



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

For Immediate Release

Date: April 4, 2008

Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@NARA.gov

NEWS08-11

Atlanta, GA.— The next time you have bottled water, students at The Galloway School want you to think about it's impact on the environment.

As a tie-in to the Carter Library's current exhibition "Southwest Alaska," five students from The Galloway School researched some of the environmental issues regarding polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles. Then, they helped create an exhibit using bottled water arranged in the shape of Alaska. The background image of the mountains was appropriated from a fragment of photographer Robert Glenn Ketchum's photograph, "Twilight and Frozen Lake, Wood River Mountains."

The students designed new labels for the water bottles, which they call "H₂Oil, Pure Spring Water Enhanced with Petroleum."

The students' labels point out that 80% of plastic water bottles are not recycled and that three fluid ounces of petroleum are used to make each bottle. As the students' labels suggest, "Drink Responsibly, avoid using polyethylene bottles.

Like the artist, Felix González-Torres, who created installations in the 1990's that allowed viewers to leave with candy or posters that physically comprised the artwork, the students encourage viewers to see this exhibit and contemplate the environmental impact of these bottles. When participants remove a bottle from the stone map of Alaska formed on the museum floor, the impact is recorded in the remaining "borehole." The visitors can take a bottle from the exhibit and drink the pure spring water, but when they do, they should also consider the environmental impact of the bottles, and recycle them.

Galloway School students Lucas Alvarez, Erica Chanin, Shelby Jones, Joshua Marson, and Ben Thompson worked under the guidance of visual artist, Gregor Turk (www.gregorturk.com), and Galloway science teacher, Henry DeGrazia. Funding for the project was provided by the Captain Planet Foundation.