

# OBE the issue in Va. gubernatorial race

by Alan Ogden

At the Labor Day parade and political rally in Buena Vista, Virginia, Edward Spannaus, speaking on behalf of his wife, independent gubernatorial candidate Nancy Spannaus, condemned the outcome-based education (OBE) plan being promoted by the state Department of Education. He attacked Democratic rival Mary Sue Terry, who was also on the speakers platform, for her support of the Virginia scheme, which is called "Common Core of Learning." Nancy Spannaus, who was speaking at another Labor Day event in the coal mining region of southwest Virginia, has made the defeat of OBE, which she calls "spiritual child molestation," a top priority of her campaign, and her supporters have made it a very hot issue in many places in the state.

"Virginia is one of the top three states in the Union in implementing OBE," Spannaus's husband said in his speech. "The idea is to cast aside traditional learning, and to emphasize feelings and self-esteem. The state Education Department says that the problem with education is the parents, because the parents try to teach their children traditional values, right and wrong." Signs on the Spannaus campaign car proclaimed "Virginia Is for Mothers," and campaign workers distributed her literature along the two-mile parade route. Many people asked for extra literature, and a number of public school teachers volunteered on the spot to work in the Spannaus campaign.

Edward Spannaus also questioned whether Mary Sue Terry should even be included in a Labor Day event, the traditional kickoff of the Virginia fall campaign for the Nov. 2 election. He reminded the audience that as attorney general, Terry had sent 400 state police to crush a miners' strike, where they beat strikers and handcuffed union picketers to a chain-link fence during an electrical storm. Candidate Spannaus has stressed in her campaign that the same corporate and financial groups which have pushed deindustrialization and union-busting are backing OBE, which is geared to turning out compliant and actually uneducated graduates, who will fit their idea of a post-industrial "global economy."

Also speaking at the Buena Vista parade was Republican gubernatorial candidate George Allen. Allen chose this day to issue his own attack on OBE, calling for scrapping "the current system [which] is failing to provide the foundation our children need to realize their full potential." Allen released an educational plan which emphasizes testing for high academic standards rather than "attitudinal skills." His call

became front-page news in the state press. While Spannaus and Allen were castigating the policy supported by Mary Sue Terry, Terry herself could only fidget nervously in front of the hundreds gathered in the industrial town, which has been hard hit by plant closings. In her own speech, Terry said nothing about education, except that her being unmarried did not prevent her from understanding how important it is for children to be in school.

## Fire Spagnolo

Nancy Spannaus has called for the firing of Joe Spagnolo, the state superintendent of public instruction, who is a leading enthusiast of OBE, and has challenged her opponents to do the same. This urgent demand is putting the evil of spiritual child molestation into ever sharper focus. The Allen campaign has replied that they will consider firing Spagnolo, but the Terry campaign has refused to reply. Even before the Common Core of Learning was fully adopted by the current Virginia administration, a New Age "guidance curriculum" was mandated in 1986 which put group therapy and "guided fantasies" into every elementary school in the state. The so-called Family Life Education, which is a pro-homosexual "future shock" approach to sex education, was pushed through statewide. Mary Sue Terry's support for this OBE package is considered a factor in her weakening position in the race.

The potential for an effective fight against spiritual child molestation has been evident in the state this year. The County of Loudoun, Spannaus's home county, won a nationally publicized court case when the American Civil Liberties Union challenged the county's decision to permit seniors at a public high school to pray at graduation exercises. Republican candidate for lieutenant governor Michael Farris reflected the mood of some during his campaign for his party's nomination, by commenting that public education has become "a Godless monstrosity." But only Spannaus's aggressive campaign to "take back public education" has challenged all Virginians to mobilize to crush the evil of OBE now.

Seventeen independent candidates for Virginia House of Delegates are running on the Spannaus slate. These candidates are walking their districts and speaking at local meetings to build a movement to cleanse public education of the satanic OBE agenda. In Norfolk, one of Virginia's largest cities, school officials at one elementary school where an OBE pilot program run by the New American Schools Development Corporation is being implemented, were so alarmed at the opposition which Spannaus campaigners have organized among parents, that they began going door to door to "warn" people to stay away from the Spannaus campaign. On the first day of school, Norfolk school officials, complaining about "outsiders," called the police to try to stop an anti-OBE picket line near the school organized by the Spannaus campaign. The police who arrived, however, made no attempt to stop the picketers.