

# SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 6 No. 3

## Elections offer Choices

### Republicans and Democrats differ on basic environmental positions

By GARY LEE

On the eve of the Democratic national convention, President Bill Clinton pledged to make environmental protection an even bigger White House issue in his second term than it had been in his first. In a speech on the final stop of his train journey to the Chicago gathering, Clinton outlined his environmental agenda, including plans to accelerate the pace of toxic waste clean-ups, crack down against flagrant corporate polluters, and expand the brownfields redevelopment program.

"I want an America in the year 2000 where no child should live near a toxic waste dump, where no parent would have to worry about a child's glass of water," he told a cheering crowd in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole has also used campaign

appearances to stake out his positions on some key environmental issues. Dismissing mounting evidence of the link between industrial air emissions and global warming as "inconclusive," Dole has told audiences that he would favor more study of the "greenhouse gas" issue before further actions are taken to control emissions. Efforts to pass new legislation to limit the powers of agencies to regulate industry and to compensate landowners for any effect federal regulations might have on property values also would be revived in a Dole administration. As Senate majority leader, Dole pushed for new statutes along these lines and has signaled that he would continue to do so if he is elected President. Both measures were bitterly opposed by environmentalists but strongly backed by corporate lobbyists and major western landholders.

With those very different stances on the environment, the two leading presidential contenders are offering voters what they say they want most: a choice of approaches to a fundamental issue.

"We have candidates who would lead the country in very different directions in the area of environmental protection," said Betsy Loyless, political director of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV). "In Clinton we have someone who has pinpointed some of the country's most pressing environmental problems and outlined plans to address them," she explained. "In Dole we have a candidate who would significantly diminish the role of the federal government in protecting the public against pollution. Here is one case where voters can say they have a choice between black and white."

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## Congress punts on environment

By KATHERINE STIMMEL

Despite an ambitious agenda, the 104th Congress passed few comprehensive environmental reform measures.

Two key environment and health-related bills—a Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Food Quality Protection Act—passed late in the session following significant compromises between congressional Republicans and Democrats. Other reform measures, including an overhaul of the Superfund program and a Clean Water Act Authorization, stalled. Other statutes such as the Endangered Species Act are not likely to be addressed during the remainder of the legislative session.

The SDWA rewrite, first major overhaul of the act in a decade, repealed a requirement that the Environmental Protection Agency regulate 25 new contaminants every three years. The new law established a process through which EPA will collect and regulate contaminants that pose the greatest risk to public health, using risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis to do so.

The measure also authorized a new \$1 billion per year state revolving loan fund for grants and low-interest loans to communities. These funds would be used for such purposes as drinking water system upgrades, compliance activities,

*(Continued on page 8)*

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# Awards program still elusive

## Plans on hold as board nixes Baccardi proposal

Every journalist knows that awards furnish a résumé. They can help land a coveted promotion or plum assignment.

Every board member of the Society of Environmental Journalists knows that a popular awards program also enhances the reputation of an organization such as ours. Awards programs can help attract new members, satisfy long-time members, and foster greater respect for a beat.

For years, SEJ's board has struggled to find the financial backing and staff time to launch a first-class awards program. This summer, we came close. Ultimately, hesitancy over the source of the funding and concern about the peripheral involvement of a public relations firm, Edelman Associates, lead the board to back away from a tantalizing proposal. Many SEJ members have urged the organization to start an awards program. For them, especially, I offer this discussion of our recent decision.

The proposal for an awards program came from the Puerto Rico-based Baccardi Foundation, affiliated with the liquor company of the same name. The foundation, which has sponsored several projects related to the environment, hired Edelman to find partners willing to run a series of awards for environmental journalists. Baccardi promised to endow the awards and step back, so long as the awards were named after the founder of the Baccardi rum dynasty.

The University of Missouri journalism school was and is eager to administer such an awards program. SEJ was asked to co-sponsor the awards, selecting some judges and allowing the awards to be presented at our annual conference.

SEJ board member David Ropeik of WCVB-TV in Boston took the lead in evaluating the proposal. For months, he worked tirelessly with representatives of Edelman and the University of Missouri to shape the proposal in a way that would give journalists the fewest possible qualms about applying for and winning the awards.

Other board members on the awards committee who also reviewed the Baccardi proposal are Mike Mansur of the

*Kansas City Star* and Jim Detjen of Michigan State University.

In the end, the board decided not to embrace the proposal for a variety of reasons. Some board members were worried about the involvement of Edelman, which is hired by many corporations seeking to promote an environmentally friendly image. In addition, some board members were uncomfortable with the fact that Baccardi, a multinational company, could

### Report from the society's president

By  
**Emilia  
Askari**



be involved in an embarrassing environmental problem now or in the future. We are unaware of any such problems at this time.

Of course, we are aware that other awards programs have grown quite prestigious despite their corporate-sounding names. The Dupont-Columbia awards, for example, are the most sought-after prizes in broadcast journalism. The AAAS-Whitaker Foundation awards are famed for recognizing good science journalism.

The Oakes awards, administered by the Natural Resources Defense Council's *Amicus Journal*, are funded by the family, friends, and colleagues of a famous journalist, and judged by an independent panel of other famous journalists. The involvement of an advocacy group has barely dented the Oakes awards' popularity.

The Oakes are a rather new addition to the modest list of awards designed specifically to honor environmental journalism. Like the long-established Mee-

man awards, funded by Scripps-Howard, the Oakes allow only print journalists to apply.

The SEJ board long has sought a way to regularly honor and encourage fine environmental journalism in other media such as radio, television and newsletters. We also like the idea of honoring award winners at the SEJ national conference, where they would be surrounded by colleagues who could really appreciate their work. SEJ Executive Director Beth Parke has floated the idea with several journalism foundations and other potential funders. Several have expressed interest, though that interest has not lead to concrete financial support.

About three years ago, Ropeik also developed a detailed plan for a more modest SEJ awards program modeled after the one run by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).

Parke recommended against the plan, saying it would take too much staff time and prevent SEJ from conducting good regional programs. In addition, the board was reluctant to launch an awards program that did not have on going endowed support such as the kind offered this summer by Baccardi.

Although the SEJ board decided not to attach the organization's name to the Baccardi awards, we expect that the program will proceed and flourish. We have no intention of discouraging it. In fact, several board members may serve as advisors or judges to the Baccardi awards program.

For now, we have decided to put SEJ's awards ambitions on hold.

The board welcomes questions or suggestions about awards or anything else. On the topic of awards, please contact David Ropeik, our awards committee chair. The SEJ staff can tell you which board members are taking the lead on other issues such as regional events or student outreach.

The SEJ annual board meeting will take place during SEJ's sixth national conference, Friday, Oct. 18, at the Hyatt Regency in St. Louis. Elections will be held for five available board seats.

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SEJournal will accept unsolicited manuscripts. Send story ideas, articles, news briefs, tips and letters-to-the-editor to Noel Grove, [ngrove1253@aol.com](mailto:ngrove1253@aol.com), P.O. Box 1016, Middleburg, VA 22117. Send calendar items to Janet Raloff, *Science News*, 1719 N Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036. For Greenbeat, contact Kevin Carmody, [kpcarmody@aol.com](mailto:kpcarmody@aol.com), 1447 1/2 W. Fletcher Street, Chicago, IL 60657; (312) 229-2814. For book reviews, contact Nancy Shute, [nshute@igc.apc.org](mailto:nshute@igc.apc.org), (202) 378-9110, 2730 Wisconsin N.W., Washington, DC, 20007.

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**The Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)3 organization. The mission of the organization is to advance public understanding of environmental issues by improving the quality, accuracy and visibility of environmental reporting. We envision an informed society through excellence in environmental journalism. As a network of journalists and academics, SEJ offers national and regional conferences, publications and online services. SEJ's membership of over 1,100 includes journalists working for print and electronic media, educators, and students. Non-members are welcome to attend SEJ's national conferences and to subscribe to the quarterly SEJournal.**

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## SEJ programs manager hired

SEJ member James Quigley, Ph.D., joined the SEJ staff on September 9 as programs manager in the Philadelphia office. He brings full-time staffing up to four, along with executive director Beth Parke, systems manager Chris Rigel, and administrative assistant Jutland Medina-Campbell. Jay Letto continues to serve SEJ as part-time national conference coordinator. Other paid staff include part-time accountant Randi Kamine, and Noel Grove, who edits *SEJournal* on a contract basis.

As programs manager, Quigley will support SEJ regional conferences, the biweekly "TipSheet," outreach to new members and projects with partner journalism organizations. He will also be involved with new efforts to bring veteran environmental journalists into newsrooms around the country as consultants, to encourage editors to assign more high-quality reporting on the environment.

Quigley served four years with the Peace Corps, was project manager for the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at City University of New York, and Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences and Policy at Portland State University, where he was an academic member of SEJ. He has a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and Master's degrees in Energy Management (UPenn) and International Relations (Ohio University).

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## Letter

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To the Editor:

"Border muck needs good raking" by Karen Schmidt poses some interesting questions on borderland reporting. The US/Mexico border was given prime coverage during the NAFTA negotiations, but once the trade agreement was passed, the media lost their interest in this region. I know; I was a borderlands environmental reporter for two years from 1994-1995.

Health, biodiversity, technology transfer, sustainable development are all newsworthy issues. But very few are topical enough for a daily paper or national news broadcast. In addition, the collapse of the Mexican peso and the decline of the Mexican environmental business market led to the demise of various industry magazines and newsletters.

So if the wire agencies and specialized newsletters don't adequately cover the border, who will? I'm frustrated with the Udall Center's elitist position of information distribution and transparency. During a recent conference, the session was opened to the public "by invitation only." Other NGOs, notably the Texas Center for Policy Studies, have similar positions. I'm heartened by the recent SEJ-Udall collaboration, but it is the exception, rather than the rule.

Fortunately, there are a few bright spots. Kudos to the Interhemispheric Resource Center in Silver City, New Mexico for its activist yet consistent coverage of this region in the monthly magazine *BorderLines*.

Regards,

*Ron Mader, Host  
Borderlands Environmental Archives  
Miami, Florida*

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# Conference will bring top writers to St. Louis

By **MIKE MANSUR**

The sixth national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists, set for October 17-20 at Washington University in St. Louis, promises to be the most ambitious yet of this annual event. The program includes more panels than in previous years, an information-gathering "network lunch" in place of a featured speaker, the first SEJ play, and receptions at the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Science Center.

Two months before the conference, sign-ups were around 140; in past years, registrants at that point have reflected a third or less of actual conference attendance.

Highlights of the packed agenda include the following:

- Panels on some of the nation's hottest topics, such as recycling, mining, urban sprawl, and the new air pollution standards that will affect every urban area.
- Tours to sites of the Midwest's top environment stories, including a prairie restoration area; an uncommon effort in floodplain management at Vallmeyer, Ill.; Cahokia Indian Mounds; clean-up of atomic wastes; Monsanto's genetic engineering lab; and of course, Times Beach, the town that put dioxin on the environment writer's map.
- An expanded program on writing and reporting that features top writers and writing coaches such as Don Fry, Jeff Klinenberg, Deborah Potter, William Least Heat-Moon, and David Quammen.
- Plenary sessions that will look at the the political battle over the environment, with workshops on using computers to produce environmental stories, using database managers, and cre-



ating your own home page on the world wide web; a debate Saturday between "doomsayers" and "naysayers" on the fate of the planet; and an unusual replacement for a luncheon speaker—a "network lunch," in which you will dine with leading experts and discuss a variety of topics.

- The first SEJ play, *A Sense of Wonder*, featuring an established actresses' portrayal of Rachel Carson, arguably the first environmental journalist.

- A long list of mini-tours at Washington University with topics including the NASA geoscience node, use of roof-fuels in Third World countries to combat deforestation and health problems, ethnobotany, noise pollution, floods and mold, and health in the workplace. Participants will be able to question leading scientists about their work on a number of issues.

Judging from past conferences, those attending the sixth will find time to mingle with colleagues, question cabinet members (including EPA's Carol Browner), and return home with a briefcase full of new story ideas and insights.

Hotel availability may be tight if the St. Louis Cardinals make it into the baseball playoffs, so those attending the conference are urged to make early room reservations. The Hyatt Regency at Union Station can be reached at (314) 231-1234, or call the nearby Hampton Inn at (314) 241-3200. Discount airfare for the conference is available by calling (800) 283-8747. Please mention that you'll be attending the SEJ conference.

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*Board member Mike Mansur is an environment reporter at the Kansas City Star.*

## D.C. reporters dredge Baltimore Harbor for stories

A tour of Baltimore harbor to observe water quality July 20 yielded story ideas and a better understanding of pollution problems for 20 journalists who boarded a research boat. Sponsored by the Washington, D.C. region of SEJ, with contributions from *Environmental Science and Technology* magazine, the five hours on historic waters connected to the Chesapeake Bay were shared with scientists from EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Industrial pollution in the harbor has been cut by 90 percent since the mid-1980s according to Gould Charshee of the Maryland DOE. "The biggest contributors now are non-point sources from surface runoff and air deposition," he said. "How can you measure what comes out of a storm sewer?" Silt inflow was observed at Jones Falls and the Patapsco River.

