

## Energy plan reveals Bush's true colors

The Bush administration's new energy plan has been released. In the midst of a war being fought in the Middle East (a major oil supplier), the proposal calls for measures to limit the United States' dependence on the region.

This is a step in the right direction, and the administration should be commended for realizing that we have become too dependent on another region's natural resources. When we have to send U.S. soldiers to face their deaths in a desert to ensure an oil supply, maybe it is time to find another way to keep the country moving.

But the Bush plan is not doing that. Instead of moving away from the use of oil, Bush is calling for more oil production here in the states. Most notably, the "environmental" president wants to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Four sections of the energy proposal calling for conservation were crossed out by hand before it was circulated to cabinet officials. The administration has said legislation to promote conservation does not fall in line with its "free market" philosophy. This is why the administration rejected proposals from the Department of Energy that would have required greater auto mileage efficiency, increased taxes to discourage consumption and required employers to charge their workers for parking.



President George Bush

Rather than instituting federal laws requiring energy conservation, Bush seeks to increase energy production through measures, such as the deregulation of interstate oil, gas pipelines and imported natural gas.

The free market philosophy of deregulating industry has had severe repercussions in other areas and we need to be wary of trying it again. When Ronald Reagan deregulated airlines, quality and safety suffered as air travel became little more than "flying cattle cars." When the Savings and Loan industry was deregulated, it led to abuses that will cost tax payers \$500 billion. The lesson is simple: Deregulation does not work and big business cannot be trusted to look out for the best interests of the country.

But in this case, big business and big profits have won out over common sense. By ignoring his own energy department's calls for conservation, Bush has proved that he would rather send young men and women (America's true renewable resource) to fight on foreign soil than take profits from the oil companies and find a solution to the country's oil addiction.



## LETTERS

### No class ad

We would like to take this opportunity to correct an unfortunate mistake which occurred in a classified ad run by Tau Delta Fraternity (ODE, Feb. 4).

The ad was written in a satirical fashion to poke fun at fraternity rush advertisements which have appeared in the *Emerald* for the last couple of weeks.

However, the examples chosen in jest by certain members of our organization are insensitive to some members of our community. It was not the intention to offend anyone and we sincerely apologize for this oversight.

The ability to guide young men to a higher state of maturity is one of the ideals toward which our fraternity strives. We hope that people will not dwell upon the carelessness behind this mistake but rather the thought behind our apology.

Isaac Johnson  
David Kyes  
Students

### Sad editorial

This letter is in response to an editorial (ODE, Feb. 5.) The editorial called it a "sad day" when the use of nuclear weapons is even discussed. I disagree.

The statements made by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Vice President Dan Quayle concerning the use of nuclear weapons were made in direct response to press questions dealing with that issue.

Both Cheney and Quayle responded to the question in accordance with all other responses made concerning military strategies; "nothing is necessarily ruled in, and nothing is necessarily ruled out."

The editorial editor of the *Emerald* should have enough "press sense" to realize that their comments were made in response to press questions, and read into it no farther than that.

The editor showed a great knowledge of history, yet a

complete incompetence in its interpretation. He stated that no nuclear weapons have been exploded in anger "since the end of World War II." I wonder if nuclear weapons had anything to do with the end of World War II?

A sad day in my mind is the day Saddam Hussein uses chemical weapons on anyone. History teaches us that his talk of chemical weapons is not just rhetoric. Hopefully history has taught Hussein something, too; that the day he uses chemical weapons on our troops, may indeed be a very sad day for him, too.

Ted Ferguson  
Political Science

### For the team

There have been some questions raised concerning the new seats of the Oregon Basketball Band. I hope this letter will answer them.

The band relocated to the North side of the West Court at the request of the Athletic Department. The band's move allows the Oregon coaches and the teams to communicate easier and aims the music directly toward the opposing team.

Even though it is regrettable that the move has inconvenienced some people, the basketball teams are the main concern of the band. After all, the main reason for the band's existence is to support the basketball teams.

It is hoped that the University community will join the band in supporting the Ducks.

Mesheal Rice  
Chairwoman, Public Relations  
Committee  
Oregon Marching Band

### Censorship

I was strongly impressed by Warren Olandrias' intellectual capacities (ODE, Feb. 4) of quoting the official Pentagon statistics on the battle for Khafji.

With an admirable accuracy Olandrias enlists the number of destroyed (Iraqi) tanks, the number of (Iraqi) war prisoners and the number of destroyed (Iraqi) vehicles. I appreciate this information.

Olandrias' conclusion seems to be that this war is going really well and that the nasty opponents of the war should finally support it as 86 percent of the Americans already do (according to *Newsweek*).

Apart from the strange assumption which underlies Olandrias' argumentation (what the majority thinks is right), he completely ignores the censorship of war reports. The Pentagon introduced an information pool which controls the presentation of the war to the public.

Even the *New York Times*, certainly not the most critical newspaper, complains that "no pool reporters were permitted to witness the fighting of Khafji... so they had to quote staff officers far from the scene, who glorified Saudi and Qatari troops for political purposes and understated the fierceness of Iraqi resistance" (*New York Times*, Feb. 4).

Olandrias' statements show the terrifying (but avoidable) victory of censorship.

Doris Schneyink  
Eugene

## Oregon DAILY EMERALD

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## LETTERS POLICY

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