

# National News

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## Hate-crime bills harm free speech: columnist

The proliferation of hate-crime bills across the country represents a frightening attempt at thought control, wrote syndicated columnist Nat Hentoff in the April 25 *Washington Post*.

Hentoff cited the case in Wisconsin where an existing hate-crimes bill was recently strengthened so that a defendant whose crime was motivated "in part" by a victim's race, creed, etc., would receive a stiffer penalty. Previous legislation required that the defendant had to be "wholly motivated" by bigotry.

Wisconsin State Sen. Lynn Adelman argued against the bill on the grounds that it is "unconstitutional because it creates a thought crime; it puts you in jail for having bad thoughts. . . . Once the government starts punishing your thoughts, we are in trouble." The bill was passed anyway by the state legislature.

In an Ohio case, *State v. Van Gundy*, one judge said that a statute enhancing "the punishment of a crime based upon the thoughts of the defendants is a hideous concept and inimical to American jurisprudence," Hentoff reported.

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## LaRouche persecutor caught cheating on taxes

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, a key figure in the frameup of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates on concocted charges, has been caught red-handed cheating on his taxes. Weld claims it's all a mistake, and apparently the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is willing to go along with that assertion.

Weld and his wife (both of whom are lawyers) claimed \$77,431 in deductions for mortgage interest on the family's \$1.1 million mansion in the posh Brattle Street section of Cambridge, the April 26 *Washington Post* reported. But most of that interest was on an \$800,000 second mortgage, which Weld secured in 1990 to finance his gubernatorial campaign. The IRS caps deductibil-

ity of second mortgages at \$100,000, and then only if the mortgages are for certain specific purposes—campaign financing definitely not among them.

Weld claims he's "horrified" about the incident, and will file an amended return.

With the illegal deduction, the Welds managed to reduce their federal taxes to zero last year, and also claim they were entitled to a \$21,530 refund—even though they made over \$166,000. As the *Post* noted, the Welds were able to reduce their taxes further by making charitable donations of \$54,240. They gave \$1,000 to a homeless shelter, \$3,000 to United Way, and a total of \$41,000 to Harvard University and the upper-crust Middlesex prep school. Of these last, the *Post* commented, "Such donations usually are remembered when the donor's offspring apply for admission, prompting a *Boston Herald* columnist to taunt Weld's charitable giving as 'white man's affirmative action.' "

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## N.Y. authorities seek to halt satanic cards

State legislators in New York are looking for ways to suppress the sale of the latest fad infecting the children of America—trading cards which glorify the deeds and lives of mass murderers, satanists, assassins, and other criminals. The cards, which began appearing in 1989, have baseball card-type photos of people such as David Berkowitz, Richard Speck, Ted Bundy, Jim Jones, and others, with lurid descriptions of their crimes on the back.

Roger Worsham, owner of Mother Publications of Orange County, California, one of the four companies publishing the cards, defended his product in comments to the April 21 *New York Post*. "Kids see worse on Saturday morning cartoon shows," he said. He noted that 10,000 box sets of cards, entitled "Forty Famous Murderers to Fear," was released in 1989 and sold out at \$10 a set. In addition to "Famous Murderers," Worsham publishes a series called "Assassins."

Other companies involved in the trade are "Bloody Vision/Shelton" of Irvington, New Jersey, which sells a set of 52 "Mass

Murderers/Serial Killers" cards; "Eclipse Enterprises" of Forestville, California, which sells "True Crimes" cards; and "Rigomor Press" of Studio City, California, which will begin selling "Incredible True Life Murderers" in May.

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## 'Caterpillar' treatment meted out to Teamsters

Yellow Freight System, the second largest less-than-truckload carrier, walked out of negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters after a single morning session, the April 20 *Journal of Commerce* reported. The confrontational tactic was used in the wake of the United Auto Workers defeat in their strike of Caterpillar.

The negotiations were aimed at having Yellow enter the regional trucking market as a single unionized company, rather than establishing non-unionized subsidiaries. The regional trucking market (meaning within one state) has been far more profitable than long-haul trucking, since the regional market is still tightly regulated by most states, and is also largely non-unionized.

Yellow used as a pretext for the cessation of talks an interview new Teamsters President Ron Carey had given to the *Journal* the previous week, in which he said that the Teamsters would reject any proposal requiring workers to accept changes in existing wage levels and work rules. "Ron Carey publicly rejected our proposal. There is no other way to interpret his position. It is futile to continue negotiations," Yellow spokesman Linda George declared.

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## Noriega lawyers seek to question jurors

Jon May, on behalf of Gen. Manuel Noriega's defense team, has requested that Judge William Hoever permit the jury to be questioned concerning possible undue influence used to sway the juror who initially voted for acquittal.

