imals also lower the value of the pet in the eyes of the new owners. The "free" pet is much more likely to be dumped than the pet that had some monetary worth attached to it. We don't need to encourage people to extend their "throw away" notions to living animals.

What we counseled people to do when I was at Greenhill was to not mention a price in the ad. When people call about the pet, check them out and if the new home is satisfactory, waive the fee and tell them to use the money saved for food, treats, toys, a leash, or a doghouse/cat condo.

At least put on a warning in your ads if you persist, and tell people what the consequences may be.

Tom Rydbom
Eugene

RED FLAGS

Why are the major news sources in the U.S. so quiet about potential election fraud issues in our 2004 swing states? A lot of pre-election speculation was brought to the public's attention by the major news agencies about the paperless voter machines that were used widely in Ohio for this election. Most of the unease with these machines revolved around the facts that they are non-auditable, and the programming code is kept secret and is owned by for-profit corporations with close ties to George Bush and the GOP.

Why has this issue all of a sudden vanished from the national news radar screen given the events that unfolded in Ohio this election? I hope there are investigative journalists objectively picking apart the discrepancies between the "official" vote tallies favoring Bush and the exit poll numbers that favored Kerry on election day.

I have heard some discomforting statistical analyses by non-network news sources arguing that vote fraud may have occurred, and the objective statistical evidence is compelling, at least compelling enough to warrant a real, hard pressing investigation.

Red flags in objective exit polls say Kerry wins, GOP friendly company brings in new, non-auditable voting equipment that proclaims Bush the winner by a squeaker, and the press goes quiet.

I am not advocating that the election was fraudulent; I am, however, concerned that national attention to the issue has so quickly diminished and that serious inconsistency between the vote count and rigorous polling outcomes are being ignored. I hope more attention is paid to this issue by the media in the coming weeks.

