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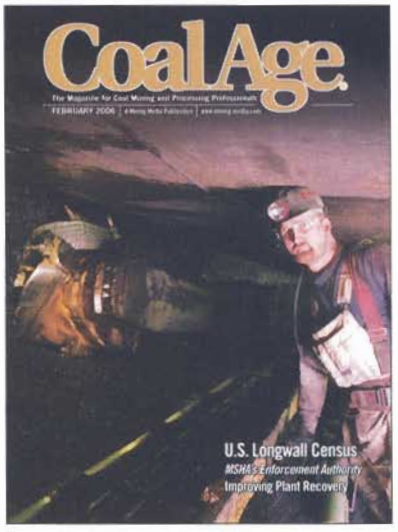

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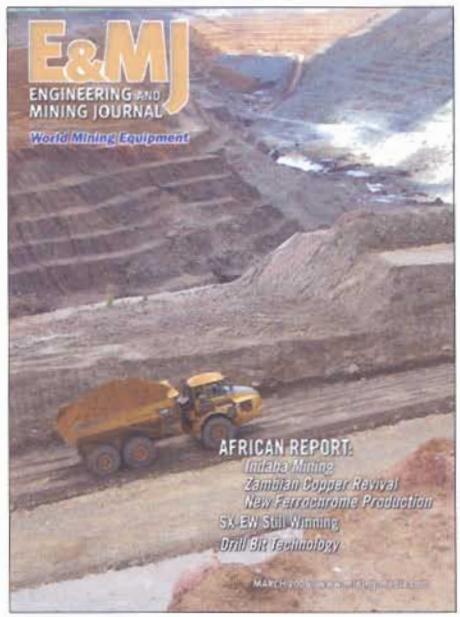

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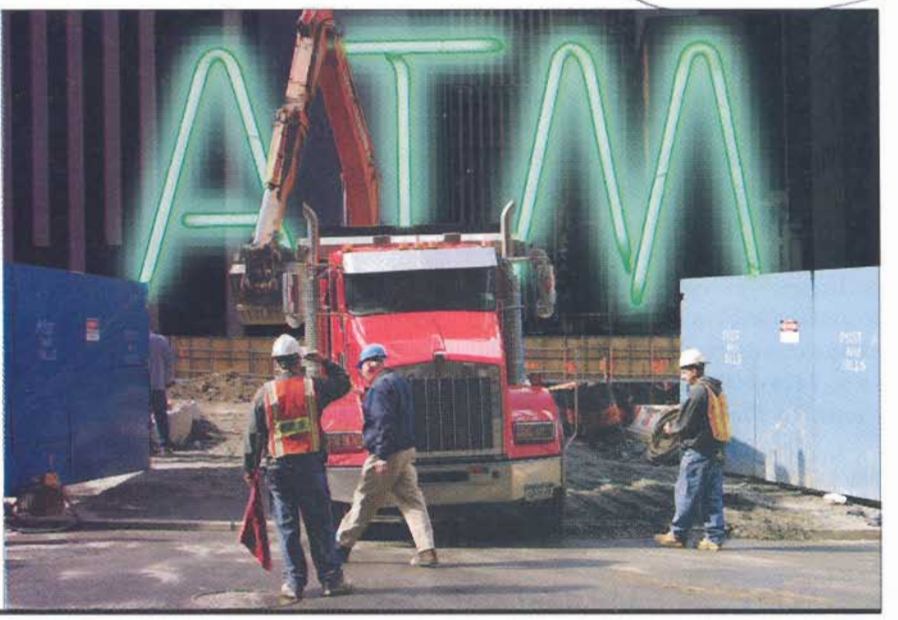

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Icebergs float near Danco Island off Antarctica, a continent that holds 65 percent of the world's freshwater. The Antarctic and the Arctic regions serve as important natural laboratories in understanding past climate change and possible future changes. Photo is by Michael Collier.

