

# SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 1 No. 4

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## SEJ program "exceeds all expectations"

# The first conference

## Inaugural SEJ gathering draws 250 to Boulder

By MARY BETH REGAN

Randy Loftis, environmental reporter for the Dallas Morning News, arrived in Boulder, Colo., after spending a few days in Wyoming reporting on the endangered black-footed ferret.

Heather Dewar of the Miami Herald flew in from Florida ready for a walk in the crisp Colorado air.

The Hartford Courant's Dan Jones made it by Friday afternoon, ending months of work on a project slated to run the weekend he arrived.

Representing news organizations from Miami to Missoula, Mont., about 250 journalists, scientists and other writers

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## SEJ members elect new board, amend bylaws

By ROBERT ENGELMAN

Members of the Society of Environmental Journalists chose their first elected board of directors and passed two amendments to the society's bylaws at SEJ's first annual membership meeting.

The meeting took place during the SEJ annual conference in Boulder, Colo., on Oct. 5.

Eight members of the first board, which consisted of the founding members of the Society of Environmental Journalists, were elected to the new 13-member board.

Following the membership meeting the board re-elected the current executive committee to continue in all five posts.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Coverage of military contamination in N.J. a textbook example of dogged reporting

By ERIC GREENBERG

No one ever really knew the extent of contamination left at the old Raritan Arsenal in Edison, N.J., after it was closed under President John F. Kennedy's military budget cutting program in 1961.

And the secretive Department of Defense wasn't telling about its former depot, a vital munitions supply base during World Wars I and II and the Korean theatre.

But the question of what exactly was left in the ground for 25 years suddenly became a public concern in the spring of 1988.

That's when the developer of the largest business industrial park in the Northeast — Raritan Center in Edison — proposed building a billion-dollar

waterfront mini-city of 4,000 residential units on top of the military graveyard.

Dubbed "Rivertown," the project would add 10 percent to the 90,000 population Edison Township, the second richest municipality in New Jersey, located about 35 minutes from New York City.

The applicants, joined by town officials, were happy to discuss all the virtues of the massive project, especially the millions of dollars in new taxable property it would bring.

But no one wanted to talk about the potential dangers to future residents from contamination left by the military between 1917 and 1961.

I was the Edison municipal reporter

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Environmental reporters come under fire by employers

During SEJ's annual membership meeting an announcement was made that Steve Stuebner of the Idaho Statesman wanted to meet in the hotel bar with other journalists who feared they might lose their jobs because of financial or political considerations.

A reporter in the audience asked, "Is there enough room in the bar?"

We all laughed.

But for Steve Stuebner it was no laughing matter.

A week after returning home to Boise his editors took him off the environmental beat because, he was told, he was too "pro-environment."

On Oct. 28 he quit the paper.

During 11 years of environmental reporting, Steve, 33, has worked for papers in Oregon, Colorado and Idaho. He has won 10 awards for investigative environmental reporting and received high praise for his in-depth and serious journalism.

He has written about the environmental impacts of logging, overgrazing and toxic chemical dumps in Idaho; water disputes and public lands controversies in Colorado; and logging and groundwater pollution in Oregon.

Steve maintains he was taken off the environment beat because he wanted to pursue investigative stories at a time when the Gannett-owned Statesman is emphasizing softer news.

His editors told him readers didn't want to read in-depth reporting about water pollution in the Snake River or controversies involving the U.S. Forest Service. They said he was too "pro-environment."

Steve disagrees.

"I bent over backwards to report all sides of each issue," he says. "The underlying reason (for the beat change) is that I was simply too aggressive. They didn't want to lose a single reader or advertiser. They didn't like the fact that I openly criticized the direction the paper was going in."

Steve is merely the latest casualty in a growing list of environmental reporters who have lost their beats—and sometimes their jobs—for apparently political reasons.

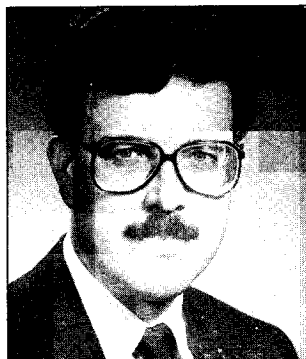
Virtually every veteran environmental writer I know has been threatened with the loss of his or her job at one time or another.

Over the years I've weathered some nasty campaigns by top corporations to discredit what I've written. If you investigate a powerful polluter, the chances are it will fight back.

What's particularly scary now is that the pressures are increasingly coming from management within newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations.

With few exceptions the media are

### Report from the society's president



By Jim Detjen

facing the worst advertising slump since the Great Depression. Editors are fearful of losing libel suits. Marketing experts are telling editors to put softer, "user-friendly" stories on the front page.

Investigative environmental reporting is caught in the crossfire.

And I believe it's going to get worse.

In the winter issue of the SEJournal we plan to produce a special report on environmental reporters who have lost their beats or their jobs. If you are a victim, or know of somebody who is, please contact me, or Randy Loftis at 214-977-8483. If you have any suggestions on how to weather the storm, please send them in.

My tips on journalistic survival include: 1) check and double-check the accuracy of everything you write; 2) make

sure you honestly attempt to get both sides — all sides — of the story; 3) be flexible enough to bend a bit; 4) lay low and wait out the storm if the waters get turbulent; 5) save up some "go to hell" money in case your boss asks you to do things you can't live with.

The SEJournal can be a forum in which we discuss serious issues such as this. Please contribute to it and express your views. Tell us what happened to you.

We can also help each other.

Call Steve at 208-345-4802 and offer him your support. If you know of any freelance opportunities or potential jobs, let him know. He can be reached at 1010 East Washington St., Boise, Idaho 83712.

• • •

With more than 250 registrants from 41 states and England, I believe our annual conference was a success. The evaluation forms sent in show that most of you agree. But based upon your suggestions, we will make some changes in the 1992 conference. We plan to allow more time for speakers and interactions with reporters. We plan to have more journalists talk about how they do their jobs. We plan to present more offerings for broadcast journalists.

But first we need to find a home for the 1992 conference. We'd prefer to link up with a university again and are eyeing sites in the East or Midwest. If you have suggestions, call me at 215-854-2438. We hope to make a decision by early next year.

Other plans for the future include: setting up a mentor program that enables newcomers to learn from veterans, creating a computer bulletin board to exchange news on a more timely basis, strengthening the SEJournal and scheduling regional workshops on environmental reporting.

Over the longer term we hope to find a permanent home for the society. If you know of a university or other institution that is a possibility please let us know.

### SEJ wins EPA environmental education award

The Society of Environmental Journalists has won the 1991 award for excellence in environmental education given by the Region III office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The award was given to recognize the "superlative efforts and achievements" of the society in work-

ing to improve the clarity and accuracy of environmental reporting. The society's officers were presented with the award at a dinner in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 17. Region III encompasses Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Letters to the Editor

In search of dioxin news

To the Editor,

I would like to see what reporters at local papers around the country are doing with dioxin issues in their states and communities, and would appreciate any clips they could send me.

In April, I defended a doctoral dissertation on press coverage of the dioxin controversy. It includes a couple of chapters of historical background, primarily having to

do with industrial exposures in places like Times Beach, Mo. and Seveso, Italy, and with the Ranch Hand study of Air Force personnel exposed to Agent Orange. There is also a substantial bibliography, including a lot of the press coverage, as well as technical and other material. I would be happy to share any of this with any interested reporter.

My address is Department of Journalism, Anspach 36, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich. 48859. My phone number is 517-774-7110.

John A. Palen

Journalists as educators

To the Editor,

In the short history of the Society of Environmental Journalists, I have seen no evidence that our young organization is aware of its older cousin, the North American Association for Environmental Education, or that individual environmental journalists are aware of the field of environmental education.

Yet, environmental journalists and environmental educators are all engaged in environmental communication, and the common body of knowledge we share is environmental science. So I think we could all benefit by becoming better acquainted.

Consider the following:

- Environmental education embraces environmental literacy, secondary-level and technical education, non-formal education and most importantly, at least 300 colleges and universities that offer undergraduate and graduate-level interdisciplinary curricula in environmental studies or environmental sciences. (Practically none of these programs existed prior to the first Earth Day in 1970, and they are now thriving.)

- Environmental education serves the job-preparation needs of environmental managers, an estimated two million professional and technical-level workers, a doubling of the work force in each decade since the first Earth Day. (Even in the recession of 1991, jobs seemed to be plentiful for qualified graduates; see the classified ads regularly appearing in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and specialized journals and newsletters.)

- The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), founded in 1971, has about 1,500 members. It holds a sizeable annual conference, publishes a bi-monthly magazine and a stream of studies and proceedings, helps members find jobs and fellowships and testifies before Congress, among other activities. A few years back, it changed its name from "National" to "North American," to reflect its significant membership in Canada and Mexico. (And its magazine is named the Environmental Communicator, thus pre-empting any journalists' group from using the title.)

- NAAEE members are involved in a program to set standards for various types of environmental education. (If environmental journalism is to grow to be a profession or near-profession, it will need similar standards.)

With that background, I have four suggestions for environmental journalists:

- SEJ board and officers should initiate a dialogue with NAAEE (5995 Horseshoe Bend Road, Troy, OH 45373), perhaps establishing a liaison person(s), exchanging visits to one another's board meetings and swapping mailing lists.

- Instead of overlapping conventions, as in 1991, SEJ in some future year might coordinate its meetings schedule with NAAEE.

- Individual environmental journalists, if not familiar with NAAEE, would do well to write for a copy of the Environmental Communicator, the NAAEE's publications list and information about other benefits of membership (reduced rates on four other periodicals, for example).

- I leave it to each individual environmental journalist to consider the potential for stories to be found within the nearest college or university with an environmental sciences or related curriculum.

Odom Fanning

*Editor's Note: Odom Fanning is a veteran freelance science writer based in Bethesda, Md. His book, "Opportunities in Environmental Careers," has recently been issued in a revised fifth edition.*

SEJ Journal

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Send address changes and all correspondence regarding membership problems to SEJ Records Manager — Amy Gahrn, 370-D Willowbrook Dr., Jeffersonville, PA 19403; (215) 630-9147.

SEJ Board of Directors: President, Jim Detjen, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, (215) 854-2438; Vice President, Rae Tyson, *USA Today*, (703) 276-3424; Vice President, Teya Ryan, Turner Broadcasting, (404) 827-3987; Secretary, Robert Engelman, Scripps Howard News Service, (202) 408-2725; Treasurer, Noel Grove, *National Geographic*, (202) 857-7268; Emilia Askari, *Detroit Free Press*, (800) 678-6400; Kevin Carmody, *The Daily Progress*, (804) 978-7240; Joe Daniel, *Buzzworm* magazine, (303) 442-1969; Julie Edelson, *Inside EPA*, (313) 769-7780; Randy Lee Loftis, *Dallas Morning News*, (214) 977-8483; Tom Meersman, Minnesota Public Radio, (612) 290-1474; Dave Ropeik, WCVB-TV in Boston, (617) 449-0400; and Phil Shabecoff, *Greenwire*, (703) 237-5130.

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### Business Meeting...(From page 1)

The membership meeting offered a first-ever opportunity for the society's membership to raise questions and concerns with the society's officers and first board.

Amy Gahran, the group's records manager, reported that 58 active SEJ members attended, along with a handful of associate and academic members.

Under the society's bylaws, only active members vote and hold office. The group had about 380 active members when it met in Boulder.

Among the questions raised were the group's policy on accepting donations from foundations and individuals, possibilities of developing an SEJ computer bulletin board, the lack of ethnic and racial diversity in the society and the membership status of freelancers.

#### Board Elections

Jim Detjen, science writer with the Philadelphia Inquirer, was elected to the board and re-elected SEJ president. Rae Tyson, environmental editor and writer with USA Today, and Teya Ryan, senior producer of Turner Broadcasting System's Network Earth, were elected to the board and re-elected first and second vice president, respectively.

Noel Grove, senior writer with National Geographic Magazine, was elected to the board and re-elected treasurer. And Robert Engelman, congressional correspondent with Scripps Howard News Service, was elected to the board and re-elected secretary.

Other members of the original board elected to the new board were: Tom Meersman, environmental reporter with Minnesota Public Radio; Kevin Carmody, metro editor of the Daily Progress of Charlottesville, Va.; and Julie Edelson, senior editor of Inside EPA.

New board members are Emilia Askari, environmental writer with the Detroit Free Press; Joe Daniel, editor and publisher of Buzzworm magazine; Randy Lee Loftis, environmental reporter with The Dallas Morning News; Dave Ropeik, environmental reporter with WCVB-TV in Boston; and Phil Shabecoff, executive publisher of Greenwire.

