

auction, and that his paper money notes are fraudulent but that T-bills and the new \$100 note are not.

Mr. Clark's is a tragic story. This family was tricked by the fed's manipulation of interest rates (which was heralded in a liberal media campaign), sucked into the farm welfare racket, and then had its farm confiscated by the very people who claimed to be helping it all along. We're supposed to be surprised that some people will buy into a cranky monetary theory and adopt exotic political ideologies to keep the FBI and other federal agencies from destroying their lives?

What is puzzling about this case—and puzzling too about the mounting cases of other groups targeted by the FBI—is why the federal government should be involved at all. We're talking about, at worst, \$2 million of funny money, which the Freemen never tried to pawn off as government-approved paper currency or checks. Most of the people who got it didn't accept it; those who did knew what they were doing, and were often associated with local and state tax offices and other agencies.

If media reports are correct, the Freemen are hardly the only ones engaged in issuing these "liens" against agencies and their employees. Besides, credit card fraud alone runs into tens of billions per year, yet the feds are not involved in every case. There are several crackhouses in a neighboring town, often swarming with visitors, that are not surrounded by FBI officials. The Crips and the Bloods, who kill and maim people, are not broken up as conspiracies against the public. For that matter, the fed, Congress, and the White House can dump \$40 billion on a bankrupt foreign government, and you are called a nutcase for even looking into it.

No, we all know that the FBI's actions in this case, and in many others, are designed to make the point that radical political dissent will not be tolerated. It's roughly the same point the government tried to make, much more violently, at Waco and Ruby Ridge. Today, we are supposed to celebrate the government for having the "patience" not to have stormed the farm and killed people, since the regs no longer allow agencies to issue shoot-on-sight orders. How sanguine we've all become to unconstitutional violations of liberty and rights.

In his state of the union address, Clinton explained that we should "never—ever—shut the federal government

down again." If we did not have a government, he went on, Americans would be "left to fend for themselves," precisely what more and more people are pleading for the opportunity to do. Ever more government resources are devoted to making sure they cannot. We might say that the purpose of the present regime is to prevent any group from claiming to be freemen, ever again.

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MEDIA

McCarthyism in Manhattan by Mark Racho

Last August I wrote an article in these pages, "Radio Days," in which I described WABC talk radio as the only conservative voice to be heard in New York City and the tri-state area. That voice is now gone; although WABC remains on the air, the station has lost its teeth. On April 17, the morning papers announced that "racist" talk-show host Bob Grant had been fired, and that his brilliant colleague Jay Diamond had "taken a temporary leave of absence."

This may not seem important to readers in the greater United States (and beyond), but wherever New York leads, other places seem to follow. New York and the surrounding states are so given over to absolutist liberalism that the loss of the last few vestigial organs of an alternative point of view must be deplored. Sadly, even the feebly conservative *New York Post* could not muster a defense of Mr. Grant when the media monolith moved in.

Why did Mr. Grant get fired? He made the mistake of being conservative, and passionately so. How did Mr. Grant get fired? The Disney Corporation recently acquired WABC. Having refused to part with its subsidiary Miramax Films' anti-Catholic movie *Priest* and the obscene *Kids* (a film that graphically portrays young children having sex), Disney

suddenly discovered what it imagines to be ethics and then leaned on WABC, after a campaign of slander by such paragons of virtue as Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and the "media watchdog" FAIR. Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting has long nursed a hatred for WABC and its hosts, putting out a carefully edited tape of Mr. Grant and Mr. Diamond's racier quotes.

In FAIR's worldview, any criticism of a black person by a white is "racist," and the tape of Mr. Grant appears to prove the point. According to the tape, blacks are "savages," "maggots," and "animals," and the local television news media delighted in playing cuts from it. Channel Five news actually denigrated Mr. Grant's listeners for daring to listen to his program. The New York papers spoke of "the words of hate that built Grant's tomb." What they omitted to mention was that Mr. Grant's "words of hate" were reserved for such heroes of the black community as the rapists who violated the Central Park jogger and the rioters who burned down sections of Los Angeles in 1992. Neither was Grant sparing with his epithets when it came to white savages, but the *New York Times* and its acolytes forgot to mention this fact. Jack Newfield, the aging leftist at the *New York Post*, reported that Mr. Grant avoided having black guests on his show; perhaps Newfield said this because Grant's many black guests were the "wrong kind of black," including Professor Walter Williams and Dr. Thomas Sowell (both of whom Grant often praised as "brilliant" and "great Americans").

Last month I received the tape FAIR had cobbled together from Grant's many years of broadcasting. It was an ill-spliced and amateurish effort, which any college radio intern could see through in seconds, the words hardly fitting together and the phrases selected out of context. But that did not stop the monolith and its friends in "alternative media" trusting the tape's veracity. I'm surprised some bright spark did not superimpose Mr. Grant's head on a photograph of Charles Manson.

