

# SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 2 No. 4

## In this issue

### SEJ NEWS

- SEJ President Jim Detjen announces an addition to the SEJ headquarters staff .....page 2
- Letters to the Editor .....page 3
- SEJ National Conference Program outline .....page 4
- SEJournal's top editorships change hands .....page 7
- List of new members .....page 19

### COVER STORY

- Jan Nunley explores the connection between environmental protection ethics and religion. See jump .....page 7

### FEATURES

- Steve Amen offers advice when travelling internationally on the environment beat .....page 11
- Resources abound for reporters trying to map toxic plumes .....page 12

### REPORTERS' TOOLBOX

- Karen Steele offers tips on covering nuclear weapons waste .....page 14

### VIEWPOINTS

- Robert Costanza explains why the environment and the economy are so interrelated. ....page 17

### CALENDAR

- Meetings, symposia and conventions through March .....page 20

### THE GREEN BEAT

- Contact list of Green Beat correspondents, by state .....21
- A state-by-state roundup of dominant issues, exceptional reporting, and developments in academic programs and newsrooms .....22

## The religion thing

### When God is green: reporting on the connection between religion and ecology is coming of age

By JAN NUNLEY

It's right there on the cover, just under the title *Earth in the Balance* and the satellite-generated photo of the planet: "Ecology and the Human Spirit."

Inside, Senator Al Gore is unequivocal. For him, the dimensions of the ecological crisis transcend the physical and scientific and reach into the realm of the spiritual — the realm of religion.

"The more deeply I search for the roots of the global environmental crisis," Gore writes, "the more I am convinced that it is an outer manifestation of an inner

crisis that is, for lack of a better word, spiritual. As a politician, I know full well the special hazards of using 'spiritual' to describe a problem like this one..."

Yet it's the same word that's being used in various ways by others in the environmental movement. Check out the masthead of *EarthFirst!*, the journal of the self-described "no compromise" group of the same name. All issues are published on one of eight Celtic pagan holidays celebrating the solstices, equinoxes and "cross-quarter" days.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Doing projects on the cheap

### Reporters persevere as project teams disappear

By KEVIN CARMODY

It was the dream of most any reporter who covers the environment at a daily newspaper, even at some of the biggest metro papers.

Three reporters are assigned full-time for up to six months to probe Texas' most blatant violator of hazardous waste rules, the politicians in the firm's pockets, and a millionaire personal-injury lawyer who had the most to gain by keeping his role in the dump secret.

It happened in Beaumont, Texas, in the mid-1980s, where the 75,000-circulation *Beaumont Enterprise* made a virtu-

ally unlimited commitment of resources, including a private office suite, interstate travel, and the reassignment of a top-flight editor to oversee the project.

But that was a different time—both for the *Beaumont Enterprise* and most other American newspapers.

In those heady days, an increasing number of small and mid-size newspapers found the cash, the news hole and the staff to commit to big projects, sometimes projects on environmental issues.

We saw Paul Nyden of the Charleston (W.Va.) *Gazette* crank out multiple

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Second SEJ conference adds speakers

General Motors Chairman Robert Stempel is one of the latest additions to the program of the Society of Environmental Journalists' second annual conference Nov. 6-8 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Stempel has been at the top of the news this year, closing a series of plants, laying off thousands of workers and battling numerous strikes. He is scheduled to

*(Continued on page 4)*

# SEJ expands staff for conference

By JIM DETJEN

Welcome Beth Parke as SEJ's newest employee.

The society has grown so rapidly during its first 2-1/2 years that Amy Gahran, SEJ's records manager, and the society's board members needed assistance. On Sept. 21 Beth began working as the organization's director of program development.

In this capacity she will carry out a great deal of work on our second national conference, assist us in fund raising, help set up an office and conduct various other society tasks. She will work closely with Amy, who keeps track of SEJ's records, publishes our membership directory and carries out other important SEJ activities.

Beth has 15 years' experience as a radio journalist, a long-time interest in environmental journalism and is a charter member of SEJ. She was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Boston College and earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communication.

She has worked for WGBH-FM and WCRB-FM in Boston, WHYY-FM in Philadelphia and served as the senior producer and host of "Consider the Alternatives," a radio series that is heard in more than 60 countries. She is currently researching a documentary on toxic chemicals at military installations.

Beth was the creator and host of "The Energy Workshop," a weekly radio program on conserving energy, and the producer of "The Health Connection," a weekly call-in show on health and nutrition. She has won a number of journalism awards for excellence in broadcasting.

Beth, like Amy, works part time for the society. You'll get a chance to meet both Beth and Amy at our conference Nov. 6-8 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

If you have any questions about the conference, Beth can be reached during the daytime at 215-242-3130. If you haven't been getting your SEJournal or have other questions about your membership or dues, call Amy at 215-630-9147. If you have questions about your conference registration or lodging in Ann Arbor, call Joan Britton at 313-764-5305.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** — As I mentioned in the summer issue of the SEJournal, our society has begun searching for an executive director. We are seeking a take-charge person who has an interest in environmental journalism, experience in running a non-profit organization and a desire to see SEJ become a fully functioning society. When that person will begin working for us is unclear since a lot

— or somebody you know qualifies — please call Emilia Askari at 313-223-4536.

**CONFERENCE UPDATE** — I hope that you are planning to come to our conference Nov. 6-8 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I know that times are tough, but if you can somehow find a way to get to Ann Arbor — I think you'll have a wonderful time.

More than 120 speakers are scheduled to participate on more than 25 panels during the 2-1/2 day conference. Among our recent additions to the program are Robert Stempel, chairman of General Motors Corp., the world's largest company, who will speak Saturday morning; Lois Gibbs, the founder of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, who will speak Friday at noon; and Jeremy Rifkin, the environmental activist and author of "Beyond Beef," who will speak Sunday morning.

Other recent additions include Barry Serafin, the national environmental correspondent for ABC television; Keith Schneider, the national environmental reporter for the New York Times; and Frank Allen, the national environmental writer for the Wall Street Journal.

The society's second annual meeting will occur at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, in the Rackham Building where the conference is being held. We will elect four members to the board of directors for three-year terms. If you are interested in running for the board, please give either Kevin Carmody, SEJ's secretary, or me a one-page biography of yourself no later than 5 p.m. on Nov. 6. These will be posted on a conference bulletin board.

Got a gripe or a suggestion? This will be your chance to tell us what you like or don't like about SEJ and a chance to help shape the society's future. If you come to the conference, please make sure you attend the annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Ann Arbor.

*Jim Detjen writes about science and environment issues at The Philadelphia Inquirer. He is the founding president of SEJ and a regional director of Investigative Reporters & Editors, Inc.*

## Report from the society's president



By Jim Detjen

will depend upon our success in fund raising and the society's financial health.

We are accepting applications from qualified people around the country regardless of sex, age, race or creed. If all goes well, our first executive director will begin working for the society sometime in 1993. If you are interested — or know someone who might be interested — give me a call at 215-854-2438.

**MINORITY PROGRAMS** — In our efforts to encourage more minority journalists to enter the field of environmental journalism, we have publicized our conference to the National Association of Black Journalists, the Asian American Journalists' Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Native American Journalists' Association.

The Freedom Forum has given the society \$15,000 to help us attract more minority journalists to our conference as both speakers and participants. We have a modest amount of money available to use for traveling fellowships. If you qualify

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Reporters' toolbox	Russ Clemings
New members list	Amy Gahrn
Calendar	Janet Raloff
Greenbeat	Kevin Carmody

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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, Kevin Carmody, *The Daily Progress* (804) 978-7240; Treasurer, Noel Grove, *National Geographic*, (202) 857-7268; Emilia Askari, *Detroit Free Press*, (800) 678-6400; 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; Phil Shabecoff, *Greenwire*, (703) 237-5130; and Sara Thurin, *Chemical Regulation Reporter*, (202) 452-4200.

SEJournal is printed on recycled paper.

**Letters to the Editor / Forum****An alternative perspective on Rio**

*Editor's note: This piece was received as a counterpoint to Randy Loftis' reflections on the Earth Summit in the Summer edition of SEJournal. As it is not purely a letter to the editor or a feature article it is being published here as an opinion piece.*

By SUZANNE ELSTON

I was privileged to be one of 7,000 journalists who attended the Earth Summit in Brazil this past June. It was a unique, exhausting, frustrating, and yet often exhilarating experience. I left Rio with the conviction that despite the failure of the Earth Summit, I had been privileged to witness, as one delegate described, "a very special moment on the planet."

When I returned home I was somewhat dismayed at how negatively the North American media had reported the events at Rio. The Earth Summit failed to meet our expectations because we failed to recognize that what happened in Rio was only a brief snapshot of a much longer process.

Roberto Savio was the editor of *Terravia*, one of three newspapers that were published daily during *Eco 92*. In his closing editorial he wrote, "It is difficult to understand that according to the criteria of traditional journalism — events are either flamboyant or simply do not exist — the summit was a failure because the United States did not sign."

"It is not possible that the 40,000 people who travelled to Rio, from heads of state to journalists, from NGOs (non-government organizations) to United Nations officials, could have participated in the events of these days without returning with new motivations and experiences. And it is even less possible to deny that something new and vital has emerged from Rio: the conviction that it is the majority of ordinary people who are most concerned with the fate of the planet. This is something no government can ignore."

The magic of Rio happened at the Global Forum, a parallel conference that

was held at the same time as the Earth Summit, to give voice to environmentalists and non-government organizations. It was at the Global Forum where the voice of the "ordinary people" as Savio describes them, met to craft their own agenda for the future of the planet, and to network with other individuals from around the world.

In his best selling work "Megatrends", John Naisbitt explains how enduring change cannot be legislated from the top down; it must come from the grassroots up. What I witnessed at the Global Forum was the gathering of 30,000 like-minded individuals, all committed to the same goal. Unfortunately, prolonged discussion doesn't make for an interesting sound byte or exciting photo opportunity.

"The fixation on the immediate and the spectacular compromises responsible coverage of the environment. How do you take a picture of the Earth getting hotter", wrote Mark Herstgaard in an article entitled "Covering the World; Ignoring The Earth," (*Greenpeace Magazine* March/April 1990).

What we as journalists must now do, is succeed where we failed at Rio. We must follow the threads that lead away from the Earth Summit. We must make the process of changing attitudes about the environment as exciting and interesting as the major news events.

As Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute said, "The communications industry is the only instrument that has the capacity to educate on the scale needed and in the time available." As environmental journalists we each have the responsibility to ensure that we lead the fight.

*Suzanne Elston, a freelance journalist, writes a syndicated environmental column that appears in seven Canadian newspapers and wrote "Women and the Environment," a book commissioned by the Ontario government in 1990. She also says she promotes environmental awareness through public speaking and community activism.*

## SEJ conference...(from page 1)

speaking about environmental reporting at breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Other recent additions to the conference program include Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste founder Lois Gibbs, who is scheduled to talk at lunch on Friday, Nov. 6, and *New York Times* reporter Keith Schneider, who is scheduled to appear on a Saturday panel about the wise use movement.

There will be a bulletin board where employers are invited to post job openings. There will be a party with a band of journalists.

There will be more minority journalists than at the first conference, thanks to a generous grant from the Freedom Forum. The grant funded a travel fellowship that will give some minority journalists a subsidized trip to the conference.

It's not too late. You can still throw your harmonica and your notebook into a suitcase and head for Ann Arbor. The registration desk will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Below you will find an abbreviated conference program. More complete programs, including the names of panelists, should already have been received by all SEJ members.

### SEJ National Conference University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Nov. 6-8, 1992

For information on the conference, contact Beth Parke at (215) 242-3130. For questions about lodging or conference registration, call Joan Britton (313) 764-5305

#### FRIDAY, NOV. 6

7:30 am - 6 pm

- Registration, Rackham Bldg. lobby, East Washington St.

7:30-8:30 am

#### Continental Breakfast

#### Tours:

##### Morning Bus Tours

- EPA emissions testing at mobile sources lab, Ann Arbor;
- Hazardous waste hydroponics at Wayne Disposal's Rawsonville landfill.

##### Afternoon Bus Tours

- Plastic recycling at Johnson Controls facility;
- Automotive assembly at Chrysler's new Jefferson Ave. plant.

#### Other times

- Alternatively fueled cars available for test driving all day.
- Tours of university labs, including Phoenix nuclear reactor, the Great Lakes and Aquatic Science Research Center, bioremediation and water treatment lab, and the School of Natural Resources and the Environment. Departmental experts available for followup sessions.

#### Job Board

- Throughout conference. Bring notices to post.

#### Morning panels

9-10:30 am

- Human health in the Great Lakes Basin

#### Coffee break

10:45 am -12:15 pm

- Exotic invasion (aquatic nuisance species)

#### Luncheon

Speaker: Lois Gibbs, Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

#### Afternoon panels

1:30-3 pm

- Whose opinion? Interpreting opinion polls

#### Soda break

3:15-4:45 pm

- Environmental implications of the Free Trade Agreement

#### Evening reception

- Speaker: Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting.

#### SATURDAY, NOV. 7

7:30 am - 6 pm

- Registration, Rackham Bldg. lobby

7:30-8:30 am

#### Continental Breakfast.

- Speaker: Robert Stempel, chairman, General Motors Corp.

#### Morning panels

8:30-10 am

- Environmental reporting 101
- Environmental databases
- Rio Redux: Could we have done a better job?
- Training in environmental journalism
- Graphics and the environmental journalist

#### Coffee break

10:15-11:45 am

- Tip Off: Bring ideas to share
- Covering environment for radio and television
- Energy conservation
- Covering environment for a small newspaper
- Politics and the environment

#### Luncheon

Speaker: Lester Brown, president, Worldwatch Institute

#### Afternoon panels

1:30-3 pm

- Environmental implications of nuclear disarmament
- The auto industry and the Clean Air Act
- Freelancing environmental stories
- Understanding environmental risk assessment
- Is the environment beat endangered?

#### Soda break

3:15-4:45 pm

- The "Wise use" movement
- Cars of the future
- Covering environment for a business audience
- Editors: What do they want from environmental journalists?
- Reporting about environmental risk assessment

5 pm

#### Annual membership meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists

- Election to fill four seats on the SEJ board.

