreased production of agricultural crops and ocean fisheries? How are we going to feed, clothe, and shelter an expanding global population when human activity is causing declines in virtually all natural systems?

These are the questions we must ask ourselves when trying to decide whether our economic assumptions reflect current realities.

Many people still wish to believe that scientific advances will outpace resource scarcity. It is true that limits to production of goods can be overcome if there are available substitutes for those goods. In the case of many natural resources, we can substitute a more abundant resource for one that is scarce.



For example, Cargill and Dow Chemical are teaming up to make a biodegradable plastic from renewable resources such as corn or wheat, instead of from petroleum. But what are the substitutes for pollination of crops by bees and insects, for creation of soil, for reg-

ulation of climate and for protection provided by the ozone layer from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays? These essential services are provided by nature for free and they may not be replaceable.

The transition of the American economy from manufacturing to services and information technology should not hide the basic fact that we still depend upon the Earth for our existence. This "high-tech" economy creates the illusion that our society has become less dependent on natural resources.

The facts speak otherwise.

Since 1950, global demand (per capita) for lumber has doubled, and paper use has gone up nearly sixfold. In the United States, consumption of materials (minerals, wood products, metals, and synthetics) has grown 18-fold since 1900.

Clearly our priorities need to be reduce, reuse, and then recycle. But this mantra does not fit well with an economic system based on growth, ever-expanding consumerism and a culture that highly values material wealth.

Herman Daly, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins, and Paul Hawken are leading the way in advocating for a new form of capitalism which they call "natural capitalism." They propose a market economy in which all forms of capital, including human and natural, are fully valued. They also recommend greatly increasing the efficiency with which we use natural capital and eliminating all waste from our economic activities.

Nature is a closed-loop production system that is fed by solar energy. In mature ecosystems, all waste and byproducts are recycled and used or absorbed somewhere else in the system.

In contrast, our manufacturing systems currently follow a one-way, linear model—things are created, used, and discarded.

Although little noted by the media, a number of progressive businesses in the United States and elsewhere have already embraced this new philosophy and are taking steps to carry it out.

Consider the business model of Interface, a large industrial carpet company based in Atlanta. It prefers to lease, rather than sell, carpet to its customers. The carpet is manufactured in square "tiles," which can be individually replaced in worn areas, allowing for more efficient use and more uniform appearance of the carpet.

Interface's newest product, Solenium, is nontoxic, uses 35 percent less material per tile and lasts twice as long. And, remarkably, Interface takes the carpet back at the end of its useful life and remanufactures it into an identical, clean, brand-new product.

The American economy, a model emulated by much of the world, makes intensive use of energy and natural resources. In a world with finite natural resources, this raises a troubling question about the equity of distribution of those resources.

America's wealth (and our appetite for material possessions) results in our use of about a third of all the materials that pass through the global economy. If the rest of the world were to duplicate our rates of consumption and waste, we would need the resources of several more planets like ours.

Kirvil Skinnarland and Amy Solomon are on the board of directors for Sustainable Seattle, a not-for-profit organization that has been recognized internationally for its indicators of community sustainability.

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Half of the world's forests have disappeared, and tropical deforestation continues at an alarming rate. About 9 percent of all tree species are at risk of vanishing. (Source: World Resources Institute)

Scientists believe 135 bird species inhabited the Hawaiian islands before the first human settlers arrived by canoe 1,500 years ago. Only 30 are still in existence today, with only ten having any chance of long-term survival. (National Geographic website)



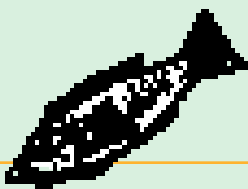
More than 81 million people are added to the planet each year—the equivalent of adding another population the size of Los Angeles monthly. More than 1 billion people are added to the world every decade. (Sierra Club)

Compiled by Lee S. Polansky, Editor

Pop



Poverty



Dams and other diversions have fragmented 60 percent of the world's largest rivers, and 20 percent of the world's freshwater fish have disappeared or are in danger of vanishing.

