

worthwhile step forward from Bush.

No, Oona, one singular vote wouldn't make much of a difference, just like a grain of sand in an hourglass; however, a hundred people who don't vote, a thousand, a million; that absence really puts a harmful dent in our political process. (How do you think it got so corrupt in the first place?) Everything significant is composed of "insignificant" atoms, quarks, gluons, vibrating strings, and votes.

It will take a very long time to cleanse our political atmosphere and our nation's virtues. It will take a lot of patience, but the only way that we won't be able to fix this problem is by not voting. Voting is what gives corrupt politicians power, and voting is what can take it away. Not satisfied with the Democratic or Republican parties? Vote Green Party. Vote Socialist. Vote Libertarian if you have to; but don't just lose hope and let the problem escalate. Third party votes are only pointless because we say that they are.

The main political strategy of a politician is to do what the voters would like. If good people with high expectations stop giving up and start voting, the politicians will be forced to live up to these high expectations if they want power; they will do whatever it takes to hold power, including good things.

So, Oona, I hope that you and other people of a similar mind take 10 minutes this November to help make a real, viable change in this country.

*Brendan Coffin
Age 19, Eugene*

PAYING AT THE PUMP

Repeatedly, President Bush has put the special interests in the energy industry ahead of the American people. And we're the ones who are paying for it.

The U.S. should be leading the development of cleaner, renewable fuels, and efficient technologies — which would create jobs, help clean the air, and curb the emissions that cause global warming. But the Bush administration is pushing an outdated energy policy that promotes special interests and continues our dependence on foreign oil. And Americans are paying more than 20 percent more at the pump.

John Kerry has a plan to reduce America's dependence of foreign oil. It invests in renewable energy sources, which will help create new jobs. The plan will create a new partnership to expand the supply of natural gas, and develop and deploy clean electric power from coal. And incentives to consumers will help ensure that 20 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020.

This November, we have a choice between four years of failed policies and for more years of the same or a new direction for our country. I'm choosing John Kerry.

*Karen Schau-Stein
Eugene*

BENEFITS OF INVASION

This letter is in response to the EW interview (9/9) with Peshwaz Faizulla. Mr. Faizulla has been here for a short time, and yet he can now speak for 300 million Americans, saying we are all the same: uneducated, incapable and unaware. He writes that our president is a demon, and that we are trying to colonize the Middle East.

If he is the educated, unbiased journalist he

claims, he should also mention other parties like France, Britain, Russia and the Turks who have been there. Faizulla claims we are there for the oil, however he has personally benefited from this oil invasion, he is free to travel and to speak freely without the death penalty Saddam-style.

He should also tell us how many of his fellow Kurds were gassed with so called non-existent weapons of mass destruction by Saddam. America is not perfect but if were such an oppressive, non-free, terrible place then why do millions from all over the world choose to live here, making America the most welcoming diverse nation ever?

If Mr. Faizulla's view were true, then there would be thousands of Floridians grabbing anything that floats to move to Cuba for a better life. As far as women's rights go, are they freer, more equal and happier here or in the Middle East?

Faizulla's freedom was bought and paid for with American blood. We fought partly because we don't believe people who are different from us are infidels.

*Tom Bush
Eugene*

RECKLESS DISREGARD

George Bush has placed machine-gun lobbyists and oil rich countries in front of our national security.

Sen. Bob Graham, former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee revealed the White House blocked investigations of two Saudi officials who funded and housed two of the 9/11 hijackers, allowing them to leave the U.S. after 9/11. They then blacked out 28 pages about the Saudi connection in the 9/11 Commission report.

Bush has yet to challenge Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's aid to 9/11 terrorists. He used weak intelligence to mislead America about WMD's and justify attacking Iraq. He then allowed the Pentagon to disregard international torture laws. This is a recruitment poster for budding terrorists. He chose "nation building" over hunting down Osama bin Laden. Now he's refused to extend a 10-year-old assault weapons ban after terrorists killed over 300 people at a Russian school.

Allowing terrorists in the U.S. easy access to assault weapons reveals his reckless disregard for our security. We need a Commander in Chief who'll place America's security above lobbyists and make our schools and streets safer. That man is John F. Kerry.

