

# SLANT

• Our cover story on economic development this week makes a strong case for expanding our local and regional approach to creating jobs. It's human nature to hang onto old ideas long after they have become obsolete. But a revolutionary new era of science, technology and enterprise lies ahead of us. What will draw new investment and create new jobs in Oregon? The biggest factors will be high-quality education, clean air and water, open space and livable cities with vibrant cultures.

• Bush tells us the war in Iraq is mostly over, so shouldn't we just shrug our shoulders and get on with our lives? No way. Let's hold our elected leaders' feet to the fire on this boondoggle. Death and destruction aside, the Congressional Budget Office figures this war has run up a tab of more than \$48 billion so far (see [www.costofwar.com](http://www.costofwar.com)), enough money to provide health care for 6.8 million children for a year, or fund four-year scholarships for 1.2 million college students. Meanwhile, the supposed

justification for our aggression (Iraq's huge stockpiles of primed and ready weapons of mass destruction) appears to be a sham. To paraphrase the old bumper sticker: If you're not pissed, you're not paying attention.

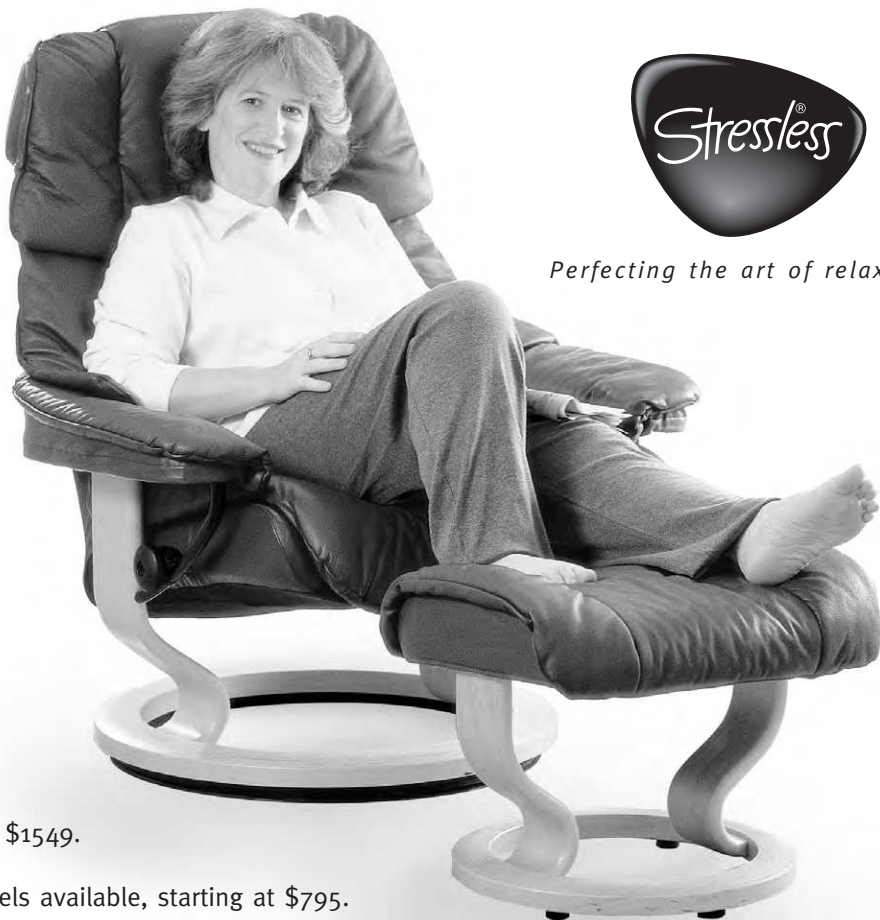
• Two of our favorite watchdog groups, CPA and LandWatch, are holding their annual meetings the same night, May 14, but across town. Ouch. Bet that won't happen next year. Meanwhile, let's hope Eugene cops are on doughnut breaks

Wednesday night as die-hard land-use activists speed between meetings.

• As we continue looking for Iraq's WMDs, war corporations are finding big profits. Raytheon reports an 18 percent increase in missile sales. Fighter jet maker Lockheed's sales are up 57 percent. But don't count on the billions in new federal war spending to do much for Oregon's economy. For every dollar that Oregonians pay for defense, only 23 cents returns as in-state military spending.

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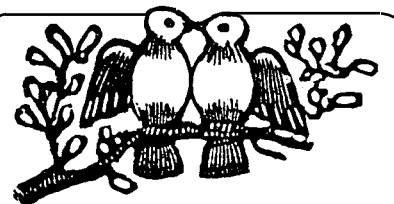
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