

White House kills conservation plan

President Bush and top White House officials have eliminated key conservation provisions in a proposed energy plan. That comes as no surprise.

The Energy Department wanted tougher conservation standards, including higher car mileage standards. But Chief of Staff John Sununu, budget Director Richard Darman and economic adviser Michael Boskin forced the Energy Department to rewrite its original energy plan.

Tough mileage standards, along with emission control regulations, have been debated for years. But every time Congress sets a deadline for these controls, car and oil companies scream bankruptcy or poverty.

If all else fails, the oil companies send covert messages to elected officials informing them that if the PAC money is to continue rolling in, they better see things differently.

In reality, car and oil companies have much more to do with establishing energy policy than any representative. Money talks in this great land, and with the investment this country has in oil and cars, big business only has to cry "recession!" and Congress sweats.

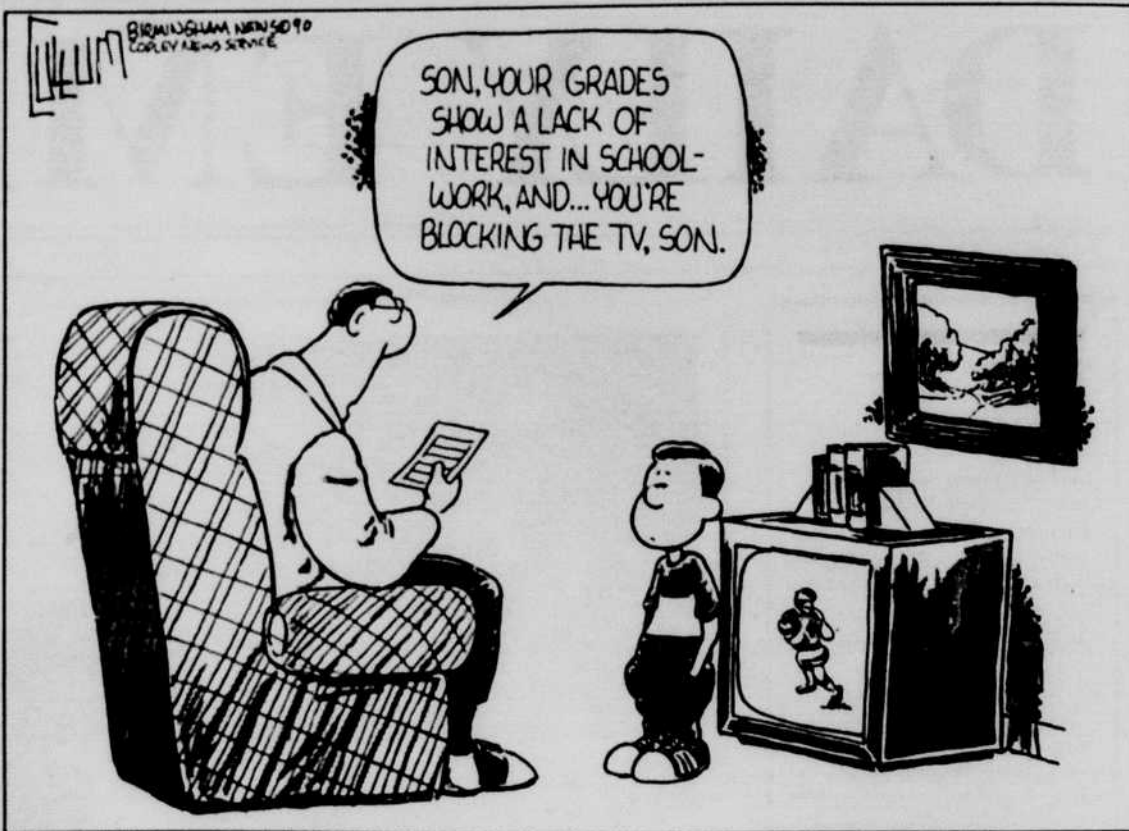
How can the president be persuaded to put money into alternative energy sources when he used to run an oil company? No wonder he is willing to let Americans die in the Persian Gulf. He has plenty of friends and donors in the oil business. He wants their money when he runs in 1992.

We found out in 1973 what it feels like to be held hostage as a nation because of our dependence on oil. Oil companies don't feel any real pressure because they just pass the higher costs on to addicted consumers.

Gas junkies are willing to do anything for their fix — even support a president who pledges in one breath to keep California's coast off-limits to new drilling while warning that it is inevitable.

The United States must base its energy plans for the future on alternative sources, such as the wind and the sun. Instead of bailing car companies out of probable bankruptcy, like Congress did for Chrysler in the early 1980s, the government needs to put our tax money into safe energy sources.

