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Shaping a Healthier Environment

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May 2008

The Portland Spectator

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The Portland Spectator believes that the academic environment should be an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent conservative arguments to be heard.

The current environment of political correctness, political fundamentalism and mob mentality stifles genuine political debate.

We encourage the expression of diverse ideology to promote thought-provoking discussions.

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Letter to the Editor

The May Day March of Lawlessness

I've just got to say this... the Vanguard calling the march on May Day a "March for unity" goes a few steps beyond absurd. Illegal immigrants marched down the street demanding the right to break the law and get rewarded for it. This is a sterling display of unity between the illegal immigrants and... wait, who else? Oh, yes, that's right... no one. Naturally, dockworkers got a day off so they could protest the Iraq War, making my heart yearn for Ronald Reagan's response to the PATCO strike, which was: "go back to work or I'm firing every last one of you." Under no twisted and tortured definition of the word "unity" does this march qualify. The Vanguard should be ashamed of itself for pasting a blatantly dishonest headline on their front page.

-Keith Moore

Two Countries Claim to Own One Island

Dokdo, located on the ocean between Korea and Japan is the disputed little island. Claims have been made that initially the island was indeed Korea's. However because of Japanese colonization during WWII and a continued police presence, Japan is trying to incorporate it into their country's geography.

Japan claims that they possessed Dokdo island during an annexation of the nearby Oki Islands in 1905. Many others call this colonization an "illegal occupation", asserting that the island does indeed belong to South Korea. Textbook writers and atlas websites are currently contacted by both opposing parties in hopes for corrections in their favor. Meanwhile, in March of this year, the Korean government started an advertising campaign that will attract tourists to their island while asserting their sovereignty at the same time.

Portland Red Light Camera Questions

Yes there's another red light camera at Washington and 103rd. Be careful drivers, you're being watched! The red light cameras are not new to the Portland Metro area, in fact they've been in use since 2001. However, questions are now raised as to where the money actually goes. In a recent report, \$1.78 million was made in gross revenue, but the net revenue was only \$295,000. It's interesting how little of that money is actually going back to the city.

The red light cameras are operated by a third party company in California. When you run that red light, your picture is taken and is sent to California. The ticket is then sent out. This

whole process costs the city of Portland a lot of money. So the money that you pay in your ticket isn't really all going to the city, in fact, a significant portion of it is being used to pay for a service that the police used to do.

Plans for more red light cameras are underway, but finally the public has begun to ask the important questions.

Spring Theater Performance DANCING AT LUGHNASA

In the turbulent times of 1936, the five unmarried Mundy sisters live on a rugged farm outside a small town in Donegal, their lives revolving around Michael, the 8-year old love child of the youngest sister, and the music emanating from their first radio.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA; Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 23, 2008 - May 31, 2008. Starts: 7:30pm. A "pay what you can" affair in conjunction w/ the Oregon Food Bank: Bring two cans of food or cash donation to the performance on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m. Cash proceeds benefit PSU Department of Theater Arts. For information call the PSU Box Office: 503-725-3307. Preferred items include: peaner butter, canned beans, canned meats, canned fruits, canned vegetables, soup, stew, chili. *No glass please! The performance takes place at the Lincoln Performance Hall (1620 SW Park).

TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

In some sense, I am highly reluctant to speak ill of the dead. Especially someone who was brutally murdered in the streets of Pakistan. But I am getting weary of hearing all about Benazir Bhutto: the savior of Pakistan, the big advocate for democracy, a wonderful alternative to Perez. She may well have been a big achiever and a generally good person but the presses all over are silent about her flaws. She was indicted and convicted in Pakistan for corruption. She fled the country and Muhammed Perez eventually had the indictment removed.

Perhaps this was known but what is less known is that the saintly Bhutto left Switzerland just in time to avoid being indicted in Swiss courts for embezzlement and related crimes. Whatever her virtues, she was hardly perfect and a "saint" who acts like a high-level thief is no shining example of goodness.

I don't mean to stain her reputation but it's important for us to recognize that perhaps it would be better to have a leader whose authoritarian impulses we recognize and can tolerate instead of someone who's probably vulnerable to being for sale, especially when terror leaders like Osama Bin Ladin are immensely wealthy.

-Keith Moore

WHAT A WASTE OF FOOD!!!

Shaping a healthy environment to subsist in, may require more effort than paying attention to climate change. The current plan for diminishing greenhouse gas emissions and creating alternative fuels such as ethanol faces criticism. A logical reasoning for the criticism highlights the fact that the food extracted for the creation of ethanol serves more valuable for human consumption than it does for serving as a fuel alternative.

