

Clean election probably not in the cards

BY RALPH G. NEAS

With widespread predictions of a close national election, an unprecedented wave of new voter registration and new voting systems in place, the potential for problems is high. These can come from poorly trained poll workers, confused voters and improper actions by some state and local election officials. On top of all that, unscrupulous political operatives are looking for any advantage that will help

In fact, the scope of efforts to limit voting in minority communities during the past two decades is startling.

"Ballot security" or "voter integrity" initiatives targeting minority communities are just one often-used method of intimidating voters. At least three times, these initiatives have been successfully challenged in federal courts as illegal attempts to suppress voter participation.

Other methods include dis-

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tributing flyers and other information containing false information about where, when and how to vote. There have even been recent incidents of operatives challenging individual voters at the polls by using armed private guards, off-duty law enforcement officers and fake poll monitors.

This is nothing new. In virtually every election, voters - particularly African Americans and other minorities - have faced calculated and determined efforts to keep them out. While poll taxes, literacy tests and the physical violence of the Jim Crow era have disappeared, more subtle, cynical and creative tactics have taken their place.

Robbing citizens of their votes undermines the very foundations of our democratic society. Politicians, political strategists

and party officials who may consider voter intimidation and suppression efforts as part of their tactical arsenal should be exposed and prosecuted. State and federal officials, including Justice Department and national political party officials of both parties, should publicly repudiate such tactics and make clear



that those who engage in them will be face severe punishment. In a nation where children are taught in grade school that every citizen has the right to vote, it would be comforting to think that the last vestiges of voter intimidation, oppression and suppression have been swept away. It would be good

to know that voters are no longer wrongly turned away from the polls, never knowingly misdirected, misinformed, deceived or threatened. Unfortunately, it would be a grave mistake to believe it. To report incidents of voter suppression or intimidation, or to get help with other kinds of

problems on Election Day, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE for assistance. Ralph G. Neas is president of People For the American Way Foundation, an advocacy organization dedicated to civil rights, civil liberties and First Amendment principles.

Bush Won't or Can't Tell the Truth

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

After the last presidential debate, I am left wondering why it is so hard for our nation's commander-in-chief to tell the truth. From domestic issues to war to fiscal policy, George W. Bush either ignores the truth, doesn't understand the truth or can't speak the truth. Whatever the reason, none of these untruths sit well with me - and they should not sit well with

anyone else either. By now, everyone should know that not only were there no weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq, Saddam Hussein did not even possess the ability to create such weapons. These weapons served as a major reason to go to war and it was a false reason. Additionally, Bush claimed that Iraq had connections with Al-Qaeda that had to be severed and could only be countered by war. We know that

this is untrue. Not only did Iraq not have connections with Al-Qaeda, evidence suggests that Saddam had successfully kept Al-Qaeda out of Iraq. Bush lied. During the debates, Bush claimed that over two million new jobs have been added to the work force under his presidency. The truth of the matter is that jobs have been lost under his presidency. Bush lied. Bush claimed that health care costs were high because of

medical malpractice lawsuits and higher insurance costs. This is not true. The Congressional Budget Office, a federal institution, reported that malpractice insurance accounts for only 2 percent of health care spending. Bush neglected to tell truth about his record on education. He claimed to have increased education funding by

49 percent. Putting aside, for now, that the actual percentage is closer to 43 percent, the motivation for the increase has been largely Congressional, with opposition from the White House. In plain English - Congress, not the President, has been responsible for the anemic funding education has received under Bush's presidency. His

budgets have proposed cuts in education spending. Bush lied. America deserves a president who does not feel the need to lie about everything his administration does. Judge Greg Mathis is chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



The Christ we know values covenant relationships.

Jesus' unconditional love can be found in all sincere, committed covenant relationships, including marriage between two persons of the same gender. The Christ we know blesses such marriages!



and so do we!

The witness of the Holy Spirit in our church life, has opened our eyes to the truth that "God shows no partiality," (Acts 10:34) and that homosexual persons, no less than heterosexual persons, can and do enter into stable, long term marriages that replicate the covenant love uniting Christ and his Church.

We invite our Christian brothers and sisters to think carefully and prayerfully before voting to take away from other Christian believers and potential believers, the right to marry, just because they are gay.

Please vote NO on Constitutional Amendment 36.

This message is paid for by the members and sojourners of Metanoia PeaceCommunity United Methodist Church in Portland. For more information about us, call (503) 281-3697 or visit website: www.tearsoup.com/metanoia.

AAHC African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Presents for your health,
Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

Aerobics
Mallory Ave. Christian Church
Mon, Wed, Fri, 6-7am, Pierce • 5:30-6:20pm,
Granville • 6:30-7:30pm, Nickerson

Low Impact Aerobics
Daniel's Memorial Church
Tue, 7:15-8:15pm, Granville

Water Aerobics (Contact AAHC)
Columbia Pool, Matt Dishman

African Exercise
Matt Dishman
Sat, 10-11am, Addo

Body Conditioning
Wild Oats Market
Sat, 9:30-10:30am, Nickerson

Chicago Step
Classes Will Resume Soon

Kickboxing
Mallory Ave. Christian Church
Tue, Thu, 6-7pm, Keller

Pilates (Contact AAHC)
Matt Dishman
Tue, 8-9pm

Stretching/Body Sculpting
(Class courtesy of Matt Dishman)
Matt Dishman
Tue, Thu, 7-8am, Lois

Tai Chi (Contact AAHC)
St. John's Community Center
Tue, 6:30-7:30pm

Walking Group
Peninsula Park
Sat, 12:30pm, Woods
Lloyd Ctr, 1st Fl. in front of Sears
Tue, Thu, 6:30pm, Woods

Weight Mgmt./Conditioning
Whitaker Track
Tue, Thu, 9-10am, Hasan

Yoga
Wild Oats Market
Tue, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, Wren

Columbia Pool, 7701 N Chautauqua
Daniel's Memorial Church, 1234 NE Killingsworth
Mallory Ave Christian Church (Gym), 126 NE Alberta
Matt Dishman, 77 NE Knott

Peninsula Park, 700 N Portland
St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central
Whitaker Track, NE 42nd & Killingsworth
Wild Oats Market, 3535 NE 15th

**Please contact AAHC before attending the first class and for more information at 503-413-1850 or kdempsey@aahc-portland.org. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. Must be 18 or older

REACH Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A Program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit our web site at www.aahc-portland.org