

Voice of the People

Voters made a poor choice in electing Clinton

Dear Editor: There's no way that I can sleep this morning. I have not felt this disappointed about our country ever. The American public's mandate to make Clinton our next president says to me that we are so far away from doing for ourselves that we are resolved to a new wave of socialism.

Whereas I was prepared, and quite willing, to make the "shared sacrifices" that Mr. Perot espoused, I'll now be assessed even more via the redistribution of wealth policies that we can expect from Mr. Clinton, yet I'll not feel any motivation or pride while my pocket is picked.

I have begun to think, now, how I might elect to ignore Mr. Clinton's cause and programs. After all, as an admitted anti-war protester he worked to avoid the draft, and the American public apparently doesn't care. In fact, by their votes, they em-

braced him regardless.

Therefore, how could this same la-de-da society dare to challenge my "rights" to protest any programs that he tries to impose which I believe are contrary to my "rights" as an American citizen? Where's the ACLU when you need them, or... whatever other socialistic "crutch" that our liberal friends would appeal to at a time like this?

Our country has finally done it to themselves and I can't be a good loser about this one; it would be far too hypocritical to eventry.

Voters have chosen a "leader" that has absolutely no experience in international matters, notwithstanding that he wouldn't know how to build a business plan for a curbside Kouski stand.

They have opted to ignore that his budget doesn't add up and they have opted to ignore

that his home state is more than 40th worse (out of 50) in each major measurement criteria, such as environmental controls, per-capita income, salaries to teachers, etc. Alternatively, they listen to his claims of best improvement record and don't care "compared to what?"

There's been so much dialogue from the Democrats about helping "small business" that we better be prepared that some program will come forward to make good on their promises. However, with our government's history of "helping" us, we best be forewarned to keep our hand on our wallet.

Who shall be those who understand that there will be no free lunch unless, as typical of this spending party, we just mortgage our retirement and our children's future, once again.

Richard A. Meyer
Wauwatosa

Don't blame voting machines for the long wait

Your Nov. 6 editorial "Voter crunch can be eased" (and reporter Jeff Richgels' article "Scanners end lines for voting cost \$600,000" prompt this reply.

Reviewing practices in three townships and the city of Sun Prairie polling procedures to avoid "wait" or long lines are not due to the voting equipment. You may find the same situation in Madison polling places.

There are two kinds of voters. First, those who have registered prior to the voting day and/or voted at recent elections. Second, those who are "registering" or voting at that polling place for the first time.

People who have registered or previously voted have to wait in line while people who have not, go through the time-consuming process of having their name, address etc., handwritten by a poll worker, and their identification checked. People who have voted recently or pre-registered only have to have their name checked on the pre-printed polling lists used by the poll workers and proceed to the voting booth.

When people enter a voting place, they could be directed to one of two locations. One where those who have pre-registered or voted recently can quickly be processed by polling workers, and the other for those who have

to take more time to establish their right to vote, and the poll workers to record needed information.

As to the quote from our County Clerk Carol Nelson: "The only lines at sites using the optical scanner system were voters waiting for the polls to open" and parking problems. Not so! There were waits of up to 20 minutes where those scanners were used. Because so many people had to wait until those in front of them registered, etc.

No matter the voting machine, procedure changes can greatly reduce waiting time.

Monte Couch
Marshall

Smokers are thinking only of themselves

Dear Editor: Should smoking be banned in restaurants? This issue has been hotly debated the last few weeks in Madison. Smokers say it is an infringement on their rights, while non-smokers applaud the ban. Who is right on this touchy situation?

As a non-smoker, I agree with the ban for several reasons.

Smokers say the government is intruding into their personal lives. How can it be their personal lives when they are including, with their exhaled smoke, the general public in their personal decision to smoke? Smokers argue that there are already smoking and non-smoking sections in most restaurants.

However, the smoking barrier may be no more than a 6-inch-high plate of glass separating booths in this actually sufficient means of keeping smoke from reaching the non-smoker?

