

SEJ Journal

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Journalists go back to school

It's academic

Graduate programs offer time for deeper insight

By AMY HANSEN

Most journalists learn more on their first few months on the job than in four years of college, but some are finding that graduate school, fellowships or continuing education are necessary to excel on the highly technical environment and science beats.

Environmental issues are often so complex that reporters cannot easily learn all they need to know on the beat.

For those who can afford the time and expense, masters and graduate certificate programs in environmental reporting can provide the background information they need in a more orderly fashion than the

(Continued on page 7)

One-day workshops can make a big difference

By MARLA CONE

When I got the call from UCLA asking me to help stage a one-day workshop to teach reporters about water issues in California, my first reaction was to laugh. You want to do what? In one day?

After all, this is a state where most people don't even know where their water comes from, and worse yet, don't care. Even after six years of drought, editors still wander over to my desk every time it rains in Southern California to ask the same question: Is the drought over?

I usually launch into my routine about how this is virtually a desert anyway, and the critical factors are snow packs in far-

(Continued on page 5)

Newspapers find readers hungry for more environmental news

By EMILIA ASKARI

It's a little hard to believe more people want to read about the environment than about sports, but that's the finding of a recent Detroit-area survey.

And it's in line with other survey results of the last year or so. Although sports sections are hardly threatened by the trend, gruff newspaper editors who chuckle or yawn when pitched an environmental story may yet be swayed by hard numbers on reader interest.

Late last year, a survey of adults in metropolitan Detroit showed that 91 percent are "somewhat or very interested" in environmental news. The survey has not previously been made public.

Stories about the environment were more compelling than local business/economic news about the Detroit area, about which 81 percent of respondents reported they were somewhat or very interested. Education and local schools rated 85 percent, while listings of places to go and things to do garnered 87 percent.

Just 61 percent of those surveyed reported they were somewhat or very interested in sports stories.

Equal proportions of adults in the Detroit area were interested in environmental news and local news. One percent fewer expressed the same levels of interest in hard news, defined in the survey as

(Continued on page 15)

The Meadows revisit the eco-apocalypse theories

By JIM DETJEN

For many years, Donella and Dennis Meadows declined repeated requests to update their classic environmental book, "The Limits to Growth."

"We kept saying no," said Donella, a SEJ member and a professor at Dartmouth College. "But then we decided the book should be back in print for the Earth Summit."

So, she and her husband convinced Jorgen Randers, one of the book's co-authors, to help them issue a revision. "We thought it would be a quick job," she said. "But as we collected data we were astonished at what it was showing. Things were far worse than we had thought."

The result is their new book, "*Beyond the Limits*," (Chelsea Green Publishing Co., April 1992, \$19.95) which should be required reading for environmental journalists and anyone else interested in the ecological and economic future of the planet.

In their original book, "*The Limits to Growth*," the book's authors analyzed global data with a computer and reached a startling conclusion: If present trends of population growth and industrial development continued unchecked, the world would reach its physical limits within 100 years — followed by ecological and economic collapse.

The book struck a powerful chord that resonated throughout the 1970s. Both damned as alarmist and praised as visionary, it helped define the intellectual debate about global environmental problems. In the process it created an international furor, selling 9 million copies in 29 languages.

Their new book should help renew that lively debate. The co-authors conclude that in a number of ways the planet is already beyond its limits. Certainly, the discovery of a huge hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica has made most people aware that something is dangerously amiss in the world's atmosphere.

But the authors go beyond this, documenting strong evidence of the decline in the world's fisheries, the spread of deserts

in Africa and the drop in per capita income in more than 40 nations during the 1980s.

While their message is bleak, the co-authors are not discouraged. For while environmental conditions have worsened during the past two decades, the public's concern has also skyrocketed. The number of countries with environmental ministries has soared from 10 to more than 100; an international treaty to protect the ozone layer has been adopted and a host of

Report from the society's president



By Jim Detjen

new environmentally sound technologies have been developed.

"I don't think this is a pessimistic book," said Donella, who writes a syndicated column on environmental issues. "The message is not doom — but that there is a choice."

Reminder: SEJ office has new address

The Washington office of SEJ has moved. Effective immediately, the new address is P.O. Box 65493, Washington, D.C. 20035-5493. Inquiries about membership and services should be directed to Amy Gahran, SEJ Records Manager, 370-D Willowbrook Dr., Jeffersonville, PA 19403, (215) 630-9147. Send membership applications to Rae Tyson, USA Today, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209.

The authors say that if ways can be found to limit the world's population to 8 billion (it's 5.5 billion now) it should be possible to design a world in which every family attains roughly the material standards of present-day Europe.

They call for a new ethic of "sufficiency" in which people choose to limit their accumulation of material goods; increased energy efficiency and pollution controls; new ecologically sound tech-

nologies; and dramatic changes in the psychological and political forces that shape our society.

This is an important book. I hope SEJ's members read it and write about it. If you want to reach Donella, give her a call at 603-646-2838.

IRE CONFERENCE — As I mentioned in the last SEJournal, a specially designed series of five seminars on environmental reporting will be featured at Investigative Reports & Editors' national conference June 11 to 14 in Portland, Ore. SEJ helped plan the track of environment panels.

Topics include documenting pollution, covering forest and water issues, land use planning, environmental disasters and finding new ideas for environmental stories. Among the speakers will be Timothy Eagan, the Seattle bureau chief of the New York Times; Eric Nalder of the Seattle Times; Kathie Durbin of the Portland Oregonian; Tom Harris of the Sacramento Bee and Patti Epler of the Tacoma News Tribune in Washington.

The registration fee for the conference, which will be held at the Red Lion Hotel/Janzen Beach, is \$110. For more information call IRE at 314-882-2042.

EXPERIMENTAL CARS — SEJ is co-sponsoring a program with the Washington Area Automotive Journalists Association in July at the National Press Club. SEJ members will have a chance to

learn about and drive some of the experimental electric and energy-efficient cars that Detroit auto makers are developing. For exact details call Rae Tyson, SEJ's vice president, at 703-276-3424.

MINORITY AFFAIRS

— It will come as no great surprise that only a small percent of SEJ's members are African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or members of other minority groups. Our membership reflects the field of environmental journalism — which is largely white. But we are trying to change this. If you have suggestions on how we can attract more minority journalists call Emilia Askari, a member of SEJ's board of directors, at 800-678-6400.

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SEJournal will accept unsolicited manuscripts from members and non-members. Send story ideas, articles, news briefs, tips and letters-to-the-editor to Bowman Cox by fax, (505) 474-0083, or by mail at P.O. Box 23013, Santa Fe, NM 87502-3013, phone (505) 474-0375. Send calendar items to Janet Raloff, Science News, 1719 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. To help with Greenbeat, contact Kevin Carmody at *The Daily Progress*, P.O. Box 9030, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

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Letters to the Editor**Thanks, but radio program is from NPR**

To the Editors:

Many thanks for Tom Meersman's feature on the blossoming of environmental programs on public radio. We know there's a large and growing audience for these programs and it's nice to spread the word among our colleagues on the environmental beat. I would like to make a couple of minor corrections, though, to Tom's segment on *Living on Earth*.

Although LOE is produced at WBUR in Boston, it is a National Public Radio program. As such the program is not so much "rebroadcast" by local stations as it is produced for national distribution by NPR to the network's member stations. Also, although we have commissioned many pieces from WBUR's excellent news staff, our relationship with the station is a production relationship, not an editorial one.

I realize this may sound like hair-splitting to those outside the public radio biz, but the relationship between *Living on Earth* and NPR is one that's important to both of us. Thanks for letting us set the record straight.

Peter Thomson
Producer, *Living on Earth*

Static for radio roundup

To the Editors:

A front-page story in the Winter 1991 SEJournal reported that eight programs now use radio to report on environmental issues. But the report fell short on a statement made in the first sentence: that three years ago, nobody was producing a regular radio program for public radio that focused on the environment.

Three years ago, the sponsors of the Earthwatch/radio program were in their 17th year of turning out five two-minute feature spots on the environment every week, and they were distributing these programs to commercial and noncom-

mercial stations in seven of the eight Great Lakes states, North Dakota, New Mexico and the province of Ontario, and even to a shortwave station in Costa Rica.

This might not seem like the flashiest operation in the world — it's the work of a handful of staff and students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and it's distributed on cassette tapes. But Earthwatch now reaches 130 stations in 16 states (rough estimates of their total listening audience add up to more than three million people) and it fares well under professional review. In 1991, for example, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education awarded it a bronze medal for radio programming (the third such award in five years) and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education singled out Earthwatch for its "excellence in environmental education."

Earthwatch is available to public and commercial radio stations at no charge. Anyone interested? For more information, write to Earthwatch/radio, 1800 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-4094, or call its producers at 608/263-3149 or 608/263-3063.

Sincerely,
Richard Hoops,
Editor, Sea Grant Institute
University of Wisconsin-Madison
and
Steve Pomplun,
Editor, University of Wisconsin-
Madison Institute for Environmental
Studies

SEJ should come to aid of mistreated reporters

To the Editors:

As an SEJ Associate, I wanted to respond to the issues raised by Randy Lee Loftis on environmental reporters being under assault. From my perspective, it should surprise no one that environmental reporters are just as much under assault as reporters who covered the Civil Rights movement in the 1960's, those covering worker safety in the times of Upton

SEJ meeting offers wealth of story possibilities

By EMILIA ASKARI

What do you do when an editor says you can go to SEJ's national convention in Ann Arbor this fall — but only if the trip will produce a story?

You mention something about big-name, keynote speakers. Among those invited to make news and dole out interviews at the Nov. 6-9 convention are Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Reilly; his Canadian counterpart, Environment Minister Jean Charest; author and lawmaker Al Gore; and Cable News Network founder Ted Turner.

Then you talk up the one-day session that the Scientists' Institute for Public Information is planning for Friday, Nov. 6. Experts will discuss the results of recent research with environmental implications.

If all else fails, you whip out this handy list of Michigan story ideas for

environment writers:

CARS — We make them in Detroit, you drive them in your town. They pollute your air, and thousands of engineers here are trying to fix that. They're building cleaner-running cars fueled by natural gas, methanol, electricity. SEJ is trying to arrange test drives for you. Plus a tour of an EPA lab in Ann Arbor that studies mobile pollution sources. In many cities with heavy smog, alternative cars are just a few years down the road.

ZEBRA MUSSELS — These pistachio-sized critters are native to European waters. A few years ago, they hitched a ride in the ballast water of a cargo ship and "invaded" the Great Lakes. Soon they were clogging water intake pipes, encrusting reefs, slurping up all kinds of microscopic plants and clarifying murky water. That's bad news for some species of fish. Can the striped mussels be controlled? Can they be used in bouillabaisse? Better

find out because zebra mussels larvae are floating your way....

RACE AND ENVIRONMENT — Are more pollution sources located in minority neighborhoods? If so, is that only because those neighborhoods are poorer than others? Or is racism a factor? Such questions have recently demanded the attention of high-level EPA officials and leaders of the nation's environmental organizations — thanks in part to a group called the Michigan Coalition. These researchers and community activists met two years ago at the University of Michigan to examine the possible connections between racism and pollution. Leaders of the coalition remain in Michigan, and SEJ is asking them to speak.

CANADA/US TENSIONS — First, Canadians complained that the United States was causing acid rain to fall on its northern neighbor. Now, U.S. officials are turning the tables, asserting that Cana-

Letters to the Editor

Sinclair, or any one of the countless unpopular national or local issues since journalism began.

Like all reporters in the grand tradition of our nation, environmental reporters are exposing issues which the vested economic and political "powers that be" do not want addressed. It is naive to think that environmental reporters are simply doing the job - the craft - of providing balanced information on issues of the day. Yet, this is what those who covered Civil Rights, sweatshops, the union movement, or free speech all must have thought — until they were attacked. Most certainly, they paid the same types of prices for their commitment to an informed public as environmental journalists are paying today.

Will scrupulous adherence to journalistic standards of objectivity fully protect reporters from being fired? Of course they will not. Yet, this is the advice Mr. Loftis offers. What then, is the role of SEJ in this problem? I suggest that more attention be paid to the tradition of journalism in shaping our nation - in challenging the status quo, although objectively and fairly.

Perhaps I am naive in thinking that SEJ could act as an advocate for mis-

treated reporters, publicizing the mistreatment and seeking redress. However, this is what is needed. The alternative is to hold conferences in which industry representatives demonstrate how dioxin is "safe" — and how "environmentalists" are alarmists, faddists, and generally irresponsible people. You run the risk of having tried and true journalistic standards eroded just to ensure that industry's slant is the core of each and every environmental reporter's articles. After all, why rock the boat? The "environment" won't pay your bills.

What, then, are my suggestions? First, I congratulate those reporters who are tackling the tough environmental issues our nation faces. There will be casualties, however, so decide whether you want to remain on the environmental beat or cover something safer.

Second, practice objective journalism but always know that you are reporting on controversial social issues and that makes you "muckrakers" by definition. Do not assume that all you need to do is quote industry, government and orthodox scientific sources and your job will be safe. Those implicated in the stories you

write don't want fairness — they want to be allowed to operate in anonymity.

Third, don't become isolated from your peers. Use SEJ as a base from which to draw support and "clout." Do not allow SEJ to become a vehicle for co-opting journalists with pseudosciences, like risk assessment, and infant sciences which provide global reassurances based on no scientific data. Remember, for those who are being harmed by chemical and other contamination, the environment is a civil rights issue — not just a place to go on vacation. If you ignore their plight, you are a part of the problem. If you must resolve all uncertainty with explicit or tacit presumptions of safety, like EPA does, then find another line of work.

Fourth, with the tremendously important global, ethical and health issues you cover, our nation can not afford for environmental reporters to be silenced. The key to social change is in the media. We need you and we admire your courage and skill. Just keep your resumes updated and stick together.

Sincerely,
Earon S. Davis, J.D., M.P.H.
Evanston, Ill.

dian water pollution laws are much weaker than the United State's. This is a hot topic in the Great Lakes area — and potentially all along the U.S.-Canada border.