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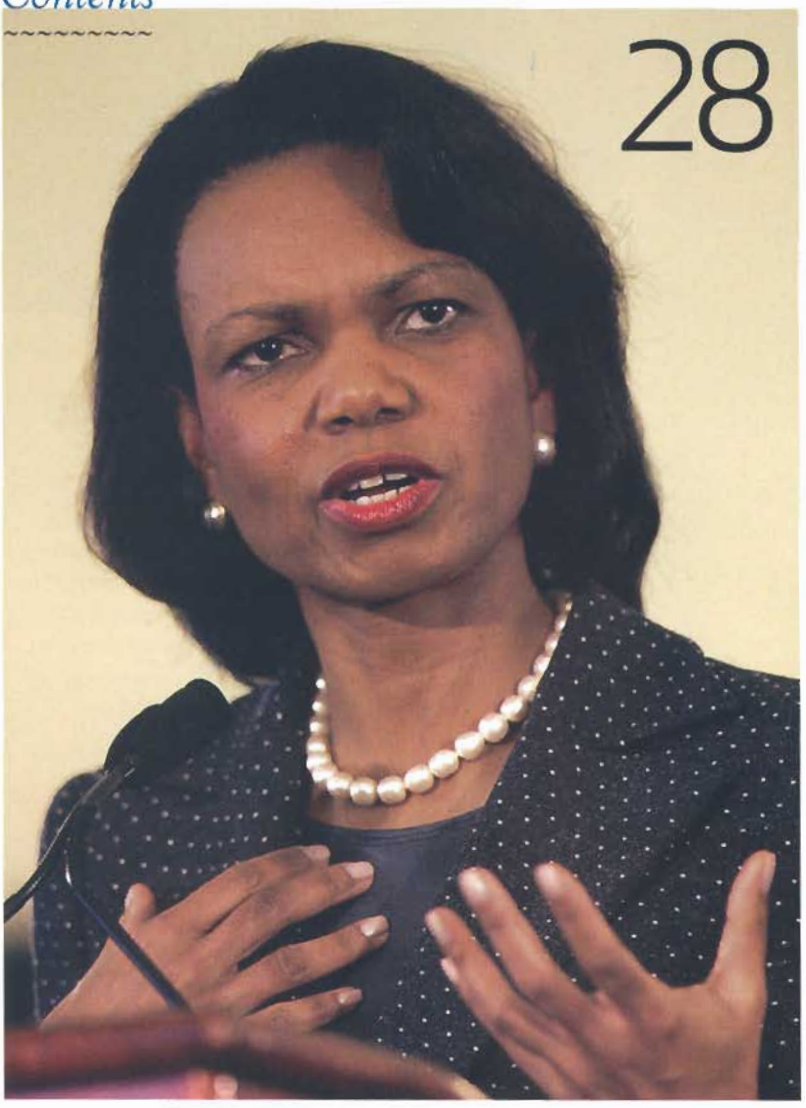

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Dear Colleagues ... We wish to thank the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) for the opportunity to serve as Editors of the *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* (*JAWRA*) for the past four years. During our tenure, and with significant help from many others, several important changes were accomplished, including:

- Implementing a fully electronic review process;
- Increasing the number of Associate Editors, covering new topical areas (ecohydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and riparian ecology);
- Increasing the overall involvement of all Associate Editors;
- Increasing significantly the total number citations per year;
- Establishing Annual Editors' Luncheon;
- Establishing first ever integrated publication and business plan;
- Establishing the Outstanding Reviewer Award; and
- Developing and implementing a new web-based reviewer characterization and selection program to assist Associate Editors.

All our efforts have been designed to improve the publishing experience for authors while increasing the overall quality of *JAWRA*. Particularly we wish to thank our associate editors for their positive and supportive efforts regarding all matters of document handling and review. The substantial growth in publications has put a tremendous strain on professionals to perform invaluable reviews of submitted manuscripts. We wish to thank all JAWRA reviewers for their efforts and tolerance concerning our efforts to streamline the review process. As always, the overall quality of JAWRA is mostly dependent upon authors submitting thoughtful and rigorous scholarship, while being open to peer review that may prove challenging yet ultimately benefiting the final published work.

Finally, we are pleased to be turning over *JAWRA* to the capable and enthusiastic hands of its new Editor, Mr. Ken Lanfear. The continued success of *JAWRA* requires a true team effort involving AWRA leadership, Associate Editors, reviewers, and authors. I hope that Ken will be blessed with the same level of supportive efforts as we have been honored to experience.

Sincerely,

Laura Helsel, Managing Editor

John J. Warwick, Editor

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Soils Research

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