

I enjoyed Blake Hurst's "Left-wing Trash Talk" (March). It made me recall some of my own experiences.

A couple of years ago, my wife and I moved from the Denver area to Idaho. When we announced our intention to (liberal) friends, we were met with predictable reactions, but one in particular stuck out. A friend with impeccable liberal credentials got a horrified look on his face and exclaimed, "Idaho! But...but, there's *Mormons* out there!" He was dead serious. I've often wondered whether, had we announced plans to move to, say, New York City, he would have said, "But...but, there's *Jews* living there!" I think not.

Two years later, my wife found a job teaching at the University of Idaho. The university does a good deal of hand-wringing about diversity, and I can't really fault that, for Idaho just isn't a very diverse place by today's standards. Yet the liberals who preach diversity often seem willing to take potshots at Mormons, a fairly significant religious "minority" at the university. Because of their conservatism and strong religious and family values, Mormons are perceived as part of the Yahoo Nation Mr. Hurst described.

Michael J. O'Neal
Moscow, Idaho

In her list of self-inflicted wounds that have characterized U.S. energy policy over the past several years, Diana Furchtgott-Roth correctly includes the Kyoto Protocol (ECONOMIST, April/May).

With the nation facing an energy shortage that will soon become an energy crisis, America is going to have

to build hundreds of new power plants and dozens of new refineries in the years just ahead. The nation's energy needs are completely at odds with the Kyoto Protocol's mandated reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. No one can seriously believe that the United States will be anywhere near meeting its targets under Kyoto by 2008-2012. But as long as the United States remains a party to the treaty, it will be used like a club by global warming advocates to beat the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases into fulfilling its "commitments."

Now that President Bush has wisely decided not to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, he could go one step further and submit the treaty to the Senate for a vote on ratification. The Kyoto Protocol stands no chance of receiving the two-thirds vote necessary for ratification. Its rejection by the Senate would be the best thing to happen to U.S. energy policy since the internal combustion engine replaced the horse as our primary means of transportation a century ago.

Bonner R. Cohen
Lexington Institute

I was dismayed by David Boaz's near-sightedness when he asked, "Where is the successor to Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan who will make the rhetorical case for freedom and limited government, and keep making it until he or she persuades a majority?" ("Governing a Divided America," March)

The political leaders making this rhetorical case are neither conservatives nor Republicans. They are Libertarians, and they are making the case

loud and clear. They have their foot in the door (or at least their big toe), and they aren't going away.

Mark Stryker
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

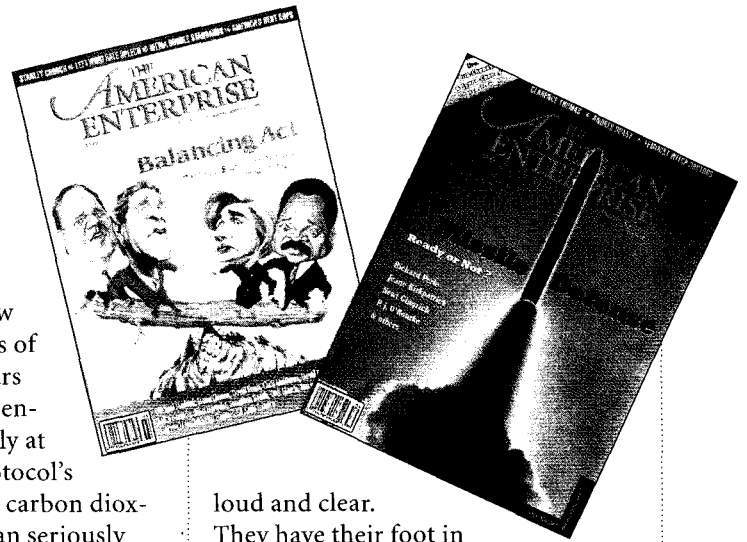
Paul Kengor's review of Matthew Dallek's biography of Ronald Reagan (BOOKTALK, March) brought back some old memories.

