

SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 3 No. 1

In this issue

SEJ NEWS

- SEJ President Jim Detjen takes a look at environmental racism and diversity issuespage 2
- It's Duke for '93 meetingpage 3
- Complete coverage of SEJ's conference in Ann Arborpages 6-10
- SEJ Forum is operationalpage 10

COVER STORY PACKAGE

- Veteran reporters take a look ahead and back at Bill Clinton's environmental record, what to expect from Congress and which issues reporters should watchpages 11-14

FEATURES

- David Ropeik reviews The Environmental Reporting Forum's new handbookpage 15
- Ralph Haurwitz and Bob Anderson take you along to Eastern Europe on an EHC seminarpages 16-17

VIEWPOINTS

- Fred L. Smith Jr. of CEI suggests a look at "untold stories"page 18

REPORTERS' TOOLBOX

- Russ Clemmings on endangered species coveragepage 19

CALENDAR

- Meetings, symposia and conventions through Maypage 24

THE GREEN BEAT

- Contact list of Green Beat correspondents, by statepage 25
- A state-by-state roundup of dominant issues, exceptional reporting, and developments in academic programs and newsroomspage 26

How green is the Clinton Administration?

The new politics

Economy likely to take spotlight in first year

By PHILLIP DAVIS

Washington—It's still the economy. Everything else in the new administration, including the environment, is going to take a back seat, at least for the first year of the new Clinton administration.

But Congress, emboldened by the election of a president who is at the very least non-hostile to environmental initiatives, is likely to engage in a burst of "green" legislation over the next year. And unlike previous years, some of it will actually be successful.

There is almost a giddily high sense of expectation among environmentalists here in Washington, especially with the appointment of environmentalists such as Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt, EPA Administrator Carol Browner and Brooks Yeager (of the National Audubon Society).

(Continued on page 11)

A look at Clinton's record in Arkansas

By BOBBI RIDLEHOOVER

Little Rock, Ark. — President Bill Clinton's record in Arkansas reflects a decade of indifference to environmental problems and support for some of that state's worst polluting industries.

Clinton, an eloquent speaker, often voiced concerns about the environment. But, under his administration, Arkansas consistently ranked near or at the bottom in almost all nationwide studies of state environmental policies and programs.

He supported tax breaks for polluting industries. He approved burning dioxin wastes in a populated area in Central Arkansas. At one time during his tenure, the majority of the PCB wastes burned in the United States were burned in a heavily populated area in South Arkansas—in an incinerator that later illegally burned 264

(Continued on page 12)

Ted Turner, Clinton advisor highlight record-setting conference in Ann Arbor

By ERIC J. GREENBERG

There was no sophomore jinx for the Society of Environmental Journalists' second annual conference. Sure, the outside environment was unexpectedly cold for early November in Ann Arbor. And the treks between the Rackham Building to the lunchroom hall several blocks away provided some brisk exercise for those able to find the building.

But the atmosphere inside the conference rooms was noticeably warmer, both

Duke University picked as site of SEJ's 1993 Conference. See page 3.

literally and figuratively, as colleagues who met for the first time at SEJ's inaugural conference in Boulder renewed their acquaintances. More than 300 attended the three-day conference, up from 250 in 1991—a success in the face of the continuing recession.

Besides the collegiality, there were a

(Continued on page 7)

Environmental racism grabs attention

By JIM DETJEN

One of the subjects likely to grow in importance during the 1990s is the issue of environmental racism. Simply put, many people of color believe their communities have become industrial dumping grounds because they are poor, powerless and nonwhite.

A report issued last June by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showed there is merit to their belief. The study found evidence that minority groups suffer disproportionate exposure to dust, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead and hazardous chemical fumes.

To combat this exposure, community groups in Texas, Louisiana, California and many other states have begun using the tactics and strategies of the civil rights movement. In some cases, they are working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union to battle toxic dumping, according to a recent article by Roberto Suro in The New York Times.

"The idea of civil rights is expanding to include freedom from pollution," said the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., executive director of the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice.

While the issue of environmental racism is increasing in importance, the number of environmental journalists who are nonwhite remains woefully low. The SEJ board of directors is attempting to develop programs that will bring more African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Americans into the field.

With a grant of \$15,000 from the Freedom Forum, traveling fellowships were given to 26 nonwhite journalists to attend SEJ's national conference in Ann Arbor last November. One of those was Wevonneda Minis, the environmental writer at Florida Today, who was elected to SEJ's board of directors.

This year SEJ is trying to do even more.

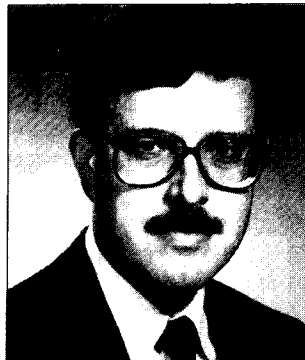
Under the leadership of Emilia Askari, SEJ is seeking foundation support for a number of programs aimed at bringing more people of color into the profession.

Outreach programs are being planned in New York, California and on an Indian reservation.

In addition, a number of SEJ members are taking actions on their own. In New York City, for example, SEJ member Stephanie Rose is looking for journalists to lecture to her high school class at a new magnet high school in environmental studies.

Report from the society's president

By Jim Detjen



If you'd like to help out on any of these efforts, please call either Emilia at 313-223-4536 or Adam Glenn at 202-942-1406.

NEW OFFICE—In December, the society opened up an office in the Chestnut Hill area of Philadelphia. The office isn't big — about 12 feet by 20 feet — but it's large enough to house a desk, computer, copying machine, filing cabinets and other office equipment. The price is right — just \$175 a month, including utilities. Most weekdays Beth Parke will be working there, carrying out SEJ tasks and handling questions from SEJ members. If you are visiting Philadelphia, please stop by the office at 7904 Germantown Avenue. Call Beth at 215-247-9710 for directions.

MEMBERSHIP — SEJ's membership has topped 800 members and continues to climb. About 70 percent of our members are active, 18 percent associate and 12 percent academic.

Our membership by category is 39% newspapers, 11% freelance, 9% television,

9% magazines, 8% newsletters, 5% educators, 5% students, 5% universities or nonprofit organizations, 4% radio, 2% news services, 1% photographers and 1% government agencies.

One of our goals this year is to increase our membership among newsletters and specialty publications, television stations, universities, international news media and people of color.

UPCOMING SEJ EVENTS— SEJ board member David Ropeik is organizing a panel discussion on environmental journalists at Tufts University in Medford, MASS., during the March 19-21 conference of the New England Environmental Network. To get more information, call David at 617-433-4575 or Nancy Anderson at 617-627-3451.

On Tuesday, April 13, SEJ will participate in a two-hour roundtable discussion with Central European journalists in the Washington, D.C., area. The program is being co-sponsored with the Environmental Health Center. For more details, call Bud Ward at 202-293-2270.

ODDS AND ENDS—We are looking for ideas for speakers and panels for our 1993 national conference. If you have suggestions, please call Beth Parke.

Amy Gahran, SEJ's records manager, reports that a few organizations are illegally using SEJ's mailing list and directory. If you know of any violators, please call Amy at 215-630-9147.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH — We've received more than 40 applications for the position of SEJ executive director. The application deadline has passed and we are now considering the applicants. If all goes well, we'll make our decision sometime this spring. Stay tuned.

JOURNALISM AWARDS — One idea under consideration is the creation of SEJ sponsored national awards for environmental journalism. No national environmental journalism awards for books, magazines, radio and television now exist. We are searching for possible sponsors and ideas on how these awards should be set up. Call SEJ board member David Ropeik at 617-433-45475 with ideas.

SEJournal (ISSN: 1053-7082) is published quarterly by the **Society of Environmental Journalists**, P.O. Box 65493, Washington, D.C. 20035-5493. Membership \$30 per year. ©1993 by the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Co-editors

Adam Glenn and Kevin Carmody

Features editor

Bowman Cox

Graphic designer

Rob Traister

Section Editors

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

Produced at

Pasha Publications Inc., Arlington, Va

SEJournal will accept unsolicited manuscripts from members and non-members. Send story ideas, articles, news briefs, tips and letters-to-the-editor to Adam Glenn, Stevens Publishing, 1170 National Press Building, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037. (202) 942-1406. Send calendar items to Janet Raloff, Science News, 1719 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. To help with Greenbeat, contact Kevin Carmody at *The Daily Progress*, P.O. Box 9030, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

For inquiries regarding the SEJ, please contact Beth Parke, program director, at the new SEJ office in Philadelphia: 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19118 Ph: 215-247-9710.

SEJ Board of Directors: President, Jim Detjen, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, (215) 854-2438; Vice President, Rae Tyson, *USA Today*, (703) 276-3424; Vice President, Teya Ryan, Turner Broadcasting, (404) 827-3987; Secretary, Kevin Carmody, *The Daily Progress* (804) 978-7240; Treasurer, Noel Grove, *National Geographic*, (202) 857-7268; Emilia Askari, *Detroit Free Press*, (800) 678-6400; Marla Cone, *The Los Angeles Times*, (714) 966-5600; Joe Daniel, *Buzzworm* magazine, (303) 442-1969; Julie Edelson, *The New York Times*, and *Inside EPA*, (313) 769-7780; Randy Lee Loftis, *Dallas Morning News*, (214) 977-8483; Tom Meersman, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, (612) 673-4414; Weveonneda Minnis, *Florida Today*, (407) 242-3638; Dave Ropeik, WCVB-TV in Boston, (617) 449-0400.

SEJournal is printed on recycled paper.

Duke University selected as site for 1993 SEJ national conference

Get set for some warm southern hospitality in one of the nation's premier centers for environmental research. The society's third national conference will be held at Duke University in Durham, N.C., the weekend of Oct. 22-24, 1993.

While conference planning is at an early stage, the society will be drawing upon numerous environmental experts on the faculty and staff of Duke, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State and other nearby institutions in designing the program.

SEJ members will have a chance to tour the 8,000-acre Duke Forest, where important research on acid rain is taking place. They will also be able to visit Duke's Primate Center, which houses the world's largest collection of endangered primates; the Phytotron, a lab that conducts research on global warming; the Center for Tropical Conservation; and Duke Marine Laboratory, 180 miles east on the Atlantic Ocean.

Orrin Pilkey, a controversial geologist, will lead an overnight tour of coastal development along the state's coast.

The Research Triangle Park area, where Duke is based, is the home of a major EPA lab on the health effects of pollution, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and many high-tech environmental research firms.

Conference speakers will discuss the environmental record of the Clinton-Gore administration, climate change, endangered species, energy, waste disposal, business and the environment, evaluating risk, emerging environmental issues and many other topics.

In addition, speakers will offer practical tips on how to use computer databases, freelancing, environmental reporting on radio and television and other subjects.

North Carolina is a nice place to visit in October during the height of the fall season. Durham is about a three hours' drive from both the Atlantic Ocean and the Smoky Mountains. Blocks of rooms have been booked at four nearby hotels. They include the Sheraton (\$70), the Washington Duke Inn (\$85) and the R. David Thomas Conference Center. In addition, less expensive motels are located in Durham.

The Raleigh Durham Airport is a hub for American Airlines and U.S. Air. Durham is within driving distance of Washington, D.C., Atlanta and many southeastern and mid-Atlantic States.

Additional information about the conference will be mailed out to SEJ members as the planning proceeds. If you'd like to assist in the conference, please call Weveonneda Minnis, the conference chairperson, at 407-242-3638 or Beth Parke, at SEJ's headquarters at 215-247-9710.

SEJ to assist at Tufts program

The Society of Environmental Journalists will be participating in one of the largest environmental conferences in the Northeast, to be held in March. SEJ members are invited to attend.

The New England Environmental Network Conference at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., just outside Boston, regularly attracts top speakers and more than 1,500 participants. There is also an exhibit area that last year featured 200 displays. This year's speakers include Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Russell Peterson, Nathaniel Arap Chumo of the East Africa Environmen-

tal Network and Denis Hayes. Many of the dozens of workshops will focus on follow-up to the UNCED summit in Brazil and how those issues can be kept on the world's front burner and our front pages.

SEJ will be conducting three panels on coverage of environmental issues, featuring SEJ members from New England.

SEJ members are encouraged to come. The dates are March 20-21. Registration cost is \$100. For more information, contact The New England Environmental Network, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, Phone 617-3451 or 3291; Fax 617-627-3401

Letters to the Editor

Status report on *Bee's* environment beat wrong

To the editor,

I was surprised today to learn from your publication that *The Sacramento Bee's* environmental writer ranks have been "seriously depleted" (The Green Beat, California item, *SEJournal*, Fall 1992). Had you spoken to me or anyone else here who knows what is happening, you would have learned that this is quite untrue.

You would have learned, for example, that Jim Mayer cut his fellowship short, returning to work in January. Further, it is interesting to note that you have named an "heir apparent" to the environmental beat. While Jim has covered water for us in the past, we have no plans to name him as our environmental writer upon his return.

It is true that Tom Harris recently retired and will be missed, but I can assure you that his efforts will be matched and expanded by our plans at The Bee. We believe we are the premier environmental newspaper in California and fully intend to continue in that tradition.

Kent Pollock
Assistant Managing Editor
The Sacramento Bee

Clashes over advocacy apparent in SEJ program

To the editor,

In Ann Arbor, Mich., last month, it was apparent that the Society of Environmental Journalists, without addressing it head on, is wrestling with a fundamental question shaping the group's destiny: Should the SEJ members practice advocacy journalism or objective journalism? One might wonder why this is a question, given that journalism is popularly thought of as the objective presentation of facts without an attempt at interpretation.

Generally, all writers accept that pure objectivity is an ideal state of communication that cannot be attained in the real world. However, good writers, and especially journalists, *strive* to achieve objectivity. The SEJ has members, many promi-

nent writers and editors covering the "environmental beat," who are explicit in their belief that they should *advocate* a certain position when it comes to the environment. That should worry all of us, since in many ways, journalists and the media are the gatekeepers of popular opinion.

Like all organizations, the leadership of the SEJ, which by all appearances is bent on practicing advocacy journalism, does not necessarily represent all the members. Impressive numbers of people seemed to have a genuine open mind about environmental issues and some members are from specialized technical and business magazines and newsletters who have a more sober perspective on the issues. Several of these individuals are interested in making the society better balanced.

In fairness, the conference program obviously displayed the attempts by the leadership to provide balance. An environmental official with General Motors spoke at breakfast one day and tours were provided of a landfill, a plastics recycling facility and a new automotive assembly plant. Corporate representatives participated in many of the sessions as speakers.

Some interesting occurrences: During a session titled "Is the Environmental Beat an Endangered Species?" the four panelists clearly accepted that the world was getting worse, one commenting that he was leaving his children an unusable world. In Q&A, the panel was asked, "Must you accept that the world is becoming worse [because of severe environmental and ecological problems] to adequately cover the environmental beat?" One panelist, a producer of a popular environmental series run on public television, equated silence by journalists on environmental issues with the silence of European society during the rise of Nazi Germany. That response is certainly a non-sequitur if there ever was one.

One panel member stated that all reputable scientists believe in the existence of global warming. When a member of the audience challenged that assertion, the session moderator quickly tried to break off the emerging discussion.

Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute, the luncheon speaker, spoke

about protecting indigenous cultures from western-style development and praised Chinese culture because of the prominent use of bicycles instead of cars in that country. Later, Brown noted that, in some cultures, it is "macho" to have babies, that this is devastating for population control, and that education is needed to change this type of cultural thinking. Apparently changing cultural values is okay as long as it supports your position. And, has Brown asked those hundreds of millions of Chinese whether they'd *prefer* to drive a car if they could afford it? These are important to note, not so much to pummel Brown as to point out the contradictions that exist in environmental arguments.

Advocacy journalists aside, those who seem willing to practice objective journalism are not necessarily convinced that sources portraying viewpoints that differ from traditional environmentalist positions are credible. And they seem to agree that they need better scientific and technical information for their stories.

Jason Makansi, editor,
Common Sense on Energy
and Our Environment.

(Editor's note: Mr. Makansi, unfortunately, is not the only person to have confused advocacy positions expressed by panelists or participants at the SEJ conference with the position of the SEJ leadership. The vast majority of SEJ board members believe that blatant advocacy has no place in journalism, and those who confuse the roles of activist and journalist should not consider themselves the latter.)

Column pushed unwise tinkering with economy

To the editor,

As I read your Fall 1992 Viewpoints feature, "Ecological economics offers a relation to nature" by Robert Costanza, I kept thinking: What utter and absolute fabian claptrap. Surely, no professional journalist writing in the 1990s could possibly take this nonsense seriously.

Then it occurred to me that if someone in your office was silly enough to print this stuff in the first place, someone on the receiving end of the SEJ newsletter *might* actually take it seriously. And what a pity that would be for that second someone's readers!

