

## EARTH DAY

# MOVEMENT TO HELP THE PLANET IS GOING STRONG

By **KATHIE DURBIN**

*Columbian staff writer*

Earth Day is middle-aged now, but the annual celebration of the planet we call home shows no sign of slowing.

The April 22 event was born in 1970, during some of the darkest days of the Vietnam War. It gave a positive focus to the youthful idealism of the times, providing the momentum for passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. It has survived because 36

years later, there is still plenty of work to do to protect Mother Earth.

Former U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day in a bold move to put the environment on the national political agenda. His inspiration came from the anti-war "teach-ins" that were occurring on college campuses across the nation.

At a Seattle conference in September 1969, Nelson an-

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# Earth Day:

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nounced that the following spring there would be a nationwide grass roots demonstration on behalf of the environment.

"The response was electric," Nelson wrote in a history of

Earth Day. "It took off like gangbusters."

## A variety of local activities

This year, Earth Day is on Saturday, and activities are scheduled in the Vancouver-Portland area all week to mark the event, from yanking ivy to debating global warming to recycling those worn-out athletic shoes.

■ Today, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Gaiser Hall Student Center, Clark College: Environmental Awareness and Non-Profit Fair. Featured agencies include Watershed Stewards, Southwest Clean Air Agency and Friends of Clark County. Free.

■ Today through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Gaiser Hall, Clark

College: Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program. Worn athletic shoes will be accepted for conversion to Nike Grind, a material used to make basketball and tennis courts, running tracks and playground surfaces. Five receptacles will be located in Gaiser Hall. No metal rivets, cleats or spikes.

■ Tonight, 8:30 p.m., Buckley Hall, Room 310, University of Portland: Town hall meeting on the topic of oil dependence and global warming. The event will feature remarks by Luke Tonachel, a policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council and a leader of its Break the Chain campaign to reduce U.S. dependence on oil. Free.

■ Wednesday, Gaiser Hall Student Center, Clark College:

Guest speakers Dave Cox of Soil Builders, 10 to 11 a.m.; Alexis Paul of Clark Public Utilities Environmental Services, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Brenda Stanton, owner of Old Town Saturday Market in Battle Ground, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; and Beverly Doty, permaculture and sustainable gardening, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

■ Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m., Waterworks Park: Ivy pull. Volunteers will meet outside Clark College Security Office, Gaiser Hall.

■ Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon, David Douglas Park: Earth Day work project involving removal of invasive English ivy, protection of existing native plants and trees, and application of bark chips to stabilize park trails. Contact Ameri-

Corps volunteer coordinator Eric Himelfarb, 360-619-1224.

■ Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Clark College parking lot: hazardous waste collection. For information, call Rebecca Wale, Clark College environmental health and safety coordinator, 360-992-2251.

■ Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m., Washington State University Vancouver Student Services Building auditorium: Showing of the 30-minute documentary "Common Ground: Oregon's Ocean," which presents solutions for protecting and restoring ecosystems. Following the film, scientists, fishermen, conservationists and the audience will discuss the challenges facing Pacific Coast fisheries and coastal communities.