

LaRouche gets proof of plot against cause

Supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. — political extremist, conspiracy theorist and Democratic presidential candidate — have spent the past 20 years holed up together, spouting wild accusations about the Justice Department and everyone else who stood in the way, and committing fraud against the people who gave them money.

Poetic justice has struck and the Justice Department finally got its wish. LaRouche has been convicted of bilking the public out of \$30 million.

But walls do not a prison make. If you expect the 15-year stint in prison to shut down the LaRouche paranoia mill, you may be in for a little surprise. LaRouche's political cult exists thanks to a growing population of people who have fallen for the fanatical right-wing scare tactics of the LaRouche ideology: that the world, from the Soviets to the drug pushers to the Queen of England and the phone company, has gathered together in a tag-team attack on the morally perfect ultra-conservatives and their neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic brethren.

LaRouche supporters have long considered themselves above the law. Built into their fundraising schematic was the standing practice of liberating the elderly from their life-savings, and taking out loans with no intention of paying them back.

LaRouche supporters' most recently espoused claims of the conspiratorial slippage of the world into certain destruction with propaganda about the spread of AIDS. LaRouche insists that doctors have lied to us and that AIDS actually can be spread through casual contact. His supporters are responsible for the proposed California law that would have quarantined People with AIDS.

LaRouche supporters played a role in stopping the momentum that Michael Dukakis enjoyed after winning the Democratic nomination for the presidency last year. They began rumors that questioned Dukakis' mental health.

When fundraising fraud charges were leveled against LaRouche and his supporters in Boston, LaRouche investigated the prosecutor's family and printed leaflets that claimed the prosecutor was a homosexual and a drug pusher.

LaRouche has said, "Your parents are fundamentally immoral. You are moral despite them...Everything your parents say is evil. They are like lepers — morally and intellectually insane."

LaRouche plays on ignorant beliefs in political and moral bogeymen. As long as LaRouche spews his conspiratorial nonsense, the people who subscribe to similar notions will treat him like a martyr.

We cannot expect to be rid of Lyndon LaRouche simply because he is behind bars. We only hope that the conspiracy theorists now hiding under rocks do not construe LaRouche's confinement as evidence that the king of paranoia was right all along.

Reagans keep on dancing; somebody grab the hook

Out, out, brief candle. Life is but a poor player who struts and frets his hour upon the stage, then cashes in big on his memoirs.

All along, Ronald Reagan stood up against his forced retirement. If not for the two-term limit, Reagan probably would have been President forever.

And now, like Brian Bosworth and Mr. T before him, Reagan hopes to cash in on his tap-dance on the national stage.

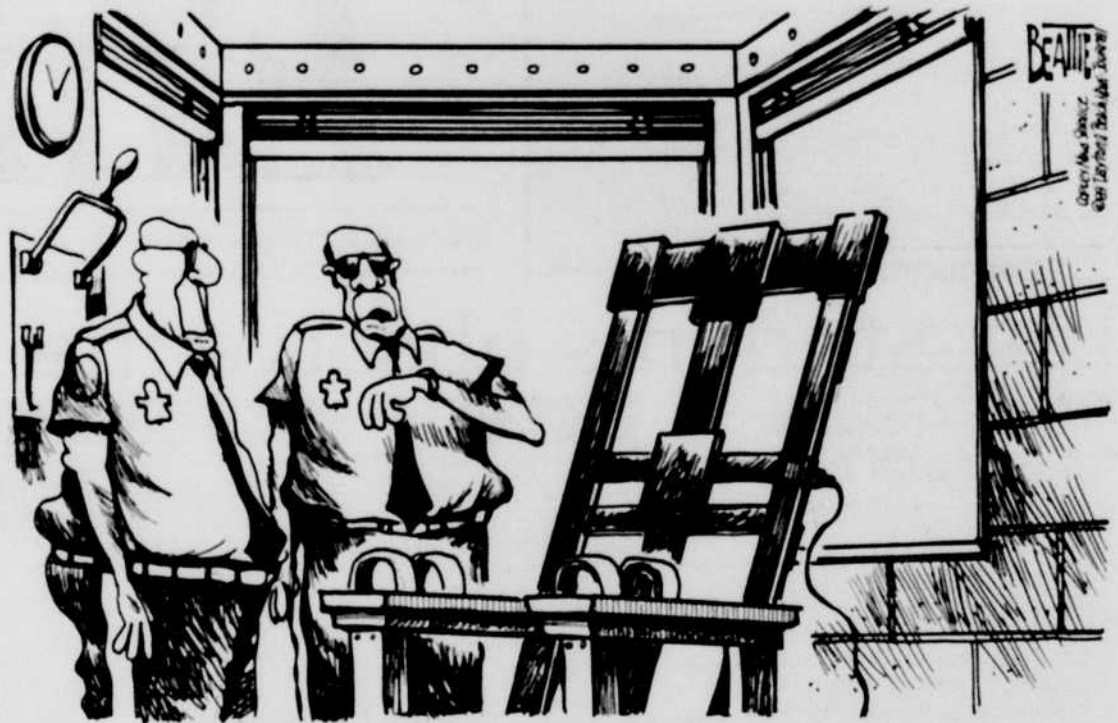
In case you haven't heard, Reagan has signed for a book deal that reportedly will net him in the neighborhood of \$5 million. In addition, he has set a \$50,000 price tag on public speaking appearances. And Nancy Reagan doesn't come much cheaper: the charge for the ex-first lady? \$30,000.

