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# The High Times READER

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THE HIGH TIMES READER

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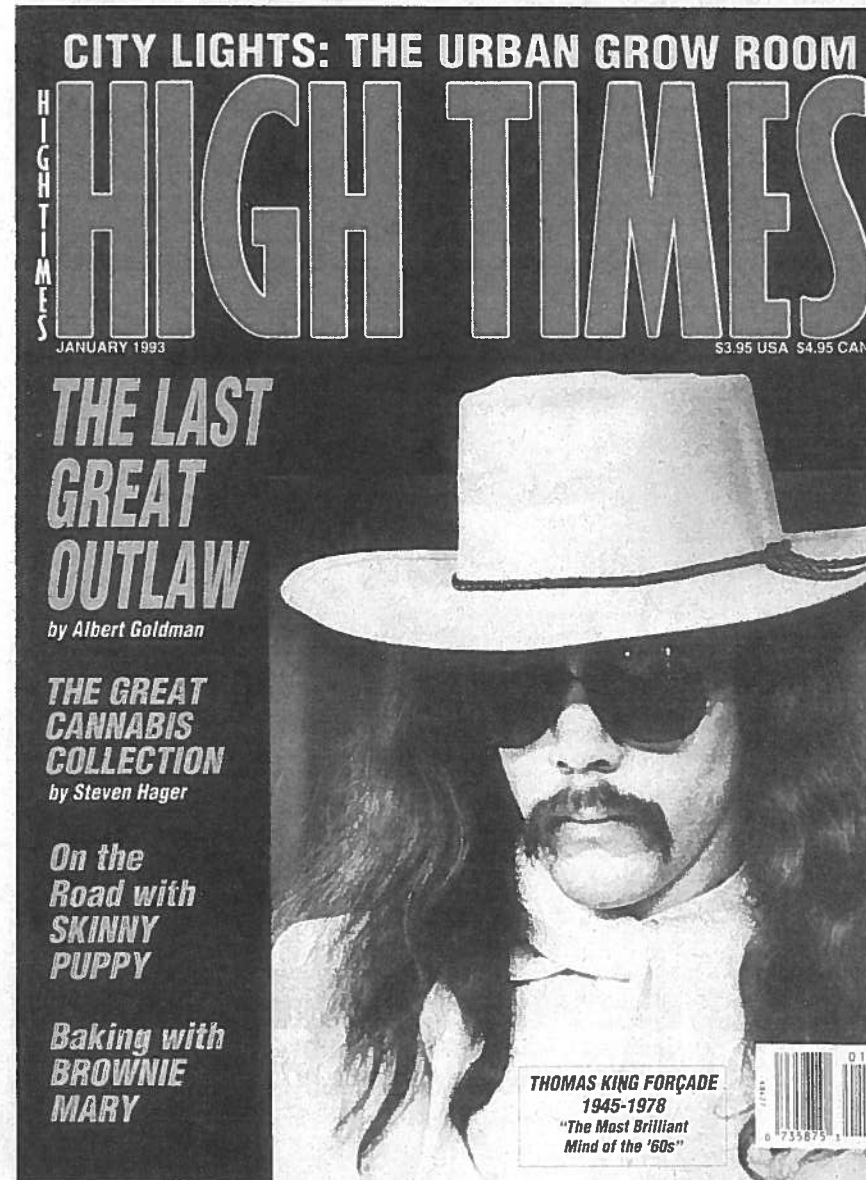
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## WAR ON DRUGS

*The Strange Story of Lyndon LaRouche,  
Sinister Mastermind of the Anti-Drug Coalition*

CHIP BERLET

MAY 1981

IT SOUNDS LIKE A script from a grade-B movie, or a nightmare experienced by an overly paranoid dealer: a national "war on drugs" launched by a bizarre political cult group with ties to the organized right-wing and intelligence agencies.

It's real, however, and it's called the National Anti-Drug Coalition. The coalition has chapters in some thirty cities, and worked feverishly in last year's elections to unseat legislators who favored decriminalization of marijuana and on behalf of politicians who support tougher penalties for drug users. Marijuana is not the only target of the coalition; they are also "dedicated to forming a national machine capable of ridding the nation of the menace of psychotropic substances."

