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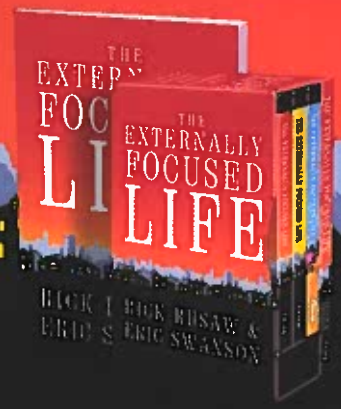
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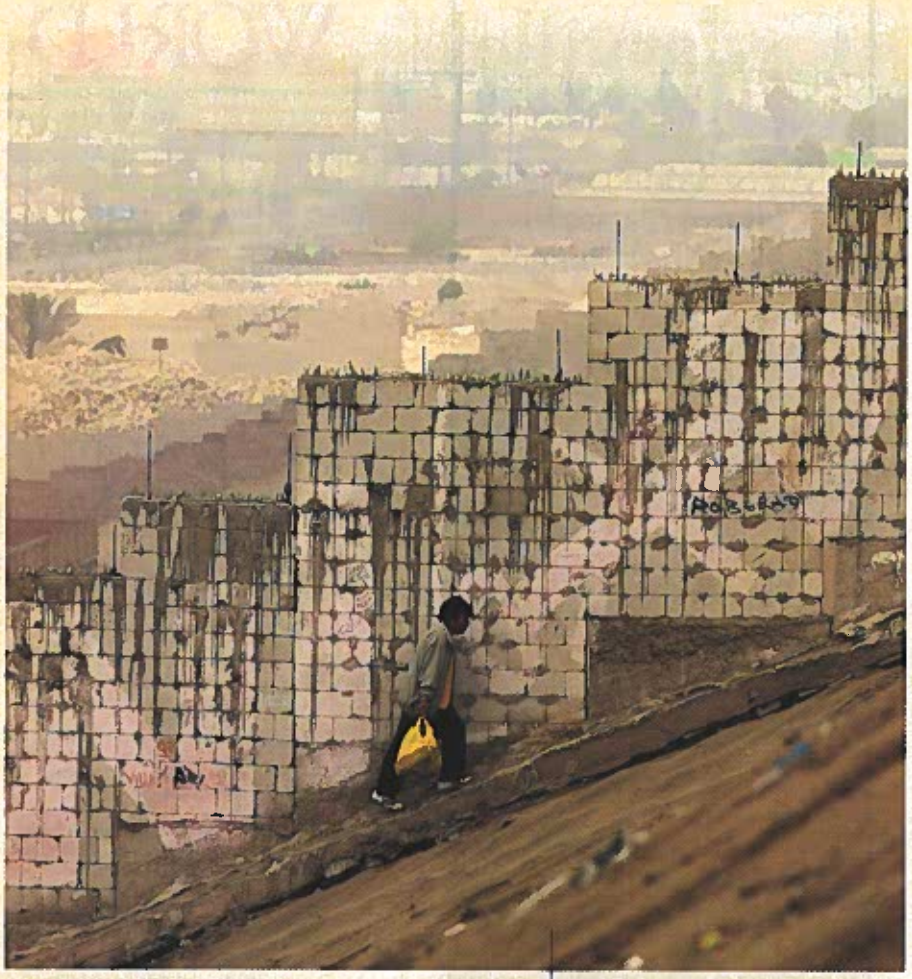
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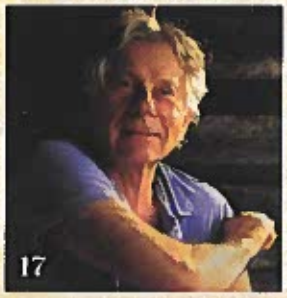
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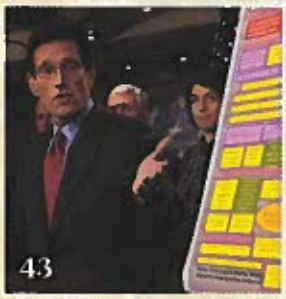


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Peru: poco a poco

Lima, at 9 million people one of the 10 largest cities in the Americas, is economically stratified but not stagnant. Here are snapshots of progress in the city that was once the capital of Spain's New World empire







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WORLD (ISSN 0888-157X) (USPS 763-010) is published biweekly (26 issues) for $49.95 per year by God's World Publications, (no mail) 85 Tunnel Rd., Suite 12, Asheville, NC 28805; (828) 232-5260. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC, and additional mailing offices. Printed in the U.S.A. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. © 2010 God's World Publications. All rights reserved. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WORLD, P.O. Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802-9998.**

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Discover the magic of a refined country inn.

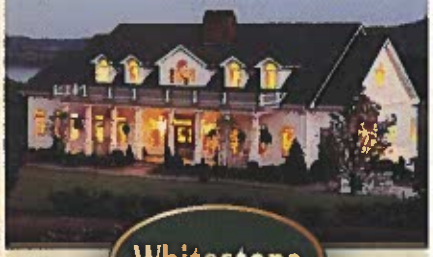
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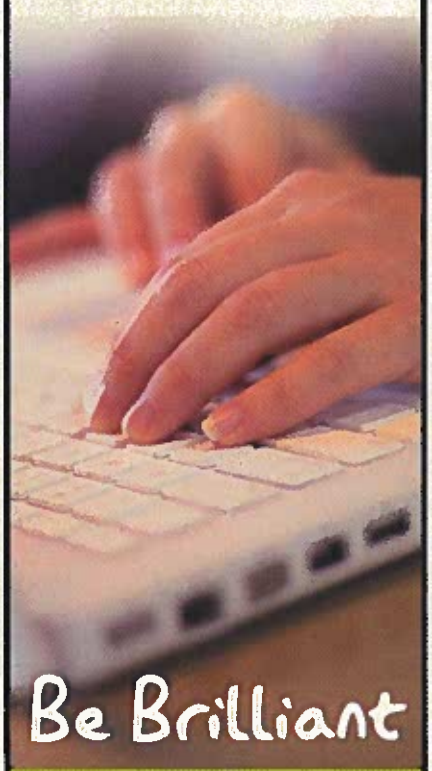
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WORLD is available on microfilm from Bell & Howell Information and Learning, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Indexing provided by the Christian Periodical Index.

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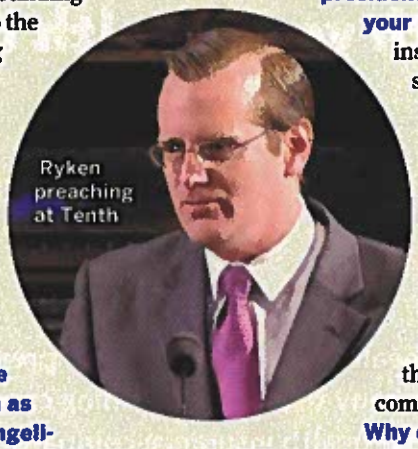
Nothing matters more

An interview with Wheaton College's new president

WHEN WHEATON College's trustees gathered on Friday evening, Jan. 19, it was to wrap up the most important task any such board ever takes on. They voted to approve the appointment of Philip G. Ryken as the college's eighth president in its 150-year history. Ryken, 43, is a Wheaton graduate (1988) and holds degrees as well from Westminster Seminary and Oxford University. For the last nine years, he has been senior pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Philadelphia.

I've explored several times on this page those forces that prompt schools either to hold fast to their founding principles or to drift, as they so often do, to the left. In that context, I've concluded, nothing matters more than top leadership.

So now, to those critics, cynics, or more casual observers who have sometimes puzzled over Wheaton's direction over the last generation or two, the school's board has sent a clear message. In picking Ryken, the trustees have said boldly—and unanimously—that Wheaton's historic evangelical commitments matter. I asked Ryken:


Ryken preaching at Tenth

Wheaton College, for at least a couple of generations, has enjoyed a reputation as the flagship academic institution of evangelicalism. Does Wheaton still deserve that reputation in 2010? By the grace of God, Wheaton continues to set a high standard of excellence in Christian liberal arts education. Wheaton is also a definitional institution. People both inside and outside the evangelical community look to the college for clarity about what it means to be evangelical. Although we do not claim a position of leadership for ourselves, we do seek to provide leadership where it is looked for.

What's the biggest threat to Wheaton, and the trust evangelicals have placed in the college for so long? The main challenge for any Christian community is always the same: to maintain theological integrity and spiritual vitality from generation to generation. The biggest threat is that we will lose our way and cease to be what the college has always tried to be: "For Christ and His Kingdom."

You have a personal reputation for some pretty explicit biblical and theological commitments. But academia in general—and sometimes even Wheaton College—seems preoccupied with diversity. How will you handle that? The theological diversity of Wheaton College is appropriate to its academic mission. One of the things I have always appreciated about Wheaton is the rich diversity of evangelical traditions that intersect on its campus. Our Statement of Faith identifies the core doctrines of Christian orthodoxy, on which we all agree. Beyond that, we have the academic and theological freedom to hold our own doctrinal views (Reformed, in my case)—and the loving responsibility to respect those who differ.

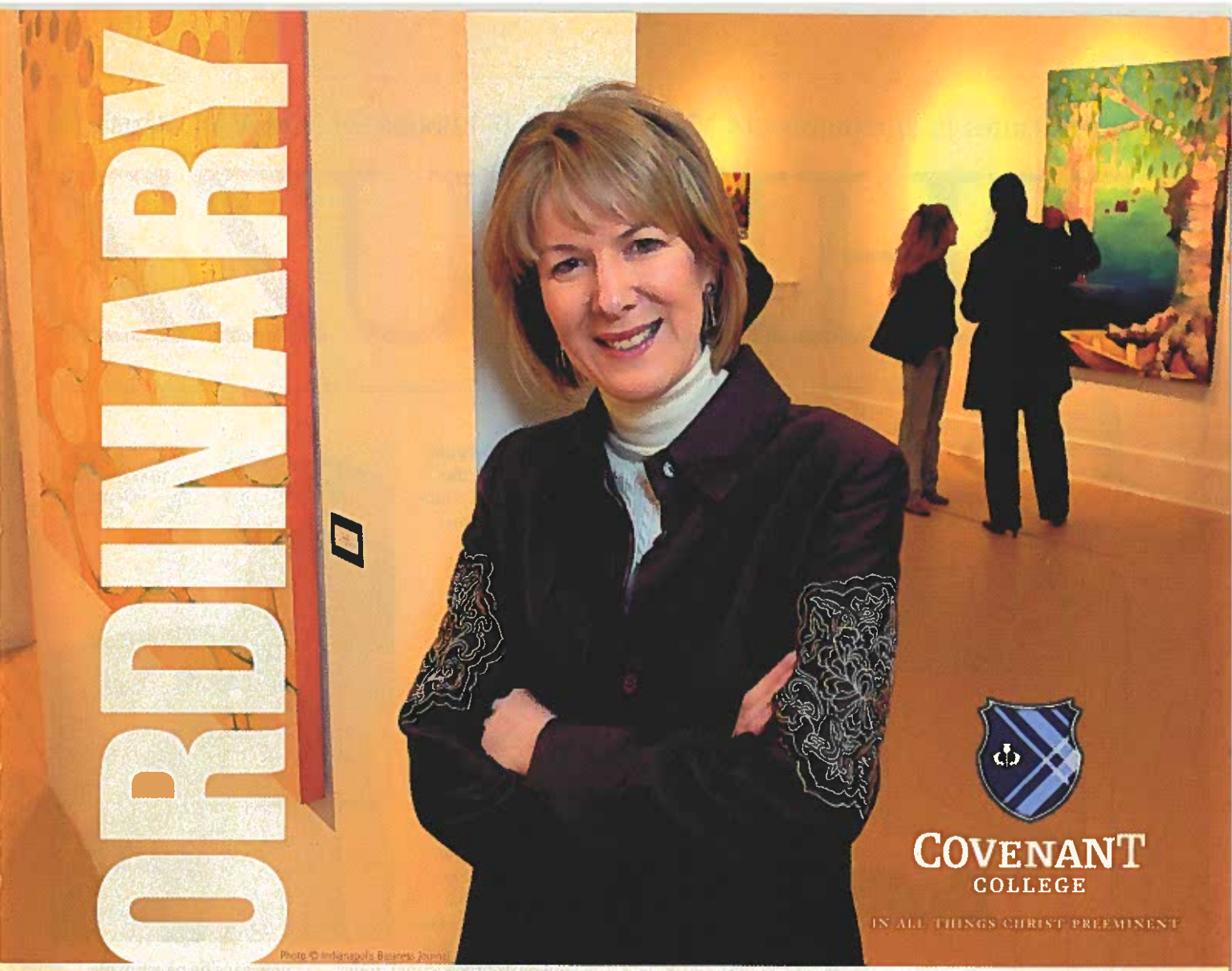
You are a churchman, coming from one of the most noteworthy congregations in America. During the presidential search at Wheaton in recent months, some Wheaton alumni and other activists openly scoffed at the idea of a pastor being selected as the new president. They also didn't like the fact that Wheaton's retiring president had come from the pastorate. What's your response? I understand the need for an institution of Wheaton's caliber to be led by someone who understands higher education—a qualification most pastors lack. I also recognize that there are some important differences between pastoral and presidential leadership. I will have a lot to learn. Yet I also pray that my pastoral background will be an asset in resolving conflicts and building consensus, in exercising theological discernment, in edifying the student body through chapel addresses, and in fostering a community of grace on campus.

Why do even good institutions so predictably drift to the left? What can Wheaton, and other evangelical colleges, do specifically so they don't have to be included in some later version of James Burtchaell's sad book from 1998, *The Dying of the Light*? Burtchaell focuses on the role that the Board of Trustees needs to play in maintaining institutional integrity—that's part of it. So is the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff, and administrators who truly share Wheaton's theological commitments and spiritual vision. But as much as anything, we need the help of God's Spirit.

Good stories center on a problem, and that problem's resolution. So ideally, 20 years from now, how would you like the story of Philip Ryken's presidency at Wheaton College to read? What problem? What resolution? I am neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, so I can't even begin to write the script for my tenure at Wheaton. My simple prayer—for a calling in which I am desperately dependent on the grace of God—is that I will be faithful to Christ and the work of His kingdom.


HANDOUT

If you have a question or comment for Joel Belz, send it to jbelz@worldmag.com



[CALLINGS]

In 2001, Joanna Taft '85 set out to reinvigorate her Indianapolis neighborhood with the arts. What was once an abandoned building is today the Harrison Center for the Arts, a thriving cultural hub of which Joanna is executive director.

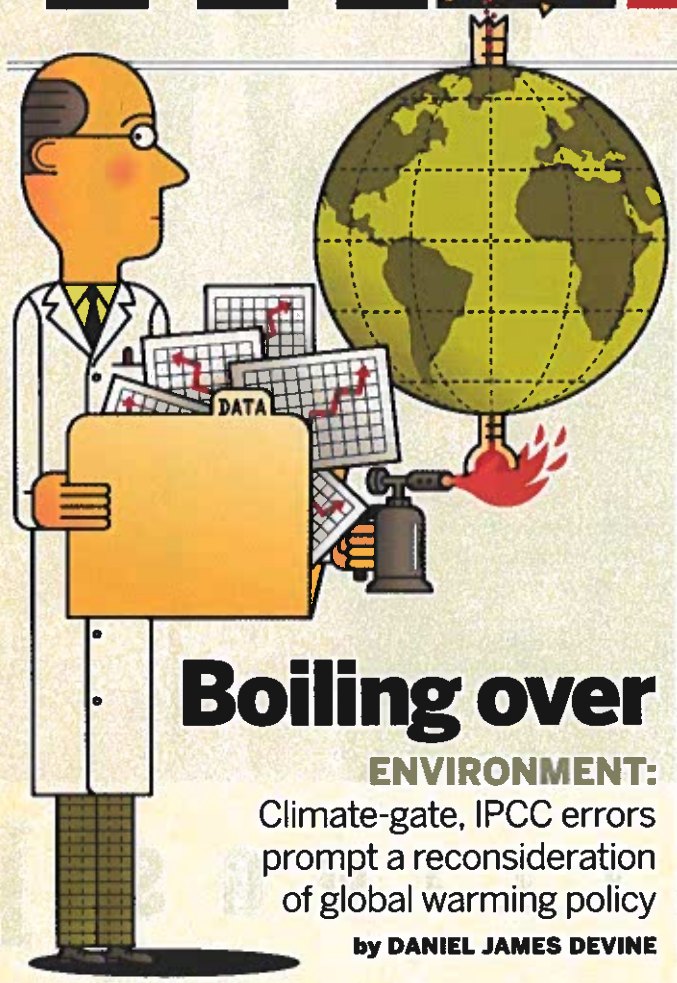
Since then, Joanna led the way in founding nearby Herron High School, a public charter school that delivers a classical college preparatory education with an emphasis on the arts to over 450 students. The student body outscored every other public school in the county on the state exam.

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THE BUZZ



Boiling over

ENVIRONMENT:

Climate-gate, IPCC errors prompt a reconsideration of global warming policy

by DANIEL JAMES DEVINE

SCIENTIFIC SCANDAL, media intrigue, and legal action: So go exhibits A, B, and C to prove "Climate-gate"—the name attached to the leak of emails between influential climate scientists late last year—was not just a passing headline. Investigations into the emails have since triggered a series of alarming revelations, ultimately prompting demands for a review of the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse-gas policy.

The email correspondence came from Britain's influential Climatic Research Unit (CRU). In some emails, former CRU director Phil Jones asked colleagues to delete certain messages in order to avoid freedom of information requests by global warming skeptics. A subsequent investigation by the U.K.'s Information Commissioner's Office determined in January that the CRU and its affiliated university violated Britain's Freedom of Information Act—but because of a quirk in the law, it was too late to impose a fine.

Under the ensuing media scrutiny, Jones has qualified his position on climate change: While maintaining a firm belief that recent warming is human-caused, he admitted the debate isn't settled, and that it's possible the warming of the 20th century's last three decades may not be unprecedented. Jones also admitted his group's temperature station data wasn't as organized as it should be.



Climatic Research Unit in Norwich, England

The email scandal has turned attention to a 2007 global warming report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which environmentalists cite as an authority on the facts for man-made warming. But media inquiries of recent weeks show the panel's facts need to be double-checked:

► A statement that the Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2035 was based on a study by WWF, an environmental advocacy group. The WWF, in turn, referenced an interview with an Indian glaciologist, who now says he never made such a prediction (see "Ice capades," Feb. 13). The IPCC has apologized for the unsubstantiated claim.

► Another claim of receding mountain ice was based on anecdotal evidence and a mountaineering magazine article.

► The report mistakenly stated that 55 percent of the Netherlands is below sea level. The correct figure is 26 percent.

Other dubious claims were found to be based on studies from advocacy groups or other "gray literature"—writings that are not scientifically peer-reviewed.

Defenders of the IPCC say a few errors don't challenge the overall robustness of the 3,000-page report.

ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE • CRU: KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

But the IPCC authors' reliance on gray literature casts doubt on the objectivity of the UN body, whose reports have been employed to pressure Western governments to cut carbon dioxide emissions at great costs.

The revelations surrounding the IPCC and CRU have prompted some scientists to call for more transparency and dialogue. **John Beddington**, the chief science advisor to the U.K. government, said there was a "fundamental uncertainty" about climate change predictions, and, "I don't think it's healthy to dismiss proper skepticism."

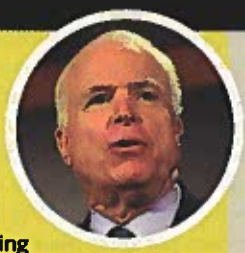


Although American mainstream media have been slow to criticize the IPCC and CRU, British mainstream media have led aggressive inquiries into both groups' claims following Climate-gate. "My impression . . . is that a lot of the British journalists are now realizing, 'We were suckered,'" said Cal Beisner of the Cornwall Alliance, an evangelical environmental group.

Last December, without waiting for congressional action, the EPA announced it would begin regulating greenhouse gases. Now, armed with the IPCC report flaws and the leaked emails, the states of Texas and Virginia, 17 House Republicans, and an assortment of businesses and policy groups have filed legal petitions with the EPA, asking it to reconsider its decision. The EPA relied heavily on IPCC research in reaching its conclusion that greenhouse gases pose a threat to human health.

LOOKING AHEAD

NEWS TO WATCH IN THE WEEKS TO COME



3/12 McCain to New Hampshire Former presidential candidate Sen. **John McCain** will return to New Hampshire for two days of stumping and fund-raising for Senate candidate Kelly Ayotte, who is vying to replace the retiring Sen. Judd Gregg. But while McCain is in the Granite State, he may still be thinking of his own race in Arizona where he faces a potentially difficult primary challenge from former congressman and talk-radio host J.D. Hayworth.

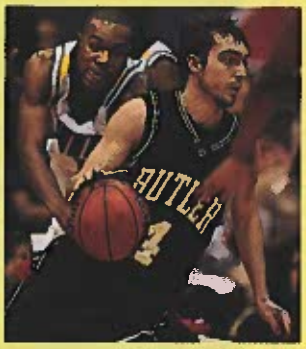


3/15 Rock Hall of Fame Swedish disco group ABBA and the Phil Collins–fronted Genesis will headline the 2010 induction ceremony at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. Other inductees include British Invasion group The Hollies, punk rock pioneers The Stooges, and Jimmy Cliff, who helped take Jamaican music mainstream.

3/15 Dot-com turns 25 Twenty-five years ago today, a small computer manufacturing company in Massachusetts registered its website, symbolics.com, becoming the world's first .com. Decades later, there are more than 85 million registered .com websites and over 300 million .coms that have been deleted into the recycling bin of history. Nearly 90,000 websites come online every day.

3/14 French go to the polls Part one of France's two-part, regional elections begins March 14. The regional elections could provide a venue for French socialists to deal a blow to center-right President **Nicolas Sarkozy**. Socialists already hold power in 20 of France's 22 mainland regions—and a sweep of regional elections could set the stage for a serious challenge to Sarkozy in 2012. The second round of French voting will come on March 21.





3/18 March Madness commences Not counting the March 16 play-in game, March Madness begins in earnest today. Around this time, newspapers and magazines will likely report that office pools cost U.S. businesses nearly $4 billion in lost productivity. But Slate.com columnist Jeff Merron argues those figures are highly inflated, saying they exaggerate the number of people who actually care whether Butler can pull off an upset. Another Merron argument: Those five minutes you took to check your alma-mater's score didn't subtract from your actual working hours, but from the time you usually spend checking your Facebook at the office.

3/20 Anniversary of the Iraq invasion Despite now costing more in inflation-adjusted dollars than the Vietnam War, the United States' involvement in Iraq shows promise at the beginning of its seventh year. Citizens of the conflict-weary nation were scheduled to go to the polls on March 7 for a parliamentary election. And though President Barack Obama promised to withdraw U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August, Pentagon officials are already making contingency plans to stay past the deadline.



BEDDINGTON: DAVID WIMSETT/PTS PHOTOS/NEWSCOM • McCAIN: LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE/AP
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Latin breakthrough

Abortion advocates claim that legalizing abortion leads to fewer maternal deaths but, according to research from Chile, the opposite is true. Chile made its abortion laws stricter in the 1980s, but between 1960 and 2000 the maternal death rate underwent the largest reduction of any Latin country—from 275 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 18.7 deaths.

Chile's maternal death rate is now lower than any other country in South America, according to a recent World Economic Forum report. Chile does not allow abortions if the woman's life is in danger and has rejected UN recommendations that it liberalize its abortion laws. Elard Koch, the University of Chile epidemiologist who researched maternal mortality, told the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute that he attributed the drop to education, "a breakthrough in the public health system and primary care."



Pro-lifers rally against morning-after pills



Priorities

Fourteen months into his administration, President Obama has not appointed a replacement as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, a position held by John Hanford for seven years under the Bush administration. On Feb. 13 the president did, however, announce the appointment of **Rashad Hussain**, deputy associate White House counsel, as U.S. special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The Saudi-based OIC calls itself the "collective voice of the Muslim world," and the practice of appointing a U.S. rep actually began under Bush. But as Hudson Institute senior fellow Paul Marshall points out, "Appointing an American envoy to the OIC gives that organization a legitimacy it does not deserve."

A nut by any other name

ACORN's New York branch is reforming under a different name after the national organization's standing has withered under allegations of corruption. "ACORN has dissolved as a national structure of state organizations," a senior ACORN official told Politico. It will now go by New York Communities for Change and is cutting all ties to the national organization, but little will change in the personnel or substance of the group's work. The largest ACORN state branch in California earlier decided to leave the national organization and assume a different name, and chapters in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Washington, and Massachusetts have shuttered or rebranded themselves as well. ACORN came under scrutiny after videos surfaced last year showing its employees advising conservative activists posing as a pimp and and a prostitute on how to open brothels and get tax breaks by employing minors.

NY Communities for Change

Catholic Charities
Opening doors to help and hope

Full stop

As a result of the Washington, D.C., council's vote to recognize same-sex marriages, the city's largest private provider of social services, Catholic Charities, has ended its foster care and adoption services for the city. The group had promised that it would allow its city contract to expire if the measure passed—given that it could obligate the organization to process adoptions for gay couples—though few on the D.C. council believed that the organization would follow through on its threat.

Winning one

At day 13. U.S. and Afghan troops claimed victory in one of the largest offensives of the war in volatile Helmand province. Officials unfurled the country's flag over new government offices Feb. 25 to reclaim the town of Marjah from the Taliban as governor Ghulab Mangal told Afghans. "Nobody can tell me that during the last two years the Taliban did a single thing for you. . . . Can you tell me they built a school? A clinic? Helped the poor? Built roads? Fixed the canals?" Thirteen NATO troops and three Afghan soldiers have been killed in the operation, and 80 wounded.



CHILE: ELISEO FERNANDEZ/REUTERS/LANDOV • HUSSAIN: AMER HILABI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES • AFGHANISTAN: ABDUL KHALEQ/AP

Iran's panic attack

Internal opposition is doing what diplomats cannot by MINDY BELZ

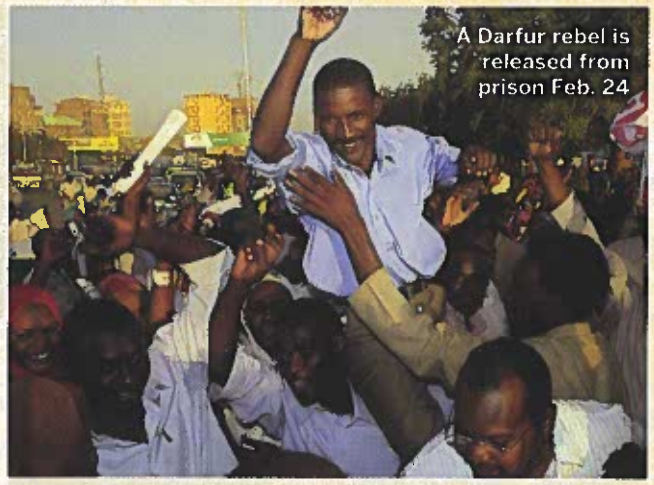
ALL IS NOT AS IT APPEARS IN TEHRAN. WHAT WAS meant to be a celebration of 31 years of Islamic theocracy last month turned into another bloody confrontation, and the regime's leaders are still recovering. Proclamations that all is well could not conceal the street-level revolution caught by Google Earth and pocket video during Feb. 11 events planned by Iran's Islamic leaders that turned into riots against the regime. In more recent days, reports Iranian expert Michael Ledeen of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, top brass have been replaced: Gen. Ali Fazli was fired as head of the Revolutionary Guards' Tehran brigade, while Gen. Azizollah Rajabzadeh was let go as police chief of greater Tehran after only six months. Rajabzadeh "went out of his way to blame the Guards," said Ledeen, for the street violence in Iran's capital over the past months, saying that Tehran police "did not even kill a single person."



YouTube video grabs showing Iranian police arresting then beating a protester Feb. 11

The inner turmoil helps to explain Iran's outer belligerence when it comes to its nuclear capabilities. It's been over six months since the UN demanded that Iran hand over its enriched uranium and let a UN agency oversee its conversion into fuel rods for nuclear energy. During that time, Iran has continued making fuel and announced last month it will enrich uranium to a level of 20 percent—a process that could take a year and is well beyond current levels allowed by the UN's International Atomic Energy Administration (IAEA). Iran claims that 20 percent enriched uranium is required for its nuclear reactor. The problem: Once uranium is enriched to that level, experts say, it will take Iran only six months using its present facilities to move to 90 percent—the level required to produce a bomb.

As enrichment continues, diplomatic delays continue to work in favor of Iran's nuclear program and the current regime. Growing internal opposition, however, is forcing the regime to lose its cool.



A Darfur rebel is released from prison Feb. 24

Darfur ceasefire

Nearly seven years after the Sudanese government in Khartoum began a campaign of genocide against its own citizens in the western region of Darfur, officials in Khartoum agreed to a peace deal with Darfur's most powerful rebel faction. The peace accord with the Justice Equality Movement (JEM) called for an immediate ceasefire. Officials said the agreement would also create government positions for JEM rebels, and that Khartoum would commute the death sentences of some 100 JEM fighters accused of carrying out a deadly attack against the capital in 2008. The deal comes ahead of nationwide elections scheduled for April. Those contests represent the nation's first multi-party elections in 24 years. Citizens in South Sudan—still recovering from 20 years of civil war waged by Khartoum—see those elections as critical to asserting their position in the country. But JEM officials said they would press Khartoum to delay the elections—a move that may give Khartoum time to consolidate new alliances and cause dangerous friction with the South.

Dragnet

Assassination teams, beware: Dubai has a lot of surveillance cameras. When a team of agents purportedly suffocated top Hamas operative Mahmoud al-Mahbouh in a Dubai hotel on Jan. 20, their every move, aside from the murder itself, was captured on camera. The Dubai police published footage from airports and hotels showing the agents, but that only widened the focus on the incident: Dubai named 26 suspects who apparently used false identities culled from around the world. Dubai accused Israel's intelligence agency of masterminding the assassination but later said Hamas itself may have tipped off the Israelis.



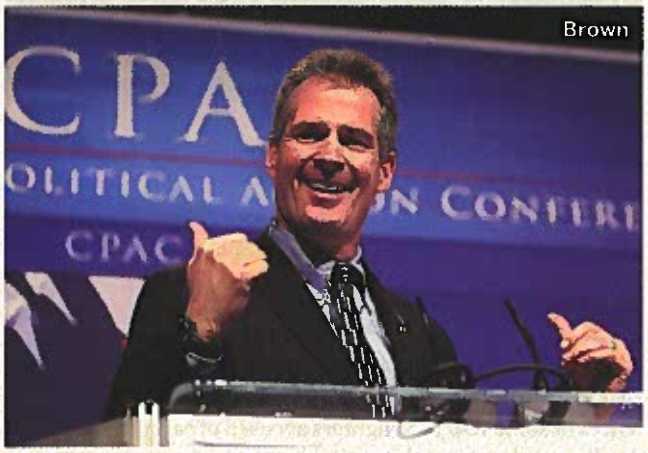
Dubai police chief

IRAN: AFP/GETTY IMAGES • DARFUR: ABD RAOUF/AP • DUBAI: DUBAI RULER'S MEDIA OFFICE/AP

Tebow rules

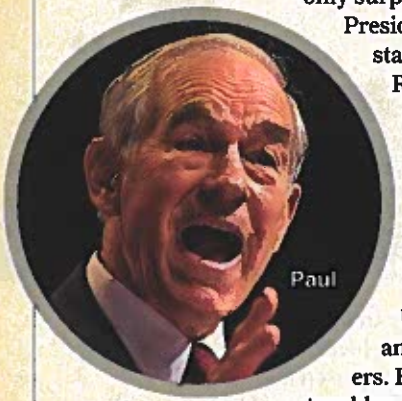
First the Tebow Bills, now a Tebow Rule. The NCAA Football Rules Committee agreed last month to bar players from displaying words, numbers, logos, and other symbols in the anti-glare "eye black" used under player' eyes. Though not mentioned in the decision, college football star and outspoken Christian Tim Tebow has been credited by numerous media and bloggers as having had an influence on the move for citing Bible verses in his eye black. The rule isn't official until approved by the NCAA's Playing Rules Oversight Panel, but already it is the standard followed by the NFL.





Conservatives unite

Few, if any, politicos would have predicted it: a U.S. senator from Massachusetts addressing the nation's biggest annual gathering of conservatives. But that is just what Republican Sen. Scott Brown did at this year's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington. What a difference a year makes: The 2010 version of this annual pep rally for ultra-conservatives saw more than 10,000 attendees still in a partying mood after recent Republican victories. Last year, coming just weeks after President Barack Obama's inauguration, the event had a somber, soul-searching tone. "They said this CPAC convention would be our wake," said Colin Hanna, president of the nonprofit public policy group Let Freedom Ring. "It's not. It's our rebirth." Brown was not the only surprise speaker. Former Vice President Dick Cheney took the stage to chants of "Run, Dick, Run"—just days before he sustained a mild heart attack, his fifth, on Feb. 22.



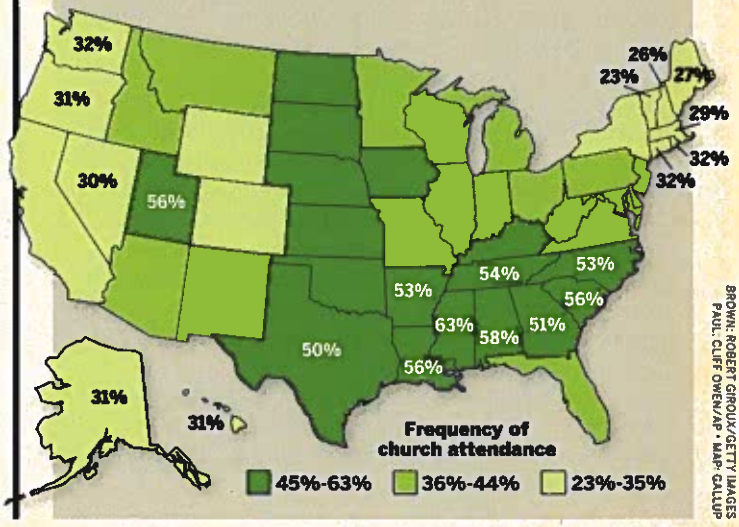
The three-day event's biggest target was no surprise: Speaker after speaker took on the president over last month's State of the Union address, healthcare, and even his use of teleprompters. But in the end attendees had trouble rallying around a bonafide GOP candidate of their own, selecting 2008's Constitution Party candidate Ron Paul as their straw-poll favorite.

UN battle

Every UN meeting "has become a battleground" over the right to life, warned Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and this month's Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York—marking the 15th anniversary of the declaration signed at the Beijing Women's conference—will be no exception. Smith, speaking to UN delegates ahead of the meeting at an event organized in New York by Focus on the Family, called the campaign to defend the right to life "the greatest human rights struggle in the world . . . especially for unborn children and others at risk." He called abortion "violence against children, a pernicious form of child abuse" and said UN agencies and non-governmental agencies have "falsely marketed [it] as choice, women's empowerment, a human right or health care."

Bible belt

Mississippians are the most frequent churchgoers in the nation, and Vermonters the least churchgoing. That's the conclusion of a survey by Gallup, which found that nine of the top 10 states in church attendance are in the South. Utah, with 56 percent attendance, was the only non-Southern state to make the top 10. Only 23 percent of Vermont residents attend church frequently, and all states at the bottom of the church attendance list are in either New England or the West.



BROWN: ROBERT GROUX/GETTY IMAGES • PAUL: CLIFF OWEN/AP • MAP: GALLUP



Soldier stories

Conservative leaders are warning that revoking the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy could harm America's military in the midst of two wars. Elaine Donnelly, the president of the Center for Military Readiness, said repealing the law that prevents openly gay men and lesbians from serving in the military would drain manpower as the services devote resources toward "enormously complicated" regulations. "There is no good time to use our military for social engineering," she said. "Our men and women in uniform should not have to pay the bill for political promises the president has made to the left." Focus on the Family, the American Conservative Union, and others are part of a new coalition that will lobby lawmakers against repealing the 1993 law, as recommended by President Obama. His senior military officers, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates, then told a Senate committee that the military would undertake a yearlong study on the repercussions of a repeal. The coalition cited providing partner benefits, housing, and joint deployments for gay couples, along with standards for sexual conduct in war zones, as repercussions the review must tackle. "People say the times have changed, and they have," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "We're now fighting two wars. This is possibly the worst time to consider experimenting with the military."

PROTEST: JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP • STARR: ROD AYDELOTTE/WACO TRIBUNE HERALD/AP • MURRAY: MIKE GROLL/AP • BISHOP: BOB GATHANY/THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES/LANDOV • HAIG: DIANA WALKER/TIME & LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

HUMAN RACE

APPOINTED: Baylor University tapped **Kenneth Starr**, 63, to serve as the Baptist school's 14th president. Starr, who is widely recognized for his role as independent counsel during the Clinton era's Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky scandals, has never been a member of a Baptist church. But as Rice University sociologist and Baylor alum Michael Lindsay said, "The best leaders are ones who were born for their moment in an institution's history. Both Baylor and Ken Starr have weathered significant public storms in recent decades." Starr represented supporters of California's Prop 8 marriage amendment before the state Supreme Court last year.



