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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

cidence that the American hostages in Iran were freed within 30 minutes of Reagan's inauguration.

There is also his support of the freedom fighters known as the Contras in places such as Nicaragua, causing mass murders in such countries under the name of democratic freedom. It saddens me that so many Americans will just look at the slick Hollywood president that was Reagan and not dig deeper for his legacy of lies, blood, and criminal manipulation. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain in this country we fondly call Oz.

Brian P. Ellis  
Eugene

### NO NADER NOW

I voted for Ralph Nader in the 2000 election because I believed that a Bush administration would not be substantially different from a Gore administration. I was catastrophically wrong. And despite my former protestations, Nader really did cost Gore the election: If Nader had backed out and endorsed Gore, the margin of victory would have been wide enough to eliminate any doubt of who won. Nader's campaign is going to have exactly the same effect in 2004.

I am a progressive liberal, and I have no illusions about Kerry's centrism — I know that I'm not going to get everything I believe in from John Kerry. But I also know that Kerry is vastly preferable to Bush. And if Nader continues his campaign, we will get four more years of Bush. It's as simple as that. Nader should pledge his time and energy to reforming the Democratic Party so that it reflects progressive values and is less beholden to the same corporate interests that own the Republican Party. He should urge his supporters to vote for Kerry and then immediately begin pressuring him to adopt more progressive policies.

If Nader continues to run, he must do so knowing full well that he is handing Bush four more years to wreck our country and our planet. And if that's acceptable to him, then he doesn't have a shred of integrity.

Michael Anderson  
Oakridge

Jeremy Jacobs  
Eugene

### THE REAL RONNIE

Time to say good-bye to Ronnie Reagan, the "Great Communicator." A hand-picked B-movie mouthpiece who delegated authority to people like Spencer Abrahms and James Watt. Union buster. Supreme commander of the invasion of Grenada (a real threat to national security). Always willing to sell TOW missiles to Iran for hostages, and chemical weapons to Iraq. Always ready to destabilize freely elected governments, like the one in Nicaragua. The first manifestation of the proto-fascism of Bushes I and II and the neocons, who are now, as we speak, preparing to lock down the U.S. with fright tales about more terror attacks and the need for national I.D. cards. Good-bye, Ronnie — and good riddance!

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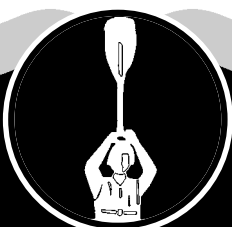
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