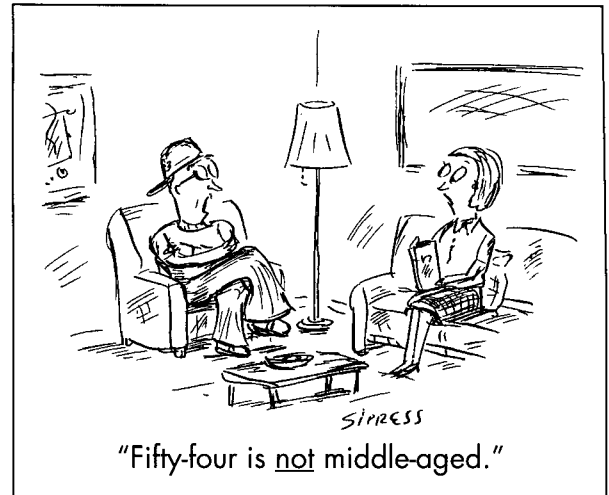


Sidelights

On September 10, the Amherst, Massachusetts Board of Selectmen voted four to one to restrict the flying of the American flag on Main Street utility poles to six days a year. The lone dissenter wanted the limit to be one day a year. . . . During a recent peace demonstration, the Berkeley, California fire department suspended the display of American flags on emergency vehicles. According to assistant fire chief **Michael Migliori**, "We feel that it is a possibility that some of the demonstrators might attack the flag and or the firefighters flying the flags." . . . The U.S. Tennis Association no longer allows "The Star-Spangled Banner" to be played before daily matches, fearing it sounded too pro-American. "We decided to do 'America, the Beautiful' out of respect to all nations," said spokesperson **Andrea Jayson**. ♣ America is culturally "in the dark ages," according to left-wing filmmaker **Michael Moore**, because "we are the only country in the whole world without dominant state-controlled media." ♣ Under the assumption that its citizens prefer television to sex, India wants to make TV sets cheaper as part of an effort to fight population growth. "Entertainment is an important part of our population policy," said health minister **C. P. Thakur**. "We want people to watch television." ♣ The U.S. Marine Corps now allows female Marines to use lipstick while clad in camouflage, so long as the color is "non-eccentric." Nail polish, earrings, and purses are still prohibited. ♣ Female college students in Fort Collins, Colorado are beginning to carry handguns to protect themselves from a serial rapist who has struck six times since May. "I don't want to live in fear," said one 23-year-old student. "I don't want to be afraid of going out at night. I just want him to know not everyone is going to be submissive." ♣

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the number of home schooled American children has more than doubled since 1994. ♣ **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals** suggests that individuals who can't give up meat start eating whales. According to their new Web site, eathewhales.com, "If people in the U.S. ate whales instead of chickens and other animals, we could spare more than 24 billion animals a miserable life and hideous death every single year!"

Internal Revenue Service employees spend half their online time at work on non-work-related activity, according to the Treasury Department. Mostly, IRS employees use the Internet to shop, trade stocks, chat in chat rooms, gamble, and visit sex sites. . . . The IRS is reportedly planning to hire a public relations firm and spend up to \$20 million in an effort to improve the agency's image. ♣ "What the Postal Service needs now is nothing short of privatization," says former postmaster general **William Henderson**. "I can't believe that 25 years from now the Postal Service will still be owned by the federal government." ♣ Sales of Confederate flags are falling. According to one Georgia shopkeeper, after September 11, "anybody who thinks about anything other than the American flag or the USA is crazy." . . . The American Civil Liberties Union has taken the case of nine Seminole County, Georgia students who were forced to turn their Confederate T-shirts inside out or face disciplinary action. ♣ A group of high-school students visiting the Jefferson Memorial in Washington were prevent-



ed from singing the national anthem by a park ranger. Federal regulations consider any gathering of 26 people or more who might attract an audience a "demonstration" requiring a permit. ♣ Germany is investigating reports that EU money was indirectly used to produce anti-Semitic Palestinian schoolbooks. The textbooks refer to Jews as "traitors" and "disloyal," and state that "there is no alternative to the destruction of Israel." . . . Despite the recent terrorist attacks, Berkeley's Students for Justice in Palestine proceeded with plans for Intifada Week, a celebration of the one-year anniversary of Palestinian attacks against Israel. ♣ French socialist Prime Minister **Lionel Jospin** is considering tax cuts as a way to stimulate the economy. ♣ Noted anthropologist **Ida Magli** refuses to be paid royalties in the form of euros. She writes, "I, being Italian, do not intend to use the euro because it is a proof and a recognition of my country's loss of freedom and independence. I choose Swiss francs because Switzerland is not a member of the European Union." . . . Citing hygiene issues, the EU bans the use of shaving brushes at barbershops, prompting protests and defiance by Italian barbers. ♣ A British theater company is staging a lesbian version of "Romeo and Juliette." Juliette's nurse will be played as a homosexual transvestite. —BB

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FIGHT TERROR: DRILL IN AMERICA

Not long ago, a British newspaper published an account of Osama bin Laden's upbringing. Numerous details illustrate the wealth that has rained down on Saudi Arabia's leading families—like the trip to Sweden made by young bin Laden on a private jet carrying a Rolls-Royce in its cargo bay. The ultimate source of all this disposable income, of course, is oil, American petrodollars in particular. (In years past, even the Bush family got tangled up in oil deals with several members of the bin Laden clan.)

