

National News

Abortion penalties on Guam toughened

The governor of Guam signed into law on March 19 the toughest restrictions on abortion in the United States, making performing or aiding an abortion a felony. The new law sets the stage for a likely test of the U. S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, according to the Catholic News Service March 22. Guam is 93% Catholic.

The new law prohibits all abortion, except in cases when two physicians and a licensing board agree that the mother's health is endangered. The law was passed unanimously by the territorial legislature March 8. Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron of Agana, Guam, threatened days before the bill passed that he might excommunicate any legislator who voted against it.

Janet Benshoof of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York faces a year in jail and \$1,000 in fines for "solicitation to commit an abortion," a violation of the new abortion law. Benshoof allegedly told Guam residents that they could ignore the law and go to Honolulu to obtain an abortion, the March 27 *Washington Times* reported. Benshoof is challenging the law.

Soviets reported ready to deploy beam weapons

The Soviet Union is developing strategic and is prepared to deploy tactical systems based on directed energy technologies before the end of this decade, charged Lt. Gen. Leonard H. Perroots, USAF (ret.), head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, in *Signal*, the official publication of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. The charge is one of the first public warnings, outside of the years-long campaign waged by *EIR*, exposing Soviet capabilities in low-energy and high-power lasers, radio frequency weapons, and beam weapons.

Perroots warned that the Soviets are between three and five years ahead of the United States. "Directed energy weapon techno-

logies appear to figure prominently in this restructuring, this perestroika of the Soviet military machine," he said.

"The Soviet Union's laser program dates from the 1960s. The developments are much larger than free world efforts and involve more than 10,000 scientists, engineers, and more than a half-dozen major research and development test ranges. The amount of Soviet research and development in high-energy laser technologies is far greater than that of the rest of the world combined.

"Their tactical laser program has progressed to where battlefield laser weapons soon could be deployed. . . . Moscow hopes that its huge investment to design and build high-energy lasers will provide it with weapons systems for air defense, space-based anti-satellite missions, and conceivably, defense against ballistic missiles.

"The Soviets lead the world in the design of many types of radio frequency generators, which appear most promising for use in high-power weapons. The Soviet Union has conducted research in the use of strong radio frequency components of ballistic missile warheads." Perroots reported that the Soviets are developing radio frequency weapons capable of destroying the electronics of "tactical targets, especially those incorporated into newer model free world aircraft and precision-guided munitions" which "could be designed and built during the 1990s.

"Soviet developments in the entire particle beam area, however, are impressive. In fact, much of the U.S. understanding as to how particle beams could be made into practical defensive systems is based on Soviet work conducted in the late 1960s and '70s."

Unionist condemns attack on workers

"I fear for the entire system when people become desperate, with nothing left to lose," is the anguished cry of San Diego-based Greyhound bus driver Jake Smith, in a commentary in the March 24 *Los Angeles Times*.

Unions helped the United States become an industrial giant, Smith said, and now the

unions are being destroyed. Smith names Texas Air's Frank Lorenzo, and Greyhound's John Teets and Fred Curry as examples of people "who spend all of their waking hours convincing me and my workingclass colleagues that we are not worth a living wage."

Smith pointed out the contradictions in the company's position on the strike, and said, "I just want to go to work and be able to make a living, but I can't. . . . How am I supposed to live with dignity in this carnival atmosphere? Why do good people have to be dismissed out of hand just because they want a little of the rate promised on this contract. . . . We have a whole generation of kids out there in gangs, lured by the quest for big money, selling drugs to each other as an alternative to a future as minimum-wage, fast-food servants. . . . How can this government be so short-sighted as to misunderstand what it takes to develop a career working class? I fear for the entire system when people become desperate, with nothing left to lose. The rich simply cannot have all the money."

NAMBLA editor charged with sodomy

North American Man-Boy Love Association newsletter editor Christopher Farrell was arrested and charged with sodomy and endangering the welfare of a child, *New York Newsday* reported March 23.

Det. Joseph Gelfand, from Manhattan South Public Morals Division said that Farrell had been under investigation for six months after the arrest of movie producer David Cloud, who was charged with endangering the welfare of a minor after he allegedly picked up a Bushwick youth and brought him to New Jersey for sexual activity. While interviewing the youths in that case, Gelfand and his partner Det. Mike Pascucci began tracing names of pedophiles. "Certain names kept coming up over and over," said Gelfand. Farrell allegedly prowled a poor Brooklyn neighborhood and paid teenage boys to commit sodomy with him.

Police Inspector Frank Biehler of the public morals division told the *Daily News*,

"It's not often we get someone from NAM-BLA." He said the group claims to have only 200 members in New York.