You may hear protesters against ethanol cry “Don’t waste corn on cars! Billions of people are starving in the world!” Well, how often have we Americans considered not wasting food, period?

Recently, we’ve been dealing with incredulous rising gas prices but now the escalating prices in the food market is costing us more than ever. What ever you may argue

is the cause for the rising cost of food, there exists a horrid reality that approximately 41 billion pounds of food in the United States is wasted each year, as estimated by the Nation’s Food Bank Network.

Considering all the food that is wasted in the United States, and for those of us who are the cause, we may want to think twice before stating that ethanol fuel is a waste of corn or grain, because unlike the billion pounds of food that’s wasted each year, at least for ethanol fuel, the billion pounds of corn or grain is actually being used for something.

To avoid wasting food, there exist many recommendations, and if we wish to do a good deed for the world, we can make it plain and simple: to simply serve ourselves with the enough amount of food we wish to eat.



UPCOMING EVENTS

What we think you shouldn't miss...

Event:

PSU Sustainability

“Portland Area Ecosystems”

research presentation by Dr. Alan Yeakley

Starting May 30, 2008 Starts: 10:00am Ends: 11:30am

Presenter: Dr. Alan Yeakley, Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Portland State University

“Portland Area Ecosystems: Progressive management, but we're still losing ground”

Date: Friday, May 30th

Time: 10:00 - 11:00am with refreshments served afterwards

Place: Smith Center, Room 238

In research conducted with Connie Ozawa (USP), we examined losses of riparian ecosystems in several Portland metro area cities over a 12 year period of growth, and found continuing losses of these important land-based natural resources. This seminar will discuss the ecological changes in riparian ecosystems in Portland area cities experiencing population growth, and the relative effectiveness of varying municipal efforts to manage riparian ecosystems.

Dr. Yeakley's research is in the general area of Environmental Systems. His focus is in the major fields of ecological system analysis, ecosystem management, forest ecology, hydrological modeling, riparian ecology, urban ecology, watershed biogeochemistry, and watershed hydrology. Please visit his website for more information.



Portland State
UNIVERSITY

DIRTY POLITICS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

By Sarah Christensen

As the Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom began to fill, little scatterings of conversation ranged from the Portland State vs. Kansas NCAA game as to why we were all there; the issues.

On March 20, Portland State University hosted what is being dubbed as Portland's first mayoral debate for this political season. Only two of the 12 candidates running – Commissioner Sam Adams and running mate Sho Dozono – were participating. The moderator for the event was PSU's own Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Lawrence Wallack. All seated comfortably to the side were the panelists – a member of the PSU student body, a member of the media and a business leader.

Everyone was poised and ready to hear the issues and the candidate's plans to tackle them once in office.

Right out of the gates it seemed as though Sho Dozono was going to be the crowd favorite in his white Adidas tennis shoes and black suit.

"Go Viks!" he yelled after wishing Portland State good luck during his opening remarks. He began to give a brief overview of himself – he has spent 32 years in business and his company has locations in three states along with his efforts in legislation thus far. He hit campaign success speaking of Portland States' community service and environmental efforts: "[Portland State] is the first rung on the ladder for success. To spend time at PSU is to be inspired to build a better world."

Dozono seemed to be gaining a home court advantage after explaining that he's lived here all his life, this is his home, and

this is what he knows. Even his reasoning for running for public office was made clear: "City Hall lacks direction and priority, and a blueprint for success."

Sam Adams took an entirely different route; he chose to use the 'scare' tactics that national candidates use. "...Half of all our current eighth graders do not graduate.... 21% of our employment force is on poverty wage."

Adams took more than the time allotted to show us the downfalls and the problems we face, but failed to say how he might make a difference.

Transportation

The first question, which candidates were given ahead of time, was how the candidate as mayor would address the city's transportation issues.

Dozono explained that as former member of the Executive Committee of the Portland Business Alliance, he has been working with Kulongoski on getting \$55 million for the Portland Streetcar. He spoke about how his opponent lost \$1million with the closure of the NW 23rd repaving project, and he spoke of the benefits of public transportation.

Adams spoke about the difficulties in attaining funding; the inability to get the gas tax passed, and streetcar fee proposals being doomed. After juggling around his answer to the budget issue he finally suggested raising the vehicle registration fees to increase the transportation budget.