America needs oil, Middle Easterners have it in abundance. So we pay dearly—and in the process have allowed untold funds to be recycled into organizations that spawn horrific violence. This has happened not only with the Saudis but also with other petroleum-rich nations like Libya, Iran, and Iraq—a regular rogue's gallery. Groups like al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas, as well as tyrants like Saddam Hussein, Muammar Qaddafi, and Ruhollah Khomeini would have remained impotent actors in funny uniforms and robes absent the oil money that poured into their coffers courtesy of our reliance on imported petroleum.

Oil has been the mother's milk of Middle Eastern terror.

While militant Islam provides the instruction book for today's most virulent forms of anti-Americanism, the power source for this potent xenophobia is our own preference for foreign crude—freely chosen over the alternative of more aggressively developing domestic energy sources.

Consider these numbers:

About 8 billion barrels of oil are imported each year by nations that do

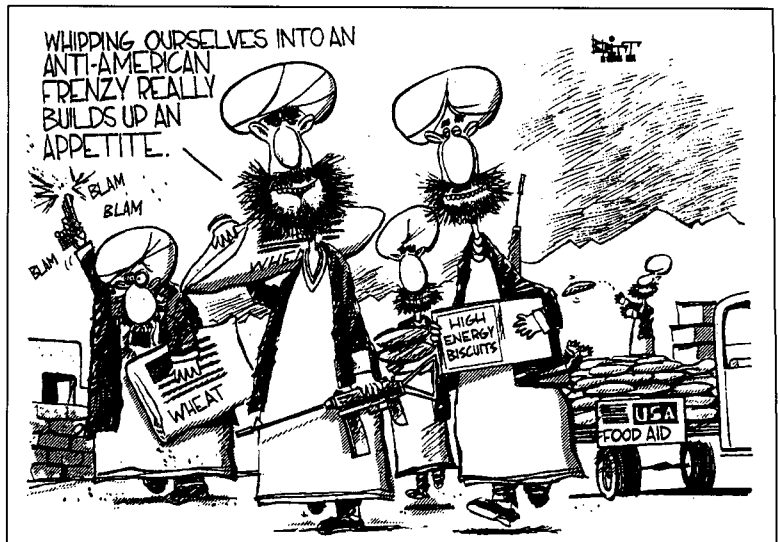
not produce enough to cover their own needs. By far the biggest importer is the U.S.—which buys nearly 4 billion barrels—a little less than half the total purchases.

The main beneficiaries of this American failure to provide for our own energy needs are the Middle Eastern nations which put up for sale 6 billion barrels of oil each year. These sales bring those societies—all of them undemocratic and at least latently hostile to the U.S.—roughly \$150 billion annually in cold cash.

If America stopped importing oil at its current pace, oil prices would collapse completely. The gush of money into Middle Eastern dictatorships would be choked to a trickle. The practical ability of disaffected members of those societies to wreak havoc around the globe would be minimal.

By dramatically raising the price of oil on the world market, America's heavy purchases of foreign crude greatly benefit the countries that have become breeding grounds for Islamic extremism. (It doesn't matter whether we're actually buying our supplies from Middle Easterners or others; so long as we're the main purchasers of exported petroleum, we're the ones who keep the global price propped up.)

Our failure to provide for our own energy needs has made Muslim-controlled oil infinitely more valuable than it should be. And by funding not only terror cells but also irresponsible state research on nuclear, bacteriological,



Chris Britt

and chemical weapons (not to mention guided missile systems that may someday deliver those nasty packages), Mideast oil money has become a scourge to nearly every nation on earth.

No military solution alone can eradicate this threat. We must dry up the supply of money to the terrorists and the nations which support them. The best way to do this over the long run is to stop sending them petrodollars—by making greater use of our own energy reserves.

The U.S. has energy resources in abundance: untapped oil in Alaska, on our continental shelf, within the Rockies, and under the Great Lakes; coal enough to last for centuries; one of the planet's biggest balloons of natural gas; and nuclear energy technology that can produce economic, safe, and clean power in almost infinite supply. Only environmental phobias and political obstructionism prevent us from becoming far more energy self-sufficient. (See *TAE*'s September 2001 issue.)

Permitting a wave of intelligent new domestic oil and gas drilling, making a strong commitment to building third-generation nuclear plants, supporting greener methods of burning coal, and improving the use of other existing energy supplies could make the U.S. largely independent of Mideast oil suppliers—forever.

This would strengthen the American