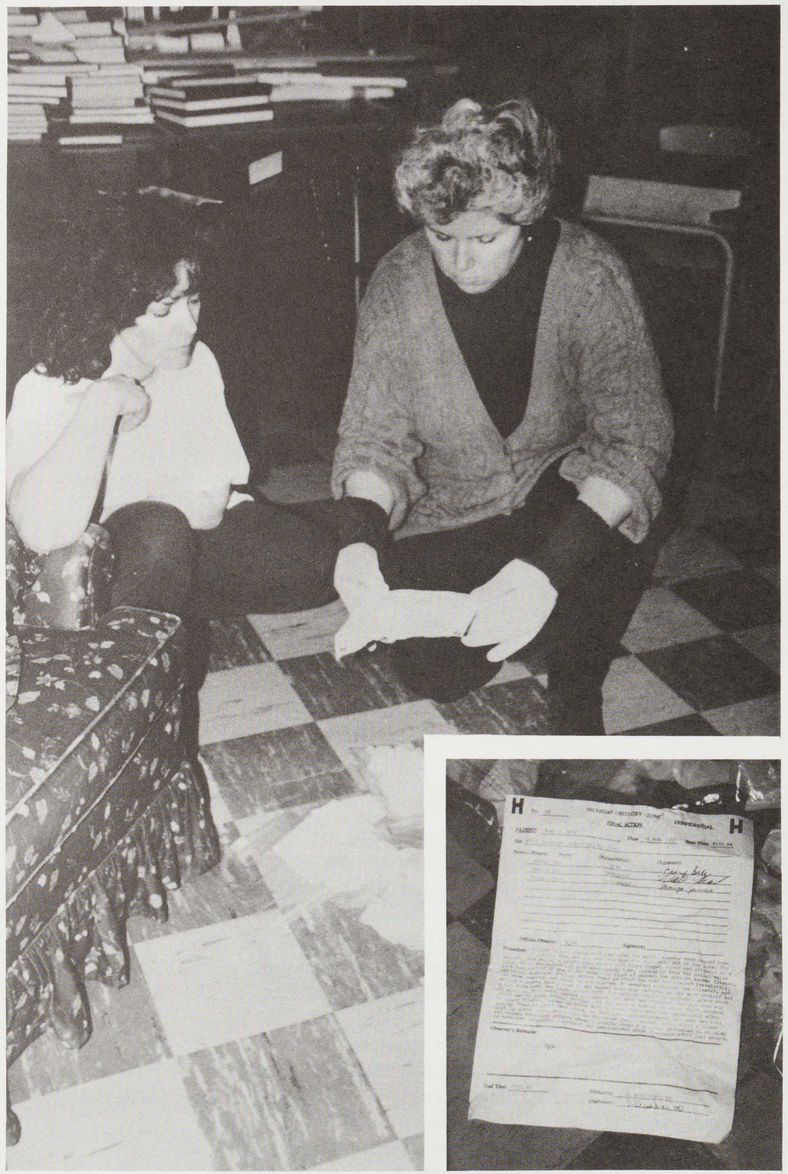
AFLM ROCKS KEVORKIAN

Andrew Burnett



AFLM Associate Director Dawn Stover and local Detroit activist Lynn Mills look over bagged materials sorted out of Kevorkian's assistant's garbage.

Bold action leads to stunning discovery

Detroit, MI—Executive director of AFLM, Andrew Burnett had been talking with his staff members about the "medicide" practices of Jack Kevorkian for some time. With each person who died with Kevorkian's "assistance" it became clearer to Burnett and his organization that something had to be done.

Kevorkian had opened a doorway to death. Active euthanasia was being accepted without any opposition. There was no outcry as Dr. Death, using his suicide machine initially and then deadly carbon monoxide, would end people's lives. Burnett saw the opportunity to make an impact against the pro-death mentality surrounding euthanasia. Contacts were made with pro-life leaders in the Detroit area.

While nothing had been done to confront Kevorkian at that time, the Detroit area pro-lifers were willing to do all that they could to help stop Kevorkian. Burnett then made contact with other national rescue leaders. The Stop Kevorkian Project was being launched.

On February 22, Burnett and AFLM Associate Director Dawn Stover, boarded a plane for Detroit, Michigan. This territory was new to Burnett and Stover, as the exact details were still undecided.

Kevorkian's comings and goings were observed. The forthcoming action would depend on Kevorkian. AFLM, working in conjunction with Lynn Mills, Tim Fixx and other local pro-lifers, were present to do what they could to stop the killing.

While observation was being done February 23, Mills would go out to the Waterford Township neighborhood. It was in this neighborhood that the house of Neal Nicols had been used to end the lives of several of the 15 people. Neighbors in that area had acknowledged that it was "creepy" when Kevorkian came into the neighborhood with his van. Someone would die.

While in the neighborhood of the Paulsen Street house, Mills was able to observe Nicols, a "Tech-Assistant" to Kevorkian, taking out two bags of garbage. After talking with one of the neighbors, Mills noticed that the garbage was still sitting on the street. She confiscated the bags and returned to her home with them to await Burnett and Stover's return.

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That evening, wearing gloves, Burnett, Stover and Mills went through the garbage that had been discarded from the Nicols house. The items varied: some household trash, banana peels, paper towels, names on scraps of paper, etc., etc. Then a pair of examination gloves. Some tubing. An ECG strip! An ECG strip showing a heartbeat. Then a heartbeat stopping. An ECG strip representing someone's death!