Adams also touted his twenty-three years with the Transportation Committee. He

also spoke on the trials he's encountered with the NW 23rd project, "Transportation is difficult work, you have to roll up your sleeves and work with the business owners."

Economic Growth

The fun really started in the debate when the candidates were asked how they would add new businesses to the area without destroying the success of the older businesses.

Adams mentioned that 13 years ago the business licensing process was revamped, making sure that all businesses were treated the same. In the middle of defining prosperity and success, Dozono's cell phone began to ring. A mild scolding could have been called for, but Adams, a true politician who didn't miss an opportunity to mud-sling asked, "Is it Rudy Guiliani's wife?"

When Dozono's turn came to speak on business development, he explained that, "It's hard to have credibility [as a city] when the world doesn't know about our private sector."

He went on to discuss his work the Portland International Airport to grow business awareness for the region.

Safety and the Portland Police

The enthusiasm for the subject was clear with Dozono's remarks on general public safety, "Our first job is to make people feel safe. We don't have to violate the human rights [of citizens] to have a safer city. Racial profiling must stop, right now."

Dozono also showed polite politicking, pointing out the differences between the candidates, "my opponent's priority has not been our safety."

Adams' response to his supposed lack of priority was to bestow platitudes on

the Portland Police Chief, "I am pleased with Rosie Sizen. What she needs is new technology for efficiency to make a safer city."

He spoke on the need for money to help re-establish gang, car-prowl and anti-graffiti departments. In regards to the treatment of minorities and citizens with disabilities, he quoted Barack Obama's speech in March that spoke on ways to move past racial prejudices and practices. Many in the crowd were familiar with the speech, and took the words to heart as coming from Adams as well.

The political game

As the three panelists began the question and answer segment, it became clear through the continued sly remarks and suggestions of Sam Adams that he was playing the 'dirty' politics game.

Any opportunity to defame the character of his opponent was taken. In the context of this debate, it would have been hoped that more manners would be shown for the youth in the audience to learn from.

Sho Dozono upheld the ethical and democratic practices that citizens wish were more prominent. He showed the differences between himself and Adams as a candidate, and he kept his statements truthful, direct, and not misleading. It was clear however near the end of the debate that the good guy doesn't always win. With his respectful nature and refusal to mud-sling, Dozono faded into the background. This allowed Adams to show his mastery of oratory even though the words he said tended to lack any promise of change or ideas for the future.

In our current culture the mud-slinging gets the news lines and the popularity, but let's hope it doesn't get the vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL ARROGANCE

By Matthew Keenen

It is hard not to enjoy the delightfully copious amount of greenery Oregonians have the pleasure of coexisting with. Oregonians and Americans can afford to be distant enough from nature to benefit from its aesthetic qualities, as opposed to simply surviving as a part of nature. In an affluent city like Portland it is interesting to see and hear about the environmentalist movement, especially the "hippie-crites" who infest every corner of Portland State University's peaceful park blocks for an hourly wage.

Portland "Hippie-yups" epitomize the arrogance of the American Environmental Crusade. They pray for the globalization of environmental equality while simultaneously profiting off the luxuries of capitalism. American Social, cultural, and political ideologies have been shaped by the individualism of the frontier and the neo-liberal movement. Americans are the sole owners of these strong cultural values, and it is extremely arrogant to oppress other cultures with American views on environmental practices. It is the smugness of such ideologies that most of these yuppie hippie crusaders, who preach fair treatment of animals and restrict developing country's ability to commodify the environment, fail to realize.

The American Environmental Crusade is just as arrogant and obnoxiously imposing as the globalization and industrialization of developing countries that they denounce.

The framework for American ideology stems from a deep rooted sense of individualism, freedom, and equality. The wilderness and the frontier have played an

intricate role in building these foundations. Pre-industrial Americans found themselves continually fighting and living with nature on the frontier borders of the east coast colonies. The westward expansion and massive amounts of cheap and resource rich land gave these Americans a strong feeling of individuality.

Private property and personal rights granted by the American government were manifest in the American individual who raided the frontier. It is this capitalist and individual maximization of nature that is characteristic of American imperialist movements. It was Frederick Jackson Turner who first qualified these values as a product of the geography of America in his Speech in 1893 to the American Historical Association. He asserted that the dichotomy between industry and wilderness was a closing gap, and that Americans would lose their sense of these distinctly American cultural values as industry swallowed the nation.

The manifest destiny ideology epitomizes this American crusade to colonize and industrialize the wilderness. Modern day commercialism is rooted in the sequence of events that began with the first European settlers leading to a globalizing and corporate western nation.

