

# WORLD



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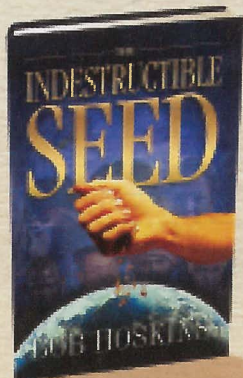
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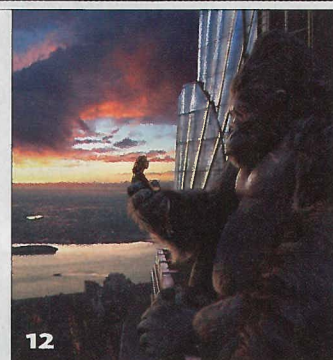
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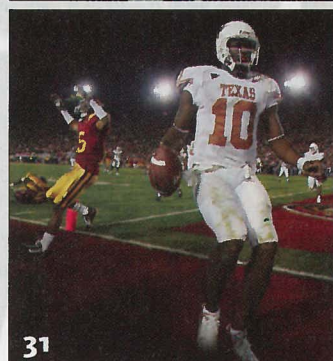
Abramoff waits in a car after leaving the Prettyman Federal Courthouse in Washington, D.C.—photo by Tom Williams [ROLL CALL PHOTOS]; Sharon: David Silverman [GETTY IMAGES]



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# WORLD

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# Think small

When confronting massive problems like African poverty, forget theme parks and golf courses

**I**F, WHENEVER YOU PONDER THE IMMENSE PROBLEMS of the African continent, you don't think about the role of microenterprise and microfinance, it could be that you're just not thinking small enough.

The very enormity of Africa's challenges might tempt you to reason that only enormous programs with equally enormous budgets can faze them. AIDS and poverty and tribalism and famine and endemic corruption in government are not likely to be brushed aside with lightweight efforts.

But then you should pick up the Dec. 19 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* and read the sad front-page story of evangelical author and leader Bruce Wilkinson. True to his quirky *Prayer of Jabez* philosophy of always thinking bigger, Mr. Wilkinson went to Africa over the last couple of years with a program of breathtaking scope. His plan, as reported by the *Journal*, included building 50,000 cottages for a million orphans of AIDS in Swaziland, and a scheme for charging Americans \$500 a week to stay in those homes while getting to know and helping the children. There was a theme park and golf course for tourists, and a program for the kids to put on rodeos and serve as guides in the wild game reserves. Just the first phase of the dream was pegged at \$50 million, which was going to take a lot of Jabez-type praying. Now it has all collapsed, and Mr. Wilkinson has come back to the United States disappointed and disillusioned.

I couldn't help thinking about all that as I sat on New Year's night talking with my friend Peter Brinkerhoff, who had also just returned from a year in Africa—chastened by realism, for sure, but by no means disillusioned. Peter had gone to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a Pennsylvania-based organization called Hope International. Hope has a simple strategy of feeding a modest stream of capital into the local economy, from the grassroots up, and then watching it have its effect.

For Peter, that meant heading last spring to Kisangani, a heart-of-Africa city that in colonial days was known as Stanleyville. Because of that colonial past, French is still the more-or-less official language for Kisangani's million people, but Swahili is what really gets you around. Peter is conversant but not fluent in French, and he speaks no Swahili. His assignment was to recruit half a dozen young men and women whom he would train over several weeks as his loan officers. Those young people would then hit the streets of Kisangani looking for folks eligible to sign up for tiny, short-term loans that would enhance their personal financial situations.

For example, a \$40 loan was extended to a woman who sold pastries off a tray on Kisangani's streets. The \$40, accompanied with a little business counsel and encouragement, let her expand the variety of her offerings and buy her product more prudently and at lower cost. Over the next few weeks, during which the loan officer touched base with her every few days both for continued counsel

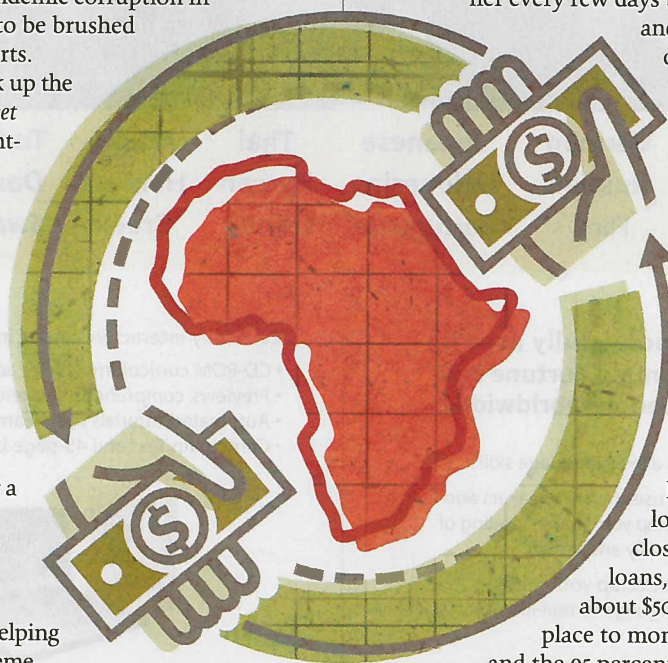
and to collect regular payments on the loan, her bottom line improved. At the end of the 16-week cycle, her loan was totally repaid—with 16 percent interest—and she was ready for a new and slightly larger loan to propel her to a new level in her little business.

Tiny and insignificant in the global scheme of things? Of course. Except that during his nine months in Kisangani, Peter Brinkerhoff and his little team of newly trained loan officers oversaw the closing of more than 800 such loans, with a total face value of about \$50,000. Strict guidelines are in place to monitor repayment procedures, and the 95 percent rate of timely return

would make many U.S. banks envious. Best of all, the original \$50,000 is not used up, but is constantly available in its entirety for new rounds of equally prudent lending.

No, not even that is "best of all." What is really best of all is that Peter will return to Kisangani with a new vision not just for enhancing the lending program, but incorporating an ever more explicit sense of accompanying those loans with the truth of the gospel and nuggets of biblically based business wisdom. Peter (who is only 23 and just out of the Chalmers Center program at Covenant College) prays daily with and counsels his team of loan officers and wants to extend that into a more thorough education program.

It's hard to think of an effort better calculated to reach into the warp and woof of a needy society. And all because someone had the vision to think so very small. 🌐





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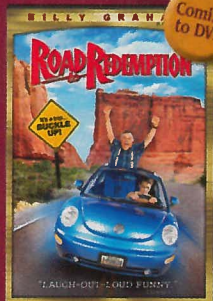


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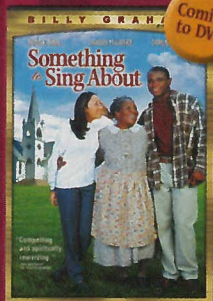
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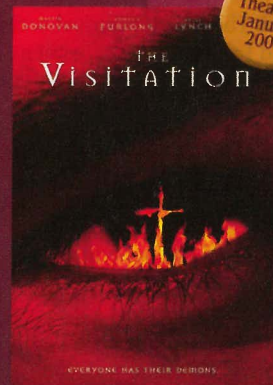
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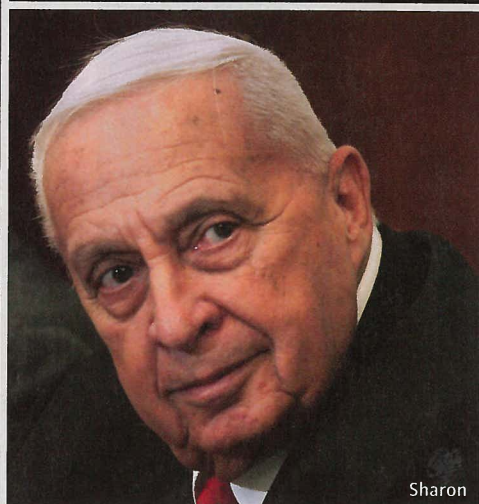
# THE BUZZ

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Sharon

**ISRAEL** The Israeli political scene, said David Parsons from Jerusalem, "has received an immense and sudden shock" after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke Jan. 4. Mr. Sharon, at 77 the oldest living prime minister, took office in 2001 and had scheduled elections for March. The stroke, his second in a month, occurred less than 24 hours before he was scheduled for heart surgery to relieve the stroke risk. It led to a brain hemorrhage doctors were unable to stop. Mr. Parsons, spokesman for Jerusalem's International Christian Embassy, noted, "It is widely accepted that the major bleeding in his brain overnight has effectively ended his political career." Power transferred to Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who may serve as acting prime minister for 100 days (*story*, p. 18).

**IRAQ** Election winners raced to construct a coalition capable of governing Iraq ahead of a nasty bout of violence that killed at least 130 Iraqis and five U.S. soldiers in a day on Jan. 5. A suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the Shiite Imam Hussein shrine in central Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, killing 49 people and injuring at least 50 more. In Ramadi, 50 people were killed and dozens were wounded when a bomb was detonated near an Iraqi police recruitment and screening drive. A roadside bomb in Baghdad killed the five U.S. soldiers.

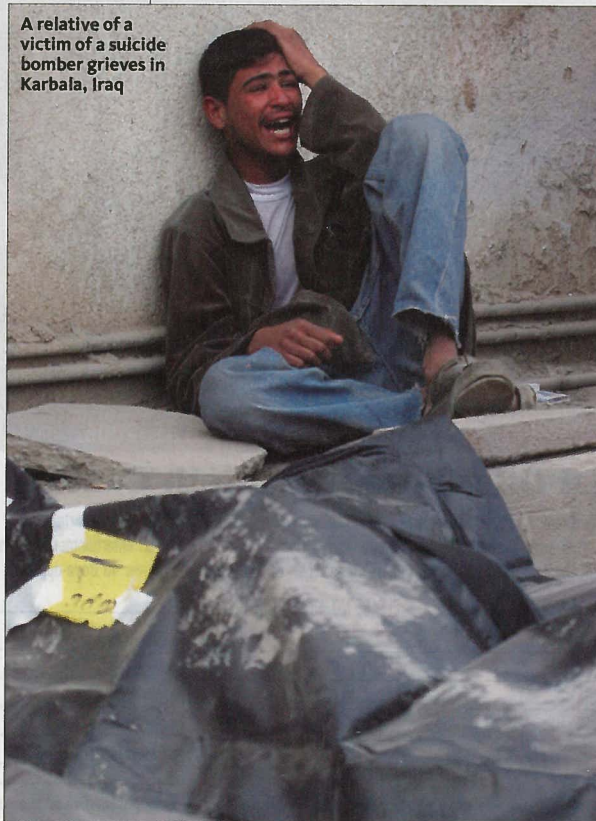
**SCANDAL** Lobbyist Jack Abramoff entered federal court in Washington Jan. 3 to plead guilty to one charge each of conspiracy, mail fraud, and tax evasion—charges that carry a maximum of 30 years in prison. A

day later he entered a plea in Florida related to his purchase of a fleet of casino cruise ships from a man who was murdered a few months later. Part of Mr. Abramoff's plea agreement includes providing evidence likely to involve prominent politicians in a web of illegal transactions and money laundering over casino gambling on tribal lands. It may further illuminate the role played by former Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed and other name evangelicals, who participated in Mr. Abramoff's lobbying schemes (*cover story*, p. 20).

**DISCLOSURE** Doug Bandow resigned from his position with the Cato Institute and had his column suspended by the Copley syndicate Dec. 15 after revelations that Jack Abramoff paid him to write columns favorable to clients of the indicted lobbyist. Mr. Bandow wrote "Beltway Books" columns for *WORLD* in 1996 and 1997, as well as seven freelance articles for this magazine from 1998 through 2002 and one more last year, but told *WORLD* that none of those were paid for by lobbyists or special interests. He said of his Abramoff work, "It was stupid and my fault." Mr. Bandow said he thought he could ethically do the Abramoff work because in these cases his own Christian and libertarian-leaning beliefs were in line with the lobbyist's positions. He missed, though, a key distinction: Biblically ethical journalists push for transparency, which means that they may be professionally involved with think tanks or causes as long as that is publicly divulged so that conflicts of interest are visible. Hidden ties break faith with readers.

**RELIGION** Positive-think preacher Robert H. Schuller, 79, announced Jan. 1 that his son Robert, 51, will succeed him as senior pastor of Crystal Cathedral, the world-famous glass-walled church in Garden

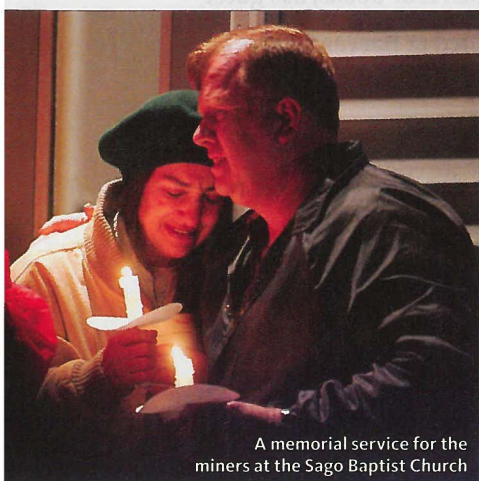
A relative of a victim of a suicide bomber grieves in Karbala, Iraq





Grove, Calif. The elder Schuller founded the church in 1955, when he preached atop a snack bar at a drive-in movie theater.

**TRAGEDY** Hymn singing turned to angry dirges after mining families near Tallmansville, W.Va., learned their loved ones were not alive. Rescue overseers with International Coal Group admitted they had miscommunicated in first proclaiming most of the miners alive. All but one, in fact, had died of oxygen deprivation after a Jan. 2 blast trapped the workers in a shaft 260 feet below the surface of the Sago Mine.

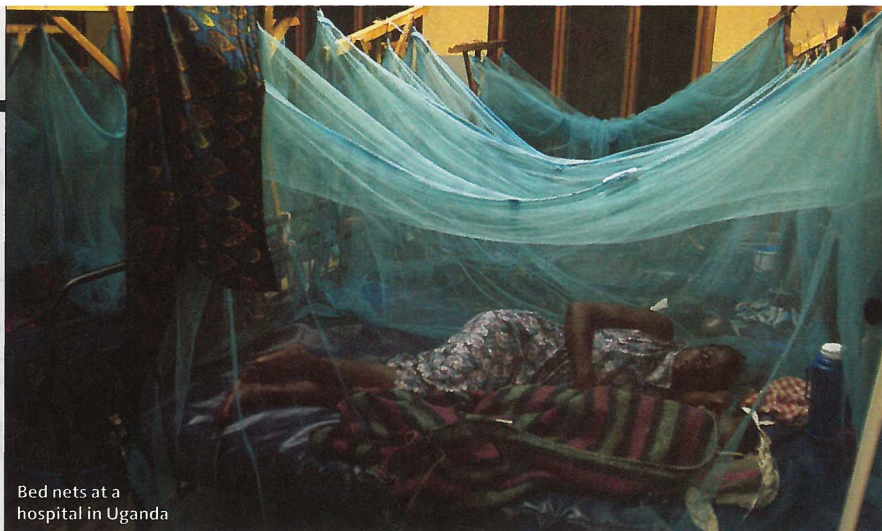


A memorial service for the miners at the Sago Baptist Church

**SCIENCE** Armed with a U.S. district court decision that labels Intelligent Design (ID) as unconstitutional in public schools, the newly elected Dover Area School Board wiped a four-paragraph evolution disclaimer from its ninth-grade biology curriculum Jan. 3. The ruling from Judge John E. Jones III, a Bush appointee, classified ID as a dishonest movement bent on sneaking creationism into science classrooms.

Scientific elitism, according to field researcher Charley Dewberry, threatens not only Intelligent Design advances but science itself. As long as scientists believe they are "the final authorities" in a philosophical debate, he said, "we will not have any reasoned discourse" on origins (*interview*, p. 34).

