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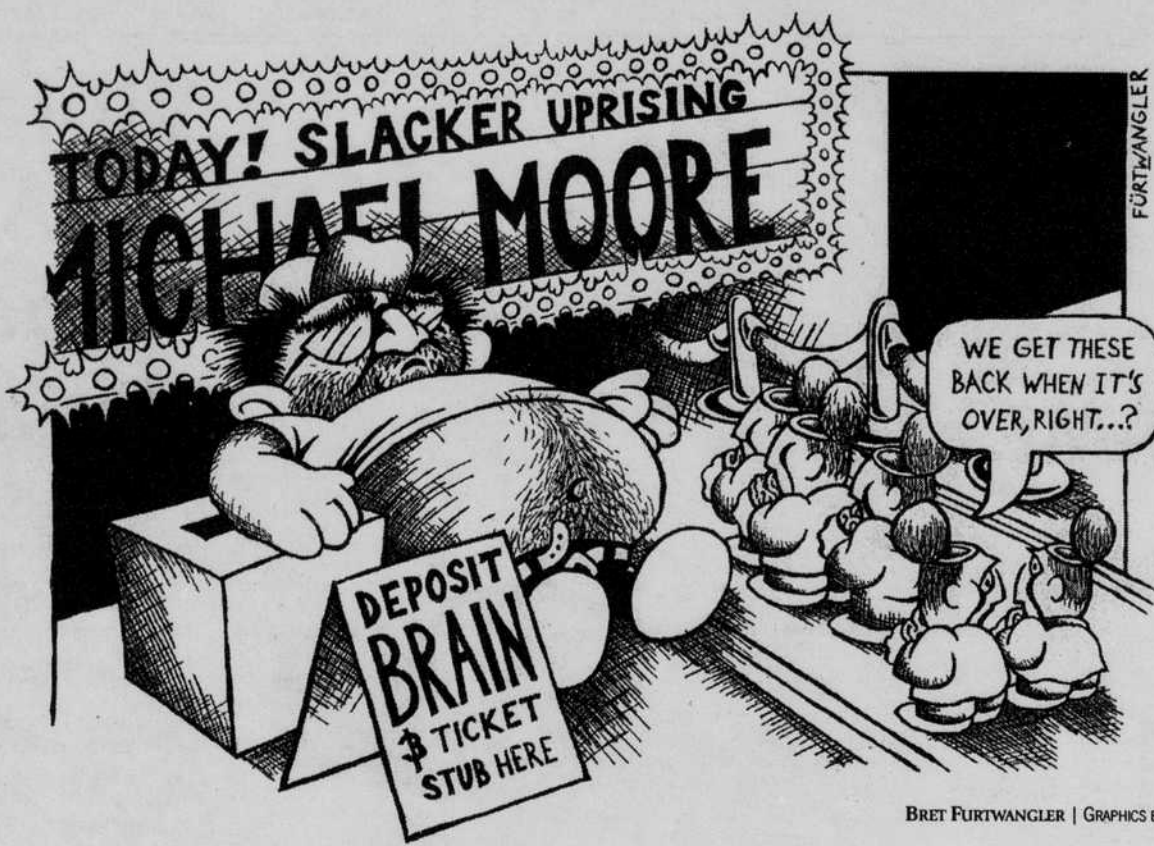
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BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHICS EDITOR

■ In my opinion

GAS-GUZZLERS to the Rescue

Top 10 Reasons to Buy a Hummer, Truck or SUV

10. With an array of exciting features, these all-terrain vehicles are sure to be an important amenity for every one of those dangerous, off-road excursions you'll be taking in the suburbs. Wide tread wheels! Underbody protection! Stop the car! That lawn over there has a spot that's not perfectly manicured! Let's go run down their house with this kick-ass four-wheel drive!

9. When you pull up next to a ride full of sweet honeys and rev your engine, no one will question the size of your "trombone." Band members, get yours now.

8. Rest assured, you're helping to pad the pockets of the Bush Administration through their ties with Halliburton. Every gallon of gas you purchase is another reason that this administration will never want to investigate the possibility of fuel cells, an extremely dangerous concept. Vehicles fueled on water that expel nothing but water? What will roadside birds oil themselves up with if we have only H₂O dripping from our tailpipes?

7. The parking game will become ten times more fun once your car can't squeeze into regular spaces. You won't be able to fit unless you're taking up one whole spot and just enough of a second to prevent anyone else from parking there. This should be especially fun in those spacious University parking lots; prepare for myriad friendly notes on the dash from helpful students letting you



AILEE SLATER
FURTHER FROM PERFECTION

know exactly where you can shove your vehicle the next time you encounter a parking problem.

6. I bet you think that you are only eligible for a tax break if you do some scummy Peace Corps work or donate your liver to an alcoholic Taiwanese ferret, right? Wrong! As it turns out, our government is currently in the habit of rewarding blatant disregard for the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraged to send complimentary champagne with every environmental violation notice. Congratulations! You've taken another 50 years off the life of the earth! Please enjoy this lovely brie basket as a token of our appreciation. Buy a car above 6,000 pounds today, claim it as a business expense and prepare for a \$25,000 tax break tomorrow.