APPOINTED: Wheaton College announced Feb. 20 that Dr. Philip Ryken, senior pastor at Philadelphia's Tenth Presbyterian Church, will serve as the Christian school's eighth president. Ryken, a 1988 Wheaton graduate, will succeed Dr. Duane Litfin after he retires in June.

ELECTED: A 45-year-old Long Island businessman is believed to be the first Tea Party activist to attain public office after defeating his Democratic challenger in a February special election. **Dean Murray**, who organized Tea Party protests last year, took the oath of office Feb. 22 to serve as the New York assemblyman for Long Island's 3rd Assembly District.

ASSAULTED: A Chicago father embroiled in a bitter divorce may face jail time after he defied a court order barring him from taking his 3-year-old daughter to Catholic church services. A judge issued the unusual 30-day restraining order after Joseph Reyes, who converted to Judaism during his marriage but says he never stopped practicing Catholicism, had his daughter baptized without seeking permission from his estranged Jewish wife.

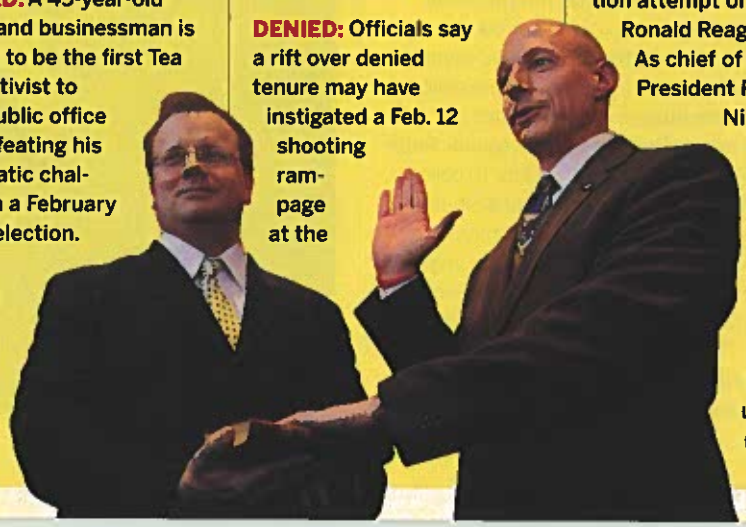
ARRESTED: The stripper who falsely accused three Duke University lacrosse players of gang-raping her in 2006 is now facing charges of attempted murder and arson. Police officers arrested Crystal Mangum, 33, Feb. 17 after she allegedly threatened to kill her boyfriend and then set his clothes on fire in a bathtub.

DENIED: Officials say a rift over denied tenure may have instigated a Feb. 12 shooting rampage at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. **Amy Bishop** allegedly shot and killed three colleagues and seriously wounded three others during a biology department meeting. According to a lawyer for the 44-year-old Harvard-educated neuroscientist and mother of four, Bishop does not remember shooting her colleagues but she is now "aware of what she's done. She's very sorry for it."



DIED: Former secretary of state and presidential adviser **Alexander Haig** died Feb. 20 at the age of 85. The four-star general was infamous for announcing, "I am in control here in the White House," after an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in 1981. As chief of staff under President Richard Nixon, he defended the president during Watergate then was widely believed to have urged his resignation.







Facebook bully

With a ruling from a federal judge in Florida, Facebook may quickly become the next First Amendment battleground. A federal magistrate in February ruled against a high school's attempt to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a student who claimed the punishment she received for complaining about a teacher on the popular social networking website violated her First Amendment right to free speech. Officials at Pembroke Pines Charter High School had said the student, **Katherine Evans**, was "cyberbullying" the teacher. The magistrate ruled that the case against the school's principal should proceed, meaning civil libertarians (and high-schoolers) will now be watching Katherine Evans' case to see just how much they can get away with online.

Barking orders

Police charged a Gainesville, Fla., man with striking a police animal on Feb. 9, but 21-year-old Mario Duane Porter never laid his hands on the police dog. The violation happened when police stopped Porter for a traffic violation and a K9 unit began sniffing around his car to check for drugs. Porter interrupted the dog's work by commanding it to sit. The dog obeyed the suspect until officers were able to quiet Porter. The dog eventually found a bag that probably once contained marijuana sitting under the driver's seat.

Product placement

KFC officials are advising anyone with a healthy appetite and knowledge about a January theft of a bust of Colonel Sanders from a Kentucky store to contact police. According to a KFC spokesman, the fast-food chain is offering $500 worth of grilled chicken as a reward for information leading to the return of a bronze bust of the chain's founder to a KFC in Berea, Ky. Why not a cash reward? "We think KFC's world-famous chicken is a better motivator than money," the spokesman said. The bust is valued at $1,200.



Don't be my Valentine

Rather than risk the emotional scarring that could come from a youngster not receiving enough Valentine's Day cards, Ashcombe Primary School in southwest England banned all of the cutesy cards this year. "Some children and parents encourage a lot of talk about boyfriends and girlfriends," head teacher Peter Turner wrote in a monthly newsletter to parents. "We believe that such ideas should wait until children are mature enough emotionally and socially to understand the commitment involved in having or being a boyfriend and girlfriend." But parents of the children, ages 4-11, balked at the ban. "Whatever is going to be next?" asked parent Rajeev Takyar. "Banning them stops children from having social skills."

Snowy states

All snowmageddons are local. The blizzard that buried Washington, D.C., under snow in early February was far from an isolated incident. On Feb. 13, 49 of the 50 U.S. states reported snow on the ground. That includes Dallas, which received over a foot of the white stuff in a record one-day snowfall; Atlanta; and even parts of the Florida panhandle. The lone holdout was Hawaii, which sometimes—but not presently—does have snow atop its highest volcanoes.



Snow in Litchfield, S.C., on the night of Feb. 12

EVANS: PHILLIPPE DIEDERICH/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX • ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE • SOUTH CAROLINA: STEVE JESSMORE/THE SUN NEWS/AP



Down the hatch

Some people collect stamps. Others plant gardens. **Chayne Hultgren**'s hobby is a bit more dangerous. The 31-year-old Australian man swallows swords. And on Feb. 8, the street performer broke his own record for number of swords swallowed at one time. Hultgren managed to swallow 18 swords at once—each nearly 30 inches in length. "It's amazing," he said. "I've been preparing for this since I was 16."

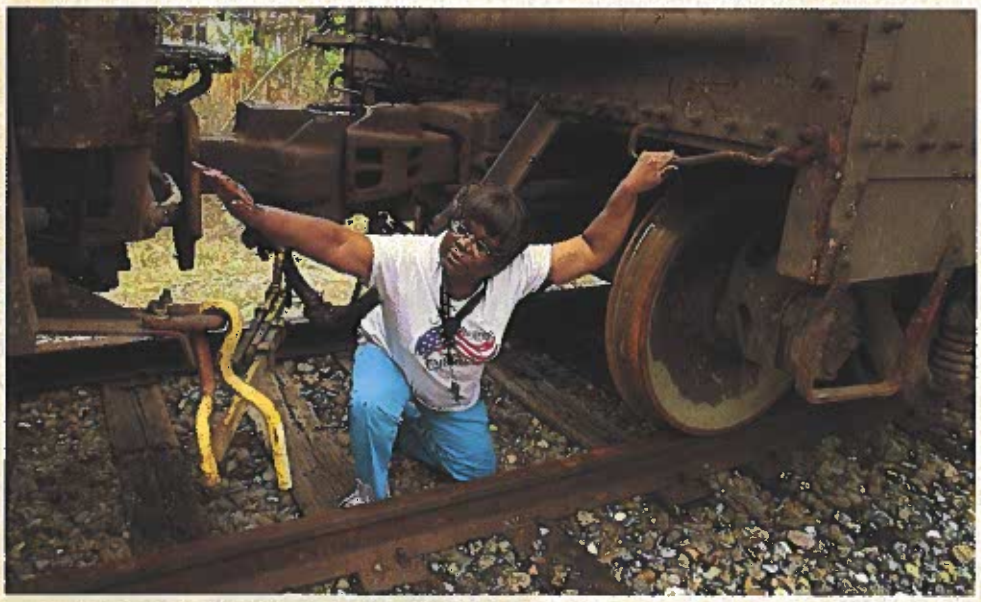
Rumble seat

A Wayne County, Ind., man may want to reconsider his choice of getaway vehicles after law enforcement caught him driving a backhoe north on U.S. 27 just north of Richmond, Ind. Sheriff's deputies stopped Robert E. Hull driving a stolen backhoe after he allegedly rumbled through a construction fence to steal the heavy machinery from a depot. Deputies charged the 40-year-old with theft and burglary—both felonies. An operating-while-intoxicated charge has been tabled pending toxicology reports.



False beak

One creative Alaskan dentist has given an injured bald eagle a new chance at life. Workers from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center in Anchorage, Alaska, brought dentist Kirk Johnson a bird with an unusual problem: The bald eagle had a broken beak, probably caused by getting tangled in fishing line. Johnson's solution? Create a temporary crown for the bird's beak, affix it with poster putty, and color it with yellow highlighter to resemble the bird's real beak.



Boxed in

Life really got hard for **Aretha Brown** when she had to climb under train cars to get out of her house. On Dec. 27, CSX Transportation parked 40 rail cars on tracks that run in front of her house in Callahan, Fla. Problem: The tracks lie so close to her house that they form an impromptu barrier, preventing her from visiting friends, getting in her car, or even getting her mail without first climbing under the rail cars. The 66-year-old woman is managing, but she says that it's been hard to keep her Sunday clothes clean when going to church. CSX reports it's still looking for a spot to relocate the 40 rail cars.



Driving for dollars

Madison, Wis., bus driver John E. Nelson knows a good deal when he sees it. As other city employees took vacation days and sick leave, Nelson racked up overtime. And thanks to his union contract with the city, the bus driver was the city's highest-paid employee in 2009, taking home $159,258—more than two-thirds of which he earned with overtime hours. Nelson isn't the only bus driver laughing his way to the bank. Bus driving colleague Greg Tatman earned $125,598 last year, which was good enough to make him one of the city's top 20 wage earners. In all, seven of Madison's city bus drivers earned six figures under the contract negotiated by the Teamsters Union.

HULTGREN: JOE LARARRTE/BUSCOPAN/AP • ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE • BROWN: KELLY JORDAN/THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION • BUS: RANDY STERN

"It's my health, it's my choice."



Newfoundland and Labrador Premier **DANNY WILLIAMS**, defending his controversial decision not to have heart surgery in Canada's socialized healthcare system. Williams instead sought and received treatment in early February at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, Fla.



"The gear works, this proves it."

Marine Lance Corporal **ANDREW KOENIG**, 21, after taking sniper fire directly to his forehead, a shot that knocked him down but would've been fatal but for his helmet. Taliban snipers have been a new threat to U.S. forces taking part in Operation Mushtarak, the largest NATO offensive in Afghanistan in eight years.

"I married a guy, he killed himself, I inherited everything. That's the way it goes."

Musician **COURTNEY LOVE**, on forever being associated with the legacy of rock star Kurt Cobain, who committed suicide in 1994.



"I actually don't have a job description. But if I had one, I am sure I would have overstepped the boundaries."

YVO DE BOER in announcing his resignation on Feb. 18 as UN climate chief, two months after a highly publicized UN summit in Copenhagen failed to achieve its goals.

"No restoration, no cleaning, nothing. I would suspect that's because no one thought it was of great value."

OLIVER CHANLER of Geneseo, N.Y., on a portrait of George Washington in his parents' home that he and his family had thought was a copy. But appraisers say it is an original by Gilbert Stuart and estimated that it could sell for up to $300,000 at a March 27 auction.



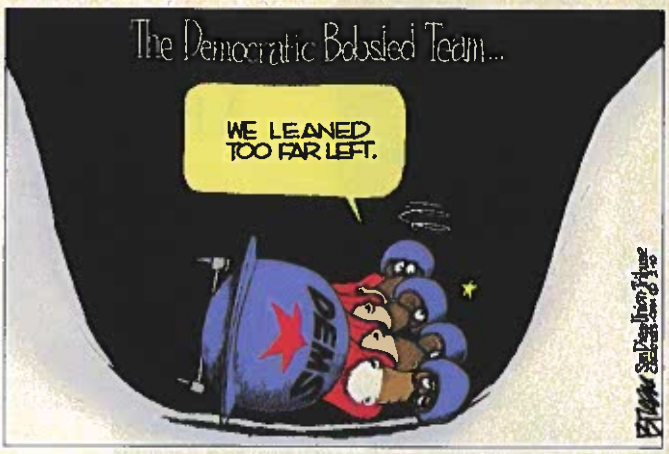


"It came to the point where we were getting customer complaints from women who found the content getting too degraded and objectionable."

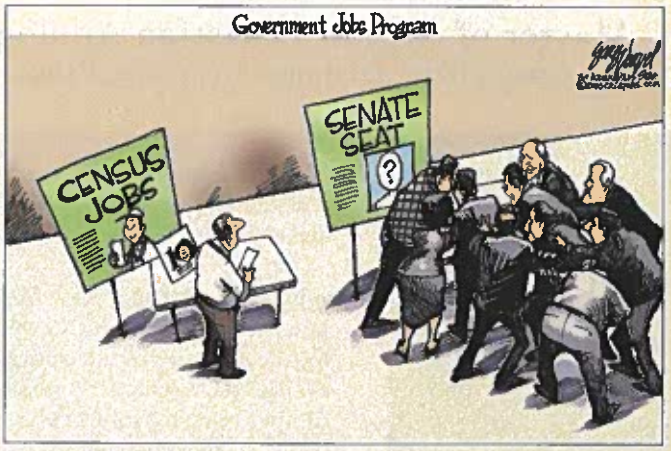
PHILIP SCHILLER of Apple, Inc. on the company's banning of sexually suggestive iPhone apps last month.

WILLIAMS: SHAUN BEST/REUTERS /LANDOV • LOVE: JOEL RYAN/AP • DE BOER: CLAUS BJORN LARSEN/POLFOTO/AP
WASHINGTON: SHAWN DOWD/DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE/AP • SCHILLER: JEFF CHIU/AP


I CAN'T DECIDE. PUT MY MAN ON IT. THAT'S THE BLOCK
IRAN


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DEMS


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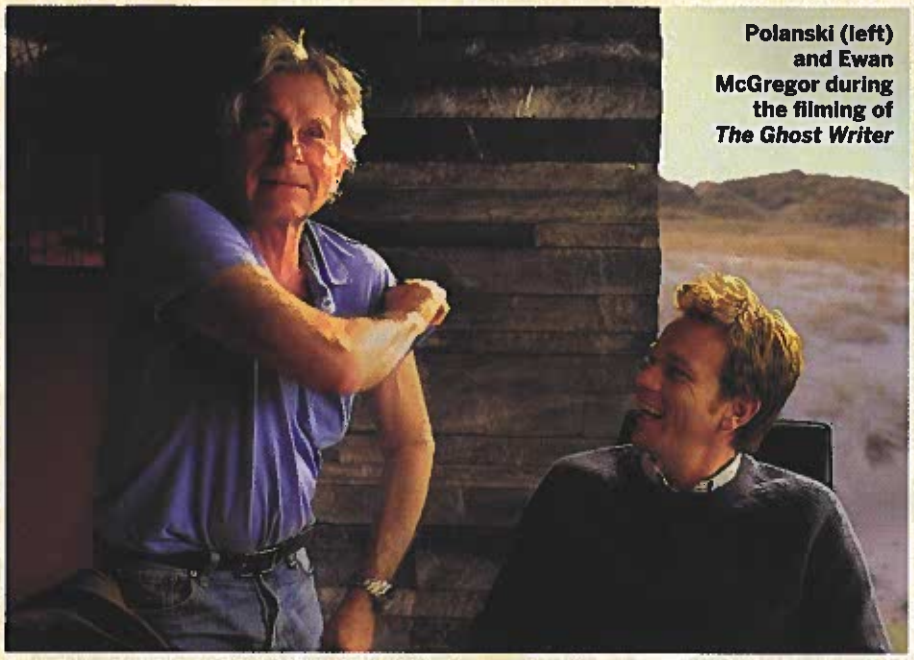
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Polanski (left) and Ewan McGregor during the filming of *The Ghost Writer*

Director's cut

MOVIE: Roman Polanski doesn't catch how his latest film indicts him

by MEGAN BASHAM

WHATEVER ELSE MAY (AND MUST) BE said about Roman Polanski, one thing will always be included: The man is an exceptional director. His gift for pacing and his skill at creating atmosphere have elevated what might otherwise be forgettable pulp films into classics of their genres. His latest, *The Ghost Writer*, displays Polanski's unrivaled ability to take a mediocre script and infuse it with style and suspense. It also displays a stunning lack of self-awareness.

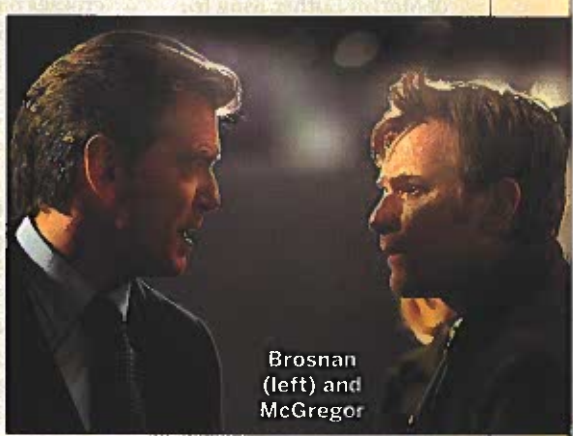
When a successful ghostwriter (Ewan McGregor whose character is never named) is hired to write the memoirs of former British Prime Minister Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan) only two months prior to publication, he knows something is amiss. It's not just that his predecessor on the job died in a suspicious suicide, it's also that Lang's staff keeps the seemingly bland rough draft under lock and key.

Within a day of his arrival at the isolated Martha's Vineyard mansion that serves as Lang's base camp, the ghost discovers that his subject is being investigated by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, primarily for authorizing the use of waterboarding against suspected terrorists and turning them over to the CIA for torture. In between dodging anti-war activists and the unmarked black sedans that have started following him, the ghost begins to suspect that both Lang and his manuscript are hiding secrets that threaten much more than the ex-PM's reputation.

Despite its ludicrous pretension to serve as an indictment of the Bush and Blair administrations, *The Ghost Writer* (rated PG-13 for language and sexuality) is a good thriller. With the exception of Kim Cattrell, whose British accent is so irregular I wondered at one point whether it was intentional and would turn out to be a clue in the mystery, the cast is phenomenal. McGregor brings an amusing edge of sarcasm to his role that saves the film from pitching over into laughable earnestness, and it's hard to imagine a better fit for the charming but dangerous Lang than Pierce Brosnan.

But what really makes *The Ghost Writer* work is the intense, foreboding pall Polanski manages to cast over every scene. This is intrigue for grown-ups where our attention is riveted by increasing stakes rather than increasingly loud noises. That is, until the director overplays his moral indignation and reveals that he is either oblivious to what the public thinks of his real-world crime or defiant of it.

For the most part, it is a reviewer's job to consider the creation apart from the creator, but this proves an impossible task with *The Ghost Writer*. Elements of the plot parallel aspects of Polanski's life so closely, and the ethical conclusions he reaches in this fictional world are so contradictory to those he reached in regard to himself, his hypocrisy can't help but intrude on the experience.

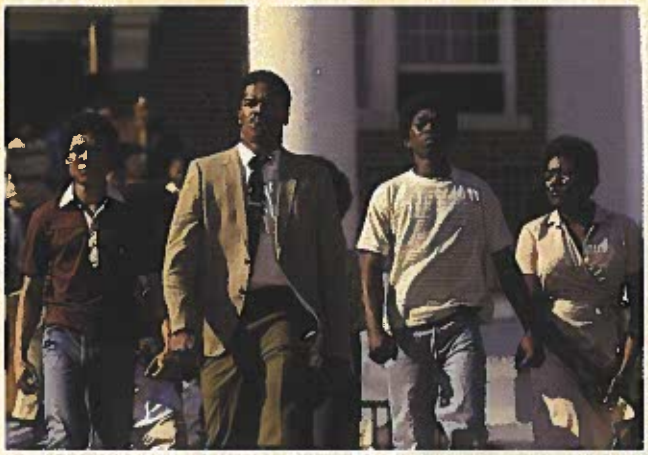


Brosnan (left) and McGregor

A key point of the story is a powerful man being shielded from justice on the basis of his stature in the world. For those who may have forgotten, the French-born Polanski fled the United States in 1978 to avoid further sentencing for his admitted rape of a 13-year-old girl. Because of his cinematic achievements he has avoided extradition, though since last December he has been under house arrest in Switzerland. That Pierce Brosnan's character's renown is based in politics must make him less worthy of pardon to Polanski than, say, a man whose renown is based in the arts.

The specter of a CIA-controlled prime minister eluding prosecution from The Hague by holing up in a Cape Cod compound demands outrage. *Yes, force him from his place of hiding and make him answer for his wrongdoing* is the reaction the film tries to wrest from its viewers. That Polanski sees this film as a relevant geopolitical allegory is obvious. That he apparently fails to see how that theme relates to him is astounding.

GUY FARRANDIS/SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT



Sign of the times

MOVIE: Film uses a simmering small town to highlight a national struggle **by REBECCA CUSEY**

IN THE SOUTH IN 1970, change was slow in coming. The town of Oxford, N.C., had its traditions, inertia, and quiet discrimination that kept black people at the margins of society. Two years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the African-American community of Oxford still struggled under de facto Jim Crow restrictions.

The movie *Blood Done Sign My Name* (PG-13) tells the true story of a murder and the fight for equality from the perspective of the child of a white Methodist minister. Rev. Vernon Tyson (Rick Schroder) brings his family to Oxford to take over the Methodist church there. Racism is in the air they breathe, in the schoolyard, in the stores where they shop. The minister struggles to balance serving the spiritual needs of his flock as they marry, die, and battle the need to challenge racial assumptions.

At the same time as the Tyson family is settling in, Ben Chavis (Nate Parker), a black man, has returned from graduate school to his hometown. The son of a wealthy and educated family, he feels a great burden for his people. Dickie Marrow (A.C. Sanford), also a black man, has come home from serving in the Vietnam War to his wife and children. One fateful night, Dickie crosses paths with three angry white men. His murder, and the subsequent trial of the men, churns the already charged atmosphere of the town into a tornado of anger.

Change comes to Oxford, N.C., but not through the methods that Rev. Tyson had wanted.

The movie, while not as epic in scale as some civil-rights films, does an excellent job showing how small choices, attitudes, and willful blindness can add up to large injustice as well as how difficult it can be to fight such ingrained societal ills.

Cheap tricks

MOVIE: *Shutter Island*'s script does not measure up to its director **by MEGAN BASHAM**

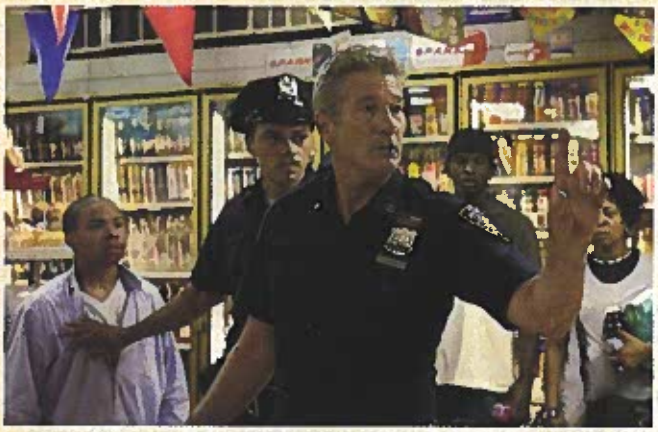
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT WHEN MARTIN Scorsese—the director who previously cast him in such successful ventures as *Gangs of New York*, *The Aviator*, and *The Departed*—comes calling, Leonardo DiCaprio is going to jump at the chance to star in another of his films. What isn't so understandable is what interested someone of Scorsese's caliber in such a run-of-the-mill, predictable horror script as *Shutter Island* (rated R for violence, language, and non-sexual nudity) in the first place.

As soon as most viewers see U.S. Marshall Teddy Daniels (DiCaprio) and his partner Chuck (Mark Ruffalo) step onto the gothic grounds of the Shutter Island mental institution to investigate the disappearance of a violent inmate (Emily Mortimer), they will begin to suspect where the movie will wind up in the last 10 minutes. And they will be right. The wrenching performances from DiCaprio and Ben Kingsley, the nightmarish visuals, and the sweeping gothic score aren't enough to throw us off the track of the big twist we know is coming.

And because the twist, when it finally does come, is such an old, cheap trick, it makes Scorsese's attempts to fill the in-between time with material he evidently thinks will lend his film some greater import feel bombastic and gross. Horrifying images of the Holocaust and matricide don't add up to a great reflection on the nature of humanity and its capacity for violence; they add up to a distraction.

Next time, the great Scorsese might want to take a page from one of his great colleagues, Steven Spielberg. If all he wanted to make was an effective scary movie, he should have accepted the limitations of his story and enjoyed himself (*Indiana Jones* can't also be *Schindler's List*). But if he wanted to make great art, he needed to start with much better source material.





Competing loyalties

MOVIE: Violent police drama sets cops against each other, themselves **by REBECCA CUSEY**





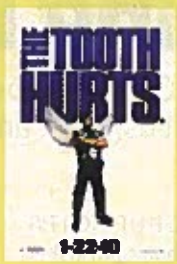
IT'S EASY TO TELL right from wrong from the cushions of an easy chair. Out on the front lines of the war between criminals and police, the lines get muddled. At least, that's the premise of the brutal and sexually explicit police drama *Brooklyn's Finest*. The film starts with a monologue about right and wrong from a drug dealer and ends with three police officers forced to choose between competing loyalties.

Sal (Ethan Hawke) is a blue-collar Roman Catholic. Although he puts his life on the line in the SWAT team every day, he can't afford a proper home for his ever-growing family. He eyes the mounds of drug-lord cash his team confiscates on every raid. Tango (Don Cheadle) has been working undercover for years, infiltrating a crime ring, even spending time in prison. As his "real" life crumbles, he finds himself identifying with and caring about his mark, crime boss Caz (Wesley Snipes), more than his police brethren.

While Sal and Tango put themselves in harm's way daily, Eddie (Richard Gere) gave up on his job long ago. He's counting the days until retirement and keeping his head down, even when there are citizens who need his protection. All three must ultimately decide which side they're on. The consequences are deadly.

From the director of *Training Day* (Antoine Fuqua), this film earns every inch of its R rating, with brutal violence, explicit sex scenes, and constant obscene language. However, it also has a moving and deeply theological scene as Sal speaks to his priest about the nature of man's relationship with God. In the end, it's about three men who lose track of right in the confusion of life, but who ultimately have a chance at redemption.







Box Office Top 10

For the weekend of Feb. 19-21, according to Box Office Mojo

		CAUTIONS S	V	L
1	**Shutter Island** (R)	7	9	6
2	**Valentine's Day** (PG-13)	6	2	4
3	**Avatar** (PG-13)	4	7	4
4	**Percy Jackson/Lightning Thief** (PG)	3	6	3
5	**The Wolfman** (R)	2	9	2
6	**Dear John** (PG-13)	6	4	4
7	**Tooth Fairy** (PG)	2	3	2
8	**Crazy Heart** (R)	6	3	6
9	**From Paris with Love** (R)	6	8	10
10	**Edge of Darkness** (R)	1	8	9







Rental Top 10

For the week ending Feb. 14, according to The Internet Movie Database

		CAUTIONS S	V	L
1	**Couples Retreat** (PG-13)	6	4	4
2	**The Time Traveler's Wife** (PG-13)	6	5	4
3	**Zombieland** (R)	4	8	8
4	**The Stepfather** (PG-13)	5	7	5
5	**Surrogates** (PG-13)	4	7	4
6	**Love Happens** (PG-13)	4	3	4
7	**Amelia** (PG)	4	3	3
8	**Whip It** (PG-13)	5	6	4
9	**The Hurt Locker** (R)	3	8	10
10	**Michael Jackson's This Is It** (PG)	not rated		

CAUTIONS: Quantity of sexual S, violent V, and foul-language L content on a 0-10 scale, with 10 high, from kids-in-mind.com

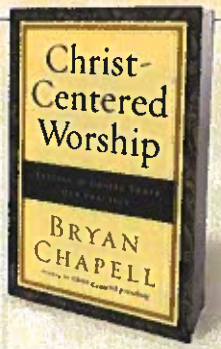
Reviewed by WORLD (see all our reviews at WORLDmag.com)

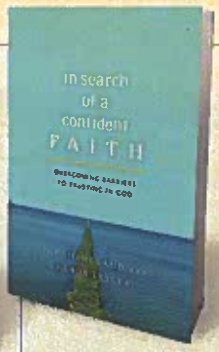
BLOOD: PALADIN/AP • SHUTTER: ANDREW COOPER/PARAMOUNT PICTURES • FINEST: PHILLIP V. CARUSO/BROOKLYN'S FINEST PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Looking back

NONFICTION: Catching up on high-quality books about politics, faith, and culture

by MARVIN OLASKY



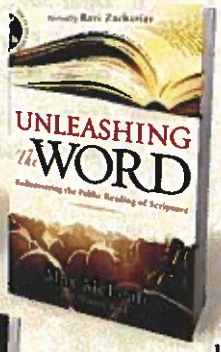


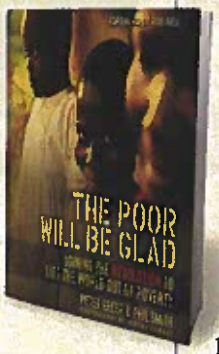


THESE CATCH-UP NOTES start with A book published in 2008 but still relevant: William Owens Jr.'s *Obama: Why Black America Should Have Doubts* (iTouch) shows how President Obama denigrates the civil-rights movement by linking it with gay rights; how he is pro-abortion, although abortion kills a higher percentage of black children than any others; how he opposes school choice, even though one study showed that almost nine out of 10 black Americans would send their kids to private school if they received vouchers.



Other books I'll mention on this page were all published in 2009. Max McLean's *Unleashing the Word* (Zondervan) has valuable how-to lessons on the public reading of Scripture. Among them: Use stronger readers (not just any elder in proximity) to read, have him practice the assigned text aloud at least eight times, and find the passion. Jim Belcher's *Deep Church* (IVP) is a discerning response to typical weaknesses of both traditional and emerging churches.





How can we help rather than hurt when fighting poverty? Joining Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert's excellent *When Helping Hurts* (Moody) is a book that's both thoughtful and beautiful, *The Poor Will Be Glad: Joining the Revolution to Lift the World Out of Poverty*, by Peter Greer and Phil Smith (Zondervan). *Home Away From Home*, edited by Richard McKenzie (Encounter), shows that America's often-disparaged orphanages were more child-friendly than our contemporary welfare system.

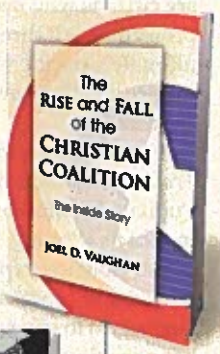
Bryan Chapell's *Christ-Centered Worship* (Baker) shows how to reform our services. Albert Mohler's *Words from the Fire* (Moody) presents the profound truths of the Ten Commandments in bite-size segments for those who run from formal theology. *In Search of a Confident Faith* by J.P. Moreland and Klaus Issler (IVP) shows how and why ancient theologians spoke of three elements of faith: *notitia* (knowledge, doctrinal understanding), *assensus* (confidence that Christianity is true), and *fiducia* (commitment, which involves living a life that reflects the truth).

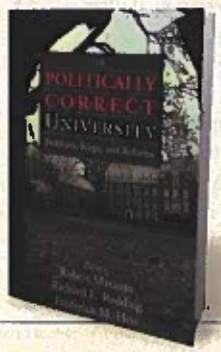
Gregg A. Ten Elshof's *I Told Me So: Self-Deception and the Christian Life* (Eerdman's) shows how our lives are often built on falsehood. Craig Shirley's *Rendezvous With Destiny* (ISI) is an affectionately thorough account of how Ronald Reagan became president in 1980 by telling the truth. John Mark Reynolds' *When Athens Met Jerusalem* (IVP) is a biblically solid introduction to the sometimes-deceptive thought of ancient Greece.

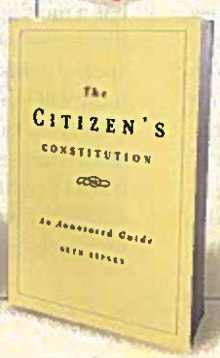
Multiple-authored books of essays are often mediocre, but *The Politically Correct University* (AEI) and *The Naked Public Square Reconsidered* (ISI) are exceptions. Peter Murowski and James Ramer, in *The Cure for Racism: Two Trees* (Torelion), write about the common ancestral family tree that shows how all mankind springs forth from Adam and Eve, and about the tree of the cross on which Jesus died to save people from all mankind.

Andrew Ross Sorkin's *Too Big to Fail* (Viking) is a gimlet-eye view of Wall Street and Washington's rendezvous with disaster in 2008: It won't give you confidence in the wisdom of either and may leave you saying, like former Treasury secretary Henry Paulson, "That makes me want to vomit!" Terry Teachout's *Pops* (HMH) is an uplifting biography of Louis Armstrong, who made people smile.

Finally, *Fortune* in 1997 asked, "Which pressure groups are best at manipulating the laws we live by?" The Christian Coalition made it to No. 7 on the list, only one spot behind the National Rifle Association. Joel Vaughan's *The Rise and Fall of the Christian Coalition* (Wipf and Stock) notes the Coalition's response at being voted in as a major manipulator: "We were elated." He details a decade of power-chasing and includes amusing advance man anecdotes: Vaughan desperately knocking on random doors in inner-city Baltimore to fill the empty chairs at a Pat Robertson event, or trying to make the audience at a Ralph Reed event seem bigger than it was.







So why be politically active? Seth Lipsky's *The Citizen's Constitution: An Annotated Guide* (Basic) implicitly distinguishes it from what we now live under, The Judges' Constitution.

NOTABLE BOOKS FOUR RECENT BOOKS FROM CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY

Things Worth Remembering

Jackina Stark

During the week before Maisey Laswell's wedding, Maisey avoids her mother Kendy as much as possible and nurses a grievance that has ruptured the relationship. Kendy wonders what has gone wrong, and both women think back to earlier, happier days when they were not at odds. The story is told in the present tense and alternates between Maisey's and Kendy's point of view. By novel's end, author Stark reveals the nature of the grievance and the sin and misunderstanding at its root. She shows how mother and daughter, with the help of the men in their lives, are able to reconcile. This moving relationship novel highlights the importance and possibility of forgiveness.



Bo's Cafe

John Lynch, Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol

Readers of *The Shack* will recognize some common themes in this new novel from Windblown Media: the importance of authenticity and the problem of religious people putting up false fronts. Here, big-time executive Steven is running his life into the ground. His wife, fearing his fits of rage, kicks him out of the house. His daughter shuts him out of her life. Then, eccentric Andy shows up and begins to poke, prod, confront, and encourage. With the help of friends at Bo's Cafe, he shows Steven how shame lurks at the bottom of his trouble. Given Windblown's marketing skill, this message book in the guise of a novel is likely to get an audience.



Will Jesus Buy Me a Double-Wide?

Karen Spears Zacharias

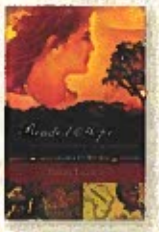
In a collection of profiles, Zacharias highlights her subjects' attitudes toward money and stuff. Her immediate target is the prosperity gospel, but she's not always careful in her definitions, so capitalism in general, and even Sarah Palin, come in for swipes. She can get away with her blunderbuss approach because she is funny and writes well with an attention to detail—and she's basically right: God's chief end is not to make His people rich. Some profiles feature folks—Sister Schubert, for example—who use their wealth to bless other people: They have discovered the difference between having possessions and having meaningful lives. Other profiles exemplify the vanity of living for things that will pass away.



