



# The Big Man is Bach




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**OREGON BACH FESTIVAL**

■ JUNE 27-JULY 13  UNIVERSITY OF OREGON ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(EW, 6/5) please make the effort, because he appears to be one of the few people in the halls of congress who understands his duty to the people and the constitution.

Dear Sen. Byrd, I am writing to express my deep admiration and heartfelt thanks for your service to our nation, to our republic, and to our Constitution, at this, perhaps, the most critical moment in our great history. I can imagine no greater tragedy in the history of humankind than if the United States of America should slide into a cynical, deceitful autocracy after waging nearly a century of honorable struggle against the forces of ignorance and dictatorship throughout the world.

If, at the moment of our victory and great-est power, we should forsake the simple though exacting values that guided and inspired our fighting men and women to great sacrifice over two centuries, we will have been complicit in a far greater betrayal than any so-called treachery of dissent. In dark moments, as the single voices of conscience have been drowned by the cacophony of jingoism, your speeches on the floor of the Senate have kept my hope of a better future for my daughter alive. Indeed, I suspect they will long be remembered for keeping the "last, best hope of mankind" alive. Thank you again, and keep fighting the good fight.

Thomas Smith  
Eugene

property by a company that actively profits from the sale of low-fuel-efficiency vehicles would seem to be a relatively minor incident. Judge Lyle Velure, however, did not see it that way. Although he made a point to tell Jeff Luers that it had nothing to do with his politics, he proceeded to hand down a sentence of nearly 23 years. This sentence, as punishment for an act that caused no harm to human life, in a judicial system that frequently releases rapists and murderers in a fraction of that time, classifies Mr. Luers as a political prisoner.

Chris Calef  
Cottage Grove

### DISTINGUISHABLE DEMOCRAT

Not only is Howard Dean's position on war fundamentally the same as Bush's, his concern for alleviating the pain of the terminally ill is similarly lacking. Though of the candidates, only Sen. John Edwards has gone so far as to say that he would continue Bush's paramilitary-style raids on medical marijuana patients and cooperatives, Dean has made his position quite clear: As governor of Vermont he threatened to veto a medical marijuana bill that was expected to pass the Senate. His strong-arm tactics caused the Senate to drop the bill and instead adopt a toothless bill that created a committee to further examine the medical marijuana issue rather than one that would protect and help patients.

Only Rep. Kucinich has expressed a willingness to extend a compassionate hand to those who cannot find relief from regular medicine. He has announced that he would issue an executive order that would permit qualifying patients to use marijuana for medical purposes. This makes Kucinich the only anti-war candidate and the only candidate to support a patient's right to use medical marijuana. If the Democrats want to run a compassionate candidate who is easily distinguishable from Bush, then Howard Dean is not our candidate.

Kevin Feeney  
Eugene

### POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT

Even the Bush administration can no longer debate the fact that our planet is becoming steadily warmer as a result of carbon accumulation in the atmosphere, and that this is the direct result of human use of fossil fuels combined with massive global deforestation. We are only beginning to experience the effects of this phenomenon, with increasingly severe tropical storms, melting polar ice caps, and northward migrations of such detrimental organisms as the West Nile virus. Combined with the ever-increasing human population and dwindling natural resource base, it is becoming very difficult to predict a long-term future for the human species.

In June 2000, two sincere, dedicated and frustrated young men took an action against sport utility vehicles (SUVs), a particularly blatant agent of global warming. Jeffrey Luers and Craig Marshall planted incendiary devices under two SUVs in the Romania Chevrolet lot on Franklin Boulevard. They took all possible measures to ensure that no human being would be harmed by their action, and no one was.

Given the dire global forecast, this loss of

### DEATH ALLEY

We are very concerned about the additional traffic that will be caused by the proposed casino on the Hatch Track on Highway 126 near Florence. A conservative estimate of traffic increase due to the casino would be 200 to 300 percent, and the Regional ODOT Manager has said recently that, "Hwy 126 will not be widened in your or my lifetime..."

The tribe says they plan to do most of the marketing in the Eugene/Springfield area.

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