

## National News

### Landsbergis tour to awaken freedom

Grazina Landsbergis, wife of Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and an accomplished pianist, conducted a concert tour in the United States in early April, accompanied by a tenor and a soprano. The freedom fighters had come to the United States in an effort to awaken the U.S. population and get them to defend the independence of her small nation.

The first concert on April 7 was held at the Lithuanian Citizens Association in Boston. A small hall was packed to capacity with approximately 250 people, mainly Lithuanian World War II emigrés.

Mrs. Landsbergis performed excerpts from various operas including *La Traviata*, *Otello*, and *Julius Caesar*, and Lithuanian folk songs.

In Philadelphia, two representatives of the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, presented Mrs. Landsbergis with flowers and a replica of the Liberty Bell after her performance there, "in hopes that the liberty bell will ring in Lithuania." Mrs. Landsbergis held up the bell and rang it for the audience to underscore its symbolism.

The concert tour included performances in Baltimore, St. Petersburg, Florida, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland.

### NRA convention vows to fight Bush gun control

Some 10,000 members of the National Rifle Association who gathered in San Antonio, Texas in early April for their national convention, in a repudiation of the NRA leadership's compromises with the Bush gun control provisions of the administration's "anti-crime" bill, elected a slate of 26 new members to positions on its national board, 23 of whom ran on dissident slates. The convention reiterated a hardline defense against any further erosion of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Newly elected board member Neal

Knox, a Maryland-based activist who ran a ballot initiative campaign which was hit by gestapo-style raids conducted by the state police, promised, "What you're seeing now is the NRA on the way back."

A resolution was passed which rejected support for the so-called Brady Bill now pending before Congress. The Bush administration hoped to garner liberal support for its death penalty and *habeas corpus* "reform" proposals by pushing the gun purchase waiting period provisions mandated by bill.

### Catholic faction pushes patient starvation

A faction of the U.S. Catholic Church, informally referred to as the "American heresy," has escalated a euthanasia campaign to promote the starvation of terminal and handicapped patients.

The Pope John XXIII Center, based in Houston, Texas and Braintree, Massachusetts has released a video entitled "A Matter of Life and Death: Terminal Treatment Decisions and the Church." The video, written and produced by a Dominican priest, Father Albert Moraczewski, interviews people who have killed a relative by starvation, or who, like Pete Busalacchi, is currently trying to starve to death his daughter whom one pro-death doctor says is in a "persistent vegetative state."

Instead of interviewing people who survived coma, or families who lovingly care for their relatives with severe brain injuries, the video features the likes of Sister Diana Bader, a Dominican nun from the Catholic Health Association, a hospital group that just revamped their "Catholic Affirmation of Life" statement to allow broader living wills and advanced directives to be utilized in Catholic hospitals.

Bader, who has a long record of pro-death advocacy from the time she was at the Washington State Catholic Hospital Association, says on the video that the starvation death of the handicapped Nancy Cruzan "was morally justified." She adds that Cruzan's care cost "in the range of \$200,000 annually."

### Environmentalists are 'nuts,' says mines chief

T.S. Ary, the head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, said environmentalists are "a bunch of nuts," and accused them of making up endangered species to stop economic development, in a speech to a conference of miners, loggers, and others who work in industries in the western part of the United States in late April.

Ary expressed great frustration at the enormous legal hurdles that environmentalists have erected to make it impossible to mine, and said, "I don't believe in endangered species. I think the only [endangered] ones are sitting here in this room."

The conference addressed by Ary was sponsored by several groups, including the Mountain States Legal Foundation, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Motorcyclist Association, American Petroleum Institute, and the American Mining Congress.

### Budget-cutter attempts constitutional change

J. Peter Grace, chairman of the former Grace Commission on the budget and head of the international shipping conglomerate, is heading a fundraising drive through his Council for Citizens Against Government Waste to back a constitutional amendment to restrict federal spending to 19% of the Gross National Product, according to the *Upright Ostrich*.

The amendment, introduced in the House of Representatives as HJR 143 by Rep. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), is now before the House Judiciary Committee, and has 73 cosponsors to date. Kyl's office expects it to come to a vote this session.

The *Upright Ostrich* opposes the amendment because "the cancer is usury, and until we burst the chains of that enslavement, no band-aide, however fancy its package, is going to free us. Don't be suckered by this hype!"

Grace had previously attempted to get a

## Briefly

constitutional amendment to give the President a line-item veto over the federal budget, which would have significantly weakened the constitutionally mandated power of the Congress to tax and spend.

