



# Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. Hotline



Winter 2006

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Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. (GASP) is a non-profit citizens' group in Southwestern Pennsylvania working for a healthy, sustainable environment. Founded in 1969, GASP has been a diligent watchdog, educator, litigator, and policy-maker on many environmental issues, with a focus on air quality in the Pittsburgh region.

## 2005 Year in Review

by Rachel Filippini, GASP Executive Director and Jonathan Nadle, GASP President

Another year has quickly passed. This is a time for reflection on last year's environmental struggles and triumphs and a time to plan for the future. As 2006 begins, GASP is launching a strategic plan. Over the past year we have been working hard to design a plan that will raise our ability to effectively work on air quality issues affecting the health of southwestern Pennsylvanians. In addition, it will better prepare us to meet the financial challenges that all nonprofits face. A sincere thank you to all who have supported our endeavors over the past year. Whether you gave a donation, attended an event, or volunteered your time in some way, it is very much appreciated. We hope you will continue to support our efforts this year in any way that you can.

As we move forward, GASP will expand its Diesel Campaign by partnering with both local and national organizations in order to bring about greater reductions in diesel emissions. We will continue spearheading efforts to reduce fine particulates in the region from power plants and coke-making facilities, as well as from diesel sources. GASP will continue serving as an educator and watchdog organization in the community. Are you concerned with an air quality issue? We'd like to hear from you.

### Victories and work of 2005

#### Reducing Diesel Emissions in Allegheny County

◆ In February 2005, GASP helped release Clean Air Task Force's report, *Diesel and*

*Health in America: The Lingering Threat.* The release of the report gave us a great opportunity to shed light on the serious health implications of exposure to diesel exhaust and which cleanup measures might be adopted locally and regionally to tackle this immense problem. We received a significant amount of press from the report release, including inclusion in four local newspapers and being featured on WTAE-TV, WPXI-TV, KQV news radio and WYEP's Allegheny Front.



The Diesel and Health in America website was launched in February 2005 in conjunction with the Clean Air Task Force's report.

◆ In July of 2005, the Diesel Powered Motor Vehicle Idling regulation that GASP helped to craft was signed into law, making it illegal to needlessly idle diesel trucks, Port Authority and tour buses, and other on-road diesel vehicles for more than five minutes. To read the regulation in its entirety, including exemptions, go to <http://www.gasp-pgh.org/diesel/210592.pdf>

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# Curbing Diesel Pollution From Heavy-Duty Equipment

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, Allegheny County's construction, mining and industrial equipment make up an 82% share of particulate matter (PM10) emissions and an 86% share of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from all heavy-duty diesel equipment in the county.

In May 2004, EPA finalized a comprehensive rule to reduce emissions from non-road diesel engines by integrating engine and fuel controls to gain the greatest emission reductions. The new engine standards will reduce PM and NOx emissions by 90%. Standards for new engines will be phased in starting with the smallest engines in 2008 until all but the very largest new diesel engines meet both NOx and PM standards in 2014. Some of the largest engines, 750+ horsepower, will have one additional year to meet the emissions standards. So, while the news is good, it will take a full nine years before all new engines are operating much more cleanly, and given how long the diesel engines run, the old, dirty engines still in use are likely to be polluting the air far beyond 2014.

In the meantime, measures could be enacted that would require municipal and county construction projects to clean up. One first step is to control the needless idling of these vehicles with laws similar to the School Bus Idling and Diesel Powered Motor Vehicle Idling regulations. Diesel equipment idling for extended periods of time can produce localized high concentrations of emissions that affect the health of the operators and the neighboring communities. GASP has been working with the Allegheny County Health Department to develop this regulation.

We can look to large construction projects, such as the Boston "Big Dig" or the I-95 New Haven Harbor Cross-

by Rachel Filippini, GASP Executive Director

ing Improvement Program in Connecticut as case studies that have required contractors to control diesel emissions in several ways. Some of the methods that could be employed to regulate emissions include: 1) turning off construction equipment engines not in use and on dump trucks that are idling while waiting to load or unload material for five minutes or more, 2) establishing a staging zone for trucks that are waiting to load or unload material, and 3) locating combustion engines away from sensitive receptors such as fresh air intakes, air conditioners, and windows.

