

Briefing

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All dressed up

Easter is still an occasion for little girls and boys to get out of their jeans and into Easter finery. **1E**

Pope presides over Easter vigil. **10A**

WESTCHESTER

Man accused of exposing himself to college student

Dobbs Ferry police arrest a 28-year-old Scarsdale man after they say he exposed himself to a female Mercy College student. **1B**

NATION

Cincinnati police, demonstrators clash

Police fire bean bags at a dozen protesters after the funeral of an unarmed black teen who was killed by a police officer. They were among several hundred demonstrators who brandished signs and chanted slogans outside the service. **4A**

SPORTS

NFL draft expert knows how to nail the picks

Nobody will be more prepared for next weekend's NFL draft than Joel Buchsbaum, considered the most authoritative among the cottage industry of draft analysts. **1C**

BUSINESS

Debtors rush to avoid bankruptcy law changes

Congressional leaders still need to work out differences on proposed reforms of bankruptcy laws, but the potential for changes has led to a jump in bankruptcy court filings by individuals in the Hudson Valley. **1D**

TRAVEL

Bed and breakfasts, chateau style

Get a taste of chateau vacations in France and suggestions for parents who want to ensure that their offspring enjoy a trip to Disney. The Travel section appears inside the Higher Education section. **1G**

HIGHER EDUCATION

Special section features guide to summer sessions

From Socrates to Sartre, students are re-discovering the study of philosophy. **4K**

COMIC CONTROVERSY

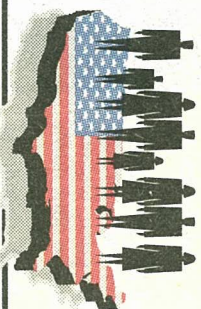
Readers give their views on 'B.C.' strip

The "B.C." cartoon strip in the comics today is drawing fire from the American Jewish Committee and others who contend that it is offensive. A news report about the strip appeared on Page 1A on Friday, and is available at our Web site: www.thejournalnews.com. Comments from readers who have seen the strip are on today's Op-Ed page. **9B**

YOUR WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today: Increasing clouds, showers

Census 2000 Different views of the national count



Contrary to the national data, several communities say they didn't really lose residents over the past 10 years. The Journal News also focuses on the communities that look most like America. **A detailed look on 1B**

Dredging up a controversy

The EPA favors a monumental cleanup of the Hudson. GE says the river will clean itself. Some residents say their views have been ignored.



Rescuing
The River



Judy Schmidt-Dean, owner of Schuyler Yacht Basin, a marina on the Hudson River in Schuylerville, N.Y., opposes the EPA's proposal to have the General Electric Co. pay \$460 million to dredge the river of PCBs.

Roger Witherspoon
The Journal News

HUDSON FALLS - It would be the largest environmental dredging project in the nation's history, requiring the removal and treatment of 4 million tons of PCB-laden mud from a 40-mile stretch of the upper Hudson River.

If the Environmental Protection Agency approves the massive plan during the summer, machines will eventually gouge and suction 2.65 million cubic yards of riverbed — enough to fill Yankee Stadium twice — from 40 contaminated "hot spots" between Hudson Falls and Troy.

The sites, about 170 miles north of Westchester County, contain 100,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. The probable carcinogens are the remnants of an estimated 1.3 million pounds that were legally dumped into the Hudson by the General Electric Co. between 1940 and 1977.

The seemingly reasonable remedy of picking up the poisons and carting them away has drawn intense opposition from GE and residents near the upstate stretch of river. And now the EPA plan will cost GE more than \$460 million.

"This would totally disrupt our lives," said Judy Schmidt-Dean of Schuylerville, chairwoman of the Citizen Liaison Group, one of four civic groups set up by the EPA to review its proposal. "This has no details. They have not made any real plans."

Opponents of the plan, including GE, contend that the proposed cure would exacerbate conditions in the river sediment and cause undue problems for those on shore. That opposition has intensified as the public comment period draws to a close Tuesday.



Joe Gardner of Bethlehem, N.Y., stands outside the Doyle Middle School in Troy to support the EPA's proposal.

The contamination has turned the lower 200 miles of the 315-mile river — from Hudson Falls south to Manhattan — into a federal Superfund site where fishing has been banned for more than 20 years. The EPA maintains that removing the PCBs will cut the contamination in fish and other wildlife to permissible levels.

But EPA officials concede their remediation plan may not be a panacea for the river's PCB contamination. It may not effectively remove the targeted PCBs, and it will destroy marshes.

Furthermore, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman is expected to make a

Photos by Seth Harrison/The Journal News

ABOUT THE SERIES

Today and tomorrow, The Journal News will explore PCB contamination in the Hudson River and the controversial proposal to dredge the waterway's toxic sediments. Questions remain about the \$460 million project, even as the Environmental Protection Agency's public comment period draws to a close Tuesday.

TODAY'S REPORT, 8A-9A

- The mechanics of the dredging plan and whether it will spill more PCBs into the Hudson, further damaging the river.
- The health risks associated with PCBs, which are suspected of causing cancer in humans.
- Whether the continuing PCB pollution is coming from buried river deposits that are stirred up — or more recent deposits.
- A look at a similar dredging plan on the Fox River in Wisconsin.

TOMORROW

- Local fishermen describe how their Hudson Valley fishing industry all but died off in the quarter-century since the PCB problem surfaced.
- Scientists discuss a recent report showing elevated levels of PCBs in animals along the Hudson's shores.
- The impact a multimillion-dollar cleanup would have on the financial health of the General Electric Co., which legally dumped PCBs in the river over a 37-year period.

Editorial: All or nothing is wrong approach to cleanup. **8B**

Spy crew home again

Los Angeles Times

OAKHAM, OR, Wash. — crew of the Navy surveillance plane held in China for 11 days after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet were welcomed by their home base yesterday in tumultuous greeting from hundreds of well-wishers and a national reunion with their families. As a Navy jet lumbered to a stop and its door popped open, crew's 21 men and three women officially returned to Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, home of the military's most secret surveillance aircraft. Dressed in flight suits, the crew smartlyed the naval officers received them, but then broke off at the arms of relatives racing toward them on the tarmac.

The returnees' day started early at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, where the pilot, Lt. Shane Osborn, gave first public account of the thrilling midair encounter. The crew that forced the crew to make emergency landing on Chuanan Island. He also described what occurred during the detention.

"I'm here to tell you what's right," the fresh-faced 26-year-old mission commander from Nebraska said. "No apology, no essay on our part."

He and his crew were treated by the Chinese, but suffered from sleep deprivation during interrogation, he said. The Chinese pilot flew a few feet of his plane and making raising gestures before striking it on his third pass, tearing it own plane apart and sending larger American craft into a rolling fire. Osborn said, "The first thing I thought, 'This guy just killed us.'" Osborn said, adding that he remembered "looking up and seeing another plane coming out of it."

He laid the blame for the incident squarely on the Chinese fighter, whose pilot was last seen bailing out.

"Contrary to some reports, our aircraft was straight and holding altitude, heading from Hainan, on autopilot at the accident occurred," Osborn said. "The sharp left turn I was talking about was when the aircraft went out of control. Chinese military initially said