

of transport. It's analogous to an argument that I should be allowed to hold prisoners and stock a military simply because governments do so.

I particularly find interest in the line, "The problem isn't too many cars, it's too many people." Therein lies Scott's prejudice, and the prejudice of our society — that cars are needed, and we must make allowances for them. The problem with automobiles goes far beyond exhaust emissions, a facet long overlooked by manufacturers, policy makers, citizens, and environmentalists.

Private automobile usage requires the rearrangement of public space to fit its needs. Parking lots and roads gobble scarce space that could otherwise offer places to live, play, shop or garden. The concrete for roads and parking lots in the U.S. would fill the state of Oregon. Even so-called low speed (is 10 times the walking speed really a low speed?) traffic discourages human activities, leading to a lack of public interaction in our cities. The consequences of allowing automobile traffic in our cities is clear when auto fatalities are put into numbers; more than 40,000 people in the U.S. killed every year, with complicity on the shoulders of every driver.

I accept that I am dependent on business's automobiles. At least I'm not double-taxing society by using a truck to get my produce to the store, then using a car to get the produce to my home. A pox on Scott and his ilk for sloughing off guilt with minimally effective methods.

Jeffrey Stout
Eugene

MISSING INFO

Thank you for printing Republican apologist Randy Kolb's presentation of shallow mainstream nonsense (12/30). His piece served once again to remind me of how worthless the world view he presents really is.

Randy, there are a couple of items you forgot to cover in your article. 1) You forgot to tell us how many civilians have been killed by the U.S. in its misguided war in Iraq. 2) You forgot to remind us that more than 1,300 Americans have lost their lives in that war. 3) You forgot to mention that there were no weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq and the reasons presented for justifying the war have since proven to be false. 4) You forgot to mention that most of the terrorists flying the airliners on 9/11 were Saudi nationals. 5) You forgot to explain why the Bush administration has so totally bungled their pursuit of Osama bin Laden. I could go on and on, but you get the picture.

The real story in the Dec. 30 edition is the evolving realization that the Bush campaign really did steal the last election. This act, if proven true, would constitute one of the greatest acts of treason in the history of this country.

In the six states relying extensively on electronic touch screens in their polling places (including Ohio), the discrepancy between the exit polls and the final tally always favored Bush. While exit polls are not perfect, wouldn't it be reasonable to assume, in a random sampling, that Kerry would be favored at least once? What are the odds that you can flip a coin and have it end up heads six times in a row? The answer is one in 64.

Personally, I don't plan on "getting over"

anything about the Bush administration or the results of the last election. I do, however, plan to do all I can to see that Bush and his criminal friends are one day, finally, brought to justice.

Steve Johnston
Eugene

REBEL WITH HOPE

Hope gets a bad rap in today's world. Hope is too often equated with folly, and with naïveté, as if those who hope suffer from inexperience and ignorance. Hope is accused of being a way of escaping reality, as if by hoping we avoid accepting and dealing with what is actually happening.

Yet without hope, nothing would change. Hope is conceived from the union of imagination and indignation. Hope is imagining things as different from, and better than, what they are now. Hope is not a manner of escaping reality, rather of living one step ahead of reality.

Jan. 20 brings the second inauguration of a man who would love nothing more than to stamp out hope. Let us rebel by hoping. Ignore the shouting media to hear the quiet voice of hope that says "not yet, but soon." All the sooner the more we hope, and act, together.

Todd Huffman, MD
Eugene

GOD'S OWN PARTY

Eugene "Republican" Randy Kolb's open letter (12/30) was a good snapshot of the fantasy world right-wingers inhabit. Mr. Kolb seems to think the 69 percent of Americans who either did not vote or did not vote for the Bush regime should sit back and accept things as they have turned out.

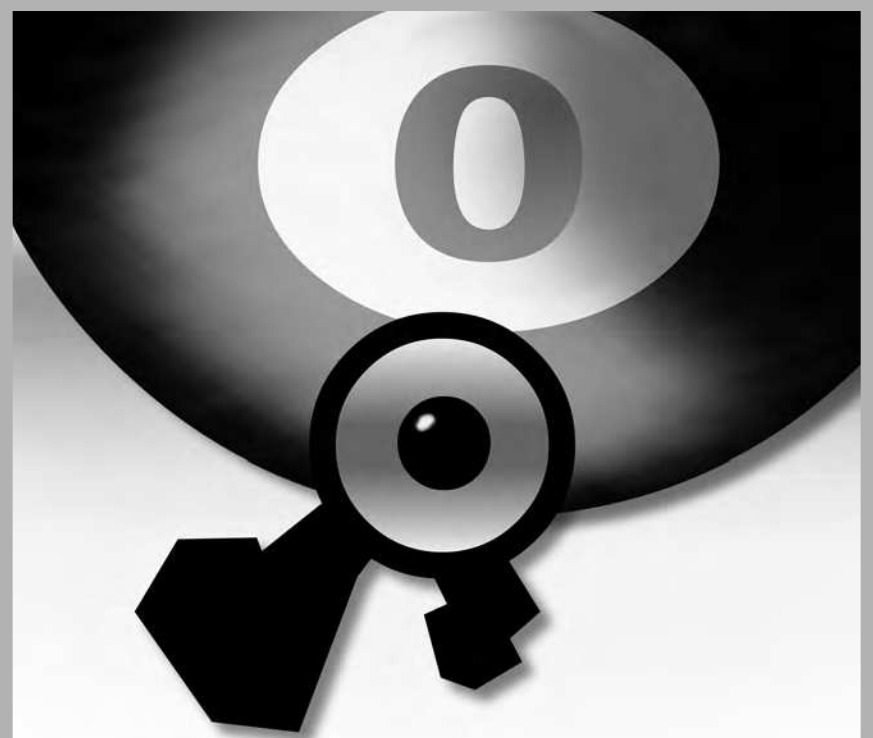
Well, Mr. Kolb, think again. Not only will we *not* accept things as they are, we will do what we have always done. We will continue to work hard to expose the Bush agenda for what it is — the makings of a fundamentalist Christian theocracy in which those who disagree are seen as anti-God therefore anti-American. So be it. We will continue to fight for truth and honesty, attributes nowhere to be found in W's playhouse.

Get used to it, Mr. Kolb. You and your cohorts in the GOP (God's Own Party) are in for a rough ride for we are not fooled. Republicans used to be merely my political enemies. Not any more. Since 2000, through their willingness to trounce the constitution and efforts to create a right-wing fundamentalist dictatorship and their infuriating crusade to Americanize the vast majority of the world that is *not* America, Republicans are now my lifelong mortal enemies. Run *that* up your pole and salute it, Mr. Kolb.

Gibral Gillard
Fall Creek

NOT SO EASY

Billy Gruwell of Springfield (1/6) is mad if he thinks anyone can walk into a hospital or surgical center and get gender reassignment surgery. The fact of the matter is it's damn difficult, and rightly so. Our litigious society created extra-paranoid medical insurance companies and you can bet your bippy there is an excruciatingly stringent protocol for something as irreversible and ground-shakingly life-changing as gender reassignment



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