

passive affair. You mostly just sit there — typing, reading, watching, listening. But these new and continuing online endeavors ask visitors to do a little more by taking a stand or committing themselves to a particular cause, even if it's done virtually.

**WWW.STOPTHESEALHUNT.COM**

Through Stop the Seal Hunt, the International Fund for Animal Welfare is asking for "300,000 actions for 300,000 seals" — the number of creatures that the organization says will be killed in this year's hunt. To that end, the site seeks donations of \$25 to \$500 for costs covering everything from a seal-hunt observation permit to one hour of flight time for a surveillance team.

**WWW.WORKINGAMERICA.ORG/HEALTHCAREHUSTLE**

Do you have a health-care horror story? If so, the AFL-CIO wants to hear from you through its new online effort, In the Heart of the Health Care Shuffle. Part of its Working America activism site, the AFL-CIO's campaign asks people to post their accounts of medical malfeasance, hospital blunders and health-insurance atrocities.

**WWW.APPEALFORREDRESS.ORG**

Opposition to the war in Iraq is nothing new, but one online campaign, Appeal for Redress, has been making ripples lately because it seeks to collect digital signatures of support from active-duty military personnel.

**WWW.PETITIONONLINE.COM**

Petition Online is a popular catchall site that provides free hosting for petitions. They are digitally signed by supporters and then forwarded to the targeted entity by the originator. On a recent visit, the site's top 25 petitions included seemingly lofty campaigns such as stopping whaling off the coast of Japan and seeking reimbursement from Menu Foods for costs incurred by pet owners over a recent pet food recall.

*Randy A. Salas, McClatchy-Tribune*

**I F\*\*KING HATE MARCH!**

Did you get your bracket set? Where's your bracket? Who do you have going all the way in your bracket? You want to see my bracket? How did your bracket do today?

Bracket, Bracket, BRACKET! SHADDAP!

Every damn year I hear the same retarded conversations about NCAA basketball. I don't care if you want to waste your time with a stupid piece of paper with an even lamer sport for the entire month of March, just don't try to force me to get involved.



I had a guy come up to me at work and ask me politely if I wanted to take part in a March Madness pool and had a set of brackets for me to fill out. I politely declined and thought that was the end of it. That's where the pleasantries ended.

He starts pushing: "Come on, everyone else is doing it." I'm thinking, what, do I look like I'm 5 years old or something? Because that's the last time I remember "everyone else is doing it" convinced me to do something...

Read more at [www.nextnc.com](http://www.nextnc.com).

*fullmetal alchemist*

**MAYBE THIS IS WHY MORE PEOPLE DO NOT VOTE**

I just received the official ballot for Fort Collins Regular Municipal

Election in the mail today. When I saw that there were only four ballot questions for my precinct, I thought, "Great, this shouldn't take much time at all!"

That was before I actually read one of the questions.

City-Initiated Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2 asks,

"Shall Article XI, Section 5 of the Fort Collins City Charter (Franchises and Public Utilities) be amended to eliminate leases and other rights from the existing twenty-year limit on the length of franchises, leases and other rights that the City can grant to private persons or entities to use the streets or public places or property of the City, so that only franchises will be subject to this twenty-year limit?"

Now, I thought I did pretty well in the reading comprehension section of the SAT exam (then again, that

was 15 years ago), but I had to read the above no less than three times



just to get the gist of what it is asking. Of course, not having researched nor pondered its pros and cons, I can't really answer "yes" or "no" yet.

Um, I guess I will leave it blank for now.

I have determined a good fifth question to add to the ballot, however. It is, "Who writes these things?!"

*felix*

Why can't we be friends?  
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