

# National News

## Virginia plans armed officers inside prisons

Ronald Angelone, the new director of the Virginia Department of Corrections, is planning to arm key officers inside the three new maximum-security prisons that will be built over the next several years, according to an interview that appeared in the Nov. 20 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

In most state and all federal prisons, armed guards are found only in towers and along the perimeters, to prevent escapes. Angelone told the daily that he will be borrowing this and other programs, such as work camps from the Nevada prison system, where he previously worked. Nevada's system relies heavily on the use of so-called conservation camps for the least dangerous inmates, similar to the work camps Angelone and Virginia Gov. George Allen are building in Virginia now. Angelone plans seven Virginia work camps to open by next summer, and, more ambitious, are plans for three new maximum-security prisons to be built by 1998, called the Red Onion, Sussex, and Eastern Shore. As currently envisioned, they will hold about 3,000 of the most dangerous inmates, who can work their way to less severe custody only through good behavior.

On Nov. 19, the *Times-Dispatch* wrote that the private, for-profit company Corrections Corp. of America, is scouting locations across Southwest Virginia to build a \$40 million medium-security prison for up to 1,500 inmates.

## Earth First! declares war on nuclear plant

More than 300 Earth First! activists came to the town of Monroe, Michigan over Sept. 30-Oct. 2 to demonstrate against the Fermi 2 nuclear plant and its operator, Edison. Edison had announced it would restart the plant on Oct. 1, which has been shut down since a suspicious explosion and fire damaged a turbine-generator on Dec. 25, 1993. A basement radioactive-waste processing room

filled with water as a result of the explosion.

Earth First! and other environmentalist groups organized a "Grassroots National Action Festival," which culminated in actions against the nuclear power plant. On Sept. 30, Earth First! held a rally at Edison's Detroit headquarters, demanding that Edison stop all repairs to Fermi 2 and shut down the plant forever. The next day it demanded that Edison stop negotiating with the Mescalero Tribal Council to build a temporary nuclear waste storage facility.

On Oct. 2, Earth First! blockaded the Fermi site. With military precision, the terrorists set up two tripods with members seated on top, some 12 feet up, on the road leading to Fermi's two secondary gates, while another squad dropped three cement-filled barrels on the road leading to Fermi's main gate. Some of the terrorists locked themselves to the barrels. The confrontation became violent when the police tried to remove them. Sixteen eco-terrorists were arrested and charged with felony assault.

## Thanksgiving 1994: Hunger on the rise

Reports from food relief services around the United States leading into the Thanksgiving holiday showed the high level of dependence by millions of Americans on government and private food assistance, the former a target of "Contract with America" budget-cutters, new House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.).

One prime example is the "Meals-on-Wheels" program in Detroit, a supplementary food program for elderly shut-ins. The "Meals-on-Wheels" program in greater Detroit subsists on federal and private food donations, and provides home delivery of meals and provisions through a team of paid and volunteer drivers. The program does not have enough food to meet current needs, because the Michigan poverty rate has risen so high.

The federal coordinator of supplementary food for the elderly, Fernando Toris-Gill, told a national news broadcast on Nov. 23 that unmet food needs for the elderly have resulted in a measurable increase in the

death rate from minor seasonal viral infections, because the senior citizens are becoming weakened by malnutrition. This alarm was also made the same day by the Detroit local government director for aid to the aging, Mr. Bridgewater, who said the situation is in crisis. A local Detroit Meals-on-Wheels delivery driver, Bill Robinson, reported that most of the people he sees would die without the daily food relief.

## APS: Smithsonian exhibit attacks science

The Council of the American Physical Society (APS) on Nov. 6 asked its president, Burton Richter, "to convey its profound dismay" to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, I. Michael Heyman, over a new permanent exhibit at the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The exhibit, "Science in American Life," is called in the letter "a portrayal of science that trivializes its accomplishments and exaggerates any negative consequences."

According to the APS newsletter, the exhibit tour guide tells viewers: "In the 1920s, we thought scientists were gods. Now we know they're the source of our biggest problems." The exhibit reproduces the chemistry lab where saccharine was discovered in 1879, and in which talking mannequins argue over who should get credit for the discovery. The exhibit also attacks nuclear power under the guise of attacking the science behind nuclear weapons; the pesticide DDT, which saved millions of lives; and the chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, which allegedly deplete the ozone layer.

## Michel to Gingrich: Don't claw at power

Retiring Republican House Minority Leader Robert Michel (Ill.) warned incoming Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich not to let his ambitions in the wake of the GOP sweep of the mid-term elections go out of control, in an interview with the *Chicago*

## Briefly

● **ANTI-DEFAMATION** League National Director Abe Foxman met with Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell and Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed on Nov. 29. Jewish sources have reported that the ADL has lost many of its financial backers.