The let's-reinvent-the-economy-for-

Letters to the Editor

Earth's-sake nostrums thrown out by Mr. Costanza are an affront to the intelligence of both ecologists and economists.

The former recognize that having a bunch of academic do-gooders sit around conference tables for a few decades trying to assign "true" economic values to clean air and pure water would have roughly the same beneficial effects for Mother Earth as similar exercises by similar individuals working to achieve social justice had in bringing prosperity to the Working Class in the old Soviet planned economy days.

The health of nature is not a board game designed to accommodate the quirky intellectual needs of neo-scholastics. A goodly proportion of the current chain of life could literally die out before any group of well-meaning, eco-minded bean-counters succeeded in adequately greening its beans.

The really preposterous thing about the approach of self-anointed "ecological economists" is their total lack of understanding of the current state and direction of the U.S. and world economies which they propose to so fundamentally reorder. This misunderstanding was summed up in the final lines of Mr. Costanza's Viewpoints piece: "We must develop better methods to model and value ecological goods and services," he writes, "and devise policies to translate these values into appropriate incentives. If we continue to segregate ecology and economics we are courting disaster."

How is it possible for a person who purports to be an economist — much less an ecological economist — to believe in 1992 that ecology and economics continue to be segregated?

This year, in the United States alone, some \$120 billion to \$130 billion dollars will be spent on environmental cleanup by government and industry.

In this decade, some \$1.5 trillion will be spent domestically on such cleanup, while in the world as a whole, between \$3 trillion and \$4 trillion will be spent. By the year 2000 (heaven help us), environmental cleanup will almost certainly be this planet's largest single industry.

Today in this country, virtually every important sector of the economy — including petro-chemical, pulp and paper,

mining and metals, banking, insurance, real estate, tourism, transportation, agriculture — is undergoing profound environment-linked restructuring.

It is no longer necessary to reinvent the economy to protect ecosystems. One need only recognize that the economy has *already* taken a green turn, and expedite this shift. The unfortunate echo of a 1960s social engineering doctrine which is ecological economics is not merely inappropriate, but horribly, horribly destructive in its potential to distract.

It is, perhaps, the karma of people like Mr. Costanza to receive large, McArthur-like grants in order to prepare ever more precious epicycles for the ptolemaic cosmology that is modern economics — a science which in general bears roughly the same relationship to the real operations of economies as theology bears to the actual practice of religion. It is the obligation of environmental reporters, however, to report about the world the way it really is.

As long as we all understand our proper roles and behave accordingly, the present, on-going and already well-advanced evolution from a pollution-based to an environmentally sensitized economy can proceed without undue disruptions.

Michael Silverstein,
Environmental Economics,
Philadelphia

Coal group's CO₂ video was 'disingenuous'

To the editor,

A mass-mailing to SEJ members by the Western Fuels Association dated Dec. 16, 1992, prompts me to write to SEJournal. In the mailing, Western Fuels included a 27-minute video entitled "The Greening of Planet Earth." After viewing their video I wondered if what I had seen was actually some version of "The Twilight Zone."

Western Fuels promotes the hypothesis that the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide will have a beneficial effect on the ecosystem. Essentially, the group contends that the increased availability of CO₂ will accelerate plant growth and,

thus, enrich us with greater agricultural productivity and timer harvests among other things. While there is evidence to support this hypothesis, the complete absence in the video of any dissenting views, or the lack of discussion about the possible complications of increased CO₂ must lead one to conclude that the Western Fuels video is disingenuous at best.

There is considerable disagreement in the scientific community about the effects of increased CO₂. One indisputable fact is that many in the scientific community believe that increased CO₂ is associated with increased global temperatures. Even though some scientists disagree with this hypothesis, no sensible discussion about increased CO₂ would ignore this issue, as the Western Fuels video does.

If additional CO₂ raises temperature enough to eliminate rainfall in some areas of the world, as the global warming theorists now predict, the accelerated plant growth predicted by the CO₂-is-green theorists cannot take place in those areas because there will be little or no water to sustain it.

This obvious gap in the logic of "The Greening of Planet Earth" is just one of many. Members of the Western Fuels Association, principally electric utilities burning coal as their primary fuel, produce more than CO₂. Coal combustion also leads to the formation of acid rain and represents the largest source of mercury released into the atmosphere.

A production which purports to explain "The Effects of Carbon Dioxide on the Biosphere" (the video's subtitle) oversimplifies a far more profound set of problems in the single-minded discussion of CO₂ offered by Western Fuels. No doubt most SEJ members would have recognized the reckless bias in the Western Fuels video. Any SEJ members who were persuaded by it, however, would do well to study some of the voluminous works providing counter arguments to the rosy predictions that Western Fuels Association would have us believe.

James Quigley, research associate,
Center for the Biology
of Natural Systems,
Flushing, N.Y.

Sideshows, sages abound in Ann Arbor

By DAVID HELVARG

Recent sojourns to the Earth Summit in Rio and a radioactive ocean dump off San Francisco could scarcely prepare me for the spectacle of the second annual SEJ conference in Ann Arbor. The genius of the organizers was immediately apparent on arrival. By holding the conference outside of Detroit in November, they relieved participants of the fear of having their travel expenses challenged by the IRS, while at the same time providing a favorable climate for a more balanced approach to global warming (representatives from the Sunscreen Manufacturers Association, George Hamilton and the Burrowing Rodent PAC were unable to attend, but the guy from GM with the cartoon slide show did a good job representing the "warmer" side of the debate).

From the first day's early morning tour of a toxic waste dump to the last day's early morning Jeremy Rifkin lecture on "cheap grace," Francis Bacon's piggish misogyny and the world's surplus cattle, I could feel my circadian rhythm quicken.

Friday night, we heard from Brett Hulsey, environmental advisor to President Bill Clinton. When pressed to come up with any Clinton policy he didn't like, the gregarious Sierra Clubber shrugged, admitting he couldn't. "Chicken shit," someone in the audience muttered, no doubt a reference to Clinton's clean water policies vis-a-vis the Arkansas poultry industry.

Turner's cogent talk

Ted Turner gave a cogent speech in favor of gas and carbon taxes, buffalo ranching, Ducks Unlimited, his dad, getting drunk with Jacques Cousteau, throwing out your air conditioner (but not your TV) and global triage. He expressed the hope that having helped stop the nuclear arms race, if he were now able to diffuse the population bomb and save the planetary biosphere, history might forgive him for colorizing those old movies. The Friday night reception proved a model of energy conservation as everyone faded away by 8:30.

Saturday morning, after consuming buns, bagels and coffee served in

styrofoam cups (which can now be recycled into damp brown packing material, according to those who took the plastics factory bus tour) we got down to work.

The weekend's panels covered a range of topics from freelancing environmental stories (or how to reduce your pattern of consumption below that of a winter-run chinook) to exotic invasions (Knight-Ridder takes over your paper and combines the home, style and environment beat) to free trade (beer spills on the Canadian border, hey). There were also two panels on swamps, one called "Wetland Development," the other, "Editors — What Do They Want?"

I attended the Rio panel, where it was agreed that it was impossible to cover the whole Earth Summit and still check out the bods on the beach. Panelists felt they could do better environmental reporting at any future conferences held in Tahiti or the south of France.

Our lunch speaker, Lester Brown, suggested the state of the world offered both good and bad news. The good news is that the world is switching from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives like biomass from seaweed and sawdust. The bad news is that with planetary soil erosion, we're also going to have to develop an appetite for seaweed and sawdust.

In one of the few mix-ups of the conference, the roast beef sandwiches that were supposed to have been served at the Rifkin speech were instead passed out during Brown's talk.

At the Wise Use panel, Chuck Cushman wise-cracked about a moo-in he and some cow wranglers organized in Wyoming (where men are men and sheep are lying little hussies) and promised that Al Gore would do for property owners what James Watt had done for environmentalists. However, observers in Washington give Gore's plan to replace the Department of Housing and Human Resources with the Department of Termites and Biodiversity little chance of passage during the first 100 days of the new administration.

The SEJ annual meeting was held in the Rackham (or vegetable substitute)

auditorium. It proved to be a model of preservation and restoration. First, an endangered quorum was saved by selective captures of hallway biota, following which democracy was restored in a warmly contested bored election marked by differences over region, media, race, gender and "really feeling good about the SEJ spirit."

Saturday night's dance proved that alcohol can effectively be converted into kinetic energy, although Sunday morning suggested there are still a few bugs to be worked out of the system.

Among the Sunday seminars I skipped were the ones titled "Capturing the Great Outdoors" (I heard the folks from "E" magazine were going to demand it be released) and "Specialized Publications, the Underrated Medium" (Who really cares?).

What a junket — not!

By the end of the conference I think we had all come to appreciate how SEJ can help give environmental reporters the same kind of credibility with the public as the media in general. We can no longer afford to be seen as advocates for the environment any more than members of the Sports Writers Association can afford to be seen as fans. Personally, whenever I'm reporting on a major polluter I always make an extra effort to be sure and litter.

After my wintry Ann Arbor experience I feel an even keener responsibility to provide the public with balanced first-hand reporting on the critical eco-issues of our time: coral bleaching in the Caribbean, declining marlin catches off Cabo San Lucas and late winter ozone depletion over the tropical isles of the Pacific. Unfortunately, like many of my colleagues, I find myself stymied by short-sighted media bosses obsessed with the bottom line. But that's another story.

David Helvarg is an SEJ member who covers environmental and technology news as an independent TV producer in the San Francisco Bay area. He has begun work on a TV segment about fisheries cops for National Geographic Explorer.

Conference overview... (from page 1)

series of first-rate panels and even some comedy, provided by the manic seat-of-the-pants philosophy of CNN media mogul Ted Turner and the fancy footwork of Brett Hulsey, environmental policy advisor to President Bill Clinton.

One of the undisputed highlights was Turner's rambling 25-minute talk, which included such topics as global warming, new CNN programming, eliminating air conditioning, population control, new CNN programming, the problems of organized religion, Jane Fonda's new workout tape, fishing with his father and new CNN programming. You can't say the man pulls any punches, while also making sure you know about his new CNN environmental programs. And Turner's bold support of advocacy by environmental reporters raised several eyebrows and sparked bar conversation later.

Conversely, Hulsey was as slippery as one of the fish Turner tries hooking. Hulsey indicated that Clinton will be on the "right" side of just about every environmental issue, from toxic waste incineration to wildlife protection. In fact, the former Sierra Club official could not relate one environmental issue in which he found Bill Clinton to be lacking, a position that elicited several groans from the audience.

Of course, SEJ was right on top of the news, having the foresight to invite someone from the team of Clinton-Gore, who had won the election just three days before.

SEJ also had the foresight to invite Robert Stempel, who was chairman and chief executive officer of General Motors. The crystal ball didn't work out so well on this one. Stempel was forced out of his job mere days before the conference. Unfortunately he also cancelled his SEJ keynote speech.

Being in the general Detroit area at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus, SEJ took advantage of several automobile-industry related activities: alternative fuel cars were available for test driving on Friday and there was a tour of the new multi-million dollar Chrysler auto manufacturing plant on Jefferson Avenue, which was on a contaminated

tract of land.

One keynote speaker who brought the issues back home to a human level was Lois Gibbs, founder of the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste. Gibbs reminded the audience of reporters and students that the debate over environmental policies is more than the philosophical struggle between industry and environmental organizations. "She reminded me to think about the people who are impacted by environmental issues," noted one colleague.

Having Louis there was a personal highlight for me. I was working at my first newspaper job at the Buffalo News when the Love Canal story broke, and I read with fascination, as did the rest of the country, the story of the Niagara Falls housewife who was challenging the chemical company and the government experts.

Another highlight for me involved another Buffalo connection. One of the best panels of the conference was the Sunday morning gathering called "More than Decade on the Environment Beat," moderated by Paul MacClennan of the Buffalo News and featuring Casey Bukro of the Chicago Tribune, Tom Harris of the Sacramento Bee Douglas Draper of the St. Catherine's Standard and Barbara Pyle of Turner Broadcasting.

It was MacClennan's desk, piled high with papers and reports that I would pass every morning as a rookie reporter at the Buffalo News, watching in amazement as he reported the Love Canal story breaking before our eyes.

All the verans gave crisp, practical advice on covering the environmental beat, and I commend the SEJ tape to beginners and experienced practitioners alike.

Last but not least was the annual membership meeting, which provided a bit of unexpected drama when a tie broke out in the election of new members to the board of directors. A frantic search for by-laws and Roberts' Rules of Order ensued, and in an atmosphere of collegiality (or was that exhaustion), the candidates agreed to a runoff.

Eric Greenberg covers the environment at the News-Tribune of Woodbridge, N.J.



Marla Cone



Wevonneda Minis



Julie Edelson



David Ropeik

4 elected to board; 2 incumbents back

Marla Cone of *The Los Angeles Times* and Wevonneda Minis of *Florida Today* were elected to the SEJ Board of Directors at the annual meeting in Ann Arbor, while Julie Edelson and David Ropeik were re-elected, all for three-year terms.

- Cone joined the Times in 1990 as an environmental writer in Orange County. She has covered the beat for eight years, most at the Orange County register. A resident of Laguna Beach, she has a BA from the University of Wisconsin.

- Minis has covered environmental issues in East Central Florida for the Melbourne-based *Florida Today* since 1991. For the previous 8 years, she worked the beat in Washington for the Bureau of National Affairs. She has a BA from Regis College in Weston, Mass.

- A founding SEJ board member, Edelson has been an environment reporter or chief editor at Inside Washington Publishers since 1986. As of March 1 she joins *The New York Times'* Detroit Bureau but will continue to contribute to Inside Washington Publications.

- Ropeik has been a television news reporter since 1973, covering the environment for WCVB-TV in Boston since 1989. Among his many awards are a 1988 duPont Columbia Award and ten regional Emmys. He was elected to the board in 1991.

Society of Environmental Journalists

Minutes of the second Annual Meeting of the membership of SEJ

Nov. 7, 1992, Ann Arbor, Mich.

SEJ's second Annual Meeting, held at the Horace H. Rackham Building, University of Michigan campus, was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Jim Detjen, SEJ president.

In introductory comments, Detjen noted that the society was still gaining membership and had just received another major grant of \$150,000 over three years from the Mott Foundation. He then introduced the officers, including those who would deliver annual reports.

Treasurer Noel Grove noted that SEJ had a fund balance of \$15,000 plus change at the same time the previous year. This year the books showed a fund balance of \$84,167, counting only the first \$50,000 of the \$150,000 W. Alton Jones Foundation grant. Grove said that last year SEJ was hanging by its fingernails, financially. Now it has a firm grip with its fingers, Grove said.

Rae Tyson, vice president and membership chairman, reported that SEJ had reached 871 members, picking up 20 to 25 more during the annual conference. Active members constituted 71 percent of membership, associate members 18 percent and academic 11 percent. Tyson said that the society has been through the billing cycle for membership renewals and is still attracting more members than it is losing, although the pace of membership growth has slowed from last year.

Secretary Kevin Carmody noted that, based on SEJ's total of 550 active members, 56 active members would meet the necessary 10 percent quorum for an official Annual Meeting and the election of board members. More than 60 active members registered their attendance, so Carmody certified the quorum.

The twelve candidates for four three-year terms on the board of directors were introduced and each outlined their qualifications in a two minute oral presentation. One of the 12 candidates, Steve Curwood, did not register his candidacy by the announced deadline and therefore was not placed on the ballots. However, he was entitled to make a presentation and run as a write-in candidate. The registered candidates included incumbents Julie Edelson of inside EPA/inside Washington Publishers, David Ropeik of Boston's WCVB-TV and Sara Thurin Rollin of Chemical Regulation Reporter/BNA. Also, Wevonneda Minis of Florida Today, Marla Cone of the Los Angeles Times, Valerie Taliman of the Navajo Times, Bowman Cox of Defense Cleanup Newsletter/Pasha Publications, Michael Mansur of the Kansas City Star, freelance writer Nancy Shute, Elissa Wolfson of E

Magazine, and Rod Jackson of Salt Lake City's KTVX-TV.

Following the balloting, it was determined that Minis (40 votes) and Edelson (32 votes) had won seats on the board. However, the results showed a three-way tie for the third and fourth positions on the board. After consultation with the three tied candidates and SEJ legal counsel, it was agreed that a run-off would be conducted immediately, with the top two vote-getters winning election to the board. Results of the run-off showed Ropeik (36 votes) and Cone (33 votes) were elected over Taliman (31 votes). The results of the election were certified by vote count co-chairmen Phil Shabecoff and Amy Gahrn, and certified as official by Carmody.

During the election, Detjen opened the floor to comments by the membership and presentations by members working on special projects. Detjen also solicited ideas for the location of the next national conference and encouraged members to send him ideas by mail or fax. He said the SEJ board would be hiring an executive director in early 1993 and planning two regional workshops.