**FILM** *Brokeback Mountain* led contenders Jan. 5 for the Screen Actors Guild Awards with four nominations. Critics hope the film will do for homosexual couples what *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* did for race relations (*review*, p. 13). 🌐



Bed nets at a hospital in Uganda

# Lifesavers

BY PRIYA ABRAHAM

**R**OGER BATE DOES not care who gets credit for taming the beast, but in truth he did much of the work. For the last two years, he and a dedicated band of experts have been skewering the U.S. Agency for International Development over its ineffective international malaria programs (see "Kill or be killed," Oct. 29). Now, finally, the agency has heard and is changing its ways.

The agency spends about \$200 million annually fighting the mosquito-borne disease that afflicts 500 million a year, mostly in Africa, and kills 1 million, mostly children under 5. But instead of focusing on simple, life-saving commodities, such as drugs and insecticides, the agency marshaled almost all its funding toward "technical" assistance, or advice to countries on fighting the disease. So Mr. Bate, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, unleashed a steady onslaught of research and criticism on USAID's methods last year.

In mid-December, the agency announced it would realign its malaria funding for 2006, devoting almost half to nuts-and-bolts interventions such as drugs, bed nets, and indoor spraying. The figures are a study in contrasts: In 2004, for example, USAID spent \$1 million on indoor spraying; in 2006, that number will be \$15 million.

These are encouraging signs for Mr. Bate. Just last summer a research paper he co-authored on USAID's malaria policies invited a blistering rebuke from the agency's administrator, Andrew Natsios. Having battled long, Mr. Bate's attitude now is "trust, but verify." "I believe that they want to change," he told *WORLD*, "but I don't know that they definitely will."

Last July U.S. anti-malaria efforts received a boost from President Bush when he pledged \$1.2 billion over five years to fight the disease. The new money, with White House pressure, was going to follow

the commodities-heavy approach experts have been advocating. But USAID's December announcement changes older malaria programs—a more comprehensive reversal. "Once you get a sense there's a better way of doing it, you really need to get going and get it done," said Kent Hill, USAID's deputy administrator for Global Health. He says there was "more good being done than our critics thought. Having said that, we can still do better with the money."

Mr. Bate will now follow the money to see that it goes where it is most needed. One thing he wants to track is how the agency runs its indoor insecticide spraying programs. Spraying with DDT, a chemical banned in the West but most effective at killing mosquitoes, is essential. He suspects allocations for DDT and other insecticides are still low, but that USAID is off to the right start. The change is welcome, he said, "whatever rhetorical spin they put on it." 🌐



# Dr. Simpson has been teaching philosophy for 22 years.

He has an M.A., two PhD.s, has written four books, has guest lectured at Harvard and is an outspoken atheist.

Your daughter is a student of the Bible, has graduated from Worldview Academy Leadership Camp and is a strong, gentle Christian.

Looks like Dr. Simpson is heading for a come to Jesus meeting.



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## QUICK TAKES

## Strange brew

» Oddly enough, the fecal matters. That's the lesson some enterprising Indonesians learned when they discovered they could sell a coffee bean made special by an unorthodox production process. The beans, called Kopi Luwak, are harvested from civet droppings that pile up on the grounds of local plantations. Indonesian civets, mammals similar to monkeys, often eat ripe coffee cherries. As the intact bean wends its way through the civet's intestines, it picks up unique tastes and aromas. At least that's what connoisseurs in Europe and North America (notably California) say when they pay top dollar for the boutique brew. The cost of a pound of Kopi Luwak: \$175. 🌐



## Third class

» One British air traveler may have finally learned his lesson—don't mess with the crew. The passenger, a 53-year-old vacation traveler, reportedly became enraged when a stewardess cut him off, refusing to serve him another alcoholic drink. But when the man became abusive to the crew of the Monarch Airlines flight, the captain decided to take action. He diverted the flight, landing on nearby Porto Santo island off the west coast of Africa. There, the captain kicked the man off the plane and into police custody, stranding him on the tiny Portuguese-administrated island. 🌐

## Tracked down

» Finding two German men accused of burglarizing 15 cars and two garden sheds would have been much more difficult in summer. Good thing for police that the December robberies occurred when a fresh snow had fallen on the town of Hoentrop. Officers followed tracks left by two men accused of the crime back to their home where they not only found the stolen loot, but also shoes and gloves left out to dry. 🌐

## Speed trap

» In a hurry? Not on one Swiss ski slope. Grindelwald, a Swiss Alpine ski resort, has enacted a 30 kph (19 mph) speed limit on one of its intermediate slopes. Resort officials say daredevil skiers who streak down the slopes had overrun the blue course. The speed limit is unenforceable, but Grindelwald hopes it will make the intermediate run safer for students and elderly skiers. 🌐



Out of the mouths of babes: Plame

## Animal lovers

» Los Angeles authorities didn't think it was funny. They arrested two California men after the pair allegedly released a 5-foot alligator into a lake at a local park. With an alligator on the prowl, locals have been hesitant to allow children to play near Lake Machado. In a search of the suspects' homes, police found what could only be described as a dangerous, if unlikely, combination: three small alligators, four piranhas, three desert tortoises (and six eggs), a rattlesnake, and 10 pounds of marijuana. 🌐

## Family outing

» Perhaps it was Lewis "Scooter" Libby who outed former CIA operative Valerie Plame. Others finger presidential advisor Karl Rove in the leak investigation. But perhaps prosecutors should check out someone a bit closer to former ambassador and Bush critic Joe Wilson and his wife, Ms. Plame. Someone like the couple's 5-year-old son? "My daddy's famous; my mommy's a secret spy," the boy declared to reporters as the family tried to slip away on a vacation just before New Year's. 🌐



## CULTURE BEAT

## Acts of vengeance

**N**O ONE'S RIGHT. NO ONE'S WRONG. CAN'T WE ALL JUST get along?

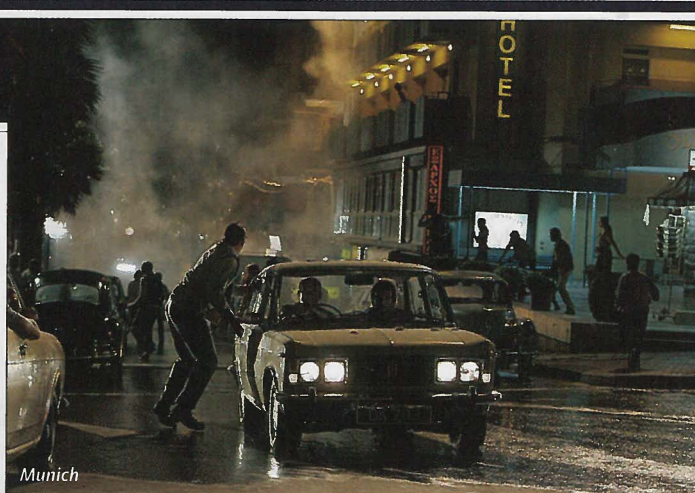
It's disheartening to realize that the most serious work in recent years (or, perhaps, ever) of one of the world's most talented filmmakers can be reduced to such a bland aphorism. But searching for a deeper truth, or even more challenging questions, in Steven Spielberg's *Munich* (rated R for strong graphic violence, some sexual content, nudity, and language) proves fruitless.

Be warned too: One is tempted to believe that, to Mr. Spielberg, nudity signifies seriousness of intent, and *Munich* contains an entirely uncalled-for scene of full frontal nudity.

The film deals with the aftermath of the 1972 murders of 11 Israeli athletes by Palestinian terrorists at the Olympic games in Munich. A secret team of Israeli agents is set up to track down and kill 11 Arabs connected to the attack.

Much of *Munich* is top-notch, as expected. Australian actor Eric Bana heads an excellent international cast that includes Daniel Craig, Geoffrey Rush, Ciarán Hinds, and Mathieu Kassovitz. In staging action sequences, fleshing out 1970s period detail, and finding modest human moments amidst tragedy, Mr. Spielberg excels.

He also overreaches. The film uses the Israeli response to Munich as a springboard for broader ideas, and one wishes that it didn't. Difficult, probing questions can be raised about state-



sponsored assassination and the difference between vengeance and justice. But Mr. Spielberg isn't content to deal with the specifics of this blip in history. His relationship to historical fact is tenuous—Mr. Spielberg has his own points to make here, and he uses the film's fictional protagonist, team leader Avner Kaufmann (Mr. Bana), to reflect his own fundamental distrust of answering violence with violence.

Avner is a former Mossad agent whose confidence in his mission wanes as he witnesses its human toll: on the Arabs he kills, on his disintegrating team, and on himself and his own family. It's a weakness to which Mr. Spielberg often falls prey, even at his best: The largest of conflicts are reduced to a level so personal that the very idea of transcendence, some right or wrong larger than oneself, is lost. The film's final shot—reminding the audience that this is *not* a film simply about Israel—is heavy-handed even for Mr. Spielberg. —Andrew Coffin

## A crowd-pleasing spectacle

**P**ETER JACKSON KNOWS HOW TO produce a spectacle—and no word better describes *King Kong* than spectacle. But this surprisingly violent film is not for young children—the action is graphic and contains profanity.

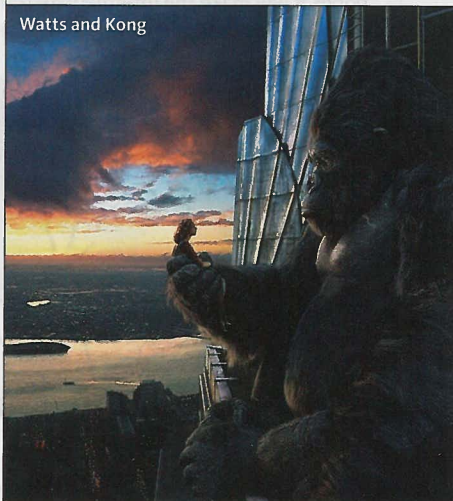
*Kong* (rated PG-13 for frightening adventure violence and some disturbing images) doesn't have much subtext, and for that we should be grateful. Mr. Jackson has remained faithful to the original film's goal: producing a crowd-pleasing adventure with an implausible but touching platonic love story at its heart.

Mr. Jackson takes his time—about 70 minutes—getting the story's hodgepodge film crew, including manic director Carl Denham (Jack Black), writer Jack Driscoll (Adrien Brody), film star Bruce Baxter (Kyle Chandler), and lost girl Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts) to Skull Island. As in the *Lord of the Rings* films, Mr. Jackson is

completely committed to this story and these characters, giving them all the back story they need to register with the audience.

Once the boat crashes onto the rocks surrounding the island and the motley

Watts and Kong



crew goes ashore, though, Mr. Jackson works overtime to repay the patience of his audience. The natives are ferocious, the enormous bugs and even bigger dinosaurs easily outdo anything Steven Spielberg has given us, and Kong—well, Kong is a sight to behold.

Mr. Jackson and his Weta Workshop crew again set the standard for convincing special effects that integrate seamlessly with a compelling story. One just wishes that they weren't quite so pleased with their own work. Kong battles nearly every creature imaginable on the island as he protects his new love, and while the battles are spectacular, they also become wearying.

Legend has it that the director of the original 1933 film cut a spider cave sequence because it made test audiences vomit. Imagine how they would have responded had they seen Mr. Jackson's over-the-top sequence with carnivorous insects, spiders, and some really revolting worms. (I'm not sure that modern audiences need it, either.) —Andrew Coffin



# Natural disaster

**P**UNDITS ARE HAILING *BROKEBACK Mountain* (rated R for explicit homosexual and heterosexual sex, male and female nudity, and bad language) as having the potential to do for homosexuality what *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* did for race. The love story it presents is so sympathetic, goes the conventional wisdom, that even denizens of red states will be won over to accept gay love. But the movie is too condescending to ordinary Americans and too anti-marriage to make such an impact.

Two down-to-earth cowboys get jobs herding sheep on Brokeback

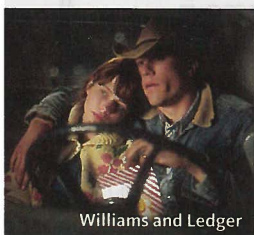
Mountain and become friends. One night, after drinking too much whiskey, they have sex with each other. After

awhile, they come down off the mountain, back to their petty lives in small-town Wyoming. They marry women, have kids, and work hard to make a living. But every few months they get together again, go to the mountains, and renew their romantic sexual relationship. Life with their families is all crying babies, demanding wives, and hard, frustrating work. Gay sex with a kindred spirit in the glorious outdoors is portrayed as so much better.

But the symbolism is all wrong. The movie associates homosexuality with nature—magnificent mountains, big sky, clear blue water, teeming forests—as contrasted with the constraints of a tacky, empty civilization.

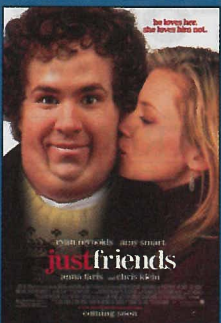
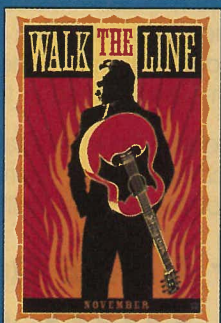
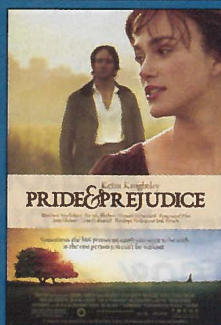
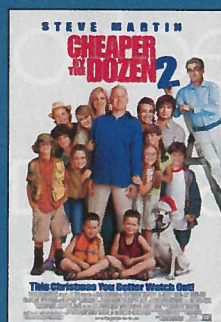
But whether you are a creationist or a Darwinist, having children and struggling to survive are what's "natural." Leaving your family for escapist, sterile sex is literally "unnatural."

Heath Ledger does a fine piece of acting as the taciturn, conflicted Ennis. But Michelle Williams as his hurt, rejected wife makes a powerful case for family values. —Gene Edward Veith



Williams and Ledger

## PLAYING IN A THEATER NEAR YOU



MOVIE	CRITICS	CAUTIONS
<b>Aeon Flux</b> (PG-13)	4	5 7 0
<b>Brokeback Mountain</b> (R)	10	8 6 6
<b>Capote</b> (R)	8	not rated
<b>Cheaper by the Dozen 2</b> (PG)	5	3 3 3
<b>Chicken Little</b> (G)	6	1 4 2
<b>Christmas in the Clouds</b> (PG)	7	4 3 3
<b>Chronicles of Narnia: LWW</b> (PG)	8	1 6 1
<b>The Family Stone</b> (PG-13)	6	4 3 4
<b>Fun with Dick and Jane</b> (PG-13)	6	3 3 5
<b>Good Night, and Good Luck</b> (PG)	7	1 1 2
<b>Harry Potter/Goblet of Fire</b> (PG-13)	8	3 6 3
<b>The Ice Harvest</b> (R)	7	8 8 10
<b>Just Friends</b> (PG-13)	4	6 5 5
<b>King Kong</b> (PG-13)	9	3 7 3
<b>Memoirs of a Geisha</b> (PG-13)	6	5 5 3
<b>Munich</b> (R)	8	not rated
<b>North Country</b> (R)	8	7 5 6
<b>Pride &amp; Prejudice</b> (PG)	9	3 1 1
<b>Prime</b> (PG-13)	6	7 2 5
<b>The Producers</b> (PG-13)	7	6 3 3
<b>Rent</b> (PG-13)	6	5 4 5
<b>The Ringer</b> (PG-13)	6	4 4 5
<b>Rumor Has It...</b> (PG-13)	6	5 2 4
<b>Saw II</b> (R)	4	1 9 10
<b>The Squid and the Whale</b> (R)	9	8 4 7
<b>Syriana</b> (R)	8	not rated
<b>Walk the Line</b> (PG-13)	8	3 4 5
<b>Wallace &amp; Gromit: Curse...</b> (G)	9	2 3 1
<b>Wolf Creek</b> (R)	3	4 8 7
<b>Yours, Mine &amp; Ours</b> (PG)	4	3 4 2

**CRITICS:** Average (on a 0-10 scale, with 10 as best) of reviews from five publications (*Chicago Sun-Times*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *The Washington Times*, *Miami Herald*, and *Critics.com*).

