

# National News

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## Surgeon General nominee coming under fire

Jocelyn Elders, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General, has come under fire for her advocacy of abortion on demand, sex education for young children, and distribution of contraceptives in the public schools. In early July, several organizations, among them the Traditional Values Coalition and Concerned Women for America, held a press conference in Washington to denounce Elders for practicing what they called "educational child abuse," and to urge the Senate to reject her confirmation.

The critics point out that Elders has denounced pro-life activists for having a "love affair with the fetus," and repeatedly insisted that 60% of all children born in the U.S. are "unwanted." As Arkansas director of public health, Elders successfully campaigned to establish school-based clinics, whose prime purpose is to hand out contraceptives to students. She also fought for Arkansas to become one of the first states to foist Norplant, a contraceptive implant, on poor women.

At the press conference, Rev. Deirdre Davis of the International Black Women's Network, criticized Elders for her assertion that society shouldn't just teach kids what to do in the front seat of a car (i.e., how to drive), but what to do in the back seat as well. "We do need to teach our youth what to do," said Davis. "We need to teach them to abstain. We need to teach them they are not animals, that they are human beings, and they possess self-control and self-discipline."

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## TV used to stupefy U.S. prison inmates

Larry Bratt, a convicted murderer serving a life sentence in the Maryland State Penitentiary, authored a devastating attack that appeared in the *Washington Post* on July 11 detailing how television is used as "the dangerous drug of choice" by U.S. prison au-

thorities for "low-cost, low-maintenance" control, which effectively deprives "a generation of black men in prison" of any hope.

Bratt described the noise-torture to which prisoners are subjected: While their actions and possessions are severely restricted, each inmate is allowed a television as personal property. "Mingling with the roaring of radios, [this] creates such a cacophony that people in conversation must scream right into the face of the person they are speaking with to be heard. . . . The constant drone of public-area TVs is . . . part of an unspoken correctional philosophy."

Moreover, TV violence feeds criminality on the street: "If TV formed in some large or *small way* their values upon arrival here, the daily dose of it once inside only furthers that amorality—and adds to it the idea that they are so worthless to society that no effort is being made to educate or train them for something better. . . ."

Prisons instead should "wean inmates from the electronic narcotic." Viewing must be regulated, and schooling made mandatory. "In short, turn off the tube and unlock the power of their minds. Who knows what good may come of it?"

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## New York Times wants the schools re-segregated

Happy that "long-held beliefs about the merits of racial integration and cultural assimilation are under attack," the July 11 *New York Times* suggested that public schools no longer be used to create a "unified culture," but become instruments to divide the races and religions. The *Times* acknowledged that opponents of this segregation campaign charge that this will lead to "ethnic Balkanism," but claimed that segregation is the "only way to reach children whom public education has failed."

The *Times* wrote: "More families are rebelling against the old idea that schools should melt down ethnic identification to create an all-purpose American culture. . . . The groundswell of support for schools geared to one group raises questions about the very definition of public schooling, and whether society is moving toward a new kind of segregation—one by choice."

Separate schools have now been established around the country for Hasidic Jews, black males, Hispanics, and homosexual students. The *Times* article was a response to a recent New York State Supreme Court decision that the creation of a separate school district just to accommodate Hasidic Jews was unconstitutional.

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## Fair press demanded in Virginia elections

A number of constituency group leaders from around Virginia have signed an open letter demanding fair coverage of elections in the upcoming statewide campaign. The call was initiated by the Spannaus for Governor campaign, after the Virginia Press Association excluded Nancy Spannaus, the independent candidate, from its July 10 gubernatorial debate.

"We, the undersigned, hereby call for the inclusion of all candidates in this year's Gubernatorial and House of Delegates debates, irrespective of the sponsoring organization. Encouraging voter participation is essential in our participatory democracy. Clearly there will be less participation if the electoral results are predetermined by the press, or 'political pundits.' Let the people decide for themselves.

"To do this, voters must be given access to the stated views of all the candidates on the ballot—including those Independents who have met the ballot requirements. . . ."

Signers included representatives of the media, teachers organizations, local NAACP chapters, trade unions, churches (including a prison chaplain), and one local Democratic official.

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## Expose corruption of Va. 'Get LaRouche' sheriff

Sheriff John Isom got a friend out of a gambling charge and blocked an investigation into the mishandling of seized narcotics evidence, charged former Loudoun County Deputy Doug Poppa during a May 13 deposition in the civil rights case of a county

resident who was acquitted in a second trial after evidence withheld during his first trial was presented.

