

Blind spot

While on the one hand I am vicariously exuberant about the steamrolling momentum of positive change in Eastern Europe, I am embarrassed about the political role our supposedly illustrious nation is not playing.

I am fed-up with their pretend game, and their pecking order-scapegoat system. The lie they live about our economy is as vital a lie as the timber executives' lie about the amount of harvestable trees in our woods.

Those Washington conservatives can't be as dumb as they think we are. Lamentably, they continue to embellish our already outlandish arms stockpile, while not helping the perilous state of our educational system. For those still not brainwashed: Which would be a better investment in our nation's future?

They exacerbate the national deficit, nuclear fear, crime, and drug abuse (and give themselves a raise!) before recognizing or addressing the fact that

our nation is on a slippery slope with the outcome being an inferior democracy with an inferior economy (the least of our worries), all for fear of losing their chauffeured limos. The democratizing of Eastern Europe has inspired citizens here and everywhere that change is overdue.

I'm aware of a blind spot of optimism in the public mind. Of all the many respectable causes needing commitment, we cannot forget those in charge pretending that communism is all we have to fear. Don't be optimistically mute while watching the lies go unchecked. Soon they'll know it's the people they represent to whom they need to pay attention.

Sally Claggett
Eugene

Fabulous Four

I wish to wholeheartedly thank the Fabulous Four, those Student Health Insurance Com-

mittee yes-men. It has been some time since I have been so entertained by junior politicians. The finest chuckle from Saint Nick could not register on the scale established by my full-bellied, bellowing laugh that shook the North American continent upon reading the article concerning "mandatory insurance premiums." (ODE, Dec. 4).

Fools, and I mean you are the kindest of jesters, you play the part well. What say you of the

flag burning issue: Shall we revive it? I am a sophomore and will never pay for an insurance premium while a student.

Will you have me expelled from the University for this? Will you offer a grandfather clause? Well then, you will fall short of "100 percent participation." Payment to a private business cannot be mandatory upon enrollment in a public university. The joke was a good one, a gem well worth front-page coverage. Thank you, Em-

erald.

It is time for the Fabulous Four, the green politicians, to break from these prudential decisions on behalf of the student body and let loose. Do something even funnier. Ask for a kinder, gentler campus while supporting human rights violations. Donate some money to the El Salvadoran government.

Jefferson Davis Spencer
English



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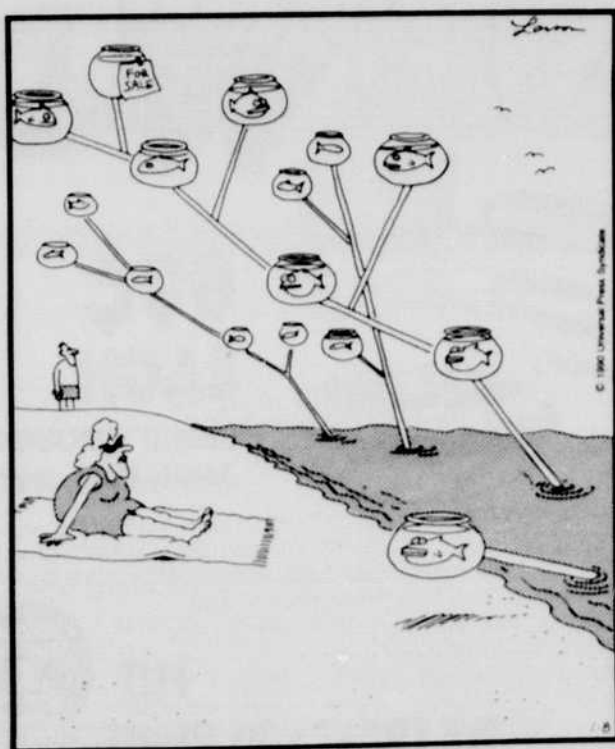
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By GARY LARSON



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