

National Forensics League

Four Butte Falls High School students attended districts for the National level of competition at Southern Oregon University on March 14th and 15th. All four were phenomenal. Vallorie Petersen made it through the first three rounds. Victoria Lawrence made it through the first four rounds. And, Stacy Smith and Lou Hoyer made it through all five rounds (the maximum number of rounds) placing them in the top seven students at districts. Lou Hoyer is first alternate to Nationals. If first or second place are unable to attend, she is next in line. All four girls were very committed to their speeches and three of them are going to districts to try and win at the state level with the OSAA tournament. Stacy Smith has almost achieved the highest possible degree in National Forensics League and is the leading Butte Falls High School NFL member with a total of 243 NFL points. Coach Warren is extremely proud of the entire team and will miss the outgoing seniors. She has faith that the program will continue and wishes to thank Vallorie Petersen and Stacy Smith for participating for four years and for being a part of the success of the team. Lou Hoyer has earned over 120 NFL point this year and should be very proud of the success she's had this year. Garret Harrington, an Eagle Point High School graduate, helped Mrs. Warren start the speech team and the Earl Family Foundation had the faith in the team to encourage it and financially support it.

Thank you Garret and Earl Family Foundation.

America the Beautiful

By Brian Marquard

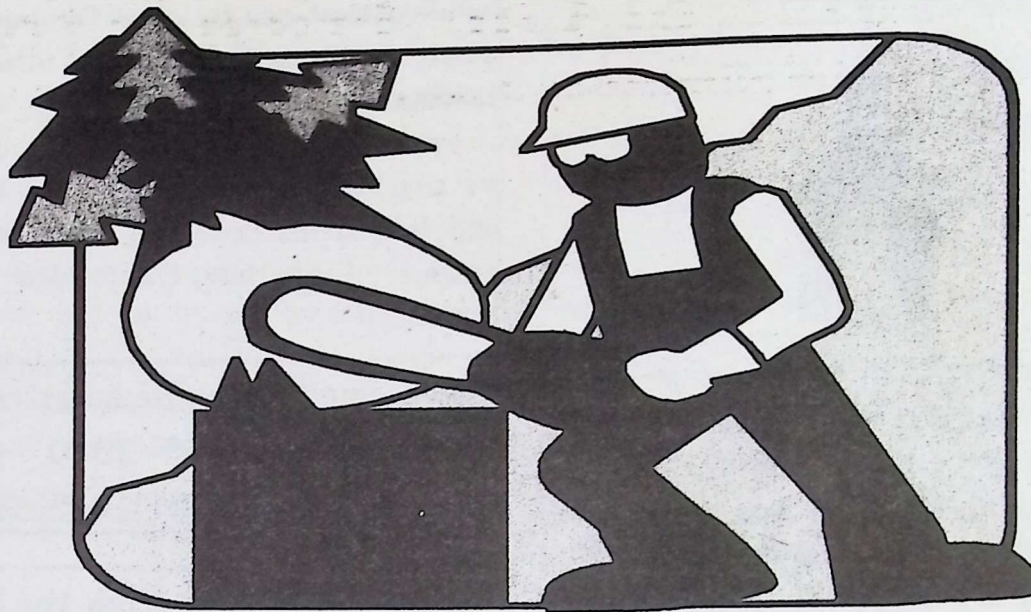
What is America coming to? I think our freedom is being taken away little by little, because of what people do... September 11, 2001 took away something that we took for granted. Recently I went to Mexico and it was no problem getting over the border to Mexico, but when I tried to get back to the United States the Military questioned me on what did I buy in Mexico, where I was going, on what day am I going to reach my destination, etcetera?

When my group got to the border it was called Mexicali. We had to get off the bus so the Military could search it with dogs that can sniff out chemicals, and dangerous materials. At that time I felt that my freedom is slowly being torn from my fingers.

I agree with all the tight security that we have, but when I was on my way home i didn't have any Identification, so I was on the edge of panicking. But then I remembered that I made a photocopy of my identification.

