

# SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 1 No. 1

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## Environmental winners tell how they did it

# The Pulitzer stories

## Covering Valdez: No place for those bean counters

By ERIC NALDER

Cleanup crews were not prepared for a massive oil spill when the Exxon Valdez took its zany detour onto the rocks of Alaska's Prince William Sound.

But then again, newspapers weren't all that ready to cover this story, either.

Alaska is a long way from most major newspapers, and reporters who flew in for the action found that nothing is accessible, easy or cheap in the 49th state. Covering this story would require imagination. Bean counters need not apply.

We weren't sure how big the mess would be that first morning after the spill,  
(Continued on page 5)

## Sources help Daily News expose bad water supply

By BETTY MITCHELL GRAY

North Carolina groundwater specialists were befuddled.

For several months in 1989 they sampled groundwater in and around Washington, N.C., a town of about 9,000 people on the Pamlico River, two hours by car from the state's famous Outer Banks.

Something was wrong, the specialists said. Their groundwater test results were coming back from the state laboratory skewed.

So they decided to test the water used as a control in their groundwater experiments — tap water from the men's

(Continued on page 6)

## Journalists and scientists meet Nov. 14 to discuss environmental journalism

"The future of environmental journalism" will be debated Wednesday, Nov. 14, when a panel of reporters, editors and producers participates in the Society of Environmental Journalists' first program.

The session, to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Va., will be co-sponsored by SEJ and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), the nation's largest organization of environmental scientists.

SEJ members, journalists, scientists and the public are invited to attend the session, which will be held during SETAC's 11th annual meeting in suburban Washington, D.C.

The theme of SETAC's conference is "global environmental issues" and the journalists participating in the session are all

veteran reporters who have covered a wide range of environmental issues. They are also SEJ's founding officers.

They are Jim Detjen, a reporter at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; Rae Tyson, environmental reporter at *USA Today*; Teya Ryan, a producer of environmental programs for Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta; Noel Grove, environmental editor of *National Geographic* magazine; and Robert Engelman, a reporter for Scripps Howard News Service in Washington, D.C.

Additional panelists may also participate.

The panelists will discuss the directions they believe environmental journalism will go during the 1990s. They are expected to discuss such topics as the increasing role of international reporting, the

(Continued on page 2)

# Welcome to the Society of Environmental Journalists

Welcome to the first issue of SEJournal. And welcome to the Society of Environmental Journalists.

A year ago the idea of a society dedicated to helping journalists cover the environment was little more than a dream. The idea of establishing such a group was actively discussed on several occasions in the 1980s. But until last year the concept had never advanced beyond the talking stage.

It was David Stolberg, an executive with Scripps Howard Newspapers in Cincinnati, who finally convinced the talkers to become doers. He approached the winners of the Scripps Howard Foundation's Edward J. Meeman award for environmental reporting in the spring of 1989 and asked them if they thought there was a need for such a group. They said yes.

A letter was sent out to past winners of the Meeman and Thomas Stokes environmental reporting awards last summer and the respondents overwhelmingly agreed that such a group was needed. The first organizational meeting was held last December. A name was selected and the group was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in February. Officers were elected, and Baker and Hostetler was retained as general counsel based on the D.C. firm's expertise in tax exempt and media law. And in July we formally applied to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status as a non-profit, educational organization.

All of this probably would not have happened had it not been for David's efforts. He prodded us. He nudged us. He convinced Scripps Howard to provide us with seed money. In recognition of David's leadership, SEJ's board voted at our July meeting to elect David as the society's first honorary member.

David retired from Scripps Howard in June but has promised to assist us in helping SEJ develop into a fully functioning society. We hope that you, too, will join us in helping SEJ grow from a fledgling group into an organization strong enough to assist journalists from all media in improving the nation's coverage of environmental subjects.

We encourage you to write and let us know what you think of this newsletter. We encourage you to write letters, suggest tips and sources, supply us with news about activities in your area, and participate in what we hope will be an ongoing and lively debate about the role of environmental journalists.

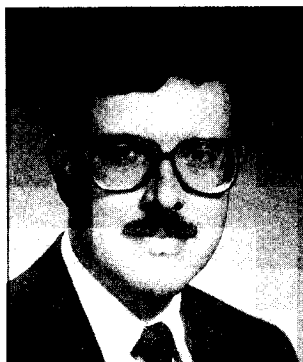
IF SEJ is to grow and flourish, it must be more than a handful of journalists doing

most of the work. We hope that journalists from all media, representing all parts of the United States (and eventually other nations) will actively participate in the activities of the society.

We welcome your suggestions, energy

## Report from the society's president

By Jim Detjen



and time. We encourage your ideas on how we should grow. If we are successful in obtaining financial support from journalism foundations during the next year, we hope to hire someone to handle many of the society's administrative duties and to assist us in publishing the newsletter.

If you know someone who might be interested in handling such duties, please let

us know. One possibility might be to associate ourselves with a university's journalism department, much as Investigative Reporters & Editors is connected with the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. If you know of some journalism department that might be able to provide us with space and administrative support, please let us know.

We also will need your help and ideas in planning SEJ's first national conference, planned for next year. The details are still murky but we'll keep you informed as planning progresses.

One final thought: If you have experienced delays in getting information about SEJ sent to you or in having your application processed, we apologize. Please bear with us. We are doing our best to speed things up. But remember that SEJ has no staff. We are all working journalists who are trying to squeeze in SEJ activities after hours, on weekends and between assignments. None of us is being paid. We live in scattered cities and are conducting the society's activities via telephone calls, letters and occasional meetings.

We hope to smooth things out in the coming months, but we doubt that we will ever become a slick operation. We expect to always remain a bunch of working journalists who are trying to help each other do a better job reporting about some of the most important stories of our time.

## SETAC...(From page 1)

use of computers and other new technologies and whether journalists should become advocates in reporting these issues.

Panelists will also answer questions from some of the more than 1,000 scientists from around the nation expected to attend the five-day conference, which will be held from Nov. 11-15. Thomas Lovejoy, of the Smithsonian Institution, will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

"This inaugural program will give reporters and scientists a chance to meet with SEJ's officers for the first time in a public forum," said Detjen, who will act as moderator of the session. "It will also give environmental scientists and journalists a chance to interact with each other about the coverage of environmental issues."

SETAC includes among its members more than 1,700 toxicologists, chemists,

biologists, ecologists and environmental scientists from around the nation. Founded in 1979, its members are employed by universities, corporations and government agencies.

Among the topics to be discussed at SETAC's conference are global warming, the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, hazardous wastes, air pollution, groundwater contamination, pesticides, wildlife, heavy metals, risk assessment and environmental legislation.

Additional information about the SETAC conference, transportation and accommodations can be obtained by calling Randy Wentsel, conference chairman, at (301) 671-2036 or (301) 671-2081, or by writing to SETAC at 1101 14th St., N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 371-1275.

**SEJ gains non-profit status**

The Society of Environmental Journalists officially became a non-profit, charitable and educational organization on Aug. 28, based on Internal Revenue Service approval of the society's 501(c)(3) application.

The special status will now allow SEJ to solicit and receive foundation grants to underwrite educational activities and seminars that support the society's mission. It will also permit the society to receive tax-exempt contributions from individuals and corporations, said SEJ general counsel David Marshall of Baker and Hostetler.

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The SEJournal is printed on recycled paper.

**SEJ membership tops 160; major media well represented**

As of early August, 161 people from 35 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and three foreign countries had been approved for membership in the Society of Environmental Journalists. The greatest number work in New York (18), but California (15), the District of Columbia (14), Virginia (11) and Pennsylvania (10) are not far behind. Our foreign members work in Canada, Mexico and Brazil.

Among the major media represented are *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *USA Today*, ABC News, CBS News, *The Miami Herald*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Detroit Free Press*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *The Seattle Times*, the Scripps Howard News Service and *Business Week*.

Journalists from smaller media are also represented including *The Bakersfield Californian*, *The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, *The Stuart (Fla.) News*, *The Houma (La.) Daily Courier*, *The Flint (Mich.) Journal* and *The Mt. Washington Valley Ear* in Conway, N.H. Our members include freelance writers and photographers.

It should be noted, however, that membership applications have been coming in at a steady rate. By the time you read this the actual membership will probably be considerably higher.

(Continued on page 16)

**Scripps Howard executive who helped launch SEJ, David Stolberg retires after 38 years in news trade**

David Stolberg, the Scripps Howard executive whose energy and financial skills were largely responsible for launching the Society of Environmental Journalists, retired in June. Characteristically, Stolberg promised to remain available in retirement to help the organization out, especially in fundraising activities.

Recognizing his role in nurturing the new society, the board of directors at its July 9 meeting awarded Stolberg SEJ's first honorary membership. Stolberg, who says he had long been puzzled by the lack of an organization for those covering the environment, took the lead in contacting reporters and calling an organizational meeting to launch the society in late 1989.

As assistant general editorial manager for Scripps Howard, Stolberg was active in the administration of the Scripps Howard Foundation's Meeman Awards for outstanding environmental journalism.

He invited Meeman winners and other prominent reporters, broadcast producers and a photojournalist to form the preliminary core of the new organization. Then he promised — and delivered — seed money from Scripps Howard to charter the group and pay its initial legal costs.

The journalists, told by Stolberg the organization would be "your baby," took



**STOLBERG**

over from there, adopting the name Society of Environmental Journalists and forming a board of directors and executive committee.

Stolberg is a 38-year veteran of newspaper journalism. He covered the Korean War as an armed forces correspondent in the early 1950s and worked as reporter and city editor of the (Denver) *Rocky Mountain News* in the 1950s and 1960s.

He spent the latter part of his career as an executive in Scripps Howard's Cincinnati headquarters, much of it raising money for the Scripps Howard Foundation.

# Environmental reporting scores in contests

By KEVIN CARMODY

In the June cover story of *The Quill*, Editor Mike Moore noted that coverage of the San Francisco earthquake would, at first blush, seem to have dominated the Society of Professional Journalist's 1990 Sigma Delta Chi Awards and other major journalism contests.

"But closer inspection reveals that environmental issues also figured heavily in the awards ...," Moore wrote. "Do these awards suggest a trend toward more environmental reporting? One can hope so."

The flurry of major journalism honors bestowed upon environmental reporters in 1990 prompts a further question:

Is America's rising environmental consciousness really spurring that much more, and better reporting on issues of the environment? Or are contest judges simply paying more attention to contest entries on environmental topics because the issue is perceived as hot, as trendy. Like missing children were a few years back?

Either way, the results of major 1990 journalism competitions suggest environmental journalists have, for now, moved into the mainstream:

Three newspapers won 1990 Pulitzer Prizes for pieces dealing with the environment. Five of the Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Service Awards went to journalists, including a photographer, a magazine writer and a television journalist for their environmental coverage. In the Investigative Reporters & Editors competition, environmental exposes accounted for two of the six newspaper awards.

"If something appears timely and event oriented, it might get more attention in a competition," says Paula LaRoque, assistant managing editor and writing coach at the *Dallas Morning News*. "Judges are only human."

LaRoque believes that much reporting on environmental issues, as with other weighty subjects, is more difficult for readers — and contest judges — to wade through. It shouldn't be, she says.

"In weighty pieces, the problem is often that the gist of the story doesn't jump out," LaRoque said. "One hates to be superficial, but what catches the eye is what is obvious — what is made to be obvious."

Perhaps, she suggests, with more environmental reporting being done, more reporters are learning to write more clearly and concisely about technical topics.

David Hanners, a 1989 Pulitzer winner for explanatory journalism, and a 1990 contest juror, says he senses a trend in newspaper editors giving more space and time to major environmental reporting projects.

But that doesn't mean the best environmental reporting will necessarily be recognized in mainstream journalism contests. At least not yet.

"In the past, to be considered a strong environmental story, it had to have bodies," Hanners said. "Jurors want stories to be results oriented, want to see that it spurred some type of action."

"Because of the number of regulatory agencies (often with overlapping jurisdiction), very few environmental stories will result in that kind of decisive regulatory action."

"But as the media mature, as we get more enlightened about environmental issues, the contest selections will reflect that enlightenment."

Hanners still sees jurors getting turned off by stories that include more than a few numbers — often but not always with justification.

"After reading 50 stories, it's hard to concentrate on a piece that's loaded with numbers," he said.

Whatever the pitfalls or strengths in the process, here's the best in environmental journalism, according to major 1990 journalism awards competitions:

## PULITZER PRIZES

● **Gold Medal for Public Service** — *Washington (N.C.) Daily News*, for exposing excessive levels of trihalomethanes (THMs) in the city's water supply, and the inaction by city officials who were long aware of the problem. (See story by Betty Gray.)

● **National Reporting** — *Seattle Times* staffers Ross Anderson, Mary Ann Gwinn, Bill Dietrich and Eric Nalder, for coverage of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and its aftermath. (See story by Eric Nalder.)

● **Editorial Writing** — Tom Hylton of

the *Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury*, for a series of editorials on land preservation, including a series supporting a \$50 million bond issue for the preservation of farmland and other open space in rural Pennsylvania.

## ● Pulitzer Finalists:

— Nalder, in *Explanatory Journalism*, for a separate series on oil tanker safety that was also part of the Pulitzer-winning *Times* staff entry.

— In *Feature Photography*, Robert Hallinen, Erik Hill and Paul Sounders of the *Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News* for photographs of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and aftermath.

## SIGMA DELTA CHI AWARDS

● **Public Service in Magazine Journalism** — *The New Yorker*, for the four-part series by Paul Brodeur called "Annals of Radiation: The Hazards of Electromagnetic Fields," exploring not only the possible health effects of these ubiquitous energy fields but the scientific politics surrounding the study of EMF risks.

● **Public Service in Television Journalism** — KSAT-TV, San Antonio, and reporter Hollis Grizzard, for a week-long series exploring a community's undiscussed fears about birth defects and other ailments associated with uranium mining in Karnes County, Texas.

● **Photography** — Patrick Davison, *The Albuquerque Tribune*, for photographs accompanying a series exploring the commercial trade in big game body parts, such as elk antler, and poaching animals from public lands.

● **Washington Correspondence** — Bill Lambrecht, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, for an open-ended series documenting the exportation of hazardous wastes from industrialized nations to Third World countries ill-equipped to handle disposal.

● **Public Service in Newspaper Journalism** — *Washington (N.C.) Daily News*, for previously described stories.

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS AWARDS

● **Newspapers less than 75,000** — *Anchorage Daily News* for a series by Patti Epler, Richard Mauer, Craig Medred and Stan Jones on the role of industry and government regulators in the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

## Cover Story

● **Newspapers less than 75,000** — *Washington (N.C.) Daily News*, for previously described stories.