It is in this modern day commercialist society that Americans have lost sense of their deep rooted arrogance and have begun advocating radical environmental policies. Not to say that it is good to torture animals, rapidly cut down forests, or pollute, but that Americans have been able to elevate

themselves far enough away from nature so that they can evaluate its worth intrinsically. Many developing countries in the world are the leading offenders of environmental destruction because they cannot afford to find alternatives to supplement their economies.

The American environmentalist crusade quite clearly is ideologically rooted in the development of American values. The deep ecology movement considers itself to be the leading edge for environmental practices, denouncing the destruction of nature. The protection of "mother earth" from the horrible realities of civilization is a popular claim heard from many hippie-critical environmental crusaders.

In 1989 Ramachandra Guha published an article titled "Radical Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A third world Critique" in the journal of environmental ethics, where he discusses the imperialist policies of American conservationists. He provides a critical issue for the country of India exemplified by Project Tiger. Project Tiger was created by international conservationists in India and established a network of parks that preserve wilderness. The problem is that the local populations have been living and surviving off of nature. When the poorer populations were no longer able to commodify these natural resources they subsequently suffered drastically.

Guha explains this as an attempt to transfer the American national parks system onto

Indian soil. Americans fail to realize the arrogance of such an act, even though they think it is the right thing to do to protect the environment. They effectively depress an already oppressed population, which cannot afford to live the luxurious American lifestyle. Similar situations are happening all across the world, particularly in Africa. Many of these preservation sites take away people's ability to survive while creating ecotourism sites for opulent

westerners to view magnificent creatures for their amusement, something they could have done at the local zoo.

Not only is this environmental arrogance imperialistic in policies restricting the rights of other countries, it is evident in

American cities. Environmental change will not occur as a result of the commercialized organic movement. Hybrid cars, free-range chicken, and organic asparagus are not going to revolutionize the world. It is yet another highly developed plot to extract every penny out the pocket books of American consumers. It is a movement that Portland seems to have adopted whole heartedly, and so have the major corporations like Whole Foods. Shopping should not be a solid method to express political ideology. It is this ostentatious conformity that eludes most citizens from the reality of the craze.

A recent South Park episode, "smug Alert" Season 10 Episode 141, displays the

"Many developing countries in the world are the leading offenders of environmental destruction because they cannot afford to find alternatives to supplement their economies."

phenomenon. It is when Kyle Broflowskies dad purchases a new hybrid “Pious”, instead of a Toyota Prius, that the family feels the humble town of South Park is too ignorant to keep up with the times. Kyle moves to San Francisco, whose citizens enjoy smelling their own flatulence, so his mother and father relate to people who claim to be solutions of the environmental problem. After losing his best friend, Stan marsh encourages everyone in South Park to drive Hybrid cars. Unfortunately things take a turn for the worse when everyone becomes so arrogant that a cloud of “smug” forms over the town. When the large cloud of smug over San Francisco combines with the one over South Park; disaster strikes. This episode strongly characterizes the organic consumer craze that contributes to continued American arrogance and of course “smug pollution”.

It is nearly impossible for Americans to escape the reality of our extreme arrogance. Saving the environment is good, but the righteous crusade and complete abandonment of rationality is detrimental to the cause. The new age yuppie hippies fail to realize they are trapped in an extreme form of commercial bondage. Imposing American values on the rest of the world limits the ability to effectively save the environment. It is the hypocrisy of the American environmental crusade that perpetuates our arrogance, which is despised by the developing world. This ideological difference is deeply rooted in American history, and infiltrates into every facet of American values. These values, which are afforded by Americans and their luxurious lifestyles, are genuinely exclusive to American culture. It is pure ignorance to boast progressive equality and environmental change while simultaneously immortalizing the arrogance and the evils of capitalism which they vilify.



Photo Above: One tree out many at the Rose Garden

NUCLEAR POWER

Safe, Clean and Reliable

-By Michael F. Devietro

Nuclear power has been the subject of a lot of controversy in recent years. Each time the idea of nuclear power comes up in a discussion there are a few common arguments that are made to explain why nuclear power is dangerous, too expensive or “not what America needs”. While the debate over nuclear power has been going on for many decades it has seen renewed interest in the past five years due to the interest in sustainable power and the elimination of reliance on fossil fuels.

Currently the United States has more nuclear power plants than any single nation; however, it still produces a very small portion of its power through the nuclear process. The US has 104 nuclear power reactors but still produces less than 20 percent of its total electricity output through nuclear power. In comparison France has 64 reactors which make up almost 80 percent of the nations’ electricity. The reason for this difference is both that France often uses higher output reactors and the US uses far more electricity than France does, due to its disproportionate size.

