

my name is listed first on the sequence I should be declared winner of the race five months before the election and before even one candidates' forum has been held. Please consider the following before crowning the Austin Place 1 progressive candidate. I have attended an HBC (historically black college), been a single father raising my son, and conducted grassroots organizing on affordable housing, APD community police relations, and the Travis County Democratic Party. I have been a small-business owner, involved with neighborhood zoning and planning, sustainable housing, and community empowerment. Building bridges for one community, one Austin.

Progressively yours,
Andrew Bucknall

Candidate for City Council Place 1

[Editor's note: See "Austin@Large" p.15 for more.]

Aggressive Corrections

Dear Chronicle,
So how much Christmas cheer did your reporter have before filing his alleged story on the homeless ["No Homeless in Our Time?," News, Dec. 17]? Here's a sampling of what wasn't reported:

* There are 20,000 homeless people in Austin and its surrounding environs;

* 6,709 of these meet the new federal criteria for chronic homeless;

* 1,917 meet the criteria but are turned away due to lack of resources;

* To be "chronically homeless" one must be an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or one who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years;

* Disabling condition is a diagnosable substance disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including two or more of these conditions;

* 755 shelter beds available for 90 days to those lucky enough to get them;

* 388 transitional/permanent housing units for those lucky enough to get them;

* In the Austin area, the chronic homeless account for about 33.5% of the homeless population and receive about 32.6% of the available funding, which completely screws up the "New York" reform model;

* Ratio of staff to chronic homeless - 1-to-86;

* Homeless funding: \$17,960,000/20,000 homeless = \$899.30 per capita, \$67.45/month, or \$2.25/day;

* Chronic homeless funding: \$5,067,000/6,709 chronic homeless = about \$756.74/capita, \$63.06/month, or \$2.10/day; and

* Implementation of "reforms" by DAA executive that seem openly hostile suggests less than optimum outcome of aid for chronically homeless.

Merry Christmas to the "value laden,"
Ricky Bird

[News Editor Michael King responds: Bastrop's Ricky Bird, self-appointed authority on all matters homeless, finds it amusing to insult anyone else who presumes to discuss the subject without his permission. In a previous letter on another subject, he condemns those whose "politics is to spit on your allies and imply that those disagreeing with you are fools or corrupted." Yet that is the only style of argument he employs. For the record, his figure of 20,000 area homeless depends on counting "20,378 duplicated homeless individuals" who were provided services (in the Homeless Task Force survey he attached) as each an independent case of homelessness. That initial incorrect presumption undermines all his subsequent arithmetic. Certainly the local problem of homelessness is serious and the survey represents an important step in addressing the specific problem of chronic homelessness. Wild and hostile exaggerations of either the numbers or other people's motives are not much help.]

An Average American

Dear Editor,
It's time for me to leave the closet. I've been a registered Democrat for 22 years. I marched in two protests against the latest Iraqi war. I voted for Kerry in November.

However, I am now happy to say, "I am glad Bush won."

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



I have three reasons for my new Dubyaism.
Europe is not our friend. They have been stabbing Israel and the U.S. in the back for more than 30 years under the Euro-Arab dialogue; with this Faustian pact, the continent sold its soul for oil. The continent is now rife with violence and bloodshed at the hands of Islamic radicals welcomed by this pact. It is the original "blood for oil." Couple this with the EU's unapologetic financial support of the Palestinian authority and Hamas and it is obvious that Bush was right to ignore Europe in regard to Iraq. They declared a quasi-war against us in 1973.
Multiculturalism and political correctness are divisive tools of limo-libbies. This abominable double standard is racist. By holding "disadvantaged" groups to a lower standard of behavior than that of the mainstream, we are saying that these persons are incapable

of succeeding in the predominant culture. However, complain about the adverse effects of this misbehavior, and you are branded a racist. All reasonable discourse gets handcuffed by identity politics.
The left's own elitism has made it irrelevant. In fits of childish narcissism, they blame red-state ignorance rather than their own ineptitude for their loss in this latest election. They are way out of touch with the average American, and their whining just distances them even more.
Lefties are crying about moving to Europe to get away from red-state dominance. Go ahead. I suggest Spain. There's lots of sangria and Real Madrid on telly. Just don't cry to me when you can't hear the match over the loudspeaker of the mosque next door.
Joe Mitchell
continued on p.12

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