

A landfill by any other name is still a landfill

by Bob Folger

What do corporations do when they need community support? The waste management industry seems to know exactly what to do, and that is to use rhetorical techniques. The waste management industry seems to use the classical definition of rhetoric which strongly focuses on the art of influencing the thought and conduct of an audience. Here are a few of the waste management industry's recent performances.

Taylor, PA is a small borough that hosts a Waste Management Inc. landfill, the Alliance Sanitary Landfill. Waste Management Inc. is now trying to expand Alliance Landfill and Waste Management Inc. knows that under Pennsylvania law a landfill must show benefits in order to expand. Waste Management Inc. has also launched a unique campaign too. Many area residents have been calling it "Can't Beat Them - Buy Them." In 2006, Waste Management Inc. through Alliance Landfill sold the borough of Taylor property called the Taylor Colliery at a cost of \$1, plus gave Taylor borough additional funds of around \$20,000 to cover the realty tax. Alliance

Landfill has also given the borough an additional \$200,000 to develop the new property. Taylor borough also has an agreement with Alliance landfill and receives funds yearly for the tonnage intake, residents receive free garbage pick-up, and property tax benefits too!

In 2007 Waste Management proposed an agreement with the Borough of Old Forge, PA for \$42 million. The Old Forge Borough

area called Sun Valley, Waste Management Inc. owns and operates the Bradley Landfill. Once again, Waste Management needed a landfill expansion and was ready to act. Waste Management offered \$4 million to the community – or \$2 per ton of trash received at the dump until it closes. Waste Management gave six community groups \$1,000 a piece, plus hats, T-shirts and equipment for beautification projects. Such

However, there is a catch! The school board must issue a letter of "unwavering support" acceptable to Resource Recovery, LLC and offer other support as needed.

The waste management industry and its rhetorical business ways just seems to be trying to cover a path that many of us have heard just too many times. No matter where you live, I'm sure you have read a statement like this:

The waste management industry and its rhetorical business ways just seems to be trying to cover a path that many of us have heard just too many times.

"We want to apologize to our neighbors for these odor issues. The facility has not lived up to our high standards, DEP standards or their expectations. We are committed to bringing it up to our standards. This isn't about the money. It's about being a good neighbor and operating a landfill that doesn't inconvenience its neighbors. And that's where we're going." — John Hambrose, Community Relations Coordinator - Alliance Landfill

If the waste management industry really wants us to believe it's not about the money, then the waste management industry needs to start a new act today!

Bob Folger, Jr is a resident of Taylor, Pa.

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rejected the agreement by a vote of 7-0. Under the agreement the Old Forge Borough would have been paid \$750,000 in 30 days, nearly \$400,000 upon landfill expansion, and a 94-acre piece of property for \$1. The deal would also give residents free garbage removal and would have brought in about \$35 million over 20 years to Old Forge, PA.

For our next review we move out to the West Coast. In the City of Los Angeles in an

a generous donation from a company which pulled in more than \$11 billion in revenue that year.

Now the industry seems to have our children at the center of their heart. Recently, a private waste management company Resource Recovery, LLC offered a guaranteed minimum of \$1.2 million in school real estate tax revenues will be paid annually in a company letter, signed by its president, to the Philipsburg-Osceola Area school board.

Meat and climate two topics at upcoming teach-in

by Jon Clark

Wendell Berry once wrote that "eating is an agricultural act." "Eaters," he argued, "must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used."

The link between climate change and the consumption of meat suggests that eating is also a biogeochemical act. The industrial meat provisioning system supplies the world's affluent consumers with relatively inexpensive food. But this system has also flooded the atmosphere with methane and nitrous oxide, two potent greenhouse gases. The industrial meat provisioning system has become a biogeochemical force that is changing the climate.

A recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations suggests that the global livestock sector is responsible for 9 percent of all anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions.

More importantly, the sector emits 37 percent of all anthropogenic methane, which has 23 times the global warming potential (GWP) of CO₂, and 65 percent of all anthropogenic nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the GWP of CO₂.

