Opinion

Page 5

Electricity, continued from p. 4

The only reason nuclear and coal survive as power generators is through heavy government subsidies that serve to mask the true cost of our energy use.

If we took away the subsidies, both nuclear and coal electrical generation would disappear within months or years.

Similarly, if we subsidized wind and other renewable energy at the same level as coal and nuclear, they would out-compete both coal and nuclear and drive them from the marketplace. Dropping all subsidies as soon as possible should be our goal. The market will sort out which techniques are truly economical.

Guardians of the energy status quo also cry out to do away with government regulation and champion a free-market economy.

Then they claim that converting to renewable energy will bankrupt our grandchildren's future because we will need to pay too much to convert to renewables. If we completely did away with subsidies and let market forces take over, my bet is

This week in Campus Life

Hearts for Haiti Valentine Dance

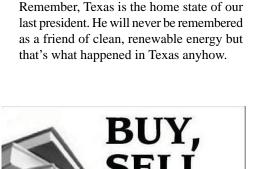
10pm-1am in Myers Reserve Dinning Room 25 cents to get in the door 50 cents to enter the cutest couple contest

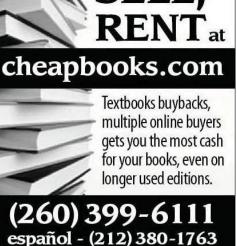
Senior Seminar Series Movie

Thursday Feb 18 @ 7:30pm Dunham Auditorium Free Snacks: pop corn, and movie theater candy Playing: "Office Space" Thinking about your future? Come find out about what you need to know before, during, and after you're a senior. that nuclear power and all forms of fossil fuels would become, well, fossils, in a very short time. Instead, these noble guardians cling to the present and offer a decimated, poisoned landscape, ocean, and atmosphere as their vision of the future. Such logic reeks of short-sighted, self-serving profit and corruption. Who, in their right mind, would prefer a poisoned planet over a clean one?

Wall Street, for all of its ills, sees the writing on the wall. Nuclear power plants can only be constructed with governmentbacked loans because banks and investors know a poor risk when they see one. A similar, wholesale flight from fossil fuel-generated electricity is accelerating rapidly. Last year, the Environmental Defense Fund successfully argued down the construction of 100 coal-fired power plants by a Texas utility. The result: Texas has seen a surge in the growth of renewable energy, particularly wind power, and recently passed Iowa and California as the leading renewableenergy producing state.

Following conservative principles into a green future is not an oxymoronic statement. All that is needed is to put conservation back into conservatism.





put sm. CHΣΛΡβΘΘKS[®]

The Clarion			
Editor in Chief:	Travis Wireback	Managing Editor:	John Climer
News Editor: Business Editor: Opinion Editor: Arts & Life Editor: Sports Editor:	Open Open Travis Taylor Will Byers Open	Copy Editor: Layout & Design: Photo Editor: Business Manager: Faculty Advisor:	Open Travis Wireback Marc Newton Emily Clark John B. Padgett
Other Staff			
Karam Boeshaar Dabney Farmer David Alexander		Megan Street Dimitri McCloghry Michael Eleazer	

Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of the staff of *The Clarion*. Other opinions expressed on this page are those of respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Brevard College.

Letters Policy

The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and content. All letters intended for publication must be signed.

All correspondence should be mailed to:

The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712