Restaurant owners argue that they have sufficient ventilation. This may be true, but air currents move around, considering all the traffic in a restaurant, making it very hard to confine smoke to one area.

I have the right to regulate what substances enter my body. I didn't ask for side-stream smoke, but smokers seem to be freely giving it away. Smokers are fighting for personal rights to do as they wish with their own bodies. But should personal

choice place unwilling participants at risk?

Smokers should have the right to smoke. Since it is their personal decision, they should smoke in their homes, their cars, or in their yards. That way, it can be my personal decision to visit the smoker and their side-stream smoke.

However, if I am going to a public restaurant, I should not be forced to inhale carcinogenic substances. Smokers argue that I shouldn't frequent that place then. My argument is, why should I have to abandon a restaurant because of other's personal decisions?

Jennifer Sauer
Madison

DOONESBURY by Garry Trudeau



Third parties aid public awareness

Dear Editor: Unlike the message implied in your election follow-up story of Nov. 4, I am one candidate who personally tries to re-collect for re-use all my lawn signs. The wires in these signs should not just be used once, and if I missed any in my pickup, I would appreciate a call at 244-8254.

I also wish to express my public thanks to the thousand or so campaign workers in my just-completed Assembly campaign. Many were displaying lawn signs, leafletting, or helping in their first third-party campaign. We were definitely a model for a visible, grass-roots, creative, door-to-door campaign to break the partisan gridlock in our State Capitol.

Had this state Assembly race not coincided with an unprecedented avalanche of interest in the Democratic Party candidates for national office, we may have elected our first third-party state Assembly representative in a

most 50 years. As it was, I think we should be proud that we got over one third of the votes cast for state Assembly in the many wards that voted 9 to 1 to 1 to 9 for president (in proportion of 9 votes for Clinton, for every 1 vote for Bush, 1 vote for Perot, and every other vote for Daniels) and 9 to 1 for U.S. Senate (9 votes for Feingold for every 1 vote for Kasten).

I believe our campaign has raised awareness in the public and in the Capitol about the unfair ways our state laws favor the two-party monopoly in our Capitol (public finance laws, ballot placement, primary thresholds). People are demanding statutory changes because these laws are unfair to independents and make it too cozy for dominant parties.

This message is still reverberating in the Capitol.

Mary Kay Baum
Madison

How to reach us

To talk about editorials, columns, letters or book reviews, call: Phil Haslanger, 252-6436 Dan Allegretti, 252-6437 Julianne White, 252-6409 Please sign letters to the editor and include your address and a daytime telephone number. Letters should not exceed 300 words and they may be edited for length and grammar. Send them to: Voice of the People The Capital Times P.O. Box 8060 Madison, WI 53708

There's only one race — human

Dear Editor: The more I read about "race" problems, the more I wonder how religious and/or scientific we really are.

Talk about "different races" has to be by people who do not belong to a positive religious community and/or who refuse to believe archeological evidence: whether I believe in a religiously stated Creation (Adam and Lillith) or evolution (Lucy and her predecessors), I can give blood to or receive blood from any other human of matching type, regardless of that person's skin color, ethnic background, place of birth, etc.

To me, that's the best evidence that we're all members of one human race.

Gordon Cunningham
Madison

City can't afford Terrace project

Dear Editor: How can the city of Madison and Mayor Paul Soglin even think about the Monona Terrace project when in this morning's paper (Nov. 5) the mayor says the city is facing "one of the most serious fiscal crises in its history"?

If that project goes through, our property taxes will escalate and yet the mayor states our property taxes now are an "awesome burden."

Why can't the city try to stay within its means to provide police and fire protection and the necessary things and omit the frills such as the Monona Terrace project?

Sally Dreher
Madison

High schools welcome parents

Dear Editor: We are excited that the opportunity to attend parent-teacher conferences is now being offered to high school parents. Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time and energy toward making these conferences a reality.

We are proud to be part of a community where parental involvement is recognized as crucial to our kids and where parents, teachers and administrators working together have demonstrated that care.

Elizabeth Barnhill
and Maureen Wilson
Madison

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