Son’s death leaves father still wondering

By June Hsu

Dr. Scottie Brown can’t stop thinking about the death of his 20-year-old son, Kwan, who was murdered in 1984. Brown, who was a pediatrician in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the time, said he still sees visions of Kwan’s body and has trouble sleeping.

"It’s been a long road," Brown said. "I think about my son every day."

Brown’s son was a talented musician and was on track to become a professional. He was at a party when he was shot and killed. The murder remains unsolved.

"I still feel so alone," Brown said. "I wish I could have done more to protect him."

On the night of the murder, Brown said he was at a concert with his son. When he got home, he saw his son lying on the floor, bleeding. He tried to save him but it was too late.

The family’s struggle to find closure continues. They have tried to help other families who have lost loved ones to violence.

"It's hard being a parent after losing a child," Brown said. "I want to help others who have been through the same thing."

State ignores own mandate for cancer list

By June Hsu

The state of California has failed to comply with its own law requiring it to list all cancer-causing chemicals. The law, Proposition 65, was passed in 1986.

"We have not been able to keep up with the law," said state official Mary Brown. "We’ve been overwhelmed by the number of chemicals we need to list."

Brown said the state has a backlog of over 1,000 chemicals that need to be listed. The law requires the state to list all chemicals that can cause cancer. The list includes both known and suspected cancer-causing chemicals.

"We’re doing the best we can," Brown said. "But it’s been a huge task."

The law has been a controversial one. Some businesses have complained about the cost of listing chemicals.

"We’ve been trying to balance consumer safety with the burden on businesses," Brown said. "It’s not an easy task."

Brown said the state is working on a plan to reduce the backlog. She said the state will begin listing chemicals in categories.

"We’re hoping that will make it easier to comply with the law," Brown said. "But it’s still a big job."
3 southside youths hit by rare cancer

By John Fox

James Ball, 16, and David Lee, 14, were just two of the six southside youths that were diagnosed with cancer last week.

"It was a shock," said James Ball, "we never knew it was possible to get cancer at such a young age."

The three youths were diagnosed with the same type of cancer, which is extremely rare in children. The other three children, 12-year-old Tony Davis, 13-year-old Sarah Green, and 14-year-old David Lee, were also affected.

"We're doing everything we can to help these kids," said Dr. John McArthur, head of the cancer department at the hospital.

"The cancer is very aggressive, but we're hopeful with the right treatment, these kids can survive."

The cause of the cancer is still unknown, but Dr. McArthur said it could be linked to environmental factors.

"We're investigating whether there's anything in the area that could be contributing to this," he said.

The six youths are being treated at the hospital, and their families are receiving support from a special support group.

"It's been a difficult time for everyone," said one of the parents.

"But we're hopeful and we're doing everything we can to help our kids."
Neglect of TCE issue compelled Star to act

About the author

Jane Kay

The Arizona Daily Star

Southsiders drank TCE for years

Survey finds cancer rates above norm in TCE area

Water’s fine now, officials emphasize

This special report is presented as a public service by The Arizona Daily Star

To subscribe, call 573-4511
Officials' assurances to public proved to be wrong

Tucson's TCE pollution went unseen for decades

Agencies differ over cleanup-area boundary

Hydrologists' hunch led to TCE discovery

Superfund team wrestles questions while TCE spreads

Air Force has accepted cleanup chores
**Former private water wells held bulk of pollution**

"Pollution was never discussed — and that's not to say it wasn't there. Either we were na"

--- Ex-utility owner Paul Robinson

Hughes agrees to cooperate in health study of tainted well's users

--- Jim Ray

**Cancer rates in TCE region found above norm**

Experts say findings merit further study

--- Jim Ray

Hughes' water supply 1964-80

--- Pumps in millions of gallons

**Selected diseases mapped**

--- Do you know someone who should be counted?
'Too many' are ill in area touched by TCE

Valeria Sancassano, a resident of the Sunnyslope district, wonders: Why so many illnesses?