The above ideas are all useful, common-sense strategies that could be put into place without much trouble, but what other strategies could be used to achieve maximum emission reductions? Maximum emission reductions will come about through a combination of installing the best available technology (retrofits) and using cleaner fuels, including diesel fuel that has 15 parts per million of sulfur or less, known as Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel. Engine type and application will determine what is the most appropriate retrofit technology for a particular piece of equipment.

Since we know there are many older, non-road vehicles that are operating today and will continue operating long into the future, states and local municipalities need to encourage retrofits and the use of cleaner fuels for existing non-road vehicles. Allegheny County should consider passing regulations, sometimes known as "green contracting laws," regarding the use of retrofit technology and clean fuels on county owned non-road diesel vehicles, as well as those vehicles used when contracting on county projects.

Stay tuned as we continue to help create an off-road diesel idling regulation and work on other diesel issues. 

# Pennsylvania Takes a Leadership Role in Creating a State-Specific Mercury Control Rule

by Sue Seppi, GASP Project Manager

Mercury is a toxic metal that has become ubiquitous, with much of it coming from human activities. Most human health exposure comes through ingestion of mercury that has concentrated in fish and shellfish, especially, though not exclusively, in the more long-lived predatory fish.

Nationwide, according to recent EPA estimates, 630,000 children born every year have mercury levels so high that they are potentially at risk of cognitive and developmental damage. Additional adverse effects include increased risk of heart attacks and decreased growth, according to 2004 testimony given by Lynn R. Goldman, Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins University at a U.S. Senate Committee hearing.

Air emissions from coal-fired power plants are the largest domestic source and, according to the EPA, account for about 40% of the total man-made mercury emissions in the United States. In 2003, electric generation accounted for 77% of the 5.7 tons of mercury released in the commonwealth. Therefore, targeting mercury emissions from this source is a logical way to achieve reductions.

The federal response to this air quality health issue is a rule made effective in July 2005, aimed at reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired electric steam generating units through a cap and trade program known as the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). This rule works in conjunction with EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). CAMR would require reductions in utility emissions of mercury from 48 tons a year to 38 tons in 2010 and 15 tons beginning in 2018, a final reduction of 70 percent. Most of the early mercury reductions would come as co-benefits from the requirements of CAIR, which applies to the control of other air emissions (sulfur and nitrogen oxides) mainly from electric generating units. Additionally, because of banking and trading, it probably would be years after 2018 when the actual 70% mercury reduction is achieved.

In October 2005, EPA issued a notice of proposed rule-making to reconsider certain aspect of CAMR. This action was in response to petitions for review submitted by fourteen states, five environmental groups, a public utility, and a waste services association. In other words, a lot of folks took issue with this rule. A general criticism from the states is that the rule fails to adequately protect Americans from exposure to the toxic metal and is too little, too late. Penn-

sylvania asked EPA for review of its decision to not finalize a mercury rule affecting electric generating units under the toxics provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA), instead designating control under another less stringent section of the CAA.

Many states were dissatisfied with the federal mercury plans and began moving ahead with their own rules; fortunately this included Pennsylvania. In August 2005, spurred on by environmental groups led by PennFuture, the state Environmental Quality Board approved the DEP's recommendation to develop a Pennsylvania-specific regulation to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired boilers. A Pennsylvania Mercury Rule Workgroup was put together and has been meeting since early fall. GASP is a member of this workgroup.

Participants' support seems to break down under three general propositions:

- ◆ Many industry representatives prefer the federal CAMR cap and trade program described above.
- ◆ Many of the environmental groups are supporting a program similar to one adopted in New Jersey, which requires at least a 90% mercury control efficiency from pollution equipment on coal-fired boilers over a certain size. Compliance should happen within 3 years of the final rule. No trading program is permitted except for averaging of boilers at the same facility. If there is an agreement by 2007 to meet specified limits for emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter by 2012, and if half of a company's coal-fired facilities are meeting the mercury requirements by 2007, then a 5-year extension to achieve the standard in the other half of a company's facilities may be allowed.
- ◆ The State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (STAPPA/ALAPCO) has a proposal that might be considered a compromise of issues expressed in the above two proposals.

The PA Mercury Rule Development process is ongoing. See the GASP website for links to more information and for updates in the future:

<http://www.gasp-pgh.org/action/mercury.html> 

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## GASP Mission Statement

GASP will act to obtain for the residents of southwestern Pennsylvania clean air, water, and land in order to create the healthy, sustainable environment and quality of life to which we are entitled.

