

National News

SBA investigates Neil Bush oil company

The Small Business Administration has been examining the relationship between Neil Bush's Apex Energy Co. of Denver and two firms run by Louis Marx Jr., a longtime friend of President Bush, AP reported March 22.

Apex was formed in May 1989 from a \$2.3 million investment by Wood River Capital Corp. and its subsidiary, Bridger Capital Corp; the two firms took a 49% interest in Apex, while Neil Bush and his partner Brent Morse took 51%. Both Wood River and Bridger are "small business investment corporations" (SBICs), non-profit companies that provide venture capital for start-up firms using federally guaranteed funds. The investigation was initiated last December at the request of Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.).

Defendants sentenced in Virginia 'LaRouche' trial

Anita and Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, defendants in the Virginia "Get LaRouche" prosecutions of associates of Lyndon LaRouche on "securities fraud," were freed on bond pending appeal after being sentenced on March 28 to 39, 34, and 33 years in prison, respectively.

Judge Clifford Weckstein had shown some sensitivity to rising concerns about the barbarity of the jury sentences being given to the LaRouche defendants for the novel crime of sale of political securities. Weckstein said that "sentencing guidelines do apply to jury trials, they just don't apply to securities fraud charges." He then pronounced sentences which reduced the jury recommendations by 7 years for each defendant.

Attorney Edwin Vieira pointed out that when the defendants were indicted in February 1987, neither they nor State Corporation Commissioner Lacy knew whether these loans were "securities." Her ignorance was

dealt with by appointing her to the Virginia Supreme Court; theirs, by sentencing them to prison. As for the value of "detering others" which prison sentences are supposed to have, Vieira noted that the other major political parties and figures in Virginia are completely undeterred, since they continue to take political loans, fail to repay them, and brag about it to the press, while prosecutor Russell claims that "all political loans are securities."

In action on another of the "securities fraud" cases, the Virginia Court of Appeals upheld the ruling by Weckstein which prohibits Don Phau from soliciting contributions while on bond pending appeal.

Pro-life groups score magazine for euthanasia

Nearly a dozen organizations have signed a letter initiated by the Club of Life protesting *Scientific American's* advocacy of Nazi euthanasia in the United States as it is now practiced in the Netherlands.

Staff writer John Horgan's sympathetic report, "Death with Dignity: The Dutch explore the limits of a patient's right to die," appeared in March. While *Scientific American* has seen fit to print the proposals of Dutch lawyers who advocate killing the mentally ill and sick minors who ask for euthanasia over their parents objections, editor Jonathan Piel fired science writer Forrest Mims III. Mims, who has published 60 books on science, who writes for Christian magazines, and does not accept Darwin's theory of evolution, was told by Piel that he had beliefs and attitudes "in conflict with editorial positions and trends and traditions in this magazine."

The Club of Life letter to Piel reminded him that the Nuremberg tribunals were held so "that the world would never again experience the heinous killing of persons regarded as 'useless eaters' and 'burdens' " upon society.

"Horgan may be writing a 'science' column for a 'science' journal, but he is advocating the opposite of science, whose purpose is the enhancement of the human condition. What kind of 'science' is Horgan

espousing by advertising the Hemlock Society's suicide campaign of sleeping pills and a plastic bag over the head?" the letter asked.

Virginia court strikes fines levied on miners

On March 26, by a 2-1 ruling, the Virginia Court of Appeals struck down \$31 million in fines levied at the state level against the United Mine Workers of America. That decision will lay the basis for the dismissal of the remaining \$22 million in fines also levied at the state level on similar grounds. The Court's action comes months after the federal government dropped its fines against the UMW. Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry had refused to drop the remaining state fines.

The fines stemmed from the Pittston strikes of 1989. During the strike, some of the fines were levied in response to peaceful marches and picketing by union members, while others were the result of several incidents of violence, which were widely perceived at the time as designed to provoke fines against the union.

By vacating the \$31.3 million in fines, the court has reaffirmed the right of the UMW to continue to exist as a labor organization. The fines could have bankrupted the UMW's treasury.

During the strike, Nancy Spannaus, who was running against U.S. Sen. John Warner (R), made several statements opposing Mary Sue Terry's repression of the miners because it represented the same mentality with which Terry has gone after her chief political opponents, Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.

Bush nominee defends mutilation

Kenneth L. Ryskamp, George Bush's nominee to a federal appeals court, justified physical mutilation of defendants as a deterrent to crime. Senate Judiciary Committee mem-

bers, who were considering the nomination in mid-March, were reported "dumbfounded" by the remarks.

