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WORLD MAGAZINE

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.”
—PSALM 24:1 (KJV)

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

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Subscription orders, change of address, back issues, etc: Write to WORLD Magazine, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235; visit our website (www.worldmag.com); e-mail worldmag@palmcoast.com; or call (800) 951-6397 within the United States or (386) 447-6349 outside the United States.

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July 7, 2002 | WORLD
Shifting gears
A few operational changes—but nothing to affect our mission

W
ith this issue, WORLD Magazine turns a notable page in its brief 15-year history. On July 1, WORLD set aside its role as a nonprofit organization to become a tax-paying, for-profit corporation. Here’s a brief explanation of why—and the implications for you as a loyal reader.

WORLD was launched in 1986 with the goal of providing a credible weekly summary of important news developments around the world—but always from a distinctly biblical perspective. We were sufficiently acquainted with the realities of magazine publishing to know we faced a tough challenge. But we were also sufficiently optimistic (some would say naïve) to stay at it when common sense said it was time to quit.

I dreamed during those early years that if things went well, we might develop a circulation of 50,000-75,000 subscribers, and that such a family of readers would help us become self-supporting. I also supposed it would take some generous gifts to keep us alive. Several times, publicly and privately, I appealed for a gift of a million dollars to solidify WORLD’s base.

The million-dollar gift never came. God moved thousands of readers, however, to provide smaller gifts. For an important stretch in the mid-1990s, a loyal cadre of 25 friends each gave $5,000 a year to help balance our budget. Altogether, during WORLD’s first 15 years, some $2.6 million in gifts provided the fledgling magazine’s lifeblood.

Along the way, more and more readers joined the WORLD family. Increased circulation meant the magazine was more attractive to advertisers. That combination meant the magazine was less reliant on charitable gifts. By 1997, we found ourselves surpassing what had been my most optimistic circulation projections, approaching 100,000 subscribers. That year, for the first time, our income exceeded our expenses.

All those developments prompted us, both in management and at the board level, to think seriously about the future. Might God have more significant plans for WORLD? As editor Marvin Olasky noted in his Jan. 13 column, WORLD now finds itself unexpectedly in the No. 4 spot among general newsmagazines in the United States. How hard would it be to double to 250,000 subscribers? And then to double again to half a million?

We’re still not sure. But WORLD’s significant growth over the last half dozen years encourages us to think there’s a big place in American society for a magazine like this. So we want to keep moving ahead. We’ve developed a plan requiring significant capital—and our board has determined it will be easier to secure such capitalization as a for-profit company than as a nonprofit.

WORLD capitalization will come in the future not from charitable donors, but from a small number of interested investors. The company’s voting stock, however, will be held exclusively by God’s World Publications Inc., the 59-year-old nonprofit company whose primary mission is to promote biblical worldview thinking.

Such an arrangement will protect WORLD’s editorial vision and keep the magazine from chasing commercial success at the expense of philosophical integrity.

But our goal will also be to make WORLD commercially successful. The best way to do that, we believe, is to offer you (and our advertisers) an editorial product so unique and so compelling that you can’t afford to be without it.

We’ve made strides in that direction; but we also know we don’t meet that standard with every single page of every issue. So a significant part of the capital we raise in the next few months will be devoted to strengthening the editorial product, to adding new topics to our news coverage, and to researching everything we do even more thoroughly. We expect that our average issue size of 49 pages this last year will grow to 53 pages this coming year. That will symbolize, we hope, an always-improving product.

Simultaneously, we’ll keep reaching out to new audiences. WORLD competes for reader and advertiser interest with a fascinating group of magazines, indicated on the accompanying chart. Among that notable group, WORLD is the only magazine to have enjoyed regular growth in recent years. Our goal is to sustain and even accelerate that growth in the years just ahead.

Almost none of these changes will be noticeable in the magazine you get from week to week. One change, however, deserves your attention. WORLD’s subscription services, starting next week, will be handled for us on a contract basis by a company based in Florida. All mail and phone calls having to do with subscriptions and address changes will be routed from now on through them. Mail and phone calls about editorial matters and the magazine’s content will continue to come directly to us at our offices here in Asheville, N.C. You will always find a directory of the appropriate addresses and phone numbers as part of the magazine’s masthead in the early pages of each issue.

The book of Proverbs reminds us, of course, that it is for man to propose—but always for God to dispose. So I wrap this whole column in a package clearly labeled: "If the Lord wills ... " His will for WORLD magazine until now has been generous and fruitful. I ask readers to pray that we will be profitable servants, faithful to His call.

by JOEL BELZ
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Faith-based surrender

"Be strong and courageous," Joshua told the Israelites. The word from Washington last week, as President Bush's already-weakened faith-based initiative became even weaker, was "Be timid and quaking."

Under conservative pressure, administration officials on April 10 had agreed that church-related groups applying for governmental grants would not have to segment their "religious" activities from their "non-religious" ones (see WORLD, April 21). Last week, though, the administration bowed to liberal pressure and reversed its April position.

It now appears that the bill to be voted on by the House of Representatives this summer will declare groups engaged in "sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization" ineligible for federal grants. This new dispensation, worked out with House Republican leaders, may make the world safer for theological liberals, but it tells theological conservatives, "Get lost."

If the reconfigured bill were to pass both the House and the Senate, anti-poverty groups could make worship services or religious instruction an option for program participants, but those activities could not be incorporated into government-funded programs. The deal ignores the way numerous evangelical groups incorporate biblical teaching into all of their instructional and counseling activities.

The deal apparently stipulates that religious charities would be allowed to "consider" religion when they hire staff members, but they would not be allowed to require that a new hire's "religious practices" conform to theirs. Without such legal protection, religious groups that consider it important to hire co-religionists would be foolish to entangle themselves in government programs.

Andrew Card, White House chief of staff, reportedly pushed for such an agreement, even though it would leave groups such as Teen Challenge out in the cold.

Ironically, it was Teen Challenge's battle with a Texas regulatory agency in 1995 that first led then-Governor Bush to embrace a compassionate conservative agenda.

That the White House would feel driven to such a surrender shows the failure of the strategy of winning Democratic support promoted by John Dilulio, head of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

Instead of getting grassroots faith-based groups excited about the initiative so they would push their legislators to support it, the administration's proposals have been so watered down that most of the front-line poverty-fighters surveyed by WORLD (see our June 23 cover story) weren't impressed at all. Meanwhile, the inside-the-beltway strategy failed in its attempt to placate liberals, who intensified their assault when Mr. Dilulio seemed eager to appease them.

What can be salvaged at this point from an initiative that so far has been badly mishandled? The Bush administration can do much good by removing through executive order some of the regulatory barriers that religious poverty-fighters face. Congress may still support income tax deductions for non-itemizers. The administration still has time to drop its emphasis on grant-making and support proposals for tax credits for poverty-fighting work.

What's needed above all is for President Bush to make the case for compassionate conservatism by showing America what groups like Teen Challenge do and why it's unfair and unwise to discriminate against them. During last year's presidential campaign he visited faith-based groups in many cities. He should spend the next year educating the American public by visiting perversely religious anti-poverty efforts and throwing a spotlight on the heroism that animates the best of them. That way, more people will demand legislation that does not bite the hands of those who offer spiritual as well as material food.

—Marvin Olasky
American pessimism about the direction of the country is growing, largely because of rising energy prices and a sluggish economy, according to a new survey by pollster John Zogby ... 53 percent of Americans believe the country is on the "right track," down 7 points from January ... 38 percent believe the country is on the "wrong track," up 6 points from January ... President Bush's personal approval is up to 60 percent from 54 percent in January, and those who think he's doing a good job in office are now up to 51 percent from 42 percent ... But Democratic attacks are also taking their toll ... those who disapprove of Bush's job performance are up 11 points, to 48 percent from 37 percent in January ... Of growing concern to GOP leaders: Democrats now lead Republicans 38 percent to 28 percent in a generic question of who should run Congress.

Senior economic advisers to President Bush say he is serious about more rounds of tax cuts and fundamental tax reform and simplification ... Larry Lindsey, chief economic guru to the president, has long supported a 17 percent flat tax, and even wrote favorably about it when he was at the American Enterprise Institute ... Other administration figures are supportive, including Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, a former Heritage Foundation fellow ... Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill has been talking about bold tax reform in recent interviews, including scrapping the corporate income tax ... During the GOP presidential primaries Bush was cool to Steve Forbes's flat tax plan, but after his meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Slovenia, Bush had surprising and unprompted kind words for the new Russian flat tax that passed last year ... "I was so impressed that he [Putin] was able to simplify his tax code in Russia, with a flat tax. I'm not so sure I'll have the same success with our Congress."

Russia hasn't been a top foreign-policy priority of the Bush administration ... Early on, Bush focused his personal and diplomatic energies on Mexico, Canada, Latin America, and Europe ... But now, Bush is seeking to develop a close personal relationship with Russia's Putin and is trying to persuade him to accept changes to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile agreement and accept the development of ballistic-missile defense systems that Bush believes must be a top U.S. priority ... The meetings between Bush and Putin at the Brdo Castle in Brdo Pri Kranju, Slovenia, went extremely well, reports author and former speechwriter Peggy Noonan, who spoke with the president in the Oval Office after his return ... Bush does remain a bit wary of the former KGB chief, but has decided to publicly announce his "trust" in Putin until there is any reason not to believe otherwise.

U.S. officials are growing increasingly concerned about Iran as a financial supporter of global terrorism and a destabilizing force in the Persian Gulf ... That's one reason President Bush specifically raised the issue of Iran with Putin ... Bush is worried that Iran is buying Russian weapons, including submarines and nuclear reactor components ... No sooner did Bush return from his meetings with Putin than Attorney General John Ashcroft announced indictments of 14 people—13 Saudis and one Lebanese—for conspiring and carrying out the bombing of Khobar Towers, a Saudi Arabian apartment complex ... FBI and CIA officials believe Iran was behind the June 25, 1996, truck bombing that killed 19 American servicemen and injured 372 other Americans and Saudis, but can't yet prove it in court.

Just when you'd heard enough about Democrats, interns, and scandals, a story is brewing in Washington that gets stranger every week and is increasingly hard to dismiss as simple rumor-mongering ... The media spotlight is now focused on Rep. Gary Condit (D-Calif.) and what he may know about the mysterious disappearance in early May of Chandra Levy, 24, a constituent of Condit's who was a Washington intern at the Bureau of Prisons ... The case has mushroomed from a local missing persons story to an explosive national political story as Levy remains unaccounted for. Condit, 53 and married, denies any romantic involvement with the young girl, but says the two were "good friends" ... Condit insists he knows nothing about Levy's disappearance, but D.C. police searched his Washington apartment and interviewed the congressman twice at length.
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JURY CONVICTS RETIRED ARMY COLONEL OF ESPIONAGE

You can’t run

For over 20 years, George Trofimoff sold military secrets to Moscow. Now he may spend the rest of his life in jail as the highest-ranking U.S. military officer (a colonel) ever convicted of espionage.

Col. Trofimoff, 74, is a retired Army colonel who was the civilian chief of an Army interrogation center in Nuremberg, Germany, from 1968 to 1994. The United States questioned Soviet bloc escapees and stored volumes of secret documents at the center.

A former KGB general, Oleg Kalugin, testified that Col. Trofimoff was one of the Soviet Union’s top spies during the 1970s. Prosecutors said he collected $300,000 for photographing U.S. intelligence documents and giving them to the KGB. His go-between was Igor Vladimirovich Susenih, a Russian Orthodox archbishop in Vienna.

Born in Germany to Russian emigres before becoming a U.S. citizen, Col. Trofimoff was captured on videotape in 1999 putting his hand to his heart and telling an undercover FBI agent posing as a Russian agent: “I’m not American in here.” When he was arrested he was collecting a $71,000 annual Army pension.

On the stand, Col. Trofimoff said that he only pretended to be a spy during the meeting with the FBI agent because he needed money. Jurors, however, laughed when he said it was a coincidence that he was able to name several Soviet spies when shown them by the undercover agent. The jury deliberated for less than two hours before finding him guilty.

Prosecutors said the conviction would deter other potential spies. “The message should go out that you can’t run far enough or fast enough to get away,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Furr.

Bunker mentality

Character actor Carroll O’Connor entered TV history playing arch-bigot Archie Bunker on Norman Lear’s All in the Family. He died last week of a heart attack at age 76 with his wife of 50 years, Nancy, at his side in a California hospital. Archie was supposed to be a feisty but vulnerable and stupid relic of the past, someone who couldn’t handle America’s fast turn. He fit the Hollywood stereotype of conservatives as uneducated rabble. What Mr. Lear didn’t at first realize was that many people actually liked Archie Bunker even though he was played as a tyrant.

But Carroll O’Connor was more than just Archie. He had an active career spanning numerous movie and TV shows, most recently Mad About You and the film Return to Me. Personal tragedy darkened Mr. O’Connor’s later years. His only child, Hugh, a co-star with his father on the show In the Heat of the Night, shot himself in a drug-related suicide in 1995.

Trevor Loflin, 17, scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT while living with his homeless family in cars and tents last May. During the ensuing media frenzy, he credited his newfound faith: “After reading the Bible, our family realized that some of our circumstances were caused by a wrong worldview,” he said. His mother began attending church and home-schooling—even when home was a car. Trevor plans to study physics at Bob Jones University.

Some 100 fathers twirled their daughters to orchestra music at the third annual Colorado Springs Father-Daughter Purity Ball this spring. Before the dance, fathers signed a “purity covenant” promising to be models of integrity and to protect their daughters’ moral character. Randy and Lisa Wilson, parents of six, founded the ball to strengthen father-daughter bonds and help women remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

After her husband left her in 1964, Bea Gaddy and her five children survived by scrounging trashes. Today, she has a master’s degree in counseling and directs the Baltimore-based Bea Gaddy Family Center. She feeds and shelters thousands through 16 programs, including a women’s shelter, emergency food bank, and drug rehabilitation center. “This shows that God knows our prayers before we say them,” she said.
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ARMY OF ONE: House Majority Leader Dick Armey sent a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft asking if the controversial FBI snooping system nicknamed Carnivore is unconstitutional. The system is supposed to work like a telephone wiretap except it taps an Internet connection.

Critics complain it is easily abused and can be used to track people who aren't criminal suspects. Reuters reported Rep. Armey might try to have Congress simply shut down the system, originally called the less inflammatory and more bureaucratic DCS-1000 when Janet Reno was Attorney General. Rep. Armey asked Mr. Ashcroft whether the system violates the "minimum expectation" that federal agents won't tap citizens' electronic communications unless they have a warrant.

"I believe the FBI is making a good-faith effort to fight crime in the most efficient way possible," the majority leader conceded. "But I also believe the Founders quite clearly decided to sacrifice that kind of efficiency for the sake of protecting citizens from the danger of an overly intrusive government."

PSEUDO-SCIENCE BEAT: Why do journalists botch science stories? The Orlando Sentinel's Charley Reese pondered the question, considering reports that the National Academy of Sciences allegedly unanimously endorsed the theory of global warming.

Then one of the authors, MIT meteorologist Richard S. Lindzen, wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed headlined "The Press Got It Wrong, Our Report Doesn't Support the Kyoto Treaty."

While agreeing that much of the problem is bias, Mr. Reese points out that maybe and uncertainties aren't popular in the newsroom. Not to mention that plenty of special-interest groups aren't above abusing science to fit their ideologies. "Journalists, being simplistic by nature and trained to seek melodrama, almost always [mess up] science stories," he said. "They simply hate to add all the qualifiers, conditions, and uncertainties because it detracts from the drama."

Mr. Reese also questions why NAS scientists should be considered arbiters of objective truth, as if their saying so would be proof that the earth is getting warmer: "It's funny that many professed atheists scoff at accepting the authority of the Bible...yet fall on their knees in superstitious awe of some secular authority," he remarks.

SEARCHING FOR SOULMATES: We now live in the "age of soulmates," says columnist Maggie Gallagher. People who have grown up with divorce everywhere have been left with a deep aching for love but don't understand traditional marriage.

She cites a National Marriage Project survey saying 94 percent of singles in their 20s want to marry a soulmate (that special person with almost mystical qualities of compatibility). "Eighty-eight percent say there are too many divorces" but "almost two-thirds endorse cohabitation before marriage as a way to avoid divorce," Ms. Gallagher says. "If that fails, there's always single motherhood, for those girls aching for a love that lasts." She argues that the solution is for people to reign in their behavior so another generation isn't raised with such confusion.

BARBRA'S STERN LECTURE: Barbra Streisand has a plan to save California. "The Call to Conserve" is linked from her home page, near the ads for Lincoln cards and the singer's name brand "Commemorative Champagne." Within is her plea to save energy with standard issue tips from the über-diva: Turn off lights, run your dishwasher only full-loaded, don't waste air conditioning, and the like.

"Conservation will help diminish the chances that protective environmental laws will be cut, more power plants will be built, and nuclear energy policies will be reintroduced," she says. Such pontificating brought sarcasm from National Post columnist Mark Steyn up in Canada. Mr. Steyn says "the entire statement reads like a note to the scullery maid that Barbra's press agent accidentally released to the media."
Culture war goes global

Once again, the meaning of words became central to the debate over UN documents. In New York, 3,000 government officials, activists, and business leaders came together to define a global agenda for tackling AIDS and to rally support for a new fund to pay for it. The UN's first high-level meeting on AIDS highlighted a philosophical split: Western nations on one side, Muslim-ruled countries (which generally have low AIDS rates) and the Vatican on the other.