(Source: World Resources Institute)

Half of the world's wetlands have been lost over the past 100 years.

(Source: World Resources Institute)





Zero Population Growth and Ecotours— A Perfect Fit

by Jay Keller, National Field Director



Exotic lands, cultural treasures, rich traditions ... That means adventure travel! But what is the future of adventure travel if we don't protect places of beauty? And what if you could blend the travel experience with education and opportunities to get involved in saving those places?

ZPG has formed a working partnership with Away.com, one of the largest eco-travel sites on the world wide web.

Why Away.com? As Away.com's Andreas Kristinus, Senior Vice President of Ecotourism, explained, "We'd really like Away.com to educate travelers about the impact of population growth." ZPG is always looking for new ways to broaden our audience and we've seen that the web holds great promise for reaching out. Andreas knows and cares deeply about population issues, and he's been a long-time friend of ZPG from his days at the National Wildlife Federation.

As Away.com's "population resource," ZPG posts information on population pressures on Away.com's website. ZPG staff members will respond to e-mail questions on population that Away.com receives from its members. ZPG will have access to Away.com's current membership base of 700,000, which

is growing by 100,000 members a month. The site generates about three million "hits" and they send about 11.5 million e-mails a month. Partnering with Away.com will get the ZPG message to many new people.

By linking population growth and eco-travel, Away.com and ZPG will spread the message that all things are related. We want all travelers to know that by supporting family planning, they can help improve both the quality of life and the environmental condition around the world.

The Combined Federal Campaign

Workplace giving is one of the most effective means of fundraising because it reaches large groups of people. Federal government employees nationwide can support ZPG through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). ZPG is a member of the America's Charities Federation, one of the groups included in the CFC.

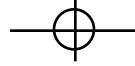
CFC #477

All funds designated to ZPG through the CFC go directly to the organization, helping to keep overhead costs low. If you're a federal employee, you can give to ZPG by designating your CFC contribution to #477. Your support is greatly appreciated!

For information, call or write:

ZPG Director of Development
1400 Sixteenth Street, NW, Suite 320
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 332-2200 or
toll free at 1-800-767-1956

Population and Environment



Participants gather in ZPG courtyard for a break during training.

More than 110 participants from all over the country converged on Washington, DC, for the very successful 4th Annual Capitol Hill Days. Co-sponsored with the National Wildlife Federation, the event attracted activists of all ages, including college students.



ZPG Director of Government Relations Brian Dixon (left) and Brian Baird, U.S. Representative (D-WA).

Capitol Hill



Activists at Capitol Hill reception listen intently to speakers.



Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH), Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, meets with former ZPG staffer Kathryn Schantz and Marietta (OH) College student Rick Miller.

After two days of training, ZPG activists met with members of Congress to urge support for H.R. 3634, the "Saving Women's Lives through International Family Planning Act"—gaining nearly 30 additional co-sponsors as a result of their visits!

On the final day of training, activists were joined by Reps. Brian Baird (D-WA) and Shelly Berkley (D-NV) and dozens of Capitol Hill staffers for an evening reception on Capitol Hill.

As Chris Register (University of North Carolina-Wilmington) noted, "My experience during Capitol Hill Days 2000 was exhilarating, motivating, inspiring, and just awesome. ZPG gave me the hands-on experience with Congress that helped me realize that I can make a difference, and that the government is not some untouchable institution that is off limits to people like me."

Are you interested in joining us at next year's event? E-mail us at lobbydays@zpg.org

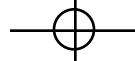
Days



From left, Leticia Bugarin (Berkeley, CA), Rep. Brian Baird and Carolyn Matthews (Tulsa, OK).



