

Dennis is not accepting any corporate campaign donations. No self-respecting corporation would give him a dime anyway. That is enough right there to get my vote.

So other than being funny looking and a pauper, he has a message that is second to none on every issue. If we vote for our own best interest, there isn't anyone close to Dennis Kucinich.

Ed Cooley  
Elkton

## VOTE FOR SUBSTANCE

I was a little disappointed when reading a recent column (11/20) by Dan Carol regarding the prospective Democratic presidential candidates. The focus was completely on superficial matters such as physical appearance. Unfortunately, Mr. Carol is recognizing an all too pervasive truth in our society, i.e., that we judge so often based on appearances and not substance.

After researching the candidates and their positions, I have decided to support Dennis Kucinich. Congressman Kucinich is on the side of the common people on every issue. In fact, a recent poll of nearly 150,000 people by selectmart.com finds that 37 percent of those polled align most closely with Kucinich when it comes to the issues and how much he cares. No one else, including our president, gets more than 13 percent. This should be a cue to all those who want to take back our country and make it work once more for the vast majority of us who are not billionaires. Let's show the media that Americans vote not for looks but for substance.

David Turnoy  
West Linn

## SMASH AND GRAB

The myth perpetually propagandized by those in power that the U.S. is a democracy has been accepted as such, if not by leftists such as I and others too disenchanted to do anything but withdraw into their private lives, by the mainstream boobocracy of voters and gullible Americans. Among other reasons why the U.S. is not a democracy is that from the start it has been smash and grab, or a country of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich. On this, see throughout Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States — 1492 to Present*.

But another important reason the U.S. is not democratic is something seemingly almost universally taken for granted and accepted. The U.S. House of Representatives is at least in conception democratic because it is based on proportionate population. If New Mexico has a sizeable increase in population and Oklahoma a sizeable decrease, New Mexico gains a House seat and Oklahoma loses one. But the Senate is not democratic at all, and for want of a better word, might be called an aristocracy and is our bequest from the states' rights agitating of the original 13 colonies become founding states. Why should California only have two senators and tiny Rhode Island also two senators? Likewise, why should New York state have only two senators and even somewhat larger Oregon and Washington states also have two senators? The U.S. Senate, and also the electoral college, should be abolished.

Paul J. Green  
Eugene

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