Bush wants to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. He should be working to reduce dependence on oil, period. But as long as our leader has personal ties to the oil business, we'll never get a pertinent alternative energy plan.



Channel One can be useful if used right

Television has slowly been making its way into the education system for some time, beginning years ago with the old 35mm projection movies that students used to sit through in grade school.

With the advent of video tape, televisions finally began appearing in classrooms. Recently, a further step has been taken in the electronic education field.

Channel One, a 10-minute-a-day educational program has made its way into Oregon classrooms. The satellite-transmitted program examines current events as reported by school-aged children.

While the introduction of a current events program in schools is good and, in some places, long overdue, the trend toward dependence on electronic media to teach children is frightening.

American children watch too much television as it is. Making TV the center of at-

tention in the classroom has the potential to be abused. Teaching kids to rely on one source for their news and information must also be guarded against.

It is not likely that televisions will be banished from classrooms anytime soon. If Channel One is going to be a part of education, it should be used as a tool by teachers rather than a substitute for them.

Channel One could open up class discussion about current events and help America's youth catch up with their counterparts in other countries in knowledge of geography and global politics. Channel One may be a great way to get them more interested in what's going on in the world.

However, having a teacher turn on the television and letting students stare at the tube for 10 minutes without discussion before or after the show would be a complete waste — of technology, of class time and of children's minds.

LETTERS

Music makers

I am writing in response to the letter titled "Parlez Quack" written by two former Oregon Marching Band members (ODE, Dec. 3).

The fact that the subject of the Stanford Band is still returning to the *Emerald* disturbs me. Aside from the publicity that the band is still getting for its controversial performance, I am offended by the continuous remarks insulting our own marching band.

The OMB has played little role in the criticism of the Stanford Band. The criticisms that were recorded were for the most part misquoted. I actually found their performance humorous.

I don't understand what the OMB has done to warrant the criticisms against it. Everytime the issue of the Stanford Band comes up, it is followed by remarks belittling our own band. We don't expect everyone to enjoy our halftime show, but many people do.

We work extremely hard to play our music well, practicing several hours a week on the

music alone. I am most offended by the statement implying that marching bands have nothing to do with music. Perhaps other marching bands do not, but the current OMB has everything to do with music.

The OMB hasn't done anything to offend anyone; all I ask is the same courtesy.

Matt Hoekstra
OMB member

Accountable

Regarding Russel Barnett's letter (ODE, Jan. 7):

I am neither anti-research nor anti-education. I am also not an active member of SETA. I do, however, have a deep respect for animal life.

We must not forget that we, too, are animals. No, I do not expect to have a constitution written for non-human animals, but I do expect us to allow them to lead dignified, undisturbed lives.

Every faculty member is accountable to the students and their animal subjects for their research. They should, and are expected by me, to take a brief

period of class time to defend the ways they, more often than not, exploit non-human animals and rack up quite an expensive bill doing so.

Hurley Huffman
Eugene

Loan reform

Supporters of education should be glad to hear that the Bush Administration is proposing to overhaul student loan programs, administered by banks, that have ripped off students legally for years.

Under this proposal, both students and the government save money. The savings can then provide more aid to the neediest college students.

Students deal exclusively with their college under the new plan. The middle men (banks) are out of the picture.

The banking industry is predictably outraged because they will lose special allowance profits. But it's time the banks stopped making money off the backs of students.

Certainly, there is more the administration must do for edu-

cation; yet this plan is a step in the right direction for education which will either make or break us in the years to come.

Michael Colson
Political Science

Confusion

In answer to Jane Stricker's response (ODE, Dec. 6) to my letter (ODE, Nov. 29), I would like to say, yes, Jane did raise questions and confusion about a number of things. On the history issue, suffice it to say that quoting history with a slant toward legitimizing particular political goals is a widespread practice, and Starhawk is no exception with her Earth-centered political agenda. The issue of truth remains an open question.

Considering that her appearance was a fund-raiser for a campus peace group, my thoughts turned to some basic questions: Why are we for peace and against war? Is it because war is a nuisance and a bother and interrupts our busy schedules? Because it is a

waste of money?

It seems that Starhawk and company oppose war because it's bad for the land, but I submit that most people who oppose war do so because they feel killing is wrong. Why? Is it not because we hold life sacred?

Starhawk glowingly described the sacred cyclical processes of birth, growth, death and regeneration in discussing "eco-feminist" ideology. She portrayed women as honoring these sacred life cycles, being an integral part of them, each individual having inherent value without having to earn it. This sounds good, if one were not aware that many, if not most, feminists place an even higher value on their power to interrupt the life cycle.

So much for the inherent value of individuals who happen to be at a different phase than we in their life cycles.

So what's all this got to do with peace anyway? Yes, Jane, it seems that confusion abounds.

Carla Moser
Eugene