



editorial

Energy Weapon

For those who had their eyes glued to the tube last Sunday night, the special presentation "The Energy Weapon" on Channel 3 may have served to cause somewhat more than idle thought. For those who didn't see it, too bad. Harvey Kirk did a not too terrible imitation of himself in between the informative pieces.

One thing that struck me enough to make comment on here was that, at least as far as the special goes, the OPEC countries really do feel a moral and significant obligation toward the world in the way they manage their resources.

This sounds kind of ironic, especially when the short bit was shown, displaying the windfall profits the OPEC countries were making selling energy at the new prices. But as the show progressed, it struck me more and more that the price increases on their energy exports, and the manner in which they viewed the western world and its demands were the result of rational, moral, and progressive thought.

Having at first seen little else than the kind of perspective *Time*, or the local media could give a person, this short TV special caused just about a reversal in view.

Maybe the Arab nations have a right to use oil as a weapon if they feel they are causing some type of global good. Maybe its time some powerful influence forced the wasteful western culture to subside. Maybe its time a new power centre shifted the way things are structured now.

Whatever the answers to those questions, one thing is sure: the way the world is set up now power-economics-military-consumption-wise, it can't last long. And the sooner someone could set this western way of thinking back on its ass the better the world would be.

Maybe the Eastern oil sheiks aren't bad guys after all.

Greg Neiman

READER COMMENT

Secret report tabled for CME

* by Peter O'Malley - Canadian University Press

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Council of Ministers of Education (CME) will meet September 9-10 in closed session in Regina, and one of the items on the agenda at the annual conference of the provincial education ministers will be the report of the federal-provincial working group on student aid.

The National Union of Students attempted unsuccessfully last year to include students in the discussions and preparation of the report, arguing that students should have some input into student aid policy-making.

But to no avail. The federal government and all but a few of the provinces listened with deaf ears, and resisted a move by Alberta to open up the talks to more than the official representatives of the federal and provincial student aid bureaucracies.

The working group remained closed, released no record of its discussions or any materials for public debate. The secrecy of the group was violated only once, when an unknown party leaked minutes and other items to the student press and student organizations last November.

Without that leak, there would still be no public knowledge of the existence of the group, which had been mandated by the CME to take a look at adjusting student aid policies to meet present and future needs.

Now it is learned that the report of the group to be tabled at the CME meeting in September may never be publicly released.

A CME spokesperson expressed doubt that it will be, and said that if any agreement is reached between the provinces on the recommendations in the report, the CME will probably release a statement, but not the report itself.

Meanwhile, there appears to be some attempt being made to downgrade the significance of the report and its recommen-

dations. Last winter federal officials tried to dissuade NUS in its efforts at securing student representation on the group by saying the talks weren't all that important anyway.

Now, John Bonner, who represented Ontario in the talks, says the significance of the group isn't in the recommendations it has made, but that it ever met in the first place.

According to Bonner, one of the problems of provincial student aid officials is that the two federal departments involved - the Secretary of State and the Department of Finance - never meet with the provinces at the same time.

"The working group was actually the first occasion all the provinces and all of the departments at the federal level involved in student aid could

meet officially and all in the same room," he said.

Bonner also indicated that the recommendations of the working group are very general, citing the need for greater federal flexibility in dealing with the provinces as an example of the type of recommendation made.

Whether this is true, or whether the group was unable to reach consensus on the major issues facing it and has reduced the scope of recommendations, is not known at this time.

And whether anyone other than the handful of bureaucrats and politicians who will get the report will ever know the answer is to be decided at the September CME meeting.

Unless there is another leak.

The Pig's Pen

The greatest show on campus

St. Stephen's College is scheduled for demolition - the United Church is inviting bids for a demolition to commence after Sept. 9.

Imagine what a show this will be for students coming to University for their first year. Here are the apparently learned peoples demolishing the first building built on this campus, a building which displays more aesthetic beauty and feeling than any new monstrosity on campus. But the University leaders, after many years of study of supply and demand, know that whenever there is a housing crisis, that is the best time to tear down these beautiful old residences. In this way, an example will be set. The new students will realize that whatever the administration does is right; whether they understand it or not.

The correct solution to this housing crisis is of course, to

begin destruction of this "reasonably sound building and set up a temporary housing crisis center. This will enable students to stay at the University for four days, just long enough, to watch the demolition of their old residence take place.

After the four days are finished, however, the provincial officials have stated that the students should return home.

For some that may be a long way. But if they can find no place to live, they may just have to forget University, this year.

St. Stephen's College could be brought up to standards for 30-40 thousand dollars, probably not much more than it would cost to demolish it and haul all the rubble away. I often wonder about the sanity of the University planners.

We have seen this poor planning rage across this campus for many years. The houses of the North Garneau region, possibly the cheapest and most comfortable housing near the University, were threatened last time, for no apparent reason. The fight to stop the University from tearing down those houses still goes on.

Now St. Stephen's is slated to be destroyed. Now is the time, University planners, to present your intensive benefit/cost analyses of St. Stephen's. I ask you to present it because I know you haven't done one. The last time a report to tear down buildings came from that department it was rejected by the board because the cost estimates were inaccurate. It took the Senate, making their own study, to correct these errors.

Now the University has rejected an offer from the United Church which would virtually give them the building. What is the basis for this decision? Let the students see why they are losing badly needed housing and a part of Alberta's heritage. I ask the planners why they insist upon punching a hole in the bottom of the boat when a wave is coming over the top.

I suggest that the University conduct an open debate on this issue and perform an adequate cost analysis. Because, even if it is necessary to tear down St. Stephen's College, it can't be so necessary that it has to be done now!



GRAPHICALLY speaking....

Gateway once again is on the lookout for people to man/woman the graphics department.

Anyone interested in drawing, illustrations, or general media art, cartooning, or even doodling would find a warm reception in our offices.

Please drop in and see if you like what we can offer you. We supply everything but time and talent. That's up to you.

It's a great chance to get good experience as a working artist. And you'd have free reign to try almost anything you'd like.

Gateway WANTS you!!!