

National News

Animal rights activists handed setback by jury

A Nevada jury awarded \$4.2 million in damages to Las Vegas performer Bobby Berosini Aug. 11 in his lawsuit against People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a rabid animal-rights group.

A PETA supporter had secretly filmed Berosini disciplining the orangutans that are part of his stage show. It then circulated the film to animal rights groups and the national media, and activists then picketed Berosini's show.

Philip Hirschkop, PETA's lawyer, said he would appeal. "He'll never see a penny of that money," he huffed. Hirschkop, an anti-LaRouche activist in Virginia, called Nevada "the most political state" he ever litigated in.

"Thank you, America," said Berosini, a native of Czechoslovakia, reported the Aug. 13 *Washington Times*.

SDI head Cooper rebuffs New York Times

Strategic Defense Initiative Organization head Henry Cooper, in a letter to the editor on Aug. 9, corrects lies printed by the *New York Times* in a July 31 editorial characterizing President Bush as being "imprudent" in seeking a 1993 decision to proceed to deployment of strategic defense.

Cooper states that whether that decision can be made then depends not upon the state of the technology, but "upon Congress's providing adequate funding and permitting me the flexibility to direct a program of 'adequate' testing." The *Times*'s claim that testing to date has had no relevance ignores the advances in military and civilian technologies thus far, he said.

Cooper restates that the testing the SDI Office has designed does not violate the ABM Treaty, and that the idea that the Treaty is the "ultimate guarantee" of U.S. security ignores the fact that the Treaty will not protect the U.S. from an actual nuclear attack.

Cooper also characterizes a recent report from the General Accounting Office as "fundamentally flawed," as it claims that Bush won't have adequate information to make a decision to deploy in 1993. The GAO did not solicit comments from the Defense Department for the report, Cooper states, but prepared it for Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), a critic of the SDI.

Bush opposes defense industrial policy

The Bush administration will oppose any attempts to garner federal support to convert closing aerospace and defense facilities to civilian production, which has been proposed by congressmen whose districts face severe effects of defense budget cuts, according to *Aviation Week* of the week of Aug. 6.

An upcoming administration report states that though the cuts in defense spending could result in 26,000 to 74,000 jobs lost in each of the next 3-10 years, it claims local communities will be able to deal with the dislocation.

As an example of a successful "conversion" from defense to civilian production, the report cites Kaman Aerospace, which is now making guitars. Undoubtedly, one "growth" area for these high-tech companies will be environmental "protection."

The article reminds readers that the White House got into a similar tussle with the Congress over federal support for advanced technology when Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency head Craig Fields was canned for investing government R&D funds in a small company to maintain U.S. leadership in the electronics industry.

Reporter provokes investigation of Gallo

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has opened an investigation into the methodology and research activities of Robert Gallo, according to the Aug. 18 *Washington Post*.

The accusations involve evidence, discovered partly through Freedom of Information Act material provided to *Chicago Tribune* reporter John Crewdson, which shows that Gallo deliberately contaminated blood samples in his laboratories with HIV virus isolated by French researcher Luc Montagnier. The issue was the subject of a rancorous lawsuit which resulted in a settlement wherein the scientists shared responsibility for discovering the virus. Crewdson has revealed that the actions of Gallo and his laboratory might have been deliberate, and these revelations have prompted Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) to launch an investigation into the NIH labs.

The investigation has divided the scientific community, since some fear it will stymie what little useful work might have come out of the NIH. "In an ideal world where a scientist is working on an epidemic involving millions of people, one might consider that historical questions be left for a time until the epidemic is over," said biologist Howard Temin, a Nobel laureate who teaches at the University of Wisconsin. "But of course, that is not the way things are done in our society."

The controversy underscores the murderous implications of the suppression of honest researchers in the scientific community, who have been ostracized for resisting the official coverups being coordinated by the establishment labs and scientists.

Thrift official attacks political targeting

Stanley E. Adams Jr., the former owner of the now-defunct Lamar Savings of Texas who was named Aug. 7 in a 14-count indictment by a federal grand jury in Austin, Texas, attacked the government, saying he was being "used as a political scapegoat."

"The blame for this tragedy should be laid where it belongs—at the doorstep of the Reagan administration," Adams said. "These indictments against me are part of what has become a political issue and little more. The Democrats want to blame the Republicans, and the Republicans want to blame the Democrats. And I, and other honest businessmen like me, have been caught

Briefly

● **PAUL VOLCKER** is being pushed to head the national commission to investigate the savings and loan crisis, according to the Aug. 17 *Wall Street Journal*. Volcker's high-interest rate policies as head of the Federal Reserve started the S&Ls' troubles.

