

beyond the multiplex

Friday, June 13, 2008

By **STAN HALL**

"A SNOWMOBILE FOR GEORGE" -- Todd Darling's documentary about the ill effects of the Bush's administration's mania for deregulation is plenty galling, though it will surprise few at this late juncture. The film is tied together by Darling's quest to learn why the most common type of snowmobile engine, which is 27 times more polluting than an average automobile, was allowed by Bush to remain on the market after an earlier government directive sought to phase it out in favor of a cleaner type of engine. Along the way he chronicles several events devastating to the environment and average citizens but beneficial to both Republican politicians (including Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon) and corporations whose former lobbyists now occupy fox-in-the-henhouse positions at government agencies.

From the 2002 Klamath River fish-kill to grossly violated property rights in Wyoming to suppressed evidence of the health hazards around the former World Trade Center site, "A Snowmobile for George" is a tad too sprawling, but its snappy pace and droll, Michael Moore-gone-California-mellow humor -- the footage accompanying the opening credits is absurdly hilarious -- place it among the better Bush-critical flicks.

Friday-Sunday at Hollywood Theatre

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