

'Big Brother' has eye on Oregon

When George Orwell wrote his foreboding novel 1984, he was attempting to warn the world about the dangers of communism and fascism. The phrase "Big Brother is watching you" was meant to warn people about losing their individual freedoms. However, some crackpots in Springfield have apparently taken Orwell's book as a blueprint for their own new order.

Flyers distributed last week by apparent supporters of Ballot Measure 9 warn opponents that, "whatever you do, we will be watching you." Such ominous language symbolizes the rapidly growing battle lines being created by Measure 9.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance, sponsors of Measure 9, claim that its intention is not to promote discrimination, but to prevent homosexuals from gaining special rights. It claims that, as a Christian group, it will continue to love homosexuals but not their lifestyle.

Assuming the OCA is telling the truth, it must realize that there are people who do not share a similar "love" for homosexuals. Rather, they hate homosexuals and uses the guise of Christianity to mask their evil.

The flyers warn homosexuals and their supporters that soon "all the real people" of Springfield will take back their city. Opponents of Measure 9 are given the option to "stay for that if you want to, or ... go west to Eugene." Apparently, this "Silent Majority," (S and M?) as the distributors of the flyers call themselves, have hired the same public relations firm as Serbia. Ethnic cleansing has come to Springfield.

To be fair, some opponents of Measure 9 are just as guilty of committing inexcusable acts of vandalism and harassment against the measure's supporters, the most recent example being the drawing of pink triangles in front of the homes of Springfield City Councilman Ralf Walters and conservative activist Loretta Neet. Both sides are also apparently guilty of smashing several windows.

While the actions of those people opposed to the measure can be attributed to simple fear, the actions of those in support of the measure can be attributed to basic hate. What makes the supporters' actions more reprehensible is that they claim to act in the name of God.

These self-appointed judges of morality have cast so many stones that not only are they apparently without sin, but are destined for sainthood, assuming the starch from their brown shirts doesn't wither away what's left of their limited brains.

While it is easy to poke fun at the neanderthal communication efforts demonstrated by the Silent Majority, its ominous threats of violence must be taken seriously.

The people of Oregon must decide if they want to live in an Orwellian police state or a free and just democracy.



COMMENTARY

Stark contrasts mark election '92

Clinton's approach best for America

By Brian David Bogart

The halls of the White House must be gasping for a breath of fresh, cool air. Did you watch the Republican Convention? Did you hear our president describe the difference between liberal and conservative views? He, a conservative, said: "Theirs is to look inward and protect what we already have. Ours is to go forward." This statement, besides being another Republican falsehood, defies the very definition of liberal versus conservative politics.

If you saw it, and if you heard it, you know it was a convention of the pettiest of insults in a world of serious issues. It was a forum for blame-laying and superficial rhetoric on an evangelical scale. And in the middle of this, our president said, "I know Americans are tired of the blame-game."

Yes, we are, and we're tired of Bush knocking us down, tying us up, slapping us around, lying to us, taking us nowhere and being what every president should never be — a rich, blind, aimless, human hot-air machine. We can do better, and we can do better now.

And by the way, if you're only mildly concerned about the future of our health care system and the future of our social security system, you probably have no idea what they're currently like under Bush.

Under the Bush administration, I have been forced to suffer the symptoms of two permanently disabling injuries while being denied the prescribed corrective surgeries. Additionally, I lost nearly everything I owned and was pushed into bankruptcy during "a waiting period for evaluation," even though the outcome was found to have been predetermined by the White House.

Regarding the first injury, I was told, "though your condition has been verified, we are denying benefits, as you are capable of performing work not involving the use of your hands."

My case worker confirmed this to me bluntly: "You gotta lose an arm and a leg to get any benefits these days!"

The second injury was diagnosed last March. It is progressive arthritis of the left foot. Immediate surgery was recommended. But tell me, how can a minimum-wage earner afford to take the necessary time off from work? It won't be easy using a cane with disabled hands, yet somehow I can already imagine the Bush administration's advice: "Stop complaining. You are still capable of holding the cane with your teeth!"

And so, in my opinion, any president who says, "America is the land where the sun is always peeking over the horizon," displays an incredible tendency to avoid reality. And I'm sorry, but my world is real, my pain is real, my needs are real.

Mr. President . . . your lips, my foot. Read my vote!

As we seek to establish a sustainable founda-

Republicans want less government

By William D. Witt

The Republican Party convention held this August in Houston demonstrated a renewed commitment to Republican principles. While not every speaker nor every delegate shared a complete unanimity of beliefs, it is nevertheless true that a powerful message came forth. This theme was evident in the platform, the speakers, the delegates and the atmosphere on the convention floor.

It is equally clear that the message coming from Houston was radically different from the message that came from New York during the July Democratic Party convention. Rarely in recent history have two candidates and their political parties expressed such divergent and distinct messages. This is healthy for American democracy because voters are given a clear choice on the future direction of their country.

Republicans approach critical issues very differently than Democrats. I will address this in four general areas: economic policy, social policy, moral direction and foreign affairs.

Republicans believe government is too big, too expensive and too pervasive. The more government tries to do, the less effective it becomes. Furthermore, by its very nature, government is an inefficient provider of goods and services.

Freedom is enhanced when the people restrict government to doing only those things that individuals or private organizations are unable to accomplish themselves. Instead of government-controlled manipulation of the economy, government should provide minimal economic regulation. This will create the conditions where individuals can be empowered and motivated to help themselves.

These views can be seen in the Republican party's call for a balanced budget amendment. It can also be demonstrated in the Bush Administration's call for lower taxes and lower spending. By restoring fiscal discipline to a bloated federal government and at the same time increasing incentives to work, earn and invest, we will build a more prosperous future for all Americans.

Republicans believe that the private sector is best suited to solve social problems such as health care, education and homelessness. The role of government should be to facilitate private-sector initiatives and responsibility.

Health care is a good example of this tenet. While the Democrats espouse either a centralized national health care system or a coercive "play or pay" program on employers, the Republican message calls for tax breaks for lower income people so they can best select and provide for their own health care needs. Solutions lie in enhancing individual choice and responsibility, not in providing centralized solutions that are then imposed on the people.

In the field of education, Republicans believe that monopolistic public school systems are cer-

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