

# SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 7 No. 1

## Defensive crops are here Journalists need to be versed in genetic engineering

By BRIAN LAVENDEL

Today, cornflakes share genetic material from bacteria, and soy beans are grown using petunia genes. Soon, cotton may owe its herbicide resistance to DNA borrowed from tobacco, and salmon may grow faster thanks to genes from other fish species.

Biotechnology, including transgenic engineering, has become big business. Over the past two decades, it has become an economic force in the US with more than 1,300 companies, 120,000 employees, and \$10.8 billion in annual revenues in 1996, according to the Biotechnology Industry Organization. The European and Japanese economies are also pumping big money into biotech.

When scientists in Scotland successfully cloned an adult mammal for the

first time, the *New York Times* (2/23/97) quoted medical ethicist Ronald Munson as saying, "The genie is out of the bottle." But the genie of transgenic engineering is also on the loose. Transgenic engineering is the process of transferring genetic material between different organisms—even between species. (Cloning is a form of genetic engineering but doesn't necessarily involve transgenics.)

Transgenics is one of those perennial pro-con issues. Is transgenic engineering a runaway biotechnological Frankenstein come to haunt the 21st century or modern science's cure for what ails us? The answer to that is no surprise—depends who you ask. A journalist is likely to hear arguments from both

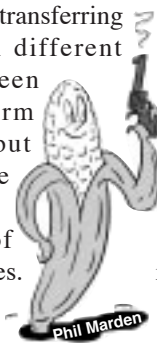
ends of the spectrum.

"The prospects for this technology are enormous," says Michael Sussman, director of the University of Wisconsin Biotechnology Center. "But we really need to talk about it. Society needs to make decisions about how we use this technology." For this reason,

Sussman argues, people need access to facts. "It's your job," he says of journalists, "to present the information so society can make informed decisions."

And there is plenty to debate. According to the USDA's Biotechnology, Biologics, and Environmental Protection program, dozens of transgenic crops are currently undergoing

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## Photo game farms Rent-a-critter going too fur?

By ROGER ARCHIBALD

In the viewfinder the grizzly bear cub could be seen on the rocky banks of a wide wilderness river, tearing into a big salmon with its claws and teeth. That's the image the photographer wanted, the sort of picture that often appears on the covers of wildlife and nature magazines and books, in ads seeking to convey an environmental message, on numerous cards, calendars and posters, and as the standard fare of television nature documentaries.

But a wider angle lens would have included the captive-bred animal's two

handlers, one who had placed the commercially caught fish in the right position, and the other who had just stuffed candy under its gills to attract the young bear's attention.

The public perception of wildlife photographers is that of intrepid people who devote many months in the wilderness, patiently waiting to get one good picture that has never before been seen. A few deserve that reputation, but many others are taking deceptive shortcuts to nature photography, sometimes lying outright as to what is being depicted.

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# SEJ builds bridges to editors

## Both tyrants and teachers occupy newsroom desks

Following my recent decision to leave *USA Today*, I was interviewing for a new position when a question came up about editors with whom I've worked over the years.

I mean, you could get arrested for honestly answering a question like that.

I don't remember my exact response although it was something reasonably non-committal. After all, I reasoned, journalism is no different from any other occupation; the range of competence easily stretches from outstanding to awful, often within the same building. I bet, though, that each of you has a whopper of a story to tell about your favorite (or least favorite) editor or producer. I sure have a few over my career.

I worked with one editor who insisted that we publish something about any study, no matter how obscure, if it debunked prevailing theories about global warming. As you can guess, his main source of science news was the Rush Limbaugh program.

Another of my favorites was an editor who misunderstood the difference between ground level and stratospheric ozone. The confusion was harmless until the day she decided to change a story of mine after I had gone home. Readers the next day were probably surprised to learn about the connection between tailpipe emissions and ultraviolet sunlight.

Early in my career, I had an experience I will never, ever forget. I walked in the *Niagara Gazette* newsroom one morning (it was an afternoon paper at the time) and the city editor held up the front page of the rival (and now defunct) *Buffalo Courier-Express*. Their court reporter had broken a pretty good story about an incremental step in the Love Canal litigation.

The editor asked if I had seen the story, which I had. He then crumpled up the clip and tossed it in the wastebasket. He told me I had 90 minutes until deadline to contact the necessary sources and replicate the story.

You can imagine how tough that was. Love Canal was a legal morass. In the late 1970s, New York had sued Occidental

Chemical, former owner of Love Canal and three other notorious dump sites, for damages and cleanup costs. The federal government did the same, additionally naming the city of Niagara Falls. Those cases were all under the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court in Buffalo. In state court, meanwhile, residents of Love Canal were suing everything in sight. I had 90 minutes to track down judges and lawyers and write a story that made sense. I made the deadline, barely, cursing the editor at every step.

### Report from the society's president

By  
Rae  
Tyson



Those experiences aside, I've also worked for some terrific editors. They understood the issues and went to bat for me every step of the way. They patted me on the back when I deserved it and criticized me when I had it coming. They edited with a light touch and only made changes that enhanced, not obliterated, my original copy. I'm sure of all of you know exactly what I mean.

A recent survey by Michigan State professor and founding SEJ President Jim Detjen underscores the point. When he asked environmental journalists about the most serious problems they face, 38 percent of the 506 journalists who responded to the survey said "lack of resources" was a major problem while 20 percent said "lack of interest by editors" was a major problem.

Two media in which "lack of interest by editors" was the worst were TV, in which 25 percent of the journalists cited it

as a problem, and newspapers, in which 23 percent thought it a significant drawback. Interestingly, more sympathetic editors are often found elsewhere. Editor apathy was listed by far fewer journalists in the following media: magazines (11 percent), radio (11 percent) and newsletters (7 percent).

Ultimately, our fate is in the hands of these editors and producers, good or bad. In terms of improving and expanding environmental coverage, the SEJ board has long understood the importance of supportive editors and producers. We have launched several exciting new outreach programs specifically directed at these guardians of the newsroom. Some of you have offered to help. Others are welcome. We think, ultimately, that it may be one of our most important endeavors.

Sell the editors and producers on the importance of good, thorough (and frequent) environmental coverage and we've gone a long way toward improving things for all of us. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, there is more good news for SEJ's bottom line. Executive Director Beth Parke reports that SEJ has received 1997 grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (\$5,000 for national conference fellowships for journalists of color), the Margaret Wray Trust (\$2,000 for national conference fellowships for Texas journalists), the George Gund Foundation (for an Ohio regional conference and national conference fellowships for Ohio journalists), *The Columbus Dispatch* (\$1000 for SEJ's Ohio regional conference), and the *News-Times* of Newport Oregon, the *Daily Astorian* and the Sea Grant Extension Program of Oregon State University (\$200 each for SEJ's Oregon regional conference). We are also pleased to report donation of printing services for SEJ's 1997 national conference program, by Tucson Newspapers, Inc.

Finally, a reminder that your opinions and feedback are important to me, the rest of the SEJ board and the Philadelphia-based staff. If you've got a question or comment, by all means send it along. My e-mail address is [rjtyson@aol.com](mailto:rjtyson@aol.com). See you in Tucson.

*SEJournal* (ISSN: 1053-7082) is published quarterly by the **Society of Environmental Journalists**, P.O. Box 27280, Philadelphia, PA 19118. Membership \$35 per year (student rate \$30). Subscription fee \$50; \$30 library rate. © 1997 by the Society of Environmental Journalists.

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The Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)3 organization. The mission of the organization is to advance public understanding of environmental issues by improving the quality, accuracy and visibility of environmental reporting. We envision an informed society through excellence in environmental journalism. As a network of journalists and academics, SEJ offers national and regional conferences, publications and online services. SEJ's membership of over 1,100 includes journalists working for print and electronic media, educators, and students. Non-members are welcome to attend SEJ's national conferences and to subscribe to the quarterly *SEJournal*.

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*SEJournal* is printed on recycled paper

**More thoughts on ozone depletion**

To the Editor:

I applaud Mark Dowie for bringing the continuing story of ozone depletion to the attention of journalists (*Winter SEJournal*). As ozone depletion is one of two major issues that I cover in my newsletter, I'd like to add a few more points that reporters might consider in future coverage.

All of the scientific projections about recovery of the ozone layer are based on full compliance with the treaty. However, Russia has not been in compliance with the Montreal Protocol since the beginning of 1996, when it, along with the rest of the developed world, was supposed to stop production of CFCs and halons. Claiming economic hardship, Russia continues to produce large quantities of both, and is widely believed to be one of the primary sources of black market CFCs that are making their way into Europe and North America.

Developing countries also face phaseout requirements beginning in 2,000, and nobody can be sure whether they will comply or not. Because funding for phaseout projects in developing nations has been inadequate, the funds actually spent fall well below approved levels. Little can be done if a country chooses not to comply with the treaty. India and China continue to be major producers of CFCs.

There also remains the key issue of what will be done about methyl bromide, the last major ozone depleter not yet scheduled for a full phaseout. Scientific arguments continue about what proportion of methyl bromide is produced by humans as opposed to natural sources, as well as about its true atmospheric lifetime. Meanwhile, because of its many uses, no single replacement appears to be satisfactory.

Although CFC levels in the troposphere are declining, this will not translate into lower stratospheric chlorine levels until the turn of the century. In the interim, we can expect continued depletion to occur. If the area of reduced Arctic ozone continues to widen, higher levels of UV radiation will reach populated areas, and the public needs to be aware of this and take appropriate precautions.

—Lelani Arris, editor  
*Global Environmental Change Report*

**SEJournal Needs You!**

Want to contribute to the best-read section of the *SEJournal* and brag about your region at the same time? The *Journal* has several vacancies for correspondents in the Green Beat section, where environmental writers in states and regions around the country report on coverage being done. Many have said they get ideas for print or broadcast coverage from this very popular section. The comment was once made that many read the *Journal* from the back to the front.

This is not heavy lifting. Most members are aware of events in their state or region, so a quick wrap on the top stories and how they are being covered suffices. Anyone interested may contact Kevin Carmody at (773) 229-2814. You'll be making an important contribution to SEJ and will have your name listed among the Greenbeat correspondents, no small honor.

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# '97 Conference in Tucson shaping up

By RUSS CLEMINGS

The Sonoran Desert will be the setting this fall for the Seventh National Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists, October 2-5, 1997. The program will feature major environmental policy makers, scientists, activists and journalists, and some of the most spectacular scenery in North America. Hosts will be the Morris K. Udall Foundation, the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, and the University of Arizona.

On Thursday, Oct. 2, buses leave for the always-popular tours, with close-up looks at the Mexican border's environmental conditions, the diverse desert ecology, and one of the world's most extensive environmental cleanups. There are also two workshops: one on science writing organized by Paul Raeburn of *Business Week*, and another on the collaboration between scientists and the news media.

Friday and Saturday at the University of Arizona will feature panels, how-to sessions and hands-on computer labs, plus two stimulating plenaries—a debate on the environmental effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and a luncheon roundtable on the U.S. Interior Department that will feature many of its former secretaries. Evening will be spent amid the saguaros at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Sunday we hit the road for Biosphere 2, the \$200 million, three-acre artificial environment now run as a research laboratory by Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. There will be opportunity to enter the giant glass enclosure, and talk to its scientists. The Writers on Writing panels and other attractions will be held outside on the Biosphere grounds.

Can't find a panel session on your favorite subject? You can select from a range of less formal events, from choosing a table at Saturday's "network lunch" to "salons" where journalists can have a small-group session with a

newsmaker, trade tips on emerging issues, or discuss the business of freelancing. Finally, for those who can spend extra time in Arizona there will be a guided post-conference visit to the Grand Canyon where you can enjoy its grandeur and talk to experts about threats to its future. The Grand Canyon trip, which runs from Sunday to Tuesday, will cost an additional \$250, and space is limited. It will be restricted to SEJ members only.

Registration for this year's national conference is \$125 for members who sign up by August 1. Thursday's tours are an additional \$10 for a full day and \$5 for a half day. Student registration is \$60.

The main conference hotel is the Marriott University Park, a short walk from most conference activities. Rates are \$106 single, \$116 double, plus tax, for reservations made by August 15. SEJ has also reserved a block of rooms at the Quality Hotel & Suites. Shuttles to conference events are included in the room fees, which are \$72 single or double, \$102 suite, for reservations made by August 31.

For conference attendees who wish to observe Rosh Hashanah, SEJ has made arrangements for complimentary tickets and transportation to services at Hillel on the University of Arizona.

Watch your mail in May for the conference brochure and a registration form, and keep an eye on SEJ's newly remodeled Environmental Journalism Home Page (<http://www.sej.org>) for agenda updates. Online registration will also be available on the web page about May 1.

Members are advised to make travel plans and register early to reserve their first choice on tours and save money on conference lodging.

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*Board Member Russ Clemings of the Fresno Bee is board chair for the 1997 annual conference.*



## Two college environmental directories available

Two new directories explaining opportunities for college study in environmental areas are now available. One offers choices in studying environmental subject matter, and the other lists programs for environmental journalism.

The Committee for the National Institute for the Environment announces that a new "Directory of Higher Education Environmental Programs" (DHEEP), is located on the World Wide Web at <[www.cnie.org](http://www.cnie.org)>. The directory contains detailed information on undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary programs in environmental studies. The committee is still collecting information for the Directory and asking colleges to submit details about programs and their objectives.

DHEEP aims at assisting students seeking interdisciplinary programs, faculty and administrators working to improve or establish degree-granting programs, and employers looking for

graduates with appropriate academic backgrounds.

For those who want to learn how to cover and communicate environmental matters, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has updated its national directory. Courses and programs from more than 40 colleges and universities are described in the third edition of the Directory of Science Communication Courses and Programs in the United States. Compiled by Sharon Dunwoody, Elizabeth Crane, and Bonnie Brown of the UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the directory provides descriptions of course content, information about undergraduate and graduate program requirements, and names and addresses of relevant faculty. It is current as of 1996.

The directory is available for \$10 in either hard copy or on disk. For more information contact Sharon Dunwoody at [dunwoody@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:dunwoody@facstaff.wisc.edu), or 608-263-3389.



## OREGON REGIONAL CONFERENCE

# Full-blown gathering in the Northwest

Amid morning wind gusts that reached 77 miles per hour about 50 natural resource reporters, scientists, managers and activists met in Newport, OR, March 1 to help environmental journalists improve their coverage of natural resource issues in the Pacific Northwest. The first-ever Northwest regional SEJ conference was sponsored by the Newport *News-Times*, and by *The Daily Astorian*, of Astoria, Ore.

Despite wind gusts that drove rain through the venue's skylight so that it fell in a gentle mist on field-trip sign-up sheets and miscellaneous handouts, attendees focused on the intersection of science and politics in the region's natural resource issues. The day's discussions focused on uncertainty in natural resource science and the ways political processes can penetrate to the core of data collection and influence that supposedly objective base for policy decisions.