Representatives of the coalition have been appearing nationwide at local public schools with lectures on the dangers of marijuana use and have been guests on radio talk shows, where the message reaches a wider audience. They publish a glossy-covered sixty-four-page monthly called *War on Drugs*, which recently summarized the group's goals and accomplishments:

"We have stemmed the tide of 'drug decriminalization' in state legislatures. We have succeeded in having some states recriminalize marijuana where decrim bills were passed. We seek tough laws, and tough enforcement. We want mandatory antidrug education programs in schools; a free hand for parents and administrators to stop pushing in the schools—without ACLU or others' interference in the guise of protecting pushers'

"civil rights"; we will keep the entire public informed of all legislation, and where local, state and federal candidates stand on the issue. . . ."

Mighty strong stuff, but not surprising considering the source, because the National Anti-Drug Coalition is not a grass-roots organization of confused and concerned parents, but a highly sophisticated fundraising and recruitment scam for a political cult group led by Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. You might have seen LaRouche on television forecasting nuclear war or imminent economic collapse. He ran in the Democratic presidential primaries and pulled 170,000 votes in 14 contests—a move that qualified him for over \$400,000 in tax dollars through Federal Election Commission matching funds.

LaRouche is no fly-by-night crackpot operating on a shoestring budget; he is a well-financed crackpot with some 600 cult members and another 1,500 supporters who are willing to spend long hours organizing for the political goals of their leader. Right now, Lyndon LaRouche wants a war on drugs—so to understand the National Anti-Drug Coalition requires an understanding of LaRouche and his minions.

Most of the key organizers of the National Anti-Drug Coalition are members or supporters of LaRouche's various front groups, which include the U.S. Labor Party, the national Caucus of Labor Committees, the Fusion Energy Foundation, the Humanist Academy, the New Democratic Policy Committee, and the New Solidarity Service. LaRouche has masterminded at least a dozen other such groups in the past ten years, and like the National Anti-Drug Coalition, they generally operate out of the same offices and share the same phone numbers of LaRouche's various fronts in the cities where he operates.

Lyndon LaRouche spent the late 1950s and early 1960s as a management consultant developing a unique view of world economy. He organized a small circle of followers out of the militant SDS chapter at Columbia University in the late '60s. LaRouche's "labor caucus" in SDS was expelled over political disagreements, so LaRouche established the National Caucus of Labor Committees.

LaRouche and his followers began as a small inward-directed organization pounding esoteric economic views. In 1972, however, things began to

change. LaRouche returned from a trip to Germany after his wife had left him for a younger member of the Labor Committee living in England. Shortly thereafter, LaRouche became convinced of a secret conspiracy of evil people directed by British agents controlled world politics—and was out to assassinate him.

Labor Committee members who challenged LaRouche's rather arcane view of reality were called CIA agents or psychologically hung up on what LaRouche called "mother's fear."

NCLC members who were suspected agents were simply isolated in a room and harassed until they admitted they had been brainwashed. Chris White, the English NCLC member LaRouche's former wife had taken up with, was called before LaRouche in December 1973 for a "deprogramming" session. White was kept awake until he "admitted" he had been programmed by both the KGB and CIA to help set LaRouche up for assassination.

In January 1974, LaRouche publicly announced he had successfully untangled the brainwashing of Chris White. LaRouche claimed White had been "brainwashed by the CIA to simulate a brainwashed KGB agent" through a process he called "psycho-sexual brainwashing." In the course of the rambling, virtually incoherent speech, LaRouche described part of the alleged brainwashing technique:

How do you brainwash somebody? Well, first of all, you generally pull a psychological profile or develop one in a preliminary period. You find every vulnerability of that person from a psychological standpoint. Now the next thing you do is you build them up for fear in males and females of homosexuality, aim them for an anal identification with anal sex, their mouth is identified with fellatio. Their mouth is identified only with the penis—that kind of sex, and with women. Womanhood is the fellatio of the male mouth in a man who has been brainwashed by the KGB; that is sucking penises.