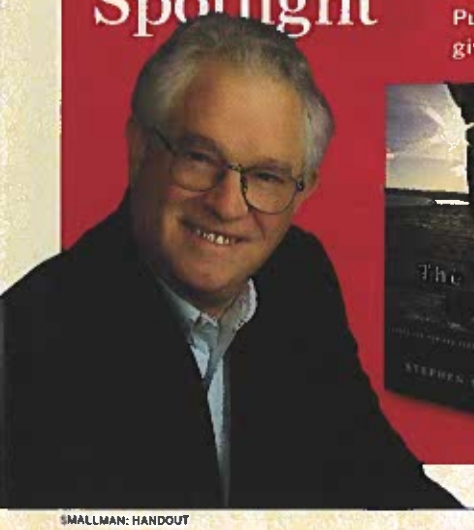
Beaded Hope

Cathy Liggett

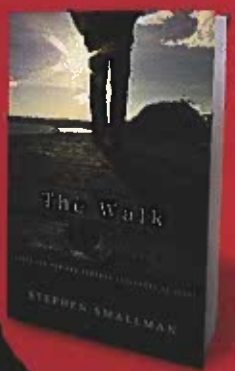
Beaded Hope is the kind of feel-good story that many Christians like to read. It starts with three women living with grief and disappointment. One is a widow raising her teenage stepdaughter, who gets pregnant. Another struggles with infertility and is angry at God. Another is a TV newscaster who chases fame to hold at bay memories of childhood abuse. Their lives intersect on a mission trip to South Africa. They learn lessons, overcome obstacles, and find meaning on the trip. None of that is objectionable, but the book's view of missions, economic development, and international adoption leaves the impression that deep problems have relatively simple solutions.



Spotlight



The Walk by Stephen Smallman (P&R Publishing, 2009) is a book you could give to a new believer. Using Mark's Gospel as a starting point, it presents the basics of the faith, answers questions about discipleship and the authority of Scripture, and it provides a path to growth: It's meant to be read alongside a Bible and a journal for note-taking. In an engaging way Smallman covers the content of the Gospel, basic doctrines of the faith, and prayer—and he always roots the discussion in Scripture. The book grew out of Smallman's many years of pastoral ministry: He modeled it after "Dummies" books, writing for the beginner and assuming no prior knowledge.

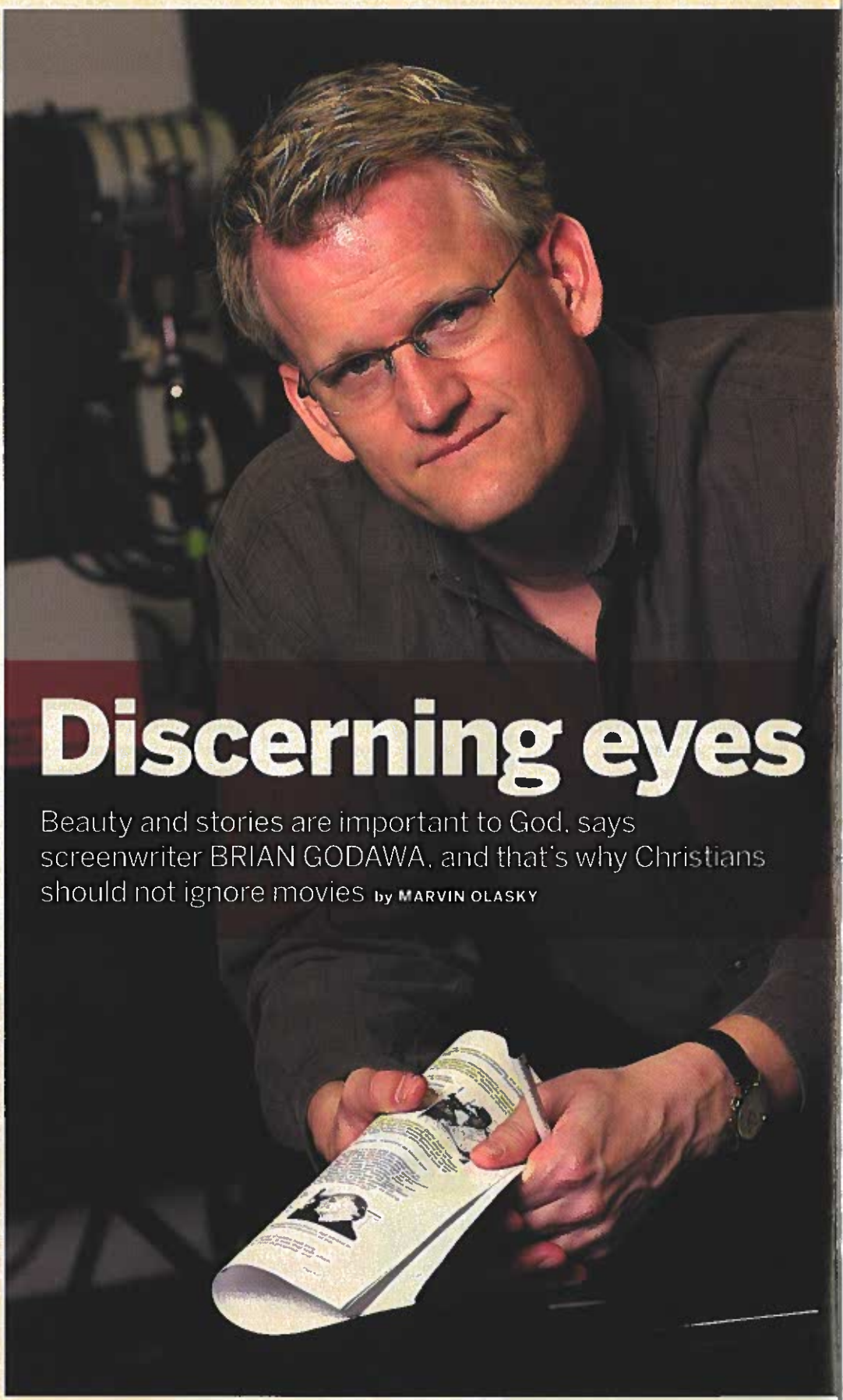


If you need to be encouraged to memorize Scripture, *Scripture By Heart: Devotional Practices for Memorizing God's Word* by Joshua Choonmin Kang (IVP, 2010) is a good prod. Its 30 short devotionals focus on the importance of memorization for spiritual health and, to a lesser extent, the how-to's of doing it.

SMALLMAN: HANDOUT

Discerning eyes

Beauty and stories are important to God, says screenwriter BRIAN GODAWA, and that's why Christians should not ignore movies by MARVIN OLASKY



HANDOUT

SCREENWRITER Brian Godawa is not a March 7 Oscar nominee, but he is a Christian in Hollywood who, without selling out, has made good films—most notably, *To End All Wars*. He has also written two fine books published by IVP, *Hollywood Worldviews: Watching Films with Wisdom and Discernment*, and *Word Pictures: Knowing God Through Story & Imagination*.

Q: How do many American Christians interact with film? I see two extremes in the church: the cultural anorexic who, because there are some bad things in movies like sex and violence, throws the baby out with the bathwater, and the person with a lack of discernment who consumes everything. We need to watch films with discernment and interact with them redemptively—which means figure out what you agree and disagree with and why. You should take the good and reject the bad.

Q: What should Christians understand about the nature of storytelling in movies? About 20 percent to 30 percent of the Bible is propositional truth, but about 70 percent to 80 percent is image, story, poetry, parable. . . . It's not just that imagination is acceptable, it's one of the dominant biblical means through which God communicates who He is. I'm not saying imagination is everything and rationality is a Greek construct that we need to cast aside. I'm saying that if, in our theology, we have no aesthetic, we are not understanding God. Beauty is a key part of understanding God.

Q: Both artistry and rationality are equally ultimate in God's eyes? I root this in the Incarnation:

Christ is the Word made flesh. If you overemphasize rationality you don't understand the essence, the life. It's like dissecting a frog: You'll figure out all the parts, but you've killed the frog. By the same token, if you're awash in artistic, imaginative creativity, you can miss God's rational side. In the Incarnation, they're both equal. We should approach God through word, reason, and rationality, but also through beauty. I want people to be balanced in their faith, rather than swinging from one extreme to the other.

Q: You address in your writing the noetic effect of sin, how it undermines our minds, so we need something more than intellect. When I see Jesus appeal to pity in the parable of the Good Samaritan, I see that stressing only logical arguments doesn't touch a person's humanity. You can win an argument but lose the battle. In the arts and in rhetoric, there are means of persuasion that are not rational. That doesn't mean they're illegitimate; they appeal to something that supersedes reason. I used to scoff at Pascal and Kierkegaard, but now I understand a lot of what they said.

Q: In *Hollywood Worldviews* you cite dreams and visions as God's form of television and movies. Movies are basically visually dramatic stories, which God loves. First of all, God is very visual: Think of the Book of Revelation, which is in the genre of apocalyptic, epic horror fantasy. Ezekiel and Jeremiah actually engaged in performance art as prophecy: Jeremiah should be called "the Acting Prophet," because so many of his prophecies were acting. Narrative is God's dominant method for communicating His truth. That means story is very different from logical argument, but in a sense story embodies the logical argument.

Q: You write that the Bible tells R-rated stories. The Bible is full of that stuff! I challenge you to read Ezekiel chapter 16 or 23 to your grade-school Sunday school kids. You're not going to do it. You're not going to read Song of Solomon in church, are you? So many people have a double standard. The Bible even has blasphemy in there. The point is, what's the context? It's ultimately in the context of moral instruction; God is elevating goodness and condemning evil, but you have to have both of them in there to show that.

Q: Does the Bible graphically show the details of sin? No, it doesn't show everything all the time, but sometimes it does. There's sometimes a reason to do so, and usually when you're dealing with a serious moral failure or issue you have to be shocking. When God wanted to show the spiritual failure of Israel, His favorite imagery was whores, prostitutes, and sluts, and He described what they did. What punches you in the gut, that reveals spiritual evil and scares you away from it and toward holiness.

Q: What was the first screenplay you wrote? A lot of times you write something from your own life. I wrote this family drama, and of course it was terrible. No one has read it and that's good.

Q: Do you still have a copy or did you destroy it? I still have it but keep it locked up. I did a couple of versions of it, too. It was good practice. And that's what they tell you, that the first three scripts are usually terrible anyway. You just have to keep writing: That's how you get better. There are very few people who can write a really good script right out of the chute.

Q: At the time, did you understand that the first few scripts weren't going to go anywhere, or were you crushed? I'm a researcher, so whenever I want to learn or do something, I get a bunch of books. I got a bunch of books on screenwriting and that's what they all told me, and I believed it. I just said, "OK, that's fine, I'll just keep trying," because I really wanted to do it.

Q: How do you get a screenplay turned into a movie? You have to make connections with the Hollywood world: Cold-call production companies, try to get an agent, enter all the contests that you can. Today, hundreds of thousands of people are making phone calls and writing letters to LA saying, "I've got a great screenplay!" Hollywood works on connections, people they already know, or people who really stand out, so my task was to find that angle. It's salesmanship.

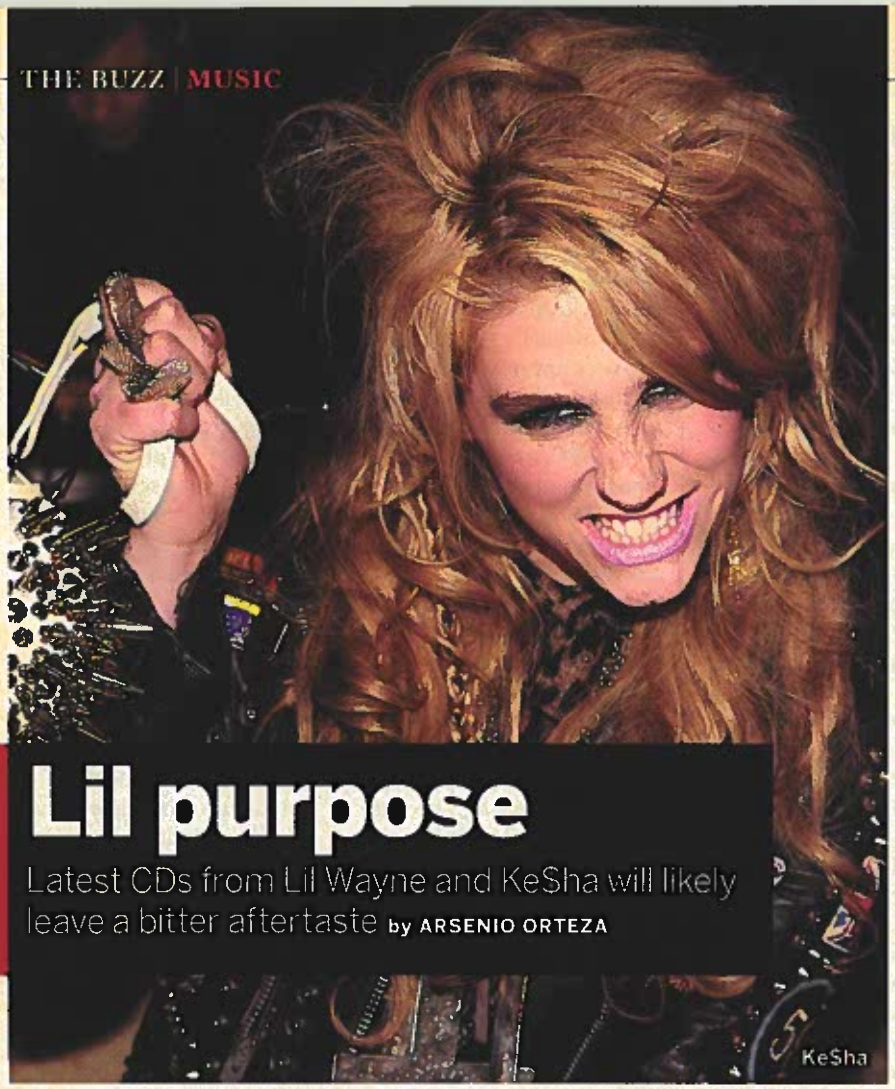
Q: You entered lots of screenwriting contests? For many years. It was about 10 or 11 years before I actually had a first movie made. I had been entering contests, writing about a script a year, and building up awards that became part of my resumé. Those awards became part of my pitch to producers. Some of the contests are meaningless—nowadays more and more are meaningless—but there are some big contests that make you stand out enough to producers to be considered.

Q: Some of the contests are meaningless because the competition isn't very strong, or everyone gets a blue ribbon for participation, or . . . A little of all of that. Production companies have realized that one of the ways to search for a script for free is to have a contest. You basically pay them to read your script, and the prize is—your script is produced by this company that happens to be putting on the contest. But a lot of that is a scam.

Q: As you went for a whole decade without getting anything produced, where did you get your encouragement? It's all within, because you don't get much encouragement at all. It's said that in Hollywood you have to have rhino skin, because you get rejected a lot. You just have to keep pounding and pounding. For every script I wrote, I would join 20 contests and send a query letter to a couple of hundred production companies. I'd be accepted to read the script at maybe 15 or 20 of those if I was lucky—it's usually more like 10.

Q: Were the positive responses helpful or just "nice"? You have to be tough, but on the other side they say you can die of kindness, because there's so much façade in Hollywood. Nobody wants to burn bridges because you don't know what little person will rise to fame in the future. So if you get people to read your script and they don't like it or it's not good, they won't say why, they'll just say, "Hey, good writing, but not for us." It's not that they're usually cruel, but nice in an unhelpful way.

Q: Did you keep your rejection letters? I've got hundreds of them.



Lil purpose

Latest CDs from Lil Wayne and KeSha will likely leave a bitter aftertaste by ARSENIO ORTEZA

IF AIRPLAY AND SALES STILL reflect audience aspirations, a considerable portion of today's youth finds food for fantasy in both the inarticulate thuggery of the rap-rocker "Lil Wayne" Carter and the single-minded hedonism of the pop singer "Ke$ha" Sebert. But the sell-by date on what each performer is offering expired long ago, rendering both Lil Wayne's *Rebirth* (Cash Money) and Ke$ha's *Animal* (RCA) as likely to nauseate as they are unlikely to nourish.

Of the two, Ke$ha's album goes down more easily. A catchier or more expensive-sounding dance-pop confection there hasn't been since pre-Kabbalah Madonna. Even the use of the notorious Auto-Tune process to hollow out the singer's voice leaves it with a residue of cartoon charm.

But the initial sugar rush of the sonics gives way to a bitter aftertaste. The songs, after all, chronicle the very narrow world of perpetual partying, unbridled inebriation, casual sex, potty-mouthed pettiness, and the unsavory characters one meets while pursuing such pleasures. "When the dark of the night comes around," Ke$ha sings in "Take It Off," "that's the time that the animal comes alive, / looking for something wild."

And, indeed, perceiving the world as an amusement-park jungle from which one can extract thrills for no more than the price of admission works fine as long as the senses are glutted with flowing whiskey, flashing lights, boys in tight pants, and music (like Ke$ha's) a-throb with woofer-rattling pizzazz.

But morning comes, bringing with it hangovers ("Hungover"), betrayal ("Backstabber"), and indifference ("Stephen"). "Stephen," Ke$ha sings, "why don't you call me? [. . .] I can charm the pants off anyone but you." It never dawns on her that it may be her very talent for indiscriminate seduction that makes Stephen less than enthusiastic to be next. It's this atmosphere of cluelessness—of its heroine's not seeing what's right before her eyes, namely her own complicity in her misery—that keeps *Animal* from working as a cautionary tale.

Still, although Ke$ha herself seems incapable of learning any lessons, she's not incapable of teaching one: In "Dinosaur" the 22-year-old singer lets an exemplar of the Viagra generation know in no uncertain terms that his "hittin' on" girls young enough to be his granddaughters only makes them want to "barf."

Lil Wayne has a long time before he needs to worry about repelling dinosaur-wary 22-year-olds. Even if he serves all 12 months of his current jail sentence (for illegal weapons possession), he'll only be 28 when he gets out. Besides, his imprisonment, like his flagrant disregard of nearly every other moral and aesthetic standard, has imbued him with so much bad-boy appeal that not even with an album as defiantly awful as *Rebirth* can he do wrong by his fans.

Rebirth was supposed to be the rap star's "rock" move, proof that, like Bo Jackson excelling at both football and baseball, he could outflank both his brothers in rhyme and the more guitar-wielding, sample-free competition. Instead *Rebirth* merely removes Lil Wayne's puerile, low-life obsessions from hip-hop—where they and the profanity-rich patois in which he expresses them are at least code for "street"—and places them in a pop-rock-grunge-metal context where they're code for little more than stupid.

The biggest disappointment, however, is **Lil Wayne**'s vocals. Like Ke$ha's, they're Auto-Tuned; unlike Ke$ha's, they're gutted of any semblance to the human voice whatsoever. Neil Young tried something similar in 1983 by running his singing through a vocoder for most of his *Trans* album, and folks still aren't sure what he was up to.



In the case of Lil Wayne, they're better off not even wondering. ●

KE$HA: CHARLES ESHELMAN/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES • LIL WAYNE: PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

NOTABLE CDs FOUR NEW OR RECENT INDIE RELEASES reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



The Life of the World to Come

The Mountain Goats

Eleven songs titled after Bible verses and one named after an entire chapter ("Ezekiel 7 and the Permanent Efficacy of Grace"). The music: gently experimental folk-rock of varying tunefulness. The lyrics (according to the head Mountain Goat John Darnielle): "12 hard lessons the Bible taught me" (Darnielle). Most of the lessons will strike explicators as idiosyncratically oblique. The lesson that goes "Let me praise you for the good times, let me hold your banner high / until the hills are flattened and the rivers all run dry" won't.



Wake Up Love

Melanie Penn

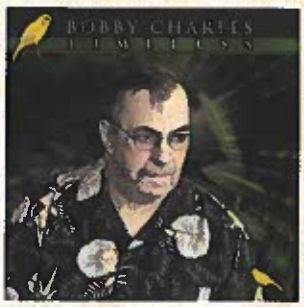
With a presence on both MySpace and Facebook but no Wikipedia entry as yet, this winsome New Yorker exemplifies the latest generation of below-the-radar songwriters, bravely "try[ing] on" despite continuous news of the diminishing audiences for music like hers. Intelligent but not esoteric, richly but not over produced, she stakes out a rewarding middle ground between the Lovin' Spoonful's "Daydream" (her sole cover) and Song of Solomon 8:4 (her lyric booklet's epigraph) with references to the "man of sorrows" ("Sorrows") and the "Holy Ghost healer" ("Train") for signposts.



Wash U Clean

Beth Thornley

The stronger songs on this solid follow-up to Thornley's plenty-solid 2006 album *My Glass Eye* divide neatly into jazzy funk akimbo, replete with the vocal glottal stops common to rappers, and mid-to-slow tempo luminosity, replete with lyrics in which clichés illuminate the arcane or vice versa. On the lesser songs, the clichés merely lie there, waiting for Thornley's singing and melodic sense to breathe life or something like it into them. Does she still sound like Juliana Hatfield? Yes—except when she sounds better.



Timeless

Bobby Charles

Famous for composing seminal rock 'n' roll and shunning the limelight despite the patronage of everyone who was anyone, Bobby Charles was 71 when he died last January, shortly after finishing these recordings. Dr. John produced, but the music retains a demo-like quality attributable mainly to Charles' low-key singing. It's not enough to put every song across, but on "Rollin' Round Heaven," "Old Mexico," and "Little Town Tramp" (about a woman whose fall from grace began when she "started sleeping late on Sunday mornings"), it's just what the Doctor ordered.



Spotlight

Few single-band compilations can accurately be described as having the variety of a well-stocked jukebox, but *Pick of the Litter 1980-2010* (Micro Werks), the latest best-of from the Detroit combo **Was (Not Was)**, really does. From the twisted disco that endeared them to critics to the anarchistic playfulness that endeared them to late-'80s radio and MTV, these Motor City Madmen not only broke all the rules but also wrote a few of their own (then broke those too).

Pick of the Litter also redresses the deficiencies of the group's previous collections (*Hello Dad . . . I'm in Jail* [1992] and *The Collection* [2004]), each of which suffered from mystifyingly whimsical track selections and neither of which contained "Zaz Turned Blue," the Don and David Was composition about a victim of a playfully applied sleeper hold that first appeared on 1983's *Born to Laugh at Tornadoes*, sung with an unforgettably eerie calm by no less than the Velvet Fog himself, Mel Tormé.

WAS (NOT WAS): DEBORAH FEINGOLD/CORBIS IMAGES

The tower of Google

Has the digital empire's reach exceeded its remedy?

OLD DOGS DON'T ADJUST EASILY to new tricks, but this one tries. My latest challenge is "branding"—the means by which a politician, inventor, artist, charlatan, or anyone with anything to sell or promote raises his profile above the teeming bits of cyberspace. The good news is that a savvy networker can brand herself for practically nothing. The bad news is, we don't yet know what the bad news is.

My son is learning SEO at his new job. He had to explain what that means: "Search Engine Optimization." In a nutshell, SEO enhances your presence on Google, Bing, etc., so that those looking for what you're offering can find you at the top of the search results. I had no idea there was a whole branch of internet marketing devoted to this. But (to paraphrase 2 Chronicles 16:9) the eyes of Google are running to and fro throughout the cyberworld to give strong support to new information: any change made in a website, any updated blog, any uploaded picture. More action means higher rankings; more links equal more clicks.

In a human brain, the subjects that occupy the most gray matter and form the most connections (synapses) are front and center. The internet is society's brain, continually patrolled by cyberbots that make connections. It's hotly contested ground, and while individuals are quietly working on their SEO, digital forces gear up for a Clash of the Titans.

Early in February, for instance, Amazon.com pulled all their "Buy" buttons from every book published by Macmillan. The dispute was over the pricing of electronic versions, and it's only begun. Years ago, Google began a swashbuckling epic upon the textual seas, scanning thousands of out-of-print, but still under copyright, books, *before* offering $45 million in exchange for all rights. The case has dragged on since 2005.

More recently, Google announced "Buzz," its new social-networking platform (see p. 66), as a direct challenge to Facebook (aka "The fourth-largest country in the world"). In the same week, the same company told selected markets to get ready for the mother of all broadbands, which promises to deliver *one gigabyte per second* of information directly to your home or office. What might be possible with such speeds? Don't you want to find out?

The cyber-kings are very successful not just at giving us what we want, but creating our wants. Even while creeping us out.

"It's Google's world; we just live in it" is how Salon.com announced the giant's latest incursions into social networking and telecommunications. What began as a humble search engine now has a finger—or an elbow—in every digital pie and clearly aims at becoming *the* one-stop shop. The company motto is "Don't be evil," and to all appearances, management's goal is simply to provide the quickest, easiest way for consumers to meet all their networking needs. J.P. Morgan did the same for American railroads when he bought enough controlling interest to standardize track gauges nationwide. But Morgan never wished, as Google co-founder Sergey Brin has, for the development of a wireless chip to be implanted directly into the human brain. What would that mean but the standardization of human consciousness?

The novelist Mark Helprin writes, "What we tend to forget is that, whatever the equation, collective action should be the servant of individual thoughts, persons, and needs, and not their master as is so often the case." His book *Digital Barbarism* is a protest against the trampling of copyright law as exhibited in the Google book-scan case. More broadly, it's a cry against the type of collectivism that insists intellectual property is common property—a cry, as Helprin admits, likely to be ignored.

Almost everyone acknowledges the huge potential of the digital revolution for evil and good, but most see the balance as good. Wordslingers like me would be severely hobbled without it. But when the empire's reach exceeds its remedy, who says "Enough!"? The tower-builders on the plain of Shinar found out (see Genesis 11). So might we.





KRIG BARRIE

If you have a question or comment for Janie Cheaney, send it to jcheaney@worldmag.com

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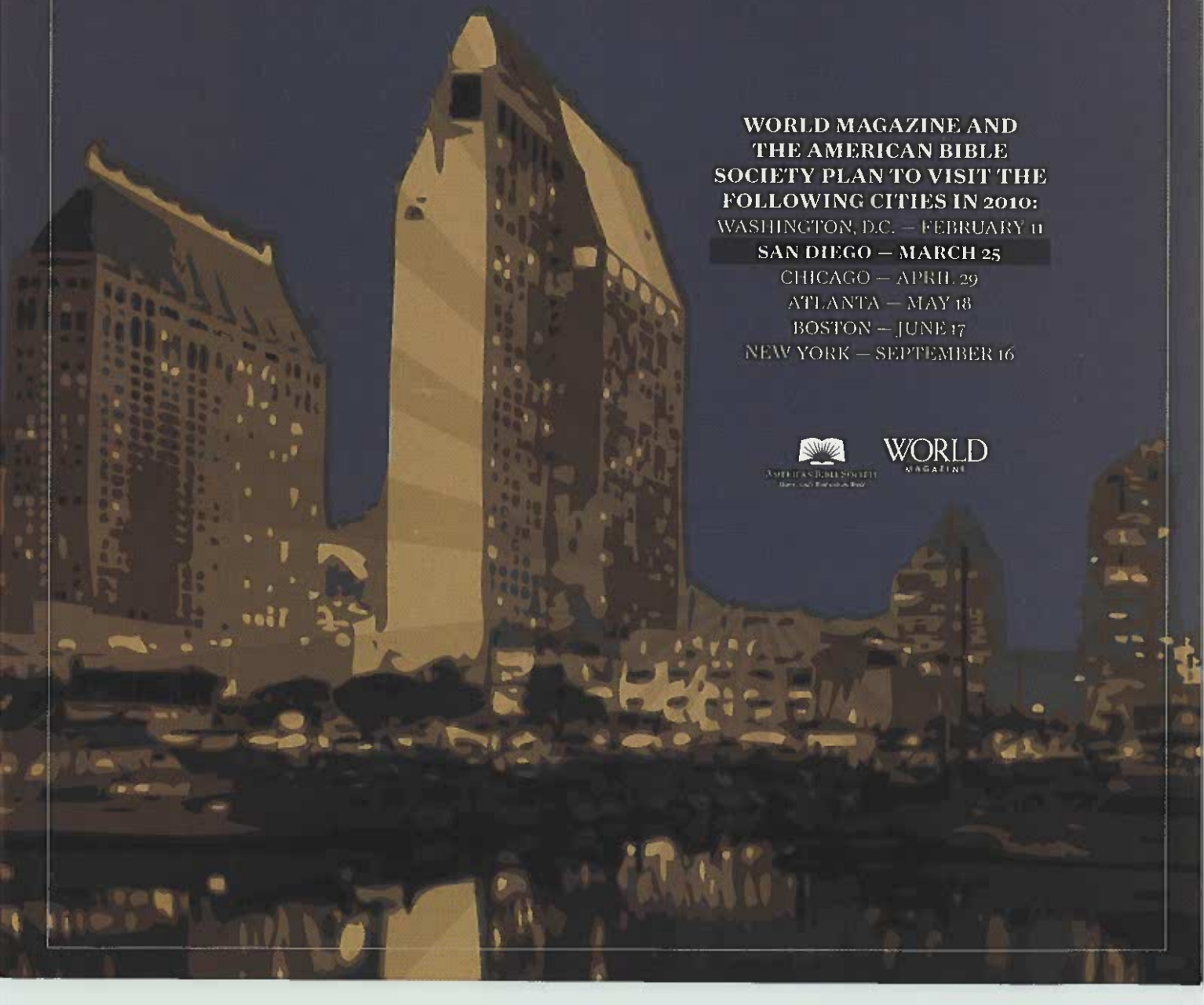
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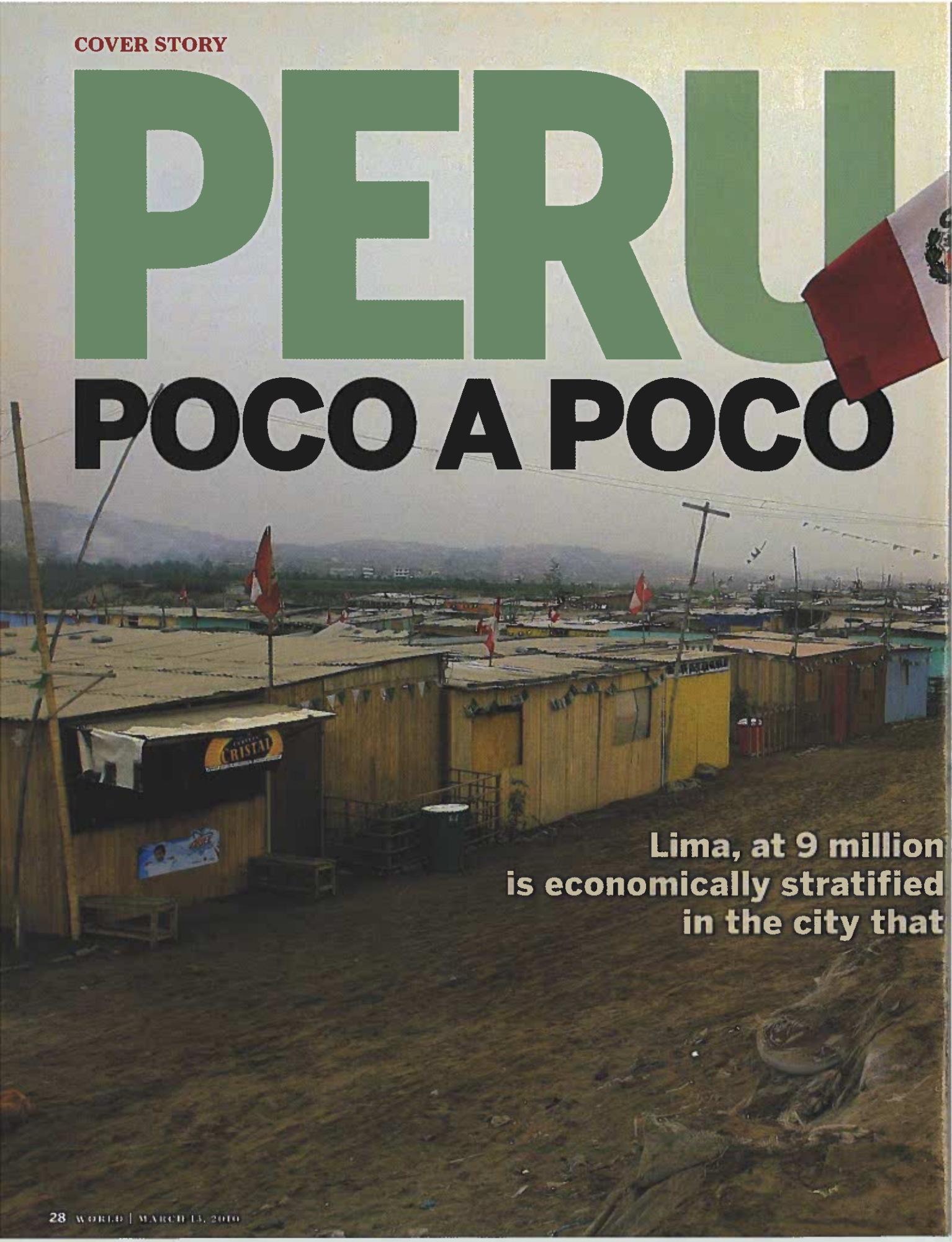
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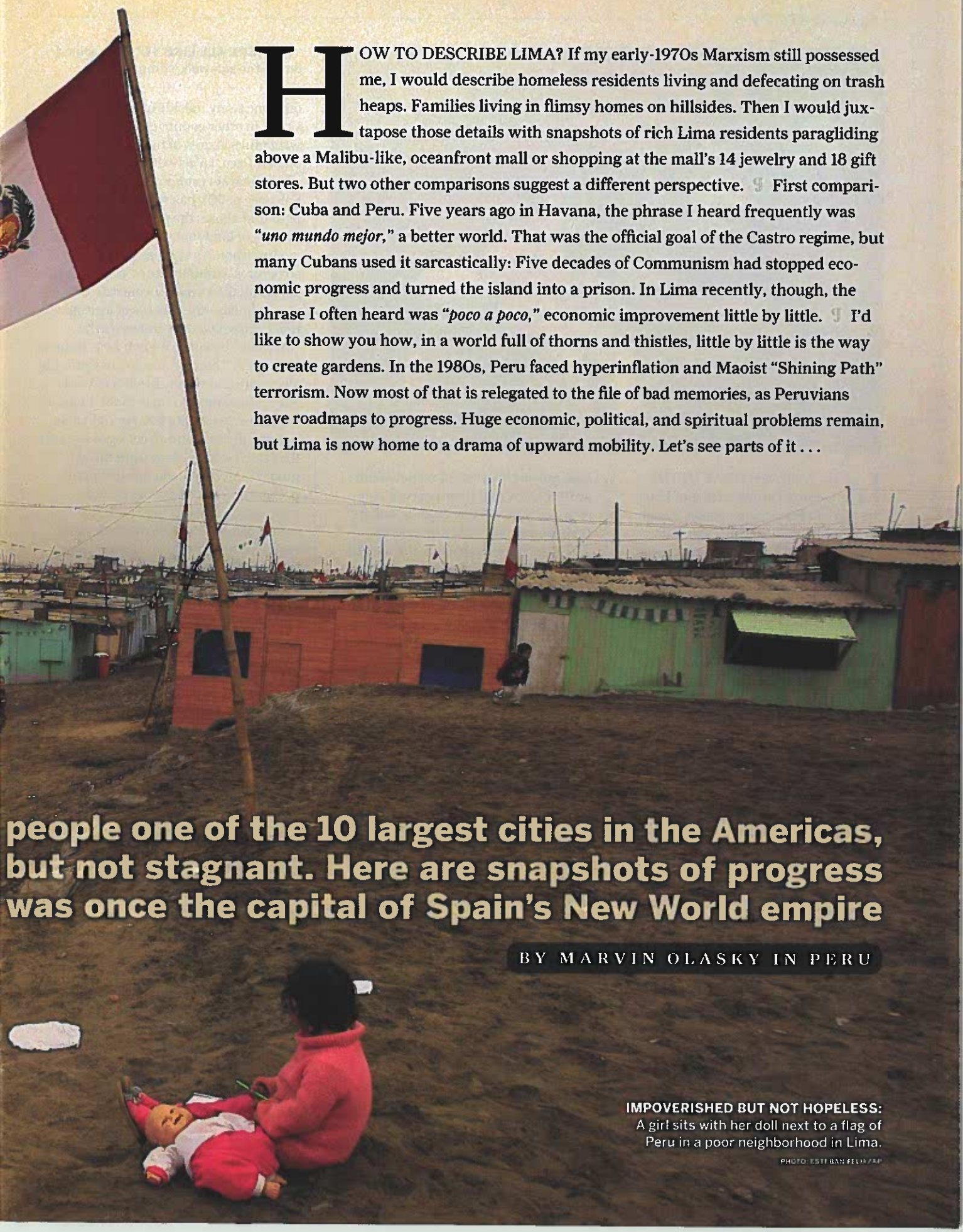
PERU

POCO A POCO



Lima, at 9 million is economically stratified in the city that

HOW TO DESCRIBE LIMA? If my early-1970s Marxism still possessed me, I would describe homeless residents living and defecating on trash heaps. Families living in flimsy homes on hillsides. Then I would juxtapose those details with snapshots of rich Lima residents paragliding above a Malibu-like, oceanfront mall or shopping at the mall's 14 jewelry and 18 gift stores. But two other comparisons suggest a different perspective. ¶ First comparison: Cuba and Peru. Five years ago in Havana, the phrase I heard frequently was "*uno mundo mejor*," a better world. That was the official goal of the Castro regime, but many Cubans used it sarcastically: Five decades of Communism had stopped economic progress and turned the island into a prison. In Lima recently, though, the phrase I often heard was "*poco a poco*," economic improvement little by little. ¶ I'd like to show you how, in a world full of thorns and thistles, little by little is the way to create gardens. In the 1980s, Peru faced hyperinflation and Maoist "Shining Path" terrorism. Now most of that is relegated to the file of bad memories, as Peruvians have roadmaps to progress. Huge economic, political, and spiritual problems remain, but Lima is now home to a drama of upward mobility. Let's see parts of it . . .