8 pm

#### Party

- Live band at Terrence Ballroom, Campus Inn

#### SUNDAY, NOV. 8

8-9 am

#### Continental Breakfast

- Speaker: Jeremy Rifkin, author of "Beyond Beef"

#### Morning panels

9-10:30 am

- Capturing the great outdoors
- Ethics and the environmental journalist
- More than a decade on the environment beat

#### Coffee break

10:45-12:15

- Hands-on computer demonstration
- Emerging environmental issues
- Wetlands development
- Writing for specialized environmental publications



# Don't miss the second national conference of the *Society of Environmental Journalists*

November 6 to 8, 1992

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Keynote address by **Ted Turner**, founder and CEO of Turner Broadcasting System and one of the nation's top supporters of environmental journalism. Other confirmed speakers include **Lester Brown**, president of the Worldwatch Institute, and **Jeremy Rifkin**, author of "Beyond Beef" and long-time environmental activist.

- Hear Sacramento Bee reporter **Tom Knudson** explain how he reported and wrote "The Sierras in Peril," winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize.
- Test drive Detroit's experimental "green cars" of the future.
- Tour environmental labs at EPA and the University of Michigan.
- Sample a variety of computer databases and online services to learn how to best dig out environmental information.
- Participate in a day-long series of panels on trans-border environmental issues such as contaminated fish in the Great Lakes, invasions of zebra mussels and other exotic species, and Mexican and Canadian pollution issues.

#### Panel discussions on

The Earth Summit	The Wise Use movement
Evaluating risk	Air pollution
Broadcast coverage	Freelancing
Polling	Ethics
Energy	Wetlands
Emerging environmental issues	The environment and presidential politics
Reporting for newsletters and small newspapers	
...and much, much more!	

*Mingle with some of the nation's top environmental experts and an estimated 300 environmental journalists!  
Enjoy one of America's great college towns in autumn!  
Learn, network, and have fun!*

Registration fee for the 2 1/2-day conference is just \$80 for SEJ members and \$125 for non-members.  
University housing is available for \$55 to \$79 a night.

To register, fill out the registration form on the back of this sheet and mail it to the University of Michigan.

*For more information about the conference, call:*

Julie Edelson at (313) 769-7780      Emilia Askari at (313) 223-4536      Jim Detjen (215) 854-2438  
or Beth Parke (215) 242-3130

*For information about SEJ and a membership application contact:*

Amy Gahrn, SEJ Records Manager  
(215) 630-9147

Membership office: 370-D Willowbrook Drive, Jeffersonville PA 19403

*"Dedicated to enhancing the quality and accuracy of environmental reporting."*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATIONS

All conferences will be held on the central campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Discussion sessions will be held on the fourth floor of the Horace H. Rackham Building, East Washington Street and in the Modern Language Building across East Washington from the Rackham Building.

### REGISTRATION

Complete and mail the registration form along with payment to: U-M Conferences and Seminars, 541 Thompson Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1360. You may also fax credit card payments. Registrations received by October 23 will be mailed receipt of registration, name badge, and map. A plastic badge holder and materials will be available in the registration area.

### FEES

The registration for the conferences is \$80.00 for S.E.J. members; and \$125.00 for Non-members. S.E.J. dance will be held on November 7 at the Campus Inn Terrace Ballroom. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Checks should be made payable to: UM Conference & Seminars.

### LODGING

Block reservations have been made for conference participants at the facilities listed. Provisions for parking differ among facilities so ask about availability and charges when arranging for a room. Reservations should be placed by October 23, 1992. Please contact the facilities directly to arrange for reservations, mentioning the name of the conference.

*Campus Inn*, 5 E. Huron, Ann Harbor, MI 48104; 313/769-2200; single \$68; double \$80; two blocks from conference site.

*Cambridge House*, 541 Thompson, Ann Harbor, MI 48109-1360; 313/764-0185; single \$54; double \$62; three blocks from conference site.

*Oxford Conference Center*, 672 Oxford Road, Ann Harbor, MI 48109; 313/764-9944; single \$38; double \$48; VIP Suite \$62; five blocks from conference site.

*Michigan League*, 911 N. University, Ann Harbor MI 48106; 313/764-3177; single \$68; double \$78; across the street from conference site. Limited accommodations available.

### CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Cancellations received prior to October 30, 1992 will be considered for a refund minus a \$20.00 handling charge.

### AUTOMOBILE PARKING

Parking is extremely limited on U-M Central Campus. Facilities close to campus fill up quickly, so arrive early to avoid a walk of several blocks. The cost will be approximately \$5 per day.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TOURS

Conference participants will have opportunities to enjoy five tours on November 6. These activities are free of charge.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the University of Michigan, Conference and Seminars; telephone 313/764-5304; fax 313/764-2990. Hours: 8am - 5pm. Or S.E.J. at 215/242-3130. Ground Transportation from Detroit Airport: Commuter Transportation 313/941-3252; University Limousine 1-800-634-LIMO

The University of Michigan - Registration # 401820  
Second Annual Conference  
Society of Environmental Journalists  
November 6 - 8, 1992

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Publication/Show \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

### TOURS - check your selection(s)

- Plastics Recycling
- Hazardous Waste Hydroponics
- Automotive Assembly
- Emissions Lab
- U. M. Labs

(For office use only)	
Check/money order # _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Other check
Issued by _____	

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ SEJ Members @ \$80.00/person  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Members @ \$125.00/person  
\_\_\_\_\_ SEJ Dance @ \$5.00/person

Enclosed is check/money order payable to:  
U-M Conferences and Seminars

Please charge my credit card.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

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RETURN TO: U-M CONFERENCES 541 THOMPSON STREET, ROOM 112, ANN ARBOR, MI 48109-1360

**Religion ... (from page 1)**

Interspersed with articles on monkeywrenching and spiking trees are impassioned debates on "deep ecology," eco-feminism and "earth-based spirituality."

A hundred years before David Foreman established EarthFirst!, Sierra Club founder John Muir — son of a harshly pious Scottish Calvinist minister — wrote of "drinking Sequoia wine, Sequoia blood... I wish... that I could preach the green brown woods to all the juiceless world... crying, Repent for the Kingdom of Sequoia is at hand."

At the other extreme, no one can forget former Interior Secretary James Watt's justification of offshore drilling on the grounds that nature was meant by God to be subdued, and besides, the world was headed for a divinely-appointed apocalypse anyway.

**Major religions go green**

The "greening" of religious groups and denominations across the spiritual spectrum is emerging as one of the hot stories of the 1990s. In 1991, religious leaders ranging from Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga Nation to Dr. Robert Schuller of Crystal Cathedral fame signed a commitment to environmental involvement in response to an appeal from scientists.

Several major Protestant bodies have raised environmental issues in their general meetings; some have formed task

forces and study programs. On Stewardship Sunday in any major metropolitan church, you're as likely to hear a sermon on taking care of the Earth as you are on putting more into the collection plate, and a group of Jewish leaders has started the Eco-Kosher Project.

**Objectivity as a god**

Yet on the SEJ's questionnaire asking what issues environmental journalists cover, religion, ethics and philosophy don't even appear. I suspect it's because, by training and temperament, we journalists are somewhat uncomfortable with exploring the religious beliefs and philosophical convictions that motivate people's actions regarding the environment, and perhaps our own reasons for covering it.

Like Al Gore, we know well the hazards of using "spiritual" to describe what brought us to the environmental desk. Impartiality and objectivity are bone and sinew of our professional lives. Even when we have deeply held religious convictions, strong feelings about immorality of dumping toxic wastes or driftnetting dolphins, or lofty emotions of awe and wonder at the natural world, we wince at the charge that we're secretly allied with the tree-huggers.

In the midst of stories of impending human-generated apocalypse, ranging from declining biodiversity to ozone depletion, we cling to our journalistic integrity to deliver us from the daily round of environmental evil. Better to stick to the facts of the story, and let motivations take care of themselves — unless, of course, they are as bizarre and easy to caricature as James Watt's.

It was no less a journalist than Bill Moyers, in the first moments of his PBS series "God and Politics," who stated, "What people believe about God, about the ultimate meaning of life, can determine political behavior." That's true of the environment as well, perhaps more so than of any issue that isn't specifically religious. Covering religion and the environment effectively requires that reporters have a working knowledge

**Nunley**

of the basic belief systems that drive human behavior, including their own.

Recognize first that all of our most cherished traditions about what journalists are supposed to do are rooted firmly in the worldview of the Enlightenment and the 17th-century Scientific Revolution. The spirit of Rene Descartes' "I think, therefore I am" hovers behind our devotion to detached, objective observation and reporting of "the facts" of a story. Facts, said Sir Francis Bacon, a founder of the scientific method, are entirely separate from their implications and have no moral significance apart from those assigned to them.

**The Baconian rules**

The spiritual world cannot be observed and measured; therefore, for all practical purposes, it is not a proper object for attention and analysis, as is the world of the physical, envisioned as a machine.

Even as we acknowledge German physicist Werner Heisenberg's more up-to-date principle that the act of observing changes what is observed, we try to maintain that statement only applies to physicists — not journalists, who still play by  
*(Continued next page)*

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**SEJ News**

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**SEJournal editor positions change hands**

The SEJournal's volunteer editorial staff will be switching jobs as the newsletter begins its third volume this winter.

Adam Glenn, who has been serving as features editor, will take on the demanding job of co-editor in charge of news.

Bowman Cox, who for the past year was co-editor for news, will serve as features editor.

**Glenn**

Meanwhile, Kevin Carmody will con-

tinue as co-editor in charge of production.

Carmody ran the news and Cox handled production for the newsletter's first year, then switched jobs last fall.

Cox's employer, Pasha Publications Inc. of Arlington, Va., will continue to provide the use of its production equipment for layout of the newsletter.

Cox edits Pasha's Defense Cleanup newsletter; Glenn is executive editor of Greenwire, the daily electronic news service headed by Phil Shabecoff, formerly of the New York Times; and Carmody is metro editor for the Charlottesville (Va.) Daily Progress.

Baconian rules. Most journalists won't deny that they have opinions and leanings on issues, but it's more a confession of a sin than a realization of the human condition, and our readers, listeners and viewers are likely to see it as such, too.

It is this same Enlightenment rationalism, with its devotion to freedom and the individual, which undergirds what is best, and worst, in Western attitudes toward the environment.

### The Romantic vision

Heroic efforts at learning more about the natural world through scientific exploration, the cataloguing of rainforest species to discover rare plants useful for medical purposes — all these things come from a deep conviction that the more facts we have about the environment, the better use we may make of it. At the same time, rationalism carries with it a strong preference for the human over the natural world. Jobs are more important than spotted owls; the freedom of business to pursue the bottom line of profitability is more important than long-term environmental effects, which free human creativity will always be able to mitigate — the cherished notion of inevitable progress.

On the other end of the ideological scale is the Romantic vision of nature.

Like the mechanistic rationalists, Romantics believe human beings are essentially separate from nature; but unlike them, Romantics seek ultimate truth in returning to, not analyzing and using, the natural world.

Much of today's environmental activism comes from a Romantic orientation. It emerges in the quotations from Thoreau and Muir peppering the literature of "mainstream" environmental groups,

but it's also present in the angry ecoactivism of Earthfirst! In fact, the not-infrequently expressed radical view that the Earth would be better off without humans is the "dark side" of Romantic dualism — and ironically, first cousin to the dualism which says humans would be better off without nature.

Contrasting with the dualistic view of humans separate from nature is the belief that all things are really one and all is God — monism.

Look for traces of monism in popular writing on the Gaia hypothesis (though not, significantly, in James Lovelock's own work); the "new physics," particularly references to David Bohm's "implicate order"; ecofeminism, in popular treatments of such concepts as "the world as God's body" or "God the Mother giving birth to the world"; and the teachings of Eastern religions, especially Buddhism, on the environment.

Some of the negative reaction by conservative Christians to environmental issues is based on the fear that monism and pantheism are behind calls for caring for the Earth — a sneak attack on monotheism.

### Fundamentalist fears

Because they are interwoven with Western culture and thought, it is difficult to untangle the threads of Jewish and Christian monotheistic ideas about the environment and present them in a definitive way. But for the vast majority, the key concepts are separation of God and nature (in degrees ranging from total opposition to intimate interrelation) and the role assigned to humans in God's "economy."

Under the Christian tent, we can still find "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my

home" fundamentalists who deny the importance of earthly issues in favor of things heavenly. But the trend in both liberal and conservative religious circles is towards finding a serious response to the environmental crisis.

In the midst of near-schisms over sexuality, gender equality, economics and politics, fractious denominations have literally found common ground in concern over the fate of the Earth. Look for discussions of "dominion" and "stewardship" of the environment — the "who's in charge of the planet" questions — with lively debates over what the answers imply for the more divisive issues named above.

### Deepest ecology of all

Finally, understand that religious language is not, and never will be, the language of scientific certainty which we're accustomed to trusting, rightly or wrongly, as the voice of ultimate, verifiable truth. Neither is it merely the voice of private personal opinion, irrelevant to public matters. It is multifaceted, many-layered, metaphorical, poetic, at its best touching both head and heart.

It can be frustrating to try to translate religious ideas on the environment into the world of headlines, deadlines and sound bites while maintaining its integrity — and your own. It takes creativity, imagination and a willingness to risk being wrong. But it is a fascinating way to probe the deepest ecology of all.

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*Jan Nunley is a newscaster for National Public Radio's "Living on Earth," and a freelance writer on religious and environmental issues. She is in the ordination process for the Episcopal priesthood.*

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## Projects ... (from page 1)

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exposés about the coal industry abusing the environment with the help of taxpayer subsidies. Bob Anderson of *The Morning Advocate* in Baton Rouge produced series after series, including a 40-page tabloid section, documenting the wholesale destruction of Louisiana's natural resources. And at the Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion-Ledger*, Mark Schleifstein assembled a 36-page section on the national environmental record of Browning-Ferris Industries.

Those days appear over for now.

