

## National News

### Michigan judge eclipses Kevorkian in brutality

On Dec. 13, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Richard Kaufman ruled that Michigan's law against assisted suicide is unconstitutional because it deprives a "competent" person with a "poor quality of life" the right to "rational suicide." Kaufman took up the issue of the state's ban on assisted suicide after Jack Kevorkian's attorney Geoffrey Fieger asked that he dismiss charges against Kevorkian in the September "suicide" of Donald O'Keefe. Fieger says the ban violates the 14th Amendment protections that no state shall "deprive any person of . . . liberty . . . without due process of law."

Kaufman called 99% of Fieger's claims bunk, and then used the ravings of euthanasia advocates that there is "significant support in our tradition and history for . . . approving suicide," including one assertion that Christ's death was a "suicide." The judge said that the state's interest in preserving life sometimes takes "a back seat to other protected rights" when a person's quality of life is poor. Kaufman hinged his argument on the Supreme Court's 1927 ruling in *Buck v. Bell* which upheld Virginia's right to forcibly sterilize "feeble-minded" women whose children would presumably suffer poor quality of life. Oliver Wendell Holmes's majority opinion was used to craft the Nazi race purification laws.

The toll in Kevorkian's "assisted suicide" death march stands at 20.

### CAN kidnapper Rick Ross goes on trial

Rick Ross, one of the chief kidnapers of the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), went on trial in Grays Harbor, Washington on charges of unlawful imprisonment. Early in 1993, Ross made national headlines as an expert on "cults" advising the FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) authorities on the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

Ross and two others have been charged in connection with the 1991 abduction of 18-year-old Jason Scott, then a member of a Pentecostal church in Bellevue, Washington. According to the indictment, Ross was hired by Katherine Tonkin, to kidnap and "deprogram" her son. Ross reportedly told her that if she paid him to "deprogram" her son, she could make millions of dollars in a civil suit against the church.

Federal prosecutors have dubbed the so-called anti-cult deprogrammers associated with CAN a "cottage industry." CAN's best known "deprogrammer," Galen Kelly, was active in operations against the LaRouche movement until his conviction last year on a federal kidnapping charge.

Ross, a convicted jewel thief, has made a living as a kidnapper for hire, portraying himself as a "cult expert." Last year, FBI and ATF officials relied heavily on Ross in their planning and execution of the raids against the Branch Davidians, which left some 90 people dead. In a report prepared for the FBI, Emory University Prof. Nancy Ammerman sharply criticized federal officials for relying on CAN and Ross, who, she wrote, "have a direct ideological (and financial) interest in arousing suspicion and antagonism against what they call 'cults.'"

### Buchanan, Kissinger rave against expanding NATO

Former Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan and former Nixon Secretary of State Henry Kissinger both denounced President Clinton's plans to extend NATO to former Warsaw Pact nations in Jan. 7 media commentaries. Buchanan, writing in the *Washington Times*, asserted that the NATO treaty requires the United States to "go to war to defend each of 15 NATO allies. But the United States is not going to war against a nuclear-armed Russia to defend countries east of the Oder River. Not now, not ever. . . . An America that would not fight in Bosnia is not going to fight in Slovakia. . . . What Europe lacks is fortitude, vision, and will. America has provided these for half a century; we cannot do so forever."

In television interviews, Kissinger

opined that new NATO memberships should be limited to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. Geopolitician Kissinger, who is frequently denounced by Buchanan, continued, "I would have preferred that the issue did not come up now, but if—once the issue has been raised, I would now bring them in." He referred to a more general opening of the defense alliance as "one of the poorest ideas we have had in foreign policy in a long time," which would lead to "a mushy kind of thing in which the victim is grouped together with the threat."

### Sagan (!) calls for revival of scientific optimism

Astrophysicist Carl Sagan deplored the collapse of love for science and a sense of hope in America, in an uncharacteristic essay in the Jan. 9 *Washington Post* book section. Sagan, well known for his popular anti-scientific PBS series "Cosmos," wrote:

"I have a foreboding of an America in my children's or grandchildren's time—where we're a service and information economy; when nearly all the key manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries, when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when people have lost the ability to set their own agendas or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition.

" . . . We might get away with it for a while, but eventually this combustible mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces." Sagan concluded that "the best way to popularize science is through books. . . .

"An extraterrestrial being . . . might easily conclude that we are intent on teaching [our children] murder, rape, cruelty, superstition and consumerism. . . . What kind of society would it be if, instead, we drummed into them science and a sense of hope?"

One source of optimism was the an-

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nouncement by NASA that it would begin releasing results from the repaired Hubble Space Telescope on Jan. 13.

