

Norman Kilpatrick
Surface Mining Research Library
Box 5024
Charleston, WV 25361

(304) 768-5669

"...I am both a news-maker and a news writer for a number of publications... I feel my role is to try to make public the real issues and politics going on in the coal and energy area, as it affects the Mountain State. From 1973-77 I served as the coal consultant to the West Virginia Legislature and attempted the same role for that body.

"It has been my experience, as a news-maker, that the West Virginia news media generally ignores on-going coal issues, unless they are strikes with violence. So the efforts to abandon the rail system in West Virginia really go unreported. The rise of foreign coal imports is rarely commented on. And the development of protectionist laws in other coal states goes unreported.

"At the same time, one state paper The Charleston Gazette, does take a continuing interest in coal, and that view is totally negative. Gazette editor Don Marsh puts it nicely, 'I have come to look upon coal as West Virginia's curse.' And as a news-maker I know what it is to be misquoted by Marsh's top anti-coal writer, Dr. Paul Nyden. (I did get a front page 'correction' from the Gazette to one of his misquotes.)

"My position is likely unique, since I do write for publications...and so I generally can try to bring out issues that elements of the coal industry want unknown and the West Virginia media ignores."

Paul Nyden
Charleston Gazette
1001 Virginia St., E.
Charleston, WV 25301

(304) 348-5100

Paul Nyden is an investigative reporter for The Charleston Gazette, West Virginia's largest-circulation daily newspaper. He is the winner of a number of national awards for his stories on the West Virginia mining industry.

He has written extensively about state regulatory agencies, mining companies, environmental issues and community organizations in mining communities.