

National News

Violence Increases in G-Rated Films

Researchers from the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis conducted a survey of violence in feature-length, animated films for children over the past 60 years, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported on May 24. They found that the average time during which violence is on-screen in these children's films has increased by over 50% since 1940. One film, *Quest for Camelot*, depicts violent acts for 28% of its duration.

The study states, "Our content analysis reveals a striking behavioral message implied by many of the G-rated animated films that the good guys triumph over the bad through the use of physical force." The report cites Disney's *The Lion King*, wherein the hero-lion refuses to kill his adversary after winning a fight—but the hero-lion is then killed by hyenas.

The *Journal* points out that most parents have little idea about what their children are watching, though noting that "parents of young children ages 2-5 years reported that their children watch an average of 2.2 hours per day of television and 1.5 hours per day of videotapes."

Banning guns would have little impact, as *EIR* has emphasized. Only a small percentage of the films depict guns; otherwise, the violence is carried out by "rope, broom, stone, . . . and magic."

U.S. Resumes Military Ties with Indonesia

The United States is quietly restarting military cooperation with Indonesia, after an eight-month freeze, the *New York Times* reported on May 24. Indonesian military observers were invited to joint exercises in Thailand in May, plans were made to hold the first joint exercises between American and Indonesian Armed Forces in July.

Journalist Elizabeth Becker says that the Clinton Administration plans to present a military-to-military program to Congress, in

part to reward the President Abdurrahman Wahid's government for imposing civilian control over the military, and for removing senior military officers alleged to have been involved in the post-referendum violence in East Timor.

A group of 29 human rights groups and some Congressmen, including Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), are not happy. The human rights groups have petitioned Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to block "resumption of military engagement at any level." The Pentagon is working around these objections by renewing ties first with the Indonesian Air Force and Navy, but not the much-maligned, and dominant, Army. The July joint exercises with the Marines will concentrate on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Albright has responded to the human rights crowd that only after consultations with Congress, does the Administration hope to begin "carefully calibrated" ties between the two militaries. Ironically, *EIR* was told that when Indonesia's new civilian Defense Minister, Juwono Sudarsono, was in Washington in April, the same State Department severely restricted Pentagon contact with him, while he was seeking precisely the kind of assistance that Albright is now suggesting.

Pruden Peeks Out From Under Klan Hood

The rabidly anti-Clinton editor-in-chief of the *Washington Times*, Wesley Pruden, in his column of May 26, tried to spin the 22% vote for Lyndon LaRouche in the Arkansas Democratic primary as an expression of the anti-Clinton sentiment, and also stupidity, of Arkansas voters, as *EIR* noted last week. "Some Democrats put it down to 'anybody but Gore' in a season where W. [Bush] is looking better every day," Pruden wrote. "Some others say the LaRouche vote was meant to embarrass Bill Clinton in a week when he humiliated the state one more time. And some Democrats even say that a few of the folks back in the hills and hollows confuse Mr. LaRouche with that other Lyndon, and if ol' LBJ is back for one last hurrah, well, it won't hurt to he'p him out a little."

EIR is confident that Arkansas voters know the difference between Lyndon Johnson and Lyndon LaRouche. But the question is, who is Wesley Pruden?

The author of the "Pruden on Politics" column is a native of Arkansas, whose father was a prominent segregationist in Little Rock in the 1950s—in fact, his father was the chaplain to the White Citizens Council, a sort of country-club version of the Ku Klux Klan. According to a source in Little Rock, the elder Pruden was one of those inciting white mobs, as black students entered Central High School in Little Rock in 1957.

Pruden's father was also a close ally of "Justice Jim" Johnson, Arkansas' most notorious segregationist, who was Bill Clinton's biggest enemy in the state, and the local point man for operations against Clinton, feeding information to the national news media during the 1992 election campaign, and later, as the Whitewater scandal was building in 1993. His son is obviously a chip off the old block.

John Train Gets Presidential Appointment

President Bill Clinton named New York City investment counsellor John Train as a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, according to U.S. News-wire on June 1. Train was a leader of the "Get LaRouche" task force, which railroaded Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and associates into prison beginning in 1989. (See Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "U.S.A. vs. Lyndon LaRouche: 'He's a Bad Guy, But We Can't Say Why,'" *EIR*, March 10, 2000, footnote 27; Jeffrey Steinberg, "Wall Street Tory John Train Revives 'Get LaRouche' Salon," *EIR*, May 27, 1994.)

The move apparently reflects Clinton's continuing effort to save his own hide—specifically, to prevent his post-Presidency imprisonment—by putting the election of Al Gore above everything, including sanity.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is responsible for managing the Thrift Savings Fund, a tax-deferred fund established by the Federal Employees Retirement Act of 1986.