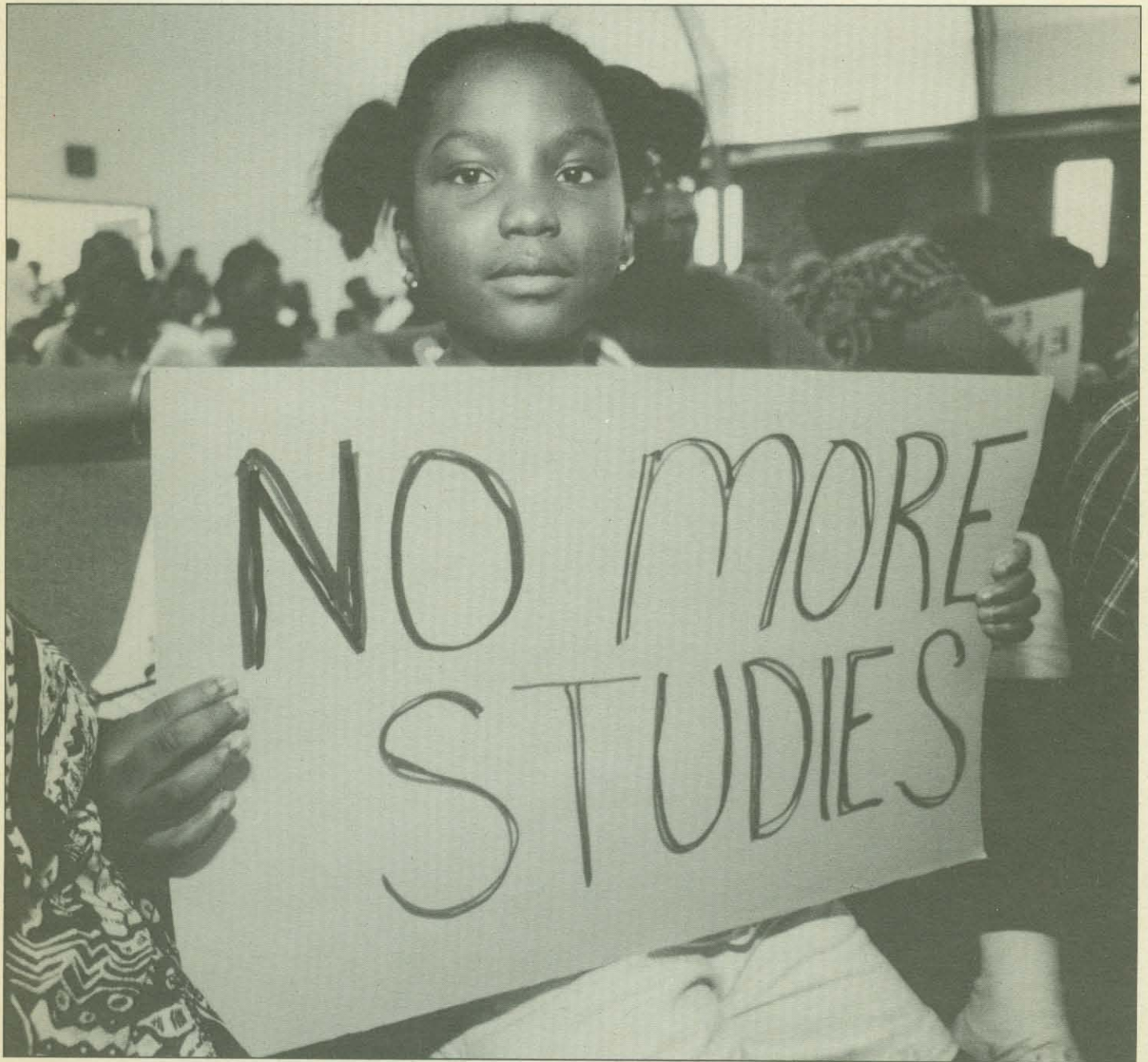


EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 14, No. 3 ♦ \$3.00

Paradise Sludged ♦ The Death of Delaney

Endocrine Disruptors ♦ Youth and Organizing



The Journal of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice
Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

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Every Vote Matters

Soon you will have the opportunity to vote for your choice of candidates for President of the United States. Who will govern our country? Some people believe the eventual winner will be the lesser of two evils and it doesn't matter. Others can't imagine giving up their right to vote - even if the winner is the lesser of two evils. I fall into the latter category. Every election matters. The fundamental problem of our election process cannot be resolved by voters walking away from the polls. When that happens, the system becomes even more incestuous and undemocratic. We need to address the root problems of the influence of big money and the indifference felt by the American people.

However, in addition to money, there are massive organizing efforts that have influenced this election as well as others. Read the organizing toolbox article in this issue to see how the Christian Coalition has helped influence this election. We can learn a great deal about organizing strategies from the Christian Coalition and from work we've done throughout our last fifteen years.

So what's the answer? As Tip O'Neill once said, "All politics are local." President Clinton began as Attorney General in the state of Arkansas and was then elected Governor. Republican candidate Bob Dole was elected to the Kansas Legislature before he became a U.S. Senator. It was local people in the states who first elected these men. If Tip O'Neill was right, we need to start organizing locally now for Presidential elections in the year 2000 and beyond.

How do we do this? First, as responsible voters we need to stop shaking our heads and throwing up our hands in frustration. We need to think long term. We need to organize, and organizing is something we know how to do well! This means getting seriously involved in state elections. Nearly every President of this country was elected to represent a state first. We need to be more proactive. Where are our people? Who do you know (maybe someone already in office) that would be a willing candidate capable of moving up through the ranks? You can begin by getting the right people on the school board, county government or City Hall. We can begin by looking around our state houses and see who we would never want to be President and work on getting them out of the State House. We can get our children involved in the political process and get them excited about their future role as voters.

This is our country and we have a choice about who our leaders will be. Our country was built on the vision of being ruled by the people, for the people. To achieve this vision, we the people, young and old, must take the time to get involved. Our local efforts will transform the national political scene. We can't change the choices for this November, but we can for the year 2000 and beyond - if we begin today. Let's take the time and steps necessary to give back the electoral process to the American people. ■



EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 14, No. 3 ♦ Fall 1996 ♦ \$3.00

Who We Are

Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste is a fifteen-year-old Environmental Justice Center working with a network of over 8,000 local grassroots groups. We were formed to help people win cleanup of contaminated sites and to prevent new sources of contamination. Over the years, our work has grown to include helping people deal with everything from chemical plants to radioactive waste to recycling.

Our mission is to assist people in building strong, community-based organizations that can fight against corporate polluters and unresponsive government agencies. We provide organizing, training and technical assistance over the phone, by visiting sites, and through our 60+ manuals and handbooks.

This journal is compiled with the help of hundreds of local activists who keep us informed about what is happening in their area. We can use your help too. Send us articles and news clippings about your group or other grassroots success stories in your area.



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Kalyla Carter, a child from Pensacola who lives in the Mt. Dioxin relocation area, attends an EPA hearing on relocating the community. For more information, see "Action Line - Florida." Photo by Steve Mawyer, *Pensacola News Journal*.

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An extensive look at endocrine disruptors — what they are, the health problems they cause, and their growing national reputation for destroying the environment. A look beyond dioxin to its many deadly chemical relatives.

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From Hawaii ♦ Linda Smith

The Sludging of Paradise

Like most municipalities, the City and County of Honolulu dumped their sewage into the ocean until the late 1980s when the Clean Water Act banned ocean dumping of sewage. The City subsequently set up digesters and incinerators to destroy the solid parts of the sewage. However, under pressure from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency for numerous Clean Water Act Violations, the City was forced into entering a Consent Decree in 1994 regarding alternative methods for properly managing its sewage waste. Part of the decree called for identifying alternative methods to dispose of the solid parts of sewage, also known as "sludge."

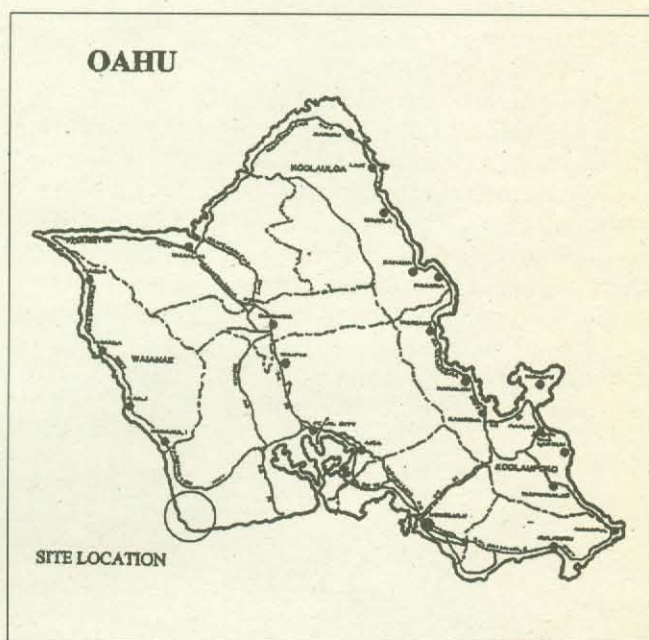
In late 1994, the City issued a request for private firms to contract with the City to recommend alternatives. The selected bidder, a firm called N-Viro International, proposed to use a pro-

cess of mixing the sewage sludge with an alkaline admixture, principally cement kiln dust and fly ash, then heating the mixture and storing it until it is "stabilized." The final product would be used as an "agricultural liming agent or landfill cover."

Under the N-Viro plan, over 90 tons of sludge would be trucked into and out of the Hawaii processing plant daily using dump trucks covered with tarpaulins. Despite protests from companies that bid less expensive solutions, N-Viro was given the go ahead to start obtaining the permits to build their sludge plant.

An Environmental Impact Statement was never prepared for the project despite its proximity to an endangered plant sanctuary, residential neighborhoods, a day care center, and business establishments. Furthermore, the proposed sewage sludge

site is within 100 yards of a food packaging plant, a medical supply plant, and upwind of two of Hawaii's top-rated tourist attractions. In fact, no notification was sent to any of the members of the surrounding community. Not until April 1996 was the public made aware of the project, and then only after the City and State had issued many of the required permits.



Once information about the project began to leak, a coalition of local businesses and concerned residents began reviewing the details of the project. We found that N-Viro had a documented history over the previous five years of safety, odor, and operational problems at similar facilities on the mainland. For example, N-Viro plants in Ohio, Minnesota, and

Linda L. Smith manages a food packaging business that is located within 100 feet of a proposed N-Viro sewage sludge plant. She is the Director of Citizens Against the Transport of Sludge.

Florida experienced rotten egg, ammonia, and burnt sludge smells at distances up to 2 miles away. New Jersey had over 600 complaints within the first months N-Viro operated its facility. West Palm Beach, Florida closed its N-Viro sludge plant because no one would take its stockpiled sludge.

As concerns about the City-sponsored sludge plant grew, the State Department of Health agreed to hold public hearings before issuing a permit for this facility. The hearings, conducted in April 1996, represented the heaviest outpouring of public protest that the Hawaii Department of Health has ever experienced at an air pollution hearing. The new Coalition Against the Transport of Sludge, with nearly 3,600 members, brought in expert witnesses from around the

United States. Among their key findings were:

- ◆ Nationally known infectious disease epidemiologist Dr. Melvin Kramer, warned that persons with asthma, allergies, or immuno-compromised health conditions could be adversely impacted by the Hawaii sludge plant. He recommended a minimum 2 mile buffer between sludge processing facilities and residential, commercial, or industrial areas

- ◆ Dr. Vincent Marinkovich, a noted pulmonologist with Stanford University, testified that the sludge plant could cause potential adverse health effects over a 4.5 square mile area. *Aspergillus*, a human pathogen associated with liver disease, would be released in quantities in excess of 1000 particles per cubic meter of air

each hour over the entire 4.5 square mile area surrounding the sludge plant.

- ◆ Land application of sludge, as documented in numerous scientific publications, can contaminate soil and pollute ground water sources, an issue of particular concern for an ocean island.

- ◆ Safer alternatives exist for the disposal of sewage sludge including gasification methods that have been utilized in Japan and Europe, which CATS is considering.

Current Status

Thanks to the hard work of the Coalition Against the Transport of Sludge and the diligence of the Hawaii State Department of Health, the N-Viro sludge facility has been delayed while a detailed re-

continued on page 11

New National Sludge Alliance Formed

In July, sludge activists from around the United States came together for the CCHW-sponsored National Sludge Roundtable in Pawling, New York. The result of this meeting of sludge fighters was the creation of the **National Sludge Alliance**. This new coalition will create a national database of information on sludge, including scientific information, regulations and policies governing sludge, and a database of all sites affected by sludge in the United States. In addition, CCHW has worked with the National Sludge Alliance to create a series of new publications on sludge. Two publications, *Land Application of Sludge* and *Composting of Sludge* are available from CCHW. For more information on the National Sludge Alliance or to report a community affected by sludge, contact: Charlotte Hartman, National Sludge Alliance, RD 2 Box 164, Millerton, NY 12456. Phone: (518) 329-2120.



Activists at the National Sludge Roundtable brainstorm about names for their new coalition.

Science Feature ♦ Stephen Lester and Patty Lovera

Endocrine Disruptors

Endocrine disruptors, also called environmental hormones, are man-made chemicals that act like hormones and interfere with the normal function of the body's hormone systems. Many common chlorinated substances such as PCBs, dioxin, and many pesticides act as endocrine disruptors. The first evidence that these chemicals were able to affect animals in subtle ways goes back to the research of Rachel Carson and her work on DDT in the 1950s and early 1960s. Today, this area of research is one of the "hottest" topics in the scientific community. Endocrine disruptors can alter sexual development, undermine intelligence and behavior, and make children's bodies less resistant to disease. Sometimes their effects don't show up until a child reaches puberty or afterward, even though exposure took place in the womb.

