

National News

Nebraska high court purges grand jury report

The Nebraska Supreme Court has ordered the report of the Douglas County (Omaha) grand jury in the Franklin Credit Union case, which heard testimony about a child prostitution ring, to be expunged from the record. The ruling is a vindication for those who have fought courageously against the murder, satanic abuse, and prostitution of children in Omaha. The rigged 1990 grand jury indicted child victim-witnesses for perjury and let the perpetrators of the abuse off with little or no penalty. The grand jury issued and publicized a corrupt and slanderous report which declared the case against powerful, high-society figures to be "a carefully crafted hoax," and painted state investigators as liars.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruling, filed Dec. 30, 1993, has now declared this grand jury action to be illegal, both in its attacks against individuals whom it was not indicting, and in its publication of the report.

The decision does not affect the legal status of the children who testified that they were victims of the abuse, among them Alisha Owen, whom the grand jury indicted for perjury. She was convicted and sent to prison for her refusal to recant her grand jury testimony. Her attorney, John DeCamp, author of the 1992 book *The Franklin Coverup: Child Abuse, Satanism, and Murder in Nebraska*, is suing for a new trial.

'LaRouche was right' slate files in Texas

A slate of more than 50 candidates, headed by Evelyn Lantz for U.S. Senate, was filed on Jan. 3 in Austin, Texas for the March 8 Democratic Party primary. Running with Lantz on the "LaRouche Was Right" slate are congressional candidates Joel Dejean in the 25th CD and Philip Butcher in the 22nd CD; Debra Jambor, Greg Witherspoon, and Darrel Hanson for Democratic Party chairmen in Harris, Dallas, and Montgomery

Counties; and more than 45 candidates for positions on county executive committees, mostly in Dallas and Harris (Houston) counties.

Since the so-called McGovern reforms of the early 1970s, Lantz told the press, the Democratic Party has adopted policies combining New Age kookery with the immoral economics of the GOP's Sen. "Land Phil" Gramm and George Bush. The Democratic leadership has thereby succeeded in turning Texas into a one-party state. She gave the example of the Senate seat she is seeking: Until 1993, it was held by Lloyd Bentsen, a Democratic backer of Reagan-Bush economic policies, including junk bonds and NAFTA. When Bentsen resigned, the post went to Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, who is a mouthpiece for Gramm, author of the insane Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing bill.

Lantz's three other primary opponents are former Brown Brothers, Harriman regional director Richard Fisher, also a former Carter administration official and currently an adviser on the disastrous U.S. "free trade" policy toward Russia; former Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox; and Rep. Mike Andrews, whom Lloyd Bentsen urged to run.

Shakeup heralded at State Dept., Pentagon

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning further shakeups in top-level positions in the State Department, but he himself may be shaken out of a job if his plans don't work, according to the Dec. 31 *Washington Times*. Toby Gati, a former National Security Council staffer on eastern Europe, has been named to head the State Department's intelligence and research staff. The *Times* says that State Department intelligence has come under fierce criticism from Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Defense Intelligence Agency analysts.

The *Times* and other press speculate that Samuel Lewis, a friend of Christopher's, will soon leave the policy planning bureau, which he headed; the *Boston Globe* reported earlier that Joseph Nye might leave his post at the CIA to replace Lewis. The *New York*

Times mints that policy planning may go to Morton Halperin, whose nomination to the new post of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Democracy and Peacekeeping was unconfirmed in the last session of the Senate. The State post requires no "advice and consent."

Reformers to meet on (mis)shaping schools

"Shaping America's Future through Total Quality School Restructuring" is the title of a conference scheduled for Washington in February and sponsored by High Success Network, featuring William Spady and a host of other "outcome-based education" (OBE) reformers. The invitation to the conference calls on "board members, teachers, parents, administrators, business and community leaders" to come and "interact" with the "acclaimed reformers who are shaping the future of education." Among these are: David Pearce Snyder, Willard Daggett, Henry Levin, and William Spady.

Speeches and workshops will be conducted on "Outcome-Based Restructuring as Total System Change" led by William Spady; "Reshaping America's Industrial Age Paradigm of Schooling into an Information Age System" by William Spady; "Reshaping America's Future through a Curriculum for the Information Age" by Willard Daggett; and "Obtaining Funding to Support School Restructuring" by Sheila Cassidy.

Virginia lawmakers draft 'new evidence' bill

The Virginia legislature will vote on a new law to allow courts to decide whether to hear new evidence in a capital case, legislators announced on Jan. 3, according to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. The draft law was prompted by the case of Earl Washington, a retarded man on Virginia's death row, whose innocence has been proven as a result of DNA tests. Washington may still die in the electric chair, however, because of Virginia's brutal law excluding presentation of

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new evidence more than 21 days after conviction.

