THE OTHER OCCUPATION: Zuccotti Park protesters



WORLD

NOVEMBER 5, 2011

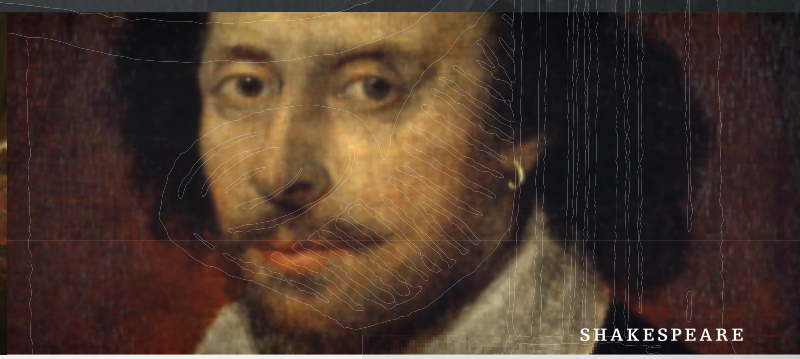
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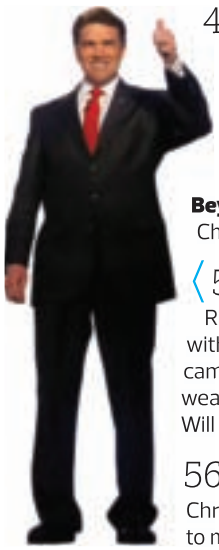


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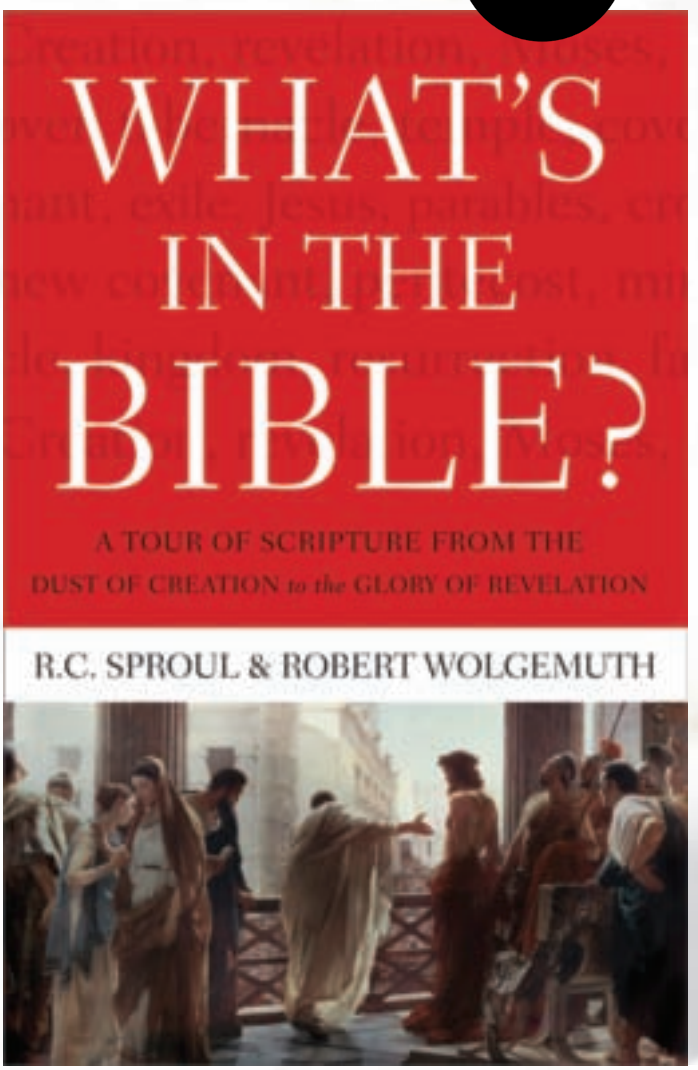
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Joel Belz

Defining the 'test' clause

Let's move the debate over Mormon candidates forward

The U.S. Constitution could hardly be clearer. "No religious test," it says in the plain and simple language of Article VI, par. 3, "shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

Yet the presence of two Mormon candidates on the slate of presidential possibles has prompted us to screw up its interpretation badly.

Again and again in recent weeks, the "no religious test" clause has been hauled out to silence those who oppose Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Jon Huntsman of Utah because of their affiliation with the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints—more popularly known as the Mormon Church. "It's unconstitutional," some have said boldly but clumsily, "to oppose someone in the American political system on the basis of that person's religion."

What's slipped out of focus here is what entity is prohibited from having such a test. It's Congress, or some official representative of government, that is absolutely barred from making any kind of religious test for office-holding.

Individuals, meanwhile, are free to establish such preferences, and to advocate them to others. Individuals can't restrict the appointment of a particular governmental employee, but they have full liberty to claim they'll never vote for a Hindu, or will vote only for a Unitarian.



Romney (left) and Huntsman

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Non-governmental organizations may also do so. Theoretically, your regional chamber of commerce, your local newspaper, or the area's electricians union could take a stand against Presbyterians or in favor of Baptists—and still be within the words and the intent of the Constitution.

Even political parties and political action groups are not constitutionally barred from establishing and enforcing their own "religious tests." They would do so, of course, very much at their own risk, and especially so in today's pluralistic society. For the Republican Party, for example, to suggest that a candidate had to profess evangelical Christianity to be ideologically acceptable might be technically constitutional, but almost certainly politically silly.

So the issue is both slippery and tricky—in spite of the simple, direct language of Article VI, par. 3. That which is theoretically on target may well not be politically astute. It won't usually be necessary for us to say everything we're free to say! And if we're intent on being politically effective in today's pluralism-is-everything culture, we'll probably have to learn not to come across as crassly exclusionary.

That doesn't mean, though, that we need to bury our differences—not even our religious differences. We need instead to learn new ways of discussing them. So instead of training our focus on groups and categories, which are easily caricatured, let's move concretely to specific issues and ideas. Instead of saying simplistically that I could never vote for a Mormon, maybe I'd be better off publicly but politely asking my Mormon friends a few of the questions that trouble so many evangelicals. Why are Mormons so secretive about so many of their ideas and practices? Why, when I go to Salt Lake City, are so many places out of bounds for me to visit? Am I wrong to be a little spooked by a candidate whose church hides so many of its doctrines and practices? How do I interpret the testimony of a formerly Mormon friend who tells me how she was taught through all her childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood that shading the truth for a good end is a healthy thing?

Secretiveness and truth-telling—aren't these pretty basic, legitimate, and crucial issues in a campaign for high office?

All this calls for the hard work of research instead of cheap and easy shots. It calls for civility and Golden Rule kindness—even while we're digging hard to discover the truth, and even when differences and disagreements are both big and profound.

But remember. While you're doing all this, don't let anybody accuse you of establishing a religious test for office. You're not big and powerful enough to do that even if you wanted to. Only Congress can do that—and no one there seems especially inclined in such a direction.

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Dispatches



LIBYA: DAVID SPERRY/AP · QADDAFI: NASSER NASSER/AP

After Qaddafi

NEWS: A potentially bloody road ahead for Libya, and the question of Islamist power remains

BY EMILY BELZ

Col. Muammar Qaddafi, who ruled Libya for 42 years with an iron fist, is dead. Bloodied pictures purportedly of the dictator circled online, but the cause of his death Oct. 20 remained murky: Some reports said he was killed when a NATO air strike hit his convoy, while other reports said he was captured badly wounded and died from the wounds, and still others said he had been shot in the head.

Qaddafi, 69, is the first leader to be killed in the Arab Spring movement. Shouts of "Allahu Akhbar!" filled the streets of Tripoli after the news of his death. "A new Libya is born today," Mahmoud Shammam told *The New York Times*. Shamman is



WHAT NEXT? Qaddafi in 2007; Libyans celebrate the capture of Sirte on Oct. 20.

the chief spokesman for the National Transitional Council (NTC), the interim government that took power after Qaddafi's government fell. "This is the day of real liberation. We were serious about giving him a fair trial. It seems God has some other wish."

Libyan rebel forces, backed up by NATO air support, also overran the final Qaddafi loyalist holdouts in the dictator's hometown of Sirte after two months of battle. Qaddafi fled Tripoli as it fell to rebels Aug. 21 and has been on the run since, though some doubted he remained in the country. Loyalist forces remain scattered around the country, and some believe Qaddafi stored caches of weapons in the southern desert, leaving the possibility of an ongoing insurgency.

The NTC, the interim government, has pledged to support a "pluralistic democracy," but no one really knows the disposition of the rebels in power. Libyans have voted once in their country's history, in 1952, a vote reeking of manipulation that resulted in the dissolution of all political parties. Alex Warren, director of the Middle East and North Africa research firm Frontier, noted in *Foreign Policy* that "parties with Islam as their guiding tenet should garner a great deal of support," and added that regional factionalism could be an issue in coming months. Compared to the relatively swift transition to democracy in Tunisia, a "bloodier road" lies ahead for Libya, he said, "where the electorate will wield guns as well as votes."

Abdel Jalil, the chairman of the NTC, said earlier this year that no NTC members would be eligible for elections, which the interim government hopes to hold next year. Abdel Hakim Belhaj, a rebel leader and Islamist who oversees security in Tripoli, has strong support, and he announced Qaddafi's death on Libyan television. Belhaj formerly commanded the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, which the United States designated as a terrorist group aligned with al-Qaeda, and the CIA took him into custody for a time in 2004.

But Belhaj also opposed Qaddafi, so he became an unlikely ally for the United States. In recent months Belhaj has denied that he has any Islamist designs for Libya.



Against G20 While leaders of the 20 largest nations meet in Cannes, France, from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4, protest organizers promise that the real headlines will be made by protesters gathering alongside the G20 in Nice, France, under the banner People First, Not Finance. With proposed slogans like, "They're 20, we're billions," the protests could take on the feel of New York's Occupy Wall Street protests, or they could boil over into the sort of rioting seen earlier this year in London.

LOOKING AHEAD



Euro debt plan

German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and French President **Nicolas Sarkozy**'s plan to resolve Europe's sovereign debt crisis (see p. 67) will meet its first real political test on Nov. 3 when officials present it to the Group of 20 Summit.



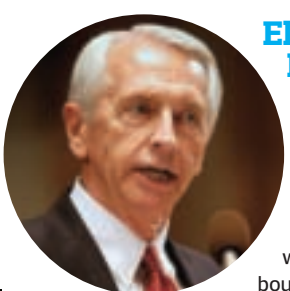
Orphan Sunday

The Christian Alliance for Orphans hopes that churches around the nation will turn their attention to the world's orphans on Nov. 6. According to the group, there are some 18.3 million children alive today who have lost both their mother and father. The National Day of Orphans coincides with an apropos children's initiative: National Adoption Month.

GOP campaign continues

The Republican nomination process rolls on Nov. 1 when Iowa Gov. **Terry Branstad** takes the microphone to moderate a forum for GOP presidential hopefuls in Pella, Iowa. The debate will be sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers, a powerful industry lobby representing manufacturing businesses.





Election Day

Elections are few and far between this year, but at least some Americans will be poll-bound for the off-year elections on Nov. 8. Citizens in Kentucky and Mississippi will be voting for governor, and pundits don't expect it to be close. Incumbent Democratic Gov. **Steve Beshear** is favored in Kentucky, while Republican Phil Bryant is expected to hold onto the governor's mansion for the GOP in Mississippi.

G20: VALERY HACHE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · MERKEL, SARKOZY: MARTIN MEISSNER/AP · ORPHAN SUNDAY: ESTHER HAVENS/CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHAN · BRANSTAD: CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP


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Freed Shalit

Hamas militants released Israeli soldier **Gilad Shalit** Oct. 18 after more than five years in captivity in exchange for 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israeli officials said Shalit showed signs of malnutrition and his father said he needed time to recover from psychological and physical wounds. Israel transferred more than 450 Palestinians from Israeli prisons to the West Bank and Gaza, where tens of thousands gathered to celebrate, calling for militants to seize more Israeli soldiers for future swaps. The rest of the Palestinian prisoners will be released in a second phase in two months.

Shalit was abducted in June 2006 when Palestinian militants ambushed an Israeli army post. He reportedly suffered shrapnel wounds and—before his release—had not been seen publicly since the attack. He is the first Israeli soldier to return home alive in 26 years. Israeli and Hamas officials said the recent Egyptian revolution helped drive them to an agreement in an effort by both sides to forge good relations with the new Egyptian leadership.

Quiet assault

Congress blocked President Obama's jobs bill, but he sent it to the Hill again in mid-October in what he called "bite-size" pieces, saying: "Maybe they just didn't understand the whole thing." Obama's bus tour promoting the job initiatives stopped in critical reelection states North Carolina and Virginia—where he has lost support since the states went for him in 2008—before moving to California, Nevada, and Colorado.

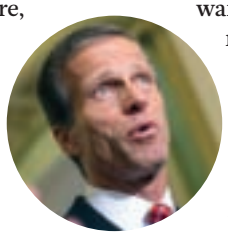
One piece of the president's jobs bill drew heat, a cap on charitable tax deductions, so that individuals making more than $200,000 a year must cap itemized deductions at 28 percent rather than the current 35 percent. After an outcry from the nonprofit community, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid stripped that provision from the jobs bill, but the cap remains a revenue-generating proposal Obama submitted to the congressional "supercommittee" on the national debt. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, at an Oct. 18 hearing, said the current charitable deduction is under "quiet assault."



ON THE ROAD: The Obamas in Hampton, Va.

Destined for failure

Republicans have pushed for the repeal of Obamacare, but the first real cut in the healthcare law came from a Democrat. The Department of Health and Human Services announced Oct. 14 that it would not implement a long-term care insurance plan created under the 2010 law, and the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) office will close. "Despite our best analytical efforts,



I do not see a viable path forward for CLASS implementation," HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a letter to congressional leaders. Lawmakers and a top Medicare official had warned that the program, to begin in 2012, would not remain financially solvent, but Obama administration officials included it in the final bill, claiming it would reduce the federal deficit by $80 billion over the next decade. "The CLASS Act was a budget gimmick that might enhance the numbers on a Washington bureaucrat's spreadsheet but was destined to fail in the real world," said Sen. **John Thune**, R-S.D.

SUSPENSE A three-member state ethics panel recommended that former Kansas attorney general **Phill Kline**'s law license be suspended indefinitely. Kline spent six years investigating Planned Parenthood and late-term abortionist George Tiller, and has been cleared in previous ethics investigations. The decision of the Board of Discipline of Attorneys came as a Johnson County trial involving Planned Parenthood—and charges that it manufactured client records and broke other abortion laws—was set to begin Oct. 24. "It's all a diversion," Kline told WORLD. "It's to promote the story line in Kansas that the clinics did nothing illegal." The Kansas Supreme Court must now decide whether to suspend the law license of Kline, currently a visiting professor at Liberty University.



SHALIT: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE/AP · OBAMAS: SUSAN WALSH/AP · THUNE: J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP · KLINE: JOHN HANNA/AP

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Bishop charged

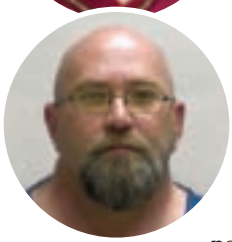


"ABOUT THE FACTS": Baker (center) announces the charges against Finn.

For the first time since the Roman Catholic sex abuse scandal gained headlines nearly a decade ago, a Catholic bishop in the United States is facing prosecution for allegedly covering up criminal activity.

Jackson County (Mo.) prosecutors say Bishop **Robert Finn** of the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph broke Missouri law when for five months he failed to report to authorities that a technician had found hundreds of images of child pornography on the computer of a priest in the diocese.





The case involves priest **Shawn Ratigan**. In May 2010, a principal of a Catholic school had alerted the diocese that she was uncomfortable with Ratigan's behavior around children, prompting a meeting between a diocese official and Ratigan. When the technician found the pornographic images on Dec. 16, 2010, Finn responded by assigning Ratigan to a mission house in Independence, Mo., with instructions to avoid contact with children. Ratigan disobeyed those instructions and, at an April 24 Easter party that he hosted, he allegedly attempted to take lewd pictures of a young girl.

Ratigan faces charges of possessing child pornography and federal charges of producing child pornography. But prosecutors say Bishop Finn also warrants charges for violating a state law that requires clergy and others who work with children to report suspicions of child abuse to authorities. They say Finn should have alerted police about the images on Ratigan's computer upon their discovery.

The misdemeanor charge against Finn carries a potential $1,000 fine and a year in jail. Finn has apologized for poor administrative judgment but pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Prosecutors denied suggestions by some in the diocese that Finn is a target because of his traditionalist views. "This has nothing—nothing—to do with the Catholic faith," said Jackson County prosecutor Jean Peters Baker. "This is about the facts of the case, nothing more. This is about protecting children."

BAKER: ALLISON LONG/THE KANSAS CITY STAR/AP · FINN: ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY–ST. JOSEPH/AP · RATIGAN: CLAY COUNTY DETENTION CENTER/AP · PELOSI: SUSAN WALSH/AP



Abortion funding debated

The U.S. House on Oct. 13 passed legislation to ensure that taxpayer dollars won't be used to pay for abortions under Obamacare. But the Democratic-led U.S. Senate will not take up the bill, and White House officials have threatened a veto.

The Protect Life Act prevents insurance plans from covering abortions if any customer receives federal premium subsidies. The bill, which passed 251-172 with the support of 15 Democrats, also strengthens conscience provisions protecting medical professionals who decline to perform abortions for moral reasons.

The law attempts to codify President Obama's 2010 Executive Order, signed in the heat of the healthcare debate, stating that taxpayer funds cannot be used for abortions—an order that could be revoked at any time or ignored. The House bill also tackles accounting gimmicks in Obamacare: Currently healthcare plans can offer abortion coverage as long as they set up separate accounts to keep federal dollars segregated from abortion funds.

"Within the President's healthcare law are loopholes inconsistent with the will of the American people that will allow for taxpayer funding of abortion services," said Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga. But House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, in debate leading up to the vote, dialed up the rhetoric: "When the Republicans vote for this bill today they will be voting to say women can die on the floor and healthcare providers don't have to intervene."

Election spending

Gov. Rick Perry's poll numbers may be lousy, but he came in first place among GOP presidential contenders in fundraising in the last quarter, raking in $17.2 million from July to September. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney followed, raising $14.2 million over that period. The candidate at the top of polls recently, businessman Herman Cain, raised a mere $2.8 million. Meanwhile President Obama, who doesn't have to spend money on a primary fight, outdid all of the GOP contenders, raising $70 million in the quarter. Obama will need to raise about $120 million in each of the next five quarters if he is going to hit his goal of $750 million, the amount he raised in the 2008 election. Outside groups are also raising money and will likely play a role in the campaign: the conservative American Crossroads and its affiliate, Crossroads GPS, have pledged to spend $240 million on the 2012 election.



Another war

President Barack Obama announced the deployment of 100 U.S. military personnel to assist Ugandan forces battling the **Lord's Resistance Army** (LRA), a guerrilla group with a 25-year history of atrocities that have resulted in the displacement of 2 million people in northern Uganda, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In an Oct. 24 letter to House Speaker John Boehner, Obama said the "combat equipped U.S. forces" he is deploying to the region "will act as advisors to partner forces." He cited a law passed in 2010 to increase "comprehensive U.S. efforts" to eliminate the threat posed by the LRA as justification. Human-rights groups applauded his action but others criticized military intervention in what has been a regional conflict. With Human Rights Watch advocating for this and U.S. action in Libya, said Andrew Exum, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, "U.S. military officers wanting to know where they will next go to war should probably just read [Human Rights Watch] policy papers at this point."

FREEDOM ON HOLD The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, in danger of shutting down Sept. 30, was saved at the last minute in the continuing resolution Congress passed to fund government services until Nov. 18. But the commission is still in danger of shutting down after Nov. 18 because of a holdup in the Senate. In September the House overwhelmingly passed stand-alone legislation reauthorizing the commission, but a Democrat in the Senate placed a secret hold on that legislation, effectively killing the commission. Now, thanks to the addendum to the continuing resolution, the Senate has a few more weeks to reauthorize the body, a watchdog that reports to the State Department. A single senator can place an anonymous hold to prevent legislation from coming to the floor for a vote, a block that the Senate majority leader can heed at his discretion.

Border security

A foiled Iranian plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States in a crowded Washington restaurant carried a disturbing twist: The suspect tried to hire a Mexican cartel based in Houston to execute the bomb attack. Federal authorities caught **Mansour Arbabsiar**—a naturalized U.S. citizen who holds an Iranian passport—after the suspect's cartel contact turned out to be a paid informant for the federal government. The thwarted conspiracy underscored the reality that Mexican cartels are well-organized on both sides of the border, and that border security involves more than stopping illegal migrants. Indeed, the Texas Department of Public Safety reports that over the last 18 months, at least six Mexican cartels have established command and control operations in Texas, and that Texas prison gangs feed cartel activity.

At a New York news conference, federal officials said they arrested Arbabsiar in September. A second charged suspect, Gholam Shakuri, who is a member of Iran's notorious Quds Force, remains at large in Iran. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder declined to say whether top Iranian leaders ordained the plot, but noted that the Quds Force is Iran's primary apparatus for supporting terrorism around the world.



LRA: JAMES AKENA/REUTERS/NEWSCOM · ARBABSIAR: NUECES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

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'BLOODY SUNDAY'

Egypt's Copts regroup after clash kills 26 BY JAMIE DEAN



COPTIC KILLINGS: An injured Egyptian Coptic demonstrator is evacuated by fellow protesters (left); angry Egyptian Christians protest against the military ruling council (right).

Coptic Christians pressing for more protection from Egypt's ruling military got a brutal answer to their protests on Oct. 9: Egyptian soldiers opened fire on civilians and plowed armored vehicles into crowds, as scores of Muslims joined a riot that spread across Cairo, killing at least 26 people, mostly Coptic Christians.

Protesters quickly dubbed the violent night "Bloody Sunday," marking the country's worst sectarian violence since President Hosni Mubarak's ouster in February. Nearly a month before Egyptians are set to vote in the first parliamentary elections since the country's revolution, minority groups worry that a hostile military could leave them more vulnerable than ever.

Trouble began when a Coptic group called Maspero Youth Union began a march toward the headquarters of Egyptian state television in Cairo: The group was protesting the Muslim burning of a Coptic church on Sept. 30 and the ruling military's failure to protect Christians from a slate of attacks over the last eight months. As soldiers used tear gas and armored vehicles to disperse the crowds, a riot erupted that included Muslim onlookers defending the army by attacking Christians.