In addition to land based power plants the US Navy operates more than 80 nuclear powered vessels. A variety of the United States ships - from destroyers to aircraft carriers - are now nuclear powered. The US has more naval powered vessels than any other nation.

This means that the US has more experience with nuclear power in adverse conditions than any other world power. Meanwhile, since the 1940’s there have been several accidents involving nuclear contamination in relation to military installations, more of them have been in the process of nuclear weapons than that of nuclear power. The only three



For more photos visit www.ecofriend.org

times that a US nuclear ship has caused a nuclear accident as defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), were all in the 1970’s and they all had to do with complications in the way that radioactive coolant water was transferred, these processes have since been changed and no longer pose a risk. On a ship the waste is moved from one place to another at the end of the holding period. With a reactor built into the ground the waste is dumped and transported in an entirely different way and moved much less. Overall the US military has racked up over 5400 “reactor years” of experience

with nuclear power. Given these facts we must conclude that the US has a broad range of both civilian and military experience with nuclear power and this experience leads to the safest possible scenario.

The total cost for nuclear power including everything from building the reactor to decommissioning it and proper disposal of the waste as well as all licenses and fee’s is \$30.0/ megawatt hour. (Mw-Hr) As of 2005 the cheapest available power is from coal, which costs \$29.1/ Mw-Hr. In comparison oil burning power plants run at a cost of \$80.9/ Mw-hr and natural gas plants run at \$75.1/Mw-Hr. Given that the price of both oil and natural gas are reaching record highs we can assume that these prices will continue to climb making the cost gap between nuclear and fossil

fuel plants even wider. The price could also be reduced by allowing the federal government to partially waive the fees associated with the licensing of nuclear reactors. This would limit the initial start up costs. In conclusion, the main argument against nuclear power has been that of safety. The safety of Nuclear power not only has been proven over a period of time but in atmosphere much harsher than any civilian reactor would be subjected to. In addition to the proven safety record of nuclear technology this technology also is some of cleanest and greenest sources of energy on the planet.

GENDER & the Presidency

By Robert S. Reece

Is there something terribly wrong with America?

We are in the midst of choosing a new president who will exercise (or fail to exercise) all the powers assigned by the United States Constitution: Commander in Chief of the military, appointments to the highest judicial positions, veto power over the legislative branch, sign treaties with foreign powers, etc., and we are in an uproar over the Gender of one of the candidates!

There surely must be something more of substance to be discussed, doesn't there?

Most of the commentary,

however, seems to revolve around who is being "mean to the girl". Why she is always asked the first question, etc. Is she getting the "women's vote" in the poll numbers?

Well, isn't it time we had a woman president? This is a good "gotcha" question. Yes, of course it is time we had a woman

president...or a man president. Gender is not, or should not be a deciding factor here. There are plenty of examples of great leaders who were women, Margaret Thatcher and Golda Meir, to name just a pair. I don't remember

about anybody "picking on the girl" when Elizabeth Dole was campaigning for President, and the campaign by Geraldine Ferraro for Vice President didn't elicit these kind of complaints.

These TV debates by the candidates could be valuable aids to the voters if they were informative, but to be engaged in a "War of the Sexes" is an immature waste of time. Pundits on the liberal and on the conservative sides are wasting everybody's time with

their commentaries on the gender issue. What we need is commentary and analysis on the positions, statements, qualifications, character, attitudes, past actions, associations, prejudices, and etc. of each of the contenders.

A national election is an event of the utmost importance. It is not a sporting event.

"These TV debates by the candidates could be valuable aids to the voters if they were informative, but to be engaged in a "War of the Sexes" is an immature waste of time."

It should not be treated as a sporting event. In a way, it is too bad that an election can have so many attributes as do sporting events. People can be inclined to confuse the attributes of the two. To be loyal to your school team whether they win, lose or draw, whether they play well or poorly...this is an admirable attribute. But to be loyal to a candidate because he/she looks like you is not.

In a sporting event, you take sides to be loyal to your classmates in your own high school or university. Sporting events are for fun and the outcomes are not of that

nature of governing a country. Sporting events are not so valuable for the points on the scoreboard as for a plethora of other values. "It is not if you win or lose, but how you play the game." Don't let yourself get drawn into the gender war. This is not a game. Get views of all the issues from as many sources as you can. Listen to each of the candidates from all parties. Let your loyalty be to the principles in which you believe. Try to figure out what each candidate would do if they were elected.