LaRouche went on to claim that the programming played upon guilt fears about masturbation and homosexuality, and forced the person being

programmed to engage in degrading acts. According to LaRouche, the programmers would show the victim a picture of a man performing intercourse with a sheep. "Wouldn't you like to do that? How about this dog?" The key to the technique was summed up by LaRouche thusly:

"What brainwashes is the victim's knowledge that he is degrading himself in order to avoid pain. It's not the pain that brainwashes, it's forcing the victim to run away from the pain by taking the bait of degrading himself. This persistent patter of self-degradation, self-humiliation, is what essentially accomplishes the brainwashing."

The preceding explanation of brainwashing is pretty raunchy, but former NCLC members claim it forms the basis for the technique used by LaRouche to maintain strict obedience and loyalty from his followers. It is what turned LaRouche's inner organization into a cult. LaRouche's charges of a KGB/CIA brainwashing operation against him were a fantasy, but he believed the only way he could prevent further assassination plots was to subject followers he distrusted to a "deprogramming" session in which he "discovered" the psychosexual brainwashing. It was no surprise he was able to discover such brainwashing, since during the course of his "deprogramming" sessions he was conducting it himself.

#### NEO-FREUDIAN RASPUTIN

LaRouche began to use his twisted Freudian psychoanalytic techniques to intimidate members during weekly meetings. One early research report on the LaRouche cult, titled "NCLC—Brownshirts of the Seventies," concluded that "the 'self-consciousness' sessions that LaRouche introduced were ostensibly to train the 'leadership' to withstand psychological terror and destroy opposition within the leadership—and eventually within the whole organization."

Former NCLC members say they experienced strong fears of becoming impotent as a result of the psychological conditioning. In one memo, LaRouche overtly linked the political with the sexual: "I am going to make you organizers—by taking your bedrooms away from you. . . . What I shall do is to expose you to the cruel fact of your sexual impotence, male and female. . . . I shall show you that your pathetic impotence is a mere aspect

of your political work such that you will know that you cannot cure one without solving the other.”

According to former NCLC members, many LaRouche followers were subjected to sessions where LaRouche or his handpicked aides would strip down a person's psychological defenses to the point where they would be sobbing hysterically and begging to stay in the Labor Committee. A former member told the *New York Times*, “I've seen them destroy people. They made me blow my guts in front off the whole group and then they used it against me. My mother came to see me and they ripped her up, screaming that she was a lesbian and had castrated my father.”

As part of the psychological manipulation within the group, LaRouche announced “Operation Mop-Up”—a series of physical attacks during 1973–75 on meetings held by other political organizations on the left. NCLC members with brass knuckles, sticks, and chains would invade a meeting and beat people up, sending some to the hospital. “We shall be cruelly ruthless in carrying out those duties which are necessary to build the kind of mass force required” to seize power from other groups, said LaRouche.

“Our hearts were not in it,” recalls one former NCLC member who asked to remain anonymous. “We were all intellectuals, only LaRouche was up for [the attacks]. We knew it was an aberration but it was all or nothing. The attacks were supposed to harden the membership. Most of us now find the whole thing was crazy.” The former member, whom we will call Mark, says the nature of the organization changed rapidly during the period of Operation Mop-Up. “LaRouche was an incredibly good speaker, he still is. . . . He's brilliant, but he has gone absolutely bonkers.”

Mark was doing graduate work in the social sciences when he was recruited into the NCLC. Now, after leaving the cult, he recalls with disbelief what he did for LaRouche. One night during Operation Mop-Up he found himself with a group of NCLC members on a night mission to attack a political meeting:

We were wearing hockey helmets covered with sky hats to try to disguise them. We had on knee pads, and were carrying sticks, trying to hide them under our coats. Imagine, it was the middle of the summer, and here we were marching through Harlem dressed like

that. I remember seeing the blacks on the stoops looking at us in amazement, and thinking, ‘My Good, we are going to be made into mincemeat.’ But instead, for blocks ahead, people were going inside and locking their doors.

A locked meeting-hall door stymied that mission, but the experience helped ensure Mark's loyalty and obedience to the NCLC and LaRouche.

After solidifying unquestionable support within the NCLC, “LaRouche began to move away from the issues,” says Mark. What had started as an intellectual study group had turned into a militant cadre of conspiratorial fanatics. LaRouche evolved a paranoid worldview in which Nelson Rockefeller was behind a conspiracy to assassinate LaRouche and spread famine and disease across the globe in order to seize power for the British oligarchy. “People who disagreed were called brainwashed and put in isolation,” recalls Mark. The proof of their brainwashing was that they opposed LaRouche's policies, and only LaRouche possessed the intellect and perception needed to “deprogram” the dissidents.