"It was a different ballgame, a different century," says Schleifstein, who since has moved to the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*. "It was also before the *Clarion-Ledger* was sold to Gannett."

Shrinking newsroom staffs and budgets mean that fewer reporters at most small and mid-size papers are being cut loose to do special projects. Sure, there are exceptions like the *Sacramento Bee*.

But the lessons of the *Beaumont Enterprise's* exposé on Chemical Waste Management—and the many other acts of serious journalism committed by smaller papers during the 1980s—have a lasting relevance today.

In retrospect, we who worked on project teams probably squandered some of the resources and time we were granted. It doesn't always take \$100,000 and six  
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## Features

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months to a year to do great journalism. But given that much to work with, we took some unnecessary detours. Maybe it was too easy.

Some editors do understand that, to do great journalism, good reporters just need to be convinced they can do the job. Such empowerment can come from two directions. Either there is a commitment to a project from a newspaper's top editors, one that's consecrated with financial backing. Or the empowerment can stem from a reporter's own commitment, usually with the moral support of a good mid-level editor, to do the job no matter what the obstacles.

The latter seems a much more likely scenario at smaller newspapers today.

But, in either scenario, the first steps in the process fall to the reporter. The ideas that produce great journalism usually come from the bottom up, not from the top down.

Reporters in the field know more about what's happening on the streets or the backwater bayous than editors sitting in an office.

### Don't cry wolf

In the case of Nyden, Anderson, Schleifstein and others like them, solid reporters already knew most of the story. They had done the preliminary research in the course of their beat work and were just waiting for the opportunity to use it.

These reporters advise against picking a general topic and asking editors for time to see if there's a series in it. Too many young reporters want to do a series for the sake of doing one; it sounds sexy and important. Make certain you're not pigeonholed as a member of that group. Never cry wolf.

"If I had proposed a series on the coal industry to begin with, it would have gone nowhere," said Nyden, who earned a doctorate and taught college before trying a journalism career. "They definitely wouldn't allow it [time for a fishing expedition] here."

On the other hand, if you wait for a good idea to be consecrated by the executive editor, you might as well switch to public relations. There are a lot of project-worthy stories, many not on the environment beat.

So, how do you get editors at small

and mid-sized papers to see that you've got the must-do project in the newsroom? Prove it.

Here's how:

- Don't even mention a project idea to any senior editor until you're prepared to back up your basic hunches in writing with basic documents and interviews.

- Think twice about whether to start down the project path unless you have been on the beat in an area for several years and understand the players involved; or if you are a veteran on the beat who came to a new newspaper with uncompleted projects that also apply to your new hometown; or maybe if you've stumbled onto a treasure trove or documents or sources that are unimpeachable.

- Prepare an outline and a list of documents and interviews necessary for you to draft a formal written proposal. Do the preliminary paper trailing and interviews as time permits—that probably means setting aside a couple of hours three or four days a week. Federal FOI requests can take months, even years; you'll want to have an idea which will take months and which will still be pending in 2001.

- Use all the resources available. At a minimum, seek advice from reporters at other papers who might have tackled similar projects. SEJ offers networking opportunities and the Greenbeat section of this journal is one roadmap to the appropriate journalists. Don't forget about the morgue service offered by Investigative Reporters and Editors (314-882-2042) and the Meeman Archive at the University of Michigan (313-763-5327).

- Start tomorrow; only self discipline and good management of your time will allow you to succeed.

Once you have completed your basic research, it's time either to scrap your project idea or, if the reporting has gone well, move to the next step: Convincing an editor you deserve time to bring the project home.

To do the latter will mean having a formal proposal that includes:

- A succinct statement that includes a thesis and shows why readers should care about the findings and what, if anything, they can do about it. You might also wish to list expected results in the public policy or legal arenas, but this could come back to haunt a paper if you're sued for libel.

- An outline of the anticipated stories with story names, lengths and descriptions.

- A list of interviews that have been done and the documents acquired for each story.

- A list of the interviews and the types of record searches yet to be completed for each story—and a realistic estimate of the time and expenses necessary to do so.

- Tentative proposals for photos and graphics.

- A schedule for the start and completion of the writing.

Now you're ready to approach your editors, but the tack you take might vary. Some newsrooms are more political than others, some editors more receptive to project proposals.

I know reporters who go to their editors with the proposal in hand and hope to wow them.

Others, however, will approach editors with only the documents and an oral outline. If the editors are unreceptive, the reporters will wait a few days and submit their written proposal — amended to incorporate the editor's stated concerns about the direction and scope of the project or the time and expenses requested.

### Your own time, expense

If you sense an editor's interest in the project but a lack of will to commit any block of time, then you have a decision to make. You can give up on the series. Or you can put it together, little by little, perhaps not a little on your own time.

Editors' reservations about cutting reporters loose can be legitimate. Shrinking staffs at many newspapers mean that the bare minimum of day-to-day news is being covered. To excuse a beat reporter from daily duties for even a few weeks can put an unfair burden on the rest of the reporting staff.

The extra work many good reporters put in is done as much for themselves as for their readers.

Just ask Betty Gray, formerly of the Washington (N.C.) *Daily News*, how she found the time to cover her regular city hall beat and write the exposé that won the 1990 Pulitzer Gold Medal for public service.

"It meant getting up at 5 a.m. and going home late at night," says Gray, who is now with the *Virginian Pilot* of Norfolk.  
*(Continued next page)*

folk, Va.

"Even when I was writing the story about the contamination of the city's water supply, at no time was I taken off my other responsibilities, although the management would tell you differently," Gray said during a panel discussion at the SEJ National Conference last year. "I can attest that I was typing in obits when they were called in before the obit taker was there.

"At smaller newspapers in particular, reporters...even when they're going after the big stories...have to be prepared to do some of these things on their own time and at their own expense."

### The project bogeymen

There are some real dangers in doing a major project on the side, even if it's only partly on your own time.

One is burnout. When you finish such a project, take some personal time; work some short days and disappear for others. As long as you've delivered, a good editor will understand.

Chris Dunagan, who was the lead writer on a project at *The Sun* of Bremerton, Washington, that explored the future of Hood Canal, advises considering the impact of project work on friends and family.

"After we finished the project, I gave my wife a T-shirt that said, 'I Survived Hood Canal,'" Dunagan said. "Remember that your family is one that has to sacrifice along with you."

Dunagan's work has since paid off with completion of an award-winning book based on the project work, which was co-produced with assistant city editor Jeff Brody. The newspaper's management gave each of them a \$500 bonus for their work on the book.

The other problem in doing projects on the side is the overtime bogeyman. At most smaller papers, overtime is reserved for spot news or when too many staffers

get ill while others are on vacation. And it usually has to be approved in advance, although the overtime situation can be quite different at union shops.

As an editor at a non-union paper, I must pay overtime even if a reporter breaks our newspaper's advance-approval overtime policy.

If they announce they've already worked more than 40 hours that week, they've violated company policy. But they get paid.

To handle it otherwise would be to violate federal wage and hour law.

The bottom line for a reporter is that an editor can't be allowed to know if you're voluntarily fudging on your timecard, whether the extra hours are due to writers block or because you're writing the next Pulitzer-winning exposé. Reporters must learn to protect themselves and their immediate supervisors.

So, I suggest being honest with yourself about what you consider to be time on the clock. Not every minute spent at the newsroom is work time, just as not every minute spent at home is leisure time.

If you're scrolling the wire for entertainment news or chatting with friends, should you count it? And what about that extra time that you decided was necessary to polish an important story or finish a short series. Some reporters would consider that to be personal time—something they were doing for themselves, not for the newspaper.

Don't misunderstand. The rationalization described above is not the same thing as if a reporter were being forced to work free overtime on extra or late-breaking assignments; nobody should tolerate that.

### The Anderson method

Yet, you shouldn't have to spend a lot of extra time on the job, even when doing project work — if you can develop good organizational skills.

The *Morning Advocate's* Bob Anderson has produced the vast majority of his series and special projects without being officially cut loose from day-to-day duties and without living in his newsroom.

Since 1980, Anderson has averaged three projects a year, sometimes finishing as many as five or six.

"I'm always trying to keep a project going," Anderson said, "but it requires being organized."

For him, that means outlining the project and the necessary interviews and documents on a legal pad.

"When it's slow, I'll go down the list and make the calls, then type the information into story form under different topic headings," he explained. "One interview might provide information for many different headings."

The story-form notes under each topic eventually become parts of stories.

### Cutting yourself loose

"When I get to the writing stage, I cut myself loose, ignoring all other beat stories unless there is really big breaking news," Anderson said.

Yet Anderson's approach to project reporting isn't borne out of necessity. The *Morning Advocate*, which gained staff when its afternoon sister paper recently ceased publication, isn't retrenching.

"Our paper still does a fair amount of cutting people loose...maybe for a month at a time," Anderson said. "I've come to prefer doing projects my way."

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*Kevin Carmody is secretary of SEJ and metro editor at The Daily Progress in Charlottesville, Va. He covered the environment beat for seven years at the Beaumont Enterprise and, with Shannon Tompkins and Tom Morton, was a member of the project team whose series on Chemical Waste Management Inc, won the 1987 Thomas Stokes Award, among others.*

## Ecological Information Network offers access to experts, research

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has recently updated and modified the Ecological Information Network. The Ecological Information Network (EIN) is a computerized database of over 3,000 scientists who will provide expert information on issues affecting domestic and

international environmental quality. The EIN is a free service operating out of the ESA's Public Affairs Office located in Washington, DC.

The EIN provides reporters and government officials with the contacts they need to answer specific questions about

the effects of human activities on the environment. Journalists will find the EIN an indispensable link to the members of the ecological scientific community. By using the EIN, journalists and policy-makers can connect with ecologists to

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investigate the ecological under-pinnings of environmental issues.

The scientific experts involved with the EIN, all of whom are members of the Ecological Society of America, conduct research, teach, or aid decision makers in universities, government agencies, industry, and conservation organizations. Each year as more ecologists join the Ecological Society of America, the Network expands. Major updating occurs about every three years as the current members change or amend their areas of research. These ecologists can offer their expertise on topics such as: biodiversity, pest management, water quality, restoration of mined lands, climate change, deforestation, environmental policy, and wildlife management. The collective knowledge base of the EIN's scientists covers a multitude of environmental subjects - from deep sea ecosystems to atmospheric change, from viruses to mammals, from polar caps to tropical regions.

Accessing the EIN is easy; just contact the Public Affairs Office of the Ecological Society of America. Staff will assist the caller to frame questions and help determine the direction of the search. For example: a reporter may want to research endangered birds in forests of the southeastern United States. Based on the words and categories to identify ecologists whose work focuses on aspects of the issue. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the ecologists will then be phoned or mailed back to the inquirer. Some ecologists in the Network will even make themselves available to serve as speakers on special panels, or to testify before Congressional committees.

Recent inquiries have been made on such issues as biological diversity, genetic engineering, and exotic species. Government agencies including the EPA have used the EIN. Dr. Marjorie Holland, Director of the ESA's Public Affairs Office, anticipates that the improvements in the network will help bridge gaps between environmental issues and their ecological foundations.

To use the Ecological Information Network or obtain more information, contact Nadine Cavender, Ecological Society of America, 2010 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 420, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 833-8773.

# Some tips for the road

## Visas? We don't need no stinkin' visas. Do we?

by STEVE AMEN

When I was asked to do a first-person account of my work on the "Frontline" documentary, "To the Last Fish," I really racked my brain on just what to write about. To detail all the research seemed boring. After all, I spent almost two years investigating the impact of technology on dwindling ocean resources, talked to over 130 experts worldwide and had a stack of articles and research papers four feet high.

Far more useful, I thought, would be to pass on some hard-earned travel tips from a project that took me around the world. You won't find these valuable insights in any "Fodor's" travel guides.

My first trip took me to Honiara, the capital of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, for a summit of South Pacific nations mobilizing to stop Asian driftnet fleets from legally taking tuna. I picked up lots of scientific data on the driftnet fleets. But what I really remember from that journey is:

- **NEVER TRUST YOUR TRAVEL AGENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.** Leaving from Portland, Ore., we had an overnight in Australia before catching the one flight a week into Honiara. No visas needed for Honiara, but — you guessed it — we did need one for the overnight. Fortunately, I ran into an observant ticket agent who noticed we didn't have a visa. If he hadn't, we might have made it to Australia only to be sent back on the next flight.

- **SAVE YOUR ANGER: SUCK UP.** The real problem was that any delay would ultimately mean missing the only weekly flight to Honiara and that meant missing the summit. While I was busy tracking down the first-born of the travel agent, my research partner John Ullmann was showing off his expertise in international travel by calmly getting the airline agent's help. After numerous calls, they found an embassy in San Francisco that would process our visa applications that day.

- **ALWAYS CARRY EXTRA PASSPORT PHOTOS AND CASH.**

Since I didn't have extra passport photos needed for the visa, I looked up the

nearest portrait studio, paid ("bribed" is such an ugly word) a Portland cab driver an extra \$50 to work his vehicular magic and get me there and back within 35 minutes. He did. I hit the airport just in time to be ushered onto a plane bound for San Francisco. We landed at the height of rush-hour with only an hour until our next flight. We elbowed our way outside and into the arms of Dimitri, a Russian immigrant cab driver who understands the value of a BIG tip. For an extra \$80 (This is San Fran after all), he said he could get us to the embassy downtown and back in 50 minutes — just enough time to board the flight for Los Angeles. He did, thanks in large part to a great group of embassy employees who stayed past closing to process our visas.

- **ALWAYS CHECK YOUR SEATING WHEN YOU GET YOUR TICKET.** That was a stressful start, but at least we knew we had the loooooong flight from L.A. to Brisbane to unwind. Now boarding a 14-hour, non-stop flight is not the time to discover you're in a center seat surrounded by strangers. I can't prove it, but I'm convinced people actually swell at higher altitudes. And why is it that people in the aisle seats are those rare individuals who CAN actually sleep on a plane?

