

Dean may give DNC big shock

Ben Maras
The Clackamas Print

Well, these next political years will be interesting ones indeed. Not

only because we are faced with four more years of the Bush regime, but because "Give-em-hell" Howard Dean has been elected the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Dean emerged in the public eye a year and a half ago, when he was the first to officially declare his candidacy for the Democratic ticket in the

most important election in many years. He quickly emerged as the energized and controversial candidate who took an early lead and was predicted to sweep the primaries.

Some things don't always work out as planned, all due to one out-of-context scream (granted it sounded like a wildebeest giving birth in an alligator pit.)

Now with Dean the official new chairperson for the DNC, citizens from all ends of the political spectrum are left wondering: what will this mean for half of America's political parties (since of course there ARE only two)?

Many to the right of Dean have suggested that he is too liberal for America and the Democratic Party. After John Kerry's near defeat, activists on both sides spoke out for the need for reform in the Democratic Party. Among the loudest of these was ex-DNC strategist James Carville, who said that the key to future success for his party lay in their ability to accept the values of Republicans as prominent decisions in people's

voting.

This was immediately jumped upon by the right and twisted to mean that it was time for the Democrats to become Republican-lite (now with 33% less love for the free market system). This, however, is *not* the case.

It is time for Democrats to accept the values of Republicans, yes, but that does not mean that it is time to accept their *positions* on the issues. It is time to meet the challenge head on, armed with well thought-out and supportable stances to oppose the right — and Howard Dean is the perfect person to do this.

He explained things in language people could understand, without talking down to them, and his stances were easy to comprehend. He was an opponent of the Iraq war, but a proponent of the Afghanistan invasion because it was directly related to 9/11.

He was for health care—for everyone, and provided a more palatable version than the single-payer plan similar to that of Canada. Dean instead showed by

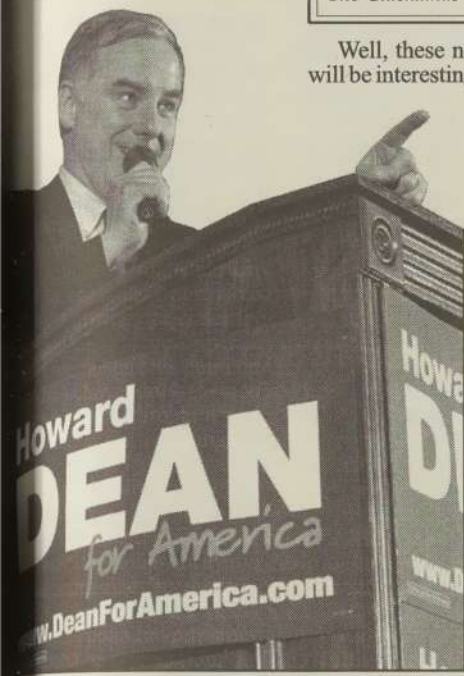
experience that he could implement a health care plan to cover 97 percent of his state that would not be perceived as free enterprise.

In one of his best attributes, Dean is a staunch fiscal conservative, running Vermont in a pay-as-you-go system, and having a surplus in his run as governor.

It is obvious that Dean has the brains to speak to America, and move a campaign forward, as can be seen from his grassroots organization Democracy for America, designed to promote progressive politics by utilizing the internet and blogging.

He also has the guts to stand up for what he believes in — which has gotten him into trouble a few times, people even referring to him as a "bulldog." A man who stands up for what he believes in ... who would have thought?

A wise man once said that if you don't stir the soup once in a while, the scum rises to the surface. Well, Democrats, get ready for a big huge spoon in your stock pot; it's gonna be a long ride, but you'll thank him in the long run.



Internet Photo

Letters to the Editor

'Morning after pill' opposing viewpoints, inaccurate, insufficient

I wanted to let you know that I strongly disagreed with your "Face Off" in the February 16th edition of the Print. It was presented in such a way as to put forth two opposing viewpoints when in fact it was just two varying degrees of the same view. Jacob Ray wants it over the counter obviously and Cassandra Mathieson claims that "It is a useful and needed drug." Well, there is an opposing viewpoint to both of them and I happen to hold it.

First of all, there really isn't any "morning after pill." It is a combination of ordinary birth control pills that contain estrogen and progesterone.

The theory behind the "morning after pill" is that if a woman has sexual intercourse and fears she might be pregnant, she can take large doses of birth control pills within 48-72 hours after intercourse to prohibit a potential pregnancy. That is not the case.

Fertilization can occur as early as 30 minutes after intercourse in the reproductive tract (Fallopian

tubes) of a woman's body. If the egg is fertilized by the sperm, conception has occurred. The one cell contains the genetic blueprint for every detail of human development; a child's sex, hair color, eye color, height, etc. Life has begun and so has the pregnancy. The morning after pill may slow down the transport of the pregnancy in the Fallopian tube to prevent implantation in the uterus, or it may work to irritate the lining of the uterus so that implantation cannot occur. If the fertilized egg cannot implant because the pill has made the uterine lining inhospitable or it has worked to prevent the transport of the pregnancy to the uterus the life cannot survive and is aborted.

The assertion made by Mr. Ray that "It's well known that the morning after pill does not affect those women that are already pregnant" is completely misleading and should not have been allowed to be printed. It is not well known and should have been admitted as personal opinion and not fact. Besides the fact that the pregnancy is already viable before it implants

in the uterus, how can you possibly say that a drug designed to make the lining of a woman's uterus slough off in large amounts will not affect a pregnancy that is implanted in it. I know a girl who has taken this drug before and described it as feeling like she was giving birth to something else. Miss Mathieson describes the symptoms and side effects to be those of the common flu virus.