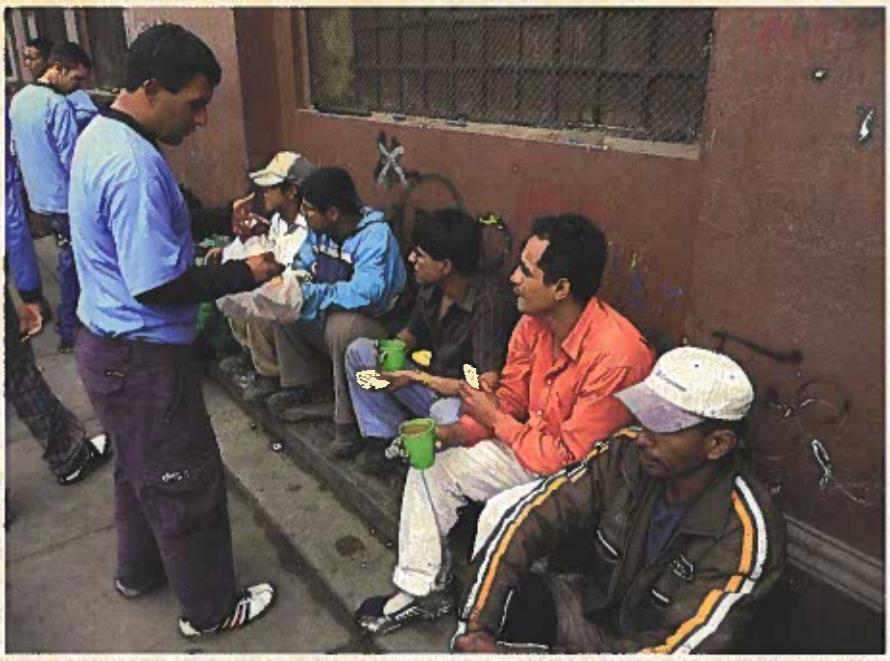


people one of the 10 largest cities in the Americas, but not stagnant. Here are snapshots of progress was once the capital of Spain's New World empire

BY MARVIN OLASKY IN PERU

IMPOVERISHED BUT NOT HOPELESS: A girl sits with her doll next to a flag of Peru in a poor neighborhood in Lima.

PHOTO: ESTEBAN FELIX/AP

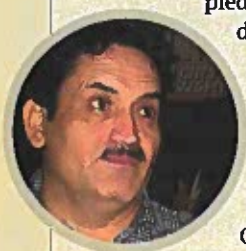


"WE WERE ALL LIKE YOU": Reaching out to the sidewalk-sitters in Lima.

LOOK: A TRASH HEAP IN THE dangerous Tacora section of Lima, the place to fence stolen goods. Seven men passively sitting on a sidewalk, some apparently drugged out although it is still before noon. Suddenly two vans pull up and nine men in light blue shirts surround the sidewalk-sitters.

An arrest? No. One of the blue shirts attracts attention by banging a bass drum, much as Salvation Army members did a century ago. A second blue shirt pleads with the sitters: "Not long ago we were all like you sitting there. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for you and for me. I was a drug addict for 12 years. God gave me back my family, gave me love. If I can change, you can change. Look at the effort God makes to show His love for you. You don't even have to go. God comes to you."

Look: Men who were on a trash heap a short time ago now live at the Lima dormitory of Victory Outreach, a ministry begun in San Antonio by Freddie Garcia four decades ago. Garcia discipled **Luis Salazar**, who now disciples men in Lima and throughout the Hispanic world. The men dance and jump as they sing hymns: They are *novatos*, novices, and do intensive Bible study. Over a two-year period the men can become *guerreros*, warriors; then *vencedores*, overcomers; then *conquistadores*, conquerors. They gain greater liberty and responsibility as they show that their hearts have changed. Later, some work as bakers, carpenters, mechanics, or pastors.



Look: Their counselors through the stages are men like Ricardo Castro who themselves were long-term addicts. Castro left a broken home at age 14 and spent the next 16 years as an addict, sometimes on a trash heap, sometimes sleeping in cemeteries. He went through rehab programs, therapies, and medical treatments, but not until he grasped God's love for him did he change. He's now had 16 drug-free years.

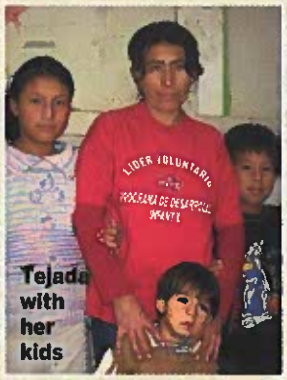
The ex-addicts come from similar backgrounds and have similar problems to those currently on the trash heap. God uses the constructive envy of those who ask, "If that person can leave drugs behind and lead a better life, why can't I?"

DRIVE TO THE OUTskirts of Lima, to an area known as San Juan de Lurigancho. Land uninhabited or unimproved for at least five years can now be occupied by the landless poor, and hundreds have moved onto one stony hillside here. Such "invasions" in other countries have often been wrongful seizures of the property of others; Peru, largely through the work of free-market economist Hernando de Soto (see p. 80), has worked out a better path that allows the poor to become owners of land that was going to waste.

Snapshot: As families put up structures—initially straw or hay, then plywood, then brick or concrete with a stucco finish—the process of legitimization begins. Over several years the "invasion" becomes known as a "human settlement," and city authorities provide electricity and water. Residents work hard. Many men go early to their jobs as bricklayers (earning $20 per day), bus and cab drivers, and street vendors, and they don't return home until the evening. Many women do needlework or peel garlic for 10 cents per pound, making $3 per day.

Snapshot: To get title to their land, residents have to show that they have built a community, so here at San Juan de Lurigancho residents have poured sweat equity into a community center, a sport court, and retaining walls, walkways, and roads, often very steep. They have built an evangelical church that one out of five attend, according to Pastor Javier Ramos, and more are "getting acquainted." Their community library includes books by Peruvian authors but also *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, *Hamlet*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.





Snapshot: Let's go inside some homes such as that of Erika Tejada, a mother and community leader with the evangelical relief group Food for the Hungry. Her living room still has a dirt floor, and a boulder too big to remove takes up one-fourth of the space, but she has water, electricity, a refrigerator, and a boom box. She came to San Juan de Lurigancho eight years ago because "a friend of mine told me

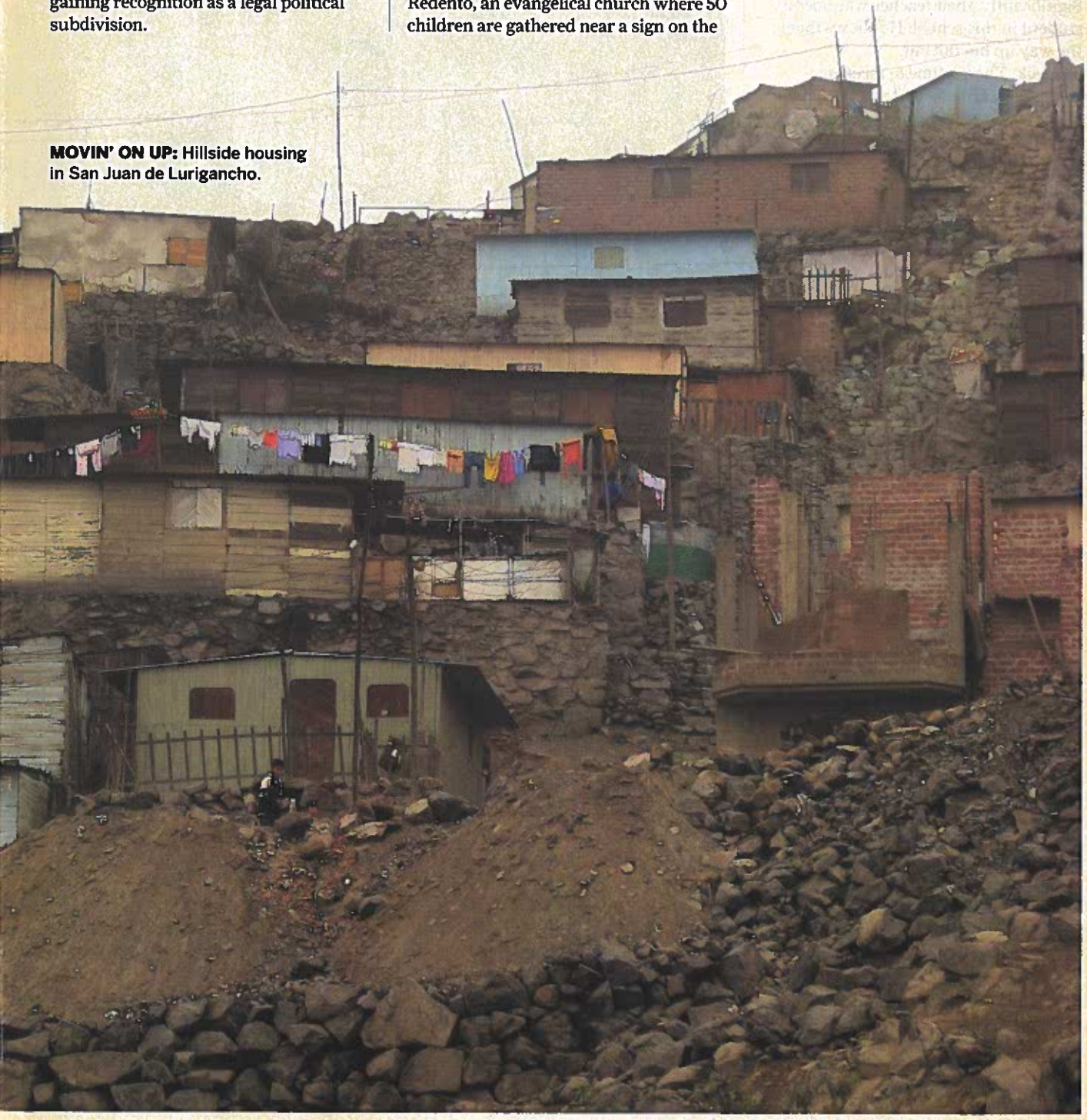
SIDEWALK, CASTRO, & SALAZAR: DAVID CLOUSE - TEJADA: SUSAN OLASKY

there was land for sale here for 180 sols," about $60.

She also says that her family dynamics have improved: "I was a grumpy person, yelling all the time. I've changed." Her husband puts up canopies for events, so he leaves early and returns late: "He never beat me but he beat the children. He has changed. He can listen now." The Tejadas expect to have legal title to their land soon, and their community is gaining recognition as a legal political subdivision.

LOOK SOME MORE: SOFIA Ccamasa, 31, lives with her bricklayer husband and four children on another newly settled hillside outside Lima. Entry to her house is over a pile of rubble, but the house itself has a cement floor rather than dirt, a corrugated roof, electricity and a television, a bed made of bricks, and . . . a handwritten chart of the multiplication table on the wall.

Look: Down the hill sits Cristo Redento, an evangelical church where 50 children are gathered near a sign on the wall, "*Soy un Creacion Maravillosa y por esto doy gracios*" (I am a marvelous creation and for that I give thanks). Christ the Redeemer is one of 220 Peruvian evangelical churches working with Compassion International, with an average of 200 sponsored children in each church. The students take classes that teach them about God—"*Tue res la luz*," (You are the light)—and manners: "*Levanta la mano al hablar*," (raise your hand to speak).

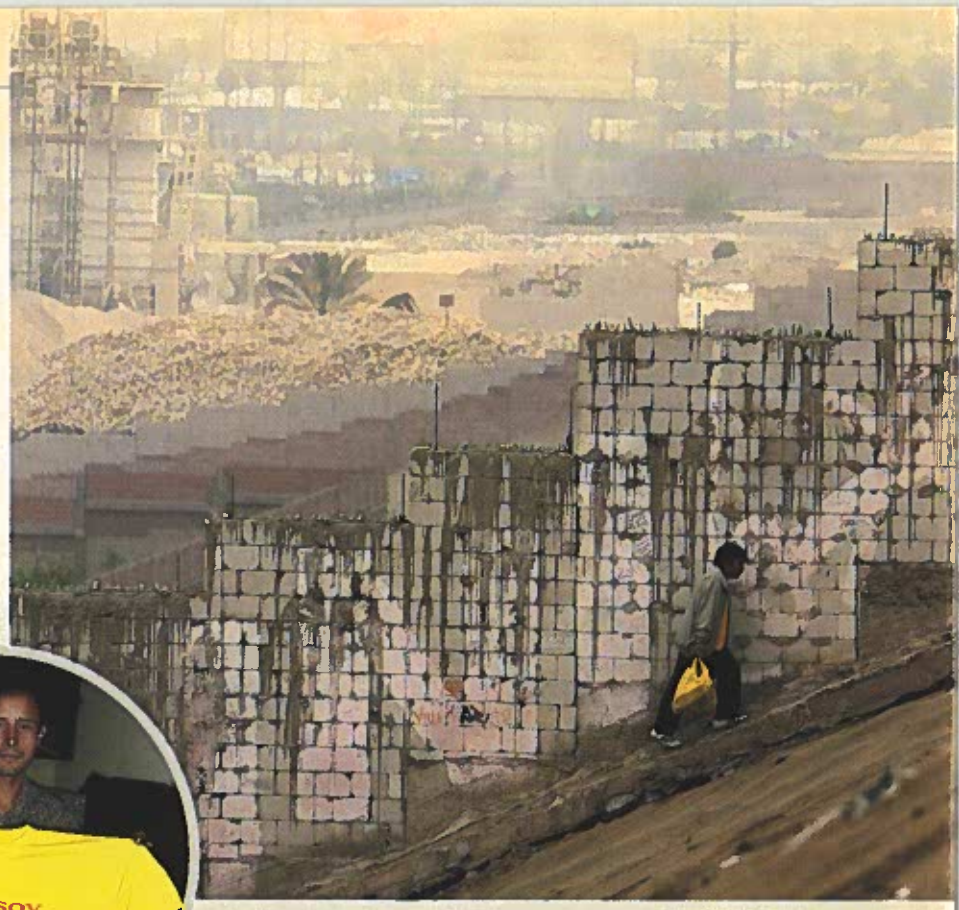


MOVIN' ON UP: Hillside housing in San Juan de Lurigancho.

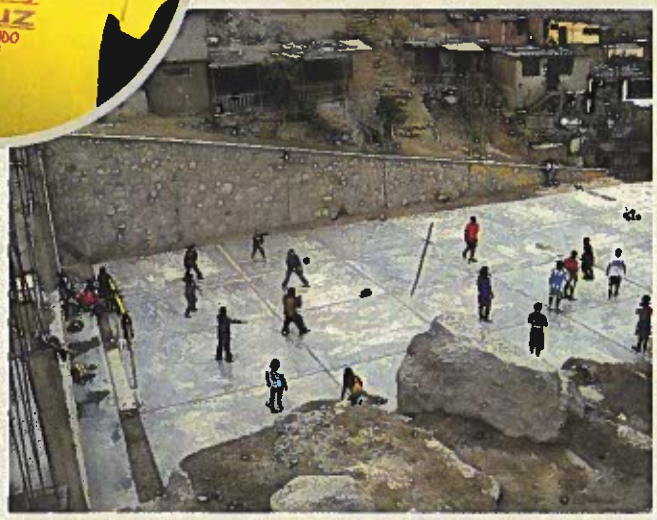
SUSAN OLASKY

Look: It's Saturday, and the father of one child has volunteered to paint one of the church's classrooms a bright yellow. As he works, so do 12- and 13-year-olds. Some are making excellent chocolate to sell in the marketplace and on the streets. Others are silk-screening T-shirts: They'll sell 20 to 30 and net $1 for each. The money will pay the cost of summer camp, but the larger goal is to teach the students to earn money. Significantly, their teacher was once a student in this school: He shows them the way up but not out.

Look: There's time to meet an elementary school teacher who was a sponsored child, Elizabeth Nicolas Ramirez. She now wants to become a missionary and go to rough places like the one she grew up in, teaching children that they need to know Christ.







LITTLE BY LITTLE: A man climbs a hill in a poor neighborhood in Lima (top); Homemade T-shirts (left); Lima teens play in a cement courtyard (below).

WATCH FOR overlooked talent: Three other American visitors and I found ourselves one afternoon babysitting 120 homeless teens and gang members. We were in a cement Lima courtyard surrounded by dilapidated buildings: A ministry putting on an evangelistic dinner/party for these youthful drug users/sellers had decided to collect these youths in this holding area for two hours, without giving them much to do.

I had heard stories about many of the gang members: abused by dads, neglected by glue-sniffing moms, heading toward the Tacora trash heap. The situation could have been tense, but it turned out not to be a Southern Hemisphere version of the Sharks vs. the Jets: These kids didn't have enough energy to rumble. Most just sat, often with glazed eyes, cached in T-shirts—Atlanta Braves, Seattle Mariners, North Carolina basketball—that had slid down the map from North America.

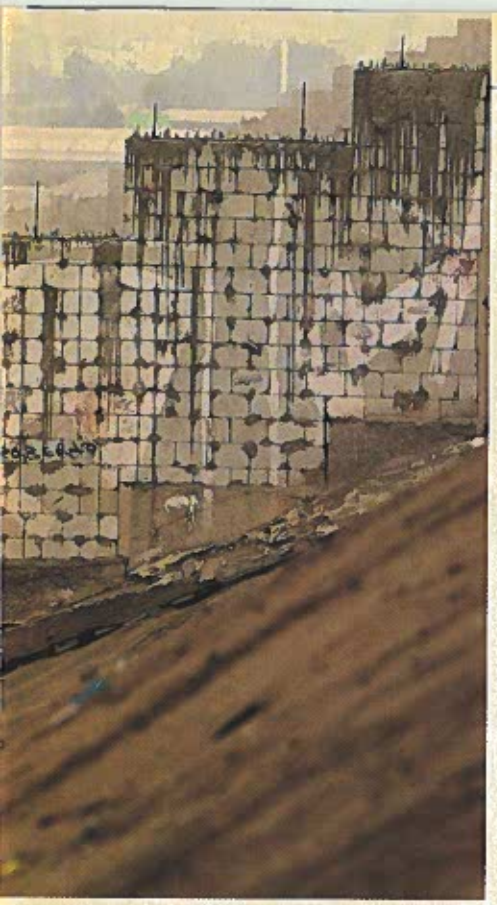
After those lackadaisical hours we piled onto rickety buses to head to the church in the Brena section of Lima where the party was scheduled. Several guys, packed in, started pounding on another: Fight night? But then three of the kids pulled out of their baggy clothes *charandos*, little guitars. Three others pulled out *sampore*, the Andean pipes. Two others pulled out corrugated cans and combs.

Suddenly they were beautifully playing songs, the music bouncing off the bus walls. One talented teen played both the *charando* and the *sampore*, Bob Dylan–like. It was 10 minutes of heaven, unexpected and wonderful, after two hours of tense boredom. But at the church, the street kids turned listless once again. Ministry staffers tried to rouse them with a hard rock beat and humorous skits; the response was tepid at best, with skills and talents invisible once more.

That experience made real to me the questions a networking group, VIVA, is asking about how help is offered in Lima. The organization is promoting *El Sistema de Mejoramiento de la Calidad* (Quality Improvement System) with the goal of promoting effective compassion. Coordinator Irma Marquez says of street kids, "They want to live under their own rules. They ask, 'Why should I work if someone will always help me? Why should I go back home? Someone will provide me with food.'... Churches committed to welfarism give them food and some entertainment, but welfarism does not help the child."

THE PERUVIAN POOR HAVE A way out. They can leave behind addiction and alcoholism. Over time, they can build homes and gain property. They can create and expand businesses,

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: ESTEBAN FÉLIX/AP; DAVID CLOUSE; SUSAN OLASKY



with helps from microfinancing. They can gain an education. They have talents that often remain hidden.

None of this should suggest that the road is easy. To see what may happen over time to the San Juan de Lurigancho hillside "invasion," I visited Cesar Vallejo, a part of southern Lima (named after a Peruvian poet) that was initially settled in an invasion about three decades ago. Now it is a developed entity with a school for grades 7-11 that teaches students how to enter occupations such as metalworking, cosmetology, and electronics.



SUSAN OLASKY

Some of the resources and results are impressive. Twelve Dell computers sit in one room and eight other computers in another: Students learn to do Google searches and to use Microsoft Word and Excel. Seventh-graders in a chemistry workshop make cleaning and disinfectant materials, while 10th-graders manufacture industrial chemicals. Teachers say that 90 percent who start the chemistry program graduate.

But problems are evident. Graffiti clog the walls of this established community. School walls have broken glass and razor wire on top. Two out of five teen girls have sexually transmitted diseases and some are pregnant.

A visit to Chile in 2002 left me impressed with the country's educational voucher system that allowed almost half the school population to go to private schools, many with a Christian base. No such program exists in Peru, and Christians have little influence in government schools that operate on a nominally semi-Catholic base. On the other hand, Peru's growing number of evangelical churches inspire members like Jurik Cordoba to volunteer as community aides: She says, "I believe in transforming lives. . . . I want marriages to be founded on the Rock."

Peru needs more of that. The physical foundations on some hillsides are shaky, particularly when heavy rains come, but other foundations may be even more fragile. Much of Peru's nominal Catholicism does little to help people think biblically. Old Andean practices of witchcraft are often mixed in with church-based rituals. Many homes have family violence. Government rules hinder entrepreneurship. Many among the affluent have problems similar to those hitting the United States.

Nevertheless, I witnessed upward mobility and the opportunity for more of it. In Cuba five years ago, I saw not only poverty but hopelessness—for as long as the Castro regime lasts. Peru is different. Poverty is not just a lack of money but a decision to renounce hope by assuming that everything will stay the same. Many Peruvians are not poor. ●

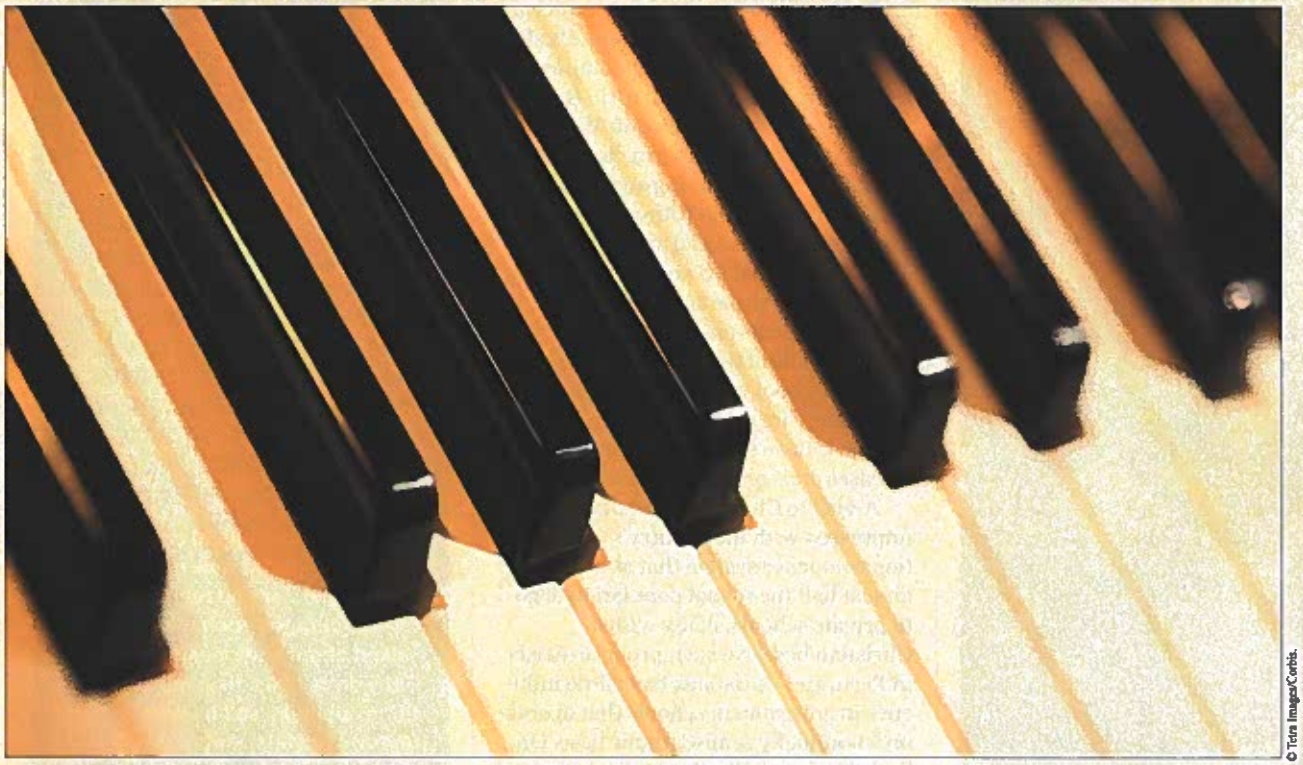
Loans to grow on

Microloan groups can create another roadmap to economic advance. I visited in Cuzco, the two-mile-high former citadel of the Incas, a microloan group called Kallarisunchis, which means "to begin." It has 250 participants who receive four-month loans ranging from $100 to $1,000, with an interest rate of 2.5 percent per month. (Loan sharks charged 18 percent to 20 percent per month.) Current members recommend and take responsibility for new members.

Members at one regular meeting encouraged each other and talked about their businesses: They drive taxis, fix cars, make filing cabinets, sell paintings, operate hostels, knit and sell clothes, make jewelry, and market health products and cosmetics. They like running their own businesses, maintaining flexible hours, and not being reliant on bosses. Crucially, they hold each other accountable: As microloan groups have become popular around the world, some have lost the personal touch, and that's trouble.



One example of how a good microloan system works: **Carolina Quispe Mestas** says that participation in Kallarisunchis gave her more desire to work hard and also led to greater involvement in her church. She founded four years ago a neighborhood retail association that now has 39 members and a collection of shops located just across the street from a large and growing church, the Iglesia Evangelistica Maranatha. —*M.O.*



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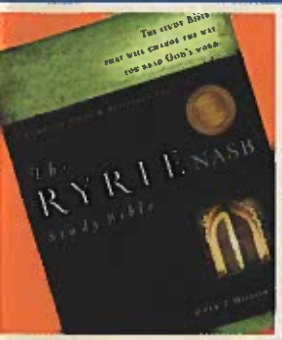
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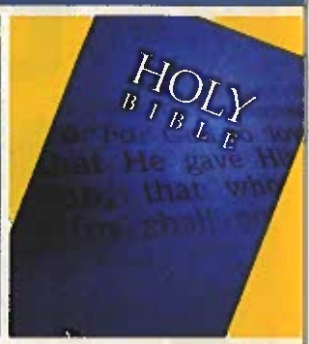
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Militants in Mosul target Christians in pre-election shootings

by MINDY BELZ

IN 2007 MILITANTS KIDNAPPED Mazen Ishoa, an Assyrian Catholic priest living in Mosul, along with another priest as the pair made their way home from a funeral. Pope Benedict made an appeal for their safety, and the two were later released.

On Feb. 23 gunmen again upended Ishoa's life, entering the home where he lived with his parents, and killing Ishoa's two brothers and his father. Ishoa's own whereabouts were not disclosed after the shooting. An Iraqi in Mosul, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said the family had chosen to remain in Mosul despite threats from Islamic militants, which have driven thousands of Christian families from the area in the last three years: "They were determined to stay and serve the community."

Targeted violence against Christians in the capital of Nineveh Province escalated last month on the eve of national parliamentary elections scheduled for March 7. Nineveh, at present considered the most volatile region in the country, is divided among Sunni, Kurd, and minority political elements. Many see the area's Christian community as divided in its allegiances between Sunni Arab, Kurdish, and a few Christian candidates for parliament—and therefore subject to intimidation by violent militants.

The same day that Ishoa's family members were killed, another family also was attacked at home. Militants passed the house firing shots at the dwelling, then returned, forced themselves into the house, and gunned down the entire family. An Iraqi who reported the incident to the U.S.-based monitoring group Open Doors said five or six family members were in the home at the time of the shootings. "They even threw two bodies outside the house as a cruel warning for others," the Iraqi said.

The two incidents brought to at least 14 the number of Christians apparently targeted and murdered within one week in the city, once the seat of Iraq's Christian and Jewish community and—at over 2.5 million—Iraq's third-largest city.

Ten years ago more than 100,000 Christians lived in Mosul. With the destabilization brought on by the U.S. invasion, the subsequent political turmoil, and the rise of Islamic militant groups, church leaders estimate that the Christian population is down to about 150-300 families.

The violence directed at Christians "is a commonplace occurrence in Iraq, sadly, yet largely unnoticed by American Christians." said Carl Moeller, president of California-based Open Doors.

During the week leading up to the Feb. 23 killings, four other Christians also were gunned down in Mosul, including two students named Zaya Toma and Ramsen Shamael, and Mosul residents Najem Fatoohy and Rayan Salem. On Feb. 20 the body of another, Adnan Aldhan, was found in front of the gate of another Christian family's home.

U.S. forces remain at an airbase just outside Mosul, but under the current U.S.-Iraq security agreement will not confront local violence unless they are asked to intervene by Iraqi forces.

Those rules of engagement came in response to a period of reduced violence across Iraq and coincide with President Barack Obama's stated goal of withdrawing all U.S. combat forces by the end of 2011. The upcoming elections are a key milestone in the president's plan but already have suffered setbacks.

Originally scheduled to take place before the end of 2009, they have been delayed by political infighting and provincial tensions, chiefly in Nineveh and nearby Kirkuk. Each of those provinces is closely divided among Arab Sunnis and Shiites and Kurds. Each also has a strong representation of minorities, including Christians.

In Iraq voters cast their ballots overwhelmingly along political and ethnic identity lines, not over issues. A Shiite will vote for a Shiite candidate and a Kurd will vote for a Kurd. The leading groups establish lists of the factional parties in order to draw most attention from their respective voting bloc. Minorities, who make up 5 percent of the population and are heavily concentrated in the north, sometimes cast votes for majority parties and are considered potential swing votes.

But this year the main factions are by no means unified. A powerful Shiite faction has arisen to challenge incumbent Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. It also announced that it will press parliament to annul existing oil

MUJAHED MOHAMMED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



DARKNESS AND LIGHT: The funeral for Christians gunned down in their home on Feb. 23 in Mosul (left); A ripped election poster for al-Maliki and a female candidate in Baghdad.

deals with foreign firms, further setting back economic development. Leading Sunni and Kurdish leaders also face challenges from within their ranks.

For Christian-identified parties, a minimum of five seats out of the 325-member parliament is guaranteed. Because eligible voters include Iraqis displaced within Iraq and living outside the country, a vote for a Christian candidate, or list, may not necessarily go to candidates who represent Nineveh and other areas particularly affected by militant violence.

Nineveh's biggest electoral battle will be between Kurds—who took control of the provincial council after Sunnis boycotted national elections in 2005 until 2009—and Sunnis, who form the region's majority. In recent years Kurdish leaders have gained loyalty among the historically Christian villages surrounding Mosul—chiefly because Kurdish security forces called pesh merga have provided security in those areas and the Kurdish Regional Government has built schools and other facilities there—while Sunni influence, and a militant Sunni faction called al-Hadba that formed last year to defeat the Kurds, have gained power within the city of Mosul itself.

Sunni potency at the polls is in question following one Sunni party's call Feb. 20 for a boycott of the election after two of its leaders were disqualified from participation over alleged ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. When Sunnis boycotted the polls in 2005, it led to some of the worst sectarian fighting of the war.

In Mosul some Christians are thinking less about their right to vote and more about their safety. "We don't want elections, we don't want representatives, we don't want our rights, we just want to be alive," said Baasil Abdul Noor, a priest at Mar Behnam church.

Another priest told me that right now it's harder to press authorities to track down and take action against the militants who are killing Christians: "In time of election it's easier to mix the cards, to accuse others. The Arab groups will accuse Kurds and the Kurds will accuse Arabs, but at the end of the day we are the losers."

Given U.S. military presence, is there more the United States could do? Said Open Doors' Moeller, who spoke to me by phone from his Irvine, Calif., office but has traveled to northern Iraq and spent this past Christmas in Jordan with Iraqi refugees: "The question is being answered on the ground as 'no.' Our intention to leave Iraq is overriding our better nature. We are tired of war and have announced our intent to leave this year; but unfortunately that will mean for Iraqi Christians utter devastation."

In Mosul, Christians believe that's already the case. ●

Remember the purple ink:

Timeline of elections in Iraq

Jan. 30, 2005 Iraq holds democratic elections, drawing an estimated 8 million voters who pick representatives for the transitional National Assembly.

Oct. 15, 2005 Iraqis vote to approve the nation's new constitution.

Dec. 15, 2005 Iraqis elect a permanent 275-member Council of Representatives, or parliament, the first full-term government since the U.S.-led invasion.

Jan. 10, 2007 President George W. Bush announces the troop surge—a plan to combat sectarian violence by deploying thousands of additional U.S. troops to Iraq.

Jan. 31, 2009 Iraq holds provincial elections.

Feb. 27, 2009 President Barack Obama announces he will withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010 and all remaining combat troops by the end of 2011.

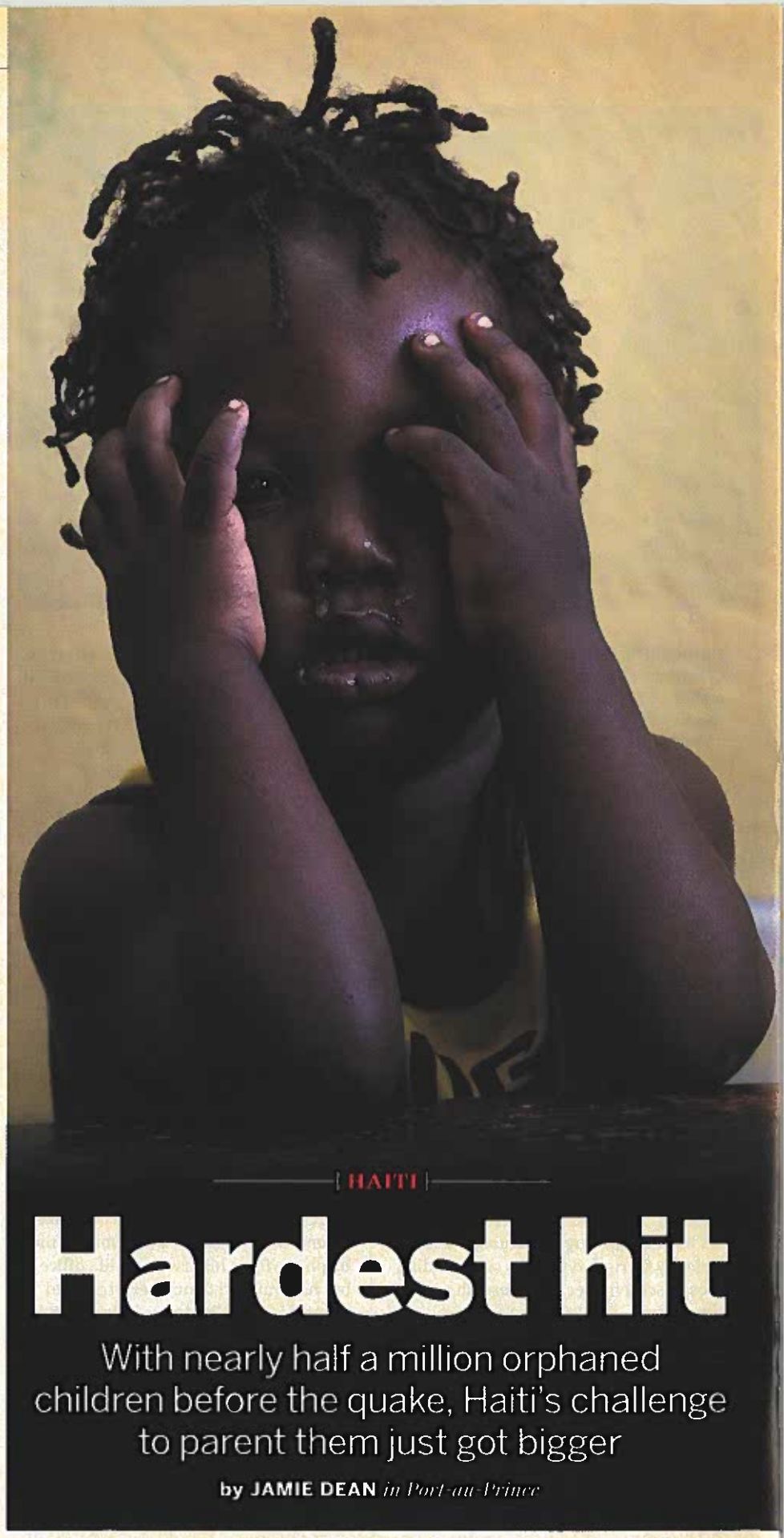
July 25, 2009 The Kurdistan region of Iraq holds parliamentary and presidential elections.

