

# National News

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## Hemlock Society head to step down

Derek Humphry will retire Aug. 1 as executive director of the National Hemlock Society, to devote more time to "the campaign to change the laws on euthanasia through public speaking and my writings," the Feb. 14 *Washington Times* reported. His decision comes amid growing public attacks on his push for legalized murder in the name of assisted and "do-it-yourself" suicides.

"His retirement finds Hemlock still trying to repair the damage from publicity surrounding the death of Mr. Humphry's second wife," a suicide victim in October 1991, who left a note claiming that Humphry had pressured her to do it and that he had suffocated his first wife, who was dying of cancer, the *Times* noted.

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## Court grants 'right' to starve incompetent

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Jan. 6 reaffirmed a lower court decision that would allow the murder of "Jane Doe," a 33-year-old profoundly retarded woman and long-term ward of the state, to be murdered by starvation and dehydration.

The woman, who has been mentally retarded since infancy, has been a resident of the Wrentham State School and Medical Facility for the last 28 years. The facility says Doe is in a "persistent vegetative state," a catch-all phrase used by the euthanasia mob to imply that there is "a life not worth living."

The ruling comes as Massachusetts Gov. William Weld is shutting down 8-10 facilities for the mentally retarded and other wards of the state to cut costs. The main facility of Wrentham State, where Doe is cared for, is protected against such cuts by a federal court mandate, but tens of thousands of residents like Doe in state facilities will be targeted by financially strapped states as a result of this ruling.

Although Doe was never competent to make decisions, and is alleged to be incap-

able of any response, the court contrived a "substituted judgment" for Doe, concluding that if she were competent, she would want to starve to death (see page 68). Therefore, the court argued, the maintenance of a feeding tube against Doe's wishes "robs her of the right to determine her course of care." The court also argued that where the appellees (the state and the court-appointed guardian) "are striving to vindicate Doe's right to refuse invasive treatment, Doe's right to self-determination must prevail over the state's interest in preserving life for all."

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## Greenpeace fronting for intelligence agencies?

The international eco-fascist organization "Greenpeace" is apparently serving as a front for intelligence agencies waging war against the Third World.

*Aviation Week* reported in its Jan. 27 issue, in an article entitled "Conflicting Views of Strategic Air War in the Gulf," that one William M. Arkin, a "former U.S. Army intelligence analyst, and current director of the Nuclear Information Unit of Greenpeace International, has been shown U.S. Gulf war target lists by Pentagon officials and was allowed by Iraqi officials to travel from Baghdad to Basra taking pictures of bombing results." This enabled Arkin to go as a de facto U.S. military intelligence agent to Iraq, where Greenpeace is apparently considered to be a *bona fide* dissident group.

Arkin pronounced the bomb targeting "clean, efficient, and legal." Arkin would appear to be operating as an adviser to the Pentagon on how to conduct war in the Third World cheaply.

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## FBI, CPUSA make strange bedfellows

A 1973 FBI memorandum obtained recently under the Freedom on Information Act in its unredacted form, shows that the FBI sought to aid the Communist Party U.S.A. efforts to "eliminate" Lyndon LaRouche.

The memo dated Nov. 23, 1973 from the New York FBI office to headquarters states in part, "In reviewing the New York case file it is noted that information has been received that the CPUSA is conducting an extensive background investigation on the subject (LHL) for the purpose of ultimately eliminating him and the threat of the NCLC [National Caucus of Labor Committees], on CP operations. . . ."

"NCLC sources have advised that the subject is the controlling force behind the NCLC and all of its activities. A discussion with the NY NCLC case agent indicates that it is felt if the subject was no longer in control of NCLC operations that the NCLC would fall apart with internal strife and conflict. . . ."

"NY proposes submitting a blind memorandum to the *Daily World* CP newspaper, in New York City which has been mailed from outside this area to help facilitate CP investigation on the subject. It is felt this would be appropriate under the Bureau's counter intelligence program."

A Dec. 6, 1973 memo from FBI headquarters to the FBI New York office denies it permission to submit the memorandum and states, "It appears from a review of Bureau files that the CPUSA has already successfully obtained sufficient information concerning the subject and his activities to take any action against him it might desire."

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## Environmental liabilities given legal precedence

Environmental liabilities have been given precedence above all other claims in a bankruptcy proceeding by a federal bankruptcy court. If allowed to stand, the decision will mark a major step toward enshrining ecological fascism as the highest legal consideration in the U.S. judicial system.

The case involved the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of TGX Corp., which operates more than 900 gas wells in western New York State, according to the Feb. 10 *Journal of Commerce*. Many of the wells are nearing the end of their useful lives, and New York's environmental laws require that all wells taken out of production must be plugged with concrete before they can be abandoned.