Don Rittner explained the function and workings of SEJ's new computer bulletin board, which Rittner established. SEJ members can sign for minimal cost on after obtaining free software, he said.

Adam Glenn of Stevens Publishing explained his concept for an SEJ-sponsored minority outreach program to increase the number of people of color working in environmental journalism. He offered a written outline, including a plan to have working journalists interact with children in urban minority centers. He said grant funding was a good bet. Glenn asked for volunteers to form a working group and further develop the proposal. Leslie Crutchfield of National Geographic suggested approaching minority students on college campuses, and Glenn agreed. Valerie Taliman of the Navajo Times suggested expanding the concept to include low-income rural areas including Indian reservations. Those interested were asked to meet Nov. 8 and continue the discussion.

Detjen raised the question of whether the membership had philosophical problems with SEJ including a trade show as part of its next annual conference. Mike Mansur of the Kansas City Star questioned whether SEJ needed the money that badly. He said he sees a possible conflict of interest in sponsoring a trade show, and doubts one would be of much use to members. Outgoing SEJ board member Sara Thurin Rollin noted that, based on her research for the board,

some trade shows are not that profitable — that they are very expensive to put on and take a lot of staff time to plan. Grove noted that the trade show was not originally proposed as a profit-making vehicle. Tom Harris, formerly of the Sacramento Bee, urged caution, noting that collegial exchanges are very important to professional conferences and trade shows tend to bring in a circus atmosphere inconsistent with such exchanges. Talisman suggested putting more effort into beefing up the reading room, attracting more clips, instead of working on a trade show.

Ropeik presented the question of whether board members should be reimbursed for the cost of traveling to board meetings. He explained the board has the authority via the bylaws to offer reimbursements, but felt more comfortable in first getting a sense from the membership of what was appropriate. Half the board travels from outside the East Coast to board meetings, usually in Washington, about four times a year, Ropeik said. Grove noted that one proposal called for \$1,500 to be split, per meeting, between the out-of-town board members. One member asked about the possibility of electronic meetings, and was informed such meetings had been considered but had been found to have several drawbacks. Teya Ryan noted that camaraderie was important for a board to function efficiently. Tyson, who assumed chairmanship of the meeting while Detjen and several other officers were consulting about the tie vote, suggested that SEJ try the \$1,500-per-meeting reimbursement for a year and see how the budget bears it. Rod Jackson of Salt Lake City asked what grants SEJ has received and how they are earmarked; Tyson provided the information requested.

Felicia Sison, of KCAL-TV in Hollywood, Calif., a recipient of a minority fellowship covering transportation costs to attend the SEJ conference, thanked the board for setting up the fellowship with funding from the Freedom Forum.

Mike Ivey of the Madison (Wis.) Capital Times suggested that panel sessions at future conferences focus more on agricultural issues and land use planning, less on toxics issues.

At the close of the general comment period, the winners of the board election, as noted above, were announced and the SEJ's second Annual Meeting was adjourned.

**Submitted by Kevin Carmody,
SEJ secretary.**

Freedom Forum money helps 26 attend conference

Grant fosters diversity, long treks

By EMILIA ASKARI

John Holman lives in Yellowknife, Canada, 1,400 kilometers north of Edmonton. There, on the edge of the subarctic tundra, he edits the town's prize-winning newspaper, *The Press Independent*. Mining rights, uranium tailings and oil exploration are among his biggest stories.

Holman, a Native American, wanted to attend SEJ's second annual conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan. But the travel costs were beyond his budget.

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant to SEJ by The Freedom Forum, Holman made the trip anyway. He was one of 26 journalists of color who won travel fellowships to the Nov. 6-8 conference.

"The people I met had a profound effect on me," Holman said. "I returned to my job with renewed spirit and confidence, oozing with story ideas."

Two other fellowship winners were Native Americans. Twelve were African American, nine were Asian Americans, one was Hispanic and one was an African living in this country.

The purpose of the fellowship program was to increase the numbers of journalists of color who are informed about the environment beat and active in SEJ.

SEJ hopes to offer similar fellowships to the 1993 annual conference.

"It was the best national journalists' conference I've been to," said fellowship winner Baxter Smith, a general assignment reporter and columnist for the *Landmark Community Newspapers* of Maryland. "I thought it was well-organized, information-packed and reasonable" in price.

Added Smita Madan Paul, a fellowship winner and reporter at the *Cincinnati Enquirer*: "The biggest thrill for me was meeting some of the journalists I've admired from a distance, such as CBS' Erin Hayes and NPR's Michael Skoler. Just knowing someone who has done such inspiring work makes it easier for me to imagine myself doing the same quality of work."

None of the fellowship winners got a full, free ride to the conference. Some got



Minority journalists who were awarded fellowships to attend SEJ conference

free air fare. Others got free registration. Conference planners tried to use the Freedom Forum grant to help as many journalists of color as possible.

Nearly 50 people submitted fellowship applications, which were judged by Joe Grimm, recruiting and development editor at the *Detroit Free Press*, and Luther Keith, assistant managing editor/Sunday at *The Detroit News*.

Most of the fellowship winners are not full-time on the environment beat. But they are interested in environmental issues and hungry to learn more. The three-day conference gave them an opportunity to do that — and to share their perspectives with other SEJ members.

"It was an experience that I will not soon forget," said fellowship winner Marlene Harris, a production assistant for National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. "I came back with a briefcase full of source materials and several ideas that I plan to suggest at Morning Edition's next programming meeting."

Michael Rocha, a fellowship winner and student at California State University, Fullerton, was impressed with a Sunday morning panel titled "Voices of Experience: More than a Decade on the Environment Beat." Casey Bukro of the *Chicago Tribune* and Tom Harris, recently retired from the *Sacramento Bee*, were particularly inspiring.

"If I accomplish a fraction of what they have done during their careers, I would consider myself quite lucky," Rocha said.

Added Debra Glidden, a member of the Abenaki nation who freelances from her home in Syracuse, New York: "I have been to several journalism conferences in the past year and I feel that SEJ was the most valuable."

Glidden has volunteered to help plan parts of the next SEJ conference. Several other fellowship winners are planning SEJ membership drives in their areas.

The fellowships were advertised through a mailing to members of the National Association of Black Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the Native American Journalists' Association. The Michigan Association of Broadcasters donated the postage.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists declined to let SEJ buy its mailing list to advertise the fellowships. There were few Hispanic applicants and only one winner: Sito Negron, the newly appointed environment writer at the *El Paso Times*.

Negron said the conference gave him "a renewed sense of purpose and the feeling that I am part of a network of reporters around the country. ... This feeling charged me with enthusiasm and the certainty that the work I do can make a difference in the quality of life for readers."

Although most of the \$15,000 Freedom Forum grant was spent on the fellowship program, part of the money covered some travel expenses for journalists of color who spoke on conference panels.

Two of these speakers ran for SEJ's

SEJ Online now awaits your call; Free Mac/PC software available

by DON RITTNER

The SEJ Online Forum is up and running and waiting for your participation. SEJ now has a forum on America Online, the premier commercial online service that has over 200,000 members.

The Forum is our new electronic home and contains a message area where you can locate and post job descriptions, book reviews, articles, database information, software reviews, conference dates, bios, and other information. A file library lets you upload and download reports, software, and documents. A special read only area lets you read articles from the SEJ Journal and other sources.

Eventually we will have regular real-time online chats with SEJ members and other notable figures.

You can send electronic mail to fellow SEJ members anywhere in the world

if they have an Internet connection.

How do you get on? Call the SEJ membership office or America Online to get the free software for your Mac or PC. AOL can be reached by calling 800-827-6364 ext. 5821. Or call SEJ staff Amy Gahran or Beth Parke at (215) 247-9710. The software is easy to use. If you need some hand holding, call Don Rittner at (518) 374-1088. Don is the forum leader.

Once you log on, send Don some email — his ID is AFL DonR — and he will then give you a secret keyword that will let you into the Forum. The SEJ Forum is for members only!

Why wait for months to get information when you can get it online daily?

Don Rittner is Editor in Chief of MUG news service in Schenectady, N.Y. and coordinates SEJ's new on-line forum.

Free subscriptions to Greenwire now available

SEJ recently received a grant from the W. Alton Jones Foundation enabling us to award a small number of trial subscriptions to Greenwire to SEJ members. Greenwire is a daily environmental news service, digesting major newspaper, magazine, television and radio coverage, along with news and analysis from former New York Times environment correspondent Philip Shabecoff and staff.

If you are interested in bringing this resource to your news organization free of charge for a three-month period, please send a letter of interest to SEJ Board Member Rae Tyson, c/o SEJ Office, 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19118.

Let SEJ know what use you could make of the service, and what benefits you see for your audience and institution. For more information on Greenwire itself, contact Greenwire Marketing at (703) 237-5130.

Minority grants...(From page 9)

board of directors. One, Wevonneda Minis of Florida Today, was elected. The other, Native American freelancer Valerie Taliman, was in a run-off for the last board set. She lost on the second ballot.

A third journalist of color — Steve Curwood of National Public Radio — also ran for the board as a write-in candidate and lost. His trip to the SEJ conference was not subsidized by the Freedom Forum grant.

SEJ has applied for a second grant from the Arlington, Va.-based forum. As of this printing, SEJ had not yet heard if the proposal has been approved.

Other winners of the 1992 travel fellowship were Jeff Yip of the Los Angeles Times; Jacob Park of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Angela Wang of the University of California-Los Angeles; Cynthia Lin of KFSM-TV in Fayetteville, Ark.; Felicia Sison of KCAL-TV News in Hollywood, Calif.; filmmaker Mike Lee of San Francisco; Linda Kim, a freelance writer from Ithaca, N.Y.; Chanda Shahani of Arizona State University; James E. Ford, a general assignment reporter at

WTOC-TV in Savannah, Ga.; Nichele Yvette Hoskins, an editorial writer at the Shreveport Journal in Louisiana; Pamela Johnson, a freelance journalist in Chi-

Jacksonville and James Butty, Washington correspondent for West Africa magazine.

Kenneth L. Williams, a reporter for a newspaper that circulates in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory near Montreal, Canada, attended the conference in place of the paper's environmental columnist, Eva Johnson. Johnson won the fellowship but had to cancel her trip at the last minute.

Contact SEJ Program

Director Beth Parke with suggestions on how to improve the fellowships, the conference or any other SEJ program. Parke and other conference planners are particularly eager to hear from journalists of color who would like to serve on panels at the next conference. Parke can be reached at SEJ's new office: 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA 19118. Phone: 215/247-9710. Fax: 215/247-9712.

Emilia Askari covers the environment at the Detroit Free Press and oversaw the Minority journalists travel fellowships for the 1992 SEJ National Conference.

"The biggest thrill for me was meeting some of the journalists I've admired from a distance, such as CBS' Erin Hayes and NPR's Michael Skoler. Just knowing someone who has done such inspiring work makes it easier for me to imagine myself doing the same quality of work." — **Smita Paul**

cago, Ill.; Jeannette Jordan, a feed coordinator working on national and international news for the NBC NewsChannel in Charlotte, N.C.; Pamela Joanne Jordan, a freelance writer in Portland, Ore.; Janita Lorraine Poe, a general assignment reporter at The Chicago Tribune; Shiela Ray, a graduate student in journalism at Texas Southern University in Houston; Brian G. Serraille, who covers environmental issues for Thompson Newspapers' 123 dailies throughout the U.S. and Canada; Kelly Williams, who is a visiting professor of communications and visual arts at the University of North Florida in

Economy... (from page 1)

ety) to high posts in the administration.

But there are some countervailing signs: Clinton was silent on environmental matters in the first weeks of his administration: for example, few if any know when or if the fabled Pacific Northwest Timber Summit will be held to deal with the diminishing old growth forests of the region. And his new cabinet members were models of circumspection and caution during their Senate confirmation hearings.

Congress looks to backlog

Nonetheless, there is still plenty of ferment in Congress on the environmental front, fueled by a backlog of old business and some strategic electoral defeats.

Much Congressional effort was expended over the past four years trying to get the agencies to do the jobs they were mandated to do by law. Congress tried to stop the EPA from weakening the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; the Corps of Engineers from weakening rules governing wetlands; and the Interior Department from instituting an "owl preservation plan" that according to a scientific panel would have led to the continued decline of the northern spotted owl. And of course, there were always spats with former Vice-President Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness.

With the Cabinet departments no longer seen so much as roadblocks but as facilitators, and with a friendly White House, here is a rundown of some of the environmental measures likely to soon be moving through Congress.

- **Elevation of the EPA.** Clinton, in announcing the selection of Browner to be EPA administrator, declared that he wanted to see the agency be elevated to a full-fledged cabinet department. Former President Bush said he wanted to see that too, but Bush had objected to provisions in previous bills that would have set up an independent Bureau of Environmental Statistics inside the department. The bill passed in the Senate, but by the time a suitable compromise on the statistics bureau was negotiated, powerful interests in the House (such as Government Operations Committee Chairman John Conyers,

D-Mich.) saw no point in handing Bush an environmental boon on a silver platter so close to the election.

- **Clean Water.** The Clean Water Act was up for reauthorization in 1992, but as was the case with a number of other wide ranging, and possibly expensive environmental initiatives, was put on hold by the recession, the press of business and finally the election. Last year's furor over how to define protected wetlands didn't help either.

But dozens of hearings have already been held to prepare for the revamping of this law, which might now turn to the contentious and expensive issue of controlling polluted rainwater runoff; and also a way to continue helping states finance the construction of badly needed sewage treatment plants. New Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., says that Clinton's commitment to rebuilding the nation's infrastructure must include attention to its decaying water pipeline and storage system.

The wetlands issue might be decided once a long-awaited National Academy of Science report on wetlands is issued, but that may not be until 1994.

- **Protection of the California desert.** California's Mojave Desert contains one of the country's unique ecosystems, with dozens of rare species, including the endangered desert tortoise. Bills to protect the desert were stymied, however, by the opposition of John Seymour, California's Republican Senator.

West a major battleground

Seymour was unceremoniously bounced in November 1992 by voters, who turned to Dianne Feinstein to represent them in the Senate. Feinstein has long supported protection for the desert. Feinstein, and her fellow freshman Senate colleague, Barbara Boxer, introduced a bill (S 21) to protect the desert on January 21. The measure will likely pass easily (it passed last year by a large margin in the House).

- **Reform of the 1872 Mining Law.** Lawmakers such as Sen. Dale Bumpers,

D-Ark., have tried for years to reform the 121-year old law, which makes mining the highest, most preferred use of the nation's hundreds of millions of acres of publicly owned lands, superceding such uses as ecosystem protection and recreation. The law has no environmental cleanup provisions, and allows government land to be sold for as little as \$2.50 an acre for mining purposes; moreover miners pay no royalties for the minerals they extract.

The hostility of Western senators and the Bush administration ensured that reforms would go nowhere. But the bill came close to a vote in the House last October as the Congressional session was winding down, and arguments that the law is costing the taxpayers millions of dollars in lost revenue appear to be taking effect.

Species Act vulnerable

Bumpers has already introduced an even tougher mining law reform bill; and for the first time, the issue will probably be voted on in committee and at least debated on the Senate floor. It could pass, but Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has indicated he does not yet relish a bruising fight on the issue, which could cost the measure some of its momentum.

Added to these are other more problematical, but no less important measures Congress will examine in the somewhat longer-term.

The Endangered Species Act, though still in force, like the Superfund law has also seen its statutory authorization expire, and may be the subject of debate this year. But the nation's fragile economic state makes this law still vulnerable to arguments that it protects animals before the jobs of humans.

And Congress is sure to discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement. The president has said he supports the accord, but wants to add side agreements to it to protect the environment.

Phillip Davis, who until recently covered the environment for Congressional Quarterly magazine, in February joined National Public Radio to do the same.

Clinton record ... (from page 1)

tons of radioactive wastes.

But for some Arkansas environmentalists, like Clyde Temple of Warren, the worst in the list of Clinton's acquiescence to industrial interests was his allowance of land disposal of animal wastes by Arkansas' powerful poultry industry.

Temple, 62, past president of the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, past vice president of the group and chairman of its water committee for 11 years, said he can't think of one good thing Clinton did for the environment during his decade as governor — but the worst thing has to be the damage to the Northwest Arkansas's streams by the poultry industry.

Swimming in waste

A significant portion of the stream miles in the Ozark Highland region, located in extreme Northwest Arkansas, exceeds the standard for primary contact activities, such as swimming, wading and

water skiing, according to a 1992 report by the state Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. At least 39 streams contain so much bacteria they are unsafe for swimming.

Both ground- and surface water in the Long Creek basin in Boone and Carroll counties have beneficial uses that have been impaired, according to a Soil Conservation Service Report.

"Primary contact recreation cannot be maintained on the creek due to excessive bacteria. Canoeing and swimming opportunities are limited," the report said.

High nutrient levels are being delivered to Table Rock Lake, which the city of Springfield, Mo., wants to use for a water source, it said.

