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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ATMOSPHERIC ANSWERS

The best thing we could do for the future of the country is to send George Bush and his cohorts to live on Mars.

Pauline Hutson
Eugene

START THE CONVERSATION

We live in a democracy, right? Which means that citizens are the ones who collectively have the job of deciding what policies will serve the public good. Yet each day's paper brings us more and more evidence that this is not the way things are working in the United States. What we have instead is giant corporations whose profit-driven decisions enact policy that affect millions of people's lives — usually without any public input whatsoever.

On Jan. 9, Paul Cienfuegos spoke at UO about how the people can assert democratic control over corporations and essentially take our decisionmaking powers back. He spoke about the actions citizens in Arcata, Calif. have begun taking on a local level to accomplish this. What was most unusual, was that they didn't begin with a campaign to change a certain policy, but with a campaign to have a conversation in the form of a town hall meeting. Their legislative successes have grown from a foundation of very public, very democratic conversations with one another, in which they found common ground across the ideological spectrum.

For those who missed Paul's speech, it will be broadcast on KLCC on Sunday, Jan. 18 at noon. I urge everyone to listen to it. Let's begin the conversation here in Eugene.

Jill Schwab
Eugene

SALMONELLA SPROUTS

How weird to see all the crowing about "mad cow disease" in *EW* (1/8) when there has been absolutely no dialogue at all about the numerous, even yearly, incidents of poisoned and dying people from vegetable-carried salmonella poisoning due to south of the border "brown water" crop watering policies.

Here's an ideal to get past the fact that even food is a hardcore political bullshit item in Eugene: Feed the salmonella coated vegetables to the cows and bulls instead of the other cows.

A healthy solution for all. Smile while you eat that imported tub of border sprouts! And don't forget you can save lots and lots of planet lives just by killing yourself instead of them: Why bother living?

The "Living Diet" of "Not Being There," a real life saver!

Go Planet!

Daniel J. Moore
Springfield

JUST GET DEM IN

Ann Tattersall (12/11) and we are on the same side in the Democratic primary election. We favor and actively support Congressman Dennis Kucinich for president as the candidate with the most positive and best positions in every regard. We part company with her, however, when she denigrates other viable candidates, especially former Vermont governor Howard Dean, who presently is the front runner.

In fact, while Kucinich is our first choice, we can also be enthusiastic for Dean, if he wins the nomination. Going beyond that, we would even support any other Democratic

nominee except Sen. Joe Lieberman and Gen. Wesley Clark.

Yes, it's essential we show Bush the door in 2004.

John Saemann
Eugene

GET INVOLVED

From my perspective, here by the wood-stove in my straw/dirt home, the best thing that could happen now is for Phillip K. Dickian space aliens to beam back to Planet Zoilton all Bushites, Saddamophiles, Mohammedian psychopaths, genocidal Pope followers, bio-technocrats, financiers, CEOs and timber barons while, at the same time, magically restoring indigenous cultures, ecosystems, extinct flora and fauna and love of life on Earth to humans.

This is not likely to occur. However, I refuse to accept the incredibly shallow/hollow observations of supersage Dan Carol. Dude, our materialist-mechanistic view of the universe — with us separated from it — is destroying everything! The Marines putting the screws to Hussein while the Air Force explodes Afghan children does not a decrease in evil make. Within our present governmental system, Kucinich with Moseley Braun represents leaders with a holistic, positive and manageable world view/social system.

To all those people who just want to escape into art and nature and love, I urge you not to leave our fate to political strategists, mad scientists and military authority. Become fully involved in stopping the imperialist torturing machine.

Anthony Willey
Cottage Grove

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