## Methods of Achieving Mission

GASP is a citizens' group based in Southwestern PA which focuses on Allegheny County environmental issues. When pertinent to these concerns, we participate in state and national environmental decisions.

We believe in the public's right to receive accurate and thorough information on these issues and to actively participate in the decision making process.

To achieve our environmental goals on behalf of our membership, GASP will advocate, educate, serve as an environmental watchdog, mobilize action, and litigate when necessary.

We will work both independently and in cooperation with like-minded individuals and groups as determined by the Board of Directors.

We will uphold GASP's reputation for scientific integrity, honesty, and responsible involvement.

# Campaign for Healthy Air

by Rachel Filippini, GASP Executive Director

A little over a year ago, GASP and several other organizations concerned with our region's unhealthy air met to develop strategies and possible solutions for cleaning up our air. You might remember that the EPA had just designated Allegheny County and nine other surrounding counties as being fully or partially in non-attainment for fine particulates. This means these areas have air that is too unhealthy to meet the fine particulate standard of 15 micrograms per cubic meter of air. You may also recall that the Liberty-Clairton area of Allegheny County was designated separately as being in non-attainment because of their unique and substantially worse air quality situation. Our small group of interested organizations viewed these non-attainment designations as an opportunity for our region to clean up.

For several months the groups met informally. Then in June 2005, GASP helped to organize a formal strategic planning session with the intention of broadening our existing coalition to include more health-based, community, environmental and labor organizations in order to strengthen individual and collective initiatives to reduce fine particulates in the region. This process yielded a more clearly

defined and structured operation known as the Campaign for Healthy Air (CHA).

The primary goals of CHA are: 1) to assess the current air quality situation and recommend real world solutions, 2) to apply pressure to our local leadership and decision makers to make clean air a priority, and ultimately, 3) to ensure that our region reaches attainment on time and goes beyond to achieve the greatest health and environmental benefits from reduction in fine particulates.

Thus far, four key initiatives to reduce fine particulates in the region have sprung from the Campaign. They include reducing diesel emissions; reducing sulfur dioxide (a precursor to PM2.5) at the Reliant Cheswick Power Station; addressing PM emissions from area coke and steel plants; and addressing the interstate transport of PM2.5. By expanding the Campaign to include a wide variety of groups, we can achieve more: reaching a bigger audience; getting a greater reduction in fine particulates; and having a better educated and, most importantly, healthier populace. In addition, organizations involved in the Campaign are follow-

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# Allegheny County's Air Quality in 2004

For a comprehensive look back at air quality in 2004, visit the Allegheny County Health Department's 2004 Air Quality Annual Report online. Within Allegheny County, ACHD monitors ambient air and reports to the U.S. EPA. Presently, there are 21 monitoring sites within the county controlled by ACHD, which continuously collect data every 10 seconds on the gaseous criteria pollutants, along with benzene, nitric oxide, and hydrogen sulfide.

The 2004 Annual Report can be found here: <http://www.achd.net/airqual/pubs/pdf/aq2004annualreport.pdf>

To the right is a map of monitor sites by municipality or district. The Central Business District comprises the Downtown site (at the County Courthouse) and the site at Flag Plaza.



# EPA Ignores Health When Proposing New Particulate Standards

by Walter Goldberg, GASP Board Member

The air we breathe in Allegheny County is hazardous to our health, so said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 17, 2004. That's when they designated this county as being in "non-attainment" for fine particles (soot). It's a price we pay for living here—and the cost goes up for our children, the elderly, and those who must contend with asthma and other health problems.

On December 20, 2005, EPA announced their proposed revisions to the current fine particulate (PM2.5) standards. Unfortunately, rather than using this as an opportunity to protect public health, especially the health of those most vulnerable to air pollution, and reflect good health science, the proposed standards are weaker than those recommended by the Clean Air Act Scientific Advisory Committee (CA-SAC) and the EPA's own staff scientists.

The present standard for annually-averaged fine particulates is 15 micrograms per cubic meter of air and the daily standard is 65. The new Bush EPA standard is expected to leave the annual figure unchanged and lower the short-term standard to 35—unless an irate public raises such a fuss that the administration is forced to back down and put some decent standards in place. Compare these numbers (15/35) with the standard of 12/25 recommended by the American Lung Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Thoracic Society, and American College of Cardiology. When recommendations by the leading medical societies are ignored, it becomes clear that the standards proposed by the EPA won't adequately protect public health.

