

# National News

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## Gene research receives guidelines

National guidelines were approved unanimously by the recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health. The therapies can now be used on patients with fatal hereditary diseases, to correct the defects in their gene structures.

The federally supported institutions which are expected to be at the forefront of gene therapy include the National Institute of Health, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University. The guidelines specifically forbid any attempts at creating changes in the gene structures other than to correct a defect.

Future efforts will possibly include gene transplants to arrest or reverse basic abnormal functioning that creates malignancy.

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## Drug plague in U.S. continues to grow

More than 25% of American youth and 17% of high-school seniors have tried cocaine, a Federal report shows. Dr. Donald I. MacDonald, administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, said an estimated 60,000 twelve- and thirteen-year-olds have tried cocaine in the country.

Cocaine-related deaths and emergency room admissions have tripled since 1981. About 20-25% of the people aged 22 to 26 had used cocaine in the past year.

"A disturbingly high percentage," said Patrick O'Malley, co-author of the study and member of the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research.

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## Aide attempted to block security report

National Security Council Soviet Specialist Jack Matlock made a last-ditch attempt to block a Pentagon report, made public by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, dis-

closing Soviet theft of U.S. secrets and technology.

According to syndicated columnists Evans and Novak, Matlock argued that the Defense Department revelations could undermine the Reagan-Gorbachov summit, but his boss, Robert McFarlane, did not press the matter with the Department of Defense.

Matlock, who reportedly aspires to become the next U.S. ambassador to Moscow, is one of the leading purveyors of the line that "the Soviet empire is crumbling," and therefore represents no military threat to the West.

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## State Department said to be 'annoyed'

Caspar Weinberger's "outbursts" against the Soviet Union in recent weeks have "annoyed officials at other departments, particularly the State Department, where some diplomats view him as a noisy interloper on their turf," the *New York Times* reported on Sept. 22.

While bitterly complaining about Weinberger's interference in summit preparations, the *Times* is forced to concede that "Weinberger's pronouncements have the blessing of the White House," and reflect his private talks with the President.

"I think it's all designed to poison the atmosphere," Jimmy Carter's arms adviser Paul Warnke is quoted as saying. "What it shows is an all-out effort on the part of civilians in the Pentagon to eliminate any risk that progress will be made on arms control."

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## Brown University discovers 'nuclear AIDS'

To "nuclear winter," Soviet propaganda is apparently now adding "nuclear AIDS."

Brown University, which last year held a student referendum on whether the college should pass out suicide pills to students in the event of nuclear war, has now issued a report by David Greer of the medical school and researcher Lawrence Rifkin, saying that those not killed in a nuclear war would die of war-related AIDS-like disease.

The report concludes that many survivors of a nuclear war would die slowly from a syndrome strikingly similar to AIDS. War survivors would be hit by heavy doses of radiation which would impair their immune system.

"AIDS patients show depression of T-cell populations . . . similar to those anticipated in nuclear war survivors," says the study.

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## Reagan almost accuses media of treason

President Reagan all but accused the U.S. media of aiding Soviet subversion, in an interview with television evangelist Pat Robertson. Asked by Robertson if the "free press . . . is being manipulated by the Soviet Union to sort of stack the deck against you in this summit meeting," the President replied:

"Well, I did begin to feel there for a while that when the summit started, they'd be rooting for the other side." He added that the media had implied that Gorbachov was "wearing the white hat, and I was wearing the black hat."

Reagan also charged: "The Soviet Union has a worldwide disinformation network. And it's very effective. And they can get many things published and broadcast and so forth to suit their ends . . . in their drives, for example, to try to create some friction among us and our allies. And I don't think we have anything comparable."

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## OTA switches line of attack on SDI

The congressional Office of Technology Assessment has issued a new report blasting President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

The OTA's last report on the SDI stated that strategic defenses were technically impossible. The new one claims that the clearly feasible development of strategic defenses might make nuclear war more likely.

Commissioned by the House Armed

Services Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the report clings to the false assertion that the President's vision of an anti-nuclear shield "does not appear feasible" unless the Soviets reduce offensive arms. It thus appears tailored to provide an argument for acceptance of a Gorbachov offer to "reduce offensive arms" in exchange for curtailment of SDI research.

