

opinion / editorial

Poor should not be penalized for energy problems

Recent events in the United States have been traumatic for a country as utterly dependent on energy as this one.

The Three Mile Island nuclear accident last spring raised many questions about the ability of American technology to solve our energy problems.

The summer's energy shortage, with its high prices and long lines forced many people, who previously thought the crisis was just a plot of oil companies, to admit the crunch is

real. The coming winter foreshadows many concerns about the availability of natural gas for heating homes.

All of this is a little frightening for people who are used to lifestyles of ease and luxury. Americans, in general, can no longer afford large gas-guzzling cars. Large houses which will cost a fortune to heat and air condition will be out of the question. And with more and more money budgeted to meet energy needs, less and less will be available

for luxuries and the little pleasures of life.

The question now is what to do about it. And this is what Congress, back from its August recess, is considering. President Carter's energy proposals are getting looked at in detail including his proposal to tax windfall profits on oil companies. Under this proposal the money would be rebated to lower-income families and mass transportation plans.

Although the tax is widely popu-

lar with citizens of the country, the Senate, however, apparently is not so enchanted with it. It now looks like the measure will be amended with the money to go to other groups.

This would be unfortunate. The poor already are suffering from high prices caused when the rest of us, refused to conserve and increased the demand for oil.

The poor who have contributed the least to the energy crisis should not have to contribute most to its solution.

letters

I would like to comment on a letter written by Kay Schneider (Sept. 18), concerning the Unification Church. Her research brings to mind the image of a student doing a report on Black People in America with bibliography materials produced solely by the Ku Klux Klan. She seems to feel that we're all idiots ready to be led astray. Well . . . I'm not your fool, Ms. Schneider. Along with many other mature individuals, including some parents, I joined this movement because I believe it represents hope for America in fighting the plagues of drug abuse, sexual promiscuity and the general moral breakdown in our society.

Never, and I repeat, never, have I ever been to hear a lecture or workshop that included a measly three-hour resting period complete with chanting and/or singing, nor I ever been served minimal amounts of non-nutritional food as a routine diet, as you propose.

On the contrary, a typical seven to eight hour sleep is quite commonplace, in fact desired, in order that those attending don't fall asleep during a lecture. The meals eaten in the Unification Church are always wholesome, nutritious, and plentiful.

I do know that money raised goes to such worthy projects such as the Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, New York, where students are urged to study a variety of religions taught by rabbis, priests and other clergymen. The annual International Conference on the Unity of Sciences, is attended by some 550 deans of universities, professors and Nobel Prize laureates from 53 nations. And I might add, in conferences past, two professors from UNL have attended. Money also goes to free medical clinics and food programs in California, run by volunteers, in which I personally have been involved. Lastly, but not least, a university being built in upstate New York, has been funded by donations raised by sweat of dedicated members who are every bit in tune with their faculties. Contrary to what you believe, such spirit of self-sacrifice and volunteer/missionary work should be applauded in a land where many are demanding higher pay and more from the government.

I hardly think that such brainwashed zombies as those you have contrived could do anything, much less that which has already been produced and is helping thousands of people daily.

You have a wonderful gift of imagination, Kay. It's truly sad it's being put to such destructive purposes; you have unjustly criticized the lives of many hard-working, honest and sincere people. You've succeeded in further confusing and distorting an already mangled issue.

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Separation from professional schools hurting liberal arts teachers, students

While I cannot comment on the specific details of the action to separate the School of Journalism from the College of Arts and Sciences, I have some strong thoughts about the general trend toward the isolation of various professional programs from the liberal arts. I feel such separations are damaging in the long run to both professional education and the liberal arts fields.

leaving in the liberal arts will not improve the situation.

On the other hand, such separation also removes the challenge to the liberal arts to improve their present, generally dismal, record at providing that leavening which they would like to claim. It seems to be a sad truth that many liberal arts professors and some whole departments, despite their damning cries against "vocationalism" in the university, have long put their major efforts into being their own little "vocational" schools, centered on producing as many little M.A. and Ph.D. replicas of themselves as possible, and generally ignoring issues of quality, liberal education at the undergraduate and preprofessional level for those who are not headed toward major work and graduate enrollment in their specific field.

Part of this is explicable in terms of the self-destructive reward system in graduate universities like Nebraska, where undergraduate teaching and advising are seriously downplayed—only those who care about persons more, than professional advancement dare give it much attention—and the real rewards come from the research and writing associated with graduate programs. Part of the situation is also explicable in terms of sheer egoism—some of us are more flattered and give more attention to those who seem sincerely to want to imitate us rather than by those who are only "temporary dabblers."

But, however, explicable, the situation remains the same—much of the potential for liberal arts as a creative, broadening influence upon the mass of students who will not be graduate degree seekers in political science sociology, et. al. is lost because of teachers and programs that are as narrow in their competency, vision and interest as the most crass of self-serving professionals. And, again, the situation will only be exacerbated by further separation of professional programs from arts and sciences connection. The best action toward alleviation can come only with closer associations in which both liberal arts programs and professional school mutually challenge each other toward their best contributions to the long-term good of the human community.

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