

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to the public than a passionate activist like Jeff ever could.

*Brendan Avakian
Eugene*

LACK OF RESPECT

In the course of the life of the average American, it is unlikely that he or she will ever be required to rely upon any of our most basic constitutional protections; the right to be informed of the charges, the right to confront the accuser, that one is innocent until proven guilty, and the right of legal representation. However, the terrible injustice recently imposed upon an Oregon lawyer, Brandon Mayfield, by our government, should remind each of us of the critical importance of these rights.

Shockingly, President Bush continues to assert that he can deny any of these most basic rights to any of our citizens simply by accusing that individual of being a terrorist. Bush's conduct displays a total lack of respect for basic human rights and worse, a total lack of understanding of their critical importance. This is one more reason why Bush must be defeated. Each of us should feel terror when the leader of our country makes such assertions that he can deny to any of us at any time, the very essence of our constitutional rights.

*Art Johnson
Eugene*

GLAD REMINDER

With the amount of negativity being reported in today's media, I felt moved to share a brief positive experience I recently had. I

was spending time with my 6-year-old sister over by the UO campus when I lost my wallet. I was distracted. The following day I received a phone call from Smith Family Bookstore saying the wallet had been found and returned by a patron. Everything was intact. With all the negativity in our world I think we need to all take time to remember honest and loving people are still around. To you who returned my wallet, thanks for reminding me of this truth.

*Tamar Mali
Eugene*

BEING GAY IS A CHOICE

I read "The Gene Divides" (5/20). Mr. Robinson's argument is absurd. California voters (half of whom are women and many Hispanic and black), voted overwhelmingly in favor of marriage between a man and a woman. He is trying to deflect from himself and homosexuality by trying to link his issue to women and minorities.

If one is born black or female one can't do much about it. I have a good friend that lived the gay lifestyle for many years and found it unfulfilling and elected to leave it. In other words, he used his power of choice. Mr. Robinson also has this option. As do all gays. Some do it cold turkey, some use alternative therapy methods, past life therapy, etc.

I do not claim to be expert in these avenues of therapy. I am merely pointing out that these people have options that minorities and women do not.

*Steve Twede
Salt Lake City, Utah*



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