

National News

California Looks To HIV Mandatory Reporting

The California Department of Health Services has proposed that the state adopt a mandatory HIV reporting system, so that the state can track the spread of the disease. This was one of the provisions put forward in 1986 in a referendum initiated by the LaRouche movement, known as Proposition 64. An enormous campaign of vilification was unleashed against LaRouche, led by Hollywood networks and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which resulted in the defeat of the initiative.

AIDS "activists" denounced the new state proposal, saying it would "discourage people from getting tested and treated for HIV," the *San Jose Mercury News* reported on May 16. State health officials denied this, saying that they would establish a system that would ensure confidentiality, but that some system of tracking is necessary. Michael Montgomery, chief of the state's Office of AIDS, said that regulations would be adopted in some form, and would be put into effect early next year.

Trent Lott's Racist Pals Attack LaRouche

The white-supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), promoted by former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), warns in an article on its website, titled "NAACP Convention Speaker Linked To Cult Politics," that Lyndon LaRouche's influence is growing among African-Americans.

The CCC was an outgrowth of the White Citizens Councils, which fought against integration in the 1950s and 1960s. Lott addressed the group in 1992 and has maintained close ties with its leaders. A 1992 CCC newsletter quoted Lott praising CCC members as people who "stand for the right principles and the right philosophy."

The group's website discusses a scheduled speech at an upcoming NAACP convention by Rev. James Bevel, who was Martin Luther King's director of non-violent political action, and was also LaRouche's

1992 vice-presidential running mate. It denounces the LaRouche movement's fight to take down the Washington, D.C. statue of KKK founder Albert Pike. The article, which makes no effort to cover its racism with a politically correct veneer, even characterizes President George W. Bush as a "lickspittle for racial reconciliation."

"Reverend James Bevell [sic] is a civil rights relic," the CCC writes. "In 1994, while LaRouche languished in prison, Bevell embarked on a new venture with another cult follower: a self-styled historian named Anton Chatnik [sic—*EIR* History Editor Anton Chaitkin]. In a shrewd ploy to discredit the Masonic Order, Chatnik and Bevell devised a publicity stunt that called for the removal of the Albert Pike statue from Washington Square [sic—Judiciary Square]."

"Pike, who wrote the Masonic Creed, was a hapless Confederate general who [sic] Chatnik fixed as a founder of the Ku Klux Klan. Regardless of what else Pike did, the sinister Masons thought he deserved a monument at the Capitol."

Describing the support that the campaign by Bevel and Chaitkin drew from black elected officials around the country, the article boasts that in Nashville, Tennessee, "Southern patriots quashed the resolution despite the fervent bluster of Councilman Kwame Lillard [sic—Kwame Lillard]." (Lillard's father was burned to death, Klan-style, by an arsonist on the night before the council was to debate the Pike resolution—although the website does not mention this fact.)

"One other speaker at the NAACP conference may listen to Bevell and act on his demand to haul away the Pike edifice," the article concludes. "On July 11, James Bevell will share the stage with President George Bush, who will do his part as a lickspittle for racial reconciliation."

Texas Legislature Bans Executing the Retarded

In a step away from the murderous policies of former Gov. George W. Bush, the Texas legislature on May 26 approved a bill that would ban the execution of convicted killers who are determined to be mentally retarded. The bill was approved by both the House of

Representatives and the Senate, and was sent to Gov. Rick Perry, who has indicated that he will wait for a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court before deciding whether to sign it. The Supreme Court is currently considering the case of mentally retarded Texas death row inmate John Paul Penry, who was convicted of a 1979 murder.

If Perry signs the bill, Texas would become the 15th state to ban such executions, which are also forbidden in Federal cases.

D.C. Mayor's Staff Leaves Sinking Ship

The campaign by the Coalition to Save D.C. General Hospital has put so much heat on Mayor Anthony Williams, a lackey of the Financial Control Board that is shutting down the city's only public hospital, that several of the Mayor's top staff members are quitting.

Williams said he "sensed the weariness," and advisers commented that the staff didn't start early enough to convince residents of the "need" to close the hospital, the *Washington Post* reported on May 20. The *Post* has played a major role in the campaign to close the hospital, on behalf of its publisher, KKK-Katie Graham.

Five people described by the *Post* as "the soul of the Williams campaign" core team are leaving. "They were a team that brought him to power," said Abdulalam Omer, who resigned as chief of staff in April. "They were critical." The Mayor's communications director, Congressional liaison, lobbyist, chief spokeswoman, and scheduler are moving on. "Running and gunning on the front lines of reforming the District government has turned out to be more of a 24-7 drain" than many on the Mayor's staff can handle.

Those departing say they've hit a wall of exhaustion: "This is insane," "Working in the executive branch is a meat grinder. . . . I've got the EKG [electrocardiogram] on my refrigerator to prove it." Mayor Williams says, "Hey, there are lots of times I feel like taking 40 days in the desert. Reforming a government—it's grueling." The Control Board for which Williams works wants to turn the predominantly black area of the city where D.C. General is located into a high-rent playground for the wealthy.