**CAUTIONS:** Quantity of sexual, violent, and foul-language content (on a 0-10 scale, with 10 high), from [www.kids-in-mind.com](http://www.kids-in-mind.com).

■ Movies reviewed by WORLD are denoted in red. They can be accessed at [www.worldmag.com](http://www.worldmag.com).



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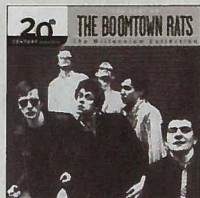
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## NOTABLE CDS

FIVE (MORE) OVERLOOKED BUT NOTEWORTHY RECORDINGS OF 2005



# 1 THE BEST OF THE BOOMTOWN RATS

The Boomtown Rats

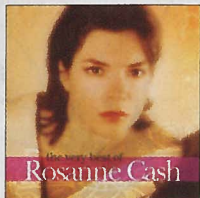
**STYLE** Rocking post-punk character sketches, largely of the disaffected youth who comprised this band's original audience.

## WORLDVIEW

That Bob Geldof's grandstanding do-goodism has its roots in a concern for and identification with the alienated and downtrodden among whom he grew up (i.e., charity began at home).

## OVERALL QUALITY

If the music sounds dated, the topics (school violence, sexploitation, the superficiality of trendiness) remain relevant.



# 2 THE VERY BEST OF ROSEANNE CASH

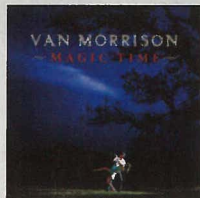
Roseanne Cash

**STYLE** Singer-song-writerly country-rock, 1979-2003.

**WORLDVIEW** That only some of the excellent music for which Ms. Cash's father Johnny was responsible (albeit indirectly in this case) can be found on his own recordings.

## OVERALL QUALITY

It's no insult to Ms. Cash's considerable talent that this single-disc compilation doesn't feel too short at 16 tracks; rather it's evidence of how consistently she hits the bulls-eye every time she takes aim.



# 3 MAGIC TIME

Van Morrison

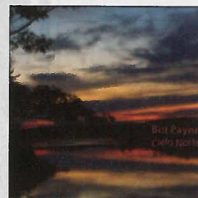
**STYLE** Jazz, blues, and big-band songs both vintage (Frank Sinatra, Fats Waller) and original.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** Casual cursing ("Carry On Regardless").

**WORLDVIEW** "Call it nostalgia. I don't mind, / standing on that windswept hillside / listenin' to the church bells chime / in that magic time."

## OVERALL QUALITY

"You gotta fight everyday to keep mediocrity at bay," sings the mediocrity-prone Mr. Morrison, and for the most part he succeeds.



# 4 CIELO NORTE

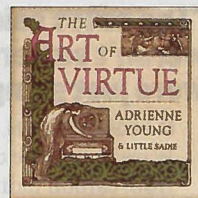
Bill Payne

**STYLE** Skeletal piano fleshed out with gentle percussion and residual "New Age" ebb and flow.

**WORLDVIEW** That there is creative life after Little Feat (the rock 'n' roll band that has been Mr. Payne's base of operations for over 30 years) and that fresh music can coexist with stale titles ("Through the Eyes of a Child," "Your Beautiful Smile").

## OVERALL QUALITY

Too sparse for lush; lush enough for gorgeous.



# 5 THE ART OF VIRTUE

Adrienne Young & Little Sadie

**STYLE** Appalachian-rooted singer-song-writerly country, folk, bluegrass, and gospel.

**WORLDVIEW** "I'm waitin' for the real thing, honey. / Ain't nothin' wrong with chastity. / If I could walk the path of Jesus, / live each day the best I can, follow in those humble footsteps, / I might reach the promised land."

## OVERALL QUALITY

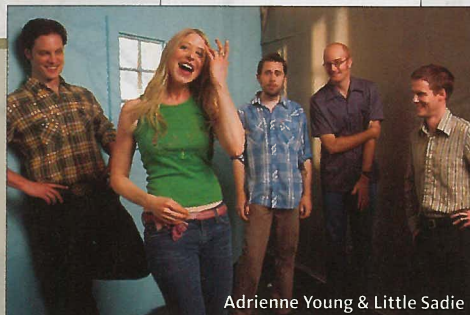
Surprisingly old-timey for so young a talent, strikingly fresh for music so rooted in the past.

## In the spotlight

» Like Alison Krauss, whom she's almost as good as, and Kate Campbell, whom she's better than, Adrienne Young & Little Sadie (her band) alternate between a folky bluegrass and a bluegrassy folk awash in traditional American, yea, even biblical echoes. How traditional? *The Art of Virtue* (Addiebelle) includes a facsimile of Benjamin Franklin's 13-virtues diary, and in the title cut Ms. Young boldly declares her allegiance to both

Jesus and chastity.

Tradition cuts two ways, however, hence her soft spot, for instance, for moonshiners ("Hills and Hollers"), the fruits of whose labors tend to discourage virtue, yet the liveliness inherent in the working out of the contradiction pervades the album as a whole. Some



Adrienne Young & Little Sadie

may prefer Ms. Young's 2004 album *Plow to the End of the Row* because it leans less heavily on sepia-tinted

narratives and contains the Roseanne Cash-worthy "Poison." This album's "My Love Will Keep," however, is just as Cash-worthy, and the singing and the playing remain sharp. 🎵



## QUOTABLES & 'TOONS

**"The notes said they weren't suffering, they were just going to sleep."**

» **PEGGY COHEN**, daughter of Fred Ware Jr., 59, one of 12 who died from carbon monoxide poisoning after explosions trapped them in a Sago, W.Va., mine on Jan. 2. Several of the miners wrote notes to loved ones before they died.

**"\$150,000"**

» Opening price in an auction for a 4-foot-long, two-headed albino rat snake, put on sale by the

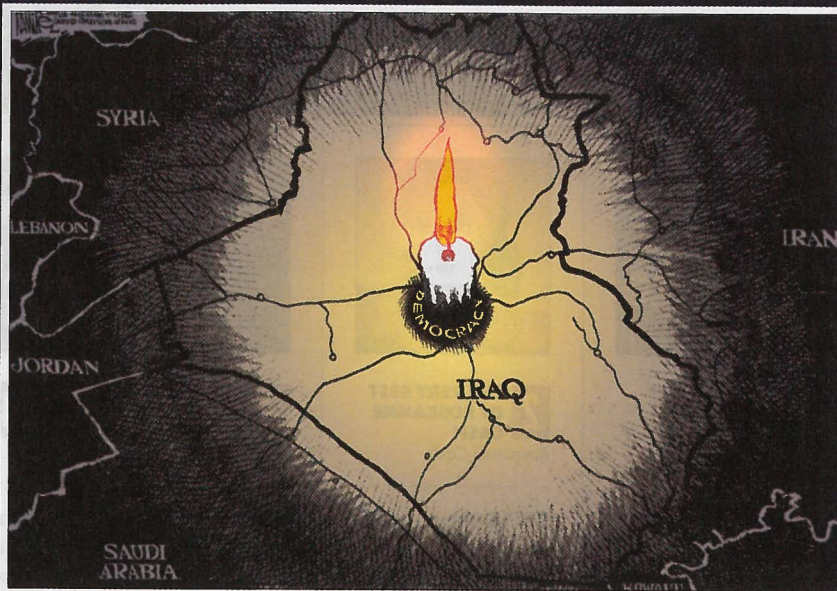
**WORLD AQUARIUM** in St. Louis. The aquarium paid \$15,000 for the snake after its birth more than six years ago.

**"I would have been less surprised if little green men had walked in."**

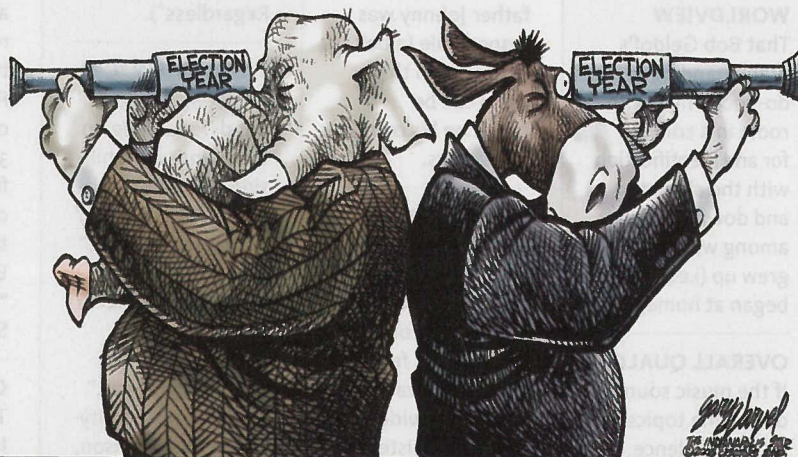
» Associated Press editor **PATRICK QUINN** on his reaction when 16-year-old American Farris Hassan arrived unaccompanied at his office in Baghdad last month, saying he wanted to do research and humanitarian work. The Florida teenager, who does not speak Arabic, went to the Middle East without telling anyone, including his parents.

**"It would take a miracle to win."**

» Italian atheist **LUIGI CASCIOLI**, acknowledging the unlikelihood of victory in his lawsuit charging that the Roman Catholic Church violates an Italian law against "Abuse of Popular Belief" by teaching that Jesus Christ existed. Mr. Cascioli has successfully appealed attempts from the presiding judge to dismiss the case. ☹



### Legislative Views

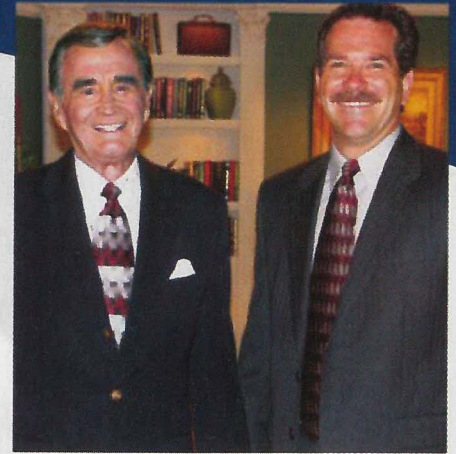




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# A warrior's last battle

**ISRAEL:** Prime Minister Ariel Sharon waged war and abruptly left office while striving for peace | *by Marvin Olasky*





**W**HETHER OR NOT ISRAELI PRIME Minister Ariel Sharon lived on after the major stroke he suffered on Jan. 4, Israeli media reported damage so substantial that one of the most remarkable political careers of recent decades would end—and with that, the road to Mideast peace takes a new turn.

Whether keeping vigil outside his Jerusalem hospital or praying at the Wailing Wall, Israelis widely accepted that the major bleeding to Mr. Sharon's brain overnight "effectively ended his political career," said International Christian Embassy Jerusalem spokesman David Parsons. "This comes in the midst of a heated election season for both Israelis and Palestinians and has brought great uncertainty to the country." Mr. Sharon—as one of the last remaining leaders of Israel's founding generation—considered it his legacy to draw the nation's final borders.

The life of Ariel Sharon was a novelist's dream. Born in 1928 to Russian immigrant parents in a farming community 10 miles north of Tel Aviv, at age 14 he began fighting the British who ruled what was and would be Israel. Mr. Sharon built his military reputation during Israel's wars against Arab states, becoming known for daring tactics and occasionally daring commanders to punish him when he refused to obey orders.

In 1973 Mr. Sharon led a sortie across the Suez Canal that helped turn the tide of a war that almost destroyed Israel. He helped to form the tough-minded Likud Party and gained high office, only to be run out in disgrace. He made a comeback as an ultra-hawk but last year gained the hatred of some hawks for his willingness to withdraw soldiers and settlers from Gaza. The man once forced to resign as defense minister (in 1983) for his role in attacks on Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon in the end was paving a way for Palestinian statehood.

Mr. Sharon, nicknamed "the Bulldozer," was never mellow like a Frank Sinatra song, but he could say with the singer, "I did it my way." And he made others see things his way: When George W. Bush was governor of Texas in 1998,

he visited Israel and Mr. Sharon took him on a helicopter ride to show the tiny country's narrow boundaries. Mr. Bush got the point: "What struck me is the tiny distance between enemy lines and Israel's population centers. In Texas, some of our driveways are longer than that."

When Likud fell out of power Mr. Sharon spent time at his sheep farm in southern Israel, and although no one mistook the overweight Sharon for a slim shepherd David, Israel's voters turned to him in February 2001 and made him prime minister.

Three months after Mr. Sharon took office, Israeli warplanes bombed Palestinian territories for the first time since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. On March 27, 2002, suicide attacks killed 30 Israelis, and two days later Israel launched Operation Defensive Shield, the most extensive in Palestinian territories since 1967. In June

Israel began construction of the West Bank barrier.

Mr. Sharon was not amused in 2003 as Israel and the Palestinians danced around concerning a "roadmap" to peace, so in December he announced a unilateral plan to evacuate settlements. The following May, 60 percent of his own Likud Party rejected the disengagement plans, but the prime minister didn't give up: He formed an alliance with opposition

Labor Party members that gave him a working cabinet majority to do it his way.

When the cabinet gave final approval to the evacuations last August, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned in protest. Mr. Sharon decided that he had had enough of Likud intra-party debates and in November set up a new party, Kadima, that quickly jumped to first place in Israeli polls. With elections planned for March 28, questions emerged after Mr. Sharon had a minor stroke Dec. 18. He was discharged two days later, then rushed to the hospital again Jan. 4 after suffering a massive stroke.

Mr. Sharon had also had a dramatic personal life. His first wife, Margalith, died in an automobile accident in 1962, and their one son, Gur, died at age 11 in 1967 after a friend apparently shot him while they were playing with one of Mr. Sharon's antique guns; Gur died in his father's lap.

Mr. Sharon married Margalith's younger sister, Lily, with whom he had two sons, Omri and Gil'ad. Lily Sharon died in 2000; the day before his father's major stroke last week, Omri resigned his seat in the Israeli parliament after pleading guilty to perjury and violating campaign finance laws.

Last week Mideast radicals danced on Mr. Sharon's grave while he still lived. "Allah is great and is able to exact revenge on this butcher," said Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Syrian-backed faction Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. "We thank Allah for this gift he presented to us on this new year." But President Bush called Mr. Sharon "a man of courage and peace," and a Palestinian commentator on the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya network praised him as "the first Israeli leader who stopped claiming Israel had a right to all of the Palestinians' land."

Mr. Sharon's deputy premier, former Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, took over formal leadership, but analysts question whether he can beat hard-line Likud leader Netanyahu or dovish Labor Party leader Amir Peretz in the March elections. (Ironically, had Mr. Netanyahu not resigned, he would probably be in immediate line to regain the prime minister's job that was his from 1996 to 1999.)

No one knew what the change in Israel's leadership would mean for its future. One immediate dispute is whether Palestinian residents of Jerusalem will be able to vote in the Palestinian parliamentary election scheduled for Jan. 25. Israel has threatened to say no, since it does not want to legitimize any Palestinian claim to Jerusalem. That step may give Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas an excuse to cancel a vote that his corrupt Fatah party might lose. But Israel might not mind a cancellation, since election victors would likely include Hamas extremists.

So the chess game continues. Jalal Salman of An-Najah University, a Palestinian school, said, "Sharon went a long way down the path to peace, and he is the only Israeli leader capable of making peace with the Palestinians." But Israel's volatile politics will probably cast up new surprises: Few would have predicted in 2001 that doves in 2006 would be describing Mr. Sharon as an eagle rather than a buzzard. 🌐



Maj. Gen. Sharon in 1967



**COVER STORY:** With Jack Abramoff pleading guilty to illegal lobbying activities and pledging to talk about his fraudulent deals, questions grow for evangelical leaders who—wittingly or unwittingly—became part of a strategy to “bring out the wackos to vote against something” | by Jamie Dean

# HOUSES OF CAR

**W**HEN THE COUSHATTA INDIAN Tribe of Louisiana wanted to squelch competition to its Grand Casino's \$300-million-a-year enterprise in 2001, tribal leaders knew just where to turn: Jack Abramoff, a Washington lobbyist with a history of protecting powerhouse tribal casinos. When Mr. Abramoff wanted a shrewd way to protect his client's massive gaming interests, he turned to Ralph Reed—former executive director of the Christian Coalition and a consultant who had a history of rallying evangelicals against legalized gambling.

