

Decorah Journal

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Giant piggy banks roll through Decorah

In perhaps the ultimate example of taking a political message to the streets, a blubbery, grunting, and eye-popping pig mobile (see photo, bottom left) is rolling across Iowa, and will be in Decorah until at least tomorrow (Friday, May 23). According to activist and local Pig Mobile driver, Shirley Vermorel (see photo, top left), the Pig Mobile may be in Decorah through this weekend, before heading to its next destination, Harpers Ferry.

The "Pig Mobile," the creation of Ben and Jerry's co-founder Ben Cohen, consists of three oversized piggy banks "that demonstrate how out of whack America's spending priorities are," according to a press release issued by Iowans for Sensible Priorities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating Iowans about how the federal budget spends their tax dollars and to helping them to demand sensible spending priorities.

The enormous lead pig shows how much we spend on the Pentagon each year (\$420 billion), a figure that doesn't even include money for the Iraq and Afghan wars. The medium-sized pig illustrates how much the federal government spends on K-12 education (\$34 billion); and the third pig shows America's dedication to fighting AIDS abroad and to lessening world hunger (\$10 billion).



For more information visit www.sensibleiowans.org.

Decorah Newspapers photos by Jike Berg-Raymond.