

SEJ Journal

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Ethics in environmental journalism

Drawing the line

Ethics determine who reporters are

By CASEY BUKRO

An environment reporter's ethics acid test comes sooner or later—usually often.

One of my most memorable tests came while covering the Love Canal toxic waste story in 1980. That's when I met Lois Gibbs, a dark-eyed woman who led the campaign to relocate Love Canal residents from what they considered the toxic zone.

One evening, Gibbs and others stormed a meeting of the Niagara County Board of Supervisors, trying to goad them into supporting such a move. During a lull in the raucous session, Gibbs told me that she had been a housewife who seldom paid much attention to government, until her two children were poisoned by Love Canal. That transformed her, she said, into a fiery campaigner against toxic waste.

"How bad off are your kids?" I asked
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It's all right to care, but play it straight

By THOMAS WINSHIP

The advocacy-objectivity debate stirring up ethical questions among the U.S. environmental journalist community is missing the mark. Instead of worrying whether we are wearing our hearts on our sleeves, we should be asking ourselves if we're just being good journalists in covering this story.

Let's get back to some plain good sense about covering a topic that involves nothing short of life and death.

The weight of the issue, however, does not mean that the press should toss out the basics of journalism, such as accuracy, attribution and fairness. That wouldn't make sense. Nor does it mean blindly buying every utterance from every "green" group as gospel.

Reporters, often natural skeptics, shouldn't surrender their skepticism when
(Continued on page 8)

Parke named executive director

Beth Parke, a veteran radio journalist who has been serving as program director for the Society of Environmental Journalists, has been named the organization's first executive director.

Parke was the unanimous choice of a selection committee consisting of SEJ's executive committee and was confirmed unanimously by the board of directors. Her hiring capped a nationwide search that drew more than forty applications before being narrowed to three finalists.

As program director, Parke was in-



Parke

strumental in establishing a permanent SEJ office in Philadelphia.

"In addition to Beth Park's journalism background, she brings to the society extensive knowledge about managing nonprofit organizations," said SEJ

President Jim Detjen.

Parke has 15 years of experience in
(Continued on page 5)

On ethics, thinking long term helps

BY JIM DETJEN

The theme of this SEJournal is ethics in environmental journalism. It's an issue reporters, editors and producers grapple with every day. Veteran newsmen Casey Bukro, Tom Winship and Barry Sarafin offer their insights on dealing with ethical dilemmas.

The ongoing advocacy-objectivity issue is central to these debates. But environmental journalists are also bedeviled with the same kinds of quandaries all journalists face: fairness; conflicts of interest; sensationalism; invasion of privacy; misrepresentation and other matters. In journalism, as in life, the issues are often complex and the solutions are often agonizing.

When faced with an ethical dilemma, I think it helps to think in the long term. As a journalist there's nothing more important than your credibility. Reputations are built over time and readers and viewers are smart enough to figure out who is playing it straight and who is shading the truth.

That's why I'm opposed to "advocacy-journalism," if the term means presenting a one-sided and unfair view of an issue. I think advocacy journalism is misguided and in the long run counterproductive.

Don't misunderstand me. I believe strongly in investigative reporting; newspapers, magazines, TV and radio stations should concentrate more of their resources on in-depth, project reporting that digs beneath the surface of a story. Much of the best environmental reporting in recent years has involved investigations of toxic wastes, nuclear energy, ground water pollution, strip mining and other controversial issues. It takes courage to confront powerful institutions — regardless of whether they're a chemical company, a regulatory agency or a national environmental group.

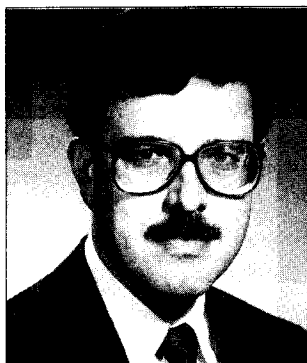
Don't just report negative stories. Tell readers about innovative efforts that corporations, government, citizens groups and private citizens are doing to improve the environment. Report both the good and the bad.

Cover issues intelligently and inde-

pendently. Don't be one-sided. Frame issues in a broader context. Seek out as many viewpoints as possible, ask probing questions and retain a healthy dose of skepticism.

Along the way, you'll face pressures to hype stories to get them on the front page, to get them air time or to win awards. These are, at best, short-term gains. If you succumb, you'll risk damaging your long-term credibility. If you honestly consider

Report from the society's president



By Jim Detjen

the needs of your readers and viewers you'll be better able to withstand these pressures and temptations.

So, think in the long term. As Casey Bukro notes, "Cover the beat in a way that does credit to environmental journalism."

1993 CONFERENCE — In the coming weeks you will be hearing a lot more about the program for the SEJ national conference to be held at Duke University Oct. 22-24, 1993. Panels are being planned on the environmental record of the Clinton-Gore administration, the endangered species act, genetically-engineered foods, nuclear energy, coastal development, occupational health, climate change, toxic waste incinerators, freelance writing, computer-assisted reporting, the best of TV environmental journalism, working with editors, and much more. Among the confirmed speakers are former EPA administrators Doug Costle and William Ruckleshaus, and Keith Schneider, national environmental reporter for the *New York Times*. Tours include a visit to the world's largest population of endangered

primates, research centers on global warming and acid rain in the Duke Forest and a local hog farm that is reducing water pollution through innovative environmental practices. Please plan to arrive by Thursday evening, if possible, to attend an opening or reception at the Washington Duke Inn. For more information, call Wevoned Minis at Florida Today (407-242-3638) or SEJ executive director Beth Parke at 215-247-9710.

1994 CONFERENCE — The SEJ has selected Sundance, Utah, as the site of our 1994 conference to be held Oct. 7-9, 1994. The convention will be based at the home of Robert Redford's environmental and film institutes, which are located high in the Rocky Mountains. Parts of the conference will also be held at Brigham Young and Utah State universities. For more information call either SEJ board member Marla Cone at *The Los Angeles Times* (714-966-5600) or JoAnne Valenti at BYU (801-378-2997).

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS — Beginning in 1994, SEJ will increase the number of regional events available to our members. For the most part these will be initiated by SEJ members at the grass roots level and then supported by the SEJ national office. They might include everything from a dinner meeting for SEJ members in Minneapolis to a day-long workshop on forest issues in Seattle. Rae Tyson and Tom Meersman have set up a structure of 13 SEJ regions with volunteer coordinators in each. For more information, call either Rae (703-276-3424), Tom (612-673-4414) or Beth Parke.

VIDEO — A seven-minute-long, broadcast-quality video explaining the SEJ's mission and history has been created by SEJ member Roger McCoy of WKBD-TV in Detroit. It includes footage shot at the society's second annual conference last November in Ann Arbor, Michigan. If you will be speaking to students, journalism groups or other audiences who may be interested in joining SEJ, please call Beth Parke to obtain a copy. Thanks to McCoy's production team, which included Mark Berg, Paul Pytolowany, Ellie Moseri and WKBD-TV general manager Duane Kell.

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Raleigh-Durham: A Good Place to Bring Your Laptop or Your Lounge Chair

By STUART LEAVENWORTH

You can argue whether Texas has better barbecue, California better beaches or Virginia better chewin' tobacco. But when it comes to North Carolina, you can't argue with this salient fact: Raleigh-Durham is becoming a national center for environmental research.

And that's one reason the SEJ decided to hold its national conference at Duke University on October 22-24.

Yeah, we know, budgets are tight. Plane fares are extortionary. Your chances of selling a story from a journalism confab are similar to those of finding Jimmy Hoffa.

But consider this: Within 30 miles of Durham, there are three major universities—University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State and Duke—that specialize in toxicology, coastal geology, biotechnology and other environmental issues.

In Research Triangle Park, you have miles of forest concealing a major EPA research lab, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology, the N.C. Supercomputing Center and think tanks for IBM, Ciba-Geigy, Burroughs Wellcome and other high-tech industries.

The Triangle is also close to some meaty waste management disputes.

Near Raleigh is a site for the southeast's next low-level radioactive waste repository—possibly the next one built in the country.

An hour north of Durham is Warrenton, a predominately black farm community where the state placed a PCB landfill in 1982 and ignited the environmental equity movement.

Of course, there are some journalists who like to unwind while attending an SEJ gathering. For you (all three of you) the state is also a good destination.

Four hours away is the Blue Ridge Parkway, which winds south past meadows and waterfalls to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

If you drive the other direction, you'll pass through marshes and fishing

villages until reaching Cape Hatteras National Seashore in about three hours.

But why leave the Triangle? Here's the lowdown on the local scene:

DURHAM—The minor league season is over by October, so you can't see a game at the ballpark where Susan Sarandon flirted with Kevin Costner in "Bull Durham." But the city still bops with some great restaurants and a handful of clubs. Ninth Street and Brightleaf Square, a revamped tobacco warehouse, are the hot spots. Eno State Park offers whitewater canoeing and miles of hiking trails at a time when the fall foliage is peaking.

CHAPEL HILL—Andy Warhol couldn't have designed a more hip college town. The action here is on Franklin Street, where Bohemians and preppies converge on a half-mile strip of cafes, restaurants, movie theaters and clubs. Catch a grunge band at Cat's Cradle or a jazz jam at Pyewacket.

RALEIGH—There once was an old tavern in Raleigh. North Carolina's legislators liked it so much they moved the state capitol there in 1788. The tavern has since disappeared, but the state's partying pals still gather every year. So do tens of thousands of N.C. State University students. Raleigh, a half-hour southeast of Durham, offers some fine Victorian neighborhoods, museums, theaters and concerts.

For more information about the conference, phone SEJ at 215-247-9710.

Stuart Leavenworth is a staff writer on environmental affairs at the Raleigh, N.C. News and Observer.

The best in TV reporting

At the SEJ conference in Durham, N.C., a video compilation of the year's top TV stories will run in a continuous loop.

To get your story on the reel, select a recent work (no Earth Summit stories please) up to ten minutes in length. Send in your story on a Beta cassette, with your show or station logo at the top of the non-returnable tape, by July 31. Send to: Mellissa Ballard, CNN Earth Matters, One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348, Phone: 404-827-3391.

White House council settles on access

Clinton administration's future approach to open meetings questioned

By GWEN MOULTON

In a settlement with several journalist groups, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), conceded February 17 that 20 of 28 meetings were held without giving adequate public notice as required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The 13-member council, headed by the Bush administration's former director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, was established under FACA charter in January 1990. The charter expires June 30 and it is unclear whether the group will be retained by the Clinton administration.

BNA, Inc., along with the Society of Professional Journalists, *Science and Government Report*, *Nature*, *Science*, and King Communications Group Inc. filed suit in May 1992 to challenge PCAST's pattern of holding short, open meetings followed with a day or more of closed discussions.

Toby McIntosh, an editor with BNA's *Daily Report for Executives*, initiated the court action after a 1991 Freedom of Information Act request for minutes of the closed PCAST meetings showed that recommendations were being discussed. Lawyers advised McIntosh that such closed-door talks by advisory groups established under FACA can only be done rarely.

After PCAST delayed in providing the remainder of McIntosh's FOIA request, the plaintiffs sought a temporary restraining order in U.S. District Court. The order was intended to force open upcoming sessions where biodiversity and high performance computing were scheduled topics.

While the court stopped short of opening the biodiversity meeting, it issued a temporary restraining order in May 1992 which opened part of a meeting on research-intensive universities.

In the settlement, PCAST provided all meeting minutes; draft reports; background documents, and communications to former president Bush. The government also will pay \$6,000 as partial payment of the plaintiff's legal fees.

The Clinton administration's ap-

proach to open meetings under FACA may lead to more closed door sessions, McIntosh said.

