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# National News

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## LaRouche Leads Kucinich in Ohio

*The Vindicator* of Youngstown, Ohio, report on Oct. 28 that Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche is the third-highest fundraiser in the Mahoning Valley, only surpassed by John Edwards and John Kerry. "LaRouche . . . has the third-highest amount of money raised from Valley contributors among Democrats running next year for the nation's highest office" the newspaper reported. "LaRouche has raised a respectable amount from Ohio contributors compared to others running for President—\$57,810 compared with U.S. Rep Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland, who's raised \$55,975 in his home state, and Kerry, who raised \$63,900 in Ohio. None of the other Democratic candidates have raised more than \$1,000 from Valley contributors."

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## New Pentagon Report Promotes Mini-Nukes

As reported first on Oct. 23, the Pentagon's Defense Science Board has produced a report advocating the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. The report is entitled "Future Strategic Strike Forces" and was likely produced by the Task Force of that name, which has been meeting for many months. Although not mentioned in the coverage, it seems likely that the report is also an outgrowth of the August conference on new nuclear weapons held at the U.S. Strategic Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha.

The report was leaked to *Jane's Defense Weekly*, in advance of its January publication. It proposes steps to make U.S. nuclear weapons "relevant to the threat environment" in the era of the war on terrorism, and it argues that low-yield nuclear weapons would be a more "credible" threat to adversaries than traditional atomic weapons.

An unidentified former Pentagon official is quoted as saying that "'mini-nukes' would be easier to use, and therefore more useful as a deterrent."

The report recommends resurrecting earlier, tested weapons, and modifying them for "greater precision, deep penetration [and] greatly reduced radioactivity" so that they pose a more credible threat to adversaries. The report also calls for the development of "enhanced" electromagnetic pulses weapons and neutron bombs.

*EIR* has reported that the call for a "new generation of nuclear weapons" goes back to the period when Dick Cheney was Secretary of Defense in the first Bush Administration. It was part of the 1992 draft Defense Policy Guidance drafted by Paul Wolfowitz, Lewis Libby, and others in Cheney's office; this was vetoed by the Bush 41 Administration, but Cheney then included it in his final policy paper issued in January 1993.

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## Food Stamp Use Up 38% Since 2000

Louisianans' use of food stamps has risen 38% above the July 2000 level, because of increases in unemployment, according to an Oct. 23 report by the Louisiana Dept of Social Services. While more full-time workers and elderly are struggling to make ends meet, some 646,446 state residents each month relied on food stamps as of September 2003, a level that has increased steadily from 465,733 recipients in July 2000. Children up to age 17 represent more than half of food stamp recipients; non-white residents comprise 76% of recipients.

Only 9% of food stamp households receive welfare checks. In addition, an estimated 200,000 more people are eligible to receive benefits—many are senior citizens, according to the state Department of Social Services. Louisiana now ranks in the top 10 food stamp expenditure states, even though it ranked 22nd in population (as of December 2000).

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## U.S. Babies Holding Videogames With Bottles

A first-of-its-kind Kaiser Foundation study issued by a children's advocacy group on

Oct. 28, called "Zero to Three; National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families," surveyed 1,065 families and found that two-thirds of children under two use computers, DVDs, or television. Nine per cent of those under three play computer games daily for an average of 49 minutes. Those under 6 average two hours a day of "screen media" use—more than three times the amount of time they spend reading.

Spokesmen for the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that infants not watch any television. "In those crucial first two years of life, their brains need physical interaction to develop properly," said Michael Rich, a Harvard researcher and member of the academy. "They should be spending time with siblings, with parents, with mud."

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## Experts Call Iraq Classic Guerrilla War

Military affairs experts quoted in *USA Today* on Oct. 29 agreed on the analysis. Specialist Francis Tusa, publisher of *Defence Analysis*, a monthly journal, said of the fighting in Iraq that: "This is pretty serious stuff going on. . . . This isn't random attacks . . . not of this size. This is the start of a campaign . . . It's as simple as that. . . . The Americans are saying, 'it's just bandits.' No, they're better than that. They have got an organization . . . They have got targets, they have plans, this is a classic guerrilla . . . campaign."

Retired Army General Bob Sales, co-author of the book, *The Iraq War*, states: "This is a foot race that either side can win." He says that the Iraqi guerrillas believe that America's "tolerance for pain is a lot lower than theirs."

Retired Green Beret Colonel Stan Florer says: "They are adaptive, and they are using classic guerrilla techniques." And, retired Marine Corps Lt. General Paul Van Riper, who served two tours of duty in Vietnam, is not confident things will get better any time soon.

Van Riper believes the American forces need more infantry in Iraq and better intelligence, but this will take time, particularly the latter.