Two thousand peer-reviewed studies leave no doubt that fine-particle pollution causes illness, hospitalization and death in susceptible residents of this county and in many other cities.

Though the present administration has priorities other than public health, it is us, the voters, parents, and caretakers, who have the last word here. We are now within a

90-day public comment period (see sidebar). We must voice our opposition to these weak standards, as well as to the leaders who proposed them. On this environmental issue there is no need to hold your breath until the fall 2006 congressional elections.

## More Information

To read the proposed rule or download a fact sheet, press release, transcript of EPA conference call and more, see: <http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/actions.html>

## How to Submit Comments

EPA will accept comments for 90 days after the publication of the proposal in the Federal Register, which happened on January 17, 2006. All comments should be identified by Docket ID No. OAR-2001-0017 and submitted by one of the following methods:

- ◆ Federal e-rulemaking portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
- ◆ E-mail: [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
- ◆ Facsimile: (202) 566-1741
- ◆ Mail:
  - Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Mailcode: 6102T
  - 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
  - Washington, DC 20460
- ◆ Hand delivery:
  - Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
  - Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102
  - 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW
  - Washington, DC

## Campaign for Healthy Air continued from page 4

ing development of the regional and Liberty-Clairton area State Implementation Plans (SIP) for fine particulates. The Liberty-Clairton area SIP is being developed by ACHD, while the regional SIP (which includes the rest of Allegheny County) is being developed by the DEP.

If your organization would like to attend an upcoming CHA meeting or join the CHA e-mail list, please let me know at [gasp@gasp-pgh.org](mailto:gasp@gasp-pgh.org) or 412-325-7382. We are interested in hearing from you.

◆ Subsequent to passage of the School Bus Idling regulation, GASP produced and sent magnets to all school bus drivers in the county. These magnets, which said “STOP IDLING! Young lungs at work,” were designed to be placed on the buses’ center consoles as a daily reminder. We also partnered with the Allegheny County Health Department’s (ACHD) Air Quality Division Education Subcommittee to develop laminated signs spelling out the regulation to be placed at all school bus depots in the county.



### Educating citizens about cleaner vehicles, alternative fuels, and better driving habits

◆ GASP organized several *Drive Cleaner, Drive Greener* events this past year to educate citizens about the latest hybrid-electric vehicles. A big part of these events is the opportunity attendees have to test drive hybrid vehicles without the pressure to buy. In addition, people have the chance to meet with hybrid vehicle owners to get the real scoop on ownership. This year’s events were held in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon University’s Sustainable Students club and Venture Outdoors’ spring event.

◆ This year’s annual event, “Transportation Solutions, Putting America in the Driver’s Seat,” aimed to educate attendees about the myriad transportation solutions available that can help America reduce its oil dependency problem. Dr. Isaac Porche III, a Research Scientist with RAND Corporation, and Bob Banerjee of biodiesel company Capital Technologies International were the featured speakers.

◆ Using a Tony Stagno Environmental Health mini-grant from the ACHD, GASP was able to develop and distribute information on the health, environmental and economic benefits of not idling personal vehicles. Information was sent to local libraries and daycare centers.



2005 Drive Cleaner, Drive Greener attracted many potential hybrid owners at the Venture Outdoors Festival



PHOTO: MARIA FERRENCY  
Guests at GASP’s fall 2005 benefit event listen to Dr. Isaac Porche and Bob Banerjee respond

◆ GASP partnered with Steel City BioFuels several times over the past year to help educate citizens about the harmful affects of diesel emissions on human health and the environment. Participants were able to brew a small batch of their own biodiesel and learn more about this alternative fuel.

### Watchdog activities

◆ GASP’s Smokereaders Program, along with involvement by affected residents and Clean Water Action, was instrumental in bringing the Shenango Coke Works’ extremely poor performance to the attention of ACHD. While Shenango has a long history of poor performance, this past year they compiled a record list of violations. As a result of GASP’s and citizens’ complaints, ACHD increased Shenango inspection frequency, having the county’s only coke oven inspector spend approximately 60% of his time at Shenango. The inspections identified severe and repeated air pollution violations. This led ACHD to serve Shenango with an enforcement order that included a record \$252,000 fine and required them to extend their coking cycle, resulting in fewer emissions. GASP’s Smokereaders will continue to monitor the facility and ask for progress reports from ACHD in 2006.

◆ GASP staff commented on the draft Title V operating permits for the following facilities in 2005: Reliant Cheswick Power Station, Clairton Coke Works, Shenango Coke Works, Neville Chemical and Eastman Chemical. We are hopeful our comments will help shape operating permits that are most protective of human health.