However, TGX's proposed plan of financial reorganization did not include the estimated \$4.5 million needed to plug the wells.

After the state of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation filed objections with the U.S. federal bankruptcy court in Shreveport, Louisiana, TGX negotiated a settlement whereby the costs of plugging TGX's wells will be deemed priority claims before all others except those of secured creditors.

The federal bankruptcy court accepted the settlement and TGX's revised reorganization plan, thus bestowing its imprimatur on the notion that environmental impositions outweigh the claims of creditors in a bankruptcy.

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## Imprisonment rates outpace the world

According to a report issued in February by the Washington, D.C.-based Sentencing Project, the United States leads the world in the rate which it imprisons its population, and has widened its lead over South Africa with respect to its imprisonment rate. The report says that the U.S. had a prison population of 1.1 million in 1990, a 6.8% increase from 1989.

The U.S. has an incarceration rate of 455 per 100,000 population, while the rate of South Africa (the world's second-highest known rate) is 311 per 100,000, a decline from previous years. The U.S. rate of incarceration is 10 times higher than that of Japan, Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

The most recent figures issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, for mid-1991, show that the total prison and jail population for the United States is over 1.2 million.

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## Bushmen propose churches act as IRS gestapo

President George Bush has proposed that all churches, synagogues, and temples in the United States report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the names of donors who give them more than \$500 a year (\$10 per week),

the Feb. 15 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported. The proposal, which the Bush administration wants to put into effect by July 1, is aimed at "getting the churches to help the IRS catch taxpayers who inflate the amount of their deductible contributions," according to the paper.

The proposal was greeted with disbelief by Catholic and Protestant spokesman. Dr. James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Baptist Committee, said, "It represents a recurring pattern of willingness to use the churches for the government's purposes." Pointing out the danger of "church-state entanglement," Dr. Dunn said, "It is none of the business of religion to be a government agent."

Dr. Dunn called Bush's proposal "a burdensome intrusion" on the nation's estimated 350,000 churches and synagogues, most of whom have fewer than 200 members. Frequently, the staff of such churches is a pastor and a volunteer bookkeeper.

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## Cardinal: 'World rejected Iraqi children'

New York Cardinal John O'Connor said the world was responsible to the misery and suffering of the Iraqi children, in his Jan. 21 homily at the national prayer vigil for life.

O'Connor said that he had recently visited the Middle East, including Bethlehem, where he prayed at what is said to be the birthplace of Christ. "It was a privilege and I was grateful," recounted O'Connor. "But in no way did I begin to sense the presence of the Christ Child nearly so poignantly as I sensed the presence of the Christ Child in the Iraqi refugee children I saw.

"These children have been driven into desperation by the *world*—by the whole world, by this socio-economic system of ours that tries to solve its problems through wars, through destruction. What a strange, strange world! These children, orphaned by the world, roamed the streets of Jordan in bitter cold, shivering, hungry, tears running down their cheeks. I saw little babies in the arms of their fathers and their mothers, and that's where I saw the Christ Child. These children are rejected by the world."

## Briefly

● **PARDONS** granted to seven death-row prisoners and four other convicts by then-Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste have been overturned by Judge Richard Seward of Franklin County Common Pleas Court, on procedural grounds. The Department of Corrections will now decide whether the prisoners will be executed, the Feb. 16 *New York Times* reported.

● **RICHARD THORNBURGH** has been asked by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali to become U.N. Undersecretary General for Administration and Management, according to press reports. The former attorney general promulgated the doctrine that the U.S. could intervene overseas in violation of national sovereignty.

● **RICHARD TRULY** will be leaving as head of NASA on April 1, the White House announced Feb. 12. Policy disputes came to a head recently when the Office of Management and Budget allowed NASA to request only a 4.5% cost-of-living increase for next year's budget, leading to the proposed cancellation of a number of ongoing programs.

● **BENJAMIN HOOKS**, executive director of the NAACP, resigned hours after a number of members of the 64-person national board of directors were denied reelection by a term limits rule. National president Hazel Dukes will be replaced by Rupert Richardson, president of the Louisiana State Conference.

● **OLIVER STONE** told the Madrid daily *El Pais* in early February that the screenplay for his film "JFK" was stolen and leaked to the press to launch a slander campaign. Stone said, "The thing about the CIA apparatus, is that they are worse than the mafia, because they are *legitimate*. They own banks. They are accountable to no one."

● **'THE CIA** is hiring business executives as spies and placing them undercover in multinational corporations," the Feb. 13 London *Daily Telegraph* reported.