Muslim countries objected to European-proposed language in a draft declaration that specified homosexuals, prostitutes, and intravenous drug users as groups "susceptible" to the disease. The United States, satisfying neither side, proposed a compromise that would refer vaguely to "vulnerable individuals" who engage in "risky sexual behavior." The Vatican, meanwhile, disagreed over the promotion of the use of condoms rather than sexual abstinence as a means of prevention. And larger debate focused on whether to emphasize prevention or treatment in funding priorities. A final declaration is expected to become a blueprint for AIDS programs around the world.

What no one at the gathering seemed to question was its premise. While AIDS is ravaging Africa and spreading there primarily through heterosexual contact, other parts of the world actually see declining rates of infection and its primary locus in the homosexual community. Adopting a global agenda, under the circumstances, could straitjacket locally tailored approaches just beginning to show promise of success.

NEW YORK: The UN's first high-level meeting on fighting AIDS.

COLOMBIA: GUERRILLAS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDERING CHURCH LEADERS' CHILDREN

The price of peace

Church leaders in Colombia's drug cartel region believe guerrilla forces murdered two children of prominent church leaders in June. An anonymous tip led Ederino Rentería, pastor of the Inter-American Church near Medellín, to the unmarked grave of his 22-year-old son Antonio. An unidentified group of heavily armed guerrillas abducted Antonio from the Rentería home in May. On June 17, anonymous gunmen killed Jori Palacio, 20, the daughter of another Inter-American Church clergyman and a prominent youth worker. Officials for the Protestant evangelical denomina-

TERROR ALERT Follows 13 Hezbollah Indictments

Never too careful

U.S. military forces and diplomatic compounds around the world went on high alert in response to unspecified threats linked to a terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden. The warning came just as the United States indicted 13 Saudi members of Hezbollah in connection with the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen. It also coincided with an FBI decision to pull investigators looking into the bombing of the USS Cole out of Yemen. Commanders of the U.S. Fifth Fleet ordered its warships in the Gulf region to sea, and the U.S. Marine Corps cut short a training exercise in Jordan.

FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC ORDERS BIBLES OFF SHELVES

Banned in Turkmenistan

Bibles are disappearing from bookstores in Turkmenistan after a government letter ordered vendors to remove the books. Copies of the Koran are still widely available, according to Keston News Service. Turkmenistan restricts all religious activity and allows only two religious groups, Russian Orthodoxy and Islam, to register legally in the former Soviet republic.

SAUDI ARABIA: Khobar Towers after the truck bombing.
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QUOTABLES

“I’ll have to try it or all my life I’ll wonder.”
—What JACK LEMMON told his father when he decided to move to New York after World War II to try to become an actor. Mr. Lemmon, who went on to win two Oscars, died last week at the age of 76.

“Public confidence in judicial impartiality cannot survive if judges ... pander to the press.”
—THE U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, reversing Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson’s breakup order for Microsoft because Judge Jackson, in many statements to reporters, appeared to be biased against the company. The court last week ordered that a different federal judge decide Microsoft’s penalty.

“It’s common sense. He couldn’t do what he was required to do.”
—LEON ST. JOHN, assistant Palm Beach County attorney, arguing that a judge should dismiss a man’s Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuit. Cleveland Merritt claims the county violated his rights under the law because the colorblind Mr. Merritt was fired from his job as a traffic-light installer. He cannot distinguish the color red from green.

“How do you know when to believe what he writes?”
—New York Times reporter JILL ABRAMSON, in The Washington Post, on writer David Brock, who now says he lied in a 1993 book that was critical of Anita Hill, who had during his Supreme Court confirmation hearing accused Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Mr. Brock also says he lied about Ms. Abramson’s book on Justice Thomas, Strange Justice. “I’d be awfully convenient to now say because what he’s writing is personally pleasing to me that he’s a 100 percent solid reporter,” she told the Post. “That would be a little disingenuous.”

“I don’t remember starting two freshmen when I was a coach in college. I guess I’m going to get a chance in the NBA.”
—Chicago Bulls coach TIM FLOYD, who formerly coached Iowa State, on his team’s choice of two players coming out of high school in last week’s NBA draft. More players than ever are skipping college. Three of the first four players taken in the draft were high-schoolers.
CHANGING TASTES TAKE THEIR TOLL ON THE GAP

Falling into hard times

Is The Gap still cool? Just a few years ago, the chain and its sisters like Old Navy and Banana Republic helped define America’s taste in casual clothes. Now hard times are forcing layoffs on the company that gave new life to khaki and cargo pants.

Analysts say The Gap lost sight of popular tastes and has had a hard time catching up. The country’s economic slowdown didn’t help. Some customers complained the clothes were too youth-oriented for older people, but The Gap even lost popularity with teenagers and college students. Steady sales losses mean 500 to 700 jobs cut, mostly from The Gap's San Francisco–based administrative staff.

The company isn’t giving up on growth though, even after its hypergrowth in the 1990s made the stores almost ubiquitous. Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway revealed last April that it was optimistic enough to invest $204 million.

But The Gap’s troubles may signify a cultural shift away from the old, so-called Gen-X styles and corporate casual looks. As youth tastes endlessly mutate and older people turn back toward more professional looks, this megapower may find its niche slipping away.

HYPED CAMPAIGN STARTS FOR RINGS

It’s not going to bomb

With the first Lord of the Rings film coming in December, a Star Wars–style advance hype campaign is already underway. With a combined budget of $270 million, AOL Time Warner’s New Line studio doesn’t want anything to go wrong. Already, trailers are beginning to appear and new editions of Tolkien’s masterpieces are in bookstores bearing the new logo.

Soon America may be more deluged in Middle-Earth than it was during the series’ last boom during the 1970s—winning both devoted followers and sarcastic critics. The toy line geared for kids during the holidays includes all sorts of figurines, electronic swords, marbles, and a bow-and-arrow set.

The three movies were shot together over 15 months in New Zealand to save costs and logistics hassle, with a film coming each Christmas for the next three years. The cast includes Ian Holm as hobbit Bilbo Baggins, Elijah Wood as Frodo, and Christopher Lee as Saruman.

“It’s not going to bomb,” executive producer Mark Ordesky said at the Cannes Film Festival. “There’s a hundred million of these books out there in 40 languages worldwide. You’ve got a missionary effect in that you’ve got three generations who’ve been reading it since the ’50s, when the book first came out. We’ve got an amazing pedigree in these films.”

For better or worse, The Lord of the Rings will be a landmark for translating epic literature to the screen. Throngs of fans are likely to be upset if the filmmakers revised too much of the stories, but considering plans to revise and secularize The Chronicles of Narnia, anything is possible. The Harry Potterization of Middle-Earth is surely not just a worst-case scenario.

—Chris Stamp

GH’S LUKE AND LAURA DIVORCE

Soap-opera splitsville

Love in the afternoon never lasts. Even the biggest marriage in soap-opera history had to break up eventually. Nearly 20 years after their much-watched storybook wedding, Luke and Laura Spencer (Anthony Geary and Genie Francis) signed divorce papers on ABC’s General Hospital. Nearly 30 million viewers watched the Nov. 16, 1981, wedding episode, but today’s daytime shows can’t draw numbers anywhere close to that.

The characters were on and off the show through the 1980s, including one presumed death by Laura and one round-the-world tour for both of them. The couple has been together continuously on the show since 1993, an eternity in soap time.

Gh played the official breakup with full gush: “He watched her walk away in the rain and she looked back at him one last time,” reads ABC’s official summary. “He raised his hand in a final farewell and with tears streaming down her face, she waved goodbye.”

The divorce is, of course, something the show’s writers can erase on a whim. Soaps have always been a bloated version of American fantasies about romance—in this case, that passion is everything and stability is nothing. Once fictional couples become too happy, something must be wrong.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Since its publication in 1998, The Greatest Generation has spawned a mini-industry of books about the generation that won World War II. Now available in paperback (Dell, 2001), the book brings much-needed attention to the discrimination faced by minority soldiers both in the military and when they returned home. But Tom Brokaw's book also provides some insight into the worldview of one of America's most influential journalists.

When Mr. Brokaw writes about ordinary folks, he often mentions the importance of faith and traditional values, but discussion of virtue largely disappears when he writes about the famous and politically powerful. When he does mention marriage, as in the chapter on Ben Bradlee, longtime editor of The Washington Post, gliil sentiments dominate: "After a lifetime of achievement and adventure that includes three wives . . ."

Mr. Brokaw profiles both liberal and conservative political leaders, but he gives several examples of how war experiences enabled liberals to stand up to conservatives. In one, Democrat Rep. Sam Gibbons pulls on the tie of a Republican committee chairman and yells, "You're a bunch of dictators. . . . I had to fight you guys 50 years ago."

Mr. Brokaw speaks admiringly of the "enduring qualities of love, marriage, and commitment" that characterized the WWII generation, but he also praises the social changes of recent decades that have undermined marriage. He does not connect the dots.
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**VIDEO RENTALS**

**1. CAST AWAY**
- $15.02 million
- 1 week in release
- $15.06 million to date
- CAST / DIRECTOR / STUDIO: Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt / Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump) / 20th Century Fox
- PLOT: A plane crash survivor learns to stay alive after he's stranded on a remote island.
- CAUTION: Rated PG-13 for intense action sequences and some disturbing images.
- BOTTOM LINE: Ocean and island scenes that are cinematically majestic but spiritually empty.

**2. TRAFFIC**
- $6.7 million
- 3 weeks in release
- $27 million to date
- CAST / DIRECTOR / STUDIO: Michael Douglas, Don Cheadle / Steven Soderbergh (Erin Brockovich) / USA Films
- PLOT: Three interwoven stories each chronicle a different aspect of the U.S. government's war on drugs.
- CAUTION: Rated R for pervasive drug content, strong language, violence, and sexuality.
- BOTTOM LINE: Harsh but honest treatment of the U.S. drug war.

**3. GROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**
- $6.23 million
- 2 weeks in release
- $14.03 million to date
- CAST / DIRECTOR / STUDIO: Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh / Ang Lee (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon) / Sony Classics
- PLOT: Mythic tale of martial-arts masters who go after a stolen sword and a young princess; she must choose between using her fighting skills for good or evil.
- CAUTION: Rated PG-13 for violence and some sexuality.
- BOTTOM LINE: Exhilarating story that transcends the martial-arts genre, with a moral, but decidedly non-Christian, worldview.

**4. O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?**
- $5.08 million
- 1 week in release
- $5.11 million to date
- CAST / DIRECTOR / STUDIO: George Clooney, John Turturro / Ethan and Joel Coen (Fargo) / Touchstone Pictures
- PLOT: Epic comedy, set in 1930s rural Mississippi and loosely based on Homer's Odyssey, in which three prison escapees search for buried treasure.
- CAUTION: Rated PG-13 for sexual content and bad language.
- BOTTOM LINE: Lauded as much for the retro-hillbilly soundtrack as the movie itself.

**5. WHAT WOMEN WANT**
- $3.86 million
- 6 weeks in release
- $43.38 million to date
- CAST / DIRECTOR / STUDIO: Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt / Nancy Meyers (The Parent Trap) / Paramount
- PLOT: An "unusual" bathroom accident allows a man to hear women's thoughts, teaching him lessons about his own and the opposite sex.
- CAUTION: Rated PG-13 for sexual content and bad language.
- BOTTOM LINE: Stars make a ridiculous plot watchable; movie says much, but explains little, about how the sexes interact.

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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Who knew that drag racing was still popular? *The Fast and the Furious* (Universal, rated PG-13 for violence, sex, and bad language) is the latest in the new Hollywood genre of car movies—where speed, steel, and sound are more important than anything else. This one takes some cues from the James Dean legend.

This movie is particularly risksome because it glorifies a common thug. Vin Diesel plays Dominic Toretto, the leader of a gang of street racers who pour tens of thousands of dollars worth of parts into their cars so they can run faster and faster. They feed their habit by hijacking 18-wheelers and selling the cargo. Dominic is so addicted to the thrill of racing that he's willing to sacrifice everything else in life for it.

The story follows an undercover officer (Paul Walker) trying to stop the crime spree. He joins the gang and quickly bonds with Dominic. In time, this non-hero falls for the hood's girlfriend and winds up protecting the gang. *Furious* winds up taking the audience for a ride.
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TELEVISION

Free-market censorship

New advertising trend may lead to better, cleaner television programs  » by ANDREW COFFIN

Critics are taking notice of a new trend in television advertising, which is evolving along with advancements in technology. The ease with which viewers can record television programs on VCRs, or, even more conveniently, hard-disk recorders (which allow live television to be paused, rewound, or fast-forwarded), means that more viewers/consumers are tuning out traditional 30-second ads. In response, the industry is integrating advertising—once again—into the very fabric of television programming.

It doesn't take an analyst to notice this trend: Simply tune in to any of the recent spate of reality shows and see contestants rewarded with Doritos or Mountain Dew, driving Pontiac Aztecs or Jeep Cherokees. The practices of "product integration" and corporate sponsorship are quick to draw largely unflattering labels from the mainstream press, however. Reporters throw around dreaded words like "consumerism" and "corporate greed," and critics lament an expected loss of creative freedom.

An "ad-industry critic" quoted in Time referenced the quiz show scandals of the 1950s, at least partially blamed on corporate sponsors who demanded high ratings at the expense of fair and honest game results. Is television really on the road to ruin?

Some would say that it took that fork in the road long ago. While some concern for the diminishing of artistic freedom is legitimate, who really thinks that broadcast television is now a hotbed of unbridled creativity? The regular crop of formulaic, crass, and typically short-lived sitcoms that debut at the start of each season is very few people's idea of high art.

On the other hand, corporate sponsorship of individual television programs could create a much more functional system of free-market censorship—a form of censorship that shouldn't carry the same stigma as its governmental counterpart. A company that sponsors a television program, lending its name to the title—as General Electric did for the old GE Theater—will necessarily care a great deal about the content of the program and how it reflects on the company's image.

There's nothing wrong with this. Any company, just as does any private individual, has the right not to endorse a product that it deems alien to the principles of its management or offensive to a large—or even small—percentage of its target market. This is a distinction that was often lost in the debate several years ago over a similar issue involving corporate control of artistic freedom: Wal-Mart's policy of selling sanitized (or "censored") versions of popular albums in its stores. A great hue and cry arose among free-speech advocates about the evils of corporate censorship and the limitation of choice (the new face of immorality in modern society).

A WiredNews online column at the time bemoaned, "Since we can't choose or even know about what we can't see, hear, or isn't even produced [for lack of sales outlets], we lose one of the most fundamental freedoms—to make our own individual and family choices about morality."

But are "individual and family choices" dependent on full access to every depraved, decadent, and immoral form of "speech" at the local Wal-Mart (or on TV)? Should Wal-Mart have to sell hardcore pornography and prints of sacrilegious paintings next to diapers and hand towels so as not to violate anyone's freedom of choice?

The answer is clearly no. Wal-Mart executives have every right to choose what they sell in their stores, whether they make those choices for financial gain or personal conviction, or some combination of the two. The same is true for a company like Ford, which is paying to have its name attached to an upcoming reality series. It is perfectly legitimate for Ford executives to be concerned about the show's content and its reflection on the company's most valuable commodity—its brand name. Corporations have a much closer tie to their "constituency" than television networks, and so the sponsorship system creates at least the potential for greater sensitivity to what potential consumers might consider offensive.

What about the quiz-show scandals of the 1950s, in which corporate sponsors apparently abused their power by mandating that networks rig game shows to achieve higher ratings? Television was a new medium then. Those scandals not only prodded Congress to pass laws that prohibit such blatant abuses but also opened America's eyes to the possibilities—and liabilities—of television.

Today's audiences are much savvier and, one hopes, much more aware that what they see on TV is not an exact representation of reality. If a return to corporate sponsorship serves as a reminder of that fact, then that's all the better.
**THE MUSIC**

**1. SWEET TEA**
Buddy Guy
4 weeks on chart

**STYLE** Electric, psychedelic "dirt-road" blues. What Jimi Hendrix might be playing were he alive today.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** Nothing explicit; still, as the liner notes acknowledge, the music "tells the stories of love and loss and violence."

**2. RIDING WITH THE KING**
B.B. King & Eric Clapton
52 weeks on chart

**STYLE** Blues, R&B, rock and roll, soul.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** None.

**3. SHOULDA BEEN HOME**
The Robert Cray Band
4 weeks on chart

**STYLE** Soul, blues, R&B.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** None.

**4. PURE BLUES**
Various Artists
8 weeks on chart

**STYLE** Classic electric blues.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** Nothing explicit, although "intimations of lust and violence" do persist.

**5. NOTHING PERSONAL**
Odetta McIntosh
14 weeks on chart

**STYLE** Roadhouse blues, rock and roll, country, Tex-Mex.

**OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL** "Baggage Claim," "All Night Long" (lecherous), "Squeeze Me In" (double entendres), "Nothin' Lasts Forever," "All There Is Of Me," "Watchin' the Rain" (casual obscenity).

**OVERALL QUALITY** Having finally earned the title for which he's striven since signing with Chess Records in the 1960s—"King of the Chicago Blues"—Mr. Guy's return to the tortured, haunted blues of his Louisiana youth is harrowing.

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Because most various-artists "tribute" albums are transparent attempts by little-known musicians to cash in on the clout of those to whom they're purportedly paying homage, the memorable music such albums contain is slight. An exception is *Avalon Blues: A Tribute to the Music of Mississippi John Hurt* (Vanguard). Not only are its contributors (Bruce Cockburn, Lucinda Williams, Taj Mahal, Gillian Welch, John Hiatt) well known in their own right, but they're among the many whom the Delta bluesman directly inspired, and they prove as much with acoustic performances that remain true to the gentleness of his spirit.