"We can't return the harbor waters to

the purity of 1720," added Mary Jo Garrets, also of DOE, "but by regulating urban and rural development we can keep it from getting worse."

A superfund site at a former Allied Chemical chromium plant was pointed out, with explanations of what the corporation's \$100 million bought for the public (reduced pollution, but some 60 lbs. of toxic chromium continues to leak each day below a 50-foot restraining wall).

Pole fishing was observed along the shore, and Garrets said both EPA and the Maryland DOE are now looking at the possibility of altering advisories about eating fish. "Allowing lower-income people an alternative diet of eating polluted fish occasionally may be better for them over a 70-year-period than substituting highly fatty foods such as ham hocks, which can lead to heart disease," Garrets stated.

Elsewhere, research crab pots were hauled ashore and an oyster bed was dredged so participants could see and handle commercial species at risk.

Participants each paid \$25 to defray costs. A buffet lunch was served on board. Journalists found the day worthwhile.

"I may do a story on the 'alternative diet' discussion," said Pat Phibbs, editor of the *Environmental Health Letter*.

"I was surprised to hear that science doesn't know how long a blue-fin crab lives," said Cheryl Hogue, reporter for the Bureau of National Affairs' *Daily Environment Report*. "That's pretty scary."

"The place came alive for me," said trip organizer Jeff Johnson of *Environmental Science and Technology* magazine. "It's one thing to read or hear about problems, and another to see them first hand."

—Noel Grove





# SEJ pilots chart course at Boulder

"We have asked you to come here not because we are weak, but because we are strong," said SEJ vice president Tom Meersman to a group of SEJ enthusiasts at the leadership workshop in Boulder in late July. "So much is happening in the organization that we need people to help out."

Over the weekend on the University of Colorado campus, 32 participants, half of them board members and SEJ employees and the other half members active in SEJ activities, discussed ways to make the organization responsive to its membership. Held on the University of Colorado campus, the conference was sponsored by SEJ and hosted by the university's Center for Environmental Journalism.

High among priorities were calls for more regional activities such as technical conferences on computer work and back-grounding on regional issues. "Think little at first," suggested board member Rae Tyson, co-coordinator for regional events. "An event may be as small as a get-together at a local eatery or as large as a thematic conference, with registration." Tyson distributed a four-page document authored by Scott Powers of the *Columbus* (Ohio) *Dispatch* entitled "Tips on Throwing a Regional SEJ Event."

Outreach to a wider audience was discussed, including small and medium-sized newspapers and broadcast stations. Suggestions included inviting staff from small media to nearby regional events, and establishing short-course training sessions at local universities. JoAnn Valenti, board representative for academic membership, suggested more on-campus events to attract student membership.

Possibilities for revising and expanding current SEJ online services were proposed by board member Russ Clemings of *The Fresno Bee*. Participants supported his idea of creating "EnviroFAQs," files of Frequently Asked Questions about environmental topics that could be accessed by reporters. SEJ might also create an online archive of great environmental journalism, he said. He suggested revamping the Web site to add search capabilities, and establishing new and specialized listservs (forums for idea exchanges among interested parties).



## SEJ president Askari jots down members' ideas at workshop

Specialized listservs in addition to the one for general members that now exists might include one for board business, one for conference planning, or one for leadership groups such as the group invited to Boulder.

The *SEJournal* came under scrutiny in a session headed by new editor Noel Grove. He proposed including more, but shorter, stories in the publication, with more photographs, and setting apart the different sections of the magazine more clearly with the help of distinctive logos. To lighten up the beat he announced the beginning of a humor column in the fall issue, made up of contributions from SEJ members who have had amusing encoun-

ters during coverage. Suggestions from the floor included putting the "SEJ News" section of the journal in a different type face to set it apart from other stories, and installing a box of the journal's copy deadlines for the benefit of contributors. Several participants urged publishing more profiles of SEJ members who have completed effective environmental reports, along the lines of "how I did my story."

SEJ president Emilia Askari proposed repeating the leadership workshop every three or four years. The workshop concluded Saturday evening on Flagstaff Mountain with a cookout provided by the Center for Environmental Journalism.

—Noel Grove

## New Members

The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from June 26 through August 16. Memberships recorded after August 16 will appear in *SEJournal* volume 6, Number 4.

### CALIFORNIA

- Kelli M. Larson (Associate), *Environmental Solutions*, Advanstar Communications, Santa Ana
- Colleen M. Turrell (Academic), Writing Program University of San Francisco
- Brandy Tuzon (Active), *The Californian*, Salinas

### CONNECTICUT

- Christopher Joyell (Associate), WEKA Publishing, Inc., Shelton
- Jim Motavalli (Active), *E Magazine*, Norwalk
- Anne W. Semmes (Active), Cos Cob

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Wanda Avila (Associate)
- Mary Graham (Associate)
- Mary Hager (Active), *Newsweek*
- James H. Kennedy (Active), *Daily Environment Report*, Bureau of National Affairs

### FLORIDA

- Robin Sussingham (Active), Lakeland

(Continued on page 19)



# Bugs, brains, and the flow of news

**A story with bite...**En route to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro SEJ President Emilia Askari was asked by her editor at the *Detroit Free Press* to cover a demonstration project in sustainable agriculture in Brazil, funded by a Michigan firm. Getting to the little town of Saubinha in the Amazon basin was a scene reminiscent of *The African Queen*. "I flew to Manaus, and then it was several days by small plane and boat up a tributary of the Amazon to this tiny village," says Emilia.

At one point, working through an interpreter from Spanish to Portuguese to local dialects, she asked her hosts for the meaning of the town's name, Saubinha.

Struggling for an interpretation, they said it was a tiny animal, they did not know the name in English. But, they assured her, she would figure it out.

A day later, lying in a hammock on the small return boat, she reached down to rub an itchy spot on her leg. Then another. And another, until both legs were covered with red, itchy welts that required her to wear throughout the Earth Summit the one pants suit she'd brought. And, she says, she learned the English name for the village.

"I'd been to Chiggerville!"

**Sniffing out strangers...**Brainy scientists make astounding technological discoveries, but some very basic sensory perceptions remain with them. Jeri Lynn Smith, director of news services for SUNY-Syracuse, says some years ago her predecessor interviewed a world-class chemist on the SUNY faculty about his pioneering work in polymer chemistry. As she walked in the door he looked up, sniffed, and said, "You're not in chemistry...I can smell it."

**From the tabloids...**When Mary Landers of the University of Missouri was reporting for a group of medical newspapers, a colleague attended a meeting of allergists. One physician presented research about a type of dust mite that commonly inhabits furniture, and he indicated that at least one person had died from an allergic reaction to the mites.

"It wasn't much of a story for our papers," says Mary, "but the woman seated next to my colleague was a tabloid reporter and she was thrilled. As she scribbled her notes she turned to him with excitement and said, 'I can see the headline now— Living dust kills!'"

**Too much news...**While newspapering in South America board member Angela Swafford traveled with a group of journalists to a prisoner's island far off the coast in an education program for inmates. One particularly bright and eager prisoner became fascinated with Angela's maritime knowledge, and asked numerous questions about ocean currents and prevailing winds in their area. "He was absolutely charming, so interested in learning about the sea, and I thought how nice that he has retained such an inquiring mind," says Angela.

And she found out why. Some weeks later she opened the newspaper to see a photograph of the inquisitive prisoner alongside a story saying that he had escaped the island on a homemade raft.

*Anything humorous happen to you or a colleague on the environmental beat? Send it to Noel Grove at P.O. Box 1016, Middleburg, VA., 22117; or call at 540-687-5490; or email to [ngrove1253@aol.com](mailto:ngrove1253@aol.com).*

## Grin & Bare It

# New editor-in-chief takes *SEJournal* reins

Noel Grove has assumed the post of *SEJournal* editor-in-chief, effective this issue, as part of a reorganization of the quarterly publication's editorial and management structure.

A long-time senior writer and environmental specialist at *National Geographic* magazine and founding board member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, Grove was selected for the post after a nine-month search.

He will direct the *Journal's* volunteer staff and assumes responsibility for both content and design of the publication. Previously those duties were split between volunteer co-editors.

"Noel's journalistic skills and his dedication to SEJ's mission made this an easy decision," said SEJ executive director Beth Parke. "The *SEJournal's* co-editors and the

SEJ board agreed it was time to take the journal to the next level of excellence and supported the decision to make the top editorship a paid position."

Under the new management structure, former co-editor Kevin Carmody becomes chairman of the newly created *SEJournal* Editorial Board, which was established by the SEJ board to guarantee the *Journal's* editorial independence. The editorial board, which will have responsibility for selecting and advising the editor, will be announced after its membership is complete.

"Although the editor reports to the editorial board, with Noel Grove in this position I have little doubt the board will function more as a sounding board than in a supervisory role," Carmody said. "Noel has some exciting ideas for improving the publication's content and design."

The *SEJournal* debuted in the summer of 1990, six months after SEJ was incorporated. The first co-editors, Bowman Cox and Carmody, produced it at Pasha Publications in Arlington, Va. Adam Glenn succeeded Cox as co-editor in 1992 until 1995 when Amy Gahrn took that role.

## *SEJournal* Submission deadlines

Winter '96-7 .....December 1, 1996  
Spring '97 .....March 1, 1997  
Summer '97 .....June 1, 1997  
Fall '97.....August 15, 1997  
Submissions should be sent to Noel Grove, editor, [ngrove1253@aol.com](mailto:ngrove1253@aol.com), P.O. Box 1016, Middleburg, VA 22117.

## Elections...(from page 1)

In several dozen congressional contests, too, clearly pro-environmental candidates are pitted against contenders with weaker environmental records, according to analyses by the Sierra Club and other major environmental groups. In all, there are about 100 House seats and 20 Senate seats up for grabs, and half of them are between candidates with starkly different records on the environment, said Dan Weiss, chief political analyst for the Sierra Club. Although some GOP lawmakers have moderated the harshly anti-environmental positions they took in the early months of the 104th Congress, many of the congressional battles are between Republicans with low green ratings and Democrats with higher ones, Weiss added.

One example is a House fight over Michigan's eighth district between incumbent Dick Chrysler, a Republican who received only an 8 percent on the LCV's latest scorecard and Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat who has pushed for stronger environmental laws on the state level.

"The direction that Congress takes next year on the environment depends on the outcome of these key races," Weiss said, "At the moment, it's a real jump ball."

Whichever party wins the jump could determine the direction the nation takes on a number of key environmental issues, including the reshaping of the 1972 Endangered Species Act, the overhaul of the 1974 Clean Water Act, and the updating of the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, better known as the Superfund statute. All three are major pieces of legislation which are long overdue for reauthorization and must be addressed by the 105th Congress.

Buoyed by the strong endorsement the public has given their environmental stances in polls, some of the more progressive democrats are likely to push for bolder reforms of the statutes. In the end, however, it is unlikely that either party will have a strong enough majority to push through legislation without some

support from the other party. The most likely shape that the three statutes take will probably be a matter of bipartisan compromise.

Conservative GOP lawmakers forged bids to scale back all three statutes during the 104th Congress, but faltered due to a lack of broad support for their efforts. "A few new conservative members could revive those campaigns and could very well try to push those bills through," said LCV's Loyless. For example, a bid to scale back protections against pollution of lakes and rivers outlined in the Clean Water Act, originally mounted by Rep. Bud Schuster (R-PA) fizzled when

***Whichever party wins could determine the direction the nation takes on a number of key environmental issues, including the reshaping of the 1972 Endangered Species Act, the overhaul of the 1974 Clean Water Act, and the updating of the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, better known as Superfund statute.***

environmentalists began pointing out the benefits the legislation had wrought for lakes and rivers across the country over the past two decades. With a few new House allies, however, Schuster could attempt to reintroduce the bill and lobby it through.

If the GOP recaptures the House, Rep. Tom Delay (R-Tex.), a harsh critic of the role of the federal government in environmental protection, is likely to return as majority whip and continue his efforts to push through legislation that would give industry a stronger voice in shaping the regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies. If Republicans hold on to their majority in the Senate, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) could take over the powerful Appropriations Committee and use it to push for control over the Tongass and other Alaska-related environmental issues.

The races where the environment is expected to be a big issue include the battle for the open Senate seat in Oregon. There Republican Gordon Smith is

already running ads supportive of salvage timber legislation while Democrat Tom Bruggere is mounting a strong pro-environmental campaign. In Minnesota, where jurisdiction over the headwaters is a big campaign issue, former GOP Sen. Rudy Boschwitz is staging a grudge match against the more pro-environmental candidate Paul Wellstone. In his contest against GOP candidate Ronna Romney in Michigan, Democratic Senator Carl Levin is already citing the role he has played in combating pollution in the Great Lakes. In the fight over Ohio's tenth House district, pro-environmental Democrat Dennis Kucinich is challenging incumbent Republican Martin Hoke, who received a low LCV rating of 8 percent.

In his Kalamazoo speech, Clinton promised to seek an additional \$2 billion in federal funds for the clean-up of Superfund sites and other environmental programs. Included in the agenda he announced were plans to speed up the clean-up of the Great Lakes and dramatically broaden the right-to-know program, making information about air and water emissions releases more accessible to people who live in communities which are affected by them.

