

# National News

## King family orders Park Service to quit MLK home

The Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, has instructed the National Park Service to remove its personnel and property from the birthplace of Dr. King. The center is run by Coretta Scott King and other family members and associates of the slain civil rights leader. Amelia Boynton Robinson, vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, is a board member.

The Park Service, which by agreement has occupied the property for 14 years, is now planning to build an \$11.8 million visitor's center across the street, but never consulted King's family. The family has announced its intention to build its own multimedia museum on the same site. Responding to cynical media ridicule that favors the Park Service scheme, the center's chairman and Dr. King's son, Dexter King, told the *Washington Times*: "Their intent is to annex this area to control the dissemination of history. Our history has always been diluted. We can tell our history. We know it best."

## Judge throws out bulk of CAN leader's suit

A federal judge in Chicago has thrown out most of the libel suit of Cult Awareness Network (CAN) executive director Cynthia Kisser against *New Federalist* editor Nancy Spannaus and its publisher KMW. The judge ruled that Kisser provided no evidence that Spannaus or KMW acted with reckless disregard for the truth when the weekly newspaper reported allegations, made in a sworn affidavit by a former topless dancer, that Kisser had worked as a topless dancer in Tucson, Arizona. The judge also said that most of Kisser's other complaints were baseless. Kisser denies she ever worked as a topless dancer.

Judge James B. Zagle ruled that Kisser "has sufficiently injected herself into the

fray to become a limited-purpose public figure," and therefore must prove the statements were known to be false or made with reckless disregard for the truth.

Judge Zagle further stated, "Statements charging Kisser with exposing her breasts in public for remuneration could affect the public's assessment of her as a critic of religious cults. Some might regard such activity as the symptom of a character so deeply flawed that they would expect other symptoms, such as untruthfulness." Zagle said that statements made to undercut Kisser's effectiveness and credibility in her work at CAN were "an entirely legitimate objective since her work at CAN includes participation in the public debate over religious cults."

Zagle left standing her complaint about the *New Federalist* statement that Kisser "now defends the pedophile crowd in Nebraska," and "took to the airwaves and newspapers to protect a pedophile ring in Omaha, Nebraska," but said that Kisser must specify how these statements damaged her, something she has failed to do. In fact, Kisser has stated that she has suffered no economic or mental damage as a result of the circulation of these statements. Zagle invited a new legal motion by KMW and Spannaus concerning this issue.

## HHS allows Mississippi to impose welfare slavery

On Dec. 23, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a waiver to the state of Mississippi allowing a pilot program for workfare slave labor. As it is, Mississippi welfare allotments are among the lowest in the country: A parent with one child receives \$96 a month plus food stamps, and an additional \$24 a month for each subsequent child.

The pilot program would involve 1,000 welfare recipients in five counties, including the state's largest cities: Jackson, Natchez, and Gulfport. The recipients, who are paid under Aid to Dependent Children entitlements, would no longer get food stamps or ADC. Instead, they would be hired by sweatshops and receive minimum wage,

\$4.25 per hour. In turn, the companies that hire them would directly receive \$3.25 for each hour worked by ADC recipients, either in the form of ADC payments or food stamp equivalents; the scheme would leave the companies responsible for only \$1 an hour per workfare victim.

Furthermore, if the recipient quits the job, or is fired, he or she loses everything: One state representative leading the fight against the workfare scheme said, "We are being sold back into slavery."

## EAI tied to 'managed' health care firm

Companies that run health care and public education on a profit-making basis have more in common than just subjecting "soft infrastructure" to corporate management criteria, according to the Dec. 27 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. The daily reported that Education Alternatives Inc. (EAI), the Minneapolis-based "education for profit" company, has just acquired a new board member, Richard Burke, the founder of United Healthcare, a health maintenance-based system.

Privatization consultant Ted Kolderie told the *Star Tribune* that the arguments being raised in favor of privatizing public education are the same as those which led the federal government to support for-profit managed health care. Kolderie claims that education and health care have the same problems—uncontrolled costs, and a negative public image. Lehman Brothers analyst Michael Moe also subscribed to this view when he gave EAI a "buy" recommendation this fall, according to the article. "We believe education is the next health care. EAI has a potential solution to an enormous problem in a huge market; this is the classic recipe for a big investment opportunity." EAI raised \$31 million on Wall Street in 1993 (and lost a third of their portfolio in financial derivatives).

In fact, children's test scores in Baltimore public schools run by EAI have fallen, following much the same pattern of drastic drops in health-care delivery as a result of for-profit managed health-care systems.

