

**DOLLAR DON'T
STRETCH**

Why it always loses value

WHEN U.S. EXITS IRAQ

More and more people agree: America should get out.
What will we leave behind?

NIP & TUCK

Plastic surgery has
gone mainstream

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A hand is shown at the bottom, gripping a dark, rough-textured wooden staff. A white, rectangular cloth is tied to the top of the staff with white string and is blowing in the wind, creating a sense of movement. The background is a bright, overcast sky with soft, white clouds. The overall composition is vertical, with the staff and cloth running from the bottom left towards the top right.

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cut-and-run strategy
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The white flag
of surrender
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Gerald Flury

Can Suicide Bombers Be Stopped?

FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU said that suicide bombers are “not deterrable” and are on the verge of getting nuclear weapons! He made that statement on Headline News Nov. 17, 2006, during an interview with Glen Beck.

Mr. Netanyahu is right, *humanly* speaking, when he says *they cannot be deterred*.

So what happens *when* suicidal terrorists get nuclear devices or atomic bombs? (And they will get them.) If they cannot be deterred, *then our cities are going to be destroyed*.

Mr. Netanyahu said, “Iran is [Nazi] Germany, and this is 1938”—which was one year before World War II. He is saying we are dangerously close to World War III! Only a few years or even months away.

Iran is the king of Middle East terrorists. The dangerous Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, will provide terrorists with nuclear weapons—it’s only a matter of *when*. Many people have compared him to Adolf Hitler, who led Germany into World War II, when more than 60 million people were killed. That is a pittance compared to how many would be killed in a nuclear World War III!

Here is what Mr. Netanyahu said of President Ahmadinejad’s religious beliefs: “[Israel is] just the first weigh station en route to you [America]. So there is this fundamental fanaticism that is there. It’s a messianic cult. It’s a religious messianic cult that believes in the Apocalypse, and they believe they have to expedite the Apocalypse to bring the collapse of the West. ... If the lunatics escape from the asylum, that’s one thing. But if they can get their hands on a nuclear weapon, that’s another. And this is that kind of cult. It’s the cult of the Mahdi, a holy man that disappeared a thousand years ago. And the president of Iran believes that he’s supposed to—he was put here on Earth to bring this holy man back in a great religious war between the true Muslim believers and the infidels. And millions will die in this Apocalypse, and the Muslim believers will go to heaven. That’s dangerous, if they have nuclear weapons to realize this fantasy. And **THAT IS WHERE THE WORLD IS COMING TO.**”

“Now, people said that of Hitler in the 1930s. They said this

man has a mad ideology, very fanatic, very dangerous, and if he gets his hands on a military power, he would use it. Hitler did use it; but Hitler ... tried to develop [atomic weapons] only *after* embarking on the world conflict.

“Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran, is *first* trying to develop nuclear weapons and then going about his mad fantasy of global conflict. So **HE HAS TO BE STOPPED. I THINK WHEN**

YOU HAVE SOMETHING AS FANATIC AND AS DANGEROUS AS THIS, THE QUESTION NOW IS NOT WHETHER HE SHOULD BE STOPPED, BUT HOW’S HE GOING TO BE STOPPED?” (emphasis mine throughout).

There was a fundamentally dangerous change in this world with the creation of nuclear weapons. But that pathology was multiplied 10,000 times over when many people could access nuclear technology. It became still *more* dangerous when Iran introduced the world to organized, suicidal, state-sponsored terrorism. The problem will multiply in danger yet again when Iran gets the nuclear bomb—a scenario that could happen at almost any time.

So somebody must stop Iran, or this number-one sponsor of terrorism is going to put nuclear weapons into the hands of terrorists. And America is their primary target.

Imagine Ahmadinejad with nuclear weapons! *Imagine* the unparalleled, mind-staggering danger hanging over this world like a pall of black doom!

President Bush was humiliated in America’s November elections because of the Iraq war. So you will not see the United States ever launch another preemptive war—like the one needed to take out Iran’s nuclear weapons program. We lack the will to do so.

Will the nation called Israel today take out Iran’s nuclear capability? It just lost a war with the tiny Hezbollah arm of the Iranian army. So the Jewish nation also lacks the will to deal with Iran and its hordes of terrorists.

No current nuclear power in the world is suicidal, but the Iranian leaders are. That is why you can’t stop their terrorism unless you stop their “messianic cult of death”—which would probably mean destroying Iran.

Benjamin Netanyahu said this in his conclusion on CNN: “I think the most important thing to understand is that, you



AFTERMATH Onlookers gaze at the remnants of a bus in Baghdad, destroyed after a suicide bomber blew himself up inside it, killing 3 people and wounding 16.

know the best sign of how dangerous things are? That the president of Iran is not even trying to fake it. You know, normally, if he wasn't as fanatic as he is, he'd say, 'Well, you know, yes, I think we could recognize Israel if it made the right concessions to the Palestinians.' He'd play along; he'd play the game. He'd say, 'We're not really developing nuclear weapons. We just want nuclear energy for peace.' You know, he'd say all that.

"But that's not what he's saying. He's saying—and LISTEN TO HIM CAREFULLY. He's saying, 'We're going to wipe Israel off the map. The Holocaust didn't happen. America's the great Satan. Iran will have the power to reshape history.' Now, a normal person would not say that. An insane person says that. In the 1930s, an insane person wrote in a book called *Mein Kampf*, 'My Struggle,' and that was Adolf Hitler. He said exactly what he would do. He was stark-raving mad, but he communicated. You asked for a sign? That was a sign—300 pages of signs, OK? Ahmadinejad every day is writing a page. He's saying what he's going to do. That's the best sign. That tells you that there's a fanaticism at work here which is not even calculating. He's just going to do it. And let's not enable him to do it. Let's stop him."

In another interview, Mr. Netanyahu quoted a Holocaust survivor who was asked what lesson she learned from that experience. Her answer was, when a powerful leader says he is going to annihilate you, BELIEVE HIM!

Are we going to believe Ahmadinejad now, *before* it's too late?

Extreme Urgency

Most journalists, educators and politicians fail to foresee where world events are leading and to recognize when they are moving *extremely fast*.

Here is a *key* reason why: They look at massive social movements and financial events, but *rarely look at a strong leader—a man*—to measure where the nation is headed. If he is a religious zealot, you can probably double or quadruple how *fast* he moves the nation and his negative *impact*. For example, in a single decade, Hitler took Germany from being an insignificant nation to a power that almost conquered the world!

In a speech to the Reichstag on Jan. 30, 1939, Hitler said, "In the course of my life I have very often been a prophet [a religious zealot] and have usually been ridiculed for it. During the time of my struggle for power it was in the first instance the Jewish race which only received my prophecies with laughter when I said that I would one day take over the leadership of the state and with it that of the whole nation, and that I would then, among many other things, settle the Jewish problem. Their laughter was uproarious, but I think that for some time now they have been laughing on the other side of their face. Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the Earth, and thus the victory of the Jewry, but THE ANNIHILATION OF THE JEWISH RACE IN EUROPE!"

Hitler killed 6 million Jews in Europe. He was well on his way to *annihilating* all the European Jews. He did just what he said he would do, and in an incredibly short time. Hitler shocked the whole world!

President Ahmadinejad is in the process of doing exactly what he says he will do, but few people believe him—perhaps some are

even laughing. That laughter will soon be silenced, just as the scoffing at Hitler stopped before and during World War II.

Winston Churchill was a strong leader who stood up and led the West in conquering Hitler. But the British were almost beaten before they voted Churchill into office. That is because almost *all* the journalists, educators, politicians and religious leaders rejected Churchill's warning in the 1930s! They didn't see how the evil and powerful Hitler was *accelerating* world events!

So beware of believing the so-called experts today.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a strong dictator, much like Hitler. He is moving events along at a dizzy pace in the Middle East. Oil profits have made his country incredibly wealthy. He is going to cause a global crisis in only a few years—perhaps even months.

All the journalists, educators, politicians and religious leaders rejected Churchill's warning in the 1930s! They didn't see how Hitler was accelerating world events! So beware of believing the so-called experts today.

THIS ONE LEADER HAS *TURNE*D THE *TIDE* IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IS *PUSHING* THE WHOLE WORLD TOWARD A NUCLEAR ABYSS! He has virtually taken over Lebanon as the world does nothing. Iran's efforts have helped Assad of Syria turn his nation more toward terrorism.

Look how one man—Osama bin Laden—has impacted the whole world. He is a strong leader and a religious madman.

Terrorist movements are causing the world to raise up more dictatorial types.

Vladimir Putin has become much more dictatorial in the last few months. Russia and China have dictators who are helping to speedily move this world toward a nuclear holocaust.

The pope has been alarmed by the rise of radical Islam. He too has become very aggressive on the world scene. Politically, he is an extremely powerful man because he leads 1 billion Catholics.

Now we are awaiting one final dictator who will rise and lead Europe to become the world's leading superpower—in an extremely short amount of time. This superpower will be confronted and *pushed* by Iran. The European power will respond violently and destroy radical Islam, according to Bible prophecy. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)



FREE UPON REQUEST

While all these strong dictators are rising, America, Britain and the Middle East Jews have a *broken will*. Real leaders—like Winston Churchill—are fading from the scene. That too was prophesied in your Bible.

Why are these three nations collapsing? Because of our horrendous sins. America and Britain received the birthright blessings because of Abraham's obedience. (Request a free copy of our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) But now, instead of God blessing and protecting us from suicidal terrorists, God is actually cursing us!

Before World War II, Winston Churchill tried to rouse Britain from "its sloth and *trance*." But it took what he termed "a series of horrible shocks" to awaken the British people.

Today, America, Britain and the Jewish nation are in a *hypnotic trance*. It appears that words cannot awaken them from their sleep. *They await the most horrendous shocks ever experienced on Earth!*

We are facing a nuclear abyss that Christ prophesied almost 2,000 years ago (Matthew 24:21-22). However, all this bad news is the best *sign* of the most inspiring future imaginable. Jesus Christ is about to return.

That is our great hope—our only hope.

When America Leaves Iraq . . .

FINISHING UP
Soldiers arrive back at base after concluding a raid in Ramadi, Iraq.

Americans and Iranians agree: the U.S. should exit Iraq. Here is what will happen when it does. BY JOEL HILLIKER

IT IS EASY TO FORGET HOW FRAGILE civilization really is.

Sitting in a recliner, belly full, television on, the idea that *this might not last* hardly enters the mind. The trappings of prosperity are so far removed from the brutal, bloody cruelties of war, the savagery and chaos that have characterized so much of human history, the death-worshipping hatred that is rapidly overtaking whole swaths of the world we inhabit.

It is easy to underestimate an enemy. Clothed in comfort and complacency, it is easy to take him too lightly—his determination, his ferocity, his will, his eagerness to invite death. When such harsh concepts are so foreign, so alien, it is easy to assume his threats are mere bluster.

In the unreality created by hyper-affluence, it is easy to feel untouchable. Easy to believe that simply possessing

the strongest military in history is protection enough; that losses are inconsequential; that, should there ever emerge a *real* danger, the wherewithal to defeat it can be quickly summoned.

These fantasies are luxuries—luxuries born of America's unparalleled wealth and ease—luxuries that are about to be stripped from us.

America is at war, and it is losing. And it seems to be okay with that.

Though the enemy looks like a many-headed hydra, at its heart is a single nation with ambitions to hasten America's demise, eliminate Israel, conquer Europe, and preside over a globe-girdling pan-Islamic empire. That nation is Iran.

But America is not fighting Iran—at least, not directly. Today, it is stuck in Iraq. President Bush assessed the situation: "We're not winning—we're not losing." An emerging consensus believes

we must get out—as quickly as would be prudent, gracefully if possible, clumsily if necessary. So, perhaps sooner, perhaps later—perhaps not under this president but, if not, then shortly after he leaves—America's departure from Iraq is inevitable.

While the supposed wisdom in this course of action seems self-evident to many, there is a reason the White House has been so reluctant to evacuate Iraq. Set aside, for a moment, how this act would further trash America's already battered "superpower" status and the problems this would invite from the four corners of the Earth.

In immediate terms, the day America pulls out is the day it places a crown on Iran's head: *king of the Persian Gulf*.

Iran is in a remarkable position. After the U.S., it has far and away the strongest military in the region. Its influence reaches powerfully into Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Israel. It holds the sympathies of Shiite minorities—and even some Sunni majorities—in Arab states region-wide. It has nurtured alli-

ances with global giants in the East and proven itself immune to pressure from the West. In Iraq, it has played its position in a way that reveals its ambition: It will be content with nothing less than, in the words of Dr. George Friedman, “an Iraqi satellite state.” And by all appearances, *Iran is going to get what Iran wants*. Especially once America leaves.

“We’re not winning—we’re not losing” is only half true when Iraq is viewed in this broader context. After five years of the world’s mightiest military waging a self-declared “war on terrorism,” the world’s premier state sponsor of terrorism is stronger than ever.

It is easy, 6,300 miles distant from Iran, to shrug at this state of affairs. But the story of how little Iran has outmaneuvered mighty America has epic implications.

Underwriting an Insurgency

As you read this article, American soldiers are being killed with Iranian weapons.

Coalition forces in Iraq have seized *brand-new Iranian-made arms*, including advanced armor-piercing and anti-tank munitions, *from Iraqi terrorists*. These weapons could not move from Iranian factories to Iraqi Shiite militias so quickly through black-market routes. “There is no way this could be done without [IRANIAN] GOVERNMENT APPROVAL,” a senior U.S. official told ABC News (Nov. 30, 2006; emphasis mine throughout).

True, America isn’t fighting Iran directly. But *Iran is fighting America directly*. With deliberate intent, Iran supplies and stokes the chaos in Iraq in order to break what the U.S. is trying to fix.

Why doesn’t the U.S. hold Iran accountable?

Let there be no doubt: Iraqi anarchy—on the scale we see today—is an Iranian project. Tehran’s inroads into Iraq, including its heavy influence over Iraqi Shiite armed groups, trace back to well before allied forces deposed Saddam Hussein in 2003. Through logistical support to Shiite militias, funding for Shiite social programs, and backing for pro-Iranian Iraqi politicians, Tehran has created a Shiite stronghold—the Saudis call it a “state within a state”—in southern Iraq. It has planted thousands of intelligence agents from its special command forces—agents whose mission is to establish Shiite death squads. With these, Iran can keep turning on the tap of violence.

From the beginning of the Iraq war, Iran has used its power and influence to punish the U.S.-backed political project

whenever it appears to be settling on insufficiently pro-Iranian solutions.

In the summer of last year, for example, just as it appeared a Sunni-Shiite-Kurd political compromise might succeed, the agreement crumpled. George Friedman traced the collapse back to a sudden eruption of fighting among Shiites around Basra. After some trips to Tehran by influential Shiite Iraqis, Shiite militias attacked Sunni populations, prompting retaliation and a descent into more chaos. “From nearly having a political accommodation, the situation in Iraq fell completely apart,” Dr. Friedman wrote. “*The key was Iran*.” In other words, Iran made a calculated choice for chaos.

Why? Simply because, in Tehran’s eyes, the new government would not have been sufficiently subservient. “The Iranians had always wanted *an Iraqi satellite state*, as protection against another Iraq-Iran war,” Friedman explained. “In order to have this, the Iranians needed an overwhelmingly Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad, and to have overwhelming control of the Shia” (Sept. 5, 2006). When the new Iraq government

WHY DOESN'T THE U.S. HOLD IRAN ACCOUNTABLE? THE ANSWER IS, THE U.S. FEARS IRAN.

started shaping up differently, the mullahs dropped the hammer. “In other words,” Friedman wrote, “the Iranians didn’t like the deal they had been offered, they felt that they could do better, and they felt that the time had come to strike.”

As we wrote nearly three years ago, “Iran is the number-one obstacle to stability in Iraq.” Yet more and more people in the U.S. say the opposite: that *Iran is the number-one* KEY to stability in Iraq.

WHY? Again—WHY DOESN'T THE U.S. HOLD IRAN ACCOUNTABLE?

The answer is, the U.S. *fears* Iran.

Asking for Help

The serious discussion occurring at high levels—such as the recommendations of the congressionally appointed Iraq Study Group—advising the U.S. to solve Iraq by negotiating with Iran is extraordinarily revealing. At the very least, this proposal openly acknowledges Iran’s penetrating influence in the situation, if not its blame in causing the problem. It concedes the fact that *Iran could stop the violence if it chose to*.

Over the past few years, the White House has issued occasional muted threats to Tehran, telling it to knock off

its support of violence in Iraq, but these harmless statements have gone nowhere. Even *tough talk* is apparently too dangerous to risk, let alone open confrontation of Iran’s mullahs. America’s silence reveals the extent of Iran’s power.

The fact is, the Islamic Republic’s penetration into Iraq has been profound enough that the mullahs can credibly threaten orchestrating a full-scale Shiite uprising that would turn Iraq—even those areas that are presently stable—into a bloody nightmare.

“Iran’s negotiating options continue to improve,” Stratfor analysts wrote on December 7. “For the United States, Tehran’s stake and influence in Iraq’s future are decisive; *Iraq can no longer be resolved without Iran*. Diplomacy is no longer an option—it is a necessity. The United States knows this and has already started down this path.”

The irony is painful. America went into Iraq to wage a “war on terrorism,” perhaps, in part, to gain a beachhead from which to pressure Iran. In doing so, however, it eliminated Iran’s worst enemy in the region. Tehran seized the

opportunity, leveraging its influence to ensure U.S. forces would fail. Now it appears the U.S. feels it can’t succeed without asking for the mullahs’ help.

Iran couldn’t have scripted it any better.

Iran’s Goal

The idea of subcontracting Iraqi security to Iran assumes that U.S. and Iranian interests overlap. *They do not*. The one point of agreement is that, ultimately, both the U.S. and Iran would like to see Iraq become a stable nation. But they differ completely in what kind of state it should be.

America, though it would love to leave Iraq a West-friendly, self-sustaining democracy, at the core simply wants to eliminate terrorist threats to itself. Obviously, this goal is mitigated by the pragmatic goal of not having to fight in Iraq anymore.

Iran’s goal is precisely the opposite. It wants allies in the war against the West. In Iraq, it seeks to strengthen its base of operations, lock down its strategic holdings, and deepen its pool of resources, in order to better conduct its larger offensive.

To this end, it is positioning itself—quite masterfully—to dominate south-

ern Iraq, if not the entire country. “This not only would give them control of the Basra oil fields,” Dr. Friedman wrote, “but also would theoretically open the road to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. From a strictly military point of view, and not including the Shiite insurgencies at all, Iran could move far down the western littoral of the Persian Gulf if American forces were absent. Put another way, there would be a possibility that *the Iranians could seize control of the bulk of the region’s oil reserves*” (op. cit.).

For the time being, Iran has absolutely no reason to dial down the violence in Iraq. The bloodshed is turning the American public against the American president, exhausting America’s manpower and will, and increasing the likelihood of Washington trying to strike some kind of deal.

When the time is right, however, Iran will most likely prove willing to talk with the U.S. in order to achieve its goals.

Saudi Arabia—no friend of Iran—is seized with anxiety as it watches this

drama unfold. Fearing the extent of Iran’s power should the U.S. engage it diplomatically or exit the region, Saudi leaders have been sending firm warnings to Washington not to do either.

Those countries in the region not aligned with Iran have good reason to be edgy. Throughout the 1980s, Iran and Iraq locked horns in a brutal war that effectively kept both nations from posing a threat to anyone outside themselves. Once the U.S. entered the fray in Desert Storm in 1991, the balance of power began to shift toward Iran. Eliminating the government of Saddam Hussein in 2003 completely removed the primary obstacle to Iran realizing its ambition for regional supremacy. Now—Saudi Arabia says correctly—the U.S. presence, while it lasts, is the dam holding back the Iranian tide into Iraq.