### SCRIPPS HOWARD — MEEMAN AWARD

● **Circulation Above 100,000** — *The Boston Globe*, reporter Larry Tye and photographer Suzanne Kreiter, for "Poison in the East", a five-part series documenting the devastation of the environment in Eastern Europe and China.

● **Finalists:**

— David White, *The Birmingham News*, for a collection of reports detailing the source, contents and fate of hazardous wastes shipped to an Alabama landfill.

— Tom Harris, *The Sacramento Bee*, for a series on health threats posed by rice straw.

— Eric Nalder, *The Seattle Times*, for previously described series on oil tanker safety.

● **Circulation Under 100,000** — Sam Atwood, *The Sun*, San Bernardino, Calif., for his exploration of air pollution in the San Bernardino Valley, possible solutions and likely consequences of taking no action.

● **Finalist:**

— Bob Klose, Bley Rose, Eileen Kline-man, Carolyn Lund, Chris Smith and Steve Hart, *The Press Democrat*, Santa Rosa, Calif., for a series based on computer simulation of the effects of a Valdez-like tanker spill on the Northern California coast.

● **Special recognitions:**

— Eileen Welsome, Mark Taylor, Shonda Novak and Pat Davison, *The Albuquerque Tribune*, for previously described series and photos on the exploitation and killing of wildlife.

— Elizabeth McKenna, Tom Gilchrist and Eric English, *The Bay City (Mich.) Times*, for stories about their state's trash disposal plight.

### THOMAS STOKES AWARD

● **Winner** — Eric Nalder, *The Seattle Times*, for previously described tanker series.

● **Honorable Mention:**

— Paul J. Nyden, *The Gazette*, Charleston, W. Va., for articles exposing the abuses by West Virginia's strip mining industry.

— Larry Tye, *The Boston Globe*, for previously described "Poison in the East" series and "Saving Our Planet," a series exploring the perils of pollution around the globe.

— Thomas Hylton, *Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury*, for previously described editorial series.

— Don Behm, *The Milwaukee Journal*, for a six-part chronicle entitled "Ill Waters: The Fouling of Wisconsin's Lakes and Streams."

## Nalder...(From page 1)

but we knew Washington state readers would be hungry for information. Oil tankers sail into our waters every 14 hours, on average, most of them coming from Alaska. Our state has a unique tie to Alaska that dates back to the days a century ago when grizzled gold miners would board rickety ships in Seattle's harbor on their way to find their fortune.

Assistant City Editor Dave Boardman, who took the helm on the story, had an immediate instinct that we needed to give this story a broader touch because our readers needed to know how this would affect them, not just how it was affecting Alaska. He set the stage for that approach when he made the first assignments.

Environmental writer Bill Dietrich, who has an uncanny ability to turn out massive amounts of well-written copy, was assigned to cover the nuts and bolts of the spill: whodunit and what happened. Mary Ann Gwinn, a feature writer who puts strong emotion into her stories, was sent to the beaches to tell our readers what they looked like. She would later write about how the Alaskan outrage toward the spill turned into avarice as Exxon began paying big wages for cleanup jobs.

"It was hard to look at," she recalled.

Ross Anderson, a political writer who describes himself as a commercial fisherman's groupie, was sent to cover the story of Alaska's valuable fisheries and to look into the cozy relationship between big oil and government in Alaska.

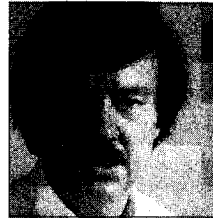
More than 30 other staffers pitched in to give the story local angles, to cover the finger pointing at Exxon and to take pictures and draw the graphics.

My assignment was to investigate the tanker industry and the regulators. I would end up digging into records and doing interviews for six months before writing a six-part series that told our readers how this could happen in our waters, and how little had been done to prevent such accidents worldwide. My story became an investigation of the U.S. Coast Guard, the tanker industry and the international shipping cartels. I took side trips into the history of drinking among tankermen, as well as detours into the tangled world of international maritime treaties and marine architecture. I found ships with fragile hulls and

out-of-date radar systems in the harbors and a system for training and licensing crews that dates back to the 19th century.

The story I undertook could have swallowed a platoon of reporters, but it was all part of Boardman's master plan.

"The key to our coverage was the fact that we were able to step back, half a step, and write about the profound issues; not just cover what was happening day-to-day, but explain what it meant to the people not living on Prince William Sound," he said.



ANDERSON



GWINN



DIETRICH



NALDER

I began by doing research in academic papers, engineering journals, industry reports and U.S. Coast Guard documents. The newspaper assigned a single librarian to my task, and even loaned me a summer intern for a few weeks. I looked for trends, inconsistencies and unsolved problems, and I found many. I also looked for names of experts and telephoned them.

Every industry has its watchdogs, and although the tanker business is short on oversight I found a few who were invaluable. One was an ex-tanker officer named Arthur McKenzie in New York, another was an emeritus professor in Seattle.

I prefer being at the scene of any story I'm covering, so I asked the oil companies if I could pay for a ride on one of their tankers. Exxon wouldn't listen to my request, Chevron said no, but Arco complied without hesitation. I knew I had a story when I was sailing out of Prince William Sound aboard the tanker Arco Anchorage and the man standing on bow watch told me he suffers from double vision. I helped him spot boats on the water.

To investigate the U.S. Coast Guard, I

invited myself into their operation. I spent hours at Coast Guard headquarters in Seattle pouring over their merchant marine disciplinary records. I spent a day in the Portland shipyard crawling around ships with Coast Guard inspectors. More important, I met and cultivated sources, showing an interest in their feelings and slowly opening them up.

The Coast Guard was wary, though, and the top brass was not willing to volunteer the stickiest information. I filed more than 30 Freedom of Information Act requests. I had a voracious appetite for internal Coast Guard reports, and it paid off.

I also discovered there were experts called surveyors who inspect ships. I got to know them, and learned firsthand how the industry is self-regulated and not well regulated. I remember sitting in a dingy cafe with one man who had tears in his eyes as he told of the abuse he saw every day.

I poured over accident reports, and looked for recommendations that were ignored. I studied budgets and looked for the shift in money (from ship inspection to the drug war). I guess if I hit on any seminal fact, it was that the tanker industry is global and more powerful than anyone who regulates it, and these big ships are as fragile as they are large. Some have literally broken when they were hit by big waves.

Long before I was ready to write, graphic artists were assigned to the story and they worked along with me. We knew readers were going to need graphics to understand the technical aspects of the story. We let the graphics stand alone, to some degree, telling their own story.

As I reported, I carefully organized my information in a computer, cross referencing data under categories so I could trace a quote or fact back to its source. Before writing, I met several times with Boardman, a copy editor, the artists and others to settle on a story outline. Preparations were key to a product that I hope was readable.

The series was called "Tankers Full of Trouble," and there is no room in this piece to detail its findings. However, if you want a reprint you can write me at Seattle Times, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA. 98111.

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*Eric Nalder is chief investigative reporter at the Seattle Times and one of four reporters whose work won the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting.*

### Gray...(From page 1)

bathroom at the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources' (DEHNR) regional office in Washington.

State test results on this water revealed concentrations of one chemical family, trihalomethanes, about 13 times higher than the 100 parts per billion considered safe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

These test results prompted a state toxicologist to advise workers in the DEHNR Washington regional office not to drink the city's tap water.

Trihalomethanes, or THMs, are formed when chlorine reacts to water enriched with organic matter. THMs cause cancer in laboratory animals and have been linked to cancer in humans.

Reports on the state tests and the presence of THMs in the city's dig water appeared in the *Washington Daily News* over a 10-day period in September. They would lead to a two-month, state-imposed ban on drinking the city's water and eventually to changes in North Carolina's drinking water regulations.

Subsequent reports in the *Daily News* also showed that city officials had known of the presence of high THM concentrations in Washington's drinking water supply for eight years and had not told the public of the health risk.

State and federal law required cities with populations over 10,000 to test for and meet THM concentration standards of 100 parts per billion. Towns under that size were not required to meet this standard.

City officials maintained that because the standards did not apply to Washington, they were under no obligation to meet the standard or report the health risk.

The moral implications of this decision apparently did not cross their minds.

As an environmental reporter for the *Daily News*, I was the lead reporter on the stories that would uncover this drinking water contamination and inaction by city leaders and earn the newspaper the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service.

North Carolina Health Director Ronald Levine was quoted in several newspapers as saying coverage by the *Daily News* had

saved hundreds of lives.

When the story broke, I had been a member of the *Daily News* staff about seven months. I returned to journalism in February 1989, after a 12-year hiatus as an insurance agent — working in and, eventually, owning an insurance business my father founded in 1939.

Nothing in my business and liberal arts background had prepared me to write about science and health issues. I had to learn fast.

Two excellent sources of background information on drinking water issues and regulations were state chapters of the Clean Water Fund and Environmental Defense Fund.

A book by Consumer Reports, *How Safe Is Your Drinking Water?*, written in easy-to-understand language,

was also an excellent source of background information.

In one respect, I was very lucky.

While my drinking water story was unfolding, the department which oversees environmental regulations in North Carolina was reorganized to include state health service divisions. Organizational charts were redrawn and telephone numbers were changed overnight.

Because of this reorganization, the public information officers for the health services divisions were people I had worked with for seven months on environmental issues. Washington is 2 1/2 hours by car from Raleigh, the state capital, so without their cooperation — sending copies of documents by facsimile and answering queries on test results over the telephone — I would have been dead in the water. No pun intended.

The moral for environmental reporters working on small newspapers is — establish a good working relationship with leaders in environmental groups and state environmental agencies early in your career.

You never know when it might pay off.

---

*Betty Gray was lead reporter on the project, which won her paper a 1990 Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service.*



GRAY

# Handbell heralded early organizing efforts

By TOM HARRIS

It started with that damn little silver handbell Mal Mallette used to summon us to our places around the precious oval table adorned with those two gleaming flower vases.

It was like we were back in grade school and recess was over. Mallette brooked no nonsense. This was his shrine, the holy grail of seminar sites; the hallowed halls of Columbia University, home of the American Press Institute (API) professional improvement seminars that everyone on the staff would kill to attend.

It was the first session they would ever stage for environmental writers. I had no idea, at the time, just how rebellious and anti-establishment environmental writers could be. And, now, someone thinks they can weld them into a national fighting force, a society of environmental journalists, yet. They may discover what I was soon to learn.

By the end of the third day, a cadre of the most rebellious attendees — remember, this was in the fall of 1970, when sit-ins and protests were the rage — broke the commandment of no after-hours use of the sacred conference room and staged a full-scale, if not quite sober, take-over.

The silver vases were emptied and used for more convivial purposes. But we never could find that damn little “to tea” bell. Mallett must have taken it home with him at night.

Most of the 31 seminar members were there (I have to say that to protect the guilty ring leaders) but few can challenge this account because I was the only non-drinker. Oh, they sent Casey Bukro of the *Chicago Tribune* and Harold Scarlett of the *Houston Post* in as part of the grievance committee to negotiate their demands but they were not nearly as clear-headed as they let on.

I don't know where they are now but as I look back over the roster I clearly remember the ringleaders. It was that Southern clique of rednecks that really started it: Jeff Nesmith of the *Atlanta Constitution*; Jim Ryan of *St. Petersburg Times*, and two of the sweetest, most innocent southern belles you ever met, Mary Walton of the *Charleston Gazette* and Mrs.

Patricia Toner from Fort Lauderdale. I may not know where they are now but I suspect that if I looked up the Guinness Book of Records for big-time drinkers, they would be in there, somewhere. Oh, it was a masterful display.

Mallette was absolutely horrified about the sacrilege. Nevertheless, the demands were firm: no more of that damn tinkerbell and we had to quit being fed a procession of Columbia Neanderthals and people like Henry Diamond, the so-called environmental conservation commissioner of New York, who was trying to tell us how dilution really was the solution to sludge pollution.

To his long-suffering credit, Mallette was more patient than could have been expected and things loosened up for the rest of the week. I said patient; not understanding. We were never invited, or allowed, back.

So, little wonder you want to organize, now. Mallette's cover is that he is retired but don't be fooled. He still drops in to API headquarters, now in Reston, Va. and I know where that damn bell is. What could be a more appropriate setting for the first conference of this successor bunch of scallywags? You have to make your mark somewhere. Tradition demands it.

There were some minimally successful efforts, in the wake of that November 1970 session, to form up, nationally. But they fizzled. Later, the overbearing and overly self-impressed science writers league allowed as how it might be tolerable to append us to their group, though with less than full status.

As far as I know, my seeds of transcontinental rebellion were the only ones to take root. But even they withered and died soon enough. That is not to say that the death of the California Academy of Environmental Newswriters (circa 1971-1974, or thereabouts) was either premature or much mourned.

People like the late Fred “Skip” Garretson, of the *Oakland Tribune* and dean of West Coast environmental writers; Alan Cline of the *San Francisco Examiner*, Dale Champion of the *Chronicle*, Paul Peterzell of the *Independent-Journal* and Ken Castle, then of the East Bay's suburban *Argus* but

now outdoor editor of the *Chronicle*, and Ted McHugh of the regional smog board kept it going. At its peak, the group, with associates, numbered more than four dozen. Not bad for a largely Northern California group.

Tired of being spoon-fed other people's messages and conference formats, and fed up with being denied real access to get *OUR* questions answered and needs fulfilled (they were legion, at the time) CAEN staged its own workshops and conferences on things like the SST, supertankers, oil spills, and such.

It got all of us well launched, started on the road to a good source network and support system. It was great. Hey, *WE* ask the questions here. Tell us what *WE* need to know, not what someone else wants us to know.

It worked for a time, and then the true nature of all environmental writers took over. They quit paying their dues and would sooner spend time out on the marshes, wilderness areas and wild rivers than come to a seminar.

Boy, how dumb can you get? Good luck, SEJ. You'll need it. But we need you, and each other, too. It's been too long between rebellions. Mallette can't possibly be ready for us. On to Reston. Capture the bell.

*Tom Harris, environment writer at the San Jose Mercury News from 1969 to 1984 and co-founder of CAEN, is STILL an environment writer, now for the Sacramento Bee.*

## NTIS lists research reports in catalogue

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) is distributing a free copy of a catalog listing 150 environment-related research reports published by the federal government on hazardous wastes, pesticides, oil spills, wetlands, climate change, occupational health and other subjects.

Request a copy of “NTIS Highlights—Environment” (item #PR-868/KON) by calling (703) 487-4650 or writing to NTIS, Springfield, VA 22161.

## Environmental reporting on the rise, survey finds

By JAY LETTO

The media have discovered the environment. Environmental sections and segments — such as “Earthwatch,” “Earthwork,” “Earth Almanac,” “Pulse of the Planet,” and dozens more with similar names — are flooding the mainstream media.

