

National News

Village Voice escalates attacks on Nation of Islam

The Aug. 2 issue of the *Village Voice* contains an inflammatory cover story by Peter Noel peddling the line that Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan may have been behind the Memorial Day shooting of controversial NOI figure Khallid Muhammad after a speech in Riverside, California. Noel gives a very detailed account of a speech delivered by Khallid Muhammad 16 months before the Riverside shooting, in which he charged that officials of NOI Mosque 7 in Harlem were out to kill him. The *Voice* story went out of its way to paint a picture of a growing fissure between Khallid Muhammad and Minister Farrakhan. The front-page picture of the *Voice* shows Muhammad surrounded by bodyguards all holding rifles.

At the time of the shooting, Lyndon LaRouche issued a series of statements warning that the actual target of Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and related enemy networks was Minister Farrakhan, and predicting that there would be an effort to exploit differences inside the NOI between Muhammad and Farrakhan to create the climate in which an assassination of Farrakhan could be carried out and blamed on internal conflicts. The *Voice* article seems to signal that that effort is now being escalated.

Gambling, baseball, and a Texas son of a Bush

The *Houston Post* recently reported that Texas gubernatorial candidate George W. Bush, son of the former President, received a \$100,000 contribution from gambling casino owner Richard Rainwater. Rainwater is also Bush's partner in the ownership of the Texas Rangers baseball team. Now it appears that other close associates and partners of the junior Bush are wound up in the drive to subordinate baseball entirely to gambling operations back east in Pittsburgh.

With the Pittsburgh Pirates up for sale,

the city is negotiating to have an organization representing William O. DeWitt, Jr. and Robert Castellini buy the team. According to counsel to Mayor Tom Murphy, the bargain for building a new stadium for the prospective owners is being discussed in the context of a drive for legalizing riverboat gambling in Pennsylvania. DeWitt and Castellini were, like Rainwater, co-owners of the Texas Rangers team, together with Managing Partner George W. Bush.

William DeWitt was also closely involved with Bush in the notorious Harken case, when Bush secretly sold his shares in Harken Energy Corp. in 1990, two days after President Bush set the stage for Middle East war by cancelling the longstanding U.S. dialogue with Yasser Arafat and the PLO. The junior Bush did not report the "insider" sale to the Securities and Exchange Commission, whose general counsel at the time was James Doty, the attorney who had represented Bush in the purchase of the Texas Rangers. And William DeWitt, the co-owner of the Rangers, was reported to have bought the Harken stock from Bush.

'Sustainable development' council calls for ZPG

"Population must be stabilized at a level consistent with the capacity of the earth to support its inhabitants," says the Vision Statement of the President's Council on Sustainable Development, as reported in the Aug. 8 issue of *Coal News*, published by the National Coal Association. "Our vision is a life-sustaining Earth. We are committed to the achievement of a dignified, peaceful and equitable existence," the statement reads.

To achieve that vision, the council's defining principles include: "prudent action even in the face of scientific uncertainty" to protect public health or the environment; "all segments of society should equitably share environmental benefits and burdens"; "market strategies to harness private energies and capital to protect and improve the environment."

Coal News also reported that Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary kicked off a series of public meetings na-

tionwide to solicit public input to develop President Clinton's National Energy Policy Plan. O'Leary said the DOE is basing its plan on the Vision Statement.

Another Whitewatergater becomes a laughingstock

Larry Nichols, the former Arkansas state trooper who in 1990 filed a lawsuit accusing Bill Clinton of extramarital affairs, has been arrested for writing a bad check in 1988. Nichols, the first person to charge that President Clinton had an affair with Jennifer Flowers, was to be arraigned on Aug. 15 on charges of writing a bad check for \$885.49. Nichols has starred in the "sex, lies, and videotape" attack on Clinton being circulated by Jerry Falwell's Liberty Alliance. He boasted on the tape: "You may also wonder what it's been like fighting Bill Clinton. People are dead in Arkansas. Yeah. When I started this, I knew I might be one of the unsolved mysteries."

Free on \$5,000 bond, Nichols could find himself facing further penalties on an additional misdemeanor warrant, also served in early August for failure to pay for his auto registration in 1991.

Education Dept. report blisters privatizer EAI

Education Alternatives, Inc. which is seeking to run public schools around the country on a for-profit basis, is under attack from Education Department official Thomas Hehir, according to the Aug. 6 *Minneapolis Star*. Hehir, a director of special education programs, has released a report accusing the Minneapolis-based EAI of "violating the fundamental right of learning disabled children in Baltimore to receive an appropriate education."

