

forget that Bush has already cut the check and plans to run out of Iraq. Six months after we bombed Iraq into the stone age, Bush promised Iraq "the greatest financial commitment of its kind since the Marshall plan". After paying \$38 billion to his no bid contractor buddies, Bush has apparently decided to quit the rebuilding and pull out.

Laura Bush's pet project, a \$50 million children's hospital, is just an empty uncompleted shell. A \$75 million police academy to help train Iraq civilians so they "can stand up, so we can stand down" is uninhabitable because of fecal matter dripping from the ceilings.

These examples are just the tip of the iceberg of Bush's cut the check and run policies that will cause our titanic nation to slip forever into the abyss of debt.

Michael T. Hinojosa  
Drain

## WAKE UP, SHEEPLE!

Fisheries scientists predict the world's ocean fish are expected to go functionally extinct in less than 30 or 40 years.

Much of the harm currently is done by huge drift nets and bottom trawling that drag the bottom of the ocean floor, sweeping up everything in their path. This is not to mention the damage done to ocean fish populations by pollution, pesticides and global warming.

Can you even fathom the great oceans devoid of great fish like shark, bluefin tuna and marlin?

I suppose when the great fish stocks start running out the industry will switch over to whale and seals to feed the masses. Then we'll drive them into extinction, too.

This is not a problem you can just throw technology at and expect a relatively instant fix.

Wake up, sheeple!

The people who are making these decisions and mining the oceans in the name of bigger profits think that they are somehow immune from the earth's food supplies dwindling. Somehow they think their money can

buy them a way out. These same people consider you, the average college student, union worker, teacher, doctor, professor, social worker, as cattle. A resource to be manipulated, exploited and used up just like oil, coal, or the ocean's once vast fish populations.

So, you can be a part of the solution (boycott and divestment) or bury your head in your iPod or PS3 or 24-hour sports channel and continue to act and be treated like cattle.

Shannon Wilson  
Eugene

## UPRIGHT HUMANS

I hear so much talk on the radio and television about left and right and assigning people to the some name or another so they can be dismissed as having worthless opinions. It is as if the welfare of our families, our country and the world depended on a popularity contest. Can you believe our lives should be run by the winner of a beauty contest? I can't. So I made a list of issues I thought should be addressed by those who want to lead us; questions that can define an upright human being:

1. Do you live in a country that even considers morality or the consequences of its actions on the people in other countries? Has your country learned as a nation to live the kind of life made possible by its own natural and economic resources?

2. Do you live in a country that possesses a government that sees society as existing to not chiefly benefit a few but answer to the whole of its people? Are clean water, prenatal care, general health care, a basic education and enough to eat available to everyone?

3. Does your religion lead its believers in a spiritual life? Does it lead people in taming their own lives and seeking peace within, or does it lead its people in establishing control over other peoples' lives as both individuals and groups?

4. Are you a good person? Can you imagine a situation in which the suffering of another can be an acceptable price for some profit to you?

Leo Rivers  
Cottage Grove



“ Round trip ticket for Aunt Barbara in Sarasota, socks for Dad, black cocktail dress for holiday party, new ladder to replace the one that got broken while putting up the lights, fruit cake for Uncle Henry, video games, cookware for the dinner party, a new winter jacket, toys, groceries for the party, paint for the living room, trip to the beauty salon, that reciprocating saw thingy he keeps drooling over and ummm...decorations. ”

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## GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL BAKERS

**MARY** is one of the few bakers who embrace the season with joy and exuberance. Not only is she willing to be decked out in an elf hat and have visions of sugarplums dancing in her head, it's rumored that she listens to Christmas music 24/7. Besides being a spirited elf, she's also known 'round these parts as the savory queen, having created wonderful flavors for the new savory croissants and pizzettas. The smell of caramelized onions is a welcome scent amidst the usual sweet scents of the kitchen as she makes one of her favorite "desserts", a caramelized onion tart in a whole wheat crust. Her favorite way to eat chocolate is on the late shift with Shane (Ke Kau chocolatier) who keeps her smiling with chocolate truffles. She also indulges in coconut cream pie, lemon meringue pie and Italian cream cake in moments of "sheer gluttony". Her favorite sweet to bake at home? Kitchen sink cookies! Cookies loaded with as many good things you can pack into them, just like Mary.

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