INCINERATOR — Detroit has one of the largest trash-to-energy burners in the country. It's having trouble meeting mercury emissions standards. As a result, state regulators insist that additional pollution control devices must be installed. Meanwhile, the city is selling the incinerator for a loss. If your community is considering building one of these, take a look at Detroit's. SEJ is thinking of setting up a tour.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE — This plan to standardize water discharge regulations among all eight Great Lakes states is controversial. Some business leaders say the new, proposed standards are too strict and will cost too much. Environmentalists disagree. Nevertheless, EPA officials point to the initiative as an example of the regional approach that agency wants to take to combatting pollution in other areas. Like Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Learn all about it.

MICHIGANIA — There's always a travel story about Michigan, the only state that borders four of the five Great Lakes. It's got an industrial image, but most of Michigan is rustic and pretty. Biking, canoeing and fishing are all popular activities in the fall. Not to mention leaf-viewing and horseback riding. And cider-sipping (there's a nice, old mill near Ann Arbor, along the Huron River). And walking in the famous sand dunes along Lake Michigan's shores (a long afternoon's drive away).

MOTOWN — You might also consider doing a travel story about Detroit. The gritty home of Rosa Parks (yes, she's still alive), the Motown Museum (the record label has moved west but the memories haven't), Henry Ford's Greenfield Village Museum (see the glass jar containing Edison's last breath), Tiger Stadium (visit this venerable field before it's replaced), an auto baron's mansion turned Hare Krishna enclave/vegetarian restaurant (good sweets), a decent art museum (don't miss the likeness of Edsel Ford in a corner of the Diego Rivera mural), plus a host of ethnic neighborhoods. Learn a new meaning for the word "pastie."

Workshops... (from page 1)

away mountains and runoff in reservoirs 500 miles away. But editors can't seem to grasp that concept.

So, lately, I answer with one word: No.

Water in the West is such a vital but arcane topic, and after years of environmental writing in Southern California, it is difficult to stay patient when explaining it. I thought about all this as I discussed the symposium idea with the head of UCLA's journalism extension program.

Mitchel Benson of the San Jose Mercury News had the same reaction. We had both covered water quantity and quality issues for years, I from the perspective of the South, he from the North. For years, the two sides had waged a bitter war over the subject.

Mitchel and I knew it would be a challenge to put on a meaningful program, but we decided it was worth a try. Even if we can't teach them everything, we can at least get them thinking. The topic is so important and so newsworthy, yet so confusing, that all reporters, including veterans like us, needed help.

UCLA's idea is a good one — jam-packed sessions to help California reporters, general assignment ones as well as veteran specialists, understand top environmental issues in the news. Given the paucity of educational opportunities in environmental journalism, UCLA was trying to fill a huge void.

A year earlier, Mitchel and I helped UCLA put on a similar one-day workshop for reporters on toxic waste, mainly regarding the disposal options and health risks. It was another tricky topic, full of pitfalls for reporters.

In coordinating the day's panels and speakers, we approached it from this perspective: You're a general assignment reporter and it's 3 p.m. on a Friday when you discover that something called trichloroethylene is found in a city well. Or an editor says "There's something called the delta smelt that was named an endangered species. What the hell is that?"

Our mission was to give them the basic tools. What are the key issues and who are the main players and their agendas? Are there neutral sources? What are

the traps to avoid in reporting on them? And how do you report all this on deadline, in 25 inches or less?

About 60 people attended the toxics symposium in 1990, about 40 were at the water one earlier this month. The cost was kept low, around \$50, and both drew diverse crowds of beginning journalists, veteran reporters and others.

The symposium has become an annual event at UCLA (as long as funding continues). The approach is a great idea, one I strongly recommend to SEJ, press clubs or even in-house at large newspapers. But here are some rules of thumb.

Find speakers who are lively. If someone is the world's leading expert on the impact of water projects on delta smelt yet doesn't have a flair for explaining it or is afraid to voice opinions, forget it. What good is the message if no one is listening? You can probably find someone almost as knowledgeable but more lively.

Try to get a keynote speaker who is in the news. That way reporters can justify the investment to their editors not just as an educational opportunity but as actual coverage of an event.

Put reporters on each of your panels. They have a wealth of insight, especially when they talk about the mistakes they've made, and the audience seems to learn from their experiences.

Make sure the speakers remember they are talking to journalists, not bureaucrats, so they should remember to give the audience some story ideas and hints in coverage, as well as a critique of previous news stories.

Make sure you balance all points of view. From experience, I know the audience will let you know if you didn't.

As we told the audience at the end of the water symposium, the sessions probably raised more questions than they answered. Everyone looked a bit bewildered but that's good. It got them and us thinking, and maybe we'll all find some answers before that Friday afternoon when we must become instant experts on the delta smelt.

Marla Cone writes about the environment for the Los Angeles Times.

SEJournal Interview: Donella Meadows

Interview by ADAM GLENN

Donella Meadows is a veteran journalist, teacher and environmental scientist who came to wide public notice 20 years ago as co-author of "The Limits of Growth." Meadows has completed an update of the book, "Beyond the Limits," published in April. Now an adjunct professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College, where she teaches a course in environmental journalism, Meadows writes a syndicated weekly column on the environment.

SEJOURNAL: *What kind of students are you seeing entering this area?*

MEADOWS: These are not necessarily students who are going to be journalists. They're usually in environmental studies. But quite a few of them do turn out to be writers or journalists of one sort or another. By the time I get them as seniors, they are zealots. I don't try to shape their choices in that way. I work with them to write clear honest stuff. What we work on is journalistic writing, how to make it clear, how to write a good lead, et cetera. I get them to try a lot of different things. We even write poetry sometimes. I try to get them to be flexible and to match the message and the medium. I try to give them a lot of arrows in their quiver.

SEJOURNAL: *You said your students come in as zealots? How does that fit in with the idea of "objective journalism"?*

MEADOWS: I have to calm them down on that. We talk a lot about it case-by-case, primarily about how to get at and write the closest to the truth we can come. For instance, I force them to interview the other side, if there is another side. It doesn't occur to them to do that. On the other hand, if one side is truly not credible or biased by personal associations, I have them in some way expose that these are not two equal sides. I'm as stuck on this as anybody and what I try to do is plunge them in the dilemma case-by-case and keep them as honest and comprehensive as they can be. One place where I do take a stand is I pretty much say there's no such thing as an unbiased observer. What you have to recognize is your bias and recognize the source of your bias, the reasons for your bias and work through, article by

article, what to do about it.

SEJOURNAL: *What do you tell your students about the frustrations of journalism, particularly related to covering the environment?*

MEADOWS: I certainly express my faith in that process and I say I chose to do this in spite of the frustration. We don't do a lot of high theory. We use specific cases. Recently in class, one of my students wrote an expose of the treatment of chemicals in the Dartmouth art department and she did a very good investigative, journalistic job of it and now she's afraid to publish in the campus newspaper because she's an art major. It was a perfect example. But I try to get them to come up with answers. I don't tell them what to do.

SEJOURNAL: *Are the frustrations more acute on the environment beat than on others?*

MEADOWS: Yes, because the environment, if you really get to it, is a more deeply subversive subject to the established order. It's not perceived as such. It is such. For example, every time I write a syndicated column that really critiques market economics, it just doesn't get published. You just can't question, at its roots the market system, and you have to if you're an environmentalist. You have to say, 'So, the GNP went up, so what? Was that really good or not?' I don't think it's subversive at all in the knee-jerk sense that my editors do. But I think it is in a more subtle and deeper sense.

SEJOURNAL: *Working with these students, what is lacking? And on the positive side, what hope does this next generation of environmental journalists give you?*

MEADOWS: What's lacking in them is that they've unfortunately been trained to do academic writing. They don't know how to write straight. They write with all this academic filler, so they need to be straightened out greatly. And through the environmental movement, they've been made quite doctrinaire, environmentally correct. They can laugh at that and see that. But they're not very generous toward other points of view. They're in the "right wrongs" mode, so they need to be made to listen with generosity and openness to people who honestly feel differently than

they do about things.

SEJOURNAL: *How important is it for journalists and for students coming into this to know the sciences?*

MEADOWS: Scientific training is good just in order to speak science and to have a sense for validity versus non-validity. But I don't think you need a PhD to learn that. A lot of my students are science majors and many of them are not and I have them work on educating each other. I tell them they ought to learn as much science as they can, I don't care how they learn it. I want them to know how to learn.

SEJOURNAL: *If you were to design an ideal program to turn out environmental journalists, what do you think would be the major components?*

MEADOWS: If I were to design a school for environmental journalists and didn't have to fit any current stupid academic criteria, I believe in learning by doing and by case studies. So I would have people going out and doing journalism. The one thing that's missing from learning on the job is the time and the chance to get honest feedback and to sit and reflect about what you've done. You don't really get that time when you're out there working, so some combination of the advantages of the academia and the advantages of the on-the-job training. Also, to be edited by really great editors who take the time to tell you why they've made the changes they've made, which on the job you rarely find out. And the time to be able to bat about an idea with a good writer so that writer can help you focus it. That's the sort of thing we can do in class that you wouldn't have time to do on daily deadline on a newspaper. And to sit back and read great examples and talk about why they're great. As I think about some of the working reporters I know, I think they maybe do need a good course in environmental science or a particular subset, like toxicology. It could be that they need the time to get that foundation, and maybe economics too. I'm asking all these questions myself. I want to change the world. The world needs changing and quickly. And the words are the instrument that God put in my hands.

Adam Glenn is an editor at Greenwire.

SEJ introduces mentoring program to share resources

By **AMY GAHRAN**

When I started as SEJ's records manager back in 1991, the first thing that struck me about this organization was the wealth of knowledge, resources and experience our members could share with each other if only there was a system through which they could make known what they need and what they could offer.

The second thing that struck me was: "Wow. What a job it's going to be to gather that much information and organize that kind of network."

Keep in mind, that was when the SEJ membership was hovering around 400. A year later, we're up to 713.

I was right, gathering so much information is a cumbersome task, but it's worth it. I'm glad to report that the SEJ now has a fledgling system in place for sharing professional experience.

The system is called mentoring. And it is my hope that the SEJ mentoring program will allow members to guide one another through the many mazes presented by environmental reporting.

During the past year members often have called me with such questions as, "How can I find out what to look for in tracing land ownership records of a Superfund site?" Or, "How do I contact members who cover the same industries I do in other states or countries?"

So far, I've only been able to offer limited answers to these questions. This is because the only information I have for most members comes from the application, which asks only the bare necessities for determining eligibility. Some members have also submitted sporadic addi-

tional information such as clips, resumes, and letters, which are interesting and useful but do not present information in a manner that can be readily categorized or referenced.

To gather useful, uniform information on the experience and expertise of all SEJ members, in March I mailed out a questionnaire that you should have received by now. If you haven't already done so, please complete this questionnaire carefully and return it to me at 370-D Willowbrook Dr., Jeffersonville, PA 19403.

This applies regardless of whether you're interested in mentoring or not, because the questionnaire is the only way I have of updating your record in the computerized SEJ database. If you need to have another questionnaire sent to you, please call me at (215) 630-9147.

Here are some points you should know about the mentoring program:

The mentoring program is not a freelance writing or job referral service. Rather, it is a means to share professional experience. This means that I cannot help members seeking buyers for freelance articles, because I do not have information on the freelance policies of all publications for which SEJ members work. However, I probably can help members who want to contact other members for advice on the best ways to get the best information on unfamiliar topics or regions, or who want to network with other members who cover the same environmental issues.

The mentoring service is not a deadline lead service. Since I also am a full-

time reporter, I am not always available to provide immediate contacts with experts. Members requesting mentoring should allow from three to seven days for a response.

I will only supply names and phone numbers of members who have noted on the questionnaire that they want to be put in contact with other members. If I believe a member who has not returned the questionnaire would be a likely candidate to answer another member's questions, I will first contact the potential mentor before releasing a name or phone number.

Although we do not yet have local chapters, the mentoring service is one way you can find out about other SEJ members in your city or region.

To request mentoring, write me or call me, days, evenings, or weekends. You'll probably get my answering machine if you call during the week, but that's because my phone at my reporting job is always busy. I return calls promptly, so leave a detailed message describing your needs. It's helpful to leave day and evening phone numbers, since I often have to return SEJ calls after work.

The mentoring program will take time to develop, and I ask everyone's cooperation, assistance, and patience as I try to work out the kinks. How useful this service will be depends entirely upon how many members return their questionnaires, and how quickly they do so. Judging by the willingness to help that I've observed in most members, I have a feeling this will be a lot, and soon.

Amy Gahrn is records manager for SEJ.

Education... (from page 1)

off-the-cuff learning that happens while covering a story.

The most important thing such training can do is to help reporters learn the interconnections between problems and solutions, and between one set of problems and another. Knowing these linkages is crucial to getting away from crisis-of-the-week reporting and putting stories into a bigger perspective.

This view was echoed by most of the 11 journalists I interviewed as part of a

recent master's project. Among other things, I asked how daily news could better cover long-term environmental issues. The most common answer: "Show the connections."

Getting a masters degree or a certificate in environmental reporting will not do everything. There is never enough time to take all the courses offered or study all the issues. But good programs do provide a place to get a grounding in the basics before addressing the complex and as a

place to look at the big picture before reporting on pieces of the puzzle.

The list below is of graduate level environmental writing programs. But you do not need to limit yourself. There are also numerous masters programs for science journalism, many of which may welcome environmental writers. A large number of these programs are described in a 54-page booklet put together by Sharon Dunwoody and Jocelyn Steinke of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (send

\$8 for the "Directory of Science Communication Courses and Programs in the United States" to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706).

In addition, there are a fair number of shorter environmental programs, such as the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory Science Writers Seminar, which offers an intensive summer program of hands-on lab work (Call Pamela Clapp at 508-548-3705, ext. 276).

Other intensive science and ecology courses exist whether or not they are for journalists and whether or not they are for a degree or certificate. For my money, those courses are worth more to a working journalist than a masters in specialized writing, since the issue is not always learning how to write better, but getting the basic ecology, botany and chemistry down.