- **PACK THE ESSENTIALS.** The Solomons are one of the only places on Earth where malaria is still a problem. But all you have to do is take your pills and pack some good insect repellent. I bought some so strong it actually ate the warning label on the bottle and the nose piece of my sunglasses — but I never got bit. Of course, I did lose some skin. The stuff was nasty, but I was one of the few visitors not beating themselves silly every time they went outside.

- **DON'T BE AFRAID TO LOOK STUPID.** When I heard about the mosquitoes I immediately went out and bought netting for my hotel room. I couldn't understand them, but I know the maids were laughing at the makeshift net over my bed. I felt a little less silly when Ullmann told

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me that he awoke to the sound of an inch-and-a-half cockroach hitting the side of a metal garbage can in his room.

• **WHEN THEY TELL YOU "DON'T DRINK THE WATER," LISTEN!** And when they tell you the water in your room's refrigerator has been treated — don't believe it. I did and it took me a year to get over it. You would be surprised at how tough it is to interview someone when you're doubled over with cramps. Luckily, Ullmann once again showed his advanced training by bringing Pepto Bismol tablets (not liquid, which may not make it through Customs). They took the edge off the ugly experience of exotic cuisine.

• **KNOW YOUR RENTAL CAR.** This wasn't a problem in Honiara since there wasn't a rental car on the island. But when I went on another trip to Brussels, Belgium, for a meeting of the European Commission, I ended up with a car from Hell. It's partly my fault — the car rental agent did ask if I needed some instructions. I smugly thanked him for the offer, but who needed advice in a country that's civilized enough to drive on the right. Now it's bad enough trying to navigate a large foreign city in the fog after flying for 20 hours, but the Citroen automobile is

supposed to adjust to its load through a complicated system of hydraulics. Not so with my car. After driving aimlessly for an hour and a half, meeting every non-English-speaking person in town, the car actually began to buck like a battery-charged lowrider. I'm not kidding. I ended up abandoning it, which turned out to be a wise move since the Belgians are some of the worst drivers I have ever seen.

• **TRAVEL DURING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT.** There are those who say flying overseas during a war is just plain nuts. I disagree. We were well into production when Operation Desert Storm got going. With all the threats of terrorism, airline security was really stepped up. Anything electronic was immediately suspect. So you can imagine our joy to be traveling with six cases of the stuff. But we found that if you go to your local customs office and get a detailed manifest (I advise you to do this any time you travel out of country) you are ushered through pretty quickly. And the REAL benefit to travelling during a conflict: We always had two or three seats to ourselves.

• **LIGHTEN UP!** As your typical Type A, it was real tough for me to take all this in stride at first. But I learned that as I got

more flexible, I got more accomplished. When the airlines repeatedly misplaced all six trunks of our gear, I learned to schedule in some downtime on the front and to adjust to the time difference while waiting for the equipment. And when it still didn't arrive, I learned to bypass the usual sources for camera crews at rates of up to \$2,000 a day. Instead I would track down news shooters and offer them cash money to do a little shooting for me between their other assignments. On one shoot alone I saved my station \$1,800. Of course, this is also the time I learned "bribes" are not an acceptable business expense.

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*Steve Amen is an executive producer with Oregon Public Broadcasting in Portland. The documentary that resulted from his travels has earned the American Film and Video Association's 1992 Blue Ribbon award, the Council on International Nontheatrical Events' 1991 Gold Eagle award, and has placed third in the 1992 National Headliner Awards and as a finalist in the 1991 International Film and Video Festival of New York. And, Steve adds, enough frequent flyer miles to take him, his wife, and his new-born son back to Honiara.*

# Plume mapping reveals hidden hazards

By PAUL ORUM

Remember Bhopal? Most people do remember this 1984 tragedy in which a huge cloud of toxic chemicals killed thousands around a Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal, India.

Are there potential Bhopals in your community? Most people haven't got a clue.

Six years after passage of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA or SARA Title III) most communities have no more notion about lurking Bhopal-scale hazards — or lesser chemical threats — than they did in 1986.

True, local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) set up under the right-to-know law are authorized to request information from local companies "necessary for developing and implementing the emergency plan" — including worst-case accident scenarios. But few LEPCs have

made such requests; most local committees focus on emergency response rather than on communicating chemical risks to the public.

True also, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 will require many companies to prepare worst-case accident scenarios for the most dangerous chemicals. But these assessments are not required until after 1996, and even then effective implementation is not certain.

So how can reporters alert the public to potentially devastating chemical hazards? Do it yourself, with hands-on plume mapping!

By using technical guidance documents or computer programs, any person can plot airborne plumes created by the potential sudden release of industrial chemicals. Many newspaper graphics departments can then work with computer-readable or conventional maps to pinpoint schools, hospitals and other critical facili-

ties in a potential plume's path.

CAMEO, or Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations, enabled reporters like Bob Anderson at the *Morning Advocate* (Baton Rouge, La.) and Karl Bates of the *Ann Arbor News* (Mich.) to prepare such plume maps. Bob Wyss of the *Providence Journal* (R.I.) plotted circular vulnerable zones from data in state files.

In each case, illustrative graphics showed how an emergency release from a local factory or transportation corridor could send a plume of toxic fumes across town.

There are other programs out there — and it can be done without a computer. If you plan to map plumes by hand, get the "Green Book" and the Citizens Environmental Coalition's new guide, "How to Create a Toxic Plume Map" (see below).

According to incomplete Environ-  
*(Continued next page)*

mental Protection Agency data, there have been at least 17 Bhopal scale releases in the U.S. in recent decades. A 1989 *New York Times* article by Philip Shabecoff quoted EPA Assistant Administrator Linda Fisher: good management and "natural factors such as the way the wind was blowing" accounted for the low loss of life in these U.S. mishaps.

Even without loss of life, such events are disruptive and alarming. In 1987, 50,000 pounds of hydrofluoric acid from a Marathon Petroleum refinery cut a swath across Texas City, Texas, burning vegetation and sending over 1,000 people to area hospitals. It could have been much worse: an additional 200,000 pounds were fortunately not released.

Many people balk at computers. If working by computer, it's best to find and work with someone who has the system.

CAMEO is not difficult to use, but hands-on experience helps and the program is expensive.

"We don't expect CAMEO to find a home in many news rooms," said Bud Ward, who runs the Environmental Health Center, a part of the National Safety Council, which distributes the program. Many larger fire departments have CAMEO. Academics may have used the program, and several advocacy groups are listed below.

"It was easy," said Karl Bates of the *Ann Arbor News*, who modelled a transportation spill with the help of the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor. Bates asked the police department for common truck accident sites, obtained weather data from the

airport, and started with the company's own worst-case scenario for a volatile chemical, carbon tetrachloride.

CAMEO essentially models assumptions. Wind speed, temperature, local terrain and other factors are arranged against the amount and dispersion potential of a

ing worst-case scenarios, for insurance purposes or other reasons. As noted, LEPCs have the authority to request these documents [EPCRA §303(d)(3)]. A bigger story develops if the LEPC has not assessed hazards for local facilities and transportation routes, a basic starting point for emergency planning.

Some companies may argue that worst-case scenarios are too improbable to warrant alarming the public. They may insist that credible-case scenarios are sufficient. In reality, both are important — and both deserve public scrutiny before an accident occurs.

In any event, the facility's chemical inventory re-

ports are available by law through the LEPC (EPCRA S.312). This information provides the basis for your own analysis.

Don't be intimidated — the public has a right-to-know! Plume mapping is an effective tool for illustrating chemical hazards in a way that the public can appreciate.

This article and other information on community right-to-know can be obtained regularly through "Working Notes," a publication of the Working Group on Community Right-to-Know in Washington, DC. Contact Paul Orum, 202-546-9707.

*Paul Orum is the coordinator of the Working Group on Community Right to Know, an affiliation of environmental advocacy groups concerned with chemical risks.*

### Resources for plume mapping:

**Citizens Environmental Coalition**, "How to Create a Toxic Plume Map," CEC, 33 Central Ave., Albany NY, 12210, 518-462-5527 (20 pgs, \$3).

**Fred Millar, Friends of the Earth**, an expert in chemical hazard analysis and prevention, 202-544-2600 ext. 291.

**U.S. EPA**, "Technical Guidance for Hazards Analysis," known as the "Green Book," can be obtained by calling the EPA EPCRA Hotline at 800-535-0202. The book accompanies NRT-1, the "Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guide," known as "the Orange Book."

**The New Jersey Department of Health** chemical-specific hazardous substance fact sheets can be obtained by calling 609-984-2202.

**National Safety Council**, distributors of CAMEO, 1-800-621-7619 (industry price \$1,050, government/non-profit \$375).

**M&M Protection Consultants**, insurance industry summary of big accidents, "Large Property Damage Losses in the Hydrocarbon - Chemical Industries: a Thirty-Year Review," 312-627-6086 (get Thirteenth AND Fourteenth editions).

given chemical. The program then accepts certain graphics protocols to generate realistic area maps.

Some substances, like sulfuric acid, tend to pool on the ground when released. Other chemicals, like hydrofluoric acid, readily vaporize and can form deadly, ground-hugging plumes that extend for miles.

CAMEO does have limits: fires, explosions or chemical combinations are not covered; microclimates and local terrain affect results, and conservative assumptions should be used. After generating a handsome plume map, check the results with a resource person, such as a chemist or experienced emergency responder.

Are local emergency planners on the ball? Facilities may have prepared their own internal hazard assessments, includ-

## Electronic media found unreliable for water warnings

Treatment plant operators rely too much on the electronic news media to alert the public to drinking water violations, the General Accounting Office said (report No. GAO/RCED-92-135).

In 1986 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, Congress ordered

operators to alert television and radio stations to major violations within 72 hours.

But operators believe such notification is the most unreliable method, since station managers are free to toss the notices in the trash.

Notices from small and medium treat-

ment plants may not be aired because they affect only a fraction of the station's audience. Further, not all of the affected public will be in the audience. If run as a public service announcement, it may get relegated to late night, when most water drinkers are asleep.

# Uncover the Cold War's environmental legacy

By **KAREN DORN STEELE**

Potentially explosive nuclear waste tanks. Spreading chemical and radioactive contamination in soil and groundwater. Potential risks to public health. Billions of dollars in taxpayer funds, and hordes of contractors wanting in on the cleanup action.

These are the volatile elements of the nuclear waste cleanup challenge facing the U.S. In 12 states from Washington to Florida, a huge stockpile of yet-to-be-disposed-of wastes has gradually accumulated over four decades.

These nuclear wastes represent the hidden environmental cost of the arms race. Isolating and stabilizing them so they cannot do further harm to the environment remains one of the nation's most serious and least understood challenges.

With the Soviet threat ended, the nation faces important decisions about cleaning up after the Cold War. According to government estimates, cleanup could take 40 years — nearly as long as the Cold War itself — and costs could exceed \$165 billion.

Covering this story takes technical knowledge, persistence and resourcefulness. The challenge is to make a highly complex subject understandable — and now that cleanup agreements have been signed with the federal government in many states, to follow the money trail.

Since I started covering environmental issues in Washington state, the nuclear waste story has changed dramatically from a little-known regional story to a national issue.

In the mid-1980s, when I first sought to document the Hanford reservation's environmental record during 40 years of plutonium production, I quickly learned that many of the records from the 1940s and 1950s were still classified under national security restrictions.

After a series of Freedom of Information Act requests and public pressure from citizens groups and newspapers in the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Department of Energy reviewed its historical records for declassification. Thousands of pages of Hanford documents were made public in early 1986 and the agency has since released many more.

The Hanford records revealed massive radiation contamination in the early postwar years, with large airborne emissions of radioactive iodine in the first decade after World War II. As a result of these revelations, two major federal studies of the impact of Hanford's radiation releases on public health are now under way.

These documents, now on file at the Energy Department's public reading room in Richland, Wash., (phone no. 509-376-8583) have been a treasure trove for reporters on many subjects, including

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## Reporters' Toolbox

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

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nuclear waste tank leaks and radioactive contamination of the Columbia River.

As the Energy Department opened more of its files at other sites in response to public pressure, it became evident by the late '80s that the nuclear waste mess wasn't confined to Hanford. The story was moved along by the 1986 Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union, which prompted a series of safety reviews of the operating histories of U.S. military reactors.

By the end of the Reagan administration, which presided over the largest peacetime weapons buildup in U.S. history, the nation's entire nuclear weapons complex was shut down. At Hanford and other former production sites, jobs have now been shifted from weapons production to environmental restoration.

There are many good references and sources to guide the reporter into this complex subject.

The Office of Technology Assessment provides an excellent overview of the history, scope, technical challenges and potential costs of the problem in "Complex Cleanup — The Environmental Legacy of Weapons Production." The 1991 report, which includes detailed information on each former production site and weapons lab, can be ordered from the U.S. Government Printing Office at 202-783-3238.

A clearly written desk reference with essays on issues surrounding the development of nuclear weapons has been compiled by faculty members at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "The Nuclear Almanac — Confronting the Atom in War and Peace," edited by Jack Dennis (Addison-Wesley, 1984), includes a chapter on radioactive waste definitions and problems, and chapters on the basics of nuclear energy, nuclear weapons and the health effects of radiation.

A thorough list of contacts for the nuclear cleanup beat would include officials at the Energy Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state agencies which have signed cleanup agreements with the federal government, national and regional environmental groups, congressional oversight committees, scientists and other specialists in academia, private contractors, "downwinder" groups representing citizens living near the nuclear facilities, whistleblowers and those who represent them, labor unions and rank-and-file workers.

Many states have signed cleanup agreements with the federal government which will guide cleanup decisions. In Washington state, the pact is called the Tri-Party Agreement because it involves the Energy Department, EPA and the state. It sets specific goals and timetables for a 30-year cleanup and is revised periodically. A copy can be obtained from Jerry Gilliland at the Washington Department of Ecology in Olympia at 206-459-6674.

The Energy Department also publishes a Five-Year Plan for cleanup nationwide that lists schedules and goals at all the contaminated sites. The plan can be obtained from the Energy Department's press office in Washington, D.C., at 202-586-5806.