First Lady Hillary Clinton successfully argued in *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Inc. v. Hillary Rodham Clinton, et al* (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 93-0399) to have the health care task force that she chairs formulate its recommendations in closed session, he noted.

A federal judge ruled in favor of Clinton March 10, holding that the statutory requirement that advisory committees deliberate in public was unconstitutional. But the judge did not find information-gathering at such meetings to be grounds for closing them to the public. The case is on appeal.

An attorney for watchdog group Public Citizen termed the decision unfortunate if FACA was held unconstitutional because of the "unique application" involving the First Lady and whether her status constituted that of a federal employee.

"There has been a gradual erosion of FACA, and now we have an administration that is arguing it's unconstitutional," McIntosh said. "Public support has to be established if it's going to survive."

There may be fewer advisory com-

mittees in the future, McIntosh said. In what administration officials called a budget-cutting measure, an Executive Order signed Feb. 10, 1993 by President Clinton ordered all executive departments and agencies to terminate at least one-third of advisory committees established under FACA.

A federal official close to the issue said the cuts will save some funds, but questioned its impact overall in the context of cutting the federal deficit. At the same time, Congress still has the authority to establish new advisory committees, and the net effect one year from now is anybody's guess, the official said.

In the case of the Environmental Protection Agency, 18 advisory committees are likely to be cut, according to officials. They involve acid rain, biotechnology, Mexico-U.S. border clean-up, lawn care pesticides, air pollution control techniques, stratospheric ozone protection, drinking water disinfection, and hazardous waste. But most of the groups expected to be terminated were formed to conduct regulatory negotiations, which are no longer needed since the rules have been finalized, an EPA attorney said.

Gwen Moulton is a reporter at BNA's Daily Environment Report.

Online: SEJ adds database services

BY AMY GAHRAN

So, that hard-hitting SEJournal article you've really been dying to read again was in the issue that your basset hound ate last month? Don't worry, the full text of many SEJournal articles now are available in electronic form on the SEJ online forum.

You will find these articles in the forum's "publications folder," under the heading "SEJ articles." You can browse these articles online, or save them to your personal computer to read at your leisure. Since this collection of articles is actually a database, you can search for specific topics by using keywords. SEJournals

earlier than Vol. 2, No. 3 are not yet available.

Other searchable databases soon will be added to the forum. These will include: EcoReading, a directory of reviews of environmental books; EcoOrg, a directory of environmental organizations that lists addresses and phone numbers; EcoLinking, a directory of information on environmental networking; and EcoDirectory, a directory of environmental organizations and "green" products. EcoDirectory was contributed to the forum by SEJ member P.J. Grimes. Members who have environmental databases

(Continued on page 5)

Online...(From page 4)

or other electronic information resources of use or interest to SEJ members should contact forum leader Don Rittner, 518-374-1088.

Also new in the publications folder are articles by SEJ members, such as a three-part series on endangered species by Russ Clemings of the Fresno Bee. If you think some of your stories would make good reference material for other SEJ members, send them to Don Rittner by electronic mail or regular mail.

If you haven't been on the SEJ forum yet, you might want to drop by and check out these new databases. Also on the forum you will find detailed descriptions of reference guides, information resources, and software of use to environmental reporters. If you have questions about tracking down specific information, or anything else on the environment, you can post them on the forum—and get answers from your colleagues.

But perhaps the most valuable aspect of the forum is that it is a place for SEJ members to air their views about environmental reporting and the SEJ itself. There are some lively ongoing discussions on the forum about mailings to the SEJ membership from Western Fuels Association, attempts to start state/regional SEJ chapters, and other topics.

Online information resources are a valuable tool for reporters. If you've never been online but would like to know what's out there, the forum is an easy, friendly, interesting and useful place to start. Call the SEJ office or Don Rittner for details and free America Online software.

Amy Gahrn is SEJ Records Manager.

Parke...(From page 1)

radio. She worked at National Public Radio affiliates WGBH-FM, Boston and WHYY-FM, Philadelphia and most recently served as senior producer and host of the internationally syndicated radio series "Consider the Alternatives."

Parke is a graduate of Boston College and earned a master's degree from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Miss. reporter pulled
Paper denies it caved in to governor**

By SHARON EBNER

Editors at Mississippi's largest newspaper are publically denying that environmental reporter Sharon Stallworth was reassigned as a result of pressure from the governor's office and some industries.

"I don't run from anybody at the governor's mansion and I don't genuflect to anybody there," said Dewey English, assistant management editor of *The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger*.

"I'm not taking marching orders from these folks, and I can't believe that (critics) can't see that from our record. We've been very tough-minded on them."

Environmentalists and others in May held a news conference castigating the newspaper for removing Stallworth from the beat and for "ignoring" environmental stories since her reassignment to general assignment reporter in mid-April.

Stallworth had been environmental reporter at the 102,000-circulation newspaper for three years. In the last year, she also was assigned to write on business.

In explaining her reassignment, editors told Stallworth that her articles were "too complicated, too bureaucratic, too much about Noxubee County and that they wanted a consumer-oriented beat," she said.

Environmental activists believe that Stallworth was reassigned after the governor's office and industry executives complained to Duane McAllister, the newspaper's publisher, about her coverage of the state's attempt to fulfill an EPA requirement to develop a hazardous waste plan. Two companies want to build incinerators and a landfill in Noxubee County.

A Feb. 5 letter from Gov. Kirk Fordice's chief of staff, Andy Taggart, accused Stallworth of writing "attack pieces," being "unprofessional" and "unethical." Taggart added: "... I hope that you will take some steps in response."

The Associated Press reported that environmental activists including Mississippi Sierra Club Director Louie Miller speculate that Taggart's complaints were prompted by a story Stallworth broke in January. Stallworth reported that two of

Fordice's appointees to the Commission on Environmental Quality had conflicts of interest. One operated a company that was being inspected by the commission.

"She got too close to the governor's agenda and she uncovered too many

"She got too close to the governor's agenda and she uncovered too many things."

— Louie Miller, Sierra Club

things," Miller said.

Although editors declined to say why Stallworth had been reassigned, saying it was a personnel issue, Executive Editor John Johnson reportedly told others that Stallworth was reassigned because she had lost her objectivity in covering environmental issues.

Jamie Boyll, a Jackson activist, said that's what Johnson told her when she called him shortly after Stallworth was reassigned.

And Wyatt Emmerich, publisher of the weekly *Northside Sun*, said that at a Leadership Jackson meeting shortly after Stallworth was reassigned, Johnson was asked what the paper would do if it determined that a reporter was biased. Leadership Jackson is a program in which private citizens and public officials attend seminars and discussions in order to network and improve community leadership skills.

Emmerich said Johnson responded by saying that the paper had recently concluded that a reporter was advocating one side, and that the reporter was reassigned.

Johnson said he remembered talking to Boyll and fielding a question about biased reporters at the meeting, but said he did not remember saying that Stallworth or any other reporter recently had been reassigned based on lack of objectivity.

"No one here has ever said 'biased' or 'losing objectivity' to me as a reason for the reassignment," Stallworth said.

Sharon Ebner covers environmental issues for The Sun Herald in Gulfport-Biloxi, Miss.

The law

Legal resources abound if one knows where to look

By SARAH BATES

Where can a reporter turn for quick information on environmental law? In addition to personal contacts with lawyers involved in litigation one is covering, a variety of reference materials are available. This article provides an overview of legal research sources and identifies a few of the more prominent references.

Legal materials are divided into two broad categories: primary and secondary. Primary sources of law are those written by legislative bodies (the U.S. Congress or a state legislature, for example), courts, or administrative agencies. If you want to read the complete text of a named law such as the National Environmental Policy Act, you need to go to a primary source. Lawyers are trained to rely first on primary sources as authority for the positions they advocate.

While primary sources of law are invaluable if you need to quote exact statutory or judicial language, secondary sources are helpful in gaining a fuller understanding of the history and implications of the law. Secondary sources include law reviews (student-published periodicals with articles on legal developments and trends), treatises and hornbooks (detailed, often multi-volume treatments of particular fields of law such as toxic torts or water law), and books that discuss laws and policies concerning environmental issues. Lawyers use secondary materials to orient themselves in an unfamiliar field; a reporter writing an in-depth story on an environmental law issue would find these sources useful as well.

Primary sources

Federal statutes (congressional enactments) are compiled in the "U.S. Code Annotated" (USCA), a multi-volume set published and updated by West Publishing. The USCA also contains the full text of the U.S. Constitution. "Annotated" means that the USCA provides summaries of reported court decisions and scholarly articles interpreting federal statutes and constitutional provisions.

Federal regulations are published ini-

tially in the "Federal Register" and then organized by subject matter in the "Code of Federal Regulations."

State statutes are collected in multi-volume state codes, such as the "Colorado Revised Statutes." Most major law libraries contain state codes from other states.

State regulations may be more difficult to locate. The best approach may simply be to contact the relevant state agency and request a copy of its regulations on a particular subject.

Judicial decisions may be reported (published in a series of volumes specific

Reporters' Toolbox

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

to a region or state) or unreported (not published; generally not widely distributed or relied upon by other courts). Obtaining a copy of a reported decision requires information on its citation: the volume of the relevant reporter and the first page at which the case appears. Law libraries have indexes to help you find this information if you only have the title of the case. Unreported decisions can be requested from the issuing court.

All of this information — statutes, regulations, and court decisions — is readily available through on-line database searches. Westlaw (West Publishing Co., 800-937-8529) and Lexis (Mead Data Central, 800-543-6862) provide comprehensive access to these and many other legal materials. These services can help you find cases and laws using many parameters: key words, decisions written by a particular judge, and cases brought by a particular party, to name a few.

Secondary sources

A wide variety of law reviews is available at law libraries. Selected law review articles are available in full-text on such computer databases as Westlaw and Lexis/Nexis. Among the more prominent environmentally-oriented law periodicals:

"Ecology Law Quarterly" (University of California at Berkeley), "Environmental Law" (Lewis & Clark), and "Natural Resources Journal" (University of New Mexico).

A few of the key treatises in the environmental law field include "Law of Environmental Protection" (Clark-Boardman), "Environmental Law" (West) and "Environmental Law" (Matthew Bender). West Publishing produces a series of "nutshells," brief and accessible paperback summaries of such subjects as environmental, water, and land use law. Nutshells are inexpensive and handy references.

A leading publisher of environmental books, Island Press (800-828-1302), distributes several sourcebooks on environmental laws that would be good references for reporters: "Environmental Law Handbook" (Government Institutes, 1991); "Environmental Law Deskbook" (Environmental Law Institute, 1989); "Natural Resources Law Handbook" (Government Institutes, 1991); "Natural Resources Statutes" (Government Institutes, 1991); and "Understanding Environmental Administration and Law" (Island Press, 1991). Island Press also carries books specific to individual federal environmental statutes.

Several other environmental law references of note for reporters include "Environmental Law Lexicon" (Law Journal Seminars-Press, 1992) and "Environmental Law Handbook" (American Bar Association, Section on Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law, 1992).

The Environmental Law Institute (202-939-3813) publishes a deskbook series, including references on Superfund, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, and others. ELI also carries a practical reference called "A Guide to Environmental Law in Washington, DC," billed as "a snapshot of the process of making and implementing environmental law and policy."

A variety of organizations provide
(Continued on page 9)

TV reporters face extra ethical trials

Getting accurate pictures to go with an environmental story usually difficult

By BARRY SERAFIN

A colleague of mine still winces when he talks about the small television station where he got his start as a journalist.

As is usually the case at a small station, the news budget was tight. Then the news director came up with an idea. All nighttime fires, he argued, look the same. So he decreed that, instead of wasting film (this was pre-videotape) on every fire, the news staff would simply keep a set of nighttime fire pictures on file to use whenever a blaze broke out.

