

# National News

## Missouri barge traffic threatened by water cuts

U.S. barge and river terminal operators are stunned by the latest plan to cut water use on the Missouri River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha, Nebraska office has proposed a new operating manual for managing water flows on the Missouri River which gives much higher priority to protecting fish and wildlife, and supporting upstream lake recreation, than to barge traffic, the *Journal of Commerce* reported on May 13.

The proposal would cut back the barging season to seven months, and would also cut back river water levels every year from mid-summer until the end of October, providing just enough water for minimal barge loadings—the same condition imposed in the recent drought, which almost killed the barge industry on the Missouri River. Critics are also worried about the impact on the Mississippi River, since half of the Mississippi's flow between St. Louis and Cairo comes from the Missouri.

The proposal is so bad, that even railroads, which normally compete against the barges, are joining in protest, since the proposal would limit the amount of low-sulfur Western coal moved on the river.

## Abortion pill set for U.S. use in two years

The abortion pill RU-486 will be available in the United States within two years, as a result of a May 16 agreement by the French manufacturer Roussel Uclaf, under pressure from the Clinton administration, to turn over the pill's patent rights and all technology, free of charge, to the Population Council in New York. The Population Council, one of the big promoters of the U.N. Cairo-94 conference, plans to find an American company to produce the pill, which will then undergo testing on human subjects, expected to begin shortly, over a two-year period.

Even the *New York Times*, which editorialized in support of the agreement, could

not hide the effects of the pill, which is used up to the 7th week of pregnancy: "Abortions induced by RU-486 are painful, because expelling the embryo can take several days. The procedure typically requires a woman to visit a doctor three to four times. . . . About 1 in 500 women need a transfusion after taking the pill."

The same issue of the *Times* lavished praise on all forms of death culture: In addition to an editorial proclaiming "RU-486—Here At Last," a signed commentary gloated over Washington State's legalization of euthanasia as a medical practice, under the headline "When Is It Right to Die?" The letters column featured the assertion from the president of the Colorado Population Coalition that overpopulation in Rwanda had caused that country's woes; and the "Science Times" section featured a strange article, "The Male of the Species: Why Is He Needed?" by Natalie Angier, who argued that males are not needed for sexual reproduction.

## 'Counterproliferation' is new Pentagon strategy

Some utopian elements in the Pentagon are pushing a "counterproliferation" doctrine, according to the May 15 *Washington Post*, a new doctrine which urges a preemptive approach toward what it considers unpreventable proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons in the hands of "rogue nations" or terrorists. Some \$400 million, described by the *Post* as "a tiny fraction of the overall defense budget," has been allocated for FY 1995 for the initiative, which Assistant Defense Secretary Ashton Carter described as more about thinking and integrating the new threats into deployment of existing resources than development of new weapons.

This thinking appears to go hand-in-glove with the ongoing takedown of the nation's R&D weapons capability, including the Strategic Defense Initiative, under the rubric of "post-Cold War" strategy. Despite Carter's denial that "this is not about preemption," other military and intelligence analysts say it is. The *Post* added, "Perhaps the best known example of counterprolifera-

tion was Israel's 1981 bombing of a nuclear reactor under construction in Iraq in an attempt to preempt Iraq's effort to develop nuclear weapons."

## Whooping cough hit 27-year record last year

*Weekly Epidemiological Record* reported in mid-May that from Jan. 3 to Dec. 4, 1993, there were 5,457 pertussis (whooping cough) cases reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia—an 82% increase over the number reported during the same period in 1992 and the highest annual number of cases reported since 1967. Compared with 1992, the number of reported pertussis cases increased in 35 states. During 1993, large outbreaks occurred in Chicago and Cincinnati.

Pertussis, a childhood disease that is entirely preventable by inoculation, may be severe, especially among infants: Of the cases last year, 69% were hospitalized, 22% developed pneumonia, 3% suffered seizures, 1% had pertussis encephalopathy, and 0.6% died. In addition to infants, the next group at greatest risk are preschoolers who do not complete the course of vaccinations. This group made up approximately 50% of the cases in 1993.

Nearly a decade ago a hysterical campaign against the diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine was given a major media boost by NBC's Washington, D.C. affiliate.

## Weekly complains: North turned his back on gays

"North, Robb Both Take Gay Money" was the lead headline of the *Washington Blade*, which calls itself "The Gay Weekly of the Nation's Capital." One story in the mid-May issue featured Sen. Chuck Robb's May 9 speech at a Human Rights Campaign Fund conference, and his May 10 attendance at a Democratic fundraiser held at the home of the "openly gay" director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia.

