

CULTIVATE LOVE

Hold on to hope. As we witness chaos, insurmountable pain, destruction and suffering erupt within us and around us, we must hold fast to hope and loving peacefulness. We expand what we focus upon. Yesterday's hurt is today's understanding reworked into tomorrow's love — and out of chaos evolves the dance of balance.

Cultivate love within yourselves and bring it forward. If anything will carry us forward in these times, it will be this. And remember the wisdom of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Onward in peace,

*Tiersa Turner
Eugene*

TWO-ACRE ISLAND

When I read Nancy Nichols letter (12/9) responding to the 11/24 Viewpoint, "Gathering Space," I felt compelled to respond. For 28 years my family has lived two blocks from Madison Meadow (not within the very limited area of homes which might gain in property value if this space is protected). We along with many other neighbors have enjoyed countless hours in this special place, watching seasons change and children grow up.

We do have city parks nearby, which offer destination ballfields, playgrounds, Frisbee golf, basketball and tennis courts. These are all valuable recreation assets but not the same as an unmown meadow where a child can wade through tall wildflowers and spot a little snake or a butterfly.

It may be hard for a Deadwood resident to grasp how precious this two-acre island of green has become to the hundreds of families who support saving Madison Meadow. A very few homeowners may see an increase in property value when the Meadow is protected, but if our community balked at acquiring open space because of some incidental benefit to adjacent homes, then our public parkland would be sparse indeed.

There is a reason that so many people have donated to save this hidden gem, and it's not property values, but a community sense that we must hang on to at least a little of the last open land, for children and other small creatures. The Meadow provides many environmental benefits, including habitat for

nearly 100 species of birds and other animals, improvement of air and water quality, and the potential for nature educational outreach.

Our city is getting denser every year in our effort to maintain the urban growth boundary. At some point we need to realize that this growth requires a balance of green-space as well. I would like to invite *EW* readers to visit the Meadow at 22nd and Madison and see what we hope to save. There are so many worthy causes, social, political, and environmental, that deserve our support, and Madison Meadow is one of them.

*Susan Jerde
Eugene*

NO LOONY LIBERAL

Please Christians, read the New Testament again, and stop trying so hard to interpret it. It is as clear as a bell. Jesus was not a loony liberal. He said do what I do and they will know you are Christian. When Jesus fed the poor, drove the moneychangers from the temple, walked with lepers, defended the harlot, and healed the sick, he was not practicing wanton immoral liberalism. He did not mislead anyone into believing. He was just himself, honest and loving, take it or leave it.

He was showing us how to live our lives as he did, honestly and lovingly. He exemplified the moral values which he lived and died for, yup, Christian values. Let's keep an eye on these values during the next four years and see how many poor people are helped, how many sick people are able to get healthcare, how many hungry people are able to feed their families. You know, let's look for and insist on that compassion as advertised. Take up thy cross and follow. Amen.

*Kathleen Rosa
Eugene*

NO VOTE FOR JESUS

I feel compelled to write in regard to the "Jesusland" map printed in the slant (11/11). Jesus did not stand for the political ideas of George W. Bush. Jesus was a revolutionary. He lived his beliefs of love, non-violence, faith, honesty, non-attachment, and acceptance of all people despite military, governmental and public opposition. If we want to relate Bush to a biblical figure, he would be well represented by one of the money changers having his table overturned by Jesus in the temple of Jerusalem. He is a man shame-

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BY SHANNON WHEELER



lessly selling violence, dishonesty, discrimination, and environmental destruction in the guise of Christianity. All this in exchange for power, prestige and profit. A vote for Bush was not a vote for Jesus, but against him.

*Heather Ladd
Eugene*

VOTING FOR WAR

I'm 64 and I remember the Vietnam War very well. I was active in the antiwar movement of the late '60s. The present war with Iraq is a bad time for us all, probably the worst since 1968.

It won't get any better, however, until we all stop lying to ourselves about what happened in the recent election. John Kerry is a worthless war pig. He voted for the war; he said later that he would have voted for it even if he had known there were no weapons of mass destruction, and he said during the debates that he was determined to "win" the war. If Kerry had won the election we would still be in the same position as far as Iraq goes.

The only power you have to stop a war, unless you're willing to go to jail, is your vote. Most of you voted for Kerry, which means you also voted for the war. So now those in power have your permission to do whatever they want. What you could have done was withheld your vote from Kerry and sent a message that it is not acceptable for a Democrat to support this, or any other, war. You could have also supported Ralph Nader, who was the only serious peace candidate.

There will be another election in two years. You need to be sending a message to all politicians that they will not have your vote in 2006 unless they vote against any more appropriations for the war, publicly oppose it, and introduce legislation to end it.

*Lynn Porter
Eugene*

PERCEIVED ENEMY

Many thanks to *EW* for the thoughtful article, "Vietnam to Iraq" (11/24). I am looking forward to the sequels on the subject of anti-war activism.

A suggestion for those who find it difficult to muster up the energy to join in creating real

activism against the war on Iraq: Choose a quiet spot and while sitting still for several minutes, visualize an American soldier creeping around the corner of, let's say, the ruins of a small house on an eerily quiet, dark lane in Fallujah. Suddenly the perceived enemy is upon him. He fires his rifle, killing the young man before him, or the girl, the woman, a child. Then imagine yourself, in turn, as soldier, young man, girl, woman, child — and WAKE UP!

*Kathleen Epstein
Eugene*

SILVER LINING

There are two great benefits to the Democrats from losing the presidential election. First, the war in Iraq is now solely on the backs of the Republicans — if pro-war Democrats like Kerry, Edwards, Lieberman and Gephardt can manage to keep their big fat mouths shut.

Second, the Democrats now have a badly needed opportunity to look in the mirror and see what they're doing wrong. In an article in Socialist Worker Online (socialistworker.org), Lance Selfa uses exit poll data to debunk the theory that Kerry lost because of "values."

"If you compare the composition of voters between this year and 2000, you find that the percentage of evangelical Christians remained the same; the percentage of people opposed to abortion remained the same; and the percentage of people who say they pray every day didn't change either. Slightly more evangelicals voted for Bush in 2004 than in 2000, but there wasn't a great surge of the religious right to the polls — at least on a nationwide level."

Nor did Bush win because of a rural vs. urban split: "According to those [exit] polls, Bush actually *lost* a little ground in rural areas, compared to the 2000 election. But he polled a full 10 percentage points better in urban areas."

Kerry lost because he offered nothing real to his base and failed to energize it, while Bush fired up his base. The Democrats' main problem is that they're owned by the rich people who finance their campaigns. Their corporate sponsors want a cheap labor policy in the U.S., with

