

DIARY OF A MADMAN



'Slack'

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something destructive about the desperate condition of being "antsy" or the death-like paralysis that results from "planning for tomorrow," rather than "living for today." I'm not content with certain aspects of my life, but I am comforted knowing I can change my life at any time, as Joel did. I need that next

transition, and when I get bored it's because I believe something imminent is about to happen.

It doesn't matter if I become a journalist. It is not important.

What is important is that I sense fully, live consciously and acquire wisdom along my special path—a path that gives me boredom and frustration as gifts.

—Jo Bradsky is a junior broadcast journalism major and Diversions Contributor

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Setting examples

Wastefulness shouldn't be copied

ELEVENTHOUR:

PLANET WATCH



Nov. 4, 1992
"White man's burden?"

What if you had to file an Environmental Impact Statement on your life?

I was catching up on some reading last week, including the Time magazine report, "Rich vs. Poor" (June 1, 1992) about the Earth Summit in Rio. "The U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population. It uses 25 percent of the world's energy, emits 22 percent of the world's CO2 produced and accounts for 25 percent of the world's GNP.

"India has 16 percent of the world's population. It uses 3 percent of the world's energy, emits 3 percent of all CO2 produced, and accounts for 1 percent of the world's GNP."

Those kinds of statistics have been around for a good while now. Usually they are stated like that to suggest something unfair about the contrast—the realities those statistics represent. But the original reason for determining our Gross National Product was so we could be proud of it—the bigger the better.

It doesn't matter what is being produced or what the stuff costs. It doesn't matter where it comes from, where it ends up or who's going to pay for it. What counts is what it sells for. It's measured in

dollars. That's the status quo. That's the way it is.

"... U.S. delegates backed the status quo on one topic after another, insisting over and over that 'the American life-style is not up for negotiation.'"

That's our government representing us. We are consumers just going about our busy-ness. Until a significant number of Americans show a desire and the will to change our patterns of consumption, our government will take us to war if necessary to maintain our status.

The Big Question now is how much of all the stuff that you have, use and want is really going to make you healthy, happy or wise? There is obviously a good deal of excess baggage being shuffled around. Our disposal of our disposable income is assumed to reflect our success. Like the GNP, it doesn't matter what the money is being spent on. It's a

measure of quantity, not quality, and the example we're setting is suicidal.

Back when the "civilized" world began colonizing the rest of the world, "the white man's burden" was a phrase used to describe the difficult job of turning all the heathens on to "culture" and Christianity. I believe history shows that the relationships have not been equitable.

It hasn't been much of a burden reaping the harvests of those colonies. The phrase was twisted in the first place. Now it's twisting back.

Not only do we have our own ecological messes to tend to, but developing nations will require a great deal of assistance, for our own good, to avoid the environmental mistakes we've been making. The longer we put it off the harder it will be.

—Daniel Clinchard

DUMPSTER DIVING, Some Helpful Hints:

Dumpster diving is the fine art of absconding with other people's garbage — often for it's caloric content.

- You will be in and out of dumpsters, so wear suitable clothing.
- Remember that the garbage is private property and that diving for it is a crime, so don't get caught.
- Avoid eating anything that no longer smells like food. Food in enclosed containers is preferable.
- Dumpsters behind fast food restaurants are good prospects, but they sometimes keep them locked up.
- Call ahead to a pizza place just before closing and order take out, then don't show up. You'll find it in the garbage if you don't choose anything a worker might want to take home.
- Never take a date.
- Never dive in the trash behind a Chinese restaurant.

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