Seventeen active SEJ members ran for the 13 positions. Each posted a one-page

biography on a bulletin board in the conference publication room and offered a two-minute campaign speech during the membership meeting.

#### Bylaws Changes Approved

Society members also passed, by show of hands, a bylaws amendment that reduces the quorum needed for a board meeting from one half to one third. The board crafted the change to make it easier for a geographically diverse SEJ board to meet every three months.

Nelson Lawry, a freelance writer from Rollinsford, N.H., made a motion to raise the fraction to two fifths, but the proposal was defeated. Lawry was concerned the quorum might be too small and suggested the board try other methods — such as telephone conference calls — to achieve quorums. Board members explained that such calls were difficult and expensive to arrange and said some board meetings in the past had not achieved the needed one-half quorum.

A second bylaws amendment, to require financial review by a certified public accountant only after those years in which revenue exceeds \$75,000, also passed. Engelman explained that the reviews were costly and that SEJ's own CPA had recommended against routine reviews unless revenue warranted it.

#### Membership Tops 580

Membership committee chairman Rae Tyson reported that as of the conference SEJ had "awfully close to 580 members...far beyond our wildest expectations when we all met on that day back in the latter part of 1989" to launch the society.

Treasurer Noel Grove reported that the society had taken in \$16,000 in membership dues to date, not counting renewals.

Contributions from foundations and others had amounted to \$21,000, Grove said. Major expenses had included \$8,000 for three SEJournals, and \$6,000 for the services of membership director Amy Gahran. The most recent balance of the SEJ bank account was \$29,561.42. Expenses for and income from the Boulder conference were not included in this total.

"We are at this point a solvent organization, but it depends on you coming

back and talking your friends into becoming members," Grove said.

In response to questions from Miami Herald reporter Heather Dewar and others, Detjen and Engelman said SEJ has so far accepted contributions almost exclusively from news media foundations.

An exception was the \$10,000 contributed specifically for the Boulder conference by the University of Colorado.

"We're still grappling" with the question of standards for foundation contributions, Detjen said.

There's little doubt the group would steer clear of foundations clearly associated with environmental groups or industry, he added, but some family foundations occupy a grey area in that they support environmental advocacy as well as media activities.

#### Members Voice Concerns

Stuart Leavenworth of the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph noted the lack of minority membership in SEJ, at least as represented in the attendees and speakers at the Boulder conference.

"It's certainly not an easy problem to solve, but if our purpose is to improve journalism, I think we have to look for ways to diversify our membership," Leavenworth said.

Engelman said the board was sensitive to the problem and was looking for more ways to identify and recruit minority journalists.

"Ultimately a lot of this has to come from you all," he said. Tyson said the board would work harder next year to draw more minorities and women to annual conference panels.

Isabel Abrams, a freelance writer based in Wilmette, Ill., asked the officers to clarify how the board distinguished between active and associate members. Associate members may not vote or hold office.

Membership director Rae Tyson and other officers explained that the goal was to make sure voting rights were limited to those who are full-time working journalists with no income derived from advocacy or lobbying.

Any freelancers who feel they have been improperly assigned associate status are welcome to appeal, Tyson said, and

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Conference...(From page 1)

gathered in Boulder, Colo., last month for the Society of Environmental Journalists' first national conference.

Jim Detjen, SEJ president and environmental reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer, called the event a success. "Two or three weeks before the conference we only had about 35 people signed up," Detjen said. "But it exceeded all expectations."

The conference was similar to those held by Investigative Reporters and Editors, except it focused on environmental issues. Events ranged from sessions on computer-assisted reporting to tours of facilities such as the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station.

Bud Ward, executive director of the Environmental Health Center in Washington, held a seminar on using computerized toxic release information submitted to EPA by manufacturing companies.

Columbia University's Steve Ross augmented the session with a lesson on

using computers in the newsroom. He included a synopsis of the most useful electronic databases.

Although the computer session was among the most popular, some reporters said they hoped experts would include more hands-on training next year.

Loftis said, "That got a little over my head when they started discussing the merits of different software packages."

Other journalists found the tours a welcome relief from newsroom pressures. A heated exchange took place Saturday at a panel called "Reporting environmental risks: Separating the hype from the danger." Warren Brookes, columnist for the Detroit News, and Janet Hathaway of the Natural Resources Defense Council, nearly came to blows during a discussion of Alar, a growth-regulating chemical used to keep apples from falling off trees.

Tony Davis, a reporter for the Albuquerque Tribune in New Mexico, said most panels gave a helpful overview of

complicated issues. But, he said, he wanted to see a more balanced range of viewpoints. "There really wasn't anyone speaking from a pro-environmental point of view," Davis said. "I'm not saying let's make it all greenies... but let's have some balance."

Saturday evening, journalists met for SEJ's annual meeting to elect 13 board members and review the organization's rules. Many group founders were reelected to the board, including: Detjen, Teya Ryan of Turner Broadcasting System and Bob Engelman of Scripps Howard.

But there was room for others. Emilia Askari of the Detroit Free Press was elected after pledging that a phone call to her mother would confirm her dedication.

Several freelancers complained about their membership status, saying they thought they should have been granted active, rather than associate, membership.

Rae Tyson of USA Today, who heads SEJ's membership committee, explained how the board decided to differentiate between active and non-active members. The board had agreed active, voting members must be full-time journalists working for non-partisan organizations.

Tyson said the group's founders "had a long discussion about what kind of organization we wanted to be. We unanimously decided we wanted it to be for journalists."

Engelman said the rule will ensure that the group remains a society for journalists, not advocates. To date, SEJ has accepted money only from journalism foundations although other groups have offered, he said.

At the weekend's close, several journalists said they wanted next year's conference to provide more time to exchange ideas with other reporters.

Jones said: "They didn't give us enough time between sessions to shoot the breeze with other reporters."

One group made up for that shortage of time, organizing an impromptu visit to the Rocky Mountains Sunday afternoon before leaving Colorado.

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### Business Meeting...(From page 4)

should document their status as full-time journalists.

Among other concerns raised at the meeting:

—Anthony J. Davis, environmental writer for the Albuquerque Tribune, suggested the society try to help reporters network on stories, so that those with expertise could help those new to an issue.

Detjen and Engelman responded that SEJ is considering a computer bulletin board for such purposes, and that Amy Gahrn has proposed a new membership directory that includes areas of expertise of each SEJ member.

Ms. Gahrn also has proposed a "mentor" program, wherein experienced environmental journalists would volunteer their availability to SEJ members seeking to background themselves on stories or topics.

—Tom Harris, environmental writer of the Sacramento Bee, said he wanted to see more reporters, as opposed to topical experts, speaking at conference panels.

"I wish I could pick their brains for 10 or 15 minutes," Harris said of other reporters

he had met at the conference who had produced stories on issues he was just beginning to explore. "Doing it by computer is fine, but nothing can replace a good Q and A."

—Adam Glenn of Greenwire asked about the possibility of launching state or local chapters of SEJ. Such a chapter is already being considered by Jeff Green, reporter with the Oakland Press in Pontiac, Mich., and colleagues in Michigan.

Engelman and Tyson said the board encouraged grass-roots formation of chapters, but was currently limited in the amount of help or money it could provide to help get them started.

—New board member David Ropeik suggested the development of an SEJ award for environmental journalism in all media.

One of the best ways to preserve the environmental beat in newsrooms, Ropeik said, was to "bring the boss back something you can hang on the wall."

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*Robert Engelman is secretary of SEJ and Congressional reporter for Scripps Howard News Service in Washington, D.C.*

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*Mary Beth Regan is an environmental reporter for the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel. She also writes for SEJ's Greenbeat.*

## Ruckelshaus: Ignorance in regulation is unavoidable

By JIM SCHWAB

Society always acts in ignorance when making environmental policy, argued former EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus in a keynote address at SEJ's first annual conference in Boulder, Colo.

"We often don't understand the full effects of pollutants on the environment or human health," said Ruckelshaus, now CEO for Browning-Ferris Industries. Instead, he suggested, "We act to be as protective as possible of health and the environment. Things often are worse than they appear."

According to Ruckelshaus, some good often comes of being as protective as possible, and "we have often succeeded in protecting people in spite of doing so for the wrong reasons."

He cautioned, however, that as science advances, earlier hypotheses are often not borne out, and society discovers it has "overinvested in environmental control." But our nation "does not have systems that make sense for ratcheting down" pollution controls, Ruckelshaus added, citing as an example the current controversy over whether dioxin is as toxic to humans as it has been thought to be.

That creates a problem of establishing sound social priorities for investments in pollution control, he argued. He noted that the United States already spends in excess of two percent of its GNP on environmental protection, but most of the sum "goes to targets that scientists think are less important. We need risk-based rationality in public policy making. Drawing these kinds of priorities is terribly important work."

If efforts to weaken statutory controls over pollutants "are greeted as efforts to poison the public, the country will be in sorry shape," he added.

Ruckelshaus also noted in his address that "when regulating the environment, we are always trying to modify the actions of society and often of the whole economy." In that regard, he argued there are two necessary ingredients for success — patience and a level playing-field for recycled products.

A glutted market for recycled products, for instance, could result in citizens' disillusionment with the efficacy of

recycling unless "we give it time to work." "The markets will develop," he said. At the same time, he noted, government must remove subsidies that have long given an advantage to virgin materials, such as pulp fibers.

For now, however, recycling has shown "spectacular growth in this country," Ruckelshaus said. In three years, the number of local recycling programs had shot up from 600 to 3,000, while the number of yard waste composting programs had grown from 450 to 2,000. Only two states are now without recycling laws and laws in the rest are becoming "increasingly comprehensive."

BFI's recycling activities have grown rapidly, from 40,000 curbside customers in all of North America three years ago to some 2.7 million today — "all driven by public opinion, in many cases going well beyond the understanding of public officials," added Ruckelshaus.

Markets are responding despite the current glut, he said. BFI, which operated just two processing centers for recycled materials three years ago, now operates 50, after a "very large investment on the part of our company."

In 1987, only two de-inking mills existed nationwide, but 37 new or retrofitted de-inking mills have now been announced, despite overcapacity in the newsprint industry.

The force of public opinion will also play a role in changing the economics of recycling and of environmental protection more generally, Ruckelshaus predicted. Although some economists claim that "recycling is uneconomic," he said, "the

economics will have to change if we are serious in our pursuit of a sustainable economy."

He added: "Many current laws and regulations were condemned as uneconomic when they started. But people's values change to demand these things. If the public decides that additional costs are worth it for the public benefits achieved, then recycling becomes economic. Once the infrastructure is put in place, the economics shift. My guess is that we're halfway through that process in the case of recycling."

Noting the importance of public opinions and values in shaping the context for environmental policy making, Ruckelshaus also lauded the importance of the news media in shaping that context.

In his remarks, Ruckelshaus defended the so-called "revolving door" between EPA and private industry, calling efforts to block such movement by individuals "a terrible mistake."

But Ruckelshaus acknowledged the American tradition of allowing such public-private job shifts "has pluses and minuses. ... It's undoubtedly true that some will shape their decisions to make themselves more attractive to private industry."

Of his own move from the EPA to Browning-Ferris, one of the largest waste management firms in the U.S., Ruckelshaus surprised many of his SEJ listeners by saying, "I had never heard of Browning-Ferris while I was still at EPA."

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*Jim Schwab, an associate SEJ member, is preparing to launch a monthly publication, Environment & Development.*

### Tapes of SEJ conference available by mail

Even if you couldn't make it to Boulder for SEJ's first national conference, you can still learn the latest about tapping into government databases or hear what experts and colleagues said about the 1990s emerging environmental issues.

Each of the 20 conference sessions, including two in-depth workshops and the keynote address by former EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus, were taped by Sound Images Inc., a commercial recording company.

Cassettes of individual sessions are \$9

each, plus postage. The workshop sessions require three tapes (\$27). Please note that the "Conference Specials" no longer apply.

The order form on the next page lists the topic of each session and the scheduled panelists. For a few sessions, panelists were added or changed. For example, Janet Hathaway of the Natural Resources Defense Council, instead of William Cooper, went to the mat with conservative Detroit News columnist Warren Brookes in one of the best attended sessions, Reporting Environmental Risk.



