

Beat the Blahs . . .**wear
a
button**

Don't just sit there! Assert yourself! Throw that shawl from around your shoulders, straighten your spine and stick out your chest!

Wear a button!

Michigan environmentalists almost wore their hearts on their sleeves last year and it looks as if they plan to continue right on through 1971.

They showed their sentiments by pinning a bevy of catchy-worded buttons on T-shirts, dress shirts, caps, ties, pant suit tops, sport coats--you name it and it was buttoned for all the world to read.

The shiny badges of their convictions offered such slogans as "Give Earth A Chance," "Two's A Family--Three's A Crowd," "Pollution Is Un-American," "How Dense

Should People Be?," "Love It Or Lose It."

There was, of course, much more than met the eye to this button-wearing bingie of 1970. Behind what may have seemed to be simply a faddish movement surged a restive spirit, eager to right the environmental wrongs of these times.

As symbols of this charged-up campaign against the whole pollution "smear," the buttons came popping out in great profusion when a series of precedent-setting environmental teach-ins were staged in college campuses across the state.

The teach-ins, most of them synchronized on April 22--Earth Day nationwide--were marshalling points for the now-or-never mood among youth to clean up the environ-

ment. The prevailing view of Earth Day was aptly put by one student leader at the University of Michigan when he said:

"We are looking to the world we will inherit, and we don't find it good enough."

There was a great deal of flap about the generation gap in 1970, but the younger and older sets bridged it in their zeal to knock down their common enemy--pollution.

Just as student groups were bent on forging out a better quality of life to inherit, so, too, did the older generation redouble its determination to leave behind a better world for those to whom the torch would be passed.

The mobilizing of these energies on many fronts was undoubtedly speeded and strengthened by the fact that the environmental crisis, like a timebomb, was ticking away--louder and louder. Natural resource leaders, ecologists, and scientists in Michigan and across the nation sounded the alarm--the countdown for survival.

Ralph A. MacMullan, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, tagged the 1970's as the Decade of



Decision. "During these next 10 years," he stressed, "we will take--or fail to take--the actions which will determine whether people will inhabit the Earth very far into the future."

He was telling the environmental threat as it was, and anyone who read a newspaper, listened to radio, or watched TV in 1970, was sure to get the same message. Michigan papers, for example, headlined such take-notice warnings as:

"World Oxygen Level Threatened by Pesticides," "Air Pollution Will Require Breathing Helmets

by 1985," "Experts Say Human Race May Have Only 35 Years Left."

While certainly not downplaying the tremendous challenge at hand, MacMullan and others saw hope for the future. Said he:

"I have faith that man... has the intelligence, the courage, the spirit and the will to solve his environmental problems within the shortening time allotted him. . . ."

Sound serious? It is. It's enough to shake you out of the blahs and make you start thinking what you can do about it. Start with a button--it could lead to bigger things.

Bury the Blahs (in snow)**hit
the
trail**

The best thing to do about mid-winter blahs is to square your jaw, wrap yourself in wooly wear and confront your tormentor face to face.

The nature trails at Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority parks are a good way to find out what's been happening to the southeastern Michigan landscape while you've been doing the ground hog bit.

There are labeled trails ideal for "self-guided" hikes. These include those at Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Utica, Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford, Hudson Mills Metropolitan Park north-

west of Ann Arbor and Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Belleville. All trails are open daily, except Stony Creek, which is closed on Mondays.

Grab that camera when you leave the house because William F. Hopkins, chief naturalist for the Authority, knows that you'll have a grand time "shooting" winter scenes, animal tracks and if you're lucky a deer or two.

To get your free brochure on these trails write: Nature Trails Brochure, % Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 600 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich. 48226 or call 961-5865.

Ah, spring.

— when fancy turns to thoughts of nature's awakening — discovering the wild flower, exploring picturesque streams. We welcome early tourists. Here they enjoy beautiful guest rooms, fine food, swimming in a domed pool, and a breathtaking view from the Top of the Park. (We even pretend not to notice honey-mooners.)

For information, write Park Place Motor Inn, Traverse City, Michigan 49684. For reservations, call collect: (616) 946-5410



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