### Bush, GOP broke federal election laws big time

Washington U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell and the Federal Election Commission (FEC) have both found that the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) massively violated federal campaign spending limits in 1986, and then attempted a coverup. The case involves a national fundraising letter signed by George Bush.

The FEC found that the NRSC gave far more than its legal limit of \$17,500 per candidate, to 12 Republican Senate candidates. The excessive contributions totaled \$2.3 million. Instead of reporting the money it raised from Republican contributors for this purpose, each candidate's local committee reported the contributions as if it had raised them. The FEC recommended a fine of twice the amount of the violations—\$4.6 million.

Judge Gesell, however, fined the Republican committee only \$24,000. In ruling, Gesell said that the public interest was certainly harmed, but "the NRSC did not deliberately violate the law." Gesell was the same judge who told Oliver North, "you've suffered enough," and sentenced him to community service.

### Votes not protected by Constitution, court says

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California has recently ruled that write-in votes are not protected by the U.S. Constitution. The ruling is feared to be a harbinger of the single-party state being constructed by the "secret government" apparatus known as Project Democracy, exposed during the Iran-Contra scandal.

The court ruled that a prohibition against

write-in ballots passed by the Hawaii state senate was valid, despite a petitioner's protest that it violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The court ruled that petitioner Burdick "does not have a fundamental right to vote for any particular candidate; he is simply guaranteed an equal voice in the election of those who govern."

Many states are passing similar laws, even as they increase requirements for independents to get on the ballot. When the two main parties make a deal to rig an election, write-in campaigns, which frequently cause upsets when the electorate is sufficiently upset over some issue, will not be a redress.

"The fact that a voter may want to say no candidate is acceptable does not mean that he has a fundamental right to say that on the ballot. . . . He has no guarantee that he can voice any particular opinion through the ballot box," the ruling argued.

### Company, fined for AIDS testing, hires infected

The ConAgra-owned meatpacking firm Monfort, which operates a pork-processing plant in Worthington, Minnesota, was fined \$100,000 by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights for testing prospective job applicants for AIDS. As part of an out-of-court settlement with the state, Monfort agreed to give jobs to each of the people who had tested positive for the HIV virus and to stop testing job applicants for the virus.

Erica Jacobs, an attorney with the office of Minnesota Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey, was involved in the enforcement action.

Monfort required the test of prospective employees "because it was concerned that employees infected with the disease could cut themselves and spread the virus to other employees. Employees at the Worthington plant use knives and hooks to slaughter and package hogs," according to Kay Norton, a lawyer for Monfort.

Norton also said, according to AP, "A vital difference of opinion exists between the company and the state of Minnesota over the propriety of pre-employment testing procedures involving HIV and syphilis."

● **L. DOUGLAS WILDER**, the governor of Virginia, has had pollster Michale Donilon and veteran media strategist Joe Trippi sent to Iowa for his presidential campaign by Anti-Defamation League-linked Virginia Democratic Party chairman Paul Goldman. They are supposed "to see what's out there," Goldman told press April 10.

● **DAVID DINKINS**, the mayor of New York, has invited Israeli and British troops to take part in the June 10 "welcome home parade" for troops who fought in the Gulf, the April 7 *Jerusalem Post* reported. The June 10 extravaganza takes place one week after New York's "Salute to Israel" parade.

● **SKADDEN ARPS**, the Anti-Defamation League and Dope, Inc.-linked law firm which specializes in junk bonds and corporate buyouts, has been hired by the Mayor Tom Bradley-appointed Los Angeles Police Commission in its effort to suspend police chief Daryl Gates, during the ongoing probe of the Rodney King beating by police officers.

● **BODY PARTS** of Iraqi soldiers have been found by Judge Advocate General (JAG) teams detailed to inspect and confiscate "souvenirs" being smuggled home by U.S. soldiers, a returning military reservist reports.

● **THE CHIEF** executive officers of companies operating power plants could be imprisoned on felony charges under the Clean Air Act, *Power Magazine* reports in a recent issue. Violations now include "high-pollution level problems," "record-keeping infractions," and the so-called "negligent release of hazardous pollutants," which can mean 15 years in prison for a CEO.

● **THE U.S. MILITARY** presence in Germany will be reduced to two Army divisions (formerly five) and three Air Force squadrons (formerly eight), German Minister of Defense Gerhard Stoltenberg learned in Washington April 9.