"With this speech the President was saying that he wants to make environmental protection one of the main areas in which his administration leaves a strong mark," said EPA administrator Carol M. Browner.

Beyond the modest measures that he outlined, if Clinton is re-elected he is likely to use a second term to push harder on some of the environmental initiatives his administration has already introduced. Such projects include Project Excel, a pilot program allowing a handful of companies to develop their own ways of combating pollution, and the Common Sense initiative, an EPA program in which industry officials, environmentalists, and other stakeholders seek to devise better ways of regulating particular industries.

"A second term would give Clinton the chance to push harder on some of the



moderate environmental concepts he has favored in the first term," said a political analyst for a major environmental group.

One environmental issue that is likely to receive top billing under a new Clinton administration is global warming. If they are re-elected, both Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are expected to continue to assume greater leadership of the international campaign to reduce industrial emissions of "greenhouse gasses" as a means of mitigating the gradual effects of

global warming.

Speculation has also loomed that a post election cabinet shake-up could bring in replacements for Browner and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. Thomas Grumbley, currently undersecretary of the Department of Energy, has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Browner. In an interview, Browner said she was unaware that a change was being planned for the leadership of the EPA. "I would be very

pleased if the President invites me to continue in the administration for a second term," she added.

Tim Wirth, currently undersecretary of state for environmental programs, has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Babbitt, who is a top contender for a seat on the Supreme Court.

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*Gary Lee is a reporter for the Washington Post.*

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## Congress punts...from page 1

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operator certification, and protection of drinking water sources.

Final passage of the drinking water bill occurred after House and Senate conferees reached a compromise on several key issues, including consumers' right-to-know about contaminants in their drinking water systems, variances from certain monitoring and treatment requirements for small systems, and setting a standard for radon levels in drinking water.

The Food Quality Protection Act, like the SDWA, was the result of compromise among congressional Republicans and Democrats, plus agricultural and food processing interests. Signed into law Aug. 3, the comprehensive package changes regulation of the safety of food from pesticide residues and the registration of pesticide products.

The law repeals the Delaney Clause that barred the government from setting maximum pesticide residue levels for processed food if the pesticide was linked to cancer. Until the change, the Clause applied regardless of the level of risk of cancer posed by a chemical. Before, if a tolerance level was not set, the pesticide could not be used on food that was sold in the U.S.

A number of provisions were added to the compromise bill. One deals with a new screening program for estrogenic effects. Others called for additional safety standards for infants and children, and expanded citizens' right-to-know about contaminants in their food. The new law included a mandate for review of all existing pesticide residue tolerances within 10 years to ensure they meet the new safety standard.

Legislation that revised existing hazardous waste laws was signed into law March 26. It allows certain hazardous wastes headed for disposal in facilities regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act to escape stringent treatment standards established under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

A second provision of the law lifted ground water monitoring requirements for small municipal landfills located in dry or remote areas. Like the other bills, the hazardous waste measure had widespread, bipartisan support.

To date, Congress has been unable to achieve similar compromise on CWA reauthorization or Superfund reform. The House passed its version of a CWA rewrite bill (HR961) by a 240-185 vote May 16, 1995. The measure would have made broad changes to existing law. Among other things, the bill would:

- Replace the existing storm water permitting program with a management program modeled after polluted runoff control provisions of the existing CWA.
- Ease federal regulation of wetlands.
- Require compensation of landowners whose property values have been diminished by 20 per cent or more as a result of federal wetlands regulation.
- Authorize \$2.3 billion annually for a waste-water state revolving loan, for fiscal years 1997 through 2000.

Clinton threatened to veto the measure. The Senate has failed to draft or consider its own version of a reauthorization package.

On Superfund reform, Republican sponsors of legislation and congressional staff have said that passage of a compre-

hensive reform bill is unlikely in 1996 because consensus cannot be achieved on key titles of legislation in the House and Senate. Key differences over House and Senate versions of the bill center on two provisions: one dealing with assessment of natural resource damages, and the other addressing retroactive liability for contamination of hazardous waste sites.

Aides to key House Republicans say that passage of a comprehensive Endangered Species Act reauthorization bill is unlikely. They indicate, however, that a narrowly targeted bill could still move in the remainder of the legislative session.

Several regulatory reform bills enacted during the 104th Congress have had an impact on environmental programs.

A bill signed March 24 required federal agencies to consider the impact that regulations have on small businesses. The measure, included in legislation that raised the debt ceiling, provided small businesses the authority to challenge agency actions in court. The statute also gave Congress 60 days to review regulations and possibly disapprove them before they take effect.

Clinton signed a bill March 22, 1995 designed to curb Congress' ability to pass laws that require spending by state, local, and tribal governments without federal financial support. Congress must either identify specific funding sources to cover the costs of the spending requirement or vote to waive the requirement.

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*Katherine Stimmel is a reporter for the Bureau of National Affairs' Daily Environment Report.*



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# Green grenade: Is environment linked with national security?

By P.J. SIMMONS

"As we move into the 21st century, the nexus between security and the environment will become even more apparent." So said Secretary of State Warren Christopher following his April 1996 announcement of the State Department's initiative to put environmental issues near the top of the foreign policy agenda.

Coming from a veteran foreign policy maker with little environmental background, Christopher's speech raised hopes that U.S. foreign policy was finally embracing a principle long espoused by scholars such as Jessica Matthews, Thomas Homer-Dixon, and Lester Brown: namely, that the unprecedented scales of population growth, resource depletion and global environmental change demand a redefinition of security.

The speech also prompted a predictable reaction among many traditional foreign policy thinkers. To them, raising the profile of international environmental issues seems a dangerous distraction at a time of diminishing budgets and declining public interest in foreign affairs.

The internal State Department deliberations on environment reflect the larger debate over how and whether environmental issues relate to foreign policy and security priorities. Most analyses of these questions address three core ideas.

First, environmental problems may adversely affect human security and/or economic security interests. This is a holistic view of security that extends beyond protecting the state. Its proponents argue that environmental problems can threaten human health and well-being in any number of ways. At the global level, for example, ozone layer depletion will expose humans to more cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation. Similarly, global warming may create conditions more conducive to the spread of infectious diseases. At the local level, the depletion or pollution of resources critical to individuals' survival—arable land, fresh water, and forests—can lead to greater incidences of sickness, malnutrition, and mortality.

Proponents also argue that environmental problems can threaten nations' economic security. Destruction of forest

areas, for example, can lead to changes in local climate, flooding, and the destruction of irrigation systems and waterways; the resulting siltation can destroy arable land, decimate fisheries, and severely

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## Viewpoints

is a regular feature of SEJournal, offering a forum to non-journalists who deal with environmental issues and the media

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restrict the navigability of strategic waterways like the Panama Canal. Economies may also face burdensome and sometimes crippling retroactive costs connected to inadequate handling of hazardous waste disposal. Furthermore, countries adapting to climate change may be saddled with enormous costs associated with more frequent catastrophic weather events and fundamental changes in agricultural systems.

Critics charge that this line of thinking employs the honorific term "security" solely to win more attention and funding. They oppose categorizing environmentally related health and well-being issues as security threats, since they are fundamentally different from military threats. Defining security so broadly, they say,

renders the term meaningless.

Second, environmental problems may adversely affect traditional military security interests. Proponents maintain that local environmental degradation and/or resource scarcity will become an increasingly important factor in political instability and violent conflict. The number of regional conflicts in developing countries may proliferate in the coming decades, leading to a more unstable and chaotic international system.

In case studies, scholars show that many sub-national conflicts are induced in part by environmental factors that affect economic productivity, elite interests, and states' capacity to provide citizens with basic needs. These internal conflicts could lead to a fragmentation of the state or, conversely, to a more authoritarian hardening of the state.

Because of the increasing rate and scale of environmental change, the past can only partly be a guide to future trends. Nevertheless, compelling examples of environmentally related strife exist. In the Philippines and Peru, for example, the rise of the Shining Path and New People's Army can be attributed in part to resource destruction. In both cases, environmental stresses deepened poverty and made peas-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## A guide to further information

In the past year intelligence officials at the U.S. State Department and elsewhere have begun to ask whether some of this decade's hot wars, in Somalia, Rwanda and elsewhere, aren't just outbreaks of ethnic or clan violence, but might be linked to environmental factors that lead to drought, hunger and dramatic population shifts.

In April, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced a new environmental initiative as part of U.S. foreign policy. The State Department's action was influenced by scholarly work in this field, particularly that of Thomas Homer-Dixon and his colleagues at the University of Toronto's Project on Environment, Population and Security. Another research effort in the field is now underway at Stanford, led by

Donald Kennedy; and the Woodrow Wilson Center, in Washington, D.C., has launched the Environmental Change and Security Project. P.J. Simmons, director of the Wilson Center project, offers an overview of the environment and security debate in this issue's "Viewpoints" essay.

For further information on this subject, contact Simmons at the Wilson Center. Additionally, see the University of Toronto Web page for the Project on Environment, Population and Security at <http://utl1.library.utoronto.ca/www/pcs/eps.htm>. Environmental Scarcity and Violent Conflict: A Briefing Book is available from the Project, and from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

—Craig L. LaMay

# Covering Miami's Green Vice

## Indifference is the enemy among new Hispanics

By ANGELA SWAFFORD

Writing about the environment in Miami, in Spanish, is a solitary job. Pushing this beat with certain editors over the past nine years has practically cost me my position as a feature writer with *El Nuevo Herald*, the *Miami Herald's* Spanish supplement. The persistence required in bringing environmental awareness to readers might apply to any community where indifference to the environment runs rampant.

The Spanish media in this city, and I dare say in the whole U.S., gives priority to practically every other issue. Except for the occasional story or TV special on a topic so glaring it cannot be avoided—a toxic outbreak, for example—the non-English speaking communities especially live in an information desert with respect to environmental problems that affect their neighborhoods. This problem has several explanations.

First, the immigrants come to the U.S. with the firmly ingrained priorities of getting a job, a home, and sending their kids to school. In their minds, learning about or caring for the environment is a nice idea but can come after the attainment of their

main goals.

Secondly, culture stands in the way. Educated Latinos are fully aware of environmental issues and the mainstream newspapers do a decent job of covering them, but the attitude of the masses has traditionally been indifference. They fail to see how littering the parks after Sunday picnics can have an effect on the quality of their lives. They do not get the connection between the dumping of automobile oil on the ground and their water quality.

Third, Hispanic media, like all media, is out to make money. If their audiences prefer to read, watch, or listen to news about Castro, narco-traffickers, or Hialeah's mayor, this is mostly what they will get. Channel 23, Univision's network local station and the largest Hispanic TV network in the nation, has decided that what Hispanics want are soap operas.

"You can forget about a weekly page devoted to the environment," answered Alberto Ibarguen, *El Nuevo's* publisher, to my pleas. In the meantime local reporters have to write two stories a day on certain Miami neighborhoods where the paper needs penetration. These stories must go on page 1A, even if they do not merit such

play, so readers get the message their paper is reaching out to them. Use a week to research a story on the environment? You must be out of your mind.

Fourth, editors are simply not knowledgeable enough to understand that environment goes beyond manatees and alligators in the Everglades. "You are the reporter who covers the little animals," one of them said to me after I wrote an article about the effect of big sugar farming on the Everglades. "How cute."

All this said, persistence has resulted in some progress. Nine years after trying to make up for this need by stealing time from my former features beat—which did not include the environment—I became the sole green voice of Florida's Hispanic community. *Radio Caracol*, the largest Spanish radio station in Miami has shown some interest and has agreed to a weekly small program, with no compensation.

I have felt the stir of curiosity in the Hispanic community about the environment. Readers have responded positively to my opinion columns on the subject, and some now write letters. "My kid just emptied his aquarium into our backyard canal. Is that bad?" Or, "Why are the palm trees in my block dying and not those three blocks down the road?" Some have even called with tips for future stories.

At *El Nuevo*, those few editors who are beginning to understand the importance of covering science and the environment have at least declared a willingness to help place my freelance work. It is not easy to open a path in a stubborn jungle. It is going to happen, however, not just in Florida but also in New York, Texas, and California, because we can't afford not to let it happen. SEJ is a powerful tool in this effort. It makes my job less solitary.



Florida's Biscayne Bay in monumental collision with nature

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*After nine years as reporter for The Miami Herald and its Spanish edition, El Nuevo Herald, board member Angela Swafford is now a freelance writer and news writer for Telenoticias, a 24-hour Spanish network that airs in the U.S., Latin America, and Spain.*

# Rocky news road for Russian journalists

By CLARK THOMAS

"I have a question for you," said the capable-looking young Siberian news-woman in the audience at Vladivostok, at a seminar on environmental reporting sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

I had been speaking to the 40 journalists about the need for objectivity in environmental reporting, talking to all parties whether they be commercial loggers or green advocates in Russia's new free-market economy. "I receive only a small base salary from my newspaper in Khabarovak," said the newswoman, "so my income largely depends on the number of articles that I write. How can I spend hours and hours checking out all sides of a matter in a single story?"

I rather lamely replied that her conscience would have to be her guide. But her situation made me realize the challenges these journalists face in writing about a region that is vast not only in size but in ecological importance.