Activists confer during training. Photos by Christopher Jesse Lands, Jay Keller and Monica Saenz



washington view

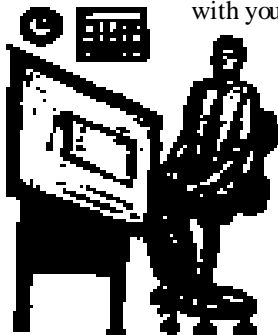
by Heather L. Smith, Senior Legislative Associate

Congress is on Vacation—Time to Meet with Your Legislators at Home

Congress will be on summer recess until after Labor Day. When they return, we will be facing possible funding and policy attacks on domestic and international family planning programs. Upcoming votes on these population issues are expected to be won or lost by a razor-thin margin. While they are home, then, it is critical that members of Congress hear from all ZPG members in support of population assistance programs!

Now is the perfect opportunity to meet with your members of Congress in their district offices. Now is the time to urge them, in person, to support population-related legislation and to especially oppose any cuts in funding for domestic and international family planning programs. If you need help scheduling an appointment, please contact ZPG's Government Relations Department at 1-800-767-1956 for assistance.

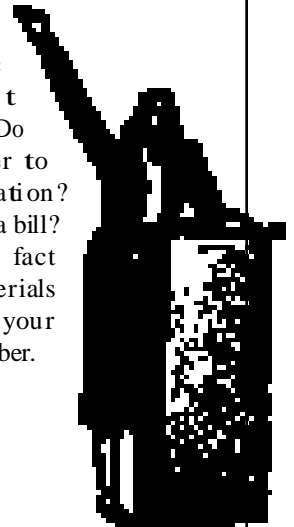
Here are some quick tips you should remember when scheduling appointments with your legislators:



Do your homework: Use ZPG's Congressional Report Card from the Winter 2000 Reporter, or use our website at www.zpg.org to research your member's voting record and positions on population issues.

Plan ahead: Prepare an agenda for your meeting and get copies of materials that you would like to distribute. Choose only a few issues to focus on at the meeting.

Present your case: Don't argue. Be specific about what you want your member to do. Do you want the member to vote for some legislation? Against? To co-sponsor a bill? Remember to leave fact sheets and other materials that will reinforce your position with your member.

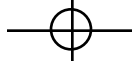


Follow up: Send a thank-you note as soon as possible. Keep in touch with the member.

For help organizing your congressional visits, please contact ZPG's Government Relations Department at 1-800-767-1956 or visit our Legislative Action Center on ZPG's web site at

www.zpg.org





2000 Candidate Questionnaire

How to Use the 2000 Candidate Questionnaire: You can mail this questionnaire to the local, state or congressional candidate(s) of your choice or use it as a guide to interview the candidate in person or over the telephone.

We'd appreciate it if you would send a copy of the completed form to ZPG's Government Relations Department. Please keep the other copy and use it to educate voters about your candidates' opinions.

<p>Date: _____</p> <p>To: _____ (candidate name)</p> <p>Address: _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>From: _____ (constituent name)</p> <p>Address: _____ _____ _____</p>
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Dear Candidate,

As a voter in your district, I am concerned about the impact of population pressures on my community and on the world. I am writing to ask your views on population growth, environmental degradation, and the actions you can, or will, take to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

Please complete the following questionnaire by circling "YES" or "NO" so that I may help educate fellow voters about your opinions on this issue.

- I. Every year, world population grows by more than 80 million people—almost equal to the current size of Germany. Nearly 95 percent of that increase occurs in the poorest countries in the world.
 - A. Do you support an increase in U.S. assistance to help those nations provide voluntary family planning services to all women and men who want them?
YES NO (circle one)
 - B. Do you support repealing restrictions on U.S. funding of international family planning programs, such as the Global Gag Rule, which prohibits overseas' organizations from participating in public debate about abortion?
YES NO (circle one)

- II. The United States is already the third most populous country on earth with a population of over 270 million. It is also one of the fastest growing industrialized countries, adding about 2.5 million new people every year. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by the year 2050 the U.S. population will surpass 394 million people.
 - A. Should stabilizing the population be a national goal?
YES NO (circle one)

(See Over)



III. Each year in the United States, nearly 50 percent of all pregnancies and 30 percent of all births are unintended. What action would you take to ensure a woman's ability to choose the number and spacing of her children?

