

that my children should be able to breathe the air without danger, and be able to make healthy, personal, choices without fear of the government imposing on those inherent rights. Can Bush promise this? Can he promise that there will be forests for my children to hike in, or that if a college education is still affordable with aid from the government, that there will be a job waiting for them, or me for that matter?

Please, help me understand how we can insure that these possibilities will still be available. Peace and good luck, America.

*Anna Gordon-Norby
Eugene*

BIN LADEN FAKE

Great timing for an Osama bin Laden videotape! No, I'm not alluding to the coincidence of it showing up just prior to the U.S. elections. I'm referring to a very good actor showing up on our doorstep two days before Halloween!

His giveaway is a professionally shot video and his vigorous and healthy demeanor. He even forgot to put on a thinner nose piece! But U.S. intelligence and the CIA assure us with a "high degree of confidence" that the tape was authentic. Didn't they say the same thing about WMDs in Iraq? No matter who set this up, the world is quickly becoming a caricature of itself.

*Robert Simms
Eugene*

VOTING WITH BANANAS

It was chilling to hear Ed Gillespie's (Republican National Committee) comments to members of the National Press Club on Nov. 4. He was asked about voter exit polls being conducted as voting was occurring across the country. Exit polls reported the majority of voters were supporting the Kerry-Edwards ticket. Gillespie's response? "I would urge you (the media) to not pay any attention to exit polls."



This cavalier dismissal of polls reporting the will of the people, coupled with news reports (*R-G*, Nov. 3 "Electronic voting problems noted"), is beyond troubling. The article reported that Roberta Harvey, 57, of Clearwater, Fla., said she had tried "at least a half-dozen times to select the Kerry/Edwards ticket." Poll workers "wet-wiped" the screen.

Harvery reported it still took about "10 attempts to select Kerry" before the screen eventually confirmed her vote.

Exit polling may well be our last gasp attempt to reveal the true will of the people during this era of electronic voting machines. Voting machines were distributed by Diebold Co., whose CEO also ran the Bush/Cheney campaign in a mid-west state. Ed Gillespie blithely urges our "free press" to ignore voter exit polls. Can you say "Banana Republic?"

*Carol Berg
Pleasant Hill*



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