

National News

Ayn Rand revivalists congregate in Washington

Some 500 devotees of the Mother of All Libertarians, Ayn Rand, gathered at a Washington, D.C. hotel over Oct. 4-5 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of her most famous novel, *Atlas Shrugged*. Not surprisingly, the event was sponsored by her Institute for Objectivist Studies, and the Cato Institute, the libertarian Conservative Revolution think tank. The high point of the event occurred when a former Mr. Universe, scantily costumed as Atlas bearing the world on his shoulders, strode to stage-center, lifted the globe, and shrugged. A fireworks display was centered around a glittering dollar-sign. The commemoration was keynoted by Nathaniel Branden, a young disciple who became Rand's lover for 25 years: Rand dedicated *Atlas Shrugged* to both Branden and her husband Frank O'Connor.

In 1957, as the result of a very harsh review, Rand never wrote another book; however, her philosophy of "rational selfishness," a 20th-century rehashing of Bernard Mandeville's theory of "Private Vices, Public Virtues," is a cornerstone today's Conservative Revolution. Few commentators missed the irony that the Rand revival took place at the same time as the Promise Keepers (whose philosophy might be called the flip side of Mandeville's, i.e., if you're privately virtuous, you can be publicly vicious) held their Nuremberg rally nearby on the Washington Mall.

Strike barely averted in Los Angeles County

Forty thousand Los Angeles County workers, organized by Service Employees International Union Local 660, threatened a county-wide strike at midnight, Oct. 1, over what the union called issues of "economic justice." The strike, which has been called off pending completion of bargaining with all units, could have crippled the operations of the nation's largest county government.

Many of Local 660's members have gone without a raise for five years, and the county initially offered increases of from one to 1.5% in each of three years, which the union called "insulting." The union is also asking for \$10 million for retraining services, to deal with privatization and workfare programs that have devastated employment in the union.

As of Oct. 7, twelve of the union's 17 bargaining units had reached tentative agreement. With the threat of the strike and growing public support for a fight against austerity, the county has found the money to offer a 10% across-the-board raise over three years.

Steve Weingarten, communications director for SEIU 660, interviewed by weekly newspaper *New Federalist* on Oct. 3, likened the situation to the Teamsters' victory against United Parcel Service. "We think the Teamsters also touched a very common concern, that the public has about our lives being in constant threat of being downsized to part-time status, even when companies are profitable. In our case, we're not a private company, but we feel the public agrees, that if you work, you should be decently paid."

France protects greenie killer Ira Einhorn

Ira Einhorn, one of the founders of "Earth Day," the bedrock of the environmentalist movement 27 years ago, was finally apprehended in France last month for the murder of his lover Holly Maddux. Einhorn was arrested for the mid-1970s killing, after his Philadelphia neighbors complained of a foul smell coming from his apartment: Police found Maddux's shellacked body stuffed into a closet, where it had decomposed. Einhorn jumped bail before the trial, and, when arrested, was going under the name of Eugene Mallon.

According to a *Time* magazine feature, Einhorn had high-level protection: His trial lawyer was Pennsylvania attorney—now Republican U.S. Senator—Arlen Specter, and one of his leading patrons was Barbara Bronfman. France, which is otherwise embroiled in the cover-up of Prince Diana's

murder, is, so far, stonewalling on extraditing him to the United States, and a final determination will be made on Nov. 4. In 1993, Einhorn was convicted *in absentia* by a Philadelphia jury, and sentenced to life imprisonment. However, his French attorney, Mr. Tricaud, a specialist in fighting extradition, told judges at a Sept. 2 hearing in Bordeaux, that Einhorn could be "put to death with no chance to defend himself." Tricaud then described the case to *Time* as an opportunity to "give the United States a lesson in human rights."

Toronto students protest plans to honor Bush

The recent decision by Canada's University of Toronto to offer former President George Bush an honorary degree has triggered furious protests. As the student-run Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) put it in a letter to the campus paper *Varsity*, on Sept. 29, honoring Bush would be a disgrace because of his role in the "corrupt Iran-Contra affair and the bloodshed of the Gulf War."

Varsity's coverage notes that Bush "is the senior adviser of Barrick Gold's international advisory board," that Barrick's executive officer is the chair of the University of Toronto Foundation, and that Joseph Rotman, who just recently donated \$15 million to the university, is "also a member of Barrick Gold."

Trent Lott ran telecomm giveaway for WorldCom

EIR investigation into huge purchase of MCI communications giant by its smaller "rival" WorldCom, show that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) crafted last year's telecommunications deregulation act to give a boost to the Mississippi-based WorldCom. According to the Feb. 17, 1996 issue of *Congressional Quarterly Weekly*, Lott made certain that the new law's restrictions on long-distance companies entering the newly deregulated local phone market did not apply to WorldCom, Inc. (formerly

‘REVOLUTION — The Journal of Nurse Empowerment” ran a four-page feature in its Fall 1997 issue reprinting *EIR*’s exposé of the managed-care giant Columbia/HCA and Prudential Insurance. Titled “Criminal Investigators Probe Managed-Care Giant Columbia/HCA,” the feature credits *EIR* authors Paul Gallagher and Marcia Merry Baker.