Several federal oversight bodies have conducted investigations into mismanagement and technological problems involving the cleanup. The U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Government Operations have produced a series of reports on cleanup problems. Call 202-224-3121 to reach the committees.

*(Continued on page 18)*



# Application for Membership

## Society of Environmental Journalists

Membership office: 370-D Willowbrook Drive, Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania, 19403

Phone: (215) 630-9147 Fax: (215) 964-4647

National Headquarters: PO Box 65493, Washington, DC 20035-5493

### Instructions:

1. Fill out application as completely as possible. Attach additional pages if necessary.
2. If available, attach a current resume or brief biography.
3. Mail to: **Rae Tyson, SEJ Membership Committee Chairman**  
USA Today  
1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22229

DO NOT attach payment for dues. If accepted for membership, you will be billed \$30 for annual dues. Applicants will be notified in writing of the membership status granted.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Publication/Show/Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

**IMPORTANT: SEJ mail should be sent to your (o Home) (o Work) address.**  
(Note: Students should provide address and phone during school year and date of graduation.)

Primary Area of Employment (Check only one):  
 Newspaper     News Service     Newsletter  
 Magazine     Television     Radio     Freelancer     Educator     Student     Photographer

Describe duties (students may describe goals): \_\_\_\_\_

When did you start current position (date)? If less than two years, summarize work history: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the category of membership (as defined by 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 part-time 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 the SEJ. (See section "C" of application.) Applicants must be substantially engaged in journalistic pursuits.

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**A. (continued)**

Have you done any freelance or similar work during the past year, either paid or as a volunteer, for any organization, business or movement not primarily engaged in journalistic or academic pursuits as described in the "Active" and "Academic membership categories described above?     Yes     No

If yes, provide details and dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you done any lobbying or public relations work in the past two years?     Yes     No

If yes, for whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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     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 and accuracy of environmental reporting)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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

<b>For use only by SEJ Membership Committee or Board of Directors</b>	
Date reviewed by committee: _____	Recommendation _____
Membership category granted _____	Date of action _____



# Ecological economics offers a relation to nature

By ROBERT COSTANZA

The environment and the economy are often mistakenly presented in the media as independent entities that must be traded off against each other. In fact, they are highly interconnected.

By viewing ecological problems as a battle between economic interests and environmental interests, we force groups to take sides unnecessarily, to their own (and society's) mutual long-term detriment.

If we are ever to find workable long-term solutions to our environmental and economic problems, we need a completely new conception of the relationship between economics and ecology, one that more accurately depicts the economic subsystem as a part of the larger ecological life-support system. Such a conception must go beyond the narrow boundaries of the traditional academic disciplines to extend and integrate the study and management of "nature's household" (ecology) and "humankind's household" (economics). It must acknowledge that in the long run a healthy economy can only exist in symbiosis with a healthy ecology. This new vision of an "ecological economy" is beginning to be put into practice by a recently formed, worldwide transdisciplinary organization called the International Society for Ecological Economics<sup>1</sup>.

## Social Traps

Ecological economics emphasizes a long-run view and the goal of a sustainable ecological and economic system. In the short run there may be apparent trade-offs between some particular jobs (like logging) and some particular efforts to preserve natural capital (like old growth forests). Often, short-run reinforcements and incentives run exactly counter to long-run goals, and it is just these situations that are at the root of many of our most recalcitrant social and environmental problems.

The dynamics of these situations have been well studied in the past decade under several rubrics<sup>2</sup>, but the one I like best is John Platt's notion of "social traps"<sup>3</sup>. In all such cases the decision-maker(s) may be said to be 'trapped' by the local condi-

tions into making what turns out to be a bad decision viewed from a longer or wider perspective. We go through life making decisions about which path to take based largely on "road signs," the short-run, local reinforcements that we perceive most directly. These short-run reinforcements can include monetary incentives, social acceptance or admonishment, political pressure, and physical pleasure or pain. In general, this strategy of following the road signs is quite effective, unless the road signs are inaccurate or misleading. In these cases we can be trapped into following a path that is ulti-

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## Viewpoints

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

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mately detrimental because of our reliance on the road signs.

For example, cigarette smoking has been a social trap because by following the short-run road signs of the pleasure and social status<sup>4</sup> associated with smoking, we embark on the road to an increased risk of earlier death from smoking-induced cancer. More important, once this road has been taken it is very difficult to change to another (as most people who have tried to quit smoking can attest).

If we are to avoid the many "social traps" baited by narrow short-run interests, we have to both take a long-term view and learn how to effectively change the local short-term reinforcement structures in order to remove the "bait" from the trap. An important method of doing this is to provide information on the nature of the traps. Journalists have a key role to play in this process by simply describing the perverse dynamics of these situations and helping to remove or reduce the effectiveness of the bait.

In the case of the northwestern old growth forests, journalists can point out that in the long-run, if logging continues all the forest will be cut down and the loggers will be out of work anyway. To remove the bait from the trap, one must devise alternatives for the loggers to allow them to make the transition to other

jobs smoothly. Jobs involved in the ecologically sustainable use of the old growth forests for recreation and low scale harvesting would be ideal, and government programs aimed at stimulating the development of these sectors would be much more effective than spending money on legal battles.

## Ecological Accounting

Another major social trap we are deeply ensnared in has to do with the limited and biased information on overall economic performance upon which we base many of our major social decisions. Gross National Product (the total "value" of all the nation's marketed goods and services in a given year) and other related measures of national economic performance have come to be extremely important as policy objectives, political issues and benchmarks of the general welfare. Yet GNP as presently defined ignores many important contributions to well being, including the contributions of nature. This leads to peculiar and misleading signals.

For example, a standing forest provides real economic services for people: by conserving soil, cleaning air and water, providing habitat for wildlife, and supporting recreational activities. But as GNP is currently figured, only the value of harvested timber is calculated in the total. On the other hand, the billions of dollars that Exxon spent on the Valdez cleanup — and the billions spent by Exxon and others on the more than 100 other oil spills in the last several years — all actually *improved* our apparent economic performance. Why? Because cleaning up oil spills consumes labor and resources, all of which add to GNP. Of course, these expenses would not have been necessary if the oil had not been spilled, so they shouldn't be considered "benefits." But GNP adds up all production without differentiating between costs and benefits, and is therefore not a very good measure of economic health.

In fact, when resource depletion and degradation are factored into economic trends, what emerges is a radically different picture from that depicted by conventional methods. Herman Daly and John

Cobb have attempted to adjust GNP to account mainly for depletions of natural capital, pollution effects, and income distribution effects by producing an "index of sustainable economic welfare" (ISEW). If you consider two versions of their index compared to GNP over the period from 1950 to 1986, what is strikingly clear is that while GNP rose over this interval, ISEW remained relatively unchanged since about 1970. When factors such as loss of farms and wetlands, costs of mitigating acid rain effects, and health costs caused by increased pollution, and the increasingly unequal distribution of income are accounted for, the economy has not improved at all.

If we continue to ignore natural ecosystems, we may drive the economy down while we think we are building it up. By consuming our natural capital, we endanger our ability to sustain income.

### Applying Ecological Economics

Current systems of regulation are not very efficient at managing environmental resources for sustainability, particularly in the face of uncertainty about long-term values and impacts. They are inherently reactive rather than proactive. They induce legal confrontation, obfuscation, and government intrusion into business. Rather than encouraging long-range technical and social innovation, they tend to suppress it. They do not mesh well with the market signals that firms and individuals use to make decisions and do not effectively translate long-term global goals into short-term local incentives.

We need to explore promising alternatives to our current command and control environmental management systems, and to modify existing government agencies and other institutions accordingly. The enormous uncertainty about local and transnational environmental impacts needs to be incorporated into decision-making. We also need to better understand the sociological, cultural, and political criteria for acceptance or rejection of policy instruments.

One example of an innovative policy instrument currently being studied is a flexible environmental assurance bonding system designed to incorporate environmental criteria and uncertainty into the market system, and to induce positive

environmental technological innovation.

In addition to direct charges for known environmental damages, a company would be required to post an assurance bond equal to the current best estimate of the largest potential future environmental damages; the money would be kept in interest-bearing escrow accounts. The bond (plus a portion of the interest) would be returned if the firm could show that the suspected damages had not occurred or would not occur. If they did, the bond would be used to rehabilitate or repair the environment and to compensate injured parties. Thus, the burden of proof would be shifted from the public to the resource user and a strong economic incentive would be provided to research the true costs of environmentally innovative activities and to develop cost-effective pollution control technologies. This is an extension of the "polluter pays" principle to "the polluter pays for uncertainty as well."

Ecological economic thinking leads us to conclude that instead of being mesmerized into inaction by scientific uncertainty over our future, we should acknowledge uncertainty as a fundamental part of the system. We must develop better methods to model and value ecological goods and services, and devise policies to translate those values into appropriate incentives. If we continue to segregate ecology and economics we are courting disaster.

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### Nuclear...(from page 14)

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The General Accounting Office also has published many reports critical of the federal cleanup. Indexes and reports can be ordered from GAO at 202-275-6241.

Other important sources include national and regional environmental groups. These include the Natural Resources Defense Council at 202-783-7800, the Sierra Club at 202-547-1141, and several grassroots organizations which are closely following individual sites. They include Hanford Education Action League in Spokane, Wash., at 509-326-3370; the Hanford Downwinders Coalition at 509-549-3497 or 206-547-1021; the Energy Research Foundation in Aiken, S.C., at 803-256-7298; Citizen Alert in Reno, Nev., at 702-827-4200 and Tri-Valley CAREs at 510-443-7148.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) contact: Dean Button, Executive Secretary, ISEE, PO Box 1589, Solomons, MD 20688. Tel: 410-326-0794, Fax: 410-326-6342. ISEE publishes (with Elsevier) a bimonthly international academic journal (*Ecological Economics*), a quarterly newsletter, and a biannual membership directory. There are also several recent books available on the subject, including: R. Costanza (ed). 1991. *Ecological economics: the science and management of sustainability*, Columbia University Press, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Including, but not limited to, the "tragedy of the commons" (cf. Hardin, G. 1968. *The tragedy of the commons*. Science. 162:1243-1248.), and the "prisoner's dilemma" (cf. Axelrod, R. 1984. *The evolution of cooperation*. Basic Books, New York.)

<sup>3</sup> Platt, J. 1973. Social traps. *American Psychologist*. 28:642-651.; Cross, J. G., and M. J. Guyer. 1980. *Social traps*. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.; Teger, A. I. 1980. *Too much invested to quit*. Pergamon, New York.; Brockner, J. and J. Z. Rubin. 1985. *Entrapment in escalating conflicts: a social psychological analysis*. Springer-Verlag, New York. 275 pp.; Costanza, R. 1987. *Social Traps and Environmental Policy*. *BioScience*. 37:407-412.

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Robert Costanza is director of the Maryland International Institute for Ecological Economics, a professor at the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies, and chief editor of "Ecological Economics", the journal of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). He is also president of ISEE. He can be contacted through the mail at P.O. Box 1589, Solomons, MD 20688.

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For information on the public health implications of radiation contamination at the former production sites, contact the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta at 404-639-3311. For specific information on the progress of the Hanford thyroid study, a joint project of the CDC and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, contact the Hanford Thyroid Disease Study at 206-667-5733.

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Karen Dorn Steele covers nuclear and toxics issues for the *Spokesman-Review* in Spokane, Wash. She is on leave from the newspaper during 1992 to conduct research for a book on the Hanford nuclear reservation. Her research grant is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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## New Members

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The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from July 26, 1992 to October 12, 1992. Memberships recorded after October 12 will appear in SEJournal Vol. 3, No. 1

### ALABAMA

- Katherine Bouma, Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery

### CALIFORNIA

- Jennifer K. Coverdale, Tahoe Daily Tribune, South Lake Tahoe
- P.J. Grimes (Associate), Imagination Station Communication, Encinitas
- Barrett W. McBride, California Environment Reporter, Bureau of National Affairs, Fair Oaks
- Willy Morris, West County Times, Richmond
- Karen Watson (Academic) Univ. Ca. Davis News ServiceDavis

### COLORADO

- Susan Maret (Academic), Denver

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Janice L. O'Brien (Associate), Environmental Health Center, National Safety Council

### GEORGIA

- Kathleen A. Tobin, Network Earth, Cable News Network, Atlanta

### ILLINOIS

- Liane Clorfene-Casten (Associate), Evanston
- Nancy F. Riggs (Associate), IL-IN Sea Grant, Univ. of Illinois, Mt. Zion

### INDIANA

- Claudine Chamberlain, The Times, Howard Publications, Munster
- Kyle E. Niederpruem, Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis

### KENTUCKY

- Monica Dias, Kentucky Post, Covington

### MICHIGAN

- Judson Branan, Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor

### NEVADA

- James K. Gentry (Academic), Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Bruce W. Perry, Environmental Manager's Compliance Advisor, Business & Legal Reports, Durham

### NEW YORK

- Whitman Bassow (Associate), Environmental Protection Magazine, New York
- Claudia M. Caruana (Associate) Chemical Engineering Progress, Elmont
- Debra J. Glidden (Associate) Syracuse
- Shelton Harrison Walden, Walden's Pond, WBAE/Pacifica Radio, New York

### OREGON

- Deborah DeMoss Smith, Project Earth, Portland

### PENNSYLVANIA

- Patricia M. McAdams (Associate), Division of Environmental Research, The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
- Chris Spurgeon, Earth Talk, WHYY-FM, Philadelphia

### TEXAS

- Linda Wienandt, Project Earth, Austin American-Statesman, Austin

### VERMONT

- Alex Wilson (Associate), Environmental Building News, West River Communications Inc., Brattleboro

### VIRGINIA

- Joe DiLeo, Clean Air Report, Inside Washington Publishers, Arlington
- Matthew D. Horwitt (Academic), Brown Univ., Arlington

### WYOMING

- Ted Kerasote, Sports Afield Magazine, Kelly
- Tom Morton, Star-Tribune, Caspar

### International Members

#### COSTA RICA

- Diane Jukofsky (Associate), Rainforest Alliance, Moravia, San José

#### SWITZERLAND

- Adlai J. Amor (Associate), WWF Features, World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland

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## SEJ News

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### Gladwin Hill, pioneer reporter on the environment, dies at 78

By RICHARD PEREZ-PENA

c. 1992 N.Y. Times News Service

LOS ANGELES — Gladwin Hill, a journalist who in 44 years with *The New York Times* pioneered environmental reporting and described for a generation of readers Los Angeles's growth from an outpost to a metropolis, died Sept. 19 at his home here. He was 78.

