

## Editorial

### *Let's talk about reality, please*

What passes for news these days is little better than a soap opera. At the top of the ratings is the saga of the O.J. Simpson trial; then there are "important" events like the Oscar awards. Lately we have heard less in the United States about White House scandals, although they remain on the back burner, and now a new pot of lies appears to be coming to a boil.

As usual, the origin of the latest in this line of fantasy material is an allegation, emanating from British intelligence's Hollinger Corp., that Oliver North was the creature of Bill Clinton rather than George Bush. The idea behind this rehash of the Iran-Contra affair appears to be that Americans have become so attuned to virtual reality, and their memory banks have become so overloaded, that they will swallow anything.

Wasn't Ollie working for the Reagan-Bush White House, directly under George Bush, in accordance with National Security Decision Directives 2 and 3? Not at all, according to Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, one of the leading British correspondents in the "Get Clinton" gang. According to an article by Evans-Pritchard in the March 26 London *Sunday Telegraph*, the center of Iran-Contra operations was really Arkansas, not the White House at all.

In an article entitled "Airport Scandal Set to Crash into White House," accompanied by a photo of Ollie North, Evans-Pritchard reports that there is now a civil rights suit being tried in Little Rock, Arkansas, in which the plaintiff is former CIA contract agent Terry Reed, and in which a new angle on the affair is being revealed. According to Evans-Pritchard, evidence will be revealed that drug-running activities which were run out of the Mena airfield in western Arkansas were being orchestrated by then-Governor Clinton, rather than from the White House, but that this was suppressed at the time of the investigation of the Iran-Contra affair by Independent Council Lawrence Walsh.

Just the previous week, Evans-Pritchard sought to revive a scandal surrounding the death of White House aide Vincent Foster, intimating that Foster was murdered because he knew too much about events in Mena.

This slander has been simmering for quite a while: In February, Evans-Pritchard's alter-ego, London *Sunday Times* columnist Lord William Rees-Mogg, ran a scurrilous report in which he accused the U.S. President of being nothing more than the tool of Arkansas "narcobusinessmen" who have been known to kill witnesses dangerous to them.

The Foster slander has now hit the talk-show circuit and the press. On March 24, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the "controversy" surrounding the 1993 death of Foster, which has become "a lively business" for conspiracy buffs.

This continual drumbeat against President Clinton comes at a time when he is playing a critical role in stopping the Gingrich-Gramm attempt to create a landslide of fascist legislation, intended, among other things, to tear up the United States Constitution. The propaganda for the Conservative Revolution is just another example of virtual reality dominating our airwaves.

For this country's poor, the austerity measures which are being demanded by the Conservative Revolution crowd will be real enough; and soon, if measures such as the capital gains tax are passed and the speculative boom continues out of control, we will all be poor. The rhetoric of creatures like Gramm is about on a par with the performance of the courtroom lawyers in the O.J. Simpson case.

It is about time that Americans realized that this country is in a perilous condition, and that the global financial system is about to collapse, taking the economy with it unless something better is put in place. Sooner, rather than later, Americans must come to understand that the news media are being deliberately used in an attempt to brainwash them into sitting idly by while civilization is destroyed.

One of the major tools in this media effort is the use of "news" shows which pretend to inform people about what is happening, but instead divert attention to trivialities and worse, in order to prevent them from encouraging President Clinton to make the kind of heroic efforts which will be required to deal with the present crisis.