

National News

Truly: resume flying a teacher in space

Outgoing NASA Administrator Richard Truly said that routine teaching by astronauts from the Space Shuttle should be the next step in space work, in a speech at the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on March 26. "Later, we will continue the teaching from Space Station Freedom and I predict, from the surface of the Moon and Mars."

Truly, whose remarks echoed the LaRouche proposal put forward in the 1988 presidential campaign television show entitled "The Woman on Mars," made promoting science education a hallmark of his three years as NASA administrator.

Every year since the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger, the leadership of NASA has reviewed reinstating the program of flying citizens in space. Christa McAuliffe, who was aboard Challenger, was the first teacher in space. Elementary school teacher Barbara Morgan was her back-up.

Truly reported that he had talked to Barbara Morgan the previous evening. "She's ready, the Space Shuttle is ready, and the American people are ready for the educational inspiration that flying Barbara will provide." Truly has forwarded his recommendation to NASA Administrator designate Daniel Goldin.

Government misconduct exposed in Gotti trial

Attorneys for New York alleged organized crime figure John Gotti exposed the government's misconduct in his trial on March 27. The attorneys played unexpurgated versions of FBI wiretaps which show that the government fabricated evidence and gave the jury bogus transcripts of the alleged conversations.

The particular instance involves an FBI wiretap which the prosecution presented as

a main piece of evidence that Gotti ordered murders. The transcript, which had been liberally quoted by the media, told the jurors that the government recorded Gotti saying "We whacked this . . . kid." When the tape was played, Gotti plainly said, "We ain't whacking this . . . kid."

Defense attorneys invoked Watergate and Iran-Contra to convince jurors that government prosecutors are capable of any type of lying in order to advance their careers. The government has staked a lot on this, its fourth attempt to convict Gotti on some crime or other.

ADL-linked judge runs roughshod over law

Judge Clifford R. Weckstein, the pet judge of the Anti-Defamation League, convicted David Shavin, an associate of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, of selling an unregistered security on March 25. Shavin had signed a "temporary loan agreement" in a sting operation run by Virginia State Police officer Larry Burchett.

Weckstein convicted Shavin in a bench trial after the original felony charges were reduced to a misdemeanor, and sentenced him to a \$50 fine, a six-month jail sentence suspended for one year, and to pay \$5,000 restitution to the Commonwealth. Weckstein imposed no restrictions on Shavin's political activity. Shavin pled not guilty, and plans to appeal the conviction.

Defense attorney Gerald Zerkin argued that the "temporary loan agreement," which Shavin signed, could not possibly be a security even under the recent ridiculous rulings of the Virginia Court of Appeals and Virginia Supreme Court. Zerkin said no reasonable person could consider this piece of paper and Shavin's role in the transaction to be the offer and sale of an unregistered security. Zerkin also argued that to hold Shavin criminally liable would violate the U.S. Constitution because it would create a presumption of guilt in a criminal case. Weckstein agreed that this creates a presumption against the defendant, but said that under Virginia law, that is permissible.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorneys

John Russell and Elizabeth Teare argued that no matter what the piece of paper was called, it was a security under Virginia law. Russell also argued that even if Shavin was not liable under the civil provisions, he was still criminally liable. The argument went against all standards of law, but Weckstein agreed.

Shavin said, "I've been politically active since I was 12 and I will be politically active for the rest of my life. I believe I wouldn't be here except for my political activity. I don't know how far the state and federal government will go to punish people for their political beliefs."

Physicist presents cold fusion results

"I want you to understand that we are in a really serious situation, because our science is now dominated by an Aristotelian ideology, and this is what lies behind the adverse reaction that we are getting to the results of cold fusion," leading Italian particle physicist Dr. Giuliano Preparata of Milan University told a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington on March 27.

"We are witnessing the birth of a new physics here, but the scientific establishment behaves like a priestly caste that will not allow in any new ideas. Really, we are in a situation with respect to microphysics analogous to the situation after Copernicus had shown that the Ptolemaic epicycles could be replaced," he said.

Preparata reviewed the substantial and repeatable results reported by several independent groupings of electrochemical researchers at the Second Annual Conference on Cold Fusion held last summer in Como, Italy, and announced the release of the conference proceedings. The English-language transcripts make up a 527-page book entitled *The Science of Cold Fusion*, produced by the Italian Physical Society.

Preparata dismissed questions about why some scientists have not been able to reproduce cold fusion results, saying, "All this emphasis on 'reproducibility' is a kind of a bad habit on the part of some scientists. You have here 10²³ of variables, of objects. So of course some things can be done

wrong. . . . But they are avoiding the real challenge. This has been reproduced and independently verified. But they apply a double standard. There are experiments that go on in the solid state physics lab, where accepted phenomena go on which are much more difficult to reproduce than this one. Often things go wrong. But no one ever questions the validity of the phenomenon, because these are done in the laboratories supervised by Nobel Prize winners who are considered unassailable. . . . You are dealing with a subtle process here which must be explained by real scientific thinking."