The impact of endocrine disruptors on public health is described in an excellent new book, *Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility,*

Intelligence and Survival?, written by Theo Colborn, Diane Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers. This book presents the scientific evidence that documents the adverse health effects caused by exposure to industrial chemicals and pesticides that interfere with and disrupt normal hormone functions. This evidence paints a clear picture of a serious public health problem that not only affects people who are directly exposed but also unborn children and future generations. *Our Stolen Future* has sparked extensive debate and controversy which reflects its importance to us all.

The Endocrine System

The endocrine system is a chemical messenger system that allows different parts of the body to communicate with each other. The purpose of the endocrine system is to control and regulate many body functions, particularly growth and development. This is achieved through the secretion of potent, biologically-active chemical messengers called hormones. Very small amounts of hormones can produce significant biological effects. Hormones are released from the brain, thyroid, ovaries, testes and other

"endocrine" glands and then carried by the bloodstream to "target" cells and organs where they activate and regulate various functions.

The pituitary gland, for example, located on the underside of the brain, acts as a control center, telling the ovaries or the thyroid when to send their signals and how much hormone to send. The pituitary gets its cues from another gland in the brain, the hypothalamus, that, as described in *Our Stolen Future*, "constantly monitors hormone levels in the blood in much the same way that a thermostat monitors the air temperature in a house. If levels of a hormone get too low or too high, the hypothalamus sends a message to the pituitary which signals the gland that produces the hormone to gear up, slow down or shut off.

The messages travel back and forth continuously. Without this crosstalk and constant feedback, the human body would be an unruly mob of some 50 trillion cells rather than an integrated organism operating from a single script."

Hormones also guide the growth of a baby's nervous and immune systems and "program" organs and tissues such as the liver, blood, kidneys, and muscles, so that they will function properly.

Portions of this article were taken from a presentation by John Peterson Myers at the Third Citizens Conference on Dioxin and from a paper written by Peter deFur and Carolyn Raffensperger of the Science and Environmental Health Network.

One of the most critical roles of the endocrine system is in early development. Under normal circumstances, the endocrine system produces hormones that regulate growth and development. The thyroid hormone, for example, is essential for normal neurological function and development. The critical period of development begins in the womb and extends until two years of age. Deficiencies of thyroid hormones during fetal development or during early infancy can lead to mental retardation, hearing loss and speech problems. Children with thyroid deficiencies, even those with normal IQ's, can have language comprehension problems, impaired learning and memory and hyperactive behavior. Dioxin specifically blocks the secretion of thyroid hormone, which may lead to these developmental problems.

As described in *Our Stolen Future*, "... normal development depends on getting the right hormone messages in the right amounts to the right places at the right time. As this elaborate chemical ballet rushes forward at a dizzying pace, everything hinges on timing and proper cues. If something disrupts the cues during a critical period of development, it can have serious lifelong consequences for the offspring."

This sensitivity is perhaps best reflected in the work on the mouse embryo by Dr. Fred vom Saal, a researcher at the University of Missouri, who found the following interesting observations in the normal mouse uterus:

◆ A female fetus that matured between two males in the womb becomes more ag-

gressive and less attractive to males in adulthood

◆ A female fetus that matured between two females reaches sexual maturity earlier and will have more babies throughout their lifetimes than a female fetus that matured between two males

◆ A female fetus that matured between two females is more likely to have female offspring than a female fetus that matured between two males

◆ A male fetus that matured between two females has increased adult sexual activity compared to a male fetus that matured between two males

◆ A male fetus that matured between two females was more likely to attack and kill infant mice while male fetuses that matured between two males were better fathers

◆ As adults, male fetuses that matured between two females developed prostate glands twice as large as those male fetuses that had matured between two males.

Dr. vom Saal found that each fetus released tiny amounts of hormones as they matured creating a "pool" of hormones around them that affected their neighbors. Thus, each fetus received chemical signals from at least 3 sources: from their own genes, from their mother, and from their neighboring siblings in the uterus.

This work is relevant and important to humans for several reasons. First, while there are many differences between a mouse and a person, their hormones systems are very similar. Human estrogen is

continued on next page

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

Herbicides and Fungicides

2,4-D
2,4,5-T
Alachlor
Amitrole
Atrazine
Metribuzin
Nitrofen
Trifluralin
Benomyl
Mancozeb
Zineb
Metiram-complex
Maneb
Ziram
Tributyl tin
Hexachlorobenzene

Insecticides

β-HCH
Methoxychlor
Toxaphene
DDT and metabolites
Carbaryl
Endosulfan
Mirex
Transnonachlor
Chlordane
Oxychlorane
Dicofol
Heptachlor & Heptachlor epoxide
Dieldrin
Parathion
Methomyl
Lindane (γ-HCH)
Synthetic pyrethroids
chlordecone (kepone)

Nematocides

Aldicarb
DBCP

Industrial Chemicals

Dioxins
PCBs
PBBs
Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
Penta- to nonyl phenols
Phthalates
Styrenes

the same as mouse estrogen. The human estrogen receptor is the same as the mouse's estrogen receptor. Human testosterone is identical to mouse testosterone. In fact, recent research on fraternal twins has shown that the individual development of each of the twins into adulthood was definitely affected by whether the womb was shared with a male or a female.

This work also demonstrates the extreme sensitivity and vulnerability of the developing fetus to very small variations in hormone levels. The differences that caused these changes took place at the parts per trillion level. These are the same levels that industry and government are always touting as "safe" or insignificant.

The Disruptors

Any substance that can interfere with normal hormone function can be considered an endocrine disruptor. Most endocrine disruptors are synthetic, fat soluble compounds that are either pesticides or industrial use chemicals. The pesticides include chlorinated organic chemicals such as DDT, toxaphene and kepone. Industrial compounds include PCBs, phenol, and dioxins. A complete list of substances that affect the endocrine system cannot be defined at this time. However, a partial list is shown in the accompanying chart. Their most common characteristics include persistence in the environment and in organisms for long periods and solubility in fats, rather than water. As a result, the DDT and dioxins that were released decades ago still remain in soils, fish and even people.

These chemicals are among the most persistent known. They are not metabolized by bacteria or humans and they do not degrade in the environment. The only major route of elimination is photodegradation (breakdown due to sunlight), which is slow and occurs only in the air or at the surface of water and soil under proper conditions. When these chemicals bind tightly to organic matter in soil and sediments, they will settle out and remain in the soil and sediment for long periods of time.

Mimics, Blockers, and Triggers

There are different ways that these chemicals can interfere with or disrupt normal hormone activity. Three classes or types of disruptors have been identified: mimics, blockers, and triggers.

Hormone "mimics" are chemicals that act like normal hormones in the body. DES, the synthetic estrogen given to women during the 1950s and 1960s to prevent miscarriages, is an excellent example of an estrogen mimic. Daughters whose mothers were given DES have a range of serious reproductive disorders including a greatly increased frequency of a rare cancer and an increased risk of endometriosis. Sons born to mothers who were given DES have an increased frequency of undescended testes, an increased risk of the genital birth defect hypospadias, and a decreased adult sperm count.

The second group of disruptors are hormone "blockers" that interfere with how naturally occurring hormones function. These chemicals often act by bind-

ing to the same protein receptors as the real hormone, but do not stimulate any action. The blockers just sit in the way of the natural hormone and prevent it from sending its message. The developmental problems of male alligators with undersized penises in Lake Apopka, Florida were caused by DDE (a metabolic breakdown product of DDT) blocking the action of testosterone, a male hormone needed for proper reproductive development in males.

"Triggers," the third category of disruptors, include chemicals that interfere by attaching to protein receptors but then trigger an abnormal response in the cell - a response that the regular hormone would not cause. The abnormal action may be growth at the wrong time, an alteration of metabolism or synthesis of a different product. The best known triggers are dioxin and dioxin-like chemicals. Dioxin acts through a hormone-like process to initiate entirely new responses.

Exposure

Exposure to endocrine disruptors such as dioxins and PCBs occurs primarily through food, particularly meat, dairy products, and fish that are contaminated with low levels of these chemicals. Fish from contaminated areas carry even higher concentrations in their fat, as may beef, pork, or chicken.

These exposures primarily result from burning chlorinated waste, releases from industrial processes and from pesticide use that eventually gets into our food supply. Industrial chemicals get into our food supply from

air emissions or releases that settle out in the environment and are ingested by fish, cattle, hogs, poultry and other livestock. Air emissions from incinerators and other combustion processes are the major sources of exposure to dioxins and PCBs. Pesticides applied to crops and livestock can remain on or in food. Exposures can also result from consuming drinking water contaminated with endocrine disrupting substances, and from plastic containers leaching these chemicals into our food.

Effects

Research on wildlife has shown that endocrine disrupting chemicals profoundly impair animal reproduction and development. All of the following examples represent animal populations that had extreme exposure to known endocrine disruptors: studies of herring gulls forming same-sex pairs and abandoning their eggs, eagles failing to show nesting behavior and neglecting their young, wild otter populations in severe decline, feminized roosters, high mortality among mink pups, still-born lambs, decline in great white-bear populations, 700 bottlenose dolphins dead along the Atlantic seaboard, 10,000 seals dead in Lake Baikal, Siberia, 1,000 striped dolphins dead in the Mediterranean and 20,000 harbor seals that died from infections caused by a virus or exposure to bacteria, but had high levels of PCBs and DDT in their tissues. Was the real culprit a compromised immune system caused by exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals? When taken together, these studies paint a picture that has a

"cumulative power that is compelling and urgent."

These and other examples of research on wildlife and laboratory animals were highlighted in a historic meeting that took place in July 1991 at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin. At this unique meeting, twenty-one of the

tions are also jeopardizing the human future." At the end of the meeting, a paper summarizing the work of the meeting was issued. This group met a second time in November 1995 in Erice, Italy and issued another statement that provides further evidence of the impact of hormone disruptors on



leading scientific researchers from around the world - specialists from diverse disciplines - came together to share what they knew about the role of hormones in normal development and about the devastating impacts of hormone disrupting chemicals on wildlife, laboratory animals and humans. The scientific evidence presented at this meeting was remarkably consistent and deeply disturbing. The primary conclusion drawn by the participants was that "hormone disruptors threatening the survival of animal popula-

neurological and behavioral development.

The devastating effects of endocrine disruptors is also evident in people. Boys born to Taiwanese mothers accidentally contaminated by PCBs have developmental delays, symptoms suggesting attention deficit disorder and shortened penises at puberty. These effects were seen even though the mothers' exposure occurred at least 6 years prior to the pregnancies. As described earlier, daughters born to mothers who took DES during pregnancy have

continued on next page

a greatly increased risk of developing a rare vaginal cancer, having miscarriages and developing endometriosis. Sons are more likely to have undescended testes, hypospadias and a lower sperm count. Mothers who frequently ate Great Lakes fish while growing up gave birth to children with reduced cranial at birth and continuing developmental problems including motoneural deficits. Children born to mothers carrying background levels of contamination in the Netherlands show behavioral and learning impairment and have weakened immune systems. Children born to Inuit mothers from the Canadian Arctic have even greater immune system problems and suffer from increased frequency of inner ear infections. Scientists are also attempting to understand why sperm counts worldwide have dropped by 50% in the past 20 years. Exposure to endocrine disruptors is suspected.

The health problems caused by exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals are clearly defined in *Our Stolen Future*. While many of these chemicals may cause cancer, it now seems clear that exposure to these chemicals poses an additional, perhaps even more devastating risk — the subtle transgenerational effects on growth and development. "Hormone disrupting chemicals are not classical poisons or typical carcinogens. They play by different rules." It's also clear that as scientists continue to look at the reproductive and developmental effects of these chemicals, they continue to find significant, often permanent, effects at remarkably low doses.

This research on endocrine disruptors provides powerful new evidence that may explain the many increases in health problems that are occurring nationwide — increases such as in hormone related cancers, male and female reproductive dis-

orders, infertility and learning disabilities. The contribution of exposure to endocrine disruptors to the increases in these health problems needs to be established.

The effects of endocrine disruptors also provides powerful evidence for why we must stop exposure to chemicals such as dioxins, PCBs, DDT and other chlorinated pesticides and industrial chemicals. PCBs and DDT have already been banned from sale in this country, but PCBs can still be found in virtually every neighborhood transformer and capacitor. And, DDT continues to be manufactured for export to other countries. We need to get involved to get government and industry to remove PCBs from use in this country and to stop the manufacture of DDT for export and use in other countries.

CCHW's campaign to stop dioxin exposure is an important step that will contribute to eliminating exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals. CCHW is continuing to work with grassroots groups around the country to educate people about the effects of dioxin and other hormone disrupting chemicals and to build local, regional and national coalitions designed to stop exposure to these chemicals. For information on dioxin or to schedule CCHW to come to your community, contact Daenon Gault at CCHW. ■



Resources

- ◆ *Our Stolen Future*. Theo Colborn, Dianne Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers, Dutton Press, 1996.
- ◆ *Endocrine Disruptors*, CCHW Fact Pack, 1996, \$4.00.
- ◆ "Developmental Effects of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals in Wildlife and Humans," Theo Colborn, Frederick S. vom Saal and Ana Soto, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, October, 1993.
- ◆ "Chemically-Induced Alterations in Sexual and Functional Development: The Wildlife/Human Connection," (Proceedings of the Wingspread Conference), ed. by Theo Colborn and Coralie Clement. *Advances in Modern Environmental Toxicology*, vol. XXI, Dr. Myron Mehlman, series editor. Princeton Scientific Publishing Co. Inc., Princeton, NJ 1992.
- ◆ Statement from the Work Session on Environmental Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals: Neural, Endocrine and Behavioral Effects; Follow-up to "Wingspread" statement, Erice, Sicily, Italy, November, 1995.
- ◆ *Rachel's Environment & Health Weekly*, Issues #487, 486, 372, 343, 292, 290, 1996-1992, Published by Environmental Research Foundation, PO Box 5036, Annapolis, MD 21403-7036 (410) 263-1584.

