

## Civil rights attorney a 'career malcontent'

One of the cardinal evils not mentioned in the canon of "Seven Deadly Sins," is the sin the Germans call schadenfreude.

It is a hybrid of envy and malice manifest in the tendency to take self-indulgent, vindictive pleasure in the misfortune of others. Some of those who are anxious to audit the shortcomings of Paul H. Dunn have succumbed to the sin of schadenfreude.

Recent revelations about Dunn's unadorned history have been lacerating for many Mormons. To believe in anything or anybody is to expose one's self to possible betrayal; this is not an indictment of belief but of human nature. The disappointment felt by Mormons is compounded by the carefully qualified, circumlocutory non-apology Dunn has offered in his defense.

This episode should be interpreted as an object lesson — a cautionary tale about pure motives and impure narrative technique. But some have giddily pounced upon the incident as a confirmation of the supposed cynicism of the Mormon leadership and the terminal credulity of Mormons in general. Enter Ron Yengich.

Yengich is a professional "civil rights attorney;" a less charitable description would be "career malcontent." He is a regular columnist for Private Eye magazine, a left-leaning Salt Lake tabloid that is offered for free (and is almost — but not quite — worth every penny). Mr. Yengich takes obvious pride in his independence of mind, which he displays by recapitulating trendy opinions absorbed from the likes of Mother Jones magazine.

In the March 5 issue of Private Eye Yegnich devotes his thoroughly unexceptional analytical power to the Dunn controversy.

Rummaging around in a rhetorical discard bin, Yengich seizes upon an assortment of predictable, well-worn catchphrases and put-downs. He describes Dunn as a "Latter-day Elmer Gantry," and a "Latter-day pharisee;" he dismisses Dunn as a "Walter Mitty type who "in another era...would have sold indulgences for the Pope or pieces of the True Cross."

Yengich considers Dunn and



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his former audience to be a good fit: he makes passing reference to "The sheep in Zion," and declares that "People who believe the golden plates story are humble people who take speakers at their word." Yengich betrays not a whit of similar humility.

While proselyting on behalf of the gospel of "political correctness," Yengich has displayed some creativity of his own. During a 1990 speech to "Utahns United Against Nuclear Weapons," Yengich told the story of Shannon Kinder, a child who was killed in Utah while trying to cross a street. A skywalk could have been built, but money wasn't available — according to Yengich, the money had been devoured by the defense budget.

"That to me is an obscenity," Yengich declared. "That little girl... was as much a victim of the military buildup in the world as the people of Hiroshima." After pausing to unscramble Yengich's syntax, reasonable people might respond that the needed money was consumed not by defense, but by Aid to Families with Dependent Children — but that's not the point. The point is that Yengich's conclusion displays a flair for rhetorical inventiveness rivalling that which he condemns in Dunn's case.

The fables favored by Yengich involve distortions of history (about the "arms race" and the Joe Hill case, to name two). They form the basis of his political activism, and he is entitled to them.

Yengich's most creative use of his fables came in his defense of three anti-nuclear protesters who trespassed onto Hercules property in 1989. In effect, Yengich argued that because of their beliefs, the protesters weren't bound by terrestrial laws. Whatever Dunn's misdeeds may have been, he never suborned lawlessness.

## Plea bargain p

KANAB (AP) — An attorney representing Stephen Cartisano said a plea bargain is in the works on negligent homicide charges facing the former director of the controversial Challenger wilderness treatment program.

Cartisano's co-counsel, Elizabeth Joseph, said Thursday she has been trading offers with Kane County Attorney Jim Scarth in the case against her client.

Cartisano is charged with the

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and child abuse  
from the June 1  
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incidents involvi  
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## Bond vote is Tuesday in Springville

By LEANN MOODY  
Herald Correspondent

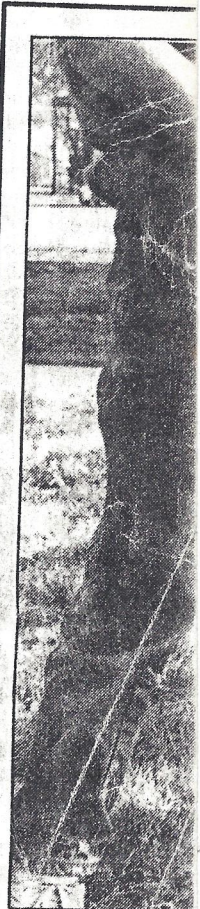
SPRINGVILLE — A special bond election asking Springville residents for approval to issue low interest rate general obligation bonds to replace high interest rate revenue bonds will be held Tuesday.

Voters in the city will go to six polling places to vote for a measure that city officials say will save the city approximately \$250,000.

The city presently has outstanding water and sewer utility system revenues bonds issued in 1985 that have interest rates from 7.5 percent to 10.10 percent. City officials note that is higher than current interest rates.

The council approved a residential mailer which was sent out this week to inform local resident about the issue. The council notes that the savings on the bonds will be used to improve and help maintain the city's water and sewer systems.

They are also quick to add this is not a tax increase and that the \$250,000 savings is after the costs of the election and financing. City officials note that to maximize the amount of interest rate savings the city has chosen to issue G.O. bonds.



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## Dress code base

By CHRISTI C. EVANS  
Herald Staff Writer

Brigham Young University's newly-approved dress and grooming code is based on three things: modesty, cleanliness and the desires of the board of trustees.

R. J. Snow, Student Life vice president, along with other mem-

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The revised code  
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