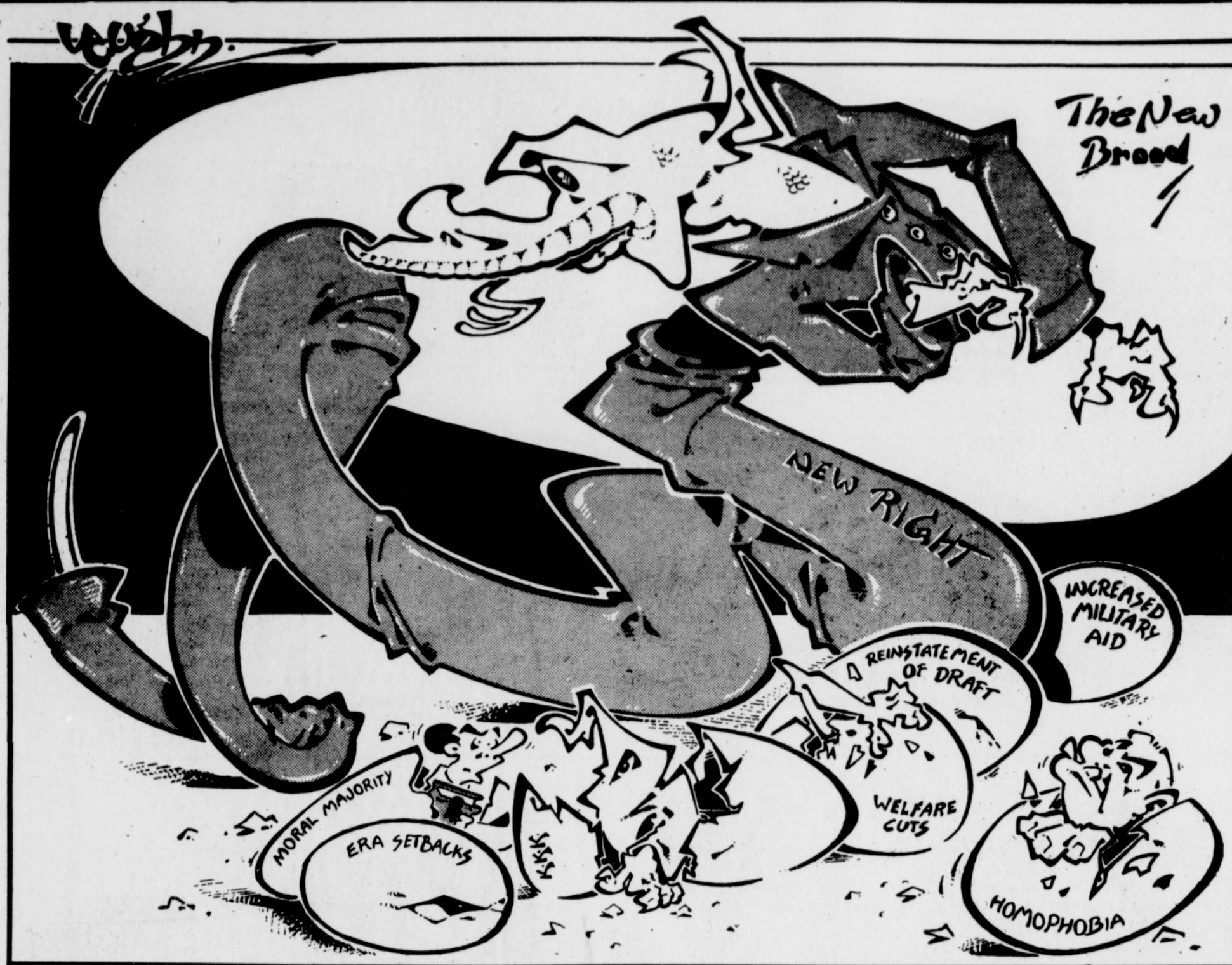




VAUGHN, FROM NORTHWEST PASSAGE

children. The real obscenity is found in the Reagan Administration's assault upon the traditional boundaries between church and state and its pandering to the book burning born again bigots of the religious right who use their new television networks to spread religious intolerance, moral and political fascism, and a fear-ridden, end of the world mentality that supports the nuclear arms race because Jesus is coming in the mushroom clouds. The real obscenity is found in the Reagan Administration's racist policies, as exemplified in its refusal to impose tough sanctions against the South African government and its simultaneous nomination of a pro-segregation, anti-civil rights activist as the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. And the real obscenity is found in the Reagan Administration's regular use of red herrings, like the Meese Commission's pornographic report, to distract attention away from the real obscenities that are being foisted upon the American public by the most unscrupulous Presidential Administration in the history of America.

There is a way to counteract this real obscenity, the economic rape of America's poor and middle classes and the subversion of individual rights by the conservatives of the Extreme Right. We must rekindle the true spirit of the American Revolution, the fair and compassionate spirit of liberalism that demands liberty, justice and equality for everyone, not only the rich and privileged few. We must once again,

as we did in the '60s and '70s, find the courage to speak out and take action against the bigotry and intolerance fostered by the mean spirited, iron fisted policies of the so-called New Right. For there is nothing new in their incredibly selfish and competitive, status oriented New Opportunity Society, in their New Cold War, their New Arms Race, their New McCarthyism,

or their New Book Burning Religion. It is the same old Might Makes Right/End Justifies the Means/Law of the Jungle philosophy that authoritarian rulers have always used to justify their repression of religious and racial minorities, the poor and the upwardly striving middle classes throughout history. The foxes are in the henhouse and it is long past time to throw them out. It is time to organize grassroots support for liberal politicians who will challenge the narrow minded, short sighted policies of the New Right and have the courage to vocally support everyone's civil, sexual, and individual rights. It is time to set self doubt and cynicism aside and take pride in being open minded and generous spirited — liberals in the truest sense of the word. And it is time to put the greedy, self-righteous hypocrites of the New Right on notice that liberals will no longer sit passively by the wayside while they loot the nation's treasury and undermine everyone's freedom. Not, that is, without a fight.

Carl Lyle Jenkins is a poet, writer and publisher who lives in Astoria. The drawing on page two is by Henk Pander of Portland whose portrait of Governor Tom McCall is on display in the rotunda of the Oregon state capitol in Salem.



DAVID LURIE, "JOSEPH McCARTHY"

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

FROM PAGE ONE

political rights of all but its ruling classes, even if the system originated to provide rights to the governed. The laws of the Constitution simply make it more difficult for the leaders of government to make the rest of us so completely their subjects.

While we commemorate the development of political rights over the centuries through the display in Portland at the Oregon Historical Society of the Magna Carta, which gave barons rights against kings, and the two hundredth anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, which gave rights to common people, we shall witness a calculated reversal of its progress. Ritual political celebrations of rights or liberties are usually signals of their insignificance or loss.

You never really know how far you have come until a reaction sets in, and the more specific targets of inquisition are those that have moved farthest from traditional control. The movement toward the right in the Rehnquist

Court will probably show up in five critical areas: freedom of speech and press, relationships between church and state, affirmative action, criminal law enforcement, and abortion.

Manipulation of media and entertainment might have paradoxical consequences if opposition to the government is the only political growth in the next few years. Thomas Jefferson admitted in the Declaration of Independence that people will absorb a lot of punishment before they strike back, but inevitably they will, even if at present they seem occupied with little else but jobs, sports and VCRs. At some point the society will shake off this period of intolerance and repression like a bad dream. Frank Wilkenson, who heads a group that calls itself the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation put it nicely. "The First Amendment has many enemies, including the President," he said. "But it will survive them all."