Weld hires union buster as adviser

Following his defeat at the GOP convention on March 10, Massachusetts gubernatorial hopeful and former U.S. Assistant Attorney General William Weld has compounded his political problems by hiring a notorious union-buster as a political consultant to his campaign.

Weld's hiring of Stephen Tocco, a political consultant who led bitter fights against labor unions to repeal the state's prevailing wage law, has triggered a near revolt among his advisers. According to the March 23 *Boston Globe*, Gordon Nelson, a top Weld adviser, has threatened to pull out of his campaign if Weld doesn't fire Tocco. "I told Bill Weld that the last thing we need is to bring on board some guy who is perceived as the number-one union buster in the state. That is political idiocy," Nelson said. "If Steve Tocco is in charge, Bill Weld will lose the election . . . he will self-destruct."

Heavy metal music linked to vandalism

Addiction to heavy metal music has been cited as the cause of vandalism in the New Jersey trial of a 13-year-old, the *Newark Star Ledger* reported March 23.

Middlesex County (N.J.)

Alan Rockoff told the press that a 13-year-old boy who drew swastikas and wrote profanities on four homes was acting out his "addiction" to heavy metal music. "He knows as much about anti-Semitism as the man in the Moon. These acts are directly linked to the music he listened to incessantly. He is a heavy metal music addict." Rockoff said the teenager was "dwelling upon" death and the Devil. Rockoff said, "If you saw the evolution of this young man, the

swastikas came to his mind, not from following any white supremacy group, but from the mind-polluting effect of heavy metal rock music."

The satanic influence of heavy metal is also emerging as an issue in the New York trial of accused murderer Alex Rodriguez, the *Bronx Herald* reported March 23. Attorneys raised the issue at pretrial hearings in February in the Somers jogger murder trial. Rodriguez was arrested on Sept 20, 1988 and accused of killing Marilyn Campanello by repeatedly stabbing her with a compass-like drawing instrument. On the day of his arraignment he wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the name of the heavy metal rock group Iron Maiden and one of their songs, "Can I Play with Madness?" The group's record covers usually feature a ghoulish figure holding a bloody weapon. Its songs include, "Killers," "Die With Your Boots On," "Flash of the Blade," "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner," and "Only the Good Die Young."

Burning of British flag spooks British press

Workers at the Norton Co. in Worcester, Massachusetts burned the Union Jack and carried placards which read "Boston Tea Party II," "Ban the Brits," and "Baseball, Motherhood, and Apple Pie. To Hell with Tea and Cricket," at a recent town hall rally to protest the proposed takeover of their company by the British conglomerate BTR. Workers at Norton are concerned that BTR will shut down their plant and move operations to Mississippi. BTR has already shut down a company it bought in Chicago and moved its operations to Mexico.

The March 23 *Financial Times* of London quotes an article from a local newspaper in Worcester that "There hasn't been as much anti-British sentiment in these parts since Isaiah Thomas was printing anti-English missives during the Revolutionary War." The *Times*, keeping a stiff upper lip, assured its readers, "The virulence of this action is partly attributable to pure xenophobia, triggered by increasing foreign investment in the U.S."

Briefly

● **GEN. FRED WOERNER**, the former head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, said that the picture of Hitler found in Gen. Manuel Noriega's quarters was planted, according to a participant at a Carnegie Endowment for Peace meeting in Washington March 20. Woerner said the invasion should never have taken place.

● **THE WIFE** of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, Ann Henderson Pollard, was released from a halfway house March 30. Pollard is trying to overturn his guilty plea to charges of selling U.S. military secrets to Israel and has asked the U.S. District Court in Washington to withdraw his 1986 guilty plea and be allowed to stand trial.

● **COLUMNISTS** Evans and Novak warned against the International Monetary Fund's "poison pill" policies in Ibero-America on March 23. "Even apart from destabilizing advice . . . the IMF's track record is miserable," they write.

● **THE INTERNAL** Revenue Service was wrong in half the monetary value of \$15 billion in corrections sent to taxpayers who had filed their 1988 returns. The IRS reportedly wrongly demanded \$7 billion to which the government was not entitled.

● **EASTERN AIRLINE** pilots have tentatively agreed to a new contract the *Wall Street Journal* reported. The roughly 900 pilots who did not strike will lose a quarter of their average annual pay of \$72,000. Eastern will not be required to rehire the 1,700 pilots who did strike, while the 1,000 replacement pilots hired at \$27,500 a year are not mentioned.

● **DEFENSE** Department officials are asking Congress for the power to force out officers that wish to stay in the service and refuse to leave voluntarily in order to meet budget goals, the March 21 *Los Angeles Times* reported.