## Gore Girl's Motown Taint

his summer, in early July, Karenna Gore, daughter of the Vice-president and Tipper, married Dr. Andrew Schiff. We've all been involved in Karenna's upbringing: It was for her sake that Al and Tipper asked the rest of us to sacrifice the First Amendment, just so she wouldn't find out that Prince had a dirty mind.

For such reasons our friend Dave Marsh, the mighty editor of *Rock 'n Roll Confidential*, tells us how he can't help regarding Karenna and her sister (the one arrested with a beer can in her hand on the lawn of her high school a couple of years back) and brother (who got run over by a car because his father didn't have a tight grip on his hand as they left a baseball stadium) with the feelings one reserves for a godchild. So it seemed altogether fitting that Dave has looked into Dr. Schiff and his family, just to make certain that Karenna has made a solid match.

Dr. Schiff's father, David T. Schiff, is managing partner of Kuhn, Loeb, a major Wall Street firm. More on him in our next issue. Dr. Schiff's mother, Lisa, once sat upon the board of directors of Georgetown University, sometimes known as CIA State. Good match, especially if you're an aspiring presidential candidate.

Dr. Shiff's mother, Lisa, is currently a managing director of Touchwood Records in New York. The other managing director of this company is Dr. Schiff's brother, Scott. According to the Touchwood website, when Scott worked at Atlantic Records "scouring retail pockets across the country to spot trends, Scott and his co-workers were among the first to recognize the potential of a small bar band and brought them to the attention of Atlantic. The band was Hootie and the Blowfish." According to Tim Sommer, the Atlantic executive who signed Hootie, "Scott told Danny Goldberg about this sales spike...Danny sent me to see the band. I signed them (literally) on the spot, and far more important methinks, midwifed the album and the band's developing relationship with the label." Sommer says Scott Schiff was "a pretty-no, very-nice kid until Doug Morris

started using him to stake his own claim in signing/developing Hootie... [Scott] never met or saw the band prior to their signing, and I'm not entirely sure he had even heard them prior to forwarding the local sales info...Scott reads numbers, local sales numbers; it wasn't his job to listen to music or make any comment on music."

Out of this, the family started a record label-well, not entirely out of this, since Lisa Schiff is the daughter of T. Newman Lawler, a "musical

## Did Tipper realize she was practically related to "a porn queen in heat"?

copyright specialist whose clients ranged from Irving Berlin to Van Cliburn, and for many years invested in landmark musicals," according to the website. Such capital, though undoubtedly wrested from the creative efforts of others, is in fact precisely the kind of intellectual property that Al Gore made all those fundraising calls to protest. No harm to our Karenna seems likely from such a source. However...

Having perhaps greater capital than credentials, the Schiffs needed a "record man" to run the show and found one in Director of Distribution Irv Biegel. Biegel has an extensive background among those who Al and Tipper think should be ashamed for promoting music that corrupts youths. He was once vice president of sales and marketing at Motown and though Marsh says he's never believed the stories about Motown's sales operations having a Mafia taint, Al Core and his wife have been known to credit stories far more peculiar. Later, Biegel became associated with Neil Bogart, a man who signed Joan Jett, Kiss, Donna Summer, Bob Segar and Question Mark and the Mysterians. Bogart helped invent both bubblegum pop and disco, and lost a fortune on a three-record set of highlights from the Tonight Show. Although the Gores apparently have no problem associating themselves with cocaine addict musicians-Marsh remembers Madison Square Garden in 1992 when they danced to Fleetwood Mac at the convention-it is undeniable that Bogart was no stranger to dope culture.

Donna Summer began her career by imitating an orgasm on "I Feel Love." She was a "porn queen in heat" long before Tipper's PMRC invented that epithet for Madonna. Joan Jett is both a genius rock 'n roller and someone who recorded the Rolling Stones' "Starfucker". KISS, of course, violates almost every one of Tipper's strictures: They are associated with violence, explicit sex (bassist Gene Simmons used to carry abound a catalog of Polaroid spread shots of his groupie conquests) and, of course, many of the sources Tipper cites in her book, Raising PG Kids in an X-Rated Society, insist that the band's very name is an occult acronym for Kids In Satan's Service.

