

CALL TO ACTION

Republicans shamefully abused civility so their legion would for vote gay discrimination and Bush. They demonized Democrats and again disenfranchised voters. No paper records from e-voting machines is maddening. You can't re-count. Diebold machine maker was quoted, it "would win Ohio for George Bush." That's why Kerry conceded? Republicans won't correct voting fraud because they benefited twice. It's code red work for Democrats! Riot!

The administration squeaks by things they'd burn Democrats for. You're on their bus or not and treated accordingly. The IRS attacks the NAACP for criticizing Bush while tax-exempt but ignores churches endorsing him to congregations, by mouth and print.

New York, Pennsylvania, and D.C. directly suffered on 9/11 yet elected Kerry. They have large gay populations, yet no marriage measures. The morals and values divide widens until secular and non-secular people agree to disagree. We're again a blue fringe alongside Canada which doesn't mix religion and government. America: Follow suit to avoid civil war.

Fight censorship, discrimination, anti-choice, anti-freedom, fiscal irresponsibility, assault weapons and war crimes. The far right wants us down – unhealthy, misinformed, unemployed, silenced and scared into relinquishing freedoms (PATRIOT Act). They think our Constitution is a rough draft needing numerous amendments. Reagan's amendment abolished U.S. media fairness. Now we get bias, spins and little truth.

Republicans demonstrated their wickedness and their base approved that message. Good guys finished last. Wise up, Democrats. Develop winning candidates that can reach everyone. Advising homogenization with Republicans is ensuring more elected Republicans. Be strong and true as Democrats only.

William Stark
Eugene

GAY RIGHTS

I am so outraged. I can not believe that so many people even in the state of Oregon could possibly vote in favor of a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages or civil unions. I am a proud homosexual in the city of Eugene and know several others who feel just as I feel and are in my shoes. I will stand up for and against all of this and fight Congress, the Senate and even the supremacy of what is leading our country.

"I'm queer, I'm here and there's nothing you can do anything about it," said Jack McFarland "Will and Grace." How many of you watch this show? How many people do you know have *that* lifestyle and who have an increased danger of contracting the most deadly disease that is known on this Earth? Who are you to judge what others can and cannot do? This is America and we are supposed to be the country of the free. Help me fight for what's right.

Brian M. Peterson
Native Eugenean

VALUES WANTING

I read that moral values have become a big issue in the recent election. Let's talk about the moral values of the corporations that colluded with our government to create the illusion of an open and fair election on Nov. 2. You won't read about it in the mainstream media or see it on TV, but if you search on the Internet, where information is truly free, you may discover the complete absence of corporate moral values.

Look for a graph of exit polls compared to machine tallies in states that voted electronically, and you will be shocked at the enormous, blatant differences, differences which are less than 1 percent in an honest election. The exit polls show that Kerry won, and won by a lot. America, your votes may no longer belong to you; some are controlled by the secret software of an unverifiable black box! The for-profit corporations that made these machines are strongly biased toward the

Bush administration and have stated so publicly.

Benito Mussolini, the fascist dictator of Italy, gave us a concise definition of his style of government, saying, "Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power." Do your own research, think for yourself, and you may come to the conclusion that fascism with a friendly face has crept into the American way of government. It is long past time to throw the corporations out of *our* government!

David Hazen
Eugene

FLABBERGASTED

This is a post-election comment, and since DeFazio will be re-elected, it (sigh) will be pertinent for yet another two years. But I was flabbergasted by Alan Pittman's comments regarding the DeFazio-Feldkamp race in his "Fighting Green with Green" article (10/28). He notes that "The timber barons are ... backing Jim Feldkamp's attack against local Democratic Congressman Peter DeFazio."

What nonsense. Pittman lists a paltry \$37,200 in donations from timber folks. In a race for Congress, that is chump change, especially against a veteran (18 years, going on 20) incumbent who wins by large margins and hardly campaigns. According to Pittman's numbers, timber gave more to Faye Stewart in a race for a county commission seat than they gave to Feldkamp! If *that* is all they are giving, they are backing DeFazio.

DeFazio was first elected with environmentalist support (which he sought) way back in 1986. But ever since then, big timber has never, ever funded his opponents. This election clearly continues that pattern.