Present at the seminar were virtually all the print and broadcast media people covering environmental matters in two

territories on the Pacific Rim of vast Siberia, an area the size of California, Oregon, and Washington combined. It includes the far eastern portion of the Russian taiga, the vast forest that is 20 per cent of the wooded area of the globe.

With the breakdown of Communist authority, the region now faces serious wildlife and timber poaching. Siberian tigers, hunted for skins and body parts for folk medicines, have declined to some 200. Valuable but exhaustible Korean pine is being shipped illegally to Japan and nearby China. Another concern is the disposal of radioactive waste from nuclear submarines being decommissioned because of the end of the Cold War.

The seminar where I spoke in early summer was part of a 33-month, \$16.5 million "sustainable development" pilot project to help the far eastern Siberians fashion an environmental and natural resource management system in the midst of economic change. In the poor state of governmental finances, many game wardens and forest rangers have not been paid for months. USAID has provided some equipment, including uniforms.

Many of the journalists came out of the Green movement that proliferated during the Communist era, so I felt it imperative to stress the importance of objectivity if their work was to be believable. Time constraints such as those the young news-woman's mentioned, and a journalistic history in which questioning of any official policy was unwelcome, are two hurdles they have to overcome.

They also spoke of the same lessened public interest in environmental matters that one hears from their counterparts in the United States. It was enough to humble any advice-giving journalist from abroad.

I passed out issues of the *SEJournal* and application forms for the International Federation for Environmental Journalists. The bonds of journalism need to be strengthened with this faithful few of hard-pressed reporters, helping oversee the future of an important area undergoing ecological assault.

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*Clark Thomas is a retired senior editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

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# Closing in on mercury guidelines

By SARA THURIN ROLLIN

Epidemiologists are studying two groups of fish-eating islanders that may in the foreseeable future yield information about the safe dose of methylmercury for children and women of child-bearing age.

On a separate but related track, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is trying to finish work on what some people have called the most comprehensive report to date on mercury. EPA released a draft of the multi-year research report June 28 without fanfare or a press release.

The report and forthcoming epidemiology data will interest government officials who are trying to determine if ongoing exposure to low levels of methylmercury in fish poses a health hazard to humans and/or wildlife. The only populations of concern are children, women of child-bearing years, and subsistence fishing communities, an EPA official said.

The data may support tightening of the reference dose, which is a safe-dose level on which pollution controls for non-cancer hazards are based. States also consult EPA's reference dose when deciding whether to issue fish advisories warning about contamination.

Scientists and government officials have known for decades that high doses

of mercury make people and animals sick, impair vision, and can cause death. No study has yet identified the lowest, safe dose. "Mercury is one of the most important environmental contaminants," said Howard Fox, the lead Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorney that sued EPA to force the release of its mercury report.



Mercury as a chemical element cannot be created or destroyed. The same amount has existed on the planet since the earth was created, according to EPA's draft report. Most environmental mercury is from human activity, said Hillary Carpenter, a scientist from the Minnesota Department of Health. "Man-made releases speed up what would have taken nature a long time to circulate."

When final, the report may aid federal agencies and states that have been contemplating action to control mercury, Fox said. The report is one of several mandated in the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 aimed at helping to determine whether controls were needed

on coal-fired utilities, including new mercury emissions controls. Most water sources of mercury releases have been controlled, an official from EPA's water office said.

The draft EPA report has an "incredible emissions inventory" that shows most controllable mercury is emitted by combustion facilities from contaminants in their fuel, said Joann Held, a meteorologist from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Mercury emissions travel around the globe, she noted.

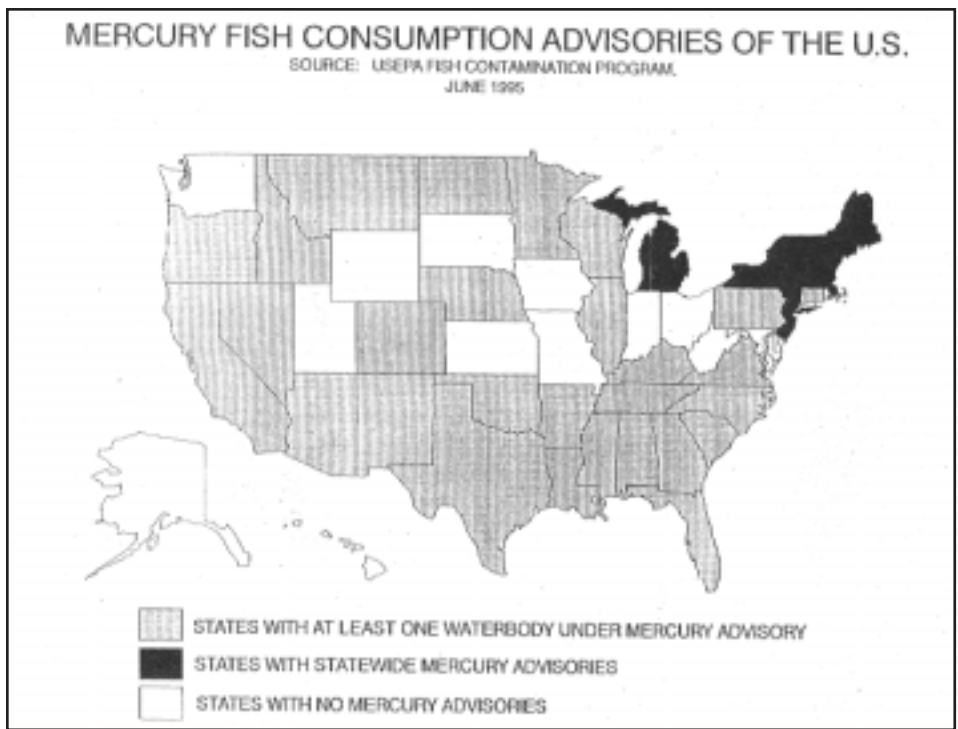
While mercury exists in many forms, it is methylmercury that accumulates in the food chain, said Joy Taylor, Great Lakes Air Toxics coordinator for Michigan. The conversion between chemical forms occurs in aquatic systems, and therefore humans are most likely to be exposed to methylmercury through fish consumption, according to EPA's draft report.

The scope of the "National Mercury Problem" is seen in the fish advisories issued by 35 states, according to EPA's draft report. The advisories warn against consumption of certain amounts of species of freshwater fish that are contaminated with mercury, according to the draft report. Taylor said Michigan has a statewide mercury advisory for all of its 11,000 inland lakes.

"The pressing public policy question is to decide if we can do something to try to prevent the build-up of mercury in fish," said Tom Gentile, chief toxics assessment section in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Because the body can eliminate mercury over time, a couple months after a fishing vacation a person would not be expected to carry mercury residue, Minnesota's Carpenter explained.

An electric power industry official, Leonard Levin, said the question is: "Are current standards for mercury exposure protective enough for people who, in the normal way, are eating fish that may have mercury in it?"

In the unfinished epidemiology studies of the two groups of fish-eating islanders, "we hope to find out what is the safe limit of methylmercury in fish," said Tom Clarkson, one of the lead researchers in the Seychelles Island



study. Notable about these studies, scientists said, is the observation of populations where the exposure to methylmercury is at or just below EPA's reference dose.

The data may show whether there is a link between methylmercury in mothers and any health effects in their children, said Clarkson, a toxicologist at the University Rochester School of Medicine. "We might find some effect and might find nothing."

The focus of mercury health research shifted to children and women of child-bearing years in the 1960s. Food contamination incidents in Iraq and Minimatta, Japan showed that pregnant women passed mercury to their offspring. Some of the children suffered long-term effects, such as an inability to walk, while others showed signs of impaired development, such as delayed walking.

In May 1995, EPA tightened its reference dose for methylmercury based on health effects observed in the Iraqi children, an agency official said. In 1997, the agency will review the reference dose in

light of the data received from the two island-based studies.

The Seychelles Island and Faeroe Island studies are important according to Clarkson because both populations have a diet where contaminated fish are a staple. The continuous exposure to low levels of methyl mercury does not allow adequate time for the body to rid itself of mercury.

So far, he added, most of the data from the Seychelles Island study suggests, "the children seem to be developing along normal lines ... at the present moment." Clarkson and his colleagues plan to continue their study for several years. They are looking for subtle changes, he said, such as delayed walking.

The Faeroe Island researchers, whose data have not yet been released publicly, report a small change in the children's developmental abilities, Clarkson said.

However, he cautioned, the Faeroe Island population eats a variety of marine mammals having other contaminants; the Faeroe Island scientists must try to tease out whether the effects are from

methylmercury or something else.

*Sara Thurin Rollin is a reporter for the Bureau of National Affairs*

### Resources:

EPA Draft Report To Congress; eight volumes, PB96-184-619, \$310.50; executive summary, PB96-96 184 627, \$28; (800) 553-NTIS.

"Mercury Pollution Prevention in Michigan," 1996, Michigan Mercury Pollution Prevention Task Force; (800) 662-9278.

"Strategies for Reducing Mercury in Minnesota," 1994, Minnesota

Pollution Control Agency; (612) 296-6619.

Environmental Health Criteria Document on Methylmercury, World Health Organization, No. 101, Order No. 1160101, \$18.00; (518) 436-9686.

Toxicological Profile of Mercury, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, No. TP-93/10; fax (404) 639-6315.

## Green grenade...(from page 9)

ants more supportive of insurgency.

Critics argue that environmental problems only merit attention if they contribute to inter-state wars—which they are unlikely to do. Others claim that even in the examples of environmentally driven intra-state conflict, the relationship between environmental scarcity and conflict is spurious. For these observers, antecedent political and economic variables are the necessary and sufficient conditions for conflict. Finally, some argue that environmental problems are more likely to defuse tensions and prompt collective action among states than to generate conflict.

Third, security institutions can affect the environment both adversely and positively. This proposition turns the usual "environment and security" causal links around, focusing on how security affects the environment. On one side are those who argue that security institutions such as armies and air bases should be excluded from environmental solutions altogether because their activities inherently cause environmental damage. Others believe that the conflict orientation of national security makes military institutions' tools

inappropriate for addressing transnational environmental problems that require cooperative and transparent responses. Finally, some argue that the armed forces cannot sacrifice operational readiness for involvement in non-traditional activities like environmental protection.

The counter argument is that the military and intelligence communities have powerful capacities to help analyze, predict and ameliorate international environmental problems. The intelligence community offers environmental monitoring capabilities and multidisciplinary analytical tools to weave environmental factors into complex political and economic assessments. Similarly, the United States military has specialized knowledge and experience to share with other nations' militaries about resource management and pollution clean-up and prevention. The military is already engaged in numerous ventures—some in conjunction with the Energy Department and the Environmental Protection Agency under an "Environmental Security Plan"—to cooperate with foreign partners on environmental matters. These activities aim to build trust,

forge new partnerships and thereby enhance bilateral relationships and promote international peace and security.

As the debate on environment and security continues, environmentalists' arguments will be strengthened if they resist the temptation to lump all priorities under the attention-grabbing security rubric—and instead research and articulate precisely how environmental changes relate to specific U.S. national interests (including, but not limited to, security interests). Meanwhile, skeptical foreign policy experts would benefit from keeping an open mind about the complexity of environmental systems and their relevance to some security issues. If both sides are guided by honest intellectual inquiry, they will advance U.S. interests in areas of mutual concern.

*P.J. Simmons is the founding director of the Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) and editor of the ESCP Report at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at [wwcem131@sivm.si.edu](mailto:wwcem131@sivm.si.edu).*

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# A guide to internet jungles

## How to weave through bytes without being bitten

By MIGUEL LLANOS

Are you trapped on the Internet, not knowing where to go for information? If so, here are some tips for making the most of those billions of bytes of data.

• **Navigation:** The World Wide Web, the part of the Internet that includes text, audio, and image files, is immense. It's a challenge to find the useful resources among the unreliable, biased or useless sites. With new resources appearing daily, you'd be wise to learn how to use tools that let you explore categories or search for specific sites and topics. There are two basic types of search tools: directories, which work like the Yellow Pages; and search engines, which use keywords to search deep into the Web. All of the tools listed below are free, with most supported by advertising.

• **Directories:** My favorite starting point for any search, **Yahoo** <<http://www.yahoo.com>> makes exploring by topic easy. You can look under categories like environment (listed under "Society and Culture"), or a country, or a U.S. state, and then link directly to the listed sites. You can search the Yahoo directory with keywords. That's not the same as searching the entire contents of a site, but that can be an advantage, since it means you won't be overwhelmed by the number of "hits" your search produces.

Along with your search results, Yahoo also provides links to much more comprehensive "search engines" where you can continue your search if your initial query doesn't produce the results you need. One warning about keyword searching, though: Whether on Yahoo or another search engine, avoid using a single broad keyword like "environment" or "politics" or even "energy" or you'll be buried in an avalanche of information.

Whereas Yahoo's "Yellow Pages" style means it lists only basic details about a site, **Mckinley** <<http://www.mckinley.com>> reviews and grades thousands of Web sites. Like Yahoo, Mckinley lets you search by keywords or explore by categories, but I still prefer Yahoo because of its cleaner organization and links to search engines.

At **Argus Clearinghouse** <<http://www.clearinghouse.net>>, academic librarians and other experts have stored dozens of Internet resource guides. The site allows keyword searching and often turning up leads not found in Yahoo or McKinley.