Several scientists pointed to the "objectivity" of the scientific method, noting its importance as a base for policy. But panelists also said science that conflicts with the status quo can be suppressed or ignored because of political pressures. The suppression question led to a heated discussion between some of the panelists and the people to whom they referred—who were in the audience preparing to speak later in the day.

Veteran reporters recommended using pre-decisional documents, which generally are public records, to see the science through the surrounding political haze. SEJ member and freelancer Kathie Durbin advised reporters to review early drafts of agency documents, which often include candid and critical information that is removed in more polished versions.

Panelist Lana Brodziak, coordinator of the Mid-Coast Watersheds Council, used the example of shifting understanding about the role of wood in salmon

streams to illustrate the way that uncertainty—how much is enough?—can be oversimplified by the time it trickles down

eminent salmon biologists, Jim Lichatowich, discussed the historical, political and sociological roots of the current salmon crisis. Lichatowich showed that fisheries biologists had rejected technological supplementation methods in the 1930s, but one decade later ignored their own findings to support hatcheries as a method to offset the fish lost to the Columbia River hydroelectric dams. Cyclical climatic changes may make the Pacific Ocean more hospitable to salmon during the next 20 years, he told one questioner, but the fish may go extinct when those conditions subsequently worsen unless substantive changes occur now.

The journalists who participated in the event ranged in experience with environmental issues, but all appeared to gain something from the event. Several said they hoped to see more regional SEJ, and were excited about the possibility of holding SEJ's 1999 national conference in the region.

—Orna Izakson



Photo by Andrew Rodman  
**Conference organizer Orna Izakson talks with Sandra Coveny as Dave Bella, Carmel Finley, and Natalie Springuel listen in.**

as policy. Scientists in the 1960s recommended removing some wood to clear the choked freshwater pathways salmon used on their terminal migration to their natal spawning grounds. But landowners began removing all wood from the streams—a situation the states now are trying to reverse, to the dismay of the landowners who acted in good faith 30 years ago.

Over lunch, one of the region's pre-

## Novel published on Kenaf

The first novel known to be published on kenaf paper, free of tree products, is expected to appear May 1. Entitled *The Land of Debris and the Home of Alfredo* by Kenn Amdahl, it has no environmental theme except for the unusual material from which it is made.

Kenaf looks like bamboo and is grown in Mississippi. Paper made from it is acid free, chlorine free, and recyclable. It is three times as expensive as regular paper because it is still produced in tiny batches. To offset the cost, Amdahl, who also owns the book's publishing company Clearwater Publisher, is printing a very limited first edition in hardback. Each copy will be signed and numbered and sell for \$35 a copy. He is hoping for some pre-

sales. It will also be released in paperback for about \$15.

According to the American Kenaf Association there have been less than two dozen books of any kind published on Kenaf paper, including one environmental book and several tiny children's books and poetry books. So far kenaf manufacturers have concentrated on using it to make cloth, furniture, and other materials, but they have shown interest in Amdahl's project.

Amdahl said he is publishing the book on kenaf because "someone needs to start that ball rolling." His first book, *There Are No Electrons* is now in its fifth printing and a second book, *Algebra Unplugged* is going into a second printing.



# SEJ offers fellowships to broadcast journalists

The Society of Environmental Journalists has established an annual, \$1,000 fellowship to assist broadcast journalists who have an interest in covering the environment, health, and science.

The first Rita M. Ritzke Memorial Fellowship will be awarded in late August. The application deadline is July 15. It is one of several fellowship opportunities SEJ is offering this year but, unlike the others that only assist in travel to SEJ's national conference, the Ritzke fellowship is an endowed program that will be offered each year and can be used for a variety of purposes. (For other fellowships, see below.)

Established with donations from Ritzke's family, the fellowship may be used to underwrite the costs of attending training seminars, national journalism conferences, or university courses that would improve a journalist's coverage of the environment or health. The \$1,000 award could also be used to defray the cost of a special reporting project.

The fellowship will be awarded on a competitive basis based on work samples and application letters describing how the fellowship would be used and what benefits might result. Applications and instructions will be mailed to SEJ's broadcast members and to radio and television newsrooms in the U.S., or can be requested from the SEJ office.

The winner will be selected by the fellowship trustees: Kevin Carmody of the *Chicago Daily Southtown*, Erin Hayes of

*ABC News*, Dr. John Roffers of Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, and Pat Tanaka Dockery of *WGN-TV* in Chicago.

Ritzke was a supervisor in the pathology labs at Milwaukee County Medical Center who had a strong interest in the environment, science and quality journalism. She died in 1996.

This year, SEJ will also offer a limited number of national conference fellowships for journalists in any media from Ohio or Texas, U.S. minority journalists, and Mexican journalists. Winners will be selected by a panel of editors, and each will receive a travel grant to help defray the cost of attending SEJ's seventh national conference in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 2-5. Specialized grants from private foundations, including the Gund Foundation and the Wray Trust, will underwrite each opportunity. The deadline to submit applications is June 30, with winners to be announced Aug. 16.

"I am working to develop more conference fellowship funds for region-based travel grants, but others are unlikely in time for Tucson," said SEJ executive director Beth Parke. "I know how important this kind of assistance can be for working journalists. This year we have no special funds for students, but we were able to lower the student conference registration fee."

Angela Swafford is the board chair for SEJ's 1997 conference fellowships program. Contact the SEJ office for information on how to apply.

Tired of fighting the record rainfall in Salem, Oregon, **Tony Davis**, is back where he started—in the Arizona Desert. He just finished a six-month stint covering state government for the *Statesman Journal* in Salem, and now scribes for the *Arizona Daily Star* in Tucson, where he expects to cover wildlife protection, water scarcity and suburban sprawl issues.

Since January, **Trisha Voner** has been the environment reporter for the *Times Herald* of Port Huron, Michigan. "I always liked science and the environment, but was never very good at the math," jokes the former wildlife biologist. So she combined it with writing. Living in the "thumb" of Michigan, Voner's byline will be under stories dealing with chemical contamination, cross border pollution and, yes, suburban sprawl.

**Craig Saunders** hopes to bolster environmental coverage in British Columbia as the BC Bureau Chief for the Canadian University Press. He will spend time covering "other" issues like education and provincial politics, but says "the environment is in my blood." Saunders will also be in charge of training student journalists throughout the province.

**Richard Manning** has moved his

freelancing operations "1,800 miles downstream" to the mouth of the Columbia River Watershed in Salem, OR. Previously based outside of Missoula, MT ("near the basin headwaters") Manning just finished a book, due out this fall, tentatively titled *One Round River*. It looks at

## Media on the Move

Compiled by George Homsy

the Blackfoot River and a gold mine in Lincoln, MT. His next project examines conservation based development in the coastal temperate rain forests near his new home in the Pacific Northwest.

A desire to do more reporting is what drove Nancy Cohen from Washington, DC, where she was *National Public Radio's* Midwestern Editor, to *WFCR* in Amherst, Mass., where she is the news director. She is looking forward to building a strong news operation in western Massachusetts.

And the winners are. . . .

**Kevin Carmody** and **Daniel Yovich** of the *Daily Southtown* in Chicago won top investigative honors from the Inland Press Association. The pair took a hard

look at the questionable operation of a county landfill. The series also wowed the judges of the Illinois Press Association. They gave the investigation top honors in the community service category as well as the third place prize for investigative reporting. The Association also recognized Carmody with first place honors in the medicine category.

"How Safe is Mother's Milk?"

**Andrea de Leon** asked and answered that question in an award-winning piece for *National Public Radio's* "Living on Earth." The *Maine Public Radio*-based reporter won the radio category for the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science national science writing awards.

Another environmental story took the AAAS small newspaper prize. **Eric Scigliano** of the *Seattle Weekly* was honored for two unrelated articles, "Salmon Saviors" and "Holy Cedar" which communicated the science of biodiversity to the general reader.

*Changes? Contact George Homsy, Living on Earth, 8 Story Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. E-mail: ghomsy@world.std.com. Ph: 617-520-6857. Fax: 617-868-8810.*



# They'll climb mountains, swim rivers...

The world is, after all, mostly water. Our own continent is dotted with lakes, threaded by rivers, and nearly surrounded by oceans. We drink it, wash with it, and celebrate the rain, so it's little wonder that environmental journalists have had odd episodes with liquid, not always pleasant, sometimes humorous.

► **What are friends for?** While working on a story about Canada geese, Boston television reporter David Ropeik offered to help round up some honkers for tagging. Some of the herding needed to be done on a pond, and our intrepid reporter offered to be one of the herders, in one of the canoes. He assured the project's sponsors that he was competent in such a craft, neglecting to mention that he'd never been in one alone.

So out he went, solo, on a windy day. One quick turn and a gust of wind later, and the outdoorsman-reporter was in the drink, herding the geese by swimming rather than paddling, far more embarrassed than wet, and hoping the beeper on his hip wouldn't electrocute him.

The camera was rolling of course. But Ropeik made the journalistic judgment that such tape on the local news that evening would only detract from, you know, the important facts of the story. So he edited out his embarrassing bath.

The tastes of the evening news show producer differed. After showing the main story he ran the entire footage of the dunking, to great guffaws from the anchor people on the set, and no doubt the viewing audience as well.

► **Bush pilots known and loved...** Sometimes just being too close to the water can be unpleasant.

SEJ president and former *USA Today* environmental writer, Rae Tyson travelled to Prince William Sound, Alaska in late winter 1994 to do a story on the fifth anniversary of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Needless to say, he had to travel to Valdez. Needless to say, it was snowing. He managed to catch a flight from Anchorage to Valdez. Then it really started to snow. And snow. He was there for several days and it never stopped snowing—hard.

Having grown up near Buffalo, Rae is used to snow, but he'd never seen anything like the white deluge in Valdez. He began to wonder if he would be trapped there until spring. The airport had closed and driving was out of the question. Visibility was close to zero.

From some experiences while covering the spill in 1989, he knew that float plane bush pilots were capable of flying in weather that would ground a duck. So he stopped by the office of Ketchum Air Service and asked if, by chance, he might charter one of their planes. He didn't care where it was going as long as it was away from Valdez. The pilot indicated that he was supposed to deliver mail to several native villages but hadn't been able to do so for a week. He said he would risk a flight if Rae didn't mind a few stops along the way.

In Rae's words: "We loaded the back of the four-passenger plane with mail and took off from the Valdez airport. We lost visibility immediately so the pilot dropped right down over the water so he could see. It was the most turbulent airplane ride I've ever experienced. About 40 minutes into the flight he suddenly set the plane down on the water. I couldn't see a thing as we taxied. A short time later the native village of Tatitlek came into view. We unloaded the mail on a wooden dock and took off again. The snow turned to rain. It was pouring when we landed at the fishing village of Cordova a short time later. I immediately sought out the nearest bar."

## Grin & Bare It

► **Don't try this at home.** On a warm day a few months ago, *Gainesville*

*Sun* reporter Bruce Ritchie was finishing a boat tour of Orange Lake, FL, and walking on a ramshackle dock when he noted something moving just a few inches below his feet in the water.

"That's just the cottonmouth that lives under the dock," said boat guide Crawford Solomon. Solomon reached into the water and pulled the snake out of the water, dangling it by its tail. *Sun* photographer John Moran snapped away with his camera for a picture that ran the next day.

The writhing snake paid no attention to the humans as it struggled to get back in the lake. A cottonmouth in that position over water won't strike its handler, Solomon explained. They took his word for it.

► **Grinning and baring it:** Water was like a magnet to the clothes of fellow travelers on a college study abroad program in Australia a few years ago, says freelance writer Wendee Holtcamp. Whenever the students came around water, clothes would start flying and in they'd go, skinny-dipping, to the mortification of their director who was powerless to stop them.

Fortunately they were on a rain forest ecology program and in the bush most of the time, but even on occasional outings to more public places, the kids couldn't break the habit. Wendee says she was not one of them. "Honest!"

► **Haute couture:** Look presentable for interviews, they tell you in J-school. What freelance writer Cathy Dold had to wear when she went to visit a black-footed ferret breeding facility in Wyoming she wouldn't have selected from her wardrobe. The lab people made her shower, shampoo her hair, and put on their sterile clothing.

"Pretty weird," says Cathy. "Interviewing someone while wearing ill-fitting coveralls and sneakers, with wet hair."

► **Lab lapping:** Academic member Sarah Gilbert of Colorado University at Boulder remembers a friend and meteorologist becoming very excited one day while describing to her a storm that spat out hail the size of golf balls. To prove it he ran to his freezer where he had saved two or three in a zip-lock bag.

They were gone. Someone had mistaken them for ice cubes and drunk them in a cocktail.

## Genetics...(from page 1)

testing including squash, papaya, barley, broccoli, carrot, cranberry, eggplant, grape, pea, pepper, raspberry, strawberry, sugarcane, watermelon, and wheat. Last year the USDA approved trial release of a transgenic mite and worm. Also under development are transgenic clams. Corn engineered to produce its own pesticide is being planted. Journalists need to adapt as the debate shifts from whether the technology will be used—to how it will be used.

It might help to put the science in perspective. For thousands of years humans have manipulated genetics in order to achieve certain ends. Farmers long ago discovered that they could improve yields by saving seed from their most productive plants. Through selective breeding, dairy cattle produce more milk, flowers are bigger and more colorful, and garden peas are sweeter. Other forms of genetic manipulation used in recent decades include chemical and radiation treatments. Today, transgenic engineering is held out as a means for increasing agricultural production, curing disease, cleaning up industrial chemical spills, and more.

Transgenics is made possible by a simple truth: Live organisms develop through a common genetic material: DNA. DNA holds instructions (in the form of chromosomes) for the production of enzymes, which in turn send messages controlling cellular formation.

Through a variety of techniques, scientists can make changes to DNA. For example, DNA strands can be cut at specific points using enzymes. Then, a piece of DNA from another organism can be spliced into the original (now “recombinant”) DNA strand. If successful, this process results in an organism having shared characteristics.

Molecular geneticists point out that this genetic “swap” also takes place in nature, through viral influences on genetic material—though to what degree is uncertain. And so far, transgenics is far from a perfect science. Relatively few of the engineered cells actually survive the transgenic process. But for those that do, the results can alter the most basic characteristics of an organism—disease resistance, protein production, nutrient uptake, growth processes, and more.

Not surprisingly, industry is anxious to move forward with

this new (and potentially highly profitable) technology. Government, too, wants to promote the technology. EPA’s proposed guidelines for reviewing the development of transgenic organisms note the “enormous potential of biotechnology to fight disease, pollution, and hunger, and to replace some chemicals that are harmful to the environment.” But critics counter that the technology seems to be directed toward private profit rather than toward public good.