"Some of us kind of feel there's a basic human right not to be executed if you're innocent," Delegate Clifton Woodrum (D-Roanoke) told the Jan. 4 *Times-Dispatch*. A joint legislative subcommittee studying the problem unanimously directed the drafting of a bill to allow new evidence to be heard in court, if the evidence establishes "a reasonable probability of actual innocence."

Washington is seeking a pardon from Gov. Douglas Wilder, which is the only way to prevent his execution under existing law. Wilder, the first black governor in the United States, left for a trip to Africa on Jan. 2 and was scheduled to return on Jan. 14. On Jan. 15, Wilder's successor, Republican George Allen, will be inaugurated governor.

Children show violent effects of OBE abuse

Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Phil Valenti, a "LaRouche Democrat," responded to a letter from the Daniel Boone School Board protesting demonstrations against the Birdsboro, Pa., Elementary Center's practice of the psychological mind control techniques of Dr. William Glasser, called "Control Theory/Reality Therapy." On Dec. 22, one of Valenti's associates received a letter from the school board's president, Richard Fidler, claiming, "We received information that some elementary school children were intimidated by the presence of adults carrying signs. . . . We feel that a young child can be easily frightened by aggressive behavior and ultimately be accident prone during their trip to and from school."

Valenti's Dec. 28 reply pointed out that "your concern might more properly be focused on the unprovoked aggressive behavior of many of the children themselves." The children confronted the picketers, including senior citizens and ministers, with "racist and anti-Semitic slurs, obscene gestures and verbal vulgarities, threats of violence, the throwing of debris, and the shocking behavior of one child who repeatedly dropped his pants in the street. . . . All of this was witnessed and tolerated by various school per-

sonnel. . . .

"However, isn't this sort of behavior, where children do what 'feels good' as approved by their peers, a logical result of Dr. William Glasser's theories?" Valenti concluded: "As your district is widely promoted as a model for OBE and Glasser's ideas, I believe it is proper for Pennsylvanians opposed to such methods to protest them in Birdsboro."

White House, U.S. court approve condom ads

The war is heating up over advertising latex condoms as a means to prevent AIDS infection and whether schools should be allowed to distribute condoms without parental consent. On Jan. 4, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala introduced a new advertising campaign based on the assertion that latex condoms stop the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus "99% of the time, or better." The campaign consists of nine TV spots and four radio spots, which Shalala termed a "sophisticated marketing attempt to capture" the attention of the targeted age group of 18-25 year olds.

In late December, federal Judge Rya Zobel ruled in Boston that subways and trolleys are public forums and that the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) is required, under the First Amendment, to run ads by the AIDS Action Committee, despite what the MBTA rightly calls their "indecent sexual images." The ads read: "One of these will make you one-1,000th of an inch larger"; and "Tell him you don't know how it will ever fit."

On Dec. 30, however, a New York State appeals court threw out the New York City school system's program of providing condoms on demand to high school students. Part of the "reforms" put through under Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez, the program was struck down on the rarely invoked grounds that it violated both the constitutional rights of parents to regulate the behavior of their minor children, and state health laws requiring parental consent for health services to minors. The school system unsuccessfully argued that condom distribution was an "educational" service.

● HARVARD University has dropped plans for a Feb. 12 symposium and performance by pianist Paul Badura-Skoda of six recently discovered Haydn sonatas, according to the *New York Times*. The manuscripts, reported earlier in December to be lost piano sonatas by Josef Haydn, are now being called fakes, according to an AP wire story.

● AMERICAN EDUCATION is so poor that, according to a Department of Education study, "In the area of quantitative skills, for example, 56.3% of American-born, four-year college graduates are unable to consistently perform simple tasks, such as calculating the change from \$3.00 after buying a 60¢ bowl of soup and a \$1.95 sandwich."

● HOMICIDES are now the third leading source of organs for transplant in America, according to the Jan. 2 *Virginia Richmond Times-Dispatch*, mostly victims of gunshots and stab wounds (including suicides), said Joel Newman with the United Network for Organ Sharing. The two leading sources are deaths from motor vehicle accidents and ruptured blood vessels in the brain.

● MICHAEL JACKSON, in his first U.S. appearance since charges of pedophilia were leveled against him, toured Las Vegas casinos in late December, accompanied by junk-bond criminal Michael Milken. The two announced last spring that they were launching a cable TV venture for educational programming.

● SADDAM HUSSEIN was the target of a U.S. assassination plot, according a book written by *Newsweek* correspondent Douglas C. Waller. The plan called for U.S. commandos to shoot down Saddam's helicopter. Pentagon lawyers drafted a legal brief saying that Saddam could be considered a military commander in order to supersede the Executive Order prohibiting assassinations of heads of state. An excerpt from the book was published in *Newsweek* on Jan. 10.