March 7, 2010 Iraq holds parliamentary elections to select representatives for the 325-member Council of Representatives.

—with reporting by Kristin Chapman



POSTER: KARIM KADIM/AP • FINGERS: ANDREW PARSONS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



HAITI

Hardest hit

With nearly half a million orphaned children before the quake, Haiti's challenge to parent them just got bigger

by **JAMIE DEAN** *in Port-au-Prince*

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

WHEN DOCTORS first hunched over 6-year-old Jean in a crowded medical clinic supply closet, I braced myself for a horrifying sight: the painful death of a child.

All the signs were there: The severely malnourished and dehydrated boy with cerebral palsy took shallow breaths. His twig-like arms and legs shook. His weak eyes rolled back into his head. During a series of wrenching medical procedures without anesthesia, he barely whimpered. I left the makeshift clinic near Port-au-Prince that afternoon thinking Jean's first day at Presbyterian Mission in Haiti (PMH) might be his last (see "Aftershock," Feb. 13).

Less than two weeks later, unexpected news arrived: Jean was alive and well. A volunteer pediatrician with Flying Doctors of America had saved his life, and Haitian women from the mission's local congregation had cared for his daily needs—feeding him, bathing him, clothing him, holding him.

Sadly, Jean's impoverished mother never returned for her son. When workers from Danita's Children, a well-established orphanage near the northern city of Cap-Haitien, visited PMH during quake-relief work, they offered Jean a home, airlifting him and another orphaned child to their facility in the northeast corner of the country. When I called the orphanage's U.S. office to ask about Jean, Sheree Bowie knew whom I was seeking before I mentioned his name: "Oh, you must mean Jean."

Bowie reported more good news: Jean was recovering strength daily. A volunteer specialist flew in from the United States to attend to his needs, and those of other children. Doctors were helping orphanage workers develop a plan for Jean's rehabilitation and daily care. The other kids love him. "Our children have been doting on him, and our volunteers adore him," said Bowie. "And we really believe he is going to thrive and do as best as he can."

It was a sweet note in a bitter score for the thousands of newly orphaned or abandoned children in Haiti. The UN estimates that Haiti was home to 380,000 orphans before the Jan. 12 earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. The post-quake estimates report thousands more children are orphaned,

abandoned, or separated from family.

Many of those children have substantial medical needs: amputated arms and legs, severely broken bones, debilitating wounds. Other children suffered physical calamity before the earthquake: malnourishment, a high rate of HIV infection, and serious illness from treatable diseases.

While headlines have been dominated by news of the 10 Idaho Baptists arrested for attempting to transport 33 Haitian children into the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29—and the subsequent release of eight of the Americans—the serious work of caring for orphans in Haiti has gone forward with little fanfare. And with the Haitian government closing the process of new adoptions for the foreseeable future, many orphanages are preparing for children who may be in their care indefinitely.

Though it's difficult to pinpoint the number of orphanages in Haiti, last year the country's department of social services, or IBESR, reported 100 licensed orphanages and 67 creches—orphanages licensed to facilitate adoptions. Many more informal operations exist, with some overcrowded and undersupplied in the best of times.

Authorities worry that the country's longstanding problem with child trafficking may grow worse in the post-quake surge of orphans: UNICEF warns that children newly orphaned or separated from family are vulnerable to child predators. Haitian authorities say they want to attempt to reunite children with any living family before moving forward with new adoptions to avoid potential trafficking problems.

That means orphanages like Danita's Children will care for children like Jean and many new orphans. Bowie says the orphanage's population has nearly doubled. Before the quake it cared for 77 children. (The Christian ministry also has a church for 500 community members and a school for 600 children.) Since, the orphanage had taken in at least 53 children and another 22 adults in need.

Some of those children have serious injuries: A volunteer surgeon mended a severe wound for a girl with an amputated arm and exposed nerve. A prosthetics specialist assessed other children with amputated limbs. While most children at the orphanage are healthy, the workers also cared for special needs before the quake: a boy with a tumor in his mouth, children with slight mental retardation, a girl severely burned in voodoo rituals.

To care for children with old and new needs, the orphanage is bringing in volunteer doctors and building a medical facility to offer modern care in a country with severely limited medical attention. Bowie says in the past the workers have driven three hours to Santiago to obtain advanced care for children. Now they're attempting to accelerate plans for their own hospital already two years in the making.



BITTER SCORE: Jean (above) receives care at Danita's Children. Kevinson Joseph, 3 (left), who lost his parents in the quake, sits in an orphanage in Santo.

As the group takes in new children, Bowie says they are taking great care to make sure children are truly orphaned: "We want to reunite wherever we have that opportunity." To that end, the organization—which doesn't normally facilitate adoptions—is working with the Red Cross and other agencies to register children and look for any remaining family. The group has also visited IBESR officials to ensure their work is properly done, especially in light of the negative publicity surrounding the Baptists from Idaho: "We're really being sticklers about it."

So are the workers at God's Littlest Angels (GLA). The orphanage located just outside of Port-au-Prince and founded by an American couple in 1995 has long cared for the most vulnerable of orphans. Board member Tom Vanderwell says John and Dixie Bickel "felt called to the tiniest of the tiny and the sickest of the sick." Vanderwell has seen that reality firsthand: He and his wife adopted two children from GLA nearly five years ago. At 20 months old, their adopted daughter weighed 12 pounds. She's much healthier today, and so are many of the other children at GLA.

The group regularly facilitated adoptions before Haitian authorities closed the process. Vanderwell says the organization is carefully following post-quake Haitian regulations: For now, GLA isn't accepting any new adoption applications, even to keep on file: "We're committed to doing things right because we're here for the long haul—long after Anderson Cooper leaves and long after people forget about the Baptists from Idaho."

When the Haitian government allowed children to leave the country if their adoptive parents were already far along in the adoption process, Vanderwell says 81 children at GLA were eligible to go: "We sent 81 kids home." Since then, GLA has taken in more than 30 children, many from an orphanage that collapsed. Three children, separated from family, came from the U.S. hospital ship, *USNS Comfort*. GLA located the birth parents for all three. In one case, a little girl recovering from serious injuries remembered where she went to church in the city. GLA workers took her photograph to the church and within three days her father called to claim her.

Since GLA sustained little damage in the quake, Vanderwell says, "We have the responsibility and obligation to help others." The group has facilitated nearly 1,000 tetanus shots for the surrounding community and provided help for Haitian staff members—70 percent of the local staff lost their homes. The group plans to help rebuild homes in the community and arrange sponsorships for orphans.

Bowie says the workers at Danita's Children orphanage are in it for the long haul too. Children like Jean, she says, are "probably going to be in our care for the rest of his life." As the workers offer spiritual nurture to the children with biblical teaching and gospel hope, Bowie says some of the greatest encouragement comes from the orphans themselves. She says the children who were in the orphanage pre-quake are helping the new orphans: "There's nothing more powerful than seeing an orphaned child pray for another orphan."

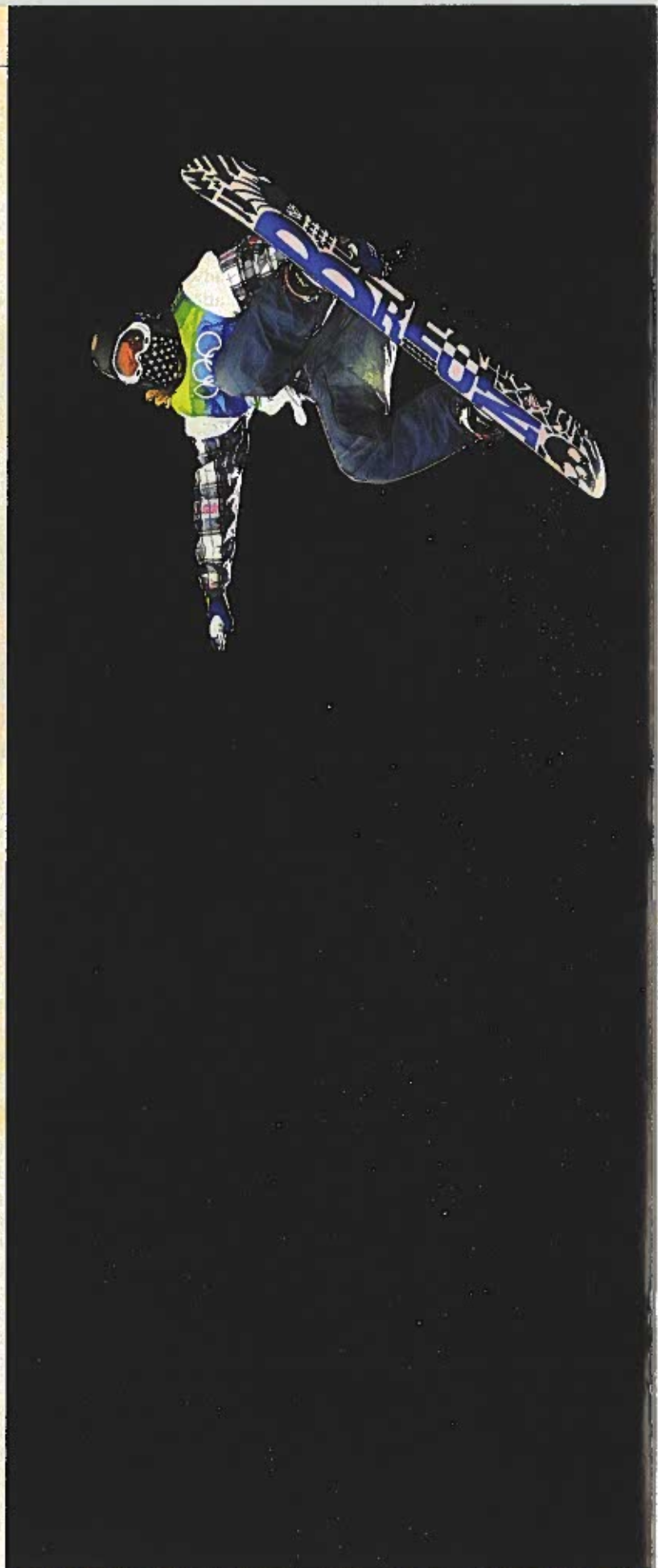
She hopes interest in Haiti's orphans won't fade with time, especially among Christians. "This isn't an option," she says. "This is a scriptural mandate. We have to care for these orphans."

DANITA'S CHILDREN

Winter royalty

With millions watching, the Vancouver games delivered thrilling victories, touching moments, and public redemption for an Olympic veteran





MILLER'S TIME: Alpine skier Bode Miller (above) came back from a disappointing 2006 Olympic performance to win three medals (gold, silver, and bronze); Snowboarder Shaun White (right) soared above the competition to take gold in the Halfpipe.

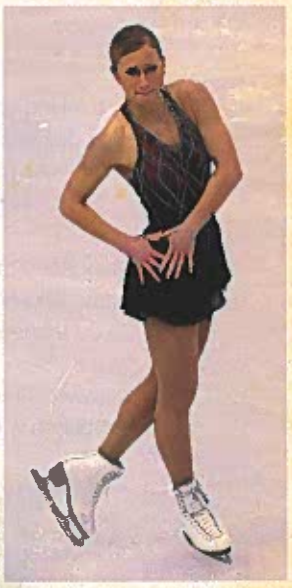
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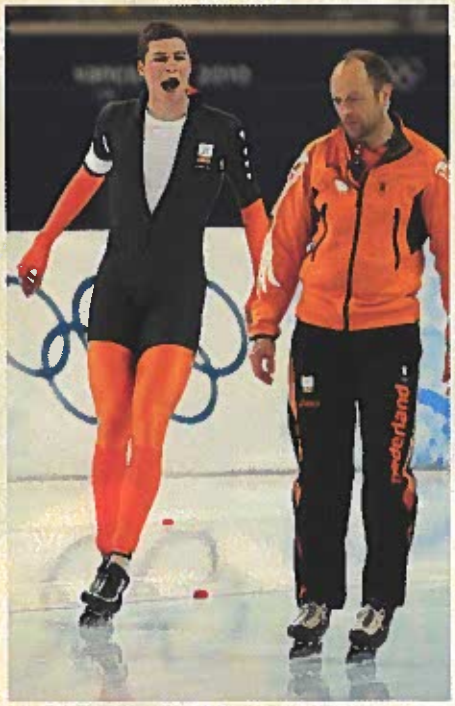
VICTORY ON ICE: Team USA (right) stunned a favored Canada early in a hockey preliminary game; American Evan Lysacek (below) became the first non-Russian to win men's figure skating gold since 1992; with a bronze in the 100 meters, speed skater Apolo Ohno (below, right) won his seventh Olympic medal.













TEARS AND JEERS: Just days after her mother's death, Canadian Joannie Rochette (above) fought to keep her composure; Russian ice dancers Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin (left) fell from first to third after their controversial "Aboriginal dance"; Dutch speed skater Sven Kramer (far left) was disqualified when his coach led him into the wrong lane.

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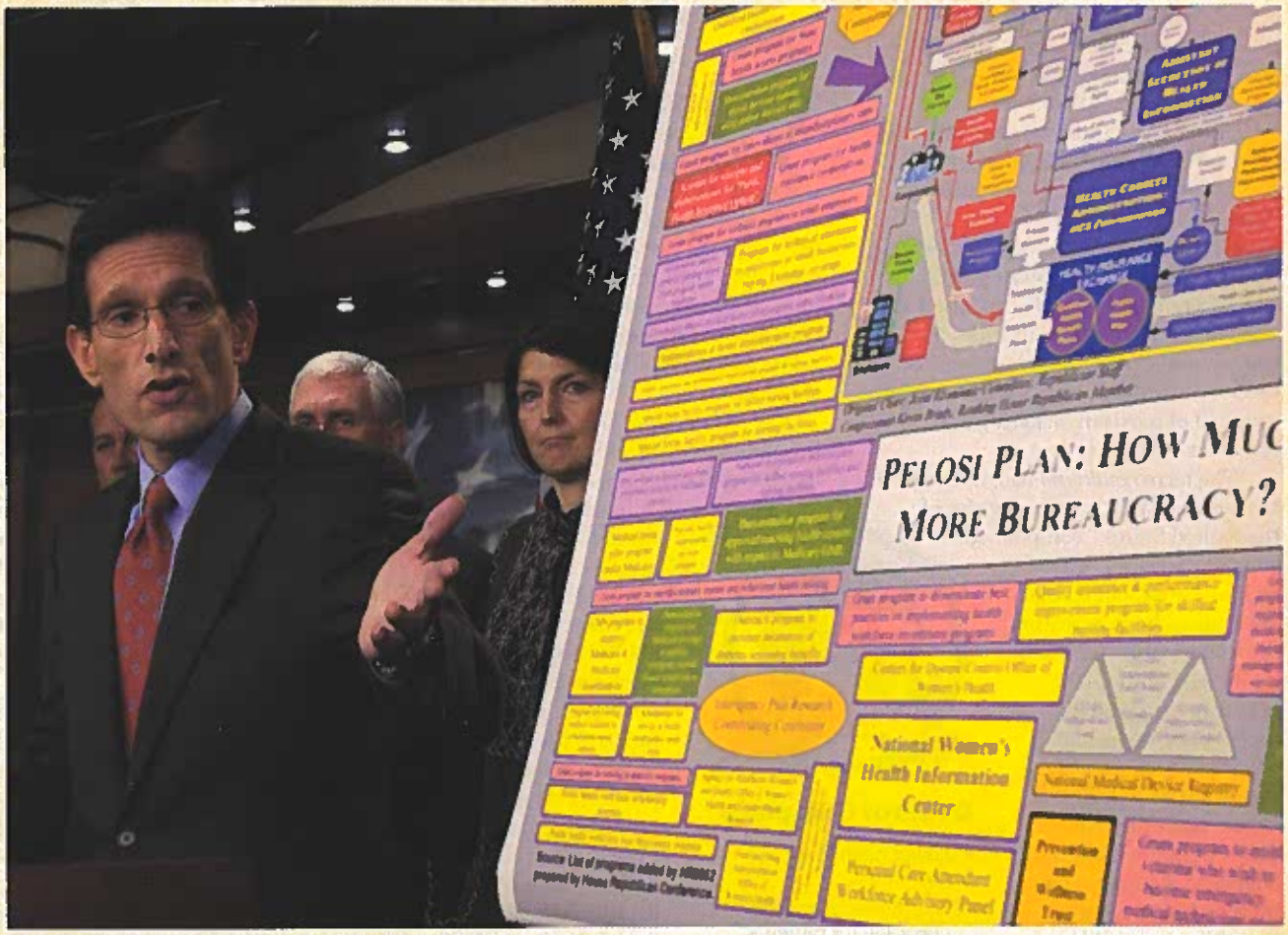
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More than 'no'?

Republicans are united in opposition to President Obama's healthcare agenda, but voters want to hear more about their alternatives **by EDWARD LEE PITTS** *in Luray and Orange, Va.*

THE SNOW STILL HUGGED the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains like a cotton blanket on a recent February morning at a restored historic train station in Luray, in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. More than two dozen mostly Republican Page County residents had come together to learn about the happenings of a place that is less than a two-hour drive away but has lately felt as far off as Russia to these plus thousands of other voters across the nation: the U.S. Capitol.

Rep. Eric Cantor, the Republican Whip and the congressman from this Virginia district, has come by to address the group of retirees and local business leaders.

While on Capitol Hill, it is the whip's job to rally party support for or against certain votes. But at the meeting in Luray, in the midst of a congressional recess, Cantor wanted to whip up locals in his district behind Republican alternatives to the big government push by Washington's current Democratic majority.

Cantor's brief talk in Luray reflected the competing impulses in a Republican Party that senses a historic opportunity for electoral gains in November: Should Republicans try to focus the public's attention on what they see as bad elements in the Obama agenda, or should they spend more time highlighting their own plans for healthcare and the economy?

Cantor, who wears glasses and boasts a chiseled chin and a full head of brushed-back dark hair, spent several minutes on the former—attacking the incursion of the "terrible policy agenda" led by President Obama. But soon Cantor's whip efforts became derailed as some in the Luray Train Depot lashed back:

WHIP IT RIGHT: Eric Cantor speaks at a news conference on pending healthcare legislation in November.

HARRY HAMBURG/AP

"You keep saying Washington is doing this and Washington is doing that," exclaimed Gary Drum, 57, a retired Marine. "But you are Washington." Cantor, on the defensive, responded by giving Drum a quick lecture on Congress' current calculus: "There is one-party rule in Washington," he said of the Democrats. "They control every lever of power."

Indeed, with just 178 out of the 435 seats in the House, Republicans, as Cantor said, "can't stop anything." But the voters at the Luray meeting say they are tired of partisan bickering and are ready for solutions.

"The term *recidivism* has moved from the penal system to the Congress of the United States," complained Dave Bull, 70, a Luray retiree. He explained that lawmakers keep repeating the undesirable "us versus them" mentality as the best way to appeal to voters back home and ensure reelection. But the message of Bull, Drum, and others in Luray suggests that they believe Washington has hit rock bottom, and Republicans would be wise not merely to cast themselves as the lambs to the Democrats' lions.

The fact that Democrats spent almost all of last year failing to recognize that most Americans do not want a full-body makeover of the nation's healthcare system has given the minority Republicans an opening. This opportunity became more tangible after the election of Scott Brown in Massachusetts.

But Republicans so far continue to believe that what plays best in Peoria is steady doses of Obama, Pelosi, and Reid bashing, seasoned by sprinkles of their own substitute legislative strategies. The result: GOP plans don't seem to be reaching a nation of voters ready to be wooed. "I have no idea what their message is," retired New Jersey transplant Dick Mazziotti, 68, told me when I asked him why he had decided to attend Cantor's Luray, Va., appearance.

VARIOUS REPUBLICANS HAVE put forth plans, but there really is no unified Republican alternative to the Democratic healthcare plan. Ask Republican House leaders where their plan is, and they will direct you to a website, healthcare.gop.gov, that contains a 219-page bill—1,771 pages less than House Democrats' healthcare tome. Senate Republicans do not have a single bill.

The White House seemed to sense this paucity last week ahead of the much-ballyhooed bipartisan summit on healthcare. White House Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer tried to press Republicans to bring a single alternative plan to the meeting.

But Robert Moffit, the Heritage Foundation's healthcare policy director, says the very absence of a single GOP plan reflects a different philosophical approach to tackling problems with the nation's healthcare system. "The healthcare sector is one of the most complex in our economy, and Republicans believe that you can't get it right by overhauling it in a single bill," he told me. "The reality is that would create a lot of unforeseen problems."

Voters seem to sense this: A Rasmussen poll released the day after President Obama revealed his own new $950 billion healthcare legislation last week showed that 63 percent of Americans think the best strategy is to pass smaller bills that address each problem individually.

There are 40 to 50 different healthcare bills sponsored by lawmakers in the House alone, Moffit said. But they all share a handful of key tenets:

Republican-style healthcare reform starts with the assumption that the current employer-based system discriminates against the self-employed, the unemployed, and small businesses. Republicans would level the playing field by reforming the tax code to create refundable tax credits of up to $2,300 per individual and $5,700 per family to purchase insurance. Republicans also mostly agree on the need to give individuals, small businesses, and trade associations the ability to pool together to acquire insurance in lower group rates. This would include allowing states to set up a high-risk insurance pool for its sickest citizens.

But these ideas have yet to reach the public, perhaps because Republicans lack a single leader with a platform to articulate them. "They are not only still casting about for a message, they are still casting about for a messenger," Allen Louderback, a Luray business consultant and former GOP Virginia state delegate, told me. "I don't know if they will find another Ronald Reagan, but that is who they should be looking for."

Right now the role of messenger has been splintered among half a dozen lawmakers in both the House and Senate. But no one has the national heft to consider facing off against Obama in the political ring—either for the coming legislative battles or in the 2012 elections.

The leadership void in the conservative movement was made clear at the recent Conservative Political Action Conference—the annual gathering of the movement. There the biggest cheers went to former Vice President Dick Cheney. As the crowd chanted "Run, Dick, Run," liberals everywhere probably were secretly joining in the serenade, believing that a Republican Party forced to reach back into its past would be an easier opponent for an on-the-ropes Democratic Party.

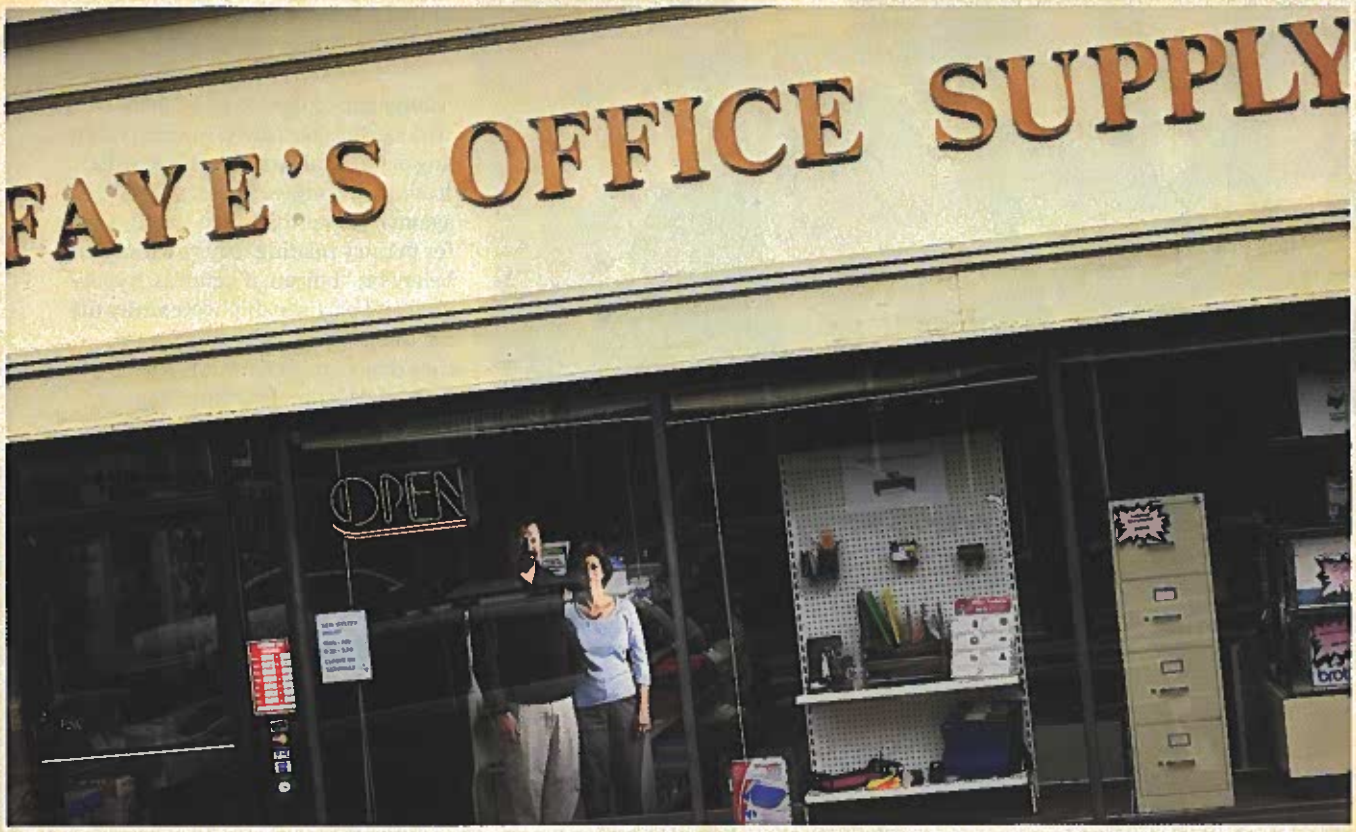
Some conservative young guns did impress at CPAC: Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty boldly acknowledged his faith during a speech, and upstart Florida Senate candidate Marco Rubio gave an impassioned plea that "2010 is a referendum on the very identity of our nation." But until conservatives can coalesce around one Republican standard-bearer, lawmakers like Cantor are making individual pitches in their districts.

BEFORE HE RODE INTO LURAY, Cantor spent the morning meeting constituents in Orange, Va. Located just five miles from the historical home of James Madison, the father



Goals of GOP plans

- Lower healthcare premiums
- Guarantee affordable coverage for patients with preexisting conditions
- Protect seniors' Medicare benefits
- No tax increases
- Encourage small businesses to offer healthcare coverage, without taxing job creation
- Enact medical liability reform
- Empower the doctor-patient relationship—not government intrusion
- Prohibit abortion funding
- No entitlement expansions
- Reduce the deficit



MAIN STREET: Faye and Curtis Gish in front of their Orange, Va., store, which they closed to hear Cantor on healthcare.

of the Constitution, downtown Orange houses mostly two-story red brick office buildings along a street where banners advertise an upcoming all-you-can-eat pancake supper at the local Methodist church. On the morning of Cantor's visit, Faye and Curtis Gish shuttered their office supply store and went a few blocks to the county office building.

For the past decade they've thought about adding healthcare for their nine employees. But the cost to do so would require letting some of their staff go. Now they are worried that federal mandates may force their hand. So they went to listen to Cantor at a breakfast roundtable.

Cantor spent about an hour with the Gishes and others, including the owners of a hardware store, a winery, and a frameworks shop. It was a businesslike discussion dominated by a sense that Washington's current legislative agenda has placed small business owners under a veil of uncertainty—uncertainty over future regulations and future taxes, to name a few. But when Cantor turned the discussion to healthcare, everyone in the room burst into nervous laughter.

"I don't know if anyone wants to talk about that?" he asked sheepishly. The responses come fast:

"Have you read the bill?"

"We don't know what it is really."

Cantor responded by discussing how the Democrats' healthcare push is based on the premise that the nation needs to reduce the number of uninsured through mandates that prescribe for everyone a federally approved insurance plan. But he said the Republicans believe the right focus is to bring down costs, which will increase access to coverage and subsequently reduce the number of uninsured.

Cantor then touted another major element of most Republican plans: reforming medical malpractice insurance. Ending frivolous lawsuits could save $54 billion over 10 years, with further savings expected as doctors stop ordering unnecessary procedures to protect themselves against lawsuits. Cantor also says Republicans want to give Americans the ability to purchase policies across state lines to increase competition and drive down costs. "All of us should be able to go in and have 30 plans to choose from, not four," he told the Orange business leaders.

These are ideas that most Republicans can rally around. But with Democrats in Washington trying to restart their stalled healthcare agenda—and with a new bill from the White House that nudges to the left the already-passed Senate healthcare version—Republicans remain most unified in their opposition to Obama. They see last week's bipartisan summit as a ploy by the left to exclaim, "We tried," before continuing their frontal healthcare assault in the face of sustained opposition.

Republicans next expect Democrats to try to push a healthcare bill through using reconciliation, a maneuver that would allow a bill to pass on a simple majority vote, bypassing a Republican filibuster, nullifying the implications of Brown's election and risking the further wrath of voters.

In this environment, many Republicans see their best option as letting the Democrats walk the healthcare plank. "We will certainly accept the mantra of the 'party of no' when it comes to handing over one-sixth of our nation's economy, lock, stock, and barrel to the American government," said Rep. Phil Gingrey, a Republican from Georgia who is also a doctor.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI FOR WORLD



MIDDLE MARCH: Bayh, Gregg, Voinovich, Dorgan (from left).

BAYH: ALEX BRANDON/AP • GREGG: PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP • VOINOVICH: ALEX BRANDON/AP • DORGAN: SUSAN WALSH/AP

Center pieces

Moderates are retiring, but that doesn't necessarily mean a more polarized politics

by EMILY BELZ *in Washington*

WHEN SEN. EVAN Bayh, D-Ind., stood with his wife and two teenage sons to announce his retirement on President's Day, people from Indiana to the halls of the Capitol mourned the loss of what they called a moderate voice in Washington.

Bayh himself mourned what he views as a decaying institution, saying, "I do not love Congress." Observers suspected he also did not love the prospect of a tough race in the fall against former Sen. Dan Coats, who had announced his intention to run against Bayh days earlier.

But if "moderate" is defined as someone who can appeal to voters across party lines, then the two-term senator isn't the only moderate getting out of politics: Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., one of the few Republicans offered a Cabinet post in the Obama administration, which he refused, announced his retirement late last year. Another moderate, Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., though he faced a difficult reelection, cited "rancor" in Washington as one reason why he decided in January to retire. And Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, who voted Feb. 24 in favor of a $15 billion jobs bill, is getting out of politics, too.

One Democratic strategist doesn't buy the idea that partisanship is driving politicians out, saying these seasoned veterans have seen worse. The strategist, who asked not to be named because of his ongoing work in election campaigns, called to mind then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich carrying on an affair with a staffer while leading the impeachment efforts against former President Bill Clinton for perjury relating to his own sexual behavior: "I mean, if ugliness, hypocrisy, and partisanship were really the big things getting people to retire, they'd have retired a while ago."

In the House, four Blue Dog Democrats who won conservative districts have decided to retire, and another, Rep. Parker Griffith of Alabama, switched parties to join the GOP. The exit of candidates who can win swing states is worse news for Democrats because their majority is a result of wooing independent voters.

But the departure of these moderates doesn't mean that Congress will be filled only with people firmly on the left or right—only that more moderates may come dressed as Republicans. If Republican Mark Kirk wins the Senate race in Illinois and Republican Mike Castle wins the Senate seat in Delaware, they will expand the ranks of Senate moderates. Republican Gov. Charlie Crist in Florida, though he faces a battle against Marco Rubio for the Republican nomination for the Senate race, would be another moderate legislator.

And because partisanship has become such an ugly brand on Washington, campaign strategists say that almost every candidate will run this year as a "moderate," or someone willing to reach out to opponents in the public square.

BLUE NOVEMBER?

Democrats have to entertain the possibility of losing the majority in the Senate. If Republicans keep their open seats in Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Ohio (most of which they expect to hold), they would need to win 10 more seats to take the majority. Seven are within Republican grasp.

Indiana, a red state, is likely to vote in a Republican to Bayh's seat—though the most-talked-about potential Democrat in the race, Rep. Brad Ellsworth, stands further to the right than Bayh.

In North Dakota, with Dorgan's retirement, popular Republican governor John Hoeven is expected to win handily. In Arkansas, moderate Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln may be retired by popular vote. In polls she is behind two Republican challengers, Rep. John Boozman and state Sen. Gilbert Baker, by about 20 points.

Vice President Joe Biden's old seat in Delaware is likely to go to GOP congressman Mike Castle. President Obama's old seat in Illinois could go to a Republican, too—Rep. Mark Kirk. Polls show his race against Democrat Alexi Giannoulias to be a toss-up.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid could lose his seat in Nevada to a Republican. He has two formidable opponents already in former state senator Sue Lowden and businessman Danny Tarkanian. The state has the second-highest jobless rate in the nation, and Reid recently shot down a bipartisan jobs bill in the Senate.

And the Democrat named to fill Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's Senate seat, Michael Bennet, has a fierce fight ahead in Colorado against a former speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Republican Andrew Romanoff. —*E.B.*

Under orders

Ignoring conscience objections and taxpayer protection, the administration forces military bases to carry Plan B

by ALISA HARRIS

WHEN MILITARY pharmacist David Black received word that the Pentagon would require all military treatment facilities to stock emergency contraception—the Plan B drug that he considers abortion-inducing—he grew immediately anxious. Black, who asked that WORLD not use his real name in order to protect his job, told a supervisor that he would not dispense the pill and suggested they ship it to a local provider who was willing to dispense it. The supervisor said that was not an option.

Abortion currently is banned from all military treatment facilities, and so is the use of defense funds for abortion. But Plan B does not fall under the federal definition of abortion; instead it's classified as "emergency contraception" taken less than 72 hours after unprotected sex. It releases a high dose of the hormone levonorgestrel and sometimes works by inhibiting the implantation of an already fertilized egg—ending a life after conception.

Some—but not all—military facilities have stocked Plan B since 2007. In early February, the Obama administration made it a requirement: All U.S. military bases would offer Plan B. Since military facilities do not have co-pays for drugs, taxpayers will be footing the bill.

Black said he's concerned about more than Plan B, noting that this recent Pentagon decision comes along with a push to allow openly gay people to serve in the U.S. military. "They're starting to expand this type of thing," Black said. He is worried this is just the beginning: "People are afraid that this is going to lead to RU-486 and then abortions in military facilities." He is quick to add, "That's yet to be decided of course. That's speculation."

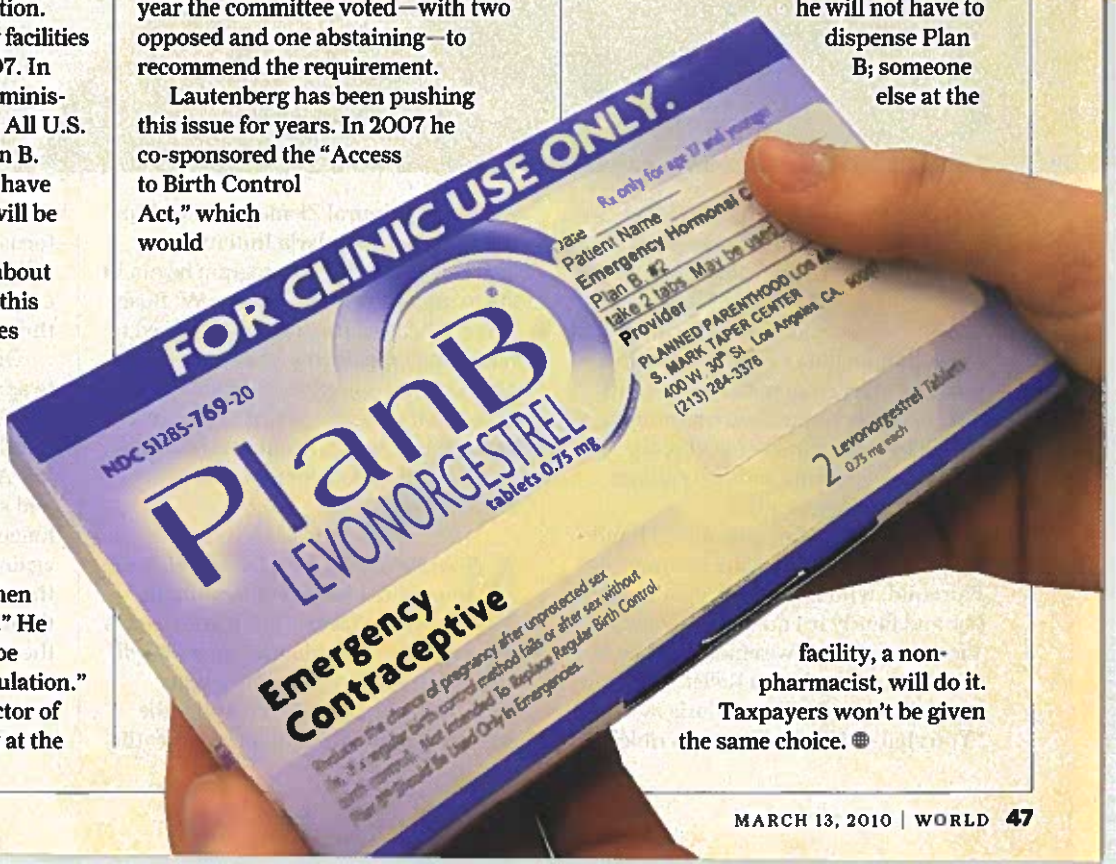
But Jeanne Monahan, director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council, also sees the requirement as part of a broader administration push to move abortion from being merely legal and available to being funded and promoted. "In the same way," she said in a statement, "the fact that Plan B is optional for military facilities is not sufficient for the Obama Administration, so now military facilities will be compelled to carry and disseminate Plan B."

