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the case of the tenured faculty, some entered into teaching and counseling in the colleges with enthusiasm; but for others, their sense of commitment to the work of the colleges was either largely absent from the outset or was not long sustained.

According to Lynda Goff, an assistant professor of biology, tenure is harder to come by at Santa Cruz than at other University of California campuses. She says

(and others agree) that, while candidates for tenure are held to the same standards of scholarly achievement that apply elsewhere, they are expected to bear a substantially heavier burden of teaching and counseling students. The Santa Cruz ideal of a campus that combines the excellence of Berkeley and of Swarthmore cannot be realized, she indicates, without more faculty. "The college idea is a great one, but we didn't have the resources to pull it off," she told *Science*.

UCSC will not be given resources greater than what other University of California campuses receive, nor has such a favored status for this campus ever been contemplated. Thus, if it is to rival the likes of Pomona and Swarthmore, Santa Cruz may have to redefine its standards and expectations for faculty performance with such models—rather than the high-powered research institutions—as the guiding influence.

—LUTHER J. CARTER

Justice, EPA Begin Hazardous Wastes Drive

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice last month began their long-expected drive to combat what Assistant Attorney General James W. Moorman termed "the threat posed by hazardous chemical dump sites." The drive started with the filing of four suits against Hooker Chemical Corporation and Olin Corporation, charging them with violating federal laws and endangering human health and the environment at four sites in Niagara Falls, New York. The suits seek nearly \$68 million from Hooker for cleanup at three of the sites and \$50 million from Hooker and Olin for cleanup of the fourth site. Another \$7 million is sought from Hooker for reimbursement of federal funds already used to clean up the Love Canal area.

The \$125 million total of the four suits makes this the largest environmental protection action ever filed, but it is just the opening salvo in a larger war. Moorman and EPA deputy administrator Barbara Blum announced at the same time that the two agencies are forming "a strike force against hazardous waste pollution" and that they expect to file another 50 such suits in 1980 alone.

None of the four sites is currently used as a disposal area, but the two companies disposed of more than 265,000 tons of wastes there between 1942 and 1975. The Love Canal site gained national attention in 1978 when the residents of 235 homes surrounding the site had to be evacuated because the chemicals were leaking into their basements (*Science*, 25 May 1979, p. 820). Chemicals from another site, known as the "S" Area landfill, have spread to the nearby Niagara Falls water treatment plant and have infiltrated it, posing a threat to the city's water supply—although tests conducted in November show that the chemicals are not yet in a high enough concentration in the water to be a "present hazard." Wastes stored in the Hyde Park site have been leaking into the appropriately named Bloody Run Creek, from which they are carried to the Niagara River. Dioxin, which is extremely toxic, has been found in the creek in high concentrations, and workers and residents in the area have complained of noxious fumes coming from the dump. Chemicals buried in the 102nd Street dump are also seeping into the Niagara River, and children playing on the "field" covering the site have been burned by chemicals exploding on its surface.

The suits ask the court to order the immediate cleanup of the sites. This would include construction of special walls to contain the chemicals in the ground and installation of

water and air monitoring systems. Bloody Run Creek would be diverted temporarily so that its bed could be cleaned. The government also wants the court to require Hooker to pay for complete medical studies of all families in the Love Canal and Hyde Park areas to determine whether their health had been impaired, and to pay for a program to monitor the health of past and present residents and their immediate offspring for the rest of their lives.

Furthermore, Hooker would be required to purchase all the affected homes in the Love Canal area or to pay for the temporary relocation of affected residents until all environmental indicators show that chemical contamination has been reduced to the "normal levels found in nearby unaffected areas." It seems very unlikely, though, that anyone will want to move back into most of the houses.

The action came only 2 days after Justice and the state of California filed a similar suit charging a Hooker subsidiary, Occidental Chemical Company, with disposing hazardous wastes in ponds, ditches, and other areas on the property of the company's plant in Lathrop, California. That suit charges that the wastes have percolated into the groundwater serving the drinking water wells of Lathrop, a town of 3000 in the San Joaquin Valley. The cost of cleanup in Lathrop is expected to total about \$5 million. Hooker is also the subject of at least two suits brought by the state of Michigan last year because of the company's disposal practices there.

Hooker president Donald F. Bader, in a prepared statement, said that the suits are "unwarranted and will be vigorously resisted." The company attributes most of the problems at the Love Canal site to construction activities carried out after the site had been deeded to the city. "Except for the incident of the children" who were burned by explosions, he says, "it has been proven that not a single person has been injured by the company's practices at any of these former waste disposal sites. . . . Hooker is taking every precaution."

Hooker's waste disposal practices are not significantly different from those of other chemical companies. The large number of suits it now faces is probably a reflection more of the bad publicity engendered by the Love Canal incident than of the quality of its practices. The forthcoming round of suits seem certain to put a number of other companies in the same predicament as Hooker, and will probably push the total cleanup costs well into the billions of dollars. —THOMAS H. MAUGH II