

Everyone's Backyard

CITIZEN'S CLEARINGHOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTES, INC.

Vol. 2, No. 1 — Winter, 1983

CCHW Gears Up for '84

Moratorium on Landfills. CCHW is calling for a moratorium on landfilling of hazardous wastes. Research conducted by EPA, research scientists, and others, has made it very clear that landfilling wastes is destroying our environment and threatening the public health—and will continue to if it is not stopped *now*.

Our leaders, the President, EPA, and our state representatives are telling us that we have to stop getting excited about hazardous waste problems and let science, not feelings, govern how communities respond to waste management issues.

Since the "science" of landfilling is unequivocally clear—all landfills eventually leak—we defer to our leaders' wisdom and have requested a moratorium on landfills across the nation. Watch for our future efforts and plans as our moratorium campaign gets underway.

Victims' Compensation. What is a victim? Should victims be compensated? How should the compensation be administered? On Oct. 21st, CCHW held a meeting at the Villers Foundation in Washington to bring victims, scientists, and attorneys together to explore ways to compensate victims of toxic exposure. The victims, all community leaders, outlined the following needs:*

1. compensation for loss of property;
2. access to good legal aid, cost effective legal assistance;
3. compensation for health damage to future generations (including children alive today);
4. establish a registry of victims, updated and maintained;

see 1984, page 3



Lowell Fair Share members occupy Regional EPA Office.

Lowell Residents Fight and Win!

In 1981, Mass. Fair Share, a statewide multi-issue organization, looked at the state's toxics problems, and saw that Lowell's Silresim waste processing site stood out like a sore thumb. They began canvassing the neighborhood with a petition demanding the state clean it up. When state officials didn't respond, 150 angry residents went to confront Anthony Cortese, Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering. They got a \$3 million surface clean-up and air, soil and water testing.

Lowell Fair Share also focused on the responsible corporation. Silresim, owned by Mr. Miserlis (Silresim spelled backwards), had taken in too much material and over-extended itself.

In 1974, his lender, Union National

Bank (UNB), took over by installing their own manager to keep the operation open. From 1974 to 1978, Silresim continued to take in toxics. Since UNB ran the site through the manager, Fair Share and the Massachusetts Attorney General felt UNB bore some responsibility for cleanup.

Lowell Fair Share asked for a meeting with the bank president but was refused. So, 50 residents went to his home in the suburbs. When he refused to come to the door and talk to them, residents left a symbolic empty 55-gallon chemical drum on his front lawn and leafletted his neighbors, accusing him of being a corporate polluter.

see LOWELL, page 2

The bank agreed to meetings then, but no more. The residents began to target the bank's major depositors, among them the City of Lowell. One large account holder, the YWCA, publicly stated its intent to do its banking with socially responsible banks and closed its account with Union National. While the bank campaign did not force the clean-up, it got good press and raised people's consciousness about big business's responsibility. Also, State Street Bank, Union National's owner, felt it was in their interest to sell the bank.

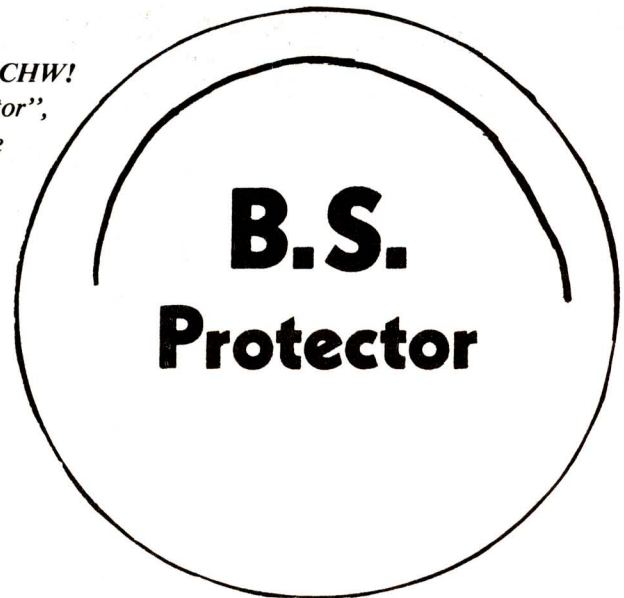
The clean-up campaign shifted to the 1982 Governor's race, a hotly-contested battle between incumbent Ed King and former Gov. Mike Dukakis. When Gov. King refused an invitation to attend Fair Share's convention to speak on Silresim, 50 people went to his home in Winthrop to picket. King finally agreed to join Senator Ted Kennedy (who had already agreed to help) to lobby to get Silresim on the Superfund list.

