

National News

FEC bias covers for 'cult awareness' cult

The Federal Election Commission, keeping with a pattern of protecting the political enemies of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, closed a Motion Under Review file on Oct. 23 which was opened in response to a complaint filed against John Overington and the Cult Awareness Network (CAN).

The complaint was filed in July 1991 by Bruce Director, a supporter of LaRouche's candidacy. In the complaint, Director stated that the circulation by Overington and CAN of a hate brochure from the "LaRouche Victims Support Group" to state legislators and media throughout the country was intended to have a negative influence on LaRouche's presidential campaign. The brochure, which says that LaRouche is a threat because of "incursions into the legitimate political arena," is filled with malicious lies attacking LaRouche.

Since neither CAN nor Overington have registered with the FEC, but are actively intervening in a federal election campaign, Director demanded the FEC take action against the two for violations of federal election law. Overington and CAN claimed that because the brochure did not identify LaRouche as a candidate, it was not intended to influence a federal election.

Don't resuscitate in hospitals, says journal

It's not worth the effort to try to resuscitate heart attack victims in emergency rooms, according to a new Brown University study reported in the Nov. 14 *New England Journal of Medicine*. The report claims that if emergency medical teams on the scene do not revive such victims there and then, it is a virtual certainty that such efforts later at the hospitals will fail. The journal has been a leading advocate of euthanasia policies.

Dr. Richard Kerber, head of the American Heart Association's emergency cardiac care committee, said the study "strongly suggests that there is not much point in bringing a pa-

tient to the hospital who's had an adequate and full attempt at resuscitation in the field." Such efforts, he argued, "are costly."

Kerber did not point out that many such victims receive inadequate care at most hospitals, particularly elderly victims who require stringent monitoring and precision treatment if they are to have a chance at survival. Every year, 350,000 Americans collapse with cardiac arrests.

In some cities where ambulance teams have the latest training and equipment, as many as 30% of such patients are revived on the scene. Most ambulance services won't provide defibrillators because they cost \$5-7,000 apiece.

Budget deal in works so Cuomo can run?

A deal is reportedly under way over the New York State budget to facilitate Mario Cuomo's presidential run. New York is facing a \$689 million budget deficit for this year, and a projected \$2 billion deficit next year. This means that Cuomo has to call a special session of the legislature to ram through deep budget cuts, since the state's fiscal year ends on March 31, and must formulate next year's budget by that date, a bitter process that took until June to resolve for the current fiscal year.

To free Cuomo from debilitating budget battles, gurus on Wall Street have proposed that the legislature combine this year's deficit with next year's, and adopt a 15-18 month budget sometime within the next few weeks, and make more "gradual" cuts.

Many state legislators support the idea so as to minimize damage to their own reelection chances. Republicans favor the so-called plan because it relies on a spending freeze for most state agencies, and particularly targets big cuts in social services and Medicaid, thus hitting the poor the hardest.

Cuomo, speaking to a group of more than 200 executives of major U.S. corporations at a forum sponsored by *Fortune* magazine Nov. 16, said his economic growth plan involves a 10% business investment tax credit on spending on new equipment. However, Cuomo made clear that his plan involves austerity and taking money away from the entitlement programs of Social Se-

curity, Medicare, and the farm support program, the *Washington Post* reported.

NBC ordered to slant 'Black Monday' coverage

NBC News was ordered to play down its news reports of the Oct. 19, 1987 stock market crash, according to former NBC News president Lawrence Grossman.

Grossman said in a speech in November that chairman John F. Welch of General Electric, the owner of NBC, angrily complained to Grossman that NBC News reports "were making things worse," and that the network should avoid using "depressing phrases" like "Black Monday." Grossman said Welch told him that such coverage "would only serve to make people even more frightened about investing and lower the stock values even further."

Grossman denied giving in to Welch's complaint.

Doctors begin strike in Brooklyn

More than 300 senior staff doctors went on strike Nov. 12 at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn, New York. Although strikes by interns and residents have occurred frequently in the past, this is the first strike ever in U.S. history by attending senior physicians.

The strike is not against the hospital, but against Medical Associates of Woodhull Professional Corp., a private firm that New York City has contracted to hire and administer the medical staff at the hospital. As in all such plans where private firms contract to run city services, the main emphasis is cost-cutting.

The major issues are salaries, quality of care, and understaffing. The physicians, who are members of the Doctors Council union, have been working without a contract since June, and have been offered a 1.2% salary increase by Medical Associates. These doctors receive \$65,000 per year, despite long and harrowing hours in a city hospital that is typically overwhelmed with pa-

tients and underfunded. Twelve doctors have been laid off in the last three months, 15 have resigned, and 50 more are slated to be terminated by the end of the year.