*Paul Dillon
Corvallis*

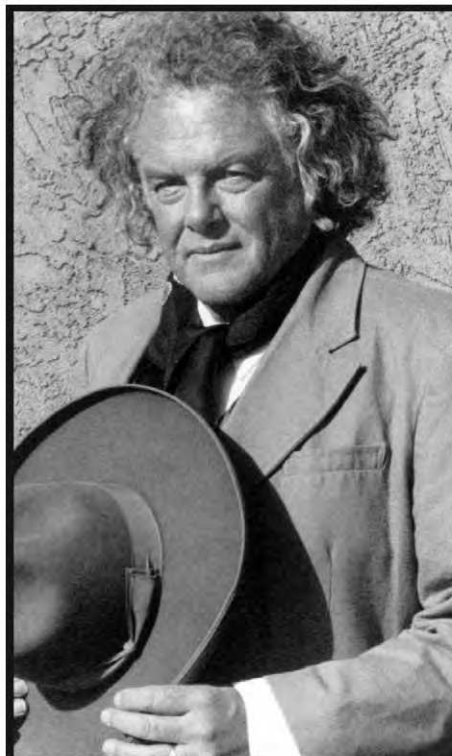
TERRIFIED OF KERRY

Today (9/8) I had a man come into my store who has been back from Iraq for about a month. He is going back tomorrow. He is a contracted worker. His job is to ride along with inexperienced platoons to help keep them safe. He was in the first Desert Storm as well as Iran, and his experience is invaluable to the safety of our troops.

Our government has hired many guys like him. He told me 90 percent of Iraqis want us there and are terrified that John Kerry could become president. The only people we are fighting now are small radicals and people from other countries who don't want democracy. If we leave Iraq now millions of people will die. If that is not enough to convince you



OFAM at The Shedd



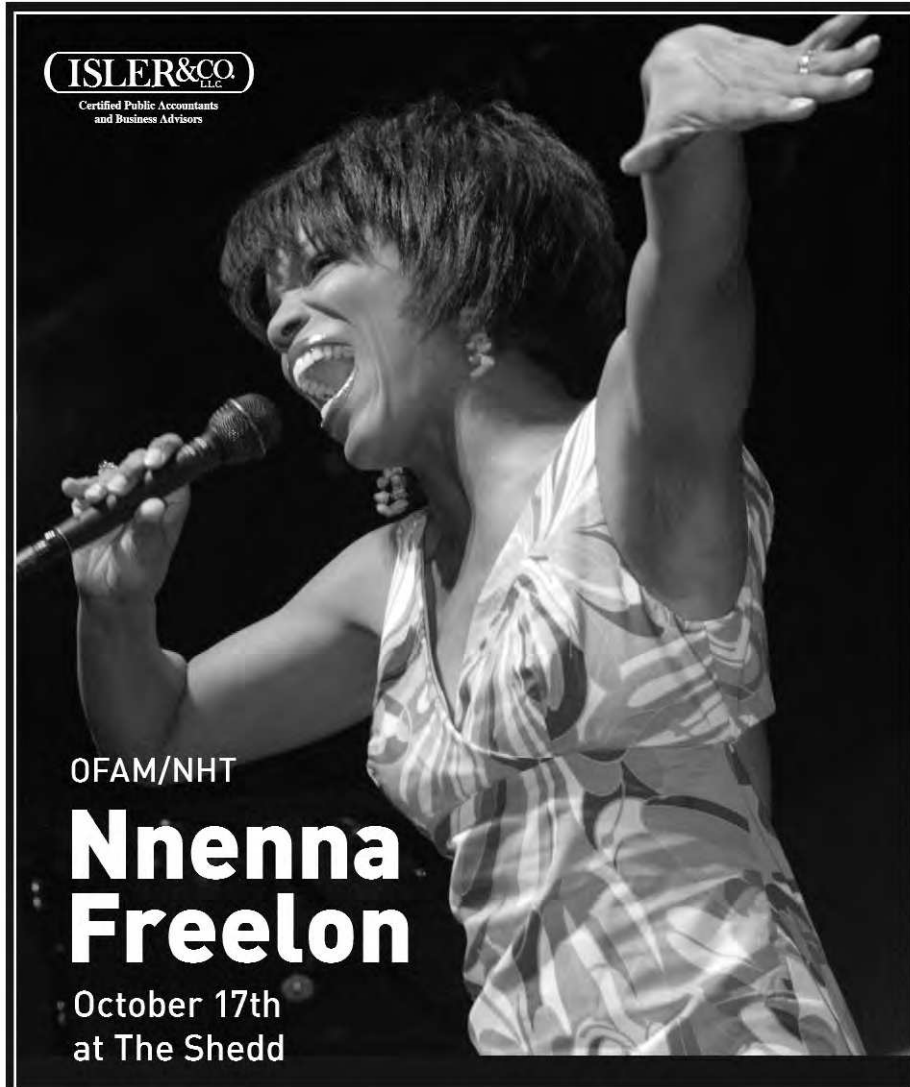
ISLER&CO
Certified Public Accountants
and Business Advisors

OFAM presents

Peter Rowan & Tony Rice

Thursday
October 7
The Shedd
Tix: 687-6526

Ladysmith Black Mambazo Friday Oct. 15 - The Shedd - Tix: 687-6526



ISLER&CO
Certified Public Accountants
and Business Advisors

OFAM/NHT

Nnenna Freelon

October 17th
at The Shedd

OFAM at The Shedd

868 High Street (at Broadway)
541-687-6526 - www.ofam.org



John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD
Robert H. Davis, MD
The Eye Center

Presenting Festival Sponsor