Sludging of Paradise

continued from page 5

view is conducted of the concerns raised at the public hearing. The Coalition has pointed out that sewage sludge, which falls under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, should not be transported in dump trucks. Movement of any material of this nature should be in sealed containers. The Coalition has also requested that any sewage processing be co-located with existing sewage treatment facilities where existing safeguards for control of pathogens, rodents, viruses, and bacterial infections are already in place. Further-

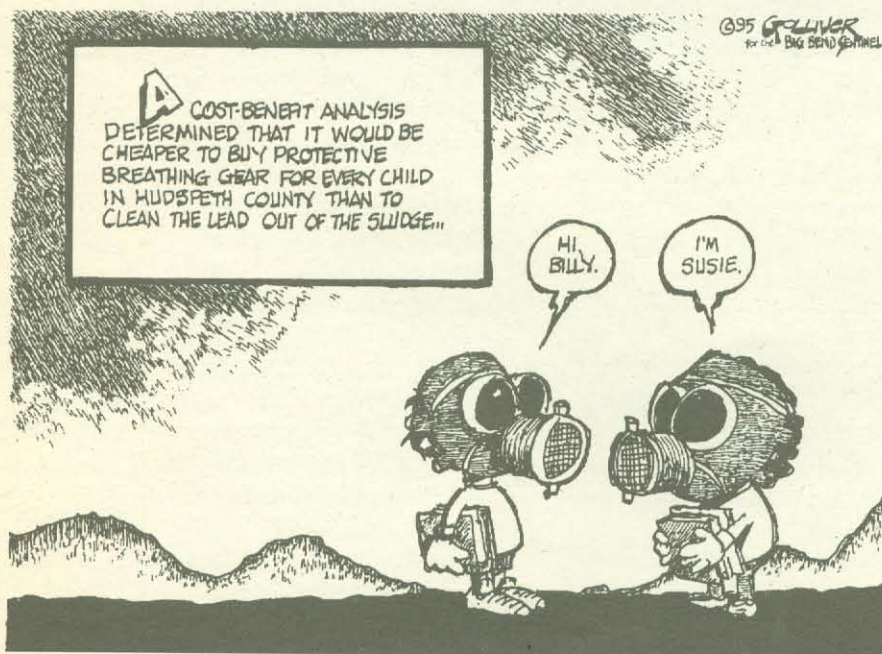
more, the Coalition believes that any operator of a plant of this nature should be required to pay a multi-million dollar performance bond to ensure that adequate compensation exists when problems inevitably occur.

In addition to these minimal requirements, the Coalition is working to alert the entire community on Oahu, local decision makers, and federal officials regarding the health, safety, and operational hazards the proposed N-Viro sludge plant could create on the island of Oahu. Addi-

tionally, the Coalition is developing an educational campaign targeted at farmers, food stores, and consumers to alert them to the health implications of using, selling, and eating foods that are grown in sewage sludge. At risk are not only the 3,600 members of our coalition who live and work within the immediate vicinity of the proposed sludge plant, but also the entire population of 1.2 million people in our state, and over 100,000 daily visitors who enjoy our islands. ■

Survey Shows Environment Important to Americans

In a recent survey by the National Wildlife Federation on important issues in the upcoming elections, the environment ranked high on respondents list. When asked to rank a number of issues by importance on a scale from 1 to 10, 54% of the respondents gave the environment an 8, 9, or 10, putting it in their top tier of election issues. Only 3% of those surveyed believed that environmental protection was a low priority. 63% described themselves as environmentalists or conservationists, and almost a quarter (23%) belong or contribute to at least one environmental group. These results show that the environment is important to Americans and that further measures need to be taken to ensure its protection.



A Farmer's Lament

I used to wake and smell sweet air,
And hear the birds all singing.
I'd get right up and eat pure food,
Clean water I was drinking.
I'd say a prayer to thank the Lord,
And felt His grace still surging.

Now I choke on air that stinks,
My dying cows not trudging.
Then I fear the tainted food
And water fouled by sludging.
So in this hell I must conclude
Satanic forces lurking.

When then I call the DEC
And ask them pray to hurry,
They send me to the EPA
Who tell me not to worry.
Don't I know the congressmen
Have favors they must curry?

Now that all my cows are dead;
My children sick with toxins,
All the neighbors live in dread
Of swallowing carcinogens.
Must I die alone in bed
And curse my country's pathogens?

Tom Bisogno
— National Sludge Alliance

Washington Politics ♦ By Jennifer Ferrara

The Great Pesticide Compromise: How Many Deaths for a Dollar?

A loose coalition of Washington-based environmental research and lobbying organizations aligned themselves with corporate interest groups such as the American Crop Protection Association (ACPA), the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the Food Marketing Institute, and the National Food Processors Association as they supported the latest pesticide compromise signed into law this August. With the new law, "the produce industry can expect easier access to pesticides," according to *The Packer*, a produce industry trade publication. At the same time, the beltway environmental groups offered their support for the compromise. The President of ACPA called the new law "a particularly gratifying victory for us."

The law repeals the Delaney Amendment, a zero-risk pesticide law which prohibits carcinogenic residues from appearing in processed foods, and nails firmly in place pesticide regulations that propose, assess and manage risks rather than prevent them. With Delaney slashed, 35 pesticides that were about to be withdrawn from use because they leave carcinogenic residues in processed foods will now remain in use on major food crops. According to the Environmental Research Foundation, data from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Cancer Institute show that current pesticide laws based on risk assessment cause over 10,000 pesticide-related cancer deaths each year. Under the new legislation, risk assessment will govern a broader range of pesticide regulations, and laws will continue to sanction the loss of lives from eating pesticide-laden foods, to say nothing of the extraordinary exposures posed to farm workers, wildlife, water supplies, and ecosystems.

"In the midst of a cancer epidemic it is unacceptable to continue to allow the use of

hundreds of cancer-causing chemicals in our food supply," said Samuel Epstein M.D., professor of occupational and environmental medicine at the University of Illinois Medical Center and Chairman of the Cancer Prevention Coalition. "There are no safe levels for carcinogens. At a time when cancer risks are escalating, consumers need to be protected from avoidable exposures to cancer causing chemicals."

While grassroots groups such as Food & Water, Mothers & Others, the Cancer Prevention Coalition, the Environmental Research Foundation, the National Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, and the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides vigorously opposed the legislation, the Beltway crowd, including groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Wildlife Federation, are calling the new version a significant victory and one that "goes a long way towards protecting the health of consumers from toxic pesticides on their food." Such support for the bill within the environmental movement could only come from organi-

Jennifer Ferrara is the Associate Director of Food & Water, Inc. and Managing Editor of Food & Water Journal. Food & Water is a national non-profit grassroots education and activist organization organizing around issues of food safety. To join efforts to put a stop to the use of toxic chemicals in the food supply, call Food & Water at 1-800-EAT-SAFE.

zations entrenched in election-year politics and wrapped up in the horse trading on Capitol Hill. Though these groups admit

“... [I] no longer have to worry when my daughter reaches for fruit in the morning...”

— President Bill Clinton

that losing Delaney is a trophy for industry and that provisions exist that can be used by industry to trade in public health for economic gain, they claim the new legislation will broaden the national pesticide discussion and give the environmental movement new tools with which to fight toxic pesticides.

But the last thing citizens need in the battle to protect their health are weak and broken tools handed to them through laws written with pesticide, chemical, and agribusiness corporations at the table. Every so-called step forward for public safety included in the new legislation is accompanied by two steps back. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can loosen safety standards based on the economic wants of chemical and agricultural corporations. Risk assessment policies still don't take into consideration the effects of multiple pesticide exposure, cumulative effects of single pesticides, and the increased vulnerability of infants and children, either because the new regulations don't call for it, or because

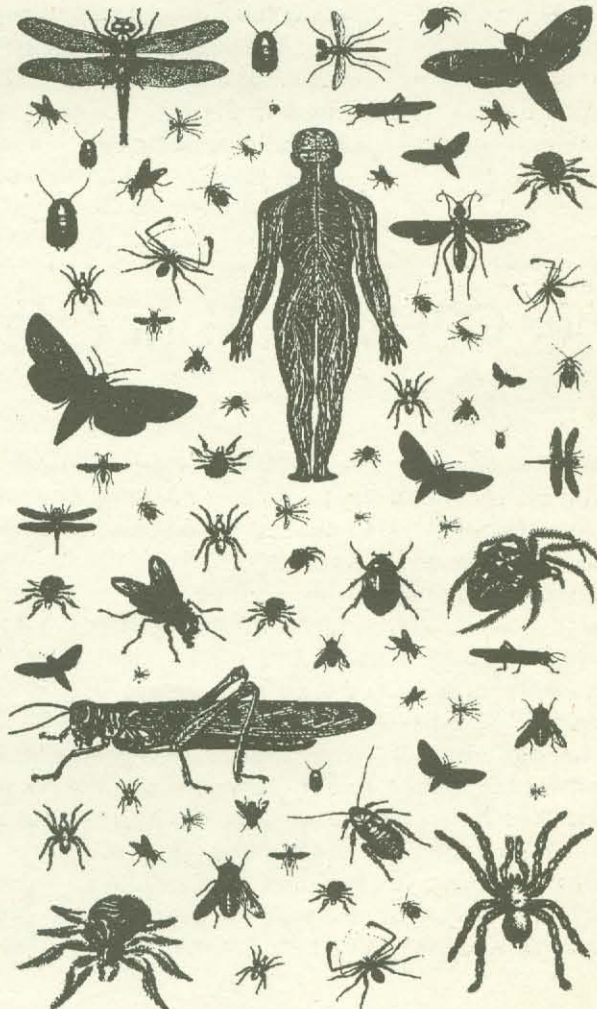
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Editor's Note

CCHW and its members worked for over two years to save the Delaney Clause. Many may remember our Protect Our Children — Save Delaney Campaign. During that campaign, thousands of letters were sent to EPA Administrator Carol Browner and several organizational leaders met with Lynn Goldman, EPA Administrator of Toxics, Pesticides and Prevention. Delaney was our only zero-carcinogen regulation on the books. The campaign was about expanding the regulation, not giving our protection away.

We are disappointed with the recent agreement to sacrifice Delaney in order to further regulate non-processed foods. Now, instead of zero carcinogens in our processed food, we will have “just a little bit” of carcinogens in both our processed and fresh foods, based on risk assessment. President Clinton, this is not a victory for the people, but a victory for the big corporations. You still need to be concerned about your daughter's fruits and vegetables. A little poison each day can hurt you.

THERE ARE OVER 500 SPECIES THAT HAVE DEVELOPED RESISTANCE TO PESTICIDES. AND ONE THAT HASN'T.



After waging an escalating war on insects for the past 75 years, the poisons we are using now are so powerful, and so toxic that we are literally killing ourselves with them. In fact, thousands of men, women and children die every year

This killing has got to stop. So we're bringing people together through a project called "neighborhood networks" to tell the food industry that we're fed up with toxic food. And to let them know that there are thousands of outraged citizens whose mission in life is to stop this toxic assault on their families.

Your children deserve cancer-free fruits and vegetables, too. Join us. Call 1-800 EAT SAFE. You are the only weapon the food industry hasn't developed a resistance to.

FOOD & WATER
INCORPORATED
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Congress will not require or grant money for research needed to accurately consider these factors.

The corporate-controlled Congress and Beltway groups have given up on Delaney and any real protection of public health and are selling the public what they consider to be the next best thing. According to Kert Davies at the Environmental Working Group, an "idealist" would see the loss of the zero-risk Delaney clause as backward movement, but any realist would see that "Delaney was going." Keeping Delaney was not a "tenable battle. We just didn't have the voice. We were not getting the thousands of letters needed to the Hill. Without that, it was bending to the enemies."

But as grassroots groups opposed to the law are well aware, the battle to stop pesticides is not limited to the geography of Washington and the pages of the mainstream press. Citizens have been talking about the non-cancerous toxic effects of pesticides and children's increased vulnerability to pesticides for years. Whether or not federal laws adopt this language, it is already a very strong part of the debate and an organizing tool for the anti-pesticide movement.

Until now, Delaney has been a concrete tool for citizens to use to hold the zero-risk standard over the heads of Congress and industry representatives alike and demand that a zero-cancer risk standard be adopted for all foods. No corporations are willing to admit that their products cause the deaths of citizens. "No Cancer" is always a better rallying cry than "A Little Bit of Cancer." Furthermore, the law limits states' rights to adopt tighter food safety standards than the federal government. This legislation puts a straightjacket on citizens organizing to protect themselves on their home ground. By preventing states from preempting federal legislation and settling for pesticide management instead of prevention, the bill wipes out two valuable and effective organizing tools.

This country knows how to grow food without pesticides. Instead of supporting laws that manage risk, organizations that truly want to protect people from the dangers of pesticides should be pushing the country to adopt sustainable agricultural practices with the goal of eliminating the risks of toxic pesticides.

Despite their own reservations, the Beltway groups are accepting

regulations that provide citizens with less protection than they need, a clear case of activist malpractice. Without being grounded in grassroots battles, these groups are backing a law that gives corporations the right to pollute at the expense of public health while promoting the law as an improvement. Meanwhile, citizens are facing the onslaught of cancer risks, states are held hostage to weak federal health standards, and the chemical companies are laughing all the way to the bank. ■

Dole Foods wants to poison our food
by killing the Delaney Clause

**Damaging
Our children's
Lives, health &
Environment**

CCHW's PROTECT OUR CHILDREN
SAVE DELANEY CAMPAIGN

Logo from CCHW's Save the Delaney
Campaign

Remember CCHW in Your Charitable Giving This Year

This fall, please consider designating CCHW to receive your charitable gift or monthly pledge payment through the employee giving campaign at your workplace. Our number in the Combined Federal Campaign booklet is #0929 and we are also listed among eligible charities in nearly 75 corporate and 130 state and municipal workplaces nationwide.

