

Seastrand not alone in effort to connect child killer with foe

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BERKELEY (AP) — Weeks have passed since the man who killed Polly Klaas was sent to death row. But Richard Allen Davis continues to make news — this time in political campaign ads invoking his infamous name.

At least three Republican congressional candidates — Tim LeFever, Frank Riggs and San Luis Obispo County's Andrea Seastrand — are running ads using public revulsion towards Davis to attack their opponents' stands on the death penalty.

"It's a good strategy because support for the death penalty has been at the 70 percent level and above since 1978," said Bruce Cain, a political science professor at the University of California-Berkeley. "It's an issue that has hung many a liberal Democratic candidate."

Davis is one of the most loathed criminals in California. He was paroled from the California Men's Colony.

People in suburban and rural areas were terrified after Polly was snatched from her bedroom during a slumber party in 1993.

The day he was found guilty, Davis extended both middle fingers to a courtroom camera. At his sentencing, he shocked the courtroom with the unfounded accusation that Polly's own father had molested her.

One of the new ads, from the campaign of Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, tells viewers two people were disappointed when Davis was sentenced to die — Davis and Seastrand's opponent, Democrat Walter Capps.

"It's about as outrageous as you can imagine," said Doug Capps, Walter Capps' brother and campaign manager.

'This hasn't all happened so that individual politicians can use it to pursue their own political ends.'

— Marc Klaas,

father of Polly Klaas, unhappy about Richard Allen Davis ads

Capps claims the ad is wrong. He says he supports execution for egregious crimes such as Polly's murder.

But the Seastrand campaign says Capps is flip-flopping and they question his heinous crime exception.

"What does ... Capps think the death penalty's given for?" asked Seastrand spokesman Will Bos. "You don't get the death penalty for parking violations."

Bos defended the ad as legitimate discussion of an important issue.

"Crime is going to be a central issue in our campaign and the ad serves to further define the difference between Rep. Seastrand and Walter Capps," he said.

The Seastrand ad also includes

side-by-side pictures of Davis and Capps, one labeled, "The Murderer," the other labeled, "The Liberal."

LeFever, running against Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, has an ad that quotes Fazio as calling LeFever an extremist "because he believes that killers like Richard Allen Davis deserve the death penalty." It ends with a shot of Davis slowly transforming into Fazio's face.

In the Riggs vs. Democrat Michela Alioto race, the ad opens with footage of Davis, then switches to a shot of Riggs, describing him as death penalty supporter.

Alioto is then shown with a red question mark superimposed on her face, and she's heard saying, "I am not in favor of the death penalty." The narrator asks where viewers stand, with Riggs and the "vast majority of those of us on the North Coast, or Michela Alioto and her San Francisco friends."

Polly's father, Marc Klaas, is unhappy about the ads.

"This hasn't all happened so that individual politicians can use it to pursue their own political ends," he said.

Klaas issued a statement to the Alioto campaign decrying Riggs' ad. That quote, written in white letters against a black screen, begins the Alioto campaign's counterattack ad that goes on to charge that Riggs has "gone too far."

But Klaas said although he felt compelled to make a response, he would rather not be involved in campaigning.

"I'm not endorsing anybody," he said.

Klaas has become an outspoken advocate on children's issues. But he said the family learned to stay out of partisan politics two years ago. That was when they allowed Democratic candidate Tom Unger to use Polly's case in an ad attacking his opponent, Attorney General Dan Lungren. The ad turned out to be in "terrible taste," Klaas said.

Candidates understood Klaas' distress, but defended their ads.

"We're talking about the death penalty. We're talking about Vic Fazio's record on the death penalty and we're talking about what we are going to do with the Richard Allen Davises of this world," said LeFever, noting that his ads do not mention Polly's name.

"Congressman Riggs, as someone who has worked closely with many crime victims, has the greatest sympathy for Marc Klaas and his family, but this case has come to symbolize the urgent need for death penalty appeal reform," said Riggs' spokesman, Beau Phillips.

Like Capps, Fazio and Alioto claim they are not as anti-death penalty as they are portrayed. Alioto's campaign said she would not use it as a litmus test for legislation; Fazio has not voted against it in Congress because voters in his district support it, his staff said.

Cain said the ads reflect the intensity of the races.

