CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, May 6, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Have you visited your local garbage dump lately? It's called a sanitary landfill but the idea is the same --- they take all the waste that we create in our homes and at work and play and they put it in a hole in the ground. Then they cover it with dirt. The idea is only a modest improvement over what we wasteful humans have been doing for centuries, which is throwing what we don't want into holes in the ground or, in some cases, dumping it in rivers and even the oceans.

Well, there's a better way and that's what we're going to be talking about today. In fact, the idea is so simple, you might wonder why it hasn't been done before now. Frank Roethel is a marine scientist whose main interests are in the ocean and the fish and plants that live in the oceans. Working in a laboratory at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he is a research associate, Dr. Roethel is turning trash into bricks that will be used to build walls. That's only a slight oversimplification, I hope, Dr. Roethel.

INTERVIEW DR. ROETHEL:

- - -- Outline the resource recovery project
 - -- Review reasons for needing such a plan:
 - -- Long Island trash figures
 - -- Present system
 - -- Coal ash experiment
 - -- His proposal
 - -- Marine life benefits
 - -- Comparative costs

14:00

We'll take a short break and return in a moment to talk more with Frank Roethel about his proposal for solving our garbage problems while, at the same time, improving marine life.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Frank Roethel. Dr. Roethel is a research associate at Stony Brook's Marine Sciences Research Center, and we're talking about his research in making bricks from incinerator ash. Let's talk about the chemistry of bricks, Dr. Roethel. It's not the same as baking clay, is it.

INTERVIEW DR. ROETHEL:

- -- Shape, size, weight, substance of ash bricks
- -- Potential uses other than for reefs
- -- What kinds of garbage can be used?
- -- Marine life impact: fish, plants
- -- Potential for improving fishing grounds'
- -- Timetable on his grant work

29:00

OUTRO