"Groundwater in some areas is being impaired as a drinking water source and most of the basin represents a groundwater health threat area due to the spreading of animal wastes," the report added.

In an area where fecal coliform bac-

teria levels averaged near zero nearly 20 years ago, the mean is now 1,000 colonies per 100 milliliters. Water is not fit for swimming if it has a mean of 200 colonies per 100 milliliters or greater.

The annual poultry population in the Long Creek watershed is almost 24 million birds, or about 315 birds per acre of pastureland. The 18.5 million broilers alone produce more than 23 tons of dry litter each year. Total animal waste produced is about 489,595 tons, which is more than 6 tons of waste for every acre of pastureland in the watershed.

Lincoln Lake, Prairie Grover Lake and Bob Kidd Lake in Northwest Arkansas are eutrophic with massive algae growth during the summer months.

Arkansas' "Nonpoint Source Assessment Report" identified agriculture pollution — specifically animal production — as a source of impairment to the Illinois River and its tributaries.

Steve Filipek, a biologist for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, said a statewide stream survey by his agency shows "a two- to five-fold increase in surface nitrates in the Northwest part of the state."

Dr. Jim Daly, associate professor of the occupational and environmental health program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, said 10 streams he studied in the Neosho Basin in extreme Northwest Arkansas had nitrate problems.

"A Third World country"

Despite the numerous studies that show water quality problems in Northwest Arkansas, some politicians and leaders in the state's \$1.8-billion-a-year poultry industry staunchly maintain that water pollution from animal wastes does not exist.

They do this while many families in Northwest Arkansas have had to abandon their wells because of fecal coliform pollution.

Dr. Joe Schiller, a Fayetteville zoologist, said his family gets at least one boil order on their water a month. "You feel like you are living in a Third World country," Schiller said.

During the presidential campaign, information from Clinton's office about



Ridlehoover

Top environmental stories to watch during the Clinton/Gore administration, according to... Casey Bukro



- Watch what Clinton promised and what he delivers. We are the memory for society, the quick-page historians. Our job is to remember. We have to hold Clinton's and Gore's feet to the fire and see how well they do, not as critics, but as people whose business it is to see how well promises are kept.
- One specific issue to watch closely is toxic waste incineration. The administration put its foot in with the East Liverpool, Ohio, facility, so it seems they've picked that issue right off the bat. Arkansas has had its own incineration issue with the Vertac dioxin Superfund sites. Compare how Clinton the president responds to incinerator issues versus how Clinton the governor responded.
- Another question is whether risk assessment is the basis for deciding environmental priorities.
- Watch for market mechanisms like pollution allowances; the whole issue, of the economic side of environment has got to be an issue coming up.
- The fate of Superfund. What the hell are you going to do with it? It's a mess.

Casey Bukro has been covering environmental issues for 25 years. He was named environment editor at the Chicago Tribune in 1970 and has been "accused" of being the first person at a major metropolitan paper to hold that title.

his environmental record stated, "Today, 81 percent of the state's waters are swimmable and 97 percent are fishable."

What it did not say is that the state drastically reduced part of its testing regimen — which previously showed rivers not meeting standards — and as a result of the reduction, the percentage of streams meeting the standards increased.

Chicken and hog wastes are not the only contaminants in Arkansas' water.

Health advisories on fish consumption exist for more than 300 river miles in Arkansas because of contamination from mercury, dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls.

The oldest health advisory issued by the Arkansas Department of Health more than a decade ago is for dioxin downstream from Jacksonville, in the center of the state.

Fish advisories expand

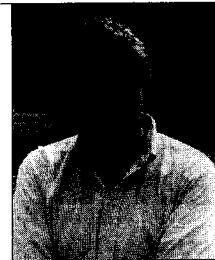
The latest advisory, issued this year, is for a mercury contamination problem on the lower Ouachita and Saline rivers in South Arkansas.

Health Department fish consumption advisories and some limits to commercial fishing have been issued on the following Arkansas water bodies:

- Bayou Meto from its headwaters to the Jefferson-Arkansas county line.
- Lake Dupree in Jacksonville.
- All Bayou Meto tributaries from the bayou to five miles up the streams and all overflow lakes, slough and bayous, including Little Bayou Meto and all water exchange ditches between it and the main bayou.
- The Red River from one mile above the Georgia-Pacific Co. paper mill at Crossett to the Arkansas-Louisiana state line.
- An unnamed tributary to Big Creek from a point just north of the creek's intersection with Arkansas 82 downstream to its junction with Big Creek in Columbia County.
- The Ouachita River from the mouth of Smackover Creek to the Arkansas-Louisiana state line, including the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge.
- The Saline River from U.S. 79 in

Top environmental stories to watch during the Clinton/Gore administration, according to...

Philip Shabecoff



- The integration of environmental issues in the full spectrum of economic, foreign, national security and other policy issues. That is what Vice President Albert Gore indicated he would do. The question is to what degree it will happen.
- New federal programs to help develop environmentally benign technologies, not only for the environment's sake, but for economically competitive markets.
- How the administration will handle reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act and whether or not it will take an ecosystems approach.
- Superfund reform and whether the administration will work out the swarm of bugs in that program.
- Whether the administration will put its money where its mouth is and fund alternative energy sources and energy efficiency.

Philip Shabecoff was a reporter for The New York Times for 32 years, his last 14 as the paper's chief environmental correspondent. He is currently publisher of the daily environmental news service Greenwire and recently published a history of the U.S. environmental movement entitled "A Fierce Green Fire."

Cleveland County to the Saline's confluence with the Ouachita River.

The widespread mercury contamination is responsible for about 151 of the river miles in Arkansas for which advisories have been issued on fish consumption.

State officials have warned that the mercury is being found in fish levels high enough to harm human health.

The most dangerous levels have been found in fish in the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, which attracts more than 20,000 fishermen each year.

The breakdown on the mercury contamination is 23 miles of the Saline in Cleveland County, 71 miles of the Saline in Bradley County and about 57 miles of the Ouachita in Union, said John C. Sunderland of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Dioxin contamination is responsible for advisories on about 170 river miles, Sunderland said.

Neighborhood incinerator

The bitterest feelings about Clinton's environmental record emerge from activists in Jacksonville who have fought for years against the state's plan to burn di-

oxin wastes at an abandoned plants between two residential areas.

"He has an agency that doesn't answer to anybody but him, and doesn't answer to anyone but industry," said Ruby Brown, 61, of Jacksonville.

"I think it's ludicrous to burn hazardous wastes next door to where children play," said Claudette Hazelett, 40, of Jacksonville.

Only a chain-link fence separates the Carpenter Street community in Jacksonville from the defunct Vertac Chemical Inc. plant, which once made cotton and termite poisons, herbicides and Agent Orange.

The plant spawned three Superfund sites and has contaminated waterways for 80 miles downstream.

It still harbors 30,000 drums of herbicide wastes, which Clinton has staunchly supported burning on site.

Clinton won't take a position on whether the wastes should be moved out of state to an incinerator certified to burn dioxin wastes in an industrial park.

He supports incineration within the Jacksonville city limits, despite the technical and financial headaches that have arisen, such as the incinerator's failing its

first test burn and not having the money to finish the job.

Pat Costner, a Greenpeace researcher, maintains that the incinerator is being allowed to spew dioxin all over Central Arkansas.

"Clinton promised that if that incinerator were not operating properly, he would shut it down. It has been shown over and over that it has not operated properly and cannot operate properly, and he has done nothing," Costner said.

Officials of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology repeatedly reassured the public that the incinerator would burn "six nines," or 99.9999 percent of the dioxin.

But EPA officials later acknowledged that was not possible. The incinerator can, however, burn a surrogate waste — used in the trial burn — to six nines, pollution control officials said.

The Jacksonville incinerator was even used as an example in an EPA "how to" memo on evading regulations for licensing hazardous waste incinerators, William Sanjour, a policy analyst for the EPA's Office of Solid Waste, charged in a Dec. 22 memo to the agency's inspector general.

Many people in Jacksonville believe their health has been hurt by exposure to the chemicals from Vertac. But their concerns have been largely ignored by both state and federal agencies.

The Lafarge affair

Clinton's penchant for incineration is a family affair. His wife, Hillary, was a member of the board of directors of the Lafarge Corp. one of the largest burners of hazardous wastes in the United States. She resigned from that board during the presidential campaign.

In general, Arkansas has few overall problems with air quality, because the state has little industry.

But there are pockets of industry, such as in Union County in South Arkan-

sas, where air quality is not good because of the enormous emissions allowed by the state.

Arkansas officials allowed a commercial hazardous waste incinerator to set up in Union County despite the company's bad environmental record in another state. Protests against the incinerator peaked in

1986 when 1,000 residents marched in the streets to demand health studies and to fight against a proposed increase in the incinerator's burn rate.

Later, an inspector found more than 100 problems at the incinerator complex — including several emissions and failure to halt burning when the incinerator developed problems.

The company was fined by PC&E, but the agency's officials also signed a legal document stating the company's emissions did no harm to human health.

The state's top pollution control official acknowledged that this was done without one test of the emissions. Clinton has repeatedly refused to say whether he ap-

proved of the agreement.

When officials of a South Arkansas bromide plant found their corporation was emitting 18 times the particulates its permit allowed, they asked the state to increase the permit limit.

The permit they were given allowed 13 additional tons of particulates and organic compounds to be emitted each year. The new limit was 21 tons, up from 8 tons per year. It was tied to a 100 percent increase in production.

In 1991, PC&E officials fined an Arkansas steel mill for violating its permit, then dramatically increased the limits in the permit. The state legislature, with Clinton's blessing, threw in a big new tax break to boot.

As bad as Clinton's environmental record is, some environmentalists in Arkansas note that it's better than Bush's.

Little Rock lawyer Bruce McMath, who calls Clinton "a Santa Claus for polluters," says Bush's record makes Clinton "look like a Greenpeace warrior" in comparison.

Bobbi Ridlehoover is an environmental reporter with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. She now covers public health issues at the newspaper

Top environmental stories to watch during the Clinton/Gore administration, according to... Tom Harris



- There's an old adage, "Just don't do something, stand there." One can't expect great outpouring of expensive initiatives from this administration. An era of lowered expectations is in order.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement, which Clinton has signaled will get an entirely new look for environmental parity.
- Energy initiatives like CAFE and gas taxes. How far he goes on both is very important from a Western perspective.
- Western water and subsidies — "welfare for big agriculture." Expect that to come to a screeching halt.
- A whole range of other issues, like the Endangered Species Act, overcuts on forest lands and the Clean Air Act.

Tom Harris has been an environmental writer for daily newspapers since 1969, first with the San Jose Mercury News and then with the Sacramento Bee from 1984 until his retirement in October 1992. He has also authored two books on the environment.

Minor flaws don't diminish handbook's value

By DAVID ROPEIK

Wouldn't it be great if environmental journalists had a single reference book they could go to when they wanted to learn something about an issue, like climate change or ozone depletion or the Endangered Species Act. One book they could go to for basic sources of information...a source book that was put out by some neutral party so they could trust that the information was fair and balanced.

That's what *Environmental Issues for the '90s, A Handbook for Journalists*, sets out to be. And it does a pretty fair job of it.

It's put out by the Environmental Reporting Forum, a program run jointly by the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation and The Media Institute. (And so all my cards are on the table, I sit on the advisory council to the E.R.F.) So it comes from a journalism group. It's about helping newspeople, not about espousing any cause or point of view.

In fact, it nobly states up front that it is an effort to help environmental journalists sort through advocacy. "There is nothing wrong with advocacy," states the preface, "but it places an extra burden on reporters who must weigh not only the merits of the information but the motives of the source."

In laying out its central approach, the book also admits what a lot of newspeople are loathe to admit. For many issues, there is no clear answer. "It's hard to report the truth if even scientists can't agree on what the truth is," we're reminded.

So its intent seems pretty honest, and neutral. Which to me makes the information in the meat of the book more credible, reliable. But what about that information?

There's plenty there. Fifteen major environmental issues, from acid rain to biodiversity to EMF to global warming to population to ozone depletion to wetlands, are discussed in the first part of the book. Each topic gets an overview/introduction, and a review of the history on the issue. There's a basic review of the current scientific thinking on each issue ("Most recent studies suggest that it is the magnetic rather than the electric component within EMFs

that may pose a health risk").

There is a simple review of the regulations applicable to the issue, and a liberal dose of statistical information ("...the percentage of crop yields lost to insects has almost doubled in the last 50 years, despite a 10-fold increase in the amount and toxicity of insecticides used."). All the factual assertions are footnoted so you can see for yourself who the source is and make your own decisions about whether

Book Review

"Environmental Issues for the '90s A Handbook for Journalists"

by Robert Logan

with Wendy Gibbons and Stacy Kinsbury
RTNDF. 337 pages. \$25.00

to trust the information.

Beyond the straight information, the book does a creditable job of applying some healthy skepticism. In the chapter on habitat preservation and biodiversity, the authors suggest credibility problems associated with any of the "widely divergent predictions about species decline," ranging from 2-3% by the year 2000, up to 25%. In the chapter on EMFs, the authors note that many of the studies have been done by the Dept. of Energy or the Electric Power Research Institute, "which, critics maintain, have a pro-utility bias." You get the sense reading through the book that there was some healthy, skeptical analysis of the information being gathered, rather than just spitting back out whatever was collected.

There are flaws. I found the chapter on hazardous wastes thin on information. The chapter on human population growth wandered, though I was glad this fundamental environmental issue was included. There were some inaccuracies. I happened to stumble across one by accident. The

book says that "New York, Wisconsin, and California now calculate the costs of air and water pollution to set electricity rates and to plan future power generation needs..." At least Massachusetts does too, and I think other states do as well.

There are omissions. In the chapter on solid waste disposal, there's a discussion of controlling methane from landfills, with no mention of EPA's new regs to capture methane emissions from the nation's biggest landfills. In the chapter on water quality, the section on the coast makes no mention of non-point source pollution (road runoff, septic tank leakage, illegal drains pouring right into the ocean) being a major problem.

But to counter these flaws, even a passing read by an environmental journalist will turn up at least half a dozen story ideas. (The 1987 Clean Water Act required states to have plans for controlling non-point source runoff by 1988...where does that stand in your state?)

The second half of the book offers a pretty fair list of organizations to contact for information, broken down into government, trade associations/industry, environmental groups, and finally, a list of journalist resource groups like Scientists' Institute for Public Information, Toxic Chemical Release Inventory, and S.E.J. These sources are national organizations for the most part, which I actually found handy since I have my own local sources. It's the national ones I need more help with.

The book is not encyclopedic. It's basic, simple. It offers only an introduction to the issues discussed. It admits that it intends to be "only a starting point." If you expect it or any one book to be an 'everything-in-one-place' reference, you'll be disappointed. But take *Environmental Issues* for what it is and it does a pretty good job. It has joined two or three other books that I keep handy on my desk at work. It certainly will be a resource that I will turn to often.

The reviewer, David Ropeik, covers the environment beat for Boston's WCVB-TV and is a member of the SEJ board.

SEJ members qualify for discount

For a limited time, the RTNDF is offering its handbook to SEJ members for \$20. To order, send check to:

RTNDF

1000 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 615
Washington, DC 20036

Dual role: U.S. reporters lecture and learn at EHC program in Eastern Europe

By RALPH HAURWITZ

Gabor Szabo, who covers environmental issues and economics for a weekly newspaper in Budapest, Hungary, avoids injecting his personal views into stories. That makes him unusual among journalists in Eastern Europe.

Most journalists in the former communist countries weave advocacy, commentary and opinion into their pieces. In fact, many Eastern European journalists who cover the environment are members, or even leaders, of environmental groups.

Such practices, of course, are a definite no-no for American journalists, at least those who work for mainstream publications. The American ideal is that journalists play a crucial role in a democracy, providing impartial, factual information so that a well-informed public can make up its own mind.

The difference between West and East emerged with some clarity in October during a series of seminars in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia on environmental journalism and the role of a free press in a democracy.

The sessions were sponsored by the Washington-based Environmental Health Center, a division of the nonprofit National Safety Council. The project was funded by Congress as part of the Support for East European Democracy Act.

I was part of the U. S. contingent. The other members were Bob Anderson, environmental editor of *The Advocate*, in Baton Rouge, La.; Bud Ward, executive director of the Environmental Health Center; and Jan O'Brien, coordinator of journalism programs for the center.

Our mission was fairly straightforward: To explain to an audience of print and broadcast journalists how we cover environmental issues. How do we gather information? What tools are available to us? What obstacles do we confront? Which environmental problems have been dealt with successfully? Which not? But we were students as well as teachers.

