

## The new America

Life in the United States may never be the same again.

To the many Americans who can remember filling their car's fuel tank for less than \$5 are still dreaming of the day when they can buy a big status car; or to those who like to travel, things just ain't going to be like they used to be.

Frostless freezers, self-cleaning ovens, electric knives, air conditioners, humidifiers, automatic ice makers, electric shavers and toothbrushes, hair driers, curling irons, electric can openers and night lights—throw them all away.

Languishing in a hot bath, swimming in a heated pool and leaving the porch light on all night have become unaffordable luxuries of the past.

My God, even the traditional Sunday drive may be a thing of the past.

With the presentation of his national energy program to the Congress Wednesday night, President Jimmy Carter has sentenced the American lifestyle to a slow death.

However, as with all deaths, that of the American style of living is an inevitable one. Until now, the citizens of this country have enjoyed a standard of living never before experienced in the history of man.

But no more.

With his energy program, American energy consumers—who have enjoyed a relatively stable commodity—will be thrown to the mercy of the open market.

Indeed, but for the very rich, life in this country is in for some drastic changes.

Carter has called for a federal gasoline tax, a stiff tax on the pride of America—the big, gas-guzzling car, the measures which also will drive utility bills deep into the American pocketbook.

Where until now, energy conservation was purely voluntary, simple economics will make cutbacks on oil, natural gas and electricity consumption all but mandatory.

But price increases will not be limited to energy-related products. The higher costs faced by industry will, without a doubt, be passed on to the consumer.

Basically, what Carter's program means is life in the United States is going to cost more.

Worse yet, there seems to be no alternative but to follow a sound energy-saving plan such as Carter's. Although it has been swept under the carpet for years, America has been hurting for a comprehensive energy plan.

Carter and his administration are to be commended for their courage in forging ahead with this unwanted, unpopular, but sorely needed energy policy.

Americans are going to hate it—but to go without it would be to court disaster.

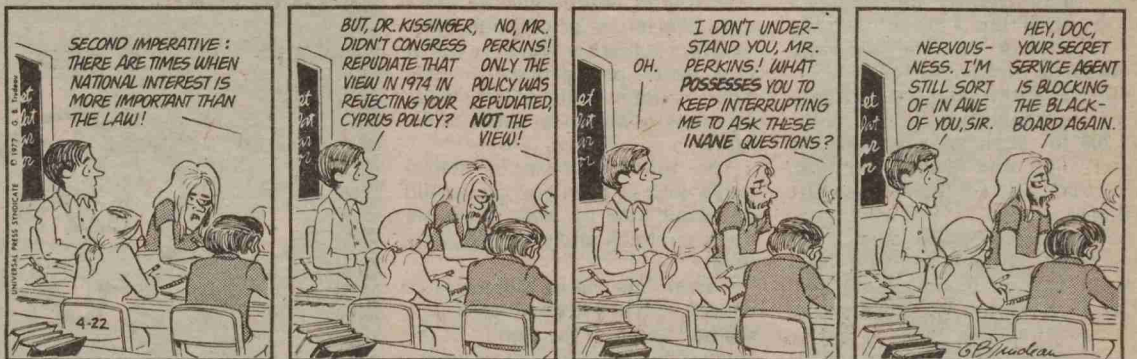
Of course, Carter's program is not the final answer to U.S. energy woes—the proposal faces an uphill climb through the Congress.

What the proposal is, is the first admission by the government that America is in real trouble. One can be sure that the tone of U.S. energy policies in the years to come will be similar to Carter's.

Welcome to the new America.

—Stephen Woodruff

## DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

## Love letters

### No benefits

Editor:

The WSU Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) feels it necessary to make its position known on the use of undercover narcotics agents by the campus, city and county police to control marijuana use. We feel that the benefits received by the police through such aggressive tactics do not justify the harm done to the general community atmosphere and the community's attitude toward the police in general.

