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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

traits that you just can't get by taking a class at the UO. All Marine recruits from Oregon have to have a high school diploma before they ship to boot camp.

I have been to 11 countries and have seen a world that few Americans living in their bubble will — and I gross \$53k a year while doing it. So I don't see how we are poor and uneducated and "a survival strategy for poor and destitute families."

Yes, murder is murder. However, nobody wishes for peace more than the soldier fighting for it. Mr. Porter, what are you a veteran of that makes you so against our military? Go live in a country where we do not have the freedom to write letters like this for publication or speak out against our government. Just remember when you do that it is not the poet, singer, or campus organizer, but the soldier who gave us this right. So go burn a flag if you want to Mr. Porter; I hope you feel better about yourself. Ask yourself what good it will actually do besides making a smell and a profit for Bic.

Mark Vanslooten
Albany

stay mad for the next four years! So my Christmas wishes for this year are:

Bring ALL the soldiers that are in Iraq back to their countries. Have less trees cut down. Less pollution: non-polluting power plants, use bicycles more often, use less oil. Give the homeless money if you can afford to. Make less stuff in other countries. Lower health prices. Use solar power. (I wish my family could afford an electric car.)

In other words, a new president! Something for my model railroad would be nice too. Oh, and another thing, I'm tired of stepping in dog poop! PLEASE pick it up!

Kaelan J. Fille'
Third grade
Edgewood Elementary

BRA-SEER

Ninety-eight dollars for a BRA? I nearly choked on my mocha when I came across the item (11/24) in your holiday Gift Guide (Freudian Slip). What kind of accessories does it come with?

Jane Dods
Springfield

DEMS MISSING

It is becoming very obvious that massive voter fraud in several key states has created another stolen election. Where are the Democrats? Where is the fight they promised us if the Republicans tried this again? They appear to have capitulated to the Talibushies, like the Vichy French did to Hitler. Are they, like the Vichies, hoping that your masters will perhaps treat you more kindly than the rest of us? Perhaps you'll be allowed to escape the camps?

What if the recounts show that Kerry actually won the election? Do you think that the Talibushies will actually give up power? Do you think they would have given up power if Kerry had won the election outright (despite their treasonous cheating)?

I don't think so. I think that since they own the judiciary, Congress, the Justice Department, the armed forces, and now the ballot boxes, we've had our choices reduced to two: Either surrender and be oppressed by a perpetual feudal theocracy, or take back our democracy by force.

Whether that can be done by a peaceful action (millions of people in the streets and shutting down the country), or by the actions of the many hundreds of Timothy McVeighs or General Cinques (of the Symbionese Liberation Army) that we are creating in Iraq remains to be seen. I would prefer either of those choices to living in a perpetual Republican dictatorship!

Wayne Ford
Eugene

TRICKLE DOWN

George W. Bush was reelected and will have to lie in the piss-stained bed that he left. Unfortunately we are still stuck in the trickle-down chamber pot beneath, and our children will have to somehow clean up the mess.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

PULL OUT & SCOOP

My Christmas wish list: After the election, I started to get mad, and I'm going to

INDIRECT DEMOCRACY

Ben Franklin remarked that our government was a republic, not a democracy. Direct democracy was viewed as mob rule; three wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. The U.S. was wisely designed as a constitutionally limited democratic republic. It contains checks and balances to protect the rights of individuals and states from the changing whims of popular opinion. It seeks to balance the tension between majority rule and majority tyranny, between the "will of the people" and the "rights" of the individual.

The Electoral College is a part of this well-crafted federalism. It protects the voice of smaller states. It gives a clear winner in close races. Candidates must run on more moderate national centrist issues instead of more extreme divisive sectional issues. Notice Bush and Kerry tried to move more to the middle?

A direct election would invite recounts in every close race in each state. Candidates would focus on and pander to the large urban centers and win. Why waste time to consider rural/agricultural areas and issues? Why build a broad based centrist platform? Offer what is popular, promise the moon, and do what you want. So what if the small states are ignored and not represented? The majority has spoken. Talk about disenfranchisement!

The Electoral College is poorly understood today. Yet it has served well to balance, blend and integrate our large diverse country. Rather than reviled as an outdated relic, it should be celebrated as an important part of our republic.

Warren Walsh
Eugene

ELECTION SILENCE

Wonders never cease. Fraud has been alleged in the Ukrainian presidential election and here comes the U.S. press galloping in on white horses with 24/7 coverage.

I have some questions for the media. Why the deathly silence concerning our own presidential election? Are 10-hour lines in our so-called democracy a news story, given that

GET INVOLVED

Our Energy Future

Thursday, Dec. 16 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,
EWEB Training Room, North Building
500 E. Fourth Ave., Eugene

The Eugene Water & Electric Board is updating its Integrated Electric Resource Plan (IERP), which guides decisions by the utility about what electric power resources to buy or develop to meet the long-term needs of its customers.

A citizen Working Group has made a number of recommendations to the EWEB Board of Commissioners, which is scheduled to adopt a new resource plan on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

You are invited to an open house on Dec. 16 to learn more about the Integrated Electric Resource Plan and to give EWEB feedback about the plan. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a short presentation by EWEB staff, and will conclude about 8:30 p.m.

For more information about the plan, go to the "Our Energy Future" section of EWEB's web site at: www.eweb.org/news/projects/energy_plan/index.htm. A copy of the draft IERP also is available.



Eugene Water & Electric Board
500 East 4th Avenue
PO Box 10148
Eugene OR 97440-2148
(541) 484-2411
www.eweb.org