

Beyond that, Palestinians' everyday lives are extremely depressing and frustrating. I hope if Israelis and American Jews could spend time in Palestine, as I did recently — observing firsthand the fear and humiliation caused by Israeli checkpoints, demolitions, roving military patrols, and now the building of the Separation Wall, mostly on Palestinian land — these policies would be reversed. I believe that people don't really want to treat others this way. If they saw what was happening, I hope they would realize that to live in peace, we must all treat each other justly.

*Kate Rogers Gessert
Eugene*

BUILDING BRIDGES

In the wake of the defeat of Measure 30, it is imperative that we find ways to "bridge the gap" on multiple facets of Oregon, starting with our state's budget. "Building a bridge across the economic gorge" between the wealthiest and poorest among us and those without jobs or health care is crucial.

We can "bridge the need" in our community for training specialists such as nurses, home health care specialists, engineers, electricians, plumbers through educational training programs. We must "construct strong bridges" for retraining the unemployed and educating our children so they are prepared for good livelihoods as the economy rebounds.

We must "bridge the divide" between the rural and urban areas of our state and while we are at it, begin work on "bridging the rift" down the legislative aisle.

What is apparent is that there are a lot more bridges than the ones on I-5 in this state that are in need of repair and mending. For the good of Oregon, the decision to "construct a multitude of bridges" may forge infrastructure more easily traversed over the long haul.

*Marlene "Mitzi" Colbath
Eugene*

BBS NOT BOMBS**

Now you have done it. You have corrupted the moral fabric of our society. You have shown b**bs. Soon, my lesbian cousin, who is in a 15-year loving, stable relationship with two children, will want to get married, thereby destroying the institution of marriage. I, personally, could not have had my two divorces without the institution of marriage.

Next, people will think it is wrong to invade another country because the leader embarrassed daddy and has oil. You have no idea

the devastation showing br**sts can cause.

If one of our leaders, John Ashcroft, feels it is necessary to drape a statue of Lady Liberty, how can we disagree without being seditious?

I hope you know what you are doing. I will continue to read your paper every week just to make sure. I dare you to continue this type of journalism.

*Robert Tilchin
Eugene*

CREATING GUILT

An inadequate mother, impatient with children getting up after being put to bed, might tell them that monsters will "get them" if they leave their bed. If they disobeyed their mother, wouldn't they become fearful, guilty and threatened?

When anti-choice advocates claim that women suffer shattering emotional pain after an abortion, they are describing women who've heard from anti-choicers that choosing to abort made them the killer of a baby. In truth a fetus is not a baby and will not have the thinking capacity that is characteristic of human life until the seventh month.

If a healthy young man suffers a skull-crushing motorcycle accident and is declared "brain dead," life-support systems are removed, even though they could keep his mindless body alive for years. Their being expunged and the death that follows is not regarded by our law or society as murder since the youth's mindless body is not viewed as a person.

In the same vein even a second trimester abortion does not kill a baby, a human being. It interrupts the development of a fetus which at that stage of development lacks the thinking capacity our society views as personhood.

As a minister abortion counselor and co-founder of a metropolitan clergy consultation service, I helped 700 women obtain abortions. The uniform emotional reaction of the women was profound relief, alleviated anxiety and the cheering prospect of making a fresh start. They did not suffer the emotional agonies — guilt, shame and self-hatred — that anti-choice proponents say follow an abortion.

Thus knowledgeable pregnant women who consider all the factors in their lives and thoughtfully decide to have an abortion feel relieved. They don't suffer emotional agonies.

*Rev. Edgar Peara
Eugene*

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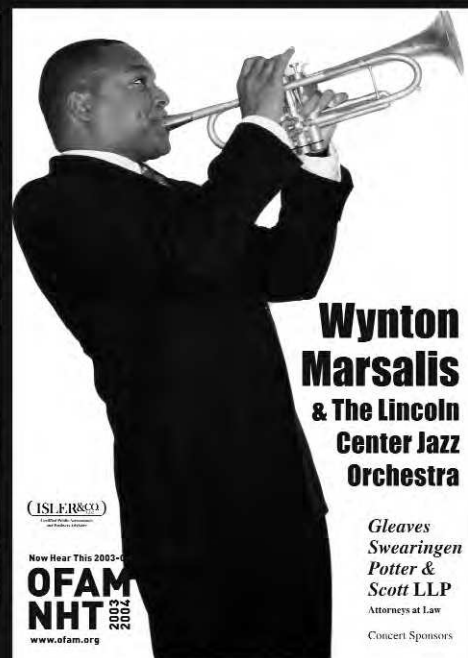


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