EGYPT EXPLODES—AND CHRISTIANS PAY



WORLD

SEPTEMBER 7, 2013

Back to School

BAD NEWS:
Bathroom craziness, teacher union biases, scientism assaults

GOOD NEWS:
Courageous teachers, scientists, and homeschoolers

SCHOOL QUESTIONS:

1. Do charters hurt Christians?
2. Can classically trained students get jobs?
3. What price Liberty?



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WORLD

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ON THE COVER: LETTERING BY JOSEPH ALESSIO AND KRIEG BARRIE; EGYPT: MANU BRABO/AP

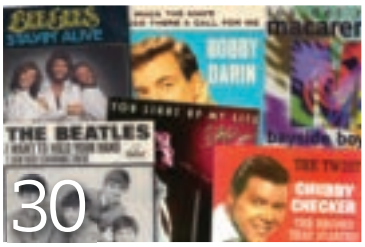


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As the military meets a violent Muslim Brotherhood, an ancient civilization that includes Egypt's Christians endures a brutal backlash







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"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof; the world and those who dwell therein." —Psalm 24:1

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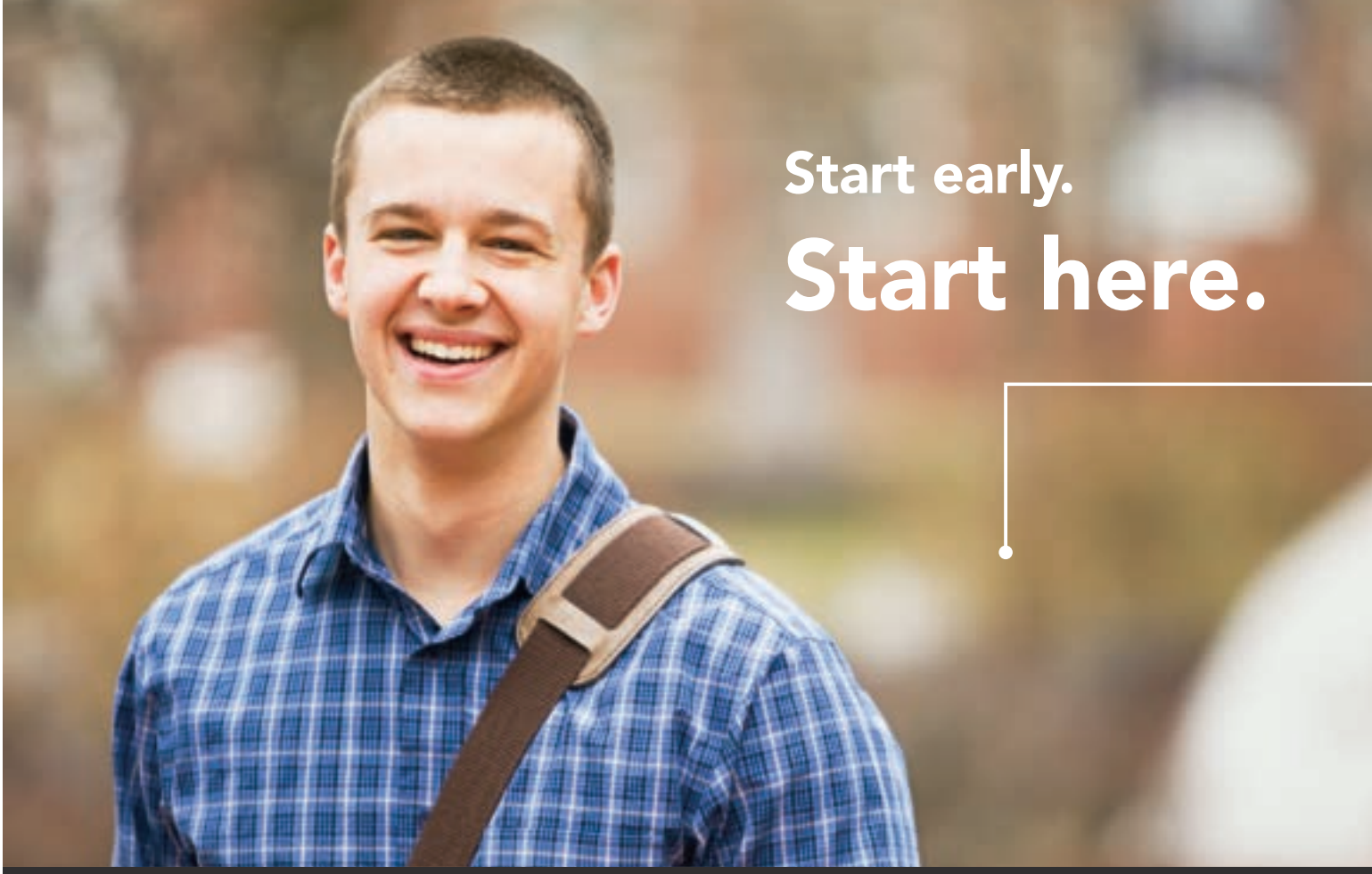
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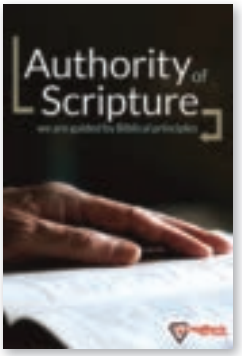
Joel Belz

Drilling down

In business Glenn Gault bit by bit promotes a Christian worldview

So what does it take to build this thing we call a "Christian worldview"? What specific blueprint do you follow if you want your children and your children's children to think in a biblically directed manner? How do you nudge the folks in your workplace—or the voters at your precinct polling place—to make their decisions with a God-centered agenda?

If only we could commandeer the nation's media, some say. No, others counter; it's the schools, the colleges, the universities. That's where we'd find the most leverage. Still others ask: What about the pulpits of our nation? Is anybody listening?

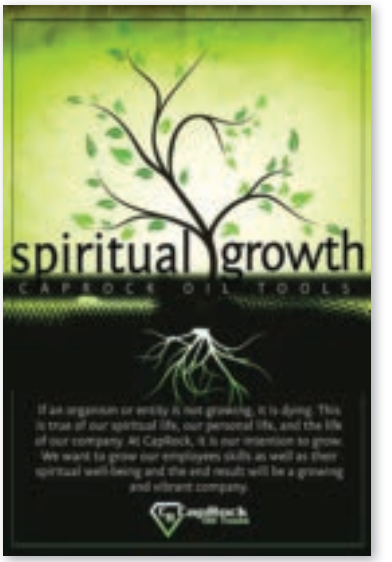


Expect no cheap answers here. WORLD magazine in general, and this column in particular, have no one-size-fits-all solutions. Instead, we tend to say: "All of the above." We prefer a good dose of caution when anyone tells us that they've found the universal key to teaching Christian worldview. It's more likely to happen, we think, in bite-size chunks.





Which is why the office décor at the headquarters of CapRock Oil Tools Inc. just south of Houston, Texas, grabbed my attention recently. CapRock fabricates, and then sharpens, monster drilling bits used by big oil explorers as they bore deep into the earth. CapRock's owner and CEO, Glenn Gault, is a serious Christian who is eager for those around him to know more about his faith in Jesus—and how that faith affects even his business life. How, he wondered for several years, could he do that in a winsome, enduring manner? He already offered a weekly session where as many of his 45 employees who wanted to could gather for prayer and a bit of mutual encouragement. But what else could he do?



That's when the idea hit him: What about hanging half a dozen colorful and attractive posters around the plant, spelling out in nonpreachy language some of the biblical values and resulting principles that make CapRock what it is? The cost would be minimal. The message would be repetitive. The audience would quietly include employees, customers, salespeople, other vendors, and visitors of all kinds—including nosy magazine publishers.

The result was a series of seven jumbo posters, done by professional graphic designers, and scattered from CapRock's entryway to the engineering center to the break room to the rough and tumble fabricating facility. Even a casual visitor is compelled to ask: So how does this "value" work out in the day-to-day operation of CapRock? Glenn Gault loves those opportunities for further discussion.

Folks with other businesses have asked whether the posters might be available to them—sometimes offering to pay for duplicate copies. The CapRock posters, though, are pretty "company-specific." The poster highlighting "spiritual growth," for example, announces bluntly: "If an organism or entity is not growing, it is dying. This is true of our spiritual life, our personal life, and the life of our company. At CapRock, it is our intention to grow. We want to grow our employees' skills as well as their spiritual well-being and the end result will be a growing and vibrant company."

CapRock didn't set out to teach Christian worldview thinking. But CapRock was blessed to have an owner who took seriously what he, bit by gritty bit, could do right within his modest headquarters. It's been amazing to see how God changes the subject from oil drilling to even deeper matters.







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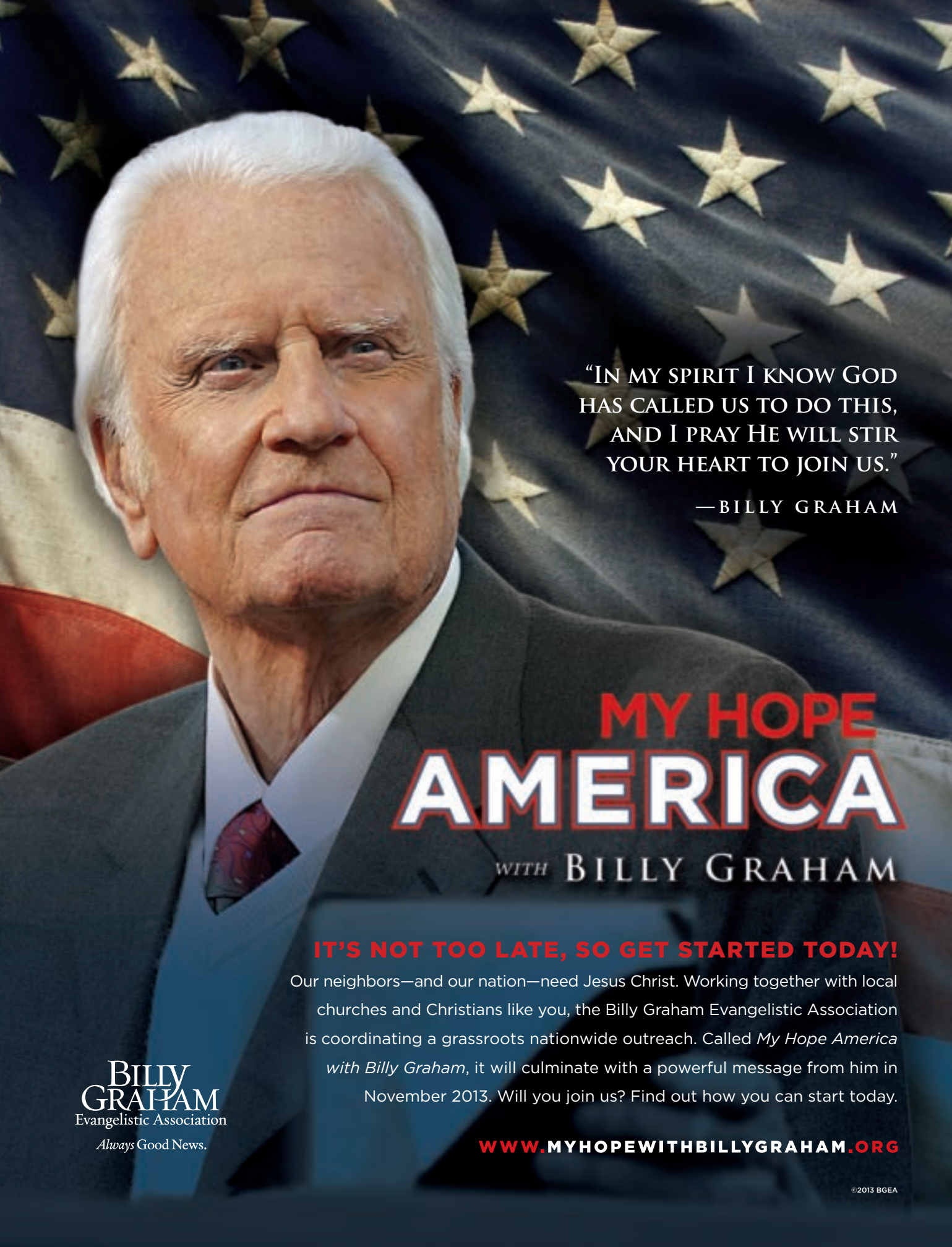
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Dispatches

News 〉 Quotables 〉 Quick Takes



EGYPTIAN VIOLENCE: A supporter of ousted Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Morsi shoots a slingshot against Egyptian security forces during clashes in Cairo Aug. 14. Egyptian police in riot gear swept in with armored vehicles and bulldozers to clear two sprawling encampments of Morsi supporters, showering protesters with tear gas as the sound of gunfire rang out. *See related story on p. 36.*

MANU BRABO/AP

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Wednesday, August 7

Nairobi blaze

A massive fire destroyed the international terminal at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. There were no reported casualties. The cause of the fire remained unclear, but it broke out on the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The airport, one of the busiest in Africa, closed for a day and then slowly resumed flights through the domestic terminal. The fire is likely to have economic ramifications: The country is at the peak of its tourist season, and the airport is a hub, among many things, for the country's substantial export of flowers to Europe.

Dinner for one

In a high profile snub, President Barack Obama canceled his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin scheduled ahead of the September G-20 summit in St. Petersburg. The cancellation appeared directly tied to Putin's one-year asylum offer to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, but the White House said that was just one barrier among many between the two leaders–including being on opposing sides of the Syrian war. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Obama was "absolutely right" to cancel the meeting: "There's nothing to talk about."

Bush unclogged



Former President **George W. Bush** was discharged from a Dallas, Texas, hospital after a successful heart operation. Doctors inserted a stent after finding one of his arteries clogged. The 67-year-old Bush's lifestyle isn't to blame: He's known for his relentless exercise and low resting heart rate.

Thursday, August 8

Cholera culprits

A Yale University report said UN peacekeepers were responsible for the sweeping cholera outbreak in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake that killed 8,000 and sickened 640,000. The UN has denied responsibility for the epidemic. The

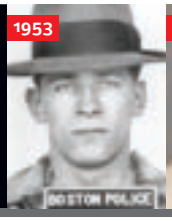


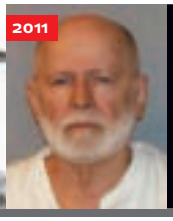
report offers detailed evidence otherwise, showing that UN peacekeepers set up camp by a river, which they contaminated with sewage. The river fed into Haiti's main sources of drinking water. Until the peacekeepers came, Haiti had had no cases of cholera for 150 years. Soon after the peacekeepers' arrival from Nepal (where cholera is more common), Haitians began to show symptoms of the disease.

FIRE: KYODO VIA AP IMAGES · BUSH: LM OTERO/AP · HAITI: THONY BELIZAIRE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · BULGER: BOSTON POLICE AND U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE/AP

HUMAN RACE

Convicted A Boston jury on Aug. 12 convicted mobster **Whitey Bulger**, 83, of racketeering, money laundering, drug dealing, and 11 murders in a crime spree spanning decades. Bulger did not react when the verdict was read, but family members of victims wept. Authorities first indicted Bulger in 1994, but he evaded the FBI until his 2011 arrest in California. Bulger's defense attorney, Jay Carney, said the trial exposed government corruption. Sentencing is set for November.





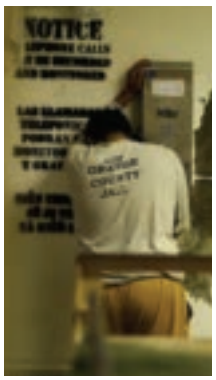


PUJOLS: STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES · PRISON: LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS/LANDOV · MCCLURKIN: DONALD TRAILL/INVISION/AP · CSATARI: ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

Friday, August 9

Accusation denied

Former St. Louis Cardinal and sports radio talker Jack Clark lost his job after saying on air that **Albert Pujols**–a former Cardinal and current Los Angeles Angel–had used performance enhancing drugs. Pujols, denying the accusations, said he planned to sue Clark, and added, "My faith in Jesus Christ, and my respect for this game are too important to me. I would never be able to look my wife or kids in the eye if I had done what this man is accusing me of." Pujols' former Cardinals teammates came to his defense as well.



Calling from prison

The Federal Communications Commission ruled 2-1 that phone companies could not charge extra-high rates for prisoners making phone calls. A handful of phone companies have contracts with prisons and charge prisoners up to $17 for a 15-minute phone call, a higher rate than many international phone calls. Prisons themselves receive some of the phone revenue, pulling in at least $104 million last year. The FCC vote capped phone rates for prisoners at 25 cents a minute. Justice Fellowship, Prison Fellowship's advocacy arm, hailed the ruling, saying the exorbitant phone call rates have divided prisoners from their families and spiritual mentors.

Saturday, August 10

Singer silenced

Grammy-winning gospel singer **Donnie McClurkin** said he was disinvited from a concert he was supposed to headline commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech because of his position on homosexuality. McClurkin, who has said that he struggled with homosexuality, wrote in 2002, "I am delivered and I know God can deliver others, too." Gay activists in Washington, D.C., pressed D.C. mayor Vincent Gray against McClurkin's appearance, and McClurkin said the mayor's office called the night before the Aug. 10 concert to ask him not to attend. Local pastors called Gray to reconsider, to no avail. "Quite unfortunate that today a black artist is uninvited from a civil rights movement depicting the love, the unity, the peace, the tolerance," McClurkin said in a video statement. "It's bullying, it's discrimination, it's intolerance."



Died Suspected World War II criminal **Laszlo Csatari**, 98, of Hungary died Aug. 10 in Budapest. Csatari topped the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of Nazi war criminals for alleged participation in beating and deporting over 15,000 Jews to death camps. A Czechoslovakian court sentenced Csatari to death in absentia in 1948, but he escaped to Canada and lived quietly as an art dealer for nearly 50 years. After Canada revoked his citizenship in 1997, Csatari returned to Hungary where authorities put him under house arrest last year. He denied all charges of wrongdoing.





A checkpoint near the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen

Sunday, August 11

Grand reopening

Most U.S. diplomatic outposts reopened on August 11 in the Middle East and North Africa after precautionary closings based on intelligence that terrorist threats were imminent. The Obama administration was not specific about what the threats were, but during the closures it stepped up drone strikes in Yemen. Yemen reported U.S. drone strikes against dozens of suspected al-Qaeda militants in the space of two weeks. The U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, remained closed as well as the U.S. consulate in Lahore, Pakistan.

In the hospital

Kenneth Bae, an American sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in North Korea in May, was transferred to a hospital after his health plummeted at the camp. Bae, a Christian who spent time in North Korea as a tour operator, may have been conducting missionary activities. The state said he plotted to undermine the regime through religion. Labor camps can often be a death sentence; Bae's family said he has lost 50 pounds and is struggling with diabetes, kidney stones, loss of vision, back pain, and high blood pressure. The U.S. government has repeatedly urged North Korea to release him.



Monday, August 12

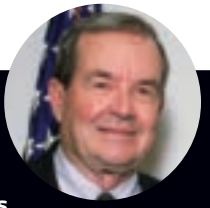
Deficit drops

The Congressional Budget Office reported that the federal deficit, though still enormous, has shrunk considerably. As of July 2013 the federal deficit stands at $607.4 billion, a big drop from this time last year, when the deficit reached $973.8 billion. Economists credited the drop in the deficit to federal cuts under sequestration, higher taxes, and economic growth–although entitlement spending has continued to grow. The government also has had the windfall of billions in repayments from the now-profitable mortgage investors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.



Super tubes

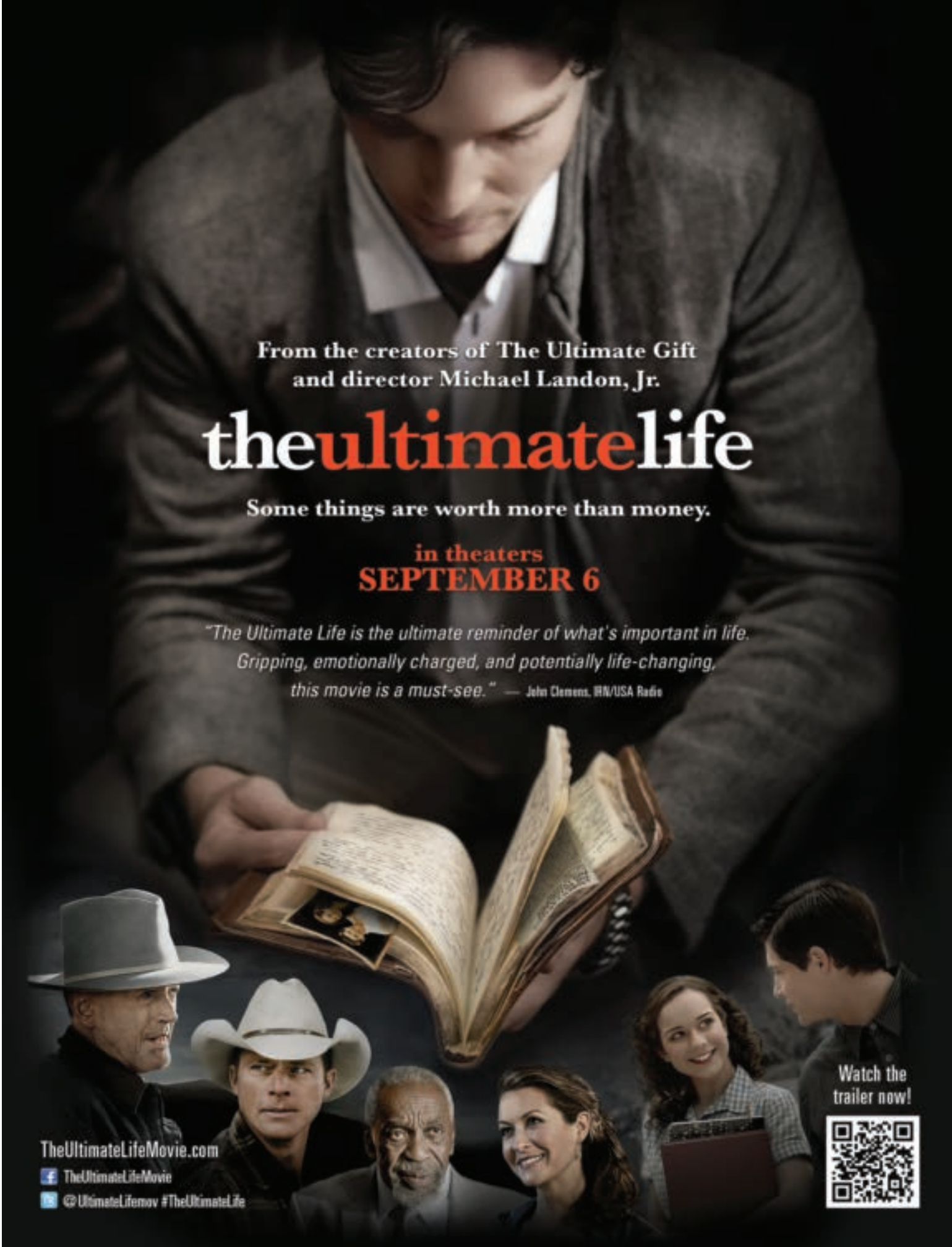
Elon Musk–the entrepreneur behind Paypal and the space company SpaceX–unveiled a proposal for a supersonic form of transportation dubbed the Hyperloop. Musk has lambasted California's plans for a $70 billion, high-speed rail system. He says for a fraction of the cost the Hyperloop could transport passengers at 800 miles per hour from Los Angeles to San Francisco. The Hyperloop technology is still in its early stages but the basic idea Musk outlined involves pods shooting through elevated vacuum-sealed tubes. The satirical newspaper *The Onion* posted a headline: "New Super-Fast Transport System Powered By Passengers' Screams."



Died Former national security adviser **William P. Clark**, also known as "Judge Clark," died Aug. 10 at age 81. Clark, a former California Supreme Court judge, was a trusted confidant of Ronald Reagan—some say his best friend—who played a key role in shaping White House policy. *Time* magazine called Clark the second most powerful man in the White House in a 1983 cover story. Clark, who was ardently pro-life, was chief of staff during Reagan's tenure as California governor and mastered the "mini-memo"— brief issue summaries that later became a staple of the Reagan White House.

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Wednesday, August 14

Time to serve

Former Chicago congressman **Jesse Jackson Jr.,** D—Ill., and his wife Sandra were sentenced to serve prison terms for their misuse of campaign funds. The Jacksons spent $750,000 in campaign donations on themselves, including mounted elk heads, cashmere capes, and a $43,000 Rolex watch. He was sentenced to 30 months, she to one year. Jackson had been a rising Democratic star.

Motion denied

The California Supreme Court, in two sentences, felled Proposition 8, the voter-passed constitutional amendment that defined marriage as between one man and one woman. The state's highest court denied a motion from Prop 8 proponents to preserve the measure, thus allowing gay marriages to continue statewide. The state Supreme Court was the last hope for the amendment's defenders. The court gave no explanation for its dismissal, and so the dismissal did not reflect any position by the court on the constitutionality of Prop 8. The state, which has declined to defend Prop 8, had ordered clerks to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.





Thursday, August 15

Andes discovery

Smithsonian zoologists announced the discovery of a new species of mammal, the first such discovery in the Western Hemisphere in 35 years. The brown, furry olinguito takes his place as the smallest member of the raccoon family. Olinguitos live in the Andes Mountains and eat fruits and insects. Scientists had captured and seen olinguitos for years without knowing what they were exactly.

Big blundering brother

The Washington Post published more leaks from Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency analyst, showing that the NSA had broken privacy rules thousands of times a year in collecting data. The *Post* published the agency's internal audit showing that most of the privacy breaches were unintentional. In one instance the agency accidentally collected phone records from Washington, D.C. (area code 202), instead of Egypt (country code 20). "We're a human-run agency operating in a complex environment with a number of different regulatory regimes, so at times we find ourselves on the wrong side of the line," a senior NSA official told the *Post*.

Broken **Stanley Ntagali, an Anglican archbishop in Uganda, delivered a blistering critique of his denomination on Aug. 13, marking the 10-year anniversary of the church installing its first openly gay bishop, American Episcopalian Gene Robinson. "This unbiblical decision on the part of a church threw the entire global Anglican Communion into chaos," the archbishop wrote. Ntagali, who was installed last December, said church leaders made the move knowing it would tear the fabric of the communion.**



JACKSON: SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGE · PROP 8: RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP · OLINGUITO: ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES · NTAGALI: IN2EASTAFRICA.NET



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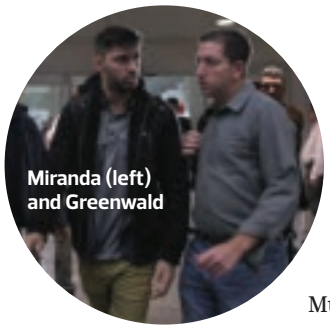

Obama with his daughter Malia

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 17-18

Back to work

The Obamas returned to the White House after a week's vacation in Martha's Vineyard. The first family has chosen the island for summer getaways, though the Obamas skipped their vacation last year during the campaign. The president stayed out of the public eye except to make a statement on the violence in Egypt. He returned to Washington facing not only the devolving situation in the Middle East but another federal budget ultimatum Sept. 30.