Among the selections on *Avalon Blues* are "Here Am I, Oh Lord, Send Me," "Since I've Laid My Burden Down," "Beulah Land," and "I'm Satisfied," but Mr. Hurt, who died in 1966, was not considered a gospel singer. Indeed, at least some of his legendary "sweetness" may have been attributable to alcohol and marijuana. But the commitment he brought to his music has survived, a fact to which this enjoyable labor of love eloquently attests.
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Warning: Though heavily censored, this series deals directly and honestly with some very disturbing subject matter. Please use discretion with younger viewers.
READY, SET, BRET!

With his surprise victory in the Garden State, Schundler conquers a liberal-dominated, northeast GOP. That places a Christian conservative at the top of the ticket in New Jersey. Securing his party’s support is one thing, but can this brand of politics win statewide? The nation will be watching. » by Bob Jones in Princeton, N.J.

The confetti cannons were silent in Princeton. The five-foot-tall, torpedo-shaped canisters stood at strategic points around the hotel ballroom, ready to blast Bob Franks and his supporters with a celebratory shower of paper and tinsel.

Instead, it was the Franks campaign itself that got blasted—blown out of the troubled political waters by a conservative outsider running his first statewide race. Bret Schundler, the Jersey City mayor twice given up for dead in his gubernatorial bid, shocked the state’s moderate political machine on June 26 with his 14-point win over a better-known, better-funded rival. In the process, he may have created a blueprint for candidates nationwide who’ve been told they’re too conservative for the voters in their districts.

The Franks campaign had every reason to be optimistic going into Tuesday’s primary election. Mr. Franks, a former four-term congressman, barely lost to Jon Corzine in last year’s Senate race, despite being outspent 10 to 1 by the millionaire ex-Wall Streeter. With high name recognition, a solid statewide organization, and a reputation for middle-of-the-road politics, he seemed like the perfect successor to Christie Todd Whitman.

New Jersey’s Republican establishment certainly thought so. In April, when acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco, another moderate, bowed out of the race under an ethical cloud, panicked party leaders begged Mr. Franks to step in. Mr. Schundler, an outspoken pro-lifer and defender of the Second Amendment, was too “extreme” for New Jersey, they insisted. To tempt their centrist savior out of retirement and give him time to organize, the Republican machine rewrote the law to move the primary back three weeks. Then Mr. DiFrancesco turned over his staff, office space, fax machines, and more than $700,000 in campaign contributions to the Franks campaign, essentially wiping out months of hard work by Mr. Schundler.

At the county level, 20 out of 21 party organizations endorsed the new candidate, giving him preferred ballot position and access to an army of volunteers. Mr. Franks, not surprisingly, zoomed immediately to a 22-point lead in the polls.

Still, the tension was palpable Tuesday as supporters trickled into the Franks election-night headquarters. Despite all the opposition by party insiders, polls had showed Mr. Schundler closing the gap in the campaign’s
final days. Franks staffers huddled frequently, steering clear of reporters before whispering in each other’s ears. Outside a VIP lounge, one staffer lay her head on the shoulder of another. “Bergen came in under 50,” she murmured. The reference was cryptic, but the body language suggested the report was not good. When a live news report from Schundler headquarters showed a much bigger, more enthusiastic crowd 30 miles to the north, someone quickly changed the channel on the Jumbotron screen in the corner of the room.

But a blank screen could only delay the bad news. Just 90 minutes after the polls closed, Mr. Franks took the stage. With former Gov. Whitman by his side, he basked in the cheers of his supporters for a moment. Then: “I just got off the phone with Bret Schundler,” he began, as the crowd held its collective breath, “and I offered to do everything I can to assure his victory in November.”

With that announcement, a quarter-century of moderate domination within the New Jersey GOP may have come to an end. Not since Jeff Bell defeated a liberal Republican senator in the 1976 primary has a conservative outsider ousted the establishment standard-bearer.

Critics point out, however, that the 1976 campaign actually proves the superiority of centrist politics in New Jersey: Mr. Bell, the surprise conservative choice, was swamped in the general election by a liberal Democrat named Bill Bradley. “If Schundler were to win, [Democratic nominee Jim] McGreevey will take it in November,” predicted Anita Meeks, a Franks supporter of more than 20 years.

shortly before the concession speech. “He’s too conservative, too far to the right. His people are crazy. They go shooting people who go to abortion clinics. If a conservative wins the primary, the Democrats take it in November.”

That was certainly the message Mr. Franks tried to communicate during the campaign. He started his campaign by urging a “kick in the butt” for the entrenched politicians in Trenton, but quickly dropped that theme when it failed to resonate with his moderate base. Instead, the lifelong politician cozied up to the entrenched powers, hammering his opponent for being a “right-wing extremist” who would put guns in the hands of children and drive women to back-alley abortions.

“The future of our party is at stake,” he repeatedly declared. “I’m the Republican who can win in November.”
Almost no one seemed to think Mr. Schundler could win in June, let alone November. But the former Wall Street whiz kid has built his short political career on defying expectations. In 1993 he became the first Republican mayor of Jersey City since World War I, then won reelection with 69 percent of the vote—despite the fact that seven in 10 voters in his city were registered Democrats.

His empowerment message—lower taxes, less government, more individual opportunity—found a surprising audience in the blighted city just across the river from Manhattan. An early, outspoken advocate of compassionate conservatism, he worked to reduce swollen welfare rolls and established a scholarship fund for sending inner-city children to private schools. That won him support in unexpected quarters: While he easily carried the vote among affluent white commuters, he also captured five of the city’s eight public housing projects.

Although a solid pro-life—he opposes abortion even in cases of rape and incest—Mr. Schundler rarely mentioned the issue in his campaign for the gubernatorial nomination. Instead he leveraged his pro-life support by forging alliances with other interest groups that have long felt locked out of New Jersey’s GOP power structure, from gun owners to libertarians to blue-collar Catholics. He even tapped into frustration among commuters by promising to do away with the expensive, irritating tolls that seem to bring traffic grinding to a halt every 10 miles or so along the state’s busy highways.

The Schundler coalition is “a huge repudiation of the party,” according to Ingrid Reed, director of the New Jersey Project at Rutgers University’s Eagleton Institute of Politics. “When all is said and done, it’s rooted in a wing of the party that feels it has been ignored…” The party will be challenged by the conservative wing, [and] they’ll have to figure out what to do with these people.”

Ms. Reed predicted that conservative challengers would run strong primary races next year against long-term liberal incumbents like Rep. Marge Roukema, a fixture of the GOP establishment.

And the implications of the Schundler win extend far beyond the borders of the Garden State. “The true conservative message works anywhere, even New Jersey,” said Christian Josi of the American Conservative Union. “When Schundler wins the general election, it’s going to change the politics of the northeast for a long time. There are a lot of Bret Schundlers out there who will see this as a very empowering thing.”

As the new poster boy for social conservatives nationwide, Mr. Schundler faces even greater pressure to pull off a miracle win in November. If he loses the general election, moderates will tighten their stranglehold on the party machinery, arguing that yet another conservative has proved unelectable in a statewide contest.

Indeed, there is some danger that the party establishment will create a self-fulfilling prophecy in that regard. Mr. DiFrancesco, the disgraced acting governor, has said publicly he might not support his former opponent. The man who quit the race because he didn’t want to answer media questions about his business practices said, without a trace of irony, “Bret Schundler needs to explain himself,” implying if he doesn’t hear a new liberal tune, he’ll sit the race out.

Mr. Franks himself was considerably more gracious. “United we will march to victory in November,” he declared in his concession speech. “Tonight I’m signing up for Bret Schundler’s army.” The next day, Mr. Franks and former Gov. Tom Kean (also a pro-choice moderate Republican) joined the Schundler army as co-chairmen of the general election effort.

Rank-and-file GOP voters shuffling out of Franks headquarters Tuesday night seemed split on whether they would follow the marching orders. Mrs. Meeks said she might stay home in November, though she’s never missed an election—primary or general—in her life. But Ken Rothschild, who taught high-school math to Mr. Franks 34 years ago, said he would back the Republican nominee, and that most other Republicans would, as well. “You can’t expect your candidate to agree with you on every issue,” he said, singling out the abortion controversy. “It may take a while to unite, but I think we will.”

Voters like Mrs. Meeks and Mr. Rothschild will probably take their cues from party officials, who now must decide whether they are more loyal to the GOP or the status quo. On that question, the jury is still very much out.

“[Stinks] big time,” moaned state senate candidate Jane Greenleaf to a group of friends outside the ballroom where her leader had just admitted defeat. “Now we have to figure out what Plan B is.”

“This was Plan B,” a man pointed out, referring to the forced reshuffling of establishment candidates.

“Oh yeah,” Ms. Greenleaf replied, shaking her head. “That was Plan B.”

The group of four fell silent, considering their uncertain future in a political game where all the rules seemed to have changed.
The Good Shepherd's Cottage

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HMOphobia in Congress

Soon Americans may be able to sue their health-maintenance organizations in state courts. That is, if they still have health insurance » by Tim Graham and Bob Jones in Washington

Stepping out of a Senate lunch into television spotlights, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle came to tell reporters that his mild-mannered, Mister Rogers demeanor didn’t mean he wouldn’t toe a hard line on pushing a so-called “patients’ bill of rights.” He ram the bill through as quickly as he would have liked, but its very presence on Capitol Hill’s front burner is a testament to the Democrats’ renewed agenda-setting power in the wake of Sen. Jim Jeffords’s walk across the partisan divide. Sen. Edward Kennedy first drafted a bill pressing new standards and the right to sue health-maintenance organizations (HMOs) five years ago, only to see it bottled up repeatedly by the Senate’s GOP majority. A similar bill in the House of Representatives attracted 68 Republican votes, but the measure died of neglect in the Senate.

Now that they were in control, Senate Democrats clearly felt they had public opinion on their side, and moved quickly to make HMOs public enemy No. 1. More than 180 million Americans have private health insurance, and liberal legislators loved to share nightmare stories of denied claims and delayed reimbursements at the hands of faceless private corporations. Democrats circulated a survey boasting, “HMOs and health insurance companies are almost as disliked as oil companies.” Polls showed comfortable majorities generally favored “patient protections,” but they also found support dropping off or collapsing when pollsters presented people the possibility that such “protections” may come at a price, namely increased premiums or employers dropping their insurance.

With a steady eye on the polls, Republicans stressed that they, too, wanted to pass a “bill of rights,” and suggested they favored plenty of new mandates for insurers. When the Senate voted on June 22 to guarantee HMO members access to expensive clinical trials, only one senator—Wyoming Republican Mike Enzicasted a “no” vote. The two parties quickly agreed that policymakers had a right to other benefits, as well, including emergency-room care, ambulance service, access to medical specialists, OB-GYN care, longer hospital stays following breast cancer surgery, pediatric care, and a broader range of prescription drugs.

Had the Democrats simply settled for more mandates, Mr. Daschle might not have had to threaten summer break, but that didn’t offer any political advantage. The bill bogged down on the question of how best to guarantee that HMOs and insurance companies would give patients all these new “rights.” To the party funded largely through the donations of trial lawyers, the answer was obvious: lawsuits. Attorneys, led by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, gave $124 million in the 2000 election cycle, the Center for Responsive Politics found, up from $69 million in 1998 and $50 million in 1994, and 70 percent (90 percent of ATLA donations) went to Democrats. Sen. Kennedy, Sen. John Edwards, who made his millions as a trial lawyer, and in another showy anti-Bush stand, Republican Sen. John McCain sponsored their bill.

Under a 1974 law, insurance companies have been exempted from lawsuits in state courts because their plans usually cover patients in a number of states with a patchwork of laws and regulations. The McCain-Edward Kennedy bill would change all that, allowing patients to sue their health plans in state courts, where juries are often sympathetic and damage awards can be huge. HMO executives’ spines shivered at the thought of the millions (sometimes billions) of dollars juries have assessed to
tobacco companies to award to lifelong smokers who ignored the surgeon general’s warning. What would happen when death or injury came to an innocent HMO enrollee?

Republicans complained that would create a “liability lottery” in which unscrupulous lawyers would file frivolous suits in hopes of striking it rich with just the right jury. They argued that the more restrained federal courts—where huge damage awards are routinely overturned—was the right place for such lawsuits, in keeping with the 1974 law. The American Association of Health Plans, a lobbying group for HMOs, trotted out a new poll which found that 66 percent of respondents said trial lawyers would be the biggest beneficiaries of the new lawsuits, while only 22 percent thought patients would benefit most.

But the Democratic majority held firm, so Republicans tried a different strategy. In a compromise bill introduced June 26, they allowed for limited lawsuits in state courts, provided the noneconomic “pain and suffering” damages were capped at $500,000. With the unlimited

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liability of the Democratic plan, they argued, insurance companies would have to raise
their rates sharply, leading many smaller com-
panies to drop health-care benefits com-
pletely. Indeed, in a veto threat issued by the
White House on June 21, President Bush
warned the Democrats’ bill “could cause at
least 4 to 6 million Americans to lose health
coverage provided by their employers.”

The lawsuit controversy didn’t end there.
Because companies offer insurance to their
employees—and sometimes decide what
they will and will not cover—Democrats
wanted to hold employers legally liable as
well. The McCain-Edwards-Kennedy bill
would allow aggrieved patients to sue their
employers if their plan failed to provide
needed medical treatment. One lawsuit could
cripple or even bankrupt a business.

Republicans responded with an
amendment offered by Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas
providing employers with blanket immunity to such
lawsuits. Without such immunity, they argued,
companies would discontinue their insurance
plans rather than face the specter of legal liability.
“Do [companies] have to provide this benefit? No.
It’s very expensive, in many cases not even
 appreciated, so I’m afraid the net result is a lot of
employers would drop health care,” said Sen.
Don Nickles of Okla-
oma, the GOP whip.
“We shouldn’t do harm.
We shouldn’t increase the
number of uninsured. We
shouldn’t make health care so expensive that people
can’t afford it.” But
Mr. Gramm’s immunity
amendment lost, 57-43.

In the aftermath, Senate moderates talked
with President Bush about crafting a com-
promise that could spare large companies
offering their own insurance plans by creating
a “designated decision-maker” position that
would accept liability for them. Meanwhile,
on the House side, Speaker Dennis Hastert
and Rep. Ernie Fletcher (R-Ky.) unveiled a
bill friendlier to the president’s principles, so
the conference bill could be more acceptable to
the White House.

While the overall direction of the HMO-
regulation debate keeps shifting toward more
government control of the American health-
care system, liberals feel that these bills are a
very small step toward a more progressive
future where purportedly disinterested gov-
ernment managers replace profit-motivated
CEOs. Liberal columnist Michael Kinsley
joked that the debate was over “liberalism a la
mode,” or a seemingly painless government
action where the costs are indirect fee
increases rather than direct tax increases.

Conservative health experts also looked
beyond the boundaries of the current debate.
Heritage Foundation analyst James Fugre
suggested the problem was the employer-
based health insurance system. Most Ameri-
cans wouldn’t think of letting their employer
plans ignore the government’s own record.
“For all the hot air about how horrible HMOs
are, Medicare is the worst of the lot: no right
to sue for pain and suffering, claims denied as
medically unnecessary at 10 times the rate in
private health plans, administrative reviews of
disputes that run for months and years, sloppy
and substandard treatment that becomes the
norm for 90 percent of ‘plan’ members.” In
March, a federal judge in Detroit ruled that
Medicaid beneficiaries have no right to sue
state officials to force them to cover benefits
outlined in federal Medicaid law.

Conservatives don’t want lawsuits to add
to the cost of these government programs,
but they see a double standard in all the
HMO-bashing. White House spokesman
Ari Fleischer told WORLD: “I think that’s

choose their car or homeowners’ insurance
policies. “So why should they let their
employers choose a health insurance plan for
them and their families? If workers had a real
choice, insurance companies would have to
compete customer by customer for business,
forcing them to become more responsive
without a ‘patience’ bill of rights.”

Robert Goldberg, a senior fellow at the
Dallas-based National Center for Policy
Analysis, says all the focus on private health

another example of the fact that people
have one standard they want to apply to
others and a different standard that they
want to apply to the government. The presi-
dent believes the standard should be as close
to similar as possible.” But as the president
bowed to the need to avoid Democrats’ nasty
30-second ads on HMO-wronged little
kids with bad kidneys, Sen. Daschle may
find the capital’s power-sniffers hold him in
growing esteem.
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Bill of wrongs
The so-called “patients’ bill of rights” would be bad medicine for American health care  » by Cal Thomas

When my car needs servicing, I call a mechanic. When I need help managing money, I contact a financial adviser. When I want medical expertise, I call a physician, not a politician.

My doctor, who is no dummy (he has an M.D., a Ph.D., and decades of experience), thinks the politicians have duped people into believing that the so-called “patients’ bill of rights” is a good deal. He thinks government intrusion into medicine has created many of the problems government wants to repair.

The last thing this overly litigious society needs is another reason for people to file lawsuits. Trial lawyers are already gorging themselves with more money than most doctors will make in a lifetime of practice.

My doctor says managed care organizations don’t deny care; they can only deny payment for care. Many, if not most, physicians and hospitals treat their patients professionally and well, he says, whether or not they get paid. No doctor he knows will allow a patient to die just because of the stinginess of an HMO. The basic problem, says my doc, is not that patients are being denied care. It is that providers are not being paid for what they do and those providers are understandably reluctant to treat people for free.