Among the environmental journalism programs:

- New York University has a science and environment program, which was started by Director William Burrows after the Three Mile Island incident. "Burrows was concerned that very few of the reporters knew how a nuclear reactor worked," explained NYU's Stephen Solomon. The program's goal is to teach complex science and technology issues during a year-and-a-half masters program (Contact Burrows at 212-998-7970).

- The University of Michigan's new Ted Scripps Environmental Journalism Fellows Program, a joint venture between U-M's journalism program and the School of Natural Resources, also has as its goal more sophisticated writers. "These are young journalists who don't know much about science and policy issues but are being asked to cover them as if they did," says Jon Friendly (at 313-763-0445).

- The University of Florida's Mass Communication department offers an MA in environmental communication. (Contact JoAnn Myer Valenti at 904-392-4077).

- Boston University has an MS program in science, medicine and environmental reporting. The three-semester program includes work for newspapers, magazines and television. (Contact directors Douglas Starr and Ellen Ruppel Shell at 617-353-3450).

- Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism has an MS program on health/science/environment writing and reporting. The degree includes four courses, one of which is a two-semester masters project. (Contact Kenneth Goldstein at 212-854-4718 or 4150).

- Ohio State University School of Natural Resources offers an MS in environmental communications (Contact Rosanne Fortner at 614-292-9862 or call OSU at 614-292-2265).

- University of Wisconsin-Madison offers an MS in agricultural journalism, which includes courses in natural resources writing. (Contact Marion Brown at 608-262-1464).

- Among writing fellowship programs available for the sciences and the environment are the Knight Fellowships at Stanford University (415-723-4937) and Knight Science Journalism Fellowships at MIT (617-253-2336; the Neiman Fellowships at Harvard University (617-495-2237); the Alicia Patterson Fellowship program (202-393-5995), and the Gannett Center Residential Fellowships (212-280-8392).

Among programs now in development:

- The University of Colorado at Boulder is working on a center for environmental journalism. While still in its early stages, the center will have the resources available for reporters to research topics for a semester at a time (Contact Michael Tracey at 303-492-0445).

- West Virginia University has plans for an MSJ program in journalism, environment and energy. Associate Dean Ivan Pinnell said he has started teaching a summer seminar that will become part of the graduate program, which is expected to begin admitting students in the summer of 1993 (Contact Pinnell at 304-293-3505).

- The University of New Hampshire has plans for an intensive summer workshop on global change, however the program is still awaiting funding (Contact Robert Harriss at 603-862-1792).

Amy Hansen recently completed a dual masters program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, combining degrees from the School of Natural Resources and the university's journalism department.

Science Angles

By STEVE NASH

A review of story ideas and highlights from scientific journals.

They will be making speeches, and maybe some deals, about protecting biological diversity this June at the mammoth U.N. environmental conference in Rio. But as my Uncle Lester can tell you, biodiversity is just rainforests and rare cockroaches. It seems remote to him, and to most of your readers.

Enter the local angle: your zoo. More Americans reportedly visit zoos and aquariums than attend pro football games. Most of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums' 160 member zoos in the U.S. and Canada have research and captive-breeding projects under way to protect endangered species, from white rhinos to Polynesian snails. Karen Asis of AAZPA (301-907-7777) can tell you what and where.

Angles:

- The sinking Ark — Most zoos are supported by city or county budgets as well as private funds, a couple by state governments. Zoos are small, vulnerable, still seen as entertainment rather than critical science. Budget crunches are ubiquitous — how are they affecting your zoo's research and breeding efforts?

- Biotechnology — test-tube tigers, cryogenic gene banks, etc. Not far off: tranquilize a wild African lion, employ an electro-ejaculator, freeze the semen on the spot, use it to impregnate a female lion at a U.S. zoo. *Zoobiology* and a new series of symposia published by the AAZPA showcase the latest research projects.

- Don't let the gee-whiz science lead readers astray, however. Wildlife conservationists worry that zoos may be looked upon as a viable, cheap panacea, an alternative to protecting rare species in the wild. See *Bioscience*, May 15, 1988, for an overview by Jeffrey Cohn, to whom I am indebted for much of the material in this column.

- Some critics say zoo energies are directed too much toward aiding "charismatic species" — fuzzy, majestic, totemic — at the expense of other endangered

(Continued on page 12)

On the road to Rio Why covering the Earth Summit is the opportunity of a career

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Covering the Earth Summit should be regarded as the chance of a professional lifetime for any environmental journalist who has the opportunity to go to Brazil in June.

Anyone who has spent time on the beat quickly learns that it is about a lot more than smokestacks, chemicals, and cuddly endangered species.

Our beat is as broad as they come. The range of issues we must follow embraces not only science and governmental regulation but politics, economics, the law, national security, international diplomacy, ethics, equity and social justice.

All of these disciplines will come together at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro from June 3-14. Virtually every issue that involves the protection of the air, land and water, and of human and non-human life, is on the conference agenda. The political, economic and social ramifications of those issues will be out on the table and under intense scrutiny. Experts, activists, policy makers and political leaders from all over the world will be gathered together and many of them will be easily accessible for reporters.

It will be a journalistic feast.

It will also be something of a circus, of course. It could hardly be anything else with as many as 100 heads of state coming to the same city, all puffing out their chests to impress the folks back home. Add to them the 30,000 or more members of environmental, citizens', women's and indigenous peoples' groups that will descend on Rio, and the circus expands to three rings. And that is not even counting the official country delegations. The United States has reserved an entire hotel, with more than 200 rooms, to house its delegation to the Earth Summit. The press gang will also be sizable.

But the circus atmosphere will not obscure the big stories that are likely to emerge from the Earth Summit. The stakes involved in the success or failure of Rio are high. Even an ambiguous or inconclusive outcome of the conference will have

far-reaching implications — not only for the global environment but for relations among nations in the coming years.

The obvious stories — what decisions are made on the global warming and biodiversity treaties, an agreement to save forests, an Earth Charter and an Agenda 21 for the nations of the world to follow to achieve sustainable development — will be no less important for being obvious.

The circus atmosphere will not obscure the big stories that are likely to emerge from the Earth Summit. The stakes involved in the success or failure of Rio are high.

Many other products of the meeting could make a substantial impact on the physical world, including agreements on protecting oceans and sources of fresh water, pesticide trade and use, formulas for dealing with trans-boundary pollution, stopping the spread of deserts. Things that the conference probably will NOT do, notably taking a firm stand on stabilizing the global population, will also be news.

For U.S. reporters, the summit will provide at least one good electoral politics story. The summit starts one day before the California primary. One big question is how President Bush and the Democratic candidates will use the summit? But the Earth Summit story goes well beyond current politics or even grave issues such as the greenhouse effect. The conference can be viewed as the first major effort by the international community to establish a new system of collective security to replace the armed bipolarity that dominated geopolitics for nearly half a century.

There is a widening consensus that North-South tensions, growing resources scarcities, and the deterioration of the global commons will be major threats to peace and security in the coming decades.

These are the basic issues that will be addressed in Rio.

For starters, UNCED will be a trial run of the long-overdue and badly-need reform of the United Nations system. There is now broad agreement that the UN is ripe for restructuring to make it responsive to

the realities of the post-Cold War era. The Earth Summit will give a foretaste of the international community's willingness and ability to make the UN a more effective instrument of global stability.

The summit could also lead to major changes in the role of the World Bank and other elements of the Bretton Woods system. The summit could help revitalize the system and make it more responsive to the needs of the developing countries. It could also help redefine and re-channel official development assistance, an issue of major contention between the industrialized North and the industrializing or non-industrialized countries of the South.

North-South relations could be affected for decades by the results coming out of Rio. The poorer countries are using the conference to press for a major overhaul of global economic relationships. They are seeking debt forgiveness, more favorable terms of trade, and substantial compensation for adopting environmentally-sustainable growth strategies. They are also insisting that the rich countries of the world reduce their consumption of energy and other resources and share them more equitably. Depending on the outcome, the summit could ease North-South tensions or inflame them.

The conference will also tell much about the future global leadership of the United States. The U.S. is now more or less unchallenged as the world's pre-eminent military power. But international leadership and prestige, like national security, now depends on far more than strength of arms.

So far, the U.S. has not exercised leadership on the road to Rio. In fact, its negotiation posture on global warming and financial resources for developing countries has been regarded as a road-block. A major summit story, therefore, will be how its outcome affects America's standing in the community of nations.

Phil Shabecoff is executive publisher of Greenwire, an on-line environmental news service. He previously covered the environment beat for the New York Times for 14 years. He will be in Rio.

SIPI offers experts for reporters in Rio

The Scientists' Institute for Public Information is offering a free resource to reporters covering the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Those in Brazil who can't find an independent expert to quote can call SIPI's international hotline at 000-811-930-5590. Elsewhere, journalists can call the hotline by reversing charges, faxing their inquiries or calling their U.S. bureaus. In the U.S., reporters can always find experts by calling SIPI's Media Resource Service at 800-223-1730, or by faxing 212-599-6432.

Rauschenberg paints Earth Summit image

By JIM DETJEN

Journalists use words to express their thoughts and feelings about environmental issues. But artists — such as Robert Rauschenberg — also use their talents and media to communicate about ecological issues.

Rauschenberg, one of the United States' best-known modern artists, created the painting that will greet visitors to the main conference room of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Using green, orange, red and black colors painted in a vivid design, Rauschenberg has expressed his feelings. At the top of the painting are the words of the Earth pledge: "I pledge to help make the Earth a secure and hospitable home for present and future generations."

Ted Kheel, the prominent New York City attorney who represents Rauschenberg, said the artist has always had a strong interest in environmental causes and decided he wanted to lend his talents to the Earth Summit. So, he designed the painting that is already being widely reproduced on posters, postcards, prints — and even the sides of buses.

When the Earth Summit is over, Kheel said that Rauschenberg plans to give his original painting to the United Nations. "That painting will be worth \$1 million or more," Kheel said.

Sacramento Bee put resources into Pulitzer Prize-winning projects

By TOM HARRIS

It's not every year that an aggressive regional paper (circulation 300,000-plus) pulls off a double coup in the Pulitzers, one of them the coveted Gold Medal for community service, the other for beat reporting.

It is rarer still when one of those is won by an environment writer and the other by the science writer.

Obviously, both Tom Knudson's "Sierra In Peril" and Deborah Blum's "Monkey Wars" were exceptional journalistic works. Unless you've seen them (and you should) you wouldn't know that they also are part of the Sacramento Bee's long-time commitment to multi-story series, what others have termed, for want of a better term, project journalism.

That penchant for taking on major projects in a big-league way — allowing people the time and giving them the money to do the job right — is a hallmark of the Bee, and has been, for a very long time. More than any other factor, it is what brought me here in 1984 from the San Jose Mercury after 16 years of environment writing and only one out-of-state assignment.

In the intervening eight years, I have done six major projects: starting with a national piece on hazardous waste problems at military bases, two West-wide series on selenium, another major state series on "Trouble in Paradise," dealing with growth-driven impacts on a wide range of environmental issues in California; one on public health threats from rice straw field burning and one on coastal protection.

On the average, those projects took about five months each to complete, put me in the field for research and investigation for one to two months and carried budgets ranging from a few thousand dollars to tens of thousands. Three involved costly and demanding sampling of everything from traces of selenium in wildlife and supermarket foods to the silica content in ambient air samples when farmers were torching their rice stubble.

And my experience is not that unique, here. Others have been given similar long-

leash treatment on a wide range of other issues, from migrant workers to weapons of war, education, killing diseases, logging and the death of a major river system.

Many of those projects attracted major national awards and brought solid opportunities for advancement to some of the nation's largest papers. But with a single exception, the authors stayed put.

Why?

My answer is simpler than most. It starts with the identity of the paper, its gut history. Thankfully, the McClatchy family has cared deeply about these issues for decades. They have hired the kinds of editors who understand and are loyal to that interest and concern and who provide to their reporters the kind of time, money and support needed to do the job.

My own observation is that regional papers seem to have a better understanding of the importance of field work to environmental stories. They know that the action is out there in the marshes, the mountains, the research labs and the rivers. And they cut their people loose more often than their big-time counterparts to go where that action is rather than concentrating on the rhetoric and politics of the environment at conferences and Congress.

There are notable exceptions, of course, as at the Philadelphia Inquirer where Jim Detjen has been freed up to do a long list of impressive award-winning environmental projects. But, for the most part, the country's best field work — the place where legitimate environmental explanatory journalism gets done — is happening at the regional level.

I am not making a case for advocacy journalism when I say that much of the impetus for this kind of newspapering comes from a desire to frame and set the agenda rather than respond to or chase those set by politicians or powerful vested interests. I may be old fashioned, but I don't believe the environment is different from any other issues we cover. It needs our very most insightful reporting but NONE of our advocacy.

All of the very best explaining and detailing we can provide — the compel-

(Continued on next page)

Environmental reporting scores in contests

The Sacramento Bee won two Pulitzer Prizes for environment and science writing, while the Kansas City Star won the national reporting award for a series on the U.S. Department of Agriculture that included a critical look at its stewardship of public lands.

The Bee's awards included the Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service, won for environment writer Tom Knudson's "The Sierra in Peril" series that detailed the environmental threats to the Sierra Nevada region; and the Beat Reporting prize for Deborah Blum's "The Monkey Wars," a series exploring the complex ethical and moral questions surrounding primate research.

The Star's environment writer, Mike Mansur, teamed with lead investigative reporters Jeff Taylor and Mike McGraw to critically examine the USDA's bureaucratic inertia and mismanagement, including problems with the U.S. Forest Service's land management practices.

It was the first time since 1990 that a Pulitzer was awarded for reporting on an environmental subject.

Here are the environmental-related reports that won awards in the major journalism contests announced thus far:

PULITZER PRIZES

- **Gold Medal for Public Service** — The Sacramento Bee, reporter Tom Knudson, for "Sierra in Peril."

- **National Reporting** — The Kansas City Star, reporters Jeff Taylor, Mike McGraw, Mike Mansur and other staff members, for critical examination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **Beat Reporting** — The Sacramento Bee, reporter Deborah Blum, for "The Monkey Wars."

