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Huxley College of the Environment

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Huxley Hotline, 2000, November 8

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Wednesday

November 8, 2000

Huxley Hotline

Huxley College of Environmental Studies

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Keep tabs on election news and issues via the web!

- Microsoft Network News
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- George W. Bush Online
www.georgewbush.com
- Al Gore Online
www.algore2000.com
- Environmental News Network Online
www.enr.com

Bush defeats Gore?

Or is it the other way around?

By Kate Koch

While computers busily counted votes, the eyes and ears of America were glued to the television. Waiting, wishing, hoping, I put off all other tasks to ensure I didn't miss the final decision. The fate of the nation rested on the oddly shaped shoulders of Florida.

The words, "too close to call," echoed in my ears as correspondent after correspondent analyzed every second of the race.

Even now I keep re-

playing the moment the screen shifted from Tom Brokaw to the same background which only minutes earlier announced Maria Cantwell's success in Washington state.

My jaw dropped as I saw Gov. George W. Bush's face appear next to the words "43rd president of the United States of America."

However, this morning's broadcasts paint a slightly different picture. It still comes down to Florida as they begin a
(Continued on page 2)



Photo courtesy of: www.georgewbush.com

Four more years of Bush? What does this mean for our environment?

Oil: still on the world's mind

By W. Kevin Murray

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) current ability to affect world oil prices may have links to the west's (namely the United States') energy policies during the '70s. OPEC's motivation, on the other hand, may have more to do with its own response to the west's support

of Israel in the Yom Kippur war.

Although the current world oil situation echoes of political action taken during the '70s, consumers in the United States flinch little compared to their response two decades ago. Still, the current oil dilemma has been an issue dur-

ing the 2000 U.S. presidential campaign.

Fuel prices are nearing \$2 a gallon - up 70 percent or more from a year ago. In fact, world oil prices are at a 10-year high; currently the price per barrel is more than \$30 - up from \$22 just a year ago.

(Continued on page 3)

Internship Opportunity Explorations High School

By Sarah Kopke

Explorations High School, a non-profit, experiential education high school, is looking for someone to fill an intern position for winter term 2000-01.

Explorations inte-

grates academics with an interdisciplinary curriculum, community atmosphere, experiential learning and outdoor adventures.

Explorations is located in Bellingham, but is leading a five-week field trip to Southern California to study border issues and desert ecology for part of winter term.

An intern would be involved in trip planning, assistant teaching, group dynamics and trip leading. Since the group will be doing some back-packing, first aid experience is

appreciated.

The group will remain in Bellingham academically preparing for their trip to California until January 22, 2001. Highlights of the trip include visiting Shasta National Forest, Joshua Tree National Park and Death Valley. Students will also be able to meet with various speakers from grassroots organizations.

The internship is a volunteer position, but room and board will be paid for by Explorations while on the field trip. Explorations staff wel-

comes newcomers and works closely with students to make sure the education provided is academically intensive and allows room for personal development. Anyone is welcome to apply, an intern would not have to be of a specific age.

If you would like more information on how to become an intern and details of the trip, please contact Sarah at Explorations High School, at 671-8085. ***

Environmental organization of the week

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance

By Tracie Derkowski

Located directly on the Puget Sound and mere miles away from some of the most beautiful forests in the Pacific Northwest, its expansive waterways and countless other resources make Bellingham the ideal location for an environmental college. Anywhere you find an environmental college you'll find activists and anywhere you find activists you'll find an environmental organiza-



Graphic courtesy of www.ecosystem.org.

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance works to solve local environmental problems.

Bellingham is home to the prominent organization Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (NWEA).

NWEA was founded in 1988. The goal of the organization is "to protect and restore wildlands in the Pacific Northwest and support such efforts in British Columbia.

NWEA bridges science and advocacy, working with activists,

policy makers and the general public to conserve our national heritage". Along with protecting and restoring wildlands, they work diligently to protect endangered species such as the lynx, gray wolf and salmon.

NWEA is currently involved in many projects to protect national forests in Washington. These projects include road-less area and old-growth forest protection, dry forest restoration and protecting Eastside forests. NWEA also works to protect landscape viability, which means preserving whole forests to protect habitats from alpine lakes to Mount Rainier for many threatened and endangered species in Washington. They also work for Canadian wildland protection that includes trans-boundary ecosys-

tems.

The NWEA Web site has a link to keep you updated on the latest environmental issues, actions, announcements and press releases. There is also an online version of their quarterly newsletter.