Mr. Abramoff and Mr. Reed worked together to urge Christians and evangelical leaders to oppose casino openings and pro-gambling legislation in Louisiana. Behind the scenes, the pair's campaign succeeded, bolstering the Coushatta Tribe's casino business by eliminating competition. Now, five years later, Mr. Abramoff is at the center of one of the most sweeping political corruption scandals in Washington history. And though Mr. Reed has not been accused of illegal activity, the scandal has snared him and other prominent evangelicals associated with campaigns financed by Mr. Abramoff and his clients.

Mr. Abramoff, 46, pleaded guilty on Jan. 3 to three felony counts of conspiracy, fraud, and tax evasion as part of a settlement with federal prosecutors. The deal sets the stage for Mr. Abramoff to testify against members of Congress, congressional staffers, and former business contacts in an expansive criminal investigation into lobbying efforts on behalf of Indian tribes and other gambling interests.

While some politicians raced to create distance from Mr. Abramoff and return his contributions, evangelicals who became part of his elaborate pro-gambling schemes are hesitant to explain fully their connections with the lobbyist. Mr. Reed repeatedly has refused to give *WORLD* an on-the-record interview, but has maintained that though he knew funds for his anti-gambling work came from tribal sources, he believed what Mr. Abramoff's firm told him: that the money came from the tribe's “non-gambling funds.” (Anti-gambling leaders in Alabama, such as Dan Ireland of the Alabama Citizens Action Program, have called that distinction illegitimate.)

Mr. Abramoff first hired Mr. Reed, a prominent evangelical who once called gambling “a cancer,” to leverage his evangelical contacts to defeat pro-gambling legislation in Alabama in 1999. Mr. Abramoff hatched the campaign to protect the gaming interests of one of his clients, the Choctaw Tribe of Mississippi. While Mr. Reed worked to rally Christians for campaigns that benefited Mr. Abramoff's clients, Mr. Abramoff's partner, Michael Scanlon, wrote an e-mail to Kathryn Van Hoof, a former lawyer for the Coushatta Tribe, describing the plan to use Christians: “Simply put we want to bring out the wackos to vote against something and make sure the rest of the public lets the whole thing slip past them. The wackos get their information [from] the Christian right, Christian radio, mail, the internet, and telephone.”

To that end, Mr. Reed worked on at least three separate projects for Mr. Abramoff from 1999 to 2002. E-mails

released by the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee suggest Mr. Reed worked with Mr. Abramoff to funnel tribal money through intermediary organizations to anti-gambling groups and to his own consulting firm, Century Strategies.

Mr. Reed has admitted funneling \$1.15 million from the Choctaw Tribe to two anti-gambling groups in Alabama, including the Christian Coalition of Alabama (CCA), in 2000. In 2001, Mr. Abramoff hired Mr. Reed to rally evangelicals to oppose casino openings and pro-gambling legislation in Louisiana to protect the interests of the Coushatta Tribe. E-mails released by a Senate committee late last year show that Mr. Reed knew the Coushatta Tribe was Mr. Abramoff's client. (In his plea agreement, Mr. Abramoff has admitted charging the Coushattas \$30 million for his work, and pocketing nearly \$11.5 million without the tribe's knowledge.)

Other e-mails and faxes released by the Senate show that Mr. Reed organized TV and radio ads, as well as a letter-writing campaign, enlisting prominent evangelicals to help in the Abramoff-orchestrated campaign, including Focus on the Family's James Dobson and Tom Minnery, former presidential candidate and family-values guru Gary Bauer, Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly, and American Family Association head Don Wildmon.

Mr. Bauer, Ms. Schlafly, and Mr. Wildmon wrote letters to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton asking her to

**READY TO TESTIFY:** Jack Abramoff leaves federal court in Washington, D.C.



DS





prevent a new casino opening in Louisiana. Each told WORLD that they had no knowledge of Mr. Reed's connections to Mr. Abramoff at the time, nor did they recall, they said, being asked by Mr. Reed to write the letters. "I'm against gambling anyway, and it wouldn't have mattered who asked me to write the letter," Ms. Schlafly said. A Feb. 19, 2002, e-mail from Mr. Reed to Mr. Abramoff stated that Mr. Reed "called Dobson this a.m. . . . letters are going to Norton, copied to others, from . . . Jim Dobson, Gary Bauer, Phyllis Schlafly." The correspondence also indicates Mr. Reed solicited and received help from Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.

Mr. Wildmon acknowledged that for evangelicals the scandal "certainly hurts all of us. . . . Once you follow gambling down to the core you're always going to find corruption." A Focus on the Family spokesman said neither Mr. Dobson nor Mr. Minnery was available for an interview about their involvement.

Congressional documents also show Mr. Reed had contact with Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council. In a June 2001 e-mail to Mr. Abramoff about a Louisiana pro-gambling bill, Mr. Reed wrote: "Tony Perkins had requested money last month to kill this bill." The e-mails did not include any further details.

Mr. Perkins told WORLD, "I never had a conversation with Ralph Reed about this issue." Mr. Perkins did acknowledge discussing the bill with Louisiana GOP operative Rhett Davis, who contacted Mr. Perkins—at that time a Louisiana state representative—to ask how to spend money "from donors" to defeat the measure. Mr. Perkins said he knew

Mr. Davis, director of the Committee Against Gambling Expansion, was working with Ralph Reed to lobby against the bill. He said he suggested the group could fund phone banks.

While Mr. Reed has maintained that his work was legitimate, in a speech last month before a TeenPact conference, he briefly admitted remorse for the Abramoff connection, saying, "Had I known then what I know now, I would not have undertaken that work. On reflection and with the benefit of hind-

"should have explained that the contributions came from the Choctaws."

But Mr. Reed has refused to address publicly the details of his work for Mr. Abramoff, including allegations that he agreed to accept payment through intermediary organizations in an attempt to obscure the tribal source of the funds.

Mr. Reed's consulting firm accepted payments in excess of \$400,000 from the American International Center, a bogus group set up by Mr. Scanlon, Mr. Abramoff's associate, Senate documents

show. According to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Coshatta leaders testified that they wrote checks to Southern Underwriters, a company operated by a tribal leader, which then wrote checks to the center, which in turn wrote checks to Mr. Reed's firm. "The payments were made to Ralph Reed. This was done with the whole council's approval," William Worfel, a former tribal official, testified.

American International Center's former "director," part-time lifeguard David Grosh, testified before a

Senate committee that Mr. Scanlon asked him to house the "international corporation" in the basement of his house. "I asked him what I had to do, and he said, 'Nothing,' so that sounded pretty good to me," Mr. Grosh testified.

Meanwhile, a March 2001 e-mail from Mr. Abramoff to Mr. Reed discussing wire payment for services shows the

## COUSHATTA AND CHOCTAW GAMING



sight, it is clear it associated my long-standing opposition to gambling with those who did not share it and has caused difficulty for the faith community with whom I worked, which I deeply regret." Nearly five years after the Alabama project, Mr. Reed in a June 2005 letter to the Christian Coalition of Alabama told its board members that he

# Abramoff investigation timeline

## 1999

» Choctaw Tribe of Mississippi hires Abramoff to protect itself from competition from neighboring states. Abramoff hires Ralph Reed to mobilize evangelical Christians to oppose pro-gambling legislation in Alabama.

» Reed helps funnel \$1.15 million of Choctaw money to



Reed

two anti-gambling groups in Alabama, including the state's Christian Coalition.

## 2000

» Gambling services company eLottery hires Abramoff to help defeat the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act. Abramoff hires Reed to help defeat the bill.

» Reed urges evangelicals to oppose the legislation, saying it

contains exceptions allowing certain types of gambling.

» James Dobson and other evangelical leaders support the anti-gambling bill, but the legislation is defeated.

» Abramoff partner Michael Scanlon sends e-mail to Coshatta Tribe lawyer outlining strategy to "bring out the wackos" to defeat gambling competition.



Scanlon

## 2001

» Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana hires Abramoff to protect its gambling interests from competition. Abramoff hires Reed to lobby Christians to oppose casino openings and expanded gambling laws in Louisiana. Several evangelical leaders—including James Dobson and Tony Perkins—write letters to Interior Secretary Gale Norton opposing a casino opening in Vinton, La.



circuitous flow of funds: "The originating entity had to transfer to a separate account before they transferred it to the entity which is going to transfer it to you."

If the nature of Mr. Abramoff's payoffs to evangelical leaders appears nebulous, federal prosecutors are making headway on uncovering Mr. Abramoff's political favors. They say Mr. Abramoff and Mr. Scanlon defrauded tribal clients of millions of dollars and illegally lobbied members of Congress on behalf of the tribes. Mr. Scanlon pleaded guilty in November to conspiring to bribe a member of Congress and other public officials. Mr. Abramoff's plea agreement implicates Rep. Robert Ney (R-Ohio), the chairman of the House Administration Committee, saying he accepted lavish gifts and campaign contributions and then awarded congressional contracts and favors to Mr. Abramoff's clients. Mr. Ney denies the charges and says he will return contributions from Mr. Abramoff.

The plea agreement also indicates that prosecutors are investigating other public officials, and it refers to gifts and contributions Mr. Abramoff offered to officials "in exchange for agreements that the public officials would use their official positions and influence." According to an analysis of federal election records by the Center for Responsive Politics, Mr. Abramoff and his clients have donated more than \$4.4 million to lawmakers and political groups since 2000. About \$2.9 million of that total went to Republicans.

The revelations are leading lawmakers at the beginning of an election year to scramble to distance themselves from the lobbyist. At least two dozen lawmakers have returned money they received from



**"I WILL WORK HARD TO EARN THAT REDEMPTION":** Abramoff meets the press in Miami.

Mr. Abramoff or his clients. Republican Sen. Conrad Burns of Montana, who received \$150,000—the largest individual donation—returned the contributions before Christmas. Democratic Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, who sits with Mr. Burns on the congressional committee overseeing the Abramoff investigation, returned \$67,000 a few days earlier. Both senators maintain that the contributions were legitimate, but that they wanted to remove any appearance of impropriety.

Sens. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa)—both long-time advocates for evangelicals—also received contributions: Mr. Brownback received \$44,500, which he returned in December. Mr. Grassley received \$31,500.

Hours after Mr. Abramoff entered his guilty plea, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) announced he would donate to charity tens of thousands of dollars he received from Mr. Abramoff and his clients. Officials for President Bush's reelection campaign also announced they would return \$6,000 donated directly to the campaign by Mr. Abramoff, his wife, and one of Mr. Abramoff's tribal clients.

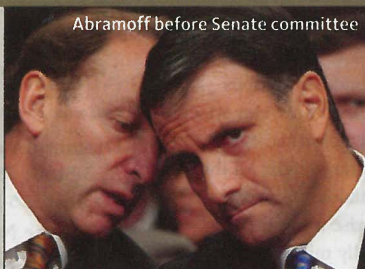
Mr. Abramoff in his Jan. 3 courtroom plea invoked God's name: "I only hope that I can merit forgiveness from the Almighty and from those I have wronged or caused to suffer. I will work hard to earn that redemption," he told U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle. ☐

## 2004

▣ Abramoff refuses to answer questions from the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, but a seven-month committee investigation concludes that Abramoff and Scanlon, a former aide to Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), charged six tribes in six states at least \$66 million for pro-casino lobbying and may have manipulated tribal elections to ensure contracts with tribes.

## 2005

▣ Nov. 21: Scanlon pleads guilty in Washington to con-



Abramoff before Senate committee

spiring to bribe public officials in connection with his lobbying work on behalf of Indian tribes and casinos.

▣ Dec. 13-22: Republican and Democratic lawmakers return or give away campaign donations

they received from Abramoff and his associates.

## 2006

▣ Jan. 3: Abramoff pleads guilty in Washington to mail fraud, conspiracy, and tax evasion charges in federal court in connection with his lobbying work.

▣ House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) announces he will give money received from Abramoff to charity.

▣ Jan. 4: Abramoff pleads guilty in Miami to

conspiracy and wire fraud charges in relation to the 2000 purchase of SunCruz casinos.

▣ The Republican National Committee announced that President Bush's reelection campaign will give \$6,000 of Abramoff contributions to charity.

Republican Reps. Tom DeLay, Roy Blunt, and Bob Ney announce they will return or give money they received from Abramoff to charity. ☐

SOURCE: Associated Press and WORLD interviews



Abramoff





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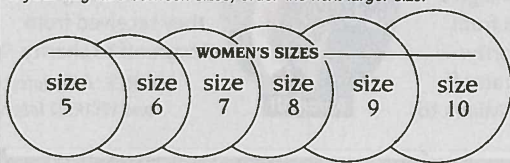
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Alito

# Battlefield justice

**SUPREME COURT:** Samuel Alito's abortion views have drawn fire, but other issues are also on the minds of his opponents and the president who nominated him | by Lynn Vincent

**P**RESIDENT BUSH DASHED INTO 2006 with a schedule that took him from Texas to the Capitol to Illinois in less than a week. In San Antonio on New Year's Day, he challenged critics of his domestic terror-war policies. In Washington, D.C., he led mid-week meetings at the Pentagon and White House to pitch his game plan for the war in Iraq. And in Chicago on Jan. 6, he was scheduled to tout good economic news to the Chicago Board of Trade.

While the president stumped for his views on the war and American business, aides worked behind the scenes prepping the man Mr. Bush hopes will shape constitutional law on both: 3rd Circuit Appeals Court

Judge Samuel Alito. Confirmation hearings for the razor-sharp, regular-Joe jurist from Jersey are set to open on Jan. 9. Though activist groups have exchanged fire mainly over the flashpoint issue of abortion, Mr. Bush tapped Mr. Alito for other reasons as well.

"He has a deep understanding of the proper role of judges in our society," the president said on Oct. 31, 2005, when announcing Mr. Alito's nomination. "He understands that judges are to interpret the laws, not to impose their preferences or priorities on the people."

Mr. Alito's widely acknowledged conservatism, in particular his strict views on the judiciary's limited role,

may work to reverse what many see as the high court's increasing encroachment on private enterprise and other branches of government.

Based on his record, Mr. Alito "is going to be a reliable conservative vote in favor of business and against those who would make use of the power of the court . . . to regulate businesses unnecessarily," said Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, a conservative legal watchdog group.

Mr. Alito has often ruled in favor of employers in discrimination cases, doing so 18 of the 22 times he has written on the issue. While he has written for the majority in more than half those cases, anti-Alito groups still say he is hostile to employees claiming race, gender, and religion bias.

The liberal Alliance for Justice, for example, has made much of an 11-1 3rd Circuit ruling in *Sheridan v. DuPont*, in which Mr. Alito was the "1." Plaintiff Barbara Sheridan claimed her employer passed her over for promotion because she is a woman, but provided little direct evidence of discrimination. Historically, direct evidence in such cases has been difficult to muster, leading to case law



that says a plaintiff need only prove he or she is a member of a protected class, was qualified for the position, was fired (or passed over), and that the position was ultimately filled by a person not in the protected class.

While the majority in *Sheridan* hewed to that precedent, Mr. Alito dissented, writing as he has in other cases that Ms. Sheridan ought to provide actual evidence to bolster her case.

During confirmation hearings, Mr. Alito is sure to face questions on race and gender bias. With the Bush administration's post-9/11 domestic wiretapping program making headlines, he may face still tougher ones on privacy. Last month, news broke that the administration had let the National Security Agency monitor the phone calls of some Americans. The White House has insisted the wiretaps are limited to terror suspects and to calls in which one party in the conversation is located outside the United States.

