

**What about air pollution?** We breathe about 22,000 times a day and if we fill our lungs with junk our bodies do not need, and should not have, then what we are fooling with, is our survival, not just our well-being.

Recently evidence has been piling up about the danger of asbestos to health, yet Roman historians recorded in the first century AD, that people who spun asbestos into robes for the rich got a disease that sucked away their breath. Now that disease is known as asbestosis. Asbestos is an air pollutant which carries with it the potential for a nation-wide epidemic of lung cancer. Polluted air's major effect on health appears to be the results of irritants acting on respiratory tracts leading to many health hazards.

What comes up must come down and so there is mounting concern over acid rain. This is caused by pollutants such as sulphide and nitrate from coal-burning, mixing with rain clouds, and making the rain acidic. In Ontario the acid rain is killing the fish in the lakes. Pollutants are spewed into the air by factories from tall smoke stacks. Water vapour picks up these poisons which are carried by winds and fall as rain into lakes and streams having altered the water's alkaline balance from mild alkalinity to acidity. This acid precipitation has the potential to cause widespread effects on forests and crops in the future.

**Water Pollution?** Water is a basic necessity for life and pollution of it is an offence against public property. The individual who empties garbage cans into lakes, who leaves bottles on river banks, vandalizes not only his own amenities but everyone else's, is a polluter. No water exists in an absolutely pure state but the danger level varies. Water that is unfit for human consumption may be fit for industrial use. On the other hand, water that is safe for human beings may not be suitable for industrial use because of minerals which may have a corrosive effect on insides of boilers, etc.

**Soil Pollution.** It is associated with disposal of solid wastes and use of fertilizers, pesticides. But these are necessary in our farming operations and testing has proved it is excessive use, that causes pollution of our ever increasing levels of nitrates and so damage to crops and desirable vegetation. In careless hands they are dangerous. We have sewage disposal in soil rather than in a big sewage system because no material cleans nutrients or disease causing microbes from waste water as well as earth does.

PCB'S may be the world's most widespread contaminant. The PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) story illustrates effectively that humanity continually creates conditions it cannot control. PCB'S used to be manufactured to be used as cooling fluid in electrical transformers. They are toxic substances capable of destroying cells in vital body organs and inducing cancer and death. Their stability and non-inflammable characteristics have led to increasing use in oils, plastic bottles, and a host of other products. Proposed storage facilities are not welcomed although one burning operation at Kingston is under study.

**Noise Pollution.** The world is a noisy place these days and concern is mounting among researchers about the possible effects on humans. It can no longer be considered a nuisance, it is a form of pollution. Its most obvious damage is on human hearing but damage does not stop at the ear. Long term studies on rhesus monkeys show the cardiovascular system may be effect-

ed, as well as elevated blood pressure.

Increasingly we find ourselves wondering about the direction of our 20th century progress. The choice would seem to be ours—exploit and spoil our environment and resources, or preserve and conserve as much as possible. We must not forget that while we can shape and create our own physical and social environment, we travel together on this spaceship with other forms of life. So we must adapt our influence on the natural environment to ensure the survival of all parts of this complex web of life and the inner substance which support life.



*Special guests join Dame Raigh Roe, ACWW President who sits between Dr. Carl Carstens, President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mayor Klose of Hamburg at opening ceremony.*

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## DIALOGUE SESSIONS

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This provided a forum for developing and developed countries to exchange views, some thoughts projected:

KENYA expressed thanks for help in the water well project and said they hoped to have 2 million trees planted within 3 years.

ZIMBABWE reviewed problems caused by war, now they face depleted resources.

GHANA'S biggest problem is loss of volunteers, government pay its committee workers and volunteers now demand pay also.

INDIAN women are receiving education in technical areas also money to help their families, so they no longer are willing to work on local level.

PAKISTAN needs funds for nutrition educator to lessen malnutrition.

FIJI are conducting training courses on "healthy families."

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## FOLK CONCERT

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Germany's culture involved several hundred local people and some from far and near came to present a vision of their country in song and dance.

Some of the baroque instruments used were originals, 3000 years old.

Beginning with a village wedding, costumes had to be seen to be appreciated. Some of the girls wore aprons, while red handkerchiefs peeked from boy's pockets. There were farming costumes with colors representing meadows and woods with black for moors and violet for