

National News

Kathleen Willey has her '60 Minutes' of infamy

In an article in the March 23 issue of *Newsweek*, Kathleen Willey, the latest to join the conga-line of Kenneth Starr's key witnesses against President Clinton, complained that the White House is "trying to make me look like a wacko" — by releasing letters that Willey herself wrote, that contradict her steamy allegations on "60 Minutes" that President Clinton sexually affronted her in 1993.

But what really makes Willey look wacko is the story reported about her in the March 23 issue of *Time*. Willey's former friend Julie Hiatt Steele told the FBI in an interview that, in the middle of 1995, Willey told her boyfriend, British-born soccer coach Shaun Docking, that she was pregnant with his twins — which was not true. The reason? She was mad at him for Fourth of July plans gone awry. Willey then told Docking that she was going to have an abortion, and later that she had had a miscarriage. She apparently has never informed Docking that she was lying.

Meanwhile, the *Washington Post* reported on March 23 that Starr conducted extensive negotiations, beginning in January, with CBS's "60 Minutes" about a possible appearance, apparently seeking to defend himself from accusations against him for having arranged for Linda Tripp to secretly tape Monica Lewinsky.

Dole: 'No excuses' for inaction to save Kosova

Former Sen. Bob Dole, now an adviser on veterans affairs for President Clinton, wrote a scathing condemnation of Western do-nothingism to stop the Serbian ethnic cleansing against the majority Albanians in Kosova. His article appeared in the *New York Post* on March 18. The West, he said, "appears to be retreating" from the resolve of a military response, enunciated by President Clinton at the start of his administration, to "the Serbian regime's brutal, systematic,

and long-term deprivation of the Kosovar Albanians' most basic human rights." He warned, "Such a retreat bodes ill for the people of Kosova, as it did earlier for the people of Bosnia and Croatia.

"Threats of economic sanctions and other quick fixes have already been tried, to no avail. New ones will at best defer a true resolution. In any case, half-measures helped sustain Bosnia's suffering for four bloody years. This time, we must act deliberately and decisively. The U.S., its European allies and the people of the former Yugoslavia cannot afford the instability, the strategic risks, or the physical and moral toll of another Bosnia. . . .

"Only two years after the end of the war in Bosnia, a brutal regime in the former Yugoslavia is committing war crimes against innocent civilians. . . . Resolute Western action stopped that carnage [in Bosnia], demonstrating both the effectiveness and the necessity of U.S. leadership in such crises. Sadly, it took the West four years to respond. This time we have no excuses. . . . We also know that this crisis has been brewing for far too long. When I travelled to Kosova in 1990, the region's 2 million ethnic Albanians — 90% of the province's population — had already been under Belgrade-imposed martial law for one year."

IRS hits Robertson's CBN for campaign donations

Pat "Elmer Gantry" Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) must pay a "significant penalty" to the Internal Revenue Service, and will lose its tax-exempt status, retroactively, for 1986 and 1987, according to the March 21 *Washington Post*. Neither the IRS nor CBN would disclose the amount of the settlement, but the agreement stipulates that CBN funds were used in violation of tax laws to promote televangelist Robertson's 1988 Republican Presidential campaign. The IRS is allowing CBN to retain its existing tax-exempt status, Robertson noted in a press release.

CBN gave Freedom Council, which the *Post* described as "orchestrating" Robertson's campaign, at least \$250,000 a month

during 1985 and 1986; the total amount CBN turned over to the tax-exempt Freedom Council is estimated at some \$8.5 million.

Observers believe that the IRS action in the CBN case, which has been in dispute for more than 10 years, may signal a hard-line position in a related case: the eight-year-long efforts of Robertson's Christian Coalition, to win tax-exempt status. The Coalition claims the exemption as a group which, wrote the *Post*, "promotes public welfare." The Federal Election Commission has charged the Christian Coalition with spending more than \$1.4 million to help elect GOP candidates, including nearly \$1 million to George Bush's 1992 reelection campaign, and \$325,000 to the Republican Senatorial Committee, in violation of federal election laws.

FBI sting in Houston runs into trouble

A Justice Department/FBI sting against black and Hispanic city councilmen and others in Houston ran aground on March 16, when defense attorneys exposed the FBI sting-man Julio Molineiro as a "thief" and "cocaine user" in court. On trial are two city councilmen, two former councilmen, and two lobbyists. Molineiro was part of a two-man FBI sting team who posed as wealthy investors offering bribes to minority city councilmen, in exchange for preference in the building of a city-subsidized hotel project.