It would be difficult to argue that the increase in suspicion and paranoia among peers that such activity produces is healthy for any society. This problem is greatly magnified in a college town like ours with such an intense social atmosphere. Use of narcotic agents posing as students also heightens resentment of police, resentment that carries over to all areas of police work and may be sustained permanently.

While NORML does not condone the use of any drugs, including marijuana, we believe that the community would be best served by the local police departments if their efforts were redirected from infiltration to education. If the various law enforcement agencies view the local drug situation (of which marijuana is the most popular) as severe enough to warrant undercover activity, then the public must also be informed of the pending dangers such drug use causes. Undercover narcotic agents do not perform this function. Indeed, it fails to be seen whether such methods have done anything to curtail marijuana use at all in the Pullman area.

We feel a more positive approach to limiting drug abuse is necessary. If the money spent to maintain undercover agents was directed towards a rational, comprehensive education program, perhaps the goals of the police as well as this organization could more effectively be met.

NORML  
WSU Chapter

### Concerned

Editor:

I am writing to express some concern over the arrests made at the Supertramp concert. I am not objecting to the enforcement of state law, but I feel that the university has fostered an atmosphere on this campus which has resulted in student expectation that such enforcement would not occur.

There are, I feel, two reasons why students do not expect to be busted on campus.

The first is that there has been little publication of similar enforcement incidents. Granted this should not be necessary, but for a number of university practices which in a more important way foster the atmosphere alluded to above.

Basically, a student on campus knows that unless he or she is informed beforehand, he or she will be able to drink alcohol at Bellhop and the games without fear of active enforcement. In fact, when there is to be active enforcement notice is given.

In dorms, there is no enforcement of underage drinking in student rooms. Even if a student is busted for smoking marijuana by a resident assistant there is little expectation that it will result in criminal prosecution based upon university practice.

I believe these types of practices are also prevalent at concerts. Students caught smoking dope are asked to put it out by student security guards. One rarely sees a uniformed officer, except in the concourses and rarely hears of drug busts at concerts. I think if one thinks about it, one could find a number of practices which reflect a protected atmosphere on campus.

My point is that the atmosphere fostered at this university sets a tone where there is little or no notice of enforcement. These busts are not unlike someone being prosecuted under a law which has not been used for years. Such a practice can not help but bring about resentment and a lack of respect for the law. The university must deal with this conflict, by giving notice of active enforcement and/or change the university emphasis on protection and in-house only enforcement.

Sue L. Markham  
McCroskey Hall

### Surprise!

Editor:

Ah, surprise! Once again we note that the campus police drug unit is on the ball. They sure nailed all those people smoking marijuana at the Supertramp concert. They cracked down on the real menace to society—the student drug addict.

With conservative (!) figures placing the number of steady users of marijuana on a college campus at about 20 per cent of the student body, we've got to face the problem. There are over 3,000 dope smokers at this college. Trying to put this many people in all the jails in Whitman County would not be feasible. We are simply going to have to shell our more tax dollars. It's either that, or rent the Performing Arts Coliseum for use as a jail.

Red-eyed menaces like these student "drugaholics" must be taken care of. After all, everyone knows it is drug-crazed addicts who commit crime out of desperation or drug-induced frenzy. Harry J. Anslinger, the man responsible for the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, and helping to get marijuana classified as a narcotic along with heroin and LSD on the same drug schedule, once said:

"We intend to get the killer-pushers and their willing customers out of selling and buying dangerous drugs. The answer to the problem is simple—get rid of drugs, pushers and users. Period."

Despite all attempts at placing the drug-crazed public under control, studies show that the number of people who smoke marijuana has been increasing over the past few years. Doesn't this lend credence to the idea that drug enforcement is basically ineffectual—at least in stopping people from eating drugs?

Please don't ask me if you can tromp on my rights any further. Instead, why not ask "What more important crimes could the campus police take care of?" I am sure there are some—possibly even crimes with a victim.

The alienation of these people (who get busted) from society is

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