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# SEJ

Society of  
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*SEJ Conference*  
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## CONFERENCE SPECIALS

**INDIVIDUAL CASSETTES \$8.00 EACH • 12-CASSETTE STORAGE ALBUM \$6.00 EACH**

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The following sessions are being recorded and audio cassettes will be available for pick-up shortly after the completion of the session at the *Sound Images Distribution Booth*. Orders placed after 3 p.m. will be available the following day by 10 a.m. (Last day orders may have to be shipped - cassettes will be delivered on site while supplies last.) If you wish to order cassettes by mail, please allow approximately 14 days for delivery. Quantity discounts apply only to orders placed at the conference. Cassettes order by mail after conference are \$9.00 each.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-1 <b>Using Computer Databases for Environmental Journalists and the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)</b>, Bud Ward, Steven Ross, Bob Wyss, Rick Young</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-2 <b>Fundamentals of Environmental Chemistry, Ecology, Toxicology, and the Environmental Sciences for Reporters</b>, Rod Parrish, DelWayne Nimmo, Peter Greig-Smith, Robert J. Huggett, Kenneth Dickson, Richard Kimerle, Christine Chaisson, James Fava, Harold Bergman</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-3 <b>How to Dig Out Information from the EPA, NRC, Department of Interior, and other agencies</b>, Julie Edelson, Jim Detjen, Mark Obmascik</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-4 <b>Environmental Reporting on Television and Radio</b>, John Lindsay, Teya Ryan, Tom Meersman, David Ropeik</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-5 <b>Global Climate Change: Is the Sky Falling?</b>, Daniel Abritton, Mark Meier, John Firor, Alan Miller, Bob Engelman</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-6 <b>The Fight for Western Water</b>, Deborah Frazier, Russell Clemings, Lori Potter, Neil Grigg, Jack Dale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-7 <b>Environmental Reporting at Smaller News Media</b>, Eric Greenberg, Paul Nyden, Betsy Marston</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-8 <b>Keynote Address</b>, William Ruckelshaus</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-9 <b>Reporting Environmental Risk: Separating the Hype from the Dangers</b>, Emilia Askari, Warren Brooks, William Cooper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-10 <b>Nuclear Wastes: from Rocky Flats to Yucca Mountain</b>, Joe Verrengia, Charles Archambeau, Michael Hope, Tom Borak</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-11 <b>The Environmental Impact of the Persian Gulf War</b>, Rae Tyson, Russell Schnell, Michael Skolar</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-12 <b>New Tools for Environmental Reporters: From Satellites to Databases</b>, Steve Ross, Alexander Goetz, Bob Wyss, Staffan Sanfberg, Paul Nowak</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-13 <b>Energy Conservation and Alternative Sources of Energy</b>, Amory Lovins, Robert Stokes, Joe Beebe</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-14 <b>Where to Stash the Trash: Incineration, Landfills, Resource Reduction</b>, William Ruckelshaus, Rae Tyson, Joanna D. Underwood, Sheila Prindiville</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-15 <b>Electromagnetic Radiation: How Big a Threat?</b>, Louis Slesin, Kevin Carmody</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-16 <b>Magazine/Newsletter Writing</b>, Elizabeth Darby Junkin, Bill Breen, Bowman Cox, Noel Grove</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-17 <b>International Environmental Reporting</b>, Phil Shabecoff, Bob Engelman, Sharon Friedman</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-18 <b>People of Color and the Environment</b>, Robert Bullard, Jay Letto, Laverne Shepard, Alan Hall, David Lester</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-19 <b>Wilderness in the West</b>, John Fielder, Darrell Knuffke, Perry Pendley, Gary Ullman, Mark Obmascik</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SEJ 91-20 <b>Emerging Environmental Issues in the 1990s</b>, Thomas Merrick, Michael Breed, Roger Bilham, John Birks</li> </ul> |
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## Veteran Buffalo News reporter hangs up his notepad

By DOUG DRAPER

Mother Earth has lost the watchful eyes and sharp pen of one of her best friends.

It's not often journalists use space on a page to pat one of their own on the back. But for Paul MacClennan, who retired in August after 38 years at the Buffalo News, it's worth making an exception.

You may wonder (unless you are a longtime, devoted Buffalo News reader) why anyone here should care about an aging gadfly on the other side of the river closing his reporter's notebook for the last time.

But Paul MacClennan spent most of his newspaper career writing stories on issues that profoundly affect the lives of people on both sides of the international waterway.

For as far back as the early 1960s — about the same time Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*, the book that awakened a whole generation to the havoc manmade chemicals are wreaking on the planet — Paul was chasing down the polluters in our midst.

A pioneer in the field of environmental reporting, he combed the length of the Niagara River, documenting many of the horror stories about the dozens of chemical dumps hugging its heavily industrialized U.S. shore.

Many of his stories helped alert Canadians to the grim fact that some of North America's worst toxic waste dumps are leaking a witches' brew of poison into a river feeding water to Lake Ontario and 25 percent of Canada's population.

His stories, along with those of only a few others, also helped push governments in both countries to negotiate an agreement in the late 1980s to cut the flow of toxic pollutants to the Niagara River in half within 10 years.

Paul was scrupulously fair in the way he went about his coverage, always giving each side an opportunity to have its say.

But many Canadians, including Niagara-on-the-Lake environmentalist Margherita Howe, understandably viewed him as a friend and ally as his tough, pointed questions pricked away at the powers-that-be, challenging them to get off their duffs and take action.

"Thanks to Paul, we had the good fortune to learn a great deal more about the pollution problems along the river from the American perspective. He was also terribly understanding of our concerns, even when we were denigrating his government," says Mrs. Howe, who has spent more than a decade lobbying for a cleanup of the Niagara River.

"He was the only reporter on the American side who stuck it out for all those years and I doubt it was very popular for him to be doing what he was doing over there. He showed himself to be a man of dedication and courage."

Reporting on environmental issues is challenging and exciting. But you can also find yourself swimming in people's fears and despair, and drowning in an ocean of lies, phoney promises and excuses. And

it's frustrating to watch how slowly the wheels of progress turn.

Yet Paul MacClennan persevered for 30 years, earning the respect of many and soaring high above the apologists for the polluters who are forever dumping on newspapers for shining a light on the issues.

In his farewell column he wrote: "It has been a heady time, rich with stories, friends, news sources, critics and personal passion for the Earth."

That passion always shone through and those of us who share his desire to spare what's left of the Earth for future generations owe him thanks.

*Reprinted with permission from The Standard of St. Catharines, Ontario. Draper, the paper's environment reporter, wrote this piece for the Viewpoint page.*

## Science Angles

By STEVE NASH

A review of story ideas and highlights from scientific journals and symposia.

The methods official science uses to measure risks in our environment are increasingly controversial and worthy of coverage. Chemicals in the food supply are a good example.

One contingent of critics, often identified with University of California toxicologist Bruce Ames, says the government has turned us all into paranoiacs by misinterpreting rat tests. Another contingent claims the government has exposed us to all sorts of chemical hazards by misinterpreting rat tests. That was the genesis of the Alar story and Alar backlash.

The National Research Council a couple of years ago established the Committee on Risk Assessment Methodology, or CRAM, to investigate current testing procedures and make recommendations to federal agencies. CRAM's work will be central to the debate over how we decide what's high-risk and what isn't.

One focus: the reliability of the "maximum tolerated dose" method usually used in animal tests for carcinogenicity. Ames, for one, argues that the tests make the animals so sick they're predisposed to cancer. The CRAM subgroup looking into this will report its conclusions in early '92.

Also due in early '92 is another

subgroup's recommendations about using a new "two-state" model for carcinogen screening. The basis for much current testing — which is the basis, in turn, for policy decisions — supposes that one molecule of a suspect chemical hits one cell, and cancer results. The new alternative puts more emphasis on factors, such as genetics, that may predispose the cell to cancer. Both approaches have detractors.

The EPA and other government agencies put most of their dollars into human health risks. EPA chief William Reilly and like-minded congressmen have been pushing for more attention to risks to the natural environment. How do you decide which of those risks are the most threatening? With "ecological risk assessments." Another CRAM group should soon generate recommendations about how assessments should be done.

Two additional subgroups are working on other risk assessment issues, but they probably won't report until late '92. You can get a list of CRAM members and their phone numbers, minutes of past meetings and other information at (202) 334-2993.

*Nash writes and teaches environmental reporting at the University of Richmond.*



## Brazilian journalists face government, industry pressures

By BOWMAN COX

Before flying to Sao Paulo, Brazil, to speak to that country's environmental journalists, I began hearing about the city, Brazil's industrial capital.

I and five other speakers from the U.S. media were told that Sao Paulo was teaming with pickpockets and petty thieves — and that the city had a truly vibrant night life.

Only after meeting Brazil's journalists, hearing them speak and watching them play, did I realize the pickpockets and the night life had any connection with each other or with the country's dire environmental problems.

I soon learned that everything about Brazil is deeply inter-connected, and one cannot separate its environment from its ambition to join what it calls "the first world" — an ambition measured by immense foreign debt and dizzying inflation (the Cruzeiro fell 10 percent against the dollar just in the week we were there).

Pressed by industrialized creditors, the nation is draining its natural riches. The cash flows through its hands like mercury through a goldminer's pan, swishing from Amazonia toward international waters, along with the life-choking sediments stirred by miners.

The people of the interior, dislocated from their lands, are taking part in the removal of resources. But the work is hard and the reward slim, so many have descended upon the cities seeking advancement. Instead some are reduced to petty thievery.

In Rio de Janeiro, we were told, a jogger had just been killed for his high-top sneakers, a valuable, well-advertised brand.

Although the country changed to a democratic form of government a few years ago, it appeared to retain much of the substance of military dictatorship.

Under military rule, people were jailed for writing about environmental degradation. And today, environmental journalism still is considered subversive.

Government and industry remain far more protected from public disclosure than in the United States and the journalists are stretched more thinly. The result: They cover what is said more than what is done.

It appeared that Brazilian news organizations succumb more to industry influence than in the United States because their owners are captains of industry. Reporters for two, TV Globo and Jornal da Tarde, disputed which was worse.

The journalists of Brazil showed little belief that exposing environmental ills would galvanize public support for stronger,

Brazil. I wondered how they could keep the rage from igniting their copy, or from setting their lives aflame.

I found the answer in Brazilian nightlife, which doesn't even start until the midnight hour and continues until just before dawn. In Brazil, the problems are so weighty and so hard to solve, only the instinct for fun casts them aside. The people of Sao Paulo, the "Paulistas," expend their passions in dance, said our excellent interpreter of language and culture, Ana Ligia Nasti. She showed us how couples join in a sexy, hip-twisting whirl called the lambada, and she even got some of us to try it.

We left Sao Paulo as we had arrived, on a new Boeing 767 owned and operated by a private airline, Transbrazil. The imported jet was, as an announcer proudly proclaimed during taxiing, "the world's most advanced aircraft."

With a twinge of guilt, I wondered what environmental and economic cost was associated with the import of that fabulous jet, which provided a comfortable passage for

North American businessmen to Brazil and for rich Brazilians to Disney World.

From our 30,000-foot vantage, we pressed our noses to the windows and saw for ourselves the encroachment of farms, the scars of gold mines, the associated mud-swollen rivers and, deep in the interior, the long stretches of rainforest, broken only by stunningly blue rivers and the occasional air strip.

I recalled the words of Marcos Terena, an Indian leader who told the conference that Brazil's 170 tribes are analyzing the idea of "becoming civilized" and are studying the meaning of "getting rich." I could see why they found these prospects troubling.

### The conference in Sao Paulo

The seminar on international environmental journalism, Oct. 25-27, was sponsored by the Center for Foreign Journalists of Arlington, Va.; Funatura, an environmental group based in Brazil; and CESP, Sao Paulo's electrical utility. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation funded the event. More than 60 Brazilian journalists attended the gathering.

Speakers included six U.S. journalists active in the Society of Environmental Journalists: Bowman Cox, Pasha Publications; Tom Harris, Sacramento Bee; Randy Lee Loftis, Dallas Morning News; Tom Meersman, Minnesota Public Radio; Teya Ryan, Turner Broadcasting; and Phil Shabecoff, Greenwire and former New York Times environmental reporter.

Also speaking were European environmental journalists: Roger Cans, Le Monde, Paris; Lutfulla Kabirov, of the Soviet Union's Uzbekistan province; Jose Manoel Tavares de Almeida Fernandes of O Publico, Lisbon, Portugal; and Anna Lenna Wik Thorsell of Svenska Dagbladet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Representing Brazil's journalists were: Randau Marques of Jornal da Tarde; Beatriz Bisso, of the magazine Ecology and Development; Liana John, of the Agencia Estado; Ronaldo Brasiliense of the Jornal do Brasil.

better enforced environmental laws.

Instead, they called for more of what worked under military rule, namely the export of environmental journalism to the international news media to incite world public opinion against the country's leaders.

In fact, perhaps the main result of the conference was a resolve by Brazilian and U.S. journalists to work together more in sharing information about the practices of multinational corporations.