Consumers’ groups, some farm organizations, environmentalists, and food activists express their concerns over the fast pace at which the technology is moving into production. Critics also voice concern at what they see as insufficient regulatory oversight, increased concentration of corporate control of the technology and its products, and the potential for harmful environmental consequences as a result of genetically engineered organisms disturbing ecosystems.

“It is unethical to assume that we know enough about the workings of natural systems to... feel we can improve upon nature,” says Michael Fox, author of *Superpigs and Wondercorn: The Brave New World of Biotechnology*. “My bottom-line question is ‘do we need this technology?’”

Jean Halloran, researcher at the Consumer’s Union, says we “need to be respectful and cautious in how we use genetic engineering,” because natural systems are highly complex and subject to disruption. Halloran says she “can imagine a role for genetic engineering in food and fibers, but only under strict controls. Just as we have laws to preserve clean air and water so should we have rules to preserve our genetic heritage. There ought to be much more stringent oversight by the EPA,” she says.

Critics are troubled about private control and ownership of genetic material. Chirag Mehta, program director of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, is concerned on behalf of farmers and consumers. Mehta argues that this technology could strengthen corporate dominance over the agricultural system as multinational conglomerates develop and patent new genetic strains and as farmers become dependent upon the high-tech products. “Corporate control threatens the family farm,” he says.

Some contractual arrangements between corporations and farmers are already in place. Monsanto has created soybeans engineered to be resistant to the herbicide Round-up, which allows farmers to spray their fields for weeds without damaging



Courtesy of Monsanto Corporation

**Roundup-resistant soybeans allow uncultivated fields to retain organic debris between rows.**



the beans. But those using the seed are obligated to purchase the herbicide from Monsanto.

Potentially harmful ecological impacts are another worry. Critics cite the transfer of genetically engineered traits as an example. Last year, Danish scientists reported that genes from an oilseed rape plant (the source of canola oil) that had been genetically altered to be herbicide-tolerant were passed to a weedy relative, which itself gained herbicide tolerance. Such a transfer of genes has the potential to disrupt ecological systems, lending advantages to one organism at the expense of another. Disruption brought about by genetic engineering may exacerbate threats to rare or endangered species or otherwise harm biodiversity, say critics.

These concerns notwithstanding, the biotech train has already left the station. With transgenic materials already in the marketplace, activists have insisted that products—particularly food—be labeled so consumers can be informed when products are derived through transgenics. Genes from the Brazil nut, for example, were transferred to soybeans to make soy protein more digestible, causing reactions among unsuspecting consumers allergic to the nuts.

Although labeling requests have met with some success in Europe, US producers have resisted such efforts (though

Novartis recently said it will label seed derived through genetic engineering). Should consumers be informed about the genetic make-up of food and other goods? This question is likely to remain an issue. But labeled or not, transgenic foods—and organisms—have become a part of our technological reward and burden.

As journalists, when we report on issues of genetic engineering, it's important to remember that the story isn't about any single experimental success, major study, or newly-developed transgenic organism—it's about the direction the technology takes us. When it comes to food, Wisconsin organic vegetable farmer John Greenler asks, "By using these technologies are we skirting the main issue? Ultimately we have to point the finger at ourselves for failing to come to grips with our demand for cheap food and for failing to take into account the environmental consequences." Journalists may not have answers, but at the very least, as we report on these issues, we need to remember to ask the big questions.

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## Photo farms...(from page 1)

With today's emphasis on the bottom line in the publishing world, few magazines or broadcasting firms are supporting nature photographers for months in the field on assignment. So the incentive for manipulation of wildlife photographs has become firmly entrenched. Photographers have been greatly aided in these efforts by the advent of a cottage industry perfectly tailored to their needs: commercial wildlife photo game farms.

For three hundred dollars a day they can buy the rights to photograph "one primary and one secondary species" in a naturalistic setting. That may sound like a lot of money for little more than an hour of each animal's time. But when compared to the cost, risk, drudgery, and unlikelihood of photographing an animal in the wild, such as a grizzly bear, it begins to look like a real bargain. Not only does it avoid hardships, it lets the photographer depict the animal in a greater variety of pictures, angles, and compositional situations.

When one considers that some wildlife pictures have yielded as much as \$20,000 for a single use, and that their value does not diminish over time, the incentive for a professional wildlife photographer to turn to captivity shooting is almost irresistible.

From outward appearances, photography game farms wouldn't seem to provide much potential for controversy. All the animals are bred in captivity and those for display are usually neutered. Most cats are de-clawed as well. None are on the endangered or threatened species lists. The operations are licensed and regulated by both state and federal governments, and subject to frequent, unannounced inspections to assure that

the animals are treated well. These are private businesses on private lands, incurring no costs to taxpayers.

The concept of game farms for wildlife photographers has evolved over the past 15 years, although similar businesses catering to the commercial film industry have existed in California for much longer. Probably the oldest one for still photographers is the Triple "D" Game Farm near Kalispell, MT, founded by Jay Deist, a law enforcement specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, with his brother and his father, a former Montana game warden.

Jay and his brother had grown up caring for orphaned wild animals brought home by their dad. Originally they planned just to breed unusual wild animals, such as wolverines, that they'd caught in live traps. At the time, such collection was not

well-regulated by law. In the early Seventies they were approached by film producers who wanted to make a film about wolverines. This led to contacts with several television programs, all of whom asked Deist to maintain

complete confidentiality about their use of his animals. But word leaked out, and by the early Eighties about a dozen still photographers had begun to frequent the game farm. They too "wanted us to keep it a secret," says Brent Allen who worked there at the time.

What began as an expensive hobby was yielding a small return, and not likely to expand since clients expected Deist to keep the existence of the game farm under his hat. In 1987 Brent Allen left Triple "D" and he and his wife Robin started Wild Eyes Photo Adventures about 20 miles away. Since then both businesses have sought to broaden their client base through limited advertising, direct mail, and an expansion of services and species available for photography. Both businesses are aware of

***Considering that wildlife pictures can yield as much as \$20,000 for a single use, the incentive for a professional wildlife photographer to turn to captivity shooting is almost irresistible.***

the ethical questions surrounding the use of their facilities.

In the spring of 1994 the National Wildlife Federation, publisher of the award-winning magazines *National Wildlife* and *International Wildlife*, announced that henceforth all their published wild animal photographs would include information about the circumstances of the photography. At the same time, the organization does not condemn the use of game farms. "We think some animals should not be photographed in the wild," says photo editor John Nuhn, who prefers captive pictures to the thought of "photographers traipsing around and chasing after endangered species."

In a three-part series last March the *Denver Post* targeted Colorado cinematographer Marty Stouffer who has made millions from sales of wildlife films to the Public Broadcasting System and through videos, extensively using captive wildlife as subjects. Stouffer replied in a letter to the *Post*, "The 'pictorial essays' which I create are always true and yet they are not always real."

Concern about ethical issues in the business was a driving force in the founding of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) in 1994. In its first year nearly 1,500 members signed up, and the first annual conference in Fort Myers, FL in 1995 drew nearly 500. A panel session focused



Up close and personal with a managed Grizzly

almost entirely on the game farm issue.

Tom Mangelsen, a nature photographer from Jackson, WY, who operates a chain of galleries devoted to his work, is adamant about his opposition to the use of game farms. About photographing animals in captivity he says, "We don't learn very much. We have a loss of experience, a loss of knowledge." He also blames game farms for causing a loss of incentive to compete in the wild for authentic shots and for the loss of pride

in one's work and the loss of public respect for the work of all wildlife photographers. "When (people) find out this is such an abused system, there's going to be a major backlash," he said. The remedy, he feels, is for publishers and editors to refuse to use captive animal pictures anymore.

Those in the photo game farm business believe that wild animals benefit from their activities. "If it weren't for captive animals," says Brent

Allen of Wild Eyes, "there wouldn't be any pictures of some of these animals."

Erwin Bauer of Livingston, MT, who along with his wife Peggy is a well-published nature photographer, points out that before game farms, "the only cougar pictures showed snarling animals up in a tree where they'd been chased by dogs."

Other photographers are more concerned with what impact such pictures will have on the public over the long term. "You erode the confidence that people have in photography," Galen Rowell of Albany, CA, one of America's best-known outdoor and adventure photographers, told the *Denver Post*. "Changes could come about in a very short period of time if we can't trust the images that we see."

Everyone agrees that the popularity of photo game farms is market driven. "It feeds on itself," says Peggy Bauer. "People see good pictures and come to expect them. If they pulled all the captive animal pictures out of all the picture agencies files, they'd be left with about five percent."

Nevertheless, a significant number of photographers like to keep their use of game farms quiet. The manager of one facility said that he has been at wildlife photo exhibitions where he recognized all the animals pictured and could call them by name, even as the photographer was spinning tall tales about the ordeals endured to get the shot.

"Maybe it's time to tell the public," says Peggy Bauer. "There isn't any Santa Claus."

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*Roger Archibald, a freelance writer and photographer in Philadelphia, is also a founding board member of the North American Nature Photography Association and former editor of its newsletter Currents.*

## What to look for

Here are a few details that might reveal photography done in a captive animal situation.

- Photographing truly wild animals generally requires a long lens with a shallow depth of field. If focus is sharp at a number of points, the animal is probably in an unnatural situation.
- Tight pictures of an animal's face may mean it was shot through a fence or bars of a cage.
- Young animals playing with adults nearby are extremely hard to get; wild parents are extremely protective and if they sense a person nearby they hide their young.
- Many different views of the same animal probably mean the photographer had the luxury of moving around to get various angles; the wild ones are not that cooperative.
- Vague location data, like "western Montana" probably means the use of a captive animal farm.
- Any picture that seems too good to be true...probably is. Elk and bison in Yellowstone may cooperate, but predators such as lynx, cougars and wolves are rarely seen, much less perfectly photographed.

# Slow trip through fast-changing world

## Coastal coverage by bicycle yields a raft of new stories

By **CHRISTIAN WAGLEY**

In tiny Port St. Joe a 70-year-old man was telling me animated tales about his rugged life in this paper mill town along Florida's panhandle coast. "I remember when you could look out over the bay and see ripples and patterns on the water from schools of fish near the surface," he said, relating the changes he's seen. "Now I look out and see nothing. The fish are gone."

As I rose to leave he gave me directions to his home and invited me to stay the night. "If I'm not there, just go on in," he said. "The door's unlocked."

The kindness of strangers overwhelmed me last summer during my 1,800-mile bicycle journey along America's southeast coast. I wanted to see the coast I love, and write some news stories about what is happening to it. Americans are flocking to the shoreline, creating a host of environmental ills.

Everywhere people opened their lives and homes to me, giving me a roof over my head for the night and sending me off in the morning with a full belly. Some even gave money, like a man who saw me showering beneath a hose at a gas station and insisted I accept his five dollars for a decent breakfast.

I had just finished a master's degree in biology and coastal zone studies. My plan was to see not only the environmental damage but also rustic cottages, the fourth-generation fishermen, and the pristine waterways while they still exist. But instead of dwelling on problems I was seeking solutions. I wanted to find people and communities who were setting positive examples by living in harmony with our dynamic and fragile coast.

So keeping the water on my right I left Pensacola, Florida, on June 20 and took a mostly coastal route east to Jacksonville, then headed north, following the beaches, bays, and barrier islands of the east coast. Throughout my leisurely three-month journey to my home town of Crofton, Maryland.

I reported my findings in weekly articles for the *New Bay Times* of Deale, MD., faxing my handwritten texts to them every Monday morning. Articles written

by others about my trip and what I hoped to accomplish appeared in the *Pensacola News Journal*, *Georgia Times Union*, and the *Washington Post*.

It was a low-tech, low-budget journey. I loaded a five-year-old mountain bike with the bare essentials, including four days' worth of shorts and T-shirts, a tiny tent, a compact cook kit, and a small gasoline-powered stove. I also carried a cellular phone to appease my concerned mother. When I wasn't staying in strangers' homes I camped in parks and campgrounds, remote woods, or on beaches.

Traveling on the bicycle put me closer to the sights, sounds, and smells than I ever could have been in a car. Being an object of curiosity also made it easier to make contacts. People wanted to know who I was and where I was headed, and conversation would then often drift to environmental issues in their communities. Many stories would not have come my way had I not been on a bicycle.

We really are loving our coasts to death. Housing sprawl is destroying the

communities try to rein in sprawl and costly floodplain development with stricter use laws. The good news is that some very wild and beautiful places remain in the Florida panhandle, along the Georgia coast, and on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Many dedicated people are working hard to preserve the coast and find solutions to its dilemmas.

In the small fishing village of Panacea, FL., I met a self-taught naturalist and passionate environmentalist who runs his own marine specimen lab. Like Doc Ricketts of Cannery Row he wades the shallows and runs a shrimp trawl offshore to gather marine invertebrates for shipment to universities and research labs, to further the understanding of coastal marine life.

In Beaufort, SC, artist Bob Bender, on a shoestring budget, stocks aquariums in his large, historic house with coastal marine life. He calls it the North Street Aquarium and invites in groups of school kids for a lecture about what is at risk.

On Virginia's Eastern Shore an alliance of government agencies, conservation organizations, and private citizens is working to preserve a large area while allowing sustainable development. A new industrial park under construction will hold environmentally compatible industries that utilize each other's waste products in their manufacturing processes, an almost pollution-free closed-loop system.

These positive examples of creating more livable communities provide balance to gloomy environmental news along the coast.

My bike ride left me broke but I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. Deep in the back of my mind I've already been plotting my next bike trip. How's Pensacola to Chile sound?



**Traveler Christian Wagley and his bike**

landscape, and often transplanting to the beach the problems of impersonal suburbia, where nobody knows their neighbors. On the physical side, sprawl brings water pollution and alters sensitive wetland and shoreline areas, and often denies public access to beaches and waterways that should belong to everyone.

These are only a few of the issues journalists need to cover as a rising population clashes with a rising sea level and

*Christian Wagley lives in Pensacola where he continues to seek out people and communities finding solutions. He is freelancing for the Pensacola News-Journal and his first magazine article will appear in EcoTraveler this spring.*

# Portions of Meeman Archive trashed

A large portion of the Meeman Archives, a collection of the best newspaper reporting on the environment during the past 20 years, was thrown away by educators at the University of Michigan in December. Among the articles thrown out were more than 1,400 pieces submitted to the Edward J. Meeman award for environmental reporting and the Thomas L. Stokes award for natural resources reporting.

Jonathan Friendly, former journalism professor at the University of Michigan, said that he and Paul Nowak, another U of M professor, threw away the collection because the university would no longer pay to store the documents. Most of the documents trashed had been stored in a rented storage facility off campus.