Both the benefits and the environmental risks associated with these emissions are

unequally distributed. Indeed, in a striking example of global environmental injustice, emissions created by the production of meat for affluent consumers whose bodies already have sufficient protein might result in environmental harm to malnourished persons whose bodies lack sufficient protein. An article recently published in *The Lancet* advocates a policy of contraction and convergence to address the inequitable distribu-

tion of protein. In this vision of the future, the world's affluent consumers would reduce their consumption of meat—especially beef from corn-fed cows—so that persons whose bodies actually need the protein could increase their consumption of meat. The authors argue that this dietary shift would create a more equitable distribution of protein while keeping greenhouse gas emissions in check.

Jon Clark is an environmental lawyer and a Ph.D. student in rural sociology at Penn State.

Penn State has a special responsibility to facilitate public debate about how to fix an agri-food system that produces an inequitable distribution of both food and environmental risk.

tion of protein while keeping greenhouse gas emissions in check.

The link between the agri-food system and climate change will likely be one of the topics discussed at the upcoming Penn State teach-in on climate change. The national organization Focus the Nation is trying to organize simultaneous climate change teach-ins at the nation's colleges and universities on January 31, 2008. A group

called Penn State Focus the Nation is planning a teach-in here on campus. As a land grant university, Penn State has a special responsibility to facilitate public debate about how to fix an agri-food system that produces an inequitable distribution of both food and environmental risk. With the help of dedicated students, faculty, and Voices readers, Penn State could help focus the nation's attention on this and other issues of global environmental injustice.

For more information on Focus the Nation, go to www.focusthenation.org. To get involved with Penn State Focus the Nation, e-mail Jon Clark at jlc256@psu.edu.

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Recent election gives much to be grateful for

by Mary Vollero



After the election I thought I'd invite some people over, make a pot of soup to thank everyone and to celebrate, but I ended up with forty-seven people on my list! Too many for my kitchen but enough to make a difference in Centre County!

Election integrity activists have much to be thankful for this year. Across the country we have seen many victories as a number of states have rejected touch-screen voting machines in favor of paper-ballot optical-scan systems. This month's Time magazine's big story "Voting Out E-Voting

Machines" draws more attention to the issue. Debra Bowen, the secretary of state of California, has filed a lawsuit against Election Systems and Software Inc. for selling uncertified machines. And locally, Concerned Voters of Centre County is thrilled that Commissioners-elect Jon Eich and Rich Rogers understand the importance of the voter-verified paper-ballot for audits and recounts. Centre County will finally have an opportunity to replace these paperless voting machines and in doing so can bring back reliable and secure elections that voters can have confidence in. I wish voters of Centre County could rest easy now, knowing we have a new Board of Elections,

Pennsylvania's election code. Another precinct in Bellefonte did not open until after 8 a.m. and voters had to leave without voting. This is intolerable. Emergency paper-ballots should have been handed out.

One problem that was common last November but seemed to improve dramatically this year, was vote-switching on the screen. Vote-switching is when a candidate is selected by the voter, but another candidate is high-lighted on the screen. Last November, vote-switching was widely reported across the county. Locally, CVCC received numerous reports from people who wanted to vote for Lynn Swann or Rick Santorum but Ed Rendell or Bob Casey kept

If we're still using touch-screen voting machines in November 2008, I fear major problems, especially in swing states like Pennsylvania. Votes could be lost, as 18,000 votes were lost last year in Florida, or selections could be switched and results flipped. Even if all the machines start up and work fine, long lines are a common problem with touch-screens which will disenfranchise working people who will not have time to wait. This was a common problem in Ohio with touch screens in 2004. Another advantage of optical-scans systems is that voting is quicker, the process more intuitive and voters do not even need access to a machine to vote; they can even vote if the power goes out.

