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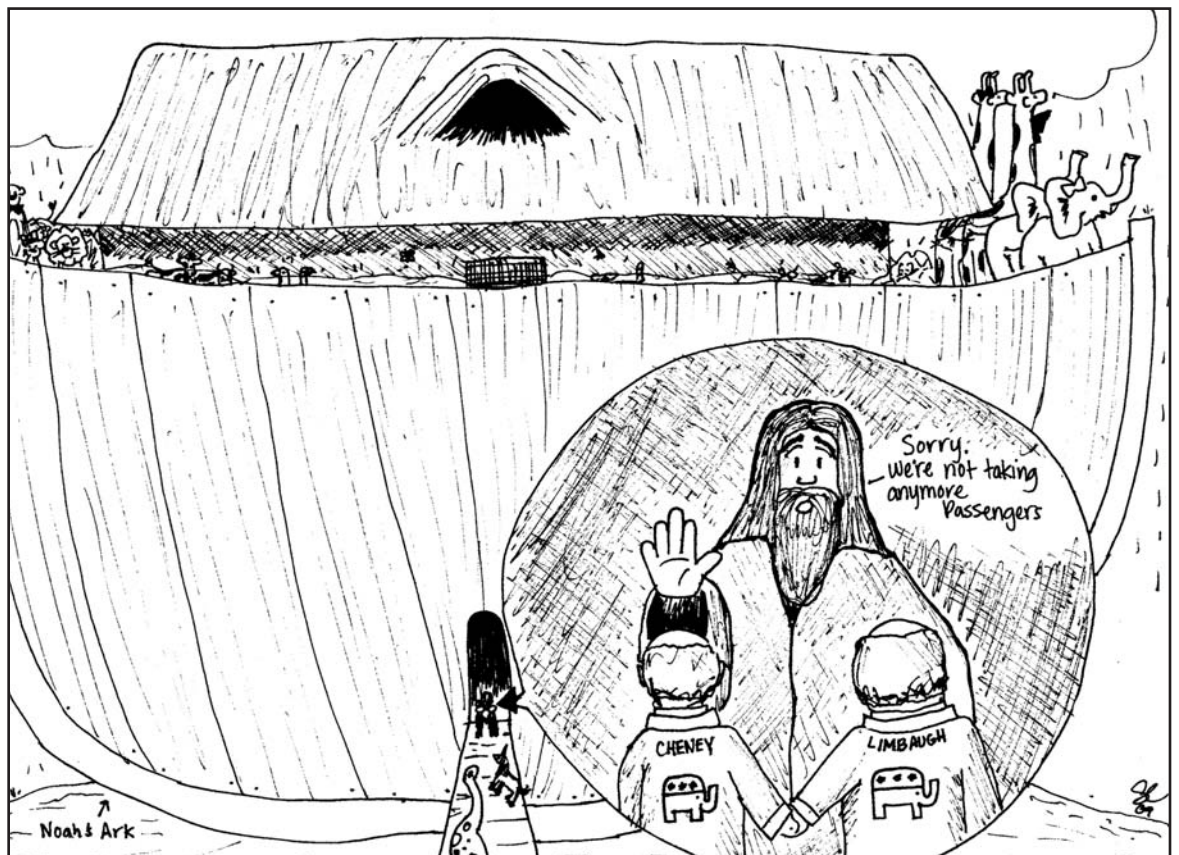


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## OPINION

# Year of 2012 looms close, maybe a bit too close

By TARA LYNN LANNING  
Photo staff

With a little more than three years left, the clock is ticking and the Mayan "doomsday" prophecy set for 2012 remains a mystery. In our time of environmental, financial and religious turmoil, some people are fearful of some vague coming catastrophe predicted in the ancient legends of the Mayan culture.

The global population is booming and wars are raging around the world, directly impacting the already weakened climate. And at

the same time, people are connected to each other as never before. But what is truly amazing is that our generation will not only witness these changes, but will have an influence on their outcome.

The date December 21, 2012 on our modern Gregorian calendar, translates to be the end date of the Mayan calendar. The Mayans were well known for their accurate measure of astrological signs and the solar year.

