

National News

Columbine shootings tied to violent videos

Colorado state school board member Patti Johnson said on April 5 that the April 20, 1999 Columbine High School shooting rampage was the result of a curriculum oriented toward death, violence, and sex. "When all the kids' videos are about violence or sex, when kids are allowed and even encouraged to make such videos, what do you think is going to happen with some of these kids?" she said, according to Scripps Howard News Service.

Johnson, whose comments stirred up a hornet's nest, had last year been the catalyst behind a State Board of Education proclamation that Ritalin and other psychiatric drugs should not be used to treat schoolchildren. She said that the prescription drugs that Eric Harris was taking before April 20, may have played a part in the rage that he and Dylan Klebold worked up in order to commit the mass killings at the high school in the Denver suburb of Littleton.

Johnson also said that classroom discussions about suicide and death did not by themselves cause Harris and Klebold to kill 12 classmates, a teacher, and themselves, but might have contributed as well.

Sharks and Rays circle Clintons, once again

For no other reason than to threaten President Clinton, the April 11 issue of the *Washington Post* features as its lead story a report that independent counsel Robert Ray is actively considering indicting the President after he leaves office next January. The *Post* story contains nothing new, which has not already been stated by Ray ever since he took over from Kenneth Starr last fall. More recently, Ray was interviewed on ABC-TV on March 19, and for a *New York Times* story published on March 24, where he made statements almost identical to those quoted in the *Post's* lead story.

Ray is quoted as saying that, "It is an

open investigation," and that, "There is a principle to be vindicated, and that principle is that no person is above the law, even the President of the United States" (although, apparently, Starr's illegal media leaks, and meddling in the Paula Jones case, don't apply here). The *Post* says, without directly attributing it to Ray, that among the criminal charges being considered are perjury, obstruction of justice, making false statements, and conspiracy to commit those crimes when the President was questioned under oath about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

The *Post* notes that Ray has hired six new lawyers, that his office has 44 employees, and that Ray will not make a decision whether or not to indict until after Clinton is out of office.

Meanwhile, the Arkansas Supreme Court is reviewing a complaint from the Landmark Legal Foundation demanding that Hillary Clinton be disbarred. The Foundation is part of the "get Clinton" apparatus of Richard Mellon Scaife, as *EIR* has documented since 1994.

CIA fires scapegoats in China Embassy bombing

The CIA has fired one intelligence officer and reprimanded six managers for errors that allegedly led to the U.S. bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on May 7, 1999 during NATO's air war against Yugoslavia. CIA spokesman Bill Harlow said on April 8 that the internal reviews concluded that intelligence officers meant to target a Yugoslav arms agency, but marked the wrong building on a map.

The reaction from China was swift and unequivocal: "The Chinese government firmly demands that the U.S. government undertake a serious and exhaustive inquiry into the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said in a press statement April 10. "To pretend that the United States did not know the position of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia is not credible." Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering informed Chinese Ambassador Li Zhao Xing on April 8

of the CIA actions. Zhu reiterated Beijing's view that the embassy was targeted deliberately, saying that "the building was clearly marked on maps." Zhu called on Washington to "punish those actually responsible and to give a satisfactory response to the Chinese government and people."

As Lyndon LaRouche stated in his May 10, 1999 call to court-martial those responsible, "The NATO bombing of China's Belgrade Embassy is consistent, in imputable intent and consequences, with the efforts of the British government and the U.S. anti-China lobby, to enrage China to such a degree as to undermine the present government of China and its efforts to maintain constructive engagement with the U.S.A."

Giuliani rounds up workfare strikebreakers

New York City welfare recipients who are required to work for their benefits, received fliers inviting them to apply for jobs in the event of a strike by doormen and security workers at residential apartment buildings.

The fliers were included in a packet of job notices distributed by the city's Human Resources Administration (HRA) to people in the Work Experience Program. The fliers were from Burns International Security Services, which said that it had sent them to Business Link, an HRA unit which was created by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's administration to recruit "workfare" employees. The fliers offered high earnings for applicants prepared "to handle crowd control, possible aggressive strikers," etc. HRA denied having authorized the distribution of the fliers, according to the April 8 *New York Times*.

Stanley Aronowitz, described as a labor expert, said the stage was set for this when municipal unions allowed the city to put welfare recipients in city jobs, thus undermining union wages and eroding New York City's strong tradition of honoring picket lines. "For the city to allow this, it's a direct slap not only at this union but at all unions in the city," Aronowitz said. "Giuliani needs no support from the unions. He basically burned his bridges."