

# The INDEPENDENT

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## Opinion

### Profiteers, as slimy now as in all wars

The airlines were losing money before September 11. United Airlines lost about \$600 million in the six months prior to September and were going to lose another \$300 million in the third quarter. But, hey, don't worry, folks, with the active participation of Congress and the administration, we bailed them out using Sept. 11 as the excuse.

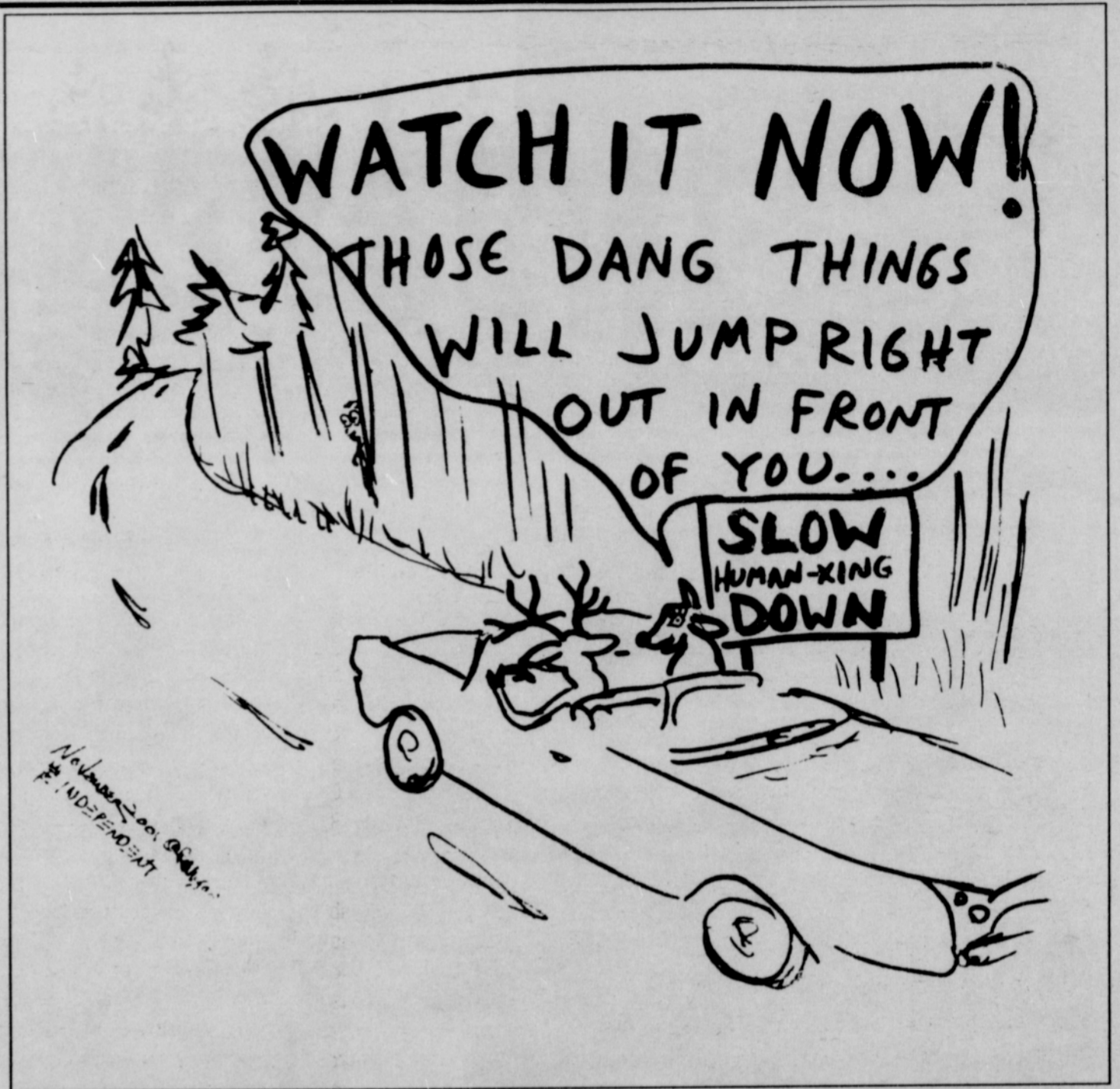
Of course, bailing them out doesn't mean there was no loss of jobs, it only means their shareholders passed the existing losses on to people who don't own airline stock – ordinary taxpayers – and the executives got to keep their jobs while thousands of employees were laid off.

