

National News

Shultz backed SDI stance at Reykjavik

In an April 27 interview with ABC News, former Secretary of State George Shultz described how President Reagan had stood firm against Gorbachov's demands against the SDI at the October 1986 Reykjavik summit. Shultz said: "President Reagan had some very deep convictions. One of them was that nuclear weapons are a threat to mankind and if we could somehow do away with them, we'd all be better off."

The interviewer asked Shultz what happened "when Gorbachov made his demands on the Strategic Defense Initiative," and if Reagan had pulled back. Shultz responded: "He didn't pull back. He stood firm. That is, he had a vision and he had a desire for America to be able to defend itself against ballistic missiles, and his Strategic Defense Initiative was designed to find out if we could do that, and he wouldn't give up on it—and I agreed with him."

"Right at the end, as we had this long back and forth, very tense moments, right at the end he passed a little note to me—with just a few people sitting in this room, I saw him writing, and he passed this note over that said, 'Am I right?' And I said, 'Yes, sir, Mr. President, you are. Hang in there.'"

Campus backs down on 'political correctness'

According to the April 27 *Washington Times*, the University of Pennsylvania has indefinitely postponed a trial of a student for violation of the "political correctness" rules on the campus. The controversy centers around a Jewish student accused of racial slurs because he called a boisterous group of black sorority women "water buffalo" when they engaged in late night partying under his window. The *Washington Times* account quotes University of Pennsylvania faculty and students commenting that university president Sheldon Hackney probably arranged the sudden postponement of the trial

in order to avoid embarrassment when Congress takes up his nomination to head the National Endowment for the Humanities. Hackney has been under attack by conservatives for his defense of pornographic photographers and "artists" including Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano. The *Times* article quotes students and others to the effect that Hackney is a champion of "free speech" only when liberals are involved.

Defense motions denied in Galen Kelly kidnap case

The defense for self-styled "deprogrammer" Galen Kelly lost a series of dismissal and evidence restriction pre-trial motions on April 30 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia before Judge Ellis. Kelly is being tried for the May 1992 kidnapping of Debra Dobkowski, a Washington, D.C. woman who was brought to a hotel in northern Virginia for "deprogramming." When the woman's mother, who had contracted the kidnapping, saw Dobkowski, however, she told Kelly and his team that this was not her daughter. Dobkowski was returned to Washington, and told to keep her mouth shut.

In December, Kelly and others were acquitted in the conspiracy to kidnap a wealthy associate of Lyndon LaRouche, Du Pont heir Lewis du Pont Smith.

Federal prosecutor Larry Leiser announced during the April 30 hearing that other prosecutions await Kelly *in addition* to his Alexandria trial and an upcoming indictment in New York. At another point Leiser referred to the fact that only the night before, Kelly had been aired on a national CBS broadcast, "Street Stories," saying that he still intended to go on kidnapping. The prosecutors also stated that they had recently discovered more kidnappings which Kelly had done. Galen Kelly's lawyer stated that Kelly's New York attorney had recently discovered new evidence that this was a selective and vindictive prosecution.

The government won a motion *in limine* to bar mention of the Waco events in the trial.

CIA denies links to Sheikh Rahman

U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau has denied that U.S. intelligence agents worked with New Jersey-based Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, whose followers have been charged with the World Trade Center bombing. Reuters reports that Pelletreau was responding to allegations that Rahman was allowed into the United States in 1990 because he helped the CIA channel funds to Muslim guerrillas fighting the communist government in Afghanistan.

"Our officials do not have operational contacts with Omar Abdel Rahman nor did they have such contacts with him in the past, as has been alleged, during the time of our support for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan," Pelletreau told a group of local businessmen. "That is a false accusation," he added in a text of the speech made available in Cairo on April 28. Egyptian security officials say Rahman travelled to Iran and Pakistan, base of the Afghan guerrillas and later a hideout for Arab Muslim militants, in the late 1980s. He then went to the United States in May 1990 after being granted a visa by the U.S. embassy in Sudan.

The *New York Times* reported on April 28 that State Department Inspector General Sherman Funk has told Congress that he has seen no indications of intelligence agency involvement with Rahman. The *Times* says that in recent days, some congressmen "have gone out of their way to dismiss suggestions that U.S. intelligence agencies were involved."

Deconstructionism has Nazi roots says critic

In a lengthy essay on April 30, *New York Times* literary critic Michiko Kakutani blames deconstructionism for creating the "cultural *Zeitgeist*" in which such "preposterous claims" as denial of the Nazi Holocaust are "more likely to find an audience."

Deconstructionism has led to a universe in which "all truth is deemed subjective and

all facts are made subject to reevaluation," wrote Kakutani. "This state of affairs, so reminiscent of an Orwellian dystopia, is the world today as it is envisioned by the increasingly influential deconstructionist movement [that] has gained ascendancy at American universities in the last two decades."