And not only Iraq, but also further afield. For Iraq is simply one front in Iran’s region-wide offensive (see page 6).

Shattering Illusions

It is easy to underestimate the mag-

nitude of this moment for the United States. The new speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, has described the U.S.’s war in Iraq not as a war, but as “a situation to be resolved,” one in which “You can define victory any way you want.” From the comfort of Washington, so far removed from throngs of warriors filling the streets to topple governments, from savage suicide bombings and rocket attacks, from armor-piercing Iranian-made weapons killing American soldiers, it is easy to be so relaxed.

“We are sleep-walking through the storm, as we have done in the past. We pretend it is not happening or that it is simply because of the incompetency of the current administration or of a member of that administration.” These are the farewell words of a U.S. senator who was just voted out of office in the last congressional election, Rick Santorum. “But how do those who deny this evil propose to save us from these people? By negotiating through the UN or directly with Iran? By firing Don Rumsfeld, now getting rid of John Bolton? That is going to solve the problem? These people are

America’s “Tough” Option

AFTER months of debate and delay, on Dec. 23, 2006, the United Nations Security Council finally passed UN Security Council Resolution 1737, designed to punish Iran with sanctions for refusing to cease uranium enrichment. The Iranian defense minister immediately dismissed the sanctions as being worthless, saying they would have no impact. The Iranian president referred to the resolution as a “scrap of paper.” Is this talk by Iranian officials just bravado?

The resolution demands Tehran “suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and work on all heavy water-related projects.” To give weight to the demand, the resolution calls on the international community to cease supplying Iran with material and technology related to its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. If Iran still doesn’t cease uranium enrichment, the penalty (in theory) would be further sanctions.

“This resolution is a strong signal to the government of Iran that it should accept its international obligations, suspend its sensitive nuclear activities and accept the negotiations path,” stated U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Apparently, Tehran didn’t pick up the signal. It immediately rejected the resolution, with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declaring that the world would just have to accept Iran as a nuclear state. Far from appearing to have any punitive effect, the resolution prompted Iran to vow to drastically *speed up* its nuclear program. The day after the resolution was passed, Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, said work would commence immediately to install a further 3,000 uranium enriching centrifuges. Judging by Iran’s track record, it is not unreasonable to assume that Tehran will follow through.

Aside from the issue of how and whether the resolution will be implemented by various countries, Iranian allies Russia and China ensured the resolution was so watered down that it wouldn’t hurt their interests—nor, to any great extent, Iran’s. “The resolution fully reflects economic interests of Russia and other partners of Iran,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, hailing it as a reasonable compromise. Russia gained exemption for any sanctions relating to the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which it is building for Iran. A ban on international travel for



FUTILE UN Security Council slaps sanctions on Iran.

Iranian officials involved with nuclear and missile development was also dropped in order to get China and Russia on board.

Far from demonstrating a united international community determined to punish Iran and prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons, the agreement on UN sanctions is a “demonstration of Western weakness,” according to the *Washington Post* (Dec. 23, 2006). “The message to Tehran is not that it faces isolation or economic ruin if it fails to respect the Security Council’s order; it is that it need not fear sanctions.”

While the sanctions may cause Iran some little hindrance, they clearly will not deter it from pursuing its goals. In reality, the main purpose the sanctions serve is to provide the U.S. with an alternative to any real meaningful action. The fact that America is covertly working with Iran to alleviate problems in Iraq denies the U.S. other, more robust, options. And Iran knows it. As Ahmadinejad taunted, “Give up this Muppet show. You cannot send secret friendly messages to us and at the same time show your teeth and claws.”

With UN sanctions being the toughest option the U.S. seems willing to contemplate toward Iran, perhaps the bravado is more on the side of America than Iran.

“It’s the Shiite Era Now”

Tracking Iran’s steps to dominate its neighbors

“IRAN has never been so powerful in the region,” says Najaf Ali Mirzai, an Iranian attaché at the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon. It is hard to disagree.

In Syria, for example, Iran has worked aggressively to extend its political and religious influence.

Last year, Iran campaigned to undermine and cast suspicion on Syrian Baath leaders known to be opposed to Iranian Khomeinism—an effort that drove hundreds of leaders into retirement or exile. Those men were replaced, largely, by men with Iranian experience and training. As a result, Syrian President Bashar Assad himself is increasingly relying for his personal security on the Iranians and the Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Last June, Syria signed a defense pact that “gives Iran direct access to the Syrian military at middle and senior levels, provides for joint staff conversations, harmonization of weapons systems and training, and military exercises” (*Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 1, 2006). Since the pact was signed, Iranian military and security personnel in Syria have quadrupled. Trade between the two nations is also mushrooming. A former member of President Assad’s cabinet warns that “Iran is trying to play the role that the Soviet Union played in Syria during the Cold War” (*ibid.*).

Though Syria is mostly a Sunni Muslim country, President Assad has assented to Iran spreading the Shiite brand of Islam in his country—lifting bans on Shiites proselytizing, on Iran building cultural centers in Syria, and on Syrians attending Islamic seminaries in Iran. Now, Iranian-supported charities are popping up nationwide; Geostrategy Direct reports that 11 centers for Khomeinist indoctrination have opened in Syrian cities, with 17,000 Syrians enrolled in classes. Some reports accuse Iran of providing schools and social services essentially to pay whole villages to convert to Shiism.

Iran has used this increasing clout to undertake a sinister joint project with Syria: swallowing Lebanon.

For a long time, Iran has nurtured and funded the Hezbollah organization’s soft conquest of southern Lebanon. This area is strategically important because of its common border with Israel, a nation Iran has pledged to destroy. Last summer, Iran used Hezbollah to launch a war against the Jewish state. After fighting and surviving that war, Hezbollah emerged with iconic status in the Arab world and unprecedented popularity among a large portion of Lebanese. That status rocketed even higher as Hezbollah quickly rebuilt damaged Lebanese infrastructure. In August, the *New York Times* revealed that a major reason for Hezbollah’s reconstruction superstardom was “a torrent of money from oil-rich Iran.” Essentially, Iran took the opportunity after the war to accelerate its infiltration into Lebanon, even under the noses of UN overseers (see page 7).

Mirzai says the whole affair highlighted just how strong Iran has become: “The war made the world take notice of the extent of Iran’s regional and international role.” It also put Israel on the defensive, exposing before the world how dangerously vulnerable it has become and setting the stage for Iran’s next offensive against the Jewish state.

Since that time, Iran—with help from Syria and Hezbollah—has stepped up its efforts to eliminate the democratically elected, West-friendly Lebanese government of Fouad Siniora. In November, six Shiite cabinet ministers abruptly resigned, throwing the government into turmoil. November 21, anti-Syrian cabinet minister Pierre Gemayel was gunned down in what is widely viewed as a Syrian-orchestrated assassination. The subsequent anti-Syrian demonstrations gave way

to massive Hezbollah-led protests against the U.S.-backed government. Should Iranian-aligned forces succeed in taking control in Lebanon, it would represent a massive victory for radical Islam and another sign of America’s waning global power.

And Iran is working to project its power even further.

“TREATED AS VISITING ROYALTY”

MANY Sunni-ruled states in the region worry that—given the Shiites’ control over Iraq and Hezbollah’s victory over Israel—Iran’s rising star is igniting their Shiite populations with power lust. “They believe their time has come; it’s the Shiite era now,” says Abdullah al-Shayji, a Kuwaiti university professor (*Daily Times*, Pakistan, Dec. 11, 2006). Two Arab states illustrate the point: Bahrain and Kuwait.

Shiites in Bahrain, who have felt sidelined from politics in the past, make up over half the populace. After having boycotted the last election, Bahrain’s main Shiite political party—which has connections to Iran—took national elections by storm on Nov. 25, 2006. Grabbing a huge 40 percent of the vote, it made virtually a clean sweep, winning 16 of the 17 parliamentary seats it sought (out of 40 total in the parliament). Within a week, the Information Ministry announced it would start implementing Islamic codes—banning alcohol near mosques and schools, shutting down discos and live entertainment. Bahrain “fears that the country’s Shiite population—given its size and political configuration—could serve as a fifth column for Tehran,” Stratfor wrote on Nov. 14, 2006. “The ruling al-Khalifa family very much fears a Lebanon-type situation for Bahrain . . .”

Tehran is also trying to romance Kuwait, OPEC’s third-largest oil producer behind Saudi Arabia and Iran, away from its traditional alliance with the U.S. In addition to conducting official business—jointly developing a shared offshore oil field, discussing the expansion of ties in other areas—Iran has undertaken a strategy similar to the one it used in Lebanon: shipping in Shiite militants, linking up with the local Shiite population, and setting up Iranian sleeper cells.

Iran’s ambitions extend even further out. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has promised to support Afghanistan’s reconstruction and development efforts. In December, Iran’s cabinet approved signing security cooperation agreements with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and Oman. Iran also urged neighboring Arab states to drive the United States from its military bases in the Middle East and join Tehran in a regional security alliance. Associated Press reported, “The audacious offer was the strongest sign yet of Iran’s rising assertiveness in its contest with the United States for influence in the region” (Dec. 5, 2006).

The speed and aggression with which Iran is moving shows how unprecedentedly confident in its position it has become. And the region is adjusting—sometimes fearfully—to this developing reality.

When Iranian national security adviser Ali Larijani came to Arab World Strategy 2006 to deliver the regional security alliance proposal, “the Arab audience parted like the Red Sea,” wrote Middle East Newsline. Larijani “was treated as visiting royalty and his message at the Dubai seminar greeted with utmost respect” (Dec. 7, 2006).

“Iranians are playing with so many variables and they have so many trump cards,” says al-Shayji. “We are completely vulnerable. We don’t want to antagonize the Iranians and at the same time we don’t want to upset the Americans” (*Daily Times*, op. cit.). That is precisely what Iran intends—to force Middle Eastern states to choose whether to remain allied with the U.S.-Israeli camp, or to join, in AP’s words, “an anti-American, anti-Israel alliance led by Iran.”

It is not difficult to see which of these two powers is gaining the most leverage. The Islamic Republic clearly represents the future of the Middle East.

JOEL HILLIKER and MARK JENKINS

now going to be nice to us because we removed these people who were agitating them or causing problems? Maybe relocating our troops to Okinawa or Kuwait or some other place will get these people to simply leave us alone? Maybe if we just abandon Iraq and Afghanistan to the chaos and slaughter of Islamic fascists, their thirst for blood will be met? Or maybe it is just engaging in one-on-one discussions with Iran and North Korea and other reasonable dictators?

“No, I do not think any of those things will work. And history has proved they have not worked” (Dec. 7, 2006).

Nevertheless, to this point, Americans have had the luxury of indulging such fantasies.


That luxury is about to end. Barring a dramatic, unforeseen repentance by the U.S., the decline of American power and the rise of Iranian power—so plainly, painfully evident in today’s headlines—is destined to continue, climaxing in horrifying fashion.

This end was prophesied in the pages of the Bible millennia ago. The fact that America would possess unprecedented power, but that its pride in that power would be broken—the fact that American influence in the Middle East and around the world would be eclipsed—the fact that Iran, a radical, aggressive power, would in fact emerge as *king of the Persian Gulf*—the fact that Iraq would succumb to Iran’s power and align with it—even the end that awaits this alliance—all these events were prophesied long in advance. These prophecies are thoroughly explained in our booklets *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and *The King of the South*, both of which are yours free upon request.

The great God provided these prophecies—which the *Trumpet* has been warning readers about for over 12 years; some of them, Herbert W. Armstrong warned about over 50 years before that—as a means of SHAKING PEOPLE FROM THEIR FANTASIES—and *helping us see reality!*

These prophecies reveal in shocking detail that our present prosperity and ease *will not last much longer*. The realities of human savagery and chaos are about to shatter our illusions and engulf us.

These prophecies vividly remind us how fragile our present civilization really is. And they also show God’s penetrating purpose in allowing these nightmares to occur, and reveal—thank God—the hope of a better civilization to come! ■



UN Sleeps, Hezbollah Rearms

“WE JUST STAND AROUND”
UN soldiers in Lebanon

LIKE fire ants that just had their hill kicked over, Hezbollah soldiers in southern Lebanon are rebuilding, reshaping and restocking the infrastructure and arsenal that was destroyed and depleted in its war with Israel this past summer. Tunnels and trenches are being redug; telecommunications lines, restored; weapons and missile stocks, replenished—and aid and supplies are flowing in.

What is remarkable, though, is the fact that this major overhaul is being carried out under the noses of over 20,000 Lebanese and UN soldiers.

As if the embarrassing oil-for-food scandal in Iraq and the botched UN operations in Liberia, Sudan, Rwanda, Colombia, Kashmir and Angola weren’t enough to prove the United Nations is a decrepit organization, this travesty further confirms it. Hezbollah is making a mockery of the United Nations.

Hezbollah fighters are using the reconstruction in Lebanese towns as a cloak for their own reconstruction efforts (*Telegraph*, Nov. 1, 2006). Terrorists who brandished guns and rocket launchers last July now push shovels, brooms and wheelbarrows. But rather than help rebuild homes and schools, these militants are pouring their sweat into tunnels and trenches that will be used for weapons smuggling and launch pads. The hundreds of trucks carrying aid, supplies and materials into southern Lebanon are perfect for smuggling weapons and communications equipment into the region.

About 9,500 UN soldiers and at least 12,000 Lebanese soldiers are stationed in southern Lebanon, and still the region is a beehive of terrorist activity. So if these soldiers aren’t curbing Hezbollah’s activities, what are they doing? Very little!

Spiegel Online reports: “‘We just stand around,’ complain Spanish Marines from the nearby ‘Isla de Leon’ base who are on patrol in Piranha armored cars. The two vehicles stop every 20 minutes and the soldiers hang around on the street. ‘We can tell you exactly what we’re doing here,’ they say. ‘We are here just to be here’” (Oct. 31, 2006).

Read UN Resolution 1701, the resolution aimed at resolving the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, and it becomes obvious why UN troops are inactive. Beyond being soft-spoken, toothless and painfully vague, the resolution provides no clear, definite course of *action* should Hezbollah decide to return to its pre-war status as a fully armed, battle-ready terrorist organization.

The resolution is clear on one matter though, that is, UNIFIL forces are not to act independently in their responsibilities in southern Lebanon; rather, they are to submit to and provide assistance to the Lebanese government and military. Though such a deal seems reasonable—after all, it is Lebanon’s territory—there is one major problem: The Lebanese government and military have a soft spot for Hezbollah and a history of failing to deal forcefully with the terrorist group in their midst. The Lebanese government deployed 12,000 soldiers to southern Lebanon, but they too are doing virtually nothing to prevent Hezbollah from rearming. Hezbollah’s position in the Lebanese coalition government, and the support it receives from Tehran and Damascus, emboldens the group to disrespect the Lebanese government and military.

Arutz Sheva noted Nov. 1, 2006, how Hezbollah terrorists are more prone to roaming freely and conducting their activities at night because UNIFIL does not patrol the streets after dark. Spanish UNIFIL official Richard Ortax admitted they don’t conduct night patrols “because of the danger involved.” These soldiers are well-trained and equipped with some of the best technology and weaponry available, not to mention that they outnumber Hezbollah fighters almost two to one—yet it’s too dangerous for them to participate in nightly patrols?

This is as embarrassing as it is ridiculous!

UN officials would argue that its presence in Lebanon—weak as it may be—is preventing war from breaking out. That might be true for now, but the fact is, if an unrepentant Iranian-backed terrorist group with a proven track record for starting wars with Israel is allowed to rearm and reinstate itself so quickly after its latest war, then a future war is inevitable. The UN’s incompetence is hastening the day.

BRAD MACDONALD

THERE IS A REASON SO MANY American tourists traveling abroad stitch Canadian flags to their backpacks and travel luggage. The world can be an unfriendly place for Americans. For a variety of reasons, anti-Americanism is spreading like an aggressive virus in nations worldwide.

The nasty implications for Americans go far beyond receiving the occasional cold shoulder from a hotel clerk overseas. The fact is, the U.S. imports a lot of its essential resources from nations that are increasingly choked with *hatred* for America. Moreover, some of those suppliers are already actively seeking to reduce their dependence upon trade with the U.S.

Is this a crisis in the making?

Energy Vulnerability

Oil imports provide a perfect example. America is by far the world's largest oil consumer, importing almost two thirds of its daily oil needs. In 2004, America imported as much oil as Japan, Germany, China and India combined. Until the recent spike in oil prices, few realized the extent of America's reliance on foreign oil. President Bush, in his 2006 State of the Union speech, highlighted the dilemma: "[W]e have a serious problem: America is

addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world."

That America's imported oil often comes from unstable parts of the world may be an understatement. Consider a

**Shady
Business
Partners**

**America depends on
valuable resources from
dubious sources.**

BY ROBERT MORLEY

partial list of America's major crude oil and oil products suppliers: Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Algeria, Russia, Angola, Nigeria, Venezuela and Iraq. Each of these countries provides more than 100,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) to the U.S., with Venezuela and Saudi Arabia providing more than 500,000 bpd.

Yet the governments of

these nations could be described as either volatile, totalitarian, less-than-democratic, far-left-wing, or radically oriented with a distinctly anti-Western political posture. A study by the *Wall Street Journal* and the Heritage Foundation ranked these countries, in terms of economic freedom, 62nd, 107th, 119th, 122nd, 139th, 146th, and 152nd out of 157 respectively (Iraq was not rated, but would probably be somewhere near the bottom).

One of those nations in particular has made clear its dislike for the U.S.—Venezuela, America's fourth-largest supplier of crude oil. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has publicly stated he wants his nation to become less reliant on the U.S. to purchase its oil. At the same time, he says he wants Venezuela's oil sales to China to grow three-fold over the next three years. Since Venezuela currently sends 68 percent of its crude oil exports to the U.S., it is obvious that Chavez intends to curb the amount of oil sold to the U.S. in order to meet his projected Chinese sales. For America, this could be a big problem, since Venezuela provides 12 percent of its total crude imports.

Saudi Arabia is another country seeking to reduce its oil trade with the U.S. in favor of China, as well as India. According



IN BUSINESS Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his Iranian counterpart celebrate at an oil drill the two countries operate as a joint venture.

to geostrategic analyst Joseph Stroupe, “Almost none of the world’s oil and gas producers want to be inordinately dependent on the U.S. market any longer” (*Asia Times*, Aug. 25, 2006). He says other key Middle Eastern regimes are following suit, as are nations in Latin America, Africa and Central Asia.

It is becoming “difficult to name

The inability to protect American companies illustrates how much international influence the U.S. has lost.

more than a handful of resource-rich states that are liberal democracies and that are still significantly aligned with the West,” noted Stroupe.

Of America’s major oil suppliers, only Canada, Mexico and the UK can be considered fairly secure. Yet even Canada and the UK may not provide the U.S. with as much oil in the future as expected. Canada is continually increasing its strategic energy deals with China and other Eastern nations. It is constructing pipelines to pump oil from Canada’s tar sands to the West Coast for shipment to China. United Kingdom oil supplies are also not certain. The North Sea oil fields are old and are suffering from production declines typically associated with aging.

Resource Nationalization

Resource nationalization is another growing global trend that threatens America. Several foreign governments have started kicking out American and other international corporations and confiscating (or what amounts to confiscating) their properties and operations.

For example, in 2005, Russia forced the privately held oil company Yukos into bankruptcy so its state-owned oil companies Rosneft and Gazprom could pick up the pieces on the cheap—at the expense of American and other international shareholders, as well as Russian shareholders. These moves, among others, left the Kremlin with almost complete control over the Russian oil and gas industry—and complete control over which nations would receive Russian energy resources.

