

## Seeds of scandal sowed by Reagan

The Keating 5 are probably no more or no less guilty of influence-peddling than their colleagues. But when the cost to U.S. taxpayers is \$500 billion, someone has to be sacrificed.

The five senators are charged with trying to keep the federal government from seizing the failing Lincoln Savings and Loan, whose chairman was Charles Keating. The senators are accused of taking contributions from Keating for their help.

The real culprit is Ronald Reagan and the deregulation of the banking industry in the 1980s.

Savings and loan institutions used to follow strict guidelines regarding the lending of money and the buying of bonds. But Reagan relaxed the rules and let the operators of savings and loans buy junk bonds for get-rich-quick schemes.

The problem is twofold. Ambiguous guidelines make it difficult to enforce wrongdoing, and the people who are supposed to be watchdogs run in the same pack as those they are watching.

The federal government is the ultimate overseer of savings and loans, but those five senators had to really screw up to get hauled before the Senate Ethics Committee. The committee is composed of six senators and a special prosecutor.

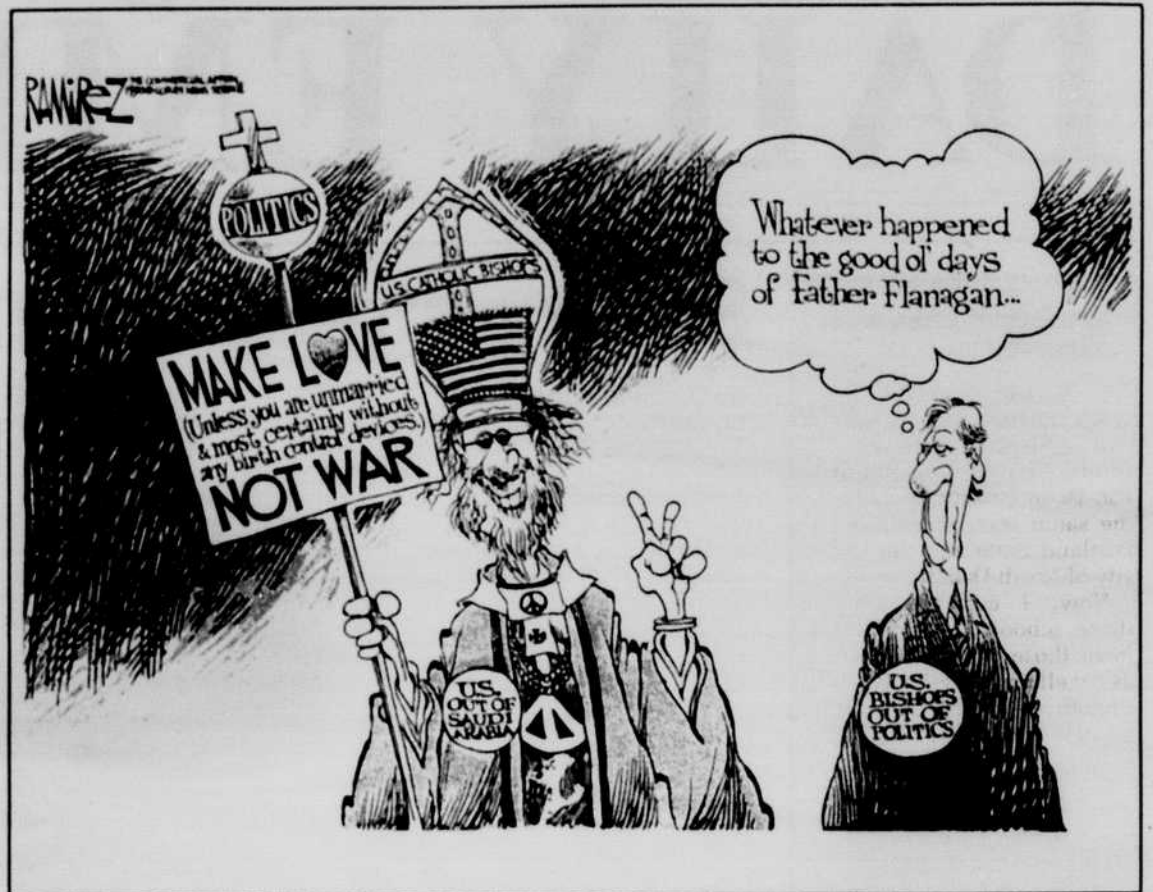
The Senate is a powerful organization that should not be policing itself. It's likely all 100 senators in Congress have taken money for favors at some time or another, although proving it is another matter. Savings and loans must be regulated again to prevent this situation from reoccurring. Some kind of civil board, completely separate from the rest of the government, should be in charge of watching politicians.

Campaign contributions must be regulated, also. The amount of money donated to any campaign must be limited. And no candidate should accept donations from businesses or individuals whose contributions may create a conflict of interest for the candidate.

Ten banking institutions failed in the United States in 1980; more than 200 failed in 1989.

Millions of taxpayers are going to pay for the mistakes of a few crooks who wanted a piece of the American dream. But taxpayers are responsible for their own nightmares by electing fools to office and not paying attention to what the fools are doing.

