

## Education

### Elementary and Junior High

#### The P.E.T.E. Program

P.E.T.E. (Preserving Earth Through Education) is an environmental education group which has evolved from a school-wide Ecology Symposium first offered ten years ago at the Klem Road South School in Webster, New York.

The goals of P.E.T.E. are:

1. To foster positive attitudes in our children toward their world by acquainting them with the creatures that share the Earth with us.
2. To develop a higher consciousness in the young so they may be responsible stewards of the earth and not consumers of it.
3. To preserve and protect the Earth and those ecological systems upon which we all are interdependent.
4. To come together (adult and child) in an educational setting to inspire and refresh each other so we may continue to work toward our objectives.

P.E.T.E. now conducts its environmental education symposia at six elementary, middle and junior high schools in the suburban Rochester and Buffalo, New York areas. The curriculum of each school and grade level is examined, and concepts taken from them, expanded and developed by the speakers invited to participate in the symposium, held the first week in November. Speakers come from several

States and Canada. Speakers include representatives of animal protective and environmental organizations, museums and science centers, and universities. Linking the symposium topics to concepts from the curricula makes it possible for teachers and students to continue through the year to develop in a meaningful way. The curriculum thus becomes alive and useful to the students and involvement is encouraged.

A general theme is selected each year, and the title chosen accordingly. In November, 1980, the title was

"For the Love of Slick, in memoriam" commemorating our friend Slick the wolf, who was shot the previous May. The November program is followed up less formally by visits to the schools in the spring by speakers who discuss the "new" season and what part our students may contribute to the renewal, and a positive revitalization of student attitude to support the new-born creatures and renewed ecological systems of our fragile earth.

For further information contact the President of P.E.T.E., Helen M. McGill, 152 Village Lane, Rochester, NY 14610