

What others think

Plan to find oil alternatives comes late

In his state of the union address last week, President George Bush mentioned something that seems largely to have gone unnoticed, although its ramifications to this country are extremely important.

Bush said a new energy policy would be initiated to, among other things, explore other energy alternatives besides oil.

This is a long-awaited policy coming a bit late.

Former President Jimmy Carter originally initiated such a policy after the OPEC oil shock of 1979. When former President Ronald Reagan took office in 1980, government plans to explore new energy alternatives were abolished.

Alternatives to oil, especially imported Middle East oil, is something this country is in dire need of. The Persian Gulf war is a testament to that. Americans are fighting there today to secure U.S. national interests, which mainly concern oil.

—Daily Ken Stater

Energy policy must include conservation

Three major oil shocks in the past 17 years should have taught us something by now. In the long term, the United States simply cannot continue along the well-trodden path of petroleum dependence.

A long-term policy must include significant conservation measures such as increased auto efficiency standards and a renewed emphasis on public transportation. Any new energy policy must also include a commitment to developing so-called "alternative" or renewable energy sources such as solar, hydroelectric, geothermal and wind power — all of which cost less per kilowatt-hour than oil. Funding for such energy sources, however, was cut by 80 percent under Ronald Reagan. The paltry \$194 million spent annually on all energy-efficiency research and development wouldn't even dent the cost of half a day of Operation Desert Storm. Clearly, this country's priorities are elsewhere.

—The Minnesota Daily

Environmental terrorism hits home

While Saddam Hussein is being labeled as an environmental terrorist, the Pentagon is doing a little environmental terrorism of its own.

The White House recently announced it has waived the legal requirement for public environmental reviews after weapons testing by the Defense Department.

The National Toxic Campaign Fund, a national environmental group based in Boston, has expressed concern that the Pentagon may push this one concession into many more.

Our environment here in the United States should not be sacrificed for victory halfway around the world. We will eventually withdraw from the Middle East, but we can't escape from our own environmentally terrorized homeland.

—Iowa State Daily

Energy plan lacks conservation

On Feb. 20, President Bush unveiled his energy policy. The DN failed to cover this important news and the Lincoln Star put it on page five along with a story entitled "Most Americans Now Live in Urban Areas." I should think that when such a momentous policy that will affect the future so prominently comes out, the news media could do a better job of putting the story somewhere that most of the public would pay attention to it.

For those of you who missed it, here are the main points of Bush's policy: 1) Increasing domestic oil production, including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska; 2) Easing regulatory barriers for construction of nuclear power plants and the disposal of atomic wastes; 3) Streamlining regulations for building natural gas pipelines as well as other actions to make natural gas a more viable energy source; 4) Overhauling the regulation of the electric utility industry to increase competition.

Do you see a pattern here? This is not an energy policy, it is Bush's attempt to help his friends in the oil business. Bush's "policy" promotes uncontrolled consumption by Americans of fossil fuels, doesn't advocate conservation, promotes deregulation (which worked so well for the Savings and Loan industry), and does not consider the future.

At this time, 63 percent of petroleum use in this country can be accounted for by transportation. Bush could have called for an increase in CAFE (Corporate Automotive Fuel Economy) standards. If CAFE standards were increased by 40 percent (the 1986 standard was 28.2 mpg for an average car, and this has not changed

