



EARTH WEEK SYMBOL depicting a sunny sky, green earth and blue water was designed by David Powell, a University of Pennsylvania graduate, for the Philadelphia Earth Week Committee.

'Ecology Movement' Had a Modest Start

By **GARY BROOTEN**

Of The Bulletin Staff

How did Earth Week come about?

The "ecology movement" that spawned it first began to stir on American campuses a year ago.

A few astute campus observers noticed it early. One was Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis), a popular campus speaker who had been tuned in on the environmental problem since before the Vietnam war ever became a hot campus issue.

Nelson had seen campus teach-ins help catalyze the 1968 antiwar movement and Eugene McCarthy campaign. Last September he suggested a nationwide "environmental teach-in" for this spring.

Beyond Expectations

The idea has outgrown almost everyone's expectations.

It has attracted vast amounts of student energy into activities on an estimated 2,000 campuses and 10,000 high schools. It has spilled over into the general community, especially in a few large centers like Philadelphia. It has drawn the lively interest — and generous financial support — of business firms, including many which are targets of student criticism.

Nelson set up a sponsoring

committee for the teach-in, including himself and Rep. Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif), to make it bipartisan. He suggested a date, today. He helped a group of young people set up a national organization, Environmental Teach-in, Inc., in Washington.

From then on Nelson kept hands off. What has happened since has been the work of the national committee and the busy, busy activities of literally hundreds of local and regional groups that sprang up almost overnight.

Most, like the groups now active on nearly every major campus in the Philadelphia region, began from scratch.

Slow Beginning

Things went slowly at first in Philadelphia. By the end of November only a score or so of individuals in the region had been interested enough to contact the national teach-in committee. About that time, students at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and a handful of others began to hold organizing meetings.

From the start, the Penn group thought biggest.

Its nucleus lay in the department of landscape architecture and regional planning, whose chairman, Ian McHarg, is Philadelphia's leading tough-talker on ecology. Four of his students — a spectacled 23-year-old named Austan Librach, who became chairman; Terry Hubka, Tom Lera and Leslie Mesnick — started it off.

They had no money, no office of their own, and no real organization, but Librach as early as mid-December was thinking in terms of a permanent envi-

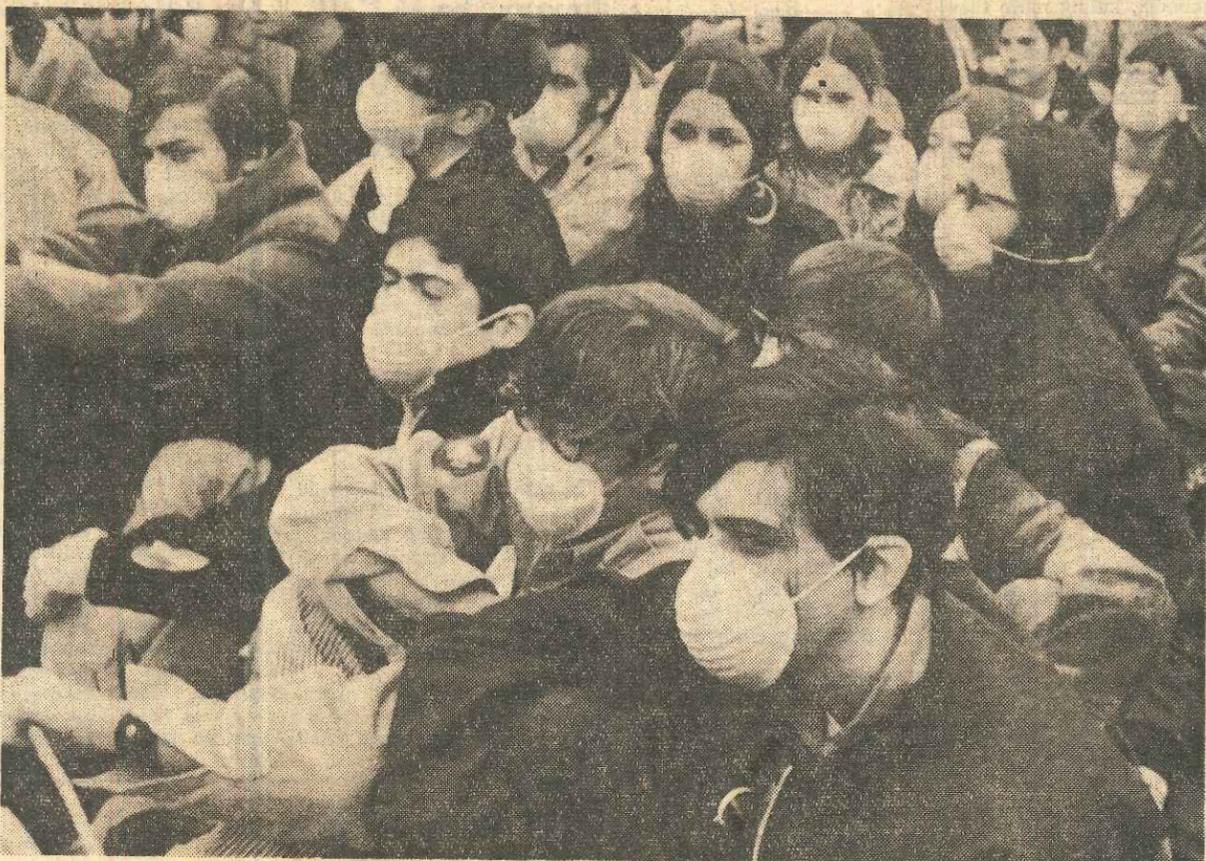
ronmental organization to plan teach-ins in April, to prod industry and government on pollution control and to keep up a continuing flow of information to the general public.

Prodding from McHarg

A campus meeting at Penn early this year drew some 200 enthusiastic students. After that, under prodding from McHarg and from the national teach-in committee, the Penn group began to act informally as coordinator of regional teach-in activities.

Shortly thereafter Edward W. Furia Jr., 28, a graduate of Penn in city planning last December and in law earlier in 1969, took over as full-time director.

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MASKS COVER FACES of young people in the crowd at the Earth Week rally at Independence Mall.