

Viewpoint

Confusion power

By Mitchell Bard

Bard's Eye View:

James Watt is gone but not forgotten. His legacy lives on through the JW Memorial Park in Yellowstone National Park. In one of his last actions before leaving office, Watt dedicated an area in the park to himself and allocated funds for an annual "Hunt for Yogi" to take place there.

Watt's successor William Clark, whose only qualification for the job is that he knows where the environment is (which is more than he knew about most countries as National Security Advisor), has refused to overturn the decision. As a compromise to "econuts", he has offered to put Boo Boo on the endangered list.

Since Watt's resignation there has been little news about the environment. One key decision was to put an end to the Howard Baker Power Project otherwise known as the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. This White Elephant was finally put out of its misery after (you fill in a number: millions, billions, zillions) were spent.

There is a group of adherents to an obscure religious sect found in Washington, however, who believe in the reincarnation of elephants so we may not have heard the last of Clinch River.

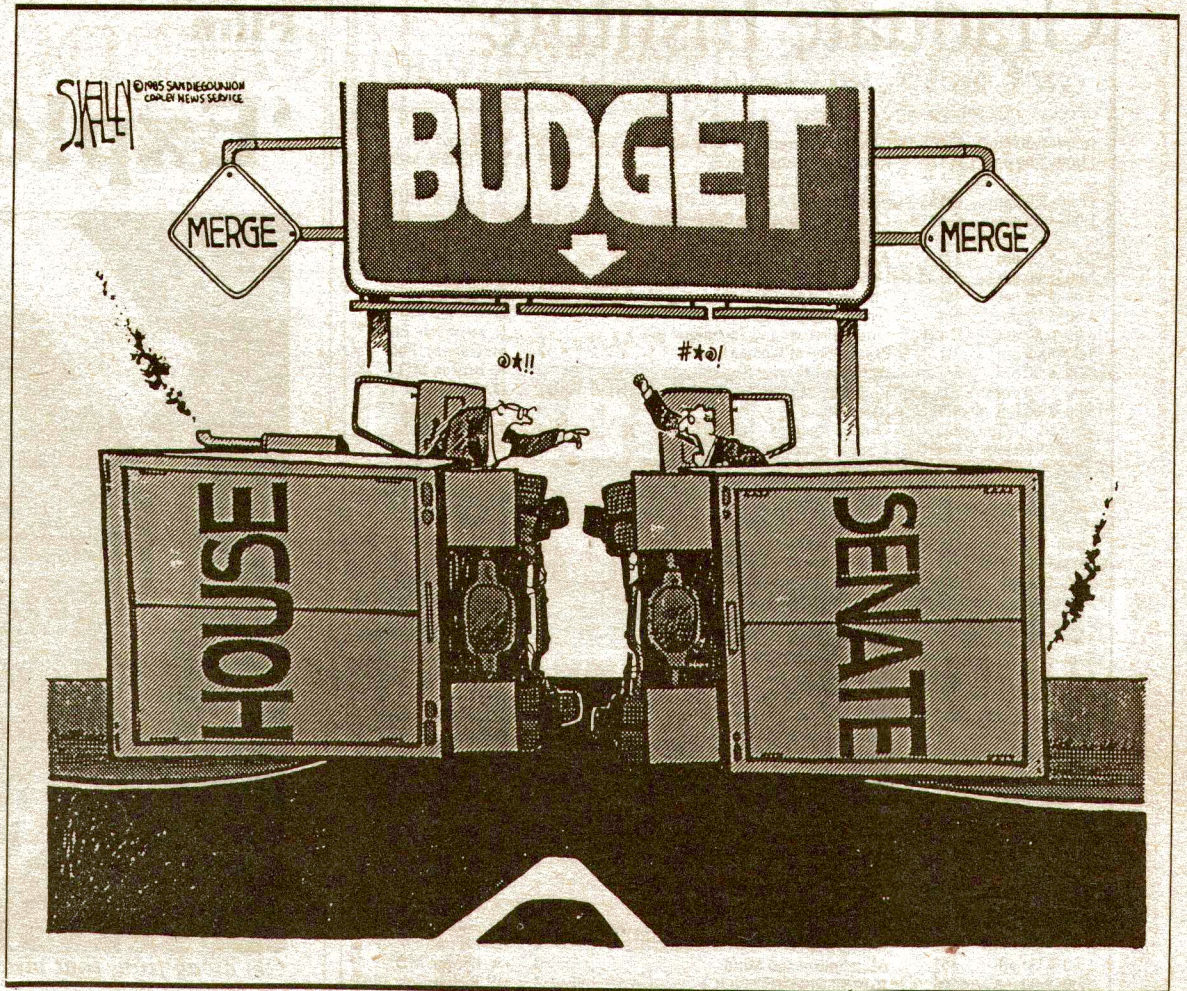
On the subject of nuclear power, scientists at MIT (More Intelligent than Thou) recently achieved a breakthrough in their research on nuclear fusion. Fusion is considered by many people to be the solution to our energy problems. As a result of the MIT achievement, fusion power should be practical sometime before the sun dies out and it is no longer possible.

In an effort to reach a more immediate solution, the Energy Department has launched a massive funding effort of Confusion Power. This project was explained to me by Professor Carl Sagan. "The idea," he says, "is to take billions and billions of rats and put them on giant treadmills, you know, like the ones in little cages for pet rats, and then attach the treadmills to cranks which run turbines...."