PHOTO: JONATHAN MADIE

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## Editorial: Keep it clean / A county pollution fund should be saved for health

Reprinted with permission from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Saturday, November 19, 2005

County Chief Executive Dan Onorato’s got a dilemma. The Allegheny County Board of Health wants him to spend money from the Clean Air Fund for economic development, but the county Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee doesn’t.

We say he shouldn’t.

The health board has proposed an improper use that violates the spirit, and possibly the letter, of regulations governing the fund.

County Manager James Flynn, a member of the health board, proposed taking \$1.3 million from the Clean Air Fund to help cover the cost of demolishing 15 stoves last used in iron making 20 years ago at U.S. Steel’s defunct Duquesne Works. The work would complete the final phase of redeveloping the 225-acre former mill site.

The Clean Air Fund is the repository of fines that the county Health Department has charged polluters, and county regulations say it’s to be used for projects such as health surveys and development of pollution-control technologies. The largest previous grant from the fund was \$1.1 million for a study of toxic air pollution at Neville Island, Downtown and South Fayette.

Since the regulations also say that fund expenditures are “not limited to” the specific kinds of public health projects listed, Mr. Flynn believes the money can be used to raze the

remnants of a mill.

The rules do specify, however, that the money can’t be given to a polluter. It wouldn’t, after all, make sense for the county to fine a polluter \$1 million then give the money back to the polluter to pay for control devices.

Mr. Flynn contends the stoves to be demolished with the Clean Air money aren’t polluters, but former polluters. Members of the Clean Air Advisory Committee and anti-pollution groups such as GASP say Mr. Flynn is blowing smoke.

The stoves are filled with asbestos, so they are potential pollution sources when being demolished. In fact, because of the asbestos, the company hired to take them down will need a pollution permit from the health department before beginning work. That permit disqualifies the company from getting Clean Air funds, say opponents to this use of the money.

The opponents may ask a judge to decide whether tapping the Clean Air Fund for economic development, even for a worthwhile project like this one, violates the intent of the regulations. Such an appeal could delay this key brownfield recovery, and that would be unfortunate, especially when the county could seek other funds for the redevelopment.

It will be tough for Mr. Onorato to cross his own county manager. But he should do it to preserve use of the Clean Air Fund for public health projects and to keep redevelopment of the Duquesne Works on track and out of court. ☺

## GASP Speaks Out About the Clean Air Fund

During the November 2005 Board of Health (BOH) meeting, board members approved the disbursement of over \$1 million from the county’s Clean Air Fund to cover the cost of an economic development project. James Flynn, member of the Board of Health and County Manager, proposed the disbursing of approximately 1.3 million dollars to cover a shortfall in economic development money needed for a proposed project in Duquesne. The money would be used to demolish and remove the asbestos from fifteen standing stoves left over from the Duquesne Works facility.

Mr. Flynn stated he envisions this funding scheme to be a pilot project that could potentially fund further development in the county. GASP is highly disturbed by this change in focus of the BOH from a protector of the public health to one of economic developer.

GASP in no ways disagrees with efforts to clean-up brownfields and encourage local development. However, it does not believe siphoning off money from the Clean Air Fund is the answer in light of other potential resources already designated for such development.

This action is not only legally questionable, but the lack of discussion and public input is abysmal and embarrassing. Under Article XXI of the Allegheny County Board of Health Regulations, Clean Air Funds are designated to be used for the support of research and development of control technologies, to conduct health effects studies and surveys concerning air pollution, to conduct public education on air pollution and to purchase equipment, materials or services to supplement the County’s air pollution control program,

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### Legal Activities

During the past year, GASP appealed three air quality permits issued to proposed facilities by the DEP. These facilities include a proposed coke plant in Cambria County, a 272 MW waste coal-fired power plant in Washington County, and a 435 MW waste coal-fired power plant in Greene County. For all of these permits, GASP had grave concerns about the level of harmful emissions allowed for each facility, the effect of these emissions on pristine wilderness areas downwind from the facilities, and the inadequate public involvement in the decision-making process for each facility.