The defense moved for a mistrial, after defense attorney Mike Ramsey presented evidence that Molineiro had been fired by the Drug Enforcement Administration for stealing \$20,000, and had been a heavy cocaine user even as a DEA informant. Moreover, this key FBI witness had become a DEA informant after being convicted of drug charges in Chile. The mistrial motion is based on the grounds that prosecutors failed to turn over exculpatory documents related to Molineiro. Chief prosecutor Mike Attanasio denied he knew the allegations about Molineiro, and tried to explain them away, saying that they could be "serious," but they may also be "nothing more than an

FRONTS FOR two terrorist groups, the Tamil Tigers and the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), both of which enjoy safe haven in London, are seeking to have the U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996 declared unconstitutional. A lawsuit was filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights on behalf of the Humanitarian Law Project of Los Angeles, which engages "in extensive political advocacy on behalf of the PKK and the Kurds," and Tamil-American organizations.

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC Whip David Bonior (D-Mich.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) announced on March 19 that they would introduce bills (H.R. 3510, in the House) to increase the hourly minimum wage by \$.50 in both 1999 and 2000, to bring it up to \$6.15 per hour.

OHIO PRISON UNIONS and their allies protested the growth of privately owned prisons at a state-house rally in Columbus, in mid-March, and condemned pending legislation to privatize the entire state prison system. Local 11 of Afsme pointed to the level of violence—two dozen stabbings and two murders during the first eight months of operations at a Youngstown facility owned by Corrections Corp. of America.

MISSOURI STATE Rep. Chuck Graham has introduced a gruesome law that would allow death row prisoners to have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, if they donate vital body parts, such as a kidney, for transplant, while they are still alive.

JUDGE ROYCE LAMBERTH, the federal judge hearing a number of the "Get Clinton" cases in Washington, D.C., departed from the sentencing guidelines in order to sentence Ronald Blackley to 27 months in prison. Under the guidelines, Blackley, former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's chief of staff, should have gotten probation. Lambirth is rapidly winning adoration among the "Get Clinton" mob, especially from the *Wall Street Journal*.

inter-agency squabble."

On March 17, Federal Judge Hittner ordered prosecutors to "scour DOJ files" for information on Molineiro's background. He ordered the prosecutors to deploy extra staff to expedite government files on Molineiro. On the stand that day, Molineiro admitted that he stole money and used cocaine, but said he is no longer using it.

Pennsylvania Senate passes HMO 'bill of rights'

The Pennsylvania Senate on March 16 passed legislation that would create a "bill of rights" for the 4.7 million Pennsylvanians enrolled in so-called health maintenance organizations (HMOs). The Senate bill was sponsored by freshman Republican Sen. Timothy Murphy of Pittsburgh.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that legislators were responding to "a torrent of complaints from constituents." A companion bill, sponsored by Rep. Patricia Vance (R-Cumberland), a registered nurse, and co-sponsored by Rep. Harold James (D-Phila.), is nearing passage in the House. Gov. Tom Ridge, a Conservative Revolution darling whose Act 35 cut a scant half-million working poor from state health-care assistance, put a finger to the wind and has reportedly expressed support for both measures.

Already 46 states have passed laws addressing some facet of "managed care," such as the medically unjustifiable practice of "drive-through deliveries," and a dozen states have enacted broad patient-rights measures.

Clinton responds to Pope's visit to Cuba

President Clinton responded to the Pope's recent trip to Cuba with a decision to ease certain restrictions on U.S.-Cuba relations. At the White House press briefing on March 20, spokesman Mike McCurry said, "To build on the impact of His Holiness the Pope's recent visit to Cuba, to support the

role of the church and other elements of civil society in Cuba, and to help prepare the Cuban people for a transition to democracy," the President has decided "to resume licensing direct humanitarian charter flights to Cuba; second, to establish new licensing arrangements to permit Cuban Americans and Cuban families living here in the United States to send humanitarian remittances to their relatives in Cuba; and third, to streamline and expedite the issuance of licenses for the sale of medicines and medical supplies and equipment to Cuba."

In addition, McCurry said, the President has instructed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to work with Congress and the public "to develop approaches for the transfer of food and foodstuffs to the Cuban people, who have long suffered under the totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro."

Paula Jones has no case, say President's lawyers

In a legal response on March 20 to papers filed in mid-March by Paula Jones opposing Clinton's motion for summary judgment of her harassment suit against him, the President's lawyers called Jones's pleadings a "90-page press release." They said that her 600 pages of exhibits filed along with it are "immaterial," "scurrilous," and "nothing more than a smoke screen intended to camouflage the fact that plaintiff has no evidence to support essential elements of her claims."

Clinton's pleadings asserted that the opposition filed by Jones "is the best evidence that plaintiff has no case, and is only using this litigation as a vehicle to vilify the President." Clinton's lawyers say that Jones used her filing "as an opportunity to dump on the public record page upon page of salacious material," whose "real purpose . . . appears to be to make spurious charges of criminal conduct against the President."

The President's motion to strike many of Jones's exhibits, based on abuse of discovery, include those relating to Kathleen Willey, Monica Lewinsky, Dolly Kyle Browning, Gennifer Flowers, and a number of state troopers, on the grounds that they have no relevance to Jones's claims.