

such as food stamps and welfare, contrary to what many people think. It would seem wise for elected officials to check the facts before speaking on this issue. Too bad he didn't do so in this case.

Dennis Shine
Springfield

NEVER FORGET

Let's remember what Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the rest told us: Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. Iraq had a connection to 9/11.

Hussein sought "significant quantities of uranium from Africa" to renew a nuclear weapons program

Let's consider the results of the war they based on those falsehoods, so far: Around \$300 billion spent. More than 2,500 soldiers killed. About 19,000 soldiers wounded. As many as one of every 10 soldiers evacuated to the Army's biggest hospital in Europe are sent for mental problems (according to UPI). Sectarian fighting intensifying into civil war.

Further death and devastation each day. Growing hatred for America worldwide

Let's never forget their lies and what those lies created. Our pocketbooks can't. Our hearts shouldn't. History won't.

Steven Kunert
Corvallis

PURPLE PEOPLE

Everything these days seems to be presented in black and white terms: us/them, right/wrong, liberal/conservative, Republican/Democrat, blue state/red state (what about blue people in red states and the red people in blue states? And I really wonder who represents the part-red and part-blue people, I don't remember seeing any purple on those maps). It is almost as if all of life is a game to be won and lost.

I feel this way of thinking sets us up for failure and leaves no room for open and honest discussion, thoughtful debate and compromise. A saying I saw recently said, "We may have arrived on different ships, but we are all in the same boat now." I see our boat as the entire planet Earth including all of its creatures, great and small. I hear a lot of lip service given to the so-called global economy, but little concern for its inhabitants at decision time. Too often, instead, I hear we are doing this because of our economic interests while global concerns are quickly forgotten.

Maybe we should begin all our processes and decision-making with the question, "Am I doing this out of fear, hate, greed and guilt or from a place of hope, love, joy and caring?" Having passion about something is wonderful, but without also having compassion for those who differ I am afraid we are missing a key part of the puzzle. I am

left thinking once again, can't we have differences without being enemies?

Tim Boyden
Eugene

A HANDLE ON WEALTH

I'm 51, I've worked as a maid for 32 years, and I had to turn down a job today. The house was too big. Actually, it was immense: three stories, cathedral ceilings (out of reach) to de-cobweb, seven bathrooms, uncountable rooms, an enormous garage with ancillary utility rooms, wrap-around deck and stairs, and exterior windows, all mine to clean each session for my advertised price of \$50 a day.

"We'll want you once a week."

As the main floor of the woman's residence was a computer-filled and staffed office, I asked what her product was. She showed me a small bin of light-weight, unfinished dowel-rods, two to four feet long.

"You've amassed your wealth on these? What are they for?"

"Cheap furniture, broom handles, toilet plunger handles, that kind of thing. Last year we sold six million of them. We fly all around the world: Honduras, Ecuador, the Philippines, places like that. We set up shop, pay the fair local wage and import them."

Amassing millions here.

I don't have a punchline, sorry. I've just never seen that kind of thing so up-close before.

Lori Kasprzak
Eugene

IGNORING ATROCITIES

I see that Eugene "peace" groups are once again putting on a program to "remember Hiroshima."

I might suggest that they also remember Pearl Harbor and the Bataan Death March. And how about the Rape of Nanking where a popular sport of the Japanese invaders was to throw babies in the air and catch them with their bayonets? And then there were the horrific Japanese prison camps where atrocious tortures were the standard fare. And Singapore. And the Philippines. And all the other victims of Japanese imperial aggression — aggression that had widespread support among the so-called "innocent" populace.

Japan reaped the whirlwind, a fate of which no other nation in history has been more deserving.

Jerry Ritter
Springfield

WASTING OUR MONEY

Sometimes Americans think the Iraq war is only hurting a small minority of our citizens. We read about, and sincerely regret, the almost 3,000 deaths of our soldiers, but few knew them or their families.

The wealth of our nation is being wasted on the war. The amount of the taxes Oregon

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