• **Search Engines:** Say your search on Yahoo for "New York nuclear" turns up nothing. Don't panic. Along with your search result, Yahoo lists several full-text search engines that you can use to search the entire contents of thousands of web sites. And with a single mouse click, Yahoo will feed your keywords directly to any of those search engines. Here are the two best full-text search engines:

• **Altavista** <<http://www.altavista.digital.com>>: I usually go here first after a Yahoo search because my experience tells me it's a bit more rewarding than Lycos.

My second choice. **Lycos** <<http://www.lycos.com>>, also

lists resources by category.

• **Finding e-mail listservs:** With its ability to show images and transmit audio, the Web gets most of the attention these days. But electronic mailing lists, or listservs—the majority of them free—can be valuable for asking questions or following expert discussions. Many Web sites are static, simply listing data. But e-mail lists are alive with debate and ideas. Using the Web you can search descriptions of some 20,000 lists. Some sites not only let you search by keyword, they also let you automatically join a list that looks interesting. The warning about overly broad search terms applies here too.

At <<http://www.webcom.com/impulse/list.html>> you'll find a site that explains the various types of software used to create e-mail lists, such as listserv and majordomo, and includes links to the leading databases of e-mail list descriptions.

• **Finding usefulness on Usenet:** Another often-overlooked area accessible via the Internet is the Usenet, a network akin to a bulletin board where any user can post or respond to messages. If you have an Internet account, you're likely to have Usenet access as well.

Usenet is structured by broad categories, the largest and least controlled of which are the "alt." groups, as in alternative. But for environmental resources, try the "sci." groups first, especially sci.environment. If you have Usenet access you can search the 20,000 or so group names for a keyword like "environment." Try the following to search Usenet postings and their archives:

Besides allowing you to search Web sites, **AltaVista** <<http://www.altavista.digital.com>> also gives you the option of searching recent Usenet postings. The default search is for Web sites; you have to change it to search the Usenet.

Not only can you search by keywords at **Dejanews** <<http://www.dejanews.com>>, you can also search by name or e-mail address. If you want to know whether Marvin Minsky has been posting, just type his name.

• **Finding what's new:** With so much to explore, it's hard to keep up with what's new. Here's my strategy:

Each day, Yahoo adds some 2,000 sites. Check **Yahoo's What's New** <<http://www.yahoo.com/new/>> to explore what was added yesterday, or earlier in the week, either by category—you can quickly go to environment and see if anything has been added—or as a full file.

Many Web sites have a "what's new" section that tells you what's been added in recent months.

Less used, but with great potential, are e-mail notices from Web sites that tell you what's new. **PBS**, for one, does a great job of advising its visitors about web resources that provide background for **PBS** programs. You can sign up for this service at the PBS web site <<http://www.pbs.org>>.

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*Miguel Llanos is Special Projects Editor for national/international news at The Seattle Times.*



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# Books by SEJ members hit shelves

**MIRAGE: THE FALSE PROMISE OF DESERT AGRICULTURE**

by **Russell Clemings**

**Sierra Club Books, 1996, \$28.00 (hardcover)**

Desert agriculture is a delicate balancing act, and, according to Clemings, reporter for the *Fresno Bee*, one that on at least a quarter of the world's 600 million acres of irrigated land has tipped in favor of salinity, toxic poisoning, and devastation.

"Mirage" details the most dramatic of those failures. These are stories we have heard before: wildlife massacres in California's Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge; the reduction of the mighty Colorado to a poisonous trickle; the death of Australian orchards. Clemings tries to illuminate the bad science or bad politics behind these irrigation projects.

The only hope, presented in the last chapter, is drip irrigation, which allows farmers to precisely water crops. Although it has been perfected in the Israeli desert, ignorance and high start-up costs keep it from gaining wider acceptance. After reading about devastated fields for over 200 pages, that does not seem like much. What's left un-argued (at least explicitly) is the case for not trying to grow crops where nature has provided no water. —George Homsy

**A NEW NAME FOR PEACE: INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISM, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMOCRACY**

By **Philip Shabecoff**

**University Press of New England, 1996 \$24.95 (hardcover)**

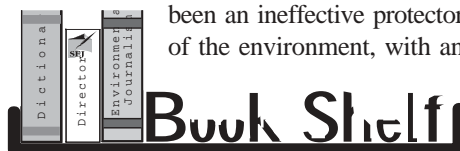
A number of books have been published recently on the connection between international development and the environment. Shabecoff, former *New York Times* reporter and author of *A Fierce Green Fire*, approaches it in the context of attempts at international cooperation—mostly the UN's efforts to promote sustainable development.

The book recounts the history of the UN's environmental programs and events such as the 1992 Rio conference, from the perspective of someone who has been immersed in these issues for years.

Although this book is a wealth of information based on painstaking research, it's not recreational reading. However, the reader is left with a sense of a whole issue, rather than bewildered by a barrage of facts. Shabecoff makes his points successfully, if slowly and carefully.

He began this project after being invited to be a historian of the Earth Summit, which seems to have tied Shabecoff to a UN focus. For all the book's underlying optimism, one can't help noticing that the UN has generally

been an ineffective protector of the environment, with an



entangled bureaucracy and no real power to enforce its resolutions. This book might be stronger if it didn't revolve so completely around the UN. —Amy Gahran

**THE FORGOTTEN POLLINATORS**

Stephen L. Buchmann and

Gary Paul Nabhan

**Island Press, 1996, \$25 (hardcover)**

Aptly named, *The Forgotten Pollinators* points out a fallacy in our eagerness to protect individual endangered species: plants, animals and invertebrates have mutual dependencies. No amount of government protection of a dwarf bearclaw poppy will succeed without the bee responsible for its pollination. Conversely, if the poppy dies out, what happens to the bee?

Alternate nectar and pollen sources can be found, but competition will increase. One will grow stronger; another will diminish. Only protecting habitat, not species, will allow those dependencies to survive.

In addition to supporting habitat protection on general principles, Buchmann, an authority on pollination, and Nabhan, a nature writer and ecologist, state the consequences to humans—many of our food, fiber, and beverage crops depend on bees, beetles, and a host of other pollinators. The authors include guidance in habitat restoration, resources, lists of pesticides most or least toxic to pollinators, and a good dose of hope that restoration is possible. —Chris Rigel

**THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO TROUBLE-FREE HOME REPAIR**

by **David J. Tenenbaum**

**Alpha Books, 1996, \$16.95 (softcover)**

What environment affects us more than those four sheet-rock walls we call home? Tenenbaum, when he's not freelancing magazine articles, clearly spends a lot of time pounding nails.

In 325 pages, the author takes us non-professionals from assembling a tool kit and evaluating our domicile with the paranoid eye of a professional inspector to regrouting tile, rewiring switches and replacing the guts of a toilet. Included are "Don't Screw Up!" tips and "The Least You Need to Know" summaries, ideal for those of us with MTV-length attention spans. The whole effort is jaunty without being cloying, and crammed with good advice. It might not supplant my "Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual," but it's earned a permanent place on the shelf. —Nancy Shute

**WHOSE BACKYARD, WHOSE RISK: FEAR AND FAIRNESS IN TOXIC AND NUCLEAR WASTE SITING**

by **Michael B. Gerrard**

**MIT Press, 1996, \$17.50 (softcover)**

This is the ideal crib book for anyone who needs to become an instant expert on waste siting. Gerrard, an environmental lawyer and Columbia University professor, lays out the whole sorry history of our attempts to make the worst of our garbage go away: the unfairness of site selection by "decide, announce, defend" (and usually, surrender); the huge costs of current federal programs and private-sector disposal; and communities' ineradicable fears of damage to health.

In the last three chapters, Gerrard suggests reforming the siting process by reducing the amount of waste through price incentives and removing hidden subsidies; allocating waste to each of the 50 states based on their production, existing facilities and geography; and asking communities to volunteer to host new sites, with appropriate compensation. Gerrard's approach is appropriately lawyerly; no storytelling or drama, just solid information from a reliable source. —Nancy Shute

## OCTOBER

**14-17. Annual Conference of State Drinking Water Administrators.** San Diego. Contact: Deirdre Mason, ASDWA, 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20036. Ph: (202) 293-7655; FAX: (202) 293-7656; e-mail: asdwa@interramp.com

**15-17. Superfund XVII** (with sessions on RCRA reform, bioremediation, brownfields, groundwater contamination, and "turning a contaminated site from a negative to a positive asset"). Washington DC. Contact: E.J. Krause & Associates, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Ph: (301) 986-7800; FAX to EJK:(301) 986-4538; World Wide Web home page: <http://www.ejkrause.com/enviroshows>

**17-19. SEJ Sixth National Conference. St. Louis.** (registration fees after Aug. 1: \$125 for members, \$400 for nonmembers, one-day fee: \$75 for members, \$150 for non-members). Register with Washington University, SEJ Conference, Campus Box 1070, One Brookings Dr., St. Louis, MO 63130. For discount airfare call (800) 283-8747. Hyatt Regency at Union Station in St. Louis phone: (314) 231-1234; Hampton Inn phone: (314) 241-3200. For questions: Ph. SEJ at (215) 836-9970, or e-mail at [sejoffice@aol.com](mailto:sejoffice@aol.com)

**21-22. National Conference on Brownfields Opportunities** (with sessions on how the insurance industry is coping with liability issues, proposed legislation, new regulations to turn over lightly contaminated sites, and what developers look for in a brownfield site). St. Louis. Contact: King Communications Group, 627 National Press Building, E-18, Washington, D.C. 20045. Ph: (800) 926-5464; fax: (202) 662-9719; e-mail: [king-comm@dgs.dgsys.com](mailto:king-comm@dgs.dgsys.com); Web://[www.kingpublishing.com](http://www.kingpublishing.com)

**21-23. International Conference on Ozone Protection Technologies: Stratospheric Ozone Protection for the '90s.** Washington, D.C. Contact: Jan McCusker: Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy, P.O. Box 236, Frederick, MD 21701. Ph: (301) 695-3762; e-mail: [jan@fred.net](mailto:jan@fred.net); World Wide Web: <http://www.ecoexpo.com/ecoexpo/company/opt.html>

**21-24. Canadian Waste Management Conference: Sustainability—the evolution of waste management to pollution prevention and resource recovery** (with sessions on such topics as water treatment, composting, new landfill technologies, international dimensions of waste cycle, pollution management in aboriginal communities). Winnipeg. Contact: Canadian Environment Industry Assn. Ph:(613) 723-3525; FAX: (613) 723-0060; e-mail: [ceiaea@capitalnet.com](mailto:ceiaea@capitalnet.com); World Wide Web: <http://www.ceia.org/cwmc.htm>

**26-29. World Environmental Congress: Promoting the Science, Technology and Business of the Environment** (with sessions on such topics as hazardous waste management, innovative cleanup technologies, and international environmental markets). Cincinnati. Contact: Hussain Al-Ekabi, Science & Technology Integration, University of Western Ontario Research Park, Ste. 110, 100 Collip Cir., London, ON N6G 4S2 CANA-

DA. Ph: (519) 858-5055; FAX: (519) 858-5056; e-mail: [sti.ekabi@info.london.on.ca](mailto:sti.ekabi@info.london.on.ca)

**28-30. International Seminar on Battery Waste Management.** Boca Raton. Contact: Florida Educational Seminars Inc., 2300 Glades Rd., Ste. 307 East Tower, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Ph: (407) 338-8727; FAX: (407) 338-6887.

## NOVEMBER

**4-7. ECO-INFORMA '96: Global networks for environmental information—bridging the gap between knowledge and applications** (with sessions on topics ranging from how to clean up ordnance-contaminated fields, to sustainable food production, and using incinerator ash in construction). Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Contact: Nancy Wallman, ERIM/Eco-Informa, P.O. Box. 134001, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001. Ph: (313) 994-1200, ext. 3234; FAX: (313) 994-5123; e-mail: [wallman@erim.org](mailto:wallman@erim.org); World Wide Web: <http://www.erim.org/CONF/conf.html>

**6-8. World Energy Engineering Congress** (with sessions on indoor air quality, water use efficiency, pollution prevention, biomass-energy systems, and environmental market trends). Atlanta. Contact: Assn. of Energy Engineers, 4025 Pleasantdale Rd., Ste. 420, Atlanta, GA 30340-4264. Ph: (770) 447-5083, ext. 210; FAX: (770) 446-3969.

**8-9. Fisheries and Pollution: Conference on Population-Level Effects of Marine Contamination** (with sessions on urban impacts to estuarine fish, linking coastal water quality to fish health, and identifying biomarkers of risks to fin- and shellfish). Bodega Bay, Calif. Contact: Missy Ragland, Bodega Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. e-mail: [mmragland@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mmragland@ucdavis.edu).

**8-10. Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference** (with sessions on year-round organic gardening, farmland preservation and farm-rotation designs for "advanced vegetable production"). Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C. Contact: Alyx Perry, Carolina Farm Stewardship Assn., 115 W. Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510. Ph: (919) 968-1030.

**10-15. [Nuclear Plant] Decommissioning, Decontamination and Reutilization** (sponsored by the American Nuclear Society). Washington, D.C. Contact: ANS, 555 N. Kensington Ave., La Grange Park, IL 60525.

