

# National News

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## Populist Schwasinger sentenced to 16 years

Roy Schwasinger, a populist who coaxed many desperate Midwest farmers in the Farm Credit system to take anarchist actions which he promised would regain their farms, was sentenced to 16 years in prison by a federal court on Sept. 26. Schwasinger, who has a background with Army Intelligence, promoted schemes for farmers facing foreclosure to harass judges and lawyers, and to file false liens against them to tie up their credit, and collected monies from farmers to join a phony class action suit at mass meetings during the 1992 presidential campaign.

During this period, the presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche and James Bevel was fighting to organize farmers around a program to fight the economic depression politically by allying their interests with those of the civil rights movement urban residents.

Schwasinger and two others were convicted in U.S. District Court in Dallas in March of filing bogus liens against the property of court and government officials in Texas.

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## Parole abolition passes Virginia legislature

A special session of the Virginia General Assembly overwhelmingly passed "Proposal X" on Sept. 30, which ends parole in the state beginning Jan. 1, 1995, on a vote in the House of 89-7, and 34-4 in the Senate. The Democrat-controlled legislature gave Republican Gov. George Allen his bill, but voted only \$35 million to build nine work centers to relieve crowding in local jails, rather than approve bonds for the nearly \$2 billion cost, to build 27 new prisons, which Allen's full proposal entails.

By failing to fund Proposal X, the state now "runs a risk" of becoming like Florida, according to Virginia Commonwealth University professor and corrections expert Dr.

Paul W. Keve. Florida eliminated parole and toughened sentences, just as Virginia has done, he told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, but did not have the money to build more prisons. As a result, dangerous felons had to be released to relieve overcrowding, and the crime rate soared. Loudoun County attorney John Flannery, who had fought the proposal, told the daily that the state can expect suits for overcrowding and cruel and unusual punishment: "The governor took the fear of crime, set up a sting with it, and these [legislators] have been stung," Flannery said.

The new law also creates a commission within the judicial branch to outline tougher penalties for violent offenders and repeat offenders. The penalties are expected to include double the fines for violent offenders and a fivefold increase in sentences for repeat offenders.

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## Bush White House made threats to Clinton

In the epilogue to Bob Woodward's book *The Agenda* published this spring, the *Washington Post* investigative journalist reveals that Bill Clinton received a threat from George Bush's campaign, even before Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, had announced his candidacy. On p. 333, Woodward purports to portray what Hillary Clinton is thinking about the difficulties a Clinton presidency would have to face:

"She connected the current troubles to a call that she remembered Bill telling her about in the summer of 1991, just as he was deciding to run for President. She recalled that he reported a direct threat from someone in the Bush White House, warning that if he ran, the Republicans would go after him. 'We will do everything we can to destroy you personally,' she recalled that the Bush White House man had said. It was the same organized opposition, she felt, that had attacked him during the campaign and was now trying to tear down his presidency. Others from the campaign and the White House, however, remembered the call very differently—as neither stark nor threatening. The story had grown much better in the telling and in her memory. One campaign veteran

thought it might be apocryphal or the message something between a political chat and a threat. She was not viewing things with her usual cold and clear eye. She was talking, at times, as if they were being persecuted."

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## DEA: Cali cartel still operating in U.S.

The culmination of a two-year investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), known as Operation Foxhunt, led to the arrest of 166 members of Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel in the United States, as well as the seizure of \$13 million and six tons of cocaine. The cocaine distribution network ranged from major cities such as Los Angeles, New York City, Miami, San Francisco, New Orleans, Newark, and Washington to smaller cities like Lincoln, Nebraska and Kingman, Arizona.

DEA Deputy Director William Mockler said "We are not naive enough to believe that the cartel is out of business, but we have immobilized them for a while and, more importantly, we have taken out several of their key players, their key workers. The cartel's trafficking and distribution network has been dealt a crippling blow, absolutely." It is expected that the cartel will now start examining court documents to try to determine how it was discovered and to modify its operations. The DEA hopes to focus on these anticipated activities, to further the dismantling process.

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## 'Re-imagining women' to meet for Halloween

The Re-Imagining Conference, a pagan gathering of feminist theologians sponsored by the World Council of Churches (WCC), is planning to hold its second national conference over the Halloween period on Oct. 29 in Minneapolis. Last year, somewhere between several hundred and several thousand (exact figures are not available, since the meeting was secret) women gathered to launch an assault on so-called male-domi-

nated Christianity. The fact that the conference was secret did not stop the press from giving glowing reports of the group's feminist "liturgy" worshipping "Sophia" as a female deity.

