

National News

United States is cooling, not warming

According to a study released in mid-May by climatologists Robert Balling and Sherwood Idso of Arizona State University and the U.S. Water Conservation Laboratory in Phoenix, the United States has cooled at least half a degree since the 1920s, based on weather records collected at 1,200 stations in small towns nationwide. Their findings were published in the current issue of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

"The Earth may be heating, but we haven't seen any evidence that the U.S. is heating," said Balling, director of ASU's climatology laboratory. "What we found out, is most places in the United States are cooling."

Other researchers who found evidence of heating have been using "weather records badly contaminated by the urban heat island effect," he added. "Most of the world's large cities have a heat island," Balling explained, because "the thermal properties of the natural surface is different from the properties of the artificial surface." The heat island complications "make the global effects difficult to address," Balling said. Climate data from the United States are the best, and they show a cooling trend.

Bush anti-crime plan has police-state aspects

President Bush announced a \$1.2 billion anti-crime package on May 15 which includes elements that could threaten constitutional liberties.

The package includes \$1 billion for the construction of new prisons; approximately \$150 million for new personnel for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the U.S. Marshal's Service, the FBI, U.S. Attorneys offices, and the Justice Department; tougher laws for the use of semiautomatic weapons, including a minimum 10-year sentence for use of such a weapon during a violent crime or drug-related felony; ex-

panded use of the death penalty including form murder for hire, kidnaping resulting in death, murder of a foreign official, terrorist murder of American citizens abroad, and similar crimes.

The proposal includes a "good faith" exception to the exclusionary rule which keeps illegally seized evidence out of courts. Illegally seized evidence could, under the proposal, be admitted "if the officers carrying out a search or seizure acted with an objectively reasonable belief" that they were not violating the Constitution.

The proposal also includes new gun control measures like a ban on the importation, manufacture, or sale of semiautomatic weapon magazines capable of firing more than 15 rounds. Bush also announced that he would make permanent his earlier ban on imported semiautomatic rifles, so-called "assault weapons."

Pentagon study rejects Nunn's ALPS SDI system

The Accidental Launch Protection System, ALPS, a proposal by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) which would reduce the Strategic Defense Initiative to a point defense of U.S. missile fields in the event of accidental launch or the actions of a renegade commander, was rejected by a new Pentagon study according to the May 16 *Washington Times*.

The study criticizes the severe limitations of the idea, noting that the system could be easily overwhelmed. "We've decided to pursue objectives for SDI that are much greater than solely a system of 100 interceptors," the maximum allowed by the 1972 ABM Treaty, an unnamed Pentagon official is quoted by the *Times*.

The Bush administration, meanwhile, has announced plans to slow the SDI program as it shifts its focus toward the "Brilliant Pebbles" first-stage concept. The program is shifting away from the Reagan administration scheme to deploy Danny Graham's flying rocket barrages, and toward the Brilliant Pebbles design developed by Drs. Edward Teller and Lowell Wood, and advocated by former SDI chief Gen. James Abrahamson.

The program delays, announced by current SDI head General Monahan, are principally due to the decision to set back the development and launch of large deep-space tracking satellites. The deployment of a ground-based interceptor rocket has also been delayed.

The Brilliant Pebbles devices, now in the development and testing phase, are the first hope for a deployed ABM system. The delays mean that the administration is bowing to congressional pressure for further cuts in the SDI budget, and is setting back the date at which the program confronts the ABM treaty limitations.

Bush positions largely unfilled

Of the senior positions in the Bush administration, 80% are still empty, reports the May 13 *New York Times*.

The *Washington Post* blames it on low pay, but some believe the reason President Bush cannot fill key posts is that people wonder whether his administration will last.

Congressional critics say that the pace of filling jobs is much slower than under previous presidencies and has led to a backlog of problems which has prevented the new administration from making its mark. "When you have nobody in charge," the *Times* quotes Sen. Wendell Ford (D-Ky.), "it's very difficult to respond to problems or get answers to questions."

White House director of personnel, Charles Untermeyer, defends the pace of filling jobs, saying that things are slower because the administration is concerned about maintaining high conflict-of-interest standards. The *Times* makes no mention of the conflict-of-interest implications in having the equivalent of Kissinger Associates satellite offices at the State Department and the National Security Council.

Among the jobs that are going begging are that of overseeing the nation's nuclear weapons production and managing its nuclear reactor fuel program. The *Post* on May 17 claimed that the \$80,700 per year salary for these and other top scientific posts is too

low, but other branches of the Executive are also unfilled. The Defense Department for example, has sounded out 24 individuals, and none of them wants the post of under-secretary of acquisition. The new "ethics" laws are also scaring off qualified individuals, as candidates fear they will be torn to shreds by "ethics"-oriented congressmen and journalists.

