

# National News

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## ADL allowed to censor GOP candidates

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith has a direct say in the selection of Republican Party candidates following a series of meetings last year between top ADL officials and Republican National Committee chairman Lee Atwater.

The arrangement was first reported in *Washington Jewish Week* of Sept. 7, 1989. The ADL "has reached a tentative agreement with the Republican Party to evaluate party candidates and appointees for neo-Nazi or racist associations. . . . If it goes through as expected, the Jewish organization will check prospective GOP candidates for political office and campaign and party positions for extremist backgrounds," the magazine said.

The tax-exempt ADL got the deal after its dope lobbyist stringers Chip Berlet and Russ Bellant wrote a libelous attack upon GOP ethnic Eastern Europeans charging many with having been Nazis. ADL national director Abraham Foxman, whom many (including some ADL officials) suspect of being a Soviet "sleeper," said anyone who objected to their censorship "has a sickness in his mind."

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## Court lets right to life convictions stand

The U.S. Supreme Court decided May 21 not to review a lower court ruling which fined Operation Rescue, the right to life organization, in a case stemming from anti-abortion demonstrations in New York.

The anti-abortion group had been ordered to pay the National Organization for Women \$50,000, and the New York City Police Department \$19,000 for police overtime.

Operation Rescue leader Randall Terry said the decision not to review the case was "terribly disappointing," and again demonstrated that the Supreme Court was a "great defender" of the abortion industry. Terry said that all the issues dealing with funda-

mental justice in the case "have been ignored."

Terry noted that "no other protest group in the past 20 years" has had such enormous fines levied against it. The fines were levied "with the intent to bankrupt us and close us down," he charged.

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## Thornburgh Doctrine to be tested in abduction

U.S. Federal Judge Edward Rafeedie has ordered prosecutors to disclose at an upcoming hearing who approved the kidnaping of Mexican Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain in the murder case of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena. "I'd like to know the highest level of authority who authorized this," Judge Rafeedie said.

The hearing was requested by the defense, which argued that the charges against the doctor should be dismissed because of "outrageous [U.S.] government conduct," a reference to the so-called Thornburgh Doctrine.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported May 23 that Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo issued a written statement categorically denying that he approved an "under the table" agreement to hand over Alvarez Machain to American officials.

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## Montana residents decry Earth First! terrorists

Montana residents have been turning out at meeting by the hundreds demanding that Earth First! terrorists be denied permission to hold meetings on public lands.

Protests have erupted across the Western states after the Forest Service granted permission for the eco-terrorists to meet at the Beaverhead National Forest in southwest Montana to "strategize." Over 500 eco-terrorists are expected to gather there from July 7-16 for intensive training on how to conduct acts of sabotage and terrorism. The Forest Service argues everyone has a right to use the national forests.

On May 16, Perry Pendley, head of the Mountain States Legal Foundation which is fighting the eco-terrorists, denounced the Forest Service decision saying, "We believe that an environmental terrorist organization that says no other user of the public lands has a right to use public lands and that its members can use sabotage and terrorism to prevent those uses has forfeited its right to meet on public land.

"We believe that an organization which instructs its adherents on how to 'spike' trees, sabotage heavy equipment and aircraft, and make and use caltrops [road spikes] and land mines has no business meeting on public lands to 'strategize' on how to commit such acts more effectively and without getting caught."

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## U.S. agrees to pay Noriega's legal fees

The U.S. government has agreed to pay upwards of \$3 million in legal fees to Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega's team of lawyers to avoid revealing all U.S. payments to Noriega by various U.S. intelligence agencies over the last 20 years. In exchange, the defense has agreed not to press for a full accounting of U.S. payments.

The defense had requested permission to withdraw from the case because Noriega had become unable to pay them when all of his bank accounts were frozen on Jan. 1, 1990 by the U.S. It put in a request for a complete disclosure of all U.S. payments to Noriega in order to show that \$11 million of his frozen assets were direct payments from the U.S. and hence not the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Noriega's lawyer Frank Rubino said his defense strategy would concentrate on the political implications of American government actions in Panama, including the December 1989 invasion of Panama by U.S. troops, rather than the narrower legal issues of the U.S. case charging Noriega with being a drug dealer.

Noriega is reportedly being threatened to shut up and plead guilty or face assassination by "inmates [who] are there only because of information he gave to the United

● **MINNEAPOLIS** media are reporting that "hundreds of ethnic protesters" are expected to make a "show of force" when Gorbachov arrives in early June. The Baltic Action Council estimated that busloads would come from Milwaukee, St. Louis, Des Moines, and Chicago, to join as many as 10,000 Soviet emigrés from Minneapolis.

