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# National News

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## Another Pop Film Spawns Murderers

The film *Matrix Reloaded* opened to record audiences in the United States on May 19; its original version, *Matrix*, has been clearly linked to a spate of senseless killings. In February, an Oakton, Virginia 19-year-old bought a shotgun and trench coat similar to the main character in the movie, and shot and killed his father and mother. His lawyer said he thought he was living "inside the Matrix." In the film, computers have taken over the Earth, are killing and "harvesting" people, and have created a computer-simulated world.

In mid-May, an Ohio woman was found not guilty of killing her college professor, on grounds of insanity. Prosecutors said the movie played a part in "her warped perception." She had dreams which "turned out not to be dreams." In San Francisco, a 27-year-old killed his landlady, and pled not guilty on grounds of insanity. He made "reference to being sucked into the Matrix." In Washington, D.C., 18-year-old Lee Boyd Malvo, accused in last year's sniper attacks, writes and doodles in jail about "Freeing yourself from the Matrix."

A spokesman for the film's producers, Warner Bros., said, "Any attempt to link these crimes with a motion picture or any other art form is disturbing and irresponsible." The first film, released in 1999, has grossed \$460 million and won four Oscars. The film is rated "R" in Sen. Joe Lieberman's voluntary, industry-run ratings schedule, because of its "video game-style" violence.

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## Rep. Frank Demands Wolfowitz Resign

During the Congressional session of May 19, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) called on Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz to resign. Frank based his argument primarily on the fact that Wolfowitz, during an interview with CNN on Turkey, had repeat-

edly criticized the Turkish military "because it allowed democracy to function in Turkey," as Frank put it. Wolfowitz had been arguing that the military should have intervened to prevent the blocking of military assistance to the United States in Iraq.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Frank turned to Wolfowitz's broader failures, including the "shambles" which Administration policy is creating in Iraq. "Wolfowitz can take some of the responsibility for that," Frank said, for publicly rebuking Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki's evaluation that many more troops would be needed.

Frank concluded as follows: "The justification for Iraq is the impact it will have on governments, in Iraq and in the rest of the Middle East. How does it help to have our Deputy Secretary of Defense, one of the shapers of that policy, now say—'By the way, when we say democracy, we mean a democracy where the military intervenes strongly; not just gives its viewpoint, but intervenes strongly to make sure things come out'? Things in Iraq and our credibility are in enough trouble without Paul Wolfowitz compounding it, and he ought to resign."

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## Clinton Gets Dems To Turn Out

Former President Bill Clinton proved that Democrats turn out for Democrats with spunk, in two speeches on Sunday, May 18, to some 9,000 people between them. Clinton's morning commencement address at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., was a virtual campaign rally. The graduating class included all of 144 students, but more than 7,000 people came, some of them walking the last couple of miles from where they had parked. Tougaloo has played a major role in the civil rights movement nationally since its hey-day, when Mississippi Freedom Summer and other campaigns were organized from there. It will be the site of one of the four Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)-sponsored Democratic Presidential debates on Aug. 13.

Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and

Rep. Bennie Thompson were on the dais with Clinton, as he went after Bush for not looking out for America: "We can't be forever strong abroad, if we don't keep getting better at home," he said. He tore into the Bush tax cuts, saying the President himself will get "a bigger tax cut than most people I know ever earned in a year in their whole life. . . . How's it gonna be paid for? By cutting education for people like you. By cutting health care for people like your families. . . . They want to pay for the tax cut by kicking 500,000 children out of after-school programs. It is wrong. It is wrong. There is nothing right about it."

Two LaRouche in 2004 supporters got out hundreds of flyers informing the crowd that LaRouche is number one in Democratic Presidential fundraising; and pamphlets attacking the Straussian neo-conservatives as well.

In a second speech in Trenton, New Jersey, at which he received "thunderous" standing ovations entering and leaving, Clinton urged that the United States strike a peace deal with North Korea; he also poked fun at the neo-conservatives' campaign against France, the *Trentonian* reported.

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## Vidal Says Impeach Neo-Cons

In a radio interview and a speech before the Ethical Culture Society in New York on May 13, novelist/historian Gore Vidal said that "Bush and Cheney should be impeached," and attributed U.S. unilateralism to followers of fascist philosopher Leo Strauss in the Administration.

Obviously taking his cues from LaRouche, he said: "Sept. 11th was never investigated. . . . Why weren't we protected? Why has there never been a formal investigation by Congress? This was the end of the Republic." He called the neo-cons who ran the Iraq war "a bunch of sissies who ran away from serving in the Army. . . . The doctrine of pre-emptive war is a violation of Act I Section 8 of the Constitution, which only gives the power to declare war to the Congress. In 1950 Congress gave this up and has never taken it back."