

National News

Concert for scientific tuning held in capital

A gala concert, "In Defense of the Human Singing Voice," sponsored by the Schiller Institute, was held at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium in Washington, D.C. on May 28, featuring selections from several operas performed by the Lubo Opera Company of New Jersey at Giuseppe Verdi's pitch of A = 432 vibrations.

The concert was reported by the *Washington Times* and the *Washington Post*, and reviewed by the *Post* and WGMS-FM, a classical radio station. It was taped for rebroadcast by National Public Radio, thus giving the campaign initiated by Lyndon LaRouche for scientific musical tuning a high profile in the nation's capital.

Schiller Institute President John Siegeron introduced the concert by explaining the presence of two pianos on stage, one tuned to A = 432, and the second tuned to A = 440. Brief passages of several selections were first performed at the higher tuning, and then the complete selections were performed at the scientific pitch. Judging by the audience's reaction, the fuller, richer, and more natural tones produced at the lower pitch, were clearly audible.

The *Washington Times*, under the heading, "How high can a high C get?" previewed the Lubo Opera performance and the C = 256 pitch controversy in its Arts and Entertainment Section on May 25.

"There's a campaign afoot to lower the pitch of performance, and it is gathering support from many who know a thing or two about music. Dame Joan Sutherland, Birgit Nilsson, Renata Tebaldi, and Marilyn Horne are among the dozens of signatories to the Schiller Institute's demands to bring the tuning down to the pitch Giuseppe Verdi knew in his lifetime.

"Pitch has gone up as much as a whole tone since the days of bel canto, making for brighter string playing but sometimes strained singing.

"To demonstrate, there will be a gala concert, 'In Defense of the Singing Voice,'

at Lisner Auditorium Sunday at 8 p.m. Artists from the Lubo Opera will sing arias in both 19th-century and present-day tuning, letting the audience judge which sounds better. The concert, co-sponsored by George Washington University, will include arias from *Don Carlo*, *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, and *Il Trovatore*."

On May 27 an article in the "Style" section of the *Washington Post* entitled "Lyndon LaRouche's Pitch Battle" by Joseph McLellan, reported on the Schiller Institute tuning campaign, including the legislation which it initiated in the Italian Parliament for the lower tuning.

The *Post* admitted, "A list of those who have endorsed the bill reads like a 'Who's Who' of opera singers."

Iran-Contra scandal topples Bush nominee

Richard L. Armitage withdrew his name from consideration as Secretary of the Army on May 25 to avoid being grilled about his role in the Iran-Contra scandal. Armitage thus becomes the first victim among several Bush administration nominees with deep ties to that scandal.

Armitage faced tough questioning on his role in the Iran-Contra scandal, and over his relationship with a woman convicted of illegal gambling. Armitage has also been accused by Texas industrialist Ross Perot of being involved in drug trafficking while serving in the Vietnam war.

But the hearing on the nomination of Donald Gregg, who is being questioned about his role in the Iran-Contra scandal by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made things too hot for Armitage. A congressional official declared, "Every time his name comes up, people raise allegations about Iran-Contra, the old charges that he was involved in some kind of drug operation in Vietnam, and other personal allegations." Another official said that Armitage "had watched with concern as senators questioned Donald Gregg about his role in Iran-

gate." Armitage has also resigned his post as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

General Rogers calls for new missiles

A former NATO Commander, Gen. Bernard Rogers (ret.), called for air-launched intermediate range missiles to be developed for the defense of Europe at a German-American forum in Detroit, Michigan, according to press reports on May 25.

Rogers said that the air-launched missiles were needed to fill the gap left by land-based potentials eliminated under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty. Since the missiles above 500 kilometers range either have been or will be removed under the INF Treaty, NATO's armed forces in Europe lack the former land-based deterrent against the Soviet threat, he said. NATO should develop an air-launched deterrent capable of reaching Soviet territory, therefore, to reinstitute deterrence.

Simple modernization of the land-based weapons, such as the Lance missile, that are still permitted under the INF Treaty would not be sufficient, Rogers declared, because they could never gain the range required to hit enemy rear echelons.

Pentagon urges against SDI deployment

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have proposed that the United States "no longer insist on the right to eventually deploy extensive antimissile defenses," according to the *New York Times* June 1.