Now, Fair Share moved on to EPA. EPA dragged its feet. It set up a task force chaired by Fair Share leader Al Danley, but it produced no results. Though the group did not expect much from the study process, they decided to participate to show good faith and, as one staff member put it, "It did get all of our targets in the same room at the same time in Lowell, month after month."

In early 1983, the EPA scandals were making front page news daily. A delegation of Lowell leaders came to Washington to join CCHW's George Washington's Birthday picket of Rita Lavelle (see *Everyone's Backyard* #3). Finally, Fair Share decided to take even stronger action against EPA by taking over its regional office in Boston on February 24th and occupying it until their demands were met.

The planning began. Other groups with sit-in experience, such as the nuclear protesters in Seabrook, New Hampshire, were asked for advice. Lawyers were recruited. Money was set aside for a bail fund. Leaders roleplayed and rehearsed the various contingency plans for the demonstration. An inside source provided them with a floor plan of the office. The group resolved to carry out non-violent, civil disobedience even if it led to arrests; a final list of people willing to go was drawn up. In hindsight, leaders admit that this detailed planning raised the

*A holiday gift from CCHW!
Cut out your "Protector",
cut along the solid line
inside the circle and
drape it over your
ear the next time you
meet with public
officials or industry
representatives.
Hope you use it
in good health.
Happy Holidays!*



"paranoia level" and scared some people away. However, they were well prepared for whatever might happen.

Over 50 adults and children converged on the Government Center in Boston at the appointed hour, perhaps the first time in history that such a demonstration ever started on time. According to plan, they took elevators to Sen. Kennedy's office two floors above EPA and walked down the stairs, thus avoiding the potential shutdown of the elevators when officials saw them coming. They swept into the office, presented their demand to see the top administrators, unfolded sleeping bags, took out the kids' toys and prepared for whatever would happen. They were told that all the top officials were out of town. However, after 20 minutes, Paul Keough, Deputy Acting Administrator, emerged and negotiations began. Fair Share presented two demands: commit \$27 million for clean-up and come to Lowell to negotiate the details. Keough agreed to commit an unspecified amount of money and to come to Lowell to talk. After two hours, the group left, satisfied with their victory and with the knowledge that EPA now knew how serious they were.

Fair Share got tremendous positive publicity. Now the final steps went quickly. The only problem was, the state first over-reacted. Ten days after the "Occupation," state officials came to Lowell to talk to the city and Civil Defense officials and residents about evacuating the neighborhood. After

things settled down, EPA agreed to a two-phase clean-up, starting with the demolition and removal of buildings and storage tanks on the site, testing for off-site contamination, and a temporary cap over the chemicals still in the ground. They also agreed to finish the clean-up in close consultation with residents. In a letter to Sen. Kennedy, EPA administrator, William Ruckelshaus committed the agency to begin final clean-up in the Spring, 1984. Residents are now working to complete their own technical clean-up work plan. They intend to make the Silresim clean-up a model for the nation.

Direct action works. Fair Share discovered that hazardous waste management is a political issue. They learned that discussions and meetings can be used by officials as stall tactics. Public officials respond best when they know residents are powerful and determined and sitting in their offices and are not going to go away. The moral of this story is: **YOU CAN TALK, BUT YOU ALSO HAVE TO ACT.** □

ANNOUNCEMENT

CCHW has moved to its new office.

New phone: 703/276-7070.

