

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published twice monthly, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen. Editor, Noni Andersen. Phone/Fax: 503-429-9410, e-mail: noni@vernonia.com Display Advertising, Clark Mc-Gaugh, 503-429-9410, e-mail: clark@vernonia.com

Opinion

War keeps attention away from economy

While America has been distracted, sitting in front of the television and watching the war against Iraq as though it were a sporting contest, the economy has continued to fall into a deeper hole.

Some 2.4 million jobs have been lost since George Bush took office, 600,000 of them since November.

Factory orders dropped 1.5 percent in February, the steepest drop in five months.

Unemployment rose in March as 108,000 jobs disappeared, 1,200 of them in Oregon. The increase in unemployment wasn't large because of the number of people have been out of work so long that their benefits are long gone and they no longer count – even as statistics.

Is this all the fault of the president? No, but it is his responsibility to use his position to help the people of this country.

Here is how he proposes to help.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Bush administration and his lackeys in the House have proposed a budget that offers the wealthy another \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts while demanding that cuts be made elsewhere (must be fiscally responsible, right?).

Those cuts would come from programs that provide food stamps, school lunches, health care for the poor and the disabled, temporary assistance to needy families, student loans and, unbelievably, even veterans' benefits.

Under the House plan, \$265 billion would have to be cut from entitlement programs over ten years, about \$165 billion from programs that assist low-income Americans.

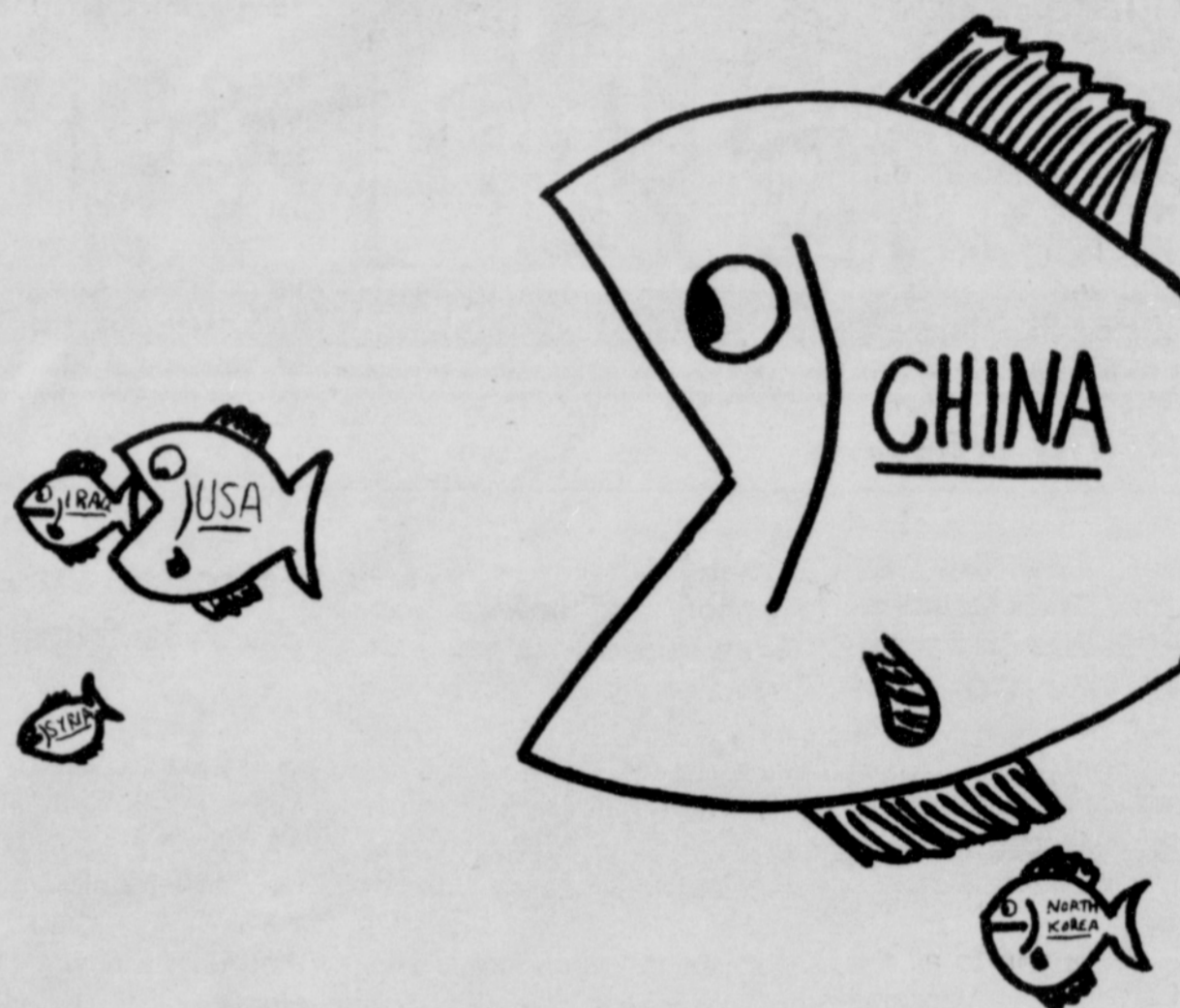
To quote another Republican president:

"These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert to fleece the people."

—Abraham Lincoln, January, 1837

So, when your job is gone and you can't pay the rent or the utilities, just wrap yourself in the flag. The current crop of Republicans thinks that's enough to keep you warm.

Who profits? Who pays for it?



APRIL '03 © RUSKIN INDEPENDENT

Letters

Logging practices do affect water quality

To The Editor:

It is true that logging is not new to the Rock Creek Basin. The entire watershed has been logged once. Some of it is being logged for the third time.

What is NOT true is any suggestion that logging never has, and never will have, negative effects on water quality. This denial of reality is refuted by common sense and extensive scientific research.

It is also true that forest practices have been changing. Riparian zones and wetlands are receiving more protection. Logging roads are being engineered with water quality and fish passage a priority. Loggers are being educated.

Collaborative groups like our watershed council are actively involved in assessment, monitoring and enhancement projects. These efforts have been rewarded with cleaner water and more fish in our streams.

It is appropriate that the city of Vernonia become more interested in it's source of drinking

water. We, members of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, would welcome a representative from the city at our meetings.

Respectfully,
Dennis A. Nelson
Vernonia

Propaganda justifies and promotes war

To the Editor:

Primarily, I want to thank you for your informative and accurate accounting of our current administration's policy, product and resulting harm to the American people in your March 20 editorial. How shocking to see the compared similarity of the Nazi Reichsmarshal Herman Goering's ideology to our own propaganda promoted by U.S. mass media today.

As a grandmother, I remember World War II. I know that many Americans do not. But that war was gruesome, as are all wars. Old military persons try to glorify it continually in order to justify their participation. It is indeed sad.

They really are heroes for

putting their lives on the line. The sad part is that they don't understand how they were, and are, manipulated to do that.

They don't understand the primary reasons their government had and why they were convinced to make such choices.

I wrote a poem. It is with anguish that I feel the need to share it at this time.

*War is for killing and dying.
Its proponents are simply lying;
Through games
More wealth
More cheers
More fame!
And their couch-potato quarterback
wearing chaps and a cowboy hat
calls for escalated absurdity
with gutless stupidity
and Immoral exploitive implying,
for brainwashing rhetoric,
Thrusting those IN THE THICK
OF IT,
the INNOCENT, BRAVE and
DENYING!*

*WAR IS FOR KILLING AND DYING!
It's proponents are simply lying!*

Nancy Phillips
Vernonia