- **Finalist** — The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune, reporters James O'Byrne and Mark Schleifstein and G. Andrew Boyd for their 56 pages of stories, photos and graphics detailing Louisiana's environmental problems. The project capped a 15-month investigation by O'Byrne and Schleifstein.

SIGMA DELTA CHI AWARDS

- **Public Service in Magazine Journalism** — Steve Waldman of Newsweek for his story on lead poisoning and its effects on children.

- **Non-Deadline Reporting** — The Kansas City Star for USDA series.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS AWARDS

- **Small Market Television** — WSTM-TV, Syracuse, reporter Jim Kenyon for investigative reports on fraud by waste haulers, prompting probe by federal and state authorities.

THOMAS STOKES AWARD

- **Winner** — San Jose Mercury News and reporters Pete Carey, Christopher Schmitt and Scott Thurm for the series "California's Toxic Sieve." The three analyzed 600,000 hazardous waste shipments for 1989, finding that California lost track of some 400,000 tons of waste that year alone.

HONORABLE MENTION:

- Eric Nalder of the Seattle Times for series exposing the bungling of efforts to develop taxol, a promising cancer drug extracted from the bark of the Pacific yew tree.

- Bill Lambrecht of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for series describing how federal agencies have allowed American Indian reservations to become dumping grounds for hazardous and medical wastes and toxic chemicals.

SCRIPPS HOWARD — MEEMAN AWARD

- **Circulation Above 100,000** — The Times-Picayune for previously described package.

- **Finalists** — The (Quincy, Mass.) Patriot Ledger and The New York Times.

- **Circulation Below 100,000** — The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal, editorial editor Margaret Downey and editorial writer Mary Beth Pfeiffer for series of editorials effectively advocating environmental protection measures in the Hudson River Valley. The Journal series led to an ambitious new state program to answer environmental challenges.

- **Finalists** — The (Bremerton, Wash.) Sun and Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS AWARD

- **Second Place** — Chris Scanlan of Knight-Ridder Newspapers for his reports on U.S. firms exporting hazardous products to other nations.

Bee... (from previous page)

ling and fair writing, the creative graphics, the telling photographs — will give readers the foundation for the understanding they need and deserve. It also will give them a perspective for informed action, the bulwark of any successful democracy.

So, to all my treasured regional colleagues who are "outstanding in their field," stay there. Avoid, whenever pos-

sible, the smoke-filled offices, legislative hearing rooms and lobbyist's luncheons. Stay out in the trenches, in the ravaged forests and polluted rivers and unguarded coastlines.

That's where the action is, where the real environmental stories are.

Those interested in taking the pulse of these two Pulitzer winners — "Majesty

& Tragedy: The Sierra in Peril," and "The Monkey Wars" — can obtain reprints of them by sending \$1 (for each) for shipping and handling to: Reprints, Metro Desk, The Sacramento Bee, PO Box 15779, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Tom Harris is the senior environmental reporter for The Sacramento Bee.

Reporters granted access to meeting

EPA capitulates under threat of legal action

By GWEN MOULTON
and SARA THURIN

The Justice Department recently opened an EPA meeting to reporters after journalist Mark Hendrickson threatened legal action.

Some 200 people had been invited to the meeting, held Feb. 26-27, to discuss the fate of a far-reaching hazardous waste rule remanded to EPA by a federal court.

Representatives of industry, environmental groups, states and congressional staff were invited to attend, but the meeting was not publicly announced.

Hendrickson, who writes for McGraw-Hill's weekly trade newsletter Hazardous Waste Business, was prepared to file a lawsuit against EPA if the agency failed to open the meeting to reporters. He had planned to seek a temporary restraining order to enjoin EPA from preventing the press from attending the meetings.

EPA "stonewalled for three days" about press access, Hendrickson said. Early in the morning of the first day's session, when he had planned to file suit in a U.S. District Court, the Justice Department contacted Hendrickson to advise him the meeting would be open.

Eric Glitzenstein, who represented Hendrickson, called the EPA attempt to keep the meeting closed "violative of both federal and Constitutional law." Glitzenstein, an attorney with Harmon, Curran, Gallagher & Spielberg, specializes in federal "sunshine" laws such as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, under which the case would have been brought.

Hendrickson said he retained a private attorney because he thought in-house McGraw-Hill attorneys would not have been able to assist him in the limited time frame involved.

Billion-Dollar Rules

The battle over the proposed hazardous waste rule will affect billions of dollars in business, Hendrickson said.

In December 1991, a federal appeals court struck down the mixture and derived from rules under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The court rejected the 1980 RCRA rules that re-

quired all mixtures of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes to be treated as hazardous wastes, regardless of the amount of hazardous waste present in the mixture (*Shell Oil Co. v. EPA*, CA DC. No. 80-1532, 12/6/91).

EPA Feb. 18 reinstated the rules on a temporary basis and began the process of developing alternatives to the rules. The new rules may set concentration standards to determine when wastes would be considered hazardous.

"The purpose of the meeting is to provide a public forum in which interested parties can share their opinions about these issues," according to EPA's letter of invitation to the meeting. EPA said it would present several regulatory options and solicit feedback from those in attendance.

Hendrickson said an EPA attorney explained to him days before the meeting that the agency was justified in barring reporters because under the Federal Advisory Committee Act the agency viewed the meeting as "fact-finding" only, rather than being aimed at achieving a consensus of the attendees.

EPA Press Office Staff Sympathetic

Although staff in EPA's press office were sympathetic to Hendrickson's complaint, an EPA press official explained that agency staff are bound to the agency's attorneys' interpretation of the public access laws.

"The communications people are very eager to open up meetings," David Cohen, special assistant to EPA Administrator William Reilly for press issues, said March 20. "We had weighed in on Mark's side," the 12-year press office veteran said.

"I have met with the general counsel on this issue. Under the applicable laws, meetings such as the one described are construed as not public," explained Cohen, a former EPA press office director.

Remedies for gaining more access to EPA meetings, Cohen said, include a favorable court ruling; a willingness to hold open meetings by EPA program offices; or a change of position by EPA's general counsel.

"As long as [the General Counsel's office] sticks by its interpretation of FACA, my hands are going to be tied," he said. "I wouldn't personally mind seeing some type of ruling as a result of a lawsuit. I personally would be sad if the result confirmed the General Counsel's position."

Cohen said the issue of access has been raised before.

"The symptoms seem to be the same. The meetings include outside people [non-EPA], hill staff and others. It always seems to be trade reporters who want to attend the meetings," Cohen explained.

Historically, agency officials argue that a full discussion can occur only if meetings are closed, he said. They are concerned about the presence of press having a "chilling effect on constructive negotiation," he said.

"I have watched this agency long enough ... I think public disclosure is a far more important a priority," Cohen concluded.

The authors are environmental reporters for the Bureau of National Affairs, a Washington, D.C., newsletter publisher. Gwen Moulton is with BNA's new Daily Environment Report and Sara Thurin is with its Chemical Regulation Reporter.

Nash... (from page 8)

species. The conflict is a window to the issue of the non-endearing species.

• These story angles apply equally to plants, of course, and to botanical gardens. Michael Robinson of the National Zoo argues in *Conservation Biology*, September 1989, that zoos and botanical gardens should be joined as "biological parks" — an enhancement of community-based conservation, research and education about the biological diversity crisis.

Steve Nash writes about the environment and teaches journalism at the University of Richmond. He has written Science Angles from the inception of SEJournal, but has asked to take a break. This will be his last column.



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 Home Work address.
(Note: Students should provide address and phone during school year and date of graduation.)

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

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	

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

Survey... (from page 1)

state, national, international and economic news.

Some sub-categories of hard and local news, however, earned higher interest ratings than environment news.

John Bartolomeo, of Clark, Martire & Bartolomeo Inc. in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., conducted the Detroit survey. The level of enthusiasm for environmental news in Detroit, he said, is "quite typical" of the U.S. public as a whole. "Nine in 10 people are interested in the environment," he said.

Interest in the environment has been "within a few points" of the Detroit percentage in the last 10 surveys he has conducted, Bartolomeo said. Those surveys were in California, Colorado, New Jersey, Indiana and New England.

The draw of environment stories has been "trending up over the last eight or 10 years," Bartolomeo said. The news executives who order his surveys are generally aware that the environment is a hot-button topic, but "they're surprised to see it quite as high as it is."

Although Earth Day's 20th anniversary is now a dimming two-year-old memory, survey after survey in top media markets finds interest in the environment growing.

"It might have been a fad 10 or 15 years ago," said Kristin McGrath of Minnesota Opinion Research Inc. (MORI) of Minneapolis. "But I think the increase in interest has been so steady in recent years, it's become part of our societal fabric."

In a recent MORI survey, environment was the topic of third-greatest interest to those interviewed. Only the economy and national news were more interesting to these respondents.

Local news was of less interest than environmental news. So was news of crime, schools, government and politics, health and medicine, fitness and nutrition.

McGrath declined for proprietary reasons to name the market. Although the level of interest in environment news in that area is unusually strong, McGrath said, it's not far out of line with other areas she has studied in recent years.

Can these kind of responses be believed? Are newspaper readers really more

interested in the environment than they are in the direction of local property taxes or Home State U's fate in the NCAA Final Four?

Probably not, the analysts concede. Readership surveys can't measure depth of interest, only the proportion of readers expressing some desire to see stories on a topic.

Bartolomeo also interviews people who have just cancelled their newspaper subscriptions. Lousy sports pages often prompt a reader to sever that tie, he said, but no reader has reported doing that out of disgust with the local paper's environmental coverage.

Quality of environmental coverage is a "satisfier," not a "circulation driver," Bartolomeo said. High interest in the topic should tip off news executives that good environment stories are "a promotable thing," he added. "They should package environment stories well."

Suzanne Phillips, senior vice president of Belden Associates in Dallas, said that recent surveys by her firm all around the nation showed 45 percent of respondents very interested in the environment.

That compares to 42 percent who were very interested in health and fitness, 36 percent in consumer protection, 31 percent in science and technology, 33 percent in sports.

Environment news holds particular appeal to those younger than 35 and those who are relatively affluent.

A survey conducted by Belden last year in four somewhat up-scale counties of suburban Philadelphia found that "news of things that affect the environment" was the third most popular news category, with 61 percent of respondents very interested.

Sixty-five percent of suburban Philadelphians were very interested in community news and 64 percent were very interested in national and international news.

Among those 18 to 35 — a readership whose loyalty newspapers are especially anxious to win — news about the environment tied with international and national news for first place.

Were executives at Philadelphia Newspapers Inc. — publishers of the In-

quirer and the Daily News — surprised by those results?

"I would say an audible murmur went through the room when they saw those numbers," said Ed Mumford, the papers' research director.

It was just a decade or so ago that the U.S. obsession with fitness and health was recognized in newsrooms as more than a fad. Now many newspapers, television and radio stations have regular weekly reports on the topic.

Even though some news executives appear to be losing enthusiasm for the beat, such regular weekly features on the environment soon may be much more common.

The Boulder (Colo.) Camera has published a weekly section front called Environment since July 1991.

For almost a year, the Austin American-Statesman has been replacing its Tuesday lifestyle section with a section called "Project Earth."

Editor Maggie Balough describes it as "a real how-to section" started in response to a group of 25 to 30 readers who made an appointment to see her a while back and requested such a section.

They weren't just environmental activists. Advertisers and representatives of municipal and state governments were among them. The mission of the resulting sections is "to tell people how they can actually do something or become involved," Balough said. "It's empowering, whether it's giving people a listing of recycling centers or helping them plan a trip to look at the wild flowers."

Response has been "very, very positive," she added. And the paper did it without using a lot of wire copy or adding a lot of staff.

"Everyone on staff is encouraged to contribute," Project Earth editor Linda Wienandt said. "And they do."

Emilia Askari is environment writer at the Detroit Free Press and member of the SEJ Board. She and board member Julie Edelson are coordinating the upcoming 1992 SEJ National Conference to be held Nov. 6-8 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Alternative fuels is issue of dizzying complexity

By SHAHLA SIDDIQI

The billowy clouds of smoke from Kuwait's burning oil fields were more than testimony of a major war. Their impact on the U.S. economy and the global environment lend more than a little credence to the idea that we should seriously consider alternative fuel sources.

They also support the value of alternative fuels as a story. Not only is the public getting more interested, but the mammoth automotive and fledgling alternative fuels industries are busy designing the nation's transportation future. Few doubt the new fuels will play a major role.

Backers of alternative fuels argue, first, that America's dependence on imported oil makes it extremely vulnerable to foreign manipulation. And, second, scientists point to gasoline-powered vehicles as prime polluters of the environment.

As a result, the U.S. government and the automotive industry, which have been singularly devoted to gasoline as a motor vehicle fuel, are now experimenting with alternative fuels. These alternative energy sources such as methanol, compressed natural gas, and electricity are renewable, and cleaner than gasoline.

Covering the issue, however, is not simple. There's plenty of highly technical research to study. Additionally, the subject can be approached from different angles — economic, technical, legislative and environmental, to name a few.

Each interest group has its own agenda. Oil companies are anxious about protecting their market share, car manufacturers about their sales. In the midst of it all is the environmental lobby, not to mention the supporters of each fuel. Last but not least is the U. S. government with the Clean Air Act and, at least nominally, a National Energy Strategy.

These groups raise a number of valid concerns individually and collectively, but don't forget that each is promoting its own viewpoint. For example, fuel systems on cars are configured to use gasoline, a liquid fuel. The infrastructure for the supply, transportation and use of gasoline are already in place and, most importantly,

consumers are comfortable using it.

Since each fuel offers distinct advantages and disadvantages, they often are played against each other. Methanol, for example, is a liquid fuel that is cleaner than gasoline, and it is abundantly available from wood or biomass. Yet it is toxic, and methanol engines give off environmentally harmful formaldehyde emissions in the first few minutes after starting.

Good sources of information on methanol are Jeff Olson and Charles Gray

Reporters' Toolbox

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

at the Environmental Protection Agency's Emission Controls Technology Division in Ann Arbor, Mich. Contact them through EPA's public information office at 202-260-4378 and Bob Larson at Argonne National Laboratories, Argonne, Ill., 708-252-3735 or 708-252-5633.

