

Scars of Kent State

Nine years ago on May 4, shots rang out at Kent State University for 13 seconds. The result was four students dead, nine wounded, and the spirit of millions of Americans shaken.

The acts of violence perpetrated on Native Americans, Blacks and other groups was realized by middle class white America on May 4, 1970.

Three years ago, a group known as the May 4th Coalition was formed to stop the construction of a gymnasium which covers the area where the students were shot.

After six months of nonviolent protest, the First Amendment was lifted and the campus was swarmed with armed police. Nothing was learned and the act of violence could have happened again.

Today the gymnasium covers the scene so you cannot see the injustice that occurred there. The governor who sent the guard in and incited them to violence is still in office, and the history of what happened has been sufficiently covered up, so well that few people remember May 5 and Congress talks about reinstating the draft.

We cannot afford to live up to the idea that "People Forget". The truth about Kent State, Jackson State, Wounded Knee and other acts of murder cannot be forgotten if there is to be any hope for constructive change in this city, state, country and planet.

So to Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandy Schuerer, and Bill Schroeder, peace be with your spirit. To people everywhere, remember Kent State. It is a lesson and a demonstration of the forces at play in any struggle for humanity against greed.

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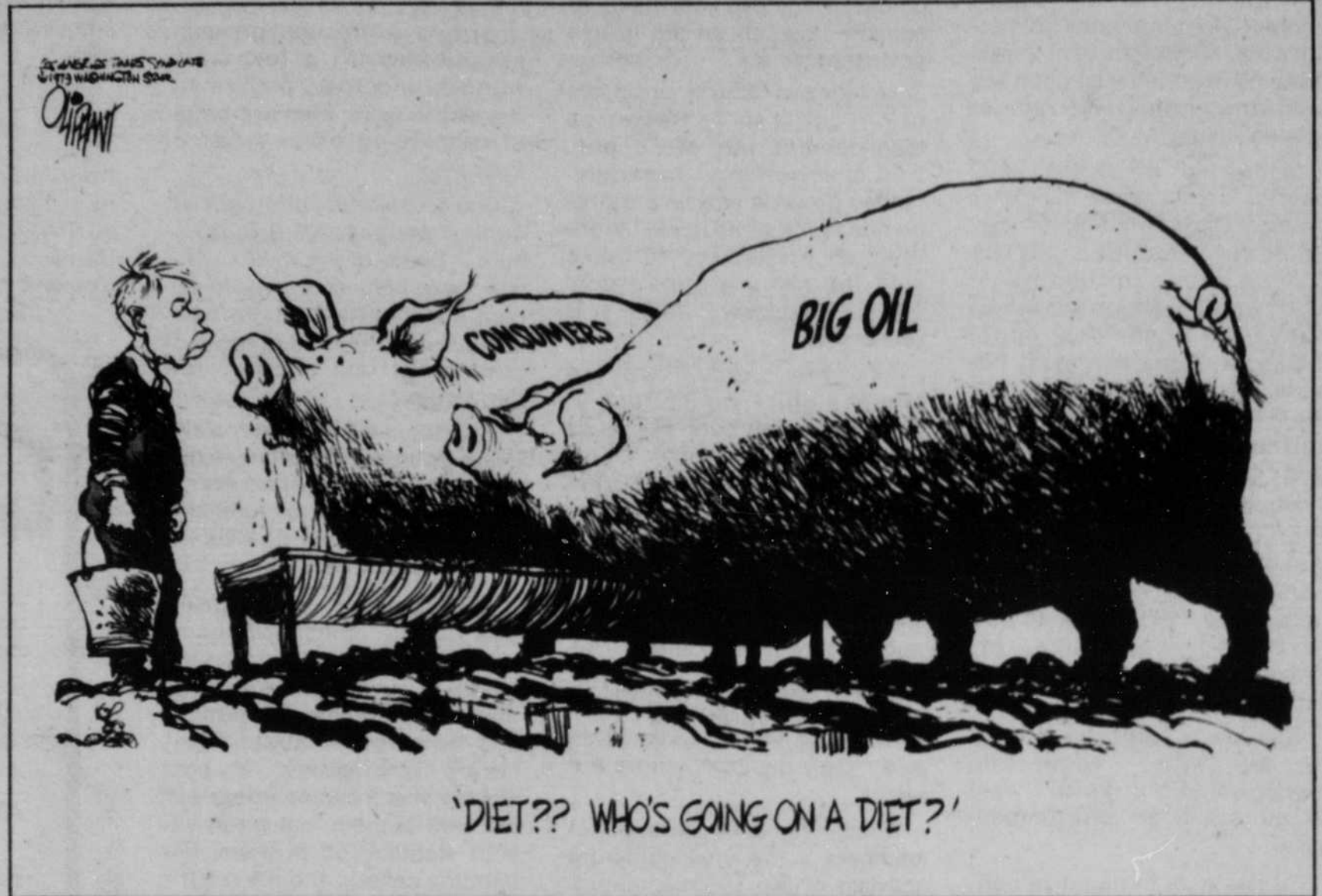
Model-UN not 'idiots'

The article in the April 30 issue of the Emerald (Confrontation) was clearly the work of one-sided journalism. The writer made the Model-UN group resemble a bunch of idiots compared to the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. Some facts should be pointed out on the RCYB-vs-Model-UN debate that were altered in the article.