"Representatives of the chiefs have reportedly argued that the Soviet Union might be in a better position to deploy new antimissile defenses than the United States. They have also urged restraint on spending for 'Star Wars,' " according to the *Times*.

One official quoted said, "There is concern that we won't be ready to deploy and that the Russians will be able to move forward with more ground-based defenses."

Adm. William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a press conference in Oslo, Norway, also said the Chiefs "support President Bush's initiative to reduce our everyday presence in Europe."

U.N. asked to probe 'LaRouche case'

On May 30, the secretary general of the United Nations Human Rights Center in Geneva was served with a formal request that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights intervene into a "consistent pattern of unjustified criminal prosecutions against individuals and organizations" in the United States, associated with former presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The 35-page communication, submitted by Helga Zepp-LaRouche under Resolution 1503 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, argues that this situation of widespread violations of human rights is in violation of important provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- Articles 1, 7, 18, and 20 regarding the equal rights and personal freedom of each individual, equality before the law, the right to freedom of thought and manifestation of political belief, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

- Articles 10 and 11 regarding the right to a fair trial by an independent and impartial tribunal, the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a public trial at which the accused has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense, and the protection against conviction for any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense, under national or international law, at the time that it was committed.

- Articles 5 and 9 regarding the protection against inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and against arbitrary arrest and detention.

The brief focuses on the persecution of LaRouche and the political-philosophical movement associated with him as "probably the most outspoken example of the cited pattern of judicial abuse presently being conducted in the United States." It details the 20-year-long history of unlawful interference by the U.S. authorities against the First Amendment activities of LaRouche's political-philosophical association, the culmination of LaRouche's judicial persecution in the Alexandria trial, and the totally unjustified incarceration of LaRouche and six of his associates in Virginia.

Several hundred pages of documentation are attached to the communication, together with a fact sheet on the Loudoun County, Virginia trial of LaRouche associate Rochelle Ascher, who was sentenced to 86 years in prison for raising political loans.

Trustees names for Teamsters union

The details of the Bush administration takeover of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters were announced June 1. Each of the trustees named has a demonstrated bias against constituency-based political machines, which are crucial to the protection of the economic and other rights of citizens.

Under the terms of a March 1989 out-of-court settlement approved by Judge David Edelstein between the Department of Justice and the union, a team of three overseers will monitor alleged corruption in the union through 1992, and supervise a new voting procedure for union officers.

The team is composed of former Federal Judge Frederick Lacey of Newark, who, as a prosecutor, had successfully destroyed former Newark Mayor Hugh Addonizio; Charles Carberry, formerly the securities fraud section chief for the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan, supervised politically motivated operations against Manhattan financial interests; and Michael Holland, the former general counsel of the United Mine Workers, a union which was destroyed earlier by the DoJ.

Briefly

- **SEABROOK**, the New Hampshire nuclear plant, is expected to open after a delay of 21 years. A federal court on May 25 rejected the last-ditch effort of anti-nuclear petitioners. The plant has low-power licensing, and is working on obtaining licensing for full power.

- **THE EXPLOSION** aboard the USS Iowa that killed 47 sailors is the subject of a criminal investigation after the Navy formally ruled out faulty gunpowder as the cause of the gun turret explosion, according to the *Washington Post* May 26.

- **THE NATIONAL** Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee tied to the Lyndon LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party, was denied a rehearing by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston May 31 over whether it could be fined without an evidentiary hearing. The NDPC is now filing for a stay to prevent collection of multimillion-dollar contempt fines arising from the LaRouche prosecutions and will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

- **MAUREEN REAGAN** said President Bush is a continuation of the Ford administration, according to press accounts May 30. "They seem to believe that you should never take a hard stand. Everything is conciliation. Compromise is the order of the day," she said.

- **KENT ROBINSON**, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Alexandria, Virginia prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche and six associates, is systematically contacting each of the almost 150 attorneys who appeared as signers on an *amicus curiae* brief filed on May 25 with the LaRouche appeal. Robinson said it was his belief that the signatories were not well enough informed to legitimately sign the brief, despite the fact that they each signed statements that they were.