

## A new wave of activism

### Conservative students deserve praise for protesting Kyoto Treaty

College students are meeting in Europe next week to participate in a series of protests in reaction to the Kyoto treaty. Recent years have seen young protesters garner headlines through colorful, and sometimes violent, demonstrations.



JONATHAN JONES

Such protests, with a few exceptions, have advocated positions advanced by the political left. This time, however, things are different. From July 13 to 20, a group of students from the United States will join others in London, Brussels and Bonn.

Sponsored by the Leadership Institute, Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow and the Science and Environmental Policy Project, the goal is environmental activism of a different variety. One A&M participant, senior political science major Jack Long, said, "We are going to Europe to help break the perception that most college students are opposed to the

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long-term climate trends and what causes them," according to panel member Dr. Richard Lindzen.

The Kyoto Treaty calls for the United States to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 to 40 percent over the next 10 years. But that could never be achieved without a severe reduction in energy use. In adequate energy supplies, as California has so aptly demonstrated, can severely hamper an economy. Ironically, California has gone far beyond any other state in pushing the energy efficiency and alternate energy programs so beloved by environmental extremists.

The students should commit themselves to pointing some of this out. Conservation is important, but is nowhere sufficient enough to meet the U.S. energy demand. Roughly two-thirds of the nation's energy comes from oxidizing carbon-based fuels, and without the destructive consequences so hauntingly predicted beginning in the early 1970s.

The United States certainly consumes more energy compared to the rest of the world but is far more productive and economically viable compared to the rest of the industrialized nations. This treaty punishes America while letting some major polluters off the hook. The U.S. Senate rejected the proposed treaty 95-0 and with good reason.

The protocol does not include developing countries who are among the world's worst polluters of the environment. In addition, it allows for the industrial nations that are big users of coal and petroleum, like Australia, to continue to increase emissions.

The Kyoto treaty has also been criticized for the lack of enforcement capability and a perception that several of the nations who signed have no intention of meeting their targets. Finally, no consensus has emerged that global warming even exists as a real threat. Assume for a moment, however, that it is.

Even full adherence to the Kyoto Treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions might have little to no impact on

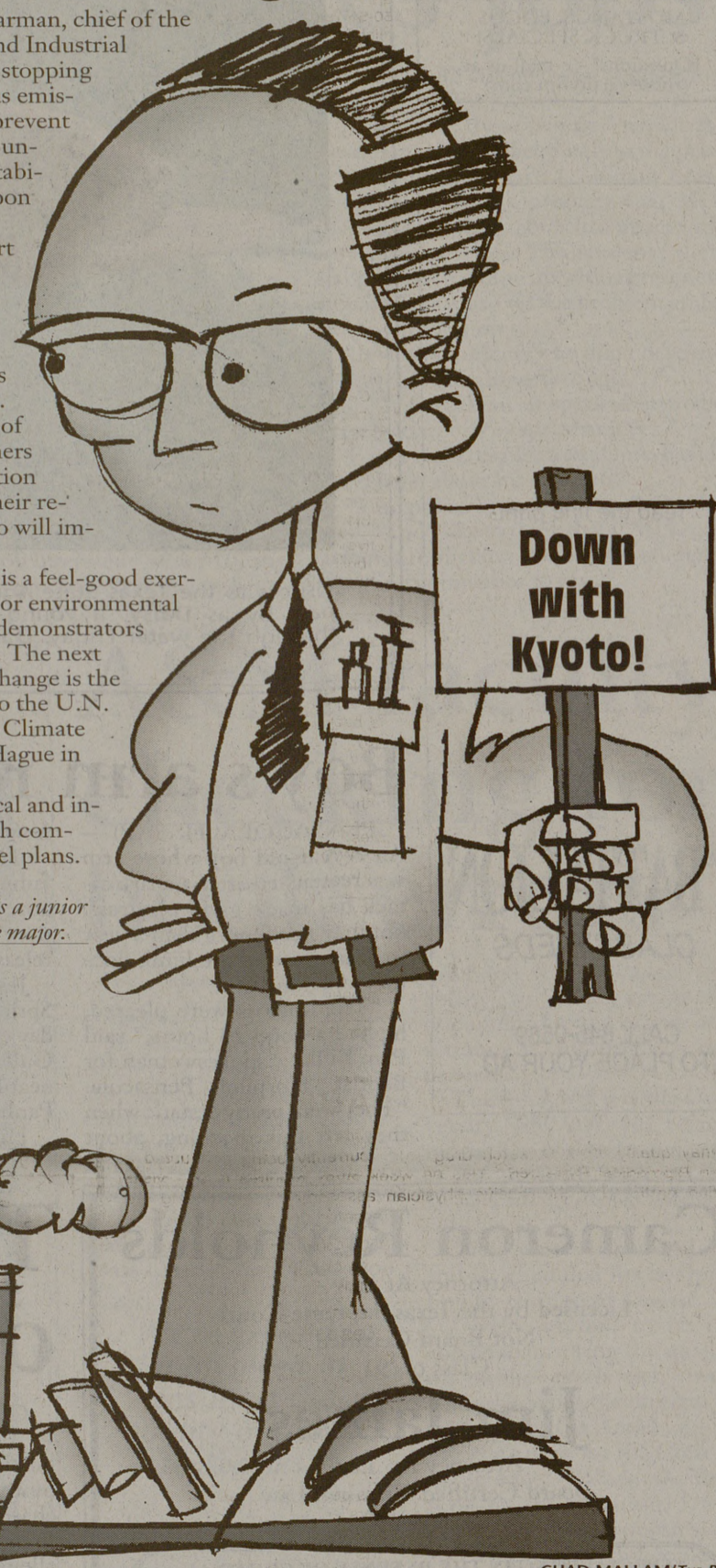
global warming. Graeme Pearman, chief of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, said stopping the growth of greenhouse gas emissions will not be enough to prevent climate change. "It is highly unlikely that we will see such stabilization (of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations) except perhaps in the latter part of this century, and that will be levels at least double and perhaps triple preindustrial levels," he said in a speech to the National Press Club in Canberra, Australia.