Soon, “there were no economic policies left,” Mark says, “only conspiracies; everyone hated everyone else. You couldn't talk to your wife because she was trained to rat on you. We were all pushed to do such crazy things. . . . we were totally exhausted. . . . it was very much like a Moonie operation.” Mark says it was this atmosphere of fear that prevented objections when LaRouche moved to the right.

To bring his strange message of evil cabals and unseen plotters to the American public, LaRouche formed an electoral arm—the U.S. Labor Party, which ran candidates for public offices in 1973. The USLP articulated a theory of imminent nuclear war with Rockefeller's finger on the button. Since Rockefeller was the main enemy, LaRouche began to contact other anti-Rocky forces, who tended to represent the most extreme elements of the organized right-wing such as the paramilitary Minutemen and the Washington-based Liberty Lobby. The campaign against Rockefeller launched by the USLP dominated the group's work for several years, especially after he was named vice-president.

One former USLP member, Gregory F. Rose, revealed in a *National Review* article that the anti-Rockefeller campaign focused the group's interest “in extremist right-wing organizations.” Rose produced one

memo telling USLP cadre: "Operations reports from our organizers in the field indicate growing sympathy for our 'Impeach Rocky' campaign among right-wing circles. We must move to take advantage of the situation."

#### A RIGHTWARD LURCH

The memo suggested right-wing groups could be tapped as a source of contacts, recruits, and money, and then when the Rockefeller conspiracy was broken, it would be "comparatively easy" to eliminate the cooperative right-wing groups. In late 1977 NCLC chief of staff Costas Axios told a reporter, "We must establish an industrial capitalist republic and rid this country of the Rockefeller anti-industrial anti-technology, monetarist dictatorship of today." After accomplishing this, Axios said, it would be a simple matter to "win over the people's minds."

By the fall of 1977 LaRouche was talking about a "humanist capitalist alliance" and openly recruiting right-wing support. He also detected another in the endless series of assassination attempts on his life, and hired a former Office of Strategic Services spy with close ties to the CIA to serve as his security adviser. Mitchell Werbell not only advises LaRouche on security, but also trains LaRouche cultists in what are called antiterrorist techniques. Former members call them hit squads, and point out that Werbell operates an arms-manufacturing company and has garnered the nickname "Wizard of Whispering Death."

With the untimely death of Nelson Rockefeller, LaRouche was forced to concoct a new archenemy. He came up with a series of real and imagined organizations that were part of a global conspiracy. LaRouche declared that the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish human-rights lobby and educational group, was the control network for the conspiracy in the United States.

This charge against the Anti-Defamation League surfaced shortly after the ultra-right-wing Liberty Lobby criticized the USLP for leaving the Jewish organization out of a booklet detailing the global conspiracy. Liberty Lobby complained that the USLP publication, *Carter and the Party International Terrorism*, had neglected to include any of the "major Zionist groups such as the notorious Anti-Defamation League" in the list of conspirators in the terrorism apparatus.

U.S. Labor Party researchers went to work and prepared a series of articles in their publication, *Executive Intelligence Review*, a ten dollar-per-issue weekly aimed at corporate executives, which outlined the conspiracy they called Dope, Inc. Behind the conspiracy of drug trafficking "discovered" by the USLP were a group of individuals who generally shared one common denominator—they were Jewish. The articles appeared in late 1978, and almost immediately USLP supporters founded the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition.

By early 1979 the USLP had published their research in a four-hundred-page book titled *Dope, Inc.: Britain's Opium War against the U.S.*, in which they charge that U.S. heroin peddling is controlled by British and American Jews. Dennis King, a LaRouche watcher in New York, points to other anti-Semitic charges that began to appear after the Liberty Lobby complaint. "LaRouche and his followers began to publish articles claiming that the murder of six million Jews in World War II never happened, that B'nai B'rith is a nest of treason against America, that the Jews in ancient times plotted mass murder against the Christians, and that Zionism controls the drug traffic in America."