My doctor reports he is $150,000 in debt, mostly because insurance companies argue over the tiniest of fees and then sometimes refuse to pay. He also suffers financially because of second-guessing government bureaucrats from Medicare and Medicaid who have never seen his patients but dispute charges as small as a $20 office visit. He has rent to pay and costly malpractice insurance to maintain, because too many patients already file too many lawsuits. After years of expensive education and dedication to helping others, he justifiably resents being seen as a money-grubbing cheater who must be dictated to by politicians interested only in reelection.

My doctor’s solution to improving doctor-patient relations is one the politicians will never accept because it would deprive them of power. He would restore medical decision-making to the physicians. Doctors have the moral, ethical and legal responsibility for their patients, so why not restore the autonomy they have lost to managed care organizations and the government? Providers should be paid for what they provide, according to some reasonable scale. That might reduce costs.

My doctor thinks health insurance premiums should reflect reality. By that, he means at least the following: (A) We are all going to die and our health insurance, lifestyles, and expectations should be designed with that in mind; (B) medicine has allowed us to live longer, but health costs increase commensurate with our advancing age; (C) we have more disposable income than any other nation in the world. It is a myth that health costs are going up too fast. Too fast for what in terms of what we get in return?

No one complains about the cost of chiropractors, aromatherapy, gourmet dog food, vitamins, or herbal health remedies. Let people spend their money on what is important to them. Let society help the poor, partially through government, but also through private agencies, and let the well-off choose how much, and what kind of health insurance they wish to purchase. Opening up medical savings accounts for all, which are now restricted mostly to the self-employed, would expand treatment options.

The Wall Street Journal recently editorialized: “We in the United States seem to have arrived at the point in our social relations where many people, and certainly the entire Democratic Party, believe that no private institution will act in good faith absent the possibility of being torn to pieces by a lawsuit.”

A major reason medical costs have escalated is because of government controls and regulations. Allowing lawyers more avenues to file suit would ensure even higher costs and less care, as many physicians would simply close their doors because they can’t afford to practice. This would bring us closer to the nationalized health care program Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) has said she intends to legislate “piecemeal” since her failed 1993 attempt to unilaterally impose it on the country. It will be as big a disaster in pieces as it would have been if it were served-up whole.

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True love waits, and waits

As the number of applications for U.S. citizenship explodes and creates a backlog, some two-country couples have to wait years to be together in America. by Tim Graham in Washington

Like an increasing number of couples, Ronald and Elena met in cyberspace. Ronald is an accountant in Texas who came out of jail in his mid-50s, after serving five years for embezzlement, committed to starting a new life in Christ. At the time of his release, he found Elena, a teacher and school administrator in Venezuela, through a Christian meeting service. Ronald and Elena (who wanted their real names withheld to protect their privacy) exchanged e-mails daily for more than two months, and then tested their growing love by meeting in Miami last August.

They planned to marry this summer, but found that this would require another run-in with the law—this time, American immigration law. Immigration lawyers told Ronald that marrying Elena in Venezuela would force him to apply for an I-130 form, and Elena would have to stay in South America while the government took at least 18 months to process the claim. The other option would be marrying inside the United States, which would only take about three months to process, and then the marriage must take place within 90 days of the fiancée’s arriving in the country. “The real problem with this is that she would leave her country unmarried, which in her culture comes with a bad moral sense, and she is a strong Christian,” Ronald explained.

Ronald and Elena are part of a growing trend in American immigration: backlog. As Americans this month celebrate the 225th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, most people’s patriotism is balanced by the nightly news picture of America as a troubled land. But this same America remains the biggest immigrant magnet in history.

Kevin Rooney, acting commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, recently told Congress that between 1993 and 2000, his agency “received and processed more applications for citizenship than during the previous 40 years combined.” The United States accepts about a million immigrants a year, a number that rivals the heyday of the first decade of the 20th century. (Official numbers on emigration aren’t available, but the Urban Institute has estimated about 200,000 people left America each year during the 1990s.) Yet the percentage of legal immigrants compared to the overall population is a third of what it was during the Teddy Roosevelt-era influx—less than four immigrants per 1,000 people.

But this large number of applicants has led to a large backlog of applications. While the INS boasts that it’s reduced the backlog for people seeking naturalization from 2.2 million to 715,000 in the last two years, more than 3 million people still seek green cards, or legal resident status. Many applicants wait for years in their native countries for the chance to arrive.

Since 1998, Congress has provided more than $300 million to modernize the INS.
naturalization process and hire staff to help reduce the backlog. President George W. Bush's first budget laid out $500 million over the next five years to achieve the goal of having all INS applicants processed in six months.

The most regular path to immigration is through family ties—or "nepotism," as the anti-immigration Federation for American Immigration Reform puts it. But as Ronald and Elena learned, family ties are not an open sesame command, and while the government denies few such requests, it can take years to process them. For two-country couples, true love not only waits, it fills out a ton of paperwork. On one website for similar couples, one couple announced it had taken 738 days from the filing of their I-130 green card form to their interview with an INS agent, the last step in the process. The application has become more complicated since 1996, when Congress required that family members of immigrants sign a declaration of financial support and prove a regular income with three years of tax returns. These new immigrants must become self-sufficient or rely on their sponsors, because they are ineligible for government programs during their first 10 years in America.

Happily for couples like Ronald and Elena, President Bill Clinton signed the Legal Immigrant Family Equity Act on December 21 which, among other provisions, creates a new "K-3" visa that would allow foreign spouses to reside in the United States while the government processed their I-130 application. But the INS has yet to develop a procedure to handle the new program and is not accepting applications yet, more than six months after Mr. Clinton signed the bill. That makes it awfully hard to plan a wedding in any country, but Ronald and Elena still plan to marry in Venezuela this month.

The desire for immigration into America is so strong that a large number of migrants die trying. Since 1998, 1,115 migrants are known to have died approaching the United States from Mexico—killed by extreme temperatures, drowning, or other hazards. With the Border Patrol successfully clamping down on illegal aliens through major urban checkpoints (boasting that illegal entries in San Diego are down to a 25-year low), illegal aliens are shifting to remote border areas. A group of 14 died of exposure in the desert of the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge on the border west of Tucson last May. Another five people have died in Arizona alone since that incident.

The Border Patrol works hard to save at least 1,000 imperiled immigrant lives each year. It's even joining forces with Humane Borders, a new group dedicated to setting up stations across stretches of the desert with food, water, and shelter for illegal aliens, despite fears of area residents that this might encourage more illegal immigration. Government agents provided the volunteers maps that showed where migrant deaths occurred, to help them plan where to set up their survival stations. For the "Border Patrol and Humane Borders, this is a new experience," said Pastor John Fife of Southside Presbyterian Church of Tucson, one of eight "sanctuary" movement organizers convicted in 1986 of smuggling citizens of "far-right" Central American countries to the United States.

The Mexican influx in search of jobs is meeting with a growing congressional support for expanding "guest worker" provisions in immigration law. While only about 40,000 migrants receive official H-2A visas as guest workers, the General Accounting Office estimated that approximately 600,000 farm workers were working in the United States without legal authorization, while others guess their numbers are as high as 5 million.

The surprising central figure in the new campaign is Sen. Phil Gramm, a staunch supporter of tough immigration laws passed in 1986. Mr. Gramm as well as another usual tough cookie on immigration, former Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, have met with Mexican officials and pressed for support for guest-worker expansions. The softening is due in large part to new president Vicente Fox, who has also discussed the guest-worker issue with President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Mr. Gramm's plan would cover not just agricultural workers, but workers in all businesses. To address union and farm—activist complaints, all workers would be covered by U.S. labor laws. Workers would also put some of their wages into IRA-type funds, which they could redeem in their native lands. But farm worker activists insist that plenty of Americans are available for these jobs, and say that even domestic workers are underpaid and mistrusted.

The California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation declared that the unemployment rate in 18 agricultural counties last year was between 10 and 20 percent, even during peak production months.

But in a study for the Cato Institute, the late economist Julian Simon found that an old guest-worker law, the "bracero" program, had an astonishing impact on illegal immigration from 1956 to 1964, lowering apprehensions from 500,000 to 100,000. "This is one of the most conclusive quasi-experiments in social policy that has ever been conducted. The inverse correlation between apprehensions and guest workers must astonish any social scientist," he wrote.

As hard as it is for many Americans to believe, the fact remains that to be poor in the United States still looks like an extreme blessing to people peering through the windows from other countries. Centuries into the American experiment, immigrants are still clamoring to join the multitude that Emma Lazarus called "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."
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Cultural victories, but...

Canada’s high court delivers mixed decisions on euthanasia, child pornography, and religious freedom » by Les Silkars

Since January, Canada’s Supreme Court has delivered three surprising rulings on religious freedom, child pornography, and euthanasia. In all three cases conservatives had worried that the activist, generally liberal justices would once again rewrite Canadian law; but the decisions were, technically, victories for social conservatives.

The silver clouds contain some dark linings, however. Last month the court ordered the B.C. College of Teachers (BCCT) to license an education program at Trinity Western University in Langley so it could accredit public-school teachers. The BCCT denied the Christian college’s 1995 application because the moral code it required students to accept (no homosexual behavior, adultery, or premarital sex) supposedly implied that Trinity would produce teachers intolerant of homosexuality (WORLD, “Northern exposure,” Feb. 5, 2000).

Instead, in an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court pointed out that the boundaries on acceptable belief are broader than the boundaries on action. BCCT presented no evidence of discrimination by Trinity graduates (who have been completing their teacher certification at other institutions). TWU executive vice president Guy Saffold says the decision preserves religious freedom so that “people cannot be arbitrarily penalized or barred from participating in public life simply because they hold religious views.” But, points out Derek Rogusky, director of research for Focus on the Family Canada, in effect the court said, “We can’t stop people from holding those views about homosexuality, but don’t act on them in the public square.”

Would the court have ruled the same way, Mr. Rogusky wonders, if the BCCT had found a gay high-school student whose Trinity-educated teacher had said (no matter how lovingly) that homosexuality is morally wrong, or directed him to a Christian ministry offering “repugnant therapy” for gays? Trinity’s Mr. Saffold responds that teachers can still act on their beliefs without being discriminatory. Besides, “the public-school classroom is not the place to carry out these battles,” he said. But Dallas Miller, a lawyer who presented briefs to the court for Focus on the Family and other pro-family organizations, says that defining what constitutes discrimination in public-school classrooms “may be the next battleground.”

In January, the Supreme Court upheld as constitutional a law banning the possession of child pornography. John Robin Sharpe, a retired Vancouver civil servant, was caught with 6,000 photos of nude boys and several pedophilic stories he had written. An appeals court judge in the province of British Columbia had decided that the law banning the possession of child pornography reached beyond what was necessary to protect children and thereby violated his “freedom of expression” and “reasonable expectation of privacy.” The Supreme Court upheld the law, but with two exceptions: materials created by the accused and intended for “personal use” and pictures that do not depict unlawful activity. The age of consent for sexual activity in Canada is 14.

The court’s ruling is an attempt to protect the contents of private journals and teens who might record themselves having sex. Three of the nine judges objected to the exceptions, arguing that any connection between free expression and child pornography was “tenuous” and outweighed by the need to protect children.

“Overall, we were pleased with the decision,” said Focus on the Family’s Mr. Rogusky. The vast majority of child pornography is still banned, but he noted: “For the first time in Canadian history there is an explicit constitutional right to possess child pornography.” Legalizing possession of any such material is dangerous, he says, because it could inflame pedophiles to act on their fantasies and police will find it difficult to prove that a cache of kid porn was intended for distribution and not just for private “use.”

The only unqualified Supreme Court win for social conservatives this spring was in the case of Robert Latimer. The court upheld a 25-year sentence (with no chance of parole for 10 years) for a man who gassed to death his severely disabled daughter, Tracy (WORLD, “Death on the march,” Dec. 20, 1997).

One dark cloud on the horizon: The Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth, and the Law is continuing its tax-funded campaign to ban parental disciplinary spanking. The group wants the courts to strike down Section 43 of the Criminal Code, which allows parents to use “reasonable” force to correct a child (WORLD, “Spoiling a country,” Sept. 13, 1997). On Sept. 11 the organization will argue in the Ontario Court of Appeal (one step below the Supreme Court) that Section 43 constitutes “age discrimination” and contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Lawyer Dallas Miller, who will present a brief on behalf of a coalition of pro-family groups, says the effort is a “massive intrusion into the rights of the family.”

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Beijing, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, China wall, Ming dynasty, terra cotta warriors, cruise along Grand Channel. Historic costume show. City of Shanghai.

Nova Scotia and the Maritimes
Enjoy Acadia, Evangeline Trail, Halifax Harbor, Peggy's Cove, Prince Edward Island (Anne of Green Gables land), New Brunswick, Campobello, and more.

Rolling Through Canada's Rockies
Bus tour from Seattle to Canadian Rockies. Billowing waterfalls, wild rivers, pine forests. Snow Coach ride on famous Athabasca glacier, breathtaking parks.

Ol' Miss (The River Road)
View 2,300 miles of the Mississippi River through America's homeland. Travel by road and steamboat. Enjoy many historic cities and towns. Reminiscent of bygone days.

Thailand

Biblical Jordan
Travel the Kings Highway; visit Red Rose city of Petra, crusader castles; appreciate Jordan's ancient culture of Abraham, Jacob, Esau, and Moses.

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The new normal

Even though the streets are repaired, the road back to the way things were before Turkey's 1999 earthquake is nowhere in sight "by Mindy Belz in Derince, Turkey"

Like a disaster movie running in reverse, Turkey's crumpled northern plain has been made smooth again. The superhighway running east of the Bosphorus toward Izmit, buckled into a roller-coaster ride after a massive earthquake in 1999, is ribbon straight. Broken apartment buildings along the way are revived with new roofs and fresh coats of stucco. Buildings that were too far gone are now gone completely. Months and months of bulldozing swept clean all the debris, leaving gaping holes throughout areas once densely populated or, in some cases, making way for brand-new buildings. In much of the 60-mile-wide quake zone, visitors would not know a 7.4 magnitude quake hit this fault-ridden region—the worst in a century—unless they had been around when it happened.

Repairing earthquake-damaged lives has been harder. Government officials believe more than 20,000 people died in the quake. Twice as many had serious injuries, and nearly half a million were left without homes.

At the epicenter on the northern tip of the Sea of Marmara, near Izmit, life changed irretrievably. Quake damage cut production capacity in the heavily industrialized region in half. Unemployment still hovers between 30 and 50 percent. Lack of housing remains a persistent problem, only now being partially solved by a government lottery to distribute new subsidized rental apartments.

Before the quake this Asian side of Turkey was poised between rural poverty and western development. Automotive factories and a refinery had begun to supplant farming and small businesses in the traditional, mostly Muslim area. After the quake many survivors fell into the cracks. In 45 seconds, they lost loved ones, homes, jobs or businesses, and, for many, all sense of community life. Relief groups and the government erected tent cities and soup kitchens, and overseas charity donations poured in to compensate for material losses. Coping with the long-term aftermath and the intangible losses is a different matter.

"It's actually harder now," said World Vision country director Frank Bingham. "Expectations have been raised and people expected the hand-outs to continue. That's true on the part of both the people and the authorities." A wide range of needs persist, and most of the help has gone home.

Almost two years after the quake, World Vision, once one of a small handful of private organizations still working in the quake zone, continues some administrative work in three camps set up right after the quake. It is also involved in post-trauma
counseling and in helping widows and those in need of new jobs. Sustaining that involvement has meant shifting from disaster mode to development, something Mr. Bingham admits is difficult to pull off.

"The two are normally diametrically opposed," said Mr. Bingham. In disaster mode, World Relief funneled medicine and other supplies to the quake zone via local churches. It shipped in over 750 prefab housing units and helped to jump-start feeding stations and water supplies in the camps that sprang up to house survivors. Food, water, and labor came from local churches. Now as long-term development needs set in, said Mr. Bingham, "part of our job is to tell people they must make the transition to helping themselves."

So when residents in a camp near the quake-blighted city of Derince asked for indoor plumbing, Mr. Bingham told them they'd need to build it. World Relief built one prototype, a kitchen-and-bath addition, then helped residents in the camp of 1,200 find supplies before turning them loose to expand their own prefab units. Within a few months, nearly all of the two-room houses had indoor plumbing. Some at the same time added front stoops or full-length porches and gardens. Along the way, according to Mr. Bingham, the residents learned how to pool their labor, found ways to give extra help to widows (who make up half of camp residents) and the very poor, and secured roots in the new community.

"They are adopting a new normality," he said.

No one expected these camps to become permanent hillside fixtures. Tents hastily erected by the military gave way to the prefab units when rain and cold set in shortly after the August 1999 disaster. Even though the units have no heat or ventilation to combat searing arid summers and snowy winters, they have remained mostly occupied. While some of the campers were able eventually to move away to new housing or back into repaired homes, most have nowhere else to go. Half of the residents lost breadwinners in the quake; a third are Kurdish residents who have a hard time finding jobs and housing in even the best of times in Turkey.