Many employers, however, offer only United Way charities in their annual workplace fund drives. While the United Way includes many worthy local groups, it admits no environmental or advocacy organizations and, in fact, represents only about five percent of all U.S. charities.

Nearly ten percent of Fortune 500 companies and many smaller workplaces have chosen to empower their employees by offering alternative charitable choices that more fully reflect their diverse interests. CCHW, which belongs to an alternative federation of 43 national environmental organizations called Earth Share, can help you convince your employer to host an open workplace campaign next year. For more information, contact Maryll Kleibrink in CCHW's development office at (703) 237-2249.



Earth Share

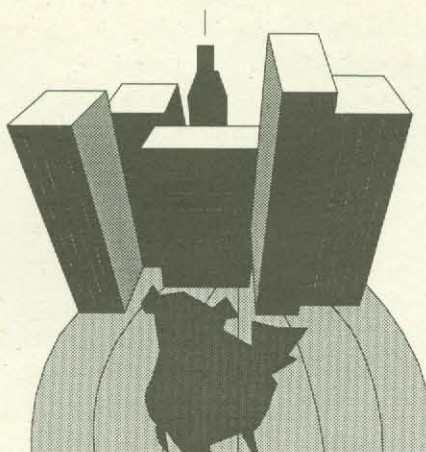
CORPORATE CORNER

◆ **USA Waste Services Inc.**, in its continued rise up the ladder in the waste industry, acquired Houston-based landfill operator **Sanifill Inc.** This move follows USA Waste's activities of the past two years in its acquisition of two other large waste haulers, **Western Waste Industries** and **Chambers Development**. This rush of buyouts firmly secures USA's spot as the third largest waste company in the United States (behind **WMX Technologies** and **Browning Ferris Industries**).

◆ In related waste industry news, **Republic Waste** announced that it has entered into agreement to acquire **Southland Environmental Services**, a Florida-based waste hauler. Republic is headed by **WMX Technologies** co-founder H. Wayne Huizenga. Huizenga has built a reputation for himself by creating multi-billion dollar corporations out of **WMX** and later, **Blockbuster Video**. Republic is apparently his next claim to fame and it seems certain that he will continue to buy out smaller waste handlers to firmly establish Republic as one of the Top Five waste companies.

◆ **The Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA)** reported 40% losses in the second-quarter due to lower aluminum prices. Prices in the aluminum market continue to lower as successful recycling programs increase the amount of supply in the market. Alcoa's data support this finding, as their losses are entirely attributed to the aluminum they produce for soda cans and other recyclables. This trend shows that aluminum recycling programs have been successful and that the industry can sustain itself completely from recycled aluminum.

◆ **Monsanto** and other companies that manufacture pesticides are rejoicing over the recent repeal of the Delaney clause, which prohibited traces of carcinogens in foods. Monsanto vice-president George Fuller stated, "this makes it easier to expand product use into new areas." Other chemical executives remarked that the death of Delaney would rejuvenate the de-



velopment of new products in the long-stagnant pesticide market. This will likely increase the use of carcinogenic pesticides that were previously not allowed on fresh and processed foods, endangering the public health. In related Monsanto news, the company was recently awarded the President's Green Chemistry award for their "zero-waste" process that produces the herbicide Roundup.

◆ **Northeast Utilities** closed its Connecticut Yankee nuclear plant after it failed a safety review. This closure marks the fifth facility that has been shut down since November 1995 in which Northeast had a stake. These shut downs add to Northeast's financial woes. The company recently reported a 72% second quarter loss, coupled with costs of \$334 million related to its safety violations. In related news, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the EPA are investigating Northeast's Millstone facility for discharging excessive levels of chlorine chemicals into Long Island Sound.

◆ **American Ecology Environmental Services Corporation**, a subsidiary of **American Ecology**, announced that it will no longer receive hazardous waste at its Winona, Texas disposal plant. The Houston-based company cited "unacceptable costs associated with litigation," as one of the reasons for the closure. See "Action Line - Texas" for more information.

◆ Hazardous waste-hauler **Martin Environmental's** owner and one of its employees were fined in connection to a 1995 Mission Hills, California spill. An improperly marked truck hauling cadmium and nickel wastes leaked an unspecified amount of hazardous waste on to city streets before being stopped and detained.

◆ Plastics manufacturers such as **Dow Chemical** and **Eastman Chemical** are exploring possibilities in expanding the market for plastic containers to include everything from beer to salad dressing. Food and beverage manufacturers such as **Anheuser-Busch** are aggressively testing plastic containers for their products because plastics are lighter and cheaper. However, given current trends in the aluminum market, plastic may not be the best choice. Some chemical executives offered other reasons. David Richardson, director of **Shell Chemical's** polyester research has a vision. "In a few years, I'll be able to fix you a nice meal and everything in it will come out of a polyester container. I'll even pour your wine from a plastic bottle." **Amoco** executive Richard Marion gave a more practical reason. "Plastic, you see, is less deadly than glass when you throw it at a soccer match." Either way, no one seems to be considering the environmental impact of so much plastic in the waste stream, or the health risks posed by plastics leaching endocrine-disrupting chemicals into our food.

◆ Officials at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station admitted that the **United States Navy** has let thousands of gallons of cadmium-contaminated water run freely into the St. Johns River over a 40-year period. Cadmium is a known carcinogen and its release is highly regulated by the government.

◆ **Commonwealth Edison** has expressed interest in using weapons-grade plutonium from decommissioned atomic bombs as fuel in three of their Illinois facilities. Opponents of the idea fear that it undermines efforts to stop countries like

continued on next page

North Korea from manufacturing radioactive materials "for use as fuel." Other opponents argue that weapons-grade plutonium would be more dangerous in terms of radioactivity, and that Con-Ed should just shut its reactors down. This seems like the best idea, considering the numerous violations the company has committed.

◆ **Owens Corning**, in a desperate attempt to dodge the high volume of asbestos-related suits against the company, filed a civil action charging medical testing labs with falsifying results. Owens Corning settles about 18,000 cases annually for an average of \$11,200, based mostly on medical testing results. If through this lawsuit Owens-Corning could have lab results rendered false, it would remove their liability. Hopefully, their suit will be disregarded and they will have to continue to pay those whose lives their asbestos products have damaged.

◆ **Amoco Corp.** is studying the unusual incidence of brain tumors in its scientists at their Chicago research center. Over the past decade, ten Amoco scientists have been afflicted with different types of brain tumors, including one who died. All the scientists worked in close contact with many different organic chemicals, which may provide clues to the cluster of tumors. The strongest evidence suggests

that exposure to vinyl chloride is responsible for the cluster.

◆ Oil companies reaped the rewards of high crude oil and natural gas prices, showing strong second quarter profits. **Chevron Corp.** reported a 44% gain in net income. **Mobil Corp.** posted a 47% increase in marketing income in what it is calling the company's most profitable quarter in history. **Atlantic Richfield Co.** more than quadrupled its refining and marketing profits; posting a \$120 million dollar gain.

◆ Facing Justice Department charges of violating the Clean Air Act, **Georgia Pacific** agreed to a \$35 million settlement. As part of the settlement, Georgia Pacific will spend \$25 million to retrofit facilities with state-of-the-art equipment, \$6 million in fines, and \$4.25 million on environmental projects in the southeastern U.S.

◆ Only a week after the **Ketchikan Pulp Company** was issued a new state air-quality permit for its Anchorage facility, a release of sulfur dioxide hospitalized three people. As a result, the State has ordered the company, owned by **Louisiana-Pacific**, to install sirens, air quality monitors, and other improvements. The State has vowed that it will shut the plant down rather than tolerate short-term releases. ■

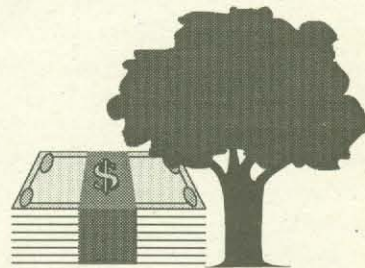
American Lung Association Blasts the EPA

In a recent press release, the American Lung Association (ALA) accused the Environmental Protection Agency of caving in to "extreme pressure from the oil industry and other polluters" to weaken air quality standards. A new standard for smog to be released this fall would leave more than 57 million Americans breathing polluted air, including nearly 12 million children and nearly 3 million people with asthma. The ALA is calling on the EPA to "resist polluter pressure . . . and consistently protect our health." This release came out on the same day that EPA Administrator Carol Browner released a new report that details new national agenda set to protect children from environmental risks. However, it is difficult to believe that the EPA will truly take extreme measures to protect our children when they continue to sell out to the polluters.

Hollywood Star Protests Environmental Policies by Withholding Taxes

Woody Harrelson, Hollywood and TV Actor, is pointing a finger at the U.S. government by announcing that he is withholding \$100,000 of his taxes in protest of the government's use of tax dollars to "desecrate nature." His specific complaint is the recently overturned ban on logging of old growth forests, which he says gives the timber industry *carte blanche* to cut down any tree.

He is also protesting the defeat of the Colorado Industrial Hemp bill. The variety of hemp which was proposed to be grown was not of the marijuana variety, but one which could be used instead of trees for making paper and various fibers.



PUBLICATIONS LIST

NEW!

Love Canal

Love Canal: My Story by Lois Marie Gibbs is currently out of print. This new comprehensive fact pack gives you all the information you will need on Love Canal. It gives the history of Love Canal, a description of the contamination, and the status of the new families moving into the community. pp. 50

Order Item #P001.....\$7.00

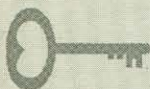


GO GO:

Getting Organized and Getting Out

Our new guide to community relocation. What should you consider when you negotiate for relocation? How do you deal with neighbors who don't want to move? What role do area businesses and churches play? **GO GO** is a comprehensive guide that discusses all the ways to win relocation and to obtain fair compensation. pp.32

Order Item #P110.....\$10.00



Economic Development

Environmentally sound economic development is one of the most important issues facing communities today. Many organizations and resources exist to help a community choose a development program that keeps the environment safe and provides jobs. This new fact pack from CCHW addresses the issue of economic development and covers topics such as worker-owned business and business incubators.

A resource list of organizations and abstracts of successful ventures are included. pp.30+

Order Item #P103.....\$ 5.95

Media Means

To win your fight you need to cultivate the media. This book gives you the ABC's of writing news releases and holding news conferences and gives you ideas on how to get some of the "unfriendly" local media to cover your story. pp.42

Order Item #P071.....\$7.50

How to Win in Public Hearings

Every group at one time or another, will attend and/or be part of a public hearing. **Don't** go into these hearings blindly...**be prepared**. If you feel it is unfair to only have 3 minutes to express everything you feel about a site, find out how to get a fair hearing in this guidebook. pp.26

Order Item #P097

Community Activists\$6.95

All others..... \$199.95

How to Raise and Manage Money

Many groups falter because they run out of funds. This guidebook gives you practical advice so that your organization can keep financially stable. Topics covered include developing budgets, holding fund-raising events and applying for grants. pp.54

Order Item #P086.....\$6.50

User's Guide to Experts

It's hard to win a fight without experts but it's often hard to deal with them. This guide presents strategies on where to find experts, how to judge whether you have the "right" expert and how to get your money's worth from an expert. pp.28

Order Item #P051.....\$5.75



How To Recruit People To Your Organization

By Michael Brown

Why aren't there more people at your meeting? Where are those people you thought were going to show up? This manual/workbook helps you through this often overlooked aspect of building strong community groups. Here you will find methods that work. Without people you have little power to achieve your goals. pp.43

Order Item #P121.....\$10.00

NEW!

Property Values

This fact pack consists of articles and research on the effect waste sites have on property values.

pp. 33

Order Item # P029.....\$4.00

PUBLICATIONS LIST

Center for Disease Control: Cover-up, Deceit and Confusion

If you are considering inviting the federal or state health agencies into your community to assess health, it is critically important that you read this book BEFORE you ask them to come. ATSDR - the federal agency under CDC - has made errors in communities across the nation. pp.25

Order Item #P061.....\$4.95

Common Questions About Health Effects

This is an essential primer for grassroots leaders to use to educate themselves and their neighbors. This guide describes how chemicals get into the body and how they can adversely affect human health. pp. 25

Order Item #P005.....\$6.95

Community Health Surveys

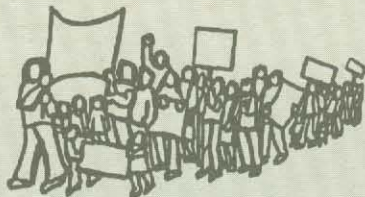
Do you think there is an increase of health problems in your community and now you want to do a survey? **BEWARE.** If the survey is not done correctly it can hurt your chances of winning the fight. This guidebook walks you through various ways to conduct health surveys and avoid pitfalls. Includes two model questionnaires. pp.35

Order Item #P050.....\$10.00

Medical Waste: Public Health vs. Private Profit

This book covers everything you wanted to know about medical waste, disposal methods and how to fight medwaste incineration. pp.36

Order Item #P095.....\$8.50



NEW!

Endocrine Disruptors

Endocrine disruptors are man-made environmental hormones. This fact pack contains studies and reports on this major public health threat. pp.31

Order Item #P123.....\$4.95

Brownfields

This fact pack explains what EPA and local governments are doing about contaminated industrial sites, their potential for redevelopment, their liability and other information you need to know. pp. 71

Order Item #P124.....\$7.00

Pulp and Paper Industry

This fact pack deals with dioxin produced by the pulp and paper industry and efforts to get the industry to reduce their dioxin production by phasing out chlorine use. pp. 65

Order Item # P047.....\$7.00

Hog Farming and Wastes

A fact pack on the effects that corporate hog farming is having on communities and their health and the concerns about dealing with hog wastes. pp.58

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Land Farming Sludge

Municipal sludge is being touted as a miracle fertilizer and is being given to farmers and used to "reclaim" strip-mined land. Actually, sludge is a toxic stew of heavy metals, pesticides and other extremely hazardous substances. This compilation of newsclips, articles and scientific papers tells exactly what can be found in sludge and how communities are dealing with this issue. pp.64

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Everything you ever wanted to know about who they are and where they came from.

