

National News

Templars, Masons found America, book claims

A new book due out next month, *The Sword and the Grail: Of the Grail the Templars and a True Discovery of America*, by Andrew Sinclair claims that "More than 90 years before Columbus, Prince Henry St. Clair of Orkney reached North America with a Venetian captain and 300 colonists." This attack on the Columbian evangelization of the Americas further claims: "Based on stunning new archaeological evidence, this book confirms Prince Henry's voyage and reveals the role played by the outlaw Order of the Knights Templar, who later merged with the Masons of Scotland," according to Crown Publishing. The Templars were a French-based Gnostic cult, sometimes said to have claimed that the French royal family were descendants of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

Crown's description continues: "*The Sword and the Grail* is both an important revision of the history of the discovery of America and a fascinating revelation of the origins of the Masons of the world. Some of the Templars fled with their treasure to the St. Clair castle, where their relics are still buried. The tomb of their Grand Master with the Grail carved on his stone lies in Roslyn, the core chapel of the Masonic movement.

"With the help of the sea skills and wealth of the Templars, Prince Henry tried to found a new Jerusalem in the new World, landing first in what is now Nova Scotia and then in New England. Written by a descendant of Prince Henry, this book reveals startling evidence of the pre-Columbian settlement of North America. It unveils secrets about the Knights Templar, the Grail, and the Masons that will fascinate readers whose interests were stimulated by *Foucault's Pendulum* and *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*."

Debate set on judgeship for death penalty backer

The Senate will debate the nomination of butcher Ed Carnes to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Alabama as soon as

the Congress reconvenes on Sept. 8. The Congressional Black Caucus is attempting to organize a filibuster, which could only be cut off if 60 senators vote for cloture. A successful filibuster could mean the nomination would not be voted on in this session of Congress.

Carnes has been head of Alabama's Capital Litigation Section for the past 10 years, and wrote the state's death penalty laws. His nomination is being supported by Montgomery attorney Morris Dees, in an effort to provide a patina of backing from the civil rights community.

Dees, the founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Klanwatch, in fact, has done no death penalty defense work for the past 10 years, according to a source, in order to pursue his so-called Klan-watching. Carnes himself was involved in a few Klan prosecutions, and Dees and Carnes, both from Montgomery and both educated at Harvard, became close through such activities, the source said. The source continued, Dees "needs the Department of Justice to help him prosecute the Klan."

On Aug. 29, syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff wrote his fourth attack on the Carnes nomination. Hentoff pointed out that Judge Frank Johnson, who initially endorsed Carnes as his replacement and whose endorsement was trumpeted by Dees, has now retracted the endorsement. Judge Johnson had cast the decisive vote to enforce bus desegregation in Alabama in 1956.

Trial motion shows Bush was 'in the loop'

A pre-trial motion filed Aug. 25 in the case against Caspar Weinberger discloses a memo of a telephone conversation between Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense "Cap" Weinberger that pokes holes in George Bush's claim that he was "out of the loop" in the Iran arms-for-hostages trade. The notes refer to an interview the vice president gave to the *Washington Post* that appeared Aug. 6, 1987 in which he said: "If I'd have sat there and heard George Shultz and Cap express it [opposition] strongly, maybe I would have had a stronger view. But when you don't know

something, it's hard to react. . . . We were not in the loop."

The notes dictated by George Shultz to an aide after his conversation with Weinberger on Aug. 7, 1987 read: "VP [Bush] in papers yest. sd [yesterday said] he not exposed to Cap or my arguments on Iran arms. Cap called me & sd that's terrible. He [Bush] was on the other side. Its on the Record. Why did he say that."

Records of Mossad-linked bank head subpoenaed

A federal grand jury has subpoenaed the records of New York real estate mogul Arthur G. Cohen in connection with his looting of the Richmond, Virginia Colonial Savings and Loan Association. Cohen's 1984 purchase of Colonial saved its chairman, Robert Suthard, from possible prosecution in the looting of the thrift before Cohen got into it. Suthard later became superintendent of Virginia's State Police, and used Colonial for Anti-Defamation League (ADL)-backed sting operations against associates of Lyndon LaRouche.

Suthard resigned as Virginia Secretary of Public Safety in a bribery scandal late last year. The current Public Safety Secretary, O. Randolph Rollins, was the private attorney who arranged for the transactions giving Cohen ownership over Colonial.

Arthur Cohen was previously implicated in the massive looting of American Bank and Trust Co. (ABT), with his financial partners the Israeli government, the Israeli Mossad, top officials of the ADL, and the Michael Milken organization. Cohen owned the airplane on which the final looter of ABT, David Graiver, fled the country.

Terry pursues next victim for Va. electric chair

Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry is set to execute her next victim, African-American Willie Leroy Jones, on Sept. 15. On Aug. 27, Jones lost a *habeas corpus* motion in state court. His attorney argued

that his sentence should be voided because of the "unconstitutional vagueness" of the "vileness of the crime" standard on which he was sentenced to death. The state had failed to show "torture" or "aggravated battery," opting to argue that Jones had acted with "depravity of mind"—a thought crime.

