

Conspiracy Gains

When Kathy Goes, should Eric worry?
Will single vowel change save Diane?

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MEDFORD, Ore.— With hindsight it now looks like a bold first step, but nobody thought much about it when more than twenty years ago, the mysterious forces that began to shape the destiny of the Rogue Valley Chorale picked Lynn Sjolund (pronounced LIND showLIND, the placement of the "d" at the end of the first name making it easier for the speaker to get into the beginning consonant of the surname) to be its director. Mr. Sjolund's selection was viewed as a benign event at the time and seemed only to be motivated by a desire for the performance of serious choral music in this bucolic area of Southern Oregon. In fact after this initial effort, no manifestation of a conspiracy was apparent for some time. But as the tenth anniversary of the Rogue Valley Chorale came and went, and the conspirators realized how little progress they had made, they began intensifying their efforts. The first evidence of this renewed conspiratorial vigor was LINDa Wegner's arrival on the Southern Oregon music scene some time after the Chorale's tenth anniversary, when Ms. Wegner began to make appearances with the Chorale as a soloist. About five years ago LINDa Borecki accepted the position of accompanist for the Chorale. As the twentieth anniversary of the Chorale approached, Mr. Phil LIND began his association with the Chorale by performing a tenor solo in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. All this was after Mr. LIND had enjoyed a successful European tour with the Chorale earlier that same summer. With the momentum definitely going their way, the conspirators managed to secure the appearance of LINDa Fountain, a soprano soloist who "just happened" to return to Medford after studying elsewhere.

All this however was just a prelude to their boldest move to date. It is now widely suspected that the conspirators have entered a new phase. Instead of merely

enriching the Chorale's roster with members whose names contain "LIND", they have begun to eliminate members whose names lack this shibboleth. The first public knowledge of this came with the announcement last Saturday evening, just prior to the Chorale's first performance of its annual Christmas concert, that Kathryn Gordon, one of the soprano soloists in Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, had mysteriously come down with laryngitis and would not be able to perform. While the announcement came as though Ms. Gordon's incapacity was "just one of those unfortunate things that happen from time to time", it was viewed with suspicion by conspiracy theorists and others adept at spotting long term trends. These suspicions were replaced by alarm when it was announced that Ms. Gordon's replacement for the solo part was LINDa Fountain.

How any person or group stands to benefit from a concentration of singers with "LIND" in their names remains a mystery, and the computer in the Social Science department at Southern Oregon State College has been tied up running scenarios to answer this question. Perhaps by the time the thirtieth anniversary of the Rogue Valley Chorale rolls around, the conspiracy theories will be more developed. In the meantime, unnamed sources say that because of what happened to Ms. Gordon, Diane Newland, a Rogue Valley Chorale alto soloist, is considering changing the "a" in her last name to an "i" as a protective measure.

Scientist shows research causes cancer in rats

EUGENE — Dr. Roger Selby of the Center for Cellular Division and Nuclear Fusion, announced a result that casts doubt on some of the gains made in the fight against cancer over the past nine years. In a paper presented here at the annual meeting of The American Cancer Society, Dr. Selby concludes that white laboratory rats are so traumatized by experiments performed on them that they devel-