SEND ALL MAIL TO:

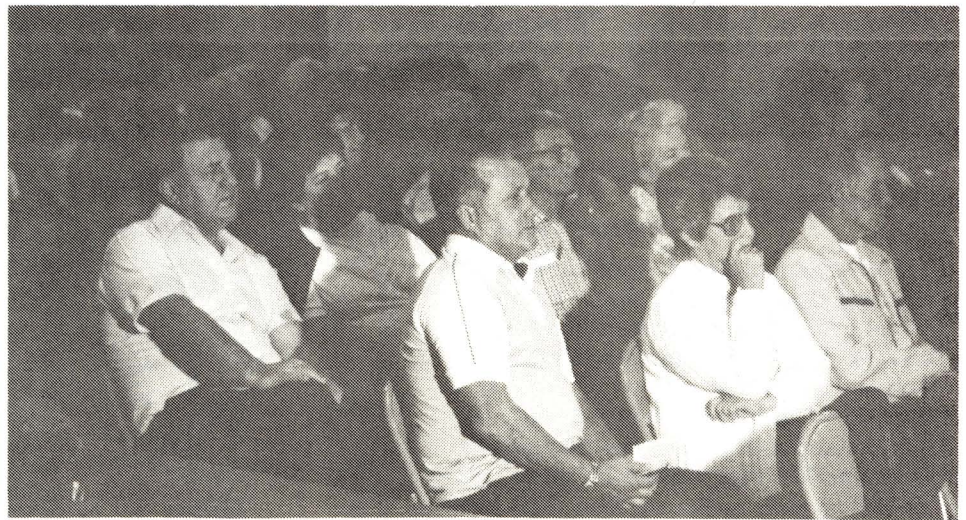
Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216.

If you're in the area and want to visit, call us — we're right near a Washington subway stop at 2315 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington.

5. complete site cleanup;
6. evacuation during cleanup and when appropriate relocation of families in areas of high contamination, with full replacement values of homes (i.e., permanent relocation);
7. public disclosure of chemical exposures (community Right to Know);
8. government accountability of facilities that generate and dispose of hazardous wastes;
9. on-going monitoring (of all mediums) at all waste facilities;
10. funding to educate and train physicians about the symptoms and effects of chemical exposures;
11. funding to obtain medical tests and evaluations by experts familiar with symptoms of exposure to toxic chemicals;
12. equal access to lawyers, scientists, and other experts to everyone, regardless of income;
13. protection for public officials who assist affected communities ("Whistle-Blowers");
14. public awareness of problems through honest publicity;
15. independent testing of analytical samples collected from communities;
16. restoration of clean water supply;
17. complete future health monitoring and maintenance;
18. compensation for mental damage/stress/pain/suffering/cancer phobia;
19. reimbursement for all out-of-pocket health costs;
20. funds to hire scientists, engineers, lawyers and other experts;
21. the right to a fast and fair trial or hearing;
22. requiring violators of toxic waste laws and regulations to participate in a community service program (work plan) in which offenders would work in a cancer treatment center, etc.
23. establishment of the presumption that cause of health damages are due to local waste site;
24. compensation for subtle health effects;
25. community involvement in decision-making process from the onset of the evaluation of their waste site problem;
26. establishment of some insurance fund to compensate victims should accidents occur during remedial cleanup of sites and following completion of cleanup (performance bond);
27. waste management options that maximize health protection;
28. health surveys;
29. freezing corporate assets of responsible parties;
30. double containment for underground storage;
31. no underground storage.

*It is recognized that several of the items listed could not, as a practical matter, be included in a victims' compensation system. However, all of the stated needs are listed here as stated at the conference.

After these needs were defined, two different mechanisms for compensating victims were evaluated in terms of how well they could meet these needs. The first system we looked at was the existing legal or "tort"



Centralia, PA, residents, after sitting on top of a burning coal mine for years, voted against further delay, this time by rejecting yet another study commission proposed by James Watt. Through united action, they won a \$42 million buy-out from the government so anyone who wants to leave can do so. CCHW helped train their leaders in negotiation skills.

system; the second was the newly proposed administrative system which would establish a compensation board to determine who should get what. In general the following consensus was reached:

- There are problems and opportunities with both systems
- The proposed administrative system does not address the needs of residents and victims of toxic waste contamination. Participants agreed that any administrative system that still requires victims to come up with clear-cut proof that they were harmed by the chemicals will still force them to hire experts and lawyers and thus wouldn't be much of an advantage over the present tort system. Major changes need to be made before the people could support any administrative system.
- The toxic tort system, even though it has its limitations and disadvantages, still provides victims with the greatest potential for compensation.