The company moved special education students to regular classes without following federal procedures to protect them and their parents, Hehir's report alleges. EAI was able to save \$1 million during the first

Briefly

● **OLIVER NORTH** was denied renewal of his concealed weapon permit on Aug. 1 by Clarke County, Virginia Circuit Judge James L. Berry. In the order, Judge Berry, who had granted North a permit in 1992, said that the court "is unable to ignore his convictions for crimes involving moral turpitude since . . . the fact of those admissions remains."

● **WOODSTOCK II BOMBS.** Efforts to profit from a 25th anniversary replay of the infamous 1969 rock-drug-sex festival in upstate New York are failing miserably, and the backers of one of two competing concerts has withdrawn, complaining of poor ticket sales.

● **TEXAS FILED SUIT** on Aug. 3 against the federal government, seeking to recover costs it allegedly incurred from illegal immigration. California and Florida have also sued over the issue. Texas Attorney General Dan Morales says that the plaintiffs of Texas cities, counties, and hospital districts want possibly more than \$5 billion that would cover costs for the past six years.

● **A CHAIN OF FOUR OHIO** hospitals that has been purchased by Blue Cross of Ohio may have most of their community health care services cut. Some 300-bed hospitals would be turned into 20-bed outpatient facilities; only one hospital would continue obstetric deliveries. A former president of the national Blue Cross association told reporters: "The insurance carriers, and not just Blue Cross, feel . . . they should take a shot at delivery of care."

● **SEN. 'FULL MOON'** Gramm? According to the July 23-24 issue of the Capitol Hill magazine *Roll Call*, Texas's Sen. Phil Gramm (R) was spied romping in the altogether at the exclusive Bohemian Grove this summer, with the other movers and shakers of the nation's truly elite. Other inhabitants of the Grove have included Henry Kissinger, Robert Strange McNamara, and William Webster.

year of its contract with the Baltimore, Maryland school system in this way.

In Hartford, Connecticut, the American Federation of Teachers went to court in early August to stop that city from awarding a contract to EAI. The school board had recently voted to begin negotiations with EAI and was hoping to award EAI a contract to run the entire Hartford school system.

Augustine: 'Next U.S. space goal is Mars'

"What is needed for America's space program is a clearly stated and broadly embraced vision analogous to the one that landed us on the Moon," said Martin Marietta chairman Norman Augustine, a space program veteran, in an article for *Space News* on the 25th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon. Augustine's piece asserted, "The next goal in space is Mars."

He warned, however, that "we have become something akin to a high-tech couch potato. U.S. momentum in space is in jeopardy and will be lost if bold steps are not taken." He added, "for years our space program has suffered from an overemphasis on instant gratification," and that there is little thought given to long-term goals.

CIA chief outlines agency restructuring

CIA director James Woolsey briefed *Jane's Defense Weekly* about his plans for restructuring the CIA in the post-Cold War world early this month. Woolsey is just completing a strategic plan on the future of all U.S. foreign intelligence agencies, against a background of budget cutting and spending rationalizations. A full report is due within two months and will define "post-Cold War missions." At stake are the "size, shape, and funding for the entire intelligence community" concerning missions such as: counterproliferation, economic intelligence gathering, anti-terrorism, and monitoring international drug cartels. The aim is to cut down

spending by some 17%; Congress is pushing hard for those cuts and greater efficiency since the Aldrich Ames espionage affair.

Among the improvements proposed, however, some seem to go in the direction of the Webster Doctrine promulgated under George Bush, which placed greater emphasis on economic espionage against friend and foe alike, and less on national security-related intelligence gathering.

One area that Woolsey said he is pursuing "with some relish" is gathering intelligence about the commercial practices of foreign governments. The CIA keeps "a rather careful eye on some foreign companies and countries' efforts to bribe their way to contracts," said Woolsey. "Where such practices are found, the agency informs the State Department which then seeks to have contracts rebid." He noted that the CIA presence in such matters is "virtually never public" and he wants to keep it that way.

Candidate calls abortion 'crime prevention tool'

Tony Bouza, the leading candidate for the Democrat-Farmer-Labor Party gubernatorial nomination in Minnesota, defended statements he had made referring to abortion as a "crime prevention tool," after he came under attack from one of his DFL opponents, who cited statements from books Bouza had written on crime. Bouza is a former police commissioner in both New York and Minneapolis.

According to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Bouza said his remarks were an observation, not an endorsement of abortion as a racist and genocidal approach to controlling crime. Bouza said, referring to the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion on demand, that it "resulted in 250,000 abortions among young teenage women who typically give birth to children who frequently are among those who cause serious problems for society. If half of them were male, that means that as many as 125,000 young men who might have been at very high risk of becoming street criminals did not in fact become criminals. I never advocated genocide or a racist approach."