



**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

Love seat: \$49.00

Sectional: \$109 - \$139

Chair or Recliner:

\$25 - \$49

Throw Pillows (With

Other Services): \$5.00

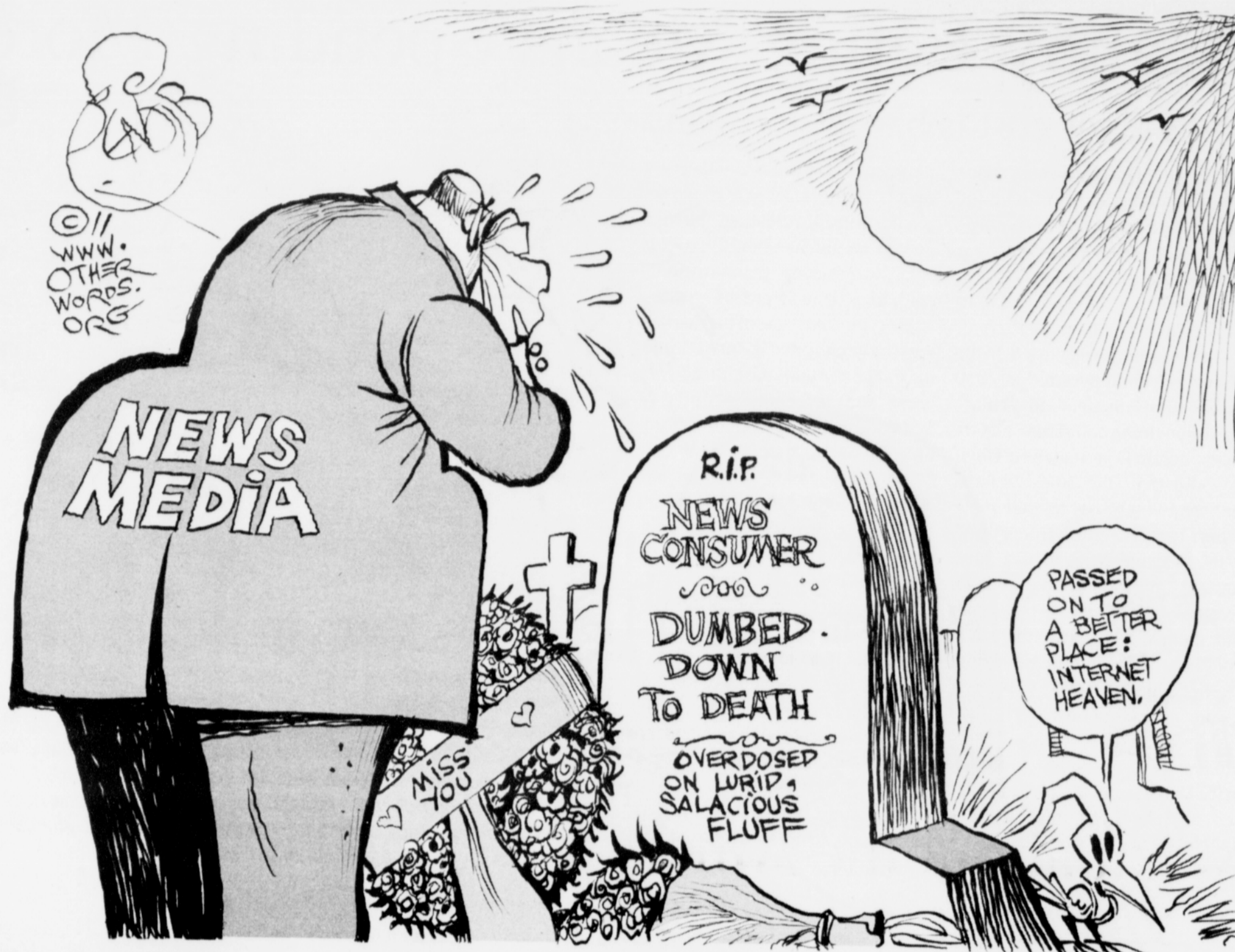
### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

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

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# 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).



## A Missed Opportunity on Dept Ceiling

### War costs rarely told

BY WIM LAVEN

For months the deadline loomed; on Aug. 2 the USA would reach its limit on borrowing. Hard times and ugly arguing took place, but in the end an agreement was reached. Call it what you will: a compromise, a resolution, "the president surrenders" read a NY Times headline. I'll just call it a disappointment.

I never once heard mention of military spending, the cost of running military bases all over the globe, the cost and inadequacy of our combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, or anything else about our failed military policy.

It is a triple whammy: we spend more on these campaigns than anything else, they are not working, and challenging the status quo guarantees political death—perhaps the only truth in American politics. What will it take to honestly talk about the military industrial complex in America?

The truth about war is rarely told; war is a brutal, harsh, and traumatic reality. Lives are changed; soldiers and civilians die. One truth is that in today's American conflicts far more deaths are civilian than combatant.

In World War I about one in 20 deaths was civilian, today about one in 20 is combatant (the tables have turned)—a harsh and traumatic reality—for all the killing we do little is achieved; no wonder we don't talk about it!



There is a certain underlying belief, in this country, that war is inevitable and that violence ("strength through superior firepower") is the best response. It is a strong mythology, taught from a very early age, and rarely challenged, but largely inaccurate.

The opposing truths: Violence rarely ends with the same success as non-violence; and the bases the U.S. has in 135 different countries have done little to slow the prevalence of war and even less in the way of making anyone safer through combat operations. The success, if there is any, of combat operations is almost always a short lived one.

There is a rich history of the efficacy of nonviolence, and the ability of peace-building and peace-making operations to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Violent conflict can be avoided and/or ended and enduring positive change is made.

Many of our military leaders are aware of, and open to, this reality. Gen. Petraeus is one modern example, he routinely requested more non-combat operations when he spoke to Congress; he said they were less costly in human life and monetarily.

Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke prolifically about the continued need for disarmament, the human cost of war, and the need to "compose difference, not with arms, but with intellect and decent purpose."

Make no doubt about it; the military-industrial complex is alive and well. On any day, week, month, or year, in the last six decades, more money is spent on military operations than

anything else—more commonly—than everything else combined!

There are war profiteers and in principle this creates a problem not just in transparency (what are the real interests?), but also because it creates contradictory goals. If a business is profitable, then the business will seek to maintain profits; decisions on peace and war should never be left to private individuals, businesses, or corporations, directly or indirectly (campaign contributions and other such influence) the human tendency toward greed is simply too problematic.

I had hoped, so desperately, that financial crisis—ruin—could have forced the issue. I don't know what it will take, how much worse things will have to get, to face the emergent issue of this generation: violence was not, is not, and never will be the answer to our problems as it tends to be found at the source and cause of them. The best truth to this is exposed in our military itself, where non-combat operations are so much more effective.

We are in a world with serious problems that could be addressed, we have the resources and the means, but we refuse to make them priorities.

What we spend on combat operations for one week could feed all of Africa for a year; what we spend in one month could pay for every college-aged person on the planet to get a bachelor's degree.

So, what has the return on investing in violence been anyway, and are we ever going to actually talk about it?

Wim Laven is an adjunct instructor of Conflict Resolution at Portland State University.