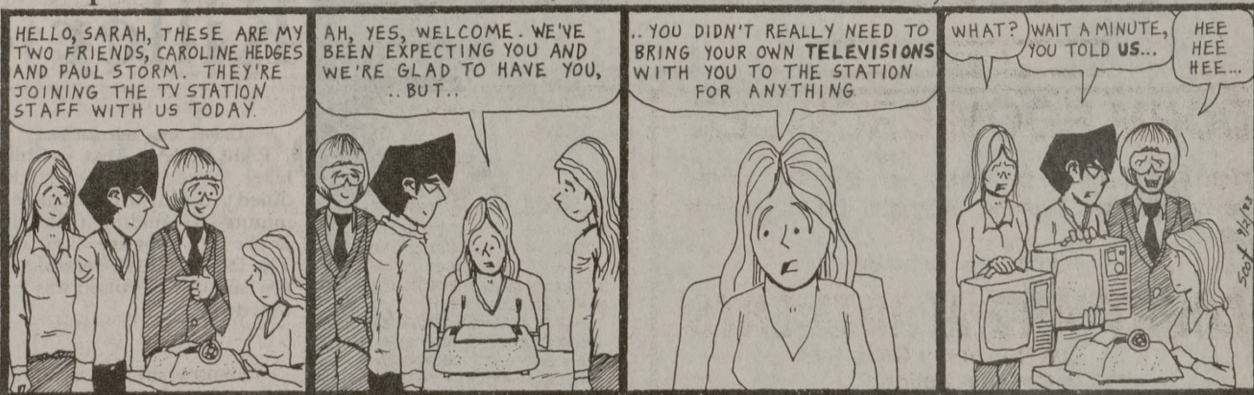


by Scott McCullar

Warped



# cleanup funds up EPA makes progress

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Though he was reluctant to judge his predecessor, Environmental Protection Agency deputy administrator John Alm said the agency has made much greater progress in handling of contaminated sites.

Alm, in Dallas Wednesday, said the agency would be on the job for another 18 months. He said the agency would spend \$400 million of its cleanup funds in 1984. His statement came a day after the agency was to add a number of waste sites to its superfund list.

Alm declined to say whether the Texas sites would be on the list, but he did say toxic sites at military installations would be included.

He praised the agency and its administrator, William

Ruckelshaus, for the progress made in the handling of toxic wastes, but refused to condemn former EPA chief Anne Burford for her handling of the agency.

"I think the performance of the agency has been good," Alm said. Alm, who replaced Dr. John Hernandez, also declined comment on lead contamination in east Dallas. Hernandez was criticized for slowing the cleanup of lead-contaminated soil in Dallas.

"I would not like to comment on the Dallas lead situation for obvious reasons, because it's in court," Alm said.

Alm attributed changes in the administrative policies at EPA in freeing millions of dollars of Superfund money to clean up toxic waste sites.

"It terms of renewal actions,

we have increased that manifold, compared to before, which was virtually none," Alm said.

He also attributed cleanup progress to a less stringent requirement for state financial assistance and credited White House cooperation with aiding the agency's progress.

"The support we get at EPA couldn't have been better," Alm said.

He said the EPA requested a \$265 million budget increase for 1984 and the White House agreed. The increase would include financing for the creation of 1,100 more jobs at EPA, he said.

Alm also said the agency currently was studying proposed revisions of the Clean Air Act. "I don't think the Clean Air Act will be relaxed," Alm said.

# Kids may be developing obsession with slimness

**United Press International**  
BOSTON — Youngsters obsessed with being "slim-and-trim" are developing an eating disorder possibly linked to anorexia nervosa that stunts their growth and delays puberty, doctors warned Thursday.

"We call it 'Fear of Obesity Syndrome,'" said Dr. Fima Lifshitz of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.

Lifshitz and his team of physicians reported in the New England Journal of Medicine the discovery of the condition could be a mild variant or precursor to the starvation disease anorexia.

"The children don't eat enough because they fear they will get fat. And then they hurt

themselves. They could stunt their growth permanently. They're casualties of this whole slim-and-trim, stay-fit philosophy."

He said the children his group studied generally were overachievers, came from fitness-conscious families and a third had parents or siblings who were obese.

Lifshitz said the condition is not as pathological as anorexia, which affects an estimated half-million Americans who starve themselves while thinking they are fat, but if left untreated it may be a precursor to it.

Of more than 200 youngsters who went to the hospital's Growth Clinic for being slow-growers or having delayed pu-

berly, 14 between the ages of 9 and 17 were found healthy except they did not eat enough for fear of getting fat. Nine of the children were boys and five were girls.

"That's a 7 percent figure, which is very large, so this condition might be prevalent," Lifshitz said.

The 14 children looked up to four years younger than they were, were between 5 percent and 23 percent underweight for their age, were extremely short and had a two-to-five-year delay in their sexual development, he said.

"When a youngster doesn't eat properly, all his nourishment goes into maintaining himself," Lifshitz said.

# Balding wrestler loses wig, match, sues wig company

**United Press International**  
SALEM, Mass. — A balding wrestler who lost his hairpiece and his match in a televised bout filed a \$200,000 suit against the firm that made his wig.

Steven A. Grabowski said he suffered "severe emotional distress" when his opponent yanked off his hairpiece to the laughter and scorn of his fans.

Grabowski, who went by

"Steve Thunder" on the wrestling circuit, sued Hair Replacement System of Manchester, N.H. in Salem Superior Court Wednesday.

The complaint said Grabowski had lost a great deal of his hair in years on the wrestling mat because opponents would pull, grab and twist the strands.

So on June 18, Grabowski paid \$750 for a 2½-hour hair replacement process. The com-

plaint said he was repeatedly assured the wig would be fixed tightly to his real hair.

Four days later in a bout in Allentown, Pa., his opponent grabbed his hair and the wig was yanked off before an audience of 2,500 fans and thousands of television viewers worldwide.

Grabowski said he lost his concentration and was defeated in two matches that night. He also claimed his career has suffered.

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