On the other hand, cars running on electricity have zero tailpipe emissions. But what about emissions from the original power source — the electricity-generating plant? Good sources for information on electric cars and their environmental impact are Southern California Edison's Electric Transportation Division in Rosemead, Calif. (818-302-7948), the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo

Car manufacturers argue that they cannot make and sell alternative-fueled vehicles until the fuel supply system is there. This "chicken-and-egg" ... is the chief roadblock in introducing and commercializing alternative fuels.

Alto, Calif. (415-855-2413) and the Electric Vehicle Association in Silver Spring, Md. (301-593-9764).

Compressed natural gas is a major player in the alternative fuels game. Its supporters claim that, all factors taken into account, it is more viable than other fuels. Its detractors point out that compressed natural gas requires a totally different distribution system to get the product to dealers, and the infrastructure for its supply to end users does not yet exist.

Compressed gas fuels are also inher-

ently more risky to work with than liquid fuels. A good source for information on compressed natural gas vehicles is the Natural Fuel Corp., Denver. (303-322-4699).

Hydrogen and solar power are potential alternative fuels for the future, but at this time they are still in the research and development stage.

Besides these fuel choices, and perhaps in response to them, the oil companies now offer reformulated gasoline in addition to several new grades of gasoline. They tell us these are cleaner and better than what has been seen so far, but it is best to balance their claims against independent research.

However, California's Air Resources Board has adopted one such fuel — ARCO's EC-X — as the state standard for all gasoline beginning in 1996. ARB's public information office (916-322-2990) and ARCO's public relations office (213-486-3181) can supply details. ARB is also requiring auto makers to begin selling zero-emission vehicles — in other words, electric — later in this decade.

Car manufacturers argue that they cannot make and sell alternative-fueled vehicles until the fuel supply system is there. This "chicken-and-egg" dilemma has been around for years and is the chief roadblock in introducing and commercializing alternative fuels.

However, car manufacturers also can provide some useful information on research and development, and I have found Ford in particular to be especially helpful. Toyota and Nissan have also been useful.

It appears that only legislation can make it possible for both the fuel supply and the vehicles to be available at the same time. Government agencies such as the EPA's Emission Controls Technology Division and the Department of Energy's Office of Transportation, Electric and Hybrid Propulsion Division, are the best sources for exploring the government's position (202-586-5000).

Ever since motor vehicles were marked as the main source of air pollution, the government has been pushing for

(Continued on page 19)

SEJ's challenge: Help reporters stem confusion

By BUD WARD

If there weren't a Society of Environmental Journalists, somebody would have to invent one.

I'm confident of it.

Fortunately, as a result of the insight and extraordinary volunteer efforts of a small group of reporters more than two years ago, there is one.

As well there should be.

No. Make that as well there must be.

There are, after all, professional societies representing science reporters. Editorial reporters. Business reporters. Real estate reporters. Religious reporters. And more.

Two points stand out here:

One, the American public — consumers of the products produced by America's media — is deeply interested in environmental and pollution issues.

Secondly, the issues themselves are extraordinarily complex and in need of only the most effective communication.

It's a prescription calling for the kind of services that only an organization narrowly dedicated to the betterment of environmental journalism could hope to provide.

But there is more to it than that. Much more.

Let's face it. At the time SEJ was launched in the winter of 1989, environmental journalism was at or near a high-water mark in terms of public interest and, as a result of that interest, in terms of editors' willingness to commit resources, air time, and column inches to the issue.

The Exxon Valdez had spilled. Alar, rightly or otherwise, had panicked a good part of the American public. Chernobyl and Bhopal were still recent memories. As too were the Reagan Administration's misguided efforts to "get the government off the peoples' backs" by eviscerating environmental programs. Saddam Hussein had not yet decided to annex Kuwait and had not yet torched Kuwaiti oil fields in the world's first determined attempt at environmental warfare.

And, last but not least, the nation's and much of the industrialized world's economy had not commenced the free fall that has (again rightly or otherwise) caused pollution to become "just another con-

cern" in the minds of much of the public and its policy makers.

What a difference a few years makes! A sea change, to be sure.

Through it all, SEJ unquestionably has gotten off to a magnificent start. Membership now exceeds 700. The organization's first annual conference attracted a registration of some 250 (not all of them working press, of course). It's quarterly journal has helped establish a

Viewpoints

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

vital link in the national network the organization now serves.

It's weathered a lot of the early growing pains. Now for the hard part.

Unless the economy soon rebounds and environmental issues regain their rightful place among America's public policy priorities (note: Not necessarily the "high-water" mark they enjoyed briefly two, three years ago, just their "rightful place"), SEJ almost certainly will encounter some of the fund-raising and membership-retention frustrations and disappointments that afflict virtually every other group in the field.

Furthermore, despite the extraordinary efforts — no, better yet, make that the truly heroic efforts — of the small cadre of initial volunteer-officers, one wonders just how long their energy and enthusiasm can last, given other reasonable demands.

In this regard, one cannot ignore the exodus of several of the early SEJ "brain trust" from the Washington, D.C. area that (Yes: A third time — rightly or wrongly) has been the functional, and one might argue essential, SEJ headquarters location since its founding.

There is, without question, good news and bad news in this seeming outflow from Washington. The organization clearly faces the inevitable risk of presenting — or being seen as presenting — an East Coast bias or, worst of all worlds, a Washington bias. One need only look at the membership directory to see that risk.

At the same time, one must acknowledge that having a core nucleus of environmental journalists in and around Washington, and being able to milk their volunteer efforts for things such as SEJournal or planning of the annual meeting, has been an enormous benefit to the organization and its members. Perhaps even an indispensable benefit, I might argue.

They say in publishing that it's not how many new subscriptions you garner in your early years that matters. What matters most is your renewal or retention rate. The same will hold true of SEJ. Seven-hundred members and still counting is impressive, make no mistake about it.

What will be even more impressive, and certainly just as important, will be the renewal rate with which members re-up at the end of their annual membership. They must do so, and they must do so without the customary magazine "five-cycle" renewal campaign that is both too resource-intensive and too expensive for an organization like SEJ. (If your membership is at or near expiration ... re-up NOW!)

Having conquered so much so early, and with current administrative, logistical, and recession-driven obstacles once conquered, there remains much good work for SEJ to do:

In the long run, it will have to join in with virtually every other professional journalism activity to ensure that its members and its specialty are well-prepared for the changing publishing climate our society almost certainly will face in coming years as a result of technological changes just now coming on-line. Over time, that will involve things like improved use of electronic communications, exploitation of available data bases, and paperless papers that more than ever will make the First Amendment's reference to a free "press" an anachronism begging NOT to be taken too literally.

Over the shorter term, there is likely to be an even greater substantive challenge for SEJ:

It's a truism in our society that most of the people receive most of what they know about environmental pollution from the mass media.

(Continued on page 19)

New Members

The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from Jan. 5, 1992 to May 13, 1992. Memberships recorded after May 13 will appear in the Summer issue of SEJournal.

ALASKA

- Ann Chandonnet, The Anchorage Times, Anchorage

ARIZONA

- George Hardeen, DBA: Southwest Native News, Tuba City
- Dan Sorenson, Tucson Citizen/Home Tech Column, Tucson

ARKANSAS

- Alan Kelley, KARK-TV, Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

- Jack Flynn (Academic), Energy Engineering Institute, San Diego State University, San Diego
- Paul J. Growald, Green News Network, San Francisco
- Amy Gwin, KWHY-TV Business News in CA/Project Earth, Los Angeles
- David Helvarg, Sausalito
- David Sneed, The Union Newspaper, Grass Valley
- Neil Strassman, Press-Telegram, Long Beach
- Ed Teachout Preview Media/Impact, Impact Environmental Reports, San Francisco

COLORADO

- David H. Hatcher (Academic), University of Colorado, Boulder
- Steve Klodt (Academic), University Corp. for Atmospheric Research, Denver
- Irene Rawlings, Perspective/Colorado Focus, Viacom - KHOW AM/FM Denver

CONNECTICUT

- Elissa Wolfson, E Magazine, Norwalk

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Carol Bennett, Washington Alabama News Reports
- Irwin Goodwin, Physics Today, American Institute of Physics
- David Richard Jones (Associate), Waste Minimization & Recycling Report
- Robert C. Kline, Thompson Publishing Group
- Wendy Koch, Washington Bureau, Small Newspapers Group
- Steve Lerner (Associate), Commonweal
- Richard Pollock, Good Morning America, ABC News
- Ana M. Radelat (Associate), Public Citizen Magazine
- Karen Riley, Washington Times
- Rebecca Rooney, National Geographic
- Brigid Schulte, San Francisco Examiner/Anchorage Daily News, States News Service
- Jerry Stilkind (Associate), USIA Wireless File, U. S. Information Agency
- Richard Stone, Science Magazine

GEORGIA

- Kathleen Donahue, The Augusta Chronicle/Augusta Herald, Augusta

IDAHO

- Tonya Ratliff-Garrison, Idaho State Journal, Pocatello

ILLINOIS

- Paul Botts (Associate), Great Lakes Reporter, Chicago
- Phil J. Brinkman, The Southern Illinoisan, Carbondale
- Sheryl Lynn De Vore, Pioneer Press Newspapers, Mundelein
- Lor'e Postman, Moline Dispatch/Rock Island Argus, Rock Island

LOUISIANA

- Mimi Golsby Paige, KSLA-TV, Shreveport
- Linda P. Young (Associate), Lake Charles American Press, Lake Charles

MARYLAND

- Alton K. Marsh, Environmental Group, Business Publishers, Silver Spring
- Thomas D. Patrick (Associate), Educational Services, Windstar Enterprises Inc., Jefferson
- Barbara Ruben (Associate) Environmental Action Magazine, Takoma Park

MASSACHUSETTS

- Ralph Ranalli, Boston Herald, Boston

MICHIGAN

- John Bebow, Traverse City Record-Eagle, Traverse City
- Paige St. John, The Detroit News, Detroit

MISSOURI

- Tracy L. Barnett (Associate), Investigative Reporters and Editors, Columbia
- Sonya Forte Duhe (Academic), University of Missouri, Columbia
- Karen Vail, Real State of St. Louis, KUSA/KSD Radio, St. Louis
- Phyllis Vander Naald, The Sedalia Democrat, Branson

NEVADA

- Keith Rogers, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Susan D. Fried The Mountain Ear, Conway
- Steve, Haberman, Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY

- Eric J. Greenberg, The News Tribune, Woodbridge
- Jennifer T. Ley, Crayon Power, Jersey City
- Karin Westdyk, The Messenger, Environmental Health Journal, Hewitt

NEW YORK

- Kathleen Agena, Columbia Productions, Hudson

- Bryan Bleil (Academic), Columbia School of Journalism, New York
- Philip L. Burget, Recycling Manager, Brooklyn
- Tracy Davidson, Your Environment, WTVH-5, Syracuse
- Mary B. Davis (Associate), Wild Earth, Wild Earth/Cenozoic Society, Inc., Canton
- Mariette DiChristina-Gerosa, Popular Science, New York
- Wayne A. Hall, Times Herald Record, Newburgh Bureau, Newburgh
- Patrick Huyghe, Putnam Valley
- Stephen Lowe, Rochester Times-Union, Rochester
- Steven D. Mirsky (Associate), Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx
- Will Nixon, Magazine, New York
- Andrew Revkin (Associate), Garrison
- Don Rittner, MUG News Service, Schenectady
- Bruce Robertson, The Environment Show, WAMC, Albany
- Richard Stapleton, Brooklyn
- Mike Vogel, Buffalo News, Buffalo

NORTH CAROLINA

- Harold K. Steen (Academic), Forest History Society, Durham
- Mike Slaughter, Lenoir News-Topic, Lenoir

NORTH DAKOTA

- Yvette La Pierre (Associate), Grand Forks
- Jeff Olson, The Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck
- Sue Eilyn Scaletta, Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks

OKLAHOMA

- Patti Reese, Ada Evening News, Ada

OREGON

- Janet Goetze, The Oregonian, Portland
- Dan Postrel Statesman Journal, Salem
- Jim Stiak, Eugene
- Lynn Stull (Associate), Project Earth Television Campaign, Stull Inc., Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

- Shahla Siddiqi, Motor Age Magazine, Chilton Co., Radnor
- David Thomas, Kennett Paper, Kennett Square

PUERTO RICO

- Maritza Alvarez (Associate), State Historic Preservation Office, San Juan
- Andrés E. Salas-Soler (Associate), Salas-Soler Law Office, San Juan

RHODE ISLAND

- Timothy Sandler (Academic), Providence

SOUTH CAROLINA

- John Tibbetts (Associate) South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, Charleston
- Michael Livingston, The State Newspaper, Columbia

TENNESSEE

- Dr. Glenn A., Himebaugh, (Academic),

Middle Tennessee State Univ., Murfreesboro
 • Marie Hofer Special Report, Whittle Communications, Knoxville

TEXAS

- Joe Calao, KWTX-TV, Waco
- Dennis, Drummond, Operation Earth, KLTV, Tyler
- Dave Harmon, The Monitor, McAllen
- Pieter Meiring, Earthwatch, KAUZ-TV Ch. 6, Wichita Falls
- Michele E. Middlebrook, Active News Dept. KVUE-TV Channel 24 Austin
- Greg Paszor, Eyewitness News, KENS-TV, San Antonio

VERMONT

- Nancy Bazilchuk, The Burlington Free Press, Burlington

VIRGINIA

- John Butterfield, USA Weekend Magazine, Arlington
- Tom Campbell, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond
- John Heritage (Associate), EPA Journal, McLean
- Joyce Reed, WRIC-TV, Richmond
- Bruce Ritchie (Academic), Richmond
- Randolph E. Schmid, the Associated Press, Alexandria

WASHINGTON

- John Dodge, The Olympian, Olympia
- Steven Scher, Seattle Afternoon/KUOW News, KUOW-FM, Seattle
- Suzanne Strickland, The Mountain Green Report, KMYF FM 104, Seattle
- Kathleen Warren, KIRO News Radio, Seattle

WISCONSIN

- Patty Loew, Eyewitness News, WKOW TV, Madison

International Members

BRAZIL

- Sylvia Maria, Fonseca, (Associate), Brazilian Inst. for Environment, Brasilia

CANADA

- Linda Boyle, Global Television Network, Don Mills, Ontario
- Bob Burt, Kitchener-Waterloo Record, Southam Press, Kitchener, Ontario
- Suzanne Elston, Your Earth, Courtice, Ontario
- Jacques A. Rivard, National TV News, Montreal

NEW ZEALAND

- Tom Hutchins, Remuera, Auckland

NIGERIA

- Fred Indiar Maro (Associate), Nigerian Television Authority, Makurdi, Benue

SRI LANKA

- Nalaka J. Gunawardene, The Island, Colombo, Rajagiriya

Toolbox... (from page 16)

alternative fuels. Some of the latest legislation directed at this effort: the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the new energy bill, which was passed by the Senate and is waiting for House approval.

