

National News

OBE suffers setbacks as test scores drop

School systems which rushed to adopt so-called outcome-based education (OBE) methods are already reporting further declines in students' test scores. Literally a brainwashing program designed to destroy students' cognitive abilities, OBE is now coming under fire in a number of states.

In Colorado, the first state to adopt OBE, average results on the standardized Iowa Test of Basic Skills, for second, fifth, eighth, and eleventh graders, "continue to lag behind the national average [and] . . . also lagged behind last year," according to the *Rocky Mountain News* on May 13.

Pennsylvania, also among the first to jump on the OBE bandwagon, reported declining test scores as well. According to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on April 28, Pennsylvania and nine other states "showed significant declines in reading proficiency." The other states were Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. On May 11, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge (R) announced that school districts in the state are free to abandon OBE.

Hollinger Corp. hypes Wilson for President

California Gov. Pete Wilson (R) is the man to put in the White House, the *London Daily Telegraph* proclaimed on June 5. The paper is owned by the Hollinger Corp., the branch of British Intelligence most visibly orchestrating the Whitewatergate attacks on President William Clinton.

In a two-thirds-page feature, the paper declared, "This is the man Clinton most fears" among all Republican Party contenders. He may have an image of "ordinariness," but his "views almost perfectly match the prevailing mood of the nation," the Hollinger rag claimed. Most recently, Wilson gained popularity by striking down "affir-

mative action" policies in California, in a "direct challenge to Clinton." Wilson has understood that "the white American is fed up."

The *Telegraph* correspondent even dipped into the apocryphal, claiming that the "last political prediction" of Richard Nixon before he died, was that Wilson would become the next U.S. President. Wilson's victory in his 1994 bid for reelection is modestly described as "one of the great political comebacks in American political history."

This is the second major puff-up of Wilson by the Club of the Isles crowd, the earlier being a May 4 *London Times* commentary by Lord Rees-Mogg, promoting Wilson as the man most likely to be able to beat Clinton.

Rees-Mogg drools over vicious austerity plan

Lord William Rees-Mogg, leading British propagandist for imposing dictatorships, is foaming at the mouth with another diseased vision of the inevitable destruction of U.S. living standards. His latest ravings were published in the May 29 *London Times*.

"The modern bargain between welfare and taxation has reached its limit in the second half of the 20th century, and cannot survive in its present form," Rees-Mogg declares. To see this "most clearly, one should go to the United States." Rees-Mogg cites a new book, *The Retirement Myth* by Craig Karpel, which reportedly demonstrates that 65% of Americans have no savings for retirement. Even those who do, cannot maintain their previous standard of living, nor can they afford the high costs of health care.

There are growing numbers of so-called "dumps" (Destitute Unemployed Mature Professionals), who will become "even greater burdens" which the state will no longer be able to sustain. "When the baby-boomers start to retire, in about 2005, they will become the retirement boomers. They have not had enough children to replace themselves." Rees-Mogg also claims the advanced western countries will have to massively cut wages to "compete with the very low labor costs of Asia. . . . As these

labor costs are reduced, the taxes that can be raised from them will also fall. There will be fewer wage-earners in the next century in the welfare state countries, and they will be paid less."

The "information age" will also open the way to massive tax evasion, since it will be managed by "a relatively small group of people," who "could just as well earn their incomes . . . in any part of the globe given access to a telephone, a fax machine, and the Internet," says his lordship. "That is why the Clinton administration has panicked at the idea that Americans might give up their citizenships and their tax responsibilities."

The 10% of Americans who are already connected to the Internet and similar electronic communications networks, probably control more than 80% of America's liquid capital, Rees-Mogg drools. The move from information retrieval to transactions is already under way, he says; and electronic systems will soon control "an absolute majority of the larger business transactions" of the world. These will be impossible to tax, he says, because "the tax-base . . . tends to disappear in cyberspace, and cannot be recaptured."

Gramm stumbles again, offers endless austerity

Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), the budget cut-throat and would-be pirate king, virtually fell off his own plank before a GOP gathering in Monroe, Louisiana on June 1—while attempting to sidestep a question on a key element of Lyndon LaRouche's economic policy.

Gramm was confronted by Fred Huenefeld, a well-known local political figure and a member of the executive board of directors of the Schiller Institute. Huenefeld asked, "Senator Gramm, what would you do as President to carry out a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization of the economy?"

Visibly unsettled by the question, Gramm began mumbling about the necessity of balancing the budget. "Over the next 50 years, we can get the country turned around," Gramm added. "I won't be alive to see it, but we must do it for our grandchil-

Briefly

dren." During his speech, Gramm had performed his usual stunts, attempting to entertain the audience by slashing away at welfare. "My mother told me that she could have made more on welfare than she did working," Gramm declared.