Since then, startling numbers of other resource-rich regimes around the world have started replicating or threatening to replicate the Russian model. First was Venezuela, then Bolivia and Ecuador. In each instance, international oil companies operating within these nations, often including American-based corporations, saw their assets threatened. The local gov-

ernments commonly levied massive tax and royalty hikes. In Bolivia and Ecuador, the governments sent in the army to forcibly seize control of operations.

In August 2006, the African nation of Chad ordered U.S. oil company Chevron to leave the country for allegedly refusing to pay taxes. The demand came the day after Chad’s president instructed

his government to play a bigger role in oil production in order to secure greater profits. As it turned out, the dispute with Chevron was resolved and the company did not have to leave the country. But Chad got what it wanted for the time being: Chevron agreed to pay additional taxes for 2005 and 2006.

These incidents clearly illustrate the power oil-producing nations have over U.S. interests.

American mining companies are also becoming targets of foreign government resource nationalization. In Indonesia, certain politicians are after American miner Freeport McMoRan’s world-class copper and gold mine. Government officials are demanding the company be charged higher royalties and forced to turn some of its operations over to Indonesian companies.

The problem isn’t that the Indonesian government is requiring companies like Freeport to support local economies. It is that these companies were offered one set of contracts to entice them to risk money exploring for and then constructing sometimes remote mining operations, but then once operations are built and technology is transferred to the local communities, the government forcibly revises the contracts. The foreign companies have to either accept the revised terms or be kicked out. “It’s every foreign investor’s nightmare that you invest billions of dollars and all of a sudden you find that your investment has been nationalized,” notes U.S. mining company Newmont’s President Pierre Lasonde (*Mineweb.com*, May 8, 2006).

Mineral nationalization also recently occurred in Uzbekistan, where several foreign companies were expelled from the country for alleged violations. In actuality, the Uzbek government created violations for an excuse to forcibly seize foreign investors’ assets, commonly obliging them to sell at below-market values.

Investors are also worried about Mon-

golia and Peru jumping on the resource nationalization bandwagon, not necessarily because of their value as mineral exporters, but because of the momentum such moves would generate for still other nations to follow suit.

The inability to protect American companies illustrates how much international influence the U.S. has lost. As Stroupe said, it no longer has “the global leverage to shape [these] unfolding developments in its favor” (op. cit.).

As a result, America’s multinational oil and other resource companies are being sidelined. Each time an American resource company gets kicked out of a country, not only does it mean that company was robbed of its investment, but more importantly it could mean America is forced to look for another supplier of that resource. This can be much easier said than done.

America’s Weak Spot

World demand for oil and other resource commodities is rapidly increasing. China and India especially seem to snatch up each new resource supply that enters the market. Strong demand in Europe also puts pressure on resource stocks. Oil, gold, silver, copper, zinc, nickel and many other commodities have all recently set multi-year or -decade price records; some, like oil, have set all-time price records.

America faces a massive problem: It relies on the kindness of foreigners to provide the things Americans need most—manufactured goods, energy, raw commodities, strategic minerals—even the money to finance its massive fiscal deficits.

Evidence is mounting that foreign nations are starting to take notice of America’s weakness.

Many of America’s enemies already realize their power over the U.S. In the case of energy dependence, many Middle Eastern leaders clearly understand this is a weak spot. In 1990, the late Yasser Arafat said, “When the North Sea oil dries up ... the United States will want to buy Arab petroleum. And when the American oil fields themselves run dry and oil consumption in the United States increases, the American need for the Arabs will grow greater and greater.”

Russia too understands the weakness in relying on foreign nations to supply essential needs. In January 2006, Russia turned off the gas tap to Ukraine (and

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A Troubled Democracy



In a nation accustomed to totalitarianism, America has tried to install democracy. Indications are the experiment isn't working, and the old ways could come roaring back. We're not talking about Iraq. **BY TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP**

WHEN AMERICA AND ITS AL-
lies conquered this country,
they hoped that stability and
peace would finally overtake
a troubled region. America forced out
the old dictatorial regime and installed
a democratic government.

Over time, however, the situation
turned sour. Today, the people are be-
coming increasingly discontented with
the governmental system they're sad-
dled with, which is not of their choos-
ing. What to do? America is not wanted.
American ways are not wanted. Democ-
racy is not wanted.

Thinking of Iraq?

A Troubled Heart

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, unit-
ing East and West Germany, the Federal
Republic of Germany enjoyed a meteoric
rise on the international stage. Today, its
army and navy are deployed in peace-
keeping missions around the globe. The
world is crying out for German leader-

ship, and Germany is responding by
flexing its muscles once more.

But those muscles connect to an in-
creasingly troubled heart. Though the
skies are bright for Germany's future
prospects, a pall of gloom hovers at
ground level. Increasingly, as Deutsche
Welle put it in a Sept. 17, 2006, report,
Germany sees the glass half empty.

In a strange paradox, while the Father-
land grows in success both internation-
ally and within Europe, the attributes of
its national character that led it to launch
two world wars are beginning to resur-
face: feelings of superiority over neigh-
bors, a rise in extreme-right sympathies,
a fascination with national heritage.

Another trend: Germans are tiring of
democracy.

Several recent reports com-
ing out of Germany point to
these conclusions. Of particu-
lar note is the 2006 "Data Re-
port" released by the German
Statistics Office. This report,

released every two years, is compiled
by a number of research and statistical
agencies and is regarded as the most im-
portant publication on social reporting
in Germany. The study found that in
2005, only 38 percent of the economi-
cally depressed eastern Germans thought
democracy was good for Germany, down
from 49 percent in 2000.

More surprisingly, however, it also
revealed that even affluent Germans
from the former West are losing faith
in the democratic tradition. In 2000,
80 percent of western Germans thought
democracy was good for the country. By
2005, that figure had slid to 71 percent.

Meanwhile, a survey released by the
German public television station ARD at
the beginning of last November found
that *fully half* of all Germans
are dissatisfied with how the
country's democracy functions.
"As recently as September 2005,
60 percent said they were satis-
fied with democracy in Germa-

PALL OF GLOOM
Berlin's
Brandenburg
Gate at night

ISTOCK PHOTO

ny,” reported Spiegel Online. “Now, it’s only 49 percent—a drop of 11 percentage points” (Nov. 3, 2006). This is the lowest result since the station started conducting such surveys almost a decade ago.

With democracy being the object of such disillusionment, which direction are many Germans turning? Concurrent with the growth of disaffection with democracy in Germany, right-wing views are taking root.

Though the German government estimated the nation contained 39,000 neo-Nazis in 2005—perhaps a seemingly small number out of a nation of 82 million—evidence shows that far more Germans sympathize with neo-Nazi ideology. “Far-right views are not just the domain of skinheads and neo-Nazis but are firmly anchored throughout German society,” Spiegel Online reported (Nov. 8, 2006).

Spiegel was referring to a poll conducted in mid-2006 by two professors from the University of Leipzig for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation think tank to determine the level of agreement Germans have with the extreme right.

The professors uncovered some unsavory findings. Among the most telling: 14 percent believe Jews cheat in business; 35 percent articulate outright xenophobia; 28 percent believe Germany should regain world status by force; 15 percent believe Germans are naturally superior to other people.

But most alarming “is the longing the Germans have for darker days,” in the words of Ynet News (Nov. 9, 2006). Over a quarter of Germans would like a *single popular party* representing the whole nation, and 15 percent agreed with the statement, “We should have one leader to rule Germany with a strong hand for the good of everyone.” Moreover, 9 percent support the idea of turning Germany into a dictatorship, and 12 percent believe Hitler would be seen as a great statesman if he hadn’t exterminated Jews.

The report’s conclusion to the finding that far-right views are so prevalent? “Right-wing extremism is not an individual problem but one of society,” it stated. “The fact that it has come to this *touches the foundations of democratic society*” (emphasis mine).

Indeed, right-wing sentiment is being reflected in German elections.

In the former East Germany, three neo-Nazi parties have been voted into regional parliaments. In the 2004 state elections in Saxony, for example, the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party

(NPD) won 9.2 percent of the vote—190,000 votes. Clearly, far more than the government-identified 39,000 neo-Nazis support much of what the extreme-right parties stand for—or at the least, do not see any better alternative.

In fact, Germany’s extreme right enjoys the outright support of nearly a mil-

All it took to get the German people to embrace Hitler was extreme economic duress, hatred for the Jews, and a terrorist act in the form of the fire bombing of the Reichstag.

lion voters. In the 2005 federal elections, the NPD and German People’s Union (DVU) ran under the NPD ballot name and managed to sway 1.6 percent of the national vote.

How many Germans, given the right circumstances, might support a radical leader? This is not without precedent in Germany. All it took to get the German people to embrace Hitler was extreme economic duress, hatred for the Jews, and a terrorist act in the form of the fire bombing of the Reichstag.

Today, conditions in Germany are again becoming ripe for the emergence of a strong leader. Germany is being rangled by a vocal and belligerent Muslim community, with many Germans feeling that a “clash of civilizations” is already occurring between Christians and Muslims. Germans are dissatisfied with the democratic system in Berlin and its failure to adequately address this problem in their midst. And as author Luigi Barzini wrote in *The Europeans*, “It is when they [Germans] are disconcerted and fretful that they can be most dangerous.”

Why has Germany not been able to eradicate extremism within German politics? After more than 60 years of democracy, why has the rotten heart within Germany not been cured?

Imposing Democracy

It would be a grave error to assume that Germany has a long tradition with democracy. As Michael Demiashkevich wrote in *The National Mind: English, French, German*, “Believing in the existence of two German souls . . . we are convinced one of these is ‘totalitarianism.’”

History shows that Germany, at heart, is not democratic. Three times in the last 150 years, a totalitarian government has ruled the country. Germany, Europe, the world and history bear the mark of each episode.

Before that was the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation. Prior to its rise

as a single national power within Europe in 1871, Germany once ruled over large parts of Europe under the name Holy Roman Empire. Germany can lay claim to such emperors as Charlemagne, Otto the Great and the Habsburgs. Certainly *democracy* didn’t feature through the 1,000-year history of Germany’s First Reich.

After Germany’s defeat in the First World War, the Allied powers introduced a republican constitution that transformed the German Empire into what is now referred to as the Weimar Republic. This was Germany’s first democratic constitution. Stripped of their heritage, many Germans saw the constitution as a shabby import of the West, representing a flawed system that by no means replaced the glorious German Reich. Despite the suppression of extreme right- and left-wing parties by the moderate postwar government, domestic problems such as economic depression and mass unemployment bolstered the popularity of extremist parties. Speaking of Germany’s short try at democracy between the First and Second World Wars, Hans Kohn wrote, “Most Germans regarded the Republic only as an interim state; in fact many refused to call it a state—a word which to Germans conveys pride, power and majesty. Instead they contemptuously called the republic a mere system, a system of Western corruption” (*The Mind of Germany*).

Within a mere decade and a half, Germans had reverted to form, and Hitler, who had promised a Third Reich, was the nation’s führer. In 1933, he was appointed chancellor, and commerce, industry and foreign trade became closely managed by the government.

The West defeated Germany in World War II and again imposed democracy. The democratic tradition we see in Germany today is thin veneer that was pasted onto the country—a system of government the German mind has ill adapted to.

The German National Cycle

With this in mind, we can identify within German history a national cycle. Starting with what we see today, there is the phase when Germans become restless and fretful. They become unhappy with the current order. They perceive instability, disorder or threats to the nation, and yearn for stability and order.

Usually this period is short, such as was the case with the Weimar Republic.

Of that flirtation with democracy, Demianshkevich wrote, “[A]crimonious discussions and dissensions among the multiple political parties of the 14-year parliamentary period of German political history, 1919-1933, had fatigued and

As discontentment with Berlin bubbles, Germans are losing confidence in their politicians to solve the nation’s problems.

frightened the average German, bewildered by artifices of political finessing, party bargaining and party intrigues. The nation was seized by a longing for the rule of one man, a moral—not an intellectual—superman ...” (op. cit.).

Today we see the same wrangling and disputing among political parties leading to disillusionment with democracy. However, to this point, memories of the atrocities of World War II have mitigated the desire to change to another form of government. Simply put, Germans have been wary of themselves. Even Germany’s first postwar chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, said the West was “taking a calculated risk” in rebuilding the nation after World War II.

But with what is seen as political ineptness in Berlin in the face of a fast-rising danger from Islamist extremists, Germans are clearly beginning to get past this mental hang-up.

The Savior

In the next phase of the national cycle, once social angst has taken firm hold, as it is in the process of doing today, Germans begin to look for a savior. When the modern nation of Germany was founded in 1871, that savior was Bismarck. Six decades later, Hitler fulfilled the role.

Hitler masterfully played on the sentiments and longings of the German people. With the economy in shambles and the country shamed by being forced to pay reparations to the Allies for starting World War I, Germans longed for a savior. Kohn explained, “Hitler’s claim to represent the true interest of the German people could find credence because he appealed to sentiments deeply rooted in the educated classes and the people He knew that the best way to lead Germans ... [was to] lead a crusade to realize Germany’s age-old longings and her sense of historical mission” (op. cit.).

After the war, when Hitler was destroyed, Germans embraced another leader: Adenauer. His popularity reflect-

ed a public desperate for a strong man to bring order to social chaos.

Today, as discontentment with Berlin bubbles, the German people are losing confidence in their politicians to solve the nation’s problems. A recent poll reported by Deutsche Welle on December 15 showed that just 22 percent believe

their government is being run in an effective and goal-oriented manner. The spreading disaffection with democracy shows a Germany opening up to the idea of a strong man. We can expect a cunning politician to emerge who will portray himself as the voice of the people.

There are certain characteristics the German people typically look for in their leaders. Germans have been drawn to a strong leader like Bismarck or Hitler who dominates the domestic scene and commands international attention, a man who can demonstrate German prestige and power. Historically, once a strong man rises on the scene, Germany has a habit of investing him with absolute power.

Also, Germans have looked to a man who has a European vision. While Bismarck sought to protect a newly unified Germany, he certainly possessed a pan-European vision, as did Hitler. Germany has always been at the heart of Europe. Prior to the Age of Enlightenment and the rise of the nation-state, Germany was the protector of the “Christian” (Catholic) faith and the dominant power in Europe. Some of the greatest rulers in European history have been Germans: Otto the Great, Charlemagne and Frederick II.

Another quality Germans appear to want in their leader is cunning. Bismarck was a master of balancing Europe. By cunning, Hitler gained large tracts of Europe without firing a gun. As Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, “It’s not for nothing that the Germans [die Deutsche] are called the ‘tiusche’ people, the ‘Tausche’ (deceptive) people”

Today, that kind of German leader is yet to rise—but one may be poised. When he arrives on the scene, the next phase of the national cycle will begin.

Belligerency

Once Germans install a strong man, they become fiercely loyal to that man and his vision.

In World War II, the world witnessed ordinary Germans commit unspeakable

crimes against their neighbors and Jews. However, when Adenauer took the reins of control after the war, Germans rallied to his vision for the country. In what many called a miracle, West Germany rose from the ashes of war to become a great democratic power within a decade. It is this apparent contradiction within the German soul—being willing to shift its loyalties from one man to the next, from one vision to the next, from good to evil—that perplexes and frightens Europe. What Germany is today is not what Germany will be tomorrow. Germany is a chameleon.

Once it has a strong man at the helm, Germany enters a stage of stability, ambition and fearlessness. A sense of national destiny sets in. During this stage, it is most dangerous and cunning. In history, this stage can be compared to the Hitler years of 1933-1939, when acts of German belligerency escalated.

The next stage, then, is marked by war preparations and war itself, as Germany pursues its imperial ambitions. The last stage of this cycle is defeat at the hands of its enemies, after which, at some point, the cycle begins again.

What’s Next?

Even within the democratic straitjacket forced upon it after World War II, Germany has quietly, gradually implemented an imperialist policy within Europe, maneuvering its way to the top of what is today the European Union. At its heart, it has an expansionist mindset, which means Germany must dominate.

That is why, as Barzini wrote, “It is ... once again essential for everybody, the French, the British, the Italians, the other Europeans, as well as the Americans and the Soviets, to keep an eye across the Rhine and the Alps and the Elbe in order to figure out, as our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, the ancient Romans, and remote ancestors had to do, who the Germans are, who they think they are, what they are doing, and where they will go next ...” (op. cit.).

Should we be surprised at Germany’s growing disaffection with democracy? This trend aligns perfectly with its history and national cycle.

We can know where Germany is going next. Facing mounting international instability and growing dissatisfaction at home, Germany is ready for another strong man to step forward and harness the power of the German soul, which is increasingly eager to dump democracy and return to its Holy Roman roots. ■

BEHIND THE WORK provides news of the Philadelphia Church of God—the organization that publishes this magazine—headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma. Here we discuss three other PCG projects: a series of personal appearance campaigns by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry, excavations in Jerusalem in which Herbert W. Armstrong College students are currently participating, and the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation Performing Arts Series.

Gerald Flurry speaks in Los Angeles.



■ **Publisher Speaks to *Trumpet* Readers**

In 2006, *Trumpet* publisher and editor in chief Gerald Flurry launched a series of personal appearances for *Trumpet* readers. Themed “America In Crisis,” the lectures warn that “America and the entire world are staring blindly into the face of the same conditions which twice in the 20th century led to world war.” Since July, he has visited eight U.S. cities, including Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas and New York City.

When the campaigns move to a new city, invitations are sent to *Trumpet* readers, who can register for the event through a website or by calling toll-free. As of this writing, over 33,000 invitations have been sent out. Mr. Flurry then delivers a two-day conference in each city. Admission is free.

Public lectures were part of Herbert W. Armstrong’s “three-point plan,” a strategy that involved preaching God’s message through radio and television, publishing it via booklets and periodicals, and proclaiming the message personally via public campaigns.

■ **College Students Volunteer in Jerusalem Excavation**

In 2005, Israeli archeologist Eilat Mazar made what many in her field called “the find of the century”: She believes she has unearthed the palace of biblical King David. As we reported in the March 2006 *Trumpet*, she used information from the Bible itself to locate the site.

Realizing the importance of her find, *Trumpet* executive editor and Herbert W. Armstrong College President Stephen Flurry contacted Dr. Mazar, offering to send college students to help with the second phase of her excavations.

This offer was not unprecedented: Under Mr. Armstrong’s direction, Ambassador College formed a partnership with Hebrew University in 1968 to conduct archeological digs with Dr. Mazar’s grandfather, Dr. Benjamin Mazar. Mr. Armstrong called those digs “the most important archaeological excavation of our time.”

Nearly 40 years later, Dr. Mazar’s granddaughter enthusiastically accepted the college’s offer to work with her on this exciting project. In October 2006, three Armstrong College students joined the excavation team.

When announcing this project, Stephen Flurry wrote, “How incredible it is to think that as we work to revive Mr. Armstrong’s legacy and work, we might now have the opportunity to raise up the very stones of King David’s fallen palace.”

A Herbert W. Armstrong College student volunteer excavates in Jerusalem.



The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet performs at the John Amos Field House.

■ **Concert Series Features World-Class Performers**

In 1998, the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation (then the Philadelphia Foundation) began a small concert series in hopes that it would one day grow to be a grand series in the tradition of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation’s concert series founded by Mr. Armstrong, which showcased world-class performers from all over the world during the 1970s and ’80s.

This season, the Performing Arts Series concerts include Grammy-award-winning cellist and member of the Eroica Trio, Sara Sant’Ambrogio; musical comedian Peter Schickele, creator of P.D.Q. Bach; and the royal family of the Spanish guitar, the Romeros Quartet. Previous seasons have included concerts from the Eroica Trio, the Canadian Brass, the Vienna Choir Boys, the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet and other world-class performers.

The foundation has finished plans to build a new auditorium—a beautiful concert hall modeled after Ambassador Auditorium.