According to that deposition, in April 1984, shortly after Isom was elected, he assigned Poppa to investigate illegal book-making at horse races. "I . . . eventually arrested a bookie, a gentleman who I observed two to three times take money, give betting slips back, holding a sheet with odds on it, taking cash from people," Poppa testified. When Poppa took the man to the Loudoun County jail he identified himself as John Rocca, a friend of Isom's and campaign contributor. Isom had the man released and charges against him were dropped.

Poppa also said his supervisors refused to investigate evidence that seized narcotics were possibly ending up back on the streets.

In 1989, Isom motivated the nomination of Mary Sue Terry as state attorney general at the Democratic Convention on the basis of their mutual efforts to jail LaRouche associates on phony "securities" violations. Terry is now the Democratic candidate for governor.

## Say Planned Parenthood forged evidence for TRO

On June 21, Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc., along with 8 abortionists and 10 abortion clinics, obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop alleged activities against abortionists, and is now seeking to make the ban permanent. Planned Parenthood won the TRO using what Operation Rescue says is erroneous information, slanders, and apparently forged documents to create the impression that all militant foes of abortion are violence-prone.

A court issued a TRO on June 24 banning Operation Rescue, Rescue America, Lambs of Christ, other organizations, as well as Randall Terry, Don Treshman, Rev. Keith Tucci, and others from stalking, congregating, or picketing within 500 feet of the homes of abortion doctors and their staff.

According to Operation Rescue attorney James Pinedo, the TRO was granted based on erroneous claims that *all* of the defen-

dants were somehow part of a nationwide conspiracy, lumping named individuals with defendants John Doe(s) and Jane Doe(s) 1 through 10,000.

Planned Parenthood attorney Kathy Patrick presented as evidence a letter allegedly written by Rev. Keith Tucci, executive director of Operation Rescue National, in response to one Randall Phillip. The letter, dated May 14, read: "It is your God-given right to destroy any man or woman calling themselves doctors who willingly slaughter innocent children." Operation Rescue National charged on June 23 that Patrick's group "created their own evidence" from a manufactured letter, with paragraphs cut and pasted onto an Operation Rescue National letterhead. The bogus letter had several paragraphs lifted from a March 4 letter by Tucci, with the Biblical quotes removed and the violent passage and Tucci's forged signature added.

## 'Voice' assails ADL, AIPAC as fanatics

Robert Friedman, the author of a recent *Village Voice* cover story on the spy scandal surrounding the Anti-Defamation League, assailed the ADL, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a shadowy group called Pro-Israel in the July 13 issue, accusing them of trying to instigate the ouster of Israel's Labor government and install Likud "golden boy" Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister. Netanyahu was deputy foreign minister in the previous, right-wing Likud government. Friedman points out that when the Likud was in power, Zionist neo-conservatives like Norman Podhoretz insisted that all U.S. Jewish groups give unqualified support to Israel.

Pro-Israel, a spinoff of Americans for a Safe Israel, has recently taken out full page ads in the *New York Times* and *Washington Jewish Week* denouncing Americans For Peace Now (APN), which has strong inputs into the White House, and which advocates a land-for-peace settlement between Israel and Palestine.

## Briefly

● **NASA** and Supra Medical Corp. announced on July 12 that they would collaborate in the development of an ultrasound detector that can be used to detect breast cancer in women. The detector will also locate small cracks in a new class of woven aerospace materials.

● **MEXICAN DOCTOR** Humberto Alvarez Machain, who was kidnapped by the DEA and charged in the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena, has filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the Department of Justice for violating his civil rights. Dr. Alvarez Machain spent 30 months in U.S. custody, until he was ordered released by a federal judge last December, who ruled that the evidence against him was based on "hunches" and "wild speculation."

● **SPOTLIGHT**, the newspaper of the Liberty Lobby, included mention of ADL spying operations against Lyndon LaRouche through the Loudoun County, Virginia sheriff's department in a two-page spread on the ADL spying scandal in its July 12 issue.

● **THE EXECUTION** of Gary Graham is set for Aug. 17 in Texas. Graham, a minor when the crime for which he was convicted, has strong evidence of his innocence. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that Texas's law, which fails to take the "youth" of offenders into account, is not unconstitutional.

● **JANET RENO**, the U.S. attorney general, denounced the death penalty as "vengeance" in an interview with "20/20" that aired on July 9. "I think the only reason for the death penalty is vengeance and I think vengeance is a very personal reaction," she said. "I don't think government should engage in a vengeful action."

● **A COAL** strike by the United Mine Workers is expected to spread into Virginia after CONSOL, Inc. purchased Island Creek Coal, which is based in the Commonwealth.