

DEAN IS NO BETTER

Your Slant column about Gov. Howard Dean (4/24) is mistaken. Dean merely has tactical disagreements with Bush's war — there's not a fundamental disagreement on the reality of empire.

Dean (as governor) presided over the entry of Wal-Mart into Vermont, arranged for the feds to "streamline" the proposed Burlington Outer Beltway (to exempt it from most environmental review despite major environmental damage) and has a record that epitomizes why so many have lost any faith in the Democratic Party. Several articles about him are archived at www.oilempire.us/2004.html (a guide to the next presidential selection).

There are two anti-war candidates: the Rev. Al Sharpton and Congressional Rep. Dennis Kucinich. Of these two, only Kucinich has experience with the organizational nuts-and-bolts of elective office, and I plan to change my party registration next year to be able to vote for him in the primary. Kucinich's campaign can be contacted at www.kucinich.us

However, if the country continues to adopt computerized ballot counting machines made by Republicans, there will not actually be an election next year, only a media spectacle called an "election" that lacks integrity or honesty. If trends continue, Oregon will be the only state next year that actually has ballots — since our "vote by mail" system will prevent adoption of this fraudulent technology.

*Mark Robinowitz
Eugene*

SURPLUS SCHOOLS

Bailey Hill. Dunn. Laurel Hill. Santa Clara. Washington. Westmoreland. Whiteaker. Willakenzie. These eight schools are now or will soon be listed as "surplus" by School District 4J (*Register-Guard*, 4/30). 4J is consolidating fewer students into larger schools and intends to bus many students who can now walk to school.

These eight properties offer an astonishing amount of irreplaceable green space in the middle of our neighborhoods, along with diverse publicly owned buildings. Much of this may disappear. For example, at a community meeting on April 28 a 4J real estate consultant recommended simply selling off Westmoreland School's nine acres to housing development, to ease 4J's funding crunch.

What about community values including playgrounds, sports fields, community gar-

dens, ecovillages, small businesses, non-profit offices and meeting spaces? What about the City of Eugene's commitment to "nodal development" so that we can walk to services and shops (not to mention schools)?

There is hope. 4J board policy states: "Surplus property is managed to maximize the financial return to the district while taking potential community benefit into consideration...Short-term lease preferences may be given to other public agencies or non-profits which further district's educational goals... Long-term lease or sale preferences may be given to other public agencies."

Therefore, citizens and elected officials ought to clearly express our community's intent that democracy and not dollars will wisely steward these public resources and green spaces. Others who are concerned are welcome to e-mail me at oaks@mindfreedom.org to network.

*David Oaks
Eugene*

STUPIT IS AS STUPIT DOES

Cain't imagine why that nasty Saddam bugger didn't use up his weapons of mass distruction. That's what I'd do if somebody was coming after me with the army of God's chosen. I'd use up ever' one a them weapons till they had to pry my fingers off the last jar of biologicals.

George must be right. Saddam packed them weapons up in the back of a pickup and high-tailed it for Syria. We better jump on them quick as can be, because now they got Saddam's chemicals they're a threat to western civilizashun.

We better give another tax break to the rich folks too, because their probly even more scairt of the boogiemens than the rest of us, what with all their riches and such. Hell, I'll go broke if I have to, perpectin' their wealth. Where'd we be without rich folks anyway?

George has been talkin' to God and most God-talkers is crazy, but not George. It's handy havin' God on our side. Now we know it's OK to step on that stupit Constitution thing we got. I'm gonna catch me a terrorist or two and turn 'em right over to Ashcroft. Maybe get a medal or somethin'.

Be wary y'all. Saddam and Osama are still on the loose and we gotta give up our freedoms to perpect our freedoms. It's the only way to catch them boogiemens.

Time to git over to Wal-Mart 'n pick up another flag fer my car. See y'all at the next war.

*Charlie Magee
Eugene*

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