Jones will now appeal to Virginia's Supreme Court, which has never granted a *habeas* motion.

The fact that Jones had no previous criminal record, his honorable military discharge, and other important character testimony were never brought before the jury at sentencing, because his first, inexperienced court-appointed lawyer had never defended a capital case before.

Comparing the Sept. 15 execution to the Birmingham, Alabama Ku Klux Klan church bombing that killed four girls on Sept. 15, 1963, civil rights leaders who oppose the execution are saying that what the Klan used to do through bombings and lynchings is now being done by the courts—and by the White House under Bush, and the state houses, including in Bill Clinton's Arkansas.

New York parents in uproar over sex ed

As public schools set to open after Labor Day, parents in New York City are in an uproar over the virtual pornography being peddled under the auspices of state-mandated "AIDS education curriculums [sic]." Four members of the school board passed a measure which requires people brought in to administer the programs to swear only that they will commit "substantially more time" to teaching abstinence than other so-called anti-AIDS measures. School Chancellor Joseph Fernandez vowed that the program will continue no matter what.

Dolores Ayling, the Brooklyn parent who is organizing a protest, confronted the Board of Education at a public meeting, asking them to explain a page in the program's manual, *Children of the Rainbow Curriculum*, which instructs teachers to foster "positive attitudes toward sexuality." First-grade teachers are instructed that they should include references to homosexuals in order

to help give children a "healthy sense of identity at an early age." It then says: "Children need actual experiences via creative plays, books, visitors, etc., in order for them to view lesbians and gays as real people to be respected and appreciated."

In the fourth through sixth grade curriculum, the program would instruct children in how to conduct anal and oral sex, despite the fact that these practices are illegal in New York.

Arab-Americans slam Kissinger for racist crack

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee launched an attack against Henry Kissinger and CBS News, in connection with a June 3 Jerusalem Foundation benefit, which solicited funds for the absorption of Jewish immigrants into Jerusalem. At the fundraiser, there was a panel discussion with CBS News anchor Dan Rather, CBS Middle East consultant Fouad Ajami, and Kissinger—who is also a board member of CBS, during which Kissinger commented that "you can't really believe anything an Arab says."

On Aug. 4, AAADC Director Albert Mokhiber wrote a letter to CBS News President Eric Ober demanding a response to Kissinger's statements. Mokhiber also wanted to know why neither Rather nor Ajami objected. Furthermore, during the debate, Ajami had repeatedly insisted that democracy was impossible and undesirable for Arabs! Rather had opened the debate by warning that Israel's control of Jerusalem was at risk from an Arab "population explosion." Rather also talked about "celebrating 25 years after the city was united under Israeli rule," although, as Mokhiber pointed out in his letter, East Jerusalem is an occupied territory under international law.

Ober made a wan response on Aug. 7, saying that "comments made by individuals in their personal capacity are not the responsibility of CBS News." Kissinger wrote a letter responding to Mokhiber on Aug. 17, claiming that he was a supporter of the AAADC and that his comments were "not intended to give offense!"

One wonders who can't be believed.

Briefly

● **THE SIERRA CLUB** in Texas has joined forces with the radical animal rights group Fund for Animals to abolish hunting in Texas, reported the Aug. 14 newsletter of Putting People First. PPF chairman Kathleen Marquardt made the point that many sportsmen who donate to the Sierra Club "will be shocked to discover just what they are funding."

● **HUNDREDS** of members of the AFL-CIO and the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC), picketed the Yugoslav Embassy on Aug. 26 to protest "crimes against humanity" committed by Serbian irregular forces against Bosnia-Herzegovina. JLC President Lenore Miller presented a letter co-signed by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, which condemned "ethnic cleansing" and called for an end to the arming of the irregulars, and free and fair elections.

● **GUAM** was declared a federal disaster area by President Bush, after much of the U.S. territory was battered and left without electricity by Typhoon Omar. Omar struck Guam early Aug. 28 with gusts as high as 155 mph, according to Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman Dennis Kwiatkowski. About 80 people were injured and as many as 10,000 homes were damaged.

● **LOWELL WEICKER**, governor of Connecticut, said recently that individuals interested in forming a third party will hold a "brainstorming session" in Chicago early this month to plot strategy. Among those expected to attend the Chicago meeting is John Anderson, the Trilateral Commission member who mounted an independent candidacy in 1980 and now heads the World Federalists.

● **CALIFORNIA** Gov. Pete Wilson signed legislation on Aug. 28 which allows capital defendants to choose lethal injection instead of the gas chamber as of Jan. 1, as a means of thwarting protests against the use of the gas chamber. Supposedly, lethal injection can be accepted as "more humane."