Perhaps Al and Tipper will contact Joe Kennedy to find out about the possibility of annulling this ill-conceived pairing.

SUBSCRIPTION INFO
Enter/renew subscription here:
One year individual, \$40 One year institution, \$100 One year student/low-income, \$25 Please send back issue(s) 
Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Payment must accompany order. Add \$10 for foreign subscriptions. Make checks payable to: <b>CounterPunch</b> . Return to: <b>CounterPunch</b> . P.O. Box 18675

Washington, DC 20036

## (Suitcase Nukes, cont. from p. 1)

mon knowledge among American intelligence specialists for years and that Gorbachev even pledged publicly to destroy them all — one of the many promises the former darling of the western press failed to keep.

Had anyone from the White House tried to contact Lebed to ask him for more details? Samore admitted they had not, nor were there any plans to do so. As denunciations of Lebed spewed forth from Moscow, casting him as merely a politician promulgating "fantasy" in the cause of self promotion (as noted, Lebed had not wanted to discuss the issue in public at all) the White House did their own part to downplay the story, echoing the canard in Lebed's motives in going public. At all costs, nothing to embarrass Yeltsin.

Official complacency remained undisturbed even when Lebed's deputy at the security council, Vladimir Denisov, although less forthright than Lebed, told a reporter for the Russian news agency *Interfax* that the suitcase search had indeed taken place – he had been in charge. Though the bombs stored in Russia were accounted for, they had no idea where the weapons deployed outside Russia itself in the days of the Soviet Union, might have ended up.

Selectively concealing or ignoring bad news from Russia is nothing new for the Clintonites and ignorant windbags such as *Drudge* dredger Bill Arkin who was recruited by *The Nation*'s Russian "reform" groupie Katrina

CounterPunch P.O. Box 18675 Washington, DC 20036 vanden Heuvel to attack Lebed and those reporting on the suitcase bomb.

In December 1992, the director of Foreign Intelligence at the Department of Energy, Jay Stewart, hosted a secret conference of military and intelligence professionals at Fort McNair in south east Washington to discuss the nuclear implications of a possible breakup of the Russian Federation. He called it "Russian Fission". Everything discussed at the conference was highly classified. As detailed in One Point Safe, the classified report on the conference, together with all supporting documents and videotapes, was destroyed on the direct orders of a political appointee in the incoming Clinton administration. A subsequent secret congressional investigation established that the original initiative for this suppression came from the office of Strobe Talbot, Clinton chum, Deputy Secretary of State and a man who believes anything told him by any Russian who speaks good English, carries a laptop and laces the conversation with the word "reform". For his temerity in raising the issue in the first place, Stewart was driven from the government, his career ruined.

So anxious indeed is the administration to keep the public image of the current regime in Moscow presentable that they will on occasion promote falsehoods that Yeltsin himself would blush to utter. Toward the end of the Chechen war, Grigori Yavlinsky, a decent enough Russian opposition politician, visited the State Department and raised the issue of the war with James Collins, a key official on US policy toward Russia. In view of the fact, asked Yavlinsky, that according to official Russian government figures the casualty toll had passed 100,000 (mostly civilians), could not the US government moderate its support for Yeltsin?

"You're wrong", said Collins. "The casualty figure is only 30,000."

This understanding attitude is of course mirrored in organs such as the New York Times and the Washington Post. Columns of newsprint detail the promise and appeal of "reformers" such as First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, who recently arranged the sale of a company that controls a third of the entire world's nickel reserves to a crony for \$70 million, or photogenic Boris Nemtsov, who calls Margaret Thatcher "granny" and was recently heard on a leaked phone tap arranging to hold up a decree enforcing disclosure of officials' income so that he could get some ill-gotten gains stashed away. Washington Post Moscow correspondent David Hoffman even ran a piece recently announcing that Chubais and Nemtsov were "taking on" the banking oligarchy, a notion that evoked hearty laughter in Moscow.

The reality of life in Russia today, with the gangster capitalists and their political consorts fighting over the spoils (Chubais tends the fortunes of the billionaire banker Vladimir Potanin) is far too raw for the Hoffmans of this world. It might take a suitcase to open their eyes.