The juror had made clear that she was

very religious, and some jurors prayed with her at their hotel where they were sequestered, that is, outside of the jury room where all relevant discussion was supposed to take place. "Plainly, an attempt to coerce Mrs. Cooper into changing her verdict through religious appeal would be improper, particularly if such conduct occurred outside the jury room," May said. "Having stated that only God could change her mind, it appears that some of the jurors sought to use that very influence to influence her verdict."

May also cited another juror as possibly biased based on information from outside the trial. That juror is reported to have said, "The whole world is waiting for this verdict. President Bush is waiting for this verdict."

## Pennsylvania abortion law argued before Court

The American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Reproductive Rights Project argued against a Pennsylvania abortion law before the U. S. Supreme Court on April 23. It argued the case on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The ACLU contends that the Pennsylvania law, if allowed to stand, threatens a woman's "fundamental right to abortion" as established in the 1973 ruling *Roe v Wade*. (The pro-abortion lobby ascribes much broader rights to abortion on demand than the ruling allowed.)

The Pennsylvania law was passed in the wake of the 1989 *Webster* decision in which the U. S. Supreme Court upheld the right of states to place some restrictions on abortion. The provisions of Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act, which were never enforced, are not unusual and have, in all but one element, been upheld by federal appeals courts.

The key provisions of the law include: Women seeking abortions must receive counseling on its risks and alternatives, and must wait 24 hours after that counseling before having the abortion; minors must get one parent's consent or a judge's approval for the abortion; no abortions are allowed after 24 weeks of pregnancy—unless to protect the woman's life or prevent permanent physical harm; and doctors must keep de-

tailed records of abortion and the reason for performing late-term abortions—this applies to abortionists receiving public funds or operating in publicly funded hospitals. Another provision, that married women must notify their husbands if they plan to have an abortion, unless there is a medical emergency, the husband is not the child's father, the woman fears physical abuse, or the pregnancy resulted from assault by the husband, was found unconstitutional by an appeals court.

## Castro endorses Bush, as embargo termed phony

The April 23 Argentine daily *La Prensa* wrote that "Fidel Castro would prefer [President] Bush's victory, and not a Democratic Party one." Castro reportedly fears that if a Democrat is elected in November, he would change existing U.S. foreign policy, which is based on letting Castro eventually fade away by himself.

Columnist Carlos Acuna wrote that Bush is also seeking a deal with the European social democracy, in which Fidel would become an Ibero-American "symbol," pushing to one side other potential candidates for the post, such as former Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín.

Peter W. Schroeder, the Washington correspondent of the *Berliner Zeitung*, on April 22 criticized Bush's embargo of Cuba because it doesn't stop flourishing illegal deals of U.S. firms. While Bush made the announcement of a total ban from U.S. ports on all ships trading with Cuba, he could not agree with total sanctions "for considerations of principle."

Schroeder reported that while Bush pretends he wants sanctions against foreign ships that are trading with Cuba, he won't interfere with all the covert deals of U.S. firms that belong to "first addresses such as Dow Chemical, Du Pont, Ford, General Electric, IBM, and Union Carbide, which have profitable contracts with Cuba by-passing existing embargo rules via daughter companies and holdings in Switzerland, Great Britain and other countries."

## Briefly

● **THE VIRGINIA** Supreme Court denied Rochelle Ascher, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche convicted on bogus "securities fraud" charges, a rehearing of her appeal on April 22. Justice Lacy refused to disqualify herself from hearing the petition despite having ruled, as state securities commissioner, that the political loans were securities. Ascher will appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

● **DAVID DUKE** withdrew from the 1992 presidential race on April 22. He trumpeted his affinity for environmentalist policies, charging that the Third World is not helping solve the world ecological crisis. "We should be waging economic war against Brazil, with as much vigor as we did against Saddam Hussein," Duke demanded.

● **THE THORNBURGH** Doctrine and George Bush's wars are a "manic obsession," Pavel Bogomolov charged in the Russian paper *Pravda* April 14. "The temptation . . . to personally punish America's enemies threatens to become a manic obsession. . . . There is no denying that this smacks of something primitive."

● **GEORGE BUSH'S** reelection bid was endorsed by Chinese Communist leader Deng Xiaoping, according to the Hong Kong journal *Dong Xiang*. "Republicans are more practical than Democrats. Some Democrats are extremists. Our hope is that Republican candidate George Bush can be reelected," it quoted Deng.

● **CARL SAGAN**, Sen. Al Gore, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine are sponsoring a conference of religious leaders in Washington May 10-12, to assert that "ultimate priority" must be given to the environment.

● **H. ROSS PEROT**, the reputedly "anti-establishment" candidate, is seeking advice from James Sebenius, a partner of Peter Peterson, chairman of the New York Council on Foreign Relations.