● **PROPOSITION 187** has already claimed the lives of two immigrants in California. Twelve-year-old Julio Cano died of a bacterial infection which went untreated until the last minute. Cano suffered from an undiagnosed, but treatable, case of leukemia. On Nov. 23, a 59-year-old Chinese immigrant, who delayed seeking treatment for leukemia until she was blind in her left eye, also died.

● **NEWT GINGRICH'S** plans to set up orphanages for illegitimate children of poor mothers, send "shivers" of apprehension through child-care workers, wrote the Nov. 27 *Baltimore Sun*, "because the idea collides with the principal tenet that has guided their profession for nearly a century: that children are raised better in families, even imperfect or incomplete families, than in institutions."

● **ONE IN SIX NEW YORKERS** lives in extreme poverty, according to the *New York Times* editorial on Nov. 27. The editorial cited this year's report on poverty by the Community Service Society of New York, which used as a measurement a family of four living on less than \$10,751 a year. The report indicated that 45.5% of the city's poor were without public assistance in 1992-93.

● **MAYOR RICHARD DALEY** of Chicago and School Board President Sharon Grant want to turn some of the city's public schools over to the private Edison Project of Chris Whittle, according to the November issue of *Catalyst*, a community newsletter. Whittle recently had to divest himself of much of his communications empire amid allegations of fraud and mismanagement (see *EIR*, Nov. 25, p. 59).

*Tribune* on Nov. 26. "There's always a danger in clawing at power because power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Michel said, objecting to Gingrich's plan to personally choose and control committee chairmen. "Overplaying your hand in the majority can lend itself to the minority in justifying itself in really sticking it to you." Michel criticized the congressional Republicans' planned "Contract with America" legislative package, saying fulfillment, which is planned for the first 100 days of the next Congress, could plunge the country deeper into debt.

He also assailed what he called the 1994 elections' "nationalized campaign of antagonism. . . . That was one whale of a negative campaign against the President," he said. Michel also reflected on "rage radio" and the pathological state of the population: "Listen to those people's venom," he recalled telling his wife. "Ye gods, that's what people are listening to. I'm thinking, 'Jeepers, creepers, if that's what's motivating the people out there.' "

### Opponents make up with OBE brainwashers

Robert Simonds, a prominent opponent of New Age "outcome-based education" curriculum reform in the public schools, has reached an understanding with William Spady, the national standardbearer for OBE. Simonds is president of Citizens for Excellence in Education, which led the fight for school vouchers in California, undercutting public education. He and Spady held a conflict resolution session in Vail, Colorado last summer, according to a recent report in the *Associated School Boards of South Dakota Bulletin*.

They left the posh resort town with a gentlemen's agreement to seek common ground and put a halt to what one participant called the "tremendous political warfare" over OBE. Previously, Simonds had been one of the most vociferous opponents of OBE, and described it as something that would destroy education. After the Vail meeting with Spady, Simonds claimed that his desire is no longer to win that fight.

Now it appears that the two never had any fundamental disagreement. Simonds addressed Spady's curriculum writers and developers at a conference in mid-July. After four preliminary gatherings, the formal meeting with Spady's High Success network occurred. They released a statement announcing substantial areas of agreement "between outspoken national critics and major advocates of outcome-based education." Simonds says OBE is essential, "the problem is the specific outcomes."

### 'Bell Curve' sources have eugenics pedigree

Two exposés of the new book *The Bell Curve*, by ABC News and the *New York Review of Books*, have detailed the eugenics pedigrees of many of its sources, tracing them back to the Pioneer Fund and *Mankind Quarterly*. The book, by Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein, purports to prove that intelligence is racially linked, by statistically showing that blacks score lowest on intelligence tests.

A Nov. 22 "American Agenda" segment for ABC showed that the Pioneer Fund, founded as part of the 1920s eugenics movement by Harry Laughlin, has provided financing for many of the studies and sources cited in the Murray-Herrnstein book. Laughlin, ABC reported, "wanted the lowest 10% of Americans sterilized. . . . By 1931, thirty states had sterilization laws." Laughlin joined with "textile magnate" Wickliffe Draper and "forged links" with pseudo-scientists in Nazi Germany who advocated a doctrine of racial superiority. "In 1936, the year before they set up the Pioneer Fund, the two men distributed one of Hitler's propaganda films to American high schools." The film is quoted: "You find an especially high percentage of mentally ill among the Jewish population."

In the *New York Review*, author Charles Lane reported that 17 researchers cited in the *Bell Curve* were contributors to the *Mankind Quarterly*, which Lane called "a notorious journal of 'racial history' founded, and funded, by men who believe in the genetic superiority of the white race."