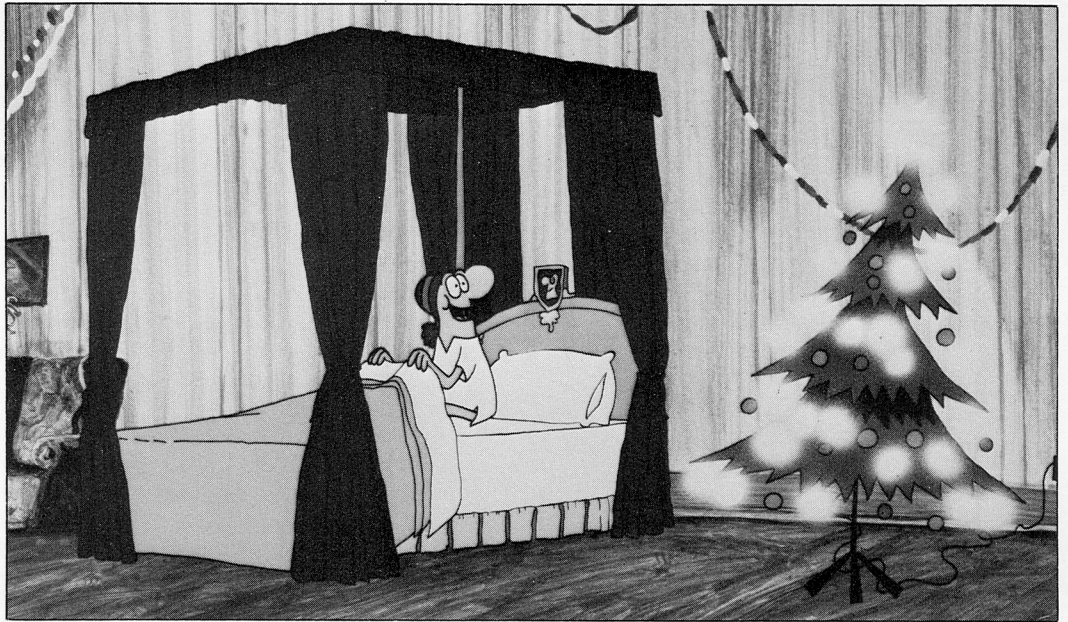
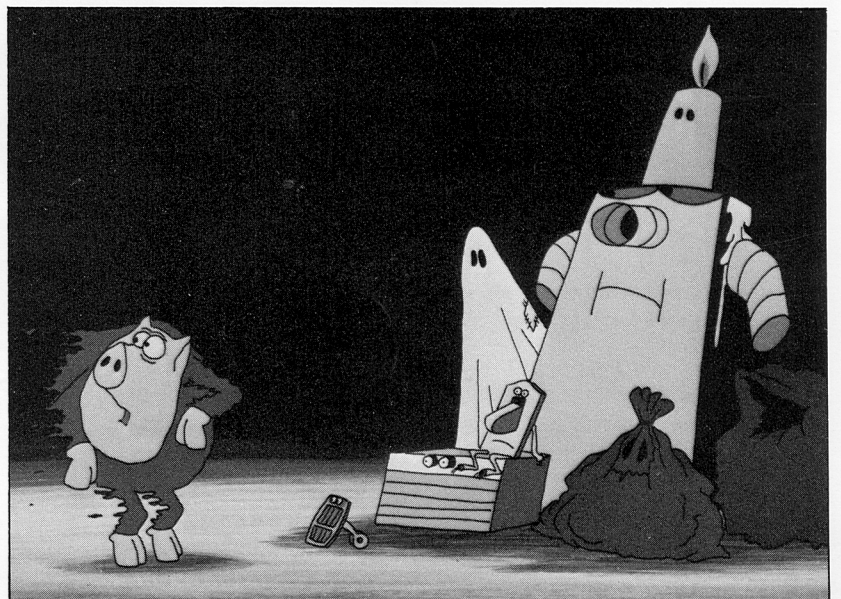


Energy Carol



Borrowing its hero from Dickens, this animated satire takes a not-so-subtle poke at the way we live, the way we consume and what the future might hold. It seems that Ebenezer Scrooge learned his lesson about Christmas giving, but he has a long way to go when it comes to energy saving. Now president of Zeus Power Co. Ltd., he adopts the motto "To waste is to grow", and in his generous list of Christmas gifts includes an electric mirror and a digital toilet paper dispenser. "Bah Humbug!" to the energy crisis scorns Ebenezer . . . until the fateful night when the tortured spirits of energy past, present and future show him the ultimate folly of unbridled energy consumption.