That's the kind of thing that could only happen at a small station with budget problems and an unenlightened management, right? Wrong.

Consider the case of NBC News. In February of this year, while NBC was still smarting from the revelation that it had misrepresented a flaming crash of a General Motors pickup truck, it was forced to apologize for its use of file footage of fish to illustrate a story on pollution in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest.

The network acknowledged that the fish had actually been from a river in another location and that the fish were not really dead but had been stunned for testing purposes.

Because of the GM and file footage disclosures, NBC News President Michael Gartner was fired. But the network's news division paid a higher price: a serious blow to the one thing no news organization can afford to lose—its credibility.

NBC did the right thing in acknowledging its lapses in judgement and its

news division has plenty of strengths on which to survive. But NBC's nightmare is one dreaded by all of us in television news.

Television has some obvious assets when it comes to reporting news: immediacy and the ability to reinforce words with pictures.

But its assets can also present vexing problems. For one thing, there has to be something on the screen. Stories that print reporters can track down and file on the phone have to be videotaped or somehow illustrated on television.

And environmental reporting often produces unique dilemmas. How do you show soil or groundwater contamination? How do you illustrate important decision-making processes such as risk assessment and budgeting? When is file footage of wildlife or logging or mining or waste sites appropriate? When is it acceptable to use footage provided by outside sources?

The answers depend on the nature of the story. For example, generic timber-cutting pictures may be fine for a general story on logging. But as the story becomes more specific—logging in a particular forest, near a particular stream, next to a particular eagle's nest—the pictures must be equally specific.

When pictures are not possible, the careful use of graphics can work in certain cases: to show how soil was contaminated, how global warming happens, how a water treatment system works, etc.

Sometimes, there is no solution and good stories go unreported because it is

too difficult, time-consuming or expensive to illustrate them. After all, television coverage involves more than the reporter's time and expenses. It involves a camera crew, a producer and, sometimes, a videotape editor at the scene.

Then there is the question of air time—the equivalent of space for a print reporter. Anyone who has covered environmental stories very long knows that they are usually complicated. The subject is often quite technical. The issues are rarely black and white, rarely as simple as good guys and bad guys, or even as simple as two sides.

So all of the considerations that go into reporting—trying to make stories fair and accurate and informative—are both more important and more difficult. And those difficulties are compounded by having at most a few minutes of air time, a fraction of the writing "space" available to print reporters, to tell the story.

Despite all of the problems and the potential traps for television reporters, environmental stories need covering. They touch our lives in hundreds of ways. They matter to viewers and they should matter to us.

The only way to approach them is as honestly and with as much homework as possible. That is not just a feel-good homily. It is the only way to avoid paying the painful price of lost credibility.

Barry Serafin has been national correspondent for ABC News since 1981. He frequently anchors ABC News broadcasts and reports on environmental issues for the "American Agenda" segment of World News Tonight With Peter Jennings.



Serafin

Bukro ... (From page 1)

Gibbs. She fixed me with those dark eyes, studying me for a few seconds. Then she answered: "How bad do you want it to be?"

Clearly, Gibbs had met many reporters, and knew that some of them didn't let the facts get in the way of a good story. They would only want to know that it was

VERY bad.

This is not to say that Gibbs is a manipulator of reporters. She has had a distinguished career with the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, Inc., and is a keen observer of human nature.

But it illustrates a point made very well by Olympia Dukakis in the movie,

"Moonstruck," who said in a moment of temptation: "I know who I am." At times when reporters are tempted to tell a story as they want it to be, rather than as it is, it helps to know who they are.

If they are professionals, they write environmental stories in keeping with the definition of news: An accurate portrayal

of events presented in an intelligent perspective.

That is an obligation of all journalists, not just environment reporters. But the reason we are wrestling with the ethics issue is that environment reporters sometimes are advocates, while others are branded as advocates simply because they cover the beat. The beat is sometimes viewed by reporters as a mission in which the fate of the earth and its population are at stake.

Avoid 'us v. them'

That might be true, if we can be sure we're paying attention to the right issues. Our batting average for spotting environmental problems before they engulf us has not been very good.

And taking sides makes a reporter part of the us-them dichotomy—along with the tendency to believe the other side is always wrong. Actually, all sides of a controversy can be right or wrong at times. That means you've got to be equally tough on the Sierra Club and the local chemical plant operators.

Since the beginning of the modern environment beat around 1970, reporters have been wondering if we are doing it right and that soul-searching continues.

The Foundation for American Communications in April released a report on "The Press and the Environment," showing that while the public demand for environmental news is growing, 72 percent of the journalists surveyed said reporters lack the training and background to cover technical environmental issues.

FACS also noted an earlier finding by Environmental Research Associates that only 10 percent of Americans consider news media reports on environmental information unbiased.

This beat has never been easy to cover, and it's not going to get easier. News

managers under economic pressures become disenchanted with specialization, while environmental writers who want to stay on the beat are branded self-serving "careerists." To make matters worse, environmental reporters sometimes are considered a bit subversive because they challenge conventional wisdom and business-as-usual.

Fairness, accuracy and dogged determination to do the best job you can under the circumstances are the only ways to get through this maze of obstacles. We're all somewhere on the learning curve, and the beat keeps expanding—from local to global issues.

The best reporters work harder to find sources to explain the issues. And if you're lucky, editors will give you time to talk with experts and go to technical seminars.

Where does ethics fit into all this? Being ethical means taking a stand on how professional you want to be—drawing lines beyond which you won't go. Ethics is a matter of what kind of person you are, and want to be.

Credibility hard to recover

Ethics protects your credibility, which is easily lost and hard to recover. I write for the *Chicago Tribune*, the newspaper famous for its "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline. The Tribune has published millions of accurate reports in its 146-year history, but it's still ridiculed for one bad headline.

Telling your audience what you know for sure—not what you think—is the best way to deliver the message.

I wrote a code of ethics in 1972 for the Society of Professional Journalists. It's been suggested that maybe the Society of Environmental Journalists needs a code of ethics, but I doubt it. SPJ never enforced its code of ethics, and proved to be an ethics wimp. It didn't want to criticize

anyone, and I suspect if push came to shove, SEJ might react the same way.

Good journalists should point out bad journalism. Journalists bash everyone in sight, but they don't like to talk about their own sins. Accountability and admitting our mistakes should be part of the way we do business.

Reward ethical reporting

If SEJ really got serious about this, it might want to recognize stories that were covered in a highly professional and ethical manner. These would be balanced and fair in handling technical issues in a way that explained how they apply to people, commerce and the community. They would tell the good along with the bad.

SEJ could offer awards to the best examples, and maybe even cite the worst—sort of like winners and sinners. Lorax awards, for example, might go to the winners. Or these could be named for something synonymous with a clean environment, like mayflies or rainbow trout.

Losers might get the Grinch award, or something named for a dirty environment, like sludge or sludgeworms.

But it's 23 years since the first Earth day, and we need a new maturity on the beat—one that takes the future of environmental reporting into consideration.

We talk a lot about the ethic of leaving the earth a better place than we found it. The same ethic should apply to the beat. Cover the beat in a way that does credit to environmental journalism. This beat will survive as long as it is meaningful and gives readers, viewers and listeners an accurate sense of the wonders of this world, as well as the risks. Tell them what they need to know.

Casey Bukro has been environment editor at the Chicago Tribune since 1970 and has covered the issue for 25 years.

Winship ... (From page 1)

it comes to the environmental story. They need to maintain their questioning dispositions to examine motives, among other things. The media easily recognize politics played in the state house but often fail to see it when one environmental group pits itself against another.

Unlike politics, however, almost ev-

eryone is on the same side when it comes to the environment. No one, at least no one sane, is advocating destruction of the planet. So the media need to convey a message that serves the public. To do that, they must act and not just react.

The all-too-frequent search for heroes and villains by the American media is

too simplistic, if not outright deceptive to the public. This doesn't just apply to environmental coverage, but to stories ranging from ethnic conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina or the Middle East to abortion and health issues.

Taking into account all of the above, coupled with common sense, means that

story balance becomes part of context, not equal wordage. What reporter would give the same space in an oil spill story to the oil company's response as to the scientists, clean-up crew and effects? Is that advocacy? Objectivity?

For that story, we need good, old-fashioned reporting. It's no crime to see a reporter's bias against water pollution in a story. If the water wasn't polluted we wouldn't write the story.

On the other hand, why should reporters overlook stories on oil companies attempting new, innovative cleanup efforts? The media should use the same creativity and criteria in selecting environmental stories as they do in picking others.

The stories should encompass basic writing skills. Make it interesting. Write it clearly. Explain the complexities to the audience. Raise issues, not just problems.

Extra precaution is needed in some areas of environmental journalism. There are few fields in which reporters need to be more careful about accuracy and tone. It's easy to exaggerate, to alarm, to create false impressions. Numbers get distorted. Messages get twisted. Too often reporters rush to print with new studies or reports without asking the normal questions about why a study was conducted or who financed it.

U.S. reporters should take lead

And then there's the question of which sources to believe and which information to include or leave out of a story. Use the same skills and instincts you would if you were covering any complicated story. You can get a message across without denying the public access to the free market place of ideas.

American environmental reporters should take the lead in enforcing ethics in environmental news coverage. With advantages available to no other media in the world, American reporters have the access, education, freedom and economic status to become the trend setters—not apologists—for redefining the role of the media as educators as well as informers.

U.S. reporters have the ability to find out most of the whos and whats. Their counterparts in the developing world of-

ten do not. That's where the ethical issues are more complex.

In the West, tools that are taken for granted, such as databases, open access to records, free-speaking experts and extensive source materials, are nothing short of luxuries for many colleagues in the developing world.

Pocketbook issues affect ethics

Reporters in many parts of Latin America and Africa are faced with dilemmas that go right to the heart of their personal survival. Environmental issues often take a back seat to national development. Eyes are closed, mouths are shut when it comes to modernization. Violation of the rules often is considered sedition.

Journalists covering the environment in the developing world often are accused of hampering economic development by writing environmental stories that adversely affect tourism or debt deals.

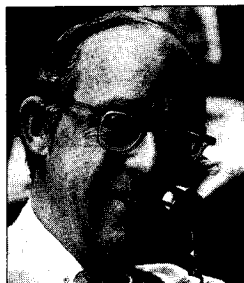
All too frequently stories are spiked because a publisher is on the board of directors of some local industry that is pumping money—and maybe pollution—into the country.

Sometimes the ethical considerations give way to other pocket-book issues, such as when advertisers or government agencies threaten to retaliate against unwanted coverage.

What happens when an industry boss passes out to journalists the infamous "brown envelopes," containing enough local currency to pay for a month of groceries? These are ethical dilemmas. Caring about an issue—such as air pollution, contamination of ground water, landfills, pesticides—is not. Reporting fairly and honestly in free and open societies should not create ethical problems.

The media should play it straight and forget this fear of showing they care.

Winship was editor of the Boston Globe for 20 years, during which time the paper won a dozen Pulitzer prizes. He is currently chairman of the Center for Foreign Journalists, a non-profit institution based in Reston, Va., which offers training to journalists worldwide.



Winship

Ethical comments

SEJournal welcomes your comments, especially on the subject of ethics in environmental reporting. We hope to print your responses in a future issue, perhaps devoting an expanded Letters-to-the-Editor section to the topic. Please write or fax:

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(FAX) 202-942-1424.

Toolbox...(From page 6)

written information and hold conferences focused on environmental regulation and compliance: Business & Legal Reports (800-727-5257); Executive Enterprises (800-332-1105); National Business Institute (715-835-7909); the American Bar Association's Section of Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law (312-988-5724); and the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado (303-492-1293).