"I've lived in this area all my life and I've never been sick," she said. "My mother was also a resident here for 40 years and she never got sick." She added that her family has never had any health problems.

The area around the former Louisville Motor Speedway, where TCE was used to clean up the tracks, has been linked to increased illness rates. A study by the Arizona Department of Health Services found that residents living within a one-mile radius of the site had a higher rate of cancer and other health issues.

The residents of the Sunnyslope district have been protesting for years to get the site cleaned up and to receive compensation for their health issues. However, the state has not taken any action to address the problem.

Grand Central's boom years left pollution legacy

The old neighborhood — with children playing and seniors walking — has been transformed into a concrete jungle. Many of the original homes have been demolished, replaced by high-rises and parking lots.

The area was once home to many local businesses, including a popular ice cream shop and a downtown theater. However, as the neighborhood declined, so did the businesses. Today, the area is known for its crime and drug problems.

The city has plans to revitalize the area, but many residents are skeptical. They fear that the new development will simply worsen the problems that already exist.

The transformation of the old neighborhood is a symbol of the city's struggle to balance economic growth with the needs of its residents.
Early '50s suit against polluter was hushed up

By Jane Rees

Tucson's first major water pollution case involving an international airport was quietly settled in 1955, more than 30 years before the current public controversy over airport pollution.

The case involved a 1950s project to build a new terminal on the west side of the airport. The site was adjacent to a river that ran behind the airport. The river was said to be polluted by oil from the flying field.

The airport authority was sued by a group of citizens who claimed they had been misled about the airport's environmental impact. The case was settled out of court, with no public disclosure of the terms of the settlement.

The case was significant because it was the first major water pollution case involving an international airport. It also set a precedent for the settlement of environmental disputes out of court, which has become common practice in recent years.

Fouled wells show 25 years of toxic dumping by Hughes

By Jane Rees

A 25-year history of toxic dumping by Hughes Aircraft in southern Arizona has been revealed in a series of reports by the state's environmental agency.

The reports, released in 1980, show that Hughes dumped toxic chemicals into wells and groundwater systems in the area, causing health problems for local residents.

The dumping was part of a larger effort by Hughes to dispose of hazardous waste materials, including electronic components, in the area. The company was later fined $10 million for its role in the dumping.

The reports were significant because they were the first to document the extent of the dumping and the health effects it had on local residents. They also helped to spur action by local authorities to clean up the area and prevent further dumping.

Student illnesses worry officials

By John Gass

A series of student illnesses at Tucson's Sunnyside High School has officials worried about the school's environmental health.

The illnesses, which include respiratory problems and skin irritations, have been linked to the school's indoor air quality. Officials are investigating the causes of the illnesses and working to improve the school's air quality.

The illnesses are significant because they highlight the importance of creating healthy environments for students and staff. They also raise questions about the adequacy of state regulations for controlling indoor air quality.

TCE may have tainted schools' drinking water

By John Gass

TCE, a toxic chemical used in the manufacture of electronic components, may have contaminated the drinking water of schools in southern Arizona.

The chemical was used by electronics companies in the area, including Hughes Aircraft, for many years. It is suspected of causing health problems for local residents.

The contamination of drinking water raises serious concerns about the safety of the water supply and the health of local residents. It also highlights the need for better regulation of the chemical's use and disposal.

Hydrologists find timing of TCE plume's spread difficult to pinpoint

By John Gass

Hydrologists are struggling to determine the timing of the spread of a TCE plume in southern Arizona.

The plume, which contains a toxic chemical used in the manufacture of electronic components, has been found in groundwater systems in the area. The timing of its spread is important for determining the source of the contamination and for planning remediation efforts.

The timing of the spread is difficult to pinpoint because of the complex nature of groundwater flow and the lack of monitoring data. This highlights the need for better monitoring and modeling of groundwater systems to better understand the behavior of contaminants.