

# The old Disney magic lives on

It happened just when I thought it was safe to turn on the television on a Sunday night.

"There are no fairies who are going to trap me in a web of fairy dust spun by a magic wand tonight," I said with confidence as I turned the knob. "I will be able to tear myself away from the screen after watching only 30 minutes of fun-filled sitcoms, and I'll be able to spend a Sunday night at home without becoming a TV junky."

But that night my hopes were dashed.

I turned on the set promptly at 7 p.m. The blonde fairy was waiting to ambush me in my living room with this week's spell-binding Disney special.

My eyes hit the screen and stayed glued to the set as I sank into the sofa. Another Sunday night had slipped through my fingers.

Later that evening, I fell into despair.

"This has got to stop," I moaned to myself. "I can't go on this way. There must be someone somewhere who can help me."

I flipped through the yellow pages but could find no Disney self-help or support group.

That was when I decided to start my own.

By the end of the week we had our first meeting.

There were more closet Disney addicts than I realized. My living room was filled.

Even my roommate had to confess her compulsion.

"I cried as hard at 'Snow White' as I did at 'Terms of Endearment,'" Brenda admitted, tears welling in her eyes at the memory. "Remember when she died, and all the little animals cried?"

"It was the beginning of my sophomore year in college, and I was moving back into the dorm that day. My nerves were shot. I guess I needed the release."

"That was the first time I had seen (a Disney film) on the big screen."

A girl from a family with seven grown children confessed her whole family was bitten by the Disney bug. They love Mary Poppins.

"I love Dick Van Dyke. I used to love to sing the 'I Love to Laugh' song," said Linda, who is always on key. "We have the video cassette now, and we all watched it on Christmas Day."

Joy would tell friends she was going to see a popular R-rated show, and slip into the Disney theater instead.

She has no problem getting past the attendants because she's only five feet tall.

The striking blonde girl is in love with the Pinocchio film.

"He's just Pinocchio," she said, her eyes softening. "I remember how he was such a child. He made mistakes, too. He was so adorable."

"I saw it again last year," she admitted. "I was in tears. It reminds me of how much we abuse our parents, and then they forgive us."

"The fairy at the beginning of the show makes you feel like you're going into a real cartoon land," Laurie blurted out with a mad gleam in her eye.

Serious crush  
Peg was an "Ugly Dacshund" fan.

"Dean Jones was in that movie," she explained. "I had a serious crush on him."

Her Disney experience came mostly from movie theaters.

"Mom wouldn't let me watch the Sunday night ones," she said.

"They'd always make me cry."

Now that she's on her own, she has no protection against the fairy fiend. That's why she joined the group.

We sat around brainstorming



The Blank Page  
Karen Cubie

Disney special avoidance techniques.

From now on our Disney support group meetings will be conducted on Sunday nights. Our phone lines will be open the rest of the week in case a weekday special suddenly appears on a member's screen, or a local cinema holds a Disney festival.

Janet doesn't understand what all the fuss is about. The Disney charm is new to her, and it doesn't appear dangerous yet.

"We weren't allowed to watch TV on a Sunday when I was growing up," she said. "I saw 'Blue Yonder' recently, though. It was really good."

We've tried to rescue her from the fairies' spell, but she's bound and determined to spend Sunday nights before the screen.

I guess there are some lessons in life everyone has to learn on their own.

# GOP stood firm against surtax

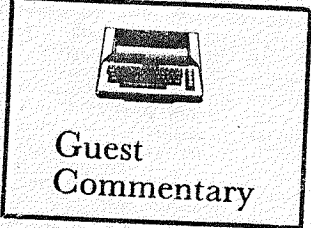
By JOHN F. PARKER

According to journalists covering Beacon Hill, the saga of the repeal of the surtax on income was the "number one" news story in 1985.

The surtax was imposed during the first Dukakis administration and was generally understood to be a temporary tax to help extricate the Commonwealth from the fiscal crisis it found itself in. A decade later, in times of unprecedented prosperity, it was still on the books, having extracted over one billion dollars in revenue since its inception.

The political intrigue surrounding passage of the measure was what made it such good copy for our journalists' desk. It was described as an "albatross" around our governor's neck, but the chief executive nevertheless stood firm against repeal even in the face of the overwhelming endorsement for such a step by the House in July by a 141-7 margin. He was joined by the chairman of Senate Ways and Means who helped stalemate action on the measure.

This in turn spurred efforts by Citizens for Limited Taxation to put the matter before the people in the form of a binding referendum.



Guest Commentary

the credit for such a popular initiative to fall to CLT and the Republicans who consistently stood behind repeal as a matter of "keeping faith" with the people by abrogating a temporary tax the necessity of which had long since passed.

### Graduated tax

When surtax repeal was reported out of Senate Ways and Means, it was rewritten and coupled with provisions establishing certain "vanishing" exemptions. This would effectually "graduate" the income tax through the back door by calibrating exemptions according to level of income. A Constitutional impediment stands in the way of adopting a straight-forward graduated income tax and previous efforts to introduce such

score of other provisions to the measure offered by the House. Surtax repeal should be phased in, they argued; moreover, the revenue loss would be offset by various revenue raising measures, including a \$25 million blow to our growth industries via a change in the so-called unitary method of corporate taxation. What began as a "clean" surtax repeal bill in the House had been transformed in both politically and constitutionally suspect ways.

Whether the repeal legislation passed last year (with the "vanishing exemption" provisions intact) can withstand constitutional muster may yet be determined in the courts. In any event, Senate Republican efforts to attach a "severability clause" to the legislation were turned aside on the Senate floor.

Senate Ways and Means insisted that if the vanishing exemptions were subsequently declared unconstitutional, the repeal would fall with it and the state would continue to collect the surcharge. The vanishing exemption provisions were the inextricable part of the "deal" and the necessary ingredient to secure liberal support, including that of the governor.

generate support against him. With vanishing exemptions providing the necessary "liberal rationale" and a phased-in repeal secured in the compromise that was enacted into law, the governor flip-flopped and moved, rather unconvincingly, to take credit for passing the legislation.

Strong revenue growth provided ample enough wherewithal to fund his election year budget, especially with only a phased-in surtax repeal. But he has himself sacrificed a certain amount of credibility, sparking remarks, now from liberal ranks, that short-term popularity and political ambitions weigh more heavily than principle with him. Symbolic gestures, with regard to Latin America and further posturing on the federal budget, are attempts to shore up this constituency.

For the past four years, he has decried the federal deficit; this week he has decried efforts to effectively deal with it. As the sage of the surtax reveals, such attempts in his second administration to be all things to all people may be spreading his support wide but thin. A closer look at that