Participants took the first steps toward formulating a compensation plan that could directly address their needs. This plan, designated as a 'victims' or 'citizens' assistance program, provides victims with the necessary resources to address their immediate needs. The key elements of this plan are:

1) an early "trigger" that allows communities to be eligible to obtain funds to evaluate and understand their situation.

2) citizen control of the funds, by establishing a panel of citizens to distribute the funds, and

3) make resources available to communities by providing funds to hire the necessary experts to evaluate and understand the situation. The participants hope to meet again to further develop the victims' assistance plan and to formulate a strategy for implementing it. CCHW plans to hold additional meetings and discussions on these issues. In the meantime, we urge you to talk to people in your group about what victims need and what kind of system would best meet those needs. Let us know what you come up with. For further information contact CCHW, Victims' Compensation Project. □

Everyone's Backyard is published by the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, Inc. CCHW is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, public interest center which primarily focuses its work on grassroots environmental organizations across the nation.

Lois Marie Gibbs, PRESIDENT

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Organizing Toolbox V: Burn-out

by WILL COLLETTE

"The best way to stop being burnt out is to get fired up."

— GRANDMA BECKWITH

Your eyes are glazed, your back is stooped. Your temper is short. You forget to keep your promises like you used to. You're skipping meetings. You end most sentences with "What's the use?" You're getting burnt out.

More and more, those industry people sound like they make a lot more sense than your members. You feel like taking that invitation to join that "Roundtable" even though it's dominated by industry. It's a lot more fun to run around and go to other groups' meetings than your own. You're beginning to see "two sides to the issue." You're getting burnt out.

You scold and abuse people and talk behind people's backs. You criticize the people who come to meetings because of people who didn't ("Gee, this is a really terrible turn-out.") You're getting burnt out.

You ask people to do things and they don't respond. You get promises from people but they're not kept. The meetings you sit through are stupid, boring, and inconclusive. Is everyone else a moron? You're getting burnt out.

You're paralyzed. You can't decide what to do next. You cringe when the phone rings. You feel like screaming whenever you hear people talk about your issue. You're thinking about moving to Australia. You're getting burnt out.

Are you abnormal? Are you a bad person for feeling this way? Probably not. But you need to do something about it.

WHAT?

Nobody said organizing was easy. Industry and government opposition is tough. The facts are complicated. It's hard work getting a group consensus for action. All of this can build up.

- The leader's most important job is to help other people become leaders. That will never happen unless you give people a chance. When you start out, spread the work around the membership. It's an almost sure trip to a rubber room to take everything on yourself and not delegate. It's also lousy organizing.



Drawing by John Beam from THE ORGANIZER

- Talk to yourself, say: "What would happen if I DON'T do it all?" If the answer is, "Everything will fall apart," then maybe your group will die anyway, or more likely, YOU, my friend, have an overly high opinion of yourself.
- Talk to others. Organizations should do more than just win on issues. They should build a sense of people power and they should build community. You have to talk about it—how you feel—and who better to do it with than your friends and neighbors in the struggle?
- Think Tasks and not Titles. Many leaders try to delegate to others by creating a job title and insisting that people take it. For example, "Will you be the Chairperson for our Permanent \$100,000 Fundraising Committee?" Consider that most people in the organization have never been leaders before. Such a request is so intimidating that they might not just refuse, but feel so bad about themselves that they'll drop out of the organization. Instead, break the job down into digestible tasks: "Will you pass out raffle tickets to these ten people (hand over list) and check in with them to see how they're doing?" Or, "Will you be sure these twelve people are contacted about Thursday's meeting?"
- Keep Your Eye On the Prize. Your organization came together for a reason and it wasn't to