"It's not surprising that there are hard-hitting ads going in there," he said.

Here's what those ads are showing

BERKELEY (AP) — A brief description of campaign ads featuring Richard Allen Davis, sentenced to die for the kidnap-murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas.

LEFEVER CAMPAIGN

The ad opens with pictures of Democratic incumbent Vic Fazio and Republican challenger Tim LeFever. Above the pictures are the words "Death Penalty," below the pictures are labels saying "Fazio Opposes," "LeFever Supports."

Narrator says, "Vic Fazio says that Tim LeFever is an extremist because he believes that killers like Richard Allen Davis deserve the death penalty." At that point the word "Extremist," in red appears below Fazio's picture.

The final shot is a picture of Davis slowly fading out as Fazio's face fades in.

SEASTRAND CAMPAIGN

The ad opens with children in a playground.

Narrator says, "When the murderer of Polly Klaas got the death penalty he deserved, two people were disappointed: Richard Allen Davis, the murderer, and Walter Capps."

On the screen two pictures appear, one of Davis, labeled, "The Murderer," the other of Capps, labeled, "The Liberal."

The ad goes on to say that Capps would "rather see Richard Allen Davis spend 20 years in jail watching cable TV than get the punishment he deserves."

The ad ends with Seastrand talking to a little girl. Then the camera switches to a shot of two boys on the swings, one of the boys fades out of the picture, leaving an empty swing dangling ominously.

RIGGS CAMPAIGN

Opens with footage of Davis.

A narrator says, "The unspeakable murder of Polly Klaas has again raised the death penalty issue."

Switches to shot of Riggs, describing him as a former police officer who supports the death penalty, "always has; always will."

Narrator asks, "But what about Michela Alioto?" whose picture is shown with a red question mark superimposed over her face. Alioto, who apparently was being asked questions at the time the footage was shot, says, "Do I support the death penalty for Richard Allen Davis? Is that what you asked?" She answers, "I am not in favor of the death penalty."

Add concludes with pictures of both candidates, narrator asks, "Where do you stand? With Frank Riggs and the vast majority of those of us on the North Coast, or Michela Alioto and her San Francisco friends."

ALIOTO CAMPAIGN RESPONSE AD

Opens with words "Marc

Klaas," on screen.

Narrator asks, "What did Marc Klaas say about Frank Riggs' negative ad?"

Klaas quote appears on screen: "Frank Riggs should stop exploiting my daughter Polly's death to further his own political ambitions."

A picture of Riggs appears with a narrator saying, "Congressman Riggs has gone too far."

The ad then says Alioto is different and switches to shots of her talking to people while a narrator declares she is running to "protect Medicare, to improve education," among other things.

No quota value

LOANCOO RECORD OCT 23 1996

I want to thank the Democratic Party, the AFL-CIO, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton and many others for finally clearing things up on the truth of affirmative action. Let's not forget our own champion of truth, Mr. Walter Capps.

I am a Hispanic and for many years a supporter of affirmative action. I want to thank all these people for feeling my pain all these years. My question to all these people is, what are they gaining by keeping Hispanics and other minorities under affirmative action quotas?

A little-known report by UC-Santa Barbara reported that affirmative action quotas were directly responsible for the number of minority students at UCSB. It appears, by these reports, that, without affirmative action quotas, the number of minority students could have been higher.

What I would like to know from the supporters of quotas, especially our local politicians, is why are quotas being used to keep minorities out of UCSB, in particular Hispanic students. It has been the argument of these do-gooder politicians that has finally shed some light on the truth. Affirmative action quotas are working against minorities. For example, if affirmative action states that 20 percent of all new students should be Hispanics and 40 percent are qualified to enroll, which figure is used for enrollment?

It seems very clear to me that, in Santa Barbara County with its large Hispanic population, our population representation at institutions such as UCSB, is being kept low because of Affirmative Action Program quotas.

So, who really does benefit from Affirmative Action Program quotas? Definitely not the people that it was intended to help.

Hector Merced Lompoc

LA News Press

Keep Seastrand

OCT 27 1996

She is worthy of your vote! That's what I say about Andrea Seastrand. She represents Santa Barbarans well.

Vote for her for good commonsense government. She is hard working and does her job well. Keep her on the job.

Victor P. Kinnaird Santa Barbara