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March 13, 1995

# How Leo Frank's Death Fueled Fight for Justice

To the Editor:

"The Lynching of Leo Frank," an advertisement for the Teaching Tolerance Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center (Op-Ed page, March 5), needs a postscript.

In March 1986, the State of Georgia granted a posthumous pardon to Leo Frank, 73 years after courtroom crowds clamored for the jury to "hang the Jew."

The reversal, after years of petitions, was based on 1982 testimony by Alonzo Mann, who had been an office boy in the factory Frank managed and where Mary Phagan was murdered in 1913. Mr. Mann, after all those years finally came forward to say he had seen the janitor carrying the dead Mary's body, but was afraid to speak out at the trial.

One aftermath of the Leo Frank trial was the founding in 1913 of the Anti-Defamation League "to end the defamation of Jews; to seek justice and fair treatment for all citizens alike." LYNNE IANNIELLO  
Laguna Hills, Calif., March 5, 1995

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