Touch-screen voting systems are unreliable, insecure and an unacceptable voting method that obstructs transparency in the election process. While there are plenty of problems with touch-screen systems that can be seen, the biggest problem is what we cannot see: how votes are counted by the computer code. Transparency in the process is crucial if we expect to preserve our democracy. We need to call on Congress to pass legislation for paper-ballots immediately or we risk facing another presidential election fiasco. Please contact Senators Bob Casey and Arlen Specter and ask them to support the new Nelson/Whitehouse Senate Bill 2295. This bill would mandate voter-verified paper ballots and routine random audits across the country by 2008 and ban all touch screens by 2012! Maybe if this passes, we'll have a big pot of soup and finally rest easy!

Mary Vollero is Chair of the Concerned Voters of Centre County

Touch-screen voting systems are unreliable, insecure and an unacceptable voting method that obstructs transparency in the election process.

but there is still so much to do.

While there were improvements in November's election, it is unacceptable that as many six precincts in Centre County reported late openings. One precinct in Rush Township actually allowed voters to vote on machines before zero tapes were printed, which is a clear violation of

coming up. Proof that this is a non-partisan issue, the Republican State Committee filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania's secretary of state about vote switching on the screen, but it was dismissed as voter error or calibration problems with the screens. I guess we should be grateful that all the calibration issues have been resolved and voters have improved their screen touching techniques!

In a recent article in the Bellefonte Gazette, a poll worker was quoted as saying, "Centre County never had a paper trail, we never counted all the write-ins." This despite that fact that the punch cards that we used to use were our paper trail and we have always counted every write-in, on any machine. This is what we are up against: misunderstandings and misinformation.

Another recent development has been the use of scare tactics against optical-scans across the state. Descriptions of optical-scans as antiquated technology have been bandied about, ignoring the fact that a majority of the country votes on optical-scan systems. Some have argued that taxpayer money should not be spent on new machines, ignoring the fact that optical scans are much more cost efficient than touch screens and we would actually save money. The life span a touch-screen is typically only five years but optical-scans last an average of 15 to 20 years. Additionally, with optical-scans, only two machines are needed per precinct, as opposed to as many as nine touch-screen machines needed in some of our largest precincts.

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Links to contact our senators are posted at <http://concernedvoters.org>

Sudoku Solution

9	6	8	1	7	3	5	2	4
1	4	7	8	2	5	9	6	3
2	3	5	4	9	6	7	8	1
4	5	2	7	3	9	8	1	6
3	7	1	6	5	8	4	9	2
8	9	6	2	1	4	3	5	7
5	1	9	3	4	2	6	7	8
6	2	3	9	8	7	1	4	5
7	8	4	5	6	1	2	3	9

Volunteers in local elections keep democracy alive

by Art Goldschmidt



The 2007 election results showed gains for Democratic Party candidates, but Republicans retain a plurality among Centre County voters. As people from outside central Pennsylvania come here to study, to work, or to retire, it is likely that more will be Democrats than Republicans, and that national and indeed international issues will have more influence on voter behavior, but progressives should never become complacent.

The election of Democrats Jon Eich and Rich Rogers as county commissioners was impressive. Eich and Steve Dershem were the top vote-getters for their respective parties. Rogers' victory surprised some observers. It may be explained in part by his strong leadership of the Bellefonte Area School Board and by a Democratic surge due to voter anger at the national Republicans' Iraq War policy. But the main cause was the write-in candidacy of Chris Exarchos, defeated in the May Republican primary, who siphoned off some of the votes that might otherwise have gone to Sue Mascolo.

What will the new Democratic majority do for Centre County? People expect far more from counties now than they used to. I predict growing demand for public welfare, courts and prisons, care for the ageing and no doubt other Centre County functions. We are fortunate to have chosen Jon Eich, with his wealth of county government experience. It is likely, also, that county taxes will rise.

The greatest Democratic victory was in the contest between Pam Ruest and Jonathan Grine for judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Grine seemed likely to triumph because Republican candidates usu-

ally do win local judgeships, his father is a respected judge and his campaign fliers stressed the support he had from law enforcement officers. But Ruest campaigned energetically and stressed her competency in domestic relations issues, which dominate the docket for local judges and concern many women voters. Grine carried only 18 of Centre County's 89 precincts, mainly in rural areas. Even most predominantly Republican-voting districts chose Ruest.

