Effects of Cigarette Butts on the GCU campus

By Joi Stepney
Due to the abundant number of cigarette butts that do not get properly discarded, our water is affected by the toxic chemicals which are left within the filters of the butts.
GCU’s plants, trees, and ponds depend on and contribute to the water sources on campus which are slowly being affected because of the chemicals from cigarette butts.

Wind and rain carry the cigarettes into the water supply, where the toxic chemicals from the cigarette filter leak out into the ecosystem.
Butt’s Harmful Ingredients

- **Arsenic**: Pesticide that causes diarrhea, cramps, anemia, paralysis and malignant skin tumors.
- **Acetone**: Main ingredient in nail polish remover.
- **Lead**: Lead poisoning stunts growth, causes vomiting, and causes brain damage.
- **Formaldehyde**: Causes cancer, can damage lungs, skin, and digestive systems. Embalmers use it to preserve dead bodies.
- **Toluene**: Highly toxic, commonly used as an ingredient in paint thinner.
- **Butane**: Highly flammable, butane is one of the key components in gasoline.
- **Cadmium**: Causes damage to the liver, kidneys and brain, and stays in the body for years.
- **Ammonia**: Causes individuals to absorb more nicotine, keeping them hooked on smoking.
- **Benzene**: Found in pesticides and gasoline.
Reducing our Footprint

- If you see a Butt...Pick it up!
- Dispose of butts the RIGHT way!
- Raise awareness to people closest to you