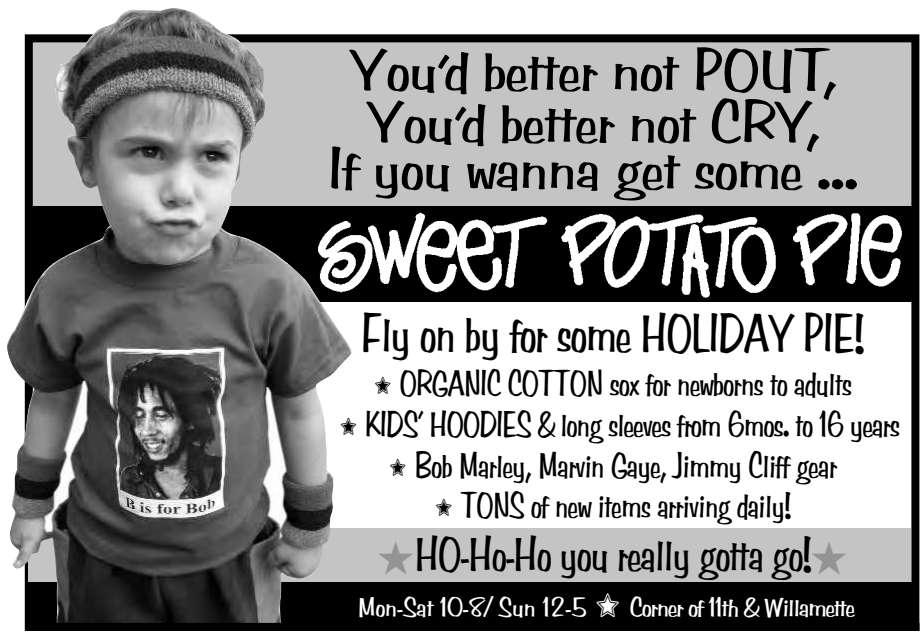
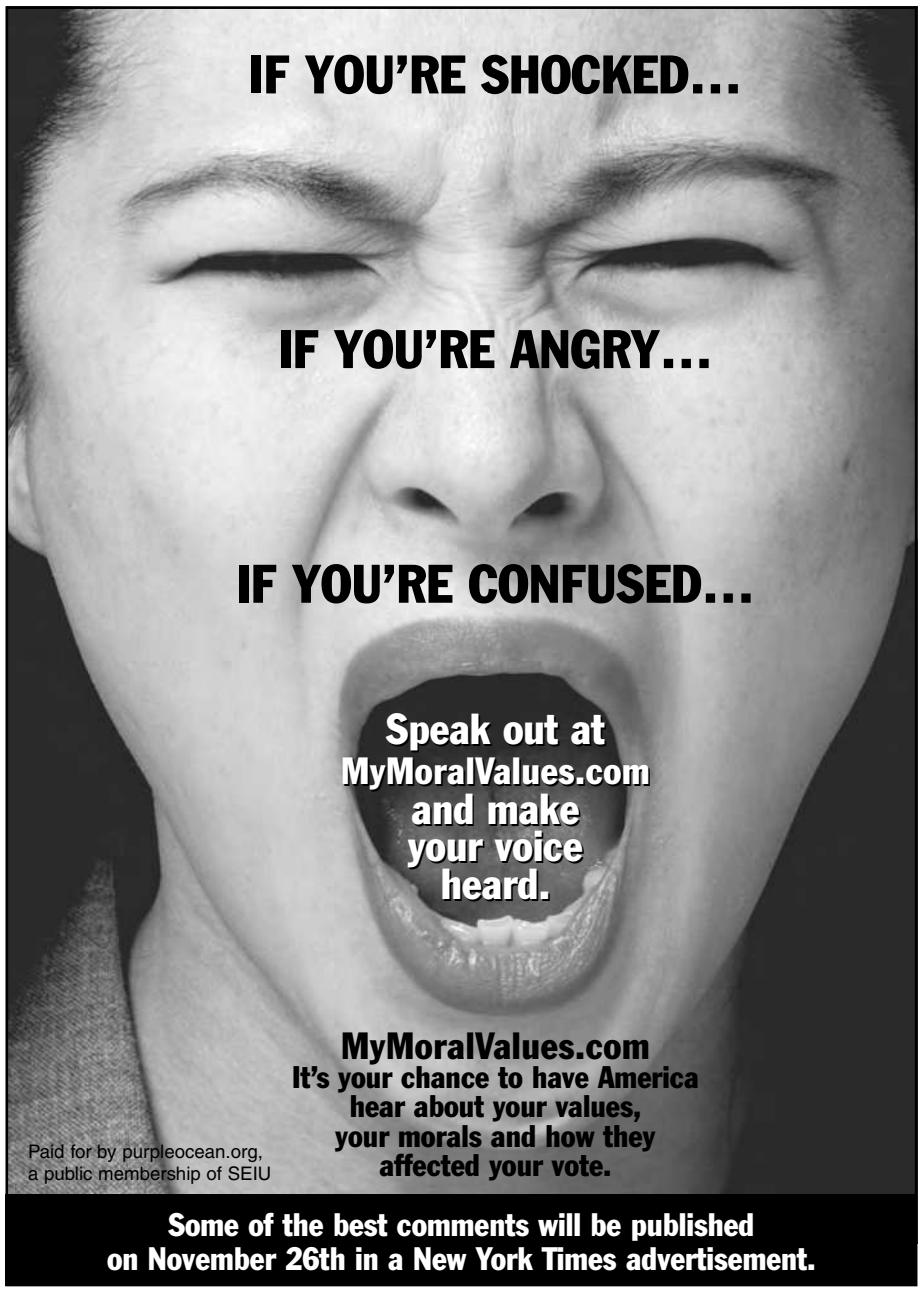
Hans Smith
Eugene

CLUELESS IN LOVE

To: David Jagernauth: During one of my breaks at work, I had the unfortunate opportunity of reading your article (10/7) entitled "When Booty Calls: Sex in Your New City."

As all of my coworkers are college students, we felt this was an obscene representation of our age group. My coworkers and I were shocked that you would define a one night stand or a booty call as one's "greatest college achievement." If you honestly believe that a marriage and family life must be "saved" by reverting back to a promiscuous youth, then I feel deeply sorry for you, because you obviously have a very skewed perception of what love is.

By encouraging freshman and other young kids to meticulously plan a one night stand is simply reinforcing self-conscious behavior in young men and women and setting them up to be taken advantage of. As one who remembers the feelings of loneliness and fearfulness that accompany someone who is just beginning their college years, it makes me ever more certain that these are not the memories which will get me through my later years; but rather, they will be the experiences which I most regret.

As far as your advice to men that "The women are far more prudish than the clothes they wear," I hope you realize that many young women wear certain clothes because they have a low self-esteem and want to fit in, not because they want to send a message that they want to sleep with you.

One in four women are now sexually abused in some way, and that statistic is only fueled by people like you who insist that