

Letters

Accountability and hazardous waste

Kudos to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality members Kathleen Hartnett White and Buddy Garcia, who voted to overrule Executive Director Glenn Shankle's refusal to enforce the hazardous waste laws. They are right to require Penske Truck Leasing Co. to remove the hazardous electronic waste illegally dumped in the Texas Disposal Systems landfill nearly 10 years ago.

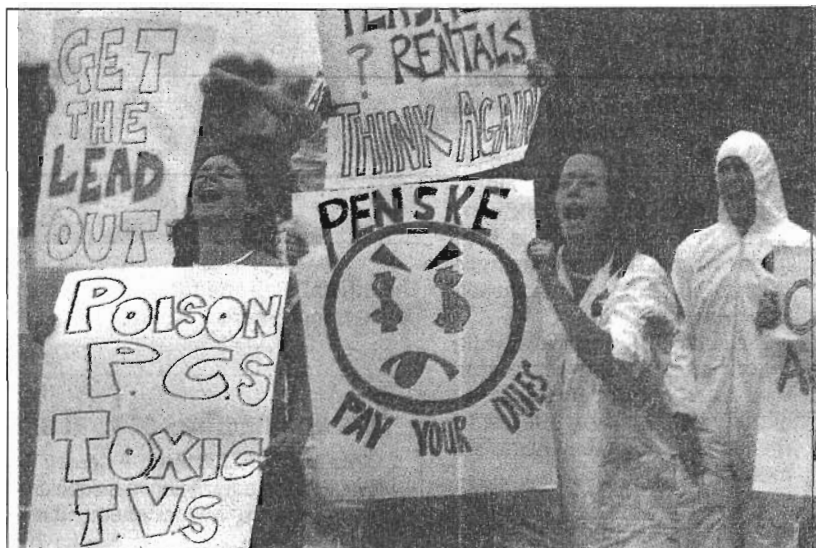
However, shame on the Austin American-Statesman for not printing a more informative story on the vote. The article quotes Shankle's shameful statement that

this was "about money, not about the environment." Why did the American-Statesman's article fail to rebut that allegation?

There's a reason Shankle was smacked down by two of his three bosses over this matter. Companies should not be allowed to dump hazardous waste in landfills, where it's mixed with trash, and walk away from it. Why have hazardous waste laws at all if companies can ignore them?

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Outside Penske's Austin offices, protesters clamor for the disposal of smashed cathode-ray tubes that had been dumped in the Creedmore landfill after a 1997 truck accident. Penske has fought state orders to remove the lead-laden tubes.