The riot grew worse as state-run Egyptian television called on viewers to defend the army against Christian attacks. Some Egyptian channels reported a false statement that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged to send U.S. troops to protect Christians.

By the next morning, hundreds of rioters were injured, and at least 26 were dead.

Two senior Egyptian generals defended the army's actions, saying that outsiders were inciting sectarian violence to unravel the revolution. Videos posted online showed soldiers beating civilians, shooting into crowds, and chasing protesters in military vehicles. The Associated Press reported that some onlookers attacked groups of Christians with sticks, swords, firebombs, and firearms. Amnesty International reported the cause of death for many of the victims as gunshot wounds or crushing by vehicle.

"The same army that said in January that it would 'not fire a single shot against an Egyptian citizen'... now used live ammunition and excessive force in this situation," said Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom.

Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf called the protests "a dirty conspiracy" and accused "hidden hands" of provoking the unrest. But laying blame on foreign forces struck many as a hollow attempt to divert attention from the growing unrest among Egyptian groups and growing dissatisfaction with military rule.

Some Egyptians—including Christians and Muslims—fear that the military is stoking unrest to remain in power longer. The interim military government has already hinted that presidential elections may be another year away. Meanwhile, Christians worry about the rising political influence of Salafi Muslims—an ultraconservative group more radical than the Muslim Brotherhood. The religious group opposes treating non-Muslims as citizens with equal rights.

Nearly a week later, hundreds of Muslims and Christians marched in Cairo in a show of solidarity from a prominent mosque to a central Cairo cathedral to protest the bloody fighting. But even those efforts were marked by clashes as onlookers near the mosque threw rocks at the demonstrators. Inside the mosque, the imam addressed the clashes during his Friday prayer sermon, calling on Egyptians to protect the country's military from any protesters.

From Cairo, Coptic Orthodox Bishop Thomas said, "We are passing through a dark tunnel of violence, feeling grief of death and injustice. ... Trying to bring forgiveness and justice together is a big struggle, but we are committed to the love that never fails. We are hardly pressed on every side, yet not crushed."

RIGHT: NASSER NASSER/AP · LEFT: MAHMUD HAMS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Finding Chen Guangcheng

More than a year after Chinese officials released prominent human-rights activist **Chen Guangcheng** from prison, the blind attorney's supporters are worried about his whereabouts. During a one-week period in October, Chinese authorities aggressively blocked two dozen outsiders from visiting Chen, and Voice of America (VOA) reported that villagers said the activist was dead.

Chen served four years in prison after exposing forced abortions and sterilizations in his province. Authorities confined the activist to house arrest after his release in September 2010, along with his wife and 6-year-old daughter. Officers have reportedly beaten the attorney, who already suffers from frail health. Chinese newspaper reporter Shi Yu said that officers beat, robbed, and detained him after he tried to visit Chen's village in October. Hu Jia—another activist who spent four years in prison—said authorities told him they would arrest him if he tried to visit Chen. His response: Hu posted a photo of himself on Twitter wearing black sunglasses like the blind attorney, and wrote a message: "Free Chen Guangcheng."





Reviving Sister Aimee

A new musical marks an overdue look at a legend

BY MEGAN BASHAM

"Aimee Semple McPherson is the most famous woman nobody's ever heard of," says *Today Show* host Kathie Lee Gifford of her new musical, *Saving Aimee*. A flamboyant Los Angeles–based evangelist, *Time* magazine named McPherson one of the most influential people of the 20th century, and Gifford calls her a forerunner of the women's rights movement: "People should know about her every bit as much as they know about Susan B. Anthony."

If Gifford's show has the success she hopes for, that may soon be the case. The musical, for which Gifford wrote the book and lyrics, is the true story of the rise and fall of the Jazz Age's most successful preacher, a woman who becomes seduced by the very world she set out to save. Best known for playing to huge audiences in a sophisticated metropolis, Sister Aimee, as she was called, was megachurch when megachurch wasn't cool. "We're talking about someone who looked at everything they use in Hollywood to build the devil's kingdom and said, 'I'm going to use it to build God's,'" says Gifford. "Charlie Chaplin designed her sets. She baptized Marilyn Monroe and gave John Wayne his first acting job."

Gifford says her show doesn't shy away from scandalous elements of McPherson's story either, such as her 1926 trial in which she stood accused of faking her own kidnapping in order to cover up an extramarital affair. *Saving Aimee* premieres at Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theater on Oct. 20 with two-time Tony Award nominee Carolee Carmello in the title role. If that nine-day run goes well, says Gifford, Aimee may soon be spreading her message on Broadway.

ONE RED CENT **The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that the price of first-class postage—the 44-cent Forever Stamp—will increase by one cent to 45 cents on Jan. 22, 2012. USPS also has proposed 2 percent rate increases for periodical and package delivery to deal with what Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe calls the service's "current financial crisis." USPS contends it overpaid some $75 billion in retirement prepayments since becoming semi-independent of the federal government in 1970. But a recent Government Accountability Office report found no errors in the arrangement, and pointed out that Congress had no control over postal pay raises, which contributed to pension liability.**



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FILED

Samuel "Joe" Wurzelbacher, who gained fame and the nickname Joe the Plumber after he confronted Barack Obama while the then-senator campaigned during the 2008 presidential race, has filed to run as a Republican candidate in Ohio's 9th Congressional District. The district was already poised to have an interesting primary battle after state redistricting merged the districts of long-time Democrats Marcy Kaptur and Dennis Kucinich into one, pitting them against each other in November's Democratic primary. Wurzelbacher, 37, will face Cuyahoga County Republican Chairman Rob Frost in the primary.

WED

The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan celebrated the marriage of King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**, 31, to commoner and childhood friend **Jetsun Perma**, 21, on Oct. 13. Wangchuck is well-loved by his 700,000 people, having worked since 2006 to usher in democratic reforms while preserving the region's culture. The Oxford graduate has vowed that he will have only one wife, diverging from his father's legacy, which included four wives—all sisters.





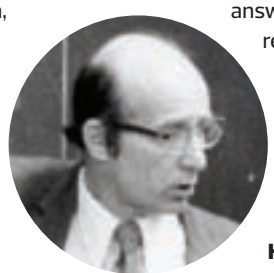
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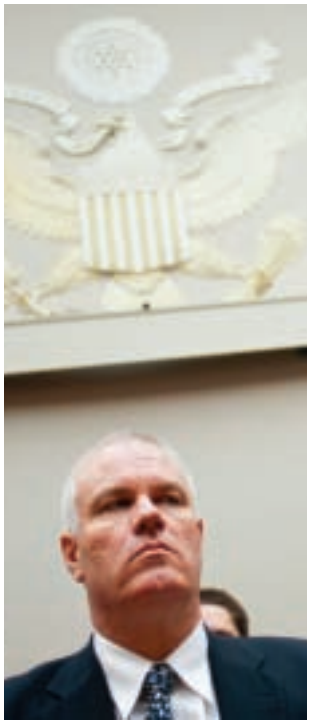
One of convicted polygamist leader Warren Jeffs' 85 wives escaped from the **Arizona compound** of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints last month. The unidentified 25-year-old woman is reportedly receiving counseling and psychiatric care at a women's shelter.

BACKTRACKED

Exodus International President **Alan Chambers** has backtracked from his original criticism of the pro-homosexual campaign "It Gets Better." The initiative, which launched last year on the heels of several suicides among homosexual youth, features U.S. leaders and celebrities offering support to LGBT youth who are victims of bullying. Chambers had initially criticized the campaign's use of *Toy Story* character Woody, but now says, "I was wrong to question their marketing strategy without expressing my full support for what is the heart of their campaign—encouraging LGBT teens to choose life."







RESIGNED

Brian Harrison, CEO of California-based solar panel company Solyndra, resigned Oct. 7. The embattled company had received more than half a billion dollars in federal loan guarantees before closing its doors in late August and filing for bankruptcy protection. During a congressional hearing in September, Harrison had invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions regarding the scandal.

DIED

Wheaton College professor **Arthur Holmes**, who penned *All Truth Is God's Truth* and *The Idea of a Christian College*, died Oct. 8 at age 87. Holmes spent his entire career at Wheaton where he promoted Christian scholarship and the integration of faith and learning.

WURZELBACHER: ALEXIS C. GLENN/UPI/LANDOV · JEFFS COMPOUND: JOHNNY HANSON/RAPPORT PRESS/NEWSCOM · HARRISON: PETE MAROVICH/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM · BHUTAN: KARMA NIDUP/ROYAL OFFICE FOR MEDIA/AP · CHAMBERS: HANDOUT · HOLMES: WHEATON COLLEGE

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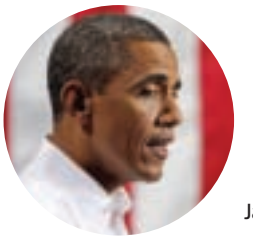
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"It's like Noah's Ark wrecking right here in Zanesville, Ohio."

JACK HANNA, TV personality and former director of the Columbus Zoo, after the owner of a U.S. exotic animal farm released dozens of tigers, lions, and other beasts from their cages before dying of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.



"I believe all the choices we've made have been the right ones."

President **BARACK OBAMA**, in an interview with ABC's Jake Tapper, on the administration's economic policies.



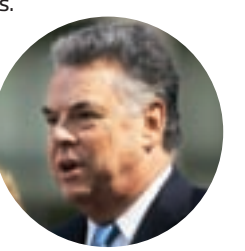


"I would like to ask all those who occupy ministry buildings, choke the streets with garbage, close off ports, close off the Acropolis, if this helps us stand on our feet again—of course it does not."

Greek Prime Minister **GEORGE PAPANDREOU**, on a two-day general strike beginning Oct. 19 to protest efforts by the government to address the country's deepening debt crisis.



"He's not the type whose supporters are going to fall on their sword for him."



U.S. Rep. **PETER KING**, R-N.Y., on GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney's struggle to inspire Republican voters.

"My feeling is this: If a man wants to divorce me and says our relationship has no value to him, and then he asks me if he can sleep with me, the answer is, 'No!'"

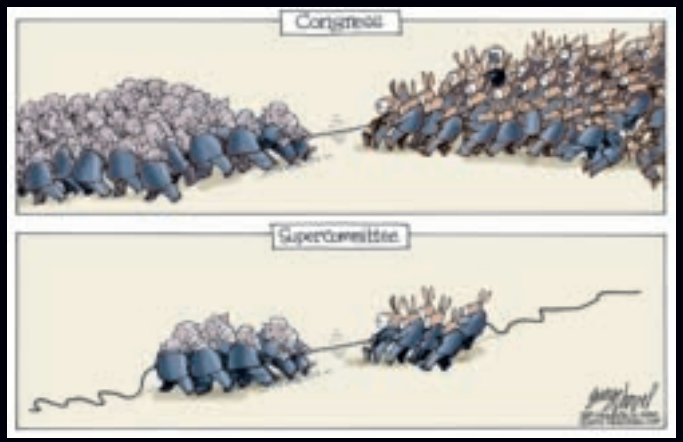
KIM MULKEY, women's basketball coach at Baylor, on not wanting to play Texas A&M this season after the Aggies decided to leave the Big XII conference next year to join the SEC.

HANNA: MATT SULLIVAN/REUTERS/NEWSCOM · OBAMA: JAY PAUL/GETTY IMAGES · GREECE: MILOS BICANSKI/GETTY IMAGES · PAPANDREOU: ANGELOS TZORTZINIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · KING: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES · MULKEY: TONY GUTIERREZ/AP


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IRAN TERROR PLOT
BORDER PATROL


WHY DOES SHE KEEP SINGING "SOME DAY MY PRINCE WILL COME"?
GOP


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OCCUPY NFL
GIMME FREE BOX SEATS
OCCUPY WORLD SERIES
GIMME FREE MOVIE PASSES
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EXPLOSIVE DISCOVERY

When Sam Curry, a 22-year-old British professional mover, was clearing out furniture from a garage near Coventry on Oct. 4, he uncovered a mysterious object wrapped in a black bag. The object, it turned out, was a German incendiary bomb from the World War II era. "I didn't actually know what it was so I started shaking it," he explained. "It looked like an incendiary bomb so I Googled it on my phone and it came up with an image exactly like the one I had in my hand. I rang my dad straight away—he was on another job. He said to get out of the house so I ran out the front and called the police." Authorities could not say how the Nazi bomb came to be in the garage, but they were able to remove it safely.



RED SCARE

French government officials have decided that the American staple ketchup is not fit for French consumption, and they're banning the condiment from the menu of French primary and college students. The ban will allow schools to serve ketchup only for French fries. Agriculture and food minister Bruno Le Maire announced the plan, saying, "France must be an example to the world in the quality of its food, starting with its children."



SILENT TREATMENT

When traffic cops didn't work, authorities in Caracas, Venezuela, opted to send in the **mimes**. Beginning in early October, police in the Venezuelan capital dispatched nearly 120 mimes dressed in bright colors into the streets to attempt to shame drivers there into obeying traffic laws. Notorious for treating traffic signals as suggestions, Venezuelan drivers and rule-breaking pedestrians have created havoc in the city's streets, authorities say. Alex Ojeda, president of the organization that supplied the mimes, said motorists will pay attention to mimes more readily than traffic police. "Many times, the mimes can achieve what traffic police cannot achieve using warning and sanctions in their efforts to maintain control," he said. "Mimes, on the contrary, often achieve the same objective by employing artistic and peaceful actions."

DISAPPEARING ACT

Benjamin Arthur Jones and Alexander Williams Jones of New Castle, Pa., may be small-time thieves, but they chose big-time loot. Police say the two brothers used a blowtorch to take apart a rural bridge in western Pennsylvania and in early October tried to sell the resulting 15 1/2 tons of scrap metal for more than $5,000. The bridge, called **Covert's Crossing Bridge**, had measured 50 feet long and 20 feet wide.



ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE · BURGER: KELLY CLINE/ISTOCK · MIME: ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP · BRIDGE: HANDOUT

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ARMORED ADVANCE

If you see armored pests roaming the highways surrounding Washington, D.C., in the next few years, biologists would like to assure you that you are not hallucinating. According to a report in *The Washington Post*, scientists say that **armadillos**—a quintessentially Texas animal—will soon advance northward to the nation's capital and beyond after already roaming into Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Missouri.



BUZZED OFF



Police officers in Turkey were scared away from a contraband bust when alleged smugglers unleashed tens of thousands of bees on the unsuspecting officers in early October. The group of 15 officers were trying to inspect a truck loaded with bee hives in search of a large shipment of contraband cigarettes. Officials in beekeeping gear later returned to confiscate more than 32,000 packs of cigarettes.

STEAM DRIVEN

Despite already having four owners and showing its age, one special used car fetched $4.2 million at an auction in Hershey, Pa. That's because the car is the **De Dio Bouton Et Trepardoux Dos-A-Dos Steam Runabout**—the oldest drivable car in the world. Known more concisely as La Marquise, the 127-year-old car runs on steam and can reach a top speed of 38 mph. Despite its low speed and required 30 minutes of idling before building up enough steam to run, the unidentified new owner of La Marquise may be pleased to know that the steam engine can operate on not only coal or wood, but also bits of paper.



SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE

Motorists thinking about paying off a traffic ticket in Hillsborough County, Fla., may want to think twice. According to an internal memo obtained by WTSP-TV in Tampa, the Clerk of Court's computer system has gone haywire, resulting in a wide range of problems that could result in innocent citizens being arrested. According to the memo, "Payments of tickets aren't being recorded and people who paid their tickets will have their license suspended and could be arrested." Also, the memo warned that the clerk's failing computer system is causing the county to charge customers' cards three times for each transaction.



SPICE GIRL

Two contestants in an Oct. 1 eating contest at an Edinburgh, Scotland, Indian food restaurant had to be rushed to the hospital after the "Kismot Killer" curry they ingested violently disagreed with their stomachs. American exchange student Curie Kim took second place in the contest to raise money for a local children's charity but required a hospital stay to douse the flames created by the spicy curry. "It was very painful and felt like I was being chainsawed in the stomach with hot sauce on the chainsaw," she told the BBC about her experience. A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service urged organizers to "review the way in which this event is managed in future." Kim says she learned her lesson: "I will be cutting down on my spice intake full stop."

ARMADILLO: PHIL SANDLIN/AP · BEES: TOMASZ ZACHARIASZ/ISTOCK · MOTOR CAR: DARIN SCHNABEL/RM AUCTIONS/SOLENT/REX/AP · ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE



Janie B. Cheaney

Male call

The cultural decline of men is a problem for us all



"Most of us [men] were raised by women," reflects the iconic Tyler Durden in the movie *Fight Club*. "I'm wondering if another woman is really the answer we need." Around the time that he was born, a significant number of women were deciding that men weren't the answer—which led to large numbers of Tyler's generation being brought up without fathers. And that leads to the oft-remarked phenomenon of the couch-potato man-child, thumbs twitching over his PlayStation. It's a disturbing trend, especially to social observers like William Bennett.

Bennett's latest book, patterned on his classic *Book of Virtues*, is titled *The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood*. It's obviously intended as a guide to pre-men, a selection of instructional and inspirational passages. "Why Men Are in Trouble," an opinion piece for CNN, explains why he wrote it: "For the first time in history, women are better-educated, more ambitious and arguably more successful than men. ... We celebrate the ascension of women but what will we do about what appears to be the very real decline of the other sex?"

Maybe it's not a total decline; in some cases, young men are simply taking longer to mature. I know several who dragged their feet after high school, drifting through jobs or college majors, but finally snapped into a responsible mode after marrying. The average age for marriage is five to seven years later than it was 50 years ago, but is not dissimilar from other periods in history. The real problem is that (a) too many men aren't marrying at all, but they are (b) fathering children, who (c) grow up with no understanding of either (a) or (b), thus perpetuating the cycle.

Who's to blame? Feminism is an obvious target, with its ideal of the independent woman who doesn't need to be taken care of. Also single mothers who capitulate to their sons, girlfriends who don't insist on marriage before sex, and young men themselves, who find plenty of excuses to feed their slacker tendencies. Bennett cites "a culture which is agnostic about what it wants men to be." His book sets out to correct that agnosticism with a "clear and achievable notion of manhood." He would surely agree, though, that with no father or mentor to offer a book to a restless boy, the boy is more likely to plug himself into the latest electronic distraction. (And girls outpace boys in reading skills by 16 percentage points, anyway).

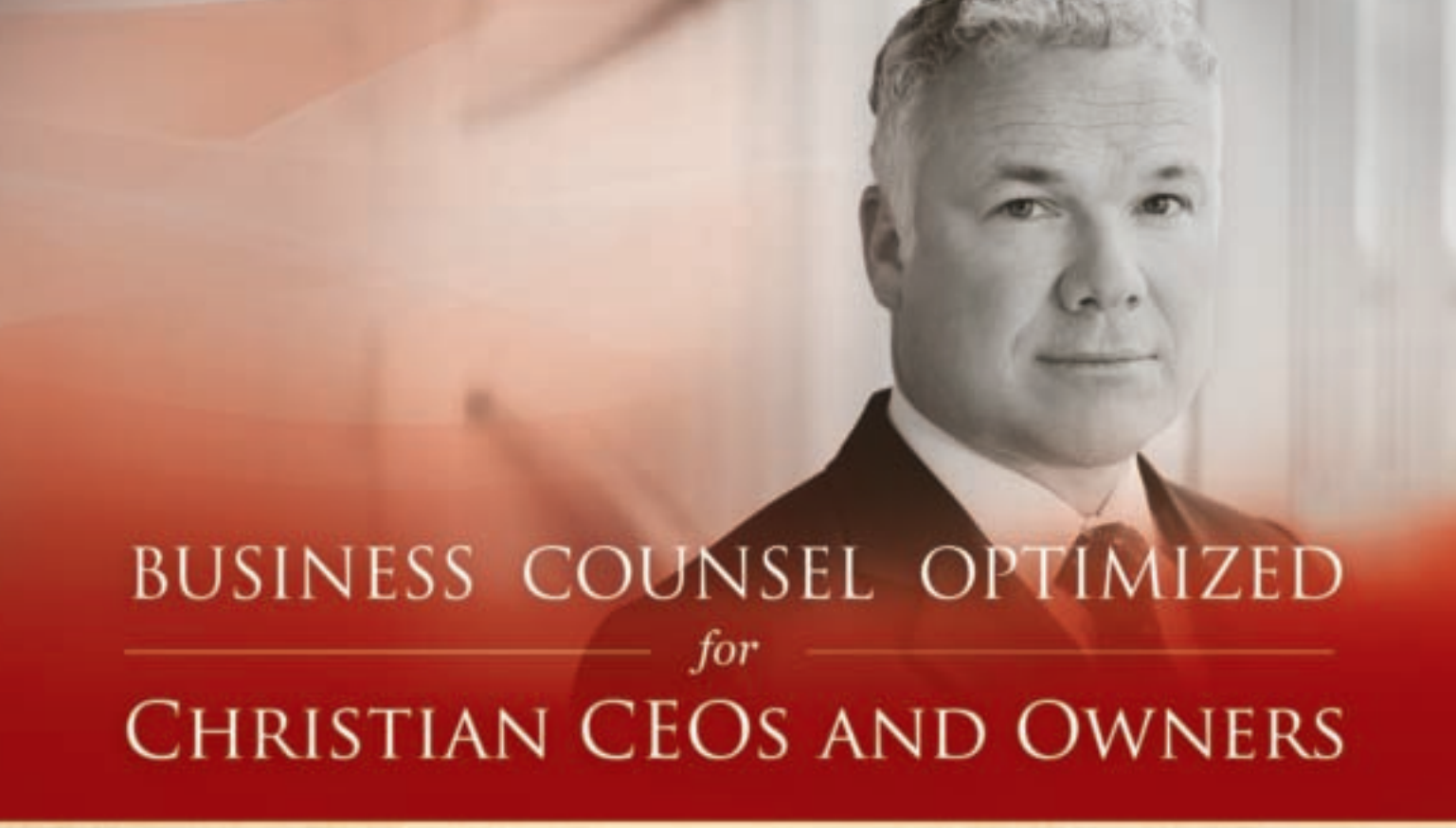
The root of the problem, like so much else, goes back to the Garden. The man neglected his leadership role, allowing the woman to make a bad decision, which broke their bond with God and set their relationship at odds. Mutual dependence ever since—men for protecting, women for domesticating—held a rough approximation of the creation order together by force. Until now, that is. Now we're dependent on the grid instead of each other. Anyone can fake independence, as long as the infrastructure holds up and the checks keep coming.

