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*If you would like to join the ACT Branch of Civil Liberties Australia (CLA), see the end of this email for a form you can print out, fill in and put in the post, with your cheque.
Thank you.*

Copies of the ACT Government's Bill of Rights, plus the explanatory statement to the Bill, are available from the CLA Secretary, Bill Rowlings.

They can be sent to you by email (free), or by post as a hard copy.

(For a hard-copy by post, please send a cheque for \$7 to Secretary, CLA ACT, 51 Ardlethan St, FISHER ACT 2611).

CLA members, and others, interested in the Australian government's mandatory detention policy can read an expert analysis of alternatives on <http://www.ccjdp.org> Written by Dr Tony Ward for the Justice for Asylum Seekers Network it is also published in the latest edition of "Dissent". This quarterly is edited by Canberra-based journalists Kenneth Davidson and Lesley Vick.
<http://www.dissent.com.au>

- John Shaw

US Civil Liberties bodies launches new recruitment/promo campaign

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has launched a new recruitment and promotion campaign with the main message being "Join Us Now Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself". For more details see <http://www.aclu.org>

The U.S. has a Bill of Rights - the first 10 amendments to the American Constitution, adopted in 1791 - but the ACLU, and others, believe the Bill and the Constitution still require citizens' safeguards.

- John Shaw

ACLU used classified ads to attract members

Have you heard about the ACLU's 1999 recruitment campaign, Bill Rowlings asks?

Below is part of a media release from them in that year, about an innovative advertising campaign. By the way, the ACLU has 275,000 members, US\$40million annual budget.

On those figures, in the ACT we should have, pro rata, about 300 members - and an annual budget of about \$40,000. Only about 280 people and \$39,500 to go!

December 3, 1999

NEW YORK - Readers poring through the classified ads looking for a job, a used car or a new home will find that the American Civil Liberties Union has got something it wants to sell them: itself.

Careful readers of The New York Times will discover three unusual advertisements in the real estate, help wanted and automotive classified pages:

-- House for Sale: Beautiful Colonial home, four bedroom, three bath. Stolen from an elderly couple by the United States government because drugs were in their grandson's room. Though the grandparents were never arrested or convicted, the government seized their home, sold it and kept the proceeds. All without a trial. Fight this injustice. Support the ACLU.

-- Help Wanted: Teaching Position. Lesbians need not apply. Consider what happened to one highly qualified female applicant in Montana. She was fifty years old, had no children, and the school district said she had "male traits." They decided she was gay and gave the job to a less qualified man. In fact, most states today do not have laws protecting people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Fight this injustice. Support the ACLU.

-- Car for Sale: 500SL Luxury Sport Coupe. Its performance is unmatched on the highway. Unless you're black and driving on some interstates. Then you could be pulled over and searched by state troopers for fitting a drug courier profile. These humiliating and illegal searches are violations of the Constitution and must be fought. Support the ACLU.

"We are using these ads to say that the everyday tasks of finding a home, buying a car, or searching for a job are suddenly not so mundane when faced with discrimination or law enforcement excesses," said Ira Glasser, Executive Director of the ACLU.

The ACLU is a nationwide (in USA), non-partisan organization dedicated to defending and preserving the Bill of Rights for all individuals through litigation, legislation and public education.

Headquartered in New York City, the ACLU has 53 staffed affiliates in major cities, more than 300 chapters nationwide, and a legislative office in Washington, D.C. The bulk of the annual \$40 million budget is raised by contributions from members -- 275,000 strong -- and gifts and grants from other individuals and foundations.

Eighty percent of the budget directly supports litigation, legislation and public education programs. Fund raising costs average twelve percent of total expenses, and management and administration account for an additional 8 per cent. The ACLU Foundation (ACLUF) is the national, tax-deductible arm of the ACLU.

Founded in 1920 by Roger Baldwin, Crystal Eastman, Albert DeSilver, Jane Addams, Felix Frankfurter, Helen Keller and Arthur Garfield Hayes, the ACLU celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1995.

East Timor

Is Australia infringing the human rights of East Timorese by harsh policies towards the economic rights of the new republic?