The workshops were held at an office building in Budapest, under the auspices

of the American Journalism Center; at a rustic lodge in Bialowieza National Park in Poland; at the Center for Independent Journalism in Prague, Czechoslovakia; and at the Environmental Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

Four decades of communist rule have left Eastern Europe with staggering ecological problems. Many cities have little or no treatment of industrial or household waste water. Brown coal is burned widely

No longer constrained by communist censors, the journalists freely criticize top government officials---sometimes without attributing the criticism

for power and factory production, with few air pollution controls. Cities are clogged with cars using leaded gasoline.

The Eastern European practice of blending commentary and hard-news reporting was not a total surprise. For the past two years, I have organized journalism workshops and industrial-site tours in Pittsburgh for Eastern European journalists who visited the United States as part of a six-week, coast-to-coast fellowship program sponsored by the Environmental Health Center and the Society of Environmental Journalists.

But meeting with the Europeans on their own turf deepened my understanding. Several journalists emphasized that the environmental movement in Eastern Europe served as something of a springboard for the democracy movement during the late 1980s.

In Hungary, for example, mass protest against the Nagymaros hydroelectric-power dam eventually undermined the Communist Party.

"To protest against the dam was the only way to protest against the communist system," said Marta Sarvari, a veteran environmental reporter and editor for *Magyar Nemzet*, a Budapest daily, and a critic of the dam.

Eastern European journalists also aren't shy about expressing their views on nuclear power. Adam Dombrowszky, who writes for three Hungarian papers, said he is afraid of nuclear power and believes

that the reactors weren't built properly.

No longer constrained by communist censors, the journalists freely criticize top government officials---sometimes without attributing the criticism to environmentalists, industry officials, academics or other sources.

The difference in journalistic philosophy prompted a spirited debate during our meetings in Prague. Several Eastern Europeans said membership in environmental groups gave them access to information not otherwise available, without binding them to the groups' views.

When I said that I had never joined such a group or written about my personal views in 13 years of environmental reporting, one Czech journalist declared that this was "a minus," not "a plus." Jan Baltus, the editor of *Technicky Tydenik*, a Czech weekly magazine specializing in technological matters, countered that the Europeans might learn from the American approach.

During the Budapest seminar, Szabo, the Hungarian writer, said that by staying objective and independent, he had access to industry sources who wouldn't speak to his more opinionated colleagues. So even among the Eastern Europeans, there is debate.

I was surprised by the abundance of selection at newsstands in Eastern Europe. Prague, for instance, has a dozen or so daily papers, and even two English-language weeklies. Editorial viewpoints vary widely on the political spectrum. With so many publications to choose from, bias in reporting does not seem to be a major issue among most Europeans.

My presentation during the seminars included a slide show on Pittsburgh's long effort to scrub its skies, and on how *The Pittsburgh Press* has covered the story. A half-century ago, Pittsburgh led the world in steel production, but its output of pollution was equally impressive. A program of strict pollution regulations, slum clearance and park development, and, later, a sharp decline in steelmaking, produced a city that regularly scores high in quality-

of-life rankings.

The Europeans consistently asked one question: Who paid for Pittsburgh's cleanup? The answer, of course, is that everybody did. The steel industry paid in the form of higher production costs; taxpayers paid for the urban renewal projects; and consumers paid in the form of higher prices for cars, appliances and other goods made of steel.

Eastern Europe, I was repeatedly told, doesn't have the money to clean up. When journalists write of children with lead poisoning in heavily industrialized Silesia, Poland, there is no Superfund program to rush to the rescue. For journalists, frustration comes with the territory.

"The government often says, first comes the economy, first comes the industry, then comes the environment," said Sarvari.

Some journalists also sense that the public has grown tired of hearing about environmental problems. The economy is clearly the top priority as these countries shift to a free-market system.

When it comes to tools for doing the job, U.S. journalists win hands down. Some European journalists tote portable Apple Macintosh computers, but they are the exceptions. The telephone — the most important information-gathering tool of the American journalist — is a source of irritation in Eastern Europe, where phone systems are notoriously unreliable. In Prague, I tried 30 times one morning to phone the U.S. Embassy across town, without success.

What's more, most of these countries don't have the equivalent of our First Amendment, Freedom of Information Act or Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Computer-assisted reporting techniques, used by U.S. journalists to track toxic chemical releases, waste disposal practices and other trends, are in their infancy in Eastern Europe.

Like their American counterparts, Eastern European journalists complain of difficulty in obtaining accurate, timely information from government agencies. The end of communism did not mean the end of the bureaucratic runaround.

Ralph Haurwitz was the environmental writer for The Pittsburgh Press.

Marta Sarvari's pen sideswiped Hungary's Communist environment

By **BOB ANDERSON**

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY — For years, pointing out environmental problems was a vehicle for Marta Sarvari, and later other Hungarian journalists, to indirectly criticize the Communist regime here, playing a subtle role in its eventual downfall.

"It wasn't allowed (for us) to attack the government directly in print," Sarvari said. "But we could say things are going the wrong way on the environment," and that reflected on the political and economic system. As a result, the environment became a major rallying point for anti-communists and has remained a high profile issue even after what Central Europeans refer to as the "systematic change" in governments.

Sarvari's battles with the Communists began long before her writing career and in a much less successful fashion. Her first brush with the Communists came in the attempted revolution against them in 1956. She lost her job as a scientist, went to work for a newspaper as a secretary and eventually became a staff writer. She covered science and natural history before becoming a pioneer in throwing subtle blows at the Communist government over environmental issues 20 years ago.

"She's known as the "great lady of environmental journalism" in Hungary, said Gabor Szabo, an environmental writer for a competing paper.

Gaining such status didn't come without difficulties. "The political leaders told my editor I was writing too much about the environment," Sarvari said. "They told him to please calm me. But he stood behind me," despite pressure from the Communist leaders.

"I was stubborn like a donkey," the 56-year-old journalist said. "I kept writing."

At one point she was warned she was being watched by Communist agents and she reluctantly destroyed the notes she had kept on her role in the 1956 uprising

which was crushed by Russian tanks.

Her memory alone provides an intriguing picture of the ill-fated stand by Hungarian freedom fighters and members of the Hungarian Army who not only refused to fire on them, but opened the armories and stood with them against the Russians. Because of her husband's job with the electrical utility, Sarvari was able to get early information about the Russian tanks advancing on this regal city.

"We got word that the Soviet Army" was moving in "and we forwarded the information" to the rebels, Sarvari said. But even that information wasn't enough to make up the difference between the armor of Russian tanks and the small arms and bottles of gasoline of the Hungarians.

As the tanks clanked into the city, "they shot at everywhere that there was a little movement — a movement of a curtain in a window," she said, her eyes momentarily lost in the vision from 26 years ago.

There's no missing the pain that still haunts that vision of a demonstration that turned into an attempted revolution and eventually a bloodbath that claimed the lives of so many of her peers.

It was the first of many battles she'd fight with the Communists, but in the future she would be armed with a typewriter, weaving her way with words through political landmines.

One cost of her support of the revolutionaries was her job as a geophysicist, but when the Communists took her job they had no way of knowing they were setting her on a path that would give her a much better position to fight them.

Unable to find other work, she accepted a position as a secretary at a newspaper. One day, when the newsroom was shorthanded and an editor learned that she knew something about art, she was given a chance to cover the opening of an

(Continued on page 20)



Sarvari

A fresh look at environmental policy

By FRED L. SMITH JR.

Environmental journalists are, on the whole, fairly good at producing stories. Unfortunately, these tend to be the stories put forward by the environmental establishment: Large corporations and greedy capitalists ignore environmental degradation in pursuit of higher profits. To be fair, this story is often true. Corporations and capitalists, like politicians, bureaucratic planners and government agencies, are indeed responsible for a share of environmental degradation. The problem is not that this story is told, but that it seems to be the dominant story in a world where many more stories remain untold.

Consider that the conclusion of the typical environmental story is nearly always the same: More laws and more government action is necessary to solve the problem. The dominance of such stories is the natural result of accepting the conventional environmental paradigm — that environmental problems reflect an inability of private action to advance environmental value, and therefore government regulation is necessary. This “market failure” paradigm is the dominant force behind today’s environmental policies. And, indeed, if market failures create environmental problems, government action will be needed in all areas having environmental consequences (that is, everywhere).

Unfortunately, this paradigm presupposes the ability of government planners to adequately account for environmental concerns. The history of environmental regulation suggests otherwise, as do the countless horror stories produced by government stewardship of environmental resources. Environmental policies are no less subject to special interest manipulation, and the passage of environmental laws hardly guarantees environmental progress. As a result, many environmental analysts, myself included, have embraced free market environmentalism. This is the belief that environmental problems do not result so much from so-called market failures, but rather from a failure to have markets — a failure to allocate property rights for environmental resources and to empower individuals to act as environmental stewards.

There is not room to elaborate the details of free market environmentalism here. However, it is important that journalists are aware of the many stories that arise from viewing environmental issues from a free market perspective. A perspective that puts more faith in the empowerment of individuals and communities than it does in the institutionalization of massive regulatory bureaucracies. A view, I should add, that also takes a favorable view of technological advancement, and considers economic and technologi-

Viewpoints

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

cal progress essential to reconciling concern over the environment with other important societal goals.

While hardly exhaustive, a short list of some of the “untold stories” about the environment follows:

More questioning of regulatory “solutions”: Environmental stories often include calls for new laws and more aggressive government action. Rarely is there any discussion of the track record of laws now extant, on the effectiveness of the regulatory laws already on the books. Regulations, after all, express intent — achievement is something quite different. One need only look at Superfund (which Al Gore helped author) to recognize that environmental laws do not always produce the desired results. Regulations have many impacts on society. Regulations redirect capital flows toward politically preferred sectors, away from sectors that have become political pariahs, in the process affecting employment and investment. Regulatory impacts may or may not be justified based on the intent of the regulation, but it happens just the same. Before rushing out to endorse new regulations, writers might explore the experience with these rules to date.

Rethinking environmental risk: Environmental risks are a major theme in environmental reporting: asbestos, alar,

lead, EMF, dioxin, Love Canal, and so on. As told, the stories basically picture the environmentalist and the regulator as caring only about making the world safer, cleaner and healthier. Their (and our) enemies are those interests concerned only with the costs of these regulations. In this framing, all virtue is on the part of the regulator; regulators have the moral high ground.

Many analysts see this situation rather differently. In many cases, regulations restrict economic and technological choices — and that can be deadly. Chlorination of water may involve some level of risk; yet, non-chlorinated water is extremely risky. “On the one hand and the other” approaches may be interesting, but rarely make for good copy. Nonetheless, the primary point — that there are risks on both sides of the environmental equation — can be found in many important stories. For example, automotive fuel efficiency standards encourage the downsizing of vehicles, making them less crashworthy, and therefore less safe. A Harvard-Brookings study determined that these standards impose between 2,200 and 3,900 additional highway fatalities each model year. The costs may be justified (I think not), but they cannot be ignored.

One can also see these factors at work in parts of the asbestos ban. In many cases, the risks of removing asbestos exceeded the risks of leaving it in place. The point in all these stories is that the debate over environmental regulation is not always about costs versus benefits, but it is often a case of the risks of inaction versus the risks of action. In many cases, the regulatory actions make us worse off than we would otherwise have been.

Green pork-barrel politics: As environmentalism has become a major program, the incentives to seek special favors has increased. Patrick Tyler in the early 1980s wrote a five-part series on the sewage construction grant program tracing out the ambitious technological claims and the disastrous achievements, the corruption and waste and the actual environmental damage resulting from over-sized, under-reliable centralized wastewater

treatment facilities. Stories of this type can be found in virtually every environmental area.

It is important that journalists remember who wins and loses with environmental regulation. Certainly corporations often have a lot to lose from regulation, but they often have a lot to gain as well. Regulations that create barriers to entry and keep out smaller competitors can be the best friend of big business. Many environmental rules, from the gold-plated Superfund cleanup standards to the reliance on oxygenated fuels can be explained, at least in part, based upon who benefits. Also remember that corporations are not the only ones with something at stake. Politicians wish to enhance careers and bureaucrats have an interest in expanding their budgets and increasing their authority. The best way to ensure one's government job in a time of fiscal austerity is to make everyone believe that your job is vital for their survival. Even environmental lobbyists can have something to gain. When a disaster story is hyped, they find it easier to raise money and amass political power. This may be a cynical view, but it comes from observing the goings-on in Washington first hand.

Journalism is a demanding field and attempting to include additional perspectives, such as those suggested, is unlikely to make it any easier. However, as government officials seek greater involvement in environmental concerns the importance of these additional perspectives becomes increasingly important.

Fred Smith is the president and founder of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a pro-market public interest group in Washington, D.C. Smith was a senior policy analyst at the EPA in the mid-1970s and is the co-editor of Environmental Politics: Public Costs, Private Rewards (Praeger Press, 1991).

**Handbooks available from SPJ/SEJ
forum in Baltimore**

A limited number of handbooks containing more than 200 pages of handouts are still available. To order, send check for \$15 to:

SPJ/SEJ Handbook
c/o Kevin Carmody
8498 Kirby St.
Manassas, Va. 22110

Checking the effectiveness of endangered species initiatives

By RUSSELL CLEMINGS

When the 103rd Congress convenes in January, the biggest environmental issue on its agenda will be reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Intended to protect scarce species of fish, wildlife and plants — and to restore their numbers to optimum levels — the 20-year-old act has become a focal point of the economics-vs.-environment debate. Critics ask whether saving rare species, especially obscure ones, is worth the presumed cost in jobs and profits.

Meanwhile, comparatively little attention is paid to another question: Is the act working? Are declining species rescued in time, and are their populations being restored to optimum levels, whatever those are?

I've spent the past few months on a three-part series for the Fresno Bee, published in December, that tries to answer those questions. (The answers are "no," "no" and "no," — mainly because the agencies charged with carrying out the act have been starved for funding and cowed by constant threats from some members of Congress to weaken or repeal the act.)

Call me at 209-441-6371 for a copy of the series. Read on for a Cook's tour of some of the documents and sources you can use to check on the government's performance.

The Endangered Species Act's ancestry can be traced to the Lacey Act of 1900, an anti-poaching law. But the act we know today was passed overwhelmingly by Congress in 1973 at the urging of President Nixon. It underwent major overhauls in 1978, 1982 and 1988.

It does four things, basically. It sets up a process for placing species on the endangered or threatened lists (the difference is minor). It bans "taking," or harming, those species. It requires federal agencies to avoid actions that may jeopardize the continued survival of species on the lists. And it provides for writing and imple-

menting plans for the species' recovery.

Let's start with listing. Although there are 748 species now on the two lists, there are more than 3,500 candidates, many of which have been waiting in line since the mid-1970s. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's public affairs office (202-208-5634) can provide lists of endangered or threatened species and candidates.

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

You can delve further into the waiting lists by getting a copy of the "petlog" database from the service's Arlington, Va., office (703-358-

2171). This database is used by the service to track petitions to list species. You can read it with any computer program that reads dBase files (I used Paradox).

The database will show you, for example, that a biologist at Virginia's Old Dominion University submitted a petition to list six cave crustacean species in 1974, and that the service has never acted on it.

Also available from the Arlington office is a database called "listhist," which tracks the service's compliance with the act's deadlines for making decisions on listing species. (Hint: it's abysmal).

Be sure to read two recent critical audits of the listing process: "Endangered Species Act: Types and Numbers of Implementing Actions" (GAO/RCED-92-131BR), from the General Accounting Office (202-275-2812), and "The Endangered Species Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" (Report No. 90-98), from the U.S. Interior Department's Office of Inspector General (202-208-4252). And get a copy of the Congressional Research Service's packet on the act through the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries (202-225-4047).

To examine the recovery process, start with the service's biannual report to Congress, "Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Program," available from the public affairs office. In addition to describing each species, the report says whether a recovery plan has been written for the species (40 percent have none). If

there is a plan, the report tells what percentage has been implemented (more than 88 percent are mostly incomplete.)

Also, review the service's annual report on endangered species expenditures by federal and state governments (from the public affairs office). It comes in printed form, but I got the raw data on diskette from Arlington and, by running it through Paradox, calculated that the average listed bird, for example, gets more than 66 times as much money as the average listed plant.

Even the ordinary printed report contains plenty of tidbits — such as this: No money at all was spent in 1990 on 112 listed species. And the top 20 species on the money list got two-thirds of the funding. (Number one was the northern spotted owl, but what's this? Number two was the least Bell's vireo?)

The requirement that federal agencies avoid jeopardizing listed species is carried out through "section 7 consultations" with the service. Each of the service's regional offices keeps a written log of its consultations; by reviewing them, you'll find that projects are almost never stopped by endangered species, and are

rarely modified significantly.

Enforcement of the "taking" prohibition is carried out by the service's law enforcement branch, with prosecution by the Justice Department (202-514-2007). A question worth asking is this: Since habitat modification is one of the greatest threats to endangered species, how many times has the government brought criminal charges on that basis? (Answer: Four. Think about that the next time a private landowner tells you how unforgiving the taking prohibition is.)

