Dear Friends and Fellow Students,

Our campus sits along the northwest edge of Escambia Bay, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico at Pensacola, Florida. So far this year, Escambia Bay has suffered over 60 major fish kills, each one of close to or more than a million fish - food fish, sport fish, 'commercial fish', you name it.

These kills have been traced to industries and municipalities just north of and on the bay, which have been using the Escambia River and the bay for a dump. One such industry is Monsanto Co., which, as of January, 1970, was dumping into the river, and the bay, the following wastes:

10,000 lbs/day 5 day biological oxygen demand
3,900 lbs/day total organic carbon
1,875 lbs/day TKN
1, 331 lbs/day nitrite nitrogen
1,104 lbs/day ammonia nitrogen & nitrite
421 lbs/day total phosphate
264 lbs/day ortho phosphate

One of Monsanto's most advertized and ecologically deleterious products is Astro Turf, an artificial grass; some of its other products are Arochlor (1250) compounds and herbicides. Because our public officials have been tragically slow to respond, and because citizen initiated 'pollution control' legislation is being successively weakened and stifled, and will have only moderate 'success' if ever passed, we have concluded that only economic sanctions can force the industries involved to recycle their wastes and quit using the Escambia River - the public domain - for a dump.

We intend to take sanctions against all industries, of which there are six locally, dumping into the Escambia River and the bay. To establish our effectiveness, we have decided to begin by calling for a boycott of Astro Turf, the Monsanto product that depends most heavily on the college market. We desperately need your support. There is nothing less at stake than the bay itself - the bay which is a integral part of our biosphere, is essensial to a balanced environment.

It doesn't take much thought to realize that Escambia Bay is about as important to you as it is to us. By supporting our boycott you not only deny revenue to an enemy of the bay, you also help assert, for once, thatour waters and our skies are not dumps, and that even large industries must be held responsible for their wastes.

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- we ask that you put up with natural grass for a good while longer
- We ask that you compell your friends and local industries not to buy Astro Turf and other Monsanto products
- We very respectfully and urgently request that you obtain, through your student government and alumni associations, a binding, official promise not to purchase Astro Turf until Monsanto quits dumping its wastes into Escambia River and Escambia Bay.
- We recommend that before you or your college administration buy any other sort of artificial grass, you determine that manufacturer is not, like Monsanto, using the environment for a dump.

We need your active response to this appeal, even if you have no need at your institution for Astro Turf. Your support is urgently requested. Please send us notification of your administration's promise not to purchase Astro Turf as soon as it can be obtained.

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Responsible Env Act Program
P.O. BOX 294
Gonzalez, Fla. 32560
November 11, 1970

Editor/ Campus Newspaper

Dear Editor,

We hope that the letter enclosed is self-explanatory, and we desperately hope that you can find the space to publish it in some form - in a current edition of your campus newspaper. We ask that, without changing the thrust of the statement, you put it in terms your student fellowing will find most readable. We will be grateful for whatever support ensues. (The University of Florida Environmental Action Group, for instance, plans to put a full page advertisement of our boycott on its next homegame program.) Most importantly, we seek an official response to our appeal, whether, yea or nay, from your school administration. And we ask that you send that word on to us as soon as it comes down.

Sincerely Yours,

Richard Sanfilippo

Richard Sanfilippo
President, R.E.A.P.

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