

I watched my child crying, screaming in fear as she held on for dear life. Cool my jets! It was all I could do to keep from tackling this idiot. After the ride stopped and my daughter exited, white as a ghost and crying uncontrollably, I took my concern to customer service where I received my \$3.50 back. Wow!

Is this what we are subjected to? Is this really acceptable?

I spend in the area of \$100 every year at the fair to deal with impolite and obviously untrained people who can't be bothered to take the time to pay attention to what is going on right in front of their faces. They're too busy visiting with friends and having a smoke to bother with their jobs.

I wonder how many other parents have been subjected to the same fear and insensitivity and have left without further mention. This is one patron who will not be returning to the Lane County Fair.

Dianna Null
Veneta

TRAGIC COMMENTARY

I recently attended the wonderful local Free Shakespeare in the Park's presentation of *Romeo and Juliet*. What really made this performance stand out was a line in the director's note, "With *Romeo and Juliet* we see what happens when people are unwilling to love their children more than they hate each

other." I have not been able to let go of this thought and am finding it to be a tragic commentary on much of what is happening around the world today.

The most obvious connection here is war, civil war, war on terrorism, whatever — a practice in which a leader and the parents who support that leader are willing to send their children to die for hate, fear or greed.

My thoughts led me next to contemplate all of the other things that we are unwilling to love our children more than. How many choices do we make in our everyday lives, based on our short-sighted desire for convenience, or to save a few dollars today, or to keep up appearances that jeopardize the future of our species? Many of us who are in the position to know better and to do better (and here I readily admit my own lack of perfection!) make lifestyle choices that we know harm others — such as taking advantage of cheap labor or our well-documented continued reliance on carbon based fuels.

So, I send a plea out to all adults, since the children of others are still the future for all of us, to start to be willing to love our children more than we hate and fear others and more than we love our unsustainable lifestyles. It is the everyday choices we make that can protect our future generations from a tragic ending.

Jennifer Wyld
Eugene

COOL YOUR DIET

I was very impressed with Leonardo DiCaprio's powerful documentary *The 11th Hour*. The film depicts the devastating impacts of global warming, including droughts, hurricanes and flooding of coastal areas. It features interviews with the brightest minds on our planet about the causes of this man-made environmental crisis and possible solutions.

A powerful solution was suggested last November in a report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The report found that meat production accounts for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. That's more than automobiles!

Carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas, is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and combustion of fossil fuels to operate farm machinery, trucks, refrigeration equipment, factory farms and slaughterhouses. Much more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

The good news is that each of us can do our part to reduce global warming on our next trip to the supermarket. More details are

available at www.CoolYourDiet.org

Elijah Hennison
Eugene



OUT TO LUNCH

I'd like to respond to several past letters. I consider myself to be a progressive, both on environmental and social issues, and after reading a few letters to the editor I'm just now realizing that many so-called progressives are out to lunch.

Dave Crowley, for one, must also wear the colors of the right wing creationists. You

viewpoint BY JACK DRESSER

Impeachment is Imperative

The case for accountability



Impeachment is mentioned six times in the Constitution because the architects of our democracy intended us to use it as the people's constitutionally prescribed remedy for abuses of power. It must begin in the House of Representatives, where the sole oath sworn by each member is to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

When a "civil officer" of government is impeached by the House, then tried and found guilty by the Senate of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors," Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution requires removal from office. "High crimes and misdemeanors" are not ordinary offenses (such as perjury about sex) but are abuses of power that endanger our constitutional government.

Ex-Attorney General Ramsey Clark, House Judiciary Committee Chair John Conyers, ex-Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman (who participated in drafting the Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon), National Lawyers Guild president Marjorie Cohn and University of Illinois international law professor Francis Boyle, author of *Destroying World Order*, have identified numerous offenses by the Bush administration that rise to that level.

Several involve flagrant violations of international treaty law to which the U.S. is a signatory. Our treaty obligations are defined by the Constitution as "the Supreme Law of the Land," making each of these a constitutional crime as well.

The U.N. Charter requires that all member states "shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." The Nuremberg Tribunal declared that "To initiate a war of aggression is ... the supreme international crime." Numerous other treaties define the permissible limits of warfare. Violating these, the president:

- Manipulated intelligence and conspired to defraud Congress and the public by providing false testimony to obtain a war powers resolution and launch an illegal war against a sovereign state without U.N. approval, resulting in the deaths of several hundred thousand Iraqi and American citizens and billions of wasted taxpayer dollars.
- Permitted use of internationally prohibited (cruel or indiscriminate) weapons which violate the U.N. Charter, The Hague Rules on Land and Air Warfare, the Genocide Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Nuremberg Charter, Judgment and Principles.

- Permitted torture and humiliation of prisoners in violation of the U. S. War Crimes Act of 1996, the Anti-Torture Statute, The Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and The Convention against Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment;
- Imprisoned captives without charge or trial, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution that guarantee due process of law.

Further, President Bush or his subordinates have:

- Conducted electronic surveillance without court authorization, violating the FISA law, three other communications acts and the Fourth Amendment, which establishes the right of citizens "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."
- Subverted the Constitutional separation of powers by 1) withdrawal from international treaty obligations without congressional consent, 2) reversing or revising laws enacted by Congress by executive orders or "interpretive signing statements," 3) evading U.S. courts for "terrorism" suspects, 4) instructing subordinates to ignore congressional subpoenas and 5) refusing congressional access to emergency contingency plans.
- Obstructed justice and conspired to commit treason by 1) disclosing the identity of a covert CIA agent in violation of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982, compromising the lives, safety and operational capacity of covert agents and damaging ability to recruit human intelligence assets worldwide, and 2) providing false testimony and withholding information about this crime in interviews with federal investigators.
- Failed to protect U.S. citizens by ignoring multiple warnings; from the preceding administration and numerous federal and international agencies that anticipated the 9/11 attacks; subsequent lying about the existence of these warnings; and contempt of Congress and obstruction of justice by attempting to prevent formation of, and then withholding evidence from, the 9/11 Commission and its legally empowered investigation.
- Failed to protect U.S. citizens by making politically motivated appointments of unqualified federal agency heads, ignoring explicit advance predictions of the likely destruction from Hurricane Katrina, resulting in the death of more than 1,300 American citizens, and lying to the people about this advance knowledge.

These are naked abuses of power and high crimes that threaten our constitutional rule of law. To regain our national identity and the world's trust and respect, we must remove criminals who occupy our highest offices, hopefully followed by appropriate indictments and prosecutions. We must demand support of impeachment by Congressman DeFazio.

Jack Dresser, a behavioral scientist and former Army psychologist during the Vietnam War, is co-founder of Lane County Veterans for Peace and was a regular columnist for The Springfield News.