Newspaper coverage of environmental issues is on the rise. Environmental coverage has increased in the past two years in 72 percent of the papers that responded to a recent survey of small-circulation papers by the Scientists’ Institute for Public Information (SIPI), a New York-based non-profit group that bridges the gap between the science and media communities.

According to *Channels* magazine, television network news coverage of environmental issues in 1989 was up 76 percent over the previous year. And a dramatic increase in calls to SIPI’s Media Resource Service — a free telephone referral service for journalists looking for sources for their science, health, environment and technology stories — on topics such as the greenhouse effect, the ozone hole, tropical deforestation, and air pollution confirms that the environment has become the “hot button” for the American media. The service can be contacted at (800) 223-1730, (212) 661-9110 in New York state.

In a December survey of environmental reporting at the nation’s 1,350 dailies with circulations under 50,000, SIPI received responses from 137 newspapers (more than 10 percent) in 38 states, with circulations ranging from 2,891 (Frederick, Okla., *Daily Leader*) to 49,647 (Wilmington, N.C., *Morning Star*). While 72 percent of the papers responding said that they were reporting more on the environment than one or two years ago, no one reported a decrease. The topics most often reported, according to survey respondents, were solid waste (62 percent), water quality (60 percent), and hazardous waste (42 percent).

Thirty-three percent of the respondents indicated that they have a reporter assigned either full or part time to an environment beat. As the table indicates to no surprise, the larger-circulation papers are more likely to assign a reporter to an environment beat.

Calls to SIPI’s Media Resource Service also show a rise in media reporting on

## Environmental reporting at small-circulation newspapers

Newspaper circulation	Number of newspapers responding	Number indicating increase in reporting on environmental issues	Number indicating reporter assigned full or part time to environment beat
25,001-50,000	48	32 (67%)	22 (46%)
10,001-25,000	52	41 (79%)	14 (27%)
below 10,000	37	25 (68%)	9 (24%)
Totals	137	98 (72%)	45 (33%)

Source: SIPI survey of editors of small-circulation newspapers

environmental issues. The MRS, with a database of over 25,000 experts who have agreed to answer media queries through us (and categories including thousands of science, health, technology and environment topics), has shown a dramatic increase in media calls on environmental issues. While overall calls to the MRS have increased slightly the past two years, calls on the environment have increased 33 percent. In 1987, calls to the MRS on environmental issues made up 19 percent of all calls; in 1989 they accounted for 25 percent.

The bulk of environmental calls to the MRS focus on toxic substances, solid waste, water pollution, wildlife and ecology, and the numbers for all categories have remained relatively steady the past few years.

But, a large increase in calls on certain topics may explain the overall increase in environmental calls. In 1985, for example, calls to the MRS on the greenhouse effect,

ozone depletion, deforestation, and endangered species made up less than 1 percent of all calls on the environment.

In 1989, they accounted for more than 12 percent. In addition, the number of calls on energy and alternative energy sources, air pollution, indoor air pollution, acid rain, and pesticides and agricultural issues have steadily increased over the past few years. And, the emergence of calls on the “Green” movement, Eastern Europe’s environmental problems, over-population, and psychological effects of environmental crises also help account for the increase.

Only one environmental topic, drinking water quality, has shown a steady decline in calls to the MRS over the past few years.

*Jay Letto is director of the Environment Program at SIPI, a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization.*

## Top 10 sleepers include four environmental stories

Four of the 10 top under-reported stories of 1989 involved environmental or environmental health issues, according to Project Censored, a national media research effort conducted annually by Sonoma State University in California.

Carl Jensen, project director and a communications studies professor at Sonoma State, said the second most under-covered story of the year dealt with international sludge dealers who are “turning Africa into the world’s toxic waste dump.” (The top under-reported story was how global media lords are threatening freedom of information by seeking to control the world’s most important media.)

Other environmental stories that were included among the top 10 under-covered stories were: attempts by the U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission and the nuclear industry to allow radioactive waste to be dumped into local landfills through a plan to deregulate radioactive wastes known as “below regulatory concern;” schemes to mix PCBs, solvents and hazardous wastes with gasoline and industrial fuel and sell it to consumers; and the national epidemic of 2.5 million cases of salmonella poisoning because of relaxed inspection practices by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Now in its 14th year, Project Censored locates stories about significant issues which it contends are not widely publicized by the national news media. Among the 15 judges who selected the top censored stories from a list of 500 nominations are Ben Bagdikian, a journalism professor at the University of California at Berkeley.



# Environmental investigations on TV a good investment, news director says

By JOYCE REED

The Ozarks of southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. It is a fragile land. It's where leachate can flow from a landfill and travel all the way into the next state through underground caverns.

It is where dioxin-laced dirt closed down town parks. It's where an engineering marvel called Truman Dam was built. The dam could generate enormous amounts of electricity, but its pumpback feature chewed up fish in the reservoir.

It's also where I began my television career and the Environmental Protection Agency's dioxin incinerator spent a lot of time.

The EPA put a site near Verona, Mo., on the Superfund priority list. I am convinced the site was cleaned up only because of the work done by local reporters — primarily one Erin Hayes.

Hayes was a radio reporter from Beryrville, Ark., when she first entered television in Springfield, Mo. She quickly identified the void in environmental reporting — and the desperate need for it. She began doing stories night after night about dioxin — what it was, how it was created and how much of it was in our Ozarks backyards. It was probably three years after she began such environmental reporting before the industry and then her viewers recognized the contribution she made.

Hayes was finally recognized in state, regional and national awards competitions, too.

News directors must strongly support people like Erin (who now reports for CBS News). That support must be demonstrated in the newsroom and in the boardrooms. News directors should keep informed about the progress of an investigative piece as it is developing. They should be a sounding board for the reporter and play the role of devil's advocate when necessary. Reporters should not feel they are alone, trying to tell a story that should be told for the public's welfare.

It takes not only the support of a news director, but that of the station general manager, too. While there is grave concern for the bottom line these days, I have found most general managers supportive of any

investigative story as long as they are kept informed of a story's impact and our facts are correct and our report thorough. Still, without the support of that manager, important environmental stories can die in their infancy.

I have strongly maintained, too, that great stories take a great amount of time to develop. Environmental reporting requires reporters to become technically and scientifically informed, to decipher complex data or formulas. Frequently they must utilize the Freedom of Information Act or open records laws when government-employed "watchdogs" are reluctant to share public information and documents. In some cases, government workers even tip off industry officials that a reporter is examining the industry's activities.

Sacrificing story count today will strengthen content later and raise the curve of expectation in the entire news department. Investigative pieces about what is being emitted from hospital incinerators or what an industry is dumping into a river cannot be developed in a day — sometimes not in a week. It's hard in the ratings race to carve out months in which a reporter does nothing but investigate and gather information. But it's our job, as much as putting shows on the air several times per day.

Environmental reporting is a specialty. As laws change, as we learn more about how we are damaging our environment, the need to have strong reporters to cover environmental stories increases. Research shows more and more people are recycling — paying attention to the stories journalists are doing. News directors, then, have even more reason to commit resources to the environmental test.

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*Joyce Reed is news director at KDBC-TV in El Paso, Texas. The former co-publisher of weekly newspapers in Missouri, Reed moved to television reporting and anchoring in 1976. She has been a news director for RTNDA-award winning network affiliates in Springfield and Kansas City, Mo., and has earned a reputation for supporting serious environmental journalism.*

## Tech Talk

By STEVE NASH

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

You don't have to cover the Amazon rainforest to tell readers about what one biologist calls "the impending free-fall in biological diversity."

In our own back yard:

● A lengthening list of tree species in the U.S. are dying or ailing for a variety of reasons: imported diseases and insects, drought, acid rain, ozone pollution, mystery viruses—even fallout from nuclear testing has been hypothesized.

Sources: Your state forester or nearest National Park for a list of trees in trouble. And the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Forest Pest Management at (202) 453-9600 for directions to regional research.

BioScience magazine's 9/87 issue gives a good overview, now somewhat dated, as does Science News, 7/22/89. The 7/7/90 issue of Science News has a tip on trees and smog, and the 5/30/88 issue has another one, on a theory that an acid-loving moss is causing forest dieback at 100 regions in 30 states.

● A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist has called the steep declines of a large number of song-bird species "tragic." Perhaps the strongest research statement so far appears in the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences, 10/89, page 7658.

A symposium on this topic at Woods Hole, Mass., late last year attracted dozens of researchers, maybe some from your area. Call the Manomet Bird Observatory (508) 224-6521 for their names and for abstracts of the research papers given there.

Other sources: university biologists, ecologists, local Audubon Society chapters can alert you to area research, anecdotal evidence of declines or other shifts.

Where Have All the Birds Gone?, a good new book by former Princeton biologist John Terborgh, gets into the nuances. You'll find a slice of the story in the 5/90 Audubon magazine. Also, the Washington Post of 7/26/89, Boston Globe of 1/15/90, Philadelphia Inquirer of 4/15/90 and the Waterbury (Conn.) Republican of 12/19/89, Scripps Howard News Service, 2/10/90.

● And don't neglect the amphibians. A National Research Council workshop in California this past February featured tales of unexplained declines among frogs, toads, salamanders.

(Continued on page 12)

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## Reporters' Toolbox

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### Covering: The Environmental Protection Agency

By JULIE L. EDELSON

The Environmental Protection Agency employs a total staff of 15,000, and has 10 regional offices across the country and 11 research laboratories. The task of covering a government agency this size can seem overwhelming. Your responsibilities are exacerbated by the sheer complexity of the issues. Who will take the time to talk to you on deadline and walk you through such daunting issues as hazardous waste, acid rain and risk assessments? Fortunately, with the right contacts and some knowledge on how to penetrate the bureaucracy, your job can be made much easier.

The main advantage of covering EPA is that, unlike the Defense Department, it is

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#### Reporters' Toolbox

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

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a very "open" agency. The agency operates in a "fishbowl" and is generally responsive to public inquiries, with the exception of some staff who are averse to involving the press in EPA decisions. By and large I have found EPA employees to be extremely helpful.

The public affairs office is a good place to start if you report for a daily newspaper. The staff are equipped to explain the significance of a particular issue for a daily readership and point you in the direction of the appropriate contact person. You should start by asking which division handles a particular issue and get the name of at least two people to call, in case one is not available. Then offer to call them yourselves.

I suggest you rely on the public affairs staff only as an initial point of contact however, as their press releases tend to focus primarily on the agency's accomplishments. Still it is useful to get on the press office mailing list. Most releases can be faxed. EPA's press office has a different press person responsible for each subject: clean air; Superfund, etc. Press people are also worthwhile if you have a problem

reaching a particular project officer. Also, the press office puts out the *EPA Journal*, a glossy magazine which features articles by EPA and outside environmental officials, and has a clipping service, *EPA in the News*, which is put out daily.

EPA has also begun to incorporate a press person within each individual program office. For example, the Air & Radiation division has a "communications" person whose job it is to act as a liaison between the actual staff handling the matter, and the press. This person can put you in touch with the office director if the story is pressing. Again, this sometimes can be difficult to deal with, as the "liaison" often does not have the answer to your question and may take time to get back to you, often only to say "no comment." But if the information you seek is publicly available, or if you desire an official "on the record" comment, the communications specialist may be a good bet.

EPA Administrator William Reilly, who has been in demand for press appearances, also has his own, very helpful press person. His name is David Cohen and he is a straight shooter, will quickly return your phone calls and can speak expertly on issues which personally involve Reilly.

The best guide to reporting on EPA is the EPA phone book. It lists the names and phone numbers of every EPA division, program director and regional office as well as research laboratories nationwide. All Washington, D.C., EPA employees are listed as well. The book has become a virtual bible for me, but unfortunately copies are scarce. The most recent version is Winter 1990 and can be obtained by calling EPA's Office of Administration & Resources Management at (202) 382-4600.

If your newspaper covers a particular EPA area, you may want to get a copy of the phone book governing that region. For example, if you cover Philadelphia, Pa., you would want to obtain the phone book for Region 3. The EPA book also lists the program people responsible for overseeing the activities of a particular state. EPA also has an employee locator: (202) 382-2090.

Another invaluable resource is EPA's

acronym book, "Selected Letter and Abbreviated Name Guide," which will enlighten you on the many puzzling terms used by EPA employees, such as RCRA, SARA, LUST, BUN, BOP and CHAMP. The publication is available through EPA's North Carolina office: call Betty Abramson at (919) 541-5369.

The EPA phone book will assist you in finding which numbers to call to speak with the office director. This is more difficult, since he/she often cannot immediately respond to your call. You are best served by asking to speak to the program's deputy or the staff person assigned to the project. Lower level staff people are often the best sources. They have more time to explain the issues to you



EDELSON

and tend to be more removed from the higher level political positions. But the difficulty is in reaching these people. The secretaries are far from helpful. Be persistent. The best time to reach staff is early in the morning, between 8 and 8:45 a.m., before the day's activities heat up. Some senior staff are in the office late, after 6:30 p.m., and may answer their own phones once secretaries leave. Once you have tracked down your source, be sure to leave a complete message regarding the nature of your call and inform them of your deadline.

If you are new to the environment beat, do not be shy about pleading ignorance, to avoid having staff talking over your head on these complex issues. Staff are usually very capable of explaining the issues once they realize you are a novice. Also, if you are new, ask for any background or reference material staff can provide. Having a written explanation or summary is often helpful.

Once you have the phone book in hand and have made initial contact with some sources, it is definitely worth a visit to the EPA branch that you are covering. Take time to get to know the office directors personally. Schedule lunches. Make the rounds. See how the office is set up and where the secretaries sit. Potential sources feel much more comfortable once they can pin a face to a name. And they are often more at ease discussing the issues over a relaxed lunch instead of in a busy office.

## Reporters' Toolbox

Also, loyal sources will point you in the direction of others who are similarly helpful. Be sure to always ask for additional names of contacts.

You may also consider a wealth of information that can be obtained through outside sources: the myriad industry and public interest groups that closely track EPA, as well as congressional sources. Environmentalists are often at the root of breaking stories. They rely heavily on the press for free publicity. The Natural Resources Defense Council has been at the forefront of clean air legislative battles: (202) 783-7800. NRDC also leads the National Clean Air Coalition, a group of environmental organizations, and can provide names and phone numbers of member groups. Similarly, the industry Clean Air Working Group consists of a large coalition of major industries. Names and contacts can be obtained from director William Fay: (202) 225-4472.