- crown you king or queen. The members are not your subjects. If anything, your job as a leader is to serve and not be served.
- Keep Each Other Honest. Ego mania is a key but less obvious sign of burn-out. The leader who gets "too big for his britches" can be even more dangerous than the leader who gets fried and just drops out. Watch for the danger signs: the overuse of "I," the hunger for media coverage, and unfair criticism of other leaders. As we discussed in the last "Organizing Toolbox" column, your opposition will often try to "buy off" leaders and split the group by offering seats on various pointless committees, commissions and study groups. When you jump at these chances, you may end up being duped into selling out your group. The other danger is "Coalitionitis." When a leader gets tired of his or her own group, or gets frustrated with the day-to-day tedium of fighting the local issue, making a "coalition" with somebody else can seem irresistible. Going to other people's meetings can be a lot more fun than struggling to make your own be successful.
- Let It Go. Most groups make mistakes, either by act or omission. Most survive. But it's hard on perfectionists or on leaders who would rather DO IT than let it go. Sometimes, the only thing to do is to let things slide, let the mistakes happen, so that others will understand that they, too, must take responsibility. "United we stand, divided we fall."
- Celebrate Your Victories. Just the plain fact that you organized is a victory in itself. And you do have victories, though sometimes you're too self-critical to accept them. Every time you do win SOMETHING, anything, you should acknowledge it and CELEBRATE it. And be sure you give each other credit. Give the strokes to all of the people who made it possible.

Burn-out can hurt. Sometimes there's nothing you can do about it but treat the burnt-out case with kindness and understanding. But generally, let the group's actions serve as the cure. It's like falling off a bicycle. Get right back on. □

Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays from the
Citizen's Clearinghouse Staff,
Volunteers, and Members!



Something Smells

by Susan Theisen, Port Huron, Michigan
(to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

(Chorus)

Something smells, something smells,
Blowing out my way —
How can I protect myself
To live, and work, and play?
with Polluted lakes, smoggy air
And toxics in the ground,
This problem is a desp'rate one,
And answers must be found.

Dumping in the ground —
Dumping in the lake —
Dumping in my own backyard
Is more than I can take!

(Chorus)

Oh, Something smells

The following is CCHW's letter to Santa:

Dear Santa:

CCHW would like the following for Christmas this year:

- 1) Remove Ronald Reagan from office.
- 2) That you, Santa, deliver all corporate polluters to their local jailhouse for the holiday season.
- 3) The removal of all chemically contaminated soil, air, and water from our environment and homes—and delivery to the polluters' (and some elected officials') backyards.
- 4) That Santa brings together all people to unite, organize, speak up and fight for their rights.
- 5) Bring CCHW a large bag of money and other contributions to help us to help others faced with an environmental disaster.

If you can't bring everything we want, Santa, please just give the local activists some "free" time to enjoy their families and to rest.

Love,
Your friends at CCHW

The reasons are simple: (1) Large quantities of *hazardous* wastes are disposed of in these landfills; (2) *No* safeguards or warning devices are built into these landfills to detect leakage; and (3) Small generators of hazardous wastes are allowed by local law and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to dispose of a wide variety of hazardous wastes in these landfills.

Municipal landfills were originally intended to contain little more than household garbage. With the increased generation of industrial wastes, all this changed. These landfills became toxic dumps as all kinds of substances, including hazardous wastes, were disposed of there. And if enough small industries choose to dispose of their hazardous wastes in a single landfill, then large quantities of these toxic chemicals will seep out into the community.

The hazardous wastes that are currently exempt from federal regulations* and thus could end up in your town dump include:

- Mining wastes — toxic metals, radioactive wastes;
- Wastes from energy production — toxic metals, toxic organic solvents;
- Waste oils — toxic organics, toxic metals;
- Agricultural wastes, variable;
- Wastes from use of environmental protection equipment (such as scrubbers on incinerator stacks) — sludges; and
- Small generators of hazardous wastes — industries producing less than 2,000 pounds of hazardous wastes each month, such as dry cleaners and gas stations.

Other hazardous wastes that end up in town dumps include components of simple household garbage such as plastic garbage bags, solvents, Dran-O and other cleaners, and aerosol cans. Read the label on the next product or container that you're ready to throw out, think about how every household in the country does the same thing, and you'll begin to understand the contribution of this source.

