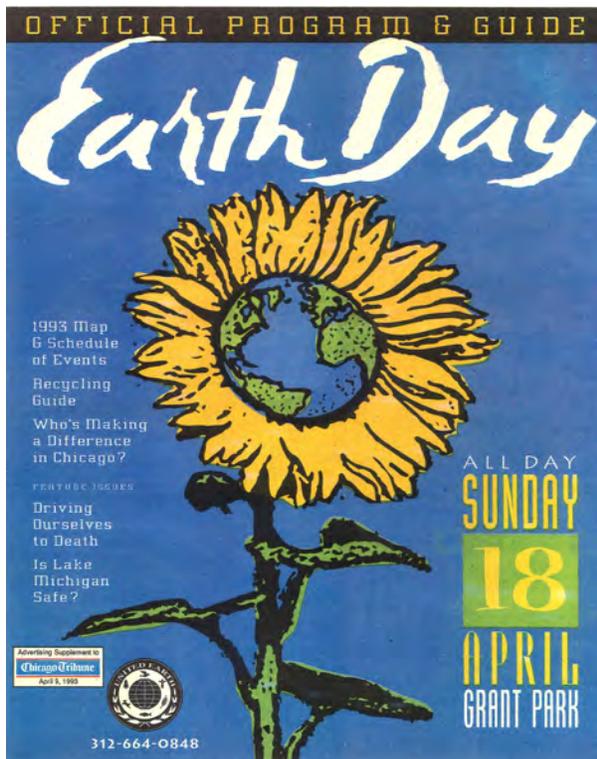


3. EDITORIAL: SELECTION FROM EDITOR'S LETTER: APRIL 1993 RESOURCES

I was editor-in-chief of EarthDay Chicago's annual magazine and sourcebook for three years.



Excerpt from Letter from the Editor (1993) *Why you are 280 times more important every day*

An awe-inspiring statistic was brought to our attention recently. Paul and Ann Ehrlich, in their book, "The Population Explosion," point out that a baby born in the U.S. represents 13 times the destructive impact on the Earth's ecosystems as one born in Brazil, and 280 times that of one born in Rwanda (among other comparisons).

One might deduce further that we use something close to 13 and 280 times more energy and produce correspondingly greater amounts of waste in any time period than these foreign citizens.

There's a more positive and useful way to look at these numbers. If you recycle all your bottles, for example, it would take 13 citizens of Brazil to keep an equal number of bottles out of the landfill. And, by reducing your home electricity use by 20% through conservation and efficiency measures, it is as if 280 Rwandans got together and decided to cut their energy needs by the same amount. What a superhero you are! Think of the possibilities! ...