Artist’s rendering of planned auditorium

1962
\$0.80

Value of a
1950 dollar
M3 money supply
in billions of dollars

1968
\$0.69

Why the U.S. Dollar Constantly Loses Value

Your wealth is steadily evaporating. Why doesn't a dollar stretch like it used to? **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

EVER WONDER WHY YOUR DOLLAR doesn't seem to stretch as far as it used to? There is a simple explanation: It's worth less. The reason? The nation's money supply is constantly being expanded.

Between 1783 and 1913, the U.S. dollar was a real store of wealth. Except during wartime periods, inflation within the United States was essentially zero. If you saved one dollar in 1800, a hundred years later you could still purchase approximately the same amount of goods with your savings.

But in 1913 something changed, and the U.S. dollar started down a long, steady road of devaluations. Using the U.S. government's own figures, to obtain the same amount of purchasing power of \$100 in 1913, you would need over \$2,000 today.

In 1970, at the age of 77, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about how as a boy his mother had asked him to "[g]o to

the meat shop and get a dime's worth of round steak. And tell the butcher to put in plenty of suet." A "dime's worth" meant each person in his family received a modest-sized piece of meat, plus plenty of gravy for the potatoes.

In times past, the dollar certainly stretched further. Mr. Armstrong quoted the Labor Department's figures for how much \$5 would have purchased in 1913: 15 pounds of potatoes, 10 pounds of flour, 5 pounds of sugar, 5 pounds of chuck roast, 3 pounds of round steak, 3 pounds of rice, 2 pounds each of cheese and bacon, and a pound each of butter and coffee; that money would also get you two loaves of bread, 4 quarts of milk and a dozen eggs. "This would leave you with 2 cents for candy," he wrote.

Wow. At most grocery stores today, with \$5 you would be hard-pressed to buy a pound of round steak and a chocolate bar.

What changed in 1913? That was the year America adopted the Federal Reserve Banking (FRB) system and the nation took its first steps toward abolishing the gold standard and replacing it with a banking system that allowed for unlimited paper money to be created.

Creation of the Fiat System

As described by Alan Greenspan in 1966, the new system consisted of "regional Federal Reserve banks nominally owned by private bankers, but in fact government sponsored, controlled and supported. Credit extended by these banks is in practice (though not legally) backed by the taxing power of the federal government. ... But now, in addition to gold, credit extended by the Federal Reserve banks ('paper reserves') could serve as legal tender to pay depositors."

In other words, the dollar would only be partially backed by gold, and banks could create money by lending out money secured by credit from the Federal Reserve banks (even though the reserve banks did not necessarily have gold on deposit themselves). Thus the seeds of America's first *fiat* (currency not backed by gold) dollar system were sown.

At that time, however, there were still restraints

1974
\$0.49

1980
\$0.29

upon money-supply growth because the dollar was still convertible to gold upon demand. Anyone cashing in paper dollars was still legally entitled to its value in gold, so the money supply did not balloon completely out of control.

Yet by 1934, the paper money supply had expanded faster than the nation's gold supply, so in order to prevent the nation's gold supply from being drained, the U.S. decided to devalue

1980
\$2,000

the dollar—by 41 percent. Prior to 1934, an ounce of gold could be redeemed for just US\$20.67, however after the revision, the U.S. government would only part with an ounce of gold in exchange for \$35. In gold terms, anyone who had a U.S. savings account lost 41 percent of its value—overnight.

Even though the 1934 U.S. currency devaluation rocked people's confidence in the dollar, World War II thrust the U.S. dollar into a new status: the world's reserve currency. Toward the end of the war, representatives of most of the world's leading nations met to create a new international monetary system, later known as the Bretton Woods agreement. At this meeting, the war-torn and virtually bankrupt nations of the world decided that since the U.S. economy had come to dominate the globe, and because it held 80 percent of the world's gold due to the war, they would tie their currencies to the dollar, which, in turn, could be converted into gold at \$35 per ounce.

Yet under the Bretton Woods system there were still limits on how much paper money a country could create. Each country had to police its own currency or be forced into embarrassing devaluations. The U.S. itself was constrained from overprinting money because the dollar remained fully convertible into gold.

However, by 1971, America had again printed vastly more paper money than was backed by precious metal. According to some estimates, so many paper dollars had been created that the nation's gold supply only backed 22 percent of them. At the same time, French President Charles de Gaulle, recognizing that the dollar was losing value, had been exchanging his na-

tion's collection of U.S. dollars for American gold reserves. Seeing other nations following suit, U.S. President Richard Nixon closed the gold window in August 1971, no longer allowing foreigners to exchange their U.S. dollars for gold and thus ending the Bretton Woods agreement.

From that point on, America's dollar became fiat, not backed by tangible assets. As the Federal Reserve bank of Minneapolis says, the U.S. dollar is fiat and is valuable only as long as "[p]eople are willing to accept fiat money in exchange for the goods and services they sell"—and only as long as "they are confident it will be honored when they buy goods and services."

Since people were already in the habit of accepting paper backed by gold, Americans hardly noticed when the U.S. greenback became backed by nothing more than faith—until it started affecting their pocketbooks. Loss of the dollar's gold backing resulted in a U.S. dollar sell-off in which foreign nations dumped dollars on the open market. This in turn caused roaring inflation and gold to spike up into the \$800-per-ounce range. After the FRB jacked interest rates into the high teens, both Americans and foreigners decided they would trust the government and continued using the U.S. dollar.

The U.S. now operates on what many refer to as the Bretton Woods 2 system. Although there is no formal central bank agreement

(as was the case with Bretton Woods 1), many countries, especially those in Asia, have more or less informally pegged their currencies to the dollar.

This system is inherently more unstable than the previous precious-metal-based non-fiat system. Since the U.S. dollar is no longer convertible to gold,

2004
\$9,100

there is no theoretical limit to how much the U.S. money base can expand—and the U.S. has been taking full advantage of this situation to increase its money supply.

Nevertheless, as one well-known economics saying goes, there's no such thing as a free lunch. America's monetary expansion has been a primary driver behind the massive and continual erosion in the U.S. dollar's purchasing power.

The Dollar's Decline

During Alan Greenspan's term at the FRB alone, America's monetary base tripled and more new money came into being than under all previous Fed chairmen combined. As the government has massively increased the money supply—doubling it in the last seven years alone—those dollars have become less valuable.

So many dollars have been created that only the dollar's status as a reserve currency, along with the kindness of America's trade partners, has prevented a complete dollar meltdown. Unfortunately, these dollar supports seem to be crumbling.

At one point, 86 percent of the globe's transactions were denominated in dollars. Whether it was Russians and Saudis selling oil to the world, or Chinese purchasing wheat from Canada, the dollar was the primary means of payment. Thus, foreign nations needed to keep huge dollar reserves on hand. This was a gigantic plus for the dollar. Had foreign nations not needed to increase their

1998
\$5,900

1992
\$4,200

1986
\$3,500

1986
\$0.22

1992
\$0.17

1998
\$0.15

2004
\$0.12

holdings of dollars as world trade grew, there would have been a massive wave of homeless dollars roaming the world looking to be spent, and as the supply of dollars increased, the dollar's value would have plummeted. Instead, over the years, America has been able to get away with creating the money needed to pay its bills and finance an otherwise unaffordable standard of living.

However, the dollar's status as a reserve currency is now being challenged. In 2005, the percentage of dollar-denominated reserves held by foreign nations was 76 percent. Now, not two years later, it is down to 65 percent. "[T]here is a gentle and osmotic process underway," says economic analyst Julian D.W. Phillips: "a lessening of the role of the U.S. dollar in the global reserves" (Financial Sense Online, Nov. 6, 2006).

Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan is also warning of possible protracted dollar dumping. "We're beginning to see some move from the dollar to the euro, both from the private sector ... but also from monetary authorities and central banks," he said in October last year.

Although an all-out revolt against the dollar hasn't yet occurred, clear signals are emerging that the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency of choice could be ending. Last year, Russia's central bank, Sweden's Riksbank, the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar Central Bank and the Central Bank of Syria all announced intentions to diversify their reserves away from the greenback.

Perhaps more worrisome is the fact that China and other Asian nations also have been hinting at diversifying out of their dollar reserve holdings. Austra-

lian Treasurer Peter Costello admonished central bankers in East Asia "to 'telegraph' their intentions to diversify out of American investments and ensure an orderly adjustment" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, Oct. 18, 2006). Over the past several years, central banks in China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong have spent hundreds of billions purchasing American government bonds. They have done so to support the dollar and help keep American consumers purchasing Asian-made products. If Mr. Costello is correct, however, "the strategy [has now] changed." Recent trends suggest Asians are weaning themselves off American consumption. Consumer demand within China and Asia is growing, as is Asian trade with Europe. As the importance of Asian-American trade wanes, the incentive

History Says Dollar Is Doomed

HISTORY is littered with the wrecks of paper money adventures. In hundreds of cases, in all lands, at all times, the story has been the same: loss of confidence in and eroding value of fiat currencies. Paper money does not work; the temptation of the printing press is too great. Emperors, kings, presidents, prime ministers and central bankers have not been able to resist the temptation: When faced with economic problems or overspending, they have all chosen to *create* the money needed to pay bills or fight wars.

The world's first known experiment with fiat money (paper money not backed by tangible assets like silver or gold) was in 10th-century China. At first successful, it was abandoned a few hundred years later because it, like all the paper currencies that followed, was found to be too susceptible to inflation. But, to China's credit, a few hundred years is actually pretty successful as far as paper money goes.

By 1200, the Chinese had forgotten this earlier failure and launched another paper money scheme, this time under Kublai Khan. Marco Polo was so impressed, he reported that Kublai Khan "had the secret of alchemy in perfection" and that he "causes each year to be made such a vast quantity of money that it must equal in quantity all the treasure of the world." But Marco Polo visited Kahn's empire during a time that American historian Alexander Del Mar called "the most brilliant period in the history of China"—which, it turns out, was just before its collapse. "Kublai Khan entered upon a series of internal improvements and civil reforms, which raised the country he had conquered to the highest rank of civilization, power and progress. ... Population and trade had greatly increased, but the emissions of paper notes outran both, and the inevitable consequence was depreciation. ... *Excessive and too*

rapid augmentation of the currency resulted in the entire subversion of the old order of society. The best families in the empire were ruined" (Bullion Vault, Oct. 27, 2006).

Fiat currency adventures in Europe also have a history of painful failures. For hundreds of years, the Roman Empire reigned, increasing in power and influence. Even when Nero decided to start debasing the

currency by taking the silver out of the coins, Rome prospered for a while.

However, as Rome decayed, successive emperors continued to remove the silver content of the denarius to pay the bills. Early in the first century, the denarius had been essentially pure silver. By the time of Nero, in A.D. 54, the silver content of the denarius had slipped to 94 percent; by A.D. 68, it had fallen to 81 percent; by A.D. 218, only 43 percent was silver. In A.D. 244, Philip had the silver content reduced to 0.5 percent. At the time of Rome's fall, the silver content of the denarius was 0.02 percent and pretty much everyone was refusing to accept

it as payment for anything (LewRockwell.com, Nov. 4, 2006).

But central banks and governments are poor students even of more recent history.

During the 1700s, France stands out as a paper-currency basket case. John Law first established a paper currency in France in 1716. Backed by King Louis XV, who declared all taxes had to be paid with paper dollars, it gained wide acceptance—more so than coinage, in fact. But as with all paper currencies, excessive printing, additional moneymaking schemes (e.g. the Mississippi bubble), and fraud eventually blew up the system, wiping out many people's investments and savings.

During the late 18th century, a new French government again adopted fiat currency, which was called the "assignat." But again, money-creating destroyed it: By 1795 inflation had reached 13,000



PAYING THE BILLS
Zimbabwe's Mugabe paid national debts by printing more money. The result: the currency collapsed.

LUIS ACOSTA/AP/GETTY IMAGES

for Asians to support the dollar and to hold on to their massive dollar reserves is waning as well.

America's Asian creditors are up to their necks in U.S. dollars and may now be reaching the point where they no longer feel it is safe to hold so great a proportion of their foreign currency reserves in the dollar.

"The exchange rate of the U.S. dollar, which is the major reserve currency, is going lower, increasing the depreciation risk for East Asian reserve assets," warned the People's Bank of China Deputy Governor Wu Xiaoling in November. The same month, the central bank's governor, Zhou Xiaochuan, was quoted as saying that China has plans to diversify its assets into "many instruments," presumably indicating a move away from the dollar (*Forbes*, Nov. 24, 2006).

This is big news, since China is the second-largest foreign holder of dollars

in the world after Japan. China is estimated to hold approximately 70 percent of its \$1 trillion of currency reserves in U.S. dollars. It certainly seems that Chinese central-bank officials are following Costello's advice about being up front when they plan to sell their dollars. The question doesn't seem to be *whether* the Asian banks will dump dollars—it is how orderly and significant the dollar devaluation will be.

America's massive monetary expansion could be about to boomerang on itself, as it did in 1934 and 1971—only this time, the number of dollars involved absolutely dwarfs all previous currency crises. As the U.S. persistently destroys the value of the dollar by overprinting (or, more correctly, over-creating, since most money created is now digital), foreign nations are losing confidence in the dollar and its role as a reserve currency. Foreign central bank sales are the first

waves of a coming dollar storm. The more that central banks dump dollars, the greater the loss of investor confidence in the dollar.

As Congressman Ron Paul wrote in *Texas Straight Talk*, May 15, 2006, "The consequences of a rapidly declining dollar are not yet fully understood by the American public. The long-term significance has not sunk in, but when it does there will be political hell to pay in Washington. Our relative wealth as a nation is measured in dollars, and the steady erosion of the value of those dollars means we will all be poorer in the future."

As much as the dollar's value has fallen in the past, Americans must face the reality of far more dramatic drops to come. ■

For the most up-to-date information, visit
theTrumpet.com/Economy

percent. Napoleon replaced the assignat with the gold franc, inflation subsided, and a century of relative economic stability resulted. In the 1930s, the French again adopted a paper franc. In 12 years, its currency lost 99 percent of its value.

Weimar Germany is another example of a failed currency. At the end of World War I, Germany decided to print the money needed to pay the debts it owed foreign nations. By the time the government was done printing money, the currency had been so debased that postage stamps cost millions of deutsche marks.

In 1932, before adopting a paper currency, Argentina was the eighth-largest economy in the world. Since abolishing their precious-metal-backed currency, Argentines have been plagued with continual currency inflation—even hyperinflation reminiscent of Weimar Germany. The latest bout was in 2001, when the peso lost 75 percent of its value in one year.

Each couple of years it seems like another nation's fiat currency falls apart. In 1992, Finland, Italy, Norway and other European countries suffered when their currencies devalued. In 1994, it was the Mexican peso "tequila hangover" crisis, which spread through several Latin American nations including Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina. 1997 was the year of the "Asian flu" contagion, which started with the Thai baht and then within days spread to Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong and South Korea. The currency collapses associated with "bahtulism" were still destabilizing other currencies in 1999. 1998 saw the Russian ruble fall apart and experience massive devaluations. In February 2001, the Turkish lira lost 40 percent of its value in one day.

To attempt to chronicle the massive currency devaluations that are endemic to many African nations would require stacks of paper, but Zimbabwe is too clear cut of an example to pass up. Formerly known as Rhodesia, Zimbabwe was one of the wealthiest countries in Africa. In fact, at the time of its independence in 1980, the Zimbabwe dollar was worth more than the U.S. dollar. Then along came President Robert Mugabe, who decided to seize virtually all property owned by white citizens to give to black citizens. The upheaval within society caused an economic collapse. With a non-functioning economy and falling tax revenues, Mugabe decided to just print up the money needed to pay the

bills, destroying Zimbabwe's currency and any of his people's savings in the process. As of May 2006, it cost \$416 Zimbabwe dollars to purchase a single two-ply square of toilet paper, while a whole roll cost \$145,750.

Why should we think America is somehow special and immune to currency crisis? Go back and study history. In addition to the fact that the U.S. dollar has lost 92 percent of its purchasing power since 1913—41 percent in the 1934 revaluation alone—there were times previously when the dollar lost even more value.

Maybe you have heard the expression "not worth a continental." That expression developed in regard to America's paper money during the Revolutionary War era (not Ford's Lincoln Continental luxury vehicle). Congress printed Continentals to pay for the war, but the currency, having no backing, soon lost its value.

The U.S. government again tried a paper currency experiment during the Civil War. The Legal Tender Act of 1862 allowed the Lincoln administration to issue paper money backed by nothing but the government's decree that it be accepted for trade. The paper money lost value so quickly that the practice of fiat currency in America fell out of favor until the Federal Reserve System was put in place in 1913. Paper money in the South by the end of the Civil War was worth even less.

The sad part is that when governments resort to mass currency creation, it is the common person's savings that get destroyed. The interest earned in savings accounts never keeps up with mass-printing-induced inflation.

For the U.S. dollar, its final link to a hard, tangible asset was severed 35 years ago. Today, the majority of dollars are little more than bits of electronic information zooming between banks and corporations that people don't even see, and which they need computers with super calculators to keep track of. How much confidence is left in the inflated U.S. dollar—a dollar whose value remains high not for any tangible reason, but only because so far America's trade partners are still willing to accept it?

In Weimar Germany, when the mark was inflated into practical worthlessness, at least the German people were left with tinder and toilet paper. When the dollar collapses and no one wants it, most of it will probably just be deleted.

ROBERT MORLEY

GERMANY

Troops Must Learn "How to Kill"



REUTERS/HANSHKE/AP/GETTY IMAGES

STEP IT UP German NATO troops in Afghanistan have been asked to take a more active combat role.

NATO IS FAILING IN Afghanistan. The nation is experiencing the worst wave of violence since NATO troops ousted the Taliban in 2001. Reconstruction progress has stalled. The Taliban is gaining strength and the opium drug trade is reaping more profits today than it did before the United States invaded.

Up against these challenges, NATO is looking to Germany to step up and begin shouldering more responsibility.

The southern part of Afghanistan, which sees the fiercest fighting, is patrolled by U.S., Canadian, Dutch and British forces, while the northern, more peaceful region is watched by German troops. German deployment to the north means Germany loses fewer soldiers in combat than other nations. As 2006 wound down, the Afghanistan operation had killed 45 Canadians, 43 Britons and 357 Americans, but only 18 Germans. This gap between German casualties and those of other

nations is prompting NATO members to call for Germany to beef up its contribution, which so far has been limited

to non-combat roles. One U.S. official expressed it this way: "The Germans have to learn how to kill" (Spiegel Online, Nov. 20, 2006).

It's an ironic statement. It is true that modern Germany has been skittish about exercising military power for fear of resurrecting the ghosts of World Wars I and II. It is because of that very history, the capstones of an even more voluminous history of German militarism, that "The Germans have to learn how to kill" makes the ears tingle. As in Lebanon, however, the international community is pressuring Germany to increase its military contribution and assume more responsibility in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Germans are showing themselves increasingly eager to break free of the shackles those nega-

tive associations have placed upon them. As reluctant as the Germans have been to accept combat roles in Afghanistan, their defense ministry has planned for such an eventuality, analyzing battle plans that would deploy 1,000 German troops from the north to the south to aid Germany's allies.

"The upshot," wrote Spiegel, "is that Berlin may be entering the final phase of its return to the international stage, one in which German soldiers could soon embark on combat missions where they will shoot and be shot at. The question now is whether Germany is ready—emotionally, politically and militarily—for war" (ibid.).

As the cloak of pacifism that Germany has shrouded itself in since the last world war gives way, the world will see that this emerging global power is indeed ready for war.

Return of the Spies

AFTER LYING RELATIVELY dormant for 20 years, Germany's intelligence service is coming alive and showing signs that it is about to undergo a major overhaul.