Detained


Miranda (left) and Greenwald

British authorities detained *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald's live-in partner David Miranda as he was passing through London's Heathrow Airport. Miranda was returning to Brazil after meeting with a U.S. filmmaker in Berlin who has access to leaked documents from former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden. Greenwald had said publicly Miranda has helped him with information for his stories on the NSA. British law enforcement only had the authority to detain and question Miranda for up to nine hours, at which point they released him, but without his cellphone, laptop, and other items. The White House denied involvement in the detention but said the British had informed U.S. officials of their plans.

Silenced

For the first time in 1,600 years, priests did not hold Sunday mass in the Virgin Mary and Priest Ibram monastery near Minya, Egypt. Muslim Brotherhood supporters torched and destroyed the monastery, one of the oldest in the world, in a string of attacks on churches in the country (see p. 36). Vandals turned a remaining church in the complex into a mosque, a priest said.

Monday, Aug. 19

Misbehaving?

San Diego Mayor **Bob Filner**, facing a battery of sexual harassment allegations and calls for his resignation, returned to work after two weeks of behavior therapy. Filner, a Democrat, has not admitted to the allegations from 16 women and has refused to step aside despite a recent poll showing 80 percent of city residents think he should. Some San Diegans are collecting signatures in an effort to hold a recall election.



Big foot

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, signed legislation banning so-called gay conversion therapy for minors in the state, only the second state to do so after California. The law, which the state legislature passed in June, forbids counseling minors about changing their sexual orientation or sexual behaviors (but allows counseling about changing genders). Family groups said the ban was a violation of parental rights. Christie acknowledged those concerns: "Government should tread carefully into this area and I do so here reluctantly." Christie reiterated what he has said in previous interviews, that he does not believe homosexuality is a sin, while acknowledging his view runs counter to his Catholic faith.

Died Christian ethicist and philosopher **Jean Bethke Elshtain**, 72, died of heart failure on Aug. 11. Elshtain, best known for her work on just war, the disabled, and the ethics of abortion, spent four decades teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Chicago Divinity School. Elshtain, a Lutheran, earned respect from both the Christian and secular academic communities and became a vocal proponent of just war theory.



OBAMA: RICK FRIEDMAN/PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP · MIRANDA: JOAO LAET/PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP · FILLNER: GREGORY BULL/AP · ELSHTAIN: COURTESY PHOTO



Tuesday, Aug. 20

Days in court

A Pakistani court charged former president Pervez Musharraf with the 2007 assassination of opposition leader and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the first time any of the nation's generals have been charged with a crime. The court also indicted four extremists and two police officers in the assassination. Bhutto had been a lone top Muslim advocate for the country's Christian minority, speaking out against the nation's harsh blasphemy laws. The initial investigation into the combination bombing-shooting assassination was late and haphazard, and Musharraf's lawyers said the charges were "baseless." The man whom Musharraf ousted in a 1999 coup, Nawaz Sharif, now leads Pakistan again.

THE DAILY DOZEN AT WORLDMAG.COM

From driverless cars, brain-eating microbes, contraceptive mandates, and ball hogs to unshakable faith, soul surfing, Christian movie-making, and writing by Mindy Belz, Marvin Olasky, Andrée Seu Peterson, Warren Smith, and Cal Thomas, read fresh articles throughout the day at worldmag.com.



Sept. 7 The 34th America's Cup international sailing race will launch today. The two-week contest will include 17 matches held in the waters near San Francisco. The city's Golden Gate Yacht Club will defend its title after its Oracle Team USA won the America's Cup in 2010. This year, the race will dispense with yachts and feature catamarans that can reach speeds of 40 knots.

LOOKING AHEAD



Sept. 10 By the conclusion of the International Olympic Committee meetings today in Buenos Aires, the host city for the 2020 Summer Games should be announced. Finalists to host the XXXII Olympiad include Madrid, Istanbul, and **Tokyo**. All three cities are expected to send emissaries to Argentina for the meeting to make one last sales pitch.

Sept. 8 The modified **Lotus Esprit** submarine car in the 1977 movie *The Spy Who Loved Me* will hit the auction block today during a sale of collector cars in London. The car is expected to fetch $800,000—far less than other vintage racers—but still be the talk of the event. After being lost in the decade after the movie's premier, the car was discovered in an abandoned storage unit.



Sept. 10 The International Criminal Court will today begin the trials of Kenyan Deputy President **William Ruto** and media personality Joshua arap Sang for crimes against humanity. The charges stem from violence in Kenya after a presidential election in 2007. The ICC prosecutor says Ruto and Sang are responsible for rioting that claimed the lives of up to 1,500 Kenyans.



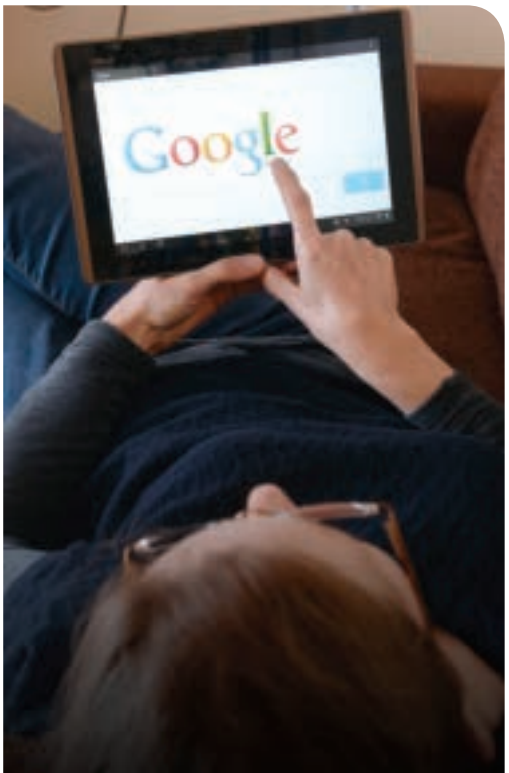


Sept. 13 Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with the newly installed President of Iran, **Hassan Rouhani**, today at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. The meeting will give Rouhani the opportunity to win the support of a powerful ally as Tehran attempts to navigate international opposition to its continuing nuclear program.

Hired **The Reformed Theological Seminary board of trustees announced Ligon Duncan will replace retired chancellor and CEO Michael Milton on Sept. 1. Duncan is currently the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Miss. Duncan, who became an RTS professor in 1990, will continue to teach systematic and historical theology at the RTS campus in Jackson. He is co-founder of Together for the Gospel, president of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, and the author of or contributor to more than 35 books.**



MUSHARRAF: DANIEL BEREHULAK/GETTY IMAGES · ORACLE: NOAH BERGER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · TOKYO: MLENNY/ISTOCK · LOTUS ESPRIT: HANDOUT · RUTO: BAS CZERWINSKI/AP · ROUHANI: ATTA KENARE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES DUNCAN: HANDOUT



‘Google has finally admitted they don’t respect privacy.’

JOHN M. SIMPSON, Consumer Watchdog’s Privacy Project director, on a court motion filed by Google that quoted a 1979 ruling that “a person has no legitimate expectation of privacy in information he voluntarily turns over to third parties.” According to Google, this means “people with web-based email today cannot be surprised if their communications are processed by the recipient’s ECS provider in the course of delivery.”



‘It’s just a constant reminder of the terrible disaster. When I walk by it every morning, my heart aches.’

Kesennuma, Japan, resident **YOSHIMI ABE** on a marooned fishing vessel that has become a powerful symbol of the 2011 tsunami that left 18,000 dead or missing in Japan. Officials had considered preserving the boat as a monument, but residents of Kesennuma in August voted to scrap the boat.



‘If it’s already working, why, why take it away? If that was possible in Chicago, maybe our daughter would still be alive.’

NATHANIEL PENDLETON, father of **Hadiya Pendleton**, a 15-year-old girl who was fatally shot in a Chicago park a week after singing in President Obama’s inauguration, on the controversial “stop-question-and-frisk” policy of New York police.



‘All the world’s Muslims have fewer Nobel Prizes than Trinity College, Cambridge. They did great things in the Middle Ages, though.’

Atheist **RICHARD DAWKINS**, pointing out that all the world’s Muslims have fewer Nobel prices than the faculty at Trinity-Cambridge, in a tweet that sparked a Twitter uproar. The tweet may be in part a response to criticism Dawkins has received in recent years for attacking Christianity but never having anything bad to say about Islam.



‘I am sorry that my actions hurt people. I’m sorry that they hurt the United States. Unfortunately, I can’t go back and change things.’

Army Pfc. **BRADLEY MANNING**, at his sentencing hearing. On Aug. 21 a judge sentenced him to 35 years in prison for leaking classified information.

GOOGLE: DAMIEN MEYER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES · KESENNUMA: THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN/AP · PENDLETON: COURTESY OF DAMON STEWART/AP · DAWKINS: RAMESH SHARMA/INDIA TODAY GROUP/GETTY IMAGES · MANNING: CLIFF OWEN/AP



THE SAND TRAP.





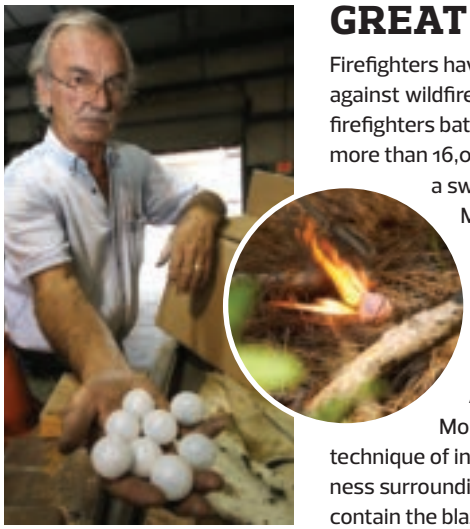






A TALL ORDER

Spanish architects building a 700-foot skyscraper on Spain's Mediterranean coast discovered a bit of a design flaw: The 47-floor building's elevator only goes to the 20th floor. What's more, architects for the InTempo building didn't realize their mistake until it was only two months away from completion. According to Spain's *El Pais* newspaper, the Benidorm structure—once planned to be Europe's tallest residential building—now does not have room for an elevator to service floors 20 through 47. The architects have resigned and project leaders are scrambling for an elevator fix.



GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

Firefighters have a new weapon in the war against wildfires: pingpong balls. On August 7, firefighters battling blazes in Montana dropped more than 16,000 flaming pingpong balls into a swath of woods west of Darby, Mont., in an effort to fight the Gold Pan fire. The modified ping-pong balls were preloaded with accelerant and designed to burst into flames after being dropped from helicopters. According to firefighters in Montana battling the blaze, the technique of intentionally setting fire to wilderness surrounding the fire ultimately helps contain the blaze.



PET FOOD

A Bethlehem, Pa., man cited by authorities for having too many chickens at his house on Aug. 8 told police to chill out: He planned on eating the birds over the weekend. Armstrong Millien's declaration didn't stop police officers from issuing a citation, but it was enough to get animal control authorities off his back. Prior to eating three pet chickens, Millien had exceeded Bethlehem's pet limit of six animals.



PANT PROTECTION

Caretakers at Israel's largest animal sanctuaries came up with a remarkably mundane solution to a tough problem. When **Haim** the donkey was brought to Ramat Gan Safari, specialists noted sores and cuts on his leg that were attracting flies. The flies caused the donkey to gnaw at his own legs, which invited even more flies. When normal bandages and coverings didn't work, caretakers in August fashioned a very human solution. Using a special soft fabric, they stitched together a pair of trousers and suspenders for Haim to wear. The plan worked so well, they fashioned a pair for his hind legs also.

INTEMPO: MICHAEL KOLVENBACH/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM · ILLUSTRATION: KRIEG BARRIE · DONKEY: HANDOUT

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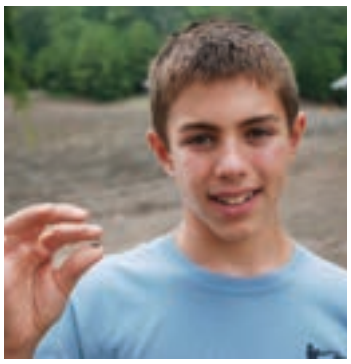
Oleg Tinkov, head of the Tinkoff Group

CONTRACT KILLER

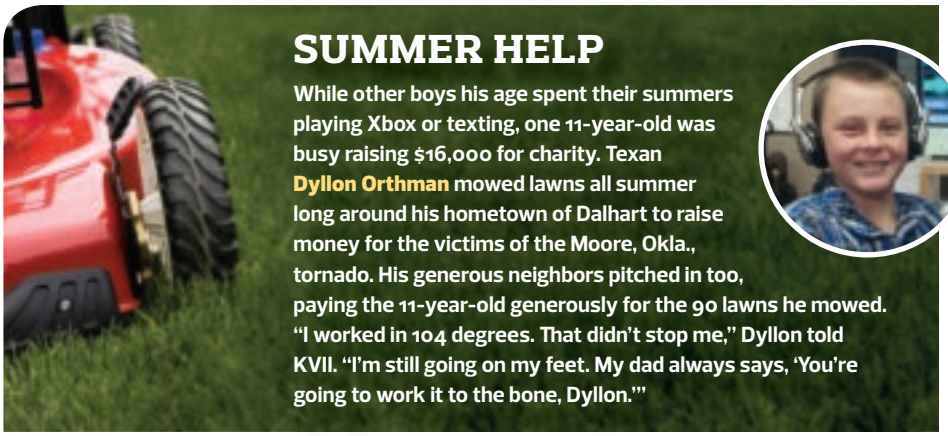
Most people don't read the fine print on credit card applications. Dmitry Argarkov decided to find out whether banks themselves read it. After getting an advert promoting a credit card from Tinkoff Credit Systems, the 42-year-old Russian man scanned the credit application into his computer and began modifying the contract. After setting the interest rate on the contract to zero percent, Argarkov then stipulated no credit limit. The computer savvy Russian also wrote in a proviso that the bank would owe him nearly $200,000 if it tried to cancel the contract. Argarkov signed the revised contract and mailed it back to Tinkoff, where bank officials also signed the deal. But when Argarkov refused to pay his credit card bill, Tinkoff sued him for his debt plus interest and fees. In early August, a Russian judge sided with Argarkov, saying the bank must honor the contract as signed. Argarkov, meanwhile, started paperwork to sue Tinkoff for violating the terms of his contract.

DIAMOND FIND

Michael Dettlaff, a 12-year-old tourist from North Carolina, was on vacation with his parents at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park on July 31 when he stumbled upon something especially shiny on the ground. Upon further examination, the boy's find turned out to be a 5.16-carat honey-brown diamond that could be worth up to $15,000. According to park rules, tourists can keep any precious stones they find. "If it can get cut and it's valuable, I think I'd probably want to have it cut and sell it," Michael told ABC News. "If it's not, well, then it's a souvenir." Michael named the stone "God's Glory Diamond."







SUMMER HELP

While other boys his age spent their summers playing Xbox or texting, one 11-year-old was busy raising $16,000 for charity. Texan Dyllon Orthman mowed lawns all summer long around his hometown of Dalhart to raise money for the victims of the Moore, Okla., tornado. His generous neighbors pitched in too, paying the 11-year-old generously for the 90 lawns he mowed. "I worked in 104 degrees. That didn't stop me," Dyllon told KVII. "I'm still going on my feet. My dad always says, 'You're going to work it to the bone, Dyllon.'"



PARK PLACES

With enrollment booming, Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, ran out of dormitory housing this August. But the students denied on-campus housing may not mind. That's because the Lutheran school's solution was to buy up 30 hotel rooms at the nearest place possible—and the nearest place possible was **Fort Rapids Indoor Water Park and Resort**. More than two dozen freshmen are set to spend the first part of their first semester living next to water slides. School officials expect more rooms on campus to become available soon.

OUT FOR A WALK

Under normal circumstances, a pet on the run for five days could be considered lost forever. That is, unless the pet is a turtle. A Crawley, U.K., family was reunited with their pet turtle on July 29 after the animal spent five days traipsing from its home. According to owner David Peters, the turtle named Aston only made it half a mile. A neighborhood girl found the tortoise while collecting her ball from a bush and turned the animal in to police. When Peters phoned police to alert them to a missing animal, authorities said they had Aston safe and sound. "That's quite a trot," Peters told the *Crawley News* of the distance traveled by the turtle. "It would only take five to eight minutes for a human to walk, but it's a two or three-day walk for a tortoise."



DIAMOND: STATE PARKS OF ARKANSAS · TINKOV: SERGEI FADEICHEV/ITAR-TASS/NEWSCOM · WATER PARK: HANDOUT · TURTLE: AMWU/ISTOCK · LAWNMOWER: NJGPHOTO/ISTOCK · DYLLON: HANDOUT



Janie B. Cheaney

The crooked way

Amid our tangled mess, God is at work to achieve His purposes

"Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?" (Ecclesiastes 7:13).

Wait a minute—*God* makes things crooked? I thought we were the crooked ones. This chapter in Ecclesiastes hints at that very fact: "God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes" (v. 29). "Upright" reaches up to God, as we were made to do, striding through the earth on two feet, living life as life was first conceived in the Maker's mind. But "many schemes" branched off wildly from the original scheme of making our world a little better—for us. He pronounced it very good. Under the serpent's prompting, Eve looked around and thought, "But it could be better. Just a little. It's a very nice garden and all, but if I can't eat this fruit, then my snaky friend may be right. God is keeping something from me."



Or she may have rationalized: "What if it's a test? God lay down the prohibition to see if we were bold and independent enough to cross that line. To see if we deserved to be equal with Him. That must be it! Our status now is like junior partners, but surely He wants us to grow and develop into autonomous beings like Himself. Sure, that's it."

Obviously that wasn't it. Independence did not work out as expected, and instead of exhilaration the man and his wife experienced shame and fear, and another consequence we bump into every day: complication. From now on almost nothing would work out according to expectation, and every plan would require a Plan B. "Why can't things be simpler?" we cry. In vocation, procreation, and relationship, the vast human endeavor that began with a bad decision becomes more tangled with every generation.

What's a Creator to do when the creation makes itself crooked with many schemes? It seems there are two ways to proceed: Destroy the whole show and start over, or untangle the knot. If you've ever tried to straighten out a box full of wires from a dismantled sound system, or a skein of expensive yarn that the kids have been making spider webs with, you know that further tangling may be required before you locate the loose ends and start working them back the way they came. You have to, in a sense, enter the knot, get your personal fingers involved and feel through it. And that's exactly what God did: entered the knot, and worked the crookedness into His own plan.

Meanwhile man schemes on, under the illusion of making his path smooth and straight. We'd like to re-enter the garden, and sometimes we seem to be getting close: all the food we can eat at little cost, unprecedented ease, unlimited options. It took millennia to get here, and we got here by thinking straight from what we want to how to achieve it, by building on former accomplishments, and by overcoming complications. "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens." Let us eliminate drudgery, slavery, common diseases that cut lives too short. And of course there's no problem with that agenda, as long as it's accompanied by reverence.

But once reverence falls away, straight paths become perverse: Come, let us eliminate work, commitment, all obstacles to individual happiness. In other words, reprogram the natural order. Productive work and mutually dependent, complementary relationships with God and each other are what we were made for. No good comes of shortcutting those in pursuit of our individual notions of happiness—a goal that appears to undergird much of U.S. domestic policy these days. The result will be more and more crookedness.

But the next time your plans are thwarted, even in godly goals, remember this: The straight path to God was blocked by an angel with a flaming sword. Now our only way up is down, our only hope of self-fulfillment lies in self-denial, our sanctification follows a twisted course, wherein we discover the steps of Jesus.

VADIM PETRAKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

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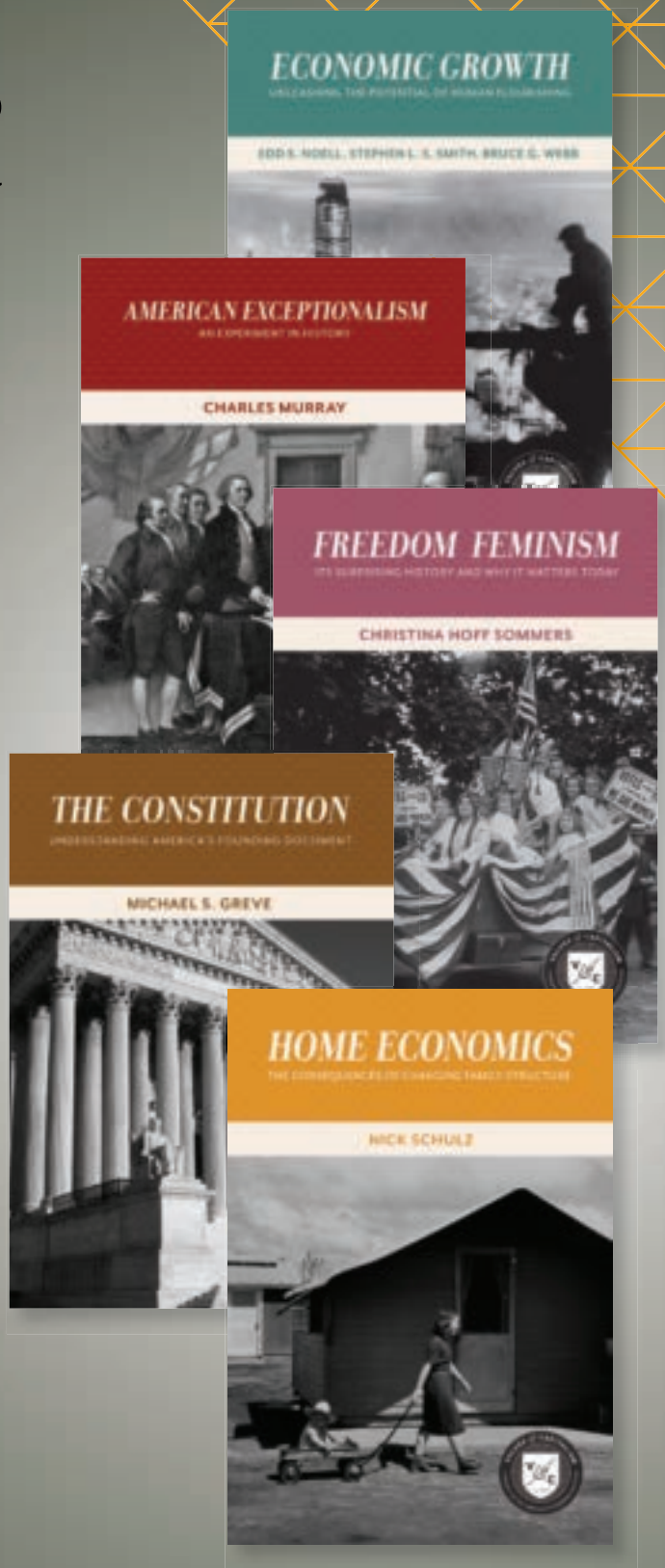
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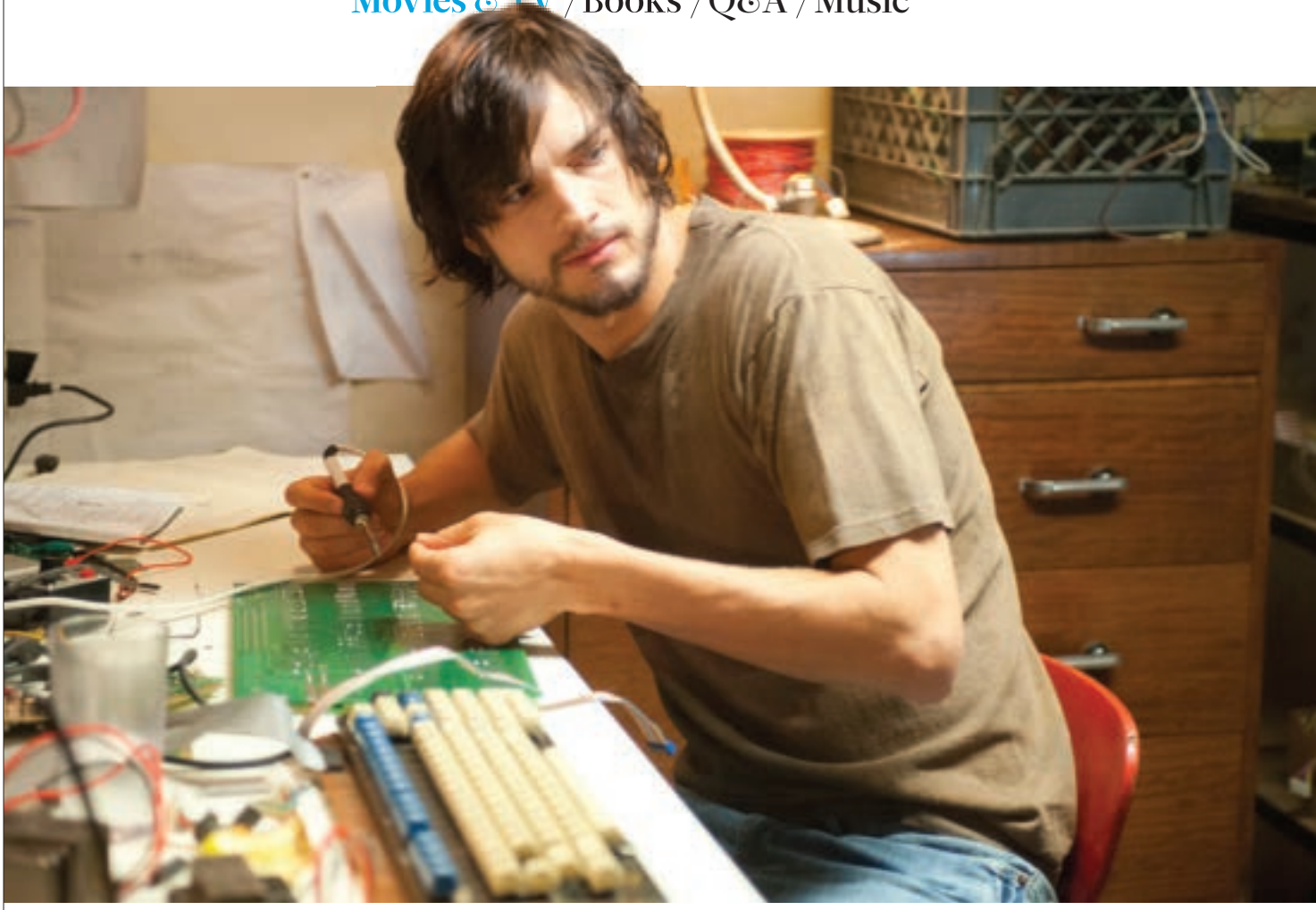
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Reviews



Uncommon *Jobs*

MOVIE: Biopic of Apple founder veers into corporate hagiography

BY MEGAN BASHAM

IF THERE'S ONE THING the new biopic *Jobs* proves it's that the world God designed is bursting with creative potential for those with the talent, drive, and vision to tap into it. From his early days as a college dropout who nonetheless attends classes for fun to his evolution into an entrepreneurial mastermind, Steve Jobs was clearly one of those people with that rare combination of qualities.

Those who want to know more about the influences that shaped the tech wiz's mind and heart aren't going to find the answers here. We only see Jobs' adoptive parents in two brief scenes, and other than the fact that they are clearly kind and supportive people, we are given no clue as to how they might have contributed to their son's accomplishments. Likewise, the film treats one of the most controversial elements of Jobs' life—his awful denial of his daughter's paternity—with only the barest interest. Could a man so smart really believe a DNA test was wrong? What finally convinced him to become part of her life? Was the reconciliation difficult for either of them? The movie never endeavors to tell us.

iMOVIE: Ashton Kutcher as Jobs.