In answer to questions on why the cold fusion results are being suppressed, Preparata appealed to the audience that they not be dissuaded from fighting for scientific truth. "For the sake of your children, for the sake of the future of humanity, we must fight this stranglehold on science," he said.

The press conference was chaired by Dr. Eugene Mallove, the former press officer at MIT who resigned when he saw leading scientists there committing fraud to discredit the results of Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons. Mallove stated, "Within this decade, I would expect to see cold fusion cells heating homes and perhaps even powering home generating stations in certain situations. . . . Spectacular applications to aerospace are also possible, such as the powering of electric ion thrusters."

Aviation Week attacks Bush policy for Russia

In its March 23 issue, *Aviation Week* magazine accused President Bush of imposing a new "Morgenthau Plan," i.e., a scorched-earth policy toward Russia, in a piece by Benjamin Lambeth entitled "Foster Russian Democracy, Don't Hinder It." The Morgenthau Plan advocated deindustrializing Germany at the end of World War II.

Lambeth wrote, "Reports that some members of the Bush administration have worked quietly to bar American purchases of high-technology aerospace goods from the former Soviet Union raise serious questions about whether the U.S. government is marching to a common drummer in supporting the growth of democracy in post-Soviet

Russia. The embargo is said to result from a desire to ensure that the already weakened former Soviet defense industry is kept in forced decline long enough to prevent its reemergence as a threat to U.S. security. . . . The ruling reflects a disturbing inconsistency in U.S.-Russia policy. The idea that the United States should have an interest in permanently crippling the defense industry of the former U.S.S.R. evokes memories of the benighted Morgenthau Plan that would have reduced defeated Nazi Germany to a pastoral society after World War II. Fortunately, the Marshall Plan prevailed and brought Germany into the Atlantic Alliance as a trusted security partner."

Lambeth warned, "Forces in this country are determined to exploit Russia's predicament to deliver the final blow. The U.S. effort to hobble Russia's defense industry . . . will guarantee resentment and long memories of American betrayal among precisely those members of the Russian security establishment we should be trying to co-opt. It also plays into the hands of unrepentant members of the former Soviet bureaucracy who have been warning that America's intentions toward Russia are not to be trusted."

Taxes go to reverse Florida flood control

The state of Florida has drawn up plans to restore the Kissimmee River to its original path, the March 24 *New York Times* reported. It is the largest restoration project undertaken solely for environmental reasons.

As a flood control measure, the Army Corp of Engineers in 1954 began a project to dredge and straighten the river. Now, the Corp of Engineers and the state of Florida are developing a project to return the river to its meandering path. The cost for construction and land acquisition, restoring 29,000 acres of wetland and requiring the purchase of 65,000 acres of flood plain, will cost an estimated \$368 million.

Environmentalist organizations are happy with the plan, and it is reported that the plan is also supported by the White House Office of Management and Budget and President Bush.

Briefly

● **TOM KAHN**, chief of the International Affairs Division of the AFL-CIO and a long-time operative against Lyndon LaRouche, died of AIDS on March 28, the *Washington Post* reported. Kahn slandered LaRouche throughout the world, particularly within the Solidarnosc movement in Poland.

● **MAYORS** plan to march on Washington on May 16 to demand action on the crisis of the cities, New York Mayor David Dinkins said March 26. The march will be non-partisan, and nearly 70 mayors have pledged to participate.

● **THE FBI** now claims that Chinese communist spies are replacing Russian spies as the biggest threat to U.S. security, the Taipei *Free China Journal* reported March 17. The FBI is now putting ads in the Chinese-language press in the United States warning about "undercover activities" of Chinese communists.

● **NEIL BUSH**, the President's son, will pay \$50,000 to the government over his role in the Silverado S&L affair, according to a March 26 *Rocky Mountain News* story carried by Reuters. Bush and seven other directors will pay a total of \$292,000 to settle a 1990 lawsuit filed by the government.

● **STATES** across the United States are re-equipping their gas chambers and electric chairs to deal with a surge in the number of death row prisoners who have reached the end of their possible appeals, and now face execution, the March 28 *London Times* reported.

● **THE DRUG** Enforcement Administration has been accused of bringing drugs into Venezuela. Bayardo Ramirez, former president of the Venezuelan National Commission against Drug Use, said that the DEA is taking advantage of the power vacuum to bring in more agents, "in order to control not only drug trafficking, but every other type of activity it wants." While no evidence has yet been provided, the allegations indicate the depth of anti-U.S. feelings.