Don't waste your time on the "GENDER" wars.



Elizabeth Dole (Left) and Margaret Thatcher (Right)

For more photographs visit artfiles.art.com

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

By Matthew Keenen

The results of an ecological footprint quiz for a class I'm taking showed that if the entire world consumed resources the way I do there would need to be 7.49 earths to support the population. This is amazing considering I live in a two bedroom apartment with two other roommates and I don't own a car. On the other hand, I consume meat and dairy multiple times a day, I needlessly consume resources, and acquiesce to mainstream commercialism. Most people I have talked to feel guilty about their excessively large eco footprint. I feel no guilt because I realize that I am a pawn in the world of market forces. The ecological footprint is a popularized scare tactic designed to incite revolutionary environmental change manifested by individual action.

I refuse to stop eating meat, and I refuse to curb my spending habits. I enjoy the luxuries of my affluent American lifestyle provided by capitalism and a dominant hold on resource consumption. The whole idea of providing tests like the ecological

footprint is designed to guilt people into consuming less. If everyone consumes fewer resources, then the problem will be solved right? Wrong. I will continue to maximize my resource consumption. I refuse to sacrifice my living standards so 1.3 billion people in china can drive cars. The proclivity of individuals will never solve the world's problems because there will always be people like me.

“Most people I have talked to feel guilty about their excessively large eco footprint. I feel no guilt because I realize that I am a pawn in the world of market forces.”

Lets say that I do convert to being a vegetarian, I recycle everything, refuse to purchase over packaged goods, buy organic eggs and local asparagus, use a hemp shopping bag when I go to Whole Foods or Trader Joes, buy Al gore's movies, donate my time to PETA, major in environmental science, and join the peace core when I graduate; the world on the whole will be just the same as before.

China will still be rapidly industrializing their country and polluting the atmosphere with a cornucopia of coal plants, the Middle east will still be making a killing off selling oil around the world as one the cheapest and most easily accessible and usable sources of energy, and George Bush and Dick Cheney will still have pocketed millions of dollars from back end campaign contributions from awarding military contracts to men like

Eric Prince (or so the theory goes).

Don't get me wrong, I love the environment. I'm an Oregonian, of course I love trees just as much as the dirt worshiping hippies playing bongo drums in the park blocks. I know my previous statements sound as hypocritical as a women's rights bake sale, but there are solutions to the environmental problem that compensate all parties. As long as environmental protection and the economy remains a dichotomized relationship characterized by animosity, there will be no peace. The conflation of the two can provide a reciprocal partnership where environmental conservation stimulates economic activity.

Much work on these eco-economies is already being done. In his book "cities people planet" Richard Girardet describes business communities that employ a cyclical exchange of renewable and recycled resources to reduce costs, increase profits, and reduce environmental destruction.

In Kalundborg, Denmark there are 20 businesses involved in a community like this. The power plant produces 80,000 tonnes of ash that is bought by construction and cement companies. Steam from the power plant is used in fisheries. In Britain, 300,000 people receive their power from pipes in the ground collecting methane gas from garbage dumps. Hewlett Packard in 1998 saved roughly \$870,000 by reducing waste by 95 percent. Although initial start up cost is high, 'green-building' designs can help reduce energy costs and increase worker productivity. Eco-roofs, advanced ventilation systems, solar panels, and intelligent eco-friendly designs all decrease building upkeep costs. In his book "cradle

to cradle" William McDonough talks about these concepts and his active pursuit of his 'zero-waste' policies. It is tangible solutions like these that need to be considered over the sensationalized organic movement that focuses on decreasing consumption. Businesses and the government need to implement these principles not because polar bears are dying, but because it's good for the economy, society, and of course, the environment.

The development of such eco-economies creates more industries. It allows for an entirely separate industry to transfer disposed goods into usable goods. More jobs, more economic activity, more profit, and less damage to the environment. The federal government needs to provide tax breaks, incentives, and regulations for sustainable business practices and waste management. The world has a finite amount of resources and the more we consume the less there are. It's common sense, reduce the cost of production, increase the amount of the product with less resources, which in turn increases profit, and save the environment while making money.

Yes it is true that if all the world consumed resources the way I do there would need to be 7.49 earths, but I'm tired of being blamed for the world's problems just because I eat meat like every warm blooded American should, and I forget to turn off all my household appliances. The problems may appear at the bottom of the pyramid, but the solutions are at the top. Quit blaming the consumer and revolutionize the market.