"If somebody from al-Qaeda is calling you, we'd like to know why," Mr. Bush said, defending the action in San Antonio on Jan. 1.

Civil libertarians view this eavesdropping as a gross infringement on privacy, but Mr. Alito may not agree. On Nov. 9, he met with Wisconsin Democrat Russ Feingold, the only senator to vote against the Patriot Act. (Congress failed to reauthorize the act before the Christmas recess but agreed to a month-long extension that ends on Feb. 3.) Mr. Feingold asked the judge what he thought of so-called "sneak and peak" warrants in terror cases—warrants that allow the FBI, with a judge's approval, to sneak into a suspect's home, office, or car without notifying the suspect. Mr. Feingold told reporters Mr. Alito said "the framers might have been shocked at the idea of such searches occurring," but that he also said, "At the same time, you have to remember that times have changed."

While working in the Reagan Justice Department, Mr. Alito argued that attorneys general authorizing domestic wiretaps in the interest of national security should be immune from prosecution. That argument is drawing keen scrutiny from Judiciary Committee Democrats.

Key in the dispute over domestic spying—and over the detention of terror suspects—is whether the actions of U.S. officers fall under President Bush's war powers or under the aegis of law enforcement. Also crucial is whether detainees are more correctly classified as criminal suspects, enemy combatants, or prisoners of war.

In papers filed with the Supreme Court Jan. 3, lawyers for suspected

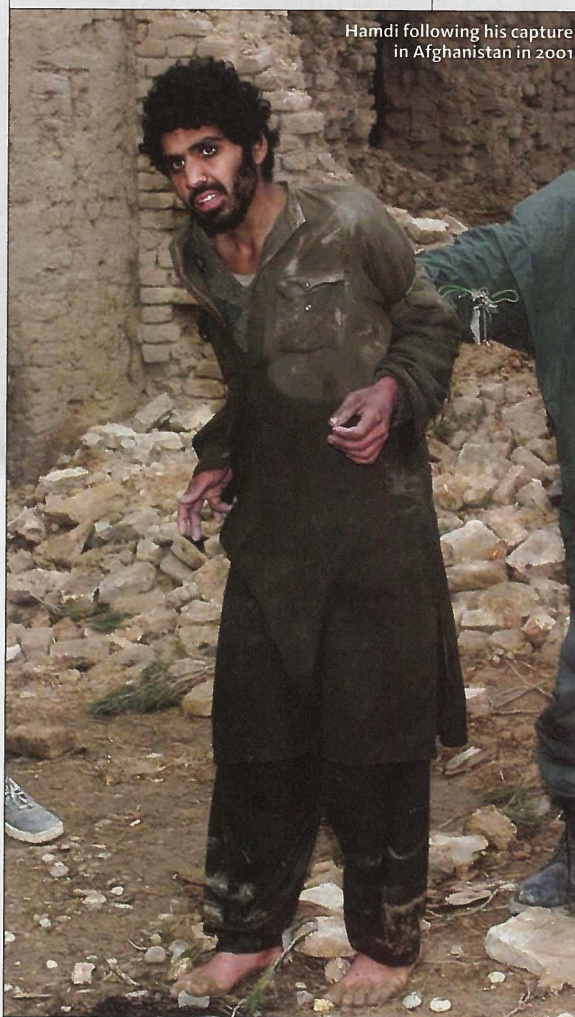
Yasir Hamdi, an American citizen whom U.S. forces captured in an Afghanistan combat zone with a gun in his hand. Mr. Hamdi's father had challenged the Pentagon's classification and detention of his son as an enemy combatant. A slim plurality of the court ruled in favor of the Defense Department, concluding that under the Authorization of Use of Military Force that Congress passed

in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, President Bush did have the authority to detain a U.S. citizen. Still, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote that Mr. Hamdi, as a U.S. citizen, should be given a meaningful opportunity to contest his detention before a neutral arbitrator. Justices David Souter and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented, concluding that Mr. Hamdi's detention was unauthorized.

"The Bush administration is concerned, and rightly so, that the judicial branch is not as deferential as it ought to be to the president in time of war," said Judicial Watch's Tom Fitton.

An Alito confirmation could change that. As a judge, he has shown great reluctance to second-guess prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, requiring plaintiffs to

prove that officials made significant mistakes that may have prevented the just resolution of a case. Among 60 criminal appeals yielding published rulings in which Mr. Alito wrote, he sided with the defendant in only 12 cases. With cases like Mr. Padilla's headed for the high court—and an administration at least as committed to fighting terrorism as it is to fighting abortion—judiciary committee liberals will likely question Mr. Alito about that as well. 🌐



Hamdi following his capture in Afghanistan in 2001

"dirty bomber" Jose Padilla raised both the domestic wiretap and detention issues. In 2002 Mr. Padilla, a U.S. citizen, was arrested on suspicion that he was part of a plot to blow up apartment buildings in New York, Washington, or Florida. Labeling him an "enemy combatant," authorities held him for three years before charging him last month with being part of a North American terror support cell.

In 2004, the Supreme Court heard *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, a case involving



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# Mainline mess

**RELIGION:** This year could see many Protestant denominations fracture | by Edward E. Plowman

**T**HREE EMBATTLED MAINLINE denominations face critical decisions in 2006 that could lead to dramatic upheavals:

» The 2.3-million-member **Episcopal Church (ECUSA)** is scheduled to vote on whether it will apologize and repent for consecrating an openly gay bishop in 2003, as many top archbishops from the rest of the international Anglican Communion have demanded. ECUSA leaders, already banned from Anglicanism's chief policy-making body and disfellowshipped by many of the Communion's archbishops, have served notice they will not agree that what they did was wrong.

Enshrining that position in a vote at the 2006 General Convention this summer would most certainly lead to a breakup of the Communion into affluent minority liberal and underfunded majority conservative alliances within two years (at the next worldwide Anglican Lambeth Conference in 2008). In that scenario, many conservative ECUSA dioceses and churches would be named by the majority to replace ECUSA as the authentic Anglican presence in America. The legal haggling could go on for years.

ECUSA leaders, with help from their allies in the Archbishop of Canterbury's bureaucracy in London, are expected to try to win the day with double-speak: Apologize for all the controversy (but not for causing it), and express regret for not consulting with other Communion leaders before proceeding (not that it would have meant any difference). "Not good enough," key global south archbishops have warned in advance.

» The General Assembly of the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** will vote on a measure in June that would, in effect, negate the church constitution's fidelity/chastity standard for PCUSA clergy. It would allow certain exceptions to the standard for conscience reasons. A PCUSA commission drew up the proposal.



**EPISCOPAL CONTROVERSY:** Openly gay bishop V. Gene Robinson preaches at a church in New Hampshire.

Many PCUSA leaders have voiced support. If the assembly adopts it, and a majority of presbyteries (regional units) ratify it, the 2.3-million-member denomination will see a major exodus.

» **American Baptist Churches (U.S.A.)** will fracture. The 1.5-million-member denomination, based in Valley Forge, Pa., has a strong position on homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture. But its liberal-dominated governing board has blocked all efforts to enforce the policy on member churches on grounds Baptist churches are autonomous, don't have creeds, and have the right to interpret the Bible as they wish. The board also has allowed gay-approving churches to transfer from predominantly conservative

regional units to gay-friendly ones in a different geographic area.

The ABC's Southern California-based Pacific Southwest region, with 300 mostly conservative churches in three states, is scheduled to vote in April on whether to proceed with plans to pull out of the denomination. Several other regions are poised to do likewise if the board continues to balk at discipline of congregations. The financially strapped ABC would be hard-pressed to survive. It already has cut staff to bare bones, and it rents out most of its headquarters to private firms. A large chunk of its membership is dually aligned with black denominations or the pro-gay

United Church of Christ, and this shows in financial loyalties.

The Northern California-based American Baptist Churches of the West, which has kicked out several pro-gay churches from membership, changed its name as of Jan. 1. The region's new name is Growing Healthy Churches—"a move to reflect more accurately who we are as well as losing any negative baggage that may be detrimental to the accomplishment of a mission," said executive minister Paul Borden.

Leaders of American Baptist Evangelicals, organized as a renewal group in 1982, recently declared the ABC is beyond renewal. They voted to become a support group for whatever new entity emerges from the ruins of Valley Forge this year. ☺



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# Beyond the *Wardrobe*

**MOVIES:** Narnia gatekeeper Douglas Gresham isn't surprised by success | by Andrew Coffin

**M**UCH AS C.S. LEWIS FANS awaited *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* on the big screen, it's unlikely that anyone was more anxious about the final product than the filmmakers themselves, as a reported \$150 million investment and the potential for a seven-part film series rests, to a large extent, on the film's success.

Any doubts were laid to rest by *Wardrobe's* strong opening weekend—the third-biggest of the year at \$67 million. In fact, holiday moviegoers pushed *Narnia* receipts up as box-office buys fell for the more recent *King Kong* and the bigger-opening *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. *Wardrobe* topped New Year's weekend box-office receipts (\$34 million to No. 2 *Kong's*

\$32 million and No. 9 *Potter's* \$7.6 million)—a surprisingly strong showing in the film's fourth weekend out.

Douglas Gresham, C.S. Lewis' stepson who served as a *Wardrobe* producer and consultant, checked in with *WORLD* following the film's opening success.

**WORLD:** Did the strength of *Narnia's* opening surprise you?

**GRESHAM:** I was not in the least surprised; I always knew that this movie would be welcomed by folks all over the world.

**WORLD:** *Narnia* movies have been discussed (and scripted) for years, but never made it to the screen. How did it finally happen?

**GRESHAM:** There were some scripts which I did not regard as

entirely suitable. It is also very true that the technology to really do the book justice simply has not existed until very recently. I think it would be fair to say that we could not have shot this movie as we have as little as three years ago. What really set the stage, so to speak, has been the fact that the technology has matured now to the extent that people no longer need or want to see "effects" movies for the sake of the effects, but now are waiting to see the effects disappear into simple, beautiful fantasies so that the suspension of disbelief becomes perfect and the wonderful tales of long ago can at last become real on screen.

**WORLD:** How did Walden Media convince you that they were the right company to make the *Narnia* films?

**GRESHAM:** They made a "pitch" just like everybody else. The difference was that their stated intent was to make a faithful adaptation of the book, and when I met with them and with [Walden backer] Philip Anschutz, I felt that I could trust him to do what he said he would do. He has.

**WORLD:** Was there ever tension in remaining faithful to the book, particularly in its spiritual themes?

**GRESHAM:** There was no problem with this at all. We did not really look at the book that way, nor at the film that way. As we saw it, if we made a faithful adaptation of the book, whatever messages or symbolisms people found in the book they would similarly find in the movie. When we strayed at all, the thing to do was to go back to the book to check ourselves.

**WORLD:** Do you expect readership of the *Narnia* books to grow through the success of the film?

**GRESHAM:** Yes, of course, the film will introduce people who have never heard of the books to the wonders of *Narnia*.

**WORLD:** What is C.S. Lewis' legacy?

**GRESHAM:** If you look around at the faces of the children in a cinema while the movie is playing on the screen, you will see his legacy living all around you.

**WORLD:** It's been reported that *Prince Caspian* now has the go-ahead. Can you confirm this?

**GRESHAM:** Not officially. :) 🌐



**NARNIA POWER:** Douglas Gresham (left), actress Tilda Swinton, and Walden's Cary Granat.





Texas quarterback Vince Young scores game-winning touchdown

could turn into a psychological advantage. And instead of taking the word of experts and pundits, Texas players—most of them virtually unknown as a result of the USC press frenzy—listened to their coaches and star quarterback Vince Young when they said Texas was every bit as good as

# Texas shootout

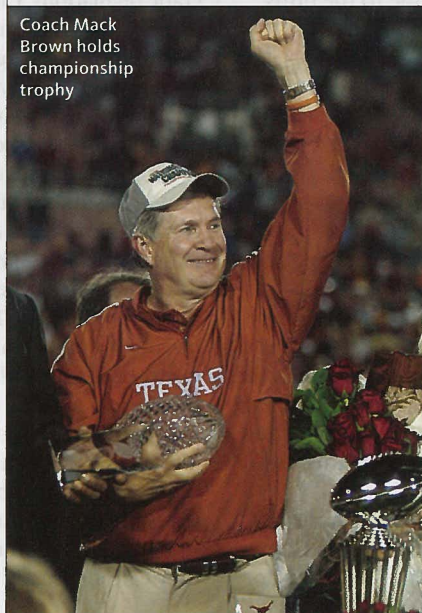
**FOOTBALL:** Longhorns defy pundits, win the national championship | by John Dawson in Pasadena

**F**ROM LISTENING TO TELEVISION analysts in the weeks leading up to the Rose Bowl, the Texas Longhorns may have wondered whether they even needed to make the trip to Pasadena, Calif. At least in the media, the game had been decided. The unstoppable Trojans of USC, defending national champions and winners of 34 straight games, would trounce Texas. Just one question remained: Was the 2005 USC team the greatest college football team ever? Days before the Jan. 4 BCS National Championship game, ESPN analyst Mark May gave the Trojans credit for being the second-best team in the past 50 years.

Of course, Texas coach Mack Brown knows an opportunity when he sees it. "Yeah, I really appreciate you all," Mr. Brown told reporters the day before the game. "You've been really good. I don't need a pre-game talk." Nothing seems to get college

athletes going more than being disrespected. For what it's worth, football pundits even before the game delivered to Texas something Mr. Brown

Coach Mack Brown holds championship trophy



Reggie Bush, Matt Leinhardt, and Southern Cal.

Indeed, what most analysts seemed to have forgotten became unforgettable. The Rose Bowl game turned out to be an instant classic. Texas quarterback Vince Young's game-winning scramble didn't just virtually give the Longhorns their first national championship in more than 30 years with a 41-38 win, but it simultaneously tarnished Mr. Bush's Heisman Trophy and served nearly every pigskin prognosticator a heaping helping of crow.

After time ran out and Texas claimed victory, burnt-orange-clad Texas fans crowded near the set of ABC's post-game show. There, Texas fans chanted, "Best team ever," at Mark May and other members of the panel as the show went live. It wasn't so much a statement of belief as it was an ironic twist. If ESPN had decided this USC team was the second-best team ever, it would stand to reason that Texas, which beat the Trojans, would have been No. 1 on that list.

USC coach Pete Carroll had no problem respecting the Longhorns, saying after the game that the loss did not make him angry: "It makes me feel differently than if we had lost to somebody we shouldn't." 🌐



# Ethical chic

Today's moralists want to construct rules to make them righteous without all that guilt

**S**OME MEDICAL ETHICS EXPERTS ARE COMPLAINING that the government is ignoring ethical issues in its plans to deal with a potential bird-flu epidemic. The spokesman for the group? Princeton ethicist Peter Singer, champion of animal rights, euthanasia, and infanticide.

So what might the government's bird-flu policy be like if Mr. Singer, based on his professional expertise and his leadership in the field of medical ethics, became the U.S. Ethics Czar? Based on his writings, we could assume that he would stop scarce bird-flu vaccine from going to infants, since they are not fully human yet. He would also prevent it being wasted on the elderly, since they will die anyway.

And why would Mr. Singer give flu medicine to human beings at all? According to his beliefs, there are no intrinsic differences between human beings and animals. Which species is most at risk? If there is a bird-flu epidemic, Mr. Singer would probably give all the medicine to the birds.

Morality is back in vogue. Even postmodernists on college campuses—who got their start by dismantling objective moral claims—are now in a high state of moral indignation, demonizing President Bush, denouncing the war in Iraq, and preaching against the evils of conservatism. Leftist politicians have seemingly abandoned policy recommendations altogether, so that their discourse consists almost solely of angry moral rhetoric.

It's a sign of progress that these activists are appealing to objective moral principles. But if you ask them what those principles are and what their basis is, you are unlikely to get a coherent answer. The left pushes moral restrictions on lifestyle when it comes to the economy, the environment, and social attitudes, but it accepts no moral governance on sexual behavior. The left is against war and capital punishment, except when carried out against the sick and unborn children.