These landfills have been accepting hazardous wastes for years with absolutely no regard for whether the landfill could contain the wastes. This means toxic poisonous chemicals are buried in *your* neighborhood. Only now are municipal landfills being proposed that would be constructed with



Fight to keep this guy out of your backyard! Join the campaign to phase out toxic waste land disposal.

double liners, leachate collection systems and monitoring plans that could provide minimum protection. Most existing municipal landfills contain none of these safeguards. Chemicals can leak into the environment for years before anyone discovers that a problem exists. And when a problem is discovered, it is usually because someone became ill drinking contaminated water.

Because these landfills are constructed with little or no protection, they tend to leak faster and in greater quantities than a toxic waste dump. For example, in Naugatuck, Connecticut, toxic chemicals moved out of a sanitary landfill into the drinking water in such large amounts that the local Board of Health had to issue a court order telling people *NOT* to drink this water, and ordering the generator of the landfill to provide drinking water for all the residents affected. Benzene, toluene, methylethyl ketone, lindane and dioxin—chemicals that cause cancers, reproductive disorders, and death—were among the chemicals found in the wells of nearby residents. People were exposed for years before learning of the problem.

In Baltimore, Maryland, the Monument Street municipal landfill was ordered closed when investigations revealed that 10,000 drums of “industrial” wastes might have been disposed of in the landfill. Further investigations found toluene, ethylbenzene, trichloroethylene and vinyl chloride in the air coming out of pipes intended to vent natural build-up of methane gas near homes adjacent to the landfill.

In Port Washington, New York, homes near the North Hempstead sanitary landfill exploded when methane gas migrated through the soil into nearby homes. Later, vinyl

chloride and other toxic chemicals were found in vents installed to eliminate the gas build-up. Residents are now fighting to close this landfill.

These stories are not isolated examples. Memphis, Tennessee; Hialeah, Florida; Oyster Bay, New York; Freehold, New Jersey; York, Pennsylvania; Boulder, Colorado; Wauconda, Illinois; Andover, Minnesota; and Lansing, Michigan are all facing contamination problems caused by the leaking of toxic chemicals from municipal landfills—the town dump.

How big this problem really is is simply unknown. The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), the scientific research branch of Congress, estimates that of 255 million metric tons of hazardous wastes generated in this country, only 40 million tons are regulated. Are the remaining wastes going into our local town dumps? 1978 EPA estimates state that there are 18,500 municipal sites in the U.S. (no update information is available from EPA). All of these landfills legally can accept hazardous wastes from “small” generators: small businesses such as dry cleaners (trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene); gasoline stations (oil sludges, waste oils); and from consumers such as yourself. Many of these landfills are ticking time bombs waiting to explode in your backyard.

People need to be aware of these problems so they can begin to force their local, state, and county officials to address this very real and very imminent problem. Identification, evaluation, and cleanup of these sites is urgently *needed*. Communities must identify where in the town and/or county their dumps are. Then you must identify who's responsible for the site, what is being placed there and by whom, what monitoring is being done, and what problems presently exist or could develop in the future in containing the wastes in the site.

If your local government refuses to identify, evaluate, monitor and/or clean up a site, you must then organize your community to apply the necessary pressure to force action to be taken. For more information on how to do this, or for more details on municipal landfills, contact CCHW. □

*A more detailed discussion of the exemptions to federal regulations for hazardous wastes can be found in Technologies and Management Strategies for Hazardous Waste Control, Office of Technology Assessment, Congressional Relations and Public Affairs Office, U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C. 20510. March, 1983. (202) 226-2115.

LEGAL CORNER

by RONALD SIMON

Dear Legal Corner,

We've got trouble with our lawyer. He was very enthusiastic at the start, promised us fantastic settlements and an answer to all our problems. Now, he won't return phone calls for days. And when he does come around, he's very bossy, telling us how we should conduct ourselves at meetings and in public. I'm beginning to feel like we work for him. We're confused and need help. What should we do?

—Signed, Jerked Around
in New Jersey

The rules of the situation are simple. You should be making all of the decisions in the case. The lawyer should inform you of each and every step and you should work together to decide what will be done. The lawyer does have legal expertise but the client is supposed to make the decisions.

