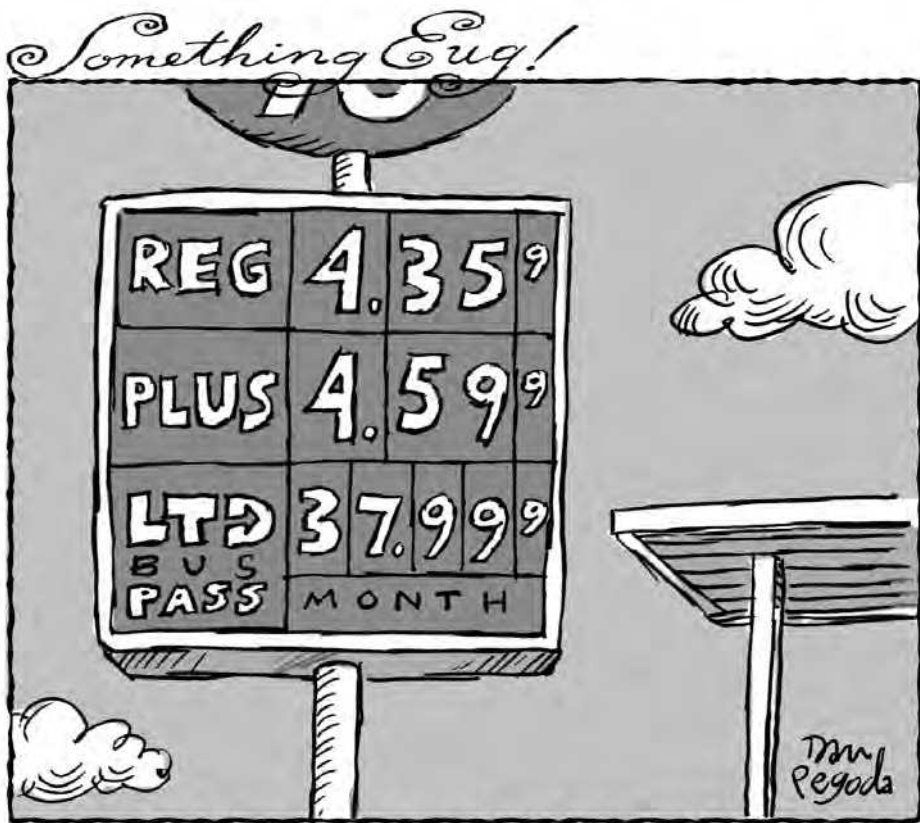




How would we respond if we were a small island country, positioned next to a large economically and militarily powerful country with a government, including the CIA, pouring money, media and other strategies in its attempts to destabilize our country, overthrow our government and assassinate our leader?

Does he really wish to continue to create poverty and deprivation of the ordinary people of Cuba because of some of the actions of its government?

Does he really want to continue to prevent people from their country and from ours from visiting each other and knowing each other better?

I traveled to Cuba in the late '90s and have known others who have traveled there more recently. Its government certainly does have many faults, for example, one leader for 40 years. And it is unfortunate that tourism, a response to the embargo, has compromised many of the values and goals that Cuba has been trying to promote. But it has inspiring strengths. It has: a vigorous, friendly people; a medical system where every person receives care in neighborhood clinics; a country that trains and sends thousands of doctors around the world to help countries that need them; free education from early childhood through professional training; a

creativity that has responded to the embargo by turning to organic farming, the use of oxen to plough and urban gardens and that uses rationing so that no one will go hungry; concerts and other arts open to all, free of charge; no homelessness. It's the beginning of a new era in Cuba. I would urge Obama to end the embargo and be open to listen to and dialogue with the new Cuban leaders.

Peg Morton
Eugene

NOT APOCALYPTIC

Thanks to Eva Sylwester and *EW* for the story "Climate Apocalypse" (5/29) about Euglena Academy's position on climate change.

A few comments. First, the story contained a minor but very significant typo: "James Lovelock ... has predicted that Earth's human population will drop to less than one billion by 2100, not 2010." Lovelock's prediction is 2100, not 2010. Even though climate can undergo incomprehensibly large transitions in less than a decade, a shift that catastrophic in only two years is the stuff of science fiction.

Second, I regret *EW*'s use of the word "apocalypse," which I do not use due to its fatalistic, religious overtones. Climate change will not be "the end of the world," just the end of the world as we've known it. It will only be apocalyptic to those addicted

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