People today want to feel moral. But they do not want objective, transcendent absolutes—such as the Ten Commandments—whose authority comes from God. They do

have a conscience, from the moral law that God has written on their hearts (Romans 2:14-16). They want to feel righteous, but they prefer to construct an ethical system that does not make them feel guilty. They want morality without the worldview that comes with it.

The South Korean scientist Hwang Woo-suk is one of the most important pioneers of human cloning. He recently was caught in an ethics scandal. Not for engendering babies and letting them die. Not for experimentation on human beings that leaves them genetically damaged until they die a horrible death. What Mr. Hwang did that was considered so heinous is to use eggs donated by some of his employees. The practice runs afoul of the rules set up by the "ethics boards" that have become our moral arbiters. They strain at gnats while swallowing camels (Matthew 23:24).

In the topsy-turvy world of genetic engineering, "ethical guidelines" without moral principles become simply bureaucratic regulations. Cloning is moral as long as it results in the death of the child but not if it transgresses employees' rights.

But minor transgressions are often signs of a bigger moral violation. Investigators into the egg donations at Mr. Hwang's laboratory uncovered more and more questionable practices. Finally, his whole scientific contribution unraveled.

Mr. Hwang claimed to have cloned human embryos from patients' cells and harvested their stem cells. These patient-specific stem cells were genetically identical to all of the patient's other cells and so would not be rejected by the patient's body. The paper that described this research became foundational in the field and was the basis for much of the hype that stem cells from cloned embryos would be a medical cure-all.

But the investigators found that the research was a hoax. Mr. Hwang faked his data. The publication was a lie. Scientists still want to clone embryos for their stem cells, but at least they must recognize falsifying research is wrong.

Morality is a kind of truth, which people can deny, but they cannot escape for long. 🌐

Hwang



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# ENDANGERED SPECIES

**INTERVIEW:** Author and expert field researcher **Charley Dewberry** wants to save science from itself | by Marvin Olasky

**C**HARLEY DEWBERRY, AUTHOR OF *SAVING SCIENCE: A Critique of Science and its Role in Salmon Recovery* (2004), is the academic dean of Gutenberg College in Eugene, Ore. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon but ranges far beyond academic walls: He is one of the most experienced field workers in the Pacific Northwest and has for many years examined problems of salmon restoration.

That may seem like a narrow topic, but Mr. Dewberry's analysis of salmon research shows why there's something fishy in much of science these days. He shows how scientists examining issues involving fish catches or endangered species typically look at statistics developed by other scientists but don't interview fishermen or use historical methods to get a better sense of change over time. He questions whether scientists who spend little time in the field really understand their subject.

Mr. Dewberry praises physicists who know the specific physical laws necessary for riding a bicycle, and then asks: "What if a particular physicist who can articulate these laws cannot ride a bicycle? Does this physicist have a greater understanding of bicycle riding than the boy who, with personal knowledge, just rides the bike?" He's not impressed by scientists who venture into the field only to instruct technicians or to put on "dog-and-pony shows" for the benefit of journalists and financial backers.

**WORLD:** What's going on in the debate about recovering depleted salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest, and why should readers who aren't salmon-lovers care?

**DEWBERRY:** Salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest is helping to define science and its role in culture nationally, not just regionally.

Virtually everyone involved—environmentalists, industry representatives, ecumenical councils, state and federal agencies, politicians, academics—agrees that "sound science" should be the basis of recovery efforts. In their view, the role of science is to provide the objective facts that will be used to set policy, with scientists wearing the final robes of authority for determining if the efforts are successful or not. Thus science has a privileged position in determining what is true.

If these efforts go unchallenged, then science ends up playing a larger role in policy decisions than is warranted. Debates such as Intelligent Design are largely lost before they start because science has already been defined in efforts like salmon recovery.

**WORLD:** The scientists looked to as the authorities—are they really skilled in making judgments regarding salmon recovery?

**DEWBERRY:** Most people selected for key roles in salmon recovery are scientists selected because of their publishing record in peer-reviewed journals. I don't believe that's a good basis for selection. A person's publishing record tells us little

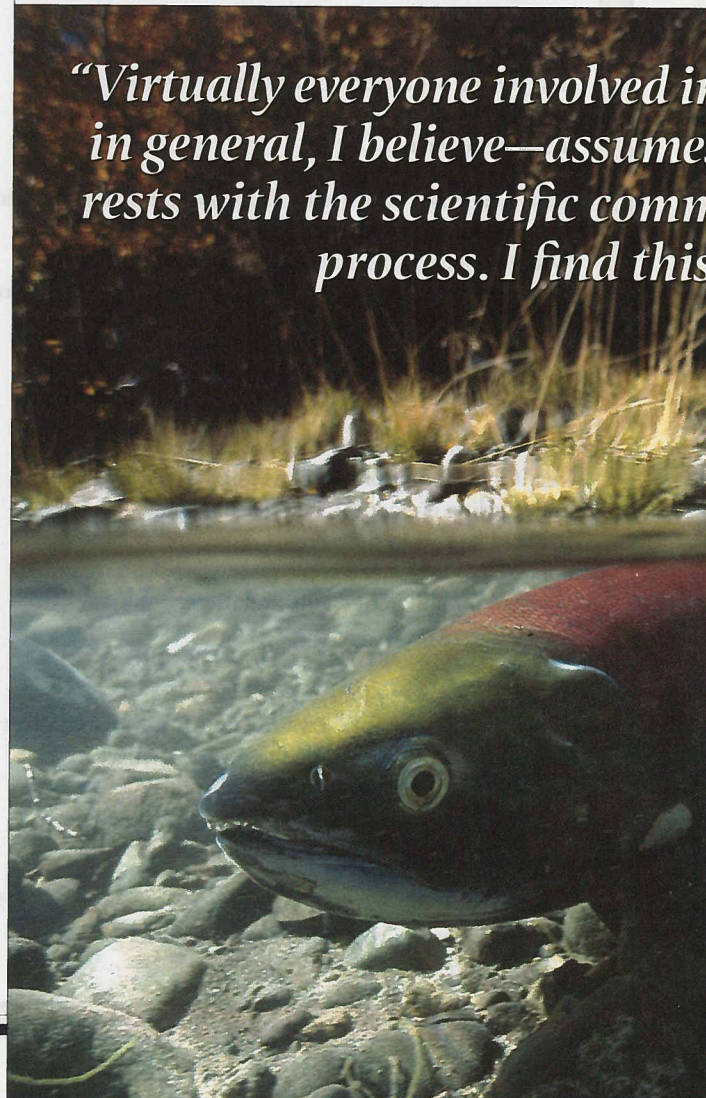
about his ability to make decisions. What should matter instead is a track record showing experience and a demonstrated ability to make good judgments.

There is an apt analogy in medicine. When we are sick, do we call a team of medical researchers to give us a diagnosis or do we go to a general practitioner? We go to the GP because he has the skill of making a diagnosis. Making a diagnosis is not science. A medical researcher may know all the literature, but he may not have made a single diagnosis since leaving residency. If he had skills, they have eroded over time. To claim that the peer-reviewed journal articles of the medical researcher (the scientist) make him best qualified to diagnose is just wrong. Likewise, to claim that the peer-reviewed journal articles of the research scientist make him best qualified to make judgments is wrong.

**WORLD:** But isn't the role of science to provide the facts?

**DEWBERRY:** Science plays an important role in providing facts. Those that argue, however, that science has a privileged role because of the greater certainty and objectivity inherent in its method are wrong because human subjectivity is always involved in how we know things.

*"Virtually everyone involved in general, I believe—assumes rests with the scientific comm process. I find this*





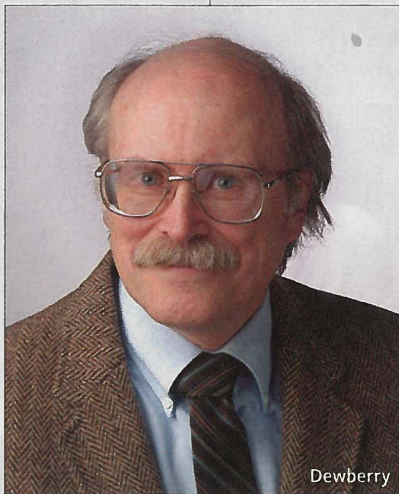
**WORLD:** So are you opposed to peer-reviewed empirical science?

**DEWBERRY:** No. Good scientific research is valuable information. What I am opposed to is the belief that peer-reviewed empirical science journal articles have inherently greater assurance and objectivity than other forms of knowledge, such as the discovery of a theory, or other forms of inquiry, such as history. It is just not true that a science journal article reviewed by several reviewers has inherently any greater objectivity than, say, a history journal article reviewed by several reviewers.

**WORLD:** You also think the role of statistics is minor compared with that of experience and skill gained in the field.

**DEWBERRY:** If science is viewed as a method that leads to more certain knowledge than other pursuits, then doing science is reduced to carefully following the method which has a mechanical nature; the mechanical method, not the scientist, ensures the outcome. Statistics is the means of reducing human judgment to a mechanical process. Unfortunately, science can never be

reduced to this mechanical process. Doing science is an art. It is a human endeavor that takes skill and genius as well as a little luck to be great. Skills are honed by experience. Therefore, statistics play only a small role in the science.



Dewberry

**WORLD:** You're knocking aside just about everything on which the rule by scientists is based. What about the review of manuscripts submitted for publication. Is that "value-free"?

**DEWBERRY:** No. When I am asked to review a manuscript, one question always included with the review instructions is, "Is this paper interesting or significant?" This question screens all manuscripts based on the values of the reviewer. If the paper is not interesting or significant, then it will never be published. Furthermore, reviewers are doing much more than checking the experimental methods, data collection, and the appropriateness of the conclusions, and thus their beliefs and values enter into the process at many points.

**WORLD:** Who, then, wears the robes of authority concerning the truth of science?

**DEWBERRY:** Virtually everyone involved in salmon recovery—and people in general, I believe—assumes that the authority of science rests with the scientific community through the peer-review process. I find this curious and ironic.

At the dawn of modern science, it was the Catholic Church that argued that the authority of science rested with the community of practitioners (theirs, of course). It was the Copernicans, especially Galileo, who argued that the authority of science and truth rested with the individual scientist. Moving the authority of science to the individual scientist was one of the key steps in the Copernican Revolution and the foundation of modern science. We have essentially come full circle. We just replaced one priesthood for another. We have returned to the model of authority of the medieval Catholic Church.

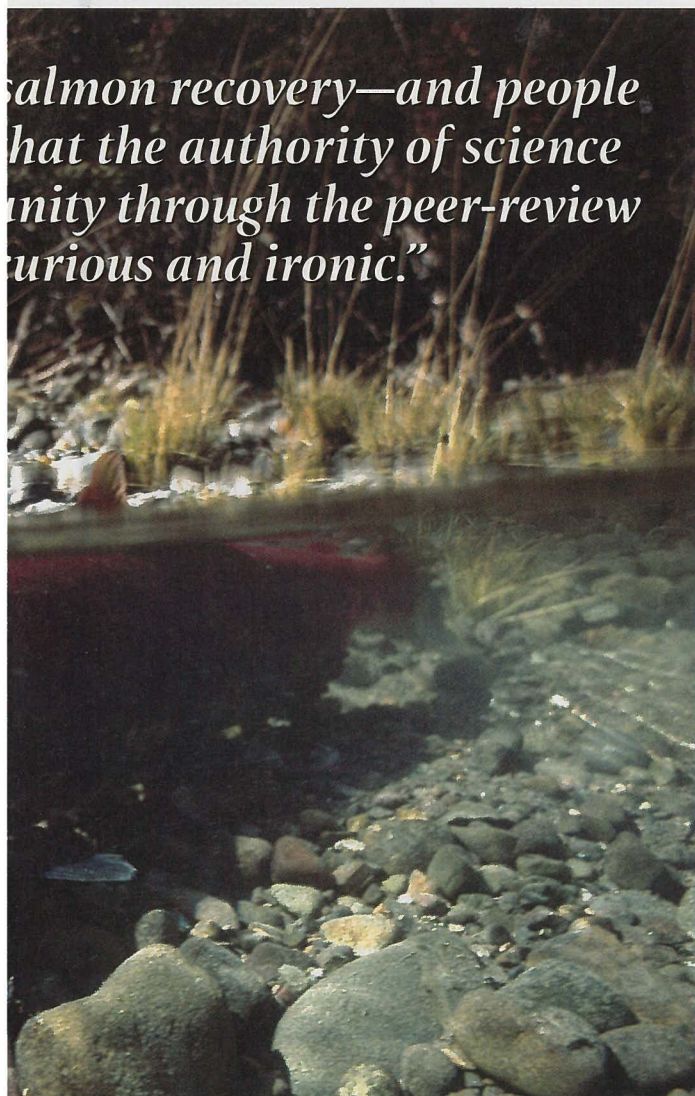
**WORLD:** What are the implications of this for the debate about Intelligent Design?

**DEWBERRY:** The most obvious implication relates to authority: In the debate over Intelligent Design, who are the authorities? Pick up a newspaper article and look to see who is asked to respond. The opponents of Intelligent Design will almost always be scientists or panels of scientists. What I find curious is why scientists are picked to respond to questions such as "What is science?" or "What is good science?" These are not scientific questions, and the methods of science are not useful nor appropriate for answering these questions. They are philosophical questions and fall within philosophy of science.

The fact that scientists are virtually the only people asked to respond, and that they are more than willing to respond, is a symptom of a serious problem. As long as scientists believe that they are the final authorities and they continue to make pronouncements about subjects in which they have little background or experience, it does not bode well for science over the long run.

As long as scientists really believe everyone else, including philosophers of science, possesses mere anecdotal knowledge and has no platform from which to speak, we will not have any reasoned discourse about Intelligent Design. 🌐

*salmon recovery—and people  
that the authority of science  
community through the peer-review  
curious and ironic."*





# A happy new year

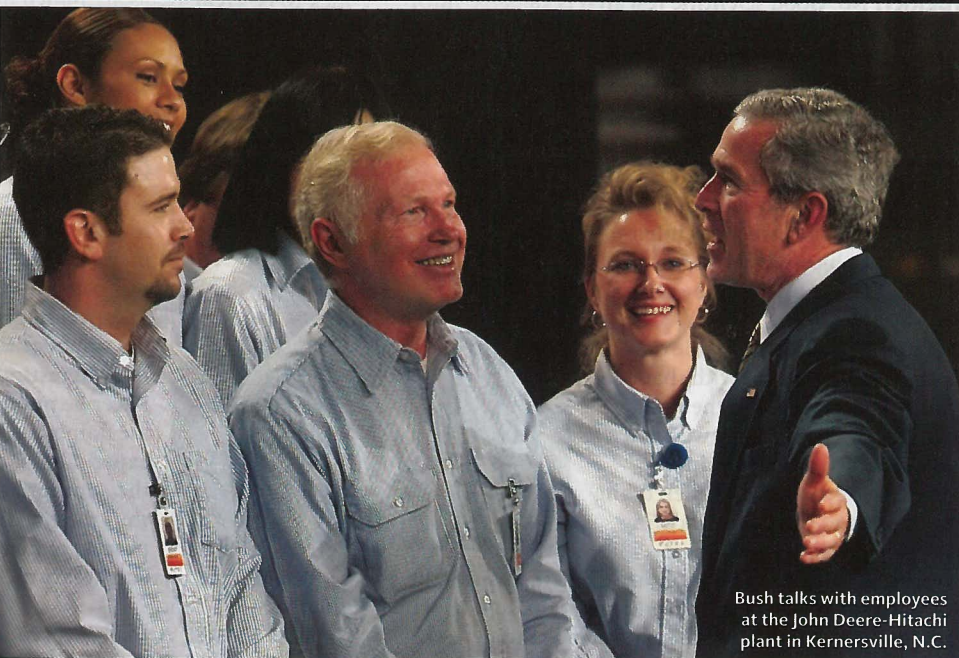
**W**HEN PRESIDENT BUSH gave a major speech in North Carolina early last month touting the strength of the U.S. economy, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) wasn't buying it. "Platitudes and photo-ops by the president suggesting a strong economy simply do not make it so," she said.

