



NEWS FROM DIVISION TWELVE MEDIA: CREATORS OF SOUNDBYTE ®

DIVISION TWELVE CLIENT SOLAR PUBLISHING'S *MY MOM HUGS TREES* 'EMBRACED' BY DENNIS & ELIZABETH KUCINICH (BETWEEN BITES OF VEGAN CHOCOLATE CAKE!)



My Mom Hugs Trees (Solar Publishing)

Do you think your Mom does strange things? Well, my Mom hugs trees, rescues bugs, sings with birds, and talks to flowers. Come meet my Mom. You might end up doing strange things too! Delightful illustrations and poetic text hold the attention of young readers and make 'My Mom Hugs Trees' a perfect "read-to-me" book. The story reflects a love and enjoyment of life. Mom, with her strange habits, will foster children's connection to nature. For more information go to www.solarpub.com.



KEN WILLIAMS / Monitor staff
Dennis and Elizabeth Kucinich campaign and do a little shopping at the Concord Food Cooperative Market.

At a campaign stop at Concord Cooperative Market yesterday, Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich dropped a desert into his shopping basket. "Bush has his Patriot Act, but my law is vegan chocolate cake," he declared. Rep. Kucinich, 60, from Cleveland, used his visit to advocate for organic foods and fair trade goods, in addition to trademark campaign platforms of universal health care system and anti-war foreign policy. "There's finite resources on this planet, and it's our responsibility to protect them for future citizens," he told a handful of reporters at a press

conference at Christa McAuliffe Planetarium. "Each decision we make protects or hurts the planet - the products we buy, the food we eat, the cars we drive, the energy we use to fuel our homes." At Concord Cooperative Market, Kucinich and his wife Elizabeth, 29, both vegans, stocked up on Cliff Bars, a rice drink, protein energizer, and organic body lotion, in addition to the chocolate cake. They then headed over to Real Green Goods, which sells only American-made and fair trade goods, where Elizabeth Kucinich, a native of Britain, picked out a book called *My Mom Hugs Trees*. She said it reminded her of her own mother, who runs a complimentary healing and teaching center outside London.

Farmington attorney and Kucinich supporter Emmanuel Krasner bought the couple a set of coasters as a gift for their upcoming second wedding anniversary.

Elizabeth Kucinich said at home in Cleveland, the couple tries to shop at organic and environmentally friendly stores, but they are further away than other stores. "We don't like to drive too far because we want to conserve fuel consumption, so we load up on our trips," she said. In Concord, the couple drove their Chrysler Pacifica Touring, a wagon with gas mileage of about 16 miles per gallon in the city and 24 on the highway, according to Chrysler.

Speaking to a crowd of about 50 that gathered on South Main Street, Kucinich advocated a transition away from coal to the use of "green energy," such as solar or wind power. Developing a "green economy," he said, would also add jobs. He connected the Earth's sustainability to peace, and said the president needs to build technology, such as space technology, to use for peace, instead of investing in the military. He promoted his anti-war platform, advocating "strength through peace, diplomacy, engagement and adherence to international law." He said the United States should negotiate with Iran and Syria, end participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization, and withdraw from Iraq. He touted his record of consistently voting against funding the Iraq war.

When asked by the Monitor how he would respond to the genocide in Sudan, he blamed the Bush administration for letting the situation escalate to this point, and said the United States has an obligation to intervene together with the world community, not unilaterally. He said the U.S. must be "cautious" about intervening in the name of humanitarianism. "The government should take care of things at home and work with other nations to help others," he said. "We can't afford to be the policeman of the world when we couldn't even run a relief program for Katrina."

But his advocates will not be dissuaded. "I support him because I want to live in the world he wants to lead," said Jackie Cleary, a retired teacher from Westmoreland, who volunteers for the campaign. "If we stop making weapons and stop war, we can devote resources to making the country stronger."

FOR A COPY OF "MY MOM HUGS TREES", CONTACT : TONY REGUSTERS @ DIVISION TWELVE MEDIA:
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