The most recent sign of the transformation of Germany's Federal Intelligence Services (Bundesnachrichtendienst, or BND) occurred in mid-November 2006 when construction began on the agency's impressive new headquarters in Berlin. At a cost of €720 million (US\$920 million), the BND's sleek, sophisticated new facility is the largest state-sponsored construction project since World War II.

Upon completion in 2012, the massive facility is to house 4,000 BND employees, most of whom will be transferred from the present headquarters near Munich.

This decision by Berlin to undergo such a large and expensive project (ridiculed as unnecessary by many Germans) reveals the growing importance and attention Germany's leadership is giving to its intelligence agency and network of spies.

Expatica recently discussed the response by Otto Schily, interior minister during Gerhard Schröder's chancellorship, to those who oppose the construction project. "He argues that when flashpoint situations arise in the world, and German citizens' lives are endangered, the government has to react calmly, but swiftly. With the BND located in Berlin, the lines of communication between the government and the intelligence service are



REUTERS

LOOKING AHEAD The head of Germany's intelligence agency (right) shows the chancellor a model of the new BND headquarters.

likely to be more effective..." (Nov. 15, 2006). The relocation of the BND is intended not only to improve this one agency's efficiency, but also

The Legacy of Donald Rumsfeld

THE TENURE OF FORMER Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who resigned in November, has left the U.S. military in a vulnerable state.

Rumsfeld was appointed secretary of defense by President George W. Bush in 2001 to more or less overhaul the U.S. military.

The aim, according to Stratfor, was to “skip over an entire generation of military hardware” in order to develop new technologies (Nov. 9, 2006). The hoped-for result: Twenty years on, U.S. military technology would be two generations ahead of the technology used by any potential enemy. In the meantime, there would be “a massive reduction in

the size of the military, with the Army suffering the largest cuts in manpower and resources.”

A fine strategy perhaps, all things being equal. But then came September 11. Then came Afghanistan and Iraq. Then came insurgency warfare. “Boots on the ground”



REUTERS

became indispensable—all the advanced technology being developed did nothing to prevent the troops from being overstretched. Thus, the Iraq war has had a severe effect on the readiness of the U.S. military, particularly the Army. “Long-term damage to manpower has already been caused . . . Furthermore, the expenses of resetting units—repairing and replacing damaged and lost equipment—as they return from Iraq have yet to be addressed. The effects of this will be enormous” (ibid., Dec. 8, 2006).

Meanwhile, the so-called “transformation” of the Army has been stunted: As a result of funding constraints, the Army’s latest budget plan outlines deep cuts, particularly in the Future Combat Systems program—the core program aimed at transforming the Army.

“The irony is that,” wrote Stratfor, “instead of leaping ahead by a generation, U.S. forces have now been saddled with the worst of both worlds: an exhausted military that will take years to repair, and limited progress

that of the entire German government.

With crises surging across the globe, the demand for Berlin to help manage these issues is intensifying. In recent years, Germany has been deeply involved both politically and militarily in such key arenas as the Balkans, Afghanistan, Eastern Europe, Lebanon, Israel, and throughout Africa. Last month, the *Trumpet* reported on the key, albeit covert, role the BND is playing between Israel and Hezbollah. It is a nation in demand.

As Germany becomes more sought-after, all the while facing internal crises such as the threat of radical Islam, watch for the government to allocate more time, money and resources to resurrecting the infamous German spy agency.

Sharia Law Spreading in Britain

ISLAMIC LAW is becoming the law of the land in select pockets of Britain. Though *sharia* law—the



ARTVILLE/TRUMPET

Islamic code of justice—has no legal authority in Britain, some Muslims are sidestepping the English criminal justice system in order to have their cases tried by Islamic judges.

“*Sharia* courts now operate in most larger cities,” said the director of the Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity, in a Nov. 30, 2006, *Telegraph* article. He says these *sharia* councils “cater to [sectarian and ethnic groups] specific needs according to their traditions” and offer an “alternative parallel unofficial legal system.”

Polls indicate significant support among British Muslims for the *sharia* system. In a report in the Aug. 7, 2006, edition of the *Scotsman*, one third of British Muslims said they would prefer living under Islamic law—in England—rather than British law.

The *Telegraph* article cited a specific case where a group of Somali youths, arrested over suspicion of stabbing a Somali teenager, were released on bail when the victim’s family said they wanted to settle the case out of court. The matter

was decided by an unofficial Somali court in southeast London.

Britain has done a ter-

rible job of assimilating its burgeoning immigrant population. Embarrassed by its own imperial history, Britain is eager to accommodate the eccentricities of whatever foreign cultures may choose to plant their flags on British soil. It provides immigrants no sense of pride in Britishness, nothing positive to identify with. It is afraid to insist on migrants giving up anything of their own cultural identity, even when that may pose a threat to other Britons.

This fact has resulted in Britain, particularly London, playing host to an astonishing wash of anti-British attitudes and activities. Numerous radical groups—including arms of al Qaeda—have planted their headquarters or significant operations there.

The existence within British cities of courts judging British citizens who commit crimes by foreign laws is yet another example of how Britain’s unquestioning devotion to the principles of multiculturalism is eroding its sense of national identity and endangering its people.

in the modernization that they will likely need a generation from now” (op. cit.).

Without a doubt, the U.S. military is still the most advanced and powerful in the world, but it is straining under heavy operational and

cost burdens. This, together with a broken national will, is encouraging the rest of the world to race to catch up. We will yet see that Herbert W. Armstrong’s proclamation in 1961 that “America has won its last war” will prove true.

B-2 Technology Not So Stealth

CLASSIFIED B-2 STEALTH bomber technology has been leaked to China, say U.S. officials. A Hawaii-based spy allegedly obtained critical technology that will allow Beijing to copy and counter one of America's most advanced weapons systems. Investigation reveals that U.S. Stealth technology may have been leaking since 1999.

In a Nov. 15, 2006, grand jury indictment, Indian-born engineer Noshir Gowadia was charged with 18 counts of spying. Besides providing China with classified technology relating to the B-2's engine exhaust system, he was also charged with several other counts of selling top-secret information.

Justice Department officials claim that Gowadia was paid approximately \$2 million for the B-2 secrets. If true, China got a true bargain—paying pennies on the dollar for technology that took many years and likely cost hundreds of millions or more to develop.

U.S. experts familiar with the case say “the compromise of the B-2 technology is extremely damaging because it will give China key secrets on the bomber” (*Washington Times*, Nov. 23, 2006).

B-2 bombers are part of what the Pentagon calls its “hedge” strategy: to have forces in position and with the ability to swiftly defeat China in any future conflict. China's procurement of this technology severely compromises that strategy.

Gowadia is also accused of providing China with extensive technical assistance to help it develop and test a radar-evading Stealth cruise missile, and also showing China how to modify the cruise missile to lock on to

U.S. air-to-air missiles.

If what prosecutors say is true, the Stealth genie may be out of the bottle. Gowadia is also charged with divulging “secret” and “top secret” U.S. Stealth technology-related data pertaining to the TH-98 Eurocopter and other foreign commercial aircraft to Germany, Switzerland and Israel between 2002 and 2004. All told, he is accused of offering classified defense



COMPROMISED B-2 stealth technology

information to as many as eight nations.

Earlier last year, another espionage case involving China occurred where two brothers (Chi and Tai Mak) were accused of being unregistered agents

for the Chinese. Authorities accused the Mak family of trying to pass on restricted naval warship technology concerning the advanced DDG destroyer.

As one defense official pointed

out, commenting on the Gowadia case, these recent incidents illustrate “China's intelligence efforts to counter key weapons systems that give the United States strategic advantages over Chinese forces” (*ibid.*).

JAPAN

Military to Assume New Role

DESPITE BEING ONE OF THE WORLD'S largest and most sophisticated militaries, Japan's military is saddled with pacifist restrictions. It operates under a constitution that confines it to acting primarily as a defensive organ with little influence in the Diet, Japan's governing body. On Dec. 15, 2006, however, Japan's parliament enacted defense bills that will help change that.

First, after more than 50 years of operating as a second-tier agency buried behind other influential government ministries, Japan's Defense Agency is being upgraded in status to become the Defense Ministry. *Asia Times* reported on the significance of this change on Dec. 1, 2006: “[T]he director general of the agency will become the defense minister. It will be the first time the name of the agency has been changed in its 53-year history. At present, the Defense Agency is under the direct control of the prime minister as an affiliate of the Cabinet Office. One of the state ministers at the Cabinet Office heads the agency as its director general. Unlike ministries, the current agency cannot call snap cabinet meetings to make big decisions, nor can it submit bills to the Diet on its own. Instead, the agency has to go through the Cabinet Office. The agency also has to make budget requests in the name of the Cabinet Office rather than the agency

chief. The change in status to a ministry will enable the defense entity to follow administrative procedures more smoothly.”

The decision to give the Defense Agency a more prominent voice in Japanese politics shows Tokyo's desire to consider military matters in its foreign policy. With North Korea creating problems, China beefing up its military establishment and American influence declining in Asia, Tokyo wants to open up its strategic and military options.

The second bill approves the expansion of the *primary duties* of Japan's Self Defense Forces (SDF). Since the SDF was established in 1954, its primary duties have been confined to national defense and disaster relief at home. Overseas operations, classified as “supplementary duties,” required an elaborate approval process. *Asia Times* explained how the bill to expand the SDF's primary duties “will put such activities as international emergency assistance missions, participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations and support for the U.S. military during emergencies near Japan on par with national-defense and disaster-relief operations at home” (*ibid.*).

This legislation to upgrade the status of the military within the government and to

expand the primary functions of the military is symbolic of the growing importance that Tokyo (with the support of its citizens) is placing on national security, as well as Japan's role in Asia and the world.



SELF-DEFENSE? Japanese Navy vessels exercise.

Takeover of Scottish Power?

ONE OF SCOTLAND'S MOST strategic corporations is being auctioned off to a foreign company. The \$22 billion (£11.6 billion) takeover of Scottish Power by Spanish energy corporation Iberdrola will give the Spanish conquistador 5.2 million customers and 6,200 megawatts of power-generation capacity within the UK. Iberdrola will then control 10 percent of the energy market in the UK, making it the fifth-largest energy provider for the

British Isles.

Scottish Power is one of the last Scottish-owned and -headquartered corporations of any significance left in Scotland, says member of Scottish Parliament and economic affairs spokesman Jim Mather. "Scottish Power is one of only 19 companies employing more than 5,000 people with their headquarters in Scotland, and is the biggest industrial company in the country," he said (*Sunday Herald*, Nov. 12, 2006).



GENERATING INTEREST Spanish energy company Iberdrola's takeover of Scottish Power will create another energy giant.

Scottish Power is an economic jewel—with a well-diversified asset mix, including natural gas, coal and wind power, located in both the U.S. and the UK. At a time of high and rising natural gas prices, this diversification is key: Scottish Power has been able to react to changing market conditions and generate a greater proportion of its energy from coal, which is much less expensive than natural gas. This gives an energy company a huge advantage, especially one in the British Isles, where demand drove natural gas inventories to near record-low levels this past year.

Scottish Power's wind energy also becomes a lucrative alternative, as it has one of the largest wind power generators in the U.S. and UK. This, in fact, could be one of the driving factors behind the Iberdrola takeover. The combined company would be the world's largest producer of electricity from wind.

The sale of Scottish Power is just one example in a hoard of foreign takeovers hitting Britain's energy utilities. German energy giant RWE Power owns Britain's third-largest energy supplier, NPower, which supplies electricity and gas to approximately 6 million customers. Another German energy giant, E.On, owns even more of Britain's energy distribution system. Through its subsidiary Powergen, E.On provides power and gas to 9 million British customers, making it Britain's second-

largest electricity and gas provider. EDF Energy, the French state-owned energy giant, is Britain's fifth-largest electricity and gas provider. If the rumors are correct, Russia's state-owned gas giant

Gazprom may be seeking to take over Centrica, Britain's largest gas utility, supplying gas to 13 million homes.

Sadly, few question the wisdom of putting Britain's heat and electricity in the hands of foreign corporations, even when so many strategic industries in the UK have already been snapped up.

LATIN AMERICA

Anti-U.S. Club Gets Bigger

THE UNITED STATES has lost another Latin American ally—Ecuador. In December, Rafael Correa, who has publicly extolled his friendship with anti-U.S. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and has promised to close a U.S. military base, was officially declared president by the nation's electoral court.



CORREA

balancing Ecuador's economic recovery with keeping constituents happy.

Correa also faces a Congress controlled by his opponents. This means he could either be ousted like his predecessor or he could turn into another Chavez and eventually seize control of Congress.

Regardless of Correa's fate as president, Ecuador's people have shown they do not support the U.S. Back in May 2006, during public strikes and protests, the government canceled some of its oil contracts with U.S.-owned Occidental Petroleum and transferred them to the nationally owned company Petroecuador. These are the kinds of measures the U.S. can expect Ecuador to take—the kind that leave the U.S. out of the picture.

Thus, Ecuador joins the anti-U.S. club in South America, along with Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. Unfortunately for the U.S., the club keeps growing.

Correa is Ecuador's eighth president in 10 years. The last elected president, U.S. ally Lucio Gutierrez, was ousted by Ecuador's Congress and forced to flee the country in April 2005 when thousands of protestors took to the capital city's streets. (His vice president, Alfredo Palacio, was then appointed president.) Gutierrez ran on a populist anti-U.S. platform but soon after his election reversed his position and began working with the U.S. and the International Monetary Fund to bring the nation out of its economic woes.

Correa, who also ran on an anti-U.S. platform, now faces the same challenge of

QUOTABLE

MIDDLE EAST

A Notable Difference of Opinion

"The Palestinian and Israel peoples have suffered enough. It is time to proceed in the peace process."

—**EHUD OLMERT**, Israeli prime minister, during a Dec. 23, 2006, meeting with Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority. Olmert said he is prepared to grant Palestinians a state, release funds and free prisoners if they choose the path of peace.

"[W]e need a period of calm to recuperate. This lull in fighting will not bring us to speak about peace. ... The political leadership [of Hamas] will never compromise on these values."

—**ABU ABDULLAH**, operational member of Hamas's Izzedine al-Qassam Martyrs Brigades, on how the present ceasefire aligns with Hamas's founding doctrine, which calls for the destruction of Israel.

Today's moral battles
reveal that the larger war
has already been lost.
Our rampant immorality
is
as Jesus Christ said
it would be ...

“As in
of the Days
Noah”

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

LISTENING TO THE MEDIA after President Bush and the Republicans won the 2004 elections, one might have assumed that the United States was in the midst of a great spiritual revival. According to the skewed findings of one poll, Americans supposedly based their vote on “moral values” more than any other single issue, including terrorism, the war in Iraq and the economy. *Americans had had enough. Moral values now mattered.*

As is often the case, the mainstream media couldn't have been more wrong. As we informed our readers in December 2004, “In truth, our moral values have been in sharp decline for decades. ... No Republican victory will ever resurrect our nationwide moral collapse.”

Fast-forward two years. Led by a radical leftist from San Francisco, the Democrats rallied to wrest control of Congress from the Republicans. This time, however, mainstream commentators seemed indifferent to the agenda of America's new third-most powerful leader, Nancy Pelosi—who is for homosexual marriage, abortion rights, higher taxes and amnesty for illegal immigrants, and is anti-military.

One right-wing commentator insisted that America was still a morally conservative nation, no matter the gains liberals enjoyed at the ballot boxes. How did he arrive at that conclusion? By pointing to controversial referendums also voted on in November, like homosexual marriage. America is morally conservative, he said, because 56 percent of Coloradans voted to ban homosexual marriage.

Fifty-six percent? We're morally “conservative” because only 44 percent of citizens in Colorado want to *legalize* homosexual marriage?

Imagine George Washington stepping into a voting booth in 1792 and reading “Legalize Same-Sex Marriage” on his ballot. Or “Legalize Marijuana.” Or “Parental Notification”—should doctors notify parents before performing an abortion on a 12-year-old?

That these items are *even being voted on* illustrates how steep our moral slide has been the past few generations.

Premarital Sex Now “Normal”

In December, a new study revealed that 95 percent of Americans have had sex prior to marriage. Based on his findings,

the author of the study argued against government-sponsored abstinence-only programs, saying that we should focus instead on teaching young people to be “safe once they become sexually active—which nearly everyone eventually will.”

In other words, why bother with teaching God's laws if everyone fornicates before marriage?

When called upon to defend the Bush administration's abstinence policies, Wade Horn of the Department of Health and Human Services said the purpose was to “help young people delay the onset of sexual activity.” But was it to discourage premarital sex among adults? “Absolutely not,” he said. “The Bush administration does not believe the government should be regulating or stigmatizing the behavior of adults.”

Fine—the government cannot regulate human conduct. Churches do that, right?

Wrong. Church leaders today know well that if they were to preach God's view on morality, they would lose congregants. As Jay Tolson wrote in *U.S. News & World Report*, “While most evangelicals would like to see Christian morality as the ruling ethos of the nation, they also believe Americans should be free to live the way they choose” (Dec. 8, 2003). The title of a *USA Today* article says it all: “Americans define faith *their way*” (Sept. 12, 2006; emphasis mine throughout).

Tolson quoted one preacher from North Carolina saying, “The bottom line is that evangelicals subscribe to personal faith as

paramount. ... You can't shove religion down people's throats.” This is why, Tolson explained, “evangelicals put so much money and energy into extensive *social-service* ministries, and why so many evangelical pastors strive to create

'seeker-friendly' megachurches with non-traditional, multimedia services that *reassure* and *entertain* as much as they edify.”

And to think, these *social-service* ministries with a *come as you are, stay as you are* gospel have those on the secular left downright terrified. FORGET ABOUT RADICAL ISLAM. Run from the Christian fundamentalists!

Know Jesus?

Another pastor quoted in Tolson's article admitted that abortion and homosexual-

ity were “minor concerns” at his church. “The bell we beat is that we must know Jesus.”

Know Jesus? You mean the same Jesus who called upon sinners to *repent*? The same Jesus who admonished the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well to “call thy husband,” knowing full well that she was living with a man out of wedlock? “Ye worship ye know not what,” He told the woman after she claimed to be religious (John 4:22). *That Jesus?*

What about the Jesus who confronted the woman caught in the act of adultery? *I don't condemn you*, He said, before adding, “Go, and **SIN NO MORE**” (John 8:11). She wasn't lost. But she was living in sin—AND JESUS CHRIST TOLD HER TO STOP. *Shame on Him for “shoving His religion down her throat.”*

Jesus said to even *look* upon a woman in lust is adultery (Matthew 5:28). And adultery is something we must repent of—or else.

Or else what? *New Testament* theology says that adulterers and fornicators will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). It most certainly does NOT say *define your religious views YOUR way*. It does not say, *We want to reassure you that we're fine with premarital sex. Just come join us for some good old-fashioned entertainment this Sunday.*

God's Word says, point blank, that adulterers and fornicators will not inherit the Kingdom of God—period.

Now put yourself in the congregation at Corinth.

You're sitting there before services in the spring of A.D.

55 and find out that your pastor wrote a

lengthy letter that will be read as the

sermon for the day. *Fantastic!* you think to yourself.

We get to hear from God's apostle today.

And then—**BAM!**

Paul rebukes the entire congregation for allowing FORNICATION in the church (1

Corinthians 5:1). He then publicly excommunicates the known offender and asks the brethren pointedly, **DON'T YOU KNOW**

that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? (verse 6). *This is Christianity 101*, he says. *If we begin to tolerate such blatant disregard*

for God's laws in our midst, then that rebellious, define-faith-your-own-way attitude will infect the whole congregation. Paul instructs, *Cast out the offender and don't*

even communicate with him (verse 9).

Church leaders today know well

that if they were to preach

God's view on morality,

they would

lose congregants.