One last thing merits attention: Habitat conservation plans, permitted under section 10 of the act. These provide landowners with relief from the "takings" prohibition, in exchange for money to create and maintain preserves for endangered or threatened species.

In recent years, interest in such plans has skyrocketed. Four dozen plans are now being prepared, most of them in the West and Southeast. Many environmentalists support these plans, saying they defuse opposition to the act while enhancing chances for species survival. But others, especially at the local level, attack them as political compromises that con-

demn species to extinction.

You can get a list of habitat conservation plans that are completed or pending from the service's endangered species office at 703-358-2171. And get a book, "Reconciling Conflicts under the Endangered Species Act," by Michael J. Bean et al., from the World Wildlife Fund (301-338-6951).

Other worthwhile publications include *Conservation Biology*, a journal widely read by scientists specializing in endangered species, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, published monthly and available through the Government Printing Office (202-783-3238). And don't forget to check the Code of Federal Regulations for the act's implementing regulations and the Federal Register for notices on listing actions — including informative summaries of the biological status of each species.

Russell Clemings, environmental reporter for the Fresno (Calif.) Bee and Reporters' Toolbox editor for the SEJournal, is known for his work on irrigation-induced water quality problems.

Sarvari...(From page 17)

exhibit.

Her story impressed the editors and she gradually moved from reporting on art to covering history, anthropology and natural sciences.

In writing about anthropology, she caused a stir in the Communist Party by noting in one of her articles how many important anthropological sites were going to be destroyed by a dam being proposed by the government. That running story also got Sarvari more interested in the environment.

The environment in Hungary didn't fare well under Soviet domination, and in the 1970s her science coverage led her more and more into writing ecological articles.

"Environmental topics weren't very popular before then, because we had so many other problems," Sarvari said.

But, as she wrote about environmental matters, people gained interest and it further fueled the unrest against the Communists. "Our life expectancy was six

years shorter than the rest of Europe," mainly because of environmental problems, she said.

"I wanted people to know what was important and how they could manage their little environments — their houses, their gardens, the villages — and how to preserve the health of their children," Sarvari said.

Other than complain to her editor, the Communists did little about the problems pointed out in her articles.

Gradually, the environment and the government's inaction in solving the problems became a rallying point for those who wanted to throw off Communist rule.

The disintegration of Communism in Hungary three years ago hasn't slowed Sarvari's environmental writing, which has centered in recent years on insults to the Danube River, which flows through her city.

Like most environmental writers in Central Europe, her passion for environmental issues bubbles through her words

and she makes no claim of objectivity — but her readers don't expect her to be a detached observer. Maybe it's not a necessity in a city like this where there are a dozen daily papers readers can look to for different opinions.

It's a question with which Sarvari and other journalists here are grappling and a topic that always brings debate.

Objective journalism may not be the style of journalism that causes revolutions or "systematic changes" in government. Now that those changes have occurred, it will be interesting to watch the grand lady of environmental journalists in Hungary and her fellow writers to see if and how their styles change.

Bob Anderson is the environmental editor for The Advocate in Baton Rouge, La. His writing has brought more than 40 state, regional and national awards. He recently helped put on the EHC seminars in Central Europe for environmental reporters.



Application for Membership

Society of Environmental Journalists

Membership Office: 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA 19118

Phone: (215) 247-9710 Fax: (215) 947-9712

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

Instructions:

1. Fill out application as completely as possible. Attach additional pages if necessary.

2. If available, attach a current resume or brief biography.

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

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

A. To be completed by all applicants.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____

Title of Publication/Show/Dept.: _____

Work Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Fax Number: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip

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

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

Describe duties (students may describe goals): _____

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

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

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

☐ **Active** Persons primarily engaged in the gathering, reporting, editing, photographing, producing or cartooning of news for dissemination by regularly published, general circulation newspapers, magazines, and newsletters, as well as radio and television stations and networks, news services, and other media available to the general public.

☐ **Academic** Persons on the faculty or enrolled as students of an accredited college, university, or other school who have an interest in environmental issues.

☐ **Associate** Those individuals, such as part-time freelancers, who do not qualify for Active or Academic membership but who, in the majority opinion of the SEJ board, will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the SEJ. (See section "C" of application.) Applicants must be substantially engaged in journalistic pursuits.

A. (continued)

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

If yes, provide details and dates: _____

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

If yes, for whom? _____

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

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

If yes, what organization or movement? _____

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

If "other", please specify: _____

C. To be completed by applicants for associate membership.

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

D. To be completed by all applicants.

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

Signature

Date

Do you know someone who should be a member of SEJ? We'll send them details and an application:

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

For use only by SEJ Membership Committee or Board of Directors

Date reviewed by committee: _____ Recommendation _____

Membership category granted _____ Date of action _____

New Members

The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from October 13, 1992 to January 18, 1993. Memberships recorded after January 18 will appear in SEJournal Vol. 3, No. 2.

ALABAMA

- Justin Fox, The Birmingham News, Birmingham

ARKANSAS

- Cynthia Lin, Fayetteville

ARIZONA

- Chanda Shahani (Academic), Arizona State University, Tempe

CALIFORNIA

- Christine K. Eckstrom, Santa Cruz
- Mike Lee, Third Image Film & Video, San Francisco
- Barbara Moran, San Diego Home & Garden Magazine, Alpine
- Michael J. Rocha (Academic), California State Univ. - Fullerton, Azusa
- Felicia Sison, KCAL-TV, Shadow Hills
- Scott Thurm, San Jose Mercury News, San Jose
- Angela Wang (Academic), UCLA, Los Angeles
- Jeff Yip, Los Angeles Times, Granada Hills

COLORADO

- Pattie Logan, Network Earth, CNN/TBS, Boulder
- James P. McMahon (Associate), Independence Institute, Denver

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Roy Beck, The Social Contract,
- David Bowermaster, US News & World Report
- James Butty, West Africa Magazine
- Mary E. Crowley, Environmental Protection News, Stevens Publishing Corp.
- Leslie Crutchfield, National Geographic Magazine
- Marianne Lavelle, National Law Journal
- Brian G. Seraile, Thompson Newspapers
- Katharine M. Stimmel, Daily Environment Report, Bureau of National Affairs
- William Sugg, Green Disk Journal
- Matthew P. Weinstock, Occupational Hazards, Penton Publishing

FLORIDA

- Dolores C. Jenkins (Academic), Collection Management, Univ. of Florida Libraries, Gainesville
- Sue Landry, St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg
- Kelly Williams (Academic), Univ. N. Florida, Jacksonville

GEORGIA

- Bill Belleville, Rodale's Scuba Diving, Rodale Press, Savannah
- Chet Burgess, Network Earth, Earth Matters, Future Watch, CNN, Atlanta
- Sean Calles, Earth Matters, CNN, Atlanta
- James E. Ford, Savannah

ILLINOIS

- Nathaniel Bulkey, Northwest Herald, Woodstock
- Marla Donato, Chicago Tribune, Chicago
- Laurie Goering, Chicago Tribune, Crete
- Pamela Johnson (Associate), Chicago
- Holly Korab (Associate), Insitute for Environmental Studies, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign
- D. Brent Miller (Academic), Speech Communication Dept., Loras College, Roscoe
- Janita Lorraine Poe, Chicago Tribune, Chicago

INDIANA

- Scott Abel, Radon News Digest, Indianapolis
- Douglas C. Covert (Academic), Dept. of Communication, University of Evansville, Evansville
- Rebecca Lindell, News-Dispatch, Michigan City
- S. Holly Stocking (Academic), School of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington

IOWA

- Vincent Joseph Decker (Academic), Loras College, Dubuque

KENTUCKY

- James Anthony Parham, WSJP/WBLN AM-FM, Murray
- Gregory M. Wells (Academic), College Heights Herald, Western Kentucky Un., Bowling Green

LOUISIANA

- Nichele Yvette Hoskins, Shreveport Journal, Shreveport

MAINE

- Phyllis Austin, Maine Times, Brunswick

MARYLAND

- Donald L. Rheem (Associate), Potomac
- Baxter Smith, Community Times, Landmark Community Newspapers, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

- Kitty Beer Mattes (Associate), Cambridge
- Kim Motylewski, Living on Earth, Cambridge
- Jacob Park (Academic), MIT, Boston

MICHIGAN

- Barrie Barber (Associate), Burton
- Brodie Farquhar (Academic), SLV Publications, Ann Arbor
- Kelly Lynn Miner (Academic), Southfield
- Kwan Mun, Oakland Press, Pontiac
- Robert L. Redmond (Associate), Ecological Economics/Toxics Caucus, Whitmore Lake
- Elizabeth Rob Reghi (Academic), Oakland Post, Sterling Hts.
- Lori Villarosa (Associate), Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Flint
- Mike Williams, Detroit Free Press, Detroit

MINNESOTA

- Chuck Laszewski, St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul
- James P. Lenfestey, Star Tribune, Minneapolis

MISSOURI

- Robert A. Logan (Academic), School of Journalism, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia
- Russell Pulley, Kansas City Star—Southland Bureau, Grandview

NEVADA

- Jon Christensen, High Country News, Carson City
- Lois Snedden (Associate), Reno
- Valerie Taliman, Reno

NEW YORK

- Cynthia Berger (Academic), Living Bird Magazine, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca
- Evelyn Tully Costa (Associate), Four Corners, Brooklyn
- C. Gerald Fraser, The Earth Times, New York
- Tim Gallagher (Academic), Living Bird Magazine, Cornell Library of Ornithology, Ithaca
- Eden Graber (Associate), Graber Productions Inc., New York

- Linda M. Kim, Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Ithaca
- Emily Laber, Stamford Advocate, New York
- Robert Langreth, Popular Science, New York
- Roger Segelken (Academic), Cornell News Service, Ithaca

NORTH CAROLINA

- Jeanette Jordan, NBC News Channel, Charlotte

OHIO

- Chris Burnett (Associate), Westerville
- Ann Filemyr (Academic), Communications/Media Arts Dept., Antioch College, Yellow Springs
- Smita Paul (Associate), Cincinnati

OREGON

- Pamela Joanne Jordan (Associate), Gresham
- Michele M. LaBounty, Daily Astorian, Astoria

PENNSYLVANIA

- John Noel Bartlett, Erie Daily Times/Sunday Times-News/Morning News, Franklin
- Steve Meyer, Clean Air News, Progressive Business Publications, Bryn Mawr

TENNESSEE

- Elizabeth Atwood-Gailey (Academic), Ctr. for Enviro. Biotechnology, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville

TEXAS

- Sito Negron, El Paso Times, El Paso
- Sheila Ray (Academic), Talking Trash, Texas Southern Univ., Houston

VIRGINIA

- Joseph Coccaro, Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk
- Glenn Garelik, Time Magazine, Falls Church
- Marlene Harris, National Public Radio, Alexandria
- Justin E. McGuire, Air/Water Pollution Report, Business Publishers Inc., Arlington
- Curtis A. Moore (Associate), McLean
- Elizabeth Tilley-Hinkle, Coal & Synfuels Technology, Pasha Publications Inc., Arlington
- Robert Joseph Traister Jr., Energy & Environment Group, Pasha Publications Inc., Arlington

WASHINGTON

- Scott Miller, KING 5 News/NBC Newschannel, KING TV, Seattle

WISCONSIN

- David Tenenbaum, Madison
- David Wahlberg, Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

CANADA

- Doug Draper, St. Catharines Standard, St. Catharines, Ontario
- John Holman, The Press Independent, Yellowknife, NW Territories
- Kenneth Williams, The Eastern Door, Mohawk Territory

COSTA RICA

- Alejandra Zuniga-Vega, La Nacion, San José

GERMANY

- Cynthia Pollock Shea, International Environment Reporter, Bureau of National Affairs, Bonn

SRI LANKA

- Pincha H. P. Vajirani (Associate), Diyadama, National Environmental Centre, Sri Jayawardenapura

FEBRUARY

21-24. **Agricultural Research to Protect Water Quality** (sponsored by USDA, EPA, US Geol. Survey and Soil and Water Conservation Soc. This conference focuses on runoff pollution from fields, and movement of pesticides and/or nitrate into groundwater). Radisson Hotel South, Minneapolis. Contact: SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021. Ph:800/THE-SOIL FAX:515/289-1227

28-March 4. **[Nuclear] Waste Mgmt. 93: High-level wastes, Low-level wastes, Mixed Wastes and Environmental Restoration** (sponsored by DOE, IAEA, Amer. Nuc. Soc. and others). Tucson Ariz. Convention Ctr. Contact: Roy G. Post or Morton Wacks. Ph:602/624-8573 FAX:602/792-3993

MARCH

6 - 12. **Environmental Bioremediation and Biodegradation Conference** (sponsored by Keystone Symposia). Lake Tahoe, CA. Contact: Drawer 1630, Silverthorne, Colo. 80498. Ph:303/262-1230

10-12. **Zebra Mussel Conference** (sponsored by mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Programs). Baltimore. Contact: Maryland Sea Grant at Ph:410/638-3255

14-16. **Next Generation of US Agric'l Conservation Policy** (sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation Soc.). Kansas City, MO. Contact: Max Schnepf, SWCS, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021-9764. Ph:800/THE-SOIL

14-18. **Society of Toxicology annual meeting** (with 1,700 presentations on subjects ranging from health effects of methanol fuels and cellular effects of dioxin to health effects of lead and ozone damage to lungs). New Orleans Convention Center. Contact: SOT, 1101 14th St., NW, Ste. 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005-5601. Ph:202/371-1393 FAX:202/371-1090

18-19. **Watershed Research Symposium** (sponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, featuring sessions on climate-change issues, tracers of natural and anthropogenic chemicals, and large-scale ecosystem experiments). Pollard Auditorium, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Contact: Shirley Wright, ORNL Ph:615/574-7385

22-23. **1993 EMF [Electromagnetic Fields] Conference** (focusing on research,

litigation and monitoring). Arlington, VA. Contact: Jayne Mixon, Transmission & Distribution Magazine, Intertec Publishing, PO Box 12901, Overland Pk, KS 66282-2901. Ph:913/967-1865

28-31. **First SETAC World Conf.** (sponsored by Soc. of Env'l Toxicology and Chemistry) program will include sessions on marine pollution, agriculture's effects on water quality, biological effects of air pollution, biodegradation of groundwater, algal blooms, and studies of pesticide effects on beneficial organisms). Lisbon, Portugal. Contact: Dr. A.M.V.M. Soares, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Coimbra, 3049 Coimbra Codex, Portugal. Ph:351-39-22-241 FAX:351-39-24-226

28-April 1. **American Chemical Society spring national meeting** (its 334 technical sessions include dozens on environmental issues, including health effects of electromagnetic radiation, air pollutants from fossil fuels, automotive emissions monitoring, and solar technologies to detoxify water and hazardous chemicals). Denver. Contact: Lee Borah, ACS, 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C., 20036. Ph:202/872-4450 FAX:202/872-4370

29-April 1. **Int'l Oil Spill Conf.** (with sessions ranging from oil-eating microbes and novel cleanup techniques to assessing recovery of oiled wetlands and effects on other ecosystems). Tampa, Fla. Convention Center. Contact: Trade Associates in Rockville, Md. at Ph:301/468-3210 FAX:301/468-3662

30-April 1. **Municipal Waste Combustion** (with sessions on controlling emissions, disposing of ash, siting facilities and separating materials for recovery). Williamsburg, VA. Media contact: Martha Swiss, Air and Waste Mgmt. Assn. Ph:412/232-3444 ext. 126

APRIL

20-22. **The Reintroduction Symposium** (sponsored by the Ctr. for Plant Conservation, the program will discuss not only strategies for returning species to their native habitat, but also related political and biological issues). St. Louis, MO. Contact: Marie M. Brueggmann, CPC, Missouri Botanical Garden, PO Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. Ph:314/577-9450

MAY

2-5. **Nat'l Conf. on Noise Control Engineering** (sponsored by NASA Langley and the Inst. of Noise Control Eng.). Ft. Magruder Inn and Conf. Ctr., Williamsburg, VA. Contact: David G. Stephens, MS 462, NASA Langley Res. Ctr., Hampton, VA 23665-5225. Ph:804/864-3640

3-6. **Int'l Congress on Health Effects of Hazardous Wastes** (sponsored by U.S. Public Health Serv.). Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta. Contact: Agency for Toxic Subs's and Disease Registry, US Dept of Health and Human Svcs, 1600 Clifton Rd, NE (E-28), Atlanta, GA 30333

3-7. **1993 Incineration Conf.** (sponsored by University of Calif., meeting will cover burning of medical, Superfund, radioactive and other wastes). Holiday Inn-World's Fair, Knoxville, Tenn. Contact: C. Baker, UC-Irvine, EH&S, Irvine, CA 92717. Ph:714/856-7066

JUNE

3-6. **Investigative Reporters and Editors National Conference.** Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, 53rd Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City. For more information, call IRE:314/443-1625

FILING DEADLINES:

March 1. **MIT's Knight Science Journalism Fellowships** for full-time or free-lance journalists with a minimum of three-years experience in science and technology reporting. Program offers \$26,000 stipend and up to \$2,000 relocation allowance. Contact: Victor McElheny, director. Ph:617/253-3442

March 1 or until position is filled. **Journalist-in-Residence program at Michigan State University.** The School of Journalism at MSU is also seeking a visiting lecturer in science and environmental reporting for the 1993-94 academic year. Contact: Stan Soffin, director, School of Journalism, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1212. Ph: 517/355-1520

March 15. **Robert L. Kozik Award for Environmental Reporting.** \$1,000 prize for the best print, broadcast or radio reporting. Contact: 202/662-7523

Green Beat Correspondents

Contribute to Green Beat

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

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

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

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

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

California:

Northern California — Tom Harris at the Sacramento Bee, 2100 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95852, (916) 321-1001.