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## President to run in '96; suit against him delayed

President Bill Clinton said on Dec. 29 that he intends to seek reelection in 1996, and can see nothing that would make him change his mind. In an interview with wire services in the Oval Office, Clinton said: "I'm just going to keep doing the very best job I can and do my very best to say I intend to seek reelection, but that is not uppermost in my mind."

Clinton discounted opinion polls: "I also believe that this is not a time when people tend to love folks who are in public life," Clinton added. "I knew that the day I showed up and put my hand on the Bible" to be sworn in nearly two years ago, he said. "But the oath of office . . . basically commits you to try and meet the challenges of your time and protect the national security and uphold the Constitution."

On the same day, his attorneys expressed their satisfaction with a court decision to postpone trial of a sexual harassment suit until after he leaves the White House. The plaintiff, Paula Jones, is charging that Clinton, as Arkansas governor, had sexually harassed her, but did not bring the suit until after he had become President. However, Clinton's attorneys may appeal the judge's decision to allow pre-trial discovery to go forward.

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## Congress demands D.C. eliminate budget deficit

Congress is demanding that Washington, D.C. eliminate its \$531 million deficit (out of a \$3.4 billion budget) with austerity measures that will make a brutal example out of the nation's capital; the deficit was only "discovered" in November, after Marion Barry won his bid to again become mayor. Before that, the deficit was \$140 million.

The District is in a unique position vis-à-vis the U.S. Congress, in that the Congress has often granted D.C., during its 20-year home-rule arrangement, special federal

monies to subsidize various programs and to cover shortfalls in areas like education and public works, with the consideration that the city budget must also account for funding what are normally considered state and county programs, such as Medicaid, welfare, universities, and prisons.

Now, threats from House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R.-Ga.) and his cohorts who will serve on the subcommittees that deal with D.C., include the revocation of home rule. Barry has indicated his anguish over what he considers necessary pain to balance the budget, in order to maintain the city's home rule status. Barry, who was inaugurated on Jan. 3, spoke with the *Washington Times* on Dec. 14: "If House Republicans knew how much trouble running the District really is, the lawmakers wouldn't talk so tough about grabbing financial control of the city. . . . They would gladly let me have it."

Some in Congress don't appreciate the "complexities of it and see the kind of decisions that have to be made on a daily basis to make it work," Barry said.

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## Virginians blast governor's new budget

Four hundred Virginia citizens vowed legislative hearings in Alexandria, Virginia on Dec. 29 to criticize Gov. George Allen's proposed austerity budget. It was the third of six hearings scheduled around the state by the legislature before the General Assembly opened in January. Allen, a leading "poster boy" for the Conservative Revolution, has proposed \$403 million in budget cuts, as well as tax cuts that will affect local governments, while inking in an \$80 million increase in spending on building prisons.

The chairman of the Parent-Teachers Associations in Fairfax County, one of the largest school districts in the country, testified that Allen's proposal to cut education, while increasing funds to prison-building, reflects a "warped sense of priorities."

More than 200 people—municipal leaders, farmers, and spokesmen for the young, the elderly, the handicapped, and the mentally ill—had shown up at each of the first two hearings in southern Virginia.

## Briefly

● **NEW YORK'S** Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced on Dec. 29, while vacationing in southern California, that he intends to impose nearly \$800 million in spending cuts, slashing virtually all municipal services. This is the first time a New York mayor has made such huge cuts unilaterally, according to the *New York Times*.

● **DEMOCRATS** intend to emphasize economics in future election campaigns said Martin Frost, the newly elected chairman of the House Congressional Campaign Committee at a Dec. 29 press conference. Frost, interviewed by Fox Morning News, said that the Democrats will focus on "basic economic issues" but gave only one example, tax relief for families making \$75,000 or less.

● **CIA CHIEF** James Woolsey, who had been under fire for his allegedly lenient treatment of the superiors of confessed spy Aldrich Ames, resigned on Dec. 28. It is anticipated that Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch will be nominated to replace him.

● **DAN GLICKMAN**, a former leading member of the House Agriculture Committee, was nominated to replace Mike Espy as Secretary of Agriculture on Dec. 28. Glickman, a Kansas Democrat, lost his bid for a 10th term in November; his nomination was welcomed by fellow Kansan Sen. Bob Dole (R).

● **THE SCHILLER** Institute, founded in 1984 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, will celebrate Martin Luther King Day 1995 with the first full-length presentation in Washington, D.C. of Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson's play "Through the Years" on Jan. 14. The play, written in 1936 by Dr. King's former collaborator, traces the development of the African-American spiritual and features a cast of local children and a volunteer "a cappella" choir.