But even though we're not so obviously dependent, men and women are still connected. What God joins together is impossible to sever totally. Men need high expectations, worthy goals, respect. Women need security, approval, love. Each needs what the other can give, but if we refuse to support each other with our positives, we'll drag each other down with our negatives. If men and women don't mutually pledge their strengths, they will default to their weaknesses. The harder a woman pushes, the faster a man retreats. The more a man forfeits, the more a woman takes on. He gets lazy, she gets bitter. He turns violent, she becomes passive.

Fight Club ends with a symbolic collapse of civilization, but an actual collapse of civilization is not out of the question. Some men (especially Christian men) are waking up to their responsibility. May God wake up more and more. It's not just their wives and sons and daughters who need them; we all do.

KRIEG BARRIE

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Banned behavior

MOVIE: *Footloose* does an admirable job of representing a perennial American debate

BY MEGAN BASHAM



DANCING DAYS: Wormald (above) and Teller (left).

IT WOULD BE EASY to dismiss *Footloose* as a glitzy reboot made solely to capitalize on the recent musicals craze among teens. And in many ways it is that.

Rated PG-13, the 2011 version is considerably racier than its predecessor. The swearing quotient has been upped by several degrees as have the skirt hems. Likewise the dancing is far dirtier than anything Kevin Bacon or Lori Singer ever got up to. It also feels far more calculated and commercial. With the possible exception of the cowboy who can't dance, Willard (an absolutely adorable Miles Teller), no one in this cast would look out of place in an Abercrombie & Fitch catalogue. And that includes Dennis Quaid and Andie MacDowell as the local preacher and his wife.

But while there are few departures from the original script of city kid Ren MacCormack (Kenny Wormald) fighting small town power brokers to organize a school dance, by bringing the tragedy that drives the action into sharper focus, director Craig Brewer (*Hustle & Flow*) subtly shifts the themes. The *Footloose* of the new millennium is less concerned with one young man's battle against a hardnosed minister than his battle against a nanny-state culture.

Leaving aside for a moment the implausibility of a 21st-century town banning dancing (were there any that did so even in the 20th century?), the story offers a shrewd commentary on how society addresses social ills. Five teenagers make the choice to drink illegally and then drive after a dance and are killed in a car accident. In response their city outlaws dancing among minors. The idea of dancing as a public threat may seem anachronistic, but the mentality behind it isn't.

Footloose represents as clearly as anything on screen recently the philosophical debate that, while always part of the American experiment, has reached a fever pitch in this presidential cycle—how much power should we give the government to save us from ourselves? Where does public interest end and personal responsibility begin? Certainly enacting laws to restrict the behavior of minors is not the same as enacting laws against adults, but in its own humble way, *Footloose*'s dancing ban and the events that prompt it illustrate the crux of today's political divide.

The ironic thing is that these days it is much less likely to be rural religious types pushing for behavioral regulation than crusading urbanites from exactly the kind of secular enclave Ren MacCormack hails from. No small parishes in the Bible Belt have, for example, banned the Happy Meal as the city of San Francisco did in an effort to combat childhood obesity. Nor is it pulpit-thumping preachers full of holy fire

PARAMOUNT PICTURES & SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT



Email: mbasham@worldmag.com

calling for bans on light bulbs, football, or SUVs. A more honest reinterpretation of *Footloose* might have had a metropolitan school administration banning dances on the basis that they reinforce traditional gender roles.

Yet the log-in-the-eye nature of humankind isn't unique to one party, and Brewer does an impressive job honestly exploring the motivations of those who would protect us from ourselves. He receives major help in this department from a pair of surprisingly affecting performances from Quaid and former *Dancing with the Stars* instructor Julianne Hough.

As a girl who feels unloved by her father and fills the emotional hole with, well, all the usual things teenage girls do, Hough proves she has the acting chops to become a serious player in the movie game. As the old pro at said game, Quaid brings layers of sympathy and intelligence to what could easily have been a one-note antagonist. Rev. Moore doesn't want to be an uptight killjoy, it is just so much easier for him to enforce blanket rules on all kids rather than address the very specific problems going on with his own. Easier to call for legislation than deal with his pain and acknowledge his shortcomings as a father.

With its casual depiction of teenage drinking, grinding, cussing, and general rebellion, *Footloose* may not be a good choice for the impressionable younger set. But it may be just the thing for a Ron Paul supporter looking for a heart-tugging, boot-stomping night on the town.



RURAL RELIGIOUS TYPES: Quaid and MacDowell.

TELEVISION

Comedy revival

BY MEGAN BASHAM



NEW SITUATIONS: *Up All Night* (above) and Tim Allen in *Last Man Standing*.



WHO CAN SAY what caused it. Maybe it was Charlie Sheen and the scandal related to his departure from *Two and a Half Men*. Maybe, with *Jersey Shore*, audiences finally tired of reality programming. Maybe it was simply that the networks stopped focusing on niche humor and started focusing on being broadly funny.

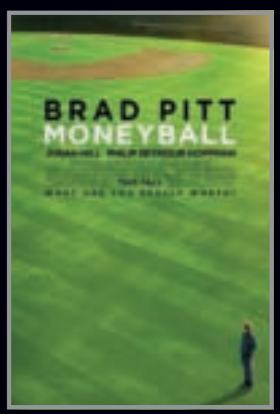
Whatever the reason, after years of irrelevancy, scripted comedy is suddenly hot again. Among the 18-49 demographic most desired by advertisers, half-hour sitcoms took eight of the top 10 spots for 2011's fall premiere week. And on every one of the big four networks comedies ranked as the highest-rated new shows.

Of course, television's No. 1 rated sitcom, *Two and a Half Men*, would have to break through the bottom of the barrel in order to scrape any lower with its cheap, sexual puns and degrading stereotypes. But many of the big attention getters are mining laughs through fresh characters and, imagine this, actual *situations*.

Modern Family, hailed by many industry insiders as the catalyst of the comedy revival, has sparked a wave of similar programming. Along with the continuing success of *The Middle*, it looks like ABC has another family-themed hit with *Last Man Standing*. Starring Tim Allen as a husband and father raising three daughters, the show drew 13 million viewers to its premiere. While *Up All Night* on NBC didn't draw quite as impressive numbers, its premise of a formerly fancy-free couple learning to adjust to parenthood is showing signs it will also perform well.

The downside of the comedy boom for Christian viewers is that as vile as reality programming can be, shows like *American Idol* also provide platforms for expressions of faith audiences wouldn't normally see on television. Unless it is to mock the character, we aren't likely encounter a country crooner boldly exhibiting his love for Christ on a network sitcom anytime soon.

Still, with five new comedies receiving full orders from the big four networks, it may not be too much to hope that at least one will offer laughs you won't feel guilty for in the morning.



BOX OFFICE TOP 10

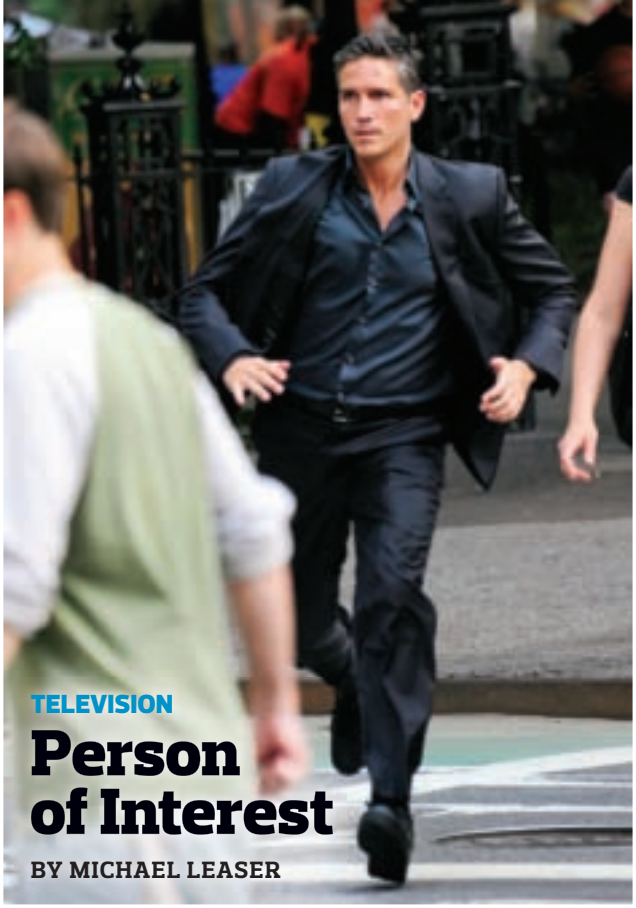
FOR THE WEEKEND OF OCT. 14-16
according to Box Office Mojo

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

		S	V	L
1	**Real Steel** PG-13	3	5	4
2	**Footloose*** PG-13	5	5	4
3	**The Thing** R	3	10	6
4	**The Ides of March** R	6	2	10
5	**Dolphin Tale*** PG	1	3	1
6	**Moneyball*** PG-13	1	2	5
7	**50/50*** R	6	4	10
8	**Courageous*** PG-13	1	5	1
9	**The Big Year*** PG	3	3	4
10	**The Lion King (in 3D)** G	0	3	0

**Reviewed by WORLD*

UP ALL NIGHT: COLLEEN HAYES/NBC · LAST MAN STANDING: CRAIG SJODIN/ABC · FOOTLOOSE: PARAMOUNT PICTURES & SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT



TELEVISION

Person of Interest

BY MICHAEL LEASER

WHAT IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT could record every conversation? And what if two vigilantes used those recordings to prevent crimes from occurring? Such is the premise of the new CBS drama *Person of Interest*, created by Jonathan Nolan (*The Dark Knight*).

Michael Emerson (*Lost*) stars as the enigmatic Mr. Finch, a reclusive billionaire genius who developed a comprehensive surveillance system for the government designed to prevent another terrorist attack. Since his machine captures all violent intent, it must then sort between recordings that are "relevant" (terrorist activities) and "irrelevant" (all other potential violent crime). Disturbed that the government is disregarding all "irrelevant" criminal activity, Finch creates a back door into the machine, which allows him to access Social Security numbers of individuals who are either perpetrators or victims of a planned crime.

Hobbled himself by a mysterious injury, Finch enlists John Reese (**Jim Caviezel**), a presumed dead CIA field agent, to investigate and help him stop whatever crime is about to happen.

Viewers who can disregard, or at least set aside, concerns about Big Brother tendencies in the federal government will discover a well-acted drama filled with themes of grace, redemption, and renewal. Both Finch and Reese are tormented by memories of loved ones they failed to save and are driven to save others. In one episode, Reese prevents a murder by establishing a personal connection with a potential first-time murderer, relating how killing has damaged his own soul and that murder, no matter how seemingly justified, will create similar scars in the would-be killer.

CBS has justifiably high hopes for *Person of Interest*, considering the pilot episode drew 13.2 million viewers, winning its Thursday 9 p.m. time slot. Be it an apprehensive reflection of our times, the star power behind and in front of the camera, or merely an engaging premise, that's quite a few interested persons.

PERSON OF INTEREST: JOHN PAUL FILO/CBS ; THE BIG YEAR: 20th CENTURY FOX FILM CORP.

MOVIE

The Big Year

BY MICHAEL LEASER

TOOTSIE DIRECTOR SYDNEY POLLACK once remarked that comedy is more difficult to direct than drama because he could film dramatic scenes in several different ways, but with comedy, there is usually only one right way to hit that comedic note. This inherent inflexibility in comedy means comedians are often underappreciated as actors because their roles usually don't afford them the opportunity to show dramatic range.

The Big Year provides a vehicle for three popular comedians to showcase their comedic chops while also delivering moments of tension that demonstrate their effectiveness in handling dramatic roles.

Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin portray three men at different life stages who share one thing in common: a love for birding. All three have their sights set on a "big year," which entails seeing as many bird species as one can in the United States in a calendar year.

For Kenny Bostick (Wilson), birding is his life. He has sacrificed two marriages and is endangering a third in his efforts to set and surpass his national big year record of 732.

Brad Harris (Black) has lived an aimless existence, bouncing around from job to job, but discovered a passion and a purpose in birding and convinces his mother (Dianne Wiest) and his reluctant father (Brian Dennehy) to support his attempt at a big year while he tries to hold down a job.

Stu Preissler (Martin) has achieved virtually everything he ever wanted: a successful company with subordinates who practically idolize him and a family that adores him. He is finally ready to retire and pursue his long-time desire for a big year.



NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS: Wilson, Martin, and Black.

The Big Year (rated PG for some sensuality and language) has its share of delightful comedic moments as Kenny, Brad, and Stu try to outdo each other in breaking the record, but the film also embraces various family dynamics and conflicts in surprisingly raw and true-to-life situations that convey both the child-like joy and potential human cost of living a big year.

See all our movie reviews at WORLDmag.com/movies

Analyzing a bestseller

A closer look at STEPHEN GREENBLATT's *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*

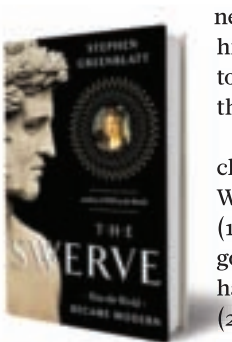
BY MARVIN OLASKY



"MESMERIZING" (*Newsweek*). "Fascinating" (Salon.com). "Thrilling" (*The Boston Globe*). And here, from NPR, is my favorite sentence about a new book written by Stephen Greenblatt and published by Norton: "*The Swerve* is one of those brilliant works of non-fiction that's so jam-packed with ideas and stories it literally boggles the mind."

The literal, Merriam-Webster meaning of *boggles* (functioning as a transitive verb, not the plural of a game name) is (1) "mishandle, bungle" and (2) "overwhelm with wonder or bewilderment." Greenblatt skillfully does both. He mishandles two minor historical personages by exaggerating their importance (and by doing so makes them interesting, larger-than-life, novelistic characters). He overwhelms critics who should know better by beautifully using specific detail about thin ink and hairy parchment.

One of Greenblatt's heroes, the 1st-century B.C. poet Lucretius, a Roman contemporary of Julius Caesar, left behind only one work known today, *De rerum natura* ("On the nature of things"). Lucretius was an Epicurean materialist, fighting the polytheistic dregs of his day and arguing that both normal and strange happenings could be explained by naturalistic phenomena rather than by, say, Poseidon and Athena squabbling.



Harvard professor Greenblatt's other hero, Poggio Bracciolini (1370-1459), is to him an academic role model: scholarly but rugged, with a long-term mistress who reportedly bore him 12 sons and two daughters, until he moved on at age 56 to marry an 18-year-old with whom he sired five more sons and a daughter. Bracciolini, Greenblatt tells us, was the Renaissance's greatest hunter of ancient manuscripts, hitting out-of-the-way monasteries and repositories as Lara Croft, tomb raider, might—yet becoming so revered that when he was 75 Florence gave him a prestigious post as the city's chancellor.

One problem with the book is Greenblatt's claim that "the world became modern" through Bracciolini's finding of *De rerum natura*. Greenblatt himself acknowledges in the preface that his claim is overblown—"One poem by itself was certainly not responsible for an entire intellectual, moral, and social transformation"—but over the next 250 pages seems to forget his own concession as he tries to show the importance of that one poem.

For instance, Greenblatt claims Lucretius influenced William Shakespeare because (1) the playwright's Latin was good enough so he could have read *De rerum natura*, (2) Shakespeare "seems to have personally known" the friend of an Italian monk who liked Lucretius and visited England, (3) Shakespeare "could also have discussed Lucretius" with fellow playwright Ben Jonson, who had read Lucretius, and (4) Shakespeare read the essays of the French writer Montaigne, who quoted Lucretius. Four conjectures do not make a fact.

But Greenblatt's argument suffers from more than cutting scholarly corners in pursuit of a good yarn. Echoing Lucretius and Montaigne, Greenblatt argues that convinced atheists do not fear death—yet, as Albert Camus and others knew, we all rebel against nonexistence. The 20th century was a century of millions trying to find alternatives to meaninglessness by embracing ideologies like Communism and Fascism. Tens of millions died.

The New York Times heaped adulation on Greenblatt for channeling Lucretius-style hedonism to a modern audience (and thus sticking it to evangelicals): "Religious fear, Lucretius thought, long before there was a Christopher Hitchens, warps human life." The irony is that Christians should not disagree with such a formulation. Religious fear (what happens if I forget to make an offering to Athena in ancient Greece, or to Shiva in modern India?) does warp human life. The good news is that Christianity is not a religion like that, and in some ways not a religion at all.

Christianity is about God's grace. Christianity, as one of its best contemporary expositors, John Piper, explains elegantly, shows us the pleasures of belief in God, and thus gives us the desire to embrace Him: Piper's "Christian hedonism" means that "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." That's not fear. That's love.

CHITOSE SUZUKI/AP

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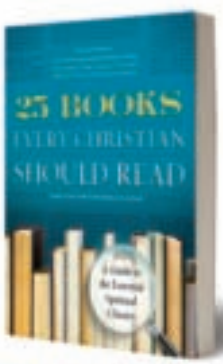
NOTABLE BOOKS

Four books about reading 〉 reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY

Lit! *Tony Reinke*



Author Tony Reinke was a reluctant reader during his teenage years, reading only about sports. When he became a Christian he began to highlight every commandment from God in his Bible, hoping the exercise would help him become holy. It didn't work and he realized he was misreading the text. He uses those stories to encourage non-readers to begin reading, and to encourage readers to read with more discernment. The first part of the book focuses on the Bible, which provides the glasses by which we read everything else. The rest of the book deals with the kinds of books we should read and techniques for reading them well. He borrows from Calvin, Mortimer Adler, and Leland Ryken, and along the way covers topics such as distraction, words vs. image, and the value of marking up books.



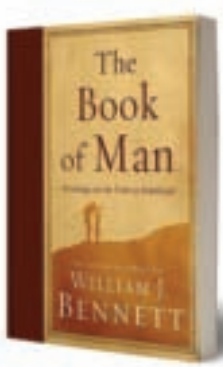
25 Books Every Christian Should Read

Those unfamiliar with spiritual disciplines might be interested in this collection of excerpts drawn from writers and thinkers from Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant perspectives. It includes church fathers and monastics (Athanasius, Augustine, the Desert Fathers, Thomas à Kempis); mystics (Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich); classic and popular theologians (Calvin, C.S. Lewis, Chesterton); and poets and writers (Dostoyevsky, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Dante). Accompanying each excerpt is a background essay and study questions. The book also includes a list of nine contemporary writers—many from the emergent church movement—who the editors believe have something "deep and fundamental to teach us about our discipleship to Jesus."

How Literature Works *John Sutherland*



Deconstruction, structuralism, defamiliarization, reception theory. What do those words mean? What do they have to do with books? John Sutherland—a literature professor at University College London, and a reviewer for the left-leaning *Guardian* newspaper—breezily covers 50 key literary concepts, devoting four pages to each. His liberal secularism comes through in his analysis of some concepts, but for those who want a primer on current and past debates over literary interpretation, with timelines and key works, this book is useful and easy to read. It's like a literary criticism for dummies—useful for party small talk, or to bridge the vocabulary gap between parents and their children who major in literature.



The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood *William Bennett*

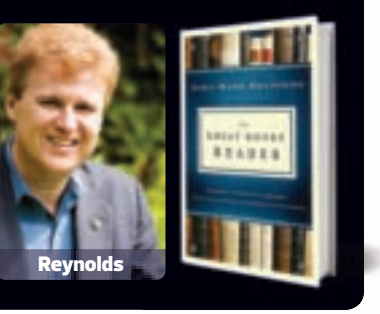
William Bennett's *Book of Virtues* was a huge success in the 1990s. It compiled in one place fairy tales, poems, and other types of literature that illustrated important virtues. During this time of cultural shift, when the very idea of manhood seems up for debate, this new collection explores "what a man should be, how he should live, and the things to which he should aspire" (see p. 20). It includes famous speeches, book excerpts, and newly penned profiles ranging from Os Guinness to Yale computer scientist David Gelernter, one of the Unabomber's victims. Readings cover man at war, in civil society, at play and worship, in marriage and work. Some of the selections would make good read-alouds.



SPOTLIGHT

The Great Books Reader **by John Mark Reynolds (Bethany House, 2011) provides a starting point for Christians who want to read writers like Aristotle, Milton, and Marx, but don't know where to begin. Reynolds runs Biola's great books program, and he introduces each of the volume's 29 skillfully chosen excerpts with a page of questions, thoughts, and important information. Essayists ranging from Peter Kreeft to Hugh Hewitt briefly guide readers through each excerpt.**

A collection of this sort invites the reader to wade into the swimming pool of the great books, and even venture far from the pool's edge with works like Newton's *Principia* and Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*—but the water wings are always on. Reynolds hopes that once readers have lost their fear of the water, they'll want to dive into the deep end and read the books themselves. *—Caleb Nelson*


Reynolds

MILTON: PUBLIC DOMAIN · REYNOLDS: HANDOUT

DeMint's prescription



The GOP, says Sen. JIM DEMINT, needs to regain the trust of Americans that it will act on the issues it ignored the last time **BY MARVIN OLASKY**

SOUTH CAROLINA Senator Jim DeMint's new book, *The Great American Awakening* (B&H), is subtitled *Two years that changed America, Washington, and Me*. I interviewed him when those years had just begun (WORLD, Oct. 24, 2009), so it's time to ask this Tea Party Republican about his priorities now. Here are edited excerpts from our interview in front of students at Patrick Henry College.

You recently had your 60th birthday. You had to bring that up? It makes me feel tired just to mention it.

So let's go back to when you were a kid. I like the name your mom gave the dance studio that she ran, "The DeMint Academy of Dance and Decorum." Was there more dance or decorum in your life? There wasn't a lot of decorum. My mother's four children constantly embarrassed her.

Have Republicans had too much decorum in Congress? When the GOP had a majority in both houses, why was there no healthcare reform? You've got to understand the different worldviews in Washington. There's one worldview that is mine, that America is a bottom-up institution, that it works when millions of people are making their own decisions about what they want to do and what they value. That's what creates entrepreneurs and innovators and free thinkers. That's what really builds our economy: an individual, taking risk, in hope of a financial reward.

But the other worldview? It's more of a top-down, European, central planning type of view. Some really believe that if you spend more from government, if you direct the spending to a solar company or something, you can decide the winners and losers.

And some people just want reelection? The easy thing to do in Congress is to get earmarks and bring home the bacon and get a good press release: "DeMint is working for the people of South Carolina. He got us a million dollars for this bridge." The work of actually developing legislation, getting co-sponsors—that's a lot of work, and it's frustrating.