If you are interested in an internship with NWEA, they offer volunteer internships throughout the year that coincide with academic quarters. For more information on becoming an intern, becoming a member, or volunteering with Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, visit their Web site at www.ecosystem.org, visit them at 1421 Cornwall, suite 201, or call them at (360) 671-9950. ***

Bush (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

recount of the votes cast there.

What does another Bush in the Whitehouse mean to America? More importantly, what does that same Bush mean to our environment?

Well, what has he done for the environment lately?

The Sierra Club states Bush accepted "more than a million dollars in campaign contributions from Texas's worst air polluters."

Also, under the leadership of Bush, Texas has curbed pollution within the state slower than any other state in the union.

For example, as governor in 1995, Bush eliminated an important automobile pollution inspection program. Supporters of the program believe it

would have reduced motor vehicle produced smog in Texas' two most polluted cities, Houston and Dallas. These same cities made the "Top 25 most Ozone-polluted cities in the US" in a recent study directed by the American Lung Association.

Also, in an attempt to "wean" the U.S. off of foreign oil imports, Bush has proposed entering the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drill for oil. He claims it's a "small part of Alaska."

This "small part" could be as little as 8% of the ANWR or as large as 20%. Bush has yet to state any concrete numbers.

Here's an issue that hits a little closer to home. George W. Bush states, "I want to

build pipelines to move natural gas." Here in Bellingham we have seen what kind of travesties are directly related to pipe-

lines and lack of regulation.

So, is Bush going to implement new restrictions and regulations on pipeline companies? Probably not.

Will the addition of more pipelines increase the possibility of explosions similar to our own "June 10th" disaster elsewhere in the US? Definitely.

Even more discouraging is the apparent Republican control of both the House and the Senate. For the first time in 48 years it appears Republicans will control 2 of the 3 branches of the government.

However, I remain hopeful as of 1:30 am on Wednesday morning, Flor-

ida's 25 electoral votes could change hands if the final margin between Bush and Gore is less than one tenth of one percent. By state law there must be a vote recount should this happen.

Some counties in Flor-

ida have already begun this recount and Gore has retracted his concession to George W. Bush.

MSNBC has projected it might take until December 18th before we know who will make or break the environment



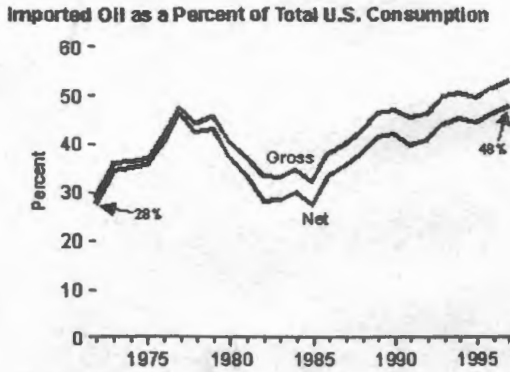
Photo courtesy of www.safebellingham.org

Could we see a repeat of our own June 10th explosion elsewhere due to Governor George W. Bush's support of pipelines and oil companies?

in the next four years.

There are still absentee ballots, domestic and overseas, coming in as officials in Florida hurriedly recount ballots there. All we can do is sit and wait, fingers crossed with hopes for the best.***

Oil (cont.)



Source: Energy Information Administration

Prior to the OPEC oil embargo during the '70s, the United States imported 28 percent of the oil they consumed. Preceding the embargo, the United States' oil imports increased to 48 percent even though policy changes were introduced to reduce reliance on OPEC oil.

(Continued from page 1)

Bev Miller, whose daughter attends Western Washington University, says she wished things would "get worse." Miller, a resident of Tacoma, often bicycles to work and isn't affected by the price

increase because she says she has always been a conservationist.

During the fuel crisis in the '70s, people would be forced to plan their trips out and this conserved fuel, said Miller. She added that if things got worse, maybe people would start conserving like in the '70s.

In the autumn of

1973, oil prices in the United States quadrupled overnight and cars lined up at the gas pumps on days that corresponded with their license plate number.

Oct. 7, 1973 - the same day Israel celebrated the religious feast of Yom Kippur -

Egypt launched a surprise air attack on Israeli troops occupying Sinai.

Because of the west's support (including the United States) of Israel during the Israeli-Arab war, Saudi Arabia's King Faisal sanctioned an oil embargo against the west.

Imported oil into the United States during the early '70s amounted to 28 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Middle East Times reports that the oil embargo scarred "the economies of the West for years with recession, inflation and unemployment."

Following the oil embargo of 1973, the United States attempted to reduce the influence of OPEC by implementing higher taxes, demanding more efficiency (primarily automobiles), funding

research of alternative fuels and exploring for domestic oil sources.