"...there are solutions to the environmental problem that compensate all parties."

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Obama & McCain

By Keith Moore

John McCain is a real military hero. He has written a moving book about his experience as a prisoner of war in the hands of the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War. There is no doubt that we owe courageous men like Senator McCain a debt of honor for their courage and fortitude in the most inhumane of conditions. There is no doubt that McCain has good and relevant experience in the area of foreign policy and he is certainly not lacking in good ideas concerning the military. My concern, however, is that McCain is a bright shining hope in a military uniform; that ends up as an empty suit.

This is no doubt a harsh assessment, but when the Oregonian and the Vanguard facetiously tell us that there are three Democrats running people smile and chuckle because it sounds so true. In foreign policy McCain is a Zell Miller or a Scoop Jackson. They are strong believers in national defense and the assertive use of American power in the world. Generally, Democrats like Miller and the late Jackson are personally conservative and moderate, precisely the way that McCain is. However, his actions over the years deeply worry me as a conservative and a Republican. I am deeply concerned that John McCain lacks a certain degree of character; He is brave against enemies in the field but as a member of the government he is quite willing to open the candy store to the Democrats, adopting much of their rhetoric and assumptions.

The Democrats believe that the Bush tax cuts are anathema and bad economic

policy and cynically use the excuse of spending to oppose them. Amazingly, so does John McCain. Before realizing that it was politically unwise, McCain spoke strongly against the Bush tax cuts as fiscally irresponsible. Yes, the Bush Administration has proven to be utterly careless with money, but McCain portrays a willingness to be the Democrats' friend when Americans cry for tax relief. John McCain cannot be trusted on taxes.

The Democrats believe that Bush's nominations for federal judges, especially the ones for appeals courts and the Supreme Court, are dangerous radicals and mobilized a wholly unconstitutional effort to shut down the process with filibusters. Just when the Republicans were going to deal the Democrats' shenanigans a death blow, in comes McCain and 6 other Republicans to save them. The danger that responsible and gifted judges posed to the liberal agenda was effectively neutralized by the populist McCain, costing conservatives the chance to see judicial restraint and more originalist thinking in the courts. McCain destroyed the efforts of groups like the pro-life people with his stunt and we cannot be sure he wouldn't do it again if the Democrats screamed loudly enough. McCain cannot be trusted on judges.

The Democrats believe that big money is the main problem of modern campaigns and that any measure, no matter how severely it infringes upon the First Amendment, is permissible if it erases this supposed evil. McCain introduced the McCain-Feingold measure, which was blatantly and proudly unconstitutional. Bush deserved to be

condemned for his weakness in signing it, and the Supreme Court condemned for its willingness to throw the First Amendment under the bus over a phantom but McCain was all too happy to be the media's poster boy for the effort . As a fun little fact to know and tell, guess what institution is immune to the McCain-Feingold restrictions? The mainstream media, the very ones whose screaming for campaign finance reform McCain answered. McCain cannot be trusted to respect the fundamental rights that our Constitution guarantees.

The list, for me, rolls on. McCain's unstable temperament is well-known. In campaigning against Bush in 2000 his campaign manager referred to the mainstream media as the campaign's base, comparable to religious conservatives. For being committed to the

"straight talk express," he has not been entirely honest about the ideas that he lends his support to. McCain was endorsed by Republican pro-choice groups in the wake of Super Tuesday. I can only imagine why a pro-choice group would believe that McCain would be the best vehicle to carry out their agenda, one that many conservatives regard this as the murder of unborn babies, but the reader is invited to draw their own conclusions.

In short, the appalling unworthiness of McCain tempts me to hope that Obama wins and thoroughly humiliates the faction of the GOP that selected a man like John McCain as their standard-bearer. Yes, I'll probably vote for the man in November. Only to ensure that a moderate Democrat is in the White House, but I shouldn't have to hold my nose to support my party's presidential nominee.



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ETHANOL

The Death of All

By Nate Burch

Jorge W. Butch, your everyday American, today finds himself walking out of Whole Foods with a reusable grocery bag full of organic foods. While walking to his ethanol-fueled car he sees another person drive by and thinks to himself, "I am really doing my part, if only everyone else cared as much as I do."

Jorge couldn't be more right! He is doing his part, his part in destroying the world's supply of food. It is the 'greenwashed' consumer who is placing our global food supply in jeopardy. How? He is shopping at a great store like Whole Foods and drives a green friendly car right? Wrong!

