

Rachel Schnalzer

If I was in charge of the world.....an interesting thought. In these days, with the stock market dwindling, genocide across the globe increasing, and the grim ecological crisis we are facing, I would have to say yes, I believe that it's time for a new regime. Of course there are some major issues I would have to resolve, but there are some little policies I would want to institute as well. Some are irrational, I'll admit, but entirely necessary (ex. "I Am the Walrus" would be the international anthem). Let's face it: 2008 was terrible. Honestly, it was the most god-awful year in a while. People are depressed about the fact they have lost the majority of their life savings, the Earth is rotting out from under us, the ever-looming threat of terror attacks persists, and then there is America's alarming decline in terms of national intelligence averages. Oh, and the popular belief we all may die in 2012. Not to be Debbie Downer over here, but don't you just love the Mayans? Anyway, what I have noticed is that this is all a bit dark. So, I propose that we deal with these issues as one of my idols, Stephen Colbert, approaches the world. With humor.

Global warming would be the first problem to address. Let's face it: we're pretty much slackers. Big time. Despite my strict animal-friendly doctrine, I will concede that an acceptable form of beef will come from the cows whose flatulation is actually affecting the ozone layer. What are they feeding those cows, anyway? In addition, our mass transit system is downright scary and our cars are preposterously underdeveloped. In my world a large-scale computer operated transit system of super quiet automobiles would be used for travel. The fuel source would be entirely solar. You would just type in your destination and *voila*, you would be whisked away on the pastel colored rails spread out along streets to your destination. Initially expensive, you might say, but the benefits more than meet the eye. Traffic would no longer be an issue. The inevitable rage filled drivers found in their natural habitat of rush hour would be extinct. The world's blood pressure would drop as well; car rides would be used as a way of unwinding, relaxing, and would promote contemplative thought. I know what you're thinking, what if the machines turn against us? The Terminator, Eagle Eye, iRobot, etc. It all happened in those movies; who's to say we won't become victims of the supercomputer? Well, I can't for sure how I plan to control them. After all, you can't expect me to reveal all my secrets, can you?

Animal rights would be another major issue to address. Abuse would not be tolerated whatsoever. Even a little kid forgetting to feed a goldfish would land in a juvenile detention center, if only just for a few days. Hitting animals while driving, even if by accident, would result in a two year license suspension. Hunting would be illegal in all cases except solely for food. And a certain governor of Alaska would be immediately jailed for an indefinite amount of time for shooting wolves from a helicopter.

Once I'm in charge, the world will finally know the truth. The poorly-kept secrets of Roswell and Area 51 and the better-kept secrets I just know exist will be revealed once and for all. A human/ alien orientation will be arranged as soon as possible. It will be just like the first day of school when you meet all the new kids in your class. We'll just be

meeting the creatures that we will spend the rest of our light years with in the Milky Way and surrounding galaxies. Positive relations between the two species would be encouraged and soon we would be one big, happy intergalactic family. Honestly, there should be a sitcom on Nick at Nite about our upcoming fun-filled astronomical adventures.

And now, the part I know all of you are waiting for. Of course I will make the necessary adjustments to American pop culture it so sorely needs. That is of the utmost importance. Out of kindness and mercy to the human race, Nickelback would be forced to break up. As would the Jonas Brothers. And the Pussy Cat Dolls. In their place, John Lennon and George Harrison would be resurrected and The Beatles will live again. Statues would be erected in honor of Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert in Washington D.C. A Sarah Palin look-alike contest would be held annually. Lastly, using the phrase "OMG" would be strictly forbidden.

And there you have it folks. That would be the world with Rachel Elizabeth Schnalzer as its ruler. I won't deny it- my world is eccentric, unorthodox, partially communistic, ridiculous, absurd, laughable, and, outlandish, but fantastically superb, awesomely wonderful, amazingly brilliant, and astonishingly astounding. Say that three times fast. Kudos to my inner thesaurus. Anyway, that it for now. So when do I begin my new job?