

OPINIONS

Letters to the editor

Debate Debated

The environmental issues debate on April 7 in Eric Hall, with Robert Kennedy, Jr. and Steve Symms, squared the environment and business off against each other. After hearing their comments, I feel that it is very unfortunate that environmental issues have come to the forefront in this decade. Forty years ago the economic conditions were such that we could have begun a more ecologically sound practice without so many of the ill effects such a practice creates today.

Since the founding of this nation we have had an evolving economy. Our first century saw us as the agrarian capital. Our second century saw us as the industrial capital. Our third century will see us as the technological capital. However, our culture has not made the same shift. This is the greatest obstacle to ecologically sound practices in this country.

Population control is the most fundamental environmental protection issue that is facing the nation today. The jobs the poor need to gain economic independence are shrinking at the same time the population is exploding. Without controlling population growth, there can never be enough money to help those in need.

Environmental controls would cost the industry a lot of money and, as a result, more people would lose their jobs but this does not relieve us of the responsibility we have to clean up our country. The large question that remains is whether or not the government should be responsible for the creation of a more ecologically sound system.

Our government was created to protect us from other nations and to ensure us of our liberties, not to manage business. However, it has become necessary for the government to extend its protecting powers internally as well. Therefore, it would seem that the government should mandate pollution requirements of industry and citizens, but not

to directly operate the environmental machine. Every industry and citizen should be responsible for the pollution it creates. Certainly this would raise the costs of many things and a loss of work in many industries, but it would also create a large, new industry.

We will never achieve any ecological goals as long as political extremes, rather than scientific knowledge, make the decisions. I do not know the best course of action or what all the consequences of that action may be, but we cannot ignore the issue any longer.

Mike Duminiak
6th Semester
Psychology/Biology

Problems with John

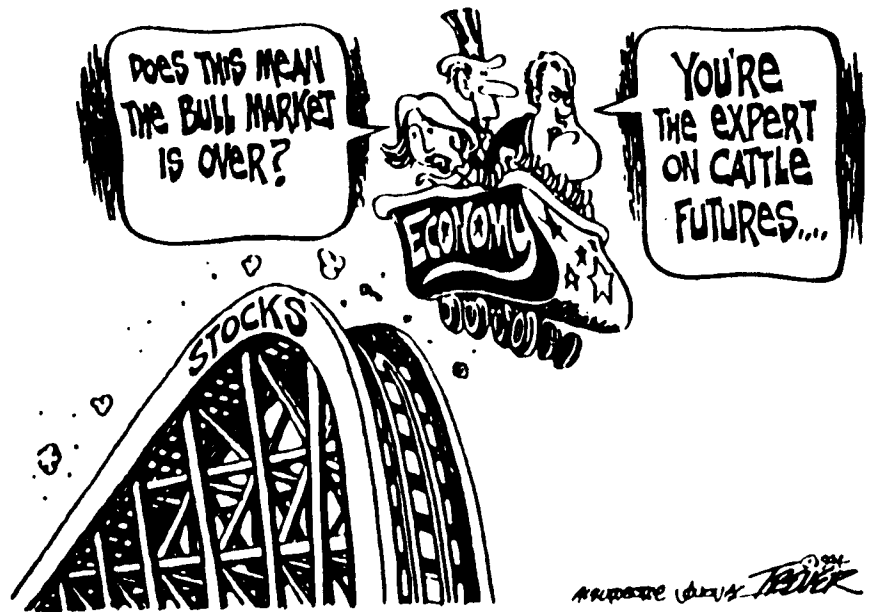
Upon reading John Rossomando's April 14, 1994 column, I felt that I had to point out a few problems with John's argument. First of all, I would ask that Mr. Rossomando look up the word "liberalism" in a dictionary.

The groups about which he speaks are BY DEFINITION NOT LIBERAL! Also, since when have conservatives been the champions of free expression? I did not know that this is what Conservatives stand for.

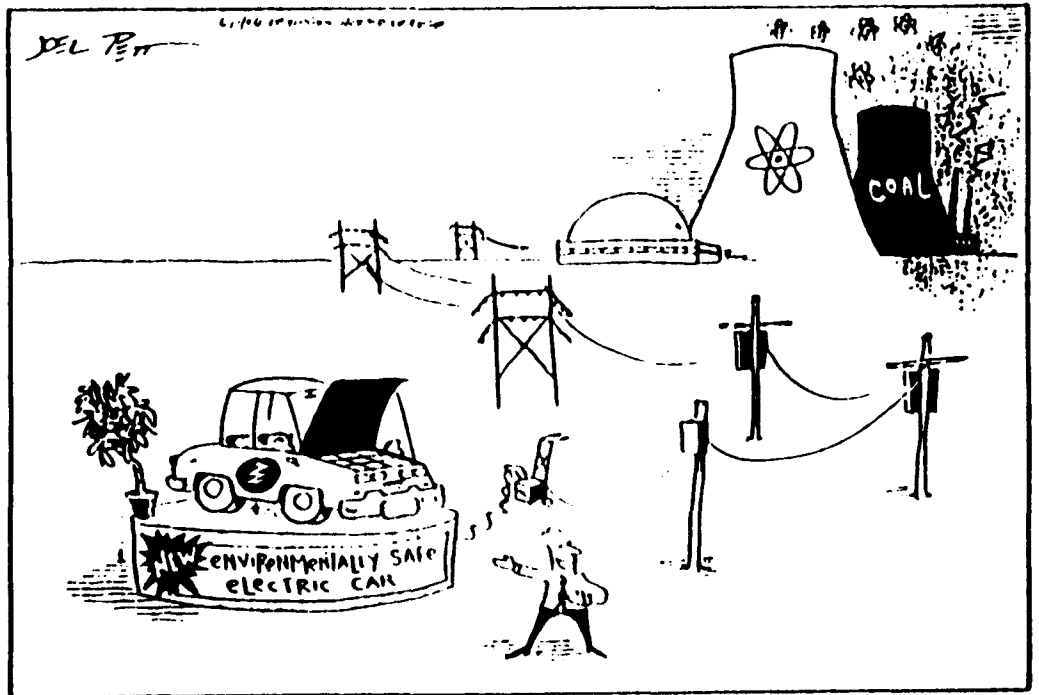
Perhaps I was too busy paying attention to the vast majority of Conservatives who attempt to impose their values onto the rest of society and get publicity for banning and burning books, pushing Constitutional Amendments to ban flag burning, and deciding what constitutes pornography for the obviously less intelligent, although much more numerous, American masses.

I would suggest, John, that in the future you look up words you do not understand in a dictionary, and remain ideologically consistent in your arguments.

James D. Ruhlman
Political Science
8th Semester



Editorial cartoons



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The Pennsylvania State University
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Co-Editors
Matthew D. Cissne
Alicia Hartman

Business &
Advertising Manager
Darlene Stremic

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