

# by court tourism to maintain culture



Photo by Ric Oliveira

worshiper kneels in prayer in a church in Agua Torta

## link no flight of fancy

act, the direct flights could take only after the runway at the New Bedford Regional Airport expands 2,000 feet to 8,000 feet, as supporters of the expansion intend. Although city officials have yet to detail with any airlines about prospect of direct international

flights, the idea is certainly on their minds and on the mind of Azorean Regional President Madrugá Da Costa.

President Da Costa said that he would welcome the opportunity for connecting flights to New Bedford if (See FLIGHTS, Page A2)

break battleground.

As always, the stakes are highest for the front-runner. Mr. Dole has that distinction, but barely. His Iowa lead has stabilized but polls suggest support well below the 37 percent he won here in 1988. And he is in a neck-and-neck race in New Hampshire with the phenom of the 1996 contest: multimillionaire publisher Steve Forbes.

Mr. Dole rejects the notion that 37 percent should be his credibility threshold. Even though he got that number against a sitting vice president eight years ago, no one in that race spent \$4 million on Iowa television ads, most of them critical of Mr. Dole. "I think just being able to hold our lead in the face of that shows strength," he said.

(See IOWA, Page A2)

13.3.44

## North End throws PCB sludge plan back in EPA's face

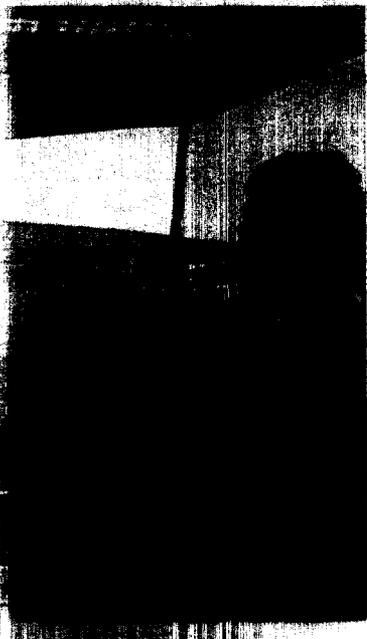
By Hans Schattle  
Standard-Times staff writer

**NEW BEDFORD** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continued to encounter vehement neighborhood and political opposition yesterday upon floating a potential compromise for storing PCBs dredged from the Acushnet River.

The EPA could redirect roughly half the toxic sludge slated to be deposited in a contaminated lagoon off Belleville Avenue to another planned riverfront lagoon farther north, behind a row of factories, said David Dickerson, project manager of the harbor Superfund site.

The trial balloon immediately burst, though. About 75 residents at a public hearing sponsored by the New Bedford Forum made it clear they want the lagoons cleaned, not covered. Many people trashed not only the use of lagoons, but also the use of the low-income North End neighborhood to store the untreated polychlorinated biphenyls.

"Are they telling me I only have to drink half a cup of hemlock now? I don't have to drink the whole thing?" said Monique Frechette, a North Front Street resident. "It seems Ward 2 is getting stuck as the dump site of the river. Is this like we have to save the patient by cutting off (See SLUDGE, Page A2)



## Living with Pina trial is an ordeal for both sides

By Maureen Boyle  
Standard-Times staff writer

**BOSTON** — The six police officers and two cell attendants sit in the front row of the courtroom, watching as another witness takes the stand.

Two rows back, Delores Gonsalves also sits and listens, turning her head slightly as yet another autopsy photograph of her brother is flashed on the courtroom television screens.

For more than two months, the police and Ms. Gonsalves have sat mere feet apart in Courtroom 5 at U.S. District Court.

They sit with the ghost of Morris Pina

“

*I've waited five years. I can wait a little bit longer.*

”

—Delores Gonsalves,  
Morris Pina's sister

In Terceira there is already a golf course and in Faial there are preparations to build a second. The Island of Pico is also entertaining a golf course proposal. The climate is a strong selling point for tourists.

are no casinos in the Azores. But that may also change. President Da Costa says that a casino could be a reality for the islands by the year 2000. "We are working with the Govern-

ment, it is still based on a fundamental injustice," said Rep. McIntyre, who maintained that residents of the lower North End "are being punished for having already been victimized once before. Until you recognize everybody in the region needs to share equally with cleaning it up, this kind of a solution seems to be unfair."

and often people eat fish from the side of the volcanic lake which offers fisherman the chance to catch lake pike and lake trout from crystal clear waters.