◆ Cambria Coke Company: GASP appealed this permit because it believes the pollution controls required by DEP do not meet the standard mandated by state and federal law to protect public health. Furthermore, DEP issued the permit just one day prior to fine particle non-attainment status taking effect, which relieved Cambria Coke from having to offset or reduce its fine particle pollution. GASP is seriously concerned about the lack of public participation in the permit's approval. No public hearing was held, and despite requests by federal agencies and numerous citizens' groups, DEP did not extend the public comment period.

◆ Wellington Development/Greene Energy Project: The Greene Energy Project is a large facility which will emit thousands of tons of harmful pollutants into the air. GASP appealed the permit because it believes the permit, as written, inadequately controls these emissions to protect the health of those living near and downwind from the plant. Additionally, the required controls are not strict enough to satisfactorily protect the water, vegetation, or visibility in Shenandoah National Park.

◆ Robinson Power Company: The permit issued to Robinson Power Company came out the day before non-attainment status for fine particulate matter went into effect in Washington County. GASP does not believe the permit required as strict emission controls as DEP could have

### Clean Air Fund continued from page 7

to name a few. Article XXI clearly states that, "No air pollution source, which is subject to the provisions of this Article, shall receive monies from this Fund." To remove the asbestos from the Duquesne Works facility would require a permit making it ineligible to receive Clean Air Funds. Further, there are specific procedural mechanisms that must be followed prior to approval. These did not happen.

The BOH is comprised of appointed representatives and serves to protect the public's health. The agenda for BOH

required. GASP appealed this permit for many of the same reasons it appealed the Wellington Development permit.

### Educating area students and teachers about air pollution issues

◆ Utilizing a PA DEP Environmental Education grant, and partnering with the PA Resources Council and Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership, GASP developed and delivered an air quality workshop for teachers. The workshop educated teachers about fine particulates and ozone and provided them with a wealth of resources that can be used in the classroom.



Student participants at the 2005 GASPer Air Congress

◆ GASP hosted its 9th annual GASPer Air Congress this past spring at Carnegie Mellon University. Students from several area schools presented their most interesting air quality investigations and were given the opportunity to learn more about hybrid-electric vehicles.

◆ GASP awarded two groups this year with the prestigious William W. Mullins Environmental Advocacy Award. The Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, Youth Action Board received the award for their Environmental Health Labyrinth, and North Hills Senior High School students received the award for advocacy done around their Lawn Appliances and Air Pollution study.

meetings is not released to the public beforehand. Virtually no discussion occurred regarding a decision to give away nearly twenty percent of the monies currently available in the Clean Air Fund. Furthermore, there is no mechanism in which the public can effectively raise concerns about BOH agenda topics, something which GASP has raised with BOH members in the past.

GASP denounced this rubberstamp action taken by the BOH and urged them to reconsider their hasty decision, but to no avail. We are continuing to fight this decision.

## Spotlight on a Board Member

Fran Harkins has been passionate about Pittsburgh's environmental problems, especially those dealing with air quality, for many years now. She has personally experienced the effects of air pollution when emissions from the now-closed LTV coke plant in Hazelwood affected her breathing and kept her elderly mother indoors for extended periods. So her environmental concerns and dedication to nonprofit volunteer work coincided nicely when she joined the GASP Board in 2004.

Fran first got involved with GASP when it supported the formation of CHOC, Citizens Helping Our Community, a group of residents in Hazelwood and surrounding neighborhoods whose mission was to prevent a new coke plant from opening in Hazelwood after the LTV plant closed. Fran served as CHOC's membership chair until the group disbanded due to its success in halting a new coke plant. As a board member of GASP, Fran's focus is now on the proposed retail development in Hays Woods which involves surface mining a 635-acre woodland area within the city of

Pittsburgh.

Fran's volunteer work and membership support extend beyond GASP to several other local organizations: PennFuture, the Sierra Club Allegheny Group, and Residents for a Clean and Healthy Mon Valley (REACH) which is sponsored by Clean Water Action.

REACH has done air sampling in the Mon Valley and is working to educate Mon Valley residents about its findings.

As a retired school library/media specialist, Fran now enjoys spending time on home renovation projects and travelling, when she's not involved in her most passionate commitment: a cleaner environment for western Pennsylvania.



PHOTO: JONATHAN NADLE

## Thank You!

GASP would like to thank the many individuals, organizations, and businesses who supported our fall 2005 benefit event with a donation. We sincerely appreciate the commitment you've made to a cleaner, healthier environment for southwestern Pennsylvania!