The contest for directors of the State College Area School District was really decided in the May primary, when the five candidates endorsed by State High Vision defeated the four incumbents in both the Democratic and Republican balloting. However, one of the incumbents, Robert Hendrickson, was joined by Jim Leous in a write-in campaign. Hendrickson and Leous were endorsed by the Centre County Democratic Committee, which campaigned actively for them. Like most write-in campaigns, theirs failed.

Some people question the wisdom of having write-in candidates. Besides, we should ask whether a party should endorse them after the voters have made their wishes known in the primary. For the sake of full disclosure, I am a committeeman who voted to endorse Hendrickson and Leous after hearing them speak. I now regret that our committee did not give a hearing to Rich Madore, Chris Small, Dorothea Stahl, Barney Grimes and Ann McGlaughlin. They are now the majority of the State College Area School Board and we all wonder what will be their vision for the high school.

State College voters chose all four Democratic candidates for borough council, even ousting incumbent Jeff Kern. Almost every borough district now contains more registered Democrats than Republicans. When I came to State College in 1965, its entire borough council was Republican; only the mayor was a Democrat. Back then newcomers were advised to register as Republicans to pick the candidates in the primaries. Now the opposite occurs. I noted this year as I went door to door that even many Republicans were supporting Ruest and other Democratic candidates. But when will Penn State students, clearly the most numerous group living in State College, elect one of their own number to serve on the council?

Local elections rarely get outside attention, and even registered voters are more apt to stay away from their polling places than

to vote. This year's Centre County turnout was 36 percent, more than such counties as McKean and Monroe, about that of Cambria. The best performers in Centre County were residents of relatively stable rural areas, such as Rush Township. Those having the lowest turnout were State College's student districts. One had a turnout of 1.42 percent of its registered voters. More students vote in presidential or congressional election years; the same district had a 13 percent turnout in both 2004 and 2006. Most registrants in those districts are transient and voter rolls are out of date. We should work toward a system of voting by traditional or electronic mail, as is done in some other states and in some of our professional organizations.

Local issues may not be partisan, but national issues affect how Democrats and Republicans vote locally. Candidates must go door to door. They win if the voters know them. In Centre County, the districts that were most apt to swing the election were the townships around State College

and Bellefonte. In State College Borough, only seven precincts out of 19 had a voter turnout above the county average. If you run for local and county office, stress those high turnout districts in your campaign, but otherwise seek your votes in the suburbs. You will have to work hard. Both parties should recruit more volunteers to become committeewomen and committeemen, but they are getting harder to find.

If volunteers vanish, the candidates who raise the most money, put up the most roadside signs and run the most TV ads will win local elections, not those who actually work to make themselves known to the voters. We should improve our system of informing the voters so that they will know what policies each candidate and each party stands for. If we don't do this, we are putting our local democracy up for sale to the highest bidder.

Art Goldschmidt is a retired professor, a State College resident, a founder of Voices, and president of the board of directors of Voices of Central Pennsylvania

Sudoku

				7				
1	4						6	3
2		5	4		6	7		1
		2	7	3	9	8		
		6	2	1	4	3		
5		9	3		2	6		8
6	2						4	5
				6				

Fill in the grid so every row, every column, and every 3-by-3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reason and logic. Thanks to Peter Morris for contributing this puzzle. The solution to this month's puzzle can be found on pg. 21 of this issue.

from *Cosmo*, pg. 24

It's honestly stupid. It said I "possibly present myself in an improbable light, and that common human frailties are being denied." Well, hell yes! Is it probable that a dog took these tests? One WITHOUT many human frailties? My human denies his, too, according to the test.

The MMPI said that I have the possibility of ignorance going for me, though. My denial just might be a genuine lack of

Whitey Blue says listen to the radio instead

by David M. Silverman

I was talking the other day to Whitey Blue, longtime Centre Region resident and hardnose.

Whitey, what do you think about the change to TV signals from analog to digital that's coming next year?

"We have to keep up with technical advances. Also, as I understand it, it will free up transmission space for emergency use."