Although the conference will again be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, the headquarters of the newly formed Re-Imagining Office is located in the Minnesota Council of Churches high-rise office building, which includes conference rooms.

Last year, several member churches of the WCC were outraged by the conference's open attack on Christianity: the Presbyterian Church fired top official Mary Ann Lundy for helping to coordinate the event. Many local Presbyterian, Lutheran, and other denominations withheld funds from their national councils which had paid for and co-sponsored the "re-imagining" coven.

## Former Ollie supporter: 'Forgive Barry not North'

Former U.S. Rep. Mickey Edwards, a staunch supporter of Oliver North's Contra re-supply effort, wrote a scathing commentary in the Sept. 28 issue of the *Boston Herald*, contrasting North with former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, who served a six-month prison term for cocaine possession. Edwards wrote that, while the national media are referring to Barry and North as "two peas in a pod," their stories in fact are very different: Barry, wrote Edwards, both admitted his guilt and paid the penalty for his crime. North has done neither.

Edwards continued:

"What Oliver North did was also wrong. And it was dangerous. The Founders feared nothing more than the arrogant accretion of power, that is why they drafted a constitution which so tightly constrains government's freedom of action and gives the people's representatives the right to approve or disapprove of the Executive's adventures. The fact is our freedoms are less threatened by Barry's drug use than by the specter of a powerful government official pursuing his own agenda—or a President's agenda—regardless of the law."

Even though Oliver North paid no penalty, he concluded, the technicality "which allowed him to escape prison is an important part of our constitutional protections against the possibility of a police state, and I do not begrudge him his good fortune in escaping a prison cell. I cannot support Oliver North, because he has failed to acknowledge that what he has done was wrong. That failure eliminates the claim to redemption, and it warns us that he would continue, in elected office, to believe that the wisdom of Oliver North should supersede the laws and the Constitution. And that is the very definition of a demagogue."

## Soviet spy Ames framed up Marine Sgt. Lonetree

Attorneys for Clayton Lonetree, a Marine sergeant convicted of espionage while serving in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, will petition to reopen his case on the grounds that he was set up to cover for the activities of CIA double agent Aldrich Ames, who has pleaded guilty to spying for both the Soviet and, later, Russian secret services.

The prosecutor in the Lonetree case, Col. David Beck (ret.) said that on the basis of statements made by Ames during his debriefings, "justice would require that we open up the investigation again." Ames told debriefers that the entire flap over Soviet penetration of the embassy, which occupied headlines and spy hunters for most of the 1980s, was part of an elaborate KGB setup designed to protect Ames. Lonetree was lured into a sexual relationship with a Soviet translator working at the embassy, and was encouraged to pass along information to Soviet spies. According to Ames, the information which Lonetree passed along had already been compromised by his, Ames's, activities.

The prosecution of Lonetree was largely run by the Naval Investigative Service (NIS), which used investigative methods developed by the FBI, centering on a "single spy" theory. NIS and the FBI also collaborated in targeting a single sailor for blame in the explosion on the battleship *Iowa*, in which he and some 40 others died.

## Briefly

● **MIKE ESPY**, President Clinton's agriculture secretary, announced his resignation on Oct. 2, to take effect on Dec. 31. Espy said that scandals which accuse him of accepting gifts, and which are the subject of independent counsel investigations, are distracting him from his job. He told reporters he expects to be exonerated.

● **HARTFORD**, Connecticut became the first city in the country to hand its entire school system over to a private for-profit management company, Education Alternatives, Inc., on Oct. 4. EAI, based in Minnesota, has been caught already falsifying test scores of other privatized public schools and is intimately tied into financial derivatives speculation through Minneapolis brokerage Piper Jaffray.

● **DISNEY'S** America theme park announced in late September that it would not build its multimillion-dollar "historical amusement park" in Haymarket, Virginia, 45 minutes outside of Washington, D.C. *EIR's* sources attributed the pullout to Disney's poor financial situation, especially with the Euro-Disney white elephant, despite the box office successes of films such as "The Lion King."

● **AN APPOINTEE** of Virginia Gov. George Allen (R) resigned as director of the Governor's Mansion on Sept. 28, two days after being arrested on charges of felony sodomy. Allen, who supports the candidacy of Oliver North for U.S. Senate, is one of the GOP's rising stars, presenting himself as a strict "law and order" and "family values" man.

● **'LIFE** after 'Self-Esteem' " was the headline of an Oct. 1 *Washington Post* opinion column which reported that a leading California "self-esteem task force" was closing up shop. The commission began the movement to popularize the notion that children with "low self-esteem" are poor achievers, which can be changed by "making them feel better about themselves."