

Corporate energy

This is in response to a letter from Randy Hobbet (Emerald, 11-28) which concerned several "distorted statements" included in a leaflet distributed by participants in a Nov. 12th rally held in opposition to the oil monopoly. Figures for domestic energy reserves were quoted on the leaflet as referring to world reserves. This error (not "distortion") was entirely my own fault and I apologize for it. It should reflect in no way on the organizations participating in the rally. Despite this error (and another arguable detail raised in the letter, namely what is and what is not aerospace company), the basic point of the leaflet remains as true as ever: the big energy corporations serve their own interests and by doing so have brought us to the situation we face today. Relying on their ability to pull us out of this crisis by continuing to serve their corporate interests will be disastrous, in terms of our (human) interests. And sitting by while these corporations gain (or are given) control of all our energy options is paramount to giving them a mandate to set future energy policy.

As far as Shell's oil predictions concerning solar energy's future significance to this country's energy needs, one can only ask: Why do the oil companies promote figures which leave out the possible contribution of such renewable resources as hydro-electric, wind, ocean thermal and biomass conversion? Are they trying to downplay these resources?

The rest of Mr. Hobbet's letter is an attempt to put the oil companies' recent large profits gains "in perspective." Using figures from Time magazine, Mr. Hobbet shows that, in 1978, the oil industry's profit margins, as well as their returns on invested capital, were comparable to the average for all U.S. industry. Granted, the figures are not yet in for 1979, but how many other U.S. industries managed to double, or even triple, their profits between third quarter 1978 and third quarter 1979, as several other oil companies did? In the light of the recent price de-control which led to this windfall, 1978 figures are no perspective at all, save a historical one.

Mr. Hobbet goes on to compare the oil firms' combined after-tax profits for 1978, \$9.4 billion, with the U.S. Department of Energy's budget, \$10.6 billion, and urges the reader to "compare their relative contributions to the actual supply of energy." While in no way trying to portray the DOE as an efficient investor of public money (88.7 percent of its solar energy research and development grants went to large corporations), it must be pointed out that:

