

A Load of 'Special Waste'

Activists from Texas Campaign for the Environment (including director Robin Schneider, at podium) issue "pink slips" to staff and commissioners of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to express displeasure over a recent decision to reclassify material at a Texas Disposal Systems landfill from "hazardous" to the less serious "special waste." The waste is a load of broken television tubes that were dumped in the Buda landfill in 1997 by Penske Truck Leasing Company; the landfill operators say they weren't told of the hazardous nature of the waste and want Penske to remove it to a more appropriate facility. On May 13, TCEQ agreed and ordered Penske to take it to a hazardous waste facility, but on June 18 the commission decided to reclassify the waste, which would allow Penske to simply move it to another municipal solid waste landfill.