Friendly said that many of the articles were “in tatters” and that he didn’t know of anyone who would be interested in the collection. But both Jim Detjen, director of the Environmental Journalism Program at Michigan State University, and Len Ackland, a journalism professor at the University of Colorado, said they had expressed interest in the Meeman Archives and had offered to house the collections if the University of Michigan no longer wanted them. Another U of M official denied Friendly’s description of the materials. “The collection was in excellent shape,” said the U of M educator. “It’s a real tragedy the archives were thrown away.”

Friendly lost his job at the University of Michigan when the university decided to shut down its journalism department. Friendly had also directed the Ted Scripps

Environmental Journalism Fellowships at Michigan. When the U of M’s journalism department shut down, the Scripps Howard Foundation decided to move the Scripps fellowships to the University of Colorado.

In February, when Detjen heard that Friendly and Nowak, a natural resources professor at U of M, had thrown away much of the archives, he contacted U of M officials and Patty Cottingham, executive director of the Scripps Howard Foundation, to see if any of the collection remained. He found that thousands of copies of the original documents were still being stored in 16 filing cabinet drawers in an office at the University of Michigan.

Detjen persuaded Michigan officials to give him these documents and on March 5 he rented a van and drove to Ann Arbor. With the help of MSU graduate student Joe Harry, he loaded the filing cabinets into the van and drove them back to the journalism department at Michigan State University.

“The filing cabinets, along with a few other boxes of Meeman Archives’ material, are now being stored in an office at MSU,” said Detjen. “I am working with MSU officials to find a suitable place on campus to house the collection.”

“We’re not sure how much of the complete collection is contained in these copies, which are cut-down versions of the originals. Of those we have, what is lost in the copies is a sense of how the story was played in the paper.”

Since he arrived at MSU in 1995,

Detjen has been working to establish an archive of environmental journalism there. Philip Shabecoff, former national environmental writer for *The New York Times*, donated to MSU’s Environmental Journalism Program in 1996 scores of audiotapes of interviews Shabecoff had conducted with environmental leaders during his career.

Among the voices heard on the tapes are William Ruckelshaus, the first administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club.

Detjen has also collected copies of recent winning entries of the Meeman, Stokes, and John Oakes environmental reporting awards, along with historical documents from Three Mile Island and the Chernobyl nuclear accidents. “We are making an effort to collect examples of the best environmental reporting in all media during the past few decades,” he said.

“If any SEJ members have copies of articles that won environmental journalism awards or materials that have historical value, we would welcome them and provide them with a good home. We will make sure that any articles sent to us will be preserved and safeguarded for future use of students, researchers and historians.”

For more information contact Jim Detjen at (517) 353-9479; via e-mail at [detjen@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:detjen@pilot.msu.edu); or at 341 Communication Arts Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1212. Contributions are tax-deductible.

# Court approves action against reporter

The Washington state Supreme Court has upheld a newspaper’s right to remove one of its employees from reporter status because of political activism, according to a report in *Editor and Publisher* magazine, March 15, 1997.

Sandy Nelson, a reporter for the *Tacoma News Tribune*, was shifted to the copy desk during elections in 1990 for defying the paper’s ethics code banning high-profile political activity by reporters, said the *E & P* report. Nelson, a self-professed lesbian who had been an active promoter of

lesbian rights and feminist causes, was seen picketing for abortion rights at a local hospital. Warned about the ethics code, she continued her political activity and the shift in her duties became permanent.

Maintaining that activities in her personal life would not affect her objectivity as a reporter, she filed suit against the *Tribune* and its parent, McClatchy Newspapers Inc., for violation of the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA).

An attorney representing Nelson said, “The *News Tribune* does not have the right

to manage her off-duty life simply because some readers might think she is biased.”

An attorney for the newspaper told the court that a reporter’s byline is like a badge of trust to readers. “When they go to the barricades, when they become news makers instead of news gatherers, they’ve broken the compacts they make when they become reporters.”

The high court’s majority held that Nelson’s suit against the paper and its parent failed to override the defendants’ First Amendment protection.

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# New listservs broaden SEJ's online reach

By AMY GAHRAN

A lot can be done with listservs (Internet mailing lists) beyond simply allowing a group of people to talk to one another by electronic postings.

SEJ is beginning to use listservs in new ways. The Online Committee is in the process of launching two new listservs which many members already may have heard about via e-mail. These are "broadcast" (one-way) listservs, used to transmit announcements to a selected group of people. SEJ hopes that these new services will broaden the organization's online reach and serve members even better.

The two new listservs for SEJ members are:

- **SEJ-MEMBERS**, which is used to distribute the biweekly *TipSheet* publication to SEJ members via e-mail. (A separate listserv, SEJ-TIPSHEET, is used to distribute the *TipSheet* to people who don't belong to SEJ. More on that later.) This list already has been launched.
- **SEJANNOUNCE**, which will be used to broadcast SEJ business announcements (such as updates on committee actions or upcoming board elections) to members. This list will be launched in late April or early May. One thing that would be ideal for distribution through SEJANNOUNCE would be a "member newsletter" currently being considered by SEJ's Publications Committee. This publication would cover the details of SEJ business, and would be published more frequently than the *SEJournal*.

SEJ is introducing these new listservs because it wants to serve its members better and also use its resources more efficiently and effectively. Most SEJ members have e-mail, but only about one-third of all SEJ members known to have e-mail currently subscribe to SEJ's existing interactive members-only listserv (SEJ@indra.com). The SEJ office occasionally posts important organizational news to SEJ@indra.com, but it would be far better to also send those messages to the rest of our members who have e-mail.

Currently, the only way to do that is via conventional paper mail ("snail mail")—which is costly, time-consuming, and slow. Being able to distribute occasional organizational news items via e-mail to the majority of members will improve the timeliness and completeness of SEJ's member communications while cutting substantial mailing costs (because SEJ would have to send paper mail to only a small fraction of its members).

Until now, distributing the *TipSheet* also has been more cumbersome and costly than it needs to be. About 700 people (most of whom are not SEJ members) currently receive the *TipSheet* via fax; only a small fraction of recipients get it via e-mail (through SEJ@indra.com and by direct e-mail). Sending that many faxes is expensive and will become more so as subscriptions grow. The Radio and TV News Directors' Foundation (RTNDF) has borne the brunt of the work and costs related to *TipSheet* distribution so far, but hopefully the new *TipSheet*-related listservs will ease that burden to some extent.

SEJ launched the SEJ-MEMBERS list in March, in time for the March 26 edition of the *TipSheet* to SEJ members. At

about the same time, SEJ also launched a separate listserv, SEJ-TIPSHEET, which is used to distribute the *TipSheet* via e-mail to non-SEJers. (If you are not an SEJ member and you are interested in receiving the *TipSheet* via e-mail, contact SEJ Programs Manager Jim Quigley at QuigSEJ@aol.com).

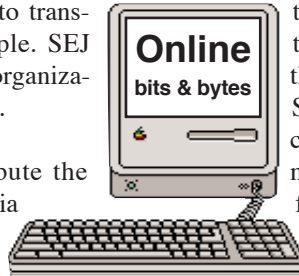
SEJ set up two separate listservs for *TipSheet* distribution to protect the confidentiality of SEJ members' e-mail addresses; the organization may set up similar "sub-lists" for certain other media groups which have members who get the *TipSheet*.

SEJANNOUNCE and SEJ-MEMBERS are designed to complement the existing SEJ listserv (SEJ@indra.com), not replace it. From a user's point of view, the main differences are interactivity and the amount of mail traffic.

Since SEJ@indra.com is interactive, any SEJ member who is subscribed to that listserv can post a message to it—which allows for ongoing discussions.

In contrast, only SEJ staff can post to the new listservs. Therefore, SEJ@indra.com carries a far higher volume of e-mail traffic than either SEJ-MEMBERS or SEJANNOUNCE will. Members subscribed to SEJ-MEMBERS generally will receive only two messages per month from that listserv (two issues of the *TipSheet*). Members subscribed to SEJANNOUNCE generally will receive no more than three messages per

(Continued on page 15)



## Joining, Leaving SEJ's New Listservs

- **To subscribe to either of the new one-way listservs, SEJ-MEMBERS and SEJANNOUNCE**, address an e-mail message to (majordomo@sej.org). Leave the subject line blank—or type anything, that line is ignored by the computer. In the message body, type the following message (using the correct list name): subscribe listname firstname lastname <emailaddress>

For instance, if Rachel Carson were an SEJ member and she wanted to subscribe to SEJANNOUNCE, her message body would read: subscribe SEJANNOUNCE Rachel Carson <RCarson@USFWS.gov>

Once the list manager has verified your SEJ membership, you will receive a "welcome to the list" message that gives you full instructions on using the listserv. Be sure to keep this message! It's a handy thing to have when you have questions. You may want to print out a copy and file it for future reference.

- **To unsubscribe from either of the new lists**, send the following message to majordomo@sej.org: unsubscribe listname emailaddress. For instance, if member Jane Doe no longer wanted to receive the *TipSheet*, her message body would read: unsubscribe SEJ-MEMBERS jdoe@anywhere.com

To switch a subscription to a new e-mail address, simply unsubscribe your old address and subscribe your new address. It's also a good idea to let SEJ know about your address change—send e-mail address updates to Chris Rigel (ChrisSEJ@aol.com).

# Dubious double duty of cement kilns

By JIM QUIGLEY

Some cement kilns, those innocent-looking towers that bake the building ingredient used in every town in this country, are serving double duty as hazardous waste incinerators. If you have a cement factory nearby, a little inquiry into what it burns as fuel might make an interesting story and open local eyes to what is being spread around the neighborhood.

In making cement, the glue that ties concrete together, earthen materials such as limestone and clay are crushed and baked at extreme temperatures in a furnace, or kiln. The kiln uses vast quantities of fuel to achieve the temperatures necessary to create cement. Traditionally, they have been fired with fossil fuels—coal, oil, or natural gas.

In 1984, amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) prohibited the land disposal of many types of hazardous wastes, and said cement kilns could burn them as fuel. Congress saw it as saving precious fossil fuels, and getting rid of some unwanted substances in the process. Kiln operators saw a golden opportunity. Instead of paying out so much money buying fossil fuels to fire their kilns they could make money disposing of the wastes by burning them as fuel.

Before cement kilns got into the act, combustible wastes



Photo by Larry Williams, St. Louis Post Dispatch

**Workers in protective gear begin cleanup of derailed tank car loaded with toluene. Shipment was headed to a cement plant.**

such as solvents, paint thinners, waste oils, sludges, and a wide array of other chemical mixtures were burned in commercially operated hazardous waste incinerators. Today, it is difficult for the commercial incinerators to compete with cement kilns for the market of combustible wastes because the kilns can burn them more cheaply. Approximately 20 cement plants in the U.S. are now burning more hazardous waste than commercial incinerators specifically built for this purpose. According to the American Lung Association, only about 40 percent of the estimated five million tons of hazardous waste burned annually in the U.S. is now burned in licensed commercial incinerators.

The kilns achieve their economies because they were exempted from costly pollution controls and could therefore charge less to dispose of the materials. Commercial hazardous waste incineration is expensive because these facilities may cost \$20–\$50 million to build, require 100–200 employees to operate, and must have, by law, sophisticated air pollution control devices. By contrast, cement kilns might spend about \$1 million for add-on equipment to existing facilities to burn hazardous waste, require far fewer employees, and, because of continuing “interim” status, operate under very different and far less costly regulatory standards.

The cement kiln industry, represented by its trade organization, the Cement Kiln Recycling Coalition, claims that its facilities are forced to operate with the maximum achievable control technology (MACT). Its trade counterpart, the Association for Responsible Thermal Treatment, representing the commercial hazardous waste incineration industry, claims that cement kilns are given special exemptions and therefore are allowed to emit significantly greater amounts of pollutants.

Depending upon the efficiency of pollution control devices, the burning of hazardous waste can release varying concentrations of dioxins, heavy metals, arsenic, lead, and mercury into the air, to name a few. After the waste is burned, commercial incinerators are required to dispose of the ash residue in special landfills. Cement kilns are not under the same requirements and sometimes dump them in regular landfills, according to SEJ member Tom Uhlenbrock of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* who has written extensively about waste-burning kilns.

Environmental groups have been trying to make these disparities an issue. They contend that they have largely been excluded from participating in the regulatory permitting process because cement kilns fall into the category of “boilers & industrial furnaces” (BIFs). This BIF rule is what gives cement kilns their “interim status” under RCRA. Environmentalists have also cautioned the public about the increasing tendency of the cement kiln industry to mix one of their own wastes—cement kiln dust—into the cement which actually goes to market. About 15 million tons of this “dust” are produced annually. This is one of the reasons why at least one town—Fort Collins, CO—formally outlawed the use of cement from cement kilns burning hazardous waste in any city-funded projects.

Environmental groups also accuse cement kilns of wreaking havoc on air quality. According to a study by the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, emissions of dioxins are eight times higher out of cement kilns burning hazardous waste than from

those that do not burn it.

Another item of intrigue about cement kilns is that they have been leveraged largely into the hands of a European cartel. According to two articles in *The Nation* (8/3/92 and 3/8/93) by Jock Ferguson (now an independent producer of documentary films and formerly a reporter for 14 years with the *Toronto Globe & Mail*), the U.S. cement industry, through hostile takeovers and predatory pricing schemes has become 70 percent foreign-owned while significantly expanding its hazardous waste business. Ferguson claims that this cartel has bilked "contractors from London to Rome to Toronto out of as much as \$8 billion."

Yet another concern involves how wastes are shipped to cement kilns. Uhlenbrock, who provided background for this article, published a lengthy piece in the *Post-Dispatch* September 22, 1996 entitled "Dangerous Cargo." Uhlenbrock reported the hazards of shipping large quantities of chemical wastes, including those which go to cement kilns.

During a 17-month period ending in May 1996 the "Dept. of Transportation recorded 37 accidents involving rail shipments of hazardous waste." Yet, he found, while companies in Missouri are taxed on the waste they produce to help support the state's hazardous waste program, "the

## Cement kiln contacts

• **John Pruden,**  
National Citizens Alliance  
517-471-2747  
<<http://www.cementkiln.com>>

• **David Greenspan,**  
Cement Kiln Recycling Coalition  
202-789-1945

• **Dr. Edward Kleppinger**  
consultant, 414-257-3700

• **Lauren Michaels**  
EPA Public Affairs  
202-260-4358

• **Kathy Fredericksen**  
Chemical Manufacturers Association  
703-741-5239

• **Tom Blank**  
Association for Responsible Thermal  
Treatment, 202-542-3600

• **Dr. Barry Commoner**  
Center for the Biology of Natural  
Systems  
718-670-4180

• **Marty McIntyre**  
Portland Cement Association  
847-966-6200

• **"Recycling or Disposal? Hazardous Waste Combustion in Cement Kilns."**  
A report from the American Lung Association by Mark Richardson, J.D. dated April 1995

waste arriving from outside 'fuel blenders' is subject to no state tax." One of the ironies of fuel blending is that while the chemicals are concentrated into a larger mix, the generators of them are summarily freed from their liability.