IV. Title X is the nation's primary family planning program. Each year, Title X provides 4.2 million low-income women and 1.2 million teenagers with services such as family planning counseling and services, pelvic and breast exams, blood pressure screening, sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment, and cervical cancer screening. Title X does not fund abortion services.

A. Do you support an increase in funding for Title X, or state family planning assistance programs?

YES NO (circle one)

B. Do you oppose restrictions limiting the access of teens to family planning services?

YES NO (circle one)

V. Currently, less than half of all health plans provide coverage for any one prescription contraceptive, and only 15 percent cover all five FDA-approved prescription contraceptives.

A. Do you support legislation requiring health plans to cover prescription contraceptives as they do other prescription drugs?

YES NO (circle one)

VI. With more than one million pregnancies among teenagers in the United States every year, we have one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the industrialized world.

A. Do you support comprehensive sex education (always including both abstinence education and contraceptive information) in public schools?

YES NO (circle one)

B. What do you propose to do to address the problem of teen pregnancy?

Thank you for taking the time to address these issues.

This questionnaire is provided to all members of Zero Population Growth as a public service to encourage citizens to exercise their right to question candidates for public office. These questions are intended for all candidates, on local, state and national levels, regardless of party affiliation.

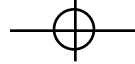


Photo: Christopher Hayes Lewis



Sarah Joy Albrecht

FROM THE DESK OF...

ZPG's Campus Coordinator, Sarah Joy Albrecht

April 18th-19th - Central College, Pella, IA. Signed up tons of enthusiastic students for ZPG's Campus Outreach Program after I did the "Food for Thought" PopEd demo. Lots of questions about global distribution of people and resources.

April 20th - Knox College, Galesburg, IL. Spoke to KARES (Knox Advocates for Recycling and Environmental Support), the campus environmental action group. Very enthusiastic response.

April 22nd - Earth Day Chicago!! Hundreds of environmental organizations, eco-friendly vendors, and activists celebrating Earth Day. Staffed table with ZPG activists Tim Olivas and Dr. Lora Chamberlin. Gathered hundreds of signatures for the Gag Rule Petition and showed the population video over and over!

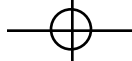
April 24th - University of Illinois, Champaign, IL. My alma mater! Worked with some old friends and activists I knew as a student and leader on campus.

April 26th - Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Exciting day! Interviewed on camera by the campus TV station, giving me a chance to discuss why population is such an important issue and what we should do about it. Event well-covered by campus paper.

April 27th - University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Met law students for a discussion of policy issues and got students to circulate Global Gag Rule petitions.

May 1st - Carthage College, Kenosha, WI. Did a PopEd workshop with math education students.

If you're interested in finding out more, contact ZPG's Campus Outreach Program at campus@zpg.org or 1-800-767-1956. Get involved!



Ed Begley, Jr.



Joseph Gordon-Levitt

JOIN US FOR GALA EVENTS In New York and Los Angeles!

After the spectacular success of the last three Annual ZPG Awards Dinners, we're holding two Awards Dinners this year—one in New York and one in California.

Our goal is to raise additional funds for our vital programs and to increase the visibility of ZPG and its mission in stabilizing population.

We've got a fabulous line-up of committee members who will be helping us with the dinners, including Ted Turner, Bob Shaye & Mike Lynne of New Line Cinema, Andy Tobias, Fredda Weiss, Dina Merrill, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Alan Horn of Warner Bros., and Ed Begley, Jr.

We expect even more celebrities, as well as corporate and business leaders, to sign up.

Where and When:

The New York dinner will be held on Wednesday evening, November 8, 2000, at the historic Puck Building in Soho.