Plan B has always been politically contentious. In 2006, Senators Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., blocked Andrew von Eschenbach's appointment as permanent head of the FDA until the FDA approved Plan B without a prescription. This time, Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., sent a request to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, asking that the Pentagon make all of its facilities stock Plan B. Gates made the same request of the Pentagon's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and in November of last year the committee voted—with two opposed and one abstaining—to recommend the requirement.

Lautenberg has been pushing this issue for years. In 2007 he co-sponsored the "Access to Birth Control Act," which would have made pharmacies fill all emergency contraception requests. This bill stated that access to contraception "is a protected fundamental right in the United States and should not be impeded by an individual's personal beliefs" and said that pharmacies should make sure their employees do not "interfere with or obstruct" a request for contraception. In 2007 and in 2009, Lautenberg co-sponsored a bill that would have required the Pentagon to do just what this latest decision requires: force all of its facilities to dispense Plan B.

This latest decision means that if someone requests Plan B and the pharmacist has moral or ethical objections to dispensing the prescription, then the pharmacy must find a way to provide it anyway. According to Austin Comacho—spokesperson for TRICARE, the military's healthcare program—each branch of the service will set its own policies regarding the religious objections of pharmacists.

The Air Force did not respond to a query, but a spokesperson for the United States Army confirmed that if pharmacists have moral objections, supervisors must set policies to ensure that the prescription still gets filled. The Navy said the same in a 2007 memo. Black, a contract pharmacist, says that according to these provisions he will not have to dispense Plan B; someone else at the facility, a non-pharmacist, will do it. Taxpayers won't be given the same choice. ●

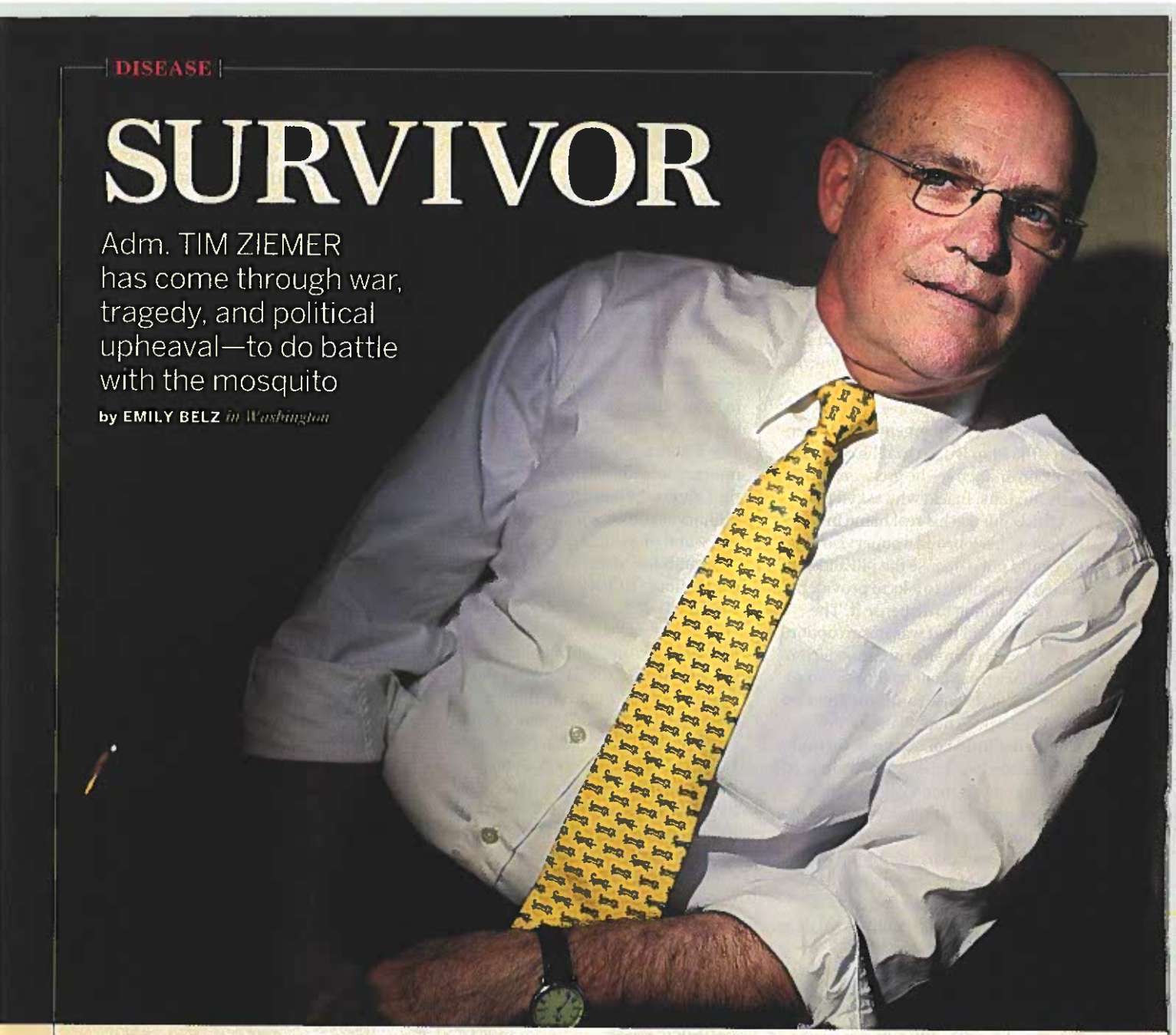


J. EMILIO FLORES/LA OPINION/NEWSCOM

SURVIVOR

Adm. TIM ZIEMER has come through war, tragedy, and political upheaval—to do battle with the mosquito

by EMILY BELZ *in Washington*



AS A CHILD, TIM Ziemer remembers lying in his home in the village of Ban Me Thout in southern Vietnam—then French Indochina—consumed with a burning fever from malaria. The antidote of choice at the time was quinine, which brought him along with his missionary parents and two siblings through the illness alive.

The fever "makes you almost blind—burns your lips," described Connie Fairchild, who was a next-door neighbor and family friend to the Ziemers in Vietnam and is now senior director of development at World Relief. Like everyone else, she had malaria too: "You shake. The shaking is terrible."

Today Admiral Ziemer, 63, heads up the President's Malaria Initiative, an aggressive $1.2 billion program begun in 2006 under President George W. Bush. The eradication program is supposed to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent by next year, an objective that Ziemer says is on track to be completed. Ten years ago, the U.S. government was investing only $1 million to fight malaria in Africa—and losing.

MALARIA IS A FADING MEMory in the United States, but in Africa—where Ziemer has made 16 trips as head of the Malaria Initiative—it kills almost a million people every year, almost all of them children under the age of 5. About 500 million contract the illness worldwide. The U.S. initiative is focused in 15 African countries, where malaria prevalence rates in Zambia, for example, fell by 53 percent in the first three years of the program.

One of Ziemer's chores as a child was to spray the insecticide DDT along the baseboards of his family's home to protect them from malaria-carrying mosquitos. A little bit of DDT mixed with water and sprayed on inside walls is one of the longest-lasting and cheapest protections against malaria. If a mosquito lands on the treated wall, it dies without passing the malaria parasite on to humans, and the repellant lasts for up to a year, months longer than other insecticides.

But few countries use the chemical widely because of environmental con-

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI FOR WORLD

cerns that Rachel Carson introduced in her 1962 book *Silent Spring*. She alleged that DDT thins the eggshells of birds, threatening certain species. While those allegations have largely been disproved in years since, the perception of DDT remains, and a number of Western countries impose trade restrictions on countries that use DDT.

"The compliance is really cumbersome," said Ziemer, sitting in his office at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). On his desk is a sign: "If only Noah had swatted those two mosquitos."

If DDT is used properly, he said, "There's no scientific evidence that would require us to remove it as a public health intervention." As restrictions stand now, only four of the countries the malaria program works in use DDT as their insecticide of choice, while Ziemer argues that laying off insecticides like DDT means, "We'll lose more lives, there's no doubt about it."

The funding for the program comes to an end next year, so Ziemer is working to convince Congress to continue the malaria budget, even as most politicians are thinking about domestic concerns like jobs. But Ziemer said he's confident, and that lawmakers have expressed support for the malaria program "in a very generous and aggressive way."

Ziemer is a rarity in Washington: a Bush appointee reappointed by President Obama, which he said was "unsolicited and unexpected." Mark Dybul, the head of a major health success of the Bush administration, the AIDS program PEPFAR, lost his job a few days after President Obama's inauguration. Dybul made choices on thorny issues like the U.S. government's promotion of abstinence efforts, issues that Ziemer doesn't have to bother with. Malaria prevention is a bit more basic: insecticide and mosquito nets.

Still, Obama has not personally owned PEPFAR or the Malaria Initiative the way President Bush did. To this point, Ziemer has not met the president, though he saw Bush often. "Frankly, in the big scheme of things, malaria is just one of the moving parts. I don't feel shunned or unappreciated," Ziemer said. "[President Obama] has mentioned the significance of malaria, so we're doing all right."

Ziemer has survived more than a change in administrations. Growing up in southern Vietnam, he watched the French leave the country and lived through the build-up to war with the north. In the midst of political upheaval, his parents, Bob and Marie, worked with a mission team translating the Bible into the regional dialect. They opened a school, a church, a clinic, and a leprosarium (leprosy was a scourge on Vietnam at the time, and remains a problem today).

One day as a boy Ziemer drove out with his father to a remote area, where a man was living with leprosy in a lean-to. His father brought the man back to the mission compound for treatment. The man's family soon joined him in the village.

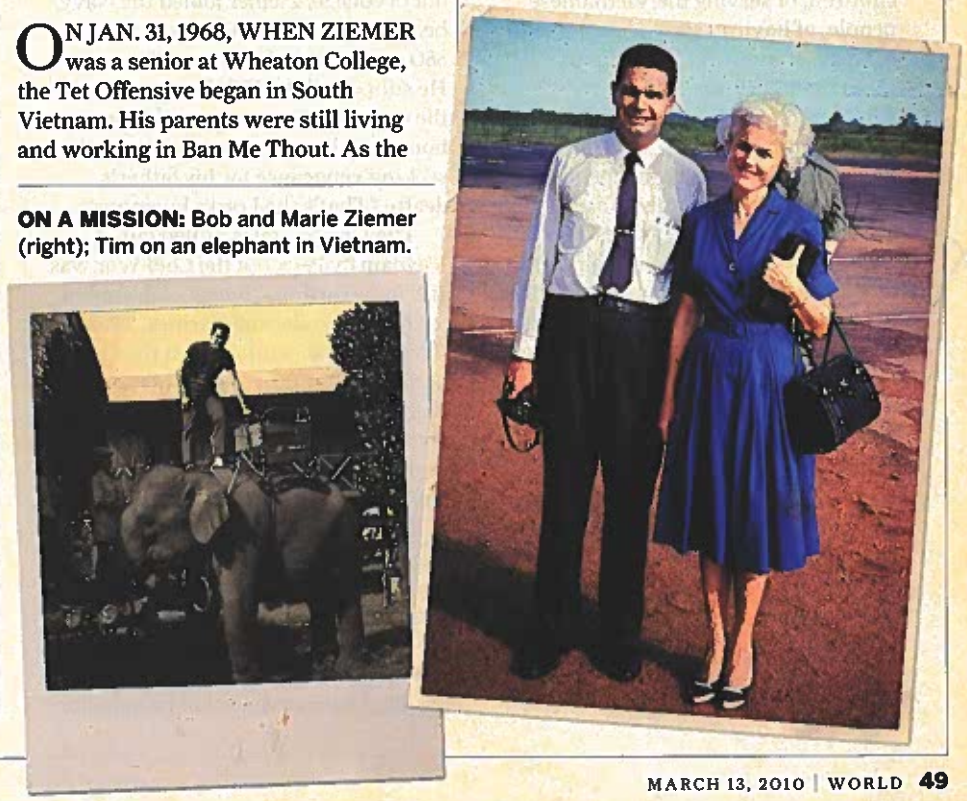
"Why was this man kicked out and ostracized? I remember distinctly trying to process that," he recalled. "Medical missions, underline missions, is to restore, both physically and spiritually.... His life went from total abandonment to [being] restored to do normal things in that culture."

ON JAN. 31, 1968, WHEN ZIEMER was a senior at Wheaton College, the Tet Offensive began in South Vietnam. His parents were still living and working in Ban Me Thout. As the North Vietnamese Army and Vietcong launched their cross-border offensive, Ban Me Thout came under siege. Injured and panicked civilians swamped the missionaries' clinic, looking for protection.

As the attacks raged, Ziemer's father left the bunker sheltering the local missionaries to seek permission from the North Vietnamese to move the critically injured to a regional hospital. When he walked out with his arms raised, the soldiers shot him.

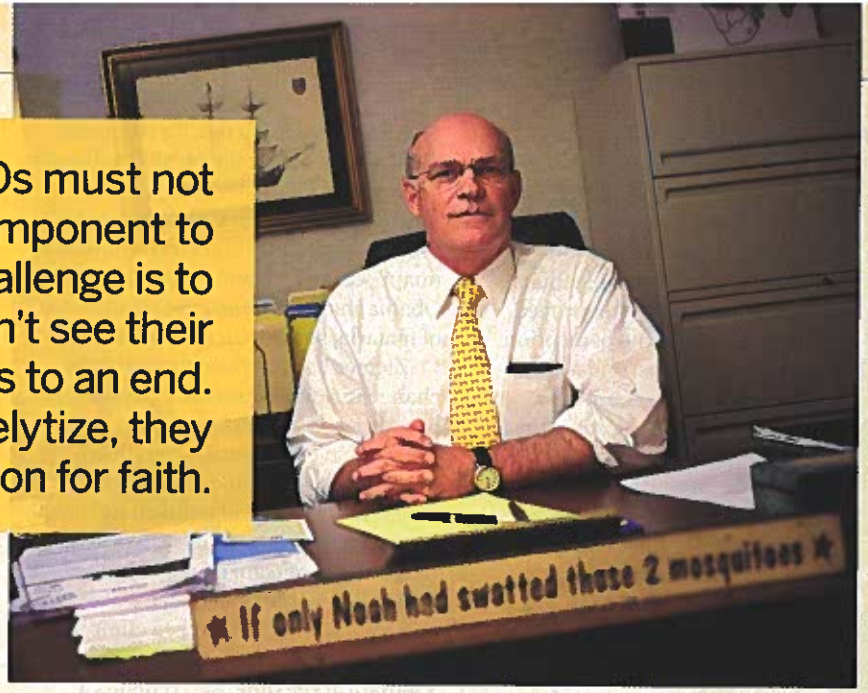
Then the soldiers threw hand grenades into the bunker that held other missionaries and nurses. Ziemer's mother was the only one to survive. She tried to pretend she was dead, but the soldiers saw her breathing and dragged her out of the rubble. She saw her husband, barely alive, and tried to go to him, but the soldiers held her back. She watched him die from a distance. The soldiers then blew up other missionaries' homes. Connie Fairchild, the Ziemers' neighbor who was also in college at the time, saw pictures in the press of her bombed home, though her parents weren't in the village at the time.

Wounded, Ziemer's mother stayed in communist captivity until the soldiers believed that she was going to die. They dropped her in a ditch as they left the village. With help from locals, she made her way to a clinic and soon was on a U.S. military flight back to Andrews Air Force Base—the only



ON A MISSION: Bob and Marie Ziemer (right); Tim on an elephant in Vietnam.

HANDOUT



The faith-based NGOs must not abandon that spiritual component to what they do. Their big challenge is to make sure the world doesn't see their engagement as a means to an end. They don't exist to proselytize, they exist to show the whole reason for faith.

woman on board a plane full of soldiers. Ziemer was there to meet the plane, climbing aboard as soon as it touched down. Under the bandages from his mother's 18 grenade wounds, he noticed her prematurely gray hair.

"I was going to be the big guy and make her strong, and I started weeping," he said.

Forty years later, Ziemer recites the verse from the hymn that his mother had written down and handed to him: "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed / When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost / Count your many blessings, name them one by one / And it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

She also wrote down those blessings: She had the privilege of being married to Ziemer's father, of having three children, of serving the Vietnamese people, of having received good medical care, of knowing Jesus Christ.

In their 20 years of work in Vietnam, Ziemer's parents believed that the church, school, and clinic in Ban Me Thout shouldn't depend on American missionaries—this before "sustainability" became a catchphrase among missions and development experts. About a year before the missionaries were killed, the regional churches became self-supporting, based on a business plan that Bob Ziemer had devised years earlier. Six months before the attack, a Vietnamese took over administration of the hospital.



One month before the attack, another national took over leadership of the school. The week before Bob Ziemer was killed, he sent his translation of the Bible into the local dialect to the British Foreign Bible Society, and that Bible has been printed and distributed.

"It really wasn't about them, it was about God at work in this world—restoring, meeting needs," Ziemer recalled.

Adm. Ziemer hasn't set foot in Vietnam since, though his sister is a missionary there now. But not too long after his father's death he returned—in the air. Facing the draft out of college, Ziemer joined the Navy, became a pilot, and flew more than 550 combat missions over Vietnam. He supported the U.S. involvement in the country that was his childhood home, but he explains that he wasn't seeking vengeance for his father's death: "That's the Lord's business."

The United States pulled out of Vietnam by 1975, but the Cold War was still in full swing. Ziemer's job shifted to chasing Soviet submarines, "Tom Clancy kind of stuff." When the United States quit hunting Red Octobers, Ziemer began conducting special operations in the Gulf leading up to the first Iraq War. He rose to become Rear Admiral and in 1996 took over command of the military's largest fleet in Norfolk, Va., where he assumed the unpleasant task of downsizing the base.

After 31 years in the military, Ziemer took a top think tank job in Washington, usually a prize for high-profile public servants, but he quit after a few months because it didn't suit him. Then came a phone call asking him to become the executive director of World Relief, the quasi-independent relief arm of the National Association of Evangelicals. He accepted the offer at a time when the organization was reeling from the economic impact of 9/11 and the halt of refugee arrivals in the United States, the bulk of its domestic work.

Ziemer consolidated the organization's offices in New York, Atlanta, and Chicago into one headquarters in Baltimore. "We can attribute the fact that we are still here to his skills and abilities," said Dan Kosten, the director of World Relief's domestic refugee program.

World Relief has been at the forefront of efforts to fight AIDS and malaria overseas, so when President Bush named Ziemer the head of his new Malaria Initiative in 2006, Ziemer slipped into the role easily, working in a program that proved successful by relying on the alliance of government and private nonprofit efforts.

"Those of us who are working in the secular community, when it comes to administering programs we have to be neutral, open, and objective," he said. "The faith-based NGOs must not abandon that spiritual component to what they do. Their big challenge is to make sure the world doesn't see their engagement as a means to an end. They don't exist to proselytize, they exist to show the whole reason for faith—that is to reach out, just like Christ did, to love the poor and suffering, and be Christ to them in body, soul, and mind."

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI FOR WORLD

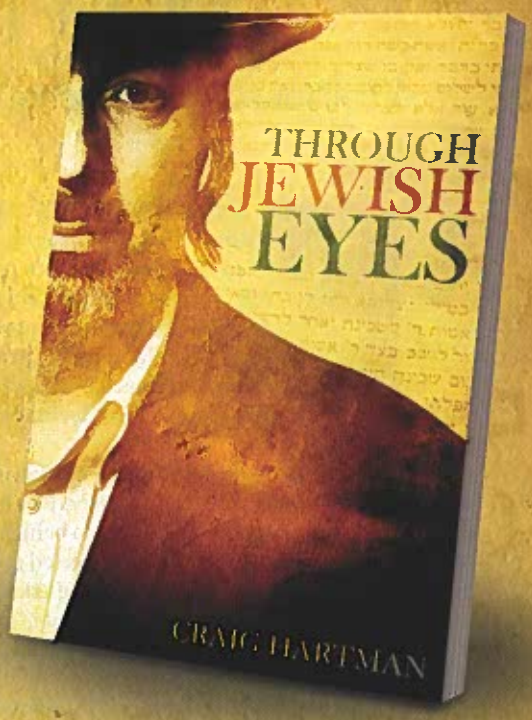
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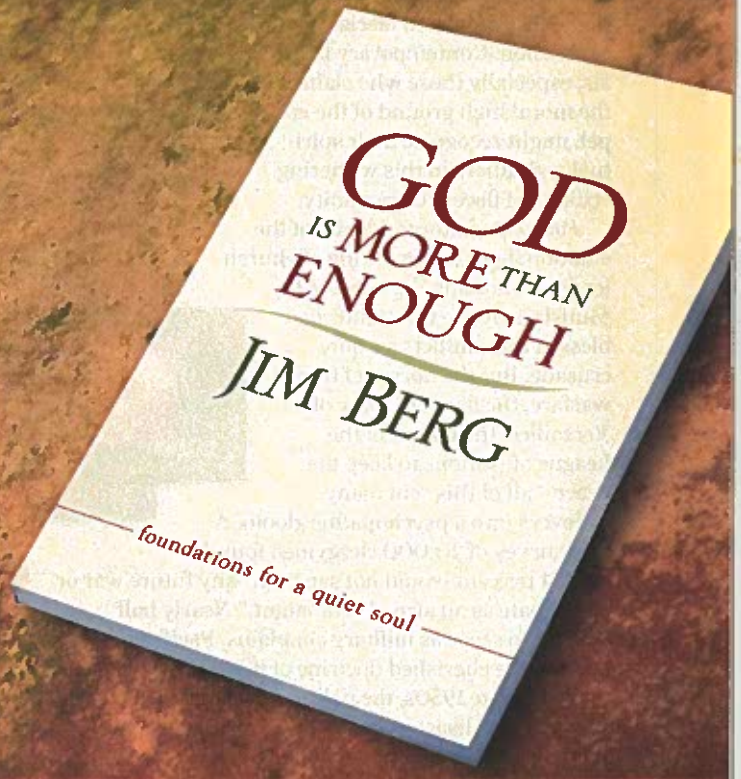


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JOE LOCONTE

Plea from the past

A call for spiritual strength in 1940 offers a lesson for today's appeasers

TO GET A SENSE OF HOW FAR, AND for how long, liberal elites have strayed from America's bedrock moral and religious propositions, find a copy of *Fortune* magazine, circa 1940. An editorial in January of that year—the year of the Nazi *Blitzkrieg* in Europe—complained of a "declining emphasis on spiritual values."

Yes, the editors of this icon of free-market capitalism lamented a drift away from the transcendent truths that helped bring American democracy into being. Even more remarkable, *Fortune*'s lay prophets directed their anger at the nation's *religious* leadership. "We are asked to turn to the Church for our enlightenment," they wrote, "but when we do so we find that the voice of the Church today is the echo our own voices."

The issue at hand was the reflexive, militant pacifism of liberal Christianity during the 1930s—at the very moment when political pacifism was emboldening international terrorism and fascist aggression. Contemporary liberals, especially those who claim the moral high ground of the gospel, might recognize their spiritual godfathers in this withering critique of flaccid Christianity.



Fortune's editors took aim at the emotional pendulum swing of church leaders following the Great War. Ministers by the thousands had blessed the conflict as a holy crusade. But the horror of trench warfare, the flawed Treaty of Versailles, the failure of the League of Nations to keep the peace—all of this sent many believers into a psychopathic gloom. A 1931 survey of 20,000 clergymen found that 54 percent would not sanction "any future war or participate as an armed combatant." Nearly half refused to serve as military chaplains. Pacifism became the cherished doctrine of liberal Christianity.

By the late 1930s, the political consequences of this new dogma were disastrous. Ministers rationalized German rearmament, cheered the betrayal of Czechoslovakia at Munich, downplayed Hitler's vicious anti-Semitism, and claimed that America's hands were too soiled to defend democracy outside its own borders.

The editors at *Fortune* could see nothing principled in this position—no matter how much it was dressed up in religious language. They took it as evidence of spiritual corruption: "So long as the Church pretends or assumes to preach absolute values but actually preaches relative and secondary values, it will merely hasten this process of disintegration."

It is difficult to read these words and not think of today's religious left and its strident opposition to America's war on radical Islam. Most of their criticisms parrot every half-truth, slander, and mindless slogan from the secular political left. Like the ministers of the 1930s, they obsess over America's shortcomings. They refuse to admit any positive results from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They pretend that Islamic radicalism is a valid political protest movement, a child of U.S. foreign policy, and that it can be mollified through clever diplomacy.

Their posture is epitomized by the Rev. Jim Wallis and *Sojourners* magazine, which, shortly after the terrorist attack of 9/11, produced a manifesto called "Confessing Christ in a World of Violence." The document, signed by scores of church leaders, rejected the "crude distinctions" being made between Islamic radicalism and Western democracy. Even as human remains were still being recovered from Ground Zero, theologian Stanley Hauerwas saw a terrible day of reckoning ahead: "I think that when America isn't able to rule the world, that people will exact some very strong judgments against America—and I think we will well deserve it."

These are the voices of the disillusioned. To them, American democracy is a moral ruin. American capitalism is a wretched offense to the ethics of Jesus. And U.S. foreign policy is the most fearsome threat to global peace and security. Pacifism is their policy.

Despite the pious talk of the religious left, their prescriptions depend more on secular values—on a utopian view of human societies—than on biblical values. Like their predecessors, they are on a dead-end street called appeasement. The editors of *Fortune* offered a way out of this spiritual abyss: "The way out is the sound of a voice, not our own voice, but a voice coming from something not ourselves. . . . It is the earthly task of the pastors to hear this voice, to cause us to hear it, and to tell us what it says. If they cannot hear it, or if they fail to tell us, we, as laymen, are utterly lost."

—*Joe Loconte is the editor of* The End of Illusions: Religious Leaders Confront Hitler's Gathering Storm

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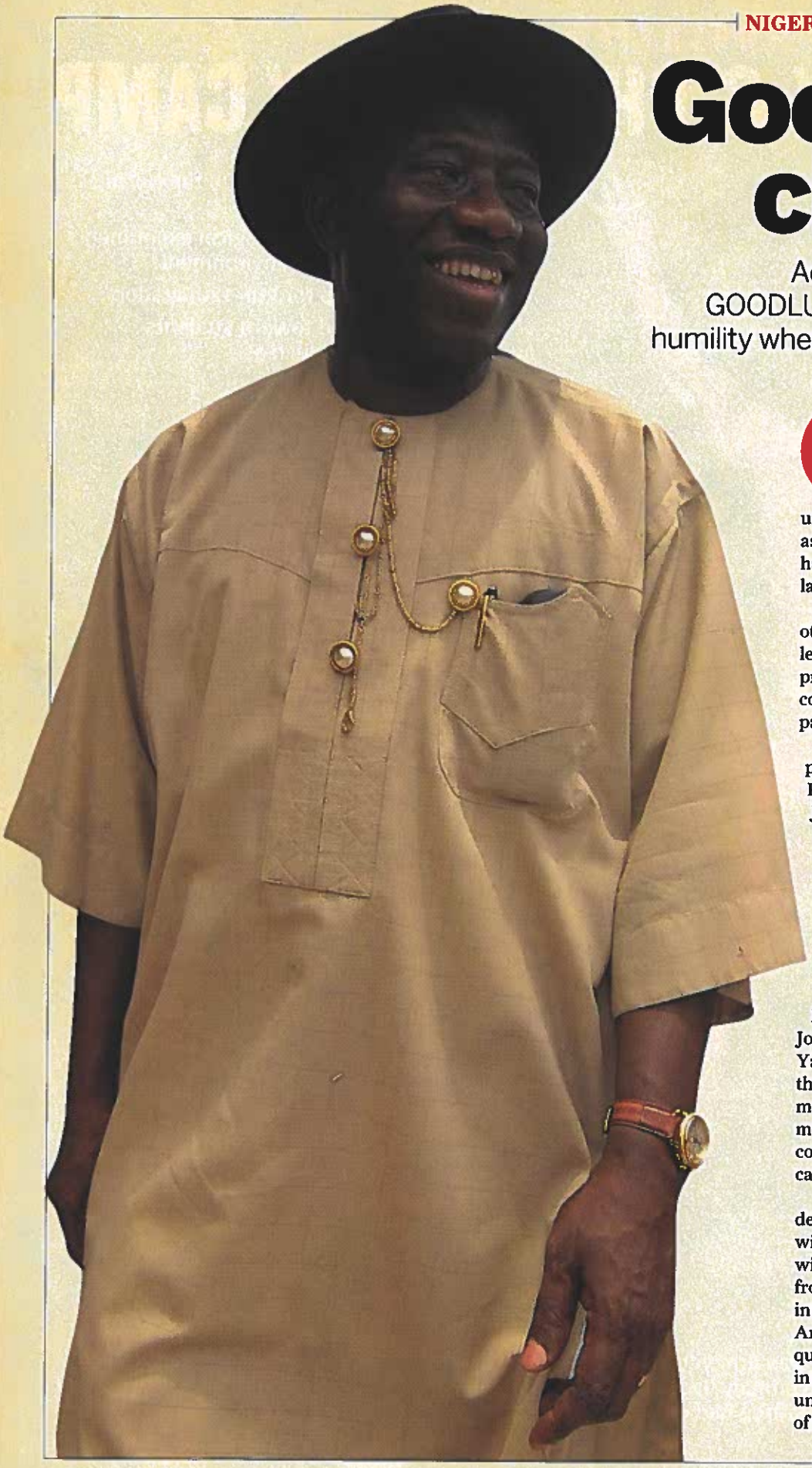




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Goodluck charms

Acting president of Nigeria GOODLUCK JONATHAN displays humility where power rules **by JAMIE DEAN**



ON A CONTINENT famous for its relaxed approach to punctuality, Goodluck Jonathan did something decidedly un-African in his first cabinet meeting as acting president of Nigeria: When a handful of government officials arrived late, Jonathan locked them out.

Days earlier, Jonathan surprised other Nigerian lawmakers by declining lengthy congratulatory visits. He surprised the country by discouraging the common practice of expensive newspaper ads hailing his ascent to power.

For Jonathan, the moves seem more practical than power-driven. Since Parliament named Vice President Jonathan acting president on Feb. 9 in the ailing president's absence, the new leader of Africa's most-populous nation has made his intentions clear: He wants to work.

Even as President Umaru Yar'Adua unexpectedly returned to Nigeria on Feb. 24 after a three-month stay in a Saudi Arabian hospital, plenty of work loomed for Jonathan: Though officials said Yar'Adua was improving, he was met at the airport by an ambulance and hasn't made a public appearance in three months. Little is known about his condition, and it's unclear when or if he can return to office.

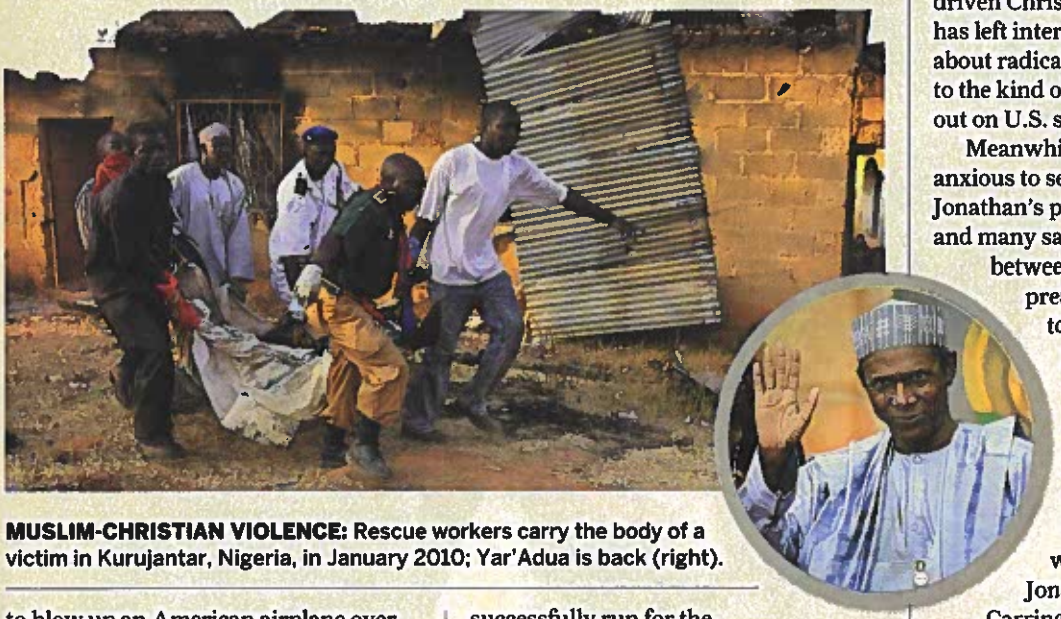
In the meantime, Jonathan's low-key demeanor suggests he wants to work without fanfare: At a summit meeting with West African leaders, Jonathan, from Nigeria's South and an "Anglican in good standing," according to Archbishop Peter Akinola (see p. 56), quietly told the group he was a "stand-in for President Yar'Adua, who is unavailable." Hassan Tukur, secretary of Nigeria's National Energy Council,

LIONEL HEALING/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

told *The New York Times*: "His humility is unknown in this part of the world."

Indeed, much is unknown as Jonathan gains prominence: Can he bring stability to a nation wracked by corruption, religious conflict, and poverty? Can a leader who seems content with being least become great? The questions suggest the challenges Jonathan faces as part of his unexpected rise in an unpredictable part of the world.

Jonathan's rise began when Yar'Adua left Nigeria last November bound for a Saudi Arabian hospital for treatment for a serious heart condition. Yar'Adua's absence left a gaping vacuum at a critical moment: A peace deal with militants in the oil-rich Niger Delta region in the South began to unravel without a president to implement it. A Nigerian terrorist trying unsuccessfully to blow up an American airplane over Detroit on Christmas Day blew a disastrous hole in Nigeria's relations with the United States. And as U.S. officials added Nigeria to its terror watch list, the country gave limited response lacking its head of state.



MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE: Rescue workers carry the body of a victim in Kurujantar, Nigeria, in January 2010; Yar'Adua is back (right).

Afraid of seeing the country slide into more chaos, Nigeria's Parliament looked increasingly to the vice president: Last month its members formally gave Jonathan the powers of the presidency. It was a controversial move, with some questioning the constitutionality of transferring power without the president's consent. But as the president remained silent, calls for Jonathan's takeover grew. He took power without civil or military unrest—a significant step in a country ruled by brutal military might just 10 years ago.

Jonathan, 52, didn't always seem destined for power, though his father deemed him special from birth: Pa Ebele Jonathan, a rural canoe-maker from the southern Ijaw tribe, says he named his son "Goodluck" because he thought he "had an element of fortune."

An element of hard work led Jonathan to study zoology in college. He pursued jobs in education and environmental protection before entering politics in 1998. After winning election as deputy governor in his home state of Bayelsa in 1999, Jonathan's political standing rose more quickly than expected: When officials impeached his boss on corruption charges, Jonathan became governor.

Two years later, former President Olusegun Obasanjo tapped Jonathan to successfully run for the nation's vice presidency. He won on the ticket with President Yar'Adua, though European election observers said the results were marred by fraud.

As acting president, Jonathan faces enormous challenges: Militants in the oil-rich South demand a greater share of the country's wealth and threaten violence if demands aren't met. Though Nigeria is one of the world's largest exporters of oil, most of the country remains plunged in abject poverty, seeing little benefit from the nation's lucrative oil industry. Experts say they're hopeful Jonathan can broker peace with militants before unrest spreads for one primary reason: The leader is from the region.

If Jonathan can succeed, he'll still face an uphill battle against government corruption that has bottled up wealth and limited basic services to a groaning population. The leader demonstrated an opening shot at corruption with the demotion of the nation's attorney general—a leader opposed to Jonathan and accused of ignoring human-rights abuses still rampant in the country. But with a police force and military still plagued by accusations of abuse, cleaning up corruption remains a daunting task.