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WMX Technologies Update, pp.65

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Browning Ferris Update, pp. 30

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Legal Corner II

The second series of Ron Simon's reprints from *EBY*. Questions and answers about SLAPP's, medical monitoring, fitting a lawyer into your plan, out of court settlements and more. pp. 29

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PUBLICATIONS LIST

NEW!

Construction and Demolition Waste

A collection of clips uncovering hazardous waste at construction and demolition landfills and the threat they present to water supplies, wildlife and human health. pp.38

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PowerLines

A fact pack on the electromagnetic health effects of powerlines, appliances and other electromagnetic sources. pp. 39

Order Item #P041.....\$4.00

Indoor Air Pollution

This fact pack gives sources and problems with indoor air pollution and solutions to providing cleaner air inside your home. pp.35

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NEW!

Incinerator Ash

A fact pack of articles and research on the health concerns and regulatory controversy over ash disposal. (Kick Ash). pp.47

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Local Ordinances

This fact pack gives specific models of local ordinances grassroots groups have used to protect their community. pp. 50+

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SLAPP

A fact pack on SLAPP's "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" and how activists are dealing with the attempts to intimidate them. pp.50

Order Item #P102\$7.00

NEW!

Burnin' Rubber

A fact pack outlining the dangers of tire incineration and use of tires as a fuel source in commercial facilities. pp.45

Order Item #P101.....\$7.00

Tire Fires

A collection of clips discussing the hazards and health threats created by fires at tire dumps and storage facilities. pp.28

Order Item #P116.....\$4.00

Treading New

Ground.... Alternatives to Tire Incineration

A collection of articles and ideas to promote recycling and reuse of old tires. Gives helpful alternatives to burning tires. pp. 45

Order Item #P115.....\$7.00

CCHW MAGAZINES

Everyone's Backyard

A must read magazine! A vital link to the latest technical and science issues, legal handles, Washington politics and concrete steps for community organizing on waste disposal and toxic issues. It chronicles the track records of corporate polluters, examines what governmental agencies are doing (and not doing) to protect our health and environment, and highlights the actions and victories of the thousands of groups that are actively fighting for environmental justice around the world. Makes a great gift.

Order Item #P003 Subscription.....\$35.00/year

Environmental Health Monthly

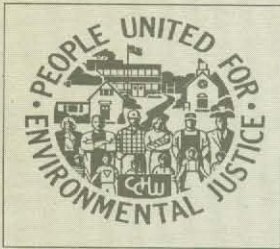
A monthly publication that reprints detailed studies and articles on health effects caused by various chemical exposures. Help educate your community physician or your group by subscribing to this valuable monthly.

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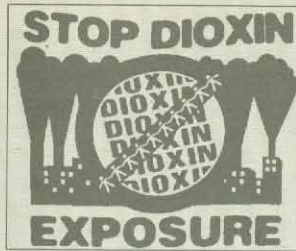
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Protests, rallies and attendance at public meetings are much more effective if everyone is wearing the same shirt. The message to your opponent: "We are working together and will not be silenced." T-shirts are 100% cotton. \$12.00 each or \$10.00 each for orders of 20 or more.



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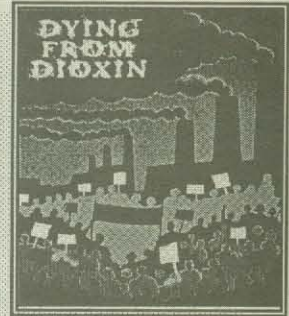


White w/black&red graphics

"Everything you wanted to know is all right here," Ken Ward, Jr. *The Charleston Gazette*

Dying From Dioxin: A Citizens Guide to Reclaiming Our Health and Rebuilding Democracy by Lois Marie Gibbs and CCHW

Dying from Dioxin describes the alarming details of this public health crisis, exposure levels, the conspiracy to cover it up and explains how citizens can organize against this toxic threat. Available in paper back, 362 pages, \$20.00. Individual orders are available from CCHW. Orders of 10 or more can be ordered at discounted rates by calling South End Press at 800-533-8478.



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ACTION LINE

Alabama

◆ Nearly 1000 people turned out to protest a proposed landfill in Vance near the Bama Rock Garden Road area. The proposal, by Alabama Waste Disposal Solutions, would create a 200-acre "sanitary" landfill in the community. Residents are concerned that outside wastes will be shipped in from other locations and pollute their drinking water and affect their property values. Several County Commissioners have shown support for the community and publicly stated that they will oppose the landfill at all costs.

Arizona

◆ Sumitomo Sitix would like to make Phoenix a silicon desert, but residents aren't standing for it. **Don't Waste Arizona** and the **Coalition of Valley Citizens Opposed to Sumitomo** sponsored a visit by Lois Gibbs to speak out against facilities such as the proposed Sumitomo plant. Over 250 people attended the rally against the facility, which would emit 3200 pounds of hydrofluoric acid into the air annually. Other Phoenix activists attended the meeting including members of **Stop the Refinery**, **Scottsdale Concerned Citizens**, and **Concerned Residents of South Phoenix**.

◆ **Greenpeace** and other activists and residents of Mobile are protesting a plan by the EPA and Waste Management to bury 80,000 tons of DDT-contaminated soil dredged from San Francisco Bay in a landfill near the small town south of Phoenix. As many as 47 railroad cars would transport the sludge from the Bay to

Arizona for burial as part of the \$10 million deal. Although DDT has been banned since 1973, the EPA has set no toxicity standards and officials claim that the DDT is "safe in its current form." The soil was originally planned to be buried near Colorado Springs, Colorado, but residents there created an uproar that foiled the plan. Arizona residents are now organizing to do the same.

California

◆ The **Political Ecology Group** is currently coordinating a campaign against the use of methyl bromide in California. Over 14 million pounds of the deadly pesticide, which causes nervous system, genetic and reproductive damage, are used in California every year. Methyl bromide was due to be banned this past March, but the corporate farm and chemical lobbies pressured politicians to grant yet another extension. Already a broad range of groups are working together on the campaign.

◆ The **League of Conservation Voters** announced a campaign to unseat five of the "worst anti-environmentalists" in Congress, a list that includes members from Northern and Central California. Borrowing a tactic from conservative lobbying organizations such as the National Rifle Association, the league has singled out members of Congress it considers to be least supportive of the environment, and plans to spend at least \$1.5 million in an "all-out effort" to defeat them in the upcoming November election. The list includes California Representatives Frank Riggs, a Napa Republi-

can and Gary Condit, a Democrat from Modesto. The list also includes, Helen Chenoweth, R-ID, Michael Flanagan, R-IL and Steve Stockman, R-TX.

◆ The newly-formed **Protect Our Neighborhood Committee** is fighting a proposal by Unocal and seven other companies to cleanup a hazardous waste dump in South Whittier. Residents are angry because the EPA did not inform them that the site existed or include them in ten years of site evaluation and cleanup plans. Because of the group's insistence, efforts are now being made to re-evaluate the site's future and include the community in the decision of whether to cap the site or excavate it.

The Lab cited "funding shortfalls" but it was obvious that the two groups' organizing efforts had an impact. This victory also makes it less likely that the Department of Energy will consider burying nuclear wastes near the site.

◆ The **Environmental Health Coalition** held a leadership training event for residents involved in opposing homeporting of nuclear aircraft carriers in San Diego Bay. As a result of this session, twenty-five residents held a press conference on the Bay in view of several nuclear aircraft carriers. Local media covered the event and workshop attendees were interviewed. As a follow-up, educational events were held for other community members and coalition mem-



Members of the Environmental Health Coalition attend a press conference to oppose homeporting of nuclear aircraft carriers.

◆ Thanks to the efforts of **Tri-Valley CAREs** and the **Western States Legal Foundation**, the Lawrence Livermore Lab has announced that it will shelve plans to build a facility to treat mixed wastes with radioactive and chemical compo-

ners met with state and federal officials. These events were made possible through CCHW's Mini-grant program.

◆ Residents living near the Fort Ord Superfund site are organizing around EPA plans

ACTION LINE



for cleanup at the site. The EPA wants to treat the contaminated groundwater and then cover the site with plastic, but the residents aren't sure that this would provide adequate cleanup and protection. The EPA has spent seven years evaluating the site.

Canada

◆ Individuals from five organizations in Canada have come together in a Steering Committee to begin working on a national "Campaign for Pesticide Reduction!" CAP is pleased to be collaborating with people from the **World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, Toronto Environmental Alliance, and the Canadian Labour Congress** on this initiative. CAP felt that the time was ripe to devote at least some energy to unified campaigns on mutually agreed upon issues. There are many "voices in the wilderness" crying out against pesticide abuses and this will provide an opportunity to cry out loudly in unison!

Colorado

◆ Winning another battle in a struggle that has continued for almost two years, **Park Hill for Safe Neighborhoods** (PHSN) turned back the latest attempt of Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc., one of the country's largest transporters of hazardous waste, to operate a hazardous waste facility in Northeast Denver. On July 2, 1996, Denver District Court Judge John W. Coughlin ruled that an earlier decision by the Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals barring Laidlaw from operating a ten-day transfer station was legally valid and

would stand. PHSN convinced the Board of Adjustment that Northeast Denver suffered from an "undue concentration" of facilities which handle hazardous and toxic waste. White residents from the south part of Park Hill joined their black neighbors in opposing the transfer station. "We don't get the same results as when our friends come in with us and we form a coalition and we cry together," Colorado NAACP president Menola Upshaw said.

◆ **Being Environmentally Aware Residents** (BEARs), a new group in Walsenburg, Colorado, is proud to report their first victory. With aid and assistance from staff at CCHW, members of BEARs made a short, but powerful presentation against a proposed waste transfer station to the county commissioners that swayed their decision to permit the facility. Congratulations to BEARs!

◆ Because of the many health and safety risks connected with the location of such a facility in close proximity to a concentrated population center **Concerned Citizens Resource Association** (CCRA) is fighting a proposal by Conoco Inc. to construct two massive fuel storage tanks at an existing truck terminal in Grand Junction. The proposed expansion site is located approximately one-half mile from the Colorado River and near a residential neighborhood. It is a primarily Hispanic, lower-income neighborhood which has had to fight major environmental hazards in the past. CCRA submitted a two-page list of concerns to the City of Grand

Junction Planning Department. After meeting with representatives from Conoco, most of these concerns were answered. Nevertheless, CCRA still strongly believes that although Conoco may be planning to install state-of-the-art technology at the site, it will not be for the long-term good of the Grand Junction community to have a major fuel distribution site at the heart of the city. The risk of an explosion or spill poses many health and safety concerns.

Connecticut

◆ The **Uncasville Environmental Coalition** (UEC) defeated a proposal by Stone Container to create an industrial waste landfill. Despite Stone Container's efforts to divide the community and threaten workers, UEC rallied the community against Stone's bullying efforts. UEC thanks CCHW for their assistance in achieving this victory.

Delaware

◆ The Delaware chapter of **Communities Concerned about Corporations** is working with the **Wiedener Environment Law Clinic** in a citizen challenge to Formosa's policies at Delaware City and with other environmentalists for zero discharge at three of DuPont's plants.

District of Columbia

◆ Washington D.C.'s water woes continue. This past summer, unhealthy levels of bacteria were detected in the drinking water supply for the fourth time in the past year.

Contamination was discovered citywide, as opposed to previous tests which showed only localized contamination. Public works official said that it could take up to two years to correct the problem, but assured the public that the contamination did not represent a widespread threat.

Florida

◆ Yet another chapter came to pass in the story of Mt. Dioxin and the **Citizens Against Toxic Exposure** (CATE) in Pensacola. About 350 residents attended a meeting called by the EPA to demand a fair relocation with shouts of "Move Us Now!" and "Evacuate Us All!" CATE presented the EPA with four demands, including relocation for all 358 affected households, lifetime health care treatment and medical monitoring, a relocation plan by September 30, and citizen involvement in cleanup decisions. In its previous decision, EPA had decided to only move some of the families, leaving out residents of the Escambia Arms Apartments and the Goulding subdivision. The community has decided to stay together and not relent until the EPA agrees to relocate all families and allow them to have an active role in making cleanup decisions and determining the future use of the site once it is cleaned up.

Georgia

◆ **Save Atlanta's Fragile Environment** (SAFE) has allied with other community organizations in getting Atlanta city council members to pass a resolution to halt the incineration of the city's sewage

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sludge. In the resolution, the city is urged to eliminate incineration at its treatment plants within two years and to prioritize sewage management. The resolution states that the treatment plant failed to meet acceptable operating practices.

Hawaii

◆ Read the "Sludging of Paradise" in this issue about the fight of **Citizens Against the Transport of Sludge** in Kapolei.

Illinois

◆ A proposed incinerator in the town of Summit spurred townspeople to organize and create **Summit Citizens Organized for Recycling and the Environment (SCORE)**. SCORE set up press conferences, passed out flyers and collected signatures on petitions to get their message out to officials and residents. SCORE had all of its members at all the hearings that were held on the Summit incinerator. In addition, a constant barrage of information was sent to John Williams, the IEPA hearing officer. Many others joined the fight and their phone calls and letters didn't let up. These efforts by so many individuals resulted in the IEPA refusing to grant air and land permits to the proposed incinerator. Congratulations to SCORE!

◆ More than 300 urban river enthusiasts from 27 states and 4 countries gathered at Chicago's North Park College May 16-18, 1996 for Friends of Trashed Rivers III, the third Coalition to Restore Urban Waters Conference (CRUW 96). The conference is hosted

by **Friends of the Chicago River**, with the Lake Michigan Federation, The Grand Cal Task Force and the Open Lands Project.

