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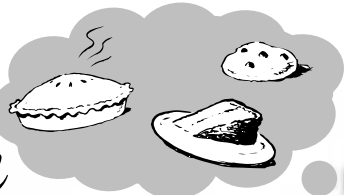
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AVEDA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

parameters prescribed by the administration, that the U.N. would become irrelevant. One hundred and ninety-seven nations of the world and the people of the U.S. were being pressed by a president from a bully pulpit because this administration knew they did not have the support of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council.

Now, almost two years later, the U.S. and this administration have become irrelevant in the world — the most militarily and economically powerful nation in world history, a nation that secured worldwide esteem for its government and its citizens because of its reliance on the rule of law, not its reliance on raw power to force others to respect our nation and our policies.

Our military, the highest trained and most powerful forces in history, are now embroiled in a no-win situation. They will be withdrawn under the guise of "Mission Accomplished," but I believe many in the military will have questions.

The European Union designated Britain, France, and Germany (without involving the U.S.), to negotiate separately with Iran concerning its nuclear weapons capability. North Korea is reluctant to negotiate its nuclear weapons capability with the Five Nation Partnership without assurance this administration will not rely on use of force.

Because of President Bush and his administration, the U.S. is not actively involved in negotiations with two nations, presumed to possess nuclear weaponry, and is irrelevant.

Charles L. Crawford, Sr.
Philomath

PATHETIC DISMISSAL

Vanessa Salvia's dismissal of Wishbone Ash's appearance in Eugene (12/2) was truly pathetic and a disservice to your readers. Was the arrogant attitude displayed in her column just an awkward attempt at being "cool," or did it accurately reflect her lack of musical gravitas? I'm guessing the latter.

Not only were her facts wrong (Muddy Manninen is not a founding member) but she dissed one of the most talented and long-lived bands around, and classic rock in general. Wishbone Ash has displayed the virtuosity, creativity, and tenacity that most new bands can only dream of. I say this as a fan of many newer bands and music — but the fact is that many of these newer acts lack any appreciable assets other than their youth and the ability to play three chords on a guitar.

While I don't think her column did any lasting harm, other than scaring people away from one gig, it did demonstrate that her musical horizons are far too narrow for her to be considered credible.

By the way, I went to the Wishbone Ash show in Vancouver, B.C., soon after the Eugene show. It was packed with appreciative, enthusiastic fans who saw a great show. Too bad that your "reporter" likely robbed many Eugene locals of that experience.

Larry Wechsler
Seattle

AMORAL SOCIALISTS

Anybody who criticizes Wal-Mart's predatory, parasitic practices is branded a "socialist" by conservatives. But then those

same conservatives flock to Wal-Mart during the holiday season to buy goods predominantly made in communist (let's say it again, one more time loud and strong, communist) China. Conservatives are also usually anti-abortion. I realize that consistency is not a strong point with conservatives, but do they realize that communist China has a policy of forced abortion after a couple has had one child?

So although the conservatives support communism and forced abortions with their pocketbooks, it is the liberals who are amoral socialists?

Douglas Hintz
Eugene

DUALING WHINERS

At this time of renewal and goodwill, both winners and losers are whining about their gifts from the voting. The notion that we can bury our arrows of discontent (hopefully not in each other) and come together is a distant dream at best. Both major parties are whining about their current situation.

On the Democratic side there's a continuing evaluation of what went wrong and when it happened. Their actual focus is stall and ignore most portions of the Republican agenda, even those policies that are possible and add to our quality of life. All of the party strategists are pointing fingers as to who and when with little or no focus on the what. The Democratic message was one of hope with no real direction with a confusing schedule when and how. Their real agenda is to ask for what they want, take what they get, and work on the difference.

The Republicans are whining about victory. They have the House and the Senate along with the White House and still they are trying win it again and again and AGAIN. The GOP did the job. Karl Rove had a plan that worked in it's simplicity, hit hard, hit dirty and hit often. In addition to George Will's comments, the GOP's message was simple and to the point. The perception was that he was everything John Kerry wasn't. The truth is they are the same coin with different sides. The GOP message had a "moral" imperative that resonated with the conservative right that caused them to focus on the issue of gay marriage. If the voter agrees with 1 issue, then the whole platform must be good. With the 3.5 million additional popular votes the GOP should have been happy to rule. It seems that winning is not enough. The GOP continues to whine about who, what, where and how of current policies and who to blame.

George G. Brooks
Eugene

FAILING THE TEST

Many decades ago, when I was an impressionable teen, my mom was my intellectual mentor. I remember her remarking that the difference between genius and insanity is only in whether the end result is productive. In the recent election and the current post-election fog, I've been watching my large, Ohio-bred family and contrasting some of the ideals with which I was raised with the ideals at-large in my adopted home. I respectfully submit that the culture of angst and resistance in this town, so eloquently ex-