

weather in decades."

Viewed in historical perspective, Heim concludes, the hot, dry weather of 1988

was "simply the latest in a long series of similar fluctuations that characterize the climatic history of our country."

Reforming EPA

"Are Today's Institutional Tools Up to the Task?" by Michael Gruber, in *EPA Journal* (Nov./Dec. 1988), Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans celebrated the nation's first Earth Day—and within three years Congress had created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and passed sweeping new anti-pollution laws.

Today, writes Gruber, an EPA staffer, there is not only public disappointment with the results but a "widening gap" between what Americans expect and what "EPA can deliver." The federal agency (budget: \$1 billion) has been told by Congress to eliminate water pollution, eliminate *all* risk from air pollution, prevent hazardous waste from reaching the ground water, and register, and "re-register," all pesticides.

"None of these things," Gruber notes, "has been accomplished," nor could they be. To blame, he says, are the sheer uncertainty of scientific knowledge (notably about various pollutants' true effects on health), a patchwork of environmental laws, Congress's multiple mandates, and Americans' two-faced attitudes towards the environment. Opinion polls show

strong support for environmental clean-ups. Yet, Americans dislike government interference, prize their automobiles, enjoy cheap foodstuffs and plastics, resent land use controls, and like to throw things away.

Congress, says Gruber, must allow the EPA to concentrate on major hazards, to focus realistically on "reduction of risk" to public health and the environment rather than, as at present, on ineffective, generalized "pollution control." Instead of requiring the use of certain types of technology, the EPA should adopt marketplace incentives and penalties to curb pollution.

Of late, Gruber adds, the EPA has frittered away its efforts in response to public outcries over much-publicized but relatively minor threats, notably those involving pollutants which may expose the public to some risk of cancer. "This is a long way," he contends, "from the original ideal of the environmental movement, which was nothing less than to bring technological society into harmony with the natural world."

ARTS & LETTERS

The Peales

"Philadelphia Story" by Phoebe Lloyd, in *Art in America* (Nov. 1988), 542 Pacific Ave., Marion, Ohio 43306.

Charles Willson Peale (1741–1827) is remembered as a Philadelphia impresario and portrait artist who painted Washington, Franklin, and other heroes of the Revolution. His eldest son, Raphaelle (1774–1825), a well-regarded still-life painter in his day, is now remembered, if at all, as a drunk and wastrel. For that, and

for his premature death, says biographer Lloyd, one can blame the twisted envy of Raphaelle's noted father.

Of the younger Peale's talent there can be no doubt, writes Lloyd. His pictures hung in Philadelphia's prestigious Pennsylvania Academy. But father and son clashed early and often. At 23, Raphaelle married