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Andrew Schenkel

Political pundit on the latest from Washington, D.C.



Politicians jump in rivers in hopes of cleaning them

Sometimes the best way to clean things up is by jumping in and getting dirty.

Fri, Jul 01 2011 at 2:10 PM EST

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GETTING DIRTY: On the 28th anniversary of a deadline to clean up our nation's rivers, a few folks decided to jump in the Anacostia River to show how far we have to go. (Photo: wdj(0)/Flickr)

A few politicians teamed up with environmental advocates this week in Washington, D.C., to bring attention to the deplorable condition of the Anacostia River.

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Environmental activists and scientists joined former U.S. Sen. Joe Tydings and Maryland state Sen. Paul Pinsky (D-Prince Georges County) in jumping into the Anacostia in Bladensburg, Md., to mark an unsuccessful anniversary. According to [dcist.com](#), taking the plunge was a way to "raise awareness about the failures to meet the July 1, 1983, deadline set by the Clean Water Act for waterways to be made swimmable and fishable."

It doesn't take an expert to figure out that the deadline has come and gone, gone, gone. Twenty-eight years later, America's rivers are not in great shape, and the Anacostia is no exception.

"Clearly, measures undertaken to restore the Anacostia to a swimmable level have failed miserably," said Pinsky.

Measures to draw attention to the plight of rivers in North America have been growing

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ABOUT ANDREW SCHENKEL

Political pundit on the latest from Washington, D.C.

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in recent years. On July 25, 2003, Mimi Hughes achieved her goal of [swimming the entire length of the Tennessee River](#) to raise public awareness about the river's polluted condition. For those keeping track, that's a total of 652 miles of swimming.

North of the border, Canadian politician and environmental activist Fin Donnelly has made a name for himself by [swimming the 1,400 kilometers of the Fraser River](#), British Columbia's longest river, to raise awareness of water pollution up North.

So there's the moral of the story: if you can't clean it, swim it. It may lead some people to learn more about the condition of their rivers. At the very least it may get their name in a blog post.

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j7t14r 07/03/2011 09:24 AM

The reason why it's so difficult to keep our rivers clean is the human population keeps growing and producing more waste and garbage, which somehow find their way into the water, legally or not. We need to peacefully reduce our human population and safely recycle 100% of all our trash, sludge and junk. That would also put most of the unemployed people back to work.

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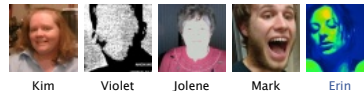
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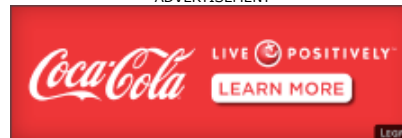
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