The controversy developed during an examination of remarks Ryskamp made from the bench during a police brutality trial in Florida. The West Palm Beach police case was a consolidation of suits by four plaintiffs bitten by police dogs, two of whom were never charged with a crime. According to the court record, the dogs were trained to "bite and hold" and attacked more frequently than experts said they should. The police department kept a "bite book" of photos.

The evidence showed that a dog, released by an officer, attacked one plaintiff while he was spread-eagle on the ground. An officer told a dog to attack another plaintiff while he was asleep in a drunken stupor.

Ryskamp, who told the committee two of the plaintiffs were remorseless thieves, said from the bench: "I think of countries where if you are guilty of a robbery, they cut off your hands as a vivid reminder that this is forbidden. It might not be inappropriate to carry around a few scars to remind you of your wrongdoing in the past, assuming the person has done wrong."

Jews seek curb on 'special' Israel ties

The Jewish Committee on the Middle East, composed of American Jewish professors at over 145 universities, has taken out ads in 50 publications attacking the U.S. "special relationship" with Israel.

A leaflet by the group distributed in Congress in mid-March, attacks the Israeli repression of the Palestinians. "Events taking place today are all too reminiscent of the pogroms from which our own forefathers fled two and three generations ago—but this time those in authority are Jews and the victims are Moslem and Christian Palestinians," reads the leaflet.

The professors call for a complete re-evaluation of the American sponsorship of Israel. "We believe economic aid should be greatly reduced until Israel agrees to self determination for the Palestinian people

along with withdrawal from the Occupied Territories pending mutually agreed security guarantees." They also call for a reduction of military and intelligence assistance to Israel "to demonstrate American refusal to endorse Israeli policies."

The advisory board of the committee, which was formed in 1988, includes Noam Chomsky, Yigal Arens, Richard Falk, Don Peretz, Henry Schwarzschild, Prof. Joel Beinen of Columbia University, and Prof. J. David Singer of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

FBI's Sessions brags of relationship with ADL

FBI Director William Sessions addressed the national leadership conference of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a group notorious for its links to the drug trade and organized crime, in Washington on March 25, and said that the ADL had a "solid relationship" with the FBI. "We have worked together over the years and will work together in years to come."

Sessions noted how the ADL had assisted in formulating the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which provided the basis for criminal prosecution for hate crimes signed by Bush on April 23, 1990. Sessions said that the FBI would continue to investigate hate crimes and to "prevent them from occurring." He also said that the the FBI "must also combat the apathetic majority [of citizens] which allows these crimes to occur."

Under questioning, Sessions said that during the Gulf war when many Arab-Americans were being brought in for questioning by the FBI in their investigation of "terrorism," the ADL had been in continual contact with the FBI and had concluded that there was no basis for the allegations of harassment raised by the Arab-American community.

In response to another question about whether he thought that "hate crimes" were on the rise due to the awful economic situation the country was facing, Sessions said that he was not competent to answer that, but that he would leave it to the judgment of the sociologists.

Briefly

● **THE OFFICE** of Management and Budget sent a directive to the Internal Revenue Service to concentrate on auditing lower-income taxpayers rather than wealthy individuals and businesses, because revenues could be collected faster from those who generally cannot afford lawyers and accountants, the March 21 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

● **RISING POVERTY** threatens to relegate Texas to the status of a "Third World nation within our lifetime," said Ron Lindsey, state commissioner of human services, in a March 29 letter. He said that 3 million Texans and one out of every four children in Texas lives in poverty, and more than 420,000 children are at risk for abuse or neglect.

● **THE NAVY** has charged two anti-war sailors, Airman Apprentice Abdul H. Shaheed and Seaman Apprentice James L. Moss, with mutiny for allegedly plotting sabotage and kidnaping of the captain of the USS Ranger in January, AP reported March 30. The sailors say they are being singled out because they are Muslims, and the plot was made up by another sailor.

● **MARIJUANA** is being provided to AIDS patients by the U.S. government, the March 24 *Washington Post* reported. One couple in Florida received "a can of 300 meticulously rolled joints, filled with marijuana grown under contracts at a highly secure, U.S. government marijuana farm in Oxford," Mississippi.

● **NASA** announced more cuts in the budget for Space Station Freedom during March, cut back plans for its size and operational capability, and delayed its projected operational starting date until the turn of the century.

● **THE U.S.** has asked Israel to extradite Rachel and Robert Manning, the alleged assassins of Alex Odeh, a leader of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the State Department confirmed March 25.