

that goes dead when they talk.

You know, when I was your Surgeon General, I complained and said, "We need to *educate* young people on how to be healthy." And they kept saying, "Well, Dr. Elders what you want to do is teach 'em how to have sex." Well, first of all, let me tell you: *Nobody has to teach anybody how to have sex!* God taught 'em how to have sex! But as long as they can walk around and talk about reproductive health, talk about women not being able to plan their own lives, not knowing, and talking about abortion issues, they didn't have to talk about health, because they could use this as an excuse for health care; and we've allowed it to happen.

Let your fight be about opening the eyes of this community, to make sure we have the kind of health-care system that we need for this entire community. We need a full-service hospital to be the centerpiece, and then we need more than that: We need to educate our people. We need to make sure we have clinics all around to provide service to our people. We need to provide primary, preventive health care.

So, I'm saying, I think we need this hospital. You can't have just a primary-care plan. You've got to have secondary care, and you've got to have tertiary care. And I think Dr. Young [Dr. Michal Ann Young, D.C. General Director of Neonatology—ed.] illustrated to us beautifully the very importance of providing tertiary care, and having our tertiary-care hospital in the center of an area that has a lot of poor,

under-served community, with limited access to care. There are multiple health problems, and I don't have to tell you what they are. Many people have told you what they are, even before I got up here. You know that they're the least likely to have health insurance. They're least likely to have transportation; so if they don't have transportation, how can they get to that clinic, all the way across town?

So, we've got to understand what the real problems are. And begin to deal with the *real* issues. And I feel that this community has gotten together, and worked this hard, trying to keep this hospital from closing, let me tell you, if you fail, if you disappear, that's the worst thing you can do. Because you need to keep on pushing. And don't worry; if you measure your success by your failures, you always feel worthless. So make sure that you keep on working. You know, I was told two or three times, now: "Why, Dr. Elders, why do you come here now? It's all over. It's all done. There is nothing you can do." Well, you see, I'm a doctor. And I'm saying that nobody is ever dead, until there is not another heartbeat that I can make come about. So you just keep fighting, and keep on working.

And I'll tell you something, that I often end with. It's something my bishop told me, a long time ago. You know, I've been called an atheist, everything but a child of God, but the people that was calling me that, Reverend, probably hadn't seen half as many insides of churches as I had. But, be that as it may, he said, "Dr. Elders," he said, "you know, you're in public health, and when you're fighting and trying to preserve the rights, and help the people, it's like dancing with a bear." He said, "Always remember, that when you're dancing with a bear, you can't get tired and sit down. You've got to wait until the bear gets tired. And *then*, you sit down."

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School Killings Lawsuit Takes Aim at Hollywood

by Michele Steinberg

During a period of about ten days in March 2001, 2 students were killed and more than 20 wounded in three school shooting incidents in Santee, California; Williamsburg, Pennsylvania; and El Cajon, California. Once again, as during the Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999, the American people witnessed students fleeing, bloodied and terrified from their schools. Once again, the background of an accused school killer, Charles "Andy" Williams, 15 years old, of Santee, fit the mold of a troubled boy mixed up with drugs and deeply involved with the violent fantasies of video games. Across the nation, people asked once again, "When will it end?"

Immediately following the incident involving Andy Williams, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., candidate for the 2004 Dem-

ocratic Party Presidential nomination, released a forceful reminder that no amount of gun control and other such measures will abate the schoolyard killings, unless the cultural roots in nihilism and cultural pessimism are attacked. LaRouche's reiterated his earlier warning at a May 20, 2000 meeting of the National Commission on the New Violence: "Paying attention to the immediate threat caused by the New Violence, and paying attention to that which caused so many of us to become suckers for tolerating the New Violence, should be treated as a warning sign to us: Wake up! We're doing wrong. We'd better change it, while we still can."

A class action lawsuit filed April 19 in Denver U.S. District Court, by Nebraska attorney John DeCamp, against 24 defendants, manufacturers and distributors of violent video games, movies, and Internet material, may trigger changes that can arrest the seemingly unstoppable phenomenon of schoolyard shooters.