In long-winded diatribes, Brazil's environmental journalists complained to us — and each other — about their country's interconnected problems. They introduced the connections one after the other, first with the left hand, then with the right, as if pulling them from their breasts.

We saw such anger as burns in the hearts of revolutionaries in our colleagues, those who bear the news to the people of

*Bowman Cox is editor of Defense Cleanup, a Pasha Publications Inc. newsletter, and a founding SEJ board member.*

### Greenberg...(From page 1)

back then and I could not get any Edison Township Planning Board member to answer my questions — orally or in writing — about possible contamination problems.

Meanwhile, the developers and town officials moved quickly.

Several weeks after the development proposal was made public, the town Planning Board scheduled what would be the lone public hearing for the application.

The public hearing was held on Memorial Day weekend. (Edison's mayor and the police chief were on the board.)

Two weeks later, the Planning Board approved Rivertown. That was June 1988.

Three months later, in September, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, previously unhelpful in providing contamination information about the arsenal, did a strange turnabout. A spokesman issued a press release announcing that the agency was starting a contamination study under the federal Defense Environmental Restoration Program. The report would take a year.

Fast forward to January 1990.

I was the paper's rewrite man when I decided to follow up on the Corps study. I thought it would be a decent one-day scoop.

The agency confirmed that their study was completed but refused to release any information. They claimed it was an internal document — a popular (and unfortunately legal) excuse for them to deny information.

I filed a Freedom of Information Act request in January 1990 and in a few weeks obtained a censored five-volume report.

The report revealed evidence of buried munitions, grenades, mustard gas, cyanide and other hazardous chemicals strewn throughout the arsenal property.

But what that meant in terms of public safety could not be determined. The Army Corps had censored the pages that explained the level of danger to workers and the public from the military waste.

Perhaps more importantly, I also pieced together evidence that would expose a cover-up of the report by the developers, the township and the Army Corps: The report showed that the contamination study actually began in January 1988 — not September as the Army Corps had previously announced.

And between January and May 1988,

the Army Corps subcontractors had found thousands of live World War I anti-tank shells in an area that was proposed as part of Rivertown.

The documents showed that the developers and township officials — including the Edison mayor and police chief — were told of the hazards before they voted to approve the project.

(A cross check with internal police files later confirmed this.)

At this point I was still unsuccessfully attempting to interest the paper's two top editors in the story. Fortunately a third editor immediately recognized the importance of the story. While the executive editor and managing editor still refused to reassign me, I managed to get in a few hours a day to work on the story.

Soon I began reporting what was contained in the preliminary report: Detailed evidence of munitions buried throughout the site, as well as groundwater and land pollution by chemicals, lead, TNT and heavy metals.

Field studies found evidence of deadly mustard gas buried in the heart of the industrial park with only a broken wooden fence to prevent people from entering.

The first wave of revelations opened up new areas of concerns.

I learned that New Jersey's largest community college had been built on contaminated arsenal property, but that college officials for years had prevented Army Corps experts from inspecting it.

Further, I discovered that college officials had covered up previous findings of munitions on campus.

Officials of the neighboring county park, built on part of the arsenal, had also denied the Army Corps from surveying the contaminated areas.

### Deadlines for reporting contests approach

Here is a list of some upcoming deadlines for entries in major environmental reporting contests:

• **Edward J. Meeman Awards** — Feb. 3. Total of \$4,000 in awards. For information contact the Scripps Howard Foundation, 513-977-3035.

• **Thomas L. Stokes Award** — Feb. 1. Prize: \$2,000. Contact the Washington

At the same time, I appealed to the Army Corps for the censored information. Eventually it was released inadvertently by the EPA.

To date, there are several key results from my stories:

- The EPA conducted an emergency action to prevent public access into two highly contaminated areas.

- The articles forced the heads of the college and county park to face contamination problems and permit inspection.

- A local congressman authorized \$2 million in the 1991 EPA budget to ensure further investigation of the Raritan Arsenal under Superfund legislation.

- The series helped focus more public attention on the mammoth size and cost of military pollution, a year later the subject of page one stories in the New York Times.

- I also discovered that there is no federal standard for the cleanup of military ordnance. This spurred the local congressman to request a federal study that could lead to a new national standard for regulation of ordnance cleanup.

A year after the series ran, the Army Corps began the first ordnance search and removal operation ever done at the former arsenal. The operation began in May 1990.

To date, the Army Corps has amassed over 30,000 live, World War I anti-aircraft shells from the proposed Rivertown site.

At Middlesex County College, munitions experts unearthed more than 15,000 explosive fuses used to power World War I munitions.

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*Eric J. Greenberg, of the Woodbridge (N.J.) News-Tribune, won the Thomas Stokes Award, the Sigma Delta Chi and IRE national awards in 1991 for this series.*

Journalism Center, 202-337-3603.

- **Robert L. Kozik Award** — April 1. Prize: \$1,000. Print and broadcast entries judged together. Contact National Press Club Library, 202-662-7350.

- **National Better Newspaper Contest** — March 31. Categories for environmental and energy reporting. Contact National Newspaper Association, 202-466-7200.

## Southern Journalism Awards, NNA announce results

By BOB WYSS

Two major newspaper contests announced their awards this fall and several environmental writers were honored.

In the 1991 Southern Journalism Awards, top prizes went to Julie Hauserman of the Tallahassee Democrat and Karen Kirkpatrick of The Times of Gainesville, Ga.

The National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Awards produced first places in environment to Matt Kempner of the Gwinnett Daily News, Duluth, Ga., and in the energy category to Perry Clark of the Petoskey, Michigan News Review.

The Southern Journalism Awards are sponsored by the Institute for Southern Studies, a nonprofit research center in Durham, N.C. The 38 contest judges selected the winners from 127 entries.

Last year the organization added a special category to honor environmental writing. That category was not continued this year, but environmental stories took a good share of the honors in the remaining categories, investigative and feature.

The two first place winners, Hauserman and Kirkpatrick, took the top awards in the investigative reporting categories for their divisions. Hauserman won in division two, 30,000 to 100,000 circulation, while Kirkpatrick took top honors in division three, under 30,000.

The NNA contest is open to weekly and daily newspapers of all size. However, most of the contestants are from weekly or small and medium size daily newspapers.

The results and, where available, judges' comments:

## Japanese reporters launch environmental journalism group

A group of Japanese environmental journalists announced in July formation of a new organization called the Japanese Forum of Environmental Journalists.

The group's purpose, a statement said, "is to offer facilities for journalists interested in environmental issues to conduct research and exchange information, and in particular to provide a point of contact between journalists, both Japanese and foreigners, and environmentalists."

The group is funded largely from membership dues and is open to journalists

### SOUTHERN JOURNALISM AWARDS

#### Investigative

##### *Circulation 30,000 to 100,000*

• **First Prize** — Julie Hauserman, Tallahassee Democrat. "For her masterful job of bringing statewide attention to Florida's 'forgotten river,' the Fenholloway, which a Procter & Gamble cellulose plant has thoroughly contaminated."

##### *Circulation under 30,000*

• **First Prize** — Karen Kirkpatrick, Gainesville, Ga., The Times. "For uncovering the dangers posed by an unguarded, abandoned nuclear laboratory that has put area hunters and residents at risk for decades."

• **Second Prize** — Dana Morse, Elizabeth Hayes, Steve Prince, Katherine Bouman, Robert Anderson, Brian Ponder and Jordan Gruener of the Alabama Journal. "For their exhaustive and graphic examination of the deplorable pollution and lackluster regulation of Alabama's rivers."

• **Third Prize** — Peter Shinkle, Baton Rouge State Times. "For his unsettling revelations that an incinerator was illegally burning or burying millions of pounds of hazardous waste laced with radioactive material."

#### Feature

• **Second Prize** — James B. O'Byrne, New Orleans Times Picayune. "For his sensitive and probing account of a town swallowed by a sprawling chemical-production complex and the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on black communities."

• **Honorable Mention** — Bob Anderson, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate. "For his beautifully written tour of Louisiana's endangered natural wonders."

### NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOC. BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

#### Environmental Reporting

• **First Place** — Matt Kempner, Gwinnett Daily News, Duluth, Ga. For a series which examined the economic consequences at three small towns in Georgia and North Carolina when a major employer was faced with a serious environmental problem and had to decide whether to shut down or to spend valuable resources to resolve it.

• **Second Place** — Nick Green, Dave Christy, Gary West and David Krapes, The Herald & News, Klamath Falls, Ore. For a series of stories about pollution in southern Oregon stemming from wood-burning stoves.

• **Third Place** — None.

• **Honorable Mention** — Betty Gray, Daily News, Washington, N.C.; Michael Kaemper and Tony Archuletta, Rio Grande Sun; and Lee Chottiner, Dominion Post, Morgantown, W.V.

#### Energy Reporting

• **First Place** — Perry Clark, News Review, Petoskey, Mich. The winner for the second year in a row for stories examining the performance of the Big Rock Point nuclear plant in Northwest Michigan.

• **Second Place** — Bettina Edelstein, The Litchfield County Times, New Milford, Conn. For continuing stories focusing on the controversy created by the Iroquois natural gas pipeline.

• **Third Place** — Susan Beaumont and Jeremy Kornreich, Nantucket Beacon, Nantucket, Mass. For stories discussing oil overcharges and power outages at the Nantucket Electric Company.

environmental groups . . ." the group's statement said.

"There is at present no means for the systematic collation and dissemination of information concerning these activities, and we aim to fill this gap with our new organization."

For further information, contact: Mrs. Fusa Mclynn, Japanese Forum of Environmental Journalists, Global Environmental Forum, Iikura Bldg., 1-9-7 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106. Telephone: 03-5561-9735. Fax: 03-5561-9737.

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## New Members

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The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from May 1 to Oct. 15, 1991. Memberships recorded after Oct. 15 will appear in the Winter issue of SEJournal.

### CALIFORNIA

- Katherine S. Balint, San Diego Tribune, San Diego
- Marla Cone, Los Angeles Times, Costa Mesa
- Dennis Farrier (associate), KCAL Channel 9 News, Hollywood
- Howard A. Fine, Orange County Business Journal, Newport Beach
- Jan Greene, San Luis Obispo County Telegram, San Luis Obispo
- Sarah Henry, Center for Investigative Reporting, San Francisco
- Kevin McCarty, KCRA-TV, Sacramento
- James V. Risser (academic), Stanford University, Menlo Park
- Terry Rodgers, San Diego Tribune, San Diego
- Drew Silvern, San Diego Union, Oceanside

### COLORADO

- Len Ackland (academic), University of Colorado, Boulder
- Ronald Baird, Colorado Daily, Boulder
- Deborah Caulfield (associate), International Environmental Film Society, Boulder
- Judith Crosson, Reuters News, Denver
- Mark R. Edwards (academic), University of Colorado, Boulder
- Matthew Gilbert (associate), Boulder
- Nick Hart-Williams, Nexus Television, Boulder
- Kristin Young, Waste Tech News, Denver

### CONNECTICUT

- Daniel P. Jones, The Hartford Courant, Hartford

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Lauren E. Ashburn (associate), EMF News
- D'Vera Cohn, The Washington Post
- Arthur Kranish, Environment Report
- Joel Makower, Green Consumer Letter/Green Business Letter
- Matt Peacock, Australian Broadcasting Corp.
- Lou Prato (academic), Medill News

### SERVICE

- Carol L. Rogers (academic), University of Maryland
- Christopher T. Rosche, Scripps League Newspapers
- John C. Shideler, USTG Bulletin
- Michael Skoler, National Public Radio

### DELAWARE

- Molly Murray, Wilmington News Journal, Georgetown

### FLORIDA

- Samantha Klein, WPBT-TV, Miami
- Michael Ellis McClelland, Florida Environments, Tallahassee
- Curtis Morgan, The Miami Herald, Hollywood

### ILLINOIS

- Mike Byrnes (associate), Campground Management, Chicago
- Laurie Case (academic), Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign
- Allison Davis, WILL-TV, Urbana
- Kathleen Rude (associate), Ducks Unlimited Magazine, Long Grove

### INDIANA

- Patrick Morrison, The Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis

### LOUISIANA

- Bob Anderson, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, Baton Rouge

### MASSACHUSETTS

- Steve Curwood, Living on Earth, Cambridge
- George C. Homsy, Living on Earth, Cambridge
- Janet Worth Nunley, Living on Earth, Cambridge
- Nick Tate, The Boston Herald, Cambridge

### MARYLAND

- Eleanor Grant, The Discovery Channel, Bethesda
- Tom Horton (associate), Hebron

### MICHIGAN

- Jonathan Friendly (academic), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Jeff Green, Oakland Press, Pontiac

### MINNESOTA

- Greg Breining (associate), The Minnesota Volunteer, St. Paul

- Kathleen Weflen (associate), The Minnesota Volunteer, St. Paul

### NEBRASKA

- Marc Krasnowsky, The Lincoln Star, Lincoln

### NEW JERSEY

- William J. McDermott (associate), Marmora
- Laurel VanLeer, Home News Publishing Co., New Brunswick

### NEW MEXICO

- William deBuys (associate), Land Letter, Common Ground, Santa Fe

### NEW YORK

- Janet L. Essman (associate), State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Albany
- Usha Govindarajulu (academic), Cornell University, Ithaca
- Stephanie Rose (associate), Cedarhurst
- Debra K. Rubin, Engineering News-Record, New York
- Louis Slesin, Microwave News, New York
- Gary Soucie (associate), Audubon Magazine, New York
- Mark G. Weiner, Syracuse Herald/Herald American, Syracuse

### OHIO

- Tom Breckenridge, The Plain Dealer, Cleveland
- Edward M. May (associate), Medina

### OREGON

- Stephen Brian Amen, Oregon Field Guide, Portland

### PENNSYLVANIA

- Jacqueline Boulden, The Ten O'Clock News, Philadelphia
- Theresa Pudik Card, Beaver County Times, Aliquippa
- John J. Fried, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia
- Rob Goldberg (associate), Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
- Dave Johnson, Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, Radnor
- Roger Martella, Jr. (academic), Cornell University, Norristown
- Diane Shandor (associate), American Friends Services Committee, Philadelphia

### PUERTO RICO

- Miglisa L. Capó, San Juan Star, San Juan

## Reporters' Toolbox

### Online environmental network can help

By BRAD HURLEY

Imagine this: It's Friday afternoon, and your editor has just assigned you to do a feature on the growing number of governments that have banned the use of tropical rainforest timber.