### Silent Auction Donors

- A Friend of GASP
- Joan Adibi
- The Andy Warhol Museum
- Anonymous
- Baum Blvd. Automotive
- Bill's Bees
- Calliope: The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society
- Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama
- Carnegie Science Center
- Center for Creative Play
- Roger Chilton
- City Theatre
- Conservation Consultants, Inc.
- Copacetic Comics
- Mike Cuccaro
- Elizabeth Donohoe of Shiatsuworks
- E-House Company
- Jacque Ferrency
- Marla Ferrency
- Rachel Filippini

- Gateway Clipper Fleet
- GNC
- Shelagh Goulis
- Trea Graham
- Fran Harkins
- M. Jackson
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- Kennywood Park
- Kretschmann Farm
- Barbara Litt
- Littlearth Productions
- McKeesport Little Theater
- Rebecca O'Connell
- Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera
- Pittsburgh Opera
- Pittsburgh Steelers
- Pleasant Hills Public Library
- Quantum Theatre
- Carolyn and Bob Schumacher
- Joseph Seppi and Son, Inc.
- Sue Seppi

- Amy and Michael Sobkowiak
- The Society for Contemporary Craft
- South Side Works Cinema
- Srishti Dances of India
- Stainmaster Carpet
- Three Rivers Rowing Association
- Beth Toor
- Howard J. Wein, Esq.

### Food & Beverage Donors

- Allegro Hearth Bakery
- East End Food Co-op
- Frankferd Farm Foods
- Ibiza Tapas & Wine Bar
- Kretschmann Farm
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Whole Foods Market
- and individual GASP members, staff, and board members*

*Thank you!*

## Notecards for Sale

Pittsburgh artist Shawn Quinlan has donated the image of his thought-provoking quilted piece *What Would Jesus Drive?* for GASP's use. Beginning with the notecards available here, purchases made of items carrying the image of this environmental statement will support GASP's mission.

These notecard display a full-color image of the artwork on the front and they're blank inside. They measure 5 1/2" x 4 1/4". Set of 8 cards and envelopes for \$10.

	Quantity	Total
Set of 8 notecards and envelopes	x \$10 =	
Name	_____	
Address	_____	
City/State/Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	
E-mail address	_____	
Make checks payable to GASP or call the GASP office at 412-325-7382 to pay by Visa, Mastercard, or American Express.		
1/06		

## The Art of Supporting GASP

Entries in The Art of Clean Air drawing are now available for a suggested donation of \$5 (for three tickets) or \$2 (for a single ticket). Call the GASP office at (412) 325-7382 to enter with a credit card or send your check made payable to GASP, along with the form below to: GASP Art of Clean Air, Wightman School Community Building, Room 204, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. **The lucky winner will receive a three-part art prize valued at \$300:**

- Three packages of exclusive GASP notecards, featuring *What Would Jesus Drive?* quilt art by Shawn Quinlan (see above).
- A hand-fabricated enamelled aluminum 15" bowl by internationally known Providence artist Boris Bally ([www.borishally.com](http://www.borishally.com)). His environmental message is expressed through art made from recycled enamel traffic signage, which Bally gleans from ten foot high, 30,000 pound scrap piles. A Carnegie Mellon graduate (BFA, Metals), Bally's many exhibits have included "Aluminum by Design" at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

- A private guided tour—for up to 10 privileged guests—of The Society for Contemporary Craft in the Strip District, which presents the best of crafts from across the world through changing exhibits and educational programs. Good for six months, this private tour voucher includes an in-depth exploration of an exhibition of your choice.

The drawing will take place on Earth Day, April 22, 2006. Contributors are Carnegie Museum of Art and The Society for Contemporary Craft, and proceeds benefit Group Against Smog and Pollution.



This quilt by Shawn Quinlan is displayed on exclusive GASP notecards

### Art of Clean Air

Name	_____	
Phone Number	_____	
E-Mail Address	_____	
# Tickets @ 3/\$5:	# Tickets @ 1/\$2:	Total = _____

## Some Great Reading—For a Great Cause!

Now you can gift your family and friends (or yourself!) with terrific, thoughtful new books while also financially helping Group Against Smog and Pollution!

When you place an order with Be Heard, an independent online bookstore specializing in liberal and progressive topics, 8% of the list price of the books will be given to GASP. Just visit <http://www.gasp-pgh.org/beheard.html> and click the store link to start shopping. **You must click through to Be Heard from the GASP website to give GASP credit for your sale.**

About 500 environmental books are available from Be Heard, as well as many thousands of books about peace, civil liberties, minority communities, women's rights, history, economic issues, media reform, and other topics aligned with (as the website puts it) "a love for books, for knowledge, and a passion for positive change." Individually and through the business, Be Heard personnel support libraries, free speech, animal rights and environmental organizations, shelters for individuals who are homeless or abused, and community and public radio.