Staying up-to-date

Two major newsletters provide coverage of recent developments of environmental law developments. The Environmental Law Institute publishes the weekly four-page "Environmental Law Reporter Update," as well as the more detailed monthly "News & Analysis" and full text of court decisions, documents from pending litigation, and administrative and statutory materials.

The Bureau of National Affairs (800-372-1033) publishes the weekly "Environment Reporter" (which is more detailed than ELI's newsletter), in addition to looseleaf collections of state and federal environmental law materials.

On-line services such as Lexis and Westlaw provide the most current information on environmental law. For example, new court decisions are available within about 24 hours of their release.

SEJ member Sarah Bates is assistant director of the Natural Resources Law Center of the University of Colorado School of Law and co-author, with Marc Reisner, of "Overtapped Oasis," (Island Press, 1989.)

The West: Mirage or miracle to come

By MARY MANNING

The West once promised Americans the dream of wide, blue skies, streams coursing with gold nuggets and enough land to breathe and grow in comfort. Those who made the West their home survived their harsh lives on self-reliance, creativity, industriousness, perseverance in the face of natural obstacles, brutal honesty and resourcefulness.

None of these are necessary in the new western culture. Indeed, they interfere with today's state-of-the-art dream. For many of us who live in the West, that dream is a mirage, shimmering on the brink of extinction, about to disappear as the suburbs spread like crab grass through desert towns and mountain passes.

Water is the first illusion. It has to be dammed, piped and pumped to where the people go, since the men who settled the West, especially California, lived on a pipe dream. And pipe, they did. From draining Central California to fuel the growth in Los Angeles or pumping the Colorado River 2,000 feet uphill from Lake Mead to serve Las Vegas residents and visitors, the West's water, as Marc Raisner noted in *Cadillac Desert*, flows toward money.

As the demand rises, so do the prices and to keep those monthly water bills lower than mortgage payments, western communities like Los Angeles; Tucson, Ariz.; Seattle, Wash.; and Las Vegas are trying to combine conservation with creative ways to reroute water from the old uses of cattle and crops to our towns.

Visitors to the desert crave water, a recent survey says. But those who come to the desert and crave only water rides, slides and fountains are in the wrong place at the wrong time. The oceans and the Great Lakes and rivers this year are overflowing with water. Gamers knew it before the tourists. The gambling moguls are staking claims on the Mississippi River and in the Midwest—the heartland of America—for the next craps shoot, in case anything happens to the magic of Disneyland in Southern California or the illusions of Las Vegas, where six years' drought has taken its toll.

Second, there is the land. Developers

have paved and put up homes where a rabbit wouldn't nest, driving the need for services to the middle of deserts, on top of mountains and pushing the American Dream of the West to the border of a nightmare. That century-old dream of frontier has been corralled by freeways, planned communities with guards at the gate and the pressure-cooker reality of riots, strikes and gang violence once believed to be the exclusive problems of those big inner cities back East. The West was once black and white, the good guys won, and the miners discovered their pot

Essay

of gold—not at the end of the rainbow—but in the bottom of their pans.

The shift in population from rural western towns to big cities is most apparent in California and Nevada. Most of Nevada's 1.3 million people live in urban Reno or Las Vegas. Southern California has already experienced the sprawl of suburbs branching out from major urban areas like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The lonesome cowboy is surrounded by neighborhoods and parking lots. Fences and freeways have put an end to the desolation and isolation and romance of the West. The mythical West has turned into a mirage. Westerners born and bred in Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, or Montana were rare souls to the rest of the country, pioneers from an exotic, mythical place. Then the railroads and the loggers and the dam builders and the nuclear weapons designers opened roads into the West, and a trickle of change has become a flood, a tide that cannot be changed and may destroy the very heart and spirit of the place.

In the 19th Century, the rise and fall of those mining towns was called a boom-and-bust cycle. Although today's mines are major industries in the West, the same explosive growth, followed by the thud of economic reality setting in has the western states and their cities jittery as mail-order brides who just stepped out of the last stagecoach through town. For mining, ranching, the defense industry, and the

nuclear weapons industrial complex are all facing a decline.

Minerals are finite resources, single-family ranches are a rarity, since major companies produce the beef, and the Cold War has disappeared off the radar screen, leaving bewildered atomic scientists scratching their heads for direction. Some wealthy westerners are selling their beach-front property and moving to a small, rural town, spreading the seeds of suburbia that could stamp out the last flavor of that distant dream of independence, living off the fat of the land. Drive through any western town. The brand names on malls, movie theaters and markets are as common as lizards sunning themselves on desert rocks.

Forty years ago the skies were so clear and blue, when climbing mountains the hiker felt as though the view gave a glimpse of eternity. Not anymore. The blanket of smog runs from Los Angeles to the Grand Canyon. Scientists at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., have traced the chemical fingerprints from Southern California industries across five states. The smog travels along Interstate 15 from the Southcoast Basin to the Las Vegas Valley. It could be decades before the grit and grime and gross cloud of smog lifts to reveal the once incomparable valley view.

Perhaps the biggest shock wave in the West was the end of the Cold War. The Berlin Wall fell. The Soviet Union fell apart. The United States was the only superpower left on Earth, but what did that mean? Philosophy and building the atomic bomb never mixed in the deserts where the explosion brought the power of the sun to Earth.

It is too early for the historians to tell the nuclear weapons designers the meaning of life. Yet in order for the West to survive, redefining the role of the national federal laboratories may be the key to redefining the West, creating something real as opposed to the shimmering mirage dancing on the sands from Los Alamos, New Mexico to the Nevada Test Site to the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California.

For almost fifty years, men and

Features



The mushroom cloud became a familiar sight from downtown Las Vegas and surrounding mountains in the 1950s (left). The neon lights of Las Vegas took over after 1963, when nuclear testing went underground. (Photos courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau).

women sworn to secrecy, went to work in remote areas where their families often didn't know what they did for a living, and sometimes died for their country. Thousands of soldiers, uranium miners and people who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site are only now receiving compensation for their ordeals. These were patriotic men and women and children, ready to believe the scientists who said radioactive fallout wouldn't hurt them, that it was alright to sip hot chocolate and watch the brilliant, colorful nuclear bombs burst in midair and bring clouds of white dust packing an invisible radioactive punch.

In 1990, Congress granted the victims' families rewards, if they could prove their cancers were caused by radiation. But, like a mirage, the gesture offers little substance to the survivors. No one apologized to them for their suffering. To many westerners, a word of apology is worth more than the thousands of dollars they will receive from the congressional benefits.

For most of us, the innocence of the Wild West is gone, evaporated in the desert heat, a mirage that beckons, then disappears, evaporates, in thin air. The nuclear bombs have gone underground, and may never rock the desert floor again after 1996, and governments may figure out a way to provide water to westerners, and maybe those clear, blue skies will return, but first things first. Let's get some priorities straight. Those who come to live

out West have to learn some of the basics, the essential values that made this part of the country great.

The first lesson around these parts is that all that glitters is not gold. Boomtown-styl population explosions are born of personal greed, and when they die down, can leave a depression behind. Into this abyss the old values of the true westerner can step into the breach.

In this new age, interstates, incredible information advances and airlines allow the modern tycoon to live anywhere, even in a cabin in the woods. It's the crowding that has hurt the West. In our remote-control lives, we confuse what we want with what we need. Our schools abet this decline by muddying the scarce waters with the difference between education and knowledge. How many Americans do you know who understand where the food they eat comes from? Or are they like the inner city child in Chicago who thought carrots and chicken came in plastic wrap from the market? The nation has splintered into vocal special interest groups. This is where there is hope in the West.

Most towns in California, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, Idaho or Oregon are small enough for the people to still have their say in how things run. They may shake hands with the governor, the congressmen and congresswomen, or their state senators. The bottom line in these wide open spaces remains involvement. Those

who live on the land, those who cherish the dream of the West can bring it back into focus, bring it back into reality from the brink of the airy mirage by becoming involved with planning and voicing their skills and knowledge from their own backyards.

The West won't be won again by guns, if it ever was. The next decade, the next century, will unfold the future of the West, the great American picture show, larger than life. It is up to westerners to shape it. With gun in holster, start talking, start voicing, but most of all, start thinking about what you want, wherever you live. Television sitcoms gave us life in a Los Angeles apartment for years, but not everyone lives in such pastel environments.

No one arriving in the West a century ago dreamed of life as a beach. Miners, ranchers and plain folk with calloused hands and warm hearts ventured out here for escape, adventure, and pursuit of a dream. The Old West lost its dream, turned it into a mirage, but the New West can recreate itself and fill the illusions with a vibrant life, based on inventiveness, perseverance, patience and hard work. Mirages in the desert come easy, but nothing out here will ever be easy again. Westerners have more mind and heart and soul than all the six-shooters ever made, if they will only take courage and endure.

Mary Manning is a veteran environmental reporter for the Las Vegas Sun.

Covering companies: Is good news "news"?

by JOEL MAKOWER

Heard any good corporate environmental news lately?

Unlikely. Print and broadcast environmental coverage of companies is overwhelmingly negative. In fact, short of increased earnings reports for some cleanup companies, you'll be hard-pressed to find many business environmental stories that place companies in a positive light.

Why is that? Are companies simply not doing anything except wasting resources and polluting? Or are reporters finding it difficult to identify, cover, assess, and sell to their editors and producers stories of a more positive nature? Probably a little of both, though the latter seems to be dominating more than the former.

Please understand: This is not to say that stories about corporate misdeeds should be passed up on favor of flackery. Indeed, many of us would like to see more time and space devoted to ferreting out local and national stories of business treatment of the Earth and its resources.

But there is a case to be made that if "Companies Pollute" has become the commonplace, dog-bites-man headline of the times, then "Company Innovation Spurs Jobs, Cuts Costs and Pollution" just might be a bona fide news story worthy of covering.

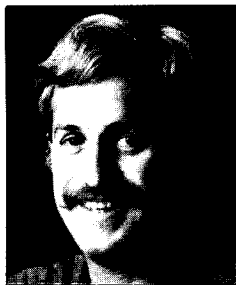
The fact that it isn't seen that way at most news organizations is understandable. Reporters are by nature cynical. Journalists in general have a higher comfort level with bad news, especially when it comes to covering corporations. And there's certainly no shortage of bad business news to report. Besides, there isn't anything particularly sexy about stories on companies doing the right thing.

Moreover, journalists as a group reflect society's mistrust of corporations, especially related to environmental issues. A succession of polls and surveys has recorded the severe lack of credibility of corporate environmental efforts among Americans. For example, in a 1991 Hartman Group Survey, which gauged

the level of trust Americans have in various sources of environmental information, companies ranked dead last, behind universities, news media, environmental groups, and government agencies. Only 13 percent of respondents considered companies to be a "trustworthy source of information about environmental matters."

That result tracks neatly with surveys of reporters and editors. For example:

- A 1992 survey of environmental



Makeower

No one will ever accuse General Motors of being a 'green' company, considering its tremendous environmental problems and opposition to clean air legislation. But does GM — or any other environmentally imperfect company — get credit where credit is due?

journalists conducted by *TJFR Business News Reporter*, a twice-monthly newsletter covering business and environmental journalism, found that two-thirds replied "false" to the statement, "I generally trust information I get from corporate officials." The survey also found that two-thirds of reporters get story ideas from contacts at environmental groups. Just under half said ideas come from friends and neighbors.

• A study released this year by the Foundation for American Communications found that 36 percent agreed that "many journalists have an anti-business bias." That study, of 512 print and broadcast reporters, found that fewer than 5 percent rely on business or industry sources for environmental stories.

Given such widespread distrust, how could companies possibly be portrayed as anything other than eco-villains?

Granted, covering "good-news" environmental stories is tougher than covering "bad-news" stories. For one thing, it requires putting things in perspective, something that is difficult for reporters who don't cover companies or the environment fulltime. Such stories typically aren't simply a matter of right versus wrong or good versus evil.