The Portland Cement Association states that its 50 company members operating 118 cement plants in 38 states produced last year 69 million metric tons of cement—91 percent of the industry's capacity. Someone is mixing concrete as you read these lines and some of it may

have a less than edifying impact on the environment.

You likely have a cement kiln near you. A few pointed questions about the fuel it burns, who owns it, about the pollution controls it has or doesn't have, and some checking on dioxin and heavy metal content in the surrounding area might turn up an interesting story.

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*Jim Quigley is programs manager at SEJ headquarters in Philadelphia, PA.*

## Listservs...(from page 13)

month from that listserv—and in some months, there may be nothing at all. SEJANNOUNCE will only be used when executive director Beth Parke has an important message for SEJ members.

For both SEJ-MEMBERS and SEJANNOUNCE, the SEJ office is mass-subscribing all member e-mail addresses. Anyone who has told SEJ their e-mail address (through an application or annual survey), already should have been subscribed to SEJ-MEMBERS, and will be subscribed to SEJANNOUNCE when it is launched. All new members with e-mail will be subscribed automatically to both listservs.

It is hoped that SEJ members will wish to remain on both new listservs, especially SEJANNOUNCE (which is primarily a vehicle for member communications). However, not everyone may want to take advantage of these new services. Anyone who doesn't want to be on either new list can unsubscribe with a single piece of e-mail (see sidebar p. 13 for instructions).

Some members have indicated that they have more than one e-mail address. To avoid arbitrarily choosing one as the primary address for a given member, all member addresses will be subscribed. Anyone with more than one e-mail address should sim-

ply unsubscribe the address(es) where you do not wish to receive e-mail from the new listservs.

If any SEJ members with e-mail did not receive e-mail notification about these new listservs, SEJ doesn't have their e-mail addresses in its member database. Members can simply subscribe themselves to the new listservs or to the existing interactive listserv (see sidebar p. 13). Members are also encouraged to send a note to SEJ systems manager Chris Rigel ([ChrisSEJ@aol.com](mailto:ChrisSEJ@aol.com)) so she can add the e-mail address to database records.

The new listservs were set up by SEJ board member Russ Clemings. They are supported by computers operated by the National Institute for Computer-Assisted reporting (NICAR). SEJ Programs Manager Jim Quigley will be handling much of the administration for these listservs. Any questions about them should be e-mailed to Jim ([QuigSEJ@aol.com](mailto:QuigSEJ@aol.com)).

Meanwhile, members are encouraged to participate in [SEJ@indra.com](mailto:SEJ@indra.com), the lively interactive listserv. For information on that, contact Amy Gahrn ([mtn@indra.com](mailto:mtn@indra.com)), and see the note about the listserv in the SEJ Member Directory.

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*Amy Gahrn is managing editor for E Source in Boulder CO, as well as a freelance journalist and web publisher.*

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# New team to consider pesticides

## Revised law has new players, new science for balancing risks

By SARA THURIN ROLLIN

Congress and the President intentionally gave the Environmental Protection Agency many new tasks when they overhauled the U.S. food safety laws and adopted the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996 (PL 104-170). But it is not clear to congressional observers whether the lawmakers sought to attract new players to the contentious process of deciding what pesticide uses to keep and what uses to eliminate.

Congress clearly indicated that new health, exposure, and risk analyses on whole classes of pesticides will be needed to carry out the law. Certain as-yet-unidentified older chemical pesticides may be forced from the market entirely or certain uses will have to be dropped in order to protect health using the new standards in the law.

While the need to eliminate or cancel a number of pesticide uses will emerge from the scientific analyses, the fight about which pesticides should be dropped entirely or which uses should be dropped is expected to involve a number of new people and may happen all around the country, observers say. In addition, the old ways of resolving this type of problem are likely to change because of the new law.

In the past, EPA officials would sit down with the maker of one pesticide and try to agree on which uses to stop. In most cases the pesticide maker would agree to relinquishing certain uses. The new law changes how those decisions should be made. One change is that all pesticides

that are suspected of causing the same health problem must be evaluated together as a group.

As a result, local farmers, exterminators, commodity and specialty crop coalitions—who might all use the same pesticide but in very different ways and volumes—will want to get involved in deciding what uses should be stopped. The days of EPA officials meeting with just one company to resolve concerns about one chemical are over, observers say.

Under the new law, many aspects of



decision-making have been changed. Congress changed the scientific standards in the pesticide laws and changed the context for how toxicological information was to be reviewed.

In the area of health protection standards, Congress repealed the Delaney Clause in the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, one of the two food safety laws revised by the FQPA. The new law says that pesticides may be used so long as there is "a reasonable certainty of no harm" from their proper use. It was the second change, in which Congress ordered that all pesticides with certain similarities be evaluated together, that is expected to get more people involved in the decision-making about dropping certain uses, observers say.

This new approach to deciding what uses to drop worries growers of specialty crops such as nuts, spices, and fruits, who need pesticides, but do not plant vast acreage and are not as economically influential as say, wheat or soybean growers.

"We're nervous about the implementation of FQPA," says Ed Ruckert, a spokesman for the Minor Crop Farmer Alliance. His membership of about 150 farm producer organizations is concerned about whether the same pesticides will be available or whether new ones will come on the market to replace the old ones.

Farmers know there are certain pests and diseases that will have to be con-

tained, Ruckert said. Now they wonder what tools will be available for that job, he said.

Specifically, the new law forces EPA to conduct highly complex scientific analyses of pesticides and cancel some uses when the total risks exceed EPA's interpretation of new risk standard, according to Penelope Fenner-Crisp, deputy director of EPA's pesticide office. The FQPA directs the agency to estimate the total or cumulative risks from all uses of a pesticide and then, if the total exposure is above a certain level, eliminate uses until the expected exposure level drops. For example, one pesticide could be authorized for use on food crops, to control bugs in homes, or to eliminate weeds on a lawn.

The law also directs EPA to review simultaneously all pesticides that cause problems in the same target organ and all pesticides that cause health effects through the same biological mechanism, says Fenner-Crisp.

These changes sent EPA a clear message from Congress, she added. The agency's historical approach of reviewing pesticides on a chemical-by-chemical basis and setting legal limits for their residues in foods without considering possible consequences of other exposures to that pesticide—such as its use in lawn care products—is no longer acceptable.

EPA announced the first three classes of pesticides it will review under the new law. They are: organophosphates, carbamates and B2 carcinogens (pesticides classified as "possible" carcinogens).

Under the old system which had a few government and industry officials deciding behind closed doors about alterations of pesticide use, news reports of "voluntary cancellations" would follow looking like a "win-win" situation for everyone. Now with the new law and a significantly expanded group of affected and concerned people involved in negotiations, the process by which these decisions are made will certainly generate news.

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*Sara Thurin Rollin is a reporter for the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.*

### Contacts:

- Environmental Working Group  
Richard Wiles, (202) 667-6982
- National Association of State Dept of Agriculture, Mark Nestlen, (202) 296-9680
- Minor Crop Farmer Alliance, Ed Ruckert, (202) 778-8214
- National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Jay Feldman, (202) 543-5450
- American Crop Protection Association  
Christopher Close, (202) 296-1585



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# Clean air: Does it have to cost jobs?

By MIKE WRIGHT

Many industry groups are attacking the Environmental Protection Agency's proposals for tough new regulations against ozone and fine particle pollution as ruinous. New controls, they say, would be so expensive that some plants would be forced to close. In fact, the standard might not be feasible for entire industries. The implication is that millions of jobs might disappear. One consulting firm estimates that particulate regulation alone would destroy more than a million jobs and put an additional eight million "at risk."

On March 12th, the United Steelworkers of America filed comments with EPA supporting the proposal. Why would a union representing workers in the steel industry as well as in other industries most affected by the proposals—tire and rubber, aluminum, hard-rock mining, chemicals, and oil refining—support regulations which seem so contrary to its own best interests? Because it is our parents—some with their lungs impaired by years of work in dusty jobs—and our children, who are most at risk from air pollution.

EPA estimates that the new particulate regulations will save 20,000 lives per year, and protect many more from asthma and other respiratory diseases. One of the studies EPA used to support its proposals found that hospital admissions for respiratory ailments among young children in Provo, Utah, shot up when a local steel mill reopened after a labor dispute.

Steelworkers have also come to mistrust claims about lost jobs. When the Union negotiates for higher wages, improved benefits, or safer working conditions, the company usually warns of job losses. In investigating further, we find the claims are rarely true. In fact, the companies that talk most about protecting jobs are sometimes the ones most eager to downsize in the hope Wall Street will drive up the stock price.

More fundamentally, the Union rejects the claim that there is an inherent conflict between jobs and the environment. If protecting the environment hurts the economy, one would expect the areas with the worst pollution to have the best

economic conditions. Exactly the opposite is true. A 1994 study by the Institute for Southern Studies showed that the states with the healthiest economies also ranked the highest for environmental protection.

The Union faced this issue squarely in 1990, when more than 2,000 delegates to its biennial convention debated and adopted a detailed environmental policy statement. The statement asks: "What kind of jobs will be possible in a world of depleted resources, poisoned water, and foul air, a world where ozone depletion

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## Viewpoints

**is a regular feature offering a forum to those who deal with environmental issues in the media. Opposing viewpoints are welcome.**

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and greenhouse warming make it difficult even to survive? Even in the short run, companies that exist only by destroying their resource base, or pushing their environmental costs off onto others, will not be in business very long."

However, if the Steelworkers have learned that jobs and the environment can be protected together, we have also learned that it will not happen automatically. The Provo study led to a community outcry against the steel mill for health reasons. Its owner, USX, wanted to close the mill for economic reasons. Instead, a group of investors bought the mill from USX and the resulting company, Geneva Steel, worked with the Steelworkers to improve efficiency and cut pollution levels. Today the mill is operating and enjoys wide community support.

Another example of labor working to protect the environment is the 1992 regulatory negotiation that established a new EPA standard for coke oven emissions. Coke oven batteries are banks of furnaces where coal is heated in the absence of air to produce coke, a form of carbon used to produce iron from iron ore later in the steelmaking process. Heating the coal, or "coking," drives off impurities which are commercially valuable, but toxic. EPA was under a Congressional mandate to

write a new regulation. The 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act required dramatic reductions in coke oven pollution—so large that some industry groups predicted that the law would lead to the closure of the entire coke industry, and a U.S. reliance on foreign sources.

The Agency chose to write the regulation through regulatory negotiation. The parties included two industry trade associations, environmental organizations, state and local air pollution control agencies, EPA, and the Steelworkers Union, which played a bridging role in the negotiations between industry and environmentalists. We brought scores of coke plant workers to the meetings, men and women who knew more about the day-to-day operation of coke batteries and how to reduce emissions than anyone else in the room.

The negotiations took ten months of hard work, but the final regulation went well beyond the targets established by Congress and did so at a lower cost than anyone had thought possible. Today, most coke plants are still in business. In fact, none have closed as a direct result of the new regulations. One new coke plant came on line during the negotiations and another new plant has been proposed. Far from costing jobs, the work practice requirements of the new standard created jobs. In fact, an increasing number of Steelworker jobs depend on environmental protection. After all, someone has to design the cleaner process or equipment. Then someone has to build it, install it, operate it and maintain it.

In the coming months, the Union will be working with EPA, environmental organizations, and industry to devise control strategies for ozone and particulates that protect both the environment and jobs. It won't be easy, but we insist that it is possible. There is simply no alternative. As the Union's 1990 statement puts it: "The real choice is not jobs or environment. It is both or neither."

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*Mike Wright is director of health, safety and environment for the United Steelworkers of America.*

## Cutting edge coverage

*THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: A JOURNEY AT THE DAWN OF THE 21ST CENTURY*

by Robert D. Kaplan.

Random House, 1996

476 pages. \$27.50.

Media organizations tend to station their foreign correspondents and news bureaus in major cities, such as London, Paris, Moscow, Tokyo, and Beijing. This is based on the belief that most important international news occurs in the capitals of major world powers.

Robert Kaplan, contributing editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, takes a different view. As society looks to the 21st century, he believes that many important developments will occur not in the world's major political centers, but in the poorer, more desolate regions of the world.

Environmental factors such as overpopulation, ecological degradation and the spread of diseases because of pollution will more dramatically alter the world's landscapes, Kaplan argues, than the decisions made by elite politicians in the world's glamorous cities.

*The Ends of the Earth* paints an overwhelmingly bleak portrait of many of the poorer regions of the world. Kaplan has traveled to countries rarely visited by journalists: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Turkestan, Kyrgystan, western China, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Laos. By Western standards, everyday life in these nations is frequently corrupt, violent, depressing, and hopelessly poor.

In the wake of the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, Kaplan sees the collapse of many central governments and the rise of ethnic conflicts. He wonders if "...a second Cold War might be upon us—a protracted struggle between ourselves and the demons of crime, population pressure, environmental degradation, disease, and culture conflict."

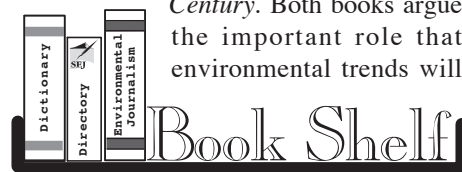
This view might seem overly pessimistic, were it not for Kaplan's track record. In his previous best-seller, "Balkan Ghosts," Kaplan was one of the first American writers to warn of the bitter ethnic rivalries that would tear apart the former Yugoslavia.

But not all of *To the Ends of the Earth* is doom and gloom. Kaplan shows how in India's Rishi Valley, people are

working to create a sustainable society of organic farms, solar power and ecologically-sound technology.

While he applauds the efforts of this community—inspired by the vision of the Indian philosopher Krishnamurti—he wonders whether this model can be successfully transported to other cultures.

Kaplan's book complements more theoretical recent works, such as Paul Kennedy's *Preparing for the Twenty-first Century*. Both books argue the important role that environmental trends will



play in the coming decades—but Kaplan's vivid scenes and graphic anecdotes bring the message home in a way that resonates more powerfully.

—Jim Detjen

## Green trade bible

*GREEN MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT:*

*A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE*

by John F. Wasik

Blackwell, 1996, \$22.95 (paper)

John F. Wasik, a senior editor at *Consumer Digest Magazine*, provides just about everything you need to know about selling "green" consumer products domestically and abroad. Although the book is aimed at corporate marketing types, there's a wealth of information here for reporters investigating the validity of green marketing.