It was also frustrating that nothing happened. My own party was not nearly as anxious as I hoped to sign up for a health reform proposal. We just didn't push it. It would have been very difficult to get it through. A lot of people in Congress do not want individuals to own their own health insurance.

So if Republicans were to gain the White House in the next election, and have a majority in Congress, what could replace Obamacare? Interstate competition between insurance companies. Let individuals deduct health insurance from their taxes. Let small companies, associations, churches come together and buy health plans that their members can have. Have it so when you retire you can keep your health insurance.

Would you advise Republicans in this upcoming election to say honestly, "We messed up last time, not acting on healthcare, but it will be different this time"? We have to. We have to re-earn the trust. We have to admit that we betrayed that trust. We didn't reform the tax code. We didn't have the critical mass even of Republicans.

You have referred to "venture socialism": What is it and how would you stop it? It's when the government starts picking winners and losers—but one of the first rules of free-market economics is that the private sector is going to allocate resources better than the government. Market forces will screen out those companies that don't have good products or business plans, but the president is stuffing money into the pockets of different solar companies and wind-generating companies.

What happens to the companies that don't get their pockets stuffed? People who've been in the solar business for a while tell you they can make this industry grow and do well if you can get the government to stop playing in it. But if you're competing, and suddenly the government comes in and gives your competitor a large amount of money ... this happens often.

In other industries as well? I've talked to companies that have spent millions of dollars laying cable for broadband in a rural area, and then a competitor will get a grant and come in and compete with them. The government can't pick winners and losers and have a good outcome. When we do start doing that, it creates uncertainty that restricts investment. We're seeing that a lot in the country today, as people are afraid to go out there because they don't know what the government's going to do to them, or give to a competitor.

The administration's stimulus bill obviously is not working, but many people wonder whether Republicans can do anything better. Hundreds of new



"The government can't pick winners and losers and have a good outcome ... it creates uncertainty which restricts investment. ... People are afraid to go out there because they don't know what the government's going to do to them, or give to a competitor."

SCOTT J. FERRELL/CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY/NEWSCOM

rules are coming out of this administration every month, and companies don't know what to think. Banks don't know if they can expand or open branches because there are three regulators for every bank in this country today, and they all have different interpretations. The EPA is closing down a lot of electrical generating plants: That ripples into coal mining, and it's just beginning to disintegrate our economy.

Do we need tax changes? Let's just have a low, flat rate. We can help the poor and create safety nets, but when you have half of Americans who pay no federal income tax, that creates instability: Half the people don't care what government costs, or how much it spends.

What are other ways to create jobs? Open up America's energy supplies. That will create tens of thousands of jobs, relatively quickly. We have vast supplies of not just coal and oil but natural gas. Many states like South Carolina could benefit by bringing natural gas ashore, with a revenue-sharing agreement with the federal government.

Why are Republicans complaining about the PEPFAR program, which has been one of our rare international successes, saving millions of lives in Africa? We're not going to fix this sexually transmitted disease, despite the medicine, until there's some cultural reform, which is going to take a while, as you know. When Bush started the program, there were good results at the outset, we had people focused on the real mission. When they came back to re-authorize it, they wanted to double it, and we really didn't have good metrics on outcomes. It became a government program growing without real supervision and accountability.

You are a Republican, a conservative, and a Christian. Do these ever come into conflict? The role of government is always in the front of my mind. Faith is completely voluntary. Government uses force, and I think a lot of Christians in government lose sight of that. When God's talking about us helping the poor, He was not telling us to use the government by force to take people's money and go out and decide who's going to be helped. He was telling us as followers of Christ to help people.

A player has to be retired for at least five years before he can get into the baseball hall of fame. Should there be a rule that a politician be dead for at least five years before naming something after him? Government should be about serving others. Creating monuments to ourselves should not be a part of the process.

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Worthy tributes

Three new albums do a better-than-expected job of paying homage **BY ARSENIO ORTEZA**



ALMOST SINCE ITS INCEPTION, the term "tribute album" has been a euphemism for "mess." The idea of various performers paying homage to one of their betters by covering his songs might've looked good on paper, but the reality was often both incongruous and underwhelming.

So it's understandable that consumers might be wary of investigating *Rave On Buddy Holly* (Hear Music), *Note of Hope: A Celebration of Woody Guthrie* (429), or Brian Wilson's *In the Key of Disney* (Disney). It's also likely that once they do they'll be glad they did.

Rave On finds 19 artists marking what would've been Buddy Holly's 75th birthday by reminding the world that there was more to the bespectacled rock 'n' roller than "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," and "Oh Boy!," his only top 10 hits in the United States.

Those songs are here (as performed by Modest Mouse, Lou Reed, and She & Him, respectively) as are renditions of Holly's U.K. chart-toppers "Maybe Baby" (Justin Townes Earle) and "Rave On" (Julio Casablancas). But it's the lesser-known Holly tunes from which the prevailing spirit of affectionate iconoclasm really proceeds.

From unabashed loveliness (My Morning Jacket doing "True Love Ways") to unabashed rocking (Paul McCartney tapping his Quarrymen vein on "It's So Easy"), every cut belongs—even Cee Lo Green's "You're So Square (Baby I Don't Care)," which in its straightforward, rockabilly innocence almost makes one forget his well-earned reputation as a notorious dropper of F-bombs.

Woody Guthrie had no use for bombs of any kind. But it isn't Guthrie the archetypal (and socialist-leaning) hobo who emerges from *Note of Hope* so much as Guthrie the rascally individual.

Having selected or been assigned excerpts of his journals made available by his daughter Nora, not-necessarily-kindred spirits such as the reggae-rooted Michael Franti, the jazz-rooted Kurt Elling, and the theatrically rooted Nellie McKay set about turning prose into verse, then setting the results to music.

So, although the words are for the most part Guthrie's (the album's overseer, the bassist Rob Wasserman, admits Lou Reed took poetic license with "The Debt I Owe"), these songs have never existed before.

And rather than paint a portrait they supply pieces of a puzzle that it's up to the listener to assemble. Guthrie's preference for the "progressive," "union-working" women solicited by Tom Morello in "Ease My Revolutionary Mind" fits the established template. But the incantatory intimacy of Jackson Browne's "You Know the Night" defies expectations—for 15 amazing minutes.

Brian Wilson's tribute to children's films, *In the Key of Disney*, does not defy expectations. In fact, as the follow-up to his 2010 album of Gershwin songs, it suggests that bathing others' compositions in a California glow is what fans should expect him to do for the rest of his life.

It also suggests that as long as he can relate to the material such excursions will yield modest delights. All the surfer harmonies in California can't dignify "Colors of the Wind" or "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." But the sincerity with which Wilson delivers the *Toy Story* anthems "You've Got a Friend in Me" and "We Belong Together" could almost make one believe he'll reunite the Beach Boys.

And his "Baby Mine" and "Stay Awake" make more than worthy follow-ups to "I Wanna Pick You Up," a charming father-to-child song he managed to record over 30 years ago in the middle of the first of two lost decades. That he's still around to pick up where he left off may be defiance of expectation enough.



HOLLY: AP . GUTHRIE: AP . WILSON: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

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NOTABLE CDs

Five rock 'n' roll box sets ⟩ reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



Clarke, Hicks & Nash Years *The Hollies*

British Invasion fans and oldies-radio programers have long made due where Graham Nash's first band was concerned with the 13 cuts on *The Hollies' Greatest Hits*. It turns out there was a lot more where those songs came from. Although they started like a blend of the Beatles and Herman's Hermits, the Hollies eventually hit upon a style of pop so sumptuously baroque it inspired the Bee Gees. This box documents their evolution and only peters out with the eight inferior live cuts on Disc Six.

Nevermind: Super Deluxe Edition *Nirvana*



If it's hard to believe that what may very well be the last epochal rock album turns 20 this year, it's even harder to believe that a five-disc box devoted entirely to that epoch could contain revelations. But it does. The "Smart sessions" Velvet Underground cover, for instance, proves that Kurt Cobain had roots antedating the Melvins. As for the live Vaselines cover, "Jesus Doesn't Want Me for a Sunbeam," it proves that, natural performer though he was, the pain in Cobain's voice was no act.



The Dark Side of the Moon: Immersion Box Set *Pink Floyd*

How does a 10-song, 43-minute album get fattened into a six-disc box? Mainly by taking redundancy to vertiginous heights. Counting just the 5.1-surround and quadrophonic mixes on DVD Number One and the 5.1-surround and original stereo mixes on the Blu-ray, the album can be heard in its entirety seven times. On the other hand, the 1974 live performances and demos (Discs Two and Three) are refreshingly rough hewn. Maybe they'll be made available separately when this album turns 40 in 2013.

Young Man with the Big Beat: The Complete '56 Elvis Presley Masters *Elvis Presley*



Presley fans already own the revolutionary contents of Discs One and Two, and no one with a life needs the eight takes of "Lawdy, Miss Clawdy" and the four takes of "Shake, Rattle and Roll" on Disc Four. But the patter alone between the mighty-raucous live cuts on Disc Three justifies, if anything does, this box's $95 price tag. (Elvis keeps a straight face referring to "Heartburn Motel.") As for the lengthy world-was-Elvis'-oyster interviews on Discs Four and Five, they'll break your heart.

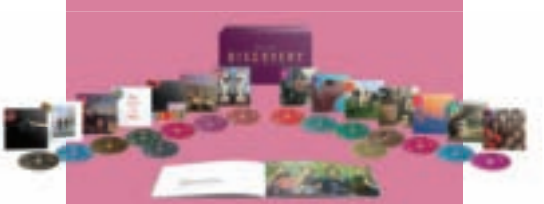
OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES



SPOTLIGHT

In its 30-year existence, Pink Floyd went through three phases: psychedelic folk-pop under the leadership of Syd Barrett, progressive art-rock under the leadership of Roger Waters, and more progressive art-rock under the leadership of David Gilmour. Only what had sounded progressive and arty in the 1970s, the decade during which Pink Floyd recorded the mega-sellers *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall*, was sounding cumbersome by the mid-'80s. And in 1996 the group ground to a halt.

But even when Rogers, Gilmour, et al. were peddling little more than penny-ante cynicism, they always sounded good, becoming to owners of high-end stereos what fine Corinthian leather was to drivers of the



Chrysler Cordoba. And, although at $180 it's more than what anyone occupying Wall Street can afford, the just-released, comprehensive *Discovery Studio Album Box Set* (Capitol) finally gives the band's meticulous attention to aural detail its full digital due.



Mindy Belz

A better exit strategy

It's possible to leave Afghanistan without losing it

Throughout our history U.S. leaders have crafted foreign policy from a sequestered vantage point: Barring Mexico, trouble usually has been two oceans away with few threats coming from the Arctic by way of Canada. Step into the shoes of an Afghan leader, then, to consider his geography—a landlocked country with Iran to the left, Pakistan to the right, and three 'Stans to the north finding their legs after six decades under Soviet oppression. Never mind the problems within—this neighborhood is no picnic.

Recent problems within, by now well rehearsed, began just over 30 years ago with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Then followed a decade of civil war where the strengthened mujahideen warlords fought each other, culminating in the street-side hanging of the notorious Soviet puppet president Mohammad Najibullah in 1995 and the Taliban takeover in 1996.

A few weeks ago a trustworthy driver named Zamir took me past the spot where Najibullah was hanged. It's now a tree-lined paved boulevard again, well inside the security zone surrounding the presidential palace, and up ahead workers in orange smocks swept the street with broad handmade brooms. Zamir remembers seeing Najibullah hanging there. His own father soon after was killed, likely by Taliban, and he himself brutally imprisoned. People like Zamir have never lived a day when their country has not been at war. They want peace, yes, but not at any price: No one I've met in Afghanistan wants to go back to the Taliban era when the men rose every morning to measure their beards by fists, and their mothers and sisters could rarely leave home.

Yet for Americans the stereotypes persist—of feudal Afghan society, insurgency beating inside every breast. "My friends think I wake up in a foxhole and scramble across a no-man's land to my tent every morning," said U.S. Air Force Col. Tim Kirk, who spoke to me at the Tora Bora Bar inside NATO's joint command headquarters in Kabul. Kirk is among a few U.S. military personnel who believe in the mission in Afghanistan—so much so that he's volunteered for his third year of deployment, leaving his family behind.

Kirk and members of his task force say the short deployments—six months to a year—for nearly all U.S. military personnel have hampered efforts to turn around what he calls "a generational problem needing a generational solution."

To be specific: corrupt officials, weak law enforcement, narcotics, criminal networks, and insurgency. Where to begin? With two presuppositions Kirk learned in America: All men are fundamentally corruptible, and integrity doesn't just "happen"; but also that man can govern himself. "I don't believe there is anything about any other culture or ethnic or regional group of people that makes this impossible."

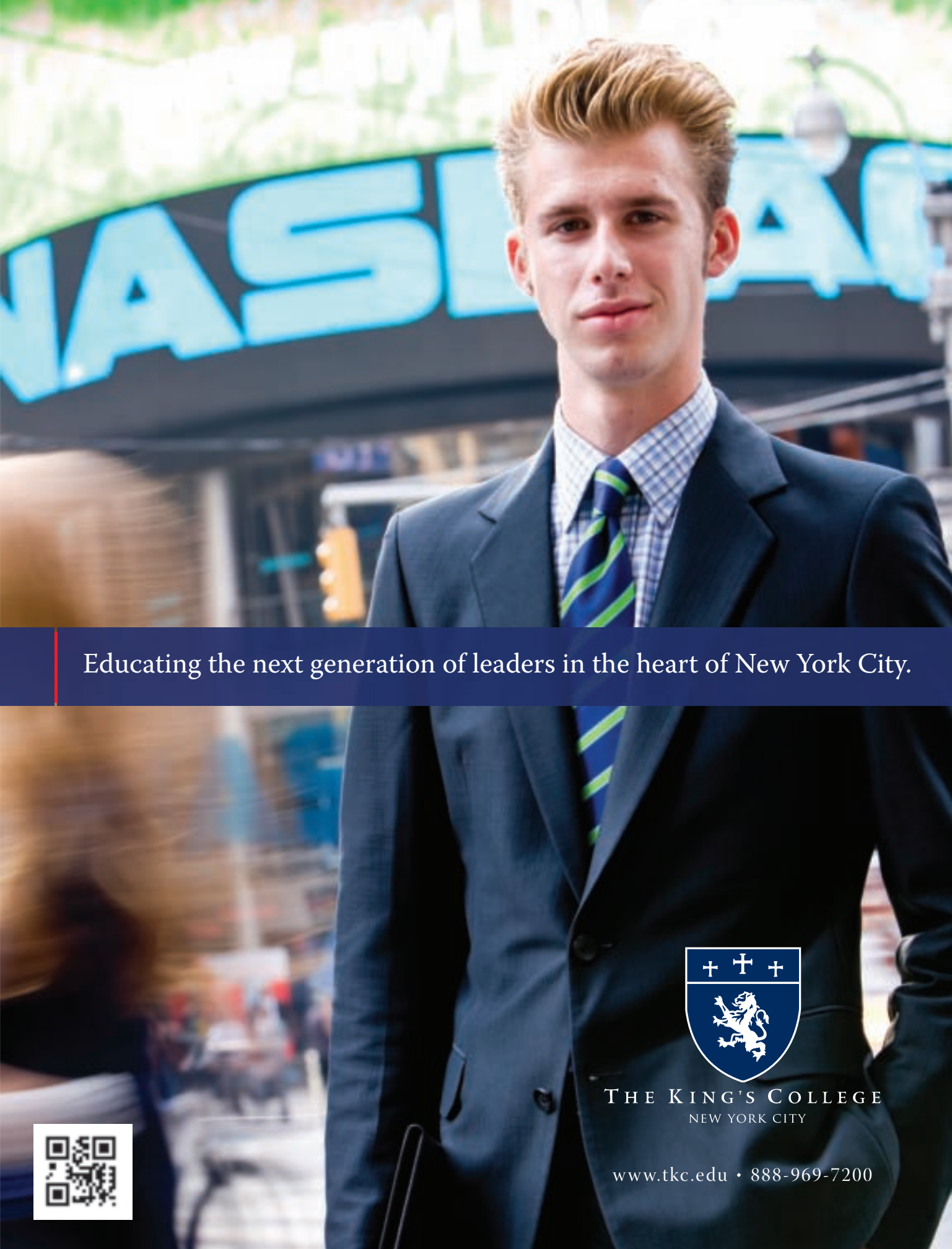
Look at South Korea, also once called a feudal society. From its independence in the 1950s came six regime changes—four of them violent—and a slow post-war recovery that came with hefty U.S. intervention. South Korea held its first democratic elections in 1988, 40 years after the United States committed itself to what is now a key Asian ally and trade partner in what was once a no-picnic neighborhood.

Americans can likewise help a place like Afghanistan succeed where others failed. Historically Americans have excelled at a proper understanding of government, that it can create space for civil society to flourish by restraining evil and promoting good. Kirk calls this "replacing a cycle of impunity with a cycle of integrity." He spends a lot of time in Afghan cities and villages with local leaders talking (in the local language) about how their country, little by little, can be transformed.

But as the U.S. political system has grown increasingly dysfunctional, it's no surprise we've lost our way overseas. There are too few Col. Kirks. I tend to agree with the often controversial Francis Fukuyama, who argues that our country must regain its "domestic basis for American presence in the world" if it is to prevent its own decline. We don't have to spend $300 million a day in Afghanistan to help that country see its way to self-governance and a freer society. But we should have the backbone and clarity to see it through.

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FUTURE IS NOW

Exit strategy may be the hottest topic in town, but young Afghans are developing their staying power. What happens to the post-war generation? Are they destined to know only violence and conflict?

BY MINDY BELZ
in Kabul, Afghanistan



TURNING ASPIRATIONS INTO REALITY: A young man checks his Twitter account (left) at an internet café in Kabul; students at the community center in Lollander (previous spread).

HAMEED YALDASH WANTS TO FRIEND me. We're huddled with some other young men around a computer looking at Facebook pages inside an internet café, of sorts, in a village south of Kabul.

Seated at a Dell terminal, Hameed, 21, already has busted my stereotype of young Afghan males: He's clean-shaven and wearing a plaid shirt and fitted jeans. He's more eager to show me his latest work in Photoshop than to talk about terrorist factions or weaponry; more entrepreneur than angry, West-hating young Muslim.

So he pulls up his Facebook page, and more notions bite the dust. Hameed's friends are young men and women also dressed like contemporary Westerners, some of them relatives who've immigrated to the Netherlands or Germany. Hameed lives in a conservative village where most women wear full-length burqas, but the Afghan women he knows on Facebook are unveiled. On the social network forum Hameed and his friends discuss music, make jokes, find odd jobs, help each other with classes—and much of it in English.

It's a world wholly separate from their parents' generation. Sixty percent of Afghans are under age 25, and the country's median age for men and women is 18. Talk to many in that demographic, as I did, and you will hear something different from the doom-and-gloom prognosticators who predict Afghanistan's return to civil war, a resurgent Taliban, and a failed state that can never be fixed.

Young Afghans have lived their whole lives in war—many of them spending formative years in refugee camps at the Pakistan border during the Taliban's reign—and they are determined to be a post-war generation.

This year they've witnessed the power of the web in aiding revolutions in other Muslim countries, and they realize that power connects them to one another and the wider global village. It moves them beyond tribal identities and older orders. Young Afghans are more likely to build relationships based on common interests than heritage. Ask many of them what tribe they are from, and they will wave away the question with, "I am from Afghanistan." A handful told me they intend to be the country's president someday, and one, asked what he wants to do after school, said, "I want to work for America."

These young Afghans already have learned enough to yearn for more than survival; they want an education, English language training, a skills set, and a satisfying job. Many come from conservative, traditional Muslim families, but they find restrictive Islam quaint, even unhelpful.

Yet these young men and women still live in a country where only 28 percent of the population can read and write. A country where life expectancy is 45 years. And a country at war.

Turning aspirations into reality is their challenge: First, the challenge of reaching villages like Hameed's—where nearly 80 percent of Afghans live—with modern technology and a sense of national identity. And second, the challenge of shaping leadership for a future that many call "new Afghanistan," rather than waiting for the next generation of Afghan leaders to devolve into corrupt politicians or radicalized Islamists who resent the benefits of the modern world and especially the West.



Community centers like the one where Hameed works in his village of Tangi Saidan are one tangible point of light. The internet café is open to anyone while computer classes meet next door. Young men ages 10 to 20 at terminals work through on-screen exercises designed to improve their computer savvy and acquaint them



SEPARATE WORLD: Children at the community center in Tangi Saidan, where Hameed (left) is FM 91.3's main programmer and announcer.

COMPUTER: SHAH MARAI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES ; HAMEED AND CHILDREN: MINDY BELZ





TANGIBLE POINT OF LIGHT: The community center at Tangi Saidan (top) includes a health clinic staffed entirely by Afghans.

with new software. Along the way they are improving their English, as little in the world of computing is performed in the lead Afghan language, Dari.

The media center houses an FM radio station—the rural area's first—that provides 24-hour streaming audio via the internet. Hameed is the main programmer and announcer. Most villagers listen in on their cell phones, a piece of modern technology nearly every Afghan has. In addition to music they hear public service announcements about vaccinations and other medical services, classes, or council meetings. And all in a region that's never been connected to any power grid: The community center draws electricity from one generator plus solar panels.

The brainchild of Morning Star Development, a faith-based nonprofit based in Colorado Springs, this community center serves 39 villages, or a total population of about 15,000. Working without government aid, Morning Star built and maintains the facilities—including a health clinic, classrooms, meeting rooms used by the local shura council, and the media center—but the center is staffed entirely by Afghans. An on-site "suitcase" lab with a solar-powered microscope gives quick, accurate diagnoses without sending tests off to Kabul, and an emergency vehicle is ready when visits to a city hospital are a must. A well makes running water possible, plus provides irrigation for an apricot grove, wheat field, and other crops on the property. In a dry season, as now, that's vital.

"We say to our young people, 'Do you want to be a fighter or do you want to have a computer class, a laptop—an education?' It's an easy question for them because they've had enough war," said Mohammad Rafiq, a physician who oversees national projects for Morning Star.

Rafiq makes it his business to know of surrounding threats. The Taliban launched their takeover of Kabul from here in 1996. The Soviets planted landmines throughout the area; many were removed only after the U.S. invasion. Today there's at least one Taliban commander in the area, Rafiq says, and U.S. forces have captured insurgents nearby.

The community centers also face local opposition. At Lollander, a village west of Tangi Saidan, opening a school for girls has been a no-go with shura council leaders after the Taliban forcibly closed a girls school in the area before the 2001 U.S. invasion. But the community center operates a health clinic that sees hundreds of patients per month (with separate entrances for men and women, as at all such facilities) and English classes that serve 14 nearby villages with a total population of about 3,000.

MINDY BELZ

To the east about 50 miles from Kabul (and an over three-hour drive that includes fording riverbeds and dodging camels), the community center at Jegdalek serves 14 villages near the Pakistani border—an area that Morning Star president Daniel Batchelder says is "on the knife edge" of insurgency: "This is territory more familiar to the Taliban than it is to the government of Afghanistan." Last year during parliamentary elections, insurgents in nearby hills fired on the school, where voting was taking place.

But a remote place like Jegdalek is a good place to see what's possible in a so-called "new Afghanistan": The health clinic sees over 2,200 patients per month—some of them women who previously would have died with childbirth complications and children who've never before been properly vaccinated or treated for diseases like cholera and hepatitis. Occasionally, a suspected insurgent shows up injured, and Rafiq says the rule is, "Anybody can come but we don't allow guns." None of the community centers post security guards, but the Afghan National Police recently set up an outpost on a hill across from the Jegdalek center.

A walk through the village reveals the difference outside help is making. Resident Nurasan Khan told me a family used to have to pay $50 for a trip to the nearest town to pick up $5 worth of medicine. "We had nothing before, and we are poor people in rural Afghanistan. We don't have vehicles and our roads have been destroyed. Now our mothers give more live births, our sons learn English, and we have more hope."

The community centers don't offer services for free, though. Patients pay for medicines. Community health workers who make home visits—Rafiq has trained 58 so far—work as volunteers, but Morning Star asks families in the villages to compensate them for services. Compensation is likely to be food, firewood, or a bar of soap, but it promotes interdependency rather than dependency on U.S. aid groups.

In the long run, that means workers know when severe hardships happen and may step in: Lollander residents lost their wheat crop in a flood this year, and Morning Star plans a winter food distribution to the neediest families there.

Rafiq believes that Afghanistan desperately needs a model for decentralized government, and the community centers show one way that might look: National government could work with local leaders and NGOs to bring basic services, including law enforcement and security, to a community—gradually improving both trust and the standard of living while connecting communities to one another.

Batchelder says 10 communities have offered land to build centers, and his group has started a



"We say to our young people, 'Do you want to be a fighter or do you want to have a computer class, a laptop—an education?' It's an easy question for them because they've had enough war."

—Mohammad Rafiq



SLOW CHANGE: In Lollander girls so far (left) have been unable to attend school.

Be Their Neighbor program, where stateside donors provide $30 a month to support construction and services. He also has presented the model as a component of a U.S.-NATO exit strategy at headquarters for ISAF, the International Security Assistance Force, NATO's mission in Afghanistan. "You hear over and over in our own nation people say, 'What is the answer? After 10 years of war we have very little progress to show for it,'" Batchelder said. "This is a concept that could work throughout the country, but it's discouraging to go home and get very little response."

U.S. OFFICIALS have only begun to learn what faith-based humanitarian workers like Batchelder, who started working with Afghans in 1993, have known all along: Afghan people need to be part of any counterinsurgency and counterterrorism strategy.

In 2009 under Adm. Mike Mullen, the just-retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon launched Afghan Hands. The initiative immerses hundreds of officers from every branch of service in language training and commits them to assignments in the country for three to five years, gaining a better "boots on the ground" understanding of local conditions and ways to build community. From one standpoint, the program takes a page from the insurgents' playbook: living and working closely with Afghans and learning to build favor, but this time in the direction of Afghan people's and U.S. interests.

That's led officers in the program to look more closely at non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Morning Star and try to find ways to work alongside them. "This isn't a charity project. The Afghan people are part of our strategic equation," said Capt. Felisa Dyrud, an Air Force officer with the program who has visited the community centers.



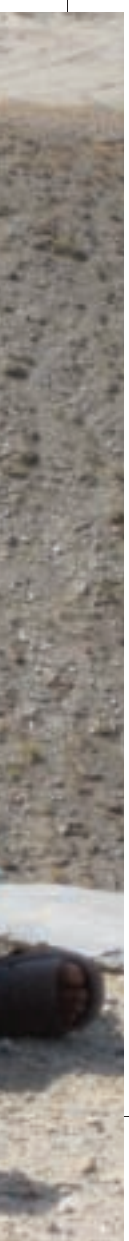
"NOW ... WE HAVE MORE HOPE": Nurasan Khan with two children in Jegdalek.

It's also led to a strategic focus on young Afghans like Hameed, and the country's desperate need to cultivate a new generation of leaders.

Near the Kabul University campus at 4:30 in the afternoon, traffic seizes to a standstill beneath the city's smoggy haze. Along Seh Aqrab Road the shopkeepers water the ground around their wares to keep the dust from rising. Vendors sell potatoes from carts, melons piled on the rough ground, chicken or lamb hanging from hooks, and apples wrapped in red cellophane and stacked by the bushel.

At 30,000 students, the school's campus marks a notably progressive spot in a war-beaten city. Young women chat together as they walk, most in vivid-colored head scarves and black tunics over skinny jeans and heels—nothing like the sea-blue head-to-toe burqas long a symbol of Afghanistan's Taliban-era repression.

MINDY BELZ



One of many untold stories in Afghanistan is the growth of higher education since 9/11. In 2001 Afghanistan had four open universities with an all-male student population of about 4,000. Today there are 20 public and 30 private universities with a total student population of 100,000—and nearly a third of those students are female. Socially networked via Facebook and other sites, equipped with English and other skills, they represent a powerful stream of knowledge and leadership potential heading into Afghanistan's uncertain future.

In a low-lit basement classroom just off campus, about 15 students gather for an evening session on leadership. During two hours of class time interrupted by a break for the evening call to prayer, the class will discuss the bestseller *Habitudes* by Tim Elmore, work on personal vision statements, and gather in small groups to discuss their answers to a worksheet on personal values.

The instructor, an American, draws lessons on leadership from the psalms of David and the opposite in the Shinto concept of kamikaze. In addition to Elmore, the class syllabus includes well-known American business gurus like Jim Collins (*Good to Great)*, authors Stephen Covey, John Maxwell, Daniel Pink, and others. Students have studied the Cuban Missile Crisis, and instructors make time for movies like *Stand and Deliver* and *The Endurance*, the story of Ernest Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica. In all, it's a Western leadership ethos that resonates, with emphasis on integrity, courage, and personal values—transformational assets in a culture where corruption and show of force has become equated with leadership more often than character.

"These are very new things for us," said Mohammad Akram Rahy, 23, one of the students. "Previously we did not think about core values. I did not think about my vision or my strengths or what is my goal. Now I am thinking of that. I'm learning here that I have a difficulty with envy and jealously—I knew it before but now I'm trying to take corrective action."

This class, now in its second semester, is the second held in Kabul as a joint effort by several U.S.-based NGOs called the Institute for Leadership Development (ILD). The program began in Herat in 2005 with an inaugural class of seven students. Now classes are held in three cities—with a fourth coming on line in 2012—and each averages 25 students. The classes meet four or five nights a week for six months—and nearly every student has a full-time job and some are also attending the university. In Herat classes are taught by Afghans; the lead instructor until this year, when he traveled to San Diego for further education, was a graduate of the program.

Those who've helped to establish ILD, and asked not to be named to protect its status, say the country is in dire need of sustainable leadership, and such groups of men and women can multiply themselves to practice a new kind leadership with integrity.

Of approximately 150 graduates, 10 percent have received scholarships to study abroad, including Fulbright stipends to study in the United States. Two who undertook advanced studies overseas already have returned to Afghanistan—one to teach literature at Herat University and another to serve as a program manager for the UN.

Another campus organization, Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT), also is focusing on leadership. Earlier this year, with funding from the Dutch and U.S. embassies, it brought over a U.S. championship debate team to teach competition skills to Kabul University students. Now APT has a full fall schedule of debate competitions within Kabul University and with other schools. "We want to help students think rationally, argue respectfully, and create a culture of acceptance where we value differences," said organizer Aref Dostyar during an October open house for the group.

Josh McCormick, a Yale graduate student who led the visiting team, told me, "Directing the debate project in Kabul this summer was one of



"This isn't a charity project. The Afghan people are part of our strategic equation."

—Capt. Felisa Dyrud

RISK IT

Karzai deputy says United States should trust Afghans more heading to 2014 transition

Shaida M. Abdali was one of three men aboard a flight with Hamid Karzai from Kandahar to Kabul in late 2001. Karzai had just been named chairman of the interim government formed by the U.S. coalition that toppled the Taliban regime only weeks earlier. Karzai went on to be appointed to a two-year term as interim president of Afghanistan, and to win election in 2004 and again in 2009. According to the constitution he cannot serve another term, and presidential elections are scheduled for 2013, at which time Karzai has publicly stated he will step down. Today Abdali is one of the few Karzai allies not toppled by in-fighting, corruption charges, or assassination.



On the 10th anniversary of the start of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, Abdali, currently Karzai's deputy national security advisor and special assistant, spoke to me in the presidential palace. "Do we have Afghans behind us as they were 10 years ago?" he asked. "No. Ninety percent of the country was behind us in 2001. The enemy could not find a place to penetrate. Since then we have been losing public support, through interference or indifference. It's our big problem."

Abdali said the Karzai government has "failed to engage the majority population where they live." That's a dramatic admission for a government that has concentrated power and security in the capital, Kabul. Most Afghans, about 80 percent, live outside that zone in rural areas where the Taliban and al-Qaeda affiliates have over the last decade made considerable inroads. And it's why politicians like Abdali are paying more attention to community development and the work of NGOs that can act as a bulwark against insurgency.

"We have paid attention to the enemy without paying attention to the people," said Abdali.

Faced with increased attacks by the Taliban inside the capital, where fighters fired rockets on the U.S. embassy and assassins killed former president Burhanuddin Rabbani in September, the Karzai government seems further isolated from the people.

Abdali believes that the counterterrorism policies largely favored by the Obama administration, and especially championed by Vice President Joe Biden, don't help in the long run. Those have resulted in the increased pace of drone strikes on terror targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and targeted killings and captures led by U.S. forces.

Abdali contends, "We are not only wasting money, we are making our problems bigger and bigger. We kill one and create 1,000 more. The enemy is on foot and at most has a motorbike and look at what we have." Abdali would like to see the United States in coming months turning more and more operations over to Afghan counterparts, including the national army and police. "This dependency on you is really killing us," he said. "You must take some risk." *—M.B.*

the greatest experiences of my life. The students were very eager to learn, and they made remarkable progress even in the short time we had with them." Some of the Afghan women, he said, "had never done any public speaking so it really encouraged them to see the women on our team speak in public and lead by example."

Women are increasingly active in such groups. ILD seeks them during the selection process and they make up a small percentage of each class. Wazhma Rahimzay heads a research foundation for issues related to women and children where she has 25 employees, male and female. She is 27, single, and lives with her family. She told me she feels welcome to discussions in the mostly male class but has had to "change my family's ideas" about attending. "We feel it's so important now for women to have opportunities, to be part of solutions for our country, to travel overseas and have an education."

Rahimzay fears talk of compromise with the Taliban and their becoming part of a future government: "We fear what will happen to women like me. It would be tragic." Rahimzay said the most important thing she's learned so far in class "is identifying my own good qualities and ones that I need to work on."

ILD was founded by Morning Star but is now run in partnership with several NGOs. When the instructor asks a question ("Who fills your tank?" he throws out at one point), a dozen hands go up and several start answers at once.

"The most urgent need for Afghanistan," said Morning Star's Batchelder, "is trustworthy leadership. These young people are hungry to learn how to become good leaders."

An ILD class near Jalalabad was slated for 20 students, and over 70 prospects showed up. Morning Star is in discussion with government officials to use ILD to train Afghan National Army and Police units. But because of security issues, teachers, and funding (tuition of $1,500, often paid partially by an employer, covers most expenses), not enough classes are scheduled to meet demand: "We are trying to be poised so that, should the security issues melt away, we are ready to expand this training," said Batchelder.

MANY OF THE LONGEST-SERVING NGOs in Afghanistan are faith-based enterprises that began long before the 2001 U.S. invasion. Organization leaders I spoke to—despite rising incidents of violence—say they have no plans to scale back their

LI YONG/XINHUA/LANDOV



JALIL REZAYEE/EPA/LANDOV

LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL: Male and female students attend class at a university in Herat on Sept. 13, 2011. Nearly 30 percent of college students in Afghanistan today are women.

operations when the U.S. military completes its withdrawal in 2014. In fact, most report increased interest in Afghanistan by Western aid workers over the last year. That's surprising, given the August 2010 attack in Nuristan Province that killed 10 workers with International Assistance Mission (IAM), including six Americans. On Oct. 11, four French aid workers were kidnapped in northern Afghanistan.

Morning Star, which employs 50 expatriate workers and about 120 Afghans, has had 11 new U.S. prospects inquiring about work in Afghanistan this year. In the last month, two newly trained couples joined its staff in Kabul.

IAM has been in Afghanistan since 1966. The organization kept its teams in place even after the devastating attack last year (see "Work and death," Aug. 28, 2010), and spokesman Warrick Gilbert said, "We expect a slight increase" in staffing in the next year. IAM has 500 paid Afghan staff and 50 expatriate volunteer workers in Afghanistan.

SERVE Afghanistan began working with refugees at the Pakistani border in 1980. It employs 12 expat workers and more than 200 Afghan workers. It began with health services for the disabled and recently helped some of the first disabled students to enter Kabul University, according to SERVE community development director Victor Chen. It also trains medical residents, sponsors a micro-savings program among Afghan women, and hosts rural eye-care camps. "As a Christian agency we also focus on character and values development," said Chen. "We try to work on worldview, peace-building, honesty—ultimately issues of hearts and minds. What we don't want to create is dependency."

These and other faith-based organizations see what few Americans have an opportunity to see between the headlines blaring violence, insurgency, and fraudulent activity: that a new generation is busy readying itself in hopes of a new day in Afghanistan. Chen said, "Changes here are subtle. It takes relationship, modeling, and mentoring. At the government level it can be very discouraging—corruption and security problems. But at the grass-roots level we see successes."



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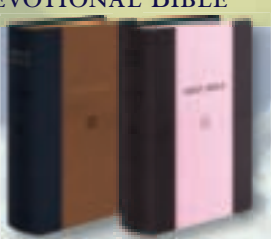
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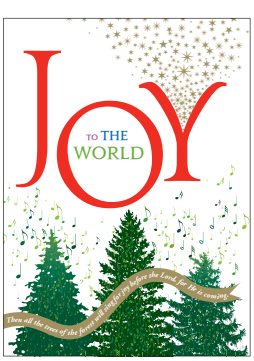
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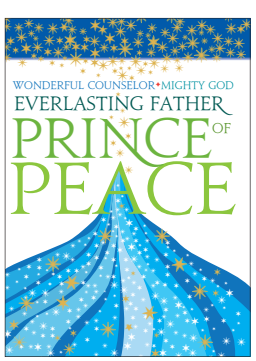
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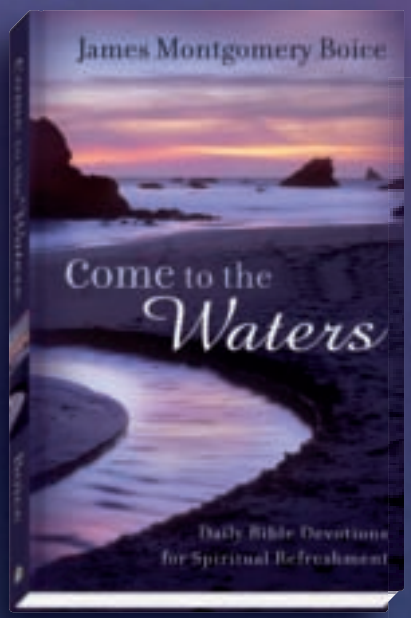
In the '60s they said ***"God is dead."*** Today, it's ***"God is not great,"*** and ***"What good is God?"***

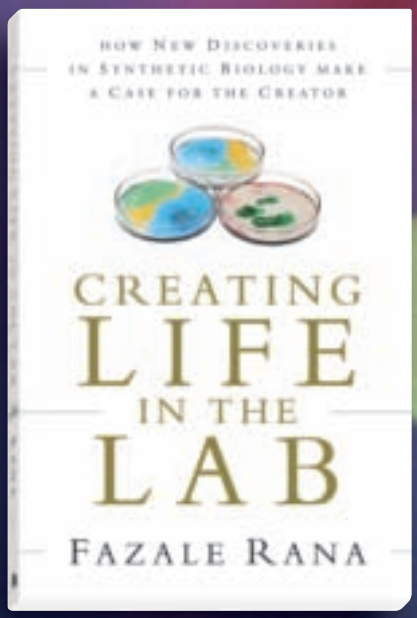
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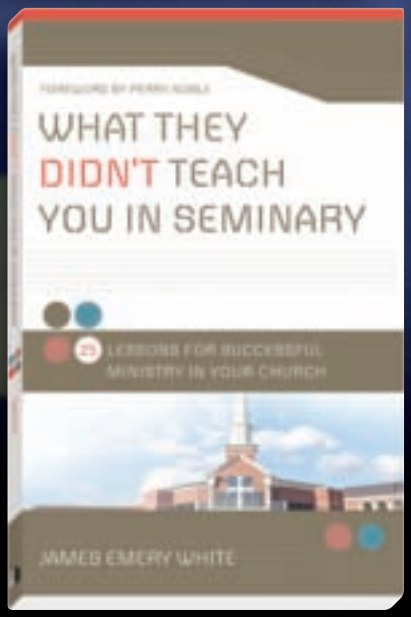
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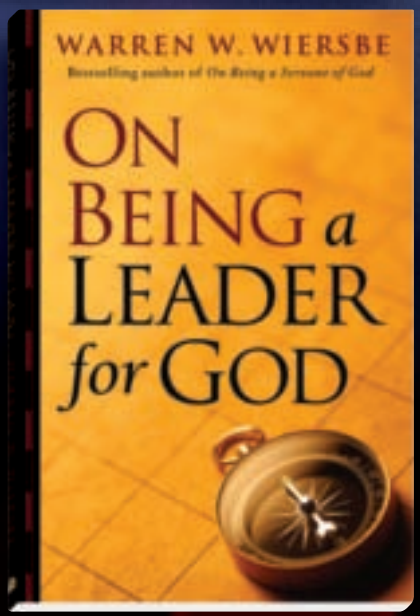
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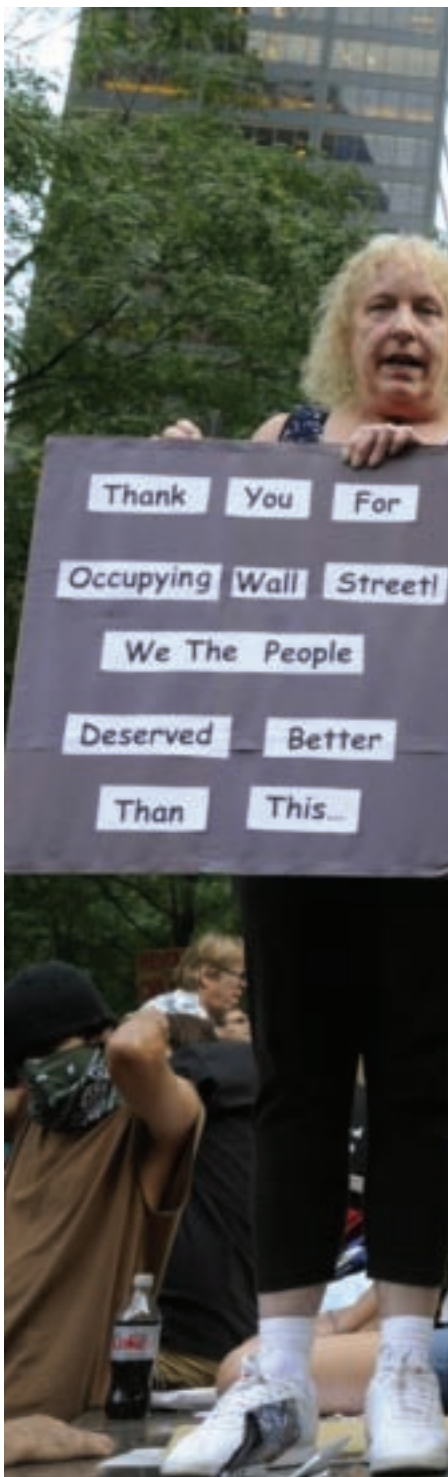
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A cause without solutions

OCCUPY WALL STREET: Zuccotti Park protesters know they can't fix what's wrong



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JASON DECROW/AP · JASON DECROW/AP · HENNY RAY ABRAMS/AP · MONIKA GRAFF/UPI/LANDOV · TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WITH THE SUN SHINING IN NEW YORK CITY after a rainy October morning, the Occupy Wall Street protesters were enjoying pizza when I arrived on site. At the Occupiers' press booth three men sat hunched over Apple laptops. Tarps, sleeping bags, and sleeping people covered the ground. The air was full of cigarette smoke.

As volunteers in burgundy hoodies wove their way through the campsite collecting trash, I interviewed many protesters who that morning were not making posters or chanting and clapping at the drum circle. They proudly described the protest as leaderless, democratic, and diverse, but some central concerns came out in conversation.

Meet Al Burgo from Long Island, an older man with a grey bandanna around his forehead. Burgo carried a sign reading "The Revolution Generation" and "Debt is Slavery." We talked about debt. I asked him about consumer responsibility, pointing out that debt is often a consequence of consumer choice. He struggled to combine free will and corporate predestination: Yes, consumers are responsible for their choices, but corporations trap and victimize consumers.

BY TIFFANY OWENS IN NEW YORK CITY


THE Corrupt
ONE EARTH
ONE HUMANITY
ONE LOVE!
THE BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS ARE FREE! BUT THE COST OF LIVING IS KILLING ME


A JOB IS A RIGHT!
CAPITALISM DOESN'T WORK
Workers World Party


We Are Citizens United
I BET YOU PAY MORE ATTENTION
THAN
ON WALLSTREET
OCCUPIED

Chantel O'Brien, a young journalism major, railed against corporate executives vacationing on federal bailout money while other people live in poverty. O'Brien, like many other protesters, opposes corporate bailouts, but when I asked her if college students should receive loan absolution, she said yes—because they are not rich. Occupiers were acting on what they often had learned in school: A fundamental function of government is redistributing resources to poorer individuals.

Some Occupiers wanted to destroy large American corporations—maybe Apple would be an exception—but Lee Forsythe from Illinois was one of those who said, "I'm not mad at the people who have made a lot of money." Forsythe, pulling a tarp over our heads as rain started to fall, added, "I just don't like the fact that some people made money just by moving money." With a goal many Tea Party participants share, he called for corporate transparency and accountability: How are executives spending their bailout money?

When the drumming and chanting stopped for a moment, I listened to a woman in the middle bringing a message from the local community: drum hours, please, times during the day when drumming would stop. She pleaded for compromise but the lead drummer called it oppression and lifted his stick to resume his beat.



What is oppression? What is compromise? Occupiers so far have failed to suggest a reasonable balance of consumer responsibility, corporate responsibility and federal regulation: They are anti-corporation but enjoying the goods that companies large and small provide. Are the problems protesters sense much deeper than economic duress and funny politics? Are they protesting against a fallen world, but lack a narrative that helps them to reckon with suffering and injustice?

At one point in our conversation, Burgo became angry because someone said if he had a problem, he should just fix it. "You can't just fix it!" he exclaimed. But he just kept looking at me, repeating the phrase, unable to explain why.

Burgo has a hunch. The Occupiers have a hunch. The problem is deep and you can't just fix it. That's why Occupy Wall Street is a protest without demands.

LEFT: ANDREW BURTON/AP · RIGHT: MONIKA GRAFF/UPI/LANDOV

Reactions to the Occupation

Reporters swoon, but we should not be too quick to dismiss

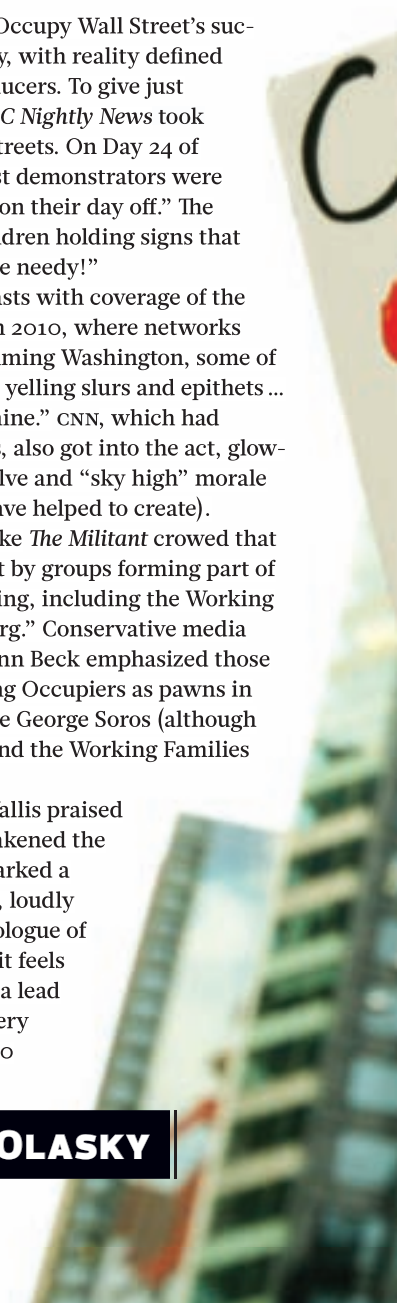
DID THE "OCCUPY WALL STREET" movement spread in October to "more than a thousand countries"? That's what an excited Diane Sawyer proclaimed on ABC's *World News*, thus multiplying by five the existing number. Her gaffe reflected the enthusiasm among newsreaders at ABC, CBS, and NBC: Those networks covered the Occupiers massively and lovingly, with 87 percent of soundbites positive and only 6 percent negative, according to the Media Research Center.

That bias was evidence of Occupy Wall Street's successful media-centric strategy, with reality defined by sympathetic network producers. To give just one October example: The *NBC Nightly News* took viewers "from school to the streets. On Day 24 of the Occupy Wall Street protest demonstrators were joined by a group of students on their day off." The visuals were clips of little children holding signs that read, "Tax the greedy, feed the needy!"

That cute treatment contrasts with coverage of the Tea Party movement in March 2010, where networks described Tea Partiers as "roaming Washington, some of them increasingly emotional, yelling slurs and epithets ... like a page out of a time machine." CNN, which had slurred Tea Party participants, also got into the act, glowing about the Occupiers' resolve and "sky high" morale (which fawning journalists have helped to create).

Overtly left publications like *The Militant* crowed that "the protest was actively built by groups forming part of the Democratic Party's left wing, including the Working Families Party and MoveOn.org." Conservative media stars Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck emphasized those connections and viewed young Occupiers as pawns in the hands of manipulators like George Soros (although no direct linkage appeared) and the Working Families Party (an ACORN affiliate).

Religious left leader Jim Wallis praised the Occupiers: "You have awakened the sleeping giant. ... You have sparked a flame. ... You have articulated, loudly and clearly, the internal monologue of a nation. ... I remember what it feels like to see your movement as a lead story on the evening news every night. ... I was in your shoes 40



BY MARVIN OLASKY

years ago as a student leading demonstrations against the Vietnam War, racism and nuclear proliferation."

The response from conservative and moderate media organizations was mixed. FOX News amply quoted Occupiers but also critics such as Sandra Fox of Louisiana who said, "It's horrible what they're doing. These people need to go get jobs." *The Wall Street Journal* went deeper into the mindset of some Occupiers by noting that young demonstrators "are trying to bust their way into an economy where there is one job for every five job-seekers, and where youth unemployment runs north of 18 percent."

The *Journal* emphasized reasons why joblessness has persisted: "If anyone in the Occupy Wall Street wants an intellectually honest explanation for why they can't find a job, they might start by considering what happens to an economy when the White House decides to make piñatas out of the financial-services industry, the energy industry ... or various other alleged malefactors of wealth."

The *Journal* also counted up the hundreds of thousands of jobs lost because of EPA and congressional edicts, and the $1.7 trillion a year that it costs to reply to federal regulations: The Federal Register last year added 81,405 pages of new rules.

With other concerns—Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, the potential expiration of Bush tax cuts, and implementation of Obama surcharges—it is "no wonder businesses are so reluctant to hire: When you don't know how steep the trail ahead of you is, it's usually better to travel light."

From other reports it's clear that many young Occupiers travel light in any knowledge of economics and business. Many Occupiers seem clueless about the irreducible complexity of a vast market system, and how hard it is to run even a small organization, let alone a massive one. They complain about private greed for money but don't recognize public greed for power. For example, they blame free markets for housing foreclosures when they should blame congressional pressure on businesses to make loans to those who were not credit-worthy.



CUTE TREATMENT: Isabel Valesco, 4, of Queens, sits on her father's shoulders among the thousands of protestors joining the Occupy Wall Street rally in New York City.

Accompanying that cluelessness is an entitlement mentality: Some young Occupiers think they deserve what they desire, and are not getting it only because others are greedy. Some complain about bailouts to banks deemed too big to fail, but think they're too cute to be unemployed. Some have often taken college courses that teach no marketable skills, including clear thought, and because of grade inflation have received A's. One Occupy sign read, "We're here, we're unclear, get used to it."

But if we just get used to it, we're missing something important. Rather than ignore all of the complaints in a kneejerk way or join liberal Christians in fawning over the Occupiers, conservative Christians should provide a clear look at how Wall Street can be improved, as finance expert David Skeel does below. We should recognize the desperate need of many young Occupiers who have time on their hands and faith in nothing. They are sheep without a shepherd. A Francis Schaeffer would see them as a mission field.

Beyond a kneejerk 'no'

How pro-business Christians should assess new financial regulation ***by David Skeel***

A year ago Congress enacted the mind-jarring 2,319-page financial reform known as the Dodd-Frank Act. Now *The New York Times* and others are proposing a second act: Remove the favorable tax treatment enjoyed by the managers of venture capital and private equity funds. Impose a "transaction tax" on every financial transaction. Force banks to set aside more capital than ever before.

Republican presidential candidates have taken a stand against the explosion of new business regulation. Early this year, Michele Bachmann introduced legislation to repeal the financial reforms, and every other leading candidate agrees that they must go. Is there any reason for a pro-business Christian to disagree?

Believe it or not, there is. Start with the venture capital and private equity fund managers. (Private equity funds are investment funds like Blackstone that often buy companies and take them private.) Profits earned by private equity fund managers are taxed at the low rate that applies to capital gains—that is, to assets held for long periods of time. This is a boon for the fund managers but it's also illogical and unfair. It's illogical because it's based on the fiction that these managers don't actively manage the assets in the funds. In the real world, these managers are just about the least passive managers imaginable. It's unfair because all others pay ordinary income tax on their earnings.

What about the transaction tax, which is designed to reduce the overall amount of speculative trading? Ordinarily, campaigns to discourage speculation are a lousy idea. After all, our markets depend on



IT WAS THEM: Obama recognizes Chris Dodd (center) and Barney Frank after signing their financial reform bill into law.

speculation—on investors' willingness to take risks. But this tax isn't as misguided as most. Institutions that make repeated, super-fast trades based on a computer program now do roughly 50 percent to 60 percent of all stock market trading. This trading is profitable, but it also can foul up the markets: In May 2010, it caused a "flash crash," a sudden drop in the market. Slowing down some of the trading by imposing a small tax isn't a crazy idea.

Those who are still reading may suspect that I will now sing the praises of the massive new financial legislation. Not so. Indeed, I recently wrote a book bitterly condemning much of it. But simply ripping up Dodd-Frank isn't the solution. Some of the new provisions, such as the regulation of the financial contracts known as derivatives, are good. Repeal could make some of the law's biggest flaws even bigger.

Here's what I mean about the flaws. When President Obama signed the legislation, he claimed that it will end taxpayer bailouts forever. It won't. In reality rather than rhetoric, it did little to rein in the too-big-to-fail banks (think Citigroup or JPMorgan Chase, since Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers are now gone) that made bailouts necessary. There's an obvious explanation for this. As Ron Suskind's *Confidence Men* shows, both President Barack Obama and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner are comfortable with a handful of big banks dominating American finance, much as they do in many European countries. If they protect the giant banks, they know that the banks will do their political bidding in a pinch. The losers are small and medium-sized banks, which can't compete with the favored few. Because more ordinary businesses look to smaller banks for their financing, the corporatist model means fewer loans and less innovation.

This is where the capital requirements come in. One of the few things the new legislation does to curb the biggest banks is to invite regulators to impose stricter capital requirements on them. If Team Obama were serious about ending bailouts, it would have broken up the big banks. But strict new capital requirements would make it at least a little less likely that one will fail and require a bailout.

There is a simple moral to all of this. Although the best regulation is often no regulation, especially when an election is coming up and protestors are dancing on Wall Street, sometimes a tweak to the laws can make our markets safer, fairer, and more competitive. When such proposals come along, pro-business Christians should jump at the opportunity to endorse them.

—University of Pennsylvania corporate law professor David Skeel is the author of The New Financial Deal

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LONE SHOOTING STAR

Rick Perry burst into the presidential campaign with an impressive conservative record and a lot of campaign money, but the media-shy and debate-weary Texas governor has fallen behind quickly. Will he find a way to stage a comeback?

★ BY EDWARD LEE PITTS ★

The biggest debate of Rick Perry's life began with a question to Herman Cain.

Who knows what Perry, the longest-serving governor in Texas history, thought Oct. 11 as Cain answered moderator Charlie Rose's question, "What would you do specifically to end the paralysis in Washington?" That is a question that Perry, who got just two questions in the debate's first half hour, wished he had.

"The states are proof that the best leadership is closest to the people not holed up in Washington, D.C., issuing these one-size-fits-all mandates," Perry might have said as he did at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference earlier this year. He promised a South Carolina crowd in August when he first announced his run for the presidency that "I'll work every day to make Washington, D.C., as inconsequential in your life as I can."

That Charleston speech, however, is two months and several mediocre debate performances ago. Then many considered Perry the conservatives' white knight, vaulting to frontrunner status in a race lacking a slam-dunk candidate.

But doubters emerged as Perry struggled in his first three debates. He bungled verbal attacks on his opponents ("was it—was before he was before the social programs, from the standpoint he was for standing up for ..." he aimed at Mitt Romney); failed to parry the pummeling opponents gave him (mostly centered on his 2007 executive order mandating that young Texas girls receive vaccinations for a sexually transmitted disease); and even managed to get booed by a conservative crowd in Florida (after suggesting those against his controversial immigration policies were heartless).

Brit Hume of Fox News said Perry "really did throw up all over himself." Even his supporters said he looked inarticulate and unprepared. He fell 10 percentage points in the polls, losing his frontrunner status and giving Cain center stage.

The placid Oct. 11 debate in New Hampshire didn't provide Perry with a much-needed signature moment—something to reassure conservative voters that he has the verbal chops to go against President Obama next fall. Afterwards, Perry visited a Dartmouth College fraternity and admitted to the students, "Debates are not my strong suit."

An Oct. 18 debate in Nevada did only a little to change that: Not waiting for a question, Perry called himself "an authentic conservative, not a conservative of convenience" and took the first of many swipes at Romney, suggesting he won't quit the national stage without a fight. Perry hasn't lived up to the high expectations that greeted his entry into the race, but it would be foolish to count him out.

He has never lost an election, dating back to an elementary school contest for carnival king. He may have been dubbed the accidental governor when he assumed the state's top spot after George W. Bush became president in 2000, but Perry has since won three reelection bids, part of 10 straight contested election victories. In 2002, Democrats spent $50 million trying to beat Perry in his first gubernatorial election. He won by 18 percentage points.

He has gone from frontrunner to underdog in two short months. But there may be a comeback within Perry.

His simple roots seem better fitted for the role of longshot: The son of tenant farmers from a dry, dusty west Texas community called Paint Creek, Perry grew up 16 miles from the nearest post office. He lived off a gravel road. Surrounded by miles of pasture, Perry had few playmates besides a dog and a Shetland pony. A school with just 110 students from grades 1 through 12, a Methodist church, and Boy Scouts dominated his life. His mom hand-sewed his clothes until Perry went off to college.

"I didn't know that we weren't wealthy in a material sense," Perry, 61, said during a recent speech at Liberty University. "I knew that we were rich in a lot of things that really mattered in a spiritual way."

At Texas A&M University, Perry honed his political skills as an elected yell leader for sporting events. He also earned a reputation as a prankster: putting live chickens inside one student's dorm room over Christmas break and hiding firecrackers with waterproof detonators inside toilets.

Perry wanted to be a veterinarian, but "four semesters of organic chemistry made a pilot out of me." After graduating in

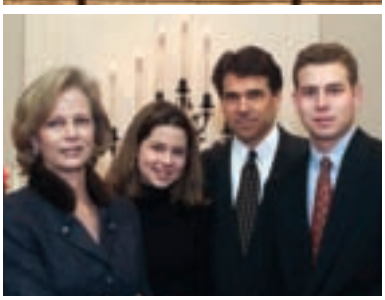
CHRIS FITZGERALD/CANDIDATE PHOTOS/NEWSCOM

1972, Perry spent more than four years flying C-130 cargo aircraft for the Air Force. His missions to Europe and the Middle East allowed him to see the world beyond Texas.

Perry met his wife, Anita, at a piano recital when he was 8 years old. Today, he calls her a Proverbs 31 wife. They married in 1982.











Two years later, voters elected Perry to the statehouse as a conservative Democrat. He campaigned around his district by flying a 1952 Super Cub propeller plane. Perry, then nicknamed a pit bull for favoring bare-bones state budgets, became a Republican in 1990. He soon narrowly upset an incumbent Democrat to become the state's commissioner of agriculture.

Getting back on track for Perry likely means focusing on his state's economic record: Texas, a state with less than 10 percent of the nation's population, created nearly 40 percent of all new American jobs since 2009. The roots of this Texas miracle are hotly debated. But Perry attributes it to his four governing tenets that he often repeats on the campaign trail: Don't spend all the money, keep taxes low, make government regulations fair and predictable, and eliminate frivolous lawsuits. "You can't spread success," Perry said, "by punishing it."

Others seem to agree: For seven years in a row Texas has been named the top state for job growth and business development in a survey of CEOs by *Chief Executive* magazine. The state has netted more than 1 million new jobs in Perry's decade as governor: more than those in all other states combined. In 2006, he signed the largest property tax cut in the state's history. He followed up a major tort reform law in 2003 with a "loser pays" law passed this year to curtail lawsuits. As Washington lawmakers talk about fiscal restraint, Perry acts, signing a budget in May that cut $15 billion in state spending during the next two years.

But to reemerge, Perry also will have to confront several controversies of his own creation. Most Texas conservatives remain puzzled by his circumvention of the Texas legislature during his push to mandate that all sixth-grade girls get a vaccine against HPV, a sexually transmitted disease known to cause cervical cancer. The legislature passed a veto-proof bill to overturn the order, and Perry later admitted he erred in his approach. A former Perry chief of staff had become a lobbyist for the drug company Merck, which made the vaccine.

"Sometimes he listens to voices and doesn't listen to enough of them in opposition before making a decision," said Cathie Adams, a former Texas GOP chairwoman. "People he has trusted may have had more influence than they ought to have."

Perry's endorsement of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani during the 2008 Republican presidential primary, and Perry's comment that it was fine for New York to legalize same-sex marriage because it is a states' rights issue also worry social conservatives.

But it is on immigration policy that Perry has the most ground to make up with conservatives: He diverged from his party when he released a statement in opposition to the tough new immigration law in Arizona. The 2008 GOP platform specifically condemned immigration laws like the one signed by Perry in 2001 giving in-state tuition rates and financial aid to children of illegal immigrants. This is what got the boo birds out during September's Florida debate.

"He is a little bull-headed," said Kelly Shackelford, president of Texas-based Liberty Institute. "But he has the most conservative record of what has actually passed than I think anybody we've had running at this level in many, many decades."

One area where this is undeniable is abortion. As lieutenant governor in 1999, Perry helped shepherd Texas' parental nd ification act. Abortions performed on Texas minors have dropped 32 percent since this law and a 2005 update have been in effect. Perry also signed a prenatal protection act in 2003 that expands the definition of human life to protect unborn children from violent crimes. He has signed laws prohibiting abortions in the third trimester, requiring abortionists to present women informational brochures about abortion and other alternatives, and requires doctors to show a woman considering an abortion an ultrasound of her unborn child 24 hours before the procedure.

"He is the most successful pro-life governor we have ever had," said Joe Pojman, executive director of Texas Alliance for

YEARBOOK & HOME: RON T. ENNIS/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT/LANDOV
FAMILY: HARRY CABLUCK/AP . GIULIANI: GERALD HERBERT/AP

Life. Perry has supported budgets that devote millions of dollars to pro-life agencies such as crisis pregnancy centers. Meanwhile, he signed a budget this year revoking more than $60 million in taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood, resulting in the planned closures of seven Texas abortion offices.

"For some candidates, pro-life is an election-year slogan to follow the prevailing political winds," said Perry at a recent speech in Washington, D.C. "To me it's about the absolute principle that every human being is entitled to life. All human life ... is made in the image of our Creator."

The roots of Perry's pro-life fervor are clear: "He doesn't just talk Christianity, he sincerely loves his Lord," said Rick Scarborough, a former Baptist pastor from Texas who now heads Vision America.

Perry is up front when it comes to his faith. In speeches since becoming governor, he has referenced Galatians, Romans, Timothy, Luke, Joel, Isaiah, and Ephesians. He has discussed the lives of Moses, David, and Paul. He has prayed with students in a public middle school and signed pro-family legislation on the campus of a Christian school. He often opens up business luncheons with prayer and regularly speaks from the pulpits of churches. He once compared holding office to a ministry: "I've just always been really stunned by how big a pulpit I was going to have," he told a group of Texas business leaders in May.

A long-standing member of Austin's Tarrytown United Methodist Church, Perry now regularly attends the contemporary evangelical Lake Hills Church. Led to the Lord at a Methodist summer camp at age 12, Perry recently told Liberty University students that soon after leaving the Air Force at age 27, he was "lost spiritually and emotionally, and I didn't know how to fix it." He would spend his nights pondering his purpose in life. "What I learned as I wrestled with God is that I didn't have to have all the answers, that they would be revealed to me in due time and that I needed to trust Him."

His outspokenness bothers some Americans: In early August, just before announcing his candidacy, Perry officially declared Aug. 6 a day of prayer and fasting and hosted a prayer service in Houston's Reliant Stadium. A national group of atheists unsuccessfully tried to stop Perry from appearing at the rally. "He's a wise, wise God, and He's wise enough to not be affiliated with any political party," Perry said before more than 30,000 who cried, sang, and shouted "Amen." "His agenda is not a political agenda, His agenda is a salvation agenda."







PERRY'S LIFE: Perry in a 1965 Paint Creek School yearbook; his childhood home; with his family at Tarrytown Methodist in 2000; with Rudy Giuliani in 2008; at a pro-life rally in 2009; visiting Horizon City, Texas, a town with a predominantly immigrant population, in 2007; praying on Aug. 6, 2011.

PRO-LIFE RALLY: TOM REEL/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM · HORIZON CITY: RUDY GUTIERREZ/EL PASO TIMES/AP
PRAYING: BRANDON THIBODEAUX/GETTY IMAGES

In his race for the GOP nomination, Perry has one of the most important elements to fuel any comeback: His campaign reported raising $17 million last quarter. That's more than any other candidate despite having less time than his rivals to raise funds this quarter. The cash ensures that, dismal debates or not, Perry won't have to leave the race anytime soon.

His long-term strategy to recover will include more paid media advertisements so that Perry's team can control the message: "Even the richest man can't buy back his past," says a new Perry video clearly aimed at Romney. A politician often call lucky by detractors, Perry caught another break when New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie decided not to run.

But money and luck won't help in the face of a puzzling media strategy: Perry did not cooperate with WORLD for this story despite numerous emails and phone calls. That continues a trend that began with the Perry campaign's refusal to do any editorial board meetings or debates during last year's governor's race, infuriating newsrooms across the state.

Since entering the presidential race, Perry has done only a handful of interviews and often ignores reporters following him on the campaign trail. A *Washington Post* reporter in a Sept. 21 story wrote, "We contacted Perry's spokesman for an explanation but as usual he did not respond."

"America is looking for a president who will look them right in the eye and tell them the truth," Perry said at an early October event in Iowa after his initial debate missteps. "They are interested not in what some pundit says or the joke of the day."

That seems to be what Perry is counting on.

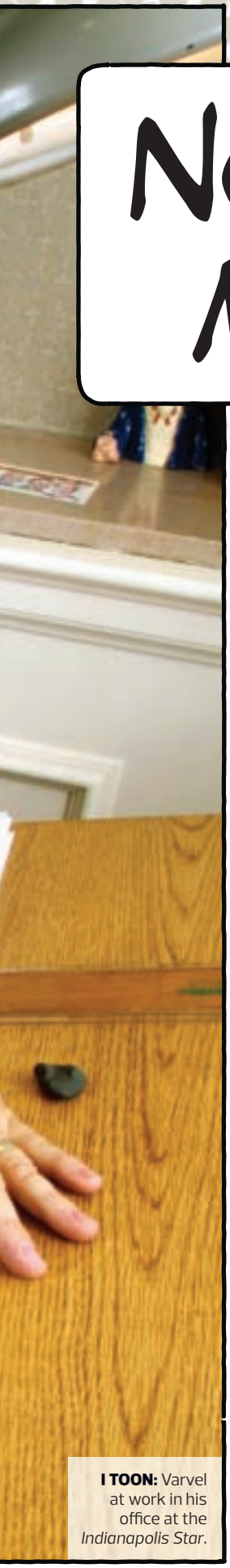


NO LAUGHING MATTER

Christian cartoonist **GARY VARVEL** uses humor to make serious points

BY **RUSS PULLIAM**
IN INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE NYE/GENESIS



I TOON: Varvel at work in his office at the *Indianapolis Star*.

Cartoonist Gary Varvel was waiting in line to get an $80 unemployment check when he got The Phone Call in 1978.

Indianapolis News cartoonist Jerry Barnett was telling him to apply for an artist's position at the evening newspaper. Varvel needed the break. He'd shown his art work to Barnett and had landed a job at a weekly newspaper. He became the production manager, at $125 a week, and the owner let him draw a weekly cartoon. But the newspaper had shut down.

Varvel talked with Barnett, thanked him for the call and got back in line to collect his $80 check. At 21 and still living with his parents, he had a wife and baby and still needed the unemployment money. But he got the job and has been earning a check as a cartoonist for a third of a century.

He has risen to the top of a declining business, as a conservative Christian in an industry dominated by liberals with little regard for Christian faith. His *Indianapolis Star* cartoons get distributed to other newspapers and publications through Creators Syndicate. His work also appears in WORLD.

Lately Varvel is getting some praise from liberal quarters as he offers a subtle faith-based answer to the problem of poverty. He won the Robert F. Kennedy Award earlier this year for his cartoon series, "The Path to Hope," based on interviewing families that moved out of poverty with help from groups such as IndyReads, Science Bound, and the Shepherd Community Center. The series explored specific family poverty stories in Indianapolis and is online at garyvarvel.com.

In one series of illustrations he told how Curtis Adkins grew up in a broken home, sent from Florida to Indianapolis at age 12 to live with his grandmother. Assigned to a special-ed class, Adkins fell behind and at age 16 wanted to escape from school. Then through friends a door opened to attend the Indianapolis Christian School, where he got the attention he needed in small classes: Teachers realized Adkins had a different learning style, not a disability. Eventually he made it to college and now serves in his old neighborhood through the Shepherd Community Center.

Varvel mixes cartooning with a serious analysis of the causes and remedies for poverty. He's paid to be funny, but in real life he's not a stand-up comic. "He's real, he's authentic," says Shepherd director Jay Height. "He wins national awards, but he'll sit down with an inner-city kid and teach him how to draw."

Varvel doesn't dominate a room when he walks in. "He's not an overwhelming presence. He has a strength of humility," Height says. "A liberal might wonder how a conservative like him can be so compassionate. It's because he comes out of a root of faith, not out of politics." In appearance, Height adds, "He gives the appearance of a clean-cut conservative. He's just missing the sweater vest."

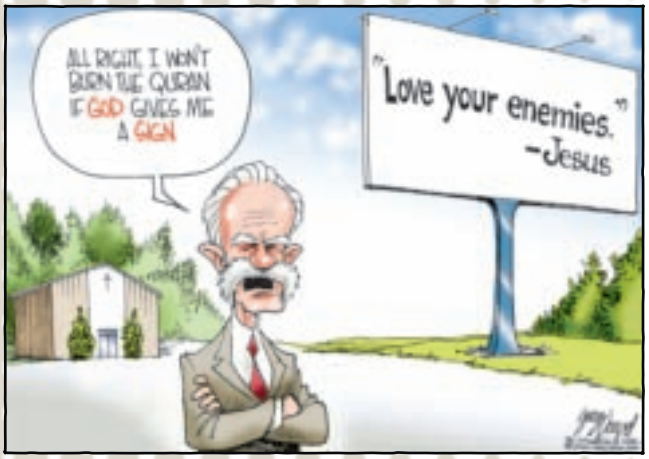
The cartoonist and his wife Carol have three children and attend Brownsburg Baptist Church west of Indianapolis. His son Brett, a filmmaker, says, "In his job he's supposed to make fun of people all day long. But when you meet him he doesn't come across as a comedian, trying to rip you apart. His job is so consumed with politics. But he is not consumed by it."

With his artistic gift and a touch of wit, Varvel has an opportunity to put a biblical worldview before a very mixed audience of Christians and atheists, conservatives and liberals, as well as newspaper readers somewhere in between. He



"THE MAIN JOB I HAVE IS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK": The "The Path to Hope" series about Curtis Adkins (above); two of Varvel's cartoons (below).





finds that a little laughter can help bridge the gap with those who don't agree with his general perspective: "The main job I have is to make people think," he said. "I try to break down complicated issues into a simple image and express an opinion."

Varvel's faith in Christ informs his cartooning, yet he is not consciously thinking of a particular Bible verse every time he draws: "I don't see my job is to turn everyone into a Christian. I like to think of myself like a Joseph or Daniel in the Bible. They served secular leaders and God blessed them."

His pictures informed by the Bible can convey a point. On abortion, he recently showed a woman praising Planned Parenthood in one panel for saving her life: "Without Planned Parenthood I would not be here." In the next panel a baby in heaven notes: "Without Planned Parenthood I wouldn't be here today." On the gay marriage controversy he showed a man with several brides asking for a right to polygamy from a judge: "Your honor, since you redefined marriage, is there any reason why I can't marry more than one?"



Most of the time Varvel is more subtle about a Christian perspective, though he clearly gives views right-of-center and finds ways to defend traditional values and poke fun at cultural relativism: "You want to shine a light, but you don't want to stick a flashlight in their face," he says of the mixed audience of a metropolitan newspaper.

Varvel credits the old *Mad* magazine for inspiration for drawing at a young age. "Dad used to buy it for us," he recalled. "I don't think I ever read it. I learned how to draw caricatures from it." At a high school in Danville, Ind., he won a cartooning contest in ninth grade and started drawing for the school newspaper. He was surprised to learn that someone could earn a living by actually drawing pictures.: "I thought someone drew the cartoons for fun and had a real job on the side."

When he started in 1978 there were 200 full-time newspaper cartoonists: Now Varvel estimates there are less than 50. When young people ask him about such a career, he has some cautions: "I have to give them the grim reality—a lot of cartoonists have been laid off." But artists can find other ways to draw: "There are a lot of forms of cartooning—animation for a movie studio, for example. The opportunities to do what I'm doing were never very good, even when there were 200 of us." ⊕

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Served as a Resident Assistant and children's Sunday School teacher at a local church; played tennis, basketball, and a few intramural sports; and participated in the outdoor club ASCEND's camping trips and activities.

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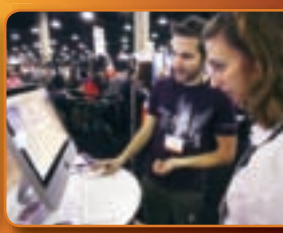
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Notebook



KRIEG BARRIE

Getting grace

LIFESTYLE: Obedience is important, author says, but homeschoolers should not let rules obscure the gospel

BY SUSAN OLASKY

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLING generally is a great success, but a recent essay by homeschooling dad Reb Bradley is garnering wide attention on Christian blogs. "In the last couple of years," he began, "I have heard from multitudes of troubled home-school parents around the country, a good many of whom were leaders. These parents have graduated their first batch of kids, only to discover that their children didn't turn out the way they thought they would. ... [S]ometime after their 18th birthday they began to reveal that they didn't hold to their parents' values."

After outlining some of the ways these children have stumbled, Bradley wrote, "Most of these parents remain stunned by their children's choices, because they were fully confident their approach to parenting was going to prevent any such rebellion."

Who doesn't want to find a parenting system that guarantees success? And yet, as some homeschoolers have discovered, such a system doesn't exist. Earlier this year Elyse Fitzpatrick and her daughter, Jessica Thompson, talked with me about their parenting book, *Give Them Grace* (Crossway, 2011). They noted that some parents think a move to the country and a lifestyle based on *Little House on the Prairie* "will transform our children's hearts." The problem: "It doesn't."



Fitzpatrick sympathizes with those who are looking for a system because she says that is how she raised her three children. She took "every story of grace and mercy (like Jonah's) and made it into law and morals." Now she sees the problem with that approach: "We've stressed outward compliance and obedience. We've boiled down the Christian



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message to 'Be nice. Be polite. Don't hang out with bad people.'"

Of course obedience is important: "Respect, courtesy, and civil obedience are blessings from the Lord." But in their book Fitzpatrick and Thompson warn parents that human obedience not "motivated by gratitude for God's grace" is "deadlier to the soul than immorality. ... Those who excel at the sort of obedience listed above may not see their need for a Savior; their hearts may be hardened and unfazed by God's grace."

They note that if we confuse obedience with righteousness, some of our kids never hear that they need a Savior: "Nice kids don't hear the gospel. Compliant kids are missing it. They fly under the radar. ... They can be 'elder brothers' and proud of it. They win awards."

Fitzpatrick first began to change her thinking about parenting 10 years ago when she went to hear New York pastor Tim Keller. Up to then she was "into lots of steps and rules," but Keller's message led her to reread completely the New Testament, taking copious notes. Then she read with her daughter Martin Luther's *Commentary on Galatians*. That provided further insights: They recognized, "The law of God, although beneficial and beautiful, cannot advance us on our way to righteousness because we cannot obey it."



"The beautiful reality is, your work isn't going to save your kids. You can relax. You do not know how God will work. Be weak and throw yourself on the mercy of God."

—Elyse Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick says she couldn't give the gospel to her kids because she didn't really understand it herself. Now she and Thompson state it in such simple terms that even the youngest child can understand: "You're a sinner. You need a Savior. You have a Rescuer."

But what exactly does that look like in practice? Although their book provides many "scripts" to provide guidance to parents, they don't offer a system. I suggested to Thompson, who alongside her husband is raising three children, that she should make videos like Super Nanny, with perhaps a video camera attached to her forehead so we could see what grace-based parenting looks like in practice. She looked shocked by the suggestion.

But if she had been wearing such a camera, we could be watching a scene she told me about and called "the slap heard round the world": At a get-together of church people in her backyard, Thompson's 7-year-old daughter slapped the pastor's son across the face because she didn't like something he said. Embarrassed and humiliated, Thompson took her daughter inside and asked, "How could you do that? Why would you do that?"

Some time later the daughter again was outside: This time she slapped her brother across the face. Thompson, too angry to talk, sent her to her room: "I needed physical time to cool down." After Thompson composed herself she said to her daughter, "How can I even let you go outside?" Her daughter agreed: "You can't trust me to go out. I don't deserve it."

That word *deserve* cut through Thompson's anger and embarrassment. She saw an opportunity to talk about grace: "We get what we don't deserve," she explained. "We get mercy and grace." As Thompson talked, she realized that God was softening her own angry heart. When her daughter responded by saying, "Wow. God must really love me," Thompson was able to see the series of events as something "God orchestrated for us. I wasn't praying. I was mad ... resistant. That's how the gospel changes both our hearts."

For parents who feel they've messed up and done everything wrong, Fitzpatrick offers encouragement: "I was raised in a secular home. Jessica was raised in a legalistic home." And yet both of them are believing Christians today: "God uses failures in fantastic ways. It's not all up to you. ... The beautiful reality is, your work isn't going to save your kids. You can relax. You do not know how God will work. Be weak and throw yourself on the mercy of God."

The essay that started the prairie fire, "Exposing Major Blind Spots of Homeschoolers" by Reb Bradley, is at joshharris.com/2011/09/homeschool_blindspots.php.



SONIC DISRUPTER

Fast-food restaurant Sonic is best known for its hotdogs, tater tots, and curbside service. But in Homestead, Fla., Sonic is trying to compete with nearby eateries by adding beer and wine to its menu. Alcohol has high profit margins, and during tough economic times, some restaurants hope beer and wine could boost profits. A *New York Times* article observed that the idea might work in theory but not in practice. Serving alcohol requires fast-food restaurants to obtain a license and offer special training to staff. In Florida the restaurant had to hire security guards to make sure servers weren't selling alcohol to minors. An executive for the company told the *Times* that alcohol isn't "a big deal to consumers—it's clear they come to us to have an extra-long cheese coney or an all-beef hot dog." Starbucks and Burger King are also exploring alcohol sales for some of their outlets. *—S.O.*

FITZPATRICK: HANDOUT · SONIC: SUE OGROCKI/AP

Mentors with mobiles

Beyond friend-to-friend, software maker wants to help teachers teach and students learn, anywhere

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE



DIGITAL LOVE: Pastors learn how to use their new smartphones in a church leadership course in Narobi.

In 2002 David Rogers was a headmaster in what is now Mundri Town, South Sudan. A war was raging, and the high school he'd been given charge of was one of only seven in a region of several million people. Students were desperate to learn, but space and teachers were limited, and bugs were eating Rogers' books. He wondered if technology could solve the problems he faced.

Today the company Rogers started, Allogy Interactive, is proving it can. Its 11 employees build software applications that run on mobile phones and allow students to take classes and read digital textbooks from anywhere. In a pilot program in Kenya that Allogy ran in partnership with Campus Crusade for Christ International, students in a pastors training program at the Nairobi International School of Theology watched instructor videos on Android-based phones. After the initial class, "Even with the cost of all of the technology it ended up saving the students money and generating a profit for the academic institution," Rogers says. The students took quizzes and asked questions through the app while professors tracked their progress. They took a final exam on campus.

"Most software today is built around the idea of peer relationships," says Rogers. In contrast to the friend-to-friend dynamic of much social networking, he wants his software to reflect the dynamic of hierarchical relationships, such as parents and children, doctors and patients, pastors and church members, or teachers and students. "The idea of education in its original form was mentorship," he says, but today many big institutions are mechanical and expensive. Rogers thinks mobile technology can allow students to learn outside the geographical constraints of a classroom while providing "some measure of mutual accountability" between student and teacher. Allogy's goal is to make its software platform usable and affordable for any university.

The company has ongoing projects in India, the Philippines, and Tanzania. In the United States, Allogy is developing digital textbooks and medical apps for use in schools and hospitals, such as an infectious diseases app for McGraw-Hill, and a series of videos for trauma surgeons. It has also created an iPad browser for the Federal Register.

Creative education runs in Rogers' family. Now 34, he remembers learning to read at the Christian school his grandfather started in his basement—initially just for grandkids—until it ballooned so much he had to buy property in northern Virginia to host it. Now a grandson follows a similar path.

SOLAR CALCULATIONS

Hundreds or thousands of Indian schoolchildren could soon be learning math not on their traditional black slates but on scaled-down tablet computers powered by the sun. Rice University professor Krishna Palem has created a device called the I-slate that is perfect for regions where electricity and teachers are scarce: It displays preloaded math, science, and social studies programs on a 7-inch screen that students can scribble on with a stylus. Palem has already field-tested battery-powered prototypes among Indian 10- to 13-year-olds, but he hopes to have a solar-powered model in production by mid-2012. It should cost less than $50 and run on three watts of power provided by solar cells in its frame. ***—D.J.D.***



NAROBI: HANDOUT · I-SLATE: JEFF FITLOW/RICE UNIVERSITY



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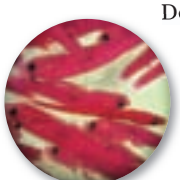


Acting fishy

Judge has harsh words for government scientists over handling of delta smelt case **BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE**

BEFORE RETIRING from the bench on Sept. 30, U.S. District Judge **Oliver Wanger**, who has spent years presiding over a water-rights dispute in California, took a few moments to tongue-lash a couple of government biologists. At issue was whether the government's limits on the amount of fresh water withdrawn from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta were necessary to protect native fish.

"I have never seen anything like what has been placed before this court by these two witnesses," said Wanger, referring to Frederick Feyrer and Jennifer Norris, both Interior Department officials who had argued an endangered fish, the delta smelt *(left)*, needed a certain amount of fresh water from the two California rivers in order to survive. The judge determined they were being selective with their facts in their attempt to expand the fish's habitat.



"The only inference that the Court can draw is that it is an attempt to mislead and to deceive the Court into accepting what is not only not the best science, it's not science."

Wanger's final rulings didn't resolve the longstanding dispute over the amount of water pumped to Central Valley and Southern California customers, but he did determine that federal officials should rewrite their plan for protecting delta fish species.

What gave Wanger's rebuke to the two scientists special force was his reputation as a non-activist judge. Throughout two decades in a Fresno courtroom, Wanger has ruled on multiple water-rights cases, taking a strict interpretation of the law and handing victories both to environmentalists and to farmers and other water interests. He has ruled that water pumping threatens fish in the delta, but has also determined that environmental decisions should take the needs of humans into consideration.

The independent thinking comes at a price, he told reporters: "At this point, I have no friends in California. That's the fact."

OZONE SQUABBLE

The Obama administration is facing a lawsuit from groups that would be his allies in most circumstances. The American Lung Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and two other environmental organizations sued because the president rejected the EPA's new air standard for ozone. President Obama said the standard would cost businesses too much, and asked the agency to do more research and report back in 2013.

The EPA had proposed lowering the legal amount of ground-level ozone to a maximum of 70 parts per billion, slightly less than the current standard of 75 parts per billion established by George W. Bush. Compliance could cost industries $25 billion a year because, as the EPA admits, achieving the low standard would require "unknown, future technologies" that haven't been invented yet.

Those costs could exceed the savings the agency predicts will result from thousands fewer heart attacks and respiratory diseases. But Andrew Grossman, a fellow at the Heritage Foundation, told me those health benefits are speculative. Some are based on two studies from which the EPA drew different conclusions than the study authors, and others are based on slight reductions in airborne particles: "When they're merely estimating benefits ... they're willing to make calculations that really couldn't stand up to the light of day in a court of law." *—D.J.D.*

WANGER: GOSIA WOZNIACKA/AP · FISH: RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

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Deliverance Church in the Eastleigh section of Nairobi, Kenya, is the only remaining church in an area now dominated by Somali Muslims. "There used to be about 200 churches in Eastleigh," said one resident who is a convert from Islam. But according to Christians who live there, Islamic interests bought up land and razed churches, in many instances to make way for mosques. Deliverance, according to the convert, "remains very strong."

MINDY BELZ

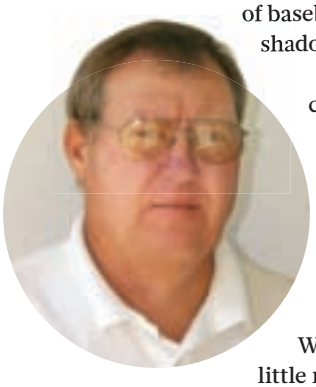
Shaping lives

Baseball's greatest coaches rarely reach its greatest stage

BY MARK BERGIN

FOR THE SIXTH TIME in his storied career, Tony La Russa has led a team to the World Series. The Cardinals manager, who ranks third on baseball's all-time managerial wins list, reached this year's Fall Classic with the same kind of innovative string pulling that has defined his 33 years at the helm of three Major League ball clubs. By any baseball standard, La Russa's place among the game's greats is secure.

But greatness can be a tricky thing. Behind the clear measures of victories, championships, and individual honors (La Russa has four times won Manager of the Year awards) are fuzzier categories like character, mentorship, and compassion. Many of baseball's greatest sources for these less flashy attributes never reach the professional ranks. Many of baseball's truly great coaches labor in the shadows.



Like **Jerry Wright**, longtime coach and teacher in the high school ranks of Alabama. For more than 30 years, this genial wizard of the diamond taught youngsters how to play the game with dignity. He died Oct. 14 at age 58 after a fight with melanoma. Wright's passing brought little more than a whimper of local media coverage. But his life deeply impacted thousands.

Peter Bezeredi, who succeeded Wright as baseball coach at Baldwin County High School in 2007, says past players, parents, and fellow coaches remember Wright as much for his exemplary leadership as his baseball savvy: "He was a great family man, and he was a great role model in his walk with God. Coach Wright had a strong faith, and he will be missed by a tremendous amount of people."

Chris Coleman, one of Wright's former players, told the *Mobile Press-Register* that Wright did more than coach; he inspired: "He pushed us to perform higher than we ever thought we could. Not only did he coach us on the field, but off the field he shaped our lives."

Wright managed plenty of on-field success, too. He led the Baldwin County Tigers to seven area championships and was honored as post-season all-star game coach 11 times. His career mark of 491-290 earned him induction into the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

But those accomplishments are hardly what made Wright great. As former player Jason Hadley says, "He not only cared about winning but cared about each of his players and treated each individual as his own son."



AMONG THE GREATS: La Russa.





WRIGHT: HANDOUT - LA RUSSA: TIM UMPHREY/GETTY IMAGES - HARBAUGH AND SCHWARTZ: RICK OSENTOSKI/AP

COACH REPROACH

Two coaches, one word: *adolescent*.

Jim Harbaugh's emphatically condescending handshake and backslap of opposing coach Jim Schwartz following the 49ers victory over the Lions Oct. 16 contained all the maturity of a 13-year-old poor sport. And Schwartz's reactionary tirade of profanity and peacocking looked the part of a teenage hissy fit. Reporters have relished the narrative of two young, exuberant coaches leading resurgences for two once irrelevant teams. But the storyline has swerved from Cinderella to Peter Pan.

