Course Project – Environmental Experience

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I grew up in San Dimas California, living in California there is a lot of cultural influence even for young kid culture seemed to be a driving force in California. Through that culture when I was growing up there was not a lot of people taking into consideration Environmental precautions or sustainability. I was born in 1980 so all through the 80' up until after the Y2K turn of the new millennium. Economical sustainability factors within the culture were never really taken seriously back then. This was a time where people used to throw everything out their window from McDonald's wrappers to beer cans. Smog was a major issue I remember used to get sick every summer for living so close to L.A.

I grew up surfing the west coast since I was about four years old. Also, riding skateboards, bicycles, dirt bikes, and other types of sports like this played a major role in my life. As well as beach culture, it was a big influence on my life as well as it still is today.

When I was about 12-year old I used to go out to Palm Springs / Yucca Valley to spend the summer with my grandmother. I had a younger Uncle who was in his twenties at the time. He took me to this place called "The Bowl". It was some abandoned mansion owned by one of the Z-boys with a massive dried-out swimming pool on top of this mountain ridge of a desert sideroad of Yucca Valley. A lot of local bands used to go play there and older kids would go party there, but a lot of kids my age including myself would go to ride the swimming pool with our skateboards and bikes. I even remember one summer in 1993 I got to meet the guys from Red Hot Chili Peppers and Cypress Hill playing there. That was the first time I ever heard them or seen live bands that influenced me (I play guitar as well).

Regardless of these memories I had growing up in that place we are completely different from the times we are living in now people have no regard for nature they had no regard for cleaning up after themselves. People that make giant messes, I remember after those parties the whole place was just thrashed. Every summer before we had to go there, we had a sweep out the pool full of beer cans broken glass and everything else you can think of just a ride in it.

It was during this time one summer I asked myself "what the heck is wrong with people?" why do people just trash everything? why do not people take appreciation for the gift we are given like awesome place “The Bowl” and take care of it so we can enjoy coming back there again and again? In 1994 my last summer before I moved to Tampa Bay Fl, we ended up back there and a bunch of police officers ended up coming on the 2nd day to shut it down. Cops stepped in because a bunch of kids were just tearing something up to tear it up.

After this experience, I kind of developed some OCD tics about these matters kids usually did not have. I was also influenced to become a guitar player and Artist as well, but It never really made sense to me why people would just throw trash out the window or go out to the middle of nowhere and make a big bonfire pile it up of beer cans, trash, and bottles instead of just “bringing their won trash bag” and putting everything in it so we could keep coming back and not risk getting run off? It made no sense; Nonetheless, after that, I made sure to keep everything clean pick up after myself I would always tell my friends not to throw things out the windows. Some say I became quite annoying. This is the time I can pinpoint where I started becoming environmentally conscious about things.

The other terms and by-products of today's culture that we now experience was nowhere near the extent of the topics back then. I found that over the years I gained more influence into the sustainability of the environment.

After High School, I went to art college for 2 years in Tampa. I met at a lot of people who are culturally diverse with influences in eco-environmentally friendly outlooks and perspectives. I had many friends who were activists for beaches, clean water, and other environmental issues. Also, a few of those friends went off to serve in Green Peace as I can remember.

Me, on the other hand, I actually enlisted and joined the Airforce. I spent 5 years serving my country after 9/11 happened. unfortunately, I got injured, but none the less during my time in the service I got to experience going in many different countries and states.

Japan and Okinawa were one of my favorites it was surprising how clean and environmentally friendly everything was there. People out of respect for the oceans and respect their environment was completely different then here in the USA. It was really great culture to experience. I got to TDY out to Norway, Russia, and Vietnam as well. Though many places did not experience the freedoms we have here in America. The people in those regions respected what little they had especially their environment.

Even from Costa Rica or Guam, I witnessed how different cultures interacted and how they appreciate the environment. I was surprised to find that in several states here in America mainly Hawaii and Alaska how clean and respectful these states were. How locals and cities took pride in keeping taking care of the environment. Aside from banzai pipeline beaches in Japan, Hawaii has some of the most beautiful beaches on the planet. The state is always regulated locals' answer from polluting on their beaches. You can get fined up to $500 last time I was there for throwing a cigarette butt out on the beach. Though today I am sure the fines are much higher these are a lot of the experiences that guided me into the way of thinking and the respect I have for our beaches and our environment.

Over the years I have been quite resourceful in getting back into school as a Computer Scientist from M.S.S.U which now my focus has shifted to doing Data Science Masters. With my formal training and education implementing technology, search engines, marketing and working with investigative researchers as an entrepreneur. I have acquired the skills to do investigative research. I have even written a book that will be out this summer of 2020 Called Fact Check.

A lot of This research I have applied too many scenarios involving the environment and researching to uncover truths about the sustainability and current fears we are told to now face. While some of my research has proved to validate some of the claims on the environment. I have found a lot of information that is provided evidence against and otherwise. I found that that there are many powerful organizations using the information to drive fear and play politics with people’s lives. I have found that people who do not conduct proper research into a great many claims about our environment and many other issues become misinformed easily.

Regardless, since mankind has modernized over the last 200 years, we have done a lot of damage to this planet. The fact still remains arguable whether that damage is reprehensible or not. But it is damage that will affect the future of our entire species and other species on this planet. There are many argumentative claims as I suggested to validify proof. Once again, I do not think that we are going to get anywhere placing blame on others or living in fear. We need to Simply take action to do what is right within reason and logical conduction. The only way this would really work if people individually would learn to “bring their own trash bag” (metaphorically speaking) and clean up after themselves, learn to reduce waste, learn to respect our environment, and most importantly not perpetuate fear.

While there is a lot of organizations out there that go to other countries to evade regulations. There are a lot of people individually who perpetuate those actions themselves here in their daily lives with no regard.

This planet is our only home and it was around way longer than we have been here, and I am sure it'll still be here once we are all gone. Every day a protective shield keeps us from the deadly radiation of the sun cooking us alive while the trees we so irresponsible disregard that protect us by ingesting the carbon that we produce are killed.

In my personal opinion we need to bring balance back. I believe the only way we can achieve this is by relying on ourselves and through education. To stop putting our hopes into those organizations and lost causes who always promise results that never yield. Who are possibly seeking power or exploiting the vulnerability of us through our environment. To support real initiatives, science, research, and common sense. To identify those who are disregarding the environment for profit and make people aware that when they purchase products from them, they are in fact perpetuating the cycle of destruction on this planet. To be kind and accepting of differences and of opinions. To ask the family visiting from out of town who leaves 3 shopping bags of trash just laying in the sand to please pick it up and take it to the trash, so our local animals stay safe. This can only be done through unification not division. Not everyone is going to see eye to eye but that is ok as long as there is a common goal one act is better than none.