So everywhere in the Derince camp are signs of what the relief workers call "new normal": electrical lines strung from concrete poles, a bank of pay phones, a paved ball court, and a community center. Inside the center, where the smells of fresh paint and resin from new lumber hang in the air, eight women and three older girls are weaving rugs
using traditional Turkish designs. Colorful yarns are draped over looms made from scrap two-by-fours. It is another joint venture. World Relief and Operation Mercy provided capital for the building, while local churches and camp residents carried out the construction. Residents themselves are running the rug-weaving business, as well as a day-care room for the weavers' young children. When the director pesters Mr. Bingham for daily snacks and juice to feed the children, Mr. Bingham waves him away, then suggests searching out a local source to donate refreshments.

Mr. Bingham did not expect to become a fixture, either. He came as a volunteer shortly after the quake in answer to a solicitation from his own church in Great Britain. "I came here for a week, and I am still here," he said. For seven months he lived in a prefab unit in the Derince camp, where his skills as an engineer were in great demand. He was between jobs, one in England and another, with a consulting firm, waiting in the United States. Instead of moving to America, he eventually moved his family to Turkey. "When this earthquake struck, I think something happened in the spiritual realm," he says. "It is hard to explain the magnitude and response to this disaster."

The challenge and the promise the disaster posed for Turkey's evangelical churches is the main reason Mr. Bingham and his organization have stayed on. World Relief president Clive Calver met with 12 church leaders and other Christian organizations in Istanbul three days after the quake. Mr. Calver was surprised then to discover a unified collection of Protestant evangelical churches. Most keep low profiles in a country that is 97 percent Muslim and strictly indispensed to open evangelistic activity. Clearly they were accustomed to working together under stress.

If the earthquake was a disaster, disaster ministry has been largely a success story for the churches. Partnering with organizations like World Relief gave them clout with government officials accustomed to viewing isolated church activity with either quiet disdain or open hostility. The outpouring of practical help and perseverance from churches in Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, as well as within the quake zone, is also changing general perceptions about Christians. An independent fellowship in Izmir received permission to meet and legal status from local authorities, following years of harassment, after its prominent involvement in relief work.

"We have had red carpet treatment from local officials. They allow us to do what we want and have cut through a lot of red tape for us," said Mr. Bingham, even though "government individuals we have worked with understand that we are a Christian relief organization."

World Relief asks its staff and volunteers in Turkey not to hand out literature or engage in public evangelism. They can discuss their beliefs when asked and direct people with questions to the local churches. "We are watched very closely," said Mr. Bingham, "but we don't have anything to hide so that is OK."

Both workers and residents are reluctant to put an end date on their time in the camp. Most are just waiting for a day when the new normal feels more like normal again.
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Property plight

Farmers in the Peruvian countryside don't have any legal rights to the land, and the result is that they plant the coca used to make cocaine  » by Gerald Zandstra in Iquitos, Peru

The three pontoon planes in a tin-and-wood structure on the Amazon River at first appear to be nothing special. But a closer look brings into view the duct tape now covering the entry points of the bullets that sprayed the plane. The dozens of entry holes are small, but the holes created by the bullets as they exited the cockpit and skin of the plane are large and jagged.

The physical damage to the plane brings to mind what must have been the horror and panic of the final moments of life for missionary Veronica Bowers and her newly adopted infant daughter Charity (see WORLD, “Drug war disaster,” May 5). And what could this have been like for Mrs. Bower’s husband and young son who survived, or for the pilot, his legs shattered by bullets, who still managed to land the aircraft on the surface of the Amazon?

It’s clear that smoke and fire filled the cockpit. The flammable material on the seats is gone and reveals the metal structures that held it together. The windows of the plane are charred by smoke and warped by the heat. It must have been terrible in those final moments.

Many people have asked questions about the pilot who shot at the plane on April 20, and about his commanders. Some have expanded the questioning to theological matters: Why did this happen? What is God’s plan in all this? But a middle level of questioning is also useful: What can we learn from this about law and economics?

The big picture is that Peru is at the bottom of the drug food chain. It is the nation that provides the raw product of coca leaves. Columbia is responsible for processing and the United States is responsible for consuming. But it all begins in Peru. The thinking goes that if it is possible to stop the raw product from being delivered to processors, the final product will not make it to the streets of major cities and small towns in the United States.

Shooting down suspected drug planes is thus one of the first lines of defense in the battle against the drug trade. If we are at war and if this is the only way to limit cocaine, then perhaps the deaths of Mrs. Bowers and her daughter can be thought of as a regrettable, but realistic, part of the war on drugs. In all wars, people make mistakes and the innocent die. Sometimes intentional actions are taken and the innocent die.

But there is more to consider in this complicated matter: a problem of law that we do not encounter in the United States. The economic push to grow and ship coca leaves to Columbia for processing is directly tied to the lack of property rights for many of the citizens of Peru.

In the countryside of Peru, few formal property rights exist. The land is not surveyed and does not technically belong to anyone. Those who grow the coca plants are able to grow them on land for which they are not accountable. The drug officers have a difficult time holding anyone responsible when they discover a field of coca plants. Hernando de Soto, Peru’s leading free-market economist, says that the first characteristic of an outlaw is that he does not have an address.

Those who grow the coca have little incentive to plant a legitimate crop. Because they do not formally own the land, they cannot use the equity in their property to secure a loan to purchase equipment or seed. They cannot be assured that they will be able to harvest what they plant because they cannot be assured that the state will protect their property. The matter becomes more pronounced for crops that are not seasonal.

Mr. De Soto points out that were the growers of coca to plant palms, they would earn six times more than they do growing coca. But it takes five years to grow a crop that will eventually produce palm oil. Farmers have no guarantee that they will still have access to the land in five years, so taking the short-term payoff makes economic sense.

The war on drugs must become less focused on guns and more attentive to the real issues that make growing coca profitable. At the head of the line: how to establish property rights.

—Gerald Zandstra is director of programs for the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty
The Book Tree: A Christian Reference for Children’s Literature
by Elizabeth McCallum and Jane Scott

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GOING MAINSTREAM

Trends in the publishing industry are opening up new avenues for Christian writers, and some Christian books are selling millions of copies in mainstream bookstores. Does this mean that Christianity has become culturally influential again? Or does it merely signal that Christians have been swallowed up by the larger culture? *by Gene Edward Veith

Christian books from evangelical publishers are becoming blockbusters, dominating the mainstream bestseller lists. The *Left Behind* books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins have sold over 27 million copies. Throw in the spinoffs such as the children's series *Left Behind: The Kids* and audio products, and the number soars to 38 million. Numbers vary, but this is more than the Harry Potter books, a worldwide publishing sensation, which have sold a mere 23 million.

The eight books of *Left Behind*, the fictionalised saga of premillennialist eschatology published by Tyndale House, have commanded the fiction charts since 1995. Each title has sold at least 2.5 million. The seventh book, *The Indwelling*, debuted as No. 1 on the bestseller lists of *The New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and Amazon.com, the best showing ever for a Christian novel.

The next installment, *The Desecration*, featuring the abomination of desolation when the Antichrist enters the rebuilt Jewish Temple and declares himself god, is scheduled for release on Oct. 30, just in time for Halloween, with a first printing of 3 million, the biggest print run in the history of Christian fiction. (After that, three more novels are on the way, until Jesus comes back.)

Possibly even bigger, for a single book, is the tiny, 96-page hardbound tract *The Prayer of Jabez*. The exposition of 1 Chronicles 4:10 by Bruce Wilkinson, published by Multnomah, shot up out of nowhere, selling over 6.6 million copies seemingly overnight. It weighed in at No. 1 on *The New York Times* Advice & How-to list, the *Publisher's Weekly* hardcover nonfiction list, and the *USA Today* bestseller list, which counts all categories together. A spinoff, *Secrets of the Vine*, sits at No. 2 on the *Times* list. *Jabez* plays to the attraction of the "prosperity gospel"—claiming that one need just pray this prayer and God will, in the words of Jabez, "enlarge your territory." But at the same time, as Melanie Cottle points out, writing in *The New Republic*, it is also the ultimate anti-self help book.

"Yes, Wilkinson lifts themes and language from empowerment gurus and success coaches," she writes, "but his central point is that there is no inner power or strength that we must struggle to tap. The key to success in life—material as well as spiritual—is simply to give it all up to God. Talent doesn't matter. (God has always preferred the weak.) Confidence doesn't matter. (The Father loves dependence.) Setting goals is in fact a sin. (It's all about God's will.) . . . Thus, it may be that the Jabez craze is driven not so much by our insatiable desire to be richer, thinner, more significant—but by our exhaustion in the effort."

But when was the last time an evangelical title was discussed seriously in a liberal intellectual screech such as *The New Republic*? Or *The New York Times*, which has discussed both *The Prayer of Jabez* and *Left Behind* in major articles, as have much of the rest of the mainline secular media.

So have evangelical Christians broken through? Is the success of these arguably light-weight titles evidence that Bible-believing Christians can be taken seriously in the marketplace of ideas?

Probably not, at least not yet. Their success, though, is a symptom of far-reaching changes in the publishing industry, both for Christian and for secular booksellers, changes that may eventually give Christians more of a voice and an influence.

The publishing game

It is not at all unusual for Christian books to rack up huge sales. Popular Christian writers such as Frank Peretti, Charles Swindoll, and Max Lucado have sold millions of books, as have theological heavyweights such as J.I. Packer and C.S. Lewis.

Back in the 1970s, Francis Schaeffer's books were selling at a higher rate than many of the titles on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. Nevertheless, his books could never crack that prestigious list, no matter how many he sold.

The way the *Times* compiled its bestseller list was to survey a small number of elite bookstores, most of which never bothered to stock Christian titles. The rankings were never based on actual numbers of books sold.
sold—information that was too difficult to gather back then—so that books from Christian publishers, sold exclusively in Christian bookstores, were artificially kept out. As a result, Christian books could never attain the recognition, the buzz, or the cultural influence of the books that made the bestseller list. They remained out of the mainstream, segregated in a Christian ghetto.

Thanks to computers, analysts today can trace book sales more accurately. Big sellers can no longer be ignored. And with the advent of new economic models in the book industry, the mainstream book dealers do not want to ignore big sellers, even if they are Christian.

The issue is not just counting sales figures. A few years ago, Christian books were just not in the retail pipeline. A book like The Prayer of Jabez would hardly be available outside Christian bookstores. It would never make it to the shelves of the mainline dealers, because their distributors just did not deal with small Christian publishers.

Today, according to Doug Ross, president of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, new channels of distribution have opened up for Christian books. Chief among these—even more than all-inclusive Internet booksellers such as Amazon.com—is the advent of the super-bookstores. The proliferation of mega-chains such as Barnes & Noble and Borders, which are characterized by vast floor space, means more shelves that have to be filled. Smaller stores have to be selective with what they stock, but the super-bookstores have plenty of room and need a large, varied, all-encompassing inventory to attract the most customers. That shift cleared room for Christian titles.

As the bookstores got bigger, the corporate publishing world got bigger, with mergers, acquisitions, and takeovers. Time-honored publishing houses were gobbled up by bigger publishers, who, like the classic picture of feeding fish, were themselves swallowed up by media giants or corporations that had nothing to do with books. Even some Christian publishers became morsels in the feeding frenzy: Zondervan, one of the biggest Christian publishing houses, was bought by the secular publishing giant HarperCollins, which in turn became part of the corporate empire—along with Fox TV, cable companies, British tabloids, and countless other businesses—of Australian billionaire Rupert Murdoch.

But what this did, according to Mr. Ross, was open the mainstream distribution networks even more to Christian publishers. Now that HarperCollins owned Zondervan,
it saw it that Zondervan's books would be distributed, giving the Christian publisher access to its own general market.

Ironically, the growth of bookstores and the corporate book industry did not drive out the little Christian publisher. The consolidation of the industry made it easier for Christian publishers to become integrated with the book market as a whole.

This was a plus for Christian authors and publishers, but it was tough on the small Christian bookstores, which—like other independents—now had to compete with the Barnes & Noble, with their vast selections and latté bars.

Instead of patronizing Christian bookstores, millions of Christians are doing their shopping at the super-bookstores. This has its effect on the bestseller charts, but leaves Christian stores struggling, even as the Christian publishing houses are doing better than ever.

Christian music sales, for example, declined 6 percent in 2000, but, according to an article on the Christian Bookseller's Association website, most of this decline was in sales from Christian stores, which dropped 25 percent. Christian music sales in mainstream stores rose 9.2 percent. Now, general market stores sell more Christian music (50.4 percent) than Christian stores sell (47.2 percent).

**Turf battles**

If Christian publishers have successfully invaded the mainstream marketplace, secular publishers—scenting the big profits—are invading the Christian publishers’ turf.


Other mainstream publishers are starting whole new subdivisions devoted to publishing evangelical Christian books. Most notable of the new players is Warner, a subsidiary of the AOL Time Warner media and technology empire.

Last summer the Christian book industry was shaken to learn that Warner had lured away Rolf Zettersten, who held the key position of publisher at Thomas Nelson, the biggest Christian publishing company, to head up Warner’s new evangelical line.

Recently, according to *Publisher’s Weekly*, Thomas Nelson filed suit against Mr. Zettersten for violating a “noncompete” agreement he had allegedly agreed to before leaving the company. The suit accuses Mr. Zettersten of recruiting Thomas Nelson authors to write for his new employer. Warner’s authors include former Nelson best-selling author John Maxwell and *Left Behind* co-author Jerry Jenkins.

Will smaller Christian publishers be able to compete against the bottomless pockets and the business clout of the corporate giants that have discovered the lucrative potential of the Christian market? They may learn how the small Christian bookstore owners feel.

**The marketplace of ideas**

Christian publishers have, over the last 15 years, made a concerted effort to broaden their market, according to Mr. Ross. They have developed relationships with trade organizations and publications such as *Publisher’s Weekly*. They have improved the quality of their products, so that the printing, binding, and design of their books measure up to the standards of the profession, something that was not always the case a few years ago.

The public’s spiritual hunger is also shaping the market. Modernists thought that religion would go away, banished by the sureties of science, rationalism, and social engineering. Now that modernism is over and the 20th century a bygone era, people's...
spiritual needs are palpable, even desperate. However, as Mr. Ross points out, people are not necessarily turning to Christianity to satisfy these needs. The bestseller lists bear this out. The Publisher’s Weekly list of bestselling religious books includes works by the Dalai Lama, a new book on Buddhism, and Developing Your Psychic Powers intermixed with evangelical titles.

“General trade stores,” said Mr. Ross, “will sell a book that sells.” They don’t care what it says, or whether it is Christian or not. The economic imperatives drive the business. At least Christianity is now in a position to compete in this marketplace of ideas. But it’s worth remembering that, according to Scripture, the “world,” in its fallen condition, is in opposition to God, and “worldliness” is a temptation Christians must always resist.

Success in the marketplace means giving people what they want, but in matters of faith, catering to consumer desires can be deadly. “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine,” warned the Apostle Paul in the book of 2 Timothy. “Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

Christians can hardly expect secular corporate boards oriented to the bottom line to understand the need for doctrinal integrity on the part of their Christian product lines. This is evident in HarperCollins’ handling of the profitable C. S. Lewis franchise, seeking to churn out new Narnia books stripped of their theological content in an attempt to reach a broader market (see WORLD, June 16).

Even evangelical publishing companies have been tempted to scratch the itching ears of the religious consumer, marketing a watered-down pop Christianity. Christians must be on guard lest their cultural success comes from being indistinguishable from their culture.

It is not clear whether the blockbuster sales of a handful of evangelical titles is a result of nonbelievers’ exposure to Christian books, or Christians buying their books from secular dealers. The answer is probably mostly the latter, though undoubtedly some nonbelievers are reading them as well, perhaps being exposed to God’s Word in a way that may help bring them to faith.

The challenge for Christian books, as for Christian people, is to be in the world, but not of the world (John 17:14-18). The good news is that Christian books are increasingly getting in the world. •

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-Began a student organization at Emporia State University (ESU). We are not content to wait for clients to come to us (and risk losing some to abortion) therefore we developed a program to implement student-run satellite operations on each college and university campus in Kansas.

With the help of Choices Perinatal Hospice, this pregnant mother chose life over abortion for her baby with a lethal fetal anomaly.

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-Raised money. The facility has been completely paid for with private donations.

-Produced a television special “The Unexpected Mother” for a local cable television station. The Unexpected Mother tells of help for women who are unexpectedly pregnant, who have a child with a congenital anomaly or are in need of post-abortion recovery – all available at Choices Medical Clinic.

-Served as a consultant for the Women’s Choice Center in Bettendorf, Iowa, which is just across the street from a 28-room Planned Parenthood “clinic.”

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Bigger idea

Christian producer broadens the market, rolls out toys with a message to mainstream retailers » by A.K. Palmer

Visitors to mainstream toy stores since March may have noticed Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber grinning a little wider than usual.

What are the VeggieTales heroes so happy about? Their owner's new licensing agreements with Fisher-Price, Hallmark, and 17 other big-name secular manufacturers, for one thing. That and the fact that their newest buddy, Lyle the Friendly Viking, sailed straight into mass-market toy stores without the usual exclusive port call at Christian-oriented retail centers (CORCs).

Big Idea Productions, the Chicago-based media firm behind the wildly popular VeggieTales video series, has until now launched its products exclusively at CORCs, then included mainstream stores six to 12 months later. But Lyle, who set sail in March, changed all that. The little Viking hit mass-market outlets, including Costco, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Target, at the same time he arrived in CORCs.

Deprived of the exclusive right to sell the newest Veggie products, some CORC owners don't care. Cheryl Greene of the Parable

It takes an action show to sell an action toy

VeggieTales's popularity has jump-started the sale of toys touting a Christian message, say Christian-oriented retailers. Playthings now vying for attention include RevKids (die-cast cars emblazoned with Bible verses), Scripture-quotting toy bears, and Bible-based action-figures, including Samson armed with the jawbone of a donkey. An action figure based on the popular Bibleman video has sold well, as have other video series and related toys—Noah's Park and Threads, for example.

In the competition as well is Dave Pagani, a Vermont toymaker who sold his home in December to pay off his manufacturers in China. Mr. Pagani is the founder of Child Light, a small company that produces four action-figure play sets based on historical characters such as Paul Revere and Harriet Tubman. A Pilgrim set contains two 5-inch poseable figures based on Edward and Susanna White Winslow, the first couple to marry in the New World. Included are two children; a 12-inch cottage with a bed, table, fireplace, housecat, and corn grinder; and a 32-page booklet featuring educational tips, Internet links, and a recipe for cornbread.

But after five years and an investment of $1 million, Child Light is struggling. Mr. Pagani said his first year of sales, from October 1999 to October 2000, brought in $100,000, but Christmas 2000 sales were not encouraging. Nor was the Parable Group's Cheryl Greene, who says kids get excited about a character or concept through a video or a TV show, and then want the toy. She points to the Bibleman video series. "They've just come out with an action figure, and sales have gone through the roof."

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Group, an association of 330 independent retailers, noted that “in general the customer who buys at Wal-Mart isn’t going to be the one who buys at a Bible bookstore.” But CORCs with tough competitors down the street—Target, for example, which carries Lyle and other Big Idea products at a discount rate—are concerned, Ms. Greene said.

Ben Howard, Big Idea vice president for core markets, said that Big Idea needed the marketing upgrade in order to compete with “companies that have millions of dollars to market, and have their own TV network and are in theaters.” With plans for TV shows of its own and a feature-length animated movie in the last stages of production, Mr. Howard said Big Idea’s goal is to penetrate the general culture with its Bible-based products. Videos and toys with a Christian message should be jostling for kids’ attention on mass-market store shelves, Mr. Howard emphasized.

He envisions a stuffed Larry-Boy on shelves alongside toys like Poo-Chi the Robotic Dog, and horrifying ones like Resident Evil action figures, and believes that VeggieTales can stay true to its Christian roots while competing for shelf space with mass-market toys. But Vermont toymaker Dave Pagani is skeptical. “When they talk about ‘joining the mainstream,’ what they mean is that the message of the Bible has been watered down to where it is not offensive to unbelievers,” said Mr. Pagani. “Just another bunch of licensed characters skipping along from Genesis to Revelation.”

Mr. Pagani calls licensing, the practice of forging agreements with a range of manufacturers for products tied to a popular character, “a destructive force.” But Mr. Howard says people don’t buy products; they identify with brands. Thanks to VeggieTales’s 19-firm licensing bonanza, the celebrity-vegetable brand is sprouting on party supplies, backpacks, coin purses, T-shirts, sticker books, photo albums, pencils, and erasers. “This is driven by kids’ love of Bob and Larry,” he said. “We hope it leads more and more people back to the videos, to the message . . . . How cool that Fisher-Price, one of the world’s biggest toy manufacturers, is producing a toy tomato that tells children God loves them.”

—A.K. Palmer is a book editor and freelance writer in Southern California
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The good, the true, the beautiful

Contemporary Christian artists, facing temptations and controversies, are making inroads into an art world void of meaning by Hannah Eagleson

The Virgin Mary pelted with elephant dung, another Virgin Mary wearing a sexy bikini, Jesus Christ portrayed as a nude woman. The Last Supper with the pancake syrup queen Mrs. Butterworth playing Christ, and Cap'n Crunch and Toucan Sam playing the disciples. For many Christians, this is contemporary art. And indeed today's art establishment works hard to shock the ordinary Americans who often support it with their tax money by creating art that is deliberately shocking, blasphemous, or obscene.

And yet other artists, many of them Christians, are trying to make art that honors God's design for beauty, truth, and goodness. Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA), which organizes conferences, art tours, and exhibitions, now has 1,260 members in 42 countries. Its president, Sandra Bowden, points to the establishment of 100 church art galleries, 30 annual or biennial art competitions for Christian artists, and numerous exhibitions in churches, seminars, and museums as evidence of increased interest. "None of that existed 20 years ago."

Some Christian artists are taking their art into the general marketplace as well. This can sometimes bring temptation to compromise beliefs to attain worldly recognition, or to be swept along by the same fads—and silliness—as others. If a Christian artist's whole body of work is composed of random lines or self-focused expression, it's hard to imagine that he is making art consistent with his worldview. Christians believe that God, not self,
were exhibited at Christian colleges.

Artist Carol Bomer disagrees with Mr. Knippers. She says that Christians, for moral and scriptural reasons, should not show nudity. She argues that scriptural references to nudity (after the account of the Fall) are negative: “You can check any verse—nudity is a shame.” The motif of nudity in art, Mrs. Bomer says, comes from the classical, pagan tradition. For all of its artistic virtues, this tradition takes for granted a humanism that needs to be questioned by a biblical aesthetic. The Bible, she says, focuses on how human beings are covered, how we are clothed in Christ. “The whole sacrifice of Jesus Christ was to cover our nakedness, to cover our shame, to cover our sin.”

Here are four Christian artists whose work is being exhibited.

**Dan Tennant** makes highly realistic renditions of ordinary objects like fruit and flowers, as Dutch Reformation painters did. Realism is at odds with much contemporary art, but is now coming into vogue, since postmodernists react against “modern” art, which was notoriously abstract and non-representational. Thus, Mr. Tennant’s work was recently featured in New York’s Bernarducci-Meisel

graphic precision.

His “Still Life with Satin Pillow” shows a silver teapot, creamer, and sugar bowl in front of a satin pillow and on top of an oriental throw. Strawberries fill the creamer, and apples, yellow daisies, and strawberries are scattered around the silver. The teapot reflects the yellow delicious apple in front of it, as well as the Persian throw. Beneath it all is a cabinet with carefully executed shadows and woodgrain lines. The viewer can’t always tell what world view a classical realist holds, and non-Christians do use this style—but the good, the true, and the beautiful all come from God, and any picture that captures them shows God’s hand in the world.

**Sandra Bowden** says her experience in a church where the Bible is central pushed her to find a place for “words or language” in her work. Her recent collages include fragments of text and music: “Song of Songs” combines old book pages, sheet music, and a collograph of Hebrew text covered with gold leaf. Her use of gold is an echo of medieval illuminated manuscripts, but she...
Injunctions Covered” has a person robed in white on an abstract background of hazy oranges, reds, and blacks. Beneath the glazes, the viewer can still see some text from the actual pages of a 1964 law book. Her subject, though, is salvation, how the Christian’s law-breaking is covered with the righteousness of Christ.

She tries to “deal with the reality of the human condition, so I definitely want to show all of the gospel, which is not always a pretty picture.”

Mrs. Bomer’s “Outside the Camp” series shows white-robed figures leaving behind cities of classical ruins. The figures represent the saints, who suffer with Christ “outside the camp,” and the cities represent the ultimate ruin of the worldly things Christians leave behind. She is also “trying to cross the line between total abstraction and realism, because Jesus is Spirit and His flesh.” Her painting “Until Shiloh Comes” has figures and a shepherd’s crook blending with the purple shadows on either side of the painting. In the middle is a blaze of red-and-yellow light with the suggestion of figures, perhaps angels, in it. Beneath the light is a baby in a manger, the clearest part of the painting.

Such contemporary movements as conceptual art, which emphasizes the idea and process of making a work, have influenced sculptor Theodore Prescott. Other current trends don’t interest him: “The self will always be there, but to make that the subject matter of art seems to me to be a small universe.” He draws on Christian subject matter but cautions that some non-Christians use Christian imagery, and Christians cannot legitimately make art that doesn’t have an obvious link to faith: “You can bake fortune cookies and put Scripture verses in them, but it’s OK just to be a baker.”

Mr. Prescott describes his art as “embodiment” art that “works with the substance and the materiality and seeks to deal with the actual nature of things as a source for imagery.” Once he spent a week recalling sins from childhood to the present, and then wrote a “depressingly long and mortifying list of sins” on linen-based paper with indelible marker. He cut the paper into bits and placed it inside hot, molded glass. As the glass slowly cooled, the paper burned, leaving ash. Mr. Prescott arranged the four pieces into a cross shape, which he calls “All My Sins,” noting the “process of making the form of a cross, but the whole process is about the relationship of the cross to our sins.”

Carol Bomer uses abstract, expressive images, like many modern painters, and text, like many postmoderns. Her “Atonement:

—Hannah Eagleson is a World Journalism Institute fellow
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She seemed normal

The puzzling, sad case of Andrea Yates; NAE bids farewell to its president; and other religion news  » by EDWARD E. FLOWMAN

INCREDBLE MENTAL DEMONS

Mary, Luke, Paul, John, Noah. In the faith that Andrea Yates reportedly professed, her little children, ranging in age from 6 months to 7 years, are safe in the company of their biblical namesakes.

That thought is the only comforting one in the murderous tragedy in suburban Houston last month that horrified the country, says bookstore co-owner Terry Arnold. She sold homeschool supplies to the Yates family and doted over the children.

But like everybody else, she is wondering what caused Mrs. Yates allegedly to drown her children in a bathtub June 20. How could she have done such a terrible thing? Why?

She says the mother seemed “normal” during her recent visits to the store; she didn’t say or do anything to raise questions about her stability. Her children were “beautiful and well-behaved,” she was upbeat and gentle with them, and “when she mentioned her husband it was with great affection,” she added.

This much we know about Andrea Yates, who has just turned 37 and is under suicide watch in a Harris County jail. She was raised a Catholic, she was valedictorian of her high-school class and a star member of the school swim team, and she was a respected nurse for eight years at the famed M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas. She quit her job in 1994 to be a stay-at-home mom, having married NASA research scientist Russell Yates a year earlier.

Relatives and some of her friends say something happened to her following the birth of Luke in 1999. “She became a different person,” her husband said. She attempted

suicide by overdosing on her father’s Alzheimer’s medicine. Doctors prescribed anti-depressants and anti-psychotic drugs, which seemed to help her.

She continued a program of homeschooling for her children; she drew her curriculum from the mainstream A Beka material. She and her husband dreamed of living in an RV on the road some day, and they didn’t want to be tied down by public-school requirements. The family attended a few meetings of a homeschool support group at nearby Sage-mont Church, a 13,000-member Southern Baptist congregation. But records indicate the Yateses didn’t attend worship services or Sunday school, and Mrs. Arnold said the family had “home church” on Sundays.

Mrs. Yates included in her grueling schedule care of her ailing father. He died in March. Severe symptoms again overtook her following the birth of Mary six months ago. More hospitalizations, more drugs. She seemed to regain control of herself. Then on the morning of June 20, she summoned police and her husband from work. Police described their grisly find to reporters and said Mrs. Yates told them she had been thinking about killing the children for several months. They didn’t disclose whether she explained why. (A court has issued a gag order aimed at preventing further leaks.)

Mrs. Yates faces murder charges. Her attorney, George Parham, said he likely will plead her not guilty by reason of insanity. Meanwhile, like Mrs. Arnold, many of her friends insist that the person who committed the unspeakable crime is not the kind, gentle, and loving Andrea Yates they know.

“She must have had incredible mental demons,” Mrs. Arnold said.
**VACANCY AT THE NAE**

After just two years on the job, Kevin Mannoia is out as president of the National Association of Evangelicals. He resigned under pressure during an NAE executive board meeting in Washington, D.C., last month. NAE leaders generally gave him an "A" for vision and innovation but a "D" or "F" for management and fundraising.

NAE total income dropped from $1.5 million in 1999 to $1.1 million last year, including a dip of $320,000 in contributions. Expenses last year exceeded income, requiring staff layoffs.

During his short tenure, Rev. Mannoia, 45, attempted to introduce new directions and priorities and expand the NAE base. He relocated NAE headquarters to Southern California as part of the change, helped organize an annual meeting of independent megachurch pastors, and forged cooperative ties with other church groups, including the Catholic Bishops and, briefly, the National Council of Churches. NAE board chairman Edward Fogg praised him for many of his accomplishments.

Not all leaders of NAE member organizations signed onto his agenda, however, and some withheld funds. Rev. Mannoia, a former bishop in the Free Methodist Church, acknowledged in a statement to the NAE board that he had come to a point "where I cannot be effective in moving the NAE forward in the ways necessary to assimilate or coalesce [the changes] into the broad and corporate mind of the NAE."

The NAE counts among its members 51 denominations and about 250 ministries; it claims a constituency of nearly 45,000 congregations and 30 million people.

**TRULY CATHOLIC?**

Under prodding from the Vatican, U.S. Catholic bishops last month approved policies aimed at keeping church-affiliated colleges and hospitals in sync with church teachings.

The education policy, years in the making, affects teachers at the country's 235 Roman Catholic universities and colleges. Some objected, saying the policy violates academic freedom. The policy requires professors to apply by next June for a special certification from their local bishop. The document commits its holder "to teach authentic Catholic doctrine" and avoid presenting as Catholic teaching "anything contrary to" official tenets. Some teachers have served notice they will not apply.

The hospital policy involves moral directives to 1,140 Catholic medical facilities that treat 85 million patients annually. These include 620, or 11 percent, of all hospitals in the country. Under the directives, Catholic institutions may not cooperate directly or indirectly (through partnerships and mergers—150 to date) with "intrinsically immoral" practices such as abortion, sterilization as a birth-control measure, and euthanasia.

**EQUAL LACK OF ACCESS**

To avoid having to recognize a Fellowship of Christian Athletes club at a high school, the Saddleback Unified School District in Southern California last month announced it will ban all social and service clubs from meeting during the school day.

The new policy, a response to a California appeals court ruling in March that mandated equal access to all groups, affects four southern Orange County high schools and 29 student organizations. Groups can still meet on campus, but not during school hours, and they can't post announcements in the school bulletin or solicit members using posters anymore. Also, the schools likely will charge them a rental fee.

Superintendent William Manahan said officials didn't like the idea of permitting extracurricular clubs of "any" kind, thus "regretfully" decided to bar all of them. Education experts predict such bans will be common in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision last month mandating equal access to school facilities.

**METHODIST MADNESS**

It was coming-out time at last month's annual meeting of the United Methodist Church's Pacific Northwest regional conference. With some 600 representatives from 280 churches present, Pastor Mark Edwards of Woodland Park United Methodist Church announced he is "proudly...a practicing gay man." Many in the audience stood and applauded after he explained his action.

A female minister on disability leave, Rev. Katie Ladd, likewise announced she is a homosexual. And still another self-proclaimed homosexual, Rev. Karen Dammann—Rev. Williams's predecessor at Woodland Park, lobbied hard at the conference to win appointment to another church. (Bishops appoint UMC ministers to churches for one year at a time.)

At Rev. Dammann's prompting, the clergy at a closed-door session voted to ask the UMC's version of the Supreme Court to resolve an apparent conflict between church laws. One rule guarantees a pastor "in good standing" an appointment, but another law bans practicing homosexuals from the pulpit. The court's next session is in October.

On the final day of the conference, Bishop Elias Galvan announced he was bound by church law and could not appoint the three to churches. Pending the court's verdict, church officials would seek a way to employ Rev. Williams and Rev. Dammann elsewhere within the church, and

**MORAL DIRECTIVES:** Roman Catholic bishops from across the United States discuss policies.
Rev. Ladd would remain on disability leave, he said.
In a show of solidarity and support for the trio, most of the clergy who received appointments removed their robes and placed them on a cross, a release from Bishop Galvan's office said.

**NOVEL IDEA**

Some Christian book publishers for years have relied heavily on nonfiction books by celebrity authors to keep the cash flowing. Of late, fiction has taken off, and it can be an even bigger cash cow (as Tyndale has learned from its best-selling *Left Behind* series).

Since few novels carry celebrity by-lines, moves are now afoot to fill that void. Broadman & Holman, the Southern Baptist Convention–related book publisher, recently inked a fiction deal with conservative radio talk-show host Oliver North. The contract calls for Mr. North, a former Marine who worked in the Reagan White House and was implicated in the Iran-Contra weapons-sale scandal, to write a series of action thrillers, with an option for three more if the first series is successful.

Neither Mr. North nor Broadman president Kenneth Stephens will discuss financial details. Mr. Stephens says although his firm will provide editorial assistance, the work will be Mr. North's; he will not use a ghostwriter. The first novel is due out in the fall of 2002.

Mr. North says the books' central character is a Marine who is a presidential troubleshooter attached to the National Security Council. They are not religious books as such, he says, but they tell the story of a man who has a very deep and abiding faith based on Judeo-Christian precepts.

**BIBLE BOOM**

Americans are buying Bibles in record numbers, according to market surveys. This is especially good news for Grand Rapids–based Zondervan, reputedly the world's largest Bible publisher. Although the overall Bible market has grown about 7 percent over the past year, Bible sales at Zondervan surged more than 23 percent, Zondervan officials report.

The surveys show that the typical Bible buyer already owns nine Bibles in various editions and is willing to buy more.

Part of the boom may be because publishers and stores have changed their in-store sales strategy. A decade ago, stores generally kept Bibles in shrink-wrap, often behind glass. They came in many editions and sizes. Without a basis for choice, many prospective buyers walked out empty-handed. But shoppers nowadays often find illustrated publishers' aids and sample Bibles they can inspect and compare with other editions.