The firing had, of course, been in the air for a long time, dating from the Republican victories in New York in 1994. Mr. Grant's effective support of Republican candidates rendered him obnoxious to the New York elite. How dare anyone oppose the saintly orator Mario Cuomo? How dare anyone criticize Mayor Dinkins for allowing a pogrom to take place in

Crown Heights, which resulted in the savage murder of a young Rabbinical student? How dare anyone resent the Martin Luther King holiday? Bob Grant did, and his attitudes and ideas were met with a chorus of protest from the Pharisees.

Alan Dershowitz, the liar for hire of choice for murderers and rapists, appeared on the television news to describe Mr. Grant as an anti-Semite (meaning anyone who disagrees with Mr. Dershowitz). Ex-Mayor Dinkins said Mr. Grant was a racist (meaning anyone who forgets that the first black mayor of New York is not to be criticized). A spokesman for FAIR said that though his organization did not wish anyone to be fired, because FAIR believed in free speech, the dismissal of Mr. Grant was a good thing none the less because Mr. Grant is a racist.

The chorus was joined by the righteous talk-radio stations in New York, all of whom, far from deploring the loss of diversity in radio programming, rejoiced in it. The black-oriented station WLIB played songs of celebration and invited the tribune of the people, Al Sharpton, to comment. This is what happens,

growled Sharpton, referring to Grant's opinions on the MLK holiday, to racists who "desecrate our heroes." Of course, WLIB sees nothing wrong with attacking Jefferson and Washington as "no-good crackers." Sharpton also claimed to be appalled by Mr. Grant's lack of reverence for the corrupt Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Somehow, because Grant had not pretended that the loss of the Commerce Secretary was as great a tragedy for this country as the media had—somehow, in Al Sharpton's warped mind, this meant that Bob Grant had killed the Commerce Secretary. That one of Al Sharpton's disciples had firebombed Freddie's, a Jewish-owned clothing store in Harlem, and burned alive seven people, including a black security guard, seemed to have escaped the Reverend.

Other radio stations continued the hypocrisy. Bernard White of the "community" station WBAI went on the offensive, calling for the ouster of talk show host and Guardian Angel leader Curtis Sliwa, the last remaining conservative on WABC. Amusingly, Mr. White appeared perturbed that Bob Grant had occasionally referred to Jesse Jackson as

Jesse "Jerkson." White's own continuous barrage of references to Curtis Sliwa as Curtis "Sleaze-wa" were, of course, unimpeachable: Mr. White is, after all, black. Asked to explain this attack on Mr. Sliwa's Polish surname, representatives of WBAI told me that African-Americans "cannot be racists in a racist society." Of course. What is perhaps most nauseating about WBAI is the multitude of talk show hosts and callers claiming to be "shocked" and "offended" by Grant and Diamond. One might imagine from this that WBAI is the last bastion of Victorian reticence and sobriety, with its "community" calling each other Sir and Madam and reading passages from Bishop Colenso, Cardinal Newman, and Matthew Arnold on the air. Rather the opposite. Amidst uncensored foul language, jolly talk about self-mutilation, pseudointellectual drivel about "issues" and puffs for *Mother Jones* magazine, it is easy to discern the rotting morality of aging hippie-Nazis. WBAI knows what is right, and God help those who disagree with the station.

The same can be said for the peddlers of the "Bob Grant tapes." FAIR has nothing to do with fairness or accuracy, for in its campaign against "Hate Radio," the so-called media watchdog appears to be colorblind in its left eye. When WLIB's Gary Byrd reads a poem (of sorts) threatening violence to the "men in black"—meaning Jews in Crown Heights—not a peep from FAIR. (Naturally, being orthodox and conservative, these were not the right kind of Jews.) When WBAI regularly refers to Mayor Giuliani as a fascist and "Ghoul-iani," this is not Italian-bashing. When the same station makes jokes about the Pope being a pederast ("Into the Pope-mobile, Robin . . ."), Catholics are supposed to understand the Swiftian wit. Only Bob Grant's and Jay Diamond's witticisms are beyond the pale, being perhaps *too* pale.

Lest *Chronicles* readers outside New York imagine that I am making a mountain out of a local molehill, I close with information that strikes nearer to home. Back issues of *Chronicles* are in the offices of FAIR on West 25th Street in Manhattan. I was told by one of FAIR's coordinators that dossiers exist on *Chronicles* editors and contributors. FAIR is a fanatical organization. After the more visible voices of conservative dissent are protested out of existence through McCarthyite accusations of

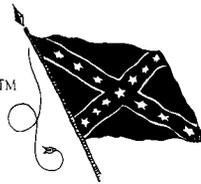
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“racist, sexist, *et contra spiritu Sodoma*,” FAIR and its allies will come for the smaller fish, and they will never be satisfied until there is no longer anyone left to think a free thought. This means you.