ENDGAME ENTERTAINMENT/FIVE STAR FEATURE FILMS



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Jobs is instead a tale of the free market and the immense power it has to create new products, new professions, and new realities. In exploring this power, the film doesn't shy away from the more perilous elements of capitalism in which Jobs is both a perpetrator (when he scams his trusting friend Steve Wozniak out of his half of the payment for an Atari game design) and a victim (when the board of



Apple pushes Jobs out of the company he founded).

It's also realistic about the kind of personality it takes to revolutionize an industry. To say Jobs gets impatient with those who can't see the possibilities he imagines would be an understatement. And as gifted as he is, his emotional intelligence often ranks below average. In a nongraphic scene that—along with a smattering of profanity and an incident of drug use—earns the film a PG-13 rating, he thoughtlessly asks a classmate he's just spent the night with if he can borrow some of her acid for his girlfriend.

Though Ashton Kutcher may have seemed an unlikely choice to play the iconic CEO, he turns in, if not an Oscar-worthy performance, at least a satisfactory one. He has Jobs' mannerisms down perfectly, and in the film's few intimate moments offers glimpses of what he could have accomplished with a more personally focused screenplay.

But while *Jobs* presents a fascinating story of how Jobs overcomes corporate backbiting and channels his own tendency toward obsession to build arguably the most innovative company of the last decade, it veers into corporate hagiography, suggesting that Jobs' ruthlessness is somehow an asset. As if he couldn't have accomplished what he did without burning loyal friends and shirking family responsibilities. This is particularly true during two speeches that devote way too much time to idolizing the kind of man Jobs was—a visionary, a leader, a (to borrow a metaphor from Paul's letter to the Corinthians) head person.

By paying so much honor to this particular personality type, *Jobs* comes close (as Apple's ad, "Here's to the Crazy Ones," did) to dismissing those who weren't fashioned to think outside the box and are perfectly content to be round pegs in round holes. As another film, *Lee Daniel's The Butler* that hit theaters the same weekend, attests, the visionaries wouldn't get far without humble "hands" to support them. No one may ever call such men and women rebels or geniuses, but their quiet, faithful service can also change the world.



MOVIE

The Spectacular Now

BY EMILY WHITTEN

When asked about this film's journey to the big screen, screenwriter Scott Neustadter explains: "It was much easier to sell network execs on a film 'From the team that brought you *(500) Days of Summer*' than to set up an R-rated dark teen drama." But this coming-of-age love story seems to be both a quirky, well-written indy film as well as a dark story with enough alcohol, sex, and offensive language in the first 10 minutes to earn its R rating.

That's not to say our hero, Sutter Keely (Miles Teller), is an especially bad guy. He's just a high-school senior used to living in the "now"—from his geometry teacher to his girlfriend to his mom, he's happy to tell people whatever they want to hear so long as it keeps life pleasant. But when Sutter loses his girlfriend, goes on a drinking binge, and wakes up on a stranger's lawn, he's confronted with an unpopular girl named Aimee (Shailene Woodley), and they develop a relationship he can't drain and toss like a whiskey bottle. With graduation approaching, Sutter has to decide whether he will overcome his failures (including alcoholism) to embrace the nows of the future.

Based the 2008 novel and National Book Award Finalist, *The Spectacular Now* follows the same "realistic" storytelling vein as *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and other YA problem novels, purposefully pushing the boundaries of decency to capture what life is ostensibly really like for teens. But while the film critiques Sutter's behavior, it gives viewers plenty of time to savor the "good life" before they have to grow up again. The scene in which Aimee loses her virginity perhaps most fully displays how devastatingly unrealistic this "realism" is.

Sutter's hedonism eventually shows more value for others, but with no eternal purpose, he's still grasping for ends that will inevitably unravel. And that's the darkest part of this "spectacular" teen drama.

BOX OFFICE TOP 10

FOR THE WEEKEND OF AUG. 16-18
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	Lee Daniels' The Butler*	PG-13	5	6	5
2	We're the Millers	R	7	6	10
3	Elysium*	R	2	8	10
4	Kick-Ass 2	R	7	7	9
5	Planes*	G	1	3	2
6	Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters	PG	1	5	3
7	Jobs*	PG-13	3	2	5
8	2 Guns	R	5	6	8
9	The Smurfs 2	PG	2	3	1
10	The Wolverine	PG-13	4	7	5

*Reviewed by WORLD

JOBS: ENDGAME ENTERTAINMENT/FIVE STAR FEATURE FILMS · SPECTACULAR NOW: 21 LAPS ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE

Lee Daniels' The Butler

BY MICHAEL LEASER

If Oprah Winfrey stars in your movie, then it must be a "very important" film. Not since *Beloved* in 1998 has Oprah appeared on camera as anyone but herself, so her media presence and capital behind the role of a whife whose husband serves seven presidents as a White House butler has made *Lee Daniels' The Butler* an event.

Based on the true story of White House butler Eugene Allen, this cinematic slice of American history (rated PG-13 for some violence, language, thematic elements, and sexual material) stars Forest Whitaker as Cecil Gaines, who rises from the fields of Georgia to become an accomplished house servant who ends up in the White House in 1957. Through Gaines' eyes, the viewer experiences the civil rights movement as it played out through the presidents he served, from Eisenhower's decision to send federal troops to Arkansas to enforce school integration to Reagan's veto of anti-apartheid sanctions against South Africa.

Screenwriter Danny Strong and director Lee Daniels develop a multilayered examination of the civil rights era by expertly interweaving the experience of this humble, apolitical servant with that of his son Louis (David Oyelowo), who joins the Black Panthers and runs for political office. Much has been made of Allen's Christianity, but the butler's faith is only subtly implied here and demonstrated more through his servant's heart.

This film boasts a star-studded supporting cast. Liev Schreiber serves up a standout, flamboyant portrayal of Lyndon Johnson, and a dialed-down Robin Williams as Dwight Eisenhower, and a cunning John Cusack as Richard Nixon yield strong performances. Jane Fonda portrays Nancy Reagan, though her screen time is fairly brief and unremarkable.

Thanks to a well-crafted screenplay and a masterfully nuanced performance by Whitaker, the film mostly avoids the heavy-handedness that often accompanies message movies. Daniels' directorial choices too often emphasize the didactic over the transportive, making this not a great but still important film.



Winfrey and Whitaker

THE BUTLER: ANNE MARIE FOX/THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY · AUSTENLAND: GILES KEYTE/SONY PICTURES CLASSICS



MOVIE

Austenland

BY STEPHANIE PERRAULT

Love them or hate them, there are countless Jane Austen spin-offs. This month's release of the movie *Austenland* adds yet another to the menagerie. Although the film (PG-13 for innuendo) offers some interesting observations about reality, fantasy, and the ascendancy of manners, devout Austen fans will have a hard time getting past its bawdy humor and tawdry aura.

Based on Shannon Hale's 2007 novel of the same name, the film stars Keri Russell as a doe-eyed Austen fanatic named Jane Hayes. Hayes compares every boyfriend to Mr. Darcy and squanders her life savings on a fantasy vacation complete with period costumes, role-playing actors, and historic buildings at an English resort named Austenland that caters entirely to women.

Guests are guaranteed to find their "perfect mate" by vacation's end, but it's all one big game of make-believe. Despite an abundance of crass flirtation, there's really no lasting love to be found. Most of the women who are frequent guests at Austenland seem content with this garish imitation of regency romance, but Jane Hayes isn't.

Jane discovers after flying halfway around the world that she's tired of pretending: she wants to love and be loved by a real person. She appears to find him during the course of her stay, only to realize her perception of reality has been entirely skewed. Meanwhile, she nearly misses her heart's true love because she thinks his gentlemanly manners, which stand in stark contrast to the other characters' vulgarity, are too good to be true.

Viewers see the folly of pursuing fantasies at the expense of reality and the importance of manners and sexual restraint, but director Jerusha Hess (of *Napoleon Dynamite* fame) leans too heavily on suggestive humor and a weak plot.



Poverty primer

These good reads delve into the real root causes of poverty

BY MARVIN OLASKY

Several high school and college economics teachers have asked me what they should read to prepare themselves to teach about poverty questions. Good question: Back in the late 20th century, P.T. Bauer's *Equality, The Third World, and Economic Delusion* (Harvard University Press, 1981) and Hernando de Soto's *The Other Path* (HarperCollins, 1989) are all I could have recommended. Near century's end came one more, Darrow Miller's *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures* (YWAM, 1998).

Now, though, our cup runneth over. Here are five worthwhile secular books: Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital* (Basic Books, 2000); William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (MIT Press, 2001) and *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good* (Penguin, 2006); Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007); Dambisa Moyo, *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009).

Publication of books from an explicitly Christian perspective makes this turnaround even better. Among them are these four: Darrow Miller, *Against All Hope: Hope for Africa* (Disciple Nations Alliance, 2005) and *Nurturing the Nations: Reclaiming the Dignity of Women in Building Healthy Cultures* (IVP, 2012); Udo Middelmann, *Christianity Versus Fatalistic Religions in the War Against Poverty* (Paternoster, 2007); and Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor … and Yourself* (Moody, 2009).

A fifth, Wayne Grudem and Barry Asmus, *The Poverty of Nations* (Crossway), came out this year. It explains what we must know to love those truly in need beyond our borders, and lists the values societies must have to prosper. Among them: Belief in a God who will hold all people accountable for their actions. Belief that God approves of character traits related to work and productivity. Respect for truthfulness, private ownership of property, individual responsibility and freedom, the permanency of marriage, economic development, productive work, and saving rather than spending.

If I were teaching a course on international poverty-fighting, the books I've noted above would be on my required reading list. A host of other books could also make an optional list; for example, *Demons of Poverty* by Ted Boers and Tim Stoner (Micah Enterprises, 2012) shows through the experience of Haiti the mistakes well-intentioned folks make and the obstacles to success. Boers notes that the causes of wealth cannot be superimposed on a culture of poverty that includes progress-resistant religion, dysfunctional government, and class-based society.

I wrote in the last issue about a good, just-published book, *The Spiritual Danger of Doing Good*, and I'll write in the next issue about another, *Good News to the Poor*. All these welcome works show how Christians are playing a key role in not only anti-poverty action but the debate about poverty. The (London) *Guardian* recently argued, "Development's next big debate will be between technocrats and humanists: Technocrats prioritize material progress; humanists focus on political rights." Christians can appreciate both sides but need to bring in a third dimension, the spiritual.



For the backpack

The favorite course in many college English departments is American Short Stories, which has three student-attracting words: American rather than European, Short rather than Long, and Stories rather than purportedly harder Nonfiction. Conservatives trying to influence college students sometimes forget student tendencies and try to foist upon them long and lugubrious economics texts—so I'm thankful to the American Enterprise Institute, which has recently published 13 short and punchy pocket-sized books on a variety of political, economic, and sociological topics.

Ones I've read and relished: *The Constitution*, *Freedom Feminism* (about alternatives to egalitarian feminism), *Home Economics* (about family structure), *From Prophecy to Charity* (about poverty-fighting), *Mere Environmentalism*, *Wealth and Justice*, *Abundant Energy*, *American Exceptionalism*, and *Boom and Bust*. —M.O.

KRIEG BARRIE

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NOTABLE BOOKS

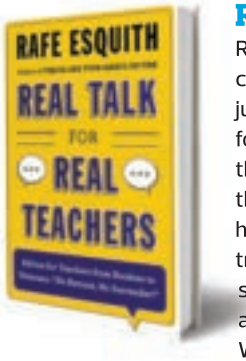
Four recent books about public education ⟩ reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY

Educating All God's Children: What Christians Can—and Should—Do to Improve Public Education for Low-Income Kids

Nicole Baker Fulgham



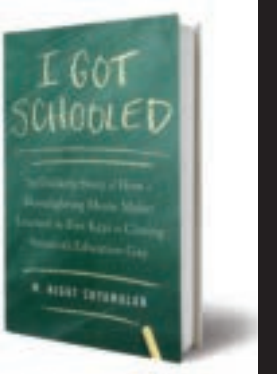
Fulgham poses a question: "To what extent is the Christian community working to help improve public schools for poor children—regardless of where we choose to send our own children?" She argues that most poor kids go to public schools, and if we care about children, the poor, and justice, we need to be involved in making those schools better. She provides a history of evangelical engagement with and withdrawal from public education, and spotlights churches and faith-based organizations that are successfully partnering with urban schools. The book hopes to inspire Christians to engage with low-income public schools and lays out practical ways to do it.



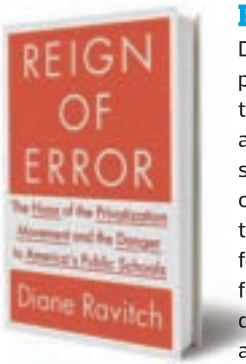
Real Talk for Real Teachers *Rafe Esquith*

Rafe Esquith has been teaching fifth grade in a public school in central L.A. for nearly 30 years. Most of his students are poor and just learning English, but by the end of each school year they perform an unabridged Shakespeare play and the rock 'n' roll songs that they make part of it. The Hobart Shakespeareans (named after the school and the bard) have a mission: "Be nice. Work hard." They have a motto—"There are no shortcuts"—and other identifying traits: "Hobart Shakespeareans are honest. Hobart Shakespeareans show initiative. Hobart Shakespeareans take responsibility for their actions. Hobart Shakespeareans are aware of time and space." Written for teachers and full of examples, this book explains Esquith's classroom creed and shows how everything he teaches ties back to it.

I Got Schooled *M. Night Shyamalan*



As a philanthropist, movie director M. Night Shyamalan wanted to support effective efforts to close the achievement gap between rich and poor kids. His quest to discover the keys to effective schools forces him (and the data cruncher at his foundation) to analyze the effectiveness of various reform measures before arriving at a list of five—the ability to get rid of the worst teachers, effective leadership, data-based feedback, smaller schools, and more time in school. None of these is sufficient in itself, but together they create a system that works. Shyamalan spends much of the book talking to experts, visiting schools, and analyzing the logical fallacies that make believers out of advocates for various schemes—smaller class size, for example—that are either ineffective or too costly.



Reign of Error *Diane Ravitch*

Diane Ravitch is a liberal who once supported charter schools and parental choice, yet now is a bare-knuckled defender of public education and teachers unions against what she views as efforts to privatize a public good. Ravitch analyzes years of testing and argues that schools are doing much better than naysayers admit. She criticizes overreliance on high-stakes testing to measure student progress and teacher effectiveness. She lashes out at No Child Left Behind and Race for the Top for pushing charter schools. She saves her real animus for the corporations that are profiting by running charter schools, developing high-stakes tests, and selling technology to schools. She argues that all these companies are feeding at the public trough.

SPOTLIGHT

Famous Figures of the Civil War **(Figures in Motion, 2013) introduces children to the Civil War through cutout card stock figures that hook together with brads. The book includes figures of Lincoln, Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Frederick Douglass, Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman, U.S. Grant, along with short biographies and lists for further reading.** *—S.O.*



In *Interrupted* (Zondervan, 2012), Allie, a young woman embittered by caring for her dying mother, comforts herself with music and poetry and resists the friendship of the elderly Christian woman who adopts her. Then her friend Sam returns to town. Allie falls in love and gets engaged, and he heads off to war, leaving the two women to wait for his return. Written by 17-year-old first-time writer Rachel Coker, *Interrupted* shows its young author's grasp of human character: The book lacks polish but rewards readers with believable characters and clean prose. Written for young adults, *Interrupted* is a satisfying World War II romance with themes of love and the meaning of family interwoven throughout.

—Mary Sue Daoud

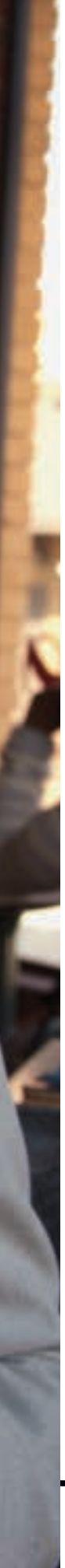


HANDOUT



The rest of the story

The tools of sports writing, says THOMAS LAKE, involve much more than a knowledge of sports **BY MARVIN OLASKY**



IN THE FIRST PART of an interview with *Sports Illustrated* senior writer Thomas Lake appeared in our June 1 issue, but he had many useful insights into learning to be a writer that are worth publication in this back-to-school special issue. To see free examples of excellent writing that will interest boys turned off by standard school fare, please go to sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault.

When did you start writing as a child? From a pretty early age my mom encouraged us to keep journals. One time she told me and my siblings to go out in the yard and write down everything we saw and heard and felt. That was a great experience. I sometimes still do that. The act of putting experience into words is a skill just like anything else: The more you do it the easier it gets and the better you can do it.

Prospective writers stuck standing in line should never find that a boring experience. We all have our limits.

Sure, but looking at people and describing what their faces are like. ... True. Earnest Hemingway once said we should watch the way people get out of taxi cabs. You want to be a sharp observer and learn how to use specific and concrete language to describe what's happening.

Some of our older readers remember Paul Harvey, and you do too, right? Paul Harvey on the radio years ago for a long time used to do a daily feature called "The Rest of the Story." It wasn't very long, something like five minutes, but it was a surprising story about a mysterious place or figure. I always found it fascinating, and now I try to find out the rest of the story, the part that happened after all the other reporters left or after the TV cameras went away.

How did you come to write your first newspaper story at age 17 for the local, upstate New York newspaper? I used to have a route where I carried this ink-stained canvas bag on my shoulder and delivered newspapers. It was bitterly cold in the winter, and so one day a lady named Doris invited me in to get warm. She told me she wrote historical novels, so I asked, "Can I write about you for the paper?" She said "Sure," so I walked into the publisher's office and said I would like to write a story. I didn't realize then but came to realize that the editor of a small daily newspaper wants copy, especially if it's not very expensive.

He said yes? Exactly. So I wrote the story with some overwrought language: I used the word *whence*, maybe even correctly. The next day I saw my subscriber and said, "Look what I did." It was a magical moment.

After graduating from Gordon College in Massachusetts with a concentration in journalism, you spend seven years yo-yoing up and down the East Coast—Georgia, Massachusetts, Florida—in a series of newspaper jobs. What were you learning? It was a chance to find out how big the world is. The beauty of working in newspapers is that I had to watch people in action and see how decisions get made, see how a police investigation works, see people in moments of great emotion—whether they've just lost a loved one in a car wreck or had some major success. It was an education in how life and the world really work. I wouldn't trade that for anything because every time I do a story now I'm drawing from that reserve of experience, of being in the middle of history being made.

Which job did you like the most? Each one had its own advantages, but I'd say the *St. Petersburg Times*. I was covering the crime beat and in a period of barely 18 months wrote about a habitual traffic violator who literally had no arms and only one leg, a woman who faked her death and then attended her own funeral, a woman who was reported missing only to be discovered in her own home. She had died and fallen behind a bookcase, but the house was such a terrible mess that no one even noticed a body decomposing there.

It happens. Another story was about counterfeiters who found a way to bleach the markings off $1 bills and reprint them as $20 bills. There was a guy who was hungry, went out in the woods, shot a woodpecker, and got in big trouble. He was 19 years old, out of money, and just looking for a meal—but he was trespassing and I think the gun was improperly registered, so even though he shot the woodpecker he didn't get a chance to eat it before he was arrested.

More of a snack than a meal, but they say it tastes like chicken. I've heard that. So I interviewed him and he was very pitiful. I asked, "What would you like the most?" He said, "I'd really like a seafood platter—fried shrimp, lobster." I said, "Call me when you get out of jail and I'll buy you one" —but he never called. So, Nick, if you're out there, I still owe you that seafood platter.

Did you do some sports writing in the process? No. College students sometimes ask about how to get into sports writing, but I tell them it's a mistake to wall yourself into this specialty so early. What serves me the most isn't so much a knowledge of sports but the ability to go and dig out a story—find sources and the right public records, track people down and sift through the evidence and try to get to the truth. That's going to serve you really no matter what you're writing about.

Your story about the death of Darrent Williams is an example of that. Tell us about it. In 2007 a player for the Denver Broncos, Darrent Williams, was in the headlines because he was killed after a party at a nightclub. In the media reports afterward it was easy to get a very simple impression: Williams was behaving in a risky way, he was out with bad characters, he was flaunting his wealth, probably shouldn't do that. The end. But I found a bunch of the guys who told me a story much more surprising and complicated than the initial one. I didn't want just to believe what they told me so I ran this past the lead detective and prosecutor in the case.

So what really happened? Darrent Williams wasn't the aggressor that night. He was in his limousine ready to leave. He would have gone on to have a successful career. But he looked out the back window of his limo and saw a teammate who had caused some of the trouble and was now in trouble with some gang members out there and needing help. Williams jumped out of the limo and went to go help his friend. Yeah, he made bad decisions, but a big reason he died is because he was loyal to his friend.

ROBIN NELSON/GENESIS PHOTOS



Hottest 100?

Billboard's historic hits make a soundtrack for America's 55-year dance with adolescence **BY ARSENIO ORTEZA**

Billboard launched its Hot 100 singles chart on Aug. 4, 1958. In recognition of the iconic countdown's 55th anniversary, the magazine has published a list of the hottest 100 singles of all time.

What gives it credibility is that, unlike most pop-culture canons, which are generated by agenda-driven critics and therefore all but guaranteed to start fights, *Billboard*'s adheres to statistics and therefore achieves as much objectivity as can be expected from a collection of data compiled in many (and in some cases radically) different ways over five-and-a-half decades.

Or as *Billboard* itself puts it: "Due to changes in chart methodology over the Hot 100's 55 years (i.e., the inclusion of Nielsen Entertainment airplay monitoring and point-of-sales tracking and the recent inclusion of streaming data, among earlier modifications), certain eras are weighted differently to account for chart turnover rates over various periods."

Such a disclaimer might forestall fisticuffs, but it won't prevent the cynical from suspecting that it's really a cover for gerrymandering or affirmative action intended to make the list all things to all generations.

For instance, although the 21st century is represented by 21 songs, none of the Rolling Stones' eight No. 1 recordings appear, their decades of airplay, sales, and streams notwithstanding. Mick Jagger appears three times, but only by singing on Carly Simon's "You're So Vain" (No. 82) and being alluded to in Ke$ha's "Tik Tok" (56) and Maroon 5's "Moves Like Jagger" (68). Similarly, a song Prince wrote, Sinéad O'Connor's "Nothing Compares 2 U," comes in at 87, but none of his five No. 1 hits come in at all.

Still, some old-timers get their due. The Bee Gees appear three times, five if you count their younger sibling Andy's "Shadow Dancing" (45) and "I Just Want to Be Your Everything" (26), songs that one or all three of the Brothers Gibb wrote or co-wrote, sang on, and co-produced.

Ditto for Paul McCartney, who sings with Stevie Wonder ("Ebony and Ivory" [69]) and Michael Jackson ("Say Say Say" [40]) and on the Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (44) and "Hey Jude" (10) and Wings' "Silly Love Songs" (36).

Most impressively, the Police's "Every Breath You Take" appears twice, both in its original 1983 form (28) and sampled 14 years later by Puff Daddy ("I'll Be Missing You" [94]), suggesting that its composers, Sting and Andy Summers, might just be history's hottest hook crafters.

Alas, unless Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life" (9) and Donna Summer's pre-conversion "Hot Stuff" (78) count, Christian presence is nil, although had "We Are the World" made the cut (how did it not?), its co-producer (and CCM veteran) Michael Omartian would have too.

Of course, such glaring omissions could be cited as proof of the list's objectivity. How else to explain Elvis Presley's sole entry, "Are You Lonesome Tonight," landing at 91 while Chubby Checker's "The Twist" (1) bestrides the list like a colossus?

Played bottom to top, the songs sound like nothing so much as the soundtrack to perpetual adolescence. Fast-dance numbers alternate with slow-dance numbers ad infinitum, with the occasional novelty hit and air-band classic for trips to the punchbowl.

It's tempting to say that *Billboard*'s All-Time Top 100 provides a snapshot of an era. But it really provides a daguerreotype, capturing not a moment but the process by which all the world (or at least the United States) went from being a stage to being the prom of a high school from which no one ever graduates.

billboard ALL-TIME TOP 10

1 **The Twist** - Chubby Checker *(1960, 1962)*
2 **Smooth** - Santana feat. Rob Thomas *(1999)*
3 **Mack the Knife** - Bobby Darin *(1959)*
4 **How Do I Live** - LeAnn Rimes *(1997)*
5 **Party Rock Anthem** - LMFAO feat. Lauren Bennett & GoonRock *(2011)*
6 **I Gotta Feeling** - The Black Eyed Peas *(2009)*
7 **Macarena** - Los Del Rio *(1996)*
8 **Physical** - Olivia Newton-John *(1981)*
9 **You Light Up My Life** - Debby Boone *(1977)*
10 **Hey Jude** - The Beatles *(1968)*

KRIEG BARRIE

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NOTABLE CDs

New or recent classical releases 〉 reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA



David DeBoor Canfield: Chamber Music, Vol. 3 *Kenneth Tse, Rachel Patrick, Brian Allen, et. al.*

The pieces on this Indiana composer's latest omnibus range from the challengingly complex (*Duo Concertante*) to the playfully complex (*Mikrokosmos*), and at least once he combines both qualities in the same work (*Opus Pocus*). Such eclecticism is inevitable—Canfield delights in mixing, matching, and embellishing the multiple styles with which he's conversant until they're his own and in wedding them to sometimes fascinating, always interesting themes. And, lest those themes remain opaque, he explicates them in some of the most challengingly and playfully complex liner notes ever written.



Rhapsody in Blue: Saint-Saëns, Ravel, Gershwin *Benjamin Grosvenor*

At the ripe old age of 21, this British pianist has already taken certain sectors of the "serious" music world by storm, especially those that value creative eclecticism. And therein lies this program's genius. Beginning with a French Romanticist (Saint-Saëns) and following with a French Impressionist (Ravel), Grosvenor sets the stage, both chronologically and stylistically, for their greatest American legatee. Gershwin, of course, was more than that—and, with the assistance of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Grosvenor illuminates quite a bit of what that "more" was.



George Frideric Handel: Arrangements for Guitar *Robert Gruca*

The liner notes: "Although Handel was best known for his operas and other large choral works, ... he was [also] an accomplished harpsichordist. ..." The pieces under discussion are this album's second and third selections, Handel's *Harpsichord Suite No. 8 in G major* and *Suite No. 7 in D minor*. And although Gruca's classical guitar softens the crystalline crispness of the originals, they do so only a little, meanwhile preserving, and arguably even accentuating, their gorgeous Baroque melodies. They also preserve, and arguably even accentuate, the gorgeousness of Gruca's technique.

Vincent Persichetti: Harmonium

Sherry Overholt, Joshua Pierce

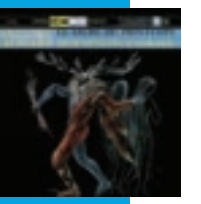
Completed four years before Wallace Stevens' death in 1955 but unrecorded until now, this Vincent Persichetti "song cycle for soprano and piano" applies what Joshua Pierce (the pianist) refers to as a "highly idiosyncratic and modernistic style" to poetry that was already plenty highly idiosyncratic and modernistic to begin with. Pierce plays as if he gets both the composer and the poet. Sherry Overholt (the soprano) sings as if she gets Persichetti. Verdict: a complement to, not a replacement of, the recordings of Stevens simply reading his work.

