

New energy strategy barely gets support

Last Wednesday, the House passed 381-37 the first energy strategy bill in more than a decade. The mammoth 1,500-page piece of legislation is supposed to guide America's energy use into the next century.

It's about time. Some of the bill's provisions are quite extraordinary, if not common sense — requiring the federal government to cut back on energy use, a moratorium on most offshore drilling and new efficiency standards in the private sector, to name just the highlights.

However, the bill is hardly perfect. From this corner, it gets lukewarm approval; a polite, back-of-the-hand, symphony clap.

In February, the Senate passed a similar measure. The two bills now go to a conference committee, and eventually, the president's probable signature. It is hoped the joint committee will strike some of the particularly noxious parts of the existing bill and add some of the more environmentally sound ideas left out.

For starters, the House and Senate bills both would streamline start-up licensing for nuclear power plants. Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., had proposed an amendment that would make it easier for critics to stop construction of the plant if safety concerns were raised, but the House deleted the proposal.

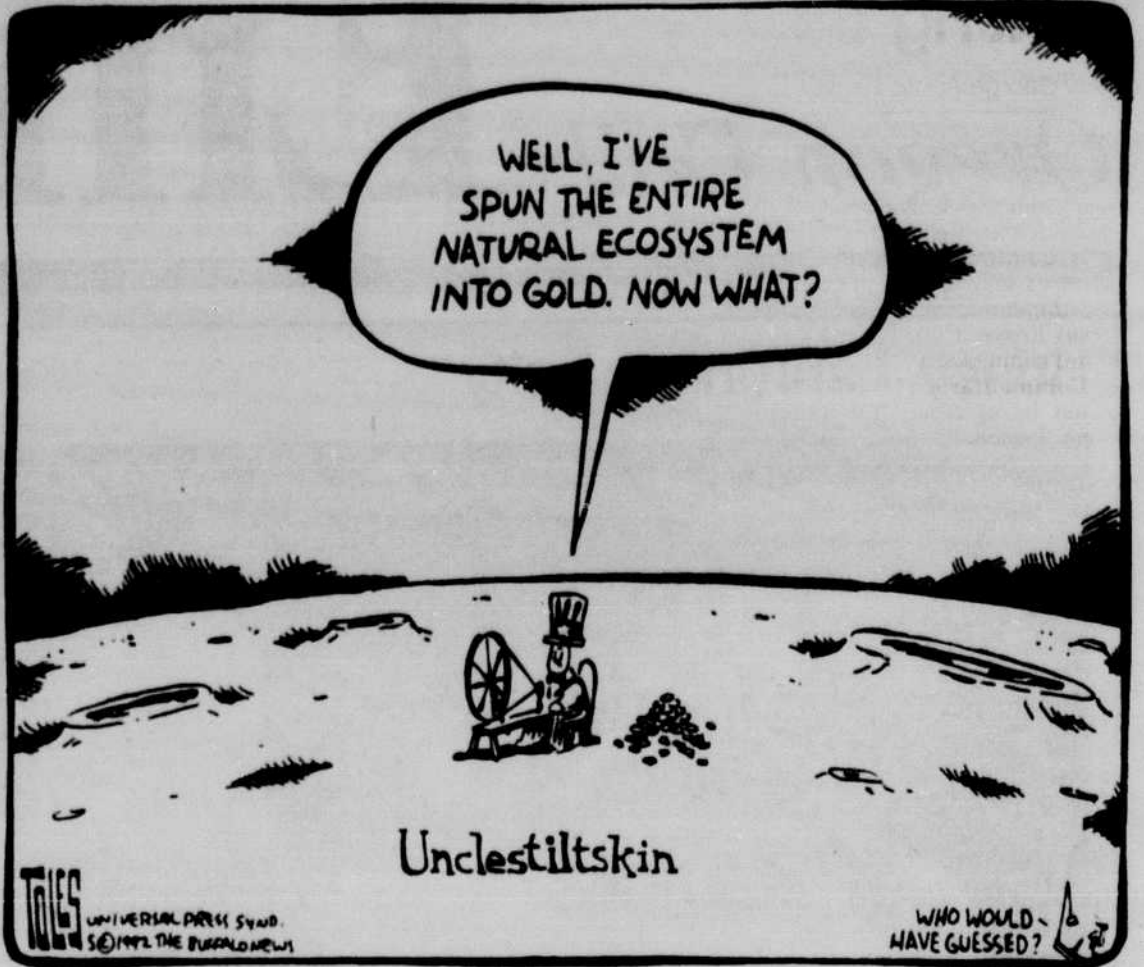
Trying to ram through a nuclear power plant license without sufficient debate from the people who would have to live near it seems short-sighted and dangerous. The pros and cons of nuclear energy can be debated in another forum, but even supporters of the plants should agree that stifling debate about safety concerns is just plain dumb.