With the abundance of existing arguments and viewpoints, a story on alternative fuels involves a great deal of research and interpretation to sift the grain from the chaff. The deeper you delve, the more complex the issue becomes. However, delving deeply is absolutely necessary to avoid falling prey to any one of these views.

From my experience, some of the best sources of real-world information are government and private fleet operators currently involved in alternative fuels testing programs. Some of these fleets are nationwide, and may offer local tie-ins for alternative fuels stories. A controlled environment is seen as the safest and best means of getting the benefits of an alternative fuel. Fleets, therefore, are the first testing ground for these fuels. The hands-on experience of fleet operators is convincing and credible to readers because real-life examples always make for more

interesting reading.

Ignorance breeds fear, and this general principle applies to consumers who are expected to use alternative fuels in their cars. However, these fears can be dispelled in part through the media. In a climate of growing awareness of the need to preserve the environment and to overcome the nation's dependence on foreign oil, the motoring public may now be more receptive to new ideas such as alternative fuels.

It is encouraging to see that California's pollution problem has spurred a great deal of activity in that state, which is now an example for other non-attainment areas.

Not long ago I heard an automotive service station owner in Santa Cruz remark that he was preparing to service electric cars and other alternative-fueled vehicles in the near future.

The nineties, I realized, are really here.

Shahla Siddiqi is features editor for Motor Age, a trade magazine for automotive repair shops.

Viewpoints... (from page 17)

That's the good news.

The bad news is perhaps the only slightly more-arguable truism that much of the American public also appears confused about what it really thinks and what it really knows about those pollution issues.

A growing body of increasingly convincing evidence suggests that the public and the "experts" disagree on what is and what is not the greatest environmental threat — abandoned hazardous waste sites versus stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change, for instance.

Regardless of the outcome on specific issues, SEJ must come to grips with the discomfiting realities that: The people get most of their information from the media. And the people are confused.

To recognize that reality is decidedly NOT to suggest that the problem, if it in fact exists, is the fault of the media.

It is not, and through the best efforts

of SEJ it never will be.

But reducing that confusion in a way that better informs the "informed electorate" critical to our democratic system must remain an overriding objective of SEJ if it to best serve not only the reporters who are its primary and sole constituency, but also the American public, who in the end must be the reporters' sole constituency.

SEJ has its work cut out for it. It's a mission it can expect to meet only with best efforts of the broadest number of its members.

It's a job worth doing and one worth the best efforts of the broadest number of SEJ members.

No one else can do it.

Bud Ward is Executive Director of the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center, publisher of the monthly newsletter Environment Writer, in Washington, D.C.

Calendar

MAY

27-29. Intern'l Composting Research Symposium (sponsored by EPA, Ohio State Univ and others). Columbus, OH. Contact: Sarah Seiling. Ph:614/292-8571

31-June 4. Mercury as a Global Pollutant (sponsored by Elec. Power Res. Inst., will focus on ecosystem and toxic health impacts of dilute emissions). Hyatt Regency, Monterey, Calif. Contact: Pam Turner, EPRI, 3412 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Ph:415/855-2010

JUNE

1-12. The Earth Summit (the UN Conf. on Environment and Development—UNCED), and The '92 Global Forum (a parallel session to provide all non-governmental organizations—NGOs—a forum for expressing alternative views on UNCED issues), both in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (UNCED at RioCentro, a modern conference center, and Global Forum at the Int'l Press Centre, Hotel Gloria, Predio Anexo, Sala 366, Rua do Russel 632) Contact for UNCED: Center for Our Common Future and the Int'l Facilitating Committee for UNCED, Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Paquis, CH-1201, Geneva, Switzerland. Ph:4122/732-71-17 FAX:4122/738-50-46, Contact for Global Forum: Int'l Press Centre in Rio. Ph:55 21/556-3030 FAX:55 21/205-4114 e-mail:AX:GF92 or GF92@AX.APC.ORG e-mail:commonfuture (Green Net)

2-4. CFC and Halon Recycling Program; World Recycling Conf. and Expo. (sponsored by CMC Recycling Today). Rosemont, IL. Contact: Bob Mignarri. Ph:203/852-0500

3-5. 2nd US Conf. on Municipal Solid Waste Mgmt. (sponsored by EPA). Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Contact: Susan Mann, conf. mgr., USEPA, Office of Solid Waste (OS-301), 401 M. St., SW, Washington DC 20460. Ph:202/250-6263 FAX:202-260-4196

3-5. RETSIE—Responsive Energy Technology Symposium & Int'l Exchange (sponsored by San Diego Gas & Electric, ARCO, Pacific Gas and Elec., So. Calif. Edison, US Dept. of Energy, US Energy Assn. and Western Area Power Admin.—claims to showcase practical solutions that utilities are developing for energy and environmental problems). San Diego, CA. Contact: RETSIE 92, c/o SDG&E,

P.O. Box 1831, San Diego, CA 92112 Ph:619/696-1317 FAX:619/696-1318

4-7. Diversity in Food, Agriculture, Environment and Health. Michigan State University, East Lansing. Contact: Lawrence Busch, Prog. chair, Dept. of Sociology, Mich. St. U, E. Lansing, MI 48824-1111

10-12. Hazardous Materials and Env'l Mgmt Conf. (with sessions ranging from air toxics and aquifer restoration to managing Superfund sites and criminal enforcements). Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Tower Conf. Mgmt Co., 800 Roosevelt Rd., Bldg E-Ste 408, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5835. Ph:708/469-3373 FAX:708/469-7477

14-17. Eco World (an environmental technology exposition and conference sponsored by the Amer. Soc. of Mechanical Engineers). Washington, DC. Contact: Kathryn J. Riss, Prog. Admin., Eco World, 345 E. 47th St., NYC 10017. Ph:212/705-7347 FAX:212/705-7143

15-17. Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Envir's: Needs and Solutions for Pollution Monitoring, Control and Abatement. Sheraton, New Orleans. Contact: Nancy J. Wallman, P.O. Box 134001, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001. Ph:313/994-1200, ext. 3234

18-22. Nat'l Carrying Capacity Issues Conf. (forum for discussion of relationships between ecology and economics, growth management and control, and population and environment). Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center, Washington D.C. Contact: Carrying Capacity Network, 1325 G St., NW, Ste 1003, Washington, DC 20005. Ph:202/879-3044 FAX:202/879-3019

21-26. Shaping Our Environmental Heritage, the 85th annual meeting of the Air and Waste Management Assn. (with sessions ranging from Valdez air-health study and Kuwait oil fires analysis to in situ groundwater remediation, controlling pollution from woodstoves and fireplaces, and electromagnetic fields). H. Roe Bartle Hall Convention Center, Kansas City, MO. Contact: A&WMA, P.O. Box 2861, Pittsburgh, PA 15230. Ph:412/232-3444

27-July 1. 6th Annual Meeting of the Soc. for Conservation Biology (in cooperation with the Wildlife Soc.). Blacksburg, VA. Contact: Gerald Cross, Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia

Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321 Ph:703/231-8844

28-July 1. Urban and Agricultural Water Reuse conference. Orlando, FL. Contact: WPCF, 601 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1994. Ph:703/684-2400

30-July 1. Governor's Conf. on Alternative-Fueled Vehicles. Grand Milwaukee Hotel, Milwaukee. Contact: John P. Klus, Dept. of Eng. Professional Devmt, U. of Wisc., 432 N. Lake St., Madison, WI 53706 Ph:800/462-0876

JULY

14-22. 1st Int'l Crop Science Congress (focusing on issues such as sustainable agriculture; maintaining biodiversity; and the ability of crops to survive global warming, ozone depletion and other environmental challenges). Iowa State Center, Ames, IA. Contact: Iowa State Univ. Ph:515/294-0706 FAX:515/294-4778

20-31. Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment (a National Science Foundation sponsored workshop). Colorado St. Univ, Fort Collins, CO. Contact: Maurice L. Albertson, Rm 203 Weber Bldg, Dept. of Civil Eng. Ph:303/491-5753 FAX:303/491-7727

AUGUST

3-6. Investing in Natural Capital, a Prerequisite for Sustainability: the 2nd Int'l Meeting of Int'l Soc. for Ecological Economic (a biennial conf.—in English—focusing on issues such as links between resource use and economic activities, restructuring of industrial economies and production systems, restoring degraded environments, and defining natural resources as alternative measures of national incomes). Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: Robert Costanza, ISEE, P.O. Box 1589, Solomons, MD 20688-1589 Ph:410/326-0794 FAX:410/326-6342

SEPTEMBER

20-24. 1st Int'l Specialized Conf. on Diffuse (Nonpoint) Pollution: Sources, Prevention, Impact and Abatement (sponsored by the Int'l Assn. for Water Pollution Res. and Control). Chicago, IL. Contact: Vladimir Novotny, Conf. chair, Dept. of Civil and Env'l Eng., Marquette Univ., 1515 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 Ph:414/288-3524 FAX:414/288-7082

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, 2100 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95852, (916) 321-1001.

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

Southern California — 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 Evening 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 — David Vis at the Press of Atlantic City, Devins Lane, Pleasantville, NJ 08232, (609) 272-7254.

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 — Marcy Mermel at The Indianapolis News, 307 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 633-9233.

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, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230, (412) 263-1986; fax (412) 263-2014.

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

Tennessee and Kentucky — Tom Charlier at The Commercial Appeal, 495 Union 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 — Cyril Zaneski at the Virginian Pilot, 150 West Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517, (804) 490-7219.

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

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

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

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ALABAMA

→ Glynn Wilson, formerly a reporter at the *Islander* in Gulf Shores, said he was fired after writing articles questioning the Navy's plans to test the effects of electromagnetic pulses on ships' weapons and computer systems. The project, called EMPRESS II, would simulate electronic fallout of a nuclear detonation. Wilson said that around Christmas, the paper hired a retired Navy man as editorial page editor and that soon after he was given the choice of resigning or being fired. Kent Cockson, executive director of the six Gulf Coast Newspapers, said Wilson's firing had nothing to do with the EMPRESS II stories. "I'll consider any such statement to be the contrary as not only inaccurate, but bordering on defamatory," Cockson said. For copies of the articles, call Gulf Shores Newspapers at 205-968-6414.

→ Interstate Lead Co.'s "notorious" battery recycling plant in Birmingham has been closed, said Birmingham Post-Herald environment writer Steve Kipp. Environmentalists and others have waged a battle for 10 years against the Jefferson County plant, which has been fined several million dollars by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. ILCO filed for bankruptcy in July, and the county's health department shut them down for violating air pollution regulations. The company lost its appeals. The EPA estimated that it will cost \$100 million to clean up the site plus \$19 million to clean up half a dozen off-site dumps. For more information call Paul Peronard at EPA's Region IV in Atlanta, 404-347-3931; for copies of articles, call Kipp at 205-325-3197.

ARKANSAS

→ Gov. Bill Clinton's environmental record became a national issue. Arkansas has consistently ranked at the bottom in nationwide studies ranking states by environmental policies and programs, and Arkansas environmentalists have repeatedly blasted Clinton's poor record. Contact Bobbi Ridlehoover, 501-378-3504. Clinton used the issue of utility reform to beat a Republican rival, but failed to imple-

ment reforms. Contact Ridlehoover.

→ An incinerator failed to meet federal standards for destruction of dioxin, but federal Environmental Protection Agency officials and Arkansas environmental officials give it the go-ahead anyway. Contact Sandy Davis, 501-982-3936.

CALIFORNIA

→ The Los Angeles Times Magazine published a piece March 1 on the increasing conflicts between mountain lions and humans in the West, where hunting of the big cats has been limited and urban areas are encroaching on their territory. The editorial phone number is 213-237-3074.

→ The Press-Enterprise of Riverside County chronicled sweeping changes in the fight for clean air in the smoggy Los Angeles area in a three-day series in December. Staff writer Gary Polakovic examined how political and economic pressures during the recession are forcing the South Coast Air Quality Management District to abandon traditional command-and-control regulations in favor of a flexible, market-based strategy to cut emissions from 2,800 industrial polluters in a four-county region. Polakovic can be reached at 714-782-7564.

→ San Diego Union-Tribune writer Steve LaRue reported Feb. 12 on the return of the Pacific sardine, which was over-fished to near extinction by the 1950s, but was not completely protected by law until 1973. Today sardine populations are on the rise again. The reasons for the fish's decline remain unclear. As canneries consider retooling to pack the high-protein fish, questions also remain as to whether the commercial fishing industry can avoid driving the species out of existence. LaRue can be reached at 619-299-3131.

→ The San Bernardino Sun debuted a weekly environmental column March 20. Written by environmental reporter Sam Atwood, the column will report on new environmental trends, particularly those that directly affect consumers. Atwood's first column examined lawn mowers of the future that mulch the grass that's been cut, pedal-powered motors and mowers

that run on laser beams.

CONNECTICUT

→ A major and continuing environmental issue in the state has been the search for a low level radioactive waste site. A state agency, the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service, in early 1992 identified six potential sites in Eastern Connecticut and another three in Central Connecticut. The site is scheduled to open in 1995.

→ A federal judge and an appellate court have ruled that 20 municipalities may have to pay towards the cost of cleaning up two federal Superfund sites. The case, which has had a series of twists and turns, is now back before a federal judge in Hartford for further review to determine if the communities should have to contribute toward the cleanup costs at the sites in Beacon Falls and Naugatuck. State and federal officials agree it has potential ramifications for other communities that used Superfund sites in the past.