The first step, of course, is to find out which governments have passed such bans. You turn to your computer, type up a query letter and then log into EcoNet, an online environmental network.

In less than five minutes, and for little more than the price of a local telephone call, you've "posted" your request on an electronic bulletin board where it will be seen by dozens of activists, researchers and government officials in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Europe and South America.

On Monday morning, you check the network for responses. An Australian rainforest activist, a British timber importer, and a representative from the San Francisco Rainforest Action Network have each answered your query.

By Wednesday, you've gotten two more responses. You send an electronic mail message to the Australian activist, asking her for more details on her country's proposed ban. You exchange mail with the British importer, asking him to describe how his "sustainably harvested" timber would be exempted from the bans. A little fact-checking and you're on your way.

Total cost for gathering this information? Under \$10.

This is not a hypothetical example. It's a chronicle of the process I used to write a short article on tropical timber bans for my newsletter last December.

EcoNet has rescued me in many similar situations, consistently providing useful tips, leads and new contacts. As a low-cost,

interactive source of news and background on virtually any environmental topic, it is unparalleled. It's even easy to use.

EcoNet's point of entry is through its dozens of electronic bulletin boards, or "conferences," each devoted to a general subject. For example, EcoNet lists 24

#### Reporters' Toolbox

is a regular feature of SEJournal, in which experienced reporters provide tips on gathering news about environmental issues.

separate conferences on various toxics and waste issues. Each of these conferences contains topics posted by individual users; responses are appended to the topics.

Recent topics posted to the conference "en.toxics" include "New Review of Dioxin Literature," "Sweden Cuts Pesticide Use" and "Medwaste Incinerator Query."

As a separate feature, EcoNet has a powerful electronic mail system that allows you to reach individual users of its seven sister networks around the world, as well as users of the mega-networks Bitnet and Internet. You can even send faxes on EcoNet, a plus for reporters whose office fax machines are tied up during the day.

All you need to get online is a computer, a modem and communications software. The EcoNet manual, which is clearly written and easy to follow, provides everything you'll need to get started, including recommendations for software programs and modems.

*Brad Hurley is editor of Global Environmental Change Report, a twice-monthly newsletter published by Cutter Information Corp. in Arlington, Mass.*

#### Tapping into EcoNet is easy, inexpensive

EcoNet was founded in 1984 as a small, five-organization network with fewer than 300 subscribers. Today, according to Executive Director Bill Leland, EcoNet has 2,300 users in the United States, and is growing by 7 percent each month.

The network is managed by the Institute for Global Communications in San Francisco, and resides on a host computer based at Stanford University. Local telephone access nationwide is provided by Telenet, whose charges appear on your monthly EcoNet bill. EcoNet charges a one-time \$15 signup fee; after that, you are billed \$10/month plus \$10/hour of peak-time use. Off-peak rates (after 7 p.m. and before 7 a.m.) are \$5/hour. I use EcoNet at least twice a day every weekday, and my total monthly bill (including Telenet charges) is rarely over \$40.

For more information, contact EcoNet at 18 De Boom Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Tel: 415-442-0220.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

- Janna E. Gower (academic), Clemson University, Clemson

#### TEXAS

- Randy Lee Loftis, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas
- Amy Martin, Garbage Magazine, Dallas
- Jim Pinkham, Environmental Protection News, Waco

#### UTAH

- Allen W. Palmer (academic), Brigham Young University, Provo

#### VIRGINIA

- Gregg Easterbrook, Newsweek & Atlantic Monthly, Arlington
- Micheline Maynard, USA Today, Arlington

#### WASHINGTON

- Bill Dietrich, Seattle Times, Seattle

#### WISCONSIN

- Meg Turville-Heitz (associate), Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Madison

#### WEST VIRGINIA

- Eric H. Niiler, Charleston Gazette, Charleston
- R. Ivan Pinnell (academic), West Virginia University, Morgantown

#### WYOMING

- Robert Roten, Laramie Daily Boomerang, Laramie

#### International Members

##### CANADA

- Eve Savory, CBC National TV News, Vancouver, British Columbia

##### DENMARK

- Ellen Oestergaard Andersen, Copenhagen
- Anne Bech-Danielsen, Copenhagen
- Jorgen Bjerregaard, Copenhagen
- Hans Drachmann, Copenhagen

##### NIGERIA

- Oyebode Oyewole (associate), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Ibadan

##### NORWAY

- Rikke Bjurstrom, Oslo

##### POLAND

- Bozena Kastory, Zycie Warszawy, Warsaw

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## Calendar

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### NOVEMBER

11-13 **First National Fuelwood Conference** will focus on growing fuelwood, establishing renewable biomass systems, new technologies for burning wood and aims for energy independence. Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Arbor Day Institute, (402) 474-5655; FAX: (402) 474-0820.

11-16 **NALMS 11th Symposium: Lake, Reservoir and Watershed Management in a Changing World**, sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society, will address climate change, acidification and eutrophication. Denver, Colo. Contact: NALMS, P.O. Box 217, Merrifield, VA 22116.

12-17 **5th National Urban Forest Conference**, sponsored by the American Forestry Association, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Contact: AFA, Urban Forests Conferences, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013.

13-15 **Estuarine and Coastal Modeling**, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, will focus on the fate of hazardous and toxic wastes and water quality predictions. Tampa, Fla. Contact: Malcolm L. Spaulding, University of Rhode Island, Department of Ocean Engineering, 208 Lippitt Hall, Kingston, RI. (401) 792-2537.

16-18 **Global Change and the Human Prospect: Issues in Population, Science, Technology and Equity**, sponsored by Sigma Xi scientific society, will address knowledge, policies and society transformations required to achieve a sustainable and equitable world. Washington, D.C. Contact: Nancy Barry, Sigma Xi, Box 13975, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. (919) 549-4691.

19-21 **Hazardous Materials Management Conference/West**, sponsored by Hazmat World magazine and other organizations, including the U.S. Energy Department and the California Department of Health Services, will cover new technology, pollution abatement and latest regulations. Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, Calif. Contact: Tower Conference Management Company, 800 Roosevelt Road, Building E, Suite 408, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5835. (708) 469-3373; FAX: (708) 469-7477.

20-22 **Petroleum Hydrocarbons and**

**Organic Chemicals in Ground Water: Prevention, Detection and Restoration**, sponsored by the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, will deal with the transport, fate and cleanup of these pollutants. Houston, Texas. Contact: National Well Water Association, P.O. Box 182039, Dept. 017, Columbus, OH 43218. (614) 761-1711.

### DECEMBER

3-5 **International CFC and Halon Alternatives Conference**, sponsored by the Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy, will range from uses of CFCs to their global warming implications. Baltimore, Md. Contact: CFC Alternatives Conference, P.O. Box 236, Frederick, MD 21701-0236.

3-5 **Hazardous Materials Control '91 (formerly Superfund)**, sponsored by Hazardous Materials Control Research Institute, includes sessions on contamination and cleanup of waters and soils tainted with dioxin, petroleum derivatives, volatile organic chemicals, lead and other heavy metals. Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: HMCRI, 7237 Hanover Pkwy., Greenbelt, MD 20770-3602. (301) 982-9500; FAX: (301) 220-3870.

5-6 **24th Annual Symposium of the Society of Toxicology of Canada**. Sessions will include presentations on neurotoxicity of environmental contaminants. Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Montreal. Contact: Gordon Krip, Society of Toxicology of Canada, P.O. Box 517, Beaconsfield, Quebec, Canada H9W 5V1.

9-12 **4th International Symposium on Gas, Oil and Environmental Biotechnology**, sponsored by the Institute of Gas Technology, will focus on microbial removal of several pollutants, microbial desulfurization of coals, microbial ecology of oil spills and bioscavenging of heavy metals. Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact: Cavit Akin, Biotechnology Research, IGT, 3424 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60616. (312) 567-3724; FAX: (312) 567-5209.

### JANUARY

14-16 **World at Risk: Natural Hazards and Climate Change**, Cambridge, Mass. Contact: Center for Global

Change Science, Bldg. 54-1312, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139.

14-16 **2nd International Symposium on Aboveground Storage Tanks**, sponsored by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, will focus on alternatives to technology and environmental issues related to these alternatives to frequently leaky underground storage tanks for industrial chemicals. J.W. Marriott Houston Galleria, Houston, Texas. Contact: National Association of Corrosion Engineers, P.O. Box 218340, Houston, TX 77218-8340. (713) 492-0535, ext. 81; FAX: (713) 492-8254.

24-25 **Tropical Forest Medical Resources and the Conservation of Biodiversity**, New York City. Contact: S. Laird, Rainforest Alliance, 270 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012.

### FEBRUARY

4-6 **National R&D Conference on the Control of Hazardous Materials**, sponsored by Hazardous Materials Control Research Institute, will focus on research and development progress. San Francisco. Contact: HMCRI, 7237 Hanover Pkwy., Greenbelt, MD 20770-3602. (301) 982-9500; FAX: (301) 220-3870.

14-15 **Colloquium on Dominion over the Earth**. Washington, Pa. Contact: D. Schrader, Basic Issues Forum, Philosophy Department, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA 15301.

19-21 **2nd International Conference on Zebra Mussels**. Toronto, Ontario. Contact: C. Brousseau, Zebra Mussel Coordinating Office, P.O. Box 5000, Maple, Ontario, Canada L6A 1S9.

23-27 **Society of Toxicology annual meeting**, includes sessions on all types of environmental toxicants, Seattle. Contact: SOT, 1101 14th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

24-26 **4th Annual Symposium of Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center**, sponsored by Hazardous Materials Control Research Institute, will focus on ground water. Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. Contact: Hazardous Materials Control Research Institute, 7237 Hanover Pkwy., Greenbelt, MD 20770-3602. (301) 982-9500; FAX: (301) 220-3870.

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

# SEJ

## Society of Environmental Journalists

1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005 • Phone: (202) 408-2725

### Instructions:

1. Fill out application form as completely as possible. Attach additional pages if necessary.
2. You may attach a current resume or brief biography. Freelance journalists should attach three samples of their work.
3. Do NOT attach payment for dues. If accepted for membership, you will be billed for \$30 annual dues.
4. Mail to: Society of Environmental Journalists, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005.
5. Applicants will be notified in writing of the membership status granted.

