

National News

N. Y. Times blasted for Whitewater 'reporting'

Harper's writer Gene Lyons was the featured speaker at an Oct. 25 press forum organized by *Harper's* magazine, where he lit into the *New York Times's* coverage of the so-called Whitewater scandal, involving alleged wrongdoing on the part of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Gene Lyons has written an article for the magazine's October issue entitled "Fool for Scandal: How the *Times* Got Whitewater Wrong."

In his press briefing, Lyons compared the original March 1992 *New York Times* story on the Whitewater land deal, by reporter Jeff Gerth, to the earlier scandal at the *Washington Post* around reporter Janet Cooke. Cooke won a Pulitzer Prize for a story she wrote for the *Post*, about an eight-year-old heroin addict, which turned out to be fiction. Cooke was fired. "In the case of Jeff Gerth and the *New York Times*," Lyons said, "the story wasn't quite invented from whole cloth, which in my view makes it worse than when you simply invent a fictive character; nobody gets hurt. When you use real characters and invent a fictive story, real people get hurt."

Lyons hypothesized that "the scent began to run out" on the story that Gerth had been fed, but that the *Times* took the decision to "print it." Lyons later added, "The stories are so full of lies that it's difficult to believe they're accidental."

AMA, Hospice against Oregon suicide initiative

The American Medical Association (AMA), Oregon pharmacists, and the Oregon Hospice Association have all come out opposing the state's ballot initiative which would make it legal for physicians to prescribe lethal doses of medications to so-called terminally ill patients who request it. The initiative, Measure 16, is backed by the Hemlock Society and Oregon Right to Die, and has received the support of the Oregon

Medical Society, against the national AMA.

The AMA's statement said, "If Oregon doctors participate in assisted suicide, they will be performing an unethical act."

Both the pharmacists association and the hospice association have expressed their anger that Oregon Right to Die claimed it had the support of these groups in its motivation in the state's voter pamphlet. The Oregon Hospice Association voted to oppose assisted suicide on Sept. 9. A representative said, "We are outraged that the Oregon Right to Die would make false claims about our position."

This isn't the first time that a Hemlock-led campaign has used unscrupulous tactics. During a similar effort in 1992, *EIR* investigations discovered that several hundred thousand dollars in campaign donations were laundered through a nonexistent out-of-state organization, or through large illegal, anonymous donations.

Schiller, 'poet of freedom' birthday fêted

The Schiller Institute, founded 10 years ago by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, has designed a model proclamation for U.S. cities and states to commemorate the 235th birthday of the German "poet of freedom," Friedrich Schiller on Nov. 10. In 1984, at the urging of the institute, dozens of cities, including Washington, D.C., and the states of New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Louisiana issued proclamations.

The proclamation calls on Americans to celebrate Schiller's birthday because:

"Nov. 10, 1994, is the 235th Anniversary of the birthday of the great 18th-century German poet, playwright, and historian, Friedrich Schiller; and

"No one has combined the idea of republican freedom with poetic beauty more effectively than Friedrich Schiller, whose writings celebrate the achievements of the American Revolution, and who has been justly called 'The Poet of Freedom'; and

"The 1859 centennial celebrations of Friedrich Schiller's birthday in hundreds of American cities were a crucial demonstration of support for the embattled American

Republic and for the cause of freedom for all Americans; and

"Schiller's Ode to Joy . . . as set to music by Beethoven in his Ninth Symphony, reflects the universal aspiration of man for freedom, as evidenced by its embrace as the song of freedom five years ago this month both in the fall of the Berlin Wall and in the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square."

'Goodbye Ollie' campaign irks Italian daily

A major Italian daily, *Corriere della Sera*, carried coverage of radio ads by Virginia congressional candidate William Jones, ridiculing GOP Senate candidate Oliver North in a song, "Goodbye Ollie," and referred to Jones as an "anarchist." The song is a parody of the Broadway musical "Hello Dolly," and denounces North's complicity with Contra drug-running operations.

Corriere's correspondent reports attending a North parking lot rally when the advertisement was aired on car radios. Reporter Ennio Caretto continued: "From the stage, a Bible in his hands, smiling face, North invokes: 'Lord, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing!' The crowd cheers, laughs, hisses to express their satisfaction. 'It is the anarchists,' the former marine states. 'They are not our enemy number one. Our enemy number one is Clinton's Washington.'"

Caretto described North as "a neo-conservative, a neo-Christian."

Prison construction bonds a boon to Wall St.

