ation's 44th, as well as st African-American, esident.

ve U.S. troops were ighanistan, "A Beautifui aghdad and five in an est musical or comedy warded the Globe for Moulin Rouge" was n the Bedroom" and est dramatic actress for issy Spacek was named olden Globe Awards; amatic actor at the ama and its star, jured when a U.S. miliarines were killed, five Five years ago: Twentyussell Crowe, the top ind" was named best <sub>iry</sub> helicopter crashed in tack in Karbala a helicopter crash ir lled in Iraq, including

OUR**VOICE**The Facts welcomes let

ers of up to 200 words and guest columns of up o 500 words.

Writers should limit hemselves to one subnission a week.

All submissions must nclude an address and laytime telephone number to be used for verification. Letters which cannot be verified within 14 days of submission will not be sublished.

Mail letters to: The acts, P.O. Box 549, Clute, TX 77531; fax to 379-265-9052, or email o opinions@the acts.com.

Letters also can be propped off at The Facts office at 720 S. Main in Clute.

Look at this piece of instinctual wisdom: Everyone should vote. In the last big election, only 90 million people voted out of more than 200 million eligible voters. That's terrible, we're told. But it's not terrible because a lot of people are ignorant. When I asked

don't have an opinion about it.
"And don't reward or penalize
candidates for their position on
an issue you don't understand."
Political life differs from private life. If you vote for a candidate while ignorant about issues,

ing of those words, but there's no doubt that such central planning leaves us less prosperous and less free.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on the Fox Business Network. Contact him through his website, johnstossel.com.

you'll pay no more than a tiny

## Kesearch an important part of pet care

In response to the article in the Jan. 4 paper, I would like to say "thank you" to The Facts for bringing pet care to our attention. This subject is very near and dear to my heart, and I would like to share some other ways to protect you and your four-legged family member.

Research: Many people don't research a veterinarian or even ask some important questions before choosing one, such as:

1. How many veterinarians are

 If an emergency arises, how many qualified veterinarians will be available immediately?
 Does the clinic do its own

3. Does the clinic do its own analysis, or does it have to send lab work out? (If lab work is sent out it takes longer, and time is important if your pet is ill. The clinic should be able to do bloodanalysis testing in-house.)

4. What after-hours services are available? (You need to know if you'll have to go somewhere else, and where, in case of an emergency.)

5. Prices: What's their range? How are payments made? Is there any accommodation for payments in case unforeseen veterinary bills occur?

6. Do the veterinarian and technicians do continuing educa-

E "SISSY" research is Network, v work.com. informatio

tion regularly? (Medical care advances daily and responsible we reterinarians want to learn new The procedures and also make certain nathat their staff does, too.)

In addition to asking questions, you should research the Internet. Brazoria County has many excellent veterinarians. Unfortunately, "bad vets" are out there and I don't want anyone to end up in the same situation as I did.

Here are a few sites that are informative and might even have information on your Brazoria County veterinarian.

Visit the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners website www.tbvme.state.tx.us. On the left side of their main page, click "Disciplinary Summary," then click "Docket A-Summary," then click "Docket A-India an alphabetic list of veterinarians and disciplinary actions taken. There also is detailed information to help you make a complaint if you believe a veterinarian did not follow the standard of care your pet

deserves (file a complaint).
Another good site to do research is the Veterinary Abuse Network, www.vetabusenet work.com. Here you can find information on veterinary neglect, incompetence, malpractice, and abuse

Also, take the time and look at www.spankysvoice.weebly.com. This site shows why cheap veterinary care is not always the smart choice.

Another good source is this independent consumer advocacy website www.texasveterin aryrecords.com. On this webpage click the first letter of your veterinarian's last name to see disciplinary reports that did not get posted on the TBVME site. By clicking on the veterinarian's name, you can see actual orders of disciplinary action that were

January 20 marked one year since I lost someone very important to me, and I still think about what I wish I'd known to protect my pet. Take the time to do the research on who you choose to be your veterinarian, and check the one you're using now. Please don't make the same mistake I did.

Nettie "Sissy" Dunn is a resident of leiton.

Here at home we have the fexas Commission on Environmental Quality, an agency with the attack-dog ferociousness of a Portobello must broom

This agency, ruled by appointees of Gov. Perry, rides herd on the air in a state where the children have a poem, "I shot an arrow into the air. It stuck." We've got neighborhoods near the Houston Ship Channel with breezes you can chew. In Port Arthur, on a clear day you can see your feet.

All this time you have been thinking, "I sure would like to see just how dirty our air is so I can flout it to my cousin in Newark."

Go to www.ghgdata.epa.gov and click "Greenhouse Gas Data Publication Tool."

There is a map of the United States and you just click on whatever state you wish to view. I clicked on Texas, for some reason, and there it is: 68 pages listing what facilities around the state are pumping into the air.

David Doniger, the policy director for climate and clean air at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said of the new website, "It means that every high school student or local reporter can see who the biggest carbon polluters are in his or her own backyard." That's easy for him to say. This local reporter has not a clue what any of those terms mean. It's just as well. I, personally, don't want to breathe anything

Lynn Ashby is a Houston-based columnist. Contact him at ashby2@comcast.net.