In Congress, the House Energy & Commerce (202) 225-2927, and the Public Work & Transportation Committees (202) 225-4472, have major jurisdiction over EPA and responsibility for oversight. In the Senate, the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (202) 224-6176, is the prime overseer. An excellent guide to the congressional committees is put out by the National Coal Association. It lists all members, office numbers, committees and staff. The "Congressional Handbook for the 101st Congress 1989-1990" can be obtained by calling (202) 463-2625. Congressional staff, though busy, can be extremely helpful and are rarely shy about talking with the press. Also, congressional press secretaries are very astute and extremely helpful. Do not try to phone them before 9:30 a.m. The best time to reach them is after 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. They tend to start late and work later.

Hopefully with this information at your fingertips, covering the EPA will be a challenging and less frustrating experience!

*Julie L. Edelson is the chief editor of Inside E.P.A., a leading Washington, D.C., trade journal covering environmental policy, which is published by Inside Washington Publishers. She manages a staff of reporters and also writes investigative articles on virtually all environmental issues.*

### Critical EPA Phone Numbers and Contacts

(All area codes are 202 unless noted)

David Cohen, press officer for William Reilly: 382-7960.

#### Press Office

Director: John Kasper, 382-5589.

Special assistant: Hank Roden, 382-4366.

Underground storage tanks, research & development, regional liaison, budget: Gwen Brown, 382-4384.

Air & Radiation, motor vehicles, smog, radon: Martha Casey, 382-4378.

Pesticides and pesticide biotechnology policy: Al Heier, 382-4374.

International activities and policy planning: Luke Hester, 382-4383.

Toxic substances, asbestos, chemical safety, drinking water, wetlands: Sean McElheny, 382-4387.

Superfund and enforcement: Mary Mears, 382-4355.

Air pollution standards for industrial sources, stratospheric ozone, global warming: Dave Ryan, 382-2981.

Resource Conservation & Recovery Act, active hazardous waste disposal site regulation: Robin Woods, 382-4377.

Source: EPA Press Division Directory, March 1990.

#### Press contacts in program offices

Air & Radiation: Alicia Tenuta, 382-7400.

Office of Enforcement & Compliance Monitoring (EPA's legal office): William Frank, 382-4134.

Office of Water: Nancy Jones, 382-5700.

Associate administrator for regional operations and state/local relations: Judith Gleason, 382-4719.

#### Other Press Contacts

Air pollution research: Deborah Janes, (919) 541-4577.

Water pollution and hazardous waste research: Robert Carr (513) 569-7966/7771.

Pollution prevention: Priscilla Flattery, 382-4023.

Motor vehicle emission control, alternative fuel and fuel economy: Janet Cohen (313) 668-4511.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: Mike Greenwell, (404) 639-0727.

#### Regions

Following are the public affairs/external program directors for EPA's regional offices.

Region 1 (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont): Brooke Cook, public affairs director, (617) 565-3424.

Region 2 (New York, New Jersey, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico) Office of External Programs: James Marshall, (212) 264-2515.

Region 3 (Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware): Elaine B. Wright, (215) 597-9800.

Region 4 (Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida): Alexandra B. Smith, (404) 347-4727.

Region 5 (Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois): Jon Grand (312) 353-2072.

Region 6 (New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana): Phillip Charles, (214) 655-2200.

Region 7 (Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri): Rowena Michaels, (913) 551-7003.

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Wyoming, Utah): Nola Cooke, (303) 293-1692.

Region 9 (California, Nevada, Arizona, Guam, Hawaii): Virginia Donahue, (415) 556-6387.

Region 10 (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho): (206) 442-1466. Post vacant.

# Why won't press hear out grassroots activists?

By WILL COLLETTE

*Organizing Director, Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes*

The main thing we in the grassroots environmental justice movement want from environmental writers is a fair shake.

We want accurate reporting that takes a story beyond today's trendy buzz words. We want reporting that doesn't just cover a story on one or two days, until either the reporter or the editor gets tired of it, but instead tracks a story through its conclusion. We want reporting that doesn't just go through the motions of pretending to offer analysis or balance.

I suspect most working journalists would consider all of these characteristics to be the basic standards for news reporting. Yet, truth be told, reporting in general and environmental reporting in particular doesn't often meet these standards.

Since Love Canal spawned a new grassroots environmental movement in 1980, working environmental journalists have had to cope with an environmental movement that speaks with many, disparate voices. Some of those voices are well-schooled in speaking in terms tailored for consumption by mainstream media.

Large, mainstream environmental groups, the public relations departments of large companies and the media affairs staffs of government agencies know the art of the well-crafted news release, the "sound bite" and the quotable quote. But the mothers, farmers, blue collar workers and ordinary people in the grassroots environmental movement have a new story to tell and good reporters are challenged to find a way to understand and report on that story.

Ironically, the smaller newspapers have been the most avid learners. Writers like Bobbi Ridlehoover at the *Arkansas Democrat* and Keith Bagwell at the *Arizona Star* stand out as reporters who have actively sought to understand the new battlegrounds for environmental justice while their colleagues at *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *USA Today* and *Los Angeles Times* still rely on the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and the like to interpret the "environmentalist" position on the issue.

From time to time, there may be a feature story that showcases those peculiar

new environmentalists, those NIMBYs ("Not in My Back Yard") who behave so oddly.

But it's been the smaller papers that have done the in-depth reporting on the impact this new movement has had. Some early examples include the George Polk Award-winning series on military environmental hazards done by a *Sacramento Bee* team led by Tom Harris, long before

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### Viewpoints

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

anyone focused on the horrors at the U.S. atomic weapons production facilities.

The series done by Booth Gunther and Mike Williams for the *Montgomery Advertiser* in the early 1980s documented the abuses of private waste dumpers long before they drew national attention. Their work continues through the work of hard-working writers for several Florida newspapers, in particular the *Florida Times-Union* and the *Tampa Tribune*. But nobody tops Bobbi Ridlehoover at the *Arkansas Democrat* for follow-through on a story. Her writing on the ongoing tragedy of toxic contamination in Jacksonville, Ark., exemplifies good environmental investigative journalism.

Some national writers show the same sort of aggressive journalism. Writers like

Bill Richards and his colleagues at the *Wall Street Journal*, for example, did an outstanding job in tracking the economic problems of incinerators and first raised the issue of whether state "Bad Boy" laws should disqualify companies convicted of "contract crime" violations from getting government contracts.

But mostly what you see in national media environmental journalism is more of the same. The debate on various arcane amendments to the Clean Air Act. Who said what in the debate over global warming.

The national media seem much more likely to accept corporate claims on face value. Or bank regulators' claims that the failed savings and loans are stuck holding many contaminated properties (without evidence of this claim) and should thus be exempt from liability. Or the tales told by the agencies who want to resettle low and moderate income people, even though 21,000 tons of toxic chemicals remain beneath those homes.

If grassroots organizations, like CCHW or any of its member groups, had made claims, such as those that national media outlets accept at face value, would the national media carry them?

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*Will Collette joined CCHW, based in Alexandria, Va., when it was founded in 1981 by Love Canal activist Lois Gibbs.*

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### Eastern European journalists coming to America

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A group of environmental journalists from Eastern Europe will learn from their U.S. counterparts this winter how to better cover environmental crises back home.

The group of eight to 10 journalists will visit 25 reporters throughout the U.S. in January and February, stopping at environmental hot spots such as the Texas Gulf Coast and Southern California.

The Environmental Health Center in Washington arranged the visit by journalists from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and East Germany. Funding is from the German Marshall Fund.

More Eastern European journalists applied than can come. The Environmental Health Center has formed a committee of reporters to screen applicants. As of late August, there were a few open slots on the

committee. If interested, contact Bud Ward, the center's director, at (202) 293-2270.

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### Tech Talk...(From page 9)

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ders and their relatives on all continents, including pristine regions of the U.S. The Associated Press distributed a story 2/20/90 and BioScience published one 6/90.

The rarest plants and animals in your area, and what's being done to protect them, are probably on a neatly computerized list at the government agency that oversees your state's Natural Heritage Program, or your nearest Nature Conservancy outpost.

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*Ideas and tips for this column should be sent to Steve Nash, 10006 Stonemill Road, Richmond, VA 23233. Nash teaches environment and science writing at the University of Richmond.*

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

# SEJ

## Society of Environmental Journalists

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

### Instructions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AREA OF EMPLOYMENT: Newspaper  Magazine  Newsletter  News Service  Television News  Radio News

Freelancer  Educator  Student  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF SEJ? WE'LL SEND THEM DETAILS AND AN APPLICATION:				
NAME _____	ORGANIZATION _____			
ADDRESS _____	Street	City	State	Zip

<b>FOR USE ONLY BY SEJ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>				
Date received _____	Application complete _____	Form of payment _____		
Date reviewed by committee _____	Recommendation _____			
Class of membership granted / date of action _____				
Effective date of membership: <input type="checkbox"/> January 1, 19__ <input type="checkbox"/> April 1, 19__ <input type="checkbox"/> July 1, 19__ <input type="checkbox"/> October 1, 19__				

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

10-11. **Waste Management in Developing Countries** (co-sponsored by World Bank/International Monetary Fund, United Nations Environment Programme) Washington, D.C. Contact: The Secretary, International Society of African Scientists, P.O. Box 9209, Wilmington, DE 19809.

10-13. **First International Symposium on Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Wastes** (co-sponsored by U.S. EPA and UN Environmental Programme). New Orleans, La. LeMeridien Hotel. Contact: Lynda Cook, GRDCA, P.O. Box 6126, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 585-2898

12-14. **Global Environmental Solutions Conference and Exposition** (co-sponsored by U.S. EPA) Santa Clara, Calif. Contact: Rachele Scheinbach, EnSol 90, 13555 Bel-Red Rd., Suite 207, Bellevue, WA 98005. (206) 643-7410.

17-18. **Rethinking High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal** (sponsored by National Academy of Sciences). Washington D.C. NAS Auditorium, 2100 C St., NW. Contact: Rick Borchelt at (202) 334-2138.

17-19. **The Drive for Clean Air** (sponsored by American Gas Association). Washington D.C., Contact: AGA 1515 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209, (703) 841-8661.

17-20. **Challenges in the Conservation of Biological Resources**, Ithaca, N.Y. Contact: Deborah Grover, CBR Symposium, 110 Fernow Hall, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 255-2115.

19-21. **Conference on Pollution Prevention Through Waste Minimization, Recycling and Re-use** (sponsored by Air and Waste Management Association.). Arlington, Tex. Contact: Jon Fedorka, P.O. Box 2861, Pittsburgh, PA 15230, (412) 232-3444.

30-Oct.3. **Chemicals and the Environment: Reporting, Risks and the Right to Know** (sponsored by Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.). Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Gladys Barber, SNPA Founda-

tion, P.O. Box 28875, Atlanta, GA 30358. \$125 fee for representatives from SNPA member papers.

## OCTOBER

2-4. **HAZTECH 90 International**, Pittsburgh, Pa. David L. Lawrence Conference/Exposition Ctr. Contact: HAZTECH Int'l., 437 Madison Ave., 23rd floor, New York, NY 10022, (212) 826-3340. FAX: (212) 826-6411.

4-6. **Fourth Annual Conf. on Radon, the Nation's No. 1 Environmental Threat** (sponsored by Amer. Assn. of Radon Scientists and Technologists). Harrisburg, Pa. Contact: JoAnne Martin, DMA Analysis Group, 520 Chestnut St., Emmaus, PA 18049, (215) 965-2914.

9-10. **Incineration of Hazardous Wastes** (sponsored by NY State Ctr. for Hazardous Waste Management). Niagara Falls, N.Y. Radisson Inn. Contact: David C. Webb, SUNY-Buffalo at (716) 636-2626. FAX: (716) 636-3765.

11-14. **Society of Professional Journalists National Convention**, Louisville, Ky., Galt House East. (Several professional development seminars dealing with environmental reporting) Members \$140, Non-members \$200. Write SPJ, 16 South Jackson St., Greencastle, IN, 46135.

15-17. **California Clean Air and New Technologies Conference** (focus on motor vehicles and fuels, power generation systems and fuels, industrial/commercial processes and residential/consumer applications). Los Angeles. Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Contact: Center For Global Change, University of Maryland, (301) 454-0941 (after 9/4: (301) 403-4165).

16-19. **New Electromagnetic Field Epidemiologic Results and Their Implications** (sponsored by Electric Power Research Institute), Austin, Texas. Four Seasons Hotel-Austin. Contact: Barbara Klein, EPRI at (415) 855-2413. FAX: (415) 855-1069.

16-19. **Indoor Radon and Lung Cancer: Reality or Myth** (29th Hanford Symposium on Health and the Environment). Richland, Washington Tower Inn. Contact: Ray W. Baalman, Manager, Planning

and Communications, MS K4-14, Life Sciences Center, Battelle, Pacific Northwest Labs, Richland, WA 99352, (509) 376-3655.

16-19. **International Symposium on Ecological Indicators**, Miami Beach. Contact: Janet McDonald, Kilkelly Environmental Association, P.O. Box 31265, Raleigh, NC 27622, (919) 781-8150.

17-19. **Environmental Biotechnology: Moving From the Flask To the Field**, Knoxville, Tenn. Contact: University of Tennessee, P.O. Box 2648, Knoxville, TN 37901, (615) 974-0250. FAX: (615) 974-0264.

22-25. **Biodiversity and Landscapes: Human Challenges for Conservation in a Changing World**, Pennsylvania State University. Contact: Andrea Elyse Messer, 312 Old Main, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-7517.

23-24. **Earth Observations and Global Change Decision Making: A National Partnership** (sponsored by NASA, NOAA and the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan). Washington, D.C., National Press Club. Contact: Kimberley Carter, Press Coordinator, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 769-1800. FAX: (703) 769-1803.

23-25. **Symposium on Environmental Radiation and Public Policy**, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: David N. McNelis, Reynolds Electric and Engineering Co., 3260 Montecito Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89120, (702) 295-7828.

29-Nov. 2. **The Department of Energy Model Conference on Waste Management and Environmental Restoration**, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Contact: DOE Model Conference, Analysis Corp., 300 S. Tulane, Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830 or B. Michael Eisenhower at (615) 574-3398.

30-Nov. 1. **Challenges to Managing Southern Forest Ecosystems**, Memphis, Tenn. Contact: Daniel G. Neary, South East Forest Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service, 118 Newins-Ziegler Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611, (904) 392-1850.

## NOVEMBER

2. **Environmental awareness/writing workshop for print and broadcast journalists in Tennessee**, Murfreesboro, Tenn. U.S. Sen. Albert Gore, Jr., keynote speaker. Contact: Glenn Himebrough, Middle Tennessee State University, P.O. Box 37132, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2814.

11-15. **Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's 11th national conference**, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Va. Theme: "Global Environmental Issues: Challenge for the 90s." Contact: Meggin Nagle, SETAC, 1101 14th St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 371-1275. FAX: (202) 371-1090.

14. **"The Future of Environmental Journalism."** Panel discussion by environmental writers, editors and producers. 7 to 9 p.m. Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Va. Co-sponsored by Society of Environmental Journalists and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Contact: Jim Detjen, SEJ president., at (215) 854-2438 or Randy Wentzel, SETAC program chairman, at (301) 671-2036/2129.

15-16. **International Conference on Biotechnology and the Environment: Managing the Risks**, Montreal. Université du Québec à Montréal. Contact: Denyse Pronovost, P.O. Box 8888, Station A, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA H3C 3P8, (514) 987-7944.

28-30. **Conference on "California Greening": Sweeping Solutions or Looming Disaster?** (sponsored by National Association of Manufacturers). San Francisco. Contact: Mary Pigott, NAM, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste 1500, Washington DC 20004-1703, (202) 637-3000.

To submit items for inclusion in *CAL-NDAR*, mail typed copy, including name, address and phone of conference or program director to: Janet Raloff, *Science News*, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. Please write "SEJournal Calendar" in corner of envelope. Deadline for next issue is Oct. 15.

## Members...(From page 3)

### Arizona

- Dee Hall, *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix
- Linda Valdez, *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson

### California

- Sam Atwood, *San Bernardino County Sun*, San Bernardino
- Russell Clemings, *Fresno Bee*, Fresno
- Stephen Green, *Sacramento Bee*, Sacramento
- Tom Harris, *Sacramento Bee*, Sacramento
- Martin Hill, *San Diego Magazine*, San Diego
- Don Holt (academic), Kansas State, Davis
- Jane Kay, *San Francisco Examiner*, San Francisco
- Tim Lange, *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles
- David Linder, KNBC-TV News, Burbank
- Tom Maurer, *Bakersfield Californian*, Bakersfield
- Robin Meadows (associate), University of California Toxic Substances Program, Martinez
- Kathryn Phillips (associate), freelance writer, Pasadena
- Roger Pearson, *California Environment Insider*, San Francisco
- Patricia Rice, *Imperial Valley Press*, Brawley
- Alina Tugend, *Orange County Register*, Santa Ana

### Colorado

- Barry Noreen, *Gazette Telegraph*, Colorado Springs
- John Calderazzo, Colorado State University, Fort Collins

### Connecticut

- Merritt Clifton, *The Animals' Agenda*, Monroe
- David A. Owens, *The Register Citizen*, Winsted

### District of Columbia

- John Brinkley, Scripps Howard News Service Washington bureau
- Damon Chappie, Bureau of National Affairs
- George Dwyer, ABC News Washington bureau
- Robert Engelman, Scripps Howard News Service Washington bureau
- Judy Fahys, Scripps League Newspapers
- Paul M. Foer (academic), University of Maryland
- Ruth Hawk, Bureau of National Affairs
- Jean Heller, *St. Petersburg Times* Washington bureau
- Peter Honey, *The (Baltimore) Sun* Washington bureau
- Amy Porter, Bureau of National Affairs
- Janet Raloff, *Science News*
- Richard Ryan, *Detroit News* Washington bureau
- Phil Shabecoff, *New York Times* Washington bureau
- Dennis J. Wamsted, *Environment Week*

### Florida

- Michael J. Crook, *Miami Herald*, Miami

- Julie Hauserman, *Tallahassee Democrat*, Tallahassee
- Yvette C. Hammett Hull, *Stuart News*, Stuart
- Beverly Keneagy, *Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville
- Michael Nyenhuis, *Florida Times-Union*, Jacksonville
- Tom Palmer, *The Ledger*, Lakeland
- Lisanne Renner, *The Orlando Sentinel*, Orlando
- Mary Beth Regan, *The Orlando Sentinel*, Orlando
- Jim Tuten (associate), freelance photographer, Tampa

### Georgia

- Ken Edelstein, *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, Columbus
- Erin Hayes, CBS News, Atlanta

### Hawaii

- Peter Wagner, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Honolulu

### Illinois

- Susan K. Lave (associate), freelance writer, Evanston
- Steve Leonard, freelance photographer, Chicago

### Indiana

- Kathleen Matusik, *Michigan City News-Dispatch*, Michigan City
- John H. Starkey, freelance photographer, Indianapolis

### Iowa

- Cynthia Hubert, *Des Moines Register*, Des Moines

### Kentucky

- Dennis Hill, *Paducah Sun*, Paducah
- Robin Luger, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, Lexington

### Louisiana

- John M. Hill, Gannett News Service, Baton Rouge
- Steve Norder, *Shreveport Journal*, Shreveport
- Mark Schleifstein, *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans
- Claire E. Taylor, *Houma Daily Courier*, Houma

### Maryland

- Liz Bowie, *The Sun*, Baltimore
- Kathleen Hart, Business Publishers Inc., Silver Spring
- David L. Herzog, *The (Baltimore) Sun*, Bel Air
- Alfred Robert Hogan, Writers Plus Newsroom, Hyattsville
- Kevin McQuaid, *Baltimore Business Journal*, Baltimore
- Pat Papa, Aspen Publishers, Rockville



# SEJ News

- Melanie Scott, Business Publishers Inc., Silver Spring
- Barbara Tufty, *Audubon Naturalist*, Chevy Chase
- Timothy B. Wheeler, *Evening Sun*, Baltimore

## Massachusetts

- John J. Monahan, *Worcester Telegram-Gazette*, Worcester
- Amy M. Stolls, Cutter Info Corp., Arlington
- Mark E. Vogler, *North Shore Sunday*, Danvers

## Michigan

- Emilia Askari, *Detroit Free Press*, Detroit
- Karl Leif Bates, *Ann Arbor News*, Ann Arbor
- Julie Edelson, *Inside EPA*, Ann Arbor
- Mike Stobbe, *The Flint Journal*, Flint

## Minnesota

- Jackie Crosby Legge, KSTP-TV, Minneapolis
- Jon R. Luoma (associate), freelance writer, Minneapolis

## Mississippi

- Sharon Ebner, *Sun Herald*, Gulfport

## Missouri

- Michael Mansur, *Kansas City Star*, Kansas City

## Nebraska

- Al J. Laukaitis, *Lincoln Journal*, Lincoln

## New Hampshire

- Rob Burbank, *Mt. Washington Valley Ear*, Conway

## New Jersey

- Todd Bates, *Asbury Park Press*, Neptune
- Lydia Carole DeFretos, *Arts Weekly*, Montclair
- Rose Ven Ditti McIver, *Courier-Post*, Cherry Hill
- Peter Montague (associate), Environmental Research Foundation, Princeton
- Liv Osby, *The Daily Record*, Parsippany
- Dan Rosenfeld, *The Jersey Journal*, Jersey City

## New Mexico

- Anthony J. Davis, *Albuquerque Tribune*, Albuquerque
- Rene Kimball, *Albuquerque Journal*, Albuquerque
- Cheryl A. Wittenauer, *The New Mexican*, Santa Fe

## New York

- Robert Andrews, *The Post Standard*, Syracuse
- William P. Breen, *Garbage Magazine*, Brooklyn
- Richard Consolas, High Tech Resources International, Oakland Gardens
- Catherine A. Dold (associate), *Audubon Magazine*, New York
- Natalie Goldstein (associate), freelance writer, Ossining
- Dennis Kipp, *Poughkeepsie Journal*, Poughkeepsie
- Mercedes Lee (associate), Audubon Soc., Islip

- Jay Letto (associate), Scientists Institute for Public Information, New York

- Bruce Lewenstein (academic), Cornell University, Ithaca
- Paul H. MacClennan, *The Buffalo News*, Buffalo
- Steve Orr, *Democrat & Chronicle*, Rochester
- Allen Salzberg (associate), freelance writer, Forest Hills
- Robert Sanders, *The Post Standard*, Syracuse
- Emily T. Smith, *Business Week Magazine*, New York
- Ken Stenberg, *Chemical Week*, New York
- Dawn Stover, *Popular Science*, New York
- Bruno R. Tedeschi (academic), New York University, Brooklyn
- Diana L. Tomb, *Democrat & Chronicle*, Rochester

## Nevada

- Mary Manning, *Las Vegas Sun*, Las Vegas

## North Carolina

- Julia M. "Betty" Gray, *Washington Daily News*, Washington
- Clarke Morrison, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Asheville

## Ohio

- Stan Boney, WYTV-TV, Youngstown
- Dave Davis, *Dayton Daily News*, Dayton
- Thomas Ewing, *Cincinnati Environment*, Cincinnati
- Michael Lafferty, *Columbus Dispatch*, Columbus
- Charles Prince, Impact Publications, Cincinnati
- Dick Stone, WTOL-TV, Toledo

## Pennsylvania

- Jim Detjen, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
- Michael Fabey, *Philadelphia Business Journal*, Philadelphia
- Scott Goldsmith, freelance photographer, Pittsburgh
- Ralph Haurwitz, *Pittsburgh Press*
- Kenn Marshall, *Patriot News*, Harrisburg
- Todd Paddock (associate), Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
- Dawn M. Shurmaitis, *The Times Leader*, Wilkes-Barre
- Ramona Smith, *Philadelphia Daily News*, Philadelphia
- Suzanne Steel, *Farm Journal Magazine*, Philadelphia
- Sharon J. Voas, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Pittsburgh

## Puerto Rico

- Luis A. Ferre-Rangel, *El Nuevo Dia*, San Juan

## Rhode Island

- Peter B. Lord, *Providence Journal*, Warwick
- Todd Paddock (associate), Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
- Bob Wyss, *Providence Journal*, Providence

## Texas

- Robert Bryce, *Austin Chronicle*, Austin

- Dan Elliott, *El Paso Times*, El Paso
- Jane M. Martin, *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Corpus Christi
- Carol Mouche', Stevens Publishing Corp., Waco
- Susan Van Slyke, *The Orange Leader*, Orange

## Utah

- Pat Bean, *Standard-Examiner*, Ogden
- Tim Kelly, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Salt Lake City
- James H. Woolf, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Salt Lake City

## Vermont

- Kevin Ellis, *Burlington Free Press*, Burlington

## Virginia

- Kevin Carmody, *Potomac News*, Manassas
- Pdraic J. Cassidy, Inside Washington Publishers, Arlington
- Winifred Conkling (associate), Alexandria
- Bowman Cox, Pasha Publications, Arlington
- Cheryl Lyn Dybas (associate), Alexandria
- Esther Morgo, *The Daily Press*, Smithfield
- Susan K. Nelson, Mealey Litigation Reports, Arlington
- Jim Shevis (associate), freelance writer, Herndon
- Paul B. Sullivan, *The Free Lance Star*, Fredericksburg
- Rae Tyson, *USA Today*, Arlington
- Cyril T. Zaneski, *The Virginian Pilot & Ledger Star*, Norfolk

## Washington

- Sandi Doughton, *Tacoma News Tribune*, Tacoma
- Katherine B. Long, *Seattle Times*, Seattle
- Karen Dorn Steele, *Spokesman Review & Chronicle*, Spokane
- Robert E. Taylor, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Seattle

## West Virginia

- Monty Fowler, *The Herald-Dispatch*, Huntington
- Sheila Gray, WSAZ-TV, Charleston

## Wisconsin

- Terry Anderson, *Green Bay Press Gazette*, Green Bay
- David Kraemer, *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse
- Terry Rutlin, *Wausau Daily Herald*, Wausau

## International members

### Brazil

- Claus C. Meyer (associate), Tyba Agencia Fotografica, Rio de Janeiro

### Canada

- Kerrin Moore, *Province Newspaper*, Vancouver, British Columbia

### Mexico

- Bob Schalkwijk, freelance photographer, Mexico City

## Green Beat Correspondents

### **Introducing The 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, examples of 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 inclusion 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 39635-4567, (601) 896-2355.

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

**Arizona and New Mexico** — Dee J. Hall at the Arizona Republic, P.O. Box 1950, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 271-8111.

### **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, (415) 777-8704, Fax (415) 777-2525.

**Central Coast** — Lynn Deihl at KSBY-TV, 467 Hill St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 544-2224.

**Southern California** — Mike Richmond at the San Diego Tribune, Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112, (619) 293-1373.

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

**Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts** — Bob Wyss at the Providence Journal, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902, (401) 277-7364.

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

### **Florida**

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

**South Florida** — Mary Beth Regan at

the Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 420-5513.

**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 the Idaho Statesman, Box 40, Boise, ID 83707, (208) 377-6413.

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

**Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont** — Kevin Ellis at the Burlington Free Press, 191 College St., Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 865-0940

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

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

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

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

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

**Nevada** — Jane Harris at the Las Vegas Sun,

121 S. Martin L. King Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 383-7125.

**Ohio and Indiana** — Marcy Mermel at The Indianapolis News, 307 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 633-1240.

**Oregon** — Kathy Durbin at The Oregonian, (503) 221-8548 or Dan Postrel at the Salem Statesman-Journal, (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** — Karen Dorn Steele at the Spokesman Review & Chronicle, Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210-1615, (509) 459-5000

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

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

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## The Green Beat

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### ALABAMA

► The nation's largest hazardous waste landfill near Emelle continues to attract media, government, and residents' attention. The landfill owner, Chemical Waste Management Inc., is suing the state over a 500 percent increase in hazardous waste dumping fees for out-of-state customers and a ban on waste from states that don't have commercial disposal methods. A *Birmingham News* series, Nov. 26 and 27, 1989, examines the landfill's history, contents and safety. Contact reporter David White, *Birmingham News* in Montgomery, (205) 264-2773.

► The U.S. Navy recently held public hearings and is moving forward with plans to conduct electromagnetic pulse (EMP) testing off the Gulf Coast of Mobile after suspending plans for further EMP testing in the Chesapeake Bay. Called EMPRESS II, for EMP Radiation Environment Simulator for Ships, the testing will help the military develop shielding techniques to protect electronic equipment against the effects of a nuclear blast. Opponents of EMP testing contend it may cause cancer and sterility and disrupt heart pacemakers. Those covering the issue include *The Mobile Press Register*, (205) 433-1551; John Lamberth, *The Sun Herald* (south Mississippi), (601) 896-2353; and Steve Kipp, *Birmingham Post-Herald*, (205) 325-3197.

### ALASKA

► Access rights to two national parks in Alaska, Denali and Glacier Bay, became major issues this summer. As parks get more and more use, rights of private landowners versus those of public users are coming into increasing conflict. Both are being challenged by preservationists. At Denali, home to Mt. McKinley and easily viewed wildlife, an inholder in the old mining town of Kantishna, 93 miles from the park entrance, announced the opening of a campground with more than 200 spaces and demanded that the Park Service open the park road to private vehicles for the first time since 1972. Park Supt. Russell Berry said he had no choice but to comply, and at the same time threatened to shut down the shuttle system through which nearly all of the 150,000 visitors see the park each year.