DeFazio, in another continuing pattern, proposed a bill back last summer offering to save all remaining Northwest old growth from the chainsaws, if conservationists

would simply give up the *next* generation of old growth — the 80- to 140-year old trees in late seral reserves. (LSRs are where most remaining trees 80 to 120 years old are located.) No thanks, congressman. That's not a reasonable trade.

Tom Giesen
Corvallis

POLITICAL CAPITAL

George W. Bush was not elected to "overhaul Social Security." He was elected to bash gays and to prohibit gay unions. He was elected to stop scientific progress in medicine. He was elected to police and prevent desperate women and their medical advisors to consider all avenues of choices in their individual lives.

Now, he tells us that he has "political capital to spend" on everyone's lives and the stability of all who work for a living in this country by an "overhaul" of our Social Security program — the one program that helps widows and orphans and permits some dignity to working people in their later years.

Oh, and by the way, he was elected to cut the taxes of large corporations to maintain their health and security, and he also feels that the very rich among us need to have a little more money in their silken suit pockets. The Pharisees of the "religious" right and the fat cats and super lobbyists are his base. For the majority of us he couldn't care less.

Charles L. Crawford, Sr.
Philomath

NO FREE PETS

Please rethink your ad policy of encouraging free pets. I worked at Greenhill for four years and I know firsthand what "free" leads to. Offering the ads free of cost to people in need is great. The hard decision to give up a loved pet can be eased a bit by waiving the extra costs. And, giving the exposure your circulation offers will help pets find new homes.

However, the word "free" in an ad only encourages negatives. It attracts those who

viewpoint BY INGE TARANTOLA

Pray from Peace

Working toward common ground



Spirituality, for me, is not the same as religion. Religion, as I think about it, draws lines of demarcation that point to the differences in the beliefs of the various religious traditions. Thus, it can create a sense of separation among us. Spirituality lets us see what we have in common such as prayer, a quest for peace, a need for worship and community and a belief in a power greater than ourselves, regardless of the name by which we call that power. It gives us a language that allows us to connect with one another respectfully. When we look at the Golden Rule, we find that most major faith traditions echo those words: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Three years ago the U.N. adopted a resolution designating Sept. 21 of each year as the International Day of Peace. The hope was that the entire world would observe a full day of global ceasefire and nonviolence. All peoples and organizations are invited to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner every year, and we did so in Roseburg, where I am involved with a spiritual community.

The great statesman Moshe Dayan said, "If you want peace, don't talk to your friends; talk to your enemies." I believe we must find ways to open the channels of communication and to let the voice of every citizen of this planet be heard, not just of those who are in powerful positions. Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is a state of mind

and heart. By no means am I advocating passivity, but let all action arise from our peaceful center. Let us not pray *for* peace, but let us pray *from* peace. If I pray *for* peace, I have the sense that it is something outside myself that may be intangible or unattainable or in the future. No, peace is within me and within all of us now. So let us affirm peace and harmony, from that peaceful center within.

The Eugene Interfaith community has offered a prayer service every month since 9/11. Their theme this past September on that eventful date's third anniversary was this: "There will be no peace until there is justice." By that I envision social, economic, gender, racial, age, and religious justice on a global scale. So we are called to the cause of justice around the world for all people. Let's put hands and feet to our prayers to guide us to appropriate action. Does global peace sound too good to be true? John Randolph Price said: "Nothing is too good to be true."

Justice is elusive – but I recognize it when I see it. I believe we're all connected and called to look upon each other with compassion. Not once, but twice I read in the Bible, Jesus said to love. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) and "Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John. 13:34). There are no conditions in these statements – not if, not when, not just some and not others. Let's practice justice through love toward all.

The Rev. Inge Tarantola is a Unity minister in Eugene and attends interfaith activities. This column is coordinated by Two Rivers Interfaith Ministries (TRIM) which sponsors the 11th of the month interfaith services at First Christian Church, and a special Thanksgiving service at 7 pm Tuesday, Nov. 23 at Central Presbyterian Church, including an all-community interfaith choir. For information or sheet music, call 344-5693.