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

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

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

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

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

Florida:

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

South Florida — Mary Beth Regan at

the Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 420-5787.

Georgia and South Carolina — Charles Pope at The (Columbia, S.C.) State, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 771-8413.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oregon — Kathie Durbin at The Oregonian, (503) 221-8548 or Dan Postrel at the Salem Statesman-Journal, 280 Church St., NE, Salem, OR 97309, (503) 399-6737.

Pennsylvania — Ralph Haurwitz, formerly of The Pittsburgh Press, 638 Royce Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15243, (412) 263-1986, fax (412) 263-2014.

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

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

Texas and Oklahoma:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALABAMA

► "The Alabama Forestry Commission held an illegal meeting (in October) and voted to use its staff and resources to support a private, anti-environmental group headed by the state forester," Katherine Bouma of the *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Nov. 15. During the closed meeting, State Forester Bill Moody asked if he should use leave time to work for Stewards of Family Farms, Ranches and Forests. The group, which Moody founded and chairs, opposes environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, and works to protect the rights of private landowners. Bouma reports on Nov. 22 that the commission receives about \$2.5 million annually in federal funds, including money to promote the Clean Water Act. Meanwhile, the commission's staff spent time and state tax dollars on activities for the Stewards group. A Montgomery environmental group on Nov. 25 filed a complaint with the Alabama Ethics Commission. In December, Bouma reported that Moody "had exclusive use of a twin-engine plane for himself, his staff and his guests this year" and that flight logs showed two previously undisclosed commission meetings.

► The state Environmental Management Commission on Dec. 23 rejected a change in pollution rules that could have forced some factories to cut by two-thirds the volume of poisonous cancer-causing chemicals dumped into Alabama rivers. The commission voted 4-3 for the state, in its risk assessment process, to continue using its assumption that people eat 6.5 grams of river fish each day, which equals one 7-ounce serving per month. The amount of fish a person eats is one factor in an equation that calculates the health risk of eating contaminated fish. Three commission members voted to increase the amount of fish a person is assumed to eat, which would result in less pollution being acceptable. For newspaper clips, call David White, the *Birmingham News*, at 205-325-2222.

► People who live near a two-mile stretch of chemical plants and a coal-fired steam plant in north Mobile County are worried that air emissions from the plants

are causing persistent breathing and sinus problems, reports Justin Fox of the *Birmingham News*. Fox writes that the more than 40 million pounds of carbon disulfide that Courtaulds Fibers rayon plant puts in the air each year make it the nation's No. 2 toxic air polluter, according to the EPA. Mobile County has a higher death rate by lung cancer than the rest of the state and the nation, although the reason for that is not clear, according to the county health officer. For information, call Justin Fox, the *Birmingham News*, at 205-325-2453.

► Alabama voted 'yes' Nov. 3 on "Alabama Forever Land Trust," a constitutional amendment initiative to acquire, manage and protect public land for conservation, recreation, scientific and educational purposes. The conservation effort would be paid for by natural gas sales. The measure passed by a vote of 82 percent for to 18 percent against.

► A Baldwin County grassroots organization, "Citizens for Responsible Development of Highway 225," are fighting a plan to widen the highway from Spanish Fort to Interstate 65. Members of the group say the widening of the road will destroy trees, displace homes and attract unwanted industry. For more information, call Carol Carpenter, the *Mobile Press Register*, at 205-434-8495.

ARIZONA

► The Phoenix alternative weekly *New Times* reported that citizens living near Motorola electronics plants in Phoenix and Scottsdale are taking epidemiology into their own hands, by gathering data on cancer deaths in their neighborhoods, because state and federal agencies aren't doing a good job studying the health of people living near polluted water wells around those plants. The story uncovered major statistical flaws in state and federal health studies in those areas, and found that residents have found alarming, if not necessarily statistically significant, numbers of cancer cases. The story is part of a continuing *New Times* series on massive groundwater pollution linked to the Motorola plants. For information, contact reporter Terry Greene at 602-271-0040 or write at P.O. Box 2510, Phoenix 85002.

► The *Tucson Citizen* ran a three-part series on southern Arizona's troubled desert rivers and washes and the fight to preserve them. The series explored the value these normally dry water courses hold for dozens of plant and animal species, how they survive and why many have become deep ditches. It also looked at conflicts between private property rights interests and environmentalists over the future of these washes, and how some cities have actually improved habitat along rivers by dumping a treated sewage effluent into them. For information, call reporter Dan Sorenson, 602-573-4594 or write the *Citizen* at Box 26767, Tucson 85726.

► The *New Times* of Phoenix also reported that defense contractor Motorola, which polluted a large portion of an aquifer underneath its plant in Scottsdale, has billed the Defense Department for part of a \$30 million or so cleanup of the pollution by the suspected cancer-causing solvent trichloroethylene. Neither Motorola nor the Defense Department would disclose how much taxpayers are being billed for the cleanup, according to *New Times*. A Defense Department spokeswoman was quoted as saying that figure was "proprietary" and therefore not subject to disclosure. For information, contact reporter Terry Greene at 602-271-0040 or at the paper at 1201 E. Jefferson, Phoenix 85034.

► The *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix did a four-part series looking at how miners, ranchers, timber-cutters and private concessionaires in national parks benefit from below-market fees, fees below the government's costs or no fees for extracting resources or otherwise operating on federal public lands. A week or so after the series appeared, a House-Senate conference committee killed legislation aimed at compelling miners and other public land users to pay market rates. For information, write Martin Van der Werf or Jeff Barker at the *Republic's* Washington Bureau, 1000 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045. Call at 202-662-7260.

CALIFORNIA

► *Los Angeles Times* reporter Marla Cone examined the potential environmen-

The Green Beat

tal impacts of desalinization plants Nov. 30. At least eight plants are planned for California but the impacts on aquatic life and smog (a factor of the plants' high energy usage) are poorly understood. Cone can be reached at 714-966-7700.

► *Los Angeles Times* writer Maria L. La Ganga, who recently replaced long-time environmental writer Larry B. Stammer, took a look at the known sources and effects of particle pollution in the four-county South Coast region. A late-blooming awareness of the lethal impact of tiny particles of soot, dust and chemicals has sparked new efforts by air quality officials to control the pollutant. *LA Times* newsroom is 213-237-5000.

► *Orange County Register* environmental reporter Alina Tugend wrote a special section published Aug. 16 on plating companies and makers of printed circuit boards. They are the largest sources of soil and groundwater pollution in Orange County but almost never get shut down. Uneven enforcement fails to catch a minority of polluters. Tugend reviewed county health department records on hazardous waste generators and found many records on plating companies were incomplete. In a review of District Attorney's office records, she found notices of violations issued to plating shops were often not followed up with enforcement. Tugend can be reached at 714-953-2240.

► *San Diego Union-Tribune* environmental writer Kathryn Balint reported Nov. 1 on the glut of recyclables that has softened the market for most materials and made it almost impossible to find takers for many types of plastics and mixed paper. Balint can be reached at 619-293-1335.

CONNECTICUT

► The price residents are going to have to pay to implement the 1990 Clean Air Act was analyzed in a three-part series published by the *Hartford Courant* Nov. 15 to Nov. 17. Part one, by Dan Jones, examined how the regulations will affect lifestyles at home, play and work. Susan Kinsman, in part two, looked at how the act will create new opportunities for some businesses, while threatening others. Jones

returned in part three to report how the Bush administration had delayed many of the act's enforcement provisions during the last two years. For more information, contact Jones or Kinsman at 203-241-6200.

DELAWARE

► The *Wilmington Delaware News Journal* reported in December that 50 workers at Du Pont Co.'s Chambers Works in New Jersey have sued their employer, alleging the company intentionally exposed them to unsafe levels of lead and hid the health consequences. Du Pont has been producing tetraethyl lead as a gasoline additive since 1923, and while the company has changed the manufacturing process repeatedly in an effort to reduce workers' lead exposure, it has resisted efforts to determine the exposures of its workforce and the health effect, the paper reported. The company was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 1989 for willful safety violations, and a followup study of 200 workers who volunteered to be tested found many had already suffered nervous system damage from chronic exposure. For more information, contact Merritt Wallick, 302-324-2882.

► Delaware is reevaluating its efforts to protect its Atlantic beachfront communities from shoreline erosion in the wake of four coastal storms in the last 15 months, which washed away more than \$1 million worth of sand the state put on the beaches. Beachgoers now pick up part of the tab for beach restoration through a lodging tax, but oceanfront landowners — many of them out-of-staters — pay nothing even though they stand to benefit the most. For more information, contact Molly Murray at the *Wilmington News Journal*, 302-856-7372.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

► To expand their coverage of environmental and health and safety issues, Stevens Publishing opened in mid-November 1992 a Washington, D.C. bureau. By December 1992, the 70 year old, Waco, Texas-based magazine and newsletter publisher had hired 12 of the expected 24 reporters and editors needed to staff the

bureau. Owned by Craig Stevens, the company publishes nearly one dozen newsletters including *Environmental Protection News*, *OSHA Week* and *Waste Management News*. More information can be obtained from Mary Crowley, Bureau Chief, 1170 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045, 202-942-1400.

► With the election behind them, the Washington, D.C.-based Campus Green Vote, a national student outreach movement on environmental issues, plans to continue its efforts to forge links between students and elected officials. Contingent on grant funding, the organization hopes to transform its network of student environmental groups into a shadow Congress. The group's political action committee, GreenVote, has supported since 1990 pro-environment candidates for national offices with more than \$1 million in financial assistance. More information can be obtained from Brian Trelstad, Campus Green Vote Director, 1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 440, Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-667-3117.

INDIANA

► Silt buildup and other potential environmental deficiencies have gutted the Northern Indiana Public Service Co.'s plan to donate 2,150 acres of recreational land around two man-made lakes to the fledgling Indian Natural Resources Foundation, the *Indianapolis Star* reports. The *Star's* environmental reporter Kyle Niederpruem details how donating land can get sticky when expensive environmental cleanup issues come into the picture. For more information, contact Kyle Niederpruem at the *Indianapolis Star*, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145; phone 317-633-9385.

KANSAS

► After protests increased against a one-ton per hour medical waste incinerator to be built in Kansas City, Kan., state regulators delayed deciding whether to grant a permit to the hospital group promoting the incinerator. For a year, concerned citizens have raised questions and protested. County health officials scrutinize the proposed incinerator plans. State regulators promised to end it all by Dec. 18.

The Green Beat

But they postponed a decision when Kansas City, Kan., decided to go to court to pull the special use permit granted by its city council more than two years ago. For more information, contact Greg Crawford at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 913-296-1529.

MAINE

► The Maine attorney general's office may introduce in 1993 a legislative bill calling for a tougher state environmental crimes law. A similar bill was killed in the last session because of opposition from business. Among other provisions, the bill being advanced by the attorney general would upgrade a crime involving deliberate environmental pollution to a Class C crime, a felony, punishable by up to five years in jail. Under current Maine law, a civil offense may result in fines of \$100 to \$25,000 a day. A criminal offense is treated as a Class E crime, the lowest level of misdemeanor, and is punishable by fines and a maximum six-months jail term. According to a 1992 legislative report, the state has prosecuted only two criminal environmental cases since 1988. Approximately 680 other violations have been handled through civil court. For more information, contact Dieter Bradbury at the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, 207-780-9247.

MARYLAND

► Trichloroethylene, an industrial solvent suspected of causing cancer, has been discovered in household wells near Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md. The Army base, once used to develop and test biological weapons, is still the military's research center for defenses against deadly bacteria, germs, toxins and viruses. Anthrax-tainted sewage sludge and herbicides like Agent Orange were buried at Detrick 20 years ago, but the threat of groundwater contamination has never been fully investigated. The *Baltimore Sun* reported recently. A TCE spill was detected five years ago, and the toxic chemical has been showing up in test wells near the post fence line for the past two years. The Army has pledged \$500,000 to study the problem. (For more info, call Tim Wheeler, 410-332-6564.)

► Meanwhile, the Army has begun to supply up to 900,000 gallons of water daily to a local drinking water system to replace the TCE-tainted well shut down near the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Hartford County, Md. The TCE contamination was traced to an old firefighter training area at the proving ground, where the solvent had been dumped and burned to simulate chemical fires. Chemical weapons were developed and tested at the proving ground, and liquid mustard agent is still stockpiled there. About 12,000 homes and businesses are supplied by the eight-well field that has been affected. (For more info, call Bruce Reid, *The Sun*, 410-638-2612.)

MASSACHUSETTS

► The Federal Emergency Management Administration relies on local radio stations and the Emergency Broadcast System to notify residents of impending disasters. These crises can range from a nuclear attack to a toxic chemical spill, an accident at a nuclear power plant or a tornado. A central radio station broadcasts a warning, which other stations then pick up. The tests are always conducted weekdays during business hours, usually with advance warning. Recently, at the suggestion of WCVB-TV Channel 5 in Boston, the central radio station staged a test at 9 p.m. on a Monday. Reporter David Ropeik said the results were startling — very few radio stations picked up the test and rebroadcast it, a situation which could have left residents unaware of an impending tragedy. FEMA and state emergency officials say they are working on the problem. As Ropeik points out, this story could be replicated almost anywhere in the country. Ropeik is at 617-449-0400.

MICHIGAN

► A six-member commission has been appointed by Michigan Gov. John Engler to shape the state's 150-plus environmental statutes into a single code. Only one seat on the panel has been given to an environmental group, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, a hook and bullet organization on the conservation end of the environmental spectrum. The rest of

the panel includes lawyers from two of the state's most powerful firms, a Dow Chemical Co. attorney, a law school professor and Dr. William Cooper, a zoology professor at Michigan State University who led a study of relative environmental risks in Michigan last year. Proponents of the effort say it will coordinate a confusing array of regulations to make life easier for both the applicants and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Opponents fear this is yet another attempt by Engler to scrap the state's environmental protections and disband public hearing commissions like the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission, which he unsuccessfully tried to scrap last year.

MINNESOTA

► The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a meeting in Chicago on Dec. 9 to discuss a multi-billion dollar project to add several locks along the upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. Corps officials said a reconnaissance study during the past few years indicates that barge traffic demands will increase early in the 21st century, and suggests that larger locks need to be added to the existing lock-and-dam system. Although the Corps now expects to proceed with a more detailed feasibility study, some environmental groups have asked for an independent group such as the National Research Council to analyze the work that's been done so far. Environmental leaders have questioned the need for more construction, and the effects of additional barge traffic on riverbank erosion and wildlife habitat. Contact: Dean Rebuffoni, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 612-673-4432.

► United Nations officials are planning to hold a global conference on sustainable agriculture this year in the Midwest. Organizers say the conference will be a follow-up to agriculture and rural development issues raised at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. More than 1,000 world agricultural leaders are expected to attend the meeting at the University of Minnesota from June 22-26. Discussion topics are likely to include the marketing of fertilizers and other chemicals in developing countries, the impact of biotechnology on agriculture, changes in U.S. farming prac-

The Green Beat

tices, the international trade aspects of farming, and the potential effects of global warming and ozone depletion on crops, livestock and farmers. Contact: Terry Gips, International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, 612-331-1099.

➤ A coalition of environmental groups has again challenged the U.S. Forest Service plan to manage the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. The groups filed an administrative appeal in December that suggests a 40 percent reduction in the allowable cut each year compared to what forest service planners have recommended. Environmentalists claim that large timber harvests damage both the diversity and health of forests, and cost taxpayers too much money. Forest service analysts say their recommendations for timber cutting are reasonable, and balance the needs of pulp, paper and sawmill industries with the concerns of tourists, resort owners and preservationists. Contact: Tom Meersman, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, (612) 673-4414.