The OTA report covers up Soviet ABM developments, claiming that their ballistic missile defense technology "probably does not exceed our own," and while the Pentagon contends that the Soviets may be preparing a nationwide ABM system, "officials of the CIA . . . do not judge it likely in the near term."

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House committee which requested the report, said that it shows that "the world could end up less safe than now" if both the United States and the Soviet Union deployed defensive systems.

## U.S. ranks high in illegal weapons exports

In fiscal year 1984, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF) of the Treasury Department reportedly initiated 68 cases on international arms trafficking, and officials believe that the number will reach 152 cases when fiscal year 1985 ends Sept. 30.

According to the *New York Times* of Sept. 26, a confidential BATF report showed that in 1984, one-third of U.S.-made weapons used in crimes overseas were later traced back to south Florida as their point of origin. Federal authorities confirmed an estimated \$70 to \$150 million a month in illegal weapons sales in south Florida, an area that continues to be the primary entry point for illicit cocaine and marijuana shipments. To optimize their operations, drug traffickers, once they have unloaded in the United States, will reload with weapons to be smuggled back home.

Primary markets for America's illegal weapons exports, mostly handguns, are the drug-producing nations of Ibero-America, the Philippines, and Central America. But federal law enforcement agencies have had several cases stymied in midstream by personnel at the CIA, the Defense Intelligence

Agency, and the FBI, because those under investigation are "informants" working both sides of the fence.

## Ecology delegation goes to the U.S.S.R.

A delegation of congressmen and State Department representatives, led by extreme environmentalist Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), was in Russia in late September to discuss increasing U.S.-Soviet cooperation on "ecology."

Udall says he hopes the visit would rejuvenate a 1972 environmental protection agreement.

The joint committee that administers the pact is scheduled to meet in Moscow Nov. 12-21, the first time since 1979.

## Judge orders reporter to reveal sources

On Sept. 23, Federal Judge Young of Massachusetts ordered Boston's WBZ-TV consumer affairs reporter Sharon Wright to reveal the sources at the FEC who had provided her with information on the presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche.

Wright was subpoenaed in the lawsuit of *Spannaus v. FEC* to substantiate a claim that the FEC had breached confidentiality; her sources potentially face a minimum \$5,000 penalty.

U.S. Attorney William Weld's office made an unexpected guest appearance at the hearing. When Judge Young asked to hear from the FEC, Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha Sosman stood up to argue that LaRouche was merely using this deposition to get discovery on pending criminal and civil actions in Massachusetts.

WBZ-TV is the Boston affiliate of NBC. It ran the first, unsubstantiated allegations that the campaign had engaged in credit-card fraud. WBZ's "expose" was in part based upon Sharon Wright's information from FEC sources, and provided certain New Jersey and New York banks a pretext to "hand debit" hundreds of thousands in LaRouche campaign funds.

## Briefly

● **CASPAR WEINBERGER** has reportedly cancelled a trip to the Far East, originally slated for October, in order to keep a hand in preparations for the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

● **GEORGII ARBATOV** is a liar, the President's national security adviser stated on Sept. 22. Asked on national television if the statement by Moscow's top "U.S. handler" that the Soviet Union dropped its strategic defense program long ago was "simply a lie," Robert McFarlane replied: "Yes."

● **RUDY OSWALD, AFL-CIO** research director, endorsed IMF conditionalities for the United States in late September: "While the Reagan administration preaches to the rest of the debtor countries through the International Monetary Fund that those nations must reduce their imports and expand their exports, it rejects that same prescription for the United States," he said.

● **HARVARD** race scientist Prof. James Q. Wilson has co-authored a new book claiming that "certain genetic traits, including temperament and intelligence, predispose some people to commit crimes. . . . Criminals tend to be . . . individuals who have an athletic build that runs to fatness."

● **ARMAND HAMMER** called on President Reagan to invite the Soviets "to join in the research and development of the Star Wars system now. The program could be jointly developed, jointly financed and, if it works, jointly installed," said Hammer in a *New York Times*. Hammer says he proposed the idea to Gorbachov when they met in June. Gorbachov was non-committal. "An offer by President Reagan to share Star Wars would not only ease the Russians' minds; it would erect an umbrella of good will over the superpowers beneath which world peace might flourish."