

National News

Maine law squeezes child support payments

Maine's new law threatening to take away the business and driver's licenses of parents behind on child support payments is supposedly persuading deadbeat parents to fork over more than \$1 million a month. The nine-month-old law has not yet officially revoked any licenses, but has threatened the licenses of doctors, lawyers, dentists, architects, real estate agents, commercial fishermen, and truckers.

According to Associated Press, the Clinton administration is evaluating the Maine plan and may propose that all states be required to suspend the licenses of parents who allegedly refuse to pay child support. If such a plan is carried out, how will any parent who requires a license to earn a living obtain money to pay for child support? David Levy, president of the Children's Rights Council, an advocacy group for children of divorced parents, responded, "Money will flow abundantly" when the system treats parents like parents, not "indentured servants."

'National conservatory movt.' launched in D.C.

The Schiller Institute held a conference "For a Marian Anderson National Conservatory of Music Movement" over Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C. A century ago, the National Conservatory of Music was initiated as an attempt to institutionalize a program of Classical music performance and composition in the United States. The conservatory's founder, Jeanette Thurber, brought in Antonin Dvorak to direct its work and caused Congress to pass legislation to build the institution in Washington. The institution has yet to be built.

Dvorak's work in America was closely followed by Johannes Brahms, who, in 1893, made it clear that he agreed with and supported Dvorak's emphasis on the use of the African-American Spiritual specifically,

and "Negro music" more generally, as the chief source of material for Classical composition in the United States. This could only have been because both Dvorak and Brahms heard in the Spirituals the "seed-crystal," or "spark," from which all great poetic compositions arise.

According to the Schiller Institute: "It is proposed that the Marian Anderson National Conservatory of Music—not a building, but an idea—raise the need for precisely such musical and artistic practice. Like Robert Schumann's society, the Davidsbund, we should seek to rid the arts of the rule of the cultural (and countercultural) Philistines. This would be done through a movement composed of mass choruses, educated through seminars, concerts, and symposia, intended in these troubled times to bring back into focus the need to reestablish the arts as the center of our lives."

Panama monthly covers fight to clear LaRouche

A Panama-based monthly, *Narcomafias*, covered the fight of U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche to secure his exoneration in its May issue. LaRouche spent 5 years of a 15-year term in prison, after being sentenced for charges for which the government knew at all times that he and his co-defendants were innocent. *Narcomafias* circulates throughout Central America. Author Aldo Alessandri noted the double standard of the U.S. government on human rights: It uses the issue to manipulate other countries into doing its bidding, but in the LaRouche case, it "hid and covered-up exculpatory evidence, violating the human rights of the defendants." The article reported that LaRouche "is well known in Hispanic America for his firm defense of national sovereignty and for his attacks against the International Monetary Fund."

Narcomafias reported on the LaRouche co-thinkers who remain in jail: "Michael Billington (sentenced to 77 years in prison), Rochelle Ascher (10 years), Anita Gallagher (39 years), Paul Gallagher (34 years) and Donald Phau (condemned to 25 years in prison). Why, despite the mountains of proof

available, has the U.S. Department of Justice refused to investigate the transgressions of its own officials? And, how can the U.S. government, when it has not corrected these outrageous violations of human rights within its own borders, use the human rights pretext to pressure others to accept its policies?"

Donahue won't get to televise execution

Talk show host Phil Donahue, never one to turn down an opportunity to encourage voyeurism, was denied permission to televise the North Carolina execution by David Lawson. According to a May 17 ruling from the state Supreme Court, neither the state nor U.S. Constitution gives Donahue or Lawson, who asked Donahue to broadcast it, the right to do so.

However, with an appalling lack of logic, North Carolina Attorney General Mike Easley was quoted in the press saying: "This wasn't a question about the Constitution. This was a question about television ratings, and the state ought not to be in the business of affecting television ratings. There's too much violence on TV already."

In Maryland, the first execution in 33 years was carried out on May 17. John Thanos, 45, was killed by lethal injection after refusing all appeals. According to Maryland law, the condemned is only told of his or her execution an hour before it occurs. Thanos was given Valium, and then anesthetized, before a third medication was used to stop his heart. While less barbaric than the electric chair, the perfection of anesthetics and pain-killers to execute individuals raises a chilling prospect for medical practice.

