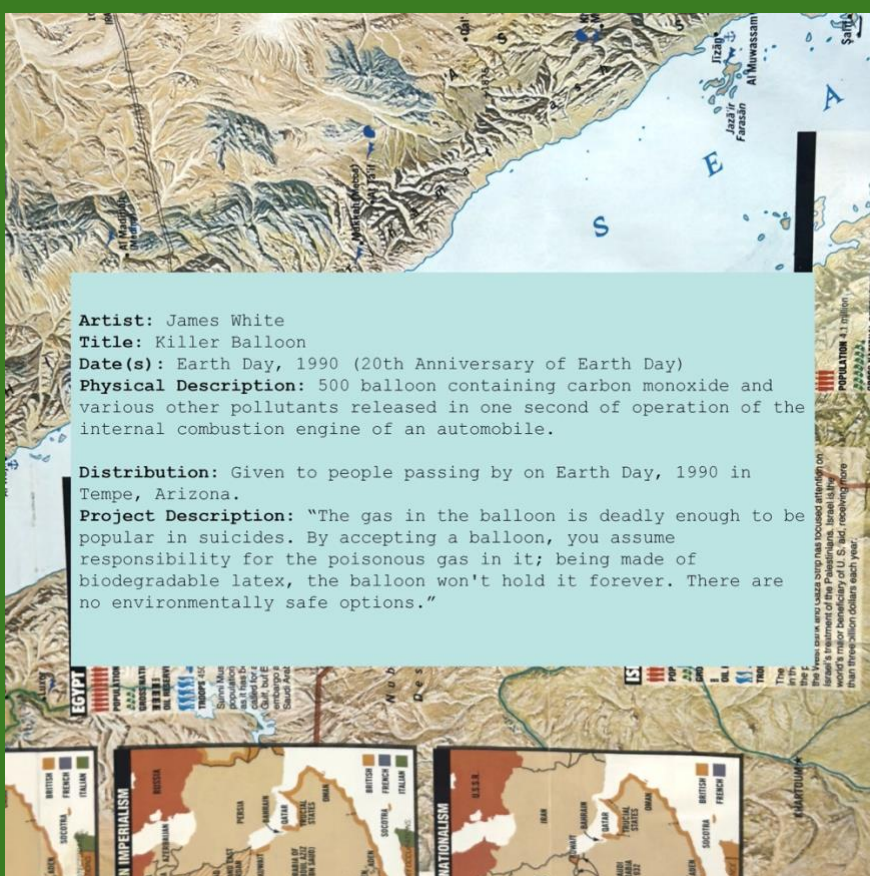


# James White



**Artist:** James White  
**Title:** Killer Balloon  
**Date(s):** Earth Day, 1990 (20th Anniversary of Earth Day)  
**Physical Description:** 500 balloon containing carbon monoxide and various other pollutants released in one second of operation of the internal combustion engine of an automobile.  
**Distribution:** Given to people passing by on Earth Day, 1990 in Tempe, Arizona.  
**Project Description:** "The gas in the balloon is deadly enough to be popular in suicides. By accepting a balloon, you assume responsibility for the poisonous gas in it; being made of biodegradable latex, the balloon won't hold it forever. There are no environmentally safe options."



## KILLER BALLOON

This balloon contains carbon monoxide and various other pollutants released within **one second** of operation of the internal combustion engine of an automobile.

The gas is **deadly** enough to be popular in suicides.

By accepting this balloon, you are assuming the responsibility for the poisonous gas contained within it. The balloon will not hold this gas indefinitely. The latex is biodegradable, which will soon allow the gas to escape into the atmosphere. Please consider that there are **no environmentally safe options** of disposal.

How many seconds per day do you produce pollutants equal to those in this **"Killer Balloon?"**

James R. White  
 Artist



## Attack of 'killer balloons'

ASU students find floating message 'exhausting'

By Kari Bland  
 Tribune writer

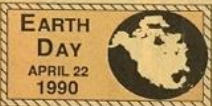
Arizona State University came under attack Thursday afternoon by more than 500 "killer balloons," black latex sacks filled with poisonous gas from automobile exhaust.

Students walking near the Old Main building had the balloons thrust at them and accepted them readily until they read the message attached. "This balloon contains carbon monoxide and other pollutants released within one second of operation of the internal combustion engine of an automobile. By accepting this balloon, you are assuming the responsibility for the poisonous gas contained within it. The balloon will not hold this gas indefinitely. (It) will soon allow the gas to escape into the atmosphere. Please consider that there are no environmentally safe options of disposal."

Multiply what is inside the balloon by 3,000, and that is what the average automobile puts out in a half hour of driving, said Jim White, the ASU art professor who waged the assault.

"People just don't understand the amount of pollutants that one automobile produces," White said. "And when they hold it in their hands, they don't know what to do with it. It's an awful feeling."

One student accepted a balloon slung, containing his jaunty pace. He slowed as he



**HAZARDOUS WASTE:** Pesticides, solvents hard to dispose of safely / B1

**TRASH TV:** Star-studded special shows garbage's impact on Earth / D1

read the attached notice and scratched his head. He stopped, leaned against a tree and read it again.

Exasperated, he spotted a trash can, deposited the black balloon there and resumed his jaunty pace. "Let someone else deal with it," he muttered.

Another student, Ken Graham, gave back the balloon after reading the tag, saying he stopped driving his car two years ago. "I'm not responsible for this," the junior photography major said.

Graham and other students criticized White and the dozen or so art students handing out the balloons, saying they were polluting the environment needlessly.

"I don't think it's serving any purpose,"



CHAD BURMICK/Tribune  
 A passer-by reacts to a 'killer balloon' given to her Thursday.

Graham said. "Yeah, it's making people aware, but it's not helping anything."

Mark Estridge, a senior fine arts major, filled balloons by attaching them to the exhaust of a borrowed motor scooter that ran continuously throughout the afternoon. He wore a gas mask.

"The whole deal is to let students see how much pollution is produced," White said. "I'm not saying I have the answer. I'm just saying, 'Don't forget there is a problem.'"

## Doctors and lawyers top tax cheaters

GAO: \$2.86 billion unreported in 1985

By Seth Kantor  
 Tribune/Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — As a category, the nation's doctors, lawyers, barbers and accountants are among the top U.S. tax cheaters, a congressional investigative committee was told Thursday.

At the same time, the panel's chairman, Rep. Jake Pickle, D-Texas, called for creation of a special public committee representing a cross-section of America to help resolve the Internal Revenue Service's shortfall of at least \$140 billion a year in under-reported federal taxes from individuals and corporations.

IRS Commissioner Fred Goldberg Jr., testifying before the House Ways and Means oversight committee, said he supported Pickle's call for establishment of a tax cost plane table, to be composed of government and industry experts and whiffs. Pickle called "some average folks."

The House subcommittee unveiled a lengthy investigative report by the General Accounting Office showing that