First of all, more than 100 students and many spectators gathered around the RCYB table. Some people debated the RCYB on ideology but the Emerald made it sound like a fight between childish students and the "grand" RCYB.

The pledge of allegiance was started, not to drown out RCYB views, but to show patriotism after the RCYB had reverted to using profanity to degrade America and had started swearing at students. Most students did not interrupt the RCYB but I can't say the same for their politeness toward students.

I would also like to point out that I was misquoted in the article. I was asked about how I had learned



about Communist oppression. I stated that I had had many classes that dealt with historical oppression and had studied many books on the topic and also the topic of communism. The article didn't fairly use the quote so it gave the wrong impression to the reader.

Nobody who read the article, who had been at the debate, could believe the misrepresentation of what really happened. The Emerald should report on events using facts and not favor a specific side by misrepresenting the other.

Also most of the UN students, including myself, believe in the right of groups like the RCYB to present themselves peacefully. But by no means do we agree with RCYB philosophy which promotes violence and communist takeover.

Michael Cross
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Anti-nuke 'hysteria'

The hysteria following the Three Mile Island accident continues unabated. With its recent recommendation to close a number of nuclear plants built by Babcock & Wilcox, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided to join the hysterical.

It is both unnecessary and undesirable to close existing reactors merely because they were built and designed by the builder and designer of the Three Mile Island plant. Just as there are always problems with

new technologies, there are also critics of new technologies who wait for setbacks so that they can point the finger and say "Look, I told you so!" The answer is not to spontaneously react, as the critics and the NRC have done, but rather to stand back and subject the question to honest scrutiny, which they have not. We need constructive criticism, rather than merely criticism of construction.

With the geometric depletion of fossil fuels, alternate energy sources need to be exploited in order of availability. Nuclear energy has the potential (as yet not fully realized) to provide abundant energy until a less (potentially) dangerous substitute can be found. A return to oil- and coal-fired generation would be a step back to a very limited future, and would serve only to increase the already obscene profits of the major oil companies (which also own much of the coal).

What must be done now? Well, research and development refines systems when flaws are found within them. The recent accident should serve as a warning that nuclear power is only an infant technology, badly in need of further refinement. The President's proposed "windfall profits" tax revenues would be well employed in research to discover a safe system of nuclear power generation, thereby allowing the Exxon's of the country to do their bit to build "a strong America."

Let us criticize, by all means, but let us use our criticisms to build rather than to destroy.

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tom thompson

Colombian group pushes for pot legalization

Export earnings account for 75 to 80 percent of less-developed countries' foreign exchange resources, clearly dwarfing foreign aid and private investment as alternative sources of foreign exchange.

Traditionally Colombia has relied on coffee sales as a foreign exchange resource. Yet marijuana cultivation is more than two and a half times more profitable than growing coffee, according to the latest Colombian government estimates.

Even though the growers only receive about 8 percent of the income from sales of the drug, they are still much better off than most other rural producers, and wages paid to laborers on marijuana farms are more than twice the national average.

The influential private sector organization ANIF (Asociacion

Nacional de Instituciones Financieras) created an uproar recently by organizing a symposium on the legalization of marijuana.

The ANIF study came up with data which give a fuller picture of the extent of marijuana cultivation in Colombia, and its economic importance, than any produced hitherto. Some 150,000 people are directly dependent on Marijuana production for their livelihood in Colombia, including some 10,000 growers. Thanks to their partners from the U.S., many producers have applied advanced technology to their operations, while the small growers have begun to organize themselves into unions to press for a better deal from buyers. Total production amounts to about 15,000 tons a year.

According to ANIF, one direct result of the government's efforts to stamp out

the trade has been to accelerate the process of land concentration in the hands of the big producers who have access to credit (including the commercial banks) and can afford to hire qualified agronomists and technicians. Vertical integration has begun to appear, with the large-scale growers and traders controlling their own landing strips harbours and parking operations, and making their own contacts in the U.S.

The conclusion drawn by ANIF is that legalization of marijuana growing and trading in Colombia would make sound economic sense. In particular it would give a boost to foreign exchange earnings at a time when coffee exports are expected to drop severely. ANIF argues that the Colombian government could have collected as much as a billion pesos in direct and indirect taxes on legalized marijuana production. ANIF

also estimates that bribes paid in Colombia to judges, policemen, officials and so on by marijuana producers amount to some 4 billion pesos each year (41.9 pesos equals one dollar).

U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Diego Ascencio, replies to these arguments by pointing to Colombia's international obligations under a series of agreements on the suppression of the drug trade. He also doubts the feasibility of unilateral legalization of marijuana trafficking without simultaneous measures being taken in the consumer markets.

All of these developments are especially alarming at a time when growing scientific evidence suggests heretofore unknown health hazards associated with the use of marijuana and when U.S. Federal investigators have proven organized crime's involvement in marijuana smuggling into the U.S.

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