● **GEORGE BUSH** can handpick GOP primary candidates, the *Washington Post* reported May 22. "Whatever George Bush wants . . . the White House and the Republican National Committee will try to get." White House chief of staff John Sununu denied the charge.

● **OVER 3,500 LOGGERS**, mill workers, their families, and supporters rallied in Kelso, Washington on May 19 to demonstrate against the lockup of millions more acres of forest to protect the spotted owl.

● **EARTH FIRST!** terrorist founder Dave Foreman, when asked about the mass famine in Ethiopia during 1988, told the Australian magazine *Simply Living*, "The best thing would be just to let the people there starve." Foreman was arrested in the U.S. in 1989 on charges of conspiracy to destroy electrical transmission lines.

● **BROADCASTING** executives held an emergency meeting in early May to attempt to explain a dramatic 4% drop in television viewership since the beginning of the year. At the same time, the American Society of Newspaper Editors annual convention was reportedly dominated by self-questioning of what is causing declining newspaper readership.

● **ROBERT DOLE**, the Senate Minority Leader, during a huddle of GOP leaders after the first session of the budget summit, on at least three occasions recalled Bush's dirty tactics in the 1988 New Hampshire campaign, columnists Evans and Novak reported May 19. Bush beat Dole by making the no-new-taxes pledge.

States about drug smugglers," according to a report in the May 20 London *Sunday Times*. The paper reported Noriega has received a threat from Carlos Lehder, a leader of the Medellín Cartel. "The sorrow of the men of your race whom you turned over to the agents of the DEA destined for prisons in the U.S.A., awaits you," Lehder wrote.

## Neil Bush implicated in improper loans

Neil Bush, President Bush's son, approved loans worth \$106 million to a business partner while he was a director of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association, and failed to disclose their relationship, Office of Thrift Supervision attorney Brian McCormally told a House Banking Committee hearing on May 22.

The committee heard accounts of how a \$1 billion pool of bad loans were used to cover up Silverado's losses in Colorado real estate. "This is going to be a sordid tale of deceit," Rep. Norman Shumway (R-Calif.) said at the start of the proceedings.

Neil Bush served on the board of directors of the failed Silverado Savings and Loan of Denver when it came up with a so-called "quid pro quo" loan scheme where in 16 cases Silverado executives allegedly loaned real estate developers millions of dollars more than they had asked for on condition they use some of it to buy Silverado stock and to buy repossessed real estate the thrift needed to sell. The 16 transactions resulted in losses of \$278.5 million that had to be made up by the federal government.

## DoJ seeks right to pre-trial asset seizure

The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking new legislation "that would vastly expand federal prosecutors' ability to freeze the assets of defendants in fraud cases before trial and permanently seize the assets after conviction," the *Wall Street Journal* reported May 16.

The *Journal* characterized the bill as one which "would extend forfeiture provisions to cover assets that are the 'gross receipts' of fraud involving use of the U.S. mail, credit cards, and computers, as well as military procurement fraud and fraud against federal programs such as Medicare. . . . The proposed bill would allow prosecutors to attempt to seize assets either during a criminal trial or in a separate civil proceeding."

Civil proceedings are being emphasized because the standard of proof is lower, and the procedure is quicker, according to Barry Stern of the Justice Department, who helped draft the proposal. The *Journal* noted that "Some defense lawyers, civil libertarians and criminal targets have criticized the government's expanding efforts to seize assets as excessively punitive and possibly unconstitutional. These criticisms have arisen, for example, in securities manipulation cases prosecuted under existing racketeering statutes."

## UAW forces older workers to retire early

The corporatist-fascist policies of the United Auto Workers leadership has led them to seek the forced early retirement of older workers, according to an article in the May 21 *Wall Street Journal*.

The UAW wants older workers to retire, even if they don't receive as much pension benefits as they want, to improve the "job security" of younger workers. General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler maintain that they cannot afford to increase pension benefits—and the UAW leadership is siding with the companies. Gary Watson, chairman of the UAW's GM bargaining council, told the *Journal*, "I'm not opposed to increasing pensions, but I am opposed to bankrupting the company that you've got to work for."

GM recently revealed it plans to double the pensions of the auto makers' 3,350 top executives.

The average age of a UAW member is 45 years. About 12% are over 55 years of age. Some 20% of UAW workers at GM have 25 years of service. The *Journal* reported that a split in UAW ranks is deepening over the issue.