He then asks, *Don't you know that adulterers and fornicators will not inherit the Kingdom of God?* This is fundamental, in other words.

IT'S ALSO DEADLY SERIOUS! Why aren't theologians today willing to risk personal gain for the sake of telling their congregants the TRUTH? That's how Paul ministered. Right after his conversion, while in Damascus, antagonists plotted to kill him, prompting a few of his supporters to lower him from a window in a basket to facilitate his escape to Jerusalem. After he arrived there, his disputing with the Grecians triggered another murderous plot. Paul fled again to Caesarea and then Tarsus.

During his evangelistic tours, Paul was expelled from Antioch, Iconium and Berea; stoned and left for dead at Lystra; mobbed at Thessalonica and Ephesus; beaten with rods and jailed in Philippi; arrested in Corinth and Jerusalem; jailed in Caesarea; shipwrecked in Malta; and then jailed twice in Rome, his second go-round ending in his beheading. *That's just what we glean from the book of Acts.* In 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us the Jews whipped him with 39 stripes on five separate occasions. Three times he was beaten with rods.

Now imagine this same Paul, whose body was visibly marred by the multiple beatings, stonings and whippings, starting a mega-church where Christians were free to live the way *they* chose. Imagine this same servant of God, who "knew Jesus," saying that abortion, homosexuality, adultery and fornication were of "minor concern." Entertainment and building up people's self-esteem—*that's what really fills the seats.*

You KNOW it wasn't like that. Paul risked everything—and ultimately sacrificed his own head—in order to preach the word, "to REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT with all longsuffering and doctrine," which is what he instructed his most trusted assistant to do. Shortly before his beheading, Paul wrote, "For the time will come when

Because of their own lusts, people simply will not hear the law of God.

they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their OWN LUSTS shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Because of their own lusts, people simply will not hear the law of God. They want to be told "smooth things" (Isaiah 30:9-10). And preachers today—under the heavy influence of our secularist, anti-God, moral-relativist culture—seem more than happy to oblige them.

As Herbert W. Armstrong asked nearly 40 years ago, "Where does Almighty God pin the guilt for this moral collapse? He pins it squarely on the world's clergy—the theologians—the priests—the rectors—the ministers—the preachers! They, who ought to be society's moral leaders, have forsaken the Creator God and have become society's followers!" The title of the book that was taken from says it all: *God SPEAKS OUT on the New Morality.*

Just because 95 percent of the people are doing it doesn't mean God considers the conduct lawful.

Divorce Now "Moral"

Sixty-six percent of Americans now view divorce as "morally acceptable," according to Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs survey. Not just acceptable—*morally* acceptable.

How would Jesus respond to that poll? "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication [this has to do with illicit sexual activity prior to marriage that was not disclosed to the spouse until after the wedding; fraud, in other words], causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matthew 5:31-32).

Forget about today: What Christ taught on the subject of divorce was viewed as extreme in *His day*—even among self-righteous Pharisees. *But didn't Moses "command" Israelites to divorce if their marriages didn't work out?* they asked Jesus in Matthew 19. Moses did allow it, He told them, but only "because of the hardness of your hearts." Jesus continued, "But from the beginning it was not so" (verse 8).

Jesus asked them, "Haven't you read ...?" *These are fundamental principles of God's Word! Don't you know? This is basic.*

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them

male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6). Is your mind capable of analyzing the subject of divorce from *God's* viewpoint? Or do you now see it as "moral" simply because everyone's doing it?

Forget about today: What Christ taught on the subject of divorce was viewed as extreme in *His day*—even among self-righteous Pharisees.

GOD HATES DIVORCE! He hates it because, as *Jesus Himself* said, it not only wrecks families—it destroys nations (Mark 3:24-25). And so God doesn't care if 100 percent of Americans label divorce as morally acceptable. It isn't. And the devastating consequences of divorce prove God is right.

In a recent issue of *Time*, James Dobson wrote, "Because adults wanted to dissolve difficult marriages with fewer strings attached, reformers made it easier in the late 1960s to dissolve nuclear families. Though there are exceptions, the legacy of no-fault divorce is countless shattered lives within three generations, adversely affecting children's behavior, academic performance and mental and physical health. No-fault divorce reflected our selfish determination to do what was convenient for adults, and it has been, on balance, a disaster" (Dec. 18, 2006).

But you have to understand, people say. We're way beyond divorce and pre-marital sex. Everybody does those things. Let's get to the real issues, like same-sex marriages, or legalization of mind-altering drugs, or partial-birth abortions.

Radical leftists WANT these sins legalized. These are the issues they are MOST passionate about. And it is *these issues* over which they encounter resistance from the right. *That fact alone* shows how far our standards of morality have dropped! "*Conservatives*" have already conceded miles of territory in the morality war.

One wonders what we'll be voting on 20 years from now, assuming God doesn't intervene before then in order to save our sin-sick society.

Widespread Acceptance of Homosexuality

Here again, that the debate is about whether or not homosexuals can marry is revealing in itself. Half of Americans have apparently drawn the line in the sand and would favor a constitutional amendment to ban homosexual marriage. But the other half, about 47 percent, actually opposes a constitutional ban. It's THAT statistic that illustrates our *overwhelming* acceptance of homosexual behavior. Unnatural, unlawful sexual behavior is not controversial—it's homosexuals *marrying* that has us divided.

President Bush responded to the 2003 Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling allowing homosexual marriage by saying marriage was a "sacred institution" and that he was committed to "do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage." Never mind what fornication, sexually transmitted diseases, out-of-wedlock births, abortions on demand, adultery, no-fault divorce, feminist-driven role reversals, dead-beat dads and working moms have done to the sanctity of marriage. As far as "conservatives" are concerned, the *real* threat to this sacred union is HOMOSEXUALS. As Donald Sensing asked in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial, "If society has abandoned regulating heterosexual conduct of men and women, what right does it have to regulate homosexual conduct ...?" (March 15, 2004). As Sensing correctly noted, those now defending the sacredness of the marriage union are a little late. "The walls of traditional marriage were breached 40 years ago; what we are witnessing now is the storming of the last bastion," he wrote. Traditionalists, he said, "need to get a clue about what has really been going on and face the fact that same-sex marriage, if it comes about, will not *cause* the degeneration of the institution of marriage; it is the *result* of it."

Our society, as Isaiah prophesied, is heavy-laden with sin. The **WHOLE HEAD** is sick, he wrote. "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isaiah 1:6). We have provoked our God to anger! And *Jesus* too.

Does it shock you when I say that if Jesus Christ was in charge of our nation, he wouldn't just ban same-sex marriage, He would *outlaw homosexuality*? If so, then it reveals how far your thinking is from God's and how much of Satan's

propaganda your mind has absorbed!

Even going back to the foundation of our nation, as Mark Levin wrote in *Men in Black*, "[S]odomy was a criminal offense under the common law and was prohibited by the original 13 states when they ratified the Bill of Rights." Why, do you suppose, would our nation's Founders establish laws prohibiting homosexuality? Where would they have gotten such a strict standard of morality? The New Testament—that's where! (see Romans 1:26-27).

Nevertheless, homosexual activists point to the "equal protection" and "due process" clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment as grounds for enjoying the same rights as heterosexuals. The problem with that argument is that when the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868, as Levin brings out, 32 out of 37 states had laws *against* sodomy. Even as late as 1961, every state in America criminalized sodomy.

But with the emergence of the homosexual rights movement, about half the states had abolished sodomy laws by the early 1980s. Even still, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld one state's sodomy law in 1986. But when called upon to uphold a Texas law against sodomy in 2003, the Supreme Court buckled under pressure from activists in a 6-3 ruling. According to the majority opinion, "The State cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime. Their right to liberty under

The battles we are fighting show how far our standards of morality have dropped. "Conservatives" have already conceded miles of territory in the morality war.

the Due Process Clause gives them the full right to engage in their conduct without intervention of the government."

In his dissent, Justice Scalia noted that if states had no right to criminalize homosexual conduct, then "what justification could there possibly be for denying the benefits of marriage to homosexual couples?"

That was in June 2003. In November that same year, a Massachusetts court decision favoring homosexual marriage made headlines across America. Yet it was the Supreme Court—not Massachusetts, as Levin notes in his book—that "set the stage for *imposing* gay marriage

on every state under a distorted reading of the Fourteenth Amendment."

But don't worry. There's bound to be an army of hard-core conservatives ready for all-out war in the fight for upholding and preserving the sanctity and sacredness of marriage.

Right?

Sodom and Gomorrah

The word *sodomy* is derived from a Latin phrase meaning the "sin of Sodom," which is vividly discussed, as most people know, in the biblical book of Genesis. Ancient Sodom, like its neighboring city Gomorrah, was well-known for its widespread practice *and acceptance* of homosexuality. Jude 7 says that besides going after "strange flesh," the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were "giving themselves over to fornication." Ezekiel tells us that Sodom was a prosperous area, with an abundance of idleness. But it was also full of pride and abominations (Ezekiel 16:49-50).

In the Genesis 19 account, the men of Sodom wanted to sodomize two visitors, actually angels, who had come to see if the city should be spared God's wrath. While these two angels remained locked inside the home of Lot, an angry mob outside cried out for the new flesh. Inside the home, the angels proceeded to give Lot and his family clear and precise instructions concerning the future welfare of Sodom and neighboring Gomorrah. "Then the men said to Lot, Have you any one else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or any one you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it" (verses 12-13, Revised Standard Version).

Lot relayed this sobering message to the two young men who were to marry his daughters. Now these were two decent men—heterosexuals who had not taken advantage of Lot's daughters. There had probably been numerous instances where they sat around the table with their future father-in-law decrying the evils and perversions of society. And yet, without realizing it, much of that evil had rubbed off on them! They might have recognized many of the more extreme evils in Sodom, but they had

See **NOAH** page 31 ▶



DREAMSTIME

Nip & Tuck Values

Cosmetic surgery has gone mainstream.

BY DENNIS LEAP

BEING CUT USED TO MEAN HAVING a trim body shape caused by disciplined physical exercise. Being *cut* today has taken on quite a different meaning. An ever-increasing number of people—men, women and teens—are going under the knife to achieve a desired body image. Don't like a bulge? Cut it out. Don't like your nose? Slice it. Want some extra shape? Insert it. Cosmetic surgery is *in*. In fact, it's mainstream.

The number of people getting cosmetic plastic surgery in the United States ballooned 775 percent between 1992 and 2005, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). That added up to 10.2 million cosmetic procedures in 2005 alone. Cosmetic surgery is no longer held captive to the realm of the rich and famous. It's your neighbor, the bank teller, or one of your co-workers getting a face-lift or tummy tuck. Although Americans lead the world in the rush to be cut, the use of plastic surgery is on the rise worldwide. It is estimated that in 2007, the British will spend more on plastic surgery than on tea, according

to a report by market analysts at Mintel.

People seeking plastic surgery come from every economic level. One ASPS study of people contemplating getting plastic surgery found that 71 percent came from households reporting an annual household income of less than \$60,000; *almost a third* were from households reporting less than \$30,000 annual income.

This same study group reported some interesting facts on the background and ages of plastic surgery patients in 2005. Most were getting procedures done for the first time. Alarming, one fifth of patients were teens and young adults, and nearly half were middle-aged. More than 300,000 of those patients were under 18, and 12 percent were men.

All these statistics are somewhat shocking considering that plastic surgery is painful, expensive and potentially lethal. What does this growing trend have to say about us? It's time we examine our nip-and-tuck values.

Why the Rush

Realize, we are talking about *voluntary*

procedures. So why are so many rushing into plastic surgery? For starters, we can safely point a finger at Hollywood.

Celebrity use of plastic surgery has been well publicized for years. Celebrities are the cult leaders of the no-sag, no-bag, no-wrinkles people. Several 60-something celebrities have gone under the knife to recapture their 30-something look. With the pressure to keep up the perfect body, many younger celebrities rely on the knife. Liposuction is often repeated dozens of times to maintain a trim waistline. Younger celebrities are using plastic surgery to *perfect* already beautiful appearances.

Unfortunately, many feel that if the *celebs* are doing it, why not me, too? It has become a sign of status to have plastic surgery done by the same surgeon who cut a *star*.

It used to be taboo to talk about going under the knife. Cosmetic surgeries were often performed in private hide-away facilities. Now we televise it! The media are choked with glitzy advertising promoting a one-sided, upbeat message about plastic surgery. Several reality TV shows, such as *Extreme Makeover*, *The Swan*, and *I Want a Famous Face*, glamorized plastic surgery, making it appear as the perfectly *normal* thing to do. With each episode of *Extreme Makeover*, two participants were chosen from thousands of applicants and transformed in appearance so they could *lead better lives*. In Episode 2 of the show's first season, Melissa wanted a new look for her 10-year high school reunion. She had been made fun of in high school because of her looks. So, she had "a nose job, her ears pinned, breast implants, a brow lift, tummy tuck, eye surgery, and her teeth whitened and straightened" (iEnhance.com). What happened to just dieting, buying a new outfit, or getting a new hairstyle in preparation for a reunion? What would an individual need to do for a 20-year reunion?

The Swan put a different twist on going under the knife. Contestants underwent multiple plastic surgeries to win a beauty contest. MTV's *I Want a Famous Face* opened the door for a new plastic surgery obsession. This show tracked 12 young people undergoing plastic surgery to look like their favorite celebrity idol. Is it any wonder plastic surgery has moved from an older to a younger crowd?

Big Business

Cosmetic plastic surgery has grown into a \$15 billion industry. Surgical

procedures come with a high price tag. Because of the larger profits, many surgeons are switching to the field. The top five surgical procedures requested are liposuction, nose reshaping, breast augmentation, eyelid surgery, and tummy tuck. It is not unusual for one individual to undergo all these procedures. Based on the national average, the least total cost for all would be about \$26,000, not including post-operative costs.

More than surgeons are cashing in. Think about it: How are people of average incomes paying for cosmetic plastic surgery? Since medical insurance does not normally cover the costs, the answer is credit cards and loans. Some cosmetic surgery facilities have loan departments. Banks are joining the cosmetic surgery boom. British financial institutions offer instant cosmetic surgery loans as high as £25,000. There are Internet websites that recommend individuals secure second mortgages on their homes to go under the knife.

Given the money to be made, use of cosmetic surgery isn't likely to decline. It is estimated that by 2010, over 17 million cosmetic procedures will be performed each year. This means that the industry could easily top \$17 billion.

The Risks

Even though cosmetic plastic surgery is seen as the new wonder surgery, it does have its risks. Reality TV, flashy ads and some plastic surgeons have downplayed the dangers.

Most people are aware of the well-publicized problem with breast implants: They do not last a lifetime. Perhaps all implants will eventually cause problems that, in most cases, would require a second surgery.

One of the most common hazards with cosmetic surgery is scarring. All incisions cause scarring. Plastic surgeons attempt to hide the scars in a natural crease of the skin or in the hairline. Unfortunately, some have been dealt highly visible, hideous scars—some irreparable. Generally, this kind of problem is caused by unscrupulous, untrained surgeons. TV documentaries have reported on the nightmarish perils of undergoing cosmetic surgery on the cheap. Honest surgeons will tell you that each body is different and can present unique challenges for even the best of surgeons.

Serious nerve damage can occur during surgery. Other dangers include bleeding, blood clots and infection. One

of the most dangerous plastic surgeries is liposuction. Some patients have had their intestines punctured; others have been left with serious infections; loosened fat can enter blood vessels broken during the procedure, getting trapped in the blood vessels, accumulating in the lungs, or circulating to the brain. One four-year study showed that a person getting liposuction is more likely to die than a person in a car accident. Other patients have died undergoing facelifts, eyelifts and nose jobs.

On top of these risks, cosmetic plastic surgery can cause psychological harm. The TV shows, advertisements and even some surgeons imply that one of the benefits of cosmetic surgery is a psychological lift. But does cosmetic plastic surgery really promote self-esteem? Obviously, for those who experience botched cosmetic surgery, the answer is a nightmarish no. Imagine the impact of permanent nerve damage, a scarred face or blindness.

What about patients who don't like a surgery that has gone *right*? A growing number of patients are not satisfied with what they see in the mirror once the surgery is done and the bandages are off. In these cases, what do you do when permanent changes are done to noses, eyes and faces? You either live with it or, as some do, keep trying.

What are the results? Recent studies indicate that "women who have received breast implants are two to three times as likely to kill themselves as those who have not" (*New Scientist*, Oct. 21, 2006). Although experts are not yet ready to draw final conclusions, some recognize that the psychological benefits of plastic surgery can be, at best, short term. Unfortunately, for some there is no mental health benefit at all, or even psychological *damage*. In any case, changing the outside will never fix a problematic inside.

Beauty Within

Why are we so bugged by body blemishes? Why have we become so insecure about our faces, noses, ears or other body parts? Men, women and teens in the Western world are obsessed with beauty. Rising use of cosmetic plastic surgery reveals our tragically false values.

Are happiness, success, confidence and self-esteem achieved by physical "perfection"? Do bodily imperfections actually rob us of fulfillment?

Human nature's drive to belong, be liked, or be as beautiful as our favorite celebrity often short-circuits our powers of observation. Though many celebrities are beautiful, what does that beauty obtain for them? Often it brings curses. How many truly beautiful celebrities are living happy, fulfilled lives? Let's be honest. A lot of money, big homes, expensive clothes and drinking out of that deceitful fountain of youth known as cosmetic surgery will never provide long-lasting happiness.

Every human being deserves an opportunity to be fulfilled, successful and happy. But we must be willing to be taught how to achieve what we desire most. It is time we recapture the true value that *lasting beauty comes from within*. No physical self-mutilation is required. True beauty is not skin deep.

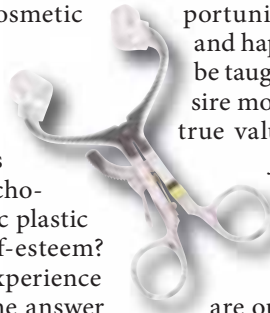
The true values all men, women and children need are outlined for us in the Holy Bible. God, as Creator, is the author of beauty. Certainly His instruction book has much to say about the subject.

One verse says clearly, "[B]eauty is vain" (Proverbs 31:30). The Hebrew word translated "vain" means empty, transitory, unsatisfactory. Tradition tells us this chapter of Proverbs was a special message for King Solomon delivered to him by his mother, Bathsheba, one of the most beautiful women of her time. Her history in the Bible shows that she learned much about physical beauty. She knew that physical beauty is transitory and that worshiping physical beauty is unsatisfactory and empty. If you study the entire chapter, it is easy to conclude that Bathsheba learned that true fulfillment came from embracing her duties as a wife, mother and queen.

God intended that human beings age gracefully. Another proverb states: "[T]he beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29). So many men, women and children allow mass media to set standards of beauty. Many of those standards are bizarre. We should let God set the standard for beauty. God states that the grey head is beautiful. Few today would agree. Obviously, human beings should strive to maintain good health, primarily through proper diet, plenty of water and balanced exercise. Those who follow the principles of healthful living maintain a certain natural beauty as they age.

The truth is, real beauty comes as a result of right living. There is a truly

See **VALUES** page 34 ▶



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the fifth chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY

Tkach's Fellows

“I know Gerald Flurry very well. ... How could he carry on for Mr. Armstrong? He wasn't even trained around him, much less at his feet. Wasn't even trained close to him. Wasn't even trained at his coattail. Wasn't trained within arm's reach.”

—Gerald Waterhouse *Sermon, January 25, 1992*

THE DAY MR. ARMSTRONG DIED, MIKE Feazell and Mike Rasmussen, who both worked for Mr. Tkach, “went up to my office and took all my files out of my drawers,” Aaron Dean remembers. He said, “I got called by Brenda Yale and Donna—the secretary up there—and they were crying. And they said, ‘What’s going on? They’re treating us like criminals.’”

