

National News

LaRouche candidate airs 'Goodbye Ollie' song

Northern Virginia congressional candidate William C. Jones, a 20-year associate of Lyndon LaRouche, has purchased air time from a major metropolitan Washington radio station to air a song satirizing Republican Senate candidate Oliver North. The song, a parody of the Broadway tune "Hello Dolly," which pokes fun at North's claims that he knew nothing about the massive Contra cocaine-trafficking, has created an uproar. On Oct. 14, the *Washington Post*, makes its obligatory reference to LaRouche as a "political extremist," but publishes the text: *Goodbye Ollie. Yes, goodbye, Ollie, Why would anybody vote for you? You flew cocaine Ollie, in your plane, Ollie, Stop your lying, stop denying George Bush knew it, too. I got a strong feelin' that you're dope dealin'. That means the U.S. Senate can't use bums like you. You'd look swell Ollie, hidden in a prison cell, Ollie. Ollie, you should be put away, locked up and throw the key away, Ollie you should be put away for good.*

Housing chief Cisneros comes under scrutiny

Within days of the announcement of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's resignation, White House press spokesman Dee Dee Myers confirmed that Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros has also come under scrutiny by the Justice Department, for allegedly making misleading statements to the FBI about thousands of dollars in payments to a former mistress. "He has not submitted a resignation," Myers told reporters on Oct. 4. "This is being reviewed by the Justice Department and we'll wait for their conclusions."

The head of the General Services Administration, Robert Johnson, is being investigated by the GSA's Inspector General, the *Washington Post* reported on Oct. 5. The inquiry is said to focus on whether Johnson used government employees to wait at his

home for repairmen and deliveries, handle personal correspondence, or take his Mercedes to the car wash.

Mt. Graham observatory is Earth First! target

Earth First! Journal on Sept. 22 published an excerpt of an early 1994 University of Arizona report on the eco-terrorist group, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that, ironically, discloses Earth First! policy with respect to the Mt. Graham International Observatory in Arizona with special clarity.

The excerpt states: "A law enforcement informant who has literally been living with Earth First! in the Pacific Northwest reports that last night at a Seattle area meeting Earth Firsters were told to get involved with the Mt. Graham issue. It appears that the Mt. Graham issue is clearly becoming the national issue of focus. This seems to recently have been intensified with the recent comments of incorporating lasers on Mt. Graham [a reference to adaptive optics technology]. The informant additionally said the December 1993 publications are saying direct action is needed. In the past this has meant more than just civil disobedience. When asked what that meant for Mt. Graham the answer was 'to make the U[niversity] of A[rizona] and Forest Service suffer.'"

Privatizers take over Hartford school system

Hartford, Connecticut became the first city in the country to hand over its entire school system to a private, for-profit company on Oct. 3. Over the protests of teachers and parents, the school board voted to put Education Alternatives, Inc. (EAI) in charge of its public school system. The school board is reported to have been desperate over high dropout rates, low test scores, and deteriorating facilities at the district's 32 schools,

and plans to sign a five-year contract with EAI, despite scandals that have plagued the company, including false claims that it raised test scores in other cities where it has taken over public schools.

The takeover is being looked at eagerly by cities where school plant is deteriorating and dropout rates are high. On Oct. 7, the *Chicago Tribune* editorially backed statements made by Mayor Richard Daley in favor of school privatization after the Hartford move. While saying that wholesale privatization may not be the answer, the paper continued: "However, with the schools facing a massive financial shortfall next year, all ideas should be weighed." The editorial made the point that the Chicago school system serves 411,000 students to Hartford's 24,000.

Chicago has already privatized school transportation and food service. Moreover, wrote the *Tribune*, Chicago has "experimented" with local control of the schools since 1988, which will obviate the need for the fight that a centralized school system such as Hartford's had to wage in order to go private. "If elected members of a Local School Council choose to privatize a school or turn one into a charter school, the 1988 School Reform Act should be amended to accommodate them."

Emergency treatment for 'Baby K' upheld by court

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia, which sought the right to deny emergency respiratory treatment to "Baby K," a two-year-old girl with anencephaly. The hospital has sought to deny treatment to the child since birth, because her condition—she was born with a partially developed brain—meant she "lacked the essence of personhood."