The anti-Semitic nature of the USLP and its charges concerning the heroin drug trade were downplayed when the USLP newspaper, *New Solidarity* issued a call for a "National Anti-Drug Coalition" on July 10, 1979. For months the newspaper had been running a series of articles drawn from *Dope, Inc.*

From published reports of *Dope, Inc.* co-author David Goldman's tour, it was clear that the USLP was considering a major campaign around the antidrug issue. The fundamentals of the campaign were outlined in typical LaRoucheian rhetoric in a May 4, 1979, article in *New Solidarity*:

The explosive nature of the antidrug battle nationally has been highlighted by the situation in northern Indiana, where Goldman addressed [an antidrug] group. In the city of Highland, following months of U.S. Labor Party antidrug organizing and the door-to-door mass sales of *Dope, Inc.*, a successful crackdown on drug use in the schools was launched by local officials. Dozens of drug-abusing students were caught and subjected to strict reprimands and exposure by school authorities and parents.

The growing momentum of the antidrug movement clearly alarmed the phony "liberal" establishment. Working on behalf of their drug-pushing British masters, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has threatened court actions to disrupt the drug clean-up. The ACLU, a front for Zionist-British crime interests and a recent defender of the Nazis, is charging that students' "rights" are being violated when they are caught carrying dope in the schools!

Furious at the ACLU's defense of drug use by young people, Highland citizens marched, over 200 strong, along with a U.S. Labor Party contingent, calling for a strong antidrug fight and carrying signs identifying the ACLU as the "Anti-American Creepy Liberals United."

When the U.S. Labor Party perceived it had stumbled across a goldmine issue, it went into high gear. The call for the National Anti-Drug Coalition in the July 10 issue of *New Solidarity* was accompanied by an endorsers list of over 120 community leaders, legislators, union leaders and clerics. The founding convention of the group was set for September 29, 1979, in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

As a warm-up for the September meeting, the U.S. Labor Party scheduled a series of state and city meetings of antidrug forces, including an annual awards banquet for the Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition, a neat rabbit-out-of-the-hat piece of organizing since the Illinois coalition had only recently been invented by USLP cadre. At first several prominent political, civic, and religious leaders were lined up to appear at the Illinois awards banquet, but as word of the LaRouche connection spread—he was the featured guest speaker—people began to back off.

Typical of USLP paranoia, its cadre fired off a message on the group's international telex network:

Chicago event targeted by Kennedy . . .

LaRouche campaign is determining U.S. politics.

The Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition event scheduled for this Sunday in Chicago is coming under heavy attack by the Kennedy-controlled drug-running networks in the state. The event has become a battleground around which speakers are being targeted by various

Kennedy networks including the congressional Black Caucus, the University of Chicago, and Mayor Byrne. This is the line-up: Bennet Stewart (U.S. Rep), has been forced to withdraw by members of the Black Caucus, the same group of lackeys proposing "Auschwitz-syle" camps for the black unemployed.

According to well-placed sources, this deployment against LaRouche and the Anti-Drug Coalition is unprecedented in the history of political events in the city. With the kind of destabilization scenario now going on in Washington, the enemy is afraid of the potential we have to capture the American population.

It's this kind of paranoia that makes the LaRouche cult so dangerous and unpredictable. Unlike other cults, their conspiracy theories change from week to week, but they approach their tasks with a zeal that is characteristic of all cult groups. Despite the unstable nature of the group, it can be coldly calculating when it comes to organizing support. A secret internal USLP memo obtained from the group's Chicago office outlines the real goals of the Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition: "In general our strong point is our inroads into the World Community of Al-Islam in the West (WCIW) and our work with the police department and related organizations." The WCIW is a Black Muslim religious organization the USLP was trying to recruit at the time. The memo went on, "The strategy for the WCIW is to open the base" to the Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition and allow WCIW's religious leader, Wallace Dean Muhammad, "the breathing room he needs to nationally come out in the open for the Coalitions and for LaRouche at a later date. Our primary concern now is to engage the WCIW membership and significant leaders in the World Community at whatever level they want to work with us."

The memo continues, saying, "The police work is moving along extremely well," and describes a conversation with the head of Chicago's Narcotics Division. The memo reveals two thrusts of the Anti-Drug Coalition—organizing blacks into the LaRouche support network and solidifying ties with police agencies through the drug angle.