Hill, a heavy smoker, died of lung cancer after a seven-month battle with the disease, said his wife, Carole Fordham Hill.

From 1969 until his retirement in 1979, he served as national environmental correspondent for *The Times*, the first reporter at the newspaper and one of the first in the nation to cover the environment full time.

Although he lived in Los Angeles, he frequently traversed the country in the 1970s to report on issues of pollution and conservation that had only just begun to register in the national consciousness.

"Gladwin Hill helped open up a whole

new field of reporting, and became enormously important to the county and to journalism," said A.M. Rosenthal, former executive editor of *The Times* and now a columnist. "He had tremendous journalistic skills, and a deep interest in the environment long before it was fashionable."

Said Phil Shabecoff, who covered the environment at *The Times* for fourteen years until 1991: "He is very important in the history of environmental journalism. He was covering the environment on a daily basis at a time when other media was paying scant attention."

Born in Boston in 1914, Hill graduated from the Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., in 1932, and from Harvard College in 1938.

He began his career in journalism as an 18-year old freshman, writing for *The Boston Transcript*. After graduating from Harvard, he was hired by *The Associated Press*, where he won coveted assignments as a columnist and a writer of features, roaming from coast to coast in search of

material.

In 1942, in New York, he married Elisita Stuntz, a native of Cuba (who died in 1977). In the same year he was sent by *The Associated Press* to London as a war correspondent. For two years, he covered the Allied air campaign against Germany, alongside his arch competitor, Walter Cronkite, who was then with *United Press*.

Tall, handsome, a natty dresser and possessed of a deep, resonant voice, Hill stood out even in the august company of the journalists gathered in London during World War II. But it was his aggressive reporting that attracted the most notice. He became the first reporter to fly aboard an American bomber on a raid into Germany, and he witnessed the Allied invasion of France in 1944 from another bomber. A few months later, he reopened the A.P. bureau in Paris.

Hill joined *The Times* in January 1945...

— Reprinted with permission from *The New York Times*

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# Calendar

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## OCTOBER

**27-30. Tropospheric [smog] Ozone: Nonattainment and Design Value Issues** (sponsored by Air and Waste Management Assn., this conference will cover technical and regulatory issues affecting the emissions and health effects of smog, volatile organic chemicals and nitrogen oxides). Lafayette Hotel, Boston. Media contact Martha Swiss, Ph:412/232-3444, ext. 126.

## NOVEMBER

**1-5. Managing Water Resources During Global Change** (sponsored by Amer. Water Resources Assn.). Reno, NV. Contact: Michael C. Fink, AWRA, 5410 Grosvenor La., Ste. 220, Bethesda, MD 20814-2192 Ph:301/493-8600 FAX:301/493-5844

**6-8. SEJ Second Annual Meeting** (for program highlights, see Summer 1992 SEJournal, pp. 1&7). Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor. Contact: Univ. Dept. of Conf's and Seminars, 541 Thompson St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1360 Ph:313/764-5305 FAX:313/764-2990

**8-12. Environmental Sciences and Resource Mgmt. in the 21st Century**, the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (1,100 presentations on such issues as global climate change, acid rain, ozone depletion, nonpoint source pollution, biodiversity, wetland toxicology, endangered species, and microbial processing of solid wastes). Cincinnati Convention Center. Contact: SETAC, 1010 N. 12th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32501. Ph:904/469-1500

**10-13. Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Organic Chem's in Groundwater** (sponsored by Nat'l. Ground Water Assn.). Houston. Contact: NGWA, POBox 182039, Columbus, OH 43218 Ph:614/761-1711 FAX:614/761-3446

**12-13. Wetlands Regulation Conf.** Washington, D.C. Contact: Executive Enterprises, Inc. 22 W. 21st St., NYC 10010 Ph:212/645-7880 FAX:212/675-4883

**14-15. Medical Wastes: Mgmt. and Compliance.** Arlington, VA. Contact: Govt. Inst.'s, Inc., 4 Research Pl., Ste. 200, Rockville, MD 20850 Ph:301/921-2345 FAX:301/921-0373

**17-18. Int'l Conf. on [Incinerator]**

**Ash Mgmt. & Utilization.** Hyatt Regency Hotel, Arlington, VA. Contact: Richard Will Ph:800/627-8913 & 703/347-4500

**18-20. Pollution Prevention** (sponsored by Water Pollution Control Fed. and Air and Waste Mgmt Assn.) Dallas, TX. Media contact Martha Swiss, AWMA Ph:412/232-3444, ext. 126.

**19-21. Reporting on the Environment** (a special two and a half day session at the Soc. of Prof. Journalists' annual meeting that qualifies for continuing education credit. Other sessions will focus on such topics as Freedom of Information Act use; privacy and politics—what's fair; computer-assisted reporting; and disaster crime-scene access). Baltimore, Md. SEJ members qualify for the SPJ member rate of \$155—if they register by Oct. 30—and on-site rate of \$205. Contact: Jane Rulon, SPJ, P.O. Box 77, Greencastle, IN 46135 Ph:317/653-3333

## DECEMBER

**1-3. Superfund 92** (sponsored by Hazardous Materials Control Resources Inst., meeting will focus on both analyses of soil and groundwater contamination and on cleanup technologies). Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington D.C. Contact: HMCRI, 7237 Hanover Pkwy, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Ph:301/982-9500

**2-4. Bioremediation of Contam'd Soils from Petroleum Hydrocarbons.** Austin, TX. Contact: Univ. of Tex. at Austin, College of Engineering. Ph:512/471-3506 FAX:512/471-0831

**8-10. Global Energy Strategies: Living With Restricted Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (sponsored by Center for Environmental Info. Inc.). Washington, D.C. Contact: CEI, 46 Prince St., Rochester, NY 14607 Ph:716/271-3550 FAX:716/271-0606

**8-12. Household Hazardous Waste Conf.** (sponsored by EPA, meeting will focus on how municipalities can handle the disposal of such toxic materials as pesticides, paints, cleaners, batteries and fluorescent light bulbs). Minneapolis Marriott City Center. Contact: Robin Woods, EPA Ph:202/260-4377

**10-12. Year of the Gulf Symposium** (with sessions on marine debris, coastal erosion, health risks and habitat destruction in Gulf of Mexico). Innsbrook Resort, Tarpon Spgs., FL. Contact: Paul

Fulham, Ph:800/538-GULF

## JANUARY

**6-8. Air Toxics: Problem Definition and Critical Research Needs** (sponsored by UCLA Center for Clean Technology). Sunset Villiage Conference Center, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. Contact: Bill Andrews Ph: 301/206-0540

**26-28. Role of Meteorology in Managing the Environment in the '90s** (sponsored by Air and Waste Management Association). Scottsdale, AZ. Media contact Martha Swiss, Ph:412/232-3444, ext. 126.

## FEBRUARY

**11-16. Amer. Assn. for the Advancement of Science annual meeting** (with sessions on a host of environmental topics, including: economics of biodiversity; ecosystem evaluations; cost and value of environmental protection; science, law and policy conflicts over wetlands protection; scientific foundations of environmental ethics; and law/professional differences in detecting toxic health effects in Woburn, Mass.). Hines Convention Center, Boston, Mass. Contact: Nan Broadbent, AAAS Ph: 202/326-6431

**23-26. Field Screening Methods for Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemicals** (sponsored by Air and Waste Management Association). Las Vegas, NV. Media contact Martha Swiss, Ph:412/232-3444, ext. 126.

## MARCH

**8-12. Affordable Comfort Conference** (sessions on energy efficient housing—new and existing—sponsored by more than 80 public and private organizations interested in natural resource conservation). Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Affordable Comfort Inc., 100 N. 17th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 or Gail Ettinger at Ph:708/864-5651

**22-25. Corporate Quality/Environmental Mgmt: Measurements and Communications** (annual meeting of Global Env'l Mgmt. Initiative—GEMI—a coalition of Fortune 500 companies founded in 1990 to foster environmental excellence). Ritz Carlton Hotel, Arlington, VA. Media contact: Michael W. Robinson Ph:202/842-3600.

# Green Beat Correspondents

## 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** — Tony Davis at the Albuquerque Tribune, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque, NM 87103, (505) 823-3625, fax (505) 823-3689.

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

### California:

**Northern California** — Tom Harris at the Sacramento Bee, 2100Q 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** — Susan Sullivan at Riverside Press-Enterprise, P.O. Box 792, Riverside, CA 92501, (714) 782-7541, fax (714) 782-7572.

**Colorado** — Jan Knight, at the Fort Collins Coloradoan, P.O. Box 1577, Fort Collins, CO 80522, (303) 224-7757, fax (303) 224-7726.

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

**District of Columbia** — Gwen Moulton, Bureau of National Affairs, 1231 25th St., N.W., Room 361-S, Wash., DC 20037, (202) 452-4583, fax (202) 452-4150.

### 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 N. Orange Ave., 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 E. Washington St., 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** — Kathryn Clark at the Dartmouth News Service, 38 North Main St., Hanover, NH 03755, (603) 646-2117, fax (603) 646-2850.

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

**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** — Tom Meersman at Minnesota Public Radio, 45 E. 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, (612) 290-1474.

**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** — Eric Greenberg at The News Tribune, 1 Hoover Way, Woodbridge, N.J. 07095, (908) 442-0400, fax (908) 442-1205.

**New York** — Tom Andersen at Gannett Newspapers, 1 Gannett Drive, White Plains, NY 10604, (914) 694-5060 or Daniel Markham at Worldwide Television News, 1995 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, (212) 362-4440.

**Nevada** — Mary Manning at the Las Vegas Sun, 800 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, (702) 259-4065.

**Ohio and Indiana** — Dan Trevas at Gongwer News Service, Inc, 175 South Third St., Ste. 230, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 221-1992, fax (614) 221-7844.

**Oregon** — Kathie 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, 638 Royce Ave, Pittsburg, PA 15243, (412) 263-1986.

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

**Washington State** — Julie Titone at the Spokesman Review & Chronicle, Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210-1615, (509) 459-5431.

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

**Wisconsin and Illinois** — Chuck Quirmbach at 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 *Mobile Press Register* in March began running an environmental page on Saturdays and Mondays. Reporters Carol Carpenter and Michael Hardy, who cover other issues as well, provide the copy. Carpenter said the page usually includes one major, local environmental story; national copy; profiles of environmentalists; briefs and notices of environmental groups' meetings. For more information, call Carol Carpenter at 205-434-8495.

► Opposition is growing in Mobile to Holnam Inc.'s plans to burn liquid hazardous waste for fuel in the company's cement kiln in Theodore, south of Mobile. The company is awaiting a permit from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). For information, call Bill Patterson of People Opposing Pollution (POP) at 205-432-9095; Holnam plant manager Russell Wiles at 205-443-6200; or Catherine Lamar, public relations for ADEM, at 205-271-7700.

► Glenn Halbrooks is now the environmental reporter for WVTM TV-13 in Birmingham. He replaces David Mattingly, who was hired by TBS' "Network Earth" in Atlanta. Halbrooks started the job Aug. 5 after leaving WSFA-TV in Montgomery and said he plans to balance hard-issue stories with "news you can use" about recycling motor oil and other consumer tips. He's a native of Huntsville. Glenn Halbrooks can be reached at 205-933-1313.

► Environmental activists have squared off with the Birmingham Water Works Board and the Birmingham Industrial Water Board over a proposed dam on the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. In October 1990, the Water Board "quietly" began buying land in Blount County for a 2,500-acre reservoir, writes Justin Fox of the *Birmingham Post-Herald*. Environmentalists argue that public officials in the Birmingham area should instead look for ways of conserving water and other alternatives. For information, call Justin Fox at 205-325-2453.

► The state Department of Economic and Community Affairs is opposing a

recommendation by the regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office that the Alabama sturgeon be listed as an endangered species with critical habitat. Department officials "are saying that all waterways of the state will have to be shut down," said Katherine Bouma, reporter of the *Montgomery Advertiser*. "Environmentalists are angry, and everybody's sort of jockeying for position." The Jackson, Miss., office of Fish and Wildlife has been working on the issue for a year and a half. The freshwater Alabama sturgeon have not been caught since 1985. "It's been kept out of its habitat by locks and dams," said Jim Stewart, a Fish and Wildlife biologist. "Listing the Alabama sturgeon should have no impact on users of the Alabama River and the Tombigbee," Stewart said. An economist on contract with the state, however, predicted "utter devastation to southern Alabama." A decision is not expected until mid-1993. For information, call Katherine Bouma at 205-262-1611; Walter Stevenson with the state Department of Economic and Community Affairs, at 205-242-5497; Dr. Randy Haddock with the Cahaba River Society at 205-322-5326; or Jim Stewart at 601-965-4900.

► The Alabama Department of Environmental Management, along with educators, businesses, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies, recently joined forces to create "Legacy" Partners in Environmental Education." The project includes five advisory committees: educational, small business-vocational, state and federal agencies, public/private organizations and business and professional organizations. The group will create an environmental curriculum for grade schools and high schools, and a public education program. The group expects the legislature to consider a bill this spring that will create a vanity license plate with an environmental theme to help fund the program. For more information, call Patty Hurley, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, at 205-271-7938.

► Troy State University, in Troy south of Montgomery, is in the process of developing a graduate environmental program with five concentrations: resource management, environmental chemistry and toxicology, environmental education, en-

vironmental policy and law and international environmental affairs. The university is submitting the proposal to state and hopes to begin the program in 1 to 1 1/2 years. The university also has a Center for Environmental Research and Service. For information, contact Dr. Alicia Whatley at 205-670-3624.

## ARKANSAS

► Arkansas newspapers have been running a number of stories exploring Gov. Bill Clinton's environmental record. For an overview of the stories, call Bobbi Ridlehoover at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* 501-378-3478.