Mark Racho writes from New York City.

MILITARY

False Colors

by Katherine Dalton

The Case of Michael New

Until last summer, Michael New was an unknown 22-year-old Army medic, three years into his eight-year enlistment contract. But in August, New learned that he and his battalion were being assigned to Macedonia, where they would serve under the operational control of the United Nations commander, and wear the baby blue U.N. beret and a U.N. patch on their uniforms. At that news this missionary's son from Conroe, Texas, balked. How could it be legal for him to wear a foreign uniform, he asked his captain, and serve under foreign command?

Lt. Col. Stephen R. Layfield, who is in charge of the battalion, reacted by promising New he would face a court-martial if he disobeyed. Ordered to fall out in the beret and patch on October 10, New, alone among the 550 members of his battalion, did not. He wore his U.S. Army combat dress uniform without any additions. In response, Lt. Col. Layfield made good on his promise: the Army held a hearing on New's case in Wuerzburg, Germany, in late January. New was found to have refused a lawful order and was given a bad conduct discharge.

In some ways the sentence was lenient; he could have been jailed. Instead, while his battalion went to Macedonia, New remained in Germany, working with full pay as a file clerk and waiting for the review of his court-martial.

As this article went to press, the con-

vening authority who will review that court-martial, Maj. Gen. Montgomery Meigs, had not yet done so. If Meigs upholds the court-martial, New will be given a discharge that will blot his record. He will also lose the right ever again to wear his U.S. uniform.

His lead attorney, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense (under Bush) and a retired Marine colonel named Ron Ray, said that “we’ve never had a soldier charged with a crime, court-martialed, much less convicted, for declining to wear the badges, insignia and uniform of another government—because up until Bill Clinton, all the way back to the founders, we operated under the principle that a man can’t serve two masters.”

* * *

Clothes make the man—at least that is what Michael New thinks. Acting on the advice of his attorneys, who say it is inappropriate for New to criticize the Armed Forces while he is still enlisted, New does not grant interviews. But in a written statement dated September 19, 1995, and presented to the court in Germany, New said:

I interpret the wearing of a uniform, or the accouterments of a uniform, as a sign of allegiance and faithfulness to the authority or power so signified or which issues that uniform. I am an American who was recruited for and voluntarily joined the U.S. Army to serve as an American soldier. I am not a citizen of the United Nations. I am not a United Nations Fighting Person. I have never taken an oath to the United Nations, but I have taken the required oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

New read the Army Uniform regulations and “thought the uniform was unauthorized,” Ron Ray said. While Army regulations spell out in detail what can and should be worn, nowhere is there a mention of the U.N. beret or patch. According to Ray, that makes the U.N. accouterments illegal. The Army's lawyers conceded in a January 9, 1996, Stipulation of Fact for the court-martial that the U.N. beret and patch have not been approved, as required by their own regulations.

This would seem to bolster New's case. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bill

Harkey countered, however, that according to uniform regulations, “A commander in charge of units on a maneuver may prescribe the uniform to be worn within the maneuver area.” Does that mean he could ask his soldiers to wear anything? “Basically, yes,” Harkey replied. But, he added, the larger issue is that “when the senior leadership, I mean the President of the United States and our U.N. ambassador, signed up to take part in this mission, then part of that included wearing these accouterments on the uniform that will identify these folks as part of the U.N. operation.” In other words, the verbal order made by New's captain and lieutenant colonel stems directly from the President's authority.

Ray's response is that the President's authority does not exist. While New's court-martial centered around his refusal to obey an order, the defense team's legal arguments are much broader. First, Congress and not the President has the right to change Army uniform regulations, under the constitutional division of powers. Second, a President should not be able to force an American volunteer to serve under foreign command. “The President does not have the authority to involuntarily transform an American fighting man into a U.N. soldier,” Ray said. And third, according to Ray, President Clinton does not have legal justification to send troops to the former Yugoslavia without congressional approval “as Commander-in-Chief or under the Foreign Assistance Act or under the U.N. Participation Act or the U.N. Charter or the U.N. Guidelines.”

In the court-martial pretrial hearing, Ray made all three of these assertions. He did not have a chance to discuss them before the hearing panel, however. The military judge refused to admit these arguments and declared the lieutenant colonel's order lawful, leaving the six-member panel to decide only the limited question of whether or not New had disobeyed the order—which of course he had.

* * *

New's battalion in Macedonia (the 1st battalion, 15th infantry) has been under the operational command of Brig. Gen. Juha Engstrom, a Finn. When New served in a United Nations operation in Kuwait, he was under American command. He did not object to serving in Macedonia, Ray said. He objected to having a foreign uniform and foreign