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• World Vision (child-focused disaster relief), [www.WorldVision.org](http://www.WorldVision.org)

• American Red Cross (an affiliate of the ICRC), [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

• UNICEF, [www.supportunicef.org](http://www.supportunicef.org) or  
send check to UNICEF, 333 E 38th St.,  
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• Mercy Corps, [www.mercycorps.org](http://www.mercycorps.org)  
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• Northwest Medical Teams,  
[www.nwmedicalteams.org](http://www.nwmedicalteams.org) (800) 959-HEAL



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We'll be OK, Really

By Randy Kolb



An open letter to Eugene's left guard: Even though it is now many weeks since the campaign, I continue to see letters to the editor stating that George W. Bush did not really win the election – again – and that “massive fraud” was involved in the 2004 presidential election. The letters are so full of anguish and anger that it is hard not to feel your pain. You are sincere in your beliefs and cannot comprehend that those beliefs were not validated at the ballot box. Well, I'd like to see you feeling better, so here are some tips from a Republican on how to regain the White House:

• Stop whining about the election. John Kerry ran an excellent campaign and came darn close to unseating a war-time president. It was very close but in the end Bush won. Kerry had the good sense to concede with grace. Follow his lead.

• Stop being so arrogant. Referring to yourselves as “thinking people” implies that the rest of us (the majority of the voters) are a bunch of non-thinking dolts. We're not. We read the newspapers, we watch the news on television, we think about the issues – and we reached a different conclusion than you. Arrogance is not an attractive trait and will not bring new voters to your side.

• Please do not claim to be so smart and then turn around and quote Michael Moore. His stuff is so obviously manipulated that it is comical. Some day you will look back at *Fahrenheit 9/11* and wonder what the hell you were thinking. Same thing for Bruce Springsteen, Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Streisand and the rest of the celebrities the Democrats paraded around. Who cares what they think?

• Ease up on the inflammatory rhetoric. When you say that Bush is like Hitler or that Rumsfeld is a war criminal you lose all credibility.

• Make new friends. I get the feeling that you spend all of your time blogging with each other, having meet-ups with each other, protesting at the federal courthouse together and reading *Eugene Weekly* together. Meet some more right-leaning people and learn about what makes us vote for Bush – and no it isn't paranoia and perpetuating the rich-white-male-Christian-power structure so we can drive our SUVs until we suck the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge dry.

• Stop demonizing wealthy people. Instead of thinking of wealthy people as blood-sucking corporate criminals who prosper off the back of the “working class,” think of them as productive individuals who create wealth and jobs.

• Consider the possibility that it is better that they get to keep and spend their money than to have the federal government tax it.

• Give up on the U.S. becoming like Europe or Canada. We are not going to have a national health care system. The majority of voters in this country will not support “socialist” programs and big governments running them. If you want better health care, and who doesn't, then support policies that help businesses succeed so that they can provide their employees with health insurance.

• Drop the notion that the U.N. is the government of the world and that Kofi Annan is the world's leader. Neither is true.

• Please quit telling people what to do. If you don't like Wal-Mart, then don't shop there. It's funny how left-leaning people sometimes refer to themselves as “progressives.” Yet, these same folks seem to have trouble dealing with a changing world. All the hand wringing about Borders knocking out the small bookstores or Starbucks taking over the latte industry is wasted energy. The reasons these changes are taking place is because the people support the changes! Going against what the people want is not a winning strategy.

• Finally, have some faith in this country and the collective wisdom of its people. For crying out loud, if we can survive eight years of Bill Clinton we can get through anything. Sorry, I couldn't help it! But really, the strength of this country is its people. Don't assume that the majority of your fellow citizens are a bunch of fools or that eight years of a president you don't like is going to sink the republic. We'll be OK.

*Randy Kolb is a Eugene Republican.*

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