Bob Herrington, one of Mr. Armstrong’s four nurses, remembers well his first encounter with the new administration. As Mr. Armstrong’s primary nighttime caregiver, Herrington lived in an apartment adjacent to Mr. Armstrong’s home. He was at Mr. Armstrong’s bedside the morning he died. And, according to Herrington, “I was evicted before the day was through. Somebody came over to me and said, ‘We have important people coming to town—we’re going to need that apartment.’” Herrington wouldn’t reveal who told him to leave, but whoever it was also insisted that Herrington *not* attend the funeral, so as not to attract the attention of the press. So, a few days after Mr. Armstrong died, Bob Herrington packed his things and moved to Texas.

According to Aaron Dean, these incidents highlight one of the first promises made to Mr. Armstrong that Tkach broke. Mr. Armstrong wanted *his* staff to assist Mr. Tkach, *not* Tkach’s staff. But contrary to the assurances he had given to his predecessor, Mr. Tkach (or perhaps his staff) made it clear on January 16 that, despite Mr. Armstrong’s warnings, *Tkach’s staff was coming with him.*

■ TKACH’S PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Michael Feazell’s family moved to Pasadena in 1957, when he was 6, so he could attend the WCG’s Imperial Grade School. He was educated by the church’s grade school, high school

and college, finally graduating from Ambassador in 1973.

After graduation, Feazell worked for one year at Imperial Schools as an elementary teacher. In 1974, he moved to Yuma, Arizona, and taught fifth grade at a local elementary school for four years. During the summers, he worked for the WCG’s youth camp in Minnesota, where he was in charge of the camp store. In the fall of 1978, the church again hired him full time, to work at Ambassador’s Pasadena campus as a tennis instructor and equipment manager.

Then, coincident with Tkach Sr.’s appointment over Ministerial Services in 1979, Feazell catapulted up the WCG hierarchy. Tkach brought him on board first as a special projects coordinator and later as personal assistant. Feazell was not a minister at the time he joined Church Administration.

Feazell had been a friend of the Tkach family for a number of years. He met Tkach’s son, Joe, Jr., at Imperial High School in 1967, where both of them were attending as tenth graders. They later attended Ambassador College together in Pasadena and graduated together in 1973. During the summer months of his college years, Feazell even lived with the Tkaches. In many ways, Joe Sr. was like a father to him.

For a period of seven years at Church Administration (late 1979 to early 1986), Mr. Feazell assisted Tkach Sr., maintaining consistent communication with the WCG ministry in organizing the Ministerial Refreshing Program, ministerial transfers and ministerial assignments for the Feast of Tabernacles.

When Mr. Tkach became pastor general in 1986, Mr. Feazell continued serving as his personal assistant, but focused instead on preparing Tkach Sr.’s articles and sermons.

■ HEAD OF THE MINISTRY

Like Feazell, Joseph Tkach Jr. was born in 1951 and grew up in the Worldwide Church of God. His family moved to Pasa-

dena in 1966 when Mr. Meredith accepted Tkach Sr. into the one-year program for local elders. After Joe Jr. graduated from Ambassador in 1973, he married Jill Hockwald. He worked as a ministerial trainee for the church between 1973 and 1976, serving in Indiana, Michigan, California and Arizona. He was ordained as a local elder in the summer of 1976. Months later, his employment with the church was terminated due to budget cuts. Though no longer paid by the church, he continued serving as assistant pastor for the Phoenix East congregation in Arizona. He was later removed from this position in July 1978, two months after he divorced his first wife at the age of 26.

Between 1978 and 1986, Joe Jr. lived in relative obscurity within the Phoenix East congregation as a local elder. He married for a second time in 1980. He was employed as a social worker until 1984, and then worked for Intel until 1986.

After his father succeeded Mr. Armstrong in January 1986, Joe Jr. began a sharp ascent up the WCG hierarchy. His father appointed him assistant director of Church Administration in August 1986, where he worked for Larry Salyer. (Salyer had replaced Tkach Sr. as head of Church Administration once Tkach became pastor general.)

Eight months after moving to Pasadena, in April 1987, Mr. Tkach Sr. raised his son to the rank of *pastor*. Later that year, in November, Joe Jr. was again promoted. Tkach Sr. decided to reorganize Church Administration into two branches—the U.S. ministry and the international ministry, with Joe Jr. in charge of the former and Larry Salyer the latter, effectively making Salyer the assistant to Joe Jr. Thus, in a matter of 15 short months, Joseph Tkach Jr. went from being a non-salaried, local church elder—the lowest-ranking spiritual office in the WCG—to the pastor-ranked director over the WCG’s ministry. This meteoric ascent put him in charge of approximately 1,200 WCG ministers *in less than a year and a half*.

He was 36 years old.

■ HEAD OF MEDIA OPERATIONS

Bernard Schnippert, another college friend of Joe Jr.’s, graduated from AC in 1971. After serving in the personal correspondence department for a short time after graduation, Schnippert went into the field ministry for a few years, serving in Edmonton and Calgary in Alberta, Canada. By the mid-1970s, poor health forced him to take a two-year paid leave of absence.

In 1977, he returned to work in Pasadena as an assistant to Dr. Robert Kuhn, where he was responsible for coordinating the Systematic Theology Project (STP). Garner Ted Armstrong later presented the infamous STP at a ministerial conference in January 1978, shortly after his father had left town. The STP was a scholarly attempt to liberalize or alter many of the church’s doctrines. It was prepared by a handful of WCG scholars, coordinated by Schnippert, and carefully concealed from Herbert Armstrong. Once Mr. Armstrong caught wind of the conspiracy, he ordered all of the church’s ministers to return their copies. He disfellowshipped Garner

Ted and Dr. Kuhn later that year. These two, along with other disgruntled former members, then proceeded to launch the unsuccessful civil suit against Herbert Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God in January 1979.

Bernie Schnippert somehow escaped the STP fallout and remained within the WCG. He spent the next eight years sequestered in a small congregation in Las Vegas, before getting a call from headquarters in April 1987. He was offered a position in Pasadena assisting Dexter Faulkner in Editorial Services. His primary title was that of international booklet director. A few months after his arrival at Pasadena, on August 1, Mr. Tkach raised Mr. Schnippert to the rank of pastor.

The following month, Mr. Tkach made this remarkable announcement in the *Pastor General’s Report*: “As God grants greater and greater impact to the *World Tomorrow* television program, the *Plain Truth* magazine and our other publications, both in the United States and internationally, I have come to see the vital necessity of establishing thorough coordination among the four crucial and closely interrelated departments of Mail Processing, Editorial Services, Publishing Services and Television Production.”

To that end, Mr. Tkach selected Bernie Schnippert to fill the newly created position of director of Media Operations.

In other words, instead of assisting Dexter Faulkner in Editorial Services (which he had done for all of three months), Schnippert was now Faulkner’s boss—as well as Richard Rice’s, Ray Wright’s and Larry Omasta’s—three other department heads.

Thus, the man who coordinated the Systematic Theology Project in 1977 was now director of all the church’s media operations nine years later—just a year and a half after the death of Herbert Armstrong.

■ HEAD OF THE COLLEGE

Donald Ward is another key personality who rose to prominence within the WCG during the tumultuous 1970s. Highly educated, Ward was admitted into Ambassador College, Big Sandy, in 1969—and already equipped with a master’s degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. He started teaching at Big Sandy one year after his arrival as a student and later obtained a doctorate in education from East Texas State University in Commerce in 1973.

After being named the associate dean of faculty for Big Sandy that same year, Dr. Ward played a key role in

Ambassador’s pursuit of accreditation throughout the mid-1970s. Early in the process, he explained in the college’s newspaper that to become an accredited liberal arts college, Big Sandy would have to offer at least four majors, which would necessitate the addition of many new courses, and also beef up its faculty credentials and library services.

In 1976, Dr. Ward became Big Sandy’s academic dean, but only for a year because of Mr. Armstrong’s decision in 1977 to close Big Sandy. In March 1978, however, Garner Ted appointed Dr. Ward as vice president of Ambassador’s Pasadena campus. One month later, in April, Ted elevated him to the

After his father succeeded Mr. Armstrong in January 1986, Joe Jr. began a sharp ascent up the WCG hierarchy.

office of president, in hopes that Dr. Ward’s credentials would help the college become accredited. Their plan was to close up operations in Pasadena and consolidate in Big Sandy as an accredited institution.

The elder Armstrong wrote extensively about the state of the college during this tumultuous time period. He said the campus was a “shambles of immorality and secularism. Illicit sex was rampant.” Garner Ted had been keeping major decisions from his father—decisions “he was unauthorized to make.” Ted either shipped out or demoted old-timers and replaced them with yes-men. According to Mr. Armstrong, Ted surrounded himself with “men he thought would be loyal to him personally above being loyal to the church and to God.”

As with the STP, once Mr. Armstrong awakened to what was happening to the college, he intervened swiftly and decisively. “On May 8, last month, I learned that my son had appointed a man I do not even know as president of Ambassador College. I then wrote him that this was the last straw—of his assuming authority never given to him to make major decisions.”

Incredibly, the hiring of Dr. Ward was the last straw that resulted in Garner Ted being fired!

Mr. Armstrong later wrote about these traumatic years for the church and college: “The liberals at Pasadena wanted accreditation. They did not want to be accredited as a Bible college, but as a full competing college or university. As such the college would fall under the rules of the secular accrediting society, which would more or less determine policy and curricula. ...

“Ambassador College had been destroyed as God’s college. In 1978 ... I had to completely close Ambassador College at Pasadena, starting all over again, as in 1947, with one freshman class. The colleges in England and in Texas had already been closed.”

Despite all this, however, Dr. Ward managed to escape the accreditation fallout. He settled into a low-profile position as pastor of a congregation in East Texas.

When Big Sandy reopened in 1981, Dr. Ward returned to his previous position of academic dean, serving under Leon Walker, the deputy chancellor. Ward held that position until late 1987 when Tkach Sr. called him. At the time, Dr. Ward had been working under Rod Meredith, the deputy chancellor at Big Sandy. At the Pasadena campus, Raymond McNair was the deputy chancellor. When Mr. Tkach appointed Dr. Ward to the position of vice chancellor over *both* campuses in 1987, he became *Meredith’s* and *McNair’s* SUPERIOR.

The following year, in 1988, Ambassador College again began its active pursuit of accreditation—and just like in 1978, Dr. Ward was at the helm. Their plan—surprise, surprise—was to close operations in Pasadena and consolidate in Big Sandy as an accredited institution.

■ OUT WITH THE OLD

So, in *less than two years* after Mr. Armstrong’s death, Don Ward was president of Ambassador College, Bernie Schnippert headed all the media operations, Joe Tkach Jr. was in charge of the ministry and Michael Feazell was the pastor general’s executive assistant and ghost writer.

Another personality who would figure prominently in the new administration was Greg Albrecht, who was dean of students at AC Pasadena throughout the 1980s. In 1990, Bernie Schnippert moved Albrecht into Editorial Services, where he would later be given charge of the church’s flagship magazine, the *Plain Truth*.

All five of these scholars were made evangelists *after* Mr. Armstrong died in 1986.

And what of the *other* evangelists—those raised to that position by Mr. Armstrong? They quickly faded into the background, just like in the 1970s. In July 1986, Mr. Tkach removed Leslie McCullough from his position as deputy chancellor at Big Sandy and shipped him off to head up the small regional office in South Africa.

To replace McCullough, Mr. Tkach moved Rod Meredith from headquarters to Big Sandy. Three years later, after Tkach decided to close the Pasadena campus and focus the college’s accreditation pursuit on Big Sandy, he brought Meredith back to Pasadena and tucked him away in an insignificant position within the

editorial department.

Weeks after Mr. Tkach catapulted Dr. Ward to vice chancellor over the colleges, ahead of Mr. Meredith and Mr. McNair, Tkach shipped McNair to the New Zealand regional office.

We won’t take space to elaborate on a number of other examples, like Richard Ames, Herman Hoeh, Ellis La Ravia, Leroy Neff and Gerald Waterhouse—but suffice it to say that all of these men, who were prominent evangelists at the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death, faded from view and settled into much less significant roles once Mr. Tkach stepped into office and brought up his staff.

There are a few exceptions, like old-timers Dean Blackwell (who has since died) and Ron Kelly (who was the church’s financial controller until 2005, when he retired), but for the most part, when Tkach Sr. took over, he brought in a whole new administrative team.

It’s interesting now as I look back on this history because one of the biggest criticisms the Tkach administration had against my father, after they fired him in December 1989, was that he was a relative nobody—a lowly field minister who never served under Mr. Armstrong. And while that may have been true, one wonders what Mr. Armstrong would have thought of the upper echelons of the WCG administration at the point of my dad’s firing.

Donald Ward over the college?

Joe Jr. in charge of the ministry?

Michael Feazell writing articles for the pastor general?

Bernie Schnippert heading the church’s four main departments?

By the end of 1989, Tkach Jr. and Feazell had been delegated enough authority to fire two field ministers on the spot—my father and his assistant John Amos—ministers who had been serving full time in the church for two decades. Had Mr. Armstrong been present at the firing, he may not have recognized my father and Mr. Amos.

But I’m not sure he would have recognized the two men firing them either. ■

For the most part, when Tkach Sr. took over, he brought in a whole new administrative team.

grown accustomed to living there—and actually enjoyed much of it.

How strong society's pull must have been for these two men, at this most critical hour, to mock God's warning, as it was delivered through His servant Lot.

Their ridicule even caused a seed of doubt to sprout in Lot's mind. The next morning, even after the constant prodding from the two angels, Lot began to linger, delaying his departure—so much so that the angels seized Lot, his wife, and two daughters by the hands and forcibly led them out of the sinful city! Upon leaving the city, the angels shouted at Lot's family, *Run for your lives!*

And don't even stop to look back, lest you be consumed as well!

“Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground” (verses 24-25, RSV). God yanked Lot's family out of the mess and burned everything else to the ground. Even then, Lot's wife couldn't let it go.

One cannot grasp how a loving God could obliterate two whole cities without understanding the truth of the resurrection. As Jesus said, it will be more tolerable for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah when they are resurrected in the day of judgment than it will be for those cities that reject God's warning in this end time (Matthew 10:15). They'll have an opportunity to know God when they are resurrected. In the World Tomorrow, God's laws respecting human behavior will be diligently taught and strictly enforced.

Corrupting God's Way

In Noah's day, society's evil was just as bad as it was in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, only more widespread. Genesis 6:5 says, “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that EVERY IMAGINATION of the thoughts of his heart was only *evil continually*.” As Herbert Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*, “Man's thoughts, contemplations and plans were continually on self-centered, lustful and evil objectives.”

Later in Genesis 6, God says the Earth was “filled with violence” (verse 11). “This violence,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, “had become so universal that God determined to spare humanity from suffering longer in mounting misery and anguish” (ibid.).

In verse 12, God says “all flesh had corrupted *his way*.” This has been mankind's legacy: substituting *his way* of thinking and reasoning, *his definition* of right and wrong, FOR GOD'S WAY! “There is NO FEAR of God before their eyes,” Paul wrote (Romans 3:18). He said the ways of man are destruction and misery—and “the way of peace have they not known” (verses 16-17). The fruits of man's societies prove God true! “There is *a way* which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the *WAYS OF DEATH*”

Do we think we are so superior to these ancient societies that the same God who brought universal destruction by fire and rain cannot cause it to happen again?

(Proverbs 14:12). That has been man's track record in going his own way without fear of God: misery and destruction.

Noah tried to warn the people of his day, but, as Jewish historian Josephus explained, “they did not yield to him”—they “were slaves to their wicked pleasures” (Antiquities 1, 3, 1). And so, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “God took away their miserable lives, by the earthwide Flood, to be resurrected in the next second of their consciousness in the ‘Great White Throne’ resurrection (Revelation 20:11-12). They will be brought back to life in a time when Christ is ruling the Earth in righteousness, peace and happiness. Satan will be gone. Their minds then will be opened to God's truth, and eternal salvation will be opened to them” (ibid.).

In love, God put that evil society out of its misery, just as He will do with ours, unless we repent.

As in the Days ...

Do we think we are so superior to these ancient societies that the same God who brought universal destruction by fire and rain cannot cause it to happen again? If you *know* Jesus, you should know the answer to that.

Jesus said, “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded” (Luke 17:28). They were eating and drinking, buying and selling,

planting and building—right up to the day God destroyed their cities (verse 29). “Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (verse 30). In other words, before Jesus Christ returns to this Earth in power and glory, God prophesied that our sophisticated, ultra-modern and ANTI-GOD society would revert back to the way it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

That has happened.

The Apostle Peter also issued a grave warning for our present day, drawing on the lesson from Sodom and Gomorrah, saying that God turned them into ashes, “making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6).

The epistle of Jude, another New Testament message, speaks of these two cities as suffering the “vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude wrote that God set them forth as an example for our day!

In like manner, Jesus reminded us of Noah's day, saying, “And as it was in the days of [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that [Noah] entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:26-27).

So shall it be in the days of the Son of man. Can we grasp what this means? HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF. We should have learned our lesson after the Flood of Noah's day. We should have learned the lesson from Sodom and Gomorrah. But we didn't—and so universal destruction is coming again.

If you *know* Jesus, YOU KNOW He said it would get so bad before His Second Coming that, unless God cut the destruction short, there would be NO FLESH SAVED ALIVE! (Matthew 24:21-22). And right before that universal destruction, Jesus said it would be just as it was in the days leading up to the Flood—and in the days before Sodom and Gomorrah were reduced to ashes. He said we would be eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building—with our minds on every imaginable evil.

And then—SUDDENLY—the end will be upon us (Luke 17:30). Very little time remains. A few years from now, a small minority of humanity will be left alive. “Watch ye therefore, and pray always,” Jesus warned in Luke 21:36, “that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” ■

EDUCATION

U.S. Students Dropping Out

WHILE MANY NATIONS produce increasingly competent college graduates, the United States is struggling to produce *high school* graduates. The problem of students dropping out of high school has reached “epidemic levels,” reported ABC News, with some school systems having a 50 percent dropout rate (Nov. 20, 2006).

Schools coast to coast—from metropolitan areas to small towns—report that escalating numbers of students are ditching high school or failing to graduate. A recent Department of Education survey found that in the 100 largest public school districts in America, an astounding 31 percent of students that begin high school do not finish. The Editorial Projects in Education Research Center has also put the number at nearly one in three. An estimated 2,500 students drop out of school every day.

Soaring dropout statistics should red-flag the state of our young people and the education system. A survey released in March 2006 by Civic Enterprises and Peter D. Hart Research Associates, *The Silent Epidemic*, stated that a large percentage of high school dropouts simply quit because they are bored and unchallenged. The survey found that 69 percent of dropouts said they would have worked harder if it had been required of them. In the same study, 38 percent of students cited lack of discipline and too few rules as the reason they dropped out. That goes for both the schools and the families of such young people: A permissive environment tends to produce detached, underachieving youth.

If the evidence is right, we must consider our burgeoning numbers of dropouts to be, at least in part, casualties of our anti-authority, self-esteem-worshipping, just-be-you culture.

Whatever the case, the price for such high dropout rates is steep. Since dropouts account for the majority of incarcerations, according to the American Youth Policy Forum, more dropouts likely portends more crime. The problem is destined to in-



ISTOCKPHOTO

crease as these high school dropouts go on to have their own children, who are growing up in homes that, on the whole, place less value on education, increasing the odds that they too will become dropouts. As the level of the American popula-

tion's education decreases, so too does the quality of our workforce, our creative and critical thinking as a society, our leadership and, ultimately, our ability to keep pace internationally.