Of course, the Reagans' blatant capitalization on public office should come as little surprise to alert media watchers.

Reagan all along was the champion of carnival-style capitalism and the greed-is-good mentality. Among his last acts were the veto of the ethics bill and the pardon of New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner.

Although condemnation of the Reagans for taking advantage of their popularity is not entirely fair — after all, Richard Nixon capitalized on his *unpopularity* — they could have shown a little respect for George Bush and Dan Quayle and disappeared quietly for a decent period of time. Surely the Reagans aren't in it for a fast buck though; they want the "Morning in America" show to go on. And on. They want to go out kicking.

Ron and Nancy just don't know when to stop dancing and get the heck off stage. Somebody fetch the hook.



"I wish we'd get this over with... I'm late to a right-to-life rally."

Letters

Bible quoters

I'd like to say to the Bible quoters last Wednesday that your little passages don't mean a whole lot. Anyone can find a passage in the Bible and use it to support their point of view, because no one can agree on one singular interpretation of that book. Divinity loves every creature on this Earth: black and white, women and men, homosexual or heterosexual, saint or murderer. I wish everyone would think of other people as their sisters and brothers instead of in terms of "better" or "worse" persons. And I wish people would stop putting their own biases and prejudices in the mouth of our all-loving Deity. All our differences are merely illusion; we are all One.

Sue Simonitch
English

Enticement

In response to your editorial on the twenty-seventh, I would like to add my opinion about the role pornography played in Bundy's crimes.

What does serial rape-murder mean? Are those familiar words? Why do there seem to be more deadly rapes? What has changed? Apropos Bundy's pornographic habit: sure, his grandparents probably mistreated him, and lowered his self-esteem. Where did Bundy's choices come into play, though? What inspired him to act out his murderous sexual fantasies? Similarly, entire nations commit crimes, even when highly civilized, but are exposed to the enticement of categorical "hates," violence, and conquest at the expense of others. When people read pornographic literature, they are educating themselves to accept and desire certain behavior. How did Bundy get the permission to act out this anti-social behavior? He took it upon himself with deliberate choice. Bundy is not justified in blaming pornography for his activities, since he schooled himself to perpetuate what he did with his accumulated exposure to

increasingly violent crimes against women.

Matt Pinkston
Student

Misstatement

I would like to clarify a misstatement made in Brian Bloch's article on minorities in the law (ODE, Jan. 25).

It was stated that there was currently one minority professor on the law school faculty. Not true! Currently, there is only a visiting minority law professor on the faculty, who will teach at the law school for the spring term only. Thus, there is not one permanent, tenured minority professor at the law school.

Additionally, with respect to this so-called "forum" on minorities in the law, some minority students with more critical viewpoints on racism at the law school and in the legal profession, were neither informed or invited to attend or speak at this "forum." It is the Black Law Students' Association opinion that the views presented by the speakers there were at best inadequate and at worst misleading.

Audwin Carey Spence
President, Black Law
Student's Association

Seafarers

Forty-four years after World War II, the merchant seamen who carried war supplies to the armed forces through hazardous submarine infested waters and also manned the ship's guns, were finally granted Veterans status by the Department of Defense.

It is interesting to note that their death rate was similar to that of the United States Marine Corps.

The problem at this time is that there is no list of surviving seafarers anywhere.

May I ask your help to find some of these men? They have been granted Veterans status by the Department of Defense because of a campaign by the Combat Merchant Mariners of World War II, and benefits await them.

They may contact the foregoing organization at:

Combat Merchant Mariners
WW II
14 Castle Drive
Spring Valley, NY 10977
(914) 623-8484

Kermit Haber
Executive officer

Waste

I love trees. Especially big, tall Douglas firs. I've also been racing 12-speed bicycles in the Eugene area for a full decade now. That means spending a lot of time on top of the old bike seat.

It's not always glory out there on the highway, but groves of Douglas firs are always a welcomed sight. It's scenic, cool, and sometimes a nice break from the sun or rain.

The foot path between Alton Baker park and the footbridge used to be a nice area to cruise through. But thanks to someone, the trees and forest have been half taken away and replaced by brown grass that the city never waters.

I'm sure going to miss that stretch of a bike path. It used to be one of the prettiest areas to ride through.

Thanks again. I'm sure glad that our tax money gets put to use in such good ways. I'm really going to miss those trees. What a waste.

Douglas Eugene
Eugene

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.