But it will be a hardship on many people, particularly the poor and the elderly, to convert to digital. They'd have to buy new TV

awareness. I prefer the term "blissful." It also said I show emotional excitement characterized by large ups and downs, and that I sometimes show agitation, becoming resentful and hostile with family members when demands are not met. For cryin' out loud! A bowl of crunchies, a fresh flush, a few cats to torment, a windshield to smudge and a garden to dig in. Is that so much to expect?!

I chew socks and underwear strictly for entertainment and nutrition, not retribution, so I don't know where they get that

sets.

"Let them buy digital-to-analog converters."

Some couldn't even afford those!

"N.T.I.A. (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) will offer each household two coupons worth \$40 each towards the purchase of converters."

I think it would be too confusing and technical for many elderly and disadvantaged people. They wouldn't understand what's needed, where to get it nor how to hook it up to their analog TV sets.

"Then let 'em do without or listen to the radio for news and entertainment."

"expresses thoughts passive/aggressively." And the box over my eyes is to protect my anonymity when I'm out in public; it has nothing to do with paranoid mentations. Shhhh! What was that?

According to the MMPI, I don't control my emotions enough; I may be hyperactive, grandiose, and unpredictable; I may be oversensitive, rigid, may overreact to criticism, and I experience a rapid shifting between topics, with a loud voice and excessive speech. My needs include social approval, power, status, and recognition. Gee, me and every other columnist on the planet...

It's also possible I suffer from excessive daydreaming, a good trick, since sleeping fills about 18 hours of my daily agenda. And it says I'm complaining, unambitious, perhaps opportunistic, and have difficulty in delaying gratification. Now that's a load of Gingrich, and I could prove it, but the explanation might make me look bad, and it's time to eat.

At least I've never bitten anybody my human has. And the dentist employed the red rubber cork for the next five years until my human turned nine. His MMPI indicated that he should continue to put a cork in it. It perceived him as irritable and moody,

tending to under-control his emotions, to disapprove of social norms, and be predisposed to getting into trouble. Awww, these pedestrians deserve it.

He's self-indulgent (garage sale freak), verbally fluent (if you count "duh"), and like me, he has difficulty delaying gratification. He allegedly has "good social technique" (puts the seat back down), an "extroverted personal style" (wipes nose on sleeve); is socially uninhibited and gregarious" (wears ugly shirts); is able to create a good impression (an ace manipulator) and has a problem with authority figures (bites dentists).

The most telling diagnosis is that he "may have some underlying insecurity present." Gee, call Mike Wallace! What a unique revelation that is for anyone with a pulse. My human said that despite what the test said, it's perfectly OK to rationalize; he'd go crazy if he didn't.

Voices will print your opinions and letters.
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ASK Cosmo

Campus & Culture from the Canine Perspective

Cosmo Goes to Therapy
(reprinted from *Voices*, March 1995)

Editor's Note: A local psychologist recently told *Voices* that she thought Cosmo "exhibits good emotional health." We didn't believe it for a New York minute, so we sent both Cosmo and his human off to several therapists. Between the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, and the Beck Depression Inventory, Cosmo has answered enough questions for this month - 719 of them. So we'll hold our other letters to him, and just ask the big one.

Dear Cosmo,

How are we feeling today? The Heads of *Voices*.

Dear *Voices* in my Head,

I'm different! I'm real! I'm a separate being from my significant other! I process feelings! I have coping skills! I have credit cards! I use too many exclamation points! I



need more therapy. It's not too hard to see that mental health isn't for everybody. I'm not allowed on the couch, except at home. But there was no goateed, monocled guy with a thick German accent saying "Aha!" as I interpreted his collection of sexy ink blots. There were a ton of little black dots on the questionnaires, but no right or wrong answers. If filling in a bunch of little black dots equaled therapy, then the SATs wouldn't send most of us to institutions!

It's all about insight. There's no magic biscuit, no tidy explanations, nobody telling me that since Mom had only eight spigots, and I'm the ninth pup in the litter, so I suffer from Nipple Anxiety. But if I did, I'd

find an NA meeting.