A second article detailed how Oliver

## Briefly

North, running as a Republican for Robb's Senate seat, worked during 1985-86 "closely with a cadre of gay men in his efforts to raise private funds for the Nicaraguan Contras." North joined forces with the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty (NEPL), whose staff "was comprised almost entirely of conservative gay men."

Carl Spitz Channell, the president of NEPL, "made no secret that he was gay," wrote the *Blade*, and he often arrived at NEPL social gatherings "in the company of his male lover." A law enforcement source told the *Blade* that he didn't think there was any doubt that North knew: "If anyone raised any objection, North would cut it off."

Frank Ricchiazzi, a "gay Republican leader," said that he and many of his homosexual friends made personal contributions to the Contra effort. The *Blade* reported: "Ricchiazzi and other gay Republicans said they are disappointed and angry that North, while working in harmony with gays during his National Security Council days, has now turned against the gay community."

"It's hypocritical at best," said Ricchiazzi.

### Stephen Breyer tapped for Supreme Court post

Judge Stephen Breyer, nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Clinton on May 13, is being widely praised as a "consensus builder," and his nomination appears headed for easy Senate confirmation. In making the announcement, Clinton said that Breyer "has proven that he can build an effective consensus and get people of diverse views to work together."

Breyer is currently the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston. As special counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee in the 1970s, he was the chief architect of airline deregulation. He was also a principal author of the Kennedy crime bill known as S-1.

He was a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission from 1985 to 1989, which developed federal sentencing guidelines, which he has defended against attacks on their inflexibility. He successfully opposed

including the death penalty in the guidelines, and he opposed Congress's adding of mandatory minimum sentences for various crimes. (Mandatory minimums were enacted by Congress separately from, and often in contradiction to, the federal sentencing guidelines. Judges have a small amount of discretion to depart from the sentencing guidelines; they have no ability to deviate from mandatory minimums, which are mostly used in drug cases.)

The *New York Times* described Breyer as "a bit of an Anglophile." He is married to the British-born daughter of Lord John Blakenham, a former Cabinet minister and former head of the Tories.

### Kahane paper howls over 'Jewish Week' exposé

The late Meir Kahane's weekly in New York, the *Jewish Press*, sent up a howl in its May 6 issue over exposés by the *New York Jewish Week* of the fundraising practices of Kahane Chai, which the Israeli government has now banned as a terrorist organization. In addition, the Israeli consulate in New York had openly attacked the *Press*.

The *Press* let loose a barrage against *Jewish Week* publisher Gary Rosenblatt, calling him "the sycophantic lackey" of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation, "which provides charity funds to support his newspaper," charging that Rosenblatt has "vented his anger against the *Jewish Press*, its writers, Orthodoxy and especially Rabbi Meir Kahane."

Since March, *Jewish Week* has been exposing illegal fundraising practices of Kahane Chai and has succeeded in forcing the Internal Revenue Service and New York State authorities to look into financial flows to the terrorist Kahane groups. The *Jewish Press* has responded by demanding a financial investigation of the UJA, the main financier of emigration to Israel: "Is the *Jewish Week* aware that some very sincere Jews who make a donation to the UJA, and claim a full tax deduction for that charitable contribution, are actually purchasing a subscription to the *Jewish Week*? One day those innocent souls who donate to the UJA may be called in by the Internal Revenue Service."

● **'MCCARTHY ERA, Is It Returning?** Seamy Allegations against Prez Evoke Comparisons," ran the headline of a mid-May feature in the *Philadelphia Daily News*, which first appeared in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*. It cited columnists who are comparing today's seek and destroy missions against political figures via unproven allegations of sexual misconduct, to the McCarthy period.

● **DEFENSE** Secretary William Perry said on May 11 that military base closings may be delayed. Perry said that the military's next round of base closures may be too large and disruptive to carry out in one year, adding that the administration may ask Congress to delay some of the cuts for another two years.

● **NEW YORK MAYOR** Rudolph Giuliani proposed a \$31.6 billion budget on May 11 that cuts the municipal work force by 15,000, affecting almost every major agency except police and fire. The *New York Times* reported that parks would be cleaned less often, sanitation workers would travel longer routes, welfare lines would be longer and recipients would be fingerprinted, and there would be fewer after-school programs.

● **LYNDON LAROUCHE'S** statement on the assassination threat against Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan was covered in the *Los Angeles Community Circle Clipper*, in its April 1-14 issue. The statement was headlined by the paper, "ADL Threats to Farrakhan: A History of Espionage and Death," referring to the revelations of spying by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

● **U.S. JUDGE** Sylvia Rambo of the Middle District of Pennsylvania issued an order May 3 to the Justice Department to explain why it is seeking the death penalty against a black defendant in a murder case. The order, for the first time, will force the Justice Department to disclose the grounds on which it chooses who is to die in federal cases.