This means the date 12.21.2012 on our calendar is analogous to the starting and end date of the Mayan

calendar, 13.0.0.0. Many speculate that when this date is reached, it will be the beginning of a new age, either brought on the wings of some great cataclysm or social upheaval.

According to Mayan legends, the gods created the world three times and then didn't like the way it turned out. So they wiped the slate clean to start over.

So the fourth attempt, which is what we live in now, comes up for the gods' approval, or disapproval, on 12.21.12.

It is important to note that though

I am discussing a hypothetical "doomsday," the end of the world could also be interpreted to mean great change in the collective consciousness, a massive climate change or a major cultural shift.

These various possibilities mean that we as a generation must be prepared to do our best to care for one another and our planet more responsibly.

Should there be some earth-shattering cataclysm, it would be the job of the young able-bodied to pull the injured from the rubble and keep our neighbors calm. And in the

case of political upheaval, solidarity would be preferable to division in our country. Many would have to put ideological conflicts aside for the greater good.

It would also be in our best interests to reexamine our consumption of resources, our waste disposal methods, and our use of land in order to be better stewards of the Earth.

Whatever the future might bring, every one of us will surely be called upon to make a contribution to the events shaping our world. Now all we need is a little time.

# Dismantling the greatest American robbery

By NOAH LEVIN  
Opinion editor

After the better part of a decade, the giant, rampaging monster is on its last leg. The political machine that was the Republican Party is teetering on the brink of annihilation, and the final moves are being made to hobble the beast once and for all. For me, the past eight years have left me awestruck at the audacity and outright subversive nature of the policies and beliefs pushed on American government; from the steady deregulation of American industry to the "Faith Based Initiatives" that had no place in our government to President

Bush's refusal to sign the Kyoto Accord, alienating our nation from the world's attempts to slow global warming. The bold, ballsy maneuvers by the Bush administration frustrated me and made me want to pull my hair out.

These guys were a gang of thieves, gleefully picking the pockets of all hardworking Americans, and then coolly redistributing the wealth among the rich and conservative. But in 2008, Americans voted for a change of management, and to my relief, chose an outspoken, ballsy progressive, rather than the outspoken, ballsy liars. The thieves are now on the run, trying desperately to make up for a dim-witted President Bush and a largely

disastrous presidential campaign full of some of the worst slander and mud slinging I can recall. And now our new, calm, scholarly president is beginning the dismantling of all the policies, which made the thieves' pockets so full and ours so light.

The Republican Party's stance on many pressing social issues, such as their support for California's passing of Proposition 8 banning gay marriage, were also supportive of legislation that violated civil rights laws and were generally unconstitutional. The Republicans' anti-gay stance is particularly surprising, considering that in the past eight years several Republican politicians, many of whom were outspoken homophobes, have been

"outed" as closeted homosexuals themselves.

These two-faced, hypocritical scoundrels have also sought to weaken the morale of the American people in the wake of 9/11 by imprisoning innocents, establishing legislation that gave the government the right to spy on its own constituency, and distracting the populace from the larger, more important issues at hand by discouraging intellectualism and liberalism.

Thankfully, President Obama has already ordered the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base to be shut down this year, wiping away one of the blackest marks on recent U.S. history. Our new president has also begun to put the regulations

on banks and the financial industry that had been previously removed by past Republican administrations in the 1980's.

It is an encouraging sign that it is not just our president who is seeking to right the wrong committed by the Bush administration, but politicians and advocacy groups around the country are stepping up and putting in motion the changes needed to get our nation back on track. Here in California we will hopefully see an end to the unconstitutional Prop. 8, and soon racial profiling of Arabs and the Patriot Act will come to an end as well. Even with economic crisis weighing heavily upon our minds, there will be brighter times ahead

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# Should Prop. 8 stand as a law or be repealed?



**Orlando Bugtong**  
MARKETING

"It should be repealed. Everybody has a right to marry."



**Lydia Bringhurst**  
COMMUNICATIONS

"We've heard the voice of the people and should respect that."



**Vinnie Jhaj**  
HOSPITALITY MANAGMENT

"They should definitely repeal it."



**Mani Bhata**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE

"Repeal it."



**Cheryl West**  
SOCIAL WORK

"It ought to be repealed."