Ethanol is being linked directly to the increased prices and supply shortages in food commodities worldwide. Corn and sugar, the two most popular inputs in ethanol production, are seeing record high prices. The world's leading ethanol producer and consumer, Brazil, uses sugarcane to manufacture ethanol. Sugar futures, the market's way of forecasting future commodity prices, hit a 25-year high in February due to the increased demand for ethanol worldwide.

"Ethanol is being linked directly to the increased prices and supply shortages in food commodities worldwide."

The National Corn Growers Association stated that the demand for corn to make ethanol has increased nearly six times over since the year 2000. The World Bank released a report in early April which stated:

"Increased bio-fuel production has contributed to the rise in food prices. Almost all of the increase in global maize (corn) production from 2004 to 2007 went for bio-fuels production in the U.S., while existing stocks were depleted by an increase in global consumption for other uses."

The report went on to dismiss the notion that higher energy prices are to blame for soaring food costs. "Only a relatively small share of the increase in food production prices is due directly to higher energy and fertilizer costs (World Bank)."

Americans are not the only ones to feel the adverse effects of soaring food costs, countries being hit the hardest are poorest. Recently protestors have violently voiced their concerns of outrageous food prices and shortages worldwide. Countries such as Egypt and Vietnam are worried about their own food supply and have begun to ban exports.

World Bank president Robert Zoellick fears that the doubling in food prices over the past three years could potentially push 100 million people in low-income countries deeper into poverty, adding to what is an already malnourished lower-class.

IFPR, International Food Policy Research, suggests that calorie availability in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to fall by more than 8% in 2020. The number of malnourished children in the region is expected to increase by nearly 3 million.

As our food situation becomes more and more volatile our government continues to provide 51¢ per gallon subsidies for farmers who grow ethanol. Federal subsidies paid to farmers growing corn, which already receives the highest price in decades, equaled

nearly \$7 billion in recent years. As educated Americans, it is our duty to our country and global community to open our eyes and see what the government's 'greenwashing' campaign is doing to us and our neighbors.

I hope when you sit down to vote this year you will think about this issue and see who is really benefiting from ethanol. Are we, the American public, or the politicians writing the bills? Maybe we are just doing what is best for the planet. I guess

you could argue that we are doing what's best if mass population reduction due to lack of food is your idea of a better world.

“As educated Americans, it is our duty to our country and global community to open our eyes and see what the government’s ‘greenwashing’ campaign is doing to us and our neighbors.”

*“It is human nature to think wisely and act foolishly.
-Antole France*



THE SPECTATOR KITCHEN

By Robert S. Reece

Ungarisches Rindsgulasch (Hungarian Goulash)

I found a packet of seasoning at a German delikatessen called "Müllers Mükosta Gulasch-Gewürz." "Gulasch-Gewürz" is German for "goulash seasoning".

The recipe on the back was in German, so I had to translate it in order to make my goulash. The ingredients for the seasoning are ones found in most American kitchens, so this recipe is from scratch.

INGREDIENTS:

1 or 2 medium onions 4 to 5 Tablespoons
fat (lard or bacon fat works best)
1½ lbs beef
Touch of salt
3 teaspoons Gulasch-Gewürz if you can
find it or...
2 teaspoons sweet Hungarian paprika
1 teaspoon cumin
½ teaspoon marjoram
1/8 teaspoon cayenne
¼ teaspoon thyme
2 or more cups broth
½ cold water
2 Tablespoons flour



PROCEDURE:

Dice onions and sauté in fat.

Cut beef into one inch cubes, add salt and seasoning, and brown lightly with the onions. Simmer until completely dry.

Cover with broth and simmer 20 minutes, or until tender.

Mix flour in cold water and add to stew.

Tomato purée can be added to give stew more color, and additional paprika to spice up the flavor a bit.

Makes four servings.

Serve with rye bread

Blueberry Buckle

INGREDIENTS:

FILLING:

2 Cups berries
1/2 Cup sugar
2 T flour
1 t quick cooking tapioca
1/4 t cinnamon
2 t butter
1/2 Cup water

BATTER:

(biscuit batter)
1 cup Jiffy mix (or homemade)
1/2-2/3 Cup milk

PREPARATION:

Combine ingredients for filling and simmer until thick.

Add batter and stir in only very slightly. Simmer until batter is cooked.

Serve with thick cream!

MAKES FOUR SERVINGS



Find more Hungarian Goulash Photos at
epochtimes online.
For more photos of the Blueberry Buckle check out charlestoncitypaper.com