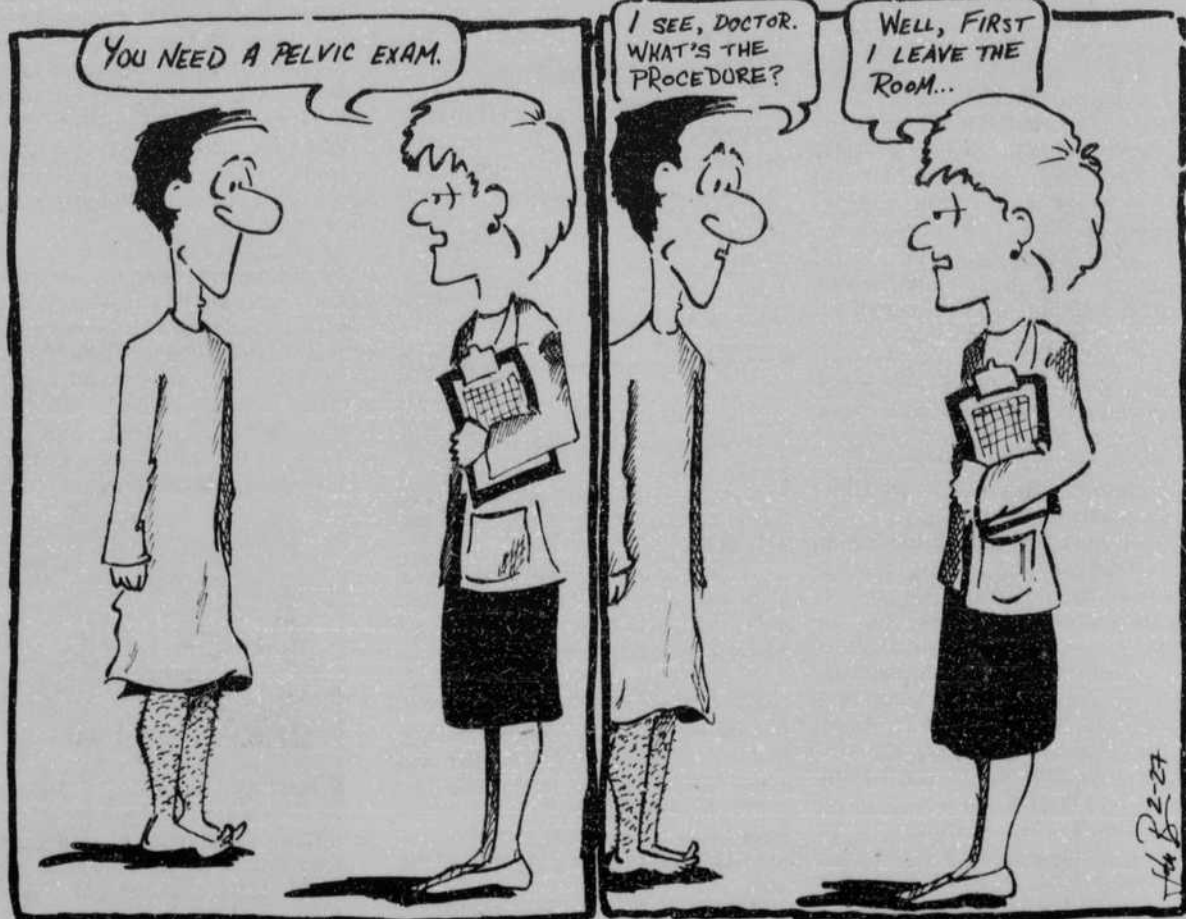
since then), and we have the technology to do this, we could save 2.8 million barrels of oil each day! This also would significantly reduce the carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere (which is a leading cause of global warming). Bush suggests that opening up the Arctic Reserve is a good energy option. Doing this would bring only 0.29 million barrels per day and a lot of environmental damage to one of this country's last pristine areas.

Another of Bush's brilliant ideas is to ease restriction on the construction of new nuclear power plants. The waste resulting from these plants is a great legacy to leave for future generations. There are alternatives to Bush's suggested plans, and groups such as the Union of Concerned Scientists are working very hard to try to influence our leaders that short-term, consumptive strategies are not the answer.

I urge each and every student, faculty member and staff to write to your representatives to express your dismay over Bush's proposed energy plan. We cannot afford to accept a proposal that compromises the environment for the sake of convenience. Too soon it will be too late to do anything to stop the destruction of the planet.

Anne Pitsch
graduate student
political science

Editor's note: The Daily Nebraskan published an editorial in response to the first draft of Bush's energy policy released Feb. 10.



BOB NELSON

Hunting philosophy twisted, logical

If you read this month's issue of World Bowhunters magazine, you saw Shermane Nugent's "Rock-A-Bye-Baby" prenatal and exercise information video for only \$29.95.

