

National News

Earth First! conjures new corporate hit list

Private investigator Barry Clausen, who infiltrated the eco-terrorist Earth First! gang in the early 1990s, has just obtained a draft letter in which the terrorists outline an escalated campaign against corporate leaders, similar to the 17-year rampage of the Unabomber. The letter was drafted after an Oct. 15 meeting of the ecologist underground in Portland, Oregon.

Reportedly, the eco-fascists proposed attacks against executives in their homes, as the only way to "save the Earth." The letter is accompanied by a new hit list, modelled after that which the Unabomber used to target his last victims. (In 1990, the Unabomber's list, under the title "Eco-Fucker Hit List," was published in the underground version of the Earth First! journal, *Live Wild or Die*.) The companies listed in the new draft letter include Microsoft, McDonald's, John Hancock, Nike, Boeing, and timber, mining, and oil companies.

The goal stated in the letter, is to "[f]ind an office . . . [or] a corporate executive's home and **ACT**," with the last word in bold-face capitals, and the A diagonally slashed, which is the symbol of the anarchists.

Clinton's defense fund closes after harassment

The trustees of the President's Legal Expense Fund, which was created to help defray legal costs for President and Mrs. Clinton, announced on Dec. 30 that they were being forced to shut down. The fund's executive director, Michael Cardozo, told reporters that the fund has been operating under the restriction of the position taken by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, that the fund could receive contributions, but could not solicit funds. Cardozo said that since its creation, the fund has received over \$1.3 million in contributions, and has disbursed over \$766,000 to pay legal expenses. "However," Cardozo said, "the trustees have noted

with concern and regret the steady decline in contributions to the trust. They believe this is due in large measure to the political climate which prevails today, with numerous highly publicized campaign finance-related investigations."

A statement was also read at Cardozo's press conference from Nicholas Katzenbach, a former U.S. Attorney General and co-chair of the President's Legal Expense Trust, which said, in part, that "contributions to the trust have, we believe, suffered from the myriad of highly publicized campaign finance-related investigations, and have dwindled to the point that it is futile to continue the trust as presently constituted."

Among other things, the officers of the fund were called as witnesses before the Federal grand jury operating under the Justice Department's task force investigating campaign financing; they were also called upon to provide records and testimony to Congressional committees. A legal action to shut down the fund was brought by the anti-Clinton "Judicial Watch" organization.

It is estimated that President Clinton currently owes almost \$3 million in legal bills.

Lunar Prospector, first Moon mission in 25 years

The last NASA lunar mission took place 25 years ago, when the crew of Apollo 17 became the last humans to walk on the Moon. On Jan. 6, the Lunar Prospector spacecraft lifted off from the new commercial Florida Spaceport facility at Cape Canaveral, on its way to the Moon. The small and inexpensive spacecraft (about \$20 million, weighing 660 pounds, fully fueled) will orbit the Moon for one year at an altitude of about 63 miles, measuring various of its aspects, using five scientific instruments. After that primary mission, the engineers plan to lower its orbit for six months, to perhaps as little as six miles above the surface.

The instruments will map concentrations of elements and minerals on the lunar surface, map the distributions of regions of magnetic field strength (the Moon does not have a global magnetic field), determine the variable gravity field of the Moon, which

scientists believe may be the result of mass concentrations below the surface, and look for unusual concentrations of hydrogen.

Results from the last task will be watched anxiously: While Lunar Prospector cannot search for water directly, it can determine if there are concentrations of hydrogen in the soil, which would be bound with oxygen in the form of water ice. Two years ago, the Defense Department's Clementine spacecraft found indirect indications, from radar soundings, of water ice, in permanently shadowed regions of the huge Aitken crater basin at the south pole of the Moon.

Virginia demands U.S. deny Don Phau habeas

The Commonwealth of Virginia is asking a Federal court to deny the *habeas corpus* petition of Don Phau, who is serving a 25-year sentence as part of Virginia's phony "securities" prosecution of associates of Lyndon LaRouche. The Virginia Attorney General, responding to Phau's *habeas* petition, came up with nothing more substantive than demanding retroactive application of some provisions of the Conservative Revolution's Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, enacted on April 24, 1996. Under the law, state prisoners have only one year from the end of their state appeals, to file a Federal *habeas* petition. (In death penalty cases, this is reduced to six months!)

In Virginia's response to Phau, the Attorney General cites recent rulings from some judges in Virginia and New York, who have ruled that this new statute of limitations applies retroactively, effectively denying access to the Federal courts of all state prisoners whose appeals ran out more than a year before the law was enacted on April 24, 1996.

Other Federal judges and the Department of Justice have said that this one-year time period should begin to run from the date the bill was passed. To do otherwise would violate due process and be inherently unfair. In a recent case in Virginia, U.S. District Judge Robert Doumar of Norfolk, threw out a Federal *habeas* petition, saying it was too late, even though the U.S. Attorney General and the defense attorneys agreed the judge

was wrong. This case is now pending before the Fourth Circuit appellate court, and the U.S. Attorney has refused to file a brief defending Doumar's decision.