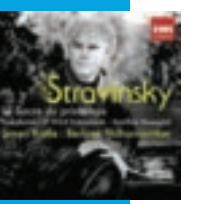




SPOTLIGHT

Igor Stravinsky's ballet *Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)* turns 100 this year. Would its centennial have mattered had its debut not provoked the greatest live-music riot ever, preemptively trumping Dylan's "going electric" at Newport several times over? One will, of course, never know. But that its notoriety "made" Stravinsky and forced more than one generation of composers to reckon with its impact is indisputable.





Music-appreciation instructors could do worse than require their students to listen to the Sony Masterworks' anniversary remastered reissue of Leonard Bernstein's New York Philharmonic recording and Simon Rattle's newly recorded Berliner Philharmoniker rendition (EMI Classics). "Identify the elements of this music," an assignment might go, "that caused the Parisians who first heard it to consider it inflammatorily audacious." The problem is, those Parisians were seeing dancers too, dancers whom they also considered inflammatorily audacious, a factor necessarily absent from Bernstein's and Rattle's purely audio presentations. As pure audio, however, they're amazing.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN COLLECTION



Performers with a purpose

A performing arts festival trains students to be 'musicianaries'

By DANIEL JAMES DEVINE in Winona Lake, Ind.

Lighter pressure on the strings. More quickly with the bow. Make the strings speak.

New York Philharmonic cellist Wei Yu, 32, gives instructions to a young woman seated before him, gently waving his hands and shaking his jet-black hair for emphasis.

The student looks nervous under the gaze of a roomful of young fellow musicians, but leans close to her cello and resumes playing. Her fingers dart up and down the fingerboard as the instrument vibrates a tune that is rapid, brooding, and mournful.

"It's like a roller coaster ride. You've got to show us not how difficult it can be, but how much fun it can be," Yu tells her.

The class is part of the intense training at the MasterWorks Festival, an annual Christian performing arts festival in Winona Lake, Ind. For four weeks in June and July, dozens of professional singers, actors, dancers, and musicians (playing instruments like violas, double basses, French horns, oboes, saxophones, clarinets, and the xylophone) met on the campus of Grace College to help about 200 talented students hone their skills and prepare—mentally and spiritually—for careers in the performing arts world.

It's a world that promises immense pressure. When a violin position on a city orchestra becomes available, for example, dozens of violinists may compete for the spot. A musician might spend months preparing for a single, five-minute audition.

To help them prepare, the festival requires students to play difficult pieces they might encounter at a typical audition. Faculty members give students one-on-one coaching in front of their peers, and students perform public stage acts and recitals.

During one, 20-year-old Kara Reed sat at a black Steinway & Sons concert grand piano so glossy the strings



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Drama students perform (left); orchestra rehearsal (right); one-on-one coaching (bottom).

reflected in the underside of the lid. Wearing a white shawl on a black dress, Reed swayed and occasionally closed her eyes as she played a melancholy piece.

Reed traveled from The Woodlands, Texas, to attend this summer's MasterWorks Festival—her third year in attendance. Music, she said, is a universal language that speaks heart-to-heart, giving Christians a unique opportunity: "We're not just musicians, we're musicianaries."

That's music to the ears of Patrick Kavanaugh, the festival's director and co-founder of the organization that runs it, the Christian Performing Artists' Fellowship. "We consider this a missionary training ground," he said. The festival is gospel oriented, with students gathering for Bible studies and worship, but they practice mainstream or classical compositions, dances, and acts typically performed for secular audiences (such as Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* symphony). The goal is for these young performers to nab top jobs, build good relationships with colleagues, and live out their faith. (Like-minded students have built relationships with one another, too: They jokingly refer to the festival as "MarriageWorks.")

All the festival's faculty members are Christians and come from across the United States and the world, such as one violinist who traveled from Norway. Many play in leading orchestras, including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. They're able to provide spiritual and practical guidance to students because they know from personal experience the pressures of living as both a Christian and performing artist.

Actress Patricia Mauceri, who helped coach MasterWorks drama students in a production of *Twelve Angry Jurors*, spent over four decades playing in Broadway shows, film, and television. She said she didn't develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ until after landing a role in the popular ABC soap opera, *One Life to Live*, playing a Catholic mother "who loved her family, who gave godly advice, who owned a diner and prayed for people. And after two years in that role I got gloriously saved, and my whole life and that character transformed."

Mauceri acted on the show a total of 14 years, until 2009, when executives fired her after she refused to follow a script that had her character condoning homosexuality. Since then she's spent more time involved in church productions, and in New York City recently co-directed *The Cross and the Switchblade*, a play based on the best-selling book by David Wilkerson.

The MasterWorks faculty also knows about the less drastic, but very real, battles young performers face, including pride and stage fright. John Kasica, who for more than four decades has played percussion for the St. Louis Symphony—including timpani, bells, marimba, triangle, cymbals, and snare drums—told about a time he botched a 1½ minute xylophone solo during a radio broadcast concert. He was feeling good about his talent and stood on stage with a chip on his shoulder, until, five seconds before his solo, he reached to turn the page of his music.

"The music flipped off the stand and went under the xylophone in the concert. So in the concert I dove under the xylophone." Kasica tried to gather the pages, but they were spread out like an accordion: "I stayed under the xylophone for the whole solo. And the conductor kept pointing at me, saying, 'Play! Play!'"

Ever since, Kasica has begun concerts with a prayer he'll do his best but stay humble.

Beneath stage lights at a crowded Honors Recital, 22-year-old violinist Dae Hee Ahn played a sonata by Johannes Brahms that conveyed feelings of adventure, thrill, tragedy, peace, and happiness, her face displaying each emotion. The MasterWorks student apprentice began playing her instrument at age 5 and immigrated to the United States from South Korea at age 7.





Ahn said she often gets nervous, and performances can feel like Judgment Day. But she calms her spirit by remembering she's just a steward of her talent, not the owner. Her primary audience is a God of grace: "Just like at church when we sing hymns and we sing praise to him, I'm actually doing that on the violin, on stage—just in front of people."

HANDOUT PHOTOS



Mindy Belz

The evil that men do

Once denied U.S. refuge from terrorists, Deborah is safe, for now

In the end Deborah stepped on a plane in Nigeria and stepped off in the United States. Twice refused a visitor's visa, she received a rare reprieve: U.S. consular officers in Nigeria at the last minute and with little fanfare—they just asked for her passport—granted U.S. passage to the 16-year-old Nigerian, a victim of terrorism.

If you read about Deborah Wakai Peter here earlier this summer ("A battle of wills and ideas," June 15), you know her story: Boko Haram militants forced the 14-year-old Deborah to watch as they shot and killer her father then brother, and then the terrorists tied her between the two dead bodies. She remained there all night, terrified the gunmen would return. Tuesday's Children, a U.S. group working since 9/11 with thousands of children who've lost loved ones to terrorism, invited Deborah to attend a summer camp in Pennsylvania. The U.S. embassy said no, fearing that Deborah would not return to Nigeria.

It's rare for U.S. officials to overturn a visa denial. But after two additional requests, that's what happened. Her attorney, Ann Buwalda, executive director of the Jubilee Campaign in Washington, told me the reversal "resulted from an overwhelming amount of interest expressed by members of Congress."



IN AMERICA: Deborah waits with friends for a pedicure.

Deborah and I talked via Skype as she sat on the sofa of her host family's home. At first hesitant, she warmed as we talked about her time in America. She was with teenagers who had lost parents, she said, but "fun" best described camp. They met in small groups in the morning then played games like Ninja Destruction in the afternoon. Her favorite American food—she smiled broadly and closed her eyes as she told me—is "club sandwich." She made friends from around the world, including Algeria, a country she'd never heard of. She says she will return to her own country knowing more about "leaving everything to God."

Returning to Nigeria is a sober prospect. Deborah agreed to recount what happened on the night of Dec. 22, 2011. She speaks in a rush of words, unmindful of tears that gather and glisten on her dark cheeks.

When three men knocked on the door of her home in northern Nigeria's Borno State, Deborah answered. Her father Peter Wakai, a local pastor, was in the shower. Her brother Caleb was home. Her mother Hadiza had traveled to Lagos, so was far away. As prominent Christians in an area that's home base to Boko Haram, the family had been attacked before, and Deborah says she recognized one of the men. They asked for her father, dragged him out and shot him. When Caleb tried to stop them, they shot and killed him also. "Why turn to Christianity?" the attackers asked the family over and over. Deborah tried to run, but the men forced her between the bodies of her father and brother. "I was shouting and shouting, but nobody could hear me," she said.

The next morning security forces, summoned by neighbors, arrived and freed her. They pursued the attackers and were successful in capturing at least one of them. When her mother returned, the two fled to Abuja, the capital, where they live now.

But the danger hasn't ended. Hadiza receives text messages and phone calls from militants. "They tell her she should be ready, and say they will come for her to kill her too," said Deborah. Even now, today, I ask? Even while I am here, Deborah said. Having spared Deborah, the militants now say they made a mistake: Hadiza is a converted Muslim, which makes both her and her daughter apostates to be killed.

Why do we Americans persistently underestimate the evil that men do, and the evil of Islamic terrorism? We who lived through its destruction in lower Manhattan now watch as it turns the streets of Cairo into a fiery hell. In parts of Syria Christians dare not leave their homes. The terrorists' dark resolve, to paraphrase Shakespeare, comes hot from hell and slips the dogs of war until carrion men are groaning for burial. It shoots pastors at point-blank range, leaving their children to watch and suffer. After that, it hunts child and mother, not content with the hundreds who have been slaughtered in between.

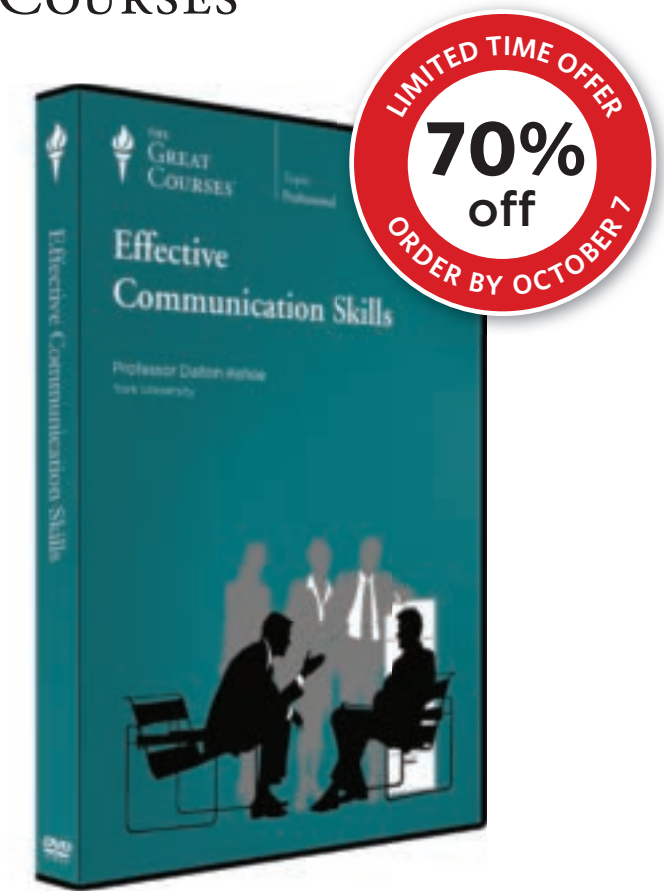
Not surprisingly, when Deborah prays she asks, "Lord, give us good dreams tonight." ⊕

—For further details of Deborah's time in the United States, visit worldmag.com

HANDOUT

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EGY BUR

As the military meets a violent Muslim Brotherhood, an ancient civilization that includes Egypt's Christians endures a brutal backlash

by **JAMIE DEAN**

PHOTO BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Shortly before devastating clashes exploded across Cairo and killed hundreds of people in mid-August, workers at the Bible Society of Egypt in Assiut noticed something strange: Someone had scrawled the word "Islamic" on most of the Christian-owned businesses in the town more than 200 miles south of Cairo.

A few days later, Egyptian security forces in Cairo raided two sprawling camps filled with thousands of supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. The ensuing violence has killed about 1,000 people, including hundreds of demonstrators from the camps. Mosques became makeshift morgues, and mourners searched for family among blood-soaked corpses.

Within hours, an Islamist mob swept through downtown Assiut (also spelled Asyut) and set fire to the Christian-owned businesses tagged a few days earlier. When they reached the Bible Society's storefront, assailants broke a security door, smashed a window, and burned the store to the ground.

Ramez Atallah, president of the Bible Society of Egypt, said the attacks appear preplanned, since the crowds arrived shortly after the Cairo raids and burned the marked buildings.

Indeed, during the first three days after Egypt's deadliest clashes in decades, Islamists had attacked, looted, and torched dozens of church buildings, Christian-owned businesses, and Christian schools across Egypt. At the Bible Society's store in Minya, assailants stole cash from a safe, torched the building, and built a bonfire with Bibles.

Islamists also attacked police stations and burned government buildings. Dozens of police officers died in the clashes. Atallah noted demonstrators had promised they would wreak havoc if police raided the Cairo encampments. "And they did. They went on a rampage," he said. "They burned Egypt."

Egypt's burning is more than the latest installment in the country's ongoing political revolution: The recent chaos reveals a defining battle for the soul of the largest country in the Middle East. The lines are stark between those fiercely devoted to an Islamist rule and those dedicated to broader freedoms, including the already tenuous religious liberty in a nation with the largest number of Christians in the Arab world.

The roots of the current crisis began more than two years ago when millions of Egyptians demanded the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak.

A year later, many Egyptians worried when Mohamed Morsi—a member of the Muslim Brotherhood—narrowly won the country's first free presidential elections in decades. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood won nearly 50 percent of the seats in Parliament.

Disillusionment developed quickly: Food prices spiked, gasoline supplies plummeted, and unemployment rose. By last November, Morsi had fast-tracked a controversial constitution with Islamist rules, and decreed sweeping powers for himself. He gave his own decisions immunity from judicial review.

By June of this year, millions of demonstrators—including former Morsi supporters and secularists, moderate Muslims, and many Christians—demanded his ouster. The Egyptian military announced Morsi's removal on July 3, and appointed an interim civilian government.

Some critics of the country's second revolution said Egyptians

ATTACKED: A building connected to a church burns in the Egyptian city of Minya on Aug. 14.

PT
NS



should adhere to the outcome of free elections. But Morsi's critics said his power grabs and Islamist leadership would have stripped many Egyptians of critical freedoms before they could vote again.

Ramez Salama is a freelance tour guide and an Egyptian Christian who attends a large Presbyterian church in Cairo. When I visited Cairo last year, Salama, 31, served as my guide in the city. He was worried then the country would move in an Islamist direction.

When I reached him by phone as the recent violence broke, Salama said he supported Morsi's ouster. His Muslim friends agreed. "If we wait four years the entire culture would have been changed," he said. "We were losing our identity. We were going rapidly toward a strict Islamic state."

That's the direction many Morsi supporters wanted. After the president's ouster, and despite hundreds of thousands who took to the street calling for it, thousands of his supporters formed two sprawling encampments at major intersections in Cairo, and vowed they wouldn't leave until the interim government reinstated Morsi.

The massive encampments—as many as 40,000 people at times—caused chaos for Egyptians living in the area. Some of the speeches inside the camp caused fear. "If you go and hear the speech of hatred they promote against the Christians of Egypt—you can't imagine," said Salama. The Associated Press quoted one speaker: "We are standing up to a world of infidels that refuses to follow Islam."

In early August, Amnesty International released a disturbing report describing torture in the pro-Morsi camps. The report said anti-Morsi protesters had been "captured, beaten, subjected to electric shocks or stabbed by individuals loyal to the former president." One victim said assailants dragged him to a location near one of the encampments, and beat him. He said armed men slit the throat of another captive.

By mid-August, Egyptian officials warned Morsi supporters to leave the camps, but some demonstrators insisted they would die before they allowed security forces to expel them.

Mohamed al-Imbabi, a teacher from the town of Mansoura, told *The Financial Times* he, his wife, and four children would leave as "corpses or victors." He added: "I am not afraid for the children. I even wish they would die, then their place would be in paradise."

IT'S UNCLEAR HOW MANY women and children died when Egyptian security forces raided the Cairo encampments on Aug. 14. Most of the photos from local mosques and hospitals showed the bloodied corpses of young men.

The tactics of Egyptian forces provoked fierce criticism, even among some who supported dispersing the camps. By the end of the day, over 500 people were dead, including at least 43 police officers, and security forces said they found weapon caches in the camps. Miserable scenes included wounded demonstrators weeping over the lined-up bodies of dead protesters. But as sites around Cairo burned, it was clear that those who protested also led in the destruction. The Obama administration—and many human rights groups—condemned the violence, saying the police used excessive force. But if the police tactics were excessive, the opposition they encountered from Islamists in Cairo and other parts of the country was explosive.



TARGETED: A Christian-owned shop that was looted and burned by an angry mob in Assiut; the remains of the Evangelical Church of Mallawi after it was looted and set on fire; a Morsi supporter paints graffiti on the wall of a Coptic Church in Assiut (clockwise from top left).

Attacks on churches—Coptic, Catholic, and evangelical—began within hours. Many Muslim Brotherhood supporters blamed Christians for Morsi's ouster, noting the leader of Egypt's Coptic church, Pope Tawadros II, stood with Egyptian officials when they announced Morsi's removal (so too did the powerful head of Cairo's Al-Azhar mosque, Sheik Ahmed el-Tayeb).

Robert George of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom called the violence against Christian churches and businesses "unprecedented in modern Egypt, both in its scope and the number of churches and structures attacked." At one of the region's oldest monasteries, the Virgin Mary Monastery near Assiut, priest Selwanes Lotfy said on Aug. 18, "We did not hold prayers in the monastery on Sunday for the first time in 1,600 years."

Egyptian Christians reported assailants burned and looted over 50 churches, attacked three Christian schools, and burned a Christian orphanage. Many buildings were empty, and the death toll remained low: Christians reported two deaths from attacks.

ROGER ANIS/EL SHOROUK NEWSPAPER/AP





Islamists also targeted dozens of police stations and burned at least two government buildings. In Kerdasa—a small town near Cairo—the violence was brutal: A few hours after the raids in Cairo began, a mob stormed the police station, shot 11 policemen in their heads and bodies, looted the building, and torched the structure.

The mob moved to Kerdasa's only church. The Islamists burned part of the Coptic structure and used a sledgehammer to tear down walls. On another wall, a demonstrator spray-painted: "We will show you rage and we will make you see terrorism."

Terence Ascott, founder of SAT-7, a Christian broadcasting station in the Middle East, said the encampments and the violence showed pro-Morsi supporters weren't victims: "These Muslim Brotherhood occupations were dominated by calls for violence against the army, the police, the liberals, and specifically, the Coptic Christians in Egypt."

Many Muslims agree. The military's raids met widespread support in Cairo from Egyptians who said the actions were necessary to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from growing more entrenched. Ascott and other Christians noted many local Muslims tried to protect churches from attacks. Atallah of the Bible Society said he was as concerned for Muslims as Christians, and noted: "Every drop of blood is a sadness."

Muslim Brotherhood leaders said they condemned the violence against Christians, but called for Morsi supporters to continue protests. Two days after the deadly raids, an imam prayed over a loudspeaker in Cairo: "God, please make Egypt an Islamic state, support freedom on earth, destroy tyrants, and destroy the media that is supported by tyrants."

Nearly 300 Muslim Brotherhood supporters chanted after leaving the mosque: "Either we die like they did or we get revenge for our martyrs. ... It's going to be Islamic despite the secularists!"

As Egypt prepared for what may become protracted battles, some worried about the potential for regional conflict. Jihadists already have a stronghold in many parts of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and have killed more than 25 security forces there in recent weeks. The Sinai's shared border with Israel has already led to cross-border clashes between Israelis and Egyptian militants. "America cannot determine the future of Egypt. That's a task for the Egyptian people," said President Barack Obama. But the standoff approach of the United States—condemning the recent violence but continuing military aid—makes it more likely Egypt will seek alliances in the region.

For now, many Egyptians say they will move forward, though that likely means business and everyday life will continue to suffer. Salama—the tour guide in Cairo—knows his business will decline further. It's a reality he's faced for the last two years as tourism, once 10 percent of Egypt's economy, has plummeted.

When I visited Egypt last year, Salama's enthusiastic voice swelled as he explained the wonders of the pyramids and the elaborate contents of King Tut's tomb. He had to remind himself not to shout: The tour had five people, not the usual 15.

By August of this year, business is worse: A few days before the clashes, Salama led a tour in Luxor with just one client. The famed Nile River—usually filled with scores of tour boats—carried only a handful back to Cairo.

It's a particular grief for a man who loves his country and its capital. Indeed, the city once called "Paris on the Nile" boasts a remarkable blend of French and Middle Eastern architecture, along with a museum filled with artifacts thousands of years old, and colossal pyramids that strike awe in visitors.

For Christians, the country remains a cradle of ancient Christianity—a place in which Christ found refuge from danger as an infant and a site for some of the earliest churches. For Salama, it's the place in which his grandfather became a Protestant and started one of the first Presbyterian churches in the country.

Salama longs to stay in Egypt, even as many Christians are fleeing. (As many as 100,000 Coptic Christians have fled the country in the last two years, along with many evangelicals.) He's found comfort from his pastor's recent sermons about God's protection, and has joined the church in praying for other Egyptians, including pro-Morsi supporters.

Still, in the days after Egypt's clashes, Salama couldn't hide his grief over Egypt's fires: "My heart is broken for my beloved country." ⊕

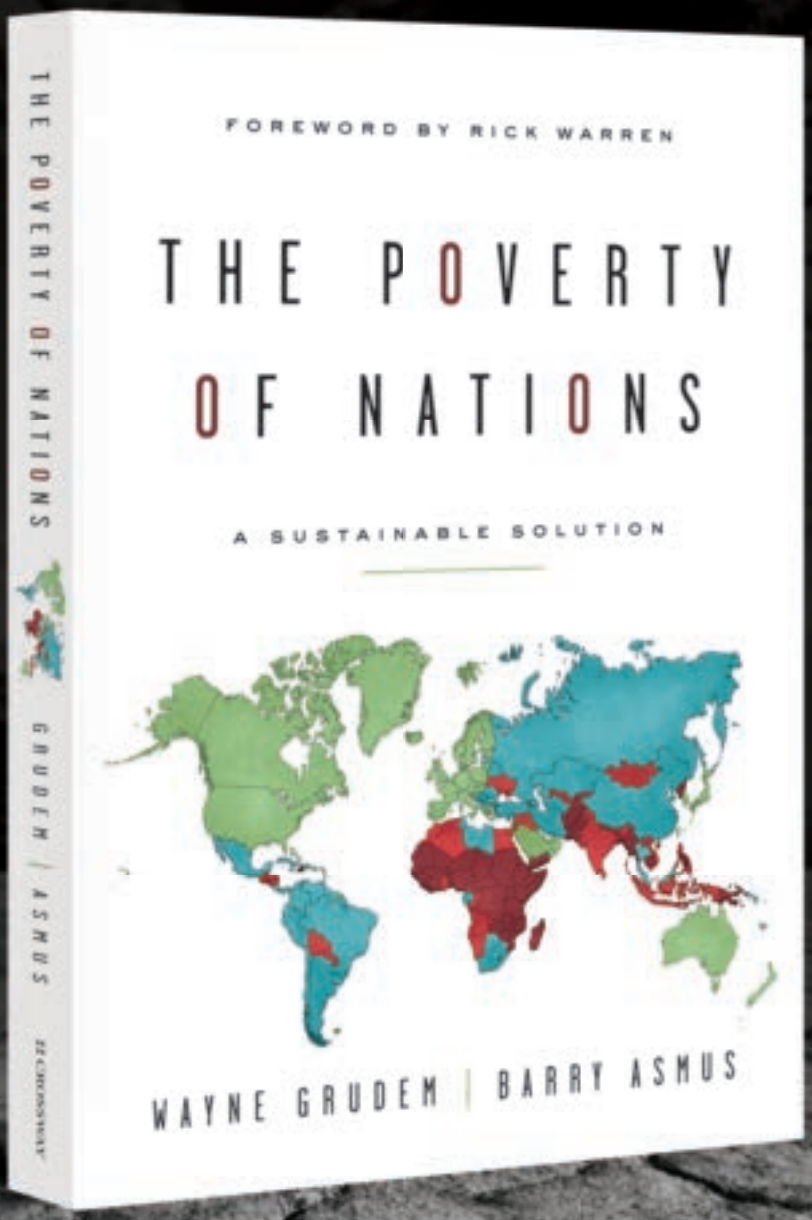
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Back to School

WE COVER EDUCATION STORIES throughout the year in WORLD and on worldmag.com, but once a year we take a longer look—so the 21 pages that follow include 12 stories about the bad, the good, and the just plain interesting.

First come four bad news stories. Our reporter at the National Education Association convention saw that the left still rules it. We look at the Golden State's now-tarnished public schools and examine new science curricula that promote Darwinism and diminish local control. We update our reporting on the movement at some colleges to ban Christian groups.

Next come four good news stories. We report on some brave California teachers who are fighting back. We note the continued growth of homeschooling and describe some teachers who do not check their Christian beliefs at the schoolhouse door. We describe the survival strategies of some science professors and students who have not embraced Darwinism.

Our third set of four tells of "success, but. ..." Charter schools improve public education but put some Christian schools out of business. Homeschooling grows around the world but so does prejudice against the practice. More college students gain classical educations, but for what kinds of jobs are they prepared? Finally, fast-growing Liberty University faces new questions.