Some GASP staff have experienced BeHeard's excellent customer service. Phone calls (303-946-1494), emails

### To credit to GASP for your purchase:

Just visit <http://www.gasp-pgh.org/beheard.html> and click the store link to start shopping.

### Read Any Good Books Lately?

Here's your chance to recommend new or old favorite environmental titles to GASP members and friends. Simply email the titles of your book suggestions (and author, publisher, and ISBN if you know them) to [mjackson@gasp-pgh.org](mailto:mjackson@gasp-pgh.org). We will post your suggestions (with your name, if you permit that) on GASP's website and, when possible, at [www.BeHeard.com](http://www.BeHeard.com), where **books bought by friends of GASP result in a donation of 8% of the purchase price.**

**Reminder:** You can read this newsletter online in the form of a pdf file (Adobe Acrobat required) and help us save paper. E-mail the editor at [hotline@gasp-pgh.org](mailto:hotline@gasp-pgh.org) if you'd prefer to receive a downloadable pdf link via e-mail when the next issue of the Hotline is published.



([thatcher@beheard.com](mailto:thatcher@beheard.com)), and faxes (303-444-4630) all elicit efficient, helpful responses if there is anything not obvious from the user-friendly website and online ordering process. BeHeard's proprietor, Thatcher Wine, also has extensive experience with secondhand books and will search for out-of-print books for BeHeard customers.

In 2006, please consider this avenue of support for Group Against Smog and Pollution. We think you'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,  
The GASP Staff & Board



### Join GASP Today!

- \$35 Grassroots Supporters (\$15 low income/student rate) *Call GASP at (412) 325-7382 to learn about automatic monthly giving, deducted directly from your checking account or charged to your credit card. An easy, hassle-free way to support GASP all year round!*
- \$60 Grassroots Contributors
- \$100 Grassroots Patrons
- \$250 Clean Air Defenders
- \$500 Clean Air Protectors
- \$\_\_\_ Other

Name	_____	
Address	_____	
City/State/Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	
E-mail	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express		
Card #	_____	
Exp. Date	_____	Amount \$ _____
Signature	_____	

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The official registration and financial information of GASP may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

# CODE RED!

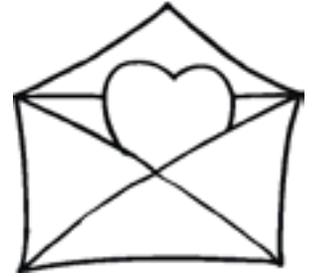
## Broken Hearts in Pittsburgh: And This Time Cupid Can't Help

Pittsburgh ranks as one of the top three U.S. cities for “unhealthiest hearts,” according to the November 28 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article, “Parsing the numbers on particulate pollution.” The rankings were based on findings by the American Lung Association. We are also ranked fourth for metropolitan areas most affected by short-term particulate pollution and fifth for metropolitan areas most affected by year-round particulate pollution.

**Pittsburgh, aren't we fed up with having a broken heart?** Instead of devouring a box of chocolates on February 14th, let's get out and do something! Introducing... the CODE RED campaign.

On February 14th, GASP's CODE RED team will be out in the streets handing out red “valentines” reminding people that Pittsburgh has a long way to go before we are heart healthy. These valentines, though, will do more than make you feel loved... they will be used as a way to convince the EPA to impose stronger standards for particulate pollution (See “EPA Ignores Health When Proposing New Particu-

late Standards” on page 5). We will be asking passersby to sign these valentines. This valuable cargo will then be hand-delivered to EPA administrators in Philadelphia during the public comment period for particulate pollution standards at the end of February.



**Look for us on Tuesday, February 14th!** We will be visiting a number of local neighborhoods. The more CODE RED volunteers that participate, the more communities we can canvass and the more signatures we can get! Contact the GASP office if you have an hour or two to spare on Valentine's Day and help us collect signatures asking the EPA for stricter particulate pollution standards.

Please call the GASP office at 412-325-7382 or email [bridget@gasp-pgh.org](mailto:bridget@gasp-pgh.org) if you are interested in being a part of CODE RED on February 14th.



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