

EPA memo purged by aide

United Press International
WASHINGTON — One of the Environmental Protection Agency memorandums central to Congress' investigation of toxic waste enforcement was removed from the agency's computer by a former agency official.

Eugene Ingold, a former aide to fired top EPA official Rita Lavelle, said Sunday he deleted the memorandum in the same way EPA computers are routinely purged.

Three House subcommittee chairmen said they were concerned information being sought by Congress may have been destroyed.

The memo was cited by EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch Burford as one reason she had Lavelle fired by President Reagan two weeks ago. Ms. Burford married Robert Burford, director of the Federal Bureau of Land Management, Sunday.

Despite the agreement giving one House subcommittee access to EPA toxic waste enforcement files, another panel's chairman said he does not regard the pact as binding on his subcommittee.

"I have more questions raised than answered," Rep. James J. Florio, D-N.J., said Sunday. "I

intend to go forward to try to determine what would motivate EPA to go into settlement agreements with companies that couldn't have been motivated by anything other than the desire to get the companies off the hook."

The purged memo accuses EPA general counsel Robert Perry of "systematically alienating the primary constituents of this administration, the business community," supporting charges the EPA was too close to the polluters it is charged with regulating under the \$1.6 billion "Superfund" toxic waste cleanup program.

Hugh Kaufman, an agency investigator known as a "whistle-blower" for his outspoken criticism, said in a telephone interview he warned congressional investigators the memo would be purged and it "disappeared" after Lavelle was fired.

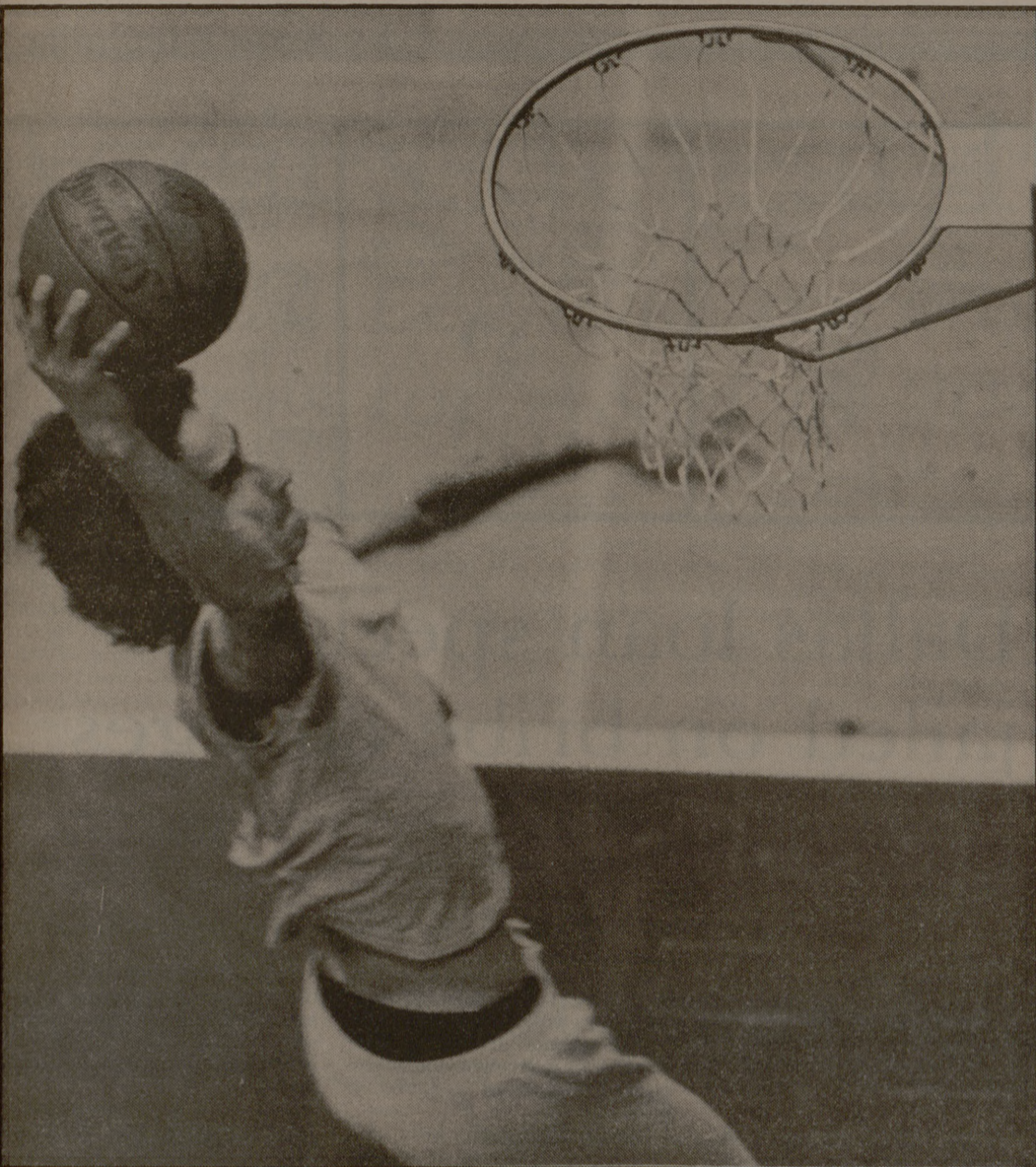
Florio said he is "starting to get the impression that something really very seriously inappropriate is going on with EPA. I think Congress has to make the commitment to get to the bottom of it."

Ingold, who was fired when Ms. Lavelle was, said what he eliminated amounted to "about a

page and a quarter of notes to be used by Miss Lavelle for a meeting on management problems."

"The meeting never came off, so I never wrote any talking

notes. I later realized I should clean off the obsolete material and I did, but not before somebody had stolen the disk and run off copies of the notes."



Slamming it home

staff photo by David Fisher

Mark Berrier, a Physics sophomore from El Paso, goes up to do a slam-dunk during the Intramural Slam-Dunk

finals at the half time of the Aggie basketball game. The Aggies slammed St. Mary's University 96-76.

Sex preference could cause exile of Dallas homosexual

United Press International
DALLAS — Richard Longstaff's homosexuality presented few problems when he emigrated from Great Britain 18 years ago, but his desire to become an American citizen opened a legal battle that may end with deportation.

Since Longstaff decided to apply for U.S. citizenship, he has spent \$20,000 in legal fees and has battled with Immigration

and Naturalization officials. Next month he could be deported.

If the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans refuses Longstaff's request to stay in the United States, his legal channels may be exhausted.

Longstaff's troubles arose when he initially refused to answer questions about his homosexuality. Once he complied with the inquiry, he was

found in violation of a Texas law that prohibited sexual relations between adults of the same sex. However, that statute has since been declared unconstitutional.

Lee Reinfeld, an assistant regional commissioner for the INS, said: "There has to be a reason why it (sexual preference) is asked. In the case of Richard Longstaff, I am not sure what the reason was, but I'm sure it was a good one."

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