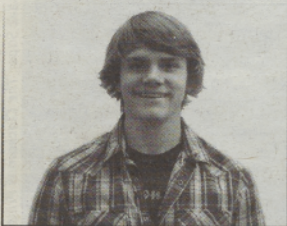




Illustration by Anna Axelsson The Clackamas Print

## The 'digital age' is coming to an end



By Isaac Soper  
Arts & Culture Editor

Socioeconomic collapse is well on its way. In the past few months, we still have yet to see time travel. Walt Disney's head is sitting in a freezer somewhere. At least we can look forward to robotic cars and the apocalypse.

What will the future bring, besides the long-awaited mass production of electric cars, space elevators and YouTube classes?

Our economy is in the toilet, and it's not getting any better, yet we still desire to make our technological dreams a reality, no matter the cost.

According to many theologians and conspiracy theorists, the world is coming to an end, and if the Mayans have anything to say about it, this year will be the last.

We have no exports at all. Show me something that says it was made in the USA and I'll show you the machine that it was manufactured with that has a "Made in China" tag on it.

We think our inventions make us invincible, but if anything, they make us weaker. With so much reliance on technology and imported goods, we have made ourselves into the feeblest generation in recorded history, with the least amount of "primitive skills," which in almost any other culture or generation would be considered necessary.

The economy is failing, if you believe that it's getting better, great job looking at the glass as being half full, but you're wrong. Our national debt is higher than ever, according to the U.S. Treasury, approximately \$15 trillion and counting. Large parts of that debt are owned by countries across the globe (I assume we give them Monopoly money to pay interest).

So what will the future hold? Robotic cars (GM's vice president Alan Taub predicts that by 2020, autonomous systems will be standard equipment in auto-

mobiles), 3D films will be the standard format and the death of the Internet probably isn't too far off, thanks in part to the new "War on Cyber Terror" (hide your Guy Fawkes masks folks, for anonymity is now a crime). On the brighter side, maybe we'll get a new season of BBC's "Sherlock."

Will we see the collapse of our economy? Will we see World War III? When will China cash in on our debt? There are many who believe that the end of the world as we know it is near.

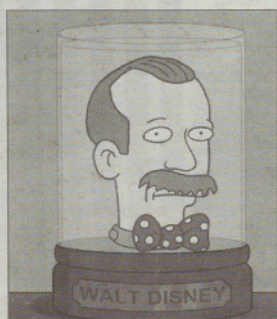
What do the days leading up to the end look like? Will there be widespread panic? Will we know when the end is near? Or will it be sudden? Either way, I'm sure we'll all be caught off guard, even those who have tried to "prepare" for it (whatever that means).

Our reliance on technology is ridiculous; we think we're entitled to our discoveries and that they've made us the gods of civilization. Granted we may be more "intelligent" than previous generations, but this kind of intelligence only goes so far. How can we say that it is intelligent to know how to use a computer, but not intelligent to know how to search for food and identify edible plants. Wait, but I can search for food on Amazon! Hat's off to you, you digital rainforest guide.

I have nothing to complain about anymore. I'm not worried about the end of the Internet coming, nor am I worried about the end of the world. Bring on the apocalypse, it's time for a change, I say.

If we are at the end, let's live out our lives, and let's learn all we can. Be kind to one another, because this moment is all we have; we have no guarantee of tomorrow.

This is the beginning of the end of the digital age. As the funny man said, "Catch you on the flip side."



Courtesy of MTV Networks

# Survive the aftermath of global meltdown

By Katherine Suydam & Isaac Soper  
Copy Editor & A&C Editor

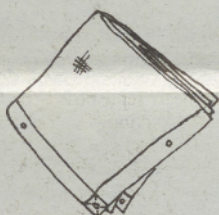
With the end of the world undoubtedly coming nearer we thought we would save you the trouble of deciding what to pack.

### 1. Backpack, large enough to carry your gear

As you wander through an apocalyptic wasteland, you are going to need something to carry your gear and scavenged supplies. A large hiking backpack would make a good choice, although a shopping cart will make do, as seen in many film incarnations, such as "The Road."

### 2. Tarp

Cheap and reliable, a tarp will become one of your prized possessions in the wasteland, being used for shelter in almost any climate, as a rain catcher, and a temporary backpack. Heck, you could even patch clothes with one. If you can find more than one, it's probably a good idea to have a backup. Remember, a tarp is not fireproof.



Illustrations by Isaac Soper The Clackamas Print

### 3. Sleeping bag, specifically a mummy bag

Let's take a page out of the book of a true survivor, Katniss Everdeen of "The Hunger Games" and remember that not only can the warmth of a sleeping bag keep you alive, but it can also become the sole comfort in a terrifying world. Because the mummy bag has a

tapered design it retains more heat. A dark colored bag is preferred as it can become a better shield from unwelcome eyes at night.

### 4. Good, sturdy knife

A knife, as with any tool, requires maintenance. You are going to have to learn how to sharpen your knife and make sure you keep it oiled, as to not let it rust. Remember, the capability to successfully throw a knife may be fun, but it's a one way ticket into the realm of "I lost my knife."



### 5. Edible plants guide

The ability to forage for plants can be a very rewarding skill, especially for those who don't get poisoned and die in the process. Find a guide and study it like your life depends upon it, because it probably does. Keep it in a plastic bag as to keep it dry.

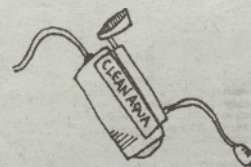
### 6. Canteen

There is no way around it, you need something to store water in, it is your lifeblood. Three days without water spells death for nearly any human being. Although nearly any clean container can be used for water storage, try to find something durable, it will save you a lot of stress, and your life in the long run.

### 7. Water purification method

Boiling water works well to kill microbes, although a water purifier is sometimes a better option, because it allows you to convert some of the nastiest looking water into some of the tastiest water you've ever had. Sawyer makes one that you squeeze, which is supposed to last for a million gallons. Other brands include MSI and Katadyn. Purified

water is always a better choice than giardia.



### 8. Flint and steel

If your sleeping bag or water purifier fails you, you will need a way around them to get warmth and non-lethal water. Fire is a useful tool, but keep in mind that it can be dangerous. Just because the world is ending doesn't mean that Smokey the Bear won't come and maul you in your sleep.



### 9. Good sense of humor

Being able to keep morale high is always a worthy skill in difficult times. Lost your car keys? That's a good one. Out of food? Laugh it up. Your shoes have holes in them? Ha-ha. You accidentally fire a crossbow into your foot? Stop laughing, you need immediate medical treatment.

### 10. Companion(s)

The apocalyptic lifestyle can get pretty lonely and having a friend(s) or a dog (or volleyball) with you can keep you from going insane, along with the added bonus of having others to help scavenge for food and supplies. Choose wisely though, or they can have the opposite effect.



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