

for married couples, which says indirectly that now it will be worth it to stay together no matter what kind of abuse is going on in your homes. There is, oddly enough, also an initiative that wants to allow prosecution for violence against fetuses — this of course seems like an insidious way to the loss of a woman's right to choose.

I lived through the uneasiness in the '60s and '70s, and it's similar again to the one I feel today. I recognize the rebellion that later turned into apathy for so many is happening again.

Does the old adage *1 step forward, 2 steps back* always have to be true?

GLORIA E. MYERS

(She is an historian, married to fellow historian David Horowitz, and author of "A Municipal Mother: Portland's Lola Greene Baldwin, America's First Policewoman.")

The arrogance of George Bush saying conservation is not necessary.

I don't like Bush's spokesman when he comes out and says Americans are not going to have to give up their lifestyles — the American Way of Life. They can drive their SUVs, they can use all the electricity they want, build coal generating plants in Mexico where they have lax environmental laws — of course Vice President Cheney, an oilman like Bush, is all for getting that coal from his very own Wyoming.

CATHERINE ORR

(She is 'Connections' director for Astoria schools, creating after school and summer programs for children.)

I have quit reading newspapers and listening to mainstream radio and television news because the first few weeks after the election I read about or heard about keeping arsenic in the water and the Alaska oil drilling and the whole military issue — the billions more dollars for the Pentagon and Star Wars — and it makes me feel powerless. It is really very important that we don't feel powerless to make changes that we must make.

It is discouraging to realize that our newly elected President has chosen to increase military spending. I see such a critical need for child care — especially infants and toddlers. Right now 60% of families with young children work, yet in Clatsop County there aren't enough places for them to leave those young children. We need to rethink the way we support our child care. To offer infant toddler care takes more than parent fees. We need to have support from infrastructure.

NATALIE ORR

(She is Catherine Orr's daughter. She is 13, a star of 'Shanghaied in Astoria' and plans to be President of the USA as well as an international woman of mystery.)

I think that George Bush is full of crap. He is greedy and doesn't know how to be President. He is not an environmentalist at all. He wants to pollute the earth even more than it is. When we run out of oil, what are we going to do with all of the cars? We live on the coast — when the ocean runs up on the beach because of global warming, we're all going to die.

If we are going to have cars we should have tiny little ones instead of SUVs. I mean, let's just kill the earth!

Bush is going to take away all of our benefits, which we never had much of anyway.

BRIDGET KITSON

(She and Natalie Orr are lifelong friends. She is a 2001 graduate of 8th grade, a singer and inspired mimic.)

I can't even believe George Bush is President!

They're making better voting machines now so he won't win the next election.

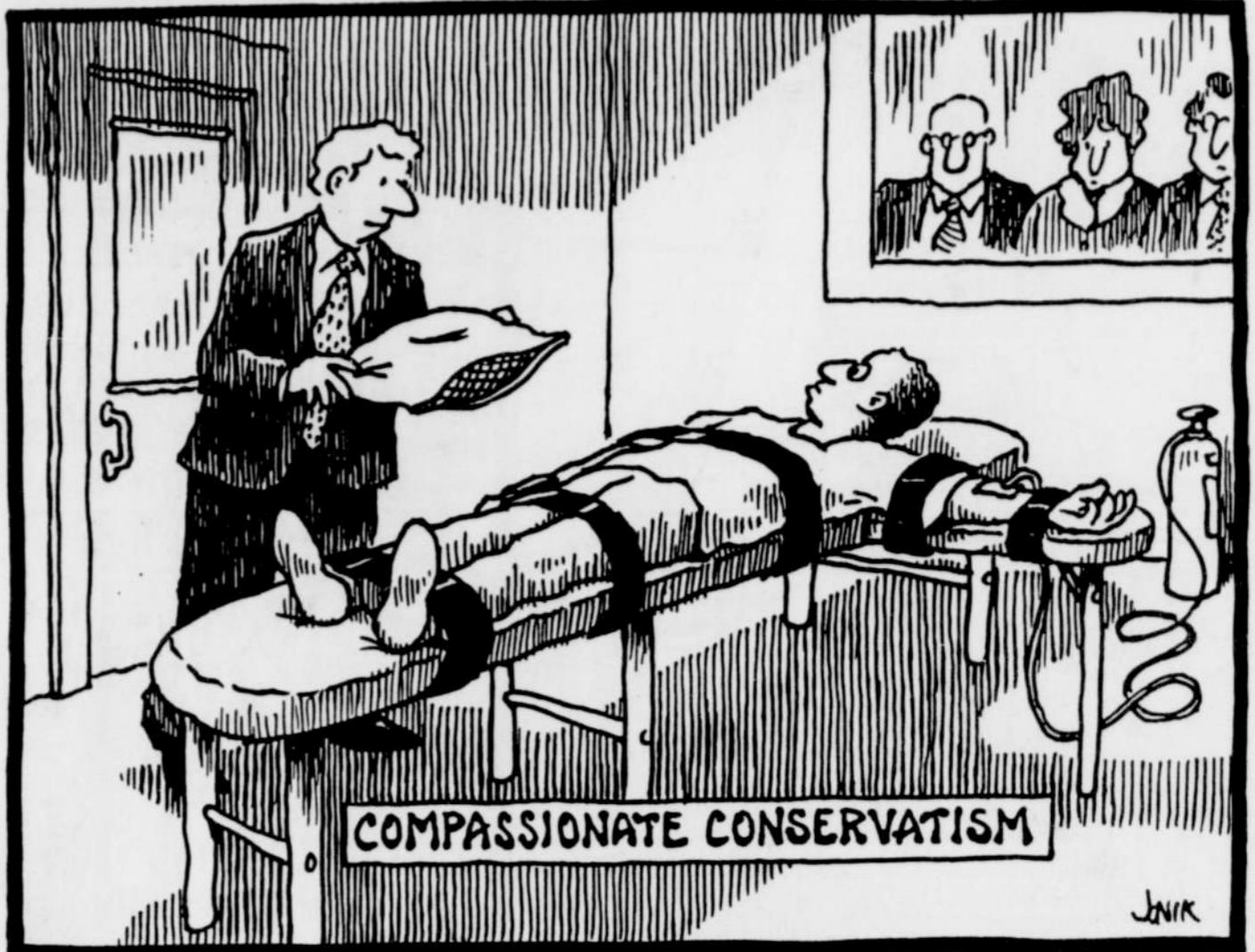
It's scary he's President. It would have been great if Ralph Nader had won.