The Los Angeles event will be held on Thursday evening, December 7, 2000, at Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

- Each dinner will begin with a Private VIP cocktail party. Each evening will feature the awards ceremony and special entertainment. We're also planning special breakfast briefings with important speakers.

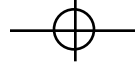
- The cost to the public for a dinner ticket is usually \$2,500, but for ZPG members we're offering the following packages:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| \$2,000 | • Reserved dinner seating for one person for either the New York or the Los Angeles event |
| | • Admission to the VIP cocktail party and breakfast briefing |
| | • One night's accommodation at either New York City's Grand Hyatt or West Hollywood's BelAge Hotel (Additional nights can be arranged for an additional cost.) |
| \$1,000 | • Reserved dinner seating for one for either the New York or the Los Angeles event |
| \$100 | • VIP breakfast briefing only (No charge for dinner attendees.) |
| \$150 | • Select seating for the evening awards ceremony and entertainment. Coffee and dessert will be served. |

Tickets may be purchased singly or in any combination. Space will be limited, so make your reservation today! Contact Tim Schenken at 1-800-767-1956 or e-mail timothy@zpg.org

We are seeking individuals to join the Dinner Committee as co-sponsors. Interested? Please contact Robert Kesten at 1-914-533-0270.





Students Give Sprawl the Small-Screen Treatment to Win National TV Writing Contest

by Pamela Wasseman, Director of Population Education and Mark Daley, Media Relations Manager

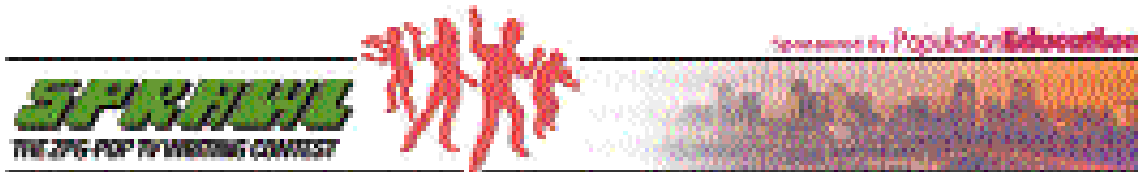
Top TV shows Just Shoot Me, The Simpsons, and Bear and the Big Blue House could be taking on one of the nation's most visible population-related problems—urban sprawl—if Michael Quill (IL), Helen Lin (TX), and Carly Furry (CA) have their way.

The winning trio beat out over 1,000 other budding Matt Groenings from across North America to pickup \$1,000 first prizes in the three categories of ZPG's second Pop-TV Writing Contest.

TX, imagined a sprawl-free Springfield in an episode of America's favorite dysfunctional Fox cartoon series, The Simpsons. And Carly Furry, an undergrad at California State University, Long Beach, revealed that sprawl is far from a "bear necessity" in Disney's critically-acclaimed kids show, Bear and the Big Blue House.

Despite the hard work of communities all over the country for "smart growth," sprawl continues to be an ever-growing

everyday problem almost everywhere. Eleven million acres of



The competition, combining pop culture and education, invited high school students (9–10 grades and 11–12 grades) and college undergraduates to write a plot for an episode of a current television show featuring the subject of urban sprawl. Judges included Chevy Chase, Star Trek Voyager Executive Producer Joe Menosky, the top writers from Buffy the Vampire Slayer, actor and environmentalist Alexandra Paul, actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Third Rock from the Sun) and President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Richard Moe.

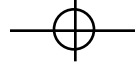
"The small screen has always had a huge impact on solving big problems. Sprawl is one of the biggest environmental problems facing communities in America today. And it's clear from the quality of the entries, young people are thinking about it," said ZPG President Peter H. Kostmayer.