Harbaugh and Schwartz are not alone. The once dignified office of NFL head coach—home to the likes of Tom Landry, John Madden, Don Shula, and Bill Walsh—now often falls to classless buffoons. Cases in point:

- In 2010, Chiefs coach Todd Haley refused to shake hands with Denver coach Josh McDaniels after a blowout loss. Haley pointed at McDaniels and delivered an expletive.
- In 2009, then Raiders coach Tom Cable scrapped with assistant coach Randy Hanson during training camp, leaving Hanson with a broken jaw.
- At Super Bowl XLII in 2008, Patriots coach Bill Belichick left the field before the game had ended, disgusted with his team's shocking upset loss. —*M.B.*

Email: mbergin@worldmag.com



Sharp turns

A volatile stock market has scared investors and attracted speculators **BY WARREN COLE SMITH**

JUST HOW TURBULENT IS THE STOCK MARKET? More than half a trillion dollars in paper gains were made and lost in just two weeks in September. The S&P 500 jumped 5 percent in the week ending Sept. 16, the second-best week this year. The next week it plunged 6 percent, the second-worst week this year.

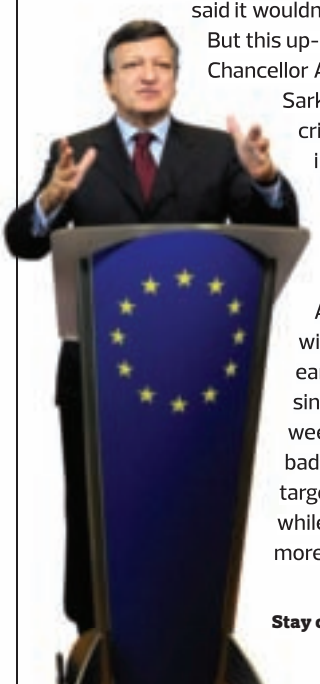
On Oct. 4 the Dow Jones Industrial Average moved up more than 350 points—nearly 2 percent—in a single hour. The Dow Jones industrial average has gained or lost more than 200 points in a single trading day more than 20 times this year—the vast majority of them in the past two months. By comparison: Swings of 2 percent occurred just five times a year from 1950 to 1999.

The surge in volatility since early August is not just of interest to statisticians. Volatility is a sign of uncertainty. Among the effects of volatility: It prevents companies from going public and scares investors—both large and small—out of stocks and into what they perceive to be safer investments. It also tends to attract speculators, which creates yet more volatility.

But there are signs that volatility will diminish. After months of hard negotiation, action on the European debt crisis seems close (see "Debt resolution?" below), and the price of gold has seen a two-month slide after a massive five-year run-up. Analysts hope these developments will send both speculators and volatility to the sidelines.

DEBT RESOLUTION?

A major reason for the global stock market volatility during the past two months has been uncertainty in Europe. Credit reporting agency Fitch downgraded the debt of both Italy and Spain in early October. That hurt bank stocks, as banks hold bonds from both countries. To counteract the bad news, the European Central Bank said it would provide unlimited one-year loans to banks through 2013, and that caused a short rally—until it said it wouldn't make the loans available until mid-November.



But this up-and-down may be nearing an end. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy said a "comprehensive response" to the debt crisis would be finalized by the end of October, including a plan to make sure that banks have adequate capital. European Commission President **José Manuel Barroso** presented that plan on Oct. 12. It's seen as the strongest effort yet to address the region's debt crisis.

Also helping provide stability is news that Greece will likely receive the next batch of its bailout loans in early November. That was good news and bad news, since Greece needs the money now and even a few weeks of delay could cause unrest there. Adding to the bad news: Eurozone officials also said Greece's deficit targets for 2011 were "no longer within reach," and that while new austerity measures for 2012 were adequate, more were needed for 2013 and 2014. *—W.C.S.*



Job fair in Vancouver, Wash.

Neutral numbers

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits for the first time has hovered around 400,000 a week for the past few months. That number is a sign that the job market remains weak.

First-time applications need to fall consistently below 375,000 per week to signal sustainable job growth. They haven't been below that level since February.

Ellen Zentner, senior economist at Nomura Securities, said applications around 400,000 indicate a neutral job market, "one that's neither picking up, nor deteriorating." But she's counting the news as a blessing since "even neutral readings" suggest the chances of another recession are abating. *—W.C.S.*

ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE . BARROSO: THIERRY CHARLIER/AP . JOB FAIR: RICK BOWMER/AP



Turning inward

Giving declines as mainline churches focus more resources toward themselves

BY TIM DALRYMPLE

Tithing to mainline churches has reached its lowest level in at least 41 years. Of the smaller amount churches are receiving, a smaller proportion of church funds is serving the needy outside the congregation. These are two of the findings from an analysis of mainline churches' tithing and giving patterns from 1968 to 2009 by Empty Tomb, Inc.

The study focused on mainline denominations because data was not available from evangelicals or Roman Catholics, yet the authors suggest that trends amongst Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and other mainliners are broadly representative of American churches.

Our first inclination might be to blame the decline in tithing on the U.S. economy. While it's true that the most severe year-to-year decline in giving over the past 40 years took place in 2008-2009, the Empty Tomb analysis showed that church giving has not always declined in past recessions. If Christians are clutching the purse-strings a little tighter, the economic contraction cannot be entirely to blame.

Since harnessing the financial resources of American churches for needy children around the globe is Empty Tomb's very purpose, the study's authors could be accused of having a bias toward alarmism. Yet the statistics are alarming enough if they are even remotely close. They found that Christians in these denominations tithed a mere 2.38 percent of their income, down from 2.43 percent in 2008, and churches in 2009 devoted less than one-sixth of their budgets to "benevolences" or ministries to those outside the bounds of the congregation itself.



As churches receive less, they may need to retain a higher proportion of their resources in order to meet their operating costs and retain their staff. Yet "turning inward and valuing the happiness of its members" over the needs of others is "moving on a spectrum toward pagan values," argues co-author Sylvia Ronsvalle, Empty Tomb's executive vice president. Such trends, she says, require careful examination, not a knee-jerk defense of the church.

Some will object that reaching the lost, feeding the poor, and healing the sick are not merely questions of amassing sufficient resources. Political corruption, decrepit national infrastructures, and the belligerence of ruling authorities all complicate the equation. Others will object that the purpose of the church is the proclamation of the gospel, not the abolition of social ills.

Yet the astonishingly low tithing levels found in the report ought to provoke self-examination. It is not only spending on physical services that has declined, but spending on missionaries as well. If American churches had devoted the same proportion of their resources to benevolences in 2009 as they had in 1968, then another $3.1 billion would have gone to the needy. And if American Christians had tithed a full 10 percent of their income in 2008, then the church would have had another $172 billion at its disposal for missions and services. This would have been more than enough, suggest the authors, to send missionaries to every unreached people group and all but eliminate the deaths of small children because of starvation and disease.

To be sure, we need effective, wise compassion directed to programs that cultivate initiative and responsibility instead of dependency and multi-generational poverty. Yet we do need compassion, and in seasons of want our compassion is tested.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
—Nick Eicher, Publisher

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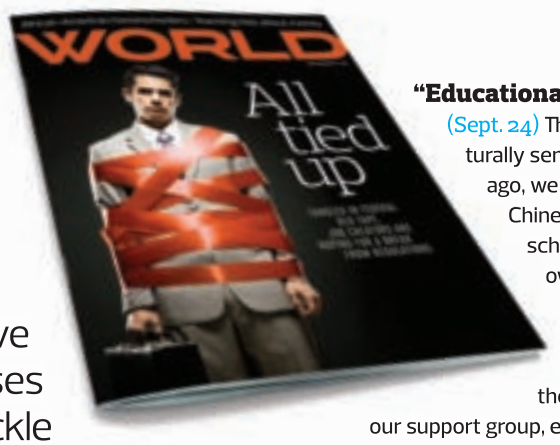
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"All tied up"



(Sept. 24) Your article on government regulation made me more aware of what is holding back the economy. The executive agencies are telling the businesses to create jobs, but then they shackle them with regulations. I fail to see the logic. It frustrates me to know that these officials are unelected and have no accountability to the people.

ANDREW WILLIS, 17, *Homer Glen, Ill.*

"Educational pioneers"

(Sept. 24) Thank you for being culturally sensitive. Nineteen years ago, we were one of the first Chinese Americans to homeschool our children. Our own people had such a hard time understanding us, and we could not fully identify with the Caucasian families in our support group, either. We were very lonely and had many ups and downs, but God has been faithful. I'd encourage ethnic minorities to focus their teaching on their language, history, and culture while they are young and instill a kingdom perspective earlier. I regretted not doing so more.

NANCY HUANG
Los Angeles, Calif.

"Playing the envy card"

(Sept. 24) If the president is truly concerned about corporate jets, he could back up his rhetoric by getting rid of his own and traveling by land. That would give him less time to make speeches—and that might be a good thing.

RICHARD BELLINGER
Brookneal, Va.

"It's not about the dream"

(Sept. 24) This piece about Phil Vischer is one of the most thought-provoking and challenging articles I've read in a long time. It not only gives us an insight into his life and experiences but challenges us to live our own lives in the way that most pleases God.

BARBARA BAKER
Lawton, Mich.

"Banned books"

(Sept. 24) Bless the hearts of these people who work to ban objectionable material from our public libraries, but they're trying to drain the ocean with a sieve. *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight* series made the list of the 10 most challenged books of 2010, but these two are prudish compared with many young adult books. Stories of teenagers engaging in sex, witchcraft in its most repulsive forms, violence that would be rated R in theaters—they're all there for anyone to read.

TRACY TANNER
Owatonna, Minn.

"The long haul"

(Sept. 24) This article caught my eye because I am the oldest employee at my workplace, although not as old as Lee Anderson! Many people I work with are younger than my children, but I learn a lot from them, and I think they learn something from me occasionally. I would add that there is another paper with two editorial pages here in Lancaster County, the *Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era*, that was also formed by the merger of a liberal and a conservative-leaning paper.

MIRIAM HOMER
Lancaster County, Pa.

"Powered by faith"

(Sept. 24) As the father of a multi-race Christian homeschooling family, I found the article about African-American homeschoolers very interesting. However, I was shocked that you lumped Catholicism in with Islam, New Age, and the hippie movement as things in which Alberta Wilson "dabbled." If she felt more at home in another Christian denomination, fine, but please don't make it sound like she dodged an eternal bullet when she decided not to become a Catholic Christian.

PETER BRODA
Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

WORLD *around the world*

GIZA, EGYPT / *submitted by Shelly Gary*



Send photos and letters to: mailbag@worldmag.com

Mailbag

"The narrow door"

(Sept. 24) As a high school senior I have been approaching the long-feared college decision with eyes searching for safety. As Andrée Seu called us young girls to seek after true grace, my mind was running back to the idea of going to a public, secular university. Embracing Him wholeheartedly and without reservations can and does happen at a secular school. This is an extremely difficult and patience-building time, but the Lord can and does use it mightily in my life daily.

GRETA TURNBULL, 17
Leavenworth, Wash.

"A place forgotten"

(Sept. 10) This article reminded me that America's greatest asset isn't necessarily her government or her financial infrastructure but her people. Although the terrorists targeted America's highest-profile institutions, the passengers aboard Flight 93 prevented 9/11 from being an even greater catastrophe. Today I see in their heroic sacrifice a stern reminder to a nation in the midst of an identity crisis.

AMANDA PEARSON
Rockford, Ill.

The "husband and wife who had arrived at the airport early enough to take Flight 93 instead of their later flight" had been members of a Sunday school class our son attended. 9/11 touched many people.

LARRY MARSH
Colton, Ore.

"Where were you on 9/11?"

(Sept. 10) I remember when, after 9/11, the news media showed images of groups of gleeful Arabs parading through streets rejoicing at the wound in New York and the slaughter of our citizens. So I was glad to read Wendy Merdian's account of compassionate Arab friends expressing condolences to her in the wake of that tragedy. I was most impacted by Bill Bangham's account of his friend Randy's statement that "There is a war in the heavenlies" and how the group they were with prayed the entire day in response. I would so like to have heard their prayers.

ANNE KIREN
Level Green, Pa.

"Islam vs. liberty"

(Sept. 10) Marvin Olasky's crash course in comparative religion regarding the stark differences between the basic tenets of Christianity and Islam was probably the best I've ever seen. He clearly distinguished between their ideas of freedom. Thank you for putting this all into perspective. And thank God that He freed us "from this wretched body of sin" to have life to the full.

RAENEL MATHEWS
Payson, Ariz.

The explanation of Islam's inability to recognize man's original sin and its position that Muslims can live a "moral life" based on Muhammad's plan was eye-opening for me. It was such a helpful explanation of why the Muslim heart is so difficult to reach with the gospel of Christ.

F. ALSTON
Dallas, Texas

"Where is our treasure?"

(Sept. 10) While I greatly appreciate Marvin Olasky calling attention to worldly thinking about retirement, the incompatibility of Social Security with biblical teaching extends much further, as exemplified by its forced redistribution of wealth. It was and is a government-imposed ponzi scheme.

DENNIS E. LEBO
Carlisle, Pa.

I will try to remind myself tomorrow when my alarm goes off at 5:30 a.m. and I wake from a less-than-stellar slumber (seems to go with aging) that this is more to be desired than "the emptiness and uselessness of retirement" that I "crave." Perhaps if I could switch with John Piper, doing his ministry and writing while he works my 40 hours at a wastewater treatment plant, he might be a bit more sympathetic.

KATY LANDERS
Wenatchee, Wash.

I have no quarrel with the article on retirement. However, taking early retirement has enabled many to be part of missionary endeavors such as building churches and



the like. We were privileged to do the electrical work and assist in building cabins for a Bible camp for parts of 16 years.

DAVID HOFF
Barron, Wis.

Music

(Sept. 10) As the owner of an iPod that contains Newsboys, Nightnoise, Nightwish, and Novaspace, and where Madonna co-exists with Mozart, Moby, and Morning Musume, I want to say that I really enjoy Arsenio Orteza's music reviews. Clearly he loves many different kinds of music, and every one of his reviews is interesting to me.

CHARLES A. BURGE
Kaneohe, Hawaii

"The new greatest generation"

(Sept. 10) Great job by Mindy Belz. Something about that piece was just several notches up. I smiled, I teared up, and I prayed for our young people.

RICH LOUDON
Issaquah, Wash.

"Reclaiming an idea"

(Aug. 13) Going through my backlog of WORLDs, I ran across an earlier interview with Rick Santorum ("Don't forget Obamacare," Oct. 23, 2010). In that one piece he nailed so many things that happened in one year's time. Maybe it's time to move him into the main tier of candidates.

KOBY PADGETT
Columbia, S.C.

Correction

The McGarrys are renovating a home in Wellston but have not yet moved in. Keith Dorsey works with them as an apprentice ("Spirit of St. Louis," Sept. 24).

LETTERS AND PHOTOS

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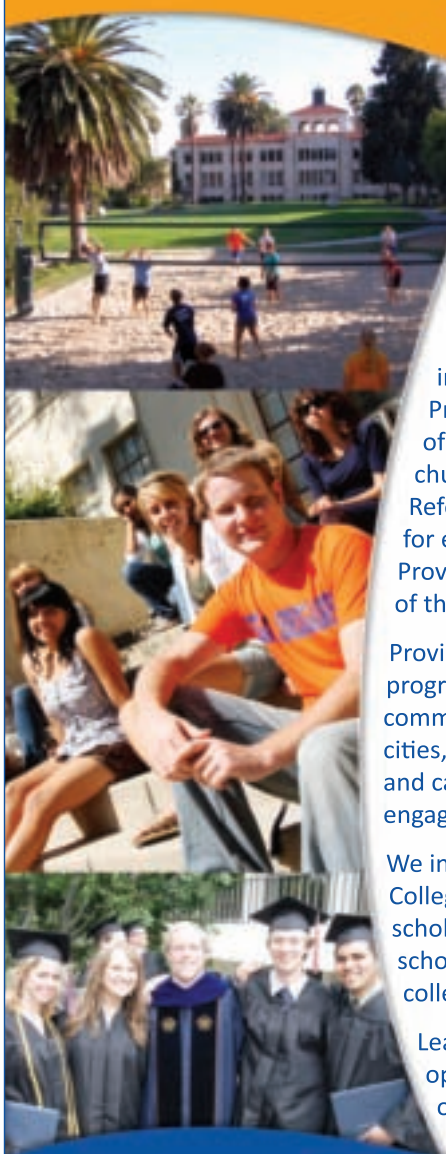
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Andrée Seu

Quit worrying

It ruins good days and bad days, and puts faith in the wrong place



I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT what I was worrying about so I could worry about it properly. Know what I mean? I was sure there was something; I felt its vague presence. It sits across the room in a stuffed chair reading the newspaper while you're working at the computer. And once in a while you look up from your typing to make sure it's still there, and it looks up over the top of the paper and tips its hat.

I often drop whatever I'm doing to have a good worry. It can be at home, in my car, or even in a doctor's waiting room, provided I know there will be a sufficient amount of time to hunker down and get into some serious worry. It helps somehow. Keeps everything in my life under control. The worst thing is not having control.

Sounds a bit crazy that I need to keep a worry going in order to protect myself, but it's working so far. Right? I don't say my life is perfect, but I've held things together fairly well like this for decades. For example, in public I don't allow myself to stop thinking about my tummy for a minute; I keep sucking it in. And I can still hear every word of conversation because I've become a pro at dual concentration.

It's the hypothetical you overlook that will kill you. Not everybody realizes this. It's why you have to anticipate every possible bad scenario, so it won't take you by surprise. My friend David says he's never known a person like me, who can find the negative side of any situation.

You also don't want to be too happy because you know what will happen then, right? Smash. It's odd: I think if I didn't keep current on my worries, I would sometimes think I had no problems.

I remember Aggie at the retreat on suffering. Everybody is sharing sob stories and she says, "This is the happiest time of my life: I have a husband who loves me, and three healthy kids—and I can't enjoy any of it because I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop." Funny how we not only have a problem with bad days, we have a problem with good days.

Eckhart Tolle (not a Christian) says it's "almost as if you were possessed without knowing it. ... Everyone hears a voice, or several voices, in their head all the time. ... I would say about 80 to 90 percent of most people's thinking is not only repetitive and useless, but because of its dysfunctional and often negative nature, much of it is also harmful" (*The Power of Now*).

I admit, worries are pretty lousy counselors, for all their chatter. They're hardly ever complete sentences: "What if"; "Things don't change"; "Your history of rejection"; "Be realistic." They pretend to be working themselves out of a job but always come up with new problems.

I was thinking about what it would be like not to worry, when I got a call from Ferg's mom about a very sick friend of mine. "Let's start praising God for what He is going to do! Because we just know He's going to do something, don't we, sister!" When I saw that her faith was as strong-willed as my fears, I decided that worrying is nothing but faith in the devil.

We were cruising along quietly in the car, my son and I. I was fingering my mental worry beads, and he was next to me worrying about whatever it is he worries about. Suddenly I said, "Hey Calvin, do you think there ever was a minute in your life that you weren't worrying about something?" He thought a second and said, "No." I said, "Me either."

Then I said, like a revelation: "Let's quit it; right now!" He seemed dubious, like it was unscriptural. I said, "It's a command, Calvin. The Bible says we can do this thing (1 John 2:1a). And if we mess up while trying, we don't need to feel we've blown it totally (1 John 2:1b)."

I put out my pinkie finger, and after a hesitation, he went along with me and put out his, and we made a promise along the lines of Philippians 4:6: Out with worry. In with petitions. Practice thanksgiving.

KRIEG BARRIE

Email: aseu@worldmag.com



Marvin Olasky

Not finished yet

American spirit of social entrepreneurship should provide hope when pessimism knocks

Our cover story is about hope in Afghanistan. This column is about hope in America. Occupy Wall Street cadres shout that selfishness rules America, but thousands of compassionate programs show that an odds-defying altruism remains. Some programs are Christian, some are secular—and let me say a few words about both kinds.

Regarding Christian ones: I had the privilege of handing out awards at the celebration dinner in Houston on Oct. 14 that concluded WORLD's sixth annual Hope Award for Effective Compassion competition. In January we asked our subscribers to nominate poverty-fighting ministries. We learned more about the nominated groups, selected finalists, sent reporters to profile and videotape programs, and chose regional winners, each of which received $5,000.

Our final four were Bowery Mission Women's Center (Northeast), Challenge House (South), Hope Now for Youth (West), and Victory Trade School (Midwest). Some 8,000 readers voted online to select the national winner, which was (drum roll) **Victory Trade School** of Springfield, Mo. You can read about them all and see videos at worldmag.com/compassion.



Victory received an additional $25,000 award. The priceless benefit for all four winners was the local and regional publicity they received. The priceless benefit for me at the Houston dinner was the opportunity to meet my heroes and heroines, the directors and volunteers at these programs who help others and receive for themselves little or no pay and not much recognition.

It's always great to congratulate the winners and then to look forward to next year. We'll officially ask for 2012 nominees in January, but while you're thinking about this I hope you'll send a note to June McGraw (jmcgraw@worldmag.com) giving the name of the organization you'd like to nominate and a sentence or two explaining why. She'll hold onto your nominations until we start researching the groups early next year.

The ideal nominee is local, small, and Christian not just in name but through having all aspects of its program based on Christ's teaching. It employs some professionals but also uses volunteers to offer challenging, personal, and spiritual help to the needy. It receives funds from individuals and churches, not government. It has a track record of proven effectiveness in helping to move individuals out of poverty.

Regarding secular poverty-fighting groups: As U2's "City of Blinding Lights" concludes, "Blessings are not just for the ones who kneel." One blessed example is Liberty's Kitchen (LK), a little New Orleans restaurant located near court buildings where at-risk youth slouch toward jail unless someone or something intervenes. The LK slogan, "Where Justice is Served," is concrete rather than merely rhetorical: It combines good cooking with a training program for teens and young adults.

Justice at LK means giving students the opportunity to learn basic culinary and barista skills. Justice means not handing them anything but teaching them to make everything—pastries, salad dressings, soups, stocks—from scratch. Justice means giving active learners hands-on training in a highly structured 12-week program, rather than forcing them to sit at a desk in a classroom just this side of anarchy.

LK is similar in one sense to Victory Trade School because both teach young people how to become restaurant managers and workers. LK is different from the ministries in WORLD's contest, though, because it has no particular Christian emphasis—and it will be educational at some point to see whether a secular program can match Bible-centered ones in helping people not only get a job but persevere.

As Thanksgiving approaches, let's be thankful for programs of all kinds that do not merely enable people to stay in poverty: They help people rise above it. In city after city Christians and non-Christians see a problem and respond. Their social entrepreneurship is one of the astounding glories of America. None of the 40 other countries I've visited comes close.

A half-century ago John F. Kennedy said that if some doubt whether the West has the courage to stand up to Communism, "Let them come to Berlin." Today a sense of entitlement leaves some folks complaining instead of working, and sociologists doubt that Americans still have a pioneering spirit. Let them come to Springfield and New Orleans.

JAMES ALLEN WALKER

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