During another over-the-edge charge, Gramm took credit for the collapse of the communist system and the Berlin Wall. That resulted, he claimed, from his convincing then-President Reagan to get the budget balanced and the economy squared away, so "we could be tough with the Russians."

Trail of 'New Era' scam leads to London office

The Foundation for New Era Philanthropy, recently exposed as a Ponzi scheme by Pennsylvania authorities, may have been part of an international money-laundering and intelligence operation, according to reports in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

U.S. law enforcement officials charge that New Era took in hundreds of millions of dollars from wealthy contributors and non-profit enterprises. Donors such as Laurance Rockefeller were told their contributions would be matched and doubled. Recipients, ranging from fundamentalist churches, to new age foundations, to the Philadelphia Orchestra, were induced to place their cash with New Era on the promise of getting double their money back in six months.

The New Era apparatus was launched by British billionaire speculator Sir John Templeton, and his son, Philadelphia surgeon John Templeton, Jr. New Era operations were also aided by the Pew Charitable Trust, the Pew family fund which has emerged as a prime sponsor of United Nations-related population control activities.

Now the London office of the apparatus is under investigation by British authorities. NEP International Trust, allegedly financed with funds stolen by the U.S.-based New Era, has had its assets frozen while Charity Commissioners for England and Wales conduct a legal inquiry. NEP International "is expected to close its doors within three to four weeks," according to the *Inquirer*.

Meanwhile, the *Inquirer* disclosed on

June 1 that Sir David Blackstock McNee, chief of Scotland Yard in 1977-82, is a trustee of NEP International. McNee himself allegedly requested that the British government freeze NEP assets in response to the growing scandal.

NEP chief executive George Russell told the *Inquirer*, "We were not a part of New Era. We were a separate entity. . . . We were running the Templeton Institutes, which gave strategic planning and technical support to charities." But Hugh Rogers, a spokesman for the Charity Commissioners, said, "The English end received cash flow from the American end—that much is evident."

Budget cuts crush hospital research

According to an extensive case study in the *New York Times* on May 30, vital medical research in major hospitals may virtually disappear for lack of funding. Surveying the situation in New York City, the *Times* reported that, up until last year, hospitals devoted 5 to 10% of their income from patient care to research, but now are being squeezed to death by deep discounts imposed by health management organizations and increased gouging in Medicaid and Medicare payments. Private donors reportedly are all cutting back as well.

"Medical researchers say that the research gauntlet is now so arduous that promising students are turning away from science; the teachers worry that a whole generation of researchers are being lost," says the *Times*.

The National Institutes of Health is also expecting a 10% cut in its \$11.3 billion budget. The NIH is able to fund only 13% of new cancer grant requests, and to continue funding only 40% of studies it is already supporting. The *Times* quotes Dr. Daniel Bloomfield, a cardiologist, describing the vicious cycle faced by researchers: "You spend more time seeing patients, and your research lags and then it's harder to establish yourself and you can't get grants. But the hospital can't afford to have anyone around who doesn't raise money."

● **NEWT GINGRICH** has forced a delay in the rewriting of the Endangered Species Act, the May 28 *Boston Globe* reported. Citing the "enormous interests . . . in maintaining biological diversity," Gingrich said, "This is also about the fungi and the various things that produce the medicine of the future." Last year Gingrich co-sponsored the bill to renew the act, with doubled funding and broader regulatory powers.

● **BILL ARCHER** (R-Tex.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, says that the federal tax code must be "torn out at the roots," according to the June 5 *Washington Post*. Archer called for repealing the 16th Amendment, which empowers Congress to levy an income tax, and imposing instead a 16% tax on consumer and business spending, combining a flat tax, VAT tax, and sales tax.

● **CNN RIGGED** a recent poll purporting to show Americans' widespread distrust of the U.S. government, the *Montreal Gazette* claimed on May 28. A *USA Today*-CNN poll the previous week asked whether the government had "become so large and powerful that it poses an immediate threat to the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens." Only 34% said yes, so the poll was run again, without the word "immediate"—boosting the number to 52%.

● **CUTS IN MEDICAID** alone would total more than \$175 billion over seven years, if the resolutions adopted by the House and Senate Budget committees are passed, the American Association for Retired Persons claims in its June *Bulletin*.

● **THE PORT AUTHORITY** of New York and New Jersey has decided that it cannot afford to construct the 22-mile commuter rail line linking Manhattan with both LaGuardia and Kennedy airports in Queens, which has been under consideration for decades.