The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 resulted from the changes in the 1970s and created two new governmental agencies: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration.

The ERDA, among other responsibilities, researched alternative energy development.



Photo by: W. Kevin Murray

In 1973 US consumers were lining up at the gas pumps due to OPEC controlling oil supplies. Lines at this Lakeway gas station are not forming, yet.

In 1977, the Department of Energy assumed the ERDA's responsibilities along with the Federal Energy Administration's, the Federal Power Commission's and programs of several other agencies.

(Continued on page 4)

Veggie Files

Fried Green Tomatos

By Charlotte Larson

Ingredients

- 5 cups tomatoes, sliced
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

- Wash and dry each tomato slice.
- Sprinkle cornmeal on a piece of wax paper or a large flat surface.
- Dip each tomato slice into the cornmeal and pat gently until cornmeal covers the surface; turn slice over and coat the other side.
- Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat.
- Add tomato slices and fry for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, until golden brown.
- Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Serve hot!

Directions

For more vegetarian recipes check out www.vegetarianrecipe.com

Nutrition

384 Calories—4 g Protein—29 g Total Fat
25 mg Sodium—No cholesterol—31 g Carbohydrates—4 g Fiber

Oil (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

There are alternative fuels on the market today, including liquid natural gas and ethanol – both reduce environmental impacts. The U. S. DOE also sponsors a program called "Clean Cities."

Even with all the governmental agency creations and responsibility changes following the 1973 oil embargo, DOE figures show current import of oil into the United States stands at 48 percent.

Following the first oil embargo, "non-OPEC countries were able to get into the act, and production rose by more than 4 million barrels a day over the past two decades," according to a U.S. News March 13, 2000 online editorial. "There was a steady decline in oil prices, leading to their collapse in 1998 to below \$10 per barrel. The impact of these excessively low prices provoked oil countries to cut production three times."

In the first presidential debate held in Boston on Oct. 3, 2000, both Gore and Bush spoke of the current energy crisis. Although Bush reminded the audience of his connection to Texas and emphasized the supply side to deal with the oil crisis, Gore talked about the consumption side.

"We have to bet on the future and move beyond the current technologies to have a whole new generation of more efficient, cleaner energy technologies," said Gore.

Gore did remark about increasing the current supply of oil but his later comments reflected not just a desire to reduce U.S. reliance on OPEC but to build a cleaner tomorrow.

Unlike the fuel crisis two decades earlier, American consumers are not ready to make too drastic of a change to their fuel consumption habits, yet; nor are they forced to do so, yet.

Dave Auble of Spokane (who was travelling

through the Bellingham area) said he now adds a little more pressure to his tires to help increase his overall gas mileage, and he said the Samish Way AM PM mini mart's gas prices are good for his wallet. "Cheapest in town; that's why I'm here," said Auble.

To get more information about alternative fuels, the program "Clean City" and related information visit the DOE's website at www.doe.gov.

Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th day of Tishri (it falls during the months of September and October on the Gregorian calendar) and means "Day of Atonement." For more information, visit www.jewfaq.org/holiday4hr.

To read the complete U. S. News editorial about fuel prices in the red, go to www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/000313/13edit.htm.

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What's Up?

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- "Up to Speed: A Century of Automobiles" See WWU's experimental car, "Viking 29." Whatcom Museum of History and Art, noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Call 676-6981 for more info.
- "Defying Gravity: The Wonder of Flight" teaches us about the wing structures and flying patterns of various creatures. Whatcom Children's Museum, call 733-8769 for more info.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- ASP Films, "Feed!" at 8 pm, Fraser Hall 4. For more information call 650-6130

Friday, Nov. 10

- Veterans Day (No Classes)
- Last Day for Late Course Withdrawal

Saturday, Nov. 11

- LEAD and NSEA restore a riparian zone near Squalicum Creek. 9 am to 12 pm. Call 650-4776 for more information.

- LEAD Plants along Pad-den Creek in Fairhaven Park from 10 am to 12 pm. For more information call 650-4776.

Sunday, Nov. 12

- ASP Films, "Gattaca" at 7 and 9 pm, Fraser Hall 4. Call 650-6130 for more information. Would you like to see your event in "What's Up?" E-mail the Huxley Hotline at huxleyhot.

Monday, Nov. 13

- "Gattaca" at 7 and 9 pm.
- Wilson Library Book Sale from 9 am to 4 pm, WL 171. Call 650-3038 for



more information.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

- "Where in the World is Geography?" Student/faculty college bowl. Event open to the public. Arntzen hall 221, 2 to 4 pm.