Sources: Denali Park Supt. Russell Berry, (907) 683-2294; Dan Ashbrook and Valerie Mundt of Mt. McKinley Gold Camp, (907) 479-2277 (Fairbanks) or (907) 345-1160 WDB20 (radio phone); Boyd Evison, regional Park Service director in Anchorage, (907) 257-2690; Chuck Cushman, director of the National Inholders Assn., (202) 293-0163 or (707) 996-5334; and Allen Smith of the Wilderness Society in Anchorage, (907) 272-9453.

► July has been one of the worst months for wildfires in Alaska, with more than 2 million acres of mostly scrub-spruce taiga burned. Several towns and villages have also been threatened. Firefighters have been unable to keep up with the blazes, but for the most part they're burning wilderness where fire is as natural as the moose that need it.

► The on-going dispute over air pollution in Valdez caused by the terminal facilities of the trans-Alaska pipeline took a new turn in July when Alyeska Pipeline briefly cut the flow of oil from Prudhoe Bay and threatened to shut the line down altogether unless it won regulatory concessions. Alyeska, owned by the seven major oil producing companies and managed principally by British Petroleum, has been fighting the EPA and the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation over how much it should be allowed to pollute the air around Valdez with cancer-causing benzene and other gases that vent from its marine terminal.

Within hours of the slowdown on July 19, a U.S. district judge in Anchorage, Russell Holland, issued an order blocking enforcement of the Clean Air Act on national security grounds, among other issues. In return, Alyeska agreed to negotiate in good faith with state and federal regulators. Alyeska officials were facing criminal prosecution for violating the Clean Air Act.

Sources: Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., Anchorage, spokeswoman Marnie Isaacs, (907) 265-8970; Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Commissioner Dennis Kelso in Juneau, (907) 465-2600. Also, Ernie Piper, special assistant to Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper in Anchorage, (907) 561-4228. EPA, Seattle, Bob Jacobson spokesman, (206) 442-1200.

► Adm. William Kime, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard, said July 29 in Anchorage that the cleanup of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska will take another year. State officials, including Gov. Steve Cowper, have been saying the same thing all summer. State officials have been fighting Exxon and Coast Guard over the use of fertilizers that enhance the growth of oil-eating bacteria. The state wants more manual cleanup, but Exxon has been in opposition. Also, the state's effort to come up with an objective standard for "how clean is clean" — a percentage of oil to sand — was ridiculed by the Coast Guard. But EPA administrator William Reilly, in Alaska in July, agreed in principle with the state. Source: Ernie Piper, special assistant to Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper in Anchorage, (907) 561-4228.

### ARIZONA

► *The Arizona Republic* published a story on June 17 exploring the issue of unregulated burning and treatment of hazardous waste that is allowed by the EPA under the banner of "recycling." The story quoted the Hazardous Waste Treatment Council in Washington, D.C., as saying that for every ton of hazardous waste burned in a regulated incinerator, between 10 and 25 tons are burned without controls or public oversight in cement kilns, copper smelters and boilers across the U.S. For a copy of the story, contact reporter Dee J. Hall, the *Arizona Republic*, P.O. Box 1950, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 271-8111.

► Tucson freelancer Sandy Tolan produced a piece for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* July 1 on the bad living and working conditions, including tainted drinking water, faced by workers in foreign-owned "twin plants," or maquiladoras, on the Mexican border with the United States. Tolan, co-director of *Desert West News*, has written and broadcast several other maquiladora stories over the past year that have aired on National Public Radio and appeared in *The Arizona Republic*. He currently is in Central America on a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. For more information about maquiladora issues, contact Dick Kamp of the Border Ecology Project, Box 5, Naco, AZ, 85620, (602) 432-7456.

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### ARKANSAS

► The *Arkansas Democrat* did a special section on the problems of Verta Chemical, Inc. For more information, contact environmental reporter Bobby Ridlehoover at (501) 378-3596.

### CALIFORNIA

► KTTV in Los Angeles started a Water Wasters' Hotline. It's used to "flush out" institutions wasting water during the dry weather and impending water crisis.

► A bomb explosion injuring two Earth First! activists in Oakland, May 24 demanded cop/environmental/social reporting of a political crime. The two organizers of "Redwood Summer," an action to save giant redwoods, were suspected yet not charged. The identity of the bomber or bombers is still a mystery. The news organizations can pass on pitfalls and successes in working an eco-crime story: Harry Harris and Paul Grabowicz at the *Oakland Tribune*, (415) 645-2222, worked on the cop stories. Jane Kay at the *San Francisco Examiner*, (415) 777-8704, wrote about growing evidence that environmental groups are under new scrutiny by law enforcement. The *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, (707) 546-2020, was in the thick of it since its Ukiah bureau got a copy of an anonymous note claiming responsibility for the bombing, which it shared only with the FBI.

► The environment beat might not be the job of a single reporter at all Central and Southern California television stations, but many news directors there now view environmental coverage as a full-time job. Walt Brown, news director at KERO-TV in Bakersfield says it's part of the "normal day-to-day" news coverage and his general assignment reporters have been doing the reports for years. KSBY-TV, in the Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo market, created a full-time position three years ago. Since then, it's produced two month-long series on the environment, in addition to its regular coverage, says assistant news director Deborah York. In Los Angeles, general assignment reporters now cover environment stories on a daily basis at most stations. KCBS, KTTV and KNBC

have reporters specifically assigned to cover the beat. KNBC created a regular "Earth-watch" segment after "the station found itself covering a lot of environmental stories," says Managing Editor Pete Noyes.

### COLORADO

► *The Rocky Mountain News* in Denver in May implemented a daily science and environment page, believed to be the first in the country. The page is divided into three parts: news and news features, science and environment briefs, and rotating syndicated or local columns. Stories range from research developments to breaking environmental news to localized implications of national stories. Reporters responsible for the page are Joe Verrengia, science writer; Janet Day, environment writer; Kris Newcomer, medical writer and Gary Gerhardt, wildlife writer. The page is edited and coordinated by assistant city editor George Douglas. For copies of the page (no charge) or information about it, contact Douglas at (303) 892-2743.

► KCNK, Channel 4 in Denver, an NBC network owned-and-operated affiliate, in March won the national Peabody Award for excellence in covering local and national news for its special "Yellowstone: Four Seasons After the Fire," a documentary on the aftermath of the Yellowstone fire. It was first broadcasted last October. The program was produced and written by Vicki Hildner and photographed by John Cummings. Post production was headed by Alison Harder and the special was narrated by anchor Bill Stuart.

► The University of Colorado coordinated an international survey of effects of climate change and population growth on the rare macaques monkeys in Indonesia. Study results, reported in July, showed the populations of two macaques species plummeted during the 1980s, believed to be the result of new stresses on their environment. Biologist Charles Southwick coordinated the study.

### CONNECTICUT

► The *Hartford Courant* has published a series of articles about the effects of understaffing at the Connecticut Department of

Environmental Protection. The articles reported that Connecticut spends less per capita for environmental protection than any other New England state and it can take up to five years to receive some regulatory permits. For copies, contact Dan Jones, (203) 241-8200.

### DELAWARE

► The *Wilmington News Journal* published a four-part series exploring the influence of the chemical industry in setting federal chemical exposure standards for the work place. The series found that state and local governments rely on those industry standards in setting clean air standards for toxic chemicals. Copies may be obtained from the librarian at the News Journal, P.O. Box 15505, Wilmington, DE 19850, (302) 324-2896.

► The *Wilmington News Journal* has turned a part time job into a full time position to cover the environment.

### FLORIDA

► The *Orlando Sentinel* created a data base to study bottlenose dolphins that have been in captivity since 1972, when the Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed. Using the data base, the Sentinel found numerous discrepancies in federal records that are supposed to keep track of the dolphins. The Sentinel also found that one-third of the dolphins born or brought into captivity during the 1980s are dead. The series of stories ran June 10-11, 1990. Copies can be obtained by writing to Cindy Schreuder or Craig Dezern, *Orlando Sentinel*, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801.

► Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation in January released a report on the status of mercury contamination in the state's lakes. The report makes no conclusions about the source of the mercury contamination, but it does give an overview of the problem. Researchers recently have found raccoons in the Everglades with mercury levels as high as 24 parts per million. This confirms suspicions that fish-eating mammals are one source of the metal being found in endangered Florida panthers. Copies of the study are available

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from Jack Maynard at DER's Tallahassee Office, (904) 488-9334.

► Three environmental organizations are appealing the U.S. Forest Service's plan to exclude the Apalachicola National Forest from interim protection for the habitat of red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species. The appeal — filed by the Apalachee Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club — seeks to have the forest included in the Forest Service guidelines and to bring an end to clear cutting in woodpecker habitat, which is old-growth forests. The Forest Service is excluding the Apalachicola from its protection measures because it has more than 250 active colonies, which according to Forest Service policy indicates the species is stable or increasing in that area. The environmental groups contend there may not be as many birds in the Apalachicola as the Forest Service maintains. For more information, contact Tom Ankersen, staff attorney for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, (303) 623-9466.

► The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released a draft environmental assessment for its proposed captive breeding program for the endangered Florida panther. The agency concludes the program is the only method available for ensuring the long-term survival of the species, which numbers less than 50. The plan calls for capturing about half of the wild panther population and placing it in zoos across Florida. The agency is expected to decide this fall whether to issue a permit for their capture. A copy of the draft environmental assessment can be obtained from Dennis Jordan of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (904) 392-1861.

► *The Florida Times Union* recently completed a three-part series concerning the failure of wetlands mitigation. The series describes how President Bush's "no net loss" policy cannot succeed because it relies on the creation of new wetlands that are prone to failure. A review of about 70 wetland creation projects in Florida showed the majority of the wetlands were not functioning as designed and others have never been built. Enforcement by regional and state environmental agencies is almost nonexistent. For copies of the series, contact

environmental writer Beverly Keneagy, (904) 359-4316.

► Union Camp Corp. is proposing to build what could be the largest housing development of its kind in the state. The 56,000-acre development would be built in Clay and Putnam counties and would take 50 years to build. The company needs permission from state and federal environmental agencies before the project can begin. Union Camp's environmental attorney is Frank Friedmann, (904) 398-3911.

### GEORGIA

► Life for environmental reporters in Georgia has been made more difficult under a new policy established two months ago by Leonard Ledbetter, commissioner of the State Department of Natural Resources. Under the policy, which has been condemned by reporters, official comment on environmental stories can only come from the public affairs office. Ledbetter made the change to "streamline" the process, but reporters insist the only effect has been to obstruct information coming from the department. DNR has been under an increasing amount of criticism recently for a number of decisions, among them, approving the most lax dioxin standards in the nation.

### HAWAII

► Green sea turtles are turning up in Hawaiian water with "fibropapilloma," a disorder involving fatal tumors that has marine scientists worried and puzzled. Little is known about the cause of the disease, on a sharp rise here since first found in 1985. Recent studies show more than a third of some populations — the turtle is listed as threatened here and endangered around the world — are afflicted. The tumors, which cause turtles to go blind or have trouble eating or breathing, also are plaguing turtles in Florida, according to scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Honolulu. But no link has been established between the two states. A July 12 story in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* reports that the problem, possibly related to introduced seaweed, has reached epidemic proportions since first being detected in 1985. Copies of the report are

available free. Contact environmental writer Peter Wagner at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802, (808) 525-8699; or contact George Boehlert, National Marine Fisheries Service, (808) 943-1211. One problem area being watched in Hawaii, Puhi Bay on the Big Island, is adjacent to a sewage treatment plant. But scientists are drawing no connections to ocean pollution as yet. A conference of marine experts is planned in Honolulu in December to probe the problem.

### IDAHO

► In recent weeks, *The Twin Falls Times-News* and the *Idaho Statesman* have been reporting on the water-quality crisis plaguing the mighty Snake River. Nils Nokkentved, environmental reporter for the *Times-News*, cranked out a quick three-day series on problems in south central Idaho with the lead headline, "Valley still uses Snake as sewer." *The Statesman*, with a statewide focus, has been writing daily on fish kills, dam threats, and water-quality problems. It is researching a comprehensive series on the Snake River's ills, from headwaters to source. To obtain copies of Nokkentved's July 22-24 series, call *The Times-News* library, (208) 733-0931. Stephen Stuebner, *Statesman* environmental reporter, will handle inquiries, (208) 377-6413.

► The Snake River stocks of chinook salmon, once among the world's largest salmon runs, may be cause of an even greater economic upheaval than the spotted owl if they are listed as an endangered species, according to recent reports in the *Idaho Statesman*. The Boise daily had been covering the possible listing of the chinook as a front-burner issue for the last six months. The *Idaho Falls Post Register* and *Lewiston Tribune* also are following the issue. Political pundits believe the combined listing of the owl and chinook may force a congressional review of the Endangered Species Act, given Interior Secretary Manual Lujan's comments on the ESA.

### ILLINOIS

► More research is underway this summer into an inter-state air pollution battle. Illi-

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nois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana are looking at ozone movement in Lake Michigan's southern basin. The question is how much pollution from one state drifts over a neighboring state. This topic has already been the subject of lawsuits between the states and the EPA. The *Chicago Tribune* has been covering Illinois' debate over reducing ozone pollution. Steve Swanson, a Trib. environment reporter, has written many of the pieces. His phone is (312) 222-3501. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* profiled the multi-state research in a front page story July 19. *Sentinel* reporter George Stanley can be contacted at (414) 224-2198.

### INDIANA

► Indiana's law to curtail shipments of out-of-state garbage is already being challenged in federal court. The law, enacted this spring, is before the U.S. District Court of Southern Indiana. The plaintiffs, Governments Suppliers Consolidating Services and Jack Castenova, filed the suit claiming the law illegally restrains interstate commerce. The law requires out-of-state shippers to pay a surcharge to bring the dumping fee in Indiana equal to the fees charged by the closest landfill to where the garbage originated.

► *The Indianapolis News* and *Indianapolis Star* assigned their environmental reporters to the statehouse during this spring's legislative session. *News* environmental reporter Marcy Mermel said the arrangement worked great and provided her with plenty of fodder. She expects to return to the statehouse next year.