**10-16. Immune and Nervous System Responses to Environmental Toxicants** (with papers on such topics as chemical sensitivity syndrome, neurobehavioral effects of dioxins and PCBs, Gulf War Syndrome). Hot Springs, Ark. Contact: Joan Cranmer, Professor of Pediatrics and Toxicology, Dept. of Pediatrics #512-19C, Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 1102 Marshall St., Rm. B3020, Little Rock, AR 72202-3591. Ph: (501) 320-2986; FAX: (501) 320-4978; e-mail: [jcranmer@achasc.uams.edu](mailto:jcranmer@achasc.uams.edu)

**17-21. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry annual meeting** (with sessions on such topics as wildlife toxicology)

cology, restoration ecology, hazardous waste site assessments, environmental hormones, green chemistry/environmentally-friendly design, environmental economics, environmental justice, and atmospheric deposition of pollutants). Washington, D.C. Contact: Rod Parrish, SETAC, 1010 N. 12th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32501-3370. Ph: (904) 469-1500; FAX: (904) 469-9778; e-mail: setac@setac.org

**17-21. American Public Health Association annual meeting** (with sessions on such topics as indoor air policies, endocrine disrupters, community programs to reduce toxic chemical emissions into the environment, lead poisoning, dioxin exposures from Agent Orange and other sources in Vietnam and Cambodia, global warming and emerging diseases, and environmental equity issues and partnerships). New York. Contact: Sherry Hicks, APHA, 1015 15th St. NW, Washington DC 20005-2605. Ph: (202) 789-5677; FAX: (202) 789-5661; e-mail: sherry.hicks@msmail.apha.org

**17-21. Review of Research on Biological Effects of Electric and Magnetic Fields from the Generation, Delivery, and Use of Electricity** (sponsored by the Department of Energy and Electric Power Research Institute). San Antonio. Contact: W/L Associates Ltd., 7519 Ridge Rd., Frederick, MD 21702. Ph: (301) 663-1915; FAX: (301) 371-8955.

**18-19. Conference on International Environmental Science in the 21st Century** (sponsored by the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and USC, speakers will tackle future issues in biodiversity, acid rain and environmental-science policy). Los Angeles. Contact: Lynne Friedmann, P.O. Box 1725, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Ph: (619) 793-3537; e-mail: 72673.3524@compuserve.com

**20-22. Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Symposium** (defense-cleanup and conservation sessions will tackle such issues as whale monitoring, effects of aircraft overflights on birds of prey, greener technologies for military missions, and ultrasonic detection of cultural artifacts). Vienna, Va. Contact: Eric Cannelli, LABAT-ANDERSON Inc., 8000 Westpark Dr., Ste. 400, McLean, VA 22102. Ph: (800) 522-2861; e-mail: Erin\_Cannelli@laib.labat.com

**21-23. Marine Stock Enhancement: A New Perspective** (sponsored by Florida State University). Sarasota. Contact: Mote Symposium, Ctr. for Professional Development, FSU, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2027. e-mail: slampman@mail.fsu.edu

## INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF NOTE

**6-9. Carcinogenesis from Environmental Pollution: Assessment of Human Risk and Strategies for Prevention** (sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research and International Agency for Research on Cancer, it will host sessions on state-of-the-art research, and take place in an area of the world where pollutant levels have been traditionally high--Central Europe). Budapest, Hungary. Contact: AARC, Public Ledger Bldg., Ste. 816, 50 S. Independence Mall West,

Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483. Ph: (215) 440-9300; FAX: (215) 440-9313.

**Nov. 10-14. Environmental Impact on Male Reproductive Function** (sponsored by INSERM, France's national agency for health). Aix-les-Bains (Savoy), France. Contact: INSERM Institut National De La Sante, Conferences Philippe Laudat, 101 rue de Tolbiac, 75654 Paris, Cedex 13 FRANCE. Ph: 33 (1) 44 23 60 89/87; FAX: 33 (1) 44 23 60 89; e-mail: laudat@tolbiac.inserm.fr

## DEADLINES

**Oct. 1.** The Alicia Patterson Foundation is offering \$30,000 stipends for a year of in-depth research on a given topic to as many as 7 print journalists. Applicants must be U.S. citizens with at least 5 years of print experience. Contact: Margaret Engel, APF, 1730 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 850, Washington DC 20003. Ph/FAX: (301) 951-8512.

**Oct. 5.** The John B. Oakes Award for distinguished environmental journalism is accepting entries for its \$3,000 prize. Only non-fiction newspaper or magazine articles published between Oct. 1, 1995 and Sept. 30, 1996 are eligible. Contact: Oakes Award Committee, *The Amicus Journal*, NRDC, 40 W. 20th St., New York, NY 10011.

**Nov. 30.** The Soil and Water Conservation Society is accepting entries for its \$300 award for "excellence in communicating conservation." Work must have been published since Nov. 1, 1995. \$15 entry fee. Contact: SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021-9764. Ph: (800) THE-SOIL; FAX: (515) 289-1227; email: swcs@netins.net; World Wide Web: <http://www.netins.net/showcase/swcs/>

**Feb. 28, 1997.** Individuals wishing to conduct research on the history of chemistry at the Othmer Library of Chemical History and other Philadelphia institutions may apply for a \$2,000 stipend for up to four weeks of study during the summer of 1997. The Glenn E. and Barbara Hodsdon Ullyot Scholarship is offered through the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, Pa., to advance public understanding of how important the chemical sciences are to public welfare. Contact: Laurel Adelman, CHF, 315 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Ph: (215) 925-2222; FAX: (215) 925-1954; Web: <http://chemheritage.org>

## 1997 directory alert

SEJ's 1997 annual directory will go into production in November. If you have moved, changed jobs, positions, phone or fax numbers, acquired or changed an e-mail address, or have had any other changes which should be reflected in the 1997 directory, please contact the SEJ office.

**Deadline for changes is November 15, 1996.** Changes submitted after this time will help to keep records current, but will not be included in the 1997 directory.  
phone: (215) 836-9970, fax: (215) 836-9972 j18



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# Some corporations greening up

## Big industry, local companies are finding that ecology pays

by JOHN WASIK

It's easy to think of multinational and even local corporations and institutions as "the enemy" when covering the environment. They command large facilities, devour natural resources, and are visibly scarring the planet. But what if the thinking behind their pattern of consumption were to change?

In a quiet and potentially powerful shift in institutional thinking, many large organizations are realizing the relationship between ecology and economics. Those that do are not only reducing their operations costs, they are improving productivity and increasing their profits as well. This new paradigm has been largely ignored in the mainstream media and can yield a number of interesting environmental stories. It could represent a positive trend as we enter a new millenia, but it is an area that requires skillful reporting.

The more responsive corporations are realizing that they, too, are part of a larger web of ecosystems. In the new discipline known as "design for environment" and ecological economics, which had its genesis in Europe, products are manufactured, distributed, sold, and disposed of in an economic scheme whereby waste is equated to needless expenditures of energy, labor, and corporate profit. This "new" scheme focuses on some old but often-ignored maxims of corporation operations. While it's no secret that corporations can reduce their bottom lines by cutting the amount of raw materials and energy they consume, they are now seeing it in an environmental light. In the process they are discovering that good ecology is marketable.

Companies such as General Motors and Poloroid, for example, have adopted the CERES (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economics) Principles which grew out of the Exxon oil spill near Valdez, Alaska. That means they include such practices as recycling, materials reduction, and pollution prevention into their operations. Their overall marketing reflects this shift. Hundreds of other corporations have adopted the less stringent Business Charter for Sustainable Development (BCSD).

The bean-counters are finding that ecology begun for public relations purposes is also good business. A recent University of Michigan study found that several companies saw improvements in operating performance within the first year. By the second year they reaped enhanced returns on equity, a gauge of the value of an investment. Xerox invested \$10 million in recycling toner cartridges for copiers and the move resulted in a \$200 million profit. Dow's "Waste Reduction Always Pays" program saved the company more than \$110 million annual savings over 10 years with a return on investment of 204 percent.

Involving themselves even more directly in environmental affairs are some 100 firms who manage their corporate lands for wildlife as members of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) in Silver Spring, MD. Programs ranging from setting out bluebird boxes to restoring wetlands on corporate land holdings not only play well with employees, says WHC communications director Jana Goldman, they also market well with the general public.

Corporations are now managing for wildlife some 400 sites totaling 327,000 acres in the U.S.

Following international standards is another marketing strategy that could propel many corporations into green practices. Standard-setting, again popular in Europe because of European Economic Community activities and the influence of green political parties, is vastly under-reported and ignored in the U.S. An obscure group to most Americans is ISO, an international standards organization based in Switzerland that standardizes everything from film speeds to quality control. The organization's recent 14000 series of standards will set guidelines for everything from environmental audits in factories to labeling of environmentally sound products. Companies in the global market may find they have to publicize their environmentally conscious public.

What does all this mean to the environmental beat? A number of compelling angles can be pursued in writing or broadcasting stories that please your editors, your readers or listeners, and even the corporations accustomed to being harangued by the media.

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### Reporter's Toolbox

is a regular feature of SEJournal, in which reporters and others offer tips on gathering news about environmental issues.

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- Check out what local companies are doing to reduce their resource use. Public relations or environmental officers will be happy to talk about it.

- Inquire about whether local companies produce annual environmental reports. Either a yes or no answer may produce news. If the answer is yes, the report may lead to stories about environmental management.

- Has environmental management made the company more competitive? Many companies such as 3M, Patagonia, and others claim that it has created jobs, reduced costs of production, and lowered waste.

- What are companies doing to preserve or restore habitat? Many have found that restoring prairies, wetlands, or meadows saves on maintenance costs. To find out if local companies are among the 400 sites listed by the Wildlife Habitat Council, contact Jana Goldman at (301) 588-8994.

Of course, the new wave of corporate greening is tinged with efforts to "greenwash" the records of some major-league polluters. An entire "good-news industry" combines aggressive public relations, corporate donations, and phony environmental groups that are fronting corporate interests. Good reporting skills still apply. Ask for specifics, figures on savings in production costs, and make sure they add up. Ask to see habitat being managed for wildlife.

The trend is real, and growing. Improved economics and international standards mean that companies seeking to compete may have to green their operations or lose something more dear to them than rain forests and air quality—market share.

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*SEJ member John F. Wasik is editor of Consumer's Digest and author of Green Marketing and Management: A Global Perspective. He welcomes calls on corporate greening at (312) 275-3590, ext. 7111.*

After five years, **Scott Powers** is leaving the green beat. His bosses at the *Columbus* (OH) *Dispatch* like to rotate their writers through assignments, so Powers will hit the streets as a general assignment reporter. He says he'll miss the challenge of reporting on the "science, law, and emotion" that comes with covering the environment. Slipping into his shoes is **Randall Edwards** who moves over from the municipal courts. Powers reports that Edwards has spent every spare moment covering environmental issues.

**Tom Knudson** of the *Sacramento Bee* won the National Press Club's Robert L. Kozik Award for Environmental Reporting. His prizewinning series, "A Dying Sea" probed the dangers facing the Sea of Cortez from overfishing and political corruption.

"It's hectic, it's fun, you get to do a lot of different things." That's how **Lee Johnson** describes his new job at the *Muscatine* (IA) *Journal*. The paper has just three reporters covering a town of 24,000 people. "It's nice," he reports, "because you get to know everybody. It's bad because, well, you get to know. . . everybody!"

**Fred Seelig** is covering the news in four New Hampshire towns for the *Laconia Citizen*. He moved to the Granite State earlier this year from the *Newport* (VT) *Daily News*.

As the new managing editor of their environmental group, **Bowman Cox**

hopes to increase the eco-offerings of Pasha Publications. Their titles now include *Defense Cleanup* and *Superfund Week*. At the same time he moved up the Pasha chain of command, Cox relocated east to Arlington, VA., from Santa Fe, NM.

## Media on the Move

Compiled by George Homsy

The *Animal People* have moved their den. Co-founder and editor **Merritt Clifton** says the tabloid outgrew its upstate New York lair, so it migrated to Clinton, WA. Clifton says *Animal People*, which comes out 10 times per year, covers the news of "whatever people are doing to help animals."

It was easy for **Conrad Smith** to make the move west. "From where I'm sitting now, I can see 12,000-foot snow-capped peaks," he boasts. His choice was between "crowded Columbus," where he was an associate professor at Ohio State University, and wide-open Wyoming, where he heads the Communications and Mass Media Department at the University of Wyoming at Laramie.

Former freelancer **Allen Salzberg** is a cyberjournalist now. He writes a monthly column and hosts on-line interviews for *Omni-Internet*. He plans to present scientists and authors who are doing cutting-edge research and/or good old-

fashioned nature writing.

**Angela Swafford** has moved into the freelance world. The former editor and writer at the *Miami Herald* is writing news for the CBS-owned Spanish news network, "Telenoticias." She also translates science and environment pieces for *Newsweek En Espanol*. To round it all out, she is developing environmental documentaries for public television in Florida.

Latin America expert **Ron Mader** is hard at work on two travel books for John Muir Publications. Mexico and Honduras are the subjects of his upcoming eco-travel guides.