Shermane Nugent is the wife of Ted Nugent. Ted Nugent is editor and publisher of World Bowhunters Magazine, as well as being a national spokesman for hunters' rights.

Ted is also the greatest rock 'n' roll superhero of all time.

The advertisement includes a picture of Shermane holding her swollen belly, which is covered by a leopard-skin maternity dress that you can also purchase through the magazine.

There's a warning on the ad. It says: "Caution: Music by Ted Nugent may cause excitability!!"

If you hadn't figured by now, Ted isn't a Rhodes Scholar. He's a full-throttle, back-country, rock 'n' roll killin' machine. He's proof that ignorance is bliss.

Ted became a spokesman for hunters because he can talk fast, and because he's the greatest rock 'n' roll superhero of all time. Here's a paragraph from one of his editorials in the magazine:

"OK, I think I can talk about it without spazzing completely out! WAS THE 5TH ANNUAL WHIPLASH BASH OUTRAGEOUS BEYOND OUR WILDEST EARTHLY DREAMS OR WHAT????????!!!!!!"

The Whiplash Bash was a rock-and-hunting jamboree that included "elk whackin'" (elk shooting), "fireworks from hell" and "the insanity of two bands on stage at once...." It was another attempt, Ted said, to have a good time and to inform the press and others about bowhunting and wildlife conservation.

And then there was this from Ted: "National Meat Out Day (March 20) is an attempt by the country's vegetarians to let us meat eaters know just what rotten people we are. So let's join the celebration. Get out a package of succulent back straps, cook them delicious loins up, and enjoy



It's better to love the kill and the meat than to love the meat and abhor the kill. To hate killing but love meat is hypocrisy. That's the logic of Ted.

our natural omnivorous lifestyle."

Ted's enthusiasm for killing and eating animals probably is disturbing to most people, but I've begun to develop something of a twisted affinity toward it.

The reason? I love to eat meat, but I don't have the stomach to kill. I let people at the packing plant do my dirty work. I'm a coward.

My first "whack" — as Ted calls it — came in Colorado three years ago. I shot a marmot with a .22-caliber pistol.

Two friends and I were camping on another friend's land near the Continental Divide. We drank, fished and shot empty cans. We drank and a marmot came to drink or eat late one night. Half joking, I called him a worthless scavenger and shot at him.

He was far enough away that I should have missed. I definitely should have missed his head. But I didn't.

Marmots are more or less rodents. This guy was big though — the size of

a stuffed animal — and I am still embarrassed and disgusted by my actions.

On the front of World Bowhunters is a picture of Ted and his big stupid smile, posing with a ram he had just killed with his "Whackmaster" bow. The meat was delicious, he said.

And it probably was. Humans no longer have to kill to eat meat. We can go to the store and buy flesh wrapped in plastic like candy. Maybe it's simply a matter of convenience, but I feel like I'm hiding from something.

I want to work at a meat processing plant for one day. I want to know if I'm twisted or strong enough to look a cow in the eyes, slit its throat and then chop off its head.

I have a friend who learned to slaughter pigs in a class on East Campus. She said that in class, while a slaughtered hog was tumbling in a vat of hair-removal solution, the professor often whistled the theme song to "The Flintstones." She said he was funny. I want to be conditioned enough to whistle "The Flintstones" to a dead pig.

If I can't whistle to dead pigs, shoot a sheep or lop off the head of a cow, then maybe I shouldn't be eating meat.

It's better to love the kill and the meat than to love the meat and abhor the kill. To hate killing but love meat is hypocrisy. That's the logic of Ted. I think the stupid bastard may be right.

So Ted has left me with something of a moral dilemma: Either I've got to eat only vegetables, which I'd hate to do, or I've got to kill furry animals, which I'd hate to do.

Or, I could continue to poke fun at vegetarians, continue to mock blood-thirsty lunatics like Ted and Shermane, continue to avoid killing and continue planning my big hamburger and hot dog cookout March 20.

Nelson is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

LETTER POLICY

to edit letters.

Letters should be typewritten and less than 500 words.

Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, address, phone number, year in

school and group affiliation, if any.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.