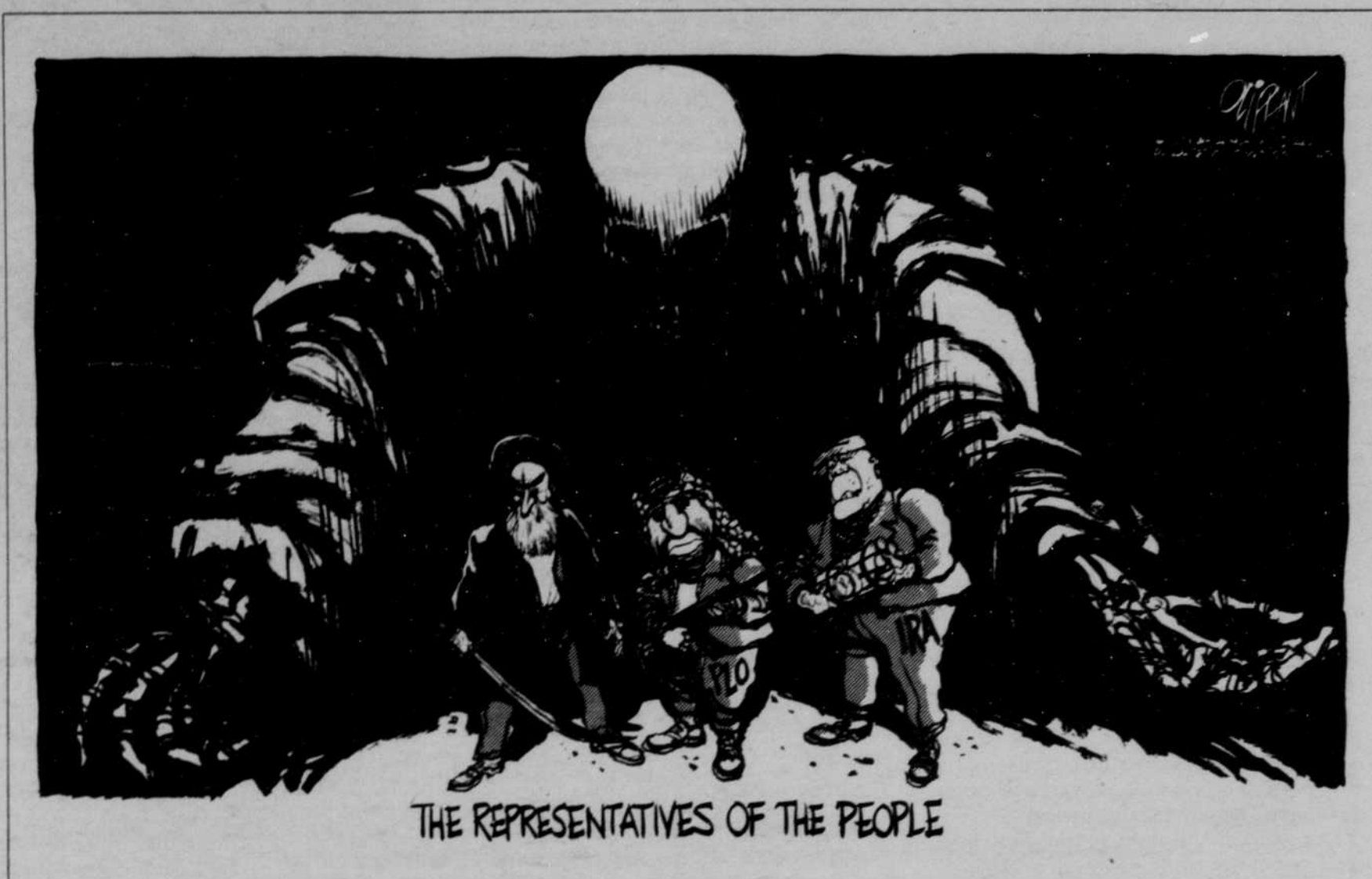
1.) The DOE is not actually in the business of producing energy. 2.) Comparing big oil's profits to the DOE's budget makes no sense. To achieve a combined after tax profit of \$9.4 billion, the oil industry must have invested in the neighborhood of \$300 billion. Compare this figure to the DOE's \$10.6 billion, if you must compare.

I do not believe that these concerns represent a "narrow denunciation" of big oil, as Mr. Hobbet contends. While the leaflet was constrained by space limitations to focus on big oil and the alternatives, I am prepared to denounce the oil companies and other large energy corporations on an amazingly broad range of issues!

Bill Clingman
senior, geology

Settle and pay up

I find it amusing that we are still battling over the issue of David Jennings' paycheck five months or so after the legislative session ended. Your front-page article of Nov. 29 is just one more



example of how our fearless leader Scott Bassett manages to muddy up what is a clearly open-and-shut case. Surely any reasonable person would have settled the situation by now and paid Mr. Jennings the money he deserves.

I worked with Mr. Jennings and Scott Bassett when I was an intern with the Oregon Student Lobby and consistently found Mr. Jennings to be the most effective and reliable of the two. Bassett showed his true colors when he worked for Rep. Al Riebel (R-Salem), a legislator who was not only a pro-nuker but also introduced and pushed through the House HB 2804, a bill which would have cut off all unemployment benefits to the students. Bassett supported this bill. Mr. Jennings was working for the ASUO on items such as student childcare, course evaluations and other bills which were in the best interests of the students. During the time I spent working in the Oregon Student Lobby, I found Mr. Jennings to be a very effective, skilled and hard-working professional. It's a shame someone of his caliber should have to go through something like this.