Burnett smoothed out a piece of paper that read "Final Action" at the top. "J. Kevorkian, MD" was the signature at the bottom. The document discovered was the record of the "medicide" performed on Hugh Gale, the 13th person dying with Kevorkian's encouragement.

The most damning aspect of the "Final Action" document was a shock to Burnett, Stover and Mills. It was an account of the death of Hugh Gale; and Gale had twice said, "Take it off!"—in reference to the mask pumping deadly poison into his body.

The "Final Action" document read as follows:

*"**Procedure:** Patient placed plastic mask over nose and mouth, elastic, band around head. A plastic tent was put over his head and shoulders, lid at top open. The patient then pulled a string tied to his left index finger, other end attached to a clip, which was pulled off a crimped plastic tube, opening it from the outlet valve of a canister of CO gas to the mask. In about 45 seconds the patient became flushed, agitated, breathing deeply, saying 'Take it off!' The tent was removed immediately, the mask removed, and nasal oxygen started. He remained conscious and oriented, and within a minute calmed down to his normal breathing pattern. He was more relaxed and a bit somnolent, but awake and oriented. The patient wanted to continue. After about 20 minutes, with nasal oxygen continuing, the mask was replaced over his nose and mouth and he again pulled the clip off the crimped tubing. In about 30-35 seconds he again flushed, became agitated with moderate hyperpnea; and immediately after saying 'Take it off!' once again, he fell into unconsciousness. The mask was then left in place. Hyperpnea continued for about 35-40 seconds, after which a slower and calmer breathing pattern ensued, lasting about 8 minutes, gradually diminishing in rate and intensity. Heartbeat was undetectable about 3 minutes after last breath."*

Persons present and signing the "Final Action" were Mrs. Cheryl Gale, wife to the deceased man; Neal Nicol, Tech-Assistant, and Margo Janus, Tech-Assistant and sister to Kevorkian.

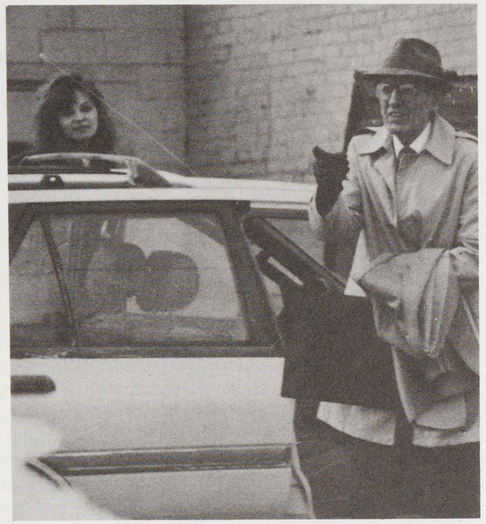
"We couldn't believe what we were seeing," said Stover. "It was heartbreaking enough to see the flatline on the ECG strip, and to see the tubing that may have been used to pump poisonous gas into someone's body. It left us with an eerie feeling knowing that this was a garbage bag with items that had obviously been used by Kevorkian and/or his assistants."

Burnett says, "We had to stop and take a break from going through the rest of the garbage. It was unbelievable to be holding the evidence showing that Kevorkian may have killed someone against their will. We didn't know what to expect in the garbage; but definitely not this."

Mills remembered that Prosecuting Attorney Richard Thompson had tried to pursue murder charges against Kevorkian in the past. She tried several different avenues to reach Thompson that evening, but to no avail.

Thompson made contact with Mills the following morning and set up a 1:30 p.m. appointment. Burnett, Stover and Mills arrived with the document and the rest of the "garbage " to turn over to the authorities.

Kevorkian's signature was authenticated and the homicide investigation was on in the death of Hugh Gale. This would make two of the Kevorkian deaths that are being handled as homicide cases.



Kevorkian jabs finger at Rev. Pat Mahoney of Christian Defense Coalition and demands, "Are you stalking me?"

Elaine Goldbaum, who died on February 8, is also listed as a homicide.

Burnett, Stover and Mills were asked not to go public until the police were able to do what they needed to. An agreement was made for AFLM to hold the press conference two days later.

National leaders were now arriving in Royal Oak to work with AFLM on the Stop Kevorkian Project. Local pro-lifers working with Tim Fixx had maintained observation posts along with Burnett, Stover and Mills. Pat Mahoney, national spokesperson for Operation Rescue; Joe Slovenic of Cleveland Operation Rescue; Joseph Foreman and Gary McCullough of Missionaries to the Preborn from Milwaukee; Phil Vollman, Dave Love and others had united to stop Kevorkian.

The next day search warrants were obtained and police entered the Royal Oak residence of Jack Kevorkian. Thompson said investigators found what they believe was "a doctored Final Action sheet...(where) the language that has the phrase 'Take it off!' has been whited out and they have concocted language to fit into that space."

Kevorkian's lawyer, Geoffrey Fieger, said Kevorkian had mistakenly written "Take it off!" twice while typing up the report and that

(Continued on page 8)

California terminates Kevorkian

California, the last remaining state where Jack Kevorkian holds a valid license to practice medicine, has taken action to revoke Dr. Death's credentials. Dixon Arnett, executive director of the state medical board, in announcing the license revocation proceedings on February 23, called Kevorkian "unfit to practice medicine in this state or any other."

The state of Michigan, where Kevorkian has done all his killing, revoked his license to practice medicine in 1991. ■