

and fraud.

But Bush keeps his word for corporate America, delivering trillions in tax cuts, tax shelters, liability protections and no-bid government contracts in our new satellite countries. Halliburton, still paying Cheney's \$30 million severance pay, is the big winner so far.

As Afghanistan and Iraq devolve into chaos, as bin Laden and al-Qaida plan more terror, veterans' benefits and social programs for the most vulnerable are shredded, power grids collapse, the deficit, unemployment, bankruptcies and home repossessions climb to record levels, and good jobs are outsourced to Third World nations.

Tell me again: What mission was it that was supposedly accomplished?

*Dan Bishton*

## **Prescription benefit will imitate Social Security's shortcomings**

Donald Backofen acknowledges the financial problems in the U.S. are way out of line. He writes that Congress and the president are the ones ruining the financial future of this country, while he asks seniors to contact these same representatives to support yet another new multitrillion-dollar unfunded program.

How can a person support a program without knowing who is going to pay for it? Or is it enough to know they will not be one of those who has to pay?

Many seniors did pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, but did they pay enough to fund their own benefits? How much did you and your employer pay in taxes? How much are you getting back? Are you being fair to today's workers? Why not allow all those who want out of Social Security and Medicare the option to opt out without any future benefits in

exchange for not paying these taxes anymore? If this were allowed, both programs would exhaust their trust funds in three years or less, or they would have to cut benefits by more than 80 percent.

The reason why is simple. All those born before 1931 did not pay enough in taxes, plus credited compound interest, to fund their own benefits collectively. In other words, it was poor planning.

If politicians pass a prescription drug plan for seniors, they must not care about workers, the future or the young.

*William R. Larsen*

## **Why insult Spanish speakers with signs of your suspicion?**

There are a lot of things in this world today that go unnoticed. One thing I have noticed may be insignificant to some people, but it is very important to me. I was at a local fast food restaurant recently, waiting in the drive-through. Upon pulling up to the window, I noticed a vast array of small signs directed toward the customers. I was taken aback by the ONE sign printed in Spanish: "Night managers do not have keys to the safe. All safes are time locked."

It baffled me that this restaurant was eager to print only one sign in particular for Spanish-speaking people. Why not print the menu in Spanish? Why not print the "Now Hiring" sign in Spanish?

My hope, like many others', is that one day prejudice and racism will come to an end. I also hope people will realize we are not here to judge others by the color of their skin or by the language that they speak, but only by the content of their character.

*Patricia L. Zamora*