Joyce M. Reynolds
senior, political science

Disputed sources

Professor Szymanski is right on one point: that "what is at stake in the debate" between his position and ours is "more fundamental than the number of political prisoners in the Soviet Union." But he misses the real issue. This is that he does, and we do not, conceive of the dictatorial governments of the "right" and of the "left" as though they were balanced on some sort of moral see-saw, so that judging one "side" negatively automatically means defending the other. This view is absurd, futile, unnecessary and counterproductive. It simply misquote. Rather than waste anyone's time with further argument, we We oppose on moral grounds all oppression, no matter where it comes from; Professor Szymanski opposes only right-wing dictatorships and American supported regimes.

Professor Szymanski's method for "proving" his assertions is to take reliable sources and quote out of context, or simply misquote. Rather than waste anyone's time with further argument, we refer the reader to the works misused by him and provide a few more, for those interested on the subject. For conven-

ience, we provide the University library call number for these books.

The misused sources are: Amnesty International, "Report on Torture," pp. 184-191, (HV 8593 .a44 1975); and Sidney Block and Peter Reddaway, "Psychiatric Terror," 1977, (RC 451.R9 B56).

As to whether Amnesty International's estimate is "inflated" and whether the last named work can be used to legitimize Professor Szymanski's attempted calculations (which he goes so far as to mislabel "the Block-Reddaway estimate"), see the fine discussion on pp. 203-206 of another work by the same Peter Reddaway, "Uncensored Russia," 1972, (DK 274 .R35).

We further recommend: Anatoly Marchenko, "My Testimony," 1969, (HV 8959 .R9 A713); Zhores Medvedev and Roy Medvedev, "A Question of Madness," (DK 275 .M35 A3 1971); and Vladimir Bukovsky, "To Build a Castle," 1979, (DK 275 .B84 A37).

Not yet in our library (we give Library of Congress call numbers, which will be used here) are: Robert Conquest, "The Nation Killers," 1970, (DK 33 .C59) - in the meantime, see his "The Soviet Deportation of Nationalities," 1960, (DK 33.C6) - and Valnetyn Moroz, "Report From the Beria Reserve," 1974, (HV 8959 .R9 M6713).

Acquaintance with this literature will enable the reader to judge for him/herself whether there has been a "rising crescendo" - in contrast to a falling crescendo? - "of anti-Soviet hysteria" in the past two years, or whether Professor Szymanski is just unhappy to find that you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Stephen Reynolds
associate professor,
religious studies
Ronald Wixman
assistant professor,
geography

Errors avoidable

In a recent article on the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures there were a number of errors which might have been avoided had the editors not been in such a rush to publish. I can only assume the writer/interviewer was acting in good faith but did not have time to make the following corrections.

The department has been here for much more than six years - it is only in these years that it has been a separate entity. Prior to that it was part of the

Department of Classics, and of Chinese and Japanese. At last word, the Department of Classics was alive and well and still on campus.

The number of 10 graduate teaching assistants represents the six people who share the department's four teaching assistantships, two in Chinese and two in Japanese, and teaching assistants from the Asian Studies program who happen to be working in the department this year.

It is safe to assume that the most important function of the department is to teach the language and literature of China and Japan. When referring to this "function," I was talking about the Asian Studies program from the point of view of a faculty member. The program runs because of the voluntary contributions of time and energy from faculty who see it in their own interest as well as the student's interest to have such a program on campus.

There is an exchange program with Waseda University in Tokyo for students of Japanese. Every year a number of our students take part in it or go to Japan to study independently. There is no such program with a university in Taiwan, but students regularly find their way there.

My concern is for the loss and potential loss of teaching positions which contribute to the Asian Studies program, particularly in the social sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences has continually been required to cut its budget, and this makes things difficult for everyone.

It would seem less than an infringement on the prerogatives of the press if such articles of no great urgency were checked for accuracy before being printed. As it is, we each make a compulsive display of naivete.

Mike Fish
chairman, East Asian
languages and literatures

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters must be signed and the author's field of study or faculty status noted.