Deregulation loosened the rules that let Keating invest foolishly. Then he tried to buy the senators' influence. We need a real watchdog committee — one that is not already cozy with thrifts or congressmen.



## Play a part in curbing drunken drivers

With the Thanksgiving vacation upon us, and the start of the holiday season, the campaign to rid the roads of drunk drivers has begun again in full force.

Our country has one of the worst records for drinking and driving in the world. This is mostly because drinking and driving was tolerated for many years. Slap-on-the-wrist penalties led to a society that was able to ignore the number of deaths caused by drunken drivers every year.

Now, with the proliferation of groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, drinking and driving has become a national concern. Attitudes about driving while drunk have changed significantly in the past decade, but there is still a long way to go.

Each one of us is a potential victim of a drunk driver. Therefore, everyone should get involved in the battle against drunk driving in some way. Whether that involvement means joining organizations such as MADD

or Students Against Drunk Driving, or just being a designated driver for your friends, everyone has a role to play. People who turn a blind eye to a drunk getting into a car are as morally responsible for the damage that person may cause as the drunken drivers themselves.

Taking a life because of drunken driving is one of the most heinous wastes imaginable. Unlike people who die in auto accidents because they choose not to wear seat belts, victims of drunk drivers have no choice in the matter. Drunken drivers are choosing to risk other people's lives every time they get behind the wheel.

This should not be tolerated. Many people still say drunken driving laws are too stiff. However, after an honest look at the number of lives that are simply wasted each year, it is obvious that no law could be too strict.

## LETTERS

### Coke is it

I suggest you get the facts straight before printing in your so-called newspaper. Coca-Cola has helped in the fight against apartheid.

Coca-Cola supported the trip for Nelson Mandela to the United States. Coke in Atlanta raised funds to assist in the democratization process and created new sanctions against the government of South Africa.

Black South African leaders such as Mandela, Desmond Tutu and Dr. Nihota Matiantse have praised Coca-Cola for their important and significant efforts to promote black empowerment in that country.

Coca-Cola pays no taxes, has no investment and no assets in that country. Coca-Cola has helped in the fight against apartheid. Coke established the Equal Opportunity Foundation — South African-based funds dedicated to laying down the foundation, or rather, ground work, for post-apartheid South Africa.

Trustees, most of whom are black, are Tutu, Alexander

Jabuloni Thembele, Pali Francis Mohanal, Sibalebo Mohgane, Gert Thammas Gerval, Arthur Chaskalsam and Allan Boesak.

Get your facts up to date and in order, or are you just printing this negative garbage because Pepsi is a sore loser? Since Eugene is so protest-happy about everything that comes along, I'm about ready to rank your newsletter up there with the Enquirer newspaper.

Leanne Sherman  
Eugene

### Assumptions

In response to Michael Sears' letter concerning CIA fairness (ODE, Nov. 16), we feel that we were falsely represented and stereotyped, that our motives were disregarded and substituted with false accusations.

Sears' letter drew parallels between abortion issues and CIA recruitment. This is obviously an incorrect parallel. Although both these issues require individuals to make their own decisions, CIA recruitment should occur off campus, in the same way that abortion does.

This wouldn't limit anyone's choice.

As a journalism major, Sears should interview his subjects before making assumptions about their moral, political and social views. Sears' letter mentioned that the CIA protesters were hypocrites and "people who simply hate the CIA." If he had bothered to interview any of these protesters, he would have found that we are not only concerned with recruiting tactics, but also the CIA's illegal and inhumane activities.

For example, the CIA's direct support of Salvadoran death squads has led to the murder of 60,000 people. Also, the CIA has been implicated in selling arms to Iran with the profits going to support the Contra war against the Nicaraguan people. By allowing the CIA on campus, we're tolerating such illegal activities.

Former CIA agent John Stockwell stated in 1988 that "the CIA poses an ultimate threat to democracy and should be dismantled for the good of the United States and the world."

Stockwell's sentiments are strongly supported by our Declaration of Independence: "that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government."

We felt that we were acting as responsible citizens and implementing a necessary change. Sears not only failed to check his sources, he also relied on rash assumptions.

Hayden Kojo Badih  
Annalisa Chasan  
Eugene

### Another species

In response to Frank Limbaugh's letter regarding Ingrid Newkirk's speech and views on animal rights (ODE, Nov. 14):

I think Limbaugh should realize that the human race is simply another species of animal. So much for an "animal is an animal."

Also, Mr. Limbaugh seems to think that animals are not individuals. He seems to define in-

dividuals by what something can or cannot do — "slugs don't drive, cats don't build ..."

This seems an arbitrary way of defining individuality. By this definition it would seem Limbaugh would not deem people in "primitive" cultures, or people who are retarded or disabled, to be individuals.

I think a better definition of an individual would be something with a personality and preferences of its own. Under this definition I think animals are quite clearly individuals. I have known many non-human animals of many species and have found no two are alike. After all, one factor in the survival of most species is genetic diversity. So, it only makes sense that animals would be individuals.

You know, when I look at a pigeon, I fail to see Mozart, too, but I do see an individual with a life of its own — a life that is worth my respect and protection.

Kathy Yonker  
Eugene