## CALIFORNIA

► The Pulitzer Prize winning *Sacramento Bee* has had its environment writer ranks seriously depleted, one temporarily and the other permanently. Tom Harris, who has occupied the senior environment writer post there since 1984 (and at the *San Jose Mercury* the 16 years before that) has retired, ending nearly a quarter-century of charting environmental matters for two of the Golden State's leading dailies. Jim Mayer, the heir-apparent at The Bee, remains closeted in Ann Arbor, not in sole preparation for the forthcoming 2nd annual SEJ conference, which he will doubtlessly attend, but on a Scripps Fellowship Program at the University of Michigan.

► Green For Life, a half-hour documentary that aired on NBC-affiliate KRON-TV on Aug. 13, was written and independently produced by David Helvarg of Sausalito. A Green Beat item in the summer issue did not report who produced the documentary, which tracks three generations of activists — David Brower, Juliette Majot and Michael Dorsey.

## COLORADO

► Members of a special grand jury wanted to indict three Department of Energy officials for environmental crimes as a result of an investigation into the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, but U.S. Attorney Tom Norton refused, they told Denver reporters in late September. The jurors

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## The Green Beat

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spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were told they would face contempt of court charges if they discussed the Rocky Flats investigation, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported. The jurors said they also wanted to indict former plant operator Rockwell Corp., its officials and EG&G, the plant's current operator. Instead, the jury was dismissed and Norton's office announced a plea agreement in which Rockwell pleaded guilty to 10 felonies and misdemeanors and agreed to pay \$18.5 million in fines. The grand jury's original indictment and a 75-page report by the panel have been sealed by U.S. District Judge Sherman Finesilver, who said they don't contain enough supporting evidence to warrant their release to the public. The jurors' comments were reported in the latest of breaking stories about the plant, which no longer produces nuclear weapons parts. A congressional subcommittee has been examining the Justice Department's handling of the investigation that began in 1989 after FBI and Environmental Protection Agency agents raided the plant in search of information about hazardous waste disposal. Rocky Flats sits 16 miles northwest of Denver.

► Colorado Division of Wildlife officials have decided to increase moose hunting this year in North Park, a large open area within the Rocky Mountains in northern Colorado. Fourteen years ago, the state transplanted two dozen moose to the area from Utah and Wyoming in an effort to save the North Park moose population; today the herd numbers nearly 600. Wildlife officials have an agreement with the National Forest Service to keep the numbers down to a more manageable 500. The hunt will take place Nov. 14 through Nov. 29. Contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife, 303-291-7307.

► A Denver district court judge has temporarily barred state officials from cutting back winter stream flows in Snowmass Creek to fuel the Aspen Ski Co.'s 310-acre snowmaking operation in Snowmass on the Western Slope. The Colorado Water Conservation Board — which in 1976 obtained the legal right to keep the water in the creek to sustain a healthy wild trout population — voted

earlier this year to give up four out of every 10 gallons of the state's winter flows in Snowmass Creek. The Aspen Wilderness Workshop, an environmental group, filed suit in Denver asking for a temporary restraining order to stop any stream flow reductions. The Colorado Water Conservation Board may be contacted at 303-866-3441.

► A proposed \$1.1 million Bureau of Land Management land swap in north-central Colorado has raised suspicions among area ranchers who don't believe the BLM can do a good job of watching over the 4,284 acres, currently owned by a Moffat County commissioner and sheep rancher. The ranchers have started a petition drive asking for an environmental impact statement and are asking the Sierra Club for support. The BLM says the commissioner's land holds access to 110 acres of wetlands and 1,400 acres of elk calving grounds, among other assets.

► The U.S. Senate has authorized the transfer of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal — a 27-square-mile Superfund site sitting just north of Denver — from the supervision of the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior, once cleanup is complete. The site will become the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge, perhaps holding deer, coyotes, bald eagles and hawks. From 1942 until 1982, millions of gallons of industrial waste, mustard and nerve gas and agricultural poisons were dumped into storage ponds on the arsenal. But turning it into a wildlife refuge means that local residents will have more say in planning the arsenal's future, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials say. The Denver telephone number for the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and Wildlife Office is 303-236-8145.

### CONNECTICUT

► An effort to restore coastal marshes damaged for the last 100 years by railroad lines and highways is underway in Connecticut. Called Coastal America, the partnership of 10 federal agencies has begun a \$100,000 study to determine which of 19 sites along the Connecticut coast should be restored. Money will probably come as part of Amtrak's electrification of the

New York-Boston line. Officials at a news conference in New Haven called it a model for what can be done nationally. Contact Hal Gilliam, *Meriden Record Journal*, (203) 235-1661.

► Researchers at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven have begun a two-year study into whether the experimental drug taxol can be extracted from ornamental yews grown in nurseries in the Northeast. The researchers are studying which species could be stimulated to produce more of the drug. The research comes as charges continue that the government's program to collect bark from the Pacific Yew on the West Coast has been marred by waste and mismanagement. Contact Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

### FLORIDA

► Tom Palmer, environmental reporter for the *Lakeland Ledger*, a 78,000-circulation daily, won first place for in-depth reporting from the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors contest for a story based on a trip to Denmark to look at hazardous waste treatment. The research was for a story about a proposed incinerator in rural Polk County, Fla. For copies, call Tom Palmer, at 813-687-7915.

► The *Orlando Sentinel*, a 300,000-circulation daily newspaper, has continued its year-long project, Poisoning Florida, with several installments. Recent stories include: a two-part series on the dangers of pesticides; a one-day story on pollution from leaking underground tanks; a two-part series on the inadequacies of the federal Superfund program. For copies, call John Haile, editor, at 407-420-5411.

► The *Tallahassee Democrat*, a 60,000-daily newspaper, has launched a weekly Environmental page that runs each Monday. The page includes staff-written and guest columns, features and other environmental stories. Julie Hauserman, the newspaper's environmental reporter, also won several state and national awards for her coverage of the Fenholloway River. The awards included first place for public service in the Florida Society of Newspa-

per Editors Contest. For copies, call Julie Hauserman. at 904-599-2151.

► Florida's game commissioners have banned the hunting of Florida black bears in the Osceola National Forest west of Jacksonville. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission based its three-year ban on a biology report that found the bear population in that national forest can't withstand the hunt. The black bear is a threatened species, except in the areas where hunting is permitted. Hunting is allowed on private lands near the Osceola National Forest, and in the Ocala National Forest and the Apalachicola National Forest.

► Champion International Corp plans to spend \$35 million to cleanup pollution from its paper mill near Pensacola, the world's first project to eliminate discharges of dioxin. The company will do so by replacing chlorine, which leads to the formation of the dioxin, with other chemicals in the paper-making process. The plan will also reduce the amount of pollutants in the effluent that discharges into Eleven Mile Creek, a tributary of Perdido Bay. Some environmentalists and residents along the bay, which separates the western end of the Florida Panhandle from Alabama, have blamed bay pollution on the mill.

### KANSAS

► Where did the state university used to dump its old lab wastes? In Kansas, it was next to an Army ammunition plant in Johnson County, Kan. Today, cleaning up the dump threatens to cost the state of Kansas nearly \$3 million. For years, the University of Kansas legally dumped lab solvents and low-level radioactive wastes there. Two years ago, a family living next to the dump learned that traces of the chemicals were detected in their water, prompting lawsuits and state action. Now, KU is buying their home and land and designing a clean-up plan that may cost \$2.6 million. For more information, contact Mike Mansur, *The Kansas City Star*, 816-234-4433.

► For years, Wichita industry has put Kansas on the toxic chemicals map. The

state ranks among the top ten in toxic releases. The *Wichita Eagle* recently examined in detail how the releases of chemicals in that city could result in chemical-induced illnesses. The paper broke out storage patterns by zip code for hazardous chemicals. For more information, contact Jean Hays at the newspaper, 316-268-6557.

### LOUISIANA

► Hurricane Andrew caused severe environmental damage to Louisiana's coastal marshes and swamps. It caused the deaths of more than 200 million fish, wind and salt water damage to sensitive wetlands, and numerous oil spills. For details, call Bob Anderson, environmental editor of *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge, (504) 383-1111.

### MAINE

► Scientists may soon be using computer modeling to predict the future of marine life in the Gulf of Maine, where commercial fishing has already seriously depleted cod and haddock populations. A two-year old study on the subject has long-term implications for monitoring the effects of global climate change on marine life in the Gulf of Maine. It also has more immediate potential applications — from predicting the fate of current fish eggs and larvae stock vital to New England's commercial fishing industry to tracking the flow of waste dumped along the Northwest Atlantic Continental Shelf. The study's participants include Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.; Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah, Ga.; Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole, Mass. For more information, contact Kathryn Clark at 603-646-2117.

### MASSACHUSETTS

► A key environmental initiative to watch on Election Night is Question 3 in Massachusetts. If approved, the ballot measure would require most packaging used in Massachusetts after July 1, 1996, to be reduced in size, reusable, made of recycled or recyclable materials, or recycled

itself. Pushed by major environmental organizations in the state, it faces strong opposition from industry. Contacts are Amy Perry, Massachusetts PIRG, and Chris Flynn, Massachusetts Food Association, both in Boston.

► What's it like to drive an electric-powered car? Dave Ropeik of WCVB-TV in Boston spent a week behind the wheel of one, and then took to the air to report the results. Ropeik's series also described other alternate fueled cars including those powered by methane and hydrogen. The subject is getting increased attention in the Northeast as states move towards adoption of the California automobile emission standards which phase in far tougher levels than the national rules. Ropeik is at (617) 449-0400.

### MINNESOTA

► Earth Summit Follow-up. A variety of business, environmental, religious and political leaders signed 14 principles for action at the conclusion of a 3-day conference in mid-September. "Common Vision: A Forum on Minnesota's Environmental Future" was organized by Minnesota Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III. Speakers included Gaylord Nelson of the Wilderness Society, Wes Jackson of the Land Institute, Huey Johnson of the California Resource Recovery Institute, U.S. Ambassador Robert Ryan, and Winona LaDuke of the Anishinabe Nation. The principles emphasize sustainable development, and are intended to guide environmental policy formulation at the state level in the aftermath of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Contact: MaryKay Milla, Minn. Attorney General's office, 612-290-2069.

► A study released in August shows that mercury is accumulating in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin lakes at record levels. Scientists at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency analyzed lake sediment samples and found that lakes are receiving 3 to 4 times more mercury than would occur naturally. In recent years the Minnesota Health Department has issued fish-consumption advisories on more than 320



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# The Green Beat

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lakes and portions of 30 rivers because of mercury contamination. A coalition of Minnesota environmental groups is lobbying for reductions in mercury emissions from garbage incinerators and coal-burning plants, but mercury also comes from additives in paint and general industrial activity. Contact: Tom Meersman, Minnesota Public Radio, 612-290-1474.

## MISSISSIPPI

► The executive director of the state Department of Environmental Quality is making appointments to an advisory committee that will review the state's application to the federal Department of Energy to build a temporary storage site in Copiah County for spent nuclear power plant fuel rods. So far, there has not been much opposition among residents of Copiah County, home to the state's only nuclear power plant. Copiah county voted to apply for the monitored retrievable storage facility, but a strict 1982 law outlines a procedure appointing an advisory committee and a scientific review committee. The law resulted from public outcry after federal officials considered a salt dome in Perry County for the long-term storage of nuclear waste. For information, call Sharon Stallworth, *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, at 1-800-222-8015; or James I. Palmer, Jr. DEQ executive director, at 601-961-5000.

► The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in October plans to follow up on "what they described as the rather cursory review of a few years ago" of health complaints by people living in Columbia, said Sharon Stallworth, a reporter for the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson. An abandoned Reichhold Chemical Co. plant was listed as a Superfund site in 1986 by the EPA. The plant, which made wood products and resins, exploded and burned in 1977. During a 1987 cleanup, the EPA found 4,000 barrels of chemical waste on 81 acres. "Some in the community are questioning their testing methods," said Stallworth. "They took blood and urine samples and were testing for exposure that occurred 15 years ago." For information, contact Stallworth at 1-800-222-8015; ATSDR spokesman Mike

Greenwell at 404-639-0727; Charlotte Keys of Jesus People Against Pollution at 601-736-7099; Jennings Gilmore of Stop Toxic Onsite Pollution at 601-736-8289.

► The state is allowing former NASA ecologist Dr. Billy Wolverton to design a home sewage system that will use plants to filter waste water and that will not discharge remaining waste water off the property. A July 1 state law has sent some developers, homeowners and elected officials in the three coastal counties scrambling to find a legal way for such individual treatment systems to exist. They fear the law will prevent development. The state has become the 19th to outlaw discharging waste water off one's property; neighboring Louisiana still allows the practice. The ground in the state's three coastal counties has a high water table and is too wet to absorb water from a septic tank. Alternatives have included plant filter systems and small treatment plants, but those discharge some water off the property. Wolverton, a South Mississippian who is internationally known for designing municipal systems that discharge into wetlands, will design the system to recycle the water. For information, contact Brenda Clark of the state Health Department at 601-832-0372 or Dr. Billy Wolverton at 601-798-5875. For news stories, contact Sharon Ebner, *The Sun Herald*, at 601-896-2355.

► State health officials will measure the amount of radon gas in 163 Mississippi schools in the next two school years. The screening is part of an ongoing project to determine where potentially harmful amounts of the invisible gas collects. About two years ago, a health department survey of 1,089 homes showed that in 11 counties, 9 percent of the homes in Mississippi will have levels higher than 4 pCi/L. Nationally, an estimated 1 in 15 homes has an elevated level of radon. In the spring, the health department and the University of Southern Mississippi began studying soil and geologic formations to determine why buildings in some counties have higher readings than others. For information, contact Silas Anderson, health physicist with the Mississippi State Department of Health's division of radiological health at 601-354-6657.

