
National News

Omaha child sex abuse case may be re-opened

Troy Boner, a victim and a principal witness against a satanic ritual child abuse and murder ring based in Omaha, Nebraska, has admitted that he was coerced and intimidated to falsely recant his testimony. The case originally started to uncover a nationwide ring, including some prominent personalities, when the state legislature began in 1988 to investigate the failure of the Franklin Community Credit Union and its president, Larry King. Two victim-witnesses were imprisoned on perjury charges, after Boner recanted his testimony against the abusers. Attorney John DeCamp, author of the best-selling book *The Franklin Coverup*, has filed suit for a new trial for his client, victim-witness Alisha Owen.

The shocking new admissions by Troy Boner (pronounced "Bonner") implicate the FBI and members of Omaha's high society. According to the Oct. 30 *Omaha World-Herald*, "Troy Boner, who was a witness at her trial, has submitted an affidavit saying that he lied both at the trial and to a grand jury, according to documents filed in court seeking a new trial for Miss Owen. In his affidavit, Boner alleges wrongdoing by some prominent Omaha men and says he lied to the grand jury and at the Owen trial because he was afraid of being harmed and because the FBI encouraged him to lie."

Virginia may change law for death penalty appeals

Virginia legislators are now more actively considering a change in Virginia's death penalty law, prompted by the Earl Washington case, according to the Nov. 1 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. A legislative subcommittee that has been considering, but has not acted on, changing the law that makes it impossible for new evidence to be admitted to court 21 days after sentencing, is now planning to hold more hearings on the question, in late November or early December.

Earl Washington, who is the next death row inmate scheduled to die in Virginia's electric chair, is retarded, and DNA evidence of semen found on the murder victim proving his innocence was never presented at trial.

Committee Chairman Del. Clifton A. Woodrum (D-Roanoke) is quoted on Washington's case: "The idea of a person wrongfully convicted is bad enough. But the idea of a person wrongly convicted and suffering the death penalty as a result is simply terrible. It is something we should not tolerate as a civilized society."

Washington has spent 10 years on death row, accused of a rape-murder. Evidence that he was not the murderer was released by Virginia Attorney General Stephen Rosenthal last week, but Rosenthal has refused to call for Washington's freedom, and Gov. Douglas Wilder has refused to grant him clemency, until all his appeals are exhausted.

Rev. Lumpkin sues San Francisco

On Oct. 28, Rev. Eugene Lumpkin filed a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court against Mayor Frank Jordan, stating that he was fired from the city's Human Rights Commission solely because of his religious beliefs. The suit charges that the removal of Reverend Lumpkin was a violation of federal and state law prohibiting employment discrimination based on religion. Lumpkin had earlier this year publicly asserted his agreement with the Bible that homosexuality is a sin, and was forced off the Human Rights Commission.

In a related development, on Oct. 27, the San Francisco Police Department announced that it will seek criminal indictments against some of the homosexual rioters who took part in an attack on Sept. 19 on the Hamilton Square Baptist Church, where Reverend Lumpkin had been invited to address a service. During the riot, police repeatedly claimed they could not stop the largely homosexual mob from blocking the entrances and attempting to beat down the fire exits, because the event was open to

the public. It was, in fact, a regular prayer service, known only to the parishioners, and plans for disruption were advertised in area homosexual papers. No arrests were made during the riot.

After five weeks of intensive efforts by Hamilton Square's pastor, Rev. David Innes, to force prosecution, Police Capt. Rich Cairnes was quoted: "I was upset that it did get that far . . . that the rights of people going to church should be attacked. That's one of our basic freedoms in this country. And it's something that just won't be tolerated again."

AAAS proposals will wreck science education

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has released a 400-page report recommending changes in science and math teaching which the *New York Times* on Oct. 26 described as the most fundamental shift since the Sputnik era. Developed within the framework of outcome-based education (OBE), the "Benchmarks for Science Literacy" program is advertised as teaching all students a basic core of knowledge.

Standards are extremely low, including such outcomes as: "By the end of the eighth grade, students may be expected to know . . . how to compare two dishwashers on the basis of cost, features and durability; and how to use a street map." F. James Rutherford, who directed the \$8 million program, told the *Times* that "mountains of material must be turned into molehills."

White House scrambles in foreign policy morass

The White House has rejected suggestions for a major overhaul of its foreign policy staff, *Washington Post* commentator Jim Hoagland wrote on Oct. 31, adding that insiders report that Republican David Gergen (who made his attendance at National Security Council meetings a condition for his

joining the Clinton staff) will be added to the smaller "principals' group" which makes policy. Hoagland blasted Clinton as a "hyperthyroid President" who is "constantly changing the wrapper and the advertising" on his foreign and domestic policies, giving "the appearance of inconsistency," and being blown "this way and that by a never-ceasing series of tempests. . . . A President who dithers . . . will be made to pay," he concluded. "Ask Jimmy Carter."