Report finds media distort cancer danger

According to a recent report on "Scientific Opinion Vs. Media Coverage of Environmental Cancer," by the Center for Media and Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., only 31% of scientists, all members of the

Briefly

American Association for Cancer Research, think that the United States faces a cancer epidemic, compared with 85% of the media. Only 28% of scientists believe that cancer-causing agents are unsafe at any dose, compared with 66% of the media. AACR scientists rate tobacco (96%), sunlight overexposure (54%), and poor diet (50%) as leading causes of cancer, while environmental causes, such as pesticides, herbicides, radiation, etc., were rated very low, even below aflatoxin (a naturally occurring carcinogen found in peanuts and moldy grains), dioxin, alcohol, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Furthermore, 65% of the scientists surveyed did not think that human cancer risks should be assessed by giving animals the maximum tolerated dose of a suspected cancer-causing chemical, which is how assessments are now made.

The report, released earlier this year, is part of a research project in progress on how the media manipulate public opinion and policymaking decisions.

Calif. ballot measure to target immigrants

A ballot measure for the November election which would bar illegal immigrants in California from schools and hospitals has just been filed with the California Secretary of State. The measure is sponsored by Alan Nelson, who was Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner under President Ronald Reagan, and Harold Ezell, INS chief for the western states from 1983-89. If passed, the initiative would require schools to verify the immigration status of pupils and expel those whose parents cannot prove their legal status. Schools would also be required to report to law enforcement agencies the names of parents who they believe are in the country illegally.

The initiative would also eliminate prenatal care to women who have no papers. Illegal immigrants could receive emergency care, but hospital officials would be required to report "persons who are apparent illegal aliens."

The petition campaign was heavily supported by the California Republican Party,

which spent \$75,000 to send out petitions. Gov. Pete Wilson (R) who has fueled anti-immigration hysteria claiming that illegal immigrants and their children absorb \$3 billion in education, health care, prison, and welfare costs, has not taken a formal position on the initiative. His campaign manager, George Gorton, has stated that it is highly likely that Wilson will campaign for the measure next fall should it make the ballot, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The Democratic Party has not taken a position on the initiative.

Anthony Lake: U.S. enemy is *not* Islam

National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, in a speech on May 17, rebuffed analysts who suggest that in the post-Cold War world the fundamental divide is between western democracies and civilizations based on Islam and other religious traditions. Although he did not specifically name him, Lake was repudiating the "Clash of Civilizations" theory of Council on Foreign Relations globalist Samuel Huntington.

According to Reuters, Lake stated, "These theorists believe there is no common ground for understanding between the West and the rest, only the prospect of confrontation and conflict." Lake told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy that the fault line runs instead "between oppression and responsive government, between isolation and openness and between moderation and extremism." He drew a parallel between the renewed emphasis on traditional values in the Islamic world and similar trends in the West. He said that Islam by itself "is not the issue," but rather Islamic radicals who "use religion to cover real intentions—the naked pursuit of political power."

Speaking on Bosnia, Lake said that Serbians "may seek to legitimize their conquest with claims that they are holding off a Muslim threat to the West. But the world should not accept such patently false claims," he said. "We support a democratic Bosnian state in which Muslims and Christians live together in peace."

● **U.S. AMBASSADOR** to Israel Edward Djerejian announced his resignation for "family reasons" after serving only six months in his post. Formerly assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, Djerejian is planning to take a post as director of a university policy institute associated with Bush Secretary of State James Baker.

● **DR. JOHN KITZHABER** won the Democratic gubernatorial primary in Oregon on May 17. Kitzhaber, a former emergency room physician, is the architect of Oregon's Nazi health care rationing system, under which many diseases are no longer covered due to cost factors.

● **PAT ROBERTSON'S** International Family Entertainment Inc., parent of the Family Channel, said that its first-quarter earnings plunged 65% from the same period last year due to a \$2.1 million loss in the derivatives market.

● **JAMES EARL RAY'S** attorneys won a request in Memphis court to re-test the ballistics of the weapon that allegedly was used to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. Ray, who was never tried for the crime, claims he was a "patsy" of the assassin-conspirators. A hearing was scheduled for June 6 at which the court will spell out the guidelines for the re-testing. Although the court rejected James Earl Ray's appeal for a trial, it did grant new discovery.

● **AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP** owner faces up to five years in prison as the first person prosecuted by the U.S. government for intentionally releasing "ozone-eating freon." According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on May 14, George Hofele of St. Louis County, Missouri pleaded guilty on May 11 to a charge of violating the Clean Air Act. The U.S. Attorney announced "we are prosecuting this defendant because he endangered all of us." There is no evidence that freon is damaging the ozone layer.