

Letters to the Editor for Friday, October 8, 2004

Trip expenses should not cost taxpayers

Editor:

Considering all these trips to Estonia and all the wining and dining, etc. that goes along with it, I hope that is a good indication that the city's finances are in great shape and the citizens of Westminster won't be experiencing a tax increase for a long time to come.

Mary Haifley

Westminster

Save the frog and vote for Kerry

Editor:

The story goes that if a frog is put in hot water, it immediately recognizes the danger and jumps out. If you put a frog in cold water and slowly turn up the heat, the frog doesn't react and slowly dies.

American society is a lot like the frog in the slowly boiling pot of water. Global warming and climate change is one example. Glacial and polar ice caps are rapidly disappearing and will create severe water shortages in the future. Rising sea levels, together with more powerful hurricanes, will cause major coastal devastation. Extended periods of regional flooding and drought are likely with its associated costs. No sustainable, renewable energy policy will fuel the flames of climate change, war and environmental destruction.

The Bush doctrine of preemptive war will escalate the nuclear arms race and terrorism resulting in more global violence and death. Although Saddam was a brutal dictator, he posed no imminent threat to the U.S and had no links to Al Qaeda or 9/11.

Bush has opened a Pandora's box to insurgents and terrorists by destabilizing Iraq and posing a serious threat to neighboring Arab states and the world.

Whatever happened to Bush's promise of a more humble foreign policy and caution about "nation-building?"

Others hate us not for our freedom, but for our policies. Policies such as our one-sided support for Israel rather than acting as a balanced broker for peace or our support of repressive, undemocratic regimes like Saudi Arabia, China, Pakistan, Egypt and Saddam's Iraq in the 1980s and early 1990s. Wouldn't it be more empowering to address poverty, hunger, disease, unemployment and education as a way of winning hearts and minds?

Working people will continue to see stagnant or declining wages and outsourcing of jobs to foreign markets with cheap labor. Outsourcing means lower tax revenues for federal, state and local communities.

America will become weak and vulnerable without a strong manufacturing and technology base at home. Privatizing Social Security means trillions of dollars in trust fund money will go to Wall Street bankers and brokers instead of direct benefits to you.

Constitutional freedoms, rights to privacy and due process under the Patriot Act are disappearing in the name of protecting freedom. We're slowly boiling in a pot of free-market fundamentalism, escalating militarism, authoritarianism and neo-conservative lies and propaganda.

On Nov. 2, save the frog.

David J. Iacono

Westminster

Bush better choice to lead the country

Editor:

Will the real John Kerry please stand up?

Yes, Kerry can debate. But where does he really stand?

He calls the war Bush's war, yet he voted for it. He then voted against the weapons to win.

Kerry claims to be pro-life to some groups and then votes for partial-birth abortions.

He says he is for the "common worker," while he owns five homes, many cars and a butler.

Will Kerry as commander turn on the armed forces in this war, as I believe he did when he was an officer and turned on the men he left in Vietnam?

He says he loves hunting, but he crawls in the woods, hunting deer.

As president, he plans to go back to the U.N. for help, after they turned their backs on our country.

Yes, he looked well on stage, but did you listen to him criticize Bush?

How will he get countries to help us in the war when he calls the war "the wrong war at the wrong time?" Just the facts, Kerry. Just the facts.

So far, we have a man in office, let's keep Bush there.

Joanne Spriggs

Eldersburg