If timing is everything in politics, then Rep. Pelosi's could not have been worse, for in the next few weeks a geyser of positive economic reports burst forth from various government and private agencies. Credit President Bush, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, or just a positive turn in the business cycle, but for whatever reason the U.S. economy is firing on almost every cylinder. Among the evidence for Rep. Pelosi to consider:

**Incomes are rising.** The Commerce Department reports that personal income grew 0.3 percent in November and is up 12.6 percent in the last four years.

**Companies are hiring.** The Labor Department says the unemployment rate is 5 percent, well below historic norms. The economy added 215,000 jobs in November, according to the department, and has added 4.5 million jobs since May 2003.

**Factories are humming.** The Federal Reserve estimates that U.S. industrial production rose almost 3 percent from November



Bush talks with employees at the John Deere-Hitachi plant in Kenersville, N.C.

2004 to November 2005, including a 0.7 percent increase in November 2005 alone.

## The economy is growing.

The Commerce Department reports that U.S. GDP increased at a rate of 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2005, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts a growth rate of 3.5 percent for the United States in 2006.

## Businesses are investing.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that investment has surged to a 9.2 percent annual rate since 2003, much higher than the historically normal rate. Business investment is one of the keys to productivity growth and rising living standards. (Supply-side economists like to point out that the current investment boom followed President Bush's tax cuts on capital gains and dividends.)

**Bosses are smiling.** A Business Roundtable survey found that 87 percent of

CEOs from large U.S. companies expect their sales to increase in the first half of 2006. Sixty percent expect to raise capital spending and 40 percent expect to hire more workers (up from 33 percent in September).

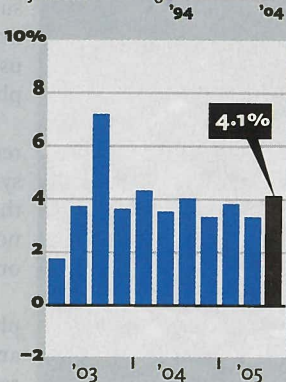
All this good news does not mean that everything economic is rosy. The housing market softened a

bit in October and November, energy costs remain high (even as gasoline prices have dropped from post-Katrina spikes), and it may take a miracle to keep General Motors out of bankruptcy. Meanwhile, 2005 brought the United States one year closer to an imminent Medicare and Social Security crisis, with Congress putting its collective head in the sand and showing every sign of maintaining that stance in 2006. Numerous problems could derail economists' projections of another year of solid growth with low inflation.

But only a determined pessimist—or a leader of the minority party in Congress—could fail to see the bright side of the U.S. economy as the new year begins. "Barring an unforeseen, catastrophic event, 2006 is shaping up as a copy of '05," economist Bill Sirakos told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "Steady growth and pretty good times." 🌐

## GDP growth

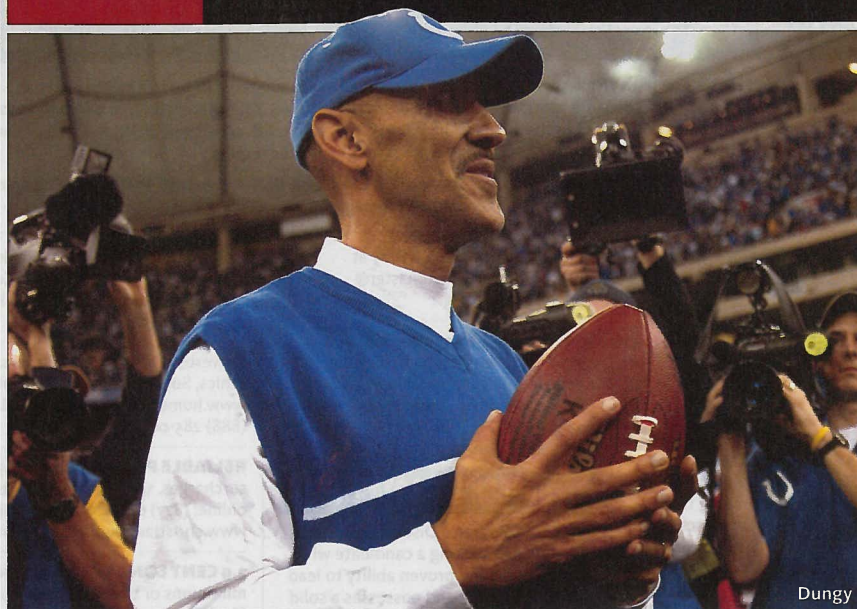
Percent change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted:



The main indicator of U.S. economic growth, gross domestic product is the total value of goods, services produced by United States

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS





Dungy

## An epic, and tragic, season

**F**OR THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS, it must have felt like this day would never come. Sometimes teams as dominant as the Colts don't need 16 games to prove they're playoff material. The Colts started the 2005 season with 13 straight wins, and by mid-December the national sports media had begun their yearly comparison of the season's last undefeated team to the famous 1972 Miami Dolphins, which survived that year undefeated.

Then, for the team that flirted with perfection for so long, everything went wrong. First, they lost at home in an uninspiring game against San Diego on Dec. 18. The Colts weren't happy, but seemed relieved to avoid talk of an undefeated season. "If it brings us back for the last two weeks with more resolve, maybe some good will come of it," head coach Tony Dungy waxed after the game.

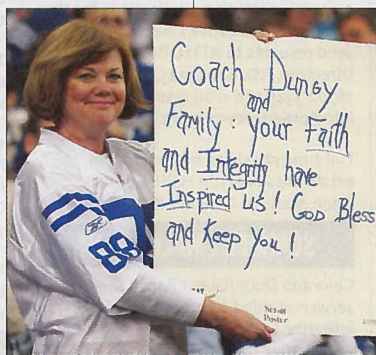
But days later, Mr. Dungy would face a harrowing tragedy. On Dec. 22 James Dungy, the coach's oldest son,

died in Tampa, Fla., in an apparent suicide. He was 18. The disastrous circumstances forced Mr. Dungy away from the team—a team mourning with its coach, adding black horseshoe decals to the backs of helmets. Two days later the Colts lost again, though the Indianapolis locker room seemed more focused

on its coach's mental state than on the scoreboard.

On New Year's day—five days after Mr. Dungy buried his son—the coach returned and so did the Colts' winning ways. Still the attention was focused on Mr.

Dungy and his loss. But when the Colts return to the field on Jan. 15, the game will matter. Perhaps that's a good thing for Mr. Dungy, who described watching the Dec. 24 game on television as three hours of comfortable diversion. And for the Colts, it's a chance to finally play a game that matters after a month of irrelevance on and heartbreak off the field. 🌐



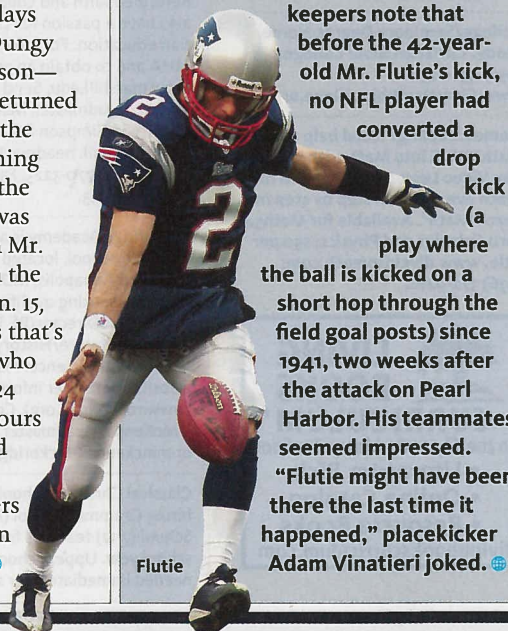
## AROUND THE HORN

» NASCAR's **Tony Stewart** has a small hobby: midget cars. In December 2004, Mr. Stewart surprised Fort Wayne race fans by winning a 60-lap midget car race there in an old clunker he bought during a poker game the night before. He raced under a false name, but blew his cover on the victory podium. He had such a good time in his surprise victory he entered again last month. This time, Mr. Stewart came away with another trophy—he finished 11th in one race and won another.

» Some people buy themselves a little treat for their own birthdays. **Tiger Woods**, who turned 30 on Dec. 30, bought himself an estate in Jupiter Island, Fla., for \$40 million. The property, located in what has been called America's richest zip code, is a 10-acre oceanfront estate. The golfer's new neighbor: Canadian singer Celine Dion.

» New England quarterback **Doug Flutie** went out with a creative bang. The diminutive quarterback, who put himself in the public mind with a desperation Hail Mary pass for Boston College, gave himself a signature moment at the end of his career—a drop kick. NFL record keepers note that before the 42-year-old Mr. Flutie's kick, no NFL player had converted a drop

kick (a play where the ball is kicked on a short hop through the field goal posts) since 1941, two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. His teammates seemed impressed. "Flutie might have been there the last time it happened," placekicker Adam Vinatieri joked. 🌐



Flutie



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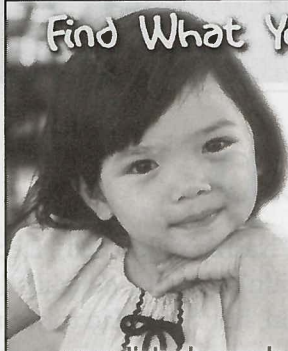
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DEADLINE: Jan. 18



# Thumbs up

» I enjoyed the *Narnia* movie ("Narnia unleashed," Dec. 10). I was disappointed that Lucy and Susan didn't have the delightful spring romp with Aslan after his resurrection, but I was glad to see that Edmund truly was a better person at the end of the movie. I commend the filmmakers for a good piece of cinema. They did some things differently than I would have done, but overall I'm thrilled that they did such a good job. I have to believe that Lewis would have been pleased.

—JANE BREEDERLAND, *Traverse City, Mich.*

» My only complaint was that Aslan's roar didn't shake the building. I expected more bass. The battle was well done. The cheetahs rocked! I liked the flash of victory in Edmund's eyes when he broke the wand, and the way the witch's eyes changed color when Aslan was about to end her. I think Mr. Adamson got the gist of the book, even though I think he missed some of the "deeper magic."

—THOMAS L. WALLACE  
*Brandon, Mo.*

» Some things (Lucy's character, especially) were handled very well, but too much of the movie tried to be a second *Lord of the Rings*, which isn't what *The Chronicles of Narnia* are about.

—ALEX SZATMARY  
*Baltimore, Md.*

» Thanks for your great article on the journey *The Chronicles of Narnia* traveled on the road to screen adaptation. Having been held captive by the books as a child, and watching my children enjoy them as well, I look forward with great delight to seeing the movie.

—PAT MOORE  
*Scituate, R.I.*

## Free joy

» Bravo to Gene Edward Veith for showing us the true origins of Christmas ("Why December 25?" Dec. 10). Our family has struggled with this for many years. Thank you for putting our mind at ease that we may be free to express our joy in Christ's birth

without the feeling that we are perpetuating something pagan.

—KRISTIN HOFFMAN  
*Englewood, Tenn.*

» The real question is, "Why Christmas at all?" Religious holidays are entirely God's call. In the New Testament, we find no command from Christ or command or approved example from the apostolic founders for any church-sanctioned observance of the birthday of Jesus. Had the Lord wanted us to annually observe the day of His birth, He'd have provided the proper date.

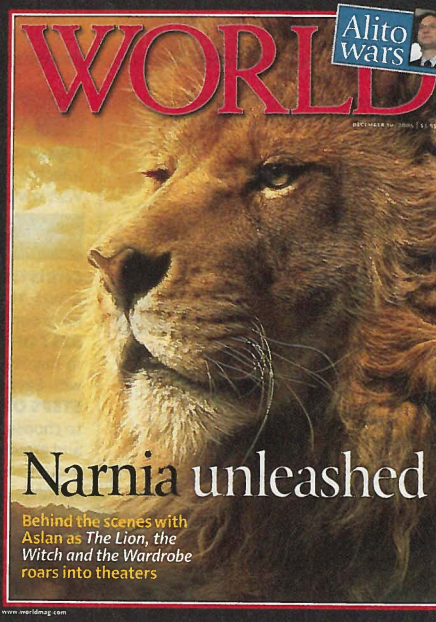
—STEVE RAUEN  
*Port Orchard, Wash.*

## Enough

» Thank you for your reporting on the situation in Ethiopia, which gets worse by the day ("One-party rule a tough habit to break," Dec. 10). We have a group of Marxist dictators cloaked with false pretensions for democracy in order to fool the West and thus get funding to keep them in power. Unfortunately, Western powers, seeing that Mr. Meles' regime is "containing" the terrorism threat in the Horn of Africa, are blindly supporting them. Ethiopians have had enough of this terrorist rule.

—ABAY HAILE  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

» I was very surprised by this one-sided article. The opposition lost and resorted to inciting violence. Ethiopia's government is to be applauded for its



efforts to keep the peace. Third World leaders who want to lead their countries through the democratic process must keep the vultures from advancing anti-progress and divisive agendas.

—HAGAZI KEBEDE  
*Culpeper, Va.*

## Knock 'em sockless

» Thank you for your wonderful article on the Alito nomination process ("War of words," Dec. 10). It is truly a shame that the same political mess that often accompanies elections now chases after court nominees as well. The framers of the Constitution tried to shelter justices from the torment of the political process through appointment by the president. This was to ensure a judge did not have to worry about reelection, so he could concentrate on making the right decision. God bless Mr. Alito. I'd like to see him knock the intellectual socks off some liberal senators.

—JACOB PFISTER  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

» The idea that the U.S. Constitution, a legally binding document, is somehow "living," "breathing," and modifiable beyond the amendment process is absurd ("War over words," Dec. 10). If the Constitution can be reinterpreted due to changing circumstances, then why not mortgages, leases, and other contracts? Imagine the outcry if mortgage companies informed customers that their rates have gone up because the firm's board members "changed



their minds about the original intent of the document."

—BILL BADER  
Eden Prairie, Minn.

## Out of sync

» When I graduated from Ohio State I was a radical liberal. My worldview was perfectly in sync with and in fact was shaped by OSU's teachings. Now, as a Christian conservative, I am opposed to many of those philosophies and beliefs, so I don't donate much when the school's fundraisers come calling ("Beyond knee-jerk giving," Dec. 10). I like to use my money to further the kingdom of God, not secularism.

—RONALD E. DAVITT  
Columbus, Ohio

## Getting it in

» It's been years since I'd seen *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, but I watched it last week ("Ghosts of Christmas past," Dec. 10). During Linus' speech I cried because it was beautiful, and because a monologue that Christ-centered may never again make it into a prime-time TV show.

—DARYL HYDE  
Chelsea, Ala.

» One of my favorite Christmas films that didn't make your list, *Scrooged*, is of course no *Wonderful Life*, and nothing compares to Alastair Sim as Ebenezer. But *Scrooged* offers an effective story of compassion's triumph over selfishness and cynicism. Even though Christ isn't mentioned, when Bill Murray's Frank Cross finally "gets it" in the last scene, my tears flow in remembrance of the day I finally got it.

—DORSEY MARSHALL  
Mullica Hill, N.J.

## No connection

» I see no connection between Disney executive Al Weiss' church-planting efforts and what my view of Disney should be ("Minnie movement," Dec. 10).



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## MAILBAG

Mr. Weiss is doing this on his own. If Disney puts out good stuff, I might watch it; if not, I won't.

—KEVIN BRAUN  
West Chester, Pa.

## Now, the next

» My husband's job just ended yesterday, our car died on his way home from work, our lease is up in two months, and we have three young children. Thank you to Andree Seu for reminding me that I can do a load of laundry, I can continue homeschooling, I can cuddle my 4-year-old, and I can proofread my husband's latest e-mail job inquiry. With the Lord in control, it's on to "The next thing" (Dec. 3) that needs to be done.