Indeed, putting corporate environ-

mental efforts into perspective is something like throwing a rock at a moving target. Not that long ago, a company could make news by announcing it had banned polystyrene foam coffee cups from its offices, initiated a modest paper-recycling program, and was donating 5 cents from every widget sold to Ducks Unlimited.

No more. Not only are such practices commonplace, they are looked upon with suspicion as superficial responses to serious environmental problems.

Companies at the leading edge of environmental practices have gone much further, leaning on suppliers to "green" their products and services, inventing ways to reduce and reuse raw materials, forming partnerships with community groups to solve local problems, collaborating with other companies to create less-

toxic processes, redesigning products and processes, and so on.

A lot of this is just good business, of course. By reducing waste and maximizing resource efficiency, many companies are finding a salutary effect on both the environment and their bottom lines. And some of it is done with more than a little hype. But a great deal of it is being done very quietly.

Consider General Motors. Several months ago, the auto maker initiated a policy that by Jan. 1, 1994, its 25 North American assembly plants would throw away no packaging trash. Zero waste. Nothing.

It doesn't take much digging to understand the implications of this policy. Most of GM's 11,000 or so suppliers will have to radically change the way they do business with the company. From now on, anything they ship must be contained in packaging that can be reused or recycled by GM — or in no packaging at all. No more unrecyclable wooden shipping pallets. No more disposable strapping or packing tapes. And don't even think about polystyrene peanuts and polyethylene shrink-wrap.

So this single policy will have a ripple effect throughout the world, as GM suppliers rethink their packaging options. By

the way, GM will save carloads of money in reduced disposal fees.

Is this just another case of corporate "greenwashing?" Hardly. It is truly noteworthy when the nation's largest manufacturer makes such a significant policy change, one that affects thousands of other businesses. But the story was not reported by a single mainstream news organization.

Why not? Dean Rotbart, a former *Wall Street Journal* reporter and editor, has a theory. "It gets to the point of is the glass half empty or half full," says Rotbart, who is now editor of *TJFR Business News Reporter*. "Too often, journalists determine either that the glass is half empty, or pass on the story because it's only half full, not completely full."

True, no one will ever accuse General Motors of being a "green" company. Like most manufacturing giants, it has tremendous environmental problems, not to mention the 25 or so years it has spent stonewalling clean-air legislation.

But the question remains: Does GM — or any other environmentally imperfect company — get credit where credit is due? Or are such actions simply some-

thing that companies should have been doing all along, and therefore not worthy of mention?

"There's a fear of perceived wimpishness in reporting corporate environmental good news stories in part because the perception is that we haven't been successful enough as reporters in coming up with the dirt on industry," says Bob Engelman, until recently an environmental reporter for Scripps Howard Newspapers, now with Population Action International. "So why should we give them a good ride on their environmental success stories?"

Engelman answers his own question. "I think lack of sex appeal is a large part of the problem. This gets to the heart of the problem of the environmental beat. A lot of the stories that are important lack sex appeal. This is one of the challenges that good environmental journalists deal with all the time."

Others agree. Several of the journalists contacted for this piece who did not want to be quoted agreed that reporters and editors might do well to take a closer look at corporate environmental initiatives

One veteran editor suggested that reporting only the negative could do more harm than good. He offered a case in point. "It's about time we stopped reporting scare stories on toxic wastes and started spotlighting successful technologies that can isolate toxic wastes," he said.

"The public is beginning to conclude that every kind of waste is a threat to communities, no matter where you put it. If this keeps up, all waste-disposal options will be blocked and the midnight dumpers will come back to haunt us," he added.

That doesn't mean that reporters should let down their guards or stop being skeptical, emphasized the editor. "They should still ask tough questions, go to several different sources, and talk to the other side," he counseled. Inevitably, he said, "reporters will have to start talking to business to get stories."

Joel Makower, editor of "The Green Business Letter," is author of "The E-Factor: The Bottom-Line Approach to Environmentally Responsible Business" (Published by Random House, 292 pages, \$23).

Atlanta, Boston media take top awards

Mike Toner of The Atlanta Journal and Constitution won a Pulitzer Prize for his series that explored the diminishing effectiveness of pesticides and antibiotics, while WCVB-TV in Boston picked up a DuPont-Columbia award for a variety of environmental stories by reporter David Ropeik.

Toner won in the Explanatory Journalism category for his series entitled "When Bugs Bite Back."

WCVB-TV claimed a Silver Baton for Major Market TV — the broadcast equivalent of a Pulitzer — for both the program *Chronicle* and for a collection of Ropeik's stories on radioactive waste, why recycling isn't working, marine biologists' use of blimps to study whales, and an overview of biodiversity.

Several newspaper series on environmental issues took multiple honors in national journalism competitions announced this spring, with a reporting team from The National Law Journal winning three major prizes for its reports on unequal

enforcement of environmental laws in minority communities.

The National Law Journal team of Marianne Lavelle, Marcia Coyle and Claudia MacLachlin won an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for newspapers under 75,000 circulation, a George Polk Award for Legal Reporting and the Scripps Howard-Meeman Award for newspapers under 100,000 circulation.

Another multiple winner was a five-day project in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on radiation hazards and deaths in the nation's hospitals, which garnered an IRE Award for newspapers over 75,000 and the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Investigative Reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Major journalism competitions announcing awards for reports on environmental issues, in addition to the above, were:

Scripps Howard/Meeman Awards

Circulation over 100,000

The Orlando Sentinel and reporters John

Glisch, Alex Beasley and Mary Beth Regan for series stemming from their year-long study on the wide-spread contamination of Florida's groundwater.

Thomas Stokes Award

Bob Anderson of the Morning Advocate of Baton Rouge, La., for his three-part series "Just Beyond the Fence," exploring how industries are sited and how the state's low-income and minority communities thus face disproportionate exposure to industrial pollutants.

George Polk Awards

Environmental Reporting

John-Thor Dahlburg of the Los Angeles Times for reports on the haphazard disposal of radioactive waste in the former Soviet Union.

Overseas Press Club

Environmental Reporting

Emily Smith of Business Week for reporting on the perceived conflicts between economic growth and the environment.

Peabody Awards

Winners included KIRO-TV in Seattle and reporter Brian Wood for "When the Salmon Runs Dry," which explored the threats to the Columbia River and its resources.

Reduction in TRI emissions not all it seems

By PAUL ORUM

Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency releases data on toxic pollution from large factories. Since 1987, manufacturers with 10 or more employees have reported annually on some 320 chemicals released or shipped off-site.

These "toxics release inventory" (TRI) numbers usually grab headlines. This year, on May 25, EPA announced that national figures show—once again—declining emissions.

But are emissions really down? Few reporters were prepared to get the real story.

Under the spotlight of public attention, both EPA and many companies are setting improvement goals and emphasizing pollution reductions. EPA's May 25 press release announced boldly, "Industrial releases of toxic chemicals into the nation's environment declined by nine percent since 1990 and have dropped 30 percent since the 'baseline' year of 1988."

The claim was blatantly misleading. EPA's own survey of 1,200 facilities projects that less than half of the improvements may be "real." Other factors, such as declining production and revised estimates, may account for over half the changes. But EPA delayed publication of the survey until after the data release and buried a survey summary deep in the public report (on page 163). Well-publicized surveys by the Citizens Fund, National Wildlife Federation and Inform also show substantial "phantom reductions."

Reporters should be prepared to ask EPA and companies to explain year-to-year changes. (To get release reports and company contacts for your area, use EPA's special phone number: 202-260-1531).

Whether posed to EPA or an industry representative, these questions can help sort out what caused a year-to-year change. Each reduction showed one of three things: pollution prevention, pollution control, or a "phantom reduction."

Reporters should ask the following questions regarding the facilities:

- Did the reduction result from pollution prevention/source reduction such as substituting safer chemicals; reformulating products to reduce toxics; modifying production processes; or improving op-

erations or maintenance?

- Or did the reduction stem from pollution control/waste management initiatives such as treating, burning or recycling toxic waste; or adding pollution control equipment?

- Or is the decline in emissions really a phantom reduction or due to other factors such as recalculating releases; switching to unlisted toxic chemicals; decreased production; or delisting right-to-know chemicals?

There are also three key questions to ask EPA officials: (1) What percent of total toxic wastes and releases does TRI *exclude*? (2) Are emissions reports verified by states or EPA? (3) What is the

Viewpoints

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

environmental fate of chemicals in products?

EPA's May 25 data release also included new information. For the first time industries report: source reduction activities that prevent toxic waste *prior to* waste management; and waste management activities that treat, burn, or recycle toxic waste *after* it has been produced.

More source reduction means less waste to treat, burn or recycle. Facilities reported managing 38 billion pounds of toxic waste in 1991, almost 10 times the amount reported as released to the environment.

"It isn't surprising that much more chemical waste is being managed than released," said EPA Administrator Browner on May 25. "But managing huge volumes still costs U.S. industries billions of dollars each year. The 38-billion-pound figure will serve as a baseline to mark future trends."

Hazardous waste management always involves risk and should be carefully distinguished from pollution prevention. For example, over 100 known Superfund toxic dump sites once involved recycling. The true focus of the Pollution Prevention Act is source reduction to prevent pollution,

health and liability risks associated with waste management. By spurring the search for cleaner production technologies, the act should improve industrial efficiency and help waste management numbers go down.

TRI data are incomplete. The chemical lists, exclusions and thresholds exempt 83 percent of manufacturing facilities, according to EPA. In addition, non-manufacturers are excluded (e.g. power plants, incinerators, mines, tank farms and solvent recyclers).

EPA can add facilities and chemicals to the program and has announced some timid steps to fill the gaps. The agency may list 170 new chemicals (in 1995), add federal facilities, and add other industries next year if budgets permit.

Nonetheless, no action is planned on two-thirds of the 530 chemicals that EPA said last year are sufficiently toxic to put on the right-to-know list. Congressional action is needed to complete the picture of toxics in the community, to identify chemicals in products that can harm consumers or the environment, and to promote and track pollution prevention.

Even with EPA's promised expansions the question will remain: Has pollution prevention made its way inside the gates of American industries—or are improvements just "phantom?" Critical analysis by the news media—and better data—can help us find out.

Here are some documents useful in covering TRI:

- State and national 1991 TRI public data release reports (EPA, 800-535-0202).
- "Toxicity Matrix for TRI Chemicals" and "Common Synonyms for TRI Chemicals" (EPA, 800-535-0202).
- "Chemicals, the Press and the Public: A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Chemicals in the Community" (National Safety Council, 202-293-2270).
- "The Right-To-Know More" (Natural Resources Defense Council, 202-783-7800).

Paul Orum coordinates a working group of environmental organizations in Washington, D.C. that monitors and keeps track of trends regarding the release of toxic chemicals.

New Members

The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from Jan. 18 through June 4. Memberships recorded after June 4 will appear in the SEJournal Vol. 3, No. 3.