Without diminishing the impact of more than 5,000 lives lost on Sept. 11, why isn't Congress concerned about the forty or fifty thousand people – and their families – who lost their income because they worked at the World Trade Center? Not all of them were in well-paid jobs with benefits and insurance, either. Many of them were part-time people who cleaned offices or filled in on low-end clerical jobs, or worked in mail rooms, or were messengers. For every "glamorous" job there were probably 20 or 30 low-income workers.

And now, in addition to these tragic circumstances, we appear to be headed into a recession, instead of just an "economic downturn," which means a whole lot more people are going to be out of work. But if you listen to some (most?) of the Republican leadership, you know they want to fix the economy by eliminating the alternative minimum tax for corporations, even refunding billions of dollars paid by corporations back to 1986!

The same people don't want to spend tax money on public works that could provide jobs working on roads, bridges, water or sewage treatment plants, because that's, horrors...PORK! They aren't concerned about the kind of taxpayers who actually lose jobs, they don't even want to extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks.

War profiteers used to sell hard to get items for huge profits. Now they just write a check to their buddies in Congress and the administration, then put their profits in the bank. People who use their income to buy food for their families just don't count.



### Ike Says...

By Dale Webb, member  
Nehalem Valley Chapter Izaak Walton League

Anyone for salmon? It's unbelievable that some of us are getting tired of eating salmon, but that is the case this year. I hadn't caught a salmon since I was a grade schooler, but I punched five salmon on my harvest tag this year. I'm not an avid salmon fisherman, especially when it means being elbow to elbow with a bunch of other fishermen. This year's hatchery fish runs were so large, though, that there were places even I could fish without being surrounded by the hordes.

This brings us to the current controversy surrounding salmon and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings. As many of you have read, a federal judge has ordered de-listing of Oregon coastal Coho salmon. The judge ruled that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) erred in listing wild Coho salmon as threatened because there are lots of hatchery Coho and "he" doesn't recognize a distinction between hatchery and wild Coho. NMFS recognizes a difference between hatchery and wild fish. It also wanted the distinction between the two so fisheries managers could manage them differently, allowing sportsmen and commercial fishermen to harvest hatchery fish, while offering protection to wild fish.

Is there a difference between hatchery and wild fish? I have been repeatedly told by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife personnel that there is a difference, but I have not seen a convincing study. Yet, common sense tells us that, at the least, there is a behavioral difference be-

tween the two. Wild fish are spawned in a natural habitat, i.e., river, stream, etc.; hatchery fish are spawned by man in a hatchery. Wild fish eggs are subjected to disease, predators and natural events; hatchery eggs are protected from disease, predators and natural events. When wild fish hatch, they must find their own feed, are subjected to predators and to environmental conditions that can cause disease and death; hatchery fish are fed antibiotics through their unnatural feed, protected from predators and have clean, cool water. This is why hatcheries have such a high ratio of survivors compared to wild fish.

Some studies conclude that, once hatchery fish are released, they suffer higher predation rates than wild fish. This is thought by many to be the result of hatchery rearing on the fishes' reaction to natural predators and feeding habits. There is also some evidence that hatchery spawners are not as successful as wild fish, but I have not seen a suggestion that the offspring of a hatchery/wild pair have continued impairment.

Can we continue to produce hatchery fish forever? Probably, as long as certain safeguards are put into place. Let's examine the Coho in our local stream, the Nehalem. The only hatchery production that exists for the Nehalem River is at the North Fork hatchery. This hatchery sits very low in our drainage. In fact, these fish are actually raised in a different river, since these two rivers are tied together only through a shared tide water and name. If the wild fish of the Nehalem were allowed to go extinct, there would be no more Coho coursing through the upper river

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