→ Air issues, from ground-level ozone to the upper atmospheric ozone layer, increasingly are becoming a bigger issue at the Hartford Courant, according to Dan Jones, environmental writer. Connecticut became the first Northeast state to express reluctance to impose the tough California air emission standards. Shortly after NASA announced concerns about the ozone layer over the Arctic, Jones produced a major piece outlining the potential dangers. Jones can be reached at 203-241-6200.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

→ An article detailing the trend of increased minority and community concern over environmental issues and the role of foundation funding for such grassroots organizations was featured in the March/April issue of *Foundation News*. The 10,000-circulation magazine is published by the Council on Foundations, an association representing 1,200 foundations. "From the Ground Up," by freelance journalist Daphne White, reports that a small group of foundations has been supporting grassroots environmental efforts for years. Those organizations include the San Fran-

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cisco Foundation, the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, and the C.S. Mott Foundation. But the majority of foundation spending on environmental issues continues to be granted to established national environmental groups, according to the article. Copies of the article can be obtained from the Council on Foundations, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-466-6512. There may be a charge for bulk orders.

→ Washington Post staff writers D'Vera Cohn, Peter Baker and Charles Hall reported that the fiscal 1993 budgets proposed by the county executives in the suburbs surrounding Washington, D.C., would eliminate many environmental programs. Proposed cuts would decrease the size or eliminate such local governmental programs as recycling yard waste through composting and collections of household hazardous materials such as leftover pesticides. The article appeared in the March 18, 1992 issue, p. C-1.

→ The Bureau of National Affairs is not the first publisher of an environmental weekly, as reported in the last SEJournal's Greenbeat section. According to Al Marsh, who heads the environmental group of Business Publishers Inc., Silver Spring, Md., the first was BPI's Air/Water Pollution Report, launched 30 years ago.

FLORIDA

→ The Florida Times-Union reported that a group of Jacksonville residents who sued the U.S. Navy for polluting their groundwater were successful in proving in U.S. Federal Court the chemicals they drank were toxic enough to cause cancer. However, a federal judge ruled that only one person got sick enough from the pollution to win damages from the government. That one person was awarded \$60,000, but the remaining 11 residents who sued the government got nothing. The residents were seeking nearly \$19 million for the medical and emotional injuries they suffered from drinking the toxic water. The Navy dumped the chemicals at the Hipps Road landfill during the late 1960s and the chemicals were found

in residents' drinking water wells in 1984. For more information, call Beverly Keneagy at the Florida Times-Union at 904-359-4316.

→ The Ocala Star Banner published a three-part series concerning a captive breeding program proposed for the endangered Florida panther. The series examined what the state will do with the panthers if the program is successful and questioned whether Florida will have to buy state lands for the panthers to be reintroduced. The series also questioned the idea of a captive breeding program. For more information, call Lucy Beebe at the Ocala Star Banner at 904-867-4119.

→ The Ocala Star Banner reported that Florida's environmental officials plan to euthanize about 100 rhesus monkeys in the Silver Springs area because they are carriers of Herpes B, which is fatal if humans are bitten. State officials say the extermination is justified by health reasons, but the decision is being protested by animal-rights activists. The monkeys are not native to Florida, having been imported during the 1930s for a jungle cruise attraction near Ocala. For more information, call Lucy Beebe at the Ocala Star Banner at 904-867-4119.

INDIANA

→ The Indianapolis Star produced a package March 8 ranking the top 10 environmental issues facing Indiana. Vic Caleca, the paper's environmental reporter, and Richard D. Walton, a regional reporter, worked one-and-a-half months and interviewed more than 70 people to develop a consensus. Shrinking landfill capacity topped the list, followed by groundwater pollution, air pollution and the various problems facing Northwest Indiana. Caleca and Walton accompanied the Focus section story with a front-page report looking at the state's failure to set its own priorities on what environmental issues to address. Many of the advocates interviewed expressed their wish for a comprehensive environmental plan for the state rather than a haphazard approach to emergencies or environmental fads. For copies, write Caleca at The Star, PO Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

→ The Indiana General Assembly approved the creation of the Indiana Heritage Trust, a fund the state will use to purchase land for forests, fish and wildlife protection, recreation, nature preserves and other uses. The program's goal is to purchase 150,000 acres of new public land over the next 10 years. The legislature allocated no money to the trust, but transferred \$1.3 million in unspent money earmarked for wetlands. In addition to donations, the trust will be funded through the sale of conservation license plates. State officials estimate they will obtain \$125,000 a year from the special license plates through a \$25 fee charged above the usual fees and excise tax.

KANSAS

→ Kansas legislators are looking at ways to discourage out-of-state waste shipments into the state. One idea: allow counties to charge \$25 per ton tipping fees. That might avoid federal interstate commerce restrictions. Momentum built to stop the shipments after state officials discovered New York City waste was coming to McPherson, Kan. For more information, contact Greg Crawford, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 913-296-1529.

→ The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in February imposed a \$150,000 fine against the owners of Wolf Creek nuclear power plant in Burlington, Kan. The fine stemmed from failing to promptly repair faulty safety valves at the plant. Soon after the fine, the plant was shut down after a series of unexplained noises. Federal regulators are investigating. Contact Ronn Smith, a Wolf Creek spokesman, 316-364-8831.

LOUISIANA

→ The new administration of Gov. Edwin Edwards has quickly undone a number of actions that environmentalists viewed as progressive steps under the previous administration. Included among those are getting rid of the Environmental Scorecard, which tied industrial tax exemptions to environmental compliance, dropping a large fine against a crop duster and doing away with the Department of Environ-

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mental Quality's Policy and Planning Division, which had been instrumental in getting large reductions in toxic emissions. Contact Bob Anderson, environmental editor of the Baton Rouge Advocate, at 504-383-1111.

MAINE

→ Dartmouth researchers will be taking a closer look at the impact of logging and other human activity on the Northern Forest as part of a study expected to begin this spring. Satellite photos taken since 1973 — the first year good satellite images were taken — will be used to measure changes that have occurred in the amount and type of trees found in a 100-by-100 mile area in central Maine. The Northern Forest, which extends over 26 million acres and into the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont, is one of the largest continuous corridors of forest in North America. "Unlike a lot of wilderness land in the West that is federally protected, 84 percent of the Northern Forest is privately owned, and commercial forestry is the dominant land use on 60 percent of the private land," notes Richard Birnie, professor of earth sciences. Birnie and colleague Emily Bryant last summer completed a pilot project that looked at satellite photos taken of four 20-acre test sites in northern New Hampshire in 1973, 1984, 1988 and 1990. At one of the test sites, 416 acres of forestland were cleared annually between 1973 and 1988 and 334 acres a year between 1988 and 1990, the researchers calculate. Both the pilot project and the upcoming study are in collaboration with the Appalachian Mountain Club. For more information, contact Kathryn Clark (603-646-2117).

MASSACHUSETTS

→ Growing concern about diminishing fishing stocks in the North Atlantic have prompted the New England Fishery Management Council to propose drastic cut-backs in fishing. The plan, prompted by a court suit, would cut catches of some species as much as 50 percent. Hearings on the plan are occurring this spring and summer with implementation in the fall. It's expected to be controversial. For details, call Natalie White, New Bedford

Standard Times, (508) 997-7411.

→ New evidence is showing increased bacterial levels in coastal estuaries. A study of a coastal lagoon in Ipswich by one state biologist found that if the levels persist they will kill all shellfish in the area within two years. The bacterial contamination is coming not just from sewage discharges but from other sources of runoff from horse farms and from a national wildlife refuge. For details, contact Maryn McKenna, Boston Herald, (617) 426-3000.

→ A major recycling bill which would impose penalties and limitations on packaging is being considered this year by the Massachusetts legislature. The bill is far-reaching in its attempts to reduce packaging and it has drawn strong industry opposition. One potential source for more information is Mass PIRG, (617-292-4824).

MICHIGAN

→ A handful of Michigan's biggest corporations might actually be able to turn a profit from cleaning up a Superfund site north of Detroit by shaking down smaller polluters who used the rural Metamora Landfill. A package of stories in the Detroit Free Press on Friday, March 20 showed how Ford, General Motors and BASF are using the polluter-pay portion of Superfund to collect \$50 million for a \$40 million cleanup from municipalities and small businesses that also used the municipal and industrial waste dump. Imlay City, population 2,900, has been asked to put up \$500,000 or face the big guys in court. The double-truck inside included a map of the plume, a box explaining the basics of Superfund and sidebars on how a cleanup is performed, neighbors' concerns about on-site incineration and a history of the site. For copies, contact Mike Williams at the Free Press, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI, 48231.

→ SEJ members in Michigan have begun meeting to brainstorm ideas for the second national conference to be held in Ann Arbor, Nov. 6, 7 and 8. Julie Edelson of Inside EPA and Emilia Askari of the Detroit Free Press are leading the effort to

find speakers, plan an agenda and set up tours. Members with ideas about things they'd like to have on the program should contact Emilia at 800-678-6400 or Julie at 313-769-7780 to offer suggestions.

MINNESOTA

→ As incineration has become less popular as a method of managing trash, more communities are beginning to look at large-scale composting of municipal garbage. Minnesota has become one of the national leaders in the field, and has 8 facilities operating or scheduled to open this year. The up-side is that at least part of the waste stream can be transformed into a usable compost; the down-side is that some techniques may produce compost with unacceptable concentrations of heavy metals. Contact Tom Meersman at Minnesota Public Radio, 612-290-1474.

→ Now that many of California's prime spots for wind energy have been claimed, developers are looking seriously at the Midwest. Officials in the southwestern Minnesota city of Marshall have signed a 10-year contract to buy some of its electricity from a small wind farm, and several utilities are scouting the Dakotas, Iowa and Minnesota for future potential sites. Wind energy advocates say continued technological advances have reduced costs for wind power to the point that it is now competitive with conventionally generated electricity. Utility representatives say wind energy in the Midwest is not quite competitive today, but will be within 5-10 years. Federal DOE officials estimate that there's plenty of wind in the Plains states, and have calculated that Minnesota alone could produce 10 times as much wind-generated electricity as the entire state of California. Contact Tom Meersman at Minnesota Public Radio, 612-290-1474.

MISSISSIPPI

→ The Sun Herald and WLOX-TV in Biloxi joined forces to cosponsor a public forum March 23 on environmental issues affecting the Mississippi Sound. The project followed the presidential and congressional declarations of 1992 as "The Year of the Gulf of Mexico." Also, the

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Sun Herald on March 22 ran an eight-page special section on how Mississippians use the Sound, the problems and conflicts it creates and some of the proposed solutions. The package focuses on the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program; conflicts between shrimpers and commercial and recreational fishermen; problems created by inadequate sewerage; and shoreline and island erosion. For information, call WLOX-TV at 601-896-1313 or the Sun Herald's library at 601-896-7554.

→ The state Department of Environmental Quality heard an appeal March 24 by the city of Moss Point and environmentally concerned residents over the department's decision to issue a medical waste incineration permit to the city of Pascagoula. Pascagoula's Energy Recovery Facility burns garbage and some medical waste from local hospitals in its rotary hearth incinerator, located across the Escatawpa River within the city of Moss Point. It sells the steam to a Morton International Plant. Although the incinerator now burns some waste, residents oppose the expanded burning of up to 50 tons a day, most of which will be trucked from other communities. Call Charles F. Byrd, chairman, McCullough Environmental Services Inc., (CFB), Murphreesboro, Tenn., the company that operates the incinerator, at 615-895-2220; Pascagoula's incinerator director Bob Hudson, at 601-762-1020; Dwight Wylie, chief of the state's air quality division, at 601-961-5104; and Tom Singley, a citizen who opposes the project, at 601-475-7866.

MISSOURI

→ Kansas City voters rejected for the second time a curbside recycling program. This time they voted it down because the city proposed switching to a volume-based garbage fee, picking up just one bag of trash free at each household. The recycling proposal was presented to voters because state law requires public votes on certain fee increases. For more information, contact Mike Mansur, Kansas City Star, 816-234-4433.

→ Kansas City will soon become the largest city in the nation to meet all federal

clean air standards, EPA and congressional sources say. The EPA recently published notice in the Federal Register that it plans to designate the city in compliance with ozone standards, the only standard it had yet to meet. For more information, contact Rowena Michaels, EPA, Region VII, 913-551-7003.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

→ Two towns — Hartford, Vt., and Lebanon, N.H. — are considering a bi-state trash compact that officials say could save millions and encourage other cooperative arrangements between both states. A feasibility study is due April 1. Peggy Grodinsky (603-298-8711) reported on the issue in the Feb. 11 *Valley News* (West Lebanon, N.H.). Hartford recently built a comprehensive recycling center, while Lebanon has a new lined landfill. Both facilities currently serve a number of towns in their respective states. For more information, contact Lebanon's city manager (603-448-4220) or Hartford's town manager (802-295-9353).

NEW YORK

→ "Earthfile," the internationally syndicated environmental TV series produced by Worldwide Television News, part of Capital Cities/ABC, has produced six mini-documentaries for UNCED, the sponsoring agency for the Earth Summit. The purpose of the documentaries is to explain the complicated issues being addressed at the UNCED Rio conference. The tapes will be available to broadcasters through the U.N. For more information, contact Elsbeth MacDougall, United Nations Department of Public Information, 212-963-6938 or fax 212-963-0765.

→ The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) launched in April a new, bi-weekly, 30 minute program hosted by Anne-Stuart Hamilton and Dr. Stephen Zawistowski, the Humane Education and Science advisor to the ASPCA. The program's format is designed to allow stations to do inserts of local issues. Contact George Dwyer, Director of Broadcasting, ASPCA, 441 E. 92nd St., New York, NY 10028. 212-876-7700 ext. 3253.

→ Cornell University researchers are studying the effect of increased ultraviolet light due to the thinning ozone layer on economically important crops. The first measurable effects of climate change on world agriculture are being closely monitored by Cornell scientists. Video and photos are available. Contact Roger Segelken, Cornell News Service, 607-255-4206.