The USLP has long supplied "intelligence" on its enemies to local and federal law-enforcement agencies. For instance, in 1977, USLP security

“experts” met with representatives of the New Hampshire State Police and handed over a report claiming that antinuclear activists protesting the Seabrook nuclear power plant were part of an international terrorist conspiracy. The USLP also publishes *Investigative Leads*, a newsletter sold to public and private security agents.

The organizing of the black community through the Anti-Drug Coalition has been successful in many cities across the country, and a majority of those attending the Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition awards banquet were black parents with their children.

#### HARDLINE TACTICS

The highlight of the Illinois banquet was a slide show by Philadelphia autopsy technician Edward Christian that featured mangled bodies of narcotics users who had “all started out on marijuana.”

The slide show was also shown at the founding convention of the National Anti-Drug Coalition in September of 1979. The official report of the meeting started with pride: “After the presentation, a number of people, including children in the audience, fainted. ‘We must make our children faint,’ said Juan Torres, Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition chairman, ‘to burn in their minds the destruction drugs mean.’” Such neanderthal sentiments were right at home with the convention speech of Dr. Gabriel Nahas, whose marijuana research studies are so ludicrous and biased that serious researchers have dismissed them for years.

In the audience were a number of state and local elected officials who have become key contacts for the campaign to stop the decriminalization of marijuana. They included Georgia state senator Culver Kidd, who told the seven hundred assembled delegates: “We need laws that make it so that anyone caught with one hundred pounds of marijuana faces ten years in prison with no parole.”

Coming out of the conference were a series of resolutions on education, legislation, and organizing, and a network of antidrug activists who have begun organizing lobbying efforts in state capitals against decriminalization. There are also significant efforts to introduce the National Anti-Drug Coalition’s “educational” materials into public- and private-school curricula. Dr. Christian and his gruesome slide show have toured the country, appearing at schools and town meetings drawing audiences of up to eight hundred.

In June of 1980 the National Anti-Drug Coalition launched its slick magazine, *War on Drugs*, which has grown at a tremendous rate. According to an internal USLP financial telex, last year, after only a few issues, USLP cadre were selling up to 1,300 copies of the two-dollar magazine every day. Memberships in the National Anti-Drug Coalition and sales of the book *Dope, Inc.* also continue to grow. The sale of materials produced by the National Anti-Drug Coalition is quite lucrative but represents only a small part of the income-generating empire of LaRouche. On a good weekend day, the LaRouche cult raises over \$30,000 primarily in publication sales, although their weekly income usually averages between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

The National Anti-Drug Coalition is just one component of the political movement being assembled by LaRouche. His other highly successful front group, which also funnels in money and recruits, is the Fusion Energy Foundation, a pronuclear group that specializes in fund-raising at major airports. Recently, LaRouche decided to drop the names U.S. Labor Party and National Caucus of Labor Committees from his public repertoire and has been conducting most of his organizing through various front groups, especially the National Anti-Drug Coalition.

Many of the same psychologically manipulated cultists who have been with LaRouche for years continue to carry out his master plan through the various front groups. And that plan is fascism. The word *fascism* is tossed around rather carelessly by some people, but a number of writers and researchers point out LaRouche’s economic and political goals fit the classic fascist pattern of seeking rapid industrial growth through a highly centralized government that enforces cooperation of all sectors of society. LaRouche believes that only he has the ability to ensure the necessary cooperation in social, political, cultural, and economic arenas; he dismisses technology as “the rule of irrationalist episodic majorities.”

As with most fascist ideologies, the LaRouche cultists want to police our morals—and their standards are very stringent. The National Anti-Drug Coalition is already grooming its contacts for their role as the moral mind police in LaRouche’s drive for fascist power. Issues of *War on Drugs* now include articles on how sex education is “brainwashing by perversion,” and that rock ‘n’ roll is a plot to destroy the minds of America’s