The problem that develops in this situation is that people do not understand the scope of the lawyer's professional expertise. The lawyer has been trained in the rules of the law and the courts. The lawyer is also bound by professional rules called the Code of Professional Responsibility. This code clearly indicates that the client is the boss. Although the lawyer knows about the law and the court, nothing in the law is so mysterious that a non-lawyer cannot understand it. The lawyer has an obliga-

tion to explain the law to you so that you can understand it and make the meaningful decisions in the case.

You also complain that the lawyer is "bossy" and tells you how to behave at meetings. The lawyer has an obligation to inform you about the legal implications of any action that you take. On the other hand, what often comes up is a difference of opinion about whether citizens should continue their political activities after a lawsuit has begun. Many lawyers are very cautious about clients' political activities and they often talk about a rule that prevents lawyers from seeking publicity to influence a case. My own opinion is that continued activity of clients and successful prosecution of a lawsuit go hand-in-hand.

My experience has taught me that the lawyer's success is dependent on the continuing active participation of the client. Only the client knows what really happened and is continuing to happen. Thus, the lawyer can only provide full representation if he/she works closely with the client.

My opinion is that political activities of the citizens at hazardous waste sites should *not* cease during the pending of litigation. Citizens have many concerns about their community and their health which cannot be abandoned during the pendency of litigation. My ex-

perience has been that litigation is *more* successful when citizens continue their political activities.

My practical advice is that these things are best worked out before you hire the lawyer. Ask the hard questions *before* you hire the lawyer. The key point to look at is what information and participation will the citizens be given. Will the lawyer agree to explain all decisions to you beforehand and follow your judgment? Questions about politics also must be discussed. What is the lawyer's opinion about how the citizens' group should continue to work and how the lawyer will relate to the group?

Finally, the major gripe that clients all over the country have about their lawyers is that the lawyers do not return their calls. Lawyers have been warned repeatedly to return their clients' calls but there still are lots of complaints. I would suggest that you ask the lawyer how they will respond to calls and, will they come to the meetings of the clients and what efforts the lawyer will make to provide all the communication that is needed. □

Ron Simon is special counsel to the Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste. He is on the faculty of American University Law School and represents citizens around the country exposed to hazardous chemicals. He represents workers who are exposed to chemicals in the workplace. He is also counsel to the White Lung Association (asbestos victims).

IN MEMORIAM

The CCHW staff wishes to express its sincere condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schoen on the death of their mother, as well as thanks for their generous gift.

YES!

I want to fight the improper disposal of toxic wastes and help suffering families. Include me as a member of CCHW. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 for citizens' groups or sponsoring individuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 for sustaining members* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 for corporations/institutions or individual patrons* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 for lifetime members* | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 for the newsletter only (non-member) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> CCHW T-shirt (circle one: S, M, L, XL) |

*Individual donors of \$50 or more receive a free, autographed copy of *Love Canal: My Story* by Lois Marie Gibbs. All members receive CCHW's quarterly newsletter, *Everyone's Backyard*.

Name _____

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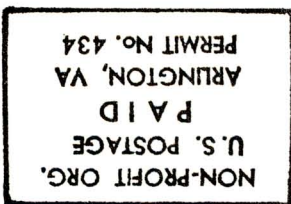
Charge my VISA/Mastercard (circle one) # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

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What Lurks Within Your Town Dump?

IS IT AS INNOCENT AS IT APPEARS?

Have you ever thought about where your household garbage goes? Have you ever wondered what "small" businesses and industries of America do with their trash? How do the many industries that are not required to use "secure" landfills dispose of their hazardous wastes? They all end up in the town dump, in the municipal (or sanitary) landfill in your community.

But, "So what?" you say, "these wastes are harmless, not like evil toxic chemicals associated with 'big' businesses." You couldn't be further from the truth. So-called municipal landfills can be more threatening to your health and the environment than a hazardous waste landfill. In many communities, "just household garbage" has contaminated the water supply, causing cancer, birth defects, kidney and liver problems—disease and death. What was once believed to be a "harmless" town dump has become the Number One concern.

see TOWN DUMP, page 6