Michael Quill, a sophomore from Glenbard North High School in Bloomingdale, IL, snapped up his prize for an episode of the popular NBC glam-mag sitcom Just Shoot Me. Helen Lin, a senior from John Foster Dulles High School in Sugar Land,

faunland—or two New Jerseys—have been lost to sprawl since 1980. Two billion hours are wasted in sprawl-related gridlocked traffic every year. And when sprawl delays trucks, it adds a budget-busting \$7.6 billion to the price of the goods we buy, which is enough to buy every high school class in the country new computers with Internet access!

The contest also provided teachers with an opportunity to promote sprawl research among their students. Last fall, 50,000 promotional posters were sent to teachers at every U.S. high school as well as to university faculty who teach environmental studies and creative writing courses. The official contest web site included a number of links to sprawl-related sites to aid students' research. In selecting the winning entries, judges looked for well-crafted treatments that showed an understanding of sprawl issues and proposed creative, humane solutions.

The winning treatments will be submitted to show producers for consideration. And if the judges' comments are anything to go by, they may just get made. For full details of winners, runners-up and their treatments, visit www.zpg.org.



ZPG's Pop-TV Writing Contest 2000 Winners



Grades 9-10: First Place

Michael Quill

Glenbard North High School, Bloomingdale, IL

Treatment: Just Shoot Me (NBC)

ON JUST SHOOT ME: "The notoriously greedy but well-meaning Jack Gallo provided the perfect character to be tempted by an environmentally unsound land deal."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL: "Suburban sprawl should be a concern to everyone, not just the farmer ... or the ecologist. It is a problem that can be controlled through proper planning and a small change in the way people do things, like taking public transportation instead of cars."



Grades 9-10: Second Place

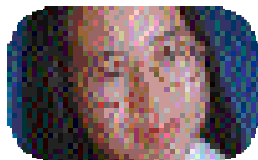
Halie Smith

Independent Studies/Home School, Eugene, OR

Treatment: The X-Files (FOX)

ON THE X-FILES: "I especially like the way the writers creatively address topics by flavoring their treatment using the unknown or 'mystical' side of events so viewers can use their imaginations. And I really like the way they always leave you guessing."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL: "I had already studied some effects of sprawl ... but I had no idea of the cost to our inner cities as well—that they are literally being drained of their lifeblood, both economically and socially. The idea of cookie-cutter suburbs and strip malls replacing our once thriving, unique downtowns is a sad reality of suburban sprawl."



Grades 11-12: First Place

Helen Lin

John Foster Dulles High School, Sugar Land, TX

Treatment: The Simpsons (FOX)

ON THE SIMPSONS: "The likeable and unforgettable characters provide valid commentary on both social and political aspects of our lives, often making their point with degrees of surrealism."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL: "It seems that sprawl is the underlying cause of many of our problems, yet not many of us realize the snowballing effect of sprawl."



Grades 11-12: Second Place

Joshua Link

Manchester High School, Clinton, OH

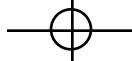
Treatment: All My Children (ABC)

ON ALL MY CHILDREN: "(I) could easily imagine urban sprawl as a plausible and intriguing story line that would be both entertaining and effective in arousing public awareness of the negative impact of urban sprawl."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL

"Urban sprawl is permanently devastating to our fragile ecosystem. We are as dependent on our ecosystem as our ecosystem is dependent on us. We must endeavor to preserve it, if we are to preserve our own existence."





Undergraduate: First Place
Carly Furry
California State University, Long Beach
Treatment: Bear and The Big Blue House (Disney)

ON BEAR AND THE BIG BLUE HOUSE: "What is so magnificent about Bear's show is that each episode translates an abstract or complex idea or issue into concrete ideas young children can understand."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL: "[This contest] gave me the opportunity to combine my love of writing, my love of children, and my love of the environment into a plot treatment that hopefully tackles the concerns of suburban sprawl and offers solutions that both children and adults can implement in their own backyards."