● **THE MOUNTAIN** States Legal Foundation has demanded that the terrorist-ecologist group Earth First! be taken off a government working group setting policy for the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. "Putting Earth First! on a . . . group to decide forest service policy is like having the Islamic Jihad at a meeting on air safety," said William Perry Pendley, president of Mountain States.

● **THE INTERNATIONAL** Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers will be lobbying Congress for President Bush's Space Exploration Initiative, the Moon-Mars program zeroed out of the FY91 NASA budget request, the Aug. 13 *Aviation Week* reported. The United Auto Workers may also join the effort.

● **A SKADDEN ARPS** lawyer, whose firm is the top law firm involved in takeovers and mergers of U.S. industries, and an insider trading ring involved in more than two dozen cases, have been indicted, the Aug. 10 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

● **FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY** Judge Burton Lifland ruled Aug. 14 that Eastern Airlines could impose temporary 20% salary and benefit cuts on pilots, as a form of emergency relief, to prevent the airline's immediate liquidation.

● **AJC PUSHES PEYOTE** legalization. American Jewish Congress executive director Henry Siegman, according to an AP wire, criticized the U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing states to ban the use of Peyote, a hallucinogenic drug, in worship by the Native American Church.

in the middle."

Adams' lawyer, Henry Novak, said his client is the victim of a double standard under which the government allowed certain S&L practices in the early 1980s, but now calls them fraud. Novak said that Lamar's transactions were legitimate, but prosecutors are now applying new "theories of criminality" to what was once standard S&L practice.

Adams said that, had he not been forced out by Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. in December 1985, he could have rescued the thrift. Decisions made by management installed by FSLIC after Adams was ousted led to a rapid depletion of capital, resulting in a decision by regulators to shut down the thrift in May 1988, at a cost of over \$1.2 billion to taxpayers.

ABA votes to reverse pro-abortion stand

The policy-making body of the American Bar Association (ABA) voted 200-188 Aug. 8 to reverse its unprecedented pro-abortion stance taken at the behest of Planned Parenthood last February.

Besides those opposed to abortion, many members felt the ABA has no right to become an advocate for a political issue which jeopardizes the ABA Commission on the Federal Judiciary which evaluates the qualifications of Supreme Court nominees.

Since the vote last February where the House of Delegates, which represents less than a tenth of the 360,000 ABA members, voted 238-106 for abortion, more than 1500 members resigned outright and it was thought that some 20,000 to 30,000 members would resign or refuse to renew their membership in August. "Pro-choicers . . . ran roughshod over people's deep religious and moral beliefs," said Darrell Jordan, president of the Texas State Bar.

On July 31, the governing body of the AFL-CIO decided to remain "neutral" on the issue of abortion. The vote came six months after AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland appointed a 14-member special committee of mainly abortion-on-demand supporters to decide if the federation should adopt a pro-abortion resolution.

EPA extraterritoriality doctrine wins round

The Endangered Species Act applies not just to wildlife within the United States, but to plants and animals anywhere in the world if they are threatened by projects funded by the U.S. government, according to a ruling handed down by a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 14.

The court ruled in favor of Defenders of Wildlife, which had challenged Interior Department regulations regarding reporting requirements on projects being constructed overseas. The ruling does not affect private organizations that carry out projects abroad independent of federal programs. But environmentalists said those groups could still be subject to civil suit under the Endangered Species Act.

FBI targets South Carolina legislators

An FBI sting artist has been employed to attempt to entrap more than 15 legislators in South Carolina. The sting involved FBI informant Ron Cobb allegedly handing legislators stacks of \$100 bills in exchange for securing their vote to back a parimutuel betting bill in front of video cameras.

The FBI operation coincided with a separate series of state and federal criminal investigations involving a major public utility, the state Highway Department, the Highway Patrol, the state aeronautics commission, and a junior state legislator, according to the Aug. 12 *Washington Post*. The *Post* opines that the FBI sting may strengthen the position of GOP Gov. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.

So far, at least 16 legislators have acknowledged that they have either been subpoenaed by the grand jury or contacted by FBI agents, including two who have been formally notified they were targets of the FBI sting. Five of the 16 are Republicans. Cobb has since disappeared and is believed to be in the Federal Witness Protection Program.