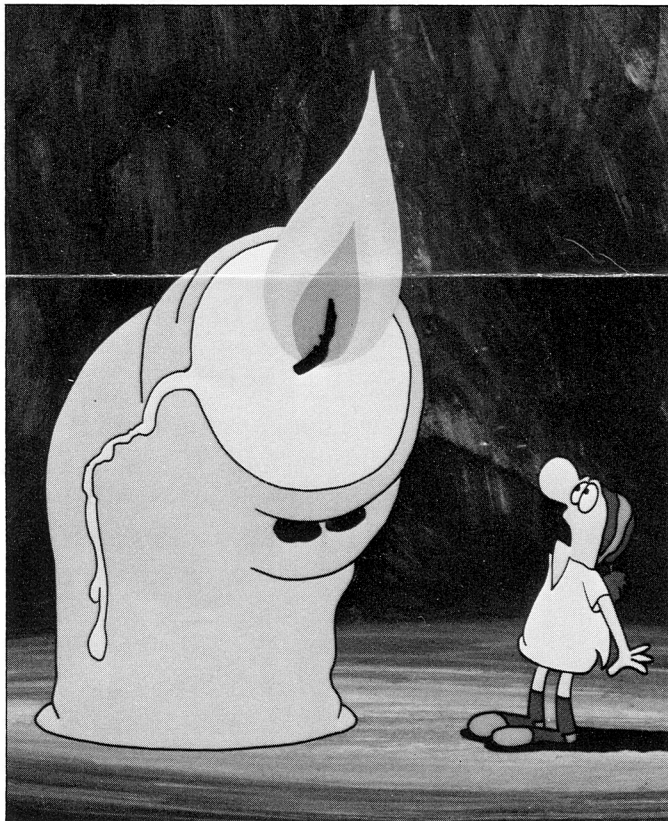
Before viewing the film:

1

Read Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

2

Explain to your students that all machines derive their power from some source of energy that may, in time, be depleted. Explain the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Compare and contrast sailboats to powerboats, bicycles to motorcycles, needles to sewing machines, noticing the sources of energy used by each. Discuss energy conservation. Why is it such a new phenomenon?



After viewing the film:

1

Imagine a story with three of the following characters: Energy Past, Energy Present, Energy Future. Personify each of the characters, describe them, sketch them, and involve them in a discussion which allows the reader to understand each character's motivation.

2

Do you think the portrayal of the power company is an accurate one? If you were an executive with a power company, how would you respond to this film? Write the letter you would write to the filmmaker.

3

Define satire. Write a story in which you turn a serious topic into a humorous one. What is the purpose of satire?

4

Imagine a day when the world ran out of energy. Write the fantasy story of your experiences on "the day the earth stood still".

5

Survey the items that use energy in your home. Pick any of the items you listed and keep a careful record on them. Then, do your best to conserve the amount of energy used. Which ones do not use energy very wisely?

6

Break into small discussion groups. Each group is to be assigned one of the following: lumber, oil, electricity, water, air. How would the group work to prolong the current supply of the item without sacrificing service? What services were considered vital by the group? What alternatives would be used if these services had to be sacrificed?

7

Plan an "Energy Conservation Day" at your school. Contact the local newspaper and let them know what your plans are. Maybe you can write the story.

8

Write a letter to your local utility company asking them their stand on energy conservation. Invite a representative to come to your class and discuss energy with you and your classmates. (Use formal business format.)

9

Pick the one item that consumes energy that you absolutely could not live without. Write a story that shows what life without this item is really like. (Example: The Day My Stereo Died!)

10

If the President or Prime Minister of your nation called and asked you to serve on his Energy Advisory Council, what recommendations would you take with you to the first meeting?

11

Will we ever **do** anything about energy? Research some phenomenon of social change and resistance to change. What finally made the people alter their patterns of behavior? Will the same thing finally happen in the area of energy conservation?

12

Hold a "meeting of the minds" with students acting the parts of such people as Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Graham Bell, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and have them discuss the following topic: Energy—Past, Present, Future. Stage a mock interview or panel discussion.

13

Personify one of the sources of energy (wind, sun, oil, etc.) and tell your point of view of the energy crisis.

14

Collect newspaper and magazine articles about energy. What are the main issues discussed? Compare and contrast the points of view.

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