The Supreme Court justices, without comment, effectively upheld a lower federal court ruling that said Fairfax Hospital must provide the life-saving treatment as federal law mandates. In July 1993, a U.S. District Court ruled that the hospital's denial of medical care violates her right to life under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the

Briefly

Constitution, and a host of federal laws assuring that patients can get emergency hospital treatment.

When Baby K was born in October 1992, Fairfax Hospital lied to her mother, that the infant would die within days, making treatment "unnecessary" and "futile." The mother insisted that the infant receive life-saving treatment. Baby K, who now lives in a nursing home, has had to be taken to the hospital for emergency ventilator support for respiratory failure only four times.

Scientists score EPA dioxin report

The draft report on the health risks of the pesticide dioxin by the Environmental Protection Agency, issued in September, has come under attack from scientists for its "sky is falling" statements and overreactions to data, according to *Science* magazine. A previous draft of the report, issued last year, drew criticism from the Food and Drug Administration and the Agriculture Department along the same lines. The current draft says that dioxin is more dangerous than the EPA had previously assessed and should remain listed as a "probable" human carcinogen. The report also suggests links between minute levels of dioxin and other effects, including endometriosis in women and reduced sperm counts in men.

Scientists have criticized the EPA for "overinterpreting" the data from animal studies. Others have said that people haven't been exposed to enough dioxin to see effects, and that the EPA relied on European data, not U.S. data.

U.S., China may increase military cooperation

While the Clinton administration has agreed to lift the ban on high-technology sales to China, the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific said in an interview that the United States wants to "move forward" its military relationship with China, the *International Herald Tribune* reported. U.S. officials

agreed to drop the sales ban on Oct. 4, after discussions with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Washington. They also said that China has pledged to stop selling medium-range missiles abroad, but China denies that it has ever sold these missiles.

On Oct. 3, Adm. Richard Macke, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, gave an interview to the Singapore *Straits Times* saying that increased cooperation would include visits by each other's warships, exchanges of military personnel, and small-scale exercises. Admiral Macke said that Asian nations were "reaching out to China in a cooperative fashion to try and have Beijing as a stabilizing member" of the region. The key issue is to "influence China, to reassure China, so they will work with us to maintain stability." There have been a series of high-level U.S.-Chinese military exchanges since military ties were resumed last November, wrote the *Herald Tribune*. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry is expected to visit China later in October.

Jewish groups meet with Syrian foreign minister

In what could be considered an opening in relations between Syria and Israel, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara held his first formal meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders on Oct. 5. The meeting, which was the first of its kind, was organized by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Prior to the meeting, Shara had an initial discussion with six members of the committee. Shara opened the meeting by saying that Syrian President Hafez al-Assad had made a strategic commitment to peace with Israel and there was no time to waste in getting a peace agreement signed.

Jewish groups represented included the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, the Anti-Defamation League, Americans for Peace Now, and Hadassah. The meeting was arranged by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) and the panel's ranking minority member, Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.).

● **THE GAS CHAMBER** has been outlawed in California by federal Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, who ruled on Oct. 4 that its use constitutes an inhumane method of punishment. The ruling is the first time a federal judge has declared any means of execution unconstitutional.

● **CARL ROWAN**, the FBI-linked black columnist who helped lead the campaign to oust NAACP Executive Director Ben Chavis earlier this year, is calling for the resignation of NAACP Chairman William Gibson. In 1967, Rowan gained notoriety for circulating the lie that Martin Luther King had communist ties, after King had expressed his opposition to U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

● A 'SLAVE AUCTION' was re-enacted at Williamsburg, Virginia during a three-day celebration of King George III's accession to the throne, on Oct. 8-11. The funding for the event, which drew strong protests, came from AT&T Foundation and Philip Morris Companies, Inc. "Colonial Williamsburg" was a private park established by John D. Rockefeller III, who also set up the Population Council's headquarters in Williamsburg in 1952. The council's president was racist Frederick Osborn.

● **PAULA JONES**, whose lawsuit against President Clinton for alleged acts of sexual harassment when he was Arkansas governor was egged on by British journalist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard as part of London's assault on the presidency, has decided to proceed with her suit, according to her lawyers on Oct. 7. Clinton has filed a motion to dismiss the case, or to stay the proceedings until his term in office is completed. Jones must now file her response by Oct. 21.

● **VETERAN CELLIST** Anne Conrad-Antoville resigned from the Eureka, California Symphony Orchestra earlier this month in protest over a scheduled performance of "Peter and the Wolf." She claimed that the fairy tale is insensitive to the plight of wolves.