### A. To be completed by all applicants.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Students applying for Academic Membership should provide address and phone during school year, and date of graduation)

DESCRIBE DUTIES (STUDENTS MAY DESCRIBE GOALS): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOW LONG IN CURRENT POSITION? IF LESS THAN 2 YEARS, SUMMARIZE WORK HISTORY & DUTIES FOR THAT PERIOD:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AREA OF EMPLOYMENT: Newspaper  Magazine  Newsletter  News Service  Television News  Radio News   
Freelancer  Educator  Student  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE YOU DONE ANY FREELANCE OR SIMILAR WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR, EITHER ON PAID OR VOLUNTEER BASIS, FOR ANY ORGANIZATION, BUSINESS OR MOVEMENT NOT PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN JOURNALISTIC OR ACADEMIC PURSUITS AS DEFINED BELOW? YES  NO  IF YES, PROVIDE DETAILS AND DATES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HAVE YOU DONE LOBBYING OR PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK IN THE PAST 2 YEARS? YES  NO  IF YES, FOR WHOM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK THE CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP (as defined in SEJ Bylaws) FOR WHICH YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE:

- ACTIVE** Persons primarily engaged in the gathering, reporting, editing, photographing, producing or cartooning of news for dissemination by regularly published, general circulation newspapers, magazines and newsletters, as well as radio and television stations and networks, news services and other media available to the general public.
- ACADEMIC** Persons on the faculty or enrolled as students of an accredited college, university or other school, who have an interest in environmental issues.
- ASSOCIATE** Those individuals, such as freelancers, who do not qualify for ACTIVE or ACADEMIC membership but who, in the majority opinion of the SEJ Board, will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of SEJ. (See section "C" of application.) Applicants must be substantially engaged in journalistic pursuits.

**B. To be completed by applicants for active or associate membership.**

IS YOUR EMPLOYER OR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY OR AFFILIATED WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OR MOVEMENT NOT PRINCIPALLY IN THE BUSINESS OF CONVEYING NEWS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC? YES  NO  IF YES, WHAT ORGANIZATION OR MOVEMENT? \_\_\_\_\_

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY ADVERTISING \_\_\_\_\_, PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS \_\_\_\_\_, MEMBERSHIP DUES \_\_\_\_\_, OR OTHER \_\_\_\_\_? IF OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_

**C. To be completed by applicants for associate membership.**

HOW WOULD YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS CONTRIBUTE TO ATTAINMENT OF THE SOCIETY'S GOALS (i.e. ENHANCING THE QUALITY & ACCURACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**D. To be completed by all applicants.**

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS. I UNDERSTAND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETAINS SOLE AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ANY CATEGORY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF SEJ? WE'LL SEND THEM DETAILS AND AN APPLICATION:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

**FOR USE ONLY BY SEJ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Application complete \_\_\_\_\_ Form of payment \_\_\_\_\_

Date reviewed by committee \_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Class of membership granted / date of action \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of membership:  January 1, 19\_\_  April 1, 19\_\_  July 1, 19\_\_  October 1, 19\_\_



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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 and Mississippi** — Sharon Ebner at the Sun Herald, P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39535-4567, (601) 896-2355.

**Alaska** — Richard Mauer at the Anchorage Daily News, Box 149001, Anchorage, AK 99514, (907) 257-4200.

**Arizona and New Mexico** — Jon Sidener at the Arizona Republic, P.O. Box 1950, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 271-8185.

**Arkansas** — Bobbi Ridlehoover at the Arkansas Democrat, Capitol & Scott Streets, Little Rock, AK 72201, (501) 378-3596.

### California:

**Northern California** — Tom Harris at the Sacramento Bee, 2100 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95852, (916) 321-1001.

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

**Southern California** — Position is open. If interested in volunteering, call Kevin Carmody at (804) 978-7268.

**Colorado** — Joe Verrengia at the Rocky Mountain News, 400 West Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80204, (303) 892-5346.

**Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts** — Bob Wyss at the Providence Journal, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902, (401) 277-5176.

**District of Columbia** — Damon Chappie, Bureau of National Affairs, 1231 25th St., N.W., Wash., DC 20037, (202) 452-4408.

### Florida:

**North Florida** — Beverly Keneagy at the Florida Times-Union, P.O. Box 1949, Jacksonville, FL 32231, (904) 359-4316.

**South Florida** — Mary Beth Regan at the Orlando Sentinel, 633 North Orange

Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 420-5787.

**Georgia and South Carolina** — Charles Pope at The (Columbia, S.C.) State, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 771-8413.

**Idaho and Montana** — Stephen Stuebner at 1010 East Washington Street, Boise, ID 83712, (208) 345-4802.

**Iowa** — Cynthia Hubert at the Des Moines Register, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50304, (515) 284-8000.

**Hawaii** — Peter Wagner at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802, (808) 525-8699.

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

**Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont** — Position is open. If interested in volunteering, call Kevin Carmody at (804) 978-7268.

**Maryland and Delaware** — Tim Wheeler, the Evening Sun, 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21278, (301) 332-6564, or Liz Bowie at The Sun, (301) 332-6121.

**Michigan** — Karl Bates at the Ann Arbor News, P.O. Box 1147, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1147, (313) 994-6701.

**Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota** — Dennis Anderson at the Pioneer Press-Dispatch, 345 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101, (800) 950-9080.

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

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

**New Jersey** — David Vis at the Press of Atlantic City, Devins Lane, Pleasantville, NJ 08232, (609) 272-7254.

**New York** — Steve Orr at the Democrat & Chronicle, 49 Atkinson St., Rochester, NY 14608, (716) 258-2386

**Nevada** — Mary Manning at the Las Vegas Sun, 121 S. Martin L. King Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 383-7125.

**Ohio and Indiana** — Marcy Mermel at The Indianapolis News, 307 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 633-9233.

**Oregon** — Kathy Durbin at The Oregonian, (503) 221-8548 or Dan Postrel at the Salem Statesman-Journal, 280 Church St., NE, Salem, OR 97309, (503) 399-6737.

**Pennsylvania** — Ralph Haurwitz at The Pittsburgh Press, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230, (412) 263-1986; fax (412) 263-2014.

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

**Tennessee and Kentucky** — Tom Charlier at The Commercial Appeal, 495 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 529-2381.

### Texas and Oklahoma:

**North Texas and Oklahoma** — Randy Loftis at The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75265, (800) 431-0010.

**Central and West Texas** — Robert Michael Bryce at the The Austin Chronicle, P.O. Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765, (512) 473-8995.

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

**Utah and Wyoming** — Jim Woolf at the Salt Lake Tribune, P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, (801) 237-2045.

**Virginia and North Carolina** — Cyril Zaneski at the Virginian Pilot, 150 West Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517, (804) 490-7219.

**Washington State** — Karen Dorn Steele at the Spokesman Review & Chronicle, Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210-1615, (509) 459-5000

**West Virginia** — Monty Fowler, The Herald-Dispatch, 946 Fifth Ave., Huntington, WV, 25701, (304) 526-2802.

**Wisconsin and Illinois** — Chuck Quirnbach of Wisconsin Public Radio, 111 E. Kilbourn Ave., #1060, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-8686 or (608) 263-7985.

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## The Green Beat

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### ALABAMA

► The *Birmingham Post-Herald* ran a series in March on non-point source pollution. "The theme of the whole series was looking at Alabama's environment in terms of a lot of the more obvious things that people tend to overlook — the things that are not sexy or controversial, but perhaps are causing the most harm," said writer Steve Kipp. The series covered pollution from agriculture and sewage; the contamination of rural water wells; the effect of developing wetlands; and endangered species. For information, call Steve Kipp at (205) 325-3197.

► The Environmental Protection Agency on July 18 approved Alabama's 1.2 parts per quadrillion dioxin limit for state waters — one of the least stringent standards in the nation. Bass fishermen and environmentalists are appealing that standard and have filed a lawsuit against the state. Katherine Bouma of *The Montgomery Advertiser* and *The Alabama Journal* followed the controversial issue through occasional in-depth and breaking-news pieces beginning in January. For more information, call librarian Ramona Slocum, 1-800-828-8045, ext. 285.

### CALIFORNIA

► California's system for keeping track of hazardous waste is riddled with so many regulatory holes that 400,000 tons of toxic materials are lost annually, says a four-part series in the *San Jose Mercury News*. Request March 31-April 3 copies from (408) 920-5042.

► A pollution burden on America's minority communities, including farm workers and inner-city residents in the "dirtiest zip code" in California, gives rise to the term "toxic racism" in a four-part series in the *San Francisco Examiner*. Copies of the April 7-10 series are available from (415) 777-8704.

► A five-part series on the looming water crisis facing California says the projected population growth will soon outstrip the state's supplies, leading to perennial shortages with dire economic and environmental consequences. Reprints for

April 15-19 are available from the *San Francisco Chronicle* (415) 777-7100.

► The liability provisions of the Superfund law lead to mountains of finger-pointing litigation, delaying cleanup and driving up the costs to estimates that exceed the S&L bailout. Copies of the three-part series May 29-31 may be obtained from the *San Francisco Chronicle* (415) 777-7100.

► As more researchers capture, tag, collar, pull teeth and take blood from wildlife, nature may become a mammoth zoo, a place where human food, scent and power taints the remaining wildest of the wild. Get an Aug. 25 *Image* magazine of the *San Francisco Examiner* from (415) 777-8704.

► Any writers who care about John Muir's legendary "*Range of Lights*," or need an excellent model for comprehensive environmental reporting MUST see Tom Knudson's smashing series, "*Sierra in Peril*." As evocative as it is provocative, the latest piece of *Sacramento Bee* project journalism, peels away the whole skin of natural resource problems along the historic Sierra Nevada mountain range, issue by interwoven issue. Praised by conservationists, flayed by the logging industry and seized upon by federal, state and local legislators as the foundation for critical new examination of the Sierra's future, the series is available for a modest fee. Just mail \$2.16 to cover handling and tax to: *Sierra Series*, *Sacramento Bee*, PO Box 15779, Sacramento, CA 95852. Discount available for bulk orders of 50 or more.

► Copies are still available of Russell Clemings' excellent "*Dust to Dust: The Crisis in Irrigation*," published last year in the *Fresno Bee*. No parochial examination, the series covers the tainted, saline legacy of over-irrigation from the Negev to Mexicali, from the Tigris-Euphrates to the Tragowel Plains of Australia. Free reprints are available by writing to *Fresno Bee*, Community Relations (Attn: Leslie), 1626 E. St., Fresno, CA 93786. Slight fee of 25 cents per copy for orders of more than four.

► Northern California environmental writers with any memory will mourn the passing (from active ranks, only) of Ted McHugh, public information officer of the

Bay Area Air Quality Management District in San Francisco. McHugh, a charter member of the now-deceased California Academy of Environmental Newswriters in the early Seventies and role model for all agency flacks, took early retirement to go flat-out against a bout of Hodgkins Disease. The curmudgeon will beat it, winners never quit.

### CONNECTICUT

► Keeping track of "green" trends is the purpose of a Connecticut-based monthly newsletter that began publication last October. A recent issue of *Green Market Alert* examined how much attention 50 major U.S. corporations gave to the environment in their annual reports (30 percent referred to the environment and 20 percent had special sections on the environment). The newsletter also reported on environmental issues relating to marketing, advertising, products, packaging and government regulation. Publisher Carl Frankel says that 90 percent of the newsletter's circulation is among businesses, with environmental and governmental agencies taking up the balance. Frankel says he is available to brief journalists interested in "green" trends. Frankel can be reached at 345 Wood Creek Road, Bethlehem, CT 06751, (203) 266-7209.

► Disgusted by the amount of time state and federal governments spend in computerizing the most recent data from the *Toxic Release Inventory*? Then consider entering the data yourself as the *Hartford Courant* did last year and plans to do again this year. Reporter Dan Jones says it took three Courant employees less than three weeks to enter the data from hundreds of companies into laptop computers. It takes the state of Connecticut seven to eight months to do the same thing. Plus, the newspaper felt more confident about the accuracy of its figures than the state's figures, which in the past have included serious data entry errors. For more information, contact Dan Jones, *Hartford Courant*, (203) 241-6200.

► A Connecticut woman in June filed what is believed to be the state's first law suit seeking damages as a result of indoor

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## The Green Beat

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air pollution at the office building where she worked in Hartford. Kim Padgett of Wallingford, Conn., contends that she became so ill she nearly died while she worked for an insurance company at the six-story office building in Hartford from 1984 to 1989. Padgett says she suffered from headaches, respiratory problems, impaired concentration and memory as well as eye, skin and nose irritation. She also needed an oxygen tank to breathe. For further information, contact Hall Gillam at the *Meriden Record-Journal*.

### FLORIDA

► The *Tallahassee Democrat* found in a three-part series that wastewater discharge from a Procter & Gamble cellulose plant is causing mutant fish and high dioxin levels in the Fenholloway River. In follow-up articles, the newspaper has found that chemicals from the company have contaminated groundwater, including residents' drinking water wells. The articles have prompted the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation to form a Fenholloway River clean up team. DER Secretary Carol Browner has said the Fenholloway issue is as important as the Everglades cleanup. For more information, contact environmental reporter Julie Hauserman at (904) 599-2176.

