

animal foods. More than 90 percent of all Amazon rainforest land cleared has been cleared for meat production.

Animal agriculture is the world's largest source of water pollution, emits two-thirds of the world's acid rain causing ammonia, contributes more to global warming than anything else and uses huge amounts of water and energy (half the water and one third the petroleum in the U.S.). The negative impact of animal agriculture on the environment cannot be overstated.

Mr. Lent could best demonstrate his commitment to the environment by serving up only plant-based foods. Now that would truly be green.

Nettie Schwager
Corvallis

TARGETING IRAN

The Bush administration has not yet managed to provoke war with Iran, but its attempts may be escalating. Andrew Cockburn reports that Bush has signed a secret "finding" authorizing a covert offensive against the Iranian regime that may include assassinating targeted officials, aiding militant groups hostile to Iran, and destabilizing Syria. Members of the congressional intelligence committees reportedly approved \$300 million to fund such actions (counterpunch.org 5/2).

If true, this report is deeply disturbing. There is no plausible justification for attacking Iran. The Bush administration continues to ignore the maxim that "when you're in a deep hole, you should stop digging." Instead, it has insisted on humiliating preconditions for negotiations. It has refused to approach Iran with respect, to offer security guarantees, or to take regime change off the table. Now it has reportedly authorized a broad range of dangerously provocative and morally indefensible actions.

Iran's inflammatory rhetoric certainly does not help. But threatening military action strengthens the hand of hard-liners and makes life more difficult for Iranian democrats and reformers, who have pleaded

in vain for an end to U.S. provocations. Iran does not have nuclear weapons and has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which permits plutonium enrichment. It would be inexcusable to provoke another war, one likely to produce regional conflagration and humanitarian disaster—and especially without even attempting sustained, direct negotiations without preconditions.

For more information, see irannuclearwatch.blogspot.com and *Targeting Iran*, David Barsamian's book with Noam Chomsky, Ervand Abrahamian and Nahid Mozaffari.

Robert Roth
Eugene

AN HONEST STRANGER

Anyone who has ever had their wallet stolen or absentmindedly misplaced knows the great vulnerability and stomach-sinking anxiety of it all. Not only is personal information at risk with the threat of identity theft, but entire accounts can be cleaned out in less than an hour.

Perhaps the real damage comes when one realizes the headache and financial hit of replacing state-issued IDs, passports, and bus passes. It is no small endeavor to send away for birth certificates to prove citizenship and then to stand in line for hours at governmental agencies, waiting a turn to explain the situation. To add insult to injury, the victim must then pay for all replacements and pray that they don't get pulled over in the meantime.

When I discovered that my wallet had mysteriously disappeared this morning, the unnerved panic set in. I canceled bank cards, filed police reports and closed accounts. The real surprise came when my phone rang. A woman had found my wallet in a parking lot and wanted to return it. My belief in humanity's honesty and kindness has been reaffirmed. My warmest thanks goes out to Nina Sanchez.

I am delighted to know that some of you are left.

T.D. Turner
Eugene



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