Confusion has the same advantage as the breeder reactor; that is, they both create more fuel than they use. Given the reproduction rate of rats, in fact, there is no danger of running out of fuel for the confusion reactors.

Also, the start-up cost needed to get the first rats on-line is a fraction of the cost of uranium. I think it may be time to shift into the Power Eye.

Bard is a graduate student of political science and a published columnist.



Counterpoint

A professional mood approach

By John Hanley, M.D.

Although it is neither my wont nor my custom to trespass on students' rightful preserves such as the Bruin, I cannot let the recent farrago of rubbish on mental illnesses paraded on its pages pass without comment.

The grave psychotic illnesses that assault the brain are not significantly treatable by the arts, despite profligate use of the term "therapies" in this regard by applicants of these modes who make their living from them.

Such notions have their own special lunacy, belonging as they do, to the tradition of belief that central nervous system syphilis was the result of certain societies — e.g. it was commonly put forward in France that the mad delusions, paresis, depressions, hallucinations, and other characteristics of this disorder were entirely due to the proximity of England.

Other bizarre fantasies about this disorder — also laid at the doors of consumption of sausage, menses, and laziness — were dynamited forever by the scientific endeavors of Dr. J.W. Moore who in 1913 at the Central Islip Hospital in Long Island, New York, discovered the pale spirochete in the nervous system of man.

These organizations do not surrender to

music but to penicillin; and the scourges of schizophrenia, psychotic depression, and mania do not bow before the conductor's baton nor the painter's brush, but are ameliorated by neuroleptics, the convulsive therapies, and the lithium ion.

Even a casual reading of the history of the arts reveals that their renowned originators numbered amongst them seriously afflicted mentally ill practitioners whose dread disorders were not prevented, not leavened, and not cured by performance of their skills.

It is easy for simplistic amateurs to be deceived by the fluctuations of these disorders which sometimes permit the patients to listen to music or enjoy decorating a canvas; fortunately such gullibility is becoming out of fashion in at least some circles in which psychiatrists are rejoining the medical profession.

Nonetheless, the consequences of parallel absurdities can now be seen daily in the streets of Westwood where patients in desperate need of proper care can be commonly seen in catatonic postures and dominated by psychotic ritual behaviors, all of which are totally impervious to a variety of musical styles broadcast from car radios.

Dr. Hanley is a UCLA professor.

Letters

Abortion

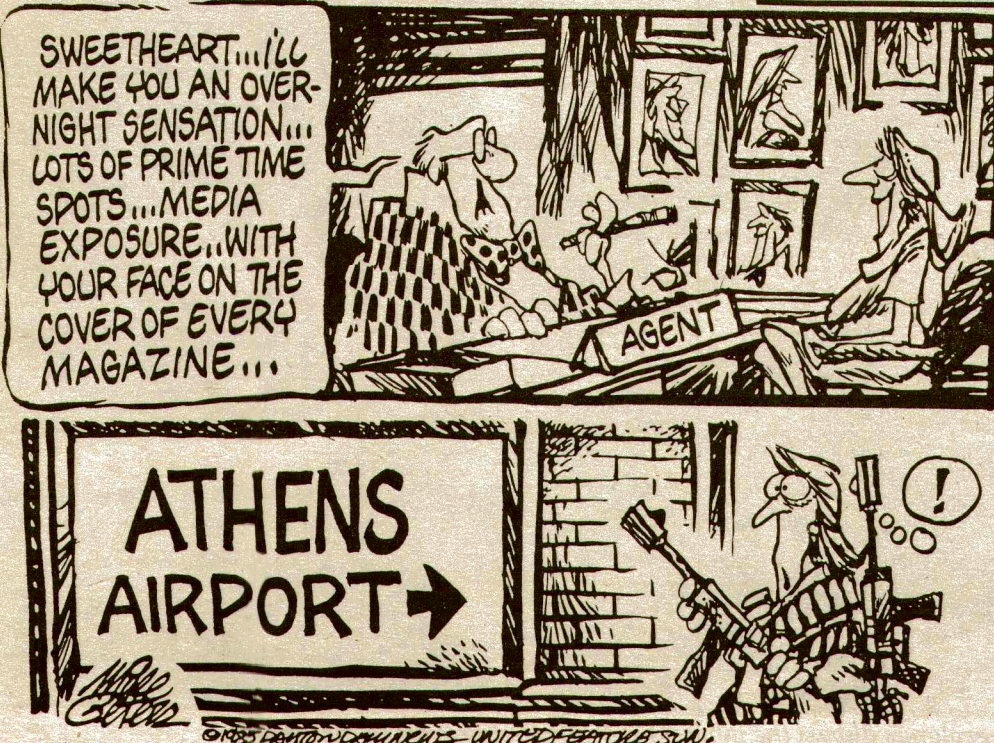
Editor:

America's holocaust rages on. Thousands are thrown into the furnaces and garbage cans of this country every day. The Summer Bruin Editorial Staff, backers of the pro-murder group, believe abortion to be a woman's rights

issue. I guess the Holocaust of World War II was an aryan rights issue.

The negligible utility to society of a fetus isn't arguable. If this is the criteria for existence, how about a little suction and curretage on the Summer Bruin?

Michael Gorczyca
Alumni



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