U.S. EXECUTIONS have reached a 40-year high this year, with 57 people executed in the first nine months of this year. The Oct. 1 execution in Texas of Dwight Adanandus brought the nationwide yearly total to its highest level since 1957, when 65 people were executed. This year’s total is expected to surpass that, since the appeals process is being effectively emasculated by “streamlining.”

GEN. BARRY MCCAFFREY, the White House drug policy adviser, called for changes in mandatory minimum sentencing to reduce the gap between the lighter sentence for possession of powdered cocaine and the more severe one for crack; and for the elimination of mandatory sentences for first-time crack possession cases, noting that the majority of Americans associate cocaine use with African-Americans, yet only 15% of the current drug users in the United States are black.

GEORGE BUSH is quoted in a forthcoming book *George Bush: The Life of a Lone Star Yankee*, as writing in his personal diary after announcing Dan Quayle as his running mate: “It was my decision,” Bush wrote, “and I blew it, but I’m not about to say that I blew it.”

CHILD SOCIAL WORKERS in Los Angeles County struck from Sept. 30-Oct. 6. Almost half the county’s 1,552 field-level workers have more cases than permitted by their most recent contract, a figure which, itself, is 25% higher than the generally accepted optimum workload. Social workers are reduced to making “drive-by home calls” for children who are victims of abuse.

LDDS Communications), the fourth-largest long-distance carrier. As enacted, the bill restricts only the industry’s three big carriers, AT&T, MCI, and Sprint, from offering local service for several years. “In order to be viable, [WorldCom] needed that provision in there,” explained Lott. WorldCom executives are major contributors to his political action committee, the New Republican Majority Committee.

The *National Journal* last December pointed out that, in February 1996, “telecommunications mogul John W. Kluge, the chairman of LDDS WorldCom . . . donated his Manhattan apartment . . . to Lott’s PAC for a fundraiser that pulled in roughly \$100,000.” The New Republican Majority Fund received \$5,000 from Kluge and \$6,000 from WorldCom’s PAC.

‘American Spectator’ has conspiracy problems

The October issue of the *American Spectator*, whose lackluster circulation exploded after it spearheaded the British-instigated scurrilous attacks against President Clinton, devoted its Capitol Ideas column, by Tom Bethell, to a mélange of alternatively scolding “conspiracy theories and theorizing,” and wholeheartedly endorsing them. In the midst of this mishmash, Bethell includes a strange reference to Lyndon LaRouche, who attacked the *American Spectator* in 1993-94 for its prominent role in Britain’s assault on the U.S. Presidency.

Wrote Bethell: “Those who hide in the woods wearing army fatigues, perhaps planning a raid on a military base for weapons, imagine there’s a black-helicopter conspiracy to take over the U.S. They engage in small plots while imputing large ones to others. One is reminded of the LaRouche organization, which perceives a Queen of England-led conspiracy that is at least a great deal more imaginative than the rather dubious \$290,000 mail fraud conspiracy of which the top aides of Lyndon LaRouche were convicted (and for which, years later, half a dozen of them are still in jail, with sentences exceeding 30 years — where is the ACLU when we need it?).”

Bethell then references two new books that are fruits of the Clintongate conspiracy mania: *The Strange Death of Vincent Foster*, book by Christopher Ruddy, a paid pen for Richard Mellon Scaife; and one forthcoming “along the same lines” by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, who, as Washington correspondent for the London *Sunday Telegraph* was the godfather of Paula Jones’s sexual harassment suit against Clinton. Bethell confessed, “I will read their accounts with interest.”

Virginia Dems: Gilmore tied to Pat Robertson

The Virginia gubernatorial campaign of Democratic Lt. Gov. Don Beyer launched a TV advertisement attacking his Republican opponent Jim Gilmore (who just resigned as Attorney General) as a political frontman for the Christian Coalition’s Pat Robertson. Virginia and New Jersey, whose gubernatorial races four years ago elected Conservative Revolution “poster children” George Allen and Christie Todd Whitman, may be bellwethers of how Republicans will fare in next year’s Congressional races.

On Oct. 1, Beyer held a press conference in Arlington along with Democratic attorney general candidate Bill Dolan, where Beyer stressed that that Gilmore’s only prominent endorsement was from Pat Robertson. Beyer’s campaign statement noted that “Robertson—a \$100,000 contributor to Gilmore—and his group have come under increasing scrutiny for conducting behind-the-scenes political recruiting and organizing while operating as a tax-exempt organization that under law cannot be engaged in political activity.”

Dolan accused his opponent, State Sen. Mark Earley (R), of having gotten a huge tax break for Robertson, by introducing a bill in the 1994 General Assembly that would have exempted Robertson’s proposed retirement community, Founders Village, Inc., from taxes of about \$825,000 a year. Earley’s 1994 re-election campaign received \$35,000 from Robertson. Although Earley’s bill died in committee, Dolan pointed out, “had Mark Earley been attorney general, Pat Robertson probably would have gotten his tax break.”