### KENTUCKY

► Judges of the 1990 Southern Journalism Awards contest, sponsored by the Institute for Southern Studies in Durham, N.C., will include Robin Epstein, who has been handling the environment beat at the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

### LOUISIANA

► *The Morning Advocate*, Baton Rouge, spent several months doing interviewing and searching old records dating into the 1800s to find old sites that are likely to be

contaminated with hazardous waste and then determined what is atop those sites now, including a hospital, apartments and businesses. For further information, contact Bob Anderson, environmental editor, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

► Controlling ground-level ozone pollution is going to take reduction not just in emissions of hydrocarbons, but in emissions of nitrogen oxides as well, says Paul Templet, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, based on preliminary models run by the Ozone Task Force. DEQ's address is P.O. Box 44066, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

### MAINE

► Some reporters are finding the good environmental stories in their backyards. At the *Maine Times* in Topsham, Christine Kukka took a close look at the herbicide called Roundup, heralded by chemical companies as a safe alternative to more toxic chemicals. She found that an inert ingredient in Roundup is suspected by some of causing cancer. Her story warned readers about the possible dangers of the chemical, given that it is sprayed on much of Maine's North Woods. The story ran June 22. For more information, contact Kukka at (207) 883-1133, EPA at (202) 382-2090, and Monsanto Agriculture Co. at (314) 694-1000.

### MARYLAND

► WMAR television in Baltimore became the first station in Maryland to set up a long-term project dedicated to the environment. "Project Environment" concentrates on state environmental news. For information contact Brad Bell, 6400 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

► *The (Baltimore) Sun* added a second environmental reporter, who will cover the politics of environment from The Sun's Washington, D.C. bureau.

► Dioxin contamination below paper mills was the subject of a series of news stories this spring when Maryland environmental officials reversed a previous position and decided to issue a health advisory cautioning the public not to eat fish below a West-

ern Maryland paper mill. Contact Tim Wheeler at the *Evening Sun* at (301) 332-6564, or Liz Bowie at *The Sun* at (301) 332-6121.

### MASSACHUSETTS

► At a time when releases of toxic chemicals are generally going down, the *Boston Herald* reported July 2 that the release of chemicals containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is going up in Massachusetts. *The Herald's* Nick Tate and Allan Levin used the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory data to document the trend, which occurred between 1987 and 1988. For copies, contact the *Boston Herald* library, (617) 426-3000, ext.680.

### MICHIGAN

► The Michigan Department of Natural Resources this spring released a study which estimates that more oil is poured on the ground and into drains in the state each year than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska. Nationally, as much as 400 million gallons of used oil gets released directly into the environment by do-it-yourself oil changers and other small spills, according to the DNR. Copies of the report may be obtained by writing to Deanna Piper, Resource Recovery Section, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909.

► "There is a threat to the health of our children emanating from our exposure to persistent toxic substances, even at very low ambient levels," concludes the fifth biennial report on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a Canadian-U.S. accord governing Great Lakes water quality. Most news reports of the June statement focused on the goal of using Lake Superior as a pilot project for completely eliminating point-source discharges of 11 persistent toxic chemicals. But since more than half of the lake's toxic load is airborne from as far away as Central America, the goals of the accord also include seeking toxic emission controls outside the Great Lakes basin and limits on the marketing of new toxic chemicals. "The issue before us is of societal, even global dimensions," the report said. IJC resolutions rarely attract much attention in Ottawa or Washington,

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but this year's report is the most specific and strongly worded prescription for the lakes basin yet seen. For copies, contact: Sally Cole-Misch, International Joint Commission, P.O. Box 32869, Detroit, MI 48232.

### MINNESOTA

► The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wants management control over what it says is an expanded eastern timber wolf population in Minnesota, the only state in the lower 48 with a significant concentration of the animals. Wolves have exceeded U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service population goals, the state agency says, and should no longer be considered "threatened" by standards of the Endangered Species Act. Protectionists may fight reclassification, fearing state wildlife managers may be too beholden to northern Minnesota legislators and their constituents, many of whom believe wolves extensively depredate livestock as well as deer and other wildlife. Contact: Minnesota DNR Director of Fish and Game, Roger Holmes, phone (612) 297-1308.

► Also in Northern Minnesota, new and expanded paper and pulp mills will create heavy duty demand on the state's aspen and other forests throughout the 1990s, perhaps at the expense of recreational opportunities and diverse wildlife populations. One study suggests the state will have too few aspen forests remaining by the year 2007 to support the mills. Contact St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* environmental reporter Chuck Laszewski, (800) 950-9080.

### MISSISSIPPI

► South Mississippians, the National Research Council and others have concerns over the pollutants emitted by solid-fuel booster rockets. NASA's plans to test-fire the rocket motors in Bay St. Louis, Miss., have drawn opposition from the 500-member Citizens for a Healthy Environment. The National Research Council, NASA's advisory panel and the Soviets are concerned about the impact of solid-fuel emissions on the ozone layer. Continuing coverage includes a five-part series, which ran Sundays from Oct. 15 to

Nov. 12, 1989, and a story on ozone concerns on March 17 in the *The Sun Herald*, Biloxi-Gulfport, Miss. For information on copies, contact the newspaper's librarian, Marilyn Pustey, at (601) 896-2308.

### MISSOURI

► EPA and Missouri regulators have finally agreed on how to clean up Times Beach and 26 other Missouri sites contaminated with dioxin in the 1970s. It will rank among the nation's most costly clean-ups and will be an important test for incineration of dioxin. Copies of the consent decree can be obtained from EPA Region 7, Rowena Michaels, (913) 551-7003.

► East Coast trash is spilling beyond Ohio and Indiana into northern Missouri and southern Iowa. Residents there are up in arms, while Congress debates what to do about interstate transport of New Jersey and New York trash. Reprints of recent articles can be obtained from *The Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, Attn. Mike Mansur, environment writer; or call (816) 234-4433.

► The University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Journalism offered this summer a new class, "Science, the News Media and Society," studying cases of scientific dispute, including cold fusion and Alar. Students talked to science experts and reporters who covered the controversies. For more information, contact Rob Logan, who directs MU's Science Journalism Center at (314) 882-4714.

### MONTANA

► The *Great Falls Tribune* recently published a major series on Rocky Mountain wolves, an endangered species. While legislation that would reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone National Park, eastern Montana and Central Idaho is bogging down in Congress, wolves are moving into Montana from Canada at a rapid rate. The series, by Bert Lindler, a 14-year veteran outdoor and natural resources writer, explored the history of wolves in Montana, perspectives from environmentalists and ranchers, and the Defenders of Wildlife's special compensation fund for resolving wolf-livestock conflicts, among other is-

sues. Lindler, who normally pumps out a weekly outdoor page, said he cut back the page to once a month last winter to spend about six weeks researching the project. Copies of the May 10 and May 17 spreads can be obtained by calling Lindler at (406) 791-1460 or writing him at the *Great Falls Tribune*, Box 5468, Great Falls, MT 59403. Portions of the series also were printed in "High Country News" on July 16 as the cover story. Copies of HCN can be obtained for \$2 by calling (303) 527-4898.

### NEBRASKA

► The University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division has released a comprehensive atlas on the Sandhills of Nebraska, a geological landscape containing more than 19,000 square miles of sand dunes. The Sandhills overlie one of the greatest reservoirs of underground water on this planet, the Ogallala Aquifer. Copies of this excellent and colorful reference work are available from the survey division, 113 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0517. Cost is \$15 plus handling and shipping.

► In Nebraska, low-level radioactive waste is still in the news. U.S. Ecology Inc., the developer of a \$52 million "state of the art" nuclear waste facility, planned to submit a license application to the state by July 31. For more information on the facility contact the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control, P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, NE 68509-8922.

► A group of University of Nebraska—Lincoln journalism students have published a series of articles on water issues in Nebraska. The special edition details the role water plays in Nebraska's economy, contamination problems and possible solutions. Free copies are available by writing the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, College of Journalism, News—Editorial Dept., 108 Avery Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0132.

### NEVADA

► A draft environmental assessment has been released for Clark County, Nevada's short-term habitat conservation plan for the threatened Desert Mojave Tortoise.

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Limited to Southern Nevada, the draft was prepared by RECON, Regional Environmental Consultants, 1276 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92110-3815.

### NEW JERSEY

► A little-known provision of the Clean Air Act, which imposes the strictest air quality requirements on the books in an effort to protect 21 federal wilderness areas, could block the construction of Atlantic City's proposed municipal waste incinerator. The law can have significant implications for those planning to build a major new pollution source within 66 miles of one of the protected federal reserves. The restriction prohibits any new source emitting more than 100 tons a year of a regulated air pollutant within a 66-mile radius of the wilderness areas. In the case of Atlantic City, the refuge is the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. For information on news stories that appeared in the *Press of Atlantic City*, call David Vis, environment writer, at (609) 272-7254. Information is also available by writing: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Science Publications Office, 75 Spring St., S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303. Ask for the document "Permit Application Guidance for New Air Pollution Sources." Natural Resources Report Series 85-2.

### NEW MEXICO

► The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the United States' embattled nuclear waste repository near Carlsbad, N.M., may open as early as January. Reporter Chuck McCutcheon has been following the story for the *Albuquerque Journal*. More information on the issue is available by contacting McCutcheon at the *Albuquerque Journal*, P.O. Drawer J, Albuquerque, NM, 87103, phone (505) 823-3954.

► KOB-TV, Channel 4 in Albuquerque, N.M., in mid-July launched its "E team" to handle environmental stories. Assignment manger Cynthia Wise said the station had been "overwhelmed" with story ideas from its viewers. Market research in Albuquerque shows the environment is the No. 1 issue among viewers, Wise said. Reporters are rotated onto the "team," and the station is trying to produce at least one environ-

ment story a day. KOB-TV is an NBC and CONUS affiliate. Its news stories also are broadcast on New Mexico stations KBOF-TV in Farmington and KOBR-TV in Roswell.

### NEW YORK

► In the field of electromagnetic radiation, a new area of concern has arisen — the powerful and sophisticated new Doppler radar units known as NED now being sited all over the country, often with little publicity, by the National Weather Service. Many television news operations are getting their own Doppler sets as well. The NWS has said the radar units, which transmit on a range of low radio frequencies, pose no health threat to people living near them. But public objections popped up in Erie, Genesee and Suffolk counties in the past two years. A good deal of the public furor was fueled by Paul Brodeur's reportage on EM radiation in *The New Yorker* last summer. The NWS, which hasn't had to site a radar for 30 years, has admitted being unprepared for the NIMBY onslaught. The *Buffalo News*, (Rochester) *Democrat* and *Chronicle*, *The New York Times* and *Newsday* on Long Island have reported on the issue. For some of the most thorough clips, contact Kinsey Wilson at *Newsday*, 235 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747; phone (516) 756-5410. Available from NWS public information office are detailed site-specific surveys, a generic Environmental Impact Statement, and performance testing studies. Staff at the EPA radiation office in Washington can comment as well.

► The *Democrat* and *Chronicle* in June published a four-day series on the future of upstate New York's unique Finger Lakes. The series is a primer on examining the environmental and land-use questions that surround natural treasures. Reprints are in the works; contact Mark Wert, regional editor, 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614; phone (716) 258-2252.

► In a similar vein, a special commission appointed by N.Y. Gov. Mario Cuomo has prepared a detailed and controversial plan entitled, "The Adirondack Park in the 21st Century." Copies of the report, which urges new development controls in the eastern

United States' largest park, can be obtained by calling the commission at (518) 426-0661. Commission members included Gannett Rochester Newspapers senior editor Read Kingsbury and John Oakes, retired senior editor at *The New York Times*. Since the report's release two months ago, both have criticized Cuomo publicly for failing to entertain the commission's recommendations.

► *The New York Times*, in naming a new full-time environmental writer to handle local and regional issues several months ago, has re-invigorated its coverage of the environment of the nation's biggest city. *The Times* for years has had a full-time environmental writer, based in Washington, who has concentrated on national and international affairs. Since taking over in New York City, Allan R. Gold, formerly a New England correspondent for the newspaper, has had frequent bylines.

### NORTH CAROLINA

► Not resting on its laurels, the *Washington Daily News* of Washington, N.C. (circ. about 10,000) is following last year's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation that revealed the presence of large doses of carcinogens in the town's drinking water with a 12-part series on the health and future of the Pamlico River. Betty Gray, who covers environment as well as city government and farming, says she has been working for almost a year on the series, which was to have been published in late August. How does Gray manage to find time for in-depth reporting despite being one of only three reporters? "If you work 12 and 14 hours a day, you can do it," Gray says. "You come in at 6:30 in the morning and you leave at 6:30 at night."

### NORTH DAKOTA

► As of March, Knight-Ridder Newspapers is carrying a new column on its wire called "Down to Earth," featuring practical advice on the environment. Written by Sue Ellyn Scaletta of the chain's *Grand Forks Herald*, the weekly column recently offered tips on how to vacation using less energy (bike, rather than drive) and camp more cleanly. Scaletta can be reached at (701) 780-1100.



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### OHIO

► *The Athens Messenger* has started a regular environmental column written by four outside contributors. The freelancers include a hazardous waste inspector for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental engineer, a medical doctor and an organic farmer.

► Just because your city or state doesn't have a hazardous waste incinerator doesn't mean hazardous waste isn't being burned in your town. Check out the local cement kiln, for starters. Kilns burn more hazardous waste than the dozen federally-licensed commercial hazardous waste incinerators scattered across the country. In addition, thousands of industrial furnaces and boilers also burn huge amounts of hazardous waste. The kilns, boilers and furnaces are exempt from federal incineration regulations because they are considered by U.S. EPA to be recyclers. This apparently is about to change as EPA wraps up work on federal regulations next spring.

### OREGON

► A suit has been filed seeking to declare three summer chinook salmon runs and one lower Columbia coho salmon run restricted by designating the fish as endangered species. The National Marine Fisheries Service plans to study the matter. Oregon Trout, the group filing the suit, charges that low water conditions and dams on the Columbia River have reduced these wild fish runs to near extinction. The action is important because it's rare to have a listing process for these fish and a listing and a recovery plan could have a sizable economic impact on the Northwest's river transportation and hydroelectric power. *The Oregonian* in Portland ran articles on the issue in June. To obtain copies of the stories, contact *The Oregonian* circulation department, (503) 221-8240.

### PENNSYLVANIA

► *The Scranton Times* has established an environmental beat "as full-time as we can make it," said Managing Editor Ed E. Rogers. "We found that environmental concerns were becoming more and more serious with our readers." Among the topics of

local interest is the discovery of elevated levels of lead in some residents' blood as a result of past dumping of lead-acid batteries at a site now being cleaned up under the federal Superfund program.

► The *Pottsville Republican* has established a full-time environmental beat to cover illegal trash dumping, acid-mine drainage from abandoned anthracite coal mines, proposals for new landfills and other ecological matters. "We're living in a damaged environment, and it's very obvious," said Editor Jim Kevlin. "We felt we needed some expertise to provide consistent coverage and treatment to the issue."

