

PEOPLE OVER PIPELINES

AUGIE GREEN PROTESTS DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

October 2016 Spread

Throughout the school year, Augie Green fought for environmental justice—something the group's constitution is based upon—because its members believe clean air and water are basic human rights.

Augie Green president and senior Liz Renner said the club was instrumental in helping organize local involvement against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and in helping to arrange two marches in Sioux Falls. As of spring 2017, the federal government was planning to move forward with the 1,172-mile underground oil pipeline that begins in North Dakota and travels southeast to Illinois.

Both marches, one through downtown and Falls Park and the other starting on campus and making its way to banks on Minnesota Avenue that have invested in the pipeline, had large enough turnouts to make the nightly news and the front page of the Argus Leader the following days.

Augie Green member Emily Pratt '20 said she stands with Standing Rock because she believes the pipeline poses a threat to the environment.

“Being that the pipeline would be located upstream from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's water supply,” she said, “a potential leak at the site would be detrimental to the tribe and to the environment.”

Another member, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, said he feels the anti-pipeline movement is an opportunity to bring awareness to our country's oppression and maltreatment of Native Americans.

“Whatever our feelings are regarding the pipeline,” he said, “we are morally and legally obliged to honor the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 which clearly states that the land in question is the sovereign territory of the Sioux Nation.”

While the marches and a screening of Leonardo DiCaprio's climate change documentary *Before the Flood* were the main events the club held during the fall semester, Renner said the spring would likely bring some of the club's most popular events: an upcycling drive—at which the club will take unwanted everyday items and repurpose them, an Earth Day 5K and tree planting on Arbor Day.

Renner, who went to Standing Rock during interim break to volunteer, said Augie Green will continue moving forward to protect water. “The protests and occupation will not back down,” she said, “not even now that Trump is in the White House.”