→ Univision, the Spanish language network, announced the production of a series of feature stories explaining the issues to be addressed at the upcoming Rio "Earth Summit." The series will explain these often complicated issues, i.e., biodiversity, deforestation and sustainable technology, to the Spanish-speaking community. The series was scheduled to start in mid-May and will continue through the end of the network's extensive Earth Summit coverage. The supervising producer is Luis Calle.

→ Writing in the Jan. 14, 1992, *Village Voice*, Mary Beth Pfeiffer reported the first cases of what may be a nationwide environmental problem — chemical contamination of the air in apartments above dry cleaners. Pfeiffer reported levels of perchlorethylene in apartments above a New York City cleaner that were up to 620 times above New York State's safety guideline. Unsafe levels were detected up to the 12th floor, where they were 60 times above the standard. Pfeiffer told how state regulations over dry cleaners were woefully inadequate and how many dry cleaners use outdated technology that, in the words of an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, "are just like leaking sieves." Pfeiffer also found evidence of contamination above cleaners in two other counties in the state of New York, where residents were living with perc levels as high as 2,000 times above the safety standard. Pfeiffer is assistant editorial page editor for the *Poughkeepsie* (N.Y.) *Journal*; she is also a freelance writer for the *Voice*. For more information, call her at 914-454-2000.

NORTH DAKOTA

→ Voters ousted an entire county commission in south-central North Dakota

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after the officials considered the possibility of accepting highly radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants around the country. Grant County commissioners had accepted \$100,000 from the Department of Energy (DOE) in January to study the feasibility of building a nuclear waste storage facility. DOE has been seeking volunteer communities across the nation which might be interested in hosting what's called a monitored retrievable storage (MRS) facility for 15,000 tons of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants. One or more MRS areas are needed because utilities are running out of storage space and DOE needs a "temporary" national spot until a permanent repository is available sometime after 2010. Although Grant County commissioners and DOE officials emphasized that acceptance of the federal grant did not signify anything more than a preliminary interest in studying the idea, voters balked and held an unprecedented re-call election on March 10. The newly elected commissioners announced immediately that they will return the \$100,000 grant. Other communities that received similar DOE grants include Fremont County in central Wyoming, and various Indian nations in Minnesota, Washington, New Mexico and Oklahoma. For more information, contact Bob von Sternberg of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune (612-673-7184).

OHIO

→ The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, might be among the most heavily polluted plants in the nation, according to stories in the Columbus Dispatch. Science writer Michael B. Lafferty reported Dec. 22 on the plant, where uranium hexafluoride is enriched for civilian and military reactors. The report described the dangers posed by exposure to radiation, stories of employees who blame their health problems on the facility and a cleanup effort expected to top \$1 million over 10 years. Although the plant operator, Martin Marietta Energy System, maintains that radioactive releases have been slight, reports of releases have varied over the years, the stories say. Ohio EPA officials have asked the federal government to pay \$10 million for state-operated air monitors to obtain objective data.

→ In another sign of the times, the Cleveland Plain Dealer has decided to reduce its two-member environmental staff to one reporter. Reporter Tom Breckenridge has been reassigned to become part of the paper's effort to increase its suburban coverage. Dave Davis, who joined the paper a year-and-a-half ago to expand the environmental beat, said the switch is unfortunate, especially because a recent survey indicated readers listed environmental issues among their top areas of interest. The beat has produced a large number of environmental and utility stories, including nuclear power issues, Lake Erie coverage and air and water pollution problems associated with the large urban and industrial region.

OREGON

→ The Columbia River, the nation's second largest river system, is suffering. Salmon runs are declining, and dioxin and other pollutants have turned up in bald eagles, seals and other wildlife. Environmental, government and civic groups are saying a water quality study undertaken by the states of Oregon and Washington is inadequate. They're pressuring the two states' governors to nominate the Columbia for comprehensive cleanup planning under the National Estuary Program, financed by EPA.

→ An Oregon industrialist wants Portland General Electric Co.'s Trojan nuclear plant to go the way of California's Rancho Seco reactor, which voters shut down in 1989. Jerry Wilson, whose Soloflex exercise machines have made him a fortune, is collecting signatures for a ballot measure that would close Trojan based on earthquake and waste concerns. He must collect 66,771 signatures by July 3 to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

PENNSYLVANIA

→ The Patriot-News in Harrisburg conducted its third annual poll of leaders of major environmental groups in the state. The leaders said the top three issues, in order, were controlling and managing growth, improving environmental education and reducing urban air pollution. For information and copies of stories on the

poll, contact environment reporter Kenn Marshall, Patriot News, P.O. Box 2265, Harrisburg, PA 17105; 717-255-8264.

→ "The Burning Question," a four-part series on hazardous waste incinerators, ran March 15-18 in the Pittsburgh Press. Written by staff writer Don Hopey, the series examined safety and environmental problems with incinerators and public mistrust of the industry and government regulators. For a copy, contact Don Hopey, The Pittsburgh Press, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230; 412-263-1983.

→ A report on water resources in Pennsylvania has been issued by the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee. "Special Report on Water Resources Management in Pennsylvania" examines such issues as regulating ground water and surface water withdrawals. For a free copy, call the committee at 717-787-7570 or write to the Joint Conservation Committee, Box 254, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

→ Mark Jaffe of the Philadelphia Inquirer profiled the Pacific yew tree in an article that also discussed biodiversity and old-growth forests. Taxol, an extract from the tree, is used to treat cancer. Contact Mark Jaffe, the Philadelphia Inquirer, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19101; 215-854-2430.

→ Terry Ruggles, who covers science and environment for WCAU-TV in Philadelphia, got a break from reporting on the ozone layer and recycling earlier this year. He shipped out to France to keep tabs on local athletes at the Winter Olympics. "That's a plum," said news director Drew Barry. "This guy is always coming in here with stories, not just environmental, either."

PUERTO RICO

→ EPA, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands established the first non-profit, public-private institution to address regional environmental problems. EPA, in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, established in March the Cooperative Institute for Envi-

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ronment and Development. This non-profit, public-private institution involving government agencies, academia, non-governmental environmental organizations and the private sector, will develop and promote programs in four main areas crucial for sustainable development. These are: Public-private partnerships through voluntary actions and joint research projects; education, training and technology cooperation; data and information management and research; and outreach to organizations in the Woder Caribbean Region. The Institute, modeled after a similar one established by EPA in Budapest, Hungary, underscores the growing "internationalization" of EPA through its International Activities Office, which could raise some thorny issues such as "environmental imperialism," in spite of its benevolent mission and the non-governmental nature of the programs. The Caribbean Institute should also serve as a springboard to Latin America and a catalyst which could spur more regional cooperation to solve environmental problems in the Caribbean and Latin America. For more information contact the Assistant Administrator for International Activities at EPA Washington; Randall Shobe in Puerto Rico, 809-250-0410; Pedro Gelabert, director of the Institute, 809-729-7746; or Albi Ferre at El Nuevo Dia newspaper, 809-793-7070 x2165.

RHODE ISLAND

→ What happens when a public agency spends \$10 million and six years laboring over an environmental restoration and preservation plan that can't be fulfilled? That's what may be in store for the so-called Narragansett Bay Project which was released in January with a price tag of \$685 million. So far state officials have come up with \$100,000 toward meeting the plan's goals, although environmental organizations are preparing to rally in support of it. Staff for the Narragansett Bay Project can be reached at 401-277-3165.

→ Interest is growing in establishing greenways, natural oases in the midst of growing urban congestion. A plan called Greenspace 2000 was recently unveiled in Providence which called for linking

parks, hiking trails, bike paths and river corridors throughout Rhode Island. Similar discussions are occurring throughout the Northeast, according to speakers at a January conference. One possibility is a bicycle trail that would run from Boston to Washington. The state is also developing a trail that will run through western Rhode Island. Contact Save the Bay at 401-272-3540.

VIRGINIA

→ A four-part series documenting the dramatic decline of Chesapeake Bay fisheries and the sluggish response to the crisis by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission was published Feb. 16-19 by the Newport News Daily Press. For more information, contact environmental reporter Mark Di Vincenzo, 804-247-4719.

VERMONT

→ The Vermont Supreme Court on Feb. 14 heard a case appealing the state Public Service Board's approval of a 30-year, \$4 billion power purchase contract between 16 Vermont utilities and Hydro-Quebec, the world's largest hydroelectric dam located in James Bay, Canada. The hearing was reported on in depth by Yvonne Daley of the *Rutland Herald* (800-776-5512). The appeal was filed by Middlebury attorney James Dumont (802-388-4906). No decision had been handed down as of March 17, and no more hearings are scheduled. Supreme Court decisions are handed down on Friday, although those results are not officially released until the following Monday. Contact Larry Abbott at the Supreme Court (802-828-3278) for more information. The docket numbers for this case are 91-154 and 91-269.

→ Vermont Country Milk, a mom-and-pop operation that recently began selling milk in glass containers, is getting a good initial reception from northern and central Vermont grocers and is preparing to expand its market into southern Vermont and New Hampshire. It also has plans to expand its product line to include bottled cream. Orders have quadrupled since the first batch of 600 gallons of milk came off the line on Jan. 6 to 2,700 gallons a week as of mid-February. The company, oper-

ated by New York attorney Jerry Glantz and wife Hillary, has five full-time employees. It operates from an old milk packaging facility at the University of Vermont. The milk is purchased from a Vermont farmers' cooperative. Vermont County Milk's phone number is 802-985-8630. Glantz notes that there is a small but growing movement back to bottled milk, citing operations similar to his in several states, including California, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

WASHINGTON

→ By late May, the University of Washington in Seattle plans to release a catalog providing information on all environmental policy and natural resource management courses. Ed Miles, director of the School of Marine Affairs, said the catalog — designed to help both advisors and recruiters — is part of a major analysis of what the school has to offer. That effort helped identify gaps in the curriculum, leading to the creation of courses for "science naive" students as well as those who don't know as much as they should about policy issues ... Meanwhile, the university is offering a first-ever class this spring quarter on "Environment, Growth and the Media." Co-instructors are Ed Basset, director of the UW School of Communications, and Bob Simmons, formerly of Seattle's KING television.

→ If two sheets of wallboard are burned at Spokane's new garbage incinerator, the plant's sulfur dioxide emissions exceed the state limit, reported Jim Lynch of the *Spokesman-Review* and *Spokane Chronicle*. The wallboard, also known as Sheetrock, is used for interior walls and is made of gypsum. When burnt, it releases more sulfur dioxide than the plant's "state of the art" pollution control equipment can handle. Incinerator operators and the city are trying to change the state's sulfur dioxide emission limits. Wallboard is apparently a problem at waste incinerators across the country.

→ Another rare bird of prey is looming over the West, reports Rob Taylor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Protection of the northern goshawk could trigger revolutionary change in timber management

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from Canada to Mexico, according to his Feb. 18 story. A committee of scientists has released a plan to protect goshawks in Arizona and New Mexico. It threatens to shrink timber production in those states, although not as drastically as the northern spotted owl plans have shrunk Northwest harvests. Copies or executive summaries of the report are available from: Regional Office Wildlife Management, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Building, 517 Gold Ave., S.W. Albuquerque, NM 87102.

WEST VIRGINIA

→ Problems with underground storage tanks became apparent in Westover, W. Va., in November 1991, when several homes had to be evacuated and fumes leaking into a junior high school forced its closure. Morgantown Dominion-Post reporter Lee Chottiner found the situation is out of control: the state has no idea how many such tanks there are; records are poor; legislation is lacking.

→ State environmental groups beat back a determined challenge to existing dioxin limits from the governor's office and an out-of-state corporation that wants to build a giant pulp mill on the Ohio River. The company asked for a standard 90 times above its current level, but the legislature refused to take up the issue despite intensive industry lobbying. Call Ken Ward and Paul Niden at the Charleston Gazette, 304-348-5100, Monty Fowler, the Herald-Dispatch, 304-526-2802.

→ The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) issued a report in January that showed Ashland Oil's Catlettsburg, Ky., oil refinery was the second-dirtiest in the nation in terms of pollution emissions, despite the fact that it is not the biggest one. Ashland Oil said the data was flawed; an employee group implied OVEC's leaders are communists in a newsletter. Call Monty Fowler 304-526-2802.

→ Burning gob (coal refuse) piles in southern West Virginia, ignited by a recent spate of forest fires, may cost \$25 million to put out. The number of burning gob piles increased from 10 to 50 in one month, WSAZ-TV reporter Kathy Young said in March. Call 304-344-3521.

→ How much can one family recycle in a year? A lot. Herald-Dispatch reporter Monty Fowler measured his family's recyclables for an entire year and wrote a story in January detailing what made up the 949 pounds of stuff kept out of landfills, along with some observations about recycling. Call 304-526-2802.

WISCONSIN

→ Wisconsin's nascent oil exploration industry has run into rough going. The Lac Courtes Oreilles band of Chippewa Indians is asking for court action to block an exploratory oil well near Ashland. The Sierra Club is helping the band in its efforts to halt the Terra Energy Inc. test well. The Native Americans and environ-

mentalists charge that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources failed to adequately study the well's potential threat to nearby groundwater and Lake Superior. Meanwhile, a developer who wanted to drill for oil near Lake Michigan in suburban Milwaukee halted his project shortly after drilling began.

→ As one Wisconsin mining project remained on hold, a second international company filed a notice of intent to collect data for its proposed mine near Rhinelander. The Noranda Corp. wants to operate an open-pit zinc and silver mine ... and the firm has sent the state a list of potential environmental impacts Noranda wants to study. Meanwhile, natural resources officials were continuing work on a supplemental environmental impact statement for the proposed Kennecott Corp. mine at Ladysmith. Environmental groups promised to continue their opposition to both projects.

→ The Milwaukee Sentinel was one of several media outlets to recently do stories on how the Clean Air Act amendments will affect Wisconsin. A four-part Sentinel series in March highlighted upcoming changes for Wisconsin commuters and businesses, including small-engine manufacturers. The Sentinel reporters quoted state officials who admitted they can't guarantee the various steps designed to reduce ozone pollution will work. Contact Sentinel reporters Steven Walters or Lee Berquist, at 414-224-2000.

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