East Timor, independent since 1999 after centuries of Portuguese and Indonesian colonialism, recently opened an embassy in Canberra. Its priority task is to help ensure East Timor gets its full share of oil deposits in the Timor Sea between the two countries. Timor, the poorest country in the Asia-Pacific region, wants monthly negotiations on the division of the billion-dollar deposits but Australia, the richest country in the region, claims it can afford negotiations only twice a year.

Meanwhile, Australia has extracted more than Aust\$1 billion in oil from the joint zone. The East Timor Advocacy Fund, PO Box 751, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010, has further information.

- John Shaw

24 November 2003, New Zealand Herald (NZPA story)

Public pays \$12 million to be spied on

The cost of allowing police and spies to intercept all types of phone calls and emails has rocketed from \$3 million to \$12 million.

The Telecommunications (Interception Capability) Bill, approved by a parliamentary select committee last week (November), would let authorities intercept and record every type of public communication going through all networks and internet providers.

When the proposal was originally announced, Associate Justice Minister Paul Swain said it would cost taxpayers \$3 million to enable all public telecommunications networks to be interception-capable for law enforcement and security purposes.

This was necessary because police could not tap into the Vodafone network and they warned that their ability to combat organised crime was being "seriously eroded" because of that.

The changes were proposed before the September 11 attacks in 2001, but were given more urgency by the Government as it followed the United States' lead on tough new security measures.

The select committee examining the bill said the law change would now cost taxpayers about \$12 million over five years because the Government had agreed to foot the bill to install the technology.

The scope of the proposed law has worried civil libertarians, who fear the Government is using national security as an excuse to intrude on public freedom.

Police figures show 28 people were convicted last year due to interception warrants being issued, and a further 122 people were still being prosecuted, the Sunday Star-Times reported.

- NZPA

The New York Times December 4, 2003

Court Convicts 3 in 1994 Genocide Across Rwanda By SHARON LaFRANIERE

RUSHA, Tanzania, Dec. 3 — In the first case of its kind since the Nuremberg trials, an international court here on Wednesday convicted three Rwandans of genocide for media reports that fostered the killing of about 800,000 Rwandans, mostly of the Tutsi minority, over several months in 1994.

A three-judge panel said the three men had used a radio station and a newspaper published twice a month to mobilize Rwanda's Hutu majority against the Tutsi, who were massacred at churches, schools, hospitals and roadblocks. The court said the newspaper "poisoned the minds" of readers against the Tutsi, while the radio station openly called for their extermination, luring victims to killing grounds and broadcasting the names of people to be singled out.

The three men convicted were Hassan Ngeze, who owned the newspaper Kangura, Ferdinand Nahimana, who controlled the popular radio station RTL, and Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza, the station's co-founder. Each of the three were found guilty of three counts of genocide and two counts of crimes against humanity. Mr. Ngeze and Mr. Nahimana were sentenced to life in prison. Mr. Barayagwiza was sentenced to a lesser term of 27 years because, the judges said, his rights had been violated early in the case. All had been in the court's custody for years.

In 100 days in 1994, prosecutors in Arusha contend, about 7 out of 10 of Rwanda's Tutsis were wiped out with a brutal efficiency. The United Nations, which failed to intervene during the massacres, set up the international court in the relative safety of Tanzania three months after the killings ended to bring the main perpetrators to account.

Wednesday's verdicts were the first convictions of media executives for crimes of genocide since 1946, when the Nuremberg tribunal sentenced the Nazi propagandist, Julius Streicher, to hang for his campaign against the Jews.

In a 29-page summary of the Arusha judgment, which was read aloud in court, the judges pointed out that they were addressing issues that had not come before an international court for many decades. "The power of the media to create and destroy human values comes with great responsibility," the summary said. "Those who control the media are accountable for its consequences."

John Floyd, Mr. Ngeze's lawyer, called the judgment a major setback for free speech and an invitation to dictators to close down any media outlet on the grounds it could provoke violence.

Published: December 18 2003 - *Financial Times (UK)*

Danish writer cleared of 'scientific dishonesty'

By Vanessa Houlder in London and Clare MacCarthy in Copenhagen

Bjorn Lomborg, the author of a controversial book attacking the environment movement, was cleared yesterday of "scientific dishonesty" by the Danish science ministry.

The ministry overturned a ruling in January by the Danish committee on scientific dishonesty (DCSD), part of the Danish Research Agency, that Mr Lomborg's book *The Skeptical Environmentalist* was "clearly contrary to the standards of good scientific practice".