► The U.S. General Accounting Office has issued a report on the Department of Energy's decommissioning of the Shippingport, Pa., atomic power station, the nation's first commercial nuclear plant. The report discusses the usefulness of information learned from the Shippingport decommissioning to the Rancho Seco, Calif., nuclear plant and the commercial nuclear industry in general. Copies are available from the GAO by calling (202) 275-6241 or by writing to the GAO at P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

► WQED-TV, a public broadcasting station in Pittsburgh, has produced an hour-long special, "Saving Pennsylvania by the Grassroots." Aired in April on the Pennsylvania public television network, it focuses on people who monitor acid rain, teach children about recycling and perform other volunteer work to improve the environment. To obtain a copy, send a blank tape to Deborah French, WQED-TV, 4802 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or call 412-622-1363.

### PUERTO RICO

► The U.S. Forest Service has just released the Draft Amended Land and Resource Management Plan for the Caribbean National Forest. The agency has also released the Draft Supplement to the final EIS and a summary of the Management Plan. The Caribbean National Forest is the only tropical forest managed by the U.S. Forest Service and it has an extension of 29,000 acres. It is home to less than 100 Puerto Rican Parrots — the spotted owl of

the Caribbean. The new draft is a result of six years of negotiations between environmentalists, state and federal agencies. The plan is expected to become a model for forest management for other countries with tropical forests.

Copies and video copies can be obtained through PIO Jeffrey Glogiewicz, USFS, Call Box 25000, Rio Piedras, PR 00728-2500; Fax (809) 250-6924. The *San Juan Star* has published a few pieces on the controversy. Contact the librarian at (809) 782-4200. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has also been involved, contact Suzette Dalgado-Mendoza at (202) 703-7800.

► The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has asked Congress to be excluded completely from the proposed amendments to the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1902, which seeks to discourage development along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. All other states have agreed to allow the amendments to add 500,000 new acres of coast to be protected, but Puerto Rico has resisted the Department of Interior's intention to include 21,000 acres of the Puerto Rican coastline. The controversy revolves around two issues: the Commonwealth's autonomous political status and an allegedly incorrect definition of coastal barrier system which has been defined according to the geographical characteristics of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts, not Puerto Rico's coast. For information on CBRA coverage, contact Albi Ferre at *El Nuevo Dia*, (809) 793-7070, ext. 2165, or Harry Turner, a Washington-based reporter for the *San Juan Star* at (202) 408-2704. Also Mendoza or Charles Gisep at NRDC, (202) 783-7800; or Elise Jones of the National Wildlife Federation at (202) 797-6839. The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, (202) 225-4047, and the Senate Committee on Public Works and Environment have been involved.

### RHODE ISLAND

► One year after the tanker *World Prodigy* went aground off Newport, R.I., and spilled 289,000 gallons of oil, the *Providence Journal* on June 24, 1990, reported that virtually no new safeguards had been enacted by federal, state, or local officials. Offi-

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cials at the time had promised numerous steps would be taken to prevent another spill from occurring in Narragansett Bay. For details, contact Peter Lord of the *Providence Journal*, (401) 737-3000.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

► WIS-TV in Columbia, S.C., has initiated "Earth Alert," a feature series illustrating how everyday people can improve the environment. In addition to self-generated stories, viewers were asked to send ideas to reporter Chris Curlis who then produces stories based on those ideas. For more information on the format, write Curlis at WIS-TV, 1111 Bull St., Columbia, S.C. 29201 or call (803) 799-1010.

► *The State* in Columbia reported in July that millions of dollars of grants intended to repay consumers gouged by oil companies have been awarded in violation of state, federal and court guidelines. The funds are intended to be used for energy conservation projects that will benefit consumers harmed by overcharges in the 1970s. But the report by *The State* showed that decisions on how South Carolina's \$48 million share was spent were often driven by politics and that oversight from the governor's office, legislative committees and the federal Energy Department was lax. Nationwide, the oil overcharge fund totals \$3.6 billion. For a copy of the story or information, contact Charles Pope by writing *The State*, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC, 29202 or calling (803) 771-8413.

► The South Carolina legislature in June passed one of the nation's most restrictive beachfront management laws. The law, which was the focus of bitter lobbying for two years, prohibits the construction of new seawalls, limits the size of construction in the most fragile portion of the beach, and establishes setback lines linked to erosion rates. For more information, contact Wayne Beam, executive director of the South Carolina Coastal Council, at 1201 Main St., Suite 1520, Columbia, SC 29201, phone (803) 737-0880.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

► Management of the Black Hills National Forest and prospects for expanded

open-pit gold mining within the forest are among subjects the *Rapid City Journal* has covered in recent months. Opposition to proposed Forest Service land trades as well as increased forest management to benefit wildlife—rather than traditional uses such as livestock grazing and mining—also have been reported. Contact *Journal* environmental reporter Dick Willis for details, (605) 394-8300.

### TENNESSEE

► NBC affiliate WSMV-TV in Nashville is involved in a year-long project emphasizing the environment. The station has aired series and specials focusing on such issues as Nashville's continued dumping of sewage into the Cumberland River and problems in siting a new landfill. Broadcasts also have highlighted local "environmental heroes."

► Betsy Kauffman, who covers environment and the Tennessee Valley Authority for *The News Sentinel* in Knoxville, has produced a stream of stories in recent months dealing with a wide range of East Tennessee issues, including strip-mining proposals and dioxin contamination in the Pigeon River.

► "Waste: Running Out of Room," was the title of five-part series in *The Commercial Appeal* by environment reporter Tom Charlier. Published July 15-19, the series explored the similar problems and issues involved in the management of solid, hazardous, medical, and radioactive wastes.

### TEXAS

► The Texas capital city, Austin, is seeing massive real estate developments halted because residents of this environmentally conscious city have pushed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enforce the Endangered Species Act. Nine major development projects, which would have extended Austin's urban sprawl, face indefinite delay because they lie within the little remaining habitat of two endangered birds, the black-caped vireo and golden cheeked warbler, along with several rare cave-dwelling insects. Habitat conservation plans are being developed. The *Austin American-Statesman* business staff devoted a Sunday busi-

ness section to a recap of the issue (June 3), while the paper's environment reporter, Bill Collier in a May 29 piece offered a detailed look at the endangered creatures and reasons for preserving rare species. For information on copy availability, contact the *American-Statesman* circulation department, (512) 445-3500.

► KTRK-TV in Houston launched a nightly "Earth 13" segment on April 30. The Monday through Friday reports averaged about five minutes long. The initial reports disclosed that sampling commissioned by the station had detected heavy metals in parts of the Galveston Bay system. They prompted follow-up tests by state officials.

► The *Houston Post* published a 12-page Earth Day section on April 22, with assorted articles on the Houston area's environmental issues and tips on how readers can help protect the environment. Two editors, eight reporters, four artists and one photographer collaborated. Copies are available from the back issues department (713) 840-6790.

► The *Houston Chronicle* published a seven-article series on the area's ozone smog problem on April 15-17. It examined past efforts to reduce ozone, implications of a new Clean Air Act for future efforts, anti-smog measures in Los Angeles and elsewhere, and new findings about health risks. Copies are available from the Houston Public Library (713) 236-1313.

### UTAH

► The 12 journalists selected for William S. Benton Fellowships in Broadcast Journalism include John Hollenhorst, senior correspondent and environment specialist for KSL-TV, Salt Lake City. He will spend the 1990-1991 academic year at the University of Chicago.

► KTVX-TV, Salt Lake City, recently broadcast two major series: one on management problems at Lake Powell (created by Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River), the other on problems Utah will face meeting new air pollution regulations. Both series were reported by Rod Jackson, who covers environmental and military

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issues. Copies are available by writing Jackson at KTVX, 1760 S. Fremont Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84104.

► Editors at the the *Desert News* of Salt Lake City recently reassigned the federal court beat, freeing Joe Bauman to concentrate on environment and military issues.

### VERMONT

► When the *Burlington Free Press* in Vermont wanted to know where milk shipments from a controversial biotechnology experiment were headed, the paper was blocked at first by the University of Vermont, which refused to disclose the destination. After months of working the story in traditional ways, the newspaper finally hired someone to follow the milk truck, which ended up in rural Pennsylvania at an out-of-the-way cheese plant. Similar experiments are taking place all over the country. To find the experiments and begin tracking where the milk is headed, contact the Foundation for Economic Trends in Washington, D.C., at (202) 466-2823.

### VIRGINIA

► Three television network affiliates serving southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina established environmental beats this past year, and all three have been producing occasional prime-time specials on local environmental issues. WTKR in Norfolk led the way, buoyed by its recent awards from state and national environmental organizations for its "Have a Nice Bay" campaign. The campaign featured a series of documentaries and public service announcements on the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. Janice Lee is now working the beat. WVEC-TV in Norfolk has been airing nightly environmental reports by anchor/reporter Lee Sausley under the heading, "Earth Watch." WAVY-TV in Portsmouth assigned the new beat to Margaret Douglas.

► In a four-part series that began on July 8, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* examined one of Virginia's most complex environmental issues: Water wars between rural counties and water-starved urban areas that are experiencing rapid growth. The series by Pamela Stallsmith and Betty Booker

looked at the state's inability to come up with a strategy for preventing water shortages, controlling growth in areas that are unable to accommodate it and the environmental problems that could result from plans for damming rivers and wetlands to build new reservoirs. For copies, call the *Times-Dispatch* at (804) 649-6000

► The *Potomac News* published a five-day series in April exploring the history of the U.S. Army's electromagnetic pulse (EMP) experiments in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Woodbridge. The series by staffers Gary Craig and Kevin Carmody reported that Army brass ignored warnings by two of its own scientists that the powerful pulses, which simulate an after-effect of a nuclear blast, could have disabled passenger jets landing at nearby Washington National Airport. Based mostly on FOI requests, the stories also examine possible health effects of EMP for the 30,000 people living within 3.5 miles of the open-air experiment station, and allegations now being investigated by the Office of Special Counsel that the two whistle-blowing scientists were singled out for retaliation. For information about copies, contact Carmody at the newspaper's Manassas bureau, (703) 368-9268.

### WASHINGTON STATE

► Environmental contamination at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in south central Washington continued to dominate the region's environmental news this summer. The stories included explosion hazards in nuclear waste tanks, highly critical reports from Energy Department headquarters ripping lax management and continuing environmental contamination, and release of a report giving estimates of radiation doses that the public may have received from emissions of radioactive iodine from Hanford plutonium reprocessing plants in the 1940s. The dose assessment report prompted an historic admission from Energy Secretary James Watkins that the Hanford doses were large enough to cause health problems, including cancer, among residents living downwind of the site. For reporters seeking background and an overall perspective of the problems at Hanford, these reports are probably most helpful:

► A report estimating doses to the public from radiation releases from the early days of weapons production at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation (1944-47) was released July 12 by a panel of scientists overseeing work on the federally-funded study. The report, titled "Phase I of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project," may be obtained from Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, WA 99352.

► A report entitled "Environmental, Safety, and Health Assessment of the Hanford Site" was prepared by an Energy Department "tiger team" appointed by Energy Secretary James Watkins. The report may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Energy's reading room in Richland, Wash., contact Terry Traub; or from Energy Department headquarters, 1000 Independence Ave N.W., Washington, DC 20585, phone (202) 586-5806.

### WEST VIRGINIA

► Energy Commissioner George E. Dials resigned in June following a series of articles about the failure of his office to regulate and police the coal industry, written by *The Gazette* of Charleston. Starting with an April 1 article in the *Sunday Gazette-Mail* about the Division of Energy's failure to effectively regulate mountaintop mining, the articles by Paul Nyden detailed instances where critical rules were not enforced, fines were dismissed or reduced and outright favoritism was shown to some companies. Copies can be obtained by calling the Charleston Newspapers library, (304) 348-4888, or write to the paper at 1001 Virginia St., East Charleston, WV, 25330.

► Many of the environmental groups in West Virginia are gaining a measure of respectability through newsletters or fliers; most of the 50 active groups have some form of public communication. One of the slickest is G.RE.E.N., Grass Roots Environmental Effort Newsletter, put out by the newly formed West Virginia Environmental Council, which gives statewide capsule summaries on what's hot in the various regions. Copies are available by writing to the WVEC at 1324 Virginia St. East Charleston, WV 25301.

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► Protecting the state's ground water supply was the subject of a special report in *The Herald-Dispatch* on Jan. 21, 1990, prior to consideration of a Groundwater Protection Act by the West Virginia Legislature. Noting that one out of every five households in the state depends on ground water, the series looked at states that had adopted measures similar to what West Virginia environmentalists favored, and the degree to which many of the state's aquifers were already contaminated. Graphics showed how ground water could be contaminated and detailed what the condition of each county's ground water was. Although the Groundwater Protection Act died in the closing minutes of the session, environmental groups said it helped them build a stronger case. Limited reprints of the three-page section are available free by writing environmental reporter Monty Fowler, *The Herald-Dispatch*, 946 Fifth Ave., Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 526-802.

### WISCONSIN

► Debate over what would become Wisconsin's first metallic mine in 10 years is heating up. The British-based R-T-Z

Corporation (through its subsidiaries, Kennecott and Flambeau Mining) wants to open a 32-acre open pit mine near Ladysmith in Northwest Wisconsin. Critics say the mine would pollute local drinking water and a nearby river, as well as open the door to other large multi-national corporations, including Noranda and Exxon, which are exploring possible mines in the north. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has thus far come down on the side of R-T-Z, saying environmental damage from the Ladysmith mine would be minor. In late July, a master hearing was being held on the Department of Natural Resources' final environmental impact statement. For copies of that statement contact: Robert Ramharter, Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Review, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707. Phone: (608) 266-3915.

► Wisconsin's farming community is abuzz over a new state proposal to protect rural drinking water. The State Agriculture Department has issued a draft proposal banning use of the herbicide Atrazine in some areas, and greatly restricting its use

elsewhere. Some farm groups are worried the Wisconsin plan goes beyond what other states are doing to limit Atrazine use, and would hurt the economic competitiveness of Wisconsin agriculture. More details of the state's plan can be obtained by contacting Nicholas J. Neher, Administrator, Agricultural Resource Management Division, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, 801 W. Badger Road, Madison, WI 53708. Phone: (608) 266-7130.

### WYOMING

► Dan Whipple, environmental writer for the *Casper StarTribune*, has written a series of stories about Wyoming uranium miners being overlooked in Senate legislation to compensate people who were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation during the 1950s. For copies, write Whipple at the *StarTribune*, P.O. Box 80, Casper, WY 82602.

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