The administration's flailing in the area of foreign policy has drawn fire in the European press, too. The German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* on Oct. 25 published a commentary by editor Josef Joffe, calling for Clinton to fire the Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his entourage, and develop a foreign policy of his own. Clinton's freedom of action and reputation are burdened by the fact that with Warren Christopher, Anthony Lake, and Madeleine Albright, three key posts of U.S. foreign policy are occupied by diplomats whose mind is still shaped by the Carter era, Joffe wrote.

Aspin: 'We can't count on disarmament treaties'

In his Oct. 29 press conference announcing the start of a U.S. Nuclear Posture Review, Defense Secretary Les Aspin expressed doubt that signed nuclear disarmament treaties will ever be fulfilled: "As for arms control, the question we face is, will pledges turn into deeds? We hope so, but at this point, we can't count on it."

Stating that meeting "the demands of the new world" was the objective of the review, Aspin added: "The Cold War is over; the Soviet Union is no more. But the post-Cold War world is decidedly not post-nuclear."

Aspin continued with a fairly realistic assessment of nuclear dangers: "This new nuclear danger has two wellsprings: first, the continued existence of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal amidst revolutionary changes that are taking place in that country. This gives rise to a host of potential problems, which include the creation of new

nuclear states, the potential for loss of control over the weapons through accident or unauthorized use. It means the leakage of weapons or material and of know-how, including possibly the brain-drain of people who know how to make nuclear weapons, and general proliferation." Aspin continued, "The second source of the new nuclear danger is the familiar problem of proliferation generally and the potential for nuclear terrorism."

Retiring DEA chief says heroin use rising fast

Heroin use is in a "dramatic" resurgence in the United States, aided by Clinton's "absence of leadership" in the anti-drug fight, outgoing Drug Enforcement Administration chief Robert Bonner charged in a blistering interview published in the *Washington Post* on Oct. 31. He also attacked the "real feel good" approach to fighting what he considers is still "the greatest serious threat facing America." The Clinton administration's anti-drug policy is largely "rhetorical," and will fail.

"In terms of leadership at the White House, this is a non-issue," Bonner charged. He decried the talk of replacing interdiction with drug treatment centers, which ignore the fact that "there isn't any effective treatment for cocaine and crack addiction. . . . It doesn't deal with any enforcement of the laws. It makes everybody feel all warm and fuzzy." The "clear strong signal" of social disapproval of drugs has become "muted, and we're beginning to backslide."

The results? Bonner charged that there has been a "dramatic" resurgence in heroin abuse, with new users "snorting" or smoking the drug. With worldwide bumper crops of poppies in the late 1980s, "there is more heroin available in the U.S. today than perhaps at any time in the nation's history," Bonner estimated. No hard numbers are available, but he believes that the total number of users may have doubled from traditional estimates of 500,000 users, to perhaps 1 million.

Briefly

● **STEPHEN SOLARZ**, the former New York congressman and designated ambassador to India, has run afoul of his FBI background check. *New York Newsday* reported on Oct. 30 that the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service are now investigating him for some unspecified "misconduct," and have even issued subpoenas in the case. While in Congress, Solarz often acted as a pointman for "Project Democracy" destabilizations of Asian countries.

● **HEAD START'S** 48-member advisory committee is preparing a report to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala recommending that pre-school education begin "from the prenatal period onwards"; the proposed expansion would also provide full-time day-care, and involve "home visits" by Head Start workers.

● **AN INDIAN GAMBLING** summit in Minneapolis in the first week of November was picketed by a Native American group. According to UPI, Frank Reese, an organizer of the protest from the Leech Lake Reservation, said that tribal officials have been pocketing gambling proceeds from reservation programs.

● **EARTH SHARE** and a coalition of other extremist green groups have raised over \$20 million from contributors such as Sony, Citibank, Nike, Nissan, Wells Fargo, J.P. Morgan, Time Warner, and the *New York Times*, over the last five years.

● **CARL POHLAD** and other friends of Minnesota Attorney General Skip Humphrey were hit with a federal lawsuit charging them with fraud and deception. Pohlada and co-defendants Curtis Carlson and Irwin Jacobs were exposed as the criminal heirs of the Twin Cities organized crime "Combination" run by the late gangster Kid Cann, in a white paper exposing Humphrey's corruption published by the *New Federalist* newspaper. The class action suit was filed by two shareholders against officials of the failed MEI Diversified.