BY MARVIN OLASKY

LETTERING BY JOSEPH ALESSIO

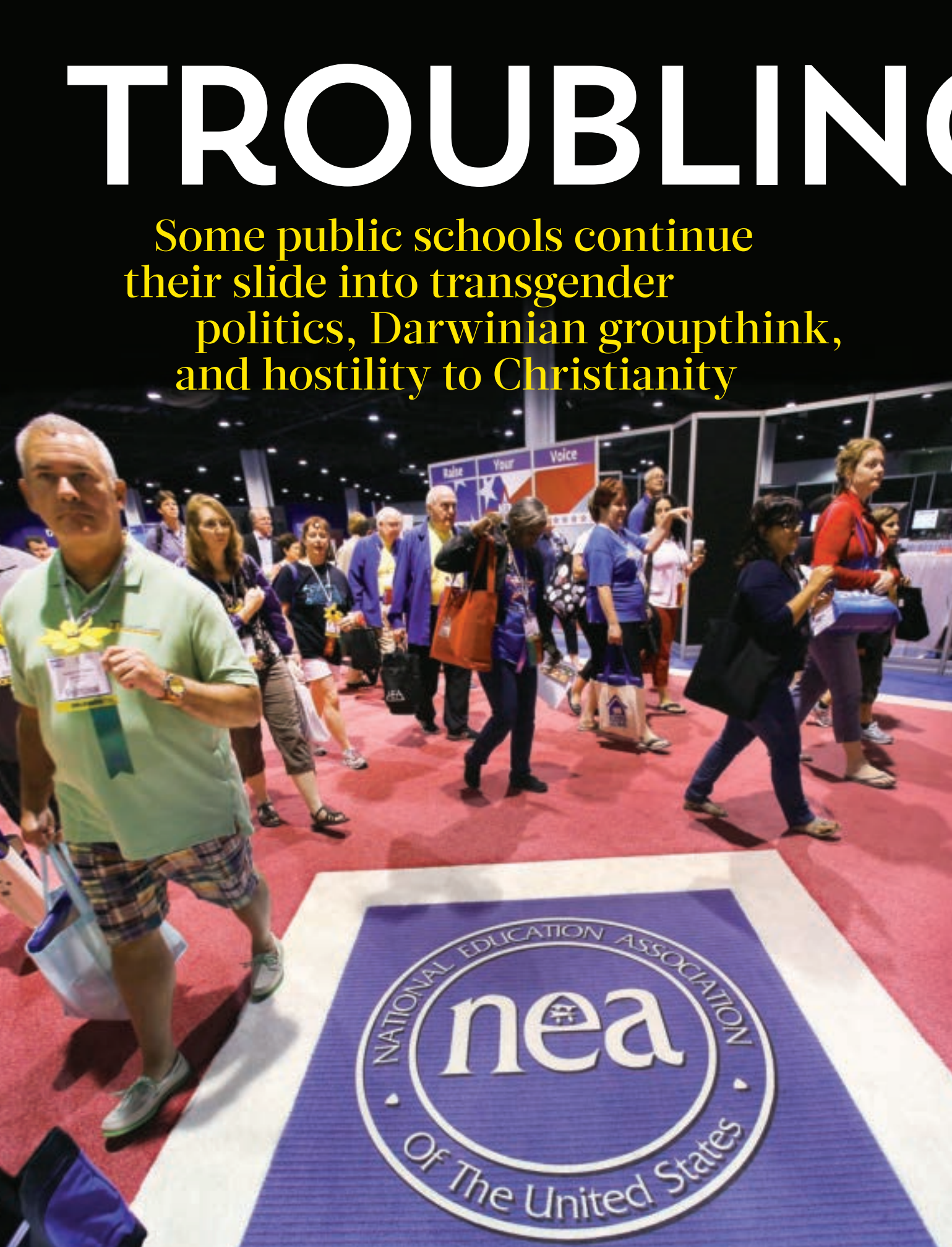
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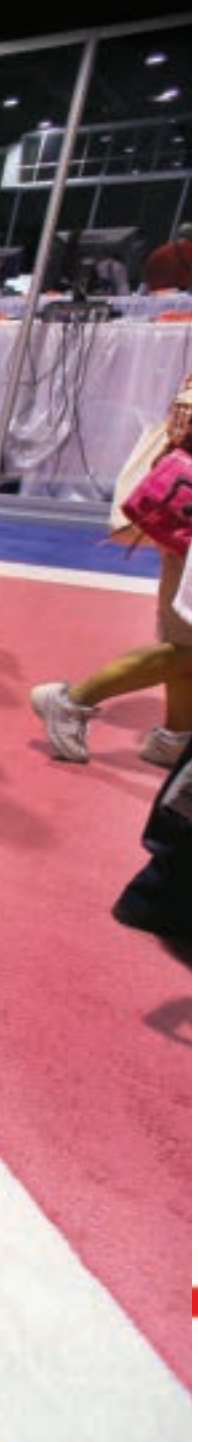
BACKGROUND: ISTOCK



TROUBLING

Some public schools continue their slide into transgender politics, Darwinian groupthink, and hostility to Christianity





HANDOUT

PROPAGANDA TRUMPS TEACHING

*by **Elise Grafe** in Atlanta*

At this July's National Education Association (NEA) annual convention in Atlanta, T-shirt clad teachers pushed advocacy and debated lunch options. Explicit rap music blasted over speakers, and attendees waited in line for a chance to enter a giant game-show plastic tube with dollar bills blowing around inside. Union leaders dressed in suits led campaign chants while waving posters printed with pictures of themselves.

But no one talked much about teaching.

A handful of booths in the convention's exhibition hall did promote teaching-related materials, especially "Common Core-aligned" curricula. Those new standards, adopted in nearly every state, have birthed a plethora of shiny new curricula, and representatives were on hand to cajole teachers into testing their products. A representative from BugbrainED LLC acknowledged that his company's bright, bug-themed reading apps don't have any real learning objectives except to drill Common Core test material. The new curricula promise a competitive advantage for schools trying to boost standardized test scores.

Attendees showed more interest in gay rights than student achievement. If the NEA was a typical high school, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Caucus (GLBTC) would be the jocks and prom queens, and rainbow ribbons would replace Abercrombie shirts and letterman jackets as status signifiers. At packed-out GLBTC meetings, attendees celebrated the recent Supreme Court decisions. One speaker mocked the "group of bigots" fighting for traditional marriage, calling them small and crass, to the cheering and laughter of attendees.

But the GLBTC wasn't just cheerleading. It pushed the convention to pass a new resolution: "NEA will encourage all states and NEA Affiliates to use existing means of communication to promote developmentally appropriate instructional resources in order to help all educators integrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) history, people, and issues into their instruction, such as, but not limited to 'Unheard Voices' an oral history and curriculum project for middle and high school students created in collaboration by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Story Corps."

The Unheard Voices program includes lessons with interviews of gay individuals, like Jamison Green explaining his journey to becoming transgender ("my first lover suggested to me that I might enjoy having a sex change") and a lesbian mom's 8-year-old boy asking, "Mom, we're lesbians right?"

A few brave pro-life educators manned a booth showing the growth stages of a human baby. Their booth proudly displayed the verse, "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14). The group submitted a proposal to the assembly to "prohibit the use of dues money to support abortions." But many NEA members booed the pro-life speakers, and the NEA assembly promptly squashed the motion. It kept instead support for "school-based family planning clinics" and abortion at any time.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)—a group that works to raise the quality of teaching across the country through board certification—seemed to be the only organization at the convention focused on educational excellence. NBPTS compared the current teaching profession to the medical profession in the early 1900s, when doctors happily provided services from surgeries to shaves. Only 3 percent of teachers have earned board certification, which requires them to submit self-evaluations and teaching videos, and earns them higher salaries in almost every state.

One bit of good news: NEA membership is declining, giving the NEA less money to push its causes. According to the Education Action Group, membership fell almost 7 percent from 2008-09 to 2011-12, with 44 state affiliates losing members. One recent blow came when the 3,000-member University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) voted to disaffiliate. Although the NEA president traveled to Hawaii, he couldn't persuade the group to stay. Other reasons for the decline: teacher layoffs, right to work laws that permit teachers to opt out of union membership, and laws that permit teachers to request "fair share" exemption from the political portion of their dues.

—Elise Grafe is a WORLD intern

AS CALIFORNIA GOES, SO GOES THE NATION?

*by **Angela Lu** in Los Angeles*





DEVOLVING: State Sen. Jim Nielson calls for lawmakers to reject AB1266 at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on July 3 (the Senate approved the bill by a 21-9 vote); Tom Carrano (facing page).

RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

MARTHA LIN holds her squirmy 7-year-old daughter Lucia as she lists her concerns about sending her two children to public school in Los Angeles.

"I worry that they teach evolution over creationism," she said, then looks down at Lucia: "They want to tell you that you came from a monkey." That's not exactly true, because Darwinism teaches only that humans and monkeys have a common ancestor, but Lucia responded with a logical question: "Because I'm good at the monkey bars?"

The kids learn at home and at church that God created the world, and that God's design for marriage is one man and one woman. But Lin can't shield them from what they see at school: A classmate of her 11-year-old son has two mommies. Still, Lin says she's found many Christian teachers at the school by talking to other parents at church. Once Lucia walked into school with her AWANA vest on, and the magnet coordinator said, "Oh, my husband leads AWANA at my church."

But even good teachers have little recourse now that Gov. Jerry Brown has signed AB1266: The new law allows students K-12 to use school facilities based on their perceived "gender identity" rather than their biological gender. For instance boys who feel like girls will be able to use girls' bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms, as well as join girls' sports teams.

"That's scary," Lin said. "What's the line for gender?" Maggie Liu, a fourth-grade teacher at Vintage Math and Science, said she could just imagine how uncomfortable the new rule would make her elementary-aged students: "My girls, they would be screaming if they saw a boy in the bathroom." When she first heard of the bill, though, her biggest concern was for her daughters in the sixth and 11th grades who attend local public schools. She fears boys will take advantage of the free pass to the girls' bathroom. "For me that's totally wrong."

Tiffany Wada, who teaches science at a charter high school in South Los Angeles, notes that many students will not want opposite-gender students in their bathrooms: "When the government says it's trying to protect all students, you are going to choose which students will feel hurt or offended or violated." Wada always saw working with at-risk low-income students in the school system as her life's calling, yet says she plans on homeschooling her own children. She wonders why her school allows lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) clubs but won't allow Christian or other religious clubs, and she asks why LGBT advocates should "push that upon Christians. It's a double standard."

Gay advocates are still trying to implement their victory in 2011—requiring history classes to include gay historical figures in the curriculum of all grades—in the face of the school system's bigger problems: high drop out rates, underperforming students, and an inability to discipline. Christian teachers feel exasperated, yet still see how their presence makes a difference.

Tom Carrano, a eigth-grade history teacher at Hollenbeck Middle School in Los Angeles, said his curriculum looks exactly the same as before the law passed. His class already has so much to cover to pass standardized tests that it's incomprehensible to add extra material: "Right now all [the school's] energy is not focused on gender or diversity, but the Common Core [standards], to get them up to speed with the rest of the nation," Carrano said. "There's bigger fish to fry."

And that bigger fish is the sobering fact that of Carrano's students, 99 percent of whom are Hispanic and low-income, only about 60 percent are expected to make it to graduation day. California public schools are dealing with budget cuts and teacher shortages: Carrano has taught in three different schools in the past six years and has watched principals moving in and out.

Teachers have some autonomy in what areas of the state standards they focus on in the classrooms. For Carrano, a Christian, this means he can dwell on topics like ancient Hebrew history, have students read the primary text of Isaiah 53, and study its connection to the Christian faith. During a section on the Second Great Awakening, he shows video of pastor Greg Laurie's Harvest Crusade to show modern-day Christian gatherings. This could all change once standards include LGBT material, or when new textbooks are published, although with budget constraints, the time line is uncertain.



Carrano said teaching in the public school setting is often demoralizing. Many of his students aren't disciplined by their parents at home, so they're often unruly, rude, and unwilling to learn. Carrano said a culture of bullying pervades his school, including not just other students but also teachers. With a new law in the Los Angeles Unified School District banning suspensions, Carrano said he has his hands tied in terms of what he can do to discipline his students.

Sarah, an eigth-grade math teacher whom WORLD agreed not to name because she has legitimate fear of reprisal from her school administration, said the heart of the issue is that "as a believer you know what is right and wrong, but the school doesn't have that kind of compass so it's very cloudy when you're trying to discipline the students. You're not supported in any way." Students talk back to teachers and sometimes come to class on drugs, but she cannot discipline them unless she finds the drug on them.

Sarah is considering quitting after six years of teaching and perhaps working at a Christian school with a foundation of right and wrong. She constantly asks herself: "Am I perpetuating a system that is very broken, where I see a lot of wrong? Am I being a part of that wrong?"

But others believe Christians are especially needed in these dark places. Carrano and Sarah mentioned holding Christian clubs or Bible studies for their students, and being able to pray with other Christian teachers at school. Wada says he can be a role model for students, someone they feel safe talking with, someone who can speak truth into their lives—to an extent. When students ask about her personal life, Wada talks about how important going to church is, and is vocal to her students that marriage should come before having a baby.

CARRANO: GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS PHOTOS · TRAFFIC LIGHT: MARTIN WIMMER



DARWINIAN DICTATES

by ***Casey Luskin***

PUBLIC EDUCATION CURRICULA in the United States have traditionally been controlled by local and state boards of education, but under newly crafted national guidelines called the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), K-12 public school students across the country may learn essentially the same uniform science curriculum, one that proselytizes for Darwinism.

The drive to nationalize science standards intensified in 2009 when a study found American students had fallen to 23rd in science internationally, ranking behind China, Japan, Germany, and Canada. In 2011 the National Research Council, an arm of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, released its Framework for K-12 Science Education, outlining specific science content and thinking skills that students should learn. The nonprofit corporation Achieve.org coordinated the team that drafted the final NGSS, published in April of this year.

Five states so far—Rhode Island, Kentucky, Maryland, Vermont, and Kansas—have adopted the standards, and states including California, Florida, Maine, Michigan, and Washington will soon be considering them. Proponents

argue that nationalized standards will ensure a higher quality of instruction regardless of state or local policies. Critics respond that these national standards weren't developed through a democratic, publicly transparent process. The NGSS drafting process excluded Darwin-skeptical groups and invited pro-Darwin advocacy groups like the National Center for Science Education.

NGSS makes biological evolution a "core idea" and urges that by the third grade students should be presented with "evidence of common ancestry" of humans and animals. Middle-school students should "infer evolutionary relationships," and in high school they should hear that "common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence."

NGSS requires students to learn that similarities among vertebrate embryos indicate common ancestry, but says nothing about the significant differences between embryos in their earliest stages. A 2010 paper in the world's foremost science journal, *Nature*, explained, "Counter to the expectations of early embryonic [similarities], many studies have shown that there is often remarkable divergence between related species both early and late in development." Under the NGSS, such evidence would be excluded.

Once students hit high school, NGSS has them learning that "similarities in DNA sequences" across different species also support common ancestry. But NGSS does not note that the scientific literature is filled with studies where DNA similarities conflict with the predictions of common ancestry. A 2009 article in *New Scientist*, "Why Darwin Was Wrong About the Tree of Life," observed, "Many biologists now argue that the tree concept is obsolete and needs to be discarded."

Although NGSS encourages inquiry-based learning and lauds "open-mindedness, objectivity, skepticism ... and honest and ethical reporting of findings," it downplays those virtues when it comes to teaching evolution. The evolution section does mention, though, that students should "evaluate the evidence behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments," and that may provide a bit of cover to teachers who emphasize open-mindedness on evolution.

Polls suggest most parents will find the NGSS objectionable not because students will learn about biological evolution, but because they will hear only the evidence for Darwinism and none against it. According to a 2009 Zogby poll, 78 percent of likely American voters agree that "Biology teachers should teach Darwin's theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it."



Some states are resisting NGSS. **Barbara Cargill**, chair of the Texas State Board of Education, says Texas has a "zero percent chance" of adopting the new national standards. This is largely because in 2009 Texas completed an arduous process of updating its own science standards, which now require students to "analyze and evaluate" Darwinian concepts like common ancestry and natural selection.

In other states, teachers who cover required NGSS elements may still have freedom to discuss additional evidence. Tennessee, for example, is one of 26 "leading state partners" that helped draft NGSS, and has pledged to consider implementing them. But last year Tennessee adopted an academic freedom law, encouraging teachers to discuss both the "scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses" of topics like climate change and biological evolution.

—Casey Luskin coordinates research at the Discovery Institute

BANNED IN NASHVILLE

by ***Leigh Jones***

During the 2012-2013 academic year, Vanderbilt administrators told members of the InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship (GCF) at Vanderbilt University that they could not wear T-shirts with "Vanderbilt" on them. GCF gave in and printed shirts simply saying "WE ARE HERE" in large letters across the back, with the group's logo on the front.

GCF was not alone. Administrators succeeded in making 13 other Christian groups also nonpersons on campus: The organizations couldn't use Vanderbilt's name, reserve rooms for on-campus meetings, or attend the annual organization fair where most students learn about the clubs they can join. GCF's influx of new students was about half that of previous years.

The reason for the administration's attack on dissident Christians: In January 2012, Vanderbilt adopted a "nondiscrimination" policy that forced all student-led religious groups to accept leaders who might not share the beliefs of the group. Sparked by one group's decision to remove an openly gay student from elected office, the policy would have governed other aspects of orthodoxy as well. For example, under the policy groups would be powerless to remove a Bible study leader who suddenly decided he no longer believed in scriptural inerrancy.

GCF and the 13 other groups did not sign the policy. School administrators banned them while continuing to say they support religious diversity on campus, and even made one ironic request: Although the Catholic student group refused to sign the policy, school administrators still wanted a Catholic priest to serve as an official campus chaplain. Somewhat reluctantly, John Sims Baker agreed to fill that role, taking an office in the school's Religious Life building even though his student group no longer exists as far as the school is concerned. Baker vocally opposed Vanderbilt's discrimination

NGSS LOGO: HANDOUT · CARGILL: ERIC GAY/AP





LOST BATTLE: InterVarsity GCF students demonstrate at Vanderbilt last year (above); Baker, an official campus chaplain, with students (left); Warren (below).



GCF DEMONSTRATION: PIETER VALK/ INTERVARSITY · BAKER & WARREN: RANDI ANGLIN/GENESIS

and consistently refuted administrators' claims they weren't trying to target religious groups.

About a half dozen evangelical Christian groups, including Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), chose to sign the policy and continue operating under the school's authority. Whereas GCF allows students to pick their leaders, RUF relies more on the guidance of an ordained campus minister. The policy does allow the school to punish a group like RUF if the campus minister decided to remove a student from a leadership role, but until that happens, RUF plans to continue operating on campus as usual.

Although dissatisfied with a lack of resolution to the situation at Vanderbilt, GCF ministry staff member Tish Warren last year took heart that many universities, even private colleges with the freedom to restrict religious liberty on campus, chose not to: "We weren't able to change the argument at Vanderbilt—we lost that battle. We hopefully influenced a better conversation [nationally] about religious identity and how that needs to be preserved and not stamped out."

Both Warren and Greg Jao, national field director for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, called Tufts University's decision to allow religious groups to set their own criteria for leadership a harbinger of the approach more schools are taking. InterVarsity's almost 900 campus groups ran into more challenges from administrators last year than in previous years but managed to resolve most of the incidents, Jao said.

One that wasn't adequately resolved: At Colby College, a private college in Waterville, Maine, administrators revoked InterVarsity's official student group status but gave them equal services and access to school facilities and funding under a religious group designation. Jao worries about the larger cultural implications of an approach that contributes to the long-term privatization of religious groups: "The idea is that [those who disagree] can avoid them by just not looking." ⊕

FIGHTING

Christian public school teachers go to court, and scientists quietly advance intelligent design

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

by ***Mary Jackson***

Buena Parks, Calif., teacher Rebecca Friedrichs is married to a college professor and has a long list of family members who are educators, including her husband's 96-year-old aunt who once taught in a Minnesota one-room schoolhouse. Even as her love for teaching runs deep, Friedrichs, 47, has voiced concern over her union's one-sided politicking, its resistance to education reform—and its forced membership dues.

Friedrichs' union, the California Teachers Association (CTA), is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year with TV advertisements that feature teachers heralding its small beginnings. But today, the labor group is arguably the state's single most powerful special interest group. Some call it California's "fourth executive branch" for its sway over candidates, ballot measures, and lobbying. State legislators and voters have mostly protected the CTA—leading Friedrichs and a small group of teachers and parents to implore the court to loosen its firm grip on Golden State politics.

As the middle child with four siblings, Friedrichs was "always the outspoken one." In her 25 years with the Savanna School District, she has watched the CTA spend millions to fund numerous ballot measures and candidates that run contrary to her Christian beliefs: "They use the face, the reputation, and the trust of teachers to pass their agenda—and they're allowed to make us pay for that agenda." For three years, she advocated as a secretary and site representative for her local union, which she calls "a lesson in futility." Then, last fall she put signs in her yard, picketed, and wrote op-ed pieces to support a ballot measure that would prohibit the CTA's political spending—but the labor group spent over $20 million to defeat the proposal.

Now, Friedrichs and nine other California teachers and the Christian Educators Association International (CEAI) have filed a federal lawsuit against the CTA and its affiliates, the National Education Association (NEA) and 10 local teachers unions. The plaintiffs hope a judge will allow them the choice of whether to join and pay dues to the unions, effectively making California a "right-to-work" state.



RESISTING: Friedrichs (right); CTA members demonstrate against spending cuts in Los Angeles (above).

In 2011, teacher dues and fees yielded the CTA more than $178 million in revenue. Additionally, its influence is written into the California constitution: More than two decades ago, voters passed an initiative guaranteeing about 40 percent of the state's annual budget goes to public schools. With 325,000 members and a firm grip on the state budget, the CTA shelled out over $210 million in political contributions and lobbying expenses from 2000 to 2009—nearly twice that of the next largest spender, the Service Employees International Union, according to a state study.

The CTA has funded a wide array of causes unrelated to education, from pro-abortion and pro-gay campaigns to implementing the state's single-payer healthcare system. In the past decade, the CTA spent 89 percent of its revenue on ballot initiatives, 10 percent to help Democrats, and less than 1 percent to Republicans, according to the website followthemoney.org. Meanwhile, it has closely guarded a set of hard-won tenure rules and seniority protections for teachers. It routinely stifles attempts by education groups to improve teacher quality and introduce school vouchers.

But California lags near the bottom in quality public education, competing with Mississippi and Washington, D.C. Some blame the CTA for funneling money to liberal causes instead of education and obstructing most reform efforts, both in the legislature and at the polls. Friedrichs is one of a handful of teachers and parents who are hoping courts will deliver

CHUCK GREEN/ZUMA PRESS/NEWSCOM



BACK

an even playing field—even if it means taking on the CTA, the biggest fish in the 50-state pond.

In January, the California Supreme Court will hear a different case brought by nine students and their parents from districts around the state. The suit, sponsored by the national nonprofit Students Matter, challenges the state's tenure laws that allow wide protections for teachers after only 18 months on the job and make it difficult to fire those who are ineffective.

"Parents in California should not have to worry every year that their children could be assigned to teachers who deny them the learning opportunities they deserve," parent Laurie Campbell said in a press statement. Another parent, Jose Macias, said a second-grade Los Angeles teacher berated his daughter and told her she needed a special education program: "No child ... deserves to go through that," Macias told the *Los Angeles Times*. The daughter is now a high-performing seventh-grader.

Last year, the CTA strongly opposed a state Senate bill that would have sped up the dismissal process of the most criminal cases. The bill, drafted in response to the Miramonte Elementary School scandal (a teacher charged with sexually molesting 23 students), never made it past committee. Legislation "isn't coming, so these students and parents feel compelled to go the courts," said Enrique Monagas, an attorney representing the plaintiffs: "I hope when we win this case, legislators across the country see that the courts defend the fundamental right of children to quality education."

As it stands, California's "agency shop" law allows teachers to opt out of about 30 percent of the union's mandatory dues that are deemed "political." But even nonunion members are required to pay annual dues up to $1,000 for the union's "collective bargaining" expenses. These expenses include, for example, the CTA's annual gay and lesbian conference this November and its monthly magazine, *The California Educator*, which features voting guides and other political messages.

Teachers can become "religious objectors" through a tedious application process. If approved, they can send dues to a union-OKed charity.

GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS

EIGHT WAS TOO MUCH Friedrichs cites California's Proposition 8 as "a real wake-up call" for teachers. An NPR analysis of state data shows that the majority of public school teachers financially supported the 2008 ballot measure affirming traditional marriage. But the CTA gave $1.25 million to oppose it, running commercials with teachers disavowing the proposal. During that time, CEAI's Finn Laursen said his Ohio-based organization had to set up an extra phone line to funnel calls from its 700 California members. The CEAI, which offers spiritual and legal guidance to 7,000 public school teachers nationwide, hears most frequently from teachers in California and other blue states with strong teachers unions. Laursen says, "Their voices are the loudest. They are fed up with the fact that they are forced to support causes that violate their personal convictions." *—M.J.*



HOMESCHOOL RISING

by ***Elise Grafe***

With all the educational bad news around, the growth of homeschooling continues to be good news for the vast majority of an estimated 2 million children who learn at home, a number that has doubled in the past decade. Among the beneficiaries: New Mexico's Kyle Garcia and his parents, Scott and Rose Garcia.

Kyle's older brother thrived in public school, but Kyle did not. He loved learning and exploring new ideas—from the time he was little, he'd kept a notebook filled with drawings of his new inventions—but public school wasn't challenging him academically. Scott Garcia, who worked from home as an architect and artist, was willing to become Kyle's primary teacher: Father and son shared the same love for design. They worked and learned together, and Kyle is now pursuing his college degree in engineering.

As the number of homeschoolers has grown, so has the diversity. Almost one-fourth of homeschooling families are members of minority groups. The stereotypical homeschooling family has many children, but in reality 58 percent have three or fewer. Children in single-parent homes now represent 11 percent of homeschoolers, and come from all income levels. Reasons for homeschooling vary enormously: Some are religious, some have to do with lifestyle (wanting to spend more time outdoors or traveling), some are related to the arts or to particular cultural heritages.

Brenda and Pete Cummings homeschooled two children in the 1990s and are now homeschooling two more. They chose to homeschool as a way of building good relationships in their family and helping their kids develop a solid Christian foundation. Brenda Cummings said she appreciates the ability to develop her children's unique strengths: Her daughter Hallie loves working with children and has been able to work with younger kids as part of her middle-school curriculum.

The Cummings have experienced the changes brought about by homeschooling's increased popularity. When Brenda Cummings told people she was homeschooling twenty years ago, they asked her, "What is that?" Now when she tells people she homeschools, they usually say they wish they had done the same with their children. When she taught her first two kids, she had little homeschool community. Today, her family is part of a 300-member homeschool co-op. Ten or 20 years ago, Cummings had difficulty finding great materials, but now much more is available.

GROWING: Homeschool students on a tour of the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Homeschooling was illegal in the United States for most of the twentieth century. Starting in the mid-1960s, advocates—primarily Christian parents—started pushing for the right to teach their own children. State by state, they gained the right. By 1993, every state had legalized home education—but it isn't free. Some homeschoolers want to be exempt from paying the portion of property taxes allocated to schools, yet others worry about opening the door for more regulation by state or local school districts.

BRANDON DILL/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL/AP

ID INCOGNITO —FOR NOW

*by **Angela Lu** and **Daniel James Devine** in Seattle*

IT SHOULDN'T RAISE A RUCKUS for a state university to hire an astronomer. Especially one who helped discover two extrasolar planets, published 76 peer-reviewed papers, and discovered the "Galactic Habitable Zone," the concept that only certain regions of galaxies are likely capable of supporting life.

But when Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., hired astronomer **Guillermo Gonzalez** in June, the Freedom From Religion Foundation warned the school's "reputation is on the line." Jerry Coyne, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Chicago, told a Muncie paper Ball State "should start hiring scientists who will teach real science and not religious apologetics."



The problem? Gonzalez, a Christian, believes in intelligent design (ID), the scientific theory that nature displays evidence of having been designed by a mind. In 2004, as a professor at Iowa State University, Gonzalez co-authored *The Privileged Planet*, a book that argued the Earth is ideally situated to support life and gives humans an optimal vantage point to study the universe.

The book ultimately cost Gonzalez his job. After a group of atheists complained, Iowa State denied his application for tenure, even though his credentials were impeccable and he had never taught ID in class. In July, his new employer, Ball State president Jo Ann Gora, sent all faculty a terse reminder that intelligent design was "a religious belief and not a scientific theory. Therefore, intelligent design is not appropriate content for science courses."

Gonzalez has some candid advice for ID proponents who want to work in academia: "Don't discuss your ID views publicly. If you have an idea for an ID research project, do it in your spare time."