## Sludge

(Continued from Page 1) the arm, and you're the arm, but we're sorry?"

Because officials lacked any specific prospects for eventually treating the PCBs, residents wondered whether sludge contained on the banks of the river would be any healthier than sludge now sitting in the river. About two-thirds of the sludge is set to be stored within Ward 2, the lower North End.

"Why can't it all be treated so we can finally resolve the problem so my grandchildren and great grandchildren won't be sitting here having the same discussion, while all these people are dying of cancer?" asked Susan Marges of North Dartmouth, whose grandmother lives near the Belleville Avenue lagoon. "We have no faith in EPA."

"The frustration we share is the same," replied Frank Ciavattieri of the EPA. "The technology simply isn't there at this time to practically treat them. The monies involved would break the federal bank."

Mr. Dickerson tried to convince the crowd that the holding areas would be contained and relatively safe. Although he said as much as a third of a pound of PCBs might initially leak from the lagoons into the water and air each day for the first couple of years, he said the daily leakage would then drop to about a twentieth of a pound. For comparison, Mr. Dickerson said about a half-pound of PCBs in the Acushnet River now flows out the harbor with the daily tide.

Sediment containing about 300 tons of PCBs has already been

dredged from the Acushnet River and moved to the lagoon off Belleville Avenue, at the foot of Coffin Avenue and Sawyer Street. Another 300 tons of PCBs are slated to be dredged in the next phase of the project. Exactly where the EPA will dump them is the question.

The politicians who spoke at the hearing yesterday were less caustic than the residents, although they also insinuated the current plans for storage in Ward 2 smack of environmental racism. The EPA became the target of such accusations four years ago when it was still seeking to burn PCBs at the foot of Sawyer Street.

Rep. Joseph B. McIntyre, D-New Bedford, said that as long as the storage options are confined to the lower North End, the EPA seems to be treating the storage as "a narrow engineering issue" at the expense of larger social justice concerns.

"No matter how you configure the

compromise, it is still based on a fundamental injustice," said Rep. McIntyre, who maintained that residents of the lower North End "are being punished for having already been victimized once before. Until you recognize everybody in the region needs to share equally with cleaning it up, this kind of a solution seems to be unfair."

The EPA officials responded by saying the storage options are limited and that hauling PCBs out of the harbor would be impractical.

There is this sense we're dumping on Ward 2. We're not. The problem is there now," Mr. Dickerson said. "We're trying to make it better."

City Council President George Rogers told the group that the council will consider fighting the disposal of hazardous waste in the lagoon as well as the surrounding area. He declined to discuss the issue after the

meeting.

Mayor Rosemary S. Tierney was out of town and did not attend. Molly Fontaine, a city environmental planner, said the mayor has not made up her mind on the issue of storing PCBs but that the potential use of the lagoon "has been a concern."

"She has not seen the alternatives," Ms. Fontaine said

"The harbor needs to be cleaned up. If this is the best alternative for the entire city and all its citizens, I'm sure that's what she would go with."

The New Bedford Forum, a group of citizens and public officials working to find solutions for the harbor, will continue discussing storage options in the coming weeks.

"The solutions that are proposed are not satisfactory to everybody," said Michael Keating, the forum's moderator. "The response from this group is an index of that."

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**Iowa**  
 (Continued from Page 1)  
 Rivals rush to disagree. "A V Dole," is what former Tennessee Lamar Alexander predicts Iowa show, even if Mr. Dole wins. "He very weak front-runner," Charles Black, chief strategist Texas Sen. Phil Gramm's struggle campaign.  
 That will be a tough sell for finishing well back, which is second place is such a coveted tr — assuming Mr. Dole wins.  
 A week ago, Mr. Forbes destined for second, but he slipped steadily and finds himself clumped in an unpredictable race

**TRANSMISSION TUNE-UP**

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