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we couldn't have gotten another three ounces out of the sonofabitch. There's no way 22 pounds could still be in there."

Smith says that despite this failure to locate evidence of the missing fuel, the federal government accepted Kerr-McGee's word that the lost fuel had been accounted for. The missing plutonium is reportedly enough to produce four or five home-made nuclear devices.

In both cases, dehumanization has occurred to the point of murder. In one case racist attitudes are to blame, profit appears to be a motive in the other. If society backs these groups with lax sentences or lack of convictions there will be more of it.

(Information courtesy of Zodiac News Service.)

Wowie  
Zowie!

And speaking of the illicit weed, a newspaper on the Hawaiian Island of Maui reports that marijuana farming has become a \$10 billion a year business. On that island alone, it allegedly involves about 1000 full time growers.

The Maui Sun says a month-long investigation by the newspaper has uncovered an ever-expanding pot industry on the island. The newspaper describes the pot growers it interviewed as "articulate family people who own their own home, drive a nice car, want to send their kids to college and seemed very professional about the scientific ways to grow dope." The island is world renowned for its potent strain of the weed known "Maui Wowie."

## SPIRIT

According to a nationwide survey by the George Gallup Organization, 95 percent of all teenagers say they believe in a god or a universal spirit.

In addition, the survey found that 75 percent of those between the ages of 13 and 18 reported they believe in a personal God — described as a being who observes individual actions and then rewards or punishes those actions.

Ninety percent of the teens questioned said they prayed at least occasionally — with 40 percent saying they pray "frequently."

The survey also found that girls are more likely to pray — and to pray frequently — than are boys.

# ENERGY AWARENESS BEGINS

BY TANE DATTA

We used over 80.3 Quads of energy in America last year and we are predicted to use even more in the following years. A lot more, over 191 Quads by the year 2000 is the government figure. This comes mainly from non-renewable resources: coal, natural gas and oil which account for 92.2% of our energy supplies. This implies an end and before that limitations. We have already entered the time of limitations. Furthermore, our present choices of energy sources will affect our lifestyle and even the survival of our society in the future.

The need to find an energy plan to fulfill our future needs is obvious. The urgency of it is underscored by the amount of time President Carter and Congress — our largest decision making bodies in the country — have put into it.

The President's political ambitions for this year are riding on his energy plan. The final plan will affect everyone of us in several ways. Thus our thoughts and concerns should be important in the formation of the plan. The first effects will be in limitations.

Limitations are placed on us by necessities. The primary ones being diminishing resources leading to economic laws of supply, demand and monopoly. The secondary ones stem from environmental-political situations and involve personal consumption patterns.

These limitations can be seen concretely in the form of rising fuel prices, increasing interdependence, and increasingly centralized distribution patterns. This is the present strategy being followed by the necessity to obtain and distribute renewable resources while reducing consumption.

The immediate effect of rising fuel prices is reduced consumption. This reduced consumption means that we drive our cars less, going only to "important" places, lower our house temperature, buy more economical products, and other small changes. This requires making value judgments. What is an "important" place? Store owners say stores are, industries and government claim work, others claim friend's homes.

I consider countryside cruising, fall leaves, and endless beaches the most important. Lowering your home's temperature may be a

matter of more social consequence or law, as in New Jersey last year. How fairly would a mandatory house temperature limit be administered? You already know that answer. Class divisions immediately arise when products are bought by economical considerations. A 1978 Cadillac or some other road hog will carry more status as us folks got to buy that cheaper model; this can arise regardless of the original sticker price.

Conspicuous consumption occurs as economic energy considerations gain importance — read status. These are only some of the ways rising fuel prices affect our lives, our laws, and our society.

Increased interdependence results in increased vulnerability. This interdependence is based in economics which underlies much of societies decisions and problems. Interlocking national economics became necessary so we could gain access to increasingly valuable fuel resources.