5. In the competition to beat Europeans at being complete idiots, the U.S. is already pulling ahead with abstinence-only education and freedom fries. Don't let your country lose this lead! Only with improbably and unnecessarily large vehicles can we challenge environmentally friendly 'smart' cars. We need to come together as a nation and say "No!" to phantom parkers. Hey, that one's open!

Wait ... damn! Not another stupid Mini Cooper!

4. The more gas you buy, the more "black gold" the U.S. purchases from international oil mongers. Support dependence on foreign oil and force American politicians to work harder to find creative excuses for invading the Middle East. We're definitely not invading to get their oil. We're attacking because, uh, Cat Stevens! They're harboring Cat Stevens!

3. If not purchased from foreign sources, oil can also be drilled in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge. Although some claim that this may harm a pristine national park, everyone knows that the caribou in Alaska love it when we replace their habitats with oil wells; how do you think they stay warm in the wintertime? By snuggling up against oil-filled pipelines, that's how. Every SUV you purchase is another virtual fireplace for these and other such woodland creatures.

2. When you're not busy assembling fake crime scenes involving empty milk cartons, dull knives and ketchup, take a few minutes out of your busy day to deplete the ozone layer by driving around a gas-guzzling monster car. After all, how will we ever be able to reach the pearly gates of heaven if we don't first destroy that dense, protective layer of O₃ molecules?

1. We all know that there are some times when you just need to fit your second car completely inside your first one.

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ONLINE POLL

Is the United States appropriately addressing the war on terrorism?
Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

- Yes — The Department of Homeland Security and the USA Patriot Act have made Americans safer.
- Yes — Imprisoning Saddam Hussein was worth invading Iraq, even if there were no weapons of mass destruction.
- No — Invading Iraq has drawn the focus away from more important goals in the war on terrorism.
- No — The United States has done more harm than good and has indirectly helped foster more terrorist activities.
- Undecided.

■ Editorial

Top 10 Presidential Debates Distortions

10. The middle 95 percent, I mean. In the final debate Bush said that "Most of the tax cuts went to low- and middle-income Americans." In truth 53 percent of the tax cuts went to the most affluent 10 percent. The bottom 60 percent got 13.7 percent of the tax cut.

9. Going straight to Pell. John Kerry accused the Bush administration of cutting Pell Grants. In truth, Pell Grants increased by 1.3 million under Bush, and spending for Pell Grants increased by nearly 60 percent. The maximum grant has also risen from \$3,300 to \$4,050.

8. Who's your Osama? Kerry claimed that Bush said, "I don't really think about (bin Laden) very much. I'm not that concerned." Bush denied making that statement. Truth is, Bush did make that statement during a March 13, 2002, press conference.

7. Too good to be true. Bush claimed that Kerry said he would have troops out of Iraq in six months. Kerry supporters wish he had said such a thing, but alas, Kerry isn't Dean.

6. When all else fails, just make stuff up. Kerry said the New York subway had to be closed during the Republican Convention, which was news to the New York Transit Authority.

5. Saddam still hasn't disarmed. Bush said he abandoned the UN inspections process because "Saddam Hussein had no intention of disarming." How dare Saddam not disarm the weapons he didn't have.

4. When all else fails, take credit for what you didn't do. Bush claimed that he increased spending for countering nuclear proliferation "by 35 percent." Well, he actually proposed a 13-percent cut; Congress is responsible for the increases. Bush did a similar thing with the Department of Homeland Security, which he didn't support for nine months before (excuse the expression) flip-flopping.

3. Kerry's questionable accounting. There is one thing the debates taught us about Kerry: He ain't good with numbers. He claimed the administration spent hundreds of millions on bunker-busting nuclear weapons. Actually, less than \$35 million has been spent but \$500 million was set aside for future spending, though it has not been approved by Congress. Kerry said Bush lost our \$5.6 trillion surplus. That number is based on a dubious 10-year projected surplus; the actual surplus in 2000 was \$236 billion.

2. Bush's soul-crushing optimism. All through the debates Bush has refused to say one negative word about the situation in Iraq, except to acknowledge over and over again that, "It is hard work." Being that optimistic requires hard work but it also requires a great deal of distortion.

Bush mentioned that, "We're spending reconstruction money," but Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage testified that only \$1.2 billion of the \$18 billion appropriated had been spent. And billions of dollars earmarked for the reconstruction are either unaccounted for or inadequately accounted for, according to a new U.N. audit.

Bush had a "read my lips" moment when he declared that elections in Iraq would occur in January, when even Rumsfeld has suggested that it would be imperfect at best. Speaking of imperfect elections, Bush said that "10 million registered to vote in Afghanistan." Right, except for the fact that there was widespread multiple registration of voters, according to Human Rights Watch.

1. Cheney screws up worse than Bush! As you heard here first (if you first missed it everywhere else) Cheney mistakenly endorsed www.factcheck.com during the vice presidential debate, a Web site that was transferring people to an anti-Bush Web site. Cheney meant to say www.factcheck.org, which, by the way, is our primary source for this article.

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