

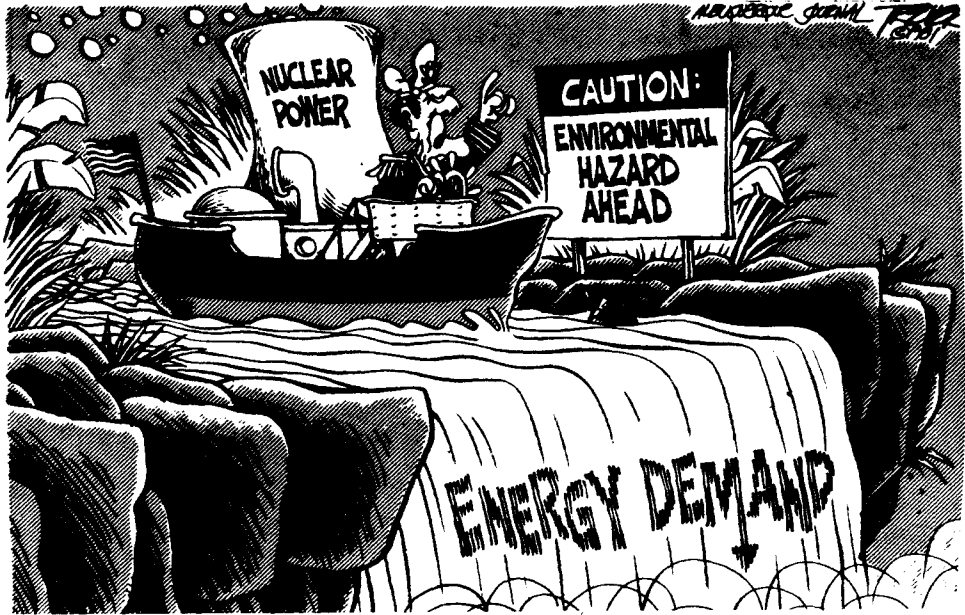
-EDITORIALS-

Why Attack Selflessness

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) has come under fire recently from opponents who charge that the group's interests and doings are misdirected. There had been a good amount of campaigning against funding the group in the recent Polity election by such people or groups and, even though the referendum to fund NYPIRG passed by a comfortable margin, the 1,683 to 740 vote does indicate that there is some feeling against NYPIRG.

But the recently espoused opinions against NYPIRG are short-sighted. NYPIRG is one of a handful of groups funded through student activity fees that is not self-serving. The money that NYPIRG gets is used to promote everyone's interests, not their own. Of course, not everyone will agree that what NYPIRG does is in their best interests. But it's enough to acknowledge that, even if you disagree about what they are doing, they are at least attempting to serve everyone with their share of money. Most groups funded by students cannot make that claim; yet there is rarely an outspoken critic of them.

When there is an organization that is dedicated to improving everyone's lives, there should be little controversy. Perhaps those critics who have come out against NYPIRG recently should re-examine their criticisms. They may not agree that seeking student voting rights, establishing a fuel buyers cooperative and a small claims action center, examining tax assessment, pushing for the bottle bill and researching toxic waste on Long Island are good things, but they're not doing these things only for themselves.



"DAM! THE REGULATIONS! FULL SPEED AHEAD!"

-LETTERS-

Strange Vehicle

To the Editor:

While looking through the Marxist paper, the Guardian, I noticed an ad by NYPIRG for senior organizers. Since the Guardian is a paper that detests capitalism, supports

violent "liberation" movements everywhere (except in places like Afghanistan, of course) and sees the U.S. as the prime evil in the world in general, I find this a strange vehicle to seek leaders from.

I think this shows that NYPIRG has its agenda dictated by its most extreme

members. As Mr. [Thomas] Hawkins said in his letter to Statesman of Oct. 26, NYPIRG's goals are not clearly defined and that is dangerous. Curbing abuses by companies is one thing, doing away with companies is something else. Which goal are we funding?

Gideon Isaac

Statesman

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"WHERE'S MY ★#0★! SPEECH BLASTING THE U.S. ARMS BUILDUP?! I KNOW IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE...!"

-Quagmire Capers-

Statesman Cartoon/Anthony Detres

