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ork plan

land Conservation Plan for state-owned lands.

The effects of boat traffic in wetlands should be examined and boat traffic possibly restricted in areas, such as Laguna Madre and Redfish Bay, where seagrass beds are being negatively impacted.

Standards should be developed by the Texas Water Commission and the Texas Department of Agriculture to address non-point source pollution.

—People's voice

Texans United admit mistake, blast coverage

Dear Editor:

On November 16, 1990, the Port Lavaca Wave ran a story by reporter Sally Spencer questioning the validity of the petition signatures gathered by Texans United and the Calhoun County Resources Watch calling for an Environmental Impact Statement on the new Formosa Plastics Plant.

We admit that our volunteers and staff made some mistakes in photocopying and assembling the stack of petition signatures. We appreciate the mistake being pointed out. And we would have appreciated a call from the Wave allowing us to correct the mistake before printing the story. But no attempt was made to contact us for any clarification prior to publication. For anyone to interperate this mistake as an attempt to deceive is absurd. And for The Wave to discount other pertinent facts about the petitions was irresponsible journalism.

The Wave says that the number of signatures was "less than reported," that some of the names were "duplications," and that "only around 1,829 signatures" were presented.

The Wave story, however slanted, helps us prove the error of Formosa's claim, that "no more that 10 people in Calhoun County" oppose the plant's pollution record. We wonder why the Wave didn't publish a similar story exposing Formosa's false claim?

The Wave mentioned that some of the signatures presented to Formosa were "blacked out and couldn't be read." But The Wave failed to mention that we explained to Formosa that the "black

County deserve accurate information from citizens' groups like ours, and we apologize for our honest mistake. They also deserve good, investigative reporting to look into the claims of Formosa, not just the claims of citizens' groups who question Formosa. The public is not served by "news coverage" that seems to come straight from Formosa's public relations department.

We hope you will have the journalistic integrity to publish this letter to the editor. But just to make sure, we are mailing this letter to our members in Calhoun County, to every person in the county who signed our petition, and to other readers and advertisers of The Wave. Your paper's slanted coverage of this important issue has strengthened our resolve to fight for an Environmental Impact Statement and to see that Formosa is held accountable for its crimes.
Rick Abraham
Texans United

Editors Note:

In response to Rick Abraham's letter, The Wave must set the record straight in accordance with our own journalistic integrity. On Nov. 14, we received a fax from Abraham saying that Texans United would be hand delivering "thousands of petition signatures to Formosa Plastics calling for an Environmental Impact Statement." Steve Bales, general manager, called Abraham and was told, over the phone, that there would be 4,000 signatures delivered. After a count of names, not the duplicated ones, the 1,829 figure resulted. Also, the petitions were not all for an EIS and were not even collected from Calhoun County residents. In fact, some of the petition sheets ask the Texas Water Commission not to grant a permit, while some say, a "Petition for Criminal Investigation and Prosecution." This particular petition does not tell the signer who or what is to be prosecuted and for what reason. We did follow through on the story before