Reviewing the Nazi links of deconstructionist gurus Jacques Derrida and Paul de Man, Kakutani charged that techniques such as those used by Derrida to defend de Man's openly pro-Nazi writings of the 1940s, "are not dissimilar to those employed by Holocaust deniers, who routinely take factual evidence of the Holocaust and deconstruct it to support their own assertions. . . ."

"The point is that deconstruction purveys a stylishly nihilistic view of the world, which insists that all meaning is relative, that all truth is elusive, and therefore futile. Such critical approaches irreparably divorce intellectual discourse from morality and ethics, and posit an ahistorical world in which actions have no consequences and language has no real meaning. Together with society's current eagerness to blur the lines between fact and fantasy, reality and appearance, the deconstructionists and like-minded thinkers foster a climate in which ideologues and propagandists, like the Holocaust deniers, can try to assail those two pillars of human civilization: memory and truth."

Reno asked to arrest 'enviros' for piracy

Putting People First (PPF) informed Attorney General Janet Reno on April 30 that the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society intends to sail its ship *Edward Abbey* from Marina Del Rey, California on May 1 to Norway to sink as many fishing boats as possible—to keep them from harvesting minke whales this summer. The annual whaling is a major source of food, especially for the poorer Norwegian inhabitants of the Faroe Islands. PPF has told Reno that it is her legal obligation to intervene, since "the Supreme Court has defined the intentional sinking of another vessel as piracy, whether the motive is robbery or not."

The Sea Shepherds boast of already having scuttled two ships in Iceland, ramming and sinking a vessel off Spain, and ramming one Taiwanese and two Japanese fishing boats in the Pacific. Kathleen Marquardt, chairman of Putting People First, said, "Many people hold a false, crypto-religious belief that marine mammals are superior beings and should not be touched, but when this ideology engenders international terrorism from American soil, it is time for U.S. law enforcement officials to step in."

June issue of 'Omni' debunks ozone hole hoax

In an article titled "Ozone: They Call This Science?" by James Hogan, the June 1993 issue of *Omni* debunks the myth of the ozone hole for its millions of readers. This national expose comes on the heels of the front-page article in the *Washington Post* April 16 that presented some of cracks in the ozone-depletion theory.

The *Omni* article begins: "Earlier centuries saw witch-hunting hysteria. . . . Periodically, societies are seized by collective delusions that take on lives of their own, where all facts are swept aside that fail to conform to the expectations of what has become a self-sustaining reality. Today we have the environmentalist mania reaching a crescendo over ozone." The author is a well-known novelist and high-tech science fiction writer.

The article quotes Dixy Lee Ray, Hugh Ellsaesser, Bob Holzknicht, and other scientists cited in the book *Holes in the Ozone Scare* by Rogelio Maduro and Ralf Schauerhammer and follows the general line of argument of the book published by 21st Century Associates. However, direct references to the book as well as a reprint of a graphic were deleted by the editors.

Interestingly, the article had been commissioned and was ready for publication prior to the Earth Summit a year ago, but was held back until now and then was published with a short but prominent box by one Frederik Pohl that gives a politically correct rebuttal to Hogan's evidence that the CFC-ozone hole issue is a hoax.

Briefly

● **JACK KEVORKIAN'S** California medical license was temporarily suspended on April 27, after the unemployed pathologist killed two Californians by "assisting" their suicides at his "practice" in Michigan. Kevorkian's attorney Geoffrey Fieger told reporters, "We don't give a damn. We could care less."

● **IRAN** is singled out in the State Department's annual report on terrorism as "the most dangerous sponsor of state terrorism" for 1992. It also singles out Iraq by name, and expresses grave concern about contacts between Iran and Sudan.

● **KUCB-FM** radio station in Des Moines, Iowa, has come under attack by the Jewish Community Relations Council ostensibly for "kindling strife and discord" and spreading "themes of racial discord." KUCB broadcaster Hadaasha Maryum has backed efforts to remove the statue of KKK founder Albert Pike in Washington, D.C. and signed the petition to President Clinton to free political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche.

● **THE U.S. NINTH** Circuit Court of Appeals announced on April 29 that it will hear arguments that imposing the death penalty by hanging is a violation of the Eighth Amendment against "cruel and unusual punishment." The challenge was brought by Washington State Death Row prisoner Charles Rodman Campbell.

● **ISLAM IN AMERICA** is the subject of an extensive, four-part series in the *New York Times* beginning May 2. Titled "A Growing Presence, Muslims Proclaim Their Differences While Trying to Find Their Place in the American Mosaic," it reports that "the best estimates put the population of Muslims in America at 3 million to 4 million."

● **THE SCHILLER** Institute will sponsor a day-long tribute including a concert in honor of the late soprano Marian Anderson in Washington, D.C. on May 29.