Oh one more thing, when I brought good purified water back to the States, a Military Personnel came up to me, and he was tall, and.....well...just huge in the shoulders. Then he looked me right square in the eyes and said in a very deep voice "I want you to drink that water, now!!". I think he wanted to make sure that I was not smuggling in any Chemicals to the States.

In closing, it was interesting getting back home. But I wonder if this tight security would be required in my own country, or maybe we will need to have our own passports for going out of our own states and towns... but that's a whole new and different story to ponder on.

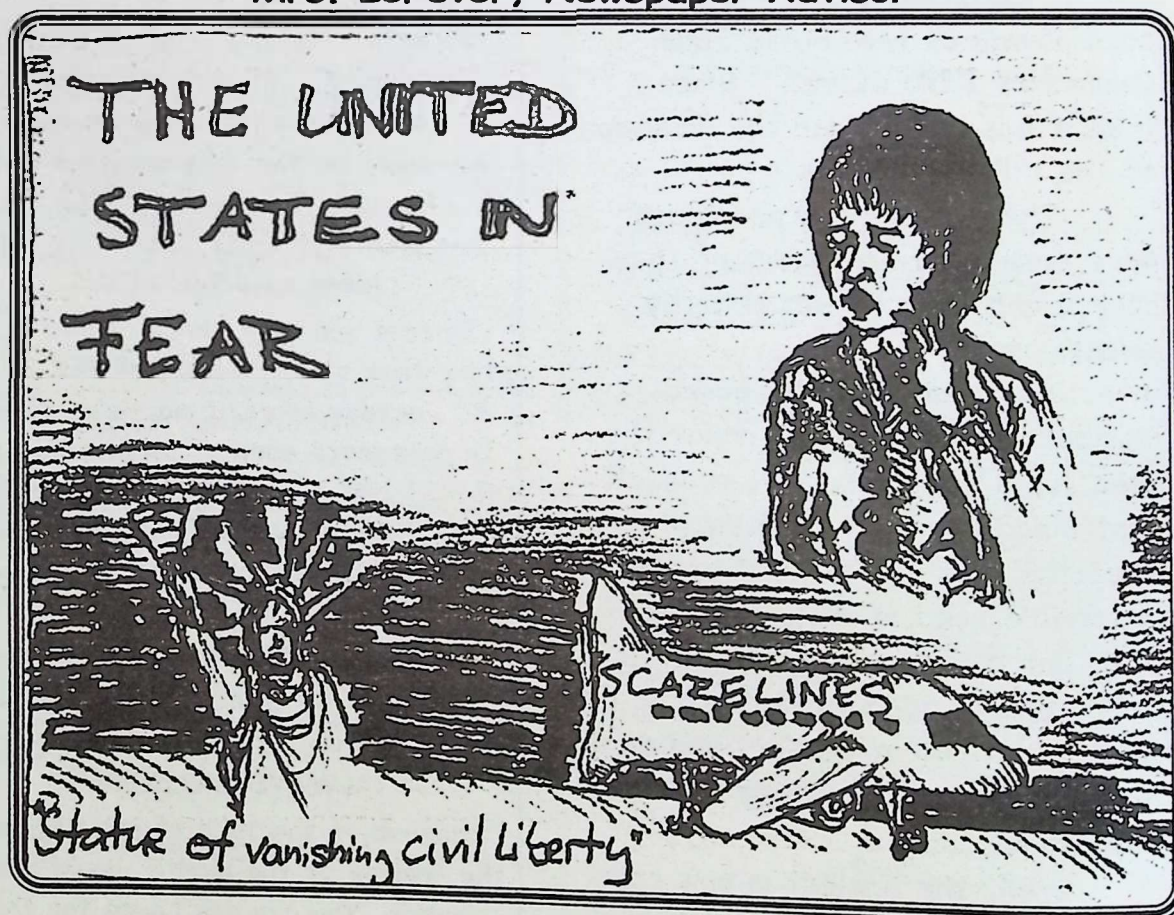


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The United States in Fear . . . By Lou Hoyer