Yet discrimination isn't stopping the ID movement: In the past 12 years, more than 800 scientists have signed the "Dissent from Darwinism" statement, publicly acknowledging their skepticism that the complexity of life emerged from random mutations and natural selection. Many more have heeded Gonzalez's advice in keeping their views to themselves for the sake of their careers.

Fresh faces are rising in the ranks: This summer, 45 students, scientists, teachers, and professors from around the world attended a closed-door seminar held by the Discovery Institute, an ID think tank in Seattle. They sat under the teaching of Gonzalez and other leading proponents of ID to learn the scientific evidence of intelligent design and the social impact of Darwinism. Despite risking discrimination and career roadblocks, the attendees are passionate about what they see as clear evidence of design in nature. For many of the American attendees, their biggest struggle is figuring out how to advocate intelligent design in hostile schools, universities, and labs without short-circuiting their careers in the process.

To protect the identities of some attendees, WORLD agreed to use pseudonyms (designated with an asterisk).

Biologist Isaac Watson* squirmed on a couch for five minutes before agreeing how he could be described in print: He's a 20-something graduate of a secular university on the East Coast who holds a Ph.D. in the biological sciences, and he said, "The minute I associate myself with the ID movement I'm crossing a kind of point of no return, in terms of career advancement."

Watson is on the verge of a lifelong dream: He loved animals as a child and remembers hoping in sixth grade to become a scientist one day. He grew up in the church learning about the Genesis creation account and, even before high school, doubted Darwinian evolution could explain the origin of species.

After studying biology at a university that preaches Darwinism, Watson's doubts haven't gone away. For one, neo-Darwinian theory has led scientists to wrong conclusions, such as the assumption DNA segments with unknown functions are leftover evolutionary "junk." Yet, Watson says, an ID proponent examining those segments would predict, "Well, if a designer created this, it probably has functionality"—and recent discoveries indicate most "junk" DNA has some biochemical function.

Watson is trying to decide how to promote intelligent design while avoiding what he calls a "career execution." If the academic world knew he was pro-ID, his name might be informally blacklisted, preventing him from publishing in scientific journals. Watson is considering keeping his views hidden until his science credentials are established—by earning tenure, for example. He's not sure when that will be.

Plant Breeder Randy Potter* works at a state university in the Midwest and makes his living tromping through fields, selecting plants with desirable traits, harvesting and planting their seeds, and raising new plants with those traits. Through this process of conventional breeding, he might be able to increase or decrease the height of a crop, or even increase its yield.

Is that Darwinian evolution in action? No, says Potter: "I have a goal in mind." The selection in this case involves intelligence–his own. He notes that Darwin said evolution proceeded "without any intelligence, [but that's] a leap. ... It's not like I can turn a wheat plant into a corn plant."

Although Potter is in his 50s and already holds a Ph.D. in plant breeding, he's finishing up a master's in science and religion at Biola University. He wants to teach others about intelligent design, as he's already done at his Baptist church, and perhaps organize ID conferences.

For those outside the science field, secrecy about their beliefs is less necessary. Joshua Jones, a government major and economics minor at Houston Baptist University, sees ID as an important part of his future–as a politician. His focus is the impact that science, especially the materialistic ideas of Darwinism, has on public policy, from abortion to education to euthanasia.

NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AP

Jones sees the far-reaching consequences of a Darwinian worldview: If man is merely made of matter and controlled by natural selection, then the greatest good is the survival of the fittest and the destruction of the weak. These ideas have led to eugenics in Nazi Germany and forced sterilization in the United States.

Jones believes this is why Christians should be in politics: "Christianity gives us that strong moral foundation from which to operate and even which to find consensus. People go around talking about human rights, but especially in a Darwinian context there's no real reason ... for human rights outside of natural law and a lawgiver."

Even as Jones speaks up in class, his poise and delivery are reminiscent of a politician. He realizes that people may disagree with his beliefs, but his first priority is to pursue truth: "Maybe it's because I'm young, but I'm ready to take on that fight. I'm kind of an idealist in that sense as an intellectual person, I'm committed to consistency. I could never turn my back on what is true just because of persecution."

James Lopez, a senior at the California State University of Northridge, is also open about his belief in intelligent design. He says he works hard to stay at the top of his class, give solid reasons for the existence of God, and point out the scientific evidence for intelligent design: His fellow students "haven't really experienced a logical version of the Christian faith," so instead of telling his classmates to just believe what the Bible says, he questions them about their own presuppositions.

For instance in astronomy class, the professor assigned students to do a presentation on the origin of an element. Lopez chose iron and explained to the class how it was more likely that God created the element than the element resulted from exploding planets. "There I was in the middle of the big class reading Genesis 1:1 and the whole class was silent." He said most students haven't thought through origin-of-life questions, and instead mainly believe whatever their professors say.

In his free time, Lopez posts images with thought-provoking facts on Instagram and debates atheists in the comments section.

Mark Dunn,* an adjunct astronomy professor at a community college in a Rocky Mountain state, wants to influence the younger generation's view of science and design. Since he works at a publicly funded institution, he has to be subtle. As he teaches students about white dwarf stars, spiral galaxies, black holes, and the solar system, he introduces them to fine-tuning, the idea that Earth is ideally suited to support life and allow humans to study the stars.

RISKING DISCRIMINATION: A few of the Discovery Institute seminar attendees (the faces of some are covered to protect their identities).

Standing in front of his class, Dunn, an Anglican in his 50s, will explain to students that the Earth's unusual atmosphere is transparent to radio waves and visible light, but blocks other wavelengths that can be harmful. He will then ask, "Isn't it interesting that the only two transparent windows in the atmosphere allow us to see the heavens and hear the heavens?"

DESIGN ACROSS THE SEAS

While the major controversy over evolution and Intelligent Design has concentrated in the United States, other countries are jumping into the discussion as well, so the Discovery Institute seminar included students from Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe.

Wearing a bright, flowing dress, 28-year-old **Jediadah Chilufya** of Lusaka, Zambia, quickly typed notes on her cracked tablet as science philosopher Stephen Meyer spoke. A teaching assistant of microbiology at the University of Zambia, she wasn't just learning: She was preparing for a lecture on ID she'd give at the university once she returned home.

She was surprised to hear of the persecution American scientists faced, as Zambia encourages open dialogue. Christians make up 87 percent of the population, and while some professors are atheists, they like students to debate over evolution and religion. In one class, her Christian professor pointed to the diversity of microorganisms and said, "This obviously shows that despite all these harmful effects bacteria can have, God made us in a way that we don't just die to extinction."



Chilufya first heard about ID last year from her uncle, who had previously attended the Discovery Institute seminar. Excited to see how science helped reinforce her Christian beliefs, she started an Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness (IDEA) club at her university where students gather to discuss the origins of life.

As Chilufya applies to a master's program in microbiology, she is weighing what type of research she could do that would point to design. For instance, after hearing Gonzalez speak about fine-tuning, she's thinking about studying microorganisms that live in extreme places and how they were designed to survive those environments.

"Right now there's no threat in just speaking your view [in Zambia]," Chilufya said. "I'm not sure about 10 years from now, but I'm just thinking we should enjoy it while it lasts."

When Ali Demir* of Turkey was 12, he wondered about the origins of life and started

PHOTOS: DANIEL JAMES DEVINE



reading scientific and religious books in Turkish. It wasn't until he learned English in college that he found an ID-related article on the internet. He spent hours reading articles and books, and watching YouTube talks of the leading ID proponents: Michael Behe, Stephen Meyer, Richard Sternberg.

During the Seattle seminar Demir looked starstruck eating meals and playing Frisbee with his heroes. "I feel like I'm in YouTube!" he exclaimed. He said he knew Behe's lecture by heart, as he's watched his videos over and over again.

Demir can't tell any of his fellow college students in Turkey why he visited Seattle this summer. While 99 percent of Turkey—including Demir—is Muslim, academia is largely controlled by atheists because most religious leaders do not engage in scientific topics. Ali said he couldn't even tell his professors that he is a Muslim, much less a proponent of ID.

Demir's goal is to keep his beliefs quiet until he's tested the scientific evidence for ID himself and becomes a professor. Once he is in that position of authority, people will take his ideas seriously even if they disagree: "I'll continue asking these kinds of questions probably all my life because in my humble opinion it's more important and interesting than any other topic, our origin is more important than any other thing."

Andreas Müller* of Switzerland said he would probably be shunned by academics in his country if they knew about his belief in ID. As a boy, he saw airplanes and engines and wanted to know how they worked. Now in his 20s, he's finishing a master's degree in biotechnology and thinking of pursuing a doctorate in the same field, perhaps at a U.S. university.

Biotechnology, he says, is about building new systems from existing ones—like taking an insecticidal gene from a bacterium and adding it to the genome of a crop. But he doesn't think scientists will ever be able to build sophisticated biological machinery like the ones that already exist in nature. For instance the flagellum, the spinning whiplike structure some cells use to propel themselves, involves multiple protein parts working in harmony.

"It looks like a motor, like an onboard motor from a boat," Müller said. "If one of these single proteins doesn't work, the whole thing doesn't work." According to the lingo of intelligent design, the flagellum is "irreducibly complex."

At school, Müller generally keeps his thoughts about intelligent design to himself. He's still questioning which career route to take. Option 1: Be open about intelligent design from the start, and take whatever limited job openings he can find. Option 2: Keep quiet about ID until his career credentials are established firmly enough to withstand withering criticism. Option 3: Never say anything, and simply use his science career for the betterment of humanity.

"I think one day I will have to reveal it. When I'm 60 or 70," he laughs. "Or when I'm dying. ... One of those heroic sentences when you're dying: 'I was pro-ID! And I don't regret it!'" *—A.L. & D.J.D.*



HANGING IN THERE

by ***Samantha Gilman***

DESPITE RESTRICTIONS public schools place on what teachers can say, many Christians find ways to demonstrate their faith.

Kristin Silecchia, 24, tackled her first full-time teaching experience last year at Davis Middle School in Hillsdale, Mich. A Christian, she approached discipline in her class of 25 fifth-graders by always remembering Christ's forgiveness: "I try to start each day as a new day, especially if there was a behavior issue the previous day. They are going to make mistakes and I need to forgive them just as I've been forgiven."

When Silecchia hears a student swear or talk about inappropriate things, she takes a moment to step back and think of how to implement grace: "I think about what would be the best way to talk to them rather than just going up to them and scolding them for saying that."

After the Sandy Hook school shooting last December, about a third of the students in Hillsdale teacher Liz Youngman's high-school math class were absent, and the ones in class were agitated. One said, "One of the crazy people from the school is going to come and shoot us all."

Youngman discussed with her students the importance of believing in a life after death. She did not tell them to believe in God, but asked: If you don't believe in something after this life, "'does it matter if you are a good person or a bad person? If you just die and get buried in the end, what does it matter?' Kids really seemed to respond to that."

Carol Haviland was a special education teacher in Hillsdale for 35 years, and has been substitute teaching for the past 10. Her middle-school classes of about 15 "educationally impaired" and "learning disabled" students stayed with her for three straight years: "They were more like family, and you can say anything to family once you know them well."

As a Christian working in the public schools, Haviland knows the restrictions placed on teachers: "It really is doom and gloom, except there are ways you can not abandon your principles and still teach." When she substituted for a sixth-grade class many years ago, one girl told her, "I'm an atheist." Haviland stayed in touch with and prayed for the girl, who is now a junior in college and recently professed faith in Christ.

DeEtta Trainor has substitute-taught for 30 years at Hillsdale Middle School and High School. She is unashamed of her Christian faith: "I don't hide my testimony under a bushel basket; it's out there."

Trainor now teaches about once or twice per week: She does not preach, but when students come to her to talk about stress in their lives, she suggests that they pray and get connected to a church. Students she knows are Christian will sometimes sit and talk with her over lunch: "I had one student tell me, 'yeah, everybody knows you're a Christian,' and I thought that was the best compliment."

Megan Terasaki, who just gained her teaching credential last fall, sees her job as a relational ministry. Currently a substitute teacher in Torrance and Los Angeles school districts, Terasaki believes teachers can help point children in the right direction and teach them a lot through treating them right. She realizes, especially as a new teacher, that she can't afford to be overt with her faith, and oftentimes her views will be unpopular—yet she hopes to be a good steward with the job that God has given her.



'They are going to make mistakes and I need to forgive them just as I've been forgiven.'

"A lot of students don't have someone who loves them, so my ministry opportunity is loving my students," Terasaki said. "It's really investing in the kids and showing them that people do care about you. Even though you have nothing to give us, we have so much to give because of what Christ has done."

—with reporting by Angela Lu; Samantha Gilman is a WORLD intern

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SPLIT



DECISIONS

Charter growth may hurt private schools, a Christian college's growth may tempt regulators, and other good/bad education news



CHARTER CHALLENGE

by ***Joy Pullmann***

Advocates sell charter schools as a way to improve education, but evidence is mounting that charters eat into private school enrollment. This may damage opportunities for kids, as research consistently shows religious schools, which constitute most private institutions, educate children better than charter and traditional public schools.

This spring, the Census Bureau reported U.S. private school enrollment at a 55-year low, and attributed the slide largely to charter schools—experimental public schools free from some regulations. They sprouted in 1992. Other studies have concluded similarly: A 2006 study found that for every three students a charter school gains, private schools will lose one. Families that pick private and charter schools are similar, said study co-author Ron Zimmer: They typically have two parents and better-educated fathers. This suggests charters and private schools compete more against each other than against traditional public schools, he said.

"You hear [private schools] saying good times are not coming back," said Michael Horn, education director at the Clayton Christensen Institute. Horn believes competition will "take out the low end in the market of independent schools over the next several years." Suburban, city, and large private schools have been hardest hit by charter school competition, and especially inner-city Catholic schools, the Census Bureau found.

In 2011, Seacoast Christian Academy in Jacksonville, Fla., turned its K-5 classes into Seacoast Charter Academy, dropping its weekly chapel service. A number of Catholic schools have become charter schools, removing crucifixes from walls and ending daily recitations of the Lord's Prayer.

This shift may reduce the quality of school options families have, as students enrolled in religious schools are academically a year ahead of their charter and traditional public school peers, according to a 2012 analysis of 90 studies.

As some private schools have shed overtly religious elements in their attempt to keep students, others have begun to mimic charters by diving into technology and online learning.

Online teacher Dannie McKee has taught hundreds of children she has never seen. She gushes about her principal, whom she has also never met. "If she walked up to me I might not recognize her," McKee said, from her RV inside a Mississippi state park. "I would know her voice."

About three years ago, twice-retired McKee found her job upon interacting with her current boss over Facebook. She accepted the job teaching economics and computer skills for Sevenstar, one of the largest online Christian schools, during another RV trip home from El Paso, and teaches on and off frequent road trips with her husband, equipped with a cell phone,

ON THE ROAD: McKee working with a student. CHUCK COOK/GENESIS

laptop, iPad, and mobile router.

McKee's students are equally mobile. They hail from the United States, China, Ecuador, Germany, Haiti, South Korea, and the Mercy Ships traveling hospital. Sevenstar signs students up individually and through private schools looking to offer extra classes—especially Advanced Placement, remediation, and foreign languages.



BLENDED LEARNING: Middle-school students at Oaks.

Many traditional schools incorporate computer instruction, in what's called "blended learning." Each week, online students at Oaks Christian Academy join a chat room "students cannot miss, wherever they are in the world," said Vicki Conway, the online school's director. On Oaks' campus north of Los Angeles, all students must take at least two classes online to graduate. Businesses expect employees to teleconference and work independently, and "universities are about 10 years ahead of K-12 education in implementing online learning," Conway noted.

Students play Pictionary, hold student assemblies, videoconference with teachers, and watch daily chapel services online. Classes blend reading, homework, quizzes and tests, video lectures, and Q&A with teachers. "There is no replacement for the plays and the football games," Conway tells students. "If you can afford our tuition, you should definitely be with a teacher in a small class. But … if you can't be here, then it's a good way to go to school."

Full-time online students must have what Conway calls "a compelling reason." Some care for disabled siblings. For others, a job took the family to Barbados or the United Arab Emirates. Some are junior Olympic athletes or have acting careers, like *Supernatural* star Colin Ford.

Conway only accepts self-directed students who can handle extra freedom: "You can't force a student to work online. Nothing is passive. You must click, and decide what you will study next, choose how to organize your day, [and] say, 'I didn't learn that very well, I'm going to go back and study that again.'"

For this reason, most online learning programs target and enroll high-school students. Fewer enroll middle-schoolers, and just a few aim for elementary children. But some schools "flip the classroom," as teachers record lectures for students to watch at home, then use class time for guided homework.

Oaks math teacher Wendi Klaiber has been teaching for 23 years, but began exploring blended learning two years ago: "I had no idea what a wiki was. Web 2.0? No idea." Then she joined an online book club and started following techie teacher blogs: "At first there was a resistance, but people are starting to ask a lot more questions now."

Klaiber flips her classroom when she feels the material warrants it. For example, she used to spend class time after tests reviewing wrong answers. Now she videos herself working through wrong answers and emails the link to her students: "That way I maximize my classroom time." She also holds virtual office hours, where students work through problems with her remotely, while screen sharing: "Some students can take notes and go refresh them, but for the auditory students videos are a great way to relearn the things they didn't get in class the first time," Klaiber said.

Oaks started its online program from scratch, and Conway cautions schools not to underestimate the technology and personnel costs. Sevenstar licenses software and content, and each course costs about $300,000 to develop, said marketing director John Rotheray. Besides only selecting students who

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will thrive online, Conway also recommends explicit instruction in "character traits" and skills such as persistence, meeting deadlines, and how to upload assignments.

Online education's "big promise" is allowing the best teachers to reach more students, Horn says, although most schools currently use online education as an add-on. This possibility worries some, Conway noted: "What happens to a teacher's position if students are [instead] taking classes from the best Christian calculus teacher in the U.S.?"

Six years ago, when she was asked to teach online after 10 years in the classroom, "I came a little bit kicking and screaming," Conway said—but she soon "fell in love with how close you can become with the students." So did McKee, who keeps in touch with former students, just as when she taught in public schools. Now, though, she can pray with students and send them encouraging Bible verses: "You form these bonds."

—Joy Pullmann is managing editor of School Reform News

HOMESCHOOLING IST VERBOTEN

by ***Kaitlyn Speer***

Domenic Johansson and his parents Christer (a Swede) and Annie (a native of India) were on a plane to leave Sweden in 2009 when Swedish authorities suddenly grabbed the 7-year-old boy from his parents and took him away. The custody battle that followed made headlines across the world, but ended with Swedish courts terminating the Johanssons' parental rights on the grounds that they had not given Domenic proper physical care (he had two cavities in his baby teeth and hadn't been immunized) and proper emotional care: They were homeschooling him.

Domenic is now living in a foster home, and Michael Donnelly of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) acknowledges that the Johanssons "have no appeals left ... virtually no hope ... very



OUTLAW: A homeschool student at work in his home in Germany.

JENS MEYER/AP

little we can do." Theirs is an extreme case, but homeschoolers in Germany face similar pressure. Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich outlawed homeschooling in Germany in 1938, and it is still illegal there. The Romeike family fled Germany in 2008 and is seeking asylum in the United States against the wishes of the Obama administration (see "Schools of thought," April 19).

Some 400 homeschooling families remain in Germany, with almost all operating underground or fighting in court. Joerg Grosseluemern of Netzwerk Bildungsfreiheit (a German homeschool organization and support group) says in most cases homeschooling families receive fines equivalent to $260 to $2,600: "We observe in Europe and even worldwide the tendency to take the responsibility of education as a whole—not only school education—away from the parents to the government." The government can jail parents who don't pay.

As some western European governments curtail freedom, families in some formerly Communist countries have new hope. HSLDA estimates that Russia now has 70,000 homeschoolers, and Pavel Parfentiev, who chairs the Russian NGO "For Family Rights," calls Russia a "champion in homeschooling freedom in continental Europe." He notes more work to do: "In practice, there are two problems—the legally recognized right to home educate is not always known and followed by the local authorities at the school level—so the families sometimes face sort of troubles and persecution. The other problem is that in practice, homeschoolers in Russia are bound to the school where they should pass the tests at least yearly."

In Romania, it is legal to enroll children in a school outside Romania and teach according to a foreign method, if that method is a legal one in that foreign country. Some 200 Romanian homeschooling families follow that process, Romanian Homeschooling Association president Gabriel Curcubet told me: "The single problem with enrolling children in schools outside Romania is that children must learn in English and parents need to know English in order to teach their children. The majority of Romanian families are not speaking English at all, some other are not speaking well enough to teach their children. We would like to legalize homeschooling to help the Romanian families to homeschool their children legally and in Romanian language."

Elsewhere in the world, the homeschooling movement is growing and governments are grappling with it. Godfrey Kyazze, a curriculum coordinator with his wife Olga at New Hope Uganda, said homeschooling is becoming more popular in his country: "The law in the land requires every school-going child to be in 'school' and that's it. However there is a steadily growing movement of home educators and we are trying to mobilize ourselves into a legal entity."

Kyazze notes Africans are debating how well parents are equipped for homeschooling: "If we are looking at education as teaching children calculus, physics, and things of the like, yes, it will take some training of those families to do so or some extra help. But if we look at education as giving life to children or passing on what you know to the next generation, then every family is doing it for good and for worse already."

—Kaitlyn Speer is a World Journalism Institute graduate



OPENING DOORS: A class at Gutenberg College.

HANDOUT

CLASSICAL AND PRACTICAL?

by ***Michael Reneau***

In 2008, during his last year at Gutenberg College, a small Oregon institution that emphasizes classical Christian education, James Simas spent hours swinging pendulums in laboratories. His task: Study Galileo's theories on pendulums and build your own experiments to prove or disprove them.

A few months and a bachelor's degree later, though, Simas found himself swinging hammers while repairing rusted roofs of Oregon farm buildings, and then chopping wood. With no promising career prospects in sight, he had "a crisis of self-definition for a while. I had to work through, 'Who am I?'"

In 2009, though, a temporary customer service job at Symantec, a computer software company with a nearby call center, turned into a full-time position in Symantac customer service and technical support. Simas now works with software engineers and other technical support specialists to help solve tech problems for Symantec's commercial customers. His gray cubicle is not a book-lined study, but he plans to stay: "My ability to pick things up quickly is what allowed me to excel here."

Well-known universities like Baylor and Biola also offer honors programs that have students reading classic texts of the Western canon and spending hours discussing them and their ideas with groups of classmates—but students like Anthony Kemp also gain some specialized skills and experiences. Kemp read great books at Biola's Torrey Honors Institute but also studied screenwriting and landed an internship at a film production company. After graduation in 2010 he was able to gain an internship and then a job at Pixar, where he has worked on the films *Cars 2* and the recently released *Monsters University*.

Danielle Hitchen, another Biola and Torrey graduate, moved to Washington, D.C., after graduating in 2010. She landed a public relations job thanks to a personal connection. But 14-hour days spent with phone in hand pitching stories to journalists wore her down: She hardly ate a home-cooked meal, couldn't attend church regularly, and "felt like I had to dumb down my ability to think about things." She quit her job but spent months applying to more than 20 jobs before the National Review Institute—founded by William Buckley—hired her last year.

Aspiring filmmaker Sydney Alford applied to 60 Hollywood jobs when she finished at Biola in 2008, and learned that "nobody cares where you went to school." A friend got her a job at a small company where she worked as a producer's assistant for two-and-a-half years to gain experience in film logistics, which included everything from keeping filming crews on schedule to managing parking. Two years ago Alford became one of 12 trainees at the Directors Guild of America, the top union for directors and their staffs in Hollywood. She has worked on TV shows like NBC's *The Office* and ABC's *The Neighbors*, among others, and will be a member of the Guild in a few more months—something that usually takes several years.

Administrators say many students—about one-fourth of Gutenberg's, half of Great Texts Program majors at Baylor, and 70 percent of students at St. John's College, a non-Christian classical education school in Annapolis, Md.—pursue graduate degrees. **Maggie Heim** graduated from St. John's in 2008 and then worked for a year at Fannie Mae, the federally backed mortgage security company that regularly brings in classically educated students to work in data analysis. Heim then went to Northwestern's law school and just began work as a public defender in Mount Vernon, Ill.



LIBERTY: KEVIN MANGUIOB/LIBERTY UNIVERSITY · HELM: HANDOUT

Classical education advocates say students walk away from those programs as better learners, which prepares them for a rapidly changing economy. St. John's Alumni Relations Director Leo Pickens says 10 percent of graduates go on to practice law and 20 percent go into business. About 19 percent work in education, 15 percent become journalists, media professionals, or artists, and 9 percent work in medicine.

—Michael Reneau is a World Journalism Institute mid-career course graduate



GROWING: Liberty President Jerry Falwell Jr. stands in front of the Jerry Falwell Library.

ADVANCING LIBERTY

by ***Warren Cole Smith***

WHETHER YOU LOVED or hated Liberty University founder Jerry Falwell Sr.—and there are plenty in both camps—you have to be impressed by the size of the university he created in the mountain town of Lynchburg, Va.: More than 12,500 residential students on its 6,000-acre campus (largest Christian college in the world). Nearly 100,000 online students (by far the largest online Christian college in the world, and one of the largest of any kind).

Liberty has more than $400 million in construction currently underway: the $50 million Jerry Falwell Library, a $40 million Center for Medical and Health Sciences, tens of millions more in new residence halls. A drive through the campus this summer was an exercise in dodging orange cones and construction cranes. The plan is to finish by next year virtually all of the projects underway now—and Liberty President Jerry Falwell Jr., says "the university's cash reserve will not drop below $1 billion in spite of all the construction."

So while the skies look blue over Lynchburg, Liberty—and all colleges—will face storms in the years ahead. For one: There will simply be fewer college-aged people 10 years from now than today. Also, the portfolio of federally guaranteed student loans passed $1 trillion in 2012. Some analysts think the crash of the student loan market is the next great economic crisis. And last year, Liberty's approximately $800 million budget included more than $400 million in federal funds.

The bottom line: honoring Jerry Falwell Jr.'s pledge to keep growing and to remain debt-free will not be easy.

Liberty wasn't always flush. It has teetered on the brink of disaster for most of its life. Mark DeMoss, who graduated from Liberty in 1984 and soon became Jerry Falwell Sr.'s chief of staff, remembers the worst years were 1989 through 1991: "Lots of times I would hear Jerry on the phone talking with donors on Wednesday, asking them to wire money to us so we could make a payroll on Friday. That didn't happen just once or twice. That happened a lot."

Author Alex McFarland remembers attending Liberty chapels as a graduate student about that time: "Dr. Falwell was, if nothing else, completely transparent. He would say, 'We need a million dollars by Friday' or 'we need $10 million by the end of the year.'" He would ask the students to pray. McFarland said some students would roll their eyes at Falwell's continuous appeals for money, but they made him feel he was a part of the solution: "We loved Liberty, and it was threatened. Lots of us—even those of us without money—felt like we could make a difference by praying."

That sense of mission was almost not enough. In 1991, Liberty had planned to issue bonds to give it some financial relief. At the last minute, the bond offering fell through. Liberty in 1992 was $82 million in debt and laying people off wholesale. These crises forced Falwell Sr. to focus. He shut down his political organization, the Moral Majority, and focused his attention on being the pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church and being president of Liberty University. It was Liberty, though, that took all the heavy lifting.