Undergraduate: Second Place
Cynthia Swaebly
University of California, Los Angeles
Treatment: Ally McBeal (FOX)



ON ALLY: "I chose to write for Ally McBeal because the show contains such bizarre situations and unique characters. The unusual and amusing idiosyncrasies of the characters make it very fun to write situations in which they might find themselves, or interesting dialogue in which they might engage."

ON SUBURBAN SPRAWL: "I now understand that suburban sprawl is a problem which affects all members of a community, and it is the daily decisions of each individual within that community to either increase the problem or remedy it."

POP-TV Contest Judges:

- Kenny Byerly, 1998 Pop-TV Writing Contest winner
- Chevy Chase, Actor and Comedian
- Jayni Chase, Founder, Center for Environmental Education
- Jane Espanson, Writer, Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Actor, Third Rock from the Sun
- Deron Lovaas, Sierra Club Sprawl Program
- Joe Menosky, Supervising Producer, Star Trek Voyager
- Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Marti Noxon, Writer, Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Alexandra Paul, Actor (formerly of Baywatch and Melrose Place)
- Doug Petrie, Writer, Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Maureen Putnam, University of Washington Geography Program
- Ocean Robbins, Founder and President, Youth for Environmental Sanity
- Chip Roughton, Independent Film Producer
- Melissa Young, Education Coordinator, Carnegie Science Center



... Wal-Mart is ^{still} trampling on women's rights...

... And we're ^{still} not smiling...

From Bangor, ME ... to Baltimore, MD... to Richmond, VA ... to Philadelphia, PA ... to Mountain View, CA...

We've been sending representatives of ZPG to try and persuade Wal-Mart to carry emergency contraceptives, so women who need them can get this necessary medication.

Yet, Wal-Mart continues to refuse women the full access to family planning that they so desperately need.

This is the only prescription medication that Wal-Mart won't carry due to a "business decision." We think that's just plain wrong.

Do you want to tell Wal-Mart that you think women should be able to purchase emergency contraceptives at Wal-Mart drugstores—which are often the only drugstores for miles?

Then go to your keyboard and type in: www.actionnetwork.org/zpgaction

Sign in to send a letter to Wal-Mart.

Or email e-action@zpg.org for more information.



ZPG ... FOR THE FUN OF IT!

ZPG...Spread the message!

ZPG works toward a future where people will live in a sustainable balance with the global environment and all its inhabitants. Now you can share this vision with others by owning this special artwork on a T-shirt, poster or greeting cards. Renowned environmental artist, Harriet Peck Taylor, has created this inspiring, brilliantly-colored batik image especially for ZPG!

ZPG T-Shirts

T-shirts are available in classic white or organic natural. Our white shirts have been bleached using an Earth-friendly process, while the organic shirts are made from unbleached cotton grown without pesticides or herbicides. The new organic fabric makes for the softest and most comfortable T-shirt anywhere!

Classic white: Code: Z2WS (S), Z2WM (M), \$10.00; Z2WL (L), Z2WX (XL) \$12.00;
Code: Z2WJ (XXL) \$14.00

Organic natural: Code: Z20S (S), Z20M (M), \$12.00; Z20L (L), Z20X (XL) \$14.00;
Code: Z20J (XXL) \$16.00



ZPG Wildlife Scene Poster

This high quality art poster is ideal for any room in your home as well as the office or classroom. Printed on recycled enamel paper. 25" x 27"
Code: ZPGP \$5.00



Order Now!
(800) 767-1956
or fax
202-332-2302

Greeting Cards

Send a card to friends and let them enjoy the beauty of people living in balance with the global environment, too! Printed on recycled cardstock.

Set of 12 cards and envelopes

Code: ZGRT \$5.00



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\$50.00-99.99	\$9.00	\$15.00
\$100 & up	10% of cost	30% of cost

Rush Orders:

For two-day shipping, add \$10 to your shipping and handling charge. Normal orders shipped within two weeks.

Your purchase of ZPG gifts and specialty items helps ZPG carry out its programs. Between 30 percent and 50 percent of the purchase

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