So here's a glimpse into the flea soap opera I call my life. Since my human is the sick one, I don't mind sharing the test results...much.

The Beck Depression Inventory detects and rates one's severity of depression. I got a 3, and the human got a 9. He looked sad until he read that scores below 10 indicate that "these ups and downs are considered normal." Then he started quacking about how he finally rated "Normal" on something. Any port in a storm, eh?

The Myers-Briggs test locates your personality "type." Its result yields a four letter code. I've let a few of these fly in my day. However, these codes describe how you focus your attention (Extroversion or Introversion); how you acquire information (by Sensing or Intuition); how you arrive at decisions (via Thinking or Feeling); and the lifestyle you adopt to deal with the outer world (Judgment or Perception). I'm an ESFP; ol' 2-legs is an ENTP.

We are both Extroverts, and we both deal with the world by Perceiving it through either sensing or intuition (as opposed to judging it based on our thoughts or feelings). I prefer to Sense it: eyes, ears, nose, the here and now. He prefers Intuition to

grasp the essential patterns and see new possibilities, like dragging his best friend to the shrink.

I make decisions based on feeling, rather than logic. I'm sympathetic, appreciative, act tactful when it comes to people, even if they are bozos. My human makes decisions based on thinking, analyzing what's wrong with something or looking for an objective truth. So he thinks.

Since he and I acquire information and arrive at decisions by opposite means, one might surmise that it is a match made in hell. But actually, Intuitive Types need Sensing Types, Feeling Types need Thinking Types, and vice-versa. Each helps the other to bring up facts or outline possibilities; read the fine print or keep the big picture in mind. He drives, I meditate. He annoys, I comfort. It's nice to be needed.

The MMPI is problem-oriented, designed to detect possible underlying troubles...even when you sugar-coat some answers like I did. It doesn't let lying dogs sleep.

It said my human had a better "validity scale" on the test. He's so stupidly honest,

see Cosmo, pg. 23



INDEPENDENT LENS: THE PAPER Tuesday, December 11, at 10 p.m.

How has the American media changed post-9/11? Through the eyes of Penn State students, "The Paper" takes an in-depth look at the challenges facing the journalists of tomorrow. This documentary chronicles a year in the life of Penn State's *Daily Collegian*, featuring first-time journalists tackling the foremost challenges of today's news media—declining



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circulation, barriers to investigative reporting, and the responsibility of newspapers to the communities they serve. Airing weekly on PBS, *Independent Lens* is like an independent film festival in your living room. Each episode introduces new documentaries and dramas made by independent thinkers—filmmakers who are taking creative risks, calling their own shots, and finding untold stories in unexpected places.

MY MUSIC: DOO WOP LOVE SONGS Saturday, December 1, at 8 p.m.*

The 1950s and Doo Wop love songs go hand in hand like two straws and a shake. And now America's favorite malt shop memories are back with this Doo Wop collection for lovers only. This TV special features performances from The Tokens, The Dubs, Little Anthony and The Imperials, Larry Chance and The Earls, and a once-in-a-lifetime reunion of The Original Drifters (Ben E. King, Charlie Thomas, Bobby Hendricks, and Bill Pinkney).

CELTIC WOMAN: A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Sunday, December 2, at 8 p.m.*

With their enchanting mix of traditional Irish, contemporary, and original songs, the multiplatinum supergroup Celtic Woman has become a favorite of viewers since their smashing PBS debut in March 2005. *Celtic Woman: A Christmas Celebration* with singers Chloe, Lisa, Méav, Orla, and fiddler Máiréad, will delight their many fans when the Irish superstars perform such popular classics as "White Christmas," "O Holy Night," and "Let It Snow." The special, which was filmed in Dublin's Helix Centre where the Celtic Woman phenomenon began, includes original pieces arranged by musical director David Downes: "Green the Whole Year Round," a fiddle solo called "In the Bleak Midwinter," and "Christmas Pipes."

*Check wpsu.org for additional air dates and times on WPSU-TV.

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