Kansas

◆ The **Concerned Citizens of Marion County** are taking a strong stance against BFI's proposed 850-acre megadump. CCMC rallied over 200 people to attend the County Planning and Zoning meeting, the largest crowd ever assembled. Group member Martin Eddy stated, "We even gave BFI a head start with their hour-and-a-half presentation; but, prepared, planned, and organized, we blew them away!"

Kentucky

◆ The **Chemical Weapons Working Group** reports that new data shows chemical weapons stockpiles are stable. Leakage is not skyrocketing as portrayed by Army to justify the "rush to burn." New government statistics show that the number of chemical leaks discovered annually has been relatively stable for the past fifteen years. The data, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request by the Salt Lake City newspaper, the *Deseret News*, undermine the Army's claim that continued storage of the munitions is more dangerous than incineration. The Army has relied on that argument to defend its controversial plan to build eight chemical weapons incinerators on the U.S. mainland. "Incineration has been driven by false pretenses about the risks posed by continued storage,"

said Craig Williams, national spokesperson for the CWWG. See "Action Line - Utah" for more information.

Louisiana

◆ The Louisiana chapter of **Communities Concerned about Corporations** is working with a coalition of local groups to expand bargaining with Formosa to include jobs for local residents, sustainable feedstocks, taxes, historic preservation, union recognition as well as zero discharge into the air and water. In St. John the Baptist Parish they have helped the local group demand zero discharge from DuPont's Ponchartrain Works. They are also organizing along the Pearl River in Louisiana and the Mississippi in conjunction with the Pearl River Coalition.

Maine

◆ The **Natural Resources Council of Maine** conducted a survey in June on public perception of chlorine-free paper. The survey found that 93% of the respondents would buy chlorine-free paper of comparable cost and quality as that produced through chlorine-bleached paper. It also found that 69% of respondents would buy chlorine-free paper even if it cost a little more. Results like these are important in showing that the consumer demand for chlorine-free products could contribute to ending chlorinated bleaching processes in paper mills that release large quantities of dioxin.

Massachusetts

◆ In Cohasset, **Stop Any Further Expansion (SAFE)** is continuing their fight against

BFI's plans to expand a landfill. Now, there have been proposals by a local cement kiln to burn hazardous wastes as an "alternative fuel source." Despite this added battle, SAFE is organizing against the burning of these fuels, which are known to cause serious air pollution and endanger public health.

Missouri

◆ The **Missouri Veterans Leadership Program** is working with the **Times Beach Action Group** and the **St. Louis County Dioxin Monitoring Committee** to protest ongoing problems and violations associated with test burns at the Times Beach mobile incinerator. It seems that few of the testings protocols are being followed and several illegal releases of dioxin have been documented.

◆ The **Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE)** and its supporters have won a victory in the fight to hold the Army accountable for public health and environmental problems surrounding their proposed Chemical Weapons training school at Fort Leonard. The Army had received permits granting them exemptions from state air regulations, but the plan has been halted due to public opposition and petitions filed by MCE. The proposed facility, of which one component is an incinerator to destroy nerve agents, would pollute two watersheds with radioactive and chemical wastes.

Montana

◆ **Montana CHEER, Women's Voices of the Earth,**

ACTION LINE



and other groups sponsored Chlorine Alternative Days, a week-long community fair dedicated to informing the public of ways they can live without chlorine in their lives. The events, held in Missoula, included an educational workshop on consumer choice and chlorine-free paper, a luncheon presentation for businesses and organizations on procurement of chlorine-free products, and a dioxin roundtable with Stone Container and community leaders on how to eliminate chlorinated compounds at their paper facility.

◆ The *Wild Rockies Review* reports that twelve environmental groups signed onto a report sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding problems with the Cove/Mallard timber sales in the Nez Perce National Forest. Through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, representatives from **Friends of the Clearwater** and the **Ecology Center** found evidence that the NMFS was misled in regards to road building and logging activities and failed to comply with environmental laws.

◆ **Montana Environmental Information Center** recently called the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) attention to the fact that any pumping conducted by Seven-Up Pete Joint Venture (SPJV) in the past or in the future may be in violation of Montana water rights laws. SPJV does not currently have a right to appropriate any water on the Blackfoot or Landers Fork and

yet it has diverted and wants to divert in the future, millions of gallons of state water.

Native Americans

◆ Although all of Maine's residents are affected by dioxin contamination from paper mills, it has had the most impact on the **Penobscot Indian Nation**. The Penobscots have a long economic and cultural tie to fishing, and fish in Maine's rivers are highly contaminated with dioxin. Penobscots are working closely with the **Natural Resources Council of Maine** to ensure that Governor Angus King follows through on his promise to eliminate dioxin in Maine's rivers.

New Jersey

◆ Despite valiant and aggressive efforts, including a lawsuit, by the **Grassroots Environmental Organization (GREGO)**, the use of incinerator ash in road beds and pavement will continue, as approved by the Long Island Regional Planning Board. The New Jersey DEP, DOT and Port Authority cited this type of activity as a "beneficial use of ash and a form of recycling."

◆ After more than 16 years of organizing efforts by local residents, the State has finally agreed to conduct a health study in Toms River round the Ciba-Geigy plant. High numbers of childhood cancers and leukemia have been reported by residents for years. The **Ocean County Citizens for Clean Water** have tracked these problems for years and helped lobby for the study. As part of the study, the county has pledged funds for the

community to hire an expert to help them understand and participate in the study. Residents have also formed **An Ocean of Love**, a community group designed to offer support to victims of childhood leukemia and their families.

New York

◆ On July 24, **NYPIRG** cheered the announcement by American Ref-Fuel to abandon their proposed garbage incinerator and transfer station in Green Island, New York. "Today's announcement proves that well-informed and well organized citizens can make a difference in defeating polluting projects in their own communities. This was a David vs. Goliath battle with hundreds of local citizens standing up against a multi-million dollar company and winning" stated Judith Enck of NYPIRG. As part of the Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign, Lois Gibbs spoke at a NYPIRG-sponsored event on Earth Day that helped call attention to the proposed transfer station.

◆ The **Friends of Wickers Creek Archaeological Site** are concerned about plans to build new housing on top of an old landfill and archaeological site on the Hudson River. The landfill contains mostly construction and demolition wastes, but the community is concerned that the generation of explosive methane poses a risk to prospective homeowners.

◆ "It's like looking into the jaws of hell." That was the powerful assessment of a Kodak spokesperson, speaking about his company's hazardous waste incinerator in Rochester.

The **Citizens Environmental Coalition** has been pressuring the company to upgrade its twenty-year-old air pollution equipment. The facility, built in 1976, burns over 65 million tons of waste each year without good scrubbers or sufficient air monitoring equipment.

Ohio

◆ **Neighbors Protecting Our Environment** reports that, on August 6-8, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was back in Columbus collecting an additional 21 soil samples near the former Columbus incinerator. The previous soil sampling effort, earlier this year, produced mixed results. The U.S. EPA declared that dioxin levels were higher on-site at the facility but normal elsewhere in the city.

Pennsylvania

◆ In Nazareth, parents and **Parent-Teacher Association** members have been canvassing their neighborhoods, gathering petitions and giving out officials' phone numbers to protest a appeal by Keystone Cement Company to burn more hazardous wastes at its two East Allen Township cement kilns. A month-old coalition of PTAs held a news conference as negotiations continue between Keystone and Department of Environmental Protection. The two sides are scheduled to report their progress to the State Environmental Hearing Board.

South Carolina

◆ The **Lugoff-Elgin Concerned Citizens** are organizing around emissions from the

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Hardwick Chemical plant in Elgin. An accident last February released large amounts of hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide. Since then, there have been three other accidents at the facility. The community is now demanding action from the State, which has ordered the facility to be shut down until it can operate safely. The community doesn't believe that the facility *can* be operated safely.

Tennessee

◆ The **Southeastern Center for Ecological Awareness** in Chattanooga is investigating health problems on Chattanooga's south side. Leukemia and other health problems are reported to be high, and the group is considering whether or not to do a health survey.

Texas

◆ In a monumental victory for **Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins** (M.O.S.E.S.), American Ecology announced that it will no longer accept hazardous wastes at its two deep injection well disposal facilities, due to "unacceptable costs associated with litigation." The residents of Winona and surrounding communities have had to endure contaminated air and groundwater from the deep injection wells, a solvent recovery facility, and hazardous waste fuel blending facility at the site. They have lived through chemical fires, threats from the company, and evacuations from their homes because of illegal releases. They have experienced multitudes of health problems including birth

defects, rare cancers, brain damage, kidney malfunction, chromosome damage, and hair loss. Their livestock has died, and their crops no longer grow. All of these hardships were fought by M.O.S.E.S.

◆ **ance of the Bravo, Greenpeace, NIRS,** and other groups attend the State of Texas Public Hearing in Sierra Blanca on the "low-level" radioactive waste dump proposed for that town. Eleven Texas counties and seven Texas citi-



A child from Winona, Texas holds a "Wasted Babies" doll. Members of Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins make the dolls as a symbol of their community and their children suffering from exposure to hazardous waste. Photo by Tammy Cromer-Campbell.

through organizing and legal action. CCHW has had a long relationship with the group and has provided them with information and assistance. We are proud to share in this great victory by M.O.S.E.S. and wish them continued success in ensuring that environmental justice prevails in Winona and everywhere.

◆ On August 6, representatives of the **Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund, Save Sierra Blanca, the International Environmental Alli-**

◆ **zens** as well as two Mexican states and one Mexican city, have passed resolutions against this dump. 585 individuals and groups have requested hearings before the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission.

Utah

◆ A federal judge denied a request by the **Chemical Weapons Working Group, Sierra Club,** and other plaintiffs to obtain an injunction against the Tooele Chemical

Agent Disposal System, the nation's first chemical weapons incinerator. However, as anticipated by opponents, the facility was shut down after less than 72 hours of operation after alarms detected chemical agents in the filtration system.

Virginia

◆ Residents in Amelia are organizing to stop the expansion of a landfill operated by Chambers Development (recently acquired by USA Waste). Chambers wants to dump gasoline-contaminated soil, incinerator ash, and other "special" wastes into the landfill, but they need a permit first. Several local leaders that moved from Willmer, Texas and were members of **Groups Allied to Stop Pollution** (GASP), want to start a branch of GASP in Virginia to fight the expansion.

◆ Residents and members of the City Council in South Boston and Halifax County are organizing around a proposal to spread sewage sludge on their farmland. Local citizens are collecting information and preparing for an upcoming city council meeting to decide whether or not land application is a safe choice for sludge disposal.

Washington

◆ The **Hanford Health Information Archives** opened its doors July 24, 1996 at Gonzaga University's Foley Center Library in Spokane, Washington. The Archives is a collection of materials about health and experiences donated by "Hanford"

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Ada Residents Object ♦ Marti Sinclair

Greenwashing in Oklahoma

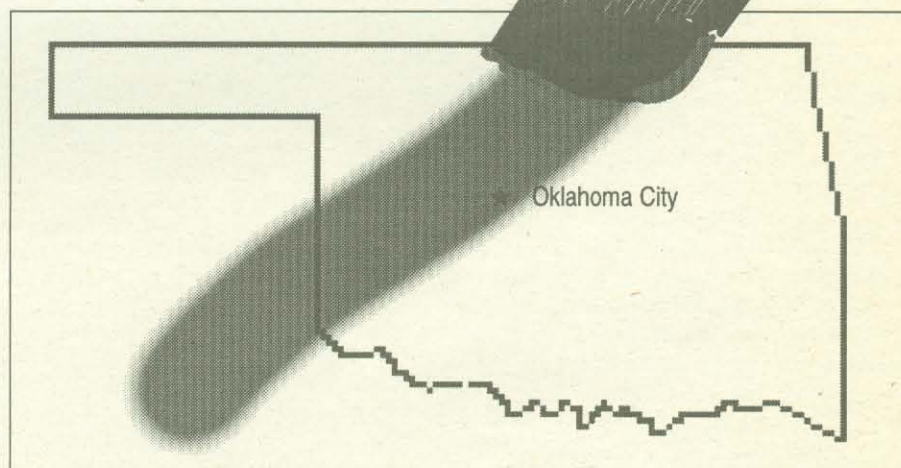
Risk communication experts consider "risk" to have two components: the hazard and the public's perception of hazard. One might assume that the best way to reduce "risk" is to minimize or diminish the hazards that lead people to believe they are in danger. The role of the risk communicator, however, is to minimize the public's perception of hazard. Like the keepers of Oz's Emerald City, they hand out the green-colored glasses to "greenwash" hazards posed to human health, fish and wildlife populations, and ecosystem function posed by environmental pollutants.

In early 1992, risk communicators went to work in Ada, Oklahoma. Holnam Inc. cement plant announced an "alternative fuels" program whereby fossil fuel use would be reduced by "recycling" flammable hazardous wastes. This type of arrangement would allow Holnam to collect on both ends. Not only

would they not have to pay for this "fuel," but producers would pay them disposal fees to get rid of the hazardous waste. The more hazardous waste that Holnam gets paid to burn as fuel, the less they have to spend on coal to fuel the plant. Holnam assured the public that no dioxins, PCBs, or pesticides would be burned. They

group would work with plant officials to address any local concerns. None of these claims proved true.

Some citizens donned reading glasses instead of the proffered "greenwashed" lenses. Adans for a Clean Environment (ACE) decoded Holnam's permit application to discover that many of the wastes to be burned were classified "hazardous" due to toxicity rather than flammability as we had been told. Although the burning of these wastes would provide energy, "recycling" was just a green washing term for



touted the "alternative fuels" program at their Missouri plant by claiming it was so clean that the nearby Audubon Society Bird Sanctuary endorsed it! An extensive EPA permitting process would guarantee our safety and an independent citizens

incineration. ACE turned over additional documents to the Ada Evening News which broke the alarming story: "Holnam Will Burn Dioxins."