N.Y. Post on LaRouche tuning campaign

The *New York Post* reported on the indomitable Lyndon LaRouche and his campaign to lower tuning to middle C = 256 Hertz in a two-page feature article on May 14.

In a piece entitled "Lyndon's Latest Pitch," *Post* writer Clare McHugh reports about the success LaRouche still has, although behind prison bars and serving a 15-year sentence, in influencing the world around him. "He hasn't lost any of the qualities that have made him the American extremist for our time," she writes. "He keeps worrying about the fate of the nation. He continues to condemn Communism. He talks of another bid for the White House."

The article is graced with pictures and captions of LaRouche, "A Harmonious World"; Renata Tebaldi, "Pitching In"; Luciano Pavarotti, "Voices Approval"; and Richard Bonyng and Joan Sutherland, "Signed On."

Luba Tcheresky, a professor at Fordham University, is quoted saying, "Pitch is a concern. It makes a big difference to the singers—we've been worried about it for years." Stefan Zucker, editor of *Opera Fanatic*, comments, "There's no doubt that [the] Schiller [Institute] has tapped a lot of discontent among the singers over the pitch."

In an interview with LaRouche from his jail cell, the *Post* asked him what he gets from the Schiller Institute. "It's what they get from me," LaRouche laughed. "I do some work for them. I'm the old codger. 'Do this, old codger,' they say, 'write this or think about this.' You know, I'm extremely limited in my current position." LaRouche spokesman Dana Scanlon put to rest alle-

gations that money from the lower tuning campaign is going to LaRouche's legal appeals.

"Pitch is not a romantic matter that should change with the *Zeitgeist*, it is rational and scientific. I am concerned that when musicians meet and perform they communicate not in an arbitrary manner, but they work in accordance with the laws of the universe," LaRouche said.

Satanist Aquino under investigation

The campaign to halt the spread of Satanism in America, fueled by, among other things, the publication of the pamphlet "Is Satan In Your Schoolyard?" by *New Federalist* newspaper, is beginning to score some initial victories.

Satanist Lt. Col. Michael Aquino is once again under active investigation for sexually abusing children, according to the May 12 *San Jose Mercury*. Aquino is quoted as admitting that both he and his wife were questioned this week by Army investigators about the abuse of at least five children in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

According to the *Mercury*, police in Ukiah had been looking into the ritual abuse of two boys and a girl when the children accused Aquino of being involved. Aquino also was accused of molestation by a 9-year-old girl in Santa Rosa, and an 11-year-old boy in Fort Bragg, N.C. "Basically, we have a multi-jurisdictional investigation," said Ukiah Police Chief Fred Keplinger, whose department is working with the Army's Criminal Investigation Division.

The Texas State Senate, meanwhile, passed S.B. 803 on May 10, establishing the crime of ritual child abuse and setting severe penalties for offenders, with virtually no opposition. The bill now goes to the House, where it is expected to receive strong support. On May 11, Sen. Buster Brown introduced a more wide-ranging bill to deal with the problem of Satanism, S.B. 18323, which was introduced simultaneously in the House by Rep. Sam Johnson as H.B. 3202.

Briefly

● **JIMMY CARTER** was welcomed back into the public spotlight by Britain's *Daily Express* on May 15. Columnist Jon Akass writes, "It is good to see ex-president Carter on the White House lawn again, being treated with courtesy and deference by the new president." Akass admits Carter "was enfeebled by a madman, Khomeini, who was indifferent to all rational argument. He was humiliated and so was America."

● **THE 'SCIENCE POLICE,'** an eight-year-old international campaign for overt political control over the activities of scientists in the name of policing "fraud in science," should be stopped, says the May 15 *Wall Street Journal*. The editorial singles out Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) for waging this campaign, and notes that the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has already bowed to congressional pressure by establishing an Office of Scientific Integrity.

● **MORE APPEASEMENT** of the Soviets is demanded of President Bush by the May 14 *New York Times*. An editorial says Bush's recent New Yalta speech at Texas A&M University is "long on vision and short on content. . . . It's now time for the Bush administration to conjure up a few deeds of its own."

● **A FORD** Foundation report calls for a \$29 billion increase in funding for social programs. The three-year, \$3 million study identifies a "social deficit," according to study director Irving Shapiro, former chief executive of the DuPont Co. The report calls for a sweeping expansion of services including drug and alcohol treatment programs, the Head Start program, and the WIC (food supplements to needy women and infants) program.

● **OLIVER NORTH** jury foreman Denise Anderson is the cousin of Gertrude Griffin, prosecutor John Kecker's secretary. The relationship could become a significant issue in North's appeal.