Heroin and cocaine use is up, statistics show

Statistics that indicate that heroin and cocaine use is up "could undermine George Bush's claim of progress" in the administration's supposed war against drugs, the Nov. 17 *Washington Post* reported.

Federal health officials will report shortly that cocaine-related visits to hospital emergency rooms has risen by 15% during the first three months of the year. Heroin-related hospital emergencies also rose 13% from the final three months of 1990 compared to the first three months of this year.

"This is a disturbing trend . . . it's a real jump," said Adele Harrell, senior research analyst at the Urban Institute. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) told the *Washington Post* that the new figures belie "ridiculous" claims by the administration of progress in the war on drugs.

Bush administration targets labor leaders

Bush administration officials have been caught red-handed in Michigan attempting to dredge up "any derogatory information" on leaders of union locals in the state of Michigan. Such gestapo-style fishing expeditions are blatantly political and almost certainly unconstitutional.

In one case, the U.S. Labor Department office in Detroit took out an ad in a statewide police newsletter asking police for such derogatory information. The practice continued until Saline, Michigan Police Chief James Douglas met with Ian Burg of the Labor Department. When Burg refused to supply Douglas with any specific information on who was being investigated or why, Chief Douglas refused to cooperate and instead wrote a letter to U.S. Rep. William Ford (D-Mich.) asking him to investigate whether these practices were "unconstitu-

tional."

Representative Ford, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee told the *Detroit Free Press*: "In this country, we don't let anybody in authority go out and snoop around on you or me just because they want to go out and snoop around."

Bush administration officials lamely deny that this is the policy of the administration. But some officials, claiming that Department of Labor regulations are so vague, are not denying that the practice may be widespread. Assistant Secretary of Labor Robert Guttman openly admitted, "I can't tell you that this isn't happening in other parts of the country."

Satanism investigated within Mormon Church

Glenn L. Pace, a member of the three-man episcopate that rules the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, has made public an internal investigation which detailed 60 instances in which Mormons reported that, as children, they had witnessed human sacrifices and suffered "satanic abuse." The ritualized abuse reported occurred in Utah, Idaho, California, Mexico, and other locations, according to the Nov. 10 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

Pace, in the internal memorandum dated July 19 and released in November, wrote that he is personally convinced that at least 800 church-affiliated Satanists are practicing occult rituals and devil worship in the Salt Lake Valley, and that many of them pose as devout Mormon leaders. They include Mormon bishops, a state president, patriarchs, temple workers, members of the church's Young Women's and Young Men's groups, as well as members of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

"Not only do some of the perpetrators represent a cross-section of the Mormon culture, but sometimes the abuse has taken place in our own meetinghouses," Pace wrote.

Pace's report says that he asked victims to identify the Satanists only by their church rank. Don LeFevre, a spokesman for the church which has 8 million members, stated that he did not know whether Pace reported his findings to law enforcement officials.

Briefly

● **WILLIAM BARR**, at his confirmation hearings for U.S. Attorney General Nov. 13, stated that he has already appointed a recently retired federal judge to conduct an in-house probe of allegations of government misconduct in the bankrupting of Inslaw, a Washington, D.C.-based computer software firm.

● **THE WHITE** House cleared Ronald Roskens, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, of charges of receiving illegal gratuities, including from a company linked to President Bush's former oil firm, Zapata, the Nov. 13 *Washington Post* reported. The Inspector General of AID had referred the case to the Justice Department for prosecution.

● **PATRICK BUCHANAN** may decide to challenge George Bush in the Republican primaries, the Nov. 14 *Washington Times* reported. Former U.S. Rep. Chuck Douglas (N.H.) told the paper: "George Bush is beatable here."

● **THE CONVICTION** of former national security adviser Adm. John Poindexter was overturned because his testimony to Congress may have tainted his prosecution, a federal appeals court ruled Nov. 15. He had been convicted of lying to Congress, destroying official documents, and obstruction of an investigation in the Iran-Contra scandal.

● **NEW REPUBLIC'S** new editor Andrew Sullivan is a self-admitted "British Roman Catholic homosexual," the Nov. 12 *International Herald Tribune* reported. Sullivan claims he wants to use his "homosexuality and Catholicism" to make the *New Republic* the "best magazine writing on religion in the country."

● **LOUISIANA** voters elected Edwin Edwards governor in the Nov. 16 election. Edwards beat David Duke, a radical environmentalist and former Klansman who had much the same program as George Bush, by a 60-40% margin.