

# National News

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## Columnist raises brutality of sanctions

Columnist George Will, who is often a voice for those neo-conservative networks which have been strong advocates for war against Iraq, questioned in a Dec. 2 column whether the American population is ready to accept the consequences of the sanctions policy which is offered as the "humanitarian" alternative to war against Iraq.

Will quoted from a 1932 study by the Twentieth Century Fund, "the authors of which included Allen Foster Dulles, which assessed food embargoes against nations that import (as Iraq does) significant amounts of foods: '[Food embargoes] are not persuasive measures, but the most savage of war measures. They are particularly difficult to uphold on merely moral grounds, since they bear more heavily on the civilian population than on the army, and more heavily on women and children than on the men. For effectiveness, and for moral standing, a really successful food embargo ranks well in advance of torpedoing hospital ships and is somewhere near the class of gassing maternity hospitals.' "

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## Drug abuse statistics exposed as sham

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), the government's leading indicator of patterns of hard-core drug abuse by Americans, is dysfunctional as the result of cutbacks in funding of hospitals across the country, according to a Department of Justice official.

DAWN, which collates emergency room incidents of drug overdoses, has in the past been one of the more reliable measures of patterns of drug abuse. Over the past year, however, DAWN statistics have been only erratically reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration. An estimated 25-30% of the time, emergency room drug overdose information goes unreported—mainly because scarce resources are prioritized to emergency care rather than statistical analy-

sis and paperwork. Thus, all the statistics showing a decline in drug abuse must be taken as highly unreliable, the official said.

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## Apple growers sue NRDC, CBS over Alar

A group of 4,700 apple growers has filed suit in Superior Court in Yakima, Washington, against the CBS News program "60 Minutes" and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) over the Feb. 26, 1989 program discussing the "risks" of using Alar, a chemical growth-regulator which is sprayed on apple trees to improve color and prevent apples from falling off the tree before they are ripe, the Nov. 29 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported.

The NRDC, as has been documented in the *Wall Street Journal* and elsewhere, concocted a report called "Intolerable Risk: Pesticides in Our Children's Food" which alleges that Alar causes cancer. Studies of Alar showed that a person would have to eat tens of thousands of apples a day for 70 years in order to get cancer. A vast media campaign, which featured actress Meryl Streep decrying Alar, resulted in the Environmental Protection Agency banning the chemical this year.

In their suit, the apple growers say they have lost over \$100 million since the "60 Minutes" broadcast. Millions of dollars in damages are sought in the suit's charges of unfair business practices and product disparagement.

Steven Berzon, an attorney representing the NRDC, said the lawsuit could have a chilling effect on public activism, claiming the suit violates free speech and "the right of citizens to petition the government on important questions of public policy."

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## Congress to gut fusion energy budget

The House Appropriations Committee is moving to cut \$50 million from the previously passed \$330 million FY 1991 Magnetic Fusion Energy R&D budget, which

would gut the program, fusion scientists report. This cut is reportedly being backed by the Department of Energy (DoE).

All alternative fusion research approaches and the university programs will be virtually wiped out, while only a few, large main-line tokamak experiments will be continued. At present, plans call for gutting the Los Alamos reversed field pinch ZT-H program in New Mexico, and the Oak Ridge Stellarator program in Tennessee, together with university-based fusion research programs.

"These cuts are purely based on politics," reported one leading scientist. "All the recent technical reviews, like the DoE Fusion Power Advisory Committee review this summer, strongly support maintaining these specific programs along with the main-line experiments, if not expanding them," he said. "Efforts are being made to have DoE look again at how these cuts are being proposed to be applied—since they would virtually destroy the future of fusion in the U.S. by undermining the university programs."

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## Judge demands funds to pay Noriega's lawyers

The U.S. government was ordered by federal Judge William Hoeveller on Nov. 26 to determine how much of Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega's frozen assets may have come from illegal means so some funds can be released for his defense against drug charges. The judge said he would set a hearing on the issue if the government fails to act, UPI reported Nov. 28.

"I am deeply concerned about the image that this case seems to be acquiring . . . that this defendant is not going to get a fair trial," he said.

Noriega's defense lawyers say they have not been paid and have received very little money for his defense since January because the U.S. government requested that the general's assets held in foreign bank accounts be frozen on the premise the money is drug tainted.

Noriega's lawyer, Frank Rubino, said, "My opinion is that Judge Hoeveller thinks the government can do more than it has done to release the funds . . . so he's going to put the fat to the fire."

## Bush critic disappears after threats to life

British author Anthony Sutton, who had written such books as *Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution* and *Wall Street and the Rise of Hitler*, disappeared a little over a year ago. A spokesman for his former publisher told *EIR* that his disappearance followed death threats after his recent work.