Wasik defines green marketing, and lists the most common misleading labels: earth-friendly, atmosphere-friendly, and eco-friendly, for starters. He details the Federal Trade Commission's 1992 standards for green claims, and provides a brief history of green fraud, from the Mobil Oil Company (the Hefty bags didn't biodegrade) to GE (those Energy Choice lightbulbs didn't save energy). He also discusses the difficulty of rating multinational corporations as holistic managers and environmental stewards, and provides a comprehensive checklist for analyzing performance.

It's worth the price of the book for the list of leading multinational marketers of consumer products, complete with addresses and phone numbers.

—Nancy Shute

## The cozy world of chemicals

*TOXIC DECEPTION:*

*HOW THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MANIPULATES SCIENCE, BENDS THE LAW AND ENDANGERS YOUR HEALTH*

by Dan Fagin, Marianne Lavelle and the Center for Public Integrity  
Birch Lane Press, 1997, \$24.95

Nobody following President Clinton's recent difficulties with deep-pocketed political contributors would be surprised to learn that many large corporations believe that money equals access.

In *Toxic Deception*, Fagin, the environmental reporter for *Newsday*, Lavelle, a writer for the *National Law Journal*, and the Center for Public Integrity, a Washington, D.C., watchdog organization, document that the same corporations who give big to members of Congress also get treated very well by the Environmental Protection Agency when it comes time to regulate their more toxic products. This is particularly true with formaldehyde, the dry-cleaning solvent perchloroethylene, and the pesticides atrazine and alachlor.

Part of the problem is systemic: chemical manufacturers finance the private studies that test the safety of their products, and EPA provides precious little oversight of the process. But the authors also document how chemical manufacturers control the scientific review process, from planting their own researchers on review boards and financing conferences for EPA staffers to deploying squads of lawyers when the government suggests that the safety data is shoddy or fraudulent.

This is not a new situation, alas; back in the 1970s Congress demanded reform after Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories was found to have faked results for EPA safety studies. According to the authors, the situation has gotten worse, if anything, since then.

"Where are the government watchdogs?" They ask. "They are twisted up in their own leashes." Instead of serving as a mere mediator of interest groups, they write, EPA should become the public advocate the law intended it to be, devoted to delivering accurate, unbiased information to consumers.

—Nancy Shute

## April

**18-19. The Interface Between Ecology and Land Development in California** (sponsored by Occidental College). Los Angeles. Contact Jon E. Keeley, Dept. of Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA. 90041.

**19-20. Spatial Data and Remote Sensing in Invertebrate Fisheries Habitat, Research and Management** (with sessions on algal blooms, protecting reefs, tracking commercial fishing vessels, and quantifying stocks). Fort Walton Beach, FL. Contact: Gary Smith, Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, 904 S. Morris St., Oxford, MS 21654.

**19-24. Environmental Mutagen Society** annual meeting. Minneapolis. Contact: Sid Aaron, Pharmacia and Upjohn Inc., 301 Henrietta St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Ph: (616) 833-1399; FAX: (616) 833-9722; E-mail: saaron@am.pnu.com.

**22-23. International Conference on Water Pollution and Health.** Chicago. Contact: Betty Farley, National Association of Physicians for the Environment, 6410 Rockledge Dr., Ste. 412, Bethesda MD 20817. Ph: (301) 571-9790; Fax: (301) 530-8910; E-mail: nape@ix.netcom.com

**24-26. Cover Crops, Soil Quality, and Ecosystems** (sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society). Sacramento. Contact: SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021-9764. Ph: (515) 289-1227.

**28-May 1. International Symposium on In-situ and On-site Bioremediation** (with sessions on degradation of chlorinated solvents, composting contaminated soils and sludges, genetically engineered cleanup microbes, and degradation by growing plants). New Orleans. Contact: The Conference Group, 1989 W. 5th Ave., Columbus, OH 43212. Ph: (800) 783-6338; Fax: (614) 424-3667; E-mail: (technical-program coordinator, Bruce Alleman) allemanb@battelle.org

**28-May 3. Calculating and Understanding Risk from Radionuclides Released to the Environment.** Santa Fe. Contact: Phoebe Boelter, Conference and Publications Services, 1715 N. Wells St., Ste. 34, Chicago, IL 60614.

## MAY

**1-2. Facing Challenges—and Doing the Right Thing** (a spring meeting of the American Crop Protection Association, representing pesticide manufacturers, focusing on risk issues and industry-stewardship issues). Washington, DC. Contact: Lisa Ness, 1156 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. Ph: (202) 872-3848. E-mail: lisa@acpa.org

**2-4. How Public Interest Scientists Are Having An Impact: From Toxics to Biodiversity** (sessions on privatization of the natural world, study of threatened grizzly bears, debunking local myths on toxics and wetlands, and role of science in multistakeholder consensus building). Eugene, OR. Contact: Tracy Norris, Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1229. Ph: (541) 346-5194; E-mail: pisc@darkwing.uoregon.edu; Web: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pisc>

**4-6. Air Quality and Public Health: Advancing Our Understanding of Particles and Ozone** (sponsored by the Health Effects Institute). Annapolis, MD. Contact: Gail Allosso, HEI, 955 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139. Ph: (617) 876-6700; Fax: (617) 876-6709; E-mail: gallosso@healtheffects.org

**4-6. Pollution Prevention: Tools to Make It Happen** (sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Center for Waste Reduction, sessions include life-cycle evaluations of a product's costs, industrial ecology, and case studies). East Rutherford, NJ. Contact: Joseph J. Cramer, AICH, 345 E. 47th St., NYC 10017. Ph: (212) 705-7950; Fax: (212) 752-3297.

**5-6. Endocrine Disruptors** (with sessions on risk assessments, human male-reproductive controversy, assays for hormone mimics, and detecting estrogenic drugs in the environment). Washington, DC. Contact: International Business Communications. Ph: (508) 481-6400; Fax: (508) 481-7911; E-mail: inq@abcusa.com; Web: <http://www.io.org/~ibc/endocrine>

**7-9. Communities Working for Wetlands** (with sessions on such topics as “who makes the bucks on mitigation banking,” the role of wetlands in watershed health, citizen-led restoration projects, and working with private land owners). Alexandria, VA. Contact: Stacey Satagaj, Terrene Institute, 4 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305. Ph: (703) 548-5473; Fax: (703) 548-6299; E-mail: terrene@gnn.com

**11-14. Conference on Incineration and Thermal Treatment Technologies.** Oakland, CA. Contact: Lori B. Cohen, University of California, Environmental Health and Safety Program, Irvine, CA 92697-2725.

**15-16. Ecosystems Restoration and Creation** (sponsored by Hillsborough Community College Institute of Florida Studies). Tampa. Contact: Frederick Webb, Dean of Environmental Programs, Hillsborough Community College, Plant City Campus, 1206 N. Park Rd., Plant City, FL 33566. PH: (813) 757-2104; E-mail: webb@mail.hcc.cc.fl.us

**17-18. First National Conference on Habitat Conservation Plans** (sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation). Washington, DC. Contact: Ben McNitt, NWF Public Affairs. Ph: (201) 797-6855.

**25-30. Solar Energy Forum** (covering technology, economics and policy issues). Washington DC. Contact: Michelle Birkenstock, Solar Energy Industries Association. Ph: (202) 383-2620; Fax: (202) 383-2670.

**26-29. International Global Warming Conference** (sponsored by the Global Warming International Center and Columbia University: Earth Engineering Center). New York City. Contact: Sinyan Shen, director, GWIC, P.O. Box 5275, Woodridge, IL 60517-0275. Ph: (630) 910-1551; Fax: (630) 910-1561; E-mail: syshen@megsinet.net

**27-30. Soil Ecology: Understanding and Preserving Soil Systems** (biennial meeting of the Soil Ecology Society). Manhattan, KS. Contact: President John Blair, Division of Biology, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506-4901. Fax: (913) 532-6653; E-mail: jblair@iter-konza.konza.ksu.edu

## JUNE

**1-3. Agricultural Biotechnology: Resource Management in Challenged Environments** (with sessions on new products, conserving biodiversity, and maintaining sustainability). Saskatoon. Contact: Jane Segelken, National Agricultural Biotechnology Council, 419 Boyce Thompson Inst., Tower Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853. Ph: (607) 254-4856; Fax: (607) 254-1242; E-mail: nabc@cornell.edu; Web: <http://www.cals.comell.edu/extension/nabo>

**8-13. Air & Waste Management Association** annual meeting (with 172 sessions on such topics as particulates and health, air-pollution damage to monuments, indoor air quality, dioxins emitted by haz-waste incinerators, and air toxics in the Great Lakes). Toronto. Contact: Maureen Brown, A&WMA, 1 Gateway Ctr., 3rd Fl., Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Ph: (412) 232-3444 ext. 3122; Fax: (412) 232-3450; E-mail: mbrown@awma.org.

**12-13. International Climate Change Conference** (with sessions on incorporating climate change information into corporate strategies). Baltimore. Contact: Heather Tardel, ICCG, P.O. Box 236, Frederick, MD 21701. Ph: (301) 695-3762; Fax: (301) 695-0175

**12-15. Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) National Conference**, Phoenix, AZ. Contact: IRE, 138 Neff Hall Annex, Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia, MO., 65211. Ph: (573) 882-2042.

**18-19. International Symposium on Phytoremediation** (with sessions on how to use growing plants to clean up everything from heavy metals and chlorinated solvents to radionuclides). Seattle. Contact: Marek Nowakowski, International Business Communications. Ph: (508) 481-6400 ext. 451; Fax: (508) 481-4473.

**24-26. 1st Biennial North American Forest Ecology Workshop** (sponsored by the Society of American Foresters, with sessions on climate-induced changes, wildlife impacts of forest changes, and biodiversity implications of forest changes). Raleigh, NC. Contact: James Cook, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Ph: (715) 346-2269; E-mail: jcook@uwsp.edu

**29-July 3. American Water Resources Association** annual meeting. Keystone, CO. Contact: John J. Warwick, University of Nevada, 1000 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512-0180. Fax: (802) 784-1953; E-mail: keystone@dream.unr.edu

## JULY

**July 3-7. Biodiversity: Global Issues** (the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences). Montreal. Contact: M. Maury, AIBS, 1444 Eye St., NW, Ste. 200, Washington DC 20005. Ph:(202) 628-1500; E-mail: mmaury@aibs.org

**23-26. Managing Ecosystems on a Watershed Basis** (the annual meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, with sessions on wetlands management, ecosystem restoration, tillage

erosion, and determining which degraded environments are worthwhile restoring). Toronto. Contact: SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021-9764. Ph: (515) 289-2331 or 1-800-THE-SOIL; Fax: (515) 289-1227; E-mail; swcs@swcs.org; Web: <http://www.swcs.org>

## SELECT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

**June 1-5. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program's International Symposium on Environmental Pollution of the Arctic and 3rd International Conference on Radioactivity in the Arctic** (with sessions on heavy metals, acidification, oil, climate change, and health of indigenous peoples). Tromsø, Norway. Contact: AMAP Secretariat, P.O. Box 8100 dep, N-0032 Oslo, Norway; Fax: 011-47-22-67-67-06.

**June 9-13. Productive Reuse of Former Military Sites** (sponsored by the US Defense Special Weapons Agency and several Belarus ministries, it will focus on sharing experiences on how to clean up and convert former strategic missile sites in this former Soviet republic—and other places—to industrial, residential, and recreational use). Minsk, Belarus. Contact: Janet Smith, Arthur D. Little, Acorn Park, Cambridge, MA 02140-2390. Ph: (617) 498-5477; Fax: (617) 498-7019; E-mail: Smith.Janet@ADLittle.com

**June 15-20. Tropical Diversity: Origins, Maintenance, and Conservation** (sponsored by the Association for Tropical Biology and Organization for Tropical Studies). San Jose, Costa Rica. Contact: Gorge A. Jimenez, program chair, OTS, P.O. Box 676-2050, San Jose, Costa Rica. E-mail: atbots@ns.ots.ac.cr

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

• **May 1.** The Foundations for American Communications (FACS) is convening an **Institute on Economics for Journalists**. Applicants should register early as only 25 reporters will be admitted. The workshop will take place in Marshall, CA, from August 16-22. Contact FACS (see next).

• Also in May, together with the *Detroit News*, FACS is co-sponsoring **Covering Land Use and the Environment**, a conference for reporters, in Detroit, MI, from June 6-9. The meeting plans to focus on economic, legal and policy questions confronting journalists. Contact for both events: Chris Gardner, FACS, 3800 Barham Blvd., Suite. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Ph: (213) 851-7372; Fax: (213) 851-9186; E-mail: facs@facenet.org

• **August 1.** The Whitaker Foundation is accepting awards entries for the **American Association for the Advancement of Science's science journalism awards**. Entrants must have published nominated work (up to 3 submissions) between June 30, 1996 and July 1, 1997. It's open to newspaper, magazine, and broadcast stories on nonmedical topics that were intended for a general audience. Contact: AAAS Office of News and Information, 1200 New York Ave., NW, Washington DC 20005. Ph: (202) 326-6440; Fax: (202) 789-0455.



## Society of Environmental Journalists Application for Membership

### Instructions:

1. Fill out application carefully and completely. Attach additional pages if necessary.  
*Incomplete applications will be returned.*
2. Attach a current resume or brief biography.
3. Mail to: Society of Environmental Journalists  
Membership Department  
P. O. Box 27280  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Please include \$35 with your application. (Students: \$30) Payment options are noted below.

(Please print legibly. Include e-business card if possible.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Employer or University \_\_\_\_\_

Publication or Department \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Area of Employment (Check one only):

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Author     Educator     Freelancer     Government     Magazine

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

News service     Newsletter     Newspaper     Nonprofit     Photographer

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher     Radio     Student     Television     University

\* Home phone number will not be listed in the directory.

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. Applicants must be substantially engaged in journalistic pursuits.

Please Note: SEJ bylaws preclude membership eligibility of public relations professionals.  
SEJ's quarterly, the *SEJournal*, is available by subscription to non-members.

*Applicants will be notified in writing of the membership status granted.*

### Payment Information:

Please make your check or money order out to the Society of Environmental Journalists

Check Enclosed



For credit payment, please circle one or fill in the information below

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## To Be Completed by All Applicants:

Briefly describe duties \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently involved in any lobbying or public relations work?  Yes  No

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

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

## To Be Completed by Applicants for Active or Associate Membership.

Is your employer or organization, or the organizations to which you submit works, 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 or the organizations to which you submit works supported by:

advertising  paid subscriptions  membership dues  other

If "other", please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed By Applicants Signifying Freelancer as Primary Area of Employment

*Please complete the following with as much detail as possible:*

Full Time Freelancer: How long? (Starting date) \_\_\_\_\_

Part Time Freelancer: How long? (Starting date) \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of working time in journalism: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list publications and/or organizations who have published your work: (Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.)