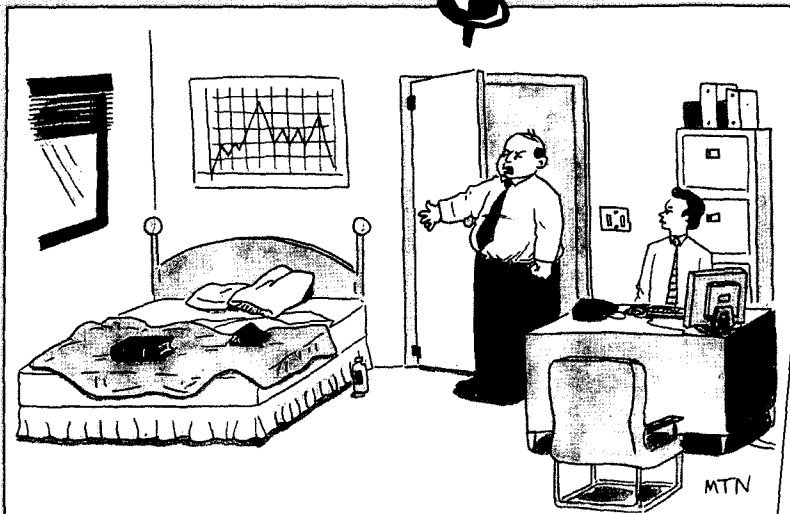
In the early '60s I lived in Sacramento. A close friend of mine was Ed DeBolt, the executive director of the Republican state central committee. He called one day inviting my wife and me to join them for a dinner where the featured speaker was the actor Ronald Reagan.

Our table was in front of the dais. When Mr. Reagan arrived, he walked down the middle of the room, working the crowd as only he could do. His speech was delivered in his remarkable style, friendly, yet sincere. After the speech, Ed leaned over and said, "You know, that man could become President!" The rest is history.

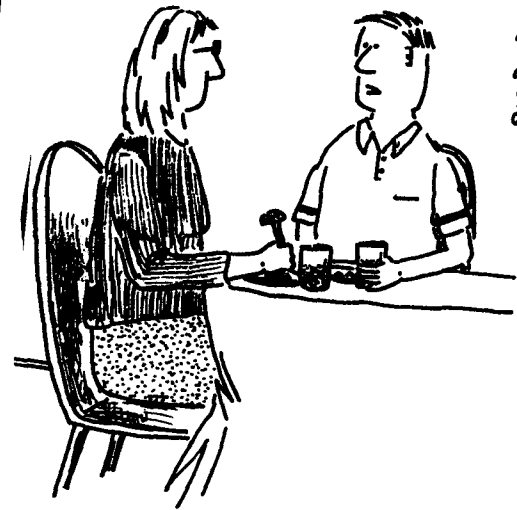
Ed DeBolt became one of Reagan's two closest advisors and spent many hours at Reagan's home. Ed always talked about what an interesting, thoughtful man Reagan was, whose goals in government were so sincere. He was not driven only by his ego, like others we have recently seen.

H. K. "Bud" Miller
Weed, California





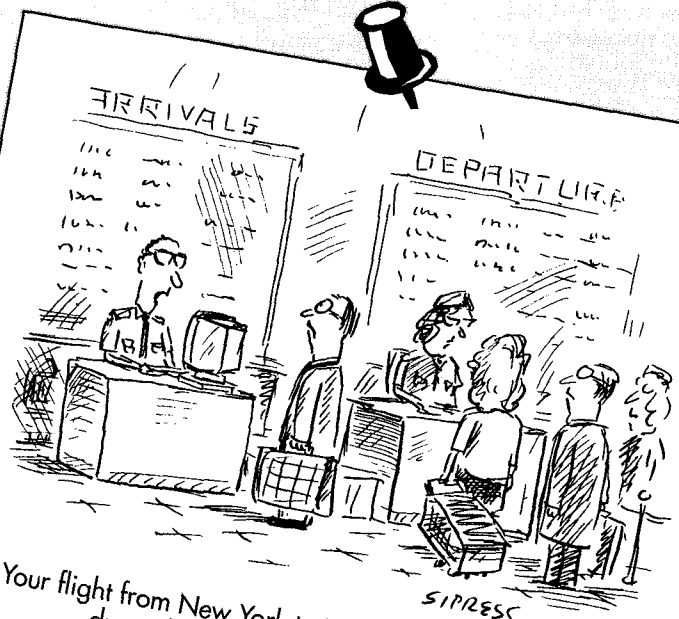
"Good God, Pittinsky! How do you expect me to bring clients in here when your bed's not even made?"



"I do not blame everyone else for my problems. Just you."



"I'm curious...how long have you been on hold?"



Your flight from New York to Boston has been cancelled due to bad weather in Ankara, Turkey.

Left: Marc Tyler Nobleman

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