► Florida's *New York Times* newspapers published a week-long series concerning the state's five water management districts, concluding that the districts have left the state's water supply poorly managed. Among other things, the newspapers found that the districts' taxing budgets have mushroomed; special interests, such as agriculture and development industries, have taken control of the governing boards; applicants for the governing boards are judged more on politics than qualifications; and the districts have failed to compile a statewide water-use plan, meaning no one knows how much water Florida has. For more information, contact reporter Alan Judd at (904) 661-9211.

► South Florida news was dominated this summer by coverage of the Everglades lawsuit. In mid-July, the federal government and State of Florida agreed on a settlement, expected to be approved by a

federal judge in Miami. The suit, filed in 1988, has been one of the most costly and complicated environmental battles in the nation. It alleges that Florida has allowed polluted water to enter the federal Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park, damaging their ecosystems. Under the agreement, Florida will buy 34,000 acres of farmland and turn it into a marsh system to filter polluted water running into the Everglades. It is unclear how much money farmers contributing to the pollution will have to pay. Extensive coverage was provided by the *Miami Herald*, *Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* and *Palm Beach Post*.

► The *Orlando Sentinel* in July published a four-part series on Florida's vanishing fish. The project focused on the state's dwindling fish populations due to over-fishing and development, the loss of wetlands habitat, the assault of increasing numbers of anglers and long-term, costly cures. For copies, call reporter Don Wilson at (407) 420-5474.

► The *Sentinel* also reported on a Virginia company's efforts to build the state's first chemical waste incinerator. That project was killed after reports of discrepancies about environmental and health impacts, as well as the possibility of a conflict of interest between an investor and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. For information, call Mary Beth Regan at (407) 420-5787.

► The U.S. Air Force and the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services are investigating as many as 12 cases of Hodgkin's disease in a Brevard County, Fla., neighborhood near Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The investigation is focusing on an examination of 30 sites where toxic waste was dumped from 1940 to 1985. Although no link has been proven between the Hodgkin's disease and the toxic waste, many residents are uneasy about the high cancer rates. For information, call *Florida Today* at (407) 242-3500, or the *Orlando Sentinel* (407) 631-1300.

### HAWAII

► The National Toxicology Program has

determined in draft findings that TCP (trichloropropane), an industrial solvent also used in pesticides, is carcinogenic. A copy of the NTP's draft report, leaked to the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* in July, raises new questions about Hawaii's drinking water, already contaminated with DBCP (dibromochloropropane), and EDB (ethylene dibromide) after decades of use by the pineapple industry. The two-year study was requested by Hawaii health officials after TCP, about which little was known, turned up in wells near agricultural areas along with known carcinogens DBCP and EDB. The study found a high incidence of cancer in laboratory rats and mice in a wide variety of dosages. There are no federal standards on the three toxics, although California set a 200 parts per trillion safety standard for DBCP, widely found in its water. Hawaii, in the process of setting standards, proposed 800 ppt for TCP before the report. Now, state officials are taking another look at the compound, which seems to be as toxic as DBCP and EDB. Also likely to take a new interest in TCP is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which like other agencies knew little about the toxicity of the compound before the report. The implications could be far-reaching, affecting agricultural and industrial states. While TCP is not itself a pesticide, it is used in the application of pesticides and is often found where the pesticide DBCP has been used. Industrial states could also have a problem, Hawaii officials believe, because the newly-discovered carcinogen has been most widely used as a solvent. For a copy of the report, NPT TR 384, write: National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Or call (703) 487-4650.

### INDIANA

► A new organization representing forest activists from several states has been formed. Heartland was created to limit logging in the public forests in the central hardwood region. Andy Mahler, coordinator of the group and President of an Indiana organization called Protect Our Woods, said members hope to persuade government land managers to target logging on private rather than public land. So far

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members hail from New York, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Arkansas. Mahler said the group represents a new movement of activists who believe the major national groups emphasize fundraising and compromise over principles. He can be reached at RR3, Box 402, Paoli, IN 47454 or (812) 723-2430.

► The *South Bend Tribune* detailed plans for a Lake Michigan ozone study that involves four Cessna twin-engine aircraft and four luxury boats equipped with air-monitoring equipment. The ozone study, which also includes data obtained from ground monitors, will try to determine where ozone is generated and how the land and Lake Michigan interact to produce the air currents carrying the ozone. The study encompasses Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin and could solve controversies involving non-attainment areas whose problem may be imported from other regions. Wayne Falda wrote the story, which appeared July 28. Falda's number at the *Tribune* is (219) 233-6161.

### KANSAS

► University of Kansas Medical Center and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are taking blood and urine samples from residents who live near a former chrome-plating plant in Kansas City, Kan. Initial tests showed the residents had abnormally high levels of chromium in their blood — so high that health officials decided to retest. The low-income, minority residents complain that EPA and local health officials have disregarded their claims that the plant's pollution is damaging their health. Contact Mike Mansur at *The Kansas City Star* at (816) 234-4433.

► McPherson, Kan., residents are up in arms over East Coast waste flowing into their city landfill. Several other small Kansas communities have been approached about taking out-of-state trash. Meanwhile, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is studying contamination found beneath the McPherson landfill. Contact Greg Crawford, KDHE spokesman, at (913) 296-1529.

► Twenty-six of the 35 Wichita companies that file toxic release reports have promised to cut emissions by 90 percent within five years, at the urging of EPA regional officials. Kansas recently moved to No. 9 on the nation's list of toxic release emissions, largely because of deep well injections by Vulcan Chemicals Co. Vulcan was among the group that promised to make drastic cuts in emissions. For more information, contact Jean Hays, the *Wichita Eagle*, (316) 268-6557.

### LOUISIANA

► The *Baton Rouge State Times*, which is about to close, has done a running series on the problems of low-level nuclear waste from weapons manufacturers being sent to hazardous waste sites across the nation. Contact Peter Shinkle at (504) 388-0305.

► The *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate* just completed a five-part series examining the unique wildlife habitats in the state and the stresses they are suffering. The series also looks at the plants and animals, including the Louisiana black bear, which are disappearing as a result of the stresses, and what the impacts are on the Cajun culture. Copies can be obtained from Environmental Editor Bob Anderson at (504) 383-1111.

► Progressive environmental programs took heavy hits in the recent legislative session, and funding was cut for the Department of Environmental Quality's publication, the *Environmental Advocate*, a monthly magazine that sometimes angered industry and Legislators. Details can be obtained from Jerel Giarruso, DEQ's director of communications, at (504) 765-0741, but get to her quickly, because her job has been cut too. If she's already gone, talk to DEQ Secretary Paul Templet or Deputy Secretary Joel Lindsey.

### MAINE

► *Maine Times* published a hard-hitting investigation of how the state's wetlands are routinely filled by developers, farmers and landowners, despite laws against the practice. Enforcement is virtually non-existent, leaving wetlands to be protected by an "honor system" according to the

story by Phyllis Austin. The story ran in the July 19 issue. Contact the paper at (207) 729-0126.

### MARYLAND

► The Chesapeake Bay cleanup came under scrutiny this summer with the release of a Chesapeake Bay Foundation book and stories about sniping between the governors of Maryland and Virginia over the lack of leadership and vision. The book, *Turning the Tide*, written by former Baltimore Sun environmental reporter Tom Horton and William Eichbaum, vice-president of the Environmental Quality Program of World Wildlife Fund, gives a somewhat gloomy picture of where the cleanup has failed and called for a new vision for the ecosystem.

► A four-part series in the *Evening Sun* in April and May explored the environmental, legal and political controversy over low-level exposure to lead, primarily from deteriorating paint in older homes. Articles outlined research on health effects of lead, chronicled the ordeal of one mother whose children were repeatedly poisoned in rundown rental homes, showed how Baltimore and Maryland were failing to deal with the problem, and reported on possible solutions. A follow-up article in July reported that Baltimore had decided to relax its requirements for de-leading homes in an attempt to get better cooperation from the city's landlords, who have resisted regulations.

### MICHIGAN

► The *Detroit News* hit on an air-tight way to confirm everyone's worst fears about an abandoned dump that turned up under an elementary school in Westland. The *News* used old aerial photographs from the local electrical utility to show that the area where the school is now was a liquid waste retention pond in 1949. An adjacent subdivision and a popular sledding hill were built on areas that were once an active landfill. A series of three of the aerial photographs from 1949, 1952 and 1967 were run across the top of the newspaper's front page on Friday, Aug. 2 to show the landfill's growth and expansion and the end uses that were built over it. The school was closed in June after leachate began

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seeping out of the playground.

► Emelia Askari of the *Detroit Free Press* may have scored a victory for environmental reporters everywhere by persuading her bosses to add another reporter to the beat. Arguing that reader interest in environmental issues is high and that more person-power was needed to do the sort of enterprise work the editors wanted, Askari managed to convince the Free Press to add Mike Williams to the environmental beat four days a week. "People here were primed for that kind of argument," she said. "I'm psyched; Mike's happy." Askari's environmental beat predecessor, Assistant Metro Editor Bob Campbell, also helped grease the skids, she said.

### MISSOURI

► Missourians have lost a bit of their "right to know" about toxic chemicals in communities. Gov. John Ashcroft recently cut the Community Right to Know program out of the state's budget, making Missouri only the second state in the country to lop the program, which was established under the Superfund law. Contact Bill Palmer, spokesman for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, (314) 751-3443.

► Vernon Houk, a high-ranking CDC scientist, stirred confusion and anger recently when he said he probably wouldn't have evacuated residents from dioxin-contaminated Times Beach, if he had to do it over again. Houk's position should have been expected, as Houk has championed the position that dioxin isn't so risky, according to *The Kansas City Star*, which examined Houk's numerous dioxin controversies. Contact Mike Mansur, (816) 234-4433.

► Missouri generators of low-level wastes are preparing to store the wastes after 1993 because the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact has yet to find a storage site. The compact recently ousted Michigan, after it failed to move fast enough to find a place to store the wastes. Missouri officials say Congress should overhaul the compact system because it hasn't worked. Contact Ron Kucera or Tom Lange at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, (314) 751-3195.

### MISSISSIPPI

► Four sites remain on the state's list of proposed locations for a hazardous waste disposal facility. Mississippi does not have a commercial hazardous waste operation and has formed a Hazardous Waste Siting Authority to identify a site by Jan. 1, under federal requirements for disposal plans, unless private industry steps in first. In a June 2 package of stories in Jackson's *Clarion-Ledger*, environment writer Sharon Stallworth took an in-depth look at the state's efforts, the waste generated by state industries, the geology of the counties being considered and the resulting impact on the people who will live near them. For a copy of the package, call *Clarion-Ledger* Librarian Susan Garcia at 1-800-222-8015. For more information, contact the state Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control Director Charles Chisolm at (601) 961-5100.

► NASA has begun building a solid rocket motor test stand at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County following a federal judge's denial July 25 of a citizens group's request for a temporary injunction. Citizens for a Healthy Environment, represented by the New Orleans office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, is suing to stop the program, claiming that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency violated the Clean Water Act in issuing NASA a permit to fill in 69 acres of wetlands. The group has been fighting the project for two years in the belief that firing the shuttle's booster motor in the humid coastal air will result in acid rain and other damage. The controversy was the subject of a "Network Earth" program on TBS Superstation in September. For past stories on the controversy, contact Librarian Marilyn Pustay of the *Sun Herald* in Gulfport at (601) 896-2308 or environment writer Sharon Ebner at (601) 896-2355. For more information, contact Myron Webb, acting public affairs officer at Stennis Space Center, (601) 688-3341; and Citizens for a Healthy Environment Vice President Robert Esher at (601) 467-3879.

### NEVADA

► American Nuclear Energy Council

President Ed Davis met with Clark County Manager Pat Shalmy and Clark County Commissioners Jay Bingham and Paul Christensen in Las Vegas on June 3 without notifying the other five commissioners. The *Las Vegas Sun Newspaper* reported the commissioners and Shalmy said a proposed high-level nuclear dump at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, wasn't discussed, but ANEC did ask about Nevada's concerns over water. The secret meeting prompted County Commissioners Karen Hayes and Don Schlesinger to call for clearing the air in a public commission meeting Aug. 6 on Clark County's opposition to the national nuclear dump project and to review Washington, D.C., lobbyist Ed Allison's contract with the county. Allison attended the closed-door meeting, but missed the public session on his contract June 4. For more information, call Mary Manning at (702) 383-7125.

### NORTH CAROLINA

► Violators of state environmental laws use appeals, court-rulings and administrative settlements to whittle down fines levied by the N.C. Division of Environmental Management. An investigation by *The Charlotte Observer* revealed that polluters rarely pay more than a fraction of their penalties. For more information, contact reporter Jack Horan, (704) 358-5042.