After three difficult years of negotiations, the Kyoto signers have still not agreed to sanction countries that fail to meet their reduction targets, and just who will impose them.

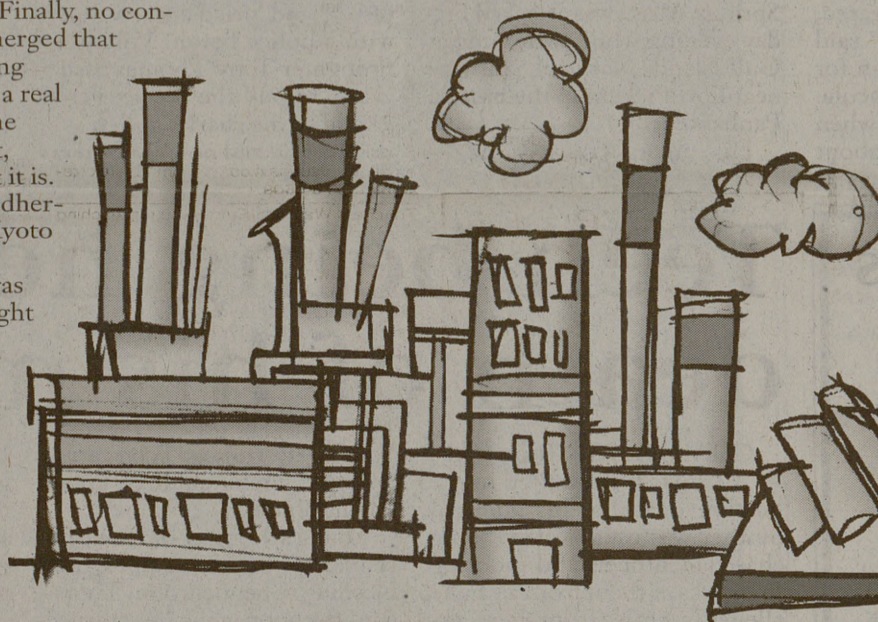
In short, the whole thing is a feel-good exercise not based on economic or environmental reality. Perhaps the college demonstrators can make a small difference. The next global meeting on climate change is the sixth conference of parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held at The Hague in November.

One must hope some vocal and informed students, armed with common sense, are making travel plans.

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CHAD MALLAM/The Battalion



President's agenda." Student participation in political activism, no matter the specific position, can be a positive contribution to political debate.

It should be encouraged, and college students should make it a point to get more informed and more involved.

The emergence of conservative students making their voices heard on this important issue is a refreshing change from the usual left-of-center youth activism. And with the Kyoto Treaty, their protests are right on.

The Kyoto Treaty, undertaken by 180 nations in 1997, calls for reductions in the emission of greenhouse gases.

It is based on the premise that global temperatures are increasing, caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases. The proposal may sound good, but there are some major problems largely ignored by the environmental protesters President Bush encountered on his first European tour last month.

