

# Views: Right Place, Right Time

## It's better to know



### YOU CAN GET HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT IF YOU TEST POSITIVE.

For information on HIV testing:

- call toll-free from in Vermont  
**800-882-AIDS** (800-882-2437)\*
- for hearing impaired TTY access  
**800-319-3141\***
- or visit us on-line at  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info>

\* The Vermont AIDS Hotline is open weekdays, 8:30-4:30.  
(For information 24/7, call the National AIDS Hotline  
**800-342-2437.**)

**Take the TEST. Take CONTROL.**

**VERMONT**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**H**ere are some of my responses to the election in the US on 11/2/04:

1: Exit poll accuracy nationally, except for where there were electronic voting machines, was high. Only in traditionally Democratic areas (in Florida and Ohio) with electronic voting machines were the exit polls way off, and there because Bush "unexpectedly" did well. Hint: the electronic voting machines were rigged, as we knew they would be. Bush lost the election but managed to deceive most people yet again. A voting district with 262 voters in Ohio cast 4000 ballots for Bush (electronic machine!). That kind of fraud in one place indicates a likelihood of similar fraud in other places. The USA cannot claim to have a functional democracy when the elections are rigged by corporations in league with the Republican Party. The national GOP is clearly a criminal institution at this point.

2: Scientists and climate experts worldwide have agreed that we are headed for a huge energy/economy crash due to the changes in petroleum price and availability, and that we are poisoning the biosphere by continued use of fossil fuels. This means that when the price of oil hits \$100 or \$150 a barrel, post-industrial civilization as we know it is going to come to a dramatic end as most people on earth return to a pre-industrial energy economy. The wars over oil will continue to increase, and George Bush is the single best person to bring everything crashing down. His proclivity for bloodthirstiness and cruelty, his pathological dishonesty and his inability to learn from his mistakes make him the perfect bulldozer to bring the house of cards down. The job is to dismantle a corrupt diseased system, for the old paradigm to implode while the new ones come forth from the (hopefully not literal) ashes. Go George!

3: It seems likely to me that the rest of the world may at some point have to administer a correction to the US, as it did with Germany in WWII. If Bush invades Iran, he casts himself (and you!) in opposition to Russia and China, both powerful nations with long-range nuclear weapons. Bush's unabashed plan to take over the Middle-East is

## walter i. zeichner

unlikely to be tolerated by the rest of the world in the long run. This will take a heavy toll on the USA, but if people here allow a despot to rule then they will have to pay the piper.

4: The myth of a polarized US: Yes, there are significant disagreements about lifestyle, civil rights, and religion, but there are huge areas of commonality which are ignored. Exploiting difference - divide and conquer - is the oldest game in the book and it is being used effectively on the population of the US. The commercial media is complicit as they are primarily motivated by profit and the drive to increase their power. They have no altruistic motives about the well-being of the populace.

Add it all up and everything is just as it should be! Humanity is continuing its cycle of ideological war and religious repression. Greed and lust for material things rules in the most powerful nation on earth where the people argue over who gets to marry rather than how to feed the hungry. Multitudes call themselves compassionate Christians while screaming for the blood of Muslims and denying aid to the struggling poor in their own backyards. Hypocrisy is the rule of the day. Sounds pretty bleak, right? Not necessarily.

All of us who are alive now are the right people in the right place at the right time, even though we may not necessarily enjoy the changes we experience or their outcomes. My friends and I have been discussing these global trends and others, politics, social movements, etc. for decades. For much of the latter half of the 20th century people all over the world have been observing the changes occurring on earth and commenting on them publicly and privately. We've been preparing

for what's coming. We've built social and faith communities that acknowledge the path humanity has taken, and tried to prepare relationships to be more mutually supportive in case we ever need to depend on each other directly. People all over the world are learning through Permaculture and other methods to grow and save more food, as well as other survival skills.

Closer to home it's important to recognize that Bush "won" this election, galvanizing a lot of voters, on the backs of gay and lesbian people. He is proceeding with amending the constitution to ban gay marriage, killing two birds with one stone: setting a precedent of changing the constitution to promote discrimination against a minority group, and creating a scapegoat class. This reminds me of the 1930's in Germany when laws were gradually passed which denied Jews rights - the right to own a business, the

## Hypocrisy is the rule of the day. Sounds pretty bleak, right? Not necessarily.

right to attend school, eventually Jews were denied the right to purchase soap! All this on the way to the ovens. What does Bush have in store for us I wonder?

Our own complacency is the greatest danger we face. ▼

*Walter Zeichner is a psychotherapist, bodyworker, farmer, witch, and political activist of conscience who lives in Bolton.*

*The Alps*

Spend an unforgettable week hiking in Switzerland with a small, friendly gay and lesbian group. The Swiss Alps are just one of our many destinations. Please call for a free catalog.

1-800-825-9766  
[www.GayAdventureTravel.com](http://www.GayAdventureTravel.com)  
ALYSON ADVENTURES

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST. IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST. IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST.