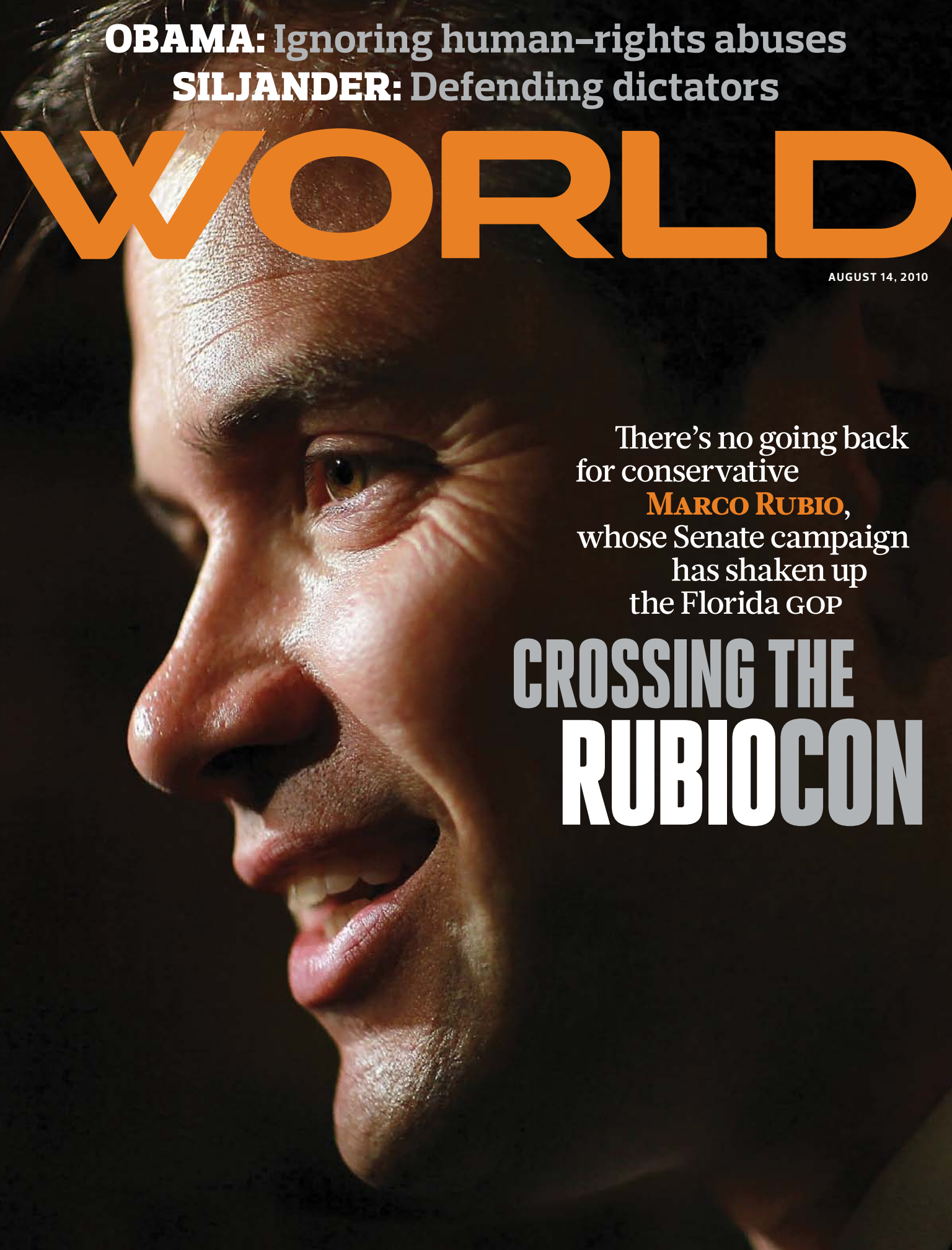
OBAMA: Ignoring human-rights abuses

SILJANDER: Defending dictators

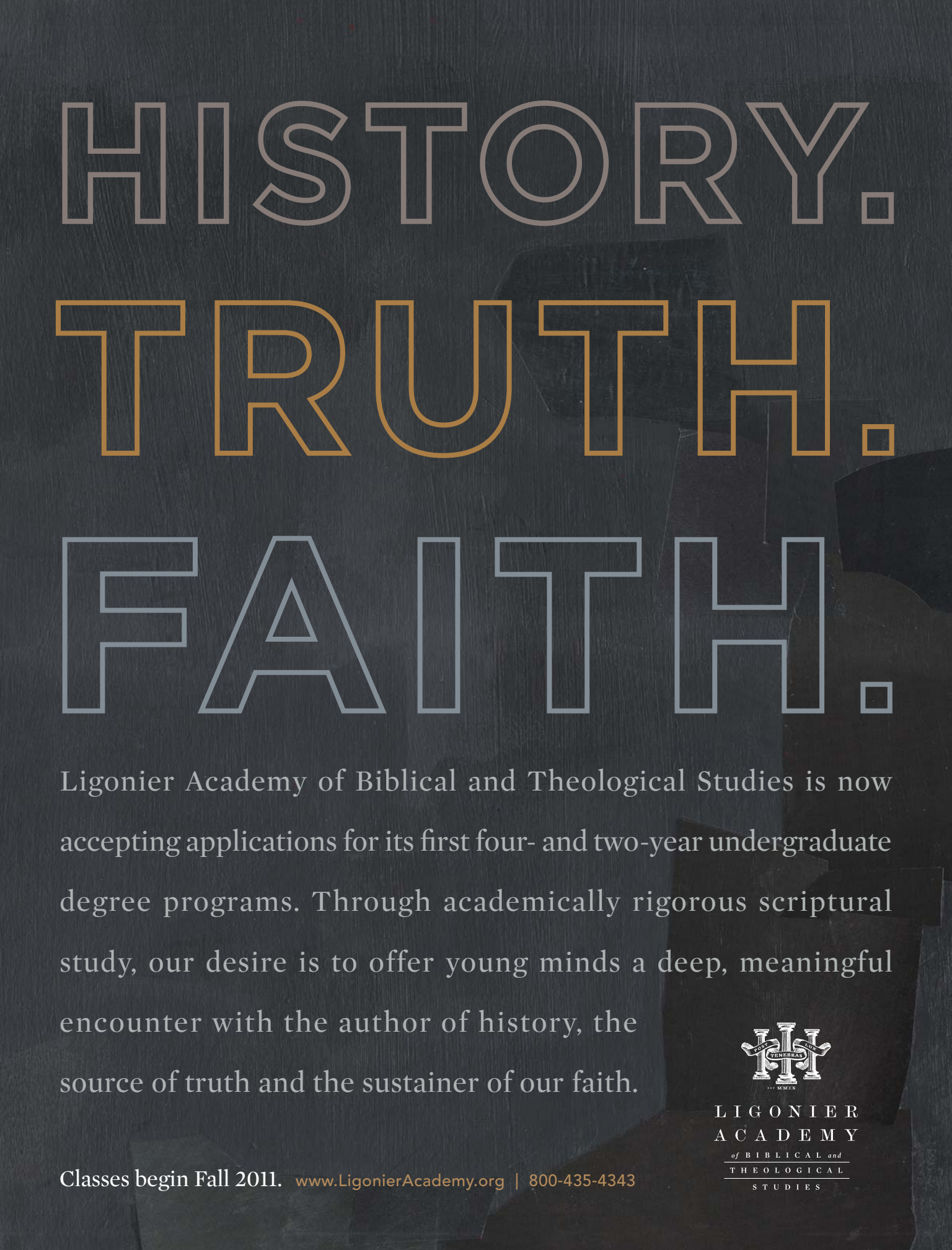
WORLD

AUGUST 14, 2010



There's no going back for conservative MARCO RUBIO, whose Senate campaign has shaken up the Florida GOP

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ON THE COVER: *Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images; "Crossing the Rubicon" refers to Julius Caesar's crossing of a northern Italian river in 49 B.C. Roman law forbade generals to cross the river southward with a legion, so when Caesar went past this point of no return, it was an act of war.*









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WORLD

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THE MISSING QUALITY

The iPad is an amazing, culture-changing tool—as long as you don't drop it

I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY a few days ago to spend a whole half hour with a brand new iPad. To say that it's a remarkable little tool is a vast understatement. It is culture-changing—on the order of moveable type, the Linotype, and the original Macintosh computer that came out in 1984.

If you think my three examples show my prejudice for the field of publishing, I will quickly agree. But it's the main field in which I can speak from experience. And from that experience, I can also tell the experts at Apple exactly where their iPad—astonishing as it is—is still deficient.

The iPad, like all of its competitors, won't be perfect until it is droppable. The engineers need to build into these amazing little gizmos the same quality that newspapers, magazines, and books have had for years. The issue of WORLD magazine you're reading right now—unless you're online, like any of the 100,000-plus people who use our web content every month—has that critical attribute the geeks in Silicon Valley have so far apparently ignored. Drop this copy of WORLD, and it's none the worse for such wear.

I have dropped moveable type. My dad first introduced me to a dozen different fonts of "handset" type when I was 7 years old. Each piece of lead type (can you imagine letting your children handle raw lead?) is about the size of a small paper clip, and must be carefully assembled (keep in mind that moveable type, like a rubber stamp, is backward and in a mirror image) from a large compartmentalized tray called a California job case. That's a challenge for little fingers. When printers drop type, it's called "pi," and I can't tell you how much moveable type—and other parts of my life—I've pied.

I have also dropped a Linotype. Four years after teaching us to set moveable type, Dad bought a Model L Linotype and installed it in our basement. Even a Model L, one of the simplest of all Linotypes, weighs well over a ton and has thousands of moving parts. The genius of the Linotype is its mechanical ability to manipulate about 1,200 tiny brass molds, each the size of a quarter, lining them up at the keyboard command of the human operator and casting a lead "line of type" into the molds before automatically sorting out and re-storing the molds for repeated use. If you saw one running, you would agree with Thomas Edison, who called the Linotype the "eighth wonder of the modern world."

So with all of five years' experience as an operator, I bought a 25-year-old but fully operative Linotype to take with me to college. With it, Dad and I agreed, I could earn my way through school—and end up with a useful machine as well. Neither of us counted on a critical error. While we inched the machine down a stairway toward the basement room I had rented, a chain gave way—and the Linotype, with all my life savings, tumbled ruinously to the bottom. By God's grace, no one was on the lower side of the huge machine. I visited that stairway last week, noticed the chipped edges of the concrete steps, and observed a moment of silence. I couldn't help thinking: Genius that Ottmar Mergenthaler was in Edison's eyes as the Linotype's inventor, he forgot to make his machine droppable.

I'm blessed never to have dropped one of the several Macintosh computers that since their appearance in 1984 have transformed the publishing industry. One of my grandchildren did, a couple of months ago, spill a cup of water on the keyboard of his family's laptop—and the results were a good bit more expensive than if it had sloshed all over that week's issue of WORLD.

I couldn't help thinking of all this last week when I noticed the badly shattered glass face on the iPhone of one of WORLD's reporters. "What happened?" I asked. "Dropped it on the sidewalk—but amazingly, it still works. But naturally, it's a little hard to see what's on the screen."

Theologically, we call it "The Fall." On every front, "far as the curse is found," we see its effects. And we pray for a Redeemer with the power to make all things droppable.

KRIEG BARRIE

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With Apologies to Washington, The Best Plan for Healthcare Reform Was Written 2000 Years Ago.



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Dispatches



Grim conditions

NEWS: As tensions with the South grow, North Korea descends into internal chaos

BY JAMIE DEAN

TENSIONS RAN HIGH on the 57th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War, as U.S. and South Korean ships conducted high-profile military exercises off the Korean peninsula aimed at warning North Korea against aggressive acts.

The maneuvers came four months after a North Korean submarine torpedoed a South Korean warship, killing 46 sailors in the worst attack on South Korean troops since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

North Korean officials denied the attack and warned against the military exercises in international waters, but the regime didn't show immediate signs of retaliation. The maneuvers included nearly 8,000 sailors and the *USS George Washington*—a massive U.S. naval ship that can accommodate 70 aircraft and 5,000 troops.

"It's a show of force, a deterrent," said U.S. Capt. Paul Hogue. "I think it's gotten their attention."

Meanwhile, deep in North Korea an internal catastrophe garnered far less attention: Amnesty International issued a devastating report on the country's healthcare system based on interviews with North Korean defectors. The witnesses told Amnesty that



The aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* departs Busan, South Korea; a North Korean soldier takes a picture of the southern side of the cross-border village of Panmunjom.

TOP: MC3 ADAM K. THOMAS/AP · BOTTOM: KIM JAE-HWAN/AP

hospitals are ill equipped and that many citizens go without basic healthcare. They described grim conditions, including doctors sometimes performing amputations without anesthesia and working by candlelight in hospitals lacking electricity.

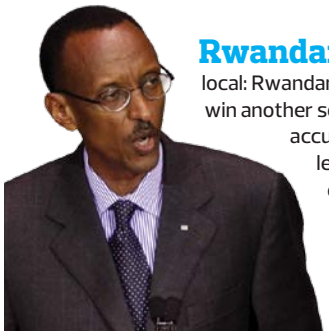
The report raised the hackles of the World Health Organization (WHO)—the UN body that issued a nearly glowing report on North Korea's healthcare system in April, reporting "no lack of doctors and nurses." WHO officials contended that Amnesty workers relied on a small number of witnesses removed from North Korea.

But since North Korean officials intensely monitor outside observation of conditions in the country, defectors or secret witnesses are often the only source of unfiltered information about true conditions. Open Doors International—a U.S.-based group supporting persecuted Christians—reported a conversation with a Christian from North Korea in July. The anonymous witness described frightening conditions. "It is downright chaos and utter panic," he told the group.

Part of the panic comes from North Korea's monetary policies that have badly devalued the currency since last November and wiped out the life savings of many citizens. Prices are soaring, and North Koreans are hoarding cash that has less and less value. Food shortages are gripping many regions, and some fear another famine akin to the disaster that killed massive numbers in the 1990s.

"Recently I saw a group of schoolchildren walking along the road," said the North Korean Christian. "They were picking up grass and plants. The school requires them to collect a daily amount of plants and herbs for the school [to eat]." The UN estimates that some 8.7 million people already need food aid in North Korea.

Helping North Korean citizens while punishing the regime's reckless policies remains a diplomatic and humanitarian tightrope. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced intensified sanctions against North Korea in response to the sunken South Korean ship, but she emphasized the actions "are not directed at the people of North Korea."



Rwandan elections More proof that all politics are local: Rwandan President **Paul Kagame** is widely expected to win another seven-year term on Aug. 9 despite suspicions and accusations from the West. At home, the Rwandan leader is known for helping the central African nation experience economic growth and stability after the 1994 genocide. But Western human-rights watchers have accused Kagame of shutting down dissidents (see p. 10). *The Economist* magazine compared him unfavorably to Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe in terms of allowing press freedoms.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nightingale century It's been a century since **Florence Nightingale**, the celebrated English nurse, died in London on Aug. 13, 1910. Nightingale became famous for her medical stations during the Crimean War: Before she arrived, the medical barracks were haphazard, dirty, and disease-ridden. Her common-sense reforms of sanitary practices led to a dramatic decrease in the mortality rate and a key discovery of how important hygiene is to medicine.



Rifqa Bary turns 18

The Ohio teenager who ran away from her Muslim parents in 2009 after fearing reprisal for becoming a Christian becomes an adult Aug. 10 as she turns 18.



Rifqa Bary fled Ohio to Florida to live with a Christian pastor and his family after meeting them on Facebook in 2009. But eventually, both Florida and Ohio officials decided she should be returned to Ohio. Earlier this spring, doctors diagnosed Bary with advanced uterine cancer.

V-J Day What started on Dec. 7, 1941, finally ended on Aug. 15, 1945. In between, hundreds of thousands of soldiers, marines, sailors, and civilians lost their lives in the Pacific conflict during World War II. Most of the fighting came to an end when officials from the Japanese government finally announced Japan's surrender just days after the United States dropped its second atomic bomb on the island nation.



Colonial Canada remembered In 1610, Englishman John Guy established a British colony in what is now known as Canada. Four hundred years later, **Cupids**, in Canada's Newfoundland and Labrador province, is our northern neighbor's oldest colony, hanging on with a population of 790 at last count. However, on Aug. 17, when Canada celebrates Cupids' quadricentennial, the fishing community's population will swell as dignitaries like Prime Minister Stephen Harper flood into town.



KAGAME: SETH WENIG/AP · NIGHTINGALE: H. LENTHALL · BARY: JAY LAPRETE/AP · V-J DAY: HARRY HARRIS/AP · CUPIDS: DENNIS MINTY



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Billy Graham, co-founder of Gordon-Conwell, led the first Lausanne Congress in 1974.

The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization will convene in Cape Town, South Africa



Rev. S. Douglas Birdsall (M.Div. '79) did not plan on being a missionary. "However, at Gordon-Conwell, Professor J Christy Wilson and President Harold John Ockenga broadened my horizons to see the vital importance of taking the gospel to the whole world. As a result, my wife Jeanie and I spent 20 years as missionaries in Japan."

Doug now continues that work as Director of the Wilson Center for World Missions at Gordon-Conwell and Executive Chair of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

He continues, "Billy Graham, the co-founder of Gordon-Conwell, called the first Lausanne Congress in 1974. His passion was to 'unite evangelicals in the common task of the evangelization of the world.' In October, the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization will convene in Cape Town, South Africa. There, members of the seminary community will join some 4,000 other evangelicals to continue the mission of 'the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world.'"

For more information about Gordon-Conwell call: 1.800.428.7329 or visit us at www.gordonconwell.edu

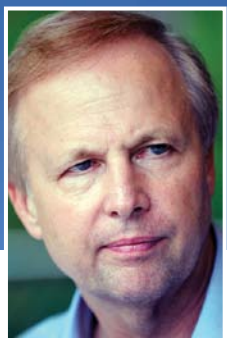
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OIL CHANGE





Incoming BP CEO Robert Dudley



Outgoing BP CEO Tony Hayward

Nearly 100 days after oil began gushing into Gulf Coast waters, BP announced plans aimed at plugging its own corporate problems: The company said embattled CEO Tony Hayward would resign his post on Oct. 1. His replacement—Robert Dudley—would become the first American to head the British company. Dudley grew up in Hattiesburg, Miss., and took over cleanup operations on the Gulf Coast after a series of blunders by Hayward.

Workers temporarily capped the well on July 15, and BP said it hoped to finish a permanent relief well by mid-August. Plenty of work still remains: Government scientists estimate the gusher has poured some 94 million gallons of oil into the Gulf. But the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offered some good news: The federal agency is re-opening some 26,000 square miles of federal waters to recreational and commercial fishing. That leaves about 25 percent of federal waters in the Gulf (and thousands of square miles of state waters) off limits.



Believe or leave

Jennifer Keeton, 24, doesn't believe that homosexuality is biological; she thinks it is a lifestyle choice. Augusta State University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in counseling, has ordered her to enter a remedial program or face expulsion. The Georgia school sent her a notice questioning her ability to be a "multiculturally competent counselor."

In the program, she would be required to attend several gay sensitivity training courses and participate in activities like Augusta's gay pride parade for "exposure and interactions with gay populations." While the school opposes the view that homosexuality is a choice, it has encouraged her to read material that defines gender as a choice. She would be required to submit a monthly two-page reflection on how the program has influenced her beliefs, so the school can "decide the appropriateness of her continuation in the counseling program."

Keeton, backed by the Alliance Defense Fund, has filed suit against the school for violating her First Amendment rights.



CASE NOT QUITE CLOSED

In a setback for gay marriage advocates, the New Jersey Supreme Court has refused to hear a case in which same-sex couples allege that the state violates their civil rights by not allowing gay marriage. The litigants said that even though New Jersey allows civil unions, they still experience discrimination and do not have the "full rights and benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples."

The Supreme Court did not comment on the constitutionality of their claim but voted 3-3 to tell the litigants that they should first file an action with a lower court. (A case needs four votes to be heard directly by the high court.) In a dissenting opinion, Justice Virginia Long said she was "disappointed" that the other three judges chose not to hear the case and said the court should address the possible "constitutional inequities" without "any unnecessary delay."

With the case going to a lower court, Len Deo, head of New Jersey's Family Policy Council and a supporter of traditional marriage, told NBC News that the battle wasn't over: "I'm not gonna say I'm worried, but obviously we're in this for the long haul."

BP SIGN: BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · DUDLEY: CHERYL GERBER/AP · HAYWARD: STR/AP · RINGS: ISTOCK · KEETON: ALLIANCE DEFENCE FUND

‘We don’t have the votes’



GREEN DEFEAT: Reid (center) with Sen. John Kerry (left) and Carol Browner, director of the White House office of Energy and Climate Change Policy.

Short on votes, Senate Democrats on July 22 shelved ambitious climate legislation. The move put an early end to at least one controversial congressional overhaul bill before November’s elections. Already bracing for mid-term losses in Congress, Democrats determined that federal encroachment on the energy industry is one big regulatory bill too many.

The collapse of the complex measure means Democrats failed in their agenda to implement the nation’s first-ever cap on carbon emissions. “It’s easy to count to 60. I could do it by the time I was in eighth grade,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, referencing the 60-vote threshold needed to avoid a filibuster in the Senate. “My point is this, we know where we are. We know we don’t have the votes.” Instead Democrats will now push a watered-down energy bill, tied mainly to responding to the Gulf oil spill, that is likely to garner a few Republican votes.

Still, the Senate’s surrender of the original overhaul puts dozens of House Democrats in precarious positions heading into November. Last summer the House passed, by a seven-vote margin, its 1,200-page regulation of the nation’s energy use. With no backing from the Senate, vulnerable House members with their jobs on the line in swing districts will have a more difficult time justifying their votes to Washington-weary voters.

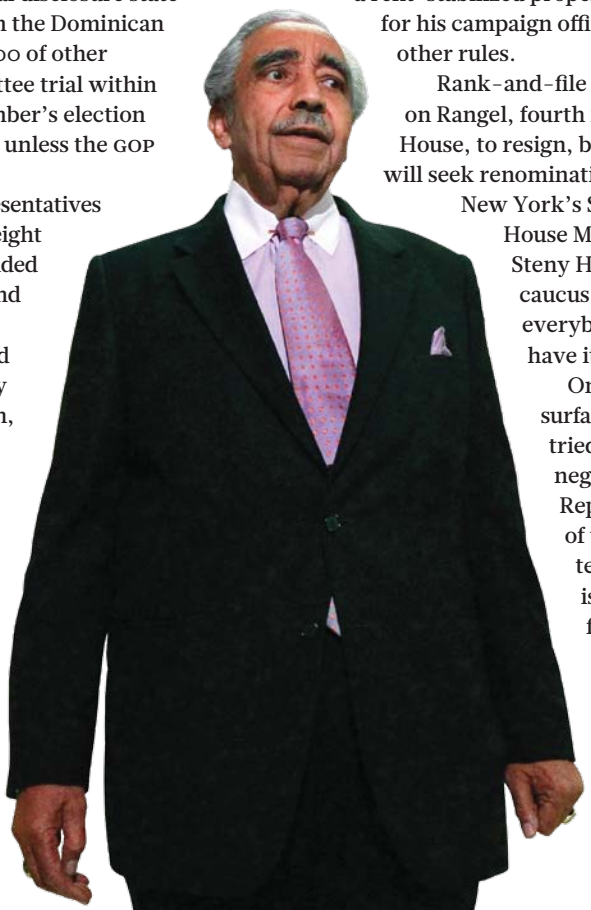
Environmentalists hoping to limit the carbon use of Americans will now push for the EPA to unilaterally impose a cap. Some senators are also reportedly hoping to revisit the matter in a lame duck session of Congress after the November elections.

RANGEL’S TANGLE

Too little, too late: Republicans on July 29 said they would refuse to sweep under the rug U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel’s 13 alleged violations of congressional ethics standards.

Democrats did not want a September spotlight on Rangel’s alleged failure to report on his congressional financial disclosure statement rental cash from the Dominican Republic and $600,000 of other income, but a committee trial within two months of November’s election now seems inevitable unless the GOP caves.

The House of Representatives ethics panel includes eight members, equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. Thus, for any deal to be accepted it must be approved by at least one Republican, but Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, the top Republican on the ethics panel, said the Democrat had been “given the opportunity to negotiate a settlement during the investigation phase. . . . We are now in the trial phase.”



Amid questions surrounding his finances and real estate holdings, Rangel stepped down as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in March. Rangel, who has had a big role in tax legislation over the years, allegedly did not pay federal taxes on his Dominican property, used a rent-stabilized property in Manhattan for his campaign office, and broke other rules.

Rank-and-file Democrats called on Rangel, fourth in seniority in the House, to resign, but he refused. He will seek renomination to his seat in New York’s Sept. 14 primary. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer reflected his caucus’s concern: “I think everybody would like to have it go away. . . .”

On July 27, reports surfaced that Rangel, 80, tried to cut a deal—but negotiations excluded Republican members of the Ethics Committee. The controversy is occurring just four years after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi vowed to curtail Washington corruption.

THE HOPE AWARD for EFFECTIVE COMPASSION

Online voting for the 2010 winner of the Hope Award for Effective Compassion continues until Aug. 26—near the end of July two contenders were neck-and-neck. Go to worldmag.com to see the Final Four and choose your favorite: Rock Ministries (Northeast region winner), Advance Memphis (South region), Freedom for Youth (Midwest region), or New Horizons (West region).

REID: ALEX BRANDON/AP · RANGEL: ALEX BRANDON/AP

Aiding abortion

An audit review of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reveals USAID has given at least $23 million to grantees who are pushing a Kenyan constitution that liberalizes abortion law. The new constitution is supposed to create checks and balances and protect freedoms, but it also changes Kenya's strict abortion law to allow a "trained health professional" to authorize abortion "for emergency treatment" or if the life or health of the mother is in danger.

Jeff Sagnip, spokesperson for Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said of the abortion language, "It's vague enough of a loophole that you could drive a truck through it." Because the funds went to grantees who agreed to push for a yes vote, Smith and other Republican congressmen say that the funds violate an amendment that prohibits using U.S. foreign assistance funds to lobby for or against abortion.

Dona Dinkler—spokesperson for the inspector general's office, which is conducting the review—stressed that the review is not over and said, "We have no evidence—no information that USAID has done anything illegal." A July Infotrak Harris poll showed 65 percent of Kenyans saying they would vote for the constitution on Aug. 4. Of the 25 percent who said they would vote no, 59 percent said they were voting no because the constitution "permits abortion."





Border battle

In blocking key provisions of Arizona's controversial immigration law, U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton may have ensured that illegal immigration and border security will be high-profile issues in the 2010 elections. On July 28, one day before the law was scheduled to take effect, Bolton put parts of the law on hold until they are resolved by courts.

Specifically, the Clinton appointee blocked sections of the law that require police officers, while enforcing other laws, to check a person's immigration status if they have a reasonable suspicion that the person is an illegal immigrant. She also blocked provisions that require legal immigrants to carry their papers and prohibit illegal immigrants from seeking jobs in public places.

HOLD IT: Protesters of the immigration law sing in front of the U.S. District Court in Phoenix.

Republican candidates in Arizona, but also as far away as Arkansas and Tennessee, denounced the ruling and pledged to make illegal immigration and border security central issues in their campaigns. Democrats, meanwhile, sought to use the issue to bolster Hispanic support in California and other states. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, pledged to fight for the law: "This is a little road bump. I will battle all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary, for the right to protect the citizens of Arizona."

Overall, the Arizona law is popular. A CNN/Opinion Research poll in July found that 55 percent of Americans favor Arizona's law and 40 percent oppose it. Other surveys have put support as high as 61 percent.

VIOLENCE RETURNS

Sixteen years after Rwanda became infamous for a Hutu-led genocide that killed some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, international observers worry that a new wave of human-rights abuses is corrupting the political landscape. The United Nations has demanded a full investigation into allegations of politically motivated murders of opposition leaders ahead of the country's August elections.



President **Paul Kagame**—a Tutsi credited with ending the 1994 genocide—now faces allegations of suppressing opposition to his bid for re-election to another seven-year term. Government officials have banned two opposition newspapers from publishing and have harassed opposition politicians. In late July, unidentified assailants beheaded opposition leader Andre Kagwa Rwisereka in southern Rwanda. Other recent murder victims included a human-rights lawyer and a journalist investigating the attempted murder of another Kagame opponent. Rwandan officials deny any involvement in the murders.

ARIZONA: ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP · KENYA: TONY KARUMBA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · RWANDA: HEREWARD HOLLAND/REUTERS/LANDOV

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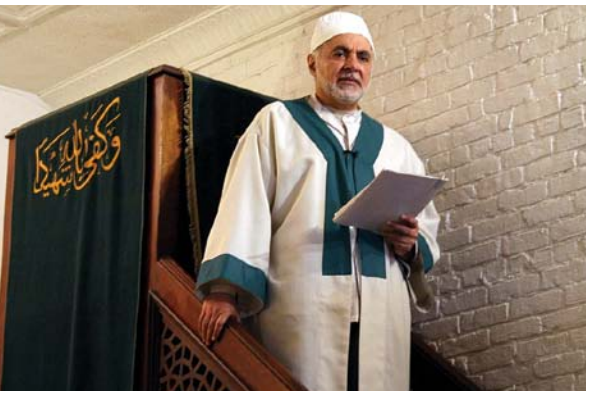
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Center of moderation?

A public outcry has followed the news that Muslim leaders plan to build a community center and place of worship two blocks from Ground Zero in New York City. The National Republican Trust PAC released an ad showing images of 9/11 with the message, "Where we weep, they rejoice" and "Kill the Ground Zero Mosque." Both Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich spoke against the project with Gingrich saying, "There should be no mosque near Ground Zero in New York so long as there are no churches or synagogues in Saudi Arabia."

The leaders of the initiative say the $100 million, 13-story community center is not a mosque but a prayer space since it contains space for musical performance and a restaurant—neither of which are allowed in mosques. The leaders also changed the name of the project from "Cordoba House" to "Park 51" after critics noted that Cordoba is the name of a Spanish city conquered by Muslims in the eighth century.

At a press conference, **Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf**—chairman of the Cordoba Initiative—said



the project was an expression of moderate Muslims "who have condemned and continue to condemn terrorism." Members of his congregation died in the attacks, and he said Park 51's leaders are committed to rebuilding the community with cooperation from non-Muslims. But Rauf has also said the United States' taking of lives overseas made it an accessory to 9/11. He told CBS' *60 Minutes* just after the 9/11 attacks, "I wouldn't say that the United States deserved what happened, but United States policies were an accessory to the crime."







ADRIFT IN A SEA OF OIL

Chinese workers and volunteers endured brutal conditions while cleaning up an oil spill that began on July 16 after two pipelines exploded at the port city of Dalian in northeast China. Workers braved the thickly polluted waters to save a man who nearly drowned after attempting to fix an underwater pipe (see photos above).

Chinese newspapers reported workers initially using other primitive methods to remove oil from the water and shore, including plastic bags, straw mats, bare hands, and chopsticks. A week later, efforts had grown more sophisticated, and workers had dumped some 23 tons of oil-eating bacteria into the waters.

Officials estimated the oil affected some 140 square miles of the Yellow Sea, saying it was China's largest oil spill in years.

OIL: JIANG HE/GREENPEACE/AFP/NEWSCOM. RAUF: PETER TOM A/THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR/GETTY IMAGES

Q. **Who are winning Muslims to Christ in Mindanao and planting churches among unreached tribes and nations on other islands of the Philippines?**

A. **Native missionaries trained and sent out by indigenous evangelistic ministries.**



Q. **Who provides financial support for indigenous evangelistic missions in the Philippines?**

A. **Since 1953 Christian Aid Mission has provided financial help for scores of indigenous missions working on Mindanao and other Philippine islands. Support is now being sent to 72 ministries that deploy over 1700 missionaries.**

Q. How is Christian Aid financed?
A. Christian Aid is supported entirely by freewill gifts and offerings from Bible-believing, missionary-minded Christians, churches and organizations.

Q. Do indigenous missions in other countries also need our financial help?
A. Christian Aid is in communication with more than 4000 indigenous missions, some based in almost every unevangelized country on earth. They have over 200,000 missionaries in need of support. All Christians who believe in Christ's "Great Commission" are invited to join hands with Christian Aid in finding help for thousands of native missionaries who are now out on the fields of the world with no promise of regular financial support.

For more than 50 years Christian Aid has been sending financial help to indigenous evangelistic ministries based in unevangelized countries. More than 740 ministries are now being assisted in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. They deploy over 75,000 native missionaries who are spreading the gospel of Christ among unreached people within more than 3000 different tribes and nations. Most are in countries where Americans are not allowed to go as missionaries.

Christian Aid
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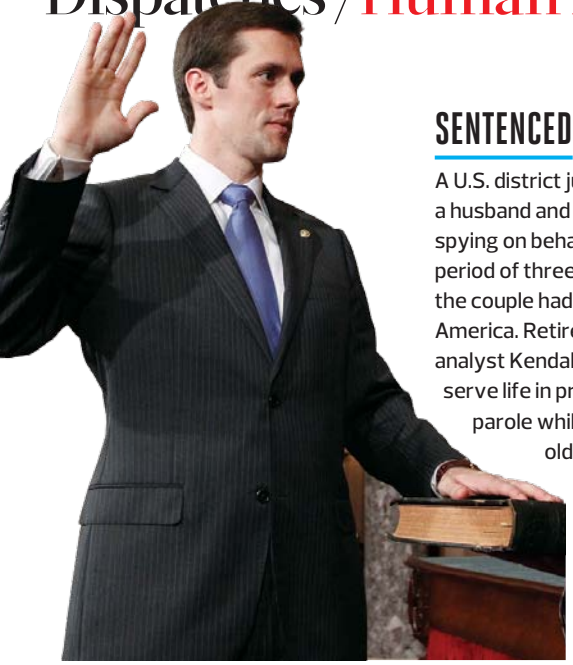
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SENTENCED

A U.S. district judge sentenced a husband and wife to prison for spying on behalf of Cuba over a period of three decades, saying the couple had betrayed America. Retired intelligence analyst Kendall Myers, 73, will serve life in prison without parole while his 72-year-old wife Gwendolyn will spend the next 5½ years behind bars for their work keeping Cuba informed about U.S. policy toward the communist nation.

APPOINTED

The appointment of **Carte Goodwin** to the Senate seat left vacant by the late Robert C. Byrd means the nation's youngest senator will fill the shoes of a man once recognized as the chamber's oldest member. Goodwin, 36, is the first U.S. senator born in the 1970s. He will represent West Virginia until a November special election, in the meantime providing Senate Democrats with their crucial 59th vote.

DIED

Gospel singer **Doug Oldham** died July 21 at age 79. Oldham performed with the late Jerry Falwell on the *Old Time Gospel Hour* and was a praise leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.

PRESSURED

Iranian officials are reportedly pressuring **Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani**, the woman who drew international attention after she was due to be stoned on charges of adultery, to



divulge the names of individuals campaigning for her release. Mohammadi Ashtiani's 22-year-old son, Sajad, is also under pressure after officials twice summoned him to the Iranian intelligence service. A global outcry spurred authorities to halt Mohammadi Ashtiani's scheduled stoning last month, but her lawyer says her fate is still unclear.



INJURED

Megachurch pastor **Rick Warren** suffered a severe eye injury July 19 after he pruned a firestick plant and sap from the plant came in contact with his eyes. Initially Warren expressed concern on Twitter about possible vision loss, but doctors say he should make a full recovery.

SETTLED

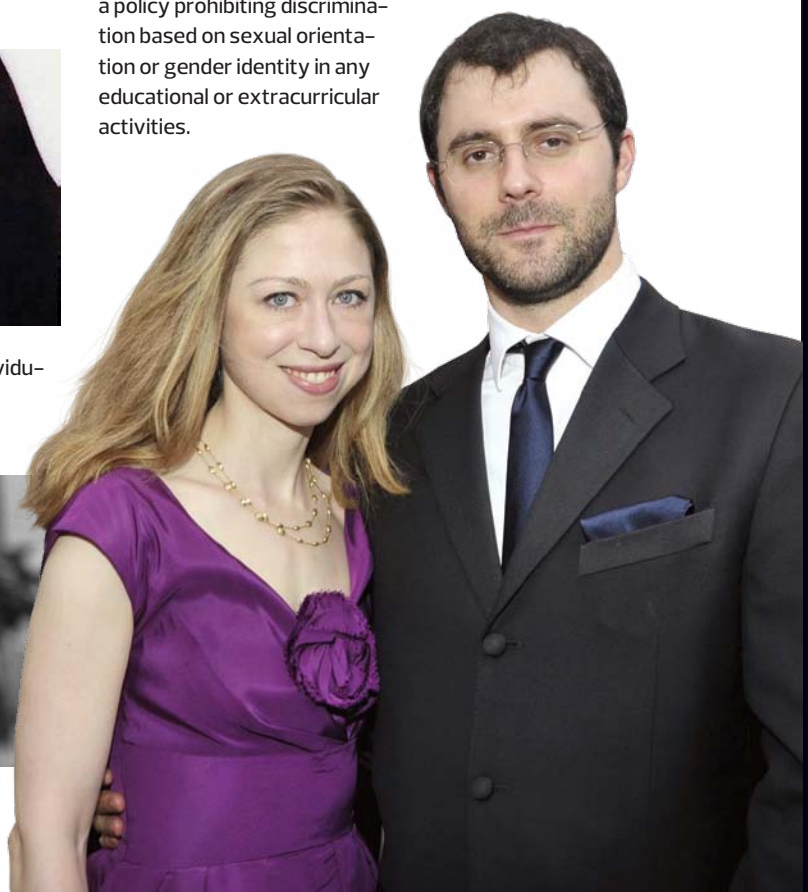
A Mississippi school district has agreed to pay former student **Constance McMillen** $35,000 and legal fees after she sued because the school canceled the prom instead of allowing her to bring her same-sex partner. The district also agreed to institute a policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in any educational or extracurricular activities.



MARRYING

After months of speculation, **Chelsea Clinton**, 30, was set to wed fiancé **Marc Mezvinsky**, 32, on July 31 in Rhinebeck, N.Y. The publicity-shy daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had kept details of her big day as closely guarded as some of her parents' national secrets.





GOODWIN: ALEX BRANDON/AP · MOHAMMADI ASHTIANI: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/AP · MCMILLEN: ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP · WARREN: LUIS ALVAREZ/AP · OLDHAM: LIBERTY UNIVERSITY · CLINTON: MCMULLAN CO/SIPA/NEWSCOM

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"Their lives will be in danger now."

Afghan President **HAMID KARZAI** on Afghans who acted as informants or otherwise cooperated with NATO forces in the country and had their identities revealed when WikiLeaks made public thousands of classified battlefield reports. The disclosure, said Karzai, was "extremely irresponsible and shocking."



"I'm never home anyway."

ANDREW ROMANOFF, candidate in Colorado's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, on selling his Colorado house so he could loan his campaign $325,000.

"We will remain a thorn in the chest of the Americans."

GRAFFITI on a building in Mosul, Iraq. Nineveh province remains a violent part of Iraq, with Kurds and Sunni Arabs fighting for control of lands as U.S. forces prepare to draw down to 50,000 troops in the country on Sept. 1.

"Life isn't fair."

BP CEO **TONY HAYWARD**, announcing his departure as head of the oil giant after a series of public gaffes in the wake of the Gulf Coast oil spill (see p. 8).

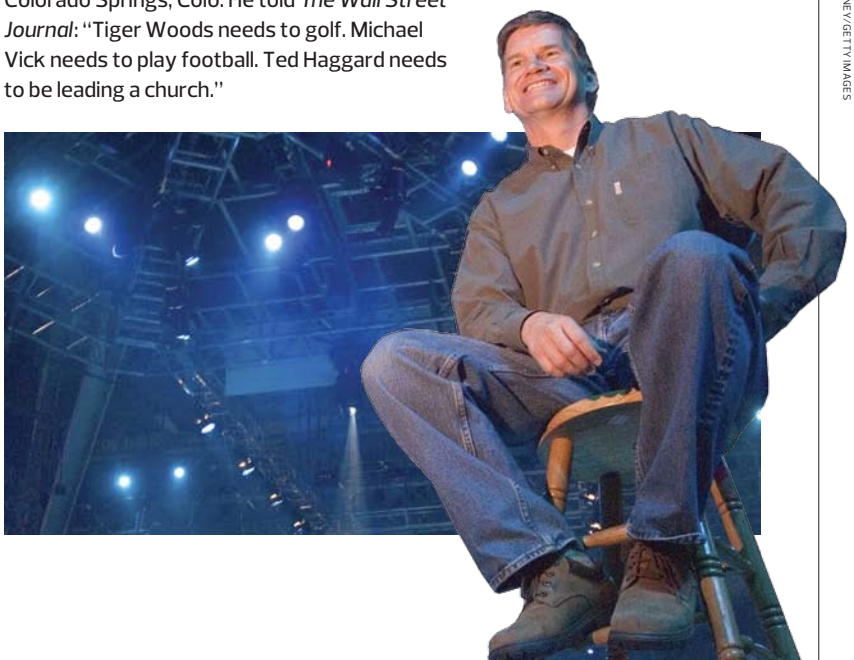
"I'm letting you guys know now, you all probably will not be invited to Malia's wedding."



PRESIDENT OBAMA, telling the hosts of *The View* that the guest list at his children's future weddings will include only those who had an important role in their lives and that he's not offended that he wasn't invited to Chelsea Clinton's wedding.

"I over-repented."

Former megachurch pastor **TED HAGGARD** on his reaction to the drug and sex scandal that forced him from the ministry four years ago. Haggard, who had agreed not to lead a church ever again, now leads a congregation of 200 in Colorado Springs, Colo. He told *The Wall Street Journal*: "Tiger Woods needs to golf. Michael Vick needs to play football. Ted Haggard needs to be leading a church."



KARZAI: S. SABAWOON/AP · ROMANOFF: DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP · OBAMA: CAROLYN KASTER/AP · HAGGARD: KEVIN MOLONEY/GETTY IMAGES

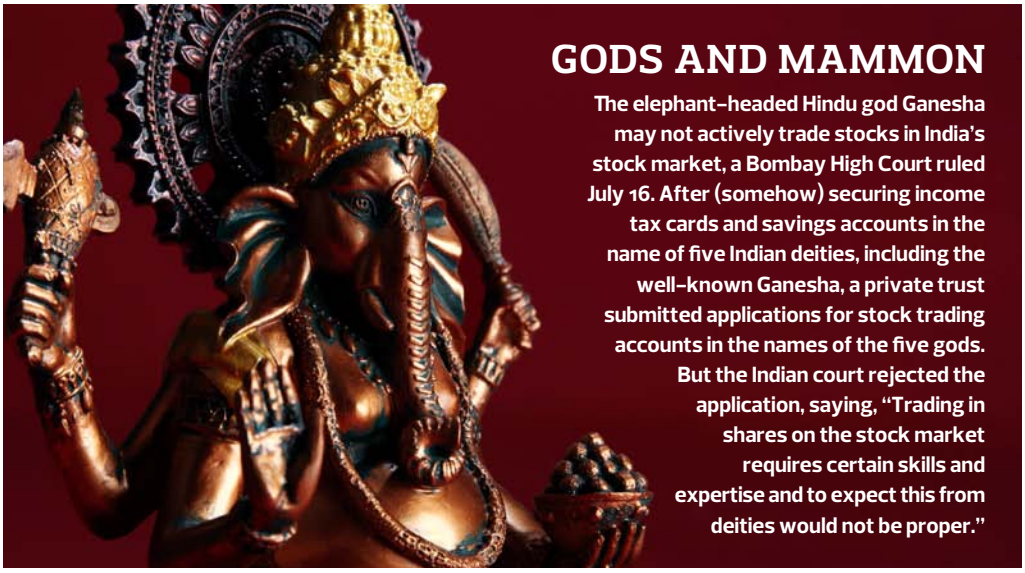

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The Coming STORM
EXPIRING BUSH TAX CUTS


HE CERTAINLY HAS A LOT OF SECRET SERVICE FOR PROTECTION.
THOSE ARE JOURNALISTS.



GODS AND MAMMON

The elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesha may not actively trade stocks in India's stock market, a Bombay High Court ruled July 16. After (somehow) securing income tax cards and savings accounts in the name of five Indian deities, including the well-known Ganesha, a private trust submitted applications for stock trading accounts in the names of the five gods. But the Indian court rejected the application, saying, "Trading in shares on the stock market requires certain skills and expertise and to expect this from deities would not be proper."

TOUGH MISS MANNERS

The next time a student encounters 66-year-old Tamiko Masuta, he'd better respect his elder. Police in Nagasaki, Japan, arrested Masuta for assaulting a young man who refused to give up his seat to her on a bus. And the senior citizen packs quite a punch: She broke his nose. According to press accounts, the 18-year-old student was sitting in a seat designated for the elderly. Masuta became incensed when he refused to move. Police say it wasn't the first time Masuta assaulted a student on a bus.



DRIVER FOR A DAY

Police in Washington, D.C., say a 19-year-old man appeared to be living out an odd fantasy when he took a D.C. Metrobus on a joyride in July. Police say William Jackson arrived at a bus depot in his own bus driver uniform, walked onto a bus, and drove it away. But Jackson apparently didn't just take the bus for a spin—he drove one of the city's bus routes, even stopping to pick up passengers. But his route hit an abrupt end when he rammed a tree two blocks from the Congressional Cemetery. Police said Jackson fled on foot but police quickly caught him.



SURVIVAL SKILLS

After arriving in North America aboard a slow boat from China, it's unlikely this kitty will be able to find its own way back home. Employees at a Canadian importer in Calgary discovered a skinny calico cat in a steel shipping container holding granite slabs. Amy Bindman, a designer with the firm, said the animal appeared "pretty distressed and very, very thin" and had apparently "been meowing for weeks." That's because the container ships headed for North America from China often take as many as 45 days to span the Pacific. "We had to empty the entire container before being able to reach the cat, because (she) jumped and hid in a corner that was unreachable," Bindman said. The cat's new name? **Mandarin**.

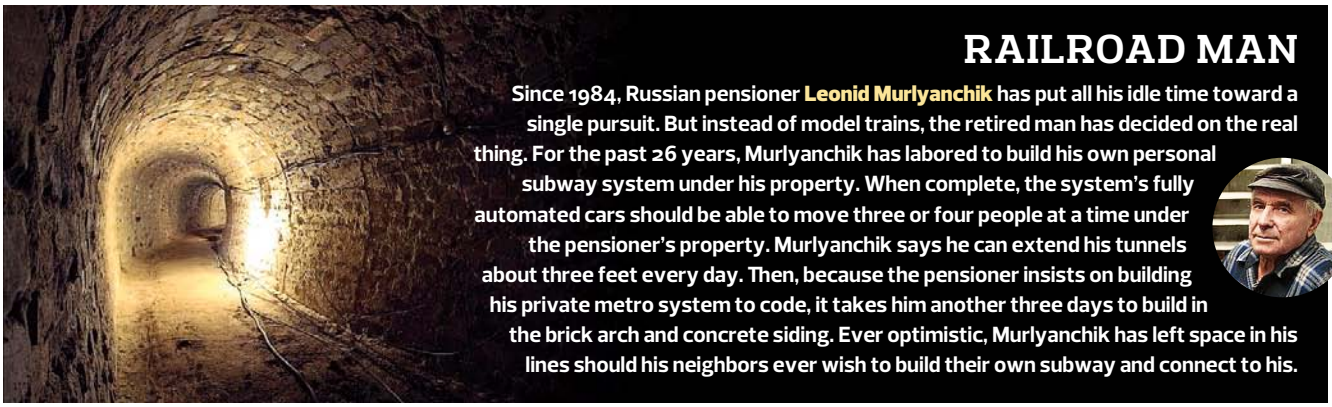
GANESHA: ISTOCK · ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE · KITTEN: HANDOUT



SNAIL'S PACE

It takes Sidney nearly four minutes to travel 13 inches—and that means he's lightning fast in the world of championship snail racing. Sidney the snail posted a time of three minutes, 41 seconds during the finals of the Snail Racing World Championship on July 17, which was good enough for the title. The English town of Congham has hosted the event for 25 years, and this year's competition included 200 snails. While Sidney's time was fast, it fell far short of the record: In 1995 a snail named Archie covered the 13-inch course in two minutes.





RAILROAD MAN

Since 1984, Russian pensioner Leonid Murlyanchik has put all his idle time toward a single pursuit. But instead of model trains, the retired man has decided on the real thing. For the past 26 years, Murlyanchik has labored to build his own personal subway system under his property. When complete, the system's fully automated cars should be able to move three or four people at a time under the pensioner's property. Murlyanchik says he can extend his tunnels about three feet every day. Then, because the pensioner insists on building his private metro system to code, it takes him another three days to build in the brick arch and concrete siding. Ever optimistic, Murlyanchik has left space in his lines should his neighbors ever wish to build their own subway and connect to his.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

A New York divorce court judge took a cue from Solomon in trying to divide property between a squabbling Jewish couple set to split. Justice Eric Prus ordered the Orthodox couple to erect a wall to split their 3,000-square-foot home in two during the divorce proceedings. Neither Pinchs nor Nechama Gold intends to leave the house. Prus said if the couple doesn't decide where to build a wall to divide the house, he'll decide for them.



WEED WHACKED

Usually, something worth $2,400 arriving unexpectedly in the mailbox would bring joy. But authorities say an elderly woman in Blackman Township, Mich., was not happy when she found a 2-pound package of marijuana in the mail. Authorities, who did not identify the woman, say she immediately called them. The package has a fake return address, so they do not know who sent it. But they speculate that it may have been sent to the wrong address, or that someone was planning to take it from the mailbox before the woman retrieved it.

DRESSED DOWN

A Boulder, Colo., city council proposal that would, among other things, prohibit people from stripping while addressing the council was decried by a local ACLU chapter that said the decorum rules would have a chilling effect on free speech. The city council was forced to consider the measure after a frequent critic of the council addressed the members during public comment as he took off his clothes. When he finished his commentary, he was wearing only his boxer shorts. The decorum measure would ban the public from addressing the council while stripping, wearing masks, or otherwise being contemptuous.

SNAILS: APEX NEWS & PICTURES · MURLYANCHIK: ALTERTRAVEL.RU · GOLDS: SPENCER BURNETT/SPLASHNEWS/NEWSCOM

A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS

At the foundation of Western science is a theological warrant to be curious

STUMBLING TOWARD THE 20TH CENTURY, trying to sort out electricity and magnetism and the forces that bind the universe, Victorian scientists in frock coats proposed something called the *ether* as an absolute value for measuring invisible waves in space. Mysterious forces must have a medium in which to operate; therefore, the ether must exist.

The theory proved totally wrong, of course, but that's the point: It was pursued to a conclusion of yes or no. That's one thing to do with a mystery: Solve it.

Last month the conservative blogosphere quivered with indignation over an interview given by NASA chief Charles Bolden to the Muslim news service Al-Jazeera, in which Bolden claimed that one of the tasks assigned to him by President Obama was to make the Muslim world "feel good" about its historic contributions to science and engineering. Even though the administration soon disavowed Bolden's comments, the uproar heaved up some interesting questions, such as: Given impressive scientific work by Muslims, why didn't they progress beyond the Middle Ages?

In fact, many ancient and non-Western cultures have scored great achievements in science but failed to build on them. For many reasons—social, political, and philosophical—but also theological. A society's path is determined by its light.

Unique among religions, the Judeo-Christian tradition sets forth a God who is both transcendent and immanent; who can't be found, but demands to be sought. "I am your very great reward"; "Seek Me and live"; "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"; "Oh, the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" God is personal but also propositional; beyond our knowledge, and yet we can know (Ephesians 3:19). Human life is not a test of worthiness or a vale of suffering we must somehow rise above. It's a quest, and creation is a mystery—both in the wonder-full sense and in the Agatha Christie sense: a marvelous work, and a problem with a solution.



The "mystery religions" so popular in the ancient world (and today—see Scientology) were another matter. Those cultic "secrets" were made up and passed along to anyone willing to pay the price, and the goal was not knowledge so much as power, or the illusion of it. But God's mysteries are available to anyone who seeks, and once revealed they answer questions that were perhaps not even asked. Consider "the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints . . . Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:26-27). Few even suspected Him until He appeared, just as no one suspected relativity until the need for it arose. "I was ready to be found by those who did not seek Me" (Isaiah 65:1).

In an interview with Jon Stewart about her new book, *Absence of Mind*, Marilynne Robinson said that science need not be at odds with religion, because they have much in common: Both push the limits of understanding. It's fair to assume she meant Western science, and the Christian religion. Other faiths and cultures, however impressive their accomplishments, set limits on understanding.

Generally speaking: Hinduism locked itself into cycles. Chinese reverence for tradition stalled progress. Greek natural philosophy was hindered by contempt for matter, and Roman technology by contempt for man. Islam has no mystery because everything is explained. Buddhism has no explanations because everything is mysterious.

Reverential curiosity was the spark and the fuel of Western science. "It is the glory of God to conceal things; but the glory of kings is to search things out" (Proverbs 25:2). Sometimes there's a prize for the one who solves the problem, sometimes a fortune to be made from practical applications, but mostly we want to *know*. The intellectual palate is awakened: Why do objects fall? Why does light split into colors? What is that mysterious background noise in space?

But progress can always be reversed. The beginning of human achievement was to look up in wonder. Then, look up *and* wonder. When we stop looking up, achievement will end.

KRIEG BARRIE

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Action Angie

MOVIE: In *Salt*, Jolie plays another tough, vengeful warrior, a type as popular with young males as it is untethered from female reality **BY MEGAN BASHAM**

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to analyze a movie like *Salt* without delving into the appeal of its star, Angelina Jolie. From start to finish *Salt*, rated PG-13 for language and violence, is a run-of-the-mill, preposterously plotted action flick—something of a low-rent *Bourne Identity* or less-stylish James Bond. The only thing setting it apart from other movies of its type is the fact that its protagonist is a woman.

Straight action vehicles have historically been the domain of men, and it's telling that Tom Cruise was originally slated to star here. But over the past few years Jolie has changed the field. First as a co-star and now as a solo act, she is the first A-list female to have built a career in the adrenaline game. Every other actress on Hollywood's highest earning list from Reese Witherspoon to Sandra Bullock to Meryl Streep makes most of her money in dramas and romantic comedies—that is, the kinds of movies popular with women.

Why bring this up? Because Jolie's rise as the queen of action occurred on a tide of supporting women-kicking-tail parts designed to appeal to young men. And the behavior, psychology, and priorities of these female characters increasingly bear little resemblance to reality. Evelyn Salt is a prime example.

When secret agent Salt is accused of being a Russian double agent, she barricades herself on an empty floor of her office building, uses her lacy black underwear to cover the lens

COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES/SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

of a security camera (though it seemed like her jacket would have done a better job), and creates a rocket launcher out of cleaning supplies. From there, she scales tall buildings, leaps from overpasses onto speeding vehicles, and punches and kicks her way through the hordes of tall, strong police officers trying to capture her.

Some of this is just your average suspension-of-disbelief movie experience. A 110-pound woman who can beat up three, even four, full-grown men at once? Sure, why not? It may be less plausible than a highly trained male spy who accomplishes the same feat, but we already ascribe to such characters superhuman abilities. However, Salt's motivations present an even greater role reversal. Without giving away too much of the story, which turns on the viewer being unsure of Salt's aims, it's safe to say that she is driven by revenge. And when she exacts it, she does so in the most bloody and brutal manner.



None of this is new to Jolie, whose most popular roles (in *Tomb Raider*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *Wanted*, and *Gone in 60 Seconds*) have all been the girl who can bring the pain as expertly as the guys. And, incidentally, take the pain as well. As in those earlier films, *Salt* shows Jolie beat down as violently as any male lead, the difference being she's beaten in sexy underwear. However, it is still fairly new to a genre where women used to provide the tender counterpoint to the hardened, aggressive hero.

Does the career Jolie has carved out and the demand she has sparked for characters like hers really represent, as *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Entertainment Weekly* are crowing, progress for women? If part of the reason we go to movies is to live out our fantasies, what does it say that women seem far less interested in her films than their husbands, boyfriends, and sons?

The growing predominance of this almost completely fictional type of woman in male-targeted movies—i.e., a woman who uses brute strength as adeptly as any man and is equally driven by feelings of rage and vengeance—has the potential to cause a disconnect with reality. While the boys are dreaming of Laura Croft: Tomb Raider, a warrior-chick who's more likely to save them than need saving, the girls are lining up in droves to watch the immortal Edward sacrifice himself to protect clumsy, quiet Bella. Never before has the popular entertainment of each gender been so far from the same page.



DVD

The Last Station

by Megan Basham

RATHER THAN DELVE INTO TOLSTOY'S late writings or the intellectual movement it inspired, *The Last Station* focuses on the marriage between Leo and Sofya Tolstoy and the factors that contributed to their estrangement in the days before his death.

Played by Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren, the Tolstoys are a hilarious, passionate, and deeply divided couple. Leo toys with the idea of making a grand gesture that will exemplify his ideals—he wants to give away all his worldly possessions, including the copyrights to his works, upon his death. As the business-minded partner who has spent her life managing his accounts and running his estate (while also bearing him 13 children), Sofya understandably objects to this plan. Yet it isn't *what* they disagree about that is tearing apart their union so much as *how* they disagree.

As Tolstoy's wide-eyed assistant and fervent devotee, Valentin, James McAvoy acts as the stand-in for the viewer. At first he is charmed and overwhelmed by the great writer, but the deep divide between his hero's words and his actions slowly work to shift Valentin's sympathies.

Like everyone else, Valentin finds Sofya histrionic, paranoid, and clinging. But he also sees that a woman denied the devotion and affection of her husband, who cannot trust him to consider her best interests, has good reason to act a bit melodramatic. Under the banner of Christianity, Tolstoy preaches love for all mankind but doesn't display it to the woman lying in bed next to him. Instead, he puts his philosophy (and his reputation) above Christ's command to love his wife and allows his collaborator, Chertkov (Paul Giamatti), to scheme against and belittle her.

Unfortunately, McAvoy's character also provides a minor plot that touts a free love approach to sexuality (it also provides the sex scene that accounts for the film's R rating), but this is a minor element. The bulk of *The Last Station* acts, much like Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, as a cautionary tale about the tragic consequences of serving self over others, particularly within marriage.

LEFT: COLUMBIA PICTURES/SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT. RIGHT: STEPHAN RABOLD/SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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MOVIE

Charlie St. Cloud

by Rebecca Cusey



ANYONE WHO HAS LOST A LOVED ONE will recognize the feeling. You would give anything, do anything, just to see your beloved one more time. In *Charlie St. Cloud*, Charlie is given that opportunity, but it only serves to delay, not negate, the pain.

Charlie (Zac Efron) plans to head for Stanford University on a sailing scholarship when tragedy strikes. A car accident takes the life of his younger brother, Sam (Charlie Tahan). Frantic with grief and guilt, Charlie runs off from the funeral, where Sam appears to him. Charlie promises to meet him each day, when the ship cannons fire at sunset, to practice baseball tosses. They may not have much, but at least they'll have each other for a few minutes.

Five years later, Charlie has abandoned his Stanford dreams, sailing, and much of life. He works at the graveyard, where he occasionally meets deceased people as they pass through, and keeps his promise to Sam. Will a pretty sailor give him an interest in life again?

The film, which takes cues from *The Sixth Sense* and *Field of Dreams*, is not gruesome or scary. It does, however, embrace the romantic gothic vibe made popular by the *Twilight* series, with a love scene in a misty cemetery in which sex is implied. Rated PG-13, there are some mild instances of language and a fairly intense accident scene.

Efron, the star of the *High School Musical* franchise, proves he has moved beyond being a lightweight teen star, with the acting chops to be believable in the role. Although the movie strays into corny territory from time to time, the back-and-forth between brothers feels authentic and funny enough to keep the audience engaged.

A sympathetic Catholic character creates a respectful tone toward faith when he tells Charlie he believes God saved him for a reason. Finding that reason will be the key to Charlie's future.



BOX OFFICE TOP 10

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JULY 23-25, ACCORDING TO BOX OFFICE MOJO

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*

1. **Inception*** PG-13 › S1·V7·L4
2. **Salt*** PG-13 › S3·V7·L4
3. **Despicable Me*** PG › S2·V3·L2
4. **The Sorcerer's Apprentice** PG › S2·V5·L2
5. **Toy Story 3*** G › S1·V3·L1
6. **Ramona and Beezus** PG › S2·V2·L1
7. **Grown Ups*** PG-13 › S6·V4·L4
8. **The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*** PG-13 › S5·V7·L3
9. **The Last Airbender** PG › S1·V5·L1
10. **Predators** R › S2·V10·L8

**Reviewed by WORLD*

MOVIE

Get Low

by Sam Thielman



AARON SCHNEIDER'S clean, laid-back drama *Get Low* has a great advantage: a meaty part for Robert Duvall. Duvall plays Felix Bush—a cranky old cuss who keeps a shotgun handy to scare off the neighborhood children who throw rocks at his ramshackle house in Tennessee.

When one of his old friends dies, Bush realizes that he, too, is getting on up there in years. He sets out to purchase himself a funeral, to be held as soon as possible so he can attend it himself.

This strikes folks as odd, not least of whom is the pastor of the local church (the first person Bush tries to get a funeral party out of). The preacher knows something about Bush and asks him pointedly if he's been forgiven.

Bush doesn't answer, and the clergyman tells him the truth: "Forgiveness is free, Mr. Bush. But you have to ask for it." We do find out why Bush needs forgiveness, and that scene gets the movie its PG-13 rating, but there's little swearing and only some mild discussion of infidelity—all in the context of the pain it inflicts on its participants.

Thus spurned, Bush opts for a less churchy funeral, to be put on by Frank Quinn (a very funny Bill Murray), the town mortician who can't wait to overcharge his new client ("Ooh. Hermit money!").

At first, Quinn's junior partner, Buddy, feels bad about taking advantage of the older man, but as the reasons for Bush's self-imposed exile begin to make themselves known, he sees that his client may understand more than he lets on.

Get Low is not a perfect movie (for one thing, it's a Depression-era period piece in which everything looks brand new), but it has some truly splendid moments, especially the climax.

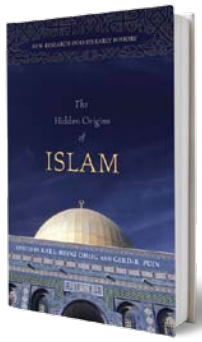
At the end of the film, Duvall finally tells us why his character felt the need to cut himself off from the world. Guided by director Aaron Schneider, it's a beautiful piece of acting and it's also a smart demonstration of the preacher's point about the healing power of confession.

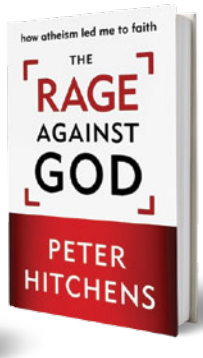
TOP: DIYAH PERA/UNIVERSAL PICTURES. BOTTOM: ZANUCK INDEPENDENT/LARA ENTERPRISES

The race is on

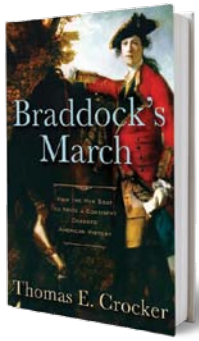
Books analyze the crises within both Islam and the continent it is trying to subdue

BY MARVIN OLASKY





IN PREPARATION for the fall political season, Obama-blasting books are pouring forth: Ken Blackwell and Ken Klukowski's solid *The Blueprint* (Lyons, 2010), Aaron Klein's overwrought *The Manchurian President* (WND, 2010), and Robert Knight's succinct and lucid *Radical Rulers: The White House Elites Who Are Pushing America Toward Socialism* (Coral Ridge, 2010).



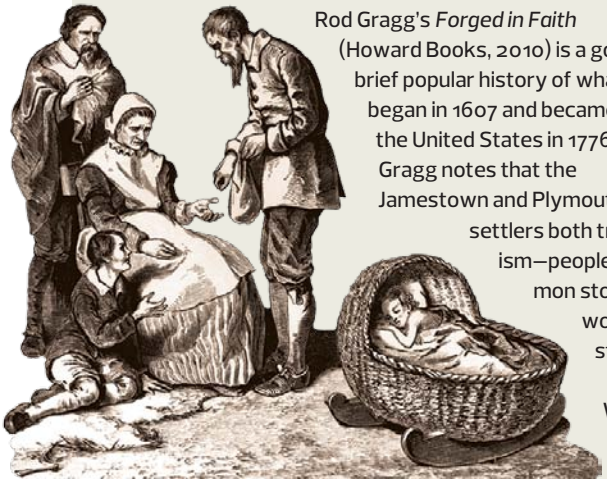
Oddly, the administration in Washington is cranking up the pro-Muslim rhetoric as Islam's cultural, political, and economic distress deepens. Iraqi leader Ali Allawi examines the deep malaise in his scholarly *The Crisis of Islamic Civilization* (Yale Univ. Press, 2009). Another academic book, *The Hidden Origins of Islam* (Prometheus; edited by Karl-Heinz Ohlig and Gerd R. Puin), presents evidence of deception in Islam's beginnings: Does linguistic analysis disprove its revelation saga? Did Islam begin in a Christian heresy that later morphed into the equivalent of a Muhammad of Arabia movie?

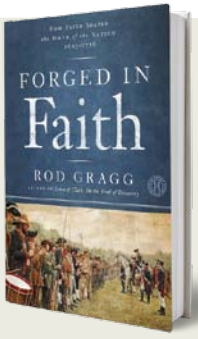
So the race is on: Will Islamic dictatorships crumble first, or will feckless Europe give up? Theodore Dalrymple explains the defeatist impulse in *The New Vichy Syndrome: Why European Intellectuals Surrender to Barbarism* (Encounter, 2010). This is the time for Christians to ratchet up the pressure on a false religion, so we need to know our adversaries: Andrew McCarthy's *The Grand Jihad: How Islam and the Left Sabotage America* (Encounter, 2010) is a useful introduction. If we are unprepared, we may meet disaster: *Braddock's March* by Thomas Crocker (Westholme, 2010) shows with great specific detail how the arrogance of a British general in 1755 led to a massacre.

Will media leaders help us avoid a debacle? Sadly, they are normally on the left, following the trail blazed by Joseph Pulitzer, who died 99 years ago; James McGrath Morris' new 558-page biography, *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power* (HarperCollins, 2010), is about 500 pages too long, but it has all the details a press historian might want. Will scientists lead the way? Many are herd creatures, as Roy Spencer's *The Great Global Warming Blunder* (Encounter, 2010) shows (see p. 48).

Meanwhile, angry atheists march on, as Peter Hitchens shows in *The Rage Against God* (Zondervan, 2010), a thoughtful memoir plus a critique of the views of the author's brother, Christopher. Incidentally, Christopher Hitchens now has cancer of the esophagus; please pray for him. Also pray for the revivals that are creating a Christian boom in Asia, Africa, and South America: Mark Shaw in *Global Awakening* (IVP Academic, 2010) surveys the 20th-century revivals on these continents.

Socialist tests





Rod Gragg's *Forged in Faith* (Howard Books, 2010) is a good, brief popular history of what began in 1607 and became the United States in 1776. Gragg notes that the Jamestown and Plymouth settlers both tried socialism—people could take from a common store regardless of their work effort—and almost starved to death.

He quotes Pilgrim William Bradford's note that some colonists believed the taking away of property, and bringing community into a common wealth, would make them happy and flourishing"—but the experiment instead bred "confusion & discontent, and retarded much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort."

Bradford recorded the colonists' switch to private property and the result: "This had very good success for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Government or any other could use." Barack Obama and associates should take that message to heart.

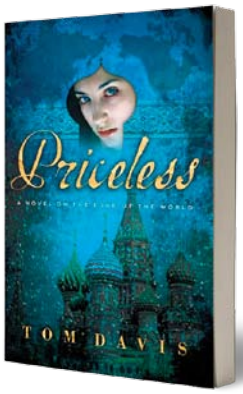
Some other worthwhile books on the Pilgrims and Puritans include: Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower*; Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints*; Perry Miller, ed., *The American Puritans: Their Prose and Poetry*; J.I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*; and Gerald R. McDermott, *Jonathan Edwards Confronts the Gods*. –M.O.

JAMESTOWN-MPI/STRINGER/GETTY IMAGES

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NOTABLE BOOKS

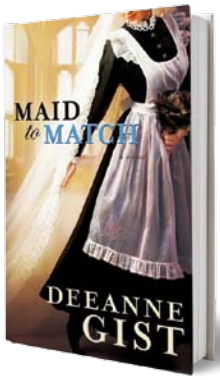
Four Christian novels › reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY



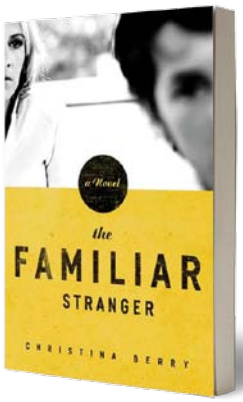
Priceless *Tom Davis*

Part thriller, part primer on child sex slavery, *Priceless* features a photojournalist who goes to Moscow on an assignment. The fluent Russian speaker has friends in Moscow from previous visits. They recruit him to help rescue young girls by going undercover and pretending to be a buyer for a club back in America. He weighs his responsibility to his wife and young daughter at home, and to the girls he might be able to save. When the plan goes awry, he finds himself in a desperate place. The book balances its dark themes and gritty substance with evidence that God is working even in the grimmest circumstances.

Maid to Match *Deeanne Gist*



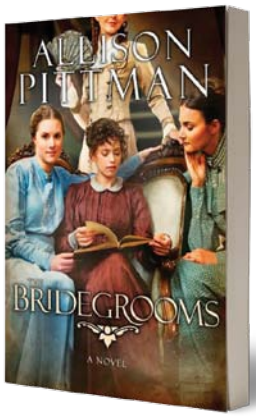
An old-fashioned historical romance novel set at Biltmore, the Vanderbilt estate outside Asheville, N.C., *Maid to Match* offers a little love, a little bit of history, and just enough evil-doing to make the plot go. When Biltmore's new mistress needs a lady's maid, Tillie Reese is one of the two candidates. If she gets the job, it would be a crowning achievement, fulfilling both her own and her mother's dreams. Her attraction to Mack, the new useful man, threatens the dream. Mack wants both to woo her and to rescue his sister from an orphanage under the care of a wicked man with a shiny exterior. The book offers an admiring look at Biltmore and its technological bells and whistles.



The Familiar Stranger *Christina Berry*

Craig wakes up one Sunday morning and tells his wife he's not going to church, a surprise move since he's a deacon. Instead he's going hiking, or is he? There's a car accident leaving one man dead and Craig in a medically induced coma. When he awakes he can't remember anything, including his family. For his wife Denise, the accident is a blessing. It's disturbing that her husband can't remember her or their two sons, but he's so much nicer than the pre-accident Craig. As he gets his strength back, secrets from his prior life emerge and threaten the new-found family harmony. For those willing to suspend disbelief, the book offers an equal dose of intrigue and romance.

The Bridegrooms *Allison Pittman*



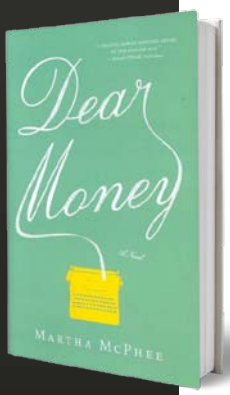
In Cleveland at the end of the 19th century, a doctor and his four almost-grown daughters hardly miss the wife and mother who abandoned them 18 years earlier. Things get more interesting for the Allenhouses when a baseball fan takes a line drive to the face. His teammates bring the unconscious man to the doctor's house, where the sisters care for him. The slugger who hit the ball and the fielder who should have caught it hang around and flirt with the daughters. Romance is in the air, but so is trouble, in the face of the man who took away their mother. It's a romance novel, so everything turns out OK in the end as the sisters each find true love.



HANDOUT

SPOTLIGHT

Martha McPhee's astute novel *Dear Money* (Houghton Mifflin, 2010) is a penetrating look at avarice. Protagonist India Palmer, a critically acclaimed mid-list novelist, is married to a struggling artist. Her books get reviewed in the right magazines, but they don't sell enough copies to pay for the lifestyle she covets. Then she makes a friend who is married to a banker, and her coveting takes flight. Wealthier friends choose private schools for their children; India and her husband do the same. India then *needs* certain clothes, birthday presents, parties—and soon she and her husband are in debt. When she meets a rich and bored bond trader who is looking for a challenge—he wants to turn her into a trader in 18 months—she takes him up on the offer, leaves her writing career behind, and jumps into big-stakes trading. McPhee captures the risk-fueled energy of the trading floor and the way small choices have huge consequences. The book ends months before the crash of 2007.



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More than a brain

Controversial theologian N.T. WRIGHT is also a father, a pastor, and a teacher **BY MARVIN OLASKY**

THE BOOKS of N.T. Wright, the Anglican bishop of Durham, England, and one of the world's leading theologians, are influential.* His ideas, particularly his work on "the new perspective on Paul," are controversial. Interviewers normally treat him as if he were a disembodied intellect, a brain on a stick. I don't want to ignore the controversy about his writing, but those debates are widely available elsewhere—so I asked questions about his life. The following is an edited version of some questions and answers.

How did you feel called as a child to go into Christian ministry? I grew up in a very ordinary English middle-of-the-road Anglican family, so church was just part of the scene. When I was 6, 7, or 8, I remember a very intense experience. I must have heard a sermon or sung a hymn or something, but it suddenly all made sense about Jesus dying for me. I had a sense of overwhelming love and gratitude, and said, this is it, this is how my life is going to be shaped.

And at age 12 you went to summer camp. Somebody invited me to a holiday boys' camp where we climbed mountains, canoed, stuff like that—and where there were morning and evening prayers. Very short and basic, but one of the leaders would give a simple talk on a passage of Scripture. It was the kind of thing I was absolutely ready for. I started reading the Bible regularly, and without knowing it was absorbed into a much more overtly and explicit evangelical way of doing things.

You married right after your graduation from Oxford. How did marriage and four children within seven years affect your thinking? I had to relate my theology to the real issues of what it means to have a young family. Most of my life I've been either in the church world or the junior academic world, in neither of which you make a lot of money. When we bought our first house, in Canada, the mortgage rates were 24 percent, and knowing what one now knows, that is just crippling for a young family.

How did you raise your children? We had a lot of fun and played a lot of games, but sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. When you find that the telephone bill comes in with a 3½-hour phone call, there are some questions to be asked—"What precisely was this about?"—about the cost and the exam that the person had to do the next day. It was never a list of rules. It was, "We're in this together, and we're trying to make it work." Sometimes I would just sit down with them when they were grumbling because there wasn't enough money for what they wanted to do, and say, "Here's our family balance sheet. This is what we've spent this month; here's what's come in; you tell me what things we should have cut in order to give you more cash."

How did you teach your children about Jesus? We took them to church. We had a children's Bible and we would take turns reading and saying a prayer about things with them. That was a part of our life. I think there were times when I tried to be a bit more formal and do something more solid, but we moved house so often, and they would be moving schools, and our family life would be so disrupted that it wasn't ever easy to settle down and say, "This is our pattern," because soon we'd be off and doing something else.

You mentioned in one place the regular comment of your children, "Dad, you're going to have to say it clearer than that in order to get hold of me." Particularly when they were in the 8 to 18 range, we'd be discussing something at a meal and I would launch in to try and explain something, and they would stop me in full flight and just say, "Sorry, Dad, I just don't know what that language means."

You developed your most significant insights into Jesus while teaching at McGill in the early 1980s? I was lecturing on Jesus and the Gospels that semester at McGill. I started getting really interested in the history of the first century in general, and in putting Jesus within that history as a real human being. That was enormously exciting. My second year at McGill I was teaching a course which was basically about that, and I was unprepared for it in the sense that I didn't know where it was going. There were no major books that I was following. I was feeling my way forwards in the dark, really. I kept week-by-week reading texts that I knew, but from a different angle, a historical angle, and seeing that they all fitted together. They didn't diminish the theology, but rather brought it up in three dimensions. And that was tremendously exciting.

You've said, "If today I manage to function as a pastor, it is not least because I know something about pain." Yes. One discovers, if you go through whatever it is, pain in your family, pain in health—if you're honest, you quickly realize that being human is a very fragile thing, a very vulnerable thing. We are all like that. I was college chaplain in Oxford for many years after we came back from McGill. Often it was the students who would seem to have the most friends, be the most full of life and laughter—they would be the ones who would come into my room, burst into tears and tell me that actually this was all a façade.

You could sympathize with their anguish. I have



MAX NASH/AP

*Wright is retiring as bishop on Aug. 31 and becoming a professor at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

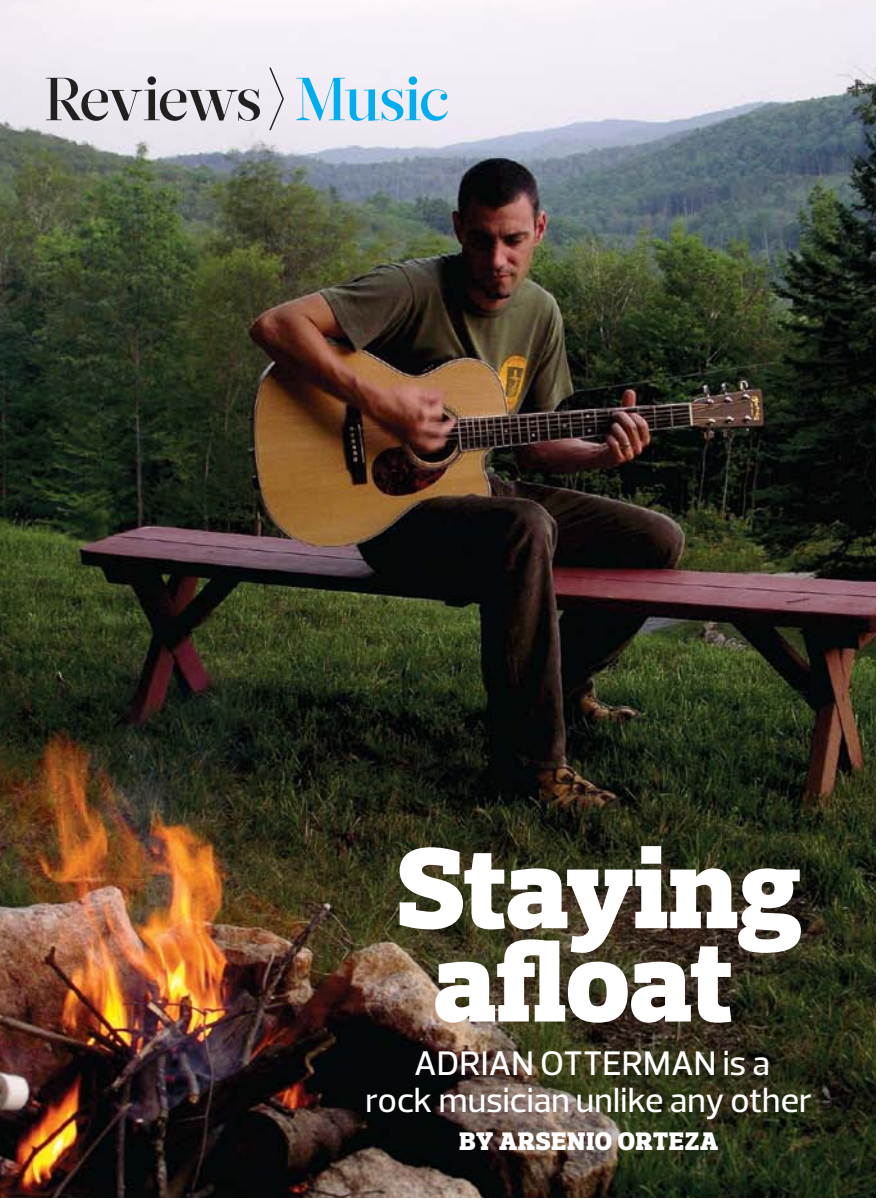


enormous sympathy for that. Part of growing up is to be able to integrate, to face the pain, and to work through it. The New Testament is all about sharing in the sufferings of Christ.

The significant insights you had about Jesus were connected with this suffering? Yes. You can see that in the cry of dereliction on the cross, when He says, "My God, why did You abandon Me?" I don't think that's fake. I think that's absolutely real. And likewise Gethsemane, when He says, "Is this really the way? Please, couldn't we do this differently?" and then in prayer comes to the point where He says, "OK, Your will be done." I don't think that's play-acting.

Jesus knew how hard it would be to have the weight of the world's sins on Him. When Jesus says, "I'm going to be crucified," and Peter says, "No, no, no, You're not. Don't be silly, that'll never happen to You," Jesus says, "Get behind me, *Satan*." I think that isn't just a rebuke to Peter. Jesus knows that this is a temptation that He has had to face and will have to face. So Jesus' embracing the way of the cross is a deeply human thing.

He was fully human. I as a young Christian had just assumed that He was the Son of God and He knew how to die for the sins of the world, so no problem. We go to Jerusalem and we do it, and three days later we'll be back. I really don't think that's what it was like. I think that diminishes His humanness. By learning more about my own humanness I was alerted to the possibility that maybe when the church teaches as it does that Jesus was fully human, that maybe this is part of what that meant.



Staying afloat

ADRIAN OTTERMAN is a rock musician unlike any other

BY ARSENIO ORTEZA

THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE about *Floating in the Whale*, the second self-released album by Adrian Otterman, is its sound.

In an age of digital overcompression and earpiece headphones, Otterman and his band, Over Orange Heights, create music for big speakers, speakers with woofers that can handle a full-bodied bass-drums rumble, tweeters that can handle a razor-sharp high end, and a midrange cone that can handle Otterman's soaring baritone voice.

The second thing you notice is the seven-minute rendition of "Onward Christian Soldiers"—not because of its length or because of the way it builds from a quiet, voice-and-piano beginning to a wailing, electric climax. You notice because it's actually a medley of "Onward Christian Soldiers," Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," and the Blue Oyster Cult's "(Don't Fear) the Reaper."

It's a medley, in other words, unlike any other—and just what you'd expect from Otterman, a rock musician unlike any other.

Born 37 years ago in Vermont and a Christian since the age of 5, Otterman didn't buy his first instrument until after he'd graduated from Villanova University and become a commissioned officer in the Marines. But he was a quick study: By the time he'd begun working as an aviation intelligence officer at the Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro, Calif., he was ready to form a band. "Working at headquarters means you don't deploy much," he told me. "So I actually had a little free time."

The band fizzled, but its attempts at making an album were, according to Otterman, "the beginning of [his] obsession with recording."

Currently he practices law, completing what's probably the least aesthetics-oriented resumé of any artist since Wallace Stevens.

But an artist he is. And after paying dues in local church-sponsored venues—and after learning that Vermont was tied with New Hampshire for the lowest per capita church attendance in the nation—Otterman realized he was almost literally singing to the choir. "There we were," Otterman says, "playing our hearts out for 20 people because nobody 'new' was going to walk through the doors of a church to hear music."

So he built a studio; recruited Bruce Nyquist (cello), Tom Longfellow (drums), Andy O'Connor (guitar, keyboards), and Josh Hayford (bass), aka Over Orange Heights; and wrote and recorded *Floating in the Whale*, an intense, often dark album that Otterman hoped would gain his music a hearing beyond church walls.

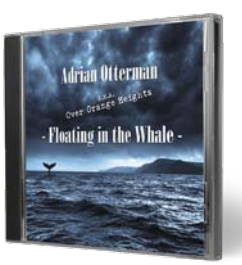
It didn't. "Other than a couple of gigs," says Otterman, "most of the bars or clubs we've contacted have not been interested."

The album did, however, catch the attention of local Christian radio, which, to Otterman's surprise, took to it immediately. "I never imagined," says Otterman, "that the album would resonate within the church."

He was surprised because, not counting "Onward Christian Soldiers," *Floating in the Whale*'s explicitly Christian content is relatively sparse. And what explicit Christian references there are often function as parts of a larger, seeker-friendly puzzle.

Even the implicitly Christian elements—Otterman's singing the title cut from Jonah's point of view, for instance, and the nine-minute "Deny Me" from Jesus' (Matthew 10:33)—will go over the heads of the biblically illiterate.

Otterman suspects it was the album's somewhat anachronistic progressive folk-rock style rather than its content that kept it from opening doors.



So he's working on a follow-up that he describes as a "fun, cello-laced rock album with blistering lead guitar solos, big vocals, and pounding drums that anyone who likes music can enjoy."

"Who knows?" he says. "If they like it enough, they just might be willing to give a listen to *Floating in the Whale*."

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HANDOUT

NOTABLE CDs

Five new or recent classical releases 〉 reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



Metropolis Symphony

Michael Daugherty

An advantage of composing symphonies based on pop-cultural icons is that even hoi polloi will get the point. *Deus ex Machina* is Daugherty's impressive three-movement celebration of the train, from its beginnings as a symbol of unlimited potential to its last days as a soon-to-be superseded relic. But it's in the whirling, swirling, five-movement *Metropolis Symphony* that Daugherty's gift for rendering iconography in music comes to the fore. The subject is Superman (DC Comics, not Nietzsche), and seldom have truth, justice, and the American way felt so exciting.

Vocal Music *Barbara Harbach*

With a composer as diverse and prolific as Barbara Harbach, it's hard to know where to start. *Vocal Music* is only one of three Harbach albums to have come out recently (*Chamber Music II* and *Toccatas, Flourishes & Fugues* are the other two), and it would be oversimplifying to say that it's the "best" of the three. But by serving as an exhilaratingly lyrical vehicle for the exhilaratingly lyrical soprano Stella Markou, it presents a hitherto underexposed side of Harbach's prodigious compositional gifts in a most flattering light.





Illumine Our Hearts

Sursum Corda

One way to describe this collection of mostly a cappella choral music is by quoting its subtitle: "Liturgical and Secular Jewish Choral Music." Another is by noting that even the secular selections sound liturgical. Sometimes they're practically one and the same. Alexander Olshanetsky's pre–World War II "Vilne," for instance, may have been named after a city in Lithuania, but the reason the city looms large in Jewish memory was its being the site of Talmudic learning. And, of course, the sacred songs are sacred to Christians as well.

Scarborough Fair *Bryn Terfel*

Rock 'n' roll fans who first encountered the Irish folk songs "Carrickfergus," "She Moved Through the Fair," and "My Lagan Love" on Van Morrison's *Irish Heartbeat* will be pleasantly surprised to learn that, coming from this operatic Welsh baritone, not only do those songs hold up but they also acquire extra grandeur. Next, Morrison fans will warm up to the equally grand obscure material (e.g., "Cariad Cyntaf," "Marwnad Yr Ehedydd"). As for "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," "Danny Boy," and the title cut, they merely hold up.



RICHARD HAUGHTON



SPOTLIGHT

"Writing about music," someone once said, "is like dancing about architecture." If so, then what to make of *Madhares* (ECM), an album of compositions by the Austrian composer **Thomas Larcher**, the very liner notes of which describe its music in architectural terms? "The 'space' of the piano concerto *Böse Zellen* (Malign Cells)," writes Friederike Gösweiner, "could be compared to a dark steel construction divided into numerous smaller tonal entities . . . placed next to and above each other like a honeycomb . . . that the listener enters, only ever passing through one at a time. . . ."



For non-architecture majors, it's Gösweiner's pointing out that *Böse Zellen* was inspired by a Barbara Albert film that may prove most useful. As performed by the Quatuor Diotima, the ECM contractees Till Fellner and Kim Kashkashian, and, on the two-movement *Still*, Larcher himself, these taut, at times almost violently dramatic pieces evoke nothing so much as Bernard Herrmann's soundtrack music for Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and *The Birds*.

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TALK TALK TALK TALK TALK

Recovering the lost art of true and civilized conversation

SOMETIMES OUR NATIONAL CONVERSATION comes off paltry—how much did Sarah Palin pay for the suit and pumps?—and sometimes it turns substantive, even sublime. Today we find ourselves often in the latter mode (bluster over the iPhone's controversial antenna or the pace of the Obamas' vacation aside). Dominating the national conversation are mid-term elections, taxes, rising healthcare costs, unemployment benefits, energy policy in the wake of an oil disaster, the conduct of war, safety for children in the womb—in short, important issues that matter to most of us.

So why is so much of the national conversation so unhelpful? Why do we end debates with neighbors, restaurant encounters with friends, 20 minutes before a newscast, or a half-hour scrolling Facebook feeling deflated rather than elevated, or, if we're honest, smug rather than smarter?

Americans have become notably loose in conversation. Emoticons and abbreviations (I recently heard a dignified woman in her 70s use "omg" in an otherwise important discussion) replace thoughtfulness and articulation. Our attention spans are shorter; we want our colleagues to get to the point and our focus wanders until they do. For decades, the "express yourself" mantra has so overpowered what used to be called civilized discourse that our generation excels most at the one-way conversation—typified on what are called (without irony) social networking sites.

It used to be different. *Conversation* in mid-14th century Old French meant "living together, having dealings with others," a "manner of conducting oneself in the world" or of exercising what then were considered the privileges of citizenship. It implied intimacy and also some friction, borrowing the Latin root *vetere*, from which we also derive the word *versus*. So intense was its connotation that from the 16th century *conversation* was used as a synonym for sexual intercourse; in the 18th century "criminal conversation" was a legal term meaning adultery.

Today we have bowdlerized its connotation by shallower means. After critics nailed Sarah Palin for using the word *refudiate* on Twitter she tried this recovery: "look it up in a fictionary." Later (having removed both entries from her account), she tweeted, "'Refudiate,' 'misunderestimate,' 'wee-wee'd up.' English is a living language. Shakespeare liked to coin new words too. Got to celebrate it!" So from one summer to the next, from a Republican hopeful to a sitting president, we have what passes for national conversation and prefer our children not imitate it.

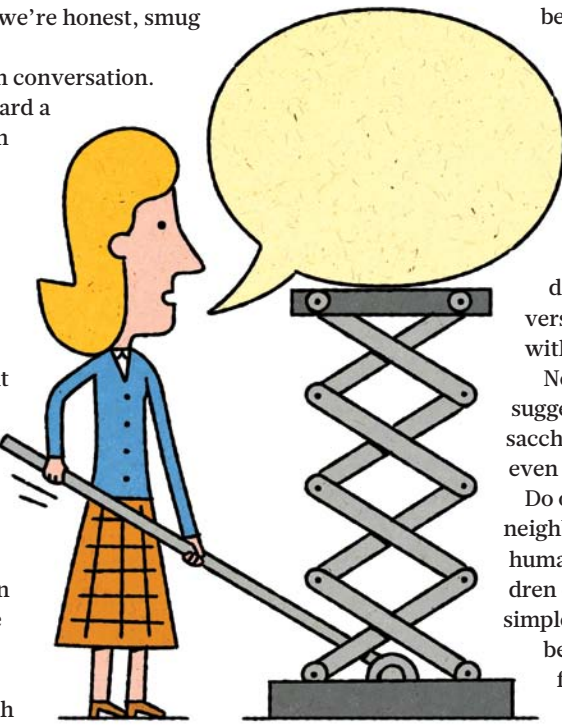
I imagine no one more earthy, connected, or passionate in conversation than Jesus. Or perhaps Paul, who was passionate not only about the content of conversation but the manner of it: "Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers" (2 Timothy 2:14). Or, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person" (Colossians 4:6). Yet I imagine both possessed skill, something 21st-century followers of Christ sometimes don't rightly prize.

Charles Spurgeon said skilled conversation should be easy: It should "be such as becometh the gospel of Christ." The 19th-century Baptist preacher described its characteristics as *simple* (think straightforward), *pre-eminently true*, *fearless*, *very gentle*, *very loving*, and *holy*—and he concluded, "We must strive day by day to let our conversation be more in accordance with His gospel."

Neither Paul nor Spurgeon suggests that conversation be saccharine. But if it is to be salty, even crude, let it be for a reason!

Do our conversations with Muslim neighbors, everyday store clerks, humanistic in-laws, teens, and children everywhere bear Spurgeon's simple characteristics? Do they begin with love for God and love for neighbors as ourselves?

Let's talk.



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THE CHALLENGER'S CHALLENGE

MARCO RUBIO and his conservative ideas have shaken up the Florida GOP. Now he's in a neck-and-neck race for a U.S. Senate seat and a chance to shake up Washington

BY EDWARD LEE PITTS IN PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLA.

At a July 15 town hall meeting at Sonny's bar-b-q in Panama City Beach, Fla., Sizzlin' Sweet Sauce on Smokey Ribs is just one of the hot items confronting Republican U.S. Senate hopeful Marco Rubio.

Rubio began his presentation by promising the packed lunchtime crowd he wanted to listen more than talk. Now he is getting an earful. "Sir, I'm a 30-year veteran of the U.S. government," says former Army soldier and federal marshal employee Joseph Wilds, 51, as he walks toward Rubio. "I've earned the right to speak out."

Wilds, wearing flip-flops and a red, white, and blue Harley-Davidson T-shirt, backs up this right by mentioning his Vietnam veteran father and a World War II veteran grandfather. "How are you, an individual, going to go up there and make changes?"

"Up there" is Congress, where Rubio, just 39, hopes to bolster the Republican minority's conservative wing in the Senate by winning a seat this November. Despite being weary after making five campaign stops in the last 24 hours, Rubio leans into the question with a dark-eyed stare: "There is no way I can do that by myself."

The answer, delivered in the direct manner that Rubio has become known for on the campaign trail, does not stop Wilds, who edges even closer to Rubio. "Most politicians, they say what everybody wants to hear, and then when they get into office they don't hear what we have to say. How are you . . ."

"Different?" Rubio finishes the question. "That question comes up everywhere."

It is a question even Rubio asked of himself more than a year ago when he first decided to challenge moderate Republican Gov. Charlie Crist for the Senate seat of retiring Republican Mel Martinez.

Rubio hit a Florida nerve. He turned Crist's 35-point poll lead (and $4 million fundraising advantage) last summer into a double-digit Rubio lead. The darling of conservatives angry over Republicans' help in growing government, Rubio hit Crist like a hurricane. Crist left the Republican Party in April and began campaigning for the Senate as an Independent.

Rubio's ability to drive a sitting governor from his own party shocked many. And Rubio has kept up his energy this summer: His campaign raised a Florida record $4.5 million in the quarter that ended June 30—that's a million more than Rubio raised in 2010's first quarter. Crist raised $1.8 million for the second quarter.

But Crist's gambit kept him alive. The race is now labeled a toss-up, with Rubio and Crist swapping 2- to 3-percentage-point leads in recent polls. The race's leading Democrat, U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, facing a late and largely self-funded primary challenge from billionaire Jeff Greene, remains more than 20 points behind Rubio and Crist.

While Crist's departure from the GOP ended the intra-party fight, the race's stakes are much higher than the future of one party. "The issue is whether we are going to elect people who are willing to say or do anything to get elected," Rubio told me. "Here you have someone who is so obsessed with winning an election that he will change parties just to get elected. Are we going to reward that kind of behavior?"

Rubio admits that running against the incumbent governor of your own party was not the next logical step up the political ladder. But Rubio decided to take on Crist after three months of soul searching in early 2009, fueled by Crist's warm embrace of President Obama's economic stimulus package.

Rubio turned to faith and family when trying to determine whether he wanted to run for the right reasons. "For those who have the Christian faith and are in politics, there is a constant struggle between a desire to do what is right and how that sometimes may not coincide with what is popular," said Rubio, a Roman Catholic whose family has spent the last six years attending a Miami-area nondenominational church, Christ Fellowship. "I hope that, more often than not, I make the right choice."

Rubio tells voters that he is 100 percent pro-life, adding that he is fine with losing half the voters in Florida over that issue.

Rubio and his wife have four children. During a recent campaign swing through the Florida panhandle, Rubio's 5-year-old son, Anthony, tagged along. Before shaking the hands of those in the room—the first activity of a typical politician—Rubio often led Anthony, toting headphones and a portable DVD player, to a nearby table. At one point, Rubio's speech was interrupted by a tug on his pant leg. Anthony had to go to the bathroom.

"I bet you've never had that happen to a candidate before," Rubio improvised to great applause.

This faith and family foundation comes from Rubio's Cuban exile parents. Born in Miami, Rubio spent his childhood in a working-class neighborhood. His father tended bar. His mother worked in retail and as a maid.

Rubio remembers hearing his father coming in late each night after a 16-hour workday. Leaving for school in the mornings, Rubio would run into his mom returning from an overnight shift as a Kmart stock clerk. Rubio says his parents' story is the "very essence of the American miracle."

"In almost no other nation on earth could I even have the chance to stand here and give you this speech," he told one crowd.

His family's experience instilled in Rubio a passion for America. The promise of America is something he preaches about at every campaign stop, calling the nation the "greatest society in all of human history."

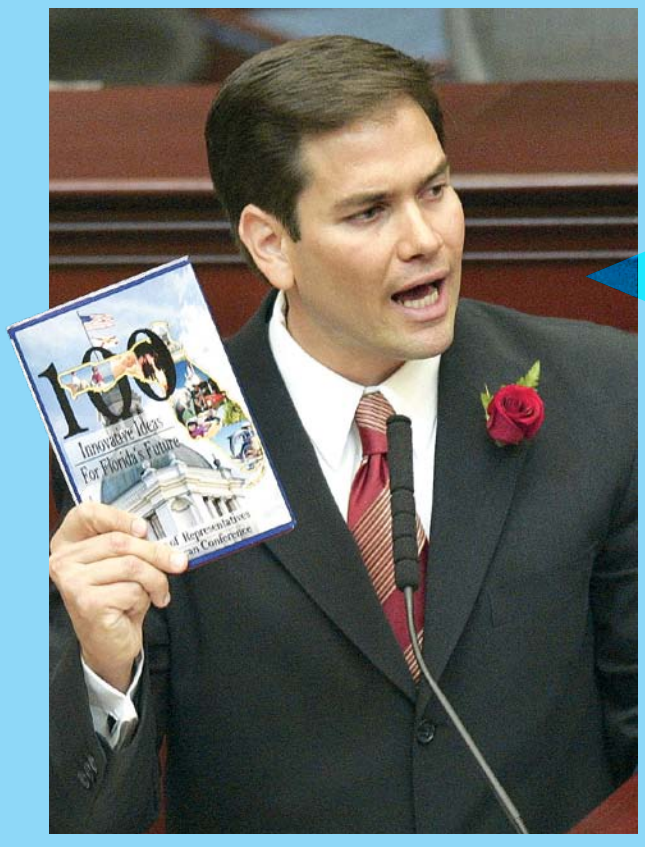
Rubio's humble roots enhance anti-establishment bona fides as he takes on the political class.

Many established Republican leaders in Florida and Washington, including top Senate Republicans Mitch McConnell and John McCain,

HITTING A NERVE: **Rubio fields questions at D'Wons Bayou Buffet in Navarre, Fla., on July 14.**

SANDI KEMP/NAVARRE PRESS; PREVIOUS PAGE: JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES





"For those who have the Christian faith and are in politics, there is a constant struggle between a desire to do what is right and how that sometimes may not coincide with what is popular. . . . I hope that, more often than not, I make the right choice."

endorsed Crist when he first announced his Senate candidacy in May 2009. At the time it may have made sense: Crist, as the sitting governor, had hefty fundraising and organizational machines already in place. He had the experience and name recognition to keep the seat Republican.

But average Florida Republicans, in the face of the stimulus, bailouts, and healthcare overhaul, began to notice Rubio and his limited-government stance. By last August's fiery town hall debates, Rubio, thanks to the growing Tea Party movement, had become the symbol of a new type of politician.

A casual observer could conclude that Rubio got lucky, tapping into the Tea Party's anti-establishment zeitgeist at just the right time. But Rubio had sensed this castigation of the career politician years ago.

Rubio, who received his law degree at the University of Miami, served as a city commissioner for West Miami before winning a seat in the Florida House in 2000 at the age of 29. Entering state politics just as Florida adopted term limits enabled Rubio to rise fast. He became House speaker in 2006, the youngest in the state's history and the first Cuban-American to wield the gavel.

The year before assuming the speakership, Rubio noticed a strong disconnect between the issues dominating politics and the issues discussed around a family's kitchen table. To close that gap, Rubio decided to travel the state to ask voters what they would do in his position. These meetings, called "idea raisers," led to the publication of the booklet *100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future*.

With Rubio as speaker, the Florida House eventually passed all 100 ideas. While many died in the Senate, 57 are now law or policy in Florida. As speaker, Rubio again reached out to voters, traveling the state in a highly publicized but ultimately unsuccessful push for property tax reform. The 100 ideas and the property tax tour put Rubio in front of many Floridians who now participate in the state's Tea Party movement, one of the biggest in the nation.

Now, as Rubio crisscrosses Florida, he tells voters that the government should focus on two things: growing the economy and protecting its people.

He comes armed with applause-generating Washington-attack lines that further enhance his outsider street cred:

"Our federal government isn't just broke, it's broken."

"Washington has not solved a major problem in 30 years."

He blames Congress for the "most anti-business agenda in the modern history of this country," with regulations threatening to make the United States "the greenest Third World country on the planet."

At events Rubio hands out a four-page policy paper, hefty for such rallies. It details 12 ways to grow the nation's economy. Seven of the steps deal with taxes, including extending tax cuts, easing corporate taxes, and permanently ending the estate tax.

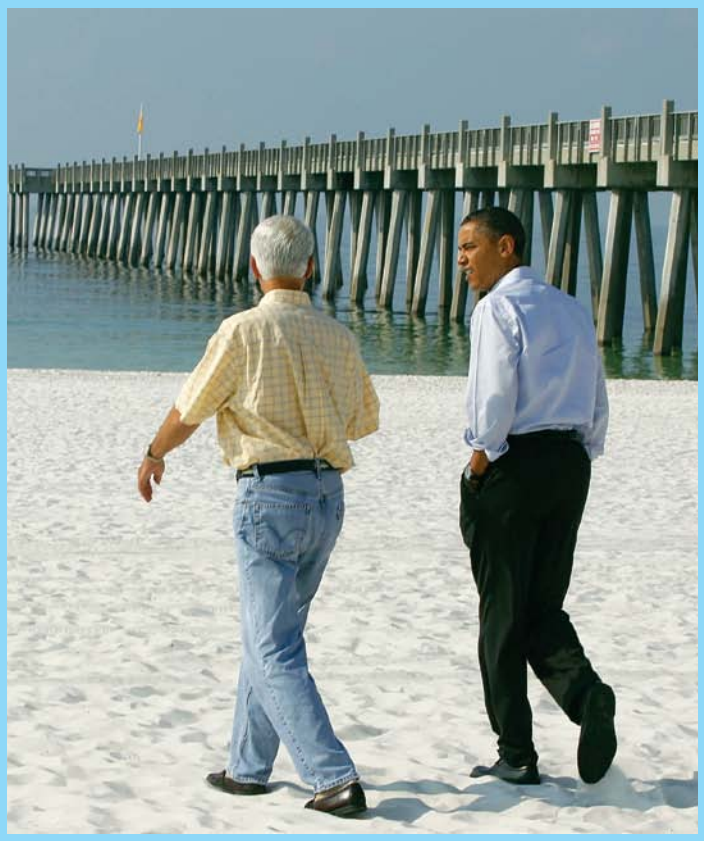
"You should be able to do your taxes in less than five minutes on a sheet of paper the size of a postcard," Rubio repeated in another crowd favorite line.

But beyond the policy proposals, Rubio goes after the makeup of the entrenched politician. He repeatedly derides the "30-second sound bite" mentality of politics. With the Gulf oil

PHIL COALE/AP







NEW TYPE OF POLITICIAN: State House Speaker Rubio with *100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future* in 2005; signing U.S. Senate election documents, surrounded by family on April 27, 2010; Obama and Crist on Pensacola Beach observing the effects of the BP oil spill on June 15, 2010; with Crist in 2007 (clockwise from far left).

spill giving Crist a higher profile as governor, Rubio denounced lawmakers for politicizing the disaster by strolling the beach with a platoon of photographers.

Rubio seems to practice what he preaches. At events he bypasses any colorful or humorous opening anecdotes. Instead he barrels right into Washington's problems, speaking with a sense of urgency.

The Florida Panhandle may be a Republican stronghold in what remains a very purple state, but people here seem both drawn to Rubio and eager for him to take on the title that would come with victory. "*Senator*, can I go ahead and say it?" asked one participant at a Panama City Beach forum. He hopes it is not too early to address Rubio as part of what is often called the world's most exclusive club.

"It's going to be 'Marco' no matter what," Rubio shot back, seemingly not tempted by the title.

Rubio portrays himself as the everyman antidote to the current ruling class. It seems to be working. His appeal extends to the internet where he has more than 100,000 Facebook friends compared to Crist's 27,000.

"Marco is not too proud to shop at Wal-Mart," said Dave Murzin, a Republican state representative from Pensacola who served alongside Rubio. That would be a stark contrast in a Senate where senators have an average net worth of $14 million.

Because of this connection, voters easily cry out to Rubio about their fears.

At a Navarre, Fla., pizza place, Susan Berel, a 44-year-old accountant, shook both her arms at Rubio:

"We are dying here, and not just here . . . the whole country," she pleaded. "Are you willing to get yourself up there and say, 'This is unacceptable'?" Elsewhere a 60-year-old fisherman hoped Rubio "will think about us" in Washington, while a grandfather hoisted his granddaughter above his shoulders and proclaimed that she is what November's elections are about.

"You want to keep that sentiment close to you because it will serve as a reminder," Rubio told me. "If I get to Washington, D.C., I will have to fight every day the temptation to become a part of that culture."

At the end of Rubio's BBQ event, I ran outside to catch Wilds, the man who asked Rubio the tough questions. Wilds, who served 18 years in the Army and a dozen years as a federal marshal, admitted that he would probably vote for Rubio. But he still had doubts: "He can't go up there and change things all by himself."

Changing Washington's culture surely is not a one-person job. And it remains to be seen whether Rubio's outsider message will appeal beyond the state's conservative voters.

Al Castro, a 75-year-old Puerto-Rican American, ordered his food to go at a Pensacola seafood house when he heard Rubio would be speaking in the next room. After Rubio's appearance, Castro seemed satisfied. "I think he will be a thorn in Obama's saddle," he said.

That may have to be good enough for now.



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TOP LEFT: JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES. BOTTOM LEFT: ZUMA/NEWSCOM. RIGHT: CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP



Silence equals death



Activists say the downplaying of human rights concerns by the Obama administration has not led to better relations with the world's most violent regimes

BY JAMIE DEAN

When six Chinese security officials arrived at Yu Jie's front door in the Chaoyang District on July 5, the dissident writer was editing an article with a lengthy but provocative title: "Terminating the State Security Bureau is the First Step Toward a Lasting Good Social Order."

The article is part of a book Yu plans to release through a Hong Kong publisher. The book—*China's Best Actor: Wen Jiabao*—is a criticism of the Chinese premier that won't find a willing publisher in the state-controlled environment of China's communist regime.

As security officials whisked Yu to an interrogation room at the nearby Dougezhuang Police Station, the outspoken Christian says he offered a simple prayer: "Almighty Lord, please grant me courage and wisdom to say what I should say, remain silent on what I should not say, and defeat the darkness and the evil."

Call it the dissident's prayer: It's a plea echoed by endangered activists all over China and other oppressive regimes. But it's also the dissident's prod: Yu's prayer serves as a spur for leaders in free countries to speak wisely on behalf of those otherwise silenced by oppressive governments.

More than 18 months after President Barack Obama took office, Yu and other human activists say the prodding isn't working. They say that the Obama administration has made a slow start on human rights, and that U.S. officials are reluctant to speak publicly about specific cases, even as officials in high-profile regimes like China and Iran continue to commit egregious abuses against their own citizens.

Human rights activists worry that the low-key approach could leave thousands suffering in silence, with little open objection from the outside world. Foreign policy experts warn that the approach could undermine U.S. foreign policy instead of bolstering better relations with harsh regimes that show little willingness to change.

The U.S. government has a long history of defending dissent. Six of the most famous words uttered by President Ronald Reagan rang in the ears of some 20,000 Germans gathered in 1987 at the Berlin Wall. Addressing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Reagan demanded: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

More than 20 years later, Yu doesn't expect a similar challenge to China from Obama. In an article recounting his recent interrogation by Chinese security officials, Yu quotes one Chinese officer telling him: "Since Obama came to power, the American embassy no longer keeps in touch with you. America is not reliable."

Yu says he told the officer he would criticize communism regardless of American policy toward China, but conceded: "Since Obama became president, he hasn't cared about Chinese human rights issues."

TERROR IN TEHRAN: Iranian security forces on motorcycles surround and beat opposition protesters on Dec. 27, 2009.
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton didn't help that perception during her first visit to China last year. The top U.S. diplomat told reporters that human rights were important, but that those issues couldn't interfere with such issues as the economy, security, and global warming.

Obama improved the rhetoric during a trip to China last November, briefly speaking of the value of "universal rights," but the president avoided publicly addressing specific cases of abuse or holding meetings with dissidents, breaking with a common practice of President George W. Bush. A White House official told reporters that Obama privately spoke about several dissidents' cases with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The U.S. State Department also seems to prefer private talks with the Chinese government, though officials have publicly mentioned at least two dissident cases: Jon Huntsman, the U.S. ambassador to China, has publicly called for the release of Liu Xiaobo, a Chinese dissident sentenced to 11 years in prison for co-authoring the Charter 08 petition for political freedom.

Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner told reporters in May that U.S. officials had also spoken with the Chinese government about Gao Zhisheng—a high-profile human rights lawyer seized by authorities in 2009. Gao's fate remains unclear.

But for every Liu and Gao, there are many more political prisoners remaining in Chinese prisons. Posner declined to mention other specific cases in his May press conference, saying only that U.S. officials prefer to raise the issues in private.

It's not that the State Department doesn't know about the abuses. In its 2009 annual report, the department catalogued a series of Chinese abuses, including "extrajudicial killings, executions without due process, torture and coerced confessions of prisoners, and use of forced labor."

The report included names of the dead: Li Qiaoming, a prisoner reportedly beaten to death in Yunnan Province; Li Wenyan, a prisoner who died in Jiangxi Province after officials neglected a series of health problems; Phuntsok Rabten, a Tibetan monk beaten to death by police in Sichuan Province.

The report also chronicled the missing: Julius Jia Zhiguo, an underground Catholic bishop arrested in March 2009; underground Catholic priests Zhang Li and Zhang Jianlin, detained by authorities in 2008; and Wu Qinjing, the bishop of Zhouzhi in Shaanxi Province, detained in 2007.

Human rights groups have chronicled other abuses in China, including the imprisonment of leaders of the Linfen Church in Shanxi Province. The U.S.-based ChinaAid reports that at least 10 leaders of the Christian church remain in prison and labor camps after their arrests last October.

Trouble began for the Linfen Church in September when some 400 officials and hired workers raided the church's construction site and severely injured more than 20 members. The church reported massive destruction by officials: destroyed buildings, looted property, smashed appliances, and destroyed personal belongings. ChinaAid reported that a mob reduced the church building to rubble.

Officials arrested church leaders on charges ranging from "disturbing the social order" to "unlawfully occupying agricultural land." A Chinese court sentenced pastor Yang Rongli to seven years in prison. The court sentenced four other leaders to sentences ranging from three years to five years and six months in prison. Officials sentenced five other leaders to two years of "re-education through labor." ChinaAid is assisting with appeals but reports that the process is moving slowly, and that prison conditions are worsening.

Freedom House—a human rights group in Washington—reported a string of human rights abuses by the Chinese government in its annual report and noted a troubling trend: "While these acts of repression are disturbing, so is the absence of protest from the democratic world."

The group noted that abuses of dissidents in the Soviet Union once drew widespread condemnation from international leaders: "China's current actions, by contrast, elicit little more than boilerplate criticism."



Human rights advocates have leveled similar charges against the Obama administration's approach to Iran. After hundreds of thousands of Iranian protesters poured into the streets of Tehran after dubious presidential elections last summer, Iranian officials violently cracked down, killing as many as 200 citizens and detaining as many as 4,000 demonstrators.

As the so-called "velvet revolution" unfolded, marking the largest outcry against the ruthless regime in 30 years, Obama was slow to voice support for dissidents, drawing criticism from human rights activists. The president said he wanted to avoid becoming a foil for Iranian forces in an internal conflict.

That conflict continued to unfold, and the U.S. State Department chronicled Iranian abuses in its 2009 report, despite the administration's restrained approach. The report cited a litany of severe Iranian abuses: "The government executed numerous persons for criminal convictions as juveniles and after unfair trials. Security forces were implicated in custodial deaths and the killings of elections protesters and other acts of politically motivated violence, including torture, beatings, and rape. . . . Authorities held political prisoners and intensified a crackdown against women's rights reformers, ethnic minority rights activists, student activists, and religious minorities."

In May, Freedom House condemned the execution of five more political prisoners and said dozens more are on death row. Golnaz Esfandiari—an Iranian journalist for Radio Free Europe—told the Heritage Foundation in June: "Iran today is a prison."

The Obama administration's reluctance to speak forcefully about human rights abuses in Iran is likely tied to efforts to persuade the regime to back off its development of nuclear weapons. So far, it isn't working: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad remains defiant and continues development.

Jim Phillips—senior research fellow for Middle Eastern Affairs at the Heritage Foundation—says that the administration's reluctance to address human rights abuses in Iran is "due to expediency and wishful thinking." He adds: "It undermines an opportunity to make it clear that we're on the side of the Iranian people."

Political considerations also likely undergird the administration's muted approach to human rights in other regimes: China holds a massive chunk of American debt and remains a key player in the global economy. Obama also promised an open-handed approach if harsh governments would unclench their fists. So far, fists remain clenched in regions around the world, including parts of Africa, Russia, Asia, and the Middle East.

Human rights activists say that speaking publicly about specific cases—and offering assistance to pro-democracy groups in oppressed countries—bolsters beleaguered dissidents and strengthens America's ability to continue to advocate for justice in severe cases of abuse.





ACTS OF REPRESSION: **Injured members of the Linfen church (left) and the demolished construction site (right).**

In a July speech in the U.S. House, Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., called for the Obama administration to "find its voice" on human rights, and said he recently met with two human rights lawyers visiting the United States for legal training: "The lawyers said quite pointedly that their lives improve, and those of their cohorts in prison or facing pressure by the Chinese government, when the West speaks out for their plight and raises their cases by name."

Other dissidents agree. Adrian Hong—a Chinese activist imprisoned in 2006 for helping North Koreans escape the country—spoke at an April conference for dissidents at the Bush Institute in Texas. Hong told former President George W. Bush: "When I was released [after 10 days] I was told that it was because of very strong messaging from the White House and the culture you set."

Syrian dissident Ahed Al-Hendi told the gathering that human rights advocacy had declined since Bush's departure: "In Syria, when a single dissident was arrested during the administration of George W. Bush, at the very least the White House spokesman would condemn it. Under the Obama administration—nothing."

Wolf says that sluggishness over human rights is part of a "bipartisan apathy," and he calls for more action from both Democrats and Republicans. But he says Obama must set the tone for an effective human rights agenda: "It's got to come from the top."

Hillary Clinton showed a willingness to help set the tone during a July visit to Vietnam. The secretary of state publicly expressed concerns about intolerance for dissent, and she called on the deputy prime minister, Pham Gia Khiem, to promote greater freedoms in a country full of human rights abuses and oppression of religious freedom.

Groups like the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom are waiting to see if the State Department is willing to take the next step: adding Vietnam to its list of countries of particular concern for human rights abuses.

Back in China, Yu—the dissident writer—is concerned about his future, but determined to continue speaking out against communism and to advocate for religious freedom. When a security official urged Yu to back off his Christian activities and said he should obey the Bible's command to submit to authority, Yu says he replied: "We must obey God rather than men."

Harry Wu—founder of the D.C.-based Laogai Research Foundation—says his group is committed to helping Yu continue to write and publish. Wu is concerned about his friend, but he says Yu is "a very courageous man." He hopes that the United States will speak more openly about abuses in China and for cases like Yu: "Why do we keep quiet?"

CHINA AID & VOICE OF CHINA NETWORK



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Bad connections

A former lawmaker pleads guilty to illegally lobbying on behalf of a charity with terrorism ties—and sweeps up the Fellowship in the controversy **BY EMILY BELZ IN WASHINGTON**



In 2004, Mark Siljander, a former Michigan congressman and a UN ambassador in the Reagan administration, told his friends and colleagues he was writing a book. He didn't tell them that he was also illegally lobbying the U.S. government on behalf of a Sudan-based charity that the U.S. Treasury had added to its list of sponsors of international terrorism, the Islamic American Relief Agency (IARA).

On July 7, 2010, Siljander pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and operating as an unregistered foreign agent. (Lobbyists have to register with the Justice Department.) Under the plea the government is likely to drop other charges of money laundering and conspiracy, but he faces up to 15 years in federal prison without parole and a fine of up to $500,000. No sentencing date will be set, according to the Justice Department, until it has completely finished investigating the case.

But the Siljander case is not just about crime; it is also about religion. Part of how Siljander ended up lobbying for an Islamic group may have been his desire to build bridges to powerful Muslim leaders in foreign countries. In this, Siljander found common cause with the Fellowship, a shadowy Washington religious group that funds various nonprofits and builds relationships among politicians worldwide.

Siljander funneled some of the $50,000 he received as a lobbyist for IARA through the Fellowship. And while the Fellowship is not facing any charges and hasn't apparently done anything illegal, the Siljander case brings attention to the group's informal connections with powerful and sometimes notorious people throughout the world.

Informally, members of the organization, in efforts to reach out to Muslims, have fraternized with some of the most despicable Islamic leaders in the world, like Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, whom the International Criminal Court just charged with three counts of genocide in addition to the previous five charges of crimes against humanity and two counts of war crimes. Siljander recounts numerous meetings with Bashir in his 2008 book, *A Deadly Misunderstanding: A Congressman's Quest to Bridge the Muslim-Christian Divide* (see sidebar).

That book was at the center of the case against Siljander. U.S. Attorney Beth Phillips said after Siljander's guilty plea that he had "repeatedly lied to FBI agents and prosecutors investigating serious crimes related to national security." Siljander told FBI agents and prosecutors in 2005 and 2007 that IARA's payments were to support him as he wrote his book.

On May 27, 2004, IARA paid $25,000 to the International Foundation (synonymous with the Fellowship). On June 30, 2004, the Fellowship transferred the net amount, $18,337, to Siljander's account.

As far as the Fellowship was concerned, that money was only for Siljander's book. The Fellowship board member who oversaw the transactions, Eric Fellman, denied that the money had been funneled as a lobbying payment. "The money was supposed to be used for Mark Siljander to be supported for a year to write a book," he told me. "Mark did write the book and it got published." Siljander listed Fellman as part of his "core of companions" in the acknowledgements of his book. Fellman told me he hadn't talked to Siljander in "years."

IARA director Mubarak Hamed, in pleading guilty on June 25 to sending $1 million to Iraq when the country was under U.S. sanctions, asserted that the checks were lobbying payments for Siljander. IARA's Abdel Azim El-Siddig, a co-defendant, pleaded guilty the same day as Siljander. According to the Justice Department, he delivered the checks made out to the various nonprofits directly to Siljander in Washington. An IARA board member and employee who were charged in the case have also pleaded guilty in the last months: Ali Mohamed Bagegni pleaded guilty to conspiracy and Ahmad Mustafa pleaded guilty to the illegal transfer of funds to Iraq.

"I can't comment on testimony from people I do not know, but I do know defendants will say lots of stuff to please the federal authorities and arrange a lesser penalty," Fellman wrote in an email. "We received a check from a U.S. charity in good standing with the IRS asking it be assigned to the salary account provided for Siljander to write his book."



CENTER OF A TENSION: Siljander; the "C Street" Fellowship; Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir; Siljander's 2008 book *A Deadly Misunderstanding*; federal agents raiding the home of Mubarak Hamed, executive director of IARA in 2004, in Columbia, Mo.

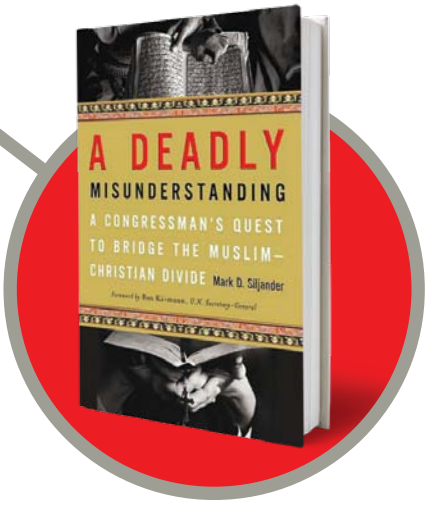












SILJANDER: HANDOUT · C STREET: OLIVIER DOULIERY/KRT/NEWSCOM · BASHIR: ABD RAOUF/AP · RAID: ED PFUELLER/ COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE · MONEY: ISTOCK





GUILTY: U.S. Attorney John F. Wood explains the charges against Siljander and IARA on Jan. 16, 2008 (above); Siljander, center, his wife Nancy, left, and members of his legal team leave the federal courthouse in Kansas City, Mo., on July 7 (right).

The Fellowship's due diligence on donations involves checking the terrorism watch list and the IRS status of the nonprofit, Fellman said. "Even though we were intensely interviewed by the FBI, no question of us having done anything wrong ever came up," Fellman said. "And in fact we were never called to testify again because there was nothing—there was no smoke let alone fire in what had happened between us and the IARA."

IARA also funneled $25,000 in payments to Siljander through the National Heritage Foundation, a group that oversees "donor advised funds" (but declared bankruptcy last year). The money was designated for "Ambassadors of Peace and Reconciliation." Siljander's consulting group, Global Strategies, Inc., received $24,350 from Ambassadors of Peace and Reconciliation in late 2004. No such 501(c)(3) appears in IRS records. The Fellowship once had an affiliate nonprofit called "Ambassadors of Reconciliation," but that group ceased operations in 2006, and Fellman denied that it had any connection to Ambassadors of Peace and Reconciliation. Siljander, in his book, lists one of the directors of Ambassadors of Reconciliation, William Aramony, as a "dear friend" and relates a trip they took together to Khartoum in 2006.

In January 2004, before the Fellowship accepted funds from IARA, the Senate Finance Committee added IARA to its list of sponsors of terror. In March, IARA hired Siljander to lobby and clear its name, but he was unsuccessful. The Treasury added the group to its official terror sponsors list a few months later, saying IARA had sent $130,000 to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the onetime Afghan foreign minister allied with Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban. The FBI wiretapped IARA employees and raided its Missouri offices in 2004. The Treasury froze the group's funds and assets, effectively shutting it down. In 2008 the government issued an indictment charging the group with violating international sanctions and its top officers with money laundering, violation of terrorism sanctions, and theft of public funds.

While IARA is based in Columbia, Mo., it is affiliated with the Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA) based in Khartoum, Sudan, and Siddig (IARA's fundraiser who pleaded guilty) has ties to the Bashir government—his close friend, Ali Karti, is now the foreign minister there (see sidebar). Siddig and Siljander have visited Khartoum together.

Siljander has strong convictions about reaching out to Muslims—a view the Fellowship shares. The Fellowship, which sponsors the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington each year, excited controversy when the breakfast included readings from the Quran (a decision Siljander himself originally opposed). The leaders of the Fellowship like Doug Coe eschew the term "Christian" and describe Muslims as fellow "followers of Jesus." ⊕

WOOD: DICK WHIPPLE/AP · SILJANDER: ORLIN WAGNER/AP

Email: ebelz@worldmag.com



DINNERS WITH A DICTATOR

IN HIS 2008 BOOK, *A Deadly Misunderstanding*, Mark Siljander wrote, "Omar al-Bashir was, in the eyes of the West, a bad man. In the eyes of God, as near as I could understand it, he was just another human being, with frailties and failings like the rest of us."

When Bashir seized power in a military coup in Sudan in 1989 and instituted Shariah law throughout the country, atrocities against Christians living in the South proliferated. Nearly 2 million have been killed in the course of religious cleansing in the South and 4 million southern Sudanese have been displaced (including over 27,000 young orphans who came to be known as the "Lost Boys of Sudan") by the time the parties to the conflict signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005.

In 1997, at a time when the United States had broken off relations with the Islamic government, Siljander made his first of many trips to Khartoum to meet with the Sudanese head of state, accompanied by the head of the Fellowship, Doug Coe. Terrorist leaders Carlos the Jackal, Osama bin Laden, and Abu Nidal all resided in Khartoum at one time or another in the mid-1990s, and in 1996 the Clinton administration designated the Sudanese government under Bashir a state sponsor of terror and broke diplomatic relations. In 1997 it imposed comprehensive sanctions against Sudan.

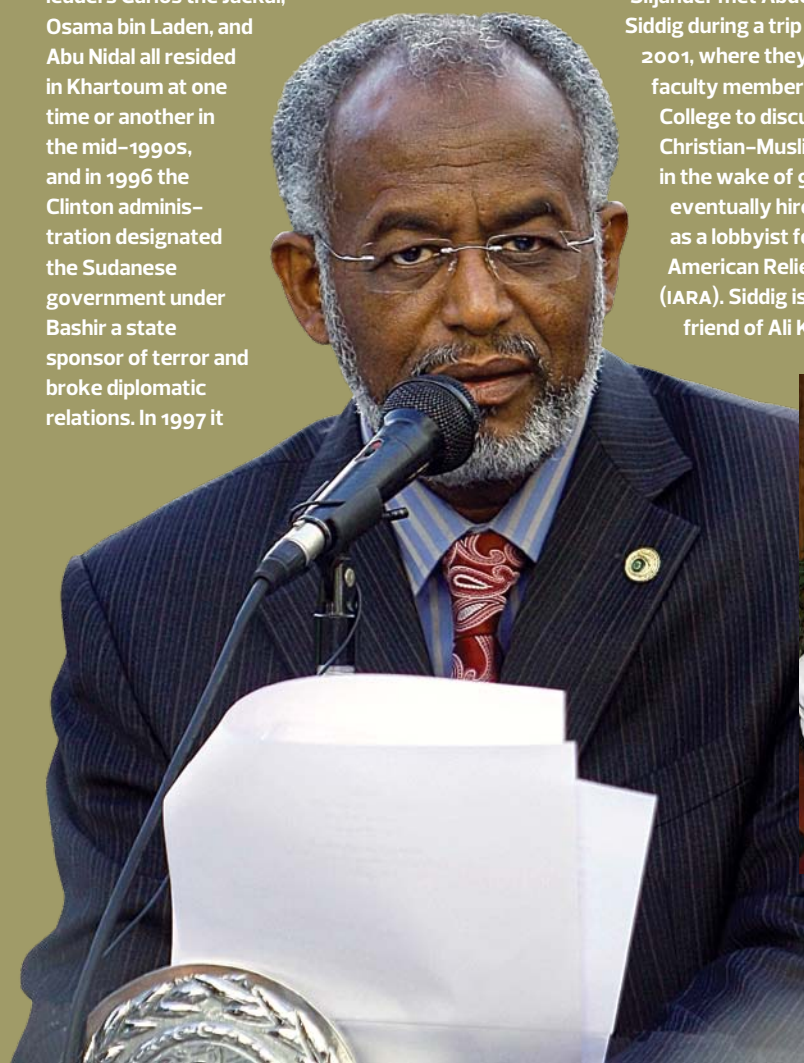
During Siljander's visit, he recounts in his book that he told Bashir: "Of course, you can make peace with the south or not, sign a treaty or not, you do whatever you're inclined to do. But just know that we're going to be praying with you and for you in this process, and believing in you and in the very essence of what you call the power of Islam—being surrendered to God and in peace."

His book recounts trips to meet with other heads of state—in Libya, Benin, the Balkans, Pakistan, Indonesia, and other countries. Many of these were then considered Marxist or Islamist terrorist rogues, particularly Libya's Moammar Qaddafi. Both Siljander and Coe flew to Benin, surrendered their passports, and took a middle-of-the-night flight aboard an unmarked Libyan jet in order to evade prevailing sanctions against travel to Libya. In the end Qaddafi denied them an audience.

Siljander met Abdel Azim el-Siddig during a trip to Chicago in 2001, where they met with faculty members at Wheaton College to discuss Christian-Muslim relations in the wake of 9/11. Siddig eventually hired Siljander as a lobbyist for the Islamic American Relief Agency (IARA). Siddig is also a close friend of Ali Karti, a long-standing member of the Bashir government who earlier this year was named foreign minister. Siddig and Siljander traveled to Khartoum together in 2006. Siljander told me in November 2006 he made other frequent trips to Khartoum: "I've had dinner four times in the last four months with Bashir."

Ali Karti was increasingly a part of Siljander's circle in Khartoum. And Karti at the same time was fingered by the Bush administration as a key player in orchestrating attacks on villages in Darfur. In September of that year U.S. Homeland Security officers detained Karti for four hours on the tarmac of Dulles International airport outside Washington after his name appeared on a suspected terrorist watch list. The suspicions stemmed from his support for janjaweed militias then attacking African tribal villages in the western Sudan region of Darfur. Experts estimate that between September 2003 and December 2008 in the conflict 300,000 died and over 2 million were displaced as Arab militias backed by Khartoum overran African villages and African militias.

"Yes, we made mistakes with janjaweed," Siljander said during our interview. "Ali Karti and Bashir have said that to me. It doesn't remove the evil but privately indicates their desire to change. If they say they are willing to disarm janjaweed and protect [aid] workers, let's come to some agreement, remove sanctions, and then incentivize them." *—Mindy Belz*





KARTI: AMR ABDALLAH /REUTERS/LANDOV · QADDAFI & BASHIR: PIUS UTOMI EKPEI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

FRAILTIES AND FAILINGS: Ali Karti, Moammar Qaddafi, Omar al-Bashir.

CLOUDIN THE DEBATE

Meteorologist and former NASA scientist **ROY SPENCER** believes global warming alarmists may be asking the wrong questions

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILLY WEEKS

Roy W. Spencer believes in global warming. He just thinks it's the Earth's fault. Climate debate can be hazardous, but this former NASA scientist is preeminently qualified to weigh in: In 1989 Spencer and colleague John Christy pioneered a method of measuring global atmosphere temperature using satellite microwave sensors, an achievement that earned awards from NASA and the American Meteorological Society. Today Spencer oversees a research team for an Earth-monitoring satellite from his office at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In his spare time he writes books throwing cold water on the idea that global warming is mostly caused by people.

His latest, *The Great Global Warming Blunder: How Mother Nature Fooled the World's Top Climate Scientists* (Encounter Books, 2010), lays out Spencer's research into the effect of clouds on atmosphere temperature. Spencer became particularly interested in clouds when he learned about a key assumption climate modelers make when predicting future global warming: Warmer average temperatures will result in reduced cloud cover. What if that assumption had it backwards? What if reduced cloud cover were causing the warmer temperatures? "If you get that wrong," Spencer told me when I met him at a conference this summer, "then you get a totally wrong answer in terms of how much warming there will be as a result of us putting more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere."

With a full head of white hair and a kind demeanor, Spencer seems grandfatherly. And though his style in person isn't bombastic, his ideas are considered to be, and his outspokenness attracts friends and enemies. In 2006 Spencer launched a satirical environmental news website to poke fun at global warming alarmism with headlines like "EPA to Mandate Reductions in Emissions from Volcanoes." The alarmists shot back, calling Spencer a "disinformer," while radio host Rush Limbaugh calls Spencer the "official climatologist" of his talk show.

Spencer's outspokenness is grounded in peer-reviewed research showing that prevailing climate models could be confusing cause and effect when it comes to clouds and temperature. By only looking at the effect temperature has on clouds, the models can overlook the effect clouds have on temperature

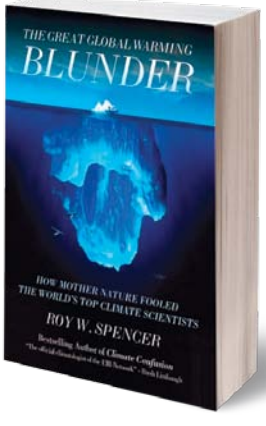


by blocking sunlight. These climate models, Spencer said, "reduce cloud cover when the climate warms, when they should be increasing cloud cover when the climate warms. And the difference between those two gives the difference between man-made global warming being barely measurable versus it becoming Al Gore's Armageddon."

This mistake results in an overly sensitive climate model that Spencer says punishes us when we add CO_2 to the atmosphere. Research outcomes are important because battling the wrong causes of global warming—with things like taxes and research into alternative fuels—gets expensive.

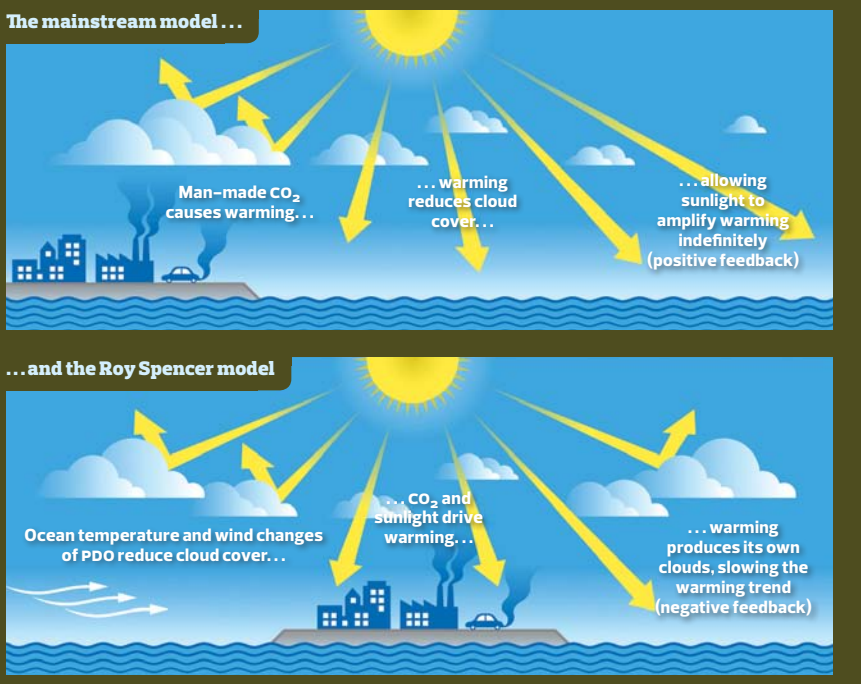
If, as Spencer believes, the climate responds to global warming by attempting to reverse the trend (a negative feedback) rather than amplify it (positive feedback), it would imply that the warming of the last 30 to 50 years has been caused by mostly natural forces. It would also imply that future man-made global warming will be relatively small—a degree Fahrenheit or less in the next 50 to 100 years, says Spencer.

Even if human activity has played a role in 20th-century warming, Spencer believes factors besides carbon dioxide emissions are leading the change. In his new book he highlights several regional, ocean-based weather patterns that may, like El Niño and La Niña, be fueling atmosphere temperature changes. One is the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, an ocean and wind system that appears to change course every 30 years or so. Spencer thinks it could account for 75 percent of the observed warming of the last century. The cycle seems to have flipped again recently, and Spencer's gut feeling is that global warming will slow down or stop in the coming years. But he hastens to add—"I try not to make long-term predictions."



With research into natural agents of temperature change so incomplete, why have so many scientists taken sides to blame CO_2? Spencer has

GLOBAL WARMING SINCE 1970



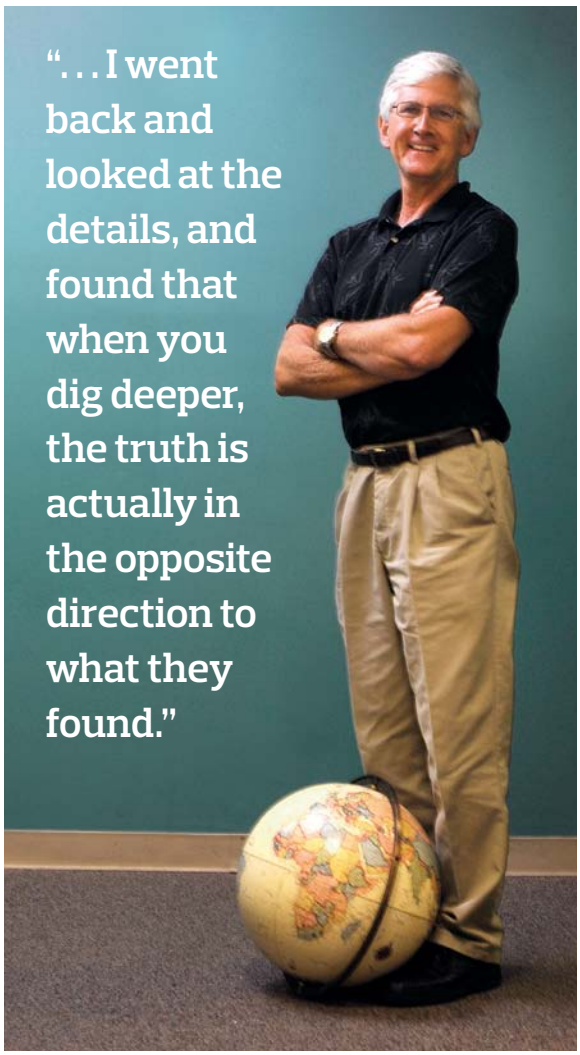
several answers. First, everyone wants to be part of a science project that is going to help preserve the Earth or save mankind. Second, the UN body pushing the global effort to regulate greenhouse gases, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was originally created to build a case for man-made global warming: "In other words, the organization was not going to go out and look for alternative explanations. They were building the case for man-made global warming so that certain policy initiatives could be put into place—primarily the restriction or taxation of carbon-based fuels."

Yet another motive, Spencer believes, is religious conviction: "I find that virtually all scientists that work in earth science or in climate research have the impression that the climate system is fragile, that it's delicately balanced. This is a belief that has no scientific basis. In fact, 'delicate' doesn't mean anything scientifically. Yet those beliefs on the part of a research scientist can alter the direction that they go."

Even so, the meteorologist-turned-climatologist acknowledges that his own evangelical beliefs have predisposed him to follow an opposite path. "An advantage of having a biblical basis for the way I look at nature is that I consider the possibility that nature is actually pretty resilient," he said. "So when scientists had found what they thought were positive cloud feedbacks in the climate system, which would mean that the climate system is very sensitive, I questioned their assumptions, and I went back and looked at the details, and found that when you dig deeper, the truth is actually in the opposite direction to what they found."

Spencer continues to pursue that truth by sifting through technical data—right now he's investigating how much of 20th-century warming could be due to regional weather oscillations. But one hurdle for scientists like him is funding: "Out of the billions of dollars we put into climate change research, all of it goes into supporting the view that climate change is man-made, or assumes that climate change is man-made." All of Spencer's research grants have come from traditional government sources (not Exxon Mobil, as his detractors seem to believe), but his contracts are written in general enough terms to allow him to study natural methods of climate change.

Even after scientists like Spencer do research, it's another matter to publish it in mainstream science journals, where gatekeepers are sometimes unfriendly to alternative views on warming. "We've had a lot of peer reviewers over the years who have wanted to reject our papers when it was clear they did not even read the papers," he said. Once a reviewer didn't like his paper because it conflicted with the conclusions of the IPCC: "Even though I had been asked to write a paper looking at the other side of the issue—the view that the IPCC could be wrong—one of the reviewers of the paper said that I needed to change the paper to align it with the IPCC." Peer review is prone to bias, said Spencer, but it's the best system we have for now. "Scientists ignore what I do," he muses, which is often better than attacking it. And Spencer plans to continue propounding his unconventional global warming ideas—and research—to whoever will listen.



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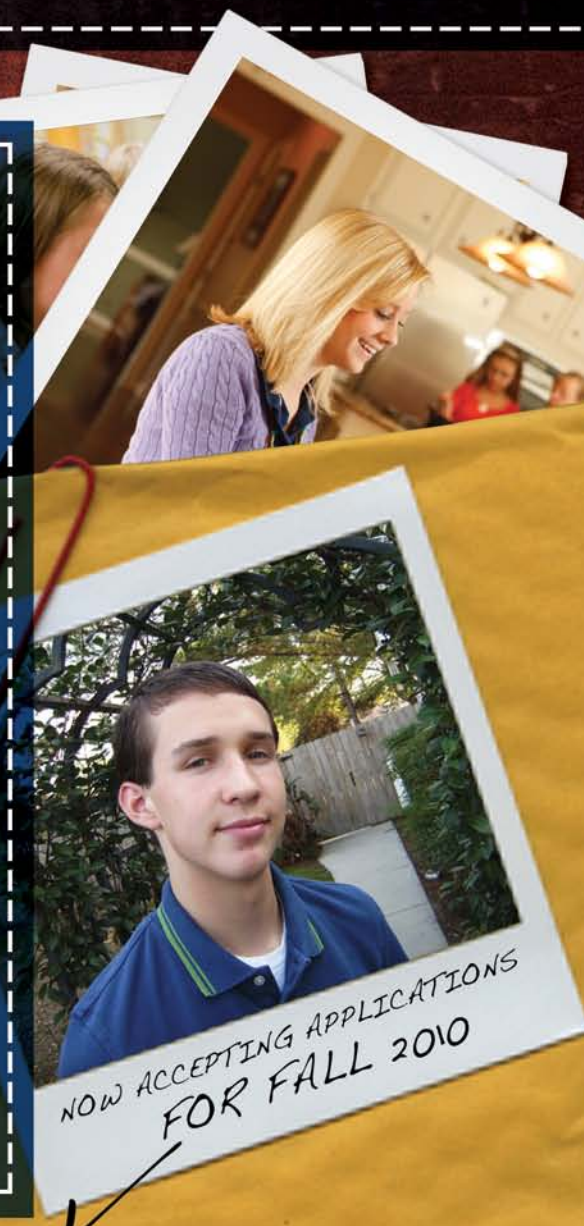
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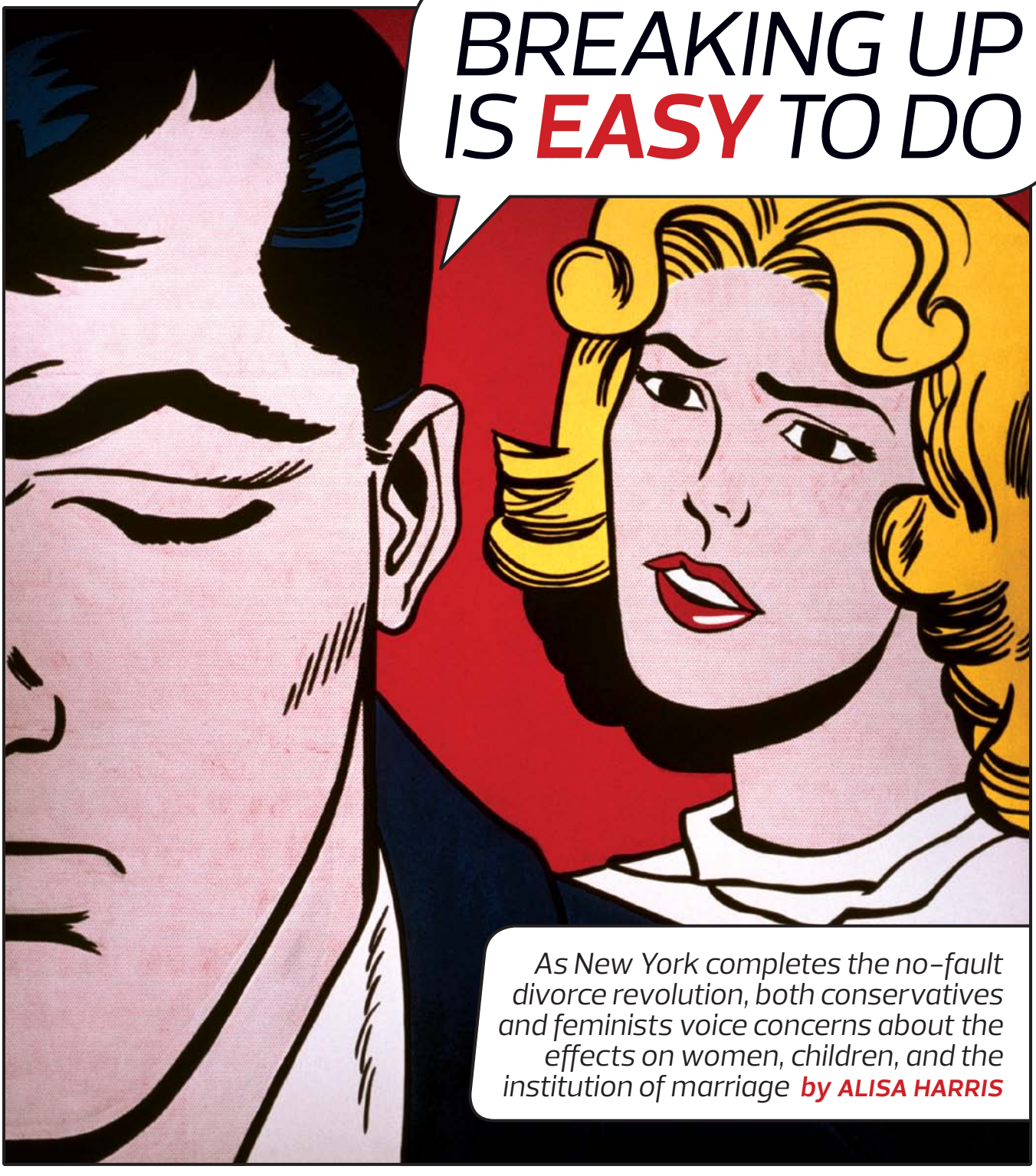
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BREAKING UP IS EASY TO DO



As New York completes the no-fault divorce revolution, both conservatives and feminists voice concerns about the effects on women, children, and the institution of marriage **by ALISA HARRIS**

TWO DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS IN 1993, Thomas McClintock's wife told him she was leaving him. After five placid years of marriage, he was shocked and willing to do whatever it took to keep her.

"I thought we were a good match," he said. "I genuinely loved her. . . . We enjoyed the mundane things about life—going grocery shopping. . . . It wasn't all that great but it wasn't that bad and I thought it was something we could work on."

But days later she left her job, her dog, her house, her country, and her husband. She came back a few months later. They sat down and divided their finances. Then she was gone.

McClintock, then a resident of Virginia, said he considers himself a "victim" of unilateral no-fault divorce: "What other

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kind of legal contract can you end like that without any kind of legal consequences?"

New York has become the last state to pass no-fault divorce legislation, which in late July awaited New York Gov. David Paterson's signature. Under New York's current law, couples can only divorce due to cruel and inhumane treatment, adultery, abandonment, or after a separation agreement that lasts for a year or more. Under the new legislation, if one partner states under oath that the marriage is "irretrievably broken for a period of at least six months," the marriage can be dissolved just like McClintock's.

As the last state to pass no-fault divorce, New York should be a good place to look to see if fault-based divorce actually prevents divorce. But statistics show a complicated picture. New York's divorce rate (2.9 divorces per 1,000 people in 2007) is among the lowest in the 50 states but three states—Illinois, Iowa, and Massachusetts—have divorce rates that are lower.

Ideologues have spun the state divorce rate to buttress a host of political causes. Pollster Nate Silver analyzed divorce rates and showed that rates were lower in states that had not passed constitutional bans on gay marriage. Others have noted that liberal states like Massachusetts have lower divorce rates than Bible Belt states like Arkansas.

But Alan J. Hawkins, professor of family life at Brigham Young University, says that the divorce rate is a less illuminating statistic than it used to be. States that have low divorce rates also tend to have low marriage rates. Arkansas, for instance, has the second-highest divorce rate (5.9 per 1,000 people), but it also has more marriages per year: 12.1 marriages per 1,000 people as opposed to Massachusetts' 5.9 marriages per 1,000 people.

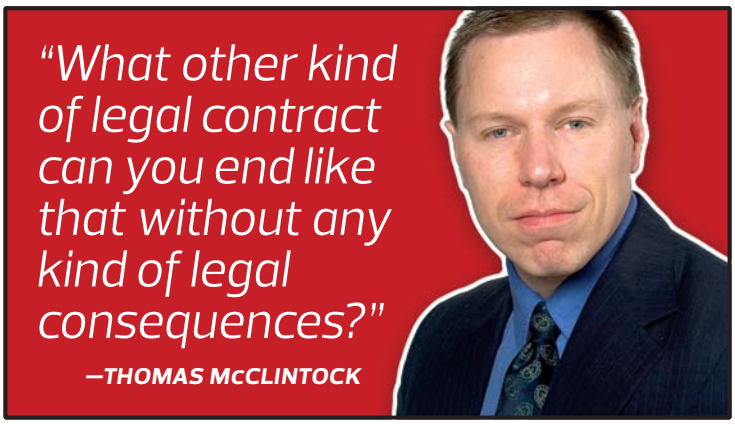
"That doesn't mean you don't form families," said Hawkins of couples who choose not to marry. "You do." Our culture still values marriage so highly that we consider divorce the ultimate failure, Hawkins said—a failure some young couples avoid by not getting married at all but still having children. According to a recent study by the National Center for Health Statistics, 61 percent of women in their late 30s have cohabited, and less than half of cohabitations end in marriage—a shattered family unit that the divorce rate doesn't count.

In practice, New York's fault-based divorce law is as hazy as the statistics. Juries are not sympathetic to fault-finding in divorce cases, even when states divide assets based on who is at fault. In New York, the bar for proving fault is so high that a husband who threw an exercise bike at his wife didn't meet it. In one New York case, a man physically and emotionally abused his family to the point where the wife had to seek therapy, but the jury didn't find him guilty of "egregious fault." A wife committed adultery and told her husband the resulting child was his, but the jury didn't find her guilty of fault either.

Jason McGuire, legislative director of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms and one of the bill's opponents, said he and others are realistic about the fact that divorce happens: "What I'm looking for is legislation that still strengthens the institution of marriage while recognizing the reality of divorce." McGuire mentioned a few measures he thought would accomplish that. Arizona and Louisiana allow couples to enter a covenant marriage, which is more difficult to leave. Utah requires couples with children under 18 to go through "divorce orientation classes" before divorcing. Other proposals give financial incentives to stay in a marriage and stay faithful: For instance, an adulterous husband walking away from a marriage might get just 25 percent of the couple's assets.

Hawkins finds little momentum to make divorce law tougher—not even among conservatives and Republicans, he said. Some of the anti-divorce measures have proved inadequate. For instance, covenant marriage has shown negligible success in Arizona and Louisiana, where only a fraction of couples choose covenant marriages and most of them are at low risk for divorce anyway. And by the time a couple is going through divorce orientation in Utah, it's probably too late to save the marriage.

Still, divorce laws are powerfully symbolic because they tell us what a marriage should be, said Robin Wilson, professor of law at Washington and Lee University. Taking adultery and abuse into account during a divorce tells society that marriages should be faithful and loving. In a divorce case called one of the nastiest in New York history, supermodel Christie Brinkley left with $80 million after exposing her husband Peter Cook for sleeping with his 18-year-old assistant and then bribing her to stay silent, and for committing sexual acts in front of a webcam and transmitting the feed across the internet.



Why would Brinkley drag her family's pain in front of the world? "Sometimes it matters to you," said Wilson. And sometimes it should matter to the rest of us, too. If a man beats his wife in the face with a barbell until she's unrecognizable, as one man did, then society should say this is wrong.

Fault-based divorce also protects lower-earning spouses. New York's no-fault divorce legislation united two unlikely allies in opposition to it: the feminist National Organization for Women (NOW) and the conservative New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms. In a memo opposing the bill, the NOW said no-fault divorce favors the monied spouse (usually the husband) over the other. If one party actually is at fault, the new legislation won't take that into account when dividing property—a measure that often has created financial hardship for women and children.

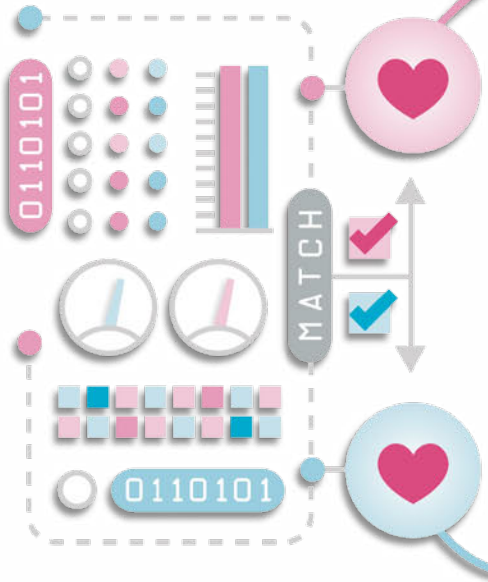
McClintock says he doesn't know if any legislative measures could have saved his marriage. He just wanted more accountability—maybe not to him but to somebody: "It's just too easy. She could literally change her life overnight." McClintock, now happily remarried, said the pain of divorce has given him more sympathy than he used to have: "I looked down on divorced people. I thought, 'They're quitters. I would never let that happen to me.'" Now he knows it only takes one to quit.

HANDOUT



Email: aharris@worldmag.com

LOVE, INTER STYLE



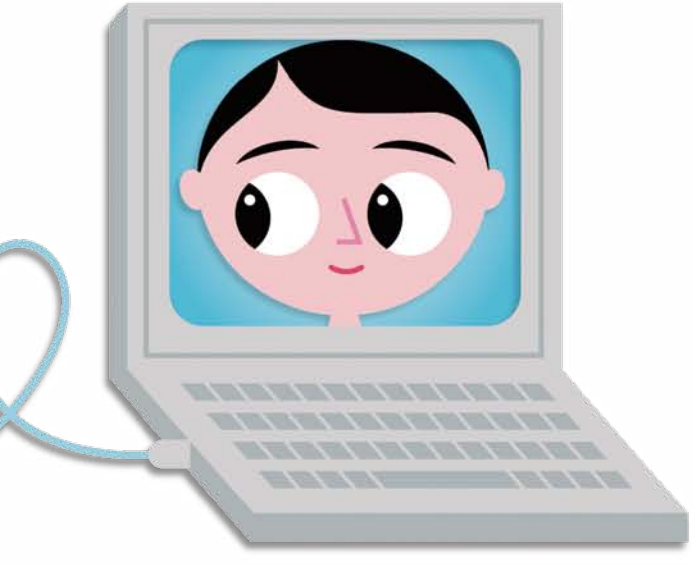


NET

POPULAR MATCHMAKING WEBSITES MAY BE BLINDING SINGLES WITH THE PRETENSE OF SCIENCE

***by* MEGAN BASHAM**

illustration by KRIEG BARRIE



KATHY RODARME SAYS SHE MIGHT NEVER HAVE TRIED ONLINE DATING were it not for the example of a friend. "The site [Match.com] was offering a free month trial and I had a friend who'd met her boyfriend there. She talked me into doing it and helped me get my profile ready because I would have been way too scared to do it otherwise." At first Rodarme's fears were confirmed. She received responses from a few "weirdos" and one man who initially seemed nice but soon began steering their conversations in ways Rodarme found inappropriate.

Then just before the month was up a police sergeant named Rob contacted her and said her personality profile had registered a 100 percent match with his. She decided to give the site one more try, and after several email exchanges and phone calls the pair discovered that not only did they live within two miles of each other, they attended the same church, though at different services. By the end of the week they agreed to meet for coffee at a nearby Starbucks.

Seven years and two kids later, both the Rodarmes are happy to sing the praises of online dating. "With my job and schedule [on an overnight shift], I met women, but not the kind of women I wanted to date," Rob laughs. "So Match.com really provided a solution for me." Kathy feels that God used the technology to bring them together, saying, "We lived practically in the same neighborhood and went to the same church, but without the website, we probably never would have met."

As we progress further into the information age, stories like the Rodarmes' are becoming more typical. According to a nationally representative survey out of Stanford, one in four people who started a serious relationship in the last two years met their significant other online. The internet is now the second most popular way for couples to meet, right behind being introduced by friends. And that only counts the millions of people who have found success with online matchmaking, not the millions more who would like to. If, as Pat Benatar once sang, love is a battlefield, almost 40 percent of singles now include dating sites in their romantic arsenal.

What has caused the explosion in online love connections? It isn't just the fact that the internet has altered our approach to most things these days—after all, there are no sites making millions off helping people find new friends. Rather, a close examination shows that it is the promise of better prospects that has singles going to their keyboards in droves.

In 2002 a *Wired* magazine editor wrote, "Twenty years from now, the idea that someone looking for love won't look for it online will be silly, akin to skipping the card catalog to instead wander the stacks because 'the right books are found only by accident.'" In saying this, he wasn't just predicting that more and more people would start looking for love online, he was predicting that the internet would offer a better, more scientific approach to love, which is exactly what dating sites like eHarmony and Match.com claim to offer.

"We try to give people what they need, rather than just what they want," eHarmony founder Neil Clark Warren has said. His company operates a relationship research facility and uses a patented matching system based on "29 key dimensions of compatibility" that the company claims is responsible for generating 2 percent of all new marriages. Match.com publicizes the designer of its personality profile, a "world-renowned biological anthropologist, author and expert in the science of human attraction," and crows that 12 of its members get married or engaged every day. Never mind that a *Wall Street Journal* investigation revealed that these so-called success rates are based at best on questionable statistical tweaking and at worst on nothing at all, the marketing seems to be working.

In 2005, a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that 64 percent of single internet users agree that online dating helps people find a better match than they would on their own. Only 28 percent disagree. Christians, in particular, seem to find the idea of targeted, marriage-minded web dating appealing. Talk to dozens of singles over the age of 25 at any given church service, and you'll be hard pressed to find even one who hasn't tried a service like eHarmony's or isn't planning to. Part of the appeal, they say, is the compatibility questionnaires that identify the spiritually like-minded.

But is the positive buzz surrounding web-based romance based on good results or good advertising? For every story like Rob and Kathy Rodarme's, there seems to be one like the young minister who asked that his name not be used in this article.

"J" is music pastor to a large congregation in a major metropolitan area. Unmarried in his early 30s, he decided to give dating sites a try. He opened accounts at both eHarmony and Match.com, taking the personality questionnaires associated with each. After dating matches from both sites, he believed he found love with a woman he met on eHarmony. Within six months, the two married. Within a year, they were divorced, even though, J says, he did everything in his power to prevent the split.

The biggest problem, from his point of view, was that his wife was nothing like the person she presented online, though it took him till after the wedding to realize this. He believed based on the website matching them up and their early correspondence that she was a family-oriented single mom looking for a quiet, settled life. Instead, a few weeks after the wedding he says he discovered he'd married a party girl who often left her 5-year-old daughter in his care to hit the club scene.

J doesn't think his ex-wife intentionally lied, but he does think she answered the questions and crafted her profile with a mind to who she thought she *should* be—that is, an idealized version of herself—rather than who she actually was. He says he knew his wife had no intention of working on the marriage when he booked a romantic cruise vacation as a last-ditch effort to preserve their union, and she spent most of the evenings dancing and drinking with the single people at the onboard disco rather than with him.

Of course, couples who met via the older routes have horror stories as well, but there is at least some evidence that experiences like J's may be as endemic to internet relationships as the highly-touted, fairy-tale endings in the commercials.

There aren't yet any statistics on the divorce rate among internet-forged marriages, but there is some research that demonstrates that couples who meet online behave somewhat differently than those who meet via more road-tested routes. For one thing, those who meet online tend to rush down the aisle much faster. A 2010 study conducted by sociologists at Iowa State University found that internet couples go from meeting to matrimony in less than half the time of those who meet via more traditional methods.

"I DON'T THINK IT DELVES THAT DEEP. IT CONNECTS YOU ON ENOUGH OF THE BASIC THINGS—LIKE BEING OF THE SAME FAITH, HAVING THE SAME VALUES—THAT IT AT LEAST MAKES THE INTRODUCTIONS WORTHWHILE. AFTER THAT, YOU PROBABLY EITHER JUST CLICK OR YOU DON'T."

J believes it was the promise of a scientifically approved partner that caused him to marry more quickly than he otherwise would have. "It's like I didn't think I needed to take the time to get to know her better and make sure we were a good match because this super-detailed test already told me we were." When sparks flew during their first few meetings, he wasn't worried about going too fast; he felt the toughest part of starting a relationship—making sure the person is a good fit—had already been done for him.

Then there's research that suggests dating site customers are far pickier about who they're willing to date, typically meeting less than 1 percent of the people whose profiles they examine. Dr. Eli Finkel, a psychologist with Northwestern University's Relationships Lab, says dating site users tend to be overly specific in the kind of person they're looking for, leading them to miss out on potentially good partners in favor of those who meet a superficial list of requirements. Details like height, hair color, and profession that may not be a big deal to two people who meet by chance often become the basis of rejection.

Kathy Rodarme admits she almost fell victim to such bias. "When I saw Rob was a cop, at first I decided not to respond to him because I'd heard they take their stress home and can be difficult to be in relationships with." It was only the encouragement

of the same friend who convinced her to join the site that changed her mind. And it turned out the rumors she'd heard about police officers didn't apply to her husband.

Though Rodarme is thrilled with the match she ultimately found, she also says that the personality profile wasn't especially perceptive. "I don't think it delves that deep. It connects you on enough of the basic things—like being of the same faith, having the same values—that it at least makes the introductions worthwhile. After that, you probably either just click or you don't." And it must be noted that what she describes is hardly more insightful or scientific than the way friends guesses relationships created online are more likely to fail than those launched the old-fashioned way.

Perhaps that's why the online matchmaking business is showing signs of slowing down, indicating that some daters are returning to old-fashioned methods of meeting. Earlier this year, ComScore showed double-digit, year-over-year declines for Yahoo Personals and Match.com. And Hitwise found that eHarmony's traffic dropped 61 percent in December 2009 compared to the same month in 2008.

Single people like Kim Bloss of Magnolia, Ark., could be the cause. A professor of Counselor Education at Southern



KATHY RODARME, with husband Rob

CHARLIE LEIGHT/GENESIS PHOTOS

approach setting each other up. And that, say critics, is the problem with paid dating sites: They sell a product that is impossible to deliver.

Dr. Robert Epstein writes in *Scientific American*, "I have been a researcher for about 30 years and a test designer for nearly half those years. When I see extravagant ads for online tests that promise to find people a soul mate, I find myself asking, 'How on earth could such a test exist?' The truth is, it doesn't."

Jeffrey Lohr, a professor of psychology at the University of Arkansas who is studying the claims of online dating companies, agrees with Epstein, saying that they are "marketing their product far beyond the available evidence. There is none to very little effectiveness in the matching process." Even relationship psychologist James Houran, who developed algorithms for the dating site PlentyofFish.com, recently told ABC that whatever compatible characteristics two individuals may share, he Arkansas University, she fits to a T the profile of those who use paid dating sites—educated, white, in a high-income bracket, and a regular internet user. However, her brief trial with the website PerfectMatch.com told her finding web-initiated romance is probably not for her, and she decided against meeting any of her matches in person. "My husband had died three years earlier and I was feeling lonely. I saw a special on *Oprah* about online dating and took the test at PerfectMatch.com. When I saw my matches, it seemed like they were based more on geography than personality."

But the experience wasn't without some benefit. Sifting through dozens of profiles and continually being drawn to the same type—men who worked with their hands—helped her discover what was really missing in her life. "I finally realized I wasn't looking for a soul mate, I was looking for a handyman."

James Le Fanu

THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE DOUBLE HELIX

Its simple structure belies its profound mystery

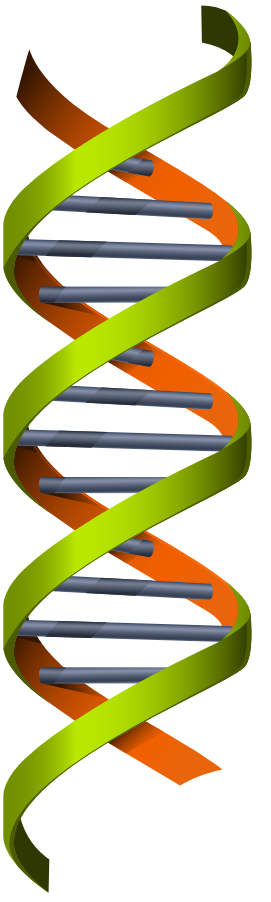
FROM THE TIME OF PLATO ONWARDS, the grandeur of the universe and the richness of the living world spoke of a hidden reality beyond appearances and the reach of the human mind to comprehend fully.

This is scarcely the modern view, where for science the unknown is merely the waiting-to-be-known. And it certainly might seem this way given that now, for the first time in the history of our species, we can hold "in our mind's eye" the entire history of the universe—from the moment of the Big Bang to yesterday.

Still, the paradox of this most impressive of recent intellectual achievements is that it forcefully brings to our attention what we can never know—what preceded the birth of the universe, the origin of matter and the laws that govern it. So too for the phenomena of life.

For the best part of 60 years, ever since the discovery in 1953 by James Watson and Francis Crick of the double helix, the elegant simplicity of that structure has seduced us. We see the genetic instructions strung out along its two intertwining strands, and we suppose that the biological complexities of life might be made knowable.

From the mid-1970s onwards, the massive onslaught of modern genetics has promised to do just that, culminating in the very recent past with the ability to spell out the full sequence of genes (the genome) of man and mouse, chimp, worm, fly, and many others. But paradoxically, as we now know, the composition of those genomes has turned out to be virtually the reverse of that anticipated—with a near equivalence of a modest 20,000 genes across the entire range of the complexities of life all the way from the millimeter-long worm *C. elegans* to ourselves.



More astonishing still, we now know that those genes are interchangeable between species where, for example, the same gene that orchestrates the formation of the fly's compound eye does so too for our very different camera-type eye and so on. There is, in short, nothing in the genomes of fly and man to account for why a fly has wings, six legs, and a dot-sized brain and we should have two arms, two legs, and a mind capable of comprehending the origins of the universe.

The genetic instructions must be there, of course, for otherwise flies, humans, and the tens of millions of species with which we share this planet would not reproduce themselves with such fidelity from generation to generation. But we have moved in the light of these extraordinary findings from supposing that they are at least knowable to recognizing we have no conception of what they might be.

The explanation must lie in the simple elegance of the double helix that for the past 60 years has held out the enticing promise that we might understand the program that makes an organism. But the elegance of its structure cannot be because it is simple but because it has to be simple—if it is to replicate the genetic instructions every time the cell divides.

And that obligation to be simple requires the double helix to condense within the one-dimensional sequence of chemical genes along its intertwined strands, those billionfold complexities that determine the unique three-dimensional form and attributes that so readily distinguish one form of life from another. The semblance of simplicity then becomes a measure of the double helix's inscrutable profundity.

The challenge for scientists' claims to knowledge of the living world is obvious enough. So while, for example, snowdrops are as they are—because they are made that way by their snowdrop genes—now we are forced to recognize that science cannot tell us how those genes fashion those delicate drooping flower heads with their evocative white and green coloring. Once again those snowdrops, indeed the whole glorious canopy of nature, are infused with the deep sense of the mystery: "How can these things be?"

—James Le Fanu is the author of Why Us: How Science Rediscovered the Mystery of Ourselves *(Vintage, 2010)*

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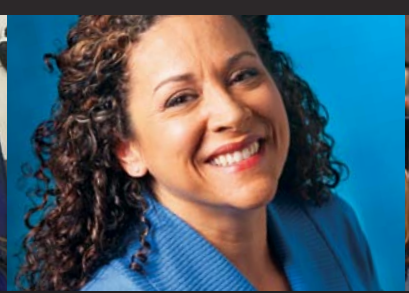
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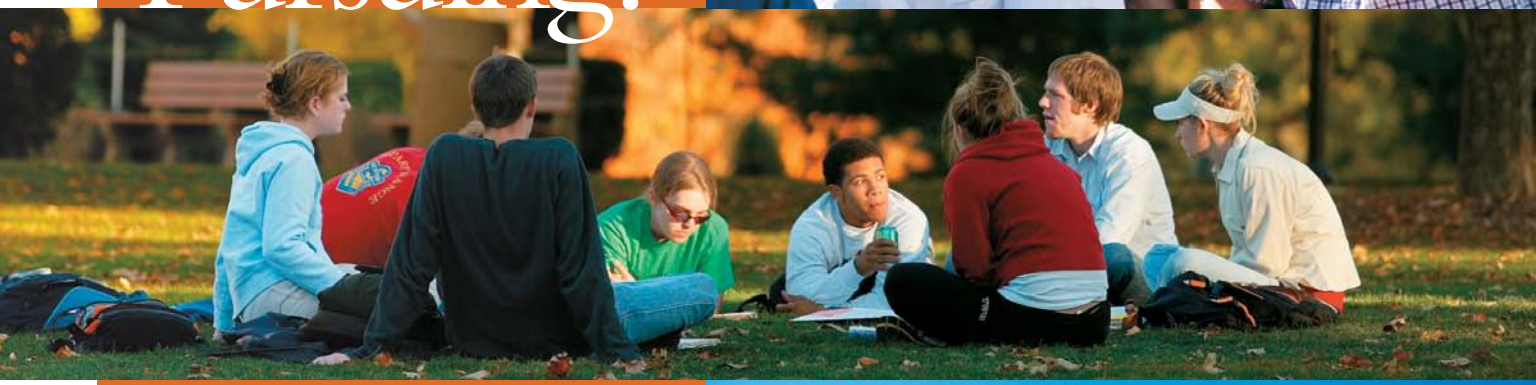




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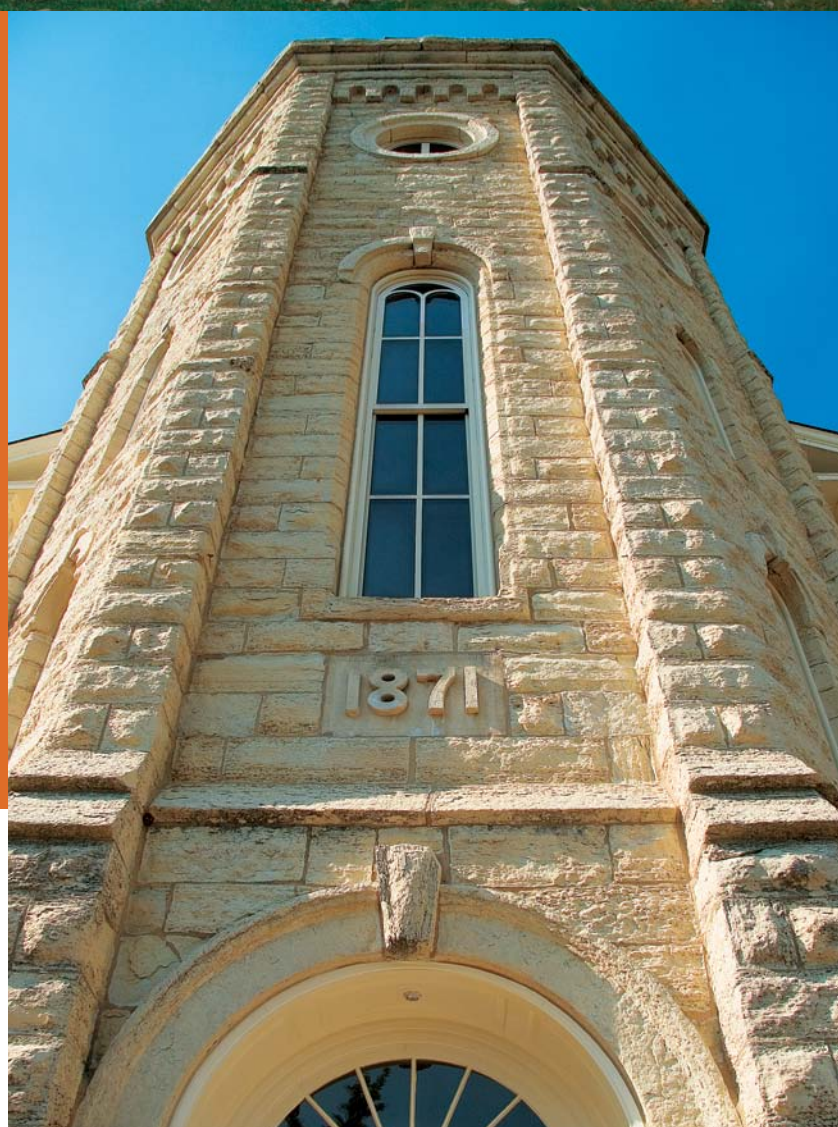
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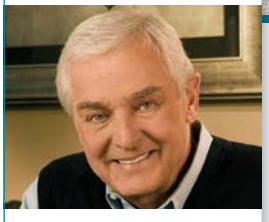
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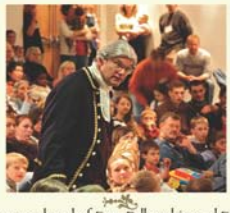
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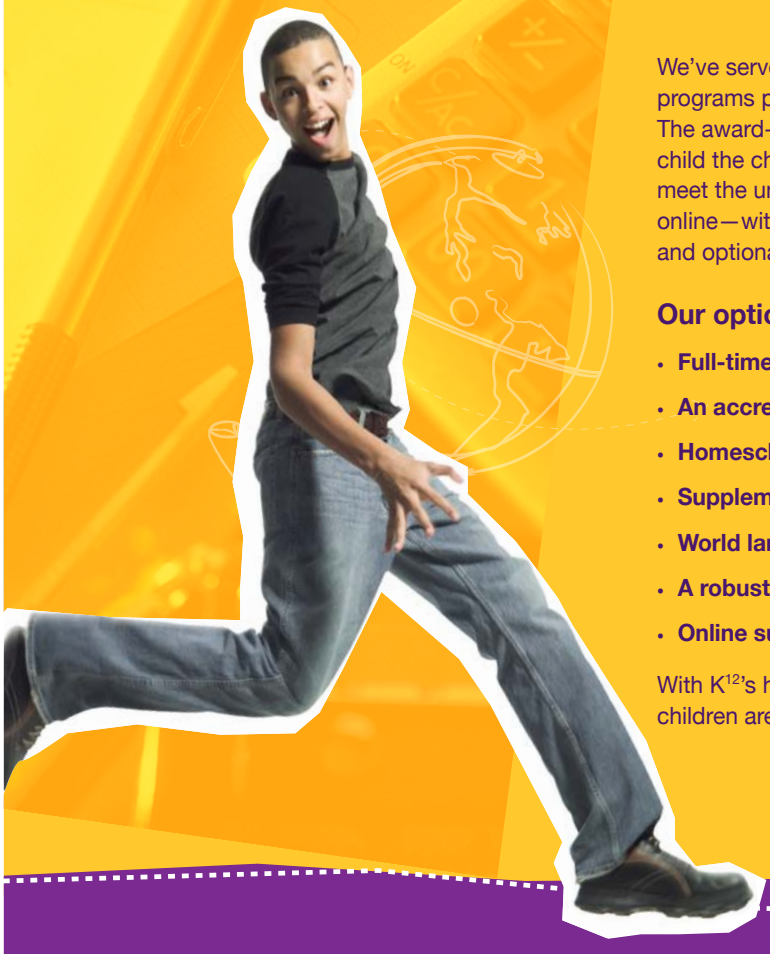
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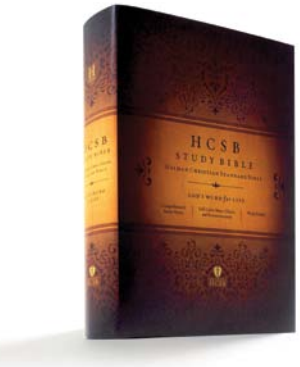
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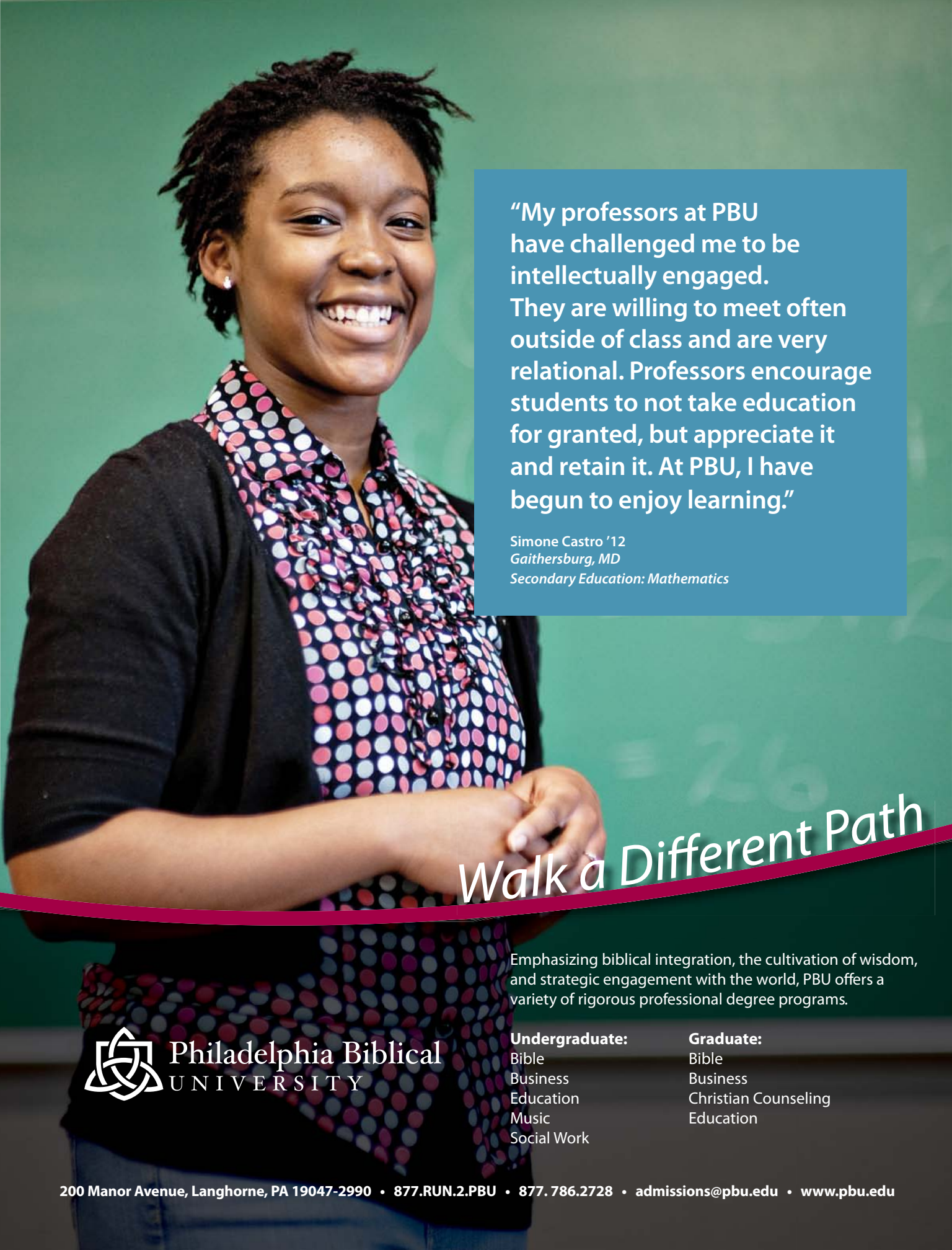
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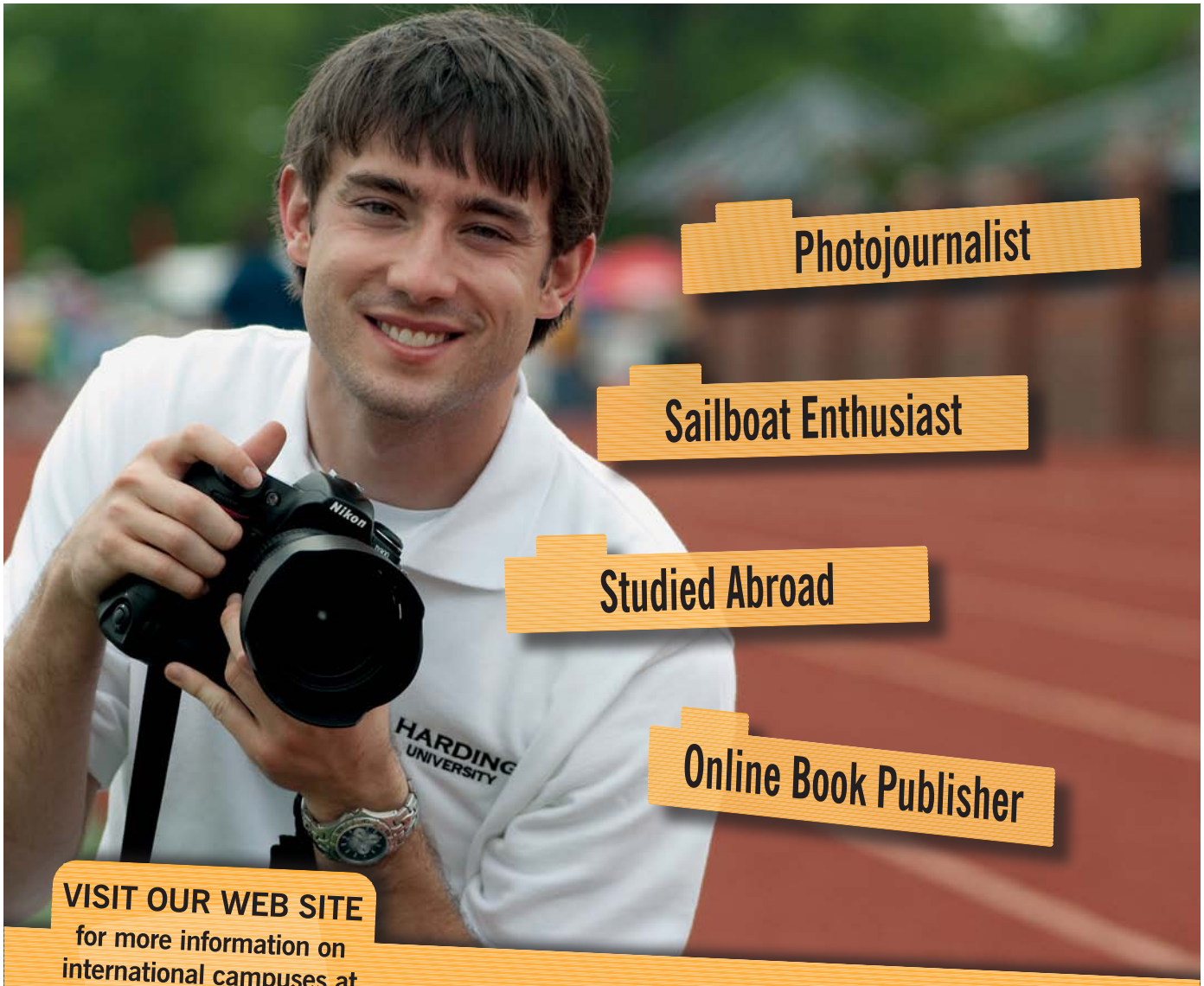


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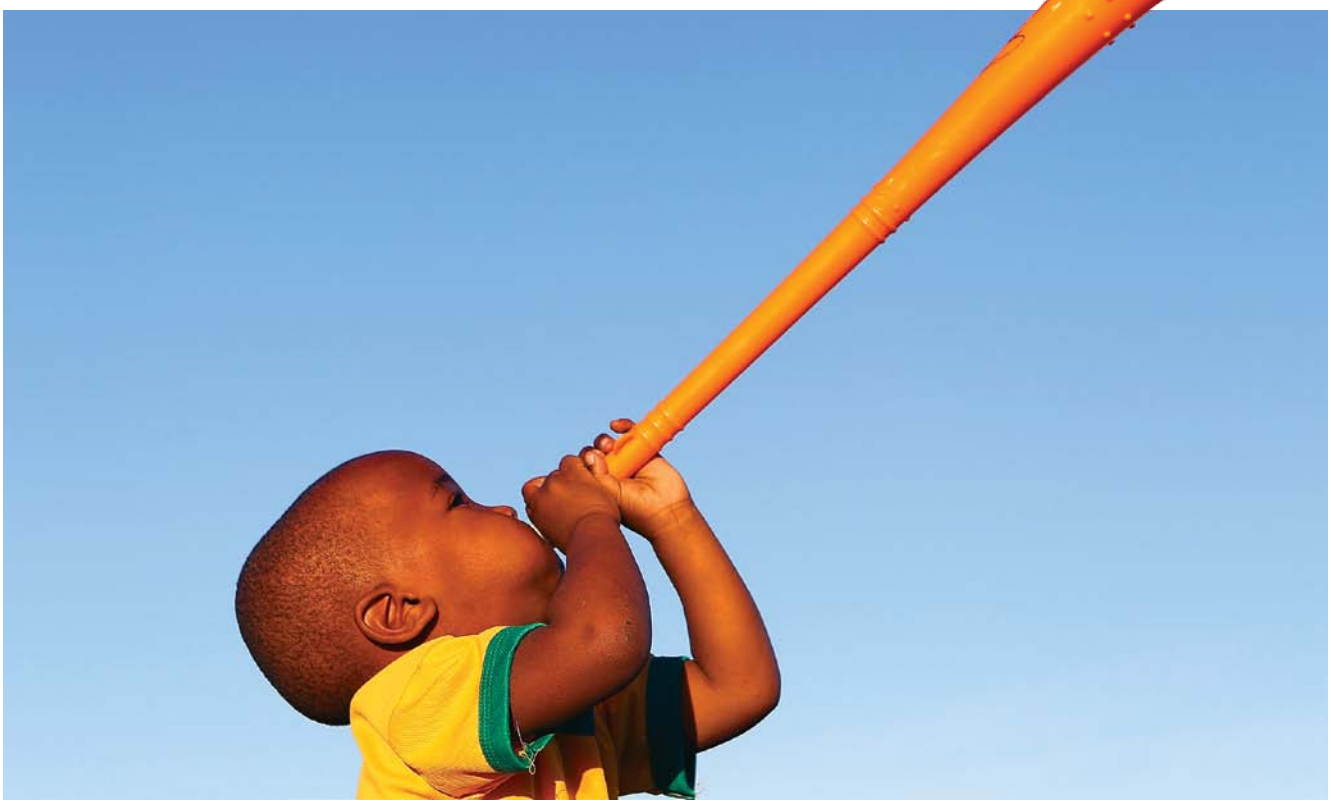
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Notebook



MARK KOLBE/GETTY IMAGES

Sound & fury

LIFESTYLE: The vuvuzela craze has been far-reaching and profitable, but college football doesn't want to hear the horns

BY SUSAN OLASKY

WORRIED ABOUT having your football viewing pleasure ruined by those World Cup vuvuzelas? Be of good cheer: Both the Big Ten and the SEC have declared themselves vuvuzela-free zones for football, and others may follow. Both leagues had preexisting bans on noisemakers unless (in the SEC) they have a traditional connection to a school: for example, cowbells can be used this fall at Mississippi State during prescribed times.

Those concerned about the health effects of the vuvuzela can also rest easy, maybe: South Africa's licensed vuvuzela manufacturer, Masincedane, makes horns that break into three pieces if used as weapons to bonk someone on the head. They are also quieter: Older cheap plastic vuvuzelas emit sounds up to 138 decibels, but new versions of the licensed ones emit just 100 dbs. (What did you say?)

Did anyone get rich on the vuvuzela craze? Not the Chinese manufacturers. They reportedly sold the molded plastic horns for an export price of 30 cents. Meanwhile the noise machines were selling in South Africa for more than $7, guaranteeing a profit for the middleman. Vuvuzelas are currently available at Amazon.com for $4.99, a price low enough to make one suspect that some football fans will try to smuggle them into stadiums this fall.

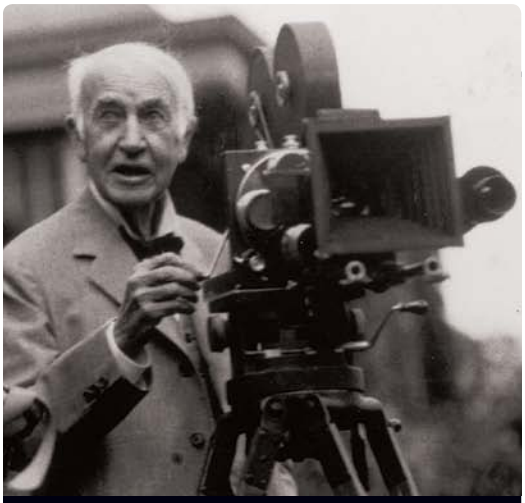
Earplug manufacturers benefited, according to ESPN. Ear Plugs Online said its sales had jumped 121 percent, and Sheppard Medical (the largest ear plug supplier in Africa) sold 400,000 pairs during the World Cup. YouTube also got in on the noisy fun, offering



Email: solasky@worldmag.com

(by the touch of a tiny soccer button at the bottom of the video screen) vuvuzela accompaniments to favorite videos. Several German musicians showed the vuvuzela's musical range, offering videos online of performances of bits of Ravel's "Bolero" and Brahms.

And what about baseball? Surely the vuvuzela has no place in this most tradition-bound sport. The Florida Marlins offered free mini-vuvuzelas at one game to try to boost attendance. The crowd was bigger than usual, but some people blame the noisy vuvuzelas for messing up a line-up change in the 9th inning that cost the Marlins a victory. One AP writer compared it to other dumb baseball giveaways: "It might not go into the books with the same infamy as 10-cent beer night did in Cleveland in 1974, or the giveaway baseballs that turned into giveaway projectiles and prompted a Dodgers' forfeit in 1995, or the gold standard for baseball marketing debacles—Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park in 1979."



Hollywood Tom

Thomas Edison is most known for his invention of the light bulb, but he was instrumental in inventing early motion picture cameras and projectors. His Edison Manufacturing Co. (later known as Thomas A. Edison, Inc.) also made short movies, many of which are owned by the Library of Congress. The library has made these short silent films available on the library's YouTube Channel (youtube.com/user/LibraryOfCongress). The films, shot at the turn of the 20th century, feature New York street scenes, immigrant arrivals at Ellis Island, panoramas from tall buildings, bridge openings, and a few comedies, including one that shows a woman in a long dress standing over a street grate so that a gust from it blows her skirts up to her knees. *–S.O.*

GROUP BENEFITS

NeighborGoods (neighborgoods.net) may not change the world, but it is a website that could make borrowing and lending stuff easier. The idea is simple. You register and list items you own that you'd be glad to lend (bicycles, power tools, lawn mowers, vacuums, etc.) and to whom (only friends, anyone, etc.). You also list things you'd like to borrow. Then you decide whether to lend the item when it's requested. The website allows groups to register, so this could be a convenient way for a church or neighborhood group to organize its members to share. Why should everyone own an extension ladder? *–S.O.*





Yarn for yarn's sake

According to Wikipedia, yarnbombing is a kind of grafitti "that employs colorful displays of knitted or crocheted cloth rather than paint or chalk." In New York, yarn bombers have knit cozies for utility poles and bicycles. In Austin, Texas, a yarn artist in April covered 16 six-foot-tall reflective panels on the Lamar underpass with brightly knit afghan covers, being careful not to put stripes next to stripes. People have spotted similar pop-up knitting projects in Edinburgh, Scotland; Windsor, Ontario; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Sydney, Australia. The movement has its radical elements. The Swansea (Wales) "yarnarchists" promise never to knit anything useful. That's apparently in response to some knitters who say the yarn bombers should be knitting for charity rather than decorating signs and hanging pom-poms from trees. *–S.O.*

EDISON: GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE/GETTY IMAGES · NEIGHBORS: BERND OPITZ/GETTY IMAGES · YARN BOMB: DALE GERHARD/PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY



Cash for content

YouTube hopes grants will spur the making of high-quality movies for its site **BY ALISSA WILKINSON**

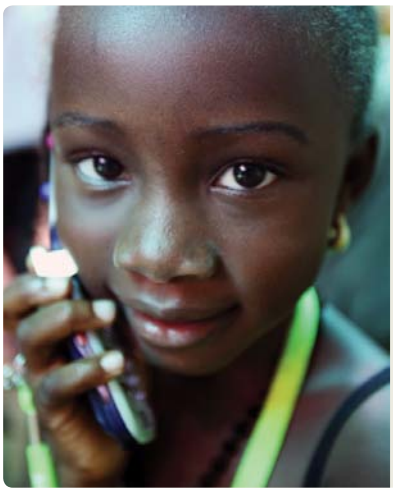
MOVIE-MAKING—ONCE THE SOLE PURVIEW of big-budget film studios, or at least a couple of guys with an expensive camera—is now fully democratized, with HD-quality recording available on tiny Flip cameras and even some cell phones. In its five years of operation, YouTube has helped fuel the revolution, making stars out of people who can sing, dance, act, or just do weird things on camera. But many of YouTube's videos still have amateur content and production quality; most professionally produced videos land on competitors' sites such as Hulu.com, drawing away potential viewers and advertising revenue.

Hoping to change this, YouTube recently announced a $5 million Partner Grants Program, which will give emerging, talented, but non-affluent filmmakers a few thousand dollars—or a few hundred thousand—to back their projects. Through this program, YouTube hopes to attract more professional content to its site—along with larger audiences and mainstream advertisers.



PRICE OF PIRACY

Illegal file distributors still pay hefty fines when caught, but the price of piracy just declined. Last July, a jury decided that Joel Tenenbaum, a graduate student at Boston University, should pay a fine of $675,000 for illegally downloading and sharing 30 songs on the internet. Tenenbaum appealed, and a federal judge recently cut the fine by 90 percent to $67,500, ruling that the original fine violated the Fifth Amendment's due-process clause and was "unprecedented and oppressive." The Recording Industry Association of America issued a statement saying that it would contest the ruling. Tenenbaum told the *Boston Globe* that he welcomed the ruling but the reduced amount is "equally unpayable to me." —*A.W.*



Divide conquered?

A decade ago, politicians often spoke of the "digital divide"—the knowledge gap between affluent populations with easy access to technology and poorer folks (some of them black or Hispanic) who lack skills and resources necessary for success in a digital society. Yet a recent report published by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Center revealed that African-Americans and Hispanics are now more likely than whites to own cell phones and use them for a greater range of activities, including browsing the internet. Rates of laptop ownership are also rising in these populations. The data suggest that the digital divide is closing—but some analysts argue that using the web on a cell phone (especially one with fewer features than a "smart" phone) means the user's access to the internet is severely limited by the phone's pared-down capabilities. —*A.W.*

CAMERA: ISTOCK · TENENBAUM: BIZUAYEHU TESFAYE/AP · PHONE: ISTOCK



Prayer patrol

Lawyers fight back after police bar students from quietly praying on the Supreme Court steps **BY LAUREN SNEED**

Maureen Rigo teaches American history to junior high students at Wickenburg Christian Academy in Arizona. This year, on the eve of National Prayer Day, she led 15 students and seven adults on a class trip to Washington, D.C., where they took a tour of the Supreme Court building. After taking pictures on the steps of the Oval Plaza, the group gathered to the side of the steps where Rigo led it in quiet prayer. A Supreme Court police officer told the group it had to stop.

Why? Praying in that place was against the law, he said, citing Section 6135 of Title 40 of the United States Code, which says parades and processions are forbidden on Supreme Court grounds. Even though the group was praying quietly and not in a way meant to attract attention, the officer said the law applied. The group moved to the sidewalk, forcing most of the students to stand in a gutter to finish their prayer. The Alliance Defense Fund sent a letter to Supreme Court officials insisting that conversational level prayers be permitted on court grounds, arguing that to find otherwise would be a clear violation of the First Amendment.

Judging DOMA

Since 2004, Massachusetts has recognized more than 15,000 same-sex marriages—but the national Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) denies such couples federal benefits afforded to heterosexual couples. Now, federal District Judge Joseph Tauro has found part of DOMA unconstitutional for violating the equal protection clause by treating same-sex couples differently than heterosexual couples, and also intruding upon the state's authority to define marriage. Tauro compared the same-sex marriage issue to the tumultuous debate surrounding interracial marriages more than four decades ago, drawing no distinction between the two.



Presently, Tauro's holding only applies to Massachusetts' same-sex couples. Implications of this decision for other states will be seen on appeal—if the federal government decides to appeal. It is the duty of the Department of Justice to defend the constitutionality of DOMA, yet President Obama favors its repeal. *–L.S.*

THEOLOGICAL BRAIDS

Adriel Arocha's sixth day of kindergarten was special: The 5-year-old Native American garnered an in-school suspension for wearing his hair in two long braids. That did not fit the grooming policy at Needville Elementary, which says boys' hair can't cover their ears or collars. The school district said Adriel could either wear a single braid tucked into the back of his shirt or roll his braids into a bun.

Adriel's lawyers argued that his never-cut hair is an exercise of his religious beliefs as a Native American, and that part of those beliefs is that the braids be visible to the public. The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, striking the policy under the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act (TRFRA). Texas was one of 14 states to pass its own religious freedom restoration act after the United States Supreme Court determined the federal RFRA did not apply to the states. *–L.S.*



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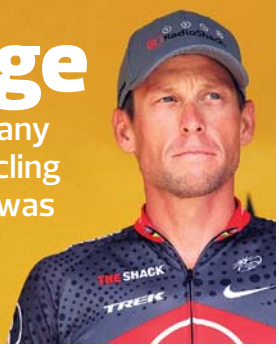
Lauren Sneed is a lawyer in Austin



The Chapel of the Holy Dove, originally built of Ponderosa pine logs and other local materials and situated north of Flagstaff, Ariz., was the brainchild of Watson Lacy, a physician who with his wife ran the Grand Canyon Hospital. The former agnostic envisioned the chapel as a way station for hikers and travelers to rest and worship. It burned in 1999 but was rebuilt with volunteer labor and donations on the same stone foundation, with a wall of glass overlooking the San Francisco Peaks.

RUTH MORTENSON

Role change



It will be a terrible blow to many people if it turns out that cycling great LANCE ARMSTRONG was a doper, but there could be a silver lining **BY MARK BERGIN**

THE NATION'S PREEMINENT SPORTS COLUMNISTS are wringing their hands. If doping allegations against seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong prove true, what will become of the thousands of cancer patients who draw strength from his story? If the man who overcame a brain tumor to become the most successful cyclist ever is a lying, cheating fraud, might that birth cynicism in the minds of people once filled with hope?

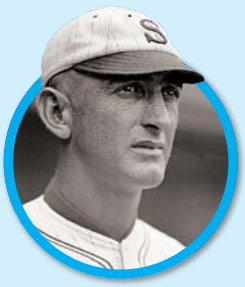
It's a valid question, one no doubt weighing heavy on Armstrong's mind. He recently completed what may prove his final Tour ride and has now secured legal counsel to guide him through a forthcoming investigation. Whether guilty or innocent, the charges alone will do nothing but sour the image of the most respected athlete in the country, a man responsible for raising millions of dollars in cancer research and providing resources and inspiration to help thousands beat the disease.

Much global good could well result if officials clear Armstrong of the charges levied by his former teammate Floyd Landis, a convicted doper himself. But should the charges stick, should Food and Drug Administration agent Jeff Novitzky prove that the cycling great juiced his way to victory, could any worldwide benefit emerge from that?

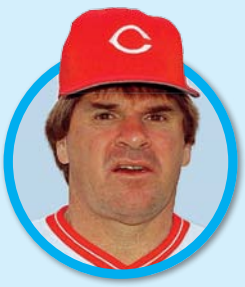
On the heels of two sparkling sports megastars suffering public image collapses—namely, swimmer Michael Phelps and golfer Tiger Woods—a third such scandal could awaken people to the folly of elevating athletes to angelic status. An Armstrong fall from grace would carry more weight in that regard than those of Phelps or Woods, neither of whom ever claimed moral superiority. For Armstrong, the moral high ground is central to his appeal, his brand, his identity.

In the minds of millions of fans, Armstrong is more than great. He is good, and now intent on employing that reputation to avoid undue scrutiny. "As long as we have a legitimate and credible and fair investigation, we'll be happy to cooperate, but I'm not going to participate in any kind of witch hunt," he said. "I've done too many good things for too many people."

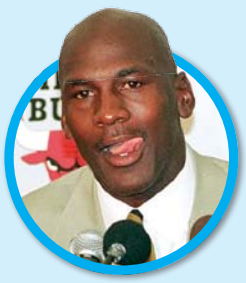
Few athletes in history have risen to Armstrong's height of role model status. But the higher the standing, the longer the fall. Here's a look at scandals surrounding some of sport's most beloved stars:



"SHOELESS" JOE JACKSON: The White Sox slugger maintained a reputation as a gentle and lovable simpleton until a grand jury unearthed a conspiracy among Jackson and seven teammates to throw the 1919 World Series in exchange for bribes. The players were banned from the game, forever linking Jackson's legacy to the scandal.



PETE ROSE: The man known as Charlie Hustle and revered for his tireless work ethic soured such public favor by gambling on baseball while manager of the Reds in the 1980s. The all-time career hits leader was issued a lifetime ban from the game, a punishment that has barred him from entrance to the Hall of Fame and embroiled him in bitter controversy.



MICHAEL JORDAN: The most celebrated athlete of his generation took a substantial PR hit when he was spotted gambling in Atlantic City the night before a playoff game with the New York Knicks in 1993. Subsequent reports surfaced of gambling addiction and infidelity. But the six-time NBA title winner weathered the bad press and never lost his rosy public image.



SAMMY SOSA: The smiling Cubs slugger could do no wrong in the minds of smitten baseball fans until he was caught swinging a corked bat in 2003 and later implicated for using performance-enhancing drugs. His reputation has never recovered.



KOBE BRYANT: A young, level-headed superstar and family man, Bryant's public stock plummeted in 2003 amid allegations of sexual assault. He admitted to an extramarital affair but insisted it was consensual. Authorities later dropped the charges, and Bryant regained much of his popularity, if not his good-guy appeal.

ARMSTRONG: BRYN LENNON/GETTY IMAGES · JACKSON: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM/AP · ROSE: AP · JORDAN: MIKE FISHER/AP · SOSA: AL BEHRMAN/AP · BRYANT: JEROME TANAKA/AWA/AP

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Bank shot

The Dodd-Frank bill brings a massive transfer of power from the private sector to the government **BY JOSEPH SLIFE**



> This financial-services reform is nothing more than a permanent bailout of Wall Street that will restrict credit, kill jobs, raise taxes, and expand government control of the private sector.
>
> **Indiana Rep. Mike Pence**

AT THE RONALD REAGAN Building in Washington, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act on July 21, a sweeping restructuring of financial rules that further shifts power from the private sector to the federal government. Dodd-Frank, named for co-sponsors Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is expected to affect virtually every segment of the U.S. financial services industry, including banks, thrifts, mortgage lenders, insurance companies, bond-rating companies, hedge funds, and investment advisory firms. Among other things, the law:

- Creates a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (with rule-making powers) within the Federal Reserve;
- Establishes a Financial Stability Oversight Council to monitor financial markets for possible problems;
- Empowers federal regulators to seize and dismantle troubled financial firms whose collapse might cause collateral damage to other firms;
- Makes companies that rate bond quality (such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service) legally liable for the accuracy of their ratings decisions; and
- Implements national minimum standards for the underwriting of mortgages.

"The American people will never again be asked to foot the bill for Wall Street's mistakes," Obama said, referring to the federal government's infusion of hundreds of billions of dollars into Wall Street firms, mortgage lenders, and other companies in 2008 to help stabilize teetering financial markets.

Critics characterized Dodd-Frank itself as a mistake. "This financial-services reform is nothing more than a permanent bailout of Wall Street that will restrict credit, kill jobs, raise taxes, and expand government control of the private sector," argued Indiana Rep. Mike Pence, the No. 3 Republican in the House. Harvey Pitt, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, called the new law a "classic legislative monstrosity" that is "likely to harm competition, force a 'brain drain' of talent away from Wall Street, and boost the performance of commercial and investment banks located outside the U.S."

Despite the law's broad scope, it has no provisions aimed at restructuring Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two quasi-government mortgage companies that played a key role in the subprime mortgage collapse that helped trigger the financial crisis.

OUT AT HOME

Home foreclosures hit a record high in the second quarter to 269,952—up 38 percent over the same period last year, according to the research firm Realty Trac. Meanwhile, the government's independent watchdog over TARP bailout spending told Congress that the Obama administration's multibillion-dollar effort to help homeowners avoid foreclosure isn't working. The Home Affordable Modification Program "has not put an appreciable dent in foreclosure filings," inspector general Neil Barofsky testified before the Senate Finance Committee. The Treasury Department had estimated that the $50 billion program would help 3 million to 4 million homeowners, but so far only 340,000 have seen their mortgages permanently modified. "Any claims of success [for this program] just aren't credible," Barofsky said. *—J.S.*



Joseph Slife is the assistant editor of SoundMindInvesting.com

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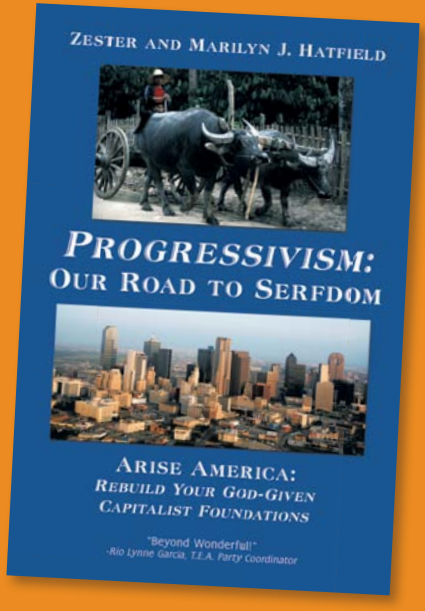
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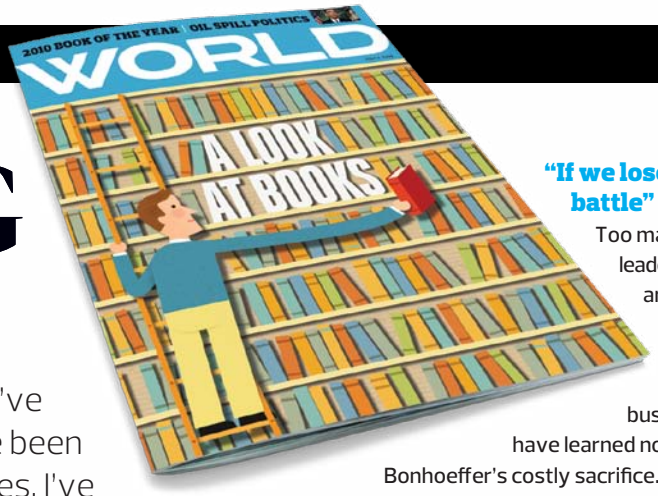
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MAILBAG



"A look at books" (JULY 3)

Thank you for "Writers on writing." I've been writing since I was 15 and have been struggling with completing my stories. I've often wondered if I would ever finish and why I have this drive to write. This article was inspiring. After reading it, I don't feel so overwhelmed. Instead, I would say I'm bordering on hopeful.

TEAGAN SCHMIDT, 20, *Lindstrom, Minn.*

I recently started reading some of N.D. Wilson's books after I read about him in WORLD. I am now hooked. They are fresh and new while also using a classic story-telling format.

HANNAH MILLER
Holmesville, Ohio

I looked forward to your "Look at books." But a July issue with nary a good "beach read"? Some of your subscribers are in search of good books that offer an entertaining escape plus a touch of edification.

ELAINE NEUMEYER
Big Canoe, Ga.

Susan Olasky's refinement of her book reviews into a "best of" list is a welcome winnowing. Each issue of WORLD overwhelms my pick from the last with appealing new options.

PATRICIA MELZER
Milford, Pa.

"Must Israel die?" (JULY 3)

A couple of weeks ago I returned from a trip to Israel that made the Bible come alive like a pop-up book. Now I'm taking more interest in the Middle East conflict. After reading "Must Israel die?" I would challenge anyone who thinks Israelis should "moderate their position" to visit Israel before condemning another country's survival tactics.

ANNA CUNNINGHAM
Salem, Ore.

I'm an evangelical Christian who has lived in Israel for 25 years. "Chicks up front" is a good way to describe Palestinian victim propaganda efforts. But Marvin Olasky also suggests the "real solution is for Hamas and others to accept the two-state proposal." With all due respect, the two-state proposal is a recipe for war.

BILL SCHLEGEL
Jerusalem, Israel

"If we lose the battle" (JULY 3)

Too many Christian leaders and retirees are content to sit back and focus on church business. They have learned nothing from Bonhoeffer's costly sacrifice. We could nip things in the bud, now, but would rather cruise until the ultimate sacrifice is called for.

KIRBY J. KILLMAN
Pasco, Wash.

"Ethical quandaries" (JULY 3)

Alisa Harris' column about how businesses don't have a board to enforce ethics forgets that both consumers and the government hold companies to a certain level of ethics. The last thing we need is a "Board of Economic Ethics Enforcement" or something like it. We need to hold businesses accountable by not doing business with those who don't treat us right.

MATTHEW ERICKSON
Sedalia, Colo.

"Gross gains" (JULY 3)

David Bahnsen charges that Michael Lewis' book, *The Big Short*, portrays Wall Street

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pros as both evil geniuses and utterly stupid, but there is no conflict. They are college grads with insider knowledge and technical skills, but they fooled even themselves into believing that what goes up need not come down. The smartest of the bunch saw an exit strategy in the crash by taking advantage of gullible investors.

JONATHAN LOWE
Greenville, S.C.

"Making a mark" (JULY 3)
I received WORLD on the same day as a fundraising letter from a charity with a Ubimark on the envelope that would direct the reader to a video of their ministry. Your magazine clearly explained this new technology. As I don't have an iPhone, the fundraising letter went right to recycling.

PAUL KRAUSE
Jersey City, N.J.

"Give me liberty, or . . ." (JULY 3)
Family-friendly technology—what a concept! Finally, someone who takes a stand against the debauched porn industry. Way to go, Apple CEO Steve Jobs.

TODD W. TAYLOR
Victorville, Calif.

I read in your recent magazine about Apple's attempts to eliminate pornographic apps for its products. Imagine my surprise when, a few days later, I searched Apple's iTunes and saw at least three sex-related apps—all in the "free" category. It just goes to show that the sex industry is relentless in its efforts to get its "product" into the public's hands.

ELAINE MICHAELS
Montgomery, Ala.

"A-minus team" (JULY 3)
This is a small thing, but in your review of *The A-Team* you stated that actor "Rampage" Jackson was a professional wrestler. He's actually a professional mixed martial arts fighter—huge difference.

JEFF McKEARNEY
Powell, Wyo.

"Not so cute" (JULY 3)
Having grown up with and been an ardent fan of The Beatles, I am greatly disappointed to see Paul McCartney treat President Bush, the White House, and the citizens of this country so shamefully. Orteza's excoriation of Sir Paul would have been as enjoyable as it was deserved were it not for the comment, very insulting to vegetarians, that perhaps "not eating meat had taken a toll on [McCartney's] brain."

LOREN H. SANDERS
Milwaukee, Wis.

"Faultfinding friends" (JULY 3)
Good column on criticism of President Obama, but I've got my own report card. He promised change and he has certainly brought change, so for that he gets an A+. On the quality and value of that change, however, he gets an F.

ANITA WOLFENBERGER
New Market, Tenn.

"How Mark Souder fell" (JUNE 19)
As a believer whose husband serves in the state House and who has witnessed the lives of many who are elected to state-wide office, let me offer my limited observation: Election to public office does not corrupt anyone's morals. Character is formed long before a political win. Elected office is only a very hot fire that exposes the heart of the one elected.

JANIS KRISTIANSEN
Snohomish, Wash.

"Freedom to serve" (JUNE 19)
I think the whole country thinks all conservatives are white Republicans and all liberals are black Democrats. It gets discouraging. But in the last couple of years, I've noticed more and more shades on WORLD's pages, from vanilla to cocoa: young politicians, Effective Compassion people, and those in other professions and ministries. Thank you for highlighting people of color. It helps readers see that God-centered principles are at work in the 'hood, on the hill, and in the marketplace.

DANETTE MATTY
St. Paul, Minn.

A heartfelt thank-you to WORLD for your regular profiles of Christian organizations. My heart is always touched to read about so many wonderful ministries in the Body of Christ. In a world that is often discouraging, we need these regular reminders of how God is advancing His kingdom.

LISA MEEK
Bothell, Wash.

"From Esther to evolution" (JUNE 19)
Some leaders in the church who have accommodated themselves to the prevailing secular paradigm have taken to criticizing creationists for being an impediment to evangelism. When the church is willing to trust in the Bible's authority over man's wisdom, we will see a great evangelical awakening.

BOB SRIGLEY
Charlottesville, Va.

"A Jew for Jesus" (JUNE 19)
Shalom, Moishe Rosen. He never met a Jewish person he didn't love with the love of Y'Shua. As he feasts at the Lord's banquet table, I am sure he hears, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

DEBORAH (ROSS) OURY
Hartland, Wis.

"Life over death" (JUNE 19)
I sobbed after reading "Life over death," the incredible stories of five mothers who did not abort their "imperfect" babies. May God bless these brave, loving women.

JOAN GEORGE
Strathmore, Calif.

"Debate changer" (JUNE 19)
I am glad to hear about the Congressional Prayer Caucus. I have so often thought about how we need God's wisdom in our governmental decisions and wished our lawmakers would seek His face.

SHARON SHAW
Richmond, Va.

Corrections

Author Josh McDowell handed out over 3,000 autographed books at this year's Arab International Festival in Dearborn, Mich. ("Smelting pot," July 17, 2010).

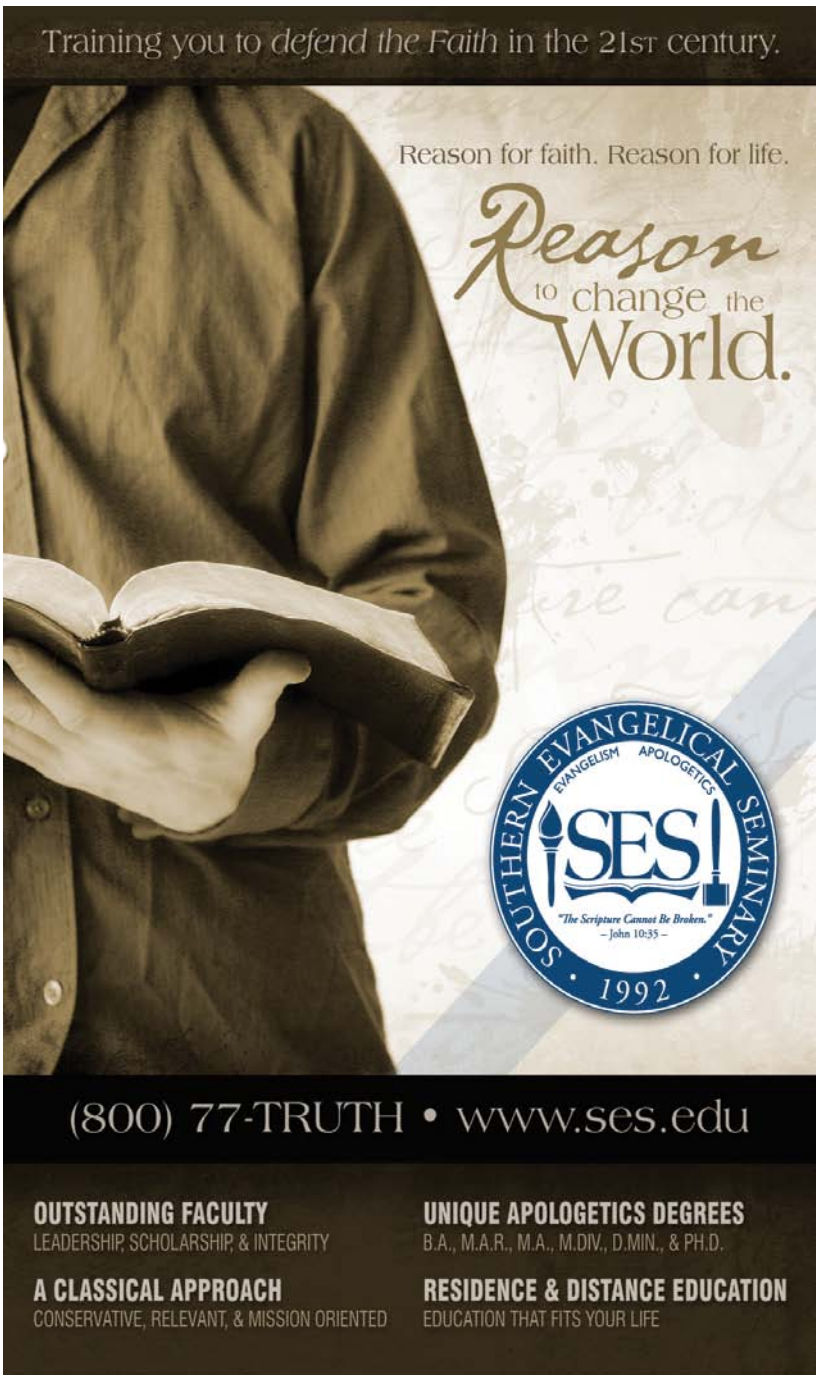
The correct name for the park mentioned in "On God's Provision" is Fort Greene Park (July 31, 2010).

LETTERS AND PHOTOS

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MEDITATION ON A FIG TREE

The production of leaves cannot hide a fatal lack of fruit

JESUS CURSED A FIG TREE. This will already not go over big with the Earth Liberation Front. But worse, he cursed the fig tree though "it was not the season for figs" (Mark 11:13).

Don't worry. Help is on the way. We may yet save the Savior's reputation! Isn't it funny how we are constantly rescuing God from embarrassing discrepancies, as information comes to light aborting our chronic readiness to defect? Remember the time no one thought King Sargon existed, because the Bible was the only place that mentioned him (Isaiah 20:1)? Then archaeologists discovered his palace at Khorsabad, and now he's one of the best-known Assyrian kings. Apologies please?

Or the time they thought the mention of a tunnel built by Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:20) was poppycock? And now if you visit Jerusalem you can walk through all 1,749 feet of it, and admire the feat of the king who brought water from the hidden spring of Gihon outside the city to the pool of Siloam inside.

Frankly, it is not much of a moral issue with me that Jesus cursed a tree, inasmuch as I have murdered many a tomato in my father's garden for selfish salad designs. I will not even go into the legions of peonies and lilacs that I have slaughtered. Nevertheless, it would trouble us if the Lord seemed to act like Caligula, sentencing to death any sentient, or non-sentient, creature that pricked his pique.

You realize, of course, those of you who want an ironclad case for Christ before you will believe, that if this particular biblical stumbling block of the fig tree is satisfactorily removed from your path, another dozen will sprout in its place. I, after I had dithered for two years about Christianity in spite of numerous proofs, was finally told by a man named John on Cape Cod that there is no end to this approach, and that I had better become a Christian straightaway and find out the truth of it from the inside.



JEREMY WOODHOUSE/GETTY IMAGES

But the fact of the matter, according to Church of Scotland minister W.M. Christie, is that in Israel the fig tree produces tiny edible proto-fruit in March before the real fig season arrives. These knobby forerunners, roughly the size of almonds, are probably what Jesus was looking for—unless you want to believe that a man who, unlike foxes and birds, "had no place to lay His head" except fig and olive groves, would not have known the ways of fig trees. I wouldn't necessarily expect that the Creator of the universe was encyclopedic about plants during His earthly disinvestiture—but neither would I expect Him to know less than your average peasant.

These early *taqsh* fruit are coincident with the leaves that Jesus saw, and are a harbinger of the juicy figs that come later. If leaves appear but no *taqsh*, it is a sign that there will be no figs.

Jesus had just taken an exploratory stroll through the temple in Jerusalem the day before (Mark 11:11). We are not told what He saw there—perhaps a few caged doves and bleating goats, perhaps a few locked and chained money boxes—but I suspect He was not pleased. Perhaps He picked up on the fact that the worship of God had become a decadent affair, a gilded formality—"nothing but leaves."

He would have wanted to teach His disciples what happens to a church like that: It gets cursed. There is no guesswork about it; the transfigured Lord says in Revelation 2:5 that He will come around and take back His lampstand unless the Church shapes up. That is, unless it gets back its first love.

Summer is here again, and I may go to the shore at some point. If it happens on a Sunday, I will look for a place to worship. When I walk in I will know pretty soon if the place is about fruit or is nothing but brick and mortar and programs and "leaves." And likewise, if you come to visit my church in Pennsylvania, and you don't feel joy and love there either, you have a perfect right to turn on your heels and get fed somewhere else.

Email: aseu@worldmag.com

THANK YOU, SUBSRIBRS

How much trouble can three missing letters cause?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: What was the most valuable course you had in school? (Typing, in the eighth grade.) How do you write so much? (I type fast.) How many letters do you get from WORLD subscribers: (Lots.) Do you read them? (Yes.) Do you respond to them? (Yes; may miss a few.) Have any changed what you do or what you write? (Yes, and therein hangs a tale.)

Since 1987 I've written numerous articles about the creation-evolution debate and even co-authored a book about it. When two articles of mine last December leaned toward an old-earth creationist position, one reader complained that I wasn't taking seriously the young-earth creationists. She was right. I had previously declined an invitation from a group led by young-earth creationists for a week-long, discussion-filled, July raft trip through the Grand Canyon. (Who has the time?) Now it seemed that fairness required me to go.

I'm typing this column on the plane returning me to Manhattan at the end of a physically and intellectually stimulating week that I would never have experienced but for the reader's letter; I'll write about the experience next month. There is a tiny problem, though. Because one moment was too stimulating physically, I'm wearing a splint on the middle finger of my left hand. All you touch-typers know that this second most valuable finger (the finger wearing a wedding ring is #1) controls the important C, D, and E keys—and I can't use it.

However, I can read email, and here comes another letter from a subscriber, Linda Libert, who has a tutoring company. Three years ago she sent me a list of 100 random vocabulary words she wanted her students to know. I had fun writing a column using all 100 in alphabetical order (WORLD, July 28, 2007). Linda still uses it with her students: She tells them to "create an 'Olasky-style' paragraph with the 8-10 words assigned each week."

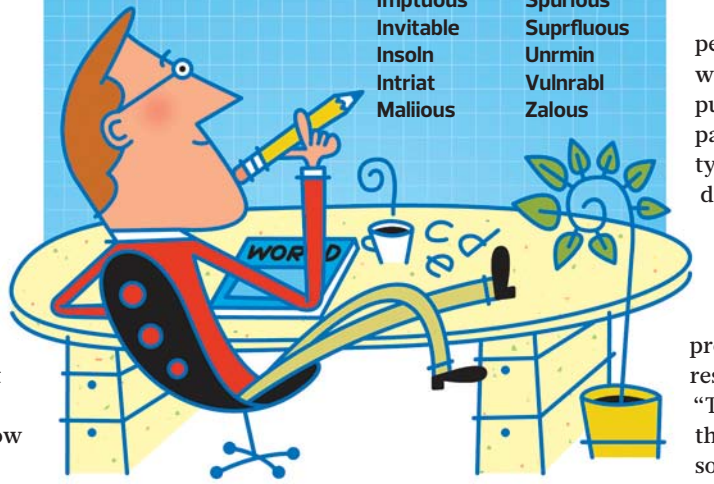
Well. I'm honored, and now she's asking me to write something using "50 common SAT words," but I have this war injury, see, my splinted middle finger. Can't quikly typ thos important C's, D's, and E's.

And yet, we like to serve our readers, and it is summertime: I can rev up the political and cultural analysis next month. So, let's ponder: What would that vocabulary list look like without those three letters? Surely a missing 12 percent of the 26 letters of our alphabet wouldn't make a list look so iffrnt, would it?

See for yourself. On this page sits the list, with C's, D's, and E's omitted. Six of the words (marked by asterisks) are unaffected. Others are easy to discern: Austrity and Grgarious merely need the insertion of a single "e." But what about these 10 wordlets: Ani, Bas, Sponnt, Trimtal, Ntri, Xtriat, Intriat, Miat, Prunt, and Rfut? Can you figure them out? Hint: All of the words are in the alphabetical order they would inhabit with C's, D's, and E's intact.

There's no shame in peeking at the original list, which is printed the classic puzzle way: bottom of the page, upside down, small type. You may be thinking, doesn't your humbl WORL itor-in-chif have better things to do than to cogitate about such subscriber requests? Well, often the press of business dictates a response of only one word: "Thanks." But since we are thankful for our subscribers, sometimes . . .

Abhor*	Gnrat *(as verb)*	Mbellish	Miat
Ambiguous*	Noun	Mulat	Monotony*
Assiuous	Sponnt	Xpdit	Obstinat
Attribut	Trimntal	Xtriat	Opulnt
Austrity	llatory	Fasibl	Ptty
Bnvolnt	Isinclin	Furtiv	Proious
Ani	Ispl	Garrulous*	Profoun
Onform	Ntri	Grgarious	Prunt
Urtail	Ffrvsnt	Gullibl	Rfut
Bas	Loqunt	Humility*	Rvr
		Imptuous	Spurious*
		Invitable	Suprfluous
		Insoln	Unrmin
		Intriat	Vulnrabl
		Maliious	Zalous



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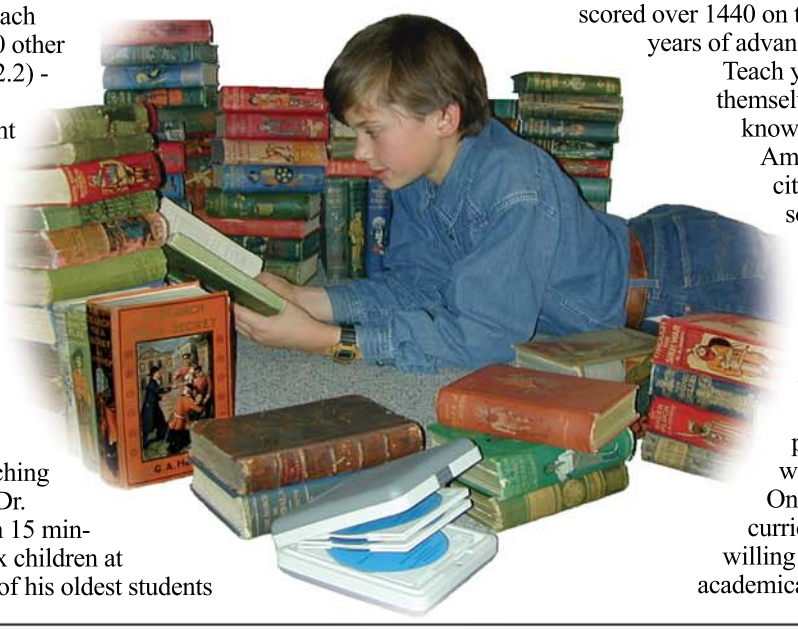
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