**MAKING IT A FEDERAL CASE**

As expected, acting bishop Jane Holmes Dixon of the Episcopal diocese of Washington, D.C., filed suit in federal court June 26 to evict a conservative pastor from a suburban parish. He is priest Samuel Edwards of Christ Church in Accokeek, Md. (see WORLD, June 16).

The suit, which also targets the church's governing board, asks the court to declare the board's contract with the priest invalid and to affirm her right to preside at services. Bishop Dixon contends she is not bound by a church law that gives bishops a 30-day period for vetoing a church's call of a rector, a deadline she missed by more than a month. Church lawyers say it is the first time the 2.3-million-member Episcopal Church has gone to court to contest a rector's call.

**EVANGELICAL'S HOUR**

Board members of The Protestant Hour, an Atlanta-based mainstream denominational radio ministry in its 56th year and heard on about 200 stations, appointed an evangelical as president and executive producer to inject new life into the weekly broadcast. He is Episcopalian Peter M. Wallace, a Dallas Seminary graduate with a background in newspaper journalism and advertising. An author of several books and contributor to many Christian publications, he also spent 14 years as editorial director for Bruce Wilkinson's Walk Through the Bible Ministries.

Meanwhile Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, a half-hour TV newsmagazine that airs on public television, received enough funding to allow it to begin its fifth season this fall. Thirteen/WNET New York announced grants of $6.6 million from Lilly Endowment, $300,000 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and $464,000 from Pew Charitable Trusts for production and distribution of versions of some stories for commercial TV use. Veteran network correspondent Robert Abernathy anchors the weekly show, the only news program on national television dedicated to religion coverage.
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What's up, Doc?

Physicians soft-pedal bad news; a jury sends the father of fen-phen to prison; and studies clash over the benefits of fruits and vegetables » by Chris Stamper

- DOCTOR, DOCTOR, GIVE ME THE NEWS

All man’s days are numbered and known only to God, but physicians in some cases know a lot more than they let on. A dying patient’s question, “How long do I have?” usually prompts an overly optimistic answer or none at all, according to a new study.

Telephone interviews with 258 Chicago-area doctors found that 37 percent said they would give their best guess to a patient. The rest said they would give either no estimate or something different from their own estimation, says the study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

- FEN-PHEN FINIS

Piett Hitzig calls himself the father of fen-phen, the diet drug that was a 1990s fad before it was pulled from the market. Now he faces up to 104 years in prison after a jury convicted him of illegally prescribing the drug over the Internet to patients he never saw.

Prosecutors accused him of treating his patients like “human guinea pigs,” prescribing fen-phen “for every illness known to mankind”—including Gulf War syndrome, chronic fatigue, drug addiction, AIDS, and cancer. They said hundreds of patients around the world obtained medication from Dr. Hitzig after visiting his website.

The Maryland doctor started promoting fen-phen as early as 1993 as an addiction controller. The first part of the combination of fenfluramine and phentermine was yanked in 1997 amid concerns that it scarred heart valves irreversibly and sometimes caused death.

Two years later, Dr. Hitzig turned in his medical license after admitting he had sex with some of his patients. Yet he still defended his medical concoction. “It’s built into our genetic code to resist new ideas,” he claimed in 1999. U.S. Attorney Christine Manuelian told jurors that Dr. Hitzig cared more about his own fame than his patients’ safety. She said some patients became addicted, suffered psychotic episodes, or became openly hostile toward family members and bosses.

One patient died under Dr. Hitzig’s care from “drug intoxication” and another, who was being treated for cocaine addiction, committed suicide, according to a report by the Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance, which called his case one of the worst ever in the state.

Meanwhile, fenfluramine manufacturer American Home Products is still buried under 9,000 lawsuits related to the drug. Last year executives agreed the company would pay up to $3.75 billion in a proposed settlement that could cover all 6 million users.
FRUIT AND VEGGIE TALE

Eat your fruits and vegetables. A major European study has revived the theory that fiber helps fight colon cancer, concluding that high-fiber diets reduce risk by as much as 40 percent.

The massive research project involved 406,323 people from nine European countries. Scientists separated people into categories defined by how much food they ate. The group that ate the least fiber had 176 colon cancer cases, while the group that ate the most had 124 cases—hence the 40 percent figure.

The link between fiber and cancer prevention is under heavy scrutiny in the medical community. Colon cancer is the second most deadly form of cancer worldwide. Last year, two studies found no effect from a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and grains. If fiber does prevent cancer, how does it work? Researchers theorize that bacteria in the colon ferment fiber into a substance called butyrate that helps kill off bad cells before they become cancerous.

Researchers presented the findings at the European Conference on Nutrition and Cancer in Lyon, which also discussed possible links between red meat and cancer. Lab tests have shown that the combination of red meat and colon bacteria produces chemicals called N-Nitroso compounds, some of which are carcinogenic, according to Dr. Sheila Bingham, deputy director of the Human Nutrition Unit at Cambridge University, who led both studies.

But experts say the evidence so far is circumstantial and does not prove a connection. Still others say the problem is worse with preserved meat like bacon, cured ham, and salami than with fresh beef.

Martin Wiseman, a professor at the Institute of Human Nutrition in Southampton, England, who was not involved with the research, said that more must be known before drawing authoritative conclusions. “What about hamburgers?” he asked. “Are they processed or fresh meat? And meatballs? Where do they fit in? We are just starting to disentangle all this.”
High-tech threats?

Legislators try to ban dialing and driving, the CIA asks for help with hackers, and Visa pushes “smart cards”

» by Chris Stamper

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Cell phone use in cars may go the way of smoking in public. New York became the first state to outlaw the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, and 39 other states have proposed similar bans.

Parts of crowded New York City areas—Brooklyn, plus Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties—have already passed measures outlawing the use of hand-held phones while driving. Such proposals have broad public support, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A May poll by ABC News showed 7 out of 10 Americans said driving and dialing don’t mix.

But do cell phones really cause accidents? The evidence isn’t conclusive. A 1997 New England Journal of Medicine study suggested that talking on the phone while driving increases the chances of accidents fourfold, a figure that’s comparable to drunk driving. Disputing that was a AAA-funded study by the University of North Carolina which showed driver distraction was a factor in 8 percent of 32,303 traffic accidents analyzed from 1995 to 1999. Only 1.5 percent of the drivers were using cell phones.

The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association has launched a campaign with the slogan, “Safety: Your Most Important Call.” Public-service announcements urge drivers to use their phones safely, and not to allow them to become a distraction.

“We do feel that they are getting a bad rap,” said Dee Yanchoskie, manager of the association’s wireless education program. “In 1905, windshield wipers were thought to be hypnotizing to the driver, and just think what a safety device they are. In 1930, they tried to take the radio out of the car because they thought it was disturbing to the peace and distracting.”

Nevertheless, some legislators want a national ban. U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.) and U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) introduced such a proposal last month.

HACKED OFF

Today’s computer hackers are too fast for the CIA. A top agency official told Congress that cyber-saboteurs develop new tools and techniques faster than the CIA can catch them. Even with more intelligence efforts and better technology, this chase continues.

Often, “we end up detecting it after it’s happened,” Lawrence K. Gershwin, the CIA’s top adviser on science and technology issues, told the House-Senate Joint Economic Committee. “I don’t feel very good about our ability to anticipate.”

Right now, he said, hackers aren’t too big a risk. They don’t have the skills or even the motive to do something truly nasty, like shutting down a stock market or a phone network. Run-of-the-mill terrorists cannot be sure high-tech attacks will always succeed, so they stick to their usual business of hijacking, kidnapping, and car-bombing.

“Terrorists really like to make sure that what they do works,” Mr. Gershwin said. He said America’s biggest risk for the next five to 10 years is treachery from foreign governments.

Part of the government’s problem is that officials use commercial lines (Internet, telephone, and otherwise) to make connections, and those could be compromised. Spies could create an electronic back door to set up an attack. Mr. Gershwin wants more cooperation on security matters between the private sector and the CIA or other agencies.

But the high-tech industry likes its privacy and is often uneasy about supplying sensitive information to the government. Meanwhile, the Feds aren’t always eager to share, either. Government programs like the federal Information Sharing Analysis Centers and the FBI’s InfraGard program already exist, but they are in their infancy. The cat-and-mouse game with hackers likely will never end. Any computer system has vulnerabilities and somebody will want to exploit them.

EXPENSIVE NOVELTY?

Smart cards are a big hit in Europe and parts of Asia and Latin America, but few Americans are interested in this sort of plastic money. But Visa plans a promotional campaign with U.S. retailer Target to win over shoppers.

The company will distribute millions of wallet-size electronic payment cards with embedded microchips by October 2002. Target will offer consumers free card readers
that they can hook up to their home computers. Customers will be able to track their purchases and collect bonus points and special offers for using the system.

A smart card works with a computer chip instead of the usual magnetic strip. It can store more information that a cardholder can see by buying a special reader. Supporters say smart cards help customer tracking, provide additional identification, and boost fraud prevention, benefits that critics say aren’t worth billions in expensive upgrades.

Typically, smart cards are often used like regular credit cards as a form of revolving debt. Overseas, people who frequently cross borders like smart cards because they don’t have to keep several countries’ currency on hand; in the United States, this isn’t much of a concern.

Target plans to put card readers in its stores, a move that other retailers so far have been reluctant to do. The popularity of credit and debit cards has made the smart card an unwanted extra for many Americans. First USA, FleetBoston, and Providian already issue the “Smart Visa” to a relative handful of users. American Express’ Blue card is probably the most well-known program.

Eventually, many in the credit-card industry would like to convert all users to smart cards and eliminate the traditional magnetic strip altogether. Lots of petty cash transactions carried out today with paper and coin would be done with the card, meaning more fees for the banks and processors. Unless it finds enough uses, however, the American smart card could die a slow death as an expensive novelty.
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Interest-ing strategies

Homeowners refinance at higher rates; professors link weather with stock prices; and education is more important than ever in the job market  by Lynn Vincent

THE RISE OF THE MEGA-MORTGAGE

Refinancing a mortgage loan used to mean signing for a smaller loan at a lower interest rate, yielding a smaller payment. But an analysis of a 14-million loan mortgage database by MGIC Capital Markets Group showed that many homeowners refinancing today are increasing their original loan balances—at interest rates slightly higher than what they were paying before. MGIC researchers reported that during the latest refinance wave—spurred by the Fed's slashing of interest rates—borrowers increased their mortgage loans by an average of $41,000 at rates that were 0.6 percent higher than those on the loan refinanced.

The strategy is an old one: Using a house note to manage other forms of higher-interest, non-tax-deductible consumer debt. Still more homeowners are climbing on the debt-consolidation bandwagon. While in 1993 about eight in 10 borrowers sought to lower mortgage payments, MGIC vice president Michael Zimmerman estimates that consolidation motivates about half of today's refinancers. Another difference: Borrowers now are more likely to roll all their debt—home equity loans, credit cards, auto loans—into a single mega-mortgage.

Is this a good practice? That depends. The strategy can lower monthly out-of-pocket payments and turn previously nondeductible interest paid into a hefty tax write-off. The danger comes when the new mortgage loan is signed and revolving consumer debt is erased: Will borrowers who needed to roll several debts into one to save money now be able to resist the temptation to charge up freshly cleared credit limits all over again? The traditional advice, writes nationally syndicated real-estate columnist Kenneth Harney, would be to avoid heavy debt on a home, because homeowners carrying high mortgage balances stand to lose their most important asset in an economic downturn. But for those already juggling high-interest, nondeductible consumer debt, a minor interest-rate hike on a refinanced first mortgage can, when properly managed, make long-run financial sense.

MIDDLE EARTH INVESTING

Trading on Wall Street? You may want to check the Weather Channel before you buy or sell. A new study conducted by finance professors at Ohio State University (OSU) and the University of Michigan links morning sunshine at 26 leading stock exchange sites—including the New York Stock Exchange—to positive market returns. OSU's David Hirshleifer and Michigan's Tyler Shumway examined daily returns alongside weather data at the leading stock exchanges in each of 26 countries from 1982 to 1997. For each trading day during that 16-year period, they studied cloud-cover data, using weather statistics from the U.S. National Climatic Data Center. The results: The daily difference in market returns on sunny days was nine basis points higher than returns on cloudy days. That's a relatively small daily variation, Mr. Hirshleifer said, but he pointed out that when annualized, the difference is significant: Sunny-day trading yielded 24.8 percent more per year than trading executed under overcast skies.

"There's a great deal of evidence from psychology that sunshine helps put people in a good mood, and people in good moods make more optimistic choices and judgments," said Mr. Hirshleifer. Jeff Hirsch of the Stock Traders' Almanac told Reuters: "I have come across some stuff that is just as esoteric... It's interesting, but I am kind of find it like reading Tolkien and the Lord of the Rings."

But the study, which took into account seasonal variations in sunshine in all 26 cities, as well as the effects of other weather conditions such as rain and snow, has been conditionally accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Journal of Finance.

GROWING BY DEGREE

During the next seven years, higher education will be more important than ever to people changing jobs or preparing for careers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The agency's most recent analysis of employment growth revealed that the number of jobs requiring associate degrees and higher will grow between 20 and 31 percent by the year 2008, while those requiring only on-the-job training or related work experience will grow just 7 to 14 percent. Employment in occupations requiring an associate degree is projected to increase 31 percent, faster than any other occupational group categorized by education and training. Although occupations requiring only on-the-job training will account for two-thirds of approximately 55 million jobs available in 2008, many of these jobs will offer low pay and benefits. "Education is essential in getting a high-paying job," the BLS report said. "All but a few of the 50 highest paying occupations require a college degree."
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Can it be achieved under the present circumstances?

After over fifty years of the bizarre notion of not recognizing the "existence" of the State of Israel, after eight years of the Oslo "peace process," and after being offered unbelievably generous conditions to bring an end to the long and bloody conflict, the Palestinians have rejected those terms and have instead chosen to continue on their path of violence. They have erupted in the bloody Al-Aksa Intifada, which so far has caused hundreds of dead and thousands of injured. The question can be raised whether peace with the Palestinians is possible at all.

What are the facts?

The Root of the Middle East Conflict. Many observers of the Middle East believe that the root of the area's conflict lies in the dispute between the Palestinians and the Israeli Jews—that peace could come to the area if that conflict could be resolved. And the way it should be resolved, these observers believe, is by Israel's yielding its heartland, Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank"), and the Gaza Strip for the creation of a Palestinian state and by returning the Golan Heights to Syria. But after the late Hafez Assad's brusque refusal to accept the return of the Golan (because it would not include the shores of the Sea of Galilee), and after Arafat's contemptuous refusal of Barak's generous offer, it is clear that the Arabs do not want peace—they want confrontation and the destruction of Israel.

People also overlook that the conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Jews long predates Israel's control over the administered territories, that Arab-Arab wars are endemic in the area, and that Israel would be defenseless and at the mercy of its implacable enemies if it were to yield control of these strategic territories without a full peace—not just with the Palestinians, but with all the Arabs.

The Menace of Islamic Fundamentalism. The clamor for yielding strategic territories to the Arabs is the first step in the inmutable Arab attempt to liquidate Israel altogether. Because, certainly, Israel, with its fewer than 6 million inhabitants, compared to almost 300 million Arabs, and with its less than 10,000 square miles, compared to almost 5 million square miles of the Arab countries, cannot possibly be a threat to peace or a menace to the Arabs. And reducing the territory of Israel from 10,000 square miles to 7,000 square miles would not seem likely to bring peace one step closer.

The main reason that real peace is so difficult to attain is the political and cultural context of the Middle East, which is dominated by the menace of Islamic fundamentalism. By the tenets of this fundamentalism, Israel's size is not of importance; it is the very existence of Israel that, to fundamentalist believers, is an intolerable offense, an unaccetable insult to Islam. The fundamentalist Moslems—Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and all the others—do not aim at peace with Israel or the recovery of some territory. Their publicly declared aim is the destruction of the Jewish State. On more than one occasion, the Islamic Jihad has stated: "This [is] definite and irrevocable... We will be satisfied with nothing but the destruction of Israel."

Real Peace Must Be Global. The current upheavals in Israel, in its administered territories, and in the areas that Israel has transferred to the Palestinian Authority, may give the impression that peace would come to the region if Israel would come to terms with the aspirations of the Palestinians. But that is impossible, because the destruction of Israel is the stated purpose of the Palestinians, as embodied in their never-revoked Covenant. But even if it were achievable, peace would not come about, because such a peace would be a non-global one. The most fervent enemies of Israel—Iran, Iraq, and including even Egypt (with which Israel is technically at peace)—have as their principal foreign policy goal the destruction of Israel, a goal that would not be altered even if Israel acceded to every wish of the Palestinians. Those Arab statesmen who have tried to come to terms with the Jewish State have invariably found a terrible end. King Abdullah of Transjordan was assassinated by the reactionists, so was President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and so was President Bashir Gemayel of Lebanon, all of whom envisioned peaceful cooperation and co-existence with Israel. Every Arab leader knows that any overt declaration of wishing to make real peace and to co-exist and to cooperate with Israel is a suicidal death sentence.

We all want peace, of course, especially the Israelis, who have been almost constantly embattled since the foundation of their state. But because of Arab-Islamic fundamentalism that cannot tolerate a Jewish presence on any part of "Arab territory," and because any peace arrived at would be non-global, such real peace would seem difficult to attain at this time. One hopes that real peace—the Arabs' acceptance of a Jewish State and peaceful co-existence and cooperation with it—will come eventually. But it can only happen through a complex change of mentality, policies, and historical ambitions in the Arab-Iranian block, abandonment of fanatic fundamentalism, and change to genuine democracy. And that may well take a very long time. In the meantime, Israel must keep up its guard and cannot afford to yield strategic territory, without which it would be vulnerable.