► A public relations firm hired by the N.C. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority evaluated the aggressiveness of the state's newspapers in covering environmental issues in a report on potential sites for a low-level radioactive waste dump. The report was dug up by Terry Martin of the *Winston-Salem Journal* in July. Martin's stories reveal that the search for a dumpsite is not being conducted on scientific and technical grounds. For copies, contact Martin at (919) 833-8508.

### OHIO

► A computer-assisted investigation by *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* revealed that companies rarely report their own chemical spills. The newspaper also reported the state hasn't responded well to the chemical spill threat. Reporter Dave Davis used an

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency data base to determine where chemical spills had been reported, who had reported the spills and other information. Reporter Tom Breckinridge, who assisted with the story, said they also looked at recommendations from a task force report issued last year. The report, developed under the former state administration, has been largely ignored, he said. The reporters can be reached at (216) 344-4500 or *The Plain Dealer*, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114.

► Ohio joined other states in watching portions of legislation to restrict out-of-state waste struck down in federal court. U.S. District Judge George C. Smith struck down the three-tiered solid waste fee and consent-to-service requirement in May. The consent-to-service form required out-of-state waste haulers to accept the jurisdiction of Ohio courts. The state's solid waste management districts still collect higher fees for out-of-state waste, but the money is being placed in escrow pending a decision on appeal.

### OREGON

► Are the toads trying to tell us something? For the second year in a row, Oregon State University scientists have documented a baffling die-off of millions of western toad eggs in a lake high in the Oregon Cascades. Amphibian populations appear to be declining worldwide. One possibility, scientists say, is that erosion of the ozone layer may be admitting lethal amounts of ultraviolet light. Some research suggests that amphibian eggs are particularly sensitive to ultraviolet light, perhaps allowing the species to serve as a warning device for the rest of the ecosystem. For more information: Dave Stauth, Oregon State University information office, Corvallis, OR (503) 737-0787.

### PENNSYLVANIA

► The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a report identifying 125 wetland sites in Pennsylvania that should be a priority for federal or state acquisition. The sites range in size from one acre to 6,000 acres. The report, "Regional Wetlands Concept Plan," also lists priority wetland

sites in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia. Copies are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, One Gateway Center, Suite 700, Newton Corner, MA 02158; (617) 965-5100.

► A story in *The Pittsburgh Press* explored the rising popularity of organic approaches to lawn and garden care. Industry giants such as Scott, Ortho and Chemlawn introduced organic products and services this year. A separate primer on lawn care described many techniques, such as mowing high, to promote healthier turf. For copies, write or call environmental writer Ralph Haurwitz, *The Pittsburgh Press*, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230; (412) 263-1986.

► Recent reports in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Pittsburgh Press* reveal new concerns about an old health hazard — lead. Mark Jaffe, environmental writer for *The Inquirer*, described how new X-ray technology showed elevated lead levels in the bones of two-thirds of those tested in Throop, Pa., the site of a battery-recycling plant undergoing a Superfund cleanup. Blood tests, the usual method of lead screening, showed no problems. Steve Twedt, medical writer for *The Press*, examined new research suggesting that lead stored in bones apparently dissolves in old age, possibly causing a litany of ailments. For more information, contact Mark Jaffe, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19101; (215) 854-2430. Also, Steve Twedt, *The Pittsburgh Press*, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230; (412) 263-1963.

### RHODE ISLAND

► Block Island, a speck of sand dunes and pastures 14 miles off the Rhode Island coast, was declared by the Nature Conservancy in May as one of the "Last Great Places" in the Western Hemisphere where ecosystems and people can exist together. Peter Lord of the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* described in a major story on Sunday, May 12, how the island can sport a rich and varied wildlife — including being the home for thousands of migratory

birds — while also hosting up to 15,000 tourists on summer weekends. The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation group, named 11 other sites during a press conference in Washington including the Florida Keys, a condor reserve in Ecuador, Virginia's barrier islands, Ohio's Big Darby Watershed, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Oklahoma, Nipomo Dunes in California and others. For more information, contact Peter Lord at the *Providence Journal* (401) 737-3000, or John C. Sawhill, president of the Nature Conservancy, in Washington.

► "Living with Chemicals" is a continuing series of articles the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* has published on the relationship between toxics and people. On April 21 an article examined the impact of a nuclear radiation accident from the eyes of a survivor of the Chernobyl accident. A Rhode Island woman, who says she suffers from environmental illness, described how a severe chemical attack affected her after the exterior of her apartment was painted. And society's failure to overcome toxic air emissions from cars were examined in an article July 21. Prompted by articles published in February, U.S. Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) held a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in Providence and state officials reported they were trying to better prepare Rhode Island for a chemical accident. For details call Bob Wyss, *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, (401) 277-7364.

### TEXAS

► The *Houston Chronicle* in April published a three-day, five-story series on worsening flood problems — many of them man-made — in the Houston area and Texas. The series explained how channelization, concreting and other alterations of streams can increase and/or transfer flooding. Hydrologists, homeowners and elected officials were interviewed during a two-month investigation. Most agreed that poor planning, largely brought about by development pressures, has increased flood risks in a number of neighborhoods that previously had no trouble. One story noted that the Texas Water Development Board, charged with administering a \$300-million flood-control loan fund and a \$400-million "state

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participation" fund, has backed only a handful of large-scale, "structural" flood-control projects and declined to fund much cheaper, "non-structural" solutions, such as flood-warning systems. Current and former board staffers said the engineer-dominated agency is biased in favor of big projects. Another story noted that, because of bad luck and imprudent development, Texas ranked only behind Louisiana in "repetitive" flood losses from 1980 through 1989. A repetitive loss, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is two or more losses of at least \$1,000 each to a structure during a decade. Call Jim Morris, (713) 220-7491.

### VERMONT

► Vermont's Mad River Valley, home to the Sugarbush and Mad River ski areas, is thinking and planning for the greenhouse future. Worried about decreased natural snowfall in recent years and concerned about what climate change could do to its major industry, valley business leaders are planning for a diversified economy, luring environmentally friendly businesses like computer firms to the area.

► The purchase of power from Hydro-Quebec, the Canadian provincial utility, has become the hottest environmental issue in New England. Vermont signed up for 340 megawatts at \$6 billion over 30 years. The deal seemed sure. But the city of Burlington, Vt., is about to get out of its contract and New York utilities are sounding worried. A New England wide coalition is now strong and growing, raising economic issues in addition to the concern about destruction of wildlife habitat, mercury poisoning of fish and destruction of the culture of Cree and Inuit Indians. Vermont's largest papers, the *Burlington Free Press* and the *Rutland Herald*, write frequently about the subject.

### VIRGINIA

► The Navy's generation and handling of radioactive waste is straining safety precautions at naval bases and shipyards in Hampton Roads, Va., according to a two-part report in *The Virginian-Pilot* and *Ledger-Star*. Reporter Al Roberts examined the Navy's waste problem as well as the

generation and shipment of nuclear wastes by private industry in reports on March 31 and April 1. For more information and copies, contact Al Roberts, (804) 446-2355.

► Is the multi-million dollar cleanup of Chesapeake Bay succeeding or failing? Veteran environmental reporter and author Tom Horton and scientist William Eichbaum evaluate progress of the cleanup and try to gauge the bay's health in a book, *Turning the Tide*, published by Island Press in Washington. For more information about the book, contact Rod Coggin at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, (301) 268-8816.

### WASHINGTON

► Coverage of the spotted owl controversy continued in Western Washington. Several newspapers also wrote about increased pressures on the national forests of the inland Pacific Northwest, where there is no threatened owl calling national attention to old growth timber stands.

► The Audubon Society has joined other groups in lobbying for Eastern Washington and Oregon forests to be included in ancient forest protection legislation being considered for Western Washington, Western Oregon and Northern California. Conservationists fear protection of the coastal forests as spotted-owl habitat will lead to increased overcutting of East Side forests.

► The state's newspapers also gave major coverage to proposals to add several wild salmon runs to the federal endangered species list. Listing the Snake River sockeye and other salmon species would have major impacts on hydroelectric generation and irrigation.

► Several reporters recently have turned the spotlight on British Columbia's environmental practices. *The Seattle Times'* Ross Anderson reported in July on accelerated logging practices in the Canadian province which have led to the clearcutting of large stretches of pristine coastline on Vancouver Island. Julie Titone of the *Spokane Spokesman-Review* has written several stories this year about the pollution of the Columbia River from

sewage and industrial effluent in British Columbia.

► Water quality in Lake Roosevelt, a reservoir in British Columbia created by the Grand Coulee Dam, is being degraded by algae-promoting sewage from British Columbia border towns and by industrial pollution. Tests of sportfish in the lake have shown elevated levels of metals from a smelter at Trail and dioxin from a pulp mill in Castlegar. Canadian laws governing municipal and industrial pollution are less strict than those in the U.S. Another example is the constant discharge of untreated sewage from the city of Victoria into the Strait of Juan de Fuca—a major sore point in relations between Washington State and British Columbia.

► Several organizations, including Greenpeace and a coalition of farm groups, have asked House Speaker Tom Foley for help in obtaining a moratorium on hazardous waste incinerators when Congress takes up reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The groups are concerned about two large toxic waste incinerators proposed for sites in eastern Washington. The farmers fear their industry will be harmed if large waste disposal facilities are allowed to locate in food-producing areas of eastern Washington.

► In June, the Washington Department of Ecology adopted new air toxics rules governing 500 previously unregulated toxic chemicals. The new regulations will apply to permits for new or modified sources of pollution obtained after Sept. 18.

### WEST VIRGINIA

► The *Charleston Gazette* on June 16 published a detailed look at some of the pesticides manufactured in the Kanawha Valley, nicknamed Chemical Valley, that reportedly are made nowhere else in the world in such large quantities. Included were carbofuran, a pesticide linked to widespread bird deaths, and Temek, linked to possible health problems. Contact reporter Eric Niiler, (304) 348-5100.

► Growing concern about herbicide spraying along power and pipeline rights

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### WISCONSIN

of way, railroads and highways prompted the West Virginia Environmental Council to adopt a resolution against the practice and form a No-Spray Coalition. The issue was explored in the April 29th *Herald-Dispatch*, which included comments from people who don't let the power company spray on their land. Contact reporter Monty Fowler, (304) 526-2802.

► A wood treating plant on the banks of the scenic Greenbrier River, under fire from environmentalists because of the danger posed to unique habitat, had its Small Business Administration loan canceled due to conflicts of interest and is being investigated by state officials for improperly using chemicals on site. Contact reporter Eric Niiler at the *Charleston Gazette*, (304) 348-5100.

► Ken Ward of the *Charleston Gazette* detailed the environmental record of the Berwind Corp., parent company of Capels Resources, which wants to build a large landfill in job-poor McDowell County that would take 300,000 tons of Philadelphia trash a month. Contact Ward at (304) 348-5100.

► Lawsuits and arrests accompanied the start of construction at what would be Wisconsin's first metallic mine in roughly 10 years. Environmental groups continue to oppose the Kennecott Corporation's plan to open a copper mine in northwestern Wisconsin. And as of early August, nearly two dozen protestors had been arrested for trespassing at Kennecott facilities in Ladysmith. On a related note, the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for its failure to halt mine construction. Three species on Wisconsin's endangered species list were found in the vicinity of the mine just weeks before construction began. For more information, contact: Caryl Terrel, Sierra Club, Madison, WI; phone (608) 256-0565.

► Scientists from four Midwest states and the U.S. EPA began their second summer of studying the ozone pollution problem in the lower Lake Michigan basin. Using measuring devices placed on boats, aircraft and ground stations, researchers are attempting to chart the movement of ozone-

creating pollutants in the region. Wisconsin and Michigan charge that some of their pollution problem is due to emissions blowing north from Illinois and Indiana. The \$13 million study is part of an out-of-court settlement that asked for a regional approach to ozone control. For more information, contact: Steve Gerritson, Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium, 2350 East Devon Avenue, Suite 242, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

► About 40,000 gallons of fuel oil leaked from a central Wisconsin pipeline in late June, angering nearby residents and potentially threatening local drinking water. Residents in the Stevens Point area were particularly upset because this was the second major fuel spill from the Koch Industries pipeline in less than a year. In early July, the U.S. Transportation Department ordered Oklahoma-based Koch to shut down the pipeline until extensive repairs were made. But some citizens believe the shutdown should have been ordered earlier. And those area residents are raising questions about state and federal monitoring of the fuel pipelines criss-cross the country.

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