



**New Prices  
Effective  
May 1, 2010**

## Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery  
Cleaning  
Residential &  
Commercial Services**  
Minimum Service CHG.  
\$45.00

A small distance/travel charge  
may be applied

### CARPET CLEANING

**2 Cleaning Areas or  
more \$30.00 Each Area**

**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas**  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

**1 Cleaning Area (only)**  
\$40.00

Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area  
(Hallway Extra)

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With  
Other Services): \$25.00**

**Area/Oriental Rugs:**

\$25.00 Minimum

**Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):**

\$40.00 Minimum

**Heavily Soiled Area:**

Additional \$10.00 each area  
(Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

### UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$69.00

Loveseat: \$49.00

Sectional: \$109 - \$139

Chair or Recliner:

\$25 - \$49

Throw Pillows (With

Other Services): \$5.00

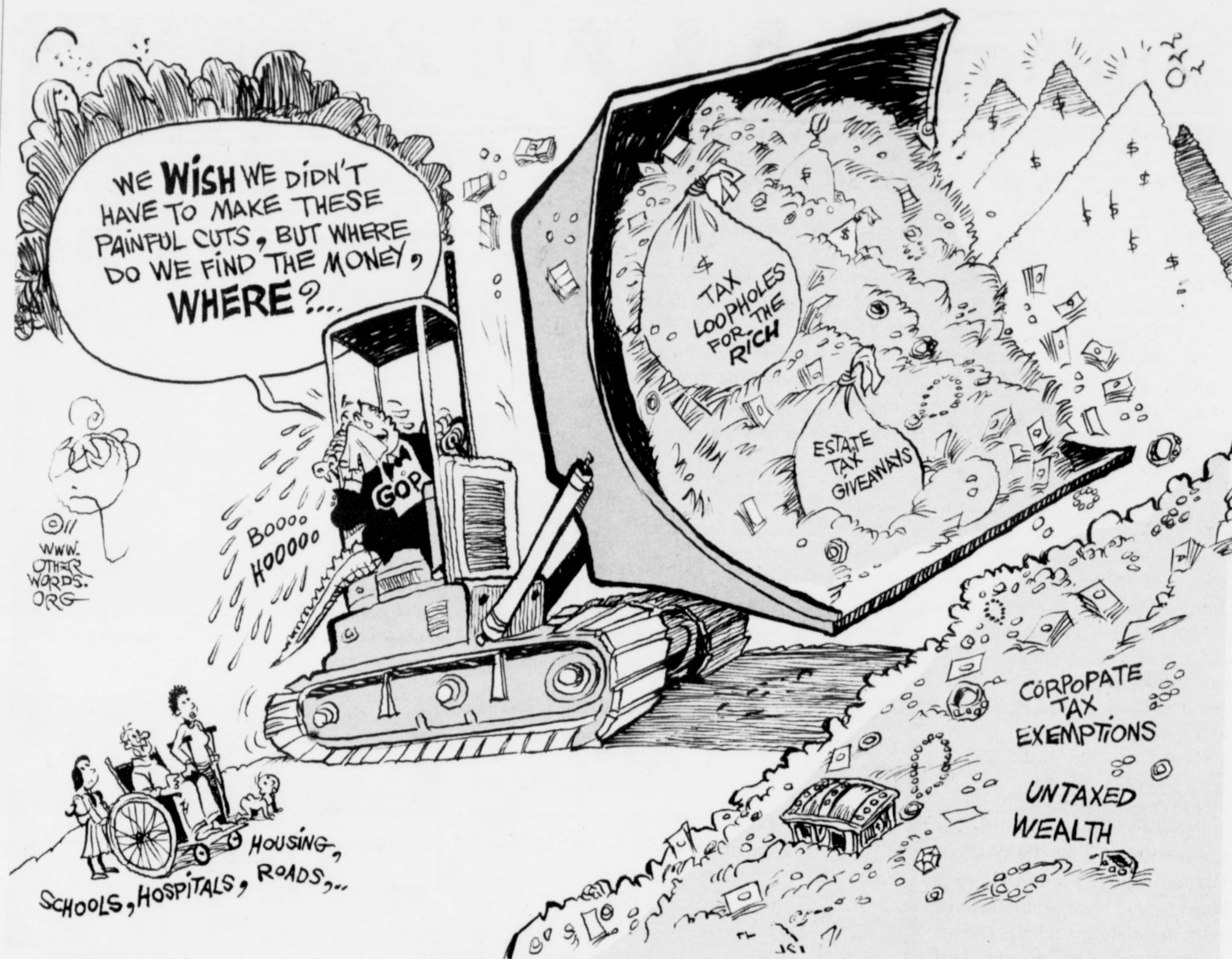
### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**SEE CURRENT FLYER  
FOR ADDITIONAL  
PRICES & SERVICES  
Call for Appointment  
(503) 281-3949**

# OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).



## Welcome to the Overt Class Warfare

When the most  
vulnerable are  
thrown overboard

BY LEE A. DANIELS

Have I become hard of hearing? Or is it true that the paeans to the middle class – their being exalted as “the backbone” of America – have disappeared from the political arena?

It certainly seems so that the fulsome praise which once resounded so loudly on the campaign trails and in the halls of Congress and state legislatures among a certain set of politicians and ideologues is now all but officially taboo.

That’s understandable, of course. After all, one can’t smoothly praise the supposedly great American middle class while one is trying to shove a great many of the them overboard.

We’re now being subjected to the latest political fever: the craze to appear fiscally prudent by throwing the most vulnerable among us – those out of work – overboard.

The economy remains in deep trouble. The deficit is burgeoning. The champions of laissez-faire capitalism, papering over the fact that their boosting of laissez-faire capitalist policies helped produce this mess, now declare their commitment to fiscal sobriety – as long as others are made the sacrificial goats.



In Michigan, Florida, Arkansas, and Missouri state legislators and governors are enacting or proposing measures to cut the number of weeks the jobless can receive unemployment benefits.

The jobless can now receive benefits for up to 26 weeks via regular benefit programs; most of the legislation enacted and the proposals would cut it to 20 weeks.

This is where Middle-Class America comes in, because the great bulk of the jobless – which now number more than 14 million, more than 6 million of whom have been out of work longer than 26 weeks – had jobs that paid middle-class wages.

Once these people were targeted for preposterous easy credit offers -- no-down-payment-needed mortgages, and whiz-bang, can’t-miss stock deals -- many of which were just glorified scams given a cover of respectability by the rhetoric of laissez-faire capitalism. Now, the middle class is condemned by conservatives for its conspicuous consumption, greed and indolence.

After all, who are those public school teachers, government bureaucrats and employees of government-run social service programs, and police officers and firefighters now being pilloried by the fiscal Savonarolas but middle-class Americans.

Welcome to the overt class war, where the rhetoric of fiscal responsibility – from politicians who ran their campaigns for office at a

deficit and are now fund-raising to have other people pay off their debts – can’t disguise the ideological rigidity and callousness at work.

It’s what I call the Titanic complex. I draw the concept from the book sociologist Ruth Sidel published in the mid-1990s, *Keeping Women and Children Last: America’s War on the Poor*. In her introduction, Sidel wrote about the bitter facts that are often glossed over in the telling of the tragedy: that because the great ocean liner, considered by its builders unsinkable, didn’t have enough lifeboats for all its 2,200 passengers, a fierce class dynamic determined who survived and who perished once it met its destiny in the North Atlantic.

“Among first and second class passengers, only 8 percent of the women drowned...” Sidel notes, “[but] in steerage 45 percent of the women perished. ... only one child of the 30 children in first and second class died, while in steerage 53 of the 76 children, 70 percent, drowned. Furthermore, there is clear evidence that ... many [passengers] in steerage were purposely prevented from reaching the decks that housed their only hope of survival.”

Just as the selection process for who was to survive that great tragedy was class-driven and unjust, so are the craven actions of those carrying out today’s war against the unemployed.

Lee A. Daniels is Director of Communications for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Editor-in-Chief of *TheDefendersOnline*.