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American Christian School of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, is seeking an administrator and a literature teacher for the fall of 2001. ACSB, a classical school of 50 students (K-12), is an AACS and a member of the Reformed theology and a working knowledge of classical education. Send resume to Pastor Brad Swygard, 120 N. Kew, Bartlesville, OK 74003; e-mail: bswygard@uno.com; phone (918) 336-3111.

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July 12, 2002 | WORLD
Mere tokens

I regret that I cannot share the optimism in Bob Jones’s June 9 cover story, “The check is in the mail.” While tax refunds of $300 for singles and $600 for married couples are not to be spurned, they’re laughable tokens considering the total confiscated from our paychecks by government at all levels. The reduction in marginal rates is truly marginal, while the full repeal of the marriage penalty and other provisions are set far in the future, by which time the administration of the day may well have very different ideas about taxation. As for the idea that the Democrats, with a slim Senate majority, may not want to risk angering voters by repealing the cuts, Democrats have shown little fear about taxing and spending, and for good reason. Recent history suggests that Americans seem to favor a predominately liberal national government. I find little to applaud in the Bush administration’s tax-cut victory, but I am grateful for the gesture.

—KEN WILLIAMSON, HARRISONBURG, VA.

Smelly money

I will be glad to accept a $300 check in the mail, but this handing out of money smacks of buying admiration. Cutting government spending is the best way to fuel our economy.

—MARTIN L. DODRA
W. PALM BEACH, FLA.

Promise made...

Throughout the campaign, George Bush promised taxpayers they would get some of their money back. Last month he kept his word, signing into law a $1.35 trillion tax cut. We need more people like him in Washington.

—SCOTT LAYDEN
BRANDON, FLA.

Dark minds

Kudos for Andrei Sevl’s article about the boundary of the realm of science in relation to matters of faith (“Don’t get uptight,” June 9). It is the ultimate irony that men reject Christianity as utterly explainable, but in reality they cannot explain anything until they know God themselves. A skeptical effort to explain a creature’s desire to know his Creator is what the Apostle Paul would call “the futility of a darkened mind.”

—EVAN COLLIER
CONCORD, N.H.

Public tomato-throwing

Marvin Olasky’s “crackpot idea” for a punitive divorce ceremony is genius (“Religious cellophane,” June 9). He raises a compelling issue: What does the still-confessing church do to discourage divorce among its own ranks? Perhaps a little public tomato-throwing might be a useful feature of the “covenant marriage” arrangements. At least, why not give divorce the same public exposure as marriage—in church bulletins, from the pulpit, and on bulletin boards? If we aspire to hate the sin as much...
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as our Lord does, a little old-fashioned shame, threatened or real, may go a long way to motivate those who are struggling with their marriages to seek Him and struggle on.
—THADD BUZAN
Alexandria, Va.

Divorce ritual
► "Religious cellophane" hit home for our society and, unfortunately, the church. But, as Christians we do have an appropriate ritual for an individual who institutes a divorce. First Corinthians 5 advises us to put out an unrepentant sinner. Anyone who would seek to dissolve a marriage should expect to be put out of fellowship. This is so that they will see the error of their ways, repent, and return to both their spouses and our fellowship. All too often they can simply go down the street to another church and not be disciplined.
—CHARLES HOLLENSED
Glen Ellyn, Ill.

It takes two
► Nowhere in "Religious cellophane" does Mr. Olasky state that it takes two people to

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make a good marriage work, but only one to blow it or walk away. Churches need to stop allowing abusive spouses to continue their destructive patterns. There is such a thing as an innocent spouse in divorce.

—Terri Von Ehrenkrook
Phoenix, Ariz.

Liturgy for sin

> Kudos to Mr. Olasky for his fine analysis of the scandal of divorce. The Episcopal liturgical officer is typical of the many in our denomination who are busy watering down scriptural authority, bowing instead to the Baal of secular pressures, and advocating sub-Christian practices. God will not honor those who ritualize sin or devise a liturgy for it.

—Donald Seeks
Fresno, Calif.

Acknowledging life

> I was disappointed that Mr. Olasky criticized post-abortion rituals with divorce rituals. I agree that substituting rituals for true repentance is wrong, but I believe that these services, when used in the process of godly healing, can be meaningful and powerful. By giving their children a name and a memorial service, these women are acknowledging that they did not abort bits of tissue but their sons and daughters. It takes tremendous courage and a repentant spirit to admit to this intensely painful, private sin before friends, family, and church.

—Leslie Devine
South Barrington, Ill.

Family entertainment

> A Knight’s Tale wasn’t a “Gladiator for dummies” (In the Spotlight, May 26). There was no sex-related dialogue, barely any violence, and the brief nudity it was when Geoffrey Chaucer was robbed of his clothes. Also, who cares if they had no characters without diseases? Maybe they didn’t have time to put that in the movie. It was a wonderful movie for the whole family. It was very clean. So, if you would be so kind as to rewrite this review to say positive things about this movie, that would make me happy.

—Kristen Keenum
Kennesaw, Ga.

Offended

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However, I was extremely offended by your comment that A Knight's Tale was "dumbed down for public-school teenagers" (The Movies, June 9). I am a sophomore at a public high school.

—Amy Wingfield
Prospect, Ky.

Light entertainment

- I enjoyed A Knight's Tale, and I have friends who did as well. It wasn't particularly heavy on intellectual material and some of the humor was certainly aimed at an immature audience, but I thought Heath Ledger did a good job and I found the movie to be both humorous and entertaining. But what do I know—I'm just a dumb public-school teenager.

—Elspeth Bennighof, 16
Woodway, Texas

Warning magazine

- It is nice to know that someone cares enough to tell us or warn us about today's movies. Every time a new movie comes out, I can turn to WORLD to find out about the

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July 7, 2001 | WORLD
language, content, and plot. Because of your reviews, I have seen some movies and avoided others.

—Amy Crapson, 15
Mountain Lake, Minn.

Ogre of the hour

I was disappointed by your review of Shrek ("DreamWorks’ nightmare," June 2). Your criticism of the movie’s potty humor was justified. However, you assumed that when the heroine became ugly it was a triumph for the marginalized; to the contrary, it showed that true beauty is internal and that true love doesn’t look at the outside.

—Joy Hendricks, 17
New Prague, Minn.

Amusing

Recently I went to the theater with friends to see Shrek. We all wanted to see this box-office hit but our moms were cautious because of your negative review. Instead of walking into a "stale," "inappropriate," and "clunky" film we all thoroughly enjoyed it (including the moms). We were not offended

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but amused when the movie poked fun at fairy tales in general.
—Kiersten Timpe, 12
Bladon, Pa.

Pearl who?

▶ Your comics speak volumes and are more real than many people would want to admit. One such comic is the June 9 one captioned, "A Day of Infamy...", depicting moviegoers who knew nothing about history. The Tuesday after Memorial Day, a person asked my 14-year-old son what he had done that weekend. He told the inquirer that he had watched a documentary on Pearl Harbor. The person's next question was, "Who's Pearl Harbor?"

—Lauri Rogers
LeRoy, Ohio

Surprised

▶ I am a missionary working in the jungles of southern Venezuela and we just started receiving your magazine about a year ago. To my surprise, I really enjoy it. I normally do not like Christian news publications because

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their articles leave you feeling discouraged and hopeless. Your publication seems to be well balanced and your articles usually leave me with the sense that we are gaining ground on some of the fronts. Being an expatriate and living in a very remote location, we do not receive much news outside. We do have supply flights at least once a month and I look forward to WORLD to find out what is happening in the outside world.

—WALTER MUTTI
somewhere in southern Venezuela

The problem
Ms. Appenheimer suing to stop student-led prayer is not the problem but the symptom of it (“Neutral or hostile?” June 2). The problem is the relentlessly progressive educational system she graduated from.

—ADAM DINSMORE
Schweinfurt, Germany

A WORLD of help
I’ve been a loyal reader since my father-in-law introduced me to WORLD six years ago. Thanks for the excellent website. It recently

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Foundation for American Christian Education
helped me locate an article called "Choosing the right college" from 1999 (even though I couldn't remember when it appeared) in a matter of moments. I also appreciate the links to other excellent features from your printed materials.

—THOMAS SAWYER
Rota, Spain

No provisions

► Kudos to Tim Graham for his good reporting on education ("Neutral or hostile?" June 2). I just received my first subscription issue and am well-pleased. I'm annoyed with federal judges who uphold any federal law regarding education or religion, as there are no provisions in the Constitution that empower the federal government to regulate those areas.

—RICHARD SUMMERS
El Reno, Okla.

Check, please

► Joel Belz was right on target when he questioned Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords's "middlemen" position in his June 9 column ("Middleman?"). In my opinion, if this supposedly ethical hero had admirable principles when he announced his abandonment of the Republican Party, he would have presented to the Vermont Republican Party his personal check for every cent he took from the Republicans of Vermont and from the Republican national war chest for his election and reelection.

—JOHN E. CORMACK
Mesa, Ariz.

Clarifications

► The photo illustrating "Antiques road-shark" (March 31, p. 14) depicts neither Russell Pritchard III nor George Juno, two antiques dealers who allegedly staged phony appraisals on PBS's Antiques Roadshow.

► Gary Bauer came under criticism from fellow evangelicals nor while he was president of the Family Research Council but during his presidential campaign (June 2, p. 9).

LETTERS

Address letters to the editor to: Editorial Dept., WORLD Magazine, P.O. Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802. Fax (828) 253-1556. E-mail mailbag@worldmag.com. Include full name and address. Letters may be edited to yield brevity and clarity.

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Goin’ to the chapel

But the weddings there have changed dramatically

In a recent column, Miss Manners took pastors to task for their refusal to stand on principle at modern weddings. “There’s nothing we can do,” they wail when admitting that some of the arrangements strike them as being undignified, if not sacrilegious. “That’s what people want nowadays.”

Weddings have changed dramatically in recent years. In the 1940s, weddings were generally simple and dignified. Bridal parties were small, expenses were minimal, and receptions took place in the church or at home. The liturgy of most Protestant ceremonies was largely unchanged from that of Thomas Cranmer’s 1549 Anglican Prayer Book: “Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses…”

Although weddings have undergone many changes over the past 50 years, none has been more serious than changes made to the ceremony itself. Novelties have been introduced: the unity candle, romantic declarations from bride to groom (and vice versa), secular songs, and brides given away by two fathers, both of whom say, “Her mother and I do.”

Worse than the additions Protestant pastors have accepted, however, are the subtractions they have allowed.

• The Banns: For centuries the first step in Protestant and Roman Catholic weddings was the “reading of the banns.” Vestiges of the banns can be seen in ceremonies which ask, “Therefore if any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.”

Banns were read in the home parishes of the bride and groom for several weeks prior to the ceremony as a public proclamation of their intent to marry, giving opportunity to anyone aware of an obstacle to the proposed union to object.

Today not only have banns been dispensed with, but most Protestant ceremonies no longer contain even this rudimentary caution. Why? Pastors don’t relish the banns because of the nightmare of dealing with issues such as fornication, divorce, promises of committed love made to extract physical favors, among other problems.

• Three Purposes of Marriage: A second notable deletion from the classic wedding ceremony is the failure of Protestant pastors to declare the purposes of marriage. Historically, Protestants have recognized marriage’s three biblical purposes: (1) mutual encouragement; (2) a legitimate sexual outlet; and (3) the bearing of children. But today this third purpose is largely viewed as a Roman Catholic concern and pastors have removed the recitation of these purposes from the liturgy.

Why? It seems impossible to ignore the acceptance of sex as primarily a recreational activity within marriage and the increase in use of birth control over the decades in which these words disappeared. Sadly, only Roman Catholics consistently speak today of the importance of keeping together the unitive and procreative functions of sex in a Christian view of marriage.

• Exchange of Vows: The vows are the heart of the wedding service and here, if nowhere else, it’s imperative that bride and groom have a sense that they are not engaging in a romantic act of personal creativity, but submitting to the eternal Word and walking in lockstep with their fathers and mothers in faith.

For several decades it has been popular for couples to write their own vows. Such efforts pale in comparison to the traditional ceremony. Their sentiments are woefully inadequate to keep the home fires burning through years of living with an alcoholic husband or a wife who has Alzheimer’s. At such times, the meaning of the words “for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health…” become clear and nothing else will do.

But perhaps the most egregious, if least obvious, alteration of the traditional vows in today’s typical wedding is the failure of the bride to promise the one thing that, more than any other, Scripture requires of her in her relationship to her husband, namely, that she “love, honor and obey [submit to]” him. When pastors fail to discuss the obligations of husbands and wives, it’s no wonder that confusion reigns.

Miss Manners is right: Some things a pastor must not do no matter how great the pressure. The wedding ceremony does not belong to the bride or groom, nor is it the pastor’s to trifl with. In its broad strokes, it belongs to the ages. Wedding ceremonies today need to be reformed backwards toward the Bible-based model that served well for centuries, with the goal that every part of the service aim at honoring and pleasing God—not man, or more likely, the mother of the bride.
Joy in Leadville
Classic car racers drive the high country

LEADVILLE, COLORADO—“AMERICA’S NOT WHAT you see on the six o’clock news,” said Tom McRae, founder and CEO of The Great Race. “America’s about loving God, honoring country, and singing ‘God Bless America.’”

It often doesn’t seem that way, but on June 24—the biggest day in years in Leadville, which at 10,200 feet is the highest incorporated city in the United States—Mr. McRae’s summary seemed pretty close. The 19th annual Great Race, featuring over 100 antique cars making their way from Atlanta to Pasadena, was having its lunch stop in this city of 2,800 located near the Continental Divide.

First, the 22-piece U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band marched down Harrison Ave., the city’s main road, past the town theater that was once a Presbyterian church. The band regularly traveled at the head of the race until budget cuts four years ago forced it to stay home; now $50,000 in private contributions covers the group’s travel budget. Perhaps a thousand townsfolk and tourists clapped to Sousa’s “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Then Mr. McRae, a white-bearded 62-year-old who 25 years ago was a manic depressive addicted to marijuana and alcohol, asked onlookers to take off their caps and place hands over hearts as the band played the National Anthem. He explained that the event he founded is a timed endurance rally-race, with $290,000 in prizes going not to the fastest but the most accurate. Drivers of frazzled antique cars try to match to the second the times for each segment of the trip established by a test driver earlier this year.

Then the cars rolled in. Spectators high-fived drivers of a 1916 Hudson Speedster and other cars with thin, sculpted bodies, spindly wheels, and narrow axles. Onlookers applauded a spotty 1925 Pierce Arrow Roadster, a 1917 Hudson Super Six Racer that looked like a steel mailbox on wheels, and a 1935 Auburn Cabriolet with a rumble seat. The stuff of movies—a black 1932 Ford sedan perfect for a gangster film, and a 1934 red Ford pickup truck (the farmer’s best friend)—came to life.

It was also fun to see a 1909 Ford Race Car, not much more than a plank on wheels with an engine at the front and a stuffed chair in the middle. A 1916 American La France Speedster, resembling a flashligh topped by an upholstered couch, had also made it all the way from Atlanta, as had a 1917 Hudson Super Six Racer that seems carved for entry into a soap box derby. The very names are evocative: 1925 Rickenbacker Roadster, 1936 Dodge Business Coupe, 1937 Ford Phaeton.

The Great Race is now sponsored by the History Channel, which is appropriate since the excitement of individual mobility has so powerfully affected America for a century. We have more freedom and less community, roomier homes and traffic jams, and lots of other auto-related changes, for good and ill. Soviet audiences in the 1950s watched a propaganda film about the supposed capitalist oppression of factory workers, but the film made the mistake of showing the factory’s parking lot. Astoundingly, the workers had cars, and Soviets living in crowded apartment blocks and reliant on mass transportation wanted some of that oppression.

Cars for all were America’s second Declaration of Independence, and the Leadville lunch stop 10 days before July 4th was an opportunity to celebrate liberty. A key question throughout America’s history, though, has been, “Liberty for what?” Some say liberty for liberty’s sake, but race founder McRae offers a different emphasis—love God, honor country—and uses his own story to indicate what happens when we grasp liberty but neglect purpose.

“At age 37,” Mr. McRae tells one and all, “I had tried it all... going for the gusto, living the good life. It turned out to be a black hole so deep I couldn’t see a way out.” He went to a doctor, figuring “maybe he’s got some pills that will fix everything. But Doc didn’t give me any pills, he pointed me to Jesus Christ.”

Doc presented his patient with C.S. Lewis’s challenge: “Either Jesus was who He said He was, or He was a liar or lunatic.” Mr. McRae became a Christian.

With that change, everything else changed. By 1983 drug and alcohol addictions were in the past, and a Christian worldview led to new confidence about the future. Mr. McRae seized the opportunity to build his cross-country race for classic cars, but he writes at the beginning of the race yearbook that “for some of us the ‘Great Race’ has to do with life itself... Are you unhappy with your life? God is in the business of changing lives. He changed mine; He will change yours.”

by MARVIN OLASKY

July 7/14, 2001 | WORLD
For years Lorna had been on a search for the ultimate truth. Was it to be found in reincarnation? A bright light at the end of a tunnel? Or were the "when you’re dead, you’re dead" cynics right? You will be enthralled by her true story and long remember the heartwarming stops on a journey that finally brought her to undeniable truth that is relevant for all of us today.

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