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SECTION: STYLE; Pg. C08**LENGTH:** 928 words**HEADLINE:** Green for Greenbacks? Bush's Record Under Fire**BYLINE:** Peter Carlson, Washington Post Staff Writer**BODY:**

Ah, America! The spacious skies! The purple mountain majesties! The amber waves of grain! If you want to see them, you'd better hurry up because the Bush administration is rapidly selling them off to its campaign contributors from the energy, mining and timber industries.

If that sounds like hyperbole to you, read two scathing magazine articles on our president's environmental policies--a good piece in the September-October issue of Mother Jones and an even better one in the September issue of Vanity Fair.

"George W. Bush is compiling what is arguably the worst environmental record of any president in recent history," writes Osha Gray Davidson in Mother Jones.

Here's how Davidson sums up that record: "The Bush administration has been gutting key sections of the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. . . . It has crippled the Superfund program, which is charged with cleaning up millions of pounds of toxic industrial wastes. . . . It has opened millions of acres of wilderness--including some of the nation's most environmentally sensitive public lands--to logging, mining and oil and gas drilling."

Bush's policy toward environmental appointments can best be described as hiring coyotes to guard the chicken coop. Davidson provides a helpful list of these coyotes:

* Mark Rey--a former lobbyist for the timber industry--is now the top forestry official at the Department of Agriculture.

* **James L. Connaughton**--a former lobbyist for power companies and for corporations fighting Superfund rules--is now the chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

* William G. Myers III--former lawyer for ranching and mining industries--is now solicitor general of the Interior Department, the man in charge of enforcing environmental laws.

And the list goes on and on.

"Sale of the Wild," Michael Shnayerson's excellent piece in Vanity Fair, focuses on another of these coyotes--J. Steven Griles, the deputy interior secretary, who is a former lobbyist for the coal, oil and gas industries.

Actually, the phrase "former lobbyist" may not be quite correct. When Griles took the Interior job, he sold his lobbying firm to a business associate for \$1.1 million--to be paid in four annual payments of \$284,000. In other words, Shnayerson writes, Griles "is receiving a major outside income from his former business colleague, who continues to represent Griles's former clients" in the coal, oil and gas industries.

All together, "several dozen top Bush appointees" who once worked as lawyers and lobbyists for the extractive industries now hold "high posts in the agencies they once attacked." It is, Shnayerson writes, "payback for campaign contributions: \$48.3 million in all to the G.O.P. during the 1999-2000 election season."

Meanwhile, the dirty dance of contributions and favors continues. Shnayerson tells the story of Peabody Energy, the world's largest coal company, and its proposal to build a huge coal-fired generating plant 50 miles from Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.

In February 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a negative report on the proposed plant's environmental impact. But after a series of soft-money contributions from Peabody and its subsidiaries to the Republican Party--\$450,000 in a three-month period--the environmental problems disappeared and Peabody got what it wanted.

In Shnayerson's story, a Peabody spokesman denied any connection between the contributions and the plant.

"Every administration rewards its friends," Shnayerson writes, "but never has there been such a wholesale giveaway of government agencies to the very industries they're meant to oversee."

Shnayerson's long, well-researched piece is disturbing and important. But it will be available for a only few more days, before it is replaced on newsstands by Vanity Fair's October issue. Read it and weep.

The long, painful wait is over: Gourmet magazine has finally published an article on TV dinners.

The article, by veteran TV critic Judith Crist, doesn't reveal the secret recipes of these delicacies. It simply recounts their illustrious history, which began 50 years ago as a clever way for the folks at Swanson to get rid of 520,000 extra pounds of turkey it had stored in refrigerated railroad cars. The

dinners caught on and soon Swanson was selling 25 million of them every year.

Crist's tasty article is just part of Gourmet's delicious special issue on "Food and Television." The heart of the issue is a series of recipes that try to approximate the food cooked on classic episodes of your favorite TV shows.

For instance, remember the scene in "I Love Lucy" when Ricky tries to make arroz con pollo for dinner and causes an explosion on the stove? Well, Gourmet has an explosion-free recipe for the same dish.

There are also recipes for chili la "The Cosby Show" and pork chops la "The Brady Bunch" and pan-fried trout la "The Andy Griffith Show."

While that stuff is cooking, check out Bruce Feiler's story about the shooting of a TV commercial for frozen pizza. It begins like this: "The bell peppers need more Vaseline. The Swiss cheese needs more baby powder."

During the shoot, Feiler met James Furino, one of America's premier hand models, whose hands will be used in the ad.

"I've been Matthew Perry's hands," Furino says. "I've been Regis Philbin's hands. Once I was almost Michael Jackson's hands."

Almost? "Why did you lose the job?" Feiler asks.

"My hands were too dark," Furino replies.

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