On behalf of the wife and daughters of Columbine High teacher William David Sanders, slain while attempting to save students during the attack, DeCamp is suing the makers of the violent "how to kill" material consumed by the accused killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. DeCamp, a former long-time Nebraska State Senator who won his first election while still serving in Vietnam, doesn't mince words. His suit says that "enough circumstantial evidence is available today when properly gathered and obtained, to clearly establish that absent the combination of extremely violent video games and these boys' incredibly deep involvement, use of and addiction to these games . . . these murders and this massacres *would not have occurred*" (emphasis in the original).

In an interview with *EIR*, DeCamp also emphasized that much of the evidence seized by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies, about the video games and Internet material used by Harris and Klebold, has never been released.

Ratings for Adults, Ads Target Kids

Unlike other lawsuits that stemmed from the Littleton incident, DeCamp says that this suit goes at the "root causes" of the school killing phenomenon. The defendants, which range from pornographic Internet sites with names like "adultkey," to the biggest names in the \$11-billion-a-year video industry — Atari, ID Software, GT Interactive Software, and Nintendo of America — are not producing entertainment, he says. Rather, they are knowingly unleashing as "toys," the "technology designed to specifically teach our military to kill with efficiency and effectiveness."

DeCamp has confirmed that the release of this material to children is *not accidental*. He cites the example of the Federal Trade Commission report in September 2000. It found that retailers, wholesalers, and the marketing departments of exceedingly violent materials, often featuring extremely graphic combinations of violent sex acts, *deliberately* target children in their advertising campaigns, despite the fact that

these same manufacturers put a rating on these products for *adults*.

DeCamp has confided with experts that the "shoot to kill" videos are public adaptations of high-technology "kill simulators" used by the U.S. military. Interviewed on Court TV, a national cable network, on April 25, DeCamp described how the use of the repetitive video shooting makes killing instinctual, and removes the "human aversion" to taking another human life. He told Court TV's Catherine Crier that, during World War II, only 15-20% of American GIs fired their weapons in combat at an enemy soldier. The military revamped its training techniques, using more sophisticated forms of behavior modification, ultimately developing computer simulators with realistic targets. By Vietnam, the shoot-in-combat rates had soared to 95%.

DeCamp also stated in a press release issued after the filing, "For those who doubt these machines do the damage we claim, or are able to transform an impressionable child into a mechanical, robot killer, just look at the evidence already pouring in from Federal studies to show a *common thread* in almost all school shootings to the success in the *military* of the essentially identical training equipment for our soldiers."

Video Makers 'Take the First'

There is already a backlash of pressure against the DeCamp suit from the defenders and prostitutes of the techno-violence industry that flourishes on the sales of video games, movies, "death metal rock" paraphernalia, and Internet products. Critics claim that DeCamp is assaulting the First Amendment. The media have been quick to say that the Denver suit will be thrown out of court, because the lawsuit brought in Paducah, Kentucky, by the families of victims of school shooter Michael Carneal, which targetted some of the same video-game manufacturers, had been dismissed, and is now on appeal.

DeCamp replies that it is Hollywood and the video-game industry who are "abusing" the First Amendment by trying to pass off their sales of provably dangerous material to a defenseless and impressionable segment of the population, "our children." He said that massive pressure is building against the suit, and the attorney who had served as his local counsel in Colorado has withdrawn, after a spate of negative publicity. But he says that with further release of the evidence in the Columbine case, the suit can be a breakthrough analogous to the early suits against the tobacco industry.

DeCamp is no stranger to investigating the relationship between violence and the abuse of children. In the 1990s, he took up an investigation in the Nebraska legislature of "citizens above suspicion" involved in a widespread pedophile ring of child prostitution, involving top Republican Party figures in Nebraska who had links all the way up to the Bush White House. The story of that investigation, and DeCamp's successful lawsuit on behalf of one child-victim, is told in his book, *The Franklin Coverup*.