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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

a blue state!”

I'm as happy as anyone that our state (barely) went to Sen. Kerry in the presidential election. But more than half of my pain on Nov. 3 centered on my realization that although we voted for Kerry as a state, we also voted for Measure 36 and against Measure 34. And actually, only eight of our 26 counties went to Kerry (not surprisingly, the most populated ones voted Dem). The truth is, we *can't* blame the fundamentalist Bible Belt or the backwards Southern states, because America's new values are here, too — right here in Oregon. Those with progressive values truly are in the minority, even in our own state, and pretending otherwise is regressive. There is much work to do at home.

Erin Betters
Eugene

GREEN CHRISTIANS

Author of “Shades of Green,” Ms. Rogers-Gessert, wrote interestingly on small houses (11/11). I was dismayed, however, upon reading the first paragraph. She disallows for Christian people like myself, who have always been perhaps not activist, but keenly aware of our Earth (if we should call it ours) and its balance. Many baby boomers and younger were hippies of the late 1900s. Still, we now embrace a divinely inspired hope for Earth, its people, its animals and its plants and soil. I am speaking for many, many Christian people because I know I am not the only one who feels this way.

Ms. Rogers-Gessert's statement that “these people ... have no connection to the Earth” amounts to bigotry and shows the culture of elitism which causes people to judge others unfairly. The “we're better than you” attitude needs to be halted for any progress of peace and love on this planet.

Since she will undoubtedly not be celebrating Christmas, because it is about Jesus telling us about the kingdom of God, I will say, “happy solstice.”

Rona Provines
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our understanding of Kate Gessert's column is that she is concerned about the fundamentalist Christians we have elected to the White House and Congress who are actively dismantling our environmental regulations. Nowhere in her column does she lump all Christians together.

INTEGRITY ON THE LINE

I am responding to Nathaniel Embry's letter (11/24) complaining about disappointed voters “crying fraud and throwing tantrums reminiscent of children that have had their toys taken away.”

I agree with Mr. Embry that we should take a good look at “how and why we lost” (or, for that matter, how Bush could have won).

However, it does not follow that because the Democratic Party is pathetic, we should, therefore, not be concerned about the integrity of the election process.

I think the data from the last three elections strongly suggests that the results were manipulated to an unprecedented degree. To cite one example, it is remarkable that exit polls which have historically been accurate plus or minus 1 percent are wildly discrepant from the official results this time, but only in battleground states where Republican politicians administered the count of the ballots. The results are especially discrepant in battleground states where electronic voting machines without paper trails were used.

Even if Mr. Embry believes that these extraordinary discrepancies are a fluke of statistical chance, he should be concerned about the potential fraud and the diminished credibility of the results when unauditable voting equipment is used. My wife is a professor of computer science and has kept abreast of the technical issues related to these voting machines. Opinion among computer scientists is nearly unanimous — these machines can be trivially tampered with by the election officials who control them, or by the manufacturer who provides technical support, and even by skillful hackers.

That the integrity of our elections are beyond question is paramount to sustaining the legitimacy of our government.

Paul Nicholson
Eugene

CARRYING HATRED

In regards to Bob Berg's unsolicited anti-gay propaganda, which has been found on many a door in Eugene: Jesus' principal teachings were those of love and compassion. True Christians will understand that God, and not they, will be the one to judge humanity — which, I might add, includes yourself and the group that you demonize.



MODERN

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