

SHOP FOR AMERICA



DRAWINGS BY MICHAEL MILLER (aka SASHA)

INTERVIEWS BY MICHAEL McCUSKER

There is no nonsense so errant it cannot be made the creed of the vast majority through adequate governmental action.

~BERTRAND RUSSELL

The new patriotism calls for Americans to spend themselves into poverty to support the national economy and the War on Terrorism. The crass commercialism of Christmas has been raised to high patriotism. A public radio commentator says this red, white and blue Christmas is more like July 4th in December. Uncle Sam is Santa Claus. The Christmas villain is not the usual Grinch or Scrooge but Osama bin Laden.

The *Times Eagle* has interviewed a few Oregon coastal folk, asking the question:

What do you think of the emphasis placed on Christmas shopping as a patriotic act?

JIM HANSEN

Nobody can convince me that the capitalist system isn't wonderful.

Christmas shopping is a good way of letting Jesus know we love him. Jesus would really like that.

MICHAEL MILLER

The Japanese who bombed Pearl Harbor sixty years ago were doing their patriotic duty. The German soldiers who marched on Poland were doing their patriotic duty. The Confederates defending slavery were doing their proud patriotic duty. The U.S. cavalry soldiers who massacred entire villages of Native Americans were doing their patriotic duty. I think God will forgive me for not doing my patriotic duty.

Jesus never commanded anyone to love their nation, but he did command them to love their enemies.

None of my behaviors are based upon a love for this nation, but a love for all mankind. My patriotic duty, then (to mankind) is to spend wisely: to support those companies who guard civil liberties and environmental health; to support those companies and people who do not amass vast fortunes when 32,000 children die daily from hunger.

I will not shop for my country. I will be glad though to share whatever I have with those in need.

KEN DEMPS

I'm not spending. I don't know where people are getting the money. We're in a recession.

I went to Fred Meyer's the other day and smelled every-

thing but I couldn't afford to buy anything.

I am leaning toward shoplifting for Christmas, which I plan to do early.

JOHN LINDHOUT

Am I going to send money in the name of patriotism? No I am not going to.

I would not purposely buy something in the name of patriotism. I might go into a store owned by a friend to help him or her out.

That doesn't mean I don't love my country.

JIM FURNISH

Would I buy a Christmas present to bolster the economy or because I love somebody?

I'm not even going to comment on that.

CYNDY LEE

I would rather have people addicted to impulse shopping rather than to a fanatical religion.

My mother is addicted to both.

People are addicts by nature.

TAYLOR DURKEE

I saw a cartoon in the *New Yorker* of a kid sitting on Santa Claus' lap saying "Give me everything I want or the terrorists win."

I don't think our spending should have much to do with 9/11 or the spirit of Christmas. It's so diluted — does anybody

know the true meaning of Christmas? All it seems to mean anymore is the dread of how many months it will take to pay off the Christmas bills.

JENNIFER BAKKE

I notice people aren't giving as much to charity this year. They're giving to the victims of September 11, but not to the local needy.

LARRY BARROWS

Basically I think it's a sign of how pampered we are that we are not asked to sacrifice anything except our civil liberties for the conflict — I refuse to call it a war.

Also we seem to forget our spending equates with using up the world's resources faster. We are spending the world into Earthruptcy.

LISA STOMPRUD

I think it's unfortunate our capitalist society is going to support all the flag sellers in the name of patriotism instead of the people who need our support. You also see this in fashion and a lot of designers coming out with red, white and blue depict it as glamour and chic.

PERIPHERAL SIMILARITY

One month after September 11

Like monstrous bare bones flayed clean and waiting exposed to wind and sun, they stand or lie at ground zero — run out of time, sifted ash-gray alone.

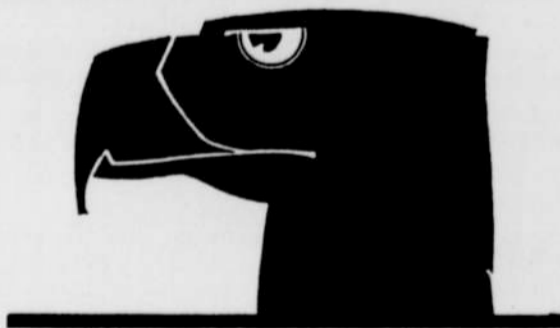
Some seep striations of rust as if first bloodied before the dust flakes and corrodes membranes to a crust that peels, so insects dart and hide in the insides still fibrous.

Like sculpted pewter shining, the outer skin streaks veins white in cloudy morning light revealing tendons bulged and twisted, extending fists with protruded knuckles buckled under, as if bound in spasms of bursted anger.

And separate sliced feet splay out, display claws of rooted grasping, cling on to glassy mounds as if reaching for one more grip of life.

They are the remains cut away, severed from natural time to leave testimony in the stumps and decay of once living trees.

~CLAUDIA HARPER



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Across the street from her old office
(503) 325-5137

Telephone number remains the same

SIX WEEKS AFTERMATH

Collateral damage was minimum: Associated Press

We are children
traveling from dream
to nightmare
watching crystal castles
explode in dragon fire,
searching for a prince
to save us.
We are children
bent to instant tears,
flag-waving in the dark,
singing the old chants
that used to bring the magic,
wanting someone
to make it all go away.
We are children
finger-pointing
at warlocks and demons,
covering our eyes and ears and mouths
like the perennial three monkeys,
hiding from the pain,
hungry for the perfect ending.
We are children
willing to vow blind loyalty
to the one who rides the biggest horse
armored and bannered
in righteous indignation,
the one who clamors loudest
for revenge.

The mirror warns,
Children,
don't believe everything you read,
don't believe everything promised.
Beware of false prophets.
Grow up.

~CLAUDIA HARPER