

Editorials

Casellas show true face

Whatever the legal ramifications and eventual outcome of the landfill imbroglio in Bethlehem, it seems clear that North Country Environmental Services, operator of the dump on Trudeau Road, has abandoned any pretense of being a good corporate neighbor to the town.

Stymied time and again at the polls, the Casella-owned NCES brought in the legal heavy hitters and decided to play hardball. Their message to the state Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division (in a letter dated July 7) was that "local approval is not a condition precedent to issuance of a construction permit." The state bought that argument and issued the permit for NCES to move ahead with Stage II, Phase 2 of its expansion plan. Casella's construction equipment was

warmed up and ready to go.

So much for local control.

NCES has broken faith with the community. While that was a surprise to few people, it did rip the humanitarian mask off from a corporate gorilla. Any good will Casella has generated through communal "good works" might as well be trucked off to the landfill.

Now what happens? It is unlikely the town will find the funds for a court fight. And there are those in town government who do not want to make that fight in any case.

Strapped for funds, faced with an 800-pound gorilla in the kitchen and their democratic procedures laid to waste, landfill opponents may want to regroup and consider other tactics

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Courier writers earn NH press awards

BEDFORD—Courier staffers came back to Littleton last week from the New Hampshire Press Association's annual awards dinner with several awards including a top editorial writing award.

Editor Tim McCarthy won Editorial Writer of the Year; this award was judged on "quality of writing, community interest, impact, style and presentation."

McCarthy and Staff Writer Rebecca Brown shared first place in the Community Journalism award for "outstanding coverage of local issues," in this case, continued coverage of the Bethlehem landfill situation. This award is reserved for newspapers whose editors delve into issues affecting the direction of a community. Judges looked at letters to the editor, editorials, re-

porting, photos and columns, all on this subject.

Sports Editor Mike Dickerman again won an award for Sports Columnist of the Year. Dickerman, who recently left *The Courier* to pursue his book publishing business, won Honorable Mention for "originality, style, and interest" in his popular "Beaten Path" hiking column, which he will continue writing for this newspaper.

Associate Editor Olivia Garfield also earned an award in the Special News Supplement category devoted to a community interest subject. Awarded an Honorable Mention for her Christmas Gift Guide, judges looked at "cover design, planning, coherence, good writing, illustration, and completeness."