—AMY GEARHARDT  
Coral Springs, Fla.

## Get involved

» "Left behind" (Dec. 3) depicts the condition of over 250 million Dalits in India very accurately. The caste system, which is illegal, has captured these people in a hopeless situation. The Dalit Freedom Network is also establishing schools and medical clinics and is providing vocational training for adults.

—JOHN E. KYLE  
Monroe, N.C.

## Correction

» Free agent pitcher Tom Gordon signed a contract with the Philadelphia Phillies (Sports, Dec. 17, p. 37).

**SEND LETTERS TO:** Editorial Dept., WORLD, P.O. Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802; e-mail mailbag@worldmag.com; or fax (828) 253-1556.

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# Finishing well

A “retirement” community shows how not to fade away

**A**S THE 33rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUPREME Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision looms later this month, it’s worth remembering that life for not only the very young but also the very old is under attack. So I recently made a trek to the Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community, a 200-acre compound in Lancaster, Pa., to meet some people old enough, by today’s enlightened standards, not to have much reason to live.

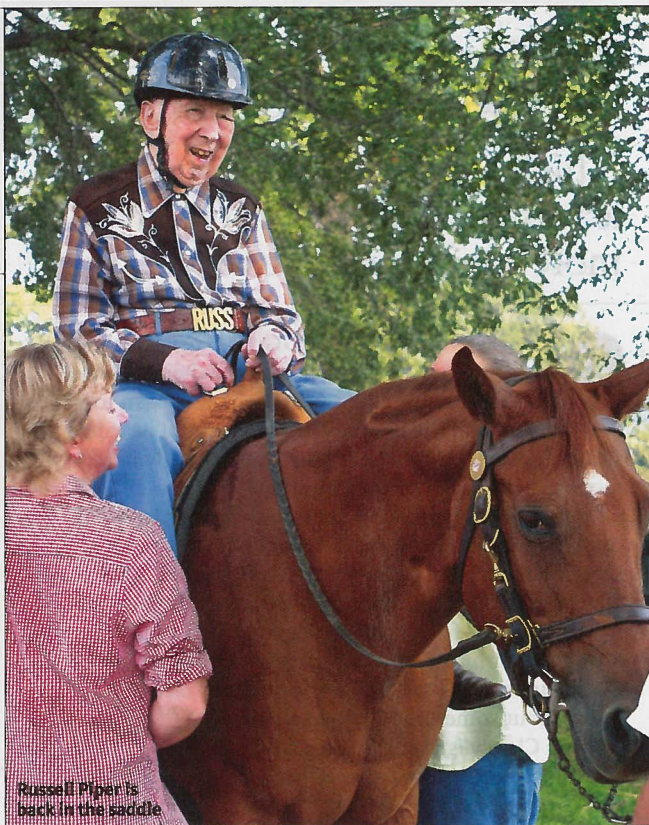
I made the trek to Quarryville on a tip that 98-year-old resident pastor Russell Piper would be back in the saddle, literally, for a day, fulfilling a wish to relive the boyhood pleasures of “drag-racing” bareback, as he once did through the streets of Minnesota. QPRC and Lancaster County Therapeutic Riding Inc. didn’t let him do bareback, but they did offer a fine quarter horse named Josie, and the parson found that equestrian skills, like bicycling, come back to you. I was there, I saw.

Reverend Piper is no good at retiring to leisure. He thought about it briefly in the early 1970s, but when asked in 1974 to pastor a new church plant in Ronan, Mont., he and his wife packed their belongings in Lincoln, Neb., and headed off for new adventures. Like other QPRC residents, he doesn’t believe in retirement because he hasn’t found it in the Bible as an option. (Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community is also misnamed because it’s only 40 percent Presbyterian.)

Cock your ear in the QPRC dining room and you will hear chatter among the 340 residents about their pen-pals in the local high school; their Released Time students at the local elementary school; the Thrift Shop expansion; the poetry, woodworking, or brass rubbing they’re planning to showcase at resident Milton Fisher’s “Talent on Parade” night; the books they’ve been publishing.

The vision of “finishing well” starts at the top. QPRC’s in-house communiqué notes, “So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come” (Psalm 71:18)—and that seems to be the general attitude.

The president and CEO, Robert B. Hayward Jr., informed me that it was Otto von Bismarck who came up with the retirement age of 65 (the average lifespan was 55 in the late 1800s), and when Social Security was launched in 1935, the government more or less arbitrarily adopted that age. Then Mr. Hayward quizzed me: “How old was Abraham when God called him out?” I took a stab from Genesis: 75. He explained that he saw his job as taking care of residents’ needs in order to free them up—and then get-



Russell Piper is back in the saddle

ting out of the way. He ended with this maxim: “Not to be retired but to be refired.”

I talked to resident Ruth Kantor who describes herself as a “listener” to children from the voluntary Released Time program, drilling public-school tykes an hour a week on Bible memorization. Hers is a fascinating story in its own right: Jewish girl converted by Gentile neighbor, ultimately co-publishing a tract with her pharmacist husband titled, “A Pharmacist Finds the Right Prescription.” An essay for another time.

I talked to the Knobles, John a former New York actor, and both retired missionaries to Japan who have recycled tried-and-true gifts for a new season in life. Barbara leads a Bible study, and he dons Victorian wig and redingote for historical reenactments in Lancaster and Philadelphia, also volunteering at the Strasburg Railroad Museum, singing for the skilled care residents, and praying through the employee list.

I caught up with the Pinckneys the day after the annual Solanco Fair parade with the QPRC float (the theme was volunteering). Marion gives piano lessons to locals and helps with a pen-pal outreach to 14 children from the Caribbean. Earl makes eyeglasses for Third World countries and was pleased to send me a DVD of the recent Intelligent Design seminar he organized.

I’m inspired to someday be refired, not retired. My thanks to the QPRC residents for taking a few minutes from their busy schedules for the likes of me. 🌐



# DQ country

A high Determination Quotient leaves less time for ice cream but more room for success

**O**NCE UPON A TIME I THOUGHT THAT IQ WAS THE most important attribute of human beings. Three decades ago I became a Christian and began to understand the centrality of what could be called SQ, spiritual quotient. In recent years we've rightly heard more talk of EQ, emotional quotient.

But, in this land of opportunity that America still is, one more Q factor is crucial: This is DQ country, and by that I mean not Dairy Queen but Determination Quotient. Determination pays off differently depending on our starting point—for a poor immigrant, it may lead to not affluence for himself but a better life for his children—but it's key in making sales, winning pennant races, and (I'll write about something I know) writing.

Tom Clancy isn't the greatest stylist around, but like the apostle Paul he presses toward his goal, so his advice is worth remembering: "Writing is most of all an exercise in determination." Two craftsman-authors, Michael Crichton ("Books aren't written. They are rewritten.") and James Michener ("I'm not a very good writer, but an excellent rewriter.") also have demonstrated high DQs. One of America's top stylists, E.B. White, noted that "a writer who waits for ideal conditions under which to work will die without putting a word to paper."

A book of interviews with top nonfiction writers, Robert Boynton's *The New New Journalism* (Random House, 2005) lays out more evidence of the relation of inspiration to perspiration. For example, Richard Ben Cramer (author of *What It Takes*) comments that he once read Tom Wolfe and thought, "God touched you and made you a genius, and that's the end of it." Then he saw Mr. Wolfe toiling at a desk writing: "I looked in his eyes and saw the haunted, hunted animal look."

Other experience: *Moneyball* author Michael Lewis says, "The most common pleasant thing people say to me about my writing is that it looks 'effortless.'" Then he confesses, "It is the opposite of effortless. . . . I probably do 20 drafts of each chapter. I write something over and over. It's like *Groundhog Day*. My writing process is sweaty and inelegant."

(He also notes, in response to a question about whether he needs to write in one particular place, "I've written in awful enough situations that I know the quality of the prose doesn't depend on the circumstances in which it is composed. I don't believe the muse visits you. I believe that you visit the muse. If you wait for that 'perfect moment' you're not going to be very productive.")



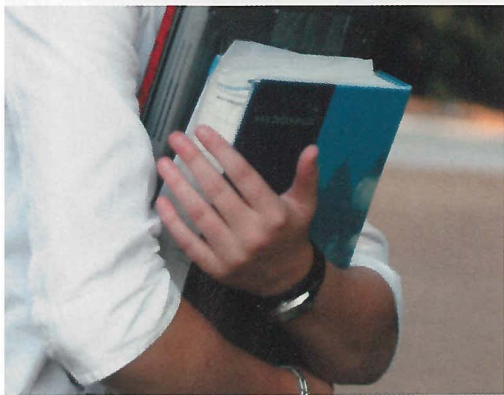
So it goes with other excellent writers. William Finnegan acknowledges that he'll produce "15 or 20 drafts." Alex Kotlowitz admits that once he's developed a first draft, "I go back and rewrite, scene by scene, detail by detail." Susan Orlean says, "I hate going out to lunch because that is exactly when I am usually getting up a head of steam. So I usually just grab a sandwich and eat at my desk, rather than taking a break because I can't get anything done. I take a break whenever I write something that I feel really good about. It is hard for me to stop for dinner and then go back to work, so I often stop writing around 8 p.m."

A high DQ often kicks in even before the writing begins. Lawrence Wright takes issue with journalists who say "they don't want to start a story knowing too much for fear that all this information will dull their own impressions." He says such impressions "might be brilliant and insightful . . . but I believe they'd be even more brilliant and insightful if you really worked at understanding your subject by doing a lot of research."

Finally, high-DQ Americans find ways to take a vacation from one project not by lying on the beach, but by gaining the stimulation of another project. Michael Lewis: "At any given moment, I have at least four projects under way. I write short columns. I'm usually working on a book. I'm usually at some stage of one of the long articles I write. I don't know whether it is a character flaw, or just comes with the life of a freelance writer."

No, it comes with a high DQ, in writing or in any other area of life. 🌐





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# "HONEY Can Heal WHAT?"

(By Frank K. Wood)

If you want to learn how to use gentle folk remedies to unleash your body's healing power instead of resorting to dangerous prescription drugs or risky surgery, you need *The Folk Remedy Encyclopedia: Olive Oil, Vinegar, Honey and 1,001 Other Home Remedies*, an informative new book just released to the public by FC&A Medical Publishing in Peachtree City, Georgia.

You'll be amazed by how many inexpensive, easy, natural cures you can find all around you — in your pantry, garden, garage, and grocery store.

The authors provide many health tips with full explanations.

- ▶ One supervitamin protects your vision, fights infections, keeps skin, bones, and cells healthy, plus fights heart disease, cancer, memory loss, arthritis, liver disease, Parkinson's, and complications of diabetes. Are you getting 100%?
- ▶ Flatten your stomach without gut-wrenching exercises. These tips turn ugly flab into rock-hard abs!
- ▶ A natural way to rejuvenate your veins and arteries that will have you feeling brand new.
- ▶ Miracle healing seed lowers blood pressure, reduces risk of stroke, plus fights arthritis, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stomach disorders, and even mental problems!
- ▶ Prevent high blood pressure, colon cancer, senility, and fragile bones. All with one — yes, one — inexpensive daily supplement that keeps you healthy and strong.
- ▶ That "spare tire" around your waist is doing more than just slowing you down. It also increases your risk of many life-threatening illnesses. Burn it off without gut-wrenching sit-ups and grueling fitness regimens.
- ▶ Nature's wonder food for your body — once praised by Gandhi. Fights heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, arthritis, type 2 diabetes, and even protects against breast, colon, and prostate cancer!
- ▶ Clogged arteries virtually disappear when you add this to your life every day.
- ▶ Here's the secret to naturally block out calories from foods. Just add this when you eat — and watch the weight melt away.
- ▶ It protects your heart, lowers your cholesterol, fights cancer, and much more! Researchers take a good look at this "miracle" mineral.
- ▶ Kills cancer cells dead in their tracks! Duke University study proves this tiny seed packs a powerful punch!
- ▶ Just 2 glasses a day of (you won't believe this — but it's true!) lowers your cholesterol — and prevents heart attacks too!
- ▶ Trick your body into losing weight! Melts off fat safely, naturally and best yet, easily.
- ▶ Give your brain the nutrients it needs for a better memory. Don't let your brain deteriorate when you can so easily power it up.
- ▶ Discover an antioxidant that's so powerful for your eyes that it fights night blindness, cloudy corneas, and can even successfully treat an eye disorder that leads to blindness!
- ▶ This tasty Chinese fruit works like a Roto-Rooter® on your arteries. Just a few bites a day makes the plaque go away!
- ▶ What never to eat when taking this prescription drug. This is critical news you won't hear from your doctor or pharmacist!
- ▶ Do these simple exercises and you'll do away with your contacts and eyeglasses.
- ▶ Munch on this tasty veggie every day and watch your blood pressure go down ... Down ... Down! Just as effective as drugs — but with no side effects.
- ▶ Tomato juice for high cholesterol? Yes, tomato juice can keep your cholesterol from oxidizing and attaching to your artery walls. A new study shows how much you need to drink each day.
- ▶ Rebuild your joints and relieve arthritis pain. Natural ways to help your body repair itself.
- ▶ Unclog your arteries with purple grape juice! Studies show that purple grapes can reduce blood clotting by 91%.
- ▶ The amazing healing power of honey. It's not just a sweetener anymore. Use it to cure these 4 common problems.
- ▶ Frustrated because you can't lose weight? Forget dieting! Just "fluff" up your foods instead and watch the pounds drop off. Pennsylvania State University study.
- ▶ Flex your mental muscle and send Alzheimer's packing. Simple mental activities that build your brainpower and ward off the ravages of Alzheimer's.
- ▶ Keep your brain sharp and your memories clear. Herbal remedy used for centuries.
- ▶ Open up blood vessels narrowed due to heart disease. Relax with this beverage and decrease your chances of suffering a debilitating stroke.
- ▶ Nature's insulin controls blood sugar and type 2 diabetes. What is it? Cinnamon! It helps your fat cells recognize and respond to insulin better.
- ▶ High blood pressure? You know you have to limit alcohol and salt, but did you also know certain oranges can cause your blood pressure medication to build to toxic levels? Read about some other hidden dangers and some unusual methods of defense.
- ▶ Keep your arteries clean with this simple bean!
- ▶ Back pain, pain in your shoulder, muscular pain from physical exertion, wrist, thumb and hand pain all are as individual as their remedies.
- ▶ Arthritis pain comes in many shapes and sizes. Read about 7 types of relief.
- ▶ 11 simple ways to keep your mind sharp as a tack.

- ▶ Sip your way to wide-open arteries! The best beverage for your blood vessels.
- ▶ Foods that cause wrinkles ... Consult the lists and eat smarter for smoother skin.
- ▶ Do your supplements contain what they claim? Many don't, but there's a way to know for sure.
- ▶ Discover 6 ways to protect your brain from Alzheimer's.
- ▶ Slash your cholesterol level by 33% just by adding this mineral to your diet! Protects against cancer, too.
- ▶ What you eat really does affect your memory. The list of nutrients you need to keep your memory sharp.
- ▶ Revitalize your vision with — aerobics! It not only exercises your eye muscles, it also increases blood flow to the eyes and stimulates the nerve connection to the brain. Get keener eyes without a prescription.
- ▶ Cut your stroke risk in half! Five ounces a week of this delicious food is all it takes according to a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- ▶ How olive oil lowers cholesterol and keeps arteries clean!
- ▶ Centuries-old folk remedy contains ingredient now used in modern cholesterol-lowering medicines. But you can get it from the produce aisle in your grocery store!
- ▶ Relax your potbelly away. New research shows that stress shifts fat to your waistline. Use these easy tips to let it go.
- ▶ You don't have to give up fat to be healthy ... Just choose the right type — the fat that lowers "bad" LDL cholesterol, without lowering your "good" HDL cholesterol. Encouraging results from a Penn State University study.

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