

moral was written with this story so people would learn not to lie. The moral is "Habitual liars are not believed." Some people don't get it.

"America can be attacked in 45 minutes by Iraqi nuclear missiles." "Iraq has many tons of anthrax. A spoonful can kill a city." "We have maps showing where weapons of mass destruction are made in Iraq." These alarms were shouted by George W. Bush. American troops went to war. It wasn't true. "No Child Left Behind" and "Medicare Reform" were phony plans, too.

Social Security is the safety net given to American workers and their families by Democrats after the 1929 stock market collapse that left America's economy in ruins for decades. Social Security works well. George W. Bush says it is in crisis. Nothing said this time comes close to the evidence at hand, either.

Why believe a habitual liar again? Leave Social Security alone.

*Jerry Smith
Eugene*

TAKE A STAND

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. I have become increasingly frustrated and I feel very hopeless with decisions my government is making.

I recently became aware that our city and county governments have an opportunity to voice our opposition against torture. The Lane County Bill of Rights Defense Committee has drafted a letter and is currently asking our mayor and City Council to sign on. In addition, the Lane County Board of Commissioners is being asked to sign. Veterans groups have also been asked to sign. Please join me in soliciting your representatives to sign.

We have been reading for over three years now that the U.S. has been holding prisoners of war at Guantanamo Bay without benefit of the Geneva Conventions. We read of abuses at Abu Ghraib and cattle-cars of men who have suffocated in Afghanistan.

One report estimates that up to 10,000 ghost detainees are never entered into the prison registry so they can more easily disappear. Who can forget Canadian citizen Maher Arar who was diverted in the U.S. from his flight home to be tortured in Syria for more than a year?

Now is the time to say enough is enough! Please join me in contacting your representative, asking them to sign on to the Bill of Rights Defense Committee. A copy of the sign-on letter can be found at www.bordc.org/torture-signon.htm

*Shirley Gauthier
Springfield*

TOLL OF WAR

Against an already ominous and ever-broadening backdrop, a hushed and dimly lit Scene II is unfurling. The curtains part, and another set of real, and wrenching, human dramas unfolds featuring a cast of the physically and psychologically maimed. For the most part, their wounds will never be healed, their stories rarely heard.

One quarter of the soldiers return with post traumatic stress disorder, an acutely severe and hard-to-treat condition which can render their lives a true living nightmare. Due to the lack of funding at the VA, many of these young men and women will be shell-shocked for life. (Online, a mother of one of the soldiers recently mourned that "all my boy wants to do is curl up like a baby and cry.")

The figures on the number of suicides re-

main unclear, but reasonable estimates suggest that the number is already climbing into the hundreds. Sadly, I wonder how many will return in a persistent vegetative state.

Isn't it time to not only end this tragic play, but to shut down the theater?

*Rob Simonson
Eugene*

POSITIVE CAMPAIGN

I read with interest that Eric Forrest, a Republican, has raised more than \$11,000 for his 4J School Board race, with the help of friends like Jim Torrey, Jack Roberts, Chambers Construction and developer Ehrman Giustina. Republican group Eugene Neighbors United for the Future is also phone-banking for him.

If school funding is so important, why isn't some of that \$11,000 going directly to schools? Aria Seligmann, one of the candidates for position 6, has vowed to keep campaign spending to a minimum, consciously determining that spending a lot of money on a school board campaign is immoral when schools are struggling financially.

Seligmann is running a positive campaign, meeting with neighborhood and school parent groups, knocking on doors to ask community members what they think about the state of the 4J School District, and discussing with others ways to close the achievement gap without affecting viable alternative schools.

While Aria's campaign, like all, requires donations to pay for mailings, her friends aren't raising big bucks that could otherwise go to schools; they're making smaller contributions and volunteering for her grassroots campaign: knocking on doors, waving signs and telling their friends that Aria will be an effective, progressive voice on the school board.

Aria Seligmann is following her heart in campaigning for school board. She sincerely wants to help improve the school district for the sake of all the children. The deadline for returning ballots is May 17. Please follow your heart, too, and vote for Aria Seligmann.

*Leslie Brockelbank
Eugene*

SINDI'S QUALIFIED

The election for Position 6 on the Eugene School Board offers voters an unusual opportunity. Nadia Sindi will bring to that position a remarkable set of qualifications.

Nadia's appreciation of cultural and racial diversity in an ever-shrinking world will inform her judgements on the most fundamental educational issues. Nadia is acutely aware of the importance of educating our children to live peacefully in a crowded world with finite natural resources — only if our children grow up recognizing the necessity of international cooperation to achieve world-wide economic justice can they hope to co-exist with the threat of annihilation by nuclear weapons and other WMD's.

If the world survives the current crises exacerbated by America's belligerence, its continued survival will be in the hands of our children. Nadia's ability to guide our children in the ways of peace is attested to by her long record of people-oriented public service.

*Franklin W. Stahl
Eugene*

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PAID FOR BY SELIGMANN FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Elect Aria Seligmann 4J School Board Position 6

Endorsed by: Eugene Weekly, Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, David Piercy, City Councilor Bonny Bettman, City Councilor Andrea Ortiz

- Equity in Education • Healthy Food in School
 - Diversity and Tolerance
- Leadership with Heart*

VOTE! DEADLINE MAY 17!

Spring
dance concert
choreography by
Lane Dance Faculty
Bonnie Simoa
Kim Vetter
Cheryl Lemmer

May 12, 13, 14
8:00 pm

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