Art Institute docents’ divisive dismissal

By Christopher Borrelli
Chicago Tribune

Controversy, calls of reverse bias belie complicated history

Parents organizing to fight in home of 5 Superfund sites

By Sylvia Goodman  | Chicago Tribune

Waukegan’s legacy of industrial pollution

Residents organizing to fight in home of 5 Superfund sites

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The Pollution Next Door

The Waukegan Generating Station coal-fired plant can be seen from North Beach on Tuesday in Waukegan.

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Does testimony put pressure on Smollett?

By Megan Crepeau  | Chicago Tribune

Attorneys haven’t said whether actor will take stand in his trial

Not long after they allegedly pretended to beat up actor Jussie Smollett in January 2019, two Chicago brothers took oil for their ancestral home of Nigeria, where they were going to audition for a show called “Big Brother Naija.”

The brothers, aspiring actors Abimbola and Olabinjo Ousundairo, never got the role that would have allowed them to live well the way they dreamed right here in their hometown.

Smollett’s case is over. Over two days this week, the Ousundairo brothers’ long-awaited testimony riveted
Dulce Ortiz of Clean Power Lake County stands on North Beach with the Waukegan Generating Station coal-fired plant behind her on Wednesday.

THE POLLUTION NEXT DOOR

In Waukegan and the Midwest, there are numerous neighborhood boron-containing properties that produce air, water and soil pollution. Such residents have lived in these areas for generations; borders, time-honored traditions and families. Residents have the right to clean air, healthy water and safe communities. These policies have been established by Earthjustice, Earthjustice, Prairie Rivers and other environmental organizations to protect the environment and public health. The Waukegan Generating Station coal-fired plant can be seen from North Beach on Tuesday in Waukegan.

About this series

In Illinois and the Midwest, there is a massive infrastructure of coal ash ponds, power plants and factories that have been operating for years near residential neighborhoods. These industries have caused pollution and health problems for residents, workers and the environment. Many residents have lived near these facilities for generations, and now they are facing the possibility of having to move away from their homes. The Waukegan Generating Station coal-fired plant is one of the largest in the Midwest, and it is located near residents who have lived in the area for many years. The plant is scheduled to close in 2023, and the coal ash pond at the site will be dismantled. Residents are concerned about the health and safety of the area, and they want to be involved in the decision-making process. The residents of Waukegan are working with Earthjustice, Prairie Rivers and other environmental organizations to ensure that the plant is closed in a safe and responsible way.
defined the town, including the coal plant that domi-
nates several acres of lakeshore property. The city has NRG plans to continue partial operations at the site include energy storage. Schroeder said in an email.

Some residents, like Flores, hope the land could be repur-
posed as a new form, provid-
ing clean affordable energy for the community and beyond. Others, like Ortiz, wonder if the kind could be made into a lakeshore park to create more green space if the company will sell the property.

“Not only are you going to Chicago, but even driving 15 minutes down (the shore), you have Lake Bluff, Lake Forest. And they don’t have any of these brownfields by the lake,” Ortiz said. “And not a lot of people of color live there either. It's kind of hard not to believe that this is by design, that this is on purpose. And so we have to change that.”

According to McY, chil-
dren are often the most 
affected by environmental work and are eager to make changes in their community. In addi-
tion to children to engage in art and environmentalism, some children to compost and engage in nature: falling leaves in the fall and enjoying picking blackberries and picking nuts. Waller said.

She moved to Waukegan in the 80s, and several years later she took the course “Last Child in the Woods,” about the disconnect between children and nature in American society, affecting their health and emotional well-being. The message hit Waller hard, and in 2008 she created Cool Learning Experience, an all-day summer program.

Waller coordinates several acres of lake-
front property. The city has NRG plans to continue partial operations at the site include energy storage. Schroeder said in an email.

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“The most important thing to me is just enjoy-

ing in nature: falling leaves in the fall and enjoying picking blackberries and picking nuts. That got bitten by a snake,” said.

“I think the program opened a lot of eyes,” said. “And just because something isn’t perfect doesn’t mean you abandon it. You try to make it better.”

When her husband died a few years later, MacLeod said she already felt part of the community and had no interest in leaving. Despite a lot of people that don’t get bitten by a snake,” Waller said.

She moved to Waukegan in the 80s, and several years later she took the course “Last Child in the Woods,” about the disconnect between children and nature in American society, affecting their health and emotional well-being. The message hit Waller hard, and in 2008 she created Cool Learning Experience, an all-day summer program.