Mr Lomborg hailed yesterday's decision as "brilliant". It provided confirmation that freedom of speech extended to the environmental debate, he said.

In its report, the ministry criticised the committee for failing to provide evidence either that Mr Lomborg had been biased in his selection of data or that his methodology had been dubious.

It also said the committee's judgment had used "condescending and emotional" language. And it was a "clear mistake" that the committee had failed to give Mr Lomborg an opportunity to defend himself before publishing its judgment.

New York Times, December 24, 2003

No Joke! 37 Years After Death Lenny Bruce Receives Pardon By JOHN KIFNER

Lenny Bruce, the potty-mouthed wit who turned stand-up comedy into social commentary, was posthumously pardoned yesterday by Gov. George E. Pataki, 39 years after being convicted of obscenity for using bad words in a Greenwich Village nightclub act.

The governor said the posthumous pardon — the first in the state's history — was "a declaration of New York's commitment to upholding the First Amendment."

"Freedom of speech is one of the greatest American liberties, and I hope this pardon serves as a reminder of the precious freedoms we are fighting to preserve as we continue to wage the war on terror," Mr. Pataki said in a statement.

Being dead, Mr. Bruce is not expected to reap any immediate benefit from the pardon.

Fighting a four-month sentence to Rikers Island for a 1964 performance at the Cafe au Go Go, he fired his lawyers and botched the appeal. The New York conviction on the misdemeanor obscenity charge made it almost impossible for him to get work; he was declared bankrupt and died of a morphine overdose on Aug. 3, 1966. He was 40.

Advocates of the First Amendment as well as his fellow comedians — who began a petition drive this year for the pardon — rejoiced at the turn of events.

New York Times - December 24, 2003

Defense Dept. Halts Anthrax Vaccinations By THOM SHANKER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 — The Pentagon will administer the anthrax vaccine, but only on a voluntary basis, while the government considers its response to a Federal District Court's

ruling that military personnel cannot be forced to take the vaccine, senior Defense Department officials said on Tuesday.

The military's senior officer, Gen. Richard B. Myers, defended the use of the vaccine as essential to safeguarding troops facing adversaries who may attack with unconventional weapons.

"From a military standpoint, I think it's very important we have this capability to protect our troops and enable them to do their job," General Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a news briefing.

General Myers and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld are among the one million military personnel or Pentagon civilians who have received the vaccine since 1998.

Pentagon officials said that several hundred military or Pentagon personnel declined the vaccine in the initial years of the program, but that only 10 had refused vaccination since June 2002, when the program was accelerated after supply problems were resolved. Since then, 600,000 to 700,000 military or Pentagon civilian personnel have received the vaccine.

On Monday, Judge Emmet G. Sullivan of United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction halting the Pentagon from "inoculating service members without their consent." He ruled that the vaccine used in the Pentagon's mandatory program was "an investigational drug," being used for an unapproved purpose.

Judge Sullivan sided with arguments that the vaccine was licensed to protect against skin exposure to anthrax, but not against anthrax that is inhaled.

Late on Tuesday, Justice Department officials said that no decisions had yet been made on the government's legal response.

Apply to join CLA – see form on next page, below

Application to join: Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) Inc

Post: 51 Ardlethan St
FISHER ACT 2611
Ph: 6288 6137

Extract from the Constitution of CLA (ACT) Inc:

3. Objects

3.1 *The objects of Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) Inc are to protect and advance civil liberties and human rights and responsibilities. It aims to act as a watchdog, catalyst, publicist and educator in relation to these objectives.*

3.2 *Through its board, Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) Inc aims to bring to public notice instances or situations which may involve infringements of, or undue restrictions on, civil liberties or human rights and responsibilities, or the inequitable treatment of persons, groups or classes of people.*

I,(please print) apply to join the CLA. I agree with its objects, and agree to be bound by its Constitution and By Laws, and to pay the annual fee* until I advise in writing/email that I no longer wish to remain a member.

* 2004: \$50 (or \$75 for two people at same address)

..... (signed)

Address:

.....Postcode.....

Phone (home):..... Mobile:.....

Occupation/employer:

.....Work phone:

Email: home:.....

work:

Assn. No. A04043