Other claims were full-blown hoaxes. There is

continued on next page

Ms. Marti Sinclair is President of Adans for a Clean Environment and Environmental Justice Issue Chair for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club.

no Audubon Bird Sanctuary near Holnam's Missouri facility. Similarly, the federal "interim status" regulations for boilers and industrial furnaces (which includes cement kilns) allows facilities to incinerate hazardous waste without public notice, comment, or hearings; without any human health or ecological risk assessment; and without a full federal permit. The "extensive" permitting process consists of a rubber stamp called interim status.

Finally, the "independent citizens' group" with whom Holnam agreed to work was hand-picked by Holnam's local bankers, financially-backed by Holnam, and pointedly excluded any one in ACE from membership. The "citizens' group" met behind closed doors with Holnam's bankers, management, and paid consultants. Dr. Fred Busche, the uranium mining geologist who wrote the group's final report to the City of Ada, soon became a paid Holnam consultant himself.

In Oklahoma, however, federal "interim status" facilities can not commence burning without full permits. Thousands of Ada's citizens signed ACE's petitions opposing the facility, and dozens wrote letters, attended endless meetings, and lobbied for changes. They succeeded and changed state law. By 1995, the hazardous waste industry boom had subsided, Congress was balking at the "riders" (subsequently defeated) to the federal budget which would have exempted hazardous waste cement kiln incineration from air quality regulations, and ACE was entrenched

in the permit process. In February of 1996, Holnam withdrew their application.

Unexpectedly, ACE's celebration turned bitter, however. We had become the object of yet another greenwashing hoax. Through Ada's East Central University (ECU), former Holnam consultant Dr. Busche obtained an EPA environmental justice grant. With the grant, he fired up an Internet newsletter in which he falsely named ACE as a member of the Holnam-sponsored "citizens' group" and supposed supporter of their report. Though ECU promised a retraction, one has not been issued and the release of disinformation over the Internet continues. Like that feisty guardian Toto, it remains for us to draw back the curtains which conceal those greenwashing con-men who pose as risk communication wizards.

We must not, however, answer the greenwasher's cry of "no problem" with a sigh of "no solution." It is possible to work together to reduce environmental hazards. Oklahoma's legislature banned low-fuel-value wastes, such as chlorinated solvents and metal-bearing waste, from cement kiln "recycling" facilities. Since low-fuel-value wastes burn "dirty", this law effectively reduced the chronic risks posed by cement kiln incinerators. There are solutions which can reduce hazards. Once the greenwashing wizards are sent off in their hot air balloons, tin men, lions, scarecrows, and other stakeholders can roll up their sleeves and get some real environmental work done to protect public health. ■

Action Line

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downwinders" — people exposed to radiation released from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeastern Washington from 1944 to 1972. Contributions from people who lived in or visited the areas downwind from Hanford, or on the Columbia River downstream from Hanford, are contributing to the Archives collection. The Archives is the first-and-only collection of public health information and personal records from people exposed to radiation released from Hanford.

Wisconsin

◆ **Clean Water Action Council** is leading a cooperative effort of several small local citizen groups to oppose the expansion of "Kidney Island," an artificial toxic landfill located in the waters offshore from Bay Beach Amusement Park in Green Bay. In particular, they are working with the Bay Beach Association and property owners along the shore. They have hired a lawyer and have been granted the right to a formal Contested Case Hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The court hearing will be the last week of August. They also have several expert witnesses generously donating their time to testify.

Wyoming

◆ **Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC)** members south of Gillette have been negotiating to get protection for their groundwater from the coalbed methane (CBM) development that is occurring. Following PRBRC's appeal of the Lighthouse CBM project, and continued assurance that an agreement would be reached if adequate protections were in place, the BLM put together a community meeting to start a negotiation process. PRBRC members and staff, other landowners and company reps from several CBM companies and coal companies, as well as the State Engineer and staff were in attendance to see if there was common ground among the parties. Nothing is resolved yet but the process to put some real protections in place for PRBRC's members and landowners is well underway. ■

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Organizing Toolbox ♦ Charlotte Brody

SIX LESSONS FROM THE CHRISTIAN COALITION

How many times have you heard someone say, "We need to be organized as well the Christian Coalition?" I heard it so many times that I decided to do some reading about how the Christian Coalition organizes. You don't have to be a supporter of the goals of the Christian Coalition to admire the growth and strength of their movement. Every social change movement has much to learn from the success and failures of other social change movements.

Lesson Number 1: Study Other Movements

Ralph Reed knows that. The Executive Director of the Christian Coalition since it began in 1989 in the ashes of the Pat Robertson's 1988 Presidential Campaign, Reed is a serious student of progressive movements. In his 1996 book *Active Faith*, Reed describes how his understanding of the anti-slavery, temperance, labor, civil rights, and 1960s antiwar

movements shaped the development of the Christian Coalition. After the defeat of George Bush in 1992, the Christian Coalition made a strategic decision to build a permanent grassroots movement. Reed writes:

"After the defeat of George McGovern in 1972, leaders of the New Left and the antiwar movement limped back to their respective states, licked their wounds, and prepared to run for local and state office. Bill Clinton ran for Congress in Arkansas, Gary Hart for the U.S. Senate in Colorado, and Willie Brown for the state assembly in California. David Bonior, a Vietnam veteran opposed to the war, returned to Michigan and ran for the state legislature, eventually winning a seat in Congress in 1976 and rising to a leadership post among Democrats in the House. I proposed that religious conservatives imitate that strategy, a modern form of *narodnaya volya*, in which nineteenth-century Russian agrarian reformers had left Moscow and worked on farms in order to return 'back to the people'. Like agriculture, building coalitions,

crafting legislation, working with the media, and handling constituent concerns can only be learned by doing. The left had become skilled at the art of governing on the local level. Religious conservatives had all gone to Washington to run lobby groups. The paucity of our hands-on experience in government showed, and in needed to be corrected."

Lesson Number 2: Learn From Your Defeats To Prepare For Victory

Today the Christian Coalition claims 1.7 million members and supporters in 2,000 chapters across the United States. This success is the result of learning from failure and using the experience gained in each defeat to improve the next effort. Pat Robertson may have spent 24 million dollars and only won over five state delegations in his campaign to become the 1988 Republican candidate for President, but his race left

a list of 134,000 donors and thousands of newly experienced volunteers.

After President George Bush lost his bid for reelection in 1992, many blamed his defeat on the extremism of the Christian Coalition during the Republican national convention. Reed accepts that "the platform committee produced a document that pressed every hot button issue dear to conservatives, but it had purely symbolic meaning and all the negatives of overheated rhetoric." Press coverage of the influence of the Christian Coalition on the Convention was made worse by the treatment of the media. After Reed was interviewed at the Convention by National Public Radio's Nina Totenberg, for example, Coalition members stalked the reporter around the convention floor, yelling "whore" and other insults.

But Reed and other Coalition leaders did not wallow in their responsibility for the 1992 defeat. Reed writes, "I came to see that losing the Presidency was not an obstacle to a new rebirth of religious values and the triumph of conservative ideas; it held the key to our long road back. George Bush's defeat had severed the umbilical cord that tied an entire social movement to the presidency, perhaps the most overrated prize in American politics. With the new focus on local issues came phenomenal success and a prize that few could have dreamed of - one of the most extensive grassroots networks in American politics and within two years, conservative control of Congress for the first time in two generations."

After the 1992 defeat, the Christian Coalition came to terms with "how the red-hot rhetoric that sizzled in direct mails and on cable television may drive core supporters to their checkbooks but ultimately limit one's effectiveness in the broader society." The Christian Coalition knows what it wants - to put enough people into elective offices that the Coalition's positions become the laws of the land. To do that you have to appeal to a majority of voters. So you have find ways to address the concerns of a much larger group of people in language that they can understand and support. So after the 1992 defeat, the Christian Coalition did not change its positions against abortion and homosexuality, but instead of focusing on those issues it started working on the much more popular issue of tax credits for families with children. Reed purposely stopped using military metaphors in his speeches and started using sports metaphors instead.

Anyone who watched the 1996 National Republican Convention had to notice its themes of inclusiveness and diversity. Even when pro-choice General Colin Powell and U.S. Representative Susan Molinari were featured in prime time, there was little visible dissension from the anti-choice majority in the audience. The big tent discipline shown in 1996 is a tribute not only to how much the Christian Coalition has learned about the American people in the last four years, but also their willingness to clench their teeth to be able to appeal to that larger audience.

LESSON NUMBER 3: ORGANIZING IS ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Since 1989, the Christian Coalition has focused its efforts on training state and local organizers. Hundreds of special training events have been held for candidates for local and state offices. Instead of relying on the strength of the religious broadcasting industry (Pat Robertson's *700 Club* claims to reach one million viewers every day), the Christian Coalition has learned that its strength comes from well-trained grassroots activists who, according to Reed, organize "one family at a time, one church at a time, one neighborhood at a time, one community at a time."

Most of the Coalition's national resources are devoted to the development and maintenance of local activists. At conventions, these activists are encouraged to tell stories and learn from each other's victories.

LESSON NUMBER 4: BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING

In her book *Facing the Wrath: Confronting the Right in Dangerous Times*, Sarah Diamond writes, "Here are people who believe in the efficacy of their own small persistent actions." And they should. By concentrating on elections in which voter turnout is low, the Christian Coalition has amplified its strength. The Christian Coalition has made elegant strategic use of fax and phone trees and voters guides.

But Christian Coalition members commitment to their cause comes not only from their strategic, participatory victories, but also the creation and maintenance of a culture that is larger than electoral politics. There has to be emotional sustenance. Of course, some of that sustenance comes by tying religious faith to political work. But religious conservatives have also developed a wide variety of reinforcing cultural institutions. Not only are there religious and secular broadcasters to reinforce the Christian Coalition agenda, but also there are exercise videos and marriage manuals. The larger reinforcing culture affirms people's participation in the political work.

Ralph Reed writes, "The American revolutionaries in their day, the Communists in their time, and the left in the 1960s all possessed a unique and powerful vision that history was on their side. Today that conviction no longer belongs to liberals or to their allies, but to the right, and more particularly, to religious conservatives."

LESSON NUMBER 5: IT TAKES A PERMANENT MOVEMENT TO KEEP ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE

The decision to build the Christian Coalition into a grassroots movement came out of the disappointments of religious conservatives during the Bush Presidency.

Reed writes that while religious right voters played a prominent role in Bush's election in 1988, the new administration did not make political appointments that reflected the importance of that constituency. Religious conservatives felt "patronized,...taken for granted by Republican politicians and discounted by the press." Some religious conservative leaders argued that the remedy should be a large convocation with twenty thousand or thirty thousand participants filling up the Houston Astrodome or some other arena in the South or West. Pat Robertson argued that there should be a "grassroots citizens group... with a five-fold purpose, which includes training Christians for effective social action, combating antireligious bigotry, alerting Christians of issues and legislation on a timely basis, speaking out for pro-family values in the media, and representing people of faith at every level of government."

At first, the decision was made to take on both projects - the giant rally and the grassroots organizing. But according to Reed, a few months later he convinced Robertson that you couldn't do both projects well and the rally idea faded away.

LESSON 6: DON'T OVERSTATE YOUR CASE

Reed writes, "In the past, religious conservatives attempted to compensate for their weak grassroots organizations through a combina-

tion of bluster and bombast. The fact that they believed they possessed God's Truth caused them to ignore the pressing need to be civil - and professional."

How many times have you heard some organizational leader threaten a politician with defeat at the ballot box unless he or she votes a certain way? How many times has that threat turned into a successful effort for or against that politician? Not often. You don't have to speak loudly if you have the big stick of a strong grassroots organization.

The grassroots movement for health and environmental justice is not the same as the Christian Coalition. Our model is not strictly electoral and legislative. We don't have our own broadcasting network. We don't have a leftover list of 134,000 donors to start with. And we don't have or want the same authoritarian relationship between national leaders and local followers who willingly implement the plan of their leaders.

But like the Christian Coalition, we are learning that we can never rely on the promises of elected officials. Our strength and our future depend on building and maintaining strong grassroots organizations. Every landfill fight and every effort to shut down an incinerator teaches us incredibly important political skills. What we need are better mechanisms to keep experienced landfill fighters and incinerator opponents actively engaged in the struggle. We need to develop structures that reward and sustain grassroots activism as a way of life and give us more opportunities to learn from each other. ■

CCHW Legal Counsel ♦ Ron Simon

Legal Corner

Question

My state legislature is considering an "environmental audit immunity" law. The backers of the proposal are saying it's a good way to get companies to clean up by offering them an incentive to investigate their environmental practices. Is this a good idea?

Answer

Laws that create an environmental audit privilege have been proposed in many states and in the U.S. Congress. In fact, more than 20 states have enacted these laws. The laws haven't gotten the attention they deserve. They are a *terrible* idea.

To understand the proposed law, you have to begin with the term "environmental audit." An "audit" is a review of what someone is doing. The EPA came up with the idea of an "environmental audit." Each company was supposed to review its overall environmental performance (was it releasing or making more toxins than was necessary?) as well as its compliance with applicable environmental laws. The EPA encourages companies to conduct these environmental audits.

But the proposed "environmental audit privilege" law is another matter altogether. It provides two ben-

efits to companies that conduct "environmental audits." The first benefit is a privilege. In the legal sense, privilege means that any information that is generated by the environmental audit can be kept secret. In other words, if a company writes that it has been polluting and violating laws for many years, it can keep this information secret.

The second benefit to companies of the proposed law is "immunity." "Immunity" means that any information that is generated in the "environmental audit" cannot be used in any matter against the company. In short, the company cannot be punished if it recognizes that it has done something wrong.

This kind of law has been proposed around the country by a coalition of companies that are known for pollution, contamination, and legal violations. The real point of this sort of legislation is to protect these polluters so that they will not have to face up to the responsibility for their illegal actions. Why should a company be permitted to keep its knowledge of its bad acts secret? Why shouldn't a company be held responsible for its environmental wrongdoings?

