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## After Earth Day

Earth Day was a start, and may have been the launching date of a lasting crusade. But what will follow? The days following religious revivals and old-fashioned Fourth of July celebrations saw many backsliders and much business as usual. Earth Day, too, may be forgotten, or ears may be dulled by overexposure and people may quit listening to the Earth Day message.

No single event will keep people listening, and the tactics that gave Earth Day its impact will wear out too soon. The Sierra Club announced *Ecotactics*, its handbook for environmental activists, as dealing with "teach-ins, attacks on giant industry pollution practices, community concern, boycotts. . ." These are activities calculated to rouse excitement but they are not a long-range strategy for maintaining widespread concern for environmental problems or for understanding the management alternatives.

The selection of the question "How Can Our Physical Environment Best Be Controlled and Developed?" as the topic for high school debating teams for 1970-71 may have more lasting effect. Thousands of high school debaters will learn some of the facts and fears of environmental degradation and some of the possibilities for better maintenance of our earthly resources; they will become informed advocates for Mother Earth; and they will educate the classmates and parents who attend their debates.

The better general understanding of environmental issues has also been a concern of AAAS. Articles in *Science*, symposia at annual meetings television coverage of some of those symposia, and the activities of the Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare and the Committee on Environmental Alteration have all had this purpose.

The most recent AAAS contribution comes from the Commission on Science Education in the form of an extensive bibliography on science and society. The bibliography was compiled by one of the Commission members, John A. Moore of the University of California at Riverside. It lists some 1500 books and articles on population, food and nutrition pollution, natural resources, and related topics. The intent of Dr. Moore and the Commission was to help high school teachers whose student want to consider some of the large problems of man's environment and the bearing of science on those problems. The idea got a ready reception. The bibliography was published by the Battelle Memorial Institute, and the first 30,000 copies are now being distributed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to all of its members. Although the original purpose was to help high school students and teachers, the Battelle Institute and the AAAS Commission believe that scientists who are asked for advice or assistance on environmental matters will find the bibliography useful, and that it will also be useful to adult education groups and helpful in the training of future teachers. Interested individuals can secure copies by writing to the AAAS Commission on Science Education or to the Battelle Memorial Institute (501 King Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201) and asking for *Science and Society: A Bibliography*.

Earth Day was a day of excitement, indignation, and dedication. That was a start, but the problems Man has given Earth require more than a day; they need permanent attention. John Moore's bibliography is in a much lower key than a day of folk-rock music and environmental exhortation, but it is a useful contribution to the necessary strategy of keeping people listening to the true purpose of Earth Day.—DAEL WOLFLE

# Science

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Dael Wolfle

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