ARIZONA

- David Hoye, Phoenix Gazette, Phoenix

ARKANSAS

- Charlene Yarbrough, Cleaner Times/Pressure Concepts, Advantage Publishing Inc., Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

- James A. Church, Pollution Liability News, Crittenden Inc., Novato
- Pamela Crowley (Associate), Campbell
- Hugh James Dellios, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles
- Catherine Leach, Country Connections, Pine Mountain Club
- James Mayer, Sacramento Bee, Sacramento
- Madeline Quin (Academic), Saddleback Community College, Mission Viejo
- Warren Robak, Daily Breeze, Torrance

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Damon M. Chappie, Daily Environment Report, Bureau of National Affairs
- Michael Doan, Kiplinger Washington Letter, Kiplinger Washington Editors

FLORIDA

- Richard McNeill (Academic), The Pride/Paw Print, Countryside High School, Clearwater
- Angela Swafford, El Nuevo Herald, Miami

GEORGIA

- Mark Bondurant, Albany Herald, Albany

ILLINOIS

- John Krukowski, Pollution Engineering, Cahners Publishing, Chicago

INDIANA

- Maureen Hayden, Evansville Courier, Evansville

MASSACHUSETTS

- David Baron, WBUR-FM, Cambridge

- Ed Coburn, Cutter Information Corp., Arlington
- James M. Connor (Associate), Mystic River Watershed Assoc., Arlington
- T.M. Hawley, Jamaica Plain
- Victor King McElheny (Academic), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

MARYLAND

- Adam Bartsch, Medical Waste News, Business Publishers Incorporated, Takoma Park
- Ann G. Corcoran (Associate), Land Rights Letter, Sharpsburg
- Ruhan Memishi, Solid Waste Report, Business Publishers Inc., Baltimore
- Mitzi Perdue (Associate), The Environment and You, Scripps Howard News Service, Salisbury
- Barbara T. Richman, Environment, Helderf Publications, Silver Spring
- Thomas Sullivan (Academic), Annapolis

MICHIGAN

- Paula McIntrye (Associate), The Advisor, Great Lakes Commission, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

- Gari Wergin, Farm Services Dept., KFEQ Radio, St. Joseph
- Lee Wilkins (Academic), School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia

NEW JERSEY

- Arden Dale (Academic), Maplewood
- Rachel Leigh Marks (Academic), Rider College, Lawrenceville

NEW YORK

- Karen Charman (Academic), Columbia Univ. Grad. School of Journalism, New York
- Carol Goodstein (Associate), Brooklyn
- Edward Groth III (Associate), Consumer Reports, Consumers Union of U.S., Yonkers
- Ric Lewit, Reporter Dispatch/Standard Star/Daily Times, Gannett Suburban Newspapers, New Rochelle

NORTH CAROLINA

- Kimberly G. Thigpen (Associate), Environmental Health Perspectives, Natl. Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park

OHIO

- Kenneth D. Chavinson, News, WJW-TV, Cleveland

OREGON

- Dale Shank (Associate), Scientific Resources Inc., Canby

PENNSYLVANIA

- Lloyd M. Dell (Academic), Daily News, Nyack College ADCP, Huntingdon
- Amy Lynn Dixon (Academic), West Chester
- Gary Lenton, Patrio/Evening News, Patriot-News Co., Harrisburg
- David D. Moser (Academic), Communications Dept., Butler County Community College, Butler
- Anthony R. Wood, Philadelphia Inquirer, Conshohocken

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Ron Chepesiuk, Rock Hill

TENNESSEE

- Debbie Gilbert, Memphis Flyer, Memphis

TEXAS

- Terry Fitzpatrick, Documentary Unit, KERA-TV (PBS), Dallas
- Lisa K. Neal, Environmental Protection, Waco
- Robert Tomsho, Wall Street Journal, Dallas

VIRGINIA

- Guy B. Darst, Jr., Defense Cleanup, Superfund Week, Pasha Publications, Arlington
- Cathryn McCue, Roanoke Times & World-News, Christianburg
- Jim Randle (Associate), Voice of America, Alexandria
- Rex Springston, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond

WISCONSIN

- Sharon Dunwoody (Academic), School of Journalism & Mass Communications, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison
- Heather Mann (Academic), Inst. for Environmental Studies, Univ. Wisconsin-Madison, Verona
- Kelly C. Thayer, Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau

Calendar

JULY

11-16. **Conservation, Restoration and Management of Tortoises and Turtles—An International Conference** (Its sponsors—which include the Amer. Museum of Natural History, USDA, Dept. of Interior, Int'l Union for the Conservation of Nature—note that these animals, “survivors of the catastrophic extinctions that accompanied the end of the age of dinosaurs, now ... [face] irreversible population declines caused by human exploitation and habitat destruction.” More than half of the world's 250 species are imperiled.) State University of New York Conference Center, Purchase, N.Y. Contact: Turtle Recovery Program, American Museum of Natural History, FAX only: 212/769-5031

12-16. **Summer Toxicology Forum** (sessions will range from indoor-air problems associated with carpets and tobacco smoke, to research on methylene chloride). Given Institute of Pathobiology, Aspen, Colo. Contact: The Toxicology Forum, Ste. 800 Eye St., NW, Washington, D.C. Ph:202/659-0030; FAX:202-789-7594

13-1. **Managing Hazardous Air Pollutants** (sponsored by Elec. Power Research Inst., the focus is on emissions from power plants, including their environmental/health effects). Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C. Contact: Lori Adams, EPRI, Ph:415/855-8763; FAX:415/855-2041

28-29. **Equity in Environmental Health: Research Issues and Needs** (sponsored by EPA, NIH, Energy Department and a host of other agencies). Washington, D.C. Contact: Jerry Phelps or Amy Burns, Nat'l Inst. of Envir'l Health Sciences, Ph:919/541-3484; FAX:919/541-2260

31-Aug. 4. **Ecological Society Annual Meeting** (focusing this year on global sustainability issues). Madison, Wisc. Contact: Dennis Whigham, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Box 28 Edgewater, MD 21037. Ph:410-798-4424

AUGUST

19-24. **First Int'l Conf. on Diffuse (Nonpoint) Pollution: Sources, Prevention, Impacts, Abatement** (sponsored by

Int'l Assn. on Water Quality). Forum Hotel, Chicago. Contact: Vladimir Novotny, Ph:414-288-3524; FAX:414-288-7082

24-Sept. 1. **International Population Conf.** (with more than 50 different sessions, including several that deal with relationships between population and the environment). Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact: Rejan Lachapelle, Pres. of organizing corporation, Ph:613-951-2951; FAX:613-951-2952

30-Sept. 2. **First Biomass Conference of the Americas: Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Industry** (sponsored by 3 U.S. and one Canadian federal agency). Radisson Hotel, Burlington, Vt. Contact: Conf's Gp, National Renewable Energy Lab., Golden, Colo. Ph:303/231-1158 (or 1040); FAX:303-231-7719

SEPTEMBER

12-18. **Adaptations to Global Atmospheric Change and Variability** (this 13th Int'l Congress of Biometeorology will hold sessions on how biota—from humans to microbes—would likely cope with climate change). Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Contact: N.N. Barthakur, McGill University, Ph:514/398-7938; FAX:514/398-7983

14-17. **National Urban Forest Conf.** (with sessions on the economics, environmental benefits and conservation of urban greenways). Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. Contact: Ph:800/878-6767

20-22. **Nasal Toxicity and Dosimetry of Inhaled Xenobiotics: Implications for Human Health** (sponsored by Chemical Industry Inst. of Toxicology, Nat'l Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and US EPA, papers will assess what's known about health risks from inhaling toxic chemicals, from formaldehyde and ozone to esters used in plastics manufacturing. Presentations will also describe new data on chemicals—such as pesticides—that damage one's sense of smell, on how age affects one's sensitivity to pollutants, and on how to use animal data in drafting regulations to protect humans). Washington Duke Inn and Golf Course, Durham, N.C. Contact: Fred J. Miller, CIIT, Ph:919/541-2070; FAX:919/541-9015

21-23. **Control of Ozone-Depleting Substances: Scientific Assmt., Govt. Initiatives and Industry Response** (sponsored by Air and Waste Mgmt. Assn.). Chateau Whistler Resort Hotel, Whistler (near Vancouver), British Columbia, Canada. Contact: Marci Mazzei, A&WMA, Ph:412/232-3444 ext. 3142; FAX 412/232-3450

27-29. **Emerging Technologies for Hazardous Waste Management.** (sponsored by the American Chemical Society, this meeting will involve more than 400 papers on such topics as bioremediation, thermal, incineration- and electrochemical technologies for cleaning up wastes, on environmental monitoring, pollution prevention, waste minimization, radioactive-and-chemical waste management and on the toxicity of hazardous pollutants). Stouffer Waverly Hotel, Atlanta. Contact: Meeting Makers, Marietta, Ga., Ph:404/565-2266; FAX:404-565-2519

OCTOBER

4-8. **Ecological Effects of Arctic Airborne Contaminants** (sponsored by US EPA and Iceland Ministry for the Environment, sessions will focus on deposition and accumulation of pollutants in arctic, human health issues of this contamination, and how these pollutants can affect climate change). Hotel Saga, Reykjavik, Iceland. Contact: Dixon Landers, EPA, Ph:503/754-4427; FAX:503/754-4716

22-24. **SEJ National Conf.** (see pp. 17-18 for details). Duke University, Durham, N.C. Remember, there will be a fee, so register early for discount: \$85 for members and \$120 for nonmembers if payment arrives before Sept. 1 and Sept. 15 respectively. Contact: SEJ at Ph:215/247-9710; FAX:215-247-9712

DEADLINES

July 16 — **Southern Journalism Awards.** Deadline for submission of newspaper entries from the 13-state Southern region. Categories include environmental reporting in three newspaper circulation categories, with a prize of \$300 for first place in each category. Contact Southern Journalism Awards, P.O. Box 531, Durham, NC 27702. Ph: 919/419-8311



Application for Membership

Society of Environmental Journalists

Membership Office: 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA 19118
Phone: (215) 247-9710 Fax: (215) 947-9712
National Headquarters: PO Box 65493, Washington, DC 20035-5493

Instructions:

1. Fill out application as completely as possible. Attach additional pages if necessary.
2. If available, attach a current resume or brief biography.

→ 3. **MAIL TO:** Rae Tyson, SEJ Membership Committee Chairman
USA Today
1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22229

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

A. To be completed by all applicants.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____

Title of Publication/Show/Dept.: _____

Work Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Fax Number: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip

→ **VERY IMPORTANT: SEJ mail should be sent to your () Home () Work address.**
(Note: Students should provide year-round mailing address and phone number, and anticipated date of graduation.)

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

Describe duties (students may describe goals): _____

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

If you own or have access to a computer, is it: Apple/Macintosh PC-compatible
Disk drive size: 3.5-inch 5.25-inch Does it accept high-density disks? Yes No

Check the category of membership (as defined by SEJ Bylaws) for which you believe you are eligible:

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

A. (continued)

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

If yes, provide details and dates: _____

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

If yes, for whom? _____

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

Is your employer or organization supported by or affiliated with any organization or movement not principally in the business of conveying news to the general public? Yes No

If yes, what organization or movement? _____

Is your organization supported by: advertising paid subscriptions membership dues other

If "other", please specify: _____

C. To be completed by applicants for associate membership.

How would your membership in the Society of Environmental Journalists contribute to attainment of the Society's goals (i.e., enhancing the quality and accuracy of environmental reporting)?

D. To be completed by all applicants.

I hereby apply for membership in the Society of Environmental Journalists. I understand the Board of Directors retains sole authority in determining eligibility for membership in any category.

Signature Date

Do you know someone who should be a member of SEJ? We'll send them details and an application:			
Name: _____	Organization: _____		
Address _____	_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State	Zip

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

Green Beat Correspondents

Contribute to Green Beat

The Green Beat is designed as an idea exchange for environmental journalists and educators. It relies on information submitted by reporters about important issues, outstanding coverage, and developments in environmental education and the communications profession — on a state-by-state basis. To submit ideas, or copies of series for possible mention in The Green Beat, contact the SEJ correspondent for the appropriate state(s). They are:

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

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

Arizona and New Mexico — Tony Davis at the Albuquerque Tribune, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque, NM 87103, (505) 823-3625, fax (505) 823-3689.

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

California:

Northern California — Vacant.

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

Southern California — Susan Sullivan at Riverside Press-Enterprise, P.O. Box 792, Riverside, CA 92501, (714) 782-7541, fax (714) 782-7572.