Virginia did not respond to Phau's voluminous substantive claims, among them that his lawyers were incompetent, Commonwealth officials broke the law to convict him, and the securities law under which he was convicted could not Constitutionally be applied to political loans.

Earth Day guru Einhorn a free man in France

Ira Einhorn, the New Age guru who founded Earth Day in 1970, who was convicted *in absentia* for the grisly 1977 murder of his girlfriend Holly Maddux, is now a free man in the wine region of western France, reported the *Washington Times* on Jan. 2. In 1979, two years after Maddux's disappearance, police raided Einhorn's Philadelphia apartment, and found her partially mummified body in a trunk in his closet.

On the eve of his trial, in 1981, Einhorn fled the country, and was found in France this past summer. His case against extradition became an anti-U.S. human rights *cause célèbre* among the French left. On Dec. 4, a French court found that his 1993 conviction *in absentia* in Philadelphia violated French law: The fact that Pennsylvania law does not provide for a second trial means that Einhorn cannot be extradited, Judge Michel Arrighi ruled.

Eco-terrorist Einhorn didn't beat the odds alone. He had help, as the *Times* described, from "the intelligentsia of the Northeast." Arlen Specter, now a Republican U.S. senator, was his defense attorney; when he fled in 1981, he had been free on a ludicrously low bail of \$40,000. In his network were, according to *The Unicorn's Secret: Murder in the Age of Aquarius*, by Steven Levy: "Seagram heir Charles Bronfman; futurist Alvin Toffler; science adviser to the British Commonwealth Christian de Lait; . . . *Whole Earth Catalog* publisher Stewart Brand; physicists Freeman Dyson, David Bohm, Frijtof Capra and Heinz Pagels; Esalen co-founder Mike Murphy."

Charles Bronfman's wife sent Einhorn money until he fled the country and, many believe, continued to send him money in his fugitive years as well.

Century-old water main break floods Manhattan

New Yorkers have more immediate worries than whether their city will be drowned by ice-melt from global warming: On Jan. 3, at 3 a.m., a water main break flooded several blocks around 18th Street, bounded by Fifth Avenue and Broadway. The flood caused gas lines to break and burst into flame, and shut down subways. The flooded area is an historic district that includes the Flatiron Building, one of the world's first skyscrapers. Soon after the 48-inch, 100-year-old pipe breached, a giant crater formed in the street, about 30 feet long and 20 feet deep, swallowing up a Buick sedan.

Although some breakages can be expected in latitudes with sharp temperature changes, this spectacular one dramatizes how long overdue the urban infrastructure in many U.S. cities is for replacement. In the boroughs of New York City, on average, 1.5 pipes break every day, or about 550 breaks in a year. Many are minor, but occasionally a rupture occurs in a major line. Of the estimated 6,000 miles of water pipe under New York City, half was laid before the 1930s, some of the lines long before.

In February 1997, a water main break under Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn disrupted traffic for days. This ruptured pipe was also 48 inches, made of cast-iron and first laid in 1858. In May 1996, a break in a 48-inch water main, this one "only" 94 years old, caused a flood in Manhattan's Times Square.

While the technology exists to restore and replace the infrastructure grids of decaying cities, since the 1970s—the decades of the "post-industrial" policy and the deregulation privateers like Newt Gingrich and the Conservative Revolution—this has not been done. Instead, infrastructure has been taken down, with even existing mass transit systems being removed, and replaced with costly, dangerous, and space-hogging highways.

SOCIAL SPENDING will be expanded somewhat in President Clinton's 1999 budget, says the *Washington Post* of Jan. 3. This includes restoring food stamps to some of the 800,000 legal immigrants whose aid was cut off by the welfare reform act. Another plan would permit retirees ages 62–64 to pay monthly fees and receive the same Medicare services as those over 65.

MICHAEL SHAHEEN, who resigned in November after 22 years as head of the Justice Department's ill-named Office of Professional Responsibility, had been under investigation by the DOJ Inspector General. He and his office were being investigated for excessive travel expenses, and for "abuse of authority." One allegation was that Shaheen, after a minor traffic accident, flashed his DOJ credentials to the other driver and demanded, "Do you know who I am?"

PRESIDENT CLINTON has put off his visit to India and Pakistan scheduled for February, because of political turmoil in both countries, White House officials said, according to the Jan. 2 issue of India's *The Hindu*. The officials said Clinton still planned a South Asia tour, including stops in India and Pakistan, and possibly Bangladesh, later this year.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR Jim Gilmore, the heir to Conservative Revolution darling George Allen, is hoping to pick off elected Democrats in the state by offering them jobs in his administration. On Jan. 5, he appointed Loudoun Democrat, State Sen. Charles Waddell, to the post of assistant transportation secretary. It is virtually impossible that the Democrats could elect someone to replace Waddell, which would thereby leave the Republicans an absolute majority in the State Senate, which is now split 50-50.

BILLIONAIRE John Paul Getty II has become a British citizen, and, according to 10 Downing Street, can now approach the Queen to be knighted.