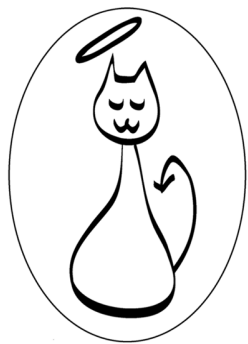


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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meanwhile, John Edwards, his opponent, appeared to be every inch the Southern gentleman, polite as possible, and definitely knowledgeable of the needs and wants of voters across the U.S. Thus I offer my support fully for the Kerry/Edwards ticket.

As a young American and student, I do not want my country to be run by an angry old man who proves to be rude to anyone who dares to counter him. I want someone who will reach out to foreign leaders, who can be expected to invite people to the table for a genuine discussion despite disagreement. I want John Kerry and John Edwards running the U.S.

Lindsay Jansen  
Corvallis

### PLAN FOR PEACE

At the vice-presidential debate, Sen. Edwards made the case that the Bush-Cheney regime has no plan to win the peace in Iraq, no plan to improve the economic life of the average American and does plan four more years of the same: more war, more unemployment at home, and less security in the world. Kerry-Edwards does have a plan to win the peace in Iraq by internationalizing the recovery, to employ Americans by securing our jobs at home, and to obtain homeland security by applying the resources needed to protect our people. It's time to change for the better. I will be voting for Kerry-Edwards.

Gerald R. Merritt  
Eugene

## KUMBAYA DAMMIT BY DAN CAROL

### Turning Blue

An election Post-it note

**W**ell, the debates are over – save for the spin. Now the final dogfight for votes begins. So here are your 1-2-3 instructions to turn the map blue by Nov. 2. Please share widely.



**Step #1. Strap on the right attitude.** Forget the polls – we are going to win this election because our people are coming out to vote in droves. That's true no matter what happens. So, should George Bush produce Osama bin Laden in the next 18 days, just be happy. The guy is a murderer and we should all rejoice – even if the whole thing smells like a remake of *Wag The Dog*. But my X-file spider sense tells me that if THEY had Osama, those "they" guys would have produced him after Bush's first debate debacle. Therefore, forget about October Surprises and what THEY are doing. We win if we execute on steps 2 and 3.

**Step #2. Make our votes count.** Folks should be prepared to stand in line, all night if necessary, as a lot of county clerks may be overwhelmed by higher-than normal voter turnout. For paranormal activities like voter fraud, intimidation and funky touch-screen voting machines, do more than stand in line. Pick up the phone. Tell everyone you know, particularly your swing state buddies, that if they see something bad, or have trouble voting, don't give up but call (866) OUR-VOTE to get hooked into the national election protection hotline. Operators will be standing by.

**Step #3. Get busy.** Here are a few practical things that you can do:

- Send money to JohnKerry.com or critical mobilization campaigns run by groups such as Floridiansforall.org, www.wi-citizenaction.org, and www.michicitizenaction.org. Go to BeatingBush.com to help support critical, on-the-ground work by state Democratic parties.
- Volunteer on one of the three Saturdays left: Go to ElectionMatch.org for opportunities near you – or far away if you live in a very blue state and have the time to travel. Electionprotection2004.org is also looking for poll watchers.
- House a volunteer in your spare bedroom. So if you'd like to host your own reality show called "Real World, The Election," contact the AmericaVotes.org affiliates in your state. You'll be glad you did.
- Get dressed up on Halloween at TrickorVote.com
- Make up your own voter guide and hand it out to friends and family. Check out www.busproject.org or www.indyvoter.org for good examples of how to develop and style your own "Three Minute Voter Guide." And don't forget about the League of Women Voters (www.lwv.org) – the League is still a great source for candidate voting records and the other "just the facts m'am" research you'll need to create a winning guide.
- Convince any remaining Nader voters you know to be more strategic this time around, without wasting their vote or wasting away our country. Urge them to visit www.vote4pair.org to learn about vote pairing.

Talk to you soon – after we've won.

Dan Carol is a Democratic political strategist and a founding partner of CTSG (www.ctsg.com), a progressive consulting firm based in Eugene and Washington, D.C.