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

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

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

Florida:

North Florida — Vacant.

South Florida — Vacant.

Georgia and South Carolina — Charles Pope at The (Columbia, S.C.) State, P.O. Box

1333, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 771-8413.

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

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

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

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

Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont — Kathryn Clark at the Dartmouth News Service, 38 North Main St., Hanover, NH 03755, (603) 646-2117, fax (603) 646-2850.

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

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

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

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 — Todd Bates at the Asbury Park Press, 3601 Hwy 66, Neptune, NJ 07754, (908) 922-6000, ext. 4361, fax (908) 922-4818

New York — Tom Andersen at Gannett Newspapers, 1 Gannett Drive, White Plains, NY 10604, (914) 694-5060 or Daniel Markham at Environmental Communications Consultants and Appletree Press, 245 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Mamaroneck, NY. 10543 (914) 698-2427

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

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

Oregon — Dan Postrel at the Salem Statesman-Journal, 280 Church St., NE, Salem, OR 97309, (503) 399-6737.

Pennsylvania — Bill Roberts at The Philadelphia Business Journal, 400 Market St., Ste. 300, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 238-5141, fax (215) 238-1466.

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

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

Texas and Oklahoma:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Several correspondent positions are vacant. If interested, contact Kevin Carmody at (804) 978-7268.

The Green Beat

ALABAMA

► The *Mobile Press* reported in March that Chemical Waste Management is financing "Don't Dump on Mississippi," a campaign to keep hazardous waste flowing to states where the company operates. The paper reported that ChemWaste, the nation's largest disposer of hazardous waste, and is working with Mississippi environmentalists to stop Mississippi from allowing two ChemWaste competitors — USPCI and Hughes Environmental Systems/Federated Technologies Inc. — to build hazardous waste landfills in Noxubee County. Mississippi is one of nine states with no commercial hazardous waste disposal facility. For information, call *The Press Register* at 205-433-1551.

► The state recently began issuing license plates carrying the slogan "Alabama...Protect Our Environment." Proceeds from the sale of the plates will go to developing an educational curriculum that can be used by schools statewide. The program is the brainchild of Legacy, a coalition of environmental groups. Call Nick Patterson of the *Birmingham Post-Herald* at 205-325-3197.

ARIZONA

► The *Tucson Citizen* continues to give blanket coverage of the aftermath of the decade-old groundwater pollution problems smacking the city's South Side. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has opened an office to do health studies of residents exposed to the pollution, which spread north over several square miles from the Hughes Aircraft plant and other industries. Residents and the EPA have battled over the routing of a pipeline carrying contaminated water from wells to an airstripper, and city officials have given locals a tax break because the pollution lowered property values. Call reporter Dan Sorenson at 602-573-4594 or write at Box 26767, Tucson 85726.

► Sorenson has also covered the case of a whistleblower at Arizona Electric Power Co. in the Willcox area who accused his employer of 15 years of violations, including the alleged discharge of

toxins from the plant into the Wilcox playa, a wintering grounds for sandhill cranes. The company denies the allegations, but the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is investigating.

► The *Tucson Weekly* and the *Citizen* gave extensive coverage to the aftermath of southern Arizona's worst flooding in decades. The *Citizen* probed controversies over whether local officials had made downstream flooding problems worse by lining upstream riverbanks with soil cement, and interviewed geologists who say the old concepts of 100-year floods are obsolete and lead people to a false sense of security. The *Weekly* looked at the fight between environmentalists and property rights activists over protection of washes and streams, and the aftermath of a flood of the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation district near Yuma in which flooded farmers blamed environmentalists for having stopped a \$900 million channelization project because it would have damaged the habitat of a rare form of clapper rail and cost a fortune. Tony Davis of the *Albuquerque Tribune* freelanced the *Weekly* story.

ARKANSAS

► Environmental Systems Co., a Little Rock-based hazardous waste disposal firm with an incinerator complex in El Dorado in South Arkansas, agreed in May to pay \$475,000 in cash and in-kind services for more than 200 incidents an on-site inspector recorded from June 1991 to the present. Ensco and the state environmental agency agreed to the penalty with the disclaimer that Ensco does not admit to any violations or any liability.

CALIFORNIA

► The *Press-Enterprise* of Riverside County, Calif., published a seven-day series on California's largest lake, the deeply troubled Salton Sea. Agricultural and industrial pollution, neglect and rising salinity are pushing the sea to the brink of ecological collapse. The series includes sources of the problem as well as a range of possible solutions. For reprints, contact reporter Gary Polakovic at (909) 782-7564.

COLORADO

Susan Lanier-Graham, a writer and member of the faculty at Colorado Northwest Community College in Rangely, Colo., has written two new texts published by Walker and Co. of New York. "The Nature Directory," is a guide to environmental organizations, and "The Ecology of War," is on the environmental impacts of weaponry and warfare.

CONNECTICUT

► The residents of Stratford, Ct., a suburb of Bridgeport that contains 49,000, woke up one day in May to discover they were in the midst of an environmental and health crisis. Seven sites around the city, including the grounds of a middle school and a park, were found to have extremely high levels of lead, asbestos, and polychlorinated biphenyls. Lead levels as high as 10,000 parts per million were found in some areas. The threshold for declaring a health emergency is a reading of 500 parts per million. The areas were all former dumping sites of a former automotive brake manufacturer, Raymark Industries. Parents were advised that children age six and under should have their blood tested. For more information, call Dan Jones, Hartford Courant, 203-241-6200.

INDIANA

► Responding to the state's poor record of addressing citizen complaints, the federal Office of Surface Mining has started the process to determine if it will revoke all or part of Indiana's coal mining regulatory programs, reported Kyle Niederpruem, environmental reporter at *The Indianapolis Star*. Property owners have filed a lawsuit for blasting damages caused by one of the state's largest mining operators. For more information call Niederpruem at (317) 633-9385.

► Indiana authorities are using newly granted powers to take action against owners of oil pits that have been fatally trapping birds and mammals, *The Indianapolis Star* environmental reporter Kyle Niederpruem uncovered. State and federal officials are skimming the pits for carcasses and having the remains ana-

The Green Beat

lyzed to determine if pit owners violated federal endangered species or migratory bird acts. Some oil and gas production firms are acting voluntarily to cover pits with protective netting. For more information, call Niederpruem at (317) 633-9385.

MASSACHUSETTS

► The problems of Boston Harbor, which dominated a presidential campaign five years ago, continue to dominate debate and coverage of environmental issues in Boston this year. The reason is that the pricetag for the \$4.3 billion of work is now becoming apparent and a taxpayer revolt is underway. Sewer and water bills potentially could increase by \$2,000 a year by the year 2005 in order to pay for the harbor cleanup. The result is that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority is raising questions about just how clean the citizens want Boston Harbor to be. For more information, contact Scott Allen or Diane Dumanoski, Boston Globe, 617-929-3000.

► Acid rain, a subject that once was the darling of the environmental movement and a favorite subject for the press, after a hiatus resurfaced in the news here this spring. The spring melt from a winter of unusually high snowfall resulted in the highest acid rain damage levels recorded during eight years of monitoring. "The results were a shock," said Paul Godfrey, director of Massachusetts acid rain monitoring program. Godfrey and other researchers reported that the state's ability to absorb acid rain without damage to plant and wildlife dropped 35 percent and the acid neutralizing ability is down 30 percent. Some experts said the results showed that although the press and others have moved on to other issues, acid rain remains a problem. Unfortunately, the ability of Massachusetts to track the problem has also decreased—the state has decided to end funding for Godfrey's monitoring program. For more information, call Diane Dumanoski, Boston Globe, 617-929-3000, or Godfrey, 413-545-2842.

MINNESOTA

► Some of Minnesota's largest com-

panies and government bodies have taken action this year to ban all smoking in their offices, cafeterias, vehicles and entrances. Smoking prohibitions have become effective for the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport, several large shopping malls and numerous municipal buildings. The decisions have come largely in response to employee complaints and a January EPA assessment that second-hand smoke is a class A carcinogen that causes 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year in nonsmoking adults. Companies are increasingly concerned about future liability claims related to second-hand smoke. The decisions have caused some to conclude that smoking in the workplace seems to be well on the way towards extinction for many employees. For more information, contact Tom Meersman, Star Tribune newspaper, 612-673-7388.

► Airlines at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport flushed more than a million gallons of deicing compounds into the Minnesota River this winter, more than twice as much as last year. Federal Aviation Administration rules that became effective last November require deicing to be done more frequently, or at least nearer to the time of takeoff. State pollution officials are studying the impact of the chemicals on the river, which joins the Mississippi just 2 miles downstream. Airport officials estimate it will cost \$20 million or more to divert the runoff to a wastewater treatment plant. They are also considering ways to capture and recycle deicing compounds after they're sprayed onto planes. The environmental impacts of additional deicing chemicals have become a major concern at many airports around the country, including some in warmer climates where you wouldn't think deicing is practiced. For more information, contact Tom Meersman, Star Tribune newspaper, 612-673-7388.

► State officials released results from a \$1 million, three-year study on timber harvesting in Minnesota. The study is the first "generic" environmental impact study ever done in the state. It was requested by environmental and conservation groups who were concerned that recent and planned expansions of pulp and paper mills in northern Minnesota would re-

quire the cutting of too many trees during the next 25-40 years. The study concluded that there is enough wood in Minnesota forests to meet expected demand, but that harvesting it will affect wildlife populations, water quality, forest soils and biological diversity. Officials will hold state-wide hearings on the study this summer to receive public comment. For more information, contact Dean Rebuffoni, Star Tribune newspaper, 612-673-4432.

► Top officials at the 3M Company and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency signed an agreement in April to create a more flexible kind of air quality permit. Under the Clean Air Act, 3M would have needed almost 20 separate air quality permits for one of its tape manufacturing plants in St. Paul because it produces so many different products on 17 different process lines. Under the agreement, 3M will have one five-year air quality permit for the plant, and in return has promised to cut its air emissions by more than half. Environmentalists were glad about the reductions, but said the public should have had some role in commenting on the proposal. 3M executives said they're working on similar permits for eight or nine other manufacturing plants across the country. For more information, contact Chuck Laszewski, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 612-228-5464.

MISSISSIPPI

► The state's largest newspaper has reassigned environmental reporter Sharon Stallworth to general assignment reporting. Stallworth covered the beat for about three years. Steve Walton of the paper's Delta bureau will take over the job when a replacement for him is named.

► The director of the state Office of Pollution Control said in May that the permit issuing process for a proposed hazardous waste incinerator in Noxubee County will be delayed by new federal regulations. Charles Chisolm said the regulations require the state to consider the new federal guidelines in checking existing waste incinerator permits. Environmental Protection Agency administrator Carol Browner said her agency will withhold new permits for 18 months while it

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reviews temporary permits for 171 industrial furnaces. For information, call Charles Chisolm at 601-961-5100.

► A Florida man and his companies have left a string of polluted landfills and oil recycling operations from Baton Rouge, La., to Cantonment, Fla. State officials and bankruptcy attorneys are now trying to figure out the extent of contamination at three Harrison County sites. A three-article package run in *The Sun Herald* in March explores the history of Earl Dubose, the pollution in Mississippi, and examines the Department of Environmental Quality's role in regulating the operations. For information, call Sharon Ebner, *The Sun Herald*, at 601-896-2355.

MISSOURI

Tony Fitzpatrick, science writer for the office of public affairs at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., has authored the newly released book, "Signals From The Heartland." Fitzpatrick calls the collection of reports on Missouri and Illinois an attempt to show readers the links between environment and history by weaving the region's historical and cultural relationships to the landscape and the environment. The 230-page volume was published by Walker and Co. of New York.