Also daunting: religious and ethnic conflicts. An outbreak of violence in January near the North/South border between Muslims and Christians left as many as 300 people dead. Jonathan deployed troops to quell the violence. It may be harder to quell a radicalization among some Islamic sects that has driven Christians from their homes and has left international observers worried about radical Islamic elements leading to the kind of terror plots nearly carried out on U.S. soil on Christmas Day.

Meanwhile, many Muslims are anxious to see a Muslim leader take Jonathan's place: Yar'Adua is a Muslim, and many say an agreement to alternate between Muslim and Christian presidents requires a Muslim to take Jonathan's place in presidential elections next year. If Jonathan attempts to run for the presidency, the move could escalate Muslim-Christian tension.

For now, managing ethnic and religious conflict will remain a tightrope for Jonathan, according to Walter Carrington, former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria in the 1990s. (Carrington knows how precarious Nigerian politics can become: At his going-away party in Nigeria in 1997, armed Nigerian police forces raided the gathering and harassed party-goers.) Carrington says meting out consistent justice will be key: "He's got to show that he's acting on behalf of the entire country."

Nigerians wait to see if Jonathan can live up to such high expectations. The acting president seems sobered by the task and even ready to yield to Yar'Adua if the day comes: "More than ever, I urge all Nigerians as a people of faith in God, to pray fervently for the full recovery of our dear president and his early return."

KURUJANTAR: SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP • YAR'ADUA: JEROME DELAY/AP

Endings and begin

Controversial archbishop of Nigeria PETER AKINOLA steps down with

IT'S A STRANGE PHENOMENON when weather—or anything—slows the archbishop of Nigeria. Peter Akinola. But that's what happened when record snowfall in Washington last month forced the cancellation of a long-anticipated celebration, known among Anglicans as a festal eucharist, to commemorate Akinola.

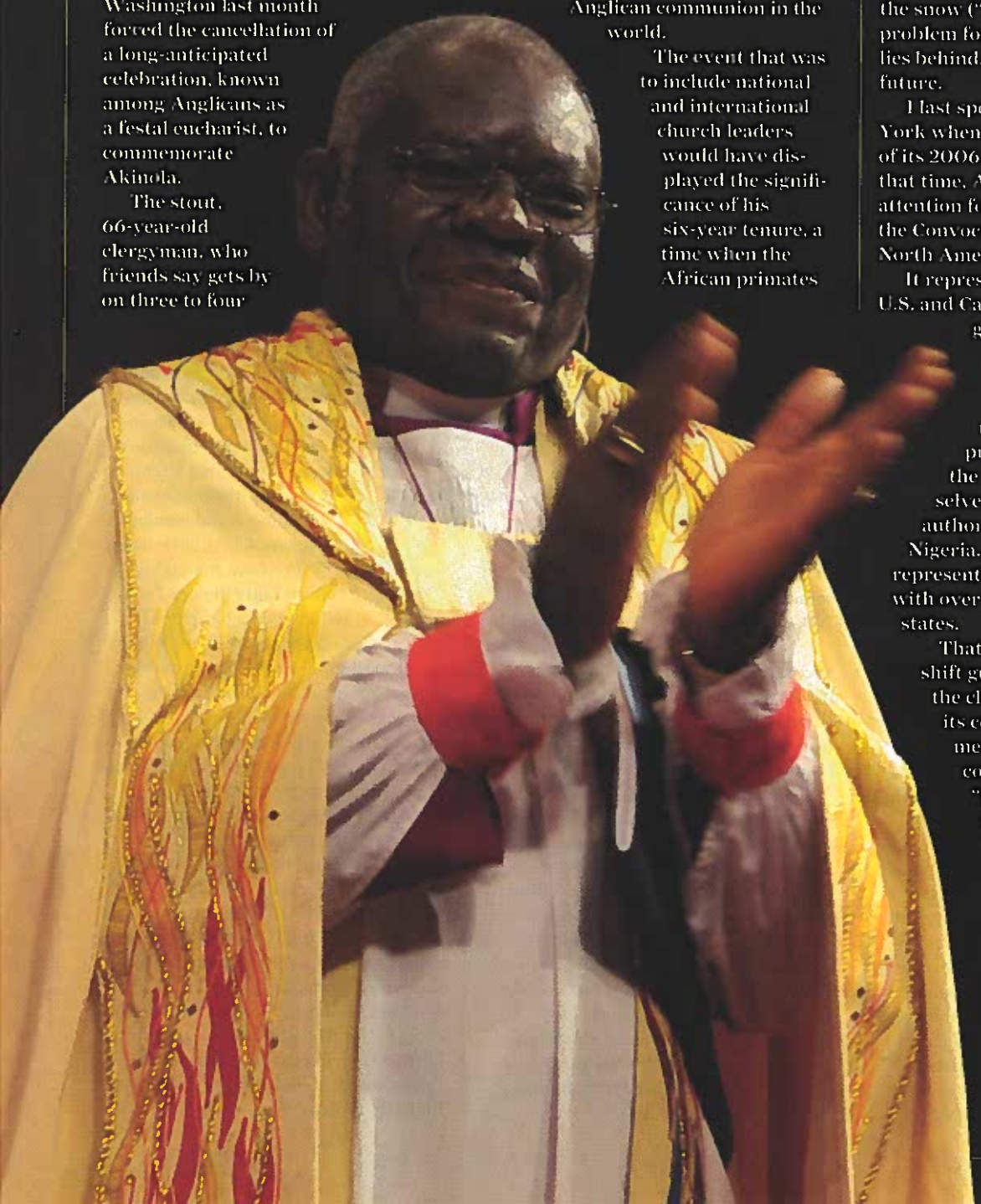
The stout, 66-year-old clergyman, who friends say gets by on three to four hours' sleep a night and keeps a travel schedule to rival any gold-status frequent flier, will step down March 25 as head of the Anglican church in Nigeria—at 20 million, the largest Anglican communion in the world.

The event that was to include national and international church leaders would have displayed the significance of his six-year tenure, a time when the African primates began to lead rather than follow their Western counterparts. Instead the Nigerian is in a downtown D.C. restaurant—counting the hours until his plane departs ("six"), marveling at the snow ("a wonderful and fierce problem for me"), remembering what lies behind, and straining toward the future.

I last spoke with Akinola in New York when WORLD named him one of its 2006 Daniels of the Year. At that time, Akinola gained worldwide attention following the formation of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America, or CANA.

It represented a breaking away of U.S. and Canadian Episcopal congregations in protest of the church's increasingly liberal interpretation of Scripture and its willingness to accommodate practicing gay clergy—with the breakaways placing themselves under the ecclesiastical authority of the archbishop of Nigeria. Today it has grown to represent about 90 congregations with over 10,000 members in 25 states.

That action followed a historic shift guided by Akinola: In 2005 the church in Nigeria changed its constitution to redefine membership in the Anglican communion as no longer "provinces in communion with the See of Canterbury" but instead "all Anglican Churches, Dioceses and Provinces that hold and maintain the 'Historic Faith, Doctrine, Sacrament and Discipline of the one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.'" Battles within the church over the 2003 ordination of gay U.S.



nings

purpose by MINDY BELZ

bishop Gene Robinson, Akinola said, made plain the distinction between those seeking to follow Scripture and those following "the dictates of modern culture." He told me then, "Unity at the expense of truth is not faith."

Since that time those battles have escalated: Last year the Episcopal General Convention voted to declare homosexuals eligible for any ordained ministry in the church and began writing prayers to bless gay unions. In December it elected its first openly lesbian bishop in the worldwide Anglican communion, Mary D. Glasspool, and—despite warnings from the Archbishop of Canterbury—is set to install her in May as the spiritual leader of its archdiocese in Los Angeles.

Akinola and his colleagues were already working to provide alternative leadership for theological conservatives within traditional Anglicanism's hierarchical structure. The Nigerian primate became a leader in GAFCON, the Global Anglican Future Conference, which in 2008 led to the formation of the Anglican Church in North America, of which CANA is a founding member.

Throughout, Akinola's acerbic style has served him as both leader and lightning rod of a controversial movement. Asked by a Nigerian journalist about multimillion-dollar lawsuits over property between CANA congregations and the Episcopal Church, Akinola said last month: "It is not CANA going to court; it is the demonic powers in the so-called Episcopal Church that are suing."

It's hard to imagine the roiling seas of worldwide Anglicanism without Akinola somewhere in their midst. And in fact he plans a busy retirement. Already he has formed the Peter Akinola Foundation, which will guide continued work among Nigeria's poor, in rural areas, and with its youth. Akinola was a school dropout who became a tradesman, eventually learning carpentry before he went back to school and began theological training.

I had to ask:

What will 20 million Nigerian Anglicans do without you as their leader?

I am only a servant of God and I was called to serve as servant to the best of my ability and I am stepping down. The work continues without me. My successor, Nicholas Okoh, is a very strong man in faith and character and will be focused, I have no doubt. He has been a companion and colleague and friend. Our challenges are nothing that is new to him, plus he has the asset of having a military background. He was a colonel in the Nigerian army.

What will the gay rights activists and others who branded you "a fundamentalist bigot" and accused you of stalling their agenda do without you?

They will do something with or without Akinola, because what I have done has been with full understanding of the church in Nigeria. Whether I am there or not this trouble continues. My successor has been [the Theological Resource Group] chairman of GAFCON.

What I have taken is not a personal view on homosexuality. It is not a personal matter, it is about our attitude to Scripture and our view of it and whether we can be faithful.

Reflect for a moment on the formation of CANA during your tenure. What does it mean for the worldwide church?

CANA is just the beginning. It signifies that the Episcopal church will decline thoroughly while CANA will continue to grow faster than anyone has predicted. CANA is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ while they are proclaiming a culture that is abhorrent to Scripture. They want culture first, not Scripture, they want to have a façade of religion. Only Scripture has power to grow the church, and the Episcopal church wants culture over Scripture.

What about your own country, and particularly about the ongoing violence there between Muslims and Christians?

We are in great danger because of the great impact of Islam. We must do more. We need church leaders so that the church is not consigned to oblivion.

Jos [the Nigerian city where an estimated 300 died in January from clashes following an attack on a Catholic church by Muslim youths] is only a symbol of how evil man can be. That's why it is important to train and teach our youths. We have 70 million Christians in our country, over half, but it is the written agenda of the Islamic militants to wipe out the Christians in these communities.

We must contain our own youths by preaching peace, but when there is war what do you do? Time and again [the Islamic militants] attack our people unprovoked. It is a volatile, precarious situation.

And what is next for you? What will your retirement look like?

I will be playing golf officially [laughs], but in actuality I have greater and important things to do both with church and society. My first love is missions, and planting churches in rural communities. With the Peter Akinola Foundation we will focus on basic evangelism and work to find ways to employ young people. I will continue as a bishop to support the work of GAFCON, and to encourage our leaders [in Nigeria] to take a more active role in the church. I plan to continue to encourage the leaders of African churches not to be financially dependent on the West.

The key is for people to more and more embrace Jesus Christ.

"What I have taken is not a personal view on homosexuality. It is not a personal matter, it is about our attitude to Scripture and our view of it and whether we can be faithful."





Hospital emergency

The nation's nonprofit hospitals are facing high costs and big debts, but help from Washington may compromise their mission

by ALISA HARRIS *in New York*

WHEN NEL SHELBY and Christopher Duggan carried their baby out of St. Vincent's Hospital for the first time, a nurse mentioned to a Catholic priest that the couple was taking their baby home after a premature birth and 84 days in the neonatal intensive care unit. The priest offered to bless the baby. Shelby, who had just cried while saying goodbye to the nurses and doctors who had nurtured Gracie, no longer remembers the priest's prayer, but she recalls the peace that stayed with her as she cared for her baby alone for the first time.

Shelby had earlier vowed to avoid all hospitals and hired a midwife to assist in a home birth. But at 27 weeks of pregnancy her unborn baby stopped moving, and the midwife advised them to rush to St. Vincent's Hospital since it welcomed home-birth transfers. The staff found that the baby's umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck and feet, and they would need to induce labor. When Gracie was born on Sept. 29, 2008, she weighed 2 pounds, 2 ounces.

The St. Vincent's stay surprised Shelby—particularly when a prominent obstetrician stayed and chatted for 45 minutes while Shelby pumped breast milk, letting the parents know how Gracie was doing, what they could expect next, "and also comforting us and making us feel as though everything's going to be OK." Shelby and Duggan felt comfortable speaking of their faith since others at the Catholic hospital prayed, too: "We knew that she was being taken care of, not only by them but by a bigger source."

So they are distressed to learn that St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan, the last Roman Catholic general hospital in New York City, is facing $700 million in debt and only limped through February after slashing salaries and getting a $6 million transfusion of state funds to meet its payroll costs. The hospital's struggles match the struggles of other religious healthcare providers whose charitable mission makes it difficult to compete in the healthcare economy. Healthcare reform may help them survive, but will it compromise their cause?

St. Vincent's Hospital, founded by four Sisters of Charity in 1849, says it is "committed to reflecting God's love by advancing Christ's healing ministry" and to serving "all who come to us in need, especially the poor." It was the first hospital in New York City to welcome HIV/AIDS patients for treatment, even before healthcare providers were sure how the virus spread. It refuses to provide abortions or referrals for them and just opened a new center that promotes natural family planning. When a mother learns of a potentially fatal birth defect and decides against the late-term abortion most doctors recommend, St. Vincent's provides a perinatal hospice center where families can say goodbye to their newborns.

On 9/11, responders rushed the wounded to St. Vincent's, the only emergency room below 59th Street in

GRACIE: CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN • HOSPITAL: BOWEN ROOKEY FOR WORLD



CRITICAL NEED: Shelby and Duggan with Gracie at St. Vincent's.

Manhattan. Elan McAllister, president of Choices in Childbirth, remembers walking past the hospital on 9/11 and seeing the avenue closed off to make a path for emergency vehicles, medical personnel buzzing everywhere, and gurneys holding the wounded: "It's one of those scenes that you don't forget. I was incredibly proud of the hospital and the community in that moment." Now McAllister is part of a broad coalition—from gay groups to nuns—who have rallied to save the hospital.

ONE IN SIX U.S. PATIENTS receives care from the nation's 600 Catholic hospitals each year, but they are only a part of the nonprofit picture. The country's 2,900 nonprofit hospitals comprised the majority of acute care general hospitals in 2006. Leonard J. Nelson, law professor at Samford University and author of *Diagnosis Critical: The Urgent Threats Confronting Catholic Health Care*, said the hospitals serve a high proportion of uninsured populations or Medicaid and Medicare patients. But often Medicaid reimbursement rates don't cover all of the costs and other patients pay nothing at all. To attract wealthier patients with private insurance to offset the cost, hospitals need the newest technology and brand-new facilities; but that's expensive, and the hospitals' real mission is to serve the poor. This makes it hard to sustain the mission and the hospital itself, said Nelson: "The temptation is to go out to the suburbs—out to a lot of people with private insurance—and build a new facility out there, but that's not really serving the mission. At least the mission that's a motivating factor in the first place."

Some hospitals seem to have lost sight of the mission already. A 2005 report by the Government Accountability Office found that on average, charity hospitals devoted only slightly more of their patient operating expenses to uncompensated care than did for-profit hospitals. Yet the hospitals still bear a share of a load that's growing heavier. The number of uninsured Americans under the age of 64 reached 43.6 million in 2008, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In New York City, the number of uninsured patients treated by New York City hospitals rose 14 percent in four years. The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation says it is watching the fate of St. Vincent's, knowing that its possible collapse will strain an already burdened healthcare system.

The Catholic Health Association has urged healthcare reform, since it would mean previously uninsured patients could pay for their care. But the CHA has also said that it does not support the federal funding of abortion that is in prominent proposals, leaving it in a quandary: mission or money? Bob Moffit, director of the Center for Health Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, said as long as the bill makes abortion a federally mandated benefit, it will be "a direct threat" to the hospitals' mission: "This would directly compromise their ethical responsibilities and put them in a very, very difficult position." He advocates restructuring Medicare and Medicaid to look more like private insurance, saying that charitable hospitals would actually survive better in a more competitive environment: "A lot of people like these hospitals. They're well-established, they've got a good reputation. They've got a caring staff. They're well-known."

Before its troubles, St. Vincent's was trying to attract more business with an ill-timed $1.63 billion reconstruction proposal. But by this February, it had laid off 300 people, negotiated with the unions for 10 percent temporary pay cuts, and slashed non-union salaries by up to 25 percent. New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning took perhaps the largest pay cut. He'd received $600,000 for doing publicity for the hospital but declined future payments when he heard about the hospital's woes.

After the priest's prayer and the goodbyes to St. Vincent's staff, Duggan—usually a speedy driver—inched down Sixth Avenue toward home. Shelby looked down at her baby and thought, "OK, here we go. She is now completely under our care." Since then, she has written letters to public officials and raised funds to try to save St. Vincent's Hospital so that the doctors and nurses who nurtured her first baby—"a miracle"—can, if need be, care for her baby again.

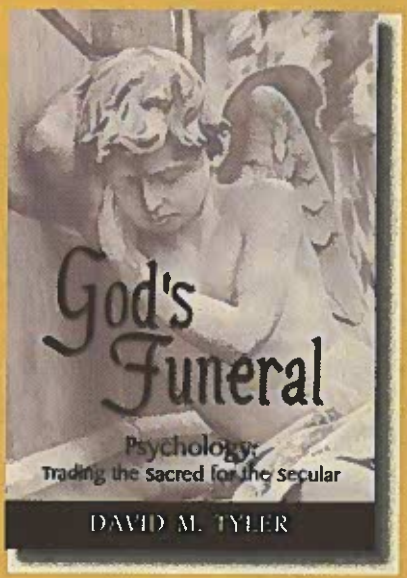
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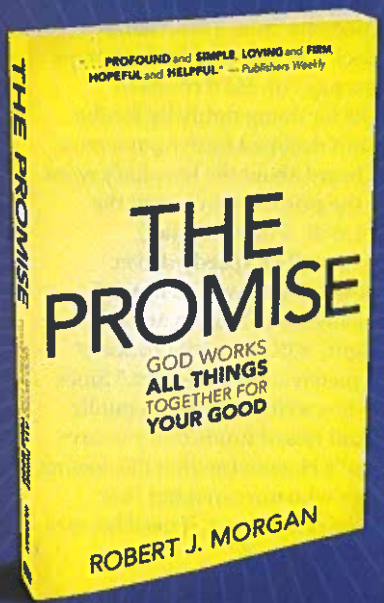
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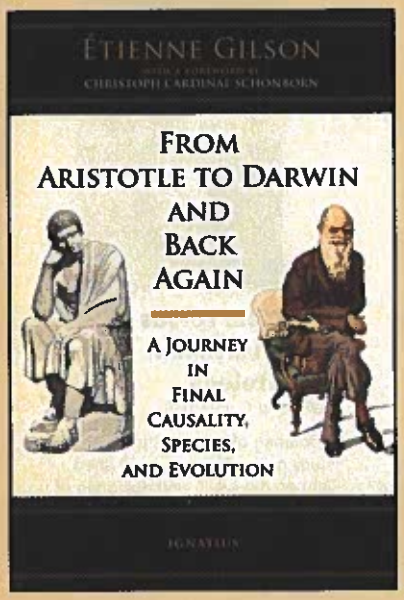


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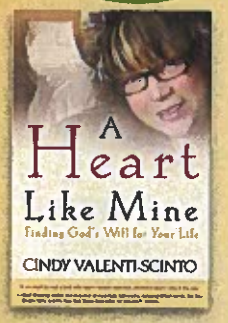
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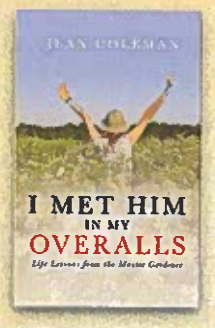
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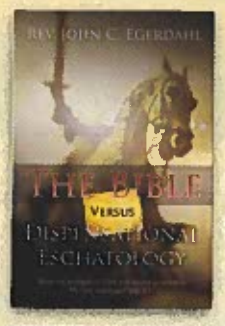
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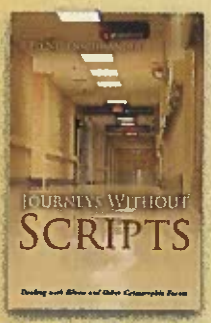


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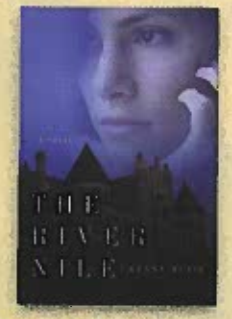
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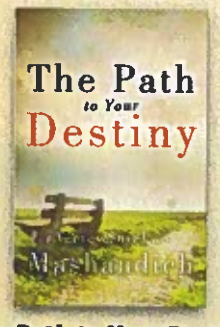


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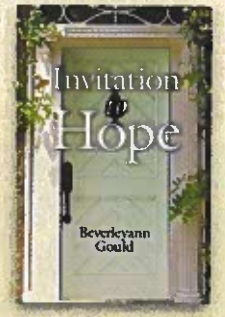


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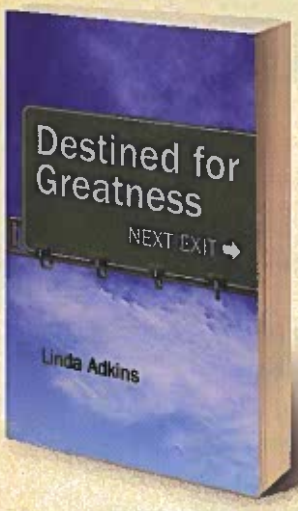
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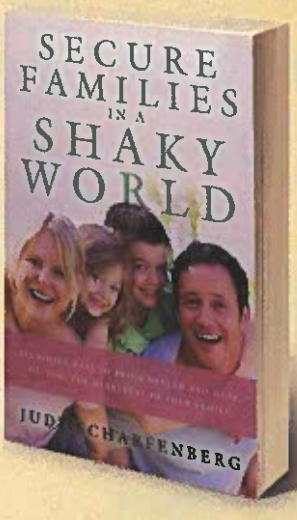
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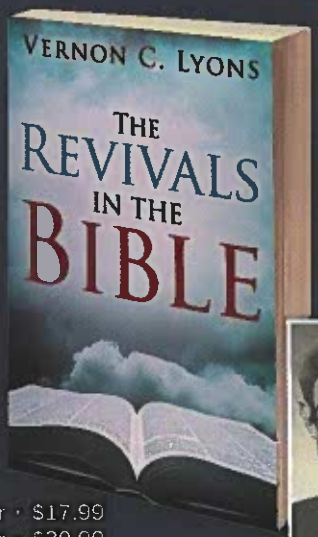
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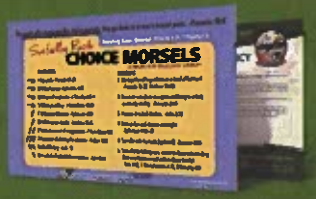


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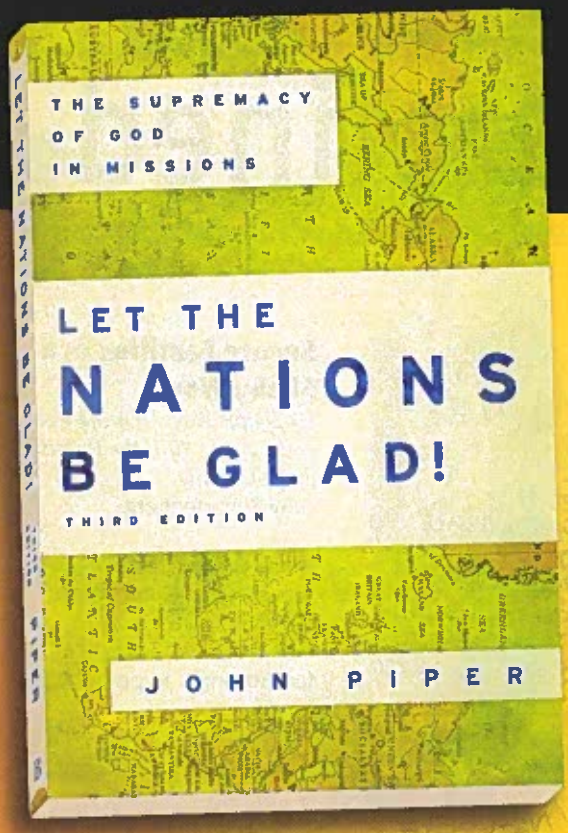
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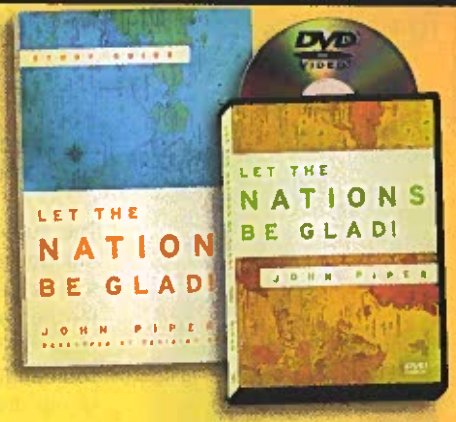
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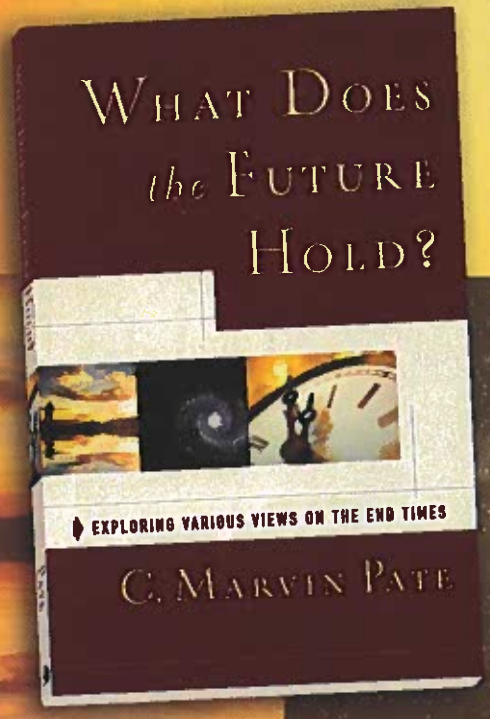


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"It's the end of the world as we know it," proclaims the popular song. And sometimes the daily news appears to confirm that forecast. The signs of the times hailing Christ's return seem to be all around. Or so it appears. But is it really the end of the world? This timely treatment of the end times provides a reader-friendly, accessible overview of the ongoing debate of end-times viewpoints.



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Cue the comedians

But for those who know repentance, Tiger Woods' saga resonates

LIKE ME YOU MAY HAVE NO IDEA what's the difference between a long iron and a utility club. You may number yourself with Mark Twain, who defined golf as "a good walk spoiled." But you might comprehend this: If Tiger Woods were a country, he'd rank about 160 or so in the World Bank's list of 182 countries by gross domestic product. Alone he is worth more than the market value of all final goods and services produced annually in countries like Liberia, the Seychelles, Grenada, and the Solomon Islands.

Joke if you will about the importance of a $164 moving violation for running into a tree last Thanksgiving, yet when the golfer jumped the curb, it shuddered not only through the elite world of Tag Heuer, Nike Golf, and NetJets but also through the lives of thousands of ordinary people—from golf pros and real estate developers to shoe salesmen and cap vendors to restaurant owners and hotel housekeeping—who all earn a livelihood from the sports industrial complex called Tiger.

2010 was predicted to be the year Tiger's net worth would hit $1 billion. Consider the phenomenon that sum represents: Eldrick Tont "Tiger" Woods at age 2 putted against Bob Hope, at age 3 shot 48 over nine holes, and by the time he was 16 had won the Junior World Championships six times. Forty-two weeks into his professional golf career, he was No. 1 in the Official World Golf Rankings, having set 20 Masters records and won three PGA Tour events his first year out. Fourteen years and 16 World Golf Championships later, and not yet 35, the empire—despite a few dips—showed no sign of slowing.

But now the sporting icon is watching from the gated surround of a rehab center and 12-step recovery program for sex addicts his achievements fade and his millions drain away. Sadder still, such tumbles, while profound, are so commonplace in pop culture they turn prosaic faster than the 40-second YouTube recap. We watch Tiger's public statement of apology knowing that the SNL skit and the Jon Stewart monologue already are cued. In our deepest hearts we long to see the creation/fall/redemption cycle have its way—a desperation voiced singularly by news anchor Brit Hume—but the quips and sound bites get the best of us.

Such publicly complex dysfunction deserves the wisdom of Solomon; instead we're treated to catcalls from the peanut gallery. "I would recommend Tiger just call it a bad experience, say bye-bye, go out and be a wonderful playboy and win tournaments and have a good life," said Donald Trump.



ORIGINAL PHOTO BY SAM GREENWOOD/AP

The importance of the Tiger Woods Unravelling—whether you are a golf fan or someone who'd prefer a walk in the park—is that it's not only about Tiger and his family but also about us, media voyeurs all. It's about the icons we create from the omnipotent media lens (a lens reflecting images back at me, thank you, so it must also be about me), and our discomfort when they turn out to be merely mortal. The discomfort should draw a line between those who don't know the landscape of repentance and those who walk it daily.

The adept sportswriter Sally Jenkins meant it as criticism when she called Tiger's Feb. 19 appearance "a fake news conference to apologize for being fake"—but that's actually what it was. Tiger himself punctured through the image-making: "I knew my actions were wrong but I convinced myself that normal rules did not apply. Instead I thought only about myself. I never thought about who I was hurting. I ran straight through the bonds that married people should live by. I felt that I had worked hard my entire life and deserved to enjoy all the temptations around me. I felt I was entitled."

If this was a script, its theme—abject apology—is one Tiger has followed since his sordid life of adultery began unfolding last year. If it's the borrowed language of his therapists, it's from a subculture he voluntarily joined. If it's a moment of enlightenment for a lapsed Buddhist, it's a starting point.



If you have a question or comment for Mindy Belz, send it to mbelz@worldmag.com

Higher profiles

Users of Google Buzz and Facebook may be surprised at how public their information is

by SUSAN OLASKY



BLOGS ARE BUZZING ABOUT GOOGLE BUZZ, A SOCIAL NETWORKING APP that works inside Gmail. Many bloggers, including those at Lifehacker, worried about a potential privacy flaw. Apparently, unless users change their settings, Buzz posts to a public profile the names of the contacts you most frequently email.

If you plan to use Buzz and don't want your network of frequent contacts visible to everyone, you need to take action. Go to lifehacker.com/5469388/stop-google-buzz-from-showing-the-world-your-contacts? for help. Or you can do what I did: Go to the very bottom of your Gmail page and turn off Buzz. It might not be the most tech-savvy approach, but it is an easy one.

Facebook users, if you haven't gotten around to reviewing your privacy settings since December, you'll want to do it now. Facebook made many changes that affect privacy, including setting the defaults to "everyone" unless you go in and tighten your settings. If you don't want the whole world to see your pictures, updates, profile information, and videos, you should for once take the advice of *The New York Times*.

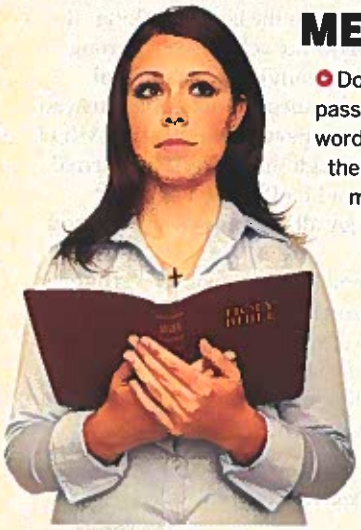
A *Times* article, "The 3 Facebook Settings Every User Should Check Now," suggests that you go to *account settings* (found on the far top right on the new homepage). Choose *privacy* from the scroll-down menu. Go to *profile information*, which includes the most important settings to correct. They determine who can see stuff about you—and it is those settings that Facebook sets to "everyone" unless you change them.

Remember that "friends of friends" sounds nice, but it means if you have a friend who has a million friends, every one of those strangers will have access to your Facebook stuff.

Brand busters

The recession hasn't hurt all business. According to a Nielsen survey, Americans are saving money by buying more store brand products. Buyers no longer have to be convinced that private label food, drug, and grocery items are as good as the national brands: 80 percent think so. That makes sense because many store brand products are produced by the same companies that make national brands. Sales of private label wine are also increasing, but beer drinkers seem to be loyal to the big national brands and their heavyweight marketing dollars. —*S.O.*





MEMORY AIDS

Do you need help memorizing Scripture? MemorizeNow.com is a website where you can paste in a passage and then use tools that aid memorization. You can, for instance, see the text with all the words displayed. With a click you can change the setting so only first letters are displayed. Or, from the full text page, you can click and make some words disappear. Scroll over the space where the missing word belongs and the first letter of the missing word appears.

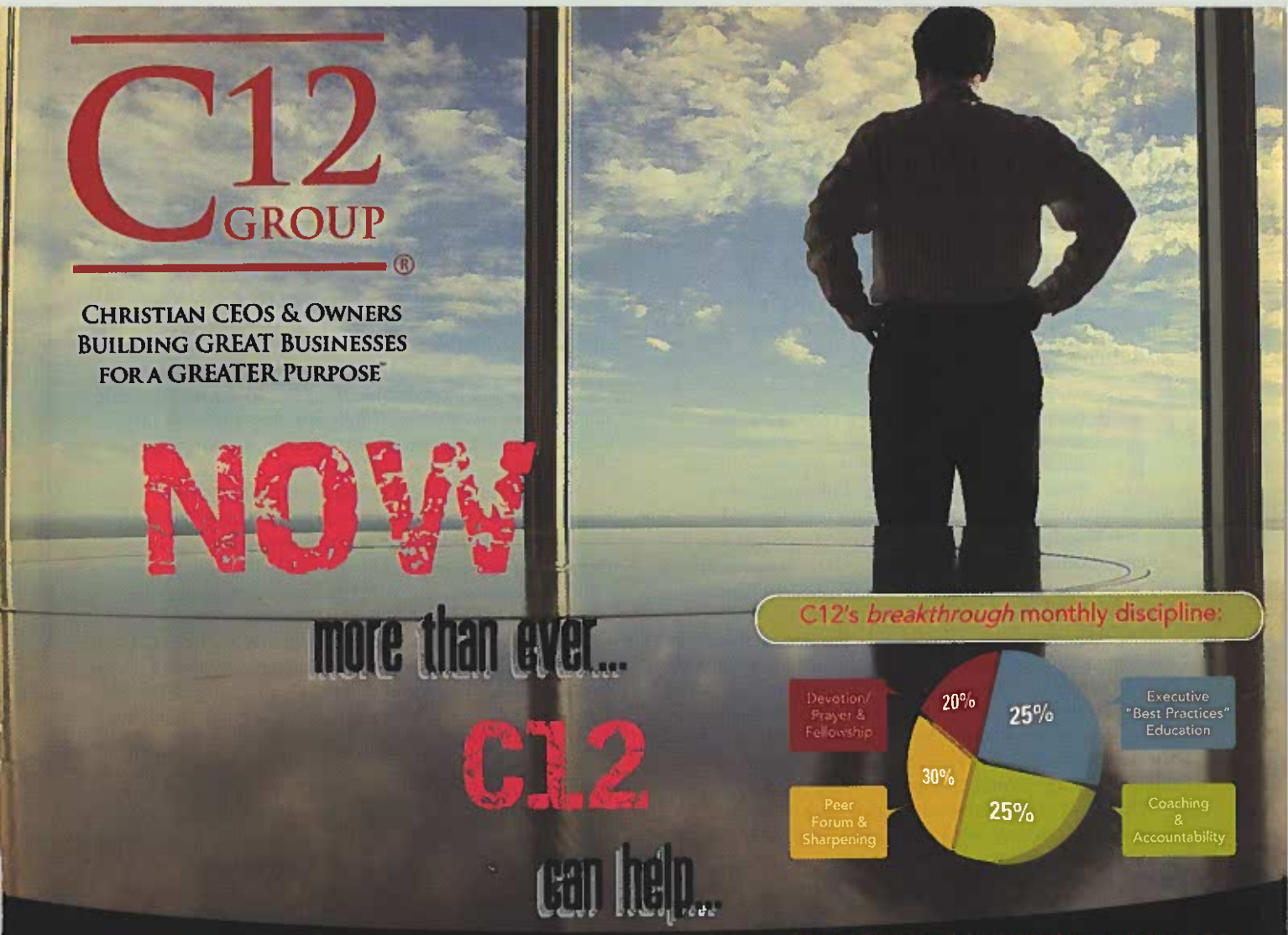
Recommendations: Couple this useful tool with text copied from one of the online Bibles. (See the English Standard Version at gnpcb.org/esv/ or other translations at biblegateway.com.) Get lists of helpful verses to memorize from John Piper's Bethlehem Baptist Church, which has a "Fighter Verse" program that encourages Bible memorization by the whole church. See the 2010 list of verses and sets of verses from previous years at hopeingod.org/resources/scripture-memory/fighter-verse-program.