The only part of the House bill Bush and Co. has threatened to veto is the extension of the limited moratorium on offshore drilling of the Outer Continental Shelf. The Senate version has no such provision, and Energy Secretary James Watkins has already stated he and the rest of the Cabinet gang would push to get the proposal dropped in the joint conference.

One can be sure the Republican administration is getting heavy pressure from profit-maniac oil conglomerates anxious to turn the West Coast into a mass of oil derricks and pipelines. Aesthetic considerations aside, if an oil platform were to go glub off the Oregon coast, it would destroy the state's fishing and tourism industries. In comparison, the Alaskan oil slick would look like the spillover at the local gas station.

The energy plan debate is not over yet. The conference committee will provide a great forum to talk about the particulars. Nuclear power and offshore oil drilling are just too important to ignore and let Bush and Co. have its way.

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LETTERS

Eat this

Whoever wrote the May 22 editorial needs to eat his words. Talk about prejudice, bigotry, etc.! The writer accuses the Oregon Citizens Alliance of trying to impose its will on others, and demoting Springfield residents (gays and lesbians) to second-class citizens. Then it said people who voted for Measure 20-08 could be guilty of trying to "ostracize, stigmatize and condemn."

The homosexual community and their supporters seem to never tire of using buzzwords and seeking to engender sympathy. Straight people are always accused of being "fearful, ignorant and homophobic." Whoever wrote the editorial is more likely fearful and ignorant of the OCA members. As homosexuals continuously assert, "Why, we're your friends and neighbors ... lawyers and doctors, etc. ..."

Go in the free speech area during Gay Pride(?) Week if you want to see people trying to shove their ideas, religion and philosophy down other people's throats! If it's such a great thing to take pride in, leave it alone ... others will recognize it.

I haven't found anyone yet that can define the "rights" that people say they are losing. All of us have the same equal rights under the Constitution. Seeking minority status is a "special right."

After the measure passed, the homosexual community began making all kinds of threats as to what they would do. With all the hate crimes committed against individuals and businesses in the area, what a great idea! "We'll show 'em!"

I suggest that certain people clean their own backyards first.

Ron Williams
Eugene

tary. To be perfectly, frankly and utterly blunt, it made me really terribly ill.

It is flip, irreverent attitudes such as the one displayed in this piece that have reduced our fine example of a political system to the decaying, corruption-infested mess it is today. If this young man has nothing to say about this election other than what campaign serves the best food during ballot-counting time, he has no right to say he "really (does) love politics."

Perhaps if know-it-all types like Peters would get off their "ha-ha, aren't I clever" trips, and join the rest of us in trying to effect real, lasting and meaningful change in this sick, degenerate society of ours, we would eventually be left with nothing more important to discuss than food.

But until then, there are vitally important issues to deal with, and it would greatly behoove the *Emerald* to devote more space to doing just that, and less space to the self-serving drivel of self-righteous, self-serving, in-your-face clowns like Peters.

Teresa Knezek
Graphics Editor, Oregon Commentator

en, men, children, elders ... everybody!) with the small handful of dedicated and overworked students and faculty we have actively involved in working to create a rape-free environment on this campus of over 16,000 people.

Because we have so few people involved in a relatively large community, we need to put our energy in one direction so we can be as effective as possible. We recognize the most prevalent issue is the woman survivor/male assailant scenario; therefore, we focus our attention there. Until we get more members, that's the way it will be. (Take this as an open invitation to get involved.)

My advice is instead of worrying about what we involved people don't get done, worry about what you're preventing from getting done by not being involved.

Rape is everybody's issue, so all aspects will not get fully recognized and dealt with until everybody gets involved. Until that time, don't look to the people doing something already to start your "People Against Fear" organization. Chances are, these people are already doing everything they can.

Sean Foxley
Co-director
Men Against Rape

Just do it

In response to Debra Frye's letter (*ODE*, May 26), I would like to say that all of the people involved with CARE and the many other organizations on campus fully understand that a man can be raped, and that his assailant can be a woman as well.

While we recognize this and do what we can to not overlook it, it's hard to focus on the many issues of rape (i.e. wom-

Speak back

Springfield voters have spoken in support of the OCA and its messages of hate. Now it is time to speak back. Today I am beginning a personal boycott of all Springfield businesses until measure 20-08 is rescinded. I urge others to do the same.

David R. Sokoloff
Physics

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

Double drivel

I'm writing in response to Don Peters' May 21 commen-

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