

LETTERS

BIG OIL U

In the report entitled *Big Oil U* the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) surveyed nine major universities that recently inaugurated industry-funded research programs on biofuels or other aspects of global warming. In return for accepting grants from industry, the universities are variously letting corporate representatives sit on governing boards (six out of nine American universities), giving companies first rights to intellectual property (five), or letting companies review and possibly delay publication of studies (five). In some cases, such as Georgia Tech and the University of California-Davis, the universities give corporations a direct role in deciding which specific research projects are funded. And while industry enjoys the green patina that sponsoring university research into global warming confers, companies actually spend very little on research and development, particularly that relate to clean alternative energy technologies.

A Reader,
USA

THE THACKERAY FATWA

The fatwa by Nav Nirman Sena's (MNS) boss Raj Thackeray to "ban' the Music CDs and books by Pakistani Musicians/writers is akin to terrorizing the society yet again. MNS which has gained notoriety for its attacks on North Indians was totally quiet when Mumbai faced the terrible attack. Since the phenomenon of terrorism has been due to formation of Al Qaeda by US, with the goal of controlling the oil wells in the region, the same US has also used Pakistan as its base to do serious damage to the World as a whole and India in particular by planting this cancer of terrorism. Today people are witnessing the left-over of the same phenomenon. As a matter of fact it is time that India-Pakistan come together to solve this problem. Within Pakistan itself Pakistan army is playing hawk and any military confrontation in the region will be counterproductive to both the countries. It is imperative that India as a bigger power sets the tone for peace and interaction with Pakistani Government and civic society to have a peaceful South Asia. A reasoned stand can bring in Pakistani democratic Government and civic society to have joint efforts to root out the evil of terrorism. MNS politics is not only short sighted it will harm the interests of the nation.

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