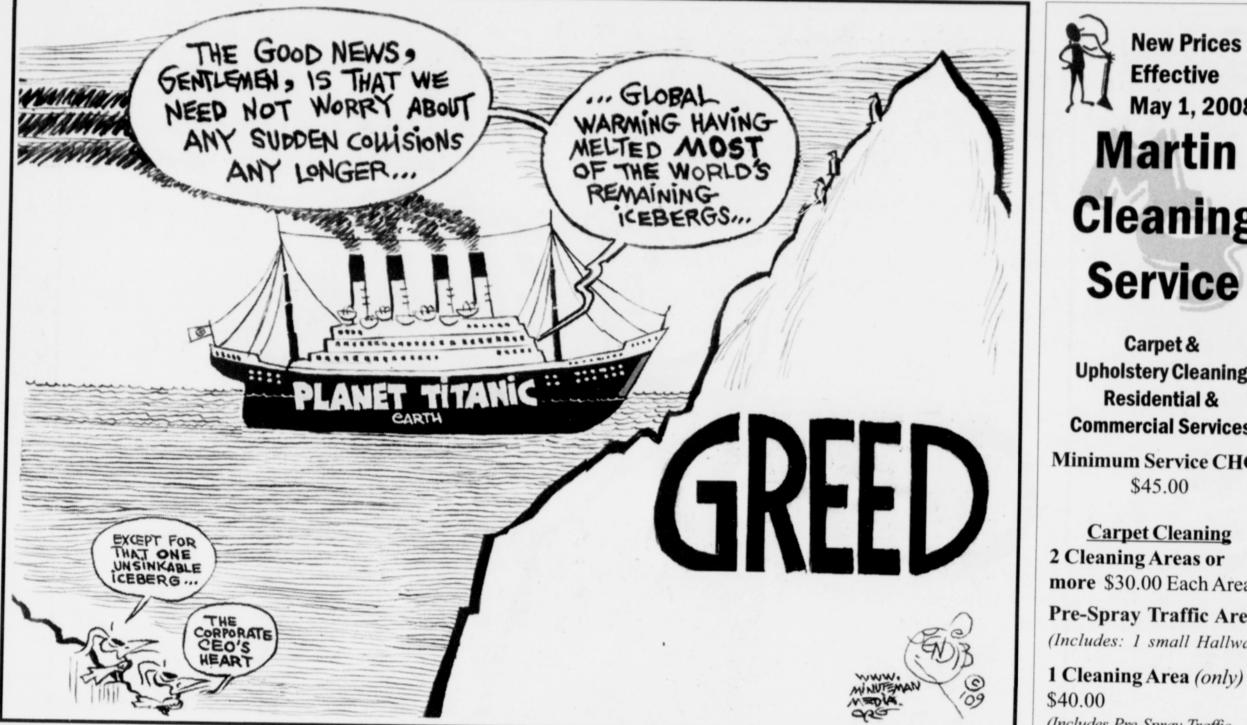
January 27, 2010

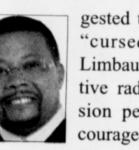
The Portland Observer



Shame on Haiti Critics

Kicking the victims when they are down

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS The damage and death toll from the earthquake in Haiti mark one of the biggest natural disasters in the last century. In a real show of humanity and brotherhood, the world has come forward, offering prayers and monetary support to Haiti. There are a few, however, who not to donate funds to Haitian only nation whose independence have sunk lower than most of us can imagine, making insensitive and inappropriate comments about Haiti at a time when the Haiti. country needs and deserves our compassion.



"cursed".

Limbaugh, a conservative radio and television personality, en-

The victims of the Haiti earthquake need your support. Take action and make a donation today.

gested the nation was go against everything that is hu- Haiti is and how crime ridden its Rush mane and just.

republic and the second-oldest republic, after the United States, couraged his listeners in this hemisphere. It is also the in Haiti, from the past occupa-

streets are. Indeed, it is a poor Haiti is the world's oldest black nation. And there is violence there. But America is partly responsible for the societal issues tion that left the country on unstable financial ground to our

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relief efforts because it will make President Obama "look good" if ful slave rebellion. The U.S. ocfunds and supplies were sent to

Politics and religious inclinations aside, it is unthinkable that Rightwing conservative leader these two individuals, and oth-Pat Robertson remarked that the ers, would, in effect, kick the earthquake was a result of Haiti's earthquake victims while they "pact with the devil" and sug- are down. Remarks like these

was gained as part of a successcupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934, an unstable foundation and a financial system that drained the country's wealth, taking it outside the nation instead of reinvesting it in the local economy. We keep hearing how poor judge.

current lack of interest in providing real support to the country.

The victims of the Haiti earthquake need your support. Take action and make a donation today. Your contribution, large or small, will serve as a slap in the face to these insensitive critics who choose to pour salt into the wounds of an already devastated nation.

Contact your local Red Cross and many argue that this created for information on you may help or visit the organization online at redcross.org.

Greg Mathis is a retired Michigan District Court judge and syndicated television show

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