I think Bush is going to take away health care insurance, which will basically kill people.

MAGGIE KITSON

(She is Bridget's mother, and is also a singer. She sings with the great Bond Street Blues Band.)

The only dope worth shooting is George Bush.



JONIK

JONIK

BUCK EVERETT ROBERTS

(He is a writer and self-described 'gifted underachiever'.)

Everybody who voted for Ralph Nader screwed us.

While the Republican Party retains a lot more loyalty than the Democrats, they make very poor choices in leaders, so we are stuck with George Bush, and so we are going to have a polluted country.

The Florida election was bad. Everything should have been counted the first time.

ROBERT STEVENS

(He is a musician and member of the famous homestyle 'Brownsmead Flats'.)

I don't see a lot of people interested in talking about the 2000 election. They think Bush is too much of a dingleberry to cause too many problems. It's the people around him who might be the problem.

With Bush deconstructing some of the issues we thought we had gained ground on. I think the effect will be impassioning the electorate who are concerned about the environment and social issues.

Part of the problem might be the media. I don't feel it is looking into Bush as deeply it did Clinton, who was a more compelling person. Perhaps that is why he was selected instead of voted for president — he's not sexy enough to sell to the public. *Doonesbury* uses an asterisk to depict Bush — do you suppose that means something?

The changes he is making will already be in effect by the time we learn about them.

I think he is a typical type of puppet which makes it difficult to decipher the forces that are manipulating him.

PAUL EVALT (9E2X)

(He is an artist and sells his paintings on sidewalks and stores. His artwork was featured in *Marpril 2001 NCTE*.)

I thought the election last year was an example of an argument between war and peace, and how people are divided on how and where they want to go. The vote was so close it was a phenomenon, like an aurora borealis or rainbows or an earthquake. It was phenomenon in the human mind because it was so close.

You could say the election was a marking point in the division of people's thinking, and hopefully will lead to people coming together instead of dividing apart.

JIM HEDFORD

(Hippie Jim from Uppertown Station has tried in various ways and with all his heart to save and reconstruct an antique Astoria boat barn built upon pilings above the Columbia River.)

The eve of the 2000 election I got the emotional roller coaster ride of my life. I'm still dizzy, dry heaving, and I'll never eat a comdog or cotton candy again. For a brief moment that night I gave credit to the power of prayer as they "took back Florida." Today, I'm a devout believer that God has forsaken this country for the sake of the meek that shall inherit the earth, and that we deserve the representative that was appointed for us.

Washington, D.C. seems to consult Hollywood for direction in composing 1/2 hour controversies that can lead the feeble along to agreeing to the government's next pressing agenda.

In terms of world powers, we are showing our age as being a self-absorbed teenager convinced that the world and all its inhabitants are ours to do our bidding. I'm embarrassed to be a citizen of a country that still ascribes to a philosophy of manifest destiny in the light of the worldwide suffering our indulgent lifestyles perpetuate.

LIKE NO TOMORROW

BY NED HEAVENRICH

The energy crisis is real and in my mind is responsible for the greater crisis that faces us all, that being global warming.

The market economy also is right in there as the force that is driving the world's demand to burn more energy. As the world's leader in consuming and wasting energy, we are sending the message to everyone else that living in excess is where it's at. What are the origins of this madness that we are pushing everyone on earth to join us in, regardless of the consequences for future generations?

In my mind, it can be laid at the feet of the former President (recently elevated to the status of god in the press) who encouraged the attitude and policies of benign neglect and ignorance as far as the environment went — Ronald Reagan. We now have a President who seeks to imitate Reagan in far too many ways and maintains the head-in-the-sand approach to the environment that we experienced in the 1980s.

As if this renewal of policy from the Reagan era wasn't bad enough, an ugly head is reared as the solution to all our problems. The "clean energy" source of nuclear power will solve the dilemma and allow us to keep consuming to our heart's content. There is of course, no mention of meltdowns or waste generated by these power plants that are highly dangerous and remain so for thousands and thousands of years. Not to mention that there is no place to store the waste that may haunt future generations forever.

Friends, we have been living like there is no tomorrow as far as our energy consumption goes and the time has come when we have to decide whether we continue to gorge ourselves to death or go on a diet to improve our health. I suggest we beseech our government leaders to forge energy policies that will encourage conservation of all fossil fuels and put money into developing solar and other renewable sources of energy.

If we had invested the billions of dollars that went into nuclear power into solar, we might have something to show for it now and would not have to deal with the toxic wastes that are going to be costing us trillions in the future. The nuclear power pushers don't make any reference to those costs either.

The marketplace is not going to solve the problem of global warming. If that were the case, we wouldn't have SUVs all over the place. It is time that all of us (myself included) take personal and concerted action in reducing our wasteful and harmful attitudes towards energy consumption.

Ned Heavenrich lives in Brownsmead. He is author of the play *Hitchin'*.



& BREW PUB, CANNON BEACH



Bach'n Rock

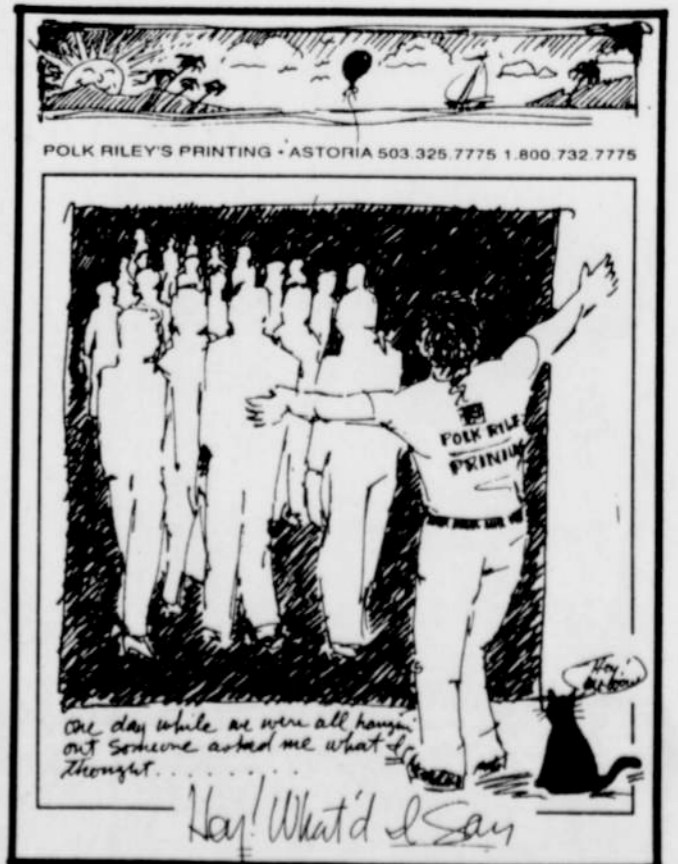
RECORD & TAPE SHOP

POPULAR MUSIC FROM THE 17TH TO 21ST CENTURY

389 12TH ST. ASTORIA 3338-6376

MUSIC NON-PROFIT TO THE

SPAY & NEUTER HUMANE ASSOCIATION



POLK RILEY'S PRINTING • ASTORIA 503.325.7775 1.800.732.7775