Because the pill may cause an abortion through chemical means, some women who take it may feel they aborted their child when in fact they were not even pregnant. And they'll never know. Decisions like this need to be thought through carefully, and I found that the approach of the entire piece was misleading and inadequate.

Esther Prentice
CCC Student

Pirtle's view enlightened, marijuana addictive health problem

Jason Pirtle presented an enlightening viewpoint that utilized excellent resources such as the Institute of Medicine, a presentation that should improve understanding of the complex marijuana issue. Mike Guidice did not utilize good resources, and contributed to misunderstanding in claiming that marijuana is not addictive, a view clearly not supported by scientific

evidence. As a certified alcohol and drug counselor, I am legally authorized to diagnose marijuana addiction.

How addictive is marijuana? Approximately as addictive as tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, and heroin. Teenagers are twice as vulnerable to marijuana addiction as adults.

Since marijuana was legalized in Oregon, marijuana has replaced

alcohol as the number one cause of teens seeking addiction treatment. Increasing marijuana use is a significant health and social problem, made worse by misinformation. Thanks to Jason for getting it right.

Roger Burt, MS
CADC
Rehabilitation Counselor

Marijuana: valid therapeutic value, should be legal

Thanks for the March 2, 2005 "Face Off" which asked if marijuana should be legalized for medicinal use. Twelve states (more pending), including Oregon, have legalized medical marijuana. The U.S. Constitution's Tenth Amendment guarantees state's rights.

A current example of a country approving of its use is the Netherlands, where pharmacies fill prescriptions for natural marijuana. Another is Canada, where Sativex®, a whole plant medicinal cannabis extract, has been approved by Health Canada. Marinol®,

a THC-only medicinal cannabis extract, is approved by the FDA of the USA. The Compassionate Investigational New Drug program (1978-present, closed to new applicants in 1991 by the Bush administration) involves cannabis grown, packaged, and smoked under the auspices of the U.S. Federal Government.

Cannabis, an herb that grows well nearly everywhere, has alternative delivery systems: pills, patches, tinctures, tonics, inhalers, foods, oils, vaporizers, etc. Assessing the science base and the world's long history of using cannabis hemp (an excellent, unbiased, primarily pro/con format

resource is <http://www.medicalmarijuanaprocon.org/>), one can see that, in the words of DEA Judge Francis L. Young, "Marijuana in its natural form is the safest therapeutically active substance known to man. By any measure of rational analysis marijuana can be safely used within the supervised routine of medical care."

What benefit is there to prosecuting sick people?

How many people must be arrested to win a failed war on drugs?

Matthew Bristow
CCC Student

Last week's letter unfounded, unprofessional

Although I did not read the article by "Mr. Creel," I was privy to the response it generated from a "Mr. Stogsdill." There are several statements I am curious about. It seems that EVERYONE "...who saw the intelligence on Iraq agreed that they had WMDs." This is a false statement. Anyone who followed the pre-war startup would know that the United Nations proved that American intel was incorrect. For those who were unaware of this false intelligence, I'll give a small briefing.

A long, long time ago, before the war began and after 9/11, the U.S. government was given some information from an informant. This informant told them that Iraq had purchased large amounts of weapons-grade uranium from Niger. Our government sent a man named Joe Wilson to Niger to determine if this information was correct. He determined that it was not. This decision was based upon close examination of documents that proved the transaction had taken place and through interviews with government officials in Niger.

The documents were proven to have false signatures, signatures of people who had not been in office for over ten years and French words misspelled. Mr. Wilson went back to our administration and told them that he believed the document was false. Nevertheless, when Colin Powell met with the UN later, he gave this information as fact.

The United Nations explained to him why the information was incorrect and later Condoleezza Rice made a statement saying that they (the administration) had not been informed that this information was false, and if they had been, they would not have said it. Joe Wilson argues that this statement is false. Interestingly enough, when Mr. Wilson went public with this information, it was leaked to the press that his wife was a CIA operative, effectively ending her career.

There are other examples of

false intel, but I prefer not to bore too many readers with my obsessions. As for Mr. Stogsdill, I have several more comments. First, unless he has a personal relationship with Mr. Creel or can read the future, it is uneducated and immature to assume that Creel would bash the president for "...letting Hussein continue his reign of power." As the old saying goes, you should never assume... Secondly, when Stogsdill says that we are now alienated by "those countries who were in bed with Saddam," he needs to be more specific. Which countries would those be?

I find, through many people I know who have taken up residence in other countries, that we are alienated most by those who were against Saddam's reign. These are countries like Italy, Great Britain, France, and Spain. Finally, I would like to say that I find the last paragraph of Stogsdill's response highly amusing.

Here is a guy who is attacking Creel for not using any facts when he himself uses only one. His entire response is full of generalizations and the one fact that he does use is a statistic, most likely retrieved from an American source. Anyone who has taken a statistics course knows that they can be extremely misleading and are easily manipulated to say what the writer wants to prove. And as for propaganda, Mr. Stogsdill is guilty of this also.

He claims that everyone that is in opposition to Bush uses the same excuses, the "same tired song." Well, I am here to prove him wrong. Hopefully, he will take into consideration what I have said and take it upon himself to research my facts. It is only the smart thing to do. I would also like to make it clear that this is my opinion. Everyone is entitled to them. This response was not in any way designed to anger or isolate. It was written to provide some interesting reading material and to give everyone one more thing to discuss in the minutes before class begins.

Laura Jaques
CCC Student