MISSISSIPPI

➤ The state's environmental groups have aligned with Chemical Waste Management Inc. in fighting a hazardous waste landfill and incinerator proposed to be built in Noxubee County. Mississippi is trying to comply with a federal requirement that states prove they have somewhere to send hazardous waste for the next 20 years. The state has no commercial hazardous waste facility. ChemWaste has offered the state a 20-year guarantee of capacity at its landfill just across the Alabama border in Emelle. Environmental activists, under the umbrella group "Pollution Solution Alliance," support that option over building either, or both, a landfill or incinerator in Noxubee County. For more information, call Sharon Stallworth, *The Clarion-Ledger*, at 1-800-222-8015.

➤ The New Orleans office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on Oct. 20 filed a lawsuit against the state Division of Medicaid, claiming that the state does not do enough to screen poor children for lead poisoning. In a two-part package, the *Sun Herald* newspaper looks at the lawsuit, the state's lead screening program, sources

of lead poisoning and the opinions of doctors, who say that studies show that lead poisoning is not a problem in Mississippi and that the state's poor have more pressing health problems. For information, call the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Nathalie Walker, at 504-522-1394; Terri Sasser, public relations for the state Department of Health, 960-7669; or Sharon Ebner, the *Sun Herald*, at 601-896-2355.

➤ "Port Gibson businessman David Bailey has convinced a third Mississippi County to offer itself as a potential site for high-level nuclear waste disposal," reports Sharon Stallworth of the *Clarion-Ledger*. Bailey, owner of a cable television company and a former nuclear engineer at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, in the past year has convinced supervisors in Claiborne and Copiah counties to apply for a \$200,000 Department of Energy grant to study the storage of spent fuel rods for up to 40 years. The supervisors backed down after opposition from constituents. The Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, facing 13.5 percent unemployment, voted to pursue the grant. The Monitored Retrievable Storage project could create up to 500 jobs and provide \$3 million to \$4 million in taxes and money for highways, schools and health care. For information, call Sharon Stallworth, the *Clarion-Ledger* at 1-800-222-8015.

➤ Thirteen people who live along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Mississippi and Alabama on Nov. 2 filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against Weyerhaeuser's Columbus Pulp and Paper Complex. They charged the company with discharging poisonous chemicals, including dioxins, in the waterway. In 1990 and 1991, plaintiffs in two similar cases filed against Georgia-Pacific's Leaf River Pulp Operations, a pulp plant in Perry County, Miss., were awarded a total of \$4.24 million.

MISSOURI

➤ In a beautiful area of the Missouri Ozarks, Doe Run Co. has begun exploring for new lead ore reserves — over the objections of environmental groups. The drilling began in an area of the Mark Twain National Forest, near the Eleven Point River, a nationally protected stream.

Environmental groups had protested against that possibility for nine years. But Doe Run won permission from the Bureau of Land Management to start exploration in late October. Doe Run supplies half of the nation's new lead and its store of the metal is running low. The company has to find a new supply within the next 10 years, officials say. Granting permission to explore doesn't mean Doe Run can soon start to mine the environmentally sensitive area. Environmental groups say they will challenge any plans to mine. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service would have to grant approval, BLM officials said. For more information, contact Roger Pryor at the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, 314-727-0600.

➤ Scientists from the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis are leading an international effort to rescue the crumbling Komarov Botanical Institute in Petersburg, Russia. Widely regarded as one of the world's top three botanical science institutes, the facility suffers from years of neglect under the Soviet regime. The scientists, as well as architects from St. Louis-based Sverdrup Corp., say the facility needs an emergency heating system and other major repairs to save 6 million herbarium specimens, a half-million volume library with books dating to the era of the first printing presses and more than 6,000 species of live plants collected from the Arctic to the tropics. About 200 of the live plants are rare, some having gone extinct in the wild. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has commissioned a report on the Institute's condition and what can be done about it. For more information, contact Janine Adams, the Missouri Garden's public information officer at 314-577-9540.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

➤ New Hampshire was to be barred from using out-of-state commercial dumps to dispose of low-level radioactive waste after Jan. 1, because the state didn't comply with federal requirements for resolving its low-level waste problem, the Associated Press reported. Federal law requires each state to have a plan for disposing of its waste by 1993. Nuclear Information and Resource official Diane

D'Arrigo told Associated Press that New Hampshire has taken the least action of any state toward resolving its waste problem. After Jan. 1, state officials were to require New Hampshire's low-level waste generators to store their waste on-site, while the state continues to look at its options. State officials estimate most generators have space to store their waste for a year or more. In 1991, New Hampshire shipped about 235 cubic feet of low-level waste, compared to 34,272 cubic feet for Massachusetts and 9,457 cubic feet for Maine.

► In a potentially precedent-setting case, the New Hampshire Supreme Court in November ruled that two insurance companies must reimburse Coakley Landfill Inc. for its potential share of an estimated \$26 million cleanup of the Coakley landfill. The dump, closed in 1984 and located on the Greenland-North Hampton border, is on the federal Superfund list as one of the nation's most polluted sites. The 3-2 decision overturned a lower court ruling that Maine Bonding and Casualty Co. and St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co. were not liable because the cleanup costs didn't qualify as damages under Coakley's insurance policies with the companies. The Supreme Court has returned the case to the lower court for further action. For more information, contact Steve Haberman at the *Portsmouth Herald*, 603-436-1800.

► Following a recommendation of Dartmouth's Council on Investor Responsibility, the college Board of Trustees in December voted to substitute investments for \$6.8 million in Hydro-Quebec bonds held by Dartmouth. The council is composed of students, faculty alumni, administrators and trustees. College Vice President and Treasurer Lyn Hutton said the decision was based on reasons specific to the Dartmouth community and not meant to be a moral judgment on Hydro-Quebec projects. Last fall, more than 2,300 members of the Dartmouth community signed a petition urging the college to find an alternative investment. Those objecting included Native American students, environmental studies students, members of the Dartmouth Outing Club, faculty and alumni. For a copy, contact Kathryn Clark at 603-646-2117.

NEW JERSEY

► Leaking 100-pound chemical bombs buried in New Jersey's largest industrial business park will have to be decontaminated on-site, Eric Greenberg of the *News Tribune* in Woodbridge, N.J., reported in November. Federal and state restrictions against transporting chemical weapons would prohibit the removal of the World War II-era mustard agent bombs from burial pits located in the heart of the densely populated Raritan Center business park. The contaminated site, called Area 5, was believed to be the only mustard agent contaminated property in the country not owned by the U.S. government and located near a civilian population. Officials from the U.S. Army Chemical Materiel Destruction Agency in Aberdeen, Md., are currently exploring on-site incineration, chemical neutralization or capping the site to defuse the unprecedented problem. An unknown number of bombs were buried in pits at the site of the former army Raritan Arsenal in Edison.

NEW MEXICO

► The *Santa Fe New Mexican* has been continuously reporting on safety problems at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the birthplace of the atom bomb. It reported that a whistleblower is accusing the lab of harassment, that neighboring Indian pueblo leaders felt misled by the lab about plans for underground explosions and misrepresented contamination test results and that the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is planning a major health study in the city. For information, call reporter Keith Easthouse at 505-986-3030 or write the paper in Santa Fe 87504-2048.

► The *Albuquerque Tribune* ran a three-part series on massive traffic jams on the city's west side, which is separated from the rest of the city by a river with only three bridges crossing it. The reporter rode with a commuter and a radio traffic helicopter reporter to illustrate the problem, showed how building previous bridges had aggravated the mess by encouraging people to move to the west side, and found that local leaders had done little or nothing to deal with underlying causes

of congestion, such as crummy mass transit and urban sprawl. For information, write Tony Davis at the paper at P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque 87103 or call at 505-823-3625.

► The *Albuquerque Journal* did a three-part series examining threats and problems confronting the Rio Grande, the state's water lifeline. The river has only 1 percent of the state's land mass, but has 80 percent of the state's wildlife habitat. The series looked at how dams on the river cut off life-giving water for cottonwood trees, how rafters, cities, farmers and environmentalists are fighting over the river's management and how the river is showing the strain of having collected heavy metals, mercury, pesticides, chlorine, ammonia and other pollutants over the decades. For information, call reporter Rene Kimball at 505-823-3841 or write the paper at P.O. Drawer J, Albuquerque 87103.

► The *Albuquerque Tribune* reported that the city's centuries-old network of irrigation and drainage ditches is slowly being gobbled by development pressures, as farming gives way to subdivisions. The *Tribune* also reported that New Agers, ordinary tourists and vandals are putting immense pressures on Chaco Canyon, long one of America's most isolated national parks. People take pottery shards, climb 1,000-year-old Anasazi ruins by day and sneak into closed ruins after dark, and hold illegal drum ceremonies inside sacred kivas. Call reporter Tony Davis at 505-823-3625 or write at P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque 87103.

► The *Albuquerque Tribune* and *Journal* continue writing about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which may or may not open even though Congress finally passed a bill transferring its land to the U.S. Department of Energy, so it can take nuclear wastes. For details call Tony Davis of the *Tribune* at 505-823-3625 or Chuck McCutcheon of the *Journal* at 505-823-3841.

OHIO

► An extensive *Cleveland Plain Dealer* investigation has prompted the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to re-

The Green Beat

form its regulation of nuclear materials used in medical treatments. The paper reported at least 40 people have died since 1975 from overdoses of medical radiation while the NRC did little to investigate the deaths and allowed medical professionals to cover up the accidents. *Plain Dealer* environmental reporter Dave Davis teamed up with staff reporter Ted Wendling and photographer Brynne Shaw to travel across the nation interviewing and photographing the victims and families of radiation mishaps. The reporters interviewed more than 150 people, gathered more than 10,000 pages of court records, inspection reports and investigative files kept by the NRC and state regulators. They filed more than 100 requests under the Freedom of Information Act and state records laws and used a computer to analyze more than 1.5 million NRC records during the 10-month investigation. For more information, contact Dave Davis, *The Plain Dealer*, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, phone 216-344-4808.

► A six-page package in *The Columbus Dispatch* dissected Big Darby Creek, a short, humble, but remarkably pristine Ohio stream located within miles of metropolitan Columbus. The 12-story, 23-photo report by environment reporter Scott Powers, staff reporter Randall Edwards and photographer Eric Albrecht illustrated how the Darby has escaped most of the abuses of civilization and how it was saved, while also detailing how other American streams have not been as fortunate. For more information, contact Scott Powers, *The Columbus Dispatch* 34 S. Third St., Columbus, OH 43215; phone 614-461-5233.

► Blessed with strong paper recycling markets and a high quality composting operation, Dayton officials are wrestling with the philosophical questions about who controls refuse that has commercial value, reports Jonathan Brinckman of the *Dayton Daily News*. In an area where resource recovery is booming, Brinckman looks at how county officials are trying to persuade trash haulers to take a lower price for taking paper waste to the county-operated composting facility instead of delivering it to paper brokers and paper

mills. For more information, contact Jonathan Brinckman, *Dayton Daily News*, 45 S. Ludlow St., Dayton, OH 45402; phone 513-225-2391.

OREGON

► The Portland General Electric Co. has given up on the atom, permanently shutting down the Trojan nuclear plant, 15 years before its federal license expires. The move may have repercussions at a reactor near you. Trojan's corroding steam generators — the cause of PGE's troubles — are similar to those in more than 20 other plants.

► The Northwest appears to be on the verge of a boom in power plant construction, the result of a predicted electricity shortage and a glut of cheap natural gas. In Oregon alone, developers have approached state regulators with proposals for about 10 new plants. Potential sticking points include air quality, noise and questions about the need for all that new power.

PENNSYLVANIA

► A research organization based in Philadelphia has developed an unusual program in which children and adults get hands-on experience conducting stream ecology experiments. The educational workshops are conducted by the Stroud Water Research Center, the field laboratory of The Academy of Natural Sciences. For more information, contact Ann Faulds, education coordinator, The Stroud Center, 512 Spencer Road, Avondale, PA 19311; 215-268-2153.

► The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources has issued a proposed resource management plan for Presque Isle State Park, the state's most popular park, with 5 million visitors annually. Environmentalists are praising the plan for prohibiting boating and duck hunting in the area of Gull Point, which was previously designated as a national natural landmark by the federal government for its prime nesting habitat for many species of birds. Boaters and waterfowl hunters are fighting the plan. Greg Czarnecki, chairman of the park's advi-

sory committee and one of the plan's authors, said the plan's goal is to protect a unique and fragile Great Lakes ecosystem while also preserving a recreational resource that pumps \$80 million a year into Erie County's tourist industry. Presque Isle occupies a seven-mile-long peninsula that juts into Lake Erie. For information, contact the park office, 814-871-4251.

RHODE ISLAND

► Fifteen years ago a coalition of community and environmental groups nationally challenged plans by the natural gas industry to install a series of huge tanks containing liquid natural and propane gas. Those concerns caused federal rules around 1980 to be significantly upgraded as they applied to new tanks. Now, new concerns are surfacing in Providence over a large liquid natural gas (LNG) tank that has been in operation for 19 years. Local activities question why those safety standards, calling for larger buffer zones, higher dike walls, and other measures, do not apply to tanks built before the new regulations went into effect. Most communities that have natural gas service probably have a LNG or Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) facility. Have similar concerns surfaced elsewhere? How about accidents involving LNG or LPG? Contact Bob Wyss, *Providence Journal*, 401-277-7364.

► High bacteria levels were found in the water of several Rhode Island communities in 1992, prompting state health officials to impose bans on using the water which at times lasted for weeks. But you have not seen anything yet, reported Peter Lord of the *Providence Journal* in a story Dec. 20, 1992. The federal Clean Water Act over the next decade will require local water officials to test for up to 200 contaminants. Officials say older water systems likely will fail the standards for lead and other substances. When that happens, communities have to issue public alerts, which could lead to new bans on water consumption. They also could force communities to spend millions to upgrade the system. In larger cities, such as Boston and New York, it could be hundreds of millions of dollars. Lord can be reached at 401-737-3000.

The Green Beat

VERMONT

► Environmental groups are putting a wet blanket on Sugarbush ski area's plans to boost its snowmaking capacity by taking 420 million gallons of water annually from the Mad River. The state had already approved a dam permit and a water quality certificate that would allow for the water usage. However, those documents allow Sugarbush to withdraw more river water than recommended by state and federal water-quality and fisheries experts. The Vermont Natural Resources Council and other environmental groups are appealing the dam and water permits. They also are asking that a 1983 federal environmental impact statement be updated to show how the area would be affected by Sugarbush's plans. The 1983 document already allows the ski resort, part of which is on U.S. Forest Service land, to withdraw 167 million gallons of water annually from Clay Brook. For more information, contact Nancy Bazilchuk at the *Burlington Free Press*, 802-660-1802.

WASHINGTON

► Rob Taylor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* capped off a four-month series of stories on fire suppression's contributions to forest health problems in eastern Washington and Oregon. The final piece, published Dec. 30, looked at a for-

est restoration proposal for the Blue Mountains. Earlier articles examined disease, wildlife impacts and prescribed burning. "I found that this is not just a Blue Mountains or an East Side phenomenon," says Taylor. "The impacts go all the way down to Mexico."

► Post-election speculation about who gets which government jobs usually doesn't include the Northwest Power Planning Council. But as Julie Titone of *The Spokesman-Review* in Spokane reported, the council's increased role in salmon recovery efforts heightened interest in potential changes among its eight members. Those members serve at the pleasure of the governors of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus was the first to make a new appointment. He replaced Jim Goller, a long-time aide to former Republican Sen. Jim McClure, with James Webb, a Boise lawyer and avid fisherman. Webb is expected to support Andrus' desire for draw-downs of Snake River reservoirs intended to help endangered salmon get to the ocean.

WISCONSIN

► A former lobbyist for the mining and solid waste industries was named to the top job in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but public pressure forced him to resign before he started work. Madison Attorney Peter Peshek was

to take over the post of DNR secretary in early January, following the retirement of Carroll Besadny. A team of state lawyers drafted so-called "Chinese Walls" — guidelines Peshek would use to distance himself from possible conflicts of interest when certain issues came before the DNR.

► The Wisconsin Agriculture Department has authorized additional restrictions on use of the corn herbicide atrazine. The chemical will be banned in several more counties and allowable usage rates will be halved elsewhere. Department officials say the changes will adequately protect Wisconsin groundwater. But an assistant attorney general wants a state-wide atrazine ban and a state lawmaker is proposing to strip the Ag Department of its groundwater regulatory authority.

► Some landowners along Lakes Michigan and Superior are keeping close watch on new proposals for regulating water levels around the Great Lakes. A study done for the International Joint Commission says it is possible to control some water fluctuations. But the report suggests attempts to totally prevent shoreline erosion and flooding damage would be too expensive and not totally effective. Lakeshore homeowners groups are trying to strengthen the recommendations, before the final list of suggested control measures is given to the I-J-C later this year.

SEJournal

Society of Environmental Journalists
P.O. Box 65493
Washington, D.C. 20035-5493

**Address Correction and
Forwarding Requested**