As nations grow in sophistication and pressing social needs increase each economy/society becomes more complex. Can you picture society as an animal looking for food? Tempest, our pet society eats only green moss from the north side of trees. This strange, but friendly beast can eat only while sitting by his favorite stream on his favorite pet rock. Consequently, Tempest has eaten all the moss on every tree in a 3 mile radius. Each year he gets a little bigger and hungrier. At first Tempest needed to travel only 1 mile round trip to stay happy, healthy, and playful. Last year the round trip was 6 miles. Our poor clumsy friend spends most of the time just bringing moss back to the rock. Our smart beastie has figured out ingenious ways to find and carry lots of moss at a time. We are waiting to find out how he does next year when he has to go 10 miles and the year after that . . .

Tempest is most interesting to watch in the winter when the road freezes over, you should see him slip and slide. Poor Tempest hardly has any time left to play, but he sure is fun to watch. After all the man at the store promised us a life time of entertainment.

If Tempest ate oil and had not only natural obstacles but human ones too, such as governments and terrorists (sometimes it is hard to tell

the difference), the situation might sound more familiar.

Increasing interdependence and complexity means our energy is continually going through more hands on a larger route. These hands must be coordinated and work together. This makes an international conglomerate the most efficient way to transport energy. The conglomerate must follow economic standards and grow.

Alternative routes of getting energy are caused by competition and by the complexities of economic interlocks. The route becomes more dangerous every year. Larger tankers risk greater spills, longer pipelines risk greater terrorist attack. Protections add still more hands and more complexities. Each hand, each complexity, is a vulnerable spot. Something wrong at any one of these spots and our energy supplies will sit unused while society starves, or freezes, or whatever. This is the hidden limitation of increasing interdependence.

Increasing centralized distribution patterns are seen in electricity, natural gas, and oil. This has been the most efficient method of distributing our energy resources. Along with centralized energy sources comes concentrated social power. Only a few people decide which group will be allowed to buy energy and at what price. Competition for use is between industries who use large amounts at discount rate and consumers who use individually smaller amounts at higher rates. Lack of nonrenewable resources means that there has to be a way to share within our society.

The question is how fairly can this be accomplished? The control of resources is in the hands of the government and centralized companies — utilities. The government makes the rules and regulations. Still lacking an energy plan and subject to intense lobbying from various industries these regulations are often vague, contradictory, and always numerous. The utility companies are set up, supported, and regulated by the government, but unlike a government agency they need to operate at a profit. It is the utilities and centralized companies that decide to whom and where to sell their products. The decision-making structures of these companies have little or no consumer representation,

after all they started out as a type of private enterprise.

These decisions are therefore going to be based on profit and economics over social needs. Consumers have little voice and can be easily split. Natural gas companies can cause regional disputes between consumers, and even their local governments, but uneven regional supply. Different areas of a city may be subjected to different amounts and timing of brownouts during electricity shortages. These factors tend to diffuse and weaken consumer voice. In this way a centralized energy source becomes concentrated social power. This power is felt when an individual consumer tries to argue with a utility company. At the end of the ranting and ravings is a feeling of futility and frustration that reaches to the core.

Our energy needs must be met, of that we all agree. The limitations must be dealt with. How we are to meet our needs is being thought out now. Your thoughts and concerns can affect the energy plan now being fought out in the halls of Congress and the backrooms of — we won't say where. There are ways high fuel prices can spur the drive to find alternative energy sources, and increased interdependence with its vulnerability can give way to independence and adaptability. There are thoughts that see alternative sources of energy eliminating the need for restrictions.

This is the first of a series of articles that hope to show how these possibilities can be realized through a variety of ways. We will have many articles explaining our present energy situation, the state of our resources, pressing issues such as nuclear power, and on innovative technology being developed. I hope this will provide the basis of information needed to make the energy choices that will affect your life and the future society.

Anyone who would like to help write, learn, explore, and form an Energy Awareness Group can do so by contacting any one of the following people:

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