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## Sex offender starred in cancelled condom ads

The Clinton administration had to cancel one of its infamous "condoms prevents AIDS" advertisements on Jan. 7, after it became known that the rock star promoting condoms was a sex offender. Anthony Kiedis, from the rock band "Red Hot Chili Peppers," was convicted of sexual battery in 1990 in an incident at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

In the radio ad, Kiedis boasts of his exhibitionism: "I've been naked on stage. . . . I'm naked whenever I have sex. But now I'm on the radio. So I might as well get naked again. . . . Now I'm naked. With a condom. . . . Wear a condom if you're gonna have sex. Remember you can be naked without being exposed."

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala defended the ad campaign, however, saying, "We must not allow a single ad to overshadow the vital lifesaving message in the campaign." The secretary was accosted during a speech the same day by a protester who condemned the ads, and demanded to know: "Where's the Manhattan-style project that Bill Clinton promised during the elections to find a cure" for AIDS?

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## Norfolk, Va. jail horrors typical of prison system

The newly elected sheriff of Norfolk, Virginia brought press in to view the conditions of the local jail on Jan. 3, after a coalition of prisoners filed a lawsuit on Dec. 16 against his predecessor, 12-year incumbent David Mapp. The suit demanded a temporary restraining order to prevent defendants from "warehousing" prisoners, and that all prisoners be tested for AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis. Sheriff Robert McCabe said of the prisoners, "These people are not asking for special treatment—they are only asking to

be treated like human beings."

The conditions shocked even jaded reporters: One network showed footage of cockroaches and vermin, broken plumbing, overcrowding, and mattresses on the floors.

The sixth death in a year occurred on Dec. 22, when a prisoner, ill with AIDS and TB, died in a holding cell while awaiting a court hearing for his early release. Whereas the local newspaper *Virginian Pilot* claimed he "was placed alone in a holding cell on the first floor because he was considered too infectious to be placed with other prisoners," a press release from the prisoners said that "he was in fact first put in a cell with approximately 75 people in an area built for 25; he was breathing with great difficulty on a mattress on the floor, with no sheets. He arrived at approximately 7 p.m., and was removed sometime after midnight." According to prisoners, "It was obviously known to the prison authorities that this man had a full-blown case of tuberculosis—yet he was put in an overcrowded area with other prisoners—some of whom have AIDS and some of whom have been shown positive for TB by skin tests. This is a recipe for a health disaster."

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## Letters praise book on U.S. Moon project

Twenty-First Century Associates, the publisher of a new book *How We Got to the Moon*, has received a number of letters from space scientists praising the work, which centers on the crucial contributions by the team of German rocket scientists under Wernher von Braun at Huntsville, Alabama. *EIR* excerpted a chapter from the book in its special Jan. 1, 1994 issue. In a personal note to author Marsha Freeman, a senior NASA official, who started his career in aerospace in the 1960s, wrote that "this subject is near and dear to my heart."

One of the German space pioneers in Huntsville welcomed the addition of *How We Got to the Moon* to space history. It is even "more welcome," he wrote, because "the standard works, such as *The Rocket Team*, are out of print. We need new works and new perspectives you present to refer [to] journalists and historians who keep coming to Huntsville."

## Briefly

● **FIRST LADY** Hillary Clinton met privately with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers earlier this month in Washington, and their discussion included their mutual experience in health care reform, according to the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands. The Netherlands is in the forefront of legalizing euthanasia. Mrs. Clinton was invited to speak at the international meeting of Dutch Health Care Insurers next fall.

● **MORTON HALPERIN**, who was nominated to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Democracy, withdrew his nomination as a result of strong opposition in the Senate. Defense Secretary-designate Adm. Bobby Inman has indicated that the position is unnecessary.

● **PENNSYLVANIA** gubernatorial candidate Phil Valenti (D), an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, announced his plans to hold a Martin Luther King Memorial March against "outcome-based education" at the Birdsboro Elementary Center on Jan. 14. At an earlier protest at the school, children, who are victimized by the methods of Dr. William Glasser's "Control Theory/Reality Therapy," cursed and threw objects at picketers, and one child exposed himself repeatedly.

● **TEXAS** plans to execute 14 prisoners in January and another 8 between February and March. Texas holds the record for number of executions in any state which, back in 1938, was 18.

● **THE MINNEAPOLIS** *Star Tribune* called for returning the Great Plains to prairie, in a 14-page feature on Dec. 19. The paper's editors retail the environmentalist lie that intensive farming has caused depopulation of the 12 breadbasket states, because the land will no longer support them. These insane ecologists claim that the farmers who are still "successful" are adapting to the prairie by raising buffalo or raising the native grasses for tourism or decoration.