The school survived financially for three reasons: big donors, distance learning, and—ironically—help from big government:

Big donors included billionaire A.L. "Art" Williams, whose name is now on the Liberty football stadium. Another, Art DeMoss, Mark's father, had founded National Liberty, a life insurance company that made DeMoss one of the richest men in America. Art DeMoss died at age 53 in 1979, just as Mark prepared to enter Liberty University. Mark recalls that time: "The Falwells took me in. Jerry became a second father to me." When DeMoss graduated in 1984, he worked as Falwell's chief of staff, working through the worst part of the financial crisis without pay. DeMoss is now a Liberty board member and major contributor.

Distance learning revenue grew in 1985 when Provost Ron Godwin started videotaping Liberty classes and selling VHS tapes through Falwell Sr.'s radio and television broadcasts. The series was hugely profitable: Once a course was on tape, the only costs were duplication and mailing.

Politically conservative Liberty University became a massive recipient of one of modern liberalism's flagship big government programs: Pell Grants and federal student loans. Last year, of Liberty University's nearly $800 million budget, about $400 million of it came from federal government sources. About $40 million came from Pell Grants, and most of the rest from federally backed student loans.

Despite these advantages, at the time of Jerry Falwell Sr.'s death in 2007, the school was still almost $30 million in debt. Falwell Sr.'s last grand gesture to the university he founded was naming Liberty the beneficiary of a $34 million life insurance policy. Falwell's death accomplished what he had never been able to do in life. Liberty University was now, for the first time ever, completely debt-free.

It also had a succession strategy. Jerry Falwell Jr. had been a friend and classmate of Mark DeMoss in the last graduating class before Liberty Baptist College changed its name to Liberty University. Falwell Jr. then went to the elite University of Virginia law school and became general counsel for Liberty. DeMoss saw both Falwells almost daily during these years and recalls the father/son differences in style were stark. The father came into the building and made everyone aware of his presence. The son would come in the back door, go into his office, and shut the door. "He might work all day in his office, and then quietly leave," DeMoss said. "You'd never know he was there."



SCHOOL SPIRIT: A student holds up her hand during a convocation; a life-sized portrait of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell hangs in DeMoss Hall; an aerial view of the campus (clockwise from left).

NORM SHAFER/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES

But behind that door Falwell Jr. poured himself into contracts and financial statements, mastering the mechanics of the school. When Jerry Falwell Sr. died on May 15, 2007, son Jonathan became pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, and Jerry Jr. became president of Liberty. The introverted Falwell became a major presence at student events and, according to Mark DeMoss, "grew into the job, exceeding everyone's expectations."







TOP: JILL NANCE/NEWS & DAILY ADVANCE/AP
BOTTOM: DAVID DUNCAN/LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

He has also shrunk into the job: Falwell Sr.'s rotundity contributed to his health problems and sudden death, so when Falwell Jr. looked in the mirror a couple of years ago and saw he looked more like his father every day, he lost 60 pounds over the next 18 months. He now weighs 175, about the same as when he graduated from Liberty. It was an act of methodical disciple typical of the son, but hard to imagine of the father.

Jerry Falwell Jr., will need that discipline in the years ahead, as he, Liberty, and colleges generally face pressures.

First, what lives by federal funds can also die that way. Falwell Jr. defends the use of federal dollars: "Our default rates are well below the national average," he told me. That's true. The national default rate in 2010 was 5.2 percent. That year, Liberty's default rate was 4.1 percent. Falwell Jr. also claims, "We have so far had no interference in our curriculum from the federal government." But how long that will last no one knows. Colleges are under increasing pressure to treat homosexuality like race: no discrimination allowed. Falwell Jr. said if that happened, Liberty would simply stop participating in the program: "We're now in a financial position that would allow us to simply exit the program. ... If it became necessary, that's what we would do."

Obamacare poses another challenge. Lawyers for Liberty argued the provision of the healthcare law imposes costly burdens on employers and infringes on religious liberty, both in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Liberty's case in 2011, but the U.S. Supreme Court reversed that decision, keeping Liberty's legal fight alive. A new 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Aug. 7 means the case will once again go to the Supreme Court.

Some have also noted that neither Jonathan nor Jerry Jr. is as outspoken on political or "culture war" issues as their father. *New York* magazine's "The Daily Intelligencer" went so far as to call the silence of the sons a shift in policy. "Liberty's [stand] on gay marriage—from vocal activism to quiet tut-tutting—are likely a product of the school's increased focus on growth over ideological unity." Falwell Jr. insists the school will never compromise on its core Christian distinctives. Every faculty member has to reaffirm the school's doctrinal statement every year, said Provost Ron Godwin, which affirms, among more than two dozen doctrines, that "the universe was created in six historical days."

Still, Liberty has a lot going for it. As the internet became more widespread, Liberty quickly converted its old VHS tapes to digital, online video, making Liberty one of the early leaders in online learning. This "first-mover advantage" into the online market continues to generate outsized profits for the college. The size of the school means that thousands of graduates join Liberty's alumni pool every year—all of them potential donors. Other colleges have more than Liberty's $1 billion in assets, but no other Christian colleges do. Falwell Jr. said within five minutes of our first meeting, "Schools like Harvard have more assets. But it took Harvard 350 years to get there. We did it in less than 40."



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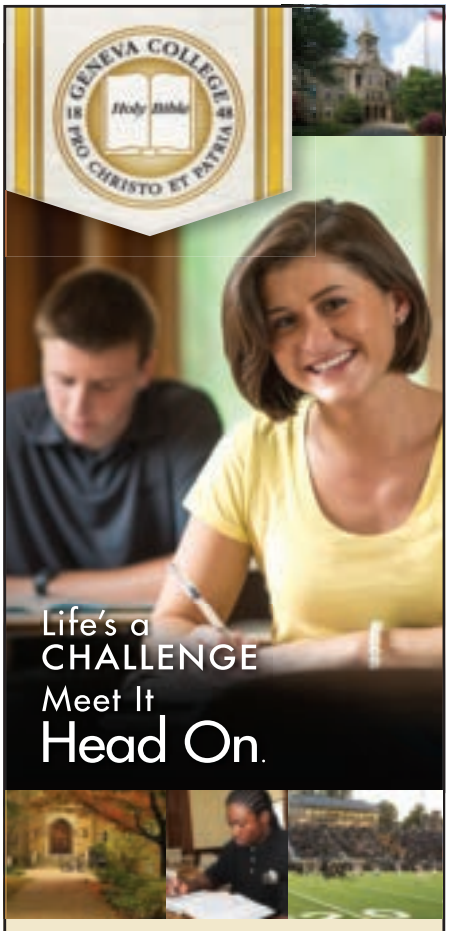
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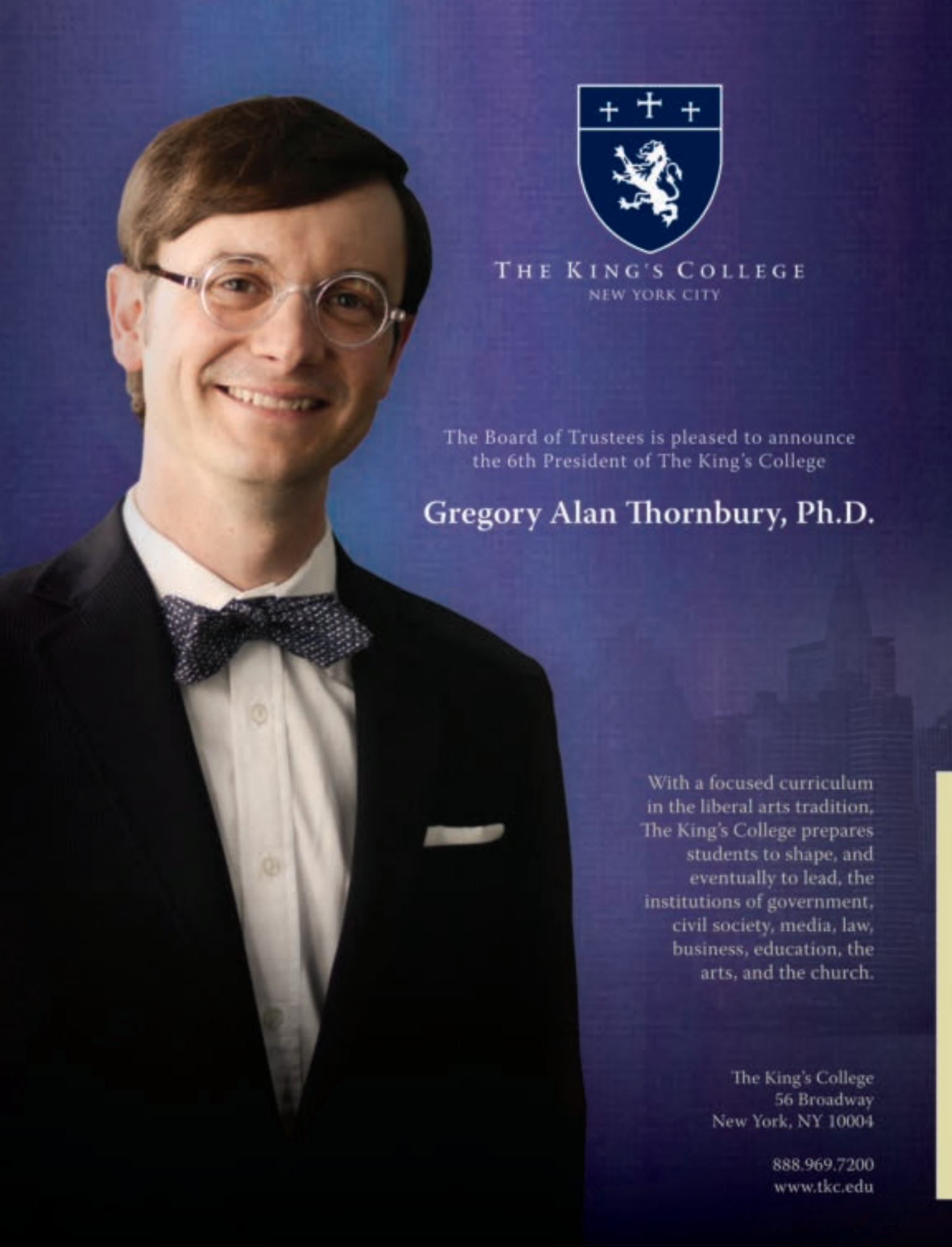
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KRIEG BARRIE

Homebodies

For many, daily commutes from bed to home office beat the alternative

BY ANGELA LU

THE HAZY SILHOUETTE of the Los Angeles skyline taunts the river of cars inching down the 101 Freeway at 8 a.m. on Friday. Drivers drink coffee, fight leg cramps, and sometimes bang their heads on the steering wheels as patience wanes. So close, yet—driving 8 miles per hour—so far away.

For thousands of Angelenos, the 30-mile trek from the suburbs of San Fernando Valley to the towering office buildings of downtown Los Angeles is a daily ritual. Without traffic the trip takes 35 minutes, yet during rush hour—an amorphous time that stretches from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.—it takes 60 to 90 minutes. Add in an accident or construction, and gridlock nightmares become reality.

Solutions to the L.A. traffic problems have provided minimal relief: Downtown revitalization and a small metro system help a few commuters but don't affect most car-dependent residents in the 500-square-mile urban sprawl. Gov. Jerry Brown's answer is a $68 billion bullet train stretching across the state, but in the woefully cash-strapped state, even liberals balk at the idea.

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For the past few years, city planners have been advocating a more practical solution–working from home. With fewer people driving to offices, fewer cars congest the freeways, which means less pollution and faster commute times. On a personal level, working remotely boasts benefits of more time spent with family, more flexible work hours, and savings in time and money. But some workers say it also blurs work and home boundaries, and limits social interactions.

Analysts expect the number of people teleworking by 2017 to surpass the number taking public transit. For Don Harada, a corporate manager for pharmaceutical company Sunovion, teleworking has been a way of life for the past 15 years. While he previously worked in an office an hour away, he now spends half his time visiting clients, and the rest in his Valencia home. He remembers sitting in his backyard his first week working from home, watching the sunset with his wife and marveling, "How long has it been since we've been able to do this?"

It took a while for Harada to get used to the new work structure: For workaholic types like himself, it was hard to separate work life and home life. In the first few months, his wife had to remind him to shut down the computer at night and take breaks. He sometimes missed water cooler banter, but with phone calls, emails, and business trips, he's able to build camaraderie with his co-workers.

Still, Harada sees the benefits of being around as his four daughters grow up outweighing any of the disadvantages: "I'm here watching everything. It's a good benefit being around during the day when [the kids are] actually active. It's a lot like homeschooling, there's the freedom of flexibility. As long as the work can get done, you're not limited by your schedule." He spends time with his daughters when they come home from school, attends their swim meets, and helps them with projects. He then resumes work later at night.

Others spend their day working in Starbucks, sipping coffee while taking advantage of its free Wi-Fi and outlets. Grant Rodgers, a screenwriter, said for creative types like him, the office setting is not conducive for writing. Depending on the type of movie he's working on, Rodgers picks different locations to work: his home, the beach, a cabin in the mountains, or coffee shops. Today Rodgers is parked at a Starbucks for the afternoon, working on the script for *Rio 2* with his headphones on. With his current deadline, he works 12-hour days and often doesn't get to bed until 2 a.m., but he said he enjoys this type of work much more than his previous 9 to 5 job at an insurance company. He hated commuting to work, and even now dreads sitting in traffic to get to Burbank studios for job assignments or production meetings.



ALTERNATE OFFICE: Some telecommuters prefer public spaces such as coffee shops.

"I can speak only for my individual line of work, but it's the preferred way," Rodgers said.

"Only the suits like producers or managers go into the office. We don't like that, we don't want to put on a tie."

For Rodgers, the biggest downside of working from home is the lack of human contact. Even though he's surrounded by other Starbucks patrons, everyone is so focused on work that he misses talking with people. He often calls up friends to talk about trivial topics like "Did you hear the name of the royal baby?"

"Bob"—WORLD is using a pseudonym because he fears job reprisal—works as a business developer and consultant and says he's built a rapport with the other remote workers at the Starbucks he frequents in West Hills. He says he does his best work early in the morning, so he wakes up at 4:30, works out at the gym, then starts working either at home, Starbucks, or the public library. Formerly an employee at a green energy company, Bob said working from home helps the city's poor air quality, drops his yearly travel from 15,000 to 7,000 miles, and saves him money on gas, car insurance, and car maintenance.

Bob believes technology has advanced to a point where many employees can work remotely, but traditional management has resisted the change. In response to common critiques that working from home increases distractions, he said workplace distractions exist as well: "I've seen people playing solitaire or just staring into space. I don't think losing focus is unique to one setting."

I tried driving home from downtown L.A. at 4:20 p.m. on Friday. Traffic was stop and go. I arrived at my front door at 5:30 p.m., tired, cranky, and $8 poorer from the day's commute.

Regarding the time Harada saves by skipping L.A. traffic: His tendency is to "fill it up with work ... I know the frustration level is less, and I can say I'm much more productive and efficient because I'm not wasting that time in traffic." ⊕

CHARLES KRUPA/AP

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WATCHED: TV cameras can turn spy.

Hacked at home

Wireless devices in appliances may be too smart for their own good **BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE**

Household appliances are getting so "smart" these days. You can control the temperature of a smart oven using an Android app. With a smart thermostat, you can adjust home temperature while traveling. Smart light bulbs will brighten or change colors through a tablet app, and smart TVs stream movies directly from the internet. There's even a $5,686 smart toilet that flushes automatically or by remote. (A lever was too much trouble?)

Many such devices are considered "smart" because they operate using the internet or home wireless networks. And therein lies the problem: As more household products go online or on Wi-Fi, they heighten the possibility some homeowners will be hacked, either by sophisticated burglars or mischievous neighbors.

Security researchers at Black Hat, a hackers' conference in Las Vegas this summer, drove home the point by demonstrating how they could easily hack into wireless home devices. They explained how to open a garage door, disarm a security system, and unlock a dead bolt simply by tapping into a wireless home network hub.

"If someone breaks into your house and there's no sign of forced entry, how are you going to get your insurance company back?" asked Daniel Crowley, a Trustwave Holdings security consultant who revealed the dead bolt glitch at Black Hat.

Other security researchers at the conference explained how they could hijack a Samsung smart TV using a computer virus, either attached to an email or downloaded through the TV's Web browser. The virus would allow them to activate the TV's camera to spy on a homeowner in his own living room.

After the researchers informed Samsung of the security flaw, the company issued a software patch to fix the vulnerable TVs. But other, undiscovered ways to hack into them may exist. In a statement, Samsung said worried customers could adjust the camera so the lens is covered—or they could "unplug the TV from the home network when the Smart TV features are not in use."

It seems that manufacturers, in their rush to sell cutting-edge products, sometimes include only elementary security measures that a person with technical know-how could easily crack. The $5,686 toilet, made by Lixil, a Japanese company, uses wireless Bluetooth signals to flush, spray a bidet nozzle, or activate an air dryer. Because the security PIN is set by default to "0000," any nearby prankster could download the toilet's Android app and wirelessly tap into the controls.

Of course, a serious criminal wouldn't be interested in commandeering a toilet. And it would take a smart criminal to unlock a smart dead bolt or fire up a smart TV camera. But with those possibilities out there, some might decide to hang on to their dumb fridge a while longer.

SMOKE SIGNALS

A new "intelligent knife" can tell the difference between healthy cells and cancerous ones—in the middle of surgery. As a surgeon cauterizes malignant tissue, the iKnife sucks up and analyzes the smoke, indicating in real time whether the tissue was cancerous. The knife could reduce the chance that a surgeon accidentally leaves cancerous cells behind, especially during brain surgery, where the cancer can be difficult to spot. *—D.J.D.*



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Price pioneers

A surgical center in Oklahoma City brings healthy competition to healthcare

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE



Rotator cuff repair: $6,260. Hammertoe repair: $2,860. Cochlear implant: $8,800. Gallbladder removal: $5,865. Hysterectomy: $8,000.

Those aren't average or estimated surgery prices. They're actual ones, several among dozens advertised online by the Surgery Center of Oklahoma. The physician-owned surgical center in Oklahoma City is doing the unheard-of in healthcare: It's competing. The center has sparked a local price battle that is attracting national attention, and may be on the cusp of a broad movement toward healthcare price transparency.

In July KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City reported a state university hospital had charged $21,556 for gallbladder removal—more than three times as much as the Surgery Center of Oklahoma charges. Another local hospital charged $37,174 for a hysterectomy (nearly five times as much).

"Healthcare needs some healthy competition," says Dr. G. Keith Smith, the co-founder of the surgical center. Smith and his colleagues have been quoting prices over the phone since 1997. When they launched their website in 2009, they listed prices there. Other local clinics and hospitals subsequently began quoting prices over the phone, online, or through third party websites.

The prices advertised by the Surgery Center of Oklahoma apply only to self-paying patients who provide money up front. The center also doesn't accept Medicare or Medicaid patients—although Smith claims its prices are less than what Medicaid reimburses local hospitals.

"We turn a profit on every case. The prices I have listed online are between a sixth and a 10th of what the so-called not-for-profit hospitals charge for the same procedures."

Business is booming, with patients coming from as far away as Canada, Nigeria, and Israel. "I get emails every day from people that are asking me, 'How did you do this? We want to do this at our hospital or surgery center.'" Smith says not every hospital is eager to post prices, though, "because this price opacity gives them cover for all the money they are making."

SMITH: "Healthcare needs some healthy competition."

U.S. patients and employers are realizing how wildly unpredictable medical bills can be. A few years ago the supermarket chain Safeway found providers in San Francisco were billing between $848 and $5,984 for the same procedure—a colonoscopy.

The reasons for price disparities are complex: Because a hospital often writes off unpaid bills, for example, it may charge more than a surgical center. Yet, some competition is creeping in, if clumsily. The website NewChoiceHealth.com offers medical procedure price comparisons for providers in various U.S. cities. It notes in a disclaimer that its prices are computed from an algorithm and are "not 100 percent accurate."

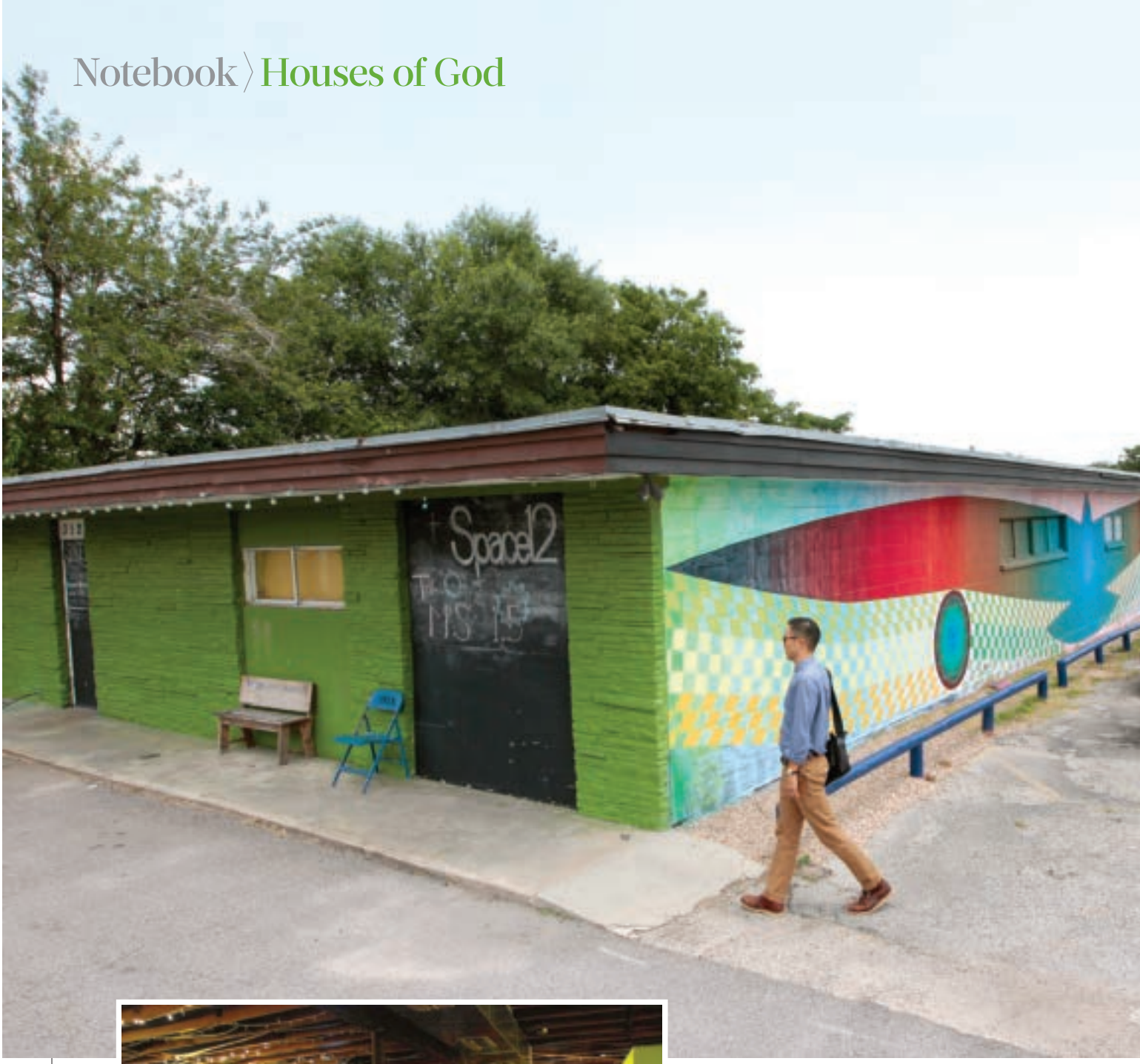


Delayed consent

Sixty-two years late, scientists have finally asked for permission to study cells copped from Henrietta Lacks, a poor, uneducated African-American woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951. As documented in the 2010 bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, neither Lacks nor her family gave consent for researchers to culture and experiment with her tumor cells, but they've used them in 74,000 studies anyway. Under a new agreement with the woman's descendants that took effect in August, the Lacks family will have some say-so in how scientists use genetic information from the quaintly named HeLa cell line. *—D.J.D.*

TOP: REASON TV ; BOTTOM: LACKS FAMILY VIA THE HENRIETTA LACKS FOUNDATION/AP

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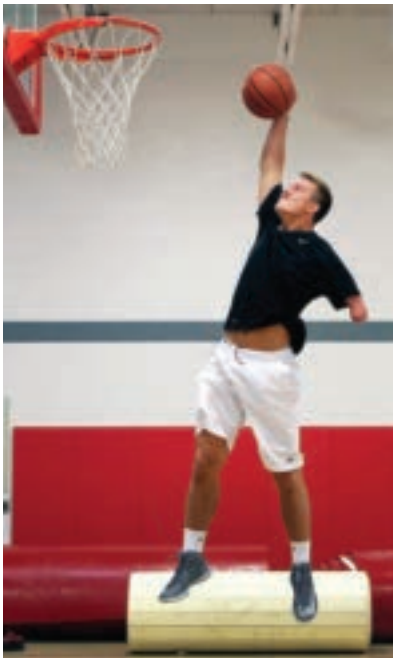


Rev. Gideon Tsang of **Vox Veniae**, outside the shared space used by the church in Austin, Texas. Vox Veniae began in 2006 as a church for Chinese-Americans but has quickly become multiracial. The congregation in 2011 became part of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

TOP: ERICH SCHLEGEL/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX
BOTTOM: HANDOUT

One-armed force

Georgia basketball player may be on his way to an NCAA powerhouse **BY ZACHARY ABATE**



THE SCOUTING reports on 17-year-old **Zach Hodskins** all say the same thing. The kid can play basketball.

"Talented player. Beautiful shot," wrote one scout. "Blew past [defenders]. ... One of the most deadly three-point shooters at the Scouts Focus All American Camp," wrote another.

Eventually the scouts note the most remarkable part of Hodskins' ability: He's playing with one arm.

Despite being born without the lower half of his left arm, Hodskins shines as a guard for his high-school team in Alpharetta, Ga. His drive and determination, despite his athletic disadvantage, have made Hodskins popular beyond his home court—a YouTube video showing a Hodskins' "highlight reel" has over 3 million views.

On Aug. 15 University of Florida coach Billy Donovan offered Hodskins a spot on the team for the 2014-2015 NCAA basketball season. Although the offer does not come with a scholarship, Hodskins now has the opportunity to play for one of the best college basketball programs in the country. Florida is a perennial powerhouse and claimed the national championship trophy in 2006 and 2007.

"When I'm out [on the court], I forget my arm isn't there and just play ball," Hodskins told Ohio's *News-Herald*. "Passion and love for the sport helps me overcome all obstacles. To this day I haven't come across anything I can't do."



UNAPPEALING ALEX

Fans boo but baseball players typically stick up for each other. Disgraced star Alex Rodriguez is the exception. He's playing while he appeals his 211-game suspension for using performance-enhancing drugs and tampering with an MLB investigation, but many players are saying what Red Sox pitcher John Lackey told *The Boston Globe*: "I've got a problem with it. ... How is he still playing? He obviously did something and he's playing. I'm not sure that's right."