## MISSOURI

► A new federal health study should get at why farmers suffer from high rates of certain cancers — as well as ranking as the largest study of its kind. The lead agency, the National Cancer Institute, will work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute for Environmental Health Science. They will study pesticide applicators, mostly farmers, in two or three states. The Midwest is particularly interested because previous NCI studies have linked high cancer rates with pesticide exposure. In coming days, the NCI is expected to choose the states to participate in its new study, which will cost more than \$13 million and stretch over several years. For more information, contact the NCI public affairs office, 301-496-6641.

► Branson, Mo., may have Wayne Newton and Willie Nelson among the latest stars to move their shows there. But it also has pollution problems. The tourist boom in the Ozark community threatens to ruin the natural beauty of that area unless local officials address several environmental problems soon, Missouri officials say. In a recent report, a state task force detailed the problems, which include a troubled landfill and an overloaded sewage system and increased air pollution. For more information or a copy of the report, contact Connie Orr at 314-751-1010.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

► The New Hampshire Superfund Task Force met for the first time in late July to review the Superfund Law's impact in New Hampshire. U.S. Congressman Bill Zeliff, R-N.H., formed the 31-member task force. Zeliff represents the state's First Congressional District, where he said 13 Superfund sites are located. He said he will take the results of the review and use them to help amend the Superfund Law in the next session of Congress. "The Superfund Law is well-intentioned but misses the mark, both in terms of actual cleanups completed and in terms of fairness to the communities and companies that find themselves potentially responsible parties," Zeliff said in a letter to potential task force members. What Zeliff

actually proposes to Congress remains to be seen. He scored only 23 percent on a recently released environmental scorecard, which is compiled annually by The League of Conservation Voters and rates members of Congress according to their votes on key environmental legislation. For more information, contact Steve Haberman at the *Portsmouth Herald*, 603-436-1800.

## NEW YORK

► Dennis Kipp of The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported on Sept. 6 that water supplied by New York City to communities throughout the lower Hudson Valley is corrosive enough to leach toxic lead into drinking water. The city is protecting city water users from lead contamination by adding calcium orthophosphate, but communities in Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Ulster counties that tap the city aqueducts are on their own, city officials said. The smaller communities do not have to test for possible lead contamination until June 1993, according to the state Health Department. For more information, call Dennis Kipp at 914-454-2000.

## NORTH CAROLINA

► The premise that development and environmental protection can peacefully co-exist is being tested in North Carolina. Caught in the middle this time are 20 kinds of rare and endangered mussels. The *Charlotte Observer* reported that some of the state's most powerful people — builders, foresters and local officials — object to a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission proposal to protect the clam-like mussels. The proposal's detractors say saving the mussels by limiting development along 34 streams and rivers could cost jobs and further slow the state's economy. For more information, call *Observer* reporter Jack Horan at 704-358-5042.

## NORTH DAKOTA

► A Georgia company plans to ship waste, including low-grade hazardous material, from General Motors plants around the country to a landfill in North Dakota. Some North Dakota officials are concerned about large amounts of waste

coming into the state, but the state has little control over interstate shipment of waste. State health officials say they do not have an analysis of the material being dumped. The site is permitted for industrial waste, a very broad definition which includes some industrial sludge.

► A Fargo medical waste incinerator has agreed to pay \$25,000 of a \$100,000 fine levied by the North Dakota Health Department for violation of air pollution standards, accepting improper waste and improperly treating ash from the incinerator. State officials say \$75,000 of the fine was suspended on the condition the incinerator provide the state with plans for operating within EPA standards, and more closely monitor the waste it receives. The incinerator has accepted medical waste from as far away as the East Coast. Contact: Dan Gunderson, 218-299-3666, Minnesota Public Radio.

## OHIO

► Critics of one of the world's largest hazardous waste incinerators being built in East Liverpool, Ohio, have complained bitterly that the owners are playing a corporate shell game to hide from the public who really owns the facility. *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reporter T.C. Brown documented about 50 subtle name changes filed with state officials indicating different partners have become involved in the project. This has prompted U.S. EPA to hold up the permitting process. Reprints are available free. Contact T.C. Brown, *The Plain Dealer*, 65 E. State St., Suite 900, Columbus, OH 43215.

► Ohio Citizen Action gained more than 180,000 signatures to place a "chemical labeling right-to-know" initiative on the November 3 ballot. If approved by the voters, it would require a warning label on products containing a significant amount of chemicals that cause cancer and birth defects. A coalition of business, farm and labor groups is waging a multi-million dollar campaign to defeat it. For more information about the issue, contact Ohio Citizen Action, 17 Brickel St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215 or for the opponents point of view, call Brad Ritter with Ohioans for Responsible Health Informa-

tion at 614-224-8114.

## PENNSYLVANIA

► Out-of-state trash is emerging as a major issue. With his executive order restricting trash imports struck down by the courts, Gov. Robert P. Casey is urging Congress to step in. He contends that the waste industry's version of the California gold rush is at hand. Political hyperbole? Perhaps. But the state already has enough landfill capacity to meet its needs for 10 to 15 years. Yet waste-disposal companies are seeking regulatory approval for 20 new or expanded landfills. For information: Susan Woods, Deputy Press Secretary, Governor's Office, 603 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120; 717-783-1116.

► A story in the Philadelphia Daily News by environmental writer Ramona Smith explored the unusual case of Bob Caron, a former on-scene coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency who repeatedly lied about his credentials. As a result, a \$5 million Superfund lawsuit was thrown out of court, and numerous other cleanups that involved Caron are under review. Caron had won praise for his work, which included serving on a federal team that responded to the oil spill during the Persian Gulf war. For information or a copy: Ramona Smith, *Philadelphia Daily News*, 400 N. Broad St., P.O. Box 7788, Philadelphia, PA 19101; 215-854-2860.

► John Murphy, who covers the environmental beat part-time for The *Scranton Times-Tribune*, has written extensively about a \$270 million co-generation plant proposed for the Lackawanna Valley. The plant would burn coal waste, also known as culm, to produce electricity and steam. A recent four-part series described how a similar plant, already operating, has divided the small town of Nesquehoning. For information or a copy: John Murphy, *The Scranton Times-Tribune*, Penn Avenue and Spruce Street, Scranton, PA 18505; 717-348-9133.

## RHODE ISLAND

► The Providence Journal-Bulletin ran a four-part series from Sept. 27 to 30 detailing the consequences when Rhode Island

Manufacturers move to Mexico and open plants. Along with the social, political and economic ramifications, the series also detailed the effects of pollution along the border between Matamoros, Mexico and Brownsville, Texas. Not surprisingly, while companies were happy to discuss why they left Rhode Island, they were not happy at all to find a reporter at the doorstep of their plants in Mexico. For details, contact Toohar at 401-277-7000.

► State government has begun a crack-down on childhood lead poisoning that has included a public awareness program and new regulations that apply to sandblasting of lead-painted surfaces. The result? Homeowners and painting contractors went on a rampage to blast lead paint surfaces on as many homes as possible before the new, more costly procedures took effect. The *Providence Journal-Bulletin* and local television stations told of one family that has installed new soil on their yard, only to see it contaminated when their neighbor had his house sandblasted. For more information contact Bob Wyss, *Journal-Bulletin*, 401-277-7364 or Mary K. Talbot, press spokeswoman for the state Lead Poisoning Awareness Program, 401-277-2371.

► Rhode Island's foremost environmental organization, Save The Bay, announced a campaign in September calling for state and federal agencies to set a much higher standard for cleaning Narragansett Bay. The organization wants the entire bay to meet federal fishing and swimming standards by 2000. State officials said such a goal would be impossible to meet. Contact Curt Spalding, Save the Bay, 401-272-3540.

## TEXAS

► After months of rancorous debate, the Save Our Springs ordinance was approved by Austin voters on August 8. By an almost 2 to 1 margin, voters agreed to restrict the amount of impervious cover that can be constructed in the sensitive Barton Springs watershed. The ordinance has already been challenged in court and will probably go to trial. Limiting development to a maximum of 25% impervious cover, the ordinance is the latest battle in

a fight that began on June 7, 1990, when nearly a thousand Austinites descended on the city council chambers to oppose the development of a large tract of land surrounding the Barton Creek Country Club. The club is the site of the annual Legends of Golf tournament. For more info, contact Robert Bryce at the *Austin Chronicle*, 512-454-5766.

► Complaints of health problems have prompted two oil companies to move their oil storage facilities out of East Austin. The neighborhoods near the tank farm are populated primarily by low-income Hispanics who have complained for many years about nausea and headaches. Coastal States and Chevron both announced that they would be leaving the area. Six companies have been operating gasoline storage facilities in the area for decades. Protests by neighborhood groups and threats of legal action by the county attorney have led to health studies on nearby residents and promises of clean up by the oil companies. For more information, contact Robert Bryce at the *Austin Chronicle*, 512-454-5766.

## UTAH

► A proposed \$11.7 million settlement between Kennecott and the state of Utah for contaminated groundwater was rejected Nov. 3 by Judge J. Thomas Greene. His decision was based on an interpretation of the federal Superfund law's requirements for natural resource damage claims. Kennecott offered the money to compensate the state for groundwater in Salt Lake County that was contaminated by heavy metals and acids from its massive open-pit copper mine. The plume of contaminated water covers at least 40 square miles and threatens several major drinking-water wells. Judge Green said the settlement was deficient in three areas: it failed to demonstrate why the water can't be cleaned up; it failed to ensure the pollution has been stopped and the plume no longer is spreading; and it failed to collect enough money from Kennecott to adequately compensate for the lost water resource. For more information, contact Renette Anderson, spokesperson, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 801-538-6121.

## VERMONT

► Norwich, Vt., with a population of only 3,100 people, could reduce its annual energy usage by nearly 30 percent or \$1 million by implementing currently available conservation measures, according to a *Guide to Town Energy Planning in Vermont*. The 92-page guide was released in September by EarthRight Institute, a non-profit environmental group based in White River Junction, Vt. The guide contains step-by-step advice to help towns to develop energy plans that protect the environment, create local jobs and save town money while reducing their dependence on imported energy sources. The publication notes that more than 80 percent of the energy used in Vermont comes from out-of-state. The \$15 guide is available in print or on computer disk. Vermont already has some of the toughest state environmental laws in the country. Part of the reason for the guide is to help Vermont towns comply with those laws. However, EarthRight Program Director Bob Walker said much of the document is applicable to other U.S. communities. Contact Walker at 802-295-7734.

► The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a multimillion-dollar, 30-year plan to clean up toxic chemicals that have leached into the soils and groundwater beneath International Business Machines' plant in Essex Junction, Vt. IBM would pay for the cleanup. The contamination is the result of two decades of lax handling of solvents and degreasers by IBM. If left unchecked, it's feared the chemicals would find their way into the Winooski River. An EPA risk assessment indicates there is no immediate risk to human health or the environment, because the contamination is located many feet underground in the soils and the groundwater. For more information contact Nancy Bazilchuck at *Burlington Free Press*, 802-863-3441.

## VIRGINIA

► The proliferation of the brown pelican is considered a great environmental success story throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Atlantic coast. Now the pelicans — lumbering dark birds that crash

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## The Green Beat

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headfirst into the water for fish and scoop them up in bucket-sized pouches under their bills — have established three breeding colonies in Virginia this year, the most ever there, the *Daily Press* reported. And a new colony on an island in the Chesapeake Bay — the first ever bay colony — marks the northernmost brown pelican breeding colony on the East Coast. For more information, call *Daily Press* reporter Mark Di Vincenzo at 804-247-4719.

### WASHINGTON

► In the debate over recovery of wild Snake River salmon, ports and hydropower interests are demanding proof that Snake River drawdowns would improve salmon survival. They want it before the Northwest is subjected to the inevitable barging cutbacks and energy losses that come with lowered reservoirs. Conservationists say there's strong evidence that using drawdowns to speed up the river will indeed help the fish. But they can't offer ironclad proof, reports Julie Titone of the *Spokesman-Review* in Spokane. In a kind of hair-pulling, political "Catch-22," there's no way to test the drawdown theory without spending a billion dollars or so to rebuild the dams so fish can get through them at low water levels. The dilemma has bedeviled the Northwest Power Planning Council, which has put off until next fall a decision about whether to support drawdowns. It also worries the National Ma-

rine Fisheries Service team that's writing a recovery plan for endangered Snake River salmon.

► Associated Press reporter Nick Geranios continues coverage of the 560-square mile Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a small portion of which contains the nation's largest collection of radioactive waste. Cleanup efforts there are bogged down in administrative and budget wrangling. The Department of Energy wants to revamp its entire management system for nuke sites, turning cleanup over to outside specialists and away from what the AP staffer calls "gigantic corporations milking the government for every penny they can." Geranios can be reached in Yakima, phone 509-453-1951.

► "Attaining a Sustainable Society" is the theme of a seminar series sponsored this school year by the University of Washington's Institute for Environmental Studies. Said institute director James R. Karr: "Students in our classrooms this year will be profoundly impacted by their retirement by our decisions today because the world population will exceed 10 billion in 45 years." This fall's weekly seminar topics include population, technology, global climate, and rural land uses. Schedules and details are available from the institute, phone 206-543-1812.

► "Hood Canal: Splendor at Risk," a

book based on an award winning series of newspaper articles in *The Sun* (Bremerton), has been named one of the 10 best books published in Washington state during 1991. Booth Gardner selected the book for a "Governor's Award" out of 335 fiction and non-fiction works published during the year. Sun environmental reporter Christopher Dunagan led a team of reporters who examined the inner workings of an endangered ecosystem, including portions of the Olympic Mountains that drain to Hood Canal, a natural fjord. Books are available through any bookstore.

### WYOMING

► Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan decided on Aug. 21 to stop studies of a proposed nuclear waste storage facility in Fremont County. He said the so-called monitored retrievable storage facility was "not in the best long-term interest of Wyoming, its citizens and future generations." Fremont County, located in central Wyoming, had received \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to study the nuclear-waste storage idea. Favorable comments in that first phase of study prompted county officials to apply for an additional \$200,000 in federal study funds. Gov. Sullivan blocked the county's request for second-phase funding. For more information, contact Dennis Curran, spokesperson for Gov. Sullivan, 307-777-7434.

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