

## Interview: Nancy Spannaus



# Spannaus for governor drive targets New Age barbarians

*Nancy Spannaus, the editor of New Federalist weekly newspaper and a longtime associate of Lyndon LaRouche, is running for governor of Virginia as an independent, against Republican George Allen and Democrat Mary Sue Terry. She was interviewed by EIR on Aug. 31.*

**EIR:** You have made opposition to Virginia's proposed outcome-based education plan a centerpiece of your campaign, and you have called for the firing of Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Joseph Spagnolo, because of his promotion of this program. Why do you think the issue is so important? Do you think OBE can be stopped in the state?

**Spannaus:** The question of outcome-based education is the question of whether Virginians who have become disgusted with politics and basically "dropped out," are going to mobilize themselves to save their children, the next generation, from being destroyed.

The fact is that the United States has gone through a 25-year process of being subjected to New Age ideology, including the rock-drug-sex counterculture, with disastrous results. This cultural shift has accompanied a collapse of our industrial base and our infrastructure, and produced an economy dominated by drug money and usurious speculation. It has also been responsible for the changes in the education system which created the dramatic collapse in performance we all bemoan today.

But, instead of reversing direction, we find the educational establishment today proposing to administer another massive dose of the same poison which created the disease!

This new poison, which comes out of institutions like the Carnegie Endowment, the United Nations, and the National Education Association, amounts to spiritual child molestation which will murder the minds of children. As the "reforms" have been described to me, and as they are outlined in the literature, they will subject children to hypnosis and brainwashing, turn them against their parents and traditional religious values, and make them vulnerable to being manipulable tools of the state.

In Virginia, the program actually got its start in 1986-87, with the introduction of mandatory guidance counseling programs which amount to brainwashing children to "feel

good." An OBE plan was put explicitly on the table in 1991, and is now being implemented in various experimental schools around the Commonwealth.

Yet when parents' groups question or oppose the plan, they are told that it is not yet final. But it is going ahead, even without a vote in the state legislature, which is technically scheduled for early 1994. I believe that the educational bureaucracy is committed to implementing their OBE plans no matter what, and that's why the chief executor of the program, Dr. Spagnolo, should be fired.

**EIR:** Where do the other candidates stand on this issue?

**Spannaus:** There is a total uproar in Virginia about OBE, mostly stimulated by the organizations associated with the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, Michael Farris. Farris has addressed meetings of up to 800 people around the state in opposition to OBE, and Republican gubernatorial candidate George Allen has also come out unequivocally against it. This is in addition to the agitation which my campaign is doing, with the circulation of tens of thousands of leaflets, community meetings, and so forth.

Thus the supporters of the OBE plan, particularly in the Democratic Party leadership, are on the defensive. Mary Sue Terry, for example, has issued a wishy-washy statement on the issue, citing various "positive" and "negative" features of the program. In reality, she's historically and currently supportive of OBE. If she's not fighting it, she's for it.

Although the legislature does not come into session until January, I think OBE is going to be the hottest issue of the electoral campaign. It can be stopped, no doubt about it, if parents actually intervene in the schools.

**EIR:** Virginia is internationally notorious for its barbaric criminal justice system. Two members of the European Parliament recently came to the state to petition Gov. Douglas Wilder on behalf of former death row inmate Joe Giarratano. Several associates of Lyndon LaRouche are serving or will soon be serving long prison sentences as the result of a political railroad run by former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry. In your campaigning around the state, do you find a

basis for optimism that justice can be restored? What do you think should be done?

**Spannaus:** The barbarism around the criminal justice system is going to increase, unless my campaign either wins or garners a significant vote. The unfortunate fact is, that both Mary Sue Terry and George Allen are competing to put forward even more draconian measures for those accused or convicted of crimes in Virginia—going so far as to say that such measures are part of the solution to the economic collapse. George Allen has called for ending parole altogether, and Terry is crowing about her record of executions and the political prosecution of LaRouche and his associates.

From the beginning, my campaign has stated its opposition to the death penalty, and identified the larger philosophical issue: that Terry has put conformity to judicial procedure above the issue of truth. This is recognizable by pensioners, for example, who have been denied equity by Terry, and by others who have been forced to depend upon the dispensation of the state. Unionists, for example, who have generally supported the death penalty, have come forward to support my campaign on the general issue of justice, despite that disagreement.

The real issue for the population is fear, which has been engendered by the corrupt administration of justice. People generally know that LaRouche and his associates were railroaded, but they are frightened of retribution if they come out and fight for the truth.

Thus, the role of my campaign is to put a spotlight on the truth about the justice system, including the fact that the attorney general's office under Mary Sue Terry has acted as a hired tool of corrupt private interests. In the case of the coal miners, those interests are the major coal and financial corporations. In the case of the LaRouche political movement, those interests include the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has had leading officers contribute heavily to Terry's campaign this time around.

Mary Sue Terry, despite her money and quasi-incumbent status, is seen as a witch. She can be beaten, I believe.

**EIR:** There is a great deal of concern in Virginia over unemployment and labor issues, particularly as the government cuts back the military sector and base closings loom. Governor Wilder has come out against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), on the grounds that it will cost American jobs. There are strikes in Virginia's coal-mining sector. What are the issues here? You have addressed numerous labor groups during your campaign. What do you tell them?

**Spannaus:** Most of the politicians in Virginia breathed a sigh of relief when the Base Closing Commission spared the major naval shipyard in Norfolk, but the situation is actually quite grim. The general military cutbacks are going to directly eliminate more than 10,000 jobs, and the related layoffs will be much larger. And more of the military facili-

ties within the state will be up for review again as early as next year.

This underlines the point that the economic collapse of Virginia, as all other states, cannot be dealt with simply within the state. All the lotteries and budget cuts you can come up with, won't compensate for these job losses. You have to have a job creation program, centered on infrastructure projects, and with the credit being provided by Treasury notes from the federal government.

More specific to Virginia is the plantation mentality of the corporate and party leadership in the state. There is an ideological commitment to a cheap-labor policy, which mirrors that of the free-trade outlook of the establishment as a whole, but is more firmly entrenched as an anti-labor, anti-union position here.

The one major exception to the suppression of labor here has been in the mine sector, but there is an advance of non-union operations. In 1989 the United Mine Workers of America won a big strike victory over attempts by a Virginia-based mine company, Pittston, to renege on health care commitments to retirees. But the coal companies have not given up on busting union standards, and currently the Consolidated Coal Company has provoked a strike, by refusing to abide by an agreement to hire a certain percentage of union workers at new mines. Interestingly, Consolidated is largely controlled by the Bronfman-DuPont interests.

I have addressed hundreds of unionists, particularly among the strikers, and the response is good. My speeches to them are similar to those I give elsewhere—the challenge to create a future for the next generation by dealing with the economic crisis, and stopping outcome-based education.

**EIR:** What do you think your chances are for winning this election?

**Spannaus:** The question is whether we can agitate enough people to create a visible movement, that will bring out the vote against Terry and OBE.

Any election-as-usual strategy isn't going to work, because the media know the potential of my campaign addressing those Virginians who are not represented by Allen or Terry, and have decided to almost totally black out my existence as a candidate. The major newspaper in the state, the *Washington Post*, has not even acknowledged that I have qualified for the ballot, much less covered anything which I have to say.

The same is true about debates. Very few institutions, with the exception of the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), have agreed to include me in their candidate forums or debates. In some cases, this is because Mary Sue Terry has declined to participate if I'm invited; in others, they are just too timid.

So, it's dependent upon our creating a political movement.