Self-Esteem Not in the Equation

SELF-ESTEEM DOESN'T MATTER MUCH—AT LEAST WHEN it comes to math. Nations like the United States that promote self-esteem in teaching mathematics trail behind others that don't.

The 2006 Brown Center report on education, published by the Washington-based Brookings Institution, revealed the 10 nations that were ranked *lowest* out of 46 surveyed in student *self-confidence* were actually some of the highest achievers.

Take Japan and Korea for example. While 39 percent of American eighth graders believe they do well in math, only 4 percent and 6 percent of Japanese and Koreans, respectively, express the same sentiment. But a respected international math assessment showed Koreans and Japanese students far outscoring their American counterparts.

Such a report ought to stir up debate over teaching methods in America, where the education system assumes that promoting high self-esteem in students will drive them to greater achievement.

Achievement in school depends on actually mastering the subjects taught—knowing the material well enough to apply it in a given scenario or on a test. Teaching otherwise gives the students an inflated sense of self-worth that will hinder them as they go through life and face the realities of a results-oriented world.

The delusional pride ingrained in Americans from a young age is a national flaw with serious implications. The welfare of a nation depends largely on how well the nation educates its young and produces well-adjusted adults grounded in reality.

Many Americans assume the U.S. will always lead the world in education and knowledge production. This report shows this assumption may just be the product of an inflated sense of self-worth.



INDEX KOTEN

TECHNOLOGY

Americans Addicted to the Internet

MORE THAN ONE IN EIGHT American adults show signs of Internet addiction, according to a new study. Signs include spending an inordinate amount of time each week on non-work-related Internet use, hiding Internet use from a partner, and using the Internet as a form of escape.

Of more than 2,500 respondents to a phone survey, nearly 14 percent said staying away from the Internet for several days is difficult; nearly 6 percent believe their Internet usage hurts their relationships.

The October 2006 issue of *CNS Spectrums: The International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine* reported that the typical afflicted person, a college-educated single white male in his 30s, spends around *30 hours a week* on non-essential Internet use—over four hours a day—and suffers “significant” problems as a result. That's a fairly severe definition of addiction; how many Internet users spend less time online yet still exhibit addiction-related qualities?

The study cited a 2002 survey in which six out of 10 American companies had disciplined employees for misusing the Internet, and over 30 percent had fired employees for that reason.

According to the lead author of the study, Elias Aboujaoude, problematic online usage takes many forms. “Not surprisingly, online pornography and, to some degree, online gambling, have received the most attention—but users are as likely to use other sites, includ-

Britain's Child Felons

IN BRITAIN, HUNDREDS OF pre-teens are being charged with crimes including robbery, assaulting a police officer and even rape. The

Nov. 12, 2006, *Times* cited 270 cases of

10-year-olds perpetrating major crimes from April 2005 to March of 2006. The Youth Justice Board also reported that nationwide,

between 2004 and 2005, violent offences by 10-year-olds rose 33 percent. Worse yet, "Experts say the real number of sexual crimes committed by primary school children may be much higher"

Julia Davidson, expert on child crime at Westminster

University, said that "a large proportion start offending from as young as 8 or 9." In one case, an 11-year-old boy raped an 8-year-old girl.

Prepubescent violent crime should force us to ask some serious questions about our society. After all, what will a 10-year-old who has assaulted a police officer do when he's

behind the wheel of a car? Or when he's old enough to buy alcohol or guns?

More importantly, what is the *cause*? A March 2006 United Nations report suggested social causes such as inconsistent parenting and school abandonment. The report admitted that the worse a child's family situation was, the more likely he was to become a repeat offender. Indeed, many families from which children like these are emerging are in an unprecedentedly atrocious state. Those problems are exacerbated by the sickness in society at large, amplified by mass media increasingly infatuated with perversity.

Since the justice system has no way to deal with 10-year-old criminals effectively, and Britain's family life shows no sign of improving, these juveniles will continue to roam the streets into their teens and 20s; other younger people will follow in their footsteps. Until drastic action is taken, the problem of children ruling over us will grow worse.

The situation uniquely fulfills an end-time prophecy penned by Isaiah: "As for my people, children are their oppressors ..." (Isaiah 3:12).



ing chat rooms, shopping venues and special-interest websites," Aboujaoude said. "Our survey did not track what specific Internet venues were the most frequented by respondents, but other studies, and our clinical experience, indicate that pornography is just one area of excessive Internet use" (*DailyTech*, Oct. 18, 2006).

A BBC article quoted Aboujaoude as saying, "The issue is starting to be recognized as a legitimate object of clinical attention, as well as an economic problem, given that a great deal of non-es-

sential Internet use takes place at work" (Oct. 18, 2006).

The Internet has opened up unprecedented resources for research and human connectivity, but, like all technology, it comes with dangers. Scripture enjoins, "Let your moderation be known unto all men" (Philippians 4:5). Allowing ourselves to fritter away hours in worthless—or worse, destructive—pursuits is failing to obey the biblical command to "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Cell Porn

ENTREPRENEURS AND possibly major wireless carriers in the United States are looking for ways to make pornography available on cell phones wherever reception is available. If they are successful, and analysts estimate they will be—to the tune of \$196 million by 2009—the world of smut will literally follow you wherever you go.

With commercial carriers already providing customers with the hardware and communications technology to view Web-based video on full-color screens, the only obstacles for American carriers to join the global billion-dollar mobile phone pornography industry are moral—and most of those have already crumbled.



Telecommunications providers such as Cingular and Verizon are reluctant to be viewed as facilitators of explicit material in part due to advocacy groups such as the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, which is one group that has voiced concern over the issue. According to a Pew study, almost half

of teens own cell phones and a quarter use them to access the Web. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that websites intended for cell phones are even harder to filter than regular Internet pages (May 25, 2006). In fact, that is one of the appeals cell phones offer; with their portability comes a feeling of privacy.

Pornography was partially responsible for the popularity explosion of the Internet in the 1990s, when, in 1997 for example, 50 percent of Web searches were for pornography. The wireless pornographic market will likely be equally lucrative. With the teenage demographic as one of the largest consumers of pornography, you may want to do more for your child than just monitor excessive talk time.

► **RESOURCES** from page 9

consequently much of Europe) in what was seen as a political as well as an economic dispute.

But does America see its own weakness?

If America's leadership truly understood the implications of being resource dependent upon unfriendly foreign nations, especially at a time of intensifying anti-Americanism, global instability and resource competition, it would act quickly to preserve and develop America's strategic domestic resource supplies.

The Bible speaks of a time when America will be besieged by its enemies (Deuteronomy 28:52). America's over-reliance on foreigners for essential needs is a sign that time is drawing near. ■

For further reading, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.



► **VALUES** from page 27

beautiful way to live. It is a *spiritual* life. Herbert W. Armstrong often referred to it as the *way of give*, outlined by the Ten Commandments. To live this way of life requires building the very character of God. This is God's goal for every human being willing to accept it. The Apostle Peter extolled those women who chose to do so. He wrote: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:3-4). The chief apostle is not condemning good grooming or wearing jewelry and beauty-enhancing clothing. Peter is clearly expressing the value that lasting beauty comes from the character within a person. This is true for men, women and children.

This physical life is only meant to be temporary. There is a better, eternal life coming. It is ludicrous to attempt to preserve physical beauty forever. Instead, it is critical that we build the very character of God. God promises that those people who build godly character will be made eternal. Those who attain eternal life will experience a beauty that will never fade. ■

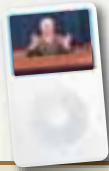


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California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
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California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
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Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun
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Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed
Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon
Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue
Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun
Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
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North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFWB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFWB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KZWB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KZWB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri

West Virginia, Clarksburg WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
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Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
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South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun
Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Adelaide, South Australia Chan. 31 11:30, Sun
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
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I COULDN'T agree with you more about this subject ["Mid-term Elections: A Disaster for America," January]. I have been telling everyone who will listen the same thing:

that we have turned our country's future over to the worst politicians currently in American politics. We are going to be sitting ducks when the terrorists are free to come here at their discretion. I believe it is time for us to start preparing our hearts and minds for "Jacob's trouble." Thank you for all that you do, and I am going to become a supporter because I believe you are spreading the true gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

James Morgan—UNITED STATES

WHILE I SUPPORTED THE REPUBLICANS with the hope they would reflect conservative values, it was not to be. I had a phone call from a liberal "friend" shortly thereafter. She was talking about gay marriage, and could not understand why I would not "endorse marriage for a minority of the country." I told her marriage is a different concept altogether from a civil union for the sake of benefits, as well as unhealthy sex for the same reason. I also said the country is better off with morality and ethics prevailing and that I believe in the Constitution. I asked her what she thought about "one nation under God." She replied that the Founding Fathers did not believe in God and she had no use for the Constitution. She absolutely hates George Bush and anyone connected with God. She told me she had "heard enough" and crashed the phone down. I believe she reflects the liberal mindset. I probably won't hear from her again. So be it. We are a nation in decline. I am preparing the family for the worst. God give us strength.

—TROY, N.Y.

DISASTER FOR AMERICA? IF SO, IT WILL be the third counting 2000 and 2004. While I think neither Gore nor Kerry would have been much better, if any, the Bush administration has been the biggest disaster ever seen by this nation. If you believe the outright lies, distortions, misleading propaganda and

flip-flop statements we have exposed to since 2000, you must be watching the managed media or reading the "conservative" newspapers. ... I don't look for anything good from the Democrats but anything is better than status quo. Nothing could be worse excepting the invasion of Iran which I fully expect from the warmongers in Washington. ...

John Guffey—E-MAIL RESPONSE

Sickness in Britain's Heart

YOU ARE AN EXPERT AT FINDING THE real cause of Britain's biggest issues ["The Sickness in Britain's Heart," November-December 2006]. You know exactly the target we need to press so much these days. You say with certainty every word you write. Not too many articles are written this way. Also, you work hard to find passages in the Bible to support your view. And not only is it wonderfully written, but it convinces me. I feel like I should do something. The appeal for action is strongly there. I thank you for making reading interesting for a generation whose minds and intellect are quickly degenerating. You don't know how much you're helping ordinary people like me understand politics. And I'm also glad to see that other news writers share the same stand as you. ... You share so much of your knowledge. Not too many people share the truth. This is, believe me, a very unique magazine. ...

Anonymous

Herbert W. Armstrong

THANK YOU FOR TELLING THE TRUTH about one of the greatest truth-seekers that ever lived. To live and see what they did to the Church after Mr. Armstrong's death has been a study of deceit and a spiderweb of falsehoods. It is so well-planned that it had to be carried out by the greatest evil mind that ever existed in the universe. Don't you think so? It reminds you of the USSR when the KGB had full power. Thank you again for your kind words about the man who some of us will always know brought us the real truth and we will always respect. Dwight W. Snitker—MOUNT VERNON, MO.

I HAVE JUST FINISHED CHAPTER EIGHT of *Raising the Ruins*. I have cried so much; I am speechless and dumbfounded. It is a hard lesson for me to learn, how Satan works. Seeds are sown many

years in advance, and at the right time, they sprout. Truly, Satan was "underground" and surfaced after Mr. Armstrong's death. God is so merciful to us.

Helen Smith—ARLINGTON, TEX.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE work you are doing and for the work you are inspiring me to do. I'm 18, live in Australia and am all too aware of the crescendo that is escalating in world events. I appreciate the rarity it is to see these events unfolding truthfully—their *divine* purpose. I see these woes are not all random events but the *plan of God for the world*. People begin to notice Iran, the weather and climate, America's weak leadership, failure to act, etc., etc., *but they lack the greatest truth behind these events*. It is truly amazing, and I thank the *Trumpet* for opening my eyes. ... [T]he truth has awoken me.

Imogen—AUSTRALIA

Spoiled and Clueless

IT AMAZES ME HOW SPOILED AND CLUELESS Americans are. As I talk to people, they have no clue of what's on the horizon. As far as they're concerned, the U.S. is eternal. They cannot picture a world where the U.S. isn't "top dog," calling the shots. This country has devolved into a latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah (just watch *Dateline NBC's To Catch a Predator* series), and it'll only get worse ... I have lost faith in this country. ...

Cody Thompson—PENNSYLVANIA

I WAS DISGUSTED AT THE RULING BY District Judge Kristine Cecava ("Sex Offender to Short for Jail," November-December 2006). Height or lack thereof is not a defense that should keep any criminal from going to prison. Does this excuse all "little people" of the world from obeying serious laws punishable by a prison sentence? If Richard Thompson was big enough to have "repeated sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl," then Thompson is surely big enough to face the music in the big house.

Jordan Bryant—E-MAIL RESPONSE

Comments?

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The Case for Male Teachers

The lack of male teachers is a problem in America's school system. BY BRAD MACDONALD

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS BEING FOREVER DERIDED FOR its shortfalls, but the voices of discontent are largely overlooking one unsettling trend in public education: About 80 percent of America's teachers are female.

Does this really constitute a crisis? What difference does a teacher's gender make—one plus one equals two, no matter who teaches it, right? A recent study performed by Thomas S. Dee, an economist at Swarthmore College, indicates otherwise.

Dee discussed his findings in the fall 2006 issue of *Education Next*. “[L]earning from a teacher of the opposite gender has a detrimental effect on students’ academic progress and their engagement in school,” he wrote. “My best estimate is that it lowers test scores for both boys and girls by approximately 4 percent of a standard deviation and has even larger effects on various measures of student engagement.”

Dee then highlighted the impact on America's boys. “Adverse gender effects have an impact on both boys and girls, but that effect falls more heavily on the male half of the population in middle school, simply because most middle-school teachers are female” (ibid.).

Further on, Dee stated, “Similarly, these results suggest that part of boys’ relative propensity to be seen as disruptive in these grades is due to the gender interactions resulting from the preponderance of female teachers.” Boys learn less when they are instructed by female teachers. This is a sobering find, considering that only one in five teachers in America's schools is male.

But the role of men in our education system lies beyond just their academic impact. Their role as examples and role models of manhood and masculinity is also critical, particularly for boys. Though they have consistently been outnumbered by female teachers, male teachers and administrators have a unique and profound impact on a school and its students. The firm presence of mature men is critical to the rounded development and maturity of all students, especially boys.

I think back to my own experience. My physical education teacher, for example, embodied what it means to be brawny, athletically competent and physically vibrant. His example inspired more than a few teenage boys to shed boyish flab in pursuit of more masculine traits such as physical strength, vivacious health and a spirit of healthy competition.

Tall and foreboding, the male principal of my high school was also a much-needed asset. An austere and serious man, he commanded the respect of even the most boisterous troublemaker. An enemy of few, friend and confidant of most, his deep voice of stability and experience empowered the dispirited and gave direction to the misguided. Masculinity means service and sacrifice, encouragement and affability—and this man was an example in all those respects.

Real masculinity also includes self-discipline, resilience, am-

bition, leadership, the courage to confront adversity, as well as the ability to act decisively and forcefully when conditions warrant. My male teachers taught these qualities by their example. I remember more than a few occasions where a fraught temp teacher hurriedly recruited the assistance of a battle-hardened and bearded 225-pound colleague to quiet an unruly classroom.

It would be misguided to consider male teachers markedly more important than female teachers to the education of children and teens. They are not. But the inherent differences between men and women mean that male teachers provide leadership and education in areas that female teachers are generally weaker in, while female teachers excel in the areas that men are generally weaker in. A balanced education supplies young students with a healthy dose of influence from both men *and* women.

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This is why we need to be concerned about the void of male teachers and principals at our schools. The current ratio of four women teachers per male teacher is the lowest in 40 years. This statistic means that hundreds of thousands of America's boys and girls are missing out on essential elements of education.

Male teachers, according to Talladega, Ala., city schools superintendent Lee Messer, are critically important “as role models for male students, especially in the younger grades, because of single[-parent] families and the lack of role models in families” (*Daily Home*, Aug. 20, 2006). Growing boys, naturally, learn about manhood from the men in their lives. Even many female teachers, though they are pleased by the surge of women principals, are worried by the lack of male teachers.

Combine school faculties overwhelmingly comprised of women with a 40 percent divorce rate robbing many homes of full-time fathers, and the result is thousands of children with *little to no* male influence in their lives. Countless boys growing up without a stable, balanced man in their lives are absorbing a narrow, media-designed, shallow definition of what they are to become. Misguided, feminized boys often mature into misguided, feminized men. Never before have we had such a drastic void of stable, masculine role models. This constitutes a serious problem: History teaches that national success hinges on strong, masculine leadership—and that grows out of secure, hard-working, masculine boys and young men.

The Bible warns specifically about the declining influence of men in American society. Read the third chapter of Isaiah. Here God warns that prior to the return of Jesus Christ, strong, masculine men—outnumbered and overpowered by feminine and childish influences—will have become virtually extinct. The marginalization of men in America's schools directly fulfills Isaiah 3. The bright side of this gloomy trend is that it proves the veracity of biblical prophecy and the imminence of the return of Jesus Christ. ■

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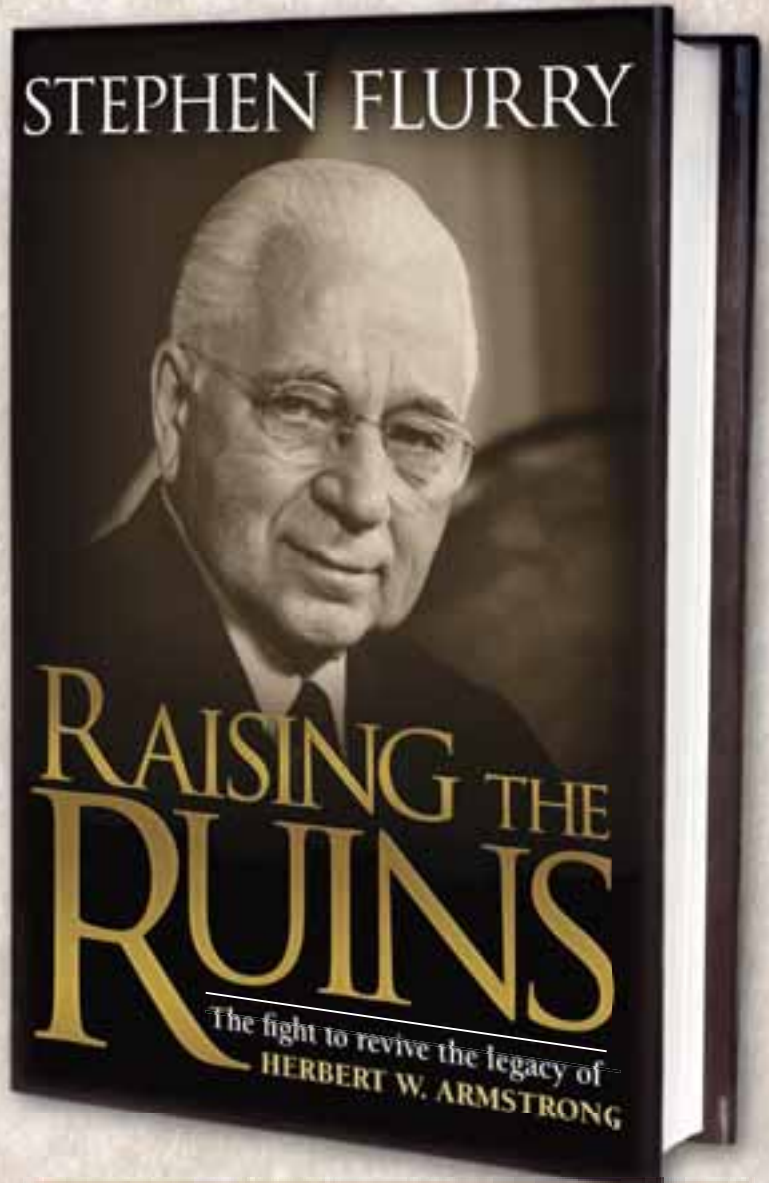
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