And finally **Peter Thomson** is neck deep in a new startup venture. The first editor of *NPR's* "Living On Earth" has gotten himself married and has followed his anthropologist wife to the Philippines. He leaves behind his cushy Cambridge desk job (as well as many admiring friends and colleagues) for the rough and tumble world of foreign freelancing. Plans now call for him to be based in Hong Kong.

*What's happening in your world? Change jobs? Win an award? Start a fellowship? Write a book? Let us know. Send any professional news about you or your colleagues to: George Homsy, Living On Earth, 8 Story Street, Cambridge, MA., 02138-4956; tel: 617-868-8810; fax: 617-868-865; email: <ghomsy@world.std.com>.*

## New members...(from page 5)

### GEORGIA

- Natalie Pawelski (Active), CNN, Atlanta

### ILLINOIS

- Susan Kaufman (Academic), Journalism Department, Eastern Illinois University Charleston

### INDIANA

- Steven Higgs (Active), *The Herald-Times*, Bloomington

### LOUISIANA

- Chris Gray (Active), *Times-Picayune*, New Orleans

### MASSACHUSETTS

- Peter Tyson (Active), *Earthwatch Magazine*, Watertown

### MARYLAND

- Steven Allison (Active), *Discovery Channel Online*, Bethesda
- Chris Driscoll (Associate), Colora
- Michael Richman (Associate), Water Environment Federation, Olney
- Andrew B. Rusnak (Active), *International Solar Energy Intelligence Report; Environmental Remediation*, Silver Spring

### MISSOURI

- Laszlo Domjan (Active), *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*,
- Barbara Perry Lawton (Associate), Kirkwood
- Andrea Widener (Academic), University of Missouri, Columbia

### NEW JERSEY

- Martha Traylor (Academic), Seton Hall University Law School, Princeton

### NEW YORK

- Corydon Ireland (Active), *Democrat & Chronicle/Times Union*, Rochester
- Carol Kopf (Academic), New York University, Levittown
- Tim Wacker (Active), *Suffolk Times*, Mattituck

### OHIO

- Dale Dempsey (Active), *Dayton Daily News*, Dayton

### PENNSYLVANIA

- Rebecca Renner (Active), South Williamsport
- Linda Lou Steiner (Associate), Cooperstown

### RHODE ISLAND

- Anna Minicucci (Active), *Warwick*

*Beacon/Cranston Herald*, Providence

- Chip Young (Associate), Coastal Resources Center/URI, Narragansett

### TENNESSEE

- Paul Neely (Active), *The Chattanooga Times*, Chattanooga

### TEXAS

- Mark W. Evans (Academic), Dept. of Journalism, Texas A & M University, College Station
- Phillip Sulak (Associate), Sea Grant, Texas A&M University, Bryan

### VIRGINIA

- Brian Fortner (Associate), *Operations Forum/Water Environment Laboratory Solutions*, Water Environment Federation, Alexandria

### WISCONSIN

- Garrett O'Keefe (Academic), Agricultural Journalism Dept., University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Bob Olsgard (Active), Sarona

### RUSSIA

- Margarita Stakhovich (Active), *Kuznetsky Rabochi*, Novokuznetsk

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# Green Beat Correspondents

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## Contribute to Green Beat

The Green Beat is designed as an idea exchange for environmental journalists and educators. It relies on information submitted by reporters about important issues, outstanding coverage, and developments in environmental education and the communications profession on a state-by-state basis.

To submit ideas or copies of series for possible mention in The Green Beat, contact the SEJ correspondent for the appropriate state(s). They are:

**Alabama** — Sean Reilly, *Anniston Star* Montgomery Bureau, 1621 Deatsville Hwy., Millbrook, AL 36054, (205) 264-8711.

**Alaska** — Vacant.

**Arizona and New Mexico** — Vacant

**Arkansas** — Vacant

**California:**

Northern California — Laura Mahoney, BNA, 770 L St., Suite 910, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 552-6502.

Bay Area/San Jose — Jane Kay at the *San Francisco Examiner*, Box 7260, San Francisco, CA 94120, (415) 777-8704.

Southern California — Marni McEntee, *Los Angeles Daily News*, 20132 Observation Drive, Topanga, CA 90290, (805) 641-0542.

**Colorado** — Ronald Baird, *Colorado Daily*, 839 Pearl St., Boulder, CO, 80302, (303) 443-6272.

**Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts** — Bob Wyss at the *Providence Journal*, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902, (401) 737-3000.

**District of Columbia** — Cheryl Hogue, BNA, *Daily Environment Report*, 1231 25th St., N.W., Room 361-S, Wash., DC 20037, (202) 452-4625, fax (202) 452-4150.

**Florida:**

North Florida — Bruce Ritchie at the *Gainesville Sun*, P.O. Box 147147, Gainesville, FL 32614, (904) 374-5087

**South Florida** — Vacant.

**Georgia and South Carolina** — Ron Chepsiuk, 782 Wofford St., Rock Hill, SC 29730, (803) 366-5440.

**Hawaii** — Joan Conrow at the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Kawai Bureau, P.O. Box 3404, Lihue, HI, 96776, (808) 828-0620.

**Idaho** — Rocky Barker of the *Post-Register*, 1020 11th St., Idaho Falls, ID, 83404, (208) 529-8508 or Julie Titone

of the *Spokesman Review & Chronicle*, (509) 459-5431

**Illinois** — John Wasik at *Consumers Digest*, P.O. Box 51, Wauconda, IL, 60684, (302) 275-3590.

**Iowa** — Perry Beeman at the *Des Moines Register*, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50304, (515) 284-8538.

**Kansas** — Mike Mansur at the *Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108. (816) 234-4433.

**Kentucky** — Vacant.

**Louisiana** — Bob Anderson at *The Morning Advocate*, Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (504) 383-1111.

**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont** — Robert Braile, *Boston Globe* correspondent, P.O. Box 1907, Exeter, N.H., 03833, (603) 772-6380.

**Maryland and Delaware** — Tim Wheeler, *The Sun*, 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21278, (301) 332-6564.

**Michigan** — John A. Palen, at Central Michigan University, Journalism Dept. Anspach 36, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859, (517) 774-7110.

**Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota** — Tom Meersman at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 425 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55488, (612) 673-4414.

**Missouri** — Bill Allen, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101, (314) 340-8127.

**Montana** — Mike Millstein of the *Billings Gazette*, P.O. Box 821, Cody WY 82414, (307) 527-7250.

**Nebraska** — Al J. Laukaitis at the *Lincoln Journal*, 926 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68501, (402) 473-7257.

**New Jersey** — Peter Page at the *Trenton Times*, 513 Berwyn Road, Morrisville, PA, 19067, (609) 989-5701.

**New York** — Carol Kaplan at WGRZ-TV, 259 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY, 14202, (716) 849-5756, Fax: (716) 849-5706.

**Nevada** — Mary Manning at the *Las Vegas Sun*, 800 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, (702) 259-4065 or Jon Christiansen of *Great Basin News*, 6185 Franktown Road, Carson City, NV 89704, (702) 882-3990.

**Ohio, Indiana** — Charlie Prince at *Ohio Environmental Reporter*, 516 Ludlow Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45220, (513) 221-0954.

**Oregon** — Terry Novak at the *Salem Statesman-Journal*, 280 Church St. N.E. Salem, OR 97309, (503) 399-6737.

**Pennsylvania** — John Bartlett, *Erie Daily Times*, 513 13th St., Franklin, PA 16323, (814) 437-6397.

**Puerto Rico/Caribbean Islands** — Albi Ferre at *El Nuevo Dia*, Box 297, San Juan, PR 00902, (809) 793-7070, ext. 2165.

**Rocky Mountain Region** — Elizabeth Manning, *High Country News*, P.O. Box 1274, Paonia, CO 81428, (303) 527-4898

**Tennessee and Mississippi** — Debbie Gilbert at *The Memphis Flyer*, 460 Tennessee St., Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 521-9000.

**Texas and Oklahoma:**

North Texas and Oklahoma — Randy Loftis at *The Dallas Morning News*, 508 Young St., Dallas, TX 75202, (800) 431-0010.

Central and West Texas — Robert Bryce at *The Austin Chronicle*, 3812 Brookview, Austin, TX 78722, (512) 454-5766

East and Coastal Texas — Bill Dawson at *The Houston Chronicle*, Box 4260, Houston, TX 77210, (713) 220-7171.

**Utah and Wyoming** — Rod C. Jackson, KTVX-TV, 1760 S. Fremont Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84103, (801) 975-4418.

**Virginia and North Carolina** — Mark Divincenzo at *The Daily Press*, 7505 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23607, (804) 247-4719.

**Washington State** — Rob Taylor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* at 18719 S.E. 58th St., Issaquah, WA 98027, (206) 488-8337 and Julie Titone of the *Spokesman Review & Chronicle*, Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210-1615, (509) 459-5431.

**West Virginia** — Ken Ward at the *Charleston Gazette*, 1001 Virginia St. East, Charleston, WV 25301, (304) 348-1702.

**Wisconsin** — Chuck Quirnbach of Wisconsin Public Radio, 111 E. Kilbourn Ave., #1060, Milwaukee, WI 53202,(414)

## Greenbeat correspondents needed

Please note openings for correspondents in several states. If you are interested in filling one of these volunteer positions, contact Kevin Carmody at (312) 229-2814. Positions are open to any SEJ member, though preference will be given to working journalists or educators.



## CONNECTICUT

► Drinking water in Litchfield, Ct. has been found to contain radon at levels that carry a cancer risk level of one extra death in every 500 people consuming the water. That is 10 times greater than what federal health policy generally says is an acceptable environmental risk. However, there are no federal or state standards involving radon in drinking water that local water agencies such as Litchfield must meet. There is a 1990 state law directing Connecticut health officials to adopt radon standards for drinking water. The health department, however, has never established such standards because of concerns that it could pose a financial hardship for small, local water companies. Health officials also said they were waiting for more guidance from federal officials on an acceptable level. For further information on this story, contact Dan Jones, *Hartford Courant*, (860) 241-6200.

► Five nuclear plants, including four in Connecticut, were shut down in New England this summer because of growing safety concerns. The facilities are Millstone one, two, and three in Waterford, Ct.; Connecticut Yankee in Haddam Neck, Ct.; and Maine Yankee in Wiscasset, Me. In each situation the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has expressed reservations about the way the plants have been run and it has imposed stringent requirements that must be met before any of the facilities can be reopened. Analysts have begun predicting that at least one of the facilities, Connecticut Yankee, faces so many obstacles that it may never reopen even though it has a license to operate for another 10 years. This would be the second plant in New England to close prematurely before its license expired.

## FLORIDA

► In what may be the first such ruling in the nation, Florida's Governor and cabinet has ruled that airborne nitrogen deposited into surface waters may be regulated as a water pollutant. The ruling came in Florida Power & Light's failed bid to permit the burning of a tar-like fuel called orimulsion at one of its central Florida power plants. While the proposal had received all necessary state regulatory blessings, the Governor & cabinet bowed

to citizen outcry and voted 4-3 to deny the permit because of, among other things, possible adverse consequences to Tampa Bay's ecosystem from airborne NOX deposition into that designated national estuary's waters. The ruling is currently under appeal but most observers hold that the court will sustain the ruling. Many national studies have linked airborne NOX with nitrogen deposition in surface waters hundreds of miles from the source. Power plants in Ohio are linked with increased nitrogen deposition in Chesapeake Bay, for instance. Currently, no national or state laws or rules regulate such discharges. For more information, contact Dave Newport at Florida Environments, (352) 373-1401.

## IDAHO

► At the *Spokesman Review*, staff writers Ken Olsen and Eric Torbenson penned a two-day series detailing the shrinking role of the timber industry in the economies of Eastern Washington, North Idaho, and Western Montana. The Inland Northwest timber industry has long been one of the region's economic heavyweights, and has the political clout to prove it. Transfer payments, pensions, and retirement income, however, are now much more substantial contributors to the area's cash flow. In North Idaho, for example, timber has gone from providing 14 percent of personal income in 1969 to less than four percent. Meanwhile, the large timber companies are shifting their resources to the Southeast, South America, British Columbia, and Asia. While the perception is that environmental regulation has taken out several sawmills, economics and modernization are the true culprits. For more information, contact Torbenson at (208) 765-7122 or Olsen at (208) 765-7130.

► Staff writer Ken Olsen also wrote a story about how sawmill workers in St. Maries oppose a land swap between their company—Potlatch Corp.— and the Forest Service. The mill workers, some with more than two decades at the company, say they fear if Potlatch acquires the Bond Creek Glades the company will overcut the land and ruin prime habitat for elk and other wildlife. Potlatch says it's still evaluating the trade. For more information, call Olsen at (208) 765-7130 or c/o *The Spokesman Review*, suite 200,

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83814

## ILLINOIS

► The *Chicago Tribune* took a rare look at an international environmental issue in a front-page story on September 2. "Seas Riches a Dwindling Infinity" examined the depletion of the oceans' fishing grounds. While the story shed little new light on the subject, superb graphics highlighted trouble spots. The piece, written by the *Tribune's* European reporter Ray Moseley, also called for an increase in aquaculture worldwide.