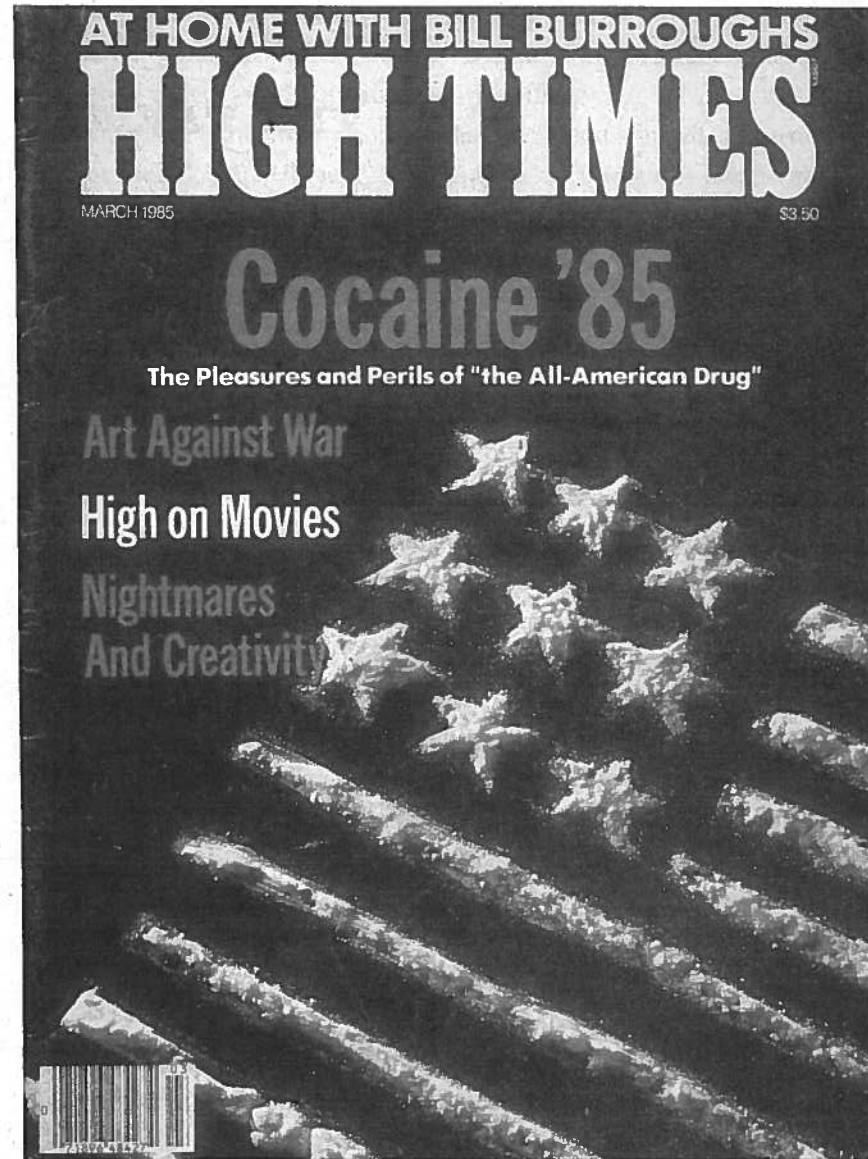


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youth. Jazz is labeled a racist and inferior musical form. LSD is reputed to be part of "the expansion of British intelligence's fifty-year campaign in the United States to create cult formations among the general population through the use of drugs and Dionysian rituals." The mind control envisioned by the moral gendarmes behind the Anti-Drug Coalition extends to removing rock, disco, jazz, and blues from public-school curricula, and from public television.

"Jazz, disco, rock, and blues have been inseparably linked to the use and dissemination of marijuana, heroin, and other mind- and body-destroying drugs throughout this century. This is as true of blues and jazz as it is of rock and disco," states an article in *War on Drugs*. "The pornographic content of today's rock and disco echoes the role of jazz and blues in the 'Roaring Twenties' as the music of organized crime and prostitution."

By tying together drugs, rock 'n' roll, and sex education, the LaRouche forces have been successful in organizing among the same fundamentalist and "new right" forces that helped give us Ronald Reagan as president, but they have also been extremely successful in organizing in the black and Latino community. This year the coalition is targeting state legislatures with antiparaphernalia bills and calls for stiffer penalties for marijuana use and sale. They are highly organized and motivated. They are directed by a zealous cult of political fanatics with a neofascist political philosophy. They have a multimillion-dollar publications network to finance their activities. They should be taken very, very seriously.



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