New York manager Joe Girardi and the rest of the Yankees have remained professional and diplomatic while talking to the media about the scandal, but Girardi has admitted he is "tired of the steroids" questions and several players have declined to talk to reporters. Fans have jeered Rodriguez before, during, and after games. Chants of "Steroids!" and "Cheater!" have broken out wherever the Yankees travel to play. Rodriguez has neither confessed to his involvement in the current performance-enhancing drug scandal nor apologized for his behavior. According to MLB Players Association executive director Michael Weiner, the appeal process will not be concluded until after the season ends. *—Z.A.*



California surprise

On June 22, the Los Angeles Dodgers were in last place in the National League West division, 10 games behind the Arizona Diamondbacks. Many journalists were taking pleasure in the failure of the team with the second-highest payroll in baseball, and the Los Angeles fan base was frustrated. But one of the glories of baseball is its changeability: Over their next 50 games, the Los Angeles Dodgers pulled off one of the longest stretches of success in baseball history. The club won 42 out of 50 games—84 percent—to vault into first place.

The 1942 St. Louis Cardinals led by Hall of Famer Stan Musial was the last team to accomplish this feat. How did the Dodgers do it? Injured players returned, rookie sensation Yasiel Puig has been spectacular since his debut with the team in early June, and ... the rest is mystery. But with a pitching rotation anchored by aces Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke, the Dodgers are now the World Series favorite. *—Z.A.*

HODSKINS: LONNIE TIMMONS III/THE PLAIN DEALER/LANDOV · RODRIGUEZ: JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES · PUIG: ROB CARMELL/CAL SPORT MEDIA/AP

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Back-to-school taxes

Government-manufactured costs drive up prices for everyone

BY WARREN COLE SMITH

The back-to-school season is already painful enough for many families. College tuition grew 3.9 percent last year. That's the smallest rise in 40 years, but still twice the rate of inflation. Tuition costs vary widely, but at the high end is Columbia University, which last year charged $47,246 for tuition and fees alone.

Given those gigantic costs, the import taxes we pay on back-to-school clothes, backpacks, and supplies may not seem like a lot, but they add insult to injury, and they also add up. According to Sally Platt of the Heritage Foundation, in 2012 alone the U.S. government collected about $30 billion in import taxes—many of them on common back-to-school items. "These hidden taxes are levied on everything from jeans to glasses to food," she said. According to Heritage, tariffs account for more than 20 percent of the cost of sneakers, 16 percent of the cost of jeans and T-shirts, and 17 percent of the cost of the backpacks in which students haul around all their overtaxed items. "They inflate the cost of everyday goods and make August a more difficult time for American families," Platt said.

And this is before state and local governments tack on sales taxes. In recent years, some states have offered tax-free weekends, but John Hood of the John Locke Foundation says these tax holidays are "gimmicks, not rational tax policies." He said, "Taxing families more throughout the year in order to give them a break once a year does them no favors. Retailers also don't sell more clothes, computers, notebooks, or pencils because of tax-free weekends. It just shifts the timing of the transactions."

Hood said it makes more sense to do what North Carolina and other states did this year: "Eliminate such gimmicks and simply reduce the overall tax burden families have to shoulder."



HIDDEN TAXES: Shoppers at an Alabama Target take advantage of a sales tax holiday.

SHOPPERS: SARAH COLE/AL.COM/LANDOV · EVANS: BRIAN CASSELLA/MCT/LANDOV

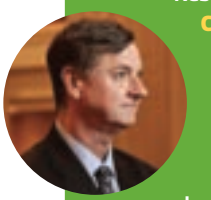
DOW PROPS

For a half-century, Wall Street operated by the maxim, "Sell in May and go away." That usually meant a quiet summer on the markets.

This year, not so much. Between June 24 and the end of July, the Dow went up almost exactly 1,000 points, more than 6.5 percent. On Aug. 1, the Dow was up 16.5 percent for the year.

Then came August, and the markets drifted, in part because Congress was not in session, and in part because both the Dow and the S&P 500 were near record highs, with little upside left.

The only real fireworks in August came when Federal Reserve official **Charles Evans** said economic growth should let the Fed reduce its $85 billion in monthly bond purchases later this year. Evans is president of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank and a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, the policy-making committee of the Fed, so his words carry some weight. He expects growth in the second half of the year to pick up to an annual rate of 2.5 percent and climb above 3 percent next year. He said the Fed could then taper its asset purchases in several stages, and likely end them by mid-2014.



In the 24 hours after he made his pronouncement on Aug. 6, the Dow dropped 100 points, and it continued to drift downward for another week, reminding us again that the $85 billion a month in government manipulation has made the free movements of the market anything but truly free. *—W.C.S.*



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Assembly of growth

Diverse Pentecostal denomination bucks trends in American Protestantism BY THOMAS KIDD

In an era when many American Protestant denominations are in numerical free fall, the Assemblies of God (AG) stands out as one of the nation's thriving religious groups. Eight thousand youths and 3,700 denominational leaders recently gathered at the AG's General Council in Orlando. Featured speakers included Pastor Wilfredo "Choco" De Jesus of Chicago's New Life Covenant Church, who was recently named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People," and former senator and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Recent statistics indicate moderate yet significant growth for the AG in America. In 2012 it gained 127 new churches, up to 12,772 total, and registered more than 131,000 baptisms, up almost 4 percent from 2011. The AG is one of America's most racially diverse faith groups. Hispanics make up nearly 22 percent of the denomination, blacks almost 10 percent, and Asians 4 percent.

The AG's global growth is even more impressive, as the number of adherents worldwide increased 1.5 percent in 2012 to more than 66 million. AG missions have featured particularly aggressive outreach in areas such as Latin America, where the denomination has more than 200,000 congregations. At the General Council, the AG's publishing division announced an agreement with Kingstone, a leading publisher of Christian comic books and graphic novels, to produce Spanish-language versions of all its titles. Like many Christian congregations, some global AG churches have faced persecution in recent years. In 2012, a mob burned a 500-seat AG church in Muslim-dominated Zanzibar, where Christians represent only 3 percent of the population.

George O. Wood, who has served as the AG's General Superintendent for six years and whom the council re-elected to another four-year term, notes that "every 39 minutes a new Assemblies of God church is being birthed somewhere in the world." He also says there are now 10 times more AG churches than McDonald's restaurants around the globe.

One of the Pentecostal denomination's greatest challenges, according to Wood, is presenting the exclusive message of salvation through Christ to a culture that is skeptical and sometimes hostile toward that truth. Choco De Jesus emphasized clear proclamation of the gospel and practical social ministry as keys to AG's success. "It's time to get out of our churches and into the streets," he declared.

The AG dates its beginnings to the 1906 Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, in which multiethnic meetings reported remarkable signs and wonders, including speaking in tongues. Revivals and charismatic gifts have remained seminal parts of the AG's tradition, but some have questioned whether the traditional focus on tongues and the "baptism in the Holy Spirit" is waning in the denomination.

THRIVING: Believers prepare for baptism at an Assemblies of God service in Lake Nebagamon, Wis.

While many Protestants teach that Holy Spirit baptism occurs at salvation, Pentecostals consider it a sanctifying experience that occurs "beyond salvation." In its statement of faith, the AG says that baptism in the Spirit "is witnessed by the initial sign of speaking with other tongues."

In a recent blog post, *Christianity Today* noted that while the AG's "water baptisms" rose in 2012, "spirit baptisms" (which have always been lower than water baptisms) decreased by almost 3 percent, reflecting a general downward trend over the past 15 years. Wood explains that spirit baptisms today often occur at conferences and retreats, but the denomination's statistics track only spirit baptisms that occur in and are reported by local churches.

Doug Clay, AG General Treasurer, says "the world is ready for Azusa 2.0," including "signs, wonders, healings, speaking in tongues and the beauty of multi-cultural worship."

PAUL M. WALSH/THE LEADER-TELEGRAM/AP

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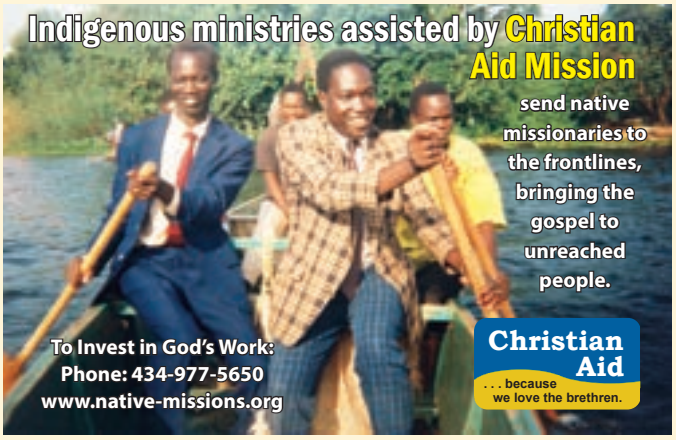
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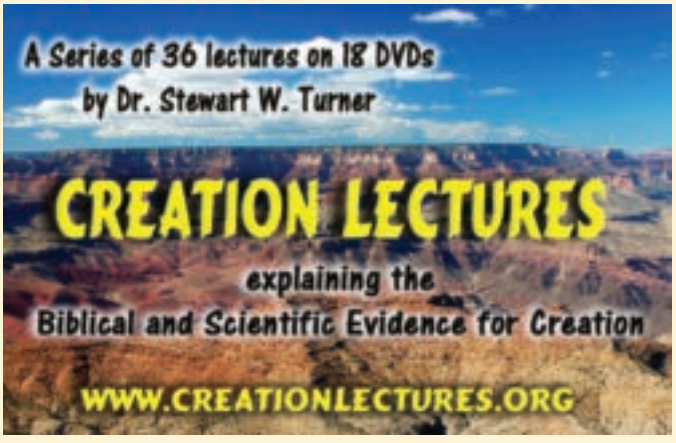
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Mailbag



'Desert oasis'

July 27 Thank you for spotlighting Ben and Bert Wenke's labor of love at the Crossroads Rescue Mission in your "Effective Compassion" issue. This courageous couple has stood up to drug users and drunks to proclaim the gospel and had to contend with the USDA's interference. But Crossroads endures, addicts repent, people are fed and clothed, and best of all souls are saved.

—*Jeanne Zachman, Amado, Ariz.*

'Hope'

July 27 Sometimes I get depressed reading all the sad stories in WORLD. But you do a good job digging up some of the good news in the Hope Awards. The whole issue gave me a lot of encouragement. Thank you.

—*Stephen Wacker, Loysville, Pa.*

'Remember the signs'

July 27 My heartfelt thanks to Andrée Seu Peterson for naming sin for what it is, even when it belongs to an organization professing to be Christian.

—*Jim Newcomb, North Haverhill, N.H.*

The most significant warning in this column was how homosexuals are using biblical terms to sound like the good guys.

—*Dick Dickerson, Mechanicsville, Va.*

Many Christians today harshly condemn homosexuals, while others emphasize loving sinners at the expense of truth. Our Lord perfectly demonstrates both grace and truth, never compromising on either.

—*Don Den Hartog, Winchester, Va.*

'Learning the hard way'

July 27 I disagree with scholar Hart. The deficiency is not in natural law but in the human heart, now hardened by generations of hammering with popular nonsense from every direction. The extreme fringes of the culture of 1960 are today the very center of the culture; those who won't think are deafened by the noise.

—*Jim Stewart, Camptonville, Calif.*

Janie B. Cheaney lumps together supporting the expansion of food stamps benefits and supporting gay marriage as examples of calling evil good, but many orthodox Christians argue for food stamps.

—*Eric Harris, Mesa, Ariz.*

Nature is also a lousy teacher of evolution. Instead of producing increasing complexity, it reduces beautiful houses to rubble through earthquakes, and intricate animal and human bodies to dust in death. It is a brilliant executioner.

—*Dick Muller, Oak Ridge, Tenn.*

'Blood on the streets'

July 27 Biola's policy against graphic images of abortion is like a prohibition against offensive clothing. It is not unjust, nor does it restrict Diana Jimenez's expression of faith. She should respect the institution's rules and be grateful it allowed her to convey her message and display graphic pictures in a private setting.

—*Jeff Wick, Bowling Green, Va.*

I thought the article was balanced and well-written. Jimenez said, "I don't want people to believe that Biola's not a Christian school, but they're not doing enough." I commend her newfound passion, but is that fair? She and CBR have the luxury of being a single issue entity, while Biola is taking stands on abortion and many other ailments of sin in a fallen world.

—*Todd Wallace, Tucson, Ariz.*

Both sides needed to be heard on this issue but my sympathies are with the university.

—*Deborah Franklin, Pinole, Calif.*

'Occupied territory'

July 27 Marvin Olasky's column reinforces our need to understand Christian vocation, which encompasses our every endeavor.

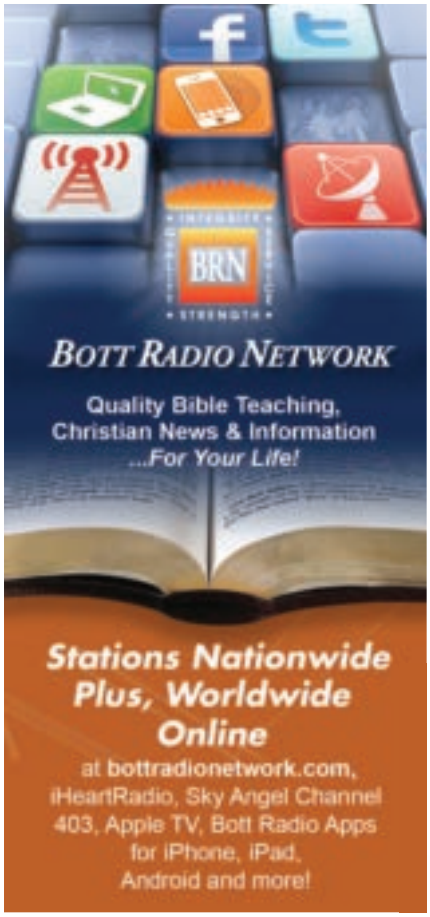
—*Samuel Gray, Clemson, S.C.*

I bought three of Doug TenNapel's graphic novels for my children but they were not appropriate. Yes, there were some Christian themes, but it wasn't worth it to dig through the trash.

—*Christy Lindsay, Harleysville, Pa.*

'20 feet from stardom'

July 27 Referring to Phil Spector as a "Beatles producer" overstates his work for the band. He did compile the album



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KAMPALA, UGANDA *submitted by Mike Prom*

finally released as *Let It Be* in 1970, but by then the band had disbanded. Sir George Martin produced almost all the band's work.

—*Loren Sanders, Milwaukee, Wis.*

'Patent racket'

July 27 You state that the "whole purpose" of patents is "encouraging competition." Competition is a likely outcome of patent law but is not its purpose. The U.S. Constitution states that patent law is to "promote the progress of science and useful arts." Congress is empowered to do this "by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Patents therefore start out being anti-competitive, but this temporary monopoly provides the incentive for scientists and others to invent. The real constitutional and legal question about "patent trolls" is whether their actions promote the progress of science and useful arts.

—*Gerald Grafe, Corrales, N.M.*

'The Syrian muddle'

July 27 The unanswered question: What is the U.S. national interest in Syria? The Obama administration only cares about what is in the best interest of the Muslim world. This administration, not the United States, has lost its credibility.

—*Wayne Bley, Fort Belvoir, Va.*

'Leaving Exodus'

July 13 I appreciate Jamie Dean's sensitive treatment of the termination of Exodus International. I pray that Chambers' new ministry approach is merely a change of emphasis and not a shift in theology.

—*Richard Hancock, Utica, Miss.*

'Rochester strong'

July 13 Thank you to Gina DiMartino for sharing her story. She said that she knows where God wants her to be because she "can't be anywhere else." I recently became very ill and have no idea what my future holds. I wonder how I'm going to handle it all and if this is really God's will, but when I remember those words I stop and rest easier.

—*Heather Bollman, Lanark, Ill.*

'Aging badly'

June 29 I must take issue with the statement that Rachel Carson's warning on eggshell thinning was "largely discredited." Carson did not deal with this subject in *Silent Spring*. The first publication dealing with eggshell thinning appeared in 1967, three years after her death. DDT, or its breakdown product DDE, was shown to cause eggshell thinning in at least five species of captive birds and this was corroborated in numerous studies on wild birds. These studies have never been successfully discredited.

—*Stanley Wiemeyer, Saint Joseph, Mo.*

Rachel Carson's alarmist attacks on DDT led to the deaths of millions of people from malaria, far more of an "environmental disaster" than she could have ever imagined.

—*Katalin H. Korossy, Kensington, Md.*

'Beware of "comfort care"'

June 29 As an ICU nurse, rarely do I have a week without requests to "do everything" to keep someone alive, to the detriment of the patient. We add to the suffering of people constantly and often needlessly by giving futile intensive care to elderly patients. I understand Christians who are "pro-life" on this issue but feel they don't comprehend what it means to "do everything" with present technology.

—*Karen Wallace, Pottsville, Pa.*

Thank you for standing by biblical standards. I pray for world issues every night and your magazine is a good source of information.

—*Ryan Northfield, Des Moines, Iowa*

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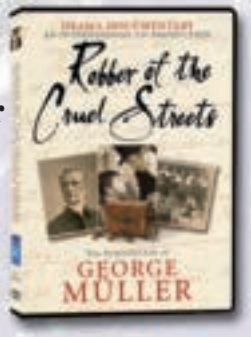


For decades, a phenomenon has been recurring in the Muslim world. Men and women, without any knowledge of the Gospel and without any contact with Christians, have been forever transformed after experiencing dreams and visions of Jesus Christ. Here are five stories, produced in their original languages with English subtitles.

Meet **Khalil,** a radical Egyptian terrorist who was transformed when Jesus appeared to him; **Mohammed**, a herdsman in Nigeria who found the deep love of Christ; **Dini**, an Indonesian teenager who became a Christian on a night that Muslims individualize their prayers to Allah; **Khosrow**, a young Iranian man who was depressed and without hope; and **Ali**, a Turkish man in bondage to alcohol. 187 minutes total.

DOCUMENTARY **DVD - #501117D, $19.99**

Robber of the Cruel Streets: George Müller



George Müller (1805-1898) was a German playboy who found Christ and gave his life to serve Christ unreservedly. His mission was to rescue orphans from the wretched street life that enslaved so many children in England during the time of Charles Dickens and Oliver Twist. Müller did rescue, care for, feed, and educate such children by the thousands. The costs were enormous for such a great work. Yet, amazingly, he never asked anyone for money. Instead he prayed, and his children never missed a meal. This docu-drama presents his life story and shows how God answered prayer and met their needs. 59 minutes plus 30-minute documentary.

DOCUMENTARY **DVD - #500939D, $19.99**

C.H. Spurgeon: The People's Preacher



A intimate story of one of the greatest preachers in the history of the church. We follow him from his youth where, as a young preacher, he is surprisingly called to minister in London and soon captures the love and respect of the nation. He goes on to become one of its most influential figures. This powerful, inspirational docu-drama faithfully recreates the times of C.H. Spurgeon and brings the "people's preacher" to life as it follows his trials and triumphs with historical accuracy. Filmed on location in England, Scotland, France and Germany, this film vividly captures the spirit and message of a man whose eventful — and sometimes controversial — life is highly relevant to the twenty-first century. 70 minutes.

DOCUMENTARY **DVD - #501345D, $19.99**

The Fanny Crosby Story

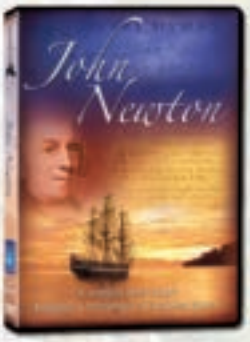


This is the amazing biography of the blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby. As the writer of more than 10,000 hymns, all penned after the age of 40, she is credited with authoring more verse than any human in history.

The tragic mistreatment by a charlatan masquerading as a doctor blinded Fanny shortly after birth. Fulfilling the roles of wife, mother, friend, teacher, nurse to the sick, humanitarian, and friend of presidents — Fanny Crosby was an exceptional woman by any standard. Her legacy lives on through the thousands of hymns that are still sung today. 46 minutes.

DOCUMENTARY **DVD - #4733D, $14.99**

John Newton



John Newton had grown up in the church under the tutelage of a very godly mother, but later became a faithless rebel. But as Newton's most famous hymn says, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me." This documentary explores Newton's life from his turbulent youth to his involvement in the 18th century African slave trade, and his dramatic conversion aboard a sinking ship. This fast-paced and insightful documentary serves as an excellent teaching tool and will inspire viewers to take hold of God's amazing grace. 45 minutes.

DOCUMENTARY **DVD - #501402D, $14.99**

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Andrée Seu Peterson

Dangerous faces

The Scriptures warn against the deceptions of a pleasing visage



HEADS UP: Huma Abedin, Weiner's wife; Hearst; Chamberlain and Hitler (from top).

THIS SUMMER I went to three stores before I found *Rolling Stone* magazine, "The Bomber" issue. The clerk at 7-Eleven said his chain was boycotting because of the cover. A man checking out and sucking on a lollipop turned to me and said, "Did you see the face? They made him look like a movie star." So I drove five miles north to a Barnes & Noble, made my brown paper bag purchase, and hid it from the kids—because of the face, which looks like a movie star, and is a dead ringer for my 19-year-old daughter's cutie-pie boyfriend.

It's no wonder God's Word warns about faces. One of the first things He says when sending Jeremiah to deliver unpopular messages to Israel is: "Do not be afraid of their faces" (Jeremiah 1:8). Most English translations opt for the less literal and supposedly user-friendly "Do not be afraid of them," thereby cheating themselves of a more illuminating meaning: It is actually the faces that trip us up.

The danger of faces corrupting judgment must be universal because God mentions it again when dispatching Ezekiel for service: "Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks" (Ezekiel 2:6). Failure to brace for a stare-down or a come-on could make you cave: God sent you to announce fire and brimstone, and you ended up suggesting that perhaps they might initiate a friendly national conversation about sin.

None of us likes to think he shows partiality to a pleasing face. But could one make a case that a pretty face in Philistia was Samson's undoing? Jacob liked Rachel's eyes more than Leah's, but Rachel was a piece of work. King Hezekiah might have swiftly rebuffed a Hallmark get-well card from oily Babylon, but when high-level envoys arrived in person, he opened his whole treasure house for their inspection; there was not a golden urn he didn't show them (Isaiah 39). Not many years hence they came back with chariots to haul it all away.

In the postexilic Jerusalem rebuilding project, what Israel's enemies were not able to do with direct terrorism, they did by getting chummy with a few leaders. Well aware that there was nothing like face time for changing a heart, Sanballat and Tobiah tried to schmooze with Governor Nehemiah. He was no easy mark (Nehemiah 6:16), so they got a pen-pal relationship going with more amenable nobles of Judah (6:17-19), which led to morally fatal intermarriages (13:23-24). (Presumably some of those Horonite guys were cute.)

What psychologists call the "Stockholm syndrome" may be more simply explained by intensive face time. People over 60 will recall how magazine heiress Patty Hearst, shortly after being kidnapped by the urban guerilla group Symbionese Liberation Army, ended up happily joining them in knocking off a bank in San Francisco. She got to see their faces daily, and evidently concluded that they were all good guys and just misunderstood.

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain talked tough in March of 1938 but came back from an autumn face-to-face meeting at Herr Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat singing a different tune: By the end of his third visit on Sept. 29, Czechoslovakia was as good as betrayed in the Munich Agreement. President Obama keeps returning to Galesburg, Ill., to tweak his speeches on the economy: Though the economy is tanking, supporters get to see his face. If Anthony Weiner survives his bid for mayor of New York, it will be in no small part because America huddled together round the television and were duly reassured by the face of Huma Abedin.

There is something science cannot explain about the effect of the God-ordained configuration of two eyes bestriding a nose and mouth upon a neck, for seducing one man from justice and reducing another to a puddle. The prophet Elisha addressed an Aramean court official name Hazael, "and he fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was embarrassed" (2 Kings 8:11). To this day I've not a clue what Jezebel had in mind by choosing, during a coup, to paint her eyes and fix her hair and gaze out from her upstairs window (2 Kings 9:30). If she meant Jehu's seduction, this time she guessed wrong.

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Marvin Olasky

The real heart of the matter

A blue-ribbon commission inadvertently shows what's wrong with humanities education

Two days before the summer solstice, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences with great fanfare released "The Heart of the Matter," a blue-ribbon-panel document emphasizing the need to beef up teaching of the humanities. From a rung high up on the ladder of abstraction, the AAAS commission in 92 pages came out in support of "full literacy ... cohesive curricula ... new partnerships."

Why should we love the humanities? Let the AAAS count the ways. The humanities give students "the ability to adapt and thrive in a changing world" and help them develop "professional flexibility" and connectedness with "the global community." Hmmm—How about growing some students who don't adapt so flexibly, who have the guts to say No?



The goal of education is to 'repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright.' —Milton

ESPN last fall ran a moving 14-minute story on a highly successful couple for whom everything was "perfect" until doctors told them their unborn daughter had Down syndrome. The mother, day after day, said No—but American parents with great flexibility and connectedness are aborting nine out of 10 Down syndrome babies. (To watch the video, go to YouTube and type in Heath White E60.)

Why should we love the humanities? The AAAS tells us, "We live in a nation that has been built ... on a foundation of humanistic and social science scholarship, from our Founding rooted in Enlightenment philosophy to a future informed by the compilation and analysis of Big Data."

Really? I thought our nation grew in the belief that we are endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights. America's founders quoted the Bible a lot more than any Enlightenment text. They treasured life and liberty, not Big Data.

Why should we love the humanities? "Humanists and social scientists are particularly well suited to address ... the ethical questions attending the adoption of new technologies; the social conditions that provide context for international policy decisions regarding the environment, global health, and human rights; and the cultural differences that aid or hinder global security."

Really? Houston Baptist professor Micah Mattix put it well: "Does anyone who has taken a humanities course at a secular college or university in the past 10 years doubt that instead of teaching us who we are, many humanities courses teach that identity is constructed; that instead of teaching the classical and cardinal virtues, they recommend the self-serving virtues of moral relativism and egalitarianism; and that instead of helping students to become better husbands, wives, and citizens, the real focus is on making them more autonomous?"

Instead of plowing through the AAAS report, I'd suggest reading a piece now on the internet that's only eight pages long, John Milton's "Of Education" (1644).

Milton opposed the leading humanities teachers of his day, the "monsieurs of Paris [who] take our hopeful youth into their slight and prodigal custodies and send them over back again transformed into mimics, apes, and kickshaws." In general, that's what the presidents of Duke, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, George Washington, Amherst, NYU, University of Miami, and Cornell—all members of the AAAS commission—do.

The goal of education, Milton wrote, should be "to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love him, to imitate him." Milton wanted professors to train students "in the knowledge of virtue and the hatred of vice [by] infusing into their young breasts such an ingenuous and noble ardor, as would not fail to make many of them renowned and matchless men." The heart of the matter is to help our grinch-like hearts, through God's grace, to grow at least two sizes.

Milton derided the medieval practice of presenting to young students "the most intellective abstractions of logic and metaphysics." He proposed "beginning with arts most easy"; that is to say, those "most obvious to the sense"—only after learning to observe well "sensible things" would students move on to study "things invisible." The heart of the matter is to start low on the ladder of abstraction, minimizing abstract theorizing.

Milton emphasized induction over deduction, and put rhetoric and logic at the end of the curriculum, not the beginning. He wanted students to study God's creations throughout the week, and spend evenings and Sundays "in the highest matters of theology, and church history ancient and modern." The heart of the matter, Milton knew, is to learn about God's world and so learn about Him.

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