If memorizing isn't enough, you can make cool artwork based on a passage, a poem, or any text you want. Wordle.net is a free website that makes word clouds from text you paste in. You can choose whether you want the words displayed vertically or horizontally, or in combination. You can choose colors and fonts. Frequently used words display larger than other words. Finished word clouds can be saved and printed out. —*S.O.*

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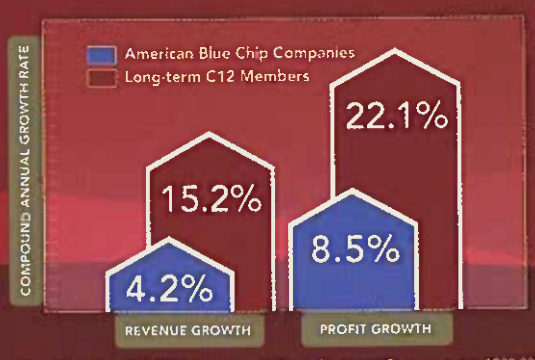
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Somebody has to pay

The Greek debt crisis has no easy solution

by TIMOTHY LAMER

THE PROBLEM WITH OUT-OF-CONTROL government spending is that, at some point, somebody has to pay for it. Governments tend to ignore that fact, but Greece, over the last few weeks, provided a reminder that it cannot be ignored forever. The drama of street protests in Athens and angry remarks from leaders across Europe is largely an exercise in determining who will pay for years of Greek profligacy. Nobody wants to pay, but somebody must.

The crisis was brought on by a swelling Greek budget deficit and national debt, which have grown to almost 13 percent and 113 percent of GDP, respectively. These numbers raised the possibility of the Greek government defaulting on its debt. Such a move would shake confidence in the European Union and the euro, and so other EU nations, especially financial leader Germany, demanded budgetary reform.

The Greek government responded by freezing the wages of government workers, raising the Greek retirement age from 61 to 63, and raising some taxes. Thousands of Greek government workers, union workers, and pensioners—the biggest beneficiaries of high levels of government spending—in late February took to the streets to protest the moves.

If the Greek protesters get their way and "austerity" measures are repealed or softened, then someone else will have to pay. Observers have pointed to three options:

► **GREEK TAXPAYERS** Tax avoidance is a problem in Greece, but decades of low fertility rates have created a bigger problem: Greece has a rapidly aging population. The Greek fertility rate dropped below replacement level (2.1 births per woman) in 1981, hit 1.4 in 1990, and has floundered between 1.25 and 1.4 since then. It will be increasingly difficult for Greek taxpayers to bear the burden of their government's debts, because not enough of them exist.

► **THOSE WHO HOLD GREEK DEBT, A MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE NON-GREEK** The Greek government could default on its debt, and those who took the risk of lending to such a demographic basket case would lose money. But this option concerns the rest of Europe, because several other countries—Spain, Ireland, and Italy among them—are on the verge of a Greek-like collapse. If the EU allows the Greeks to default, then investors will likely flee those other countries. Buyers of Spanish government bonds were beginning to demand higher interest rates last week.

► **EUROPEAN TAXPAYERS, ESPECIALLY THE GERMANS** The most likely scenario is a bailout led by the Germans, but such a move is extremely unpopular in Germany. Greece's early retirement age is a big sticking point for Germans, who recently raised their own retirement age from 65 to 67. "The Greeks go onto the streets to protest against the increase of the pension age from 61 to 63," said the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper in an editorial. "Does that mean that the Germans should in the future extend the working age from 67 to 69, so that the Greeks can enjoy their retirement?"

Greek politicians, dismayed by such comments, said the Germans, because of the sins of their grandfathers during World War II, owe at least patience to Greece, if not a bailout: "They took away the Greek gold that was at the Bank of Greece, they took away the Greek money and they never gave it back," Greek Deputy Prime Minister Theodoros Pangalos told the BBC on Feb. 24. "This is an issue that has to be faced sometime in the future."

As friction between the two nations grows, the next big date to watch for is March 16. That's the deadline EU finance ministers have given for Greece to show progress in bringing its budget under control. If Greece doesn't do so, then the EU may dictate specific reforms.

The really bad news in all of this is that Japan, the United States, and the rest of Europe—all with low fertility rates and big government debts—will soon face their own versions of this Greek tragedy. And somebody will have to pay.



Protesters clash with police in Athens

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP





BOARDED UP

Olympian LINDSEY JACOBELLIS downplays her disappointment to her own detriment

by MARK BERGIN

AT THE 2006 OLYMPIC Games in Torino, Italy, as the United States rose to its collective feet to celebrate a gold medal, Lindsey Jacobellis promptly soured the moment. The talented snowboarder forfeited her massive lead in the woman's snow cross event when she attempted an ill-advised trick off one of the final jumps of the race. She fell, allowing Switzerland's Tanja Frieden to cruise past for the victory.

Fast forward four years to the Vancouver games, and an opportunity for redemption. Named among the favorites to win, Jacobellis seemed poised to deliver a real-life drama on par with the best Disney has ever offered. Instead, she skidded out in the semifinals and never got the chance to race for gold.

Such is the life of an Olympic athlete. The infrequency of the games precludes the sort of repeat chances afforded stars of more prominent sports. A pitcher who blows a save will try again mere days later. A quarterback whose poor play ends a playoff run will have another go the following season.

Jacobellis must wait another four years, an eternity with which she is already dreadfully familiar—four more years of the same media questions, the same whispers, the same legacy. Here's hoping she will decide against spending another four years in denial.

In the wake of the 2006 slip up, Jacobellis downplayed the incident, initially claiming the trick was just an attempt to stabilize her board and later suggesting the Olympics were just another competition. In this year's go-around, the spin machine was in full effect again. After first blowing off reporters' interview requests, she acquiesced to pressure from the Olympic Committee for a press conference and then remarked: "It's definitely not the end of the world for me. I do so many competitions a year. It's unfortunate that the rest of the world only sees this race and four years ago."

Surely, the sting of her experience is sharper than that. Why the false front of nonchalance? Why the unwillingness to show her humanity?

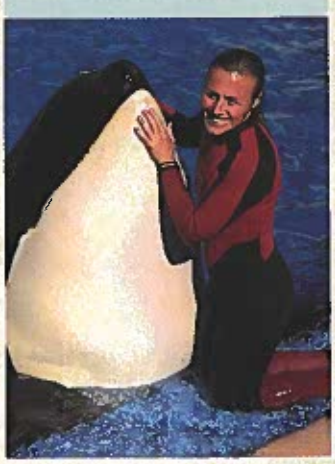
Her reaction recalls that of fellow U.S. Olympian Bode Miller after his disappointing performances four years ago. Like Jacobellis, the downhill skiing star downplayed his lackluster results, insisting he was "happy he got a chance to party and socialize at an Olympic level." Such apathy offended many spectators, who tune in to the games hoping the athletes will care at least as much as they do.

But this year in Vancouver, Miller redeemed himself. A new tone and approach vaulted him onto the medal stand and back into the good graces of the American public. Jacobellis might hope for a similar recovery four years from now in Sochi, Russia. As it stands, she is in danger of being remembered not so much as the snowboarder who twice fell but as the one who didn't care.

Three strikes...

- Sea World animal trainer **Dawn Brancheau**, 40, was rubbing killer whale Tilikum after a noontime show when the 6-ton, 20-foot whale grabbed her and pulled her underwater. As park officials hustled distraught audience members from the Orlando stadium, the whale thrashed her and she drowned, officials said.

This was the third death involving Tilikum, a 30-year-old whale considered problematic enough that only 12 of Sea World's 29 trainers were allowed to work with him. Brancheau, who decided to become a trainer at age 9 after a visit to Sea World, had more experience than most and was one of the park's best trainers. Park officials suspended shows in Shamu Stadium—but don't expect Tilikum to pay for his crime(s). Calls for returning captive orcas to the wild are growing, but for now killers like Tilikum are protected as an endangered species.

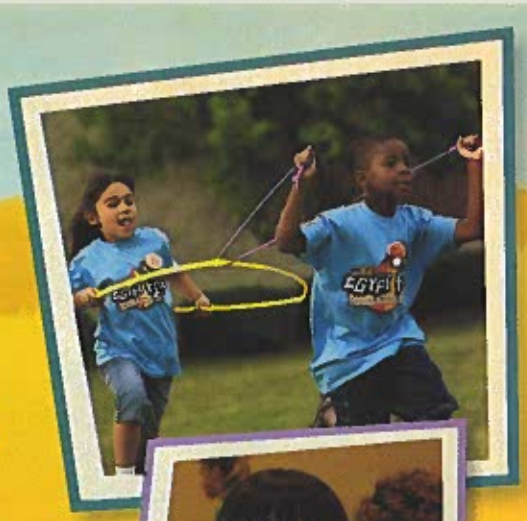


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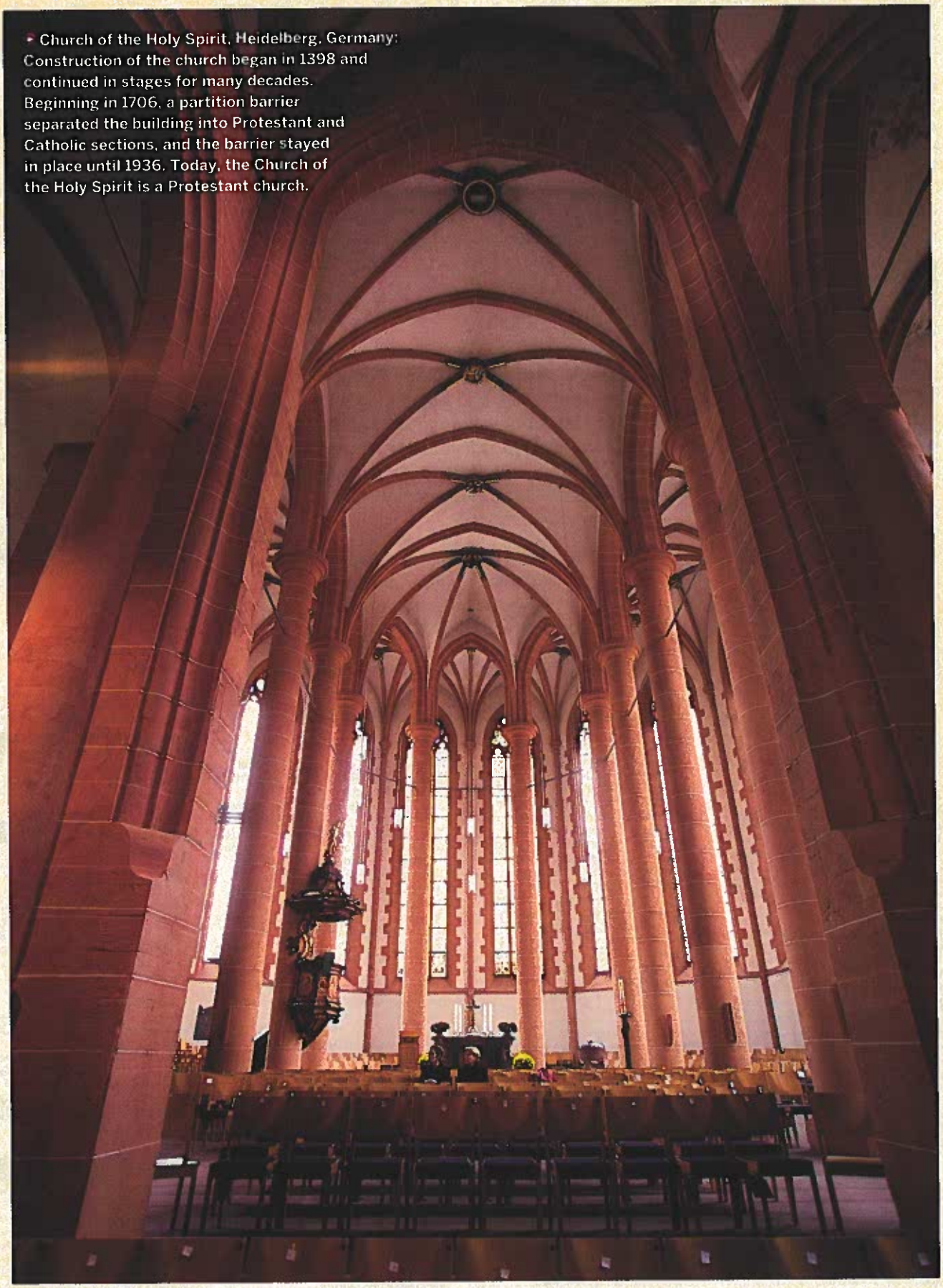
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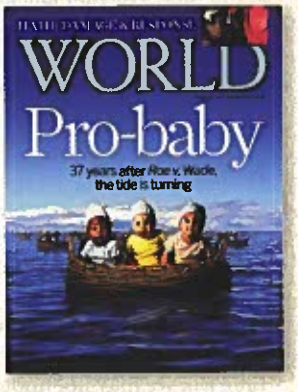
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The real right

Thank you for the great coverage on abortion in your Jan. 30 "Pro-baby" issue. I feel that women certainly do have the "right to choose"—the right to choose whether they have sex or not. After that choice is made, that child has a right to life! No one else has a "right" to take that from him.



—PAMELA LUDLOW, *Georgetown, Texas*

I very much appreciate your stand for the sanctity of life. WORLD is a beacon for the pro-life cause ("Pro-baby," Jan. 30). I saw this clearly in "Look at orphans" and "A pro-baby wave." But while adoption and abortion are two huge issues, we should also consider the West's current dilemma: demographic winter—declining fertility and population. The human child is quickly becoming more and more devalued.

—PETER HELMS
Fort Worth, Texas

Thank you for covering the real story of the pro-life movement and adoption to help orphans. I would like to point out that adoption is a big sacrifice but is worth the cost. We have adopted six children so far and hope to adopt more. Also, many states have a state-funded program with many children needing to be placed quickly. People who think they can't afford to adopt may be incorrect.

—VAN PANKRAT
Lancaster, Minn.

Alisa Harris' piece on the drug RU486 ("Chemical reaction," Jan. 30) disturbed me into finding out how I can speak up for the ones who have no voice. Thank you for reporting the truth clearly.

—LIV HIGHTOWER, 17
Atlanta, Ga.

Change, please

Such a neat juxtaposition: bookending the Jan. 30 issue with references to Brit Hume ("Politeness police") and David Hume ("Paine's brain"). And both columns were on a related issue: the need for an inspired change of heart.

—B.J. KIRKWOOD
Nathrop, Colo.

There truly was a change of heart: the thousands who came out and voted the 41st member of the GOP into the Senate. That's just as good as one change of heart among the 60 senators.

—NEIL JOHNSTON
Grand Prairie, Texas

It was God-ordained that Scott Brown won the special Massachusetts Senate election. No matter how poorly the Democratic campaign was handled or how successful the Republican campaign appeared, God had a plan to remind us that He is sovereign.

—BOB WOODFORD
Hudson, Mass.

No greater gift

I applaud Brit Hume for his loving gesture toward Tiger Woods ("Keeping the faith," Jan. 30). There is no greater gift to offer anyone than God's forgiveness and love through Jesus Christ. What kind of tangible solace do Hume's critics have to offer the Woods family?

—TODD TAYLOR
Victorville, Calif.

Although I personally agree with Hume, he came across as a little self-righteous and prescriptive, which is not in my opinion appropriate for a political analyst on a show like *Fox News Sunday*. I believe that Hume's comments damage the image of Christians and Christianity.

—MARK PIOTROWSKI
Newtown Square, Pa.

Thanks for a great column on Hume's advice to Tiger. Notice that Hume did not detail Tiger's sins or condemn him in any way. His suggestion was loving



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and constructive. No one criticizes those gossiping on TV about Tiger; how strange that Hume gets criticized for pointing Tiger toward forgiveness and redemption.

—Bill Bouknight
Columbia, S.C.

Water is for fighting

There is an expression in the West: "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting." Water rights and water use in the West are a complex set of issues, and "Water wars" (Jan. 30) exposes some of the complexity. However, a "jobs vs. environment" framework doesn't display a biblical view of creation stewardship. The endangered species issue should be a significant part of the equation. The Bible does not give us the right to pick and choose which species are too inconvenient to protect when God saved "every living thing" from the flood.

—Jonathan Eerkes
Lake Bronson, Minn.

As a former part-time farmer who lives in an agricultural community, this article spoke to my heart. For far too long, Americans have been completely oblivious and shielded from the environmental war that has been waged against farmers by our government and its eco-warrior allies.

—Sam Willson
Wapello, Iowa

A bigger plan

I enjoy your magazine but was disappointed with your review of *The Book of Eli* ("Blood and Bible," Jan. 30). We were thrilled with the film and feel that you focused on the gore in the movie while missing its true meaning. Like Eli, we may not understand our journey, but God has a bigger plan for each of us than we can imagine.

—Barb Foran
Durand, Mich.

No surprise

Although I greatly appreciate Anne Hendershott's openness and embarrassment about the leftward lean of Catholic colleges and their graduates ("Higher learning?" Jan. 30), it is no surprise. Besides their Catholic education, these political leaders are mostly Democrats. I fear that not until Catholic laypeople examine for themselves their own faith, history, the Bible, and American history will there be an uprising of worthy and faithful Catholic leaders.

—Steve Schipper
Havelock, N.C.

As a product of Catholic education and a graduate of a Jesuit university, it is apparent to me that many Catholics give more credence to church teachings than to the Word of God, the Bible.

—Jeanne M. Zachman
Green Valley, Ariz.

At least

As a five-year resident of Spokane and a college student journalist, I read your article about Spokane Planned Parenthood overcharging taxpayers ("Life changes," Jan. 30) with great interest. It's about time it gets called on the carpet—if not for killing innocent children, then at least for overcharging taxpayers. Fun fact: The local paper, the *Spokesman-Review* (which did

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everything but come up with new cheers for Obama during his campaign) didn't report on the scandal at all.

—Danielle Price
Spokane, Wash.

Still a man

I was disappointed in how you reported on the appointment of Mitch "Amanda" Simpson to an advisory position in the Commerce Department (Human Race, Jan. 30). By referring to him as "she" you cede valuable ground in this part of the culture war. Mitch Simpson may have had himself physically altered, but he is no more a woman than I am. At most he is a confused, mutilated man.

—Stephen Brown
Woodbridge, N.J.

Striving for excellence

Mindy Belz employed a very creative and sincere way to apologize for errors in WORLD ("Mistakes were made," Jan. 2). We lay readers probably do not have a clue as to how much your staff goes through to publish and circulate this excellent magazine. We appreciate that you strive for excellence.

—Susan R. Blish
Bronx, N.Y.

Walton responds

In his review of my book, *Lost World of Genesis One* ("Appearances matter," Aug. 29), Vern Poythress misunderstood and misrepresented certain aspects of my position. Foremost is the claim that I have made a "false contrast between material and functional" because "people in most cultures experience the world as a whole." Proposition 10 makes my stance on this perfectly clear. The Israelites understood that there was a material aspect to the cosmos, that the functions depended on the material, and that God was also responsible for the material phase. My point is that God was using their way of thinking about the material world in order to communicate His revelation concerning the functional world. When the Bible talks about thinking with the heart, we discount the material statement because we understand that the Bible is not communicating physiology. The same is the case with the waters held back by a solid sky and the land emerging from the seas in Genesis 1. I have offered a more complete response on the BioLogos website.

—John Walton
Wheaton, Ill.

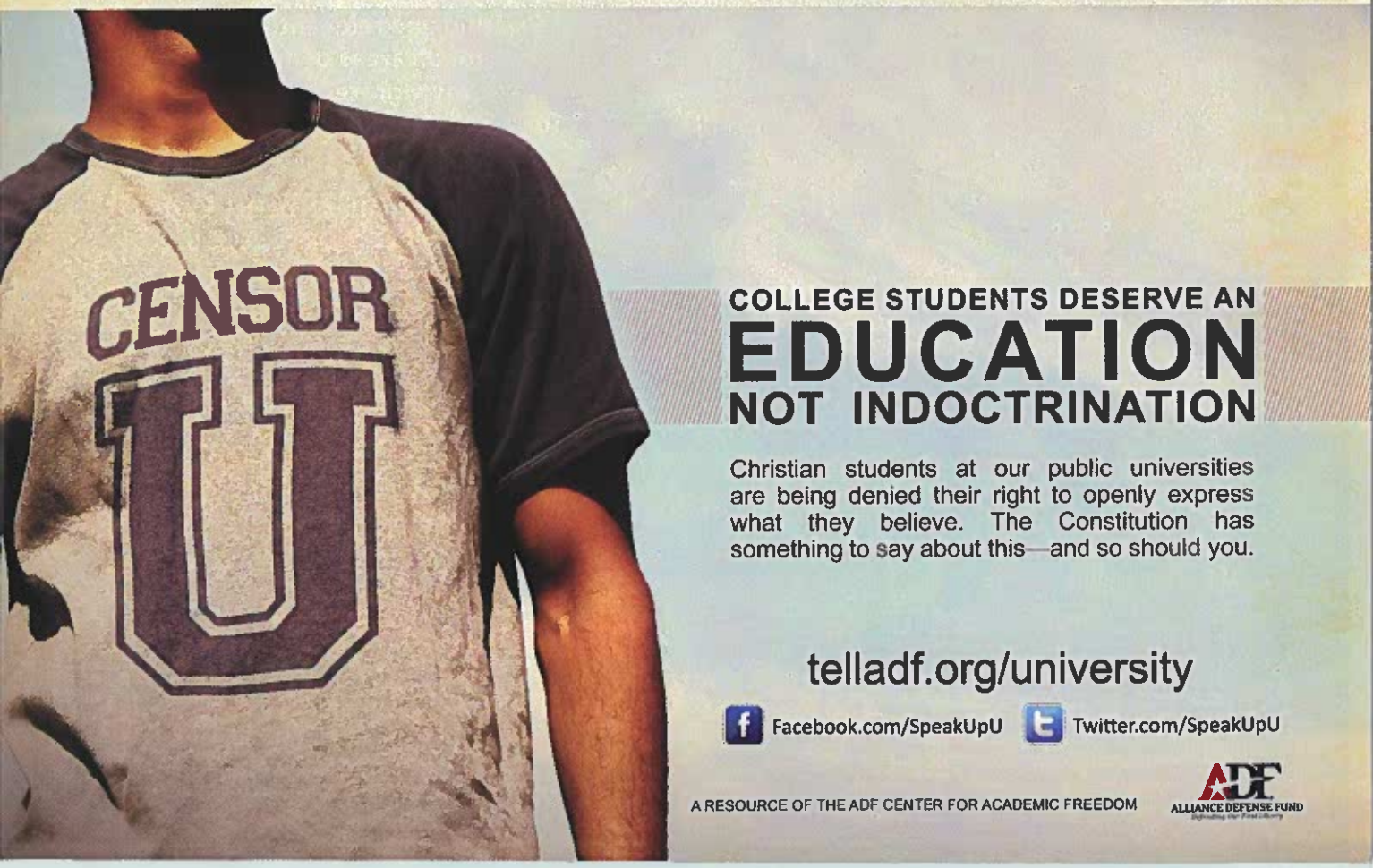
Correction

The WTKK producer quoted in "What Brown can do for you" (Feb. 13, p. 42) is Tom Shattuck.

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I KNEW A WOMAN WHO WAS ALLERGIC TO dust—and just about everything else. Elaine was a veritable canary in a coal mine: Put her in a house with any spore count that registers and you could skip the take-home test kits.

I have developed a hypersensitivity of a different kind. I sense when Jesus is slipping away from a place. I know that sounds prideful, but the only reason for my acuteness is that I slipped away for decades.

My condition manifested not long ago at a formal seminary dinner. Conversations around the table broached every subject under the sun but Jesus. The after-dinner speaker waxed of venerable "traditions." Something wasn't sharp somehow.

I don't think I'm imagining this. At a banquet of truckers for Christ, I knew right off the bat that it was all about Jesus and not about the organization; the excitement for Him was palpable. You don't know off-white until you see white next to it.

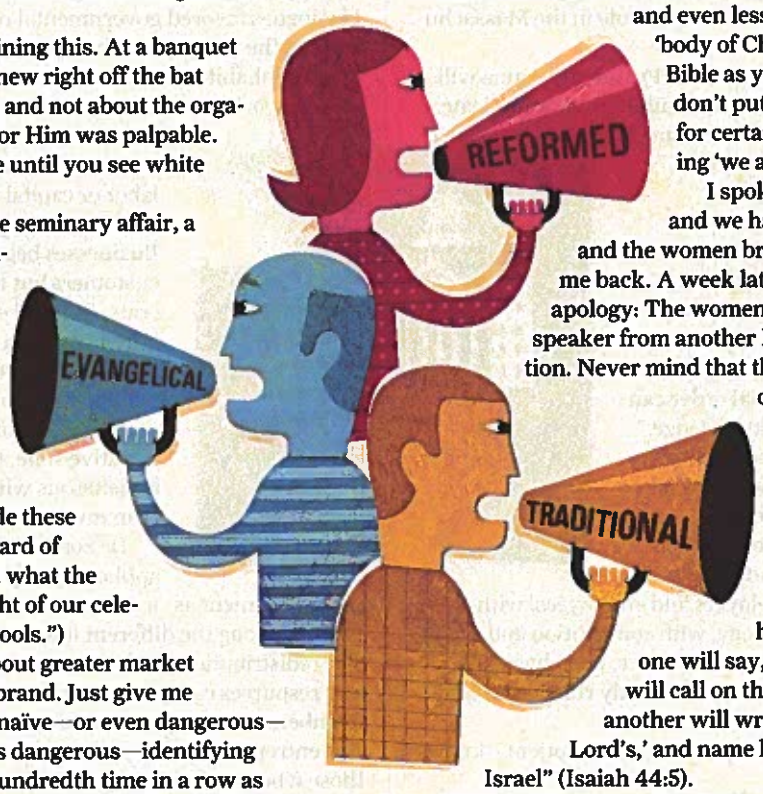
Meanwhile, back at the seminary affair, a pastor at my table said triumphantly that a congregation he works with used to be "evangelical" but is now "Reformed." I couldn't share his enthusiasm. I wanted to say: "Do you even understand what a small club ours is? Outside these walls, no one has even heard of 'Reformed.'" (I wondered what the floating waitresses thought of our celebration of "Reformed schools.")

I cannot get excited about greater market share of the "Reformed" brand. Just give me Jesus. If you think that's naïve—or even dangerous—I'll tell you what I think is dangerous—identifying myself in public for the hundredth time in a row as "Reformed," rather than as a believer in Jesus. Not just dangerous to my hearers but to me. I might start believing it! Let me get a little guts and call myself by the name that gives offense: "Christian." By the name that saves: "Jesus."

When I am asked to speak at retreats (which may be less after this), they want to know if I'm "Reformed." Oh, I understand the question is just a shorthand way of ascertaining my orthodoxy. Any crackpot can say he loves Jesus. Still, which doctrine is it exactly that we fear? Is it Pelagianism? I admit I will talk to the women about pressing into Christ. Is it that I will have too much to say about the Holy Spirit? I promise to say only what's in the Bible.

If habitually calling ourselves by our denominational names is not exactly what Paul rebuked in 1 Corinthians 1:12, then what is it? "I am of Wesley," "I am of Calvin."

A mission-support worker to the Ukraine wrote that during one of his stays he attended an adult Sunday school class where the topic for weeks was Reformed theology. "I'm not taking issue with Reformed theology," he wrote me, "but it saddens me that we Westerners come into a foreign land with the desire to inculcate some system of Christianity in people who have essentially no knowledge of the faith and even less experience in thinking 'body of Christ.' OK, fine, teach the Bible as you understand . . . , but don't put labels on that which will, for certain, have believers thinking 'we and they.'"



I spoke at a retreat last year, and we had a good time together, and the women broke precedent by inviting me back. A week later I got an email with an apology: The women's group had to invite a speaker from another Presbyterian denomination. Never mind that there's not a dime's worth of difference between our two Presbyterianisms. And never mind that I can talk all day about Jesus without needing to veer into controversial waters.

The Lord shared His heart with Isaiah: "This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,' and name himself by the name of Israel" (Isaiah 44:5).

Will there be a day when no one will say, "I'm Baptist," "I'm Lutheran," "I'm Reformed." They will say, "The Lord's."

When I told a friend about my disinvitation from the retreat, he said, "Nothing will cure that but persecution." And then he added, "Or revival." ●

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KRIEG BARRIE

A better path

"Property" is not the enemy but the friend of the poor

SAVVY *WORLD* SUBSCRIBERS FOR years have seen that I have little prophetic ability. My "Paine's brain" column in our Jan. 30 issue proved that once again. I wrote that stopping ObamaCare might require "one of the 60 senators in Harry Reid's corrupt coalition to have a rebellion of the conscience," as in the classic film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.

I typically hand in my columns well before the cover date, and on Jan. 1 I did not anticipate something even more extraordinary than an individual change occurring on Jan. 19—a whole liberal state switching from faith in Washington to an emphasis on liberty. Future scholars might debate not only God's providence in 1775 but His role in the Massachusetts miracle of 2010.

Now the big question is whether President Obama will think that his problem is merely a failure to communicate. He should read the work of Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto Polar, who describes the "tremendous conceptual error" of his country's leaders in words that should make the Obama administration tremble: "the assumption that, in an urban society swamped by migration, a ruler can know everything that is going on in the country and that a new social order can be built on this presumed knowledge."



As de Soto notes, "In such a society, with millions of people whose specialization makes them interdependent, with complex systems of communication between producers and buyers, creditors and debtors, employers and employees, with a constantly evolving technology, with competition and a daily flow of information from other countries, it is physically impossible to be familiar with and directly run even a small fraction of national activities."

Anyone without a high AQ—arrogance quotient—knows this.

Here's one other relevant de Soto quotation: "It is not rulers who produce wealth: they sit behind desks, give speeches, draft resolutions and supreme decrees, process documents, inspect, monitor and levy, but they never produce. It is the population that produces." That population demands a basic fairness: It is not prepared, either in Peru or the United States, "to accept a society in which opportunities, property, and power are distributed arbitrarily."

De Soto's breakthrough book was *The Other Path* (1989). He wrote it at a time when a Maoist terrorist group, Shining Path, seemed close to taking over Peru. De Soto saw in "property" not the enemy of the poor but their greatest economic hope: The poor needed to gain clear title to their land and homes so they could use that property as collateral for loans that would allow them to become entrepreneurs.

In *The Other Path* de Soto celebrated peaceful entrepreneurial disobedience. Peruvian powers tried to lock up markets: De Soto praised street vendors who disobeyed regulations and expanded informal trade. Peruvian powers tried to lock up public transportation: De Soto praised drivers in their vans, station wagons, and mini-buses who disobeyed regulations and got people to work. Leftist ideologues favored governmental redistribution. De Soto praised the initiative of those without homes who moved onto uninhabited and unimproved land (see p. 28).

The worldwide evidence is that big government redistributes wealth to bureaucrats and hurts the poor. People get rich not by investing labor or capital in productive enterprises but by gaining political influence. Businesses begin competing not to serve customers but to build ties with bureaucrats. Political efficiency becomes more important than economic efficiency. Liberal ideologues talk about curtailing lobbyists but in actuality increase their reach: As de Soto notes, "In the redistributive state, the enviable capacity to be generous with other people's money is an invitation to corruption."

De Soto's 1989 critique of Peru's rulers applies equally well to Obama-ites who see government as "a mechanism for sharing a fixed stock of wealth among the different interest groups that demand it." The redistributionist ethos does not acknowledge "that wealth and resources can grow . . . and that even the humblest members of the population can generate wealth." We need pro-entrepreneurship policies that redistribute wealth to those who are shaking up society, not to those who are shaking down business leaders.

Regarding healthcare, it doesn't both me if some doctors become rich by saving lives. Our society becomes poorer if those who could be great doctors instead see that self-preservation requires them to become not-so-great politicians and lobbyists. ●

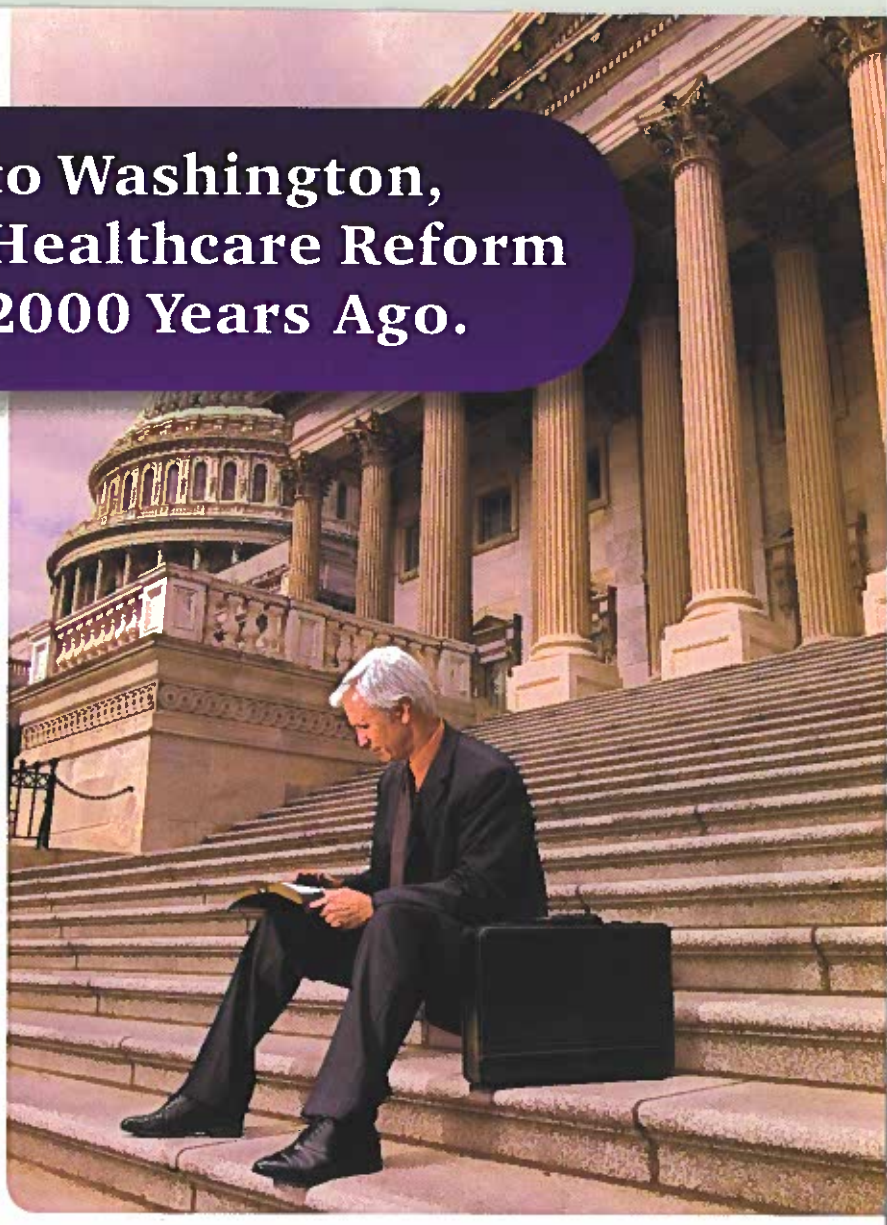
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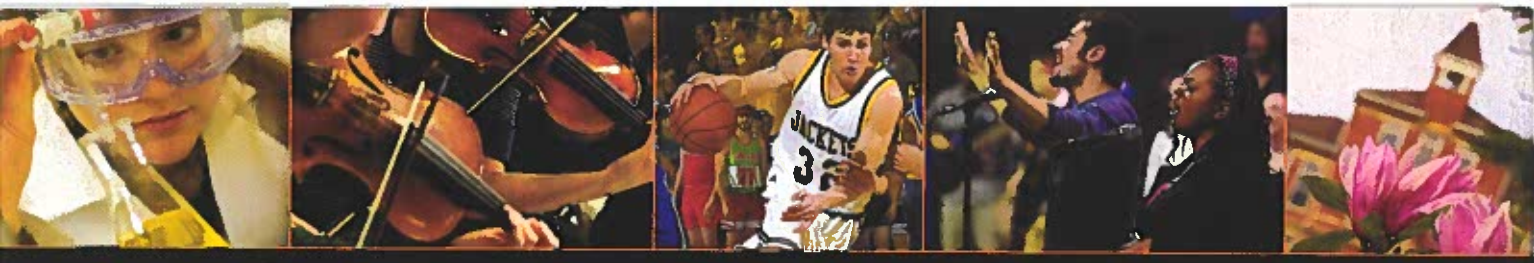
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