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## To Be Completed by All Applicants:

I hereby apply for membership in the Society of Environmental Journalists and do attest that the information I have provided on this form is true and complete. I understand the Board of Directors retains sole authority in determining eligibility for membership in any category. I understand that my continuing eligibility depends upon my employment being acceptable for membership by the terms of the SEJ bylaws, and upon my returning a completed survey each year to the membership committee. I further understand that if I engage in professional activity which renders me ineligible for membership in SEJ, I will notify the membership committee and have my name withdrawn from the membership rolls.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Office Use Only

Status Assigantion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes

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# New Members

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The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from December 1996 through March, 1997. Memberships recorded after April 1 will appear in *SEJournal* volume 7, Number 1.

## ARIZONA

- Keith Bagwell (Active), *The Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson
- Lukas Velush (Active), *Arizona Daily Sun*, Flagstaff

## CALIFORNIA

- Alex Barnum (Active), *San Francisco Chronicle*, San Francisco
- Tracy Baxter (Associate), Sierra Club, *Sierra Magazine*, San Francisco
- Michael Di Paola (Academic), Monterey Institute of International Studies, International Environmental Policy, Monterey
- Mark Dowie (Active), Point Reyes Station
- Jennie Fitzhugh (Academic) San Jose State University Journalism Department, Porterville
- Wendee Holtcamp (Associate), Pasadena
- John Krist (Active), *Ventura County Newspapers*, *Ventura County Star*
- John Tipton (Active) *Porterville Recorder*, Porterville

## COLORADO

- Karen Price (Academic), University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Boulder

## CONNECTICUT

- David Behrend (Active), *The Hour*, Norwalk
- Jessica Speart (Active), Easton

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Suzanne E. Clarke (Active), Public Education Center, Natural Resources News Service
- Mary Greczyn (Active), Crain Communications, *Waste News*

## DELAWARE

- Dennis Thompson (Active), Gannett, *The News Journal*, New Castle

## FLORIDA

- Kristen Kusek (Academic), University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
- Tom Spisak (Active), Altamonte Springs
- Julie Vorman (Active), Reuters, Miami

## GEORGIA

- Lisa A. Frank (Active), TBS/CNN Turner Environment Division, Atlanta
- Kristine H. Lohr (Active), TBS/CNN

## Environmental Division Atlanta

## IDAHO

- Stephen Schowengerdt (Active) Environmental News Network, ENN Online, Sun Valley

## ILLINOIS

- Scott Anderson (Academic), Southern Illinois University, *Alestle*, Edwardsville
- Stuart L. Deutsch (Academic), Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago
- Daniel Ferber (Academic), University of Illinois, Journalism Dept., Urbana
- Peter Kendall (Active), *Chicago Tribune*

## INDIANA

- Michael Crook (Associate), *Green Cross Magazine*, Richmond

## KANSAS

- Gina Kellogg Hogan (Active), Intertec Publishing Corp., *Grounds Maintenance Magazine*, Overland Park

## MASSACHUSETTS

- Carolyn Kindahl (Academic), University of Massachusetts, Northampton

## MARYLAND

- Jody Becker (Active), *Soil & Groundwater Cleanup*, Independence
- Steve Davies (Active), Poplar Publishing, *Endangered Species & Wetlands Report*, Takoma Park

## MAINE

- David Malakoff (Associate), Bar Harbor

## MICHIGAN

- Douglas Henze (Active), ABC Publishing Group, *The Oakland Press*, Pontiac
- Ike Iyioke (Academic), Michigan State University School of Journalism, East Lansing

## MISSOURI

- Kathy Love (Associate), Missouri Department. of Conservation, *Missouri Conservationist Magazine*, Jefferson City
- Charlotte Overby (Associate), *Missouri Conservationist Magazine*, Columbia

## MONTANA

- Steve Coffel (Associate), Florence

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Robert Warren (Active), *High Point Enterprise*, High Point

## NEW JERSEY

- Tina Traster (Active), *The Record* Wayne

## NEVADA

- William Casey (Academic), University of Nevada, Reno Incline Village

## NEW YORK

- Gretel Schueller (Academic), New York University, Huntington

## OREGON

- Carol Savonen (Associate), Oregon State University Extension & Experiment Station, Communication Dept., Corvallis

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Holly Stratts (Associate), Villanova University, *Villanova Magazine*, Villanova

## TEXAS

- Tamar Charry (Active), *The New York Times*, Dallas
- John Clark (Active), *Valley Morning Star*, Harlingen

## UTAH

- John Daley (Active), KTVX-TV, Salt Lake City
- Edward C. Pease (Academic), Utah State University Department of Communication, Logan

## VIRGINIA

- Robert Burke (Active), *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg
- Beth E. Herzberger (Active), Pasha Publications, *Defense Cleanup*, Arlington
- John Staunton (Active), Inside Washington Publishers, *Clean Air Report*, Arlington

## VERMONT

- John D. Sinclair (Academic), Vermont College of Norwich University, Brattleboro

## WASHINGTON

- Dan Lamont (Active), Seattle
- Laura Coffey (Active) *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*, Seattle

## WISCONSIN

- Andrea Rowe (Active), University Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WUWM-FM, Milwaukee

## WEST VIRGINIA

- Diana Knott (Associate), West Virginia University, Environmental Services and Training Division, Morgantown
- Scott Shalaway (Active), Cameron

## AUSTRALIA

- Yoshiko Ohkura (Academic), University of Adelaide Centre for Asian Studies, Adelaide, SA

## SWEDEN

- Miki Dedijer (Active), Footloose Media, Stockholm

# 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** — Sean Reilly, *Anniston Star* Montgomery Bureau, 1621 Deatsville Hwy., Millbrook, AL 36054, (205) 264-8711.

**Alaska** — Vacant.

**Arizona and New Mexico** — Vacant

**Arkansas** — Vacant

**California:**

Northern California — Laura Mahoney, BNA, 770 L St., Suite 910, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 552-6502.

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

Southern California — Marni McEntee, *Los Angeles Daily News*, 20132 Observation Drive, Topanga, CA 90290, (805) 641-0542.

**Colorado** — Ronald Baird, *Colorado Daily*, 839 Pearl St., Boulder, CO, 80302, (303) 443-6272.

**Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts** — Bob Wyss at the *Providence Journal*, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902, (401) 737-3000.

**District of Columbia** — Cheryl Hogue, BNA, *Daily Environment Report*, 1231 25th St., N.W., Room 361-S, Wash., DC 20037, (202) 452-4625, fax (202) 452-4150.

**Florida:**

North Florida — Bruce Ritchie at the *Gainesville Sun*, P.O. Box 147147, Gainesville, FL 32614, (904) 374-5087

**South Florida** — Vacant.

**Georgia and South Carolina** — Ron Chepsuik, 782 Wofford St., Rock Hill, SC 29730, (803) 366-5440.

**Hawaii** — Joan Conrow at the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Kawai Bureau, PO. Box 3404, Lihue, HI, 96776, (808) 828-0620.

**Idaho** — Rocky Barker of the *Post-Register*, 1020 11th St., Idaho Falls, ID, 83404, (208) 529-8508 or Julie Titone

of the *Spokesman Review & Chronicle*, (509) 459-5431

**Illinois** — John Wasik at *Consumers Digest*, P.O. Box 51, Wauconda, IL, 60684, (302) 275-3590.

**Iowa** — Perry Beeman at the *Des Moines Register*, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50304, (515) 284-8538.

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

**Kentucky** — Vacant.

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

**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont** — Robert Braile, *Boston Globe* correspondent, P.O. Box 1907, Exeter, N.H., 03833, (603) 772-6380.

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

**Michigan** — John A. Palen, at Central Michigan University, Journalism Dept. Anspach 36, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859, (517) 774-7110.

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

**Missouri** — Bill Allen, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101, (314) 340-8127.

**Montana** — Mike Millstein of the *Billings Gazette*, P.O. Box 821, Cody WY 82414, (307) 527-7250.

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

**New Jersey** — Peter Page at the *Trenton Times*, 513 Berwyn Road, Morrisville, PA, 19067, (609) 989-5701.

**New York** — Carol Kaplan at *WGRZ-TV*, 259 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY, 14202, (716) 849-5756, Fax: (716) 849-5706.

**Nevada** — Mary Manning at the *Las Vegas Sun*, 800 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107, (702) 259-4065 or Jon Christiansen of *Great Basin News*, 6185 Franktown Road, Carson City, NV 89704, (702) 882-3990.

**Ohio, Indiana** — Charlie Prince at *Ohio Environmental Reporter*, 516 Ludlow Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45220, (513) 221-0954.

**Oregon** — Orna Izakson, *The News Journal*, 261 S.W. 30th Street, Newport, OR 97356-3624, (503) 265-8571.

**Pennsylvania** — John Bartlett, *Erie Daily Times*, 513 13th St., Franklin, PA 16323, (814) 437-6397.

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

**Rocky Mountain Region** — Elizabeth Manning, *High Country News*, P.O. Box 1274, Paonia, CO 81428, (303) 527-4898

**Tennessee and Mississippi** — Debbie Gilbert at *The Memphis Flyer*, 460 Tennessee St., Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 521-9000.

**Texas and Oklahoma:**

North Texas and Oklahoma — Randy Loftis at *The Dallas Morning News*, 508 Young St., Dallas, TX 75202, (800) 431-0010.

Central and West Texas — Robert Bryce at *The Austin Chronicle*, 3812 Brookview, Austin, TX 78722, (512) 454-5766

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

**Utah and Wyoming** — Rod C. Jackson, KTVX-TV, 1760 S. Fremont Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84103, (801) 975-4418.

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

**Washington State** — Rob Taylor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* at 18719 S.E. 58th St., Issaquah, WA 98027, (206) 488-8337 and Julie Titone of 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** — Chuck Quirnbach of *Wisconsin Public Radio*, 111 E. Kilbourn Ave., #1060, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-8686 or (608) 263-7985.

## Greenbeat correspondents needed

Please note openings in several states. If you are interested in filling one of these volunteer positions, contact Kevin Carmody at (708) 633-5970. Positions are open to any SEJ members, though preference will be given to journalists or educators.



## CALIFORNIA

► The Mexican government and Japanese industrial giant Mitsubishi want to expand the world's largest salt plant into a Baja California lagoon where gray whales breed and raise their young. Mexican and U.S. environmentalists are fighting to preserve the pristine San Ignacio Lagoon, an age-old winter stopover on a 5,000-mile migration route for the whales. Villagers at Punta Abreojos would see drastic changes if the new big factory proposed by Exportadora de Sal brought in more people, waste, and development. The two-part series ran March 13 and 14. Call *Contra Costa Times* reporters Jim Bruggers and Marie Camposeco at (510) 943-8246.

► In the March issue of *George* magazine, Sausalito writer David Helvarg's story titled "Dreamweavers" tells how Hollywood moguls Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, and Jeffrey Katzenberg and their "Dreamworks" company have teamed up with a major developer to build a studio/city complex on 1,100 undeveloped acres that includes LA's last wetland. Despite environmental protests, Hollywood greens and the Clinton administration (which has received major contributions from the above parties) have either kept silent or been supportive of the proposed development. Contact Helvarg at (415) 331-3717.

► Cops with a cause enforce laws against poaching and other crimes against marine mammals in "When Uncle Sam's Fish Cops Reel in a Suspect, He's Usually a Keeper." The profile of the Nat'l Marine Fisheries Service's small police crew appeared in the Feb. issue of *Smithsonian*. Call David Helvarg at (415) 331-3717.

► Todd Woody traveled to San Ysidro on the U.S.-Mexico border to uncover the story of "frio banditos," or "cold bandits," who smuggle Freon, a banned car air-conditioner coolant, into the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Justice Department, the Customs Service, and the Central Intelligence Agency have pooled resources to crack down on the small and large illegal traffickers who threaten to undermine a global treaty to phase out ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons, or

CFCs. "The Freon Border War" appeared February 28 in *The Recorder*, a Bay Area legal newspaper. Call Todd Woody at (415) 749-5500.

► Bay Area smog regulators levy such small fines for clean-air violations that industries find it cheaper to keep polluting than to correct problems, concluded a draft federal study obtained by the *San Francisco Examiner*. Fines imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District averaged \$426 per violation, compared to \$2,792 for its L.A. counterpart and more than \$30,000 for cases handled by the US EPA, according to the study conducted by the EPA's Office of Inspector General. The local air district often fails to escalate fines for repeat violations, make penalties commensurate with offenses, and publicize enforcement. The March 23 *Examiner* story, said the inspector general's findings mirrored those of the *Examiner's* own survey of penalties on Bay Area oil refineries. On February 9 the *Examiner* reported that a computer-assisted analysis of fines over seven years found the major refineries paid a median penalty of \$625 for serious violations. Call Jane Kay at (415) 777-8704.

► California Dept. of Fish and Game fired a warden for accepting gifts from a Southern California company that contracts with the agency to clean up oil spills, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Feb. 6. The dismissal and the reprimands of a captain and a lieutenant were the result of a six-month probe that has shaken up Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, which is responsible for protecting water and wildlife from oil spills. Call Alex Barnum at (415) 777-7184.

► Ending 30 years of environmental battles, a Menlo Park conservation group reached an agreement to buy Bair Island, the largest unprotected wetland area long the southern shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The non-profit Peninsula Open Space trust will pay Japanese developer Kumagai Gumi Co. Ltd. \$15 million for the 1,626-acre property east of Redwood City. The trust's director, Audrey Rust says, "Our motto is, if they haven't paved it, we can still save it." The marshlands and sloughs will escape development to

become a permanent refuge for 125 species of resident and migrating birds, including five endangered species: California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, California least tern, peregrine falcon, and brown pelican. The story appeared Jan. 16 in the *San Jose Mercury News*. Call Paul Rogers or Heidi Van Zant at (408) 920-5045.

► The signs of a growing epidemic in the evergreen forests of the Monterey Peninsula are hard to miss: tips of branches turning brown as if singed by fire, and tree trunks oozing a sticky, amber mess. The Monterey pines, already reduced to a few tiny fragments of their former range, are dying. First discovered in 1986, a virulent and incurable fungus known as pine pitch canker has spread to 17 coastal and inland counties and could destroy about 85 percent of the native forest within a decade. The story appeared Dec. 26. in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Call Alex Barnum at (415) 777-7184.