The "three strikes" law that jails so-called violent offenders for life after the third conviction, will be a windfall to Wall Street firms that sell bonds to finance the construction of prisons, according to the *Los Angeles Times* on Oct. 17. The article, headlined "The Price of Punishment—The Booming Business of Running California's Prisons," stated: "Wall Street will be one of the biggest winners as California builds prisons to

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house felons sentenced under the 'three strikes' law." The article said that since 1984, big investment firms have made more than \$35 million from California's prison construction program, and under 'three strikes' they will reap far more. To finance prison construction, California sells two types of bonds—traditional voter-approved general obligation bonds and more complex lease revenue bonds. To sell the bonds, the California state treasurer turns to Wall Street. Investment firms such as Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs form syndicates to buy the bonds at a discount, then resell them.

"With minimal outside oversight, California has spawned a multibillion-dollar prison construction industry that extends from Wall Street money managers to hard hats who build the bastilles of concrete, steel, and razor wire," the *Times* continued.

In 1982, when California embarked on the program to build prisons, the state paid \$218 million in debt service on bonds used for all state projects, from university construction to purchase of state parkland. Now, wrote the *Times*, the state pays almost twice that sum each year to repay principal and interest on prison bonds alone.

GOP overblowing election projections

Beginning in early October, with an editorial page commentary, the *Washington Post* has been reporting that the projections of sweeping Republican victories in the Nov. 8 mid-term elections may be largely hype. The commentary noted that polls and opinion pieces in September mostly reflected the fact that Congress was still in session, and Republican advertising was focusing on anti-Washington sentiments. Once congressmen returned to the districts, and Democrats began the final weeks of direct campaigning, the traditional support for incumbents would reassert itself, said the commentary. On Oct. 19, the *Post* noted that top Democrats whose reelections are rumored to be in trouble, including Sens. Ted Kennedy (Mass.) and Harris Wofford (Pa.), have campaign war chests that are significantly larger than their opponents'.

In a related development, national media were reporting in late October that Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York endorsed Mario Cuomo, a Democrat, for reelection as governor of New York. In addition, former Nixon Attorney General Elliot Richardson and William Colby, former Director of Central Intelligence (1973-76), have endorsed Virginia Sen. Chuck Robb. Robb's GOP opponent, Oliver North, has received the endorsement of George Bush, Colby's successor at CIA.

Court rules against Minnesota AG Humphrey

Former Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidate for Minnesota Attorney General Lewis du Pont Smith renewed his call for the impeachment of Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey on Oct. 20, after the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that Humphrey had illegally intervened into two child abuse cases in Crow Wing County in 1993. At the time that Humphrey intervened, neither of the two alleged child abusers had been "charged with indictable offenses," as the law states an accused must be. In fact, the prime witness for the state in one case had changed her story and insisted the accused was innocent; circumstantial and physical evidence excluded the suspect in the other case, as even the doctor examining the child acknowledged in writing.

Du Pont Smith, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche and a target of the "Get LaRouche" task force in which Humphrey's office was deeply involved, said in his statement: "The only reason that Humphrey illegally intervened into Crow Wing County was to attack and try to politically destroy an honest prosecutor, Jack Graham," by painting him as "soft on child abusers" because Graham "refused to knuckle under to Humphrey and his gang."

"In fact, Section II of [my original] draft impeachment resolution . . . spells out Humphrey's crimes in this case, which has now been completely vindicated by the Court of Appeals. I will be pressing for appropriate action by the legislature."

● **BALTIMORE** Mayor Kurt Schmoke, under pressure to terminate the city's contract with the for-profit firm Education Alternatives, Inc., which runs 14 public schools, noted the recent drop in the test results of EAI's students compared to other Baltimore public schools. EAI President John Golle denied that his \$140 million contract might be in trouble.

● **AN INNOCENT** Virginia man was finally freed on Oct. 21 after spending 10 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Edward Honaker, who was given three life sentences for rape, was given clemency by Gov. George Allen. DNA testing proved his innocence, but Virginia law prevents him from using the new evidence 21 days after conviction.

● **PRESIDENT CLINTON** told Framingham, Massachusetts high school students on the signing of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1994": "Let me tell you something: Every single scientific study that has been done in the last several years shows alarming increases in the toxicity and the danger of marijuana, especially to young women and what might happen to their child-bearing capacity in the future."

● **ARNOLD FORSTER** and David Kirschenbaum of the Anti-Defamation League tried to argue that Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard "was scapegoated for CIA mole Aldrich Ames," in the Oct. 21 *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent*. They asserted that the intelligence Pollard stole never made its way to the Soviets. In fact, *EIR* has shown that Pollard was acting both as a "false-flag" agent for the KGB, and as a Mossad operative.

● **DAVID ROCKEFELLER** will be speaking in Minneapolis on Nov. 10 in his capacity as vice president of the Alaska Conservation Foundation. The foundation's funds go "to protect and sustain Alaskan eco-systems, and to preserve Alaskan native cultures and environment."