► Chicago newspapers have been giving extra attention to the issue of the foreign aquatic species that have invaded the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Michigan. Most recently, Chicago Sun-Times environment writer Jim Ritter explained why zebra mussels are producing an odor problem in Chicago's drinking water supply. It seems the mussels are filtering the water so well that sunlight is reaching the lake bottom near the city's water intake in the lake. That has allowed algae to grow where it never has before, and it is entering the water supply with smelly results but no health danger. In late September, the *Chicago Tribune's* new environment writer, Peter Kendall, offered an extensive review of the many invading species that are affecting the lake's ecological balance. Those of greatest concern include the goby, a small fish that may be preying on young yellow perch. The *Daily Sothtown* reported in late August that perch, a valuable sport and commercial fish, may have suffered a near complete reproductive failure for the seventh consecutive year. Although state biologists on the Michigan side of the lake see evidence of some young perch, their Wisconsin and Illinois counterparts had found just one juvenile perch in their initial fall count, reported environment writer Kevin Carmody. More complete data are due in mid October.

## IOWA

► Iowa geologists have discovered that shallow waterways in an area densely populated with large hog confinements are much more well-connected than previously thought. This has raised new concerns over possible pollution of groundwater, the source of 80 percent of Iowa's

drinking water. What amountsto an aquifer just 5 to 15 feet below the surface was left by the most recent glacier. Drainage wells meant to keep farm fields dry would send pollutants straight into aquifers in case of a spill or leak from a hog-waste lagoon, too. Other states with geology affected by glaciers could face similar questions, though the study by the Geological Survey Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources focused only on Iowa. Call Perry Beeman, The Des Moines Register, 515-284-8538.

### MARYLAND

► Maryland environmental officials are considering "capping" portions of Baltimore Harbor's contaminated bottom with a thick layer of cleaner sediments dredged from Chesapeake Bay. Though industrial pollution has been reduced through regulatory actions in the last 20 years, the lower Patapsco River that forms Baltimore's harbor is still assaulted by inadequately treated sewage and industrial waste, tainted runoff from city streets and suburban lawns, and by fallout of noxious chemicals from auto exhaust, power plants, and smokestacks. So badly contaminated is the harbor that it is widely recognized as one of three toxic "hot spots" in Chesapeake Bay, along with the rivers flowing by two of the bay's other major urban areas: Norfolk, Va., and Washington, D.C. Environmentalists criticize the state's plan for the harbor, questioning the efficacy of capping contaminated sediments and urging even tighter regulation of sewage plants and industries still discharging to the waters. The article on the harbor cleanup appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* Aug. 6, 1996. For more information, contact Tim Wheeler (tbwheeler@aol.com) at (410) 332-6564.

► Enforcement of Maryland's environmental laws has declined, sharply in some categories, over the past two years as state officials seek to encourage voluntary compliance rather than punish polluters. The dollar amount of penalties collected by the Maryland Department of the Environment has dropped 61 percent since fiscal 1993, as state inspectors issued 50 percent fewer citations for water, wastewater, and wetlands violations. Violation notices for air pollution actually increased during that same time

period, the number of penalty actions resulting in fines levied against polluters fell by nearly two thirds. State officials attribute the decline in penalty actions to budget and staffing cuts and to an increased emphasis on seeking voluntary compliance. They insist that flagrant violations are still being pursued aggressively. The Environmental Protection Agency, however, is not so sure, and has asked state officials to furnish further information on its enforcement activity. One area of particular concern: politically sensitive wetlands regulations, where the number of enforcement actions fell by 90 percent in the past year alone. In a few recent cases, EPA officials have actually taken the unusual step of launching federal enforcement actions when state efforts seemed slow or weak. For instance, EPA levied a \$50,000 fine against Campbell Soup for chronic water pollution violations at an Eastern Shore poultry plant it operated after state officials decided not to penalize the company. An article on Maryland's environmental enforcement decline appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* on Aug. 11, 1996. For more information, contact Tim Wheeler (tbwheeler@aol.com) (410) 332-6564.

► Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening has pledged to seek new legislation to curb suburban sprawl in the state, which he has made one of his administration's top priorities. The governor has said he would not try to usurp traditional local control over zoning, but would try redirecting state funding to rebuild older existing communities, which have lost population and jobs to outlying counties. Local officials, however, are skeptical of any new state initiatives dealing with development and especially reluctant to see any changes in funding for schools, roads, and other infrastructure. Environmentalists, meanwhile, question whether sprawl can really be curtailed without a more aggressive state role in directing where development occurs. Articles on the subject have appeared in the *Baltimore Sun* on Aug. 8 and 18 and Sept. 3. For more information, contact Tim Wheeler <tbwheeler@aol.com> (410) 332-6564.

### Massachusetts

► Katharine Parsons, a scientist at

the Manomet Observatory in Plymouth, Ma., has been developing evidence suggesting that some agricultural pesticides are creating a decline in night herons and other wading birds on the East Coast. In Massachusetts, the heron population has dropped 30 percent since 1977. The evidence is not yet conclusive that such pesticides as organophosphates and carbamates are damaging the birds. But Parsons' research, underway for more than a decade, is pointing in that direction. For further information, contact Eric Niiler, the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, (617) 929-3000.

► The Massachusetts state legislature, after years of debate, this summer passed major legislation restricting development along the state's riverbanks. The state for years has regulated activity affecting wetlands, including the shores of rivers. But there has been increasing evidence that even permitted development is leading to increased degradation of water quality in the state's major streams. The new law further restricts development for up to 250 feet on each side of streams, as well as a more narrow 25 foot buffer in urban areas. For more information, contact Scott Allen, the *Boston Globe*, (617) 929-3000

### MISSISSIPPI

► Patrick Peterson of the Gulfport/Biloxi *Sun Herald* reported in August that the state of Mississippi is considering selling leases for underwater oil and gas exploration within three miles of Gulf Islands National Seashore. The park's barrier islands are federally managed as wilderness, but the surrounding waters are state-controlled. Both environmentalists and park employees have raised concerns about how the proposed drilling will affect the islands. Peterson can be contacted at (601) 896-2343.

### OHIO

► Kyle Niederpruem, of *The Indianapolis Star*, did a four-day series entitled "Indy's Empty Bins." The stories, in observance of Earth Day, detailed the city's reluctance to recycle. On three of the four days, the stories were on the front page. Residents must pay extra for curbside recycling service and barely more than five percent do. The city's long-term

contract with Ogden Martin's waste-to-energy facility has been cited as an obstacle. Some officials believe burning unsorted solid waste to make electricity is recycling. The series concluded with an editorial questioning whether the city chose the right path on recycling. For more information, contact Niederpruem at (317) 633-9385.

► Bob Downing, of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, recently discovered that Ohio EPA had quietly approved the annual import of up to 50,000 tons of sewage sludge from New Jersey for land application on farms in Ohio. Downing made the discovery by closely reading the agency's *Weekly Review*. The 50+ page document is full of bureaucratic shorthand, but Downing's diligence paid off. After two stories, Downing could report that a powerful state senator was "shocked" about the plan's approval. Shortly thereafter, Downing reported that Ohio EPA had withdrawn its approval of the sludge management plan. The withdrawal was based on the failure to include a permit condition in the final permit. However, Ohio EPA Director Donald Schregardus promised that the agency would conduct a public hearing and public comment period during the second review process. For more information, contact Downing at (330) 996-3745.

► A 15-to 20-acre landslide on March 9 at Ohio's largest landfill has become the *Ohio Solid Waste Reporter's* single biggest story in its eight year history. It also warranted the newsletter's first-ever photo. The landslide at Rumpke Waste Systems' Hughes Road facility just outside Cincinnati is the largest to occur at a landfill in the United States and, possibly, the world. The continuing story has been marked by fires in the slide area, concerns about a possible solid waste disposal crisis in southwest Ohio, disputes over the slope reconstruction plan, Rumpke's financial stability, and complaints of favoritism and lax enforcement. Call Charles Prince at (513) 221-0954 for more information.

## RHODE ISLAND

► Rhode Island's General Assembly passed legislation this summer that sets stringent new standards on tugboats towing barges of oil into state waters. The

new rules were in response to the grounding of a tub and barge last January that spilled 828,000 gallons of oil onto Rhode Island's beaches. A subsequent investigation showed that the barge's anchor was lashed so securely to the deck it couldn't be released. Furthermore, there was no suppression system to put out the fire that swept the tug's engine room and triggered the accident. The new law requires that oil barges have crews and operable anchors. It also mandates that barges have double-hull construction, or be accompanied by an escort tug when conditions limit visibility. For more information, call Chris Rowland at the *Providence Journal*, (401) 227-7363.

► Almost every beekeeper in Rhode Island lost at least some bees over the winter to the mite infestations that are devastating hives throughout the country. According to a story July 28 in the *Providence Journal*, many of the state's 230 beekeepers have been wiped out. Most plan to send away for new queens next spring so they can start over again. As an aside, state bee inspectors say they usually get hundreds of complaints about bees swarming into people's yards or bushes. This year, they received exactly two complaints. There just weren't many honey bees—wild or domestic—left in the state. For more information contact Peter Lord at the *Providence Journal*, (401) 277-8063.

## TENNESSEE

► In August, Tom Chalier of *The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal* revealed that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation had taken no enforcement action in several recent cases where state water-pollution laws clearly were violated. TDEC officials admitted they'd adopted a "more practical" policy of first meetings with violators before issuing citations or fines, but environmental groups accused the state of being too lenient with polluters. Contact Chalier at (901) 529-2572.

► In early September, an activist group called Save Our Cumberland Mountains petitioned Tennessee's Office of Surface Mining to designate 83,000 acres around Fall Creek Falls State Park unsuitable for surface mining. The group hopes to block the Skyline Coal

Company's plan to stripmine property near the popular park. In an area where coal extraction traditionally has been a major industry, the petition has raised complex and controversial issues. Van Henderson reported on this story in the *Chattanooga Free Press*. He can be reached at (423) 757-6408.

► Nashville *Tennessean* reporter Anne Paine also covered the stripmining controversy extensively, and back in March she broke the story (later picked up by many other media) that the state of Tennessee—under pressure from industry—had reneged on its agreement to protect air quality in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The news resulted in public outcry, forcing the state to enter into a new agreement with the National Park Service. Paine's number is (615) 259-8071.

## WEST VIRGINIA

► The *Charleston Gazette* on September 8 kicked off a lengthy series of stories examining the growth of the timber industry in West Virginia. An eight-month investigation by reporter Ken Ward Jr. found that timber harvests in the state have doubled since 1987 and should double again in the next few years. The *Gazette* found that much of that increased cut is to feed three new chip board mills. Even more trees would be cut for pulpwood if a new pulp and paper mill proposed for along the Ohio River is built. The series also reports that loggers in West Virginia remain unregulated and that no one has done serious studies of whether the logging increase is harming the environment. The series is scheduled to run periodically through the rest of 1996. It is available online at <http://wvgazette.com/timber/index.html>. For more information, call Ward at (304) 348-1702 or e-mail him at [kenward2@aol.com](mailto:kenward2@aol.com).

► Controversy continues to surround the proposed Parsons & Whittemore Inc. pulp and paper mill and the media coverage of it. *WCHS-TV* in Charleston broadcast a story in late August which declared the project dead because of an adverse ruling on the mill's water permit by the state environmental quality board. The station based the story, however, on a



copy of a letter to the state from the company which the station had not obtained. The *Charleston Gazette* obtained the letter, which actually did not say the \$1 billion project was off, but simply expressed concern about some parts of the state's air pollution permit for the mill. The *WCHS* story, however, was widely quoted by other news media. It was reported initially by longtime West Virginia television personality Bob Brunner. Brunner gave the story more credibility because he was press spokesman for Gov. Gaston Caperton before returning to television news several years ago. The *WCHS* story has since been denied by state economic development agents and by Parsons & Whittemore, which has mostly refused to comment on the project since it was first proposed in 1988. For more information, contact Ward at (304) 348-1702 or

kenward2@aol.com.

### WISCONSIN

➤ The *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* used an open records request to secure seven hundred pages of e-mail about a controversial golf course being build along Lake Michigan. The *Journal/Sentinel's* Steve Schultze discovered that front-line staff at two state agencies were concerned about approving wetlands permits for the course being developed by wealthy industrialists Herbert Kohler. As Schultze noted in his August 5 story, "Those objections were overridden by their superiors." Democratic state lawmakers later called for a public hearing on the matter. For more information, call Schultze at (414) 224-2000.

➤ For the second time in three years, the Wisconsin Mining Association invited

journalists to visit the Kennecott Corporation's copper mine at Ladysmith. About four reporters attended the early Sept. event. The Wisconsin Mining Association is part of the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers and Commerce, which has been lobbying for approval of a much larger mine the Exxon Corporation wants to develop near Crandon. Environmental groups oppose the project. Contact Gil Halsted of *Wisconsin Public Radio* at (715) 848-3036.

➤ Sierra Club members were among the Bob Dole critics who demonstrated prior to a Dole rally in Madison in September. Democrats alerted reporters who were scheduled to cover the Dole speech. At least one television station interviewed Sierra Club official Carl Zichella. Zichella can be reached at (608) 257-4994.

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## SEJ Journal

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