► *Contra Costa Times* reporter Jim Bruggers tracked down a dumping ground for the Bay Area's DDT-laced soil in the little desert town of Mobile, AZ, 50 miles southwest of Phoenix. The mud dredged out of a Richmond canal was considered hazardous under California law but acceptable in Arizona. Grassroots groups in Richmond and Mobile joined with Greenpeace to raise environmental justice issues with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA stopped the transfer and began looking at a Utah site in Carbon City. Environmental justice experts say this is one of the few times people actually linked at both the source and the destination and had an impact on public policy. The story ran Dec. 22. Call Jim Bruggers at (510) 943-8246.

## CONNECTICUT

► The EPA is auditing Connecticut's enforcement of environmental laws and there are indications it is finding serious deficiencies with water polluters. The most controversial case involves a Waterbury, CT, company, MacDermid Inc., responsible for spilling 1,500 gallons of toxic chemicals into the Naugatuck River. The spill caused a kill of 12,000 fish. Dept. of Environmental Protection officials recommended taking enforce-

ment action against MacDermid, but Environmental Commissioner Sidney J. Holbrook rejected that plan. Holbrook negotiated an informal agreement which is being criticized as too lenient. Much of the criticism centers on the company having a lengthy record of environmental violations, and having paid \$350,000 in fines. For more information, contact Dan Jones, *Hartford Courant*, (860) 241-6520.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

► Curbside recycling in the District ended abruptly Jan. 31. *Washington Post* Metro reporters have tracked why the program halted, how D.C. residents are losing their good recycling habits, and efforts to resume curbside pickups. The program, estimated to save D.C. millions a year in waste disposal costs, became a victim of D.C.'s ongoing fiscal crisis that has shifted political power from the elected mayor to the federally appointed financial control board. The control board refused to renew the contract of the company that collected paper, cans, and plastic after an unfavorable audit by the D.C. inspector general. But the District's congressional delegate says the audit was flawed and recycling should continue. The Sierra Club has filed suit to force the city to restart the program, which is required by law. Contact Martin Weil and Vernon Loeb at (202) 334-7300.

## IDAHO

► The *Idaho Statesman* ran a five-part series on floods and landslides in the Pacific Northwest called "The Floods Next Time." It showed that dams and levees only delay flooding and that roads and clearcutting have contributed to landslides, some that have been deadly. Contact Rocky Barker (208) 377-6484.

► The *Idaho Falls Post Register* is running a year-long column on Yellowstone National Park commemorating its 125th year. Contact Brandon Loomis (208) 522-1800.

## IOWA

► The *Des Moines Register* reported March 16 that Iowans are being blamed by the EPA for smog problems in Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and the Eastern Seaboard because of chemicals wafting eastward. EPA is expected to

order Iowa and neighboring states to reduce pollutants, costing Iowans at the gasoline pump and \$350-\$400 million in pollution control equipment. Iowa environment officials have pointed out that analysis using EPA's own computer model shows that shutting down every utility, industry, and car in Iowa wouldn't help the air in Chicago and points eastward. A study released by a coalition of state regulators from the Northeast, however, shows that New England won't be able to meet federal standards unless coal-fired power plants in the Midwest and Southeast are cleaned up. Air quality official Peter Hamlin has called the move an attempt by Northeast states to "steam-roll Iowa." Contact Perry Beeman at (515) 284-8538.

## LOUISIANA

► A leaking benzene barge from a Mississippi River accident dominated news in Baton Rouge in late March. Problems in dealing with the barge amid the river's floodwaters resulted in several evacuations over a period of almost two weeks. Contact Mike Dunne, *The Baton Rouge Advocate*, (504) 383-1111.

► Opening a spillway that allowed Mississippi River floodwaters to pour into Lake Pontchartrain angered commercial fishermen and conservationists, who said the decision was destructive and unnecessary. *The Baton Rouge Advocate* and *New Orleans Times-Picayune* provided extensive coverage. Contact Bob Anderson, *The Baton Rouge Advocate*, (504) 383-1111 and Mark Schleifstein, *Times Picayune*, (504) 826-3327.

► The demise of the flower-spangled Cajun Prairie was the subject of a package of stories by *The Baton Rouge Advocate's* environment editor Bob Anderson. That prairie has been reduced from 2.5 million acres to 200 acres. Contact Anderson at (504) 383-1111.

## MAINE

► The *Bangor Daily News* reported in March that the Penobscot Indian Nation asked the US EPA to take a second look at a discharge permit issued in Jan. to the Lincoln Pulp & Paper Co. The Penobscots, who have been embroiled in a lengthy debate with state and federal

officials and industry representatives over its claim to ancestral rights on the Penobscot River, told the EPA the new permit failed to protect those rights by allowing the mill to discharge dioxin into the river. The state has issued advisories since 1987 on eating fish from the river, which have contained trace amounts of dioxin. But the mill claimed the permit is among "the strictest in the nation," and that dioxin in the river has not exceeded state guidelines for years. The news came in the wake of a proposal announced in Feb. by Maine Gov. Angus King to eliminate dioxin from the state's rivers by 2002, a proposal that the Natural Resources Council of Maine blasted as "a sham," but that the EPA noted would go further than a federal plan that at the time was still in the works. Contact Andrew Kekacs at (207) 990-8149.

## MISSISSIPPI

► In advance of a public hearing on whether to open Mississippi's Gulf Coast to oil and gas drilling, Patrick Peterson of the Gulfport/Biloxi *Sun Herald* compared two Alabama coastal communities: one that accepted offshore drilling (because of revenue it provides from royalties) and one that rejected it (because the unsightly oil rigs would hurt tourism). Peterson's story ran Nov. 24; he can be reached at (601) 896-2343.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

► *The Boston Globe* reported in March that the fate of Connecticut River lies in the hands of a quiet, complex negotiation between state and federal officials, environmental and industry representatives, and New England Power Co., which owns New England's largest hydropower project, the 15 Mile Falls project in the northern reaches of the river. NEP has to sell the project's three dams, thousands of acres of open land, and other assets, as part of an agreement with its home state of Massachusetts' plan to deregulate the electric industry. Among the issues for environmentalists is whether NEP should be forced in advance of receiving a new FERC license to operate its dams with nature more in mind, or be allowed to continue operating its dams as it has, but protect its lands. The environmentalists fear that NEP's buyers may not be as environmentally attuned as

NEP, a harbinger of a possible, ecologic downside to deregulation, as utilities with generally strong environmental records liquidate their assets to unknown buyers. Contact Robert Braile at (603) 772-6380.

## OREGON

► Five deaths along Oregon's Umpqua River from landslides following heavy rains has prompted scrutiny of clearcutting on steep slopes above people's homes. The timber industry has agreed to voluntarily defer such cutting for two years while the state considers new rules to restrict logging in slide-prone areas near residences and major public roads. The Governor and the timber industry also have called for counties to defer approval of new homes in slide-prone areas. Stories on the Umpqua slides appeared Feb. 2 in *The (Portland) Oregonian* and Feb. 9 in *The (Eugene) Register Guard*. Stories on the two-year deferral plan appeared in *The Oregonian* on March 6 and in the (Newport) *News-Times* on March 7. Contact Hal Bernton at halbernton@news.oregonian.com or (503) 294-7689 or Orna Izakson at oiz@aol.com or (541) 265-8571.

► *The (Newport) News-Times* last October 4 reported that a key element of Oregon's Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative was based on flawed science according to a group of the state's own biologists. The initiative is the first of its kind by a state to take on comprehensive restoration efforts to recover a species being considered for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Gov. John Kitzhaber announced the initiative in 1995 after the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed listing all Oregon runs of coastal coho salmon as a threatened species under the ESA. State officials said in February that they changed the plan's scientific model, which sets levels for incidental coho catches as fish populations rebound, after hearing concerns from a variety of groups, including one watershed council's technical team. For more information, contact Orna Izakson at <oiz@aol.com> or (541) 265-8571.

► Oregon fishermen who travel as far as the Hawaiian islands in search of white-meat albacore tuna report increasing numbers of fish marked by driftnets, banned in 1993 under United Nations res-

olution bolstered by the threat of U.S. trade sanctions against offending nations. The killer nets can stretch for 50 miles, catching marine species indiscriminately and with the potential, opponents said, to "wipe out the whole Pacific Ocean." Oregon fishermen told *The (Newport) News-Times* that up to 10 percent of their 1996 albacore catches showed driftnet scars. Coast Guard officials say they have caught two pirate vessels since 1995; one in true pirate tradition flew no flag and had an international crew. Its captain, tried under U.S. law, received a six-month jail sentence and forfeited his vessel, fishing gear, fish, and Rolex. Officials credit the capture to the Coast Guard's streamlined process for reporting sightings. Contact Orna Izakson at oiz@aol.com or (541) 265-8571.

► On Presidents' Day Weekend Keiko, the orca star of hit movie *Free Willy*, began hurling his body at the glass windows separating him from viewers at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport. Staffers tried distracting him and feeding him into lethargy, but only a two-day closure of the public viewing area cured him of his head-butting, described by officials as normal, aggressive behavior for a teenage orca. The killer whale is known for the placid good nature to which he subsequently reverted. For more information, or copies of the ensuing letters to the editor, contact Orna Izakson (oiz@aol.com) at (541) 265-8571.

## RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management is being investigated by a legislative commission for being overzealous in enforcing the state's environmental laws and regulations. Department officials have called the inquiry a witch hunt. The legislative investigation began in November with much of the focus on citizens or groups with longstanding complaints about the agency. At many of the hearings, department officials have been prohibited from giving their side. Legislators say the aim of the hearings is to produce a bill which splits the department in two: one to manage the state's natural resources, and the other to handle what they call a more publicly responsive environmental regulation department. Contact Bob Wyss at (401) 277-7364.

► "Willie's Nightmare," a six-part serial published March 2-7 in the Providence *Journal-Bulletin*, took a personal look at how a leak in an underground tank caused the owner of a small gas station to pay \$300,000, virtually his entire life savings, towards the cleanup. Ultimately the state took over the cleanup, which has cost more than \$1 million. Each story was about 20 inches and ended with a cliffhanger. The *Journal-Bulletin* received more than 100 phone calls and computer messages during and after the serial's publication, an unprecedented response for an environmental story. Most readers were sympathetic towards the main character and supported the story concept. Some disliked the format, which was also controversial within the newsroom—the story was ignored in an in-house story contest. Contact Bob Wyss at (401) 277-7364.

## TENNESSEE

► The Bicentennial Mall, a 19-acre extravagance recently built in inner-city Nashville, is Tennessee's most expensive state park, despite also being the smallest. Because of its urban setting, the site requires 24-hour ranger patrols, eating up much of the budget while other state parks decay from lack of basic maintenance funds. The story ran in the *Nashville Tennessean* Nov. 24th. Contact Anne Paine at (615) 259-8071.

► In the Nov. 4 (Memphis) *Commercial Appeal*, Tom Charlier reported that the bobwhite quail is fast becoming extinct in the South. Populations have decreased 70 percent over the last 30 years, mostly due to intensive timber farming and modern agricultural methods that have eliminated the hedges, fencerows, and patches of woodland that once provided habitat for these birds. Contact Charlier at (901) 529-2572.

## VERMONT

► The *Brattleboro Reformer* reported in Jan. that the state's Senate is reconsidering Vermont's legendary bottle bill. Environmentalists want the law expanded to include a wider variety of containers, while critics in industry and elsewhere say expanding the law would result in higher prices and "a monumental headache" for distributors, manufacturers, and

retailers. The debate came as US Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) introduced legislation in Jan. on Capitol Hill that would impose a 10 cent deposit fee on beer, soft-drink, and water containers in states that have a beverage container recovery rate of less than 70 percent. Retailers would get two cents out of the ten. Jeffords said Vermont's recycling rate is 90 percent and nine other states with bottle bills have rates of 70 percent. "I firmly believe that deposit laws are a common sense, proven method to increase recycling, save energy, create jobs, and decrease the generation of waste and proliferation of overflowing landfills," Jeffords said. Contact Susan Johnson at (802) 254-2311.

### West Virginia

► The *Charleston Gazette* published an eight-part series to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Buffalo Creek disaster. On Feb. 26, 1972, a coal-waste dam in Logan County, WV, collapsed, sending 130 million gallons of water through a narrow hollow and killing 125 people. Investigators found Pittston Coal Co. had not properly maintained the dam, in spite of ample warning that it was unsafe. The disaster played a major role in the passage of the 1977 federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. In the *Gazette* series, a team of reporters told, in first-person accounts, the stories of Buffalo Creek residents, lawyers, investigators, and newspaper reporters who lived through the event. The series also looked at questions about the safety of coal-waste

dams that still loom over Appalachian coalfields. *Gazette* web page: <<http://wvgazette.com/buffalocreek>>. Reprints available. Contact Ken Ward Jr. at [kenward@newwave.net](mailto:kenward@newwave.net) or (304) 348-1702.

► *The (Fairmont) Times-West Virginia* won a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit that sought documents concerning the operation of the Marion County, WV, landfill. The documents to be released include results of drilling on the landfill's coal refuse pile, notes about bidders on the drilling project, invoices submitted by the winning contractor, and other correspondence related to the coal refuse. The *Times-West Virginian* can be reached at (304) 367-2500.

► A legislative proposal to allow companies to perform safety and environmental audits and keep those audits confidential has generated a lot of media coverage in West Virginia in 1997. Some members of the state House of Delegates even gave floor speeches denouncing critical editorials published by *The Charleston Gazette*. Both of the U.S. Attorneys in West Virginia testified against the bill, as did representatives of EPA Region III. Contact Dan Radmacher at [danrad@citynet.net](mailto:danrad@citynet.net) or (304) 348-5150.

### WISCONSIN

► An article in *The Capital Times* is at least partly responsible for a major utility merger being on hold. *Times* reporter Mike Ivey disclosed last Nov. that a mem-

ber of a state panel reviewing the proposed deal between Wisconsin Energy (WE) and Northern States Power may have had illegal talks with WE officials. Consumer and environmental groups opposing the merger eventually got a Madison judge to order an investigation of the alleged ex parte communication. Contact Mike Ivey at (608) 252-6431.

► Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson leaked several of his state budget proposals to the media prior to his formal announcement of the budget plan in mid-February. One of his leaks was his environmental initiatives, which he timed to run in a Sunday edition of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The story ran on page one, above the fold, without comments from Democratic opponents of the Republican governor. Criticism of the governor's plan was carried the next day, several pages into the second section of the paper. The circulation of the Monday paper is about 150,000 less than the Sunday edition. Contact the *Journal Sentinel* at (414) 224-2000.

► The mining industry came to the state's largest media market to stress that mining can be done in an environmentally responsible manner. The Milwaukee convention was held in February as state lawmakers prepared to vote on a bill that would, in effect, ban metallic mining in Wisconsin for at least ten years. The Wisconsin Public Radio story aired in February. Contact Chuck Quirnbach at (414) 227-2040.

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