Through his *Phoenix Letter* newsletter and in book form, Sutton had done extensive work on the Yale University group Skull and Bones, which had associated George Bush with the Harriman family's ties to the 120 Broadway Trust network which helped put Adolf Hitler in power.

Sutton's last known work was a book called *The Two Faces of George Bush*. The book had to be published from Australia, and it appears that Sutton's newsletter, which runs these exposés, is forced to keep changing publishers.

## LaRouche enemy suing her employer NBC

Pat Lynch, a chief participant in the "Get LaRouche" task force which railroaded Lyndon LaRouche to prison, is a principal in a lawsuit charging NBC with age bias.

The news agency has put 25 of its producers, directors, and news writers, nearly all of them over 40, into a "pool" created to serve all its news broadcasts, not just the high-profile special teams. Of 21 union employees placed in the pool, more than half are over 50, the Nov. 30 *Washington Post* reported.

NBC spokesmen told the *Washington Journalism Review* that the transfers were based strictly on ability. Steve Friedman, executive producer of "NBC Nightly News" told Lynch that her work was "an indulgence that 'Nightly News' can no longer afford" and that he wanted people who could "churn them out."

Lynch, who is identified as an investigative producer "who was sued unsuccessfully by Lyndon LaRouche," said that "Friedman did not respond directly when asked if he felt she could not churn them out at her age."

## Presidential closet probed for skeletons

A journalist has reported to *EIR* that he had been a member of a task force, including journalists from Katharine Graham's *Newsweek* magazine, that was investigating the story that George Bush had a mistress. The editors of *Newsweek* and other journals decided to withhold the story two weeks before the 1988 election ostensibly because the burden of proof was too high, he said.

The journalist said that suspicion had been largely narrowed down to a woman who resided in Washington, D.C., whom Bush had signaled he would appoint to a foreign policy post. It was said that the CIA had been concerned about the affair, which dates back to at least 1975-1976, because Bush was using the CIA director's plane, top secret communications systems, and other facilities to further the romance. The woman had lived for a period of time in London, and there was also a fear that this made the director susceptible to counterespionage.

## LaRouche's judge frees drug runners

Federal Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr., who founded Interarms, the gun-running firm, and who presided over the railroading of Lyndon LaRouche to prison, acquitted two Iranians of distributing crack cocaine Nov. 29, "ruling that passing a crack pipe and offering a puff at a party does not constitute drug distribution," the *Washington Post* reported.

The two—a restaurateur named Nasser Zolfaghari and a former World Bank official named Mohammed Saberi—had been charged with one count of conspiring to "buy dozens of ounces of cocaine and manufacturing crack for distribution" in Washington.

The defendants' attorney, Brian P. Gettings, had served as the lawyer for LaRouche associate Michael Billington in a federal trial, and then cooperated with the prosecution, despite attempts by Billington to dismiss him, in a related trial in Virginia courts. Billington received a 77-year sentence.

● **BOB MARTINEZ**, the outgoing governor of Florida, was nominated by President Bush for national drug policy director on Nov. 30. Bush praised Martinez for having "signed more than 130 death warrants." Martinez is close to the drug-running networks exposed in the Iran-Contra scandal (see *EIR*, Dec. 7, 1990).

● **NEIL BUSH** served on the board of Silverado-Elektra Ventures Ltd., a joint land development venture, from 1986 until 1988. Securities and Exchange Commission documents obtained by the *Denver Post* show that the firm served as a "straw buyer" of Houston residential lots from MDC Holdings, thereby helping MDC evade federal securities laws, the Nov. 27 *New York Times* reported.

● **BOSTON HERALD** editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen attacked President Bush's "New World Order" on Dec. 2. "Stop the new world order, I want to get off!" she wrote in an attack on the amorality of Bush's Gulf policy, his deal with Syrian dictator Hafez al-Assad, and his deal with the Red Chinese butchers.

● **ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS** an estimated 10,000 strong, marched in Boston Dec. 1, calling on President Bush to bring the troops home from the Persian Gulf.

● **THE MAINE** Department of Education rejected a Waldo County school district's proposal to slash its school week to four days. This does not close the door on similar requests by other budget-strapped districts, a state official said Dec. 2.

● **STUDENTS** held a mock execution in front of the Virginia state capitol in Richmond Nov. 27, to protest the death penalty. Julie McConnell, director of the Virginia Association for Abolishing the Death Penalty, presented a cost analysis showing that it is cheaper to keep someone alive for life than to go through the procedures to enforce the penalty.