A National Academy of Sciences report recently released contends that "there is no consensus, unanimous or otherwise, about

## History repeating

### Surgeon general talks about sexual education

(U-WIRE) — It is happening again. A surgeon general is making waves in the stagnant waters of this nation, and Washington is getting motion sickness. Surgeon General David Satcher recently publicized a report that concluded lifelong safe-sex education is needed, and that contraceptives should be distributed in school. It also found that the public needs to strive to further understand homosexuality and not treat it as sexual deviance.

Boy, are Georgie-Porgie and his merry men miffed. They were hoping that Satcher's report would go either unnoticed or conclude that good little boys and girls wear their chastity belts until they are trapped in a suffocating, dead-end marriage. And that boys do not kiss boys — ever!

Of course, it was easy for the Bush administration to distance itself from such a rational report. Exercising common sense is not their strong suit.

Ari Fleischer, Bush's spokesman, immediately yelped that the research was commissioned by the vile, sinful, sex-crazed Clinton administration, not by Dubya's squeaky-clean, washed-in-the-blood cronies. In fact, cries for Satcher's resignation have been heard.

Does any of this sound familiar? It is way too much like the hulabaloo that went on with former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, who was fired

for encouraging masturbation as an alternative to sex, as well as condom distribution.

What is it with American people and honesty about sex? We cannot handle it. We get all nervous because we have issues with our own sexuality, and then holler, "The children! What about the children?" to mask our own insecurities.

Bill Mahr of ABC's "Politically Incorrect" is right on target when he alleges that America is fighting a war on sex. Even though we love sex, we try to stuff that dirty s-word under the bed like daddy's secret movies and then pretend it is not there or that we do not know

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what it is or what it's for. That is bad enough, but most people bolt the bed to the floor and hope the children never lift it up.

Sex is one of the most natural, instinctual things a human can do. We are all here as a result of it; it is essential to almost all life. Yet Americans spend the majority of our time railing against sex, calling it evil and demanding that young adults ignore their urges and wait until

marriage, which is coming later and later in life, to do the devil's business. Worst of all, we cannot give them a really good reason to wait, except for the good old "do as I say" trick.

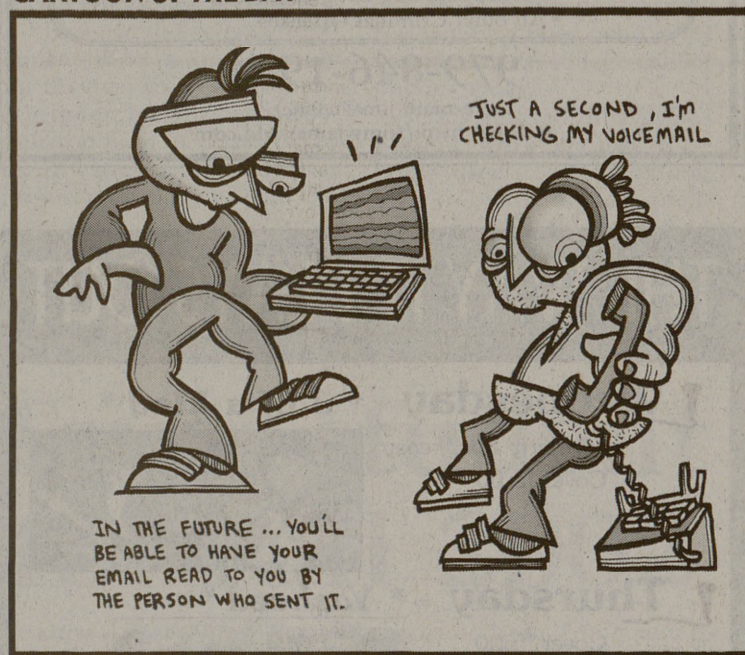
It is an impossible request, and it obviously is not working. Honestly, sex is too much fun to put off until you are in your late twenties. The whole world knows that, yet we brainiacs in America insist that's the way to go. Forget sex. Play Scrabble. Do a crossword puzzle. And for God's sake, do not touch yourself.

Satcher's report correctly treats sex education as a health issue, not a moral one. The rest of Washington and the 50 states should try to play catch-up and recognize the importance of Satcher's findings.

Until we can admit that sexual urges are natural and allow young adults to be educated in ways that will teach them to respect sex and make healthy choices, thus avoiding unwanted pregnancies and diseases, we will make no progress. Until we can become comfortable with honest people in Washington, like Satcher, we will live in a nation that uses denial as birth control and morality as an excuse for ignorance.

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#### CARTOON OF THE DAY



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