The polluter has an enormous advantage over both the people it poisons and the governmental agencies that try to enforce environmental



laws. The advantage is simple: only the polluter knows what it is doing. Only the polluter is in a position to accumulate data about the toxic material it has released. Only the polluter knows what it has released and has the information about when and where to take samples.

People who have challenged polluters know that the companies have an enormous tactical advantage. Because the polluter knows where the problems are, it can choose to take samples in ways that will meet its needs. Because the rest of us do not know what they are doing, our only chance to catch the polluter is to look at the polluter's own documents and figure out what it does and what it knows.

The proposed law would mean that all of a polluter's documents which show that it knows it is doing wrong could be kept secret. Even worse, if anyone ever found these documents, the polluter could claim to be immune because they were conducting an "environmental audit."

The campaign against these proposed laws has many participants. Among them, the EPA opposes these

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Commentary ♦ Daenon L. Gault

Young Activists Bridging the Gap

Illiberal Education author Dinesh D'Souza warns of "an unholy alliance of zealous college radicals, self-deluding minorities and ambitious young faculty who together degrade the once admirable intellectual life of the American campus." *Closing of the American Mind* author Allan Bloom suggests that, "students are self indulgent, isolated and ignorant," and that we need to "salvage the best and brightest with a stiff dose of the classics." E.D. Hirsch, in *Cultural Illiteracy*, declares them "lacking in basic cultural knowledge necessary for coherent communication." Christopher Lasch suggests, "Americans in general have stopped believing in the future. If young people feel no connection to anything, their dislocation is a measure of our failure, not theirs. We have failed to provide them with a culture that claims to explain the world or [that] links the experience of one generation to those that came before and to those that will follow."

Apathy and action are two words that come to mind

in regards to the comments made by the first three authors above when speaking of students and young organizers. Ironically, "apathetic" is how some young organizers believe they are perceived by older more experienced organizers. These young organizers believe that the more experienced organizer feels that the young organizer is indifferent, hence they are apathetic. Some believe that the experienced organizer feels that the exuberance exhibited by some of the young organizers leads to actions without regard to potential consequences. Yet, some young organizers feel that they have carved their own niche in the world of organizing and have gained the respect and admiration of the experienced organizer as well as their peers. The latter is the belief that each young organizer should examine.

During the Third Citizens' Conference on Dioxin and Other Synthetic Hormone Disruptors in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, many felt that the absence of youth on

the conference agenda epitomized the issue that young people and young organizers face daily. This observation is well documented in the strategy manual from the conference by Angela Brown of the Southern Organizing Committee and Tanisa Foxworth of the Youth Task Force. "It is noted that we cannot begin to talk about impacted communities, reproductive disorders, environmental hazards, children not reaching their full mental capacity or any other issue without allowing youth the opportunity to speak for themselves on issues which will affect them so greatly."

Rick Taketa, of **Free the Planet! Alliance** (a national grassroots network of hundreds of campus and youth environmental groups) is frustrated by groups forcing young people to work answering phones and other menial tasks without giving them any substantive work. He says that this is wrong, unproductive and inefficient. According to him, "young people and students are an environmentally educated resource which provide energy, enthusiasm and new ideas which would be a tremendous asset to any existing organization." He also feels that organizations should involve young people more in their activities. Not only will this be beneficial to these groups in terms of overall productivity, but also afford

young people the opportunity to gain much needed experience. Applying the talents and skill of the young organizers will also add security for the organization to continue its efforts in the future. It is important to empower the next generation of leaders. This is a necessary step in the continuation of our efforts and the strengthening of the movement through the next generation. In order to sustain our momentum, young organizers need to be fully integrated into the movement.

The young organizers have found that establishing credibility in the world of experienced organizers is just as difficult as organizing the individuals involved in a particular struggle. These young organizers must realize that with age comes experience and wisdom. To aid in overcoming some of the "inherent barriers" that come with youth, there are many organizations designed to aid in breaking down those barriers. A collaborative effort by these organizations, experienced organizers and the organizations that support young organizers, will build a movement. A movement with a common goal in solidarity. **Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)** and the **National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice (NCH&EJ)** are two such organizations. **NCH&EJ** was organized with an understanding that the health and environmental justice move-

ments needed a vehicle that would promote collaboration based upon equal partnership between both movements. The current strategy of **NCH&EJ** is to focus on capacity building, public education, public policy and corporate accountability through their *Make the Link Campaign*. In order to achieve the goal of the *Make the Link Campaign*, **NCH&EJ** recognized that their strength lies in their diversity. The **NCH&EJ** understands that there are some constituencies that require specific outreach

marginalized and underestimated. Therefore, the **Youth Committee** of **NCH&EJ** was formed to reach out to youth and student activists in order to design strategies for full student / youth incorporation into all aspects of the coalition.

In February of 1990, the *National Student News Service*, a bi-weekly digest of campus events, reported that 10,000 students had just marched on forty state capitols to challenge deforestation of U.S. public lands. At the University of New Mexico, the



Young organizers attend a YOWL meeting at the National Organizers Alliance.

and incorporation into the work. Young people happen to be one of those constituencies. **NCH&EJ** also believes that young people play an active and particular role in any movement because of the unique way that young people view and operate in the world. There are young people in the work force, young people who are activists, and young people in school. In this country however, young people are a constituency that are often

campus chapter of the Ralph Nader-inspired public interest research groups, the **PIRGs**, convinced the student union to ban the use of styrofoam products in its food service. These two well organized actions by youth are prime examples of the riches that youth possess. Young organizers may lack in age and may not have as many years of experience as seasoned organizers, but young organizers should not be overlooked. Young people

of all ages have much to offer in the world of organizing, and provide an important and valuable resource that is often left untapped.

Young organizers need to believe that their actions matter. Gaining this confidence requires strong role models - examples to carry them through the inevitable difficult rites of passage. To address this need, **National Organizers Alliance (NOA)** in Washington, D.C., formed **Young Organizers With a Life (YOWL)**. YOWL is a support group made up of organizers ages 18-35. NOA's mission is to advance progressive organizing for social, economic and environmental justice and to sustain, support and nurture the people of all ages who do it. The group meets once a month and discuss a wide array of issues, how those issues relate to them as young organizers, and how these issues will affect their organizing because of their age. The members of YOWL come from every end of the spectrum but share two things in common: Youth, and a desire to break down the barriers of age discrimination within the movement.

It has been stated that the best way to gain respect when meeting people who have had more experience in the movement is to have confidence that you know what you are talking about and not to pretend to know what you are talking about when you don't. I agree with this method of thinking. I feel that you should be confident but acknowledge your shortcomings. Do not try to cover them up, for we all learn from somewhere. You will earn respect and credibility more quickly by asking and learning rather than not asking and not knowing. This form of misrepresentation could be potentially disastrous for a young organizer trying to establish credibility. If you don't know something, say so. Be eager, enthusiastic and accepting of

this new found knowledge. Youth and students can use these organizing principles and initiatives as basics to organizing. In order to become experienced we must all start at the beginning. It's how good a job we do on the way up that will give us the credibility that is needed to change the perceptions of the experienced organizers.

Paul Rogat-Loeb, author of *Generation at the Crossroads*, sums it up best, "Those of us in older generations could encourage students to think about the kind of world they'd like to inhabit - [we] could do so both directly and through the examples we set." We are a generation at the crossroads. ■

Resources

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715 G Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 543-6603

Rick Taketa, Free the Planet
218 D Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 546-0263

Angela Brown, Greenpeace/SOC
750 Piedmont Avenue NE,
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 876-8256 ext. 205

Tanisa Foxworth, Youth Task Force
222 Sweetwater Circle, Apt. A-11
Mableton, GA 30058
(770) 944-6934

Alderman Library, Student Union
Resource Center; University
of Virginia.

Generation at the Crossroads, Paul Rogat-Loeb.

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Legal Corner

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proposed laws because they let a polluter keep secrets about violations of the law and even let the polluters off the hook.

The coalition fighting the proposed laws have received great support from the **Good Neighbor Project For Sustainable Industries**, P.O. Box 79225, Waverly, Massachusetts 02179, (617) 489-3686. This group has coordinated the efforts of grassroots group, unions, and traditional environmentalists. The Good Neighbor Project has excellent materials for your use.

Similar pro-business proposals have been passed into law in more than twenty states while people were caught napping. It is hard to believe the claim that secrecy will encourage companies not to pollute. It is even more preposterous to imagine that people could be convinced that known law-breakers should be exonerated just because they are aware of their wrong-doing. ■

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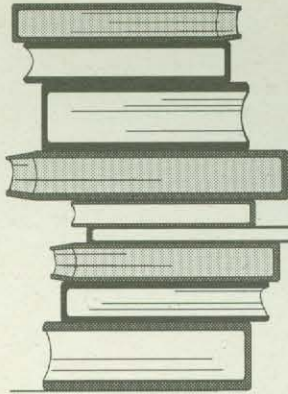
RESOURCES

◆ The Land Stewardship Project has recently published a new guide, *Monitoring Sustainable Agriculture with Conventional Financial Data* by Dick Levins. It is a guide that farmers can use to evaluate how sustainable their farms are by taking numbers off of their income tax forms and inserting them into worksheets. For more information or to order, contact the Land Stewardship Project, 2200 4th Street, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110. (612) 653-0618.

◆ The United Nations Environment Programme has recently published *Taking Action, An Environmental Guide for You and Your Community*. This book covers individually the various environmental issues faced by communities, giving the scientific basis for problems, the possible solutions available, and the actions a community can take. It covers energy, waste, land use, and many other environmental topics. It also includes a section on community action and tools available to a community. For more information, contact UNDC Two Building, Room 0803, Two United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. (212) 963-8138.

◆ "Aluminum Anonymous" is a networking newsletter focused on a project that monitors the amount of recyclable alcoholic beverage containers found on our roads and highways. The project has shown that the recycling rate of aluminum cans is dropping while the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths is increasing, for the first time in ten years. For more information and to receive the newsletter, contact "Aluminum Anonymous," PO Box 683, Chesapeake City, MD 21915.

◆ *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill: Fate and Effects in Alaskan Waters* is the first definitive exploration of the effects of the spill since its occurrence in 1989. It provides detailed insights into the



ecological impacts of an oil spill in sub-arctic waters, and the effects and recovery patterns after such a spill. To order, contact ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

◆ In recent years, there have been emerging concerns regarding the fate and effects of pulp and paper mill effluents on the environment. *Environmental Fate and Effects of Pulp and Paper Mill Effluents* explores the most active and critical current research and experimentation from around the world. This comprehensive overview examines the identity and origin of chemicals in pulp mill effluents, environmental fate of chemicals from pulp and paper mills, bioaccumulation, laboratory and field studies on wildlife, and policy directions. For more information, contact St. Lucie Press, 100 E. Linton Blvd, Suite 403B, Delray Beach, FL 33483. (407) 274-9906.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ September 25, 1996 — New England Dioxin Roundtable Planning Meeting
- ◆ October 10-19, 1996 — Russian-American Project to Reduce Dioxin
- ◆ October 10-15, 1996 — National Coalition for Health and Environmental Justice Youth Summit
- ◆ November 1-2, 1996 — Stop Dioxin Exposure Tour - Bloomington, Indiana
- ◆ November 7-10, 1996 — 1996 Ohio State Environmental Leadership Conference
- ◆ December 5-8, 1996 — Stop Dioxin Exposure Tour - San Antonio, Texas
- ◆ February 7-8, 1997 — Florida Dioxin Roundtable
- ◆ March 1, 1997 — Stop Dioxin Exposure Tour - Pacific Northwest
- ◆ March 10-20, 1997 — Stop Dioxin Exposure Tour - Australia
- ◆ April 10-13, 1997 — National Pulp and Paper Conference

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for more information, please contact the office of
Raymond Singer, Ph.D.
Neurotoxicologist, Expert Witness
(505) 466-1100

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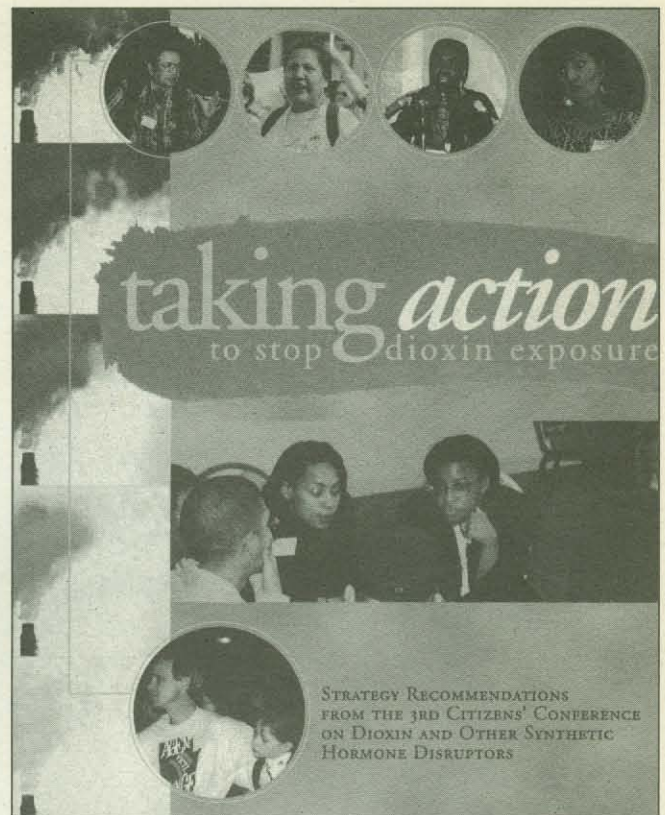
This book contains the proceedings from the Dioxin Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, including all resolutions from the conference, the strategies from the nine conference working groups, and a complete list of participants' names and addresses.

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