

Times

ED NEWSPAPER

Executive Officer
Operating OfficerINDY CAMERON,
Editorial Page EditorTHIA N. MEAGHER,
Associate Managing Editorre trees,
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Visions of the future

It's premature for county
officials to spend money
on study of cable TV options

Editor, The Times:

In a June 15 article about King County's ongoing dispute with the cable company TCI it was reported that the county council voted unanimously to spend \$454,000 to study what kind of cable service county residents want and need.

Four-hundred fifty-four thousand dollars! How can this be?

Let's say, for example, you plan a one-year study. You hire a director at \$50,000 per year and two assistants at \$25,000 per year, and allow them a \$100,000 operating budget for a total cost of \$200,000.

Seems more than sufficient and reasonable, right? Wrong! Our elected King County Council is asking taxpayers to spend more than double that amount.

And what for, really? According to what I've read, there will be an explosion of cable offerings in the coming years as a result of the introduction of fiber optic technologies to the industry.

It is, therefore, premature and silly to spend large sums of money studying what people think they want when we have seen so little of what might be.

So, my suggestion to the King County Council is to nix the study and save our money. If council members still want to get an idea of what citizens think about and want in cable TV then I recommend each member telephone 10 cable users and ask.

Or, better yet, how about a well-publicized town hall meeting broadcast on public access cable TV?

SHAWN RINGWOOD
Seattle

C-SPAN access restricted

I have just been informed by my local cable service that my access to C-SPAN has been restricted.

I will no longer be able to watch and become an informed citizen because it has pre-empted the evening hours and morning hours and now only presents C-SPAN mid-day or in the middle of the night. I find this extremely upsetting.

I feel my ability to become informed by senatorial, congressional and any/all learned persons has been deeply impaired. C-SPAN has given me the most in-depth and non-slanted information I can find.

I love Brian Lamb's discussions especially because I have NEVER seen him, in any way,

show any favoritism nor make any effort to persuade or manipulate listeners.

In this way I feel I can make my own informed decision.

There is no other medium, I feel, that can present the cases and the people involved and let me make the decision.

Kirkland

Intellectual integrity

Columnists overlooked recent
examples of doublespeak

Jeff Cohen's and Norman Solomon's June 26 piece on Orwellian doublespeak was as devoid of intellectual integrity as Orwell's original examples.

Surely your columnists realize that, for example, the term "collateral damage" was not as they imply cynically created during the Gulf War, but is a well-established bit of technical jargon which was in accepted use during Orwell's lifetime.

In fact, all of the examples cited by the authors are well understood by the public and are generally used in good faith and without intent to mislead.

On the other hand, in their relentless pursuit of Pentagon-bashing political correct-

ness, the writers have dishonest current exan ceit.

"Budget cut" now ap budget increase, albeit than has been advoca served by the program

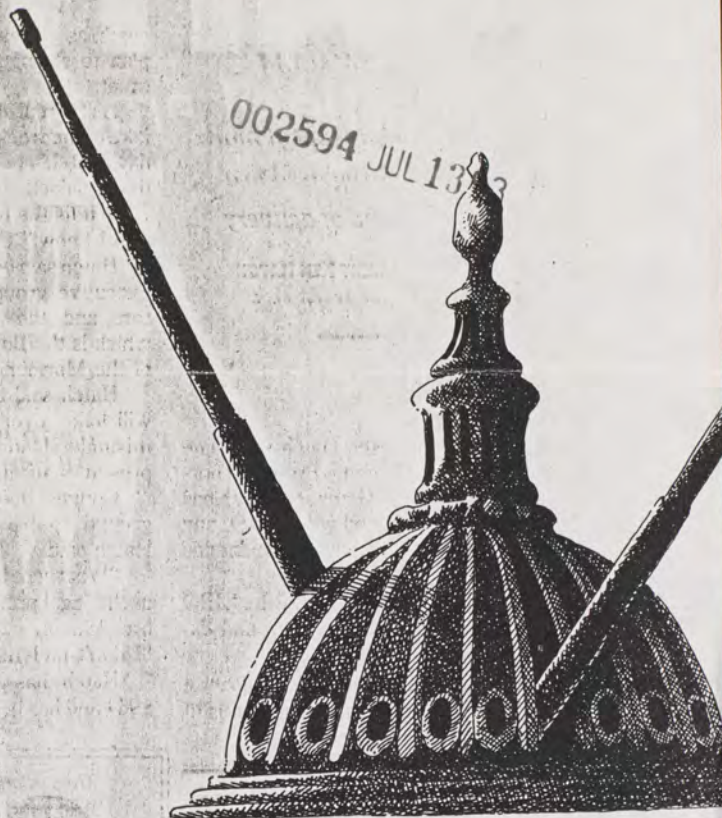
"Five hundred billic tion" is an annual deficir five years, at the end of debt will be much larg \$500 billion less than ha spendiest advocates.

Finally, as we in Wa other states can appre vance of our new U.S. "change" means busin

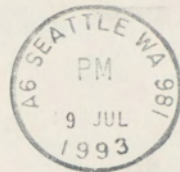
Yes, Orwellian dou well in 1993, with promoted by Big Bro big spenders and their

Letters to the editor: readers. Letters must incl address and daytime telep verification. Letters may publication and become the Send letters to: Letters edi Box 70, Seattle WA 98111.

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