NEVADA

► The Spring Mountains, west of Las Vegas, could become a National Recreation Area by late summer as a bill introduced in the House by Rep. James Bilbray, D-Nev., moved into the Senate in May, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported. The range has streams, forests, deserts, Alpine plants and such man-made treasures as Native America petroglyphs carved into the rocks. But growth in Southern Nevada has put stress on and damaged the natural resources found there. The bill is unique, having the support of environmentalists and the mining industry, including the influential Nevada Mining Association.

► Miners are tunneling into Yucca Mountain, the only site under study for a national high-level nuclear waste dump, the *Review Journal* reported. Since such a

project has never been done before, the operation is going slow, although three shifts, five days a week, tunnel 24-hours a day. Eventually the tunnel will be 200 feet long.

► Lake Barrett, acting director of the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, said during a meeting with environmentalists that tried to set up grounds for discussion on the Yucca Mountain issue that it cost \$1 million a day to drill and blast into the rock, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported.

► An \$800 million nuclear space engine project that could put about 200 jobs at the Nevada Test Site has been shelved by Congress due to budget concerns, both the *Review Journal* and the *Las Vegas Sun* reported. The U.S. Air Force released an environmental impact statement saying it preferred the Nevada Test Site over the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, but a decision was not expected before July. The Nevada congressional delegation said the project may be revived if the economy improves.

► Rep. James Bilbray, D-Nev., took neighbors' concerns over a plutonium experiment in the Southeast Valley of Las Vegas to Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary. The secretary said she was concerned about the fears expressed by the public and called for better education, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported. Bilbray also discovered that Clark County's Fire Department does not have an alpha radiation monitor, for such radionuclides as plutonium. He wrote to Nevada Test Site Field Operations Manager Nick Aquilina, looking for a spare alpha monitor for the fire department.

NEW MEXICO

► The *Albuquerque Journal* has given extensive coverage to the Isleta Pueblo's fight to impose extremely strict water quality standards for what Albuquerque and other cities upstream of them can dump into the Rio Grande. The EPA has approved the standards. Albuquerque is challenging the standards in court because it thinks the standards are too strict and would cost too much without much improvement in the water. If the pueblo

wins, it would set a national precedent for tribes' legal ability to set their own water quality standards, regardless of what other governments want. For information, call reporter Rene Kimball at 823-3958 or write P.O. Drawer J, Albq. NM 87103.

► The standing joke about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant nuclear dump is that by the time it opens, its plutonium-tainted wastes will have shed their radioactivity because they will have used up all their half-lives. Actually, it's only been delayed five years, while its 800,000 or so drumsful of nuclear wastes will stay radioactive 240,000 years, but you get the point. The *Journal*, *Tribune* and *Sante Fe Mexican* continue to follow this project's travails, and the federal EPA seems likely to turn down the Department of Energy's plan to bring wastes there for a five-year test phase. The *New Mexican* recently did a big Sunday piece that spun off a reporter's tour of the place. Call or write Keith Easthouse of the *New Mexican* (505-986-3045, 202 E. Marcy St., Sante Fe 87501-2048), Chuck McCutcheon of the *Journal* (505-823-3954, same address as Kimball) or Tony Davis of the *Albuquerque Tribune* (505-823-3625, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque 87103).

► The *Tribune* did a long, probing look at the Molycorp molybdenum mine in Questa. Now, the mine is closed, unemployment runs rampant and residents say the mine tailings have turned peoples' eyes red, that mine waste runoff has killed a local stream and that tailings spills have wrecked their crops. The company says the charges are grossly exaggerated, but the state is finally investigating the charges after years of doing nothing. This year, the state Legislature passed a mining reclamation bill that may lead to a crackdown on Molycorp and other aging mines. Contact Tony Davis for more information.

NEW YORK

► The New York Times' Keith Schneider wrote a much-discussed multi-part series beginning March 21 called "What Price Cleanup." The series explored flaws in the process by which environmental risks are regulated and the costs of ineffective measures that were intended

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to protect human health. Schneider's work elicited strong negative reactions from some environmentalists, including a group led by Louis Gibbs of Love Canal fame and activists from the African American, Asian American, Latino and Native American communities. In a letter to the Times and other media, the group wrote, "The emphasis, totally ignored by the series, must be on prevention rather than control or 'acceptable risk.' Instead of having to prove harm, favoring the polluter, the burden of proof should be on safety, favoring the citizenry. That the New York Times does not recognize and applaud this ... is sad indeed, and repeats the mistakes of the past."

► The New York Daily News has named as its new environment reporter Eric Greenberg. Greenberg formerly covered the environment for the News-Tribune in Woodbridge, N.J.

OHIO

► In stories published in April and earlier, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* environmental reporter Dave Davis examined the contamination of sewage treatment plants with radioactive waste. This waste disposal is of growing concern to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The newspaper found the contamination of a local plant would force a multi-million-dollar cleanup at ratepayers expense, as it has in about a dozen other cities across the country. For more information, contact Dave Davis at (216) 344-4808.

► Ohio claims to have the Midwest's highest participation rate in U.S. EPA's "33/50" voluntary pollution prevention program, but *Gongwer News Service* staff writer Dan Trevas found less than half the companies have committed to reducing the release of 17 toxic chemicals by 50 percent in 1995. The report found some of the largest participants in the program committed to reducing waste by less than 10 percent with one company committing to zero reduction. For more information, contact Dan Trevas at (614) 221-1992.

RHODE ISLAND

► The continuing controversy over

how to dispose of Rhode Island's 1.2 million tons of waste produced yearly prompted the Providence Journal-Bulletin to run a five-part series between May 24-28. The series described the usual problems associated with landfills; reported that waste reduction experts sharply disagree on the best solution for cutting trash levels at the source; told how while Rhode Island has fought off the construction of trash incinerators, the rest of New England has overbuilt; visited Florida to report on the failure of two mixed solid waste composting facilities; and finally, traveled to Guelph, Ont., to report on what appears to be the most ambitious recycling program in North America. In addition, on Sunday, May 23, the newspaper told readers about the upcoming series and reported that a 10-member panel, which included four so-called waste experts and six citizens chosen randomly by pollsters, had been selected. Panel members indicated briefly what they believed the state should do with its waste. For more information, call Bob Wyss, Providence Journal-Bulletin, 401-277-7364.

► A local environmental group, Save the Bay, has taken the unusual step of launching a specially equipped boat and crew that will patrol Narragansett Bay. The purpose of the so-called BayKeeper program will be to search for polluters, monitor water quality conditions and educate people about activities harmful to the environment. The program is based on similar projects that have occurred on the Hudson River, San Francisco Bay, Long Island Sound and New York Harbor. For more information, contact Peter Lord, Providence Journal-Bulletin, 401-737-3000, or Save the Bay, 401-272-3540.

TEXAS

► In March, the Houston Chronicle published a three-day series detailing alleged retaliation against whistle-blowers in the Nuclear Power industry. Chronicle reporter Jim Morris interviewed 35 current and former power plant workers and more than 150 others for the series "Clampdown: The Silencing of Nuclear Industry Workers." In the series, and in the follow-up articles, Morris explained how managers at some power plants in-

timidate workers and suppress potential safety matters; he also showed how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Labor have failed to protect whistle-blowers. For copies, call Morris at (713) 220-7948.

UTAH

► Aptus, a subsidiary of Westinghouse, has opened a \$78 million hazardous-waste incinerator in the desert west of Salt Lake City. They are off to a rocky start, however, with the Environmental Protection Agency proposing a \$234,864 fine for alleged problems during start-up. Pat Bean at the *Ogden Standard Examiner* wrote a three-story package on the plant. Contact her at: 801-625-4224.

► The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has rejected a proposed "habitat conservation plan" for the desert tortoises living in southwestern Utah. The tortoise is a threatened species. The plan was put together by a committee of local officials. Federal biologists said the plan did not provide enough protection for the slow-moving reptiles. Contact Jim Woolf, at the *Salt Lake Tribune*, at 801-237-2045; or Rod Jackson at KTVX, 801-975-4444.

WASHINGTON

► A Swiss company whose hazardous waste incinerator in Ohio sparked a national environmental debate wants to build a similar facility in Washington farm country. Van Roll Inc. is accused of forcing its incinerator on the people of East Liverpool. Now, farmers and other residents in Eastern Washington are gearing up to battle the \$2 billion multinational giant. For a copy of reporter Karen Dorn Steele's two-part report, contact her at *The Spokesman Review*, P.O. Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210.

► After several years of focusing on migratory salmon, the Northwest Power Planning Council has turned its attention to species closer to home for most people in the Inland Northwest: the trout, sturgeon, kokanee and other fish that spend their lives in the reservoirs created by the region's hydropower dams. Julie Titone

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of *The Spokesman-Review* in Spokane reports that the council, which is charged with balancing energy needs with natural resources, is updating its plan for protecting resident fish and wildlife. The plan is due out late this year

WISCONSIN

► Ore shipments have begun from a copper and gold mine near Ladysmith. The Kennecott Corporation project is Wisconsin's first metallic mine in more than ten years. Environmentalists argue the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources may fail to adequately monitor the mine's wastewater and its effect on nearby endangered species. But the DNR says it plans tough reviews.

► Several media outlets have reported on possible problems with Wisconsin's recycling law. Starting in 1995, about ten types of items will be banned from state landfills and incinerators. But the plastics industry seem especially upset that the state allegedly has not done enough to stimulate the markets for goods made with recycled plastic. For more information, contact the *Milwaukee Sentinel* at 224-2000.

► Some state environmental groups and Wisconsin power companies continue to battle over the sale of emissions allowances. The citizens utility board has sued to force the state to make public a sulphur dioxide pollution rights contract the Wis-

consin Electric Power Company recently signed with another utility. That puts Wisconsin environmentalists somewhat at odds with national green organizations that back the trading program set up under the Clean Air Act Amendments.

WEST VIRGINIA

► Federal and state officials began an investigation into the destruction of 15 acres of wetlands by state Sen. J.D. Brackenrich, a conservative Democrat who chairs the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Brackenrich, an environmental engineer, said he was building a pond in the middle of the Meadow River Wetlands in Greenbrier County, W.Va., and didn't know he needed a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do it. An official with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called it the worst wetlands violation he had ever seen in West Virginia. State environmental officials have refused to release information about a related investigation into leaky chemical drums stored on Brackenrich's property near the wetlands. For copies of articles, call Ken Ward Jr. at *The Charleston Gazette*, 304-348-1702.

► The state Legislature approved a bill that extends the deadline for the closing of landfills that don't have modern liners and other environmental safeguards. Environmental groups opposed the bill, saying it was too broad and ignored safety concerns. Lawmakers also approved a

measure to ban commercial solid waste incineration, making West Virginia the second state in the nation to do so. The Legislature also approved new regulations to govern the dumping of municipal sewage sludge in state landfills. For information, call Robert J. Byers or Paul Nyden of *The Charleston Gazette* at 304-348-5100.

► Lawyers for a citizens group and an insurance company may settle a \$479,000 lawsuit over money to treat coal mine pollution in Monongalia County, W.Va. Members of the citizens group want to force an insurance guarantee association to treat acid mine drainage flowing into Owl Creek from an old Omega Mining Co. operation. The group's lawsuit is part of a trend in West Virginia toward forcing coal companies or their insurers to pay the cost of environmental cleanups from old mines. For information, call Lee Chottiner at the *Morgantown Dominion Post* at 304-291-9426.

WYOMING

► Noranda Mineral's plan for a gold mine just north of Yellowstone National Park is generating controversy in northwestern Wyoming. People in Body, Wyo., are weighing the environmental and social costs of the proposed underground mine against possible economic benefits. An environmental impact statement is being prepared. Contact Hugh Jackson at the *Casper Star Tribune*, 1-307-266-0500.

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